

## A message from your Mayor

We've certainly seen a hive of activity across our community since the beginning of the year, with many exciting Council projects taking shape, along with vibrant community events bringing people together.

Our community facilities across the region offer spaces for residents to come together to learn, play and connect, and it's been wonderful to see the completion of several transformative projects. Noteworthy achievements include the state-of-the-art multi-purpose courts at Centenary Park in Abermain, George Jeffery Park in Kearsley, and Greta Central Oval, revitalised Harle Street Playground in Abermain, and the completion of the Neville Tomlinson Regional BMX facility at Carmichael Park in Bellbird.

Looking ahead, the community can expect to see other significant developments, such as the commencement of works on the \$7.3 million Kurri Kurri Netball Facility, along with a \$1.6 million upgrade to the netball playing surface in Cessnock. The \$2.1 million Cessnock Regional Skate Park will also be delivered this year, offering the first regional level skate facility in the Cessnock LGA. These initiatives highlight our ongoing commitment to enhancing facilities for our community to enjoy.

Not only are we delivering great new facilities for local young people, we're also continuing to support

them in other ways. I am proud to note that this year's Mayoral Scholarship Program awarded a record number of scholarships to deserving local students, thanks to the generous support of our sponsors. Furthermore, as part of Local Government Week, Council will host its annual School Leader's Morning Tea which will feature an inspiring talk by award-winning speed painter Sarah Rowan, who will share insights on curiosity and creativity, while performing a live painting demonstration.

Our local events are vibrant reflections of our diverse and inclusive community. Both our Seniors Festival and Youth Week programs featured fantastic events that brought immense joy, while the recent NAIDOC Week celebration provided a wonderful opportunity to recognise, appreciate, and learn about Indigenous culture within our community. Looking ahead, I'm very much looking forward to the Kurri Curry & Arts Festival on 17 and 18 August which promises to be a weekend brimming with culinary delights, live music, entertainment, interactive art workshops, and more! Additionally, the Our Bushland Festival will return for its third year this September, offering three days of exciting activities for the community to enjoy, including new and fantastic initiatives – one of which you can read more about in this newsletter!



Cessnock Council Mayor Jay Suvaal.

As we approach the end of the current term of Council, I'd like to thank the community for their support, and acknowledge and express appreciation to my fellow councillors for their dedicated service and invaluable

collaboration. I am proud of what we have accomplished together, with the common goal of enhancing the community in which we all live, work and play.

**Jay Suvaal**  
**Mayor**

## A vibrant new chapter for Kurri Kurri



Col Brown Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri.

Cessnock City Council was delighted to mark the completion of the \$6 million upgrades to Kurri Kurri Town Centre and Col Brown Rotary

Park. The completion of these two transformative projects have unveiled a vibrant new city centre for the growing town.

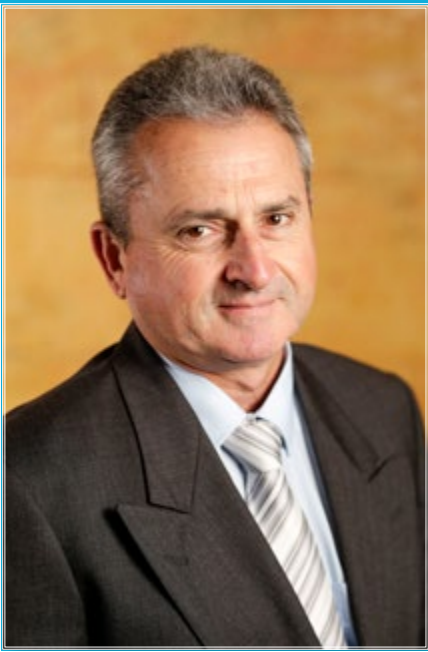
The Kurri Kurri Town Centre development encompassed a comprehensive array of upgrades, including the transformation of the commercial centre's public domain, landscaping, improved footpaths, pedestrian crossings, street furniture, lighting, street tree planting and new signage.

Residents will have also noticed the completion of a massive upgrade for Col Brown Rotary Park, which has seen the development of a new public transport hub, accessible pathways, feature tree plantings, landscaping, new furniture, increased seating, additional lighting, improvements to the amenities block and the

construction of a sandstone amphitheatre.

These upgrades are not only a great enhancement for the local community, but will position Kurri Kurri as a dynamic and inviting hub for events and tourism. The upcoming Kurri Curry and Arts Festival is just one of many exciting events set to grace this revitalised community space.

These projects were made possible with funding by the NSW Government's Resources for Regions program and the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program.



As we gear up for the second half of 2024, I'm genuinely proud of what we've accomplished so far this year, and with our newly adopted 2024-25 Operational Plan, Budget, and Capital Works Program, I can confidently say there's plenty more good stuff to come.

Delivering positive outcomes for our community relies heavily on our ability to strategically plan for the future and these plans outline our priorities, initiatives and projects that aim to address the ever-evolving needs of our growing population.

Following a record spend on capital works last financial year, our 2024-25 Capital Works Program plans to surpass this with an impressive \$79.2 million investment in community infrastructure.

We've heard loud and clear from our community that roads need to remain a top priority, and I am pleased to share that there will be a \$35 million investment in the maintenance and renewal of local and regional roads across the region. This incorporates a major upgrade to Wollombi Road, a road renewal plan for Sawyers Gully Road, and a \$5 million overhaul of Great North Road.

We will also continue our goal to keep our communities connected by creating more cycleways and shared pathways across Cessnock City. Council has committed \$5.8 million to this endeavour which will see the completion of the Branxton to Greta Shared Pathway, \$2 million invested in a shared pathway at Testers Hollow, and a shared pathway created to connect Cessnock to Abermain.

These investments not only improve infrastructure, but also contribute to the overall wellbeing and liveability of our community. With these projects and many more, we will continue to work towards a thriving, connected, and sustainable community.

**Ken Liddell**  
General Manager

# Highlights of Cessnock City's 2024/25 Budget



**\$45.9 million**  
for accessible infrastructure and better transport links



**\$1.2 million**  
for Cessnock Regional Skate Park



**\$4.8 million**  
for flood management



**\$8 million**  
for open spaces and community facilities



**\$1 million**  
for Middle Road, Paxton Road renewal



**\$1 million**  
for Kurri Kurri netball facility



**\$1 million**  
for Doyle Street, Cessnock bridge replacement



**\$10.3 million**  
for Wollombi Road – stage 1 from Allandale Road to Abbotsford Street

## Community scores with growth in grants

Did you know that many ongoing projects in the Cessnock LGA are funded by grants from the NSW and Australian Governments?

Residents often wonder why we allocate funds for parks, facilities and events instead of road repairs. The answer to this is, when Council secures a grant, the money is earmarked specifically for the project outlined in the application. We take pride in our successful track record with grant applications, as it enables us to deliver vital projects for our community. In fact, without grant funding, our \$79.2 million Capital Works Program would be \$39.7 million less!

Here are just a few of our more recent grant wins for our community:

### NSW Government Infrastructure Betterment Fund

✔ **\$4,173,931** Thomas Street, North Rothbury

### Transport for NSW Active Transport Program

✔ **\$1,775,000** Kurri Kurri to Testers Hollow Shared Pathway

### Australian Government Priority Community Infrastructure Program

✔ **\$7,500,000** Booth Park Netball Facility, Kurri Kurri

### Australian Government Investing in Our Communities Program

✔ **\$1,000,000** Kurri Kurri Sports Ground Facilities

### NSW Government Natural Disaster Recovery Funding - Essential Public Asset Reconstruction Works

✔ **\$16,675,089** Various locations

## Memorial Garden opens

Ahead of the 12-month anniversary of the tragic Hunter Valley bus crash last month, Cessnock City Council constructed and opened a memorial garden to honour those who lost their lives. The memorial garden offers a quiet, safe space for those wishing to pay their respects.

Central to the garden's design are 10 deciduous ornamental pear trees, each representing a life lost in the tragedy. Alongside these trees are individual memorial plaques, displaying heartfelt messages provided by the families.



Memorial Garden, Branxton



# Capital works program update



Multipurpose Courts at George Jeffery Park



Regional BMX Facility at Carmichael Park



Westcott Street Bridge



Macquarie Avenue Playground

## RECENTLY COMPLETED

- **Westcott Street Bridge, Cessnock:** Bridge reconstruction
- **Kurri Kurri CBD:** Town centre upgrade, including road rehabilitation and parking
- **Col Brown Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri:** Park upgrades
- **Carmichael Park, Bellbird:** Regional BMX facility
- **Harle Street Playground, Abermain:** Playground upgrade
- **Centenary Park, Abermain:** Multipurpose court
- **Pokolbin Community Hall:** Kitchen upgrade
- **George Jeffery Park, Kearsley:** Multipurpose courts
- **Bridges Hill Park, Cessnock:** Skate Park upgrade
- **Greta Central Oval:** Tennis court upgrade and new multipurpose court
- **Booth Park, Kurri Kurri:** Public amenity building upgrade
- **Baddeley Park, Cessnock:** Hockey facility surface replacement
- **Macquarie Avenue Playground, Cessnock:** Playground upgrade

## CURRENTLY UNDERWAY

- **Branxton to Greta Cycleway:** Stage 3 – Shared pathway construction
- **George Downes Drive, Bucketty:** Road safety improvements
- **South Cessnock:** Bund wall and flood mitigation
- **Bridges Hill Park to Wine Country Drive:** Final stages of pathway construction
- **Mount View Road, Cessnock:** Road rehabilitation
- **Mount View Park, Cessnock:** Regional Skate Park construction
- **Avery's Lane Playground, Heddon Greta:** Playground upgrade
- **Orange Street, Abermain:** Road reconstruction
- **Sandy Creek Road, Quorrobolong:** Road rehabilitation
- **Sawyers Gully Road, Sawyers Gully:** Road rehabilitation

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

- **Thomas Street, North Rothbury:** Stage 2 drainage and road upgrade
- **Kurri Kurri to Testers Hollow:** Shared pathway construction
- **Booth Park, Kurri Kurri:** Design and construction of new netball facility
- **Branxton Town Centre:** CBD upgrade, Church Street to Anvil Creek Bridge
- **Clift Street, Heddon Greta:** Flood mitigation diversion works
- **Cessnock Netball Courts:** Playing surface replacement
- **Weston Bears Park:** Design and construction of the amenity building
- **Baddeley Park, Cessnock:** Replacement of cricket nets
- **Kurri Kurri Sportsground:** Lighting and field improvements
- **Wine Country Drive, Nulkaba:** Shared pathway from Calvary Street to Kerlew Street



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



## Wollombi Road update

Council has commenced the design and planning stage for the upgrade of Wollombi Road which plans to improve capacity, safety, and ease traffic congestion. The public exhibition of the Wollombi Road Upgrade Project, Review of Environmental Factors is now complete. We have reviewed all submissions and developed an engagement report which can be found on the project page on Council's website.

During the public exhibition period, Council received 269 submissions. Key themes included traffic flow, construction impact, project prioritisation, and pedestrian safety. The full list of themes and our responses can be found in the online report. Hard copies are also available at Cessnock Library, Kurri Kurri Library, and the Administration Building in Vincent Street, Cessnock.

The next steps for the project include finalising preliminary engineering designs, including design changes as a result of community feedback, and seeking further planning approval ahead of a detailed design phase.

To find out more, and view the engagement report, visit:

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



Aerial image of Wollombi Road.

## Have you downloaded the Cessnock Waste App yet?

We've had a great response to our Cessnock Waste App since it launched last year, and with a new round of waste vouchers set to be released at the end of the month, we wanted to remind residents that the app is the easiest, and most convenient way to get your vouchers. Simply download the free Cessnock Waste App from your preferred app store, go to the Waste Vouchers section on the menu, and add your details. Your voucher will then appear, and you can present it to our friendly staff at the Cessnock Waste Management Centre.

The app also allows residents to set reminders for bin collection days, learn about our three-bin system, submit a form to request a new bin, and report a broken or missed bin service.

To find out more, visit:

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



## Launch your career at Cessnock City Council

Cessnock City Council's Launch Program offers a diverse range of Apprentice, Trainee, and Undergraduate positions annually, designed to propel individuals into fulfilling careers both within Council and beyond. This initiative provides robust support and mentoring, equipping participants with essential skills and academic qualifications.

Council currently employs 30 dedicated staff across various Apprentice, Trainee, and Undergraduate roles spanning fields such as 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 Tourism. These positions offer a dynamic work environment, continuous professional growth, hands-on learning experiences, and formal certifications.

Throughout the year, our enthusiastic team engages with local young people via Career Days at High Schools, TAFE, and Universities, to actively promote these exciting opportunities. We guide them through the application process, address their enquiries, and showcase the benefits of joining our vibrant team.

We are now preparing for our 2025 intake, with recruitment commencing this August. Our adverts will be promoted via our careers page at [cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Vacancies](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Vacancies) where you'll be able to explore a variety of roles across different departments. For any questions, our friendly Talent Acquisition team is ready to assist you; contact us at [recruitment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:recruitment@cessnock.nsw.gov.au). Join our team and launch your career at Cessnock City Council!



Our Launch Program has a variety of roles on offer!

# YOUR GUIDE TO THE UPCOMING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION

## Key dates



### 5 August 2024

- Last day to enrol or update your details
- Last day to apply for the non-residential roll



### 6 August 2024

- Postal voting applications **open**



### 7 September 2024

- Pre-polling **opens**



### 9 September 2024

- Postal voting applications **close**



### 13 September 2024

- Pre-polling **closes**



### 14 September 2024

- Election day!



### Reminder:

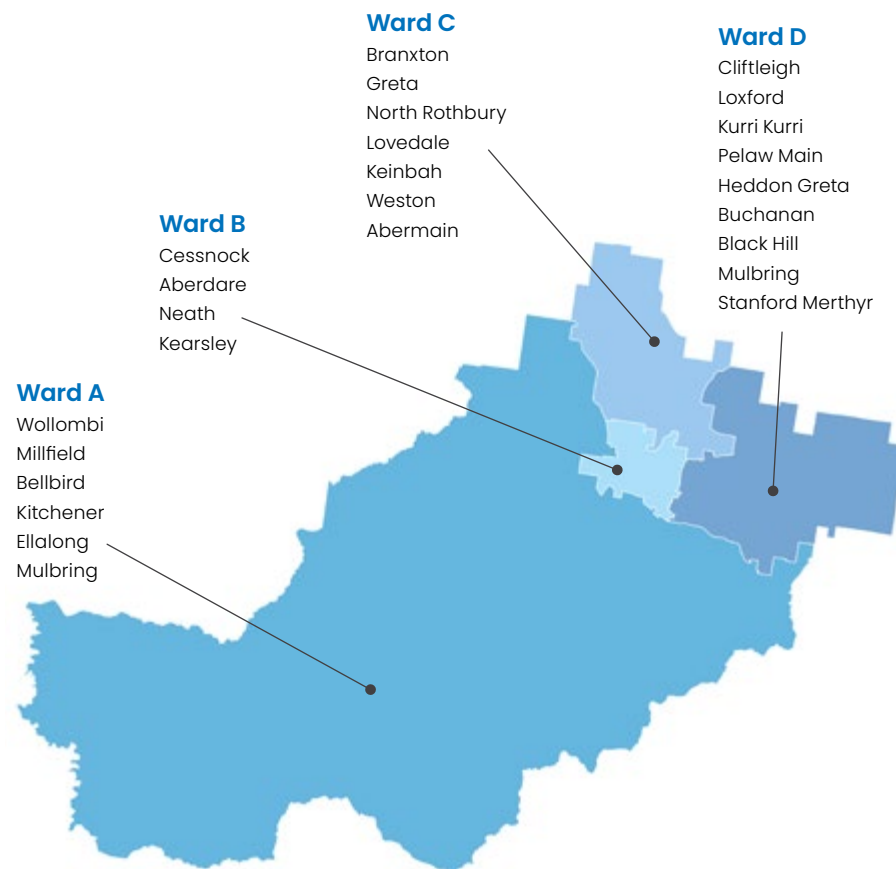
There is **no online voting** this year.

## Voting in the next Council election

Our ward boundaries have changed since the last election which means you might be voting in a different ward to last time. You can check which ward you are in by visiting <https://elections.nsw.gov.au/elections/find-my-electorate> and typing in your address on the 'find my electorate' webpage.

The areas most affected by recent boundary changes are Brunkerville, Cessnock, Elrington, Mount Vincent, Mulbring, Neath, Nulkaba, Polkolbin, Tomalpin, and The Vintage.

Our local government area is divided into four wards as highlighted on the map below:



## What if I'm not a resident but would like to vote?

The Non-residential roll (NRR) is for people who don't live in the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) but would like to vote in our election. To be eligible to vote as a non-resident, you must be:

- An owner of rateable land in the LGA or
- An occupier or rate-paying lessee of rateable land in the LGA.

Eligible corporations can also enrol to vote on the NRR for a ward or Council area. A corporation is entitled to nominate a person to appear on the roll on their behalf.

It's important to note that regardless of whether you are enrolled on the residential or NRR, you can only vote once within a council area.

To apply to be included on the NRR, complete the relevant form on Council's website at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/NonResidentialRoll](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/NonResidentialRoll) by 6pm, Monday 5 August 2024.

For more information about the election, visit:  
[www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/elections](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/elections)



## Twilight Tales - vote now!



As part of the 2024 Our Bushland Festival, join us for Twilight Tales! A free outdoor cinema event at the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre on Friday 6 September. The best part? We're letting you pick the movie – Bee Movie or The Lorax? Visit [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/OurBushlandFestival](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/OurBushlandFestival) to cast your vote and get ready for what is sure to be a fun-filled evening! Keep an eye on the Our Bushland event page on Council's website as tickets will open for bookings from Friday 16 August.

## Join your local library



Join Cessnock City Library today for unlimited access to free books, magazines, audiobooks, eBooks, eMusic, eFilms, eMags, WiFi, computers, tech help, exhibitions, school holiday activities, and a range of events for all ages.

Membership is FREE and there are no overdue fines or reservation fees. It's also never been easier to join – simply sign up online at [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/libraries).

## Have Your Say at Together Cessnock

Together Cessnock is a space for residents to have their say on important topics, share ideas, and offer feedback on policies, projects and plans.

Join today at [together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/register](http://together.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/register) to play an active role in the development of our area.



# WHAT'S ON IN 2024



**Kurri Curry & Arts Festival**
  
 Free Entry
   
 Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> August 5pm - 10pm | Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 10am - 3pm
   
 Col Brown Rotary Park, Kurri Kurri
   
[www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/KCAF2024](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/KCAF2024)

**Rachel's Farm**
  
 JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SCREENING AND Q&A with Rachel Ward
   
 6.30-9.30pm | Thursday 26 September.
   
 Tickets just \$5 for residents.
   
[cessnock.nsw.gov.au/RachelsFarm](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/RachelsFarm)

**MATTRESS DROP-OFF**
  
 Drop off your old mattresses and ensembles for FREE
   
**SAT 19 OCT**
  
**8am - 12pm**
  
 Basin Carpark Cessnock
   
 For more info, search "mattress drop off" at [cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

**OUR BUSHLAND FESTIVAL**
  
**FRIDAY 6 TO SUNDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2024**
  
 For the full program of events, visit [Cessnock.nsw.gov.au/OurBushlandFestival](http://Cessnock.nsw.gov.au/OurBushlandFestival)

**Koala Workshop: Scats, Scratches and Screams**
  
  
 Sat 10 Aug, 2024 | 1-4pm
   
 Laguna Community Hall
   
 Visit [cessnock.nsw.gov.au/KoalaWorkshop](http://cessnock.nsw.gov.au/KoalaWorkshop) to find out more and reserve your spot
   
This Inspiring Australia NSW initiative is supported by the Australian Government as part of National Science Week

**ARC by erth**
  
**SAT 14 SEP • 10:30AM & 1PM**
  
 PACC | PERFORMANCE ARTS CULTURE CESSNOCK
   
BOOK NOW! 02 4993 4266 mypacc.com.au

**Save the date**
  
**2024 NSW Local Government elections**
  
 Saturday, 14 September
   
Voting is compulsory
  
Visit [elections.nsw.gov.au/lge24](http://elections.nsw.gov.au/lge24) or call 1300 135 736

**Carols IN THE PARK**
  
**SAVE THE DATE FRI 6 DEC**

Find out more: [www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Events](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Events)



**STAY IN TOUCH**
  
[www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

- CessnockCityCouncil
- CessnockCityCouncil
- Together Cessnock

- 02 4993 4100
- [council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@cessnock.nsw.gov.au)
- 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock