

Council happenings . . .

with General Manager
Craig Deasey

In 2009 the NSW Government introduced legislation that would govern the way local Councils and elected Councillors will undertake their duties and responsibilities as custodians of their community's public purse and assets. This new process is referred to as Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

As part of this process 8 Councillors attended a workshop run by UTS Sydney Local Government Centre of Excellence last Sunday week to provide them with a briefing in relation to the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework (IPRF). This framework provides an opportunity for Councils to work with their communities on the development of a Community Strategic Plan.

In early May Council will be conducting a series of community forums across the Shire to listen to the community as regards what they see as the needs and priorities of the Shire and therefore, what should make up the foundations of the Councils Community Strategic Plan.

The integrated planning and reporting process also requires a long term financial plan covering a minimum of 10 years to be in place for every Council as well as a fully costed four year delivery plan, in line with the Community Strategic Plan.

One of the greatest challenges for any Council is to balance the provision of real enhancements and improvements to local communities with the need to undertake essential maintenance and renewal works on local infrastructure, and to do so with limited resources.

Whilst the Council is the provider of numerous services and the custodian of community assets, there are many government agencies and organisations that also provide services to our communities across the Shire independent of Council that contribute to the basic foundations of our communities and Council will also be liaising with such organisations as well.

This is your opportunity to come forward and express your views. If you are unable to attend one of the forums Council will have survey forms available from the Councils website and various premises across the Shire to enable you to have your input into the development of the community strategic plan.

Dungog Shire 2030 Community Strategic Plan is being promoted as "Our Shire. Our Heritage. Our Future."

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