

# BUSINESS HUB

BUSINESS NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER EDITION

Welcome to the final edition of the business newsletter for 2024 🎄

We are fast approaching the end of another busy year, and congratulations to the Local Business Award finalists and winners who were celebrated at the annual local business awards presentation evening.

**Don't forget – Light Up Windsor has been postponed due to wet weather to Thursday 19 December 2024, 5pm-9pm in Windsor Mall.** There will be dozens of Christmas market stalls, live entertainment, snow flurries, Santa and Mrs Claus, face painting and more. This event isn't just a wonderful opportunity for some festive fun – it is also a much-needed boost to the local economy.

On behalf of Hawkesbury City Council, we wish you a safe and Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year and we look forward to working closely with you again in the new year.

Yours sincerely,  
Mayor Les Sheather



## In the Hawkesbury

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## Hawkesbury Local Business Award Winners!

Hawkesbury City Council is pleased to congratulate the 33 winners of the Local Business Award 2024! Click below to see the winning businesses.

[Read more](#)



## Celebrate Christmas in the Hawkesbury

Check out the Christmas Carols happening in the Hawkesbury at [Hanna Park](#) on **Saturday 21 December 4:30pm-9:30pm**, and the [Richmond Rotary Carols](#) at Richmond Park on **Sunday 15 December 6pm-9pm!**

Be sure to check out some of the many Christmas events happening in the Hawkesbury this December. See What's On below!

[What's On](#)

# 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

Wear **ORANGE** to show your support for 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

## Wear orange for 16 Days of Activism

Wear **ORANGE** from **25 November to 10 December** to show your support for 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

16 Days of Activism is an international campaign to Stop Violence Against Women & Girls. It runs from the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November, to International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

[Read more](#)

# Council *Christmas* & New Year OPERATING HOURS

**Council Operating Hours for Christmas and New year 2024/2025**



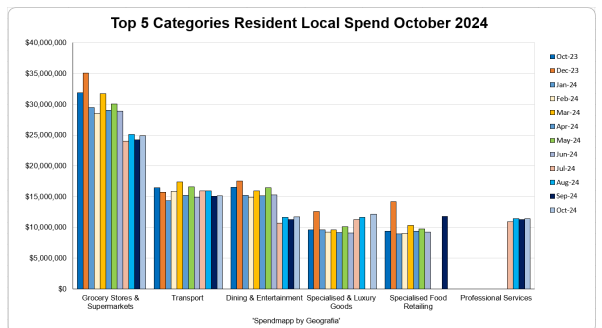
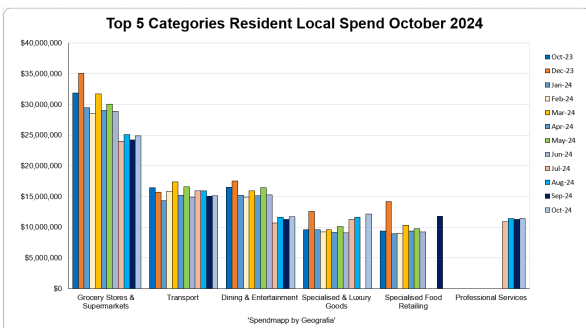
## Join us at Australia Day on the Hawkesbury

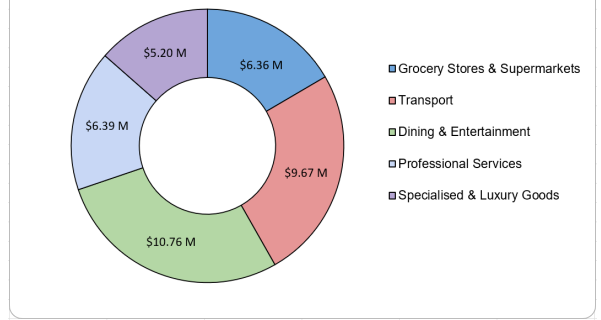
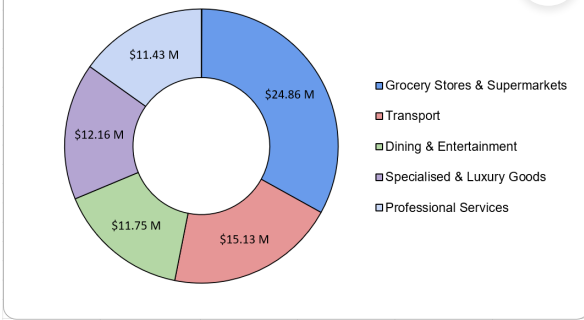
Council invites you to Australia Day on the Hawkesbury 2024, a fun family friendly community event on **26 January 2025 from 5pm to 9pm at Governor Phillip Park, Windsor.**

This will be the perfect way to enjoy this special day with friends and family alongside our beautiful river. We are also marking this important day with the Australia Day Awards Ceremony and a Citizenship Ceremony, both at the Windsor Function Centre. Stay tuned to our socials for further announcements.



October's resident and visitor local spending in the Hawkesbury increased across all categories this month.





[Spendmapp](#), developed by Geografia, is an economic modelling tool used by several local government areas to measure consumer spending of locals and visitors geographically using bank data.

The tool helps local Council's and businesses gain a better understanding of the local economy by providing an insight into the visitor economy, online expenditure and escape expenditure. Using the data helps determine patterns of spending and can assist with managing and responding to long term economic trends and shocks.

## Business News & Updates



### Nights out in the Hawkesbury

New platforms [Data After Dark](#) and [Neon Marketplace](#) have been launched to facilitate and support a more vibrant, diverse and safer NSW 24-hour economy. The NSW night-time economy is worth \$102 billion a year, employs a fifth of all workers and supports more than 53,000 core businesses, including music venues, restaurants, bars and leisure activity providers.

Neon Marketplace aims to connect business, suppliers, jobseekers and performers to find partnership opportunities, access grant initiatives and share ideas and knowledge to grow the night-time offerings across NSW. We encourage any business that is currently working within or wanting to expand into the night-time sector to join Neon Marketplace!

Join here



## Register your hospitality and tourism venues to the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse

Prepare for the opening of the Western Sydney Airport in 2026 and increase your online exposure by having your business seen by more travelers, simply by listing with the Australian Tourism Data Warehouse for FREE.

[List your venue](#) or events on the digital database which is made up of over 50,000 Australian tourism profiles, spanning across 11 product categories.

See listings



## Prepare for the unexpected and build a business continuity plan

Every business should have a Business Continuity Plan. Nobody thinks an emergency event will happen to them, but preparing your business to survive such an event is vital for every business owner.

By proactively assessing your dependencies and preparing for potential disruptions, you can safeguard your business against unforeseen challenges and maintain a resilient operation. Check out the free [Business Continuity Plan template](#) to help you mitigate common challenges.

Read more



## Calling all food businesses

Council's Environmental Health Officers would like to remind all retail food businesses and caterers to ensure they meet new mandatory food safety requirements in the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code 3.2.2A by **8 December 2024**. NSW Food Authority is offering free training in order to assist businesses in complying with the Standard. The three areas where the Food Standard has changed include the following:

1. Nearly all businesses (including children's services) are now required to have a Food Safety Supervisor (FSS).
2. The requirement for all staff to have adequate skills and knowledge has been strengthened ([Free training](#))
3. Showing food is safe through clear written instructions and/or record keeping for critical processes.

Requirements



## New Code of Practice for Agriculture businesses

The new Code of Practice for unsafe plants in non-rural Areas eliminates the need for a biodiversity conservation licence to damage or remove plants that pose an imminent risk to life or property. The Code doesn't replace existing tree removal guidelines established by the local council, instead it supplements council requirements for removing trees by clarifying the circumstances for removing plants that are threatened, protected or forms part of a threatened ecological community.

Read more

## Business Grants & Funding



## Strengthening Rural Communities Grant

The Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small & Vital stream gives small remote, rural and regional communities across Australia the opportunity to access funds for a broad range of initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities.

Grants up to **\$10,000** are available for a broad range of grassroots, community-led initiatives that directly and clearly benefit local communities that strengthen local people, places and climate solutions, with a preference for smaller communities.

Read more



## Government grants and support for small business

There are numerous Business Grant available throughout NSW so make sure you're taking advantage of the Federal and NSW State Government support that is available to small businesses, including grants, loans and rebates.

- [Grants and programs finder | business.gov.au](#)
- [Grants & Programs - Investment NSW](#)
- [Grants and funding | NSW Government](#)

## Upcoming Workshops





### Vegetable Innovation Day Richmond Lowlands

13 Dec 2024, 10:30am-3:30pm (online)

Register



### Webinar: How to create world-class agritourism experiences

Watch Now

Did you know that Service NSW offers numerous faces to face or online business training. Here are our picks this month but you can find more [here](#).



### Finding and retaining the right staff

4 December 2024, 10am-12pm (online)

Register



### Developing your brand

12 December 2024, 10am-11:30am (online)

Register

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