

MAITLAND NEWS

# momentum

Have your say

What's on this  
winter

Major projects







Mayor  
Philip Penfold

## Mayor's message

Maitland is the heart of the Hunter and as a rapidly growing community, we always need to focus on tomorrow. That's why I'm proud to say we have officially endorsed Maitland's Future,



our new Community Strategic Plan which maps our shared vision for achieving a connected city with thriving communities. Thanks to your input and feedback, this plan will guide us over the next decade, and I know we have an exciting and rewarding time ahead as Maitland embraces new opportunities.

There are several exciting initiatives coming up, including the launch of our new Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service. From 30 June 2025, you can put food scraps into your existing green bin, which will be collected weekly with your red bin. We also recently opened the new Thornton Skate Park, a brand-new playspace at Metford Recreation Reserve and work continues to progress on the new Melville Ford Bridge.

With the winter chill setting in, we're looking ahead to our newest flagship event, Luminous which is coming to The Levee, Central Maitland this June. Coinciding with the longest night of the year, Luminous will transform The Levee into a multi-sensory wonderland featuring a fireworks display over the Hunter River, light installations, live performances and plenty of food stalls. I look forward to joining you all there to celebrate on 20 and 21 June 2025.

Philip



Connect with your councillors

## Lending a hand to a fellow council

In March, over a dozen outdoor staff at Maitland City Council travelled north to assist Tweed Shire Council in the wake of ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred. The team spent a fortnight helping with clean-up efforts, including clearing debris from roadways, and helping surrounding communities safely get back on their feet. This was a big undertaking for staff who gave up time with friends and family to help those in need as well as those staff who stayed behind and continued to serve the Maitland community.



## Maitland's pools score swim-tastic safety rating

Maitland aquatics team has proven the city's pools are swim-ply the best, after achieving a near-perfect score in this year's Royal Life Saving Aquatics Facility Safety Assessment (AFSA). The AFSA provides insight into a facility's safe pool operations in comparison to Australian standards, and involves a rigorous 40-point aquatic safety checklist. Maitland Aquatic Centre received a 99 per cent safety rating and a 99 per cent five-star Safety Partner Accreditation score, while East Maitland Aquatic Centre received a 98 per cent safety rating and a perfect 100 per cent five-star score. This is an incredible achievement and a big win for our community. For more, visit [mait.city/AquaticsAwards](https://mait.city/AquaticsAwards)



# Join the conversation

Providing feedback allows communities to be active participants in shaping their own future and play a part in positive change. Join the conversation and receive updates on the following projects direct to your inbox by visiting [yoursay.maitland.nsw.gov.au](https://yoursay.maitland.nsw.gov.au)

## Projects open for input

### Community Infrastructure Strategy

We're developing a Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS) to guide our planning and development over the next 20 years. The CIS will look at 10 key categories of community infrastructure including aquatic facilities, playspaces, libraries and museums, community facilities, Maitland Regional Art Gallery and public art, public open spaces, outdoor recreation facilities, indoor and outdoor sports facilities and public toilets. It will allow Council to take stock of existing assets and identify areas for improvement, to ensure the community has the infrastructure it needs for the future.



### MRAG 2030: Your gallery, your say

We're planning for the next five years of Maitland Regional Art Gallery (MRAG). Help shape the direction of our programs and services by telling us what you love, what you want more of and what new ideas we should explore in the future. Share your thoughts by completing our short survey at [mait.city/MRAG2030](https://mait.city/MRAG2030)

## Projects under review

### Delivering and resourcing Maitland's future

You told us what matters during the development of Maitland's Future, our Community Strategic Plan (CSP). We recently shared how we plan to bring that vision to life, with Delivering Maitland's Future, our draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 (DPOP), including proposed Fees and Charges for 2025-26 publicly exhibited in April and May. These documents outline how Council plans to deliver services, invest in infrastructure and support community priorities over the next four years.

Also on public exhibition was Resourcing Maitland's Future, our draft Resourcing Strategy, which includes our Long-Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Strategy and Asset Management Planning. These ensure we have the people, finances and assets to deliver on the priorities of the CSP and DPOP sustainably.

Public exhibition has now closed. We're reviewing your feedback and preparing final documents for Council to consider in June 2025.

### In 2025-26, we will spend:



**\$163.8 million**  
in services for the community



**\$65.4 million**  
on capital projects

### In 2025-26, we will deliver:



**120 projects**



**136 actions**



# Projects under review (continued)

## Draft Residential Density Guide

The draft Residential Density Guide is our new planning guidebook that will help steer the strategic delivery of more diverse housing options across the city. Your feedback is currently under review.

## Flood management planning

We are updating our Floodplain Risk Management Study based on your insights and experiences, to help us more accurately and effectively identify flood risks and assess management options for the future.



## Next Stop: Maitland

Funded from the NSW Government’s reVITALise – Public Transport Vibrancy Grant, Next Stop: Maitland aims to transform Maitland Station into a safer, more vibrant hub. Community consultation has concluded, and the project is currently in the design phase, with installation works expected to commence mid-2026.

## Maitland libraries Framework

The Maitland libraries Framework (2025-2030) is a community-driven initiative and strategic framework for Maitland’s library services, spaces and programs. Your feedback is currently being reviewed.

## The Levee Marketing Activity Plan

The Levee Marketing Activity Plan aims to enhance the vibrancy of The Levee precinct, following community consultation on marketing and activities in this space.

## Maitland Community Gardens

The Community Gardens project sought community feedback on proposed locations for new community gardens on Council-owned land. The framework has now been released, including a list of pre-identified sites.

**FOGO**  
**IS COMING**

**STARTS 30 JUNE 2025**



Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) will soon be part of your green bin service and will be collected weekly with your red general waste bin.

From 30 June, you will be able to use your supplied kitchen caddy and compostable liners to collect food scraps, like fruit and veggie peels, meat, bones, and dairy, and dispose of them in your green bin with your garden waste.

With FOGO, your scraps will be transformed into nutrient-rich compost, helping reduce landfill and support a healthier environment.

From 1 September 2025, households can choose to move to a fortnightly red bin collection and receive a reduction in their Domestic Waste Management Charge. Registrations open in August.

Learn how to FOGO at [yourorganicsbin.com.au/what-is-fogo](https://yourorganicsbin.com.au/what-is-fogo)



# Major projects

## Sophia Waters Sportsground

Work is underway on a new neighbourhood sportsground at Chisholm. Located on Suncroft Street in Sophia Waters, the new facility will feature two mixed sports fields, a turf cricket wicket, an amenities building with accessible changerooms, on-site parking, irrigation and sports flood lighting. The \$10 million project is being funded by Council, with work expected to be completed in late 2026. For more, visit [mait.city/SophiaWatersSportsground](https://mait.city/SophiaWatersSportsground)



## Thornton Skate Park

We've taken the wraps off the new Thornton Skate Park on Taylor Avenue. Designed in partnership with the community, the new \$600,000 facility caters to a range of skill levels and includes a halfpipe with a spine and box jump, vert wall, flat banks, rails, shaded seating, a bubbler and more. Thank you to everyone who provided feedback and helped shape this project. For more, visit [mait.city/ThorntonSkatePark](https://mait.city/ThorntonSkatePark)

## Melville Ford update

Progress continues on the new Melville Ford Bridge, with the main bridge supports now in place. Over several weeks, both a 300 and 500-tonne crane were brought on site to lift more than a dozen supporting beams and Super-T girders onto the main structure. Community consultation on a potential name-change for the bridge to honour former Maitland MP, Milton Morris also recently wrapped up. Your feedback is currently being reviewed and will be presented to Council in the coming weeks.



## Maitland Park parking

More parking is being made available at Maitland Park, with another 145 car parks set to open to the public. The new spaces are being added near Transvaal Avenue, bringing the total number of car parks in the area to 175, while a spacious open lawn area is also being created next to the car park. Work is due to be completed in June.



# WHAT'S ON

## Luminous

**The Levee, Central Maitland | 20 and 21 June**

Get ready to ignite your senses this winter as Maitland City Council presents Luminous, a brand-new festival celebrating fire, light and wonder across two days in June 2025 at The Levee, Central Maitland. As darkness lingers at winter's peak, Luminous will transform The Levee into a multi-sensory wonderland, featuring lighting installations, fiery spectacles, live performances and immersive experiences that will mesmerise visitors of all ages. Highlights will include a fireworks display, pop-up bars, food trucks and more.

For more information, visit [maitland.nsw.gov.au/luminous](https://maitland.nsw.gov.au/luminous)



# LUMINOUS

## THE LEVEE, CENTRAL MAITLAND

**FRI 20 JUNE 5pm-8pm**

**SAT 21 JUNE 3pm-8pm**





## Momentum eNewsletter

From major works and project updates to what's on, receive the latest news direct to your inbox each month with our Momentum eNewsletter. Subscribe at [mait.city/MomentumENews](https://mait.city/MomentumENews)

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land within the Maitland Local Government Area. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and future with a spiritual connection to these lands.

### Disclaimer

This newsletter has been prepared by Maitland City Council from information available as at 9 May 2025. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, however Maitland City Council accepts no responsibility for any consequences resulting from misdescription or inadvertent errors.

## For your calendar



Autumn exhibitions  
Open until June 2025  
Maitland Regional Art Gallery



Street Eats – Maitland  
5pm, Friday 30 May  
Harold Gregson Reserve



Literature Live – Pictures  
of You with Emma Grey  
6pm, Friday 6 June  
East Maitland Library



Akmal  
8pm, Friday 13 June  
Maitland Town Hall



Maitland Heritage Fest  
Sunday 15 June  
Church Street Precinct,  
Maitland



Australian Gothic High Tea  
with Maitland libraries  
2pm, Saturday 21 June  
Grossmann House,  
71 Church Street, Maitland



Household Chemical  
Cleanout  
9am, Sunday 22 June  
Cleanaway Depot  
41 Kyle Street, Rutherford



Literature Live –  
Jane Caro in conversation  
with Lee Christine  
6pm, Thursday 26 June  
East Maitland Library



Earth Markets Maitland  
First and third Thursday  
of the month, 8am-12.30pm  
The Levee, Central Maitland



Jimeoin – Pandemonium  
7.30pm, Saturday 12 July  
Maitland Town Hall



Auslan interpreted  
gallery tour  
2pm, Saturday 23 August  
Maitland Regional Art Gallery



Pregnant Woman –  
Ron Mueck  
Open until 28 September 2025  
Maitland Regional Art Gallery