



FEDERATION COUNCIL

Council Meetings

Ordinary meetings of Council are held on the third Tuesday of the Month commencing at 9.30 am.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions regarding gatherings and the need to comply with social distancing measures, Advice from the NSW Office of Local Government is that Council meetings will continue to go ahead by audio-visual link and they should continue to be accessible to the public.

To help ensure we slow the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) within our workforce and the community from the 21st of April 2020 Council Meeting our public gallery will be closed.

Federation Council is pleased to offer LIVE streaming of our monthly Council Meetings on YouTube. This gives residents the opportunity to observe Council business via their computers and mobile devices.

Please visit Council's website and click on the LIVE STREAM link to watch the Ordinary Council Meeting live on YouTube.

The following schedule outlines the 2020 ordinary meetings of Council:

Tuesday 18 August 2020 Video Conference	
Tuesday 15 September 2020 Video Conference	Tuesday 20 October 2020 Video Conference
Tuesday 17 November 2020 Video Conference	Tuesday 15 December 2020 Video Conference

Grant Finder

Community groups and businesses operating in Federation Council will be able to more easily find and apply for grants with the launch of the Federation Council Grant Finder digital platform.

Federation Council has joined forces with Australia's most powerful grant search engine, Grant Guru, to deliver a free one-stop-shop website for business and community grants. Find out more about this fantastic new platform from Council's website.

Howlong Multipurpose Hall and Gymnasium on track

Construction work on the new Howlong Multipurpose Hall and Gymnasium at Lowe Square Howlong is progressing well.

Council awarded the construction contract to G & P Connelly trading as Connelly Construction Services, for \$1,521,830 at a Council meeting in October 2019.

Federation Council Mayor Pat Bourke said it was great to see the multifaceted project coming to fruition.

"Council is positive that this project will result in a number of positive health and social benefits for the Howlong community," he said.

"The Howlong Football Club and Federation Council were successful in gaining grant funding towards the construction of a Community Hall and Community Fitness Centre as extensions to the Lowe Square Sports Pavilion building. This much needed project involves modification and a major extension to the existing football ground sports pavilion. The construction includes a new community hall for community functions, and a community fitness centre including a gymnasium."

This project is in the existing Master Plan for Lowe Square (2011) and includes upgrading the Sports Pavilion change rooms and amenities to meet modern standards and provide a comfortable, friendly and inclusive facility.

Mayor Bourke said this project will enable the Howlong community to host a greater number of local activities and events, be more self-sufficient, and be more inclusive and connected."

The Howlong Football Club carried out the planning and preparations of the plans for the extensions, with Council approving the Development Application in 2019.

The NSW Government through the Stronger Community Fund provided \$1,197,715 towards the project and Council has allocated \$175,000 from the Howlong Town Improvement fund.

For further information about the project, visit Council's website www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au



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Annual Permits for non-desexed cats and dangerous/restricted dogs

The NSW Government is introducing annual permits for non-desexed cats and restricted and dangerous dogs as part of its commitment to promoting responsible pet ownership and improving animal welfare standards.

From 1 July 2020 owners of cats not desexed by four months of age will be required to pay an \$80 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee.

This will create a stronger incentive to desex cats, which in turn will improve their health and wellbeing, including reducing the risk of some cancers.

Improving desexing rates will also ease the burden on pounds and shelters, reduce euthanasia rates, and help to address concerns about feral, stray and roaming cats and their effect on wildlife.

Exemptions are in place for cats that are registered by 1 July 2020, those kept for breeding purposes by members of recognised breeding bodies, and cats which cannot be de-sexed for medical reasons.

From 1 July 2020 owners of dogs of a restricted breed or formally declared to be dangerous will be required to pay a \$195 annual permit in addition to their one-off lifetime pet registration fee.

This will serve as a further disincentive to owning high-risk dogs and encourage owners to better manage the behaviour of their animal.

From 1 July 2020, pet owners will be able to pay for annual permits using the NSW Pet Registry website or through their local council.

Anyone registering a cat on the NSW Pet Registry will be informed that they must pay for an \$80 annual permit if their animal is not desexed by four months of age.

Annual permit fees will go directly to the Companion Animals Fund which pays for companion animal management by local councils including pounds/shelters, ranger services, dog recreation areas, and education

awareness programs.

The fund is also used to operate the NSW Pet Registry and carry out responsible pet ownership initiatives. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the NSW Pet Registry at pets@olg.nsw.gov.au and 1300 134 460.

Further information is available from Council's website www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au



Council Endorses Draft 2020/2021 Operational Plan, 2018-2021 Delivery Program & Financial Plans

Council has endorsed its draft 2020/2021 Operational Plan, 2018-2021 Delivery Program and Financial Plans at its June Extraordinary Council Meeting.

Combined, these documents provide a guide to Council's operations and help the organisation meet community demands for services and infrastructure by maximising what it can achieve with its available resources.

The Delivery Program is intended to set the direction of Council and includes the following:

- A list of the principal activities to be undertaken by the Council, together with the objectives, strategies and performance measures for each activity;
- A rating structure for the year 2020-2021 to be effective from 1 July 2020;
- A full listing of fees and charges for the 2020-2021 financial year; and
- A 10 year Financial Plan.

Council invites feedback on the draft documents from all interested stakeholders and members of the community before 5pm Monday 27 July 2020. View the suite of documents today on Council's website www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au



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Youth Council continues to support local youth

Federation Youth Council has recently entered their third year of advising Council on Youth related matters, bringing youth focused events and projects to Federation Council.

In May, the Youth Council conducted their first 2020/2021 meeting where eight Youth Councillors were sworn in.

Federation Council wishes to introduce the 2020-2021 Youth Council Mayor, Maxim Blockley and Youth Council Deputy Mayor Casandra Facer, along with youth councillors Benjamin Black, Dylan Forge, Ellen Lavis, Jacob Reid, Molly Pearce and Noah Little.

Deputy Youth Council Mayor Casandra Facer and Youth Councillor Benjamin Black have been welcomed to their first term of Youth Council. Youth Council Mayor Maxim Blockley, Jacob Reid, Ellen Lavis and Molly Pearce embark on their second year term, while Youth Councillor Dylan Forge and Noah Little embrace their third year of Youth Council.

Meetings are currently held over a virtual meeting platform, where the Council meet regularly to plan and refine events, projects and community engagement ideas for their new term. Projects include revitalising the Memorial Plaza space in Corowa, organising community engagement through events such as a Colour Run and becoming content creators for the I Am Federation Facebook page for all of Federation youth.

To support them in their roles, on Tuesday, 16 June, Youth Councillors and Councillors joined a video meeting to kick start their mentor program. Each Councillor involved has been paired with a Youth Councillor, where together they will set goals and milestones to achieve for the next 12 months. Youth Councillors will have the opportunity to grow their leadership, community engagement and public speaking skills.

Federation Council Mayor Pat Bourke said Councillors were excited to continue to support and work alongside the Youth Council.

“Our Youth Councillors are a fantastic group of young people who have, and I know will continue to do amazing things across the Council area,” he said.

“Through our mentoring program, we can work together on programs, projects and events for youth within Federation Council. By working together as close as we do, I believe our community residents really do benefit because between us all, everyone’s perspective on different initiatives and projects is able to be discussed.”

Federation Youth Council Mayor Maxim Blockley said it was great that the 2020-2021 mentoring program has been initiated and both councils can now work together on achieving great outcomes for the betterment of the Federation Council region.

“As the Youth Council, we are expecting to learn different aspects of leadership, general advice and a range of life skills from the Councillors,” he said.

“We are hoping this will widen our views and generate positive connections for us all within the community. I believe this program will help the Youth Council going forward and help us make informed decisions for our community. I’m really excited to evolve my leadership skills and learn ways to engage with our residents with the support of Council and its community development staff.”

For further information about the Federation Youth Council, visit Council’s website www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au or follow the Council on Facebook @I am Federation.

Financial Support for Ratepayers

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on our lives. Some of us are struggling financially as a direct result. At Federation Council, we have a Hardship Policy to ensure that we take a fair and equitable approach with those residents suffering genuine financial hardship.

If you’re facing genuine financial hardship in paying your rates, fees or charges, please get in touch with our Finance team on (02) 6033 8999, email council@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au or complete the online application form available from Council’s website.



FEDERATION COUNCIL

Council launches Tourism Industry Support Campaign – ‘With love from us’

Federation Council has partnered with local tourism operators throughout our region to share with loyal visitors and future visitors the unique magic and offerings of our region by launching the ‘With love from us’ Tourism Industry Support Campaign.

Federation Council Mayor Patrick Bourke said in many states throughout Australia at present, the tourism industry continues to be heavily impacted by the Coronavirus crisis.

“While the return of consistent domestic tourism will be a welcome first step towards recovery, it is not yet clear on travel advice to border regions such as ours,” he said.

“In response to the latest developments, there has never been a more critical time for Council and local tourism operators throughout the Federation Region to partner together to continue to engage with our loyal visitors and inspire future visitors to come and experience the magic and uniqueness of our region, when it is safe to do so. We know collectively as a community, our region offers visitors unique access points to Australia’s mightiest river along with the magnificent landscapes and country plains in the north. Whether our visitors are caravanning and camping, or staying in a hotel or luxe B&B, they quickly realise why the region around our country towns and villages is so popular with holidaymakers year after year.”

The campaign that launched on Monday 20 July will feature videos of local tourism operators from across the region highlighting their tourism offerings and all with one common theme – “We know for some of you, you can’t travel to us right now, but we can still send our beautiful region out to you.”



Tourism operators throughout the region have many amazing experiences to highlight like no other and many have partnered with local wineries to have a bottle of wine ready for our visitors’ on arrival, as well as taken the opportunity to highlight local menus with tastes out of this world.

Mayor Bourke said Council had been overwhelmed with support from operators once reaching out to them and asking them to join the campaign.

“Undoubtedly times are tough for many of our operators and Council remains committed to supporting our tourism operators now and in the many difficult days ahead of us,” he said.

“Whilst advice from the NSW Government is that now is not the time to travel for some of us border regions, as a collective, we will be ready and waiting to welcome back our loyal visitors and throughout the journey inspire future visitors to visit us when the time is right. This is where there’s more to discover. This is where there’s more to life. Together, we will share this message, with love from all of us.”

Further information is available from Council’s website.

Federation Council Presents :

The

COMMUNITY

BUNTING PROJECT

send the community a triangle: made using locally sourced or reused fabrics

Councils website to find out more: www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au

Made by the Community | For the Community