

SHIRE NEWSLETTER

Wentworth Shire Council
The Shire Where the Two Great Rivers Meet

Draft Temporary Road Closure Policy

Council is looking at introducing a new Temporary Road Closure Policy.

Currently it is Council policy to close an unsealed road under the Roads Act 1993 if there is a rain event which may result in the road to be unsafe or where damage may occur as a result of vehicles moving along the road.

Council is responsible for the development and maintenance of public roads for which it is the roads authority.

Council needs to balance the considerations of safety to public road users, the risk of damage to public roads, the recovery of the costs of repair of damage to public roads and the need for certain public road users to use the public roads during periods of closure.

The proposed policy details the circum-

stances of temporarily closing a road with a provision for exemptions.

Any indemnity and release associated with the policy will need to be in writing.

The policy will be on public exhibition until 31 January 2012. Council will review the draft again at its February meeting. The draft policy is on Council's website at www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au or can be obtained from the Council offices.

We want to hear your views.



Australia Day 2012—14 nominations received!

Council has again received quality nominations from the community for Australia Day awards to be presented on 26 January 2012.

Council received 4 nominations for Citizen of the Year:-

1. Jeanette Hamdorf
2. Lindsay "Tom" Doolan
3. Shirley O'Brien and
4. Steve Hederics

There was one nomination received for Sporting Team of the Year and that was Coomealla /

Wentworth Cricket Club-Women's Team.

Three nominations were received for Sportsperson of the year:-

1. Aaron James (3 nominations)
2. Mark Alvey
3. Dean Finch

Two nominations were received for Young Sportsperson of the Year, i.e. Samuel Clyne and Jarrod Brander.

Council also received detailed

nominations for Community Group of the Year:-

1. Australian Inland Botanic Gardens
2. Sunraysia Wildlife Carers Group Inc.
3. Wentworth Golf Grounds Group, and
4. The NSW Standard ladies.

Presentations will be made at the official event held at Junction Reserve commencing 10.30am with a lunch to be provided at a small cost.



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Special points of interest:

- *There will be no Council meeting in January 2012*
- *Council offices will be closed over Christmas from 5pm Friday 23 December and re-open Tuesday 3 January*
- *Council depot will be closed over Christmas from 23 December and re-opens Tuesday 31 January 2012*
- *Wentworth, Buronga & Dareton Libraries will be closed from 5.30pm Friday 23 December with Wentworth re-opening 10.30am Wednesday 4 January and Buronga and Dareton Libraries re-opening at 1.30pm on Wednesday 4 January*

14 December 2011 Council Meeting Notes

- The outcomes from the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting held 16 November 2011 were tabled at the meeting
- A meeting of the 2012 Youth Advisory Council was held on 17 November 2011 with various subjects being discussed
- Two recommendations of the Local Traffic (RTA) Committee held 10 November were considered by Council
- Rescission of Policy No 107 (Council Meetings: Members of the Public Right to Address Council)
- Council approved the attendance of Councillor Bill Wheelton at the 52nd Floodplain Management Conference to be held in Batemans Bay from 21-24 February 2012
- Five parcels of land were reclassified from operational land to community land in Wentworth, Pooncarie & Buronga
- The Annual Report 2010/2011 was presented to Council
- Councillors will be attending the Western Division Shires Group Conference in Broken Hill in 2012 and two of the motions to be submitted included Rural Fire Service funding contribution and Small Towns Study
- Council's Policy on Public Interest Disclosure has been amended to read "Internal Reporting Policy" due to changes in the PID Amendment Act 2011
- Council will have two Council meetings in different locations, one at Dareton Senior Citizens Centre in March and at the Midway Community Centre in May
- A revised version of Council Policy CP62 Smoke Free Workplace was presented and approved
- Council adopted the use of the ERNWAG/WRNWAG Rapid Response Plan so as to ensure a consistent approach to the management of new incursions of high risk weed species throughout the Riverina
- Council adopted a revised Water Transfer Policy (CP 71)
- A policy to temporarily close unsealed roads under certain circumstances will be publicly exhibited
- Council was advised of the pending launch of the new PS Ruby website and to highlight two special heritage cruise events for the PS Ruby for 2012
- Council allocated \$75,000 to complete the required Environmental Impact Assessment to support the Environment Protection Licence for the Buronga Landfill.
- In accordance with the provisions of Cl. 21(1)(a) of the *EPA Regulation 2000* Council approved the Council's Development Control Plan, 2011 dated September 2010 in the form that it was publicly exhibited.
- The General Manager provided an update to Council on the National Broadband Network developments

'Tis the Season for Public Comment

Wentworth Shire Council Residents are spoilt for choice this Christmas, having multiple draft plans being currently available for public comment.

The draft Economic Development Strategy, Investment Attraction Plan, Community Strategic Plan and Community Development Plans have all been placed on Council's website for public exhibition and comment.

Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson commented that the draft plans were the culmination of months of community engagement activities, and urged the community to continue to provide feedback on the draft plans. "The public exhibition phase is simply a continuation of our community consultation. The plans are only drafts, and it is important that the community provides us with their feedback, so the final documents are a true reflection of what the community wants", said Mayor Thomson.

Each of the plans are available for download from the Wentworth shire Council website, or hardcopies can be obtained on request, by phoning Sharon or Paula at the Wentworth Shire Council on 5027 5027.

Pooncarie Meeting

An extremely well attended meeting dealt with numerous issues. The Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson, the General Manager Peter Kozlowski and the Community & Economic Development officer Jane Brook met with locals on 13 December 2011.

Swimming Pool Safety

As summer and Christmas approaches Council would like to remind all residents of the Shire to be aware of the potential dangers associated with pools and spas and to remind residents of some of their basic responsibilities in respect to swimming pools and spas.

If you are considering purchasing a new pool or spa for your property please remember that:

- Any pool or spa exceeding 300mm depth will require a swimming pool barrier meeting the requirements of the Swimming Pools Act and the Swimming Pools Regulation 2008. Pools of this depth include many blow up type pools that are available through department and toy stores.
- A development application and / or a construction certificate or complying development certificate may be required prior to commencing any work on a pool or spa.

For owners of existing pools or spas you are reminded that you are responsible for maintaining:

1. a safety barrier to your pool or spa to comply with the Swimming Pool Act & Regulations;
2. the pool or spa water quality;
3. ensuring a legible resuscitation poster is installed adjacent the pool or spa;
4. ensuring electrical connections and suction outlets are appropriately maintained.

All pool owners or prospective pool/spa owners are reminded that whilst attention to ensuring maintenance of swimming pools/spas and associated safety barriers is critically important to assist in reducing drownings in backyard pools, the most effective way to prevent drowning or near-drowning is for children to be adequately supervised by a parent or other responsible adult. Whilst supervision is always the first line of protection no matter how vigilant a carer may be, supervision of a young child can break down. In these situations the barrier fence should give added protection by preventing the child from gaining access to the danger that the pool or spa poses to them.

Home pool or spa owners are strongly encouraged to learn CPR so first aid can be administered in the event of a drowning or near drowning.

If you require any further information in respect to these matters please contact Council's Building Department on (03) 5027 5027.

Some useful links for information include:

The home pool safety kit on Royal Life Saving's website at www.royalnsw.com.au.

The home swimming pool safety checklist available at www.watersafety.nsw.gov.au.



Christmas Wishes from Council

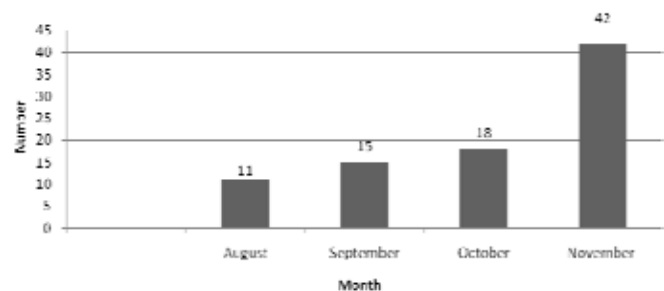
The Mayor, Councillors & Staff of the Wentworth Shire Council would like to wish all their residents and ratepayers the merriest of wishes for a safe and happy Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.



DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS DETERMINED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

Month	DA's Determined	Value	Average
August	11	\$1,074,490	\$97,680.91
September	15	\$1,462,419	\$97,494.57
October	18	\$3,886,820	\$215,934.44
November	42	\$4,936,334	\$117,531.76

Development Determinations



Wentworth Shire Council
The Shire Where the Two Great
Rivers Meet

Shire Offices:
26-28 Adelaide Street Wentworth 2648
or
PO Box 81 Wentworth NSW 2648

Phone: 03 5027 5027
Fax: 03 5027 5000
email: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Libraries:-
Wentworth: (03) 5027 5060
Dareton: (03) 5027 4258
Buronga: (03) 5023 3078

Shire After Hours Emergency Number:
(03) 5027 5091 (Marshall Security)
For all water, sewerage, rubbish tip hours,
emergency dog matters, stray stock and
cemetery emergencies.

We're on the Web:
www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Next Council Meeting
The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 February 2011 at 9am.

**Where to Find the Murray Darling Basin
Plan and How to Make a Submission**

The [draft Basin Plan](#) was released 28 November and marks the beginning of the 20-week formal consultation period. The draft Basin Plan can be viewed on the MDBA website: <http://www.mdba.gov.au/draft-basin-plan>. Printed copies of draft Basin Plan documents are available through an order by calling 1800 230 067 or sending an email to engagement@mdba.gov.au. The MDBA are saying that it is very important that people respond formally to the draft Basin Plan. Formal submissions can be made at any time during the 20 weeks. The closing date for formal submissions is 16 April 2012. Submissions can be made through the MDBA **online lodgement** system, or via email, post or fax. All submissions received will be published on the MDBA website, unless individuals tell the MDBA that the submission, or part of, is to be kept confidential. Submissions lodged outside the online system should be clearly identified by including the words "**Submission on the proposed Basin Plan**" in the document title, subject line or body of the submission.

If a submission cannot be made online, it can be emailed to:-
submissions@mdba.gov.au.

The postal address for submissions is:
Proposed Basin Plan
Murray-Darling Basin Authority
GPO Box 3001
Canberra City ACT 2601

The fax number for submissions is: (02) 6279 0558.

Where to find out more?

The MDBA encourages everyone to visit [our website](#) to see all the information that is available.

My Thoughts

Wentworth Shire Council is committed to improve its services and "My Thoughts" is a valuable way of providing feedback to Councillors and staff. Take the opportunity to write your thoughts down in the area below and drop it into one of Council's libraries in Wentworth, Buronga or Dareton, Visitors Information Centre or the main Council Offices in Wentworth or simply pass it onto a staff member or Councillor.

As a resident/ratepayer of the Wentworth Shire, I would like to offer my thoughts:-

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If you provide a name and address on the following lines we will write back to you with a response within 10 days. In that time your request may be attended to in full and, if not possible, you will be advised as to the action to be taken.

Name: Phone:
Address:
Date:

"My Thoughts" may be ideas, complaints, requests for information or action, observations, comments or questions. If the space provided is insufficient attach your additional information to the back of this page.

Peter Kozlowski, General Manager