

## Continuing bushfire support and assistance

If you have been impacted by the fires, please visit [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/bushfirerecovery](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/bushfirerecovery) for helpful information, and a guide on how to receive the help you need.

You can stay updated on our website or follow us on Facebook.

For further fire information, visit [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au) or download the [Fires Near Me](#) app on your phone, so you receive notifications.

## Disaster welfare assistance

A disaster welfare assistance point is located at 68 Wynter Street Taree to support those impacted by recent bushfires.

The centre has been established by the NSW Government's Office of Emergency Management.

The Office of Emergency Management has advised the disaster welfare assistance point will operate as a base but will also be mobile to allow contact with some of the more remote impacted communities.

This assistance point will provide access to a range of Government and non-Government services including Disaster Welfare Services, the Red Cross, chaplains, representatives of the Rural Adversity Mental Health Program and Rural Fire Service staff.

The disaster welfare assistance point will operate from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

If you are unable to visit please call Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

The disaster welfare assistance point will be supported by Council.

## Water refill points for rural residents

Six temporary emergency water fill points have been installed for properties affected by the fires.

The supply points are located at

- 408 Bulga Rd Wingham
- 1 Coglean Ave Wingham
- 62 Mill St Krumbach
- 79 Beecher St Tinonee
- 1 Dibb St Nahiabac
- Gloucester Rd Nahiabac

Residents in rural areas affected by fire can use these points to fill portable containers for essential domestic use.

Bulk water deliveries to refill water tanks on properties need to be separately arranged with a suitable water carting contractor.

If you are a rural producer or landholder and have been impacted by fires, please visit [midcoast.nsw.gov.au/bushfirerecovery](http://midcoast.nsw.gov.au/bushfirerecovery) for information to help you and your family, and special fodder assistance available for animals. To access fodder assistance and other help, please call 1800 814 647.

## Waste collections catching up

Normal waste collections have almost resumed, with collections made across the region late last week. There are still some areas that haven't had their rubbish collected. This will happen as soon as possible, once roads are deemed safe for the garbage trucks. Skip bins have been organised for a number of community halls in impacted areas. There are also a number of homes in the region in need of new garbage bins following the fire. If you need a new bin let us know via our website [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/bins](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/bins) or call 1300 290 763.

The Taree Waste Management Centre on the Bucketts Way Tinonee is currently closed. The Tuncurry Waste Management Centre on Midge Orchid Road is open as usual for the use of residents.

## Community support

Thank you to the service groups and newly formed groups that have worked tirelessly across the region to support individuals, families and communities impacted by the fires. The work of all these groups, and the contributions of so many generous individuals, is testament to the spirit of our community.

We are continuing to see generosity that is unprecedented in our area, as our focus moves to supporting those communities who have been devastated by these terrible fires.

Members of the community who wish to support the recovery are reminded that cash donations are best, providing flexibility to meet the specific needs of those impacted.

Thank you to the community who have responded to official emergency messages and have risen to the challenges posed over the past week.

## Don't delay making your Bushfire Plan

The NSW Rural Fire Service says a bush fire survival plan is something you need to make well before a fire - leaving it until the last minute is dangerous.

More information: [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)

For Disaster Welfare Assistance visit  
68 Wynter Street Taree  
9am - 5pm Monday to Friday  
or call 1800 018 444

## WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE NOW IN FORCE - visit our website to find out what this means for you

### Local community CONVERSATIONS



Our second round of Community Conversations are well underway. We're heading back out to chat with local communities, as a follow-up to our conversations earlier this year.

This is a great chance to hear how we're delivering on what you told us in April, to ask our leadership team about what's happening in your area, and to help us understand your priorities for the coming year.

Today (18 November) we're heading to Wingham at 6pm, Tea Gardens on 26 November at 6pm and Nahiabac on 28 November at 6pm.

Find the full schedule of locations at [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/conversations](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/conversations) where you can also post a question or topic which we'll address on the day, and include in the FAQs collated for each location afterwards.

## Have your say

We are seeking community feedback on:

- Development proposal 205/2020/DA - 2 Biripi Way, Taree South - Change of use and fit-out - Public Admin building
- Integrated development proposal DA150/2020 - 12758 Pacific Highway, Coolongolook - Hotel / Motel, Cafe and ancillary parking
- Kolodong Estate Planning Agreement- Lot 54 DP 1042462, known as 353 - 377 Kolodong Road, Taree and Lot 61 DP 1252146, known as 327 Kolodong Road, Taree NSW 2430

Visit the Have Your Say page on our website for further info.

## Council meeting

The next Ordinary meeting of Council will be held at the Forster Admin Centre on 27 November, commencing immediately after the Public Forum (or at 2pm if the Public Forum finishes before 2pm). This meeting will include all agenda items that were due to be presented at last week's Council meeting (13 November) which was cancelled due to the bushfire event.

Please note, there are two opportunities to address Council on the day of a Council meeting, with prior notice:

1. Open forum - for items **not** included on the meeting agenda (1 - 1.30pm)
2. Public forum - for items **on** the meeting agenda (from 1.30pm)

You must register to speak at either forum - please visit [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings) for full details of how to register, and the required amount of notice.

## Careers at Council

We are seeking suitably qualified people to fill the roles of:

- Asset Systems Officer - Transport
- Asset Systems Officer - Water
- Project Manager
- Response, Operations and Maintenance Operator
- Team Leader Strategic Assets

Visit our website for further information and to apply.

## Office closure - annual staff presentation

All offices, libraries and the MEC will close at 2.30pm on Friday 29 November for our annual staff presentation, except Stroud (closing as normal at 12pm) and Gloucester closing at 2pm (including Service NSW agencies).

For full closure details including emergencies visit our website [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au)

## Biripi Way DA - Have your say

The development application for repurposing 2 Biripi Way Taree into Council's centralised office is on public exhibition. Community members are invited to review the plans and application documents (including statement of environmental effects, economic impact assessment and traffic impact assessment) and make a submission before 4.30pm on Wednesday 6 December.

Please refer to information provided on our website ([www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/hys](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/hys)) about how to make a submission, and include reasons for your support or objection to the application. Reasons should be based on planning and development issues relevant to the application, such as impacts on the environment, traffic movements, or local businesses.

## Herbicide spraying

We will be carrying out herbicide spraying during the months November, December 2019 and January 2020 in various waterways, open drains, and retention ponds within the entire Local Government area to target grasses, reeds, annual and perennial weeds.

As a precaution residents are advised to refrain from using, drinking or swimming in the water for two weeks following treatments.

Only qualified operators will be undertaking works. Herbicides Weedmaster Duo, Sixgun 360, Biochoice 360 and/or Glymac 360 (360g/L glyphosate) will be used as per the requirements of the label and APVMA off label permit 9907 where applicable.

This program is subject to weather conditions.

Scheduled areas will be assessed individually and treated as required. Individual areas will be sign-posted at the times of treatment in commonly accessed areas.

## Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan

The community has collectively voiced its desire for greater pedestrian and mobility access and improved footpath and cycleway connections across the region

Following feedback received from participants in our Community Conversations, we are now working towards the development of a Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) and a Bike Plan.

We have a consultant undertaking a review of our pedestrian and cycle routes to help us develop and plan for better connectivity in the future.

All community members are invited to attend an upcoming session to share your ideas for the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan and Bike Plan with us.

For a full list of locations head to [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/PAMP](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/PAMP)

If you can't attend a session, you can also complete a survey via the above web page. The survey will close mid-December.

## Australia Day award nominations



We're currently looking for those special people whose contribution to our community makes a real difference, or whose outstanding achievements deserve recognition. And in 2020, for the first time, we'll acknowledge local heroes from across the entire MidCoast region in a single, consolidated celebration.

Nominations are open for the 2020 MidCoast Council Australia Day Awards.

Winners will be awarded across six categories:

- Citizen of the Year - for persons aged 25 years and over
- Young Citizen of the Year - for persons under 25 years of age
- Activity / Event of the Year - open to all activities / events held in 2019
- Sportsperson of the Year - open to all ages
- Volunteer of the Year - open to all ages
- Cultural Award - open to persons 16 years or over

Nomination forms and guidelines are available on our website at [www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.midcoast.nsw.gov.au/australiaday).