



EOFY Report Card

Major achievements, despite a challenging year

While keeping services running through natural disasters and emergencies is always a significant part of Council's service, no one could have predicted the events of the last 12 months. Guiding the community through the impacts of drought, fire, minor flooding and the Coronavirus pandemic has been a huge part of the workload for the entire staff over the last eight months.

Despite those challenges, major milestones were achieved across the last financial year, particularly the delivery of road improvements and upgrades to recreation spaces along with increased levels of community engagement and strategic planning.

Some of the projects that improved liveability in our community were:

- Regional Road, Blackspot and Saving Lives on Country Roads funding has allowed rehabilitation or reconstruction works to improve the safety and longevity of some of our busiest roads including Armidale Road, Crescent Head Road, Stuarts Point Road and Gowings Hill Road
- Major reconstruction continued on Tozer Street, Kempsey to improve alignment, drainage and access to residential properties
- Replacement of Back Creek Footbridge
- Construction of the new \$4m Turners Flat Bridge
- New floodlighting at Verge Street Sporting Complex, Jim Stirling Oval and the South West Rocks sports fields
- Construction of the 1.8 metre wide Monument Point Walkway along the headland through Horseshoe Bay Reserve, South West Rocks
- Resealing and line marking to improve safety in the car parks at Hat Head and Back Creek boat ramps
- New playground, pathways, amenities and boardwalks to upgrade Gladstone Memorial Park
- The \$3.4m investment into the Stuarts Point Reserve and foreshore upgrade which will be completed around August and includes a new playground, amenities, grassed picnic areas, boat ramps and jetties all linked with pathways and resealed roads



Message from the General Manager

If there is one thing we can be sure of, 2020 is a year we will all remember. We are in a time of continuous change, with COVID-19 restrictions seemingly changing on a weekly basis. Council are regularly reviewing the current restrictions to ensure our operations are aligned with NSW Government and Health advice.

In the last quarter we have first had to carefully shutdown and then even more carefully re-open. Working across the community, we have seen that some are justifiably impatient for a return of services. We have also seen that the easing of restrictions and a return to a 'new normal' has caused additional concerns for others in the community and staff while ever there is no vaccine for COVID-19.

I am exceedingly proud of the work that Council, and each and every one of our staff have done to take us through this quite extraordinary three month period. The care for community and for fellow staff has been amazing to see.

Everything we do at Council is aimed at building a better community and the way we do that is by living our values every day. Our values are Passion, Integrity, Innovation, Communication, Respect and Collaboration.



I also want to remind everyone that while Council can provide guidance and support in this situation it is still up to us all as individuals to make sure we are aware of what is required and to take the necessary actions. Personal responsibility is very important.

Thank you to everyone in the community for your cooperation during these challenging times and for doing your part in helping to stop the spread of Coronavirus.

New playgrounds at Frederickton and Kempsey

In recent months, playgrounds at Frederickton Park and Service Clubs Park, Kempsey have received some much-needed upgrades.

For the safety of the community, Council was forced to close both playgrounds in October 2019 due to a rapid deterioration in the play equipment.

The new equipment caters for a range of ages, with new slides, springs and climbing features. Both sites have retained the original swing sets.

New playgrounds are also scheduled to be installed at Willawarrin and Frederickton River Park this year.



The NSW Valuer General has issued land values for properties across NSW. Council uses these new values to set rates from 1 July 2020. To learn more about land values, read the Valuer General's newsletter on Council's website: www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/rates



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Clyde Street upgrade underway



The wait for the much-anticipated upgrade to the Clyde Street car park and amenities is over, with work having commenced in July.

In 2018, Council engaged with business owners and the community around the need for a revitalisation of the Clyde Street car park and toilet facilities. Subsequently, Council were successful in a funding application for \$225,000 under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund.

Now, with the allocation of funds in Council's Operational Plan, the \$700,000 project has broken ground. The comprehensive project will renew the area, replace the ageing public toilets, upgrade the water mains and water infrastructure under the car park, create safer links to surrounding businesses for pedestrians and easier access for vehicles.

Stage One of the upgrade is set to run until just before Christmas. While this will require a significant part of the car park to be closed off to the public during that time, Council will create marked walkways and advertise the alternative nearby parking options.

Visit www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/clyde-street for more information about the Clyde Street upgrade



Country Universities Centre

For too long the idea of going to university meant leaving Kempsey. No longer! A Country Universities Centre will be established in Kempsey to provide local higher education study for students across the Macleay Valley, with State and Federal Government funding allocated to support Council's work to locate a centre in the heart of Kempsey.

What does that mean? It means you can go to University in Kempsey. Not just to one University either, but to any Australian University. Or to any non-university higher education provider. The Centre facilitates remote learning by giving the full student experience away from official campuses.

Kempsey will get a centre with dedicated learning and study spaces. Students will have free access to high-speed internet, modern technology and academic support, all delivered here in Kempsey. This means a student here in Kempsey will have the opportunity to build a network of like-minded fellow students and can take advantage of being part of a state-wide learning community.



Council's Recovery page has been created to support our community as they recover from recent drought and bushfires. There is a range of information, assistance measures and updates for all affected on Council's community engagement website, Your Say Macleay: yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/recovery

Mid Waste Food Smart



Did you know that one in five shopping bags of food ends up in the bin? What a waste!

The FREE Food Smart program is helping families cut food waste to save money and the environment.

Join our Food Smart Community to receive Food Smart resources including a handy meal planner, shopping list, actions cards and seasonal food guides with easy recipes to help you make the most of the food you buy!

- Keep \$4000 a year in your pocket
- Get your FREE step-by-step guide
- Learn to shop, serve, store and save
- Reduce landfill and greenhouse gases
- Get your kids involved to create change

Sign up for the Food Smart program at:
mailchi.mp/midwaste/foodsmart

Upcoming events

Sculpture in the Gaol

Like everything in 2020, the much-loved Sculpture in the Gaol exhibition at South West Rocks has been impacted by Coronavirus. This year, the event will be going online instead of at Trial Bay Gaol.

The exhibition will provide free access to 20 works by 20 artists and launches on 1 August, the same day the event would normally have been held at the Gaol.

A series of virtual studio workshops by exhibiting artists will help promote the works listed for sale. The workshops will have varied content, from sharing insights into creative practices, to master classes and children's activities.

Find out more at www.sculptureinthegaol.com.au



International Day of People with a Disability

Kempsey Shire Council will host two key events this year to mark International Day of People with a Disability (IDPwD).

IDPwD celebrates the achievements and contributions of people with disability, and how they enrich our community and culture. It also aims to break down the barriers of disability and celebrate abilities of all kinds.

A Glitz & Glamour Ball is planned that will offer a night of fun including dinner, entertainment and dancing at the Slim Dusty Centre in November, with the date to be set subject to Coronavirus restrictions.

This will be followed by a Big Day Out family fun day to be held at Riverside Park, Kempsey in December.

Did you know that Kempsey Library offers a Home Lending Service?

Kempsey Shire Library offers a FREE Home Lending Service for members who are unable to visit a library branch.

You may be eligible for the service if you are unable to drive to the library or are frail, aged, or have an illness or disability which confines you to your home.

The Home Lending Service offers a full range of library materials including large print books, standard print books and magazines, a wide variety of music on CD, DVDs and audiobooks.

To access the service all you need to do is contact Kempsey Shire Library by phone on 6566 3210 to make an appointment.

