



# Cessnock City News

July 2015

## Message from the Mayor



We are halfway through another eventful year here in Cessnock City.

I know first-hand through speaking with many of you that it's been a

particularly trying time in light of the recent natural disaster. I have been impressed by the level of resilience I have seen in the community, with neighbours helping each other out and local businesses banding together to support one another through these tough times.

While the storm set us back, it's worth mentioning some of the fabulous achievements that have occurred so far this year. The Japan National Football Team's visit prior to the Asian Cup in January is something I will treasure and remember for years to come. I was pleased so many of you were able to attend the Japan V Auckland City charity match and see these superstars in action—what a game! We've also had some major entertainment guests grace our region including Rod Stewart, John Farnham & Olivia Newton-John and The Rolling Stones. Not to mention the Hunter Valley Wine & Food Month, Lovedale Long Lunch, Branxton Baths' 50th Birthday and Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival.

April was a particularly poignant month, when we commemorated the Centenary of Anzac. The Councillors and I unveiled commemorative plaques at several cenotaphs and parks in Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Branxton, Greta, Weston, Abermain, Wollombi and Kearsley. I know we have many in the community whose families have been touched by wars both past and present and it was particularly special to see residents at dawn services across the local government area on Anzac Day.

I was proud to recently announce the winners of the 2015 Mayoral Academic Scholarships.

The 11 deserving winners were announced at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre in front of family members, special guests, former winners and Council staff. I believe many of the categories were gruelling for our judges to deliberate over. Thank you to the students who applied for 2015 and I encourage you all to reapply next year.

I look forward to speaking with more and more residents as events take place throughout the year.

**Mayor of the City of Cessnock  
Councillor Bob Pynsent**



*Farewell ceremony for the Japan National Football Team at Cessnock Sportsground in January 2015 with special guests from the Hunter Valley Zoo.*

# Where will my rates be spent in 2015/16?



Completed works at Broke Road East

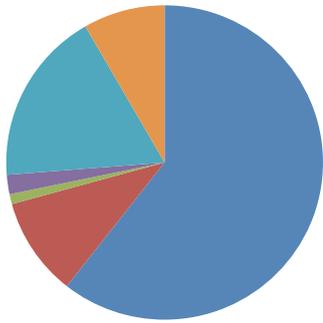


Slacks Park Wollombi



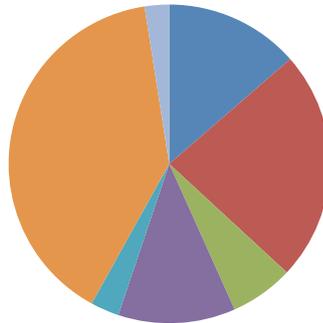
Regional Road Resurfacing (Hall Street, Cessnock)

## Income



- Rates & Annual Charges 61%
- User Charges & Fees 10%
- Interest & Investment Revenue 1%
- Other Operating Revenues 2%
- Operating Grants & Contributions 18%
- Capital Grants & Contributions 8%

## Expenditure



- Governance & Administration 14%
- Environmental 23%
- Community Services, Education, Housing & Amenities 6%
- Recreation & Culture 12%
- Public Order, Safety & Health 3%
- Roads, Bridges & Footpaths 40%
- Other Services 2%

### Some of the major capital works completed in 2014/15 included:

- Branxton and Cessnock Pools Renewal Program
- Broke Road Pokolbin Reconstruction and Widening Stage 1
- Cessnock Sportsground Access Improvements Stage 1
- Crawford's Bridge Congewai
- Greta Street Kurri Kurri Rehabilitation
- Mount View Basin Drainage Stage 2
- Regional Road Resurfacing Program
- Replace Bianca's Bridge Pokolbin
- Sandy Creek Road Mount Vincent Rehabilitation
- Slacks Park Wollombi BBQ Shelter
- Replace Millgang Bridge Ellalong
- Replace Murrays Run #1 Bridge Laguna
- Replace Vermont Bridge Mulbring
- Rotary Park Kurri Kurri Rotunda Renewal
- Turner Park Aberdare Grandstand Renewal

### Some of the major capital works planned for 2015/16 include:

- Broke Road Pokolbin Reconstruction and Widening Stage 2
- Drainage Construction Program, Aberdare and Heddon streets Kurri Kurri
- Drainage Construction Program, York, Water and Anvil streets Greta
- Hermitage Road Pokolbin Reconstruction and Widening Stage 1
- Local Road Resurfacing Program
- Pedestrian Refuges in Marlton and Edgeworth streets Cessnock
- Replace Dairy Arm Bridge Laguna
- Replace Hunters Lodge Bridge Laguna
- Refurbish Murrays Run #2 Bridge
- Refurbish Watagan Creek #4 Bridge
- Refurbish Williams Bridge Wollombi
- Rural Road Regravelling Program

### Coming to a street near you...

Check out our website for a full schedule of upcoming works in your area.

[www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

## The year ahead

We are tracking well toward strengthening efficiency, improving performance and becoming a more sustainable Council. We've been working hard to ensure we will be fit for the future under the NSW Government requirements for

the end of the 2014-15 financial year. We will also continue to implement our financial sustainability initiative—a series of projects aiming to reduce costs, increase revenues and improve value-for-money.

## Wine Country receives \$16.7m roads boost

Crucial road upgrades in the heart of Hunter Valley Wine Country will become a reality as the NSW Government announced a \$16.7 million boost for roads earlier this year. The funds are a result of a joint submission from Cessnock City and Singleton Councils in the Resources for Regions program. The joint project will see the multi-million dollar upgrade for the full length of Hermitage Road and the intersection with Broke Road, on-road cycle ways and installation of tourist facilities including signage and rest areas.

Council General Manager Stephen Glen is pleased the NSW Government recognises how critical this infrastructure is to the region, as roads are integral in connecting local mine-industry and tourist traffic.

“Use of our road networks has substantially increased over the last 10 years and we now have the financial capacity to maintain and upgrade these roads to an acceptable and sustainable standard,” Mr Glen said.

The construction phase alone for this project is expected to provide an economic boost of up to \$14.8 million for the area. Work on Broke Road has been underway since 2011, thanks to a \$20 million grant from the Hunter Infrastructure and Investment Fund. The Broke Road project has been completed in phases, with Broke Road East adjacent to Lakes Folly the first

area to be upgraded. Broke Road West has also been completed, with a new road surface and substantial drainage improvements from Harrigan's Irish Pub to Oakvale Winery.

The current Broke and McDonalds roads intersection project includes an upgrade of the section of McDonalds Road, adjacent to Brokenwood Vineyard, and Broke Road adjacent to Hunter Valley Gardens. These significant projects will ensure the wellbeing and safety of the many people who use these roads and to cater for current and future traffic needs.



*The Broke Road works crew*



*Council staff inspecting works at Broke Road intersection*

Save the date

2015 Carols  
in the Park

Cessnock Sportsground  
Friday 4 December  
Stay tuned for more details!

## Greta Skate Park upgrade complete



*Corte Taylor with Mayor Bob Pynsent at Greta Skate Park*

The concrete is dry and Greta Skate Park has reopened after upgrades were completed in May 2015. Corte Taylor, 16, of Greta was one local hanging out for the fencing to come down so he could test out the new street style elements of the upgrade. Corte gave Cessnock City Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent a few tips at his visit to the skate park.

Additional skate elements include a roll in off the half pipe installed in stage one, concrete grind ledge, spine ramp, centre slide rail, an additional quarter pipe and floating flat bank. All steel elements have also had sound dampening materials installed as part of the project to reduce noise for users and surrounding residents. The upgrade has largely been based on the recommendations from the Skate and BMX Facilities Needs Assessment 2020.

# Council meetings

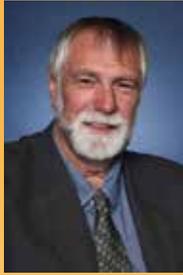
Council meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month in Council Chambers at the rear of Council's Administration Building, off Cumberland Street, Cessnock. Members of the community are more than welcome to attend. Agendas and meeting minutes are also publically available on our website.

Get to know your Councillors at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/councillors](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/councillors)

## Did you know?

We have claimed the quickest turnaround time for development applications (DAs) when compared to surrounding Hunter councils and the state average. We've reduced the average time it took to determine DAs by 25 days in just 12 months, with the average gross time down to 52 days. This is 18 days less than the state average!

### Ward A



Cr Allan Stapleford



Cr Cordelia Troy

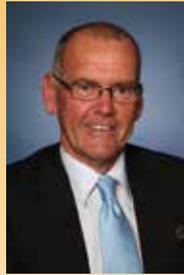


Cr James Hawkins

### Ward B



Cr Morgan Campbell



Cr Ian Olsen



Cr Bryce Gibson

### Ward C



Cr Catherine Parsons



Cr Jeff Maybury



Cr Suellen Wrightson

### Ward D



Cr Graham Smith



Cr James Ryan



Cr Rod Doherty



## What's on at CPAC?

Visit [www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au](http://www.cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au) to book your seats today!

## Contact details



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