

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL COUNCIL CONNECTS

Wentworth Shire Council community newsletter for the interest of residents and visitors

April 2021

Message from the Mayor



It was terrific to see the Shire abuzz in our first Easter post-COVID. After a difficult 12 months we are hopefully now coming out of the worst of it and getting back to normality. Easter Sunday's Junction Junk Garage Sale was well supported and always is a highlight within the town of Wentworth itself. Looking forward, Council has been busy preparing for the fast-approaching Murray Darling Association National Conference and AGM. This event will be held at the Wentworth Civic Centre from 16-19 May. With an influx of visitors to the town for this conference I encourage businesses to take advantage of heightened traffic in the town and remain open.

Our guests will no doubt be eager to see what Wentworth has to offer. Water will be a major talking point at this conference and it is certainly relevant for us here with the hardship of drought always looming.

The Australian Government Drought Community Support Initiative (DCSI) Round 2 provides financial assistance to farmers, farm workers, contractors and suppliers impacted by the drought.

The funding provides a one-off \$3,000 cash payment to eligible households.

Residents who meet the eligibility criteria can apply through <https://drought.svd.org.au/apply> before 30 April 2021.

The next Ordinary Meeting of Council will be held on Wednesday 12 May 2021 at the Wentworth Shire Council Chambers commencing at 10:00am.

I invite members of the public to view the meeting live via Council's Facebook page. Footage of the meeting can be viewed on the Council website <https://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/council/about-the-shire/council-meetings/> following the meeting.

Warm regards

Cr Susan Nichols
MAYOR

Wentworth Shire Council snippets

Grant funding open

Wentworth Shire Council advises the next round of applications to access Council's Donations, Contributions and Grants funding is open for submissions.

Application forms are available from the Shire Council Office, Wentworth Visitor Information Centre or can be downloaded at <https://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/community/community-grants>. Community organisations seeking financial assistance or in-kind support for events held during the 2020/21 financial year are encouraged to lodge their

application to the program by close of business Friday 30 April 2021.

Applications will be assessed at the May Council Meeting.

Buronga Nature Play works underway

Construction of a new Nature Play Area is underway at Buronga. The nature themed equipment in the play area includes rope play structures, scaling ropes and a fort and slide structure.

On top of the playground equipment construction will include picnic tables with a river view, public

seating and benches, shade structures, a new car park area including bollard fencing, landscaping, vegetation, grassed area, irrigation, bins and timber elements.

Part of the project also encompasses the rationalisation of paths through the eastern and western sides of the George Chaffey Bridge. Works on the project commenced in early 2021 with the general landscaping components to be finished by the end of May.

The shade structure and playground equipment will be completed by the end of July.



Concept plans of the new Wentworth Civic Centre entrance.

CIVIC CENTRE FORGING AHEAD

Progress is continuing on Wentworth Shire Council's Wentworth Civic Centre project.

Council will soon engage with the community to discuss this exciting project and its potential for the entire Shire. A progress update was tabled to the April Ordinary Meeting of Council.

This update included the plans from project manager GSD Architects as well as details of grant funding for various sections of the project such as the library and visitor information centre. It also outlined future funding

opportunities to assist in sharing the cost of the development.

The Civic Centre will be the venue for the upcoming Murray Darling Association and Annual General Meeting in May. Council sees this as an opportunity to showcase the overall concept for the redevelopment to the community and visiting delegates.

Council is looking forward to the chance to use the Civic Centre in this capacity as it works towards turning the building into a space the entire community can be proud of.

EMPLOYMENT

Are you looking to further your career with a progressive rural council? Go to <https://www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/council/online-services/employment/> for more information.

HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER - R2021/10

Full time permanent position
Closing 4:00pm Monday 10 May 2021

Salary range of \$60,548.80 to \$72,467.20 plus 9.5% superannuation dependent on skills, experience and qualifications.

Wentworth Shire Council is an equal opportunity employer.

TENDERS

HIGH DARLING ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS

Tender Reference PT2021/07
Closing date 3:00pm Friday 23 April 2021

Wentworth Shire Council is seeking tenders for suitably qualified contractors to provide the supply and delivery of road base material and the construction of 6.5km of road along the High Darling Road, Wentworth.

Tender documentation for this project is now available.

MILPARA ROAD RECONSTRUCTION WORKS

Tender Reference PT2021/08
Closing date 3:00pm Friday 23 April 2021

Wentworth Shire Council is seeking tenders for suitably qualified contractors to provide the supply and delivery of road base material and the construction of 6km of road along Milpara Road, Wentworth.

Tender documentation for this project is now available.

WENTWORTH SHIRE AREA BRIDGE LIFTS & MAINTENANCE

Tender Reference PT2021/09
Closing date 3:00pm Friday 14 May 2021

Wentworth Shire Council is seeking tenders for suitably qualified and competent personnel/company to undertake the raising and lowering of the bridge deck of the Abbotsford and Wentworth bridges to allow passage of river vessels over a period of 12 months.

Tender documentation will be available from Tuesday 20 April 2021.

Interested parties should contact the Roads and Engineering Department on 03 5027 5027 to request a copy of the tender documentation.

Meeting mentions

June council meeting date amended

Wentworth Shire Council's June Ordinary Meeting will be held on 30 June 2021 from 10:00am at the Wentworth Shire Council Chambers.

This change pushes the meeting back seven days from its original scheduled date.

The change will allow the Mayor and General Manager to attend the 2021 National General Assembly of Local Government scheduled for 20-23 June 2021 in Canberra.

At the January 2021 Ordinary Council Meeting it was resolved that the Mayor and General Manager be nominated to attend the assembly on behalf of the Wentworth Shire Council.

Aerodrome upgrade continuing

Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade Stage 2 provisional works on extending the apron parking area and eastern side taxiway link are continuing.
Council has submitted a request to

the funding body for an extension of time and to change the scope of the project to upgrade the second runway (17/35).

Electrical works are continuing, with the installation of apron floodlighting.

Investigations are also underway for a jet fuel fuelling station at Wentworth Aerodrome.

Development applications continue to roll in

For the month of March 2021, a total of 21 Development Applications and three S4.55 Modification Applications were determined under delegated authority by the Director Health and Planning.

The estimated value of the determined developments was \$6,767,078.00. This brings the year to date total to 30 Development Applications and eight S4.55 Applications approved, with an estimated development value of \$7,979,448.00.

More news from the Wentworth Shire

Small business rebate available

Sole traders, not-for-profit organisations and small businesses in New South Wales could be eligible for a small business fees and charges rebate of \$1,500 through Service NSW. To be eligible for this rebate, small businesses (including non-employing sole traders) and not-for-profit organisations must have total Australian wages below the NSW Government 2020-2021 payroll tax threshold of \$1.2 million, have an Australian Business Number (ABN) registered in NSW and/or have

business premises physically located and operating in NSW. They must also be registered for goods and services tax (GST). They must also provide a declaration that the business has a turnover of at least \$75,000 per year. Only one \$1,500 rebate is available for each ABN. Not-for-profit organisations are not subject to the GST requirement but must demonstrate a turnover of more than \$75,000 per year. To apply go to <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/small-business-fees-and-charges-rebate> or call 13 77 88.

New GP at Wentworth clinic

Wentworth Shire Council welcomes the extension of General Practitioner services at Coomealla Health Aboriginal Corporation's (CHAC) Wentworth Clinic to five days a week. Dr Mainul Khan recently joined the CHAC team at the Darling Street Clinic and will be seeing patients on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. This complements Dr Katie Thomson who practices on Mondays and Tuesdays. To book an appointment at CHAC Wentworth's clinic call 03 5002 9029, or visit Shop 3, 61 Darling Street.

This newsletter has been produced by the Wentworth Shire Council for the benefit of the residents of the Shire and visitors to the region.
Ken Ross
General Manager

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For current road condition information go to www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au/infrastructure/engineering-services/roads-and-traffic/ or call the 24 hour Road Information Hotline on 03 5027 5027