



# 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 has remained 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 2021 ordinary meetings of Council commencing at 9:30am.

<b>Tuesday 15 June 2021</b> Corowa Chamber	
<b>Tuesday 20 July 2021</b> Corowa Chamber	<b>Tuesday 17 August 2021</b> Corowa Chamber
<b>Tuesday 21 September 2021</b> Corowa Chamber	<b>Tuesday 19 October 2021</b> Corowa Chamber
<b>Tuesday 16 November 2021</b> Corowa Chamber	<b>Tuesday 21 December 2021</b> Corowa Chamber

## Firewood Collection

Residents in the Federation Council area can apply to obtain a permit to collect firewood from road reserves for home heating during winter.

Firewood collection is limited to 1 April – 30 September each year. To apply for a permit, residents must complete the application form and show proof that they reside in the Federation Council area (i.e. drivers licence).

Applicants must certify on the application that they will abide by the permit conditions and acknowledge that Council is not liable for any injuries to person, or any loss or damage to property arising from the firewood collection activities. Applications received from outside the Federation Council area will not be considered.

Residents will need to apply for a permit each firewood season (each year).

The permit application fee is \$31.00.

## Library Storytime

Federation Council invites children and their parents/carers to participate in FREE Storytime sessions that involve sharing stories, rhymes and themed activities at your local library.

Storytime sessions are suitable for ages 0-5 years and run for 30-45 minutes.

Storytime sessions are held weekly at the Corowa Library and fortnightly at the Howlong and Mulwala Libraries.

Meet new people, introduce your child to a world of books and lay the foundation for a lifelong love of reading.

Howlong Library, Friday each fortnight at 10:30am (except in NSW School Holidays):

- 21 May
- 4 June
- 18 June
- 16 July
- 30 July
- 13 August
- 27 August
- 10 September
- 8 October
- 22 October
- 5 November
- 19 November
- 3 December

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a maximum of 20 people are able to attend at each library. Bookings are required and can be made via Council's website or by contacting your local library.

Find out more and book your place via Council's website [www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au) or by contacting the Corowa Library on P: 02 6033 8941.





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## Council endorses draft strategic plans

Council has endorsed its draft 2021/2022 Operational Plan, 2018-2022 Delivery Program and Financial Plans at a special meeting on Tuesday, 4 May.

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.

In endorsing the plans, Federation Council Mayor Patrick Bourke said the overall plans primary focus was to ensure Council services are sustainable into the future, while delivering on the many major projects outlined in the Community Strategic Plan.

"Council is pleased to adopt, and in turn present for community feedback its draft 2021/2022 Operational Plan, 2018-2022 Delivery Program and Financial Plans," Mayor Bourke said.

"Under the proposed budget Council will complete \$16M in capital projects. We will continue to deliver \$6.5M in road works, and \$5.8M on our sewerage and water network."

Mayor Bourke said Council's budget is delivering on the improvement to roads and the community facilities that the community expressed their requests for in the development of the Community Strategic Plan – Our Community Our Opportunity, developed under extensive community consultation in 2017.

"Since the formation of Federation Council in 2016, Council has worked extensively to deliver a range of new community infrastructure projects, as well as complete a monumental number of internal system upgrades and projects to provide a strong foundation for the new Council moving forward," he said.

"Council as a result of the \$10 million dollar Stronger Communities Fund (merger funds) as well as many other grants since then including from the Stronger County Communities Grant Program, COVID Stimulus, Drought Funding and other grants, has invested in many new, and or upgraded community assets right across the Council region.

These include Skate Parks, Tennis and Netball Courts, Boat Ramps, extensive playgrounds, a new \$10.5 million dollar year round pool in Corowa, additions to and the list goes on. This is also enhancing the areas reputation for liveability greatly. Council has also undertaken significant investment into its roads and related infrastructure network, however there remains a significant challenge in managing these assets with current revenue levels."

Mayor Bourke said Council as a business has experienced rapid changes and growth since its creation, with both former Councils having historically low rate bases and disproportionate asset bases to population levels.

"These challenges include a road network of 2322 km of roads broken into 964 km of sealed roads and 1,358 km of gravel roads," he said.

"Council also due to having 14 towns and villages, have a large amount of relatively low usage but high priority to the community, facilities, such as Halls, Courts and Ovals. These are spread across the towns and villages of Corowa, Howlong, Mulwala, Urana, Balldale, Boree Creek, Buraja-Lowesdale, Coreen, Daysdale, Morundah, Oaklands, Rand, Rennie and Savernake. Council also has varying service levels across each of these facilities.

"Council is continually working on initiatives and strategies focused on improving the long-term sustainability of the Council. Key to this is the delivery of the recommendations and action plans developed through the merger-funded Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning Services Model – completed in the 2019/20 financial year. The objective of this project was to integrate Council's asset management planning and whole-of-life costings into service costings to enable more robust long term financial planning to be undertaken. This work is continuing."

Mayor Bourke said Council understands very clearly where their financial risks are, and have a plan for the next 10 years to ensure the Council continues to provide a high level of services to the community.

In closing, Mayor Bourke said that Council had some challenges to reach a point of sustainability into the future, and planning well for maintenance and operations of assets was critical.

"This budget presents a vision for the long-term and a strong starting point for us to have conversations with our community about service expectations and subsequent costs associated with them," he said.



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## Miki City/Federation Council Sister City – Building on our 23 year history

Federation Council's long standing exchange program with Miki City, has been on hold during 2020 and now into 2021, due to restricted International travel.

With both cities committed to maintaining ongoing communications and building on the relationship that has been in place for 23 years, gift sharing between the cities is currently taking place.

Federation Council Mayor, Cr Pat Bourke, who is also a member of the Miki City Advisory Committee said it was fantastic that both cities could be innovative in respect to building their ongoing relationship due to COVID. A wonderful video has been received showcasing key attractions in Miki City and messages wishing all of Federation Council and its community well into 2021," Mayor Bourke said.

Find out more and watch the video from Council's website.

## Something for everyone at the inaugural Youth Fest

With the theme "Together more than ever" there was a something for everyone at the Federation Council's first Youth Fest including workshops on photography, skateboarding, a colour run, giant games and a pet parade.

The festival included four events across the Federation Council area as part of the 2021 NSW Youth Week celebrations from Saturday 10th to Saturday 24th April.

The Youth Fest was a concept of the Federation Youth Council who wanted to offer a variety of events across the Council area that would appeal to different ages and tastes.

"It was great to see everyone getting out, and enjoying themselves at the Youth Fest," said Youth Council Mayor, Max Blockley, "The Youth Council have been working hard with Council for the last few months to bring it all together and we are happy how it turned out."

Find out more from Council's website.

## NSW Planning Portal introduction

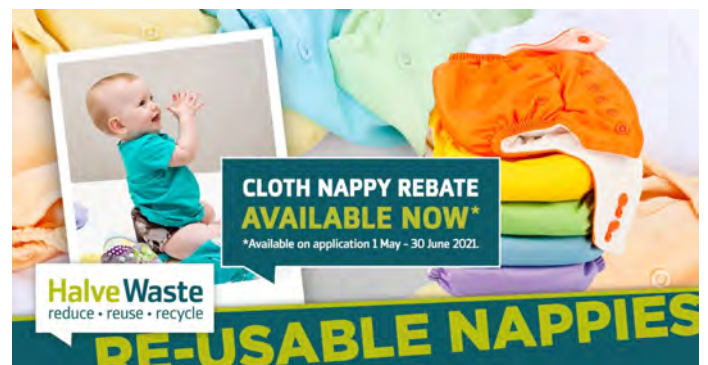
The NSW Government is making the planning system easier to use with the introduction of the online NSW Planning Portal.

The NSW Planning Portal is a digital space where community, industry and government can work together to better understand and meet their obligations under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. The NSW Planning Portal is a single place to go for planning processes and transactions online, it is simpler, faster and more transparent for everyone.

The portal can be used to lodge and process Development Applications (DA's) including modifications, Complying Development Certificate Applications (CDC's) and for certificates under Part 6 of the EP&A Act).

From Thursday 1 July 2021, it will be mandatory to lodge your Development Applications (DA), Construction Certificates (CC) and Complying Development Applications (CDC) via the online NSW Planning Portal. Find out more by visiting Council's website [www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au](http://www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au)

## Halve Waste Cloth Nappy Rebate



Halve Waste are offering residents the opportunity to access financial assistance in support of using cloth nappies.

Simply apply online and you can receive back 50% of the cost of cloth nappies purchased between 1 May and 30 June up to the value of \$100.

Find out more and apply online from the Halve Waste website: [www.halvewaste.com.au](http://www.halvewaste.com.au)



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## **Council launches North of the Murray Tourism Campaign**

Federation Council has officially launched its North of the Murray Tourism brand in to the domestic market. The North of the Murray 'More to Life Campaign' will run over a 12 month period, across a number of mediums, including television, programmatic online video and social media placement.

This awareness campaign has been designed with the key objective to define where North of the Murray is located, by highlighting the four key townships of Mulwala, Corowa, Howlong and Urana, along with the regions smaller towns and villages. The key message invites visitors to discover a place where there is "More to life" and emphasizes that the place where there is more is "North of the Murray." This is supported by inspirational footage and written content featuring the region's key experiences.

- On the water;
- Food and Drink;
- History arts and Culture;
- Sport; and
- Outdoor Adventure.

The campaign is built around the various holiday periods in Victoria and New South Wales, inspiring lifestyle leaders from across regional Victoria and Southern NSW along with Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney.

Federation Council Mayor, Councillor Patrick Bourke said Council was thrilled to launch the North of the Murray Tourism Brand Campaign into the domestic market.

"We are excited to partner with a number of professionals in the television and online marketing space to showcase the incredible offerings and experiences that are North of the Murray," he said.

"This campaign highlights that now is the perfect opportunity for every Australian to discover where there is more to life, North of the Murray."

To support the implementation of the new tourism brand and launch campaign, Council has developed

extensive tourism programs and marketing assets over the past 12 months.

These include:

- Destination Marketing Strategy;
- Official Visitor Guides;
- Town Maps;
- Promotional Banners;
- North of the Murray Merchandise;
- Connect with Us Cards;
- Rebranding and revision of the North of the Murray Website and North of the Murray associated socials media pages;
- Print Marketing; and several
- Media Families to showcase the many offerings and experiences on offer throughout our unique tourism businesses.

In addition to this Council has created the North of the Murray Tourism Industry Hub online and the North of the Murray Operator Toolkit to support North of the Murray tourism businesses with helpful links, useful tips and suggestions for how to leverage from Federation Council's Tourism initiatives.

To find out more about the campaign, and the North of the Murray Tourism Brand visit [www.northofthemurray.com.au](http://www.northofthemurray.com.au)

## **National Volunteer Week**

Annually Federation Council hosts an event to recognize the contribution our local volunteers make within community groups, organisations and the success of community events and projects.

This year, National Volunteers Week will be celebrated from 17 May – 23 May with the theme Recognise. Reconnect. Reimagine.

Federation Council invites volunteers in our community to celebrate National Volunteer week by attending a complimentary lunch at the Yarrowonga Mulwala Golf Resort on Friday 18 June, 2021 from 11:00am – 2pm.

The guest speaker for the event is Chief Inspector Robert Fitzgerald, Blacktown Police Area Command.

Community members are required to register their community group and volunteers to attend the luncheon and for bus transport from Council's website.