



| Winter 2021

SINGLETON EDIT

FROM THE MAYOR



From the pandemic to the by-election, recent events are proof enough that we can't predict the future. But we can set a destination and plot a course of action, which is exactly what we're doing with a review of our 10-year Singleton Community Strategic Plan.

The Community Strategic Plan – or CSP – is our guiding document that will set the vision for Singleton in 2032, and consequently all the actions of Council under its Delivery Program and one-year Operational Plan for the next term of the elected Council. That's why I can't stress enough just how important it is for all residents, businesses, organisations, community groups, investors, visitors – and everyone in between – to be involved in Create Singleton 2032.

Ten years may seem a long way off, but we only need reflect on the past five-year term of Council to see just how much can change in a short time. Consider the upgrade of the Singleton Regional Livestock Market; the new Animal Management Facility; or the transformation of Townhead Park with an all-new children's bike track and the Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre opening in spring.

If that's not big enough, the unexpected State by-election for the seat of Upper Hunter delivered more ticks for the Singleton Advocacy Agenda, including a full Putty Road interchange for the Singleton bypass (scheduled for construction next year), creation of an expert panel to help guide the evolution of our economy, and a commitment to build a new Singleton Police Station.

All of these projects began as an idea that gathered more momentum, more voices, and more scoping studies until eventually came promises of funding and construction.

Whatever idea you've got for your favourite part of our local government area or wider Singleton, whatever suggestion for how Singleton could be an even better place to live, work, invest and visit in 2032, Council staff are taking note of every single suggestion right now. Big or small, sensible or wildly outlandish, this is the ideal opportunity to put it in a survey, have a conversation with Council staff at an event, draw it in a picture, write a submission or post a comment to Facebook. The best thing is, there aren't any wrong answers – just a whole range of views representing everyone in our community and how we can work together to make our local government area even better.

As this term of Council draws to a close, and as we reflect on the achievements – and challenges – of the past five years, I look forward to seeing what new ideas may come from Create Singleton 2032 and the direction our community takes moving forward.

Cr Sue Moore | Mayor of Singleton

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



A little while ago, I set out on a visioning exercise to write a letter from a resident of Singleton in the year 2045. I don't even want to think about how old I'll be then, so it's a little easier on all of us that we're only asking you to fast forward 10 years into our future as part of our review of the Singleton Strategic Plan for 2032.

It's an interesting exercise when you do calculate your age, and even scarier when you consider how old your children will be. But there's also a wonderful opportunity in imagining what's possible, and all that we can do together in the next 10 years to make it happen.

That's the magic of the review of the Singleton Community Strategic Plan, and although it may well be a boring-sounding legislative document, it's far more. In my letter, I envisioned young people jumping on a train in Singleton to go to university, easy access to an international airport at Williamtown, vanishing traffic bottle necks on the New England Highway and booming industries at Mt Thorley and Whittingham. I saw a famous public arts network, people enjoying the majestic scenery of Lake St Clair, a buzzing nighttime economy in John Street and the enhancement of our villages for tourism and viticulture: the epitome of city conveniences with a rural heartbeat.

They're just my thoughts. You might be able to see those things too, or maybe you have an entirely different vision – whatever it is, I encourage you to share it with us.

Unfortunately, we can't make any promises. Some ideas will fall under the responsibility of a different level of government or require more resources than we have right now. That's OK – we will continue to advocate strongly on those. The purpose of this exercise is to review our Singleton Strategic Plan 2017-2027 to make sure it's still heading in the right direction, see whether our priorities are still the same and check whether anything is missing. That will form the basis of Create Singleton 2032 – and for that, we need your ideas and your feedback.

We've just launched into the 2021/2022 Operational Plan, which is Council's annual blueprint for everything we're aiming to achieve for this financial year. There are 207 actions in this document covering every service we deliver, along with Council's capital works program that includes completion of the Singleton Arts and Cultural Centre, \$1.3million for Gibbs Bridge, and a significant investment in water and sewer infrastructure.

Every one of these actions came from a direction set in the current Community Strategic Plan to help make Singleton the place we want to live, work, invest and visit. So what you tell us now will count towards our operations for the next term of Council – and the future of our LGA.

Jason Linnane | General Manager



FUND GETS TO WORK FOR THE FUTURE OF SINGLETON

Applications will be called later this year for a share of up to \$500,000 from the Singleton Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) following a decision of the second meeting of the Joint Management Board established to oversee the Fund in June.

Projects valued at more than \$10,000 will be considered in the first round of annual applications, overseen by signatories Singleton Council, Glencore and The Bloomfield Group, after the Fund was established last year with a portion of the proceeds from Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPAs).

Chairperson Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite joins other representatives on the Joint Management Board, including the Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore and Cr Sue George, along with Glencore General Manager Ashley McLeod and The Bloomfield Group Chief Development Officer Geoff Moore.

The objectives of the Fund are to help proactively manage the impacts of mining through projects, activities and events to increase economic growth and productivity, foster innovation, support and grow jobs, increase business profitability, improve living standards, reduce social issues and promote health and wellbeing for the communities of the Singleton LGA.

Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Corporate and Organisation Capacity said applications would be called in September or October for consideration by the Joint Management Board by the end of the year, before being referred to the first meeting of Council in 2022 for a formal decision.

"We believe this is a unique approach to managing the proceeds of VPAs for the benefit of the community now, and into the future," she said.

"The objectives of the Fund are very clearly set out to support the socio-economic future of Singleton where businesses, community groups and individuals can thrive in an environment that supports their prosperity and wellbeing.

"The ultimate purpose of the Fund is to allow Council and mining companies to work proactively with the community and local organisations on initiatives to support Singleton's prosperity for the long-term, and I look forward to seeing what will eventuate from the first round."

To keep up to date on when applications open, visit Council's website at w.singleton.nsw.gov.au or follow @SingletonCouncil on Facebook.

Cr Sue George, Mayor of Singleton Cr Sue Moore, The Bloomfield Group Chief Development Officer Geoff Moore, Glencore General Manager Ashley McLeod and CEDF chairman Cr Godfrey Adamthwaite
COVER IMAGE: Broke resident Helen Sharrock and Coordinator Communication and Engagement Briony O'Hara

KEY DATES

SINGLETON ARTS + CULTURAL CENTRE

Opening Spring 2021

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

4 September 2021

EMERGENCY SERVICES EXPO

9 October 2021

FREEDOM OF ENTRY

16 October 2021

CHRISTMAS ON JOHN ST

10 December 2021

TALK OF ACTION

Everyone's invited to be part of a whole-of-community conversation to help create the road map to the future of Singleton with the review of the Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032.



With big changes en route for Singleton including construction of the Singleton bypass, national discussions about the future of energy and significant improvements at a local level including the impending arrival of the new Arts and Cultural Centre, the review of the Singleton Community Strategic Plan (CSP) could not be timed better.

Residents, businesses, organisations, investors and visitors from across the local government area are encouraged to contribute to the conversation about what Singleton should look like in the future as part of Create Singleton 2032, which will set the vision and direction for Singleton for the next 10 years.

And while legislation requires the Singleton Council that will be elected in September 2021 to have a new Community Strategic Plan in place for the 2022/2023 financial year, Mayor of Singleton, Cr Sue Moore said the conversation was far more important as Singleton launched into a significant period of change.

"Even in addition to the response to bushfires, floods and the pandemic, this term of Council has seen the groundwork for a number of projects and programs that will have a significant influence on the future of Singleton from both a State and local level, not least the realisation of the Singleton bypass and unique partnerships with local industry to preserve resources now to ensure the ongoing vibrancy of our economy," she said.

"With major changes and opportunities beginning to take shape, it's an ideal time to think about what we want for Singleton into the future, and the review of the CSP is the best opportunity for everyone in our community to be part of setting the vision and direction for Singleton not just for the next 10 years, but beyond."

Cr Moore said the conversation could take many forms: whether it was face-to-face with Council staff, more in-depth discussions at a community workshop, written in a submission or without words with an entry to the Create Singleton 2032 Art Prize for young people, there was an extensive program of activities and events now underway until 30 September 2021. Simplest of all is to take the short survey outlining your priorities for the next 10 years.

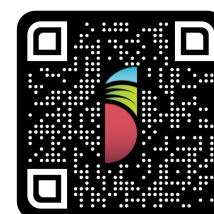
"At the heart of this process is making it easy and accessible for everyone of all ages in our community to make a meaningful contribution to the Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032," she said. "We've already had some great discussions with people through the Living Laneways program, at Firelight in May and at a drop-in session at Bulga. And there are plenty more opportunities to be involved – come along to a workshop on 11 August or meet with Council staff at other community events across the LGA from now until September.

"As well as informing the draft Create Singleton 2032 Community Strategic Plan document, the information we

receive will also be presented to the Councillors elected on 4 September 2021, to help them understand our community's vision and allow the new Council to get to work more quickly."

General Manager Jason Linnane said providing input into the CSP was a direct channel to influencing Council's operations for the new term of Council – as well as setting the measure for success for our community.

"The CSP is the master document for everything we do: it will feed our Delivery Program on what the priorities and actions will be for the new term of Council, and consequently our one-year operational plans that will be the blueprint of all the projects, programs and services the organisation will deliver and measure ourselves against," he said. ■



Scan the QR code to take the survey for your chance to win one of two \$250 Spend in Singleton gift cards

* Terms + conditions apply

Business Improvement Specialist Alex Theaker and Coordinator Communication and Engagement Briony O'Hara

CREATE SINGLETON 2032

What is a Community Strategic Plan?

The Community Strategic Plan describes our community's vision for the next 10 years. It sets out the priorities and aspirations for the future of Singleton and identifies strategies to create the community's vision.

The Community Strategic Plan addresses **four key questions** for the community:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be in 10 years' time?
- How will we get there?
- How will we know when we have arrived?

Previous Singleton Community Strategic Plans were endorsed in 2013 and 2016.

What feedback can I contribute?

- How do you describe Singleton?
- What do you think would make Singleton even better?
- What do you think are the three most important focus areas for the next decade?

How can I get involved?

- Take the survey
- Chat to Council staff at a community event or drop-in session
- Be part of a community workshop
- Post your ideas to our real-life comments wall or tag us in a social post using #createsingleton2032
- Create an artwork or a creative project – for young people aged up to 18 years
- Make a submission

For the full Create Singleton 2032 program and activities, visit [W singleton.nsw.gov.au/createsingleton2032](https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/createsingleton2032)

2021/2022 CAPITAL WORKS AT A GLANCE

TOTAL BUDGET:

\$36,726,597

New assets: 25%

Asset renewals: 75%

Roads, Drainage +
Transport:

\$8,924,356

Bridge + Causeway
Rehabilitation:

\$7,118,842

Buildings:

\$2,174,641

Open Space + Reserves:

\$2,221,749

Major Projects
(Arts + Cultural Centre):

\$1,058,288

Water + Sewer:

\$15,228,721



NEW BRIDGE FOR PUTTY

The \$1.3million replacement of the timber Gibbs Bridge in the Putty Valley is a key project in Singleton Council's capital works program for 2021/2022, which earmarks a total of \$7,118,842 for bridge and causeway rehabilitations.

Council's \$36.7million Capital Works program for 2021/2022 has a focus on infrastructure renewal and community identity, highlighted by the completion of the Arts and Cultural Centre slated to open in spring.

Justin Fitzpatrick-Barr, Council's Director Infrastructure and Planning said the Gibbs Bridge project would be complemented by landslip works to

stabilise a section of Putty Valley Road budgeted at \$2.6million, to be funded by the NSW Government's Fixing Local Roads Phase 2.

The replacement bridge is being funded in a 50:50 split between the Federal Government's Bridge Renewal Program and NSW Government's Fixing Country Bridges Program, with a design and construct tender to be called later this calendar year.

"This is an important project because Putty Valley Road is a vital route for fire tankers in times of emergency," Mr Fitzpatrick Barr said.

Manager Infrastructure Services Damian Morris

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

Who: Voting is compulsory for all residents and fines may apply for not voting. To check you are correctly enrolled or to obtain an enrolment form contact the NSW Electoral Commission.

What: The purpose of the election is to elect nine Councillors and a popularly-elected Mayor to represent the Singleton Local Government Area. The election will be conducted by the NSW Electoral Commission on behalf of Singleton Council.

Where: Pre-poll voting will be held at the Singleton Civic Centre and voting venues for voting day will be announced closer to the date. You can also register now with the NSW Electoral Commission to submit a postal vote or iVote.

When: Election day is Saturday 4 September 2021 and pre-poll voting will be available from Monday 23 August to Friday 3 September 2021.

Why: Singleton Council needs leaders who reflect the diverse nature of our community and who understand what matters to our local people – leaders who are willing to stand up and make a positive difference. Councillors work together to make decisions about what the Council will do to meet community needs and how money should be spent in the best interests of the whole community.

Thinking of becoming a Councillor?

If you are passionate about what happens in the Singleton community, becoming a Councillor is an exciting opportunity to make a difference and to represent the interests of our residents. Council is responsible for making significant decisions that have a far-reaching impact on our community. For all you need to know about becoming a Councillor, visit the Office of Local Government website.

For information about registering to commence campaigning, nominating to become a Councillor and candidate information sessions please contact the NSW Electoral Commission.

Need more information?

NSW Electoral Commission:

W elections.nsw.gov.au or **T** 1300 135 736

Office of Local Government:

W olg.nsw.gov.au or **T** 02 4428 4100

Singleton Council:

W singleton.nsw.gov.au/369/elections or **T** 02 6578 7290



GLOSSY ADDITION TO LIBRARY'S VIRTUAL COLLECTION

Whatever the subject, if you're a lover of magazines then it's time to meet Singleton Library's newest digital librarian, Libby.

Run in partnership with neighbouring councils Muswellbrook, Upper Hunter, Cessnock and Maitland, Libby is the Library's newest online portal to a total of 3,364 titles in the full online magazine collection – all available instantly via the Library page on Council's website or by downloading the Libby app to your device.

Replacing the previous RB Digital magazine platform, all you need to register is your Library card number and pin number, and titles can be "borrowed" free of charge anytime for Library members.

Vicki Brereton, Council's Director Organisation and Community Capacity, said Libby allowed members to put the Library into their pocket with an abundance

of titles available on demand – from celebrity gossip and interiors to 4x4 and camping.

"This is a great addition to the Library's vast offering because it means you can borrow magazines, e-books, and audio books for free on your device without even having to come into the Library," she said.

"Plus, it's a great cost saving for our members, and best of all people can keep the item as long as they like."

To check out the Library's full online collection, scan the QR code.



Singleton Library staff Brenda Finney, Sam Watters and Laura Bush

SINGLETON COUNCIL INCOME STATEMENT FIVE YEARS ENDING 30 JUNE 2025

Singleton Council has formally endorsed the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2021/2031, which is a vital decision-making tool and indicator of Council's ability to fund services and capital works for the next 10 years. The Plan focuses on Council's long-term goal of financial sustainability and delivering quality services, infrastructure and outcomes for the community.





HOW TO BE INVOLVED

2032 may seem a long time away, but Singleton Council is already planning to meet the future needs of our community. As part of a review of our 10-year Community Strategic Plan, we need your input to help set the vision and direction for Singleton for the next decade.

Take the online survey:



Scan the QR code to complete the short survey about your priorities for Singleton + have the chance to win one of two \$250 Spend in Singleton gift cards. The survey closes 30 September 2021.

Come and chat to us at a community event or drop-in session:

- **4 August:** Jerrys Plains drop-in at Jerrys Plains School of Arts – 4-6pm
- **5 August:** Mt Olive drop-in at Mt Olive Hall – 2-4pm
- **12 September:** Broke Village Fair at McNamara Park
- **24-26 September:** Singleton Show at Singleton Showground

*Subject to COVID restrictions

Be part of a workshop at Singleton Civic Centre:

- **11 August 2021 – 4.30pm-6.30pm**

*Subject to COVID restrictions

Register to attend at:

W singleton.nsw.gov.au/createsingleton2032

Post your ideas:

Head to Singleton Library and tell us what you think by being part of our “dotmocracy” and leave a Post-it on our real-life comments wall, or tag us in a post on Facebook or Instagram with the hashtag **#createsingleton2032**

Get creative – for young people aged up to 18 years:

Children aged up to 9 years can make a submission in the **Create Singleton 2032 Art Prize**, and young people aged 10 to 18 years can make a submission in the **Create Singleton 2032 Creative Project**. As well as getting involved in the future of Singleton, you could also win a **Spend in Singleton gift card** or be selected for inclusion in the **Create Singleton 2032 Exhibition** at the new Singleton Arts + Cultural Centre. For more information, visit

W singleton.nsw.gov.au/createsingleton2032
Submissions close 30 August.



Make a submission:

Let us know your views, ideas, suggestions and feedback in a submission addressed to the General Manager. Put pen to paper and post it to us at PO Box 314 Singleton NSW 2330 or send an email to **E** council@singleton.nsw.gov.au with **Create Singleton 2032** in the subject line. Submissions must reach us by 5pm, 30 September.

For the full Create Singleton 2032 program and activities, visit
W singleton.nsw.gov.au/createsingleton2032

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