

Cost Shifting on to Local Government

Hay Shire Council is calling for urgent reform to address the growing financial burden of cost shifting, which is undermining councils' ability to deliver vital local infrastructure and services.

At its July meeting, Council resolved to support the latest report released by Local Government NSW (LGNSW) on cost shifting and will write to the NSW Treasurer to highlight the significant impact this practice is having on rural councils and their communities. Councillors also committed to informing the Hay community about the real cost of this issue, which is increasingly being borne by local ratepayers.

Cost shifting occurs when State and Federal Governments transfer responsibilities to councils without providing adequate funding. The 2023-24 report by independent consultants Morrison Low reveals that cost shifting has now reached a staggering \$1.5 billion across NSW—an increase of \$140 million (10%) since 2021-22.

For Hay Shire, this equates to a cost of \$497.40 per ratepayer—totalling \$898,304 annually across our 1,806 ratepayers. These funds, which should be going towards local projects and services, are instead being redirected to fill funding gaps left by other levels of government.

"This burden is having a direct impact on what we can deliver for our community," said Mayor Carol Oataway. "Cost shifting means we're forced to defer long-awaited projects like our main street upgrade, investment in economic development such as the industrial park, and reduce funding for road and infrastructure renewal. It's unsustainable and unfair to our residents."

Hay Shire Council is adding its voice to the call for a fairer funding model—one that reflects the increasing responsibilities being placed on councils and restores the capacity of local government to deliver for its communities.

The full LGNSW Cost Shifting Report can be found at: www.lgnsw.org.au/costshifting

Swimming Pool Management

Council's contract to manage the swimming pool has expired, and at its July meeting, Council resolved to bring the management of the new John Houston Memorial Swimming Pool complex back in-house for the 2025-26 season.

As a way to allow the facility to be more accessible to the public, Council has agreed to proceed with an unsupervised pool entry system, similar to other rural councils. To enter unsupervised, you must be a registered pass holder and have another person present with you at the facility when you swim, and only people 18 years of age or older are able to obtain the pass, however patrons are able to bring children along provided the person is a pass holder. It is planned for the pools to be operated unsupervised 7am to 7pm seven days a week, with lifeguards on duty as follows:

- 3pm to 7pm – Monday to Friday; except Tuesdays being 3pm to 6pm
- 12pm to 7pm – Saturday and Sunday, school holidays and public holidays (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day)

Staff would be on site 6am to 8am and 7pm to 8pm each day for cleaning and water monitoring, as well managing the splash park facility. The mowing and other activities would occur during the day during the unsupervised periods. It is proposed that the pools would be available to morning swimmers from 7am unsupervised, with access not available during groups use such as school and swimming club bookings. In the event of staff being unavailable, then access to the pool would only be available to unsupervised pool entry pass holders. For unsupervised entry, a FOB system and App would need to be implemented, similar to the Hay gym. With the new pool build to have heating, it is proposed that the pools be open for six months each year, however, due to new pool build the 2025-26 season is expected to be around four months.

Additionally, Council is considering the leasing of the pool canteen. An Expression of Interest (EOI) is anticipated to be called shortly to gauge interest. Further information and details to be provided in the coming months.



Know Your Council



Mayor

Cr Carol Oataway

Deputy Mayor

Cr Martyn Quinn

Councillors

Geoff Chapman

Lionel Garner

Will Miller

John Perry

Paul Porter

Darren Tapper

EVENTS

August

2 Tradies Ball

14 CWA Casserole Day

16 Naidoc Celebrations

21 CWA Casserole Lunch

September

6 Dunera Day

13 Annual Hay Show

20 Hay Glow

October

4 Booligal Sheep Races

13 Hospital Open Day

November

13-16 Rainbow on the Plains

22 Hay Races

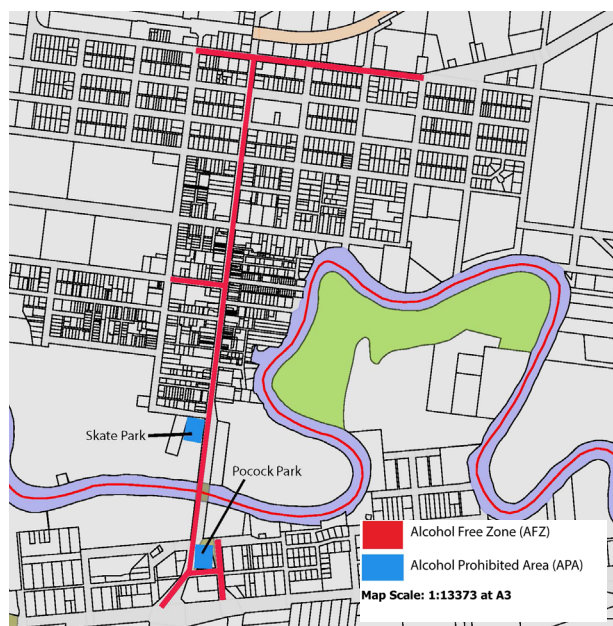
Hay Shire Snippets

Alcohol Free Zone

Council has received an application by NSW Police, endorsed by the Hay Liquor Accord, that Alcohol Free Zones (AFZ) and Alcohol Prohibited Areas (APA) be used to improve public safety by preventing disorderly behaviour and conduct caused by the consumption of alcohol in public areas. While Hay enjoys relatively sound public safety and amenity, having AFZ's and APA's enforcement is an effective tool for Police, and from a Policing perspective alcohol free zone and prohibited areas will support current Police and community efforts to prevent violent and anti-social behaviour as a result of alcohol consumption. Police enforce these areas sparingly and often discretion is applied. There is not an offence for having alcohol in an alcohol-free zone, it is only that the alcohol can be confiscated, and the person moved away from that area. It is only an offence then if the person does not comply with that request. Licenced areas, such as outside dining spaces would not be impacted.

Council, at its July meeting, resolved to prepare a proposal, in accordance with the Local Government Act, to implement AFZ's and APA's, 10pm to 8am – 7 days a week, in the areas show on the map.

Once prepared, Council will give notice to the community of the proposal to create the AFZ's and APA's, with any comments on the proposal to be considered in its determination if the AFZ's and APA's are to proceed.



New Hay Tip Hours

As part of its waste management plan, Council is to commence a 6-month trial of new Hay Tip hours. This is Part 3 (and final) component of the 2019 Strategy to improve waste management in the Shire and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

The trial is to commence on Monday 4th August for 6 months, after which Council will assess its success.

New Hours:-

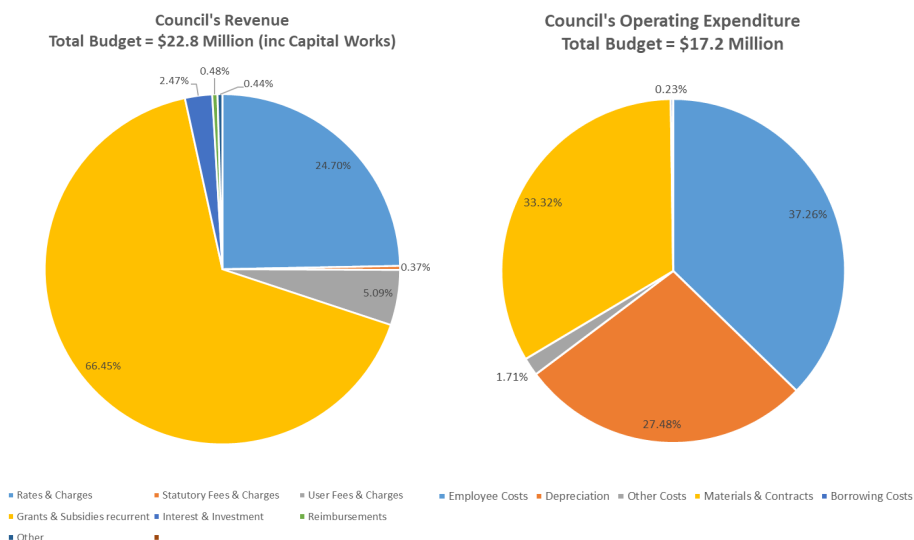
Tuesday & Friday	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Sunday	8.00am - 12.00pm
Closed: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday	

These new hours better align with current operations, staffing and visitation patterns.

Council appreciates the community's understanding and flexibility during this time.

Council 2025-26 Budget

Council at its June meeting adopted a \$22.8M budget for the 2025-26 year. A break down of the revenue and expenditure is provided below.



COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

Ordinary people making an extraordinary difference

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) model is a partnership between communities and NSW Ambulance to improve the health outcomes of patients in regional, rural and remote locations in NSW.

Trained and equipped NSW Ambulance Clinical Volunteers respond to time critical cases where early clinical intervention is known to make a significant difference before paramedics arrive.

The Hay Shire Council invites you to a
PUBLIC MEETING

NSW Ambulance will be there to provide information; answer your questions you may have thought of and gauge your interest in forming a local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

When: Wednesday 27 August at 6:30pm
Where: The Hay Shire Council Chambers
A light supper will be provided after the meeting

RSVP: by Friday 22 August (essential for catering & room set up)
Phone: Kerry McRae on (02) 6990 1100

HAY GLOW

a community gathering

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday September 20

OPENING OF THE ST PAUL'S TIME CAPSULE

LIVE MUSIC | MARKETS | FOOD | FIRE

TO BOOK A STALL OR FOOD OPTION CONTACT THE HAY VISITOR CENTRE - 02 6993 4045