



| Autumn Edition

# SINGLETON EDIT

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## From the MAYOR



If the future depends on what we do today, then 2021 is an important year for Singleton. We're doing a lot of work to make the future bright – and more importantly sustainable – for everyone across our local government area now and into the future, with a focus on building resilience to changes likely to impact our community from a range of sources.

Perhaps the loudest conversations are happening around the need for economic diversification, particularly in response to changes in the energy industry that would transform the Hunter as a centre for energy production. Acting on behalf of all Hunter councils, the Hunter Joint Organisation is advocating for the creation of the Hunter 2050 Foundation to invest in capital for new industries, repurpose land resources and help local business and workers move into new sectors and roles that are meaningful, enjoyable and use their skills to best effect.

It will compliment a range of initiatives we're pioneering at a local level, not least the Singleton Economic Development Fund in partnership with local mining companies, which includes a proportion of the proceeds of Voluntary Planning Agreements to be used for projects and programs to ensure our prosperity and wellbeing now, and for generations to come.

But while it's all very well to have programs in place to support the future of Singleton, it's equally as vital that we have a plan for what we want that future to look like. And that's exactly the conversation we'll be having with you this year and into 2022 as part of the development of the next Community Strategic Plan to lay the road map for the next 10 years.

We want your input into what you want the future Singleton to be like – and the sky really is the limit. It will all kick off with some exciting activities planned as part of our Living Laneways project, where our Town Centre laneways are being transformed as creative community spaces where you can pause, connect, and – in conjunction with the University of Newcastle – get involved in some innovative activities that will inspire you to think about the possibilities for Singleton. Read more on page 7.

With an expected Federal election just around the corner, we're also revisiting our Advocacy Agenda to make sure Singleton is front of mind for all local candidates, and all sides of politics. At the top is the need for the best design for the Singleton bypass of the New England Highway, and those conversations are currently ongoing at both a State and Federal level. You can see the full Advocacy list on the back page.

It's also a year for us to elect our new Council, or if you're so inclined, to stand for local government. With Council elections to be held on Saturday 4 September, if you're passionate about making Singleton a better place, then there's no greater reward than working in the service of our community.

Cr Sue Moore | Mayor of Singleton

## From the GENERAL MANAGER



With a growing focus on making sustainability a key consideration in everything we do, from the source of materials used by our suppliers through to the long-term impacts in the design phase of yet-to-be-built facilities (including their eventual demolition), we're taking a world-view of the future of Singleton.

But even as we follow the route charted in the Singleton Sustainability Strategy 2020/2027, which is based on four of the United Nation's (UN) 17 sustainable development goals, what's most important is the impact we can have at a local level, both on the world and on our own community.

We've introduced a range of new sustainability initiatives to support our community, including the hugely successful Mattress Muster in January when 704 mattresses were not only collected for free, but recycled. Next up is a tyre drop off day on 20 March, and we encourage everyone to search for treasure at the Burragan Recycling Shop at the Waste Management Facility, where an eclectic array of items from the practical to the quirky are rescued from landfill to find new, fulfilling homes.

Council's Procurement Policy is another area where we're looking at sustainability as a means to provide opportunities for local businesses, and to inject investment into our own local economy to generate flow on effects for residents right across our LGA.

And of course the financial sustainability of our organisation is paramount in ensuring the standard and provision of services and facilities for our community are ongoing, and that means always looking at new opportunities for delivering more with less.

Singleton has strong relationships with all levels of governments as well as private enterprises, and in just less than a year since 1 July 2020, has netted more than \$11,180,357 million in grant funding from a range of sources to deliver capital works projects like upgrades for Carrowbrook Road, the second stage of the Townhead Park childrens' bike track and beautification of Baileys Union Park, through to toys for the Library, workshops to help make our local businesses more resilient and planning for a community hub to make sure everyone in our LGA has access to the services they need for their wellbeing. You can see the total list of projects on page 6.

Sustainability in all forms – environmental, social and economic – has become central to the policies of Council in delivering the services and infrastructure that create community not only now, but for the generations who will come after us.

Jason Linnane | General Manager



## GAME PLAN FOR SPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Singleton sports clubs are playing the long game in 2021 as Council leads a strategic focus on community sports infrastructure. A consultant has been engaged to develop the Singleton Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy, working with members of the Singleton Sports Council to encapsulate new and existing facilities to help clubs meet their objectives.

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning said the strategy would detail what projects would be delivered, and the order they would be delivered in. "Council ran sports strategic planning workshops for members of the Sports Council last year, so that clubs could start working on their strategic plans and get an understanding of what they need going forward," he said. "The strategy will merge what the clubs want with what they've currently got and identify the gaps. Those projects will then be ranked according to high priority, medium priority and low priority and that list will feed through into all of our grant programs and capital works programs."

The Singleton Community Sports Infrastructure Strategy is one of a suite of strategic projects for sport and recreation this year, along with the draft Alroy Park Master Plan and

a mountain bike feasibility study that will investigate three possible sites, options for management and an economic benefit assessment.

The second and final round of the Singleton Sports Grants for 2020/2021 are also open until 25 March 2021, offering a total of \$105,885 to member clubs for infrastructure or strategic planning.

Singleton Track and Field was successful under the first round of funding, receiving \$5,000 to contribute to a masterplan for a new track and field facility at Rose Point Park. "Obviously we've got budgets, and to go and just build a fantastic facility straight up is impossible without planning," president Luke Boldery said. "Finally, we said well, we've got this big vision, and Council said let's start planning. So we put in \$5,000 as a club, the Sports Grants program put in another \$5,000, and that gives us an actual budget to plan and to get the layout, the buildings, everything in place for the end game. And then we start looking at grants."

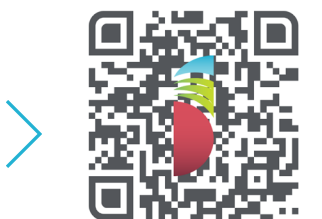
The Sports Grants program is also contributing to the first stage of the project, with \$60,000 towards a state-of-the-art long jump facility. Combined with a \$50,000 donation by Bridgestone Earthmoving and \$11,000 from the club to also deliver a storage facility, athletes are expected to be at the new location next season. "At the end of the day, it could be a million-dollar facility which we'll stage and build over time. And it's all part of our strategic, long-term future for the club," Luke said. "We've got a great committee, and a strategy moving forward where everyone's part of the process and shooting for the same goals."



Gail Solman from Singleton Netball Association, Luke Boldery from Singleton Track and Field and Amanda McMahon, Singleton Council's Coordinator Recreation and Facilities.

COVER IMAGE: Sustainability Committee members - Jonathon Woods, Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite, Sarah Lukeman, Wayne Jones, Wendy Lawson and James Barben.

Scan the QR code  
to find out more





# SUSTAINABLE ACTION

Singleton Council is taking greater action to be more accountable in its approach to sustainability with the launch of a new one-stop information shop. The Sustainability Hub is a new section of Council's website stemming from last year's endorsement of the Singleton Sustainability Strategy 2019/2027, which is based on four of the United Nation's (UN) 17 sustainable development goals selected with input by the Singleton Community Sustainability Committee – comprised of Councillors, Council staff and community representatives – and Council's senior management.

## Our four sustainable development goals:

UN Goal 7: Affordable + Clean Energy  
UN Goal 11: Sustainable Cities + Communities  
UN Goal 12: Responsible Consumption + Production  
UN Goal 15: Life On Land

"The Strategy is underpinned by an objective against each of those goals as well as a number of deliverables for us to work towards," Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council's Director Planning and Infrastructure said. "Then each year, we identify actions against each of those deliverables."

"We've incorporated a number of actions into Council's Operational Plan for this year, and in addition to that we've developed the Singleton Council Sustainable Futures Statement, which aligns a number of actions that we as an organisation undertake to help improve our sustainability outcomes against those goals as well."

Justin said Council was also working through a project improvement plan for sustainability with a focus on leading by example, measuring results and reporting to the community.

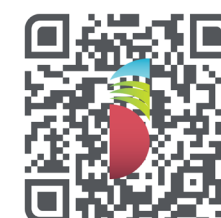
The Community Sustainability Committee was very clear they wanted us to be accountable for the sustainability outcomes that have been generated by the community and Council, which means monitoring and reporting on our performance," he said. "It was really important to our Committee to have a one-stop shop for access to information, and we felt the best way to provide that for the community more broadly through our Council website."

The Sustainability Hub includes the Singleton Sustainability Strategy 2019/2027 document and will grow and develop as more information and data is collected.

"There has been a lot of work to develop an overview of sustainability in Singleton, with linkages to assets such as the community garden, sustainability programs in other parts of Council such as the Library, and our free Get Grubby subscription program for families (in conjunction with Dirt Girl)," Justin said. "We want Council to be a resource for people on their own sustainable journeys."

"There's a plethora of government funds and government grants across all aspects of the four Sustainable Development Goals that we're working on, and if you can't find what you're looking for at our Sustainability Hub, get in contact with us and if we don't know the answer, we'll try to find who does." ■

Scan the QR code to visit the Sustainability Hub



## COMMUNITY WASTE MANAGEMENT EVENTS

### Singleton Waste Management Facility



**TYRE DROP-OFF DAY**  
20 MARCH 2021 | 10AM-2PM

Dispose of up to four unwanted tyres from motorbikes, cars, 4WDs or light trucks for FREE.

Excludes tyres from trucks, tractors and earthmoving vehicles.

Limited to four tyres per customer. Proof of residency is required.



**MATTRESS MUSTER**  
29 MAY 2021 | 10AM-2PM

In the second event for 2021, dispose of your unwanted mattresses for FREE.

Best of all, up to 75% of mattress components will be recycled.

Limited to four mattresses per customer. Proof of residency is required.



**CHEMICAL CLEAN OUT**  
26 JUNE 2021 | 9AM-3.30PM

Bring in your old and unwanted household chemicals to be disposed or recycled for FREE.

You can drop off household quantities of:

- Paint, strippers + varnishes
- Pesticides, herbicides + poisons
- Solvents + household cleaners
- Motor oils, fuels + fluids
- Batteries
- Gas bottles
- Pool + hobby chemicals
- Globes + tubes



Jonathon Woods, James Barben, Singleton Council Manager  
Development and Environmental Services Mary-Anne Crawford,  
Wayne Jones, Wendy Lawson, Singleton Council Director Planning  
and Infrastructure Services Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr



# \$11,180,357 IN FUNDING SECURED

From employment programs to major infrastructure projects, Singleton Council has boosted our ability to deliver projects for the community by \$11,180,357 through successful grants since 1 July 2020.

<b>\$200,000</b> Community and Business Relief and Rebuild Fund BHP Vital Resources Fund	<b>\$600,000</b> Hamiltons Crossing Road Causeway Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$150,000</b> Singleton Defence Family and Veteran Employment Pathways Program Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$250,000</b> Singleton Track and Field Amenities and Storage Upgrade Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	<b>\$300,000</b> Civic Administration Roof Replacement Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure
<b>\$500,000</b> Living Laneways NSW Government Streets as Shared Spaces	<b>\$477,283</b> Howe Park and Alroy Sports Lighting Upgrade Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$300,000</b> Singleton's People and Place Identity Program Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$50,000</b> Singleton Museum repairs Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	<b>\$150,772</b> OOSH Building Roof Replacement Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure
<b>\$2,000</b> Small Business Workshops in Marketing and Resilience for Small Business Month – NSW Treasury	<b>\$250,000</b> Howe Park Surface Renovations Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$1,000</b> Australia Day branding National Australia Day Council	<b>\$50,000</b> Scotts Flat RFS Building upgrades Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	<b>\$440,000</b> Baileys Union Beautification Project Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure
<b>\$20,000</b> Cycling NSW Team Time Trial Event 2020 Austrade Regional Tourism Recovery Fund	<b>\$150,000</b> Guide to Navigating Mental Health Services Program Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$20,000</b> Australia Day COVID-safe event support National Australia Day Council	<b>\$20,000</b> Howe Park Tennis Building repairs Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	<b>\$270,000</b> Townhead Park Amenities Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure
<b>\$250,000</b> Community Disaster Preparedness and Community Connectedness Programs Resilience NSW Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience	<b>\$250,000</b> Singleton Showground New Multi-Purpose Performance Shed Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$3,000</b> Singleton Youth Venue Stories from Singleton Project NSW Government CreateNSW	<b>\$40,000</b> Civic Administration Building ceiling repairs Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	<b>\$700,000</b> Brunners Bridge Replacement *Australian Government Bridge Renewal Program * More grant funding required for total project cost
<b>\$500,000</b> Singleton Rugby Club – Stage 2 Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$299,000</b> Wonnarua Healing Centre Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$713,842</b> Hamiltons Crossing road sealing NSW Government Fixing Local Roads	<b>\$10,000</b> Jerrys Plains Recreation Ground septic upgrades Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	<b>\$650,000</b> Gibbs Bridge Replacement Australian Government Bridge Renewal Program
<b>\$250,000</b> Building Better Businesses – Business Advisory Hub and Training program Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$285,000</b> Singleton Golf Club Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$64,142</b> Carrowbrook Road heavy patching works NSW Government Fixing Local Roads	<b>\$10,000</b> Jim Johnston Reserve Water Storage Capacity Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	<b>\$650,000</b> Gibbs Bridge Replacement NSW Government Fixing Country Bridges
<b>\$560,000</b> Broke Shared Footpath Project Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$300,000</b> Singleton Worker Support Pathways Program Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$610,000</b> Enterprise Crescent asphaltting works NSW Government Fixing Local Roads	<b>\$10,000</b> Enterprise Crescent asphaltting works NSW Government Fixing Local Roads	
<b>\$50,000</b> - Community Hub Business Case Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$150,000</b> Singleton Neighbourhood Centre – Community Liaison Program and Worker Restart NSW Resources for Regions Fund	<b>\$248,233</b> Magpie Street asphaltting works NSW Government Fixing Local Roads	<b>\$26,085</b> 74 George Street (Mechanics Institute) Roof Repairs Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure	
		<b>\$360,000</b> Townhead Park Bike Track Stage 2 Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure		



## COMMUNITY VISION FOR SINGLETON

Community input will be the centrepiece of a review of the Singleton Community Strategic Plan (CSP) to set Council's direction for 2021-2031 – and everyone is encouraged to get involved.

Singleton Council is developing a program of events and activities designed to reach people across the entire local government area to tap into your vision for the Singleton of the future.


Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity said it was important the Plan represented the community's aspirations for the 10 years because it provides direction for the new Council that will be elected in September.

"We're really excited to talk to as many people from right across our community as possible to understand what people hope for Singleton into the future, and then take that information and put actions against how we can make it happen," she said.

"The core method for gathering information will be a community survey that will be available in a range of formats. We're also developing a program of fun activities and events to inspire people to think about the possibilities and opportunities for Singleton, and where Council staff can meet with you to talk about your ideas.

"There will be more information to come, or you can visit Council's website and follow us on Facebook to keep up to date."

The CSP will inform Council's four-year Delivery Program, one-year Operational Plan and budget.

 Roads Maintenance Officer Geoff Burgess, Parks Operator Callum Forbes, Senior Socio Economic Planner Karen Varker and Customer Service Officer Hayley Denniss

## 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION KEY DATES

- Monday 26 July: Lodgement of postal votes open; Nominations open
- Wednesday 4 August: 12pm close of nominations
- Thursday 5 August: 10am Ballot paper draw
- Monday 23 August: Pre-poll voting period opens
- Friday 3 September: Close of pre-poll voting period
- Saturday 4 September: Election day 8am-6pm

## CBD LANEWAYS COME ALIVE

BURNS LANE | ROAD CLOSED FROM 12 APRIL – 2 JULY 2021

We're transforming Burns Lane into a creative canvas designed for you to stop and interact in. Live music, art installations, projections and other interactive activities are all on the calendar for the three-month long activation, breathing energy and life into the CBD.

FIRELIGHT | 29 MAY 2021

Singleton's favourite winter festival is back this year and we will be turning up the heat – literally – in Burns Lane. The heart of our town centre will fire up on Saturday 29 May with vibrant performances, hearty food and live entertainment. All the fun will start at 6pm. Watch out for information on our website + Facebook page.

BOURKES ARCADE | SHADOWGRAM 9 MARCH – 29 MARCH 2021

Join the social brainstorming! Shadowgram is a fun, participatory activity where you can create a silhouette image of yourself and paste it on a landscape painting of Singleton. Add a thought bubble and tell us how you see the Singleton of tomorrow.

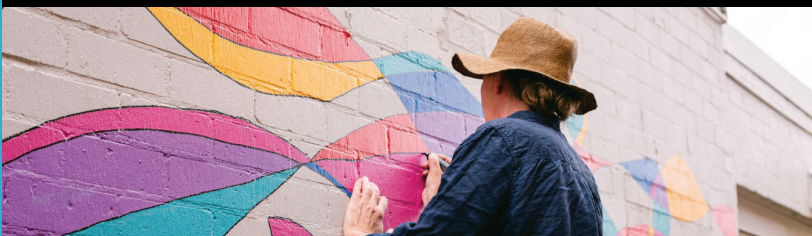
EVIDENCE LANE | BEEHIVE 1 – 22 JUNE 2021

Participate in our beehive by downloading the app and shooting a video of your favourite places around Singleton. We'll take your content and display them on screens installed in Evidence Lane. Local artist Sally Hinchliffe will also be painting an ocean - inspired mural – the perfect backdrop for our local surf shop.

TRE BELLA LANEWAY | ACOUSTIC ALLEY 26 JULY – 18 AUGUST 2021

Tre Bella was overcome with colour in December last year when local artist Sally Hinchliffe completed our first mural. We're adding an exciting acoustic installation in July which is movement activated.

The Living Laneways project is funded by a NSW Government Streets as Shared Spaces grant. The laneway activations are powered by the University of Newcastle's Future Art, Science and Technology Lab in partnership with Art Thinking and Ars Electronica.





# SINGLETON ADVOCACY AGENDA 2021

## Singleton Bypass

Seek amendments to the design for the Singleton Bypass of the New England Highway to ensure short- and long-term traffic needs are met and the vibrancy of Singleton Town Centre is enhanced.

## Increased passenger train services to and from Singleton

Seek commitment to permanently fully fund an increased level of service.

## Upgrades to Singleton Police Station and appropriate staffing

Seek commitment to fully fund the construction of a new police station or major expansion of Singleton Police Station.

Seek commitment for the appropriate allocation of staffing numbers to enable 24-hour operation of the station.

## Ongoing commitment to Resources for Regions funding program for mining communities

Seek long-term commitment to the Resources for Regions funding program to continue to recognise and provide certainty for mining communities.

## Ongoing funding of Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils

Seek commitment to the ongoing funding of \$300,000 annually for joint organisations.

## Commitment to accountable and tangible leadership to drive a whole of region approach to economic diversification

Develop and implement a leadership and governance model that provides direction, drives innovation and is accountable for long-term economic diversification of the region.

Seek commitment to resource and develop a transparent land use-based policy position on final mining land use that aligns with local strategic land use planning outcomes and ensure current and future socio-economic considerations are managed appropriately.

## Leadership on waste and recycling issues

Seek commitment to actively work with industry and local government to develop a viable strategic policy position.

Seek funding commitment to ensure recycling infrastructure is delivered.

Seek commitment for 100% of the waste levy to be returned to local governments for community waste minimisation and recycling programs.

## Upper Hunter water security planning, works and protection of water utility status

Seek commitment to protect Singleton's water utility business and services.

Seek commitment to fund Hunter Valley drought minimisation and water security planning.

## Environmental issues associated with power stations and mines

Seek commitment to develop a transparent cumulative impact policy position on amenity from mining and power stations that align with local planning outcomes and community expectations.

Seek commitment to undertake an independent review of the impact of coal ash and coal ash by-products on local and regional waterways and catchments.

Seek commitment to research and investigate reuse potential of mining and power generation waste streams to reduce the environmental and social impacts of long-term storage and rehabilitation of coal reject, tailings and coal ash deposits, dams and stockpiles.

## Changes to cost shifting model imposed by State Government

Seek commitment that no new, increased or transferred responsibilities will be imposed on local government without a sufficient corresponding source of revenue or revenue-raising capacity.

## Expansion of health services in Singleton

Seek commitment to maintaining and expanding health services in Singleton.

Seek commitment for infusion room for chemotherapy at Singleton Hospital.

Seek commitment for MRI machine at Singleton Hospital.

Seek commitment for mental health services in Singleton.

## Commitment to the agriculture industry and improved drought support

Seek commitment to an increase in drought support.

Seek commitment to fund identified infrastructure projects to aid rural communities.

## Provision of affordable housing

Seek commitment to increase the stock of affordable housing options across the Singleton LGA to cater for all demographics including age and levels of income.

## Review of the standard instrument Local Environmental Plan (LEP) for rural landholders

Seek commitment to review the standard instrument LEP for dwelling entitlement to provide certainty and flexibility for rural residents.

## Simplification of State-delivered grant programs

Seek commitment to provide a four-year structured grant funding allocation for economic and social infrastructure that is evenly distributed to each local government area.

## Ongoing commitment to and expansion of TAFE services in Singleton

Seek commitment to continue to support the Singleton TAFE campus, including the expansion of course offerings and trade training.

