

The background of the cover is a photograph of a modern playground. In the foreground, there is a large climbing structure with orange and yellow arches and a black safety net. To the right, a blue slide winds down a structure. The playground is set on a green lawn with many trees in the background. A white circle in the upper left contains the text 'Annual Report 2021/22' and a horizontal line.

# Annual Report 2021/22

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## Acknowledgement of Country

Wagga Wagga City Council gulbali-yanhi ngurambang-gu Wiradjuri-gu walumaldhaany-galang. nganha bala mayiny Wiradjuri. yindyamali-yanhi mudyiganggalang-bu balumbambal-bu balugirbam-bu yindyamali-yanhi bagaraygan nguarambang-gawali-i yandu muran.

wigi wagga wagga-dha ngiyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinyguliyalagu buyaa-bu giilaang-galam-bu. ngiyanhi gulbali-bu yindyamali-bu guwiinyguliyalagu dhaagun-giyalam-bu bila-galang-giyalam-bu. gulbali-yanhi Wiradjui-mayiny ngurambangguwal-bu bala yarruwala-bu waluwin-bu walabangan-bu dhirrangal-bu.

Wagga Wagga City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future and extends our respect to all First Nations Peoples in Wagga Wagga.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection with the land and rivers. We also recognise the resilience, strength and pride of the Wiradjuri and First Nations communities.



# Table of contents

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<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Introduction.....	5
Community vision, principles and priorities.....	5
Our planning and reporting framework.....	6
Our strategic directions .....	7
<b>Our community</b> .....	<b>8</b>
About Wagga Wagga .....	8
Our councillors.....	10
Our organisation .....	11
<b>About this document</b> .....	<b>14</b>
What is the Annual Report? .....	14
<b>Our performance 2021/22</b> .....	<b>15</b>
Community leadership and collaboration .....	16
Safe and healthy community .....	28
Growing economy.....	54
Community place and identity .....	78
The environment .....	94
<b>Financial Summary 2021/22</b> .....	<b>108</b>
<b>Performance measures 2021/22</b> .....	<b>139</b>

*Front cover image: Riverside Playground*

# Foreword

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*Council has continued to deliver its commitment to improving existing infrastructure and developing new infrastructure, stimulating our local economy as we progress towards becoming a regional city of 100,000 people.*

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In a year defined by change, we are incredibly proud of our collective achievements as a Council and a community.

With the on-going impact of COVID-19 felt strongly amongst us all, it has been heartening to see the community unite in support of one another and navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic, together.

Health was a key topic with changes to rules and public health orders having a significant impact on our community and on Council's operations. While we still feel the impacts, our staff have shown great resilience and continued to deliver essential services to our community, as well as complete or progress some significant capital works projects across our city.

Council has continued to deliver its commitment to improving existing infrastructure and developing new infrastructure, stimulating our local economy as we progress towards becoming a regional city of 100,000 people.

A notable capital works project includes the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics (RiFL) Hub, a core feature of our existing Bomen Business Park, and set to strengthen our regional economy by creating opportunities for businesses looking to relocate from metropolitan areas and establish in regional NSW. Other capital works projects include the Riverside redevelopment upgrade, the Pomingalarna Multisport Cycling Complex, continuation of the Active Travel Plan network, the Museum of the Riverina's Botanic Gardens site redevelopment, and several significant road projects such as Dunns Road, Lake Albert Road, Koorungal Road, and Dobney Avenue and Pearson Street.

Council took another significant step towards net zero by developing and adopting the Corporate Net Zero Emissions 2040 Strategy, outlining Council's commitment to two emissions reduction targets, a corporate target of net zero emissions by 2040 and, more recently, a community target of net zero emissions by 2050. Over the past 12 months, Council has made strides toward developing and nurturing strong relationships with our Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations people, as well as building an all-inclusive and connected community with reviews of our Reconciliation Action Plan, All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan, Community Safety Action Plan and Public Art Plan.

Council has continued to deliver on its commitment to active engagement with our community on decisions that impact their lives and we would like to acknowledge members of the community that have taken the time to provide us with their feedback. By working together, we can create a region that feels like a home for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our achievements in 2021-22. None of this would be possible without the collective effort of Councillors, the Executive Team, staff, and our Wagga Wagga community.



Councillor Dallas Tout  
Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga

# Introduction

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## Community vision, principles and priorities

### Our vision for the future

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*“In 2040 Wagga Wagga will be a thriving, innovative, connected and inclusive community on the Murrumbidgee. Rich in opportunity, choice, learning and environment, Wagga is a place where paths cross and people meet.”*

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### Our guiding principles

To ensure that we achieve the community vision in the future, it is necessary that we start embedding elements of that vision into today’s planning. Four key words have been chosen by the community to be used as guiding principles in planning for our future.

<b>Thriving</b> Growth Development Success Liveability Healthy Sustainable Strong economy	<b>Innovative</b> Creative New ideas and thinking Entrepreneurial leading Efficient and effective Creating best practice	<b>Connected</b> Feeling part of a community Relationships Communication technology Place and space integration Heritage Networking	<b>Inclusive</b> Including everyone Accessibility All cultures and backgrounds Friendly Inviting Equal opportunity Fair Welcoming
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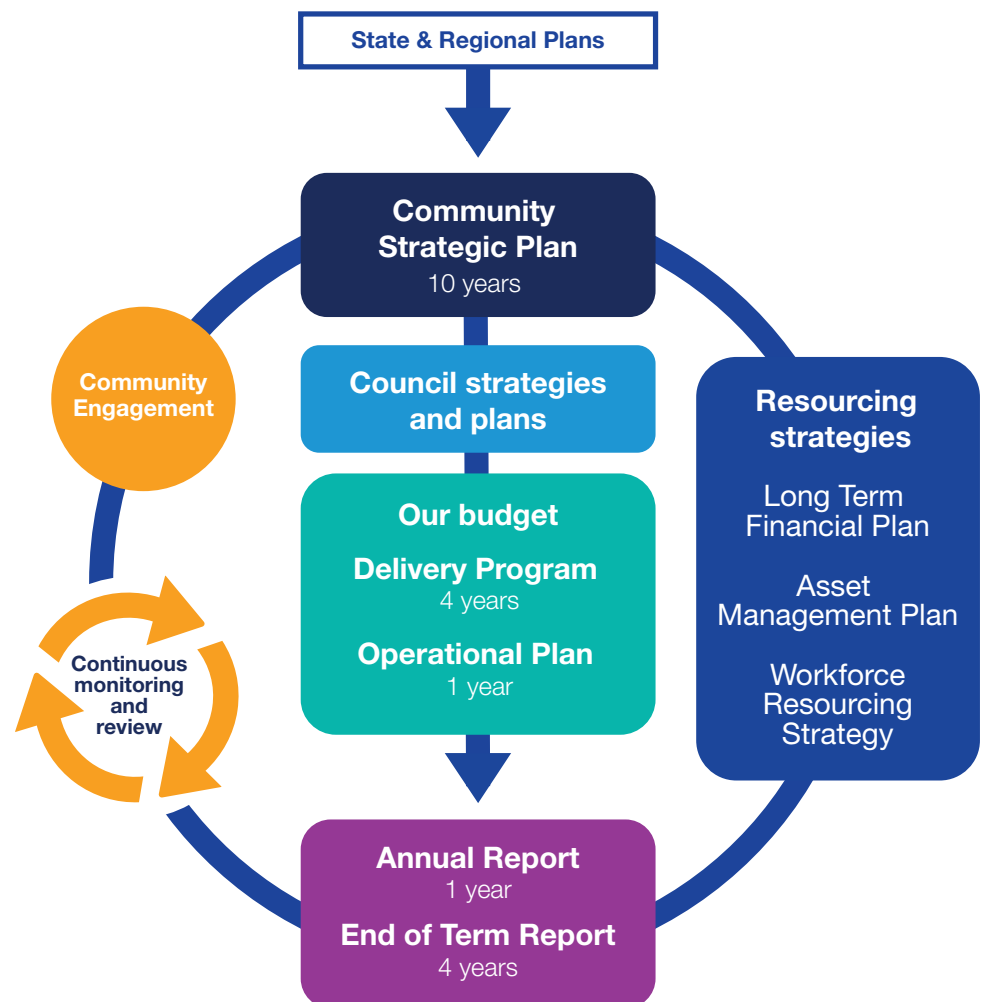
# Our planning and reporting framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework helps Council discuss funding priorities and service levels with our community, including how these shape our local identity and how we can work together to create a more sustainable future.

Under NSW Government legislation, councils must prepare a number of plans detailing how they intend to deliver works and services in the short and long term.

These plans are based on the community's priorities, identified in the Community Strategic Plan, and present a balanced approach to planning that considers how our resources can be used to deliver community outcomes.

As part of this framework, Council adopted the revised *Community Strategic Plan 2040*, four-year *Delivery Program 2022/23-2025/26*, annual *Operational Plan 2022/23* and Resourcing strategies in June 2022. These plans inform Council's policy development, decision-making and program delivery each year and are available on Council's website at [wagga.nsw.gov.au](http://wagga.nsw.gov.au).



# Our strategic directions

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The five strategic directions as set out in the Community Strategic Plan 2040 provide the structure for this report. These are our focus areas for achieving our community's long-term priorities and goals and ultimately our community's vision for the future.

## Our five strategic directions are:



### Community leadership and collaboration

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Representations
- Strategy
- Participation
- Informed decision making
- Governance
- Communication
- Engagement
- Active community members



### Safe and healthy community

- Safe places and spaces
- Perception of safety
- Emergency response
- Public health
- Safe behaviours
- Healthy lifestyle
- Recreation
- Sports
- Access to healthy food
- Health and support services



### Growing economy

- Diversity of our industry
- Encouragement of innovation and entrepreneurial
- Enabled by technology
- Small business
- Freight and logistics hub
- Tourism
- Active hubs
- Retail options



### Community place and identity

- Connection to place
- Family friendly
- City of good sports
- Multicultural community
- Arts and cultural centre
- A city with a country lifestyle
- Defence presence
- Opportunities to connect



### The environment

- Planning for a growing city
- Protecting and enhance our natural environment
- Sustainability
- Facility improvements
- Housing options
- Maintaining our built environment

# Our community

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## About Wagga Wagga

Wagga Wagga is a vibrant and growing city surrounded by small and welcoming communities, nestled in the heart of the Riverina on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. It has been home to First Nations peoples for over 40,000 years and lies within the heart of the Southern Wiradjuri Country (Ngurambang).

The largest city in inland New South Wales, Wagga Wagga encompasses a total land area of 4826 sq km and is situated about 450 kilometres south-west of Sydney and 460 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, making it highly accessible to travellers and businesses from both cities.

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*Wagga Wagga City Council (Council) is responsible for the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA) which includes the city of Wagga Wagga and surrounding villages: Tarcutta, Ladysmith, Mangoplah, Uranquinty, Collingullie, Oura, Humula, Currawarna and Galore. When this document refers to 'our community' it refers to the Wagga Wagga LGA community.*

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The Wagga Wagga area offers a unique quality of life that is unparalleled in its combination of natural beauty, housing affordability, diverse employment opportunities and wide offering of community infrastructure, services and lifestyle activities. With a population of approximately 67,609 residents, Wagga Wagga with its supporting rural communities is simultaneously a thriving and cosmopolitan area and a relaxed lifestyle choice that supports a highly diverse and dynamic economy.

Most of the population live within the urban and suburban areas of the city, but many residents also enjoy the village lifestyle of Collingullie, Currawarna, Galore, Humula, Ladysmith, Mangoplah, Oura, Tarcutta and Uranquinty, with each providing its own unique country lifestyle.

Without the reliance on a single sector, the city itself can maintain growth and prosperity. Wagga Wagga has a total labour force of approximately 34,679 people, with an unemployment rate of 4% (2021 Census data) – well under the state and national averages.

Wagga Wagga offers a diverse range of traditional and contemporary cultural experiences with art galleries, museums, theatres and performance spaces. Alongside a thriving arts community, festivals and events are held in the city each year, ranging from community to large-scale visitor attraction events. The city streets blend heritage buildings, public artworks, sculptures and gardens, providing a perfect environment for people to explore the vast range of shops, award-winning restaurants, microbreweries, authentic pubs and cafes.

Wagga Wagga is a city of tourism and enjoys over one million visitors annually who come to explore everything we have to offer. Wagga Wagga boasts an active community, with sport and recreation a central part of our lifestyle. From water sports at Lake Albert, walking and biking through our natural areas like Riverside and the Wiradjuri Trail, or enjoying the more formal sporting codes and disciplines on offer, our city's high-quality facilities cater for it all.

Wagga Wagga's surrounding rural communities support a relaxed lifestyle of smaller scale events, horse-riding, camping, bird watching, fishing, and other recreational pursuits.

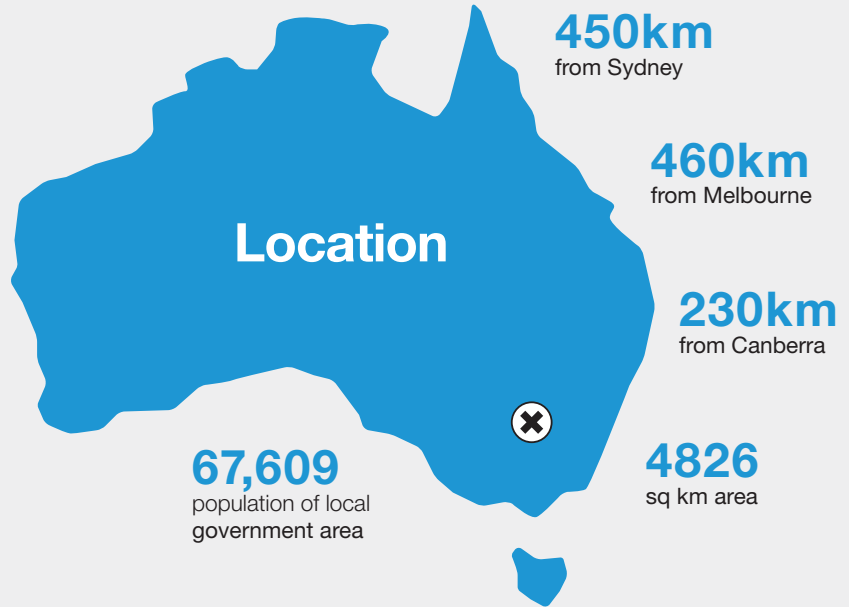
Having four distinct seasons, a warm community and wealth of character make Wagga Wagga an ideal destination for residents and visitors all year round.



# Our community

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Located on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River in the heart of Wiradjuri Country, Wagga Wagga is the centre of the Riverina and is the largest inland city in NSW



# Our Councillors

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The Council is a body of nine members who are elected for a term (usually four years) to carry out duties under the provisions of the Local Government Act and Regulations. The Mayor, as well as being Chairman of Meetings, represents Council when it is not in session.



**Councillor Dallas Tout  
(Mayor)**

Councillor Dallas Tout was elected to Council in 2012 and was elected Mayor in 2022.



**Councillor Jenny McKinnon  
(Deputy Mayor)**

Councillor Jenny McKinnon was elected to Council in 2021 and was elected Deputy Mayor in 2022.



**Councillor Georgie Davies**

Councillor Georgie Davies was elected to Council in 2021.



**Councillor Richard Foley**

Councillor Richard Foley was elected to Council in 2021.



**Councillor Dan Hayes**

Councillor Dan Hayes was elected to Council in 2016.



**Councillor Michael Henderson**

Councillor Michael Henderson was elected to Council in 2021.



**Councillor Rod Kendall**

Councillor Rod Kendall was elected to Council in 2004 and was elected Mayor in 2012 – 2015.



**Councillor Tim Koschel**

Councillor Tim Koschel was elected to Council in 2016.



**Councillor Amelia Parkins**

Councillor Amelia Parkins was elected to Council in 2021

# Our organisation

Council's five directorates are led by the executive management team, consisting of the General Manager and four Directors. The executive management team are responsible for managing the implementation of Council's decisions.

## Our organisational structure



# Our workforce



727

## Employees

Full-time and part-time



37%

## Budget assigned to workforce costs

Council's total operating expenditure

Our workforce is one of Council's greatest assets and investments with over 37% of Council's total operating expenditure budget assigned to meet workforce costs.

Our workforce consists of more than 727 employees with the majority being permanent staff (full-time and part-time). Approximately 41 percent of our staff are employed on a casual, temporary or fixed-term basis or are participating in tertiary / vocational education programs. Our permanent workforce is made up of 39% female employees and 61% male employees. Currently, female employees make up 37% of management and supervisory positions across the organisation.

- Permanent full-time = 382
- Permanent part-time = 40
- Casual = 248
- Fixed term = 48
- Senior staff = 3
- Labour hire = 5
- Trainees and apprentices = 6

\*Labour Statistics detailed above are as at 25 May 2022.

## Total remuneration for General Manager and Senior Staff

Council employed five senior staff members during 2021/22 (includes the General Manager). Some senior staff positions were vacant at times during this reporting period.

- General Manager: \$375,054
- Senior staff: \$1,045,051

**All figures stated are in line with relevant legislation that requires the following components to be reported:**

1. The total of the values of the salary components of their packages
2. Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments do not form part of salary components of their packages
3. Total amount payable by Council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor
4. Total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package
5. Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.

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## Equal Employment Opportunity

As an Equal Opportunity Employer (EEO), Council continues to embed the key focus areas of the Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan in our workplace culture. These include a 'Diverse and Skilled Workforce', 'Inclusion and Respect' and 'Accessibility'.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Continuing to promote Council's commitment to workplace diversity in our recruitment practices i.e. advertisements, interview and selection processes, industry tours, careers days.
- Partnering with community organisations to provide employment opportunities for First Nations peoples.
- Ongoing support mechanisms for staff i.e. through the Employee Assistance Program, and advice and support through the People & Culture Team.
- Ongoing consultation with staff through the Consultative Committee framework, Culture Surveys, and internal communication from Council's Executive Team.
- Ongoing delivery of Cultural Awareness and EEO training to all Council staff.
- Ongoing support and promotions of Council's Employee Support Officers.

Along with Council's EEO Management Plan, we are continuing to implement initiatives to further support the principles of EEO in our workforce and community through Council's All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan.

Council has recently undertaken a review of its EEO Policy and is in the process of reviewing the EEO Management Plan along with developing a First Nations Employment and Retention Strategy. The First Nations Employment and Retention Strategy is an initiative from the objectives of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan, developed in consultation with First Nations staff and community members, and focused on what initiatives we can implement across Council that further support First Nations people in relation to employment opportunities, training and development, and career development.

# About this document

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## What is the Annual Report?

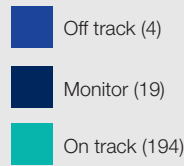
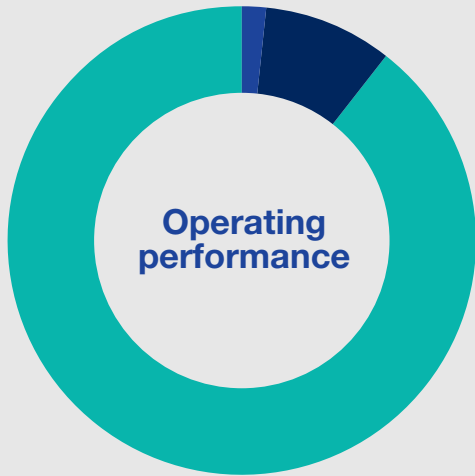
The Annual Report provides a summary of Council's activities and performance for the financial year and includes a detailed overview of Council's financial performance and expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Through this report, we look at what we've accomplished throughout the year and the progress we've made in implementing Council's combined Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2021/22.

This Report is supported by Council's 2021/22 Performance Reports available at [wagga.nsw.gov.au](http://wagga.nsw.gov.au)



# Our performance 2021/22



## Financials



**Income**  
▲ 13.38%  
\$196.251M



**Expenses**  
▲ 5.30%  
\$138.601M



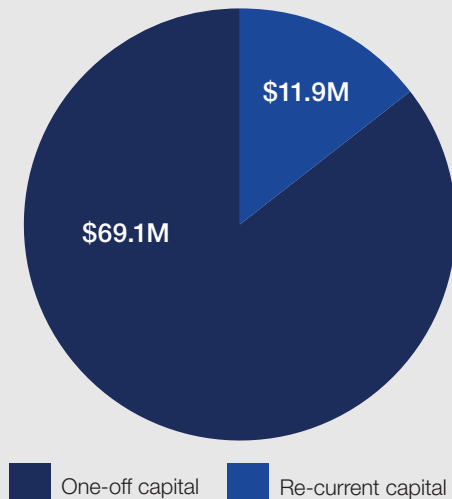
**Assets**  
▲ 16.78%  
\$1.985B



**Liabilities**  
▼ 4.92%  
\$110.794M

## Project performance

### Capital expenditure



- RIFL Stage 2A – Rail Siding - **\$12,165K**
- Riverside – Wagga Beach Landscape Upgrade Stage 2 - **\$8,306K**
- RIFL Stage 2B – Terminal Works - **\$7,567K**
- RIFL Stage 2C – Industrial Subdivision - **\$6,332K**
- RIFL Stage 3D – Relocation of Power - **\$4,951K**
- Dobney Ave & Pearson St Pavement Rehab - **\$4,893K**
- Pomingalarna Multisport Cycling Complex - **\$4,755K**
- Active Travel Plan – Stage 1 - **\$2,950K**
- Pavement Rehabilitation Program - **\$2,784K**
- Active Travel Plan – Stage 2 - **\$2,649K**
- Fleet Plant & Equipment Purchases - **\$2,603K**
- Botanic Gardens Museum Site Redevelopment Project - **\$2,588K**
- Gravel Resheets - **\$1,773K**
- Lake Albert Rd St 3B Urban Asphalt - **\$1,744K**
- Road Reseal Program - **\$1,638K**
- Lake Albert Rd St 3A Urban Asphalt - **\$1,630K**
- Sewer Mains Rehabilitation Program - **\$1,285K**
- Dunns Road Upgrade - **\$1,038K**

# Community leadership and collaboration



Objective: Wagga Wagga has strong community leadership and a shared vision for the future

## New Council

At the 2021 NSW Local Government Elections 4 December 2021, four returning councillors and five first-time councillors were elected by the community. Cr Dallas Tout was elected as the city's 47th Mayor and Cr Jenny McKinnon was elected the Deputy Mayor at the first meeting of the new Council on Monday 10 January 2022.



*NEW COUNCIL: Councillors elected at the December 2021 local government election are (from left) Tim Koschel, Michael Henderson, Amelia Parkins, Jenny McKinnon, Richard Foley, Rod Kendall, Georgie Davies, Dallas Tout and Dan Hayes.*



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## Equity and diversity for potential candidates

Council facilitated information sessions with a focus on promoting equity and diversity for potential candidates prior to the 2021 NSW Local Government Elections. These sessions were delivered in collaboration with the Australian Local Government Women's Association, Local Government NSW and Ruth McGowan. Council also delivered a communications and engagement campaign promoting the NSW Government's Stand for Your Community - Diversity Counts campaign which aims to increase the number of candidates from under-represented groups.

## Council's committees, panels and working groups

Representation on Council's committees, panels and working groups were called for and appointed 2021/22 in line with the council term. Council's committees, panels and working groups includes representation from community members, Councillors and industry representatives, providing advice and recommendations on a range of matters to help guide our region's future.

## Our partners

Council proactively collaborates and partners with other levels of government, businesses, industry groups, other organisations, key stakeholders, and our residents to achieve outcomes that benefit the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (LGA) and contribute to achieving our community's long-term priorities and goals as set out in the Community Strategic Plan 2040. Our achievements in 2021/22, as highlighted through this report, were made possible by working together to bring about the best outcomes for our community.

## Volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role in supporting Council's day-to-day operations enabling us to reach out to more people across the Wagga Wagga LGA. Volunteers help in the provision of community services, contribute to Council committees and support cultural development projects. A special morning tea was held at the Civic Centre on Thursday 2 June 2022 for Council volunteers, carrying through the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week: 'Better Together'.



*HIGHLY VALUED: (Above) Deputy Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Cr Jenny McKinnon (centre) says thank you to Sensory Garden volunteers (L-R) Trevor Halyday, Rhonda Halyday, Trish Baker, Kerry Schirmer, Veronica Chambeyron, and Helen Taylor for their contribution to the community.*

Objective: Our community is informed and actively engaged in decision making and problem-solving to shape the future of Wagga Wagga



26

engagement

projects published



6,983

visitors to our

engagement site



890,926

visitors to our

website

## Community engagement

Keeping the community informed and including the community in decision making is an important role for Council. Council's Communication and Engagement team lead a number of activities directly, and supported staff, to both inform our community and engage with them where decisions need to be made.

We aim to inform our community by publishing a weekly newsletter in the local newspaper, and distributing these updates as a weekly email newsletter, and by also regularly posting on social media to illustrate what is happening with Council. Council staff also answer media queries and endeavour to make ourselves available to talk to journalists about the issues of the day.

Our social media channels allow for the quick distribution of information direct to residents and continue to be a strong channel with over 15,000 followers on the City of Wagga Wagga page. Our weekly emailed newsletter has a current audience of over 4,300 and this number increases every week.

Council also engages with the community when seeking feedback on plans, strategies, policies and services. Council uses this feedback to better inform our work. Our community can be a part of community engagement online by visiting [connect.wagga.nsw.gov.au](https://connect.wagga.nsw.gov.au) and giving feedback to items that are on public exhibition. Where appropriate Council staff also conduct surveys, hold information sessions and targeted community consultation forums, whether one-on-one or as a group, depending on the issue and the feedback that is being sought.

### Community engagement highlights in 2021/22:

- City Centre Master Plan
- Council Corporate Net Zero Strategy
- Wiradjuri Trail Master Plan
- Marrambidya Wetland Master Plan
- Various LEP Amendments
- Various Development Applications
- Revised Community Strategic Plan 2040
- All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents 2022/26
- Public Art Plan 2022-2026
- Code of Meeting Practice
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy (POL 085)
- Artisan Food & Drink Industries
- Community Safety Action Plan 2022-2026
- Council Library Review 2021
- Biodiversity Strategy: Maldhangilhanha 2020-2030
- Youth Forums



Objective: Council leads through engaged civic governance and is recognised and distinguished by its ethical decision-making, efficient management, innovation and quality customer service

## Supporting our community

The delivery of Council services, programs and projects undertaken in 2021/22 were designed to ensure they continue respond to the challenges and opportunities facing our community which include social and community disadvantage, housing affordability and availability, increasing cost of living and the COVID-19 pandemic. While these issues are not exclusively the domain of local government, we recognise Council's role is vital in contributing toward meaningful solutions for our community.

These services, programs and projects include supporting our community through delivering and maintaining community infrastructure and services, identifying Commonwealth and NSW State funding to support the delivery of key strategic projects, and the provision of inclusive and integrated service delivery that contributes toward improving the health and liveability of our community living in the City, suburban and rural villages across the Wagga Wagga LGA.

*Director Community Janice Summerhayes and Wagga Wagga Mayor Cr Dallas Tout met with members of the Ladysmith Playgroup, Megan Murphy with 10-month-old daughter Elsie, and Emily Carlisle, with two-year-old daughter Henrietta. The Ladysmith Playgroup received a \$5000 annual grant in 2021/22 Annual Grants Funding Program for its Creative Youth Connections project.*



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## Funding to support our community

Council contributes to the community utilising a variety of methods which includes contributions, donations, fee waivers and grant program funding, totalling over **\$2 million** 2021/22 financial year.



**\$224,400**

**total funding  
available**

### Annual grants

Council supports local community organisations, individuals and small businesses within the Wagga Wagga LGA through the Annual Grants Funding Program each year. The 2021/22 Annual Grants Program received 111 applications across 10 categories (see page 127 for full details).

The program this year prioritised applications that demonstrated that their event, project or program would contribute to decreasing social and community disadvantage in the neighbourhoods of Ashmont, Tolland, Mount Austin and Koorringal.

**Total funding available \$224,400**

#### Total funding awarded (per grants category)

- Arts, Culture and Creative Industries **\$40,000**
- Community Program and Projects **\$30,000**
- Events **\$20,000**
- Local Heritage **\$15,500**
- Natural Environment **\$6,312**
- Neighbourhood and Rural Villages **\$22,000**
- Recreational Facilities **\$32,086**
- Rural Halls **\$16,272**
- Small Business **\$12,500**
- Youth Led Initiatives **\$15,000**

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*Council contributes to the community utilising a variety of methods which includes contributions, donations, fee waivers and grant program funding, totalling over \$2 million 2021/22 financial year.*

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## Clubgrants program

The ClubGRANTS scheme is a state wide initiative that provides the framework for registered clubs to directly fund local priority projects and services. Under legislation Council coordinates the local Club Grants Committee for assessment and distribution of the annual ClubGRANTS funding program for Wagga Wagga LGA. The participating local clubs are RSL Club Wagga and Rules Club Wagga. Representing on the committee is also Department of Communities and Justice and an independent member.

There were 15 local not-for-profit community groups and charities to share in \$131,967 funding for the 2021 Clubgrants Category 1 Funding.

Priority funding categories for 2021 were Mental Health, Domestic and Family Violence, Financial, Education and Employment Support Programs.

Secondary funding categories included Women and Family Health, Childcare Services, Aged, Disability, Youth, Disaster and Emergency Management Support and Transport Services (see page137 for full details).

## Community@Work grants

The Community@Work fund allocated \$44,296 in grants to seven local groups for the 2021/22 financial year. The Community@Work Fund was aimed at providing an avenue for community members / organisations to request financial assistance for their proposed capital work or one-off activity which is primarily for the benefits of a community need which is not otherwise being met.

### Total funding awarded:

- Anglican Parish of Wagga Wagga - St Saviours Church Ladysmith - **\$5,000**
- Carevan Wagga Incorporated - **\$1,370**
- Demonstration Gardens Wagga Wagga - **\$1,900**
- North Wagga Residents Association Inc. - **\$20,000**
- South Wagga Anglican Church - **\$7,000**
- Tarcutta Progress Association - **\$5,750**
- The Smoking Butcher - **\$3,276**

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## Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants

During late 2021 Council was invited to apply for funding through the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery program. Due to the minimal impact of the bushfires on the broader Wagga Wagga LGA, Council consulted with the Tarcutta, Humula and Oberne Creek communities (as the area within the Wagga Wagga LGA that was most impacted by the Black Summer bushfires) to identify potential projects.

The following applications were successful and will see Council partner with local community organisations to deliver improved facilities and spaces for programming out in our rural villages.

- **Tarcutta Recreation Reserve Infrastructure Upgrade \$247,860**  
- This project will see Council partner with the Tarcutta Recreation Reserve committee to complete upgrade works to the recreation ground facilities.
- **Oberne Creek Hall Project \$38,400** - This project will see Council partner in the delivery of some much needed upgrade works to the Oberne Creek Hall.
- **Heading Down a New Path \$106,920** - This project will see Council work alongside the Humula community, more notably the school community.
- **Breathing New Life into History \$181,140** - The Breathing New Life into History project will see Council work alongside the Tarcutta community to upgrade the Tarcutta Memorial Hall.

## Alternative Funding

Throughout the year, Council continued to successfully lobby Commonwealth and NSW State Governments to provide funding for key projects as part of efforts to support and deliver financially sustainable services and facilities for our community.

Council was successful in receiving over \$78.5M in grants and contributions funding for various community and cultural programs as well as investment in infrastructure for both the renewal of existing assets and construction of new assets.

### Significant grants recognised in 2021/22 included:

- **\$14.1M** – Financial Assistance Grant
- **\$26.3M** – RIFL Project
- **\$6.8M** – Riverside Project
- **\$5.2M** – Active Travel Project - Stage 1 + 2
- **\$3.7M** – Dobney Avenue/Pearson Street Road Rehabilitation
- **\$2.6M** – Museum Redevelopment Project
- **\$2.5M** – Lake Albert Road – Stages 3A + 3B Road Rehabilitation

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*Council was successful in receiving over \$78.5M in grants and contributions funding for various community and cultural programs as well as investment in infrastructure for both the renewal of existing assets and construction of new assets.*

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**55,733**  
overall calls



**76%**  
resolved on first call



**807**  
webchats



**3,379**  
Applications processed



**12,679**  
Customer requests

## Customer service

Council's Customer Service team provide our community with simple and convenient ways to access and do business with Council through the delivery of high quality customer service via phone, counter and digital channels.

Council is committed to being open, honest and fair in its dealings with all customers and strives to provide timely, efficient and consistent service to our community. We take our obligations to the community seriously and are committed to ensuring high standards of service are reached and maintained.

Top ten customer requests in 2021/22	Requests
Bin requests	4,036
Street tree requests	1,598
Road requests	1,333
Animal requests	1,146
Information requests	1,124
Sewer requests	944
Regulatory requests	619
Environmental requests	486
Parks & reserves requests	394
Pathway requests	258

Table 1: Top 10 customer requests 2021/22

## How can you participate?

Participation can be as easy as providing feedback on plans or proposals, participating in surveys, or attending workshops or public meetings. Members of the community can attend Council Meetings in person, or watch live on Facebook.

To learn more about engagement opportunities community members are encouraged to subscribe to Council News online or follow Council's various social media pages. Information about participation opportunities will be advertised in Council's weekly news publication as well as promoted through social media.

Projects and engagement can be found at [connect.wagga.nsw.gov.au](https://connect.wagga.nsw.gov.au) or community members can always contact Council via **1300 292 442** to ask questions or lodge requests.





## Access to information

### Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) Report July 2021 – June 2022

Council received seven valid formal access to information applications and 1,222 informal access to information applications under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) 2021/22. In the spirit of more open and transparent government, Council endeavours to respond to the majority of requests for information either informally or by proactively releasing information, rather than relying on the formal processes.

Council proactively publishes a broad range of information on our website and through social media. The improved content on our website is based on the foundation of 'self-service' so that members of the public can easily find information on our website that is frequently requested from us.

**When members of our community request information from us, we encourage them to:**

- Describe the information they would like to access in as much detail as possible, and
- Explain why this information is important to them.

This information helps us in efficiently finding the information and responding promptly to inquiries and requests for information. Please refer to Council's website for further information.

### Public Interest Disclosure Annual Report July 2021 – June 2022

Section 31 of the Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Act requires public authorities to prepare an annual report on their obligations under the PID Act. The report below meets our obligations under the Act.

Public Interest Disclosures	01 July 2021 – 30 June 2022
Number of Public Officials who made PIDs	0
Total number of PIDs received by Council	0
<b>Of the total received, the number in each of the following categories:</b>	
Corrupt conduct	0
Maladministration	0
Serious and substantial waste	0
Government information contravention	0
Local government pecuniary interest contravention	0
Number of PIDs finalised in this reporting period	0

Table 2 Public Interest Disclosures 2021/22

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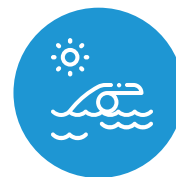
## Risk Management

Risk management is an integral part of Council and provides assurance within the organisation and to the community that we are operating effectively and efficiently, creating community confidence in Council. Risk management within the organisation is established at both an enterprise level and operational level. Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) is the holistic Management of all risks across Council's diverse operations, and is aligned to the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Throughout 2021/22, Council's Risk Management Framework has continued to promote the integration of risk management principles into organisational decision making, at all levels, supporting a strong risk management culture and in anticipation of the finalisation of the Guidelines for Risk Management and Internal Audit for Local Councils in NSW. This approach is being matured through revised strategic risk identification and assessment and alignment to our strategic plan, enabling clearer visibility to achieve our vision, goals and objectives and a strong risk management culture.

During the year, strategic risk profiling with Council's Executive, continued automation of our risk register and regular reporting to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) has included assessment of the effectiveness of the internal control Framework and identification of improvement opportunities, together with undertaking key activities such as the annual Business Continuity Plan Test.

# Safe and healthy community



Objective: Our community feel safe

## Community Safety Action Plan

The Community Safety Action Plan (CSAP) 2022-2026 was developed in 2021/22 and follows on from the success of its predecessor the Wagga Wagga Crime Prevention Plan 2021. The Plan moves towards a broader safety focus with the understanding that everyone has a role to play in the safety of the community.

The CSAP 2022-2026 is a level two strategic document that guides Council with a framework of priorities and actions for a four-year period. It is written in line with Council's Community Strategic Plan 2040.

### It also aligns with the NSW Premiers priorities:

- Reducing Domestic Violence reoffending (reduce by 25% by 2023)
- Reducing recidivism in the prison population (reduce by 5% by 2023)
- Greener Public Spaces (increase by 10% by 2023)
- Towards Zero Suicides (decrease by 20% by 2023)
- Reducing homelessness (decrease by 50% by 2023)

### Three main priority areas emerged from all findings and are the focus for the CSAP 2022-2026:

1. Safe Homes and Neighbourhoods
2. Safe and respectful relationships and
3. Safer Cities

The CSAP 2022-2026 was informed by both the community consultation findings and then supported by research and data from multiple sources, including the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR), the Australian Bureau of Statistics and localised crime data and statistics sourced from Police.

This Plan has a strong community voice informed by extensive engagement with a broad section of residents and organisations in Wagga Wagga LGA. Consultation was also conducted with key services and stakeholders that play a role in keeping the community safe, including, Wagga Wagga Local Police Service, Department of Communities and Justice, Department of Housing, Department of Community Corrections, NSW Health, Wagga Wagga Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Network, Wagga Women's Health Centre and representatives from Wagga Wagga Neighbourhood Watch.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Extensive community consultation, research and development of the revised CSAP 2022-2026.
- Working alongside Department of Housing to hold community clean-up day for the suburb of Ashmont.
- Attendance at community meetings held at each community hub (Ashmont, Kooringal, Tolland).
- Collaboration with Wagga Wagga Local Area Command (Police) of quarterly Community Safety Precinct meetings.
- Representation and participation in quarterly Police Aboriginal Consultative Committee meetings.
- Ongoing services like community safety audits, event activations and outreach programs, which all contribute to community safety outcomes across the Wagga Wagga LGA were also delivered.

*COMMUNITY CREATION: Kahlia Williams (right) and her daughter Kataleya (from left), were thrilled to join Council's Cultural Officer Narelle Vogel and others in bringing the Wilga Park mural to life.*



## Emergency management

Council has a longstanding active role in the development of local emergency management plans in partnership with emergency service agencies and key stakeholders to ensure we are working to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies including natural hazards and disasters.

Council provides responsive, effective emergency management and emergency prevention services such as traffic control, online communications and alerts, repair works and flood gate operations and actively participates on the Wagga Wagga Local Emergency Management Committee.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Council partnered with other Councils, community, representatives, emergency and resilience specialists, and State and Federal agencies to create a Blueprint for a Resilient South East NSW. This project facilitates Councils and communities across South East NSW to better prevent, prepare, respond and recover from future disasters and challenges.
- Council was successful in its application for Federal funding to assist with the \$462,000 stormwater flood mitigation project.
- Council adopted the Wagga Wagga Major Overland Flow Floodplain Risk Management Study (MOFFS) and Plan and Village Overland Flow Floodplain Risk Management Studies (VOFFS) and Plans for the villages of Tarcutta, Ladysmith and Uranquinty.
- Council endorsed two important flood planning documents for the city and three villages.
- Council commenced a peer review of the flood mitigation options for North Wagga identified in the Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan.
- Council was part of the advisory group for a pilot project, 'Community Disaster Resilience Project', led by Charles Sturt University as part of the NSW Government Natural Disaster Resilience Program. The sessions were attended by community service organisations with input from State Government and response agencies including the Red Cross and SES. Council led several workshops to assist those community service organisations develop Disaster Resilience Plans, including local inter-agency and cross-sectional networking, organisational risk assessments, revision or creation of risk registers, business continuity plans and recovery plans.

## Public health

Council's Environmental Health Team delivered a number of initiatives to raise awareness of public health matters including the development and distribution of Food Safety Newsletters, Food Safety resources e.g calendars and hand washing posters. The Team also delivered promotional activities during Food Safety week to raise public awareness on effective hand washing and food safety.

The Team inspected 851 premises 2021/22 including the food, skin penetration and beauty industries, mortuaries, cooling water systems, and public swimming pools and septic, helping ensure our community's health and wellbeing. Education and support was also provided to temporary event food stall vendors throughout the year like Fusion Multicultural Street Festival.

The Team were awarded with a Food Surveillance Champion Award this year in recognition of outstanding performance and excellence in food safety by the NSW Government Food Authority.



*LEADING PRACTICE: From left, Environmental Health Officers Kate Barraclough and Geoff Lang, Environmental Health Coordinator Sharomi Dayanand, NSW Food Authority Local Government Unit Manager Andrew Davies and Policy Officer Judd Owen, with Deputy Mayor Cr Jenny McKinnon. (Environmental Health Officer Uvindu Warnakoolasuriya absent.)*

## Private swimming pools

In accordance with the Swimming Pools Act 1992 s 22F(2) and Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 (SP Reg) CI 23, Council is required to report on the details of private swimming pool inspections.

Swimming pool inspections 2021/22	Total number
Inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation	0
Inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings	0
Inspections resulting in certificate of compliance issued	220
Inspections resulting in certificate of non-compliance issued	0

Table 3: Swimming pool inspections 2021/22







## Companion Animals

As a Council, we spend a great deal of time and effort taking care of animals in our region, including rescuing and rehoming abandoned pets at the Glenfield Road Animal Shelter (GRAS).

We take our duty of care for the welfare of any animals under our protection extremely seriously.

Our dedicated team at the shelter continued to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 and cared for and rehomed hundreds of animals during 2021/22.

Council received income from dog and cat registrations of \$174,553 in 2021/22, which is used for companion animal management, operation of the shelter and community education.

Council expended \$658,615 of funding on companion animal management and activities in 2021/22. This included staff salaries and on costs, vehicle operations, maintenance and repairs, cleaning expenses, cat expenses, dog expenses, and office expenses.

## Our responsibilities

Council staff are responsible for managing companion animal customer requests and ensuring compliance in accordance with the Companion Animals Act 1998 (The Act). Rangers also provide a 24/7 on-call service to respond to incidents of dog attacks. This service is provided to improve public safety and reduce the incidence of accidents and injury to the public and animals.

Companion Animals impounded under the Act are delivered to the GRAS. Our shelter reunites dogs and cats with their owners, rehomes them where possible, and provides advice and information about companion animal management.

## Shelter Improvements

There have been a number of improvements to the facilities at the GRAS during 2021/22, which included the installation of a concrete exercise area with shade sails and the installation of a boom gate.

The concrete exercise area replaced the grassed area and included the installation of shade sails to provide increased shading of the area. This was to improve hygiene and help to prevent the outbreak and spread of parvovirus in the Facility. Animal shelters are susceptible to outbreaks of Parvovirus, which is a highly contagious disease of unvaccinated dogs that can survive for long periods of time in the soil.

The installation of the boom gate restricts access to the operational areas of the depot and assists with directing members of the public visiting to the designated parking areas of the animal shelter.

### Community companion animal education initiatives in 2021/22 included:

- companion animal information available on Council's website
- promotion through Council's social media channels
- distribution of companion animal brochures
- Pet of the week campaign
- media releases including newspaper articles and television interviews
- proactive patrols of complaint areas.

## Promote and assist in the desexing of companion animals

All animals rehomed from the GRAS are desexed, reducing unwanted litters and supporting the shelter's current low rate of animal euthanasia. Shelter staff encourage the community to have their cats and dogs desexed through brochures, media promotion and advice.

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## Impounded animal management

A report detailing the number of animals arriving at the GRAS and the way they were released is submitted to the Division of Local Government annually.

### During 2021/22:

- 617 dogs entered GRAS, 291 were returned to their owners, and 271 were rehomed.
- 563 cats entered GRAS, 36 were returned to their owners, and 383 were rehomed.

## Dog attack reporting

It is mandatory for all dog attack data to be lodged with the Office of Local Government (OLG) in accordance with the Companion Animals Act. The legislation requires a dog attack incident to be reported to the OLG within 72 hours of the incident and are notified through the NSW Companion Animals Register.

During 2021/22 there were 94 dogs involved in 71 attacks.

The full GRAS statistics are available at [olg.nsw.gov.au](http://olg.nsw.gov.au)

## Off-leash dog areas

Council provides nine designated off-leash areas across the city for dogs, including an enclosed agility track at Lake Albert. These locations are areas where dogs can run, exercise and socialise leash-free with other dogs and dog park visitors. Full details are available on Council's website at [wagga.nsw.gov.au/services/pets-and-animals/off-leash-dog-areas](http://wagga.nsw.gov.au/services/pets-and-animals/off-leash-dog-areas)



Objective: Our community embraces healthier lifestyle choices and practices

## Recreation, Open Space and Community Strategy

The Recreation, Open Space and Community Strategy 2040 provides strategic direction for the planning, development, management and use of community spaces within the Wagga Wagga LGA.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Concept design for Bolton Park Masterplan
- Stage 2 Riverside project
- Pomingalarna Cycling Complex
- Active Travel Plan Implementation substantially completed
- Planning and delivery of open space for growth areas
- Delivery of major sports events



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## Riverside Redevelopment – Stage 2

The Riverside redevelopment turned the Wagga beach and Murrumbidgee River precinct into an attraction for residents and visitors to the region, an ideal venue for festivals, markets and musical performances.

Works included upgraded fencing, lighting, walk and cycle paths, an events stage, parking, new accessible amenities, and an all-abilities playground inspired by the city's paddle-steamer past and the old Wagga Water Whizz.

The \$9.93 million project was funded by NSW Government's Restart NSW (\$5M), the Australian Government's Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Fund (\$3.08M) and Council (\$1.85M).



## Wagga Wagga Multisport Cycling Complex

The multisport cycling complex at Pomingalarna Reserve is the first of its kind in regional NSW. The world class venue has the potential to host regional, state, national and international events for the city which is great for local businesses and the economy.

The complex caters for competitive and recreational cyclists and features a criterium track, BMX track, jump tracks and pump tracks, cycling education area, velodrome and supporting infrastructure.

Wagga Wagga's five cycling groups collaborated with Council in considering the future development of cycling facilities and share a common vision to progress cycling in the city.

Council worked in close consultation with local First Nations women to ensure the development was respectful and representative of Pomingalarna's significance to Wiradjuri cultural heritage and with stakeholders to deliver a project that met the sporting needs of the community as well as incorporating the cultural importance of the site into the complex.

The \$12 million project was funded by NSW Government Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund (\$7M) and Council (\$5M).



## Active Travel Plan

When complete the Active Travel Plan project will provide a 56-kilometre network of dedicated shared paths that will criss-cross the city to link the outer suburbs with the central business area and end of trip facilities.

The infrastructure is designed to improve health outcomes, enhance the liveability of the city, and provide residents with a safe, alternative transport option for commuting.

Seven of the 13 links have been completed. Aside from Forest Hill, the remaining links are close to completion with minor finishing works such as line marking still to be done.

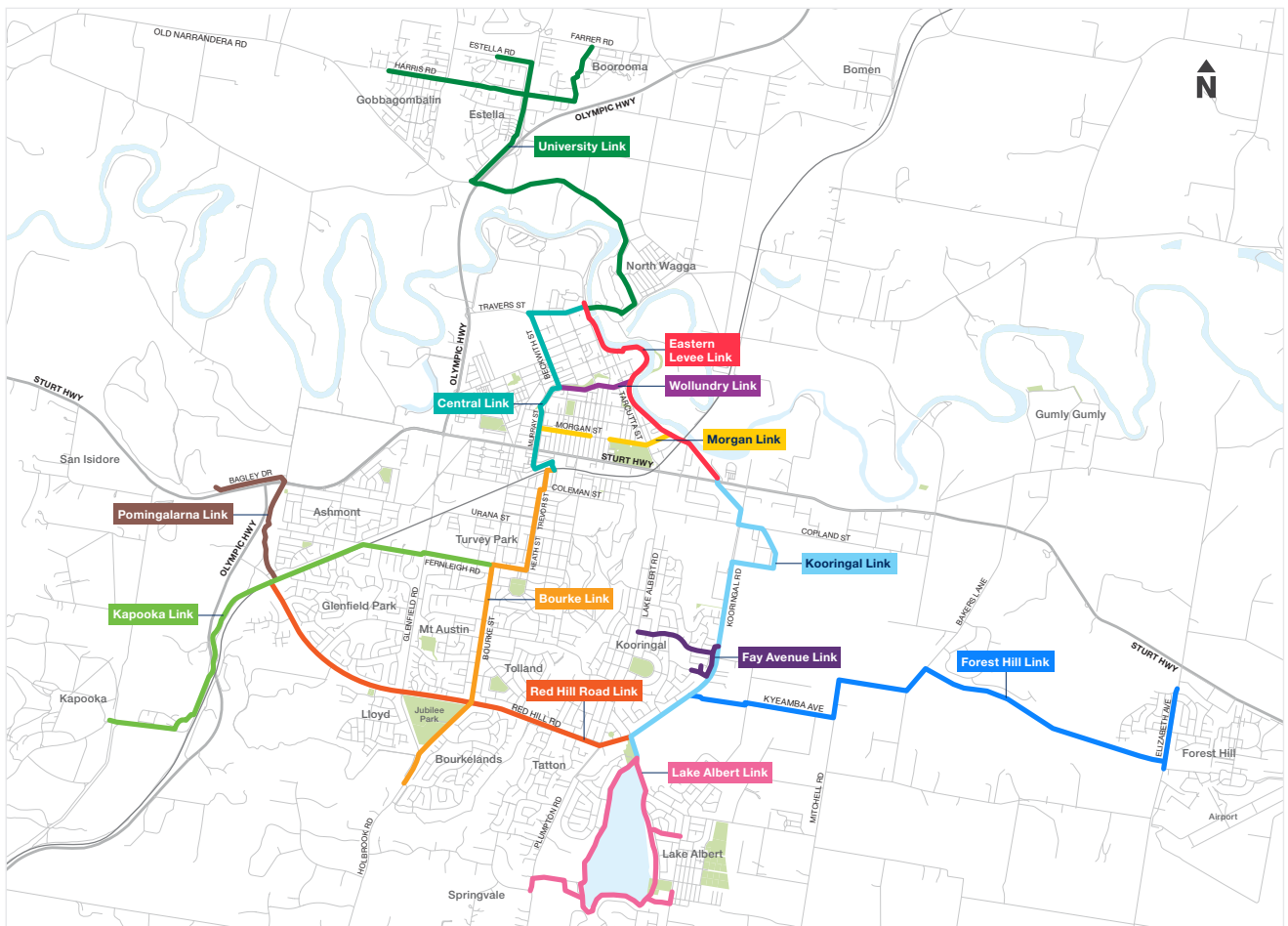
Two 'End of Trip' facilities making it easier for people to choose cycling as their main form of transport to and from the city are located near the Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre in Morgan Street and the Visitor Information Centre in Tarcutta Street.

The facilities include secure bike parking, bike lockers, a repair station, water bottle filling station, sensor lights and 24-hour CCTV surveillance. The Visitor Information Centre site also has a shower and change room available.

Numerous intersection upgrades were carried out to ensure the shared pathways were safely linked for pedestrians and cyclists utilising the network.

The \$15.8 million project is funded by NSW Government and Council.

- **Stage 1:** \$12.8 million (\$11.35M NSW Government + \$1.45M Council)
- **Stage 2:** \$3.92 million (\$3.8M NSW Government + \$130K Council)



## Community sports and recreational facility upgrade projects

Council provides high-quality parkland, sports and recreational facilities that are diverse, accessible and responsive to the changing needs of our community. Throughout the year, Council also partnered with the NSW Government and a number of sporting and community organisations to deliver community sports and recreational facility upgrade projects in the Wagga Wagga LGA.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- A new amenities block was constructed at Bolton Park. The upgraded facility provides four change rooms, an adult-accessible lay down change facility, public toilets, canteen, office, and storage rooms. This project was funded by NSW Government in association with AFL NSW/ACT and Council. The facility will assist in drawing more sporting events and visitors to our city as well as support local AFL competitions.
- Anderson Oval amenities upgrade project was commenced in March 2022. This project included refurbishing the existing public toilets and two change rooms within the amenities block, installing new tiling and fittings, as well as adding an accessible toilet to the facility. Additional works will also include installing two accessible off-street carparking spaces on the Glenfield Road side of the oval, and a connecting pathway to the building.
- \$407,407 in funding was accepted from the NSW Government for the upgrade of Wagga and District Kart Racing Club's track. The club will partner with Council to complete the works.
- Additional facility upgrade projects undertaken in 2021/22 included female friendly change rooms at Parramore Park, new scoreboard at Jubilee Park, Connolly Park field 4, as well as a number of projects funded via Council's Annual Grants Program.

*BOLTON PARK: Funded by NSW Government in association with AFL NSW/ACT and Council, the Bolton Park amenities block forms part of Council's Bolton Park Master Plan, designed to develop the precinct into a first-class regional sports hub.*





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## New Police Citizens Youth Club

Good progress was made to the new \$23 million Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) in 2021/22.

The NSW PCYC, is a charity working in partnership with community and NSW Police to empower youth, get kids active in life and reduce and prevent youth crime.

The club features a state-of-the-art 3000 square metre air conditioned and heated stadium that can host a range of indoor court sports such as basketball, futsal, netball and volleyball. In addition to the multi-court stadium, the club features a fully equipped gym, two large multi-purpose room for group fitness, yoga, dance, creative arts, and an outdoor OOSH educational space.

Council contributed \$3 million in funding to the project which forms part of the Bolton Park Masterplan and redevelopment, with the Federal and State Governments contributing \$10 million each.

## Local sportsgrounds secure upgrade funding

Three sportsgrounds in the Wagga Wagga LGA have received funding for projects to upgrade facilities and improve infrastructure and programs.

Combined funding of \$821,704 has been allocated to projects at Kessler Park Tolland, McPherson Oval, North Wagga Wagga and MCUE Football and Netball Club Mangoplah under the NSW Government's Stronger Country Community Fund.

Details of the upgrades at the sportsgrounds are:

- \$119,606 to upgrade visitors change rooms and female facilities/clubrooms at the MCUE Football and Netball Club to make the facility fit for purpose to host women AFL and tennis players, umpires and volunteers.
- \$365,171 to install a six pole 200 lux LED lighting system that will meet both the training and match day requirements at McPherson Oval.
- \$336,927 to replace the existing amenities building at Kessler Park with a new fit for purpose building to include female friendly change rooms, referees room, canteen, male, female and accessible toilets, swipe card access control and CCTV.

## Parks and open spaces

Council offers and maintains diverse and engaging parks and open spaces across the Wagga Wagga LGA, including 84 playgrounds in the Wagga Wagga urban area and 16 playgrounds in the surrounding rural villages.

### Parks and open space maintenance

Council's Parks and Open Spaces Maintenance Program includes mowing, watering and management of plants, weed removal, irrigation, inspections of council facilities, rubbish collection, fire management and addressing acts of vandalism to ensure our parks and open spaces are available to meet the diverse needs of our community. In 2021/22 Council's Open Space Maintenance Teams have provided a four-week maintenance program across our parks and open space reserves throughout the Wagga Wagga LGA. Council's irrigated parks have been mown on a two-week maintenance program during one of the heaviest growth seasons on record this year with access to these areas difficult due to excessive ground moisture.

### Parks and Open Spaces in the Wagga Wagga LGA:

- 27 sportsgrounds with 109 individual bookable spaces
- 18 bookable parks and 111 developed parks

### Parks and sportsgrounds bookings in 2021/22:

- 816 bookings across our sportsgrounds with 10,730 individual sites booked
- 255 bookings across our parks with 720 individual sites booked..



## Key playground activities in 2021/22

- A playground survey was conducted in November 2021 seeking community feedback to inform the development of the draft Playground Strategy which will go on public exhibition for comment and feedback 2022/23. The purpose of the Playground Strategy is to ensure quality existing and new playgrounds are available in Wagga Wagga LGA today and for future generations.
- A new playground and facilities were constructed at the park on Muttama Parade in Gobbagombalin. Works included planting lots of advanced trees across the park and constructing paths around the perimeter and crosslinking from the playground to the new five-bay carpark.
- A regionally significant playground was constructed as part of the Riverside Redevelopment – Stage 2 project. The all-abilities playground inspired by the city's paddle-steamer past and the old Wagga Water Whizz will be a major drawcard in Wagga Wagga for residents and visitors alike.
- A new playground was constructed at the Uranquinty village rest area. The design of the new playground was chosen by the community through an online poll conducted by Council late 2021. The winning design received 60 of the 130 votes on the three design options to replace the existing rest area. The play space features traditional playground equipment, such as swings and slides, as well as bespoke elements.

*URANQUINTY VILLAGE REST AREA: Council has completed the construction of a new playground at the Uranquinty rest area located next to the Olympic Highway, south of Wagga Wagga. The design of the new playground was chosen by the community through an online poll conducted by Council at the end of last year. The winning design received 60 of the 130 votes on the three design options to replace the existing rest area.*



## Community sports, aquatic and recreational facilities

Council provides accessible and inclusive sports, aquatic and recreational facilities and programming through the Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre (Oasis), Bolton Park Stadium and Multi Purpose Stadium to meet community needs and industry standards each year.

### Oasis

The indoor pools on offer at Oasis range from a 10 lane 25m pool, leisure pool, toddler pools and a program pool which is frequently used for children's swimming lessons and other aquatic activities. The outdoor pools on offer range from a 10 lane 50m pool and a diving pool with a one-metre and three-metre springboard and five-metre platform.

The Oasis is used by various sporting groups including water polo, diving, and triathlon groups. Birthday party packages and Learn to Swim Classes are available for adults and children.

#### **The Oasis is committed to creating an accessible and inclusive community and offers excellent access through the provision of:**

- Access to pools via ramps, stairs with handrails, a program pool with handrails around the entire edge, comfortable pool temperatures and access to beach style entries to other pools.
- We have large universal and accessible change rooms, a portable transfer chair hoist (that can be used to assist swimmers into the 25m or 50m pools), submersible wheelchairs, a sling that can be used to assist swimmers out of their wheelchair and into the pool wheelchairs and change tables that can be used to assist with the preparation of swimmers.
- We have concession rates for relevant card holders and recognise and accept companion card holders.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Total memberships at Oasis increased from 250 last year to 260 this year. Overall attendances 219,470 fell by 7% compared to last year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Oasis Learn to Swim program continues to average 90% enrolments during the year.
- Council installed a new portable disability hoist for the 25-metre and 50-metre indoor pools at Oasis, improving accessibility for people of all abilities. Designed and manufactured in Australia, the new twin arm pool/spa hoist cost just over \$24,750.



## Bolton Park Stadium

Bolton Park Stadium hosts a range of sports including basketball, volleyball, badminton, netball and futsal. The stadium has been used for conferences, events and competitions.

The stadium floor measures 34.400 m x 32.300 m. The floor surface is a floating parquetry with an 8m pitched ceiling which accommodates most types of indoor sport. There is a 250 seat gallery for spectators and has the appropriate change rooms with wheelchair access.

### The Stadium is set up for the following sports:

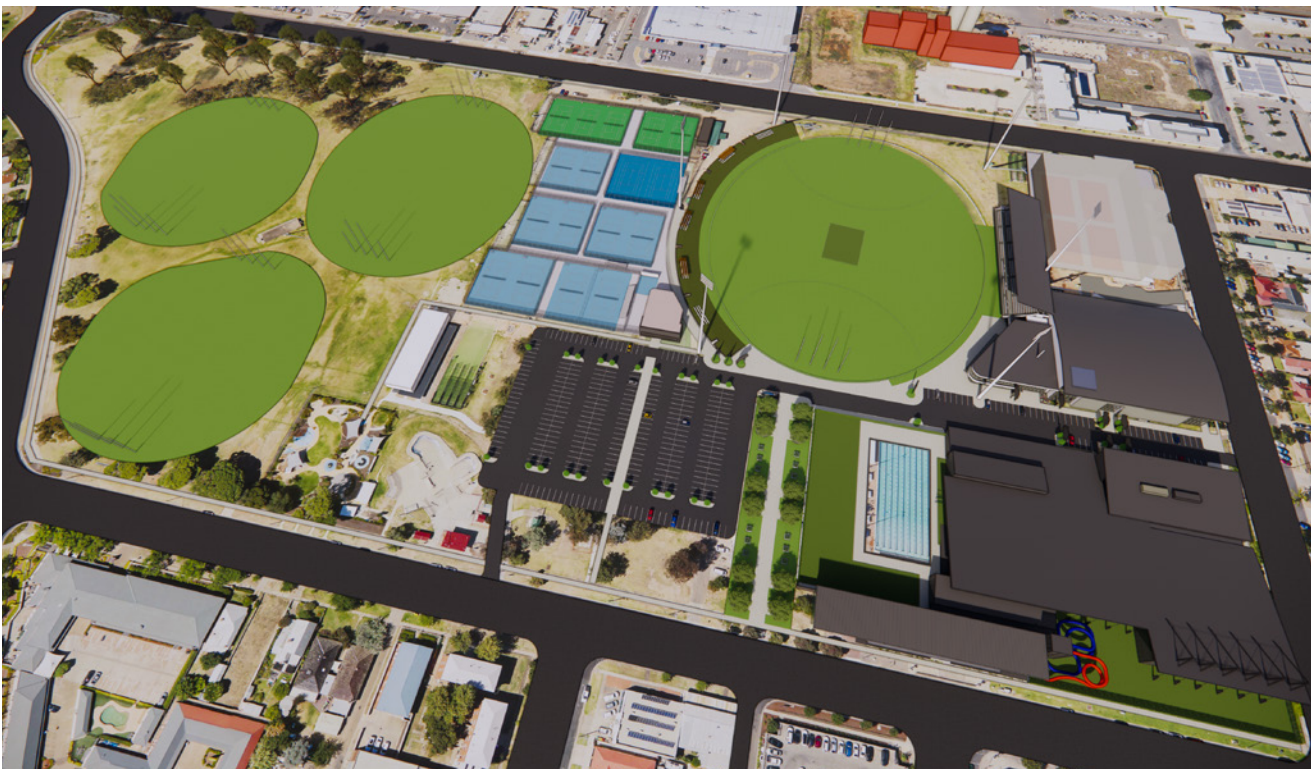
- Two courts of Basketball
- Four courts of Volleyball
- Eight courts for Badminton
- Two Netball courts

The stadium has also been used for a wide range of community functions, including travel shows, craft fairs, model aircraft, boxing exhibitions, karate & conferencing.

The Stadium has a room that can be used by the sporting bodies or the public for meetings. The stadium also has a two hundred space Car Park that is shared with the Oasis Swim Centre, and Regional Gymnastic Centre.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- 2175 bookings were made this year with 18,508 attendances across a range of activities including basketball, roller skating, school and community group bookings and Expos.
- Bolton Park was booked for 3586 hours in total which works out to be 68 hours a week or 9.8 hours a day.



## Multi Purpose Stadium

Multi Purpose Stadium (MPS) is a high-quality sporting and entertainment/event space located within the city's eastern sporting precinct. The stadium caters to basketball, netball, volleyball and futsal.

### Features and inclusions:

- Indoor stadium line-marked to international standard for three basketball, three netball, three volleyball and one futsal court
- Three player change rooms - flexible usage
- Permanent seating for more than 600 spectators
- Function space with catering kitchen and servery
- Three conference rooms, two with built-in data projectors
- Referee room and change room
- First aid room
- Laundry
- Lockers
- Lift to upper viewing gallery
- Sprung maple wood floor

### Key activities in 2021/22

- 1,878 bookings were made this year with 42,820 attendances across a range of activities including basketball, netball, volleyball, futsal and school group bookings.
- The MPS was booked for 2900 hours in total which works out to be 55 hours a week or 7.9 hours a day on average.



Objective: Our community has access to health and support services that cater for all of our needs

## Community support services

Council continued to work closely with State and Federal Government agencies, as well as non-government and community based organisations, to deliver services, programs and projects to support inclusive and integrated service delivery and improve the health and wellbeing of our community.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Providing education programs including environment, waste and youth leadership activities to schools networks in the Wagga Wagga LGA.
- Partnering with multiple State Government agencies, including the NSW Police on Crime Prevention to recommend ways forward to address issues relating to crime and public safety.
- Working with NSW Communities and Justice as a community partner in the Community Service Order (CSO) De-Tag program. This work contributes toward the maintenance and amenity of open spaces across all Wagga Wagga LGA locations.
- Partnering with NSW Communities and Justice to support clean up days to assist in the maintenance and beautification of social housing neighbourhoods.
- Working with the NSW State Government and the appointed consortium on the Tolland Social Housing Urban Renewal project.
- Delivering a diverse range of inclusive programming to support Wiradjuri and First Nations Peoples, community members living or caring for a person with disabilities, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, children, youth and senior members of our community.
- Delivering or sponsoring a diverse range of inclusive and accessible events that support our community such Reconciliation Week, Sorry Day, NAIDOC Week, Fusion Multicultural Festival as well as regular Citizenship ceremonies.
- Facilitating the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, Wagga Youth Interagency Group and participating on the Wagga Access Reference Group.
- Organising a series of youth forums and supporting youth led initiatives and program across our Wagga Wagga LGA.



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## All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan

The All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 (formerly the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021) was developed in consultation with our community and key stakeholders this year. The plan provides a framework for Council to inform and understand what makes life easier for people living with all abilities in our community. The plan focuses on developing positive community attitudes towards all abilities; creating liveable communities; improving access to mainstream services; and increasing access to meaningful employment.

The legislative requirement for all local government authorities to have this plan in place is to ensure a commitment was established by all councils to people of all abilities on improving access to services, facilities and jobs. More notably however, it is designed to change wider community perceptions about people of all abilities.

There was an additional 12-month extension from 2021 granted to all councils due to the disruptions of COVID-19. To continue our journey for increased inclusion, participation and accessibility, Council took the step to incorporate more inclusive language to its updated plan and it is now entitled – All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026.

**There are four key areas for Council's draft revised All Abilities Inclusion Action plan 2022-2026, these include:**

1. Developing positive community attitudes towards all abilities
2. Creating liveable communities
3. Improving access to mainstream services
4. Increasing access to meaningful employment.

The impact of COVID-19 over the last two years has been significant and felt by many across our community and no doubt had direct impacts on individuals, families, carers and service providers. For the community consultation process during 2021/22, staff put a call out for preferences of engagement to individuals with lived experience, as well as through key service providers in the sector, so as not to compromise vulnerable members of our community. The consultations were undertaken in line with COVID-19 safety measures and public health orders of the time.

The consultations were undertaken utilising various engagement methods, including face-to-face sessions, online sessions, and an online survey. This provided invaluable insight into those with lived experiences capturing the positives and the issues people face day to day living in our community. All attendees involved in the face-to-face consultations were individuals with lived experience and 50% of this group also worked in the support sector. The Wagga Access Reference Group plays an invaluable role in our community and provided insightful feedback that informed the revised All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022–2026.

People involved in the community consultations were from varying lived experiences, including Physical, Neurological, Cognitive and Mental Health circumstances. This feedback assisted in the identification of key areas of focus for Council to improve the lives of people living with all abilities, their family members and carers. A key concern presented from these face-to-face consultations, was the inability to access safe, secure and consistent transport options.

The revised All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 survey was made available online through Council's Connect Wagga platform. This was developed in consultation with the Regional Disability Advocacy Service, whose members tested the survey prior to it going live with an easy-to-read version of the survey also available online. Staff also conducted community engagement sessions both in person and via online platforms and offered one-on-one sessions if preferred.

**Key findings from the online survey were:**

- That **17.4%** of the Wagga Wagga LGA population identify as someone with a disability
- **57%** of respondents to the online survey were individuals with lived experience
- **11%** of respondents to the online survey identified as Aboriginal
- **70%** of respondents were between 25-29 years old

**The top responses from respondents regarding describing their disability, the disability of their friend, family member of person they care for were:**

- Physical
- Intellectual
- Chronic Health Condition
- Psychosocial/Mental Health
- Learning Disability
- Neurodiverse

**The most accessible Council Facilities identified were:**

- Wagga Wagga City Library
- Oasis Aquatic Centre
- Wagga Civic Theatre
- Council Customer Service Centre

**The top 3 places respondents would like to go but cannot get to at present:**

- Wagga Beach
- Bushland areas
- Playgrounds
- **97%** of respondents advised they felt Council staff have always treated them with respect
- **97%** of respondents felt staff at Council have always tried to assist them with whatever questions or requests they had regarding information about services both at Council and in the community
- **91%** of respondents find Council employees approachable and understanding of their individual support needs
- **50%** of respondents have felt discriminated against because of their disability
- **50%** have experienced or witnessed direct or indirect bullying, harassment or violence because of their disability

These findings indicate a positive shift of community attitudes and access to Council facilities, events and services. With this said there is the continued need for Council to advocate to key agencies regarding issues of concern raised, for example access to public transport options, along with further efforts to invest in participation and inclusion practices and access to facilities, businesses and services across the Wagga Wagga LGA. These considerations are included in the revised All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Extensive consultation and community forums with key groups of all abilities in the research and development of the updated All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026.
- Ongoing monthly meetings with the Wagga Access Reference Group.
- A range of inclusive programs and exhibitions were developed and delivered during this period through various venues like the Library, Art Gallery, Events and Civic Theatre providing a wide range of programs online, including livestreaming of performances and programs to maximise the opportunity for audiences to participate in adherence to COVID-19 restrictions.
- The implementation of Equal Employment Opportunity training, awareness and information provided to Council staff via Code of Conduct Training and Corporate Induction.
- Installation of 6 x communication boards in four of Council's Parks/Recreation spaces.
- Increasing the number of accessible parking spaces to reflect the proportion of permit holders (3.7%) in the community. Council successfully completed this, with the percentage of accessible parking spaces increasing compared with total number of timed parking spaces. Of the identified 39 spaces required, Council increased their accessible parking spaces to 32, narrowing the discrepancy between availability of spaces and number of permit holders.

*Festival of W – sensory skate sessions. Photo by Jack of Hearts.*



## Health and Knowledge Precinct

The Wagga Wagga Health and Knowledge Precinct Master Plan outlines the 25-30 year vision for the area around Wagga Wagga's two major hospitals to develop a central activity hub to enhance current and new health services in Wagga Wagga and the Riverina, and to support local employment in this key industry.

### The master plan was created to:

- Define the health precinct around the public and private hospitals.
- Provide a strategic direction for the management of competing land uses and development pressures within the health precinct.
- Identify and facilitate suitable reuse of buildings for health and allied health practices.
- Maximise opportunities for complimentary activities including hospitality and accommodation.
- Serve as a model health precinct plan that can be replicated in other health precincts in regional cities, including Albury and Griffith.

To provide a governance and oversight framework for the Health and Knowledge Precinct project, Council set up a Project Steering Committee made up of representatives from leadership roles within the precinct and representation from Council's administration and State Government agency representatives.

Council facilitated the Health and Knowledge Precinct Steering Committee made up of representatives from leadership roles within the Health and Knowledge precinct and representation from State Government agencies to lead the ongoing consultation with key stakeholder groups and contribute to the governance and co-ordination of the precinct.

During 2021/22 the Precinct Steering Committee was successful in securing \$1M through the NSW Government to support the development of the precinct in the areas of service integration, workforce development and research to inform and implement improvements in rural health innovation and training.

Following the successful funding announcement, a new interim Board and governance structure is in the process of being established to provide strategic advice, governance and guide the direct expenditure of the NSW Government's grant funding. The original Precinct Steering Committee has since been renamed the Murrumbidgee Health and Knowledge Precinct Alliance to reflect the needs of the wider Local Health District.



# Growing economy



Objective: Wagga Wagga is a thriving, innovative and connected regional capital city

## Wagga Wagga Integrated Transport Strategy

The Wagga Wagga Integrated Transport Strategy 2040 establishes a strategic direction to cater for a growing economy and population in a climate where technology and the environment are changing at a rapid rate. Council continue to implement the Strategy 2040 with ongoing consultation between Council, developers and Transport for NSW occurring to ensure future residential growth is connected to sufficient road networks.

Active travel and pedestrian accessibility are continually being improved through both crossability improvements being implemented as part of the Active Travel Plan project and review of Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- The Place Score survey has been completed in 2021/22 to provide a benchmark for the Central Business District (CBD) performance. Work is continuing to develop a CBD Master Plan scope. The Plan will provide an opportunity to consider existing road infrastructure, parking, update DCP provisions, improving the high pedestrian activity area of the CBD, a centralised public transport interchange and 'shared zones'.
- The implementation of the Bomen Special Activation Precinct is continuing to ensure the role of freight and logistic hubs are prioritised.
- The construction of the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics hub is continuing.
- The construction of the Active Travel Plan is currently underway providing alternate modes of transport for short trips.
- Traffic modelling continues to be used during the planning process to ensure improvements to road network efficiencies now and into the future are identified, funded and scheduled.
- Council continues to collaborate with Transport for NSW on road hierarchy improvements, including intersection improvements along the highway corridors.
- Transport modelling has been undertaken to identify upgrade requirements for the existing road network with upgrades currently been designed for construction.
- Council continues to liaise with Transport for NSW to address the intersection of Old Narrandera Road and Olympic Highway and the capacity and demands on Gobbagombalin Bridge.
- Council continues to liaise with local public transport providers on improving access to public transport.

## We look after

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**91 bridges**

includes foot, vehicle and rail bridges



**63 bus and taxi shelters**



**83 car parks**



**58 km shared paths and cycleways**



**1,212 km sealed roads**



**1,097 km unsealed roads**



**12 quarries**



**Completed in 2021/22**

---

**248 km**

of concrete footpath maintained

**12 km**

of sealed roads rehabilitated

**14 km**

of urban roads and 3km of rural roads were resealed

**36.2 km**

of gravel re-sheeting was completed on 18 unsealed roads

**0.23 Ha**

of Guttlers Quarry and 0.1Ha of Haberechts Quarry was rehabilitated

## Major road projects in 2021/22

**Lake Albert Road Rehabilitation Stage 3** was completed in January 2022 and has provided motorists with a safer and much improved road surface.

The \$4.8 million project was funded by the Australian Government (\$3.6 million) and Council (\$1.2 million).



**Koorungal Road upgrade project** was completed in January 2022 as part of an ongoing program to rehabilitate and maintain the local road network.

The project was funded by the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program (\$2.05 million) and Council (\$925 K).





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**The upgrade of Dobney Avenue and Pearson Street** was completed in June 2022.

A total of 1.4 kilometres of road including two roundabouts was upgraded as part of the project. The roads now have a thicker stronger base course to cater for Higher Mass Loading Limits.

This \$5.6 million project was jointly funded by the Australian Government, NSW Government under the Fixing Local Roads fund (\$4.2 million) and Council (\$1.4 million).



**The upgrade of Dunns Road** is in progress. The project will rehabilitate, reseal, and improve the full length of the road.

Once complete, it will provide a safe and more direct route to the southern portion of the Wagga Wagga residential area, to the airport and to major sporting and recreational facilities from the Olympic Highway.

The project is funded by the Australian Government (\$5.8 million) and Council (\$2.5 million).



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*Council was successful in securing \$50,000 in Youth Opportunities Program funding from the NSW Department of Communities and Justice for the joint initiative.*

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## Road and pedestrian safety

Council's Road Safety Programs are delivered in partnership with a number of other stakeholders and safety and traffic committees including Transport for NSW and New South Wales Police (Local Area Command).

### Road and pedestrian safety initiatives and campaigns in 2021/22 included:

- Don't trust your tired self
- Caravan safety campaigns
- Slow Down in My Street
- Look out before you step out
- Bicycle safety
- 65Plus workshops

## Driver Reviver Site

Council completed an upgrade to facilities at the Visitor Information Centre as part of the Australian Government's Driver Reviver Site Upgrades program and is now an official driver reviver site. The \$167,000 upgrade includes a new shade sail over the playground, BBQ shelter with two picnic tables, footpath upgrades, additional seating, an accessible toilet upgrade, and new signage.

## We've got the drive! Youth Opportunities Project Funding

Council in partnership with Mount Austin High School and NRMA have been successful in securing \$50K from the Youth Opportunities Program funding from the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. The We've got the drive! project aims to address a gap within our youth population located in some of Wagga's most disadvantaged suburbs. It is designed to support up to 50 local youth to gain their learners license, through to obtaining their full driver's license. The funds will be utilised to purchase driver vouchers to access the safer drivers course directly from NRMA along with other resources to support the student learners.



*BUILDING CONFIDENCE: (from left) Sarah Wardman from the NRMA Safer Driving School with Mount Austin High School student Roni Hasan and Principal Michelle Waugh.*

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## Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct

As part of an economic vision for Regional NSW, the Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct (SAP) will be a world class business precinct that capitalises on the inland rail corridor. With a freight and logistics hub, advanced manufacturing, agribusiness, recycling, and renewable energy the precinct will leverage from rail and road connections between Australia's major cities.

The Wagga Wagga precinct located at Bomen, will cover an area of approximately 4,500 hectares. It will incorporate the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics Hub to create significant growth opportunities for existing businesses and new investors in the region.

To develop thriving business hubs, the NSW Government will fast track planning, develop tailored infrastructure investment support, conduct government led studies, lead development and provide a business concierge service to support development.

The precinct will create up to 6,000 new jobs across a range of industries.

Council is working in partnership with NSW Government to foster timely delivery of enabling infrastructure, attract suitable businesses and industries, and facilitate streamlined development approval processes.



## Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics Hub

Located at Bomen, the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics Hub (RiFL) will deliver significant benefits and strengthen the regional economy, creating opportunities for businesses looking to relocate from metropolitan areas and establish in regional NSW.

The RiFL Hub is a core feature of the existing Bomen Business Park, which is also the focus of the SAP master plan.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Construction of the rail siding and signalling works, intermodal terminal infrastructure required to load and unload freight on the main southern rail network between Melbourne and Sydney.
- Laying down of one million pavers for the terminal hardstand.
- Installation of services including lighting, fire water systems and 3-phase power supply for refrigerated containers, stormwater and sewer, electrical and potable water services.
- Construction of a concrete intersection connecting the terminal site and industrial subdivision to the existing Merino Road roundabout.
- Stage 3 is in progress and involves completing a 60-hectare industrial precinct and terminal services.

Council continues to work with the Regional Growth Development Corporation and service providers to facilitate further expansion of the new industrial estate to complement the development of the RiFL terminal and industrial land.

Interest in the RiFL terminal and adjoining land remains strong and grows as the project progresses.

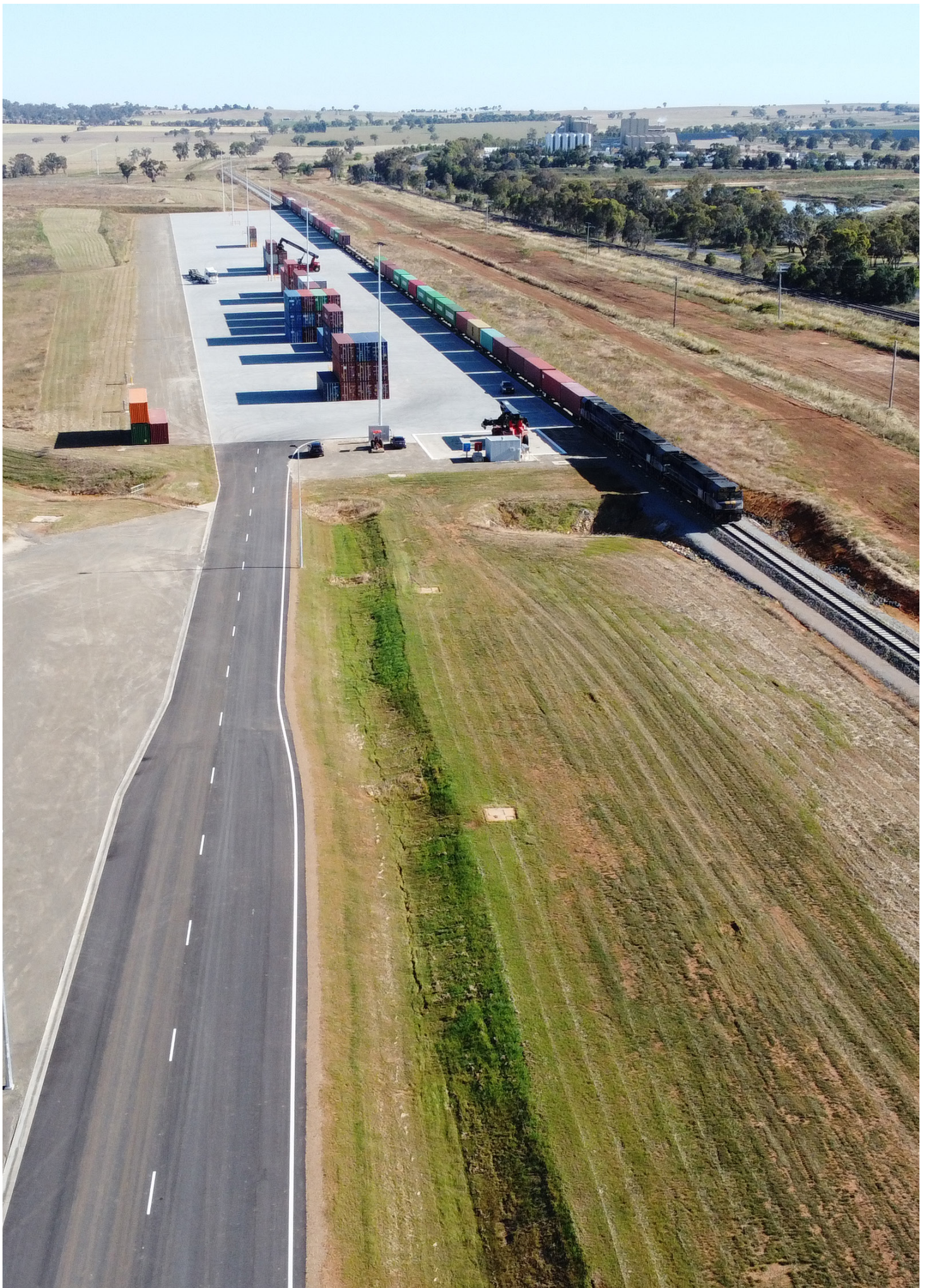
The project has been funded by the Australian Government, NSW Government, Council and Visy Logistics.

**Stage 1 funding:** \$35 million Enabling Roads Project. This stage was completed in 2017.

- Federal Government – \$14.5 million
- Council – \$12.5 million
- NSW Government – \$8.3 million

**Stage 2 funding:** \$14.4 million NSW Government Fixing Country Rail program for the construction of rail and intermodal terminal infrastructure.

**Stage 3 funding:** \$29.2 million NSW Government Growing Local Economies fund for the development and construction of 60-hectare industrial subdivision.



## Wagga Wagga Regional Airport

The Riverina continues to be serviced by the Wagga Wagga Regional Airport (Airport) QantasLink providing return services to Sydney and Brisbane, and Regional Express (Rex) providing return flights to Sydney and Melbourne. With COVID-19 restrictions starting to ease, passenger numbers increased for 2021/22 with 89,236 passengers passing through the Airport. This is an increase from the 71,880 that passed through this facility in 2020/21. Prior to these restrictions, passenger movements were tracking towards 208,000 for the 2019/20 financial year.

Security screening operations at the airport are contracted to an external provider and have continued to be compliant and meet or exceed the expectations of the Department of Home Affairs, Aviation and Maritime Security (AMS) Division. Council's significant investment in the future of regional aviation, through the development of the Commercial Aviation Precinct and Light Aircraft Precinct will continue to grow business, economic development, jobs and flying activity in the region.

The Airport continues to be a leader in regional aviation, contributing significantly to the Gross Regional Product (GRP) and employment as well as achieving its vision of being a centre of national aviation significance.



## Livestock Marketing Centre

The Wagga Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre (LMC) continues to lead the way and is considered by industry as the premier livestock selling centre in Australia for the marketing of cattle, sheep and lambs. The LMC was established in 1979. The facility is located approximately 10km North of the City in Bomen, a key business and industrial growth location including the RiFL Hub and the New South Wales Governments strategically positioned Wagga Wagga SAP. The LMC continues to grow its position as a major driver of agribusiness, employment and economic growth in the Wagga Wagga regional economy and community.

The LMC is wholly owned by Council and operates on a completely self-funded financial model that delivers a significant dividend to Council annually and is distributed to a number of rural and regional projects.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- The LMC continues to rank as the largest sheep and lamb selling centre in Australia by selling 2,005,901 head in the 2021/22 financial year. The LMC also sold 107,274 head of cattle for the same period reaffirming it's ranking in the top group of cattle yards throughout Australia. A new record was set with \$631,805,812.60 worth of livestock sold through the LMC in the 2021/22 financial year, an increase of almost \$90 million.
- During 2021/22 the second stage of the shade sails project was rolled out providing significant and improved conditions over the remaining existing sheep delivery yards. The \$650K project was the final stage of the sheep yard capability upgrade project that delivered 25 per cent additional capacity and improved conditions to the sheep selling area.

*The LMC is wholly owned by Council and operates on a completely self-funded financial model that delivers a significant dividend to Council annually and is distributed to a number of rural and regional projects.*



Objective: Wagga Wagga is an attractive location for people to live, work and invest

## Sustainable and resilient economic growth

Wagga Wagga is the largest urban centre in the NSW Riverina-Murray, with a total population catchment of over 260,000. The primary retail catchment within Wagga Wagga has customers coming from more than 100 km away to make use of the city centre's specialised professional and health service providers as well as its comprehensive high-end retail offering.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Council continued to work closely with all levels of government to push for investment and support on key projects and government priorities such as the NSW Government's Wagga Wagga SAP, the Health and Knowledge Precinct, Lake Albert Water Supply Pipeline and the Federal Government through the Inland Rail program for enhancement and expansion of the RiFL Terminal.
- The Business Roundtable was established and hosted by Council providing a vital forum for collaboration and exchange with key industry and business stakeholders.
- Council's ongoing partnerships with business representative groups such as the Wagga Wagga Business Chamber, Committee4Wagga and Women in Business provide platform for promotion and support of key activities and projects.
- Council offers a Small Business Grant as part of the Annual Grants Program to provide local small businesses with the financial assistance they need in order to accelerate the implementation of their business idea, or growth opportunity.

## Wagga Wagga prepares for growth

More than \$15 billion of infrastructure projects are slated for construction in the Wagga Wagga LGA & the surrounding Riverina/Murray region over the next 5 to 10 years.

### These projects include:

- Hume Link (electricity transmission upgrade from Wagga to near Goulburn) - **\$2 billion**
- Energy Connect (electricity interconnect to South Australia) - **\$2 billion**
- Snowy 2 & Snowy Connect (hydro generation upgrade and transmission works) - **\$5 billion**
- Defence estates upgrade (air force, army bases) - **\$1 billion**
- East/West Riverina renewable energy parks (wind & solar) - **\$4 billion**
- Bomen Special Activation Precinct - in particular RIFL (Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics Hub) - **\$200 million**
- Inland Rail (Albury to Illabo sector) - **\$1 billion**
- Regional telecommunications upgrades (NBN & other)
- UNSW teaching hospital Wagga Wagga - **\$16 million**
- CSU Drought Innovation Hub - **\$8 million**
- PCYC complex Bolton Park - **\$26 million**



# Snapshot 2021/22

## Development Applications

Approved 775 in total

Total construction value based on determined development applications: **\$275,653,163.02**



**Residential** (dwelling, domestic and multi-residential)  
Approved \$149,496,616.23 | 605 applications

**Commercial/Industrial**  
Approved \$115,180,785.47 | 70 applications

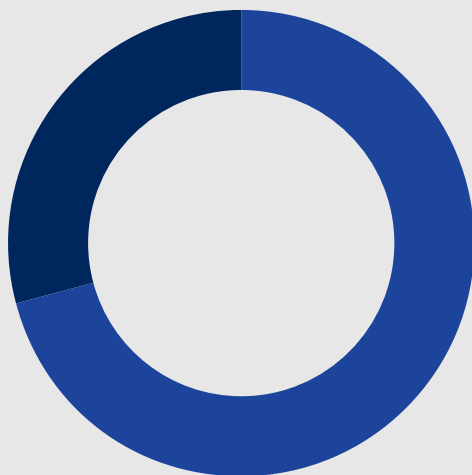
**Subdivisions**  
Approved \$7,620,675.00 | 25 applications

**Other**  
Approved \$3,355,086.32 | 75 applications

## Construction Certificates

Approved 423 in total

Total construction value based on determined construction certificates **\$103,493,846.97**



**Residential**  
Approved \$73,354,545.97 | 396 Applications

**Commercial**  
Approved \$30,139,301.00 | 27 Applications

## Complying Development Certificates

144 Complying Development Certificates Approved (Council) = **\$11,790,092.40**

## Modifications (minor / major)

114 Development Application Modifications Approved = **\$110,729,431.97**

## Approved by delegation type

- Council = 7
- Panel = 1
- Staff = 767

Objective: Wagga Wagga is an attractive tourist destination

## Developing Wagga Wagga and surrounds as a visitor destination

Council's Wagga Wagga Tourism Partner Program facilitated engagement and communication with local businesses to drive further visitation and investment in the local economy during 2021/22. The Tourism Partner Program also supported local and regional businesses to develop new and existing products and encourage collaboration. Several destination marketing initiatives were delivered as well to increase visitation and build the profile of Wagga Wagga and Surrounds as a tourist destination.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- An eight-week collaborative marketing campaign titled The Drive Way showcasing the range of experiences available to visitors in our Wagga Wagga and Surrounds destination was launched. The campaign targeted the strong domestic, self-drive market and centred around suggested day trip itineraries from Wagga Wagga to neighbouring shires. The Drive Way campaign was funded through a Destination NSW marketing grant, Council matched funds and partnered with seven neighbouring shires through an optional buy-in opportunity offered to Wagga Tourism Partner Program shires. In addition to the seven partnering shires, 38 individual tourism businesses across the destination were featured in this campaign. Cross marketing initiatives gained over 800,000 impressions over the eight-week period.
- Council launched a new guide promoting our city and region as an ideal event and conference location in 2021/22. The Wagga Wagga + Surrounds Business Event and Conference Guide, which is produced every two years, showcases the diversity and quality of venues and experiences on offer in our city for the corporate event and wedding markets, including more than 60 venues and 100 local businesses/support services.
- Aligning with the major tourism marketing campaign The Drive Way, the visitwagga.com website received a refresh. The updated website promotes a refined experience showcasing strong imagery and videography as well as a new interactive mapping tool. The mapping functionality allows visitors to pre-plan and create their own itineraries based on their own interests and will be extended in the future to showcase agritourism and art trail experiences.

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## Wagga Wagga + Surrounds Visitor guide

A new 2021/22 Wagga Wagga + Surrounds Visitor guide was launched in November 2021 and was timed with the lifting of travel restrictions for Greater Sydney. The 74 page publication showcased 141 tourism partner businesses and seven neighbouring shires to highlight our regions key experiences for things to see and do, places to eat and drink, where to stay and to find out what's on in the Wagga Wagga and Surrounds region. The guide contains Wiradjuri language translations developed by Uncle Dr Stan Grant Senior, Budyaan Wiradyuri Language Trust and the staff at the School of Indigenous Australian Studies at Charles Sturt University. In addition, the guide featured refreshed images and a fold-out spread to display the extensive range of agritourism and nature-based experiences available. The Visitor Information Centre distributed 20,000 copies through the centre, local businesses and also through the Australian Visitor Information Centre network.

## Fitzmaurice Street Beautification project

Council was successful in securing a \$271,000 grant from the NSW Government's Your High Street grant program which promotes permanent improvements to the amenity and functionality of streets for the benefit of local economies and public well-being.

The funding has given the Fitzmaurice Street precinct a significant lift to help stimulate activity and enhance connections to the riverfront and Active Travel Plan routes.

Beautification and activation of the street includes the installation of lighting and parklets with bike features. These additions will improve attractiveness, safety accessibility, and walkability of the street.



## Wagga Zoo and Aviary

The Wagga Zoo and Aviary (Zoo) contains a very diverse range of local and non-local animals, as well as a huge free-flight aviary. Many of the animals in the park are free to roam. These include ducks, peacocks, chooks, black swans, geese and many other birds.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- The Zoo has seen an increase in school-based work experience students and university placement students with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions this year. The Zoo curators have also increased the amount of organised zoo tours on offer to the community including delivering guided hands-on tours designed for family fun during school holiday periods.
- Rehabilitation and upgrade projects were delivered at the zoo in 2021/22 as part of the Entwine at the Botanic Gardens precinct renewal project adding to the upgrades already undertaken over the past two years. The upgrades have been designed to create a more secure and pleasant environment for the animals, while also improving the visitor experience. Works included new and rehabilitated enclosures for the grey and red kangaroos, wallabies, alpacas and emus, as well as new perimeter fencing.

*SUPER FRESH: The Drive Way campaign is a great reminder for local residents to 'think like a visitor' and discover the attractions both within our city and across the region. Photo: Lean Timms.*





## Botanic Gardens Precinct Renewal

The Botanic Gardens Precinct Renewal project involves the delivery of multiple projects to invigorate and enhance an underutilised public precinct.

Once completed the project will create a dynamic and engaging accessible precinct that improves spatial connections and walkability, engages with the community in cultural heritage experiences and place-making and addresses fundamental issues around equity access and safety.

**The \$8.6 million project is being funded by:**

- Australian Government, Building Better Regions Fund – \$4.3 million (\$1.7M for Museum of the Riverina + \$2.6M for the upgrade of Lord Baden Powell Drive)
- NSW Government Create NSW Regional Cultural Fund – \$3.18 million + Restart NSW Infrastructure NSW \$739,466
- Council - \$400,000

### Entwine

Entwine at the Botanic Gardens was completed in 2021. The project connects the Botanic Gardens and the redevelopment of the Museum of the Riverina. The project included the installation of low maintenance trails and gardens, upgrading zoo exhibits that share stories with museum displays and activating spaces in the gardens to provide more community leisure areas.



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## Museum of the Riverina redevelopment

The Museum of the Riverina redevelopment is in progress and expected to be completed by December 2022, weather permitting. The project aims to make major improvements to the museum's exhibition spaces, collection storage and staff areas. This will help the museum to conserve objects in its care and tell our region's story in new way to wider audiences.

### Key project elements include:

- Construction of a new 469 square metre museum exhibition gallery showcasing unique, diverse local collections and stories. The space will explore important themes such as Wiradjuri cultural heritage and perspectives, Agriculture and Rural history, Wagga Wagga at War, the Murrumbidgee River, Post-war Wagga Wagga, new exhibitions for all ages exploring the people and environment of Wagga Wagga and Wagga Wagga's cultural and sporting history.
- Speciality housing and interpretation of the State heritage listed Mobile Cook's Galley.
- A 77 square metre community space for workshops and engagement programs.
- Upgrade of the existing Museum building into a collection storage space.
- Installation of a museum quality collection storage system to maximise space to improve the management of the 25,000 objects in permanent collection holdings.
- Office space for the Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society.
- Landscaping of the backyard including accessible pathways and road link access to loading dock.
- Conversion of the Frog Hollow Schoolhouse to an education space for groups.
- Additional shedding to house the large agricultural machinery collection,
- Accessible toilet facilities.
- New pathways indoor and out will give better accessibility to wheelchairs and prams.



## Lord Baden Powell Drive

Lord Baden Powell Drive upgrade is expected to get underway in 2022/23. The work will be carried out on the western face of Willans Hill and once complete it will improve pedestrian and vehicle around the Museum of the Riverina, and Botanic Gardens precinct.

## Objective: Wagga Wagga is a hub for activity

### Events Strategy and Action Plan

Implementation of the Events Strategy and Action Plan 2020-2024 continued during 2021/22 with the delivery of a range of diverse and inclusive community events designed to bring people together, strengthen our cultural identity and harmony and make the city a more vibrant place to live. While many community events were impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, others were held successfully with reduced numbers in COVID-safe settings.

#### Key activities in 2021/22

- Council continued to support local initiated events through the Annual Grants Program.
- Council delivered a range of diverse and inclusive large community events and an annual schedule of community, cultural, environmental, sporting and recreation events and programs throughout the year.
- Council partnered with a number of sporting organisations to deliver State, National and elite events throughout the year including NSW Touch Junior State Cup, NRL Premiership match, Academy Games, Water Polo NSW Junior Country Championship, Wagga Wagga Tennis Open, NSW Orienteering State League Carnival and Brumbies Provincial Championship.





# Snapshot 2021/22



**Wagga Wagga  
welcomes  
1.375M visitors**  
to the city each year

## Visitor economy snapshot

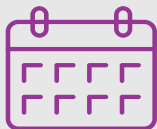
- **Visitors contribute to \$385M value** added
- On average **visitors spend \$141 per night**
- On average **visitors stay 3 nights** that's 1.666M nights
- **157 members** of the **Tourism Partner Program 2021**
- **2214,872 followers** on **Visit Wagga Instagram**
- **11,193 followers** on **Visit Wagga Facebook**
- **146,198 page views** on **Visit Wagga Wagga website**
- **23,520 visitors** to the **Visitor Information Centre**

## Event snapshot 2021/22



**31 major  
events**

held in 2021/22 with a combined  
**95,000+ attendees**



**660 community  
events promoted**

through Council's event calendar

## Event highlights 2021/22

- **Spring Jam 2021** was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions
- **Mardi Gras 2022** over 40 floats took part in the parade
- **Lost Lanes 2021** (Now Festival of W) 8000 attendance
- **New Years Eve (Light The Lake) 2021/22** 6,000 spectators
- **Australia Day** attendance 570
- **FUSION22** Multicultural Festival delivered April 2022
- **FRESH 2022** program delivered April 2022
- **NSW Touch Junior State Cup**  
– 8,000 competitors, officials, and spectators
- **NRL Premiership match**  
– Canberra Raiders vs Melbourne Storm - 8133 attendance
- **Academy Games** – 4,000 competitors, officials, and spectators
- **Water Polo NSW Junior Country Championship**  
– 47 teams plus officials and spectators (approx. 1000 people)
- **Wagga Wagga tennis open**  
– 200 competitors, officials, and spectators
- **NSW Orienteering State League Carnival**  
– 550 competitors, officials, and spectators
- **Brumbies Provincial Championship**  
– 1000 competitors, officials, and spectators

## Fast Track Event Sponsorship funding

Council endorsed the 2021/22 round of the COVID-19 Fast Track Events Sponsorship funding to focus on supporting local event organisers and the overall COVID-19 recovery of the city's event schedule city to increase the city's destination profile, economic impact, venue activation and community participation. All applications were assessed by the Major Events Advisory Panel in line with the COVID-19 Fast Track Events Sponsorship guidelines.

**The details of the applications received along with the recommended sponsorship funding amounts are summarised below:**

- Sporting Academy Games 2022 - **\$20,000**
- Scott Howie - Interesting (auspiced by Eastern Riverina Arts), carry over from 2020/21 - **\$3,000**
- Wagga Wagga Road Runners - Wagga Trail Marathon – rolled over from 2020/21 to 2021/22 - **\$7,918**
- Murrumbidgee Turf Club's Southern District Racing Association's Country Championship - **\$7,500**
- Three Crow's Pty Ltd 2022 Stone the Crows Festival - **\$16,000**
- HC Events 2022 Mardi Gras Festival - **\$15,000**
- Bidgee Theatre Productions Mamma Mia! - **\$10,000**
- The Riverina Conservatorium of Music Live at Lunch Concert Series - **\$4,500**
- The Pinnock Watts Family Trust Fitz Fest 2022 - **\$14,500**
- Wollundry Rotary's Gears and Beers Festival - **\$15,000**
- Twin Cities Fancy Pigeon Club's Australian National Pigeon Show - **\$2,418**





## Objective: Wagga Wagga is a centre for education and training

### Education and vocation pathways

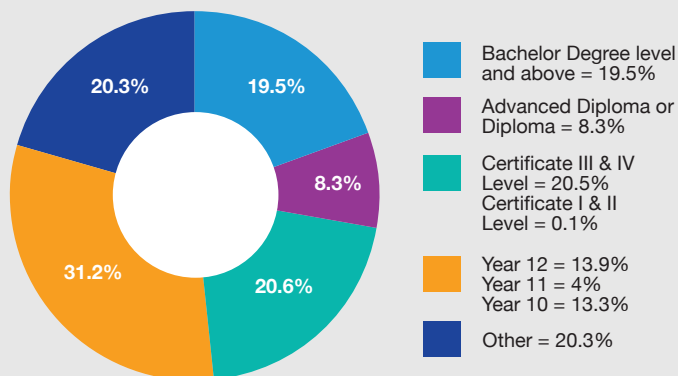
Wagga Wagga is a key educational hub enabling access to quality education and training across the full spectrum of learning and supporting a high-skilled labour force. Council is an active member of the Riverina Joint Organisation and an Associate Member of the Canberra Joint Organisation which provides an opportunity to work collaboratively within the region on key issues and priorities. In addition, Council and our partners continue to address regional workforce issues in a number of forums including the Joint Organisations and Wagga Wagga Business Roundtable and Riverina Medical Specialist Recruitment Committee.

*Council representatives met with local high school students in 2022 as part of the 2022 Youth Forum program, designed to give Council an opportunity to hear the thoughts and suggestions of our community's young people. More than 160 students took part in seven separate workshops which gave students a chance to speak directly with Councillors and staff. Students shared suggestions for Council to consider, including making improvements to existing facilities, developing new activity precincts, and broadening commercial opportunities for the region. Students' feedback is incorporated into Council's plans and strategies, ensuring young people's information and perspectives are taken into account when planning and delivering infrastructure, programs, and services to our community.*



# Snapshot 2021/22

## Highest level of educational attainment



**79%** 

of our community aged 15yrs and over have a certificate level qualification or higher



over 80% of workforce performing 20hrs+ per week paid employment

Source: Census 2021

## Education & training

Wagga is a key educational hub enabling access to quality education and training across the full spectrum of learning and supporting a high-skilled labour force.



**69**

**Educational facilities**

- 3** university campuses
- 9** high schools
- 25** primary schools
- 34** pre-schools



**Education providers**

- Charles Sturt University
- TAFE NSW Riverina Institute, including apprenticeship support
- University of New South Wales
- University of Notre Dame
- Australian Airline Pilot Academy
- Royal Australian Air Force Base
- Army Recruit Training Centre
- Riverina Community College



**Innovation**

Knowledge providers linked to business community providing real solutions and impacts:

- Working Spaces HQ
- CSU Tech Incubator
- Women in Business
- Wagga Wagga Business Chamber
- Business Enterprise Centre
- Committee 4 Wagga
- CSU AgriPark
- TAFE digital courses

Source: Wagga Wagga City Council

# Community place and identity



Objective: Our community are proud of where we live and our identity

## Cultural Plan

The Wagga Wagga City Council Cultural Plan 2020-30 is a blueprint for a creative city that puts arts and culture at the heart of a thriving, innovative, connected and inclusive community.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- **1.02: Improve the Wagga Wagga City Library Service** – development of a standalone library service model to commence from 1 July 2022.
- **1.03 Expand the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre** – draft Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre masterplan and business plan has been completed.
- **1.04: Upgrade the Museum of the Riverina** – redevelopment capital works program underway and due to reopen to the public in early 2023.
- **2.02 Commission a significant public artwork within the Riverside precinct that celebrates Wiradjuri heritage and culture** – consultation and development phase of this project commenced in 2021/22 in collaboration with Wiradjuri Elders from Mawang Gaway.
- **2.12 Develop Live Music and Events Kit for community events in parks and open spaces** – this item has been actioned and a live music kit is available for the community to book via a simple expression of interest process online.
- **2.28 Align public art activities to placemaking and activation objectives** – review of Public Art Policy and revised Public Art Plan 2022-2026 was completed.

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## Public Art Plan

Public art celebrates who we are as a community and is an important way to bring our public spaces to life, adding to their vibrancy, accessibility and their role in education and sharing stories. Council recognises the key role that public art plays in creating a thriving, innovative, connected and inclusive community; by creating a sense of place, supporting our arts and creative community, providing opportunities to connect with others and enhancing our public spaces.

The development of the revised Public Art Plan 2022-2026 was completed this year. The Plan provides a framework for public art in the city and surrounding villages for the period 2022-2026. The development and implementation of public art projects in the revised Public Art Plan 2022-2026 are governed by the following principles:

### **Celebrate:**

- Celebrate the culture and heritage of the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people.
- Promote the cultural and social diversity of the whole community through enhancement of the visual and environmental beauty of the city.
- Highlight the unique characteristics of the local natural environment and ecosystems.

### **Activate:**

- Communicate the unique stories, spirit and heritage of the whole of the city of Wagga Wagga, including the rural villages and neighbourhoods.
- Encourage access and participation from all the community through creative experiences and placemaking.
- Support and enhance cultural tourism and the visitor economy.

### **Innovate:**

- Challenge and stimulate audiences and the wider community.
- Develop projects at the highest levels of creativity, artistic excellence, and innovation.
- Incorporate art throughout the city in ways that blurs the lines between art and urban design.

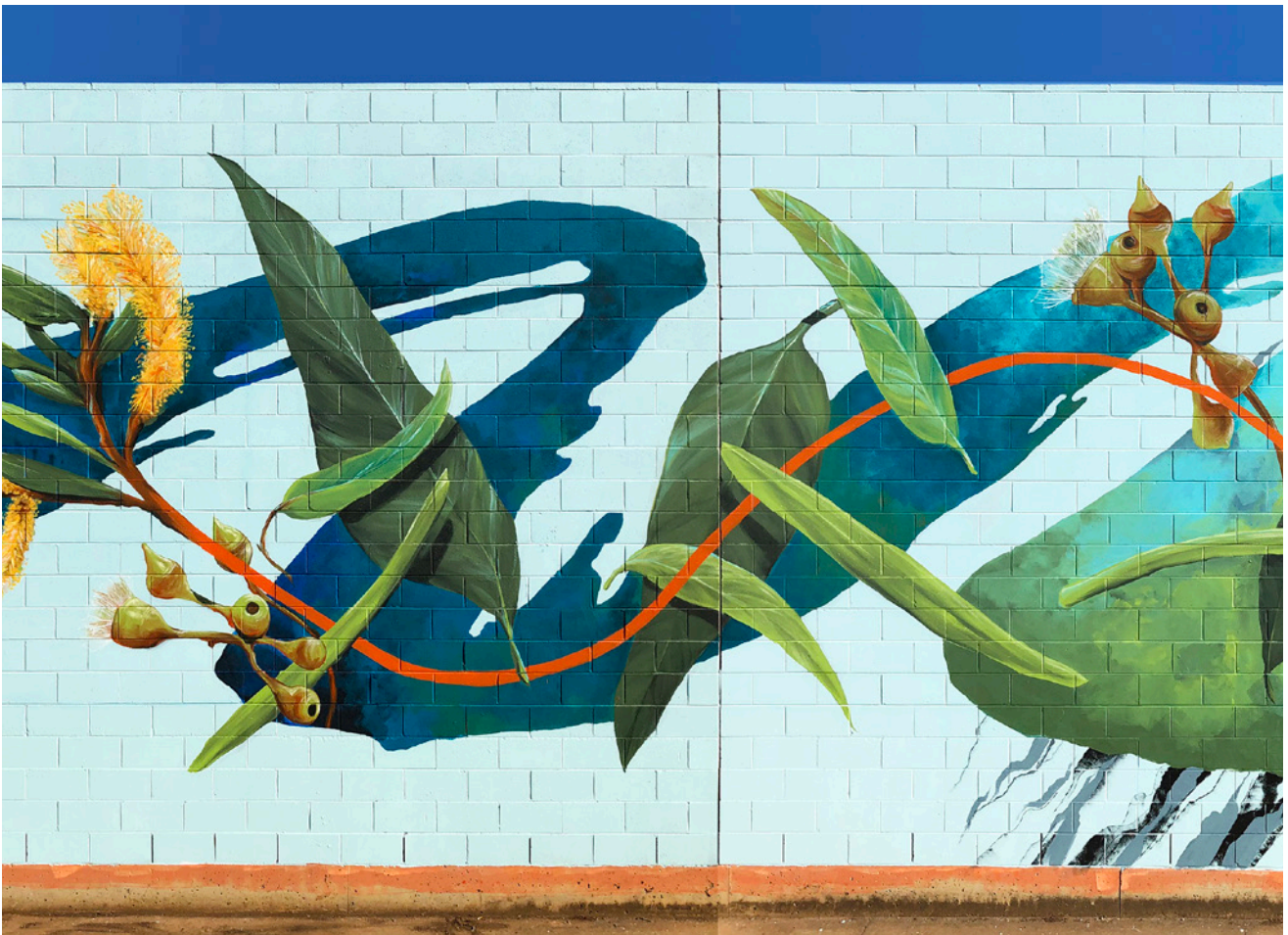
### **Collaborate:**

- Engage with artists of all career stages, with value placed on local and First Nations artists when commissioning new works.
- Collaborate with a diverse range of stakeholders, including State and Federal Government bodies, community groups and organisations, businesses and industry.
- Ensure all projects and programs are carried out in a fair and transparent manner, and in accordance with industry and local government best practice.

**Other highlights completed during 2021/22 included:**

- Collaborating with Wagga Wagga Public School to connect students with a professional artist through a series of workshops to develop design elements for the new mural at the Simmons Street Pump Station.
- Delivery of a week-long series of art and design skills development workshops with young people with these designs incorporated into the new mural installed at the Bolton Park Pump Station.
- Securing of funding to develop two pilot episodes of a Public Art Audio Trail.
- Commencing community consultation and planning for a major public artwork entitled Riverlife celebrating Wiradjuri culture and stories relating to the Murrumbidgee River in collaboration with Wiradjuri Elders from Mawang Gaway.
- Review and update of Council's Public Art Collection website.

*Murrumbidgee Flowartwork by David 'Meggs' Hooke.*





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## Enlighten for Equity Sculptures

Enlighten for Equity brought together creativity and education through a youth-based project, working with primary and high school students from across Wagga Wagga.

Officially opened in June 2022, the five sculptures create an equity walk within the Wagga Beach Riverside Precinct, starting near the entrance to the main carpark and winding along the pathways to the new regionally significant playground and through the open spaces.

The Enlighten for Equity – Youth Led Participatory Industrial Design and Lighting Project was part of Council's delivery of the Wagga Women's Health Centre partnership DVproject:2650 – a primary prevention initiative aiming to reduce domestic and family violence in our community.

*'Untitled' Wagga Wagga High School.*



## Wagga Wagga Art Gallery

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery inspires a vibrant, innovative and diverse Riverina arts culture, engaging with our local and global communities. The Art Gallery supports artists based regionally and nationally, and promotes a flourishing and experimental creative environment accessible to all.

Situated in Wagga Wagga's cultural precinct the Art Gallery's curatorial focus includes contemporary art, new media, Wiradjuri and First Nations, and on semi-permanent display; works from the extensive National Art Glass Collection and Margaret Carnegie Australian Print Collection.

Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is home to a world class, nationally significant collection of contemporary art glass, featuring over 700 collection objects. The Margaret Carnegie Print Collection consists of 1400 original prints by Australia's foremost artists. In addition the Art Gallery presents in-house curated and touring exhibitions throughout the year.

There are seven exhibitions spaces and over 1000 square metres with flexible running wall space including a dedicated darkened space for new media and artist film projects. Wagga Wagga Art Gallery is a cultural facility of Council and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Delivery of 20 exhibitions across its Main Gallery and National Art Glass Gallery during the year attracting 19,793 visitors throughout 2021/22.
- Supported the delivery of five regional artist exhibitions in the E3 Exhibition space and one artist commission '41' by Freya Jobbins'.
- Co-curated an innovative exhibition 'Windowless Worlds' with associated public programming which drew new audiences and garnered wider attention from the sector. It considered glass as a metaphor for the failure of governments towards their citizens. Co-curated with CSU academic, the exhibition included works from the collection and loaned and imported glass objects.
- Delivery of a diverse range of programs and workshops to support local skills and professional development in the Wagga Wagga LGA.



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## Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre

Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre is a focus of cultural activities within the Wagga Wagga community. Based in the Civic Precinct, the Theatre programs a diverse annual schedule of live performances, programs and events. The Civic Theatre has a 491 seat auditorium and features an orchestra pit seating up to 38 musicians as well as professional lighting, livestreaming and sound systems.

The upstairs foyer, which can also be used for small functions, features a licensed bar and a covered balcony area. The box office, located in the lower foyer, provides a comprehensive ticketing facility for local shows and events. The smaller basement theatre located on the eastern side of the building is the home of the School of Arts Community Theatre (SOACT).

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Completion of the draft Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre masterplan and business plan.
- Delivery of many shows that had been postponed the year before due to COVID-19 including the Bidgee Theatre Company's production of Mamma Mia, the Riverina Youth Orchestra, The Wiggles and two major live music concerts as part of Great Southern Nights by Amy Shark and Archie Roach.
- Presentation of the Civic Theatre season shows including the Wharf Revue, King of Pigs, Voyagers, Rhonda Burchmore, Black Cockatoo, Stardust and The Mission, Black Sun/Blood Moon, Double Delicious, Guess How Much I Love You, Sydney Symphony Orchestra and It Takes Two.
- Presentation of The Wagga Comedy Fest, Music at Midday series, Live at The Lagoon community concert as well as community shows, dance concerts, commercial hires and community workshops.
- Delivery of a diverse range of programs and workshops to support local skills and professional development in the Wagga Wagga LGA for example Plug and Play, a live music development program supporting local emerging musicians along with business, production and technical creatives.



## Museum of the Riverina

The Museum of the Riverina is a cultural facility of Council and is located at two sites; the Historic Council Chambers and in the Botanic Gardens Precinct. The Museum is responsible for collecting and caring for more than 25,000 objects in its permanent collection holdings and presents an annual schedule of semi-permanent and touring exhibitions, education and public programs.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- A redevelopment project for the Museum located in the Botanic Gardens Precinct. This site was closed to the public during 2021/22 to undertake this capital works program and is planned to reopen to the public in early 2023.
- The Historic Council Chambers site offered a diverse range of exhibitions and public programs including Made in Wagga, Huthwaites the friendly store, Marmabidya - paintings by Aunty Kath Withers, Earth Canvas, Cleverman from the Australian Centre for Moving Images, The Scott Sisters from the Australian Museum and Jack Munday touring from Unions NSW.
- With financial support from the Wagga Wagga & District Historical Society, the Museum acquired a rare object The Last Man on the Tichborne Jury painted by the British caricaturist and illustrator George Cruikshank (1792-1878).

*LIFE FORCE: Museum Assistant Collections and Programs Genevieve Mott admires Lifeblood, 2019 by Jenny Bell.*



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## Wagga Wagga City Library

The Wagga Wagga City Library (Library) delivered a seven day per week library service, delivered a capital works building project, presented a mix of online and physical programs in response to COVID-19, and participated in several research projects. The Library also commenced the implementation of the recommendations in the Library Review 2020-2038 including detailed consultation with community members about the new Agile service to nine rural villages and nine suburban locations in the Wagga Wagga LGA, as part of the new Standalone Library service commencing 1 July 2022.

A Library Infrastructure grant (\$200,000) and the Responsible Gambling grant (\$72,379) financed a major refurbishment of the children's area including a fully accessible toilet on Level 0, a redesign of the layout at the Level 1 entrance including more public spaces, and the creation of three additional community learning spaces with portable video-conferencing equipment. Multicultural services were expanded including the funding of a full time permanent multicultural services officer position, which in turn will see additional language café sessions and other multicultural programming occur across the Wagga Wagga LGA from 1 July 2022.

### Standalone Library service

The Wagga Wagga City Library Review 2020-2038 was adopted by Council in January 2021. This report details the need for Council to expand library services to make them more accessible across suburbs and villages across the Wagga Wagga LGA. The report details opportunities to increase lifelong learning for all community members, acknowledging the work that the library services deliver to strengthen social inclusion, liveability and community connectedness.

In September 2021, Council made the decision to become a standalone library service from 1 July 2022 based on the extensive community feedback gathered during the Library Review 2020-2038. New and extended regular library services to suburban areas and the nine rural villages located within the Wagga Wagga LGA are among the benefits of a standalone library service enabling the library to offer a broader and more accessible range of services, programs and resources to the community from 1 July 2022.



Objective: Our community feel welcome, included and connected

## Community programs and projects delivered through the Library

Council delivers a diverse range of learning and community programs through the Library that enable and support participation in lifelong learning and community connection.

**Key activities in 2021/22 included:**

### Science Week 2022

The Library presented COVID-19 safe Science Week events including Science at Home a children's hybrid program including safe at home experiments for children under 5 years, TwistED Science and SciVR-Virtual Universe for primary aged children, hosted and co-curated the Microscopia Exhibition in partnership with the Country Women's Association Uranquinty Evening Branch and Charles Sturt University featuring photographs taken by students from Humula, Tarcutta and Uranquinty Public Schools and partnered with the local community organisation ErinEarth to produce a 25-minute film entitled a Sense of Place featuring Wiradjuri Elder Uncle James Ingram. Teach the Teacher, Bringing Primary School Microbiology to Life: a professional development opportunity for Riverina primary school teachers was also presented along with the Taxonomy of Microscopic Nematodes.

### Friends of the Library Group celebrates 30 years and Life Membership awarded to Gretchen Sleeman

The Friends of the Library, the second oldest Friends group in NSW, celebrated 30 years of continuous operations on Friday 9 December 2021. Gretchen Sleeman, a founding member, and President of the Friends over many years, was awarded Life Membership with a special plaque fixed to one of the Friends' seats located at the library's lagoon side entrance.

### Tech Savvy Communities Pilot Program for Wiradjuri and First Nations Elders and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities

The Library partnered with the NSW Department of Communities and Justice – Seniors Card Program, to develop a tailored Tech Savvy Communities Pilot for Wiradjuri and First Nations Elders. Library staff consulted with the Mawang Garway Group to ensure that the course content met the identified needs of local Wiradjuri and First Nations Elders. Based on the Tech Savvy Communities bi-lingual program delivered at the library in 2021, this program was delivered by two young Indigenous trainers, with the support and equipment provided by the Library. The program utilised the Tech Savvy Seniors learning material which had been reviewed to focus on specific topics to meet the identified needs of the attendees. This pilot program was delivered in suburban community centres across the city including Tolland, Ashmont and Koorringal between March and June 2022. This pilot program will inform a state-wide rollout through all public libraries in NSW, who wish to deliver a tailored program to First Nations Elders in their own communities.

The Tech Savvy Communities project continued to be delivered across the year in the following languages: Arabic, Burmese, Dari, Kurmanji and Tibetan. These classes were presented by bi-lingual trainers from the local community who were able to tailor classes to meet the participants needs so that classes were meaningful and easily understood. Standard Tech Savvy Seniors classes were also well attended with seniors taking the opportunity to learn about e-safety and being more confident online.

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**The Library was involved in two successful partnerships with Charles Sturt University (CSU) Wagga Wagga during 2021/22 including:**

### **The Social Work Placement program**

With several international examples of social workers being employed in public libraries and the City of Melbourne example in Australia, the Library welcomed the opportunity to trial a university-library pilot with fourth year social work placements. Charles Sturt University's (CSU) Social Work student, Sophia Tulk, completed 500 hrs in December 2021 as part of an Australian first Social Work Placements in Libraries program between a university and a public library. The second CSU student Zia Haydari's placement, occurred between April and June 2022, building on the success of the first placement.

**At the conclusion of the two placements the following outcomes were achieved:**

- The development of a comprehensive referral service for library staff to assist individual requests for social services from homelessness, domestic violence and mental health.
- The development and delivery of a series of mini resources fairs where local service providers made community presentations on topics ranging from mental health support to legal assistance; and, a one-on-one referral service, where community members were invited to make phone consultation bookings with the CSU student to learn about services that were relevant to their circumstances. While these were not clinical consultations, they provided an insight into how an ongoing social work presence in the library would be beneficial for the community.

### **Embracing Cultural Diversity – the Punjabi Language Project with the State Library of NSW, CSU Wagga Wagga, and the Library**

The Library hosted a community event on Saturday 4 December 2021 to celebrate the successful partnership between the local Punjabi community, the Library, The State Library of NSW and CSU, Wagga Wagga. The partnership included a research project titled 'Embracing the cultural identity of burgeoning ethnic groups in regional public libraries: A pilot project with the Punjabi Indians', with research undertaken by Dr Sabine Wardle and Dr Kasey Garrison from Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga. The project's activities included the purchase of 136 Punjabi language books, and weekly meetings of two groups: a women's craft group and a Punjabi children's language class for children aged 4-11 years. The final report was presented to NSW public library staff and made available online.

*Attendees from the Tech Savvy Communities Dari-speaking group (from left), Thom Paton of the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga, Tech Savvy Dari Trainer Hakimeh Rahimi, Zahra Afkari, Tech Savvy Dari Trainer Azizeh Abbasi, Zeinab Abbasi, Raziye Khademi and Moharam Ali Abbasi.*



## Reconciliation Action Plan

Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) 2019-2021 is a key resource for Councillors and staff to use when understanding and working to address issues related to Reconciliation and working collaboratively with the Wiradjuri and First Nations community in the Wagga Wagga LGA. The RAP working group continued to meet regularly throughout 2021/22 to review the implementation of the Plan.





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## Key activities in 2021/22 included:

- Completed community consultation, research and development of a revised RAP 2022-2024
- Delivery of Cultural Awareness training to staff by Wiradjuri Elders. This has ensured that all staff that work at Council have a shared understanding of Wiradjuri and First Nations culture, and how to work closely and respectfully with Wiradjuri and First Nations community.
- Installation of Acknowledgement of Country in Wiradjuri language in the entrance to Council's Civic Centre and at Council's community and cultural facilities including Wagga Wagga City Library, Visitor Information Centre, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre.
- Commissioning and installation of Wiradjuri artwork displayed on Riverside precinct signage celebrating Wiradjuri heritage and culture.
- Provision of ongoing administration and coordination of monthly Mawang Gaway meetings. Staff from across the organisation consistently attended these meetings to provide updates and consult with Mawang Gaway on a wide range of programs and projects and seek guidance on future projects and strategic planning processes.
- Online content was also created for National Apology Day in 2021 and 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Delivery of the Sorry Day ceremony on the 26 May 2022 and a suite of Reconciliation Week programs designed in consultation with the Wiradjuri community from 27 May to 3 June 2022, including Nguluway "Meeting Each Other" which was held during Reconciliation Week 2022. This was a weeklong program of events that was organised in partnership between Council and the Wiradjuri and First Nations community including a screening of the documentary film Occupation: Native in the Council Chambers, a youth event held at the Tolland community hub facilitated by members of RAAF, the Army and the Navy, a Truth Telling Panel at the Wagga Wagga City Library on the history of First Nations soldiers, and a Wiradjuri Choir performed in the Victory Memorial Gardens.
- Provision of sponsorship to the Wagga Wagga NAIDOC committee, along with representation on the committee, to develop and deliver NAIDOC week events from 3 to 10 July 2022. Council strengthened its working relationships with Riverina Medical and Dental Corporation (RIVMED), Argyle Housing, and the Aboriginal Health Centre via partnerships to deliver NAIDOC week content online and also provided event support and promotions to First Nation groups in the development and delivery of NAIDOC week events that were presented in various locations across the City.
- Council's Executive team met with Wiradjuri Elders on a quarterly basis.
- When acquiring corporate gifts, Council purchased gifts from Wiradjuri artists selling their artwork at council locations including the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery and Visitor Information Centre.
- A First Nations Environmental Health Officer traineeship was established.
- Elders and community provided valuable input to the development and adoption of Council's Biodiversity Strategy: Maldhangilanha 2020-2030.
- To commence each calendar year at the first Ordinary Council meeting, an Elder is engaged to conduct a Welcome to Country, this year Uncle James Ingram performed the Welcome to Country on 10 January 2022. This event was also livestreamed.
- Council engaged with and received design input from local Elders and the First Nations Women's group on capital works programs at Pomingalarna and Riverside. In addition, signage was designed and approved to be displayed along the Wiradjuri walking track, reflective of Wiradjuri culture.
- Council continued to actively work to ensure Wiradjuri and First Nation's People's culture is available and visible in public spaces. A diverse range of public programs and exhibitions were delivered and promoted across Council's cultural facilities including the Wagga Wagga City Library, Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Museum of the Riverina and Civic Theatre. Wiradjuri language was also included in promotional guides and campaigns for example the annual Wagga Wagga Visitor Guide publication.

## Council led events community events

Council led community events are designed to bring people together, strengthen our cultural identity and harmony and make the city a more vibrant place to live. While many community events were impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, others were held successfully with reduced numbers in COVID-safe settings.

**Alongside 660 community events, Council led community events in 2021/22 included:**

### Lost Lanes 2021 and Skate Wagga Wagga

While last minute COVID-19 Public Health Orders came into effect during the bump in of the event, attendance at Lost Lanes 2021 increased 78% from 2019 with an estimated 8,000 people attending. Ticket sales from the Skate Wagga Wagga ice rink, which was in place for two weeks at the Victory Memorial Gardens to coincide with the winter school holidays, were over 18,000, which was far in excess of forecasted numbers due to COVID-19 restrictions.

### Wagga Christmas 2021

The 2021 Christmas program commenced with the installation of decorations in the Baylis and Fitzmaurice Streets and the Civic Centre forecourt. The decorations were on display to the public until 10 January 2022 and included new permanent fairy lights located on the upper section of the light poles in Fitzmaurice Street funded through the NSW State Government's Your High Street grants program; 80 Christmas themed decorations made of acrylic board placed on street poles in Baylis and Fitzmaurice Streets 750mm - 1000mm tall and manufactured locally; Wagga Christmas branded triangular tree guards and 2-sided bin covers in Baylis Street; Wagga Christmas branded flags installed in Baylis and Fitzmaurice Streets; the Civic Centre forecourt trio of stars installation along with the existing lighting in the Cypris Pine tree in Victory Memorial Gardens and fairy lights at five pedestrian crossings.

A new Santa Trail activation was delivered on 15 December 2021 where Santa and Mrs Claus drove a vintage Kombi Van from the Visitor Information Centre to suburban locations across the City including Henwood Park in Koorinal, Webb Park in Ashmont, Gobbagombalin Park and the Botanic Gardens in Turvey Park. Each location enjoyed a local pop up community event to participate in including performances from local dance groups, music offerings and food. A Very Wagga Christmas 2021 video is was produced to promote all these activities on line as part of the overall promotional campaign to support the Christmas 2021 schedule.



## Australia Day 2022 celebrations

A free community breakfast and live entertainment were well-supported, with approximately 400 community members gathering to reflect, respect and celebrate with family and friends. A special feature of this event included a lamington baking competition celebrating the 100th year of the Country Women's Association in Australia. The annual Australia Day awards event were conducted at the Civic Theatre on the evening of the 25th January 2022. Four outstanding Wagga Wagga residents and a local Rotary group were honoured and recognised at the 2022 Australia Day awards for their community contributions including:

- 2022 Citizen of the Year - Deidre Tome
- 2022 Young Citizen of the Year - Chloe Hinds
- 2022 Walk of Honour Nominee - Richard 'Dick' Green
- 2022 Ted Ryder Sports Memorial - Brian Robinson
- 2022 Environmental Citizen of the Year - Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga

## Citizenship ceremonies

Council coordinates and facilitates Citizenship ceremonies throughout the year. During 2021/22 the Wagga Wagga community welcomed 386 new Australian citizens to the city, including 87 children, at 16 ceremonies. During the first half of the financial year Council implemented the option of conducting online Citizenship ceremonies due to the ongoing uncertainty of COVID-19 and lockdowns. On 8 March 2022, Citizenship Ceremonies recommenced in a face to face setting.



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## FRESH22

Delivered in April 2022 this program creates intergenerational learning opportunities through a month-long program of talks, workshops and events for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities including programming for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, Disabilities, Wiradjuri and First Nations, Youth and Seniors communities.

## FUSION22

This Multicultural Festival was presented in April 2022 as it was postponed from October 2021. FUSION22 was presented and funded by Council, with major sponsorship funding received from Riverina Water. It is also supported by Origin Energy and cultural partner, the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga.



# The environment



Objective: Future growth and development of Wagga Wagga is planned for in a sustainable manner

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*Ngangaadha  
garray-gu  
bila-galang-gu.  
Yandu garry-bu  
bila-galang-bu  
ngangaagirri nginyalgir.  
(Look after the  
land and the rivers.  
Then the land  
and the rivers  
will look after you.)*

*Uncle James Ingram,  
Wiradjuri Elder*

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## Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040

The Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 sets the long-term strategic framework for planning and development in the Wagga Wagga LGA over the next 20 years, guiding the development and introduction of new planning policies, strategies and actions related to land use and development.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- A draft Northern Growth Area concept plan has been prepared in collaboration with key landowners within the area. The draft is now being finalised. The draft Plan will form the basis for undertaking technical work to enable the plan to progress to a planning proposal. The growth area will provide between 6,000 and 9,000 new homes significantly increasing housing supply for the city.
- Council partnered with Place Score, an expert team of social researchers, to conduct the City Centre Survey, and will use the community's feedback to create a brief for a future Central Business District (CBD) Master Plan that will be undertaken in 2022/23. Results from the survey will be an essential component in the development of the upcoming CBD Master Plan.
- Council received six planning proposals to amend the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 (LEP). The proposals received seek various changes to the LEP including rezoning of land for residential purposes at Lloyd, Turvey Park, Brunslea Park and Rowan, reducing the minimum lot size at Currawarna and adding an additional permitted use to a site in Central Wagga.
- Council finalised six planning proposals for various sites across the Wagga Wagga LGA to amend the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010.

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## Developer Infrastructure Agreements

The Developer Infrastructure Agreements Policy was adopted by Council May 2022 to guide the management of planning agreements and works in kind agreements.

## NSW Planning Portal

Under mandatory changes which came into effect on 1 July 2022, Council and applicants are required to use the NSW Planning Portal, in line with State Government legislation. Council staff continue to provide assistance to applicants in lodging a development application through the NSW Planning Portal.

## Environmental Impact Assessment staff training

Council have a statutory responsibility under state and federal legislation to consider the environmental impacts of Council's projects and activities, including road construction and maintenance works. To address this requirement Council has developed Environmental Impact Assessment training for staff and templates for works within the road reserve.

## Asset Management

Council's Asset Management Strategy 2022 and Asset Management Plans 2022-2026 were adopted by Council in June 2022. The Asset Management Strategy outlines how Council manages infrastructure networks on behalf of the community. The Asset Management Plans for buildings, recreational assets sewer, stormwater and transport assets, underpin the Asset Management Strategy and form part of Council's Resourcing strategies.

The Asset Management Strategy acknowledges that Council has limited resources, and not all infrastructure assets managed by Council can be maintained at a level which meets community expectations at all times. Through good asset management practices Council will continuously improve its asset management practices and prioritise resources to obtain the best value for money within the limited identified budgets for our community.



**19%**

**of domestic waste**  
diverted from landfill



**4.64%**

**decreased in kerbside**  
recycling in 2021/22



**2.73%**

**increase in FOGO**  
from 2020/21 - 2021/22  
which shows us that  
even after everyone has  
returned to work after  
the COVID-19 pandemic  
(which saw a jump of  
21.64% increase),  
they have continued,  
and improved,  
their FOGO habits

## Waste management

Council provides waste management and recycling facilities and services to meet the needs of the Wagga Wagga LGA community. Council's waste management facilities include the operation of the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre (GWMC) as well as seven rural transfer stations. Council's waste management services also include the provision of kerbside waste services, commercial waste services and management of the recycling shop. Council's Waste Management team are also responsible for implementing proactive waste management initiatives and campaigns.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Council's 'Going Green' workshops were successfully delivered during this period offering reusable nappy and menstrual products rebates.
- Participation in "Lets Scrap Together" project funded through NSW Environment Protection Authority, media campaign highlighting Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) with information about what materials can be placed in the green waste bins and what the benefits for the community are.
- GWMC staff have saved 418.94 Tonnes in 2021/22 from landfill by reselling waste items through our reduce, reuse and recycle shop.

## Improvements at GWMC

Council continues to make major improvements at GWMC including new weighbridges and associated approach roads, control building and carpark.

The new weighbridge is located toward the entrance of the Centre to facilitate weighing and improve management of waste and recycling activities.

The planned new domestic precinct centre will see small vehicles and the general public separated from the large vehicles and waste contractors with emphasis on waste separation.

Business operators with smaller loads of recyclable materials only will not have to enter the tip proper to return to their business activities.

Waste truck operators will be directed and controlled at the tipping face.

Lease holders on the site will have access to weighing services without diverting to a remote facility.

Weighing B-Doubles in a single weigh is more efficient and accurate.

When complete the project will offer best practice facilities to improve efficiency and ensure customers are processed with minimal delay.





## Objective: Our natural areas are protected and enhanced

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*Cultural Awareness training facilitated by Local Wiradjuri Elder Uncle James Ingram and Mark Saddler was provided to Council staff on the history of Wiradjuri culture*

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### Biodiversity Strategy

The Biodiversity Strategy: Maldhangilanha 2020–2030 is a keystone document that aims to increase awareness and address a wide range of key threatening processes impacting our local biodiversity.

The benefits gained from biodiversity are shared by everyone and so is the responsibility to address its serious decline. It is recognised that protecting biodiversity is the responsibility of all levels of government and the community. With this in mind, the Wiradjuri word Maldhangilanha meaning ‘working together’ best describes the strategy.

#### Key activities in 2021/22

- Biodiversity studies at Wilks Park including habitat assessment, flora surveys, mapping of hollow bearing trees, fauna surveys including bird, reptile, and mammal as well as nocturnal surveys
- 103 shade trees were planted along active travel paths and recreational areas including Kokoda Park, Mima Park, Kumming Grove and Barton Lloyd West Park to provide shade, increasing the cooling effect of urban heat islands and provide habitat for local fauna
- Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare established native grasses and ground covers along the levee bank near Mason Street to mitigate erosion and enhance habitat for ground dwelling fauna
- Cultural Awareness training facilitated by Local Wiradjuri Elder Uncle James Ingram and Mark Saddler was provided to Council staff on the history of Wiradjuri culture
- The Wagga Wagga community in partnership with Council has planted 10,500 seedlings as part of the One Tree for Me (OT4M) campaign
- Council is currently updating the Plan of Management for Pomingalarna which will include provisions for how culture and habitat will be maintained and enhanced
- Installation of nest boxes and augmented hollows throughout Wilks Park, Marrambidya Wetland and Munday Reserve
- Planting trees, shrubs and grasses through the community National Tree Day initiative and supporting schools to participate in Schools National Tree Day by providing free native seedlings
- Spraying priority weeds on roadsides and reserves throughout the Wagga Wagga LGA
- Partnering with Girl Guides to install floating reed beds to provide habitat for waterbirds and fish
- Partnering with NSW Rural Fire Service to conduct a cool burn of Rocky Hill to reduce weeds and reduce the fire fuel load
- Partnering with Spark Infrastructure and Westpac to implement the Bomen Revegetation Project by planting 15,000 native species within the Bomen Precinct to address the impacts of climate change and promote biodiversity by supporting the protection and enhancement of local endangered vegetation communities and threatened species
- Partnering with Spark Infrastructure and Westpac to coordinate the Eunony Valley grants program.

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## Bomen revegetation project

Council entered into a five-year agreement (2021-2025) with Spark Infrastructure and Westpac to revegetate 58 hectares of land at Bomen with 50,000 native plants.

The Grassy Box woodland that was prominent before vegetation clearing for agricultural and industrial activities is highly fragmented and is now reduced to small isolated patches of vegetation and paddock trees. The cleared vegetation is known to be important habitat for a number of threatened native birds, reptiles and mammals.

Also dependent on the Grassy Box Woodland habitat are the Regent Honey Eaters and Swift Parrot which listed as critically endangered under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The revegetated areas will help to provide habitat and forage areas for these iconic species that were once common to the area.

More than 15,000 native seedlings were planted as part of this project in 2021/22.

## Targeting weeds of concern

Council received \$35,0000 of funding from Riverina Local Land Services to spray Galtrop, Khaki weed and other weeds of concern on areas of land controlled by local special interest community groups. By reducing the weeds at the targeted locations weeds spread onto other properties will also be reduced, therefore providing weed reduction far beyond the treated sites.

Council officers have also inspected and sprayed priority weeds on 2,500km of rural roads reducing the spread of weeds and the environmental degradation caused by these plants.

## Council's Biodiversity Strategy: Maldhangilanha 2020-2030

Council's Biodiversity Strategy: Maldhangilanha 2020-2030 won Division B within the innovation in planning, policies and decision-making category at the NSW Local Government Excellence in the Environment Awards in 2021.

*Environmental Officer Samantha Pascall with the award recognising Council's effort in developing its first biodiversity strategy.*



## Wetland Master Plan

The Marrambidya Wetland has become a popular destination for residents and visitors to the city interested in learning about the environment and cultural practices of the Wiradjuri People, who are the traditional custodians of the land the Wetland was created on.

To ensure the wetland continues to meet the expectations of the community, an extensive consultation process has been undertaken to identify the needs of stakeholder users groups and any future improvements that may enhance the visitors experience at the wetland. The information gathered via this process will inform the development of a 10-year Marrambidya Wetland masterplan, which will provide direction for future management actions and the protection of the wetland.

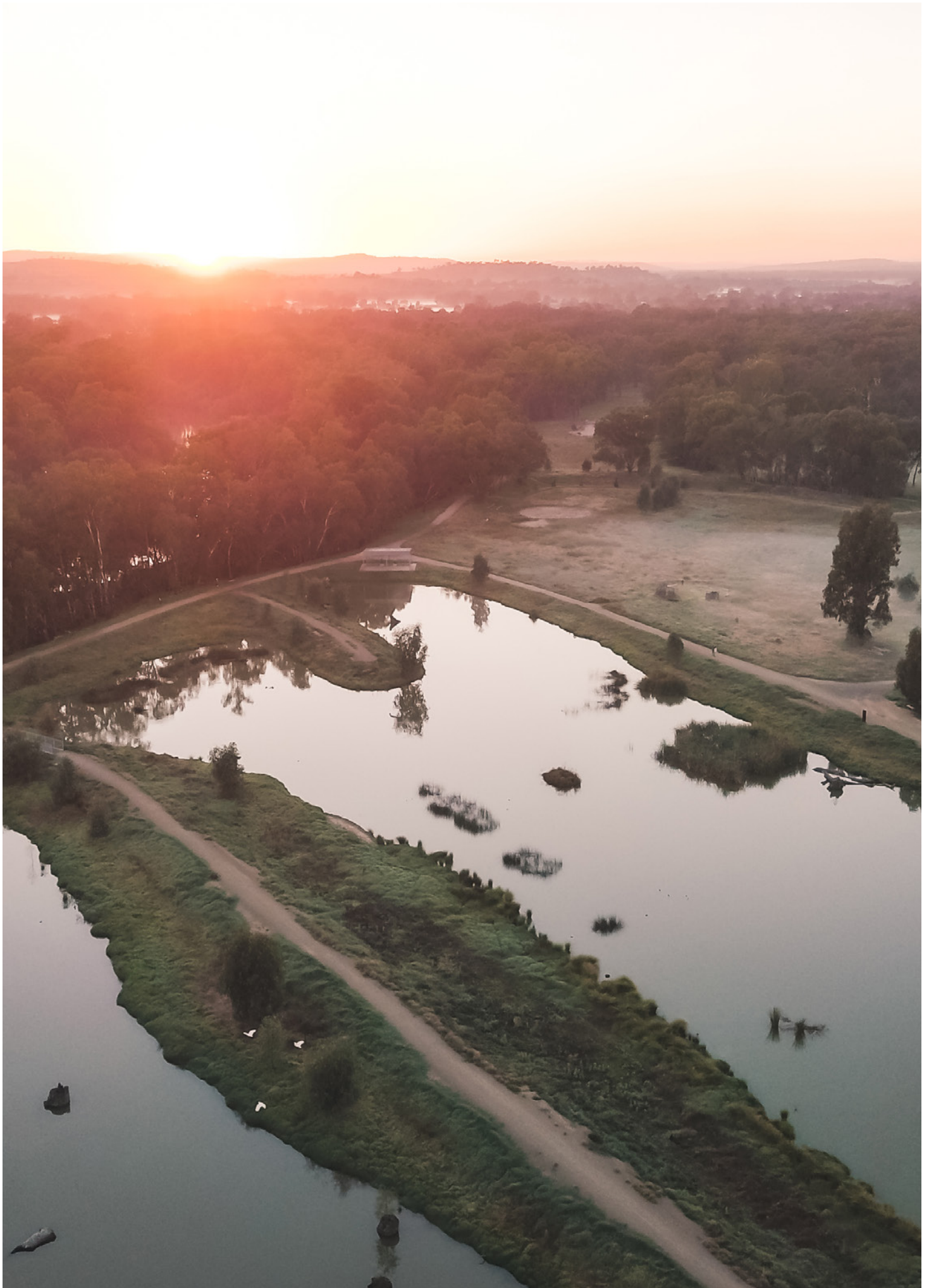
## Wiradjuri Trail Master Plan

Council launched the Wiradjuri Trail Master Plan in August 2021. The master plan will be a guide for Council, its partners, trail stakeholders and the community to manage the development and maintenance of the Wiradjuri Trail over the next ten years.

The Wiradjuri Trail is currently a 42-kilometre circuit trail of mixed grading used by walkers, runners, mountain bikers, road cyclists, horse riders and nature enthusiasts. The trail loops around the city of Wagga Wagga, connecting users to some of the city's highlight landscapes including the Murrumbidgee River and environs, wetland, hilltops, parks and reserves.

Importantly, it also encompasses and showcases places of cultural significance important to the traditional custodians of the land, the Wiradjuri people. In addition to facilitating an active and healthy local community, the Wiradjuri Trail serves as a highlight tourist attraction enabling visitors to explore Wagga Wagga and its unique and diverse natural environments. As outdoor recreation continues to grow in popularity and participation, the master plan will serve to cater for a wide range of needs expressed by a variety of trail users today and into the future.





Objective: Our built environment is functional, attractive and health promoting

## Community places and spaces

Council delivers public amenity services to ensure community facilities and spaces are safe, clean and accessible to meet the needs the community.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Providing and servicing street bins for residents and visitors to dispose of their waste responsibly
- Providing the Community Cash 4 Cans trailer for free hire at local events to collect drink cans and bottles
- Delivering community projects that tackle littering
- Providing the Hard Waste collection service to assist residents in the disposal of larger household items
- Accepting many items for free at Gregadoo Waste Management Centre
- Coordinating annual Clean Up Australia Day activities locally
- Delivering projects to educate residents on illegal dumping
- Graffiti management

## Urban Canopy & Heat Mapping

As our climate heats up, urban areas become significantly warmer due to hard surfaces and their ability to absorb, store and radiate heat – otherwise known as the urban heat island effect.

In 2021/22, high resolution aerial photography captured vegetation and land surface temperature imagery (LST) over a study area of 318 sqkm within the Wagga Wagga LGA.

Vegetation cover across 27 suburbs revealed canopy cover (vegetation above 3m in height) proportion of total suburb area of between 16% (at Turvey Park) and 2% (at Bomen). LST mapping revealed the coolest median suburb temperature of 27.3°C at Kapooka and hottest median suburb temperature was of 31.0°C at Forest Hill.

Council conducted an Urban Tree Cover Survey in January 2022, asking residents to share their thoughts on trees in gardens, public spaces and roadsides, and nominate locations for additional plantings. Information from the urban canopy and heat mapping and the Urban Tree Cover Survey is being used to produce the Urban Cooling Strategy 2022/23.

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## Groundwater monitoring

A total of 194 groundwater monitoring piezometers were measured in 2021/22 with 50% (97) showing increases in groundwater levels compared to the previous year. This continues a recent trend of rising groundwater levels mainly due to higher than average rainfall.

## Wastewater treatment

In 2021/22, 91.3% (5,466 ML) of treated effluent was discharged into the Murrumbidgee River from the Narrung Street and Koorinal Sewage Treatment Plants. The remaining treated effluent is used for irrigation purposes on several sites around Wagga Wagga, including Bolton Park, Wagga Wagga Cricket Ground, Robertson Oval, Lawn Cemetery and Rawlings Park.

The Marrambidya Wetland received 166 ML of treated effluent from the Narrung Sewage Treatment Plant.

## Lake Albert

As a public safety measure, the water quality of Lake Albert is regularly monitored for blue green algae and bacterial content. Council sampled Lake Albert 21 times in 2021/22 for blue green algae and bacteria, resulting in 1 red alert for BGA, closing Lake Albert for 18 days in March 2022.

In 2021/22 Council and the NSW Government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding which identified a pipeline solution to maintain permanent water levels in Lake Albert and how it is going to be delivered. Council has subsequently commenced the investigations and planning required to Implement this project.



Objective: Wagga Wagga is sustainable, liveable, and resilient to the impacts of climate change

## Net Zero Emissions Strategy

Council developed and adopted Corporate Net Zero Emissions 2040 Strategy 2021/22. This Strategy presents recommended actions to avoid, minimise and offset emissions from activities or facilities where Council has operational or financial control over, and a potential emissions reduction pathway that Council could implement to reduce its carbon footprint to meet the 2040 net zero target.

**This includes corporate emissions from:**

- Electricity
- Gas
- Fuel
- Landfill operation
- Wastewater treatment
- Electricity for streetlighting

Council has developed a number of projects that contribute to lowering Council's emissions and energy usage, enhancing biodiversity through planting native vegetation and managing weed and pest species, and sustainable alternatives to Council operations, like installing solar panels on Council facilities.

As part of Council adopting the Corporate Net Zero Emissions 2040 Strategy, Council also resolved to prepare a Net Zero Community Roadmap to be completed in 2023.

## Energy saving projects

A new 50kW solar photovoltaic system was installed on the rooftop at the Alan Turner Depot, and a 40kW system is in the process of being installed at the Museum of the Riverina Willans Hill site as part of the redevelopment.

## Landfill gas flare

Gregadoo Waste Management Centre's gas flare facility creates Australian carbon credits through the flaring of methane emitted from landfill. During the 2021/22 reporting period the flare captured 7,240 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e of methane, which is the approximate equivalent to removing 3,268 cars from the road for 12 months.



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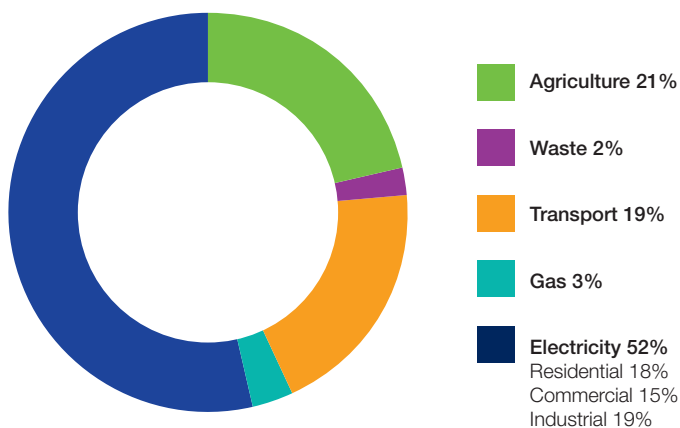
## Resilience Blueprint

In partnership with the Canberra Region Joint Organisation's member Councils, Wagga Wagga is part of the project to develop a Blueprint for a Resilient SE NSW. The Blueprint project facilitates communities and agencies across the region to better prevent, prepare, respond and recover from future disasters and challenges. The Blueprint builds on sharing and learning from past experiences, assessing past and future risks to key values using hazard and impact data, and prioritising actions. It will provide tools and resources to integrate resilience thinking into day-to-day decisions, build skills through training and deliver high value regionally significant resilience projects.

## Community emissions snapshot

Community Climate Tool Wagga Wagga 2020/21 municipal emissions snapshot: Wagga Wagga is a city that is moderate in size relative to the state average and has a moderate urban density. Its major emissions source is electricity consumption, due to the community's scale of population and commercial activity. The second largest source of emissions is agriculture.

### Wagga Wagga 2020/21 municipal emissions snapshot



## Community engagement and education programs

Council encourages the community to contribute towards sustainability by developing tours, workshops, promotion of sustainable practices through communication and media platforms and incentive programs to educate on the importance of a sustainable environment.

### Key activities in 2021/22

- Supporting a number of community environmental initiatives through the Council Annual Grants Program.
- Clean Up Australia Day
- National Tree Day
- Schools National Tree Day
- One Tree For Me giveaways
- Garage Sail Trail
- Plastic Free July
- Marrambidya Wetland tours
- School and early childhood sustainability sessions
- North Wagga Flats Glider night tours
- On-line Sustainability Wagga Wagga education bites.

*EASY TO GROW: Environmental Education Officer Christina Reid has selected seedlings that are endemic to our local area and will attract birds and insects to your garden.*





# Financial summary

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This report provides analysis on Wagga Wagga City Council's 2021/22 Financial Statements. It compares the actual reported financial results against Council's own financial objectives.

Council's Financial Statements are produced in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and the NSW Local Government Code of Accounting Practice. These statements are independently audited, reported to Council, placed on public exhibition and lodged with the Office of Local Government (OLG) by the end of October each year.

**Under the NSW Local Government Act 1993, Council is required to produce an audited set of Financial Statements. Key reports produced and included in the statements are:**

- Income Statement
- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Balance Sheet
- Cash Flow Statement
- Notes to the Financial Statements.

## Summary of 2021/22 Key Results

- Operating result from continuing operations of \$57.7M
- Net operating deficit before capital grants and contributions of (\$12.7M)
- New Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment of \$86.9M (\$32.5M renewal assets; \$54.4M new assets).

## Financial Overview

Wagga Wagga City Council's operating result from continuing operations was a surplus of \$57.7M, which was \$16.2M higher than the 2020/21 result. This was mainly due to the increase in grants and contributions provided for capital purposes (\$16.7M).

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions was a deficit of \$12.7M, which is \$0.5M higher compared to the 2020/21 result. This is mainly due to increases in materials and services expense (\$2.5M) and depreciation and amortisation expense (\$2.9M) which were offset by increases in Grants and Contribution for operating purposes (\$4.7M).

Rates and annual charges revenue increased by \$0.7M (1.0%) mainly due to increase in rateable properties from 29,277 to 29,518.

Grants and contributions revenue increased by \$21.4M (31.8%), mainly due to the increase in capital grants for the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics Stage 2A (\$10.0M), Riverside Wagga Beach Landscape Upgrade (\$6.0M) and Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics Stage 3D (\$4.6M).

Council's current position is determined by the unrestricted current ratio of 2.12:1 and shows a relatively stable position for 2021/22 and represents adequate levels of liquidity.

As of 30 June 2022, Council held \$54.1M in internal reserves, an increase of \$6.4M on the previous year. This increase is primarily due to the increase in Financial Assistance Grants in advance (\$3.2M), Livestock Marketing Centre Reserve (\$1.6M) and unexpended external loans (\$1.1M).

A final review of the 2021/22 budget is performed in conjunction with the completion of the financial statements, and major material variations to original budgets are outlined in Note B5-1 of Council's 2021/22 Financial Statements. Council's result for the year was a balanced revised budget.

## Local Government industry indicators

Council, as part of its Annual Financial Statements, reports on a number of Local Government industry indicators as prescribed by the Office of Local Government (OLG).

Table 4 summarises Council's results of these performance measures for the 2021/22 financial year.

Ratio	Purpose	WWCC Ratio	OLG benchmark	Meet benchmark
Operating Performance Ratio	Measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.	-4.67%	Minimum 0.00%	✘
Own Source Operating Revenue	Measures fiscal flexibility. Degree of reliance on external funding such as operating grants and contributions.	54.69%	Minimum 60.00%	✘
Unrestricted Current Ratio	Assesses adequacy of unrestricted working capital and Council's ability to meet short term obligations as they fall due.	2.12 times	Minimum 1.50 times	✓
Debt Service Cover Ratio	Measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments.	3.51 times	Minimum 2.00 times	✓
Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Ratio	Assess the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts.	6.01%	Rural and Regional - < 10% Metro - < 5%	✓
Cash Expense Cover Ratio	Liquidity Ratio that indicates the number of months that Council can continue paying its immediate expenses without additional cash flow.	12.84 months	Minimum 3.00 months	✓

Table 4: Industry performance indicators

## Income

### Total income ▲ 13.38% to \$196.251M

Overall income for 2021/22 increased by \$23.15M, up from \$173.099M to \$196.251M. This is mainly attributable to an increase in capital grants and contributions received during the 2021/22 financial year. Further details on each category of income is provided below.

#### Rates and annual charges ▲ 1.04% to \$72.542M

An increase in property numbers from 29,277 in 2020/21 to 29,518 in 2021/22 together with the rate peg increase of 2.0% added \$1.22M to operating revenue for 2021/22.

#### User charges and fees ▲ 7.55% to \$27.410M

Revenue from user charges and fees increased by 7.55% or \$1.924M for the 2021/22 financial year. The main contributing factors to the increased income relate to specific user charges for domestic and commercial waste services, as well as sewerage usage services. Council did also see an increase in income for its Airport, when compared to the previous year, as COVID-19 restrictions started to ease.

#### Other revenues ▼ 12.78% to \$3.460M

Other revenues decreased by 12.78% or \$0.507M in 2021/22. This decrease is mainly attributable to Council receiving reduced income in 2021/22 for Energy Savings certificates, down from \$478K in 2020/21 to \$51K in 2021/22.

#### Grants and contributions ▲ 31.71% to \$88.701M

The total income Council received in 2021/22 for both operating and capita grants was \$88.701M. This is an increase of \$21.355M, when compared to the 2020/21 financial year. This is mainly attributable to an increase in capital grants for a number of major projects completed or currently underway including the Riverside Stage 2 upgrade, Dobney Ave/Pearson St upgrade and the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics Hub development. Council also received an additional \$3.515M in developer contributions in 2021/22, when compared to 2020/21.

During 2021/22, Council also received a 75% prepayment of its Financial Assistance Grants for 2022/23. This is an increase from the 50% prepayment received in previous years for this grant funding.

#### Interest and investment revenues ▲ 0.79% to \$2.300M

Council's interest and investment revenue increased by 0.79% or \$18K compared to the 2020/21 financial year. This is mainly attributable to Council receiving additional income from overdue rates and annual charges in 2021/22.

#### Other income ▼ 17.28% to \$1.838M

Other income decreased by 17.28% or \$0.384M in 2021/22. This is mainly attributable to Council's experiencing a decrease in the overall principal value of its floating rate note investments as at 30 June 2022. This was partially offset by Council recognising an increase in the fair value of its investment properties held at 30 June 2022.

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## Expenses

### Total expenses ▲ 5.30% to \$138.601M

Overall expenditure for 2021/22 increased by \$6.981M, which is mainly attributed to a \$2.453M increase in materials and services, a \$2.945M increase in depreciation and amortisation expense and an increase in net losses on disposal of assets of \$1.887M. Further details are provided below.

#### Employee benefits and on-costs ▼ 0.69% to \$42.630M

Total employee costs decreased by 0.69% or \$1.308M for 2021/22 at \$42.630M. This decrease in expenditure for 2021/22 is mainly attributable to Council having a significant number of vacant positions through the financial year.

#### Materials and Services ▲ 6.46% to \$40.399M

The total cost to Council for materials and services increased to \$40.399M for 2021/22, a \$2.453M increase when compared to 2020/21. This reduction can be attributed to an increase in the cost of raw materials and consumables utilised by Council during the financial year.

#### Borrowing costs ▼ 2.88% to \$3.055M

Council saw a decrease in borrowing costs for 2021/22 of 2.88% or \$88K, when compared to 2020/21. This can mainly be attributed to a decrease in other borrowing costs required to be recognised for employee leave liabilities.

#### Depreciation, amortisation and impairment ▲ 7.49% to \$42.282M

Depreciation is a non-cash expense that reduces the value of an asset over time due to wear and tear, ageing of an asset or obsolescence. The Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) requires that a revaluation of each asset class is undertaken at least every 5 years. As a result of recently completed capital works and asset revaluations, Council's depreciation expense increased for 2021/22 by \$2.945M when compared to the 2020/21 financial year.

#### Other expenses ▲ 37.88% to \$3.975M

Other expenses increased by 37.88% or \$1.092M in 2021/22 when compared to 2020/21. This is mainly attributable to Council experiencing a decrease in the overall principal value of its floating rate note investments as at 30 June 2022, down \$992K against the value held at 30 June 2021.

## Assets

Total Assets ▲ 16.78% to \$1.985B  
Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment ▲ 18.02% to \$1.773B  
Net Assets ▲ 18.38% to \$1.874B

### Cash position

An analysis of Council's cash holdings at 30 June 2022 highlights that cash and investments increased by \$14.461M for the year.

Council's total portfolio returned 1.25% for the 2021/22 year, outperforming the AusBond Bank Bill Index by 1.15% for the year.

Council, as at 30 June 2022, held 13.03% of its entire investment portfolio in cash and cash equivalents to ensure funds are immediately available for working capital and cash flow purposes. This is a decrease from the 30 June 2021 position of 17.6%.

Council engages the services of an independent investment advisor for advice in relation to its investment portfolio.

### Reserves

Council operates a number of internally and externally restricted reserves. External restrictions relate to those funds held for a specific purpose and include developer contributions, specific purpose unexpended grants, sewer services, stormwater management, domestic waste services and the levee upgrade special rate variation. External restrictions increased by \$6.41M for 2021/22.

Council continues to maintain a wide variety of internal reserves as detailed in Note C1-3 of the Annual Financial Statements. These reserves have been established by Council resolution and include provisions for future major projects and operations. Internal restrictions increased by \$6.379M for 2021/22.

### Unrestricted current ratio

The unrestricted current ratio for 2021/22 is 2.12 times. This ratio has decreased marginally from the 2020/21 ratio of 2.54 times. Council's unrestricted current ratio for 2021/22 reflects Council's strong level of liquidity.

### Receivables

Receivables for 2021/22 totalled \$15.772M, a decrease of 14.01% on the previous year. This is mainly due to a decrease in outstanding accounts due to Council for Government grants, in comparison to the previous year.

Rates and annual charges outstanding were 6.01% at 30 June 2022, an increase of 0.89% on the previous year. This outstanding percentage is significantly lower than the benchmark for regional and rural councils of 10%.

Whilst an increase from the previous year, the 6.01% outstanding percentage reflects the continued effectiveness of the debt recovery team within Council and the strategies implemented to ensure successful debt recovery for Council. At the start of the 2018/19 financial year, Council set an internal target of less than 5% outstanding and will endeavour to work with property holders to reduce the outstanding percentage to back under the 5% target.



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## Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPP&E) increased for the year by 18.02% to \$1.773B. Note C1-8 of the 2021/22 Financial Statements shows the detail of the asset classes that contribute to the total amount of IPP&E. During the 2021/22 financial year, Council recognised total asset additions of \$86.988M, including new assets of \$54.439M and renewals of \$32.549M.

## Liabilities

Total liabilities ▼ 4.92% to \$110.794M

- Payables ▼ 4.73% to \$19.619M
- Contract liabilities ▼ 34.79% to \$6.789M
- Lease liabilities ▼ 14.02% to \$2.055M
- Borrowings ▲ 0.81% to \$66.974M
- Employee leave provisions ▼ 9.23% to \$12.389M
- Provisions ▼ 2.88% to \$2.968M

### Payables

Council's payables at 30 June 2022 totalled \$19.619M, a decrease of \$973K on the previous year. This is mainly due to Council having less outstanding invoices to be paid at 30 June 2022.

### Contract and Lease Liabilities

At 30 June 2022, Council's Contract liabilities totalled \$6.789M and its Lease liabilities totalled \$2.055M. This is a decrease of 34.79% for Contract liabilities and a decrease of 14.02% for lease liabilities, when compared to the 30 June 2021. The significant decrease in Contract liabilities held at 30 June 2022 is due to Council utilising previous years advanced payments received for a number of capital grants. The decrease in Lease liabilities at 30 June 2022 is a result of Council making its lease liability payments in 2021/22 as they came due.

### Borrowings

Total borrowings for Council now stand at \$66.974M at 30 June 2022, an increase of \$539K from the previous year. Council has a significant borrowing program projected for future years, which aims to address required upgrades to infrastructure and provide additional community facilities to be used by current and future generations.

### Provisions

Council's total provisions at 30 June 2022 total \$15.357M. Council's provision for employee leave entitlements (i.e. annual leave and long service leave) decreased by \$1.260M for 2021/22, whilst Council's provision for asset remediation decreased by \$88K due to a review of future remediation requirements for these assets.

## Business activity reports

Business activity reporting illustrates the results for Council's various business activities in accordance with the National Competition Policy for Local Government.

It is designed to reflect the full cost to Council of running these activities, as if Council were competing in a normal commercial environment, where the applicable taxes and competitive pricing principles come into effect.

Council operates three distinct business activities being the sewerage network, the Livestock Marketing Centre and the Wagga Wagga Airport.

### Sewerage network

Council's sewerage network serviced a permanent population of 67,609 people. The network consists of in excess of 719 kilometres of gravity and pressure mains and 46 permanent pump stations. Last year 5,719ML of sewerage was transported through the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area sewerage network.

#### Income ▲ 1.94% to \$20.8M

Income for sewer for 2021/22 has increased on the 2020/21 financial year by 1.94%, or \$396K. This is due to an increase in income from Sewer Rates and Annual charges for 2021/22.

#### Expenses ▲ 8.57% to \$21.216M

Sewer expenditure for 2021/22 increased \$1.674M from the 2020/21 financial year. This increase in expenditure is mainly attributable to increased expense for materials and services.

#### Surplus (deficit) after tax ▼ 39.0% to \$3.022M surplus

The sewer business achieved a \$3.022M surplus result for the 2021/22 financial year, a 39% decrease from the 2020/21 result of \$4.954M surplus result. This is mainly due to an increase in materials and services expenses and a decrease in capital grants and contributions received for the financial year.

#### Assets ▲ 16.45% to \$380.779M

Total assets for the year increased by \$53.795M or 16.45%, up to \$380.779M. This increase is a result of Council's sewerage network assets being revalued during the 2021/22 financial year, with Council recognising an increase in the fair value of these assets held.

#### Liabilities ▼ 3.62% to \$31.695M

Liabilities for the sewer business primarily relate to the principle outstanding for loans for the sewer 2010 project. This decrease in liabilities is a result of principle loan repayments being made throughout the financial year.

#### Reserve balance ▲ 8.72% to \$32.121M

The increase in the Sewer reserve balance for 2021/22 is reflective of the surplus after tax from the operation of this activity for the financial year. A surplus reserve balance is required to ensure sufficient funds are available in the future for renewal of the sewer network assets.

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## Airport

The Riverina continues to be serviced by the Wagga Wagga Regional Airport (Airport) QantasLink providing return services to Sydney and Brisbane, and Regional Express (Rex) providing return flights to Sydney and Melbourne.

Security screening operations at the airport are contracted to an external provider and have continued to be compliant and meet or exceed the expectations of the Department of Home Affairs, Aviation and Maritime Security (AMS) Division. Council's significant investment in the future of regional aviation, through the development of the Commercial Aviation Precinct and Light Aircraft Precinct will continue to grow business, economic development, jobs and flying activity in the region.

The Airport continues to be a leader in regional aviation, contributing significantly to the Gross Regional Product (GRP) and employment as well as achieving its vision of being a centre of national aviation significance).

### **Income ▲ 2.61% to \$2.986M**

Income for the Airport increased for the 2021/22 financial year, up by 2.61% (or \$71K). This increase in income is mainly attributable to an increase in passenger service charges and security screening charges as COVID-19 restrictions started to ease later in the financial year.

### **Expenses ▲ 6.32% to \$9.604M**

The increase in operating expenses for the 2021/22 year is mainly due to an increase in depreciation expense for the Airport Infrastructure assets.

### **Surplus (deficit) after tax ▲ 300.12% to \$6.462M deficit**

The net operating result for the Airport including depreciation for 2021/22 was a deficit of \$6.462M. The increase in this deficit for 2021/22, when compared to 2020/21, is due to Council recognising significant capital grants and contributions income in 2020/21 for its Airport Taxiway upgrade project.

### **Assets ▼ 35.86% to \$13.587M**

Airport assets have decreased for 2021/22 by 35.86%, which is mainly attributable to a decrease in the carrying value of Airport infrastructure assets at 30 June 2022 due to depreciation expense.

### **Liabilities ▼ 8.85% to \$12.954M**

Airport liabilities have decreased by \$1.257M (or 8.85%) for the year. This is mainly attributable to a decrease in the value of external loan borrowings and bank overdraft.

### **Reserve balance ▼ 100.00% to \$0K**

At 30 June 2022, there was no reserve available for the Airport operations due to the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the operations of this facility. The deficit result for the Airport in 2021/22 was funded from General Purpose Revenue and will be paid back from the Airport and the Reserve in future financial years. The current balance owing from the Airport to General Purpose Revenue is \$1.6M

## Livestock Marketing Centre

The Wagga Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre (LMC) continues to lead the way and is considered by industry as the premier livestock selling centre in Australia for the marketing of cattle, sheep and lambs. The LMC was established in 1979. The facility is located approximately 10km North of the City in Bomen, a key business and industrial growth location including the Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics Hub and the New South Wales Governments strategically positioned Special Activation Precinct. The LMC continues to grow its position as a major driver of agribusiness, employment and economic growth in the Wagga Wagga regional economy and community.

The LMC is wholly owned by Council and operates on a completely self-funded financial model that delivers a significant dividend to Council annually and is distributed to a number of rural and regional projects.

### **Income ▲ 6.44% to \$6.694M**

Income for the LMC has increased by 6.44% when compared to 2020/21, which is mainly attributable to an increase in the volume and value of sheep, lamb and cattle being sold through the facility.

### **Expenses ▲ 3.26% to \$4.372M**

Expenses for the LMC increased by 3.26% in 2021/22. This can be attributed to an increase in materials and services costs.

### **Surplus (deficit) after tax ▲ 14.46% to \$1.741M surplus**

The Livestock Marketing Centre achieved a \$1.741M surplus for the 2021/22 financial year. This is an increase of 14.46%, when compared to the \$1.521M surplus generated for 2020/21 and is mainly attributable to an increase in the volume and value of livestock being sold through the facility.

### **Assets ▲ 15.34% to \$48.658M**

LMC total assets have increased this year due to an increase in the value of its Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment following significant capital works projects being completed at the facility.

### **Liabilities ▼ 14.65% to \$530K**

Liabilities for the LMC have reduced by 14.65% (or \$91K) for 2021/22 mainly due to an decrease in the value of outstanding invoices at 30 June 2022.

### **Reserve balance ▲ 35.64% to \$6.032M**

The increased closing reserve balance of \$6.032M for 2021/22 is reflective of the surplus after tax from the operation of this activity for the financial year.

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## Stormwater management

Stormwater charges during 2021/22 applied to all properties, with the following exemptions as specified under the Local Government Act:

- Crown land
- Council owned land
- Land held under lease for private purposes granted under the Housing Act 2001 or the Aboriginal Housing Act 1998
- Vacant land
- Rural residential land or rural business land, not located in a village, town or city, and
- Land belonging to a charity or public benevolent institution.

### Residential standard stormwater

A charge of \$25 was applied to all residential properties (including rural residential lands) that are not exempt from the charge.

### Residential medium / high density stormwater

A charge of \$12.50 per occupancy was applied to all residential strata, community title, multiple occupancy properties (flats and units), and retirement village style developments that are not exempt from the charge. Subject to a maximum charge of \$250.

### Business stormwater

A charge of \$25 was applied to all business properties (including rural business lands) that are not exempt from the charge.

Properties are charged on a basis of \$25 per 350sqm of land. Subject to a maximum charge of \$250.

### Business strata stormwater

A charge of \$5 was applied to all business strata title properties that are not exempt from the charge. Subject to a maximum charge of \$250.

## Stormwater management

Council's Stormwater Management Plan 2013/2017 outlined Council's plans to improve the management of stormwater within the Local Government Area.

## Rates and charges written off

During the 2021/22 financial year Council wrote-off \$19,979.93 in rates and charges. This amount has been broken down by debtor type in Table 5.

Debtor type	Amount (\$)
Rates and Annual Charges	9,776.01
Environmental & Regulatory Fees and Charges	9,788.38
Council Facilities Fees and Charges	392.34
Other Fees & Charges	23.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,979.93</b>

Table 5: Rates and charges (written off)

## Legal proceedings

### Public liability matters

Proceeding No.	Matter	Status	Total costs	Costs recovered
LI0081590	Public Liability – Trip & Fall (Cross Street)	Ongoing Directions	\$14,833.97	Nil

Table 6: Public liability matters

## Financial assistance and contributions

In total, Council provided \$1,966,738 in financial assistance and contributions which has been broken down into the following categories:

Categories	Amount
Community Lease Rental Subsidy	\$1,564,760
Fees and Charges Waivers	\$26,521
Contributions	\$84,501
Annual Grants Program	\$209,670
Road Closures	\$14,400
Major Events Sponsorship	\$66,886
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,966,738</b>

Table 7: Total financial assistance and contributions in 2021/22

## Fees and charges waivers

Beneficiary	Amount
Anglican Opportunity Shop	\$110
Ashmont Public School	\$830
Combined Riders of Wagga Wagga	\$270
Country Hope Committee	\$300
Department of Communities and Justice	\$3,704
Gears & Beers	\$5,000
Henwood Park Soccer & Sporting Club	\$578
Ladysmith Memorial Hall	\$578
Ladysmith Tourist Railway	\$223
Ngurra Hub	\$699
North Wagga Hall	\$578
Parkinson's Support Group	\$89
Regional Heritage Transport Association	\$578
Riding for the Disabled (NSW)	\$45
Riverina Conservatorium of Music	\$755
Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga	\$197
Sisters Housing Enterprises	\$1,053
Soldiers Memorial Hall	\$578
Southern Cross Austereo	\$105
St Pauls Anglican Church	\$89
St Vincent De Paul Society	\$1,568
Task Force 72	\$1,200
Wagga Men's Shed	\$549
Wagga Wagga & District Family History Society	\$1,070
Wagga Wagga Baptist Facilities Inc	\$31
Wagga Wagga Rescue Squad	\$2,043
Wagga Water Polo	\$3,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,521</b>

Table 8: Total fees and charges waivers

## Contributions

Beneficiary	Amount
Booranga Writers Centre	\$3,500
Circus Quirkus	\$2,400
City of Wagga Wagga Eisteddfod Society	\$3,000
Committee 4 Wagga	\$7,500
Eastern Riverina Arts	\$22,669
Riverina Conservatorium of Music	\$8,727
School Photography Program	\$23,890
Southern Sports Academy	\$4,000
The Art Factory	\$6,314
Wagga School of Arts Community Theatre	\$2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$84,501</b>

Table 9: Total contributions

## Road closures

Beneficiary	Amount
Light Horse Parade	\$1,000
Anzac Day	\$11,550
Gold Cup	\$1,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,400</b>

Table 10: Total road closures

## Councillor expenses

Table 11 provides a breakdown of costs associated with Councillors over the 2021/22 financial year.

Expense	Cost (\$)
Councillor Allowance	\$171,546
Mayoral Allowance	\$42,007
Telephone	\$2,263
Conferences	\$21,195
Information Technology Costs	\$2,296
Travelling – Intrastate	\$7,064
Travelling – Interstate	\$0
Travelling – Overseas	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$246,371</b>

Table 11: Councillor expenses



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## Councillors training and attendance

Councils are required to provide mayors and councillors with induction and professional development programs under Clauses 183 and 184 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation). Councils are required to consider the Councillor Induction and Professional Development Guidelines issued under section 23A of the Act when undertaking these activities.

Under Clause 183 of the Regulation, the general manager must ensure that induction training is delivered to each councillor who has been elected to the council for the first time and refresher training to each councillor who is re-elected to the council, within 6 months of their election. The general manager must also ensure that an ongoing professional development program is delivered to the mayor and each other councillor over the course of their terms on council.

Mayors and councillors are ultimately accountable to the community that elects them for the performance of their duties. To facilitate this accountability, councils are required under the Regulation to report each year in their annual reports on the participation of the mayor and each councillor in the induction and professional development program during that year.

Council completed its formal Induction Program sessions for the newly elected Council, in May 2022.

**During the 2021/22 financial year the following Councillor training sessions were held:**

### **Induction Program – attendance by all Councillors**

- 5 January 2022 – Councillor Induction Day 1 (the Role of the Council and Councillors, the Mayor and General Manager, Local Government Overview and Local Government Reform)
- 6 January 2022 – Councillor Induction Day 2 (Probity and Good Governance, Code of Conduct overview, including Conflicts of Interest; Code of Meeting Practice overview, Council Meeting Schedule and first Council meeting)
- 1 February 2022 – Councillor Induction Day 3 (Brief tour of Council Civic Centre facilities, overview of Council's structure, Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, Financial information, budgeting and reporting, committee structure, community engagement and media and councillor training and professional development)
- 15 March 2022 – Code of Conduct and complaints handling procedures; Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Conflicts of Interests and Bias and confidentiality obligations of councillors.
- 22 March 2022 and 3 May 2022 – Code of Meeting Practice
- 4 April 2022 – Cultural Capability Course for Councillors. This session provided an awareness and appreciation of Wiradjuri and First Nations culture.
- 3 May 2022 – Code of Meeting Practice Q&A training
- 10 May 2022 – Code of Conduct Q&A training

To assist councils in the delivery of their councillor induction and refresher training, the Office of Local Government NSW (OLG) also held a series of 1-hour 'Hit the Ground Running' councillor webinar sessions between 5 February 2022 and 30 April 2022, focusing on the key elements of the role and responsibilities of a councillor.

The following professional development activities were undertaken by the mayor and each councillor to address any gaps in the capabilities (ie the knowledge, skills and attributes) needed to effectively fulfil their role. These activities are in addition to learning and developing from experience and through other opportunities, including mentoring, professional memberships and associations and self-directed learning.

**Councillor Jenny McKinnon**

- LGNSW Chairing and Effective Meeting Procedures for Councillors - 10 February 2022 (\$440)
- Cyber Security Awareness Training for Councillors (Cyber Security NSW)  
– 22 February 2022 (no cost)

**Councillor Dallas Tout**

- LGNSW Chairing and Effective Meeting Procedures for Councillors - 20 May 2022 (\$440)

**Councillor Tim Koschel**

- Cyber Security Awareness Training for Councillors (Cyber Security NSW)  
– 15 February 2022 (no cost)
- Appropriate Conduct and ethical decision-making – 12 March 2022
- The Governing Body and Financial Management of Councils – 5 March 2022

In addition to the above professional development and training sessions, Councillors also attended various conferences, as outlined below.

**Councillor Dallas Tout**

- LGNSW Special Conference – 28 February to 3 March 2022  
(\$1,195 plus travel & accommodation)
- National General Assembly – 19 June 2022 to 22 June 2022  
(\$989 plus travel and accommodation)

**Councillor Tim Koschel**

- LGNSW Water Management Conference – 9 to 11 February 2022  
(\$875 plus travel and accommodation)

**Councillor Dan Hayes**

- LGNSW Special Conference – 28 February to 3 March 2022  
(\$1,195 plus travel & accommodation)

**Councillor Richard Foley**

- LGNSW Special Conference – 28 February to 3 March 2022  
(\$1,195 plus travel and accommodation)
- National General Assembly – 19 June 2022 to 22 June 2022  
(\$989 plus travel and accommodation)

**Councillor Rod Kendall**

- National General Assembly of Local Government Annual Conference, 20-23 June 2021  
- no cost to Council, transfer from 2020 postponed conference
- 2022 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference  
– 19 June to 22 June 2022 (\$989 plus travel and accommodation)

**Councillor Amelia Parkins**

- LGNSW Special Conference – 28 February to 3 March 2022  
(\$1,195 plus travel & accommodation).

## Contracts

### Contracts awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000

Table 12 provides a breakdown of contracts awarded in the 2021/22 financial year exceeding \$150,000 in value provides detailed of the contractor, the goods and services received and the value of the contract or the amount paid as per the Schedule of Rates (SoR).

Contract number	Contractor	Contract detail and purpose	Contract value Inc GST	Award date	Contract type Lump Sum (LS) or Schedule of Rates (SOR) SOR contracts are estimated spend for length of contract
2021-24	S & K Kenyon Pty Ltd	Construction of shared path Active Transport- Concrete sections	\$1,893,916.00	22/10/2021	LS
2021-24	SMCC Contracting Pty Ltd	Construction of shared path Active Transport - Concrete sections	\$509,140.00	22/10/2021	LS
2021-552	CRS (NSW) Pty Ltd	Construction of shared path Active Transport- Lake Albert	\$1,770,841.00	26/07/2021	LS
2021-542	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Supply, supply & lay densely graded asphalt	\$1,715,195.00	26/07/2021	SOR
2021-543	Bitupave Limited	Sprayed bituminous surfacing	\$11,925,826.00	13/09/2021	SOR
2022-01	Speedo Australia Pty Ltd & Zoggs Australia Pty Ltd	Supply of swimwear - Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre	\$259,050.00	27/09/2021	SOR
2022-02	BOC Limited	Supply of CO2 to the Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre	\$258,000.00	27/09/2021	SOR
2021-25	Adaptive Trading Pty Ltd	Construct Rural Fire Service sheds Umbango & Gap Roa	\$416,493.00	11/10/2021	LS
2022-04	Smallmon Brothers Pty Ltd	Concrete Crushing Services	\$255,599.00	25/10/2021	SOR
2022-03	Adaptive Trading Pty Ltd	Construct community building Duke of Kent Oval	\$765,292.00	25/10/2021	LS
2022-08	AJ Grant Building Pty Ltd	Upgrade amenities Anderson Oval	\$274,368.00	31/01/2022	LS
2022-13	AJ Grant Building Pty Ltd	Library Upgrade Level 0 & 1	\$219,978.00	14/02/2022	LS
2022-513	Fulton Hogan Pty Ltd	Dobney Avenue & Pearson Street asphalt works	\$4,358,689.00	21/02/2022	SOR
2022-16	CRS (NSW) Pty Ltd	Shared path construction Gardiner Street	\$336,756.00	7/03/2022	LS
2022-05	Smallmon Brothers Pty Ltd	Green waste processing	\$1,290,147.00	7/03/2022	SOR
2022-502	Wes Trac Pty Ltd	Supply motor graders	\$1,394,758.00	21/03/2022	LS
2021-551	Barrier Signs Pty Ltd	Supply of road signs & associated hardware	\$174,900.00	5/08/2021	SOR
2022-504	Iberdrola Pty Ltd	Supply of electricity	\$6,810,747.00	2/11/2021	SOR excluding non-contestable charges
2022-505	Origin Energy Pty Ltd	Supply of electricity	\$795,825.00	2/11/2021	SOR excluding non-contestable charges
2022-508	Fulton Hogan Pty Ltd	Lake Albert Road 3 A & 3 B Asphalt Works	\$2,973,318.00	2/11/2021	SOR
2022-509	S & K Kenyon Pty Ltd	Concrete Parking Bays Constructon Lake Albert Road	\$453,106.00	22/10/2021	LS

## Financial summary

Contract number	Contractor	Contract detail and purpose	Contract value Inc GST	Award date	Contract type Lump Sum (LS) or Schedule of Rates (SOR) SOR contracts are estimated spend for length of contract
2022-520	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty Ltd	Koorinal Road Rehabilitation	\$616,704.00	5/01/2022	SOR
2022-521	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty Ltd	Foamed Bitumen Asphalt Program	\$1,963,170.00	7/04/2022	SOR
2022-529	CADMAC	Supply Telehandler	\$188,735.00	21/04/2022	LS
2022-530	CADMAC	Supply Backhoe	\$246,400.00	2/06/2022	LS
PD45823	Rocla Pipeline Products	Supply culverts	\$223,019.00	15/09/2021	LS
PD46057	Wagga Motors Pty Ltd	Supply vehicles	\$457,887.00	20/10/2021	LS
PD46470	Enviroline Group	Supply Jetter Truck	\$197,206.00	7/12/2021	LS
PD46733	Transport for NSW (TfNSW)	Line marking	\$268,113.00	12/04/2022	SOR
PD47748	The Trustee for Bannantyne Family Trust	Biosolids processing	\$187,000.00	26/05/2022	SOR
PD47780	Ixom Operations Pty Ltd	Chemical supplies	\$195,000.00	26/05/2022	SOR
PD18333	Stars On Ice	Hire ice skating rink	\$183,257.00	20/07/2021	LS
PD18359	Datacom Systems (AU) Pty Ltd	Software	\$257,189.00	2/08/2021	LS
PE19950	SV Joint Venture Pty Limited T/a SUEZ	Removal and treatment of PFAS	\$405,958.00	25/11/2021	SOR
PE20076	Cardno (NSW/ACT) Pty Ltd	Sewer network capacity model	\$176,668.00	1/11/2021	LS
2022-11	Proway Livestock Equipment Pty Ltd	Shade Sails Sheep Yards	\$697,864.20	25/10/2021	LS

Table 12: Contracts awarded

## Local Infrastructure Contributions

Local infrastructure contributions, also known as developer contributions, are charged by councils when development occurs. They help fund infrastructure like parks, community facilities, local roads, footpaths, active travel networks and sewer and stormwater networks. The infrastructure contributions are held by Council in separate reserves and can only be spent on projects identified in contribution plans.

**There are three forms of local infrastructure contributions:**

- Infrastructure (known as Section 7.11 and 7.12, previously Section 94 and 94A):
  - Section 7.11 contributions: Charged where there is a demonstrated link between the development and the infrastructure to be funded when the development results in an increase in population. Detailed in the Wagga Wagga Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2019-2034.
  - Section 7.12 levies: Charged as a percentage of the estimated cost of commercial and industrial development and additions and alterations to some identified residential buildings. The maximum percentage that can be charged is 1%. Detailed in the Wagga Wagga Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2019-2034.
- Sewer (Section 64): Charged on development (residential, commercial and industrial) based on the average daily sewer discharge of the average house. Detailed in the Development Servicing Plan Sewerage Services.
- Stormwater (Section 64): Charged on development (residential, commercial and industrial) based on the average hardstand of the average house. Detailed in the Development Servicing Plan Stormwater.

In 2021/22 some of Council's largest projects such as the Active Travel network, the Riverside Redevelopment-Stage 2 and Pomingalarna Cycling Complex were partly funded by Local Infrastructure Contributions.

The below tables provide a summary of the local infrastructure contributions reserve balances, contributions paid by developers and expenditure on infrastructure in 2021/22.

<b>Section 7.11</b>	
Opening Reserve Balance 1 July 2021	\$27.9M
Infrastructure Contributions from Developers	\$5.5M
Expenditure on Infrastructure Projects for 2021/22	\$2.4M
Closing Reserve Balance 30 June 2022	\$31M
<b>Section 7.11 Expenditure Breakdown</b>	
Traffic and transport infrastructure	\$673K
Planning studies	\$18K
Recreation and open space infrastructure	\$979K
Community buildings	\$490K
Plan administration	\$156K
Borrowing costs	\$61K
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$2,377K</b>

Table 13: Section 7.1

*In 2021/22 some of Council's largest projects such as the Active Travel network, the Riverside Redevelopment-Stage 2 and Pomingalarna Cycling Complex were partly funded by Local Infrastructure Contributions.*

<b>Section 7.12</b>	
Opening Reserve Balance 1 July 2021	(\$465K)
Infrastructure Contributions from Developers	\$1,262K
Expenditure on Infrastructure Projects for 2021/22	\$522K
Closing Reserve Balance 30 June 2022	\$276K

Table 14: Section 7.12

<b>Section 64 Sewer</b>	
Opening Reserve Balance 1 July 2021	\$ -
Infrastructure Contributions from Developers	\$2.2M
Expenditure on Infrastructure Projects for 2021/22	\$2.2M
Closing Reserve Balance 30 June 2022	\$ -

Table 15: Section 64 Sewer

<b>Section 64 Stormwater</b>	
Opening Reserve Balance 1 July 2021	\$5.9M
Infrastructure Contributions from Developers	\$1.2M
Expenditure on Infrastructure Projects for 2021/22	\$38K
Closing Reserve Balance 30 June 2022	\$7.1M

Table 16: Section 64 Stormwater

## Annual Grants Program 2021/22

### Recreational Facilities

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Hopwood Park Tennis Club	Preservation of Hopwood Park Tennis Courts	\$3,573	\$3,573	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Wagga Rugby League Inc	Kitchen equipment which includes four stainless steel benches to enhance food safety per the Australian Food Standards Code.	\$7,000	\$4,013	The application amount included equipment already purchased. The Annual Grants Program does not fund retrospective items therefore the pre-purchased equipment was excluded in the assessment of this application. Recommended to be part funded toward the stainless steel benches which are yet to be purchased.
Wagga Combined Hockey Association	Purchase and installation of two new LED scoreboards for both synthetic hockey fields located at the Jubilee Park Hockey Complex.	\$2,000	\$2,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Wagga Wagga Touch Association	Supply and erection of scoreboard which will allow players and spectators to view the score and also the timing of the game.	\$7,500	\$7,500	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Wagga Bidgee Canoe Club	A 40-foot shipping container, with appropriate securing hardware, to assist with the need for greater storage and to store the club's kayak trailer onsite will be installed at the riverside area. The location and exterior design of the shipping container will be finalised following consultation between Council's Recreation Division staff and the Canoe Club.	\$7,500	\$7,500	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Wagga Wagga School of Arts	Upgrade the Lighting Grid in The Basement Theatre	\$7,500	\$7,500	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$35,073</b>	<b>\$32,086</b>	

Table 17: Annual Grants - Recreational Facilities

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Recreational Facilities	\$37,400	\$32,086	\$5,314

## Financial summary

### Rural Halls

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Uranquinty Progress Association Inc	Prepare and paint the main hall and kitchen ceilings. Replace 10 tables as previous tables are causing safety issues. Undertake maintenance tasks.	\$4,388	\$4,388	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Euberta Public Hall	A concrete paved area from the supper door to the two large entrance doors into the main hall area and widening of the supper room door allowing improved access for people with poor mobility.	\$8,023	\$8,023	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Tarcutta Soldiers Memorial Hall Land Managers	Toilet replumbing to make use of the male and female outside toilet block at the rear of the main Hall building.	\$3,861	\$3,861	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,272</b>	<b>\$16,272</b>	

Table 18: Annual Grants - Rural Halls

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Rural Halls	\$25,000	\$16,272	\$8,728



## Youth Led Initiatives

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Michael Kingsland	Funding for disadvantaged students to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Wagga Wagga High School. The funding would cover the cost of registration (\$140/pp) for 10 students to participate, plus some money to co-ordinate the adventurous journey.	\$3,000	\$3,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes to support disadvantaged youth. Recommendation to fully fund.
Alphabet Soup Youth Group	Alphabet soup youth disco and Alphabet soup educational youth screening aim to create an inclusive and supportive environment for the young LGBTQI+ community of Wagga and surrounding areas.	\$3,000	\$3,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes to support LGBTQI youth. Recommendation to fully fund.
Kayne Lyndon	A mentored music production program, developed in conjunction with our young people, to address the ongoing requests by them for local mentoring in music production. Program explores all aspects of music production from end to end, allowing them to drive the production from inception through to a showcased event at the Curious Rabbit in Wagga Wagga	\$3,000	\$3,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes to support and mentor youth. Recommendation to fully fund.
Wagga Aboriginal Women's Group Incorporated	Female youth program where local Aboriginal girls will come together for a two day cultural emersion experience with priority to girls from social disadvantaged areas and girls living in out of home care with no connection to their culture. The two day program will include local Wiradjuri female mentors facilitating the program. Which includes a Welcome to Country, a Wagga significant Women's sites tour, traditional women's practice workshop, traditional dance teachings, truth telling, yarning circles and reflection.	\$3,000	\$3,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes to support female Aboriginal youth, prioritising participation by youth from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Recommendation to fully fund.
Bella Ingram	A series of three small live music events designed to connect young people to their community. Each event features local artists performing in local spaces, for example Cave and Wagga beach, and featuring qualified guest speakers about youth mental health and wellbeing.	\$3,000	\$3,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to fully fund.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	

Table 19: Annual Grants - Youth Led Initiatives

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Youth Led Initiatives	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0

## Arts, Culture and Creative Industries

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Wagga City Rugby Male Choir and Murrumbidgee Magic Chorus (Joint application)	Purchase a set of performance riser platforms. The two choirs often perform together at venues where there is no stage or at outdoor sites where riser equipment is required. Once obtained, the risers would be used by both groups, and would also be available to other performing groups for their events.	\$5,000	\$5,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Nest Studio	'Self and Surroundings'. A mural and workshops which will explore the people of Wagga and their diversity through the visual medium of collage. This mural will be displayed in the window of Nest Studio during completion and can be displayed off-site once completed.	\$5,000	\$5,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Riverina Woodworkers Club Inc	Replace current unsafe table saw with a 'Sawstop' which has an electronic brake system that will provide a higher level of safety and usability for members.	\$1,900	\$1,900	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Harold Gretton	'Crowded Chamber' brings chamber music back into the intimate environment for which it was created. Five concerts across three venues in central Wagga and Koorringal. Venues where live music is rarely if ever heard are activated, with performing, local and guest musicians.	\$5,000	\$5,000	Detailed application and inclusive of areas that have high levels of social and community disadvantage. Recommended to be fully funded.
Anglicare	Local Aboriginal art display within the community centre.	\$5,000	\$4,322	Part funding recommended due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Theatre on Toast	Live Long & Sparkle is an interactive & family friendly dance party, aimed at celebrating Rainbow Families, to be held on Sunday 13 March 2022 after Mardi Gras.	\$4,964	\$4,964	An inclusive project with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Salad Days	Halfway Print Fest (HPF) is a celebration of independent publishing. Based in Wagga Wagga, HPF brings together zine-makers from across NSW, ACT and VIC for an immersive celebration of DIY culture.	\$7,500	\$7,500	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Riverina Community College	The development of The Art Factory Strategic Business Plan. Year one of funding will support The Art Factory with a formalised road map that describes how the Art Factory will clarify business focus and direction. Resulting actions of a professional strategic business plan that will show all potential partners / funding bodies the Art Factory is committed to building a sustainable inclusive business.	\$6,314	\$6,314	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$40,678</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	

Table 20: Annual Grants - Arts, Culture and Creative Industries

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Arts, Culture and Creative Industries category	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0

## Events

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Wagga Wagga Country Club Ltd	Wagga Wagga Country Club 2022 Women's ProAm. Golf Professionals and amateurs will play together but compete only against their own. There is capacity for 248 players on each day, of which approximately 80 would be professionals.	\$7,500	\$4,000	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
The Trustee for Country Hope Trust	'Christmas Hope'. A Christmas celebration and gift day for our diagnosed children and their families. We have activities and entertainment for the kids, Santa arrives with a gift for each diagnosed child and their siblings.	\$2,500	\$1,000	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Big Springs Homestead	'Sculptures of the Riverina'. An event inspired by Sculptures by the Sea (Sydney) and Sculptures in the Garden (Mudgee), Sculptures of the Riverina will showcase Australian sculptures and artworks within a historic homestead garden and stables on a family farm near Wagga Wagga NSW.	\$7,500	\$4,000	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Thirsty Crow Brewing Co.	Thirsty Crow will be working alongside the Wagga Show Society to present 'Ocrowberfest,' which will form part of Wagga's Annual Show at the Kyeamba Smith Hall. This is a new mini version of the classic Bavarian Oktoberfest, with the inclusion of local food and beverage vendors, local live music and entertainment.	\$7,500	\$4,000	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Estella Progress Association	Annual Christmas party provides an opportunity for our residents to come together and enjoy an afternoon of fun for the kids, with jumping castles, BBQ, and a visit from Santa.	\$2,000	\$500	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received.
Uranquinty CWA Evening Branch	'Sconversation'. A forum for people to engage and have important conversations, connecting and increasing awareness of mental health. Speakers will address topics currently being faced and bring attention to impactful issues in regional Australia.	\$4,000	\$500	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Bidgee Dragons Inc	TRIBE Challenge is the ultimate 6 on 6 reverse tug-of-war where two crews face off in a dragon boat. The challenge will be conducted on Lake Albert. It will be open to dragon boat clubs on Day 1 and corporate or community teams on Day 2.	\$2,965	\$1,000	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Inspire Church Wagga	Christmas community neighbourhood event. Showcasing talent from people of all ages, through the telling of the story of Christmas. Following this, there will be a Christmas Carnival which will host food stalls, live music, and free rides for kids.	\$7,000	\$1,000	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Wagga Aboriginal Women's Group Incorporated	'Marramarra Aboriginal Markets' (Marramarra meaning handmade / create in Wiradjuri language). Local Aboriginal Artists and Business owners will be invited to run a store to sell products and showcase their unique talents and cultural knowledge, including art, giftware, clothing, services and food. Activities will include a Welcome to Country by a Wiradjuri Elder, Market stall's selling Aboriginal art/homewares/ giftware, traditional cooking demonstration, live music and traditional dance performances.	\$6,750	\$4,000	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,715</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	

Table 21: Annual Grants - Events

## Financial summary

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Events	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0

## Local Heritage

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Jennifer Reid	Restore Lower Front Timber Veranda of 'Chillingley' Gurwood Street Wagga.	\$8,000	\$2,775	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Diocese of Wagga Wagga	Conservation and restoration of verandas as part of a restoration plan for the Mt Erin convent building.	\$10,000	\$1,000	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Nicole Cross	Replacement of deteriorated roofing of the veranda attached to the building at 69 Coleman Street Wagga	\$5,940	\$2,775	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Mackenna Powell	Remediation works to existing awning at 38 Fitzmaurice Street Wagga Wagga	\$10,000	\$2,775	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Madeline Clark	Repair timber sash windows and replace glass panels in French door and front windows at Kyeamba Station, Kyeamba	\$4,695	\$3,400	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Kim Wilson	Replacement of Roof Sheeting at 67 Coleman Street Wagga Wagga	\$5,400	\$2,775	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$44,035</b>	<b>\$15,500</b>	

Table 22: Annual Grants - Local Heritage

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Local Heritage	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$0

## Small Business

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Ashleigh Pengelly	Purchase sublimation printing machine for retail products made in the Wagga Wagga LGA. Ability to print own Aboriginal artwork designs straight onto items such as candle jars, in particular her Wiradjuri candle. The machine will be made available for businesses, events, festivals etc, particularly for promotional products	\$6,000	\$1,583	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
The Little Yellow House Gallery	To establish and run a selection of arts workshops starting with a program for Emergency Service/First Response/Health workers. This will be the start of workshops building up to a regular business of paid workshops providing weekly income.	\$1,720	\$1,720	Panel recommended fully funding this innovative project and noted this was a well written detailed application.
Alice Peacock	Has been working in projection art since Vivid Sydney, 2019. Is getting increasing requests for projection work locally and in surrounding regions. Purchasing a professional grade projector will enable my business to start accepting small to medium sized projection work.	\$1,875	\$1,000	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Prickly Lizard Events	Aboriginal owned - female led business in Wagga Wagga on Wiradjuri Country, have recently purchased a mobile coffee van. Funding to assist in purchasing a generator and exterior signage for the van.	\$4,619	\$2,287	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Zana Aerial Dance Academy	Purchase of a customised trailer to transport portable rig and associated equipment to offsite shows and workshops. Currently borrowing a basic open box trailer and are restricted to dates when it can be accessed. An enclosed, lockable trailer would mean gear can be safely stored overnight at a venue, opening up a whole new set of events for us.	\$3,910	\$3,910	Well written applications with a clearly defined budget. Recommended to be fully funded.
Sculpted Jewels	Purchase of casting machine and burnout furnace to be available locally for use by local artisans, and for training purposes, thereby retaining the work and revenue within the Wagga Wagga LGA, rather than having to send all the work elsewhere.	\$4,661	\$2,000	Good collaboration with local business. Well written and detailed application. Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$22,785</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	

Table 23: Annual Grants - Small Business

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Small Business	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0

## Community Programs and Projects

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Carevan Wagga Incorporated	Purchase of Food Containers & Additional Equipment for Safe Transport of Food	\$5,312	\$514	Part funding recommended due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Turvey Park Public School	Students from schools in the Wagga Wagga LGA to be able to access a refugee environmental hub at the Riverina Environmental Education Centre. The program will look to engage refugee students. The project would include parents, allowing families of school students of refugee background to engage meaningfully with schools, opening the door for parents to feel part of the school community and their child's education.	\$3,500	\$3,500	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
NSW Service for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors	Multicultural Women's Arts Group will be a weekly creative engagement program for women from refugee backgrounds. Through the workshops, women will engage in creative expression and share cultural and traditional arts practices from their multicultural backgrounds.	\$4,900	\$4,300	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Afghan Hazara Community of Wagga Wagga (Auspiced by the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga)	Host four events at times of cultural significance to promote intercultural dialogue, awareness, acceptance and learning creating opportunities to celebrate our local cultural diversity and promote unity within our region. The four events will be hosted to coincide with Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Eid al-Ghadir and Nowruz (Persian New Year.)	\$4,384	\$4,384	Detailed application and inclusive of entire community with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Bluearth Foundation	'Active Schools' A program which will provide schools with access to a sustainable and evidence-based whole-body health and fitness program that includes physical and health literacy, activity, and mindfulness to create and foster a healthy active school community.	\$5,000	\$5,000	Detailed application and will teach skills for life. Clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Wagga Women's Health Centre	Meditation and mindfulness sessions. These free hour-long sessions will be facilitated by a professional meditation teacher and will be open to all clients and women (or anyone presenting as a woman) in the community.	\$2,070	\$2,070	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Sunflower House Incorporated	A 5-month Art Program for Sunflower House members which includes expressive drawing, acrylic painting, portrait painting, clay sculpting and mural painting	\$5,000	\$5,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Wagga Derby Dolls Incorporated aka Riverina Rollers	Purchase protective equipment, three hit pads for training and roller skates to offset the initial cost of joining roller derby. The equipment is very expensive and is often a barrier to people who would otherwise join.	\$4,100	\$1,832	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Bespoke Fashion Inc	The project will help meet the demands for basic sewing skills and knowledge in the Wagga Wagga LGA through no cost classes.	\$4,930	\$3,400	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,196</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	

Table 24: Annual Grants - Community Programs and Projects

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Community Programs and Partnerships	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0

## Natural Environment

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Collette Geier	A garden will be developed on disused and unmaintained Council land located on the northern corner of Fernleigh Road and Macleay Street. Currently the space is covered in weeds and is not used for any purpose. A group of local residents will design and construct an engaging and creative space to be enjoyed by local residents.	\$1,232	\$1,232	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Wagga Wagga Urban Landcare	Purchase a trailer, to allow our Landcare group to increase the scale of its activities, particularly relating to revegetation and rubbish removal working bees.	\$2,750	\$2,750	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Rotary Club of South Wagga Wagga	A continuation project "Reconnecting and invigorating community with Intergenerational knowledge sharing through the "Rocky Hill Project " which transfers intergenerational knowledge for the benefit of Rocky Hill, a much used, but until 2020, under resourced asset for Wagga.	\$2,330	\$2,330	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6,312</b>	<b>\$6,312</b>	

Table 25: Annual Grants - Natural Environment

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Natural Environment	\$7,000	\$6,312	\$688

## Financial summary

### Neighbourhood and Rural Villages

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Humula Citizens and Sports Club	Camp Fire Fun - Music and Dinner. Would like to highlight a local band and hope that if successful, this could become a yearly event for our club.	\$1,000	\$1,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Lake Albert Playgroup	Renew Lake Albert Playgroup's recreational equipment	\$4,413	\$4,321	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Ladysmith Playgroup	Creative Youth Connections will facilitate Local Wagga Wagga theatre and performing arts company Oddball as Artist in residence at Ladysmith Playgroup. Will provide a harmonious, imaginative and inclusive program, available to all families with pre-school aged children (0-6 yrs) within the Ladysmith community and surrounding region.	\$5,000	\$5,000	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
LikeMind Wagga	Community Movie screening day of the film 'Dhuluyarra (speak truly) Aunty & Uncle'. The film consists of recorded discussions with our Local Aboriginal Elders to highlight the impacts of disconnections to culture in the community.	\$4,000	\$2,480	Part funding due to amount of funding available in this category and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Wagga Wagga Camera Group (Auspiced by Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga)	Apple Mac laptop and a Television monitor to digitally view, edit and share their work.	\$3,424	\$3,424	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Ladysmith Memorial Hall	A new energy-efficient fridge for Ladysmith Hall	\$780	\$780	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
Kachin Community of Wagga Wagga (Auspiced by Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga)	Wai'miya De'kekah (To Share through Music) project aims to add to the pool of resources that are available to local cultural communities to be able to independently host events and celebrations.	\$4,995	\$4,995	Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Recommended to be fully funded.
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$23,612</b>	<b>\$22,000</b>	

Table 26: Annual Grants - Neighbourhood and Rural Villages

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Neighbourhood and Rural Villages	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$0



# ClubGRANTS 2021

## Grant Recipients 2021

Recipient	Funding Amount	Grant recipient funding application details
Ashmont Churches Caring for Children	\$4,000.00	<b>Breakfast Program:</b> Ashmont Churches Caring for Children Breakfast Program provides a nutritious breakfast to disadvantaged children attending the Ashmont Primary School. Breakfast is provided every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday to approximately 200 children each day of operation. The program relies solely on donations to purchase breakfast cereals, milk, bread, fruit and spreads. All purchases are made locally.
Cancer Council	\$6,818.00	<b>Relay for Life:</b> Wagga Wagga Relay For Life is an annual 24-hour community fundraising event for Cancer Council NSW held at Conolly Oval. Teams raise money before and during the event to assist Cancer Council NSW in its mission of a cancer free future
Carevan Incorporated	\$5,104.00	<b>Purchase of Additional 2-door Upright Freezer &amp; Installation of 3-phase power to upgrade power supply:</b> Carevan Wagga provides free night-time meals at six venues across the city. Carevan has prepared over 19,500 meals, distributed to individuals & families in need, via a network of service providers. A new third freezer is required as demand for meals has increased for the community.
Defence Shed Wagga Wagga	\$5,325.00	<b>Workshop WHS:</b> This project involves developing an overarching risk assessment for all Defence Shed Wagga Wagga activities, procedures for PPE, Manual Handling, Induction and Training, Plant and Equipment (incl. test and tag), Incident Management; Skills Register; Asset Register; Safe Work Procedures including start-up checklists for all Defence Shed Wagga Wagga equipment.
Gidget Foundation Australia	\$7,290.00	<b>Gidget House Wagga Wagga - Extended Hours Pilot:</b> Gidget Foundation Australia (GFA) supports the emotional wellbeing of expectant and new parents. Gidget was the nickname of a vibrant young mother who tragically took her own life while suffering postnatal depression. GFA has a number of programs to support expectant and new parents, with one of these being, Gidget House. Gidget Foundation has created a unique Gidget House model of care which provides free face-to-face psychological counselling sessions for parents experiencing PNDA. The project is a pilot of extended hours for the Gidget House in Wagga Wagga to support expectant and new parents.
Linking Communities Network	\$10,000.00	<b>Riverina Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service - Emergency Support Packages:</b> The Riverina Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy service (WDVCAS), auspiced by Linking Communities Network provides information, advocacy and referrals to assist women and their children who are or have been experiencing domestic and family violence, with their legal, social and welfare needs. Riverina WDVCAS assists women to obtain effective legal protection through applications for Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders (ADVOs). This project will provide clients with Emergency Support Packages.
Miracle Babies Foundation	\$7,331.00	<b>Supporting families with Premature or Sick Babies in Wagga Wagga Base Hospital:</b> Families in Wagga Wagga Base Hospital's Special Care Nursery (SCN) with their premature or sick newborns will receive peer-developed resource packs containing tools and information to foster mental health and wellbeing. They will also contain mementos to record their baby's time in the SCN and milestones reached, and celebrate going home. Families in the SCN on special days (Mother's Day, Father's Day, Christmas) will receive gifts to help celebrate these wonderful family firsts.
Pro Patria	\$30,000.00	<b>Pro Patria Centre Project:</b> Pro Patria Centre (PPC) is an innovative multidisciplinary facility focused on developing self-agency in veterans, first responders and their families to manage their own wellbeing.
Riding for Disabled (NSW) Wagga	\$5,500.00	<b>Riding Lessons for Disabled Children:</b> Riding for Disabled Wagga provide riding lessons to school children with a disability during school hours. Riding for people with a disability is both therapeutic and recreational. A child generally has 10 lessons each school term. RDA is one of the few organisations who cater for people with a wide range of disabilities. Horse riding is a unique form of exercise and rehabilitation. The complex movement of the horse helps to improve coordination, balance, muscular development and fitness. For people with challenging behaviour horses offer a powerful medium for restoring a sense of personal control, which significantly improves behaviour towards family, teachers and friends. RDA (NSW) Wagga Centre subsidise riding lessons. This funding will cover 10 lessons for 20 students, a total of 200 lessons.

## Financial summary

Recipient	Funding Amount	Grant recipient funding application details
Rural Outreach Counselling	\$7,867.00	<b>Welfare Resilience MateKeepers Program:</b> The MateKeeper Program operates on the philosophy that catching people at the prevention and early intervention stages are best for the treatment for mental health. MateKeepers work by communicating with people perceived to be struggling with mental health issues within our communities. We believe that an individual who is 'at risk' is the expert of their thoughts and emotions. MateKeepers provide support by acknowledging a person's problems and helping them find the most appropriate solution.
Shine for Kids	\$5,000.00	<b>Connecting Kids – Wagga:</b> The Connecting Kids program provides crucial support to children with a parent in custody to ensure they remain connected and the child parent bond is retained and nurtured. The program enables access for these at-risk children and young people to vital targeted programs and services run by SHINE such as intensive family case management, mentoring, children's transport, education support, Storytime, Aboriginal programs, child and parent days, and child-friendly prison visits.
STARTTS	\$5,900.00	<b>Multicultural Women's Art Project:</b> The Multicultural Women's Arts Group will be a weekly creative engagement program for women from refugee backgrounds which focusses on wellbeing through social interaction. Through the workshops, women will engage in creative expression and share cultural and traditional arts practices from their multicultural backgrounds, as well as develop skills in contemporary arts practices, facilitated by local artist, Elaine Camlin.
Sunflower House	\$14,207.00	<b>Purchase of a second car for one-to-one support sessions for our growing membership at Sunflower House:</b> The car will enhance our one-to-one community capabilities for our growing Sunflower House membership. Our members have lived experience of mental illness and they benefit from having vital one-to-one support for their mental health recovery. One-to-one sessions enable our mental health support workers to help our members with their shopping needs and transport to medical appointments. In addition to this, our members are able to receive support with cooking, cleaning and organisation at home.
TAD	\$5,625.00	<b>Freedom Wheels Assessments for Wagga Wagga Residents:</b> Our occupational therapist will assess the needs of local children with a disability in Wagga Wagga and design a custom bike that will enable them to ride a bike for the first time in their lives. These assessments will be provided at no cost to the parents/carers of children with a disability with the generous support of local Clubs.
Willians Hill School	\$12,000.00	<b>Transport:</b> This project is to support the school in purchasing a new bus, with wheelchair access, to transport students to community events and excursions. The funds have been committed over an extended period of time to pay the lease of the bus.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$131,967</b>	

Table 27: ClubGRANTS Recipients 2021

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## Performance measures 2021/22

The performance measures are sourced from a range of data sets such as the Council Community Satisfaction Survey, Council data, Australian Bureau of Statistics or other reliable statistics (shown below) that can be used to quantify progress. These measures provide a framework for Council to measure and report on progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan 2040, Delivery Program and annual Operational Plans.

### Data sources:

- Council Community Satisfaction Survey: Baseline = 2017, Actual = 2021
- The Regional Wellbeing Survey: Baseline = 2018, Actual = 2020
- Australian Bureau of Statistics – Census: Baseline = 2016, Actual = 2021
- Council data: Baseline = 2020/21, Actual = 2021/22
- Australian Bureau of Statistics: latest available data
- Wagga Wagga Community Profile ID: latest available data
- Snapshot Climate Tool: latest data available
- NSW Department of Planning and Environment: latest data available

### Status key

-  **Moving away from community outcome**
-  **Stable**
-  **Progressing towards community outcome**



# Community leadership and collaboration



## Objective: Wagga Wagga has strong community leadership and a shared vision for the future

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with confidence in elected Council is increasing	63%	64%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with opportunities to engage with Councillors is increasing	73%	71%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with long term planning for Wagga Wagga is increasing	66%	72%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'my local government is able to help our community face challenges' is increasing	43.8%	46.9%	●

## Objective: Our community is informed and actively engaged in decision making and problem-solving to shape the future of Wagga Wagga

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with provision of Council information to the community is increasing	69%	74%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with input to Council decision-making is increasing	61%	63%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with Council's communication is increasing	79%	82%	●

## Objective: Council leads through engaged civic governance and is recognised and distinguished by its ethical decision-making, efficient management, innovation and quality customer service

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with Council's performance is increasing	77%	84%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with their contact with Council is increasing	76%	77%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with Council's financial management is increasing	62%	67%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who rated access to local government services as 'good' is increasing	69.0%	69.3%	●



Oasis. Photo by Bec Layton.

# Safe and healthy community



## Objective: Our community feel safe

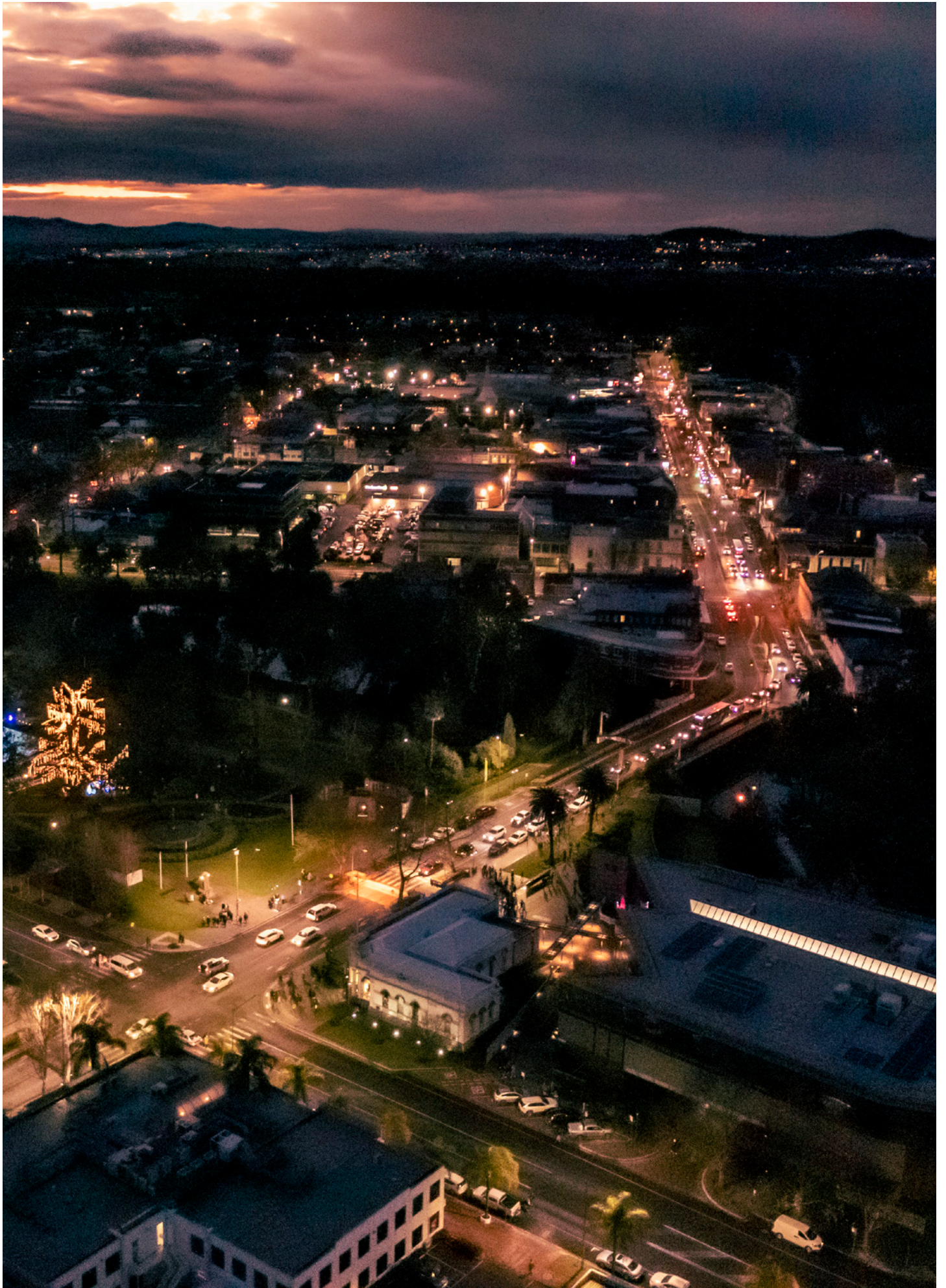
Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with flood protection and preparedness is increasing	72%	85%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with street lighting is increasing	79%	83%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'I feel safe in public places' is increasing	43%	52%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'I feel safe in my home' is increasing	77%	78%	●

## Objective: Our community embraces healthier lifestyle choices and practices

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with sportsgrounds and sporting facilities is increasing	89%	91%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with our cycle network is increasing	75%	83%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'Wagga Wagga has a variety of leisure and recreation options' is increasing	57%	58%	●
Council data	Adults sports participation figures is increasing	1491	2157	●
Council data	Youth sports participation figures is increasing	2958	5402	●

## Objective: Our community has access to health and support services that cater for all of our needs

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who rated access to general health services as 'good' is increasing	71.9%	78.4%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who rated access to mental health services as 'good' is increasing	46.5%	51.7%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who recorded a 'high' Personal Wellbeing Index score (above 80) is increasing	41.7%	47%	●





# Growing economy



## Objective: Wagga Wagga is a thriving, innovative and connected regional capital city

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with availability of car parking is increasing	60%	62%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with maintaining local roads is increasing	46%	39%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with traffic flow/congestion is increasing	80%	78%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with maintaining footpaths is increasing	63%	56%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	The proportion of people who indicated having access to good quality public transport is increasing	75%	82%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who rated access to high speed, reliable internet as 'good' is increasing	45.5%	61%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who rated access to mobile phone reception as 'good' is increasing	64.6%	70.8%	●

## Objective: Wagga Wagga is an attractive location for people to live, work and invest

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census	Estimated resident population is increasing	62,385	67,609	●
Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census	Unemployment rate is decreasing	5.5%	4.0%	●
Wagga Wagga Community Profile ID	Number of local businesses is increasing Baseline: 2020 Actual: 2021	5,285	5,482	●
Wagga Wagga Community Profile ID	The City's Gross Regional Product (GRP) is increasing Baseline: 2020 Actual: 2021	4,121 M	4202 M	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'living costs are affordable here' is increasing	50.2%	63.4%	●

## Growing economy

### Objective: Wagga Wagga is an attractive tourist destination

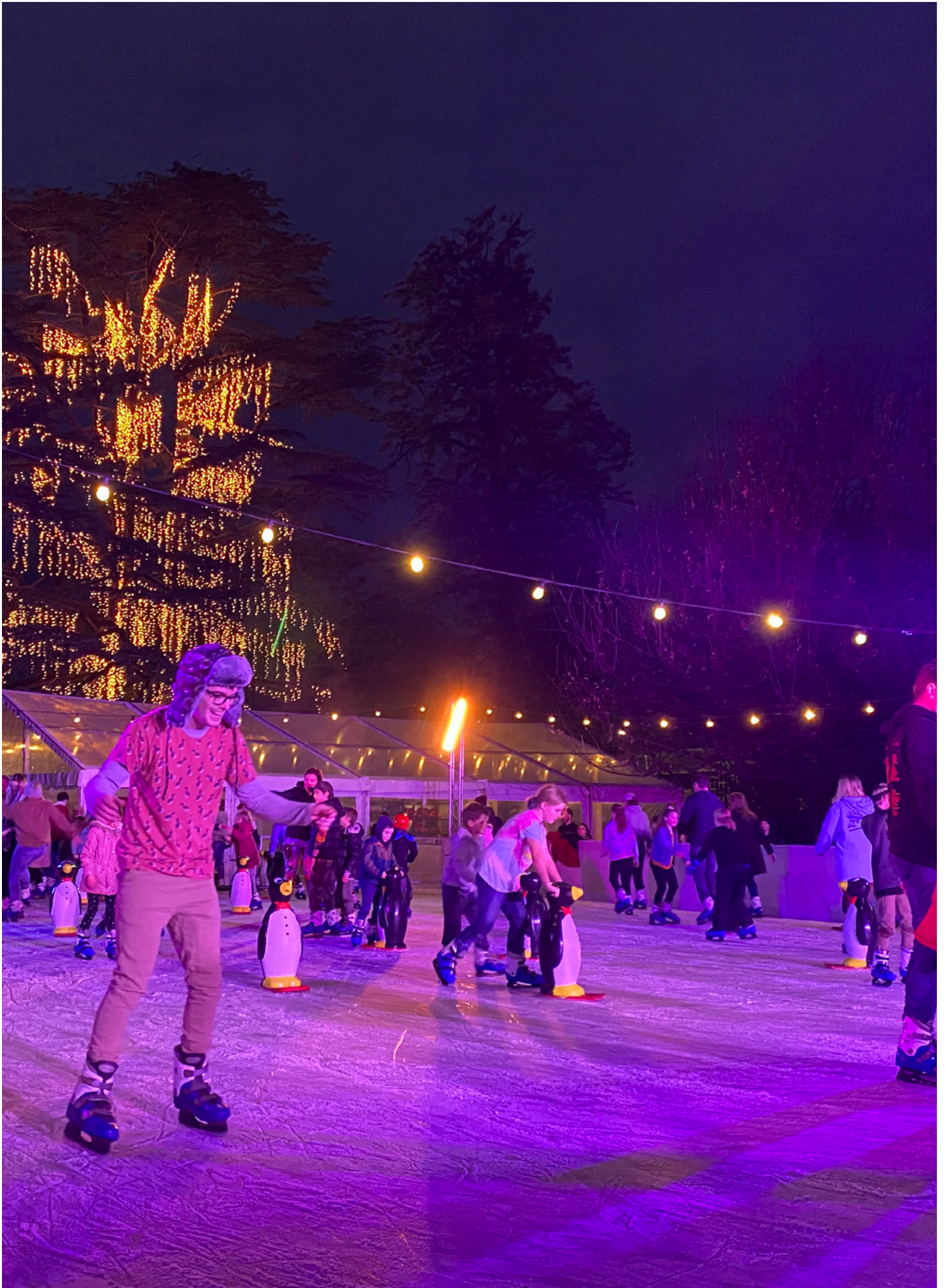
Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Wagga Wagga Community Profile ID	Value added by tourism industry to the local economy direct and indirect is increasing Baseline: 2019/20 Actual: 2020/21	240.8M	150.5M	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with festival and event programs is increasing	86%	87%	●

### Objective: Wagga Wagga is a centre for education and training

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census	The highest level of secondary schooling completed per level of schooling is increasing (completed year 12 or equivalent)	21,697	25,626	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who rated quality of local schools 'access as good' is increasing	70.9%	82.2%	●

### Objective: Wagga Wagga is a hub for activity

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'Wagga Wagga has a vibrant nightlife' is increasing	34%	33%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'Wagga Wagga has a variety of entertainment options' is increasing	46%	50%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'Wagga Wagga has a wide variety of retail options' is increasing	72%	69%	●





# Community place and identity



## Objective: Our community are proud of where we live and our identity

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with Council cultural facilities is increasing	92%	97%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with promoting pride in the community is increasing	82%	80%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with enhancing of heritage buildings and programs is increasing	86%	86%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'my community is a great place to live' is increasing	83.2%	89.9%	●
Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census	The proportion of the community who 'speaks a language other than English at home' is increasing	7.6%	9.5%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'I am able to participate in arts and cultural related activities' is increasing	54%	57%	●

## Objective: Our community feel welcome, included and connected

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	Community satisfaction with feeling part of the community is increasing	37.1%	54.8%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'there's good community spirit around here' is increasing	82.5%	77.6%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'I feel part of my community' is increasing	69.6%	72.4%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'I feel welcome here' is increasing	72%	79%	●



# The environment



## Objective: Future growth and development of Wagga Wagga is planned for in a sustainable manner

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council data	Number of hectares of open space meets Recreation, Open Space and Community Spaces requirements. Note: Actual is the average across the Wagga Wagga LGA	Target: 4ha / 1000 people	12.6 ha / 1000 people	●
Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census	Percentage of households where mortgage repayments are 30% of household income or less is maintained / increased	95.1%	79.3%	●
Australian Bureau of Statistics - Census	Percentage of households where rent payments are 30% of household income or less is maintained / increased	89%	62.8%	●

## Objective: Our natural areas are protected and enhanced

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Australian Bureau of Statistics	Number of hectares of protected natural vegetation is increasing Baseline: 2018 Actual: 2020	4,745 ha	5,019 ha	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with protecting the natural environment is increasing	86%	83%	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who rated 'environmental degradation in general' as no/low problem is increasing	22.7%	33.5%	●

## Objective: Our built environment is functional, attractive and health promoting

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with the appearance of Wagga Wagga is increasing	82%	82%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with reserves and open spaces is increasing	87%	83%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with community buildings / halls is increasing	88%	87%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with parks and playgrounds is increasing	87%	88%	●
Council data	Number of days reporting as 'poor water quality' in Lake Albert is decreasing Note: This result has been impacted by the volume of rain this FY	42 days	18 days	●
NSW Department of Planning and Environment data	Number of days considered as having unhealthy air quality is decreasing	25	7	●

## Environment

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council data	The percentage of shade provided within public open spaces and places is increasing	New measure 2021/22	Playgrounds with shade for carers who are sitting 90% Playgrounds with reasonable shade over equipment 29%	-
Council data	Number of trees planted by Council Baseline: Environmental team 5,900 Street, Park and Open Space 915 Actual: Environmental team 17,500 Street, Park and Open Space 989	6,815	18,489	●

### Objective: Wagga Wagga is sustainable, liveable, and resilient to the impacts of climate change

Source	Community indicator	Baseline	Actual	Status
Council data	Corporate emissions are decreasing	73,178 t	74,732 t	●
Snapshot Climate Tool data	Community emissions are decreasing Baseline: 2019 CY Actual: 2019/20	1,148,000 t CO2e	1,091,000 t CO2e	●
Snapshot Climate Tool data	Electricity consumption per capita is decreasing Baseline: 2019/20 Actual: 2020/21	12,857kwh	12,470kwh	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with environmental education programs is increasing	84%	88%	●
Council Community Satisfaction Survey	Community satisfaction with waste and recycling services is increasing	83%	87%	●
Council data	Number of participants in environmental days	265	1730	●
Council data	Reduction of waste going into landfill	76,600t landfilled	68,900t landfilled	●
Council data	Kg of kerbside recycling per capita Note: Community 'Earn and Return' recycling facilities may have impacted the volume of kerbside recycling this FY	74kg	69kg	●
Council data	Tonnes of organics composted	13,592 t	13,931 t	●
Council data	Per capita water usage Baseline: 2019/20 Actual: 2020/21	234,491L	191,394L	●
Australian Bureau of Statistics	Number of small-scale solar panel system installations is increasing	6,738	7,593	●





## Contact us

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