

PROGRESS ON PARKS, PUBLIC ART AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Wilson Park Upgrade

Two (2) new outdoor netball courts have been completed, the canteen at Wilson Park has been upgraded and a new storage extension has been completed. Preliminary levelling of the Wilson Park playing fields has been undertaken. Extensions to the Rugby Union Club House have also commenced.



The new netball courts at Wilson Park.

Kerry Mead Park

The new amenities building is nearing completion and irrigation infrastructure has been completed. The new playing fields are to be levelled for the final top dress and seeding. When this project is completed, Council will be able to review the future use of Lynch Oval.



The new amenities building at Kerry Mead Park.

Public art at the roundabout

The "Blue Hills" contemporary art sculpture at the Meade and Church Street roundabout has enhanced our CBD streetscape. Work commenced on construction of the concrete slab in mid-May and the installation was completed in June with landscaping being the final stage of the project. The public art budget has been overspent due to the Wind Turbine project being included in the budget. This overspend will be offset from reserves whereby unspent funds from the public art project have been reserved to ensure that the roundabout project could be completed. This installation is one of the six (6) public art projects to be undertaken by Council as planned, with the Wind Turbine precinct yet to be fully completed.

Warwick Twigg Indoor Sports Centre

This is the regional netball facility which is being designed by Architect, Michael Davies. Staff are also working on a design to ensure the facility is fit for purpose and can be built on budget. Quantity surveyor costings have been received, with all three (3) options exceeding grant funding allocation. The architect is reviewing one (1) of the three (3) options to reduce costs. Comments from stakeholders have been forwarded to the architect to incorporate suggestions. Soil bearing tests have been done to allow engineers to design footings for the proposed structure.

ACTION AT THE SALEYARDS



The new yards delivered and taking shape.

Council has continued to hold sheep sales in line with COVID-19 guidelines of physical distancing and only essential people have attended to minimise numbers.

By all accounts, our sheep numbers have remained strong over the last few months and have been excellent considering the drought and its impact on stock numbers overall.

Anecdotally, our numbers are consistent with the larger centres of Guyra and Inverell which bodes well for us into the future. We have been able to conduct regular fortnightly sheep sales around the construction thanks to our Saleyards Manager, Aaron Campbell, the goodwill and patience extended by our local selling agents, Clipex the construction group undertaking the rebuild, and the support of the buyers.

A regular monthly store cattle sale is being conducted by Elders.

The upgrade of the sheep selling facility, the canteen up-grade and the new toilets and agents' room will provide a welcome improvement to the operation of the Saleyards. The project has made good progress despite a significant number of wet days since the project commenced and the impact of COVID-19 restrictions.

With the disbanding of the Glen Innes Selling Agents Association, stock and station agents from adjoining areas will be invited to sell at the fortnightly sheep sales. Indications are that at least one additional agency will take up this offer.

A related project involves improvements to support infrastructure for the existing truck wash at the Glen Innes Saleyards. Effluent disposal at the truck wash site can be problematic and creates a risk to the environment. The project will install a solids removal system with remaining liquid waste being transferred to the Glen Innes sewer system, where it can be fully treated and then is able to be recycled. Operator risks to safety will be removed through the installation of a barrier between the two (2) wash bays to prevent overspray contamination.

Water supply security is being increased through the installation of an onsite tank and pump system that will enable water from alternate sources to be used during times of drought.

Council's Director, Development, Planning and Regulatory Services, Graham Price said Council recognises that stock selling activity has increasingly moved to on-line selling platforms, however the up-grade of the Saleyards is an opportunity made available through NSW State Government funding and represents Council's commitment to the local agriculture sector by enabling continuation and growth by investing in essential infrastructure.

COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY SERVICES DURING COVID-19

Council's **Life Choices – Support Services (LC-SS)** has continued to operate throughout the current pandemic conditions by adapting to health requirements. Staff are still performing in home services and have re-commenced face to face group activities such as Tai Chi in accordance with current NSW Department of Health Social Distancing requirements. Staff have been delivering Meals on Wheels (MOW) during the COVID-19 crisis period and are now able to contact our volunteers to have them once again included in our activities.

Staff will continue to supplement group activities with individual and group telephone calls and interactive supports via iPads and activity packs until full normal group activities have returned. Current guidelines require our staff to take additional safety precautions such as more comprehensive Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). This is nothing to be worried about, as it's just an added layer of protection for everyone.

Children and Family Services (CAFS) has planned a very exciting roster for the July Vacation Care.

The Youth Booth refurbishment has commenced and is on target for a mid-July completion date.

NEW LIBRARY PROCEDURES



Library staff such as Jacob have been making contactless deliveries.

The **Glen Innes Severn Public and TAFE Library** now has new procedures which need to be followed to ensure the continued safety and wellbeing of staff and the community. These procedures include:

- A hand sanitiser station in the foyer. Visitors will be required to use it before entering the Library;
- The social distancing rule of 1.5 metres is visible and enforceable. Please follow all signage and directions from staff;
- Limited computer access and assistance by staff;
- EFTPOS facilities are available, and
- If you are experiencing flu or cold symptoms, please do not visit the Library; instead please phone the library on 6730 2600 for a home delivery service.

If you would like to continue self-isolating, staff can organise a 'no contact' delivery. Library staff will not be running programs or activities until further notice. The library is offering online services so please check <https://gleninneslibrary.org/> to see what is available. If you have overdue resources and are self-isolating the library has extended all loans until 30 September 2020.

BRIDGING THE GAPS IN LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

WATERLOO ROAD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

Works to replace the bridge over the Wellingrove Creek on Waterloo Road commenced in late June 2020. It is expected that this project will be completed in six (6) weeks.

The Sapphire Wind Farm proponents have paid for short term strengthening of the existing structure to accommodate heavy loads, however these works did not address longer term decay issues in the bridge that are caused by the timber elements being in contact with earth at the abutments. Council will offer this bridge superstructure for sale by expression of interest at a later date. With the additional strengthening, it will make an excellent bridge for a landholder.

THIS PROJECT TICKED ALL THE BOXES



Cost efficient, time efficient, and a recycling component made the Browns Road bridge project a winner all round. It even used new high-tech designed engineering products and ideas. By investing in infrastructure projects Council is enabling economic development and recovery.

Council's bridge team fully completed the replacement of the Browns Road bridge in less than one (1) month. The project involved upgraded concrete abutments and a new laminated timber super structure. These laminated timber components are engineer certified and very efficient to install. The old bridge was recycled by selling to a local landholder through an open expression of interest process.

WELLINGROVE CREEK BRIDGE REPLACED



Funded in part under Round Three (3) of the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program, Council engaged local crane hire and engineering firm, Weir Built, to provide services and components for a replacement bridge over Wellingrove Creek on Polhill Road. Council has committed, in its Community Strategic Plan to growing the local economy. This project demonstrates Council's support for local business as well as a commitment to the provision of important infrastructure.