

COMMUNITY News



WHY DO WE RESURFACE ROADS THAT LOOK OK?

One of the most common things we hear from the community about roadworks is...

*"Why are you resurfacing that road!? It looks perfectly OK to me.
You should be spending our rates on roads that really need fixing!"*

Although you may see us doing roadworks that seem to be unnecessary or of low priority there's actually good reason for this work. We all know it's a false economy to wait until paint is flaking before you repaint. If you do that, the job ends up being a lot bigger and more expensive, often with more repairs being needed. Better to paint at regular intervals over time to keep the surface performing its function as a protective layer.

Looking after roads is similar. While the road structure underneath (the "pavement") is designed to last for up to 80 years, the surface lasts only 10-15 years. If left to deteriorate, water seeping through the surface will damage the pavement requiring more expensive repairs. This is why Council's Asset Management Strategy considers the life cycle of a typical road and separates roadworks into 3 phases.

Phase 1 Surface treatment - the road surface is less than 10-15 years old with little or no surface defects. Looking after roads in this phase prevents them from deteriorating to Phase 2. These surface treatments can include rejuvenation surfacing to counter the effects of oxidation of the bitumen, micro-surfacing or just a new spray seal wearing course.

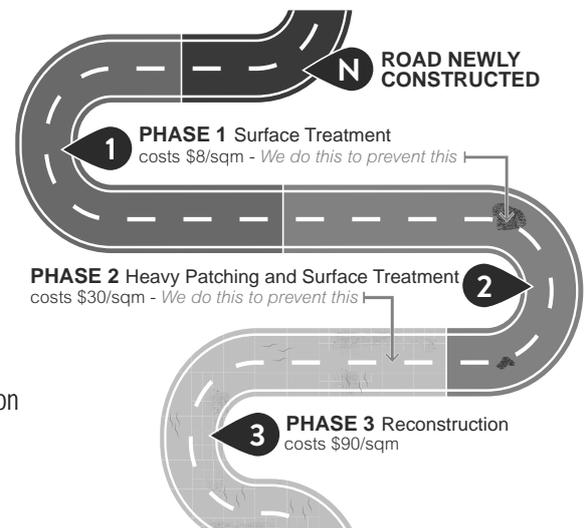
Phase 2 Heavy patching and surface treatment - these roads haven't had a surface treatment in the last 10-15 years and have some surface defects including cracks and potholes. The cost of a Phase 2 project is usually three times more than a Phase 1 project. The worst roads in Phase 2 should be prioritised first, to prevent them from deteriorating into Phase 3.

Phase 3 Reconstruction - these roads have deteriorated to such an extent that full reconstruction is required. A Phase 3 project is usually three times more expensive than a Phase 2 project.

The majority of our roads are in Phase 1 and 2 and the challenge is to stop these road deteriorating into Phase 3. Over time, by intervening in Phase 1 and 2, the list of roads in

Phase 3 will decrease and the overall condition of our roads will improve.

This approach ensures that relatively good roads are not left to deteriorate, thereby avoiding expensive repairs in the future, while also having a road reconstruction program for those roads that are in poor condition. If you'd like to know more about Council's Capital Works Program visit wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/current-projects
At the end of each financial year work priorities are reassessed and the program is updated.



Launching soon
Council's new easy to use website
will be launched this month!

Get ready to click wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



Merry Christmas

Wollondilly Shire Council would like to wish all our residents a very Merry Christmas!

2018 has been a big year for us, including the implementation of our largest ever Capital Works Program, strong advocacy for Koala protection and the signing of the Western Sydney City Deal. We've also seen the impact of a severe drought on our farmers and witnessed the amazing support of the community who have come together behind them.

Please stay safe during the festive season and we hope you get the opportunity to enjoy the company of those you care about. We look forward to working with you in 2019 to continue to make Wollondilly the best place that it can be.

What's happening IN WOLLONDILLY

JOIN US IN PICTON FOR AUSTRALIA DAY 2019!

Celebrate Australia Day at the Picton Botanic Gardens on Saturday 26 January.

From 8am there will be FREE bacon and egg rolls and loads of activities for the kids including Face Painting, Jumping Castle, Petting Zoo, Reptile Display, Information Stalls and more.

The formal celebrations commence at 9am with the popular Veteran's Flag Parade, Citizenship Ceremony, raising of the Australian, Aboriginal and Wollondilly Flags and the presentation of the 2018 Australia Day Awards.

For more information call the Events Team on 4677 9505 or events@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au



SECOND CHANCE FOR SHELTER DOGS

There have been some great outcomes at Wollondilly Animal Shelter this year, with many dogs finding their forever homes and even going on to new careers as Pet Therapy Dogs.

One of these success stories, Pumpkin arrived at the shelter as a stray suffering from skin allergies. Her new owner Phillipe said, "Pumpkin is doing really well. Her skin has cleared up and she now has a shiny full coat."

Phoenix, who is now called JJ, is a three legged dog who also came to the shelter as a stray, but now lives happily with his new family in Victoria.

Three year old Bull Arab, Scarlett was adopted by one of the volunteers at the shelter and was able to have her medical condition treated with support from the Forgotten Souls Rescue Group.

Scarlett often visits the shelter to help with temperament testing and socialising the other dogs. Scarlett is a PAWS Pet Therapy dog and attends Mary Broomsbank School every Monday, which she loves.

In the 17/18 financial year over 90% of dogs from the shelter were rehomed.



BECOME A FAMILY DAY EDUCATOR

Are you looking for a flexible and rewarding career at home?

Are you passionate about working with children and want to play a part in shaping their futures while running your own business from home? Why not combine your passion for children with the opportunity to create a rewarding and flexible career as a professional family day care educator.

Educators are needed in many localities across Wollondilly. They need to be people who are warm, caring and enjoy being

with children; are willing to work flexible hours; are prepared to obtain a Certificate 3 in Children's Services; and are willing to work under Government regulations.

Being an Educator will enable you to earn money in your own home while supporting families in the community by offering quality childcare. You will receive support, resources and training from our qualified staff.

If you are interested in further information on becoming an Educator, please call Family Day Care on 4677 8200.

2019 NSW SENIORS FESTIVAL DATES

The 2019 NSW Seniors Festival will be from Wednesday 13 – Sunday 24 February 2019. Seniors Festival events in Wollondilly will be announced shortly. Keep an eye out on [Council's Facebook](#).

PLANNING PROPOSAL

Council is seeking feedback on a planning proposal to introduce a minimum lot size for Dual Occupancies for land zoned R2 Low Density Residential, R3 Medium Density Residential and B4 Mixed Use. Visit wollondilly.nsw.gov.au for details. Submissions close 1 February 2019.

HOUSEHOLD CLEAN UP

Keep an eye out for your new clean up flyer which will start arriving from late November 2018. This flyer provides the next two clean up dates for your property.

You can look up your clean up dates online

1. Visit Wollondilly Shire Council public maps online maps.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/waste
2. Click House Address at the bottom left of the screen. Type in your street address (eg.170 Smith Street) click Search.
3. You will see all the details of your waste services listed to the right of the map.

MINERS FOR FARMERS PROGRAM

Following a temporary closure of the Tahmoor mine in September, Council helped to facilitate a 'Miners for Farmers' exercise whereby miners were voluntarily redeployed to help out some of our local farmers struggling with the impact of the drought.

Council's Farmer Liaison Officer and Coordinator of the program, Michelle Close said, "the exercise was a resounding success, with many positive reports coming back from the farmers about the valuable help they received."

"Tasks undertaken by the miners ranged from fencing, digging out lantana, chain-sawing, feeding stock, repairing cattle yards and general farm work."

Assistance was provided to eight local farms between 11 September and 4 October, with between four and eight mine employees on each of the farms each day.

Ms Close's role included relaying requests for specific assistance to the Mines Coordinator and sourcing free hire of machinery from Picton Hire.

BUILDING LIVEABILITY

In March 2018 a landmark agreement between the Commonwealth, State Government and eight Western Sydney councils was achieved.

The Western Sydney City Deal commits the three tiers of government to work together and establishes a long term \$20 billion foundation for coordinated investment.

The big picture goal is “liveability”, a term that’s used to describe all those things that contribute to quality of life and the attractiveness of an area as a place to live, work, and do business. So the Western Sydney City Deal aims for positive future outcomes relating to jobs, transport infrastructure, connectivity, health, education and lifestyle.

As part of the City Deal, a \$150 million Liveability Program Fund to deliver “liveability projects” has been announced and each of the eight Councils has been invited to apply for funding of \$15 million (to which it will then need to contribute an additional \$3.75m). Wollondilly’s application has been lodged for a range of projects under the title Liveability by Design.

The most significant project being proposed is a major redevelopment of some of Council’s key landholdings in the centre of Picton.

The aim is to create a new Cultural, Civic and Community Precinct, an asset for the whole community which could include:

- New spaces for indoor and outdoor arts and cultural events
- New multi-functional community meeting rooms
- A high quality public domain where the community can meet and interact
- Facilities for education, workshops and conferences
- A smart technology co-working space enabling citizens to work from “home”
- An “innovation hub” for collaboration of governments, industry and academia
- Council administration facilities
- Opportunities for new community focussed services (health, social, government, non-government)

Other projects we’re proposing under the Liveability by Design program include:

- Two pedestrian connectivity improvement projects – in Picton and Tahmoor
- A skate park in Appin
- An enhanced district sporting complex in Tahmoor; and
- Eight outdoor exercise stations in various towns and villages

The Liveability by Design projects are generally in the early conceptual stages, so their scope and details will require further development in collaboration with our communities.

Depending on the outcome of our application for funds, we’re hoping to commence community consultation in 2019. For more information visit citydeals.infrastructure.gov.au

POOL BARRIERS

Research by Royal Life Saving Australia shows that swimming pools are the leading location for drowning deaths among young children in Australia, accounting for 52% of all drowning deaths.

Accidental falls were the main activity leading to drowning among children under five, accounting for 77% of all drowning deaths.

Home pool fencing has greatly reduced the rate of drowning in backyard pools. The Swimming Pool Drowning Index shows that there has been a 56.6% reduction in child drownings in swimming pools between 2002/03 and 2016/17.

ENSURE YOUR POOL BARRIER IS SAFE

The NSW Government Swimming Pool Register swimmingpoolregister.nsw.gov.au has a self-assessment checklist for your pool.

Council offers a Pool Compliance Certification and Inspection service to help anyone who requires a Swimming Pool Certificate of Compliance. Contact Council to obtain the application form.



PICTON HIGH REDEVELOPMENT

A project is underway to upgrade Picton High School. This is part of the NSW Government’s commitment to spend \$6 billion over four years to deliver more than 170 new and upgraded schools.

The Picton High School redevelopment will increase the school’s student capacity to 1,500 and provide modern learning spaces, a new administration area, performing arts space, special education facility, covered outdoor learning area and recreation space.

A development application has been submitted to the Department of Planning for the redevelopment. A temporary school is being built to accommodate staff and students during the construction work. This will be ready in early 2019, with the redevelopment project expected to be completed in 2022. Visit schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au to find out more.



WARRAGAMBA DAM WALL

Councillors have declared their opposition to the State Government's plan to raise the Warragamba Dam Wall for flood mitigation.

Council has written to the NSW Premier condemning the recent amendment to the National Parks and Wildlife Act to allow the World Heritage Listed Blue Mountains National Park to be flooded with the raising of Warragamba Dam. The NSW Labor Opposition and neighbouring councils will be asked to support a campaign about the potential impact of raising the dam wall on the Burratorang Valley.

Mayor Judith Hannan said, "Although we understand the need for a flood strategy for the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley and recognise the motivation to protect the people and properties in this area, we do not support a solution that floods the Burratorang Valley."

"We need to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage as well as the natural environment, plant and animal species. Once we have damaged this heritage it can't be replaced."



© Adam Hollingsworth, Water NSW

LOOKING AFTER OUR CEMETERIES

Keeping our cemeteries safe and tidy is a big task and one that we can't do without your assistance.

So when visiting we ask that you remove all withered and weathered tributes and place them in the rubbish bins.

We welcome floral tributes but respectfully request that visitors consider the placement of fresh or dried floral tributes. Artificial tributes are generally not able to be recycled and can present an environmental issue. Fresh tributes will, over time, biodegrade.

For maintenance of the grounds Council may remove and dispose of flowers and tributes on a regular basis. We thank you for your cooperation.

APPROACH TO SRV SPENDING ENDORSED

Council is working hard to deliver tangible outcomes from the Special Rate Variation (SRV) which started in the 2015/16 FY.

In early October, our 2017/18 annual financial statements were presented to Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee by the NSW Audit Office. The auditors provided positive feedback stating that, "We considered the allocation of SRV funds throughout our review of asset renewals and assets additions. We also confirmed that these funds were appropriately allocated as per the SRV Works Program including on Remembrance Driveway, Finns Road, Spring Creek Road and Werombi Road. We did not identify any issues to report."

This clearly shows that Council is delivering on our commitment to tackle the infrastructure maintenance backlog. The projects we have completed are making a real difference to how we live in the Shire. Overall, the audited financial statements show Council to be in a sound financial position with a positive outlook for the short, medium and long term. We will continue our hard work at #BuildingaBetterShire for you.

For more information on capital projects, please refer to the Quarterly Review (July – Sept 2018) and the detailed Capital Works Program - Projects Listing on Council's website wollondilly.nsw.gov.au

YOUR COUNCILLORS

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FIND OUT MORE, PARTICIPATE AND GET IN TOUCH...

Council Forums and Meetings

Community Forums and Council Meetings take place on the second and third Monday of each month (except when public holidays occur) at Council's Administration Building, Menangle Street, Picton at 6:30pm.

Agendas are available from Council's Foyer or on Council's website seven (7) days prior to the Community Forum.

Community Forum Dates:

- 3 December 2018
- 11 February 2019 (TBC)
- 11 March 2019 (TBC)
- 8 April 2019 (TBC)

Council Meeting Dates:

- 10 December 2018
- 18 February 2019 (TBC)
- 18 March 2019 (TBC)
- 15 April 2019 (TBC)

Local Planning Panel Dates:

- 20 December 2018
- 28 February 2019 (TBC)

Please note these dates are subject to change, check [Council's website](http://wollondilly.nsw.gov.au) to stay updated.

Council Contacts

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Opening Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30am to 5pm