

SPRING 2019

Singleton Edit



SINGLETON
COUNCIL



From the Mayor

With preparations well underway for the 200th anniversary since the naming of St Patricks Plains in the area we now know as Whittingham, it's interesting to consider what those early pioneers might think of Singleton now.

Clearly the colony from Governor Macquarie downwards and the Aboriginal population long before them knew the value of this area for supporting human settlements not only to survive, but to prosper. And there's no doubt that almost 200 years later, that continues to be the case.

The towns and villages of the Singleton local government area were established on the back of a lot of hard labour as part of the expansion of the colony of New South Wales, taking advantage of the rich agricultural resources to feed and sustain a growing population. Fast forward two centuries and the only shift has been to coal, and the proceeds delivered to Macquarie Street in the millions of dollars of mining royalties rather than bags of grain.

What has changed, though, is the growing awareness of the return on those mining royalties to the communities that produced them – particularly Singleton – and the need for a greater commitment from the NSW Government to ensure our ongoing prosperity into the future.

The platform already exists through the Government's Resources for Regions program, albeit with significant changes needed for a fairer and more consistent distribution of funds, without the need for a co-contribution and benefit cost ratio requirements, to benefit mining-affected areas based on the level of impact each year. This is the premise of the program that Council has presented to the Deputy Premier John Barilaro on numerous occasions, along with demands for reform.

And with Mr Barilaro held to a promise to deliver the outcomes of a review of the program soon, I don't intend to settle for anything less.

Those early pioneers, including Benjamin Singleton, who gave his name to our local government area and who is attributed as the founder of our town, set a course to improve their prospects and create a community that could flourish. And their hard work paid off in spades, for 200 years after they literally put Singleton on the map, we're still here.

As our community prepares to come together for a festival of commemorations particularly over the weekend of 13-15 March 2020, I appeal to the Premier Gladys Berejiklian and her government to also reflect on the importance of Singleton to NSW, and to work with us to ensure our area continues to thrive into the future.

Sue Moore | Mayor

From the GM

As the general manager of an organisation as diverse as Singleton Council, I'm still amazed at the range and scope of projects that pass over my desk, sometimes on a daily basis. In the past few months, we've talked to young people about their wish list for a skate park for Broke, progressed construction of a new animal management facility at Dyrring and developed a plan for the next stage of the Singleton Town Centre Upgrade.

And that's just a random selection.

Best of all, these are the kinds of important capital projects that we're delivering while keeping a close eye on the purse strings. Our attention to financial management is well demonstrated in the flat line graph of Council's operating expenses over the past five years, showing we're well and truly keeping the lid on cost increases – all while spending over \$39 million this year alone on keeping our roads, parks and playgrounds up to scratch, operating the Waste Management Facility, and assessing development applications.

And as all of us know, costs always seem to be going up, so keeping our expenses at a stable level is no mean feat.

We know it's the delivery and quality of services and infrastructure that our community will judge us on most harshly, and rightly so. But we also know people want a demonstration of value for money on the services and infrastructure Council provides, and proof that we're operating within our means.

It's a balancing act, and sometimes one that requires hard lines in the sand about what we can deliver, and what we can't. Because as our expenditure usually remains steady, there are usually no great spikes in our income either.

Yet we know also, that value isn't always measured in dollars. Sometimes it's measured in children's laughter at a playground, or the peace in sitting on a park bench, or the ease in being able to park the car and quickly duck into the supermarket on the way home.

I'm proud of our organisation's track record in financial management, and the plenty of wins we're seeing on the board to keep costs down and efficiencies up. But the real return on investment doesn't come from bottom lines or budget spreadsheets. It comes from the real reason we show up to work every day: the people in our community.

Jason Linnane | General Manager



Waste Services Technical Officer Bonnie Wilson and Coordinator Environmental Services Hamish Murdoch

Schedule in your spring clean out with Singleton Council's 2019 Bulk Waste Collection campaign locked in from 11 November.

The Bulk Waste Collection service offers residents who receive a domestic waste and recycling service a one-off opportunity each year to dispose of bulkier waste items, simply by placing them on the kerbside for collection free of charge.

But Mark Ihlein, Council's Director Planning and Infrastructure Services Group, said the collection process would be a little different this year, with Council's Rangers out and about to ensure items are not left out after the collection ends.

"As in previous years, households can take advantage of two cubic metres of domestic waste, or a trailer load of waste to be collected in urban areas from 11 November to 15 November, and rural areas from 18 November to 22 November," he said.

"However this will be the first year Council's Rangers will conduct surveillance during and after the collection to

ensure items left on the kerbside comply with requirements, as well as to ensure the safety of our community and staff completing the pickup.

"Council's waste contractor, JR Richards will also submit daily reports of collections including any properties that fail to comply with the provisions so that our Rangers can follow up."

Residents can place waste on the kerbside the weekend before their collection. Items placed out earlier will be considered illegal dumping and may attract a fine.

"And don't forget that your trash could be someone else's treasure, with sites like Gumtree, eBay and Facebook's Buy Swap Sell pages perfect to sell on things like furniture, bikes, old toys and décor items," Mr Ihlein said.

For more information about what will be accepted and what will not, guidelines for how your waste should be presented and to find out when your collection will take place, visit <https://www.singleton.nsw.gov.au/bulkwastecollection>, head to Council's Facebook page or call our Customer Service team on T 02 6578 7290.



Major Projects Contracts Manager Kieren Fitz-Gibbon, Contracts and Property Officer Megan Grima and Manager Infrastructure Services Damian Morris

Inn keeping

The modernisation of John Street is spreading, with the \$7 million Town Centre – Stage 2 Upgrade set to continue Singleton's transformation as a destination for retail, dining, recreation and leisure

With planning underway for Singleton's bicentennial, the next phase of the Town Centre Upgrade will include the area where Benjamin Singleton established his home and inn almost two centuries ago.

The \$7 million project encompasses John Street from the Ryan Avenue intersection north to Campbell Street, and from Campbell Street to the New England Highway to enhance the gateways to the Town Centre from the highway as well as improve traffic flows and pedestrian connectivity.

A key part of the project will also be consideration for improvements to address the safety of school buses exiting from Elizabeth Street onto John Street.

Funded in a partnership between Singleton Council and the RestartNSW Resources for Regions program, Council engaged SMEC Australia Pty Ltd to undertake

investigations to inform a concept design, leading to detailed design, to allow Council to call for construction tenders later this year.

Mark Ihlein, Council's Director Planning and Infrastructure Services Group, said Council would work closely with businesses and property owners at all stages of the project to ensure minimal impacts during construction.

The community will also be invited to provide feedback at the 50% design stage, when the preliminary plan for the project will be unveiled in September.

"SMEC has been on-site conducting investigations including traffic counts, geotechnical investigation, survey and utility searches. People may have noticed the markings on the footpath where studies have occurred," Mr Ihlein said.

"The intention is to improve traffic flow, promote road and pedestrian safety and bring people to this end of town, providing easy access to facilities such as Riverside Park.

"The project will extend the street beautification that has already occurred further along John Street and on Ryan Avenue: we'll see the same red poles, removal of trees and replanting and potential improvements to the stormwater network.

"Accessibility is also an important consideration, and footpath levelling and improvement is a major component of the project, particularly reducing the gradient and cross fall of the existing footpath."

Mr Ihlein said Council staff had already begun conversations with business owners and property owners in the area to minimise impacts during construction, expected to begin early next year.

"Discussions have occurred with a number of stakeholders, including our local bus companies, and we are also very mindful of the historical significance of this part of the Town Centre," he said.

"The area includes an archaeological site at the roundabout near the Dunolly Bridge, which is recognised as the location of the former Singleton Inn.

"This site is a recognised archaeological site in Council's Local Environment Plan for its heritage significance, and consideration of the proposed works on the heritage values of the site will form part of the consultation and inform design outcomes.

"We will be very keen to hear the views of the community when the concept design is available."

All feedback will be carefully considered and used to inform a final design with construction tenders expected to be called by the end of the year.

"The first phase of the Town Centre Upgrade, followed by the opening of Riverside Park, has transformed Singleton as a modern and desirable location for retail, dining, recreation and leisure," Mr Ihlein said.

"Council is looking to continue to build on that foundation to deliver social outcomes for our community, including enhancement of public space to bring people together. We are very much looking forward to seeing the results for local businesses, residents and visitors when construction gets underway next year."

To keep up-to-date about the Town Centre - Stage 2 Upgrade, including the 50% design when it is available, visit Council's website at www.singleton.nsw.gov.au

FEDERAL GRANTS SEAL ROADS BUDGET

A \$500,000 roadworks project for York Street, Singleton between George Street and Sussex Street is the biggest project to be funded under Singleton Council's Financial Assistance Grant for 2019/2020.

The Federal Government program consists of two components: the first for general purpose use distributed according to population, and a local roads component tied to Council's capital works program.

Singleton will receive a total of more than \$1.8 million under the Financial Assistance Grant in 2019/2020, including almost \$1.2 million to contribute to operating costs.

A further \$659,163 has been provided for Council roads under the Financial Assistance Grant, adding to \$1.456 million in Roads to Recovery funding also provided by the Federal Government to support the nation's roads this financial year.

Anthony Egan, Council's Director Business and Community Services Group, said while rates and annual charges accounted for almost half of Council's operating income for this financial year, followed by 24.3% from user charges and fees, the Federal Government also made a significant

contribution. "The Financial Assistance Grant combined with the Roads to Recovery funding adds up to 5.4% of Council's total revenue for 2019/2020, which means we can deliver more services and infrastructure to the community," he said.

"The roads component of the Financial Assistance Grant and the Roads to Recovery funding accounts for a significant proportion of Council's road budget under the capital works program, taking the cost of identified roads projects to more than \$10 million.

"Carrowbrook Road will benefit from both funds, with \$231,577 from the Financial Assistance Grant and \$220,000 from Roads to Recovery to arrive at a total of \$451,577 in grant funding for works in the current financial year."

Mr Egan said the other big project under the Financial Assistance Grant was York Street between George and Sussex streets, which has been slated \$500,000 in grant funding.

"A significant component of the Roads to Recovery grant will also be spent on Elderslie Road and Glendonbrook Road," he said.



Roads Project Officer Roger Crawford and Coordinator Projects Arne Redemski

HIGHWAY VERGING ON BEAUTIFUL

The major gateways into the Singleton township will become even more welcoming in the coming months, with more than 103,000 square metres of roadside to be improved with more frequent mowing and landscaping following an agreement between Singleton Council and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).

After years of negotiations, Council will maintain the landscaping in medians and verges along the entire state-owned New England Highway road corridor through Singleton, from just before Newington Lane to Maggie Street.

The contract marks the start of the implementation of Council's proposed Singleton Thoroughfare Beautification Scheme through Singleton's main traffic routes, showcasing our local government area to passing motorists.

Damian Morris, Council's Manager Infrastructure Services said the revised contract with RMS meant that Council could provide a high standard of presentation throughout Singleton's town centre.

"It's really important to our community that we focus on major roads and gateway points to present Singleton at its best," he said.

"This additional maintenance will enhance the landscaping at entry points through the major transport corridor, providing a welcoming entry for locals and visitors alike and consistency in the standard of landscaping and roadside maintenance throughout the town.

"It's these entry points that provide the first impression of our town, and great looking public spaces enhance the sense of ownership for members of our community and help make Singleton a great place to live."

Mr Morris said Council had a positive and mutually beneficial relationship with the RMS, also performing routine maintenance and ordered works services on the Golden Highway, Putty Road and New England Highway.

"These are often the first areas people see when they visit our region, so we're proud to play a lead role in making sure they not only look good, but are also functional and serviceable for motorists so we leave a lasting positive impression," he said.

"It's great that Council can work collaboratively with the State Government to deliver such high quality service for our community."

LEVEL 1

WATER RESTRICTIONS

NOW APPLY

Penalties will apply to breaches of the restrictions from **1 September 2019**. Your efforts to help save our water is appreciated. Remember, water is a precious resource and should not be wasted.

Visit **W singleton.nsw.gov.au** for more information on water saving actions and water restrictions. Frequently Asked Questions and Level 1 and 2 Restricted Activities are available for download, or by calling our Customer Service team on **T 02 6578 7290**.

Back to Singleton 2020

COMMEMORATING THE
BICENTENNIAL OF
ST PATRICKS PLAINS

13 > 15 MARCH 2020

Back to Singleton 2020 is a whole-of-community commemoration focusing on the history of St Patricks Plains with the arrival of the exploration party, led by John Howe and including two Aboriginal guides along with Benjamin Singleton, on 15 March 1820. It's also an occasion for everyone in our community to come together to mark what we love about living, working and playing in Singleton.

The Singleton Bicentennial Commemorations Working Group, representing all sectors of the community, is overseeing an inclusive series of events to mark the occasion in keeping with the significance of our area to all cultures.

You can start planning your bicentennial weekend (and invite family and friends to come and stay) with the program to include:

- **FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2020**
Community street party - John Street
- **SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020**
Community festival - Civic Precinct
- **SATURDAY 14 MARCH 2020**
Formal dinner - Civic Centre

The working group is also considering other events and commemorations, based on suggestions from the community, all throughout 2020.

GET INVOLVED

If you're from a community organisation, sports club, a local business or are just passionate about Singleton, you can hold your own event as part of the Back to Singleton 2020 program. It may be on the weekend of 13-15 March 2020, or at another time during the year.

You will receive an exclusive Back to Singleton 2020 Event Host Kit and your event will be promoted as part of the Back to Singleton 2020 event program.

For more information and some suggestions for an event you could host, view the Back to Singleton 2020 Event Prospectus at [W singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://W.singleton.nsw.gov.au) and submit an **Expression of Interest form for your event by 31 October 2019.**

For more information and to keep up-to-date with all the latest news about Back to Singleton 2020 events, visit [W singleton.nsw.gov.au](http://W.singleton.nsw.gov.au)



SINGLETON
COUNCIL

CONNECT WITH US

