

Community Newsletter



April 2019

Blue Mountains City Council

Council embarks on continuous improvement strategy

Blue Mountains City Council has completed an organisational performance review. The purpose of the review was to identify areas of improvement and the actions needed to address them. Organisational performance reviews are common practice to evaluate how an organisation is currently performing, typically asking 'Where are we now?', 'Where do we want to be?' and 'How will we get there?'

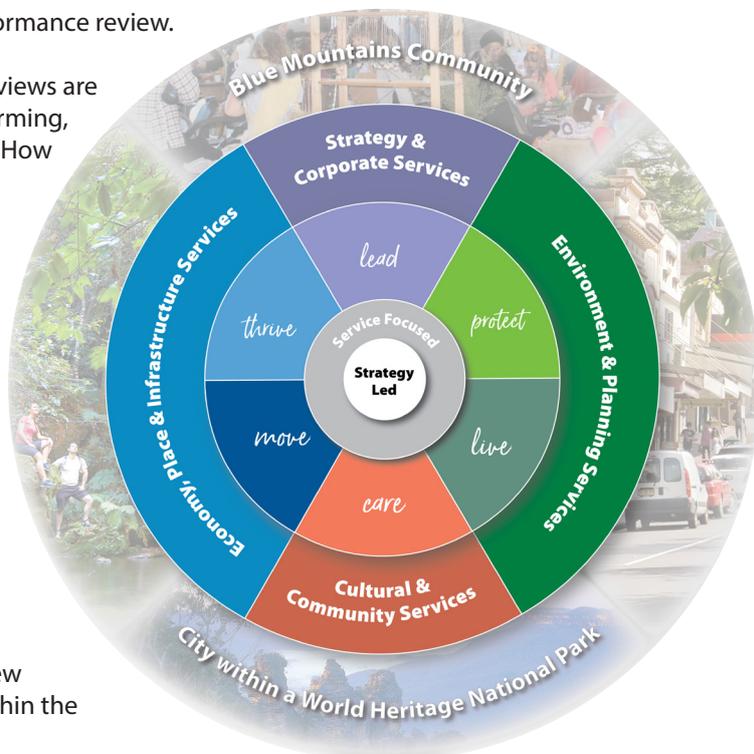
The Review was completed over a 10 month period using a staged and highly collaborative approach. At its meeting on 26 March, the elected Council considered the outcomes of the Review and adopted the BMCC Improvement Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2021, the Operating Model (see image) and Organisational Structure.

The outer circle of the model represents the Council operating as one organisation serving the community and looking after our World Heritage Area surroundings. At its centre, the Council is led by endorsed strategies and is focussed on services, all of which respond to the six Key Directions of our Community Strategic Plan, and is organised into four service-based Directorates.

We are now embarking on an organisational redesign as the first priority in our Improvement Strategy. This means implementing a new organisational structure as well as improving how different areas within the Council work together to deliver services – which is our core focus.

The proposed changes and our strategy for improvement builds on the Council's strong record in continuously improving its performance and effectively delivering services to the community. It will also better position the organisation to continue responding well to any emerging challenges and opportunities.

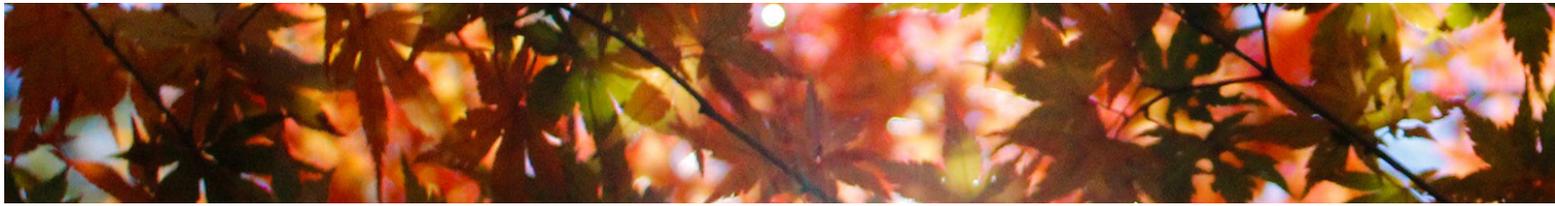
What does this mean for our community? It means we will continue to work towards a more seamless approach to best-value service delivery, improved customer service, a stronger focus on infrastructure design and placing safety at the centre of our operations and organisational culture.



Have Your Say

Blue Mountains Have Your Say provides a convenient online forum for the community to find out about Council projects and proposals that are open for public comment and to provide feedback to contribute to Council's decision making. **Go to our new-look Have Your Say website yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au.**





BLUE MOUNTAINS LIBRARY

Blue Mountains Library works hard to assist adults and children with reading issues.

The Library now has a brand new collection of books in dyslexia-font in addition to existing Phonics Kits and Auslan resources.

These **dyslexia-friendly books** have a special font and layout to alleviate some of the many issues readers with dyslexia may experience.

Phonics Kits can assist readers of all ages by systematically and explicitly teaching the relationship between letters and their sounds.

Auslan resources, designed to assist the deaf community, include Junior and Adult dictionaries and Early Learning Kits with picture books and visual Auslan prompts for babies and pre-schoolers who have hearing impairment.

Ask at your branch Library or visit library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au.



HubCon is a family friendly pop culture mini-convention taking place at Blue Mountains Theatre & Community Hub from 12 - 14 July.

HubCon will bring together fans, creators, vendors and curious spectators and will showcase a wide range of activities and events for all ages, including: anime; cosplay; table-top gaming; special guests; film screenings; speaker panels and workshops; retro gaming; collectors market; video gaming; kids' zone and much more!

HubCon show passes are now available. Some panels and workshops require pre-booking. View a full program of events and purchase tickets online at www.hubcon.com.au.

Update on City projects

A regular column providing an update on Council's 10 year program of work 2015-2025 funded or part-funded by the special rate variation.

The special rate variation funds are put towards **the renewal and maintenance of existing built assets**, such as roads, drainage, parks and town centres. Staff have been busy over summer with a high pressured jet wash to clean the surfaces of footpaths; courtyard paving; bus stops, athletics tracks and play equipment. The photos certainly show the results!

Council is embarking on a **new flood study for the Bullaburra to Linden catchment**. Flood Risk Management Studies are required by the NSW Government to guide the management of flood prone land. The first step is to establish an Advisory Committee as a forum for discussion of technical, social, economic, environmental and cultural consideration and for representative community input. The Council endorsed the appointment of 3 local residents to the Bullaburra to Linden Floodplain Risk Management Advisory Committee for a 4-year term.

The **upgrade of Wentworth Falls Lake District Park** is now complete with the car park expansion and reseal to be finished at the end of April. These improvements are part of a broader upgrade of the Wentworth Falls Lake Reserve which includes a boardwalk and viewing platform, interpretive signage, new toilet facilities and landscaping works. The project is funded by the Australian Government and Blue Mountains City Council.



Before and after images of cleaning public infrastructure with a high pressure jet wash.



Blue Mountains Cultural Centre: Exhibitions

Cath Barcan Nature morte /Civil works, 11 May – 23 June 2019

Nature morte /Civil works explores the seductive and confounding use of plastic and its ubiquitous role in our daily life. Blue Mountains artist Cath Barcan uses still life and landscape photography to highlight the use of plastic packaging in food and its presence in the landscape.

Barcan references still life painters of the Dutch Golden Age. Barcan's landscape photographs depict wrapped and enclosed road construction sites and other civil works—staged as theatrical spaces, akin to still life sets and complete with drapery—which both reveal and conceal the complexity of what lies beneath.





Your say on the year ahead

Have your say on Council's proposed service delivery plan and budget for 2019-2020.

To continue building a successful and sustainable future for the Blue Mountains, Council will spend more than \$140 million during 2019-2020 on a wide range of services and facilities to support our community and the environment.

Council has prepared its draft update of the four-year Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan for 2019-2020 and invites the views of the community. The draft documents are on public exhibition **until Wednesday 29 May 2019**.

The Draft Operational Plan 2019-2020 includes: four-year and one-year priority actions; asset works program; budget; rating statement; special variation expenditure; and fees and charges. It also presents a new operating model and organisational structure that is designed to increase efficiency and improve service delivery (see p1).

The draft documents can be viewed online at yoursay.bmcc.nsw.gov.au/dpop19-20 or in hardcopy at Katoomba and Springwood offices or in Council libraries.

Inspection program for *Priority Weeds*



We have programs in place for dealing with *Priority Weeds*, including inspecting private lands, as part of Council's ongoing commitment under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.

The process begins with Council sending a *Notice of Entry* to notify you of a pending inspection. You'll receive a brochure answering some of the questions you may have at this time. You are also advised to make an appointment with one of our Urban Weeds Officers, who can help identify and outline how to control any weeds on your property.

Following the inspection, if *Priority Weeds* are identified, you'll receive a *Presence of Priority Weeds* letter and an information booklet which outlines how to treat the weeds. There is approximately 6 weeks for you to voluntarily control the weeds.

Council's Urban Weeds Team inspects approximately 2,000 properties each year and Council is also responsible for controlling weeds on public lands. For further information regarding Council's weed inspection process please call the Bushland Operations Team Leader on 4780 5343.

We'll be featuring two *Priority Weeds* on Facebook each month. Posts will include information and a link to fact sheets that outline how you can help control these weeds. **Follow us at [facebook.com/bluemountainscitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/bluemountainscitycouncil)**.

Weeds are everybody's responsibility. Go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/weeds for more.



Waste2Art Workshops

This year's Waste to Art sculpture will take the iconic form of a Powerful-Owl Nest. The Powerful-Owl is a threatened species which can be found across the Blue Mountains in old growth forests.

The sculpture will be made at community workshops from waste materials, including discarded fabrics, textiles and soft plastics, all woven together. The sculpture aims to highlight the issue of textile waste in our society and encourage residents to Reduce, Reuse and Repair.

On average, Australians are buying 27kg of new clothes and textiles annually. Blue Mountains residents throw out over 20kg of clothes in household garbage bins every year, with even more coming in from local charities.

Council is encouraging all residents to pledge to Reduce, Reuse and Repair, saving resources like water and energy that go into manufacturing new clothes.

To make your pledge, come along to the free launch on Saturday 1 June and attend our low waste lifestyle and de-clutter workshop at the Community Hub, Springwood. For more information about these events go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/waste-events.

ARTEXPRESS 2019, 11 May – 30 June

ARTEXPRESS brings together a selection of outstanding student artworks developed for the artmaking component of the HSC examination in Visual Arts in NSW. The exhibition showcases a broad range of approaches and expressive forms.

The works provide insights into issues that are important to the young artists, such as cultural and gender identity, social media, globalisation and climate change. Blue Mountains City Art Gallery presents a selection of artworks by students from the Blue Mountains, the Central West and wider NSW. ARTEXPRESS is a joint venture of the NSW Dept. of Education and the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW, hosted by Blue Mountains City Art Gallery.



Image caption: ALIA GRINVALDS (Korowal School) Vignettes 2018, photographic prints. Image courtesy ARTEXPRESS



Councillors

Ward 1

Bell to Leura, Megalong Valley & The Mounts

Cr Don McGregor

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dmcgregor@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Kerry Brown

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kbrown@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Kevin Schreiber

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kschreiber@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Ward 2

Wentworth Falls to Faulconbridge/Springwood

Cr Chris Van der Kley (Deputy Mayor)

0427 805 810

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Cr Romola Hollywood

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Cr Brent Hoare

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Ward 3

Faulconbridge/ Springwood to Valley Heights

Cr Daniel Myles

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dmyles@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Shae Foender

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Cr Mick Fell

0414 195 991

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Ward 4

Warrimoo to Lapstone

Cr Mark Greenhill (Mayor)

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mgreenhill@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Brendan Christie

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bchristie@bmcc.nsw.gov.au

Cr Darryl Bowling

0414 195 989

WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS



Expressions of Interest – City of the Arts Advisory Committee

Do you have professional arts experience and reside or work in the Blue Mountains? The City of the Arts Trust supports arts in the Blue Mountains. EOI close Tuesday 30 April at 5pm. More info at bmcc.nsw.gov.au/city-of-the-arts-trust



Saturday 11 May 2019

A FREE **Child Restraint Checking Day** will be held at the Community Hub in Springwood, from 9am to 1pm. These checking days are very popular and book out very quickly, Call **4780 5000** to book. More information at childcarseats.com.au.



Saturday 25 May 2019

Found on a Bushwalk. History Tales from the Wollemi and the Ghost Town of Newnes. Meet the Bushexplorers - authors of a brand new book about the hidden secrets of our amazing local bushland. Katoomba Library, 2pm. A FREE talk. library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



Saturday 15 June 2019

Mountains of Stories Creative Writing Workshop with Julian Leatherdale. Insights into creating character for people working on a novel, from bestselling author of *Palace of Tears* and *The Opal Dragonfly*. Katoomba Library 10am to 3pm. Cost \$25. Ages 16+. library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



Blue Mountains Cultural Centre

Take part in the beginner **Natural Dye Workshop** with local artist Tania Bowers, Sat 25 May. Join Expose artist Cath Barcan for a **Panel Discussion: Containing Time** on the still life, aesthetics, ecological impact & temporal lives of plastic, Sat 18 May. bluemountainculturalcentre.com.au.



Blue Mountains Theatre

Be enthralled by the **Joseph Tawadros Quartet**, 14 June. Join the **Jukebox Revolution**, 23 June. Enjoy a magical afternoon with **Fiona Horne: The Art Of Witch**, 30 June. **Elysian Fields** will perform 7 July and catch **Dr Seuss's Cat In The Hat – Live On Stage**, 11 July. bluemountainstheatre.com.au.

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