

COMMUNITY *News*



A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO **FUTURE GROWTH**

The current population of Wollondilly Shire is approximately 48,000 and Council is predicting this number could head towards 100,000 or beyond over the next 20 to 30 years. So Council has developed an official "Position on Growth" as part of its new Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

Being clear about growth (what it will and will not include) is important for a number of reasons:

- It enables us to understand what is being planned for across the Shire. (Growth will be experienced differently across the Shire and will occur in some locations and not others over time).
- It helps us understand the opportunities that growth can create when well-planned: more jobs, more schools, health services, better infrastructure, transport choice etc.
- It enables us to understand that growth and rural living can both be achieved in balance.
- It enables Council to strategically plan for the future.

There are 4 key elements to Council's "Position on Growth".

1. Rural protection and support for agriculture.
2. Allowing appropriately scaled and well planned growth within and around our existing towns and villages.
3. Commitment to the creation of a major new town at Wilton as our priority focus for growth.
4. No other major growth areas or new towns or villages within the other parts of Wollondilly.

To read more about the "Position on Growth", view the CSP at engage.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

WILTON NEW TOWN **NEEDS RAIL**

The recent Federal Budget announced a \$1b Housing Affordability and Infrastructure Fund.

Wollondilly is planning for the delivery of 16,600 home sites at Wilton which demonstrates a very strong contribution to the Federal and State Governments' housing initiatives, so we are strongly advocating to ensure these new homes are well supported with appropriate infrastructure.

For example Council is lobbying for the Federal and State Governments to work together to deliver appropriate electrified rail services to Wilton New Town. The delivery of a modern public transport system to the proposed new town is fundamentally important.

SWIMMING POOL INSPECTION FEES

As part of a State Government initiative to minimise the risk of young children drowning in backyard swimming pools, Council runs a Swimming Pool Inspection Program.

This program involves the inspection of residential swimming pool and spa barriers to ensure they meet regulations. To enable us to run the program we need to charge fees to pool owners, these are set by the State Government and cover administration, staff and travel costs and any training required.

Current fees are:

\$150 per inspection
(\$100 if a follow-up inspection is required)

Council has developed a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) factsheet to further explain the Swimming Pool Inspection Program and to help residents comply with regulations. Head to wollondilly.nsw.gov.au and search for 'Swimming Pool Fencing and Safety'.

Let's all work together to prevent drowning deaths in our Shire. For further information contact Council on **4677 1100**.

SYDNEY WATER FAULT LINE INFO

If you experience any faults with Sydney Water, sewer, potable drinking water or loss of drinking water pressure please contact Sydney Water on **13 20 90**.



What's happening IN WOLLONDILLY

WINTERFEST | 23-24 JUNE

Cut up the ice, balance and glide at our fantastic ice skating rink for Winterfest 2017!

Whether you are a beginner or a seasoned skater everyone will enjoy a spin around our synthetic Ice Skating Rink on Friday 23 June and Saturday 24 June 2017, at the RSL Memorial Park Carpark, Picton.

Cost \$5 per 20 minute session (includes skate hire) and \$5 hire fee per penguin (skating support). Separate sessions for kiddies and big kids (adults). In the lead up to Winterfest, local retailers will open their doors with Winter Warming sales and campaigns from Monday 19 June to Sunday 25 June. Come on down, have some fun and shop local!

Proudly supported by Wollondilly Shire Council, Glencore Tahmoor Underground and the Picton Chamber of Commerce. For more info call **4677 9761** or events@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

SKATING SESSIONS ARE:

- Friday 4pm till 9pm
- Saturday 2pm till 9pm

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Friday 23 June** - 4pm till 9pm
and **Saturday 24 June** - 2pm till 9pm
Wollondilly Winterfest
RSL Memorial Park Carpark, Picton
- **Monday 10 July** - Commences 10am
NAIDOC Flag Raising and Film Screening
Picton Shire Hall
- **Thursday 13 July** - 10am till 2pm
Festival of Fun
Tahmoor Community Centre
- **Monday 31 July till Friday 4 August**
Local Government Schools Week
Wollondilly Shire Council

For information on any of these events please visit wollondilly.nsw.gov.au and go to the 'What's On' link or call Council on **4677 1100**

5 WAYS TO WELLBEING SESSIONS

These sessions are aimed at increasing awareness about wellbeing in the community and to give young people the skills to help them identify issues and seek support. All sessions will include input from local services and young people living in the area. Light supper will be provided. All information evenings will take place from **6.30-8.30pm**.

Give - Volunteering
Wednesday 28 June, *Picton Library*

Keep Learning - Showing of 'Embrace the Documentary'
Wednesday 26 July, *Picton High School*

Be Active - Healthy Lifestyles
Wednesday 23 August,
Venue to be confirmed

Connect - Positive Relationships
Wednesday 27 September, *Youth Hub, Community Links Wollondilly, Tahmoor*

Take notice - Mental Wellbeing
Wednesday 25 October, *Youth Hub, Community Links Wollondilly, Tahmoor*

DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN (DIAP)

Inclusion is everyone's business...

We're proud to tell you that Council has recently developed a draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan which is all about supporting and including people with disability in the community. Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) covers four key focus areas:

- Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
- Creating liveable communities
- Supporting access to meaningful employment
- Improving access to services through better systems and processes

The draft Disability Inclusion Action Plan has been on public exhibition during April/May and will be presented to Council in June for final endorsement. The DIAP will be registered with the Disability Council and will be reported on an annual basis to the Minister of Disability Services.



Wollondilly Shire Council is excited by the changes happening across Australia regarding inclusion and the rollout of the NDIS in our Shire. The DIAP demonstrates our commitment to creating a more welcoming, equitable and inclusive community for all.

To find out more and to view the DIAP head to Council's Engagement website engage.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

LIBRARY EVENTS

E-Resources

Do you want to read the latest issues of a magazine or newly released books without having to leave your own home? Well now you can with the touch of a button!

E-books, audiobooks and E-Magazine are a new and exciting way to access all of the new release and older books and magazines from the library.

These app's are available for most major desktops and smart phones, and best of all... they're FREE! With so many genres of books to choose from, E-books and audiobooks will keep even the busiest of people entertained. Our Zinio E-Magazines collection now has over 370 magazines to browse and read, and is perfect for all ages. Zinio E-Magazines are the perfect way to keep kids entertained and for parents to wind down and read the latest copy of their favourite magazine.

Simply download the overdrive app (e-books) or Zineo app (e-magazine) to access. All you need is a library membership and you are up and running.

Regular Events

- **Storytime** - 10.30am till 11.30am
Tues, Wed, Thurs (during school term)
Enjoy stories, songs, games, puppets, felt boards and dancing for children aged 0-5 and their carers.
- **Bookbubs** - 11.30am till 12.30pm
Thurs (during school term)
A storytime for babies aged 0-24 months. This early literacy program provides an opportunity for parents and carers to bond with their little ones while enjoying nursery rhymes, songs, bubbles, music, instruments and toys. You can also borrow books from the exclusive 'Bookbubs' board book collection.
- **Lego Club** - 4pm till 5pm
1st Thursday of the month
For lego minded kids ages 5-12 who love building and having fun!
- **RamPAGE** - 4pm till 5.30pm
3rd Thursday of the month
A monthly after school program for young people aged 8+ which includes a variety of activities such as console gaming, board games, trivia and crafts. Participants eat, play, create and have an opportunity to be the first to borrow newly purchased library items.

For more information on these events and more please visit the 'Library' link on wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or call **4677 8300**.



STONEQUARRY CREEK REPAIRS



Since the major storm that devastated the Picton Town Centre in June 2016, Council has been continuing to repair damage and improve conditions along Stonequarry Creek and the associated floodplain.

Some of the things we've been doing:

- Removing large fallen trees upstream from Argyle St Bridge and the viaduct. This will help prevent damage to assets in the future and reduce the risk of dams forming.
- Cleaning up rubbish in the creek area. Several large items have been removed including a car, skip bins, fridges, a port-a-loo and a shipping container!
- Removing organic debris, weed regrowth, the lower limbs of some trees and several stumps to decrease the potential for blockages.
- "Dicing" large logs so that they can flow under the Argyle Street Bridge.
- Cleaning the pipe culvert under Barkers Lodge Road.
- Inspecting Stonequarry and Racecourse Creeks to identify problem locations and to allow preparation of a detailed flood rehabilitation report by Soil Conservation Services. (When this report is received, Council will provide information to land owners on the priority works on their lands and we'll use the report to program our own works).
- Working with Crown Lands to confirm the ownership of sections of the creek. Because Council doesn't own all the lands along the creek we are writing to property owners reminding them of their responsibilities for maintaining the creek within their properties and offering advice on maintenance.
- Establishing a trial site with Soil Conservation Services to demonstrate their methodology for using fallen trees as a bank stabilisation method.
- A Community Field Day to Heal Stonequarry Creek was held in the Hume Oval precinct to provide the community with the opportunity to be involved in planting bank stabilising plants and mulching existing vegetated areas.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY – RESULTS ARE IN!

Council recently used an independent research company to conduct a telephone survey of Wollondilly residents. This survey explored the community's views and satisfaction levels in relation to Council's services and facilities. The survey also explored how residents feel about their "quality of life" in Wollondilly, their concerns and aspirations for the future of the Shire, and how they feel about the concepts of rural living and growth. For those not selected in the random telephone survey an online 'opt-in' survey was also made available on Engage.Wollondilly. Residents could therefore voluntarily choose to participate in the survey.

The results of the survey have been used by Council to inform the preparation of our new Community Strategic Plan and other corporate strategic documents. It's given us an insight into what's important to our community so that we can strategically focus on those matters.

To view a copy of the survey report, which shows all the questions and the results, head to engage.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au or contact Council on **4677 1100** for a hard copy.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY

Did you know that the NSW Government has deferred its decision to collect the Fire and Emergency Services Levy via Council Rate notices? This means that the Emergency Services Levy will continue to be collected through insurance policies for the time being.

The printed edition of the community newsletter that was delivered to households and businesses has an article about the Fire & Emergency Services Levy (FESL) and how it was to be collected via Council rates. This article was written prior to the NSW Government's announcement on the 30th of May 2017 so it is no longer current information. To find out more about the NSW Government's Emergency Services funding you can read their media release in the 'News' section of Council's website or visit the FESL website fesl.nsw.gov.au or **1300 787 872**.

ROAD SAFETY WINS FOR WOLLONDILLY

Did you know that Wollondilly Shire has around 830kms of roads, equivalent to the surface area of 847 soccer fields?

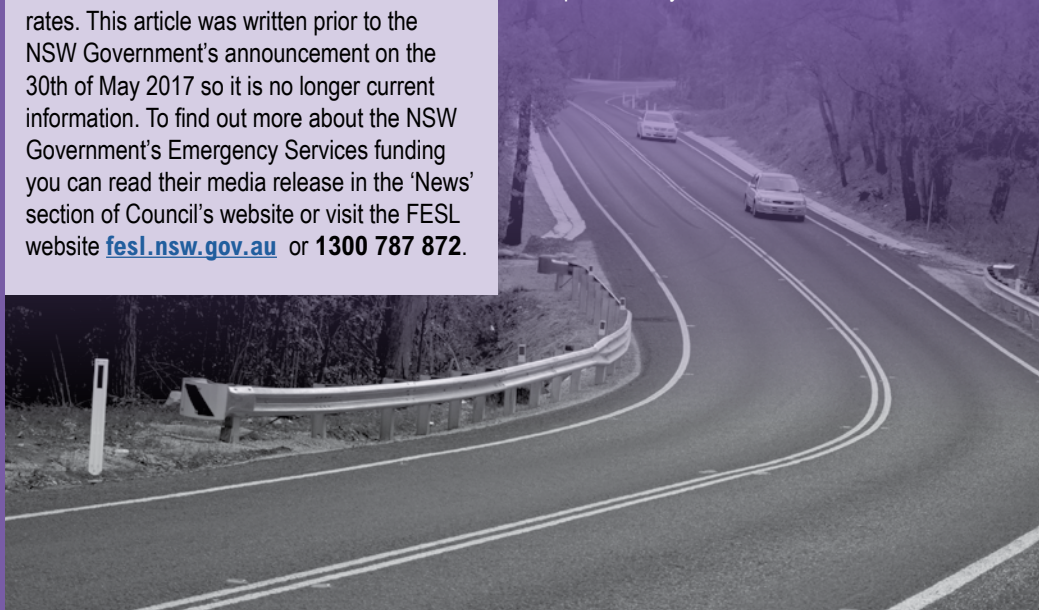
The safety of those travelling on these roads is a key focus area for Council. In addition to funding from ratepayers we are constantly seeking alternative forms of funding to improve our road network.

We are delighted to report some great outcomes for Wollondilly from the recent Federal Budget, with announcements that we have been successful in receiving several Black Spot Funding grants applied for to address some of our most dangerous roads in the Shire.

The Black Spot Program is a Federal Government funding program to eliminate safety problems on Australian roads. We have been successful in receiving:

- \$490,000 for a section of Montpelier Drive at The Oaks (200m south of Victoria Park Road to 200m north of Evelyns Range Road).
- \$753,125 for a section of Montpelier Drive at The Oaks (200m south to 420m north of Strathmore Road).
- \$636,500 towards funding of a section of Remembrance Driveway at Razorback (1.5km to 3.3km north east of Governors Lane).

This is a great outcome for the community and provides a significant boost to our capital program for 2017/18 and our capacity to improve safety on our roads.



WAYS TO REPORT CRIME

Recent conversations with the community around community safety and policing levels have highlighted the importance of reporting crime in the Shire.

Here are some reasons to report crime:

- A safer community
- Police and the community working together
- Removing criminals from circulation
- A community that's active in protecting itself
- Raised community awareness

WAYS TO REPORT CRIME:

1. Triple 000

All life threatening emergencies

2. Crime stoppers 1800 333 000 - to report:

- People wanted by police
- Unsolved crimes and future crime that is being planned
- People you know who have committed criminal offences where they have not been arrested
- Suspicious or unusual activity

3. Police Assistance Line (PAL) 131 444

If you are a victim of a crime, other than life threatening or time critical emergency situations

4. NSW Police Force Community Portal

To report non-emergency online Police reports: Lost Property, Intentional Damage or Graffiti and Theft. You will need a Services NSW ID number to log into the portal

police.nsw.gov.au/community_portal/home

5. Local Police Stations:

- Narellan Police Station 4632 4499
- Campbelltown Police Station 4620 1199
- St. Mary's Police Station 9677 7499

KOALA CONSERVATION PROJECT

Council set up the Wollondilly Koala Hotline in early 2015 in response to numerous Koala sightings by residents in the Appin area.

Since then we've had over 40 koala sightings reported in Appin, Wilton, Douglas Park, Pheasants Nest, Avon Dam, Bargo, Lakesland, Silverdale and Warragamba.

In April 2016 Council commissioned a spotlighting survey which revealed a thriving population of koalas in the Shire. Of the 58 sites surveyed over 4 nights, 22% had either sightings of koalas or signs of koalas including scratches or scats. In total 8 koalas were sighted over the 4 nights.

This is great news but shows how little information we actually have about the Wollondilly koalas. Council has been successful in receiving a number of grants to help further our understanding. Funding and/or support has been received from The Environmental Trust, Conservation Volunteers, Glencore, (\$5,000), Saving our Species and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (\$90,000) and we have completed the following

'Koala Detection Strategies':

- Daytime survey work
- Restoration of koala habitat along the Bargo River
- Using a Koala Detection Dog to undertake 20kms of survey work looking for koala scats.
- During April 2017 we deployed 8 GPS tracking collars on koalas in Appin, Wilton and Avon Dam. A further 4 koalas were found, a mother with a joey and a male and female juvenile <2yrs old which couldn't be collared.
- 100 Vegetation Surveys to identify koala habitat.

For more information and if you see signs of koalas around the Shire please phone the Wollondilly Koala Hotline on **4677 1100**.



YOUR COUNCILLORS

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FIND OUT MORE, PARTICIPATE AND GET IN TOUCH...

Council Forums and Meetings

Each month Council hosts a Community Forum one week prior to the Council meeting. You can apply to speak at the community forum, find out how on the [Council website](#).

Community Forums and Council Meetings take place on the second and third Monday of each month (except when public holidays occur) at Council's Administration Building, Menangle Street, Picton at 6:30pm.

Agendas are available from Council's Foyer or on Council's website seven (7) days prior to the Community Forum.

Upcoming Community Forum Dates:

- Tuesday, 13 June 2017
- Monday, 10 July 2017
- Monday, 14 August 2017

Upcoming Council Meeting Dates:

- Monday, 19 June 2017
- Monday, 17 July 2017
- Monday, 21 August 2017

Council Meeting Live Streaming:

- [Now available via the Council website](#)

Council Contacts

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Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 8am to 4pm