

STRATHFIELD COUNCIL NEWS



AUTUMN 2020

Dear Resident,

Welcome to the autumn issue of the Strathfield Council Newsletter which provides quarterly updates on Council news and upcoming events.

Here's a look at what Council has been up to lately.

Be Local Buy Local

In light of current circumstances putting pressure on small businesses, Council has launched Be Local Buy Local, encouraging the Strathfield community to support local businesses.

The next time you step out to purchase household items, lend a helping hand and support small businesses within the Strathfield LGA to go in the draw to win a \$100 debit card.

Follow these 4 simple steps to take part in the Be Local Buy Local 12 week draw commencing **Monday 30 March until Sunday 21 June**:

1. Spend at least \$150 throughout the week (Monday to Sunday) at any small businesses within the Strathfield LGA. Please note this does not include supermarkets, large businesses and petrol stations.
2. Take a photo or scan through copies of your receipt/s showing the date and place of the purchase on it for the week of the draw.
3. Email your receipt/s to: belocal@strathfield.nsw.gov.au by noon on the following Monday.
4. Await the results of the draw!

Strathfield LGA Shopping Districts include:

- Cave Road, Strathfield South
- Homebush Village Town Centre
- Homebush West Town Centre
- Mixed Business
- Strathfield South Shopping District
- Strathfield Town Centre
- Enfield shopping area

For further information including the terms and conditions, please visit www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au



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Local Government Elections Postponed

The Minister for Local Government has announced that the September 2020 local government elections have been postponed to September 2021. The next General Election after that is set for September 2024.

Strathfield Library Temporarily Closed

In the interest of public health and safety, Strathfield Library services are suspended until further notice. This includes all physical book borrowing via the home library service and book lockers. All items currently on loan will be extended and no fines will accrue. Library members can still access online resources via the Strathfield Library webpage. www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/library/strathfield-library-catalogue/



Share a Bundle of Goodness

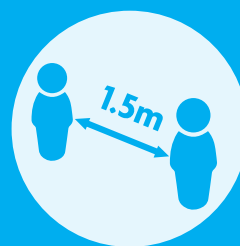
The Neighbour2Neighbour program is underway with more than 20 locals already volunteering their time and donating items. Due to this generosity, Council has been able to fulfill every request for assistance!

Partnering with Father James at St Paul's Pantry, Council is encouraging Strathfield residents to donate non-perishable food and personal hygiene items for the vulnerable in our community. Please contact Council at n2n@strathfield.nsw.gov.au if you are able to give.



Social Distancing

Social distancing reduces the spread of COVID-19 and saves lives. Make sure you keep 1.5m between you and other people, or you could face a fine.



Strathfield Connector Reduced Services

The Strathfield Connector bus service is running on a reduced timetable, arriving at bus stops every 60 minutes, between 8:00am – 5:00pm.



COVID-19 INFORMATION

Here to Help

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching effects for all areas of our community. Council is conscious of the financial pressures facing businesses and households, and would like to inform ratepayers of our Rates Hardship Policy.

The Policy presents options for people facing genuine financial hardship, including:

- Payment plans, including weekly, fortnightly, or monthly payments
- Writing off rates and/or charges
- Deferral of rates (pensioners only)

If you are experiencing difficulty paying your rates, we encourage you to contact Council and submit an application.

Applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and should be made in writing to: **council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au**

or Attn: Rates Section, Strathfield Council, 65 Homebush Road Strathfield NSW 2135

More information: **www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/council/rates-and-payments/**



Current Restrictions

You can see the latest public health orders, listing current restrictions in the NSW Health Website – **www.health.nsw.gov.au**

Additional measures are in place to help slow the spread of coronavirus and save lives.

- Public gatherings, excluding household members, have been reduced to a maximum of 2 people.
- Everyone should stay home unless you are shopping, receiving medical care, exercising or travelling to work or for education.
- People aged over 70, aged over 60 with pre-existing conditions, or Indigenous people aged over 50 should stay home wherever possible for their own protection.

Keeping Up to Date

Keep up to date with official announcements and information about COVID-19 from the Australian Government. For further details on essential information, key updates, health and prevention, community support, and receiving financial support please visit **www.australia.gov.au**

It is important to obtain your information from a reliable source. Download the official government “Coronavirus Australia” app in the Apple App Store or Google Play, or join the WhatsApp channel on iOS or Android.



Looking After Your Mental Health

Prioritising your mental health is important in difficult times.

The Government is providing additional funding to support the mental health and well-being of all Australians. If you feel you are experiencing concerns due to COVID-19 (coronavirus), there are a number of organisations providing support services:

- Lifeline: **www.lifeline.org.au**
- Beyond Blue: **www.beyondblue.org.au**
- Head to Health: **headtohealth.gov.au/covid-19-support/covid-19**
- Headspace: **headspace.org.au/eheadspace**



SUSTAINABILITY & WASTE

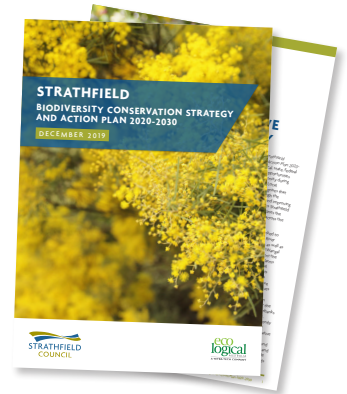
Solar Power at Strathfield Library



Strathfield Council is pleased to be installing a 79kW solar system at Strathfield Main Library. This large solar energy system, the first of its kind on Council buildings, will significantly reduce the library's greenhouse gas emissions footprint. This transition to clean energy will also lead to an increased resilience to environmental shocks and stresses.

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy & Action Plan

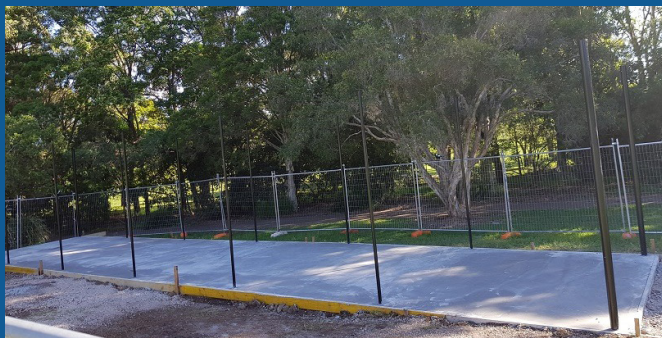
Strathfield Council recently launched our inaugural Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan. Biodiversity is the variety of plants and animals living in an area and supports important life cycles in the natural environment. The strategy and action plan will help guide Council's projects over the next ten years, to increase health and resilience of native animals and habitats. To view the document, please visit: www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/sustainability/biodiversity-and-natural-environment/



PROJECTS

FRESHWATER PARK CRICKET NETS

Works for the junior cricket practice wicket are well underway at Freshwater Park. Next steps include laying out the synthetic grass and propping up fences. Council is looking forward to taking bookings when parks re-open!



BUSHFIRE RECOVERY EFFORTS

Council Inspector of Works and Engineers answered the call to assist Clarence Valley Council with their bushfire recovery efforts. Staff visited Clouds Creek to assess the extent of fire damage to their main bridge, provided a damage report, cost plans and drafted bridge replacements to Clarence Valley Council.



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