

Community Corner

Bellingen Shire Council – changes to operating hours over Christmas

Bellingen Shire Council will continue to provide services for our community over the Christmas period with some changes to operating hours of our facilities. Please note the following changes.

Council Administration Centre

Close: 12:00pm Friday 23 December 2022
Reopen: 8:30am 3 January 2023 (cashier closes 4:00pm).

Shire Libraries

Close: 1:00pm Friday 23 December 2022, however, will reopen: 9:30am – 12 noon Saturday 24 December 2022.

General library services will then close for the Christmas period reopening 10:00am Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Please be advised that Bellingen Library will reopen at 9:30am Tuesday 3 January 2023 with modified hours into 2023.

Handybin Wheelie Bin Service

Will operate as normal

Raleigh, Bellingen & Dorrigo Waste Management Centres

Close: 12:00pm Friday 23 December 2022 otherwise normal operating days and times with the exception of the following public holidays

when the facilities will be closed:

- Sunday 25 December 2022
- Monday 26 December 2022
- Tuesday 27 December 2022
- Sunday 1 January 2023
- Monday 2 January 2023

Bellingen Youth Hub

Close: Saturday 17 December 2022
Reopen: Tuesday 10 January 2023.

Dorrigo Support Centre

Close: 4:00pm Thursday 22 December 2022
Reopen: 8:30am Tuesday 3 January 2023.

Bellingen Swim Centre

Normal opening hours with the following exceptions:

- Closed Sunday 25 December 2022
- 10am - 4pm Monday 26 December 2022
- 10am - 4pm Tuesday 27 December 2022
- 10am - 4pm Monday 2 January 2023

Dorrigo Swim Centre

Normal opening hours with the following exceptions:

- Closed Sunday 25 December 2022
- 10am - 4pm Monday 26 December 2022
- 10am - 4pm Monday 2 January 2023

Council's After Hours Emergency Number is 6655 7309.

BELLINGEN SHIRE COUNCIL



Residents invited to Special Rate Variation drop in sessions

Bellingen Shire Council is conducting an extensive community engagement process as it considers a Special Rate Variation application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

Council is inviting community members to attend one of our upcoming drop-in sessions regarding the proposal. The application is being considered due to the ongoing impact of global inflationary pressures, with Council experiencing significant increases to the costs associated with delivering services that meet the expectations of our community.

The three 'drop in' sessions are an opportunity to speak directly with Council staff regarding the proposal and to better understand why the Special Rate Variation is being considered.

Drop in sessions will be held in the following locations:

- Dorrigo Community Hall, 4pm to 6pm – Wednesday 18 January 2023
- Urunga Literary Hall, 4pm to 6pm – Thursday 19 January 2023
- Bellingen Uniting Church Hall, 8am to 10am – Friday 20 January 2023

Residents are encouraged to bring along their annual rates notice, with a Rates Calculator available at the digital kiosk at each session.

Additional information can be found on our website (bellingen.nsw.gov.au), with the SRV Information Centre web page including a range of relevant information and resources on the proposal.

If you have a question or want to speak to someone about your rates, you can call us on 02 6655 7300 or email council@bellingen.nsw.gov.au

Changes To Operating Hours Over Christmas

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Council takes next step to maintain long term financial sustainability



Council will look to offset the impact of inflationary pressures through an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation.

The Council recently approved a recommendation to commence an extensive community engagement program regarding this application at its November Ordinary Meeting.

The decision to begin this engagement process was made following careful consideration and financial modelling, which highlighted the ongoing impacts of global inflationary pressures such as elevated oil prices and supply chain disruptions.

Mayor, Cr Steve Allan, said this decision was a difficult one, but necessary to ensure the Council's financial sustainability and capability to deliver services

to our community.

"We understand that rising cost of living impacts are being felt right across our community at the moment," Mayor Allan said. "Unfortunately, Bellinggen Shire Council has also experienced significant increases to the costs associated with delivering services that will meet the expectations of our community.

"The impact on Bellinggen Shire Council has been felt across several areas including significant cost increases to fuel, general insurance, electricity, heating, workers compensation, emergency services levy and superannuation.

"The continued rise of international inflation, elevated oil prices, strained supply chains and the ongoing pandemic all present risks to the global and

domestic outlooks. As a result, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) expects inflation to remain high for a number of years.

Council will engage extensively with our community as part of the IPART application process, with residents encouraged to provide their feedback through several engagement opportunities over the coming months.

"I want to reassure our residents that we would not be taking these steps unless it was absolutely necessary," Mayor Allan said. "Based on the financial forecasts, this is the most appropriate action at this time in responsibly managing Council's budget.

"I strongly encourage community members to take advantage of the upcoming

consultation activities we will be hosting regarding the SV.

"This is a great opportunity for residents to engage with the Council, provide feedback and learn more about the reasons for the SV application."

For more details on the Special Rate Variation, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) process and other relevant information, visit the Have Your Say section of our website.

Council will provide more details in the coming weeks on community engagement activities, including 'drop-in' sessions to be held in Bellinggen, Dorriggo and Urunga as part of the planned engagement process.

*Authorised by Liz Jeremy,
General Manager.*

1 December 2022