



Vincent Street
CESSNOCK

11 February 2026

ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY 2026

ENCLOSURES

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WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

WI1/2026 Investigate options to remove the shared zone within Cooper Street & Charlton Street Intersection

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**MINUTES OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON FRIDAY,
5 DECEMBER 2025, COMMENCING AT 9.15AM**

PRESENT: Councillor Palmowski
Councillor Madden
Councillor Lea (Alternate)
Cory Robertson – Community Representative
Stephanie Earl – Community Representative (left at 11:20am)
Sue Hodges – Community Representative
Paul Mason – Community Representative
Richard Edwards – Community Representative
Lucy Reed – Community Representative

ABSENT: Tracey Skene – Community Representative

IN ATTENDANCE: Natalie Drage – Community and Cultural Development Manager
Megan Barnes – Principal Community Planner
Jessica Elliott – Community Development Officer
Joh Honnef – Senior Strategic Planner
Keren Brown – Principal Strategic Planner
Kate Hicks – Recreation Officer
Lyll Green - Vegetation and Civic Spaces Coordinator
India Anderson - Minute Taker

INVITEES: Ali Byrne – Urbis
Balazs Hansel – Urbis

APOLOGIES

Councillor Hill
Kerrie Roberts – Community Representative
Christine Blackwood – Community Representative
Deb Dacey – Community Representative
Sonia Sharpe – Community Representative
Tara Dever – Community Representative

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Community Representative, Uncle Richard Edwards delivered an Acknowledgement of Country.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

MINUTES:

MOTION

Moved: Councillor Palmowski

Seconded: Sue Hodges

AA306

RECOMMENDED that the Minutes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee held on 1 August 2025, as circulated, be taken as read and confirmed as a correct record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil

LISTED MATTERS

LISTED MATTERS - COMMITTEE NO. AACLM10/2025

SUBJECT: STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT FOR ANAMBAH TO BRANXTON
REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT GROWTH AREA

MOTION
AA307

Moved: Councillor Lea

Seconded: Councillor Madden

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. Note progress towards the development of the Anambah to Branxton Regionally Significant Growth Area Heritage Assessment.
2. Request for the matter to be discussed and updated with the Committee throughout the project.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council's Senior Strategic Planner introduced the Urbis consulting team, who provided a presentation to the Committee.

A discussion occurred for the project area, including the current and proposed growth zones in the Anambah to Branxton Regionally Significant Growth Area.

Community Representative, Paul Mason arrived at 9:45am. The meeting became quorate.

Urbis asked if the Committee's contact details could be shared to enable further conversations as the project progresses. It was agreed that Council's Community and Cultural Development Manager will prepare an email to all committee members seeking approval for their contact email details to be shared with Urbis.

Acknowledgement of cultural knowledge was raised and further consultation and early engagement was encouraged by the Committee with Wonnarua Elders including formally inviting them to be a project partner. The importance of talking with young people was also discussed and the Aboriginal Education Consultative Group was recommended as a contact for youth engagement. The Committee provided Urbis with suggested contacts for further engagement and included Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council.

The growth area includes housing and employment lands. The importance of providing opportunities for Aboriginal people to secure employment was discussed. It was also encouraged that if and when the lands are developed, the plan should include a recommendation that contractors be provided with cultural awareness training including being provided with information on the histories of the land they are working on. Practices should be developed for safe keeping places along with a documented process for what to do when an artefact is found including how will it be managed and where will it be stored. Findings should also be mapped. It was encouraged that the University of Newcastle be contacted to assist in identifying and providing information on where massacres may have occurred.

This is page 3 of the Minutes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2025

Dual naming or use of traditional naming in the proposed growth area was encouraged.

The Committee expressed an interest in being regularly updated on the progress of this project. The advice from the Committee to Urbis was to continue to be clear and transparent about the project and its progress.

Urbis team left the meeting at 10:09am.

This is page 4 of the Minutes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2025

LISTED MATTERS - COMMITTEE NO. AACLM11/2025

**SUBJECT: SAWYERS GULLY URBAN INVESTIGATION AREA STRUCTURE
PLANNING - CONNECTING WITH COUNTRY**

MOTION **Moved:** Councillor Palmowski **Seconded:** Sue Hodges
AA308

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. Notes the status of the Sawyers Gully Urban Investigation Area Structure Plan project and the proposed scope and content of the Connecting with Country consultancy deliverables.
2. Request that the project continue to be presented and discussed at future committee meetings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

A project page has been established on the Cessnock City Council website and a link will be circulated to the community with the meeting minutes.

It was discussed that the Connecting to Country framework includes considerations for housing and employment and is important noting a considerable number of people in the Cessnock Local Government Area are an Aboriginal person.

It was asked by a Community Representative if the project maps could also include the traditional owners of the land? This will be further considered by the project team. It was also asked by a Community Representative if consultation had occurred with Wonnarua people and it was emphasised the importance of engaging with Wonnarua Elders and Traditional Owners.

The significant increase in requests for consultation with Aboriginal knowledge holders was discussed and in comparison, consultants from other project areas routinely charge a fee for their knowledge. To be further considered is equity in payment for the sharing of knowledge and if Council could have arrangements in place with agreed community cultural knowledge holders to ensure Aboriginal peoples are paid for their cultural knowledge.

LISTED MATTERS - COMMITTEE NO. AACLM12/2025

SUBJECT: DRAFT GENERIC PARKS PLAN OF MANAGEMENT - PUBLIC EXHIBITION

MOTION
AA309

Moved: Councillor Lea

Seconded: Sue Hodges

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. Note the report.
2. Are provided, via email, with the information regarding the five (5) parcels of land noted in the report subject to undetermined Aboriginal land claims.
3. And that the draft Plan of Management be reported back to the next Committee meeting prior to being presented to Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Recreation Officer provided an overview on how a Plan of Management guides the uses of Council owned and/or managed parks and that all community land is required to have a Plan of Management under the Local Government Act 1993.

It was explained that a Plan of Management does not propose physical changes to parks, and rather it outlines the rules and processes for how they may be used in the future. Any future upgrades or development would still follow the usual consultation and community engagement process.

It was noted that the Plan of Management is currently on public exhibition and closes 19 December 2025.

The report to the Committee outlined that five sites in the Plan of Management are affected by an undetermined Aboriginal land claim.

It was emphasised by a Community Representative that Wonnarua groups need to know what the five sites are to guide feedback on what the acceptable use could be in the future for these sites. It was asked that it be considered if the Committee could be provided with further information out of session via email, outlining the five sites that are subject to the Aboriginal land claim and if the claim identifies what the usage intends to be.

The draft Plan of Management to come back to the next meeting for further consultation with the Committee to ensure these intended uses have been considered in the plan.

This is page 6 of the Minutes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2025

LISTED MATTERS - COMMITTEE NO. AACLM13/2025

SUBJECT: MOUNT VIEW PARK DRAFT CONCEPT PLAN

MOTION
AA310

Moved: Sue Hodges

Seconded: Lucy Reed

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee discuss and note the Mount View Park Draft Concept Plan.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Vegetation and Civic Spaces Coordinator provided an overview of the draft Concept Plan. The Committee discussed the proposed wording within the draft Plan for cultural heritage findings. It was requested by the Committee that the word Aboriginal be added to the relevant dot points for cultural heritage findings on page 4 and 5.

The Committee emphasised the importance of Wonnarua groups being made aware of and involved in the process for when an artefact is found and when the artefact is proposed to be relocated.

This is page 7 of the Minutes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee Meeting held on 5 December 2025

LISTED MATTERS - COMMITTEE NO. AACLM14/2025

SUBJECT: NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK AND NAIDOC WEEK

MOTION
AA311

Moved: Sue Hodges

Seconded: Councillor Madden

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee provides advice on the delivery of events as part of National Reconciliation Week 2026 and NAIDOC Week 2026.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Community Development Officer provided an overview of the suggestions tabled at the August Committee meeting. Event opportunities for 2026 was discussed and any additional feedback from the Committee beyond what has already been recorded can be provided to the Community Development Officer.

In regards to Reconciliation Week, attendees recommended that Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) be the venue again, and that the event be expanded to offer the wider community with cultural awareness opportunities for example food and cultural product. A smoking ceremony to also be considered.

Opportunities for an activity at Bridges Hill Park during Reconciliation Week or NAIDOC Week was also encouraged by a Community Representative.

A Community Representative encouraged promoting reconciliation by inviting organisations and other sectors to participate in Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week events. A Community Representative also provided an overview of the Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation and their Mobile Education Centre bus that raises awareness of the experiences and ongoing impacts of the Stolen Generations.

It was encouraged by the Committee that Council further strengthen its relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by considering hosting its own event during Reconciliation Week (meaning within the Council Administration Building).

A call out will commence soon for organisations to have their events listed in the community wide NAIDOC Week calendar, coordinated by Council. It was encouraged that events where possible be scheduled to occur at different times.

Councillor Madden left the room at 11:18am and returned at 11:20am.

CORRESPONDENCE

CORRESPONDENCE - COMMITTEE NO. AACCO1/2025

**SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE FROM NSW ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
AUTHORITY - CLIMATE CHANGE LICENSEE REQUIREMENTS**

The inquorate Committee was accepting of representatives from the NSW Environment Protection Authority attending a future meeting to discuss climate policies.

*Community Representative Stephanie Earl left the meeting at 11.20am.
The meeting became inquorate for Correspondence Report No. AACCO1/2025.*

The Community and Cultural Development Manager provided an overview of the offer from the NSW Environment Protection Authority to attend a future meeting and meet with the Committee. Attendees agreed they are comfortable with the NSW Environment Protection Authority attending a future meeting and an invitation will be extended.

At the request of the Committee, the next meeting has been rescheduled and will now be held on Friday 6 February 2026, as opposed to Friday 13 February 2026.

The Meeting Was Declared Closed at 11.26am

**Australian Local Government Association 2026 National General Assembly - Attendance and
Motions**

Summary of previous Councillor attendance at National General Assembly

**indicates voting delegate*

2021	2022	2023	2024
Mayor Bob Pynsent*	Mayor Jay Suvaal*	Mayor Jay Suvaal* Clr Karen Jackson	Mayor Jay Suvaal* Clr Karen Jackson
2025	2026	2027	2028
Mayor Watton* Clr Quintin King Clr Sophie Palmowski Clr Mitchell Hill			

Hunter JO regional motions to 2026 National Assembly of Local Government

“Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United.”

January 2026



CONFERENCE PRIORITY	EXISTING ALGA POSITION	NEW REGIONAL MOTION	SUPPORTING KEY ARGUMENTS
Jobs and skills	<p><i>ALGA is calling for the Federal Government's National Skills Plan to acknowledge the vital role of Local Governments as employers in training and skills development.</i></p> <p><i>ALGA also seeks funding opportunities for council employees to access training for identified skills shortage areas, especially in regional and remote communities.</i></p> <p><i>Additionally, it is important for the Commonwealth to undertake a national audit of institutions offering urban and land use planning, building surveyors, and engineering qualifications, and to identify more readily available pathways for regional and remote study.</i></p>	<p><i>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</i></p> <p>Directly support Local Government actions and strategic planning that address imminent and substantial job losses arising from large scale industry closures in regional economies rapidly transforming to net zero by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Directly investing in Council led, place-based initiatives that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify future land-use options post mining and economic diversification opportunities to provide jobs of the future. • De-risk industry investment and strategically inform and accelerate industry attraction, skills development and job creation in mining regions. 	<p>There are 50,000 direct jobs related to coal mining in Australia, with another 150,000-200,000 indirect jobs at risk as coal demand is expected to be reduced globally.</p> <p>There are 12,000 direct and indirect jobs forecasts to be lost when two major coal mines close by 2030 in the Hunter region, NSW.</p> <p>We appreciate the Federal Government funding provided for two pilot projects in Lake Macquarie and Muswellbrook, developing Masterplans for two coal mine sites, however there is currently a lack of planning for over 20 mine sites and thousands of hectares of mining related lands across the Hunter region, NSW.</p> <p>There is currently 92,000ha of mining-related land in the Singleton LGA alone that does not have a strategic land use planning framework in place to facilitate the repurposing of these lands, thereby inhibiting the enormous potential of these assets for supporting the region's transformation, creating new jobs and their contribution to Australia's economy.</p>

CONFERENCE PRIORITY	EXISTING ALGA POSITION	NEW REGIONAL MOTION	SUPPORTING KEY ARGUMENTS
Financial Sustainability	<p>ALGA is advocating for a return to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue for Local Government over the next three years.</p> <p>ALGA also proposes five new, untied funding streams to be distributed to all councils on a formula basis, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.1 billion per year for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply, • \$500 million per year for community infrastructure, • \$600 million per year for safer local roads, • \$900 million per year for increased Local Government emergency management capability and capacity, and • \$400 million per year for climate adaptation. 	<p><i>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</i></p> <p>Lead systems reform for grant funding within Federal Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform grant funding to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Community Strategic Plans. • Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs to reduce the administrative burden on Local Government. • Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity. 	<p>Local Governments rely on grant funding to deliver up to 60% of their assets and services in regional areas, however there are many challenges in the system.</p> <p>Local Governments rely on grant funding to deliver up to 60% of assets and services in regional areas, yet the current system creates significant challenges. Short-term, competitive grants are often misaligned with councils' legislated Community Strategic Plans, forcing delivery of projects that do not reflect local priorities and reducing efficiency. The application and reporting burden absorbs scarce staff time, disadvantaging smaller regional councils with limited capacity. Short funding cycles also drive workforce turnover, skill loss, service disruption, and inflated contractor costs, while inconsistent governance requirements add further administrative strain. Over time, this weakens council capability, frustrates communities, and leads to fragmented outcomes, particularly where councils compete rather than collaborate.</p> <p>Councils and Joint Organisations need stable, predictable funding. A shift to non-competitive, multi-year block funding aligned to Local Government election cycles and Community Strategic Plans would enable strategic, place-based delivery; reduce administrative burden; build workforce capability and resilience; encourage</p>

CONFERENCE PRIORITY	EXISTING ALGA POSITION	NEW REGIONAL MOTION	SUPPORTING KEY ARGUMENTS
			regional collaboration; and strengthen community trust through lasting, locally driven outcomes.
Roads and Infrastructure	<p><i>ALGA is calling for \$600 million per year safer roads fund – with \$500 million for infrastructure improvements and \$100 million for road safety programs – to support all councils to play a more effective role reducing deaths on Australian roads.</i></p> <p><i>ALGA is proposing a \$500 million per year community infrastructure fund – to be provided to all councils – to build, (and importantly), maintain and upgrade the local facilities that make communities great.</i></p>	<p><i>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</i></p> <p>Update Federal road funding programs so they properly account for regional realities such as longer road networks, heavier freight use, and higher weather vulnerability.</p>	<p>Regional councils across Australia are struggling to maintain road networks following extreme weather events.</p> <p>Recent NSW and Commonwealth Inquiries demonstrate Local Governments are facing mounting financial risks that threaten their long-term sustainability.</p> <p>We appreciate that in 2025–26, the Commonwealth will contribute \$630 million in road funding to 128 NSW councils through programs such as Roads to Recovery and Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure.</p> <p>This will be complemented by the NSW Government’s Budget pledge of \$3 billion over 10 years, equivalent to \$300 million per year, for road safety and weather-related transport infrastructure recovery in regional NSW. Together this totals \$930m for NSW roads.</p> <p>Whilst the funding support is welcomed, it will not adequately address the backlog in road repairs. In May 2025, the NRMA reported that NSW councils are facing an immediate backlog in road repairs valued at \$3.4 billion.</p>

CONFERENCE PRIORITY	EXISTING ALGA POSITION	NEW REGIONAL MOTION	SUPPORTING KEY ARGUMENTS
			Existing federal road funding programs often use legacy formulas that fail to account for actual condition, usage, or network scale in rural areas.
Emergency Management	<i>ALGA is asking for \$900 million per year to help councils improve their disaster response and resilience. They also want the Commonwealth to fully implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and other major reviews, including the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (the Glasser Review) and the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (the Colvin Review)</i>	<i>This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to:</i> Amend disaster recovery funding rules to allow repairs to council owned water and sewer infrastructure.	Under current disaster recovery funding arrangements, the repair of water and sewer assets is ineligible for cost recovery under natural disaster declarations, due to their classification as “commercial activities”. In rural and regional communities however, council managed water and sewer infrastructure are vital public assets, every bit as essential as roads, bridges, or community facilities that do qualify for recovery funding. These Council managed water and sewer services are fundamental to public health, safety, and liveability. With natural hazards and disasters becoming more frequent and severe, the lack of financial support risks undermining councils’ ability to maintain these essential services.
Housing and Planning	<i>ALGA is calling for a new five-year, \$1.1 billion annual fund that would be provided to all councils to get the foundations right for increasing Australia’s housing supply.</i> <i>We are advocating for Local Governments to be provided with \$500 million per year for critical and community infrastructure and assets that will help create more liveable communities.</i>	NOTE: ALGA’s motion already includes advocacy for enabling infrastructure aligned to our priority. No further motions are recommended for ALGA to advocate to Federal Government under this theme.	NA

CONFERENCE PRIORITY	EXISTING ALGA POSITION	NEW REGIONAL MOTION	SUPPORTING KEY ARGUMENTS
	<i>ALGA is also seeking a seat at the table for national discussions on housing policy, including full membership of National Cabinet and the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council.</i>		

Declined motions in 2025

Financial sustainability

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to lead systems reform across all three levels of government to:

- Build consistency in the governance frameworks, systems and documentation required across various funding programs and governing agencies to reduce the administrative burden on Local Government.
- Improve the delivery of grant funding to councils across Australia to ensure equity, certainty and sustainability for effective strategic planning.
- **Ensure equitable delivery of grant funding for rural and regional councils by upholding the principles of the Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995, ensuring horizontal fiscal equalisation of funding.**

Roads and infrastructure

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to lead systems reform across all levels of government to improve the planning, administration and delivery of road funding, to ensure **equity in Financial Assistance Grant distribution to rural and regional councils by ensuring nationwide adherence to the principle of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation established under the Federal Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995.**

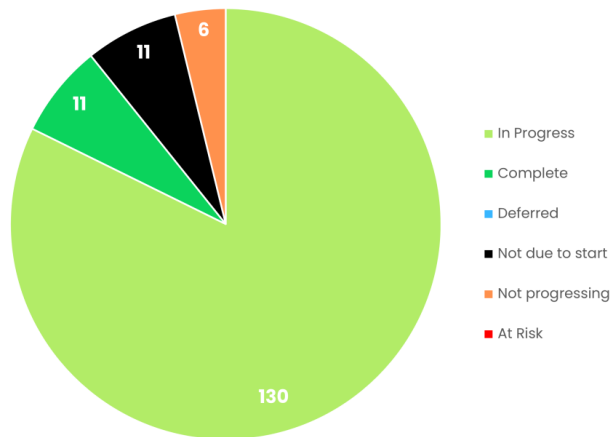


DELIVERY PROGRAM & OPERATIONAL PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

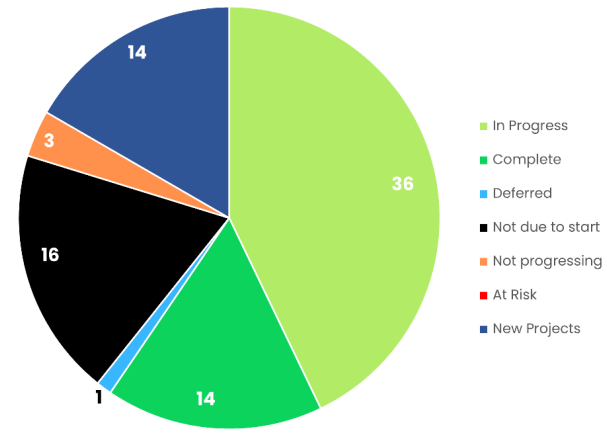
QUARTER 2 2025-26

ACTION UPDATE SNAPSHOT

OBJECTIVES






CAPITAL WORKS




LIVE we are connected, safe and creative

1.1 Encourage social connections and wellbeing

1.1.1 Our neighbourhoods have a variety of spaces, activities and programs that connect us

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure our public amenities are safe, clean, comfortable, and both inclusive and accessible for all residents and visitors in our area.		Our public amenities have been maintained in line with schedules.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Hold ceremonies (and associated activities) for civic events such as Australia Day and citizenship presentations.		A Citizenship ceremony is scheduled for Australia Day, 26 January with 77 conferees becoming citizens from the following 22 countries; India, Philippines, Nepal, Thailand, South Africa, United Kingdom, Vietnam, New Zealand, South Africa, Iran, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Hksar of the PRC, Nigeria, Mauritania, Canada, Columbia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Tonga and United States of America.	General Managers Unit
Maintain our City of Cessnock Hall of Fame and inductees		Inductees to the Cessnock City Hall of Fame are listed on the Cessnock City Council webpage. The plaque for the 2025 inductee Ellena Morris OAM has been installed at the Kurri Kurri Aquatic and Fitness Centre.	Community and Cultural Development

1.1.2 Strengthen outcomes for young people to make our city a vibrant place of opportunity

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Coordinate and promote a community program of events for Youth Week.		Youth Week will be held 16 to 26 April 2026 and planning for the event has commenced in consultation with young people.	Community and Cultural Development

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Deliver diverse and inclusive activities during school holidays programs.	▶	The Spring School Holiday program listed over 30 events held during 27 September to 10 October and included gaming, learning, the arts and film. The Summer School Holiday Program lists over 50 events held across a number of venues within the Cessnock Local Government Area.	Community and Cultural Development
Ensure access at our public transport stops meet compliance ratings for members of our community and visitors to our area with disabilities.	▶	We are conducting an audit of all public transport stops within our area and then prepare a detailed plan of how proposed upgrades to be rolled out subject to funding.	Infrastructure
Implement a suite of facilitated programs and activities with young people for creative arts, pop culture, music, recreation, wellbeing and mindfulness.	▶	External partnerships and youth led programs occurred weekly at Cessnock Youth Centre, within community and schools. Partnerships with music therapists Polyphonic featured in the September school holiday program and continued social worker support during drop in sessions increased mental health support for young people. Co-designed youth led programs included a range of art, craft and education based activities, and school-based programs supporting young people to transition to high school were also facilitated.	Community and Cultural Development
Promote and deliver our 'Green Schools' program with our local schools.	▶	In Term 3 and 4, we distributed our 2025 newsletters to all schools across our area. Our program is being refreshed for 2026 with a simpler format on the website as well as development of a calendar including environmental events poster for schools with direct staff contacts to serve as a reminder in schools.	Environment and Waste Services
Provide opportunity for work experience placements in our Council.	✓	Four work experience placements have been completed. Three students undertook work experience in our Works and Infrastructure directorate, and one in the People and Culture team.	People and Culture

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1.1.3 Support a diversity of social and affordable housing typologies and configurations that respond to the characteristics of our existing and future community




Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure our Council's surplus and under-utilised properties are identified for future housing needs. We have a Housing Strategy which contains a balance of our community's needs and statutory requirements.	►	Council continues to review surplus land for future housing needs and continues to work with Homes NSW to collaborate on opportunities in this space.	Corporate and Community
Ensure we have a flexible, simplified, effective and efficient local regulatory framework that encourages housing diversity.	►	The Housing Discussion Paper has recently been exhibited. The discussion paper explores a range of options to address housing supply in the Cessnock area. Submissions are currently being reviewed and amendments made prior to the discussion paper being reported back to Council.	Strategic Planning
Leading the delivery of a Structure Plan in conjunction with Maitland City Council and Singleton Council for the Anambah to Branxton Corridor.	►	Consultant engaged to deliver structure plan and supporting studies. Workshop on scenarios held in November. Draft Structure Plan is being finalised based on feedback from the November workshop. Project is progressing meeting key milestones.	Strategic Planning
Support a diversity of housing typologies and configurations that respond to the characteristics of our existing and future community.	►	The Housing Discussion Paper has recently been exhibited. The discussion paper explores a range of options to address housing supply in the Cessnock area. Submissions are currently being reviewed and amendments made prior to the discussion paper being reported back to Council.	Strategic Planning
We have a contemporary Urban Growth Management Plan.	►	Our review of the Cessnock Urban Growth Management Plan (UGMP) has commenced.	Strategic Planning

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
We have a Housing Strategy which contains a balance of our community's needs and statutory requirements.		Review to be undertaken in conjunction with the Cessnock Urban Growth Management Plan.	Strategic Planning

1.1.4 Improve opportunities for people with disability to access services, activities, facilities and information

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure access at our public transport stops meet compliance ratings for members of our community and visitors to our area with disabilities.		An audit of all public transport stops across our area is currently underway. Once complete, a detailed rollout plan for proposed upgrades will be prepared. All future upgrades will remain dependent on the availability of grant funding.	Infrastructure
Facilitate disability inclusive emergency planning to support and improve emergency preparedness of people with disabilities.		A disability inclusive emergency planning forum was held in November 2025 with a very positive response from attendees. The next step will be to develop follow up sessions with MaiWel to track progress for clients completing their Emergency Plans. Following this the next step will be to replicate this forum throughout the Cessnock area in collaboration with other disability service providers.	Emergency Management and Resilience
Facilitate person-centred emergency preparedness to support and improve emergency preparedness of people with disabilities to increase their personal emergency preparedness.		Disability Inclusive Emergency Preparedness Forum held in collaboration with MaiWel & Sydney University in November 2025. Person-Centered Emergency Preparedness (PCEP) work booklets being distributed via the Community Resilience Network (CRN) and local Aboriginal community organisations (Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation). PCEP Facilitator training session being scheduled for January 2026, to train 10-15 local residents interested in becoming facilitators for PCEP conversations to support people with a disability to become better prepared for emergencies.	Emergency Management and Resilience

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Foster a diverse and inclusive workforce within our Council.	✓	Actions from our Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2025-2029 are being undertaken and considered in our workplace planning.	People and Culture


1.2 Strengthen community culture

Build unity and respect between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians


Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Coordinate and promote a community program of events for Reconciliation Week and National NAIDOC Week.	▶	The 2025 NAIDOC Week program listed 12 free community events from 5 July to 14 July and included events organised and hosted by local community organisations and also Council hosted events. Consultation occurred at the December Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Committee meeting to consider Reconciliation Week 2026.	Community and Cultural Development
Foster a diverse and inclusive workforce.	▶	Actions included in our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Action Plan are being undertaken and incorporated into our workforce planning.	People and Culture
Our programming and services through our Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people and their families includes a diverse and inclusive range of social, recreational and educational activities that reflect feedback received during programming, on our media platforms and through surveys.	▶	Programs co-designed with young people and community partners were delivered in community, at Cessnock Youth Centre and in schools, including outreach in a Department of Housing estate, support for young parents, school-based art, cultural connection and wellbeing activities. Young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people supported program development, with additional NAIDOC Week programs.	Community and Cultural Development

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Peoples and respect their connections to lands, waters, places and cultures		This objective is incorporated in all Strategies and Plans. Connecting with Country is being incorporated into Anambah to Branxton and Sawyers Gully Urban Investigation Area.	Strategic Planning

1.2.3 Provide a variety of interment options for our community

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Review and update the Cessnock Cemetery Strategy 2006.		Internal engagement has now concluded, with external engagement scheduled to begin in February 2026 through a community survey.	Open Space and Community Facilities

1.3 Develop an active and creative community

1.3.1 Develop and deliver the Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) programs and events

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Develop a seasonal program incorporating community plans, diversity and inclusion which considers members of our community.		Diverse performances and exhibitions for the 2026 Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) Season Program are being promoted to the community and performances are available for ticket purchases via the PACC website.	Community and Cultural Development

Engage with artists to deliver a variety of exhibitions and workshops at PACC and actively promote across a variety of media platforms to reach a diverse audience.	▶	Held July to August was 'In and Out the Windows: much of the last decade in coloured pencil', by Susan Ryman. Offered August and September was a Botanical Illustration Workshop. The Immersive Sound + Art: An Evening of Stillness workshop was well received. From 20 September to 15 November 'Grug Retrospective' was held and celebrates the beloved children's character, Grug. Ahead of the Curve, showcasing Australian modern quilts opened 29 November and closes 31 January 2026.	Community and Cultural Development
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1.3.2 Implement accessible, creative and innovative projects and programs in our area

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Continue to develop and deliver diverse and inclusive lifelong learning programs, arts and local history exhibitions at Cessnock Library and Kurri Kurri Library branches.	▶	The lifelong learning programs on offer at Cessnock Library and Kurri Kurri Library, including author talks, children's programming and local studies continue to be a success with a strong interest noted for participation. The 2026 Local History Program has been promoted to the community.	Community and Cultural Development

1.3.3 Provide recreation and open space facilities that are connected and well utilised

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Deliver wheeled sports spaces and precincts that encourage and enable skill progression and cater for a broad range of users.	▶▶	External funding opportunities continue to be investigated for the renewal of Greta Skatepark.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Develop and maintain our playgrounds.	▶	Our playgrounds have been maintained in line with schedules.	Open Space and Community Facilities

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Develop Weston Bears Park to provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities in our area.	►	Construction on track for completion March 2026.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Ensure our sportsgrounds are properly maintained and respond to changing community needs, while enhancing the quality of life in our community.	►	Our sportsgrounds have been maintained in line with schedules.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Manage our aquatic facilities to respond to the changing needs of our community and enhance our quality of life.	►	Our aquatic facilities are managed in accordance with best practice guidelines and established asset management plans.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Our Recreation & Open Space Strategic Plan 2019 aligns with current community desired outcomes.	►	The review of the plan has commenced with supply and demand of open space continuing to be assessed.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Promote and deliver Council's dollar for-dollar programs to community groups.	►	The first round of Sporting and Community facility grants have closed with applications to be considered by Council in November.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Support and assist community groups to manage our community facilities.	►	Regular engagement has occurred with licence holders and management committees that deliver services from Council owned or managed (crown) properties and includes opportunities for access improvements, maintenance requests, grant funding opportunities and inclusion in Council event programs.	Community and Cultural Development

1.4 Foster safe communities

1.4.1 Participate in collaborative partnerships to assist with crime prevention

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Collaborate with our partners on the Cessnock City Liquor Accord and Community Safety Precinct Committee.	►	We have attended the meetings, and they were attended by our Infrastructure team.	Infrastructure
Collaborate with partners to develop and maintain a public street lighting network to improve the safety of the road network.	►	Local Traffic Committee has been disbanded in legislation by Transport for NSW (TfNSW).	Infrastructure
Conduct Graduated Licensing Scheme (GLS) workshops for supervisors and learner drivers.	►	All road safety workshops directed by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) have been rolled out to target audiences.	Infrastructure
Develop a Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Plan.	►	Engagement has occurred with the Cessnock Anti Violence Network on the scope of the intended Domestic and Family Violence Prevention strategy. Conversations with the community occurred at the Cessnock Walks Kawuma awareness event held at Cessnock Tafe Park on 27 November 2025. Further engagement with stakeholders and the community will occur in the next reporting quarter.	Community and Cultural Development
Ensure our road network encompasses the safe systems planning, construction and maintenance legislated principles.	►	All road rehabilitation projects risk assessed and reviewed to focus on improved safety outcomes in high risk sections of the overall network.	Infrastructure
Maintain awareness of health services in the community to identify any areas for advocacy.	►	Awareness has been maintained for progress towards the NSW Health project, Cessnock Hospital Redevelopment. Announced by the NSW Government December 2025, an Ambulance Station is being planned for the North Rothbury area as part of the NSW	Community and Cultural Development

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
		Government's \$615.5 million NSW Ambulance Infrastructure Program.	
Monitor crash trends on our road network.	►	The State Government based systems supports Council's access to all road safety data.	Infrastructure
We will work with our partners to fulfill national rail safety legislative obligations in relation to our road/rail interface.	✓	Our actions are now completed for 2025/26 financial year.	Infrastructure

1.4.2 Ensure we have a series of initiatives which assist with connection and facilitate greater resilience for our community before, during and after natural disasters

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Develop and implement a Community Disaster Resilience Strategy.	►	Implementation of Community Disaster Resilience initiatives is continuing, including development and implementation of a Spontaneous Volunteers Coordination Plan, utilisation of the GIVIT online donations platform, and continuing promotion of local disaster risks and the role of individuals in being prepared to respond.	Emergency Management and Resilience
Develop and strengthen Community Resilience Networks (CRNs)	✓	The Cessnock Community Resilience Network (CRN) has developed into a strong & connected network, which is engaged in preparedness and resilience initiatives and provides immediate impact information during emergencies, when requested. The Greater Wollombi Valley CRN (GWVCRN) is still providing effective and efficient dissemination of emergency information via their local communication channels, as well as early impact information to Council when requested. Development and strengthening of these	Emergency Management and Resilience


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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Implement our Fire Safety Strategy in accordance with statutory requirements.		CRNs will be ongoing, but they are very well established and embedded in Council emergency management processes already. The Fire Safety Strategy was adopted at the Council's September Elective Leadership Team (ELT) meeting and as at the end of quarter 2, 101 were received resulting in 91% compliance.	Development Services

Capital Works Projects







Traffic Facilities and Road Safety

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Citywide _ Various locations - Deliver bus stop upgrades in line with Council's Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan		All discreet projects and remaining funding have been spent with works completed. No further works scheduled for this financial year.	Infrastructure

Cemeteries

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Citywide _ Cessnock City Council Cemeteries - Deliver asset renewal program		Funding has been withdrawn for future projects all previous projects completed.	Open Space and Community Facilities

Buildings

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Library - Deliver lighting upgrade		Procurement process complete and the new lights have been installed at Cessnock Library Branch. Grant funding acquittal to commence in the next reporting quarter.	Community and Cultural Development
Citywide _ Community and Cultural buildings renewal - Deliver renewal program		External board repairs at Branxton Community Hall are complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Cessnock _ Marthaville Arts & Cultural Centre - Design toilet block refurbishment		A concept design has been prepared and consulted with the Marthaville Arts and Cultural Centre Management Committee.	Community and Cultural Development
Citywide _ Various locations - Deliver painting of community buildings		Not due to commence until quarter 3.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Kurri Kurri _ Kurri Kurri Library - Deliver refurbishment of toilet block		Necessary remediation works commenced December 2025 and once complete, refurbishment works will commence in the next reporting quarter.	Community and Cultural Development
NEW PROJECT Cessnock _ Cessnock City Library - Deliver and design expansion and upgrades			Open Space and Community Facilities

NEW PROJECT

Cessnock _ Vincent Street - Property
Land Acquisitions












Community and Cultural
Development

Other Open Space & Recreation

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Bellbird _ Neville Tomlinson BMX Facility - Complete construction	✓	The project is now complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Cessnock _ Apex Park - Deliver park redevelopment	▶	We have engaged Colin Williams for the design phase of Apex Park. Flood modelling and geotechnical investigations have commenced with stakeholder meetings being undertaken to develop a concept design. The design delivery is currently on program for 70% design by 30th of June 2026. The project will then progress to a design and construct contract next financial year, with a target completion by the end of the 26/27 FY.	Infrastructure
Citywide _ Various - Deliver Parks and Reserves renewal program	▶	New picnic shelters have been installed at Miller Park, Branxton.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Citywide _ Various - Playground edging and service program	✓	Surface replacements have been completed at Log of Knowledge Park, Kurri Kurri and Bridges Hill, Cessnock.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Greta _ Greta Central Park - Upgrade Greta Central Skate Park (grant funding dependent)	▶▶	Grant funding opportunities continue to be investigated by the Open Space and Community Facilities team.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Greta _ Norman Brown Park - Playspace upgrade (grant funding dependent)	▶▶	Grant funding opportunities continue to be investigated by the Open Space and Community Facilities team.	Open Space and Community Facilities

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Kurri Kurri _ Johns Park - Deliver floodlight installation		Floodlight upgrade works have begun.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Kurri Kurri _ Kurri Kurri Netball Facility - Deliver netball facility		The Netball Facility and Pavilion are complete, and works on the surrounding car park are currently underway.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Mount View _ Mount View Park - Change room upgrade		The development of an updated Masterplan for Mount View Park is underway. Following the completion of the Masterplan designs for the changeroom extension will commence.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Pelaw Main _ Centenary Park - Deliver restoration works		Works have commenced to restore Centenary Park and install new irrigation.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Weston _ Chinaman's Hollow - Water station and lighting		Solar lighting installation is complete. The available budget did not allow for the inclusion of a bubbler.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Weston _ Weston Bears Park - Deliver amenities and grandstand upgrades		This project is nearing completion, with final delivery scheduled for March 2026.	Open Space and Community Facilities
NEW PROJECT Kurri Kurri _ Birralee Park (Juniors) - Deliver refurbishment and extension drawings			Open Space and Community Facilities
NEW PROJECT Branxton _ Greta Central Oval - Deliver amenities renewal			Open Space and Community Facilities
NEW PROJECT Cessnock _ Cessnock Hockey - Deliver surface replacement			Open Space and Community Facilities



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Libraries

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Citywide _ Cessnock City Council Libraries - Deliver library book purchases		Book purchases are selected in accordance with the Library Management System and borrower interests.	Community and Cultural Development


Aquatic Facilities

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock _ Cessnock Aquatic Centre - Pool shade sail		New shade sails have been installed at Cessnock Pool.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Citywide _ Cessnock City Council Aquatic Facilities - Deliver renewal program		New shade structures have been installed at Cessnock Pool.	Open Space and Community Facilities

THRIVE We have a diverse and resilient community

2.1 Diversify and grow our area and its economy

2.1.1 Support activation of commercial centers, business engagement, promotion and growth of business in our area

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Advocate for additional bus services between Cessnock and Branxton via Wine Country.		Council continues to advocate for improved regional transport, including discussions at the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Alliance about a broader Transport Strategy, potential services to	Economic Development and Tourism

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
		Newcastle Airport, and ongoing engagement with Transport for NSW and local bus providers.	
Provide economic development grants to support business chambers and tourist associations.	▶	This quarter \$15,000 was awarded through the Economic Development Grants and Sponsorships program to support initiatives that strengthen local industries and stimulate economic growth. Funding was provided to Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association, Hunter Region Business Enterprise Centre, and Wollombi Chamber of Commerce. This funding stream is exclusively available to Business Chambers and Tourist Associations.	Economic Development and Tourism
Undertake the Support Local campaigns to boost local spending and increase engagement with local businesses.	▶	During December, local businesses participated in the Windows that Sparkle Christmas Window Display, with trophies awarded. Shop Hunter Valley delivered targeted Support Local campaigns, including a Shop Local Sale with in-store promotion and social media activity. These initiatives achieved strong organic reach, valuable exposure, and encouraged continued investment and economic growth.	Economic Development and Tourism

2.1.2 Create a skilled and employment-ready workforce within our Council

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure we have a range of apprentice, trainee and graduate opportunities within our Council.	✓	All actions have been completed for Apprentice, Trainee and Graduate Framework. We continue to conduct our Apprentice, Trainee and Cadet program in accordance with our actions.	People and Culture
Investigate alternative strategies for advertising vacant positions to increase the candidate pool in our Council.	✓	Alternative strategies have been implemented for advertising of positions including high schools, university hubs, LinkedIn and a weekly subscription service to job vacancies is available. We have seen an increase in candidates applying for our vacant jobs.	People and Culture

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Represent Council at careers expos, University and TAFE open days and school visits to promote career opportunities and pathways available at our Council.	▶▶	Scheduled for quarters three and four of 2025/2026.	People and Culture
We have a dedicated engineering graduate program to address skill shortages and future skills requirements in our Council.	▶	A formal guide to support the rotation process is currently in development, expected completion January 2026, in time for new Undergraduate recruit.	People and Culture

2.1.3 Support investment in facilities, infrastructure and services to support business growth and increased output in our area

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Collaborate with the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to attract business investment.	▶	Two stakeholder meetings were held with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to discuss investment attraction leads, grant and sponsorship opportunities, and relevant Council updates. An additional meeting was conducted with a prospective investor to explore opportunities, provide site-specific advice, and outline recommended next steps.	Economic Development and Tourism
Create a proposition that promotes the key benefits of working with our Council.	▶▶	This is not scheduled for completion until 2026/2027.	People and Culture
Ensure our industrial land fosters economic growth, business diversity, and employment opportunities.	▶	Employment Lands Study has been received in draft form. Currently being reviewed.	Strategic Planning

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Participate and promote the annual Development Consultation Forum.	▶▶	Resources are not currently available to undertake this action.	Economic Development and Tourism

2.2 Develop sustainable employment opportunities

2.2.1 Implement accessible education projects and programs in our area

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Advocate to create jobs via Kurri Kurri Hydro Planning.	▶	This quarter, work focused on reviewing the draft Employment Lands Study prepared by SGS. The study identifies the Kurri Kurri Hydro site as a key location for employment-generating activities. The Economic Development team will continue to support opportunities arising from the Hydro project, with a focus on attracting investment, enabling complementary land uses, and facilitating job creation aligned with the findings of the forthcoming Employment Lands Strategy.	Economic Development and Tourism
Advocate to create jobs via the Black Hill Industrial Precinct.	▶	This quarter, work has focused on reviewing the draft Employment Lands Study and identifying opportunities for employment-generating activities at the Black Hill Industrial Precinct. The Economic Development team will continue to support initiatives that attract investment, stimulate business growth, and create local jobs.	Economic Development and Tourism
Provide our community with education programs around poor decision making and non-compliant road user behaviour.	▶	All road safety workshops directed by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) have been rolled out to target audiences.	Infrastructure
Support our community's education goals by conducting a Mayoral	▶▶	Quarter three prospectus will be issued.	General Managers Unit

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Scholarships program that financially assists members of our community.			

2.3 Increase tourism and visitation opportunities

2.3.1 Promote and grow the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Provide quality services to our area's visitors.	▶	The Visitor Information Centre earned Bronze at the 2025 NSW Tourism Awards, recognising service excellence and visitor experience. Between October and December, the Centre recorded 12,183 visitors, Bookeasy tourism product sales of \$63,759.47, and Shop Hunter Valley sales of \$79,192.49 in-store, \$4,405.68 online, with 4,506 website sessions (77% increase from last quarter).	Economic Development and Tourism

2.3.2 Encourage a variety of niche tourism opportunities

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Grow Council's tourism and business image library.	▶	No new photography was commissioned this quarter.	Economic Development and Tourism
Identify priority opportunities to promote and encourage investment and visitation to our area.	▶	Council has elevated the Hunter Valley's profile through award recognition and strategic initiatives. The Visitor Information Centre earned Bronze at the 2025 NSW Tourism Awards. Successful projects funded under the Visitor Economy Grants and Sponsorships program included destination marketing assets, mid-week theatre experiences, the Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival, and a national car meet.	Economic Development and Tourism

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Provide a joint tourism service with Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association for destination marketing and tourism services.	▶	Work has commenced on a review of the Tourism Services Agreement with the Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association to ensure it remains fit for purpose and aligned with current service delivery needs. Visitor Centre staff have been supporting HVWTA with membership renewals, strengthening engagement with local operators. In addition, the Tourism Coordinator has commenced attendance at weekly operational meetings, improving coordination, communication and day-to-day collaboration.	Economic Development and Tourism

Capital Works Projects






Town Centres

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Branxton _ Branxton Town Centre - Deliver road rehabilitation	▶	Works have commenced, with completion anticipated by the end of this financial year.	Infrastructure
Citywide _ Various - Deliver town centre funded projects under Council's Contribution Plans	▶	Funding has been allocated to Branxton town centre, with construction already commenced.	Infrastructure
Wollombi _ Wollombi Road, Great North Road, Paynes Crossing Road - Deliver town centre upgrades	▶	These works are currently being undertaken and will be completed by the end of this financial year.	Infrastructure

PROTECT We have a healthy and sustainable environment




3.1 Protect our biologically diverse natural environment

3.1.1 Strengthen and protect a high quality, sustainable lifestyle for Cessnock's residents and visitors


Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Continue to facilitate education initiatives relating to conservation of the natural environment.		Our koala survey is completed.	Strategic Planning
Deliver 'dollar-for-dollar' grants to eligible community groups for on-ground sustainability programs.		First round of grants distributed as per Council report CC71/2025 adopted by Council 19 November 2025. Two groups funded through the Sustainable Community - Tidy Towns Scheme expending \$4,672 of the \$11,000 budget. Round 2 on hold awaiting further approval to proceed. Schools grants to open in Term 1, 2026.	Environment and Waste Services
Implement community programs designed to remove inappropriate waste from our waste stream.		Sustainability Officers attending and participating in quarterly Regional Waste Educators meetings. Promotions on batteries not being in kerbside collections undertaken utilising both Hunter Joint Organisation and Hunter Resource Recovery program materials including posters, social media and truck decals. Also investigating recovery pathways for textiles as a new diversion area.	Environment and Waste Services
Manage the impact of stormwater flows and stormwater pollution on receiving waterways.		Continual development of flood studies across various locations, including the LGA-wide overland flood study.	Asset Planning
Promote and deliver community focused biodiversity education programs.		Working with community groups in Paxton, Greta and Bridges Hill who have undertaken maintenance activities, including planting and weed removal. A major planting project for Greta sites, incorporating the wider community and local schools, is being planned for April	Strategic Planning

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
		2026. Continuing to deliver the "Green Schools" program with Term 4 Newsletter distributed to schools. The program is being refreshed for 2026 with website review and implementation of an environmental events calendar. Continued work on Koala Habitat Study. The Sustainability team successfully delivered various events to celebrate Biodiversity Month.	
Promote sustainable transport technology as quality alternatives to conventional private vehicle use.		Bridges Hill Carpark electric vehicle charging station installed and operating. Continuing to look for other funding opportunities and additional alternate private vehicle use technologies for consideration. Climate Change Resilience Committee continues to focus on this program.	Environment and Waste Services
Review our Biodiversity Strategy incorporating our Strategic Planning strategies and methodologies.		The project will commence once Conservation Lands Mapping is complete.	Strategic Planning
Undertake a review of our Cessnock Local Environmental Plan.		The Housing theme is progressing. The Housing Discussion Paper has recently been exhibited and explores a range of options to address housing supply in the Cessnock LGA. Submissions are currently being reviewed, with amendments to be made before the Discussion Paper and outcomes from submissions are reported back to Council.	Strategic Planning

3.1.2 Protect and enhance our lands of environmental value

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Continue the implementation of our invasive weed management program in accordance with Biosecurity Act 2015.		Biosecurity Management is progressing as per the Hunter priority weeds and Weeds Action Program. Grant funding application for Weeds Action Program 2025-2029 submitted, and awaiting	Environment and Waste Services

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
		outcome. Crown Lands Weeds Management fund grant application submitted, awaiting outcome.	
Facilitate the on-ground works for Landcare groups working on Council land.	►	Biosecurity Management Coordinator continues to work closely with Landcare groups. 2026 Weeds Calendar finalised and printed for distribution amongst groups, with targeted seasonal weed management tips. Groups in Paxton, Greta and Bridges Hill have undertaken site maintenance activities including planting and weed removal. Major planting for Greta sites including wider community and local schools being planned for April 2026.	Environment and Waste Services
Monitor our drainage assets to identify opportunity for alignment with engineering and capacity requirements.	►	The LGA-wide overland flow study will inform future drainage asset decisions.	Asset Planning
We have appropriate mechanisms and initiatives to improve biodiversity protection and resilience in our area.	►	Groups in Paxton, Greta and Bridges Hill have undertaken maintenance activities, including planting and weed removal. A major planting project for Greta sites, incorporating the wider community and local schools, is being planned for April 2026.	Environment and Waste Services

3.1.3 Manage disaster risk and preparedness for extreme weather events

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure expansion of new infrastructure plans for future development considers floodplain impacts.	►	Internal consultation system has been developed and is managed by Development Services and the Stormwater and Flood Mitigation team.	Asset Planning
Facilitate and manage our area's preparedness for local risks, hazards, emergency management and recovery.	►	2 Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meetings held. 2 Regional Emergency Management Committees (REMC) meetings attended. 2 Bushfire management committee meetings attended.	Emergency Management and Resilience

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
		Emergency Management plans available. Emergency Management information updated on Council website.	
Identify and manage high priority stormwater, waterway and floodplain works.	►	Continued monitoring of Customer Request Management (CRM) matters and relevant flood study recommendations.	Asset Planning
Work with our partners to manage natural hazards in our area	►	The Flood Committee met on 11 September 2025, with the next meeting scheduled for 19 March 2026.	Asset Planning


3.2 Balance our natural environment and the rural character of our area

3.2.1 Ensure our area's growth enhances and protects our unique location

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure our permissible land use controls remain compatible with the rural character and amenity of our area.	►	Rural Land Study has been drafted. Preparation of Rural Land Strategy has commenced.	Strategic Planning
Ensure we work to minimise the impact of our flying-fox population on our community.	►	This is an ongoing action and subject to grants and seasonally variations in the size and impact of the flying-fox colony. November count has been undertaken.	Strategic Planning
We have undertaken mitigation and adaptation actions in our area to strengthening resilience to climate change to ensure a sustainable future.	►	Climate Change Resilience Steering Group met 10 November 2025. Sustainability team visited Team Global Express depot in Sydney where fleet electrification and sustainable practices have been the core value of the development. New solar installations for Kurri Kurri Library and Performance Arts Culture Cessnock will be recommended to Council in early 2026.	Environment and Waste Services

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Work to achieve a healthy and diverse urban tree population that is adaptable to climate changes and provides green and cool areas.		A successful native tree giveaway event was completed in November 2025.	Open Space and Community Facilities

3.3 Effectively utilise our open spaces for both passive and active recreation options

3.3.1 Provide options for people of all abilities to support active and healthy lifestyle habits

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure we have a network of on-and-off-road bicycle routes as alternative connections between our built and natural destinations.		Active transport funding streams being targeted for planning, design and construction of shared pathways.	Infrastructure
Provide safe and well-maintained spaces for our community's dogs and their owners.		Maintenance of our off leash areas is undertaken in line with asset management methodologies	Open Space and Community Facilities

3.4 Undertake viable resource recovery and waste management

3.4.1 Provide a sustainable and cost-effective recycling service which prioritises waste minimisation

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Engage in a practice of continuous investigation and monitoring of our waste streams.	►	Waste audit of kerbside bins completed October 2024, awaiting final report to identify opportunity waste streams for further recovery. New Scrap Metal contract commenced 1 December, with all material consolidated and cleared daily. Monthly Waste and Resource Recovery Portal report and KPIs continue, and offsite sorting of residual waste has commenced.	Environment and Waste Services
Ensure our Community Recycling Centre is operated in collaboration with NSW EPA Environmental Protection Agency.	►	Community Recycling Centre continues to operate diverting Problem Waste from the landfill. The disposal costs of these items are funded by NSW Environment Protection Authority.	Environment and Waste Services
Ensure we maintain the efficiency of waste recycling services.	►	Weighbridge Operations and Waste Levy training scheduled for 18 December. This will also provide a new training package available for onboarding and refresher training. Material Handler operating procedure developed and waste sorting now underway with residual waste tonnes being sent offsite for further processing. New Scrap Metal contract commenced with change in operating procedure and scrap now being cleared offsite daily to maximise recovery.	Environment and Waste Services
Work with our regional partners to continue implementation of our organics (green waste) kerbside collection.	►	Monthly meetings with Singleton Council, Maitland Council and processing contractor (ANL) are conducted, with close monitoring of Food, Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) material and contamination management. Additional meetings were held with Maitland, Singleton and collections contractor SOLO Resource Recovery.	Environment and Waste Services

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Work with our regional partners to continue review and implementation of our recycling kerbside collection.	▶	Hunter Resource Recovery Recycling Processing Contract tender evaluation nearing completion. Hunter Resource Recovery Recycling Collections Contract - initial meeting held.	Environment and Waste Services
Work with our regional partners to deliver efficient waste services.	▶	Hunter Joint Organisation- Regional Waste Managers Meeting held 27 November. Visit to Central Coast Council- Buttonderry Facility to review landfill GPS hardware scheduled for 17 December. Hunter Resource Recovery Recycling Processing Contract tender evaluation nearing completion. Hunter Resource Recovery Recycling Collections Contract - initial meeting held.	Environment and Waste Services

3.4.2 Provide a sustainable and cost-effective waste service which prioritises waste minimisation

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Consider grant funding opportunities for minimising collection costs and promoting litter reduction in key public spaces.	▶▶	Awaiting next suitable grant opportunity.	Environment and Waste Services
Consider our mattress drop-off options for our community.	▶	Waste Management Policy was adopted by Council and now allows for one mattress per recycling voucher to be disposed at the Cessnock Waste Management Centre. Mattress Drop-off Event was held 18 October 2025. Review of mattress drop-off events will now be completed as voucher usage uptake is observed and reported.	Environment and Waste Services
Continue landfill extension to meet the needs of our growing community.	▶	New cell now fully lined, with drainage aggregate presently being applied. New leachate pond lining has commenced. Final design on compound and amenity/storage building completed with security needs determined.	Environment and Waste Services




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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Continue to operate our Waste Management Centre in accordance with the NSW Environment Protection Agency Licence legislation.	►	Environment Protection Licence Annual Return completed and submitted. Volumetric Survey underway and will be submitted in December. Leachate Management - long-term solution required to meet the Environment Protection Authority's expectations. Expression of Interest completed with short-listed solutions to now be asked to submit final solution and pricing.	Environment and Waste Services
Engage in active monitoring and recording of environmental and pollution control parameters in accordance with the NSW Environment Protection Agency Licence legislation.	►	All monitoring conducted in compliance with Environment Protection Licence requirements, ongoing communication with the Environment Protection Authority regarding leachate management for existing and legacy sites.	Environment and Waste Services
Facilitate litter reduction and cleanup community initiatives.	►	Internal stakeholder meeting 20 November to discuss second illegal dumping cleanup event. Details yet to be finalised with follow discussion and next stakeholder meeting to be held early 2026.	Environment and Waste Services
Implement a number of initiatives to remove sharps and batteries from our waste stream.	►	Sharps collection at local Hospital ongoing. Battery collection and segregation at Community Recycling Centre is ongoing. No progress in having Cessnock added to the NSW Environment Protection Authority Embedded Battery Program. New livery on collection vehicles around incorrect disposal of batteries. Hunter Joint Organisation Regional Waste Educators and NSW Environment Protection Authority "Never Bin a Battery" program promoted and collateral shared throughout the region.	Environment and Waste Services
Monitor and manage our waste streams to ensure potential issues are mitigated.	►	Kerbside Waste audit completed October 2025, awaiting final report. Waste service Key Performance Indicators and contamination reporting on Recycling and Food Organics Garden Organics contracts completed monthly with overall resource recovery percentage reported. Waste sorting of community drop-off waste commenced November using Material Handler, with residual waste sent offsite for further recovery.	Environment and Waste Services




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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Review viability and accessibility of new public waste bins.		New public bin communication and consultation with Environment & Waste team has now started, with opportunity for input on size and type of bin in new developments. Service Risk Assessment completed prior to commencement of service for all new bins.	Environment and Waste Services
Undertake our Illegal Dumping Program which includes facilitating community focused litter reduction and illegal dumping awareness programs and events.		Internal stakeholder meeting held 20 November to discuss second illegal dumping clean-up event for 2026.	Environment and Waste Services
Work with the EPA to deliver household chemical cleanout events.		Next Household Chemical Clean-out event scheduled for 3 May 2026.	Environment and Waste Services

Capital Works Projects

Plant & Equipment

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council - Deliver technology upgrades for Weeds Officer		Hardware has been allocated and now data and software is being implemented and incorporated within Pozi Maps. Weeds Officer is working with GIS team to complete this.	Environment and Waste Services
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Waste Facility - Deliver 30m hook-lift bins sorting project		Procurement of bins has not yet commenced with existing and contractor bins being used initially.	Environment and Waste Services
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Waste Facility - Deliver Hooklift Truck 8x4		Not yet underway.	Environment and Waste Services

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Waste Facility - Deliver landfill compactor GPS	▶▶	Procurement of this will commence as we near completion of the Landfill Extension.	Environment and Waste Services

Floodplain Management

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Abermain _ Harle Street - Design and deliver culvert	▶▶	Concept design is complete. Final design in progress.	Asset Planning
Mount View _ Mount View Road - Design and deliver culvert	▶▶	Project brief completed with Design team to complete final design. Additional work is required which may impact on budget.	Asset Planning
Wollombi _ Wollombi Brook - Deliver Flood Risk Management Study & Plan	▶▶	Awaiting on grant application outcome.	Asset Planning
NEW PROJECT Cessnock _ Black Creek - Deliver flood mitigation	●		Asset Planning

Drainage

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Branxton _ Fleet Street - Deliver kerb and gutter	✓	The project is now completed.	Infrastructure

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
East Branxton _ Dalwood Road - Design drainage easement	▶	Phase 2 design is underway.	Asset Planning
Heddon Greta _ Averys Lane to Clift Street - Deliver trunk drainage	▶	Clift Street drainage project is on schedule and will be completed this current financial year.	Asset Planning
Millfield _ Portland Street - Deliver trunk drainage system	▶	Detailed design is underway and progressing.	Asset Planning

Waste Management

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Waste Facility - Deliver new landfill development	▶	New cell now fully lined, with drainage aggregate presently being applied. New leachate pond lining has commenced. Final design on compound and amenity/storage building completed with security needs determined.	Environment and Waste Services
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Waste Facility _ Deliver material handler sorting project	▶	Material Handler has arrived onsite, final safety review and documentation completed. Operating training underway, and machine is working daily. Offsite sorting of segregated waste has commenced.	Environment and Waste Services
Cessnock _ Cessnock Waste Management Centre - Deliver management of domestic waste collection	✓	New Isuzu/SuperiorPak side-loader has arrived and is fully operational.	Environment and Waste Services
Cessnock _ Various - Implement revolving energy improvement program	▶▶	Solar assessment for Kurri Kurri Library and Performance Arts Culture Cessnock buildings completed.	Environment and Waste Services

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Citywide _ Various - Deliver Floodplain Management Program in areas identified in Council's Floodplain Management Strategy		Works to deliver the Floodplain Management Program in the areas identified in Council's Floodplain Management Strategy is progressing as planned.	Infrastructure

MOVE We have accessible and reliable infrastructure, services and facilities

4.1 Progress our transport links

4.1.1 Support local industry and tourism and the related workforce within our area by increasing transport options to and from our vineyards district




Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Advocate to establish a Newcastle fast rail.	▶	Council joined Business Hunter this quarter to strengthen regional advocacy on key infrastructure priorities, including the proposed Newcastle-Hunter High-Speed Rail. The membership gives Council access to CEO Bob Hawes, a prominent public advocate for the project who regularly highlights its economic and tourism benefits. This supports Council's goal of improving regional connectivity and sustainable growth.	Economic Development and Tourism
Improve access to tourism connection points.	▶	We are coordinating between business units to target tourism related grant opportunities to upgrade or improve infrastructure.	Infrastructure

Provide and maintain a range of shared pathways that connect our community


Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Create investment opportunities to grow our transport links in the Abermain to Branxton area.	▶	Grant funding for future rehabilitations, upgrades and safety improvements being pursued when released by State and federal Government.	Infrastructure
Create investment opportunities to grow our transport links in the Blackhill to Sawyers Gully area.	▶	We are conducting an audit of all public transport stops within our area and then prepare a detailed plan of how proposed upgrades to be rolled out subject to funding.	Infrastructure

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Create investment opportunities to grow our transport links in the Kearsley to Cessnock area.		Grant funding for future rehabilitations, upgrades and safety improvements being pursued when released by State and federal Government.	Infrastructure
Create investment opportunities to grow our transport links in the Kitchener to Wollombi area.		Grant funding for future rehabilitations, upgrades and safety improvements being pursued when released by State and federal Government.	Infrastructure
Our road network is effectively maintained.		Routine inspections of road network completed and recorded. Inspections after weather events completed with identified defects recorded in reflect. Road Maintenance programmed after assessment of updated asset data, customer requests and the reflect defect list.	Works and Operations

Provide adequate road networks in new urban release areas Infrastructure

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Collaborate with network partners in our area to ensure our new road networks meet our growing population needs.		We have continued our collaboration with Planning NSW and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to explore opportunities to support the community to identify where the road network is likely to require expansion in the future.	Infrastructure


4.2 Improve our road network

4.2.1 Ensure our existing road network remains contemporary and meets our community's needs

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Advocate for the construction of Northern Ramps at the Hart Road Interchange.		Consulting with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) who do not support this as a growth project within the Hunter region.	Infrastructure
Consider implications of upgrading Old Maitland Road at Sawyers Gully.		This project requires property acquisition, this is currently unfunded at this point.	Infrastructure
Create investment opportunities for our transport network throughout the Abermain to Branxton corridor.		Grant funding for future rehabilitations, upgrades and safety improvements being pursued when released by State and federal Government.	Infrastructure
Create investment opportunities for our transport network throughout the Blackhill to Sawyers Gully corridor.		Grant funding for future rehabilitations, upgrades and safety improvements being pursued when released by State and federal Government.	Infrastructure
Create investment opportunities for our transport network throughout the Kearsley to Cessnock corridor.		Grant funding for future rehabilitations, upgrades and safety improvements being pursued when released by State and federal Government.	Infrastructure
Create investment opportunities for our transport network throughout the Kitchener to Wollombi corridor.		Grant funding for future rehabilitations, upgrades and safety improvements being pursued when released by State and federal Government.	Infrastructure
Investigate options for a Cessnock CBD Bypass.		Project feasibility and economic benefit study is projects next step, preparing documentation in order to progress when funding is allocated within Operational Plan.	Infrastructure
Undertake routine condition inspections of our bridges and major culverts.		Schedule established in Asset Database as well as adhoc (when necessary) level 2 inspection post weather events. 2 assessments currently due, and next batch will occur in April 2026.	Asset Planning




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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Undertake routine reoccurring defects inspection of our road network utilising our adopted Asset Management Strategy criteria.		Ongoing planning inspections of the network undertaken.	Works and Operations

Ensure our transport and freight networks limit impacts on our environment

Ensure our transport planning is integrated with land use planning

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Assess new projects considering a balance between competing compliance and regulation and meeting growing service delivery demand.		This action is being reviewed as it was identified as insufficiently defined and not a measurable outcome.	Asset Management
Ensure our airport continues to act as a key transport, emergency response and business hub.		Cessnock Master Plan is underway, with the next Airport Working Group meeting scheduled for mid February 2026.	Works and Operations
Maintain an assessment regime of applications for Restricted Access Vehicle movements within our area.		National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) applications are monitored and assessed by engineers within the Stormwater and Flood Mitigation team, in coordination with the Traffic and Transport team.	Asset Planning

Capital Works Projects**Other Infrastructure**






Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Works Depot - Deliver depot pavement works	▶▶	Works planned to commence in February 2026.	Works and Operations
Laguna _ Yango Creek causeway - Deliver causeway fencing	✓	No update required, these works have been completed (not a capital project).	Infrastructure
Paxton _ Anderson Avenue - Deliver active transport connection	✓	Project completed.	Infrastructure

Pathways



Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Bellbird _ Bellbird Public School to Spark Street - Deliver pathway	▶	Grant funding has been secured, construction estimated to be commenced next financial year.	Infrastructure
Cessnock _ Cessnock to Abermain - Deliver shared pathway	▶	Design has been completed, and grant funding be pursued for construction.	Infrastructure
Citywide _ Various - Design pathways in accordance with Council's Contributions Plans	■	Project is currently not progressing.	Infrastructure
East Branxton _ Dalwood Road - Deliver shared pathway	▶	Design has been completed, and grant funding be pursued for construction.	Infrastructure

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Kitchener _ Richmond Street to Abernethy Street - Deliver pathway		Grant funding has been secured, construction estimated to be commenced next financial year.	Infrastructure
Kurri Kurri _ Kurri Kurri, Testers Hollow to Cliftleigh - Deliver shared pathway		Stage 1 design is now completed with stage 2 and 3 at concept. construction estimated to commence early 2026.	Infrastructure
Weston _ East Esplanade - Deliver pathway		The project is now completed.	Infrastructure
NEW PROJECT Abermain _ Abermain to Kurri - Deliver shared pathway			Infrastructure
NEW PROJECT Greta _ West Street – Deliver shared pathway			Infrastructure

Roads

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Aberdare _ Colliery Street, Duffie Drive to Maitland Road - Design road upgrade		Internal consultation has occurred, and a brief is being prepared.	Infrastructure
Cessnock _ Wollombi Road - Deliver road upgrade Stage 1		Construction paused over Christmas period. Following review and negotiation the existing construction contract has ended. Steps to procure an alternate contractor has commenced.	Works and Infrastructure




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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock _ Wollombi Road - Deliver road upgrade Stage 2	▶	Stage 2 is progressing, with the construction tender moving forward, the design now at 100%, and authority review and approvals currently underway.	Works and Infrastructure
Citywide _ Various - Deliver local road stabilisation program	▶	Asset replacement works to be undertaken early 2026, construction to be undertaken next financial year.	Infrastructure
Citywide _ Various locations - Deliver gravel rehabilitation and resheeting program	▶▶	Works to deliver gravel rehabilitation and resheeting program across various locations is planned to commence April 2026.	Infrastructure
Citywide _ Various locations - Deliver local road resealing	▶	Works to deliver local road resealing across various locations is planned throughout February 2026.	Infrastructure
Citywide _ Various locations - Deliver resealing of regional roads	▶	Works to deliver local road resealing across various locations is planned throughout March 2026.	Infrastructure
East Branxton _ Dalwood Road - Investigate and design road rehabilitation	✓	Design has been completed, and grant funding be pursued for construction.	Infrastructure
Kurri Kurri _ Lang Street - Deliver road rehabilitation	✓	Currently not a project, these works have been completed under the CBD Project. No future works planned.	Infrastructure
Oakey Creek _ Ingles Street to O'Connors Road - Design road upgrade	■	Internal consultation and brief preparation has commenced but no formal investigations or studies have commenced.	Infrastructure
Sawyers Gully _ Sawyers Gully Road - Deliver road rehabilitation	▶	Stage 1 is now complete, with Stage 2 scheduled to commence in the first quarter of next year.	Infrastructure

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NEW PROJECT North Rothbury _ Thomas Street - Deliver betterment		Infrastructure
NEW PROJECT Heddon Greta _ Heddon Street - Investigate and Design Phase 1		Infrastructure
NEW PROJECT Heddon Greta _ Avery's Lane - Investigate and Design Phase 1		Infrastructure
NEW PROJECT Ellalong _ Campbell Street - Deliver road upgrade and drainage		Infrastructure
NEW PROJECT Laguna _ Great North Road - Deliver road safety blackspot program – grant funded		Infrastructure
NEW PROJECT Nulkaba _ McDonalds Road - Deliver intersection upgrade		Infrastructure

Bridges

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Citywide _ Various - Deliver bridge replacement program in accordance with the criteria identified in the adopted Asset Management Strategy	▶▶	Doyle Street and Bathurst Street are due to start in January 2026. We are currently awaiting grant results. Our projects are funded and will go ahead regardless.	Asset Planning
Greta _ Wyndam Street bridge - Deliver bridge upgrade	▶	Investigations and design are underway.	Asset Planning

Airport

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Pokolbin _ Cessnock Airport - Deliver airport improvements	▶▶	Work planned to commence in March 2026.	Works and Operations




LEAD We have strong leadership and effective governance

5.1 Support and develop community leadership

5.1.1 Ensure we develop our workforce performance and culture to effectively meet our community's needs and desired outcomes


Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Conduct leadership development programs for our workforce.	✓	Two development days have occurred this calendar year and several planned for quarters three and four of 2025/2026.	People and Culture
Develop tailored leadership development programs that identifies high potential staff within our workforce.	▶	Team Leader succession planning assessments due for completion in January 2026. Leadership program scheduled to begin in March for all Leaders.	People and Culture
Ensure our Council develops core capabilities across all levels of our workforce.	▶	A review of our existing competency framework is currently in progress. A competency framework that includes core competencies will be finalised and communicated in quarter three of 2025/2026.	People and Culture
Provide an engagement platform to assess employee experience across our workforce.	▶▶	Employee Engagement Survey to be conducted in third quarter of 2025/2026.	People and Culture
Undertake succession planning, coaching and mentoring for critical roles.	▶	Critical roles have been identified. Succession plans started.	People and Culture

5.1.2 Provide a safe workplace that supports the health and wellbeing of our people

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Embed a positive and healthy culture within our workforce.		Health monitoring programs continue to be delivered as part of our Health and Wellbeing calendar. 2026 Health and wellbeing calendar updated in line with Council's compliant health monitoring programs. Return to Work Audit booked in with StateCover for completion. Provider engaged to deliver bullying and harassment training in fourth quarter of 2025/2026.	People and Culture
Ensure we maintain a focus on psychosocial health and safety within our workforce.		Wellbeing Strategy drafted as part of the Wellbeing Action Plan and is under review. Safety Month held throughout October highlighting and supporting psychological health. Gus Worland from Gotcha4Life provided a presentation to all staff focusing on Mental Fitness.	People and Culture
Maintain strong performance in Enterprise Risk Management.		Enterprise Risk Management Register reviews and updates continuing and on track for June 2026 completion of all registers. Risk Maturity Review booked in with Statewide Mutual March 2026.	People and Culture



5.2 Encourage community collaboration in decision making

5.2.1 Ensure that community participation is central in planning for our area





Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Engage with the community and local service providers to participate in the delivery of our community and cultural development programs.		Planning for Seniors Festival 2026 is well underway in collaboration with the Seniors Reference Group. The interest from local organisations and the business community to contribute to sponsoring the festival has been strong.	Community and Cultural Development

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Obtain feedback from our community events to ensure delivery of a diverse program engaging children, young people and families.		Feedback was sought from young people on the School Holiday program including identifying opportunities for future activities. The feedback for Carols in the Park 2025 was positive.	Community and Cultural Development
Participate with the Hunter Joint Organisation (JO) to promote the interests of our area.		Board meeting 8 October 2025. Joint Organisation (JO) meeting with NSW Ministers 16 October 2025. Board meeting scheduled for 4 Dec 2025.	General Managers Unit


5.2.2 Ensure our staff have the skills, tools, capacity and confidence to engage effectively

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Develop core capabilities and competencies across all levels of our Council.		This action has been duplicated in our operational plan - this action is to be deleted.	People and Culture
Ensure our customers are supported and have positive experiences with our Council.		Customer Relations Team undertook training in Council's mapping system Pozi Maps in October 2025. Quality Assurance (QA) program was implemented in the Customer Relations team in December 2025 with training for all staff members undertaken and since completed.	Business Support and Customer Relations
Ensure our workforce is appropriately trained and resourced in meeting their governance and statutory compliance obligations.		We have an ongoing program of education, training and awareness to support governance of the organisation.	Corporate Governance
Review our workplace induction and onboarding program.		Feedback has been given to lead project officer and will continue to be developed in quarter 3 2025/2026.	People and Culture

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5.2.3 Ensure our community has the necessary information to make an informed contribution

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure our community reporting complies with the Integrated Planning & Reporting legislation.		Annual report has been completed and reported on time. The quarter 2 update the Delivery Program will be reported to Council and the Audit, Risk, Improvement Committee (ARIC) in November. Work has commenced on the 2026-27 Operational Plan with a planned exhibition date from April 2026.	Corporate and Community Services
Ensure our financial reporting complies with the Australian Accounting Standards.		External audit by the Audit Office of NSW is complete for the 30 June 2025 financial statements that provide assurances in complying with accounting standards. Final audited statements were presented to Council in November 2025.	Corporate and Community Services

5.3 Ensure we are accountable and responsive to our community

5.3.1 Continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our service delivery

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure our Council's administration building provides our workforce with the capacity to effectively meet the needs of our current and growing population.		To commence once future financial planning is completed.	Corporate and Community Services
Ensure our Council's services are effectively aligned with our processes and procedures.		To be commenced in the 3rd quarter of 2025/26.	Corporate and Community Services
Maintain a continuous review of internal processes to remain compliant with the Department of Planning and Environment's Development		Process reviews have commenced in relation to pre-lodgement and pre-DA meetings. Process mapping has also begun in relation to each of these areas. From the reviews undertaken to date, an internal process change has been implemented to address best	Development Services

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Assessment Best Practice Guide.		practice timeframes in order to reduce the number of days to submit an application. Reporting to date suggests that this change in our process has improved submission timeframes, with reporting showing a decrease in submitted days.	

5.3.2 Harness the potential of digital technologies to improve interaction with customers to deliver better outcomes for our area

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Enhance the utilisation of our electronic safety and risk management system.	▶	Additional Besafe checklists implemented to support broader operational application across Council. BeSafe Statistical Dashboard published. Training to be delivered to senior staff on recording investigations and assigning actions in BeSafe.	People and Culture
Ensure our Council has the necessary tools and capacity to enable our community to be informed and have opportunities to contribute to our decision making.	▶	Review of website and engagement microsite commenced, and project timelines set. Desktop review underway - slight delay due to competing requirements but still manageable within overall project timeline. Meeting held with a supplier in December.	Communications and Engagement
Investigate the expansion of the application programming interface for software packages utilised throughout our Council.	▶	Being reviewed as part of a broader cloud strategy. On track for delivery by 30 June 2026.	Information Technology
Our Council's websites are inclusive, accessible, contain accurate information and are easy to navigate.	▶	Review of website and engagement microsite commenced, and project timelines set. Desktop review underway - slight delay due to competing requirements but still manageable within overall project timeline. Meeting held with a supplier in December.	Communications and Engagement

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Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Strengthen digital literacy for our workforce.	▶▶	This action is not scheduled for completion until 2026/2027.	People and Culture

5.3.3 Ensure we maintain adequate funding to support our plans of management, cash position and adopted plans and strategies

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Collaborate with the community to develop new and expand existing community events delivered within our area.	▶	For Carols in the Park 2025, sponsorship was secured via Newcastle Permanent. Held 5 December, over 2,000 people attended. A letter of support was provided to an external agency seeking NSW Government funding for a children's reading program. Sponsorship collaboration has occurred with not-for-profit organisations and businesses for the upcoming 2026 Seniors Festival. Council's Youth Service was successful in being awarded \$4,900 for a NSW Government, Holiday Break Summer 2025-26 Grant.	Community and Cultural Development
Ensure appropriate collection of data to meet annual reporting IPR requirements.	✓	Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) officers sourced statutory information for the annual report to collate and publish. The 2025 annual report has been completed and published on Council's website with the Minister for Local Government notified as per the Act.	Corporate and Community
Ensure that we maintain a comprehensive grants processes and register.	▶	Grants register for existing grants is maintained monthly with reporting and cashflow tracking to encourage invoicing upon milestone completion. Next iteration of the register will be to align to Delivery Program unfunded projects and track grant application performance.	Corporate and Community

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Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Seek funding for delivery of Floodplain Management Programs.	▶	Funding opportunities are being actively monitored and pursued for Floodplain Management Programs.	Asset Planning
Submit grant funding applications in accordance with asset management plans for improvements to recreation community facilities.	▶	An application has been submitted through the 2025 Major and Local Community Infrastructure program for the construction of a new amenity building at Greta Central Oval.	Open Space and Community Facilities

5.3.4 Provide efficient and effective regulatory systems

Operational Plan 2025–26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Ensure our Council's development assessment systems remain aligned with NSW Planning Portal legislative requirements.	▶	Lodgement of Section 68 Septic Applications is now mandated through the NSW Planning Portal, streamlining internal processes.	Business Support and Customer Relations
Maintain a best practice internal audit function and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements and the Global Internal Audit Standards.	▶	Internal Audit plan and Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (AROC) meetings on track.	General Managers Unit
Undertake a regular review process to ensure all policies are updated when necessary.	▶	Council has an ongoing program of policy review.	Corporate Governance
Undertake a Service Delivery Program of service areas identified under internal audit function.	✓	Program reported to Audit, Risk, Improvement Committee September 2025 meeting. Recruitment for EFT to be completed 30/9/25.	Information Technology

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Capital Works Projects

Administration equipment & systems

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Administration Centres - Asset Planning specialised tooling and equipment	▶▶	No specialised tooling and equipment required in the first quarter.	Asset Planning
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Administration Centres - Replacement of Wi-Fi for Council's administration building, Works Depot and PACC	▶	The final stage of our Wi-Fi upgrade will take place at the Performing Arts Culture Centre, with completion expected by the week ending 16 January 2026.	Information Technology
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Administration Centres _ Minor hardware items	✓	All funds have been allocated for the 2025-26 financial year.	Information Technology

Fleet Management

Operational Plan 2025-26 Action	Progress	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Works Depot - Replacement of heavy vehicle	▶	Ongoing heavy plant replacement program underway in line with agreed service life cycle and budget availability.	Works and Operations
Cessnock _ Cessnock City Council Works Depot - Replacement of leaseback vehicle	▶	Ongoing leaseback vehicle replacement undertaken in line with agreed service life.	Works and Operations

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WHERE	TYPE OF CHANGE	PARTICULARS	WHO	ACCEPTED Y/N
2025-26 Operational Plan Actions				
1.1.4	Action 5: "Support Disability and Aged Care Service Providers to utilise PCEP to improve the preparedness of people with disabilities"	NEW Action: "Support Disability and Aged Care Service Providers to utilise PCEP to improve the preparedness of people with disabilities" Service Area: Emergency Management & Resilience Supporting Processes: Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Role: Deliver, collaborate Service Indicator: We have facilitated PCEP implementation Target: 30/06/2026	Emergency Management & Resilience Coordinator	
1.1.4	Action 6: "Create website page & content about Disability Inclusive Emergency Preparedness"	NEW Action: "Create website page & content about Disability Inclusive Emergency Preparedness" Service Area: Emergency Management & Resilience Supporting Processes: Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Role: Deliver Service Indicator: We have created the website page Target: 30/06/2026	Emergency Management & Resilience Coordinator	
1.3.3	Action 9: "Develop and maintain a high quality, integrated trails network that encourages considerate use, active lifestyles and showcases our region's distinct natural areas, Indigenous & European cultural heritage values and contributes to social, environmental and economic benefits for our community and visitors"	NEW Action: "Develop and maintain a high quality, integrated trails network that encourages considerate use, active lifestyles and showcases our region's distinct natural areas, Indigenous & European cultural heritage values and contributes to	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager	

		<p>social, environmental and economic benefits for our community and visitors”</p> <p>Service Area: Open Space and Community Facilities</p> <p>Supporting Processes: Trails Strategy</p> <p>Role: Deliver</p> <p>Service Indicator: We have collaborated with relevant stakeholders to discuss trail initiatives.</p> <p>Target: Attend 2 reference group meetings</p>		
1.4.2	<p>Action 4:</p> <p>“Support community organisations to utilise spontaneous volunteers in a safe and coordinated way”</p>	<p>NEW Action: “Support community organisations to utilise spontaneous volunteers in a safe and coordinated way”</p> <p>Service Area: Emergency Management & Resilience</p> <p>Supporting Processes: Community Disaster Resilience Strategy</p> <p>Role: Deliver, collaborate</p> <p>Service Indicator: We have delivered spontaneous volunteer training</p> <p>Target: 30/06/2026</p>	Emergency Management & Resilience Coordinator	
3.1.3	<p>Action 5:</p> <p>“Deliver a Flood Warning System education campaign (Weston & Abermain) to raise awareness of flash flood risk and actions”</p>	<p>NEW Action: “Deliver a Flood Warning System education campaign (Weston & Abermain) to raise awareness of flash flood risk and actions”</p> <p>Service Area: Emergency Management & Resilience</p>	Emergency Management & Resilience Coordinator	

		Supporting Processes: Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Role: Deliver, collaborate Service Indicator: Flood Warning System campaign delivered. Target: 30/06/2026		
3.1.3	Action 6: "Begin a Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment"	NEW Action: "Begin a Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment" Service Area: Emergency Management & Resilience Supporting Processes: Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Role: Deliver Service Indicator: Climate & Disaster Risk Assessment commenced. Target: 30/06/2026	Emergency Management & Resilience Coordinator	
4.3.1	Action 2: "Assess new projects considering a balance between competing compliance and regulation and meeting growing service delivery demand"	REMOVE ACTION as it was identified as insufficiently defined and not a measurable outcome.	Strategic Planning Manager	
5.2.2	Action 1: "Develop core capabilities and competencies across all levels of our Council"	Remove this action instead of: 5.1.1 Action 4: "Ensure our Council develops core capabilities across all levels of our workforce." which was outlined in the Quarter 1 changes report. There is another Action under 5.1.1 which is similar.	People & Culture Manager	

2025-26 Capital Works Projects							
WHERE	TYPE OF CHANGE				PARTICULARS	WHO	ACCEPTED Y/N
	Suburb	Location	Description	Budget Forecast			
Page 51 & 129	Citywide	Various	Deliver Floodplain Management Program in areas identified in Council's Floodplain Management Strategy	\$700,000.00	Change Responsible Officer FROM: Infrastructure Manager TO: Asset Management Manager	Infrastructure Manager	
Page 56 & 130	Citywide	Various	Deliver local road resealing	\$850,000.00	Change Responsible Officer FROM: Infrastructure Manager TO: Works & Operations Manager	Infrastructure Manager	
Page 56 & 130	Citywide	Various	Deliver gravel rehabilitation and resheeting program	\$300,000.00	Change Responsible Officer FROM: Infrastructure Manager TO: Works & Operations Manager	Infrastructure Manager	
Page 56 & 130	Citywide	Various	Deliver local road resealing	\$850,000.00	Change Responsible Officer FROM: Infrastructure Manager TO: Works & Operations Manager	Infrastructure Manager	
NEW – accepted at Q1	Cessnock	Apex Park	Deliver park redevelopment	\$505,000.00	Change Responsible Officer FROM: Open Space and Community Facilities Manager TO: Infrastructure Manager	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager	
NEW	North Rothbury	Thomas Street	Deliver betterment	\$3,517,695	Grant Funds	Infrastructure Manager	

NEW	Heddon Greta	Heddon Street	Investigate and Design Phase 1	\$79,612.00	Grant Funds	Infrastructure Manager	
NEW	Heddon Greta	Avery's Lane	Investigate and Design Phase 1	\$800,000.00	Contributions	Infrastructure Manager	
NEW	Ellalong	Campbell Street	Deliver road upgrade and drainage	\$20,000.00	Stormwater levy	Infrastructure Manager	
NEW	Cessnock	Vincent Street	Property Land Acquisitions	\$725,000.00	Contributions	Community and Cultural Development Manager	
NEW	Greta	West Street	Deliver shared pathway	\$422,946.00	Contributions	Infrastructure Manager	
NEW	Abermain	Abermain to Kurri	Deliver shared pathway	\$300,000.00	Grant funds	Infrastructure Manager	
NEW	Cessnock	Black Creek	Deliver flood mitigation	\$268,000.00	Grant funds/stormwater/general funds	Asset Planning Manager	
NEW	Kurri Kurri	Birrallee Park (Juniors)	Deliver refurbishment and extension drawings	\$30,716.00	Contributions	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager	
NEW	Laguna	Great North Road	Deliver road safety blackspot program – grant funded	\$50,000.00	Grant funds	Infrastructure Manager	
NEW	Branxton	Greta Central Oval	Deliver amenities renewal	\$329,115	Contributions	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager	
NEW	Cessnock	Cessnock Hockey	Deliver surface replacement	\$21,000.00	General funds	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager	
NEW	Cessnock	Cessnock City Library	Deliver and design expansion and upgrades	\$200,000.00	Contributions	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager	
NEW	Nulkaba	McDonalds Road	Deliver intersection upgrade	\$140,000.00	General funds	Infrastructure Manager	
Other							
Page 42 & 76	Strategies: 4 Year Plan 1.4.2 Ensure we have a series of initiatives which assist with connection and facilitate greater resilience for our community before, during and after natural disasters			Remove the word “ natural ” from 1.4.2.		Emergency Management & Resilience Coordinator	

Page 76	Action 3 1.4.2 Implement our Fire Safety Strategy in accordance with statutory requirements.	Change Responsible Officer FROM: Compliance Services TO: Development Services	Compliance Services Manager	
Page 85	Action 1 3.1.1 Promote and deliver community focused biodiversity education programs	Change Responsible Officer FROM: Strategic Planning TO: Environment & Waste	Strategic Planning Manager	
Page 85	Action 2 3.1.1 Continue to facilitate education initiatives relating to conservation of the natural environment	Change Responsible Officer FROM: Strategic Planning TO: Environment & Waste	Strategic Planning Manager	
Page 87	Action 1 3.1.3 Work with our partners to manage natural hazards	Change Responsible Officer FROM: Emergency Management & Resilience TO: Asset Management	Emergency Management & Resilience Coordinator	

2025
2026

Planning for our
people, our place, our
future

CESSNOCK

QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT
Quarter 2 December 2025

www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Welcome Acknowledgement of Country

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



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Report by Responsible Accounting Officer

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021:

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Cessnock City Council for the quarter ended 31 December 2025 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2026 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure and remains in line with Council's financial strategy. This is predicated on a successful Council application for a special rate variation as outlined in the financial sustainability review.

Signed:



Matthew Plumridge – Responsible Accounting Officer

Date:

30/01/2026

Summary

QBRS FINANCIAL OVERVIEW									
Budget review for the quarter ended									
DESCRIPTION		Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD
		Actual	Budget	Carry Forwards & Q1	Budget	for council resolution	Result	ORIGINAL budget v PYE	
		2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	General Fund	(33,778)	(25,066)	(847)	(25,912)	95	(25,817)	(751)	26,930
	Water Fund								
	Sewer Fund								
	Consolidated	(33,778)	(25,066)	(847)	(25,912)	95	(25,817)	(751)	26,930
Operating Result from continuing operations (with capital grants and contributions) excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	Consolidated	64,348	70,461	14,735	85,197	79	85,275	14,814	66,194
Borrowings	Total borrowings	13,600	5,525		5,525		5,525	0	0
	External restrictions	92,682	46,591	8,716	55,307	4,588	59,895	13,304	75,752
	Internal Allocations	14,081	15,697	0	15,697	0	15,697	0	1,224
Liquidity	Unallocated	(10,063)	(31,340)	0	(31,340)	0	(31,340)	0	128
	Total Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments	96,700	30,948	8,716	39,664	4,588	44,252	13,304	77,104
	Capital Funding	72,710	69,996	12,076	82,072	(6,758)	75,314	5,318	32,663
Capital	Capital Expenditure	72,710	69,996	12,076	82,072	(6,758)	75,314	5,318	32,663
	Net Capital	0	0	0	0	0	(0)	(0)	0

		Opening Balance	Total Cash Contributions Received	Total Interest Earned	Total Expended	Total Internal Borrowings (to)/from	Held as Restricted Asset	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		As at 1 July 2025 \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's	As at this Q \$000's
Developer Contribution	Total Developer Contributions	54,524	2,936	683	2,679	0	55,464	0

Income & Expenses

Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement										
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/2025										
Description	Previous Year	Current Year Original	Approved Changes	Approved Changes	Revised	Recommended changes	Note	Projected Year End (PYE)	VARIANCE	ACTUAL YTD
	Actual	Budget	Review Carried Forwards	Review	Budget	for council resolution		Result	ORIGINAL budget v PYE	
	2024/25 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	\$000's	Q 1 \$000's	\$000's	Q2 \$000's		2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's	2025/26 \$000's
INCOME										
Rates and Annual Charges	71,192	75,419		1,147	76,566			76,566	1,147	76,753
User Charges and Fees	9,927	9,893		56	9,950	95	1	10,045	151	5,487
Other Revenue	3,339	2,852		181	3,033			3,033	181	1,500
Grants and Contributions - Operating	15,707	16,041	551	5,488	22,080	(17)	2	22,063	6,023	9,105
Grants and Contributions - Capital	71,924	63,204	2,261	13,321	78,786	(17)	3	78,769	15,566	24,499
Interest and Investment Income	3,891	3,102			3,102			3,102	0	1,902
Other Income	642	491			491			491	0	437
Net gain from disposal of assets					0			0	0	
Total Income from continuing operations	176,621	171,002	2,812	20,194	194,008	62		194,069	23,068	119,682
EXPENSES										
Employee benefits and on-costs	49,318	48,107		88	48,195	50	4	48,245	138	27,251
Materials & Services	37,269	36,944	1,640	6,232	44,816	242	5	45,058	8,114	22,248
Borrowing Costs	922	845		309	1,154	(309)	6	845	0	282
Other Expenses	7,359	7,644	2		7,646			7,646	2	4,039
Net Loss from Disposal of Assets	17,405	7,000			7,000			7,000	0	(330)
Total Expenses from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	112,273	100,540	1,642	6,629	108,811	(17)		108,794	8,254	53,488
Operating Result from continuing operations excluding depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	64,348	70,461	1,171	13,565	85,197	79		85,275	14,814	66,194
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets	26,202	32,323			32,323			32,323	0	14,766
Operating result from continuing Operations	38,146	38,138	1,171	13,565	52,874	79		52,952	14,814	51,429
Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(33,778)	(25,066)	(1,091)	244	(25,912)	95		(25,817)	(751)	26,930



Operating Performance

The year-to-date operating result before capital income is a surplus of \$26.9m

Council levies rates and annual charges for the whole year in July, however ratepayers are provided the option to make payments in quarterly instalments throughout the year due in August, November, February and May. Income is recognised up front in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Guidelines), therefore the Actual YTD figures represent the full year of levied income despite timing differences in payment receipts.

Favourable YTD operating income in user fees due to phasing difference to as well as increased activity in development. Changes to the percentage of the financial assistance grant paid in advance have resulted in phasing differences to budget in operating grants. Phasing differences between budget and actual income recognition have resulted in a positive YTD variance for capital grants and contributions.

Employee expenditure is above budget at this stage of the year, driven by multiple impacts including, a reduced level of salary capitalisation, employee leave entitlements timing differences and vacancy movements. These impacts will continue to be reviewed as part of ongoing budget management and adjusted accordingly.

Differences in phasing of some operating expenses are resulting in a favourable YTD budget variance in materials offset by an increase in the waste levy in other expenses. We expect this variance to come back closer to budget during the year.

The revised estimated net operating result before capital income for the year to 30 June 2026 is a deficit of \$25.8m (original budget was a deficit of \$25m). The variance is mostly due to the carry forward of unspent operating grant commitments.



Income and Expense Budget Changes

Variations to income and expenses for this December review (Notes 1 to 8)

Council has conducted a review of its operating income and expenses for this December quarterly budget review for major items and proposes a net decrease to the projected year end deficit of \$0.1m to \$25.8m. Forecasts for estimated full year budgets have been based on trends and currently available information. The following notes provide commentary on proposed material changes to operational results.

Note	Income & Expenses Budget review statement Recommended changes to revised budget, include the following material items
1	Increased User Charges & Fees income for S603 certificates in line with actual trend
2	Decreased Operating grants and contributions due to adjustment for grant received in full prior year
3	Decreased Capital grants and contributions due to adjustment for grant received in full prior year offset by new grants for Infrastructure and Open space relating to projects for blackspot Great North Rd, Laguna and North Cessnock park water station.
4	Additional increase to employee costs from excess materials and contracts budget to fund a temporary role.
5	Increase in Materials and contracts due to correction in categorisation of computer leases from borrowing costs
6	Decrease in Borrowing costs due to correction in categorisation of computer leases to materials and contracts

Capital Expenditure Budget Review Statement

Capital Budget Review Statement										
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/2025										
Description	Previous Year Actual 2024/25 \$000's	Current Year Original Budget 2025/26 \$000's	Carry Forwards Budget 2025/26 \$000's	Approved Changes Review Q 1 \$000's	Approved Changes Review Q 2 \$000's	Revised Budget \$000's	Recommended changes for council resolution \$000's	Projected Year End (PYE) Result 2025/26 \$000's	VARIANCE ORIGINAL budget v 2025/26 \$000's	ACTUAL YTD 2025/26 \$000's
CAPITAL FUNDING										
Rates & other untied funding	15,095	10,094	597	781		11,471	(2,214)	9,257	(837)	4,819
Capital Grants & Contributions	34,183	28,179	2,429	11,702		42,309	(16)	42,293	14,114	16,854
Reserves - External Restrictions	5,575	26,079	4,607	(9,020)		21,665	(4,588)	17,078	(9,001)	10,239
Reserves - Internally Allocated	4,257	120	821	161		1,102	60	1,162	1,042	751
New Loans	13,600	5,525	0	0		5,525	0	5,525	0	0
Proceeds from sale of assets							0	0	0	
Other - specify							0	0	0	
Total Capital Funding	72,710	69,996	8,453	3,623	0	82,072	-6,758	75,314	5,318	32,663
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE										
WIP								0	0	
New Assets	41,903	52,291	5,358	(1,572)		56,077	(5,119)	50,958	(1,333)	21,948
Asset Renewal	30,807	17,706	3,096	5,195		25,996	(1,639)	24,357	6,651	10,714
Other - specify								0	0	
Total Capital Expenditure	72,710	69,996	8,453	3,623	0	82,072	(6,758)	75,314	5,318	32,663
Net Capital Funding - Surplus /(Deficit)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Capital Expenditure by Program

Capital Expenditure	Original Budget 2025-26	Carry Forwards	Approved Variations Sep Qtr	Revised Budget 2025-26	Variations for this Dec Qtr	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD Figures
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Airport Construction Program (PCA)	200	-	-	200	-	200	-
Branxton Town Centre Program (CTB)	460	143	587	1,190	-	1,190	420
Bridge Construction Program (CBS)	3,525	39	108	3,672	60	3,732	214
Cemetery Facilities Construction Program (CFC)	60	-	-	60	-	60	0
Cessnock Civic Precinct Revitalisation Prog. (RCC)	-	8	(8)	-	-	-	-
Community Buildings Renewal Program (RBC)	790	18	-	808	(82)	726	91
Design & Contracts Pre-Construction Design (DCP)	100	-	(100)	-	-	-	-
Drainage Construction Program (CDR)	2,715	277	1,981	4,973	-	4,973	2,321
Floodplain Management Program (PMF) Capital	735	308	193	1,236	(5)	1,231	152
Gravel Rehab & Resheeting Program (RRG)	300	-	-	300	-	300	10
Kurri Town Centre Program (CTK)	-	-	27	27	-	27	27
Library Books	208	-	-	208	-	208	88
Local Road Construction Program (CRL)	924	-	-	924	(800)	124	-
Local Road Renewal Program (RRL)	5,895	215	405	6,515	(1,719)	4,796	3,752
Natural Disaster Remediation	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Other Fixed Assets (OFA)	886	52	105	1,043	200	1,243	1,004
Pathways Construction Program (CPW)	3,002	888	313	4,203	-	4,203	753
Plant and Fleet Acquisitions (PFA)	2,500	719	-	3,219	-	3,219	581
Pool Facilities Renewal Program (RFP)	341	-	-	341	(86)	255	185
Recreation Buildings Renewal Program (RBR)	2,176	79	3,515	5,770	360	6,130	5,494
Recreation Facilities Construction Program (CFR)	8,948	261	(2,682)	6,527	-	6,527	3,858
Recreation Facilities Renewal Program (RFR)	539	46	729	1,314	9	1,323	505
Recreation Pre-Construction Design	150	-	-	150	(125)	25	26
Regional Road Renewal Program (RRR)	23,083	-	(1,935)	21,148	-	21,148	3,689
Safer Roads Program (RMS Blackspot) (CRR)	-	588	-	588	50	638	612
Traffic Facilities Program (CFT)	170	654	300	1,124	(170)	954	703
Waste Facility Construction Program (CFW)	10,587	3,833	-	14,420	(4,450)	9,970	6,820
Waste Major Plant	1,650	267	85	2,002	-	2,002	1,335
Works Depot Construction Program	50	60	-	110	-	110	-
Total Capital Expenditure	69,996	8,453	3,623	82,072	(6,758)	75,314	32,663

Capital Expenditure Budget Changes

Actual Capital Expenditure for the year to 31 December 2025 was \$32.7m which equates to 40% spent of current budget of \$82.1m.

Variations to capital expenditure for this December review

All projects within the capital works program were reviewed as part of the Q2 Quarterly Budget Review Statement process and a net decrease to the overall capital works program of \$6.8m is proposed. Material movements are listed below.

Unit	Program	Amount \$ '000	Comment
Waste Services	Waste Facility Construction Program (CFW)	(4,450)	New Waste cell nearing completion, Updated cashflow includes reduced contingency and defer capping of existing cell to 2026/27
Infrastructure	Local Road Renewal Program (RRL)	(1,859)	Deferment of Road Rehabilitation program to align with cash flow requirements.
Infrastructure	Local Road Construction Program (CRL)	(750)	Defer Oakey Creek - Ingles - O'Connors road Upgrade developer funds, on hold awaiting outcome of grant application
Open Space and Community Facilities	Information Technology Other Fixed Assets (OFA)	329	Greta central oval Amenities - Developer and grant funded project
Community & Cultural Engagement	Other Fixed Assets (OFA)	200	Design of Cessnock Library Expansion & Upgrades - Developer funded.

Cash and Investments

Cash and Investments Budget Review Statement								
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/2025								
Description	Previous Year Actual 2024/25 \$000's	Current Year Original (1) Budget 2025/26 \$000's	Approved Changes Review Q 1 \$000's	Revised Budget \$000's	Recommend ed changes for council resolution Q2 \$000's	Projected Year End Result 2025/26 \$000's	VARIANCE ORIGINAL budget v PYE 2025/26 \$000's	ACTUAL YTD 2025/26 \$000's
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments	96,700	30,948		30,948	4,588	35,536	4,588	77,104
EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED								
Water Fund						0	0	
Sewer Fund						0	0	
Developer contributions - General (2)	54,315	40,754	8,716	49,470	-182	49,288	8,534	55,464
Developer contributions - Water						0	0	
Developer contributions - Sewer						0	0	
Transport for NSW Contributions	0	0		0		0	0	0
Domestic waste management	7,234	329		329	4,588	4,917	4,588	309
Stormwater management	413	0		0		0	0	595
Other - Unexpended Grants, Sale of Land (unpaid rates)	30,720	5,508		5,508	182	5,690	182	19,384
Total Externally Restricted	92,682	46,591	8,716	55,307	4,588	59,895	13,304	75,752
Cash, cash equivalents & investments not subject to external restrictions	4,018	-15,643	-8,716	-24,359	0	-24,359	-8,716	1,352
INTERNAL ALLOCATIONS								
Employee leave entitlements	1,551	1,762		1,762		1,762	0	0
Security Deposits / Bonds / Cemetery Reservation	4,405	3,467		3,467		3,467	0	1,224
Financial Assistance Grant	4,816	8,177		8,177		8,177	0	0
Other internal reserves	3,309	2,291		2,291		2,291	0	0
Total Internally Allocated	14,081	15,697	0	15,697	0	15,697	0	1,224
Unallocated	-10,063	-31,340	-8,716	-40,056	0	-40,056	-8,716	128

Note 1: Budget Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments does not reflect the actual opening balance of the statements

Note 2: Developer Contributions in the Reserve include cash balances only therefore don't agree to Developer Contributions Summary (difference is unpaid invoices)

Developer Contributions

Developer contributions are recognised when council gains control over the asset (cash or non-cash).

Councils have obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenue levied on developers under the provisions of s7.4, s7.11 and s7.12 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

Developer contributions may only be expended for the purpose for which the contributions were required, however council may apply contributions according to the priorities established in work schedules for the contribution plan.

Developer Contributions Summary															
Budget review for the quarter ended 31/12/2025															
Purpose	Opening Balance As at 1 July 2025	Developer Contributions Received						Interest Earned Q1	Interest Earned Q2	Amounts Expended Q1	Amounts Expended Q2	Internal Borrowings (to)/from Q1	Internal Borrowings (to)/from Q2	Held as Restricted Asset As at this Q	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from As at this Q
		Cash	Cash	Non-Cash Land	Non-Cash Land	Non-Cash Other	Non-Cash Other								
		Q1 \$000's	Q2 \$000's	Q1 \$000's	Q2 \$000's	Q1 \$000's	Q2 \$000's								
Drainage														0	
Roads	13,116	197	296					123	43	773	47			12,954	
Traffic facilities	4,295	530	245					43	16	71	38			5,021	
Parking														0	
Open space	10,648	562	464					105	38	45	22			11,750	
Community facilities	5,668	91	299					55	20	6	0			6,127	
Other	365	22	23					3	0	26	150			238	
Total S7.11 Under plans	34,093	1,401	1,327	0	0	0	0	330	117	921	257	0	0	36,090	0
S7.11 Not under plans														0	
S7.12 Levies	1,913	208	0					19	6	105	98			1,942	
S7.4 Planning agreements	18,518	0	0					159	53	1,229	68			17,432	
S64 Contributions														0	
Other														0	
Total Developer Contributions	54,524	1,609	1,327	0	0	0	0	508	176	2,255	424	0	0	55,464	0



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Action Sheets Report	Division:	Date From:
	Committee:	Date To:
	Officer:	Printed: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 1:41:28 PM

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
BN13/2025	Ordinary Council 15/10/2025	Childs, Jonathan	Business With Notice	Implementation of an Email Notification System for Residents	28/02/2026	
263 MOTION 263 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Jurd	Seconded:	Councillor Harrington		
<p>That Council, investigate an opt-in notification system for residents based on their location. This system would provide timely information regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development Applications, Residents would receive updates on DAs in their area, ensuring they are informed about proposed developments that may affect their community, while helping with the cost of notifications, we could reach a bigger area, while keeping it cheaper. 2. Upcoming Events: Notifications about local events, community gatherings, and Council initiatives would be shared to encourage participation and engagement. 3. Promote the new system through existing Council communication channels to maximise participation. <p>17 Oct 2025 4:25pm Maginnity, Robert - Reallocation Action reassigned to Childs, Jonathan by Maginnity, Robert - Jon, please coordinate this investigation, noting request to track staff hours involved. May need input from CIO & Manager Customer Service</p> <p>07 Nov 2025 9:40am Childs, Jonathan - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Childs, Jonathan from 12 November 2025 to 28 February 2026 - To allow time for council officers to investigate options</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC2/2026	Ordinary Council 14/01/2026	Plumridge, Matthew	Corporate and Community	Review of Distributive Equity in Council's Rating Structure	1/03/2027	
340 MOTION 340 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Hill	Seconded:	Councillor Lea		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the General Manager undertake a review of the distributive equity of Council's current rating structure; and 2. That Council notes that the distributive equity review will assess equity impacts, legislative compliance, revenue stability, administrative feasibility, with findings and any proposed options to be reported to Council for consideration, with an intention for inclusion in the 2027/28 Revenue Policy. 						

Action Sheets Report	Division:	Date From:
	Committee:	Date To:
	Officer:	Printed: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 1:41:28 PM

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
RM1/2026	Ordinary Council 14/01/2026	Plumridge, Matthew	Rescission Motions	BN19/2025 - Suspension of all Non-Legislated Net Zero Expenditure to support Financial Sustainability	11/02/2026	
337 MOTION 337 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Hill	Seconded:	Councillor Palmowski		
That the recommendation to BN18/2025 - Suspension of all Non-Legislated Net Zero Expenditure to support Financial Sustainability be rescinded.						
CARRIED						
MOTION 338 RESOLVED	Moved:	Councillor Hill	Seconded:	Councillor Palmowski		
1. That Council note the ongoing review into Financial Sustainability and efforts within the draft Long Term Financial Plan and reviewed Delivery Program which prioritises spending on asset maintenance and net positive organizational initiatives.						
2. That the General Manager provide a Councillor workshop to inform on the currently adopted Climate Change Resilience Plan (2023).						
CARRIED						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
W12/2021	Ordinary Council 17/02/2021	Waghorn, Peter	Works and Infrastructure	Sale of Land to Bellbird Bowling Club	19/12/2025	
1571 MOTION 1571 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Dunn	Seconded:	Councillor Fitzgibbon		
1. That Council authorises the General Manager to undertake the process to reclassify the seven metre strip of land along the southern boundary of the Bellbird Park Bowling Club from Community to Operational.						
2. That Council agrees to sell the subject parcel of land once reclassified to Bellbird Park Bowling Club at the nominal cost of one dollar (\$1.00) provided the Bellbird Park Bowling Club fund associated costs for the land transfer.						
3. That Council authorises the General Manager to execute documents related to the reclassification and transfer of land between Cessnock City Council and the Bellbird Park Bowling Club.						
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY						

Action Sheets Report	Division: Committee: Officer:	Date From: Date To: Printed: Tuesday, 10 February 2026 1:41:28 PM
<p>04 Mar 2021 11:58am Benson, Nicole - Reallocation Action reassigned to Rathborne, Michael by Benson, Nicole - Michael please commence the actions as per the resolution. Liaise with my team if required. Thanks</p> <p>24 Mar 2021 4:49pm Keegan, Robyn - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Keegan, Robyn from 17 March 2021 to 30 June 2021 - Information sent to surveyor for the club to prepare and lodge forms,</p> <p>29 Mar 2021 4:04pm Rathborne, Michael - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Rathborne, Michael from 30 June 2021 to 30 August 2021 - Surveyor preparing documents for registration.</p> <p>28 Apr 2021 10:33am Rathborne, Michael - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Rathborne, Michael from 30 June 2021 to 30 September 2021 - Pending survey and documentation being prepared by surveyor.</p> <p>25 Jun 2021 12:30pm Keegan, Robyn - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Keegan, Robyn from 30 September 2021 to 31 December 2021 - Bellbird Park Bowling Club has taken responsibility for survey registration. Further work by Council Property Services to effect the transfer of land is deferred pending Strategic Property obtaining Council approval for a site-specific planning proposal to reclassify the land.</p> <p>02 Sep 2021 3:11pm Keegan, Robyn - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Keegan, Robyn from 31 December 2021 to 31 December 2021 - Peter Waghorn advised that there is no further update.</p> <p>26 Oct 2021 2:19pm Keegan, Robyn - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Keegan, Robyn from 31 December 2021 to 21 January 2022 - Advised by Chief Financial & Administration Officer no update was available but will investigate.</p> <p>25 Jan 2022 10:12am Waghorn, Peter In accordance with the resolution, Bellbird Park Bowling Club management are responsible for organising and registering the survey of land to be acquired but are yet to do so. A registered plan and reclassification of the land are required before the land transfer can be transacted.</p> <p>29 Mar 2022 7:55am Boughton-Ingham, Petra 28 Mar 2022 Peter Waghorn, [Confidential]: BPBC's Secretary Manager was contacted with an offer of assistance and advised that the club had not sought quotes for land survey work to date due to their financial situation. As the cost of a partial survey is not anticipated to be high, Council Officers contacted a local surveyor on the club's behalf and was told that the previous Board had engaged Marshall Scott Surveyors to prepare a plan and the draft was sent to the club last year. MSS is following up directly with club management.</p> <p>12 Apr 2022 10:21am Keegan, Robyn - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Keegan, Robyn from 21 January 2022 to 15 June 2022 - The Bellbird Park Bowling Club Secretary Manager was contacted with an offer of assistance and advised that the club had not sought quotes for land survey work due to a recent change of voluntary board membership. Council Officers contacted a local surveyor on the club's behalf and were advised that the previous Board had engaged Marshall Scott Surveyors to prepare a plan and the draft was sent to the club last year. Principal of Marshall Scott Surveyors is following up with the new club management directly.</p> <p>28 Apr 2022 3:32pm Waghorn, Peter Mark Scott of Marshall Scott Surveyors is still following up with the new club Secretary Manager regarding a survey plan previously prepared and sent to the Club in draft for their review.</p> <p>26 May 2022 9:22am Waghorn, Peter Bellbird Park Bowling Club officials have confirmed that Marshall Scott Surveyors were engaged by the previous Board to prepare a plan of acquisition. Once the draft plan is provided to Council for review and verification, the process to reclassify the identified portion of Bellbird Park can be commenced. Transfer of the land to the Club can only be effected on gazettal of the reclassification.</p> <p>26 May 2022 9:50am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 15 June 2022 to 30 December 2022 - The planning proposal to amend the LEP and reclassify a portion of Bellbird Park is a lengthy process and yet to be commenced. Transferring ownership to the Club is deferred pending gazettal of the land reclassification for Community to Operational land.</p> <p>30 Jun 2022 3:12pm Waghorn, Peter An LEP amendment request to reclassify the portion of Bellbird Park the Club requires has been scheduled with Strategic Planning.</p> <p>28 Jul 2022 2:49pm Waghorn, Peter A survey plan prepared by Marshall Scott Surveyors on behalf of Bellbird Park Bowling Club has been provided to Strategic Planning. A planning proposal requesting amendment of the Cessnock LEP land classification of the nominated portion of Bellbird Park is in progress.</p> <p>31 Aug 2022 4:46pm Keegan, Robyn Further updates are subject to progression of a planning proposal to amend the Cessnock LEP and change the community land classification of the nominated portion of Bellbird Park.</p> <p>25 Nov 2022 3:47pm Waghorn, Peter Internal Property staff followed up with Marshall Scott Surveyors 24/11/2022 and were advised that the survey plan detailing the area to be acquired by the club and prepared by their firm on behalf of Bellbird Park Bowling Club is yet to be lodged with Land Registry Services for assessment. Council staff actions are deferred pending plan registration and gazettal of the proposed land reclassification.</p>		

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<p>16 Jan 2023 12:12pm Waghorn, Peter Property staff visited BPBC on 4/1/2023 to enquire with management as to the status of survey plan approval and were advised that they will follow up with Marshall Scott Surveyors. As at 16/1/2023, Mark Scott of MSS has not been contacted by BPBC.</p> <p>16 Jan 2023 12:21pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 30 December 2022 to 31 March 2023 - Delayed pending Bellbird Park Bowling Club approval of draft survey plan of acquisition and the outcome of a Council request to reclassify the relevant portion of Carmichael Park to be acquired</p> <p>03 Apr 2023 10:44am Waghorn, Peter The Strategic Planning unit has scheduled a report seeking approval to submit the LEP amendment required to reclassify the portion of Bellbird Park the Club requires. Reclassification to operational land is required to facilitate any transfer of council community land. The report will be considered at the April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting. .</p> <p>03 Apr 2023 11:11am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 31 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 - The report seeking approval to submit an LEP amendment to reclassify the required portion of Bellbird Park is scheduled for the April 2023 OCM. Reclassifications necessarily involve state planning departments and completion of that process cannot be accurately determined at this time.</p> <p>26 May 2023 3:16pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 30 June 2023 to 31 March 2024 - A planning proposal to amend the Cessnock LEP community land classification of a portion of Carmichael Oval adjoining Bellbird Park Bowling Club was approved for submission to Dept. of Planning & Environment (DPE) on 19 April 2023. Subject to obtaining a DPE Gateway determination to reclassify the land from community to operational use, consultation will be undertaken with public authorities and the community. Unresolved objections must be submitted to Council for consideration before DPE is requested to make the Plan and publish LEP changes in the Government Gazette. This process is anticipated to take six to nine months. On completion, Property staff will prepare contract documentation to transfer the required land.</p> <p>25 Sep 2023 3:37pm Waghorn, Peter - Email On 15 September, Officers arranged for surveyors to attend and mark the site, allowing a partially installed fence to be completed along the new boundary with a lockable pedestrian access. Illegal private vehicular use of CCC community land is understood to have been occurring and neighbouring residents will be notified prior to erection of the final stage of fencing. Formal transfer of the land portion to BPBC is subject to land reclassification and the revised target date is still projected as March 2024.</p> <p>24 Nov 2023 9:41am Waghorn, Peter No further updates from Property Services pending completion of land reclassification process and subsequent land transfer</p> <p>28 Mar 2024 11:17am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 31 March 2024 to 30 May 2024 - Council's Strategic Planning unit advise the planning proposal seeking to amend the LEP land classification is currently being reviewed by the relevant state government planning department</p> <p>25 Jun 2024 10:52am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 30 May 2024 to 29 November 2024 - On 29/5/2024 Council's Strategic Planner advised Planning proposal PP-2023-1296 to amend Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP) has received Gateway determination. The advice refers to issues remaining to be addressed and requires the amending LEP to be finalised on or before 6 months of the Gateway determination date.</p> <p>27 Nov 2024 4:33pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 29 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 - Department Planning Housing and Infrastructure has endorsed the Planning Proposal to rezone and reclassify the strip of land at Bellbird Park Bowling Club for finalization. Once the public reserve status is removed from title, the portion required by the club can be excised from Carmichael Park and transferred to the Club in accordance with the resolution.</p> <p>26 Mar 2025 2:27pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 31 January 2025 to 31 March 2025 - Planning Proposal PP-2023-1296 was sent to DPHI for gazettal on 27 November 2024. The Department recently advised to expect further delays associated with the PP dealing with reclassification of land owned by a council.</p> <p>06 May 2025 3:05pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 31 March 2025 to 30 June 2025 - Planning Proposal PP-2023-1296 to amend Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP) is still with Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</p> <p>01 Aug 2025 9:15am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 30 June 2025 to 31 October 2025 - It was previously advised the reclassification proposal was sent to the Department of Planning Housing, Planning and Infrastructure (DPHI) for finalisation in November last year. Recent advice from DPHI regarding the extended delay: The proposal is with the Executive Council and must be referred to the NSW Governor for approval prior to finalisation.</p>		

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21 Oct 2025 10:35am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision
 Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 31 October 2025 to 19 December 2025 - Strategic Planning received formal advice on 13/10/2025 that the land reclassification proposal sent to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) for finalisation in November last year has been approved. The planning proposal sought reclassification of Part of Lot 3 DP 624793 at Carmichael Park, from Community to Operational Land and amendment of land use zone from RE1 Public Recreation to RE2 Private Recreation and Amendment No. 45 to Cessnock Local Environment Plan was Gazetted 10 October 2025. The transfer of land required by the Bellbird Bowling Club can now be processed in accordance with the resolution.

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE34/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Booth, Caroline	Planning and Environment	Visitor Economy Grants and Sponsorship Program 2025/2026 Applications	20/01/2027	
319 MOTION 319 RESOLVED	Moved:	Page, Sue Councillor Lea	Seconded:	Councillor Hill		
<p>That Council endorses the following funding applications under the 2025/2026 Visitor Economy Grants and Sponsorship Program:</p> <p>Grants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Hunter Valley Wine Country Content Development - \$20,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Wollombi Valley Sculpture Festival - \$8,700 <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre in the Vines - \$9,560 <p>Sponsorships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Natmeet XVI - \$5,000 <p>CARRIED</p>						
<p>05 Jan 2026 11:40am Booth, Caroline - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Booth, Caroline from 07 January 2026 to 20 January 2027 - Recipients of funding under Council's Grants and Sponsorship Program will be delivering approved projects within the 2026 calendar year. The date has been revised to capture full project delivery outcomes. A comprehensive Council Report will be prepared following project acquittals, detailing project outcomes, compliance with funding conditions, and Council's return on investment.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE32/2025	Ordinary Council 19/11/2025	Rush, Iain	Planning and Environment	Land Dedication, Planning Agreement and Works in Kind Policies	28/02/2026	
290 MOTION 290 RESOLVED	Moved:	Page, Sue Councillor Jurd	Seconded:	Councillor Hill		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That Council place the Draft Land Dedication Policy, Draft Works in Kind Policy, revised Draft Planning Agreement Policy, and associated guidelines on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. That Council resolve to remove the requirement for tendering under section 55(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) for all Works in Kind and Planning Agreements. That Council adopt the Draft Land Dedication Policy, Draft Works in Kind Agreement Policy and revised Draft Planning Agreement Policy the day after the public exhibition period concludes, if no unresolved submissions are received. 						

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4. That Council receive a further report after the public exhibition period, if there are unresolved submissions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

25 Nov 2025 10:36am Larsen, Robyn - Reallocation

Action reassigned to Rush, Iain by Larsen, Robyn - To be updated

25 Nov 2025 10:58am Rush, Iain

The draft policies and exhibition material is currently being prepared. Due to the Christmas holiday period, the public exhibition period will be extended in accordance with Council's Community Participation Policy.

24 Dec 2025 11:06am Rush, Iain - Target Date Revision

Target date changed by Rush, Iain from 17 December 2025 to 28 February 2026 - The draft policies and exhibition material is currently being prepared in consultation with the Communications Team. Due to the Christmas holiday period, the public exhibition period will commence in the New Year (2026).

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE12/2025	Ordinary Council 21/05/2025	Brown, Keren	Planning and Environment	Planning Proposal 18/2024/6/1 - Reclassification of Council Land - Post Exhibition	31/03/2026	
152 MOTION 152 RESOLVED	Moved:	Page, Sue Councillor King	Seconded:	Councillor Harrington		
1.	That Council notes the outcome of the community consultation for Planning Proposal 18/2024/6/1 - Reclassification of part Lot 312 DP 566724 (Old Maitland Road, Cessnock) from Community Land to Operational Land.					
2.	That Council forwards the Planning Proposal 18/2024/6/1 for Reclassification of Council Land to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces with a recommendation that the plan be made pursuant to Section 3.36 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.					
3.	That Council notifies submission makers of the Minister’s decision.					
CARRIED						
05 Aug 2025 7:34am Larsen, Robyn - Reallocation Action reassigned to Brown, Keren by Larsen, Robyn - .						
03 Oct 2025 11:35am Blake, Yvonne As per Council resolution, awaiting decision from Minister in order to advise people who made submissions of the outcome.						
28 Oct 2025 11:46am Brown, Keren - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Brown, Keren from 30 October 2025 to 31 December 2025 - The Planning Proposal is with DPHI for finalisations.						
20 Jan 2026 4:10pm Brown, Keren - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Brown, Keren from 31 December 2025 to 31 March 2026 - Planning Proposal is the with the NSW state Government for Gazettal						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE16/2025	Ordinary Council 18/06/2025	Brown, Keren	Planning and Environment	Draft Amendments to Cessnock Development Control Plan Chapter - D8, Events	30/04/2026	
170 MOTION 170 RESOLVED	Moved:	Page, Sue Councillor Lea	Seconded:	Councillor Pascoe		
<p>1. That Council places the draft "D8 – Events" on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, as required by Council's Community Participation Plan.</p> <p>2. That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the draft Development Control Plan chapter if unresolved submissions are received or significant amendments are proposed post-exhibition. Where there are no unresolved objections, the draft Development Control Plan chapter be adopted by Council pursuant to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021.</p> <p>3. That Council repeal the current Cessnock Development Control Plan Chapter D8 - Temporary Events, in the event that the amended Draft chapter D8 – Events is adopted.</p> <p>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p> <p>24 Oct 2025 8:49am Brown, Keren - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Brown, Keren from 27 November 2025 to 18 February 2026 - Draft Chapter D8 Temporary Events of the Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010 was exhibited between 30 July 2025 and 24 September 2025., A significant number of submission have been received and are being reviewed by Council. Subject to the issues raised in the submissions amendments may be made to the draft chapter. Once all submissions have been reviewed the matter will be reported to Council for determination on how to proceed with the draft Chapter.</p> <p>20 Jan 2026 4:10pm Brown, Keren - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Brown, Keren from 18 February 2026 to 30 April 2026 - Submissions continue to be reviewed. Key industry groups to be consulted.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
BN11/2025	Ordinary Council 20/08/2025	Page, Sue	Business With Notice	Proposal to Remove the Shared Zone and Install Temporary Foot Crossings on Charlton Street, Cessnock	30/09/2026	
226 MOTION 226 RESOLVED	Moved:	Page, Sue Councillor Jurd	Seconded:	Councillor King		
<p>a. That the General Manager investigate options to remove the shared zone at the Cooper and Charlton Streets intersection and reinstate marked foot crossings to enhance pedestrian safety in the area.</p> <p>b. That Councillors be provided a briefing on the draft CBD Public Domain Plan and how it proposes to address the pedestrian safety concerns before going on public exhibition.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>28 Aug 2025 3:35pm Meyers, Kristy Resolution a. being actioned by W&I via a Councillor memo., Resolution b. Councillor Briefing being actioned by P&E.</p>						

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28 Aug 2025 3:37pm Meyers, Kristy - Reallocation

Action reassigned to Page, Sue by Meyers, Kristy - For P&E to action Councillor Briefing.

04 Sep 2025 10:22am Blake, Yvonne - Target Date Revision

Target date changed by Blake, Yvonne from 17 September 2025 to 30 September 2026 - The current CBD Public Domain Plan is currently under review subject to the following two key reports/studies being completed., 1. Traffic Assessment report (received by Council in August 2025 and is currently being reviewed by Strategic Planning)., 2. Flood study to be completed by mid 2026 (this study is broader than just the CBD so will take approximately twelve months to complete)., Once both reports have been received and reviewed allowing the draft plan to progress, a Councillor briefing will be organised.

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
BN12/2025	Ordinary Council 17/09/2025	Booth, Caroline	Business With Notice	Management and use of the land known as Branxton RV Camp	30/06/2026	
249 MOTION 249 RESOLVED	Moved:	Page, Sue Councillor Lea	Seconded:	Councillor King		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That Council engage in open communication with the Campervan and Motorhome Club of Australia (CMCA) (and other parties as required including but not limited to neighbouring residents) to explore potential management and land use opportunities for the area known as the Branxton RV Park. That the General Manager present a report to Councillors at a future meeting outlining the outcomes of these discussions and recommended next step. 						
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY						
19 Sep 2025 9:27am Lorenzen, Cherie - Reallocation Action reassigned to Booth, Caroline by Lorenzen, Cherie - Reassigning to manager to action. 26 Sep 2025 11:26am Booth, Caroline - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Booth, Caroline from 15 October 2025 to 30 June 2026 - Following endorsement of the recommendations, ED will continue conversations with CMCA about alternative sites for RV camping.						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
BN14/2025	Ordinary Council 15/10/2025	McNally, Kate	Business With Notice	Investigation of collaboration with Cessnock Jail for cost saving initiatives	27/03/2026	
264 MOTION 264 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Jurd	Seconded:	Councillor King		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That the General Manager investigate and provide a report to Council on logistics, resource implications, potential benefits and/or limitations of a collaboration with Cessnock Correctional Centre for the provision of selected maintenance services and procurement opportunities for goods able to be produced at the Centre. The Correctional Services be invited to a future public forum on services they provide. 						
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY						

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<p>21 Nov 2025 8:08am McNally, Kate A council report will be prepared for the March 2026 Council meeting.</p> <p>21 Nov 2025 8:09am McNally, Kate - Target Date Revision Target date changed by McNally, Kate from 12 November 2025 to 27 March 2026 - A report is to be prepared for the March 2026 Council meeting</p>
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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
W118/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Poole, Miki	Works and Infrastructure	CONFIDENTIAL - Procurement Concession Under Section 55(3)(i) Wollombi Road Upgrade Project	7/01/2026	
332 MOTION 332 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Pascoe	Seconded:	Councillor Hill		
<p>1. That Council determines that there are uncertainties as to whether the required works being the subject of the contract for Stage 1 of the Wollombi Road Upgrade Project will be completed under the current contract.</p> <p>2. That Council determines that, if the required works being the subject of the Stage 1 Wollombi Road Upgrade Project cannot be completed because the Stage 1 Contract is brought to an early end by agreement or otherwise then, pursuant to section 55(3)(i) of the Local Government Act 1993, Council enter into negotiations with any person (whether or not the person was a tenderer) with a view to entering a contract in relation to the subject matter of the tender as a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders due to the extensive procurement process that was undertaken to identify competitive tenderers.</p> <p>3. That Council delegate authority to the General Manager to undertake negotiations and enter into contracts in relation to the subject matter, in accordance with the approved budget for the project.</p> <p>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
W116/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Reddy, Shiva	Works and Infrastructure	Quotation - Q2026-08 Doyle Street Bridge Replacement	7/01/2026	
328 MOTION 328 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Harrington	Seconded:	Councillor Hawkins		
<p>1. That Council accepts the quotation submitted by Coffs Harbour City Council t/a Coastal Works Pty Ltd for Doyle Street Bridge Replacement (Q2026-08) in the lump sum amount of \$2,756,636 (including GST).</p> <p>2. That Council notes this procurement is being undertaken as a direct engagement under Section 55 of the Local Government Act 1993 for Coastal Works (Coffs Harbour City Council) to deliver the Construction-Only component of Doyle Street Bridge Replacement.</p> <p>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p>						

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05 Feb 2026 3:16pm Reddy, Shiva
Still pending issue of letter of award.

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BN6/2025	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	McNally, Kate	Business With Notice	Investigation for Opportunities to Reduce Vandalism in Public Spaces	27/03/2026	
123 MOTION 123 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor King	Seconded:	Councillor Jurd		
That Council reconvene to further consider options available to help address impacts of crime within the Cessnock LGA after further consultation is undertaken between Cessnock Councillors and NSW Police.						
CARRIED						
<p>05 May 2025 3:53pm Meyers, Kristy A Councillor Briefing to be organised for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).</p> <p>05 May 2025 3:55pm Meyers, Kristy - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Meyers, Kristy from 30 June 2025 to 30 June 2025 - To organise Councillor Briefing.</p> <p>30 Jun 2025 9:59am McNally, Kate A Councillor Briefing to be organised for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).</p> <p>30 Jun 2025 10:01am McNally, Kate - Target Date Revision Target date changed by McNally, Kate from 30 June 2025 to 29 August 2025 - Competing priorities have resulted in this briefing being delayed.</p> <p>29 Aug 2025 9:33am McNally, Kate - Target Date Revision Target date changed by McNally, Kate from 29 August 2025 to 28 November 2025 - Competing priorities have resulted in this briefing being delayed.</p> <p>21 Nov 2025 8:05am McNally, Kate A Councillor Briefing to be organised for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) by March 2026.</p> <p>21 Nov 2025 8:07am McNally, Kate - Target Date Revision Target date changed by McNally, Kate from 28 November 2025 to 27 March 2026 - A briefing has been scheduled for February 2026</p>						

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BN15/2025	Ordinary Council 15/10/2025	McNally, Kate	Business With Notice	Advertising, Sponsorship and Naming Rights Program	31/03/2026	
265 MOTION 265 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor King	Seconded:	Councillor Jurd		
That the General Manager investigate and report to Council on implications, resource requirements, projected returns on investment and any logistical impacts for existing users of relevant Council facilities for an advertising, sponsorship and potential naming rights program for Council facilities.						
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY						
21 Nov 2025 8:09am McNally, Kate A report will be prepared for the February 2026 Council meeting						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
BN16/2025	Ordinary Council 15/10/2025	Clark, Cameron	Business With Notice	Charlton Street - New Parking Rule	28/02/2026	
MOTION 266 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor King	Seconded:	Councillor Jurd		
1. That Council revoke the new front to kerb parking rule recently changed on Charlton Street Cessnock.						
2. That Council seek alternative solutions to meet the intended purpose of the change.						
CARRIED						
27 Nov 2025 2:48pm Meyers, Kristy Report to be provided back in the New Year.						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
BN18/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Plumridge, Matthew	Business With Notice	Suspension of all Non-Legislated Net Zero Expenditure to Support Financial Sustainability	7/01/2026	19/01/2026
MOTION 330 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor King	Seconded:	Councillor Jurd		
<p>1. That Council suspend all future expenditure, programs, projects and activities related to achieving net zero emissions that are not required under any State or Federal legislation. Any future net zero expenditure outside of State or Federal legislation is to be presented to Council for determination, with a cost-benefit analysis, before adoption.</p> <p>2. That Council redirect any future savings realised toward stabilising Council's financial position and supporting core service delivery.</p> <p>12 Dec 2025 8:40am Lorenzen, Cherie Reallocated to CFO.</p> <p>12 Dec 2025 8:43am Lorenzen, Cherie - Reallocation Action reassigned to Plumridge, Matthew by Lorenzen, Cherie - Reallocated to CFO to review next steps.</p> <p>19 Jan 2026 9:59am Plumridge, Matthew - Completion Completed by Plumridge, Matthew (action officer) on 19 January 2026 at 9:59:40 AM - Not required due to recission motion.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC3/2026	Ordinary Council 14/01/2026	Plumridge, Matthew	Corporate and Community	Application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal for a Permanent One-Year Special Variation of 39.9%	2/02/2026	29/01/2026
MOTION 336 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Mason	Seconded:	Councillor Hill		
<p>1. That Council approves the submission of an application to IPART for a permanent one-year Special Variation of 39.9%, inclusive of the applicable rate peg, to general income, commencing in the 2026/27 financial year.</p> <p>2. That Council notes that the determination of whether the Special Variation is approved rests solely with IPART under delegation from the Minister for Local Government.</p> <p>3. That Council notes that the application is supported by independent expert reports addressing financial sustainability, efficiency, capacity to pay, debt capacity, and community engagement, together with updated Long Term Financial Plan modelling.</p> <p>4. That Council authorises the General Manager to finalise and lodge the Special Variation application and supporting documentation with IPART in accordance with the 2026–27 IPART Special Variation Guidelines.</p> <p>29 Jan 2026 1:02pm Plumridge, Matthew - Completion Completed by Plumridge, Matthew (action officer) on 29 January 2026 at 1:02:25 PM - Submitted to IPART 29/01/2026</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC87/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Neveltsen, Keri	Corporate and Community	Ward Boundaries - Variation in Enrolments - Update	7/01/2026	12/12/2025
323 MOTION 323 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Hill	Seconded:	Councillor Harrington		
<p>1. That Council acknowledges that a ward elector enrolment variation of greater than 10% currently exists with the variation as at 30 October 2025 being 12.52%.</p> <p>2. That Council notes the current variation and monitors until 2027 at which time Council will commence the process to alter the ward boundaries for effect at the 2028 Council election.</p> <p>12 Dec 2025 11:02am Neveltsen, Keri Matter remains for monitoring only until requirement to bring back to Council in preparation for next election cycle.</p> <p>12 Dec 2025 11:03am Neveltsen, Keri - Completion Completed by Neveltsen, Keri (action officer) on 12 December 2025 at 11:03:29 AM - Matter remains for monitoring only until requirement to bring back to Council for next election cycle.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC85/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Plumridge, Matthew	Corporate and Community	Financial Sustainability and Scheduling of January 2026 Ordinary Council Meeting	7/01/2026	29/01/2026
321 MOTION 321 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Pascoe	Seconded:	Councillor Madden		
<p>That Council amends the schedule of Ordinary Meetings of Council for 2026 to include an Ordinary Council meeting on 14 January 2026.</p> <p>29 Jan 2026 1:03pm Plumridge, Matthew - Completion Completed by Plumridge, Matthew (action officer) on 29 January 2026 at 1:03:00 PM - Meeting scheduled and completed.</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC84/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Higgins, Matthew	Corporate and Community	Authorisation for sale of surplus Council land - Part Lot 378 DP 1002112	7/01/2026	16/12/2025
<p>PROCEDURAL MOTION Moved: Maginnity, Robert</p> <p>320 Seconded: Councillor Jurd</p> <p>RESOLVED Councillor King</p> <p>That the report be deferred pending further advice regarding the removal of the shed.</p> <p>16 Dec 2025 4:43pm Higgins, Matthew - Completion Completed by Higgins, Matthew (action officer) on 16 December 2025 at 4:43:46 PM - report cloned to feb 2026</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC80/2025	Ordinary Council 19/11/2025	Varghese, Arun	Corporate and Community	Financial Hardship Policy	17/12/2025	19/01/2026
<p>299 Moved: Maginnity, Robert</p> <p>MOTION Councillor Lea Seconded: Councillor Palmowski</p> <p>299</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Council adopts the updated Financial Hardship Policy.</p> <p>19 Jan 2026 10:28am Varghese, Arun - Completion Completed by Varghese, Arun (action officer) on 19 January 2026 at 10:28:25 AM - Adopted Policy updated on the Council website.</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
MM14/2025	Ordinary Council 19/11/2025	Plumridge, Matthew	Mayoral Minutes	House of Representatives Standing Committee - Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport - Invitation to make submission to inquiry into local government funding	3/02/2026	2/02/2026
287 MOTION 287 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Watton				
<p>1. That Council provides a submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport in regards to the Committees new inquiry into local government funding and financial sustainability as it affects Cessnock City Council by 3 February 2026.</p> <p>2. That Council provides a copy of the submission to the Federal Member for Hunter, Dan Repacholi MP and the Federal Member for Paterson, Meryl Swanson MP</p> <p>21 Nov 2025 9:06am Cocking, Tracey Reassign to CFO to complete submission and notify relevant parties.</p> <p>21 Nov 2025 9:09am Cocking, Tracey - Reallocation Action reassigned to Plumridge, Matthew by Cocking, Tracey - Reassign to CFO to complete submission and notify relevant parties.</p> <p>25 Nov 2025 9:44am Plumridge, Matthew - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Plumridge, Matthew from 17 December 2025 to 03 February 2026 - Due date for submission to the committee</p> <p>02 Feb 2026 1:26pm Plumridge, Matthew - Completion Completed by Plumridge, Matthew (action officer) on 02 February 2026 at 1:26:56 PM - Submission lodged 2/2/2026</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC1/2026	Ordinary Council 14/01/2026	Plumridge, Matthew	Corporate and Community	Adoption of the Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036	11/02/2026	29/01/2026
MOTION 339 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Hill	Seconded:	Councillor Lea		
<p>That Council adopts the Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 and that the adopted Long Term Financial Plan is published on Council's website in accordance with Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements.</p> <p>29 Jan 2026 1:02pm Plumridge, Matthew - Completion Completed by Plumridge, Matthew (action officer) on 29 January 2026 at 1:02:06 PM - New LTFP published on Council's website.</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC71/2025	Ordinary Council 19/11/2025	Elliott, Jessica	Corporate and Community	Community, Sporting and Environment Grant 2025-26	17/12/2025	4/12/2025
<u>291</u> MOTION 291 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Jurd	Seconded:	Councillor Lea		
<p>1. That Council provides funds through the Community Facilities Grant Scheme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Branxton Community Hall Section 355 Committee in the amount of \$9,975 <input type="checkbox"/> Marthaville Section 355 Committee in the amount of \$1,654 <input type="checkbox"/> North Cessnock Community Hall section 355 committee in the amount of \$6,212 <input type="checkbox"/> North Rothbury Tidy Town Committee in the amount of \$2,086 <input type="checkbox"/> Prelude Australia Kurri Kurri (comprising of four projects) in the amount of \$18,527 <input type="checkbox"/> Weston Civic Centre Section 355 Committee in the amount of \$614 <p>2. That Council transfers \$9,068 of unspent funds from the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to allow Council to fund all recommended Community Facilities Grant Scheme applications.</p> <p>3. That Council provides funds through the Sporting Facilities Grant Scheme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Branxton District Netball Club in the amount of \$3,575 <input type="checkbox"/> Coalfields Cross Country Running Club in the amount of \$1,654 <input type="checkbox"/> Greta Branxton Football Club in the amount of \$5,991 <input type="checkbox"/> Kearsley Community Sporting Association in the amount of \$1,814 <input type="checkbox"/> Kurri Kurri Tennis Club in the amount of \$2,600 <input type="checkbox"/> Wollombi Valley Tennis and Sports Association in the amount of \$1,428 <p>4. That Council provides funds through the Community and Cultural Development Grant Scheme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ArtsNational Hunter in the amount of \$2,821 <input type="checkbox"/> Barkuma Neighbourhood Centre in the amount of \$3,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Branxton Community Hall in the amount of \$1,500 <input type="checkbox"/> Carries Place in the amount of \$2,500 <input type="checkbox"/> Cessnock District Rescue Squad Inc. in the amount of \$3,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Cessnock Family Support Service Inc in the amount of \$1,056 <input type="checkbox"/> Cessnock Senior Citizens Association Incorporated in the amount of \$1,500 <input type="checkbox"/> Kiray Putjung Aboriginal Corporation in the amount of \$3,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture in the Vineyards Inc in the amount of \$3,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Sunnyfield Disability Services in the amount of \$1,774 <input type="checkbox"/> The Rotary Club of Cessnock in the amount of \$1,019 <input type="checkbox"/> Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service in the amount of \$830 <p>5. That Council provides funds through the Sustainable Communities - Tidy Towns Environment Grant Scheme to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Native Animal Trust Fund (Hunter Wildlife Rescue) in the amount of \$3,672 <input type="checkbox"/> Cessnock Community Garden Association Inc. in the amount of \$1,000 <p>6. That the General Manager writes to all applicants advising them of the outcome of their application and thanking them for their ongoing support and commitment to the enhancement of Council facilities, community and cultural development and the environment of the local government area.</p>						

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27 Nov 2025 3:14pm Elliott, Jessica
Resolution noted all applicants will be notified of the outcome prior to 17 December.
04 Dec 2025 3:37pm Elliott, Jessica
Letters distributed to recipients and requests raised to finance for distribution of funds.
04 Dec 2025 3:38pm Elliott, Jessica - Completion
Completed by Elliott, Jessica (action officer) on 04 December 2025 at 3:38:19 PM - All actions completed.

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC78/2025	Ordinary Council 19/11/2025	Walters, Lorna	Corporate and Community	Quarterly Budget Review Statement - Quarter 1, 30 September 2025	17/12/2025	19/01/2026
298 MOTION 298 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Jurd	Seconded:	Councillor Pascoe		
1. That Council receives the September 2025 Quarterly Budget Review Statement in accordance with Clause 203 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. 2. That Council approves proposed changes to the 2025-26 operating and capital budgets as presented in the Quarterly Business Report September 2025. 19 Jan 2026 9:26am Walters, Lorna - Completion Completed by Walters, Lorna (action officer) on 19 January 2026 at 9:26:53 AM - QBRs sent to OLG						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC74/2025	Ordinary Council 19/11/2025	Neveltsen, Keri	Corporate and Community	Adoption of revised Code of Meeting Practice	17/12/2025	8/12/2025
294 MOTION 294 RESOLVED	Moved:	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Jurd	Seconded:	Councillor Pascoe		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That Council resolves to fix the general order of business in accordance with section 8.1 of the Code of Meeting Practice. That Council authorises the person presiding at a meeting to exercise a power of expulsion, in accordance with section 5.34 of the Code of Meeting Practice. That Council notes that no submissions were received during the public exhibition period of the Code of Meeting Practice. That Council rescinds the Code of Meeting Practice 2024 and adopts the Code of Meeting Practice 2025, with effect from 31 December 2025. That Council note our dissatisfaction with the timing of these new Code of Meeting practice standards and the effect this may have on sitting elected members during this term of Council. <p>08 Dec 2025 9:47am Cremor, Sam - Completion Completed by Cremor, Sam on behalf of Neveltsen, Keri (action officer) on 08 December 2025 at 9:47:32 AM - Action completed - Code of Meeting Practice to be published post December Ordinary Council meeting as does not come into effect until the end of the year. Decision to do so due to wanting to limit confusion.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
MM15/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Cocking, Tracey	Mayoral Minutes	Minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee held 19 November 2025	7/01/2026	12/12/2025
317 MOTION 317 RESOLVED	Moved:	Chrystal, Peter Councillor Watton				
<p>That Council endorse the recommendations of the Council Initiated Awards Committee for Cessnock City Council Australia Day Awards</p> <p>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</p> <p>12 Dec 2025 8:52am Cocking, Tracey Noted</p> <p>12 Dec 2025 8:53am Cocking, Tracey - Completion Completed by Cocking, Tracey (action officer) on 12 December 2025 at 8:53:49 AM - Noted</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
BN17/2025	Ordinary Council 19/11/2025	McLachlan, Paul	Business With Notice	Transfer of Regional Roads to State Government Ownership	17/12/2025	4/12/2025
305 MOTION 305 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Lea	Seconded:	Councillor Palmowski		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That Council notes that Buchanan Road is currently classified as a Regional Road managed by Cessnock City Council/Maitland City Council, which now carries significantly increased volumes of traffic most notably of heavy and emergency vehicles, as it forms a critical connector between the Hunter Expressway and Maitland Hospital, as well as surrounding industrial and residential growth areas. That Council notes that the continuous route of Hart Road, Gingers Lane, Frame Drive and Orange Street is currently classified as a Regional Road managed by Cessnock City Council, which now carries significantly increased volumes of commuter and freight traffic, as it provides a key connection between the Hunter Expressway and Cessnock via Cessnock Road at Abermain. That Council notes that the former NSW Liberal–National Government made a commitment in 2019 to transfer up to 15,000 kilometres of regional roads, including Buchanan Road, to state ownership, but failed to deliver on this commitment, with zero kilometres transferred by the change of government in 2023. That Council recognises that the management of these roads by Council imposes unsustainable financial, maintenance and safety burden on Cessnock City Council and local ratepayers. That Council writes to the NSW Minister for Roads and Minister for Regional Transport and the Minister for Local Government seeking: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The immediate re-assessment of these roads for reclassification to State Road status under the Transport for NSW Road Recategorisation Framework announced in August 2025; and A commitment that the NSW Government assume ongoing maintenance and renewal responsibility for these critical connector routes. That Council provides a copy of this resolution to the Member for Cessnock and the Member for Maitland to seek their support. <p>24 Nov 2025 2:36pm Meyers, Kristy - Reallocation Action reassigned to McLachlan, Paul by Meyers, Kristy - for action</p> <p>04 Dec 2025 9:07am Meyers, Kristy - Completion Completed by Meyers, Kristy on behalf of McLachlan, Paul (action officer) on 04 December 2025 at 9:07:28 AM - Noted and letters sent.</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
WI11/2025	Ordinary Council 15/10/2025	Worthing, Alex	Works and Infrastructure	Update of Council's Cemetery Policy	4/12/2025	12/12/2025
262 MOTION 262 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Dixon	Seconded:	Councillor Jurd		
<p>1. That Council places the draft Cemetery Policy 2025 on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.</p> <p>2. That, if no relevant submissions are received during the public exhibition period, the draft Cemetery Policy 2025 be considered final and adopted.</p> <p>21 Nov 2025 1:21pm Worthing, Alex - Target Date Revision The draft is out on public exhibition until 24 November. If no submissions are received the draft will replace the existing policy and be published on Council website.</p> <p>12 Dec 2025 11:05am Worthing, Alex New Policy is now live on Council's website, effective 4th December 2025.</p> <p>12 Dec 2025 11:07am Worthing, Alex - Completion Completed by Worthing, Alex (action officer) on 12 December 2025 at 11:07:17 AM - Policy is now live - see notes for history</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
WI15/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Worthing, Alex	Works and Infrastructure	Petition - Provision of Public Amenities at Crawfordville Park, Millfield.	25/03/2026	18/12/2025
314 MOTION 314 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Jurd	Seconded:	Councillor Harrington		
<p>1. That Council notes the petition calling for accessible public toilets at Crawfordville Park, Millfield.</p> <p>2. That the outcome of the cleaning services review be considered prior to any additional public amenities being serviced by Council.</p> <p>3. That the Interim General Manager notify the petition organiser of the outcome of Council's decision.</p> <p>18 Dec 2025 2:02pm Worthing, Alex Email sent to the submitter of the petition advising Council's decision - DOC2025/264150</p> <p>18 Dec 2025 2:04pm Worthing, Alex - Completion Completed by Worthing, Alex (action officer) on 18 December 2025 at 2:04:19 PM - Email sent to the submitter of the petition advising them of Council's decision - DOC2025/264150</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
W114/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Rafique, Muhammad	Works and Infrastructure	Unsealed Roads and Costs	7/01/2026	15/12/2025
327 MOTION 327 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Lea	Seconded:	Councillor Dixon		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That Council notes the report on the unsealed roads network review. That Council notes the estimated annual cost required to maintain all unsealed roads. That Council notes the grant opportunities available that may help maintain and/or upgrade our unsealed road network. That Council endorse a revised Unsealed Roads Maintenance Program that reflects current service levels. 						
15 Dec 2025 10:48am Rafique, Muhammad - Completion Completed by Rafique, Muhammad (action officer) on 15 December 2025 at 10:48:32 AM - Recommendations Noted.						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
W117/2025	Ordinary Council 10/12/2025	Watson, Michelle	Works and Infrastructure	Adoption of the Asset Management Strategy & Asset Management Plans	7/01/2026	19/01/2026
329 MOTION 329 RESOLVED	Moved:	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Hawkins	Seconded:	Councillor Lea		
That Council adopt the Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans.						
06 Jan 2026 8:29am Watson, Michelle Noted and updated 2011 regulation date to 2025 in table 4.3 within the OS&OS AMP 19 Jan 2026 9:57am Watson, Michelle - Completion Completed by Watson, Michelle (action officer) on 19 January 2026 at 9:57:16 AM - Noted and Table amended see notes						

