

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Glenn Wall

Depth Markers on River and Creek Crossings.

With the return of somewhat normal weather patterns and increased rainfall throughout the Shire, enquiries have been forwarded to Councillors and Staff regarding depth markers on rivers, creeks and low lying roads. These types of crossings are quite problematic for staff and it is very difficult to determine "When should they have depth markers".

The problem arises by the fact that depth markers or gauges may give false confidence to a driver that the crossing or bridge is sound. A depth marker only tells you the depth of flooding but doesn't provide any indication as to the suitability of the pavement or deck structure that is flooded or the **velocity of flow**. On many occasions in the past the situation has arisen where a bridge decking has been washed away or a creek or river crossing has been severely eroded and undermined. In these cases depth markers may have indicated that the flood depth was reasonable to attempt crossing, but anyone attempting to drive through would have found the water much deeper than indicated and in the worst case scenario the deck of a bridge completely missing.

The only safe way to traverse water crossings is to check the depth and force of water and see if the crossing is sound or there are any obstructions that might damage the vehicle. This usually means that you'll have to get out and walk across first.

As the driver of a motor vehicle it is your responsibility regarding safe passage and the well being of your passengers.

Road Works.

The continuing rain has further delayed many projects and hampered road works generally. Dowling Street in Dungog is typical of these delays. Staff and contractors are still catching up with flood damage from June 2007 and will concentrate on projects for which funding must be exhausted by 30th June 2008. This will further delay the works on Limeburners Creek Road at Clarence Town.

Extensive use has been made of contractors for design, management and construction of the road works to be funded by the special grant of \$6 million secured by Mr. Bob Baldwin MP, Member for Paterson. Many of these projects have also been delayed due to the weather. This financial year some of the funding was allocated for projects around Clarence Town, including rehabilitation and widening along Main Road 301 from Cemetery Road towards Brentwood Drive, survey and design works are underway prior to tenders being called for this project.

Also Council staff are currently finalising negotiations with Port Stephens Council in relation to works on the bad corner on the Shire boundary in Glen Oak the survey and design of this project is complete with works expected to be underway by July.

This project will also be funded from the special grant funds.

Message from NSW Ambulance Service

Most people with mobile phones have names and numbers stored in the memory, but if they were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, those attending us wouldn't know which number to call.

NSW Ambulance has suggested that it would be a good idea if there were a nationally recognised system to address this concern. The listing next of kin etc as "ICE" (In Case of Emergency) on mobile phone memory banks would provide an easy means of contact during emergency situations.

Emergency service personnel and hospital staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing numbers stored as ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc. Please pass this idea on to others.

27 February 2008