

Record Number	Submission Summary	Response	Strategy Amendment
DOC2025/090727  (Relating to the villages of Greta and North Rothbury)	The character statements should recognise their setting within / adjoining the Huntlee development area and the Anambah to Branxton Growth Corridor, and as a consequence, their setting may change over time because of this.	The existing character statements for have been updated to establish their context within / adjoining the Anambah to Branxton Growth Corridor and Huntlee respectively.  The future character statements have been updated to reflect that the setting and context may change over time as development within the Anambah to Branxton Growth Corridor and Huntlee respectively occur.	Yes
DOC2025/115905; DOC2025/115915  (Relating to the village of North Rothbury)	Support for Council's stated intent to act as an advocate for the servicing of North Rothbury. Council should to prioritise this advocacy and provide regular updates to the community.	This action is identified as an intermediate action within the Strategy. The intermediate actions are those which will be implemented first.	No
	Request provision of kerb and guttering to manage stormwater, reduce erosion, improve road pavement longevity and improve pedestrian safety (delineation of vehicle / pedestrian areas)	These recommendations are enabled by the action to <i>"Investigate the viability of a range of local area traffic management options to enhance road safety and amenity throughout the village."</i>	No
	Request greater transparency on how much remains and how future allocations of the funds collected by the Huntlee Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) will be decided (such as through a community reference group).	The expenditure of the remaining funds is guided by Council's Operational and Delivery Plan and submissions received in response to these draft plans when exhibited.  Contributions received are also reported in the end of financial year reports.	No

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	Request the exploration of opportunities to streamline the DA process for secondary dwellings to support housing diversity and affordability in the village.	<p>Secondary dwellings, along with Semi-detached dwellings and Senior's housing are permissible within the RU5 Village zone.</p> <p>Note: To satisfy the definition of a semi-detached dwelling, each dwelling needs to be on its own lot of land and is attached to the existing dwelling.</p> <p>There are a number of constraints within the village (notably bushfire, biodiversity, flooding and on-site sewage management) which necessitate the need for these development types to be assessed through the development application approval pathway to ensure adequate consideration of these matters.</p> <p>To streamline the assessment process, where development standards exist, such as those contained within <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021</i>, these are generally applied to ensure a consistent approach.</p>	No
	Request that delivery timeframes be reviewed and brought forward for actions with strong community support or clear public benefit or address safety and accessibility, or essential infrastructure.	<p>The timing for the delivery of actions within the draft strategy considers Council's existing and future operational and delivery programs. This considers available budgets and resourcing within Council.</p> <p>Changing the delivery timeframes within the draft strategy is likely to impact the delivery of other projects within the LGA which have already been endorsed or planned by Council.</p>	No
	Request for the: extension of the shared pathway from Thomas Street to Main Street, and additional safe	These recommendations are enabled by the action to <i>"Investigate opportunities to provide more formal"</i>	No

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	walking and cycling links within the village to improve pedestrian access and safety and support active transport.	<i>walking and cycling opportunities between the village and Wine Country Drive shared pathway.”</i>	
	Support for the Strategy’s commitment to develop concept plans for the park and ask that future planning processes actively involve local residents and user groups to ensure upgrades meet community needs and preserve the park’s heritage and commemorative significance.	Development of the concept plan will incorporate a stakeholder consultation component.	No
	Request for the following matters to be included within the character statements: Werakata National Park, particularly in relation to the protection of Persoonia pauciflora, the Ayrfield Miners Memorial, as a key site of local heritage and the Rothbury Riot Memorial.	The character statement has been updated to incorporate these items of significance.	Yes
	Request Council to explore locally themed signage that reflects the village’s history, culture, and values — particularly to differentiate it from Huntlee and celebrate its legacy.	Support local community groups to investigate opportunities for interpretative signage.  Signage would be required to be consistent with Council’s Signage Strategy.	Yes
	Appreciation for the current work underway to upgrade road pavement and stormwater infrastructure along Thomas Street. Ongoing updates and communication from Council about these works are valuable, and we encourage continued transparency and notice	Regular updates for works currently occurring within the LGA are available from Council’s website ( <a href="https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Works/Current-works">https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Works/Current-works</a> )	No

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DOC2025/115930  (Relating to the village of Kearsley)	Support for recommendations within the Strategy, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>laneway management;</li> <li>protecting landscape values; and</li> <li>advocating for access to Kearsley Dam.</li> </ul>	Noted.	No
	Opportunities to investigate opportunities for community uses of George Jeffrey Park.	An additional action has been included to “Support opportunities to provide regular community events”.	Yes
	Allandale Street incorrectly referred to as Allandale Road.	This has been corrected.	Yes
DOC2025/115932  (Relating to the village of Laguna / Wollombi)	The generic nature of the actions proposed in the Strategy will be insufficient to improve tourist visitation to the area which hasn’t recovered post-COVID.	Many of the actions within the Strategy are “umbrella” actions which can incorporate a wide variety of sub-actions which are may not be specifically defined.	No
	The Community wants to maintain the relaxed heritage nature, but requires more investment from Council to maintain community assets.	Community assets are maintained in line with Council’s Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Plans which ensure assets are managed in accordance with Council’s strategic priorities and applicable legislation.	No
	Council should apply for grants and work with National Parks and Wildlife Services for upgrades to amenities (toilets, car parks etc.) within Yengo National Park.	The submission correctly notes that Council does not have jurisdictional management of activities or improvements within National Parks.  Notwithstanding, Council’s Trail Strategy ( <a href="https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/hp-trim/website-plans-strategies-do-not-change/parks-reserves- -trails-strategy- -final-report- -tredwell-">https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/hp-trim/website-plans-strategies-do-not-change/parks-reserves- -trails-strategy- -final-report- -tredwell-</a>	No

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		<p><a href="#">management-services-website-doc.pdf</a>) recognises that Wollombi Village provides opportunity to attract users of the Wilderness zone (i.e., Yengo National Parl) as a key trail information point and service hub.</p> <p>Relevant actions relating to this recommendation include:</p> <p>A1.4 Advocate for the enhancement of trails within National Parks, State Conservation Areas, State Forests &amp; Crown land within the LGA</p> <p>A2.4 Incorporate trail planning initiatives into broader community planning such as local and regional plans (e.g. strategic plans, development plans), tourism strategies and initiatives of other relevant organisations</p> <p>B11.7 Support concepts and embrace opportunities to link the Cessnock LGA to the Blue Mountains via a long-distance trail (or series of trails) through the Blue Mountains World Heritage Wilderness Area.</p> <p>B12.6 Support improved trail connectivity, infrastructure and access to suitable areas within National Parks and Crown Lands (e.g. Watagans Track, Werakata National Park) for recreational trail activities (walking, horse riding, mountain biking).</p> <p>The Trails Strategy enables this recommendation to be investigated.</p>	

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	Opportunities exist to provide formal walks, mountain bike and running trails (similar to Blue Mountains and Derby, Tasmania) to improve tourist visitation.	As above.	No
DOC2025/117109  (Relating to the village of North Rothbury)	<p>Additional actions identified for consideration including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ rubbish removal along major tourist roads;</li> <li>▪ regular grass cutting;</li> <li>▪ flood proof and sealed road connections; between North Rothbury and Hermitage Road;</li> <li>▪ Restriction of access from Frederick Street;</li> <li>▪ improved bus servicing to Branxton railway station;</li> <li>▪ public amenities (toilets, picnic facilities and public parks).</li> </ul> <p>Role and value of tourism also needs to be acknowledged.</p>	<p>Many major tourist roads, including Wine Country Drive are state government owned. Council manages these on behalf of Transport for NSW. Council conducts weekly inspections of these networks to identify any issues which require rectification, including the need for rubbish removal. Slashing is conducted periodically, more frequently in the growing seasons.</p> <p>Actions relating to traffic management and access are enabled by the action to “<i>Investigate the viability of a range of local area traffic management options to enhance road safety and amenity throughout the village.</i>”</p> <p>Council supports additional servicing of the train station by more frequent bus services. This matter is recognised by the draft Hunter Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan (<a href="https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/download_file/view/7027/1547">https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/download_file/view/7027/1547</a>).</p> <p>An amendment to the existing character statement for North Rothbury has been made to recognise Old North Road as a gateway to the Hunter Valley wine region. The role of tourism within the vineyards is addressed by the Vineyards Place Strategy.</p>	Yes

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		The Strategy may enable additional and upgraded amenities, pending the development of the concept plan for Ayrfield Miners Memorial Park.	
DOC2025/117786 (Relating to the village of North Rothbury)	Recommendation proposed to: <i>“liaise with traditional knowledge holders, NPWS, Crown Lands and Huntlee Developer about known Culturally significant areas and sites in North Rothbury; appropriately protect and manage culturally significant areas and sites in North Rothbury and form a reference group.”</i>	<p>Council’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Action Plan was adopted by Council in June 2025.</p> <p>This plan includes an action to <i>“Investigate with the Cessnock City Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee a project to document Aboriginal Stories for significant local sites.”</i></p> <p>The Community Action Plan enables this proposal to be investigated.</p> <p>This recommendation is also captured by Council’s Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (<a href="https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/hptrim/website-plans-strategies-do-not-change/aboriginal-cultural-heritage-management-plan_-adopted-_-web-version.pdf">https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/hptrim/website-plans-strategies-do-not-change/aboriginal-cultural-heritage-management-plan_-adopted-_-web-version.pdf</a>), adopted in December 2024.</p>	No
	Recommendation proposed to: <i>“Identify, map and plan suitable formal walking trails to connect Tiraki Nature Reserve to Persoonia Park – (Tiraki NR – Frederick Street – Washery Road – Persoonia Park).”</i>	<p>The land connecting these reserves is predominantly in private ownership.</p> <p>Council is not presently pursuing opportunities to add to the existing trail network.</p>	No

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	Recommendation proposed to: <i>“Investigate interpretative signage in North Rothbury to increase community awareness and appreciation of the unique wildlife, threatened flora and fauna and vegetation communities of North Rothbury local area.”</i>	Support local community groups to investigate opportunities for interpretative signage.  Signage would be required to be consistent with Council’s Signage Strategy.	Yes
	Recommendation proposed to: <i>“Identify, map, protect and enhance wildlife corridors between Tiraki Nature Reserve to Persoonia Park.”</i>	Council is currently implementing the second stage of the Environmental Zoning Framework ( <a href="https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/hp/trim/website-plans-strategies-do-not-change/strategic-planning- -environmental-zoning-framework- -final- -september-2021-website-doc.pdf">https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/hp/trim/website-plans-strategies-do-not-change/strategic-planning- -environmental-zoning-framework- -final- -september-2021-website-doc.pdf</a> ).  The implementation of this framework will afford appropriate environmental zones to sensitive habitat and wildlife / biodiversity corridors.  The implementation of the Environmental Zoning Framework addresses this recommendation.	No
	Recommendation proposed to <i>“Engage with landholders and land managers within priority Persoonia pauciflora habitats to provide support and opportunities to effectively protect and enhance existing populations and develop long-term plan.”</i>	The federal National Recovery Plan for North Rothbury Persoonia (Persoonia pauciflora) <a href="https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/persoonia-pauciflora.pdf">https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/persoonia-pauciflora.pdf</a> details existing and future recovery actions for the species.  The state Saving our Species Conservation Strategy <a href="https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspeciesa pp/project.aspx?ProfileID=10599">https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/savingourspeciesa pp/project.aspx?ProfileID=10599</a> details additional management activities to protect the species.	No



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		The existing Recovery Plan and Conservation Strategy address this recommendation.	
DOC2025/117848 (Relating to the village of Mulbring)	Support for the action to “ <i>Investigate establishing Mulbring as a conservation area within Schedule 5 of CLEP 2011 as a place comprising significant landscape (scenic) value.</i> ”	Noted.	No
	Support for the action to “ <i>Investigate the local heritage of Mulbring, particularly the grandstand (war memorial), to determine if there are additional items of heritage significance which should be recognised.</i> ”	Noted.	No
	Support for the action to “ <i>Investigate opportunities to provide more formal walking and cycling opportunities between Mulbring Park and the primary school.</i> ”	Noted.	No
	Recommend “ <i>greater provision be made for footpaths in the village, especially to enhance access to Mulbring Park more broadly and for walking within the park, including by parents with prams and toddlers and by older residents and visitors.</i> ”	This recommendation is enabled by the action to “ <i>Investigate the viability of a range of local area traffic management options to enhance road safety and amenity throughout the village.</i> ”	No
	Support for the action to “ <i>Investigate the viability of a range of local area traffic management options to enhance road safety and amenity throughout the village.</i> ”	Noted.	No

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	<p>Recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>“The need for lower speed limits on local streets.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Traffic control measures and lower speed limits along key recreational streets where there are multi-mode uses (walkers, cyclists, horse riders), especially for New St and Mt Vincent Road.</i></li> <li>▪ <i>Actions to minimise traffic volume, heavy vehicle movement and vehicular speed along Palmer St, Child St, Maitland Rd and Whitebridge Rd.”</i></li> </ul>	<p>These recommendations are enabled by the action to <i>“Investigate the viability of a range of local area traffic management options to enhance road safety and amenity throughout the village.”</i></p>	No
	<p>Support for the action to <i>“Review the existing stormwater management infrastructure, with the view to identifying and implementing works or actions to improve the quality of Wallis Creek (e.g. gross pollutant traps, detention basins, wetlands, revegetation, education programs etc.).”</i></p>	Noted.	No
	<p>Support for the action to <i>“Develop concept plans for Mulbring Park, illustrating future opportunities.”</i></p>	Noted.	No
	<p>Recommendation to <i>“Upgrade Mulbring Community Hall.”</i></p>	<p>Mulbring Community Hall is managed by a Board of Directors who are the site’s Crown Land Managers. Council does not play an active role in the management or maintenance of the hall.</p>	No

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		Council may however be able to act as an information / support source in relation to applications for grants being prepared by the Mulbring Community Hall Board.	