

# Council happenings . . .

with Mayor  
Glenn Wall

## Tillegra Dam EAR

As I advised a few weeks back, the Tillegra Dam Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) has been released for public exhibition. The closing date for submissions is Friday 13 November 2009. Submissions can be lodged on the NSW Planning website: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au). To assist in the process the Dungog District Chamber of Commerce has provided a link to the site to assist at [www.ddcc.org.au](http://www.ddcc.org.au)

As Staff and Councillors wade through the extensive documents, it is quite apparent that there are questions that need to be asked with regards to the EAR, but the most glaring omission, from a "Whole of Community" perspective is that the Socio – Economic Report does not consider the impacts of the dam at a local level. From the Council perspective, what is required is a scoping study to assess the impacts, profiling the current context and identifying who is likely to be impacted, assessing direct socio-economic impacts and assessing indirect socio-economic impacts.

As I have alerted the community in the past, it is incumbent on us all to bring forward all our concerns and issues and to present such to Government via our submissions. This is crucial in this process and as I implied previously, whether you believe the dam to be good, bad or indifferent, please be analytical, critical and methodical with your commentary, and if need be, offer recommendations.

To assist people in preparing submissions the documents are available for perusal on the internet, and various local venues such as Dungog Council Chambers and Dungog Library. If anyone has any concerns with regards to your submissions, I would urge you to contact either myself or Councillors.

## Dangers of backyard swimming pools

Drowning is one of the major causes of death for NSW children under the age of five. Each year on average 10 children under five years of age will drown in backyard swimming pools and many more suffer brain damage and other serious injuries associated with near-drowning experiences.

A swimming pool checklist, developed by the NSW Water Safety Taskforce in consultation with local councils, has been designed to assist pool owners determine whether their pool fence or other barriers comply with the legislation.

There are different fencing requirements for swimming pools dependent upon when the pool was installed and where it is located, three checklists have been provided. Pool owners are asked to complete the checklist that applies to their property and swimming pool. If you don't know when your pool was built, Council may be able to assist.

I would remind all guardians of children and Pool owners that there is no substitute for constant adult supervision of children in and around swimming pools to prevent drowning and other accidents, and I cannot place enough emphasis on people having the ability to perform Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

For further information visit [www.safewaters.nsw.gov.au](http://www.safewaters.nsw.gov.au)  
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