



#### IN THIS EDITION

- Council meetings | p02
- Project Updates | p10
- Community News & Events | p18
  - Are you fire ready? | p26
- Keep cool at our local pools | p32



Wentworth Twilight Christmas Markets, 1 December 2023 | p18

# **G** Follow us on facebook:

facebook.com/wentworthshirecouncil

You can view live public sessions of Council meetings on Facebook or footage of the meeting can be viewed on the Council website.

# **Important Numbers**

Emergency calls000 Police / Fire / Ambulance
Wentworth Shire Council03 5027 5027 Including emergencies
Health Direct Australia1800 022 222 24-hour health advice (non-emergency)
Non-urgent Police Response131 444 (non-emergency - no sirens)
Dareton Police
Crime Stoppers1800 333 000
SES
NSW Rural Fire Service03 5027 4422

#### MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As we welcome the festive season and the summer warmth, I extend my heartfelt greetings to you all. This time of year is perfect for enjoying our beautiful shire, whether through outdoor activities or community events, and for cherishing moments with family and friends. Let's remember to stay safe in the heat, look after each other, and continue to show the remarkable community spirit that defines our shire.



As your Mayor, I'm inspired by your resilience and unity of 2023. Let's support our local businesses, enhancing our vibrant communities. Wishing you all a joyous Christmas and a wonderful summer of happiness, health, and peace.

Daniel Sinklatin

Cr Daniel Linklater Mayor of Wentworth Shire Council

© Wentworth Shire Council | WSC Council eNews - Summer 2023-2024 | v22.12.2023

#### **COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month from 7pm at the Council Chambers, Short Street Wentworth.

#### Upcoming 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting dates:

<b>24 JANUARY</b>	<b>21 FEBRUARY</b>	<b>20 MARCH</b>
7pm	7pm	7pm
<b>17 APRIL</b>	<b>15 MAY</b>	<b>26 JUNE</b>
7pm	7pm	7pm
<b>17 JULY</b> 7pm	<b>14 AUGUST</b> 7pm	

Members of the public are invited to attend meetings. You can also view the live public sessions of each Council meeting on Facebook.

To view previous meeting minutes, agendas and recordings, visit **wentworth.nsw.gov.au/council-meetings** 



If you require assistance reading and understanding this document, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call Wentworth Shire Council on 03 5027 5027.

Information in this publication is correct at the time of distribution and is subject to change. For the latest updates please visit the website and Facebook pages.



We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.



# **CHRISTMAS** and a very happy new year

#### **COUNCIL SERVICES - CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR**

During the Christmas holiday period, Council offices and services will have altered operating hours and public holiday closures.

Closed from close of business Friday 22 December 2023
Customer Service Centres:
Main Administration Office
Midway Service Centre
Council Libraries
Workshop

Closed Public Holidays including; Monday 25 December 2023, Tuesday 26 December 2023 & Monday 1 January 2024 Depot Store Landfill & Waste Transfer Stations Visitor Information Centre



The after hours service for non urgent matters will operate during the closure period as normal.

Over this time, Wentworth Shire Council encourages residents to submit any non urgent customer requests via email, with requests reviewed and actioned from Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Normal hours of operation resume Tuesday 2 January 2024

**T** 03 5027 5027 **E** council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au wentworth.nsw.gov.au







# **COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS**

Council has a range of valuable resources available on the Wentworth Shire Council website with a comprehensive collection of publications and policies. These documents, integral to understanding the Council's operations and community initiatives, can be found in the Publications and Policies section.

**Stay Updated:** Keep abreast of the latest Council activities and plans.

**Community Engagement:** These documents provide a foundation for effective participation in community discussions and decision-making.

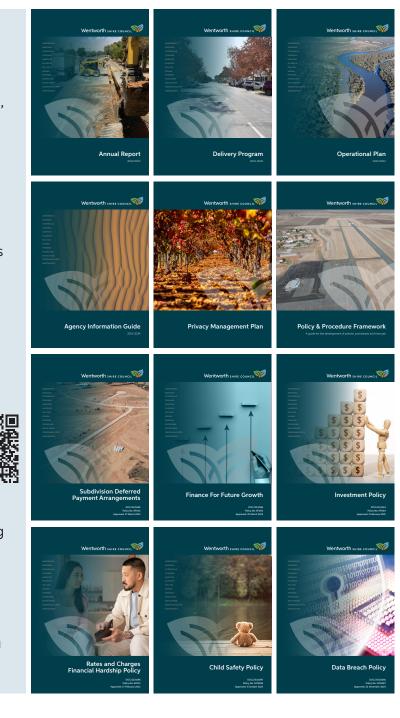
**Convenience:** Access important information at your convenience, anytime and anywhere.

#### How to Access:

- 1. Visit Publications and Policies
- 2. Select the document category of interest
- 3. Explore the information available at your fingertips

Your active engagement and understanding of these documents are crucial in shaping a vibrant and responsive community in Wentworth Shire.

For any assistance, please contact Council via email at council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au or call (03) 5027 5027.





#### **ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION**

Do you want to keep up to date with projects and events in the Wentworth Shire?

Wentworth Shire Council offers a quarterly projects, events and general Council News eNewsletter direct to your email inbox. This is on top of the monthly Council Connects which also appears in the NSW Standard. Scan the QR code and register to join Council's subscriber list.



# SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Community input needed for the Wentworth Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2024-2028



Economic Development Strategies 2024-2028

Balranald Shire Council and Wentworth Shire Council are now collaborating to develop Economic Development Strategies of each Council for 2024-2028.

These strategies will identify the strengths, challenges and opportunities of each Council as they seek the best possible outcomes for their residents, for existing industry/business and for future investments.

As neighbours with similar opportunities and barriers to growth, overlapping goals and actions will also be identified. This will result in Economic Development Strategies for each Council and overlapping strategies to support joint advocacy and action.

The goal of sustainable economic development is to improve the economic and social well-being of communities. This can be done by attracting and retaining business/ industry, creating/keeping employment, growing local workforce and enhancing the quality of life for all residents.

Economic Development should be strategic and community informed. It should improve life outcomes for all community members and support industry and population growth that enhances our communities and regions and protects our environments. With funding from the Department of Regional NSW, Balranald Shire Council and Wentworth Shire Council have employed local (Balranald based) researcher Rachael Williams (Local Logic Place) to hear from stakeholders including; residents of communities, business, industry, government and supporting agencies such as education and employment services. Together these voices will inform the development of the Economic Development Strategies.

Rachael will commence hearing from stakeholders in December 2023 and continue this listening until March 2024. Opportunities to connect with Rachael and inform the research will be advertised through newsletters and social media, community social media groups, local newspapers and community notice boards in each shire.

For more information, contact: Rachael Williams - Lead Researcher rachael@logicalplace.com.au

Connie Mallet - Balranald Shire Council cmallet@balranald.nsw.gov.au

Kerren Miles - Wentworth Shire Council kerren.miles@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Hodi Beauliv - Department of Regional NSW hodi.beauliv@regional.nsw.gov.au







# WENTWORTH LGA KEY STATS & FACTS - 2021



# **POPULATION - 7,453**

Male: 51.9% Female: 48.1% Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people: 8.3% (NSW 3.4%) Country of birth (Australia): 80.1% (NSW 65.4%)



# AGE

Median age: 43 years (NSW 39 years) Working age population: people aged 15-64 years form 60.0% of the population (NSW 64.2%) 20.8% of the population are aged 65 years and over (NSW 17.7%)



# ALL PRIVATE DWELLINGS - 3,437

16.0% of dwellings were unoccupied (NSW 9.4%)Average number of people per household: 2.5 people (NSW 2.6)\$200 / week was the median rent (NSW \$420)



# HOUSEHOLDS

73.6% were family households (NSW 71.2%)
24.8% (631 people) were single person households (NSW 25.0%)
1.6% were group households (NSW 3.8%)
4.9% of households had no registered motor vehicle (NSW 9.0%)



# HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Across the Wentworth LGA 21.0% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 (NSW 16.3%) and 16.9% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3,000 (NSW 26.9%)



# HEALTH

4.1% of the Wentworth LGA residents reported three or more longterm health conditions (NSW 3.0%) Not Stated: 14.0% (NSW 8.1%)



# **CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

Language used at home: English only (83.9%), Italian (0.7%), Tongan (0.3%), Thai (0.3%), Malay (0.2%), Punjabi (0.2%) Countries of Birth: Australia (80.1%), England (1.1%), New Zealand (0.8%), Italy (0.5%), Philippines (0.4%), Malaysia (0.3%)

# WENTWORTH LGA KEY STATS & FACTS - 2021



# **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

60.1% worked full-time (NSW 55.2%)
28.9% worked part-time (NSW 29.7%)
4.3% (142 people) were Unemployed (NSW 4.9%)
6.8% were away from work (NSW 10.2%)

# **PARTICIPATION IN LABOUR FORCE**

In the labour force: 55.0% (NSW 58.7%) Not in the labour force: 32.2% (NSW 35.5%) Not stated: 12.8% (NSW 5.9%)



# **EMPLOYMENT, HOURS WORKED**

Employed people aged 15 years and over worked: 1-19 hrs - 13.0% (NSW 13.7%) and 20-34 hrs - 17.1% (NSW 17.6%) 35-44 hrs - 38.1% (NSW 41.3%) and 45 hrs or more - 24.9% (NSW 16.8%)

# **OCCUPATION, TOP RESPONSES**



Managers: 20.7% (NSW 14.6%) Professionals: 13.9% (NSW 25.8%) Technicians and Trades Workers: 13.5% (NSW 11.9%) Labourers: 13.3% (NSW 8.2%) Clerical and Administrative Workers: 11.1% (NSW 13.0%) Community and Personal Service Workers: 10.7% (NSW 10.6%) Sales Workers: 7.3% (NSW 8.0%) Machinery Operators and Drivers: 7.2% (NSW 6.0%)



# INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT, TOP RESPONSES

Sheep Farming (Specialised): 3.3% (NSW 0.2%) Primary Education: 3.0% (NSW 2.1%) Hospitals (except Psychiatric Hospitals): 2.9% (NSW 4.2%) Citrus Fruit Growing: 2.8% (NSW 0.0%) Grape Growing: 2.7% (NSW 0.0%)

# LEVEL OF HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



People aged 15 years and over: Bachelor Degree level and above: 11.0% (NSW 27.8%) Advanced Diploma and Diploma level: 7.9% (NSW 9.3%) Year 9 or below: 12.0% (NSW 7.4%) Not stated: 16.0% (NSW 8.3%)



Proudly funded by



# Midway Centre

# 6 Midway Drive Buronga









- Function and conference spaces for any occasion
- Midway Basketball Stadium
- Community library with a range of programs
- Pay your Wentworth Shire rates and register pets
- Banking facilities

**Midway Service Centre -** 6 Midway Drive Buronga Hours: Monday - Friday, 8.30am–12pm & 1pm-5pm

(03) 5027 5027 | council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au



**PROJECT COMPLETED** 

#### **POONCARIE ROAD**

Council recommenced earthworks on the final 26.5 kilometres of unsealed road between Pooncarie and Wentworth Shire Council boundary in July 2023, following 8 months of flood related delays.

The \$9.2 million project is jointly funded on a 50:50 basis with the Australian Government and NSW Government under the Growing Local Economies Fund with the Office of Regional Development.

The upgrade allows road users to access the road in all weather conditions, removing over 600km of road detours when the road is impacted by wet weather-related road closures.

The Wentworth Shire section of the project was completed in early December, with bitumen sealing, guide posts, linemarking and signage completed by Council staff.

For further information, visit: transport.nsw.gov. au/projects/current-projects/pooncarie-road





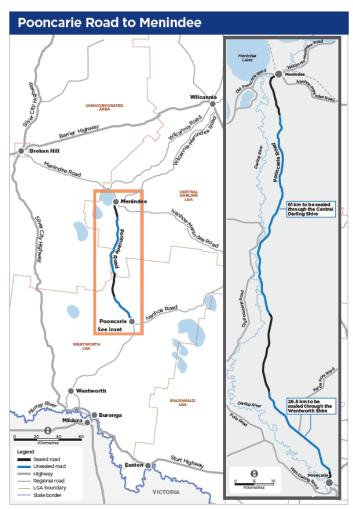


Image credit: Transport for NSW transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/pooncarie-road





#### **CIVIC CENTRE**

The following images were taken mid-December, with works on track for a June 2024 completion. Plaster, paint and tiling are underway, with the majority of the internal structure completed.

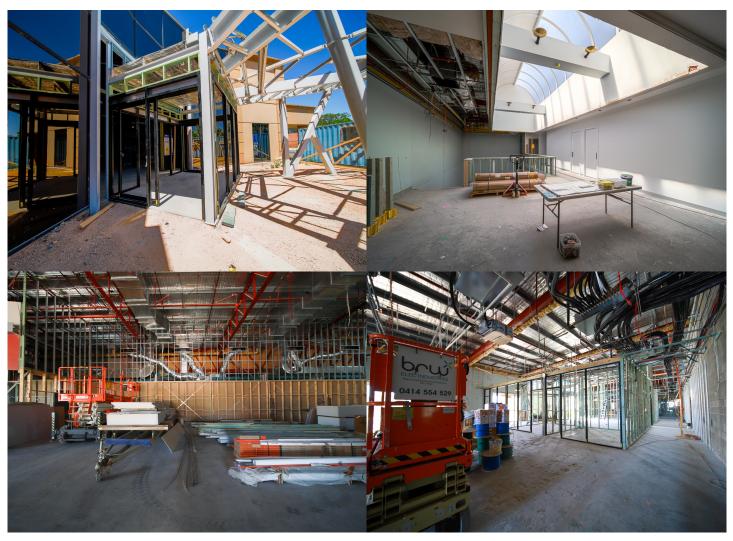
The Civic Centre will contain Council offices, Council Chambers, Wentworth Shire Library, Visitor Information Centre and interpretive Centre, community meeting rooms and a large function centre overlooking the Darling River.

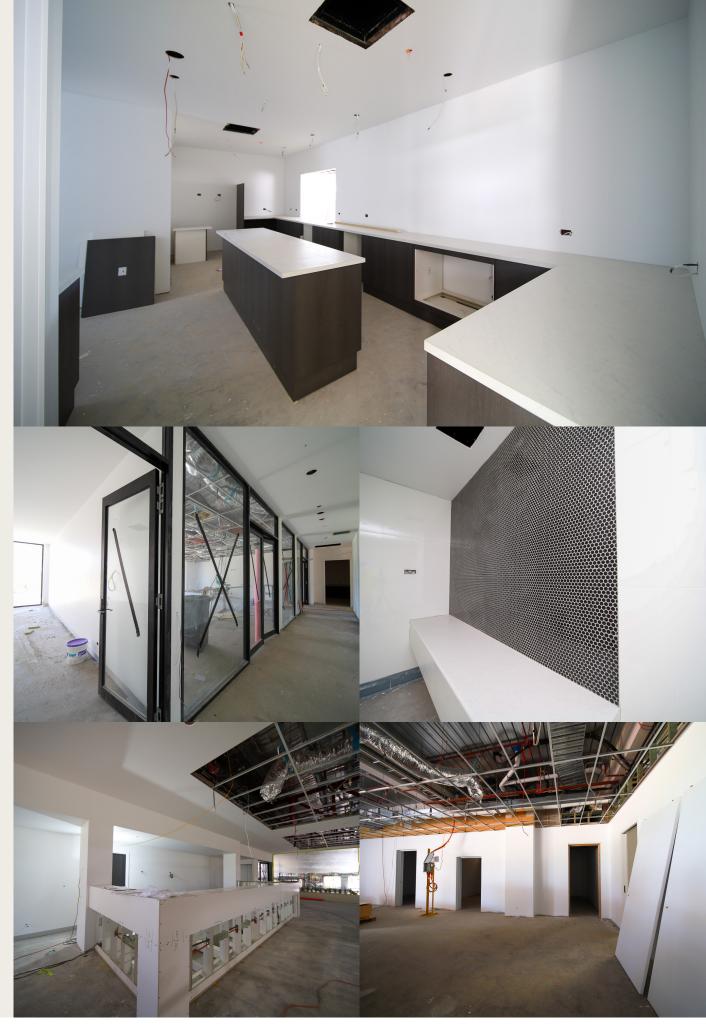
Council looks forward to opening the refurbished Civic Centre for the community once works are complete.

# PROJECT ON TRACK

JUNE 2024 COMPLETION







**DECEMBER 2023** 



#### WENTWORTH CARAVAN PARK

Following the severe impact of flood water, works have recommenced at Wentworth Caravan Park, previously known as Willowbend Caravan Park.

The upgrade of the Caravan Park received funding in the 2021/2022 financial year, including one million dollars from the Crown Reserves Improvement Fund and two million dollars from the Council.

By the end of June 2023, the total expenditure was approximately 1.25 million dollars, representing about 40 percent of the total allocated funds.

The focus of the construction work is on finishing the western side of the park and the buildings by early March 2024. The completion of the remainder of the park is planned for April, coinciding with the start of a new park operator.





#### **Completed Works**

So far, the following tasks have been accomplished:

- Completion of designs
- Awarding contracts for the installation of services and the fabrication of buildings
- Filling and compacting to elevate the park surface to the necessary levels
- Full park-wide completion of stormwater installation
- Completion of sewer installation on the western side of the park, including the sewer pump station, and partial completion on the eastern side
- Installation of filtered water and electrical services on the western side
- Delivery of all materials required for the remaining service installations to the site
- Completion of off-site building fabrication, with internal fitting-out nearing its end

#### Future Works include:

- Road construction on the western side of the park
- Construction of concrete caravan pads on the western side
- Grass installation on the western side
- Retaining wall construction and landscaping along the riverfront
- Building installation
- Extension of services to the eastern side of the park





#### SEWER WORKS, WENTWORTH

In the later half of the 2023, old clay sewer pipes in Wentworth suffered a number of collapses. Repairs were required at both the Wentworth Primary School Oval and in Beverley Street. The sewer pipes at both of these locations are deep (between 5m and 6m below ground level). Significant works were required as difficult ground conditions were encountered and extended time of sewer bypass pumping was required. These works have now been completed with sewer services restored.

## **PROJECT COMPLETED**



#### **GOL GOL/BURONGA SHAREDWAY**

The following sharedways are being constructed at Gol Gol and Buronga, to assist with improved accessibility to various locations including Gol Gol Primary School and the Buronga Riverfront.

- Pine Street (200m) Complete
- Wood Street (600m) Complete
- Wood Streer/Gol Gol North Road (400m)
   Complete
- Buronga Wetlands to the Murray Riverfront (1800m) – 50% complete

The sharedways are designed to encourage residents to get physically active as part of Get NSW Active funding.

# PROJECT ON TRACK



#### FLOOD RECOVERY WORKS/PARKS

Flood recovery works in parks and gardens are ongoing with the majority restored and open for summer enjoyment.



**COUNCIL** eNews

# WENTWORTH EFFLUENT DISPOSAL STATION (EDS)

The original Wentworth Effluent Disposal Station had a number of accessibility, operational and safety concerns.

The aging infrastructure is being upgraded with assistance of funding by NSW Government from Boating Now and Resources for Regions programs.

The upgraded EDS will include new pontoon, pumps and walkway. Continuing on the ability for effluent disposal in the Wentworth area for Houseboats and the like into the future.





#### JUNCTION ISLAND BRIDGE

The original Junction Island Bridge had a number of accessibility and safety concerns. The timber stairs particularly limited access to the tip of the Junction of the Murray and Darling Rivers. The bridge also prevented the ability to maintain any future infrastructure on the island.

A new bridge is in the process of being constructed which consists of a series of ramps enabling full access to the island. The bridge will also support the access of small maintenance machinery and equipment to maintain the island.

The bridge will also assist with a future project of installing a crusher dust footpath to the tip of the Junction and the potential of a viewing area.



## **EVENTS**

#### WENTWORTH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL TWILIGHT EVENT:

Following the Wentworth Country Music Festival, the Twilight Event held on 29 September 2023 extended the festivities on Darling Street. Attendees had the chance to explore local shops and browse market stalls, and enjoy live music. Local cafes and pubs provided various meals and snacks. This event was an excellent chance for the community to come together and spend a sunny day in Wentworth.



#### WENTWORTH TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS MARKETS:

Held on 1 December 2023, the Wentworth Twilight Christmas Markets included food vans, live music by Shadow Duo, Lucy, and James Herberte, and over 40 stalls with Christmas gifts. Activities like Santa photos, pony rides, and face painting for children were available, and local boutiques extended their hours. The event was well-received, and Council thanks everyone involved for their contributions.



#### **DARETON CHRISTMAS MARKETS:**

On 9 December 2023, the Dareton Christmas Markets included market stalls, free children's activities, and a community breakfast by Dareton Men in a Shed. Live music was provided by Shadow Duo. Additional activities included face painting, balloon animals, and a visit from Santa.



#### **GOL GOL CAROLS WITH A TWIST:**

Held on 10 December 2023 at Alcheringa Oval, this event attracted over 2000 people. It featured magic shows, acrobatics, fire twirling, singing, and dancing. Performances by Buronga Public School, Gol Gol Community Band, and Gol Gol Preschool were part of the event. There were also free children's activities, various food stalls, and a visit from Santa.



These events showcase the vibrant community spirit in Wentworth Shire, and we look forward to more such gatherings in the future. For more information on upcoming events, please visit the Experience Wentworth Events page.



# Christmas Eve Street Party

Darling Street, Wentworth

# Sunday 24 December 2023 from 6.15pm with fireworks at 9.30pm

Proud Sponsors: Wentworth Shire Council, Ritchies Supa IGA, Community Bank Wentworth & District Bendigo Bank, Rotary Club of Wentworth, Wentworth Rotary Community Op Shop RAFFLES GAMES LIVE MUSIC RIDES SANTA FIREWORKS





B.L.A.S.T is a place where we aim to Build Lives Around Sound Truth

# Register and info at: su.org.au/events/blast

If you're looking for a fun place for the kids to hang out these School Holidays, then we'd love you to bring them to B.L.A.S.T this January.

We will be doing some great activities each morning, which will include Games, Craft, Singing, Snacks and an engaging Bible Story for the kids to enjoy.

# B.L.A.S.T School Holiday Program

Who:Kids (Grade 2-7)Where:Wentworth Public School HallWhen:22-25 January 20249am - 12 noonCost:\$8 for 4 days

# MAJOR EVENTS IN 2024

#### AUSTRALIA DAY CITIZENSHIP & AWARDS CEREMONY

**Thursday 25 January, 6pm onwards** Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club, Dareton

#### AUSTRALIA DAY BREAKFAST

**Friday 26 January, 8am onwards** The Australian Inland Botanc Gardens 1183 River Road, Mourquong

#### AUSFLY

Friday 22 - Saturday 23 March Wentworth Aerodrome

#### MAGENTA ART & PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

Friday 29 March - Monday 1 April 10am-4pm The Australian Inland Botanc Gardens 1183 River Road, Mourguong

# WENT ORTH and surrounds

# DARETON COOMEALLA CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Thursday 25 April - Sunday 28 April

#### **GOL GOL COUNTRY FAIR**

**Sunday 5 May, 10am-4pm** Gol Gol Public School 49-51 William Street, Gol Gol

#### WENTWORTH JUNCTION RALLY

Saturday 6 July - Sunday 7 July Wentworth

#### WENTWORTH SHOW

Saturday 24 August - Sunday 25 August Wentworth Showgrounds, Wentworth

#### MILDURA WENTWORTH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday 13 September - Saturday 21 September

For further information, scan the QR code or visit: **experiencewentworth.com.au** 



#### **SUBMIT AN EVENT**

Events across Wentworth Shire are welcomed to be submitted for display on the Experience Wentworth website, Facebook page and monthly What's On newsletter.

Submit your event by contacting the team at the Visitor Information Centre. Call 03 5027 5080, email tourism@wentworth.nsw.gov.au or visit 66 Darling Street, Wentworth.

# Australia Day Awards & Citizenship Ceremony

Thursday 25 January 2024 6:00pm for a 6:30pm start Supper provided in the Auditorium

Australia Day 2024 Ambassador for Wentworth Shire Council

Hosted at the Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club





**Mike Goldman** TV Presenter, Host, Producer and Voice Actor



# Australia Day 2024 Breakfast

The Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Friday 26 January 2023 | 8:00am

Adults: \$8.00/head | Children: \$2.00/ head Bacon & eggs, sausage, tomato & toast

Kindly sponsored by the Buronga, Gol Gol & District Lions Club.



Buronga Gol Gol & District











# SAAA are proud to announce Ausfly has a new home Wentworth Aerodrome, NSW

# SAVE THE DATE

# 22-23rd March 2024

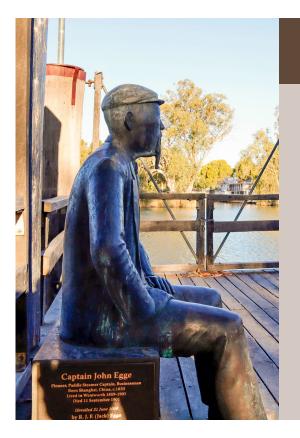
AUSFLY IS PROUDLY PRESENTED AND HOSTED BY







## HISTORY



# **CAPTAIN JOHN EGGE STATUE**

John Egge (c. 1830-1901), a Chinese riverboat captain was Born in Shanghai, China.

Arriving in Australia in 1852 in the boat, Queen of Sheba, owned by Francis Cadell. When Cadell opened the Murray River trade with paddle steamers, John (on the books as "John Bull"), served as the cook in each new ship Cadell launched. In 1856 he assumed by deed poll his Scandinavian surname.

Whilst establishing a piggery on Hindmarsh Island in Lake Alexandrina, South Australia, he met an English girl, Mary Perring, whom he courted by swimming the river to visit her, his clothes piled on his head.

Location: Wentworth Wharf

### **HISTORY TRAIL**

Pickup a local map or guide from the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre or download from the Experience Wentworth website.







### DARETON CENTENARY

Dareton is the centre of the Coomealla Irrigation Area, best known for its superior dried fruit and wine grapes. The irrigation area was once known as 'Nine Mile' and owes its existence, in part, to the visionary 'The Million Farms' scheme that flourished following World War One.

The cornerstone for Coomealla's ambitious horticultural development was laid in 1922, when Murray Lands Advisory Committee members inspected the area and recommended an irrigation scheme be established.

The town is named for Water Conservation and Irrigation Commissioner Henry Harvey Dare, a staunch proponent of the proposal.

It was his report to the Cabinet Committee on Land Development and Settlement that is generally held to have prompted the advisory committee inspection, tipping the scales in favour of the initiative.

Pioneering families sowed the seeds of irrigated horticulture here in the mid-to-late 1920s, but it was the influx of soldier-settlers following World War Two, under the auspices of the War Services Land Settlement Scheme, that supplied the impetus for rapid growth and development.

They came and conquered, transforming the bush landscape into a neat cross hatch pattern of flourishing vineyards and orchards, literally carving out a prosperous future by hard work and sweat.

Today Dareton, and the surrounding Coomealla Irrigation District, are together a thriving horticultural showpiece renowned for quality products.

It is also home to the renowned Coomealla Memorial Sporting Club and a mecca for freshwater fishermen while boasting one of the most picturesque championship golf courses in the country.

Dareton will celebrate it's Centenary between Thursday 25 and Sunday 28 April 2024. For further information, email daretoncentenary@gmail.com or join the Dareton / Coomealla Centenary Celebrations group on Facebook.



# Beat the heat

Hot weather can be dangerous. Have a plan to protect you and your family this summer.





health.nsw.gov.au/**beattheheat** 

The new Fire Danger Ratings will give you **clear actions to take**.





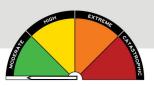
www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/newfdr

# Being prepared means staying informed.

Fire Danger Ratings help us do just that.

Make sure you understand the new Fire Danger Ratings and check your level of risk regularly this fire season.

# **NO RATING**



On days when there's minimal risk, like when it's raining, the white bar meaning 'No Rating' will be used.

Report any fires to 000.

# MODERATE

## Plan and prepare.

> Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

# **HIGH**



LEAVE BUSH FIRE RISK AREAS

# Be ready to act.

- > There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.
- > Decide what you will do if a fire starts.
- If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk. The safest option is to avoid bush fire risk areas.



N AND PREPARE

# EXTREME

# **Take action now** to protect your life and property.

- > These are dangerous fire conditions.
- > Check your bush fire plan and ensure that your property is fire ready.
- If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.
- > Reconsider travel through bush fire risk areas.



**CATASTROPHIC** 

- > These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.
- > Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.
- Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.
- Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions.
- > You may not be able to leave, and help may not be available.

RFS





L-R: Councillor Daniel Linklater (Mayor of Wentworth Shire), Sam Isherwood, Ava Wraight, Councillor Sue Nichols (Deputy Mayor of Wentworth Shire).

#### BUSH BURSARY PROGRAM

The Rural Doctors Network Bush Bursary program is a collaboration between Councils, the Country Women's Association, and the Rural Doctors Network, who provide financial support for medical students to undertake a twoweek placement during their university holidays. Wentworth Shire Council is pleased to support the next generation of healthcare professionals and has financially supported and hosted students for a number of years.

Ava Wraight and Sam Isherwood, two second-year medical students at Macquarie University with a shared passion for rural and remote healthcare, were chosen to participate in Wentworth Shire Council's placement through the Bush Bursary Program.

Ava and Sam stepped into Wentworth Shire, and found themselves not just participants in a program but integral members of the community. The social and lifestyle aspects of rural living are crucial factors for health professionals considering a career in rural healthcare. The program, with its focus on showcasing rural life beyond clinical settings, aims to provide a holistic understanding of what it means to practice healthcare in a rural area.

Danielle White, Director of Sunraysia Collaboration (a partnership between Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health (University of Sydney) South West Academic Centre (SWAC) & Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Monash University - Rural Health Mildura), working in partnership with Wentworth Shire Council and the Rural Doctors Network. played a crucial role in ensuring Ava and Sam had a comfortable and productive stay. Her efforts contributed to a seamless and positive learning experience for the students.

As Ava and Sam explore the region, engaging with clinical services, participating in community activities, and immersing themselves in the local lifestyle, they are not just students on a placement; they are future healthcare providers who may one day choose to make a lasting impact in rural communities like the Wentworth Shire.

Wentworth Shire Council's involvement in hosting Ava and Sam is part of a larger mission to encourage the next generation of practitioners to choose rural health. By opening their doors to these students, the council contributes to the broader goal of building a capable and sustainable health workforce in regional, rural, and remote communities.

For further information, visit: nswrdn.com.au/site/bbcwa



"I have always been interested in community medicine, and this placement was an incredible opportunity to explore that in Wentworth. I was really hoping to gain further insight into the healthcare systems in place to support rural areas and where possible shortfalls that may exist. My overall experience has been fantastic. Everyone I have met over the last two weeks has been so welcoming, generous with their time and knowledge, and interested in us as students. I have learned a lot about the healthcare dynamics that exist within rural communities, and also uniquely to Wentworth. I have been blown away by the strength and diverse nature of relationships formed between healthcare workers and residents in this community in order to provide support and care despite clear inequality and barriers to health."

Sam Isherwood Second year medical student, Macquarie

"I have absolutely loved my time here in Wentworth and the surrounding regions. I feel like I will leave this placement having learned great skills in community engagement and the complexities of rural health, not just from a medical perspective but also from a political, administrative, and geographical standpoint. As a student, understanding that medicine is an incredibly broad discipline that integrates health holistically from the individual, communal, and national level will, I hope, encourage me to think laterally as I progress in my studies and career."



Ava Wraight Second year medical student, Macquarie University

"The success of the Bush Bursary Program lies in the collaborative efforts of councils, organisations, and students. Ava and Sam bring a fresh perspective, and we are excited to see how their time in Wentworth Shire influences their future careers."

#### Danielle White

Director of Sunraysia Collaboration (a partnership between Broken Hill University Department of Rural Health (University of Sydney) South West Academic Centre (SWAC) & Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences Monash University – Rural Health Mildura), working in partnership with Wentworth Shire Council and the Rural Doctors Network.



"We are proud to host Ava and Sam as part of the Bush Bursary Program. This program not only provides valuable experiences for these young minds but also showcases the opportunities and rewards of rural healthcare. We believe in investing in the future of our healthcare workforce, and Ava and Sam's presence is a testament to that commitment."

Councillor Daniel Linklater Mayor of Wentworth Shire

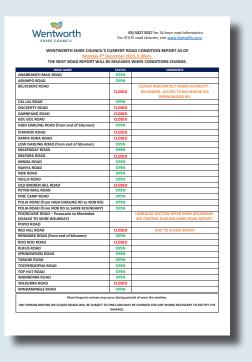
## **OUR ROADS**

## **ROAD CONDITIONS**

Road Condition Reports in Wentworth Shire are published on the Council website regularly.

Scan the QR code for the latest conditions.





Double Demerits are in effect for the following periods:

Christmas/New Year festive period **FROM** Friday 22 December 2023 **TO** Monday 1 January 2024

Australia Day long weekend FROM Thursday 25 January 2024 TO Sunday 28 January 2024

The demerit point system provides an incentive for drivers to improve their driving behaviour, obey road rules and comply with NSW traffic laws. The double demerit point scheme applies for the following types of offences:

- Speeding
- Illegal use of mobile phones
- Not wearing a seatbelt
- Riding without a helmet

Copyright State of New South Wales (Transport for NSW)

Double Demerits 22 Dec – 1 Jan 2024 25 Jan – 28 Jan STOP IT... OR COP IT.



# Are you aged between 15-21?



Do you live in the Wentworth LGA and travel to Mildura? You are eligible for a free Youth Travel Pass to use on routes 950, 951, 953, 954, 955 and 956 CDC Victoria services during school holidays until 13 October 2024.

Sign up below

- 1. Scan the QR code or copy **bit.ly/WYTP** into a webpage and complete the form
- 2. Receive either a digital or physical travel pass, depending on your preference
- 3. Show your pass to the CDC Victoria bus driver and travel for free during the NSW school holidays on the 950, 951, 953, 954, 955 and 956 route services.
- 4. Get out of the house these holidays and catch the bus to and from friends, family and even sporting commitments!

For enquiries, please contact Kayla on farwest1@transport.nsw.gov.au



## **PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS**

Both Dareton and Wentworth Pools have a ramp installed leading into the pool with handrails either side that can be used for wheelchair access. A chair lift is also available at both Wentworth and Dareton Pools.

#### Admission Charges 2023/2024 (inc. 10% GST)

Children \$5.00 Adults \$6.00 Non-swimming adults \$5.00 Season Ticket (Family) \$118.00 Season Ticket (Adults) \$79.00 Season Ticket (Children) \$59.00

#### **Dareton Pool**

Matong Street, Dareton Tel: (03) 5027 4483

#### Wentworth Pool Beverley Street, Wentworth Tel: (03) 5027 2029



For further details including hours of operation, visit: wentworth.nsw.gov.au/community/public-swimming-pools







**COUNCIL** eNews

# **BLUE GREEN ALGAE**

Blue-green algae is naturally occurring and can reproduce quickly in still or slowflowing water when there is abundant sunlight and sufficient nutrients.

Updates and information about blue-green algae blooms and red level warning areas can be obtained by visiting www.waternsw.com.au/algae or Water Insights or calling 1800 999 457.

#### **General enquiries**

Gerhard Schulz (RACC Coordinator) | Gerhard.Schulz@waternsw.com.au



# Bridge Lift Bookings

# Wentworth Bridge and Abbotsford Bridge

Book a bridge lift CALL (03) 5027 5027

# When booking, the following information is required:

- Date and time required
- Bridge to be lifted
- Caller's name and mobile phone number
- Captain's name and mobile phone number
- Vessel Name
- Vessel Height (very important)

Please note, a minimum of 4 hours notice is required

Bridge Lift Times

## MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:30AM 11:30AM 2:30PM

WEEKENDS & PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 9:30AM 11:30AM 2:30PM 5:00PM

## WENTWORTH SHIRE LIBRARIES

## **AUTHOR VISIT - DARRY FRASER**

Wentworth Shire Libraries recently hosted an enriching evening with renowned author Darry Fraser, celebrating the launch of her latest book, 'The Milliner of Bendigo.' Fraser captivated the audience with insights into her writing process, her passion for history, and her love for the River Murray.

Our thanks also go to Collins Booksellers Mildura for their participation in the event.





#### 2024 YOUNG ADULT BOOK CLUB AT MIDWAY LIBRARY

Commencing in 2024, the Midway Library in Buronga will host a Young Adult Book Club, gathering every six weeks. This club is ideal for individuals aged 13 to 18 years, and snacks will be provided.

To express your interest, please send an email to library@ wentworth.nsw.gov.au or follow Wentworth Shire Libraries on Instagram for updates.



# **NSWPLA**

#### INNOVATION IN OUTREAC SERVICES AWARD

2023 Winner POPULATION CATEGORY - UNDER 10,000

Seniors' Morning Tea

#### INNOVATION IN OUTREACH SERVICES AWARD

Wentworth Shire Libraries were honoured with the prestigious Innovation in Outreach Services Award from the NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA) at the SWITCH Annual Conference.

Library staff and volunteers of the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens organised the Senior's Morning Tea on 28 February 2023 with an outstanding success.





#### INNOVATION IN OUTREACH SERVICES AWARD

2023 Winner POPULATION CATEGORY - UNDER 10,000

WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL Seniors' Morning Tea

#### **BLUEY & BINGO CELEBRATION**

Wentworth Shire Libraries recently hosted a fantastic series of parties featuring the beloved characters Bluey and Bingo.

The highlight of the parties was the presence of Bluey and Bingo themselves, thanks to the generous support of Variety Bash car 3496 - Bluey. Children and adults alike were thrilled by the opportunity to receive hugs and high fives from these cherished characters, creating moments of joy and excitement.

Our friendly staff are ready to assist you with digital images from the event and can also provide printed copies upon request.



#### **LEGO FUN**

Wentworth Shire Libraries recently hosted a series of vibrant and engaging LEGO activities during the school holidays, part of our commitment to fostering creativity and providing engaging community activities. Children of various ages enthusiastically engaged in constructing imaginative structures, painting, and colouring their LEGO creations, making the library a hive of creativity.

A standout feature was the captivating LEGO treasure hunt. This activity saw participants, including eager parents, embarking on an adventurous quest throughout the library. Their mission was to find hidden LEGO characters, adding an exciting and exploratory dimension to the event.



#### **\$50 ACTIVE & CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHERS, LAUNCHING FEBRUARY 2024**

The NSW Government is helping low and middle-income families with cost-of-living pressures with the new Active and Creative Kids voucher program. There are two new, combined \$50 vouchers that eligible parents, guardians and carers of school-aged children will be able to use per year over the next three years.

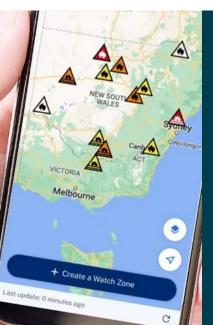
- two \$50 vouchers will be available in 2024 (\$50 in term 1 and \$50 in term 3)
- each voucher used towards the costs of either an eligible sport and recreational or creative and cultural activity
- vouchers must be redeemed before their expiry date;
- for Term 1 vouchers, before 31 December of each calendar year
- for Term 3 vouchers, before 15 July of each following calendar year
- all providers will need to register to be part of the new program
- parents, guardians and carers of eligible school aged children will be able to download and use their voucher from February 2024.

Organisations can now apply to become an Active and Creative Kids provider through:

- Service NSW website
- Service NSW Business Bureau app

For further information about the program visit service.nsw.gov.au or contact 13 77 88 for assistance with your application.





#### HAZARDS NEAR ME NSW

Being prepared means staying informed. Hazards Near Me is an app for official information on emergencies including warnings about bushfires and floods.

Make sure you are prepared this summer. Search for 'Hazards Near Me NSW' in the app store.

Find out more at nsw.gov.au



# Wentworth Shire Council is providing free protection for residents this Summer:

## N95 Masks for Bushfire Smoke and Air Pollution Mosquito Repellent roll-on and spray Rapid Antigen Test Kits for COVID-19

### Collect your free items from participating locations

You can collect your free test kits, and repellent from the following locations:

- Main Administration Office 26-28 Adelaide St, Wentworth
- Midway Service Centre & Library 6 Midway Drive, Buronga

You can collect your free N95 masks from the following locations:

- Main Administration Office 26-28 Adelaide St, Wentworth
- Midway Service Centre & Library 6 Midway Drive, Buronga
- Wentworth Library 23 Murray Street (Cnr Murray & Short Streets), Wentworth
- Dareton Library 30 Millie Street, Dareton
- Wentworth Visitor Information Centre 66 Darling Street, Wentworth
- Wentworth Post Office Shop 6 / 64 Adams Street, Wentworth
- Pooncarie Post Office & Library Tarcoola Street, Pooncarie
- Buronga Post Office Shop 5 / 6-10 Sturt Highway, Buronga
- Gol Gol Post Office 30 Adelaide Street, Gol Gol
- Dareton Post Office 24 Tapio Street, Dareton

Council urge all residents to take advantage of these resources. Stay safe and healthy this summer.



# ABBY TRAP ROUND-UP



Look out for this symbol at other events where you can drop your traps.

## Swap your opera house yabby traps for an **Oar-Gee Plow lure!**

The Yabby Trap Round-Up is collecting all old and unwanted yabby traps to protect the future of fishing and the health of our waterways. The traps collected will be recycled into useful products for fishers, with the proceeds being used to support habitat restoration. As a thank you, we'll give you a new Oar-Gee lure.





#### Your local Trap Drop Spot:

Buronga Landfill 258 Arumpo Road, Buronga NSW 2739

For more information: Call Council on 03 5027 5027 or visit wentworth.nsw.gov.au







The Yabby Trap Round-Up program is an initiative of TierraMar in collaboration with OzFish Unlimited and the NSW DPI.











**NSW Wild Dog Fence Extension Project** 

# Stakeholder update



#### November 2023



The NSW Government is working with stakeholders and landholders to deliver a 32 km extension to the current NSW Border Wild Dog Fence (commonly known as the dog fence) on the NSW and South Australian borders. The 32 km priority section will close the gap between the NSW and South Australian dog fences.

#### Current project status

The project is focused on securing approvals and getting construction underway of the 32 km priority section. From 13 November 2023, the following activities are underway:



surveying of the proposed alignment



finalising documentation with adjoining landholders



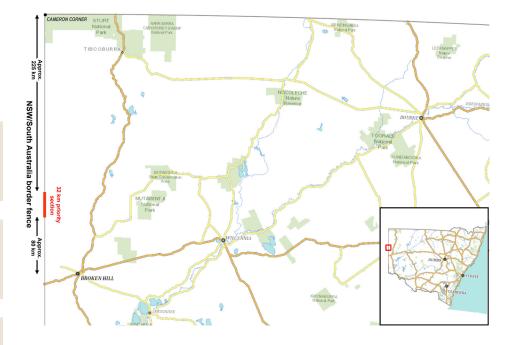
Aboriginal cultural heritage mitigation works



procurement activities for construction services



coordinating the final clearance prior to construction starting



#### Next steps

After these activities are completed, construction will commence. During the summer months (December - February), construction may be limited to activities that can be carried out safely in the hot conditions.

#### Find out more

Visit the project webpage –<u>www.lls.nsw.gov.au/wdf</u>. The project will be making regular updates to the webpage regarding project status and the timeline for construction

Delivery of the project is being managed by the Department of Regional NSW and involves agencies including Local Land Services, Soil Conservation Service, NSW Public Works and the NSW Border Fence Maintenance Board. The project acknowledges the support it has received from stakeholders and landholders to date.

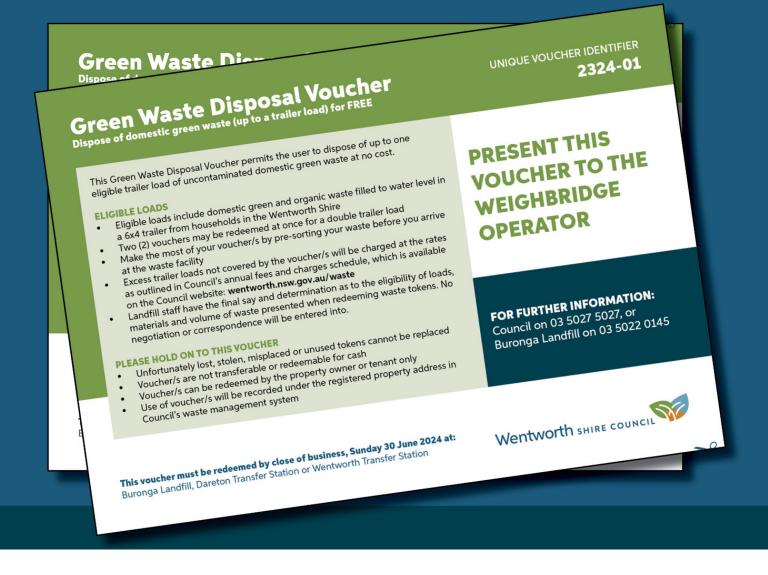


#### **GREEN WASTE DISPOSAL VOUCHERS**

Council has a green waste disposal initiative providing households in the Wentworth Shire the opportunity to dispose of up to a trailer load of domestic green waste for free at the Buronga, Dareton and Wentworth waste facilities.

Note: TWO (2) Green Waste Disposal Vouchers available per eligible household.

For further information and to check your eligibility, visit **wentworth.nsw.gov.au/gwdv** 





and a very happy new year

#### CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR GARBAGE COLLECTION SCHEDULE This festive season, Cleanaway will be observing the Christmas

Day and New Years Day public holidays.

As a result, there will be a temporary adjustment to the garbage collection schedule in Wentworth Shire, with each collection being one day later than normal.

Please take note of the temporary changes to collections:

Wentworth, Pomona and Dareton			
Normal Collection	Monday 25 December	Monday 1 January	
Amended Collection	Tuesday 26 December	Tuesday 2 January	
Coomealla and Curlwaa irrigation districts, River Road and Boeill Creek			
Normal Collection	Tuesday 26 December	Tuesday 2 January	
Amended Collection	Wednesday 27 December	Wednesday 3 January	
Trentham Cliffs, Gol Gol township, Gol Gol North, Gol Gol,			
Buronga irrigation areas, Buronga township and Mourquong			
	Wednesday 27		

Amended Collection	Thursday 28 December	Thursday 4 January
Normal Collection	Wednesday 27 December	Wednesday 3 January

A weight limit of 100kgs applies. If your bin is too heavy, the truck cannot pick it up.

Please be advised that the collection schedule for the following week will resume as normal. Council appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this holiday period.

**T** 03 5027 5027 **E** council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au wentworth.nsw.gov.au

 $\bigcirc$   $\bigcirc$ 



#### **OUR HISTORY**

**SEE & DO** 

**EAT & DRINK** 

**STAY & RELAX** 

**SHOP & BROWSE** 

**TOURS & TRAILS** 





#### Visitor Information Centre

Phone 03 5027 5080 66 Darling Street, Wentworth Mon to Fri 9am-4pm Sat & Sun 9am-1pm Public Holidays 9am-1pm Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, Good Friday & ANZAC Day.







# Looking for a career in Local Government?

Wentworth Shire Council has an exciting future and we are currently seeking self-motivated and passionate individuals to add to our expanding team.

Join Wentworth Shire Council and enjoy being part of a progressive, community-driven working environment that has the best interests of the Shire at its forefront.

Wentworth Shire Council is an equal opportunity employer with excellent working conditions and a positive teamfocused culture. Council values include:

- Honesty and Integrity
- Accountability and Transparency
- Respect
- Quality
- Commitment

Being employed at Wentworth Shire Council has a range of benefits which include:

- Accrued Rostered Days Off over the course of a year on top of four weeks' Annual Leave\*
- Long Service Leave entitlements after five years' service
- Professional development opportunities

For further information on advertised positions and details on how to apply, contact Glen Norris, Manager Human Resources: P: (03) 5027 5027 | E: human.resources@wentworth.nsw.gov.au or go to wentworth.nsw.gov.au/employment



\*Rostered Days Off not available on all positions (for example; management roles). Enquire for further details.











#### Contact

- 9 Main Service Centre 26-28 Adelaide Street, Wentworth
- Postal Address PO Box 81, Wentworth NSW 2648
- (03) 5027 5027
- council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au
- **wentworth**.nsw.gov.au

Have Your Say: wentworth.nsw.gov.au/have-your-say

> Copyright © 2023 Wentworth Shire Council. Publication Date: 22.12.2023