



| Spring Edition

SINGLETON EDIT

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SINGLETON
COUNCIL

From the MAYOR



If there's one positive to come out of the challenges our community has faced over the past year, it's that we don't give up. And as we head into spring, we're building on the opportunities available to us both because of bushfires and COVID-19, and as the result of a whole lot of hard work over a long period of time.

The biggest case in point is of course the announcement of the review of the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program, which is poised to deliver \$4.5 million to Singleton in the coming months. Proving our efforts were not wasted, the Deputy Premier John Barilaro took up all the points we raised to redesign the program to better reflect the contribution of mining from our area to Macquarie Street, and to broaden the scope to incorporate not just infrastructure, but community programs to best respond to the impacts of mining across the board.

That opened a realm of possibilities not just for Council to deliver on the community's needs, but to actively work with community groups to propose projects with real scope for delivery. I'm proud of the hard work that has been done to prepare our applications to the highest quality, not only to put us in the best possible position to get those projects funded and off the ground, but to demonstrate to Mr Barilaro that the changes to the program were worthwhile. I very much look forward to the outcomes of those applications in November.

In the meantime, we can all contribute to the prosperity of our local economy by looking close to home for our daily essentials or a well-earned reward. Treat yourself to a Spend in Singleton gift card and spend the day perusing boutiques, sip a coffee in a cosy café or fill up the car (with fuel and people) and head out to Hermitage Road or Broke Fordwich for a world-class wining-and-dining experience.

Council is doing some great work in conjunction with the Singleton Business Chamber to promote the fantastic businesses in our area, and if you're already looking ahead to Christmas, head to our local retailers or consider a Spend in Singleton gift card. Visit www.spendinsingleton.com.au to find out more.

And we're happy to share the spoils of our region with visitors looking for a world-class escape from their own isolation. We're working very closely with the Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Association (HVWTA), the Around Hermitage Association and Broke Fordwich Wine Tourism Association as well as non-wine based tourism operators on destination marketing. Singleton has a rich history, a wide array of tourism attractions and natural beauty that will be showcased to entice people to our pristine part of the world.

The message is simple: whether you're downtown, down the road or down the highway, you'll find the experience you're looking for right here in our local government area.

Cr Sue Moore | Mayor of Singleton

From the GENERAL MANAGER



It's fitting that this spring edition of the Singleton Edit comes as we launch into a significant year of growth and renewal under Council's 2020/2021 Operational Plan, despite the ongoing pandemic. You can already see work underway on the \$7 million

Town Centre Upgrade – Stage 2 that will transform another part of John Street and Campbell Street into a modern, vibrant destination for shopping, dining and recreation, helping to entice new businesses and customers to support a thriving local economy and set us up as a worthwhile stopover when the bypass of the New England Highway becomes a reality.

Combined with a \$4 million state-of-the-art arts and cultural centre that will also take shape in the coming financial year, it's an exciting time to redefine the image and identity of Singleton as more than a capital for mining and manufacturing, but as a boutique destination with a rural heartbeat and city conveniences.

The framework is already in train, with a range of socio-economic initiatives for Singleton being implemented, the adoption of the Singleton Local Strategic Planning Statement and forthcoming Community Strategic Plan review and improvement. We're moving into a new phase not only of imagining what the Singleton of the future might be like, but building the vehicle to get us there. And take it from me: the future is bright, and it's coming soon.

That plays into areas right across our LGA, with a host of new ways at looking at our villages fueled by the impacts of COVID-19 as more people look for a regional lifestyle shift and realise there's plenty on offer in our part of world – all within an easy drive to Sydney and Newcastle. We're also positioned to take advantage of new opportunities available to us through a greater focus on regional areas by the Federal and State governments, and, complementing changes to the Resources for Regions program, a number of Voluntary Planning Agreements that open up a wealth of opportunities for villages including Bulga, Milbrodale, Warkworth and Jerrys Plains.

A key component of Council's Operational Plan for this year is a greater emphasis on our villages, with a more focused approach on working with local communities to turn those opportunities into tangible outcomes for residents and future residents. From streetscape beautifications to new playgrounds, there's an exciting range of projects that have recently been completed and plenty more to look forward to as our community emerges from the challenges of the past year to launch Singleton into a whole new chapter.

Jason Linnane | General Manager



STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR SES FACILITY

State Emergency Service (SES) Commissioner Carlene York has given the stamp of approval to Singleton's state-of-the-art SES headquarters, which were completed in March this year just as COVID-19 lockdowns came into effect.

In a visit to the new building, Commissioner York said the \$885,000 project was a testament to the partnership between the local SES and Singleton Council to provide a facility that would accommodate equipment, volunteer training and a home base for the response to all emergencies.

"The community sees us responding whether in trucks or boats, but it is what goes on in the background to coordinate all that and this is the facility to do that," she said.

"The importance of a facility like this is important in a couple of ways. It encourages more members of the community to get involved with SES because of the facilities available for training and operations, and operationally equipment is ready at a moment's notice to respond to whatever incident is occurring."

SES Central Hunter Commander Simon Merrick said the project was four years in the making, from raising the concept with Council through to walking through the door. Construction was managed by Council, and funded

by a \$260,000 NSW Government Stronger Country Communities grant with the balance by Council.

"To see the workmanship and the standard that has been delivered surpassed even my expectations. This facility will make a huge difference not only to SES operations in Singleton, but other agencies that can use it for a range of purposes including training," he said.

Singleton-based contractor Link Upward was contracted to build the shed, with up to 12 local workers onsite at a time.

"It was a good job to be part of because of the outcome for the community, and a little bit unusual with installation of the lift and a lot of extra IT requirements," he said.

Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the most important outcome was the benefit for the community.

"The SES are the people who are there, on the ground in situations when our community needs help the most. It's vitally important that our volunteers not only have the facilities and equipment that they need to respond to an emergency, but the proper training as well," she said.

"Council is proud of the positive relationship we have with the SES, and proud to partner with them to deliver this important building that could literally be the difference between life and death."

CSP Strategy: Provide safe and well-maintained facilities and infrastructure

SES Commissioner Carlene York (left) and Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore check out the new SES facility.

COVER IMAGE: Representatives from Singleton Council, Singleton Business Chamber, Singleton Neighbourhood Centre and the Salvation Army – Singleton Corps working together to deliver Council's Community Support Package.

POSITIVE IMPACT

People are getting the assistance they need thanks to Council's \$2 million Community Support Package, helping our community to help each other.

With \$137,000 being rolled out to community organisations and up to \$100,000 to businesses to help the people of Singleton reconnect and rebuild from the impacts of COVID-19, the results of Council's Community Support Package are starting to show.

Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity said the Community and Business Relief and Rebuild funds, delivered in partnership with the BHP Vital Resources Fund, were a key component of the \$2 million package delivering tangible support to organisations and businesses that were ineligible for other forms of government assistance.

Combined with other initiatives such as Spend in Singleton cards for emergency relief, assistance was finding the people who needed it most.

"We're getting feedback that these initiatives are making a real difference to people in the community. The community agencies are telling us the gratitude from the people they can help is overwhelming," she said.

"In addition, we saw some really fantastic projects come in as part of the Relief and Rebuild funds that will be brought to life because of this money, which will have an even greater positive impact for people."

Singleton Neighbourhood Centre president Sue George said the Community Support Package had enabled the centre to provide financial assistance for meat, fresh fruit and vegetables and school items, as well as continue to supply free meals for people in need through its Open Door.

The centre's Community Relief and Rebuild grant will support a seven-month outreach program, providing hampers to families in Jerrys Plains and Broke.

“We’re getting feedback that these initiatives are making a real difference

"We're looking at going to Jerrys Plains and to Broke once a month to give hampers to families out there who can't get into town because there's no public transport. A lot of them are very elderly and living on their own," Ms George said.

"That's what we're using the Relief + Rebuild fund for as well as the increasing demand for food. We're supplying probably 25 to 30 lunches a day – a cooked, two-course meal for anyone in need and it's all free.

"But I think what's going to happen in the next couple of months is that our demand is going to increase as government assistance stops."

Singleton Business Chamber president Sue Gilroy said the Community Support Package underpinned a collaborative approach to helping businesses and in turn, the local economy through initiatives such as the Business Supporting Business program, offering pre-loaded \$250 Spend in Singleton gift cards to businesses to buy supplies from other local businesses.

The partnership has also attracted attention from other Chambers asking for assistance to launch their own programs and build relationships with key stakeholders in their communities.

"Both the Chamber and Council have differing areas of strength. By collaborating on a joint venture we harness the best of both organisations to deliver outstanding value to the Singleton community," Ms Gilroy said.

"The response [from businesses] has been fabulous with recognition of the value of the program and enthusiasm to become involved." ■

CSP Strategy: Council's service delivery is aligned with community needs and delivered the best way possible



COMMUNITY SUPPORT PACKAGE INCLUSIONS

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

- \$200,000 Community Relief + Rebuild Fund in partnership with BHP's Vital Resources Fund to help community organisations and groups deliver vital services
- \$15,000 Spend in Singleton gift cards for Singleton Neighbourhood Centre and the Salvation Army - Singleton Corps for emergency relief
- \$1,036,000 Rates + Charges Rebate Scheme – covering the 2.6% increase in rates, waste and fixed water and sewer charges for households negatively impacted by COVID-19

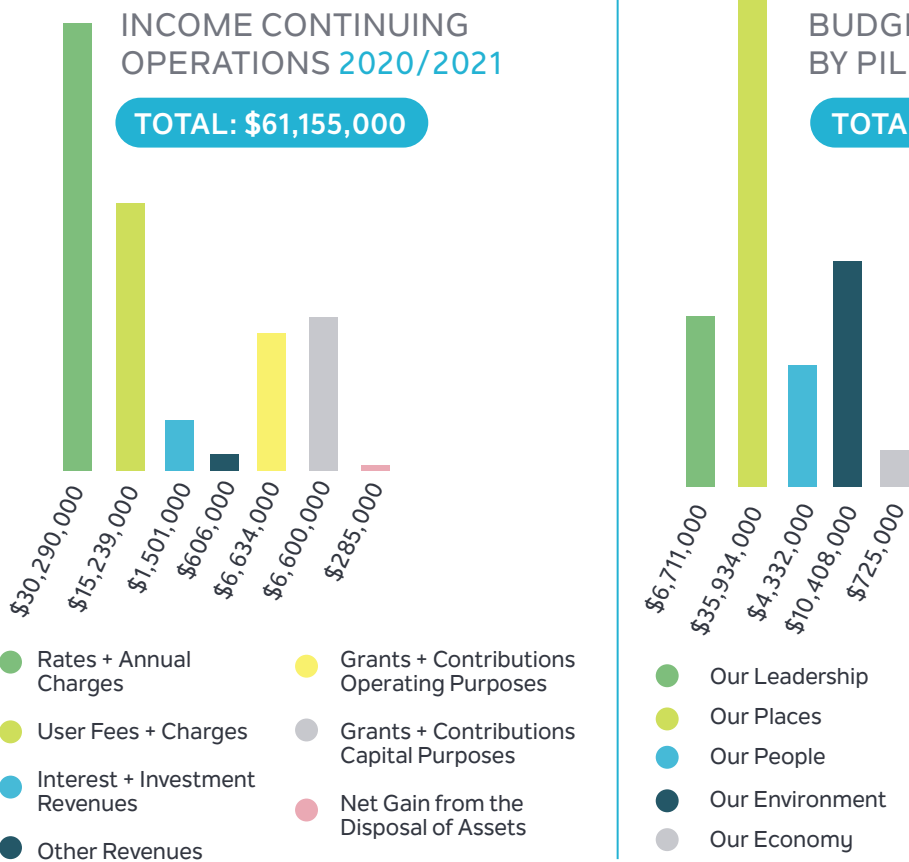
SUPPORTING BUSINESSES

- \$100,000 Business Relief + Rebuild Fund in partnership with BHP's Vital Resources Fund for business projects to ensure continuity
- \$100,000 Business Supporting Business program, providing \$250 Spend in Singleton gift cards to businesses to support each other
- \$168,500 Spend in Singleton marketing campaign to promote local businesses
- \$100,000 for tourism programs including a visitor marketing campaign



Singleton Business Chamber President Sue Gilroy, Council's Manager Strategy + Engagement Sean Briton, Singleton Neighbourhood Centre Project Worker Open Door Stacey Ward, Singleton Business Chamber Vice President Danny Eather, Singleton Neighbourhood Centre Support Worker Mel Gray, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity Vicki Brereton and Council's Events Officer Jackie Bonds.

2020/2021: INCOME + EXPENDITURE



Our Leadership:
Council Performance + Improvement, Communication + Engagement, Financial Services, Governance, Contracts + Property, People + Culture, Executive Services, Integrated Risk, Information Services, Depot + Council Fleet Services

Our Places:
Roads, Recreation + Facilities, Emergency Services, Water Services, Sewer Services, Council Assets, Major Projects

Our People:
Childrens Services, Library Services, Youth Services, Arts + Culture, Other Community Services

Our Environment:
Environmental Services, Planning + Development Services, Regulatory Services

Our Economy:
Economy + Community, Land Development, Livestock Sales



TOWN CENTRE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The second phase in the transformation of Singleton Town Centre is underway as the gateway from the New England Highway via Campbell Street, and John Street from Ryan Avenue north to Campbell Street receive special treatment.

A sod turning ceremony officially launched construction in August, with Principal contractor Robson Civil moving onto the site. The start of works is initially focused on undergrounding the power lines and tree removal.

The \$7 million project, funded by \$3.5 million from the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program and the remainder by Singleton Council, will enhance the entry point to the town centre on Campbell Street as well as improve traffic flows and pedestrian connectivity.

Construction is expected to continue for up to 12 months, weather permitting.

Mark Ihlein, Council's Executive Manager Projects, said a key consideration was minimising the impact on businesses

and motorists. Regular updates will be provided to businesses, property owners and the community during the life of the project.

"The Town Centre Upgrade – Stage 2 will deliver fantastic outcomes for our residents and visitors, not least the continuation of the modern and vibrant community space that we envision for our Town Centre," he said.

"A major focus during the construction phase is the impact on businesses and motorists, and we are doing everything possible to minimise any disruption and to keep everyone informed about what is happening on site." The project will also have a positive impact on the local economy, with a focus on boosting local businesses.

"We're very mindful of our contribution to the local economy during the works, particularly through opportunities to engage local suppliers and support local businesses," Robson Civil Project Manager Brent Matthews said.

TOWN CENTRE STAGE 2 - UPGRADE

KEY COMPONENTS:

- ✓ new footpaths, kerbs and gutters
- ✓ underground power
- ✓ landscaping and irrigation works
- ✓ new street lighting, furniture and signs
- ✓ realignment of John and Elizabeth streets intersection

24 hour enquiry line

T 0401 096 484 or email
E singletontc@robsoncivil.com.au

Most construction activity will occur from 6am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 3pm Saturday (weather permitting)

Keep up to date:

W singleton.nsw.gov.au
f @SingletonCouncil

Robson Civil Project Manager Brent Matthews and Council's Manager Major Projects and Contracts Kieren Fitz-Gibbon.

WATER PRESSURE FLOWS INTO SUMMER

With temperatures rising with the arrival of spring, Singleton Water customers are being encouraged to continue to be vigilant about saving water as level 2 restrictions remain in place.

Water usage was at its highest levels in four years last summer and while rain in recent months has lifted the level of Glennies Creek dam slightly, there has been no significant change to the threat to the water supply with more falls needed in Mount Royal and Carrowbrook to fill the catchment.

"Our residents did a great job of responding to water restrictions with declines in usage in 2018/2019 and in the first and third periods of 2019/2020, but unfortunately we saw our highest levels over the summer period rising from just under 600 megalitres to over 750 megalitres for the first time in four

years," Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning said.

"While rain in Singleton in recent months has helped to ease pressure on the potable water supply for activities such as watering the garden, it has not had a significant impact on the water source with the dam level rising from 36% to 39.4% currently.

"With that in mind, the warmer months usually increase demand for water and we're encouraging everyone to look at ways you can save water. There are plenty of hints and tips on Council's website, or consult the water restrictions booklet that was delivered to Singleton households earlier this year or drop into Council's Administration Building to pick up a copy."



Know your water restrictions
W singleton.nsw.gov.au

Council's Coordinator Communication and Engagement Briony O'Hara and Utilities Engineer Katie Bell.

CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS

2019/2020



\$692,000

Construction of new SES building



\$140,000

Mount Thorley Raw Water Pump Station Improvement



\$1,671,000

Construction of new Animal Management Facility



\$698,000

Construction of new roof, accessible amenities and access to Museum



\$3,000,000

Commencement of Gowrie Reservoir Replacement



\$502,000

Broke Skate Park



\$709,000

Goorangoola Road - widening of road into a rock face, drainage surface rehabilitation and guard rail of Goorangoola Road



\$5,000,000

Commencement of Major Sewer Pump Station Upgrade



\$4,080,000

Commencement of construction of new Arts + Culture Centre



\$433,000

New Playground at Townhead Park



\$800,000

Completion of Rose Point Park



\$2,000,000

Water Main Renewal Program



\$2,121,000

Brookers Bridge - replacement of timber bridge with concrete structure



\$369,000

Bulga Water Supply Project (Detailed Design)



\$2,000,000

Minimbah Reservoir Replacement



\$448,000

Replacement of Fluoride System at water treatment plant



2020/2021

\$7,250,000

Commencement of Singleton Town Centre Upgrade - Stage 2



\$2,000,000

Upgraded automatic control system for the water + sewer network



\$1,600,000

Water Main Renewal Program



\$1,000,000

Refurbishment of sewage aeration ponds at Sewage Treatment Plant



\$570,000

Emergency Bypass for Minor Sewer Pump Stations



\$200,000

Paynes Crossing bridge (joint funded project - Cessnock Council)



\$1,440,000

Kelso Street reconstruction

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