

COMMUNITY NEWS



JULY, 2023

\$78.3M WORKS BUDGET



Council has committed \$78.3 million towards community projects this financial year following adoption of the 2023/24 Operational Plan.

The plan includes Council's budget for the new financial year, where funds will be allocated and how this expenditure is funded.

Almost 20 per cent of this budget, \$14.9 million, has been committed to upgrades for roads, bridges and footpaths. The largest value roads project will be the seal extension of Coricudgy Road at \$2.7 million, with a further \$4.1 million secured from NSW Government grant funding to undertake repairs across the region following the 2022 floods.

Recreational facility upgrades will be undertaken throughout

the region to cater for the growing community's needs. Some of the projects include an all new Adventure Playspace in Kandos, a new amenities building at Victoria Park in Gulgong, and upgrades to Rylstone Showground.

Residents were asked to submit their ideas as part of the development of this year's plan. A variety of submissions were put forward and Council will deliver on some including a new playground at Windeyer and playground upgrade at Charbon (in 2024/25), major field renovation at Waratah Park in Kandos, extension of the walking area along the river at Rylstone and upgrades to playground softfall across the region.

The Operational Plan is available in full on Council's website midwestern.nsw.gov.au

\$14.9m on the transport network including roads, bridges and footpaths

\$4.1m grant funding* secured to undertake road repairs following 2022 floods

\$1m towards Country Universities Centre, grant funded* and Council contribution

\$558k Kandos Inclusive Adventure Playspace

\$446k Victoria Park Gulgong Amenities Upgrade

*NSW Government grant funded

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

This month Council is presenting its Operational Plan for the new financial year. This is the most important document Council works on each year and includes the organisation's budget and fees and charges. As you'll read, we're investing significantly in road maintenance and recreation and have worked hard to secure major grant funding for a number of projects. To see a full copy of the plan visit Council's website.

It was fantastic to see Gulgong win bronze at the NSW Top Tourism Town Awards in the Small Town category (population between 1500 to 5000 residents). Rylstone was a finalist in the Tiny Town category and Mudgee was inducted into the Hall of

Fame for successive state and national Top Tourism Town awards in 2021 and 2022. This really is a joint effort and I congratulate all involved including Mudgee Region Tourism, the region's tourism operators and the community.

I would also like to give a special thank you to all the people who volunteer with Council. In May, we recognised Volunteer Week and the fantastic efforts of our Meals on Wheels and Community Transport drivers. During the same month we had 150 people volunteer to help plant trees locally. These volunteer hours make a significant difference for the benefit of our community and I thank all of these people for their time and efforts.

Mayor Des Kennedy

NSW TOP SMALL TOURISM TOWN AWARDS ANNOUNCED

GULGONG WINS BRONZE



MUDGEES INDUCTED INTO TOURISM HALL OF FAME

Gulgong has won bronze at the NSW Top Tourism Town Awards in the Small Town category (population between 1500 to 5000 residents).

Mudgee was inducted into the Hall of Fame, in recognition of the outstanding achievement in being crowned winner in the Top Tourism Town category at the NSW Top Tourism Awards in 2021 and 2022, and receiving the Australian Top Town Tourism Award in 2021 and 2022. Rylstone was named a finalist in the Tiny Town category.

The tourism industry is essential to our local economy, delivering \$131.6 million annually. Council recognises this value, and works hard to support local tourism and event operators, delivering and attracting major events and infrastructure that support tourism and other key sectors in our local economy.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF OUR LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

Following Volunteer Week in May, Council would like to acknowledge and thank its dedicated team of Meals on Wheels and Mudgee Community Transport volunteers.

Meals on Wheels volunteers give up their time to deliver meals to vulnerable community members each week, including public holidays. It's not just meals, volunteers provide social interaction and a friendly wellbeing check-in.

Similarly, Community Transport drivers give their time and companionship to the elderly and members of our community living with a disability, delivering them safely to a variety of appointments and activities locally and throughout the region.

Council's volunteers play an integral role in our community and are essential to allow the continuation of these much needed local services.

These volunteers give from one hour a month to eight hours a day, and come from all walks of life as individuals and from community organisations and local businesses.

Council gives sincere thanks to these individuals for all that they do for our community. If you're interested in volunteering, details can be found on Council's website.



COMMUNITY GRANTS

More than \$33,880 has been provided in the latest round of Council's Community Grants. Funding was provided to Cudgegong Valley Physical Culture (\$1156), Business Mudgee (\$600), Kandos Rylstone Film Society (\$5000), Rylstone Kandos Business Chamber (\$10,000), Cooks Gap and District Progress Association (\$4500), Pink Up Mudgee (\$2000), Windeyer Progress Association (\$2500), Arts Council Gulgong Inc. (\$1250), Business Concierge Ltd (\$1875) and Warrabinga Native Title Corporation (\$5000).

NEWS IN BRIEF

WOOD HEATER SMOKE

Smoke from wood heaters can be a major source of air pollution at this time of year. There are some simple ways to help reduce your heater's impact on the environment. Always burn small, aged logs of dry hardwood. Never burn treated wood or household rubbish. And regularly check your chimney for smoke. By reducing smoke from wood heaters we can all stay warm and breathe easy.

FILL YOUR FOGO BIN

With the cold weather well and truly upon us, your yard may be filling up with leaves and garden debris. Did you know that all garden debris including leaves, lawn clippings, plant cuttings and branches up to 10cm in diameter can be disposed of in your household green Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) bin?

MORE THAN 39 KILOMETRES SEALED IN THREE YEARS

IMPROVING ROADS

Council has sealed 39km of local roads over the last three years with a further 21.3km to be sealed over the next two years.

A number of key projects that have been completed include the sealing of Collector Road Bus Routes including sections of Coxs Creek Road (2.1km), Mebul Road (4.6km) and Pyramul Road (1.2km).

Collector roads are roads that carry

higher volumes of traffic collected from minor and main local roads. These works commenced in October 2020 and were completed in February this year.

Council secured \$1.6m in grant funding through Round One of the NSW Government's Fixing Local Road Program. A further \$500,000 was contributed by Council towards the project.



MUDGEETOWN HALL CINEMA ANNIVERSARY

Council and Rotary are celebrating ten years working together to host the Town Hall Cinema. As part of this special anniversary, Rotary will be providing free popcorn to all cinema patrons during the July sessions. Ticketholders will also have the opportunity to win cinema tickets and candy bar vouchers for the remainder of the year. *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* (M), *Sweet As* (M) and *Spiderman: Across the Spider-Verse* (PG) will hit the big screen this month on 7, 8 and 9 July. Tickets at Council's website or at the door (unless sold out prior).

JOIN COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL TREE DAY ON 30 JULY

Council is proudly hosting a Tree Day Event near Glen Willow's new rugby union field on Sunday, 30 July.

Residents are invited to come along and plant trees and shrubs to attract native animals behind Rugby Union field one. Please park in the P4 car park and wear a hat and enclosed shoes. Tools, gloves, refreshments and a free barbecue will be provided. For more information visit Council's Facebook page.

Council hosted three planting days along the Cudgong River and Lawsons Creek with local disability organisations and schools in May.

More than 1500 tubestocks were planted by 150 volunteers and Council would like to thank all volunteers for their participation. The plantings will provide wildlife habitat and corridors for wildlife to travel from one area to the other as well as improving the overall health of the river systems. These events are made possible with the assistance of Watershed Landcare, Local Land Services, Mudgee Men's Shed and Mudgee Lions Club. The revegetation of the Cudgong River Catchment was funded by the Australian Government under the Murray-Darling Healthy Rivers Program.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Roll up, roll up . . . to your local public library. These school holidays get involved in circus themed activities like: big top oil painting, circus sculptures, carnival games, circus collage, juggling balls, and movie afternoons. A small fee of \$5 is charged for some activities to cover supplies. For ages 3-14. Bookings at: mwrclibrary.eventbrite.com

ARTEXPRESS ON EXHIBITION

ARTEXPRESS is now on exhibition at the Mudgee Arts Precinct. The exhibition features artworks created by NSW visual art students for the 2022 Higher School Certificate. The themes addressed in this year's exhibition highlight issues of importance for students, including the chaos and isolation caused by the pandemic. Open until 27 August.

RURAL WASTE COMPLIANCE

One of the ongoing challenges Council and the community face is misuse of Rural Waste Transfer Stations, including dumping of prohibited waste types or incorrectly placing waste in the facility. Council has increased the compliance action at rural waste facilities, issuing clean-up cost notices to those who incorrectly use these facilities.

LOCAL EVENT FUNDING

Council has provided \$16,500 in financial and in-kind assistance to support local events. One-off funding was provided to the Mudgee Mud Dragons, NSW Rural Doctors Network and Central Tablelands Branch Australia Stockhorse. Multi-year funding was provided to Rylstone Show Society, Mudgee Dressage Group and Cudgong Valley Pioneer Club. Council's Events Assistance Program is designed to assist local community events that benefit the economy.

YOUR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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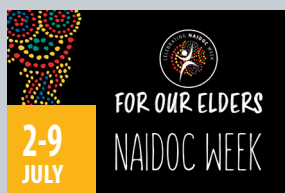
EVENTS CALENDAR



ALL JULY

Plastic Free July

Join millions worldwide taking steps to end plastic pollution, by choosing a single-use plastic to avoid this July. Taking part will help you to find great alternatives that can become new habits.



2-9 JULY

NAIDOC Week Events

Various locations

Free events including flag raising ceremony, movie screenings and indigenous plants product making course. Visit Council's Facebook page for details.



7-8 JULY

Mudgee Small Farm Field Days

AREC

A two-day, annual event that has been running for over 40 years. The event promotes innovation and sustainability in agriculture and rural living.



7-9 JULY

Town Hall Cinema

Mudgee Town Hall

Free popcorn to celebrate tenth anniversary. Generally held on the first weekend of each month. Bookings and screenings on Council's website.



19 JULY

Mid-Western Regional Council Meeting

Council Chambers, Market Street, Mudgee. From 5.30pm

Meeting live-stream available on Council's website midwestern.nsw.gov.au



30 JULY

National Tree Day

Glen Willow

Plant trees and shrubs to improve native habitat. Bring a hat and sunscreen. Tools, gloves and refreshments provided. Free barbecue. More details inside on pg 3.

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



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The **Bluett** AWARD
2022 WINNER



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Live.

Take the Plastic Free July Challenge this month - together, every small step to avoid single-use plastic adds up to make a big difference! Reducing plastic waste helps protect the ocean, avoid landfill waste, reduce potential harm to human health and influence business and government. Being part of Plastic Free July will help you to find great alternatives that can become new habits forever. Join millions worldwide taking steps to end plastic pollution, by choosing a single-use plastic to avoid this July. Learn more at plasticfreejuly.org

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.

The total economic value added (EVA) by all industries in the Mid-Western Region is now estimated at \$2.7 billion, representing 27% of the \$10.2 billion EVA in the Orana Region, and 0.4% of the \$654.2 billion EVA in NSW. The total EVA by the region's industries increased by 45% from 2018 to 2022. The EVA by the region's mining industry increased by 86% (to \$1.3 billion) whilst the region's health care and social assistance industry increased by 44% (to \$137.1 million) over the same period. Source: REMPLAN Economy

Visit.

Glen Willow will be the host venue to the NSW Touch Association's (NSWTA) 2023 Country Championships 14 - 15 October. NSWTA General Manager Dean Russell said it was a significant undertaking to bring the event to the region this year. The event is expected to attract 1200 participants, officials, and spectators with an estimated economic impact of close to \$1 million.