



Dungog Shire Council Advocacy Agenda 2022

Clarence Town Road rehabilitation. Photo credit: Athryn Grove

Critical Funding Priorities

ABOUT THE ADVOCACY AGENDA

This document contains information regarding critical priorities for Dungog Shire to help create and maintain a safe and accessible road network and provide quality community facilities.

This is a blueprint for Dungog Shire Council to advocate on behalf of its community to ensure federal and state funding is directed to the highest needs infrastructure priorities to improve quality of life for all shire citizens.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dungog Shire is a vibrant and growing region, with a sustainable economy.

Ours is an area where rural character, a sense of community and lifestyle are preserved.

Dungog Shire Council currently manages a 717.39km road network, which represents one of the largest in NSW.

Due to our relatively small ratepayer base, council relies on federal and state grant funding to deliver critical infrastructure upgrades.

Over 52% of council's annual revenue is from grants and contributions.

Essential upgrades to our transport, community and social infrastructure serve to keep locals employed, support tourism and contribute to our regional economy, all while improving quality of life for our residents and visitors.

Council is committed to working together with all levels of government, agencies, and like-minded organisations to achieve the priority infrastructure goals for Dungog Shire.



This document details these priorities and calls on our parliamentary representatives to provide support and funding to enable us to address these critical infrastructure needs.

It is our aim to provide every citizen of Dungog Shire facilities and infrastructure to a standard they deserve.

John Connors

Mayor of Dungog Shire

Advocacy is taking action to create real change.

ABOUT OUR SHIRE

Dungog Shire: life as it should be.

Covering an area of **2,248 square kilometres**, Dungog Shire has a **population of 9,664**, with some major population centres including **Dungog; Gresford; Paterson; Vacy; Martins Creek; and Clarence Town.**

Dungog Shire sits within the **federal seat of Lyne**, and the **state seat of Upper Hunter.**



ABOUT OUR SHIRE



POPULATION
9,664 people



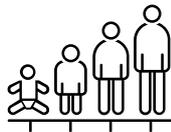
ANNUAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT
\$722.770 million



EMPLOYMENT
2,202 jobs



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
3.4%



MEDIAN AGE OF RESIDENTS
45



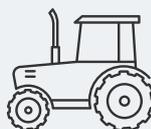
NUMBER OF FAMILIES
2,471



Education and Training pays \$25.011 million in wages - more than any other sector in Dungog



454 residents identify as **Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander**



LARGEST EMPLOYMENT SECTORS

1. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing: 421 jobs
2. Education and Training: 286 jobs
3. Construction: 214 jobs.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

Council currently manages a 717.39km road network - one of the largest in NSW.

Council relies on federal and state grant funding to deliver critical and endorsed infrastructure upgrades to our road network and importantly, to keep locals employed, support tourism and contribute to the regional economy.

With the National Party securing \$34B for regional areas and critical infrastructure as a result of its support for zero carbon emissions by 2050, we're advocating for a share of this funding to improve essential infrastructure for all citizens of Dungog Shire.



STATE OF PLAY

Dungog Shire Council's advocacy priorities support the Australian Local Government Association's national advocacy campaign.

Economic recovery priorities include:

- An initial injection of Financial Assistance Grants to local government of \$1.3 billion.

This will serve to support communities and jobs, and also resolve the current practice of bringing forward two quarterly Financial Assistance Grant payments each year.

- A commitment to return Financial Assistance Grants to at least 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue via a phased approach.

Don't Leave Local Communities Behind



Hospital Road, Dungog. Photo credit: Aithyn Grove

PRIORITY PROJECTS: ROADS AND BRIDGES

Road or Bridge Location	Treatment Length	Cost
Bingleburra Road, West of Sugarloaf Road	2,750m	\$3,080,000
Glendonbrook Road West of Kangaroo Creek Bridge	700m	\$784,000
Glendonbrook Road 2.1km to 3.1km East of Shire Boundary	1,000m	\$1,120,000
Allyn River Road, Halton Bridge to Gringhi Bridge	3,700m	\$2,525,250
Lewinsbrook Road, Allyn River Road to End of Seal	2,650m	\$1,192,500
Black Camp Creek Road, 1.2km to 1.7km from Glen Martin Road	500m	\$225,000
Black Camp Creek Road, 2.2km to 2.55km from Glen Martin Road	350m	\$157,500
Tanna Road, Black Camp Creek Road to End	290m	\$130,500
Fishers Hill Road, End of reseal to end of Seal	2,100m	\$1,102,500
Glen Martin Road, Black Camp Creek Bridge to Pine Brush Road	2,500m	\$1,443,750
Wallarobba - Brookfield Road, Dungog Road to Fire Shed	600m	\$324,000
Salisbury Road, 1.0km-2.0km west of Chichester Dam Road	1,000m	\$630,000
Woerdens Road, Chicken Sheds to end of Seal	1,500m	\$675,000
Fosterton Road, Bilton Downs to End of Rehabilitation Job	1,400m	\$630,000
Fords Road, Glen William Road to 1km East	1,000m	\$405,000
Oakey Creek Road, Dungog Road to 700m North	500m	\$202,500
Salisbury Road 4.60km North of Salisbury Gap Road to End of Seal	2,750m	\$1,237,500
Brown Street - Dungog. East of Dowling Street	100m	\$450,000
Lord Street - Dungog. Mackay Street to Brown Street	230m	\$683,100
Lord Street - Dungog. Myles Street to Scout Lane	350m	\$1,039,500
Lord Street - Dungog. Scout Lane to Mackay Street	130m	\$390,000
Simmonds Lane - Dungog. Chapman Street to Mackay Street	220m	\$275,000
Marshall Street - Clarence Town. South of Prince Street	170m	\$510,000
Queen Street - Clarence Town. East of Grey Street	110m	\$330,000
Sloane Street - Paterson. Maitland Street to Main Street	240m	\$356,400
Abelard Street. Dungog. Mackay Street to Brown Street	220m	\$660,000

Myles Street – Dungog. Lord Street to Dowling Street	190m	\$564,300
Albert Street – Paterson. Maitland Road to Main Street	230m	\$345,000
Victoria Street – Paterson. Main Street to End	330m	\$577,500
William Street – Paterson. Maitland Street to Main Stree	210m	\$420,000
Myles Street – Dungog. Abelard Street to Lord Street	210m	\$623,700
Brown Street – Dungog. Lord Street to Dowling Street	230m	\$683,100
Myles Street – Dungog. Dowling Street to Windeyer Street	220m	\$990,000
Queen Street - Clarence Town. Durham to Russell Street	120m	\$237,600
Abelard Street- Dungog. North of Clarence Town Road to Mary Street	230m	\$1,035,000
Church Street – Paterson. King Street to Prince Street	220m	\$440,000
Gresford Suspension Bridge	N/A	\$3,000,000

PRIORITY PROJECTS: COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Location	Description	Cost
Dungog Showground	Amenities block	\$450,000
Dungog Showground	Historic grandstand upgrade	\$750,000
Gresford Sporting Complex	Field lighting & amenities stage	\$750,000
Dungog School to Pool and Bennett Park	On-street cycleways	\$400,000
Dungog Pool	Main pool lining, footpath refurbishment and safety upgrades	\$1,000,000
Clarence Town Pool	Amenities refurbishment and fencing upgrades	\$250,000
Vacy Oval	Fencing extension, cricket nets and ground lighting	\$550,000
Gresford Road Pathway (South of Vacy)	Subdivision link	\$200,000
School to Prince Street, Paterson	Footpath and cycleway	\$250,000
Dungog Library	Internal fit-out and technology upgrade	\$250,000

GRESFORD SUSPENSION BRIDGE

The Gresford Suspension Bridge over the Paterson River at Gresford is a 72.3 metre bridge connecting Gresford to an isolated community to the west of the Paterson River.

The suspension bridge requires funding of approximately \$3M to be replaced. An application by Dungog Shire Council was unsuccessful in Round 1 of the NSW Government's Fixing Country Bridges program because the bridge had too many non-timber components. Council has since applied for funding under Round 2 of this program; however, has been advised that the funding guidelines, although reviewed by the NSW Government, will likely exclude this bridge for the same reason.

There are seven families isolated on the western side of the Paterson River who rely on access over this bridge.

There is a river crossing provided, which is critical for larger vehicles that cannot safely use the suspension bridge; however, this river crossing frequently washes away during flood and rain events, making access to primary producer markets and local services very difficult for the residents.

A new bridge is needed to provide safe and reliable access for residents and the local community.

Given the difficulties in obtaining state government funding, Dungog Shire Council seeks \$3M in funding from the Australian Government through federal bridge funding programs to enable the replacement of this bridge.

Footage of the Gresford Suspension Bridge can be viewed here:

bit.ly/gresfordsuspensionbridge



Gresford Suspension Bridge. Photo credit: Aithyn Grove

PRIORITY PROJECTS: PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Location	Description	Cost
Bennett Park, Dungog	North and south carparks, kerbing and pathways	\$800,000
Bennett Park, Dungog	Cricket net upgrades	\$100,000
Lions Park, Clarence Town	Path and rotunda, solar battery and lighting	\$100,000
Orana Park, Gresford	New play equipment, surfacing, security lighting, footpaths and car parking	\$375,000
Kings Wharf Park, Paterson	Seating, lighting and paths	\$275,000
Tucker Park, Paterson	Seating, internal road sealing and concrete edging	\$750,000
Skipline Park, Martins Creek	New play equipment	\$250,000



EXPANDING MOBILE COVERAGE IN OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY

The telecommunications infrastructure across Dungog Shire has remained largely unchanged since 2017, with demand for improved services increasing.

The Dungog Shire community deserves to have access to quality telecommunications infrastructure - the same that's enjoyed by most other Australians.

The Federal Budget has set aside \$818M over five years to expand the digital mobile coverage in regional Australia.

We are seeking real, tangible commitments from the relevant agencies and service providers to ensure Dungog Shire is prioritised in receiving its fair share of this funding.





CONTACT US

198 Dowling Street,
Dungog NSW 2420
shirecouncil@dungog.nsw.gov.au
02 4995 7777

