

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Published 1 March 2021

## Mayor's Message

It's been great to get back into the swing of things with Council and Committee meetings this month after our brief January recess. We reviewed two important reports at our Budget Review and Finance Committee on the water and sewer service review and the Horizontal Service Review priority actions. The latter review identified a number of items to investigate which may offer cost savings in the forthcoming budget.

Council reviewed a number of reports at the February Ordinary meeting, including changes to the Code of Meeting Practice, the status of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy and Water and Sewer Asset Management Plans, and a series of matters raised by your elected Council. Anyone interested in the details can read the full business paper and Council's formal resolutions contained in the meeting minutes on the Council website. We also encourage you to contact any one of your local Councillors to discuss issues with, or to send any queries to Council directly.

The free business disaster readiness online training webinars funded by the NSW Government's Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund – Phase 1 will take place this month. Any businesses who may not have been able to attend can watch the training at a later date as the sessions will be recorded and available on the Council website. The training utilises tools from Resilience NSW's Get Ready Business framework, which is a fantastic tool for businesses to prepare for any kind of disruption.

The first review of the Uralla Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) is currently underway with the document on public exhibition and open for feedback. The LSPS is a key document used to guide local strategic land use planning in Uralla Shire having regard to economic, social and environmental matters. It will help Council with the planning priorities for the area, the actions required to achieve those priorities and the basis upon which to monitor progress. As this planning relates to the next 20 years, it's important we hear from the community about what Council should do to address our shared land use goals and priorities. The LSPS will be on public exhibition to 19 April 2021.

We received a positive response to the Listening Posts held in Uralla and Bundarra, and planning is underway for Council to extend the trial to Invergowrie, Kingstown and Kentucky. Feedback from these listening posts will be considered by Council in the future development of strategic documents and Council's annual Operational Plan, and will assist Council's decision making.

As always, residents are encouraged to get in contact with Council at any time either by mail, email, telephone, or to drop in and say hello to our Customer Service Team for assistance. We also have a convenient Contact Us page on the Council website where you can lodge a request for service or information, or to let us know what Council can do to serve you better.

Until next time,

**Mayor, Cr Michael Pearce**



*Works completed in the month of February included the Retreat Road upgrade pictured above.*

*For weekly updates on completed and upcoming Council works, check out our Weekly Works Reports on the Council website [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au) or follow us on facebook @UrallaShireCouncil for updates every Friday afternoon.*

Uralla Rotary Club *presents*

### **43rd Annual Art Exhibition 2021**

Sponsored by Uralla Shire Council

To be held in the RSL Memorial Hall, Salisbury Street, Uralla

#### **Opening Night**

Friday 19th March 2021 6:30pm  
for 7:30pm. Entry fee \$20.

Subject to COVIDSafe restrictions.

The exhibition will be open daily 10am to 4pm from Saturday, 20th March to Saturday 27th March 2021, and 10am to 2pm on Sunday, 28th March.

Entry fees: Adults \$5 - Seniors \$4  
Children under 12 years free

## ZNET News

ZNET's 'Let's Talk About Water' team has been busy speaking with Uralla Shire residents about their experiences of the 2019/20 drought and options for water security in the future. Through short workshops with community groups, ZNET has received great feedback from members of the Historical Society, CWA, and the Garden Club. ZNET is keen to offer this opportunity to talk about the effect of the drought and future water options to as many people as possible. If your sporting or community group would like to be part of a water workshop, email [water@zneturalla.org.au](mailto:water@zneturalla.org.au) to coordinate a suitable time for ZNET to visit your next meeting. ZNET will also be running focus groups in late April and early May, which will be open to everyone.



Members from Uralla Garden Club take part in a 'Let's Talk About Water' workshop.

ZNET thanks the Regional Australia Bank and Uralla Shire Business Chamber for their support of the Business Breakfast where discussions were held around water security and sustaining businesses through drought and related challenges. The event had a great turnout with many businesses from the Shire in attendance.

Want to know more about water efficiency, rainwater tanks, or water recycling? ZNET is building a library of information flyers to support community feedback. Visit [zneturalla.org.au/water](http://zneturalla.org.au/water) to learn more, and complete one of ZNET's short polls to have your say on Uralla's water future.

## Council Listening Posts

Council held a successful first run of Listening Posts in the first week of February, during which members of the community were invited to stop and have a chat with councillors and senior staff, to give Council feedback on any topic and to assist Council with its future planning and decision making.

More than 100 people contributed over the course of three days, by telling their stories and identifying important community issues. Councillors and senior staff asked community members to describe what they valued most about the Uralla Shire and opportunities for improvement over the next 10 years.

Common themes raised by the community included the value of the Uralla Shire community and the friendliness of its people, as well as the importance of maintaining the historical and small town charm of the area. Ideas for the future included infrastructure upgrades, economic development, improved accessibility, and renewables.

Given the early success, planning is underway for Council to extend the Listening Posts to Invergowrie, Kingstown and Kentucky. Dates will be publicised on Council's website and facebook page.

## Draft Policy on Public Exhibition: Code of Meeting Practice 2021

At its Ordinary Meeting held 23 February 2021, Council resolved to place the Draft Code of Meeting Practice 2021 on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.

The draft policy has been amended as follows:

- To remove reference to Pre-meeting briefing sessions;
- That minutes include the names of Councillors voting for and against each motion;
- That members of the public can register to speak on any topic at a Council meeting;
- Reasons for refusing an application to speak or present material at a public forum in a Council meeting must be in writing and provided as soon as practicable;
- That speakers who engage in inappropriate conduct can be refused by the Council further applications to speak at a public forum; and
- That the Council and committee meeting webcasts will be retained on the Council website for 12 months.

The Draft Code of Meeting Practice can be viewed on Council's website or on request at Council's Administration Offices, 32 Salisbury Street.

Written submissions can be made to Council until 5:00pm, 27 March 2021. Submissions or enquiries must be made in writing and can be submitted by letter addressed to the General Manager, PO Box 106, Uralla NSW 2358 or by email to [council@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@uralla.nsw.gov.au).

## Construction Underway at the Bundarra Sewerage Treatment Plant

The initial stages of the Bundarra Sewerage Scheme are underway with Ledonne Constructions working at the site of the Bundarra Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) just off Mount Drummond Road, Bundarra. The dry weather has enabled construction of the two initial oxidation ponds. This is primarily a bulk excavation activity with earthmoving equipment.



The next stages of the project will be to construct the pumping station on the corner of Bombelli and Oliver Street, with the rising main progressively installed along Barraba Road to the STP. Bundarra residents will have observed the heavy duty sewer rising main pipe pallets placed in the road reserve in readiness for installation from the village to the STP.

Following the construction of the rising main to the STP, the installation of mains through the village and over the bridge will be undertaken, and then the varied domestic connections within the private properties.

The Bundarra Sewerage Scheme is jointly funded by the NSW State Government's Safe and Secure Water Program and Uralla Shire Council. Assuming no unforeseen delays, Council anticipates the scheme will be commissioned by late 2021.

## Development Application and Complying Development Certificate Approvals / Refusals January 2021

Approvals:

Application No.	Applicant	Property	Development
DA-54-2020	Uniplan Group Pty Ltd	105 Marble Hill Road, Saumarez Ponds	Dual Occupancy
DA-55-2020	Mr P Keelan	9 Baker Road, Invergowrie	Bathroom Renovation & Mud Room
DA-2-2021	Mr F & Mrs K Widdison	34 Invergowrie Road, Invergowrie	Internal Dwelling Alterations – Bedroom & Ensuite
DA-3-2021	Glenn Hinds Design	150 Glenroy Road, Kentucky South	Dual Occupancy
CDC-1-2021	Mr N & Mrs N Mace	65 Barloo Road, Invergowrie	Dwelling Alterations & Additions – Attached Roofed Outdoor Entertainment Area & Detached Carport
CDC-3-2021	Stroud Homes Tamworth	10 Lighthorse Parade, Invergowrie	Dwelling including attached Double Garage
CDC-4-2021	Mr S & Mrs M Cox	41 Park Street, Uralla	Rear Deck Addition
CDC-5-2021	Moych Swamp Aboriginal Corporation	37 Uralla Street, Uralla	Roof Over Existing Deck

Withdrawals: Nil Refusals: Nil

The Notices of Determination for the above Development Applications and Complying Development Certificates are available for public inspection, free of charge, during office hours at Uralla Shire Council pursuant to Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 No. 203*.

## Public Exhibition: Uralla Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Uralla Shire LSPS is under its first review and Council is seeking feedback and input from the community.

The LSPS sets a 20-year vision for land use, describes the unique characteristics which contribute to the local identity and shared community values, and is an important guide for future growth and change in the Uralla Shire. The LSPS will be used by Council and other stakeholders to inform policy development, infrastructure planning, and community service delivery.

The document can be viewed at Council's website at [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au) or on request at Council's Administration Offices, 32 Salisbury Street, Uralla.

Submissions can be made to Council until 5:00pm, Monday 19 April 2021. Submissions or enquiries must be in writing and can be submitted by letter addressed to the General Manager, PO Box 106, Uralla NSW 2358 or by email to [council@uralla.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@uralla.nsw.gov.au).



## Save the date

### 2021 NSW Local Government elections

Saturday  
4 September

Voting is compulsory

[elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21](http://elections.nsw.gov.au/lge21)  
1300 135 736



# CIVIL WORKS

## Completed in February

- Retreat Road upgrade: Base course construction and sealing
- Rural Road Reseal Program
- Uralla Street rehabilitation

## Upcoming in March

- Commencement of Tolleys Gully Bridge construction
- Commencement of Hawthorne Drive rehabilitation
- Thunderbolts Way South: Road widening under the Safer Road (Blackspot) programme: Construction & install safety barriers

## Ongoing Works

- Resheeting rural roads

Check out our Weekly Works Reports on our website or on facebook for a weekly update on Council works.



Retreat Road upgrade.

## Catch up on your Council Meetings

### February Ordinary Meeting of Council

- Approved the Development Application for a quarry at Gostwyck Road, Uralla.
- To undertake additional communication measures with the NSW Department of Planning regarding renewable energy developments; that Councillors comment on the Thunderbolts Energy Hub Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARS); that all future Regional Significant Projects be brought before Council for comment; and to invite the Department of Planning to present at a General Manager's workshop.
- Received the 2020/21 second quarter budget review statements and adopted budget allocation adjustments.
- Reviewed the status of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy and Water and Sewer Asset Management Plans.
- Appointed Mr Bob Anderson to Committee Chair to the Uralla Township and Environs Committee.
- That Council invite Armidale Regional Council, Tamworth Regional Council, and Walcha Shire Council to participate in a joint Council workshop to identify common issues of concern and opportunities in relation to the Regional Energy Zone.
- That Council develop a media policy.
- Acknowledged the exemplary level of management and service provision in the McMaugh Gardens Aged Care Facility.

### Budget Review and Finance Committee

- Recommend that the service review information be developed in conjunction with the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy and that Council work with ZNet and undertake community engagement on water price model structure options as part of the preparation of the 2021/22 Operational Plan.
- Reviewed the Horizontal Service Review – Priority 3 Actions Summary and recommended a number of proposed actions be either investigated further or rejected.

## Meeting Dates

Consistent with current physical distancing directions and COVID Safe guidelines, there are measures in place at Council and Committee meetings to protect the health and safety of our community. For more information please visit [uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings](http://uralla.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-Meetings)

Agendas, business papers, minutes, and meeting webcasts are published on Council's website at [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au).

**Uralla Township and Environs Committee:** Monday, 8 March 2021, 6:00pm Council Chambers.

### Ordinary Meeting of Council

Tuesday, 23 March 2021, 12:30pm, Council Chambers.

**Budget Review & Finance Committee:** Tuesday, 13 April 2021, 12:30pm Council Chambers.

## Your Councillors



### Mayor

**Cr Michael Pearce**  
mayor@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
02 6775 2520  
0488 752 520



**Cr Robert Crouch**  
rcrouch@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
0428 616 885



**Cr Tom O'Connor**  
tpoconnor@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
02 6778 3684



**Deputy Mayor  
Cr Isabel Strutt**  
istrutt@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
0424 299 614



**Cr Mark Dusting**  
mdusting@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
02 6778 4538



**Cr Levi Sampson**  
lsampson@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
0434 088 055



**Cr Robert Bell**  
rbell@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
0434 244 774



**Cr Natasha Ledger**  
nledger@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
0458 116 060



**Cr Tara Toomey**  
ttoomey@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
0434 408 163



**General Manager**  
Ms Kate Jessep

**Council Administration**  
PO Box 106 Uralla NSW 2358  
Ph. 02 6778 6300 | Fax. 02 6778 6349  
Email: council@uralla.nsw.gov.au  
Council Website: [www.uralla.nsw.gov.au](http://www.uralla.nsw.gov.au)  
Tourism Website: [www.uralla.com](http://www.uralla.com)

**Emergency Contacts**  
After-Hours and Public Holidays  
Council Overseer: 0427 784 982  
Water / Sewer: 0427 784 304  
Report all Fires: 000  
SES (Flood/Storm): 132 500