



Cessnock City News

January 2021

A message from your Mayor

Bob Pynsent
Cessnock City Mayor

It's great to be able to present the January 2021 Cessnock City News to the community! You'll see that we have lots of fantastic works, projects and initiatives planned.

I'm looking forward to the works being finished at Bridges Hill Park Playground and upgrades on Gingers Lane, Weston including the construction of the new roundabout at the intersection.

It's going to be another busy year and we're pleased to say that events will be returning that were impacted last year due to COVID-19. Hope to see many of you for our Australia Day celebrations, the Seniors Festival and Youth Week.



The Sky Tower at Bridges Hill Playground has proved a huge hit with the kids.

A 'BIG' Agenda for 2021

Cessnock City Council's General Manager, Lotta Jackson is optimistic about 2021 with some big goals to be achieved as Council is well into delivering the 2020-2021 Operational Plan. The highlight is the more than \$30 million Capital Works Program which is made possible by Council's continued sound financial decision making and success in applying for grant funding.

Ms Jackson said Council will continue its commitment to financial sustainability.

"I'm proud of last year's annual report. Despite COVID-19 and the challenges that arose, we delivered and came out with a modest deficit of \$203,000. A pleasing result considering the adverse experience of other councils across NSW. We look forward to finalising a number of projects, such as Gingers Lane and the installation of the roundabout at the intersection, and commencing work on other significant projects including the \$8.8 million Cessnock Airport upgrade and the \$4.7 million upgrade of the Kurri Kurri CBD."



The Council crew working on the upgrade featured with General Manager, Lotta Jackson and Mayor Cr, Pynsent at the intersection of Gingers Lane with Government Road, Sawyers Gully Road and Hart Road.



A 'BIG' Agenda for 2021 Key Projects



Better Access

- Branxton to Greta Cycleway Project
- Cessnock Shared Pathway Program (Cumberland, Bridge, Quarrybylong Streets)

Economic Development and Tourism

- Cessnock Airport upgrade
- Kurri Kurri Commercial Centre Upgrade



- Yango Creek Road Bridge, Wollombi
- Camp Road and Mansfield Street, Greta
- Mitchell Avenue, Kurri Kurri

Roads and Bridges

- Cessnock Pool Splash Pad Construction
- Miller Park Masterplan Implementation
- Stage 1 Millfield Skatepark

Open Space and Community Facilities



You can keep up to date with Council's works via Council's website.



Infrastructure Manager Katrina Kerr, General Manager Lotta Jackson and Mayor, Cr Pynsent at Kline Street Bridge, Weston which is set for an upgrade.

\$13 MILLION IN FUNDING SECURED

YOUR WISHES GRANTED

We know our community are always happy to see more improvements, upgrades and maintenance works happening across the LGA. We want to grant your wishes, but like everyone else we have a budget. That's why we apply for grants at every opportunity. Since the last edition of Cessnock City News we've secured over **\$13 million**. See for yourself!



\$1.5 million for cycleways and shared pathways in the Cessnock CBD.

NSW Government Active Transport Grant



\$3.7 million for local roads – Old Maitland Road, Sawyers Gully, Mitchell Avenue, Kurri Kurri and Cessnock Road, Weston

Australian Government and NSW Government Grant



\$650,000 for Kline Street Bridge, Weston

Australian Government's Bridges Renewal Program



\$2 million for Oakey Creek Road, Cessnock

Transport for NSW



\$2.2 million for local roads, community infrastructure with a focus on boosting the local economy

Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program



\$1 million for a school zone upgrade, Weston, Branxton Town Centre upgrade, Government Road, Weston and upgrades at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre and Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre

Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program



\$343,500 Sandy Creek Road - Quorrobolong to Mt Vincent

Australian Government Black Spot Program



\$145,000 for bushfire recovery and tourist projects

Resilience NSW and Regional Tourism Bushfire Grants



\$1.3 million for the Cessnock Pool Splash Pad, Beautification of Rotary Park Kurri Kurri, Disadvantaged Youth Driver Training Program and Cessnock City Cultural Hub

Restart NSW Resource for Regions Fund

NEW ERA FOR THE ARTS AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

2021 is a big year for the arts in the Cessnock Local Government Area. We're at the concept stage of a redesign of the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre (CPAC) to develop a working 'cultural hub'.

The project valued at \$2 million is an investment in the arts and it's anticipated it will allow for exhibition style events, intimate contemporary performances and a workshop area that will host a diverse range of activities. Curator of Performing and Creative Arts Vicki Sienczuk said "the cultural hub will provide the community with an exciting facility able to deliver high quality, energetic and accessible art, performances and cultural programming for the enjoyment of residents and visitors."

We look forward to keeping you in the loop as we progress the creation of this unique community space for the arts.

The CPAC building on the corner of Vincent and Aberdare Streets is set for quite the makeover.

YOU SUPPORTED LOCAL!

We wanted to thank every resident and visitor to the Cessnock Local Government Area that made an effort to shop locally during the last six months. Your support has made a difference! Data from October 2020 indicates that businesses in Cessnock are experiencing about a 30% increase in spending compared to October 2019. It's a ripple effect with data for Kurri Kurri, Greta and Branxton also showing increased spending. This followed our Support Local Campaign which was launched last year as we suffered a downturn in visitors to the region due to bush fires and COVID-19. The campaign, a collaboration between our Economic Development Team and local business chambers, continued into Christmas. It is a success with our locals backing each other and shopping local!

Things for 2021 are shaping up well for our business community and this has been echoed by new cafe owners Phil and Luke Collins from Quick Bites.



Café Owner - Phil Collins

"Since our doors opened we have continued to see an increase in customers week after week. We've also decided to keep our doors open longer to meet the needs of customers who may be after an afternoon caffeine hit or bite to eat," said Phil.



Cessnock City eNews
Connecting our Community

Stay up-to-date with the latest news, events, projects and services across the Cessnock LGA. Visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au to subscribe.

WASTE AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

We're excited to announce the launch of the Waste Avengers Blog. The blog is designed for the superhero in all of us who wants to do their bit to avoid waste and save planet Earth! It's an online space where community members, organisations and businesses can share their own experiences, journeys, ideas and tips on waste avoidance. Check out the blog at cessnock.nsw.gov.au/waste-avengers and learn how you can avoid generating waste!



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CPAC RETURNS IN 2021!

With 2021 finally here, CPAC are looking ahead to a stellar year of stunning entertainment and live performance. In a departure from tradition, 2021 will be a 'Season in Two Parts', with Act One covering January through to June. A number of productions that were scheduled for their 2020 Season will be joining an already bumper line-up of shows in 2021.

The 2021 Season Act One brochure is available now from a number of locations. To find out where you can get a copy, or for the most up-to-date information on all CPAC shows, visit cessnockperformingartscentre.com.au.



WHAT'S ON IN 2021



WE'RE ALL PART OF THE STORY.

Visit cessnock.nsw.gov.au for a full list of events near you.

YOUTH WEEK

16- 24 APRIL

Cessnock City SENIORS FESTIVAL

14- 24 APRIL

MATTRESS DROP-OFF

Drop off your old mattresses and ensembles FREE of charge.

**20 MARCH (Cessnock)
31 JULY (Kurri Kurri)
30 OCTOBER (Cessnock)**

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL CLEANOUT

Sunday 2 May

Visit cessnock.nsw.gov.au for more information



STAY IN TOUCH



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