

Council happenings . . .

with Mayor
Glenn Wall

Dungog Business Incentive Fund.

NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) and Hunter Water Corporation (HWC) have contributed to the establishment of a \$500,000 fund to encourage new business investment and the creation of jobs in the Dungog Shire.

The NSW Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) is currently seeking Expressions of Interest for assistance through the DBIF. Expressions of interest are required to be lodged in two days, closing on the **19 June 2009**.

Some or all of the following assessment criteria will be used to assess Expressions of Interest: Level of new investment; Generation and retention of employment; Potential for export or import replacement; Value adding to local resources; Introduction of innovative practices and/or new technologies; Clear improvement in the competitiveness of an existing business; Contribution to economy of Dungog Shire; Compatibility with the Hunter Region's competitive strengths; Skills development; and Sustainability of jobs and/or the business.

I am aware that some businesses operators in the Shire may be reluctant to submit EOI's due to the nature of the assessment criteria; however, I would urge any business that may have scope for consideration to submit an application. If indeed your application does not fulfill the assessment criteria, the EOI Evaluation Committee will consider all applications and some may be suitable for other types of assistance under the vast range of support provided by the Department of State and Regional Development.

For Further information please contact Council's Economic & Development and Tourism Officer, Mr. Greg Fenwick on 4995 7777.

Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal Report Inquiry Into Eligibility Criteria For The Australian Defence Medal.

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, has announced that he has accepted the recommendations of the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal report of the inquiry into the eligibility criteria for the Australian Defence Medal.

The Australian Defence Medal (ADM) recognises Australian Defence Force (ADF) regular and Reserve personnel who have, within a set timeframe, demonstrated their commitment and contribution to the nation.

"The release of the findings fulfils a key Government election commitment. I am very pleased to announce that the Government has accepted the Tribunal's findings, and I have asked Defence to implement the recommendations." Dr. Kelly stated.

In particular, the report recommends that applications for the ADM from ex-serving members who were medically discharged without a compensable injury or illness be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Following consideration of individual circumstances, a period of service shorter than four years or within their initial enlistment period may be deemed as efficient service for the purposes of the ADM Regulations.

The Tribunal has recommended no other changes to the eligibility criteria for the ADM.

Ex-serving ADF members who believe they may now be eligible for the ADM should contact Defence Honours and Awards, toll free, on 1800 111 321.

The Tribunal's full report is available at www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au. Further information on Defence honours and awards is available at: www.defence.gov.au/medals/
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