



**muswellbrook
shire council**

Muswellbrook Shire Council

**CORPORATE POLICY & PLANNING
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER
19 DECEMBER 2018**



Order of Business

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
5	BUSINESS	3
5.3	EVENTS AND FESTIVALS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019	3
5.4	AIR QUALITY ADVOCACY	10
5.5	REVISED LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN	12
6	ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED COMMITTEE	14
7.1	DETERMINATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY 2019 AWARDS <i>Item 7.1 is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(a) of the local government act 1993, as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors), and the Committee considers that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.</i>	

5 BUSINESS

5.3 EVENTS AND FESTIVALS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019

Attachments:	Nil
Responsible Officer:	Fiona Plesman - General Manager
Author:	Gerry Bobsien - Executive Manager - Economic Development and Innovation
Community Plan Issue:	<i>Facilitate cultural activities and events which engage the community and visitors, and which create a 'sense of place' and identity</i>
Community Plan Goal:	<i>Increase funding to the Blue Heeler Film Festival and the Bottoms Up Beer and Music Festival with a view to engaging more locals and visitors.</i>
Community Plan Strategy:	<i>Ensure that all local festivals are supported to experience improved and increased patron engagement and attendance.</i>

PURPOSE

This report provides Council with an update on Event activity for 2018 with recommendations for Events in 2019.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council adopts the events calendar for 2019.

Moved: _____ **Seconded:** _____

BACKGROUND

Council holds a number of events throughout the year and supports and contributes to other community run events. In 2018, Council held several cultural festivals aimed at bringing new experiences to the community. This included YIELD, a dance, music performance and live mural painting event at Wiedmann Cottage, a music festival, the Blue Heeler Film Festival and an Easter Family Fun Day.

Blue Heeler Film Festival

Now in its sixth year the Blue Heeler Film Festival has captured the imagination of film buffs throughout the Upper Hunter, Lower Hunter and surrounding areas. Each year the festival has a different theme – for 2018 the theme was “RIVER” inspired by 2018 patron Sigrid Thornton and her film *Man from Snowy River*. Films were submitted in three categories: Junior, Senior and Open with the Winners taking home some fantastic prizes. Prizes included Open: (Aged 18 and over) Gold Bluey Award and \$10 000, Senior: (High School students) Award, HP laptop and \$3000 and Junior: (Primary School students) Award, DLSR Camera and \$2000.

The 2018 festival was held at Two Rivers Winery in Denman, and was well attended. The night included a variety of stalls, food and drinks, camel rides and live music by Felix Quinn Music. Winners were announced and the awards and prizes were presented by Sigrid Thornton. The 2018 Blue Heeler Film Festival concluded with a special screening of the film “Man from Snowy River”. Over 500 people attended the event. This was double the numbers of the previous year. There is need for greater

clarification about the objectives of this Festival to determine the focus on community, competition and the festival program aspects. These will be determined with greater attention in 2019.



Noisy Heeler Music Festival

The 2018 Noisy Heeler Music Festival was held in Simpson Park Muswellbrook on Saturday, 20 October 2018. Festival goers enjoyed a variety of drinks at the fully licensed bar service and a range of gourmet street food while soaking up the live music across two stages. Headlining bands on the main stage at the 2018 Noisy Heeler Music Festival included, Hockey Dad, WAAX, Gooch Palms, Bootleg Rascal, Downsyde, Pat Capocci and Little Quirks. The second stage featured local Hunter bands, Lachlan, EFRG and Elizabeth James. A flash of heavy rain and wind failed to dampen the enthusiasm of all that enjoyed the Noisy Heeler Heeler Music Festival right to the end. This was a ticketed event with sales of \$12,500. 806 people attended the Festival with numbers down from the previous year. The expenditure for this event was \$116,398 with revenue of \$14,040. It is recommended that this event not continue in 2019 due to the costs associated with the event and the risks associated with licensing requirements.





Yield

This festival aims to build on the cultural events programed as part of the Muswellbrook Art Prize. In 2017, this event was piloted with the aim to expand in 2018 following a successful grant application. Yield was a collaborative live music, dance and painting performance held at Wiedmann cottage in March. The aim of this Festival is to attract visitation for the Muswellbrook Art Prize and to draw attention to and activate heritage buildings in the town centre. This was a low cost event piloted prior to a grant application.



Easter Family Fun Day

The inaugural Easter Family Fun Day was hosted by Muswellbrook Shire Council as a free community event in 2018. The aim was to provide a free community event that attracted families of all ages within the local community while promoting local community organisations and Muswellbrook Shire Council. The Easter Family Fun Day took place on Easter Saturday, 31 March 2018 at Highbrook Park. The day included a variety of kid's entertainment; jumping castles, face painting, live music by Just Us Duo, food, information stalls, lucky door prizes and the BIG Easter Egg Hunt accompanied by a special visit from the Easter Bunny. The event was very well attended with over 800 people supporting the event over the Easter long weekend. The Easter Family Fun Day will become an annual event hosted by Muswellbrook Shire Council and Bengalla Mining. This event was fully funded by sponsorship from Bengalla.



Hunter Soapbox Derby

The inaugural Mt Arthur Coal Soapbox Derby took place on 23 June 2018. Council supported this fundraising event which was organised by and for the benefit of Hunter Life Education. This event was well attended and aimed to foster connections between families and community, drive business to the area and bring a fun event into the town centre.



Including You – Pilot Program with Ability Links

In 2017, Council entered into a partnership with Ability Links for the deployment of an 'inclusion tent' at Council and community events. This tent was deployed at Council events throughout the year and was a valuable addition to the day providing space, support and practical services such as wheelchair use, hearing aids, vision support and a space to retreat if needed from an event. It makes it easier for all members of the community to have access to events by providing extra services and support if needed.



CONSULTATION

General Manager

MANEX

CONSULTATION WITH COUNCILLOR SPOKESPERSON

Cr Scott Bailey

REPORT

This report aims to provide recommendations for events and festivals for 2019. There should also remain scope for other event opportunities if they arise throughout the year and the following recommendations relate to the existing event program. Any new events would come to Council prior to actioning. The Smaller low cost events proposed below reduce risk, provide significant liveability outcomes and help to achieve Council's objectives around town centre activation.

While the Noisy Heeler was well attended and provided a valuable community event bringing high quality music acts to the region, there are significant costs and risks associated with this event. This is something that younger members of the community would ordinarily have to travel to Newcastle, Sydney or Interstate to experience. The value of this was provided through community feedback and Council should consider in the future hosting this kind of high quality event in the Entertainment Centre should it be fully realised. This would reduce risk and eliminate significant costs of an outdoor music event. This report recommends not continuing the Music Festival in 2019 and reallocating a small proportion of the Noisy Heeler Budget to the smaller cultural events proposed and the Blue Heeler Film Festival.

Proposed Event Schedule 2019

Culture Harvest 4-10 March 2019

Anchored by the Muswellbrook Art Prize and presented by Muswellbrook Regional Art Centre, Culture Harvest is an Autumn Celebration with a three day program of visual art, contemporary dance, music and performance. This project is funded by a \$28k grant from the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund.

This program includes:

Beastman

Bradley Eastman (Beastman) will be painting a large-scale mural on the external wall of the Indoor Sports Centre Muswellbrook. The work will be produced as part of Culture Harvest, supported by the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund. Come and see Beastman painting throughout the week and launched on the morning of Saturday 9 March. A skate deck painting workshop will also be run during the week and open to all. Bradley Eastman (Beastman) is a multidisciplinary artist whose paintings, illustrations, commercial projects and public murals explore a unique visual language, depicting future

environments of abstracted landscapes. Beastman has exhibited his distinctive artworks extensively around the world, has curated and organised numerous international art exhibitions and projects.

His artwork was recently acquired by the National Gallery of Australia, and his large solo and collaborative mural works can be found all over Australia and around the world.

Yield

A live performance of painting, music and dance performed by Ben Kenning, Zackari Watt and Catapult Dance.

Zackari Watt is a singer, musician & musical producer. He has written, recorded, produced, & often live produced or performed, bespoke music for a wide array of different productions including a touring theatrical glam rock stage show, a sci-fi rock opera, multiple cabaret shows & live theatre productions.

Catapult Dance is a contemporary dance organisation for professional artists, emerging artists, young people and the community. Catapult has three platforms:

CATAPULT PROFESSIONAL COMPANY – A professional dance company structure, with works created by mid-career choreographers.

PROPEL CHOREOGRAPHIC & MULTI-DISCIPLINARY RESIDENCIES: Professional Artist in Residence Program

The FLIPSIDE PROJECT: Youth dance and multi- arts program and ensemble. Awarded 2017 an Australian Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Youth Dance.

Ben Kenning is a painter and mixed media artist whose work focuses on drawing, painting, and mixed media works on canvas and paper. He has held several live painting events where his work is produced as public performance. Kenning has exhibited his work regularly with Solo Exhibitions in Newcastle, Sydney and Melbourne. The artist's work has also been selected regularly in regional art prizes.

Easter Family Fun Day Saturday 20 April 2019

Free community and family fun day in Highbrook Park. Similar format to 2018. Event funded and sponsored by Bengalla Mining for \$5000.

Muswellbrook Railway 150 year celebration 18 May 2019

This event was proposed by members of the community as a celebration of the railway station. This proposal includes a partnership with the railway who have also committed funds to the project. Council has suggested community stalls, facepainting, music and a heritage display in the station building currently being cleaned and painted for this purpose. It is proposed that two vintage trains are scheduled from the Rail Historical Society Pick to pick up passengers at Maitland, and at Lochinvar, Greta, Branxton and Singleton. There is also provision for 3 trips to Mangoola Coal Loop about a 45 minute round trip. The cost for the trains is \$4,600. For this they can provide one of two trains – our 620 Class 2-car diesel train seating 96 or three of our vintage rail motors seating 102 adults and 21 children. The 620 class was in regular service to Muswellbrook and beyond in the period 1962 to 2007, while the rail motors were based in Muswellbrook for the Merriwa service from the 1930's up to the mid-1980's.

Hunter Soapbox Derby June/July 2019

Council to again support this community billycart event with cash and in-kind contribution of \$4,000.

Blue Heeler Film Festival

There is a significant opportunity in partnership with the University of Newcastle's Creative Industries school to boost the promotion, branding, programming and audience appeal of this festival. In consultation with the festival patron, Sigrid Thornton, the 2019 Blue Heeler will be themed around Food and Wine with the competition films addressing this theme. It also lends itself to great programing and a weekend event promoting local produce and all things culinary. Through discussions with the University, there is opportunity to fund a project that would include the appointment of a creative taskforce made up of high performing students in marketing, design, film and fine art overseen by a coordinator and expert in film and events. This followed engagement between the Executive Manager Economic Development

and Dr Simon Weaving, who has extensive experience with film festivals (Canberra and Tropfest) and the Coordinator Creative Industries program Dr Una Rey. This festival has the potential to be a great event for the region for both visitors and the local community however requires some curatorial guidance and programming to take it to the next stage. There is also scope to take our screen and sound infrastructure to the community halls in Sandy Hollow and McCullys Gap and to the Denman Memorial Hall for film events as part of the festival.

OPTIONS

To review the event schedule and propose the elimination of one or more of the events or to retain the existing schedule from the previous year.

CONCLUSION

The proposed 2019 Events Schedule is not exhaustive but highlights those events Council is delivering or supporting substantially. The revised schedule provides better impact and greater value for Council while reducing risk.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Local events add to the liveability and community cohesion of the Shire. They play an important role in fostering pride in place.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Blue Heeler budget for 2018 was \$50,000 and this budget included some capital expenditure through a matched grant (Building Better Regions Fund) for stage and sound equipment. While the event expenditure would decrease, the budget would need to increase slightly for 2019 to include the project funds through scholarships to the creative taskforce at the University to make it \$65,000. This would be offset by the elimination of the budget for the Noisy Heeler in 2019. This new event schedule proposes a realignment of the event budget to incorporate \$20,000 for the smaller events in this schedule. In 2018 the budget for events as a whole was \$140,000. This proposed new event schedule reduces this overall to \$90,000.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

NIL

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

NIL

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

NIL

OPERATIONAL PLAN IMPLICATIONS

This proposed event schedule meets the objectives of Council's Community Strategic Plan aligned to Facilitating cultural activities and events which engage the community and visitors and create a sense of place and identity.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

All events are held in accordance with Council's risk procedures.

5.4 AIR QUALITY ADVOCACY

Attachments:	Nil
Responsible Officer:	Fiona Plesman - General Manager
Author:	Carolyn O'Brien - Acting Director - Environment & Community Services
Community Plan Issue:	<i>Support initiatives which reduce the community's impact on the environment</i>
Community Plan Goal:	<i>Require all development proposals to avoid and mitigate against potential environmental impacts and facilitate improved environmental outcomes where possible.</i>
Community Plan Strategy:	<i>Require all development proposals to avoid and mitigate against potential environmental impacts and facilitate improved environmental outcomes where possible.</i>

PURPOSE

A number of initiatives regarding the improvement of Air Quality across the Upper Hunter are now provide clear evidence of the need for an Upper Hunter Air Quality Strategy that demonstrates Council's position on air quality improvements. This report suggests a mechanism for the development of this strategy and suggested business improvements, improved licencing and strict development consents that provide a cumulative improvement in air quality for Upper Hunter residents.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

1. The information contained in this report be noted.
2. The Air Quality Sunset Committee is convened in early 2019 to develop a list of issues related to Air Quality in the Upper Hunter in preparation for the review of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Committee meeting remit. This committee will be chaired by Cr _____ as with Crs _____ and _____ as voting members.
3. The General Manager provides relevant staff to support the sunset committee as required.

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____

REPORT

At the most recent Upper Hunter Air Quality Meeting in November there was some discussion around the possibility of broadening the committee's remit from the oversight of the Air Quality Dust monitoring to an advocacy that broadened the committee's role in advocacy and regulation where the following actions were that considered;

1. Local resident compliance EPA officers in both Singleton and Muswellbrook LGA's who are on call 24/7.
2. Daily visual monitoring by EPA compliance officers armed with a Drone to observe and act upon non-compliances or non-observance of best practice
3. The development of a business case to EPA/OEH to recommend against any further expansion of open cut mining or coal fired power stations in the Hunter Valley

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4. A review of complaints to the EPA on non-compliance and the results of responses by the authorities to be reported at UHAQ committee meetings and then comparison with UHAQ monitoring network results.
 5. That industry representatives on this committee must provide recommendations on an approach to reducing air pollution from open cut mines and other industries (to address cumulative issues)
 6. Fast tracking of rehabilitation of overburden areas to minimise dust (or to address this issue in the same manner as conditions of consent associated with Council waste facilities?)
 7. Backfilling (or approved use) of voids at completion of mining activities to provide proper rehabilitation over the whole site towards this final use.

In addition to this list staff are recommending the following list of possible actions and advocacy options on behalf of Muswellbrook Shire Council for this committee regarding improved air quality initiatives;

8. That the NSW Government set licence conditions for power stations under the Clean Air Regulation of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act. These regulations require power stations to emit NO_x at concentrations below 800mgs per cubic metre (mg/m³). Liddell Power station currently operates on emissions licence of NO_x emissions of 1500 mg/m³.
9. Stricter licence limits include the retrofitting of emission control technologies (ECT's).
10. That as part of the review of the Bayswater Licence in 2020 a joint submission addressing stricter licencing controls is prepared by Upper Hunter Councils (Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook and Singleton).
11. That the Upper Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Network stations move towards 12 hour averaging.
12. That an Air Quality Strategy is developed for the Upper Hunter that considers issues around the health

This report seeks the formation of the Upper Hunter Air Quality Sunset Committee to inform a series of recommended actions to the Upper Hunter Air Quality Committee for consideration at future committee meetings.

5.5 REVISED LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

Attachments:	Nil
Responsible Officer:	Fiona Plesman - General Manager
Author:	Joshua Brown - Manager - Integrated Planning & Governance
Community Plan Issue:	<i>A Council that is well managed, efficient and properly resourced and that is responsive to its communities and stakeholders</i>
Community Plan Goal:	<i>Maintain a strong focus on financial discipline to enable Council to properly respond to the needs of the communities it serves.</i>
Community Plan Strategy:	<i>Work towards the achievement of a sustainable Operating Budget result in the General Fund.</i>

PURPOSE

To present the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) to Councillors for endorsement for a period of public exhibition prior to its adoption and inclusion in Council's 2019/20 Special Rate Variation (SRV) application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

Council endorse the reviewed 2019-20 to 2029-30 Long Term Financial Plan for a period of public exhibition of 28 days.

Moved: _____ **Seconded:** _____

BACKGROUND

The NSW Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework Guidelines require Council to adopt a Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) that covers a ten year period. A revised LTFP is needed to be submitted with the SRV Application in February 2019. IPART requires that it be subject to public exhibition for the purposes of the application.

CONSULTATION

General Manager

REPORT

Councillors are asked to endorse the reviewed LTFP – attached under separate cover – for public exhibition for a period of 28 days. It is proposed to report the reviewed LTFP together with any public comment and submissions to the Extraordinary Council meeting scheduled for 30 January 2019.

OPTIONS

There are two options provided which affect the General Fund and they are explained above as Scenario 1 and Scenario 2.

CONCLUSION

The LTFP delivers sustainable performance for both Scenarios over the next 10 years.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed SRV scenario 2 would further strengthen Council's liveability and attractiveness and improve the way of life for the community in the long term.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined in the report and the attachments.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The accounting entries are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

OPERATIONAL PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The Long Term Financial Plan forms part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting suite of documents.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

6 ADJOURNMENT INTO CLOSED COMMITTEE

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, in the opinion of the General manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in Section 10A(2) of the Act, and should be dealt with in a Confidential Session of the Council meeting closed to the press and public.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adjourn into Closed Session and members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting of the Closed Session, and access to the correspondence and reports relating to the items considered during the course of the Closed Session be withheld unless declassified by separate resolution. This action is taken in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the Local Government Act, 1993 as the items listed come within the following provisions:

7.1 DETERMINATION OF AUSTRALIA DAY 2019 AWARDS

Item 7.1 is classified CONFIDENTIAL under the provisions of Section 10A(2)(a) of the local government act 1993, as it deals with personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors), and the Committee considers that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.