

LISMORE CBD VACANCY RATE CONTINUES TO DROP



Figures released late last year show the Lismore CBD shopfront vacancy rate continues to drop with vacancies now at 8.57%.

Council's Manager of Economic Development Tina Irish said the figure equates to 45 vacant shopfront premises in the CBD.

"Most recently, since June 2018, the Lismore CBD has seen nine businesses take up shopfront occupancies," she explained.

"This brought the vacancy percentage down another 1.68% to be on par with the rate before the March 2017 flood. This is exciting news. Whilst some refinement has occurred since late 2017 to improve data accuracy, the current vacancy figure is a vast improvement to the post-flood vacancy audit of 15.8% in June 2017."

Tina explained that a vacancy rate of 6-8% is considered healthy for a CBD to encourage movement, renovation or expansion, and ensure sufficient space for new businesses to establish.

The latest data shows the following breakdown of CBD vacancies:

- Molesworth Street:** 26 shopfront vacancies.
- Carrington/Conway Streets:** 8 shopfront vacancies.
- Keen Street:** 8 shopfront vacancies.
- Magellan Street:** 2 shopfront vacancies.
- Woodlark Street:** 1 shopfront vacancy.

"Our strongest sector within the CBD remains retail trade, closely followed by food services, professional services and health care assistance," Tina said.

"We are keen to see how Molesworth Street evolves from here and we're keen to encourage economic activity back into this area.

"There is no question our CBD will have to change and adapt with the rise of online shopping. But we urge locals to always think about shopping local first – it's the single best thing every individual can do to help our city thrive economically."



Please follow our #RecycleRight routines below to help us keep material out of landfill, reduce mining of primary resources and limit environmental pollution in 2019.

As well as following these routines, you can also make a big difference by choosing to purchase items made from recycled materials or with minimal or no packaging.

Make a conscious choice in 2019 to move away from plastics altogether, and instead start using reusable containers, bags, cups and bottles.

Below are our six #RecycleRight routines:

#1: Keep it Simple

Only recycle household items made of plastic, glass, steel, aluminium, paper and cardboard.

Tip: To know what goes where get a magnet for your fridge! Pick one up free at your local Council office or library.

#2: Keep out Soft Plastics

We need to keep out all soft plastics including plastic bags, soft plastic packaging, cling wrap, pasta packets, bread bags, biscuit trays etc. We can no longer accept soft plastics of any kind in the recycling bin.

Tip: Take your soft plastics to major supermarket 'Redcycle' collection points – this way you can still avoid placing them in the red landfill bin. Even better, avoid plastic altogether by using your own reusable bottles, containers and bags.

#3: Keep out Small Items

Do not place anything smaller than a credit card into your recycling bin including bottle lids, bread tags and straws.

Tip: Put small pieces of paper or cardboard in your green organics bin, and other small items in your red landfill bin. Larger lids such as the lids off yoghurt tubs can go in your recycling bin on or off the container.

#4: Keep it Safe

Keep it safe for our recycling staff and our machines. Keep out anything hazardous that can harm our workers or anything that can stop or damage the machines, such as strapping, cords, clothing, hose, netting, wire, building materials, chemicals and other hazardous materials.

Tip: We accept small problem waste through our Resource Recovery Collection Satchels including household batteries, corks, CDs and DVDs, electrical cords, mobile phones, prescription glasses, printer cartridges, smoke detectors and small e-waste such as calculators. Resource Recovery Collection Satchels are free at your local Council office or library. You can also drop-off household problem waste such as car batteries, fire extinguishers, gas bottles, oil, paint and large e-waste such as computers and TVs free of charge at the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre. There is a 20kg/20-litre limit or fees apply.

#5: Keep it Clean

Keep it clean by rinsing or wiping out your containers of any food or drink. Also keep out items that will contaminate your recycling bin. This means NO food scraps, NO nappies, NO dirty paper or cardboard, NO meat or biscuit trays, NO coffee cups or lids, NO clothing or fabric, NO soft plastics and NO polystyrene.

Tip: To know what goes where get a magnet for your fridge! Pick one up free at your local Council office or library.

#6: Keep it Loose

Don't bag or box your recyclables – just place them loose into your recycling bin. Things move quickly along the conveyor belts at the recycling facility and there is no time for staff to sort out bags or boxes.

Tip: Clean recycling means you don't need to line your kitchen recycling bin and can just put them in loose!

You can also pick up a free fridge magnet detailing what items go in which colour bin at our Corporate Centre in Goonellabah or at our Lismore and Goonellabah Libraries.



CHANGE YOUR LIFE WITH SWITCH IN 2019...

Our staff from SWITCH 24-hour gym at the Goonellabah Sports & Aquatic Centre are challenging people to change their life in 2019 and join the gym.

SWITCH has a special new year offer of \$100 off all 12-month memberships – premium, casual, student or concession – which is part of the gym's New Year, No Fear! campaign.

Gym Manager Roberta O'Brien said taking the first step toward good health is always the hardest because you have to overcome the fear.

"Humans are inherently afraid of change but the reality is that joining the gym gives so much back – new friends, better health, a great body and happy endorphins," she said.

"There are no quick fixes or easy new year's resolutions when it comes to losing weight or getting healthy. You need to put in the hard work and make exercise a normal part of life.

"When you contemplate joining the gym it can feel overwhelming, but we are here to guide and help members every step of the way. A few weeks down the track and you'll be looking better, feeling better and wondering why you didn't do it years ago."

SWITCH 24-hour gym provides options to cater for all fitness levels, lifestyles and budgets.

Support and encouragement is available to reach your fitness goals with qualified and friendly staff who can provide one-on-one support and tailor programs to your specific needs. For those who want to work out with friends or meet new people, there are more than 40 Group Fitness classes to try including the popular Les Mills classes. Others may wish to purchase a 24/7 access tag and use the functional training centre at a time that suits them.

Of course, you can also choose a mix of these options.

SWITCH can help you find the best fitness regime to suit your needs – whether it's high-energy Les Mills classes to burn calories, tailored weights programs to build muscle and strength, or gentle exercises and aqua aerobics that are suitable for all ages.

"We want our members to set realistic goals and discover that exercise can be fun and rewarding," Roberta said.

"Exercise should not be a chore – it should be something that improves your mental wellbeing and boosts your energy. We can help people discover what works. And I can say with absolute certainty that your life will change for the better as a result."

Phone 6625 5370 or visit the friendly staff at Goonellabah Sports & Aquatic Centre to discuss membership options.

Sign up before
28 February
for our
special
offer!



KEEN STREET FOOTPATH PROJECT POSTPONED

The Keen Street footpath project will no longer go ahead in early January 2019.

Council has been forced to postpone the project, which was due to start on 7 January, due to a lack of critical information from Telstra.

The \$1.3 million project was to include the reconstruction of both sides of Keen Street in the CBD, including the laying of NBN fibre-optic cable and new Telstra pits.

This is not the first time the project has been called off due to uncertainty from Telstra around scope and costs, which is essential information in order for construction to take place.

"We are very disappointed to once again have to postpone this project – we apologise to our CBD businesses," Assets Manager Scott Turner said.

"We are frustrated by the lack of clear communication with Telstra and despite assurances we would have the information we needed in plenty of time, this has not been the case.

"Without correct information, we simply cannot proceed. This is the second time we have been forced to cancel this project due to a lack of action on Telstra's behalf."

A report will be presented to the February 2019 Council meeting on future options for the project.

"For now, CBD businesses can get on with trading and doing what they do best," Scott said.

"We hope all our CBD retailers enjoyed a busy and prosperous Christmas season and they can now start 2019 without any worries about how construction may disrupt trade."

LIBRARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Lismore and Goonellabah Libraries have lots of free school holiday fun for people to enjoy, including a special Scratch coding project.

The project aims to inspire local children to create games and animations using Scratch coding which teach our community how to recycle and support Council's new #RecycleRight campaign.

The Scratch coding project is aimed at children aged seven to 12 but is an open event with no age limit, so anyone can participate.

The best games created will be shown on the Richmond Tweed Regional Library and Council websites.

What's involved:

- Participants can do this at home or at the library using their PC or Mac (Scratch is not available on iPad or Android).
- Workshops will be held in January each Tuesday and Thursday to support participants with their projects.
- Each participant needs a Scratch 'How-To' guide and a #RecycleRight magnet, which you can pick up at Lismore or Goonellabah Libraries.

Below is a full list of activities happening these school holidays.

| Thursday, 3 January | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Mobile Library (Nimbin) Lismore | Weaving Shapes *Scratch Coding Workshop | 2pm 3.30 – 4.30pm |
| Friday, 4 January | | |
| Lismore Goonellabah | *Chalk Board Decorating *Decorate a Magnet | 10.30 – 11.00am 2.00 – 2.30pm |
| Monday, 7 January | | |
| Lismore Lismore | *Wii & Robotics (6+ years) *Code Club (7-12 years) | 2.30 – 3.30pm 3.45 – 4.45pm |
| Tuesday, 8 January | | |
| Lismore Goonellabah | *Scratch Coding Workshop *Sand Art | 10.30 – 11.30am 2.00 – 3.00pm |
| Wednesday, 9 January | | |
| Lismore | *Reading Club (7+ years) | 2.30 – 3.30pm |
| Thursday, 10 January | | |
| Lismore Lismore | *Swift Playground *Scratch Coding Workshop | 2.30 – 3.30pm 3.30 – 4.30pm |
| Friday, 11 January | | |
| Goonellabah | *Wii & Robotics (6+ years) | 2.30 – 3.30pm |
| Monday, 14 January | | |
| Lismore | *Code Club (7-12 years) | 3.45 – 4.45pm |
| Tuesday, 15 January | | |
| Lismore Lismore | *Scratch Coding Workshop *Mystery Craft | 10.30 – 11.30am 2.30 – 3.30pm |
| Wednesday, 16 January | | |
| Lismore Goonellabah | *Story Stones *Mini Succulent Gardens | 2.30 – 3.30pm 2.00 – 3.00pm |
| Thursday, 17 January | | |
| Lismore Mobile Library (Nimbin) | *Scratch Coding Workshop Back to School Craft | 3.30 – 4.30pm 11.00am |
| Friday, 18 January | | |
| Goonellabah | *Make a Pinwheel | 2.00 – 2.30pm |
| Monday, 21 January | | |
| Lismore | *Code Club (7-12 years) | 3.45 – 4.45pm |
| Tuesday, 22 January | | |
| Lismore Goonellabah | *Scratch Coding Workshop *Stained Glass Look-a-Likes | 10.30 – 11.30am 2.00 – 3.00pm |
| Wednesday, 23 January | | |
| Lismore | *Reading Club (7+ years) | 2.30 – 3.30pm |
| Thursday, 24 January | | |
| Lismore Lismore Lismore | *Scratch Coding Workshop Youth Book Club (10-17 years) *School Book Collages | 3.30 – 4.30pm 4.00 – 5.00pm 5.00 – 6.30pm |
| Friday, 25 January | | |
| Lismore | Marble Painting | 10.30 – 11.30am |

*Activities may have limited spaces. Book with Lismore Library on 6621 2464 or Goonellabah Library on 6625 1235.

Baby Bounce, Toddler Time and Storytime will recommence on the week of 7 January at their normal times.



RETROFIT BOOSTS ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Council recently retrofitted all our category p (low wattage) streetlights across the city in a major energy efficiency project that will save hundreds of thousands in electricity bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Essential Energy technicians have replaced Lismore streetlights with new, energy efficient LEDs. Council's total electricity costs are approximately \$1.2 million per annum and streetlights account for around 30% of that cost.

The retrofit set Council back close to \$770,000 but it is expected to save ratepayers \$188,000 per year in electricity costs, giving the project a payback period of around five years.

The city-wide retrofit is part of the Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP) and Council's ongoing goal to self-generate its electricity from renewable sources by 2023.

Environmental Strategies Officer Sharyn Hunnisett said the REMP is being delivered in two stages – stage one includes demand reduction such as streetlight retrofits and solar behind the meter (on-site solar) while stage two includes a mid-scale 5MW renewable energy plant for which a feasibility study is underway.

"This streetlight retrofit will reduce our energy consumption, save money and prevent 250 tonnes of CO₂-e entering the Earth's atmosphere each year," Sharyn said.

"Energy efficiency is paramount to our renewable energy goals, and we have worked hard to be a leader in that space. Working toward our renewable energy goal has meant looking at our entire operation from the ground up. It has been a whole-of-organisation approach and has really changed the way we think about building, design and power generation at all levels."

BEACH WHEELCHAIR EQUALS SUMMER FUN

Did you know that you can hire an all-terrain beach wheelchair over summer free of charge?

The chair can be used on patrolled beaches or suitable walking tracks and can be folded for transportation in a medium-sized vehicle.

The chair was generously purchased by the Lismore City Lions Club in partnership with the Lions Northern NSW Community Trust and is available for hire free to families.

"Some beach wheelchairs are quite large and cumbersome but this one fits into a family SUV," Council's Partnering and Community Engagement Officer Catherine Rosenbaum said.

"Local families are encouraged to hire the beach wheelchair and start enjoying the great outdoors."

The beach wheelchair can be picked up seven days per week from the Goonellabah Sports & Aquatic Centre and bookings should be made at least 48 hours in advance. To book phone 6625 5370.

In order to hire the beach wheelchair you will need to present photo ID and undertake a quick safety briefing.

Individuals using the chair are required to be accompanied by a support person at all times.

More information is available at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au or phone Catherine Rosenbaum on 1300 87 83 87.



Image: Angela Mathew and her son Ashton with the beach wheelchair.

COUNCIL MEETINGS AND BRIEFINGS

The next ordinary meeting of Council will be held on Tuesday, 12 February from 6pm in the Council Chambers.

Members of the public can book to speak in at the beginning of the meeting, on any agenda item, for three minutes. People may also request an AUSLAN interpreter should this be required.

For bookings or information, phone Michella Wade on 1300 87 83 87. All relevant business papers, minutes and live webcasts can be found at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au.

Briefings

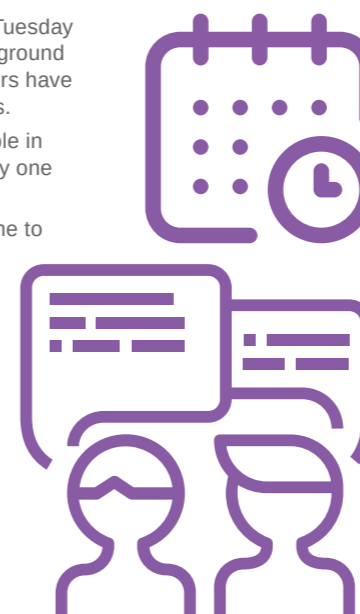
Councillor briefings are held most Tuesday evenings so staff can provide background on issues or projects and Councillors have a chance to brainstorm and discuss.

Details of agenda items are available in the calendar on our website, usually one week prior to the briefing.

Members of the public can book time to speak/ask questions of Councillors during the 15-minute public forum session at the start of each briefing.

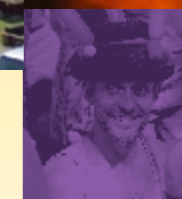
The first briefing for 2019 will be held on Tuesday, 5 February from 6pm.

For public forum session bookings, phone Michella Wade on 1300 87 83 87.



LOCAL MATTERS

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Lismore City Council's Corporate Centre is located at 43 Oliver Avenue, Goonellabah.

We are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

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