

Bega Valley Shire Council News

Issue 08 - Tuesday 17 July 2018

connecting council and the community

Service culture learning **Fund** childcare water **Improve** environment **Support** halls **Review** bridges **Infrastructure** development waste footpaths

Plan recreation libraries **People** gallery roads **Deliver** pools events **Future** cemeteries community sewer

Operational PLAN 2018-19

A closer look at this year's Operational Plan on pages 4 and 5

Appeal distribution moves onto Stage 2

With the initial allocation of the Tathra and District Bushfire Mayoral Appeal Fund now completed, the committee have moved directly onto Stage 2.

Stage 2 aims to provide support to those whose homes have been lost or significantly damaged - this includes second residences such as rental properties and holiday homes.

Eligible residents have been contacted directly by the distribution committee and provided with the necessary application information.

A distribution matrix has been developed by the committee, which will determine the amounts distributed to each household.

Bega Valley Shire Council Mayor, Cr Kristy McBain, said the distribution committee was very happy with the efficiency of the initial allocation and was looking forward to being able to provide further support to those impacted through this second stage.

"The appeal fund has now passed the \$1.5 million mark and we are very focussed on ensuring the money goes out in a timely manner to meet urgent needs," Cr McBain said.

Anyone who believes they are eligible for Stage 2 and have not been contacted is encouraged to phone (02) 6499 2182, or email MayoralAppealFund@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

More information about the Mayoral Appeal Fund (including the fund rules) is available on Council's website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/tathra.

Donations to the Mayoral Appeal Fund can still be made via:

- Electronic bank transfer: BSB: 012525 Account: 837535154.
- In person, at an ANZ Bega Branch.
- Credit Card over the phone, call (02) 6499 2345 during office hours.

For international donations, the ANZ swift code is ANZBAU3M.

Your Place. Our Place. Great Place.

Vision: By working together, the Bega Valley Shire community integrates quality of life, enterprising business, sustainable development and conservation of the environment.

Gallery concept plans prepared

The planned redevelopment of the Bega Valley Regional Gallery (BVRG) has reached another significant milestone.

Architectural concept plans have now been prepared by Sibling Architecture and will form a key component of the Development Application for the project that is set to be lodged soon.

The development of the plans comes after the BVRG was given the go ahead to progress their application for funding under the NSW Government's Regional Cultural Fund into a special round, which will be submitted in September.

BVRG Director, Iain Dawson, praised Sibling's concept, calling it a "game changer" for the visual arts in south eastern NSW.

"Encompassing expanded exhibition and storage space, contemporary environmental control and lighting and a hireable workshop space; the concept design also features a more welcoming and accessible façade that allows the community to view artworks 24/7," Mr Dawson said.

"As the only publicly funded gallery south of Nowra and east of Albury, the BVRG has delivered access to contemporary Australian visual culture within a limited facility for 30 years.

"Sibling has skilfully interpreted what is needed to bring the gallery in line with other regional galleries in NSW, so we are able to present even broader artistic and educational programs to

residents of the south east.

"The excellent response from the community to last year's consultation demonstrated just how cherished the BVRG is and the dedicated work of our stakeholder committee has enabled us to continue our momentum.

"It is a game changer for the visual arts in south eastern NSW."

- Iain Dawson

"I am confident we have a strong application and look forward to submitting our business case to the Regional Cultural Fund.

"In 2017, the 22,000 visitors to the BVRG (40% of these were visitors to the Shire) added \$1.3million to the local economy.

"The proposed new gallery has the capacity to draw even more visitors and reach a broader local and tourist audience also," Mr Dawson said.

The community will have an opportunity to provide feedback on the concept through the public exhibition phase of the Development Application process – details on this will be advertised at the appropriate time.

Right: The concept plans for the Bega Valley Regional Gallery redevelopment depict an exciting and interactive space.



Infrastructure boost for Bermi

Significant infrastructure is required to make a town habitable and pleasurable, both to live in and visit.

Bermagui is a unique town, with a stunning natural environment and year-round visitors, and Council contributes by maintaining and providing the necessary roads, bridges, sewer, water and recreational amenities to support residents, businesses and tourists.

Council's Works Manager, Ian Macfarlane, said that it was gratifying to see the Nutley's Creek Reservoir pulse new life into Bermagui's water mains recently.

"The Reservoir cost \$3 million and another \$3 million was spent on pipes in preparation, so all up that adds up to around 65% of Council's total expenditure on water pipes in the last three years," he said.

Plans are also in the pipeline for upgrades to the Bermagui sewerage treatment plant which is likely to necessitate an approximate \$1 million spend. These works are currently out to tender.

In addition, Bermagui folk can expect work to begin on a new water treatment plant in the next 12-24 months. This will be a big-ticket item worth at least \$7 million.

Safe and convenient roads, pathways and cycleways enhance



Work on the Bermagui Bridge represented a portion of the near \$1.5 million Council invested in the Bermagui township transport network during the 2017-18 financial year.

urban living and in the 2017/2018 financial year, Council has spent the following on the Bermagui township transport network (these figures do not include maintenance on parks, reserves, streets or amenities).

- Road stabilisation \$543,000
- Road sealing \$280,000
- Bridge works (Bermagui) \$124,000
- Bridge works (Brokelos) \$270,000
- Cycleways \$15,000
- Footpaths \$6,000
- Drainage \$200,000

A further \$2 million in expenditure is planned for the 2018/2019 financial year for Bermagui boat ramps, amenities and pathways.



Tathra and District Recovery Support Service

The Tathra and District Bushfire Recovery Centre and Information Point has transitioned to the Recovery Support Service (RSS).

This service is available to anyone who feels they have been impacted by the Tathra and District fires.

The Recovery Support Service will be open for 12 months at **Unit 6 Tathra Beach House Apartments in Tathra**. The service's Recovery and Resilience Officers, who are qualified caseworkers, can also offer home visits for greater convenience.

Our Recovery and Resilience Officers will offer you one-on-one assistance with your personal and practical needs such as:

- Working out what needs to be done and developing an action plan
- Finding out what financial and non-financial supports are available to you
- Assisting with referral and application processes
- Managing grief and loss
- Navigating insurance and the rebuilding process
- Liaising with Centrelink and other government bodies to complete paperwork
- Developing strategies on how best to support children, families and yourself after disaster

The service is available Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.00am - 4.30pm; with extended hours from 9.00am – 7.00pm on Thursdays. The service will also operate from 9.30am – 4.30pm on Saturdays.

To access the Recovery Support Service, visit the office at **Unit 6 Tathra Beach House Apartments in Tathra**, call the Recovery Hotline on **6499 2475**, or email recovery@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

The Recovery Support Service is jointly funded under the Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

Airport terminal DA to be submitted

The proposed upgrade and redevelopment of the Merimbula Airport terminal is set to take a significant step forward with the Development Application set to be submitted this week.

The community is invited and encouraged to provide feedback on the proposal when the application is publically exhibited in the coming weeks.

Prepared by prolific architecture firm, STEA, and informed through consultation previously undertaken with airport user groups, the plan is for the terminal building to extend just past the current airside gates and would include airport screening, a search room, upgraded staff room, an external seating area with access to the café, and the separation of incoming and departing passengers.

Through pursuing a modular expansion, there will be little disturbance to the current terminal footprint and it will allow for further sections to be added as the need arises into the future.

Council's project manager, Jenny Symons, said the key aims of the project are to improve passenger comfort and safety and importantly future-proof the airport for the foreseeable future.



An illustration of what an upgraded Merimbula Airport terminal may look like on approach from the north apron.

"STEAs have an excellent track record of designing airport terminals and we are very confident in the work that has been done in preparing these plans," Ms Symons said.

"They comprise the bare minimum needed to allow for the introduction of security screening for passengers and their baggage, which could become mandatory at any time and is required for the airport to cater for any aircraft larger than the

current Rex fleet.

"Heating and cooling of the building will be improved through the use of environmentally friendly instantaneous heating and fan driven ventilation and cost effective measures are being incorporated to ensure that the terminal's presentation to arriving travellers will reflect its key role as a gateway to the area.

"Feedback from user groups about

the importance of features such as the external seating area has been incorporated into the design and careful attention has been paid to ensuring disruption to the terminal's operations will be minimised during the construction phase," Ms Symons said.

For further information on the project, contact Jenny Symons on (02) 6499 2222 or email JSymons@begavalley.nsw.gov.au

Early childhood centres to merge

Early childhood education in Eden is set for a significant change, with Council to co-locate Eden Preschool and Eden Childcare Centre from January 2019.

The merged entity will operate from the Eden Childcare Centre facility in Bimmil Street, with Council to investigate options for the best utilisation of the current Preschool site in nearby Stanley Street.

The merged early learning service will include both long day care and preschool programs, similar to Council's successful multipurpose Bega service, Bandara Children's Services.

Eden Childcare Centre will be renamed in consultation with the community in coming months to reflect the changes to the service.

The decision to co-locate Eden Preschool and Eden Childcare Centre aligns with recent feedback and requests from service users and will importantly improve efficiencies by reducing overhead costs such as utilities. The move is also a key priority within Council's Children's Services Strategic Plan.

Council's Manager Community Connections, Kristina Brenner, said in working under a finite budget it is our absolute priority that funding is allocated wherever possible to directly supporting the children and their families.

"There is no doubt in our mind that a successful merger will enable this to happen more effectively and having recently received a capital works grant, we are planning on increasing the licenced capacity of the co-located service by building a third room," Ms Brenner said.

"Council has operated all four of its Children's Services (Bandara in Bega and the Sapphire Mobile Preschool as well) for more than 10 years, having taken them on



Fun and learning will continue when the Eden Preschool and Eden Childcare Centre merge from January 2019.

to ensure the community wasn't without a preschool or childcare centre and we remain unwavering in this commitment.

"It is important that as we transition into these new arrangements, our families and children feel supported and understand that we will assist them in any way we can," Ms Brenner said.

Information sessions will be held in Term 3, with current and potential service users of the preschool and long day care programs welcome to attend. These information sessions will also include consultation about the naming of the new Centre.

Fact sheets about the changes have been provided to parents of Eden Childcare Centre and Eden Preschool and they are also available on Council's website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/children.

For more information, contact your current service.

Trade Services Panel

Another chance for local tradespeople and service providers to become registered as preferred and pre-approved contractors has come about through Council's Trade Services Panel tender.

This process aims to expand upon the existing panel that can be called upon to deliver services for Council without the need to submit a separate tender for every job.

The panel provides a platform for engagement between both trade contractors and Council project managers, providing efficiencies and reducing the administrative burden for all.

It allows Council to set out standardised, pre-negotiated terms and conditions across all trade categories, which apply for the duration of the panel, ensuring appointment on an even playing field via an open process.

After successfully operating for the past 12 months the panel has been reopened to a broader range of services.

The Trade Services Panel tender closes at 12pm AEST on Wednesday, 25 July 2018.

Visit our tender portal at www.tenderlink.com/begavalley.

Grants and fire drive changes

Overview

More than words on a page, the Delivery Program is a key document of Council, which underpins and outlines what we will do in the medium term (four years) to deliver services, projects, capital works and asset maintenance to Shire residents.

Recently, it was necessary to make revisions to the Delivery Program 2017 - 2021 to take into account two significant developments impacting operations; the unprecedented level of funding currently coming to Council from the State Government through grants and the Tathra and District Fire.

The Operational Plan takes a short term view of Council's activities, focusing on the upcoming 12 months and in this issue we're moving the magnifying glass over a few projects in the Operational Plan to give you some insight into what you can expect over the next year.

Revisions to the Delivery Program were adopted by Council at its 27 June meeting, along with the Operational Plan 2018 – 2019.

You can view both the current Operational Plan and the Delivery Program on our website.

Tathra and District Fire

Several projects line up against the Tathra and District Fire and these focus on the Recovery Support Service, mental health, waste management, management of development applications, soil conservation and vegetation regeneration, distributing funds from the Mayoral Fund and infrastructure projects such as the Tathra Headland Wharf Access walkway and the Tathra foreshore playground renewal.

The Tathra Headland walkway and the playground are both being funded by the State Government, with \$1.2 million for the walkway coming from the Regional Growth Environment and Tourism Fund and \$600,000 for the playground from the Accelerated Open Space and Parklands Program.

Stronger Country Communities Fund

Council is benefiting from further financial

support to the tune of \$974,677 coming from successful applications to the NSW State Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund to provide infrastructure projects throughout the Shire.

Specifically, four village playgrounds at Bemboka, Cobargo, Mogareeka and Wyndham will be upgraded; the town halls at Kiah, Tanja, Wolumla and Pambula will receive new contemporary kitchens; the Eden Log Cabin will soon sport a new roof and kitchen; various improvements will occur at Bandara Childrens Services; and stage one of the Great South Coast Walk will commence with the replacement of the Wallaga Lake boardwalk.

Council's Grant Funding Submissions Coordinator, Cecily Hancock, said that it's fantastic that there have been so many funding opportunities for Council to apply for.

"We are working hard to maximise our applications to a range of (government and non-government) organisations," she said.

Exciting year ahead for environmental projects

An exciting 12 months is planned for environmental projects and programs as Council strives to effectively manage our cherished environment, often in partnership with various local organisations and community stakeholders.

Keep an eye on Council's website and Facebook page over the coming months as plans and programs are developed and delivered.

Coastal Hazards

The Shire-wide Coastal Hazards Management Program will be completed over the next year.

The Program builds on the knowledge gained from the Coastal Processes and Hazards Definition Study, carried out in 2014-2015.

The plan will develop management actions for areas in the Shire at risk from coastal hazards and will be delivered in accordance with the New Coastal Management Act (2016), Coastal Management Manual (2018) and Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy (2018).

The final report of the Coastal Processes and Hazards Definition Study was published in 2015 and is available from Council's website at www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au.



A management plan for Merimbula Lake will be developed this financial year.

Coastal Management

The glistening waters of our lakes are a treasured asset enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages and the next 12 months will see programs developed, which will outline the direction for the management of Wallaga Lake, Merimbula Lake, Back Lake, and Lake Curalo.

The management plans will take into account the environmental, social, cultural and recreational use values of the lakes and will also have regard to the threats and pressures on lake ecosystems.

The plans will naturally comply with current legislation and standards too, namely the New Coastal Management Act (2016), the

Coastal Management Manual (2018) and the Coastal Management State Environmental Planning Policy (2018).

Tathra Soil Conservation Plan

The Tathra and District Fire severely affected the fragile land catchments around the township of Tathra.

Acting Environment and Sustainability Coordinator, Michael Fiedler, said that the focus for the upcoming year is on reducing the risk of soil and sediment from entering waterways and affecting stormwater infrastructure.

"We are working in partnership with the Local Land Services and we have funding support from the Crown Land Service through the Department of Industry, so we can

continue to monitor and deploy erosion and sediment control measures in and around Tathra," he said.

Green Shoots campaign

The Green Shoots campaign aims to restore those natural areas affected by the fire in and around Tathra.

Council is encouraging the community to be involved in organised planting activities and tree-giveaways over the next 12 months.

With assistance from Tathra Landcare and other community members, Council has already started revegetating some areas and we're planning further works in priority locations.

NSW Coastal Conference

Council is thrilled to be the 2018 host of the annual NSW Coastal Conference for three days from 7-9 November.

This is the first time we have hosted the Conference which is likely to bring around 200 delegates from across the State to our patch of paradise.

More information is available at www.coastalconference.com.

Town teams making it happen

It's been another busy few weeks for the town teams, with projects on the go throughout the Shire.

Bermagui

The Bermagui team have been undertaking fencing repairs, picnic table maintenance and vegetation maintenance on trees, grass and shrubs.

Toilet maintenance repairs have been programed in this financial year, with painting and improved lighting the focus.

Bega

The ongoing maintenance of and repairs to the paving, bin stands and balustrading in Carp Street has been on the agenda in Bega.

This work is set to be complimented by a planned project to repair the timber bench seats outside the Commonwealth Bank and further paving and concrete repairs in Ayres walkway.

Two picnic tables have been removed and replaced at Bega lookout, while the upgrade of the Bega Cheese Apex Park is nearing completion.

Merimbula

The beautification of gardens in Merimbula continues, with areas including the boat ramp, Fishpen, Ford Oval and the Alice Street carpark all coming in for attention.

The Fishpen carpark also saw 18 metres of kerb and gutter replaced.

Eden

Fencing repairs and tree and vegetation management in parks and gardens have been priorities for the Eden town team, with important work to beach access tracks also undertaken.

New pressure washer

Council recently purchased a new steam pressure washer.

The trailer mounted unit comes with a turbo head to enable the efficient removal of graffiti, food spills, chewing gum and general grime from assets such as footpaths, barbecues and toilets and algae from boat ramps and pontoons.

Line marking

The Urban Maintenance Team have been line marking road intersections across the Shire to improve 'Give Way' and 'Stop' lines – a total of 174 intersections have been completed with more to come in this financial year.

Cycleways

Repairs have been carried out on the Pambula/ Merimbula cycleway, with 27 metres replaced with new reinforced concrete.

Street Sweeper

The contract street sweeper has been busy sweeping and removing aggregate and debris from Council's rural, regional and urban roads and roundabouts. A total of 123 intersections have been completed in all.



Above: The new steam pressure washer is being put to good use.

Below: The beautification of Merimbula's gardens has continued at a number of sites.



Merimbula waste collection changes

Bega Valley Shire Council has made changes to waste collection zones for properties in the Merimbula urban area (east of Reid Street) to achieve consistency with bin collection dates.

The zones are what Council's waste collection contractors, Cleanaway, and Council use to plan bin collection days across the Shire.

Merimbula previously had two waste collection zones, Zone A and Zone B.

Council's Waste Management Coordinator Joley Vidau said all of the Merimbula urban area changed to Zone A from Thursday, July 12.

"Previously Merimbula had two zones, Zone A (west of Reid St) and Zone B (east of Reid St), which meant a section of the town put their bins out for collection on one day and the rest on another," Ms Vidau said.

"This zone change will help residents and visitors work out which bins go out each week and streamline bin collection.

"The best way to keep track is to download the free Bega Valley

Waste APP onto your smartphone, enter your address, and it will send you reminders of when to put your bins out.

"Council has also sent a letter and a 2018-19 Zone A calendar to current Zone B residents to help them present the correct bins for collection.

"You will also notice one side of the calendar has bin collection dates for when FOGO starts, so when you receive your free kitchen caddy you can turn your calendar over for the FOGO collection dates," Ms Vidau said.

If you were already in Zone A

nothing has changed, but if you were previously in Zone B the following applies:

- Your Recycling (yellow) bin was collected on Thursday, July 5 and will be collected on a fortnightly basis from Thursday, July 12 moving forward.
- Your Organics (green) bin will be collected on Thursday, August 2 and then every four weeks until FOGO starts later this year.
- There is no change to your Landfill (red) bin collection, as it will remain weekly until FOGO starts later in the year.



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Merimbula Aldi is on the way

An Aldi supermarket in Merimbula will be a reality after the Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel (SJRPP) approved the Development Application recently.

The DA went before the Joint Regional Planning Panel due the cost of construction being valued at \$6.9 million and as Council was the land owner.

In giving reasons for their decision, the SJRPP determined that the proposed development was consistent with the Bega Valley LEP 2013 and DCP 2013 and appropriate for the site in accordance with the relevant statutory planning provisions.

The German giant will now be able to proceed with their plans at 103 & 105 – 107 Main Street.

Importantly the panel did impose modified conditions of approval that will require Aldi to do the following:

- Submit a landscape plan that provides additional landscaping to the Main Street carpark.
- Plant four large trees (10 – 20 metres in height) within the road reserve of the new service road and a further two within the Main Street footpath.
- Provide a public artwork in Merimbula or a monetary payment in lieu.
- Fence the side boundary with 99 Main Street using materials that complement the development.



Rothelowman Architects' concept plan for the Aldi supermarket building, which is set to be constructed at 103 & 105 - 107 Main Street in Merimbula after the DA was approved by the Southern Joint Regional Planning Panel (SJRPP).

- Only trim and/or remove tress and vegetation that would impede construction of the supermarket.
- Provide Council with a noise verification report (prepared by an appropriately qualified acoustic consultant) within three months of the supermarket opening.

The decision of the SRJPP comes following a public consultation period, site inspections, briefing meetings and a final public meeting on 28 June.

Planning Panels are independent bodies. Determinations made by the Panels are not subject to the direction of the Minister for Planning.

They were introduced in NSW on 1 July 2009 to strengthen decision making on regionally significant development applications (DAs) and certain other planning matters.

Full details on the planning Panels can be found at www.planningpanels.nsw.gov.au/AboutUs/.

Design developed for bike track project

Council's design team have developed a comprehensive design for the Tathra to Kalaru Bike Track alignment.

Design efforts have been focussed on the southern side of Tathra Road from the Kalaru Bus Stop to the entrance of Tathra.

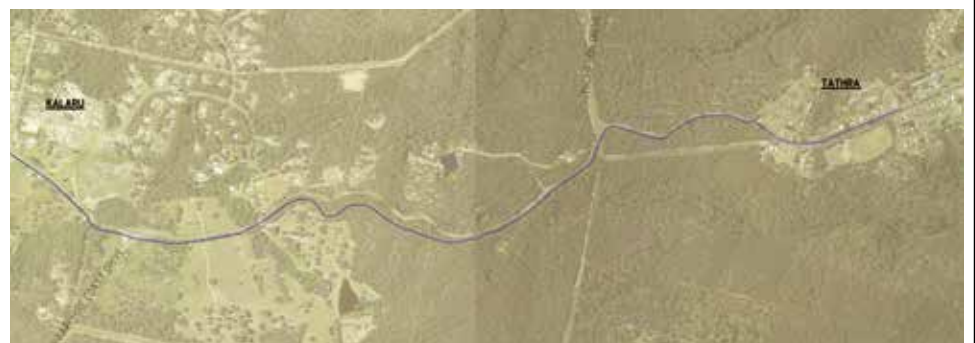
The path will then cross Tathra Road/Bega Street to the northern side where it will finish at the Tathra Primary School.

A staged construction of the bike path is planned to commence in

late 2018, with a target completion of mid-2019.

The project is to be entirely funded by a \$3,000,000 grant received from the State Government under the 2017/18 Active Transport Program and represents the first stage in creating a cycling network between Bega and Tathra.

All plans, as well as answers to the frequently asked questions, are available for viewing on Council's website at <https://www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/majorprojects>.



The proposed alignment of the Tathra-Kalaru Bike Track.

For more information or to submit feedback on the project, contact Council on (02) 6499 2222 or email

the project officer, Brenton Blair at bblair@begavalley.nsw.gov.au.

Have you moved?

Do you need to update your address?

use our online form

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/update-my-address

Council wrap

Following a busy first half of 2018, the Councillors are presently enjoying a mid-year break.

The Revised Delivery Program 2017- 2021, Operational Plan 2018-2019 and Annual Budget 2018-2019 took centre stage at the most recent meeting on 27 June.

You can read more about the Operational Plan on pages 4 & 5.

**Next Meeting
Wednesday 8
August @ 2pm**

Council Chambers,
Biamanga Room, Bega Valley
Commemorative Civic Centre,
Bega

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Beauty Point ramp upgrade

Wallaga Lake fishers and other users of the Beauty Point boat ramp can look forward to an upgraded boating facility now that construction is scheduled to commence later this month.

The project will be jointly funded with Roads and Maritime Services contributing \$325,000 through its NSW Boating Now program and the Bega Valley Shire Council contributing \$85,000.

Recreation Projects Supervisor, Matt Collins, said that the new facility will help improve safety and access to the water for locals and tourists alike, with a reinforced concrete double boat ramp set to replace the existing gravel ramp.

"Other works will include enlarging and upgrading the existing access road and launch area; enlarging and formalising the parking area and improving the lighting.

"We've also timed the works to try and avoid the NSW, ACT and Victorian school holidays," he said.

It will be necessary to remove trees and some vegetation to allow for road and parking improvements but once complete, the site will receive new plantings.

GPM Constructions Pty Ltd, a



Users of the the Beauty Point Boat Ramp will soon enjoy greatly improved access to the water, with a major upgrade set to commence later this month.

Sydney based specialist marine construction company, which worked on the Mogareeka boat ramp in 2016, have been engaged to carry out the construction.

While the works are underway, people are asked to launch their boats at the Bermagui River boat ramp (Lamont Street, Bermagui) or at the Bermagui Harbour boat ramp (Posidonia Esplanade, Bermagui). Both ramps are located less than

10km away from Beauty Point.

The renewal of this boat ramp is identified in the Transport for NSW Far South Coast Regional Boating Plan (2015) and in Council's Leisure & Recreation Asset Management Plan (2017) as a renewal and improvement project for maritime facilities.

For more information on this project, contact Matt Collins on (02) 6499 2140.

Electric vehicle charging point for Bega

Council will be facilitating the use of emerging technology in the form of an electric vehicle (EV) fast charging point in the Shire within the next 12 months, in line with the recently adopted Operational Plan 2018 - 2019.

The installation of an electric vehicle charging point is part of an NRMA-led initiative to support the transition to electric vehicles in Australia by providing charging points in regional locations.

The charging point will be installed in Bega and will be funded almost entirely through the NRMA with an agreement by Council to allocate 1-2 car park spaces in the Bega CBD.

Manager Economic Development, Daniel Murphy, said that he's excited for our Shire to be at the forefront in supporting EV



Bega will be home to an electric vehicle fast charging point within a year under an NRMA-led initiative.

technology and tourism.

"This is a vital opportunity for our Shire to be involved in providing infrastructure for this emerging technology to encourage electric vehicle owners to visit our area.

"Other towns in the south east, like Cooma and Batemans Bay will

also be installing NRMA charging stations in the near future so it makes sense for our Shire to fill in the gap on the highway so that EV motorists are close to a fast charge-up and can continue their touring loop," he said.

Council officers and NRMA representatives reviewed potential locations around the Shire with NRMA earlier this year and this investigation resulted in Bega as the preferred location for a number of reasons:

- Integration into the broader NRMA Fast Charging Network project.
- Appropriate electrical connection (voltage).
- Close to amenities and shops.
- Relative driving distance to the next NRMA charge point.

- Promotional opportunity for the project.

As part of the their Social Dividend Investment Strategy, NRMA are investing \$10 million to build Australia's biggest fast-charger network across NSW and the ACT, consisting of about 40 charging stations.

The charge stations will be suitable for a range of EVs and will charge most types to 80% within 30 minutes. The service will be free for NRMA members and there will be a reasonable charge for non-members.

NRMA commissioned research (2017) reports that the scarcity of EV charging infrastructure is a major barrier to the adoption of electric vehicles in Australia.

**Bega Valley Shire
library**
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Weed spraying at Saleyards



David Boag (Bega Saleyards lessee), Greg Madden (Council's Vegetation Management Officer) and Kevin Dibley (contractor) discuss the African Lovegrass weed spraying program at the Bega Saleyards.

A Council-funded spraying program aimed at removing the scourge of African Lovegrass from the Bega Saleyards site commenced recently.

African Lovegrass is a hardy, drought tolerant perennial grass species and is regarded as a weed due to its low feed quality and acceptance by livestock.

The work, which is being undertaken by local contractor Kevin Dibley, will cover the 17 hectares from the Essential Energy depot on Kerrisons Lane back to the Princes Highway and will involve the current sweep of the land and follow up visits in early Spring prior to seeding.

Sale days and the resulting stock holdings and movements have been prioritised in the planning and implementation of the program and as a consequence won't be impacted.

Council's Acting Manager Certification & Compliance, Jonathon Pyke, said the project is consistent with the objectives on the NSW Biosecurity Act and the principles and priorities identified within the South East Strategic Weeds Management Plan.

"As key land managers we (Council) are committed to doing what we can to effectively respond to and manage biosecurity risks," Mr Pyke said.

"Obviously the Saleyards site is very important to the local livestock industry and all the local farmers, agents and carriers; and the successful completion of this spraying will result in an excellent outcome for all these groups."

For more information contact Council's Vegetation Management Officer, Greg Madden, on 0447 361 880

Keep warm breathe easy

Bega Valley residents are being asked to help improve air quality this winter by checking that they are using their wood heaters correctly.

Council's Environmental Health Cadet, Amanda McKenna, said during winter smoke from wood heaters can cause concerns for people with health conditions such as asthma, as well as the elderly and very young children.

"These issues can be significantly aggravated by the incorrect operation of wood heaters," Ms McKenna said.

"Smoky chimneys can be a real problem across the Shire during winter, with wood smoke from chimneys producing a haze that can become trapped over built up areas.

"We're encouraging all residents with wood heaters to go outside and check their chimneys – ideally chimneys should not vent any smoke, just a heat haze.

"It's the responsibility of all wood heater owners to follow the easy steps listed below and minimise the harmful effects of smoke pollution on their neighbours and the environment." Ms McKenna said.

There are simple steps that can be taken to reduce pollution from wood heaters:

- Don't let your heater smoulder overnight – keep enough air in the fire to maintain a flame.
- Burn only dry, aged hardwood in your wood heater. Unseasoned wood has lots of moisture, which

causes a fire to smoke.

- Store your wood under cover in a dry, ventilated area. Freshly cut wood needs to be stored for at least 8 – 12 months.
 - Never burn rubbish, driftwood or painted or treated wood. These are sure to pollute the air and can produce poisonous gases.
 - When lighting a cold heater, use plenty of dry kindling to establish a good fire quickly.
 - Use several small logs rather than one large log and stack them loosely in your heater, so air can circulate around them. Don't cram the firebox full.
 - Keep the flame lively and bright. Your fire should only smoke when you first light it and when you add extra fuel. Open the air controls fully for 5 minutes before and 15 - 20 minutes after reloading the heater.
 - Check your chimney regularly to see how well your fire is burning. If there is smoke coming from the chimney, increase the air supply to your fire.
 - Have the chimney cleaned every year to prevent creosote build-up.
 - If you are buying a wood heater, make sure it has a compliance plate showing it meets the Australian Standard (AS/NZS 4013:1999) and obtain the relevant Council approvals prior to installation.
- Council staff will be providing individually targeted information this winter to operators of inefficiently operating wood heaters.
- For more information on how you can help to reduce wood smoke pollution, contact Council or visit the NSW EPA's website at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/woodsmoke/cando.htm>.

Careers at Council

Current Vacancies

- **Children's Services Trainee (Adult) – Aboriginal identified**
PD 505 - closes 22/7/18
- **Finance Officer**
PD 521 - closes 22/7/18
- **Nominated Supervisor Southern**
PD 119 - closes 22/7/18
- **Nominated Supervisor Bandara (fixed term)**
PD 522 - closes 22/7/18
- **Project & Contract Management Officer**
PD 528 - closes 30/7/18
- **Design Engineer**
PD 526 - closes 30/7/18

begavalley.mercury.com.au

Sign up to receive job alerts

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/careersatcouncil

What's on... LOCAL EVENTS

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/events

Have your event listed on Council's Local Events Calendar

- **Nethercote Produce Market**
Saturday 28 July 2018, 8am - noon
Nethercote Hall
<https://www.nethercoteproducemarket.com>
- **Cobargo Market Day**
Every Saturday starting at 8am, Cobargo Village.
- **Bega Valley Shire Council Meeting**
Wednesday 8 August 2018, 2pm
Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to go directly to the Local Events Calendar
Don't have a reader? Visit your app store to download one

Lighting up Bega

If you are a user of the Bega Sporting Complex or you visit Bega Park (above the Bega Pool), you may have noticed that these areas have been lit up to improve the use, function and safety of these sites.

Bega Park and the Bega Sporting Complex now have upgraded lighting arising from \$150,000 worth of funding Council received from the Commonwealth Government (Department of Home Affairs) under the Activating and Lighting Bega Public Spaces project.

Funding objectives were fourfold: improve surveillance at the Bega Sporting Complex and Bega Park; decrease the incidence of vandalism at both sites; reduce the incidence of anti-social behaviour at Bega Park; and improve community perceptions of safety at Bega Park.

Eight heritage style LED lights were installed along the central pathway in Bega Park along with a replacement of the light at the archway entrance to the park on the

corner of Upper and Parker Streets. Lighting at the Bega Sporting Complex included the following:

1. Installation of 7 steel light poles with 9 x 80 watt LED flood lights at the carpark adjacent to the netball courts and skate park;
2. Installation of 50 watt LED flood lights on the Bega Sports Stadium;
3. Installation of new eave-mounted LED lights and a 50 watt LED floodlight on the Tennis Clubhouse building; and
4. Installation of 10 new bollard style 20 watt LED lamps around the paved area behind the Bega War Memorial.

Council will evaluate the impact the new lighting has on these recreational areas and the people that use them through consultation with local Police and through online community feedback. If you have any comments in relation to this evaluation you are encouraged to contact Council on (02) 6499 2222.



Lighting upgrades have recently been completed in Bega Park (pictured) and throughout the Bega Sporting Complex thanks to Commonwealth Government funding.



Household Chemical CleanOut

**Bermagui collection
Saturday 15th September**

The collection will held at:

- **Bermagui Tip
Strudwicks Road, Bermagui
8:00 am to 2:30 pm**



**FREE
SERVICE**

You can drop off the following items:

From your home

- Solvents and household cleaners
- Floor care products
- Ammonia-based cleaners
- Fluorescent globes and tubes

From your car

- Car batteries
- Motor oils, fuels and fluids

From your garage

- Paint and paint-related products
- Pesticides and herbicides
- Poisons
- Gas bottles
- Fire extinguishers
- Pool chemicals
- Hobby chemicals
- Acids and alkalis

Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre

Zingel Place, Bega

www.begavalley.nsw.gov.au/Civiccentre



[begavalleyciviccentre](https://www.facebook.com/begavalleyciviccentre)

Visit our website to book a space or see what's on!



Contact us

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Bega NSW 2550

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