



Cessnock Council Mayor Jay Suvaal.

## A message from your Mayor

After the 2022 major flood events, we have made significant steps in repairing our infrastructure and ensuring safer travel for everyone. The road networks have been a priority, and I'm pleased to see the positive impact of our efforts.

We have witnessed remarkable progress in the revitalisation of Kurri Kurri Town Centre. With careful planning and community input, we are transforming the area into a vibrant and attractive hub for residents and visitors. The updates reflect our commitment to creating a welcoming and thriving community space.

Key infrastructure projects have been successfully completed, showcasing our commitment to progress. Noteworthy achievements include the Camp Road upgrade, the Maybury Peace Park renovation, the Yango Creek Road Bridge reconstruction, and the Oakley Creek Road upgrade in Pokolbin. These accomplishments demonstrate our dedication to improving accessibility and infrastructure throughout our city.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting projects on the horizon. The Wollombi Road upgrade is aimed at enhancing transit and reducing congestion, ensuring a smoother and more efficient travel experience for all. Additionally, the much-needed repair of Sandy Creek Road

will address safety concerns and contribute to the overall well-being of our community.

In recent times, we have celebrated some community events that have brought joy and unity to our residents. The Seniors Festival showcased our deep appreciation for the wisdom and contributions of our senior citizens. The Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival brought back fond memories and created new ones, filling our streets with laughter and a sense of togetherness. Furthermore, the Mayoral Scholarship continues to empower our talented scholars, providing them with opportunities to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact. I'm looking forward to the Our Bushland Festival in September. With planning already underway, I know it's going to be bigger and better than the inaugural event last year.

As we move forward, rest assured that the Cessnock City Council remains dedicated to serving our community and striving for progress. We value your input and encourage you to actively engage with us, as together, we can continue to make Cessnock City a place we are proud to call home.

**Jay Suvaal**  
Mayor

## Come join our team and jump start your career at Council!

We currently employ 25 staff in a number of different Apprentice, Trainee and Undergraduate positions including; Sports Turf Management, Mobile Plant Technology, Carpentry, Business Support, Landscape Construction, Engineering, People and Culture, Building Surveying, Customer Relations, Parks and Gardens, Construction, Strategic Planning, Plumbing and Travel and Tourism.

These positions provide an individual with a dynamic work environment, on-going professional development

and a supportive on-the-job-learning experience as well as a formal qualification.

We will be recruiting for our 2024 intake this Spring. Our adverts will be published on our careers page: <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Council/Careers/Current-vacancies> in late August and will consist of a mix of roles in various departments. Our friendly Talent team are always more than happy to respond to any queries you may have about positions at council and can be contacted at [recruitment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recruitment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)



Pictured from left to right: Vincent Morris, Hayley Hodge, Ayden Crosdale, Abbey Chapman, Helen Campbell, Indiarna De Jorge, Trinity Smith, Harrison Woolley and Max Thomas



Cessnock City Council has prioritised investment in road and infrastructure improvements in its recently adopted 2023/24 Operational Plan. The plan was adopted by Council at its meeting on 21 June and outlines our key priorities over the next 12 months.

Upgrading community infrastructure, and undertaking work on local roads, footpaths and bridges continue to be key priorities under our plan, reflecting community feedback that stressed the importance of road investment and maintenance.

The Operational Plan includes a \$44.9 million investment in road and infrastructure improvements, incorporating road renewal programs, drainage and bridge construction, along with a further \$5.5 million on works support services and facilities.

The Operational Plan 2023-24 marks the second year of Council's current Delivery Program. Some of the key highlights include road rehabilitation for Mount View Road, Cessnock, Orange Street, Abermain and Sandy Creek Road, Quorrobolong, the upgrade of Wollombi Road, bridge replacements at Watagan Creek, Laguna and Westcott Street, Cessnock, natural disaster rehabilitation for the Yango Creek Road Causeway and Glenloona Road, Laguna, flood mitigation works for South Cessnock, an RFS Aviation Fire Base at Cessnock Airport and the construction of multi-purpose courts at Miller Park.

Lastly, I look forward to seeing the completion of works at Performance Arts Culture Cessnock in the coming months. Once completed, this important project will see the City of Cessnock once again having a regional art gallery and exhibition space available for the community to experience and enjoy. The new gallery will enable our community to showcase its creativity, and reflects the talent and diversity of our growing city.

**Ken Liddell**  
General Manager

## Works Update

### RECENTLY COMPLETED

- **Wollombi Road, Millfield Stage 7.2 and 7.3:** Road Rehabilitation
- **Yango Creek Bridge, Wollombi:** Bridge reconstruction
- **Cessnock Road, Weston:** New kerb and gutter / pavement rehabilitation / surface resealing
- **Oakey Creek Road, Pokolbin:** Safety upgrades over 1.1 kilometres of the road
- **First Street, Weston:** New Footpath
- **Cessnock CBD to Bridges Hill Park:** Shared Pathway
- **Camp Road / Mansfield Street, Greta:** Road Upgrade
- **School Zone Infrastructure, Road Safety Program:**
  - Holy Spirit Primary School • Kurri Kurri High School • Kurri Kurri Public School
  - Stanford Merthyr Infants School • Weston Public School • Paxton Public School
- **Weston Street, Weston:** Pathway
- **Deasys Road, Pokolbin:** Road Renewal

### CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

- **Kline Street, Weston:** Bridge Replacement
- **Sandy Creek Road, Quorrobolong:** Pavement rehabilitation
- **Quorrobolong Road, Kitchener:** Shoulder widening / road alignment / pavement reconstruction / surface resealing
- **Old Maitland Road, Cessnock:** Shoulder widening / road alignment / new drainage construction / full pavement reconstruction / surface resealing / guardrail installation
- **Bridges Hill Park to Wine Country Drive, Nulkaba:** Shared Pathway Construction
- **South Cessnock Bund Wall:** Flood Mitigation Construction
- **Crawfordville Park, Millfield (Rosehill Estate to Crawford Park):** Shared Pathway Construction
- **Mount View Road, Cessnock:** Road Rehabilitation / Water main relocation

### UPCOMING PROJECTS

- **Mount View and McGrane Street Cessnock:** Pedestrian Refuge
- **Branxton to Greta Cycleway:** Stage 3 – continuation of the shared pathway to link Branxton and Greta
- **Nelson Street, Greta:** Shared pathway between Greta train station and High Street (New England Highway)
- **Cessnock CBD to West Cessnock Public School:** Shared Pathway
- **Shared path between Log of Knowledge Park and Neath Street, Pelaw Main**
- **Murrays Run Road, Murrays Run:** Road Rehabilitation
- **Orange Street, Abermain:** Road Rehabilitation
- **George Downes Drive, Bucketty:** Road Safety Improvements
- **Sawyers Gully Road, Sawyers Gully:** Road Rehabilitation



You can keep up-to-date with Council's works at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/works](https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/works)

# Grant Wins for Our Community

Did you know many of the projects you see happening across the Cessnock LGA are grant funded by the NSW or Federal Governments?

We often hear residents asking why we're spending their rates on projects like parks and events, when they would rather us use it to fix the roads. The thing is, when Council is successful in securing a grant, the money can only be spent on the project identified in the application.

Cessnock City Council is proud to have a great track record when it comes to successful grant applications as it gives us extra money to deliver a range of important projects to our community. In fact, without grant funding, our \$78.4 million Capital Works Program would be \$34 million less!

Here are some of the grants we have won since January 2023:



Mayor Suvaal at Chinaman's Hollows Fitness Loop

## NSW Government Resources for Regions (Round 9) Grant program

- ✓ **\$602,421** Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre Outdoor Cinema and Amphitheatre (Park)
- ✓ **\$150,000** Employment Shuttle Pilot Program - Cessnock to Wine Country Jobs Shuttle
- ✓ **\$377,797** East End Oval, Cessnock Spectator Seating and Improved Access
- ✓ **\$320,000** Greta Central Oval - Floodlighting
- ✓ **\$330,000** Clifleigh Public Amenities
- ✓ **\$530,000** Miller Park Multipurpose Courts
- ✓ **\$626,377** Branxton Town Centre - Church Street to Anvil Creek Bridge (Northern-side)

## Stronger Country Communities Fund (Round 5)

- ✓ **\$592,000** Bridges Hill Local Skatepark Upgrade
- ✓ **\$337,000** Jeffrey Park (Kearsley) - Upgrade to Tennis Courts
- ✓ **\$290,000** Greta Central Oval Fenced Off Leash Dog Exercise Area
- ✓ **\$164,123** Chinaman's Hollow Outdoor Fitness Equipment & Fitness Loop
- ✓ **\$138,000** Carmichael Park, Bridges Hill - Upgrade to Floodlighting

## Accelerated Infrastructure Fund (Round 3)

- ✓ **\$16.82 million** Wollombi Road, Cessnock – Road Widening and Intersection Improvements

## Highlights of Cessnock City's 2023/24 Budget

Cessnock City Council's \$78.4 million budget for this financial year includes hundreds of projects and initiatives that will provide far reaching social, economic and environmental benefits to our community. Below is a snapshot of some of the highlights in the budget:



**\$44.9 million**  
for accessible infrastructure and better transport links



**\$5.5 million**  
for improved works support services and facilities



**\$12.4 million**  
for open spaces and community facilities



**\$3.2 million**  
for flood management



**\$1.6 million**  
on economic development and tourism



**\$1.4 million**  
for waste and environmental management



**\$1.8 million**  
for airport operations



Bridges Hill Playground

## South Cessnock Flood Mitigation



The South Cessnock Flood Mitigation Construction Project, aimed at addressing flooding issues in the area, is set to begin in September 2023 and finish in 2025. The project involves three stages:

- 1. Channel Diversion & Widening:** Construction of a 120m long by 18m wide channel to redirect water away from properties.
- 2. Levee/Road Raising:** Construction of a small levee along Quarrybylong Street and raising of Quarrybylong Street near Edgeworth Street.
- 3. Main Bund Wall:** Construction of a 470m long by 4.3m high wall along the railway line parallel to Sixth Street.

Benefits of the project include reducing floodwater heights, lowering average flood depth, and preventing over floor flooding. Regular updates can be found on the South Cessnock Flood Mitigation Construction page on the Cessnock City Council website.

## Australia Day Awards

Residents of the Cessnock Local Government Area are invited to nominate fellow citizen/s and/or organisations for Cessnock City Australia Day Awards. These awards aim to recognise outstanding achievement during the past year and/or contribution to the local community over a number of years.

For more information and to cast your nomination, please visit: [cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Council/Civic-events-information/Australia-Day-Awards](https://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Council/Civic-events-information/Australia-Day-Awards)

## Have Your Say at Together Cessnock

We have a number of projects open for feedback and would like to hear from you!

Visit [together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](https://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au) to read more and have your say.

## Payble is Here!

Payble is now available as an additional, flexible payment solution for your rates.

Scan the QR code on your rates notice or visit: [cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Property/Rates/Paying-your-rates](https://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Residents/Property/Rates/Paying-your-rates) for more information.

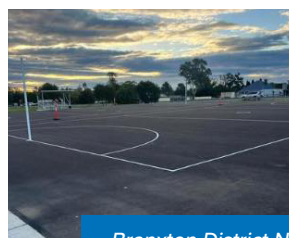
## Giving Back to the Community



Cessnock Council's Procurement team identified that via purchase orders between July 2022 and April 2023,

council spent **\$23,319,082.81** with local suppliers in the LGA. From this amount, **\$11,048,181.47** was calculated as being spent back into the local economy and community by these suppliers.

## Branxton District Netball Club Ready to Use



Branxton District Netball Club's new netball court (pictured left) and sheltered grandstand (right).

Cessnock City Council is excited to announce the finalisation of works to extend the Branxton District Netball Club's netball and tennis courts.

Former Branxton District Netball Club President, Corrie Brooking, and Tennis President, Justin Priddis, worked with council in gaining grant funding to improve these sporting facilities for the community.

The upgrades included the addition of two netball courts and tennis courts, a water system, sheltered grandstands, and a PA system.

We're looking forward to seeing members of the community enjoying the new and improved spaces!



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# WHAT'S ON IN 2023



**OUR BUSHLAND FESTIVAL**

SAVE THE DATE!

Join a weekend of fun and adventure to celebrate Our Bushland Areas!

**9 & 10 SEPTEMBER 2023**

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**FIND OUT WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY!**

**Cessnock City Library**

Find out what's on at your local library! Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries host a fantastic program of events. Find out more at [cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries/Whats-on](https://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries/Whats-on)

**MATTRESS DROP-OFF**

Drop off your old mattresses and ensembles for FREE

**SAT 22 JULY 2023  
SAT 14 OCT 2023**

For more info, search "mattress drop off" at [cessnock.nsw.gov.au](https://cessnock.nsw.gov.au)



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