

# Burke Shire Council NEWSLETTER



EDITION 59 : APRIL 2022

## A MESSAGE FROM the CEO

This is shaping up to be a big year for our Shire. Council is looking at holding workshops in April for the proposed Beames Street Upgrade & Cycleway and the Wharf Recreational Grounds projects. In addition, Council will shortly be undertaking a masterplan and detailed design for the proposed Health & Wellbeing Precinct which includes a children's waterpark.

As a result of the North West Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils, a tender was let for the supply (including design), installation, and commissioning of automatic flood warning infrastructure (95 assets at 65 sites) across the North West Queensland Region. Burke Shire Council (14 areas, 22 assets). The primary purpose of this investment is to provide improvements to the Flood Warning Gauge Network. This also encourages neighbouring Councils to work together on a catchment basis. This project is progressing well.

A Fishing Infrastructure grant has been received for the Burketown Albert River Fishing Bridge Lighting Project. This project aims to provide lighting at one of Burketown's most popular fishing spots. The historic old bridge which crosses the Albert River is used frequently by tourists and locals for fishing and other recreational purposes such as picnics. Night fishing is also popular at the bridge however there is currently no lighting which can be hindering and creates safety concerns. This project aims to fund the installation of solar lights at the bridge that will enhance safety and fishing opportunities for both tourists and locals.

Upskilling staff is always a high priority and I am happy to advise the following:

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# A MESSAGE FROM *the CEO Continued*

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- Stephanie Capper, Sun Yu and Shaun Jorgensen have completed Diplomas in Local Government Administration - Financial Management focus.
- Sasha Hookey has completed her Cert III Business Administration.
- Sage Marshall has now finalised his Apprenticeship as a workshop mechanic.
- Madison Marshall is now a qualified Commissioner of Declarations.

Well done to you all - your hard work to achieve these qualifications has come to fruition.

Council has been undertaking an initiative to divest staff housing to staff. Three staff are now in their own homes and a number of others are currently being progressed. As we know, there are many barriers to First Nation Peoples owning their own homes and it is very pleasing that Council has this initiative in place. I have been invited to speak at the Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Forum (May 24-26, Sydney) to show case the Burke Shire Council initiative which I am proud to do.

As part of a council drive to free up unproductive council assets and encourage economic development activities, nine residential land blocks and one residential house block in Gregory were put up for tender and all were sold. A further seven blocks have been identified at Gregory and will be put up for tender shortly.

Council is pleased to be involved with the Waanyi Rangers Program in Gregory where Council has allocated three blocks of land for this initiative. Waanyi PBC approached CLCAC a number of years ago to develop a Waanyi ranger program on behalf of the Waanyi PBC. The newly formed Waanyi Ranger Program is funded through the QLD Governments Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger Program. Initially there will be four Rangers in the program, however, like the other CLCAC groups, they will grow in time. A Waanyi Ranger Coordinator has now been employed.

Rangers undertake a range of on ground activities and these will initially include:

- Pest and weed control
- Biodiversity monitoring
- Fire Management
- Water Management and Quality testing
- Cultural Heritage site management
- Knowledge Transfer
- Fee for service

With a number of exciting projects in the pipeline, we look forward to another successful year for the Shire.

**Dan McKinlay, CEO**



IN FEBRUARY WE SAID GOODBYE TO ONE OF OUR LONGER SERVING EMPLOYEES, DYLAN CLEMMENTS. DYLAN JOINED COUNCIL IN 2010 AND WAS A VALUABLE MEMBER OF THE ROAD CREW FOR THE DURATION OF HIS EMPLOYMENT. WE WISH DYLAN ALL THE BEST WITH HIS FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.

# COMMUNITY events

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo - Save the Date!

**When:** Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June

**Where:** Burketown from Monday to Wednesday  
Gregory from Thursday to Friday

**What?!** The Burke Shire Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo is your chance to visit and catch up with health care providers that service the Burke Shire. Learn how to cook healthy meals. Get a free health check. Discover ways to improve your physical fitness. Meet our local psychologist. And so much more! The Burke Shire Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo will be a week-long event, held both in Burketown and Gregory, which aims to provide an opportunity for the community to talk to our regular health service providers, learn about ways to improve their health and mental wellbeing, and participate in a range of fun activities. Keep an eye out on our Facebook page, Burke Shire Council Website and public notices for more information as the date draws closer.



## Dates to Remember

### 1 March - 13 May

**What:** Burke Shire Tidy Yard Competition

### 15 - 17 April

**What:** Mounigibi (Burketown) Fishing Competition

### 21 – 29 April

**What:** Storytelling Workshop

### 25 April

**What:** ANZAC Day

### 27 April

**What:** Burketown State School Healthy Food Gardening Workshop

### 30 April

**What:** Gregory Saddles and Paddles Horse Racing

### 1 May

**What:** Gregory Canoe Race

### 2 May

**What:** Clean Up Australia – Gregory

### 6 May

**What:** Clean Up Australia – Burketown

### 8 May

**What:** Mates Day

### 30 May – 3 June

**What:** Mental Health and Wellbeing Expo.

### 18 – 19 June

**What:** Gregory Campdraft and Horse Sports

# STRIVING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

## Where do your rates go?

Every six months that letter from Council lands in your mailbox and next thing you know, rates are due. You may be asking "Where does this money go? How is my money being spent?".

Your rates help make Burke Shire the place we love. It is divided up across a number of services that Council provides to the community. It is also important to note that rates make up only 18% of total Council revenue with Council being required to seek funding for the remaining 82% from various departments and funding initiatives wherever available.

Some of these services Council provide are included in the list below.

- Maintenance of waste management facilities
- Landfill management
- Water and wastewater treatment plant upkeep and maintenance
- Local roads, bridges, footpaths, kerb and

- guttering, signage and drainage maintenance
- Parks, playgrounds, gardens, sports fields and reserves maintenance
- Libraries and community services
- Town planning and development services
- Community engagement and events
- Regional strategic planning
- Food outlet inspections and compliance management
- Community facilities maintenance (i.e. The community Gym)
- Business development initiatives
- Flood and disaster management
- Telecom management
- Tv and Radio Service provision and upkeep

To show this in more of a graphical sense, we have put together the below chart showing where each dollar per \$100 is spent in the above areas respectively.

## \$100

For every \$100, Council invests in the following:



**\$ 28.45**

Governance, Admin and Operational Services



**\$ 1.15**

Airports



**\$ 3.24**

Water Services



**\$ 0.41**

Environmental Services



**\$ 0.64**

Town Planning, building & economic affairs



**\$ 3.33**

Roads, footpaths and drainage



**\$ 1.56**

Tourism, events, cultural and community services



**\$ 4.71**

Public Facilities and Housing



**\$ 53.26**

Flood Damage Repairs



**\$ 1.72**

Parks and Gardens



**\$ 1.53**

Sewer and Waste Services



# PROJECTS UPDATE

## Burketown Water Treatment Plant

The recently completed upgrade of the Burketown Water Treatment Plant chemical dosing system is the final stage of a comprehensive investment by Council to improve the reliable supply of quality drinking water to the Burketown community. The overall upgrade has also included the replacement of the main shed and the increase in clear water storage capacity, with a total of approximately \$1.5mil invested over the last 2 years. The development was primarily funded by the Queensland State Government's Works for Queensland programs.



## Beames Street Upgrade & Cycleway

Council is embarking on an exciting project which will transform the main street in Burketown, Beames St, into a welcoming feature for the community and visitors alike as they enter Burke Shire. The initial phase, the design consultancy package which includes surveying, geotechnical investigation, engineering design, landscape architecture and lighting was recently endorsed by Council. The contract value for the works is to be up to a maximum of \$400,000. Council resolved that Council appoints Erscon Consulting Engineers as Principal Consultant for the Beames Street Upgrade and Cycleway project.

## DRFA Restoration Works—Contracts

Council awarded tenders for packages 2 to 5 as follows, maximum amounts (ex GST) of:

Package 2   Tender no 5608-6800-1 Miscellaneous Roads	Commings Contracting Pty Ltd	\$723,119
Package 3   Tender no 5608-3000-1 Gregory-Lawn Hill, Lawn Hill National Park & Riversleigh Roads	Gulf Civil Pty Ltd	\$629,034
Package 4   Tender no 5608-5000-1 Doomadgee West & Nugaburra Roads	Commings Contracting Pty Ltd	\$578,988
Package 5   Tender no 5608-4200-1 Bowthorn & Doomadgee Lawn Hill Roads	K&G Booth Pty Ltd	\$760,382

# WATER, WATER – IT WAS HERE, THERE AND NEARLY EVERYWHERE

*by Mayor Ernie Camp*

The recent Wet weather saw extensive flooding in our Shire. We have had many flooding events in the lower Gulf as a result of the Wet season cycle. In more recent times, we have had events that saw us having to evacuate people from Bowthorn, Tirranna and Augustus via helicopter. In the Tirranna event we were fortunate to have the large SES helicopter available to assist. Some, if not all, these events may have not required such extreme measures of evacuation if we had have had a large, accurate database of river and rainfall data from weather monitoring stations allowing us to be more proactive than reactive.

Why do I make particular mention of the SES helicopter? The potential value of this mode of assistance was highlighted during the tragic New Year's Eve events on the flooded Leichhardt River when we had 5 children and 2 adults stuck in trees just above the waterfalls who required rescuing. When I requested a helicopter, as it was not ideal with the prevailing conditions to utilise a boat for the rescue, the SES helicopter (or any other suitable helicopter) wasn't available due to the widespread flooding across a large area of SE Qld.

These events taught me that we have to be proactive in finding out information as it may be too late if we wait for information to come to us. As the Leichhardt incident showed us, the assets that we need to make the best response may not be available so we need to have as much advance knowledge as we can to better enable our chances of an optimal response.

This year, we knew of the high rainfall events at Thornton and Herbertvale, thanks to local networks. We became aware of the flooding in the Gregory and the rising river at the town itself. I spent most of the day prior to the aerial survey flight trying to contact a lot of people in the Lawn Hill/Nicholson catchment to get an on the ground insight into the rain/floodwaters but was unable to reach quite a few meaning there



were significant gaps in our knowledge. I believe the Bureau of Meteorology was flying blind as well. I therefore requested that we do an aerial survey of the catchments and watercourses.

I, as were others, was much relieved to learn that many of the other watercourses were not in major flood and there were not large bodies of surface water running to feed into them. As you know, the impact of flooding in our region is greatly increased when all, or the majority, of rivers are flooding at the same time. In 2010, the event involving the Nicholson and Bowthorn catchment areas, even though bad, would have been so much worse had the Gregory and Leichhardt Rivers been flooding at the same levels and within the same timeframes.

The impending installation of fourteen pieces of monitoring infrastructure, coordinated by QRA, will also prove invaluable in raising awareness of changing weather conditions: forewarned is forearmed as they

say. This initiative was instigated following the North West flooding event in 2019. It is unfortunate that these gauges weren't in before this wet season commenced, as the information they would have provided would have really helped us understand what we were facing.

We also learnt that there were six pallets of groceries that were unable to be delivered after ordering and they were deteriorating while supplies in Burketown were quite low. So a decision was made to have an impromptu resupply.

With the truthing flight and the resupply, some people may ask "Who pays for that?". Well that is yet to be sorted out but if Council has to wear the full cost of those activities, I consider it money well spent. It has been my experience that a few dollars spent in proactive prevention are worth a multitude more than the amount that will inevitably be spent after the fact in response and recovery.

Personally, I have experienced this questioning of "Who will pay?". When our then 2yr old daughter went missing during a declared tropical low in the Gulf and the day was wearing on with no sign of her despite several mustering helicopters in the air and people from Floraville and Wernadinga searching on the ground, it became apparent we needed more people on the ground to search. With the low and the associated rain, all roads were closed and access was by air or possibly boat only and so a bigger chopper capable of bringing out several people at a time was required. People were asking who was going to pay and a private individual knew while this was debated and discussed, time was wasting and dark was approaching, so they generously said they would pay. And so they did: a large helicopter was sourced and had just ferried out the first tranche of searchers when our daughter was miraculously found. That generous person, who knew how important it was to make a speedy response to the call for additional assistance, never sought to be reimbursed. If we had waited for the decision to be officially made regarding payment that helicopter may never have got off the ground. Another important lesson about proactivity was reinforced that day.

Another positive note from this event, aside from my daughter's safe return to our home, was that as a result of this incident and the queries around

payment, Burke Shire established an Emergency Response Fund. In combination with an older fund, The Burke Shire Flood Fund, there is now a considerable fund available should it be needed.

We recently had an LDMG meeting to evaluate our response to this last event and what lessons we could take from it going forward. As a result, we are developing proactive preparation, response and recovery plans for use by Council staff and relevant LDMG members.

In response to the disaster, assistance has been activated for the area formally defined as: "Communities within western Queensland affected by a low pressure trough and associated heavy rainfall and flooding, 19-24 January 2022. Initially Burke Shire was not included in the declaration but after I wrote to the Minister seeking our inclusion, assistance was extended to us. This DFRA activation supports counter disaster operations as well as the reconstruction of essential public assets. Council staff are already out on the roads undertaking repairs to damaged roads.

I know some people become frustrated when the roads remain closed by Council meaning that essential goods and services are not being delivered, yet they see traffic on those roads. Council has legal obligations and standards set by State and Federal Governments that it must follow and instigate. One of these is that a road must remain closed until water across the road falls below 0.3m. Additionally, post flood, Council has a duty of care to ensure the road surface and infrastructure has not been damaged and is safe to travel on. To ensure damage is minimised it is important to keep traffic, especially heavy traffic, off the road to allow the pavement and its foundations to dry out to protect its integrity. Finally, to qualify for funding which is essential to restoring and improving our public assets, we must capture data and information, including photos, and submit to government for approval ( and approval must be given) before we can carry out works. Failure to do so means that Council, and our ratepayers and residents, are liable for the full cost of our activities and any government funds later allocated cannot be used retrospectively to recoup costs.

**Ernie Camp, Mayor**



# COMMUNITY events

## Community Christmas Light Competition

A fantastic effort was made by our community this year with the Shire streets lit up and shimmering away over Christmas. The 2021 winners of the Community Christmas Light Competition were announced on 16th December. Our judges found it incredibly challenging to select winners as they were so impressed by all the displays. It was therefore decided that all participants should receive a prize. A big thanks to Morning Glory Restaurant for donating the extra prizes.

### *The Official Winners*

#### **Tied for First Place:**

Wynetta Illingsworth

Hahli and J'Mai Murray

#### **Runner up:**

Madison Marshall

Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to everyone who participated.



Mayor Ernie Camp presents prizes to the First Place winners of the Christmas Light Competition



# COMMUNITY *events*

## Burke Shire Young Ambassador Program

2021 saw 5 students graduating from Primary School and heading off to the big smoke.

In order to celebrate their achievements, students were invited to attend a morning tea with our Management Team and Councillors where they were presented with their Young Ambassador packs. The Burke Shire Community are extremely passionate about supporting our future leaders. Every year Council, along with support from our local businesses, put together packs to assist students and their families with their transition to higher education.



### *Graduate Students*

Anthony MacNamara

Summer Martin

Ayla Munchenberg

Joseph Brown

Edward Jacob

### **2021 Young Ambassador Program pack sponsors:**

A massive thank you to the following sponsors, without your support this program would not be possible:

Almora Station

ERSCON Pty Ltd

Burke Shire Council

Tirranna Springs Roadhouse

Burke Shire Council Cairns Office

Hells Gate Roadhouse

Burketown Caravan Park

Burketown Post Office

Burketown State School

Morning Glory Restaurant

Floraville Station

Nowland Engineering

Gregory Downs Hotel

Gregory Downs Station

# COMMUNITY *events*

## Things that Bite and Sting

The majority of Shire locals have seen a range of biting and stinging creatures while out and about in the region. The slithering kind is what really gets our hearts pumping! And for good reason! We share the shire with a range of species, including the biting and stinging kind and they are all vital in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Burke Shire Council held two educational sessions on the topic in March, conducted by herpetologist Julian Craig. It's important that when our community members do come across biting and stinging creatures, they are prepared to handle the situation.

The first session was open to community attendance and included the safety aspects of things that bite and sting, followed by snake bite protocol education and an up close and personal experience on snake confrontation. The second session was more in depth and was attended by Burke Shire Council staff and CLCAC rangers. This session covered everything from the community session in a little more depth. Additionally, first aid protocol was practised by all attendees ensuring correct bandage use and bandage wrapping pressure was achieved as it's vital in the treatment of snake bites. There was of course the obligatory snake confrontation and handling to end the day.





# COMMUNITY

## Community Christmas

Burke Shire Council Community Christmas Events were held in Burketown and Gregory in December. Both wonderful days were filled with lots of fun and laughter.

The children escaped the heat, playing on the water slide and jumping castle and Santa's little helper came along with treats.

The afternoons were topped off with a friendly game of cricket and a BBQ dinner.



## Cert III Success



WE LOVE TO SEE OUR TEAM MEMBERS SUCCEED! WELL DONE TO SASHA HOOKEY WHO RECENTLY COMPLETED HER CERTIFICATE III IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION. WITH THIS CERTIFICATE UNDER HER BELT, SASHAS NEXT CHALLENGE IS COMPLETING A FINANCE OFFICER TRAINEESHIP.





**MOUNGIBI (BURKETOWN)  
FISHING COMPETITION**

**Easter Weekend 15 – 17 April 2022**  
**\$15,000 in Cash and Prizes**

## Let's Get Moving!

To show support for your health and wellbeing, Burke Shire Council are partnering with Move It NQ to offer the Burke Shire community free access to a health and wellbeing mobile application.

Part of this initiative involves the offering of a range of free training programs to help community members

run exercise sessions in our region. There are a number of different levels of training on offer, from basic training enabling you to set up and coordinate fitness sessions and small gatherings like walking groups, to completing a Certificate III in Fitness!

Don't miss out on this unique training opportunity! If interested, contact [hr@burke.qld.gov.au](mailto:hr@burke.qld.gov.au). Keep an eye on Council's Facebook page for information about the health and wellbeing app that will be on offer.

# COMMUNITY

## Burke Shire Council joins the Small Business Friendly Program

On Monday 21 March, Burke Shire council joined the Small Business Friendly Program – the 27th Council to do so. In signing with the program Council will gain access to a range of resources and networks that are set to benefit the small businesses of the Burke Shire community.

Mayor Ernie Camp expressed his support for small business noting “As a very small remote shire our small businesses face many diverse and unique challenges that metropolitan small businesses may not”.

“Signing the Small Business Friendly charter shows council’s continuing commitment to, and support of, our small businesses and a desire to strengthen mutual relationships to ensure their growth and sustainability.”

Queensland Small Business Commissioner Maree Adshead, co-signed the Small Business Friendly charter with Assistant Minister for Local Government



Nikki Boyd, Mayor Ernie Camp, and Burke Shire Council CEO, Daniel McKinlay, said the co-signing of the charter marks a commitment to a collaborative journey.

“The co-signing of the SBF charter is an example of what the SBF program is all about — large organisations working closely with local small businesses which ultimately benefits the whole community,” Ms Adshead said.

For more information on the Small Business Friendly Charter, contact Council – [office@burke.qld.gov.au](mailto:office@burke.qld.gov.au)



## Wedding Bells

A HUGE CONGRATULATION TO COUNCILS WHS & TRAINING OFFICER KATHLEEN MACHINGURA AND HER NOW HUSBAND ROBERT MASARA WHO CELEBRATED THEIR ROORA DAY AND WERE MARRIED ON 19 FEBRUARY 2022.

ROORA MEANS TO ACQUIRE A WIFE AND A ZIMBABWE TRADITIONAL WEDDING IS INCOMPLETE WITHOUT ROORA AS IT IS THE CUSTOMARY TOKEN PAID BY THE GROOM-TO-BE, WHEN HE IS ABOUT TO MARRY HIS BRIDE-TO-BE, TO HIS IN-LAWS. PAYING THE BRIDE PRICE OR ROORA IS AN ACCEPTABLE WAY IN THE ZIMBABWEAN CULTURE FOR A GROOM TO ASK FOR HIS BRIDE’S HAND IN MARRIAGE. WE WISH KATHY AND ROBBY A HAPPY HEALTHY LIFE TOGETHER.



# MEET THE TEAM

## *Parks and Gardens*

### Meet the Parks and Gardens Crew

Behind any beautiful town is a team who work tirelessly, almost invisibly, to maintain the amenities and beautiful green spaces we're able to enjoy.

When the grass is growing by the minute and facilities need a clean, this is the team that gets stuck in and gets the job done.

Glenda Booth, our fearless leader. Glenda keeps a tight ship and ensures her team safely performs the best job possible.

Trevor Marshall, puts his head down and makes things happen no matter what. Trevor has been with Council for 25 years!

Daryl Whitney, always keen to give things a go. Daryl joined us from Mount Isa last year and has proven

himself as a valued member of the team.

Maria Slater, the most recent addition to the team. Like her personality, Mini keeps our facilities sparkling!

Noel Henderson joined the parks and gardens team late last year after a long swing in the road construction team. With a long list of expertise, Noel has also been with Council for 26 years.

Kieran Anderson, a jack of all trades in the parks and gardens sector. No job is too big or small. From assisting with REX to cleaning to general town maintenance – he can do it all.

On your morning walk through the park or when next using Council facilities, remember these faces!





# GET COOKING

## Baked Chicken & Rice

BY KATHLEEN MACHINGURA

### Ingredients:

- 6 chicken thighs, skin on, bone in
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 red capsicum, deseeded and chopped
- 500g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/3 cup sun dried tomato strips in oil, chopped (optional: but adds flavour)
- 1 1/3 cup uncooked long grain rice, rinsed
- 1 tin (400g) crushed tomatoes, with liquid
- 1 3/4 cups chicken broth/stock
- 1-2 teaspoons salt (adjust to your taste)
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper, (adjust to your taste)
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/4 cup fresh basil leaves, chopped
- extra chopped fresh basil (to serve)



### Cooking steps:

1. Preheat oven to 200°C.
2. Heat the oil in a large, deep ovenproof cast iron skillet/or pan (over 30 cm).
3. Add the chicken, skin side down; sear for 3-4 mins on medium-high heat. Turn each thigh and sear until golden all over. Transfer the chicken onto a warm plate.
4. Add the garlic and fry until fragrant (about 30 seconds).
5. Add the onion, capsicum and cherry tomatoes; fry for about 3 minutes or until onion is transparent.
6. Stir in the sun dried tomatoes, rice, crushed tomatoes and chicken broth (stock). Season with salt, pepper and dried basil. Bring to a simmer and allow the rice to soak up all the tomato flavours.
7. Place chicken thighs, skin side up, over rice.
8. Bring to the boil; rotate the chicken in the tomato sauce to coat; cover with foil; transfer to preheated oven and allow to bake for about 40 minutes, or until the rice has softened and absorbed the liquid and the chicken is cooked through.
9. Stir through an extra 1/4 cup of water to the rice ONLY if needed (if rice hasn't cooked fully).
10. Remove cover; change oven settings to grill on medium heat for a further 8-10 minutes or until the chicken is crispy and golden.
11. Season with extra salt to taste
12. Sprinkle with freshly chopped basil to serve.

# COUNCIL INFORMATION

## Information On Our Website

Burke Shire Council Website

**[www.burke.qld.gov.au](http://www.burke.qld.gov.au)**

You can find information on:

Current Tenders  
Council Meetings  
Event Information  
Public Notices  
Service Information

## Council Meeting Dates

Burke Shire Council meetings are held monthly on a Thursday in the Council Chambers at the Nijinda Durlga and are scheduled to commence at 9.00am.

Meeting dates for the next 5 months are as follows:

April	Thursday 28
May	Thursday 26
June	Thursday 23
July	Thursday 28
August	Thursday 25

## Follow us!



[www.facebook.com/BurkeShireCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/BurkeShireCouncil)



[www.linkedin.com/company/BurkeShireCouncil](http://www.linkedin.com/company/BurkeShireCouncil)

## Get snapping!



Spot an issue in the Shire?

Take a photo with the Snap Send Solve app to let us know.

The app allows you to mark the exact location of the issue, take a photo and provide any further information in a few simple steps. Then:

- Council will be notified
- Your report will be assigned
- Reported issue is resolved
- You will be notified.