

COMMUNITY NEWS



DECEMBER, 2021

SUBMIT YOUR BUDGET IDEA



Council has commenced its budget planning for the next financial year and is encouraging residents to submit proposals as part of the process.

Residents can put forward a 'Community Plan Proposal' (CPP) for new infrastructure, projects, activities and improvements throughout the region to be considered in the 2022/23 Operational Plan.

The plan sets out the projects and activities which Council is committed to over the coming financial year, as well as measures and time frames to achieve this. The plan includes Council's Revenue Policy (Rating Model), 2022/23 proposed Fees and Charges, Capital Works Program, Annual

Budget and Delivery Program. Successful community proposals that have recently been completed include new shade sails at Gulgong Pool and improvements to the Lawson Park East footpath. A number of projects are currently underway including road guttering in Kandos and toilets at Putta Bucca Wetlands. Proposals can be made on Council's website from now until 10 January.

\$1.0b

of infrastructure and equipment managed in 2020/21

\$50.3m

invested in new and renewed assets in 2020/21

94%

of Council actions in the 2020/21 Delivery Program completed



Toilets are being constructed at Putta Bucca Wetlands following a CPP.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

It has been another very busy 12 months for Council and we are already looking to the year ahead with our budget planning now underway. I am often approached by residents with ideas for new projects or service improvements. If you have an idea for new infrastructure or upgraded facilities in your area, now is the time to have your say and submit a Community Plan Proposal. Every proposal is considered for the budget as we set out the projects to be delivered in the upcoming Financial Year.

As you are aware, Local Government Elections will be held on Saturday, 4 December. The newly elected

Council will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, 12 January when the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be elected.

On behalf of Council, I would like to wish everyone in our region a happy and safe Christmas and New Year. I hope we can all enjoy some long-awaited time with family and friends.



General Manager
Brad Cam

YOURWATER CUSTOMER PORTAL *now live*

MONITOR DAILY WATER USE ON YOUR PHONE

Residents can now monitor their daily water usage with the launch of Council's new Smart Water Meter portal, YourWater.

Along with daily data on the amount of water being used in the home, customers can review water charges and set up email and SMS alerts to notify of possible water leaks and high consumption periods. To register for YourWater visit yourwater.midwestern.nsw.gov.au. You'll be prompted to provide some personal details and

information found on your latest Water Notice. Smart Water Meters have been installed throughout the region after Council secured \$1.2 million through the Australian Government's Smart Cities and Suburbs Program. The Smart Water Meter Network will provide an estimated \$445,000 annual cost saving to ratepayers by detecting possible leaks. Millions of litres of water are lost from leaks throughout the region each year.

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE AT THE POOL THIS SUMMER

With the warmer weather on the way, there's no better time to enjoy Council's pools and water park. If you are visiting the Mudgee, Gulgong or Kandos pools there are a few simple rules to keep yourself and others safe.

It is important to note that lifeguards cannot watch your children for you. You still need to supervise children at all times while at the pool. This means focusing all your attention on them all of the time, when they are in, on or around the water. Therefore, you should be in the pool with them, or within arm's reach to help them. Parents should:

- Watch your own child/children
- Know that lifeguards are there to watch everyone in the pool and cannot watch your child – they are not babysitters
- Be aware that other adults are not watching your children

- Remember that you are responsible for the safety of your own child

Parents are encouraged to register their children in learn to swim programs and take advantage of the NSW Government's *First Lap* and *Active Kids* vouchers for learn to swim classes.



RURAL WATER FILLING STATIONS

Rural residents are encouraged to apply online for their one-off registration to access Council's Rural Water Filling Stations, which are now operating. Registration is free and access to the fill stations is available 24/7. Registrations at midwestern.nsw.gov.au. Once registered, residents with email will have access via the Smart City Control App (<https://app.smartcitycontrol.com.au/>) and those without email will receive a swipe card.

AUSTRALIA DAY IN GULGONG

The region's 2022 Australia Day ceremony will be held in Anzac Park, Gulgong on Australia Day - Wednesday, 26 January 2022. Enjoy a free barbecue breakfast from 8am followed by the official ceremony. Presentation of awards in six categories, including Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year, will begin at 9am.

WORK WITH COUNCIL

Council is seeking additional trades and service contractors to help deliver its projects. The following trades and services are currently being sought: concretors, licenced builders, fencers, shed builders, electricians, plumbers, roof plumbers, tilers/ waterproofer, data cable installers, surveyors, geotechnical testing service providers. To be considered for future and ongoing Council projects register your business at midwestern.nsw.gov.au

NEWS IN
BRIEF

SECTION OF WOLLAR ROAD CLOSED IN JANUARY FOR SAFETY UPGRADE

A section of Wollar Road will be closed for ten weeks from 10 January to realign two dangerous curves as part of the three-year road safety upgrade. Wollar Road will be closed through the Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve. Details on the specific locations of the closure will be provided closer to the date on Council's website and Facebook page. A detour will be in place via Ulan Wollar Road. The closure of Wollar Road is expected to commence at 7am Monday, 10 January for ten weeks, with an anticipated reopening on Monday, 21

March. There will be some delays as works continue after this period under traffic control. Traffic is expected to return to normal in May.

These works are part of the \$6.8 million Wollar Road Upgrade, jointly funded by Council and the NSW Government through its Restart NSW Fund and Saving Lives on Country Roads programs. Council apologises for any inconvenience and reminds motorists that all temporary speed limits during the construction are enforceable by police.



THIS CHRISTMAS REMEMBER TO GO LOCAL FIRST

It is more important than ever to shop locally this Christmas and support local businesses. Spending locally means money stays in the community, boosting the local economy and maintaining the employment of the 1,069 people who work in the region's retail industry. Local consumer data revealed that residents spent \$42.6 million outside the region in the December 2020 quarter. If ten per cent of this amount (\$4.26 million) was instead spent locally, it would create 34 new jobs and provide a major boost to the region's economy. A range of local businesses can be found at mudgeeregionbusiness.com.au

Spendmapp by Geografia (2021)



RURAL WASTE STATION ILLEGAL DUMPERS FINED

A number of fines have been issued since August, after illegal dumpers were caught on CCTV at the region's Rural Waste Transfer Stations.

Following reports of these incidents, Council conducted investigations and subsequently issued five Compliance Cost Notices under the Protection of the Environment Operations (POEO) Act and two formal cautions in relation to dumping of building and demolition waste, motor vehicle tyres, asbestos based cladding and ammunition at

Home Rule and Queens Pinch Rural Waste Transfer Stations. Individuals face fines of up to \$7,500 and corporations up to \$15,000 for illegal dumping. Rural Waste Transfer Stations are reserved for out of town residents who do not receive weekly waste collection. These facilities are sign-posted with details on types of waste accepted. Residents are reminded there are no disposal fees at any of Council's Waste Facilities in Mudgee, Gulgong or Kandos for disposal of household goods.



CHEMCLEAR CLEANOUT

ChemClear is holding a state-wide collection in March 2022. If you have unwanted or obsolete Agvet chemicals that you need to dispose of, simply register them at chemclear.org.au by 28 January to ensure you don't miss out. The Household Chemical Cleanout will be held in April/May 2022.

COUNCIL CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Council Customer Service Centres, Works Depots and Libraries will close for the Christmas break from 12 noon on Thursday 23 December 2021, and reopen on Wednesday 5 January 2022. There will be minimal closures at other Council facilities and services will continue without interruption. On-call staff will remain on duty and available during this period to respond to urgent enquiries on 1300 765 002.

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN B?

As we celebrate the festive season this summer, remember to plan ahead to get home safely after a night out. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Have a PLAN B. During December and January, 23 pubs, clubs and bottle shops across the Mid-Western Region are taking part in the annual Plan B 'Win A Swag' competition to remind us that some Plan Bs are smarter than others.

SUMMER READING IN OZ

Ruby slippers, munchkins, winged monkeys, and a horse of a different colour. Mudgee Library has been transformed into the Emerald City until January, so immerse yourself in the magical world of *The Wizard of Oz* by registering for its Summer Reading Program or by joining in school holiday activities. Follow the yellow brick road to the Library's Facebook and Eventbrite pages for details.

EVENTS CALENDAR



3
DEC

Mudgee Cup

Mudgee Racecourse

The famous Mudgee Cup will make its return this year. A fun day out with a seven race program and Fashions on the Field.



4
DEC

Local Government Elections

Enrolment details and polling locations at the NSW Electoral Commission.

elections.nsw.gov.au



11
DEC

Mudgee Showground Carols

Mudgee Showground

FREE event hosted by the Rotary Club of Mudgee and Mudgee Sunrise. Gates open 4pm. Carols and other entertainment.



23
DEC

Council Christmas closure

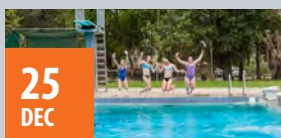
Customer Service Centres, Works Depots and Libraries close from 12 noon on Thursday 23 December, and reopen Wednesday 5 January, 2022.



CHECK OUT OUR NEW EVENTS CALENDAR

ONLINE

midwestern.nsw.gov.au



25
DEC

Christmas Day

Council pools will be closed on Christmas Day, open Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Waste facilities will be closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

All information correct at the time of publication. Events may be subject to change based on Health Orders. Please contact event organisers for further details.



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follow '@choosmudgeeregion' on Instagram



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Live.

Council's newest off-leash park, the Jennie Blackman Dog Park, is a perfect place for your dog to run and play with other dogs. Please remember, even though the park is off-leash your dog should always remain under reasonable control. That means, your dog should not attack or intimidate other dogs. Walk your dog into the park on a lead and then release it, rather than allow it to rush in off a lead, and if your dog is unfamiliar with other dogs at the park make sure you're close by. Please always respect the rules of the park and other dog owners.

Work.

Mid-Western Regional Council is an award winning organisation offering a range of career opportunities in areas such as admin, planning and development, water supply, parks and gardens, libraries, operations and community services. Council is an equal opportunity employer and values diversity in its people. For current positions vacant, go to 'Employment' on Council's website.

Invest.

Council has provided more than \$22,000 in grants to local organisations through the latest round of its Community Grants Program. The following grants were provided in October and November: \$1,113 to Mudgee Triathlon Club, \$1,138 to Kandos Rylstone Men's Shed Inc., \$2,500 to Mudgee Lions Club, \$12,000 to Gulgong Chamber of Commerce, \$2,000 to Kandos Community Radio, \$3,000 to Gulgong Memorial Hall Committee, \$1,380 to Canobolas Cottage Ronald McDonald House Charities and \$600 to Mudgee High School.

Visit.

Mudgee has been named Australia's Top Tourism Town for 2021. The announcement was made last month at the Australian Tourism Industry Council awards. The tourism industry is essential to our local economy, delivering \$157.6 million annually. Council recognises this value, and works hard to deliver and attract major events, and provide infrastructure which supports tourism and other key sectors in our local economy. Council congratulates Mudgee Region Tourism and the region's tourism operators on all their efforts.