



"New infrastructure is the key to putting towns like Forbes in a stronger position to manage critical town water supply during a drought emergency" said NSW DCCEEW Director of Grants Programs, Kirsty Fenton

A \$7.6 Million Boost For Forbes Future Water Security

The NSW Government is investing in Forbes' water security as construction begins on a \$7.6 million critical infrastructure project. The funding includes \$4.6 million from the NSW Government and \$3 million from Forbes Shire Council to deliver two new production bores, two test bores and a 5.3km duplication pipeline.

NSW DCCEEW Director of Grants Programs, Kirsty Fenton said "Forbes was one of the many Central West communities hit hard by the last drought, the state's worst on record, which is why we are working with Forbes Shire Council to help lock-in better water security."

The new pipeline will run alongside the existing one that pumps water from the borefield to the Forbes Water Treatment Plant.

While the Lachlan River is the region's main water supply, the town switches to bore water during dry periods when water in the river is too low or unsuitable for treatment.

The new infrastructure will significantly increase capacity by up to 80 per cent and provide a more robust water network that will ease pressure on the system and ensure residents have enough water to withstand the dry spells.

Forbes Shire Council Mayor, Phyllis Miller said "No one in our community will forget the last drought when water in the Lachlan River was so low we had to rely on two emergency bores for six months, which was a struggle. That's why we're doing everything we can to expand our existing network."

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Our community has faced a difficult week with the devastating fire at the Forbes Inn. Thanks to the rapid and professional response of NSW Police, Fire and Rescue NSW and volunteers from our Rural Fire Service, the damage was a lot less extensive than it could have been and no injuries were reported. I want to acknowledge the courage of all crews involved, our locals and those that travelled from around the region to assist.

The loss of the Forbes Inn is deeply felt — it served more than 4,000 meals a week, employed 66 staff and supported more than ten local sporting and community groups. The Hodge family, who have invested so much into this venue, have already expressed their intention to rebuild and I know our community will stand firmly beside them as that journey begins.

While we navigate this setback, Council continues to look ahead. At the Central West Livestock Exchange, we have commenced early scoping for a CWLE Master Plan — a long term strategy that will help secure funding and guide future upgrades, technology improvements and operational resilience. This will ensure the CWLE re-

mains one of Australia's leading livestock exchanges and continues to support our region's agricultural strength.

Council hosted its first free weekly Youth Drop-In Sessions at the Forbes Youth and Community Centre (YACC) from 4pm to 6pm. on Wednesday nights. These sessions offer a relaxed, safe place for students aged 12–18 to study, unwind and connect. These have been planned as a direct response to requests by young people.

Absolutely last call for RSVPs for our Welcome to Forbes event. This lovely night is our special Forbes way of welcoming new members of our community to town. It is on Thursday 19 February, from 5.30pm at the Lachie Café, 46 Mary Street.

This is a wonderful opportunity for new residents to meet locals, connect with community groups and learn more about the services, activities and opportunities available across our Shire. There will be light refreshments and plenty of friendly faces, if you have moved to town please come along. RSVP to events@forbes.nsw.gov.au or by phoning 6850 2300.

God Bless
Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM

The Forbes & Parkes Phoenix

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JOKE of the Week

Did you hear about the octopus that held up a bank? It was an armed robbery.





FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL

"Serving the Community" Public Notices

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2025 COMMENCING 1PM

FORBES SHIRE COUNCIL – PUBLIC NOTICE

FORBES FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY AND PLAN 2026

Forbes Shire Council invites public submissions on the Forbes Flood Risk Management Study and Plan, on exhibition from **Saturday 10 January 2026 to Tuesday 31 March 2026** and **Submit feedback by Tuesday 31 March 2026** via: **A Community Consultation Meeting** will be held in the **last week of February 2026**. Details will be advertised closer to the date.

View documents at Council's Office or online at www.forbes.nsw.gov.au/council/tenders-public-exhibitions-and-expressions-of-interest/public-exhibitions

Submit feedback by **Tuesday 31 March 2026** via:
Email: forbes@forbes.nsw.gov.au
Post: Forbes Shire Council, PO Box 333 Forbes NSW 2871
In person: Council Office
For enquiries, call 6850 2300 or visit <https://www.forbes.nsw.gov.au/council/tenders-public-exhibitions-and-expressions-of-interest/public-exhibitions>

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The community is invited to come together for a morning of inspiration, wellbeing and celebration at this year's International Women's Day event, to be held on Friday 6 March 2026 at Lions Park.

The morning will begin with an invigorating Pilates session at 6.30am, open to all fitness levels, followed by a free community breakfast at 7am.

Tickets are \$25. Head to Council's website for more information. www.forbes.nsw.gov.au/news/january-2026/international-women-s-day-2026-forbes-calls-to-balance-the-scales

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – FARMHOUSE AND/OR LAND LEASE

Council is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for "Wirrabilla" 419 Grawlin Siding Road, Forbes, being Lot 3 DP 787225. EOI options are open for:

- Lease of a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom farmhouse with an older single car garage and garden shed on approx. 2Ha (approximately 4.94 acres), however open to negotiation.
- Lease/agistment of approx. 124 hectares (approx. 306.4 acres) which includes 2 machinery sheds, one shearing shed and 3 dams, however open to negotiation.

Applications are invited for one or both options. The EOI Form must be received by **Tuesday 10 March 2026, 5pm**. For further information, please contact Council's Senior Property Officer on (02) 6850 2300 (Option 4) or property@forbes.nsw.gov.au

WELCOME TO FORBES

Are you new to Forbes? Forbes Shire Council invites you to connect with the community at the Welcome to Forbes Event on Thursday 19 February 2026 at The Lachie Cafe from 5.30pm. Guests will be able to enjoy light refreshments while meeting friendly faces and find out how to get involved in local events, clubs and programs.

Please **RSVP by Monday, 16 February, 2026** to events@forbes.nsw.gov.au or 6850 2300.

Disclosure Statement of Political Donations and Gifts: The Local Government and Planning Legislation Amendment (Political Donations) Act 2008 states that a person who makes a planning application (i.e DA) or submission to Council is required to disclose reportable political donations and gifts made by any person with a financial interest in the application to a Councillor(s) or Council employee(s) within the past two years. Privacy Notification: Submissions made to Council are considered public access documents under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. Personal information such as your opinion, name and address may be made publicly available including via Council's website.

Forbes Shire Council 2 Court Street, Forbes
P: (02) 6850 2300
Email: forbes@forbes.nsw.gov.au

All submissions to Council should be sent to:
General Manager, Forbes Shire Council, PO Box 333 Forbes NSW 2871
Website: www.forbes.nsw.gov.au

SNIPPETS...

Do you need help finding or applying for grant funding?

Forbes Shire Council: Looking for funding to support a project, event or initiative? The latest edition of our Grants Guide is out now. View guide here: <https://mailchi.mp/cf338fda6171/forbes-shire-council-grants-feed-17328312> To receive the latest funding opportunities straight to your inbox, email grants@forbes.nsw.gov.au. The GrainCorp Community Grants offer up to \$20,000 financial support to organisations and projects that contribute to the development and promotion of the community. Closes 28 February

Sheep Producers Australia: Calling all future sheep industry leaders. Applications are still open for the 2026 Next Generation Program - Global Sheep Forum, a unique leadership opportunity for sheep producers and industry-connected individuals aged 18–35. Participate in online masterclasses, collaborate with peers from around the world, join the face-to-face program in Adelaide, South Australia, 5–10 July 2026 alongside LambEx 2026, travel to New Zealand. Applications close 16 February 2026. Apply here: www.sheepproducers.com.au/2026-leadership-opportunity

Parkes High School: Free community parent event with Dr Justin Coulson, one of Australia's most well known parenting speakers. To be held in Parkes High School

Hall, 3 March from 5.30pm-7pm. The Resilient Kids presentation focuses on helping parents understand how children develop emotional resilience, confidence and coping skills, and how everyday challenges can support healthy development when guided by supportive adults. Register at <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx>

Native Vegetation Maps Information Session Series: NSW Farmers is hosting a series of free Native Vegetation Map Information Sessions in: Forbes, Nyngan, Dubbo, Cowra, and Young. Light meal provided and free for all attendees. Explore your property beforehand with the Check My Land NSW app. Registration required. Submit your questions when registering. Register here: <https://collections.humanitix.com/native-vegetation-map>.

Have Your Say On Our New Wetlands Name: There's still time to vote on a name for the new wetlands site currently under development on Akuna Road. Parkes Shire Council are asking the community to choose from three proposed names: Wululu Wetlands, Parkes Wetlands, Akuna Wetlands. Each option reflects local place, history and the area's natural environment. Consultation closes at 5pm on 6 March. For more information and to cast your vote, visit: bit.ly/4qYMi0E.



Help shape the identity of this important community and environmental space.

BE SEEN @ Forbes
Riverside Community Gardens

A very big thank you to all of the amazing garden members who gave up their time and came and helped out in the garden.



Morning tea was great with a rockmelon identifying as a cucumber and a yummy new tomato, grown by a member.



Forbes Riverside Community Gardens is a place where people can come together to learn about growing food.

Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship Returns

The Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship is proud to announce the launch of its fourth annual program. The initiative from Façon Australia, proudly supported by Greater Bank, is dedicated to empowering emerging Indigenous creatives who are passionate about sharing their stories through diverse creative mediums.

Greater Bank will again award one outstanding recipient \$10,000 to support their creative journey. For the second consecutive year, Greater Bank will also recognise the remaining eight finalists with \$1,000 each.

All nine finalists will also receive invaluable mentorship from industry leaders across

a wide range of creative disciplines, including writing, fashion design, accessory design, art, music, dance, digital art, film and photography.

In 2026, the initiative is also proudly supported by Orica, Regional Development Australia (Hunter) and Reconciliation NSW. The Indigenous Storytellers Scholarship is open to Indigenous applicants aged 16 years and over, residing in NSW.

Applications close 7 May 2026, with the successful recipient announced at a special NAIDOC Week event on 9 July 2026. For full application details, visit Façon Magazine at www.faconaustralia.com/apply/ and Greater Bank at www.greater.com.au.

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Meet Indigenous Chef Mindy Woods At Forbes Crop Swap

Central West Lachlan Landcare (CWLL) will welcome indigenous chef, Mindy Woods at the launch of Forbes' first ever Crop Swap on Saturday, 21 February between 8am and 9am at the Forbes Riverside Community Gardens. Mindy Woods is an Ambassador for Landcare NSW and is a proud Bundjalung woman and owner of Karkalla On Country. Mindy advocates for indigenous Australian food culture. with Mindy and walk around the Garden.

Bring along your excess produce and homemade goods, or join to catch up. The Forbes Riverside Community Gardens are providing breakfast for attendees.

CWLL will then be heading on to Trundle to the From Country to Community – A Morning of Food, Stories and Connection event at the Trundle Children's Centre. This event will include a delicious morning tea, an update on the exciting plans for the Centre and a Recipe Swap. All proceeds go to support the new Trundle Children's Centre Garden.

From there, they head to Peak Hill to launch their first Crop Swap Event and Community Garden Open Day. This is part of the Peak Hill Building Healthy Communities Challenge, supporting the community with the Peak Hill HEART (Healthy Eating, Activity & Resilience Together) Project. The event will kick off at 12.30pm, with a BBQ lunch and a chance to catch up with Mindy, walk around the Garden and join up as a member. There will also be starter packs and giveaways for attendees.

That evening, CWLL will be celebrating Peak Hill and hosting a Landcare Dinner in the beautiful Carrington Hotel, with a three course meal, entertainment and an oppor-



Mindy Woods rose to national prominence as a finalist in Season 4 of MasterChef Australia in 2012, and returned for Season 14, using the platform to spotlight native bush foods.

tunity to showcase the Peak Hill Building Healthy Communities Challenge and Landcare.

For further information, and to register for any or all of the above events which all take place on Saturday 21st February please go to www.centralwestlachlanlandcare.org,

Forbes' First Pre-Loved Pop-Up Market

Madeline Swan, originally from Parkes but now residing in Forbes, is a first time mum, and after working in marketing for the last eight years, she now has her own photography studio.

But she hasn't stopped there, Madeline has been inspired by other markets like The Social Queen Markets in Wagga and Glebe Markets in Sydney and she has organised a Pre-Loved Pop-Up Market for Forbes.

"I love thrifting with my son and it's a way I can contribute to the environment" said Madeline.

"The pre-loved markets are a sustainable, social way for people to buy and sell good quality second hand fashion instead of over consuming fast fashion. By choosing secondhand options, you extend the lifespan of garments and contribute to reducing textile waste."

The pre-loved markets will be held on 22 February at Madeline's photography studio at 16 Camp St, Forbes. (Across from the new BWS). The markets start at 9am and will wrap up by 12pm to beat the heat. Over 20 stall holders will be selling high fashion brands, in a range of sizes and price ranges. Car parking is available across the road, behind the cricket nets.

"Sellers will be equipped to accept cash or direct transfers via Pay ID. Some sellers may have eftpos facilities but I would encourage everyone looking to buy brings cash and their own reusable tote bag," said Madeline.

If the day goes well there will be more pop ups. Make sure you are following @mad-lumcreates on instagram for more information about how to apply to be a stallholder at any of the possible future upcoming markets.



Madeline Swan.

New Youth Drop-In Sessions Have Kicked Off

A new initiative for local young people has been launched, aimed at providing a safe and welcoming space to unwind, learn and connect with friends.

The Youth Drop-in Sessions at the Forbes Youth and Community Centre (YACC) will take place each Wednesday afternoon from 4pm to 6pm.

These free sessions commence Wednesday 11 February 2026 and run for 10 weeks in line with the school term.

Developed directly in response to community feedback, the concept reflects what young people in the region say they need - a relaxed after-school environment that supports both learning and wellbeing.

"Young people told us they wanted somewhere informal to study, hang out and feel supported during the week," said Forbes Shire Mayor, Phyllis Miller OAM.

"We will use these first 10 weeks as a trial. We will try things out, listen to the kids and make the space suit what they need."

Each session will offer flexible options including quiet study areas and recreational activities.

Students aged 12 to 18 years are welcome to attend these drop-in sessions. For more information about the drop-in sessions, visit www.forbes.nsw.gov.au or follow @ForbesYouthActionTeam for updates.



Come along and see what help is available for your club or community group.

Free Grants Information Session For Community Groups And Sports Clubs

Parkes Shire Council's Grants Team is inviting all community groups and sporting clubs across Parkes Shire to attend a free Grants Information Session to help organisations strengthen their grant applications and unlock funding for current or future projects.

The session will be held on Thursday, 12 March from 6.00pm to 8.00pm in the large meeting room at the Parkes Shire Library, with supper provided.

This practical and interactive session will cover the key do's and don'ts of grant applications, provide insider tips from Council's Grants Team, and give participants the chance to ask questions about their own projects and funding ideas that they might have.

Council's Grants Team said the session is a valuable opportunity for groups who may be new to grants, as well as those wanting to improve their success rate.

"There are many grant funding opportunities available for community and sporting projects, but many groups miss out simply

because they don't apply or don't know where to start.

"This session will give local organisations the tools and confidence they need to put in strong applications and compete for funding."

The information session is open to all not-for-profit community organisations, volunteer groups and sporting clubs in Parkes Shire. Council encourages all community groups and sports clubs to take advantage of this free opportunity to build skills, ask questions and improve their chances of securing future funding.

Those who attend the session will learn where to find current and upcoming grant opportunities, what makes a strong grant application, common mistakes to avoid, how to clearly describe their project and community benefit and how Council's Grants Team can support them throughout the process. Anyone who is wishing to attend the Grants Information Session is asked to RSVP by Monday, 10 March by emailing grants@parkes.nsw.gov.au.

QantasLink Fokker F100 Finds A New Home In Parkes

One of QantasLink's Fokker F100 jet aircraft has begun a new chapter, with the airline donating the retired aircraft to the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) in Parkes.

The aircraft completed its final flight from Perth to Parkes, via Kalgoorlie, on Tuesday 10 February, where it will now become a tourist attraction at the HARS Museum. It will help showcase regional aviation to visitors from around the country.

HARS President and Chief Pilot Bob De La Hunty said "This generous donation from QantasLink will enable hands-on aviation learning experiences for students and visi-

tors, while supporting our broader vision for a world-class regional aviation museum."

HARS is recognised as a major aviation and tourism attraction, and the addition of the QantasLink F100 is expected to further strengthen its collection and support growing interest in regional NSW.

HARS in Parkes is also on the lookout for volunteers. "A lot is happening with a new site, and new planes, we need tour guides. Come and talk to us if you're interested in donating your time to preserve aviation history, we need volunteers to guide tours and help restore displays," said Bob De La Hunty.

Celebrate International Women's Day With Parkes QUE Club

Members of Parkes QUE Club invite you to celebrate International Women's Day at their luncheon from 11.45 am on Sunday, 8 March 2026, at the Parkes Services Club.

Guest speakers at this year's luncheon are Nenyasha (Asha) Munodawafa, who was just named Parkes Junior Citizen of the Year on Australia Day 2026, and Denise Barham. Denise has represented NSW and Australia in dragon boat paddling, one of her proudest moments being selected and getting to wear the green and gold uniform.

There will be lots of lucky door prizes, a fabulous raffle, and entertainment from the student actors from the Parkes Christian School, which will add to the fun.

Parkes Que Club are once again appealing to local businesses to provide sponsorship for senior students to attend. Inviting two senior students from each of the three local high schools—Parkes High, Parkes Christian School, and Red Bend Catholic College—along with a teacher or support staff member, will ensure diverse representation and engagement from across the community.

Funding, of \$500, would cover the costs for all six senior students to participate and supporting their involvement. This collaborative approach not only benefits the students but also strengthens ties between schools, businesses, and the wider community. Please contact Wendy on 0418 469 294 if you can assist the Club with sponsorship.

Tickets, \$45 each, are available at www.123tix.com.au/events. Tickets will not be available after the cut-off date, Monday 2 March. For more information follow the Facebook page, Parkes Que Club Inc.



Asha Munodawafa, who will be a guest speaker this year, pictured with her Mum, Dee, at the 2025 International Women's Day Luncheon.



Important milestones in Parkes and Peak Hill to lift digital connectivity as households are consuming more data than ever for the things they love, like streaming 4K on multiple devices, online education, next-level gaming, conference calls, and uploading and downloading large files for work.

Major NBN Fibre Upgrade Milestones Reached In Parkes And Peak Hill

The 1000th premises in Parkes recently upgraded to full fibre via nbn Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) and in Peak Hill more than 250 homes and businesses have recently become eligible to upgrade to nbn full fibre.

Upgrading to full fibre can enable access to a faster, more reliable nbn broadband service, delivering a range of benefits, including smoother, higher-resolution video calls, enhanced streaming, faster downloads, and the ability to connect more devices simultaneously.

In Australia, data demand and usage have doubled in the last five years, with the average household consuming 443 gigabytes per month across 22 internet-connected devices.

Marg Applebee, Central West Lachlan Landcare said "With more and more health and community services accessible online, it's really important for community members across the Parkes and Forbes region to ensure they are optimally connected at home. This means being on the best technology available, on a suitable plan and with the right in-home set-up."

"Being able to access health services and stay in touch with friends and family online are new, but important, ways to do this. Especially for our older residents who can feel more isolated at times"

Come and talk with nbn local at:

- Forbes Crop Swap, Saturday 21 February 2026 between 8am and 10am, Riverside Garden, 59-71 Raymond St, Forbes
- Trundle From Country to Community, Saturday 21 February, between 10.30am and 12:30pm, Trundle Children's Centre, 1 Railway Parade, Trundle
- Peak Hill Community Garden Open Day, Saturday 21 February, from 12.30pm, Peak Hill Community Garden, 93 Caswell St, Peak Hill
- Homegrown Parkes, 21 March, 9am – 2pm, Cooke Park, 158-176 Clarinda Street, Parkes

WHAT'S On

PARKES

- 2 Feb** **Parkes Uniting Church Free Monday Monthly Meal** in the Parkes Uniting Church Hall. Doors open at 5.45pm for a 6-7pm two course free delicious meal. All are welcome.
- 2 Feb** **Parkes True Blue Linedancing** recommencing every Monday morning 10am-12noon, upstairs of Parkes Services Club.
- 3 Feb** **Parkes Ladies Lounge (Knit & Natter)** recommencing every Tuesday 1-3pm, Community Hall, Rose St, Parkes.
- 6 Feb** **Red Cross Rooms** commence serving teas and lunch. There after they will open the first Friday of each month.
- 17 Feb** **Parkes Ukelele Players** recommencing every Tuesday 7-9pm, Community Hall, Rose St, Parkes.
- Ongoing** **Parkes Croquet** 9:00 start every Saturday at Parkes Tennis Club.
- Ongoing** **Parkes Garden Club Meetings** are held the second Saturday of each month. Various venues, 2pm. For further information phone Joy on 0429 801 168.
- Ongoing** **Parkes Probus Club** meet the second Friday of the month at Parkes Leagues Club at 10.30am. New members welcome. Contact Robyn 6862 1548.
- Ongoing** **Parkes Rotary Club** meets each Monday night at Parkes Services Club at 6pm. New members welcome, contact Colin on 0458 439 075
- Ongoing** **Parkes Que Club** meets the first Wednesday of the month at Parkes Services Club at 6:30pm. New members welcome. Contact Karen on 0411 099 432.
- Ongoing** **Parkes Day VIEW Club** meets the first Tuesday of each month, 11:30am Coachman Hotel. Contact Wendy for more information 0497 017 459.

FORBES

- Ongoing** **Peak Hill Men's Shed** Located at 66 Derribong St, Peak Hill. Open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am-12pm.
- Ongoing** **Forbes Garden Club** meet 4th Tuesday of each month 2pm at different venues. Further enquiries Contact 0428 540 272.
- Ongoing** **Painting Group** every Thursday 11am - 3pm at Northside Chapel, 59 Johnson St. Artists of all ages and abilities are welcome to come along. Bring your own art supplies. \$5 per week and includes morning tea. www.forbesartssociety.com
- Ongoing** **Forbes Men's Probus Club Meeting** 4th Friday every month 10.30am, Club Forbes. All Welcome.
- Ongoing** **Rotary Club of Forbes Ipomoea** meets for breakfast on the first Tuesday of the month at Isabel's Place from 7am-8am. Find us on Facebook.
- Ongoing** **Forbes CWA** meets on the first Friday of each month at the CWA Hall at 132 Lachlan Street at 1:30pm. Anyone is welcome to pop in and join us.
- Ongoing** **Winter Season Croquet** starts 9.30am with arrival 9.15am to get names into the draw. Membership only \$20, morning tea included. Contact Elvy Quirk on 0428 540 272.
- Ongoing** **Forbes CWA Evening Branch** meets the second Thursday of each month at Club Forbes. Time is 6pm for dinner and meeting begins at 7pm. All welcome. Contact: forbeseveningbranchcwa@gmail.com
- Ongoing** **Forbes Town Band** rehearsals every Monday night during school term. Learners from 6 - 7pm. Main band 7pm to 9pm. Band Hall, Rankin Street.
- Ongoing** **Painting Group** every Thursday 11am - 3pm at Northside Chapel, 59 Johnson St. Artists of all ages and abilities are welcome to come along. Bring your own art supplies. \$5 per week includes morning tea. www.forbesartssociety.com
- Ongoing** **Rhyme Time** every Friday at Forbes Town Library 10:30am.

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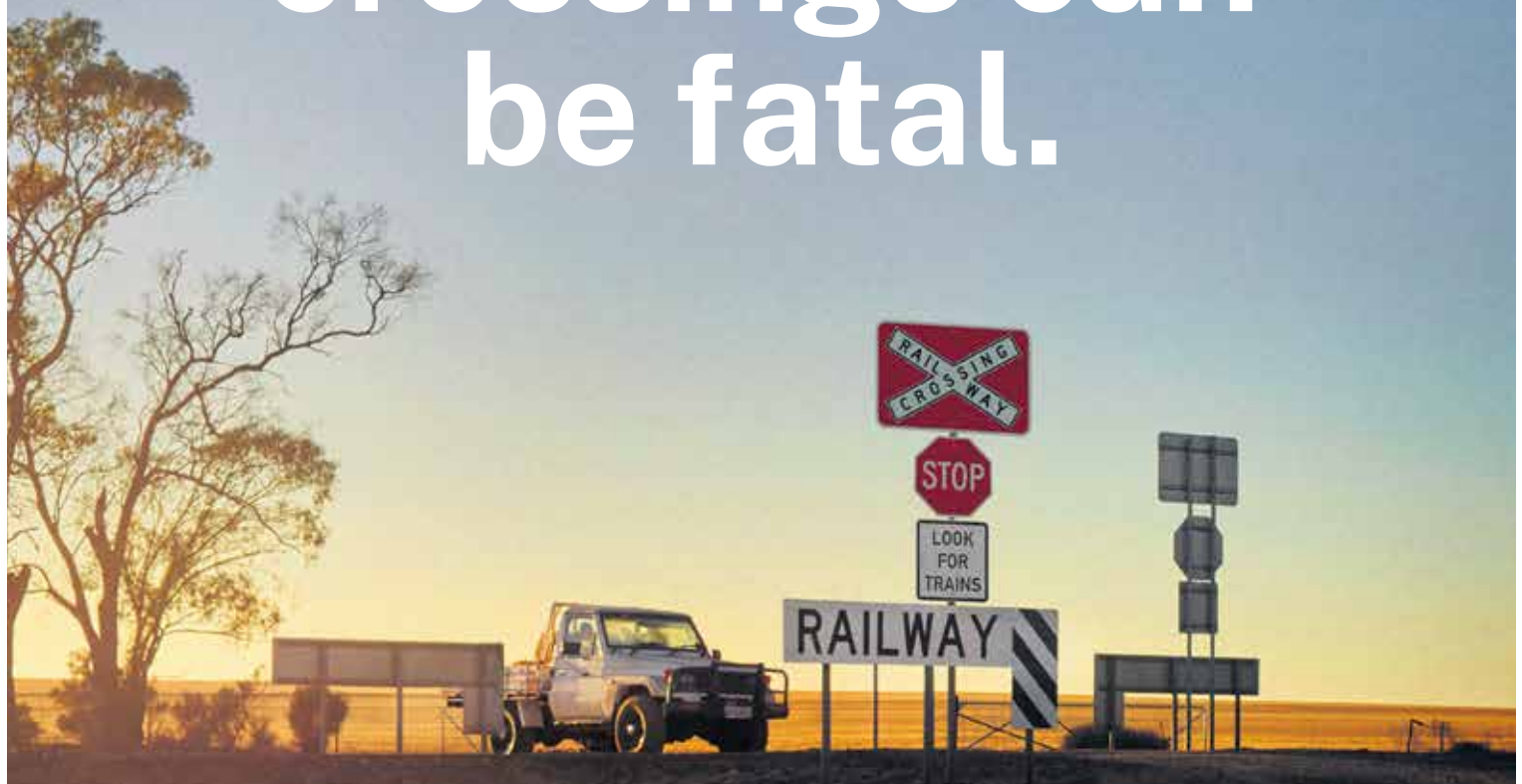
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