



**Memo to:** Councillor Hill

**Copy to:** Mayor Watton, all Councillors, General Manager, Directors, Senior Leadership Group and Communications & Engagement Team

**From:** Sue Page, Acting Director Planning and Environment

**Subject:** Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival

**Date:** 30 January 2026

**Reference:** CRM 2256/2026 - DOC2026/017147

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Dear Councillor Hill

I refer to your enquiry to the Economic Development & Tourism Manager regarding the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival, received on Friday 23 January 2026, as follows:

*"I don't believe we've formally met outside of being in the same room a few times at council but I wanted to reach out to you to see if you are available sometime in the coming month to have a catch up to discuss the Nostalgia Festival and it's organisation for this year."*

*I understand you've had a good amount of face-to-face with the Town's with Heart team during the handover of the event, and I wanted to check in to see how everything's going and ensure I'm properly informed as I anticipate getting a number of questions about the event as we approach it's date mid this year. If you are free sometime on a Wednesday or perhaps post 3:30pm on any weekdays in the next few weeks would we be able to set a time to chat about this event?"*

Council officers have provided an update as follows:

### **Background**

Council has assumed responsibility for delivery of the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival following the handover from Towns With Heart (TWH). Planning for the 2026 event is progressing, with the festival scheduled to take place from 27–29 March 2026.

### **Achievements to Date**

Key milestones achieved since Council assumed responsibility include:

- Completion of the full event handover from Towns With Heart.
- Transfer of the festival website and social media channels to Council control.
- Securing of 2026 design assets through the previous graphic designer.
- Website updates completed to reflect the 2026 event.
- Activation of online registration forms (including stalls, food vendors, Show & Shine, bike display and general enquiries), including payment processing.

- Completion of a business engagement survey.
- Ongoing engagement with key local stakeholders and venues.
- Confirmation of charity partners Kurri Kurri Community Services and Bikers for Kids.

### **Actions in Progress**

The following activities are currently underway:

- Development of a sponsorship prospectus.
- Event programming and entertainment scheduling.
- Traffic management planning informed by registrations received.
- Liquor licensing approvals.
- Site planning based on confirmed applications.
- Continued stakeholder and venue coordination.
- Marketing and media planning, with Newcastle Weekly confirmed as media partner.

In response to specific questions raised by Councillor Hill regarding the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival, the following information is provided for Councillors' awareness.

### **Event Duration and Format**

The Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival will be delivered over the traditional three-day format, consistent with previous years. The scope of the event has not been reduced.

The festival program will include a number of satellite events delivered in partnership with local venues, including the Drive-In, Weston Workers Club, Kurri Kurri Bowling Club and Quirks.

Proposed event times are:

- Friday: 5.00pm – 9.00pm
- Saturday: 9.00am – 9.00pm
- Sunday: 9.00am – 5.00pm

### **Event Footprint**

The event is planned to be held across the established CBD footprint, consistent with previous years, including sections of Lang Street and the area extending from the Mitchell Avenue / Victoria Street roundabout through to the Allworth Street roundabout.

Detailed site and traffic layouts are being finalised, with daily variations to the footprint. Draft mark-up plans have been prepared for each day of the event.

### **Stakeholder and Partner Engagement**

Council has been in ongoing communication with regular event partners, including car clubs and local sponsors, to support event organisation and funding. Engagement has also been extended to a number of new stakeholders, including Kurri Kurri Community Services and local schools, who have not been involved in recent years.

### **Volunteer Engagement**

The festival will continue to utilise community volunteers, consistent with previous years. Council intends to engage returning volunteers where possible, supported by a Council-wide call for additional volunteers to assist with event delivery.

## **Key Messages for Councillors**

Councillors may wish to note the following opportunities to support the event:

- Promotion of the official festival website and registration links.
- Support for sponsorship opportunities with local and regional businesses.
- Consideration of Council's presence at the event (e.g. community engagement tent) to support visibility, information sharing and engagement.

## **Key Milestones**

- January–February 2026: Sponsorship finalisation, programming confirmation, regulatory approvals.
- February–March 2026: Marketing escalation, site and traffic plans finalised.
- 27–29 March 2026: Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival delivered.

## **Additional Notes**

- The handover process from Towns With Heart was completed and required careful stakeholder management.
- All major internal and external venues have been secured, including Council facilities and local businesses.
- Historical sponsors have been contacted and have verbally confirmed support.
- Additional community and charity partners are being explored where capacity allows.

## **Next Steps**

Further updates will be provided to Councillors in the lead-up to the event as key milestones are reached.

Please note a copy of this memo will be uploaded to the Council website.