From: **Damian Morris** damianm@dungog.nsw.gov.au
Subject: RE: King Street Upgrade
Date: 21 October 2026 at 2:01 PM
To: Paterson patersoncommunitybuilders@gmail.com, Gareth Curtis garethc@dungog.nsw.gov.au, Alexandria Carruthers carruthers.dungog@gmail.com
Cc: Andrew Overton andrew@overtoncreative.com

DM

Afternoon Julie,

Thank you for your emails of 12 and 18 October 2026 to council regarding the King Street Rehabilitation Project and the proposed removal of the three mature Brush Box trees.

I would also like to acknowledge our onsite meeting in King Street on 12 October 2026, attended by yourself, Andrew, Council's General Manager Gareth, Councillor Alexandria Carruthers and me.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the proposed works, the concerns surrounding the removal of the three mature Brush Box trees, and the importance of these trees to Paterson's streetscape and community.

I appreciate the time you and Andrew took to meet with us and explain your concerns firsthand, including the community's desire to retain the established trees and protect the character and amenity of King Street.

Council acknowledges the concerns raised by Paterson Community Builders and members of the broader community, including those expressed through the community petition. We recognise the importance of established trees in contributing to the character, shade, biodiversity and amenity of Paterson.

I also wish to congratulate Paterson Community Builders and everyone involved in the recent Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Tidy Towns Sustainability Awards. This recognition reflects the significant commitment of community volunteers to improving and caring for Paterson, and Council appreciates the ongoing contribution your organisation makes to the township.

King Street Rehabilitation Project
Council has commenced preliminary works as part of the King Street Rehabilitation Project.

The project extends along King Street from approximately 25 metres east of the Duke Street intersection through to Queen Street. Works will also include a small section of Queen Street to connect the new pavement with the previously upgraded road surface.

The primary purpose of the project is to rehabilitate the existing road pavement, improve drainage and provide more durable road and drainage infrastructure for the long term.

As part of the works, three mature Brush Box trees located within the road surface on the southern side of King Street and approximately four native shrubs at the north-eastern end of the project area will need to be removed.

Council recognises that the removal of mature trees is disappointing, particularly given their contribution to the streetscape and the importance placed on them by the

community.

However, the removal is necessary to achieve the required drainage improvements and ensure the long-term durability of the rehabilitated road pavement and associated drainage infrastructure.

The decision has not been made lightly and Council acknowledges the environmental, aesthetic and community value of these established trees.

While retaining mature trees is always preferable where practicable, Council must also consider the condition and functionality of its road infrastructure, drainage requirements and the long-term performance of the works being undertaken.

Tree removal works are expected to be completed by Friday 30 October 2026.

Environmental assessment and replacement planting
A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been undertaken for the project and identifies requirements for replacement planting.

The REF specifies that native trees removed as part of the project are to be replaced with suitable native trees or shrubs endemic to the area, at a ratio of two replacement plantings for every tree removed, as close to the project area as practical.

For the three Brush Box trees, this represents a minimum of six replacement plantings.

Council acknowledges that replacement plantings cannot immediately replicate the environmental and amenity benefits provided by mature established trees. However, the intention is to provide appropriate native vegetation that will contribute positively to the local environment and streetscape over time.

Existing underground utility services along the southern road verge limit opportunities for replacement planting in this location.

Council will therefore investigate opportunities for planting along the northern side of King Street, where possible, with appropriate species selected to accommodate the overhead power lines.

Additional native trees and shrubs will also be planted in Tucker Park and Kings Wharf Reserve.

These plantings will contribute to the ongoing enhancement of Paterson's green spaces and provide an opportunity to establish suitable native vegetation for future generations.

Paterson's streetscape and broader planning
I acknowledge the comparisons you have made with streetscape improvements and planning undertaken in other townships, including Dungog and Orange, and your comments regarding the importance of incorporating established trees into town centre planning.

Council recognises that street trees are an important component of attractive, sustainable and welcoming town centres.

However, the ability to retain or establish trees within an existing road corridor needs to be considered against the particular circumstances of each location, including existing infrastructure, road condition, drainage requirements, available space and the scope of the proposed works.

The King Street project is primarily a road rehabilitation and drainage improvement project rather than a comprehensive streetscape redesign.

This does not diminish the importance of Paterson's streetscape or the community's aspirations for future improvements.

Council acknowledges the interest expressed by Paterson Community Builders in broader planning for the township, including the potential development of a master plan and appreciates the constructive discussions held with Council representatives.

The commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by Paterson Community Builders and other community groups are valuable in helping inform future opportunities to enhance the township.

Community communication
I acknowledge your concerns regarding communication with the community about the proposed works and tree removal, including your request that Council communicate directly with residents rather than relying on Paterson Community Builders to convey project information.

Council recognises the importance of providing clear and timely information to residents, businesses and the broader community, particularly where works may affect valued community assets or temporarily disrupt access.

Council has prepared a project update outlining the scope of the King Street Rehabilitation Project, the reasons for the vegetation removal, the proposed replacement planting and the arrangements that will apply during construction.

We appreciate the role Paterson Community Builders plays in keeping the community informed, while recognising that responsibility for communicating Council's projects and decisions rests with Council.

Traffic, access and construction arrangements
While the works are underway, Council will endeavour to minimise disruption to residents, businesses and road users.

The following arrangements will apply:

- **Traffic:** King Street will remain open to through traffic. Motorists are encouraged to avoid the work area where possible.
- **Property access:** Access to properties will generally be maintained, although temporary interruptions may occur during tree removal works. Affected residents will be kept informed.
- **Parking:** No on-street parking will be permitted within the work area during construction hours.
- **Pedestrian access:** Designated access to the Chemist and Doctors' Surgery will be

maintained.

- **Mobility assistance:** Anyone requiring assistance accessing local businesses or services can speak with the Traffic Controller onsite, who will assist wherever safe and possible.
- **Waste collection:** Garbage collection will continue as normal. Residents are asked to place bins out on their usual collection day.

Motorists and pedestrians are asked to take additional care around the work area and follow all traffic control directions and signage to help keep everyone safe.

Moving forward
I appreciate that the decision to remove the three mature Brush Box trees is not the outcome you, Andrew and other members of the community had hoped for.

I also acknowledge the strength of community sentiment expressed through your correspondence, the petition and our onsite discussions on 12 October.

Council values the opportunity to hear these concerns directly and recognises the genuine commitment of Paterson Community Builders to preserving and enhancing the township's character and environment.

At the same time, Council has a responsibility to balance environmental and community considerations with the need to maintain and improve essential public infrastructure.

While the removal of the three trees will proceed as part of the King Street Rehabilitation Project, Council remains committed to implementing the replacement planting requirements identified in the REF and investigating opportunities for suitable planting within King Street, Tucker Park and Kings Wharf Reserve.

I recognise that replacement planting does not immediately compensate for the loss of mature trees. Nevertheless, Council will seek to achieve a positive long-term environmental outcome through appropriate native planting.

Thank you again for your correspondence and for meeting with us onsite. I appreciate the time and effort you and Andrew have invested in advocating for Paterson and acknowledge the valuable contribution Paterson Community Builders continues to make to the local community.

Council looks forward to continuing a constructive relationship with Paterson Community Builders and the broader community as we work together to maintain and improve the township.

Regards,

Damian Morris
Director Infrastructure & Assets

DUNGOG SHIRE COUNCIL

02 4995 7777 | 0437 772 593
DamianM@dungog.nsw.gov.au
dungog.nsw.gov.au
Follow us:

Dungog Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Cultural Custodians of Country in the Dungog Shire, including the Gringai, Geawegal/ Geawal, Wanaruah/Wonnarua, and Worimi peoples. We pay our respects to Elders past and present and emerging.

From: Paterson <patersoncommunitybuilders@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 12 October 2026 9:09 PM
To: Gareth Curtis <garethc@dungog.nsw.gov.au>; Damian Morris <damianm@dungog.nsw.gov.au>; Alexandria Carruthers <carruthers.dungog@gmail.com> <carruthers.dungog@gmail.com>
Cc: Andrew Overton <andrew@overtoncreative.com>
Subject: King Street Upgrade

Good evening Gareth, Damian & Alexandria,

Thank you again for coming to Paterson and talking to us about how we can move forward for the needs of Paterson. We look forward to working with you on opportunities such as a Master Plan for Paterson. From what the community is telling us, Paterson has been left out of many opportunities as, as we outlined, including upgrades to the Kin & Duke Street intersection identified in the 2005 Paterson LEP.

Upon getting excited for the future of Paterson, I took some time to have a look at the new Master Plan created for Dungog, and was shocked to find some of the initiatives for the Main Roads in Dungog and the Local streets in Dungog include planting trees in the road reserve, including having trees in the same position the 3 trees are in Paterson (see attached screenshots of 2 example pages). I am again seeing two rules here, one for Dungog Town and something less and cheaper for Paterson. This is going to wear thin for the residents of Paterson.

Could you please commence the community notification, as discussed, ASAP including the decision you have made about the trees. After we left you, you were all photographed by a local and sent to me asking if this is Council and what have they decided on the trees. I think it is fair for Council to pass on this decision directly to the community, instead of relying on us to do this.

I also wanted to pass on to you the 34 comments from 69 signatures on the Save the 3 Trees in Paterson online petition. I think it only fair to ask you to read every one of them so you understand the sentiments of the residents.
http://openpetition.org/pjkvk

Comment by Angus Morgan **Paterson,** We need more established trees in towns and cities. Not less.

Comment by Matilda Morgan **Martins Creek,** Removing mature trees will reduce the visual amenity of the street, make it hotter in summer and remove important habitat for birds and marsupials. Dungog council should focus on preserving mature trees rather than removing them for convenience.

Comment by Catherine Craig **Dungog,** The trees are essential for shade and their ability to cool urban spaces. They are also beautiful, helping biodiversity and supporting the local wildlife.
Paterson has a beautiful treed landscape and would lose much of its character and charm if the trees went.

Comment by Caroline Pidcock **Dungog,** Trees are critical to us all, especially as our climate warms and biodiversity is threatened.

Comment by Judy Henry **Paterson,** The trees provide shade, habitat and visual amenity. It would take 15 minutes to cut them down but fifty years to replace these mature trees.

Comment by Roger Styles **Paterson,** No way thease trees should go! Heritage conservation area.Council have already ruined Paterson Park. Looks like a railway carpark…

Comment by Robert John McCowage **Paterson,** These are beautiful trees that provide shade and environmental habitat plus natural beauty. The street is relatively wide and takes a minimal amount of road traffic at low speed. There seems no real reason to remove them.

Comment by Alicia Sagar **Duns Creek,** These old trees should stay! They provide shade that can make surfaces 11 to 25 degrees cooler than in the direct sunlight! With our weather only getting warmer we need all the protection we can get. These trees are also a home and shelter for birds and other wildlife. They are also part of the local Paterson heritage. Leave them be!

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Comment by Nicola Graham **Paterson,** Paterson is a small rural town. There is no need to remove the trees. It would be removing the habitat for our bird life , possums and other animals. It is not a busy street and you will be removing natural shade and appeal of our town.

Comment by Melinda Vonbun **Vacy,** Trees are an important part of our lives. Without trees there's no oxygen. These trees in particular have lived and survived for many, many decades..Dungog Council don't remove them .. You can work around them..KEEP THE TREES 🌳

Comment by Lorraine Sullivan **Newcastle West,** Tree reduce heat so important

Comment by Elizabeth Evans **Paterson,** I live in Paterson and the trees provide shade in a hot summer. Dungog council makes all sorts of disastrous and unnecessary choices like spraying areas in Paterson with roundup and killing native trees. If you want to support the environment you better darn well act like it's important, and not be so short sighted and selfish.

Comment by Gail Minotti **Vacy,** We've managed to park around them for 20+ years & can continue to do so!

Comment by Nellie Pereira **Paterson,**This is my home I grew up on this town and how boring and bland it looks without. These trees are our history don't take that from us!

Comment by Natalie Van Der Merwe **Paterson,** As a historical town, Paterson can be a great example of how to manage shade, on street parking and green spaces within the town centre.

Comment by Nigel Pereira **Paterson,** Please find ways to repair road around these majestic trees.

Comment by Janet Piper **Paterson,** These trees provide good shade, and habitat for birds etc. They don't appear to be a risk to nearby houses or the nearby road. On 40 degree days we need as much shade as possible in the village, otherwise it feels hot and dry.

Comment by Not public **Duns creek,** These trees are an important part of the community character and culture , and provide valuable shade and habitat for wild life

Comment by Kerry Fagan **Torryburn,** We need more trees to counter climate warming. Do not cut any more down

Comment by Not public **NSW,** I have lived here for 25years. They ar character to the street,provide shade especially in the hot summer months, oxygen, shelter for animals and habitat , provide pollutants from this busy king street,improves health and well being for residents and aesthetics pleasing tonthe eye. Do not cut them down !!!

Comment by Not public **Duns creek,** These trees are beautiful. They have been here for such a long time. There would be other better ways to deal with these. Don't just take the easy option.
Work with them instead of against them.

Comment by Craig mcphan **Vacy,** Because taxpayers $ should be spent 1st on what actually needs to be done...like the potholed section near the railway tracks

Comment by Natalie Newton Dungog, The trees create beauty and shade and a place for insects and birds. They add to the character and charm of the town. They deserve to live a long time

Comment by Wayne flack Duns creek, Don't remove the trees so pretty if they leave them and go around them they create shade

Comment by Kristine Griffin Paterson, They are beautiful old shade trees.

Comment by Rosalie McCormack Lorn, I drive to Paterson regularly, park in that street and think the trees offer valuable shade. They are not causing parking problems and need to remain.

Comment by Peter Leeson Kiama, As owner of 16 King Street, the chemist and medical centre, I know that many people, especially the elderly use these trees for parking under for shade and to reduce the car temperature. Shame on the council for attempting to cut these trees down because it will be easier for them to resurface the road. This decision is at complete odds with most councils in this country.

Comment by Nicole Paterson Paterson, They are a good source of shade in the street. Aesthetically pleasing.

Comment by Heather Mann Morperh, Too many trees lost already, we need to retain these beautiful pieces of nature to assist the environment

Comment by John White Paterson,Trees and the natural landscape is so important to our health and amenity as people and community. Leave the trees alone

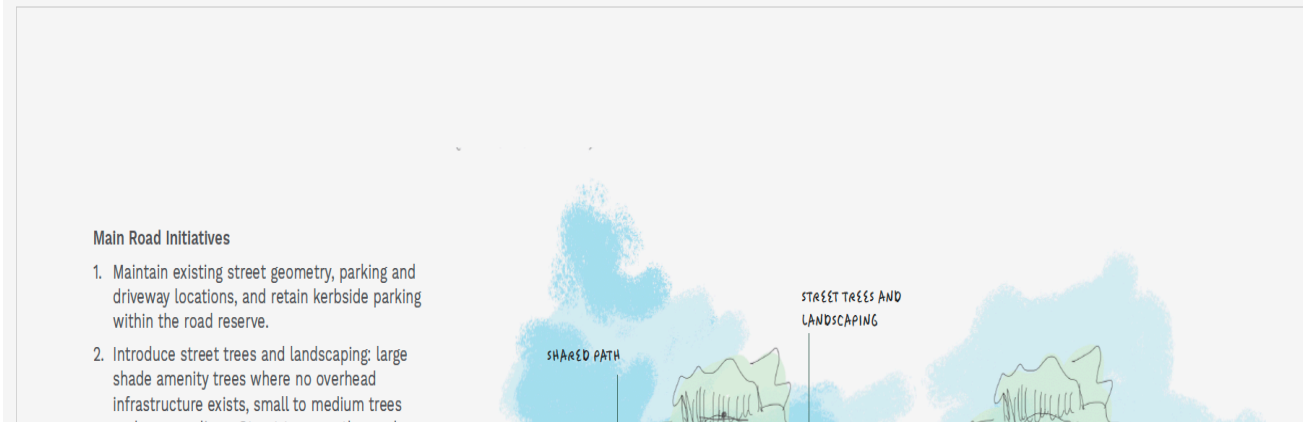
Comment by Suzanne Curtis Metford, Green corridors and established foliage are desperately needed combat urban heat. Plan around trees not destroy what is there...just because it's easier or cheaper to remove does not make it the right decision

Comment by Sharon Hallinan Paterson, The trees are beautiful and they provide shade residents and others. The street would look terrible if they were cut down.

Comment by Julie Overton Paterson, We need trees in our community.

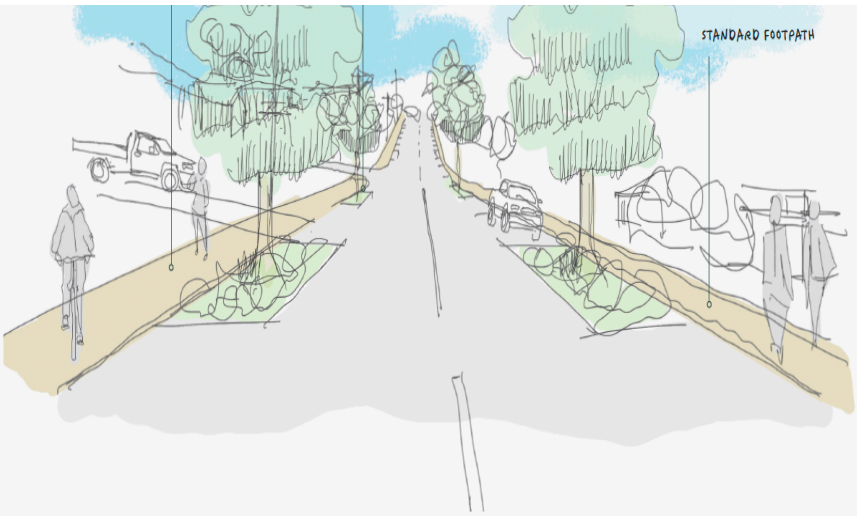
Kind regards,

Julie Overton
Mobile 0413 295 242
Paterson Community Builders
Paterson Community Builders Website
Paterson Community Action Plan
Sign up to the Paterson Community Builders Newsletter



under power lines. Street trees on the road verge with kerb standouts provide shading and narrow the street for safety.

3. Upgrade pedestrian access with kerb ramps, footpaths, and shared pathways integrated with canopy trees.
4. Improve street identity and wayfinding to key destinations.
5. Provide stopping areas for heavy vehicles to support local businesses.
6. Implement speed limits of 50 km/h along Main Roads.





Main Road Initiatives

1. Maintain existing street geometry, parking and driveway locations, and retain kerbside parking within the road reserve.
2. Introduce street trees and landscaping: large shade amenity trees where no overhead infrastructure exists, small to medium trees under power lines. Street trees on the road verge with kerb standouts provide shading and narrow the street for safety.
3. Upgrade pedestrian access with kerb ramps, footpaths, and shared pathways integrated with canopy trees.
4. Improve street identity and wayfinding to key destinations.
5. Provide stopping areas for heavy vehicles to support local businesses.
6. Implement speed limits of 50 km/h along Main Roads.





07.4

Local Streets

The majority of streets in Dungog Strategic Centre, excluding Lord Street, Dowling Street, Brown Street, Mackay Street, Hooke Street, Mary Street, and Chapman Street, are classified as local streets, such as Myles Street and Moore Street. These streets generally carry slower traffic and provide access to residential areas. Local streets have significant potential to improve walkability, enabling residents to access amenities and services without relying on cars for short trips. They also support active recreation, encourage incidental social interaction, and strengthen connections within local communities. Some local streets in Dungog Strategic Centre are in poor condition and lack kerb and guttering, which should be considered for future upgrades.





Private Space

Road

Foot Path

Street Landscaping

