



JULY 2020

RESIDENT NEWSLETTER



Glen Innes Severn Council

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After Hours Emergency Contacts:

- Water and Sewer problems: 0418 162 794
- Roads: 0409 817 242
- Dog and stray stock problems: 0417 890 889

HOW DOES COUNCIL PLAN FOR THE FUTURE?

Council's Operational Plan and Budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year is a component of the four (4) year Delivery Program that runs from 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2022, (with the Office of Local Government extending the timeframe of the Delivery Program by 12 months due to the COVID-19 situation). The Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DPOP) are part of the ten (10) year Community Strategic Plan that currently runs from 1 July 2017 until 30 June 2027.

The Glen Innes Severn Community Strategic Plan contains five (5) strategic directions. They are Community Services, Economic Development, Infrastructure Management, Environment and Heritage and Council Sustainability, Transparency and Communication.

Each of these strategic directions has a series of objectives, goals, strategic and specific actions and performance measures which cascade down into firstly the four (4) year Delivery Program and then down to the yearly Operational Plan.

The Operational Plan and Budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year has a number of actions and targets that are required to be reported to Council on a six-monthly basis. Responsible officers are required to provide an update to Council and the community on the progress being made on these actions and targets.

The first one for the 2020/2021 Financial Year will be for the period ending 31 December 2020. Progress will be reported to the February 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting.

Council's Operational Plan and Budget for the Financial Year 2020/2021

Council's budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year is made up of the following (the previous year's figures are shown in brackets): Operating Revenue \$35,021,519 (\$36,515,412); Operating Expenditure \$32,743,621 (\$31,526,576); Capital Expenditure \$12,217,780 (\$14,430,014); and also of Loan and Lease Principal Repayments \$2,026,345 (\$1,611,444).

The budget details a proposed operating surplus of \$2.28 million. This figure is down on last year's figure of \$5 million, however it is still a very reasonable result.

For the 2020/2021 Financial Year, Council's main focus continues to be on fixing our roads infrastructure and specifically, the local unsealed roads network.

This is in line with the community's vision contained within the Community Strategic Plan from 2017 until 2027: "*Glen Innes Severn will have a vibrant, confident and inclusive community supported by a sustainable and prosperous economy underpinned by a well-maintained road network*".

Maintenance spending on Council's roads, bridges and footpaths has been given priority with a total amount of \$2.826 million; this is up by almost \$3,000 on the previous year's figure of \$2.823 million and up by almost \$242,000 on the 2018/2019 maintenance figure of \$2.584 million.

Council has continuously increased its maintenance spending on the unsealed rural roads component over the past four (4) years; from an amount of \$1.2 million in 2016/2017, to \$1.6 million in 2017/2018, to \$1.8 million in 2018/2019 and finally to \$1.9 million in both 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. This is a significant achievement.

Overall, the funding for the road, bridges and footpath asset maintenance has grown from \$1.47 million in the 2013/2014 Financial Year to almost \$2.8 million in the 2020/2021 Financial Year. This represents a doubling of the funds provided for the maintenance of roads, bridges and footpaths in Glen Innes Severn over the past seven (7) years. This \$2.8 million that is provided for maintenance activities, together with the capital expenditure of approximately \$7.4 million, will have a further positive impact on the condition of Council's roads, bridges and footpaths. That is a combined total of \$10.2 million budgeted to be spent on roads, bridges and footpaths in the 2020/2021 Financial Year.

Again, it is interesting to note that Council's total rate revenue is predicted to be around \$7.2 million for the 2020/2021 Financial Year (with roughly \$3.2 million coming from the Farmland rating category and \$3.3 million coming from the Residential rating category (including townships, villages and non-urban). Of note is that Council actually plans to spend a greater amount (i.e. \$2.1 million more) than its total annual rates revenue on its road network for the 2020/2021 Financial Year.

Other projects

Council's Capital Works Budget of \$12,217,780 has been broken down into various projects. A detailed breakdown of all the various projects can be found in Council's Capital Works Program for 2020/2021.

There is also significant expenditure proposed in the Economic Development Budget for the 2020/2021 Financial Year. A total of \$351,000 is proposed to be spent on marketing, development strategy, research, design and development, events and on business incentives.

The economic development expenditure is to stimulate the local economy so that the Glen Innes Severn Local Government Area (LGA) can prosper by attracting new businesses to the region and strengthening established businesses. This will be particularly important as the LGA will be coming out of a major pandemic in the 2020/2021 Financial Year.

ACCESSING RANGERS DURING COVID-19

Rangers are available to speak with residents at any time to discuss registering pets, microchipping, surrendering and release of impounded animals, and are taking precautionary measures to adhere to physical distancing guidelines set by the Government. Online forms to register your pet are available at:

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/dogs-cats/nsw-pet-registry/microchipping-and-registration/>

Payment can be made over the phone via EFTPOS on 6730 2350 or at the Church Street office. You can call the Rangers during business hours on 0417 890 889.

Surrendering or collecting an animal that is in the pound is still possible but under the current COVID-19 restrictions we ask that you speak to the Rangers directly if you need help with these matters or to discuss the correct procedures that follow the current necessary guidelines.

Council Rangers are still taking appropriate steps to ensure the continued welfare of animals in the pound. Staff have always practiced good hygiene practices handling animals in the pound and recommend that all pet owners should be implementing the same hygiene standards at home.

If you are a witness to a dog attack or find stray stock on the road, the Rangers remain on call and are available to report your incident on the 24 hour emergency on-call phone: 0417 890 889.

If a person owns or cares for an animal that needs veterinary attention and that person is in quarantine or isolation, they should be advised to make telephone contact with their local veterinarian for advice about what to do.

HOW TO ACCESS COUNCIL INFORMATION

Council's weekly **infrastructure works program** can be found at:

<https://www.gisc.nsw.gov.au/node/1771/council-works-program-current-projects>

Information about **water services and water restrictions** can be found at:

<https://www.gisc.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure/water-services>

Information on **local roads closures** can be found at:
<https://www.gisc.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure/roads>

On the Home page of Council's website there is a **NEWS section** which is up-dated with news and some of the posts on Council's Facebook page are also available to read here for residents who do not use social media.

On the Home page you will also find information under **PUBLIC NOTICES AND EXHIBITIONS** and categories of frequently asked information are accessible under **QUICKLINKS**. There is also a **FAQ** facility on the Home page which is up-dated with information from each Directorate during the changing COVID-19 situation.

With the return of the *Glen Innes Examiner* to twice weekly publishing, Council will recommence the weekly OUR COUNCIL feature in the Thursday editions.

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

You will be receiving this newsletter as we transition from the 2019/2020 to the 2020/2021 Financial Year. The past 12 months has been a very trying time for all of us, with drought, then the bush fires, and if that wasn't enough, a global pandemic.

We now see the beginnings of a recovery with COVID-19 restrictions easing and our lives starting to look more like normal. This is an important time for all residents, our local businesses, our clubs and community organisations and for Council as well. We all have to continue to adapt and we also have to keep moving forward. Council is an important part of this process, with our facilities reopening and with important local development and growth now having the green light, at least to some extent.

Our popular Library and our Life Choices – Support Services have been shining lights in the services they have provided during shutdown. They are now open and functioning in line with the "new normal". The Visitor Information Centre has also reopened and, at the time of publishing, we await The Youth Booth functioning again before too long.

Grant funding from the Federal and State Governments has been a blessing over the past year and Council has maximised securing funding at every opportunity.

During the shutdown of the *Glen Innes Examiner* Council had to think of other ways of communicating with the community. The General Manager, Craig Bennett and I have been doing regular radio interviews as one of those new measures and the audio files can then be listened to from the Council website. The previously published OUR COUNCIL has been posted up each week on Council's website as well. Now that the *Glen Innes Examiner* is to recommence publishing, Council will continue the radio sessions as we have recognised the value of this local media to the community.

The good news has been what appears to be an easing of the drought with water restrictions now at Level One (1). Residents have done a great job of being water wise and this has helped us to weather this aspect of the hardships faced.

I am pleased and proud of the way we have joined together co-operatively as a community during difficult times. This has made us all stronger. You can make appointments to meet with me now and I have resumed the Mayor's Walks on Wednesday mornings at 7.00am, so wrap up and join us at the Anzac Park Memorial.

During COVID-19 we have all had to look at different ways of communicating with each other and this has also been the case for Council. Each week you can catch up with Council's news and information in the *Glen Innes Examiner* on Thursdays and on the Council website: www.gisc.nsw.gov.au/news/weekly-our-council-information-sheets

You can also listen to Council's weekly radio sessions and special radio interviews on the website:
<https://www.gisc.nsw.gov.au/news/radio-interviews>

Council meetings have returned to being held at the Glen Innes Library but remain closed to the public for the time being.

Information about Council meetings and the Business Papers for Council meetings are available at:
<https://www.gisc.nsw.gov.au/council/glen-innes-severn-council-ordinary-meetings>

Be kind,

Cr Carol Sparks