

## Council Meetings

The Ordinary meeting of Council is responsible for dealing with matters relating to finance, works, development, planning, health, building and community services. This meeting also makes a decision on Committee recommendations and is the forum for making the final decision of Council.

Residents and ratepayers are cordially invited to attend Council meetings.

2023 Council Meeting Dates:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Tuesday, 25 July<br>Urana Chamber       | Tuesday, 29 August<br>Corowa Chamber   |
| Tuesday, 26 September<br>Corowa Chamber | Tuesday, 31 October<br>Corowa Chamber  |
| Tuesday, 28 November<br>Urana Chamber   | Tuesday, 19 December<br>Corowa Chamber |

When approval has been provided by the General Manager for members of the public to address Council the Public Forum will be held at 9am.

## Howlong Water Main Upgrade Works

Federation Council is undertaking the following water main upgrade works in Howlong between June and December 2023:

- 375mm diameter water rising main from Water Treatment Plant in Pearce St, to water tower in Townsend St. Route will be along Pearce St and Pell St;
- 375mm diameter water trunk main in Townsend St, from Victoria St to Jude St.
- 200mm diameter water main in Townsend St from Emily Ct to Kennedy St

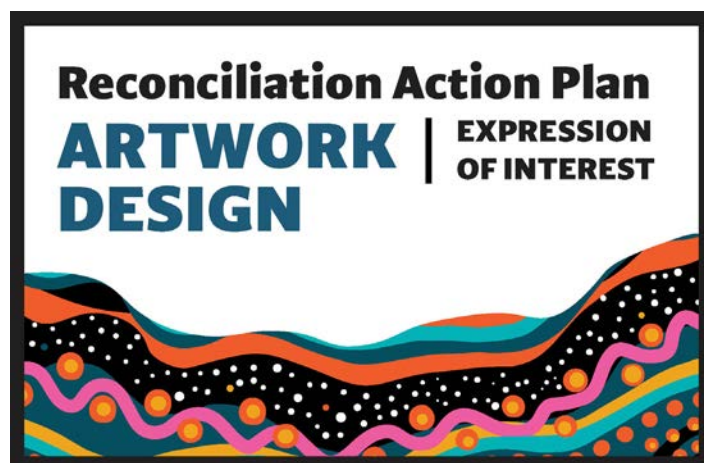
Temporary road closures and traffic diversions will be in place at the above locations to ensure safety for residents, general traffic and contractor personnel. Affected residents will be notified prior to works proceeding. Every effort will be made to limit restrictions to access for residents to a minimum by:

- Providing alternate means of access if possible, or if not possible;
- Excavation and backfill across driveways intended to be done in the same day, and;
  - Immediate removal of soil from trench excavation.
  - Prompt installation of water main pip across driveway.
  - Immediate backfill of pipe trench across driveway.
- Underebore road crossings for roads managed by NSW Dept of Transport.

We thank the Howlong community for their understanding and cooperation as Council continues to deliver projects such as this that build and create a safe and connected community.



## Council's seeking artist for RAP Artwork



Federation Council encompasses Bangerang and Wiradjuri Country and recognises that Aboriginal people from many different mobs are connected to the Federation Council area.

We are calling for submissions from Aboriginal Artists who live, work and connect with the Federation Council area who are interested in creating an original artwork to be accessioned to the Federation Council's art collection, as well as used for branding resources related to Federation Council's Innovate RAP (currently under development).

The Federation RAP Working Group are seeking an artwork that explores the narrative of local connections to land, waters and/ or community.

The design will show visual representation of land footprint in the Federation Council area - North to Urana, South to Corowa, East to Howlong and West to Mulwala.

Individual and collaborative works are accepted, as are contemporary and/or traditional art forms.

- The original art work will be hung in the Federation Council office at the Corowa Civic Centre as a symbol of the Council's commitment towards reconciliation.
- The digital copy will be used on the cover of the Federation Council Reconciliation Action Plan (aiming to cover the years 2024-2026), and throughout the document.
- Aspects of the artwork may be used to market projects delivered as part of the RAP, including in print and digital formats and on the council's social media channels and corporate website.

The artist's work will be recognised in our Reflect RAP in a section about the artist and the artwork. This will provide the artist an opportunity to express their art and story through words.

The RAP will be published on the Reconciliation Australia website, visible for the public to view.

The successful artist will be eligible to receive a project fee of \$5,000. Expressions of interest are due by 5pm by 9 July 2023. Find out more on Council's website.

## Council Receives Special Rate Variation Determination



The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) yesterday (14/06/23) announced determinations on the 17 Councils who had applied for rate variations (increases) above the ordinary allowable rate peg amounts to commence 1 July 2023. IPART has partially approved Federation Council's Special Rate Variation application to temporarily increase its general rate income above the rate peg for a two-year period and not the four-year as applied.

Council has been granted a two-year temporary rate increase of 19% in year one (2023/24) and 17% in year two (2024/25). Council had requested a general rate increase of 19% for 2023/24, with 17%, 14% and 10% for the following three years and for the increases to remain in the rate base, (not be temporary), and reverting to the ordinary rate peg for 2027/28 onwards.

IPART determined the application and only applied the two year temporary increase due to it considering Council had shortcomings in the community awareness factor/criteria, including not communicating the cumulative increase of 74.59%, and only using each years proposed % increase, and also they considered Councils financial documents did not including in the early engagement stages, the impacts of a baseline (non-SRV scenario). Council successfully met the other criteria including demonstrating the financial need, the increase being a reasonable impact on ratepayers, the quality of Councils Integrated Planning and Reporting documents, and the productivity improvements and cost containment strategies.

The partial approval means Council can increase its rates by 19% and 17% across 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively should it choose to do so,

inclusive of any allowable rate increase (for 23/24 for Federation Council it is 4.3%).

The 23/24 rate increase will be determined as per normal practice at the June 27 Council meeting. Council needs to re-apply if it wishes for the increases to remain in the rate base ongoing, and if the Council is seeking the further two years of 14% and 10%, or any different amount. Council will likely consider this in the coming months further analysis of the IPART determination and Councils longer-term financial position and further engagement with the community.

Federation Council Mayor Pat Bourke said this decision by IPART will allow Council to consider the reasons for the partial approval, and further analysis on the many submissions received by IPART from our community.

"If Council chooses to resubmit a further application, of course Council will undertake further work. This will include additional engagement with our community, further work on efficiencies and productivity improvements including service reviews, and adjustments to the forward financial plans, to allow Council to continue to work on the significant infrastructure backlog across some of our key service areas such as roads," he said.

"For now, the 19% and 17% temporary increase across the next two years should Council apply it in full, and apply it to the projects as outlined in the draft plans, or as varied at the final meeting, will allow Council to deliver on additional commitments to our community that we would not have been able to do so without these funds. The proposed works to be undertaken using the year one 2023/24 funds from the SRV are clearly outlined in Councils Delivery Program. Council will adopt a final version, when considering public submissions at the June 27 Council meeting."

Mayor Bourke said whilst this might not be the overall outcome we were hoping to achieve, I believe it still is a positive one given the current economic conditions and the cost of living pressures on both Council and the community, and I thank the many people who have engaged with Council along the way and continue to do so, including the many who made submissions to IPART.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the application process," he said.

"The many different elements of our application were driven with professionalism and with the best long-term outcome for our community at the forefront. Long-term decisions like these are never easy."

Mayor Bourke also said Council would workshop the determination to discuss relevant steps in the lead up to its June Council meeting.

"I look forward to workshoping the determination with my fellow councillors and continuing to engage with our community moving forward on how we can best achieve our financial sustainability benchmarks/ratios as set by the Office of Local Government, to deliver the services that our community expect and value and manage our assets with a longer term outlook," he said.

View more information on IPART's website, including more detail of the decision [www.ipart.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ipart.nsw.gov.au)







## Ageing Well Consultation

The Ageing Well Advisory Committee and Federation Council is seeking feedback from older residents to get a better understanding of what ageing in the Federation Council looks like in 2023. The Committee and Council would like to hear your thoughts and ideas on what steps they can take to address the needs, priorities, and challenges of getting older and living in the Federation Council area. Your feedback will assist to develop the Federation Ageing Well Strategy 2024-2028 and subsequent four-year action plan.

### How to get involved and provide feedback:

**Online Survey** - available from Council's website.

**Post Cards** - available from your local library or at the Council Customer Service Centre in Corowa, Howlong, Mulwala and Urana.

**Email** - [council@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au)

**Mail** - Post to Federation Council, Ageing Well Feedback, PO Box 77, Corowa, NSW 264.

**In Person** - Contact Amber on P: 02 6033 8974.

Consultation will close on Friday 25 August, 2023.  
Further information is available from Council's website.

## Service NSW Corowa Agency

The Corowa Service NSW agency is located within the Corowa Civic Centre, Federation Council, 100 Edward Street Corowa.

**Opening Hours:** Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm.

### Some of the services available are:

- driver licence transactions
- vehicle registration transaction
- driver testing
- boating licence and vessel registrations
- contractor licence applications
- applications for birth, death and marriage certificates
- Seniors Card applications
- RSA/RCG competency cards
- Working with Children Checks

## Free Business Health Check

Are you running a business or thinking of starting your own business?

In partnership with Enterprise Plus, free 1-hour personalised Business Health Checks that will help you gain valuable insights into your business' performance and give you some great tips to help you start, run, adapt and grow your business are available.

- **Tuesday 4 July**, Corowa Civic Centre
- **Wednesday 5 July**, Mulwala Library and Council Office

Limited sessions available.

Book Now

[www.enterpriseplus.org.au](http://www.enterpriseplus.org.au)

This Business Connect event is funded by the NSW Government.



## NAIDOC Week Activities



Youth on their school holiday break, adults and seniors alike will find an entertaining activity to do during NAIDOC Week. Taking place between the 2nd and 9th July, NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to participate in celebrations and learn about First Nations culture.

- **Monday 3 July**, Oaklands - Weaving workshop led by Many Mobs Indigenous Corporation.
- **Tuesday 4 July**, Mulwala Library - Children's storytime and craft activities.
- **Wednesday 5 July**, Howlong - Weaving workshop led by Many Mobs Indigenous Corporation.
- **Wednesday 5 July**, Urana Council Office - Children's storytime and craft activities.
- **Thursday 6 July**, Corowa Library - Children's storytime and craft activities.
- **Monday 10 July**, Boree Creek - Cultural Day led by Uncle Michael Lyons, Wiradjuri Elder.

Art lovers can view the Currawa Crossing exhibition which is exclusive to Corowa Art Space, throughout NAIDOC Week. The exhibition showcases Contemporary Aboriginal artworks from Owen Lyons, Elijah Ingram and Sonia Undy. Their vibrant and expressive works combine a variety of Traditional and modern techniques spanning across weaving, dot painting and abstractionism.

Find out more and book your place from Council's website.

## Currawa Crossing Exhibition

The Currawa Crossing exhibition is on display at the Corowa Art Space until Sunday 9 July, 2023. Federation Council is inviting residents and visitors to see the exhibition and experience the work some of the region's Aboriginal artists.

Open Wednesday - Friday 10am - 4pm,  
Saturday & Sunday from 10am to 2pm. This exhibition is supported by Western Riverina Arts. Further information is available from Council's website.



# HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

Do you have a spare room?  
Want to learn about another culture?

HOST A STUDENT FROM  
**MIKI CITY!**

22 August - 27 August

The Miki City Student will be exploring the area during the day and requires a meal and a space to sleep each night.

Scan the QR code below or visit Council's website for more information.



Scan the QR Code

