

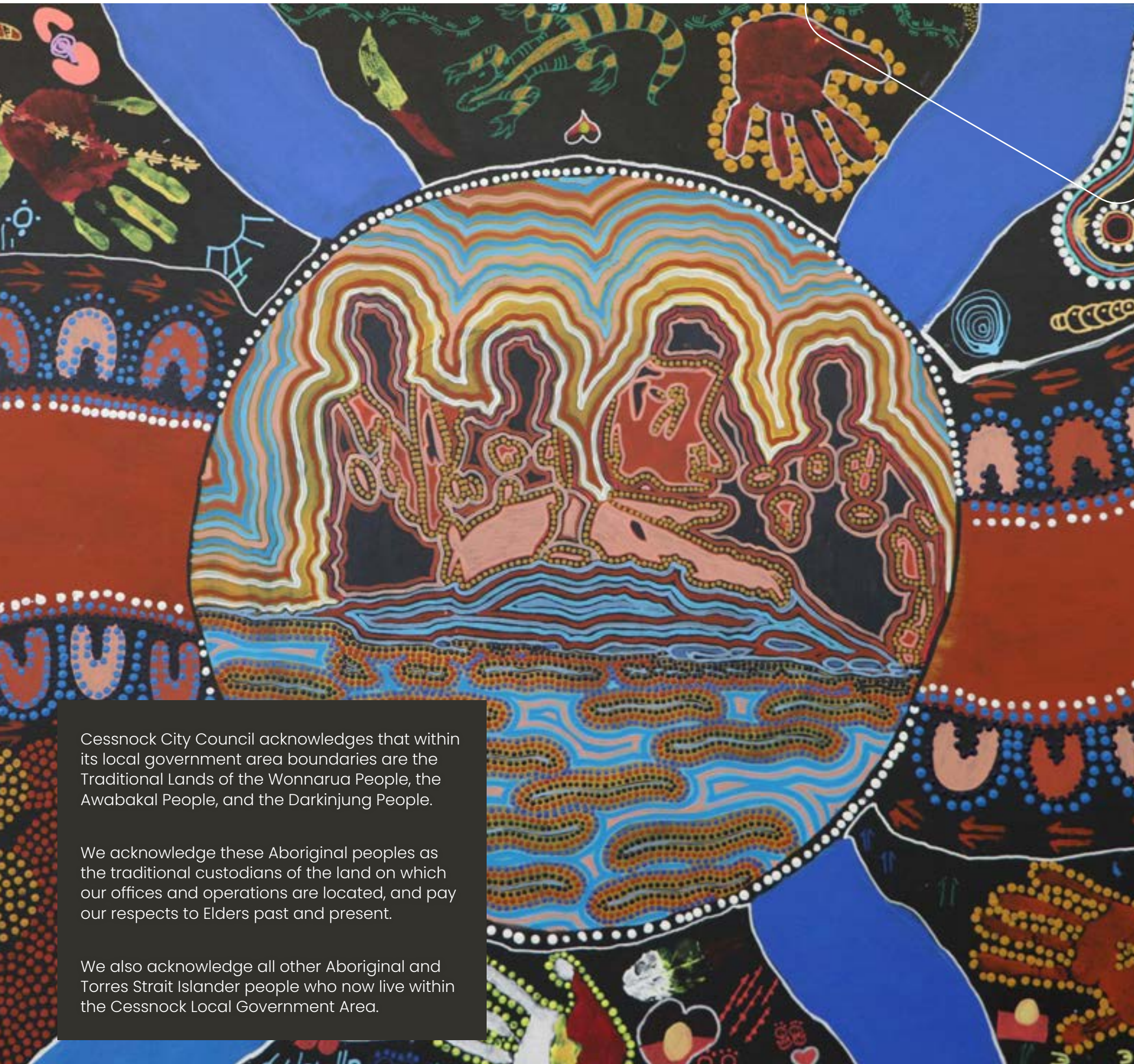
Planning for  
our people,  
our place,  
our future

# CESSNOCK

Annual Report  
2022-2023







Cessnock City Council acknowledges that within its local government area boundaries are the Traditional Lands of the Wonnarua People, the Awabakal People, and the Darkinjung People.

We acknowledge these Aboriginal peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices and operations are located, and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

We also acknowledge all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now live within the Cessnock Local Government Area.

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## Annual Financial Statements

Council has received an extension to finalise and submit its year end financial statements for the 2022/23 year to the Office of Local Government by 30 November 2023.

Once the year end financial statements have been audited and lodged, Council will update this Annual Report and include a full set of its audited financial statements as required under the Local Government Act.



## Mayor's message

Jay Suvaal

**The 2022-23 Financial Year has been a year of remarkable growth and progress for our community. Our collective determination and community spirit have shone through, demonstrating our ability to overcome challenges and seize opportunities.**

We've seen a multitude of exciting developments that align with the objectives outlined in our 2022-2023 Operational Plan. These successes include the recent inauguration of the exhibition and creative makers space at Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC), the completion of Wollombi Road, Millfield, the fantastic ongoing work into the Kurri Kurri Town Centre Upgrades,

the tremendous popularity of our native plant giveaway, and the enhanced online engagement through Council's social media channels and the Together Cessnock website.

Looking ahead, I am filled with confidence about Council's strategic direction. There are a lot of big-ticket projects in the pipeline and I'm looking forward to continuing to see Council deliver quality outcomes for our community. We will continue to work diligently to ensure we provide the essential facilities and infrastructure that our community needs to thrive. It's an exciting time to be in Cessnock!



## General manager's message

Ken Liddell

**Since joining Cessnock City Council in 2022, I have refocussed Council to be more strategic, agile and responsive as we deliver good outcomes for the community, through targeted investment and capacity building. We are already starting to see results of these efforts. Cessnock City Council delivered its highest annual roads investment on record in FY22/23 across both maintenance and capital works.**

The 12 month period included a \$10.9 million spend on road maintenance, an increase of 33 per cent from the previous year, along with \$28 million on capital works road projects, an incredible 67 per cent increase on FY21/22. Council still has more work to do, but the

results presented in this Annual Report show we are on the right track.

Cessnock does face some challenges – we are a community with a large local road network and a comparatively small population, routinely facing supply shortages whether resourcing or materials – these factors will continue to have an impact into the foreseeable future.

Despite these challenges, it is my intention to navigate a clear and positive pathway ahead as Cessnock City Council continues to operate responsibly and responsively in the interest of our community.





Approx  
**1,966 kms<sup>2</sup>**  
of the Hunter Valley



Approx  
**120 kms**  
North of Sydney



**40 kms**  
West of Newcastle



Approx  
**58 kms**  
South West of  
Newcastle Airport



Close proximity to the  
**University of  
Newcastle**  
and the  
**Port of Newcastle**



**1** Airport



**2** Hospitals



**2** TAFE  
campuses

# ABOUT OUR CITY

## TOURISM



Hunter Valley  
Vineyard and  
tourism precinct



Hunter Valley  
Wonnarua  
Indigenous  
Cultural Hub



Historic Marthaville  
Arts and  
Crafts Centre



Richmond Main  
Mining Museum



Wollombi  
Village



Richmond  
Vale Railway



Wheelchair accessible  
hot air balloon



Community health services,  
childcare, aged care,  
sporting facilities and parks



Australia's  
oldest  
wine region

Home to  
endangered  
species



Unique natural  
assets and  
biodiversity

Significant  
Aboriginal  
sites



# CESSNOCK

## *ATTRACTIVE, THRIVING AND WELCOMING*

Cessnock City is located in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, about 120 kilometres north of Sydney, 58 kilometres southwest of Newcastle Airport and approximately 40 kilometres west of The University of Newcastle and the Port of Newcastle. The Cessnock Local Government Area is located on the traditional lands of the Wonnarua people, the Awabakal people and the Darkinjung people. The Area has a rich Indigenous heritage with many towns, villages, and localities bearing Aboriginal names including Kurri Kurri (meaning “the beginning” or “the first”) and Wollombi (“meeting place” or “meeting of the waters”). The Cessnock area’s local biodiversity is significant, both in the Hunter Valley and NSW, with more than 65 threatened species of plants and animals, including nine endangered ecological communities. Critically endangered species, including the Regent Honeyeater and Swift Parrot use our local bushland for food and shelter. The Regent Honeyeater is also known to breed here. Listed as critically endangered, the North Rothbury


Persoonia (*persoonia pauciflora*), is only found in a small area in North Rothbury. European settlement dates from the 1820s when pastoralists arrived using land mainly for farming, market gardening and timber getting. The Great North Road was constructed in the 1830s, linking the Hawkesbury and Hunter Valleys. The township of Cessnock developed from 1850 as a service centre at the junction of the Great North Road. Significant development in Cessnock occurred when coal was struck in 1892 and several coal mines were established. Changes to the mining industry led to the closure of the vast majority of mines, resulting in a decline in population in many villages and townships, especially since the 1980s. Many areas have undergone a change in character, with rural residential housing developments becoming popular. There has been a rise in the wine and tourism industry, with many vineyards at Allandale, Mount View, Pokolbin and Rothbury, as well as small cottages and farms used mainly as weekend retreats.





# AT A GLANCE

 Land area  
**195,000 ha**

 **92.8%**  
were born in Australia

 Population 2023  
**67,118**

 Population by 2036  
**E89,036**


**10.2%**  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islands

**25-29** Our largest age group  
25 to 29 years

 **7.8%**  
people with disability

**37%** have a mortgage 

 **1.1 million**  
visitors each year

**\$3.18 billion**  
Gross regional product 

**428**  
Residential building approvals 

**3,367**  
local businesses 



One third a  
**UNESCO**  
World Heritage Listed Area

## OUR SERVICES

 **23**  
sporting facilities

 **2**  
indoor sports centres

 **42**  
playgrounds

 **54**  
parks

 **3**  
swimming pools

 **2**  
libraries

 **6**  
off leash dog areas

 **2**  
hospitals

 **2**  
TAFE campuses

 **12**  
cemeteries

 **18**  
community halls

 **1**  
performance theatre

 **1**  
airport

 **1**  
waste and recycling centre

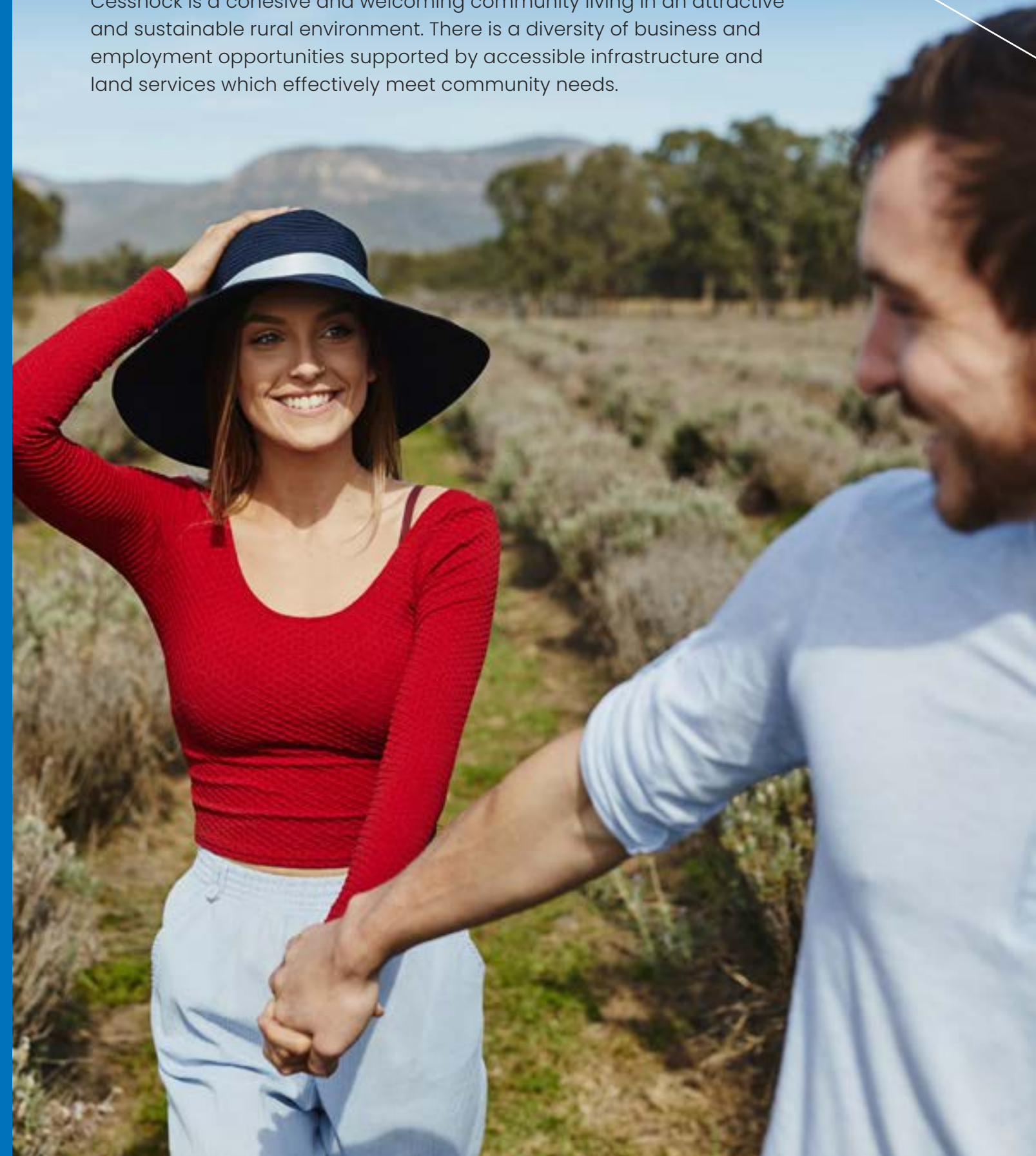
Australia's oldest wine making region with  
**4,500 acres**  
under vine



Largest industry sector is **Health Care & Social Assistance**

# OUR COMMUNITY VISION

Cessnock is a cohesive and welcoming community living in an attractive and sustainable rural environment. There is a diversity of business and employment opportunities supported by accessible infrastructure and land services which effectively meet community needs.





# OUR WARDS *AND* COUNCILLORS



**Paul Dunn**  
Councillor - Ward A



**James Hawkins**  
Councillor - Ward A



**Jessica Jurd**  
Councillor - Ward A



**Anthony Burke**  
Councillor - Ward B



**John Moores**  
Councillor - Ward B



**Ian Olsen**  
Councillor - Ward B



**Karen Jackson**  
Councillor - Ward C



**Anne Sander**  
Councillor - Ward C



**Daniel Watton**  
Councillor - Ward C



**Rosa Grine**  
Councillor - Ward D



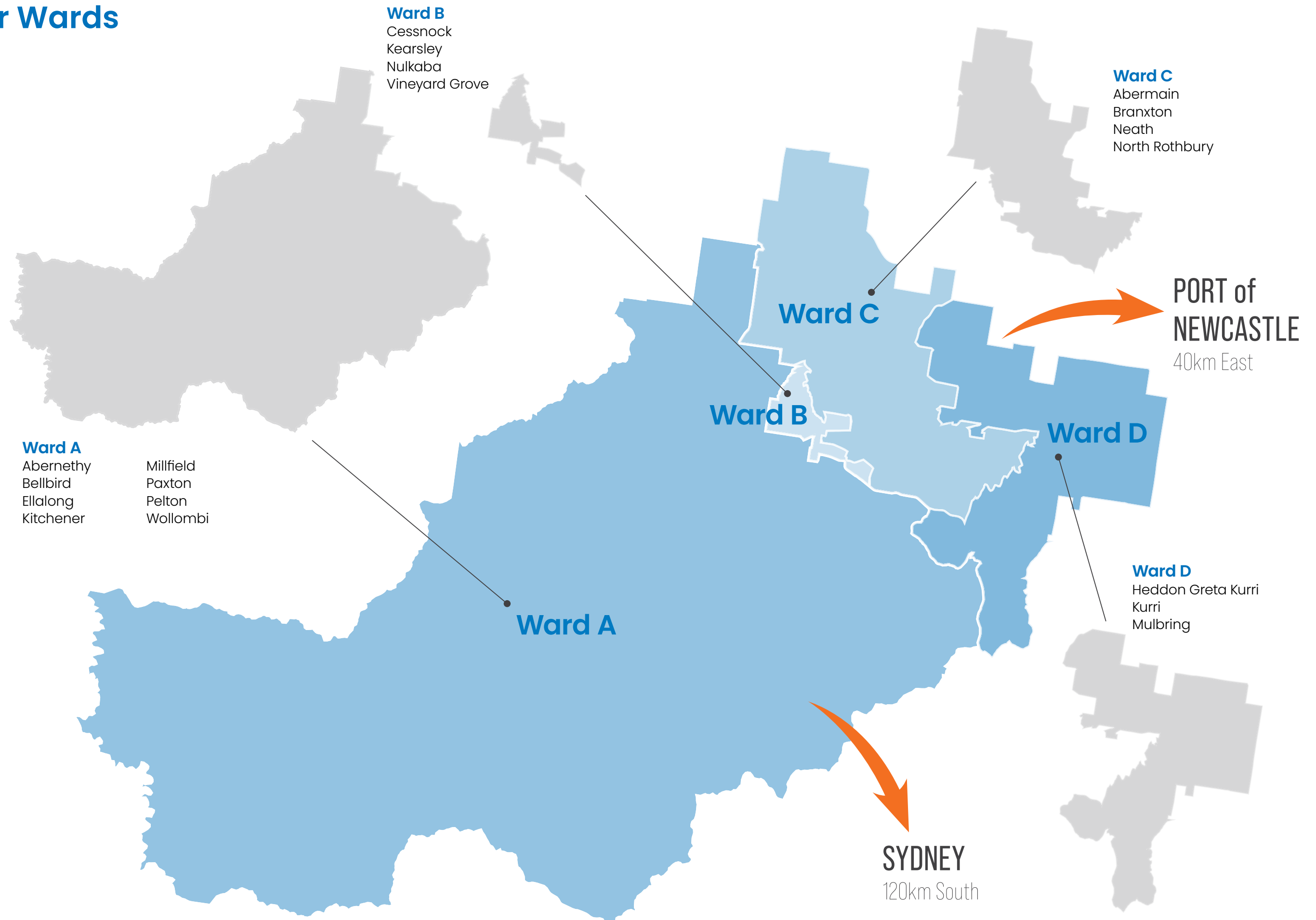
**Mitchell Hill**  
Councillor - Ward D



**Paul Paynter**  
Councillor - Ward D



# Our Wards





# Corporate governance

Cessnock City Council exists as a body politic under the NSW Local Government Act 1993 (NSW). We deliver our statutory roles, functions and objectives through a democratic and corporate governance structure.

## Democratic governance

### Community

The community elects the Mayor and Councillors.

### Mayor and councillors

The elected council appoints the general manager.

Council's governing body monitors the implementation of its decisions via reports by the general manager to Council.

## The mayor

The Mayor is elected by popular vote and deemed to be a Councillor.

The Mayor is the leader of the council and a leader in the local community.

## Corporate governance

### General manager

All staff, including the executive leadership team, work closely with the elected council to set the long-term direction of the council, and lead implementation of the Community Strategic Plan.

### Executive Leadership Team

Provides strategic and operational leadership within the organisation and ensures the community's vision and strategies are executed effectively and efficiently.

### Council staff

Are employed by the general manager to carry out the day-to-day operations of the council and implement the community's vision and strategies.

# Our principles



## Social justice

Promoting access, equity, participation and rights



## Partnerships and collaboration

Working together to achieve our vision



## Opportunity

Creating and taking opportunities for the advancement of the City



## Resilience

Supporting each other to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of extreme challenges



## Sustainability

Enabling a sustainable community, economy and environment through effective leadership







## Internal auditor

Is responsible for monitoring and reviewing Council's systems and control procedures and recommending process improvements to assist Council to operate in an open, accountable and effective way, in accordance with good governance and exceptional ethical behavior and accountability standards.



## Audit and risk committee

Operates under the Audit and Risk Committee Charter. The primary role of the committee is to provide independent assurance on risk management, internal control frameworks, legislative compliance and internal audit activities. It also reviews the external audit opinion and recommendations and other aspects of financial governance and reporting accountabilities.

The Audit and Risk Committee supports good governance within the organisation and focuses on improving the Council's performance and ensuring effective internal control of its finance, risk, work, health and safety and performance improvement activities.

### Membership

The Audit and Risk Committee comprises

#### 5 voting members:

- 2 Councillors
- 3 independent members (1 of whom is the Chair)

Other attendees include:

- The Executive Leadership Team
- Chief Finance Officer
- Internal Auditor
- Any other officers when relevant business is conducted

*A representative of the Auditor General and the contracted external auditor attend most Audit and Risk Committee meetings in person, or via teleconference.*

### Meetings

The Committee met **5 times** - in August, October, November, February and May. Minutes of each meeting were adopted as a resolution of Council **within 6 weeks** of the committee meeting.

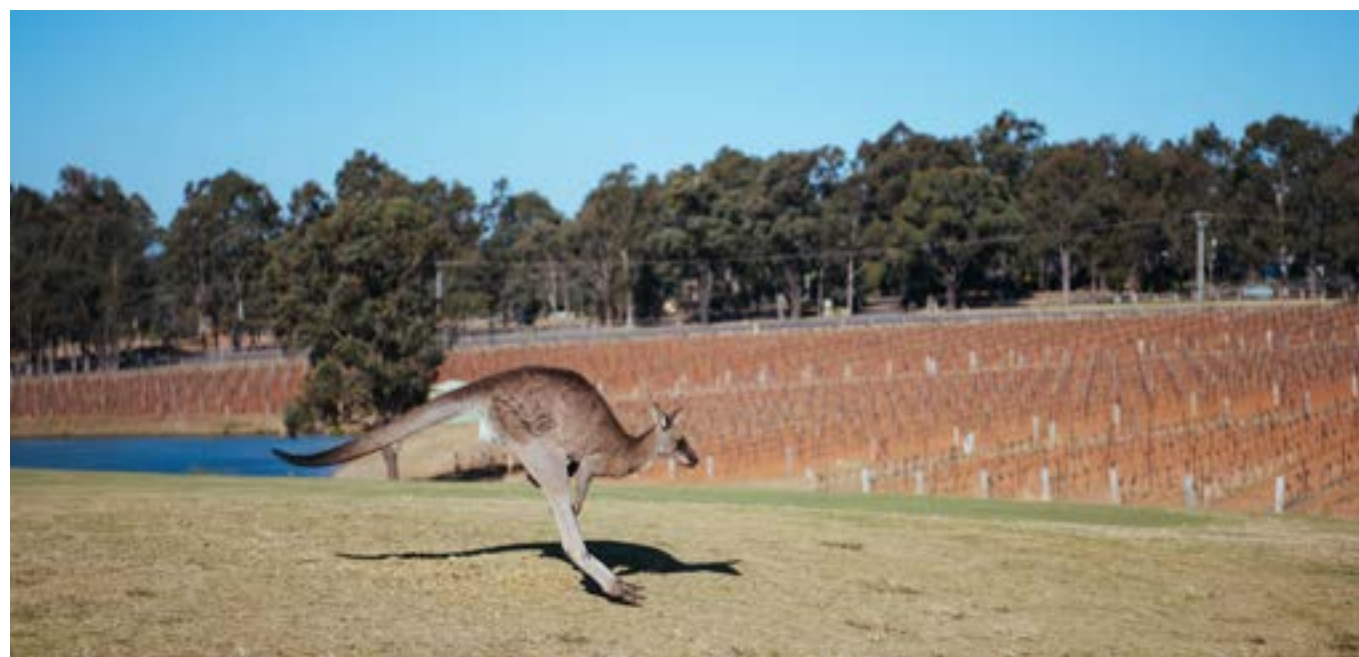




# Cessnock City Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee Performance Review

Under **Section 10.1** of the *Cessnock City Council Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Charter* **5** Committee Meetings were held during the reporting period. An online workshop was also held on 26 October 2022.

DATES	QUORUM	LOCATION	MINUTES REPORTED TO COUNCIL
11 July 2022	Yes	Yarning Circle Bridges Hill	17 August 2022
23 September 2022	Yes	Performance Arts Culture Cessnock	19 October 2022
2 December 2022	No	Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service	15 February 2023
17 March 2023	No	Cessnock City Council Administration Building	19 April 2023
12 May 2023	Yes	Cessnock City Council Administration Building	21 June 2023



Under **Section 11.1** of the *Cessnock City Council Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Charter* a 'quorum is constituted by attendance of **5 members** of the Committee including a minimum of **one (1) Councillor** and **three (3) Community Representatives**'. During the reporting period **3** Committee Meetings were quorate and **2** Committee Meetings were inquorate.

## Attendance Details

COMMITTEE MEMBER	JULY 22	SEP 22	DEC 22	MAR 23	MAY 23
Mayor Suvaal			✓	✓	✓
Councillor Grine	✓	✓		✓	✓
Councillor Burke (alternate)		✓	✓		
Councillor Watton (Relinquished 6 March 23)		✓			
Councillor Jurd (Appointed from 19 April 23)					✓
Uncle Richard Edwards	✓	✓			✓
Ms Tara Dever	✓	✓	✓		✓
Ms Sonia Sharpe	✓		✓	✓	✓
Ms Lucy Reed	✓	✓		✓	✓
Ms Tracey Skene	✓	✓			
Ms Cheryl Kitchener		✓			



## Year in Review Highlights

2022



### 4 July to 11 July 2022

NAIDOC Week 2022 was held 4 July to 11 July and included 15 diverse activities held at Cessnock City Council Libraries (Cessnock and Kurri Kurri), Council's Youth Service Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service, and Performance Arts Culture Cessnock. Activities for NAIDOC Week 2022 were consulted with the Cessnock City Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee and the theme for 2022 was Get Up! Stand up! Show Up!



### October 2022

Cessnock City Council has completed vegetation removal works on World Heritage listed Australian Convict Sites retaining wall known as Ramsay's Leap which is believed to have been built by convicts in 1830. The project was funded by the NSW State Government under the Caring for State Heritage category of the NSW Heritage Grants Program. Council matched the NSW Government's contribution of \$150,000.



### December 2022

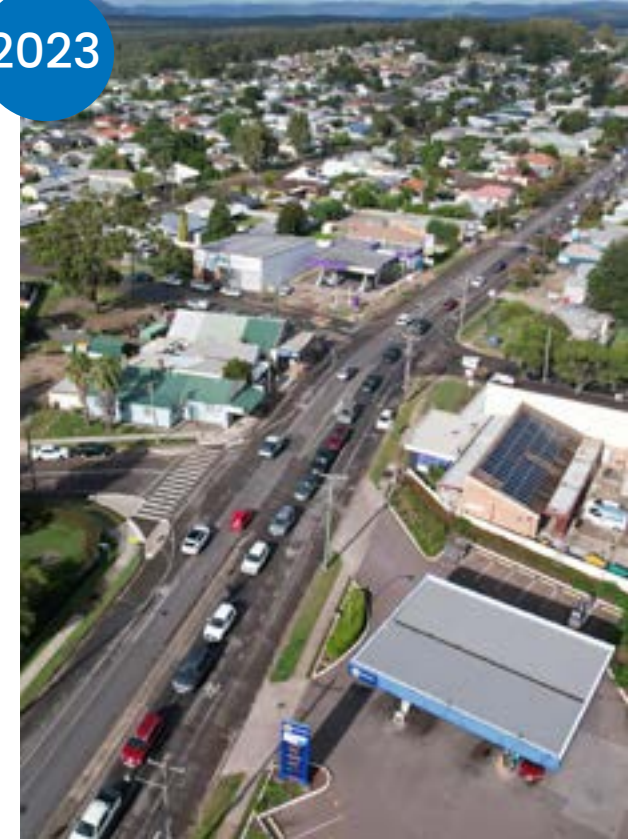
From its grass roots beginnings, the final stage of Millfield Skatepark opened on 2 December with a spectacular BMX demonstration. Fittingly, Millfield local Beau Heffernan cut the ribbon on Cessnock City Council's newest community Recreational facility.



### December 2022

A crowd of more than 3,500 welcomed back Christmas at Baddeley Park, Cessnock on Friday 2 December. Country music star and local resident Tara Naysmith returned to the stage as host, while Santa's Little Helpers wove their musical Christmas magic. Santa Claus delighted the children, with the night culminating in a spectacular fireworks display. The event was proudly presented by Newcastle Permanent Building Society (major sponsor), Cessnock City Council, Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, Rover Motors and Hunter Events Group.

2023



### Wollombi Road

With the Cessnock LGA is experiencing rapid growth, Council commenced the planning stage for the upgrade of a 2.9km section of Wollombi Road which is essential to accommodate current and forecasted traffic growth and alleviate congestion on our roads. It will include associated intersection improvements such as new and upgraded cycleways, footpaths, kerbs, bus stops and improvements to current parking arrangements.

Benefits of the upgrade to Wollombi Road include:

- Reduced congestion and improved traffic flow
- Improved road safety, efficiency, and travel times
- Improved active transport linkages for cyclists and pedestrians
- Fit for purpose infrastructure for the growing LGA, benefiting local businesses and tourism



# Disaster Management

Being mindful of the increasing threat posed by the annual bushfire season, completing upgrades to local Rural Fire Service (RFS) stations was prioritised this year. Many stations required improvements to support our local volunteers and the important work they do in protecting the community.

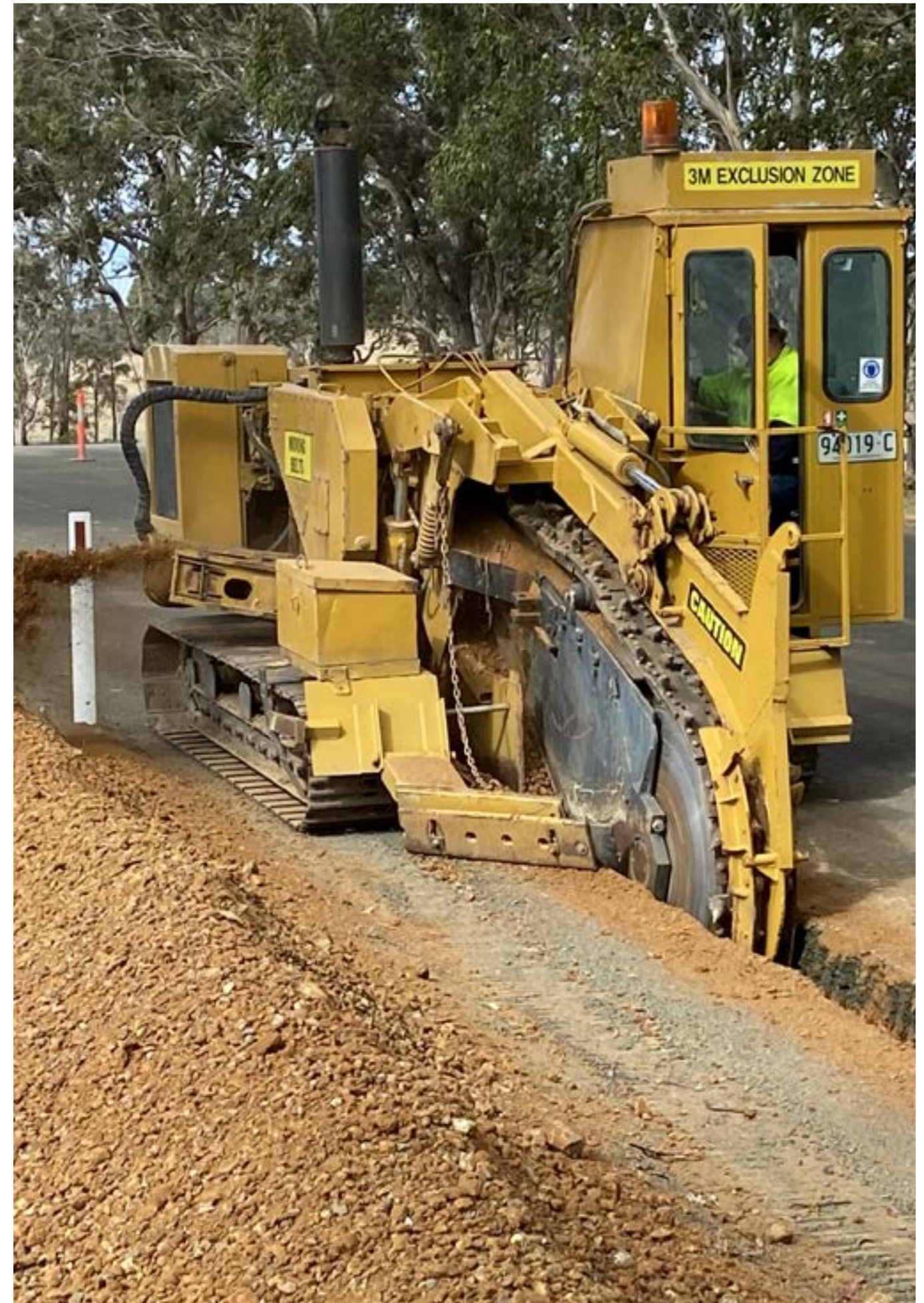
\$1 million worth of upgrades were delivered by Council staff to 11 RFS stations at Cessnock (Central), Neath, Kearsley, Laguna, Bucketty, Benwerrin, Quorrobolong, Pokolbin, Mulbring and Greta. Funds for the improvements were made possible thanks to the NSW Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund.

The improvements included important elements that directly impact the RFS volunteers and their communities. Examples of the upgrades include the installation and

replacement of air conditioning systems to provide comfortable conditions during the summer heat, construction of new meeting rooms to facilitate important disaster management planning sessions, the installation of motorised roller doors for ease of egress to respond to emergencies and new generators to ensure the constant supply of power, and more.

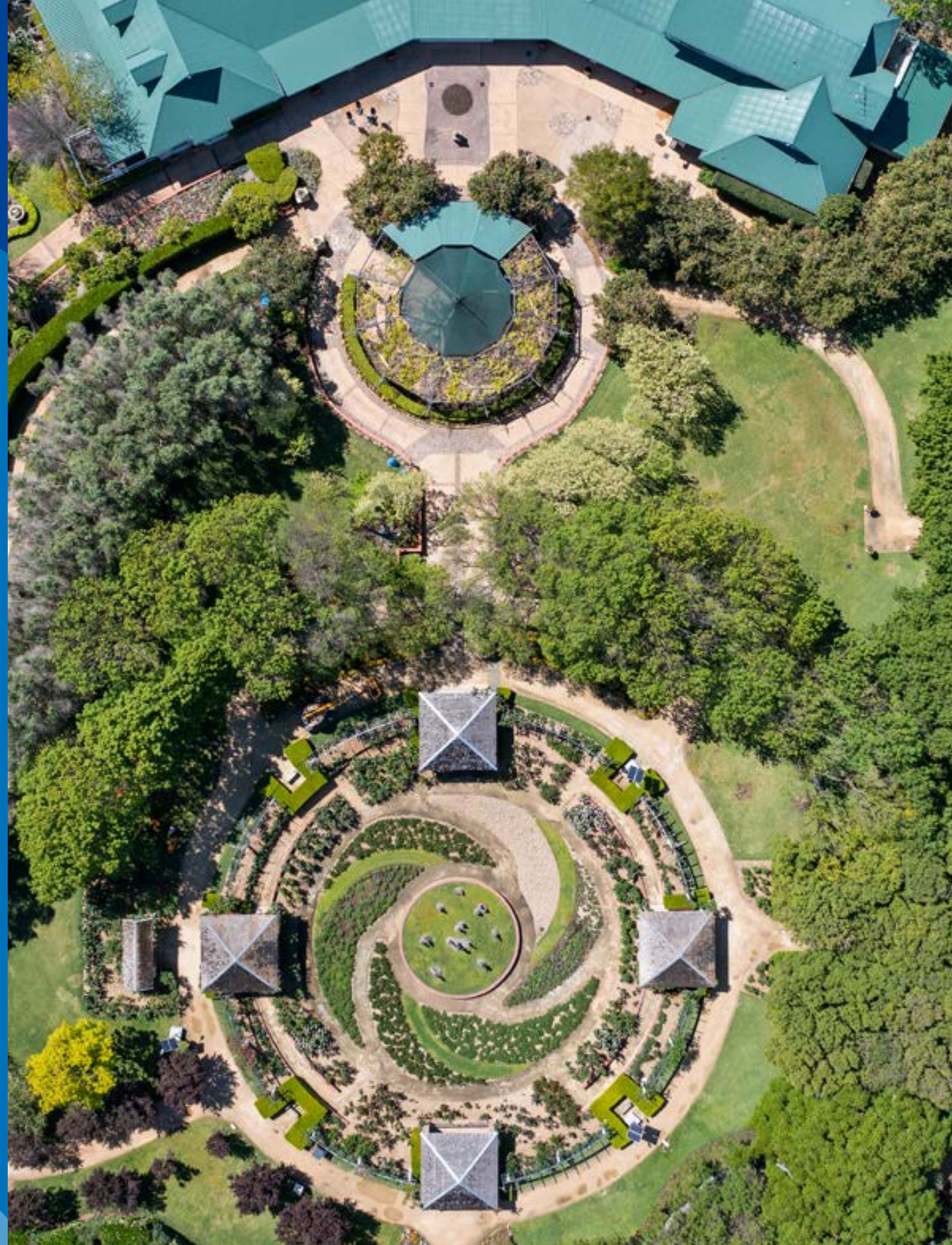
Council has also commenced construction on a brand new \$930,000 Millfield Fire Station at Paxton Park.

Cessnock LGA residents can now rest assured, in the lead up to bushfire season, that our RFS stations are now safer and more functional places for volunteers to provide this vital community service when it is needed most.





# *STRATEGIC* REPORTING



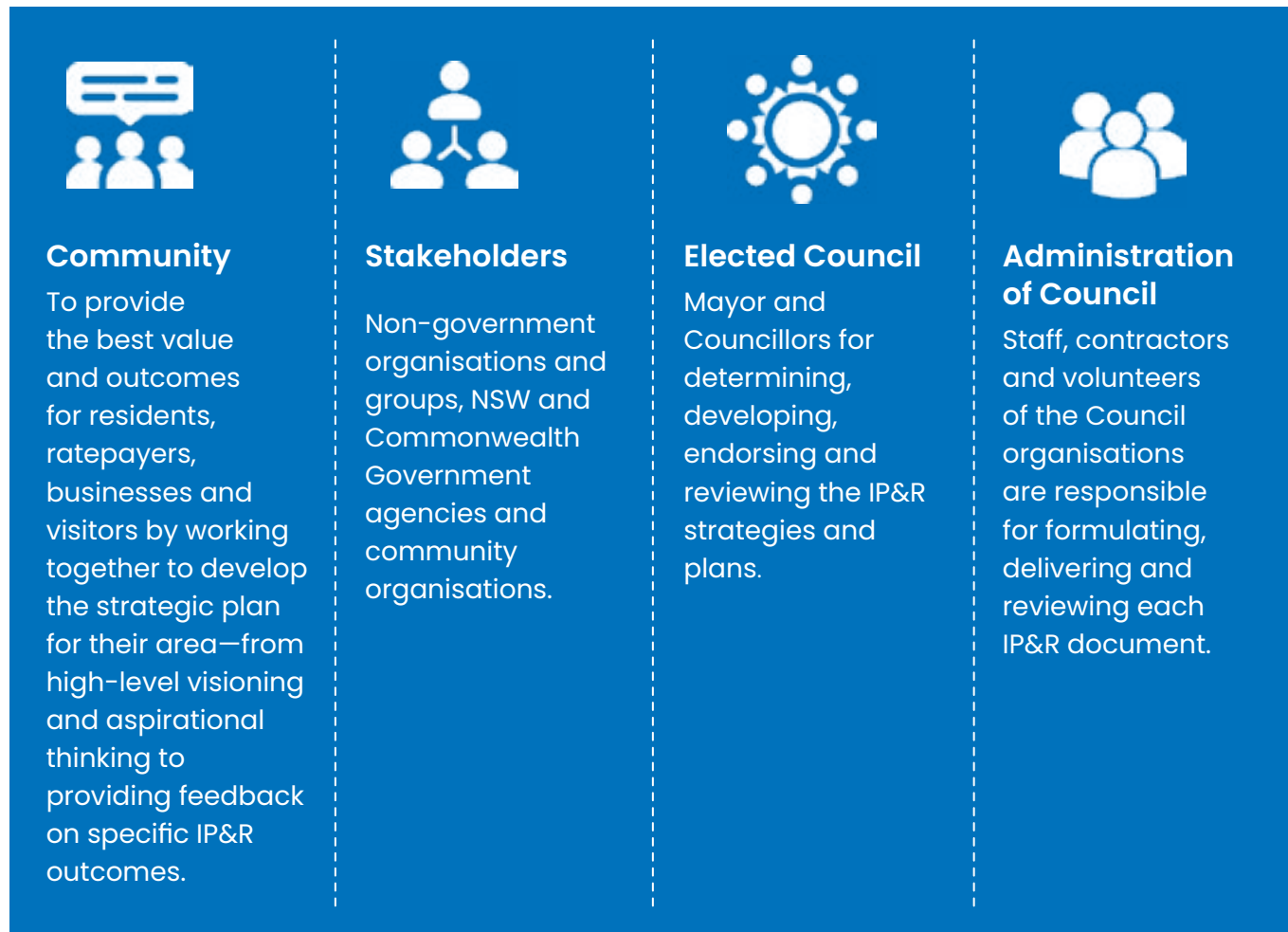


# Integrated planning and reporting

The **IP&R Framework** is prescribed by the *Local Government Act 1993* and is designed to cover all Council's activities.

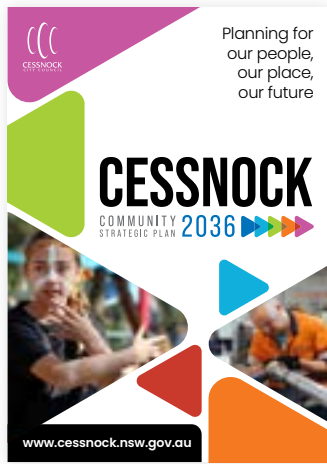
All Council plans and strategies must be connected in some way to the Framework. The guiding principles address the way that councils provide leadership, plan for the future and make decisions about services and resources.

IP&R should be at the centre of all Council plans, activities, resourcing decisions and improvement strategies. Elected representatives and Council staff should work together to ensure that Council operations are designed around IP&R, and that the IP&R Framework is used effectively to deliver each of Council's strategic goals.



## Integrated planning and reporting framework





## Community Strategic Plan

This plan is the highest-level plan that a council will prepare. Its purpose is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future, and plan strategies for achieving these goals. It guides all strategies and plans and must be developed by councils with, and on behalf of the community.

The minimum timeframe is for **10 years** and addresses **4 key questions** which help identify the community's vision, aspirations and priorities and establish baseline targets, strategies and measures to aid performance monitoring and reporting:

- 1 Where are we now?**
- 2 Where do we want to be in 10 years' time?**
- 3 How will we get there?**
- 4 How will we know we have arrived?**



## Resourcing Strategy

Demonstrates how work identified in the delivery program and operational plan will be resourced. It must include provisions for long-term financial planning, workforce management planning and asset management planning.

## Community Engagement Strategy



All councils are required to prepare a Community Engagement Strategy to support development of all plans, policies, programs and key activities including those relating to IP&R, as well as strategic plans and programs required under other legislation. It must demonstrate a commitment to genuine and inclusive engagement and be based on social justice principles:

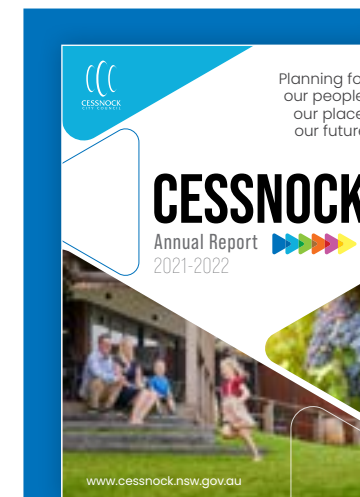
**Equity • Access • Participation • Rights**

## Delivery Program and Operational Plan



The Delivery Program translates the community's strategic directions, established by the Community Strategic Plan, into actions within the resources available under the resourcing strategy. It is a statement of Council's commitment to the community, and is the single point of reference for all principal activities undertaken by the elected council during its term of office. All plans, projects, activities and funding allocations must be directly linked to this program.

The annual Operational Plan supports the Delivery Program. It spells out the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken each year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.



## Annual Report

This is a requirement under **s428 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)**. It outlines Council's achievements in implementing the delivery program through the year's operational plan, and report on the effectiveness of the principal activities

undertaken to achieve the objectives in that year. The report must contain the Council's audited financial statements and notes and any information or material required by the Regulation or the Guidelines.

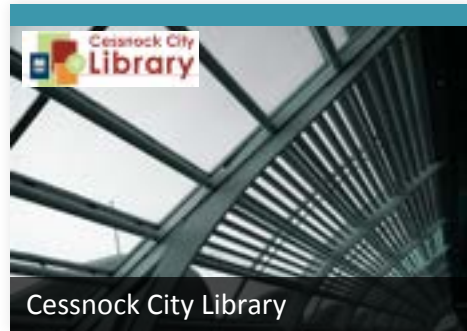
## Other strategies and plans



- Asset Management Plan
- Cemeteries Masterplan
- Cessnock Airport Strategic Plan
- Cessnock LGA Traffic and Transport Strategy
- Cessnock Local Government Area City-Wide Contributions Plan
- Climate Change Resilience Plan
- Community Participation Plan
- Community Satisfaction Survey
- Companion Animal Management Plan 2022-2026
- Customer Service Strategy
- Cycling Strategy 2016
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025
- Economic Growth Agenda
- Enterprise Risk Management Framework
- Environmental Zoning Framework
- Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan
- Greater Cessnock Infrastructure Priorities Advocacy Agenda



## Other strategies and plans cont.



- Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2036
- Housing Strategy 2021
- Hunter Valley Destination Management Plan 2022-2030
- Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (under review)
- Jobs Strategy 2021
- Library Strategic Plan 2014-2024
- Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036
- Off Leash Dog Exercise Area Strategy
- Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan
- Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2019
- Road Safety Strategic Plan 2020-2024
- Stormwater, Waterway and Floodplain Strategy
- Strategic Internal Audit Plan 2023-27
- Trails Strategy 2020
- Tree Strategy
- Urban Growth Management Plan
- Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020-25
- Youth Engagement Strategy 2021

### External Plans

- NSW Government – Hunter Regional Plan 2041
- NSW Government – Future Transport Strategy 2056
- Joint Hunter Region – Hunter JO Strategic Plan 2032
- NSW Government – Housing 2041



## Operating principles

### Enable councillors to:

- work directly with their community to identify long-term priorities for local identity, growth and lifestyle
- understand the range of services the community wants, the service standards they expect and the infrastructure that will be required to deliver them
- have meaningful conversations about the cost of meeting community expectations and map out a 4-year strategy to deliver key priorities, projects and services
- set appropriate fees and charges
- monitor Council's progress
- report back to the community on success in achieving goals
- be assured that statutory and other planning, consulting and reporting requirements are being met



### Assist council Staff to:

- understand community priorities and needs
- work with elected representatives on shared goals and priorities
- identify supporting plans and strategies
- undertake resource planning and meet legislative requirements
- identify achievements, projects and programs for each 4-year term
- develop reporting regimes, including how risk will be effectively managed
- understand the role employees play in delivering community priorities
- understand how they will be accountable through reporting and performance management





# DETAILED PROGRESS REPORT

## Navigating this section

### Outcomes

These are the community's long-term priorities and aspirations for the city, as set out in the Community Strategic Plan. They contribute to achieving the city's vision. Council has a custodial role in working towards realising these objectives; however, it is not wholly responsible for achieving them. Other partners, such as state agencies and community groups, have an important role to play in achieving these outcomes.

### Objectives

Our objectives guide us to achieve our outcomes over the four-year period of our delivery program.

### Strategies

Align strategic directions to core functions and sustainability and achieving long-term objectives.

### Actions

Our actions are the activities and projects we commit to undertake each year, through delivery of our operational plan, to achieve our strategies and deliver our objective.

### Progress



#### IN PROGRESS

Indicates an action is likely to be achieved in the following reporting period



#### COMPLETE

Indicates an action was achieved during the reporting period



#### CARRY FORWARD

Indicates an action has been carried over to the next reporting period

### Outcomes

The community has identified five desired outcomes in the Community Strategic Plan, **Cessnock 2036**:

1. A connected, safe and creative community
2. A prosperous and sustainable economy
3. A healthy and sustainable environment
4. Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities
5. Civic leadership and effective governance





# Our 2022-23 Annual Report

This annual report provides a summary of Council's achievements during the 2022-23 year. Progress is measured against the programs, budget and desired outcomes in the **2022-26 Delivery Plan with 2022-23 Operational Plan**.

The annual report provides an insight into Council's financial position and operations, and is prepared to comply with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

Major highlights, key initiatives, operating performance and achievements are presented against the 5 desired outcomes identified in the **Community Strategic Plan, Cessnock 2036**.

## Delivery Program Progress

The **2022-26 Delivery Program** is a 4-year program that sets out how Council aims to achieve the desired outcomes developed by the community in the **Community Strategic Plan, Cessnock 2036**. The 4-year program contains 188 objectives to be delivered over the life of the Delivery Program (ie. by 30 June 2023).

A summary of progress for the 188 Delivery Program objectives across the 5 desired outcomes from the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:



## 5 Desired Outcomes

### 188 Delivery Program Objectives

- 
**1 A connected, safe and creative community**  
 28 COMPLETED • 18 IN PROGRESS • 1 CARRIED FORWARD
- 
**2 A sustainable and prosperous economy**  
 23 COMPLETED • 1 IN PROGRESS • 0 CARRIED FORWARD
- 
**3 A sustainable and healthy environment**  
 30 COMPLETED • 16 IN PROGRESS • 0 CARRIED FORWARD
- 
**4 Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities**  
 4 COMPLETED • 13 IN PROGRESS • 1 CARRIED FORWARD
- 
**5 Civic leadership and effective governance**  
 246 COMPLETED • 4 IN PROGRESS • 9 CARRIED FORWARD

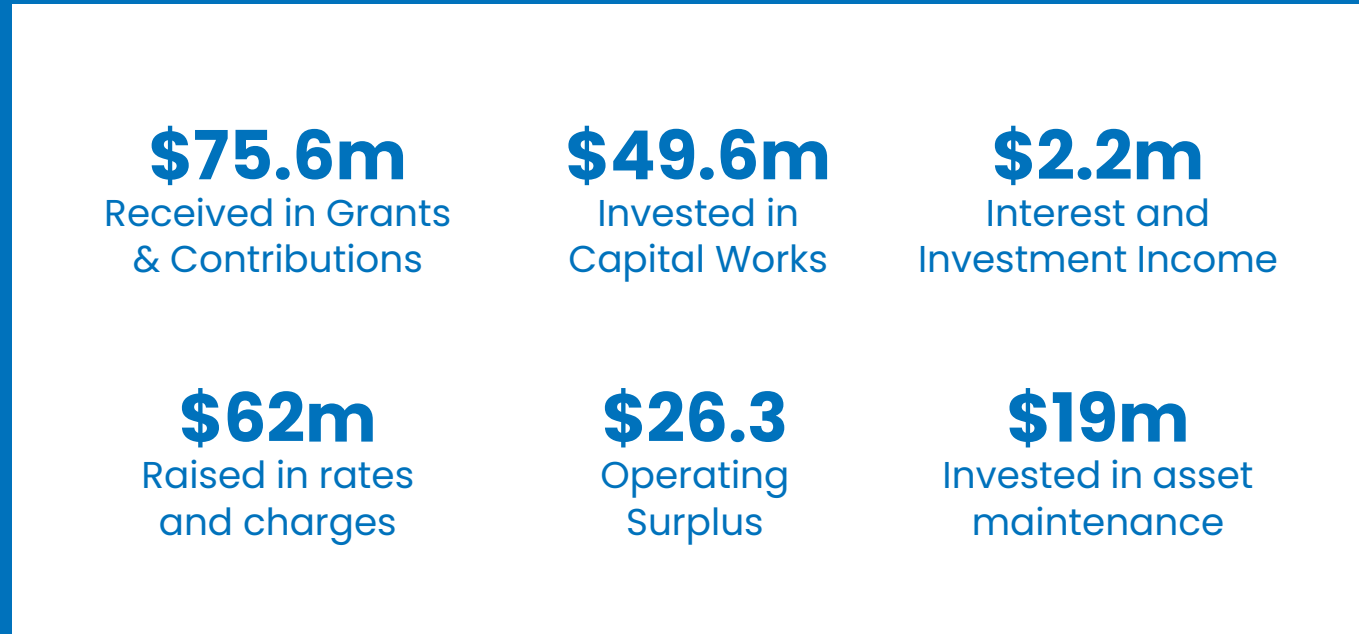
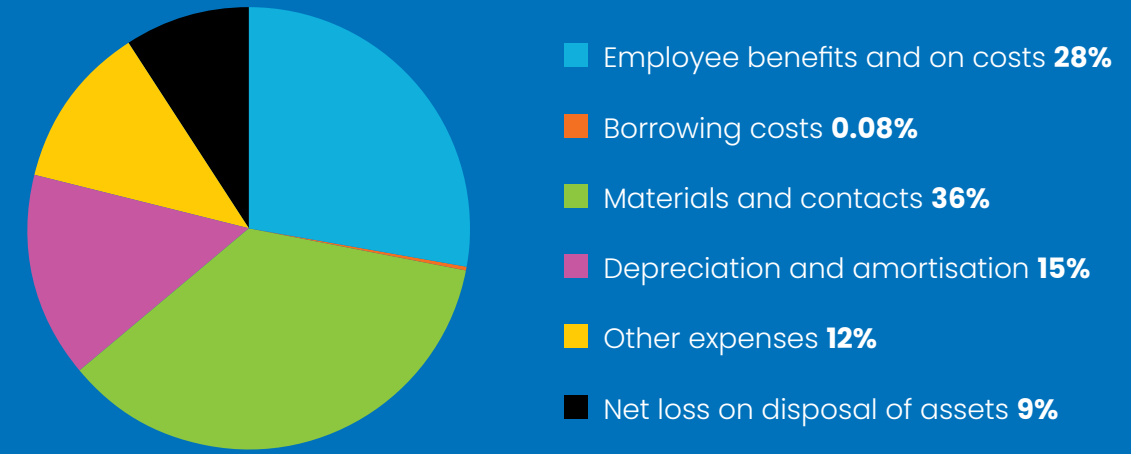




# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

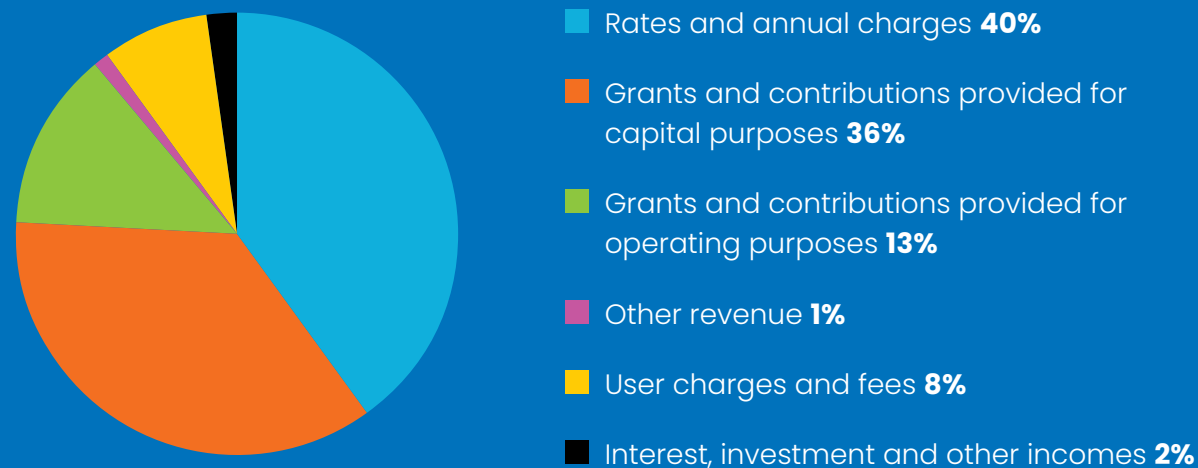
## Where our money was spent

Our total operating expenditure of \$129 million contributes towards our services to the community such as community and cultural facilities including libraries, community centres, waste management, parks, recreation and sporting facilities and pools.



## Where did our money come from?

This year our main source of income, other than rates, was from grants and contributions of \$76 million or 49%. Income from rates and annual charges contribute \$62 million or 39%.

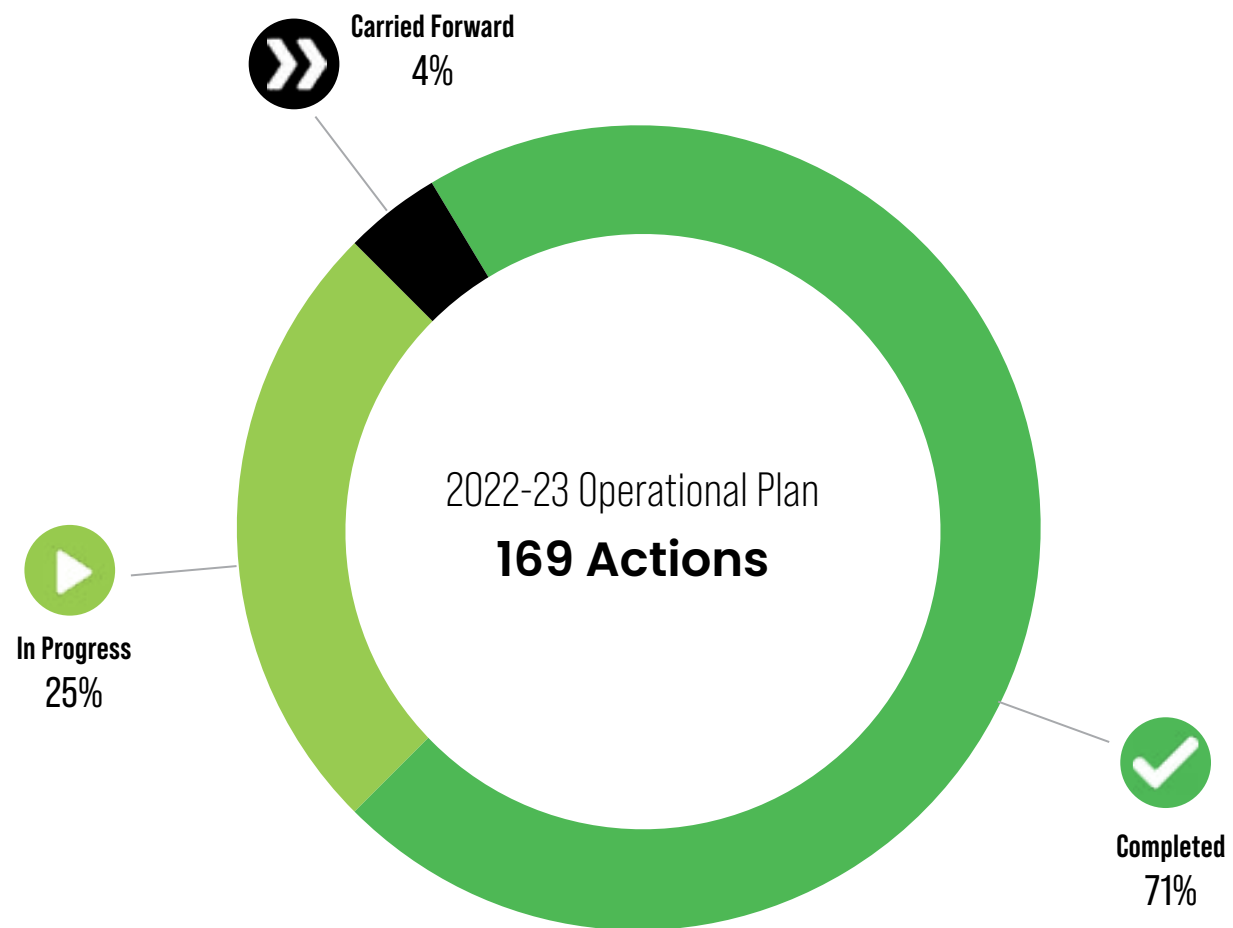




# Overall Operational Plan performance

The 2022-23 Operational Plan is the second year of the 4-year Delivery Program. In the operational plan Council committed to delivering 169 actions and 31 measures across the desired outcomes from the **Community Strategic Plan, Cessnock 2036**.

The performance against these 1-year actions and measures demonstrates Council's progress in implementing the **2022-26 Delivery Program**.



## Operational Plan performance action





# A connected, safe & creative community



- 1.1 Promoting social connections
- 1.2 Strengthening community culture
- 1.3 Promoting safe communities
- 1.4 Fostering an articulate and creative community

## 1 A connected, safe & creative community

This desired outcome relates to community wellbeing, connectedness and safety.

Community engagement participants continue to express the desire for a healthy, active, engaged, and cohesive community that maintains its unique local identity and friendliness into the future.

Council has undertaken the following services to achieve the objectives established in the Community Strategic Plan, **Cessnock 2036**.

### Objective 1.1

#### Promoting social connections and wellbeing

##### Strategic Directions

- We are connected to others in our neighbourhood and across the Local Government Area
- Our community has opportunities to celebrate together
- Our community has high levels of wellbeing
- Our community has access to diverse and affordable housing
- We work together to achieve inclusivity and reconciliation

### Objective 1.2

#### Strengthening community culture

##### Strategic Directions

- Our community is aware of and has access to community services and facilities
- Our residents show pride in the Local Government Area
- Our community organisations have opportunities to work together to develop and deliver services
- We have multi-purpose sporting and recreation facilities that meet the needs of a growing population

### Objective 1.3

#### Promoting safe communities

##### Strategic directions

- Our residents and visitors feel safe in the Cessnock Local Government Area
- Our CBD areas are safe at night
- Our roads are safe for motorists and pedestrians

### Objective 1.4

#### Fostering an articulate and creative community

##### Strategic Directions

- We have thriving cultural precincts throughout the Local Government Area that celebrate our heritage and culture
- We have a diverse program of cultural and heritage activities
- We have access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities





# Measures

## How we will measure our progress

The following targets are adopted as they are measurable (sourced from the ABS Census, government agencies, Council operational data and community research) as well as being generally aligned with the desired outcomes of the Community Strategic Plan, **Cessnock 2036**.

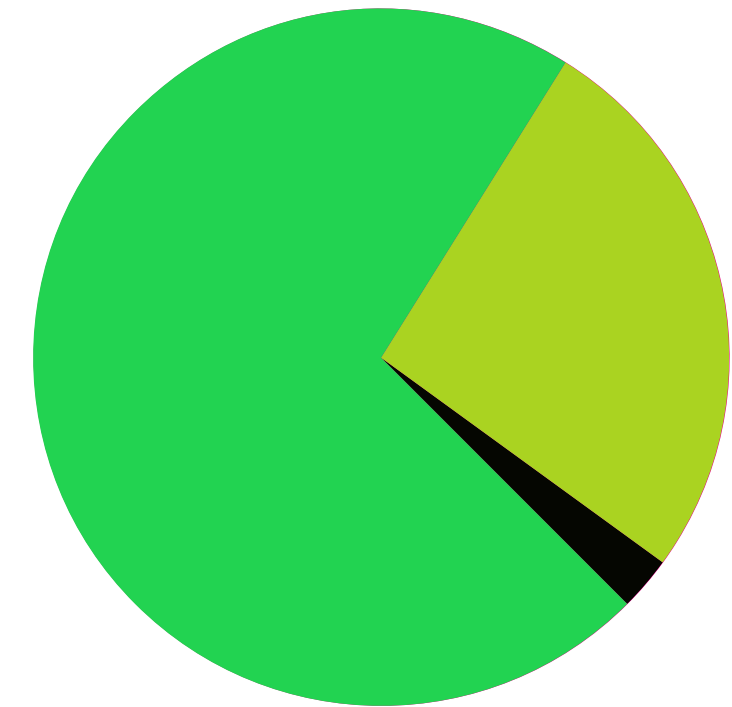
While Council is not wholly responsible for the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan objectives, Council has a custodial role to examine the progress that has been made towards the achievement.

MEASURE	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	TARGET
<b>Regulatory Premises Inspections</b>	This measure is the number of regulatory premises inspections carried out divided by the programmed regulatory premises inspections during a year. Regulatory premises inspections include food shop inspections, skin penetration inspections etc. This is a measure of Council's contribution to the health and safety of the community.	100%
<b>Public Swimming Pool and Spa inspections</b>	This measure is the number of public swimming pools and spas inspected divided by the programmed number of public swimming pool and spa inspections. This is a measure of Council's contribution to the health and safety of the community.	100%
<b>Participation in major civic and community events and programs</b>	This measure is the number of community members attending and participating in major civic and community events and programs provided by Performance Arts, Culture, Cessnock each year. Target measure is 1,000.	Increase
<b>Performance Arts Culture Cessnock</b>	This measure is the number audience members that have attended performances at the venue in a calendar year. This measure is sourced from the centre's ticketing system. Base 16,478 in 2019.	Maintain
<b>Library Programs</b>	This measure is the number of programs offered at Council's libraries. This data is sourced from NSW Public Libraries statistics. This is a measure of the libraries engagement with the community for the purpose of both recreation and education. In 2019-20 the median for NSW public libraries was 546 programs.	Increase
<b>Library Programs</b>	This measures the number of attendees at library programs. This data is sourced from NSW Public Libraries statistics. This is a measure of the libraries engagement with the community for the purpose of both recreation and education. In 2019-20 the median for NSW public libraries was 9,965 attendees.	Increase
<b>Seniors Week</b>	This measures the diversity and growth of activities offered on the Seniors Festival calendar. Number of activities listed in Seniors Festival event calendar. The target measure was 15 in 2022-23.	Maintain
<b>Seniors Week</b>	The data is sourced from a random survey of festival participants where they are asked to rate their satisfaction with Seniors Festival on a scale of 1 - 5, where 1 = low satisfaction and 5 = high satisfaction. The measure in 2021 was 4.	Maintain
<b>Engagement with young people</b>	This measure is the number of young people participating and engaging in youth programs delivered by CYCOS each year an includes face to face programs and e-engagement. This is a measure of the effectiveness of Council's provision of services to young people. This measure was 11,234 in 2022-23.	Maintain

# Highlights

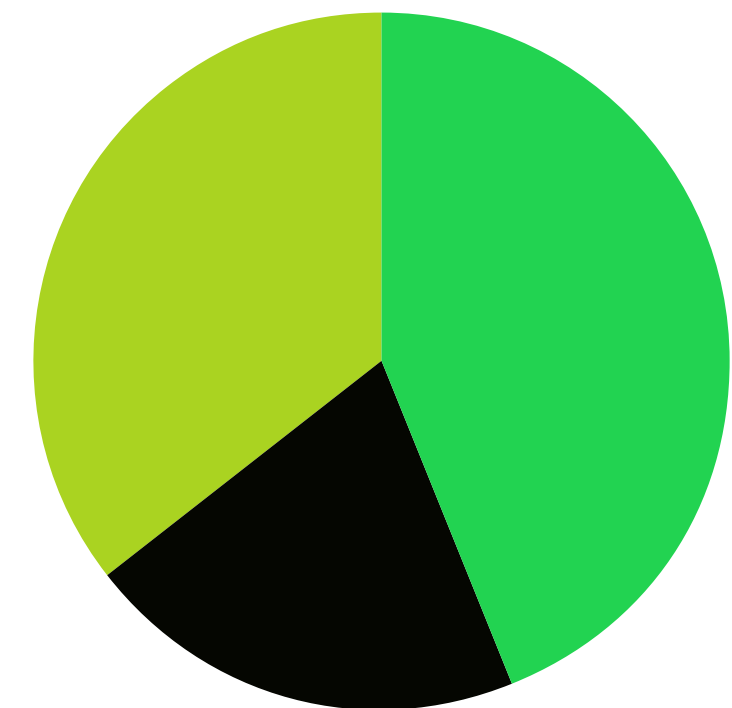
## Actions

Total **42**  
 Complete **30**  
 In Progress **11**  
 Carry Forward **1**



## Projects

Total **34**  
 Complete **15**  
 In Progress **7**  
 Carry Forward **12**





# HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY

## Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC)



**123,344**  
tickets sold

**5,486**  
tickets issued for community events

**16**  
sell out performances

**90**  
membership holders

## Our Libraries



**102,670** in-person library visits

**146,871** library loans

**48,568** e-Resources loaned

**18,268**  
people attended events

public computers were used  
**10,570** times

## Annual Pool Attendance



**20,213**  
Cessnock Pool

**14,491**  
Branxton Pool

**94,603**  
Kurri Kurri Aquatic & Fitness Centre  
(operated by Belgravia Health & Leisure)

## Public Health

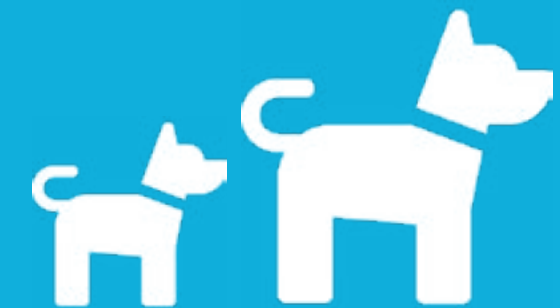


We responded to **783** community requests for public health and environment concerns

**29** routine food safety inspections were documented with **92%** of businesses receiving good to excellent outcomes

## Rangers

Over the last 12 month period Rangers received approximately 20 calls for escapee livestock and were required to attend and catch or contain horses, sheep, cattle, goats and even the occasional pig. The Ranger team also completed some training on basic horse handling skills.



**70** lost dogs were safely returned to their owners

Over **30** animals were microchipped



# Operational Plan performance

## 1. A connected, safe & creative community

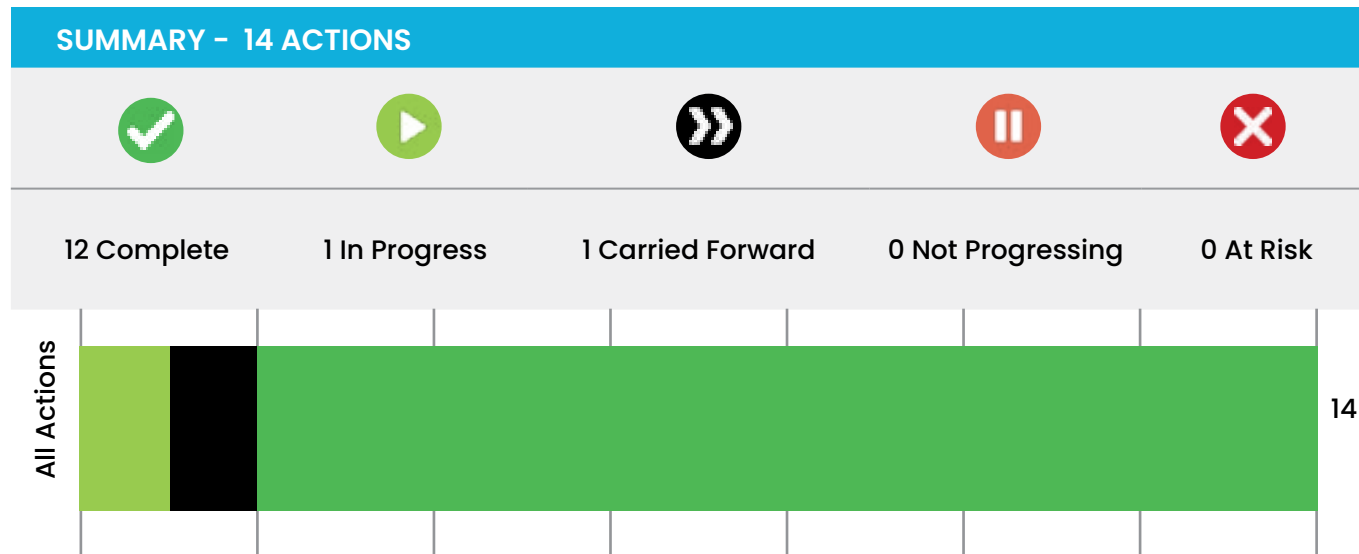
*This desired outcome relates to community wellbeing, connectedness and safety.*

*Community engagement participants continue to express the desire for a healthy, active, engaged, and cohesive community that maintains its unique local identity and friendliness into the future.*

### Objective 1.1 Promoting social connections and wellbeing

#### Strategic direction

- We are connected to others in our neighbourhood and across the Local Government Area
- Our community has opportunities to celebrate together
- Our community has high levels of wellbeing
- Our community has access to diverse and affordable housing
- We work together to achieve inclusivity and reconciliation



## Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021–25 (DIAP)

Provides Council with a framework to improve access and inclusion for people with disability. Actions implemented under the DIAP include access audits and upgrades to facilities, the introduction of access statements for Council engagement and web platforms and promoting and participating in local initiatives that support inclusion.

In accordance with Cessnock City Council's **Accessible & Inclusive Events Practice Guide**, we delivered the following:

- Cessnock City Library promoted its height adjustable self-issue kiosk on its Facebook site

- A Sensory Storytime session was held at Cessnock Library and 18th January at Kurri Kurri Library.
- Regular pop-up sessions were held by NDIS providers and Seniors Rights Advocacy
- How to connect with My Aged Care and Seniors Rights Service talks.

A wheelchair accessible hot air balloon was secured which is the first of its kind in NSW. The hot air balloon will provide wheelchair users and those with reduced mobility the opportunity to experience the thrills of ballooning in the picturesque Hunter Valley.





## Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS)

In partnerships with NSW Police, Hunter New England Health, TAFE NSW, Kurri Kurri Community Centre and Cessnock City Library, Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service provided the following:

- NAIDOC themed art packs and celebration jewellery making
- Flower Crown workshop for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- 'Love Bites' with students at Mount View High School
- Establishment of a LGBTQIA+ Friendship Group occurred in Term 3
- 'Transition to High School' program to Bellbird and Weston Public Schools
- "Exercise Your Mind" program at West Cessnock Public School
- "Young Parents Group" and "Brave" programs by speech pathologists and health students
- "Pit Stop" was delivered on 2 occasions and included sexual and reproductive health as well as smoking and vaping cessation

ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
1.1.1.a	Organise an event to recognise National Reconciliation Week.	✓
1.1.1.b	Coordinate and promote a community program of activities and events for NAIDOC Week.	✓
1.1.1.c	Engage with the community in reconciliation initiatives and in developing a next action plan.	✓
1.1.2.a	Deliver inclusive programming for Council's Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) that engages and encourages young people to participate in a diverse range of social, recreational and educational activities and aligns with the Cessnock City Council Youth Engagement Strategy.	✓
1.1.2.b	Deliver an inclusive programming strategy for Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) that engages Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people, their families and community groups to participate in a diverse range of social, recreational and educational activities.	✓
1.1.2.c	Continue working in partnership with external organisations to implement youth-based community programs that promote and encourage well-being, address alcohol consumption and illicit drug use	✓
1.1.2.d	Develop a 2023 Youth Week program that is inclusive, engaging and celebrates young people.	✓
1.1.2.e	Promote and deliver diverse and inclusive activities during school holidays engaging with children, young people and families across the Cessnock LGA.	✓
1.1.3.a	Actively pursue continuous improvement opportunities in line with Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025, building an organisation which has a focus on inclusion and accessibility.	✓
1.1.4.a	Coordinate and promote a community program of activities and events for the Cessnock City Seniors Festival.	✓
1.1.4.b	Increase awareness of the City of Cessnock Hall of Fame and inductees.	✓
1.1.4.c	Organise and deliver throughout December a diverse program of Christmas events engaging children, young people and families.	✓
1.1.4.d	Organise ceremonies (and associated activities) for civic events such as Australia Day, Mayoral Scholarships and Citizenship presentations.	▶
1.1.4.e	Develop program to ensure Banner Poles use is maximised to advertise Council and community events	⏸

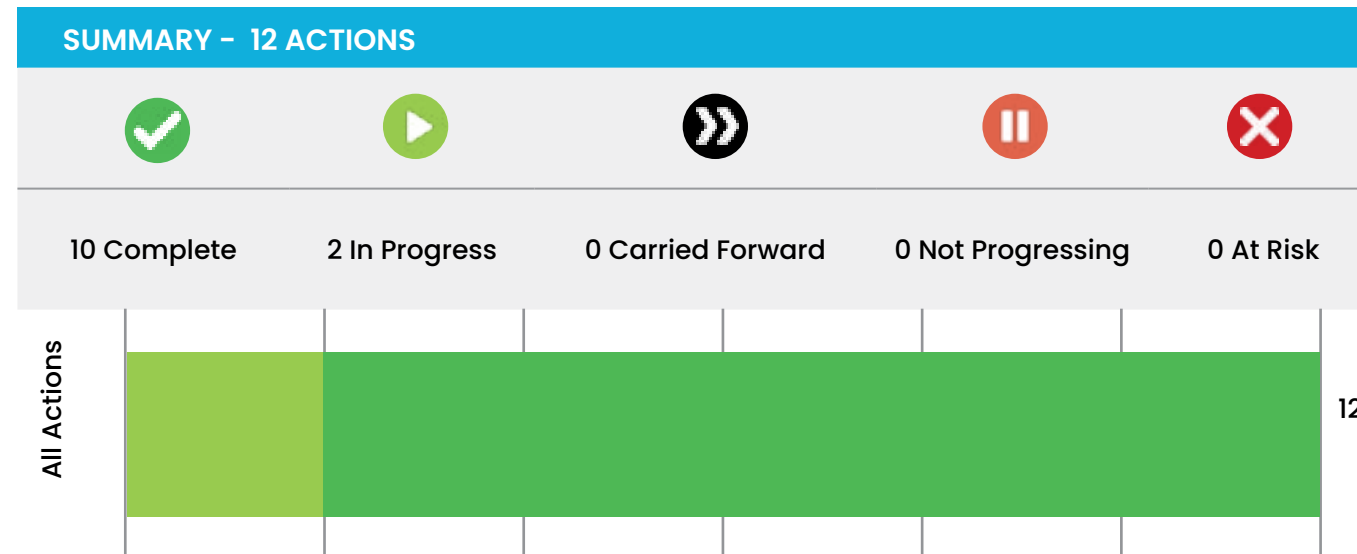




## Objective 1.2 Strengthening community culture

### Strategic direction

- Our community is aware of and has access to community services and facilities
- Our residents show pride in the Local Government Area
- Our community organisations have opportunities to work together to develop and deliver services
- We have multi-purpose sporting and recreation facilities that meet the needs of a growing population



### Public Pools

Public Pool Attendance between October 2022 and March 2023 were:

- Branxton Pool **14,491**
- Cessnock Pool **20,213**
- Kurri Kurri Aquatic & Fitness Centre (operated by Belgravia Health & Leisure) **94,603**

It was a summer of old, with lots of warm days and no COVID-19 restrictions for the first time in 3 years. The addition of the Splash Pad was a huge success which saw many new families with younger children and parties coming into the pool every weekend.

Word of the quality facilities on offer at Cessnock Pool made it to one of St Kilda's most famous musical exports, Paul Kelly who stopped in for a swim before heading off and played the Red Hot Summer Tour in the vineyards.

### Cemeteries

Council manages the following general cemeteries:

- Aberdare
- Branxton
- Cessnock
- Ellalong
- Glenmore
- Greta
- Kurri Kurri
- Millfield
- Rothbury
- Wollombi

As well as:

- Gordon Williams Memorial Lawn Cemetery at Aberdare
- Kurri Kurri Lawn Cemetery

Council has been identified as an industry leader in cemetery operations, with several organisations benchmarking against Council's procedures and continuous improvement principles.

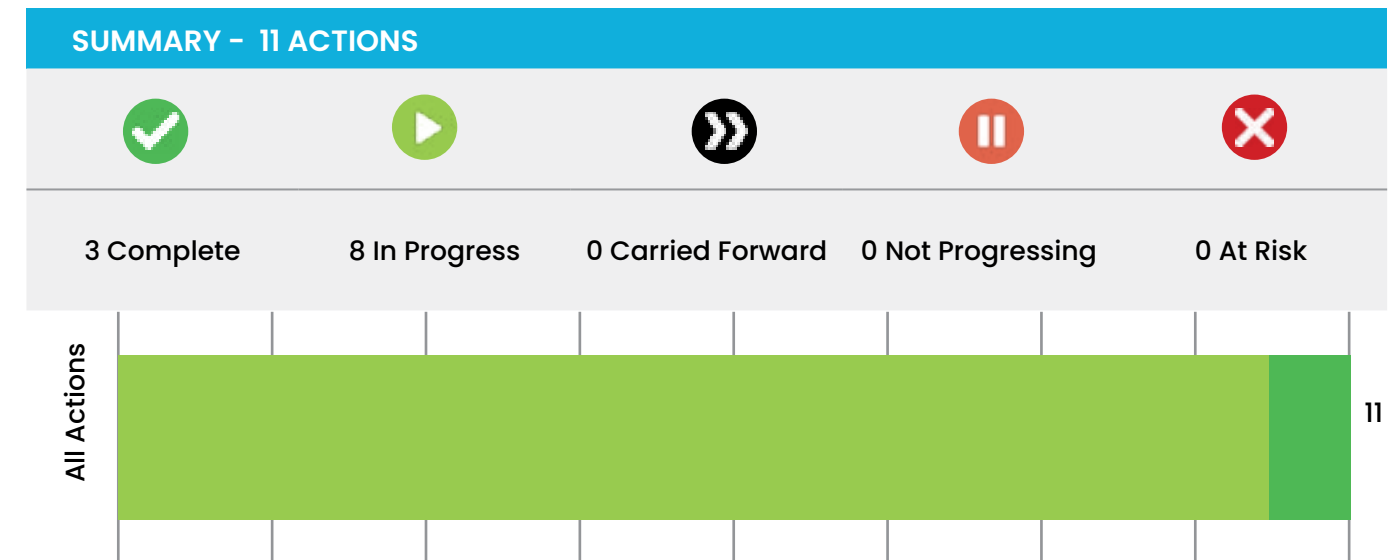


ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
1.2.1.a	Implement and provide ongoing community awareness for the Cessnock LGA Community Directory and Community Events Calendar.	✓
1.2.1.b	Be an active member of collaborative network groups that strive for inclusive, safer and healthier communities. This includes domestic violence, crime prevention and healthy lifestyles.	✓
1.2.2.b	Promote and administer Council's Community and Cultural Development Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme.	✓
1.2.3.a	Liaise with community groups who operate from Council owned cultural facilities, to provide a welcoming, engaging, inclusive, safe and accessible environment.	✓
1.2.4.a	Complete stage 1 refurbishment works for the creation of a cultural hub at Performance, Arts, Culture, Cessnock (PACC) and continue to pursue funding opportunities ensuring the facility remains a high-quality cultural venue.	✓
1.2.4.b	Investigate and pursue funding opportunities for renewal works at Cessnock City Library Branch further creating a facility that is modern and revitalised.	✓
1.2.4.c	Deliver road safety education and awareness programs on identified road safety priorities under the joint Local Government Road Safety Program and CCC Road Safety Strategic Plan 2020-2024.	▶
1.2.4.d	Promote and deliver Council's Dollar for Dollar programs to community groups including the eligibility criteria for infrastructure projects that seek to improve Council owned and/or managed community facilities to be welcoming, engaging, inclusive, safe and accessible.	✓
1.2.4.e	Prepare and submit applications for funding to improve and/or construct community, sporting and aquatic facilities.	✓
1.2.4.f	Support community groups to manage facilities in conjunction with Council by providing assistance and advice within resources where appropriate.	✓
1.2.5.a	Continue to develop masterplans for community, sporting and aquatic facilities.	▶
1.2.6.a	Implement the Cessnock City Council Cemeteries Masterplan.	✓

## Objective 1.3 Promoting safe communities

### Strategic direction

- Our residents and visitors feel safe in the Cessnock Local Government Area
- Our CBD areas are safe at night
- Our roads are safe for motorists and pedestrians



### Community safety

Council determined:

- **33** Complying Development Certificates with an average processing time of **11 days**
- **302** Construction Certificates with a median processing time of 33 days.

Council also continue enforcement of illegal and unsafe parking in School Zones. During the year 858 School Zone patrols were conducted with 283 offences being detected.

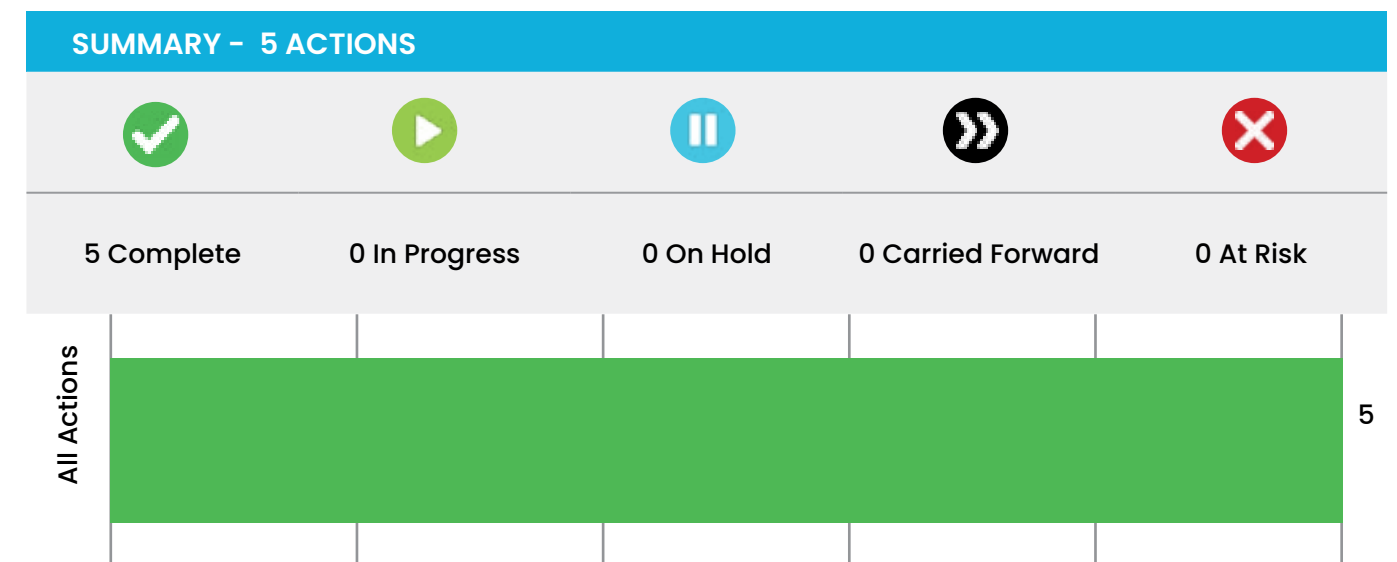


ACTION	PARTICULARS	STATUS
1.3.3.a	Upon receipt of all required information, assess and determine Complying Development Certificate applications within 10 days and Construction Certificate applications within 25 days from the date of lodgement.	
1.3.4.a	Implement next steps of local government road safety project from the Road Safety Strategic Plan	
1.3.5.b	Provide designs and documentation for traffic facilities and road works listed in the adopted Capital Works Program to improve the safety of the road environment.	
1.3.5.b	On-going assessment of applications for Restricted Access Vehicle movements within the LGA.	
1.3.5.c	Research and respond to road safety and road engineering enquiries.	
1.3.5.d	Prepare reports for, and facilitate the Local Development Committee (Traffic).	
1.3.5.e	Collaborate with partners to develop and maintain a public street lighting network to improve the safety of the road network.	
1.3.5.f	Oversee the accelerated replacement of existing eligible street lights with energy efficient LEDs.	
1.3.5.g	Fullfill legislative obligations as per the National Rail Safety Regulator in relation to road/rail interface within the Cessnock LGA.	
1.3.5.h	Review Transport for NSW detailed crash/fatality reports and attend crash sites to access potential associated road condition factors.	
1.3.5.i	Investigate and process invoices in relation to Public Lighting maintenance and electricity usage for public lighting within the road reserve.	

## Objective 1.4 Fostering an articulate and creative community

### Strategic direction

- We have thriving cultural precincts throughout the Local Government Area that celebrate our heritage and culture
- We have a diverse program of cultural and heritage activities
- We have access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities





## Performance Arts Culture Cessnock Programs

The Performance Arts Culture Cessnock refurbishment included installation of a lift funded by a Grant under the NSW Government, Stronger Country Communities. This funding was also applied to building a ramp at the Aberdare Road entrance of the building and leads into the reception area.

Act 1 of the 2023 performance program was launched in February with a matinee concert presented by Mark Vincent. The venue also hosted the Abermain Eisteddfod.

2023 performances for young people and families included:

- Mr Stink adapted from the David Walliams children's book
- a performance by Hunter Drama
- Hosting Bishop Tyrell College to rehearse and perform a family specific production.
- The Victorian State Ballet production of Beauty and the Beast was a sell out!



## Our Libraries

'School Holiday Fun - Make your own music!' attracted over 15,000 views from mid-December 2022 to mid-January 2023.

A number of health and wellbeing sessions were held including Aboriginal Storytime and Wayapa.

History walks at Bridges Hill, Chinamans Hollow and Weston were popular.

An exhibition was also held to mark Cessnock City Library's 70th Birthday.

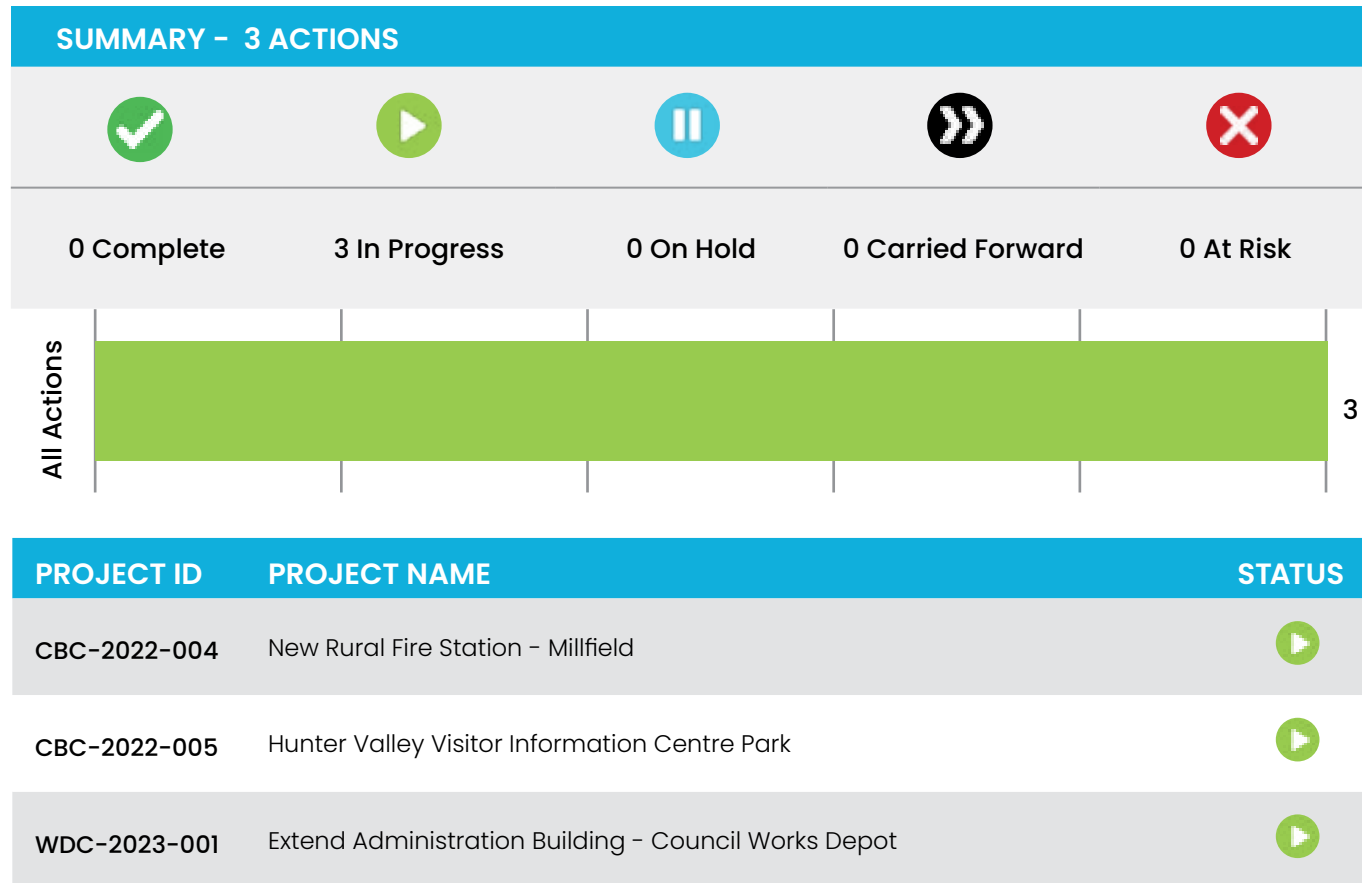
A successful Friends of Libraries Australia grant enabled Anime artist Matthew Lin to run 3 art workshops for 57 students

ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
1.4.1.a	Deliver an engaging Performance, Arts, Culture, Cessnock (PACC) season with programming strategy that considers Councils community plans, diversity and inclusion.	✓
1.4.1.b	Deliver programs at Performance, Arts, Culture, Cessnock (PACC) that engage children and young people in cultural expression.	✓
1.4.2.a	Develop and promote Cessnock City Library digital services including 24/7 eBranch.	✓
1.4.2.b	Develop and deliver diverse and inclusive lifelong learning programs, arts and local history exhibitions at Cessnock Library and Kurri Kurri Library Branches.	✓
1.4.2.c	Commence the evaluation of the Cessnock City Library Review, Report and Strategy 2014-2024.	✓

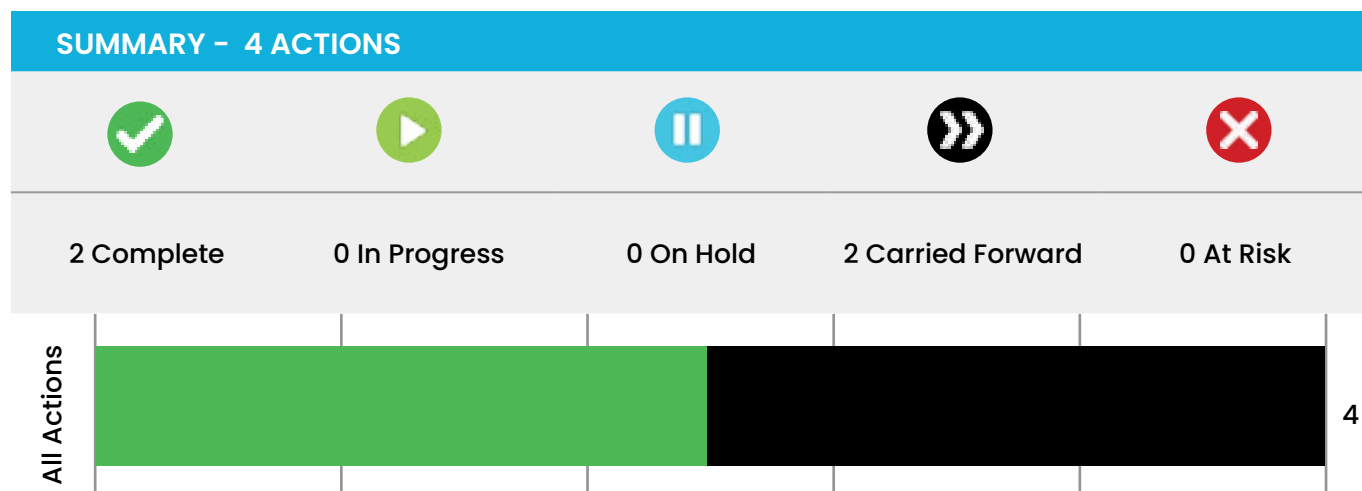


## Captial Works Program

### Community Buildings Construction Program (CBC)

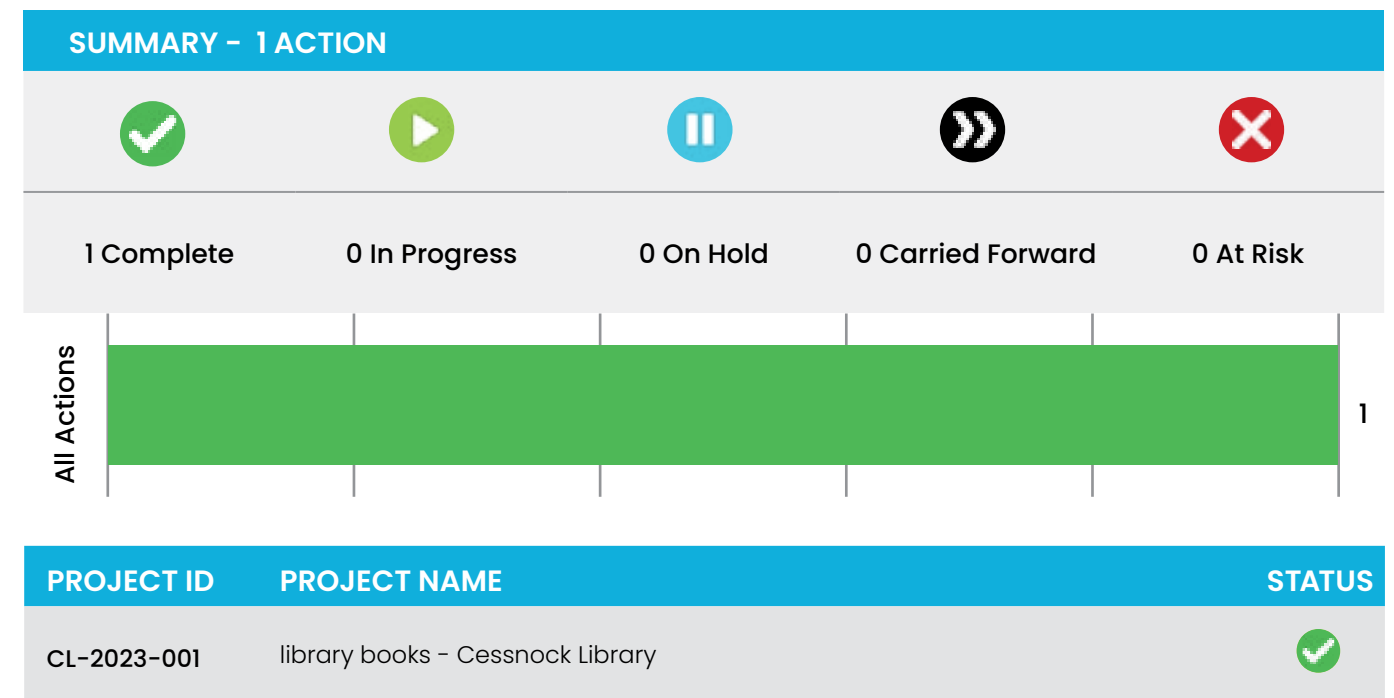


### Cemeteries Facilities Construction Program (CFC)



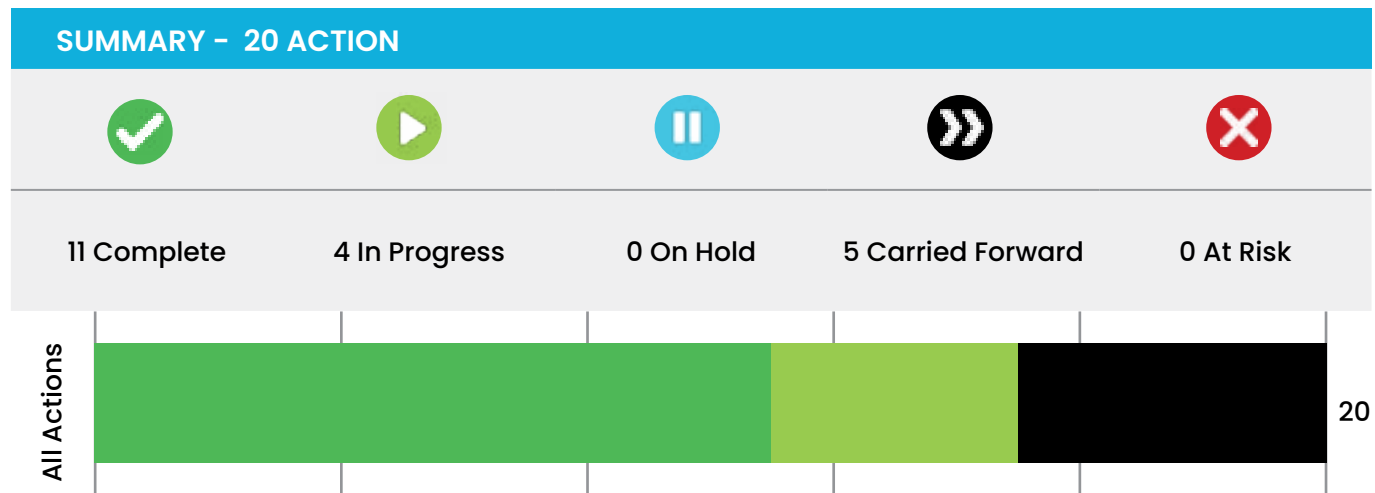
PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
CFC-2022-002	cemetery signage renewal	Carried Forward
CFC-2023-001	signage renewal - various cemeteries	Complete
CFC-2023-002	fencing renewal - various cemeteries	Carried Forward
CFC-2023-003	Branxton Cemetery Columbarium Wall - Branxton Cemetery	Complete

### Library Books





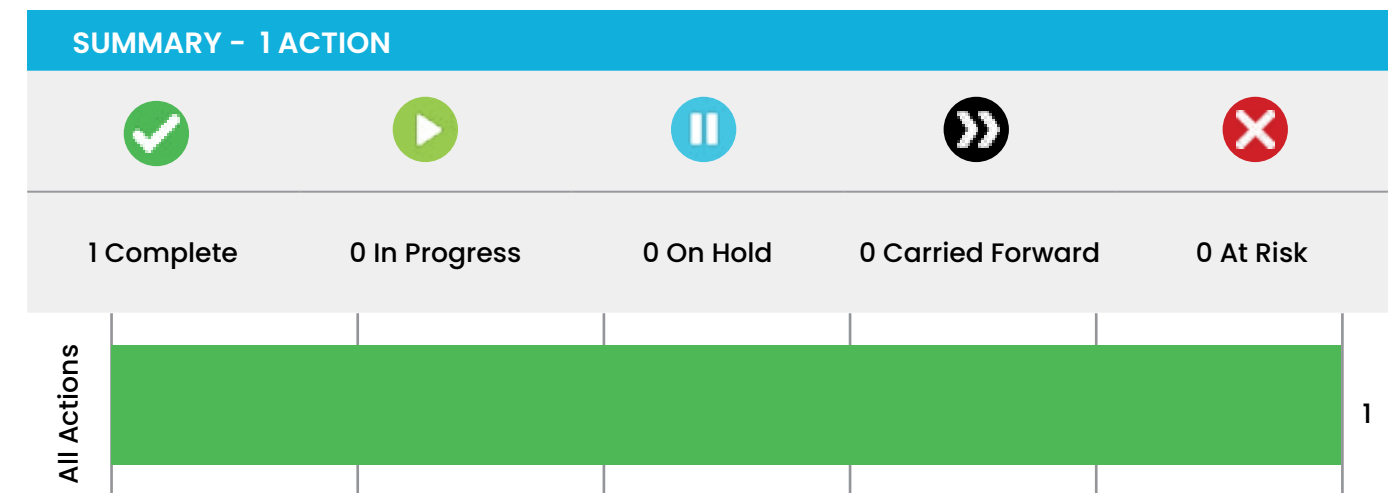
## Cultural & Community Buildings Renewal Program (RBC)



PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
RBC-2021-009	roof anchor - Cessnock Library	✓
RBC-2022-001	asset renewal - various facilities	✓
RBC-2022-003	external painting - Marthaville	✓
RBC-2022-005	refurbishment - Performance Art Culture Cessnock	▶
RBC-2022-006	Interim Works Remediation Action Plan - Richmond Main Colliery	✓
RBC-2022-007	Rural Fire Service facility upgrades and extensions - various building	▶
RBC-2022-008	LED lighting - Performance Art Culture Cessnock	✓
RBC-2022-009	toilet refurbishment - Kurri Kurri Library	⏸
RBC-2023-002	flooring - Bellbird Community Hall	⏸
RBC-2023-004	air conditioning - Branxton Community Hall	⏸
RBC-2023-005	painting - various community buildings	✓
RBC-2023-014	pier repair / rising damp and floor cover replacement - Greta Preschool	✓
RBC-2023-015	upgrade bathrooms - Kearsley Community Hall	✓

RBC-2023-016	roof replacement - Activity and Training Centre	✓
RBC-2023-018	deck replacement - Richmond main administration building	⏸
RBC-2023-019	renewal program - various community and cultural buildings	✓
RBC-2024-001	air conditioning renewal and replace - Performance Art Culture Cessnock	⏸
RBC-2025-002	flooring - Weston Civic Centre	⏸
RBC-2026-004	slab remediation: engineering advice - Wollombi Cultural Centre/Fire Shed	⏸
RFC-2019-005	Dock loading bay - Cessnock Performing Arts Centre	✓

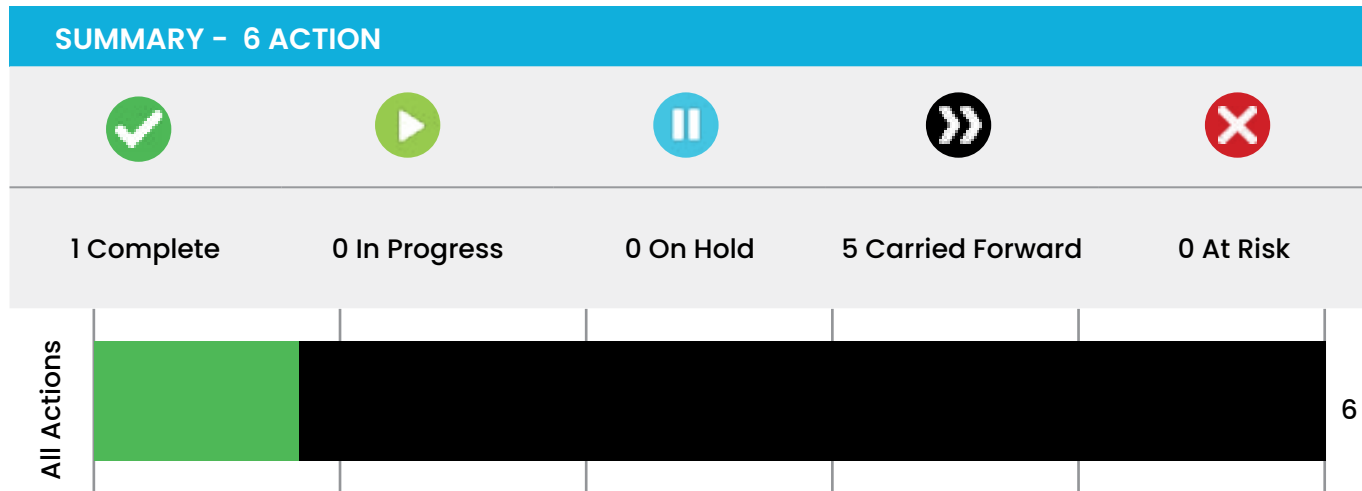
## Pools Facilities Renewal Program (RFP)



PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
RFP-2020-004	splash pad - Cessnock Pool	✓



## Recreation Buildings Renewal Program (RBR)



PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
RBR-2021-004	rotunda roof replacement - High Street Park Greta	✓
RBR-2024-001	kitchenette improvements: new flooring / painting - tennis clubhouse Mulbring Park	⏭
RBR-2024-005	roof replacement/painting fascia gutter, eaves, posts, doors - Turner Park Aberdare	⏭
RBR-2024-006	optimisation of building renewal program - various buildings	⏭
RBR-2024-007	scoreboard replacement - Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre	⏭
RBR-2024-008	roof ventilation remediation and automated rollers - Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre	⏭





# A sustainable and prosperous economy

## 2 A sustainable and prosperous economy

This desired outcome identifies the need to attract a diverse range of businesses, industries, and services together with improved access to education, training, and employment opportunities to ensure we have a sustainable and prosperous economy into the future.

Council has undertaken the following services to achieve the objectives established in the **Community Strategy Plan, Cessnock 2036**:

### Objective 2.1

#### Diversifying and growing our economy

##### Strategic Directions

- Our Local Government Area is attractive to and supportive of businesses
- We have a diversity of businesses and industries across the Local Government Area
- We have adequate industrial and employment lands and thriving commercial precincts

### Objective 2.2

#### Achieving more sustainable employment opportunities

##### Strategic Directions

- We have education and training opportunities for people of all ages and abilities
- We have a diverse range of local employment opportunities

### Objective 2.3

#### Increasing tourism opportunities and visitation in the area

##### Strategic Directions

- We have a range of diverse visitor experiences across the entire Local Government Area
- Our Local Government Area is attractive to visitors



- 2.1 Diversifying local business options
- 2.2 Achieving more sustainable employment opportunities
- 2.3 Increasing tourism opportunities and visitation in the area





# Measures

## How we will measure our progress

The following targets are adopted as they are measurable (sourced from the ABS Census, government agencies, Council operational data and community research) as well as being generally aligned with the desired outcomes of the **Community Strategic Plan, Cessnock 2027**.

While Council is not wholly responsible for the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan objectives, Council has a custodial role to examine the progress that has been made towards the achievement.

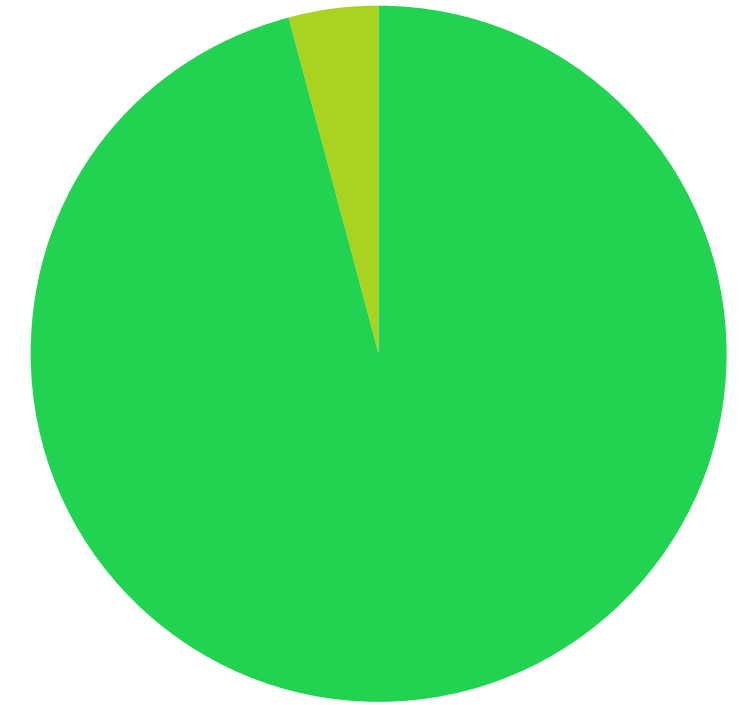
MEASURE	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	TARGET
Satisfaction with economic development activities	This measure is from a random survey of residents where they are asked to rate their satisfaction with Council's efforts in encouraging business and industry on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = low satisfaction and 5 = high satisfaction.	>3
Engagement with business community	This measure is the number of unique visitors on the Advance Cessnock City website (sourced from the website analytics). This is a measure of engagement with the local business community.	19,000
Engagement with potential tourists	This measure is the number of unique visitors on the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre website (sourced from the website analytics). This is a measure of engagement with tourists/potential tourists to the area.	>350,000
Visits to Hunter Valley Visitor Centre	This measure is the number of visitors to the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre (sourced from the counters at the entrance to the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre). This is a measure of in-bound tourism to the area.	>100,000



# Highlights

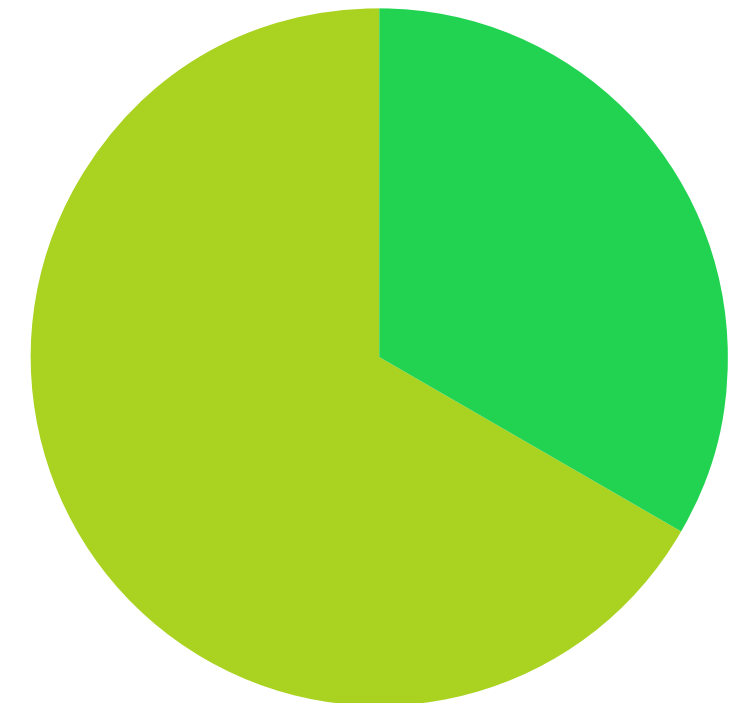
## Actions

Total **24**  
 Complete **23**  
 In Progress **1**



## Projects

Total **3**  
 Complete **1**  
 In Progress **2**





# HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY

## Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre Park

**\$602,421** Resources for  
Regions Program



## Advance Greater Cessnock website



**6,096** users for the Advance  
Greater Cessnock website

**1,535,768** impressions

**9,884** clicks to website

**0.61%** click through rate

## Wine Country Program

**\$150,000** Jobs Shuttle to  
Wine Country Program



## Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre

**\$170,000** in sales

**5,273** transactions made  
instore and online



## Facebook

**1,400** new Followers on  
the @advancecessnock  
Facebook Page



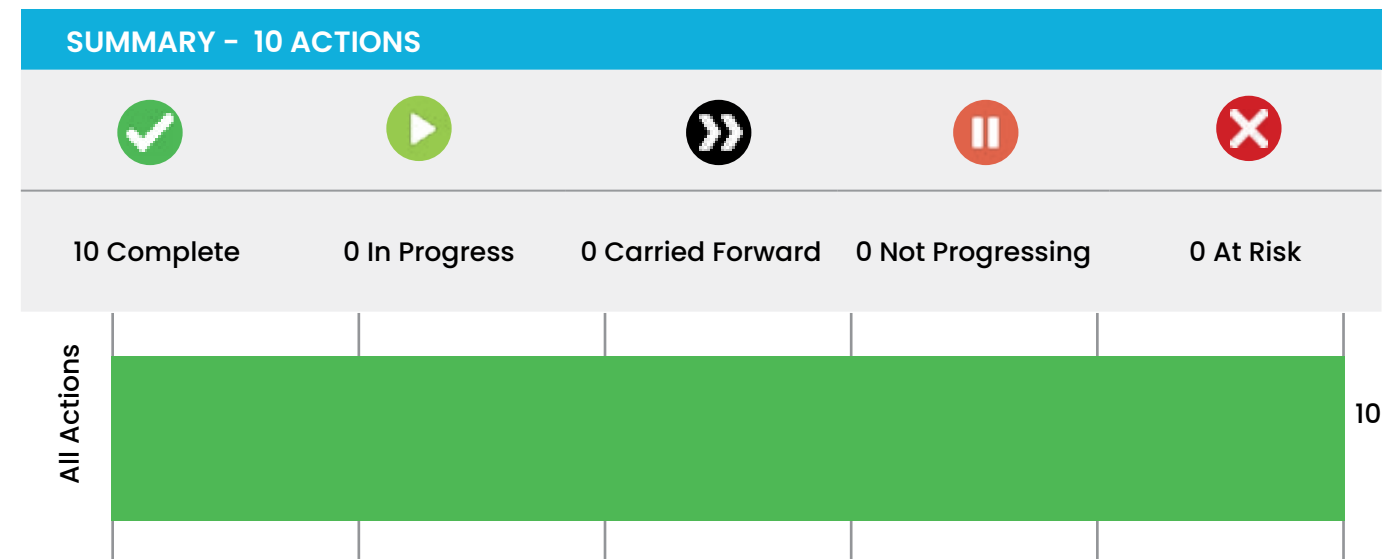


# Operational Plan performance

## Objective 2.1 Diversifying and growing our economy

### Strategic direction

- Our Local Government Area is attractive to and supportive of businesses
- We have a diversity of businesses and industries across the Local Government Area
- We have adequate industrial and employment lands and thriving commercial precincts



### Support Local Economy

12 'Support Local' competitions, ads campaigns and business stories were run by Council, with \$5,500 awarded in prizes to 72 winners.

48 Support Local & Product Champion advertisements were placed in the local newspapers, on the [www.advancecessnock.com.au](http://www.advancecessnock.com.au) website and @advancecessnock social media channels

4 Investment Attractions advertisements were placed in industry publications in the areas of Manufacturing, Aviation, Agriculture and Health.

6 business networking events were held with 700 local business representatives focusing on networking, knowledge sharing, recognition and education.

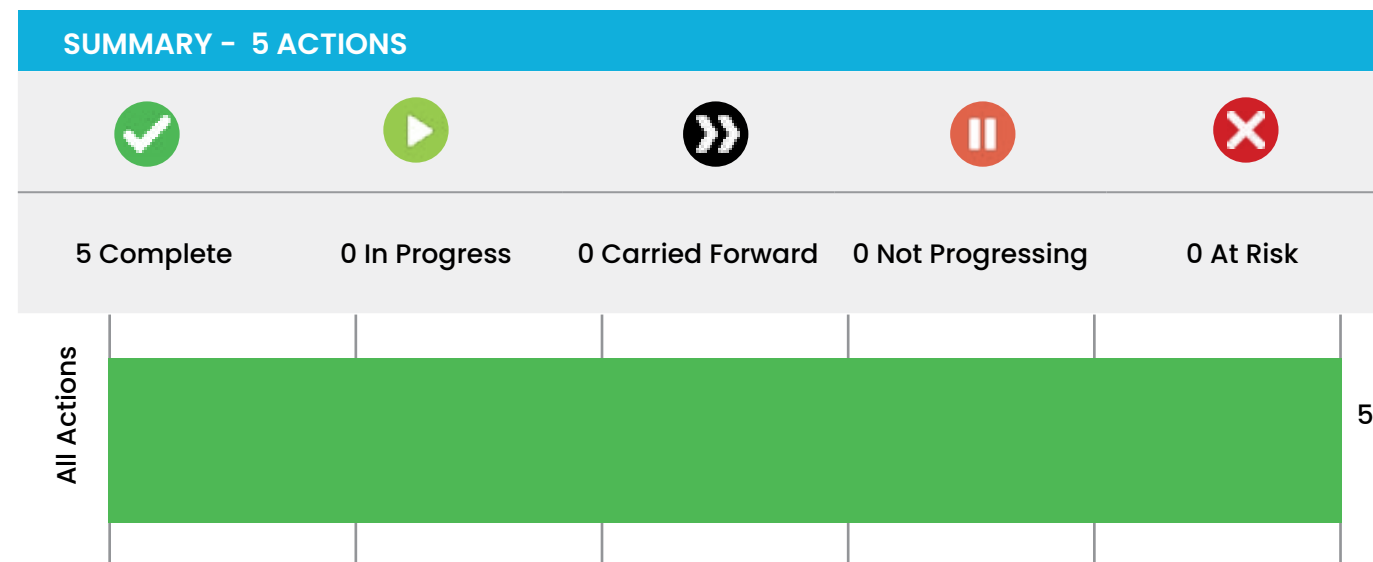
ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
2.1.1.a	Undertake research for economic analysis and reporting, prepare publications, submissions, and discussion papers and collate economic development information pertaining to major funding attraction.	✓
2.1.1.b	Complete a minimum of one grant application for the implementation of the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre (VIC) Park and Landscaping Plan. Complete the detailed design for the new shelter at the rear exit of the VIC to enable construction when funds are obtained.	✓
2.1.1.c	Create a communications toolkit and impact statement that will assist Council and Cessnock local government area business to access funds from the NSW Government Royalties for Rejuvenation Fund.	✓
2.1.1.d	Review and update the Cessnock City Council Economic Growth Agenda with current economic and social priorities for the community.	✓
2.1.2.a	Collaborate with Advance Greater Cessnock partners and the NSW Investment Concierge Service to facilitate and accommodate investment leads.	✓
2.1.2.b	Review the Investment Attraction Suite and Economic Advocacy Agenda to ensure the content, design and format align with the latest investment attraction methods. Following the review, update the documents as required.	✓
2.1.2.c	Provide an investment attraction concierge service as detailed in the Greater Cessnock Investment Prospectus to facilitate and accommodate investment leads and to assist businesses in establishing a new business.	✓
2.1.3.a	Support Advance Cessnock City partnership through providing economic development grants and sponsorship for projects which improve the business environment, build capacity and capabilities amongst businesses, stimulate investment, enterprise and job creation as well as enhance the city's image.	✓
2.1.3.b	Support and nurture existing economic activity in the Cessnock local government area by running 10 Support Local campaigns to boost local spending and increase engagement with local businesses.	✓
2.1.3.c	Using bushfire recovery funding collaborate with the business community to deliver four business events that promote networking and increase business knowledge.	✓



## Objective 2.2 Achieving more sustainable employment opportunities

### Strategic direction

- We have education and training opportunities for people of all ages and abilities
- We have a diverse range of local employment opportunities



### Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy

Council delivered the following under the **Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2036**:

- The Advance Cessnock City Website Jobs Portal to promote local employment opportunities
- The monthly Support Local campaign has been expanded
- 2 rounds of the Visitor Economy Grants and Sponsorship Program were run
- 4 Business Networking events have been held for 700 local business contacts
- \$287,582 in funding has been provided to support ten Community Event
- A Job Active Workshop was held at Mai-Wel on 6 October 2022 and 8 June 2023

### Youth Driver Training Program

Council delivered the following under the **Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2036**:

In partnership with Youth Express 791 hours of paid driving lessons were delivered under the Resources for Regions Grant Funding. The program provided assistance to 157 disadvantaged youth seeking their provisional drivers licence.

ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
2.2.1.a	Provide monthly Advance Greater Cessnock business news updates, provide critical and relevant information to businesses via the Advance Greater Cessnock website	✓
2.2.2.a	Use the Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2036, employment data and collaboration to support local Job Active Service Providers to improve employment and training outcomes.	✓
2.2.2.b	Deliver the Youth Driver Training Program utilising Resources for Regions Grant Funding.	✓
2.2.2.c	Communicate training and skill development opportunities to the community via the Advance Greater Cessnock website, Advance Greater Cessnock Business eNews Letter and other available media channels.	✓
2.2.3.a	Continue to implement the graduate, trainee and apprenticeship framework.	✓

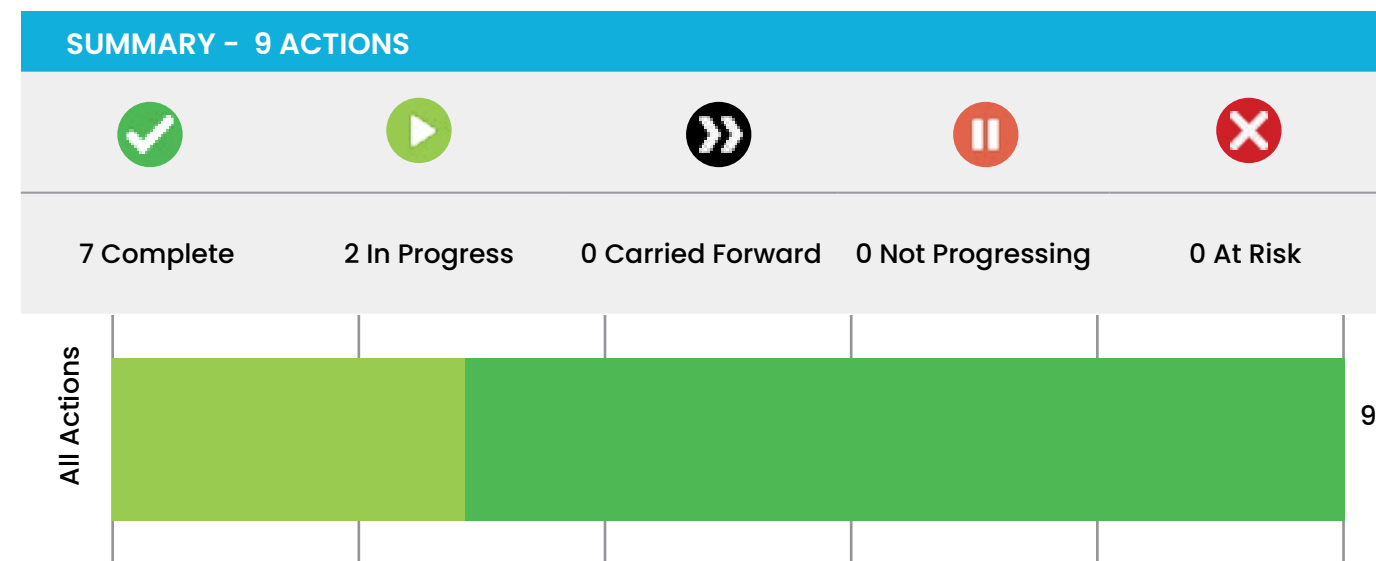




## Objective 2.3 Increasing tourism opportunities and visitation in the area

### Strategic direction

- We have a range of diverse visitor experiences across the entire Local Government Area
- Our Local Government Area is attractive to visitors



## Hunter Valley Visitors Information Centre

The Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre and Hunter Valley Wine and Tourist Association provided services to 300 members.

The Centre received successful accreditation is providing visitor services in accordance with accreditation standards for 364 days a year.

717 tour and accommodation bookings were made via the Visitor Information Centre and winecountry.com.au website valuing \$285,000. A total of 414 products were available for booking from 89 tourism and accommodation businesses.

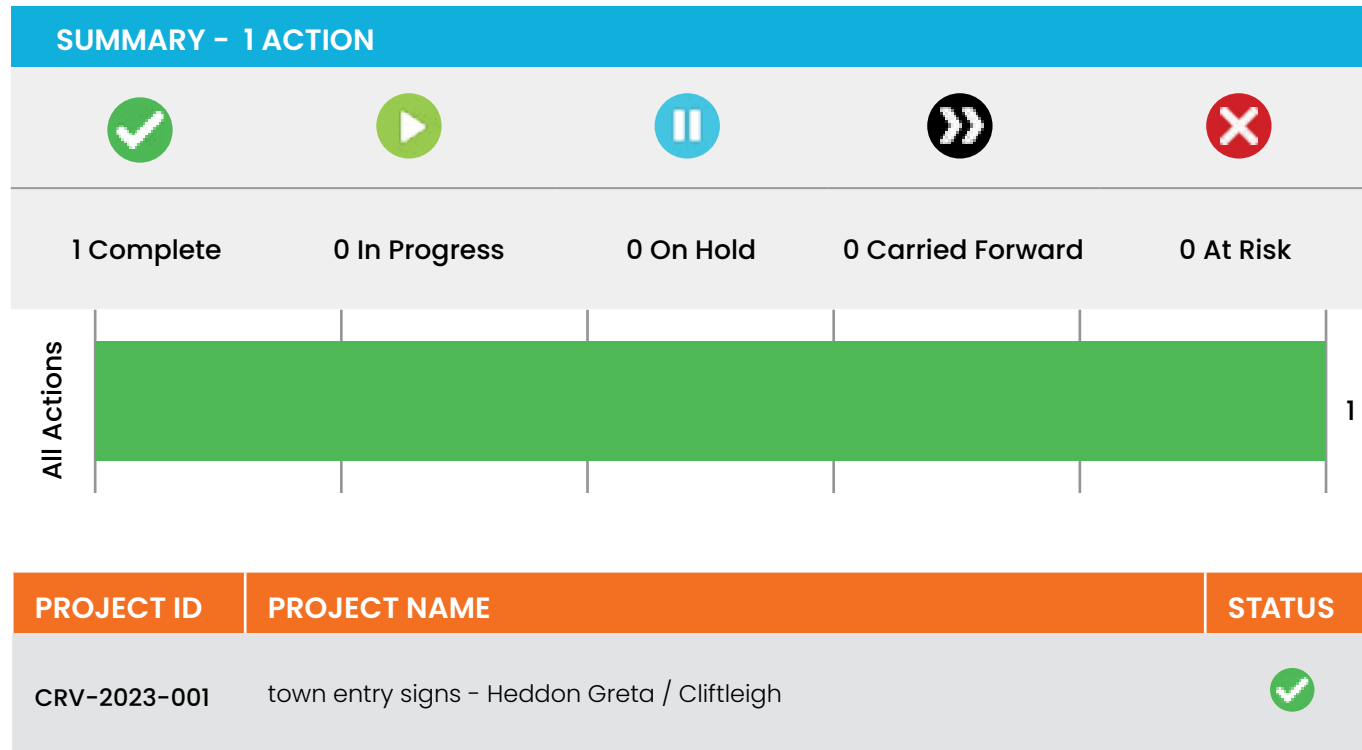
The Gift Shop offered 874 products offered from 64 predominantly local suppliers.

ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
2.3.1.a	Deliver the Cessnock City Council related actions generated from the Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Alliance.	✓
2.3.1.b	Provide a joint tourism service with Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association that provides destination marketing and in destination tourism services for the benefit of regional tourism.	✓
2.3.1.c	Deliver the priority actions from the Hunter Valley Destination Management Plan using budgeted resources.	✓
2.3.1.d	Maintain and grow Council's tourism and business image library to allow for effective promotion of tourism products and business offerings.	✓
2.3.2.a	Provide quality visitor services to Level 1 Accreditation standards for 264 days a year.	✓
2.3.2.b	Promote and sell Hunter Valley products through the Visitor Information Centre Gift Shop.	✓
2.3.2.c	Promote and sell Hunter Valley experiences through the Visitor Information Centre booking system.	✓
2.3.4.a	Continue implementation of the Hunter Valley Wine Country Signage Strategy subject to grant funding being received.	▶
2.3.4.b	Prepare a methodology to repeal the existing Vineyard Mapping System and engage the community.	✓

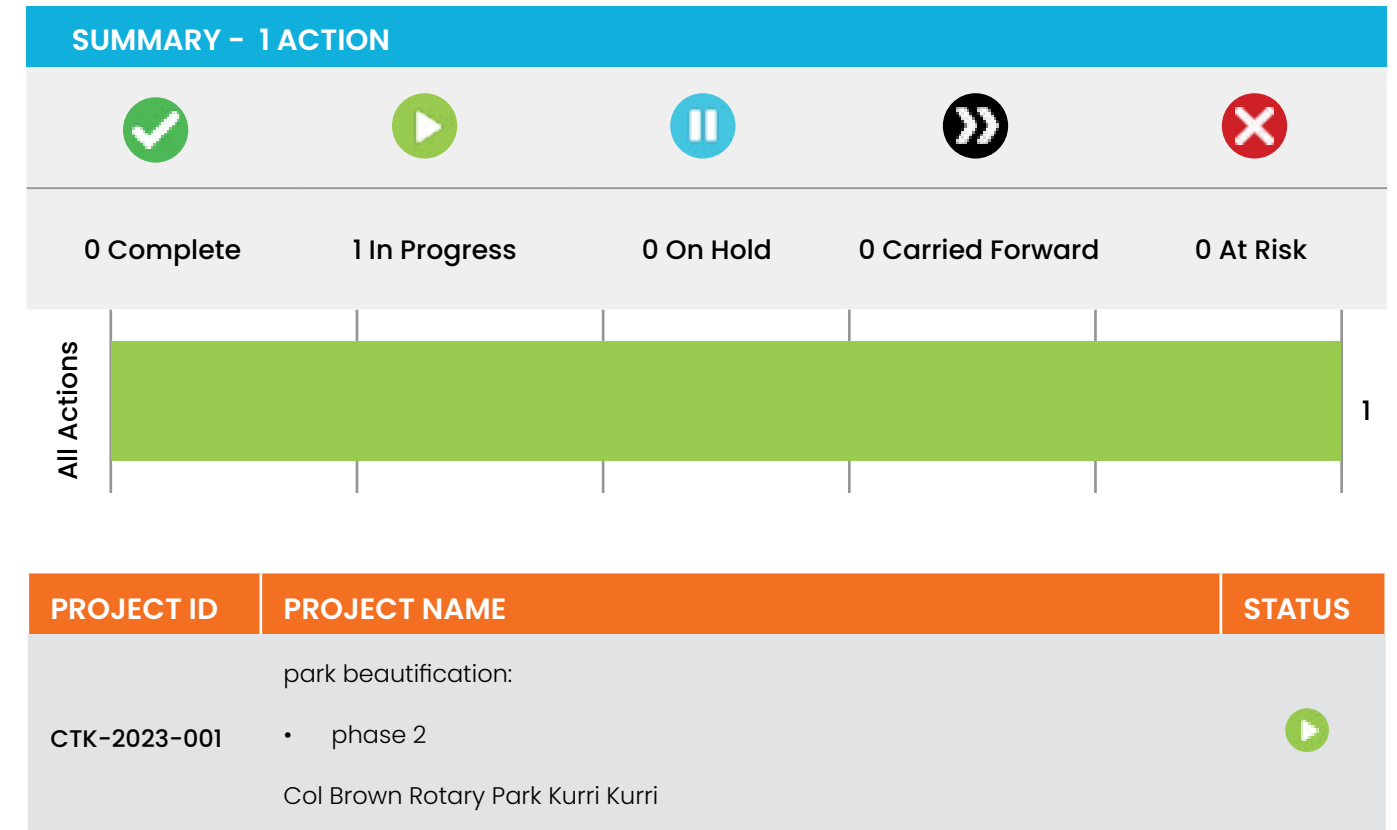


## Captial Works Program

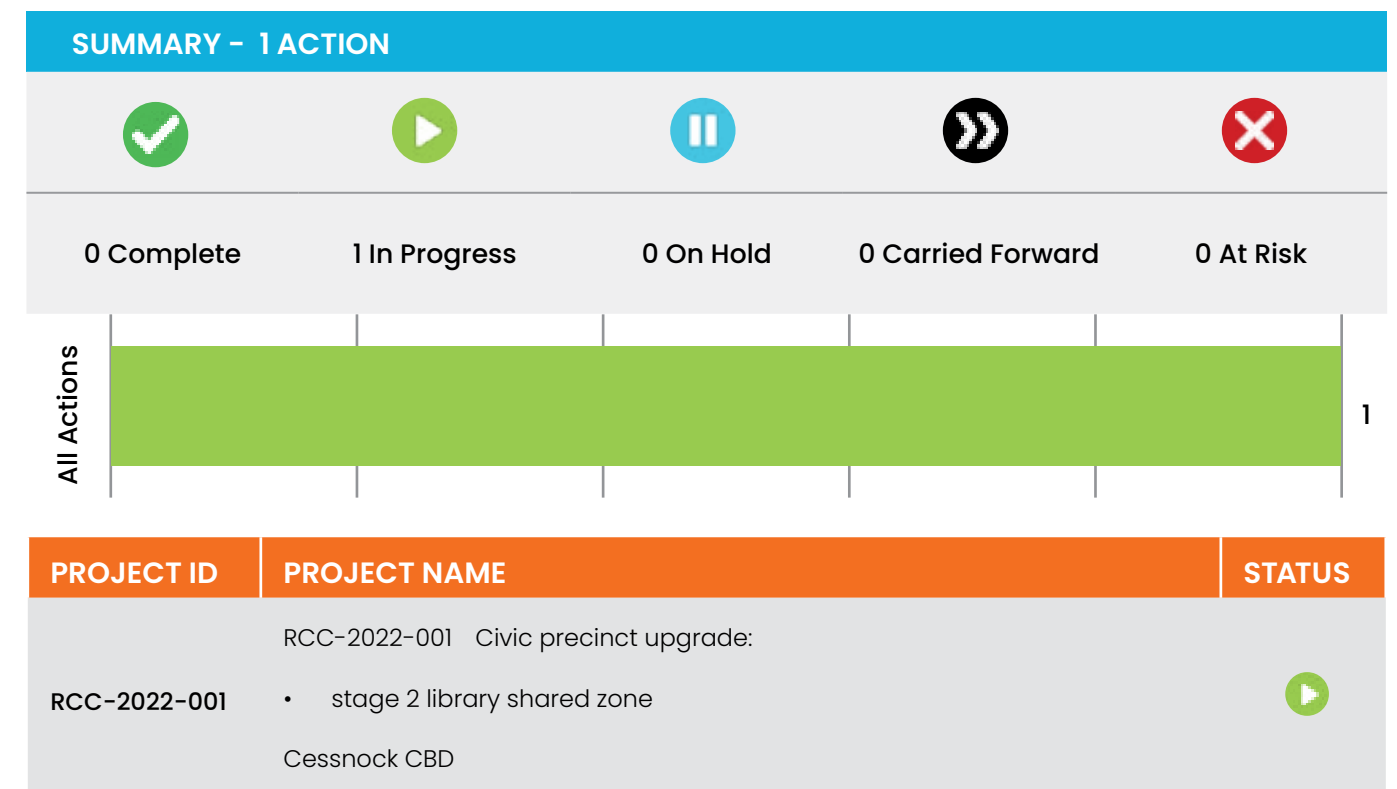
### Signage / Vineyard Roads Program (CRV)



## Kurri Kurri Town Centre Program (CTK)



## Cessnock Civic Precinct Revitalisation Program (RCC)





# A sustainable and healthy environment



- 3.1 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and the rural character of the area
- 3.2 Better utilisation of existing open space
- 3.3 Better waste management and recycling

## 3 A sustainable and healthy environment

This desired outcome focuses on the conservation and preservation of the natural environment whilst balancing development and acting on climate change.

It supports our aspiration to achieve a sustainable, resilient, and healthy community and environment.

Council has undertaken the following services to achieve the objectives established in the Community Strategy Plan, **Cessnock 2036**:

### Objective 3.1 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and the rural character of the area

#### Strategic Directions

- We act on climate change and build disaster resilience
- Our area's rural character and heritage is protected
- Our environmental amenity is protected and enhanced
- Our waterways and catchments are maintained and enhanced
- We act to protect our unique biodiversity and natural resources

### Objective 3.2 Better utilisation of existing open space

#### Strategic Directions

- Our open spaces are distributed where people live
- We have green corridors connecting our open space areas
- Our open spaces have suitable facilities, infrastructure, and plenty of shade

### Objective 3.3 Increasing tourism opportunities and visitation in the area

#### Strategic Directions

- We divert more of our waste for recycling or re-processing
- We promote waste avoidance
- We create value from waste





# Measures

## How we will measure our progress

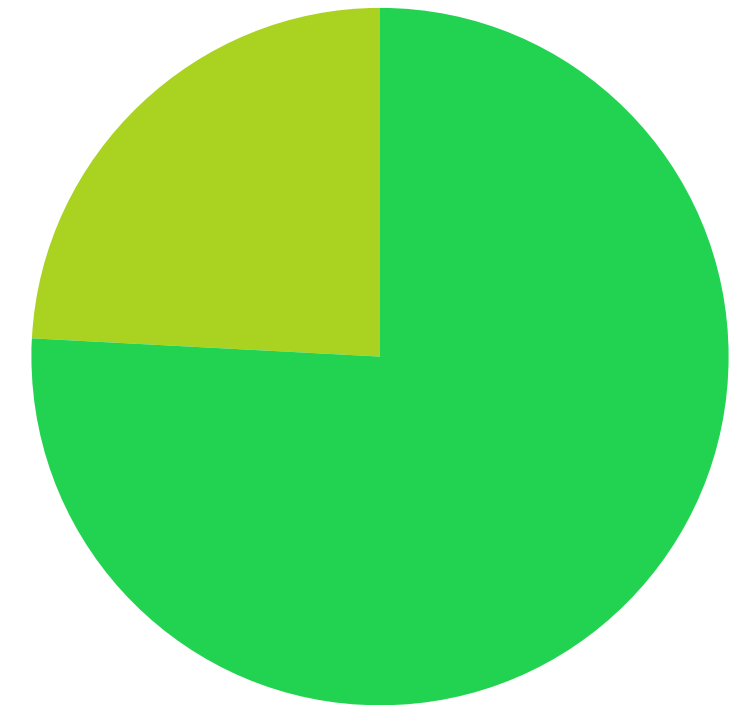
The following targets are adopted as they are measurable (sourced from the ABS Census, government agencies, Council operational data and community research) as well as being generally aligned with the desired outcomes of the **Community Strategic Plan, Cessnock 2027**.

While Council is not wholly responsible for the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan objectives, Council has a custodial role to examine the progress that has been made towards the achievement.

MEASURE	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	TARGET
<b>Biodiversity, sustainability and natural resource matters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This measure is the number of people engaged in biodiversity, sustainability and natural resource workshops, presentations and consultation.</li> <li>The number of people attending workshops, presentations and consultations.</li> </ul>	1,000
<b>Biodiversity, sustainability and natural resource matters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the measure of decreased energy consumption in council properties.</li> <li>The number of megawatt hours used.</li> </ul>	Decrease
<b>Environmental health and protection inspections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This measure is the number of on-site sewage management systems inspections carried out divided by the programmed number of inspections in line with Council's On-Site Sewage Management System Strategy.</li> <li>This is a measure of Council's contribution to the health of the local environment.</li> </ul>	>80%
<b>Completion of Capital Works Program - Recreation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This measure is the number of completed projects divided by the total number of projects of the current adopted Recreation &amp; Buildings Capital Works Program.</li> </ul>	>85%
<b>Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a measure of the number of tonnes recycled and re-processed via the kerbside recycling and organics collection service. This measure is sourced from Hunter Resource Recovery and Australian Native Landscapes service data.</li> </ul>	11,300t
<b>Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a measure of the number of domestic waste collection services provided by Council. This data is sourced from the annual rates data.</li> </ul>	Increase
<b>Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a measure of the diversion of problem waste from landfill. The number of tonnes of problem waste collected at Cessnock Community Recycling Centre. This data is sourced from the EPA and Toxfree service data.</li> </ul>	Increase
<b>Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a measure of the diversion of waste from landfill. The overall percentage diversion of waste from landfill. This data is sourced from service contractors and weigh bridge data.</li> </ul>	Increase
<b>Waste &amp; Recycling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a measure of increased Resource Recovery at Cessnock Waste Management Centre. The number of tonnes recycled and re-processed from Cessnock Waste Management Centre. This data is sourced from weigh bridge data.</li> </ul>	Increase

MEASURE	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	TARGET
<b>Illegal Dumping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is a measure of community engagement reporting illegal dumping. This is a measure of illegal dumping sites reported. This data is sourced from RID online entries.</li> </ul>	Increase

## Highlights



## Actions

Total **46**

Complete **35**

In Progress **11**

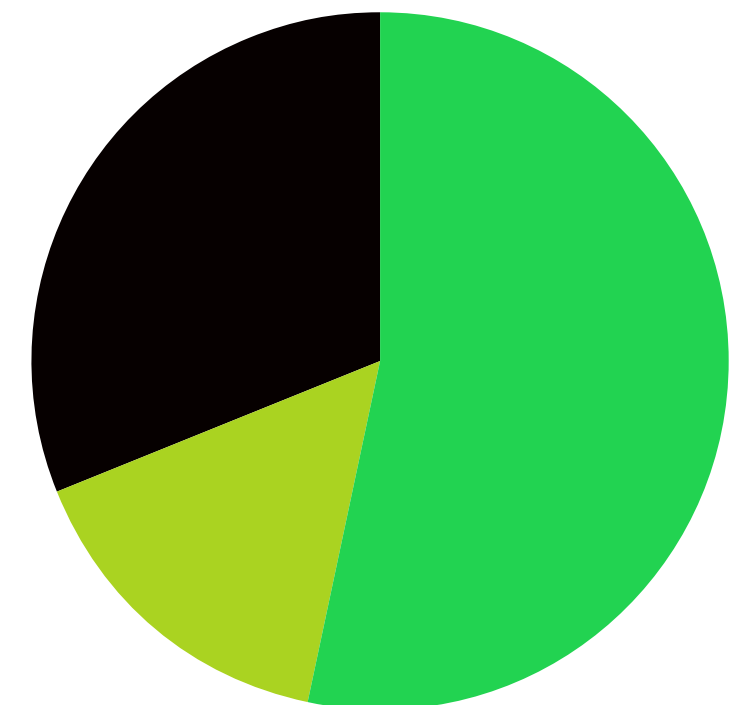
## Projects

Total **71**

Complete **38**

In Progress **11**

Carry Forward **22**





# HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY

277.48ha  
of open  
space



24  
public  
toilets



14  
BBQ  
facilities



3485.97  
tonnes  
of kerbside  
recycling  
collected



6611.19 tonnes  
of kerbside garden  
organics collected  
and reprocessed



160 tonnes  
of problem waste  
diverted from landfill  
at the Community  
Recycling Centre



14,000  
tonnes diverted  
from landfill at the  
Cessnock Waste  
Management Centre





# Operational Plan performance

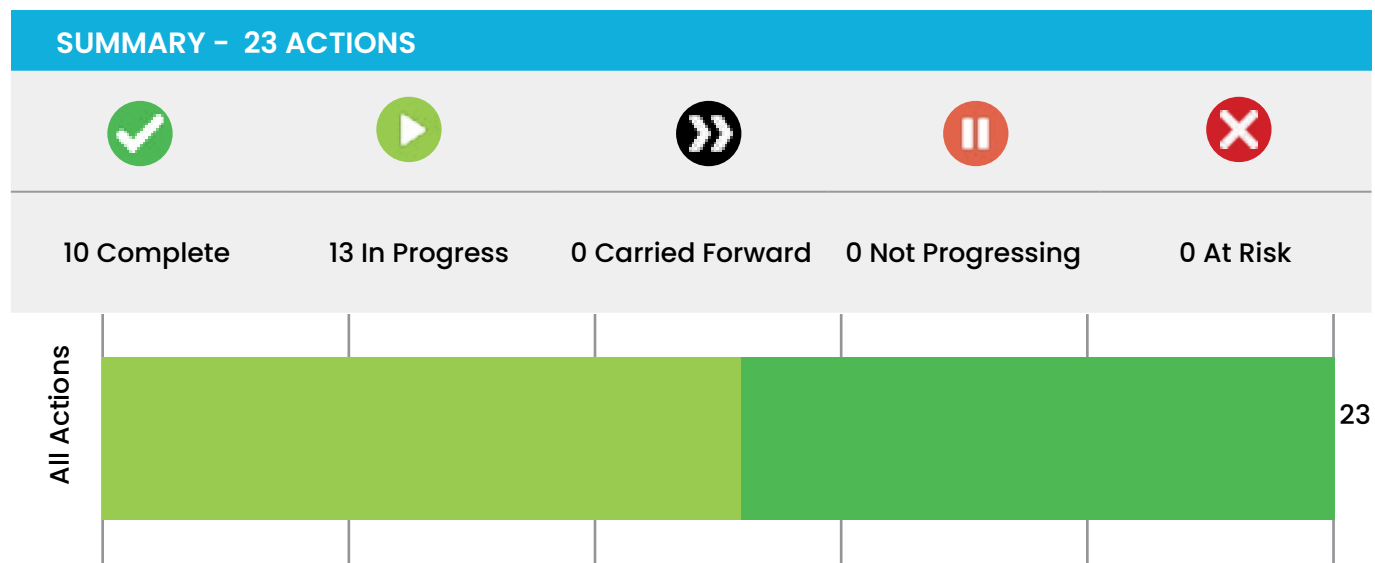
## A sustainable and prosperous economy

*This desired outcome focuses on the conservation and preservation of the natural environment whilst balancing the impact of development to ensure a sustainable and healthy community.*

### Objective 3.1 Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and the rural character of the area

#### Strategic direction

- We act on climate change and build disaster resilience
- Our area’s rural character and heritage is protected
- Our environmental amenity is protected and enhanced
- Our waterways and catchments are maintained and enhanced
- We act to protect our unique biodiversity and natural resources



## Revolving Energy Fund

This year, council invested into solar panel installation on the Cessnock Performance Arts Centre and Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre. Council worked with the Hunter Joint Organisation on a regional electric vehicle recharging station strategy. This year, the energy efficiency technologies implemented by council has resulted in a 22% reduction in energy use when calculated against the 2022-23 baseline.



## Environmental Education

Over the past 12 months, council has continued to work with partner organisations in the Hunter Woodland Birds Working Group to enhance and support biodiversity education in the local area. Other events promoted this year included the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. Members of the local community contributed to identifying local native bird species such as the rainbow lorikeet, cockatoos, kookaburras, galahs and magpies.

Council also facilitated a number of community engagement initiatives aimed as increasing the awareness and importance of protecting our local environment. Initiatives included Tree Day in March where over 350 native grasses and 200 shrubs were planted by approximately 180 community volunteers, reducing food and clothing waste and promotion of council’s Community Recycling Centre or CRC and the ‘Less is More’ community event which focused on reduced food waste, food preservation as well as clothing recycling, swaps, repairs and book and toy swaps.”





ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
3.1.1.a	Environmental Lands Study Stage 2- Implementation of land zoning mapping changes	▶
3.1.1.b	Continue review of Cessnock LEP 2011.	▶
3.1.1.c	Continue review of the Cessnock DCP 2010 chapters.	▶
3.1.2.a	Great North Road Conservation Management Plan	✓
3.1.3.a	Finalise Vineyards District Local Character Statement and Concurrent LEP Amendment.	✓
3.1.4.a	Implement biodiversity education programs	✓
3.1.4.b	Implement the Cessnock City Council Tree Strategy.	✓
3.1.4.c	Update standard conditions of development consent and roadside drainage elements in Engineering Requirements for Development.	▶
3.1.5.a	Continue to work on energy efficiency of Council facilities under the Revolving Energy Fund.	✓
3.1.5.b	Facilitate Council's Floodplain Management Committee.	▶
3.1.5.c	Implement high priority projects from the Greta/Anvil Creek Flood Study including investigation of flood mitigation works.	✓
3.1.5.d	Continue the review of the Infrastructure Plan to suit planned expansion of new infrastructure for future development in collaboration with Strategic Planning.	▶
3.1.5.e	Seek funding for delivery of Floodplain Management Program	✓
3.1.5.f	Investigate and design high priority works identified in the Stormwater, Waterway and Floodplain Strategy.	✓
3.1.5.g	Construction works not commenced, detention basin does not currently exist.	▶
3.1.6.a	Continue former waste sites contaminated land program to determine Councils remediation strategy with key stakeholders including risk and financial impacts.	▶
3.1.6.b	Contribute to assessing the flood impacts of development.	✓
3.1.6.c	Raise community awareness about the implications of developing flood impacted land through the availability of information on Council's website and Planning Certificates.	✓
3.1.7.a	Inspect commercial and residential on-site sewerage management systems in accordance with risk-based priority routine inspection program.	✓
3.1.7.b	Conduct routine inspection of all food and regulated premises, including public pools and skin penetration premises in accordance with the NSW Food Authority Partnership and relevant legislative requirements.	✓
3.1.7.c	Implementation of of Council's invasive weed species management program including the Regional Weeds Action Plan	✓
3.1.7.d	Continue community engagement and education relating to environmental initiatives.	✓
3.1.7.e	Support environment and sustainability community groups within the LGA to implement awareness and on-ground projects.	✓

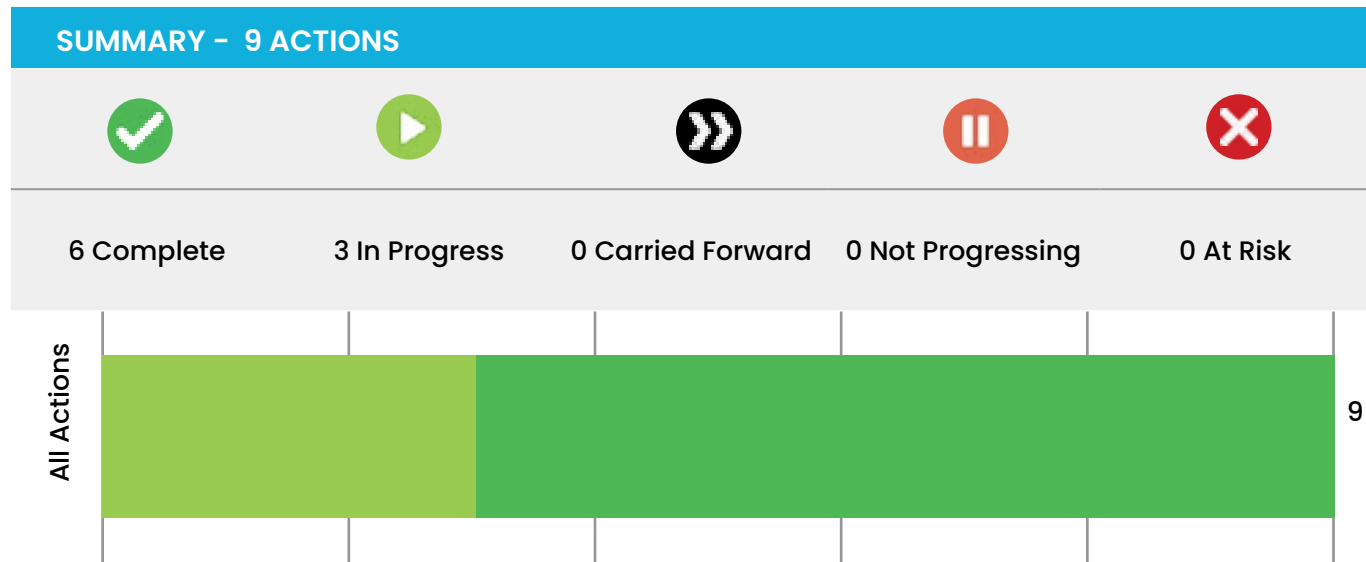




## Objective 3.2 Better utilisation of existing open space

### Strategic direction

- Our open spaces are distributed where people live
- We have green corridors connecting our open space areas
- Our open spaces have suitable facilities, infrastructure, and plenty of shade



## Off Leash Dog Exercise Area Strategy

The upgrade of the existing off leash dog exercise area at Manning Park was completed. Construction works commenced on upgrading the existing off leash exercise area at Greta Central Oval including fencing, installation of agility equipment, landscaping and supporting infrastructure.



## Recreation & Community Facilities

Works undertaken include:

### Baddeley Park

- installation of new floodlighting
- a new BBQ shelter
- car park lighting

### Carmichael Park

- installation of new floodlights
- a 4 bay cricket practice net facility
- a new BMX facility
- commencement of a multipurpose court/hit up wall

### Miller Park

- 2 new netball and tennis courts have been installed

### Greta Central Oval

- upgrades to the existing off leash area is near completion
- Plans for new amenity buildings for the rugby league and horse sports have been finalised

Maybury Peace Park officially re-opened and included a new fitness loop at Chinaman's Hollow incorporating pathways, outdoor fitness equipment and landscaping.



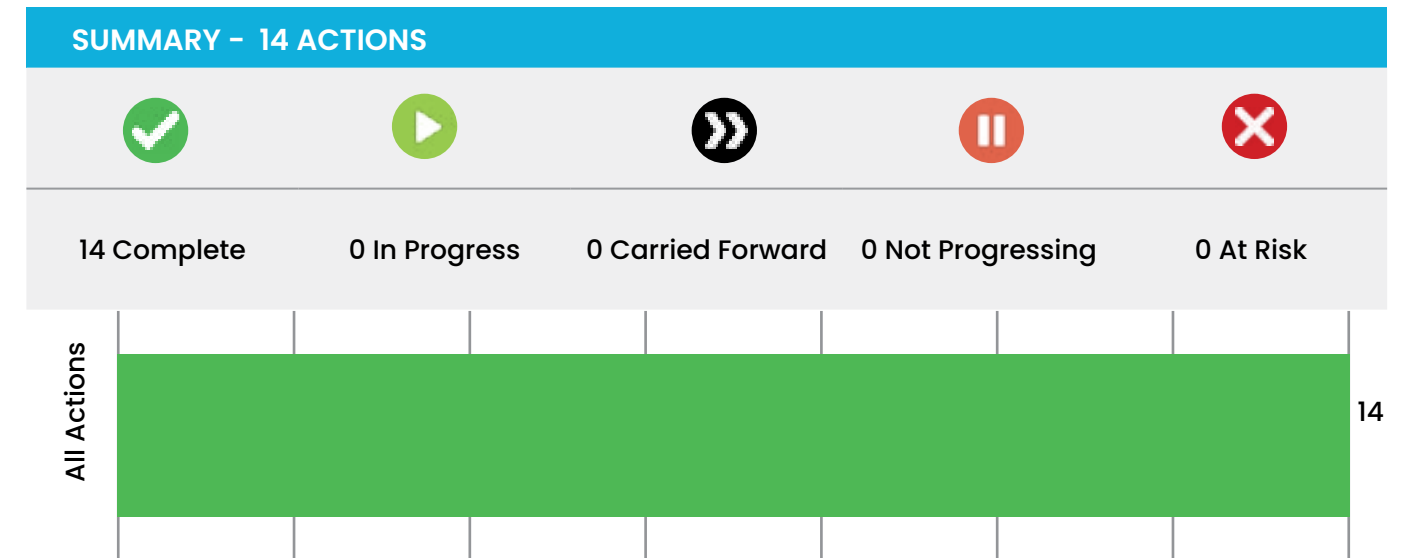


ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
3.2.1.a	continue implementation of the recommendations from the Recreation & Open Space Strategic Plan 2019	✓
3.2.1.b	Implement Off Leash Dog Exercise Area Strategy	✓
3.2.1.c	Progress Civic Park project to consolidate Council land and create a large development for adaptive reuse	▶
3.2.1.d	implement actions from the Public Amenities Review and Open Space Guideline	✓
3.2.2.a	Develop and update Plans of Management.	▶
3.2.3.a	Continue to implement the adopted masterplans for Council's recreation and community facilities spaces.	✓
3.2.3.b	To benefit local sporting associations and community service groups, develop and establish a procedural framework for granting long-term tenure of land and facilities designated for community use.	▶
3.2.4.a	Undertake routine maintenance in accordance with available resources and schedules.	✓
3.2.4.b	Building assets to be revalued to inform the Building Asset Management Plan	✓

## Objective 3.3 Better resource recovery and waste management

### Strategic direction

- We divert more of our waste for recycling or re-processing
- We promote waste avoidance
- We create value from waste



### Problem waste management

This year, nearly 1,900 mattresses were collected during councils free Mattress Drop Off days.

Council also added an additional 2 pharmacies to its existing extensive sharps disposal campaign providing for the community increased accessibility to sharps disposal facilities.

Other items such as household batteries and waste oil were received for free at council's Community Recycling Centre (CRC).

### Waste avoidance and reuse community engagement program

This year, council utilised the 'Less is More' initiative via a number of community engagement activities including:

- Food waste displays at the local libraries
- Low Waste Trivia dinner
- 'Together We Grow' film night

Other activities included food preservation workshops, clothing recycling, swaps, repairs and book and toy swaps.

### Adopt-a-Road Initiative

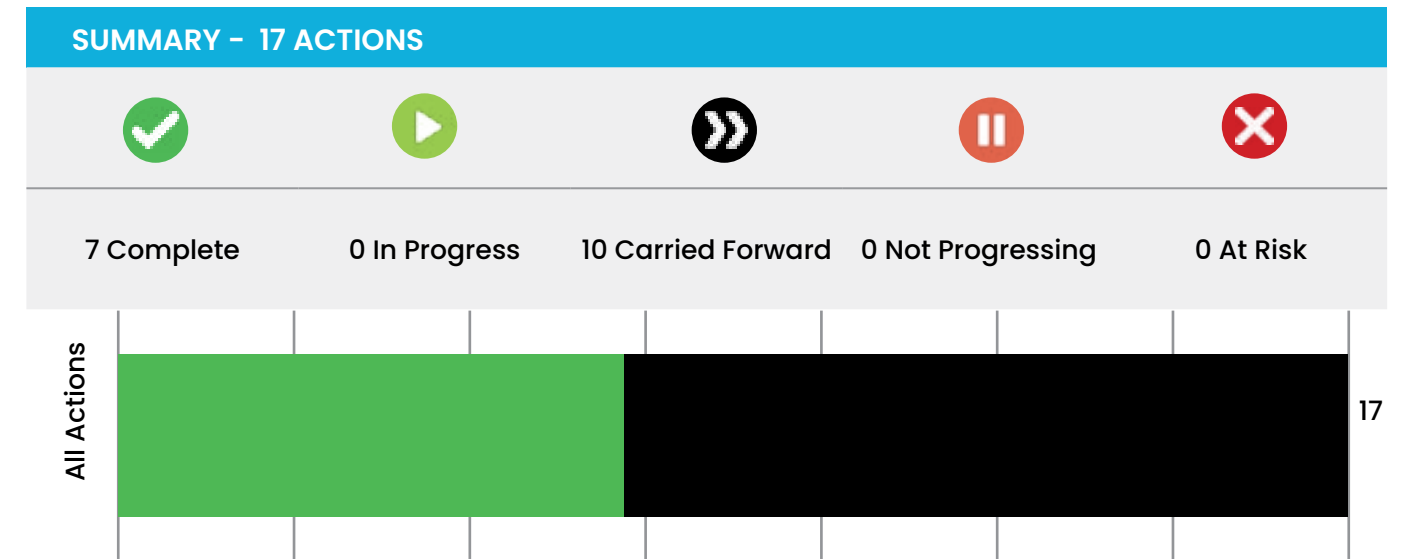
The Adopt-a Road initiative continued this year, with a number of roads being adopted by various businesses and community groups. Council facilitated the annual national Clean Up Australia Day event with approximately 14 tonnes of litter collected from 13 sites within the local government area.



ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
3.3.1.a	Design a permanent Administration and Education Centre, including staff amenities, for the waste transfer station and landfill operation.	✓
3.3.2.a	Continue management of Biodiversity Offset area for the landfill extension project.	✓
3.3.2.b	Continue preparation of landfill extension area to access operational cover material for landfill.	✓
3.3.3.a	Continue to appropriately manage problem wastes to reduce potential pollution to the environment.	✓
3.3.3.b	Develop policies and procedures to increase the efficiency of waste services.	✓
3.3.4.a	Continue to implement a waste avoidance and reuse community engagement program targeting attitudes to consumption.	✓
3.3.4.b	Develop a reuse program at the waste management centre to divert waste from landfill.	✓
3.3.4.c	Upgrade or rehabilitate Greta Transfer Station based on the results of the cost benefit analysis.	✓
3.3.4.d	Manage the organics contract and work with Solo and regional partners to deliver kerbside organics collection	✓
3.3.4.e	Work with HRR to deliver the kerbside recycling collection	✓
3.3.4.f	Operate the Cessnock Waste Management Centre in accordance with the Environment Protection Licence and relevant legislation and to encourage resource recovery.	✓
3.3.5.a	Implement Regional Illegal Dumping operation in conjunction with Hunter Joint Organisation of Councils.	✓
3.3.5.b	Undertake litter programs such as Adopt-a-Road and Clean Up Australia Day. Participate in the EPA's Litter Prevention Initiative, subject to grant funding.	✓
3.3.5.c	Undertake illegal dumping cleanups and prevention programs, subject to grant funding.	✓

## Captial Works Program

### Drainage Construction Program (CDR)

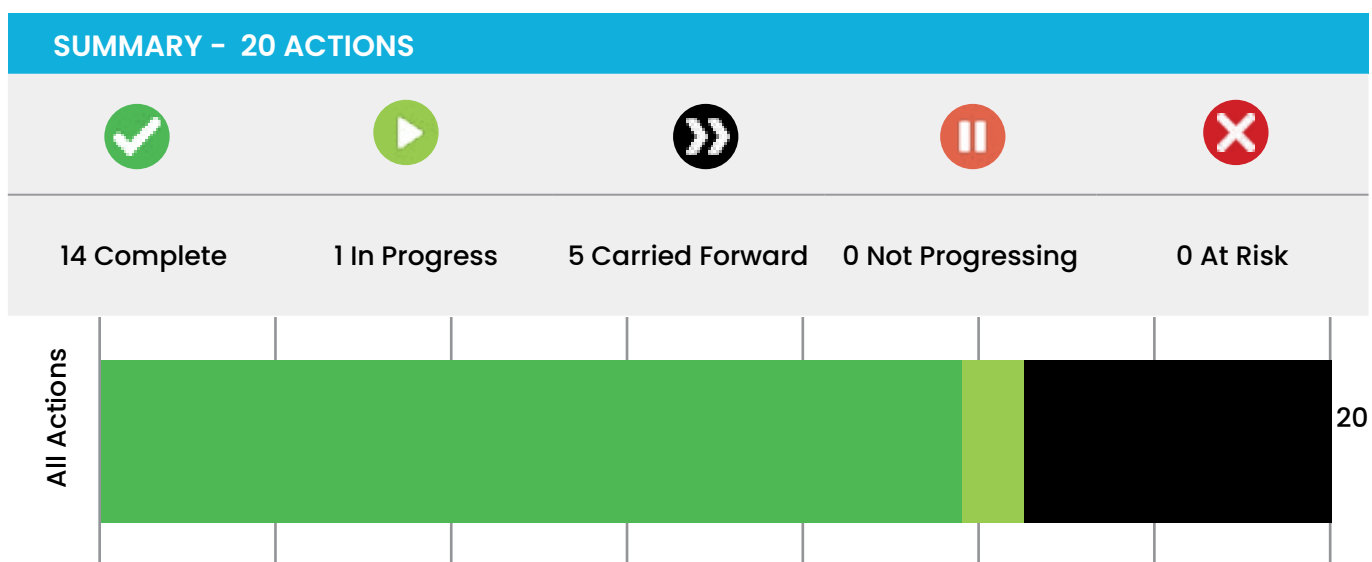


PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
CDR-2019-008	drainage upgrade: - phase 2 detailed design - phase 3 construct Kearsley Street Aberdare	✓
CDR-2020-000	Mount View Detention Basin	⏪
CDR-2020-006	upgrade drainage: - stage 1 phase 3 construction Thomas Street North Rothbury	✓
CDR-2020-007	upgrade drainage: construction - Cruickshank Street Bellbird	⏪
CDR-2021-002	upgrade trunk drainage: - stage 3 & stage 4 - phase 3 construct Whitburn Estate Greta	▶
CDR-2021-004	upgrade drainage: - stage 2 phase 1 investigate & design Coronation Street Kurri Kurri	⏪
CDR-2021-005	upgrade drainage: design - Portland Street Millfield	⏪



CDR-2021-008	upgrade drainage: design - Cessnock Road Branxton	»
CDR-2022-008	upgrade minor drainage works: - phase 1 investigate & design - phase 2 detailed design - phase 3 construct various locations	✓
CDR-2022-009	roadside drainage program - various locations	✓
CDR-2022-010	drainage asset renewal - various locations	✓
CDR-2023-001	drainage: minor investigation and works - various locations	✓
CDR-2023-010	upgrade drainage: investigation and design - Hospital Road Weston	»»
CDR-2023-011	drainage: renewal - various locations	»
CDR-2023-012	roadside drainage program - various locations	✓
CDR-2024-001	reconstruct drainage - Government Road Cessnock	»»
CDR-2024-011	upgrade drainage: investigation, design, construction - Main Road Heddon Greta	»»
CDR-2024-014	upgrade drainage: design - Coronation Street Kurri Kurri	»»

## Recreation Facilities Construction Program (CFR)

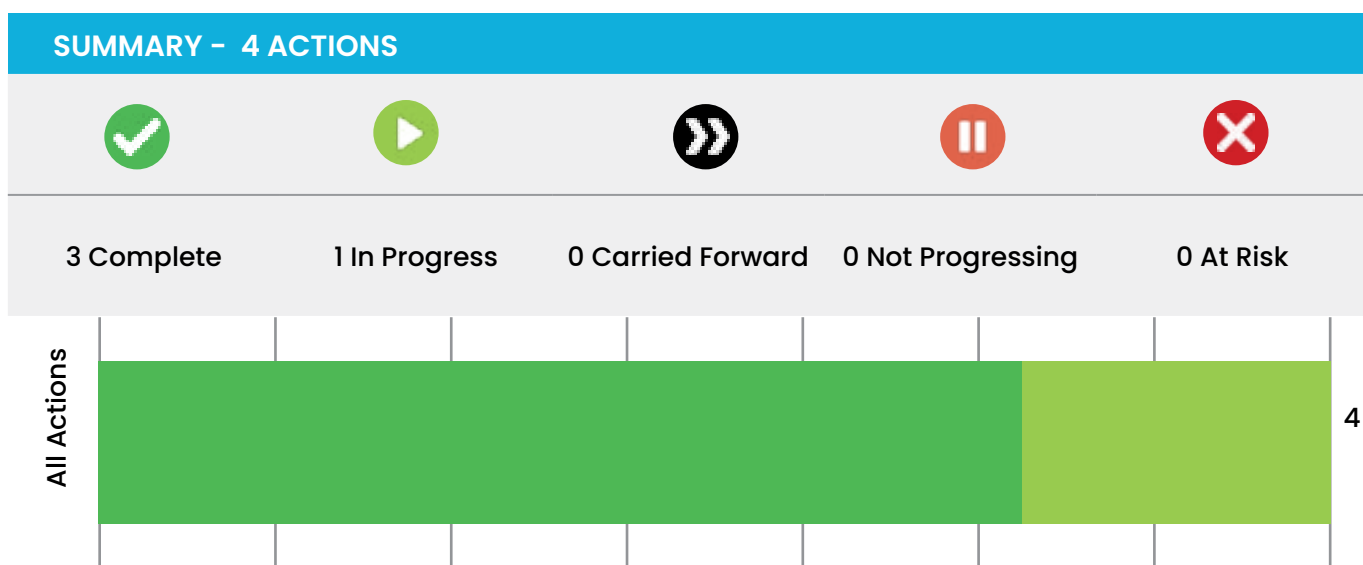


PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
CFR-2021-001	construction of retaining wall: - stage 2 East End Oval	✓
CFR-2021-004	Masterplan - Carmichael Park Bellbird	✓
CFR-2021-009	Skate park: - stage 2 construction Crawfordville Community Hall Millfield	✓
CFR-2022-003	pathway connection - Ellalong Park	✓
CFR-2022-009	netball and tennis courts - Miller Park	✓
CFR-2022-010	redevelopment (business case) - Weston Bears Park	✓
CFR-2022-012	new sporting facilities - Carmichael Park (Bellbird)	✓
CFR-2022-013	play space upgrade - Maybury Peace Park (Weston)	▶
CFR-2022-014	leash-free dog area - Manning Park (Cessnock)	✓
CFR-2022-015	floodlighting - Varty Park Weston	✓
CFR-2022-016	shade sail installation - Hedleigh Park	✓
CFR-2023-001	lighting upgrade: Strong Country Communities Fund (Round 4) - Baddeley Park (Cessnock)	✓
CFR-2023-002	skate park extension - Millfield Skate Park	✓
CFR-2023-004	playground replacement program - Macquarie Avenue / O'Neil Street / Harle Street / O'Brien Street	»»
CFR-2023-005	playground shade program - Hedleigh Park (Heddon Greta) / Mulbring / Cliftleigh	✓
CFR-2023-006	business case for netball facility - Booth Park (Kurri Kurri)	✓
CFR-2024-004	upgrade long jump - Turner Park (Aberdare)	»»
CFR-2024-005	environmental works - Greta Central Oval: Staged	»»



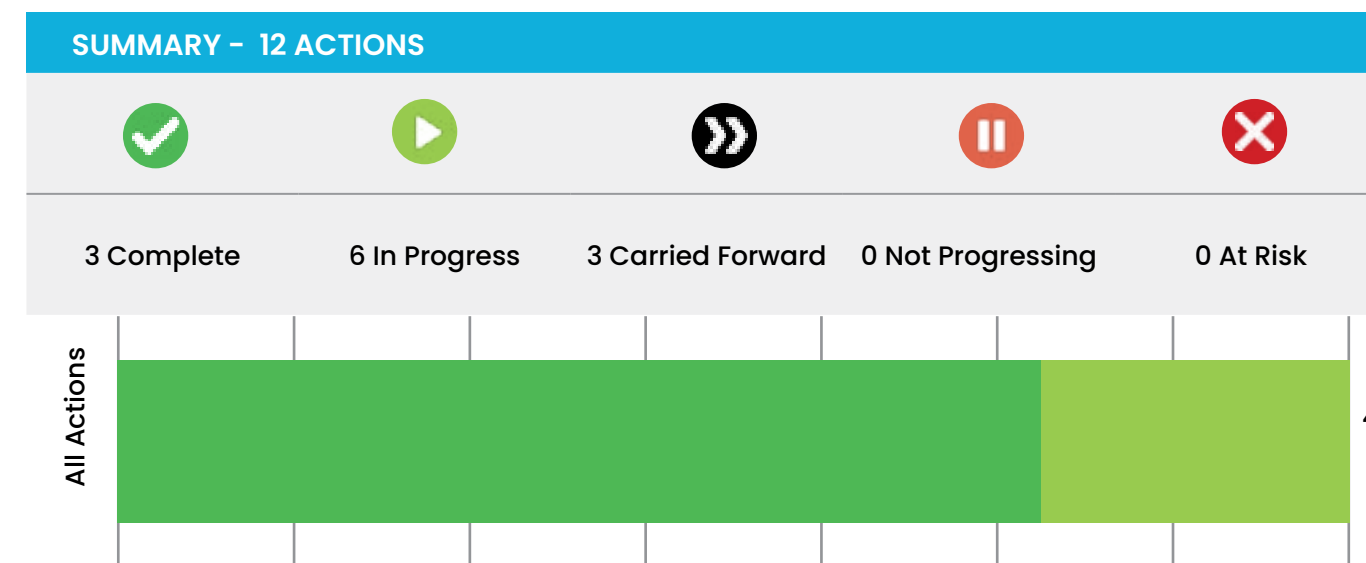
CFR-2024-008	Fitness equipment and loop: Chinamans Hollow	✓
CFR-2025-003	floodlighting - Baddeley Park (Cessnock)	»
CFR-2026-009	internal fencing: - staged Greta Central Oval	»

## Waste Facilities Construction Program



PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
CFW-2021-002	storage shed construction - Cessnock Waste Management Centre	✓
CFW-2021-004	biodiversity offset: signage and stage 2 fencing - Cessnock Waste Management Centre	✓
CFW-2021-005	stage 1 remediation - former sanitary depot Kurri Kurri	▶
CFW-2023-001	recycling pad pavement rehabilitation - Cessnock Waste facility	✓

## Floodplain Management Program (PMF)



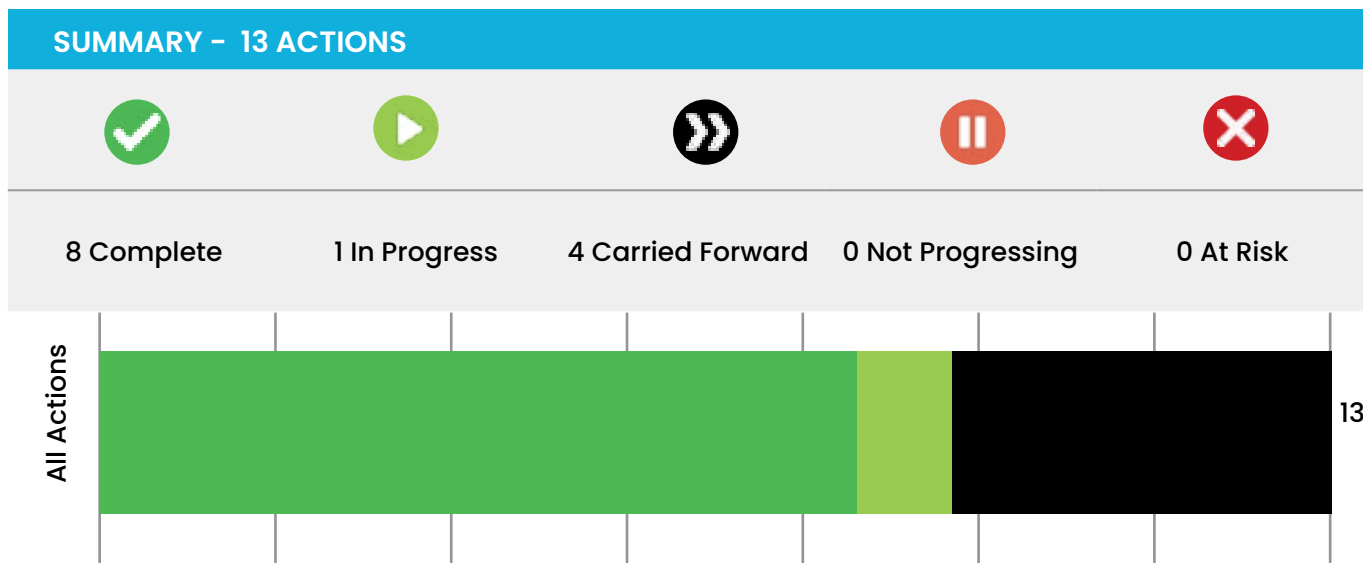
PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
PMF-2018-002	investigation bund wall - Cessnock FRMSP	▶
PMF-2021-003	detention basin improvement: Mount View	✓
PMF-2022-002	Flood mitigation: - phase 3 construct Heddon Greta	»
PMF-2022-003	restoration plan: investigation and design - Black Creek	▶
PMF-2022-004	floodplain risk management: study and plan - Greta	▶
PMF-2022-005	stage 2: flood risk management - Black Creek	▶
PMF-2022-006	flood mitigation construction - South Cessnock	▶
PMF-2022-007	flash flood warning system - Abermain and Weston	✓
PMF-2022-008	flash flood warning system - Cessnock	✓



PMF-2024-002	Urban Overland Flood Study (grant funding dependent) - LGA wide	
PMF-2024-003	diversion works (grant funding dependent) - Clift Street Heddon Greta	
PMF-2024-004	stage 1 flood study climate change update - Cessnock	

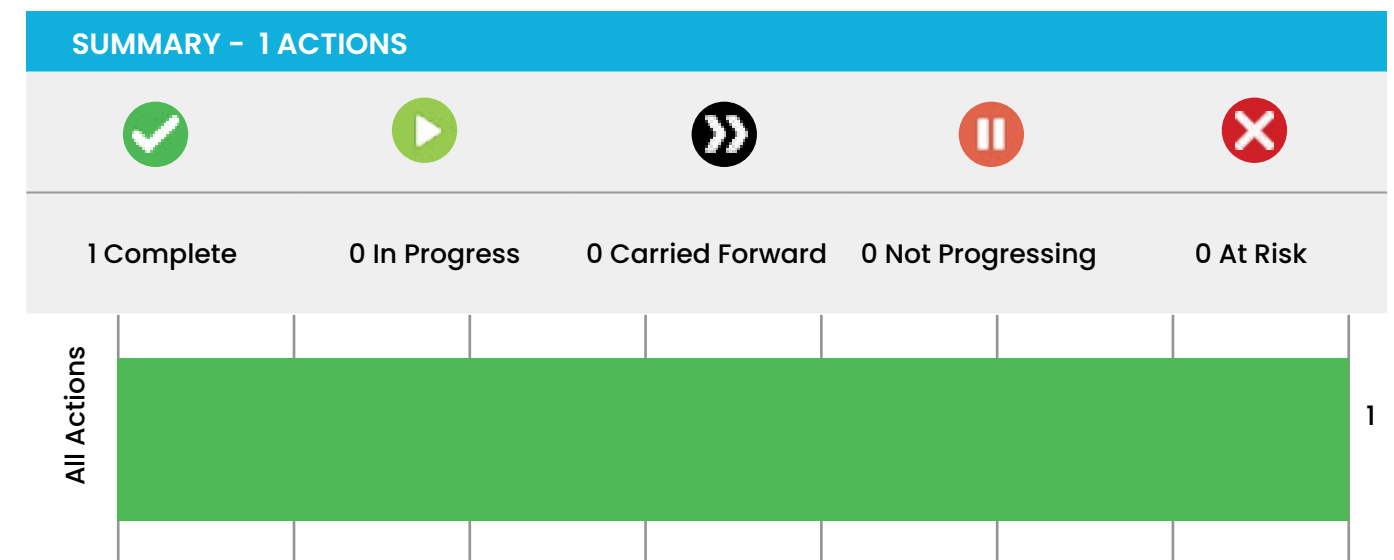
RFR-2023-005	playground edging and surface program - various playgrounds	
RFR-2023-006	parks and reserves asset renewal - various locations	
RFR-2023-007	sporting facilities: light pole and/or LED re-placement program - various sporting facilities	
RFR-2023-008	fence replacement program	
RFR-2023-009	irrigation replacement - various locations	
RFR-2024-002	skate park audit remediation - various sporting facilities	
RFR-2024-004	optimisation of open space renewal program - various parks	
RFR-2026-001	picnic shelter replacements - Birralee Park Junior Kurri Kurri	

## Recreation Facilities Renewal Program (RFR)



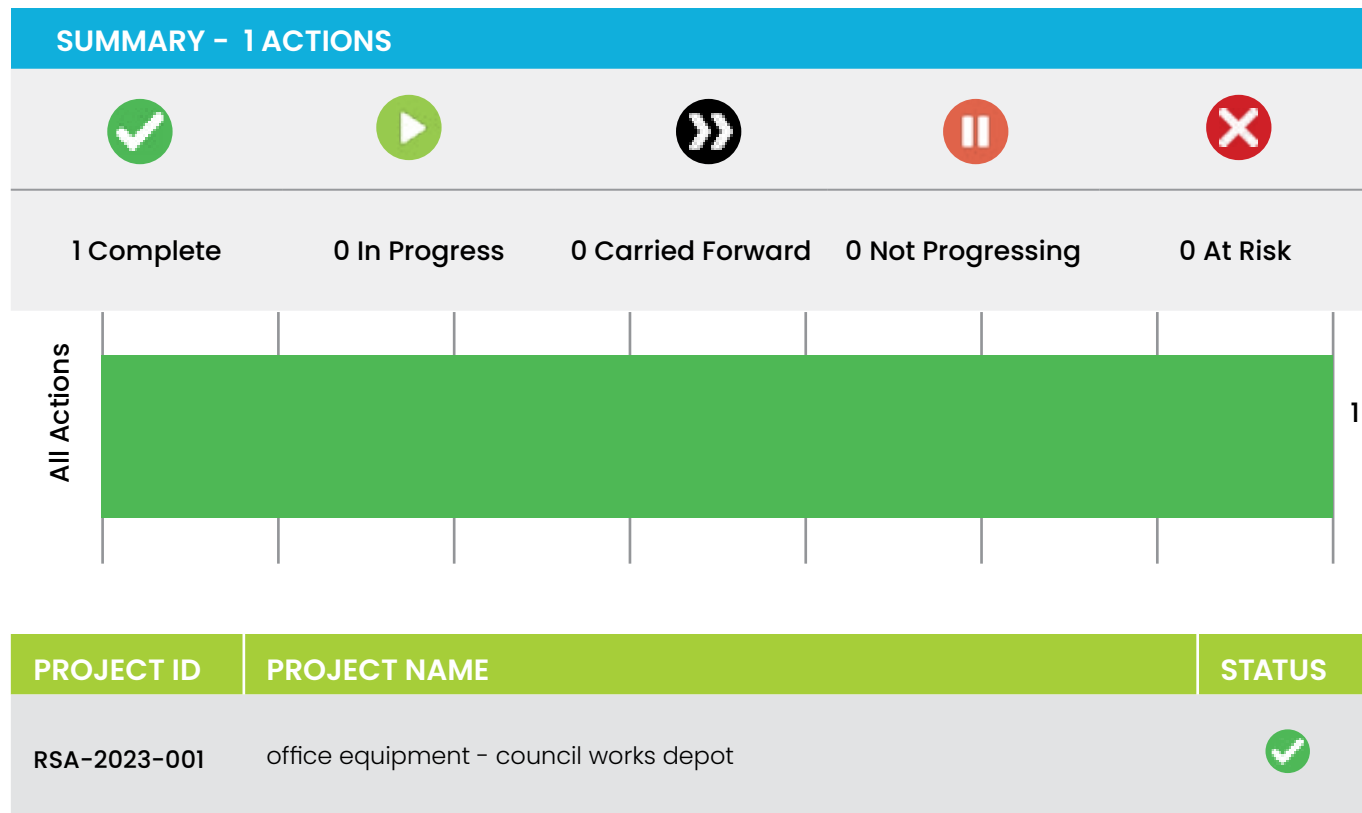
PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
RFR-2022-002	floodlight pole replacement - Greta Central Park	
RFR-2022-005	install concrete plinths / replace safety surfacing - various playgrounds	
RFR-2023-001	multipurpose courts and associated hit-up walls: repurpose - Carmichael Park Bellbird/Greta Central Oval	
RFR-2023-002	renew tennis courts - Kurri Kurri Central Oval	
RFR-2023-003	formalise access road - Mount View Park Cessnock	

## Recreation Pre-Construction Design

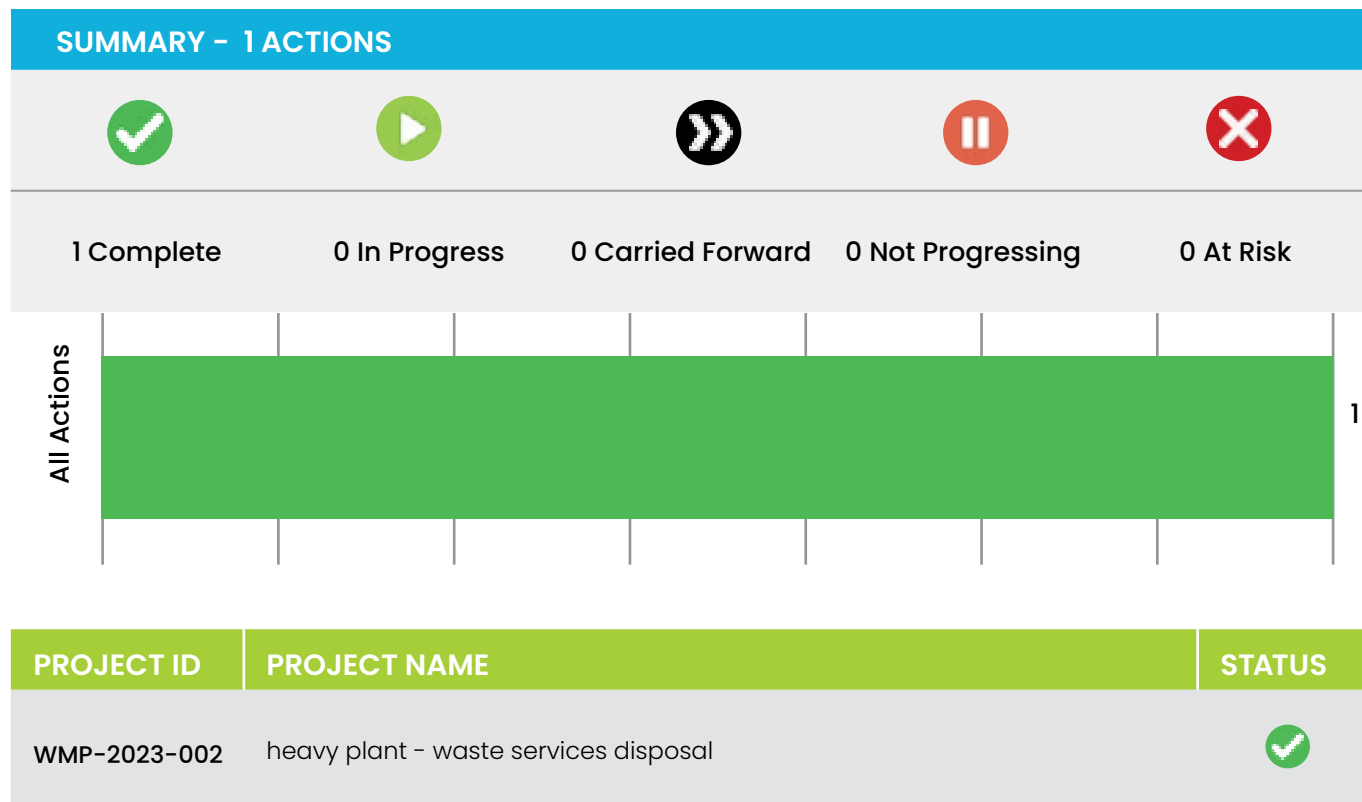


PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
RPC-2023-001	pre-construction design of recreation facilities - various locations	

## Recreation Services Administration

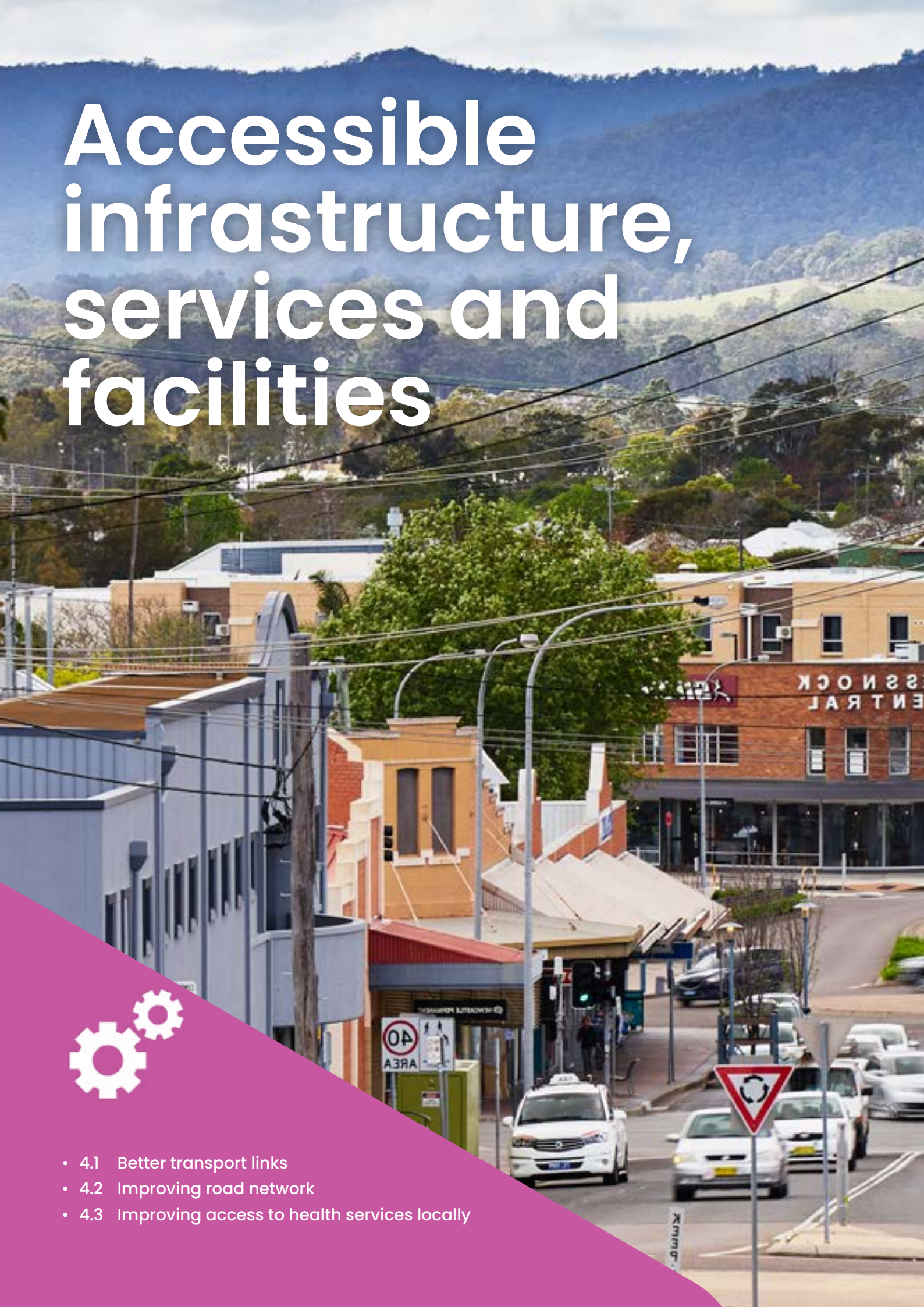


## Waste Major Plant





# Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities



- 4.1 Better transport links
- 4.2 Improving road network
- 4.3 Improving access to health services locally

## 4 Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities

This desired outcome identifies the local, state, and federal infrastructure, services and facilities needed to serve the current and future community of Cessnock whilst ensuring there is adequate access to these facilities and services. Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities.

Council has undertaken the following services to achieve the objectives established in the **Community Strategy Plan, Cessnock 2036**:

### Objective 4.1 Better transport links

#### Strategic Directions

- We have access to a range of public and community transport
- Our communities are linked by walking and bike tracks
- Our Airport acts as a key transport, emergency response and business hub
- Our transport network is integrated and supported by appropriate infrastructure

### Objective 4.2 Improving road network

#### Strategic Directions

- We have an acceptable, safe and affordable road network
- We have managed the traffic impact of the Hunter Expressway on local communities
- We have well managed traffic conditions across our suburbs

### Objective 4.3 Improving access to health services locally

#### Strategic Directions

- We have better availability of, and access to, hospitals and health services in the local government area
- We have better availability of, and access to, general practitioners and dental services in the local government area
- We have regional standard health services, facilities and health professionals





# Measures

## How we will measure our progress

The following targets are adopted as they are measurable (sourced from the ABS Census, government agencies, Council operational data and community research) as well as being generally aligned with the desired outcomes of the **Community Strategic Plan, Cessnock 2027**.

While Council is not wholly responsible for the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan objectives, Council has a custodial role to examine the progress that has been made towards the achievement.

MEASURE	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	TARGET
Asset Management Maturity	This measure is the qualitative assessment of Council's asset management maturity. The measure is assessed on a scale of basic, core and advanced. Core in 2021.	Intermediate
Completion Capital Works Program (Roads, bridges and drainage)	This measure is the number of completed projects divided by the total number of projects of the current adopted Roads, Bridges & Drainage Capital Works Program.	>85%
Asset Renewal	This measure is the three year average of asset renewal (for buildings and infrastructure) divided by depreciation, amortisation & impairment (for buildings and infrastructure).	>100%
Infrastructure Backlog	This measure is the estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory condition divided by the total written down value of infrastructure, buildings, other structures and depreciable land improvements.	<2%
Asset Maintenance	This measure is the three year average of actual asset maintenance divided by required asset maintenance.	>100%

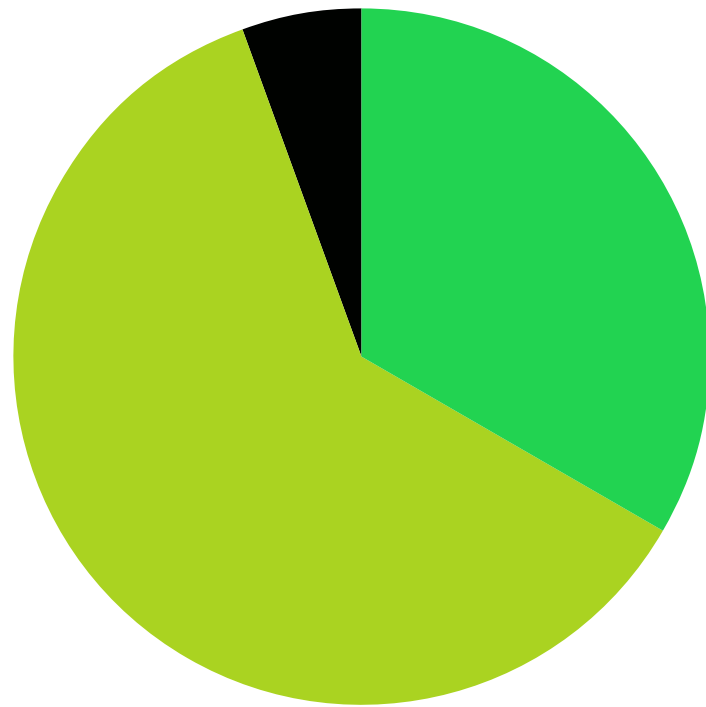




# Highlights

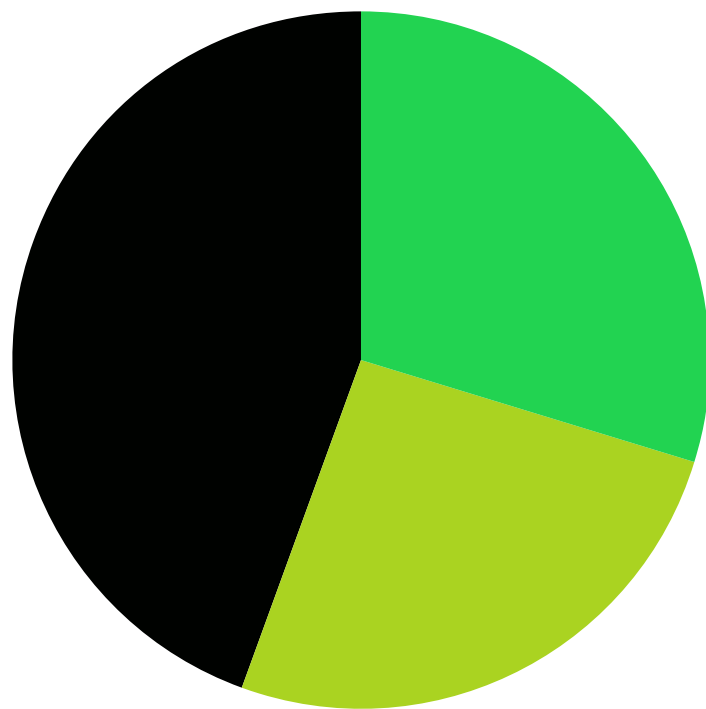
## Actions

- Total **18**
- Complete **6**
- In Progress **11**
- Carry Forward **1**



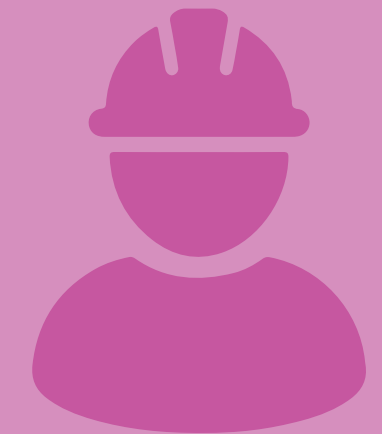
## Projects

- Total **97**
- Complete **29**
- In Progress **25**
- Carry Forward **43**



# HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY

**17,453m<sup>2</sup>**  
heavy  
patching  
completed



**\$39.8m**  
worth of  
road works

**\$49.6m**  
spent on  
capital  
works  
projects

**\$2.8m**  
invested  
in bridges



# Projects

## Oakey Creek Road Reopened to the Public

A five-month and \$2 million program of road works to enhance safety aspects of Oakey Creek Road, Pokolbin has been completed. A 1.1km section of the road has undergone extensive safety upgrades. Council partnered on this project, with Gleeson Civil Engineering to complete key safety features such as widened road shoulders, reduced batters, drainage channels, a major culvert extension, safety barriers, signage, line marking and a new wearing course. The project also received funding from the NSW State Government's Safer Roads Program.

## Yango Creek Road Bridge Replacement Complete

The new Yango Creek Road Bridge in Wollombi was complete with assistance from the Federal Government's Bridges Renewal Program and the NSW Government's Disaster Relief Funding. This key infrastructure project improves access for residents, visitors, and businesses, boosting transportation efficiency in the region. The old bridge was replaced and has been raised, providing increased clearance and enhanced flood resilience. The project include dnew road approaches, fencing, drainage systems, erosion control measures, pedestrian pathways, landscaping, signage and lighting.



# Operational Plan performance

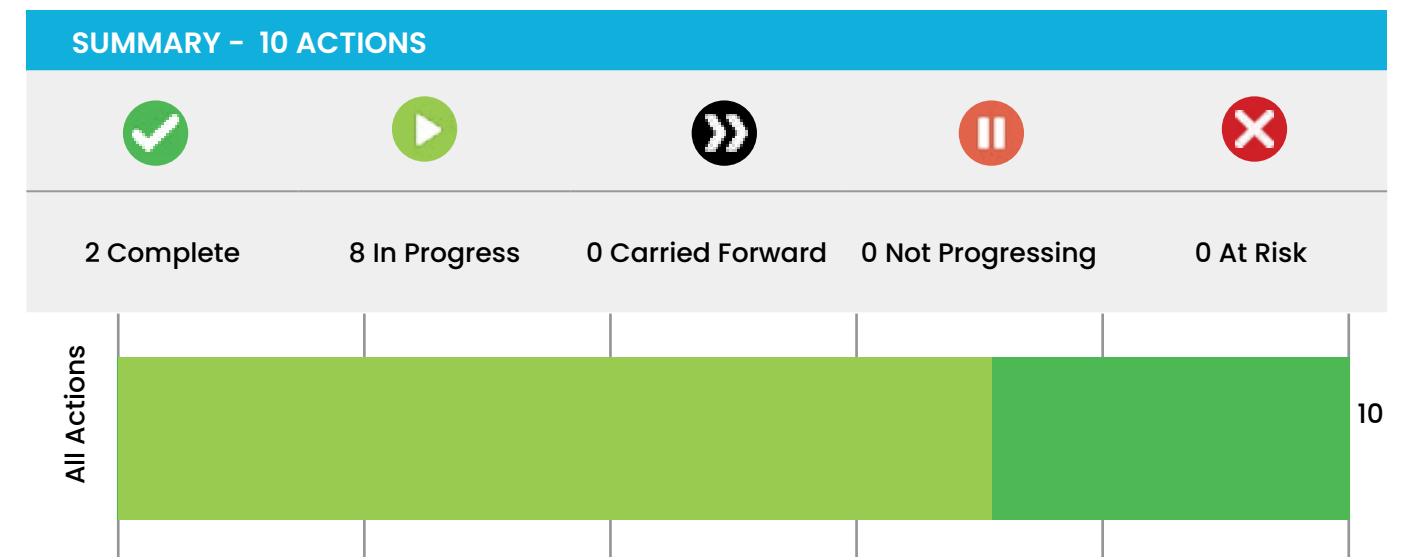
## Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities

*This desired outcome identifies the local, state and federal infrastructure, services and facilities needed to serve the current and future community of Cessnock while ensuring there is adequate access to these facilities and services.*

## Objective 4.1 Better transport links

### Strategic direction

- We have access to a range of public and community transport
- Our communities are linked by walking and bike tracks
- Our Airport acts as a key transport, emergency response and business hub
- Our transport network is integrated and supported by appropriate infrastructure





## Kurri Kurri Town Centre Upgrade

The Kurri Kurri Commercial Centre Upgrade project Stage 1 saw the upgrade of 900 metres of Lang Street, Kurri Kurri, between Alexander and Merthyr Streets. The Project included the upgrade of the commercial centre public domain, street tree planting, landscaping, footpaths/ paving, pedestrian crossings, street furniture, lighting, line marking and signage. There was also some minor pavement repairs and resurfacing. To minimise disruption and impact on businesses and residents, the project has been split into multiple sections with Stage 2 to commence in 2023-24.



## Trails Strategy

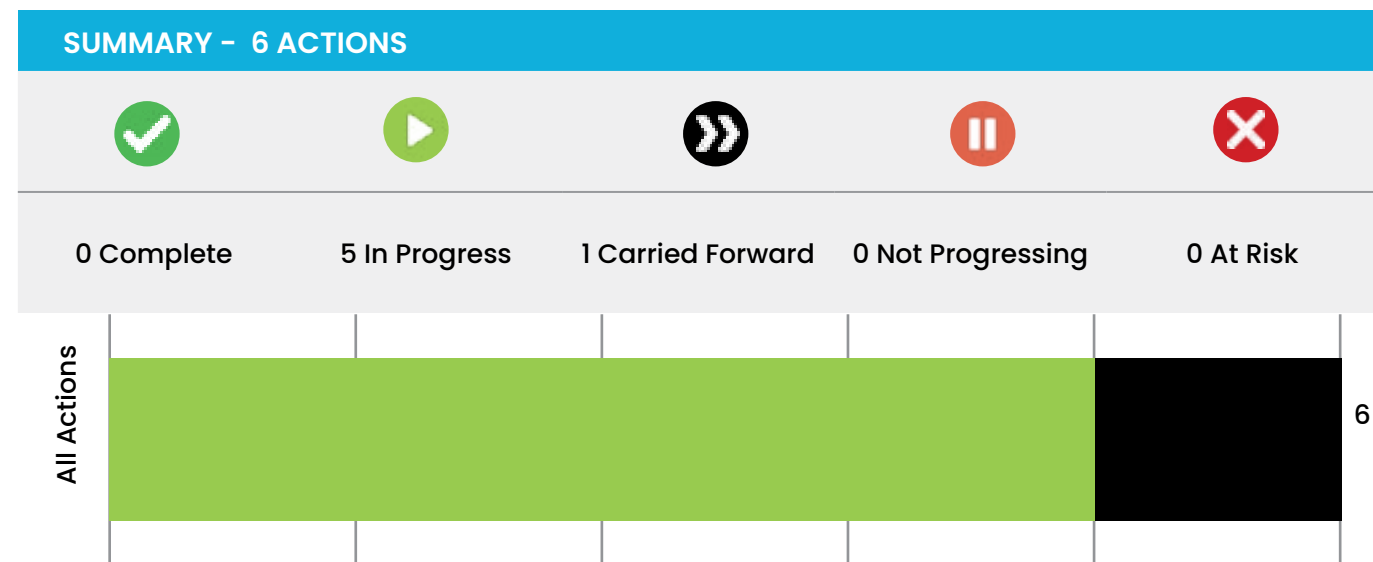
The Trails Reference Group was established and had their first meeting in March 2023. Council Officers continued to advocate, and have endorsed the Review of Environmental Factors for the Richmond Vale Rail Trail in relation to the Hunter Joint Organisation **Shiraz to Shore Trail Project**. Council also continued working with Crown Lands for trails on Council managed land.

ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
4.1.1.a	Prepare applications for available grant funding to improve commuter, freight and tourism transport links.	▶
4.1.1.b	Continue upgrade of Public Transport stops to ensure DDA compliance and apply for available funding in accordance with grant funding guide-lines and timeframes	▶
4.1.2.a	Continue to investigate and design the upgrade of Wollombi Road, Bellbird to Cessnock as per the Cessnock LGA Traffic and Transport Strategy and City Wide Contributions Plan	▶
4.1.2.b	Seek funding opportunities for the high priority upgrade of Wollombi Road, Cessnock as per the Cessnock LGA Traffic & Transport Strategy.	▶
4.1.3.a	Implement the following prioritized pathway project from the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan	▶
4.1.4.a	Investigate and design the following prioritized project from the Cycling Strategy.	▶
4.1.4.b	Implement the Trails Strategy.	✓
4.1.5.a	Progress the trail development to detailed design for the Richmond Vale Trail where resources permit.	▶
4.1.5.b	Participate in the Richmond Vale Rail Trail working group.	▶
4.1.7.a	Progress the review of the Huntlee Planning Agreement (Complete a review of Council's Section 7.11 and Section 7.12 Contribution Plan)	✓

## Objective 4.2 Improving the road network

### Strategic direction

- We have an acceptable, safe and affordable road network
- We have managed the traffic impact of the Hunter Expressway on local communities
- We have well managed traffic conditions across our suburbs



### Road Upgrades

March saw the completion of works on Camp Road, Greta under funding from Federal government as part of the Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Program. Council also contributed additional funds to extend the scope of the works.

Upgrades to this busy road included:

- Shoulder widening
- Road pavement rehabilitation
- Sealing and line-marking
- Signage installed
- NBN relocation completed

### Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan

The following projects were undertaken:

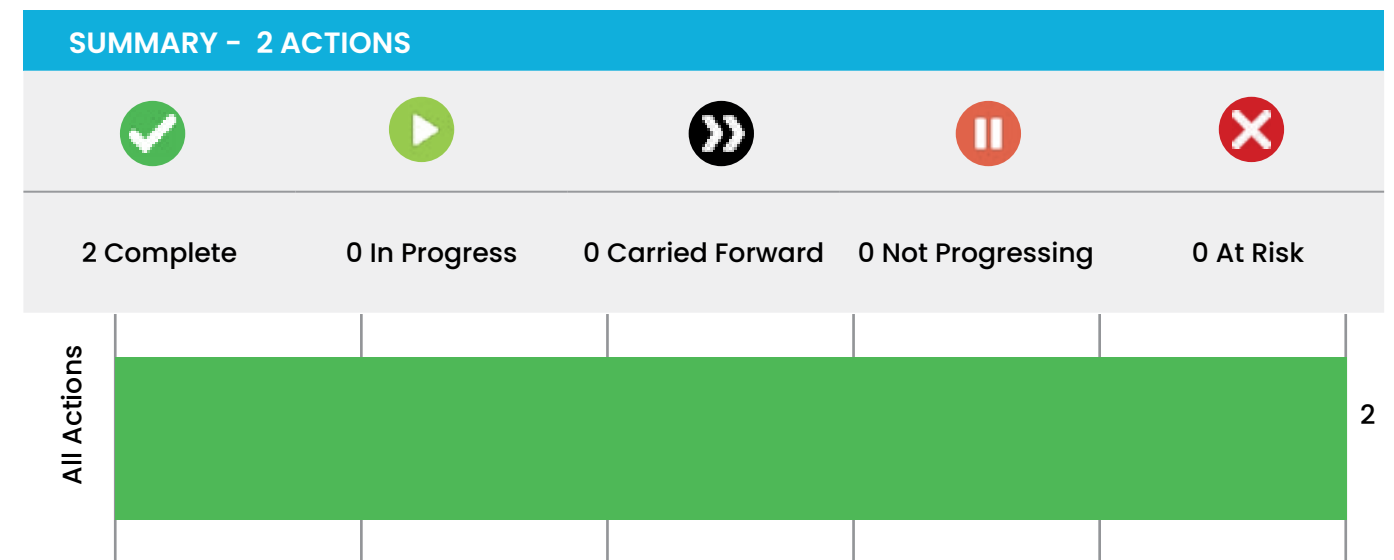
- Cessnock Road, Weston; Pavement rehabilitation
- O'Connor's Road, Nulkaba; Pram ramps
- Bridges Hill Park to Wine Country Drive and Cessnock CBD- Shared Pathway
- O'Connors Road Nulkaba – Shared Pathway

ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
4.2.1.a	Develop and deliver prioritised Capital Works Pro-grams in line with adopted Asset Management Plans.	✓
4.2.1.b	Progress procurement and contract management to deliver the Cessnock LGA Traffic & Transport Strategy.	▶
4.2.1.c	Development and Transfer of Crown Roads (Road Standards).	▶
4.2.1.d	Develop guidelines for the opening of roads	✓
4.2.2.a	Contribute to delivery of the annual Capital Works Program.	▶
4.2.3.a	Complete the priority projects from the heavy plant and equipment service improvement project.	⏪

## Objective 4.3 Improved access to health services locally

### Strategic direction

- We have better availability of and access to hospitals and health services in the Local Government Area
- We have better availability of and access to general practitioners and dental services in the Local Government Area
- We have regional standard health services, facilities, and health professionals





## Cessnock Youth Centre & Outreach Service

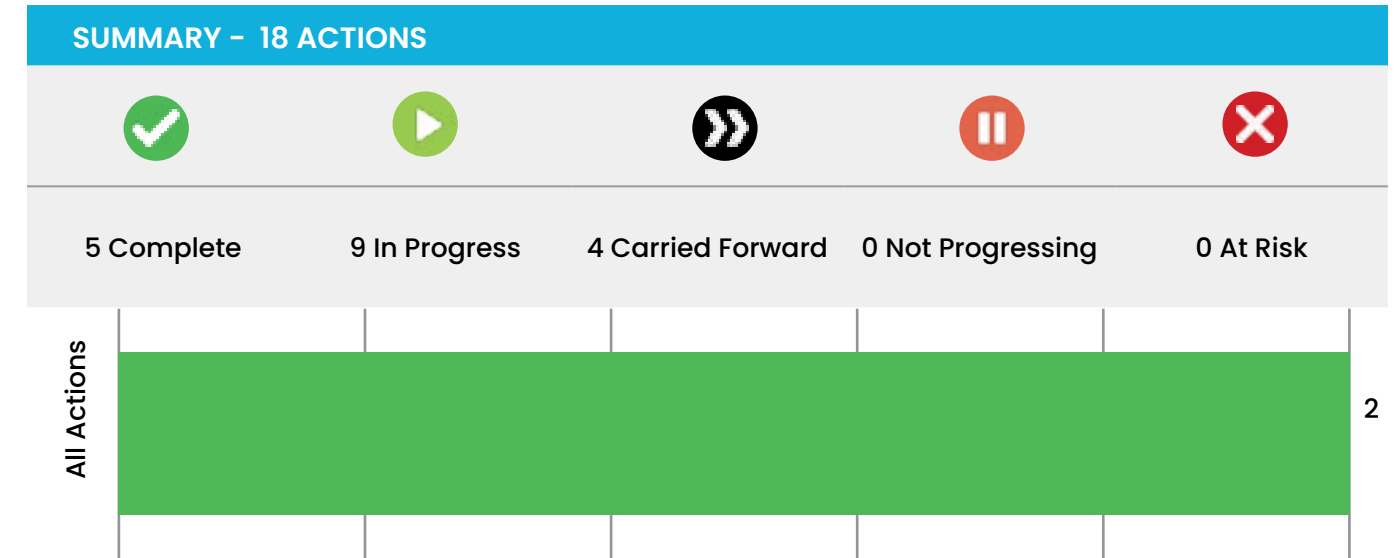
The refurbished kitchen was officially opened with the Samaritans Coalfields Healthy Heartbeat Service delivering a 4-week healthy eating program at the kitchen facility. It was also hired by local community groups and local schools in Term's 1 and 2 2023 for the delivery of cooking programs and VET hospitality traineeship training.



ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
4.3.1.a	Healthy eating programs with young people are delivered from the new kitchen facility at Cessnock Youth Centre & Outreach Service (CYCOS).	✓
4.3.2.a	Monitor health services in the community to identify any shortfalls.	✓

## Captial Works Program

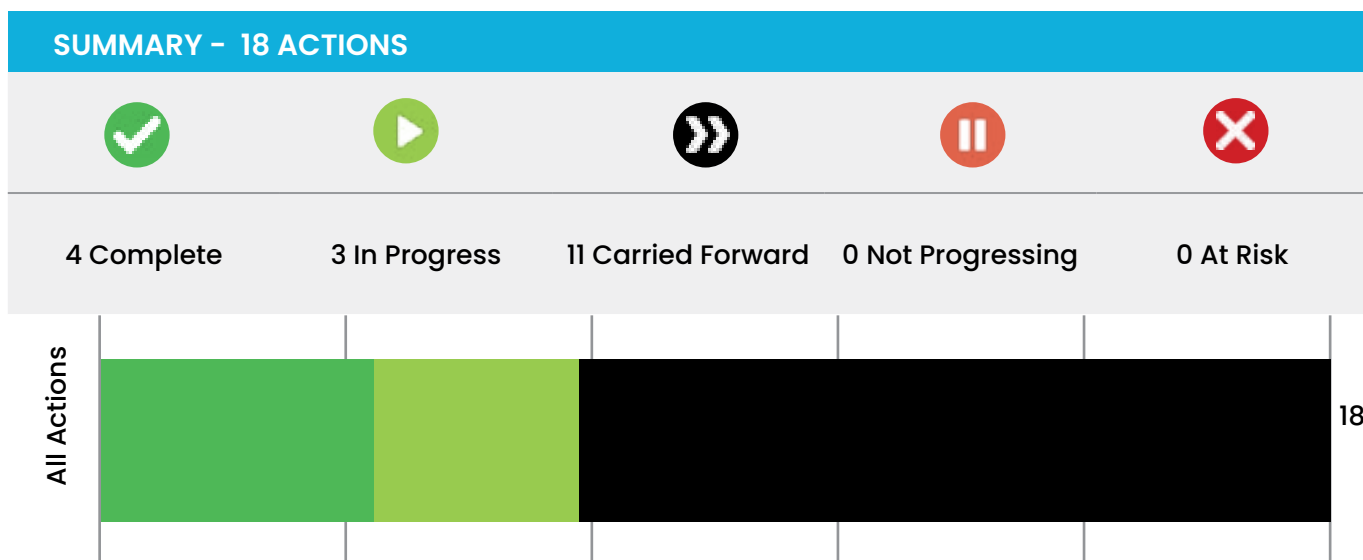
### Traffic Facilities Program (CFT)



PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
CBS-2022-001	upgrades to bus stops and shelters: - phase 1 investigate and design - phase 2 detailed design - phase 3 construct various bus stop locations	⏩
CFT-2016-006	LATM traffic facility improvements: - stage 1 investigation and design Gallagher Street Cessnock	✓
CFT-2019-003	high pedestrian activity area - intersectoin Wol-lombi Road and Great North Road Wollombi Vi-l-age	▶
CFT-2021-006	upgrade bus stops for Disability Discrimination Act Compliance: - phase 1 investigate and design - phase 2 detailed design - phase 3 construct various bus stops	▶
CFT-2022-001	pedestrian refuge - Mount View and McGrane Street Cessnock	⏩
CFT-2022-002	intersection works - Kerlew Street and Occident Street Nulkaba	⏩
CFT-2022-003	Holy Spirit Primary School Barton Street	✓

CFT-2022-004	Kurri Kurri High School Stanford	✓
CFT-2022-005	Kurri Kurri Public School Lang Street	▶
CFT-2022-006	Paxton Public School Anderson Avenue	▶
CFT-2022-007	improvements - Stanford Merthyr Infants School Maitland Street Kurri Kurri	✓
CFT-2022-008	Weston Public School Fifth Street	✓
CFT-2023-006	bus stop upgrades to DDA compliance - various locations	▶
CFT-2023-007	traffic control signals - Wollombi Road and Darwin Street Cessnock	▶
CFT-2023-008	traffic control signals - Wollombi Road and Westcott Street Cessnock	▶
CFT-2023-009	traffic control signals - Wollombi Road and Ab-bottsford Street Bellbird	▶
CFT-2023-010	traffic signals - Wollombi Road Bellbird Heights (HK Development)	▶
CFT-2024-007	extension to Wollombi Road (grant funding de-pendent) - Wollombi Road Cessnock	⏸

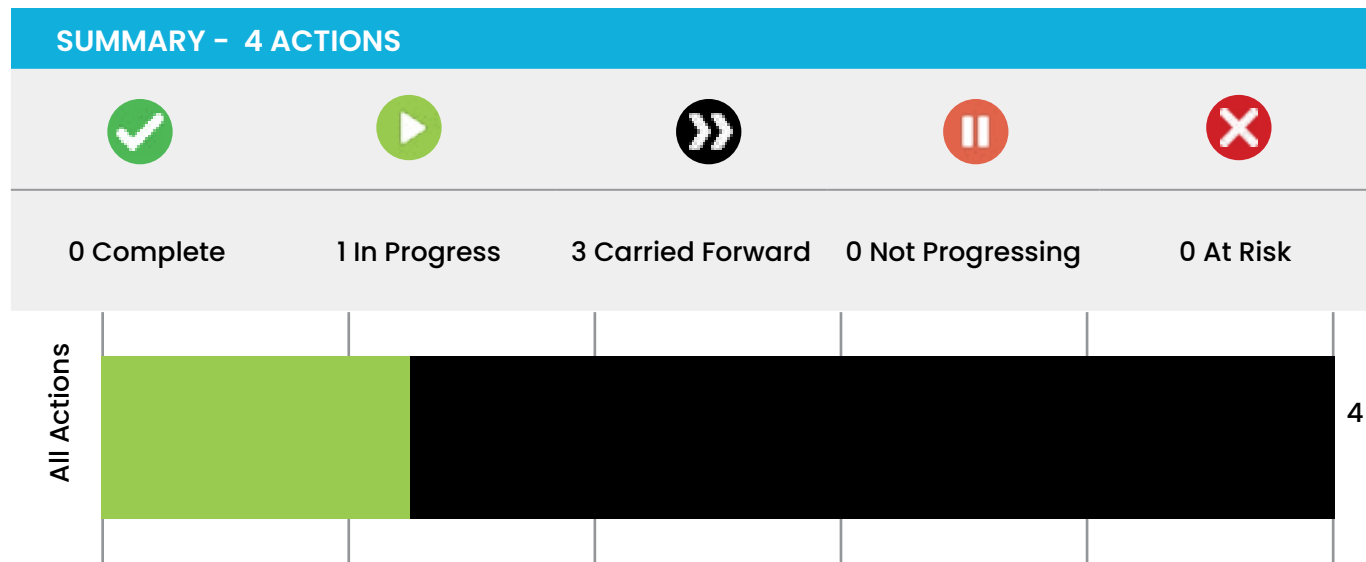
## Pathway Construction Program (CPW)



PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
CPW-2021-015	connecting pathway - Weston (First Street from Station Street to Government Road)	✓
CPW-2021-017	shared pathway - Cessnock (Cessnock CBD to Bridges Hill Park via Aberdare)	▶
CPW-2022-001	shared pathway - Millfield (Rose Hill Estate to Crawford Park Millfield)	▶
CPW-2022-002	shared pathway - Greta (High Street to Greta Railway Station via Nelson Street)	⏸
CPW-2022-003	shared pathway - Pelaw Main (Stanford Street from Log of Knowledge Park to Neath Street)	▶
CPW-2022-004	shared pathway - Nulkaba (Bridges Hill Park to Lomas Lane via Manning Park, Drain Oval and Wine Country Drive)	⏸
CPW-2022-004a	Cycleway - O'Connors Road, Nulkaba	✓
CPW-2022-005	shared pathway - Cessnock (CBD to West Cessnock Public School)	✓
CPW-2023-002	pathway and bus shelters - Cessnock (Government Road Anzac Avenue to URA)	⏸
CPW-2024--001	shared pathway - Weston (Weston Street from Fourth Street to Sixth Street)	✓
CPW-2024-002	pathway and pedestrian culvert crossing (grant funding dependent) - Bellbird (Doyle Street / Kendall Street to Bell Street)	⏸
CPW-2024-003	pathway - Bellbird (Bellbird Public School to Sparke Street)	⏸
CPW-2024-100	shared pathway (granting funding dependent) - Richmond Street from Stanford Street Kitchener to Abernethy Street from Richmond Street to Cessnock Street on Abernethy Street	⏸
CPW-2025-001	shared pathway -Kitchener (Kitchener Public School to Poppethead Park on Abernethy Street)	⏸
CPW-2025-002	shared pathway - Nulkaba/Pokolbin (Wine Country Drive Lomas Lane to Broke Road)	⏸
CPW-2025-003	shared pathway - Pokolbin (Visitor Information Centre via Halls Road to McDonalds Road)	⏸

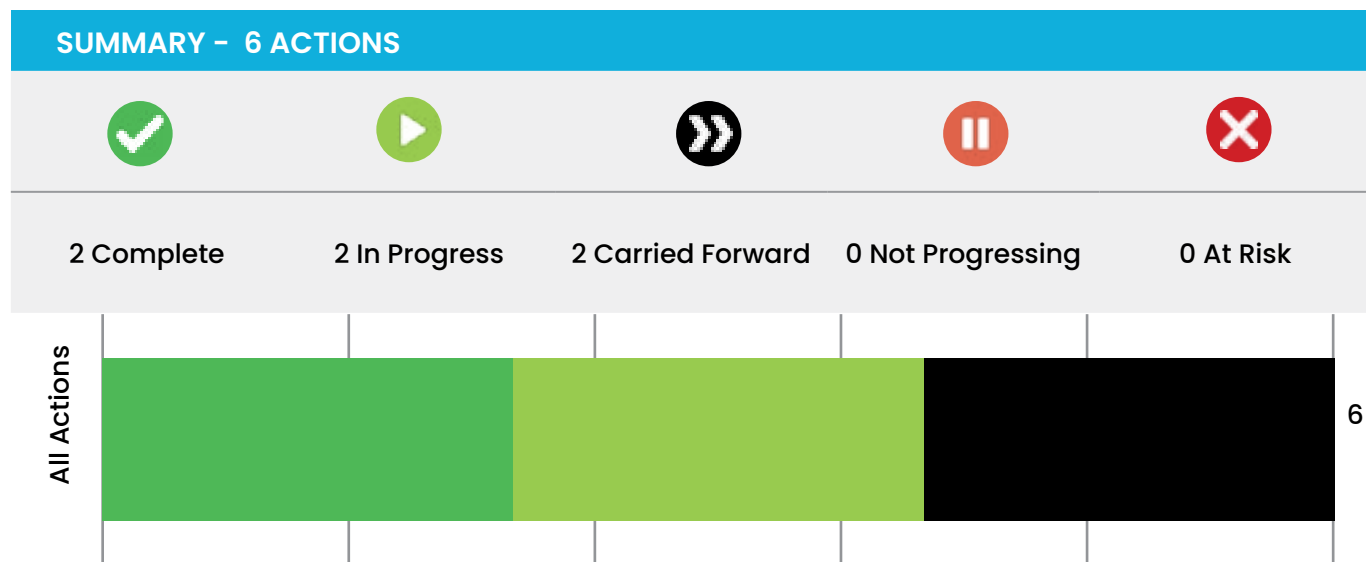


## Local Road Construction Program (CRL)



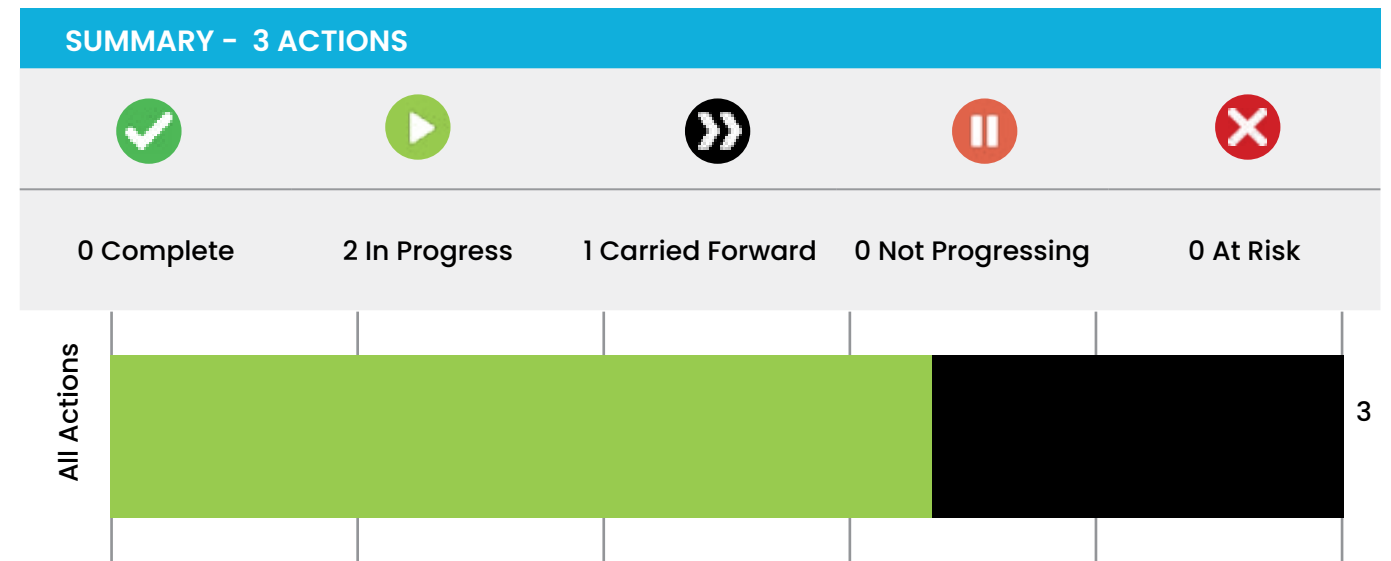
PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
CRL-2021-003	road upgrade - Kerlew Street Nulkaba	Carried Forward
CRL-2022-001	road rehabilitation - Cooper and Charlton Street Cessnock	In Progress
CRL-2023-002	road upgrade - Orange Street Abermain	Carried Forward
CRL-2023-003	road street lighting upgrade - Gingers Lane Sawyers Gully	Carried Forward

## Safer Roads Program (CRR)



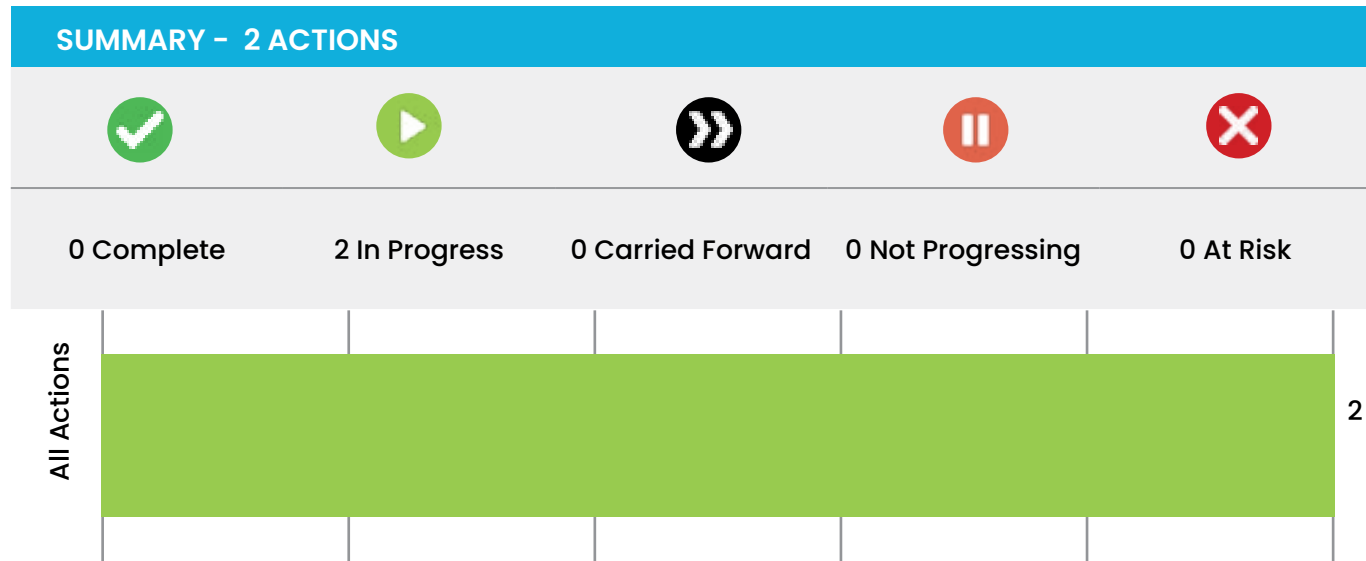
PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
CLS-2023-001	road upgrade (grant funding dependent) - Sandy Creek Road Mount Vincent	Carried Forward
CLS-2023-002	road upgrade (grant funding dependent) - Abernethy Street Kitchener	Carried Forward
CLS-2023-003	road upgrade (grant funding dependent) - Old Maitland Road Bishops Bridge	Carried Forward
CRR-2020-002	road upgrade - George Downes Drive Bucketty	In Progress
CRR-2020-004	road shoulder/W beam/CAMs/edge lines/RRPM's/warning sign - Sandy Creek Road Mount Vincent	Complete
CRR-2021-006	road upgrade - Oakey Creek Road Cessnock	Complete

## Pre-Construction Design Program



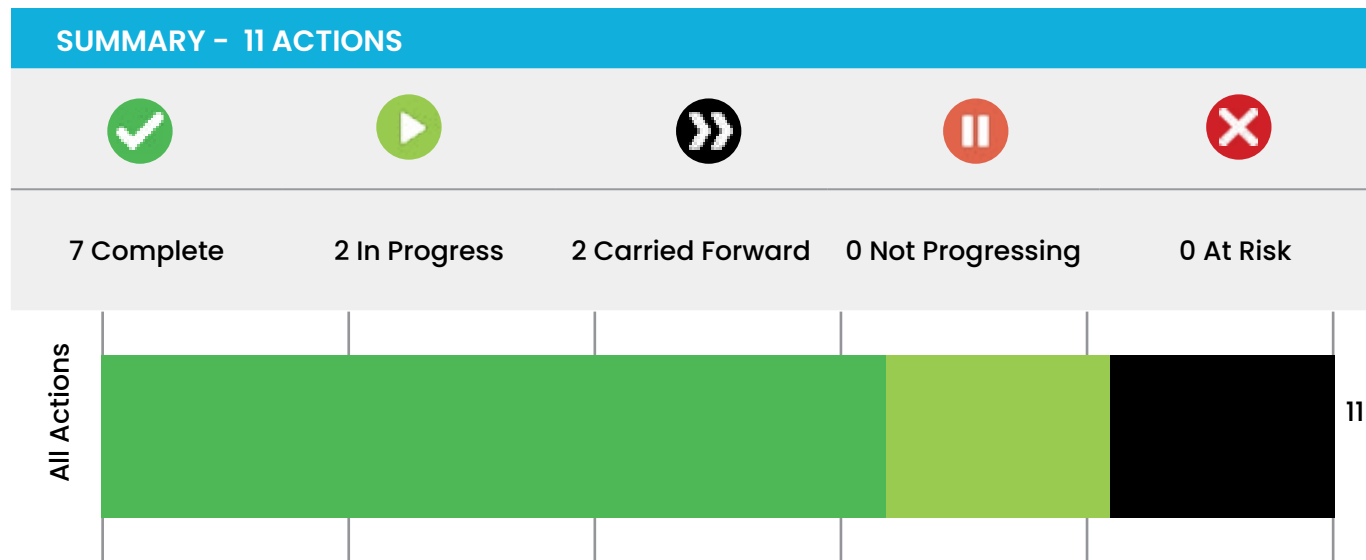
PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
DCP-2023-002	retaining wall geotechnical investigation - Clark Street Weston	Carried Forward

## Natural Disaster Capital



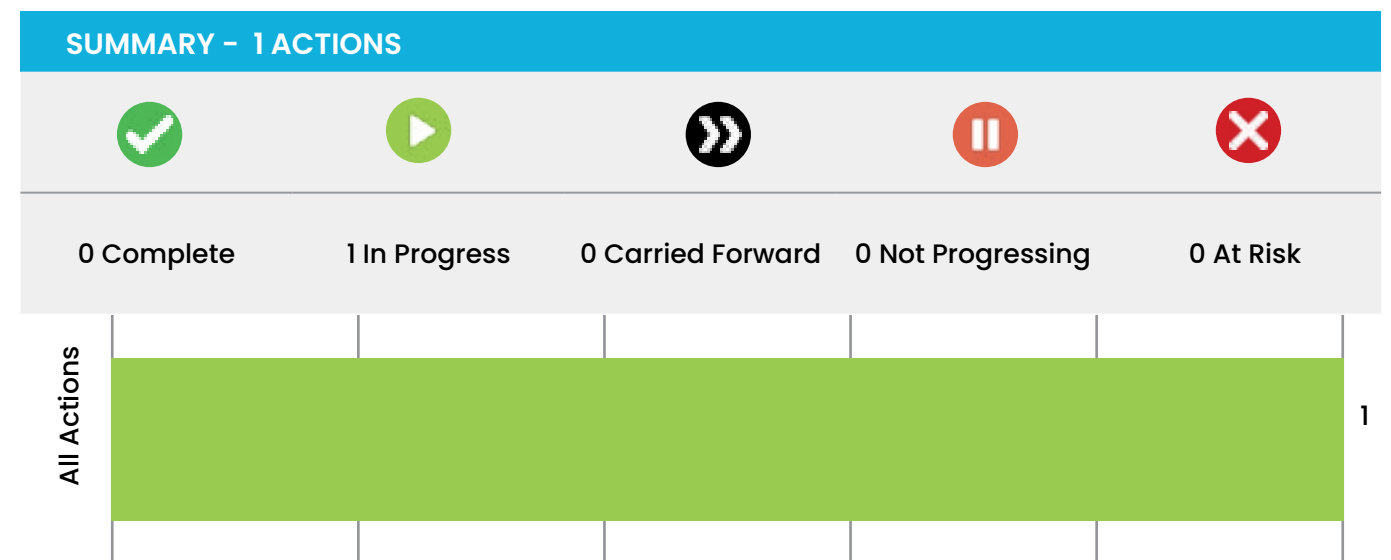
PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
NDC-2022-001	landslip remediation	
NDC-2022-002	flood gates and warning system	

## Airport Construction Program



PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
PCA-2019-003	sewer and water connection to the western side of the airport (and storm water drainage) - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2020-000	project management - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2020-006	fencing end of runway 17 - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2020-007	install non-precision GPS (RNAV) approaches for RWY 17/35 - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2020-010	runway lighting - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2020-010	runway lighting - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2021-011	upgrade: contingency - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2023-002	airport fencing - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2023-003	airport electric security access gates - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2023-004	airport additional RFS water tank and diesel pump - Cessnock Airport	
PCA-2023-006	Taxiway extension - airport	

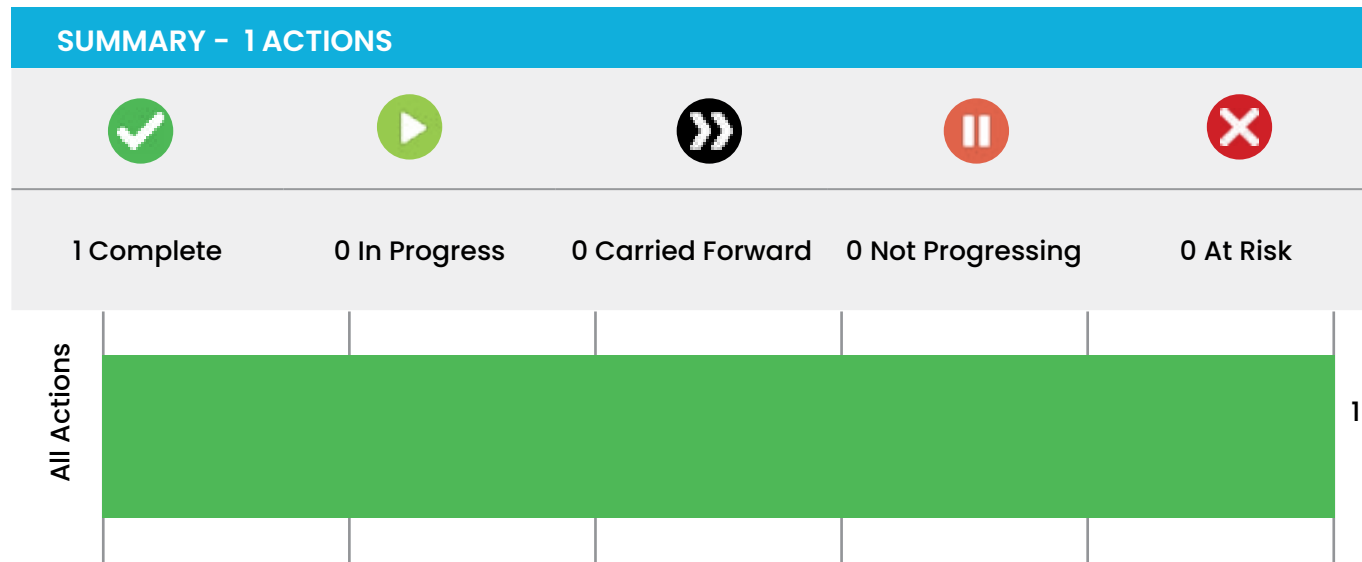
## Plant and Fleet Acquisition





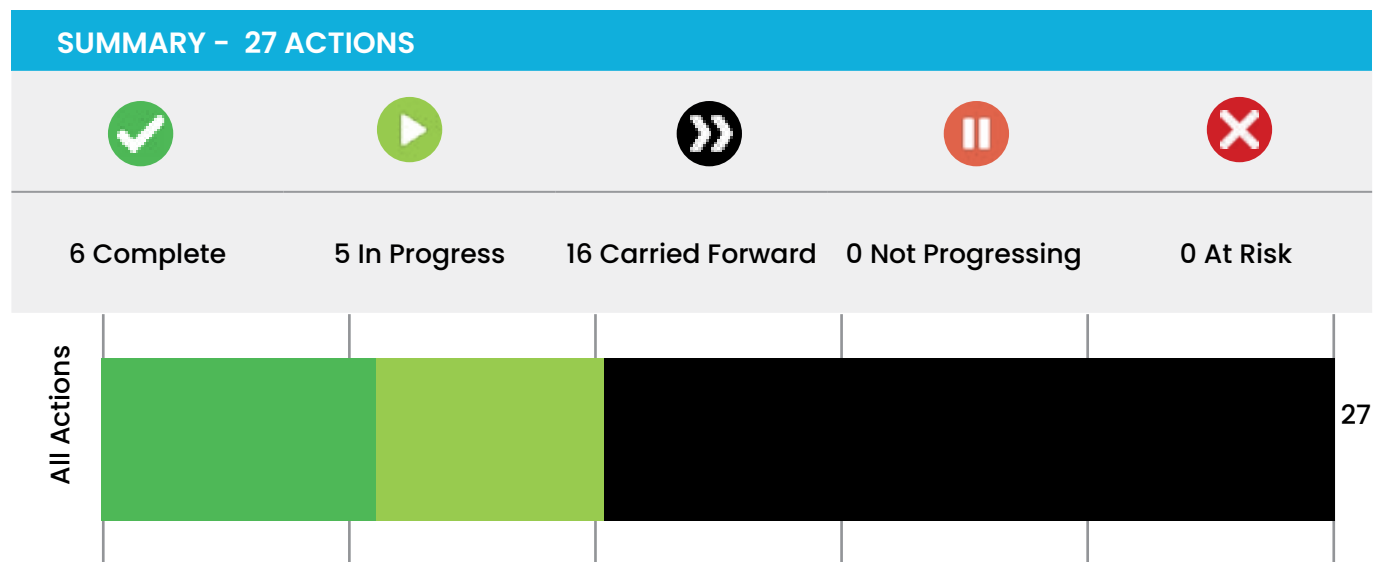
PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
PFA-2023-001	fleet vehicles	

## Airport Renewal Program



PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
PRA-2020-006	aircraft parking areas/runway rehabilitation including repairs and asphalt overlay and runway extension/taxiway widening/surface upgrade and improved fuel area access - Cessnock Airport	

## Local Road Renewal Program (RRL)

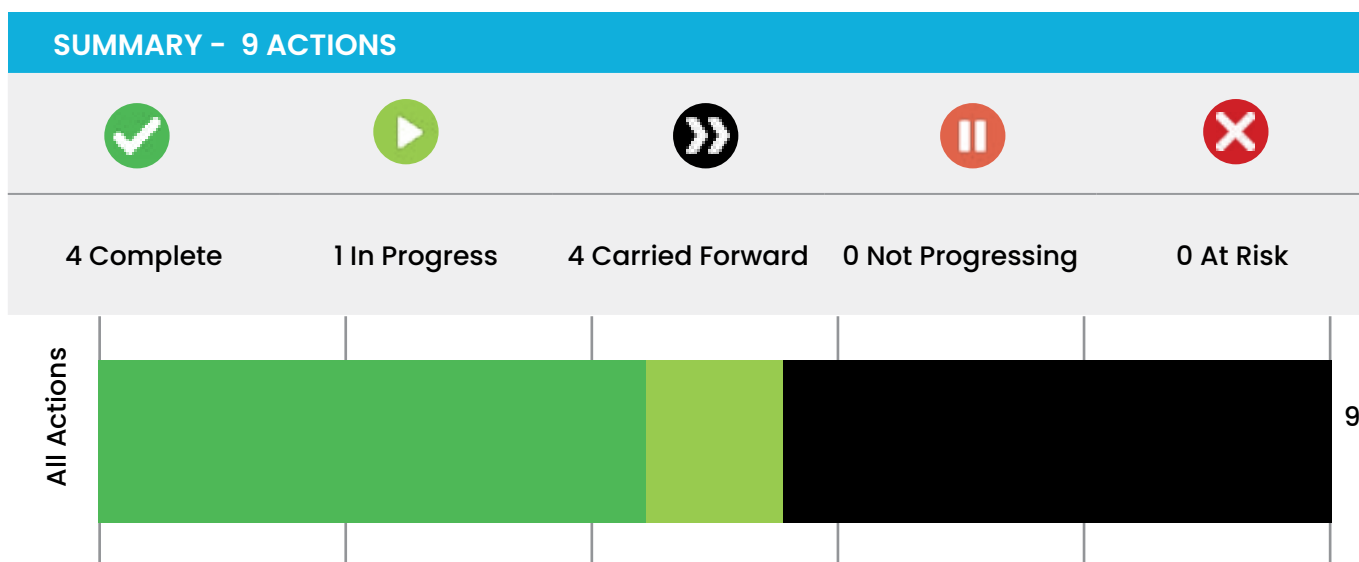


PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
RRL-2019-011	rehabilitation: - phase 2 detailed design - phase 3 construct Henderson Street Cessnock	
RRL-2020-011	- phase 2 detailed design - phase 3 construct Quorrobolong Road Kitchener from Stanford Street north to CH2830	
RRL-2020-013	road rehabilitation - South Avenue Cessnock Darwin to Vincent	
RRL-2020-014	road rehabilitation - Camp Road Greta Mansfield to CHI320	
RRL-2021-005	road rehabilitation - Congewai Road Paxton	
RRL-2021-006	road rehabilitation - Sandy Creek Road Quorrobolong	
RRL-2021-007	road rehabilitation - Sheddon Street Cessnock	
RRL-2021-008	road rehabilitation - Mansfield Street Greta	
RRL-2021-011	pavement rehabilitation - Cessnock Road Weston	
RRL-2021-012	road upgrade - Old Maitland Road Sawyers Gully	
RRL-2022-002	renew car parks - various locations	
RRL-2023-002	road rehabilitation - Murrays Run Road Murrays Run: Phase 1 investigation and design	
RRL-2023-004	road rehabilitation - Richmond Vale Road Richmond Vale	
RRL-2023-005	road rehabilitation (grant funding dependent for construction) - Sawyers Gully Road: Phase 1 investigation and design	
RRL-2024-001	road rehabilitation - Majors Lane Sawyers Gully	
RRL-2024-002	road rehabilitation - various local roads	
RRL-2024-003	road rehabilitation (grant funding dependent): - stage 2 Mount View Road Cessnock	

RRL-2024-005	road rehabilitation - McDonalds Road Pokolbin	»
RRL-2024-006	road rehabilitation - Averys Lane Heddon Greta	»
RRL-2024-007	road rehabilitation - Campbell Street Ellalong	»
RRL-2024-008	road rehabilitation - Wilderness Road Rothbury	»
RRL-2024-009	road rehabilitation - Dalwood Road East Branxton	»
RRL-2024-010	road rehabilitation - Heddon Street Heddon Greta	»
RRL-2024-011	road rehabilitation - Blackhill Road Blackhill	»
RRL-2024-012	road rehabilitation - Middle Road Paxton	»
RRL-2024-013	road rehabilitation (grant funding dependent): - stage 2 Camp Road Greta	»
RRL-2024-015	road rehabilitation - Deakin Street Kurri Kurri	»

PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
RRR-2021-004	slope rehabilitation - Paynes Crossing Road Paynes Crossing	»
RRR-2022-002	slope stabilisation - Great North Road	»
RRR-2022-003	stabilisation - Great North Road Ramsays Leap	✓
RRR-2022-004	road rehabilitation: - stage 7.2 Wollombi Road Millfield	▶
RRR-2023-001	reseal regional roads - various regional roads	✓
RRR-2023-002	road rehabilitaton: - stage 7.3 Wollombi Road Millfield to Hayes Road towards Cedar Creek	✓
RRR-2024-002	road rehabilitation: - stage 7.4 Wollombi Road Millfield, Hayes Road towards Cedar Creed Road Millfield	✓
RRR-2024-003	road rehabilitation - Wollombi Road One Mile Creek Great Main towards Bellbird	»
RRR-2024-004	road upgrade - Cessnock / Bellbird Wollombi Road Allandale Road to Abbotsford Street (Traffic & Transport Strategy)	»

## Regional Road Renewal Program (RRR)





# Civic leadership and effective governance



- 5.1 Fostering & supporting community leadership
- 5.2 Encouraging more community participation in decision making
- 5.3 Making Council more responsive to the community

## 5 Civic leadership and effective governance

This desired outcome focuses on the need for strong civic leadership and effective governance with an engaged community actively participating in decision making processes affecting their future

Council has undertaken the following services to achieve the objectives established in the **Community Strategy Plan, Cessnock 2036**:

### Objective 5.1

#### Fostering & supporting community leadership

##### Strategic Directions

- We have well-trained and qualified leaders in our community and in our workforce
- Our young people aspire to become leaders
- Our Council is committed to implementing our community's vision

### Objective 5.2

#### Encouraging more community participation in decision making

##### Strategic Directions

- We are informed about our community
- We are involved in decisions affecting our community
- We have effective relationships across different levels of government

### Objective 5.3

#### Ensuring Council is accountable and responsive to the community

##### Strategic Directions

- Our Council is customer focused
- Our Council's processes are efficient and transparent
- Our Council is financially sustainable





# Measures

## How we will measure our progress

The following targets are adopted as they are measurable (sourced from the ABS Census, government agencies, Council operational data and community research) as well as being generally aligned with the desired outcomes of the **Community Strategic Plan, Cessnock 2027**.

While Council is not wholly responsible for the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan objectives, Council has a custodial role to examine the progress that has been made towards the achievement.

MEASURE	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	TARGET
Development Application Processing Times	This measure is the mean and the median number of days to process Development Applications (for all DAs which have been determined). This data is sourced from the Local Development Performance Monitoring Report.	Maintain Median   34 Days Mean   54 Days
Satisfaction with Council's performance overall	This measure is from a random survey of residents where they are asked to rate their satisfaction with Council's performance overall on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = low satisfaction and 5 = high satisfaction.	>3.5
Response to Customer Requests	The number of customer requests that are completed within agreed timeframes divided by the total number of customer requests completed. This data is sourced from the workflows in Council's customer request management system.	80%
Operating Performance	This measure is the three year average of the operating result (excluding capital grants and contributions) divided by total operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions)	>0
Own Source Revenue	This measure is the three year average of the total operating result (excluding capital grants and contributions) divided by total operating revenue.	>60%
Debt Service	This measure is the three year average of the cost of debt service (principal and interest) divided by total operating revenue.	>0 and <20%





# Highlights

## Actions

Total **39**  
Complete **27**  
In Progress **8**  
Carry Forward **4**



## Projects

Total **3**  
In Progress **1**  
Carry Forward **2**



# HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARY



**21,044** customers were helped



**90%** customer requests were resolved

**1,315** Instagram followers



**15,400** Facebook followers

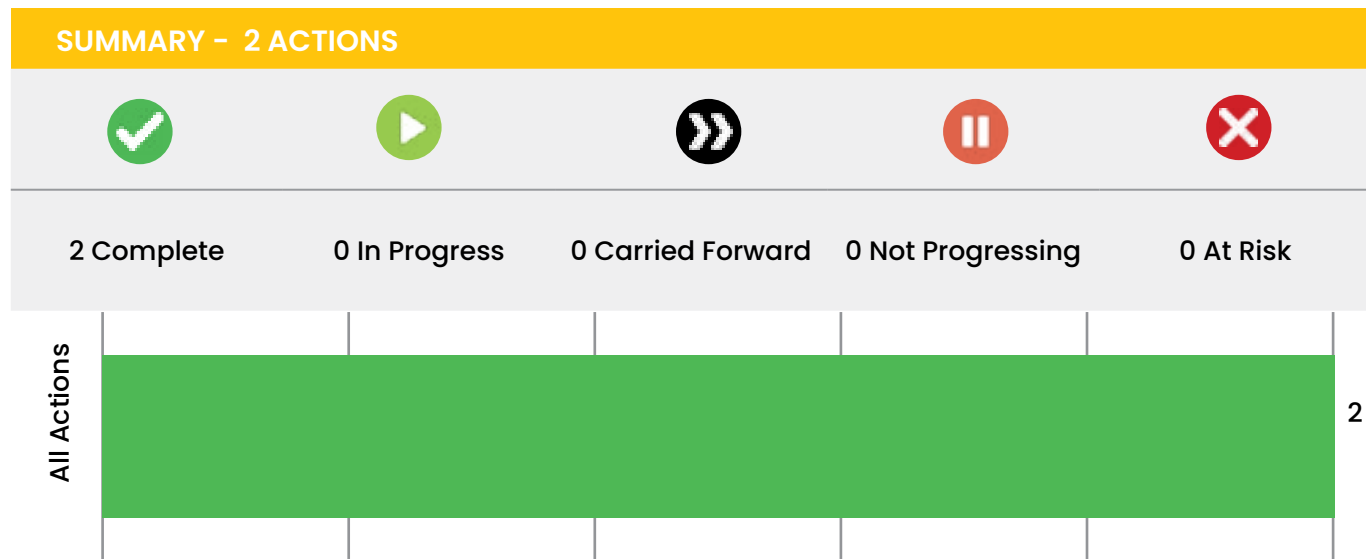


# Operational Plan performance

## Objective 5.1 Fostering & supporting community leadership

### Strategic direction

- We have well-trained and qualified leaders in our community and in our workforce
- Our young people aspire to become leaders
- Our Council is committed to implementing our community's vision



### Community Activities

Councillors and members of the public were invited to attend ABC TV's Q+I Live Audience hosted by Stan Grant and a panel of politicians, decision makers and social commentators. A free return bus service transported audience members from Cessnock to participate in the national discussion and watch live TV being put to air!

### Mayoral Scholarship Award Ceremony

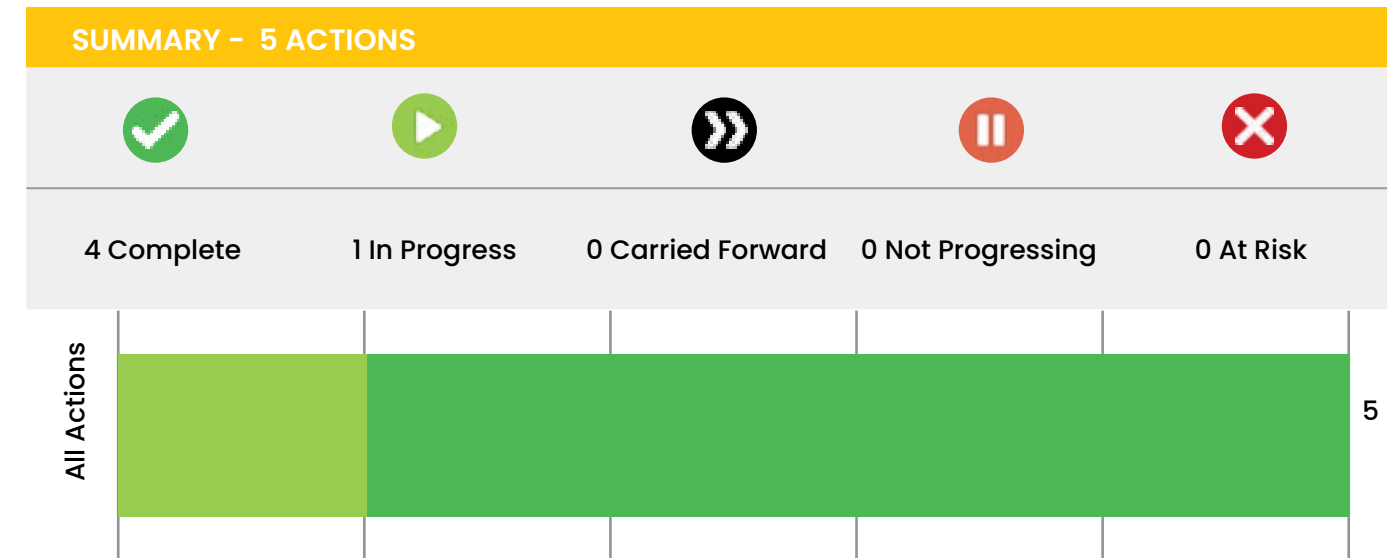
On May, 11 successful recipients of the 2023 Mayoral Scholarship program were awarded their certificates from Mayor Jay Suvaal and sponsors. The scholarship provides local students with financial aid to assist them with their studies, as well as recognition for undertaking further education.

ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
5.1.1.a	Develop and deliver a Councillor Professional Development and Training Program	✓
5.1.3.a	Meet with groups on a regular basis and provide assistance where required.	✓

## Objective 5.2 Encouraging more community participation in decision making

### Strategic direction

- We are informed about our community
- We are involved in decisions affecting our community
- We have effective relationships across different levels of government





## Community Collaboration

In the 2022-23 period, Cessnock City Council made significant strides in enhancing community consultation and collaboration. Our commitment to engagement was underpinned by a strong digital framework, offering a variety of options to cater to diverse preferences. Residents could conveniently voice their opinions through our "Together Cessnock" platform on our Council website, access engagement opportunities via QR codes on project posters, and provide feedback through our Post Call surveys and the Council's Contact Centre. We hosted face to face workshops, information sessions and meetings, extending our engagement efforts to local markets and businesses, meeting the community where they are. These in-person sessions enabled us to connect with residents, fostering a deeper sense of community involvement and making sure that local voices were heard. In addition, we utilised platforms Zoom and Teams to facilitate video conferencing, guaranteeing that our engagement is diverse and accessible.



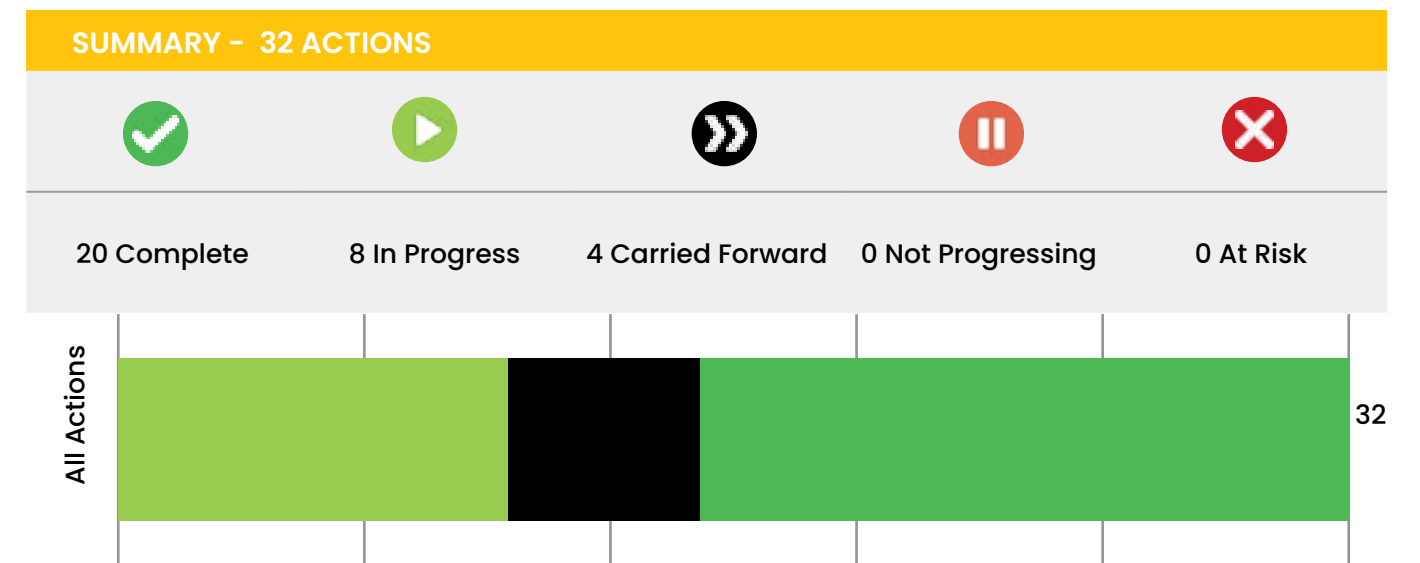
ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
5.2.1.a	Increase opportunities for our Council to collaborate with community members.	✓
5.2.1.b	Undertake engagement with stakeholders, residents, community members/groups and businesses regarding Council projects, programs, strategies and services.	✓
5.2.1.c	Develop and implement proactive face to face engagement options.	✓
5.2.2.a	Actively participate in and collaborate with Hunter Joint Organisation to promote the interests of the LGA.	▶
5.2.3.a	Monitor and respond to the State Government's local government reform program.	✓

Council Procurement team promote and support local suppliers. In the 2022-2023 period, Councils purchase orders with local suppliers was identified as \$30,115,302.82 spent in the Cessnock LGA. Research also indicates that for every dollar spent in the LGA, it is estimated that 45 cents goes back to the community in goods, food and accommodation etc. This equates to \$13,551,886.69 back to the community.

## Objective 5.3 Ensuring Council is accountable and responsive to the community

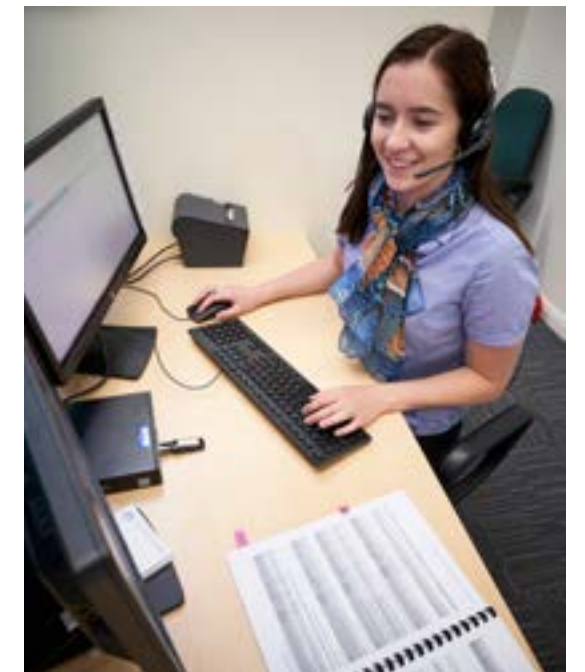
### Strategic direction

- Our Council is customer focused
- Our Council's processes are efficient and transparent
- Our Council is financially sustainable



## Staff Training

October saw National Safe Work Month with the theme is 'Know safety, work safely' which encouraged staff to make health and safety in the workplace a priority. Council hosted a number of different health and wellbeing programs. Blue Bus organisational wide training was also implemented and continues to run into next year to capture all staff and new starters as part of Council's adopted Workforce Management Plan. The program is designed to strength our teamwork, improve communication and drive overall performance. The Blue Bus is a unique transformational vehicle that is revolutionising how we rapidly transform leaders, people, teams and the organisation itself to adapt and thrive in exponential changing times. By using experiential learning we are developing a sustainable culture of excellence in everything that we do. This ensures that everyone gets on the same bus and are travelling in the same direction.



## Customer Experience Strategy

Proto Partners were engaged to assist in the development of our Customer Experience Strategy. The survey included workshops and interviews with staff, and via Council website & social media (Facebook & Instagram) and email. Approx. 250 feedback surveys were received and staff identified 42 key initiatives to be investigated as part of the development of the Customer Experience Strategy.

## Workforce Diversity

Council has introduced the Veterans Employment Program and the website has been updated to include a Diversity Statement and information on the Veterans Employment Program. The new plan will be delivered in early 2024.



ACTION	OPERATIONAL PLAN 2022-23 ACTION	STATUS
5.3.1.a	Build an organisation which has a focus on the customer by having well trained staff who are committed to providing a quality service.	✓
5.3.1.b	Review Council's Customer Service Strategy, Action Plan and Charter.	▶
5.3.2.a	Conduct regular development consultation forums.	✓
5.3.3.a	Efficiently and effectively process development applications and respond to planning-related enquiries.	✓
5.3.3.b	Investigate the expansion of the application programming interface (API) between the NSW Planning Portal (ePlanning) and Council's systems.	✓
5.3.3.c	Assess mitigation of the impact of traffic generating development.	▶
5.3.3.d	Review and propose updated standards for road widths, kerb and gutter, pathways and bus shelters contained in Council's Engineering Requirements for Development.	▶
5.3.3.e	Continue to review and enhance our internal processes and workflows in line with the Department of Planning and Environment's Development Assessment Best Practice Guide.	✓
5.3.4.a	Develop and implement a strategic internal audit plan.	▶
5.3.5.a	Continue to ensure and improve the the safety and wellbeing of Council's workforce.	✓
5.3.5.b	Ensure Council's Enterprise Risk Management Management (ERM) framework is continued to be embedded in all operations of Council and develop Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to assess and report to the Executive Leadership Team on the ERM framework.	✓
5.3.6.a	Develop framework, methodologies and project plan for Service Delivery reviews to commence over the balance of the Delivery Program.	✓
5.3.7.a	Provide staff with awareness, tools, and knowledge to assist them in meeting their governance and statutory compliance obligations.	✓
5.3.7.b	Carry out governance functions, provide advice and conduct education programs to comply with legislation and best practice including in relation to delegations, legislative interpretation, compliance, complaints, UCCs, GIPA, PPIP, Copyright, PID, Fraud and Corruption Prevention, Policy, etc. (Governance).	✓
5.3.7.c	Prepare and finalise a revised Fraud Control and Corruption Prevention Framework	▶
5.3.7.d	Undertake the annual review (and update) of the Investment Policy.	✓
5.3.7.e	Develop the Operational Plan	✓
5.3.7.f	Prepare the Cessnock City Annual Report.	✓



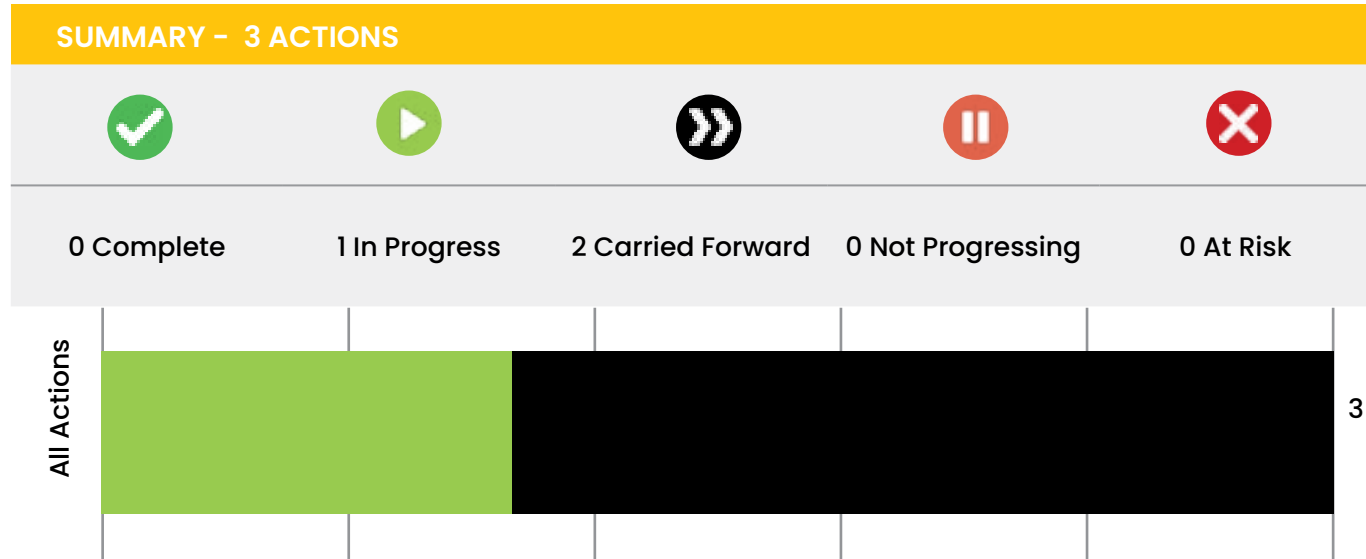
5.3.8.a	Continue to enhance Council's Contractor Management to ensure value for money principles can be achieved.	✓
5.3.8.b	Continue to apply the principle of balanced operating budget and ensure programs are fully funded.	✓
5.3.8.c	Continue implementation of the Plant and Fleet Management review to ensure efficient and effective use of resources.	⏪
5.3.8.d	Review all non-rate related revenue as part of the Operational Plan to identify options which can reduce reliance on ratepayers	✓
5.3.9.a	Collaborate on integration opportunities between project managements tools/ systems with Authority and PULSE	▶
5.3.9.b	Share information regarding the status of current Capital Works particularly with respect to traffic disruptions and construction works.	✓
5.3.10.a	Develop and implement strategies to assist in reducing Council's unplanned leave usage.	✓
5.3.10.b	Commence undertaking relevant actions within Council's Leadership Framework for 22/23.	✓
5.3.10.c	Review and if required update the Council's 2020-2024 EEO Management Plan.	⏪
5.3.10.d	Continue to implement the succession planning and talent management framework.	⏪
5.3.10.e	Develop and deliver a Diversity Plan to strengthen the representation at all levels of the organisation of identifiable groups within the community including those with disability, youth, women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and people from non-english speaking background.	⏪
5.3.10.f	Review Council Policy and Protocols to ensure Council adhere and implementation of relevant Child Safe Standards.	✓
5.3.11.a	Undertake a project to assess the need for a possible Special Rate Variation application	✓
5.3.11.b	Enhance Council Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) to ensure that the LTFP becomes part of the IP&R documents to facilitate scenario analysis for Special Rate Variation.	▶





# Captial Works Program

## Other Fixed Assets



PROJECT ID	PROJECT NAME	STATUS
OFA-2022-006	Fuel spill remediation	Carried Forward
OFA-2023-001	IT equipment: system administration - Cessnock Administration Building	In Progress
OFA-2023-002	lunch room redesign	Carried Forward





# STATUTORY REPORTING

## Relevant legislation

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a5)

Local Government Act 1993, section 356

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(f)

Companion Animals Guidelines

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a7)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(e)

Swimming Pools Act 1992, section 22F(2)

Swimming Pools Regulation 2018, clause 23

Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994, section 31

Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011, clause 4

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, section 125(1)

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, clause 8, schedule 2

Disability Inclusion Act 2014, section 13(1)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a9)(v)

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, section 7.5(5)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a2)(i),(ii)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a4)

Local Government Act 1993, section 67 and 67(2)(b)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 132

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a6)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a3)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a8)

Local Government Act 1993, section 54P(1)

Special Rate Variation Guidelines 7.1

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a1) (i),(ii),(iii),(iv),(v),(vi),(vii),(viii)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 186

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(b)(i),(ii),(iii),(iv),(v)

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(c)(i),(ii),(iii),(iv),(v)

Environment Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, clause 218A(1)

Environment Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, clause 218A (2)(a),(b),(c),(d),(e),(f),(g)

Environment Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021, clause 218A(3)(a), (b)

Modern Slavery Act 2018, sections 428(4)(c), (d) and (5)

Fisheries Management Act 1994, section 220ZT(2)



# Grants and contributions

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 217(1)(a5) and the *Local Government Act 1993*, section 356, the report must outline the total amount contributed or otherwise granted to financially assist others.

## Dollar for dollar

The 2022-23 Community and Cultural Development Dollar for Dollar Grant Scheme was advertised throughout August 2022 and the round closed Friday 2 September 2022. 9 community groups were awarded funds totalling \$18,514

Council also provided funds through the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Dollar for Dollar Program as follows:

- Cessnock Tidy Towns in the amount of \$2,071.66.
- North Rothbury Tidy Towns Frederick Street Bushcare Sub Committee in the amount of \$5,000.
- Weston Heritage and Tidy Town in the amount of \$3,897.11

4 business growth Eight AGC Partners projects have been funded by Council to the value of \$115,500 under the Economic Development Grants and Sponsorship Program.

Cessnock City Council's Mayoral Scholarship Program ran throughout April with the award ceremony being held on 18 May 2023. The program received 37 applications and awarded 11 scholarships were presented for 2023, totaling \$27,500 in locally sourced sponsorships from 11 sponsors.





During 2022-23 Council also made grants and contributions to the following community organisations:

Organisation	Location	Amount
Cessnock Masonic Hall	Cessnock	1832.87
Country Womens Association	Cessnock	2149.46
Cessnock Homing Pigeon Club	Cessnock	1217.28
Trustees Masonic Hall	Paxton	1656.99
Weston Pre-School	Weston	1700.96
Cessnock Clay Target Gun Club	Cessnock	4207.31
Greta Pre-School Kindergarten	Greta	1999.96
Cessnock Rifle Club Inc	Cessnock	4734.96
Aberdare Pre-School	Aberdare	2571.59
Richmond Vale Preservation Co-op Society	Kurri Kurri	3134.42
Cessnock Pistol Club	Cessnock	4136.96
Branxton Preschool	Branxton	1744.93





# Companion animals

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 217(1)(f), and the Companion Animals Guidelines, the report must include a detailed statement of Council’s activities during the year in relation to enforcing, and ensuring compliance with, the provisions of the Companion Animals Act 1988 (CA Act) and the Companion Animal Regulation 2018.

In the 2022–23 reporting period **328** dogs seized. Of those, 80 were returned to owners in the field by Rangers and 248 conveyed to Maitland Animal Management Facility. 15 Cats were seized with all 15 taken to Maitland Animal Management Facility. 69 Dog Attacks were reported and investigated

## Responsible pet ownership education

Council actively enforces the *Companion Animals Act 1998* through the following activities and community education programs:

- free microchipping of Companion Animals for residents
- regular proactive patrols of the area were made to further promote responsible pet ownership and compliance
- community education on responsible pet ownership including:
  - distribution of pooch pouches
  - dog leads
  - brochures and promotional materials
- continued “With loves comes responsibility” educational campaigns utilising bus stop posters, social media and competitions

**Impounded Animals 328**  
**Dog Attacks 69**

## Alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals

As part of Council’s agreement with the Maitland Animal Management Facility (MAMF), animals were held for the prescribed time and unclaimed ownership

transferred to the MAMF. A behavioural assessment was conducted on unclaimed animals to establish re-homing suitability.



# Controlling interests and service charges

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 217(1)(a7), the report must include a statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which Council held a controlling interest

## Controlling interests in companies

Council holds no controlling interest in companies.

# Storm water management charge

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 217(1)(e), the report must include a statement detailing the stormwater management services provided (if levied)

During 2022–23, Council received a total of \$558,000 in Stormwater Management Service Charge funds. We carried out maintenance works on underground pipe networks, open channels, drains, floodplain mitigation and detention basins to the value of \$1.38million with \$457,000 utilised from the Stormwater Levy. Projects included:

- 32 Moore St Cessnock
- 14 Frame Drive Abermain
- 19 Wollombi Road Millfield
- Cruickshank Street Bellbird
- Trenchard Street, Heddon Greta
- Northcote Street, Kurri Kurri
- Mansfield & Bell Streets Greta
- Keelendi Street Bellbird
- Whitburn Street Greta
- Thomas St North Rothbury
- Black Creek, Stage 2 Flood Risk Management
- South Cessnock Flood Mitigation
- Abermain & Weston Flood Mitigation
- Heddon Greta Flood Mitigation
- Cessnock Flood Mitigation
- Mount View Detention Basin Improvement
- Greta Floodplain Risk Management Study
- Black Creek, Restoration Plan
- Cessnock FRMSP Bund Wall Design

Funds raised from the levy were spent exclusively on stormwater and related infrastructure, with the remaining balance to be carried over to fund 2023–24 and future projects.



# Inspections of private swimming pools

In accordance with the *Swimming Pools Act 1992*, section 22F(2), and the *Swimming Pools Regulation 2018*, clause 23, the report must include details of inspections of private swimming pools

Tourist and Visitor Accommodation	6
More than two dwellings	0
Properties issued with a Certificate of Compliance	80
Properties issued with a Certificate of Non-Compliance	43



# Public interest disclosures

In accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994*, section 31, and the *Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011*, clause 4, Council must provide information on its public interest disclosure activity as part of the Annual Report

Council recorded No Public Interest Disclosure Requests.





# Public access to information

In accordance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, section 125(1) and the *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018* clause 8, schedule 2, the report must include information on government information public access activity

In accordance with Clause 8B the total number of access applications received by the Council in 2022-23 reporting year is 223. The full report on Council's compliance with the Act is annexed to this report.



# Disability inclusion action plan

In accordance with the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014*, section 13(1), the report must include information on the implementation of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan

**Building positive attitudes**

**Accessible systems, information or processes**

**Supporting meaningful employment**

**Creating liveable communities**

**Council's Disability and Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025 commenced in July 2021, demonstrating Council's commitment to improving opportunities for people with disability to access services, activities, facilities and information.**

Initiatives delivered under the Disability and Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025 include:

- PACC installed a lift connecting the ground floor box office and retail space with the first-floor exhibition and makers spaces with funds awarded under NSW Government Grant from Create NSW
- Funded by NSW Government, Stronger Country Communities Fund, the refurbishment of PACC included a new accessible ramp which leads into the box office and retail space.
- The height adjustable self-issue kiosk available at Cessnock Library Branch and Kurri Kurri Library Branch were promoted on Facebook.
- The Digital 24/7 Library promoted the online library application that enables access to audiobooks and other assistance elements including changing the font size and navigating the website using speech recognition software.
- Sensory Storytime sessions were held at Cessnock Library Branch and Kurri Kurri Library Branch in September and January.
- Regular pop-up sessions were held by NDIS providers at Cessnock Library Branch and Kurri Kurri Library Branch.
- An Access Audit was completed of Council's public amenities to assist Council's future capital works program and grant funding applications.
- Everyone Can Play Guidelines (Inclusive playspaces) was utilized to include accessible playspaces at Maybury Peace Park (Weston) and the McFarlane Street Park.
- 5 wheelchair appropriate picnic settings were installed across the City of Cessnock.
- Accessibility upgrades including tactile tiles, wheelchair accessible and gutter ramps were undertaken at Kurri Kurri Town Centre
- Council recruitment now includes a diversity statement and assistance with applying for a position at Council.



# Fair and equal employment

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 217(1)(a9)(v), the report must include a statement of activities to implement Council's *Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Diversity Management Plan*

## Workforce diversity

Cessnock City Council is committed to delivering successful Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO)

As at 23 November 2022 council's workforce included 3.2% employees who identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, and 4.9% employees from a non-English speaking background.

Cessnock City Council continues to focus on diversity and inclusion with a framework supporting the organisation which continues to attract, recruit, support and develop employees in four key areas

- Disability
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander People
- Gender
- Youth

As at 23 Nov 2022	Headcount
<b>Employment</b>	<b>465</b>
Permanent Full Time	309
Permanent Part Time	61
Apprentice / Trainee	22
Labourco/Contractors	19
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	54%
Female	46%

As at 23 Nov 2022	% of workforce
<b>Age</b>	
<25	9%
25-34	17%
35-44	22%
45-54	24%
55-64	22%
65 +	6%
<b>EEO Measure</b>	
Aboriginal / Torres Strait Islander	3.2%
Disability	0%
Non English Speaking Background	4.9%
Ethnic Minority	2.9%

# Voluntary planning agreements

In accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, section 7.5(5), the report must include particulars of compliance with, and the effect of, planning agreements in force during the year

## Agreements in force



<b>Planning Agreement - Cliftleigh</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide public infrastructure to the area commonly known as Cliftleigh, that would normally be provided under Section 94 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	20 August 2008	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325; and <b>Winten (No 23) Pty Limited</b> of Level 10, 61 Lavender Street, Milsons Point, New South Wales, 2061	Lot 61 DP 1076974 Lot 62 DP 1076974 Lot 23 DP 607899 Lot 61 DP 785115 Lot 62 DP 785115 Lot 3 DP 1039042 Lot 1 DP 1072276 Lot 2 DP 1072111 Lot 22 DP 607899 Lot 1 DP 1039042	Deed of variation – 22 December 2016  Second deed of variation – July 2020
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<b>Planning Deed - Anvil Creek Project</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide public infrastructure to the area commonly known as Anvil Creek, that would normally be provided under Section 94 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	20 August 2008	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325; and <b>Greta Estates Pty Limited (Greta)</b> of 12 Woodside Avenue, Burwood, New South Wales, 2134.	Lot 1 DP 1036942 Lot 2 DP 1036942 Lot 3 DP 1036942 Lot 4 DP 1036942 Lot 5 DP 1036942 Lot 6 DP 1036942 Lot 263 DP 755211 Lot 264 DP 755211	
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<b>Planning Agreement - Heddon Greta</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide public infrastructure to the area commonly known as Heddon Greta, that would normally be provided under Section 94 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	3 November 2010	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325; and <b>Kurri Autos Pty Limited</b> of P.O. Box 61 Kurri Kurri, New South Wales, 2327	Part Lot 404 of DP 1127085 Part Lot 102 of DP 1112059  off Main Road, Young and Bowden Streets, Errol Crescent, Madeline and Ashley Close and Forbes Crescent at Heddon Greta.	
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<b>Planning Agreement - Cessnock Civic</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide for the management of mine subsidence and environmental offset land within the area commonly known as Cessnock Civic.	13 July 2012	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325 <b>Cessnock Land Management P/L</b> of C/-Level 1, 106 King Street Sydney, New South Wales, 2000; <b>Vincent Street Holdings P/L</b> of C/- 1 Hartley Drive, Thornton, New South Wales, 2322; and <b>Hardie Oceanic P/L</b> of C/-Level 1, 106 King Street Sydney, New South Wales, 2000	Lot 251 DP 606348; Lot 1 DP 1036300; Lot 23 DP 845986; and Lot 22 DP 845986.	
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<b>Planning Agreement - Averys Village</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide environmental offset land to the area commonly known as Averys Village.	15 September 2013	<b>Minister for the Environment</b> of Level 32 Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000; <b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325; <b>Hunter Land Holdings</b> of 1 Hartley Drive, Thornton, New South Wales, 2322; <b>Averys Rise Investor Pty Limited</b> of Level 2, 77 Hunter Street, Newcastle, New South Wales, 2300; <b>Lindsay James George Elliott</b> of 57 Averys Lanes, Buchannan, New South Wales, 2323; <b>Graham John Field</b> of P.O. Box 30, Murgon, Queensland, 4605; <b>Pamela Joy Field</b> of P.O. Box 30, Murgon, Queensland, 4605; and <b>HL Eco Trades Pty Ltd</b> of 1 Hartley Drive, Thornton, New South Wales, 2322.	Lot 20 DP 11823 Lot 12 DP 755231 Lot 13 DP 755231 Lot 5 DP 1082569 Lot 8 DP 10443 Lot 119 DP 752445	
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<b>Planning Agreement - West and Wyndham Street Greta</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide public infrastructure to the area commonly known as Greta, that would normally be provided under Section 94 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	6 August 2014	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325; <b>Hardie Greta Pty Limited</b> of Level 1, 106 King Street Sydney, New South Wales, 2000.	Lot 2 DP 808354 Lot 2 DP 1151267	
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<b>Planning Agreement - Rose Hill</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide public infrastructure to the area commonly known as Millfield, that would normally be provided under Section 94 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	20 October 2014	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325; <b>Fame Cove Three Pty Limited</b> of Level 1, 106 King Street Sydney, New South Wales, 2000.	Lot 12 DP 1181682	
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<b>Planning Agreement - Bellbird Heights</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide environmental offset land to the area commonly known as Bellbird.	19 November 2014	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325;	Lot 1 DP 1164334
<b>Biodiversity</b>			<b>Winton Partners Pty Limited</b> of Level 2, 95 Pitt Street Sydney, New South Wales, 2000	

<b>Planning Agreement - Bellbird Heights</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide public infrastructure to the area commonly known as Bellbird, that would normally be provided under Section 94 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>	19 November 2014	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325;	Lot 1 DP 1164334
<b>Local Infrastructure</b>			<b>Winton Partners Pty Limited</b> of Level 2, 95 Pitt Street Sydney, New South Wales, 2000	

<b>Planning Agreement - West and Wyndham Street Greta</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide environmental offset land associated with development of the 'West and Wyndham Street, Greta' Urban Release Area, including the on-site protection of 7.7ha, and the off-site dedication of Lots 9, 102, and 207 DP753817 (297ha) for integration into the Wollemi National Park in the Singleton Local Government Area	20 August 2015	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325	Lot 2 DP 808354 Lot 2 DP 1151267 Lot 9 DP 753817 Lot 102 DP 753817 Lot 207 DP 753817
<b>Biodiversity</b>			<b>Minister administering the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974</b> of Level 32 Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, New South Wales, Sydney, 2000	
			<b>Hardie Greta Pty Ltd</b> of Level 1, 106 King Street Sydney, New South Wales, 2000	
			<b>Biodiversity Lands Pty Ltd</b> of Level 1, 106 King Street Sydney, New South Wales, 2000	

<b>Kitchener Residential Subdivision Deed of Planning Agreement</b>	This Agreement provides a mechanism to provide \$12,057.46 per lot (subject to indexation) for the provision of local infrastructure supporting the development of fifty nine (59) allotments in the Kitchener Urban Release Area.	04 November 2015	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325	Lot 2 DP 862493
<b>Local Infrastructure</b>			<b>JPG 58 Pty Ltd</b> of Level 12, 48 Hunter Street, Sydney	

<b>Planning Agreement - Huntlee</b>	This Agreement applies to Stage 1 of the Huntlee precinct approved by the State Government in April 2013. In total, the Huntlee Planning Agreement includes more than \$38.9 million of local infrastructure in the form of Monetary Contributions valued at \$9,546,588.00, Works-in-Kind valued at \$29,429,643.00, and 81.45ha of Land Dedication.	18 November 2015	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325	Part of Lot 200 DP 828486 Lot 201 DP 828486 Part of Lot 230 DP 79198 Lot 231 DP 879198 Lot 33 DP 755211 Lot 36 DP 755211 Lot 37 DP 755211 Lot 38 DP 755211 Lot 39 DP 755211 Lot 43 DP 755211 Part of Lot 241 DP 11005591 Lot 2 DP 729973 Lot 3 DP 729973 Lot 4 DP 729973 Lot 6 DP 729973 Lot 7 DP 729973 Lot 9 DP 729973 Lot 10 DP 729973 Lot 11 DP 729973 Part of Lot 12 DP 729973 Part of Lot 21 DP 1050597 Part of Lot 221 DP 1064738 Lot 10 DP 1105639 Lot 287 DP 1209109	First Deed of Agreement - 28 September 2014  Second Deed of Agreement - 23 March 2018
<b>Local Infrastructure</b>			<b>Huntlee Pty Ltd</b> of 34 Main Street Ellenvrork, Western Australia.		

<b>Planning Agreement - Orica</b>	The Planning Agreement commits the landowner to enter into a BioBanking Agreement in relation to part of the site with the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.	19 October 2016	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325	Lot 2 DP 809377
<b>Biodiversity</b>			<b>Orica Australia Pty Limited</b> C/ Level 1, 1 Nicholson Street Melbourne, Victoria, 3001	

<b>Planning Agreement - Black Hill</b>	The objective of the Planning Agreement is to require the conservation of the natural environment, which is a public purpose associated with the carrying out of development.	21 November 2016	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325	Lot 1131 DP 1057179
<b>Biodiversity</b>			<b>The Trustees of the Roman Catholic Church for the dioceses of Maitland-Newcastle</b> 841 Hunter Street Newcastle New South Wales, 2302	

<b>Planning Agreement - 1443 Wine Country Drive</b>	The objective of the Planning Agreement is to provide suitable funding for various public facilities to meet the demand generated by Development on the Land.	28 June 2017	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325	Lot 11 DP 1105639
<b>Local Infrastructure</b>			<b>Peter Vizzard</b> 1443 Wine Country Drive Rothbury New South Wales, 2335	

<b>Battery Recycling Facility Kurri Kurri</b>	The objective of the Planning Agreement is to contribute funds for public domain infrastructure works in the commercial areas of Kurri Kurri and Weston in accordance with existing masterplans.	15 September 2017	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325	Lot 796 DP 39877 Lot 797 DP 39877
<b>Local Infrastructure</b>			<b>Pymore Recyclers International Pty Ltd</b> Governor Macquarie Tower, Level 40 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000	
<b>65 Abernethy Street, Kitchener Planning Agreement</b>	The objective of the Planning Agreement is to provide appropriate monetary contributions in conjunction with the carrying out of the development for various public facilities to meet the demand from the additional population generated by the Development.	3 July 2018	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325	Lot 521 DP 755215
<b>Local Infrastructure</b>			<b>Kitchener Harvest Pty Limited</b> 298 Railway Parade Carlton New South Wales 2218	
<b>Bailey's Lane Planning Agreement</b>	The Planning Agreement will require the provision of road and intersection works in relation to the proposed development of the land known as 65 Bailey's Lane, Abermain.	10 July 2019	<b>Cessnock City Council</b> of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, New South Wales, 2325	Lot 790 DP 257363
<b>Local Infrastructure</b>			<b>Bailey's Lane Pty Limited</b> of 20/19-21 Central road, Miranda NSW 2228	

# Contracts awarded

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1) (a2)(i),(ii)*, the report must include details of each contract awarded (whether as a result of tender or otherwise) (other than employment contracts and contracts less than \$150,000)

Quote/ Tender number	Contractor Name	Contract Description	Contract Value	Contract Start date	Estimated contract end date
Regional Contract 019/137/1506	Remondis	Collection and Transport of Organics	\$375,000.00	1/03/2020	30/2/2024
T1819-07	Hunter Councils' LG Legal - Cat 1,2,3	Provision of Legal Services to Council	Schedule of Fees	1/07/2019	30/06/2024
T1819-13	Belgravia Health & Leisure Group Pty Ltd	Management of the Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre	\$1,016,269.10	1/07/2019	30/06/2034
T1920-09	Soft Landing Mattress Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collection of bulk Mattresses from Waste Management Centre's.</li> <li>Provision of mattress drop off/muster campaigns.</li> <li>Processing and recycling of collected mattresses in a manner to maximise resource recovery.</li> <li>Kerbside collection of individual Mattresses (Central Coast and Lake Macquarie only).</li> </ul>	\$606,000.00	2/09/2021	1/09/2026
T2021-04		D+C Embankment Stabilization - Paynes Crossing Road Paynes Crossing	\$250,000+		
T2021-07	Caloola Vocational Services INC	Cemetery Mowing and Trimming	\$107,303pa	1/06/2021	30/05/2026
T2021-08	Saunders Civilbuild Pty Ltd	Yango Bridge Replacement	\$1,206,367.00	3/08/2021	31/08/2023
T2021-12	All Kerbs & Concrete Pty Ltd	Concrete Construction Footpaths and Kerbs	\$1,800,000.00	27/09/2021	26/09/2024
T2022-08	Dynamic Sports Facilities Australia Pty Ltd	Carmichael Park New Sporting Facilities	\$529,989.00	1/06/2022	11/12/2023



T2022-09	Saunders Civilbuild Pty Ltd	Kline Street Weston Bridge Project	\$3,132,741.81	14/12/2022	29/01/2024
T2022-10	Saunders Civilbuild Pty Ltd	Watagan Creek Bridge and Wescott Bridge Replacement	\$1,630,907.86	30/08/2023	1/12/2023
T2022-10Q	Saunders Civilbuild Pty Ltd	Design and Construction of Watagan Creek Road 1# Bridge, Laguna and Westcott Bridge	\$1,630,907.86	31/07/2023	31/07/2024
T2022-011	Bolla Contracting Pty Ltd	Cessnock Regional BMX Facility	\$412,830.00	1/10/2022	31/10/2023
T2023-03	Hartcher Hall Pty Ltd	Electrical Maintenance & Installation on Buildings, Specific Programmed Maintenance (Schedule 2a) / Reactive Type Maintenance (Schedule 2b) / New Electrical Installations	Schedule of Fees	1/07/2023	30/06/2026
T2023-04	Air Conditioning Industries	MAINTENANCE OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS to carry out work on Air Conditioning systems category 1-3 and 4	\$180,000.00	1/07/2023	30/06/2026
	Equans Mechanical Services Australia Pty Limited	MAINTENANCE OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS to carry out work on Air Conditioning systems 4. New Installations at various sites.	\$180,000.00		
T2023-09	MRW Building	Bucketty & Laguna Rural Fire Service Station Up Grades	\$693,991.48	10/03/2023	26/08/2023
T2023-10	Precise Build Pty Ltd	Millfield Rural Fire Service Station Construction	\$1,018,263.94	1/07/2023	31/12/2023
T2023-13	B & K Revegetation	Kurri Kurri Town Centre Upgrade	\$3,078,659.83	3/08/2023	3/03/2024
T2023-14	B & K Revegetation	Cessnock Library Laneway Landscape Works	\$432,381.77	14/03/2023	30/09/2023
T2023-16	All Kerbs & Concrete Pty Ltd Bolla Contracting Bulga Civil Earthmoving and Concreting Civil and Sons Conex Group Pty Ltd Kingsline Pty Ltd NSW Building and Civil Pty Ltd State Civil Pty Ltd	Concrete Footpath Construction and Kerbs	\$1,100,000.00	27/09/2023	27/09/2023
	LSG Landscape & Civil / Australian Native Grasses	East End Oval Spectator Seating & Improved Access	\$328,493.00	1/08/2023	31/12/2023
T2023-18	Landmark Products Pty Ltd	Cliftleigh Public Amenities	\$155,430.00	31/08/2023	31/01/2024

T2023-19	Court Craft (Australia)	Miller Park Multi-Purpose Courts & Upgrade Jeffery Park Tennis Courts	\$822,499.00	1/08/2023	31/01/2024
T2023-20	Civil Wise Pty Ltd	Design and Construct Causeways in Laguna	\$562,097.17	13/06/2023	14/05/2024
T2023-22	Convic Pty Ltd	Bridges Hill Local Skatepark Upgrade	\$572,000.00	13/06/2023	1/02/2024
T2023-27	Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd	Preliminary Engineering of the Wollombi Road Upgrade, over Stages 1 and 2	\$1,682,704.93	31/08/2023	30/06/2024
T2023-28	Spectrum Comms Pty Ltd	Communication and Community Engagement Wollombi Road Upgrade	\$441,298.00	1/06/2023	30/06/2026
T2023-29	Double R Equipment Repairs	Supply and Deliver 2x5 Tonne Excavators Tracked	\$230,673.00		Direct Purchase Order Number goods
T2023-30	Isuzu Australia Limited	Supply and Delivery to Council Workshop of 1 - 8 Tonne Single Cab Tipping Truck x 2	\$425,282.00		Direct Purchase Order Number goods
T2023-31	Ausroad Manufacturing Pty Ltd	Supply Deliver Self-Contained, Truck Mounted Blower Type Road Maintenance Machine	\$1,308,692.00		Direct Purchase Order Number goods
T2023-32	Kubota Australia Pty Ltd	Mowers 135p Tractor 4wd	\$339,816.00		Direct Purchase Order Number goods
T2023-32*	John Deere Limited	Supply and Delivery of 3x 100hp tractors 4wd	\$331,663.00		Direct Purchase Order Number goods
T2023-33	Kubota Australia Pty Ltd	Mowers 2x 135HP Tractor 4WD with 4 in 1 Loader and Bucket	\$315,806.00		Direct Purchase Order Number goods
T2023-36	Bucher/ Gilbert and Roach Newcastle	Supply and Delivery of 2x New 6x4 Side Loading Waste Compaction Vehicles	\$1,076,866.00		Direct Purchase Order Number goods
T2023-37	Loyalty Management Solutions	Project Director Role, Wollombi Road	\$789,360.00	1/08/2023	1/02/2025
T521920HUN	Flick Anticimex	Provision of Hygiene Services	Schedule of Fees	1/07/2019	1/06/2024
T741920HUN	Fulton Hogan	Supply and Delivery of Bulk Cationic Bitumen CRS	Schedule of Fees	1/01/2020	31/12/2023
T0702021HUN	Jenalad Pty Ltd t/a Whiteline Road Services	Provision of Linemarking	Schedule of Fees	1/10/2020	30/09/2023
T082021HUN	DOB Enterprises Pty Ltd t/a Watchout Traffic Control	Provision of Traffic Control	Schedule of Fees	1/10/2020	30/09/2023
T272021HUN	Boral Resources (NSW) Pty Limited	Provision of Road Base Materials	Schedule of Fees	1/12/2021	31/12/2023
T112223HUN	AI Highways Pty Ltd	Road Safety Barriers	Schedule of Fees	1/07/2021	31/03/2024

T132223HUN	Fulton Hogan Pty Ltd	Supply and Delivery Of Bitumen	Schedule of Fees	1/01/2023	31/12/2025
T022324HUN	Boral Resources (NSW) Pty Ltd	Supply and Delivery of Readymix Concrete	Schedule of Fees	1/07/2023	30/06/2027
T012324HUN	Accurate Asphalt and Road Repairs Pty Ltd	Road Resurfacing	Schedule of Fees	1/07/2023	30/06/2026
T112223HUN	AI Highways Pty Ltd	Road Safety Brrier Systems	Schedule of Fees	1/07/2022	31/03/2024
T142324HUN	Active Tree Services Pty Ltd t/a Active Tree Services	Provision of Tree Maintenance	Schedule of Fees	1/10/2023	30/09/2026
T152324HUN	Altus Traffic Pty Ltd	Provision of Traffic Control	Schedule of Fees	1/10/2023	30/09/2026
T162324HUN	J & M Roadmarking	Provision of Linemarking	Schedule of Fees	1/10/2023	30/09/2026
Q2022-074	Bitzios Consulting Pty Ltd	Traffic and Transport Strategy	\$302,181.00	11/04/2021	31/12/2023
Q2022-121	Maitland City Council	Animal shelter facilities including provision of care and management of impounded and surrounded animals	Fixed rate and schedule of fees	1/03/2022	28/02/2027
Q2022-177	Woodbury Civil Pty Ltd	Mount View Road Rehabilitation	\$3,823,119.90	29/05/2024	2/12/2024
Q2022-178	Tenite Pty Ltd t/a B & K Revegetation & Landscaping	Kurri Kurri CBD Redevelopment	\$1,518,232.87	19/09/2022	20/12/2023
Q2023-013	Hunter Rail & Civil	Nelson Street Greta Shared Pathway Construction	\$848,552.10	10/08/2023	30/06/2024
Q2023-78	SLR Consulting Australia Pty Ltd	Flood Recovery Landslips - Geotechnical Investigations	\$243,969.00	22/02/2023	22/02/2024
Q2023-81	MRW Building Pty Ltd	Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre Awning Construction	\$239,706.93	16/02/2023	30/09/2023
Q2023-120	Hartcher Hall Pty Ltd	Greta Central Floodlighting	\$258,500.00	3/04/2023	24/11/2023
Q2023-128	MRW Building Pty Ltd	Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre Amphitheatre Construction	\$249,999.00	15/03/2023	30/09/2023
Q2023-177	Duratec Australia	Sandy Creek Rd, Quorrobolong - Box Culvert	\$226,091.29	23/06/2023	28/08/2023
Q2023-196	GHD Pty Ltd	Survey, Geotechnical Investigations and preliminary design of Sawyers Gully Road	\$389,376.40	18/07/2023	26/01/2024
T2023-19	Court Craft (Aust) Pty Ltd	Miller Park Multi-Purpose Courts & Upgrade to George Jeffery Park Tennis Courts	\$822,499.01	1/08/2023	31/01/2024
T2023-08	Landmark Products Pty Ltd	Design and Construct Footbridges - Cessnock	\$369,897.00	19/12/2022	30/09/2023

Q2021-068	Public Works Advisory NSW Government SCMI461 Prequalification Scheme for Construction Works	Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Loading Dock Addition	\$221,574.61	7/04/2022	30/09/2023
Q2022-071	Public Works Advisory	Project Management of 3 projects: Q2021-228 Lang Street Kurri Kurri Stage 1 Q2022-177 Mt View Road Cessnock T2021-08 Yango Creek Road Bridge Replacement	\$313,662.80	Nil	30/12/2023
-	Loyalty Management Solutions	1. AIF Wollombi Rd Upgrade Project (Project Administration Support) 2. Kurri Kurri Town Centre Upgrade Project (In Construction) 3. Mount View Rd Reconstruction (In construction) 4. Works Depot Fuel Tank Remediation (Planning & Design)	\$200,000.00	8/06/2023	1/02/2024
-	Engenicom Project Manager	Project Management Various	\$199,999.00	19/06/2023	1/02/2024
-	EJC Engineering and Project Management Service	Project Management Various	\$240,240.00	1/08/2024	30/06/2024
-	Australian Community Media (ACM)	Advertising Agreement	150,000+	1/07/2023	30/06/2024
Electricity Small Sites 3062	Shell Energy	Electricity Small Sites 3062	1,000,000 +	1/07/2022	30/06/2032
T1819-15	Coates Hire Operations	Plant Hire	1,000,000 +	4/11/2019	30/10/2022
T2021-06	Shell Energy	Supply of Electricity Large/ Street Lighting	500,000 +	10/08/2022	30/06/2024
T2022-10	Saunders Civilbuild Pty Ltd	Kline Street Bridge Weston	1,000,000 +	31/07/2023	31/07/2024
Contract 137/1354	Australian Native Landscapes	Kerbside Organics Collection	\$700,000 annually	6/03/2017	9/10/2030
-	Solo Resource Recovery	Kerbside recycling (green lid bin)	\$800,000 annually	6/03/2017	1/07/2031
-	Hunter Resource Recovery	Kerbside recycling (yellow lid bin)	\$2,000,000 annually	1/07/2013	30/06/2025



# Development Contributions and Levies

Under the Environment Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 (EPA Reg) cl 218A(1), (2) and (3) the report must disclose particulars of development contributions and development levies which have been used or expended under each contributions plan

Total value of all contributions and levies received during the year \$9.02 million

Total value of all contributions and levies expended during the year \$2.56 million

Identification	Public Service or Amenity particulars	\$ Contribution/Levy expended	% funded by contribution/levy	\$ temporary borrowings
RFR-2023-003 Formalise access road Mount View Park	Works & Infrastructure - Open Space	1,319	1.96%	0
RBC-2023-019 Kearsley Comm. Hall upgrade Bathroom	Works & Infrastructure - Open Space	309	0.61%	0
Kurri Kurri Library Toilet Refurbishment (Design Works)	Corporate & Community Services - Community	4,493	100.00%	0
CFC-2023-003 Branxton Cemetery Columbarium Wall	Works & Infrastructure - Open Space	17,767	87.63%	0
CFR-2022-009 Miller Park Netball & Tennis Courts	Works & Infrastructure - Open Space	98,456	14.11%	0
CDR-2020-006 Thomas St North Rothbury	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	310,000	77.59%	0
CFR-2020-006 Poppethead Park Kitchener Masterplan	Works & Infrastructure - Open Space	6,518	100.00%	0
RFR-2023-003 Formalise access road Mount View Park	Works & Infrastructure - Open Space	2,766	4.11%	0
RBC-2023-019 Kearsley Comm. Hall upgrade Bathroom	Works & Infrastructure - Open Space	50,300	99.39%	0

RRL-2020-011 Quorrobolong Rd Kitchener	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	143,836	18.28%	0
Blackhill quarry - upgrades to Blackhill Road	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	86,411	100.00%	0
RBC-2022-005 CPAC Refurbishment	Corporate & Community Services - Community	21,283	92.33%	0
RFP-2020-004 Cessnock Pool Splash Pad	Works & Infrastructure - Open Space	119,500	100.00%	0
CDR-2020-006 Thomas St North Rothbury	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	89,560	22.41%	0
Traffic & Transport Strategy for Cessnock LGA review & concept design CBD bypass	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	116,545	77.08%	0
RRL-2022-004 Deasy's Road Pokolbin	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	167,872	94.23%	0
CFR-2019-006 Crawford Park Upgrades (Skate Park)	Works & Infrastructure - Open Space	51,885	14.15%	0
CPW-2022-001 Millfield - Rose Hill Est to Wollombi	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	120,000	28.19%	0
Shoulder sealing and Line Marking Millfield & Eleventh Ave	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	17,409	78.69%	0
RCC-2022-001 Cessnock CBD Civic Stg 2 Lib Shared Z	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	47,846	53.23%	0
CTK-2020-001 Town Centre Upgrade	Works & Infrastructure - Roads	11,431	12.50%	0





# Rates and charges subsidies

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 132, the report must outline the amount of rates and charges written off during the year

## Rates and charges written off

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (Reg), cl 132

Rates and charges written off (including rates reduced or waived for pensioners) during the 2022-23 period comprised:

Type	Amount
Pensioner rebates	\$888,048
Other abandonments	\$0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>\$888,048</b>
Pensioner subsidies	-\$445,567
<b>Net rates and charges written off</b>	<b>\$442,481</b>





# External bodies exercising Council functions

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a6)*, the report must include a statement of all external bodies that exercised functions delegated by Council

Enforcement Officer (*Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*) Council Appointed

Impounding Officer (*Impounding Act 1993*) Council Appointed

Inspector (*Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002*) Other 3rd Party Appointed

Inspector (*Industrial Relations Act 1996*) Other 3rd Party Appointed

Inspector (*Plumbing and Drainage Act 2011*) Council Appointed

Inspector (*Smoke Free Environment Act 2007*) Other 3rd Party Appointed

Local controller for SES units (*State Emergency Service Act 1989*) Other 3rd Party Appointed

Local Emergency Management Officer (*State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989*)

Public Officer (*Local Government Act 1993*) Council Appointed

Reporting Officer (*Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*)

Responsible Accounting Officer Council Appointed

Return to Work Coordinator (*Workers Compensation Regulation 2016*)

Works Safety Officer (*Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998*)

# Legal proceedings

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, clause 217(1)(a3)*, the report must include a summary of the amounts incurred by the Council in relation to legal proceedings

Summarised below are details of the costs incurred in regard to legal proceedings taken by Council or taken against Council during 2022-23. The result of the proceedings is shown together with the amount of the legal costs incurred. Total costs recovered in the period was \$42,250.

Matter	Court	Cost 2022-23	Result
Nulkaba Projects Pty Ltd v Cessnock City Council	Land and Environment Court – Class 1	\$25,097	Discontinued by applicant – recovery of costs
Barr Property and Planning Pty Ltd v Cessnock City Council	Land and Environment Court – Class 1	\$12,373	Payment of costs to Council
Cessnock City Council v Redstone Ridge Vineyards Pty Ltd	Land and Environment Court – Class 4	\$946	Proceedings yet to be finalised
Cessnock City Council v Steele	Local Court	\$1,419	Court found the defendant guilty and issued fine
Cessnock City Council v Mukherjee	Local Court	\$2,381	Court found the defendant guilty and issued fine
Cessnock City Council v Ryan	Local Court	\$1575	Matter withdrawn
Cessnock City Council v Hope	Local Court	\$5905	Matter withdrawn
123 259 932 Pty Ltd v Cessnock City Council	Court of Appeal, Supreme Court	\$175,000	Judgement against council with settlement awarded. Being appealed by Council
123 259 932 Pty Ltd v Cessnock City Council	Appeal to the High Court of Australia (Special Leave application)	\$70,500	Proceedings yet to be finalised

# Partnerships, cooperatives and joint ventures

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 217(1)(a8), the report must include a statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which Council participated during the year

The Hunter Joint Organisation, and its group entities, are the hub for local government collaboration, strengthening our communities by being the local voice on regional strategic issues in the Hunter and delivering tailored local government solutions. For over sixty years, local government in the Hunter has found significant benefit in working together through positive cooperation and resource sharing. Participating councils include: Cessnock City Council, Dungog Shire Council, Lake Macquarie City Council, Maitland City Council, Mid Coast Council, Muswellbrook Shire Council, City of Newcastle, Port Stephens Council, Singleton Council, Upper Hunter Shire Council.

There are five key entities that operate as part of the current enterprise offering:

- Hunter Joint Organisation – a statutory body under the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)*, established in 2018 to identify, advocate for and collaborate on regional strategic priorities for the Hunter. The Hunter Joint Organisation's statutory mandate includes identifying key regional strategic priorities, advocating for these priorities, and building collaborations around these priorities with other levels of government, industry and community.
  - Arrow Collaborative Services Limited (and its wholly owned subsidiaries Hunter Councils Legal Services Limited and Arrow Collaborative Communications) – are companies limited by guarantee under the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)* and established to improve the quality and efficiency of local government services throughout the Hunter Region. These organisations offer tailored local government services through its five divisions; Local Government Training Institute, Local Government Legal, GoodChat TV, Regional Procurement, Screen Hunter (which, under delegation from member councils, licences film production on Council owned and control land), and the Hunter JO Policy & Programs Division (which delivers on the strategic priorities of the Hunter Joint Organisation, including the Hunter and Central Coast Regional Environment Program, on behalf of both Hunter JO member councils and Central Coast Council).
  - Hunter Councils Incorporated – an incorporated association under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW)* that holds property assets for the Hunter Joint Organisation group.
- Cessnock City Council has representation on each entity's Board, and shares ownership and governance of the entities with the other nine councils of the Hunter Region
- Hunter Resource Recovery (HRR) is the contract manager of kerbside collection, sorting and marketing of dry recyclables for Council. Maitland, Cessnock, Lake Macquarie and Singleton Councils jointly own and operate the service. HRR manages the collection and processing contract with Solo Resource Recover.

# Special rate variation

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, section 54P(1), this must include particulars of any environmental upgrade agreements entered into by Council

## Sustainability and environmental levy

Council did not levy a Sustainability and Environmental charge.





# Modern Slavery

In accordance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018, Sections (4)(c) and (d) the report must contain a statement detailing the action taken by the council in relation to any issue raised by the Anti-slavery Commissioner concerning the operations of the council and identified as being a significant issue, and a statement of steps taken to ensure that goods and services procured by and for the council were not the product of modern slavery within the meaning of the Act.

Cessnock City Council ensures that Modern slavery within the meaning of the Act is recognized and contained within its Procurement Policy, systems and processes. Compliance is promoted throughout the business via regular training and development processes and to the Community, suppliers and external stakeholders via the Cessnock City Council Compliance Statement.

# Councillors statutory reporting information

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 217(1)(a1) (i),(ii),(iii),(iv),(v),(vi),(vii),(viii), the report must include the total cost during the year of the payment of expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, Councillors in relation to their civic functions (as paid by the Council, reimbursed to the Councillor or reconciled with the Councillor)

## Councillors' and mayor's expenses

Councillor fees	\$329,030.00
Mayoral Allowance	\$62,510.00
Reimbursement of Expenses	\$25,679.21
Travel expenses	\$1,888.00





LA Leave of Absence  
AP Apology

Councillor Meetings Attended									
Councillor	20 July 2022	Extra 28 July 2022	17 Aug 2022	Extra 7 Sept 2022	21 Sept 2022	Extra 12 Oct 2022	19 Oct 2022	16 Nov 2022	14 Dec 2022
Mayor, J Suvaal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Burke	✓	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
P Dunn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R Grine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J Hawkins	✓	✓	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
K Jackson	✓	✓	✓	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓	LA
J Jurd	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J Moores	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I Olsen	✓	✓	✓	LA	LA	AP	✓	✓	✓
P Paynter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Sander	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D Watton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AP	LA	✓

A Absent  
LA Leave of Absence  
AP Apology

Councillor Attendance at Briefings									
Councillor	6 July 2022	Extra 13 July 2022	03 Aug 2022	24 Aug 2022	07 Sept 2022	14 Sept 2022	12 Oct 2022	09 Nov 2022	23 Nov 2022
Mayor, J Suvaal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Burke	AP	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	AP	A
P Dunn	AP	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
R Grine	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J Hawkins	✓	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	AP
M Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AP	✓	✓
K Jackson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
J Jurd	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	AP	A
J Moores	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
I Olsen	✓	✓	✓	✓	LA	LA	AP	AP	A
P Paynter	AP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
A Sander	AP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
D Watton	✓	✓	A	A	✓	AP	✓	LA	A

Councillor Meetings Attended (cont.)					
Councillor	15 Feb 2023	15 Mar 2023	19 Apr 2023	17 May 2023	21 June 2023
Mayor, J Suvaal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Burke	✓	✓	AP	✓	AP
P Dunn	✓	AP	LA	LA	✓
R Grine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J Hawkins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
M Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
K Jackson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J Jurd	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
J Moores	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
I Olsen	✓	AP	✓	✓	✓
P Paynter	✓	✓	✓	✓	LA
A Sander	✓	✓	✓	LA	✓
D Watton	✓	✓	✓	✓	AP

Councillor Attendance at Briefings (cont.)				
Councillor	08 Feb 2023	08 Mar 2023	12 Apr 2023	14 Jun 2023
Mayor, J Suvaal	✓	✓	✓	✓
A Burke	✓	AP	AP	✓
P Dunn	✓	✓	LA	✓
R Grine	✓	✓	✓	AP
J Hawkins	A	✓	✓	AP
M Hill	✓	AP	✓	AP
K Jackson	AP	✓	AP	AP
J Jurd	✓	✓	✓	A
J Moores	✓	✓	✓	AP
I Olsen	A	AP	✓	A
P Paynter	✓	✓	A	AP
A Sander	✓	AP	✓	✓
D Watton	✓	✓	A	✓



# Councillor expenses

Councillor	Councillor Fees	Mayoral Allowance	Reimbursement of Expenses	Travel Expenses	Grand Total
Mayor, J Suvaal	\$25,310	\$61,310	\$2,608	\$3,558	\$85,670
A Burke	\$25,310		\$1,775		\$27,085
P Dunn	\$25,310		\$653		\$25,963
R Grine	\$25,310		\$1,786		\$27,096
K Hawkins	\$25,310		\$2,141		\$27,451
M Hill	\$25,310		\$436		\$25,746
K Jackson	\$25,310		\$3,712	\$750	\$29,771
J Jurd	\$25,310		\$1,406	\$545	\$27,261
J Moores	\$25,310	\$1,200	\$2,211	\$375	\$29,096
I Olsen	\$25,310		\$436		\$25,746
P Paynter	\$25,310		\$2,261		\$27,571
A Sander	\$25,310		\$1,807		\$27,117
D Watton	\$25,310		\$4,447		\$29,757
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$329,030</b>	<b>\$62,510</b>	<b>\$25,679</b>	<b>\$1,888</b>	<b>\$415,331</b>

## Professional development

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 186, the report must include information about induction training and ongoing professional development for Councillors

The multi-faceted nature of the role exercised by Mayors and Councillors requires them to work together to make important decision of behalf of the community and they need to possess a wide variety of skills, experience and knowledge to achieve these results.

Councillors are required to take responsibility for the decisions which impact on the community, the services and infrastructure delivered by Council, and the local natural and built environments. This involves significant use of public money.

Proper induction into their roles and ongoing professional development and training is essential if the community is to be well served by their elected representatives.

During the reporting period the following professional development training was provided:

Councillor	Professional Development program participation	Additional training or other activities
Mayor, J Suuval	✓	X
A Burke	✓	X
P Dunn	✓	X
R Grine	✓	✓
J Hawkins	✓	X
M Hill	✓	X
K Jackson	✓	X
J Jurd	✓	✓
J Moores	✓	X
I Olsen	✓	X
P Paynter	✓	X
A Sander	✓	X
D Watton	✓	X

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 217(1)(a), the report must include details, including purpose, of overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council (including visits sponsored by other organisations)

## Overseas visits

There were no overseas visits by Councillors or Council staff in 2022-2023.

In accordance with the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, clause 217(1)(b)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), the report must include a statement of the total remuneration package of the General Manager (GM).

## General manager and senior staff remuneration

Council employed **3 senior staff** and the **General Manager** as at 30 June 2023. The total money payable in respect to the employment of senior staff members during 2022-2023, including money payable for salary, the provision of fringe benefits, and all other costs associated with their employment, was \$1,372,546.80.

Contract employment conditions for senior staff are in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, section 338.

Total Remuneration Packages	
General Manager	\$493,255.17
Other Senior Staff	\$842,760.64
Fringe benefits tax payable for any non-cash benefits	\$36,531.00

## Carers recognition

Under the *Carers Recognition Act 2010*, section 8(2), Councils considered to be 'human service agencies' must report on compliance with the Act for the reporting period

Council is not considered to be a 'human services agency' under the *Carers Recognition Act 2010*

## Recovery and threat abatement plans

Under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*, section 220ZT(2), Councils identified in a recovery and threat abatement plan as responsible for implementation of measures included in the plan, must report on actions taken to implement measures as to the state of the environment in its area

Council is not identified as responsible for implementation of measures in any recovery and threat abatement plans







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