

Welcome to Council's first six-monthly Fit for the Future Newsletter which shares Council's initiatives, activities, works and achievements with the community.

In October 2015, Council was independently assessed as being "Fit for the Future" (FFF) by the NSW Government. For Council, this result did not come as a surprise and reflects NSW Treasury Corporation's (TCorp) Financial Assessment and Benchmarking Report, 2013 that 'Council has been well managed over the review period'.

There are seven (7) FFF Benchmarks that councils must meet by 30 June 2020. Our government-approved FFF Roadmap provides for Council meeting these seven (7) benchmarks.

The FFF Program drives improvements to Council's service and infrastructure delivery and we continue to achieve strong results in this area.

The following pages detail our major achievements in 2015/2016 - the first year of Council's FFF Roadmap and outlines major works to be completed in 2016/2017. This includes records roads funding \$31.5M during 2015/2016 and 2016/2017.

Of note, under the current four-year term, Council has secured an additional \$22.9M in grant funding in the areas of roads, facilities and services (this figure excludes Council's recurrent grant income).

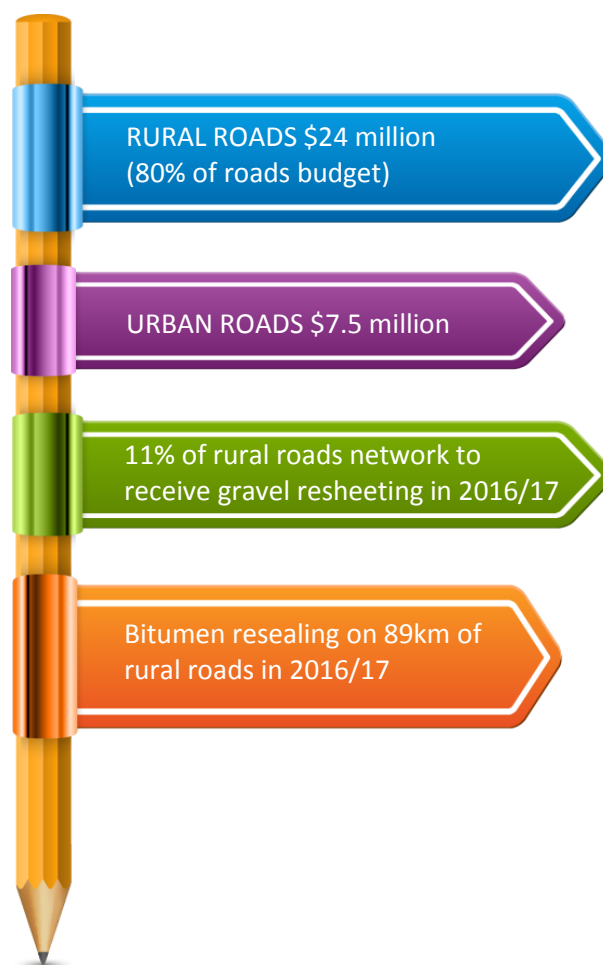
Finally, Council is pleased to announce we will soon launch a new My Inverell, My Say website to engage residents to have their say on community issues.

Best wishes,



Cr Paul Harmon - Mayor

2015-17 ROADS BUDGET REACHES RECORD LEVELS



FFF BENEFITS

Being assessed as a FFF Council brings a number of benefits for Inverell Shire. Council is now able to access loan funding from NSW Treasury Corporation and recently, we secured a loan for the construction of new waste management infrastructure at a concessional interest rate of 3.02%, resulting in a saving to the community of \$147K.

2015/2016

DELIVERED PROJECTS

RURAL ROADS

- ✓ Gravel Resheeting 113 km (9% of gravel road network)
- ✓ Bitumen Reseals 86 km (11% of sealed road network; and
- ✓ Bitumen Heavy Patching – extensive patching including 50km of the Bruxner Way and significant sections of the Mount Russell/Oakwood Road.

Bitumen Sealed Road – Rehabilitation/Renewal:

- ✓ MR137 Ashford Road – three sections between Inverell and Ashford (final section still under construction due to wet weather);
- ✓ Tarwoona Road and Bolands Lane;
- ✓ Old Bundarra Road Blackspot Safety Upgrade – Schwenkes Lane to Leviathan Road; and
- ✓ Bundarra Road shoulder widening south of Gilgai.

New Bitumen Seals:

- ✓ Auburn Vale Road bitumen extension to Northern Foreshores 3.2km (part funded by NSW RMS).

URBAN ROADS

- ✓ Rehabilitation of Cameron and Medora Streets;
- ✓ Upgrade of Swanbrook Road and Killeen Streets adjacent to new Medical Centre; and
- ✓ Gilchrist Street rehabilitation and new footpath.

New footpaths, cycleways & pram ramps:

- ✓ Lions Park cycleway 1.2km and safety fencing;
- ✓ River Street cycleway – 2 Blocks;
- ✓ Brae Street footpath – 3 Blocks; and
- ✓ Byron Street cycleway / footpath – Wood Street to Kamilaroi Oval.



OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS*

- ✓ New Ashford Medical Centre;
- ✓ New Ashford SES Headquarters;
- ✓ Commenced major upgrade of the Inverell Waste Facility to meet NSW EPA requirements;
- ✓ \$1.2M Cameron Park redevelopment;
- ✓ New playground equipment and shelters in Bellevue Park on Ross Hill (pictured above);
- ✓ New “All Abilities” playground and shelters in Victoria Park;
- ✓ New playground in Campbell Park;
- ✓ New toilet block in Victoria Park;
- ✓ Safety fencing, new shelter and disabled access facilities at Inverell Sports Complex;
- ✓ Upgraded playgrounds and new shelters at Gilgai and Lake Inverell;
- ✓ Significant range of new Library resources;
- ✓ Upgrade of the Yetman Community Hall;
- ✓ Outdoor gym equipment and safety fencing at the Yetman Sports Ground; and
- ✓ New Christmas Tree at Tourism Inverell (tree erected each December).

**It should be noted that Council was able to secure significant grant funding for the majority of these projects.*



2015-16 DELIVERED WORKS continued...

WATER & SEWER FUND

- ✓ Completion and opening of \$4.6M Ashford Water Treatment Plant;
- ✓ Water Mains replacements and minor Water Mains extensions;
- ✓ Commenced major upgrade of Inverell Sewerage Treatment works to meet future growth; and
- ✓ Sewer Mains replacements and sewerage system minor upgrades.

2016/2017 APPROVED WORKS

RURAL ROADS

- ✓ Gravel Resheeting 135km (11% of the rural gravel network: equivalent of Inverell to Armidale);
- ✓ Bitumen Reseals 89km (11% of the sealed road network: equivalent of Inverell to Guyra);
- ✓ Bitumen Heavy Patching – Guyra, Ashford, Bundarra and Tarwoona Roads prior to the 2016/2017 bitumen resealing of these roads; and
- ✓ Extensive shoulder widening / maintenance - regional road network (new program).

New Bitumen Road:

- ✓ Old Stannifer Road new bitumen 1.0 km
- ✓ Kings Plains Road new bitumen 1.0 km

Rehabilitation / Renewal of Bitumen Road:

- ✓ MR137 Ashford Road 7.2 km
- ✓ MR187 Yetman Road 5.0 km (between Graman and Wallangra)
- ✓ Swanbrook Road 0.9 km (Moore Street to Runnymede intersection)

- ✓ Auburn Vale Road 2.3 km
- ✓ Kings Plains Road 0.4 km
- ✓ Michell Lane 3.0 km

URBAN ROADS

Urban Rehabilitation / Renewal:

- ✓ Chisholm Street – full length renewal;
- ✓ Old Bundarra Road – adjacent to Lions Park;
- ✓ Gilchrist Street – additional rehabilitation works;
- ✓ Ross Street – Rugby Park to Swanbrook Road;
- ✓ Captain Cook Drive / Wood Street intersection;
- ✓ Byron Street - drainage works adjacent to KFC;
- ✓ Extend Oliver Street to Swanbrook Road to improve safety at the Byron Street-Swanbrook Road-Arthur Street intersection;
- ✓ Additional footpaths and cycleways;
- ✓ John Street – upgrade from gravel to bitumen seal;
- ✓ Continuation of the Gilgai Drainage Project.

OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS

- ✓ Inverell Sports Complex Redevelopment \$930K grant;
- ✓ Replace Playground in Lions Park \$110K;
- ✓ Weed control of Harrisia Cactus (pictured below) with landholders in Border Rivers catchment \$68K;



2016-17 APPROVED WORKS continued...

- ✓ Stage 2 of the Rifle Range Road Industrial Subdivision \$150K;
- ✓ New Library Resources \$115K (\$25K Grant);
- ✓ New Ashford Sportsground Amenities \$250K;
- ✓ Relocate Victoria Park toilet to Bellevue Park \$25K;
- ✓ Continue weed control activities along Macintyre River in Inverell (before & after photos below);



WATER & SEWER FUND

- ✓ Water Mains replacement \$135K
- ✓ Minor Water Mains extensions \$ 50K
- ✓ New Water meters \$ 67K
- ✓ Replace Water Supply telemetric monitoring \$300K
- ✓ Backflow prevention to protect water quality \$275K
- ✓ Sewer Mains renewal & relining \$197K
- ✓ Telemetric Monitoring System and upgrade Sewerage Pump Stations \$440K

SHOP LOCAL CAMPAIGN

During 2016/2017, Council will continue to support Inverell Shire's \$47M p.a. tourism industry and will also partner with Inverell Chamber of Commerce to deliver their "WOW" Shop Local advertising campaign.

EFFICIENCY GAINS

Council's governance and administration costs are now 55% below the NSW Large Rural Council Average and also 50% below the NSW Councils' Average (NSW Office of Local Government 2015).



The FFF Program measures efficiency in terms of the *Real Operating Cost per Capita* benchmark, which reveals Council has achieved operating efficiencies of 21% or 3.0% per annum, over the last seven years, with the majority of the savings being directed to rural roads maintenance.

Efficiency gains realised during 2015-16 have enabled Council to

allocate additional 2016-17 funding to the following:

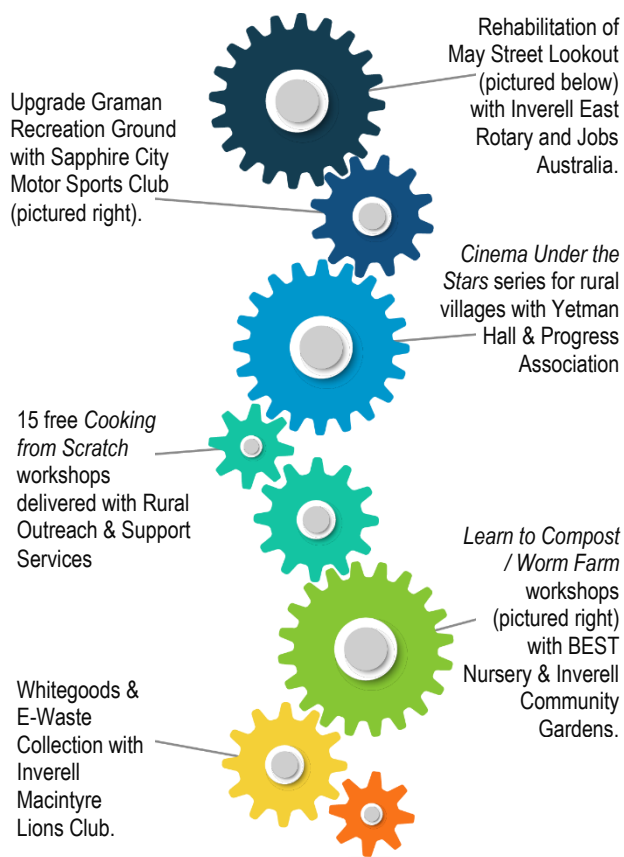
- ✓ Rural gravel road grading (additional 80km/yr) \$73K
- ✓ Cameron Park maintenance for new facilities \$15K
- ✓ Local Heritage Program (assistance to owners) \$20K
- ✓ Parks and Reserves maintenance \$12K
- ✓ Public Toilet cleaning and maintenance \$5K
- ✓ Grafton to Inverell Cycle Race expenses \$1K

A new roundabout at the Gwydir Highway-Bundarra Road-Chester Street intersection has been approved for \$1.5M in Federal Government funding. Council is currently in discussions with NSW Roads and Maritime regarding this matter.



PARTNERSHIPS

Council has forged partnerships with a wide array of organisations to deliver benefits for our community. Council's partnership with BEST Employment has delivered continued services at the Inverell Linking Together Centre and funding has been secured for a continuation and expansion of the Centre's current programs. Further partnerships include:



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste Management activities have focused on implementing NSW EPA recommendations and assisting residents to minimise waste while increasing recycling rates. Grants secured for these activities include:

- ✓ Establishment of Inverell Community Recycling Centre, \$192K;
- ✓ E-Waste Facility for Inverell Landfill, \$1M;
- ✓ Environmental rehabilitation of closed rural landfills at Oakwood, Wallangra and Elsmore, \$584K;
- ✓ Convert Yetman Landfill to Waste Transfer Station \$164K;
- ✓ Convert Ashford Landfill to Waste Transfer Station \$199K; and
- ✓ Compost Bin and Worm Farm project, \$78K.



FFF & SUSTAINABILITY

The FFF Program requires councils to be sustainable, deliver strong infrastructure and service management and operate efficiently. FFF councils are required to generate their own revenues to fund community operational and infrastructure needs and not rely upon government grants to fund any financial shortfall.

While the FFF Program requires councils to be financially sustainable in their own right, this has not deterred Council from continuing to lobby on behalf of our community.

We continue to work closely with local members of parliament, the Hon. Barnaby Joyce and Mr Adam Marshall and our above mentioned grant funding is a reflection of this collaboration.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



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| Local Government Elections | Sat 10 Sept 1300 135 736 or www.votensw.info |
| Cinema Under the Stars - Delungra | Sat 10 Sept, 2pm Delungra Rec Grounds |
| Cinema Under the Stars - Yetman | Sat 17 Sept, 2pm Yetman Hall |
| Inverell's Big Bike Ride | Sun 18 Sept, 10am Campbell Park |
| 60th Sapphire City Festival | Fri 14 – Sun 23 Oct Program available soon |
| Ashford Salami Festival | Sat 15 Oct, 11am Ashford Sportsground |
| Eat Drink Live New England | Sat 12 Nov Inverell Club |



CONTACT US: 02 6728 8288

Inverell Shire Council's Administration Centre is open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm. Our postal address is PO Box 138, Inverell NSW 2360. You can email us at council@inverell.nsw.gov.au

Find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter!

