

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Flowers are blooming, the sun is shining and it's the perfect time to spring into action on sustainable solutions to power your home or business.

Lake Macquarie City Council has invested heavily in solar solutions to help provide affordable, sustainable power around our city – and so can you!

For residents and businesses there are financial and environmental gains to be made by adopting solar and going electric.

The best way to run your home - for your wallet and the climate - is with all electric appliances and cars powered by clean electricity. It's half the running costs of a fossil fuel home.

Here at Council, we're looking to lead the charge in this space.

We have established solar systems at more than 40 locations, reducing our carbon emissions by more than 2000 tonnes per year and saving the community half a million dollars every year in electricity charges.

Council has also supported the installation of solar, battery and diesel generator back-up systems at three emergency response facilities through more than \$2 million in grant funding.

We continue to electrify our vehicle fleet, supported by a 175-kilowatt carpark system in Speers Point, which was a finalist at the Local Government NSW Environment Awards 2022.

Council has deployed charging stations across the city to increase the viability of electric vehicles (EV), with sites at

Council headquarters, Speers Point Park, Blacksmiths Beach Holiday Park, Lake Macquarie Landcare, Swansea Lakeside Holiday Park, Toronto Commercial Centre and the Swansea Centre.

We had our first Community EV Open Day in May to showcase the technology and its benefits, and we're about to start a 12-month power pole street charging trial to support the uptake further.

Our Living Smart Festival in September was another wonderful celebration of all things sustainable, and a great opportunity for people to learn how to make small changes to save both money and our precious environment.

If you're looking for ways to get started, Council provides access to a solar and battery estimating tool to the community free of charge at [sunspot.org.au](http://sunspot.org.au).

Commercial property owners who are seeking to make their buildings more energy and water efficient - including with solar - can apply for favourable financing through an Environmental Upgrade Agreement at [lakemac.com.au/environmental-upgrades](http://lakemac.com.au/environmental-upgrades).

Whether you look into solar this season or not, make sure to soak up some sun, get outdoors, go for a swim and enjoy the beauty of Lake Macquarie.

**Lake Macquarie Mayor  
Cr Kay Fraser**



## LAKE MAC Awards

### NOMINATE A LOCAL

Help us celebrate the incredible people in our community and acknowledge local legends who have made an outstanding contribution to our city.

The 2024 Lake Mac Awards recognise excellence in leadership, advocacy, innovation, bravery, skill or community spirit across the following categories:



**SPORTS**



**ARTS AND CREATIVITY**



**VOLUNTEERING AND  
COMMUNITY  
CONTRIBUTION**



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ENHANCEMENT**



**EVENTS**



**DIVERSITY AND  
INCLUSION**

Nominate a person, group or yourself online by 17 November.

Winners will be announced at a gala event in March 2024.

[lakemac.com.au  
/lake-mac-awards](http://lakemac.com.au/lake-mac-awards)



## NEW WARD BOUNDARIES FOR LAKE MAC

In accordance with requirements of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, Council has submitted a new ward boundary plan to the NSW Electoral Commission. The changes will ensure the difference in the number of voters across each ward is no greater than 10 per cent. Visit [lakemac.com.au](http://lakemac.com.au) to check which ward you're in.



## ARE YOU PREPARED FOR BUSH FIRE SEASON?

Living close to beautiful bushland is part of Lake Macquarie's charm, but it's not without risk.

Homes close to bushland, or even a few streets back in residential areas, can be vulnerable to fire.

There are four simple steps every at-risk resident should take to be prepared for bush fire season.

1. **DISCUSS** what to do if a bush fire threatens your home
2. **PREPARE** your home for bush fire season
3. **KNOW** and understand warnings and alert levels
4. **KEEP** key information close at hand

[rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan](https://rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/bush-fire-survival-plan)

## WHAT'S ON

Stay in the loop with what's happening in Lake Mac by checking out our event calendar.

### Let's Fish Lake Mac

Held on the largest coastal saltwater lake in Australia, the annual catch-and-release style competition is back for its third year, spanning two days on Saturday and Sunday 18-19 November.

There are up to \$32,000 in prizes to be won.



### ELIXIR feat. Katie Noonan, Zac Hurren and Ben Hauptman

Live Music Lake Mac, Craft Music, Sum Management and Kin Music presents ELIXIR feat. Katie Noonan, Zac Hurren and Ben Hauptmann as part of the A Small Shy Truth Tour with guests Charm of Finches.

The show will be held Friday 3 November from 7 to 9.30pm at Warners Bay Theatre, baramayiba

[lakemac.com.au/events](https://lakemac.com.au/events)

## LEAD MITIGATION GRANTS NOW AVAILABLE

Applications are open for eligible residents, including tenants, for funding to assist with lead mitigation on their property.

The Lead Mitigation Grant Program provides funding to eligible households that may have been impacted by lead contamination from the former Pasmenco Cockle Creek Smelter.

Led by the NSW Government through the Environment Protection Authority, the grants can help with the cost of lead remediation and mitigation activities. Properties shaded in purple on the map may be eligible for support.

Visit the website to check your eligibility, grant guidelines, find more information and to apply for a grant.



[lakemac.com.au/lead-grants](https://lakemac.com.au/lead-grants)



## LIFEGUARDS BACK ON DUTY

Council lifeguards are back on patrol ahead of another busy summer.

Beachgoers can enjoy the refuge of red and yellow flags and swim safely at Blacksmiths, Catherine Hill Bay, Redhead and Caves Beaches.

We're installing a new modular tower at Blacksmiths ahead of summer to help our lifeguards protect swimmers better than ever before.

Real-time condition updates for each beach, including patrol status, water temperature, swell and wind, are now available online.

[lakemac.com.au/patrolled-beaches](https://lakemac.com.au/patrolled-beaches)



## GET IN TOUCH

[lakemac.com.au](https://lakemac.com.au)  
02 4921 0333  
[council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au)

