

MAITLAND NEWS

momentum

Join the
conversation

What's on

Roads and
major projects



Mayor
Philip Penfold

Mayor's message

We're now halfway through 2026 and I'm proud to say we have achieved so much already this year. We recently opened the new bridge at Melville which is now higher and more flood-resilient than the former structure, with dual lanes, no weight restrictions, pedestrian access and parking. I'd like to thank the community for their patience after the project faced some setbacks during last year's flooding, and I'm very glad to see the new bridge in operation.

Council has formally adopted our 2026-27 Operational Plan, which will see another \$225 million invested into our community, including \$56 million into our capital works program. Key projects include major upgrades along Haussman Drive, Thornton, a new sportsground at Chisholm Sports Complex, stage three construction of the Maitland Resource Recovery Facility and upgrades at Lochinvar Sports Complex. We're delivering all this and more for our community, so we can make our city an even better place to live, work, enjoy and succeed.

It was great to see so many people at The Levee Central Maitland to celebrate our newest flagship event, Luminous. From ice skating and light displays to live performances and delicious food, it was a fantastic two-day event for everyone. I'm looking forward to our next major event, Maitland Riverlights which is set to return to The Levee in October. See you there, Maitland.

Philip



Connect with your councillors

Where we plan to invest our budget in 2026/27

At the June Council meeting, we locked in our budget for the next 12 months. Thank you for your feedback into the draft Operational Plan earlier this year. Together we are planning for a more liveable, sustainable and vibrant future for Maitland.



\$225.9 million

total budget



148

projects



\$169.5 million

on services for the community



\$56.4 million

on capital works and infrastructure



32 per cent

of capital works spend on roads



47 per cent

of capital works spend on asset renewal



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

We're on Instagram

Follow [@Maitland.Council](https://www.instagram.com/Maitland.Council) to stay up to date with Council news, projects, events and opportunities to have your say.





Building a more inclusive Maitland with new Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Council has adopted a new Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2026–2030, setting out practical steps to make Maitland more accessible and inclusive. Developed with input from more than 500 community members, the plan focuses on removing barriers and creating more opportunities for people with disability, their families and carers. Over the next four years, Council will work to improve access to public spaces, services, information, employment opportunities and community activities, helping build a more connected city with thriving communities.

Find out more: mait.city/DIAP



Melville’s Milton Morris Bridge now open

Melville’s Milton Morris Bridge is now open to the community. The new \$8.2 million bridge, funded by the NSW and Australian Governments with contributions from Council, is 6.7m higher than the original structure, with dual lanes, no weight restrictions, pedestrian access and parking. Timber from the former river crossing has also been repurposed to create new bench seating overlooking the Hunter River. While the project faced setbacks due to two major flooding events in 2025, Council worked closely with specialist bridge contractor Saunders Civilbuild to get the works back on track and deliver a new and improved bridge for the wider community.

Find out more: mait.city/MelvillesMiltonMorrisBridge



New amenities at Max McMahon Oval, Rutherford

The doors have officially opened on a brand-new amenities building at Max McMahon Oval in Rutherford. The \$3.1 million facility was funded by the Australian Government’s Investing in Our Communities Program, with contributions from Council, and features four unisex changerooms, accessible public amenities, a canteen, first aid and referee rooms, a timekeeping room and tiered seating. These facilities will be a major boost to local players and clubs, including Maitland Saints AFL Club who played a key role in securing grant funding and developing the final design. Further works are now underway to add more seating, which should accommodate 400 spectators.

Find out more: mait.city/MaxMcMahonOval



Traffic changes to Haussman Drive, Thornton

Changed traffic conditions are now in place along Haussman Drive, Thornton while two major upgrades are underway. Funded by the NSW and Australian Governments and Council, Haussman Drive is being duplicated between Raymond Terrace Road and Taylor Avenue, and a new roundabout is being installed at the corner of Haussman Drive and Taylor Avenue.

To facilitate these works, motorists travelling via Raymond Terrace Road will be detoured via Government Road for approximately 18 months. Haussman Drive is also closed between Taylor Avenue and Woolley Close, with access for affected residents open via Taylor Avenue, Government Road and the southern end of Haussman Drive.

Find out more: mait.city/HaussmanDrive

The easy way to view, book and pay



New booking system for facilities

Introducing Bookable, an easier and more user-friendly way to view, book and pay to use community facilities and sportsgrounds across Maitland.

With a Bookable account you can check availability and make new bookings, manage and edit existing bookings, and process and view outstanding balances – all at the click of a button.

Bookable covers more than 200 spaces across 90 Council-managed venues, from parks and playgrounds to your local community hall and more.

To create a Bookable account and find out more, visit mait.city/Bookable

Join the conversation

Projects under review

Morpeth to Walka shared pathway

Further engagement recently took place on the Morpeth to Walka shared pathway project. Following the first round of engagement, residents were given another opportunity to have their say on two proposed options for the East Maitland to Morpeth section of pathway. That feedback is now being reviewed and considered, before the project plans are finalised. Follow the project at mait.city/MorpethtoWalka

Projects being delivered

Next Stop: Maitland

The first stage of pedestrian improvements is now complete at Maitland Station, as part of the Next Stop: Maitland project. This includes a new pedestrian crossing on Railway Street, concrete works and new fencing. Stage two will include further public amenity, creative lighting treatments and public art, with a start date to be confirmed. This project is proudly funded by Transport for NSW as part of the reVITALise - Public Transport Precinct Vibrancy Grant. Follow the project at mait.city/ReVITALise



Tell us what matters

What do you love about Maitland?

What could make it better?

This is an ongoing way to share what matters to you about the place you live, work, visit or spend time in.

Your feedback helps build a clearer understanding of community priorities and experiences over time, informing the decisions, services and planning that follow.

We use what we hear to help guide where attention is needed next.

Tell us what matters — because your voice helps shape Maitland over time. Find out more: mait.city/Engage

Walka Water Works Plan of Management (PoM) endorsed

Shaped by extensive community feedback, the PoM provides a long-term, sustainable framework for managing the NSW Government-owned site, which is managed by Council.

While site remediation remains the immediate priority, the PoM sets out a clear vision to revitalise Walka as a destination that brings together heritage, nature and recreation, celebrating its history while creating opportunities for community connection and wellbeing, subject to future planning processes and approvals.

Find out more: mait.city/WalkaProject



Callout for local sustainability heroes

Are you making a difference for your local environment? We'd love to hear your story.

We're looking for four local community members who are helping create a greener Maitland every day – whether you're volunteering with Landcare, creating a climate-resilient garden, reducing water use or cutting food waste.

As part of our Local Environmental Sustainability Champions Project, we'll celebrate local people who are leading by example and inspiring others.

To share your story, email greencommunities@maitland.nsw.gov.au to be among the first to learn more.



Every bit counts: Strong start for FOGO

A year into weekly FOGO (Food Organics and Garden Organics) collections, bin analysis shows many households are using their green bin for food waste – even when they only have a small amount to dispose of.

Encouragingly, contamination remains comparatively low for councils at a similar stage of rollout. However, soft plastics, packaging and items labelled “biodegradable” or “compostable” still don't belong in the green bin.

If it's food or grows in your garden, it goes in your FOGO bin. Putting the right items in the right bin helps reduce waste to landfill and supports a more sustainable Maitland. Find out more: mait.city/FOGO

Biodiversity Month: Celebrating spring in Maitland

September is Biodiversity Month, with Maitland hosting events across August and September, including Landcare Week activities, hands-on workshops and community-led learning. Explore local ecosystems, sustainability and our role in caring for the natural environment.

Highlights include storytime sessions, citizen science activities, and a sustainability film screening and panel discussion at Reading Cinemas. Find out more: mait.city/GreeningEvents

What's on



Maitland Riverlights

The Levee Central Maitland

Saturday 10 October, 2pm to 9pm

Save the date for Maitland's biggest cultural celebration

Maitland's biggest celebration of culture and diversity returns this October, with Maitland Riverlights, proudly presented by Maitland City Council and The Mutual Bank, set to feature the largest number of cultural villages in the festival's history.

Running from Tuesday 6 to Saturday 10 October, Riverlights will once again bring the community together to celebrate the food, music, dance, art and traditions of cultures from around the world. The festival begins with a week of cultural activities and experiences across Maitland from Tuesday to Friday, before culminating in the free main event at The Levee Central Maitland on Saturday 10 October from 2pm to 9pm.

The Levee will come alive as a vibrant global village, where visitors can explore cultural villages, enjoy live performances, take part in interactive activities and sample authentic cuisine from around the world. The celebrations will continue into the evening with the Riverlights parade, followed by the much loved lantern flotilla and a spectacular finale on the Hunter River.

The full program, including cultural villages, performances and workshops, will be announced closer to the event. To stay up to date, visit maitlandriverlights.com.au

Funding for this project has been provided by the NSW Government.

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 3 July 2026. 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.

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maitland
CITY COUNCIL

Council events for your calendar



Upriver Downriver launch party
Maitland Regional Art Gallery
Fri 24 Jul, 5.30pm to 7pm



Conversations: Art & Dementia
Maitland Regional Art Gallery
Tues 28 Jul, 2pm to 3.30pm
Thurs 13 Aug, 10.30am to 12pm
Tues 25 Aug, 2pm to 3.30pm



Auslan Interpreted Gallery Tour
Maitland Regional Art Gallery
Sat 15 Aug, 2pm to 3pm



Upriver Downriver environmental sustainability session
Maitland Regional Art Gallery
Sat 15 Aug, 4pm to 6pm



National Science Week:
Flying Fox Storytime
10am to 10.30am
Rutherford Library, Tues 18 Aug
East Maitland Library, Wed 19 Aug
Thornton Library, Thurs 20 Aug



Freedom of Entry parade
High Street, central Maitland
Sat 12 Sep, 10am



Sustainability film screening and panel
Reading Cinemas, Maitland
Sat 12 Sep, 2pm to 5pm



Biodiversity Month Storytime
10am to 10.30am
Rutherford Library, Tues 15 Sep
East Maitland Library, Wed 16 Sep
Thornton Library, Thurs 17 Sep



Street Eats
Golden Whistler Park,
Aberglasslyn
Fri 25 Sep, 5pm to 8pm



Street Eats
Whitewater Adventure Park,
Chisholm
Fri 30 Oct, 5pm to 8pm

Find other events at
mait.city/WhatsOnMaitland