



Cessnock City Mayor Dan Watton.

## A message from your Mayor

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the community for their unwavering support and for placing their trust in me following my recent election as the Mayor of Cessnock City Council. After serving as a Councillor for the last three years, stepping into this role is truly a tremendous privilege. The opportunity to serve our local community in this capacity over the past few months already has been both a deeply rewarding and humbling experience.

I'd also like to express my gratitude to my predecessor, Jay Suvaal, and his hard work over the last term of Council. I'm excited to continue advocating for local residents and exploring new opportunities for growth and unity, harnessing the potential that we have within our community. Together, we can strive for a future that uplifts every resident.

One of my highlights of my time as Mayor so far has been meeting many incredible individuals, each of whom has inspired me with their strong sense of community spirit. I'm committed to keeping everyone informed about the direction we're heading, and I encourage everyone

to stay connected through Council's Facebook page and the regular updates on Council's website.

Speaking of community spirit, our annual and much-loved Newcastle Permanent Carols in the Park was an unforgettable evening, filled with festive cheer and a spectacular fireworks display. It was a wonderful way to cap off the year with a 'bang', and I look forward for all that the new year and beyond holds for us.

My focus over the next term is driving real improvements across four core areas; connectivity, inclusivity and accessibility, helping our local businesses thrive, and improving our road network. We'll also be kicking off community engagement efforts for important initiatives like our Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Plan, as well as vital strategies such as our Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy.

Looking ahead, I'm eager to continue delivering the essential initiatives and infrastructure we need for our vibrant and growing community.

**Dan Watton**  
Mayor

## Welcome to our new elected Councillors 2024-28

Our newly elected Mayor and Councillors were officially sworn in last year in October. Alongside Clr Daniel Watton as Mayor and Clr Mitchell Hill as Deputy Mayor, our councillors representing each ward are as follows:

- Ward A: Jessica Jurd, Jay Suvaal, and Tracey Harrington
- Ward B: Chris Madden, Sarah Pascoe and Quintin King
- Ward C: Sophie Palmowski, Mitchell Lea and Mark Mason
- Ward D: Mitchell Hill, Rosa Grine and Susanne Dixon

If you'd like to reach out to any one of our Councillors, you can find their contact details on our website by visiting: [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Council/Councillors](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Council/Councillors)



Back row, left to right: Clr Mitchell Lea, Clr Rosa Grine, Clr Mark Mason, Clr Dan Watton, Clr Tracey Harrington, Clr Quintn King, and Clr Susanne Dixon. Front row, left to right: Clr Chris Madden, Clr Jay Suvaal, Clr Jessica Jurd, Clr Sophie Palmowski, Clr Mitchell Hill, and Clr Sarah Pascoe.

Please note Council's adopted schedule of Ordinary Meetings for 2025:

19 February, 2025

19 March, 2025

16 April, 2025

21 May, 2025

18 June, 2025

16 July, 2025

20 August, 2025

17 September, 2025

15 October, 2025

19 November, 2025

10 December, 2025



Since joining Council in 2022, my focus has been on refining our approach to ensure we are more tactical, adaptive and dynamic in delivering positive outcomes for our residents.

In response to community feedback, we've increasingly prioritised the enhancement of local infrastructure and improving roads, footpaths, and bridges. This shift over time has yielded impressive results, marked by our consistent year-on-year growth in the delivery of infrastructure projects. I'm proud of Council's efforts as we continue to ramp up progress across both maintenance and capital works.

Over the past year, we celebrated the completion of numerous exciting projects. Notable achievements include upgrades to Watagan Creek Bridges 1 and 3, the rehabilitation of Sandy Creek Road, the reopening of Orange Street in Abermain following extensive upgrades, as well as further progress on the South Cessnock flood mitigation works and the visionary Branxton to Greta Cycleway project.

Following the flood disasters of February and June 2022, Council has also undertaken substantial repairs to landslip-affected sites, including Stockyard Creek Road, Finchley Track and Boree Valley Road, Great North Road, and Paynes Crossing Road. Our on-going efforts continue as we focus on restoring local roads and ensuring the safety of our community.

In accordance with our adopted Operational Plan, we continue to fulfil our commitments. We place a high priority on the timely and cost-effective completion of projects underway, while preparing for future vital and exciting initiatives on the horizon. These initiatives include a CBD upgrade to Branxton Town Centre, flood mitigation diversion works at Heddon Greta, a netball facility upgrade at Booth Park in Kurri Kurri, and upgrades in Wollombi Village.

With a clear focus on excellence, we're confident our collective efforts will ensure our success and lead to positive, long-lasting outcomes for our community.

**Ken Liddell**  
General Manager

## Works Update

### RECENTLY COMPLETED

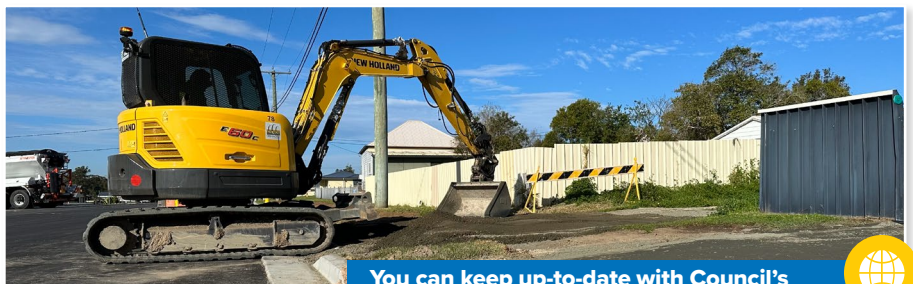
- **Watagan Creek Bridge #1, Laguna :** Bridge Rehabilitation
- **Watagan Creek Bridge #3, Laguna:** Bridge Rehabilitation
- **Orange Street, Abermain:** Road Rehabilitation
- **Mount View Road, Cessnock:** Road Rehabilitation
- **Bridges Hill Park to Wine Country Drive, Cessnock:** Stage 7 of Pathway Construction
- **Sandy Creek Road, Quorrobolong:** Road Rehabilitation

### CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

- **Branxton to Greta:** Cycleway
- **George Downes Drive, Bucketty:** Road Safety Improvements
- **Deakin Street, Kurri Kurri:** Road Rehabilitation
- **Sawyers Gully Road, Sawyers Gully:** Road Rehabilitation
- **Black Creek Stage 2:** Flood Risk Management Study and Plan
- **Greta and Branxton:** Flood Risk Management Study and Plan
- **South Cessnock Bund Wall:** Flood Mitigation Work

### UPCOMING PROJECTS

- **Thomas Street, North Rothbury:** Stage 2 Drainage and Road Upgrade
- **Kurri Kurri to Testers Hollow:** Pathway Construction
- **Booth Park, Kurri Kurri:** Netball Facility Upgrade
- **Branxton Town Centre:** CBD Upgrade
- **Cliff Street, Heddon Greta:** Flood Mitigation Diversion Works
- **Campbell Street, Ellalong:** Road Rehabilitation
- **Bathurst Street Bridge:** Bridge Replacement
- **Anderson Avenue, Paxton:** Pathway Construction
- **East Esplanade, Weston:** Pathway Construction
- **Log of Knowledge Park to Abermain Street, Pelaw Main:** Pathway Construction
- **Wollombi Village Intersection:** Traffic and Pedestrian Facilities Upgrade



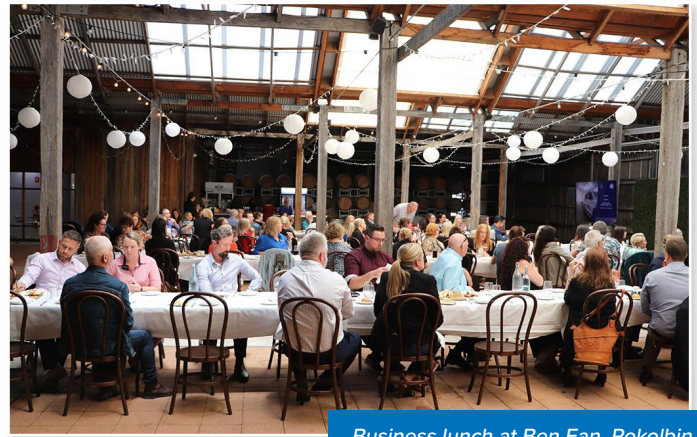
You can keep up-to-date with Council's works at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/works](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/works)



# Advance Greater Cessnock

We're here to promote investment in our region and be a support system for local businesses in the Cessnock LGA!

- We showcase current grant opportunities on our website, which would be of benefit to our local businesses. We can also provide letters of support and help with grant applications. Check out the grants finder on our website! <https://advancecessnock.com.au/grants/#grants-finder>
- We source and promote free and paid training opportunities for residents who feel may be lacking a skill for their business. Training opportunities may be online or in-person, and can be in the areas of marketing, exporting your product, cyber security, finance and much more. Check out the event finder on our website! <https://advancecessnock.com.au/business-support/business-events/#event-finder>
- We provide business assistance, and can direct you to local business chambers and organisations that can provide support. Check out the business chambers section on our website! <https://advancecessnock.com.au/business-support/business-chambers/>
- We offer free promotion of your business! By signing up for a free business profile, you will receive a dedicated post on our social media, be featured in an up-coming eNews (subscriber base of 4,000+) and remain on our Advance Greater Cessnock website. Sign up for a free business profile by visiting: <https://advancecessnock.com.au/business-support/business-profiles/>



Business lunch at Ben Ean, Pokolbin

## Stay up to date!

Sign up to our fortnightly eNews  
<https://advancecessnock.com.au/#email-sign-up>

Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/advancecessnock/>

Questions? Send us an email to  
[economic.development@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:economic.development@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

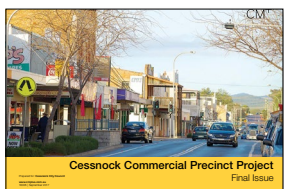
## An Update on Strategic Planning in the Cessnock LGA



### Review of Key Strategies

Council has commenced review of a number of key land use planning studies including the Employment Lands Study and Rural Land Study. These studies were last completed in 2017 and there has been considerable changes in the market, Local Government Area and key trends since this time. Council is in the initial stages of these projects, and community consultation will be carried out as these projects progress.

### Cessnock Commercial Precinct and Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plans



The Cessnock Commercial Precinct Plan was adopted in 2017 and the Branxton Town Centre Public Domain Plan was adopted in 2019. Valuable community input informed the development of these two documents. Council has commenced a review of existing plans and

guidelines applying to the Cessnock Commercial Precinct and Branxton Town Centre. Given the significant community input in the original plans, the review is considered to be an update of the existing documents. The project involves establishing the status of adopted actions, investigating the suitability and viability of pending actions, and where required identify alternate options for achieving the underlying desired outcomes for the plans. The project will consider potential opportunities and challenges on identified issues, such as flood risk, traffic and parking, active transport and pedestrian amenity. Council will engage with both internal and external stakeholders and other interested parties to inform the preparation of a revised masterplan area.

## Wollombi Road Upgrade Project



Wollombi Road

We're upgrading Wollombi Road to make it safer, improve traffic flow, and better handle more vehicles – ensuring it meets both current and future needs.

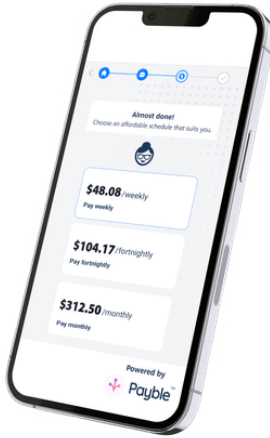
- The updated design for Stage 1 reflects feedback from our conversations with the community over the past year. You can view the design online (scan the QR code) or in person at Cessnock City Library.
- Construction is set to run from early 2025 to late 2026. During this time there will be disruption, but we'll be working hard to maintain access, so you can continue visiting and supporting the fantastic local businesses along Wollombi Road.

Visit <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Works/Major-works/Wollombi-Road-Upgrades> to view the latest designs and keep up to date with the project

## Pay your rates easily with Payble®!

Council has a payment provider called Payble® to give you an easier and more flexible range of options to pay your rates! Scan the QR code found on your rates notice to sign up today. The benefits of this system include:

- ✓ Simple one-off payments or set up recurring card payments
- ✓ Ability to pay in weekly, fortnightly or monthly instalments
- ✓ Digital direct debit sign up
- ✓ SMS payment reminders
- ✓ Safe & secure



## Our Environment, Waste & Sustainability 2024 Wrap Up

Throughout 2024, Council proudly hosted a series of sustainability-focused events, including our **Less is More** program, **Smarter Kitchens** program, Our Bushland Festival and our Native Plant Giveaway - bringing the community together to learn, engage, and take action on environmental issues. From workshops on reducing waste and conserving energy, to tree planting initiatives and local eco-markets, these events have provided invaluable opportunities for residents to connect with sustainability experts from all walks of life, and explore practical ways to create a greener future.

As we continue to build on this momentum, Council remains committed to championing sustainability through community engagement, education, and collaboration, ensuring our region thrives for generations to come. Don't forget to follow Council's Facebook page or scan the QR code in the **What's On** section below to stay across events for 2025!



Our Bushland Festival 2024.



Free Plant Giveaway 2024.



# WHAT'S ON IN 2025



**FREE BBQ AND POOL ENTRY**

**AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS CEREMONY**

Celebrate **Australia Day** with Cessnock City Council

**26 JANUARY, 2025**

Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram for more information!

**THE QUEEN'S NANNY**

BY MELANIE TAIT  
DIRECTED BY PRISCILLA JACKMAN

**THURSDAY · 26 JUNE · 7:30PM**  
PACC | PERFORMANCE ARTS CULTURE

BOOK NOW! ☎ 02 4993 4266 🌐 mypacc.com.au 📺 pacc

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

**SUSTAINABILITY**

EVENTS IN 2025

VIEW OUR CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS AT:  
[WWW.CESSNOCK.NSW.GOV.AU/SE2025](http://WWW.CESSNOCK.NSW.GOV.AU/SE2025)  
OR SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE

ARE YOU **LONESOME** TONIGHT

A CELEBRATION OF **COUNTRY MUSIC AND OPERA**

**SATURDAY · 26 APRIL · 7:30PM**  
PACC | PERFORMANCE ARTS CULTURE

BOOK NOW! ☎ 02 4993 4266 🌐 mypacc.com.au 📺 pacc

**MATTRESS DROP-OFF**

Drop off your old mattresses and ensembles for **FREE**

**SAT 22 FEB**  
**8am - 12pm**  
Basin Carpark Cessnock

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

CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL

**YOUTH WEEK** 2025

**9-17 April**

Join us for a range of fun, inclusive activities!

[cessnock.nsw.gov.au/YW2025](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/YW2025)

Cessnock City Library

[cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries)  
Cessnock: 4993 4399 | Kurri Kurri: 4937 1638

**Join your local library**

By joining Cessnock City Library, you'll have unlimited access to free books, magazines, audiobooks, eBooks, eMusic, eFilms, eMags, WiFi, computers, tech help, events, school holiday activities, exhibitions and MORE.

Membership is **FREE** and there is no overdue fines or reservation fees. It's also never been easier to join - simply sign up online at [cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries), pop in to Cessnock or Kurri Kurri Libraries, or give the friendly team a call on 4993 4399 (Cessnock) or 4937 1638 (Kurri Kurri).

CESSNOCK LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

**SENIORS FESTIVAL 2025**

Time to shine in this annual festival for the community.

[cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Seniors2025](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Seniors2025)

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- Together Cessnock

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