

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Solar Panels = Savings!

In early November 2019 Council had a 50kW solar panel system installed on the Council Administration Centre. Since then, Council has saved nearly \$13,000 on its power costs and used 43,000 kW less power compared to the same nine months in the previous year, with almost all of this due to the panels.

At this rate, the panels will pay for themselves in under 3 years, which makes them an excellent investment, as they are expected to last for at least 20 years. It also means that Council's carbon emissions from the electricity used to power the Administration Centre have reduced by over one third.

Council is continuing to roll out its Renewable Energy Action Plan and has recently had four more solar systems installed on the Macksville Library, Macksville Senior Citizens Centre, the Works Depot and the Bowraville Dam.

For more information about these projects, please contact Lisa Hall on (02) 6568 0228

Gauging rainfall in the Nambucca Valley

Improving the flood warning system in the Nambucca Valley is a priority action identified in Council's Flood Risk Management Plan. Council was successful in receiving \$37,000 from the NSW Flood Management Program, to be combined with \$30,000 from Council's environmental levy to implement this project.

Council engaged the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to develop a strategy and install 3 three new rain gauges in Thumb Creek, South Arm and Missabotti. The new gauges form part of BOM rain gauge network comprising 350 individual stations within NSW which use radio telemetry to deliver updated rainfall data to BOM for modelling and emergency management.

Mayor Rhonda Hoban OAM said *"Rainfall in the hinterland effects the nature of flooding downstream and this important project will provide the BOM, local SES and Council with a more accurate and timely understanding of how*

flooding may affect urban areas such as Bowraville and Macksville." "As we have seen in recent flood events in other regional areas, flooding can have significant impacts on communities. Projects such as this can't stop a flood from occurring but it will place local emergency services in a better position to respond to the flood."

The second phase of the project was recently completed with the installation of a new auto water level gauge at Lanes Bridge in Bowraville.

The new water level gauge at this location is an important missing link in the information that supports emergency management in the valley.

The position of the new gauge provides water level readings down-stream from the confluence of South Creek and the Nambucca River. Information from this location will give BOM and SES a greater understanding of potential flooding in Macksville.

The community can access the rain gauge and water level gauge data at the following websites:

Rain Gauges

<http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/flood/midnorth.shtml>

Water Level Gauges

http://www.bom.gov.au/cgi-bin/wrap_fwo.pl?IDN60141.html

GENERAL

Approval is required for driveway crossovers or general works on Council's road reserve

Under the Roads Act 1993, Council must approve general works or driveway crossovers (*between a property boundary and the road carriageway*) prior to works commencing. Section 138 Application Forms are available on the Council website.

Putting Children First

Child protection is everyone's job. It's not solely the responsibility of parents and grandparents. Teachers and police officers can only do so much. When it comes to keeping the country's most vulnerable souls safe from harm, we all have a role to play. We all have a responsibility to speak up if we see something that doesn't seem right when it comes to children. Friday 11th September is White Balloon Day and everyone is encouraged to wear white and start a conversation about society's greatest scourge. More information can be found at <https://www.napcan.org.au/official-program-webinars-events/>