



Community Newsletter

April 2017

Blue Mountains City Council

Welcome to our new-look quarterly Community Newsletter

We hope you enjoy it!

Our July newsletter will be an eight page bumper edition.

Remember you can receive your rates notice (and this newsletter) online.

Go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/rates.



SUSTAINABLE BLUE MOUNTAINS together

Have your say on the future of the Blue Mountains and the Council's four-year program of service delivery 2017-2021.

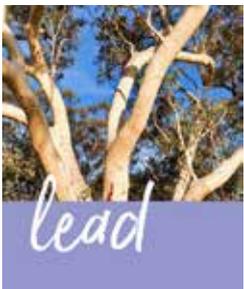
Every four years the Council engages with the community, local organisations and other government agencies, to update the key plans guiding decision making and the delivery of services in the Blue Mountains.

Over the past 15 months a comprehensive review and community engagement process has contributed to the updated draft plans which are on public exhibition for comment from 3 to 30 May 2017. The suite of plans include the:

- Draft Community Strategic Plan 2035 – the big picture plan for the Blue Mountains Local Government Area. It sets out our community vision, aspirations and priorities for the future and pathways for getting there. It is a plan for all stakeholders to work together to achieve.
- Draft Resourcing Strategy 2017-2027 – the Council's contribution to implementing the Community Strategic Plan over the next 10 years.
- Draft Delivery Program 2017-2021 and Operational Plan 2017-2018 – the Council's four-year work program, including service delivery actions, asset works program, budget and rating statement.
- Draft Fees and Charges 2017-2018 – proposed Council fees and charges.

Together, these plans aim to support good decision making and action to make the Blue Mountains a better place – now and into the future.

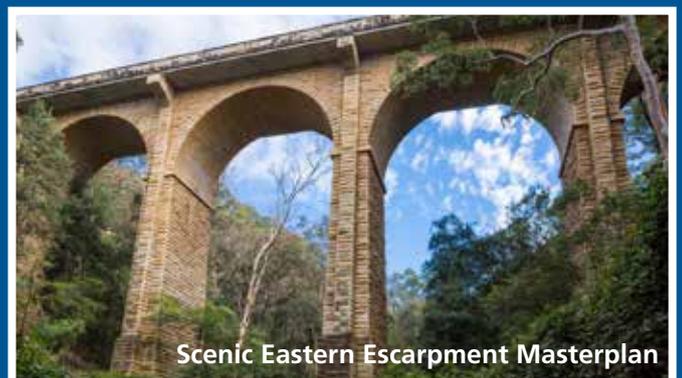
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Have Your Say

Blue Mountains Have Your Say provides a convenient online forum for the community to find out about Council projects and proposals and provide feedback and ideas to contribute to Council's decision making.

Go to bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au



Scenic Eastern Escarpment Masterplan



Household waste audit

Council recently conducted a survey of household garbage, recycling and green bins. Compared to previous surveys in 2011 and 2014, the results show the success of our new waste service, (introduced on 1 July 2016) noting the:

- Amount of garbage per household is down
- Amount of recycling found in the garbage bin is down
- Amount of garden vegetation in the garbage bin is down
- Amount of food scraps in the garbage bin is down (by weight)
- Extremely low contamination in the green bin.

Congratulations to all Blue Mountains residents – the new waste service is successful because of your efforts!

Food scraps are still the largest component of our household garbage bins making up over 26%. This means, we are sending huge amounts of food waste to landfill each week where it takes up space and generates carbon emissions and other environmental impacts, which are expensive to manage.

There are some easy things you can do to stop food scraps going to landfill:

1. Do a stocktake of your cupboard and fridge before you shop
2. Use your leftovers for lunches or turn them into another meal
3. For the unavoidable food waste, use a worm farm or compost bin.

To find out more about how Council can help you with composting visit bmcc.nsw.gov.au/composthub



Resourcing Our Future

Special Rate Variation program update



A regular column providing an update on Council's Special Rate Variation 10 year program (2015 - 2025).

Council is mid-way through developing a masterplan to guide the future direction, planning and potential improvements for **Blaxland Town Centre** over the next 20 years, as funding becomes available. We welcome the community involvement in the process so far and feedback on what a future Blaxland town centre could look like. The final draft masterplan is expected to be put to the Council meeting in June 2017 and placed on public exhibition for community comment. Special Rate Variation funding is helping Council to develop the masterplan with specialist advice, important background studies and to undertake extensive community consultation.

Funding from the Special Rate Variation has contributed to Council completing 220 individual actions listed in the **Pedestrian and Mobility Plan** (PAMP) – that's 46% of the PAMP 'to do' list. Combined with the RMS Active Transport Grant funding, Council has completed 56 kerb ramp upgrades, minor footpath works, pavement markings and vegetation management and installed signage, to the value of \$350,000. And there is more to come..... further funding of \$250,000 will be spent in 2017-18 to complete 57 PAMP actions including the upgrade of 47 street kerbs, more signage and pavement markings across the City.

The detailed works program for 2016/17 is available at bmcc.nsw.gov.au/yourcouncil/specialratevariation/specialratevariationrollout201617.

Sustainable Blue Mountains together

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More than 1,500 residents, organisation and agency representatives, have been involved in shaping these plans.

The Council now invites the community to make final comments on the draft updated plans. They can be viewed online at [Blue Mountains Have Your Say](http://BlueMountainsHaveYourSay) or in hard copy at Council's Katoomba and Springwood offices, Branch Libraries, Neighbourhood Centres and the Mountains Community Resource Network (Lawson).

You can make a submission by [Tuesday 30 May 2017](http://Tuesday30May2017) in the following ways:

- **Online:** bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/together
- **Email:** council@bmcc.nsw.gov.au (include 'SBM together' in the subject)
- **Post:** SBM together, Blue Mountains City Council, Locked Bag 1005, Katoomba, NSW 2780
- **In Person:** at Katoomba or Springwood Council offices.



NSW Government Fire & Emergency Services Levy

From 1 July 2017 the NSW Government is introducing a Fire and Emergency Services Levy (FESL) which will contribute to 81% of the funding of emergency services agencies in NSW – Fire & Rescue NSW, the NSW Rural Fire Service and the NSW State Emergency Service. The FESL will replace the existing Emergency Services Levy currently paid through property insurance. This change means all property owners will now contribute to the cost of providing emergency services in NSW, not just those with insurance policies. The purpose of this change is to share the cost of funding emergency services more fairly across the community.

The FESL is being calculated and collected a new way, appearing as a line item on all NSW councils' annual rates notice, issued July each year and **collected on behalf of the NSW Government**. For each property you own, you will be charged according to the unimproved value of your land as determined by the NSW Valuer General. Please see the letter from the NSW Government about the FESL and your land classification that came with this community newsletter and/or rates instalment reminder.

For further information see fesl.nsw.gov.au or phone the FESL hotline **1300 78 78 72**. Information specific to Council rates and charges, relating to the funding of emergency services is available at bmcc.nsw.gov.au. Further detail will be provided in the annual rates notice issued in July 2017.



Dogs in Public Spaces Strategy

What is DiPS? Council is taking a broad approach to the management of open spaces used for recreation, and the relationship between dog off-leash and dog on-leash sites. Council is developing the Dogs in Public Spaces strategy to help inform our future management of dog off-leash and recreational spaces across the Blue Mountains.

There will be opportunities for you to have your say in a number of different ways including an online forum, interactive map, and face to face sessions with Council staff.

Community consultation starts mid-April and runs for six weeks. The exact dates, times and locations will be announced through Council's Facebook, Twitter, Have Your Say page, website, display adverts in the local newspaper and signs displayed in the public places we plan to visit. Keep an eye out for the **#dips** hashtag!

Find out more and have your say visit bluemountainshaveyoursay.com.au/DiPS.



Noxious Weed
Pussy Willow (*Salix cinerea*)

Biosecurity Update

From 1 July 2017 the NSW Government will be replacing the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 and 13 other Acts with a single Biosecurity Act 2015. Under the current Noxious Weeds Act all landowners have a responsibility to control noxious weeds on their property. The same responsibility will apply under the Biosecurity Act.

Council will maintain its current weed inspections on private property and its approach to education and enforcement relating to invasive weeds. The only difference residents will see is a change in the terminology used, for example, the term Noxious Weed will be replaced with Invasive Weed or Biosecurity Matter, and that weed notices/orders will be issued as Biosecurity Directions under the Biosecurity Act.

If you notice invasive weeds appearing on your property, you will need to control them as soon as possible to prevent them from spreading to other properties or bushland.

For further information see the NSW Department of Primary Industries website dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/biosecurity-legislation/key-questions-and-answers.

Council will provide further information in the near future about how the new Act will affect the Blue Mountains community.



Councillors

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Cr Kevin Schreiber
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Ward 2

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Cr Brendan Christie
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Cr Darryl Bowling
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WHAT'S ON BLUE MOUNTAINS



7-13 May

International Compost Awareness Week

promotes the importance of this practice. Composting reduces the amount of waste that goes to landfill, the amount of greenhouse gases produced and creates fertiliser for our garden.

bmcc.nsw.gov.au/composthub



8-14 May

Council is proud to support **Yellow Ribbon National Road Safety Week**, which reminds us all of our responsibility for keeping our roads safe. Yellow Ribbons are available at Council's customer service counters in Katoomba and Springwood.

sarahgroup.org



13 May – 25 June

A convict in the family? showcases the rich, large-scale photographs of documentary photographer Mine Konakci. It reveals connections between convict settlers, their direct descendants and petty crimes that changed history. bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au



6 May

Fans of superheroes, comics and graphic novels are invited to dress-up and join the **Free Comic Book Day** held around the world including, Katoomba library, to celebrate this eclectic and kooky world. There will be free comics (while stocks last). library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au



13 May – 2 July

Kurt Sorensen: Solitude is Desolation

combines experimental analogue photography, video and sound works to explore the uneasy relationship of colonial European settlers with the Blue Mountains environment.

bluemountainsculturalcentre.com.au



27 May

A **Child Restraint Checking Day** is being held at Hazelwood Childcare Centre, Hazelbrook, from 9am to 1pm. The check is free, but restraints must be less than 10 years old. Bookings are essential. Telephone 4780 5000.

childcarseats.com.au

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Telephone

West from Woodford **4780 5000**
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