

Annual Report

2022/23



City of
Wagga Wagga

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 dhirrangan-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.



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Front cover image: Festival of W, 2022
Credit: Visit Wagga Wagga

Foreword

In such a busy year for our community and Council, we are incredibly proud of our collective achievements.

Our community in both the city and the region continues to be one that strives to support community where we can provide assistance or liaise with others who have that responsibility. As much as realistically possible the Council aims to have no one left behind.

Council has continued to deliver on a commitment to improved existing infrastructure and developing new infrastructure, enabling our local and regional economy to progress towards a population of approximately 77,500 by 2036 (forecast.id).

As is the case across the city a number of sporting events also took place with the Raiders Vs Dolphins game being just one of those. In September 2022 I also led a delegation to our Sister City Nordlingen along with the General Manager and others. The visit continued to build on our over 50 year cultural and economic connections with Nordlingen.

A number of capital works projects were commenced or completed during 2022/23. These include the Botanic Gardens Museum, Old Ambulance Station, Special Activation Precinct Subdivision, Active Travel plan, Duke of Kent community building just to name a few. In particular the Special Activation Precinct development will benefit the city and region for generations to come. Major roads projects including Dunns Road, Lord Baden Powell Drive, Lake Albert Road, Dobney Avenue, Pearson Street and Old Narrandera Road just to name a few.

Council have undertaken significant work over the last 12 months to build on the community target of net zero emissions by 2050 in the development of a Net Zero Community Roadmap. This has involved substantial work in-house but also in consultation with community organisations and individual community members. The roadmap will assist in the education of and practical information on how the path to Net Zero can be achieved by community.

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 city and region for all. One example of this in action was Festival of W held during early July 2023. The attendance and feedback received both locally and regionally was overwhelming.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our achievements in 2022-23. None of this would be possible without the collective effort of Councillors, the Executive Team, council staff and just as importantly our community.

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 city and region for all.



Councillor Dallas Tout
Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga

Introduction

Community vision, principles and priorities

Our vision for the future

“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.”

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.

Thriving

Growth
Development
Success
Liveability
Healthy
Sustainable
Strong economy

Innovative

Creative
New ideas
and thinking
Entrepreneurial
leading
Efficient
and effective
Creating best practice

Connected

Feeling part of
a community
Relationships
Communication
technology
Place and space
integration
Heritage
Networking

Inclusive

Including everyone
Accessibility
All cultures and
backgrounds
Friendly
Inviting
Equal opportunity
Fair
Welcoming

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.

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.



Our strategic directions

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

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.

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.

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 cycling 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.

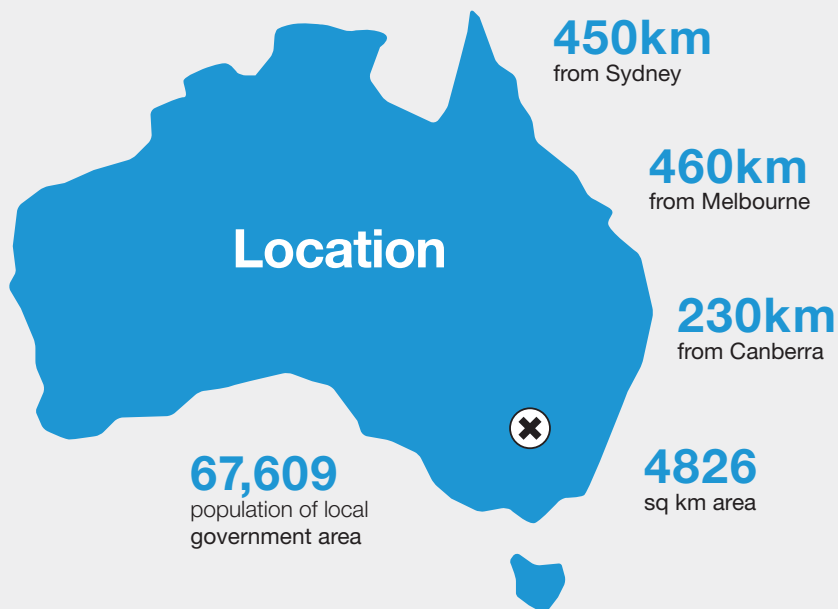
Wagga Wagga's surrounding rural communities support a relaxed lifestyle of smaller scale events, horse-riding, camping, bird watching, fishing, and other recreational pursuits.

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

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

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

Our workforce is one of Council's greatest assets and investments with over 30% of Council's total operating expenditure budget assigned to meet workforce costs.

Council's workforce consists of staff engaged on a permanent (full-time and part-time), casual, fixed term basis, or are participating in tertiary/vocational education programs. Thirty percent (30%) of Council's total operating expenditure budget is assigned to meet our workforce costs.

- Permanent: 434
 - Permanent, full time: 392
 - Permanent, part time: 42
- Casual: 126
- Fixed Term: 39
- Senior Staff: 5
- Labour Hire: 6
- Trainee or Apprentice: 5

*Labour Statistics detailed above are as at 23 November 2022.

Total remuneration for General Manager and Senior Staff

Council employed four senior staff members during 2022/23 (excluding the General Manager). Some positions were vacant at times during this reporting period.

The total amounts are inclusive of total salary package, superannuation, value of any non-cash benefits and fringe benefits tax where applicable.

- General Manager: \$396,682
- Senior staff: \$1,007,316

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.



434

Employees

Full-time and part-time



30%

**Budget assigned to
workforce costs**

Council's total
operating expenditure

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 2022/23

- 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 and community organisations to develop Council's First Nations Employment & Retention Strategy.
- 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.

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, Reconciliation Action Plan and First Nations Employment & Retention Strategy.

Following the review of our EEO Policy, Council will be reviewing the current EEO Management Plan to ensure alignment with Policy objectives and key strategic documents.



About this document

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 2023.

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 2022/23.

This report is supported by Council's 2022/23 Performance Reports available at wagga.nsw.gov.au



Community leadership and collaboration



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

Council

The Council is a body of nine members who are elected for a four-year term to carry out duties under the provisions of the Local Government Act and Regulations. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected for a two-year period by the members of the Council. The Mayor, as well as being Chairman of Meetings, represents Council when it is not in session. Our leaders plan long term for the future of Wagga Wagga and collaborate and advocate for our community.

The elected body is supported by a team of Council staff who are responsible for bringing the policies and changes into effect.



COUNCILLORS: 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.

Council's committees, panels and working groups

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. Representation on the City's committees, panels and working groups includes community members, councillors and industry representatives and are normally called for and appointed every four years, in line with the council term.

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 2022/23, 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. To celebrate and thank Council volunteers a special morning tea was held on 15 May 2023 at the Civic Centre, carrying through the theme of this year's National Volunteer Week "The Change Makers".



THANK YOU: Hayden Watts, who has been a volunteer at the Glenfield Road Animal Shelter since last year, with Wagga Wagga Mayor Cr Dallas Tout at Council's National Volunteer Week morning tea.

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



21

engagement
projects published



10,709

visitors to our
engagement site



877,384

unique visits
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 activities directly while also supporting staff to both inform our community and engage with them where decisions need to be made.

We 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 Council staff available to talk to journalists about the issues of the day.

Council's social media channels allow for the quick distribution of information direct to residents and continue to be a strong channel with over 18,000 followers on the City of Wagga Wagga Facebook page. Our weekly emailed newsletter has a current audience of over 5,000 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 haveyoursay.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 2022/23:

- Community Engagement Strategy 2022
- Council-related Development Application Conflicts of Interest Management Policy (POL 045)
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure on Public Land Policy (POL 054)
- Processing Development Applications and Planning Proposals lodged by Councillors, staff and their respective relatives Policy (POL 046)
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents 2023/26
- South Campus – residential rezoning
- Southern Growth Area – new residential growth
- Blake Street Proposed Planning Agreement
- Wagga Wagga Net Zero Emissions Community Roadmap - Initial Community Consultation
- Exhibition of Draft 2023/24 Airport fees and Charges
- Mobile Food Vendor Trading in Public Places (POL 062)
- Loans to Community Organisations Management Policy (POL 010)
- Investment Policy (POL 075)
- Financial Assistance Policy (POL 078)
- Financial Hardship – Payment Arrangements and Waiving of Interest Policy (POL 102)
- Fraud and Corruption Control Policy (POL 100)
- Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Policy (POL 058)
- Various LEP Amendments
- Various Development Applications

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 2022/23 were prioritised as highlighted throughout this report to ensure they continue respond to the challenges and opportunities facing our community which include social and community disadvantage, housing affordability and availability and increasing cost of living. 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.



SANTA'S HELPERS: Residents can drop off donations of non-perishable food for the Community Food Appeal to Agile Library Officers Murray McBride (pictured) and Rachael Downes.

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 \$2.1 million for the 2022/23 financial year.



\$242,640
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 2022/23 program opened on 27 February 2023 and closed on 1 May 2023. The program consisted of 10 categories: Arts, Culture & Creative Industries, Community Programs & Projects, Events, Local Heritage, Environment, Neighbourhood & Rural Villages, Recreational & Community Facilities, Rural Halls, Youth Programs & Projects and Small Business.

A total of 97 applications were received for assessment, with \$242,640 available (see page 118 for full details).

Council contributes to the community utilising a variety of methods which includes contributions, donations, fee waivers and grant program funding, totalling over \$2 million for the 2022/23 financial year.

Total funding awarded (per grants category)

- Arts, Culture and Creative Industries **\$30,077**
- Community Programs and Projects **\$30,000**
- Events **\$29,319**
- Local Heritage **\$15,500**
- Environment **\$9,192**
- Neighbourhood and Rural Villages **\$24,480**
- Recreational & Community Facilities **\$30,000**
- Rural Halls **\$23,572**
- Small Business **\$28,353**
- Youth Programs and Projects **\$4,300**

Clubgrants program

The ClubGRANTS scheme is a statewide 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 category 1 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 14 local not-for-profit community groups and charities to share in \$90,491 funding for the 2022 Clubgrants Category 1 Funding.

Priority funding categories for 2022 were Mental Health, Domestic and Family Violence, Financial, Education, Employment Support Programs

Secondary funding categories include Women and Family Health, Childcare Services, disability, youth, disaster and emergency management support and transport services.

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**



THANK YOU: Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Cr Dallas Tout, Cr Dan Hayes, and representatives from the Wagga RSL Club and Rules Club Wagga joined the successful ClubGRANTS recipients today to celebrate the incredible work they do in our community.

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 recognising \$65M 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.



52,666
overall calls



68%
resolved on
first call



718
webchats



3,161
Applications
processed



13,298
Customer
requests

Significant grants recognised in 2022/23 included:

- **\$19.8M** – RIRL Project
- **\$15.4M** – Financial Assistance Grant
- **\$4.2M** – local Road Repair Program
- **\$3.5M** – Local Roads & Community Infrastructure – Round 3
- **\$2.4M** – Dunns Road Upgrade
- **\$2.1M** – Roads to Recovery
- **\$1.4M** – Southern Growth Sewer Augmentation
- **\$1.3M** – Museum Redevelopment Project
- **\$1.3M** – Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 5

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 2022/23	Requests
Bin requests	4789
Road requests	2493
Animal requests	1073
Information requests	1007
Street tree requests	926
Sewer requests	832
Regulatory requests	587
Parks & reserves requests	338
Environmental requests	292
Pathway requests	208

Table 1: Top 10 customer requests 2022/23

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 Council's Website or via Council's Facebook page.

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

Engagement opportunities can be found at haveyoursay.wagga.nsw.gov.au or community members can always contact Council via **1300 292 442** to ask questions or lodge service requests.

Access to information

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA) Report July 2022 – June 2023

Council received four valid formal access to information applications and 1,030 informal access to information applications under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) 2022/23. 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 2022 – June 2023

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 2022 – 30 June 2023
Number of Public Officials who made PIDs	0
Total number of PIDs received by Council	0
Of the total received, the number in each of the following categories:	
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 2022/23

Modern Slavery Statement

This Modern Slavery Statement is provided by Wagga Wagga City Council in accordance with Section 428(4) of the NSW Local Government Act 1993.

This statement outlines Wagga Wagga City Council's commitment to combatting modern slavery and the measures we have implemented during this reporting period to reduce the risk of our procurement activities resulting in or contributing to human rights violations.

Organisational Structure and Supply Chain

Wagga Wagga City Council is a diverse organisation located in the Riverina region, serving more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4,825 square kilometres with an overall budget of more than \$236M. Council has a centre led procurement model that enables organisation members to undertake purchasing for their requirements. We recognise the importance of taking steps to ensure that goods and services procured by and for our council are not the product of modern slavery.

Our supply chain includes suppliers for goods, materials and services. Council's highest categories of spend include energy, civil and building construction, plant purchases, plant hire, services and software.

At the time of tender modern slavery is considered via a questionnaire that is to be completed by each tenderer.

Modern Slavery Annual Reporting - July 2022 – June 2023

No significant issues were raised with Council by the Anti-slavery Commissioner as significant issues requiring action concerning the operations of Council.

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 2022/23, 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 with 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, Council have undertaken key activities including regular reporting to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), development of a Child Safe Risk Management Framework and Plan, comprehensive review and realignment of Council Fraud and Corruption Control, Policy, Framework and Plan and the annual Business Continuity Plan Test.

Safe and healthy community



Objective: Our community feel safe

Community Safety Action Plan

Council continued to implement the Community Safety Action Plan with all actions progressed during this year including working closely with Police to deliver local CPTED training and assessments along with the delivery of the inaugural Family Community Safety Day in collaboration with Wagga Local Area Command and emergency services agencies. This event was held at Riverside on Saturday 29 April 2023 with strong attendance from the community providing an opportunity for residents to engage with Police, other emergency services organisations and Council staff to provide feedback and raise issues regarding community safety matters.

Council also administered the Wagga Youth Interagency Group meetings (monthly) and the Wagga Access Reference Group (monthly) meetings. Council staff participated in regular external groups meetings related to community health and wellbeing including the Community Drug Action Team, Domestic Violence Liaison Committee and Multicultural Interagency Network.



CONNECTING TO COMMUNITY: (from left) NSW SES Wagga Unit member Joshua Hunt, Wagga Wagga Rescue Squad Captain Jodie Carter, Riverina Police District Inspector Jillian Gibson, Lake Albert Rural Fire Service Captain Matthew Billingham and Andrew Cooper from Fire and Rescue NSW Station 480 Wagga Wagga, at the Riverside precinct for the Family Community Safety Day on Saturday 29 April.

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.



FLOOD WATCH: Council crews worked systematically to constantly monitoring river and creek level and closing roads where necessary to ensure the community's safety.

Public health

Council's Environmental Health Team is delivering a number of initiatives to raise awareness of food safety and public health matters. With the new food safety requirements Food Standards Code 3.2.2A set to commence on 8th December 2023, the team is developing resources such as Food safety (Food for thought) Newsletters, food safety calendars, posters and updating Council's food safety webpages to include interactive recording templates to support retail food businesses and their staff in ensuring a smooth transition to meeting the new requirements.

During Food Safety week the team also delivered promotional activities to raise public awareness on the importance of effective hand washing and food safety. With over 580 food safety inspections undertaken in 2022/23 alone, the Team also conducted 235 health inspections on premises such as skin penetration and beauty services industries, funeral industries and mortuaries, cooling water systems, public swimming pools and onsite sewage systems, in helping to ensure our community's health and wellbeing. Education and continued support is also provided to temporary event food stall vendors and new food business start-ups.

Wagga Wagga City Council's Environmental Health Coordinator was awarded top honours at the Environmental Health Australia awards, receiving the 2022 NSW Environmental Health Professional of the Year award for her consistent efforts and career achievements since commencing her environmental health career with local government 16 years ago.



TOP HONOURS: Council's Environmental Health Coordinator Sharomi Dayanand has been recognised for her consistent efforts and career achievements in her field, receiving the 2022 NSW Environmental Health Professional of the Year award.

Private swimming pools

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

Swimming pool inspections 2022/23	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	190
Inspections resulting in certificate of non-compliance issued	0

Table 3: Swimming pool inspections 2022/23

Oasis's five-star pool rating

Oasis continues to build on its reputation as one of the state's top pools after receiving a 97% safety score & 96% overall 5 Star Water Safety Partnership rating from Royal Life Saving NSW. The pool remains one of only 45 aquatic centres in NSW to achieve a 5 Star Water Safety Partnership with Royal Life Saving NSW – made possible by passing the Aquatic Facility Safety Assessment (AFSA) and demonstrating a strong commitment to safety standards.

Outback Lifesaver Program

Council partnered with Royal Life Saving NSW (RLSNSW) to deliver the Outback Lifesaver program, teaching children lifesaving water safety skills in pools and inland waterways. It's the third year the Outback Lifesavers initiative has been conducted in the city, following the success of the pilot program in 2021.



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 stray pets at the Glenfield Road Animal Shelter.

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

Our responsibilities

Our Regulatory Services team are responsible for:

- The operation of the Glenfield Road Animal Shelter
- Rehoming stray animals
- Microchipping and lifetime registration
- Roaming and stray dogs
- Animal noise complaints
- Nuisance dogs
- Reducing incidents of dog attacks
- Trapping feral cats
- Community education and awareness of responsible pet ownership

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 Glenfield Road Animal Shelter (GRAS). Our shelter reunites dogs and cats with their owners, rehomes them where possible, and provides advice and information about companion animal management.

Key Services

Promote and assist in the desexing of companion animals

All animals rehomed from the Glenfield Road Animal Shelter 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.

Impounded animal management

Glenfield Road Animal Shelter (GRAS) is a state-of-the-art facility designed to provide the very best care possible for lost and stray animals. A report detailing the number of animals arriving at the Glenfield Road Animal Shelter and the way they were released is submitted to the Division of Local Government annually.

During 2022/23:

- 704 dogs entered GRAS, 325 were returned to their owners, and 305 were rehomed.
- 607 cats entered GRAS, 21 were returned to their owners, and 401 were rehomed.

Initiatives to increase rehoming have included:

- Promotion of companion animals for rehoming on Council's website
- Promotion through Council's social media channels
- Pet of the week campaign
- Rehoming animals through rescue groups

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 2022/23 there were 125 dogs involved in 84 attacks reported to Council.

The full GRAS statistics are available at olg.nsw.gov.au

Off Leash Areas

There are nine designated off-leash areas across the city for dogs, including two enclosed agility tracks. 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.

Community education programs

We appreciate the important role companion animals play in our region as well as the need to minimise any potential negative impacts on the local environment, non-pet owners and the wider community.

Our objectives include:

- Encouraging and promoting responsible pet ownership through community education
- Identifying and accommodating the needs of companion animals and their owners
- Reducing adverse impacts of companion animals on residents and the environment
- Reducing the numbers of unwanted and abandoned companion animals.



ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP: Olive the puppy.

Community education initiatives during the 2022/23 financial year 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.

Animal management costs

Below is a breakdown of expenses associated with animal management over the 2022/23 financial year.

Expense	2022/23 Cost
Staff salaries and on costs	\$383,327
Office expenses	\$7,415
Vehicle operations	\$60,641
Maintenance and repairs	\$41,882
Cleaning expenses	\$44,514
Dog expenses	\$53,516
Cat expenses	\$43,737
Other expenses	\$21,086

Table 4: Animal management costs 2022/23



ADOPT DON'T SHOP: Wagga Wagga City Council's Animal Welfare Office Courtney Krause and Animal Welfare Supervisor Julie McPhail with mastiff Jemma in the shelter's new exercise yard.

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 2022/23

- Development of tenders for Jubilee Park Athletics Centre and Bolton Park Tennis Centre upgrades
- Active Travel Plan Implementation substantially completed
- Planning and delivery of open space for growth areas
- Delivery of major sports events

Planning and tender documentation are currently being developed for the Design & Construct of two of the city's major sporting centres in Bolton Park 'Jim Elphick' Tennis Centre and Jubilee Park 'Bill Jacob' Athletics Centre. Tenders are being prepared to be released late 2023 with construction planned to begin for both projects in 2024.

Bolton Park 'Jim Elphick' Tennis Centre upgrade

Wagga Wagga City Council aims to activate the Bolton Park Precinct, turning it into a sports hub that attracts athletes, officials, and tourists. This project will play a significant role in boosting Wagga Wagga's growth and reputation.

Stage 1 of the project is to redevelop the Jim Elphick Tennis Centre into a nationally significant tennis venue.

The tennis centre will be the new home to a number of local tennis clubs and will also be used for regional and national competitions.

When completed, the facility will feature:

- Eight International Tennis Federation standard courts
- Seven additional community courts
- Multi-use hot shot court and hitting wall
- Two multi-use netball courts
- Clubhouse with amenities and a spectator viewing area.
- The project also includes returning Geoff Lawson Oval to its original oval shape which will allow a wider range of uses.

The upgrades will facilitate a wide range of recreation activities attracting visitors to Wagga Wagga and acting as a gateway to the CBD area.

The project is funded in partnership through NSW Government (\$5M), Wagga Wagga City Council (\$1.97M) and Tennis NSW (\$1.25M)

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.

Ten 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. Detailed design work is being completed on seven links as part of ATP Stage 3.

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)



ON A ROLL! More Active Travel links nearing completion with work on the Kapooka Link of Wagga Wagga City Council's Active Travel Plan (ATP) project is rolling on.

Duke of Kent Community Building

Council is constructing a new purpose-built community building in Shaw Street, next to the Duke of Kent Oval.

The building will be used by the Wagga Wagga Veterans and Vintage Motor Club, University of the Third Age (U3A) and other community groups.

The key features of the new building will include:

- Large meeting area that can be divided into two spaces by a sound-proof movable wall.
- Two small meeting rooms
- Kitchen with a servery facing the meeting room and another facing the outdoor area.
- Outdoor covered area
- Solar panels
- Parking for 22 vehicles including accessible parking.

Importantly, for the vintage car club, the site will include a loop driveway that extends through the outdoor covered area which will allow access for veteran and vintage vehicles inspected for roadworthy certificates.

Once completed, the building will be a new home for the Wagga Wagga Veteran & Vintage Motor Club and the University of the Third Age. It will also provide a safe, accessible, and flexible space in central Wagga Wagga for other community groups to use.

This project is proudly funded by Wagga Wagga City Council.



NEARING COMPLETION: Construction of the new Duke of Kent community building has made significant progress and is moving steadily towards completion.



Museum of the Riverina redevelopment

The redeveloped Museum of the Riverina Botanic Gardens site officially opened to the public on Tuesday 7 March 2023 after an \$8.6 million upgrade, creating a new and inclusive cultural experience for the community, and telling our region's story in new ways to wider audiences and visitors alike.

Designed and built by Cumnock Constructions, the museum integrates renovated and revitalised collections with a spectacular new building, creating a new exhibition gallery, learning studio, collection storage facility, public spaces, and staff offices.

The community is invited to view an array of new galleries and spaces, curated for all ages, that explore the people and environment of Wagga Wagga and surrounds.

Key project elements include:

- 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.
- Exciting new exhibitions for all ages exploring the people and environment of Wagga Wagga and surrounds.
- New pathways indoor and out will give better accessibility to wheelchairs and prams exploring the museum.
- Twice as much storage will mean the museum's 25,000 object collection will be better cared for in climate-controlled conditions.
- A specialist classroom will facilitate workshops, meetings, and school programs.

This \$8.6 million project is being funded by Australian Government (\$4.3 million), NSW Government (\$3.91 million) and Wagga Wagga City Council - \$400, 000.



OPEN TO PUBLIC: The redeveloped Museum of the Riverina Botanic Gardens site officially opened to the public this week after an \$8.6 million upgrade.

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 2022/23

- McPherson Oval lighting upgrades started in May 2023. The cost of the new lighting at McPherson Oval is \$406,116, covered by a grant of \$365,171 from the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund with Council contributing \$40,945. Works will be completed late 2023.
- Planning has commenced for the amenities replacement at Kessler Park. \$336,927 was received through the NSW Government's Stronger Country Community Fund 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. Council and Tolland Football Club have also contributed to the project.
- Planning has commenced for the Gissing Oval amenities renovation and extension project. Council was successful in obtaining \$500,000 to go towards the allocated amenities improvement funding.
- The Anderson Oval amenities upgrade project was completed in July 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 also included installing two accessible off-street carparking spaces on the Glenfield Road side of the oval, and a connecting pathway to the building.
- The new \$23 million Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) stadium was officially opened on 25th November 2022. 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.
- Completion of the Wagga and District Kart Racing Club's track upgrades. \$407,407 in funding was accepted from the NSW Government for the upgrade of Wagga and District Kart Racing Club's track.
- Stadium upgrade improvements are being planned with Council receiving \$429,208 in grant funding for retractable seating at Multi-Purpose Stadium and a new scoreboard at Bolton Park Stadium
- Council has received \$107,291 in grant funding for the construction of the Oura Skatepark with work to be completed late 2023.

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.

Key activities in 2022/23

- Council funds to provide shade to play areas over the next 6 years
- Shady trees around parks
- Improvements to the Botanic Gardens landscaping
- Botanic Gardens Masterplan
- Pomingalarna Cultural Garden grant funding

Shade sails over playgrounds

In 2022 Council conducted a shade audit of all 100 playgrounds in the Local Government Area, the audit found that 19 of the 100 playgrounds currently have shade sails over their play spaces, while many others only had limited natural shade cover. As a result of the shade audit Council is aiming to provide a minimum of 40 per cent shade to the play area of playgrounds in the LGA, to achieve this benchmark a mix of natural shade and structural shade needs to be installed. Council will install two shade sails per year for the next six years, in addition to this Council staff have planted 400 advanced trees to the eastern and western side of each playground in the LGA. To date Council have installed shade sails at two playgrounds; Jack Avenue playground and Cox Park, with orders already placed for multiple playgrounds to be installed in early 2023/24.



FINAL TOUCHES: Works and Playground Officer John Conlan adds some more plants to the garden bed at the new Uranquinty rest area playground.

Botanic Gardens Masterplan

Work has started on the development of the Botanic Gardens masterplan with internal and external consultation currently being undertaken. Further consultation will continue before engaging with an architect to deliver a master plan early 2024.

The Parks crew are continuing to undertake improvements to the Botanic Gardens landscaping.

Pomingalarna Cultural Garden grant funding

Council received \$141,450 in grant funding for a cultural garden to be constructed at the Pomingalarna multipurpose complex. The garden will be a sacred place for the Aboriginal community, acknowledging the cultural significance of the reserve. The garden will include sitting areas, paths throughout the garden, native grasses, plants, trees, rocks and storytelling signage.

Community sports, aquatic and recreational facilities

Council provides accessible and inclusive sports, aquatic and recreational facilities and programming through Oasis Regional Aquatic Centre (Oasis), Bolton Park 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. 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 2022/23

- Overall attendances 257,338 went up by 17.3% compared to 2021/22
- Oasis Learn to Swim program had 4,371 enrolments over the financial year,
- Aqua aerobics overall visits went up from 7,585 to 8,874 which works out on average to be 171 attendees each week.

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 2022/23

- Bolton Park was booked for 3470.5 hours in total which works out to be 66.7 hours a week or 9.5 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 2022/23

- The MPS was booked for 3410.75 hours in total which works out to be 65.6 hours a week or 9.3 hours a day on average which was also 16% growth on 2021/22.

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 2022/23

- Providing education programs including environment, waste and youth leadership activities to school 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 with a particular focus this year on supporting community members experiencing homelessness.
- Delivering a diverse range of inclusive and accessible events that support our community such as Apology Day, Back to School Party, Youth Week, Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, FRESH, International Day of people with Disability, Fusion Multicultural Festival as well as regular Citizenship ceremonies.



NATIONAL SORRY DAY 2023: Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders Aunty Gail Manderson and Aunty Kath Withers are joined by Waylon Williams-Boney from Koorinal High School for the lighting of the candles.

-
- Facilitating the Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group, Wagga Youth Interagency Group and participating on the Wagga Access Reference Group, Wagga Domestic Violence Liaison Committee, Wagga Community Drug Action Team, Triple H Forum (Housing, Homelessness and Human Services).
 - Organising a series of youth forums and supporting youth led initiatives and program across our Wagga Wagga LGA.
 - 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/Wiradyuri 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.

All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan

The All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 (formally the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021) was developed in consultation with our community and key stakeholders in 2022.

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.

Informed by Lived Experience

In line with the Disability Inclusion Act 2024, this plan must be reviewed and updated every four years. Over the course of 2021 and 2022, Council undertook consultation to renew the plan. Based on feedback received and to continue our journey to increased inclusion and accessibility, Council took the step to introduce more inclusion language to the updated plan – All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026.

People involved in the community consultations to inform the revised plan included people with varying lived experience; physical, neurological, cognitive, and mental illness.

The feedback assisted in the identification of key areas of focus for Council to improve the lives of people living with all abilities, their family, carers and networks.

A key concern presented from these face-to-face consultations was the inability to access safe, secure, and consistent transport options.

Focus Areas

There are four key areas in the All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026, these include:

- Developing positive community attitudes towards all abilities
- Creating livable communities
- Improving access to mainstream services
- Increasing access to meaningful employment

Key activities in 2022/23

- Ongoing monthly meetings with the Wagga Access Reference Group.
- Developing and implementing accessibility questions in the registration process for Council events, programs and initiatives so that adjustments can be made that enable access and inclusion.
 - For example: asking participants if a carer will be attending with them or what arrangements can be put in place to enable the person to fully participate.
- Council led programs and events considered accessibility and provided all abilities programming options including:
 - Quiet spaces programmed at Spring Jam Children's Festival,
 - Sensory sessions programmed at the major winter event - Festival of W,
 - Track matting provided for mobility access at the Back to School Party event in the suburb of Tolland in partnership with TARP grant funding received from NSW Transport,
 - All ability dance and learn to skate sessions delivered during Youth Week 2023, and
 - Auslan interpreters present at the International Day of People with Disability event that featured keynote speaker and Paralympian Joany Badenhorst.
- Publishing detailed information on social media in regard to accessibility and inclusion features for an event/activity.
- Addition of 2-metre wide path at Riverside precinct to allow for use of mobility devices on a flat surface public green space and the installation of an adult laydown facility at this location.
- Installation of the Marveloo (adult lay down change facility) at Council's Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens Precinct
- Commissioning a professionally developed Easy to Read version of Council's All Abilities Inclusion Action Plan and having these displayed on Council's webpage/platforms.
 - The company utilised to undertake this work solely employs people with disabilities.



EASIER TO USE: Oasis Aquatics Supervisor Tailleigh King welcomes the versatility and manoeuvrability of the new portable hoist.

Health and Knowledge Precinct

During 2022/23 Council actively participated on the Murrumbidgee Health and Knowledge Precinct Board and Alliance. The Murrumbidgee Health and Knowledge Precinct encompasses 21 local government areas in our region and brings together health partners, industry and our local communities to design innovative and practical ways to provide rural people with exceptional healthcare.

The Murrumbidgee Health and Knowledge Precinct has 3 key focus areas:

- Building a resident workforce with local employment opportunities
- Research and innovation: propelling our region forward
- One health system: building health service integration.

Wagga Wagga forms part of the Murrumbidgee Health and Knowledge Precinct and is a significant hub for the region. The implementation of the Wagga Wagga Health and Knowledge Precinct continues to be a priority for Council. The Wagga Wagga Health and Knowledge Precinct Master Plan outlines the 25–30 year vision for the areas around Wagga Wagga's two major hospitals to develop a central activity hub to enhance the current and new health services in Wagga Wagga and the Region, and to support local employment in this key area. The next stages of the Wagga Wagga Health and Knowledge Precinct Master Plan will require the review of land use planning to support the full implementation of the Master Plan.



INTEGRATING COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES: Precinct Boundary Map outlining the proposed boundary for the Wagga Wagga Health and Knowledge Precinct.

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 project and review of Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans.

Key activities in 2022/23

- 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 was completed
- The construction of the Active Travel Plan continues to be implemented 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 local public transport providers on improving access to public transport.

We look after



**91
bridges**

includes foot, vehicle and rail bridges



**1,247 km
sealed
roads**



**64
bus + taxi
shelters**



**1,086 km
unsealed
roads**



**83
carparks**



**12
quarries**



**333km footpaths,
shared paths
and cycleways**



Major road projects in 2022/23

The State Government provided \$793,812 of funding in December 2022 for pothole repairs as a separate round of the Fixing Local Roads program as well as \$4.2m of funding in February 2023 under a new program called the Regional and Local Roads Repair Program. Both programs were required to be completed within 12 months. As at 30 June 2023, Council had appointed a contractor to deliver the pothole repair program and had undertaken 40 heavy patches (22,328m²) and restored 3 road segments (2.4km, 26,504m²) for a total of \$1.6m and is on track to have this additional work completed by February 2024 in accordance with the funding conditions.

Due to the La Nina weather pattern over the 2022/23 financial year that produced above average and regular rainfall, preparation for the bitumen reseal program was hampered and subsequently was not able to be delivered. The Gravel Resheeting program was also affected because of flooding and our need to respond and provide emergency works. Council delivered on all the road rehabilitation and heavy patching projects over the 2022/23 financial year as follows:

Pavement Rehabilitation

- Inglewood Road - From Mitchell Road east for 2.4km
- Copland Street - Blaxland to Tasman (1.2km)
- Macleay Street - Erin to Urana (720m)
- Nagle Street - From Sturt Highway south for 550m
- Bourke Street - Red Hill Road to Holbrook Road (900m)
- Lloyd Road - Holbrook Road to Plumpton Road (2.4km)
- Bomen Road - Ch: 0.8km to 1.6km from Olympic Highway (600m)
- Mitchell Road - Brunskill to Inglewood (850m)
- Watson Boulevard - Red Hill Road to Roundabout (200m)
- Elm Road - Mitchell Road to Sycamore Road (1km)
- Lake Albert Road - Warrawong Street to Copland Street (450m)
- Lake Albert Road - Koorringal Road to Eastlake Drive (800m)
- Bourke Street - Urana Street to Fernleigh Road (600m)

Urban Asphalt

- Trail/Gurwood Roundabout
- Trail/Johnson Roundabout

Heavy Patching

- Avocet Drive
- Copland Street/ Tasman Road Intersection
- Dalman Parkway / Pinaroo Drive Intersection
- The Esplanade / Best Street Intersection
- Byrnes Road
- Tumbarumba Road

Upgrades

- Dunns Road Upgrade
- Lord Baden Powell Drive - Macleay Street to Museum
- Old Narrandera Rd Sealing - Deepwater Rd to LGA boundary
- Old Narrandera Rd Upgrade - Olympic Hwy to Pine Gully Rd
- Bakers Lane - From Sturt Highway south for approximately 180m

Old Narrandera Road Upgrade

Old Narrandera Road Upgrade Project is to upgrade the Old Narrandera Road section between Olympic Highway and Pine Gully Road by reconstructing the road pavement and stormwater drainage. This upgrade project forms part of Pine Gully Road Corridor Works servicing the residents of Gobbagombalin, Estella and Charles Sturt University.

This project will increase the capacity of these roads to accommodate both the present and future traffic demands in the area.

The upgrade includes:

- Reconstructing pavement of Old Narrandera Road from a point approximately 100m west of the Olympic Highway intersection to, and including, the Pine Gully Road intersection
- Widening this section of Old Narrandera Road from 2 to 4 lanes (2 lanes in each direction)
- Creating a dedicated right turn lane onto Pine Gully Road from Old Narrandera Road
- Creating a channelised T-intersection with a left turn slip lane out of Pine Gully Road onto Old Narrandera Road
- Reconstructing approximately 100m of Pine Gully Road pavement from the Old Narrandera Road intersection
- Improving drainage by replacing culverts and constructing table drains
- Installing new signage, concrete medians and guardrails.

This project will:

- Make the journey smoother by improving the condition of Old Narrandera Road between the Olympic Highway and Pine Gully Road
- Improve traffic flow in the area by doubling the number of lanes on this section of road from 2 to 4
- Improve traffic flow and safety with new dedicated right and left turning lanes for vehicles.
- Improve safety with the installation of new guard rails, raised concrete medians, signage, and line markings.

The project is expected to be completed by November 2023, weather permitting.

This project is funded by Wagga Wagga City Council under the Pine Gully Road upgrade project.



TAKING SHAPE: Lime stabilisation works on Old Narrandera Road as part of 2023 upgrade project.

Dunns Road Upgrade

Dunns Road is approximately five kilometres long, of which 1.8 kilometres is currently sealed and 3.2 kilometres is unsealed.

The road began as an unsealed 'track' that serviced local farmland. Over time, and as the surrounding area was developed, Dunns Road became a popular short cut for people heading to southern Wagga Wagga.

Unfortunately, the original road was narrow, undulating and unsealed. As the traffic volumes increased, accidents began occurring at a disproportionate rate to the traffic volume using the road.

A 2018 traffic count confirmed that 331 vehicles use the road daily at the western end of the existing sub divisional development. Once the upgrade is completed, it is anticipated that traffic volumes are likely to increase to 1,000 vehicles per day.

The project has three key components:

1. 3.2 km sealing the unsealed section of Dunns Road
2. Upgrade of the Olympic Highway/ Dunns Road intersection
3. Construction of a roundabout at the Holbrook Road/ Dunns Road intersection.

The construction is now underway on component 1 above and expected to be completed by October 2023. The next components of this upgrade will focus on the Olympic Highway and Holbrook Rd/Dunns Rd intersections. All the work is expected to complete by February 2023.

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



Lord Baden Powell Drive

The upgrade of Lord Baden Powell Drive on the western face of Willans Hill is currently underway.

The works will improve access to the Museum of the Riverina, Kurrajong Industries and Wagga Steam and Vintage Engine Museum.

For pedestrians, the project will make it easier and safer to cross Lord Baden Powell Drive from the Botanic Gardens to the Museum of the Riverina as well as other businesses along that side of the road.

For motorists, the upgrade prioritises safety of vehicles exiting the Museum of the Riverina access road onto Lord Baden Powell Drive.

The upgrade includes:

- Installing two refuge crossings to increase the safety of pedestrians crossing the road between the Museum of the Riverina and the Botanic Gardens
- Approved vegetation clearance to ensure required line of sight for vehicles approaching the refuge islands and for pedestrians of approaching vehicles.
- Reshaping the intersection of Lord Baden Powell Drive and the Museum of the Riverina access lane to improve the safety of vehicle movements.
- A new entrance to Kurrajong
- Reconstruction of road pavement and surface.

Weather permitting, the upgrade is currently expected to be completed in December 2023.

This project is funded by the Australian Government, NSW Government and Wagga Wagga City Council.



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 NSW Government Special Activation Precinct master plan.

Key activities in 2022/23

- Completed construction of the rail siding and signalling works along with the intermodal terminal infrastructure required to load and unload freight on the main southern rail network between Melbourne and Sydney.
- 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.
- Visy Logistics commenced operations for the terminal and rail master siding – Dec 2022 – offering daily rail services to Port of Botany with plans to expand the service offering soon.
- Completion of the 60ha industrial subdivision including civil works, high and low voltage electrical supply, potable water, NBN connectivity, sewer services, stormwater and gas reticulation.
- Commencement of SAP Stage A industrial subdivision works – fully serviced 45ha development adjoining the RiFL Hub project land.

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, Council is partnering with the NSW Government RGDC to launch the marketing campaign in Q1 2023/24.

This stage of the project has been funded by the NSW Government, Council and Visy Logistics.

- **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.



PARTNERSHIP: The Hon Wes Fang MLC, The Hon Sam Farraway MLC Minister for Regional Transport and Roads, Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Cr Dallas Tout, and Lee Schmelich Country Manager Visy Logistics at the official opening of RiFL.



Wagga Wagga Regional Airport

The Riverina continues to be serviced by the Wagga Wagga Regional Airport (Airport) QantasLink providing return services to Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane, and Regional Express (Rex) providing return flights to Sydney and Melbourne. Passenger numbers have continued to increase during 2022/23 with 193,721 passengers passing through the Airport. This is an increase from the 89,236 that passed through this facility in 2021/22 and nearing return to pre-covid restriction levels. Prior to these restrictions, annual passenger movements were approx. 210,000.

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 within the 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 2022/23

- The LMC continues to rank as the largest sheep and lamb selling centre in Australia by selling 2,119,029 head in the 2022/23 financial year. The LMC also sold 167,306 head of cattle for the same period reaffirming it's ranking in the top group of cattle yards throughout Australia. \$508,694,232.10 worth of livestock were sold through the LMC in the 2022/23 financial year.
- During 2022/23 the Re-Surfacing of Sheep Yards commenced with works scheduled to take place around the weekly sales. The project plan aimed to minimise interruption to the site to ensure the LMC continued to provide a highly efficient facility for its stakeholders.

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 2022/23

- 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.
- Council continued to host the monthly the Business Roundtable providing a vital forum for collaboration and exchange with key industry and business stakeholders.
- Council appointed consultants to prepare a CBD Masterplan that will consider opportunities to support the long term growth of the city centre.
- 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**

Delivery of major sporting events

Council partnered with numerous sporting bodies to deliver a number of major sporting events that showcased Wagga's high-class sporting facilities as well as returning large scale economic impact to the city.

State Cup Touch Carnival

The NSW Junior State Cup Touch Carnival will return to the city for the next three years, it follows the carnival being hosted at Jubilee Park since 2019. The carnival has been a success for the past five years attracting over 8,000 players, officials and spectators to the city each year. The event has an estimated economic impact of \$5 million.

Canberra Raiders V Dolphins

The Canberra Raiders V Dolphins NRL game was hosted at McDonalds Park on Saturday 29th April 2023. This years event saw 10,445 NRL fans pack out McDonalds Park, breaking the record for attendance at a NRL game in Wagga Wagga. The estimated economic benefit for this event was close to \$3 million.



WELCOMED ON: Park and Wagga Brothers Rugby League juniors give Raiders barnstorming prop Josh Papalii a hero's welcome during the Player Runout at Saturday's NRL clash.

Academy Games

The 2023 Your Local Club Academy Games was hosted by Southern Sports Academy in Wagga Wagga across three days from 21st April to 23rd April. The event brings 1300 athletes from all 11 Regional Academies of Sport across New South Wales to the city. Along with athletes, the Games also draw staff, families and supporters to the city, generating estimated 6228 bed stays in the region annually, with a total economic tourism value of more than \$1.9 million.

2023 Super Rugby Pre-season Men's and Women's Matches ACT Brumbies vs Rebels

The ACT Brumbies Super Rugby Pacific and Super W trial games against the Melbourne Rebels were held at McDonalds Park on Saturday 11 February 2023. The pre-season games which attracted over 1500 attendees were also supported by a number of public engagement activities.

Southern Junior League Finals

Council partnered with Basketball NSW and Wagga Wagga Basketball to bring the 2023 Spalding Waratah Southern Junior League finals to the area for the first time. The finals were hosted over the 20th and 21st May across Bolton Park Stadium, PCYC Stadium and Equex Multi-Purpose Stadium. The events attracted 1600 players and officials and approximately an additional 3000 attendees.

XCM AusCycling

The 2022 AusCycling Marathon National Championships were held on 13th and 14th August 2022 at the Pomingalarna Multisport Cycling Complex.

IMPACT Wrestling

One of the United States' biggest wrestling promoters, IMPACT Wrestling held a four-day, two-show 'Impact Down Under Tour' at Equex Centre's multipurpose stadium from 29th June to 2nd July.

The shows were broadcast worldwide on FITE TV and across Impact Wrestling's platforms, provided significant economic activity and showcased the Equex Centre as a multi-sport venue capable of hosting international events.

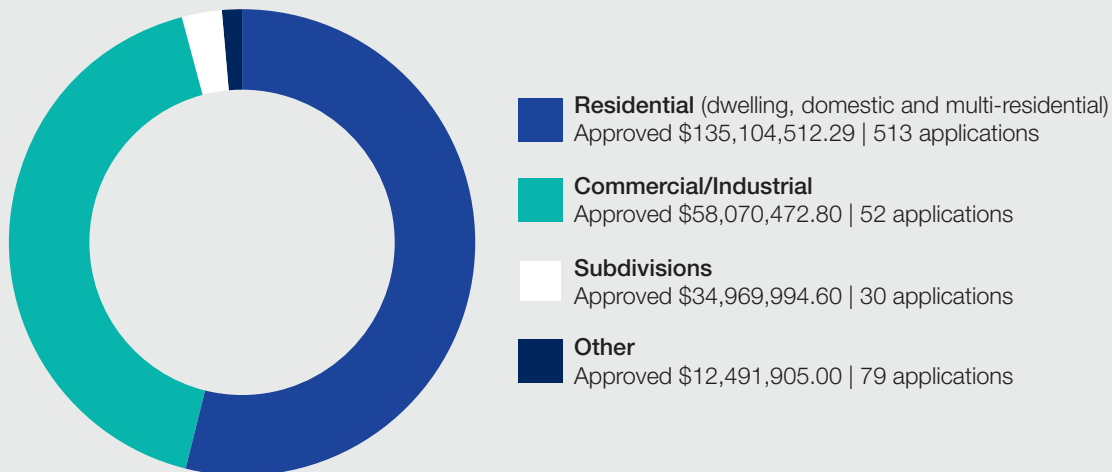
Additional major sporting events held in 2022/23 included the 2022 AusCycling Marathon National Championships (750 attendees), 2022 Hockey NSW Master Women's South State Championships (1000 attendees), 2022 AusCycling MTB National Gold Marathon (700 attendees), 2022 Netball NSW Masters Championships (1000 attendees), ACT Brumbies Super 7's/Premier 7's (1200 attendees) and Brumbies Provincial Championship (1500 attendees).

Snapshot 2022/23

Development Applications

Approved 674 in total

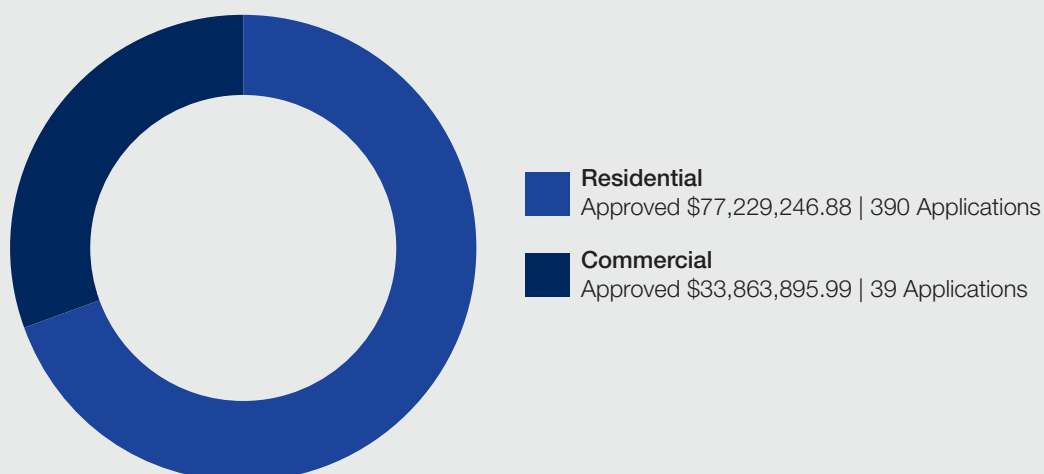
Total construction value based on determined development applications: **\$240,636,884.69**



Construction Certificates

Approved 429 in total

Total construction value based on determined construction certificates **\$111,093,142.87**



Complying Development Certificates

96 Complying Development Certificates Approved (Council) = **\$8,053,883.50**

Modifications (minor / major)

129 Development Application Modifications Approved = **\$97,910,194.69**

Approved by delegation type

- Portal = 674
- Panel = 0

Objective: Wagga Wagga is an attractive tourist destination

Tourism

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 2022/23. The Tourism Partner Program also supported local and regional businesses to develop new and existing products and encourage collaboration. Several destination marketing and development initiatives were delivered as well to increase visitation and build the profile of Wagga Wagga and Surrounds as a tourist destination.

Key activities in 2022/23

- **COLLABS** - A 12-month strategic marketing campaign titled COLLABS was launched in October 2022. The curated campaign showcased key destination and visitor economy pillars and strengths, with alignment to Council strategies and plans and regional destination strategies. With a focus on agritourism and curated storytelling the campaign aimed to position the Wagga Wagga + Surrounds region as a desirable destination, and increase awareness of our destination, for visitors showcasing our unique locations, produce and experiences. COLLABS was offered through an expressions of interest process to 2022/23 Wagga Tourism Partner Program members, with the following business benefit for successful products in the form of marketing opportunities, one-on-one business support, networking, understanding the power of collaborations within the industry and region and industry and product development. All products were created in small batch, with strong links and uniqueness to the Wagga Wagga + Surrounds region with sales being pushed through the Wagga Shop physical and online store, local community markets, and participating business stores. A new product was released once a month, and by the end of June 2023 ten products had been released. From October 2022 to June 2023 the campaign achieved more than 160,000 digital impressions across the Visit Wagga platforms (social media and website). COLLABS continues with new product releases in 2023 and marketing will conclude after Christmas 2023.
- **Point Of View (POV) video reels** - a creative, promotional digital campaign was rolled out in May 2023 highlighting attractions, experiences and businesses that showcase our destination as a desirable place to visit. The four-part 'point-of-view' (POV) video series featured eat and drink locations, including a café and winery, a natural attraction and a shopping experience. The series of videos included vision and scripted audio that best showcased the experience or business to the visitor market. The Visitor Economy and Events initiative was delivered in collaboration with the participating businesses – all members of the Wagga Tourism Partner Program. Each video was created for social media in the style of a 'reel' to achieve the best cut-through to audiences on the digital platform. The campaign garnered more than 40,000 impressions.
- **Tourism and Events Masterclass Series** - Five free tourism and events focused workshops delivered over the month of May 2023. These workshops covered a range of industry relevant topics including: Wiradyuri/Wiradjuri cultural awareness, destination trends and accommodation insights, understanding the power of social media, and best practice events promotion. The workshops were well supported with over 90 participants looking to build their knowledge and come together to build positive working relationships to further promote Wagga Wagga + Surrounds as a leading tourism and events destination.

- Tourism Australia National Experience Content Initiative - Our city's National Art Glass Gallery, Botanic Gardens and Zoo & Aviary were filmed and photographed as part of the Tourism Australia National Experience Content Initiative, in consultation with Destination NSW and Wagga Wagga City Council. The imagery will be hosted on Tourism Australia's image and video gallery which is accessible by the public, media and trade, free of charge to generate additional exposure for the city.
- Wagga Wagga + Surrounds Visitor Guide – a new 2022/23 Visitor Guide was launched in December 2022 and was timed to be released in the lead up to the summer holiday period to encourage visitation from the visiting friends and relative markets. The 66-page publication showcased 150 tourism partner businesses and seven neighbouring shire 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 contained to showcase 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, as well as a new Guugga illustration supported by Mawang Gaway. The Visitor Information Centre distributed 17,500 copies through the centre, local businesses and also through the Australian Visitor Information Centre network.

Visitor economy snapshot

- Wagga Wagga welcomes 1.38M visitors to the city each year
- Visitors contribute to \$385M value added
- On average visitors spend \$154 per night
- On average visitors stay 3 nights that's 1.7M nights
- 154 members of the Tourism Partner Program 2022/23
- 15,889 followers on Visit Wagga Instagram
- 12,311 followers on Visit Wagga Facebook
- 548,707 page views on Visit Wagga Wagga website
- 27,300 visitors to the Visitor Information Centre

Wagga Wagga Event highlights 2022/23

- Festival of W – 27,000 attendees across 16 days
- 2022 Hockey NSW Master Women's South State Championships – 1,000 attendees
- Spring Jam 2022 – 4,000 attendees
- FUSION BOTANICAL – 5,000 attendees
- Gears and Beers Festival – 5,000 attendees
- 2022 AusCycling MTB National Gold Marathon - 700 attendees
- 2022 Netball NSW Masters Championships – 1,000 attendees
- ACT Brumbies Super 7's/Premier 7s – 1,200 attendees
- 2022 Australian Supercross Championships and FMX Nationals – 7,000 attendees
- New Years Eve (Light The Lake) 2022/23 - 10,000 attendees
- 2023 Australia Day events – 600 attendees across 4 events
- 2023 NSW Touch Junior State Cup – Southern Conference – 8,000 attendees
- 2023 Super Rugby Pre-season Men's and Women's Matches ACT Brumbies vs Rebels – 1,500 attendees
- Mardi Gras 2023 - 6,000 – 8,000 attendees
- Academy Games – 1,290 attendees
- FRESH 2023 program – 19 workshops over 19 days
- Wagga Wagga Gold Cup Carnival – 10,000 attendees
- NRL Premiership match – Canberra Raiders vs Dolphins – 10,445 attendees
- Brumbies Provincial Championship - 1500 attendees
- IMPACT Wrestling Down Under Tour – 3,200 attendees



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 2022/23

- The team continued to upgrade the yards with the Camel Yard being created, and the deer yard being upgraded which included irrigation and turf as well as new feed structures.
- The Zoo also saw the addition of 4 male dingo pups being added to the animals on display as well as a male and female paddy melon and 2 more male swamp wallabies.
- The zoo has had an increase in organised tours for school, day care and community groups during the weeks averaging 1 – 2 a week during school terms.



FURRY NEW FACES: Wagga Zoo and Aviary's dingo pack, Diego, Zeke, Shadow and Simba.

Botanic Gardens

Located at the base of Willans Hill and set over 22 acres, the Wagga Wagga Botanic Gardens offers various picnic areas, playgrounds and a diverse range of garden displays.

Key activities in 2022/23

- We continued works in the native section of the Botanic Gardens which saw sandstone block retaining walls built, irrigation installed and couch turf laid behind the front entrance sign. This has also been done to slow down the overland flow of the water through the section .
- The Gardens held Spring Jam & Fusion festival in the park .



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 2022/23 with the delivery and attraction 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.

Key activities in 2022/23

- 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 (see page 61 for a highlight of key major events delivered and supported).
- Council partnered with several sporting organisations to deliver State, National and elite events throughout the year including NRL Premiership match, Academy Games, Australian Super Cross Championships, IMPACT Wrestling Down Under Tour, and Brumbies Provincial Championship. In addition, Council successfully attracted and announced the successful bids of the LGNSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference for 2024, and NSW Junior State Cup Southern Cup Conference (ongoing 3 years).
- The Wagga Wagga Tourism Partner program supported over 90 local and regional event organisers and business operators through the program's Tourism and Events Masterclass series held in May 2023. Six industry relevant topics were delivered through the program with a focus of upskilling industry on marketing, social media and digital insights.
- Council continued to support local initiated events through the Annual Grants Program and the Major Events, Festivals and Films Sponsorship program.

Major Events, Festivals and Films Sponsorship Fund

Council endorsed the 2022/23 round of the Major Events, Festivals and Films Sponsorship funding aiming to fund meaningful, creative, and high-quality events for our community and visitors to participate in and enjoy. All applications were assessed by the Major Events Advisory Panel in line with the Major Events, Festivals and Films Sponsorship guidelines.

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

- Sporting Academy Games 2023 - \$20,000
- Wagga Wagga Fringe Festival - \$10,000
- Apex Club of South Wagga Wagga Motor Mania - \$10,000
- Wagga Mardi Gras Festival 2023 - \$15,500
- Murrumbidgee Turf Club's Breakfast with the Stars - \$6,000
- Wings Over Wagga Wagga - \$10,000 (cancelled)
- Fitz Fest 2023 - \$11,946 (cancelled)



Objective: Wagga Wagga is a centre for education and training

Education and vocation pathways

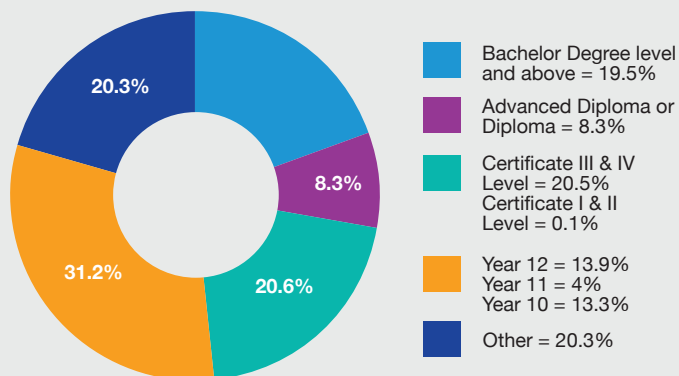
Wagga Wagga is a regional capital of education enabling access to quality education and training across the full spectrum of learning and supporting a high-skilled labour force. Council works in collaboration with the three universities servicing our region along with technical training facilities and public and private schools.

Council continues to focus on regional workforce issues and actively participates in the Wagga Wagga Business Roundtable, The Business Chamber, Riverina Medical Specialist Recruitment Committee, the Murrumbidgee Health and Knowledge Precinct Alliance and the Canberra Joint Regional Organisation along with many other groups.

Council recognises the great work schools are doing to promote increased participation in education and are supporting initiatives where possible, including providing mentoring with schools, scholarships, supporting youth engagement and initiatives for our First Nations community.

Snapshot 2022/23

Highest level of educational attainment



79.6% 

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.



138

Educational facilities

- 3** university campuses
- 9** high schools
- 29** primary schools
- 35** pre-schools
- 62** Childcare Services



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 2022/23

- **1.02 Improve the Wagga Wagga City Library Service** – The Standalone Library Service completed its first 12 months of service with the new Agile Library Service now services nine suburban locations and nine rural villages across the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area on a regular basis;
- **1.03 Expand the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre** – Masterplan presented at Councillor workshop 15 May 2023 in preparation for this proposal to go on public exhibition, seek community feedback at the same time with the Riverside 3 masterplan
- **1.04 Activate the Botanic Gardens precinct and upgrade the Museum of the Riverina** – redeveloped Museum of the Riverina site at the Botanic Gardens opened to the public February 2023;
- **2.12 Develop a Live Music Kit for community events in parks and open spaces** – the Live Music Kit was utilised for the Back to School Party event at Tolland and the Youth Week 2023 Busking Competition.
- **2.14 Develop and support programs that increase live music and production skills** – Trainee partnership between Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre and Melbourne Arts Centre established.
- **2.30 Implement the recommendations of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan relating to arts and cultural activities** – a programming highlight during this period was the In Motion: All Abilities Beginners Contemporary Dance Class on the Civic Theatre stage as part of the FRESH program in April 2023.
- In addition, Council maintained Service Level Agreements with local community and artistic organisations including Eastern Riverina Arts, Riverina Conservatorium of Music, Booranga Writers' Centre, Wagga Wagga Eisteddfod, School of Arts Community Theatre, and the Riverina Summer School for Strings.

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. Council's Public Art Plan 2022-2026 details how Council will continue to develop public art in the city and surrounding rural villages for the period 2022-2026. The development and implementation of public art projects in the 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 2022/23 included:

The implementation of the Public Art Plan continued this year including the following:

- River Life - An expression of interest was advertised with two Wiradjuri artists chosen by a selection panel of Elders and community members from Mawang Gaway; 'Many Dances' sound installation was commissioned for the Festival of W, inspired by the meaning of Wagga Wagga being 'place of many celebrations or many dances' and features local First Nations dancer Ivy Simpson; Artist Alex Sugar was commissioned to produce a mural for the community of Humula, to be installed on the exterior walls of the Bush Fire Brigade Shed. This mural will honour the history of firefighting and local flora and fauna; and artist Damien Mitchell was commissioned to carry out workshops with students from Mount Austin High School to develop and produce creative designs for selected laneways treatments in Mount Austin.
- During this period maintenance was undertaken on the Public Art Collection with repairs and restoration undertaken on the tiled artworks on Baylis St, the 'Wiradjuri Mural' on the exterior of the Civic Centre, 'Wilga Sticks' in Kooringal, and the Michael Murphy roundabout artworks on Peter Street. A detailed condition assessment of the whole collection was undertaken by professional art conservators to determine future maintenance requirements and priorities. The Public Art Audio Trail - Stages 1 and 2 were completed and promoted to the community and visitors to the City.



TRIBUTE: The Humula Bush Fire Brigade Shed mural design depicts a NSW RFS volunteer carrying a joey away from fire, and 'Elvis' the NSW RFS helicopter which has assisted in fighting bushfires.

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.



5,429
people
participated in

207
education and
public programs

Program highlights during this year included:

- Exhibition, Learning and Community Engagement highlights during this year included the launch of Green 2023 – Year of Environmental Exhibitions and Programs. 23 exhibitions were presented including the commissioning of new artworks from artists from Hands on Weavers, Elizabeth Kelly, Sarah Goffman, Nicola Dickson, Juanita McLauchlan and Blake Griffiths. A total of 5,429 people participated in 207 education and public programs during this period.
- Presentation of local and regional artists at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery during this period includes: Future Photographers Lab (24 Sept - 4 Dec 2022) comprising of 7 local photographers (2 mid career, 5 early career); 8 More The Art Factory' (24 Sept - 22 January) including 4 established and 4 early career artists; Regional Artist Development Exhibitions program presenting the work of Georgia Crowden, Rachelle Mascini and Tracey Jones; Mayinyguwalgu ngunggirridy exhibition (5 Nov 2022 - 5 February 2023) featuring the work of 12 artists from the Hands on Weavers group; Going Feral (5 Feb- 2 July 2023), presenting the work of 4 local early career artist and Juanita McLauchlan's Gii Mara Bula (13 May - 20 August 2023) solo exhibition.
- Establishment of multiple partnerships during this period included the following highlights: the HOME exhibition presented in partnership with the Art Gallery of NSW and NSW Education Department; the Glass Chrysalis exhibition and public programs with Oz Glass, the Jam Factory and Canberra Glassworks; the Australian Ballet Education Wiradjuri dance workshop program with Ella Havelka ; University of Western Sydney co-curation of 'Plastic - Unwrapping the World' and public programs; University of Sydney - Museum and Heritage Program audience evaluation project; ABC Riverina media partnership for Green 2023 Year of Environmental exhibitions and programs; Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Society (Riverina) -Youth art programs including Jackdaw Green Screen and public symposium - 'Art, Architecture and Sustainability'; and Friends of the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery - Art Auction dinner and fundraiser.
- Three Regional Artist Development residencies were programmed during this period including Sophie Chauncey (22 August - 18 Sept 2022); Tracey Jones (13 Feb - 12 March 2023) and Linzie Nardi (12 June - 9 July 2023). All artists provided opportunities for members of the general public to engage with artists while they were at work along with art workshops led by the artists that were open to the public.

- Professional development and mentoring opportunities for early career artists programmed during this period included: 3 x Exhibitions (Rachelle Mascini, Georgia Crowden, Tracey Jones); and a Professional Development of Regional Creatives program (led by Helen Grace and Julie Ewington residencies).
- The Art Gallery was the recipient of the Sir William Dobell Exhibition Grant for 'Precious' and also received funding from the National Library of Australia's Community Heritage Fund to research and develop a 'Significance Report' on the national Art Glass Collection Glass in recognition of its national significance.
- All major exhibitions were accompanied by public program activities and events for example the 'Young Archies'; Artcamp Summer School holiday program and the 'Take off at 4' term based art classes for children and the Jackdaw 'Green Screen' Easter holiday films for kids and families were presented. A fully subscribed Stretch Move Connect (SMS) 50 years + program for over 50 year olds including weekly after hours art classes and morning stretch and yoga classes was also delivered during this period.



STORYTELLER: Australian Ballet dancer and Wiradjuri artist Ella Halvelka shares the stories of Wiradjuri language and culture through dance.

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).

Programming highlights during this year included:

- A total of 53,687 audience members attended 185 performances and events presented at the Civic Theatre during this year
- The Civic Theatre celebrated it's 60th anniversary in June showcasing local talent at a gala performance. Local residents were encouraged to tell their stories and memories and to share historical photos for display purposes. A series of short videos were developed to celebrate the history of the venue that was featured on the Civic Theatre website and social media platforms. The Civic Theatre's 60th Gala Concert showcased emerging talent from the Riverina Conservatorium of Music and other local talent. Another performance highlight was SoACT's presentation of The Pirates of Penzance which was scheduled to be presented in 2023 to celebrate the Civic Theatre's 60th anniversary.



LONG TIME STANDING: The Civic Theatre officially opened on Saturday, June 29, 1963.

- The Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre Masterplan was completed in April 2022. The masterplan was presented to a Councillor workshop on 15 May 2023 in preparation for this proposal to go on public exhibition, seeking community feedback at the same time with the Riverside 3 masterplan which is currently in development.
- The Wagga Comedy Festival 2023 which presented a diverse offering of different styles of comedy including workshops, interactivity and music. The festival was well supported by local residents along with audiences travelling from the wider Riverina region.
- 360 ALLSTARS presented workshops at Mount Austin High where they hosted a basketball freestyling workshop with 30 participants, Indie School breakdancing workshop with 12 participants and the Bidgee School circus workshop with 20 participants. The Theatre also offered NESA accredited training for teachers including School Drama: Reading Deeper; Inferential Comprehension and Making Meaning and performances of 'The Twits' and 'Are We There Yet?'; a two day Songmakers workshop where the eleven participants worked in small groups to write, record and produce a new song; Plug & Play mentoring program for young musicians performed at the River and Wren markets;
- Other performance highlights during the year included The Wharf Revue Looking for Albanese, On by Circa, 360 Allstars, Prima Facie, The Twits, Are We There Yet? along with Silver Circle shows Keith Potger, the 60th Anniversary Singalong and four performances from the Australian Army Band Kapooka. Local talent was celebrated and showcased in the Live Local Original Everybody Loves Jazz event in April 2023
- The Civic Theatre's stage was also upgraded along with the lift and further investment in lighting infrastructure was completed during this period.

*A total of
53,687 audience
members attended
185 performances
and events
presented at the
Civic Theatre
this year*



SILVER CIRCLE SINGALONG: Local performers Meredith Adams, Peter J Casey and Jamie Way.

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 2022/23

- The Museum of the Riverina's Botanic Gardens site reopened to the public in February 2023 including new interactive exhibition spaces along with the establishment of a community learning space that can be booked for use by community organisation and re-established a range of education and public programs including school and regular weekend group tours.
- The development of the new Wiradyuri Gallery space at the Museum's Botanic Garden's site was informed by the Wiradyuri community reference group that sought to curate an exceptional museum exhibition experience focused on local history, elevating Wiradyuri consciousness and provided opportunities for in house learning and staff development. The project placed local knowledge and skills at the centre of the project management approach, placing Wiradyuri knowledges, knowledge holders and community expectations at the heart of the development of the exhibition space. Working with a reference group, the museum undertook extensive community consultation to ensure that the stories and objects on display were reflective of Wiradyuri history, culture and aspirations. One of the key innovations of the exhibition was the return of seven significant Wiradyuri cultural objects from the Australian Museum to Wiradyuri country. The return was led by Wiradyuri community and supported by the museum
- A 3 day museum symposium in partnership with the Australian National University, Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders from Mawang Gaway and the Australian Museum with a focus on contemporary museum practice and the return of objects to Country. This event was held at the Charles Sturt University Riverina Playhouse and was livestreamed to a global audience.
- The Museum was also successful in securing a \$50,000 (ex GST) Community Heritage Grant funding from the State Government, Department of Planning and Environments, to research and record local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nation oral histories. This 2 year project fulfills action 7.9 in Council's Reconciliation Action Plan and is due to be completed by 30 June 2025. These oral histories will be produced as podcasts and will include interviews with 13 local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations families who were part of the resettlement scheme to Wagga Wagga in the early 1970s. Many of these residents went on to contribute toward the establishment of a wide range of services for local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations community in the City for example Wiradjuri/ Wiradyuri Childcare, Riverina Medical and a local branch of the Aboriginal Legal Service.

Wagga Wagga City Library

The Wagga Wagga City Library commenced operations as a standalone service on the 1 July 2022, during the first 12 months of operation an increase of 84% in new memberships was recorded. As part of this new model a weekly Agile Library service commenced in suburban and rural village locations across the local government area to increase access to the library's collections and programs. In addition to a regular loans program, a diverse range of learning and community programs with a focus on lifelong learning and developing stronger community connections attracted 13,809 participants with a total of 129 of the 568 programs conducted in suburban and rural village locations for the first time through the Agile Library service. Library opening hours were increased as part of the establishment of the standalone library service with the library now open 7 days, 82 hours per week.

Programming highlights during this year included:

- The delivery of an intergenerational creative play program held at 18 suburban and rural village sites during the 2022 Winter School Holidays including Ashmont, Koorinal, Mount Austin, Tolland, Glenfield Park, Lake Albert, Central, Turvey Park, Estella, Humula, Tarcutta, Ladysmith, Oura, Currawarna, Collingullie, Uranquinty, Mangoplah, Galore
- Stop-motion Animation workshops held at 7 Agile Library sites including Uranquinty, Humula and Galore during the Spring School Holiday break. These workshops were designed for teenagers aged 12-15 years with Alice Peacock, a Wagga Wagga based animator, facilitating this program which was funded through a NSW Government Holiday Break Program grant.
- A series of water colour workshops was presented by Wagga Wagga based artist Elaine Camlin at Currawarna every Saturday during June 2023. These workshops were fully subscribed and held in the community hall as part of the Agile Library Service program.
- Storytime sessions were held on a regular basis throughout the year at Tarcutta, Ladysmith, Ashmont, Tolland and Glenfield Park. Sunshine Storytime and the Books and Bubbles program were presented throughout the year in parks across the city during the school holidays at Gobbagombalin, Estella and Turvey Park.
- The Agile Library also presented pop-up services at events and festivals including the Back-to-School Party - Tolland, Spring Jam – Turvey Park, The Defence Wellbeing Day - Kapooka and FUSION Botanical – Turvey Park.
- A Writers on the Road NSW State Government grant supported the delivery of 21 zine-making workshops, during the Summer 2022/23 and Autumn 2023 school holidays with 223 young people participating in this program. This program was presented in partnership with Wagga based creative organisations The Nest Collective and Halfway Print Fest with a focus on working with young people with low literacy or who were reluctant writers. These workshops were delivered as part of the Agile Library service providing the opportunity for these young people to join as members of the library so they could start utilising the regular Agile Library Service on an ongoing basis

“Through the library my 16-month-old son has developed a love for books and reading, so much so that his teachers at day care have highlighted it as his favourite activity.”

Storytime parent

Objective: Our community feel welcome, included and connected

Community programs and projects delivered through the Library

Throughout the year, Wagga Wagga City library delivered Culturally and Linguistically Diverse programs including the following highlights:

- Language Café, a weekly English language program delivered three times per week by 41 trained volunteers
- A conversational English language program, Learn English and Play, was offered at Estella Public School and Ashmont Resource Centre for multicultural families with pre-school children.
- Fortnightly Storytime sessions connecting with a multicultural playgroup, in partnership with Riverina TAFE were delivered at the Tolland Community Centre.
- 188 culturally and linguistically diverse programs were delivered during this period by the library team including 36 x Tech Savvy community classes offered in the languages of Burmese, Dari, and Kurmanji which were presented by bi-lingual trainers from the local community to meet the needs of the participants in this program. 1,200 new titles in nineteen languages were made available through the eLibrary online platform.
- First Nations Playgroups held at the Tolland-Glenfield Neighbourhood Centre, Ngurra Hub and Koorringal Neighbourhood Centre were provided with Storytime sessions and Agile Library visits. A series of Tech Savvy Seniors classes were held at these centres for Indigenous seniors delivered by First Nations tutors.
- Copies of the book entitled, Growing-up Wiradjuri, were acquired for the library collection. The library hosted the initial meeting between the author and Local Elders to discuss the creation of this important historical resource, an anthology of personal stories by Wiradjuri Elders edited by Wiradjuri woman and author Dr Anita Heiss.

Other service highlights this year included:

- The library partnered with Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre to present The Alphabet of Awesome Science during National Science Week. The three performances were attended by an audience of 1,100, including a number of Primary School groups. In June the Library presented Science workshops with SciVR-Virtual Universe and Twisted Science at primary schools in Humula, Uranquinty, Ladysmith and Tarcutta. Tech Savvy Seniors classes were also well attended with seniors learning about e-safety and becoming more confident online. A series of classes were conducted in Oura, Currawarna, Tarcutta, and Uranquinty throughout the year
- The Wagga Wagga City Library Book Club Program commenced on 1 January 2023. In the first six months of operations 54 book clubs had joined the program borrowing 324 book club kits. The new model facilitated members to recommend titles for purchase each month, making the collection responsive and relevant for members.
- Technology upgrades such as laptops and tablets were purchased to support online services to be delivered in rural village locations across the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area along with the purchase of a Hublet, a self-service, loanable tablet station that provides free digital access to library members.
- One Book One Wagga, Wagga's biggest book club event, celebrated it's 10-year anniversary with author Robbie Arnott other author visits during this period included Wiradjuri author Anita Heiss, Professor of Ecology at Griffith University, Darryl Jones, and Australian Children's Poet Libby Hathorn and the library presented live streaming access to All About Women festival, in partnership with Wagga Women's Health Centre, and Live & Local, in partnership with Sydney Writers Festival 2023.

"This morning I attended the Tech Savvy Seniors in the Library. I'd like to register my sincere thanks to the presenter. The help given was done in such a way that participants were at ease. I came away feeling what a valuable use of time, and much more confident than I was earlier in the morning."

*Tech Savvy Seniors
participant*

- Early literacy programs such as Storytime and Baby Bounce continued to be perennial favourites. These sessions were fully subscribed and attended by over 180 participants on a weekly basis. Program exit surveys consistently return a satisfaction rating above 95%
- The library provided a 52-hour, 7-day service from the Civic Centre site, with an additional 30 hours of service provided by the Agile Library at 9 village and 9 suburban sites across the local government area. The eLibrary, databases and online resources provided members with 24/7 access to digital collections. The introduction of the Agile Library service effectively activated a library presence in neighbourhood and rural village locations, and expanded and diversified the reach of library programs and events
- The introduction of a Wagga Wagga City Library App as part of the standalone library service has increased member access to loans, renewals and reserves and community events information as well as providing a user friendly catalogue interface. Bimonthly library experience exit surveys were conducted throughout the year consistently demonstrated a mean satisfaction rate of 97.8 % by library users.

Agile Library Service



18
service points



6,257
items loaned



700
service visits



129
outreach programs
+ events



3,443
member visits



2,019
outreach program
participants

Digital Library



48,873
eBooks Collection



23 667
eAudio Loans



16,279
eBook Loans



4,945 eMags



20,723
eAudio Collection



50,068
downloads from
722 newspaper titles

Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

Council's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) was formally adopted on 13 Feb 2023. Council's RAP 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 the year to review the implementation of the Reconciliation Action Plan including the following actions.

Council has focused this year on working to ensure Wiradjuri and First Nations' 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 including:

- The Library Service connecting with the Wiradjuri and First Nations Playgroups in the suburbs of Tolland and Ashmont along with Wiradjuri and First Nations Tech Savvy classes were also delivered at three suburban neighbourhood centres including Ashmont, Tolland and Koorringal as part of a national pilot project. This program was funded by Telstra and facilitated by Indigenous tutors employed to support this program.
- Wiradjuri and First Nations exhibitions presented at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery included: Utopia Silks (2 Sept - 30 Oct 2022); Land Prints - Indigenous Prints from the collection of Wagga Wagga Art Gallery (2 Sept - 30 Oct 2022); Mayinguwalgungungirridyu (Hands on Weavers) 5 Nov 2022 - 5 Nov 2023); HOME Program - Wiradjuri school children (5 Nov 2022 - 29 January 2023) and Juanita McLauchlan's Gii mara bula (13 May - 20 August 2023) solo exhibition. Other programs presented included: Ella Havelka and Australian Ballet Education team including dance workshops and performances (Nov 2022 and January 2023); Style Me Up program with Aunty Cheryl Penrith in Sept/Oct 2022 and again in May/June 2023.



STYLE ME UP: Wagga Wagga Art Gallery Director Dr Lee-Anne Hall gets some tips on 'slow fashion' from 'Hand Me Down - Style Me Up' Curator Aunty Cheryl Penrith

-
- The Civic Theatre featured Wiradjuri and First Nations local artists in the Balcony Sessions program this year including Geoff & Ivy Simpson, along with a Riverina Comedy Club show with Dane Simpson and the 60th Gala Concert in June 2023 showcased the talents of the Ashmont Public School dancers and Geoff & Ivy Simpson.
 - The development of the new Wiradyuri Gallery space at the Museum's Botanic Garden's site was informed by the Wiradyuri community reference group that sought to curate an exceptional museum exhibition experience focused on local history, elevating Wiradyuri consciousness and provided opportunities for in house learning and staff development. The project placed local knowledge and skills at the centre of the project management approach, placing Wiradyuri knowledges, knowledge holders and community expectations at the heart of the development of the exhibition space. Working with a reference group, the museum undertook extensive community consultation to ensure that the stories and objects on display were reflective of Wiradyuri history, culture and aspirations. One of the key innovations of the exhibition was the return of seven significant Wiradyuri cultural objects from the Australian Museum to Wiradyuri country. The return was led by Wiradyuri community and supported by the museum.
 - A three (3) day museum symposium in partnership with the Australian National University, Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri Elders from Mawang Gaway and the Australian Museum with a focus on contemporary museum practice and the return of objects to Country. This event was held at the Charles Sturt University Riverina Playhouse and was livestreamed to a global audience.
 - The Museum was also successful in securing a \$50,000 (ex GST) Community Heritage Grant funding from the State Government, Department of Planning and Environments, to research and record local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nation oral histories. This 2-year project fulfills action 7.9 in Council's Reconciliation Action Plan and is due to be completed by 30 June 2025. These oral histories will be produced as podcasts and will include interviews with 13 local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations families who were part of the resettlement scheme to Wagga Wagga in the early 1970s. Many of these residents went on to contribute toward the establishment of a wide range of services for local Wiradjuri/Wiradyuri and First Nations community in the City for example Wiradjuri/ Wiradyuri Childcare, Riverina Medical and a local branch of the Aboriginal Legal Service.

Other activities during this year included:

- The delivery of Sorry Day, Apology Day, Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week events and associated programming along with hosting a Canadian First Nations hosting event, Community information sessions on The Voice to Parliament – 2023 Referendum and participation in the Wagga Wagga Aboriginal Interagency meeting schedule & attendance at community events such as Yandarra Day in November 2022.
- Installation of Acknowledgement of Country in Wiradjuri language was completed 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
- Provision of ongoing administration and coordination of monthly Mawang Gaway meetings where Council staff from across the organisation regularly attended to consult with members of Mawang Gaway on a wide range of programs and projects and seek guidance on future projects and strategic planning processes.
- 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.
- To commence each calendar year at the first Ordinary Council meeting, an Elder is engaged to conduct a Welcome to Country
- Wiradjuri language was included in promotional guides and campaigns for example the annual Wagga Wagga Visitor Guide publication

The oral histories will be produced as podcasts and will include interviews with 13 local Wiradjuri/ Wiradyuri and First Nations families who were part of the resettlement scheme to Wagga Wagga in the early 1970s.



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. Delivery of Council led events included:

Festival of W 2022

Festival of W 2022, in its inaugural year was held in the Wagga Wagga CBD from Saturday 2 July to Sunday 17 July 2022. The festival had an estimated 27,900 attending across the 16-day period with 20.16% of the event attendees identifying as visitors from outside the Wagga Wagga LGA. The festival included the return of a larger authentic ice-skating rink, a large-scale art installation and three major events held on weekends.

2022 Christmas program

The 2022 Christmas program commenced with the installation of decorations in Baylis and Fitzmaurice Street and the Civic Centre forecourt. The decorations were on display to the public until 9th of January 2023 and included the installation of 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 Cyprus Pine tree in Victory Memorial Gardens and fairy lights at five pedestrian crossings. The Santa Trail activation was delivered across four days visiting four locations: Gobbagombalin Park, Chambers Park in Tolland, Botanic Gardens in Turvey Park and Paddy Osborne Park in Tarcutta. 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 2022 video was produced to promote all these activities online as part of the overall promotional campaign to support the Christmas 2022 schedule.

Australia Day 2023 celebration

Australia Day 2023 celebrations commenced with a free community breakfast and live entertainment were well-supported, with approximately 480 community members gathering to reflect, respect and celebrate with family and friends. The 2023 Australia Day event series included a new First Nations event 'Mawang ngiyahni bala Yarruwala' which included a smoking ceremony, Wiradjuri storytelling and a community concert with First Nations performers in the Victory Memorial Gardens on the 24th of January 2023. In addition, the annual Australia Day awards ceremony was conducted at the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre on the evening of the 25th of January 2023. Four outstanding Wagga Wagga residents and a local community group were honoured and recognised at the 2023 Australia Day awards for their community contributions including:

- 2023 Citizen of the Year – Allan Pottie
- 2023 Young Citizen of the Year – Maimuna Zaman
- 2023 Walk of Honour Inductee – Aunty Isabel Reid and Aunty Kath Withers
- 2023 Ted Ryder Sports Memorial – Henri Moreels
- 2023 Environmental Citizen of the Year – ErinEarth (Carmel Wallis and Kaye Bryan)

Festival of W had an estimated 27,900 attending across the 16-day period with 20.16% of the event attendees identifying as visitors from outside the Wagga Wagga LGA.



Spring Jam 2022

Spring Jam 2022 was delivered on Saturday 21 September at the Botanic Gardens. This was the first Spring Jam event back since 2019 after the Covid-19 pandemic. The festival recorded an estimated 5,000+ attendees with 19% identifying that they travelled from outside the Wagga Wagga LGA. The single-day family friendly festival is targeted at children aged between 2-12yrs. The spring filled festival combines circus acts, adventure play, interactive fun, live entertainment, zoo safaris, treats and healthy food options for all.

Citizenship ceremonies

Council coordinates and facilitates Citizenship ceremonies throughout the year. Council coordinates and facilitates Citizenship ceremonies throughout the year. During 2022/23 the Wagga Wagga community welcomed 385 new Australian citizens to the city, including 101 children, at 12 ceremonies.



The environment



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

Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040

The Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 sets the strategic vision and framework for the growth of 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 2022/23

- Council partnered with consultants Ethos Urban to begin preparation of the Local Housing Strategy (LHS). The LHS will identify specific opportunities and option to deliver on population targets, housing choice and affordability. Stakeholder engagement is scheduled for late 2023, with broader public consultation schedule for early 2024.
- The draft Northern Growth Area concept plan was finalised. This plan formed the basis for the scoping and tendering of detailed technical studies. The detailed technical studies are anticipated to take 12-18 months to prepare and will form the basis for the future planning proposal to unlock between 6,000 and 9,000 new homes in the Northern Growth Area to contribute to meeting the growing needs of the city.
- Council began investigating the need for a southern growth front to meet the growing demand for housing in Wagga Wagga. As the Northern Growth Area progresses to meet the longer-term growth projections for the city, Council recognises the need for housing in the short-medium term. Approximately 1023ha in the south of Wagga Wagga is being investigated for its potential to deliver a staged precinct scale development of approximately 4,750 dwellings.
- Council partnered with consultants Hatch Roberts Day to develop the Central Business District (CBD) Masterplan. Informed by the Place Score undertaken in 2021, this plan will support the continued vibrancy and vitality of the CBD by addressing urban design, movement and accessibility, economic growth, climate resilience and the public realm. Stakeholder engagement and public consultation will occur in early 2024.

-
- Council and Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) worked together on the Tolland Renewal Masterplan. The Tolland Renewal Masterplan seeks to deliver a mix of new social, affordable and private housing fit for the needs of residents, improved green spaces such as parks and outdoor communal areas, increased road connectivity and pathways, and increased recognition of Tolland's First Nations history. Public consultation on the Masterplan is scheduled for late 2023. The planning proposal for the Tolland Renewal Project will be assessed by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.
 - Council received three planning proposals to amend the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010 (LEP). The proposals received seek various changes to the LEP including reclassification of land and residential rezoning in Turvey Park, Tolland and Rowan.
 - Council finalised six planning proposals for various sites across the Wagga Wagga LGA to amend the Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2010.



39%

of domestic waste
diverted from landfill.
This is an increase of
20% from 21/22.



3.81%

decreased in kerbside
recycling in from
2021/22 – 2022/23



6.3%

increase in FOGO
from 2022/23. This
comes after large
increases during the
COVID pandemic.

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 7 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 2022/23

- Council's 'Going Green' workshops were successfully delivered during this period offering reusable nappy and menstrual products rebates. 96 residents have applied for rebates in the 22/23 financial year
- 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 303.28 Tonnes in 2022/23 from landfill by reselling waste items through our reduce, reuse and recycle shop.
- Waste Education staff have joined Fusion 2022 by supplying the funds for 3 Tip Duck shows to provide community engagement of sort waste into kerbside bins.



TIP DUCK: Ibsen, the world's first rubbish-collecting ibis, spreads his message about keeping the world tidy at Fusion 2022. Image credit: Peter Mathew

Improvements at GWMC

Council continues to make major improvements at GWMC with its commitment to diverting rubbish from landfill with the plans to extend the RRR Shop to allow for soft furnishings underway.

Resource recovery improvements made with crushing and shredding services refined for materials to be used onsite and diverted from landfill. This includes materials used for hardstands, roadways and mulching around trees.



TREASURE-TROVE: Supervisor of Solid Waste Tammie Cook and Tip Shop Operator Michael Redmond with pre-loved tems ready for a new home.

Objective: Our natural areas are protected and enhanced

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.

*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*

Key activities in 2022/23

- Participating in the Queens Jubilee Tree Planting Program in partnership with South Wagga Rotary to plant 54 shade trees along active travel paths and recreational areas including Menzies Ave Park, Jack Misson Oval, Crisp Drive Park and Henwood Ave Park.
- Removing willows, privet and coco palms along a 1.5km section of the Murrumbidgee River with \$150,000 funding received from the Australian Government's Murray-Darling Heathy Rivers Program.
- Continuing the award-winning One Tree for Me (OT4M) campaign by giving away 8,000 seedlings at events in Tolland, Ashmont, Glenfield and Mount Austin totalling 28,000 for the program so far.
- Planting over 3,000 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.
- Funding five projects under the Annual Grants program's Natural Environment category. Projects included a nature play area at Menzies Ave park, a yarning circle and bush tucker garden, a seed library, a frog pond at Erin Earth and native plantings for the Downside Hall.
- Limiting vehicle access into Wilks Park by installing fencing to protect significant habitat.
- Spraying priority weeds on roadsides and reserves throughout the Wagga Wagga LGA and undertaking inspections of private properties and high risk pathways
- Partnering with Mount Austin High school to install floating reed bed within the Marrambidya Wetland to provide habitat for waterbirds and fish.
- Partnering with CSU to determine baseline fox populations within the urban area by setting and collecting data from remote sensor cameras.

Marrambidya Wetland Plan of Management

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. 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 Plan of Management, which will provide direction for future management actions and the protection of the wetland. A portion of the wetland site is owned by Crown Lands, requiring a Plan of Management that complies with the Crown Land Management Act 2016 and the Local Government Act 1993. This Plan has been drafted and needs to be approved by Council and Crown Lands via the Minister.

Bomen Revegetation Project

Council is party to a five-year agreement (2021-2025) with Spark Infrastructure and Westpac Bank 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. This includes species such as the Regent Honey Eater and Swift Parrot which listed as 'critically endangered' under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.

10,000 native seedlings were planted as part of this project in 2022/23 and the revegetated areas will help to provide habitat and forage areas for these iconic species that were once common to the area.



COMMEMORATING TOGETHER: Acting Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Councillor Jenny McKinnon and Aunty Mary Atkinson joined students from Ashmont Public School at the tree planting ceremony to commemorate the dedicated service Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.

Wiradjuri Trail Master Plan

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.

Council launched the Wiradjuri Trail Master Plan in August 2021, and during the 2022/23 period a number of actions were completed including:

- Completion of the Flowerdale Footbridge to enable pedestrians to cross safely. Wiradjuri elders had involvement in the design and construction of the bridge. It has resulted in a naturally beautiful bridge made of a timber composite (Glulam) with no straight edges. There are no bridges of its kind in the region but it may start a trend with other organisations interested in taking a look at this unique bridge.
- Design of a concrete path for Moorong Street between Flowerdale Lagoon and Gobbagombalin Bridge. Construction funding has been obtained from Crown Lands.
- Federal funding has been obtained to repair the erosion wash outs on Wiradjuri trail adjacent the river at the Wetlands and Narrung Street.
- Completion of Wiradjuri Trail improvements by the Soil Conservation Service on eroded sections in the Birramal Conservation Area.



Lake Albert

Council conducts regular water quality monitoring of Lake Albert throughout the year to measure the presence of bacteria and blue green algae and uploads the results of these tests onto Council's website. In 2022/23 Council sampled Lake Albert twenty 20 times for blue green algae and bacteria resulting in five red alerts, closing Lake Albert for a total of 81 days.

Blue Green Algae Alert Level - Lake Albert					
FY	No. Sampling Days	Green	Amber	Red	BGA lake 'closures' (days)
2015-2016	18	7	11	0	0
2016-2017	22	15	7	0	0
2017-2018	29	11	11	7	134
2018-2019	27	15	4	8	119
2019-2020	14*	8	1	5	101
2020-2021	23	20	2	0	0
2021-2022	21	14	6	1	18
2022-2023	20	9	6	5	81

Table 5: Alert - causes and increased sampling should be undertaken. Red Alert - health authorities notified - water should not be used for recreation.

Bacteria Alert Level - Lake Albert				
FY	Low	Medium	High	No. Sampling Days
2015-2016	8	6	3	17
2016-2017	2	15	4	21
2017-2018	2	11	3	16
2018-2019	5	11	10	26
2019-2020	12	2	0	14*
2020-2021	13	8	1	22
2021-2022	15	6	0	21
2022-2023	12	5	2	19

Table 6: Alert Levels for Bacteria. *sampling required boat to access lake due to low water levels, regular scheduled sampling frequency decreased. Low - No restrictions of use. Medium - Advise against primary contact. High - Advise against all use.

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 2022/23 included:

- 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
- 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
- Graffiti management
- Conducting 'Be Sharps Smart' workshops to preschool and Primary school student on the importance of being sharps smart.

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 2022/23 included:

- Supporting community environmental activities through the Annual Grants Program
- Facilitating the annual Clean up Australia Day
- Facilitating National Tree Day and Schools National Tree Day
- Facilitating One Tree for Me giveaways
- Facilitating two Native Seed Propagation Workshop
- Facilitating a Native Pollinator Workshop
- Facilitating the Beyond the Yellow Bin Recycling tours
- Facilitating the Aussie Backyard Bird Count
- Facilitating the Garage Sale Trail
- Facilitating Botanic Garden Tours with Settlers Village
- Facilitating a Spotlight Night at Silverlite
- Facilitating Marrambyda Wetland tours
- Facilitating School Sustainability Sessions
- Participating in the Mental Health and Nature Program with Murrumbidgee Landcare.



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

Net Zero Emissions

Council's Corporate Net Zero Emissions 2040 Strategy presents recommended actions to avoid, minimise and offset emissions from activities or facilities where Council has operational or financial control. This includes corporate emissions from:

- Electricity
- Gas
- Fuel
- Landfill operation
- Wastewater treatment
- Streetlighting

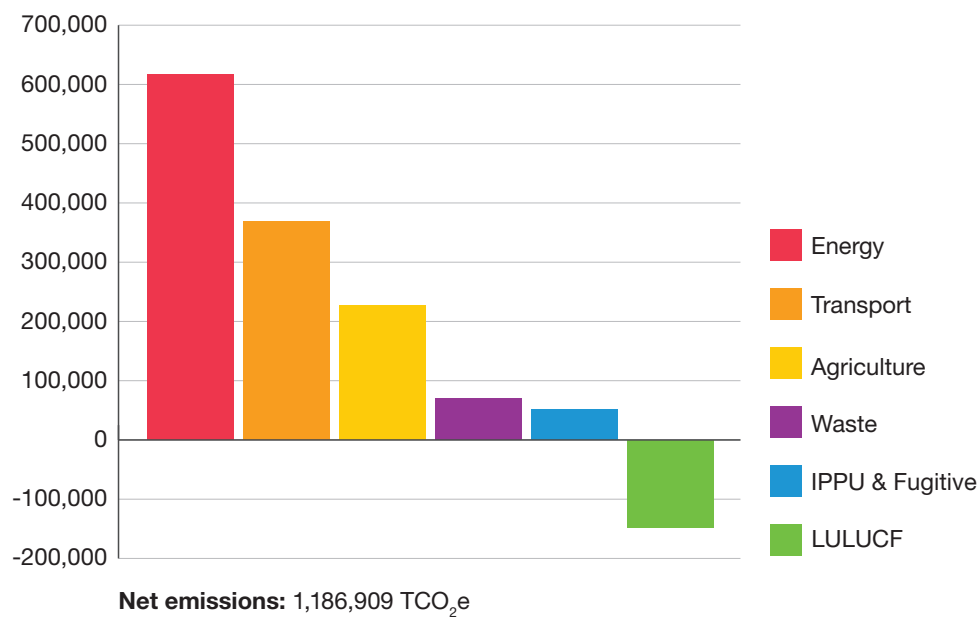
Council also resolved to prepare a Community Net Zero Emissions 2050 Roadmap. Extensive consultation was undertaken with the NZE Community Forum, interested stakeholder groups and the wider community to inform the draft Roadmap. This was completed in 2023 and endorsed by Council to be placed on public exhibition.



Council has implemented the following initiatives in 2022/23:

- Installation of a 50kW solar PV system at the Alan Turner Depot
- Installation of a 12kW solar PV system at the Bob Osborne Skills Centre
- Employing an all-electric design for the new Jim Elphick Tennis Centre
- Flaring methane captured at the Gregadoo Waste Management Centre
- Extending the Council car-pool fleet to three fully electric vehicles
- Adopting an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure on Public Land Policy
- Receiving NSW Government funding to install destination EV chargers at four sites.

Tonnes CO₂e



Emissions profile for the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area 2021. (Source: NSW and Department of Planning and Environment 2023, Net Zero Emissions Dashboard 2021-2050).

Urban Cooling Strategy

In November 2022, Council adopted the 'Urban Cooling Strategy 2022-2052'. The Urban Cooling Strategy aims to increase community health, well-being and resilience through planning more sustainable future developments and adapting our existing areas wherever possible.

The Urban Cooling Strategy contains 29 key action items that Council and the community can take to help reduce the impact of increasing temperatures and heat waves on the community. This has included the following actions in 2022/23:

- Creating the interactive 'Wagga Wagga Urban Heat & Canopy Mapping Tool' for the public to access, which shows land surface temperature and vegetation cover over the 27 suburbs in the study area.
- Created a webpage with information and assistance to help the community be prepared for and minimise the health impacts of extreme heat.
- Planting over 450 mature trees in strategic locations across 100 of Council's playgrounds and parks to provide future shading and cooling and providing habitat for local fauna.

In June 2023 the Wagga Wagga Urban Cooling Strategy won a Highly Commended Award for Environmental Leadership at the Local Government Excellence Awards.



CANOPY COVER: An important element to helping cool our city is the goal to increase urban canopy cover in public open spaces including parks, reserves and sportsgrounds.

Financial summary

This report provides analysis on Wagga Wagga City Council's 2022/23 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. For the 2022/23 financial year, a one month extension was requested by Council and approved by the OLG, with Council to lodge with the OLG by 30 November 2023.

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 2022/23 Key Results

- Operating result from continuing operations of \$41.1M
- Net operating deficit before capital grants and contributions of (\$6.1M)
- New Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment of \$60.5M (\$24.4M renewal assets; \$36.1M new assets).

Financial Overview

Wagga Wagga City Council's operating result from continuing operations was a surplus of \$57.7M \$41.1M, which was \$16.6M lower than the 2021/22 result. This was mainly due to the decrease in grants and contributions provided for capital purposes (\$23.2M).

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions was a deficit of \$6.1M, which is \$6.8M improved result compared to the 2021/22 result. This is mainly due to Council receiving additional one-off operating grants during 2022/23 that have been recognised as income and not yet fully expended. Additionally, Council received its full 2023/24 Financial Assistance Grant allocation during 2022/23, which positively impacted this result.

Council's current position is determined by the unrestricted current ratio of 3.27:1 and shows a relatively stable position for 2022/23 and represents adequate levels of liquidity.

As of 30 June 2023, Council held \$66.3M in internal reserves, an increase of \$12.2M on the previous year. This increase is primarily due to the increase in Financial Assistance Grants in advance Reserve (\$3.8M), Livestock Marketing Centre Reserve (\$0.6M), Project carryovers Reserve (\$3.9M), Internal Loans Reserve (\$2.6M), Strategic Real Property Reserve (\$1M), Buildings Reserve (\$0.7M), and Information Services Reserve (\$0.6M).

A final review of the 2022/23 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 2022/23 Financial Statements. Council's result for the year was a balanced revised budget.

Finance snapshot



Income
▼ 3.59%
\$189.196M



Expenses
▲ 6.77%
\$148.111M



Assets
▲ 16.85%
\$2.321B



Liabilities
▼ 2.40%
\$108.139M

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). The below table summarises Council's results of these performance measures for 2022/23.

Ratio	Purpose	WWCC Ratio	OLG benchmark	Meet benchmark
Operating Performance Ratio	Measures Council's achievement of containing operating expenditure within operating revenue.	1.43%	Minimum 0.00%	✓
Own Source Operating Revenue	Measures fiscal flexibility. Degree of reliance on external funding such as operating grants and contributions.	61.70%	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.	3.27 times	Minimum 1.50 times	✓
Debt Service Cover Ratio	Measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments.	3.46 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.	5.17%	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.	15.92 months	Minimum 3.00 months	✓

Table 7: Industry performance indicators

Income

Total income ▼ 3.59% to \$189.196M

Overall income for 2022/23 decreased by \$7.06M to \$189.196M, down from \$196.251M in 2021/22. This is mainly attributable to a decrease in capital grants and contributions received during the 2022/23 financial year. Further details on each category of income is provided below.

Rates and annual charges ▲ 3.61% to \$75.158M

An increase in property numbers from 29,518 in 2021/22 to 29,778 in 2022/23 together with the rate peg increase of 2.0% added \$1.3M to operating revenue for 2022/23.

User charges and fees ▲ 11.85% to \$30.657M

Revenue from user charges and fees increased by 11.85% or \$2.616M for the 2022/23 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, with the easing of the as COVID-19 restrictions.

Other revenues ▲ 3.24% to \$3.572M

Other revenues increased by 12.78% 3.24% or \$0.507M \$112K in 2021/22 2022/23.

Grants and contributions ▼ 18.59% to \$72.210M

The total income Council received in 2022/23 for both operating and capita grants was \$72.210M. This is a decrease of \$16.491M, when compared to the 2021/22 financial year. This is mainly attributable to a decrease in capital grants for a number of major projects that were completed during the 2021/22 financial year.

During 2022/23, Council also received a 100% prepayment of its Financial Assistance Grants for 2023/24. This is an increase from the 75% prepayment received in previous years for this grant funding.

Interest and investment revenues ▲ 141.22% to \$5.548M

Council's interest and investment revenue increased by 141.22% or \$3.248M compared to the 2021/22 financial year. This is mainly attributable to Council's investment portfolio significantly outperforming the original predicted budget for 2022/23. For the 2022/23 financial year, Council's investment portfolio returned 2.91%, as interest rates increased from a record low of 0.10% in April 2022 to 4.10% in June 2023, with Council being able to take advantage of increasing investment rates that were on offer.

Other income ▲ 11.59% to \$2.051M

Other income increased by 11.59% or \$213K in 2022/23. This is mainly attributable to Council's experiencing an increase in the overall principal value of its floating rate note investments as at 30 June 2023.

Expenses

Total expenses ▲ 6.77% to \$148.111M

Overall expenditure for 2022/23 increased by \$9.397M, which is mainly attributed to a \$3.333M increase in employee benefits and on-costs due to significant staff vacancies from prior years being filled, a \$3.344M increase in materials and services, and an increase in net losses on disposal of assets of \$2.460M. Further details are provided below.

Employee benefits and on-costs ▲ 7.82% to \$45.963M

Total employee costs increased by 7.82% or \$3.333M for 2022/23 at \$45.963M. This increase in expenditure for 2022/23 is mainly attributable to Council having a significant number of vacant positions in the previous 2021/22 financial year, which have now been filled.

Materials and services ▲ 8.28% to \$43.743M

The total cost to Council for materials and services increased to \$43.743M for 2022/23, a \$3.344M increase when compared to 2021/22. This increase can be attributed to an increase in the cost of raw materials and consumables utilised by Council during the financial year.

Borrowing costs ▲ 14.14% to \$3.487M

Council saw an increase in borrowing costs for 2022/23 of 14.14% or \$432K, when compared to 2021/22. This can mainly be attributed to the current interest rate market for new loan borrowings.

Depreciation, amortisation and impairment ▼ 1.28% to \$41.854M

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. For the 2022/23 financial year, Council completed an extensive asset revaluation process for the transport asset category with the full effect of the revaluation to be accounted for in the 2023/24 financial year.

Other expenses ▲ 9.28% to \$4.344M

Other expenses increased by 9.28% or \$369K in 2022/23 when compared to 2021/22. This is mainly attributable to rising costs experienced across the market.

Assets

Total Assets ▲ 16.85% to \$1.985B

Infrastructure, Property, Plant and Equipment ▲ 16.59% to \$2.066B

Net Assets ▲ 17.98% to \$2.213B

Cash position

An analysis of Council's cash holdings at 30 June 2023 highlights that cash and investments increased by \$41.724M for the year.

Council's total portfolio returned 2.91% for the 2022/23 year, outperforming the AusBond Bank Bill Index by 0.02% for the year.

Council, as at 30 June 2023, held 17.89% 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 an increase from the 30 June 2022 position of 13.03%.

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 \$29.503M for 2022/23.

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 \$12.213M for 2022/23.

Unrestricted current ratio

The unrestricted current ratio for 2022/23 is 3.27 times. This ratio has increased from the 2021/22 ratio of 2.12 times. Council's unrestricted current ratio for 2022/23 reflects Council's strong level of liquidity.

Receivables

Receivables for 2022/23 totalled \$18.223M, an increase of 15.54% on the previous year. This is mainly due to an increase in Deferred debtors due to a property sale.

Rates and annual charges outstanding were 5.17% at 30 June 2023, an improvement of 0.84% on the previous year. This outstanding percentage is significantly lower than the benchmark for regional and rural councils of 10%.

This 5.17% 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.

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) increased for the year by 16.59% to \$2.066B. Note C1-8 of the 2022/23 Financial Statements shows the detail of the asset classes that contribute to the total amount of IPPE. During the 2022/23 financial year, Council recognised total asset additions of \$60.451M, including new assets of \$36.087M and renewals of \$24.364M.

Liabilities

Total liabilities ▼ 2.40% to \$108.139M

- Payables ▼ 0.72% to \$19.760M
- Contract liabilities ▲ 70.97% to \$11.607M
- Lease liabilities ▼ 16.74% to \$1.711M
- Borrowings ▼ 13.74% to \$57.775M
- Employee leave provisions ▲ 4.04% to \$12.890M
- Provisions ▲ 48.11% to \$4.396M

Payables

Council's payables at 30 June 2023 totalled \$19.760M, a decrease of \$141K on the previous year. This is mainly due to Council having less outstanding invoices to be paid at 30 June 2023.

Contract and Lease Liabilities

At 30 June 2023, Council's Contract liabilities totalled \$11.607M and its Lease liabilities totalled \$1.711M. This is an increase of 70.97% for Contract liabilities and a decrease of 16.74% for lease liabilities, when compared to the 30 June 2022. The significant increase in Contract liabilities held at 30 June 2023 is due to Council a number of operating and capital grants that are yet to be expended. The decrease in lease liabilities at 30 June 2023 is a result of Council making its lease liability payments in 2022/23 as they came due.

Borrowings

Total borrowings for Council now stand at \$57.775M at 30 June 2023, a decrease of \$9.199M from the previous year as a result of Council making its loan repayments in 2022/23 as they came due. 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 2023 total \$17.286M. Council's provision for employee leave entitlements (i.e. annual leave and long service leave) increased by \$501K for 2022/23, whilst Council's provision for asset remediation decreased by \$1.428M 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 68,227 people. The network consists of in excess of 716 kilometres of gravity and pressure mains and 48 permanent pump stations and 8 treatment plants. Last year 5,859ML of sewerage was transported through the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area sewerage network.

Income ▲ 8.83% to \$22.637M

Income for sewer for 2022/23 has increased on the 2021/22 financial year by 8.83%, or \$1.837M. This is due to an increase in income from Sewer Rates and Annual charges for 2022/23.

Expenses ▼ 4.43% to \$20.277M

Sewer expenditure for 2022/23 decreased \$939K from the 2021/22 financial year. This decrease in expenditure is mainly attributable to decreased expense for materials and services.

Surplus (deficit) after tax ▲ 52.28% to \$4.602M surplus

The sewer business achieved a \$4.602M surplus result for the 2022/23 financial year, a 52.28% decrease improved position from 2021/22 result of \$3.022M surplus result. This is mainly due to a decrease in materials and services expenses and an increase in operating income received for the financial year.

Assets ▲ 8.01% to \$409.149M

Total assets for the year increased by \$30.336M or 8.01%, up to \$409.149M. This increase is mainly a result of Council's sewerage network assets being indexed during the 2022/23 financial year, with Council recognising an increase in the fair value of these assets held, together with increased cash at bank held for the Sewer Reserve.

Liabilities ▼ 0.58% to \$31.880M

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 ▲ 40.85% to \$45.241M

The increase in the Sewer reserve balance for 2022/23 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. The Sewer Reserve balance also experienced an increase with the receipt of the full loan repayments back to the Sewer Reserve for land sale proceeds for a parcel of land at Bomen.

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 (see p xx for 2022/23 highlights).

Income ▲ 39.25% to \$4.158M

Income for the Airport increased for the 2022/23 financial year, up by 39.25% (or \$1.172M). This increase in income is mainly attributable to an increase in passenger service charges and security screening charges as COVID-19 restrictions were eased for the 2022/23 financial year.

Expenses ▼ 22.79% to \$7.415M

The decrease in operating expenses for the 2022/23 year is mainly due to a decrease in depreciation expense for the Airport Infrastructure assets.

Surplus (deficit) after tax ▼ 49.60% to \$3.257M deficit

The net operating result for the Airport including depreciation for 2022/23 was a deficit of \$3.257M. The improvement in this deficit for 2022/23, when compared to 2021/22, is due to an increase in passenger service charges as COVID-19 restrictions were eased for the 2022/23 financial year.

Assets ▼ 26.00% to \$10.055M

Airport assets have decreased for 2022/23 by 26.00%, which is mainly attributable to a decrease in the carrying value of Airport infrastructure assets at 30 June 2023 due to depreciation expense.

Liabilities ▼ 6.84% to \$12.068M

Airport liabilities have decreased by \$886K (or 6.84%) for the year. This is mainly attributable to a decrease in the value of external loan borrowings and bank overdraft.

Reserve balance remained the same at \$0K

At 30 June 2023, 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. Prior year deficit results for the Airport were 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 \$1.4M.

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 (see p xx for 2022/23 highlights).

Income ▲ 0.90% to \$6.754M

Income for the LMC has increased marginally by 0.90%, or \$60K when compared to 2021/22.

Expenses ▲ 2.56% to \$4.484M

Expenses for the LMC increased by 2.56% in 2022/23. This can be attributed to an increase in materials and services costs.

Surplus (deficit) after tax ▼ 2.24% to \$1.702M surplus

The Livestock Marketing Centre achieved a \$1.702M surplus for the 2022/23 financial year. This is a marginal decrease of 2.24%, when compared to the \$1.741M surplus generated for 2021/22 and is mainly attributable to a slight increase experienced in materials and services as noted above.

Assets ▲ 11.10% to \$54.057M

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

Liabilities ▲ 36.23% to \$722K

Liabilities for the LMC have increased by 36.23% (or \$192K) for 2022/23 mainly due to an increase in the value of outstanding invoices at 30 June 2023.

Reserve balance ▲ 9.12% to \$6.582M

The increased closing reserve balance of \$6.582M for 2022/23 is reflective of the surplus after tax from the operation of this activity for the financial year

Stormwater management

Stormwater charges during 2022/23 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 2022/23 financial year Council did not write off any rates and charges.

Legal proceedings

Public liability matters

Proceeding No.	Matter	Status	Total costs	Costs recovered
LI0081590	Public Liability – Trip & Fall (Cross Street)	Finalised	\$15,000	Nil
LI0100281	Public Liability – Trip & Fall (Wagga Airport)	Ongoing Directions	\$15,000	Nil

Table 8: Public liability matters

Contractual matters

Matter	Status	Total costs to date, as at 30/06/2023	Costs recovered
Riverina Regional Library	Ongoing	\$185,831.50	Nil

Table 9: Contractual matters

Financial assistance and contributions

In total, Council provided \$2,155,699 in financial assistance and contributions which has been broken down into the following categories:

Categories	Amount
Community Lease Rental Subsidy	\$1,580,408
Fees and Charges Waivers	\$29,236
Contributions	\$57,136
Annual Grants Program	\$219,086
Road Closures	\$15,865
Major Events Sponsorship	\$79,686
Total	\$1,981,417

Table 10: Total financial assistance and contributions in 2022/23

Fees and charges waivers

Beneficiary	Amount
Anglican Opportunity Shop	\$148
Best Friends Pet Rescue Association	\$28
Carevan Wagga Incorporated	\$29
Collingullie Soldiers Memorial Hall	\$596
Cricket NSW Baggy Blues	\$626
Defence Shed Wagga Wagga	\$15
Department of Communities and Justice	\$6,789
Friends of the Botanic Gardens	\$330
Henwood Park Football Club	\$596
Ladysmith Memorial Hall Committee	\$596
Ladysmith Tourist Railway	\$824
Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga	\$589
North Wagga Residents Association	\$596
Palliative Care Enhancement Council	\$685
PCYC	\$1,080
Relay for Life	\$3,550
Riverina Conservatorium of Music	\$445
Riverina Summer School for Strings	\$685
Rotary Club of South Wagga	\$213
Rotary Club of Wollundry	\$3,300
South Wagga Anglican Church Chain Gang	\$20
St Vincent De Paul	\$1,680
Task Force 72	\$1,175
Wagga Men's Shed	\$418
Wagga Swim Club	\$2,110
Wagga Toy Run	\$300
Wagga Wagga and District Family History Society	\$1,112
Wagga Wagga Baptist Facilities Incorporated	\$42
Wagga Wagga Rescue Squad	\$659
Total	\$29,236

Table 11: Total fees and charges waivers

Contributions

Beneficiary	Amount
Booranga Writers Centre	\$3,500
Calvary Health Care - Regional Medical Specialist Recruitment & Retention	\$10,000
Circus Quirkus	\$2,400
City of Wagga Wagga Eisteddfod Society	\$3,000
Committee 4 Wagga	\$7,500
Eastern Riverina Arts	\$22,827
Riverina Conservatorium of Music	\$8,909
Southern Sports Academy	\$4,000
Summer School for Strings	\$2,500
Wagga Business Chamber	\$62,045
Wagga School of Arts Community Theatre	\$2,500
Total	\$129,181

Table 12: Total contributions

Road closures

Beneficiary	Amount
Anzac Day	\$9,955
Gold Cup	\$2,310
Lake Run and Ride	\$3,600
Total	\$15,865

Table 13: Total road closures

Councillor expenses

The below table provides a breakdown of costs associated with Councillors over the 2022/23 financial year.

Expense	Cost (\$)
Councillor Allowance	\$251,708
Mayoral Allowance	\$70,225
Telephone	\$3,161
Conferences	\$23,189
Information Technology Costs	\$3,702
Travelling – Intrastate	\$7,594
Travelling – Interstate	\$0
Travelling – Overseas	\$11,910
Total	\$371,489

Table 14: Councillor expenses

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, with 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.

The following professional development activities including conferences were undertaken by the mayor and each councillor to address any gaps in the capabilities (i.e. 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 Davies

- Planning for Councillors – 10 October 2022 (Group session for all Councillors \$1760)

Councillor Richard Foley

- Planning for Councillors – 10 October 2022 (Group session for all Councillors \$1760)
- LGNSW Annual Conference – 23 to 26 October 2022 (\$989, plus travel and accommodation)
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention for Councillors (ICAC) – 12 December 2022 – Nil cost
- LGNSW Water Management Conference – 27 June 2023 (\$675 plus travel and accommodation)

Councillor Dan Hayes

- Sydney Transport Master Class for Councillors – 15 September 2022 (\$850 plus travel and accommodation)
- National General Assembly – 18 to 21 June 2023 (\$895 plus travel and accommodation)

Councillor Henderson

- Planning for Councillors – 10 October 2022 (Group session for all Councillors \$1760)
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention for Councillors (ICAC) – 12 December 2022 – Nil cost

Councillor Kendall

- Planning for Councillors – 10 October 2022 (Group session for all Councillors \$1760)
- LGNSW Annual Conference – 23 to 26 October 2022 (\$989, plus travel and accommodation)

Councillor Koschel

- Planning for Councillors – 10 October 2022 (Group session for all Councillors \$1760)
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention for Councillors (ICAC) – 12 December 2022 – Nil cost
- Executive Certificate for Elected Members (Local Government NSW) – 26 to 27 August and 16 to 17 September 2022 (\$3500.00, plus travel and accommodation)

Councillor McKinnon

- Planning for Councillors – 10 October 2022 (Group session for all Councillors \$1760)
- LGNSW Annual Conference – 23 to 26 October 2022 (\$989, plus travel and accommodation)

-
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention for Councillors (ICAC) – 12 December 2022 – Nil cost
 - NSW Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Conference – 7 to 9 July 2022 (\$1538, plus travel and accommodation)
 - NSW Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Conference – 17 to 20 May 2023 (\$1260, plus travel and accommodation)
 - 2023 Floodplain Management Australia National Conference – 23 to 26 May 2023 (\$1050, plus travel and accommodation)

Councillor Amelia Parkins

- NSW Australian Local Government Women's Association (ALGWA) Conference – 17-20 May 2023 (\$1260, plus travel and accommodation)
- LGNSW Water Management Conference – 27 June (\$675 plus travel and accommodation)
- Planning for Councillors – 10 October 2022 (Group session for all Councillors \$1760)
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention for Councillors (ICAC) – 12 December 2022 – Nil cost

Councillor Dallas Tout

- Planning for Councillors – 10 October 2022 (Group session for all Councillors \$1760)
- LGNSW Annual Conference – 23 to 26 October 2022 (\$989, plus travel and accommodation)
- NSW Public Libraries Association (NSWPLA) SWITCH 2022 Conference and Annual General Meeting – 8 to 11 November 2022 – Nil cost
- Fraud and Corruption Prevention for Councillors (ICAC) – 12 December 2022 – Nil cost
- Rural and Regional Summit - 20 February 2023 (\$440, plus travel and accommodation)
- National General Assembly – 18 to 21 June 2023 (\$895 plus travel and accommodation)
- LGNSW Special Conference – 28 February to 3 March 2022 (\$1,195 plus travel & accommodation).

Overseas visits by councillors, council staff or other persons representing council

The Mayor and the General Manager lead a delegation, attending the 2022 Historic Wall Festival in Nördlingen from 9 September to 11 September 2022 as part of Council's Sister City partnership. As part of the sister city visit the Mayor and General Manager visited various industries that may lead to a potential opportunity for Wagga Wagga to attract a business from our sister city Nördlingen. Costs associated with the visit were paid by Council in the amount of \$11,910.

Contracts

Contracts awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000

Table 15 provides a breakdown of contracts awarded in the 2022/23 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
2022-905	Wagga Motors Pty Ltd	Motor Vehicles supply	\$ 300,699.00	30/09/2022	Lump sum
2020-12	Rocky Point Quarries Pty Ltd	Road Base Supply/win roads maintenance	\$ 349,906.99	21/01/2023	Schedule of rates
2021-543	Boral Construction Materials Group Ltd	Bitumen Surfacing services	\$ 283,337.21	30/09/2022	Schedule of rates
PD49597	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Ltd	Road Stabilisation services	\$ 5,686,887.29	7/03/2023	Schedule of rates
2021-542	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Asphalt Supply & Lay services Rd works	\$ 2,945,572.60	30/09/2022	Schedule of rates
2021-542	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Asphalt Supply & Lay services Rd works	\$ 167,520.30	30/09/2022	Schedule of rates
2021-542	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Asphalt Supply & Lay services Rd works	\$ 1,598,146.25	30/09/2022	Schedule of rates
2021-542	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Asphalt Supply & Lay services Rd works	\$ 235,162.52	30/09/2022	Schedule of rates
2021-542	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Asphalt Supply & Lay services Rd works	\$ 240,944.70	30/09/2022	Schedule of rates
2023-07	Excell Gray Bruni Pty Ltd	Concrete Sheep Yards services	\$ 2,137,300.00	22/08/2022	Lump sum
2023-900	The Trustee For Bannantyne Family Trust	Process Biosolids services	\$ 183,025.60	19/10/2022	Schedule of rates
PE25479	Pcyc Wagga Wagga	Contribution	\$ 2,839,440.00	14/11/2022	Lump sum
2020-01	Huon Contractors Pty Ltd	Construct Subdivision	\$ 19,013,823.40	23/09/2022	Lump sum
2023-10	Jrc Electrical Services	Construct Lighting McPherson Oval	\$ 446,727.73	12/12/2022	Lump sum
PE26702	Infrastructure Management Group Pty Ltd	Asset Condition Assessment services	\$ 321,457.40	4/01/2023	Lump sum
2021-542	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Asphalt Supply & Lay services	\$ 1,046,993.23	30/09/2022	Schedule of rates
2023-502	Haskoning Australia Pty Ltd	Levee Upgrade feasibility and design	\$ 320,916.09	11/01/2023	Lump sum
2023-523	Ladex Construction Group Pty Ltd	Road works construction	\$ 185,713.44	1/03/2023	Lump sum
2023-520	Pitt & Sherry (Operations) Pty Ltd	Bridge Inspections services	\$ 187,979.00	15/02/2023	Lump sum

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
PE27692	Summit Open Space Services	Tree Services maintenance	\$ 163,445.33	13/04/2023	Schedule of rates
2023-08	Turners Civil	Road Work construction Lord Baden Powell Drive	\$ 2,269,496.90	30/01/2023	Lump sum
2023-527	Ocs Building Maintenance Pty Ltd T/ As Mi	Building Construction services Tarcutta Hall	\$ 179,761.32	21/03/2023	Lump sum
2023-05	Excell Gray Bruni Pty Ltd	Road Construction services Dunn's Rd	\$ 7,040,011.00	30/01/2023	Lump sum
2022-524	Lyall & Associates Consulting Water Engi	Feasibility Study Glenfield Drain	\$ 205,423.90	3/04/2023	Lump sum
2023-533	Paxon Consulting Group Pty Ltd As Trustee	Business Case Airport	\$ 170,500.00	3/05/2023	Lump sum
2023-23	Ethos Urban Pty Ltd	Housing Strategy	\$ 302,349.85	3/04/2023	Lump sum
PE28871	Stabilised Pavements of Australia Ltd	Road Works	\$ 1,748,324.11	17/06/2023	Schedule of rates
PE29327	Riverina Sporting Services	Construct Tennis Courts Brucedale	\$ 153,921.62	21/06/2023	Lump sum
2023-06	Gcm Enviro Pty Ltd	Purchase Compactor	\$ 1,119,250.00	5/06/2023	Lump sum
2023-533	Aec Group	Business Case Riverside Stage 3	\$ 281,867.30	26/04/2023	Lump sum
2023-516	Hatch Pty Ltd	Master Plan Wagga CBD	\$ 230,868.00	3/04/2023	Lump sum
PP21585	Technology One	Software Services	\$ 3,249,432.11	19/09/2023	Lump sum
PP22308	Canberra Raiders	Contribution sponsorship	\$242,000.00	17/06/2023	Lump sum
2019-03	Interflow Pty Limited	Sewer mains rehabilitation	\$ 1,391,129.00	11/02/2023	Schedule of rates
2023-902	Mcintosh Fencing Pty Ltd	Supply & Install Guardrail	\$ 241,593.00	PS06300	Lump sum
2021-542	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Asphalt Supply & Lay Services	\$ 284,339.35	30/09/2022	Schedule of rates
2021-542	Fulton Hogan Industries Pty Ltd	Asphalt Supply & Lay services	\$ 793,152.00	30/09/2022	Schedule of rates
2023-14	S & K Kenyon Pty Ltd T/ As Kenyon Concrete	Concrete Construction Footpaths, Kerb & Gutter replacement	\$ 245,000.00	8/05/2023	Schedule of rates
Total			\$ 58,803,417.54		

Table 15: 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 2022/23 some of Council's largest projects such as the Cycling Active Travel Plan, public parks in Gobbagombalin and Lloyd, sporting facility upgrades at Pomingalarna and Jubilee Park, and road upgrades throughout the municipality 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 2022/23.

In 2022/23 some of Council's largest projects such as the Cycling Active Travel Plan, public parks in Gobbagombalin and Lloyd, sporting facility upgrades at Pomingalarna and Jubilee Park, and road upgrades throughout the municipality were partly funded by Local Infrastructure Contributions.

Section 7.11	
Opening Reserve Balance 1 July 2022	\$30.9M
Infrastructure Contributions from Developers for 2022/23	\$4.2M
Expenditure on Infrastructure Projects for 2022/23	\$1.7M
Closing Reserve Balance 30 June 2023	\$33.3M
Section 7.11 Expenditure Breakdown	
Traffic and transport infrastructure	\$424,945
Recoupment – 2006-2019 Plan – Civic Centre	\$193,830
Recreation and open space infrastructure	\$709,571
Plan administration	\$162,412
Acquisition of Open Space	\$89,232
Borrowing costs	\$109,910
2006-2019 Plan – Estella Open Space	\$3,034
2006-2019 Plan – Estella Bike Track	\$14,874
2006-2019 Plan – Main Street Wagga Wagga	\$15,607
Total expenditure	\$1,723,415

Table 16: Section 7.1

Section 7.12	
Opening Reserve Balance 1 July 2022	\$275,000
Infrastructure Contributions from Developers for 2022/23	\$673,869
Expenditure on Infrastructure Projects for 2022/23	\$524,290
Closing Reserve Balance 30 June 2023	\$425,254

Table 17: Section 7.12

Section 64 Sewer	
Opening Reserve Balance 1 July 2022	\$ -
Infrastructure Contributions from Developers for 2022/23	\$1.4M
Expenditure on Infrastructure Projects for 2022/23	\$1.4M
Closing Reserve Balance 30 June 2023	\$ -

Table 18: Section 64 Sewer

Section 64 Stormwater	
Opening Reserve Balance 1 July 2022	\$7.1M
Infrastructure Contributions from Developers for 2022/23	\$858,886
Expenditure on Infrastructure Projects for 2022/23	\$18,780
Closing Reserve Balance 30 June 2023	\$7.9M

Table 19: Section 64 Stormwater

Annual Grants Program 2022/23

Recreational Facilities

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Eastern Riverina Arts	Linking arts and business development organisations, ERA is developing Wagga's first Creative Industries Hub to give entrepreneurs the perfect launchpad to experiment, collaborate and showcase innovation.	\$7,500	\$7,500	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. Meets category priorities including improving existing assets to maximise utilisation. Note: a condition of this funding is that this application is dependent on the outcome of the current EOI process underway for the Wagga Wagga Ambulance Station. Funds to be reserved pending the outcome of the EOI
Wagga Rugby League Inc	Wagga Rugby League Inc (WRL) require 2 deep fryers to complement three large deep fryers which are hired for the annual Group 9 Grand Final, and the annual Canberra Raiders NRL match. Due to the sheer volume of patrons expected for the Canberra Raiders matches each year, WRL requires 2 additional fryers to serve the patrons quickly and safely.	\$1,824	\$912	Part funding due to funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Wagga Wagga Combined Hockey Assoc	Infrastructure and equipment to provide WIFI access to WWCHA clubrooms & extend signal to both playing fields for the management and recording of weekly competition structure & results.	\$2,300	\$2,300	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes
Wagga Wagga Junior Rugby League Inc	Wagga JRL has a project in progress, to create new dressing sheds and female changing rooms for both referees and players. The purpose of any funding received is to add a verandah (awning) on the front of the amenities building currently under construction (western facing); to provide additional shelter for the parents and players and to provide additional shade in summer periods (when the fields are utilised by Wagga Cricket Clubs).	\$7,500	\$7,500	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes
Wagga Wagga Junior Rugby Union Incorporated	Purchasing a storage container to live on site at the Connolly Oval to allow us to store all training equipment and purchase better training equipment.	\$7,500	\$5,425	Part funding due to funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Wagga Wagga Netball Incorporated	Streamline the PA system between the Equex Stadium and the outside court Facilities by installing a system to upgrade the outside court PA system and link to the Stadium PA. Enabling us to further assist those in our Wagga and surrounding areas to utilise both areas seamlessly.	\$7,500	\$6,363	Part funding due to funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Total		\$34,124	\$30,000	

Table 20: Annual Grants - Recreational Facilities

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Recreational Facilities	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0

Rural Halls

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Collingullie Soldiers Memorial Hall (Collingullie Hall)	Our beloved hall is beginning to look very tired. The exterior was last painted in 1997, some 25 years ago! The hall is one of the first buildings you can see when driving into Collingullie from Wagga, and we want it to make a good first impression.	\$10,000	\$8,900	Part funded. A detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. 11% removed as GST not funded.
Currawarna Recreation Reserve Committee	Currawarna Community Hall is a local community centre for conducting gatherings and meetings. Also used by the local community as an area for barbeques and for travellers for amenities. Also used by the Electoral Commission to conduct ballots. The Currawarna Rural Fire Brigade use the Hall for meetings and training.	\$7,300	\$6,497	Part funded. A detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. 11% removed as GST not funded.
Humula Citizens Sports Club	The Club's power mains are only 6mm2 (max 32amp). Demand for premises is 55amps when kitchen is operating. Other works includes repairing incorrectly installed cabling in the bar area, upgrading electricity supply in the kitchen to 2x15amp power points to run certain appliances.	\$9,185	\$8,175	Part funded. A detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes. 11% removed as GST not funded
Total		\$26,485	\$23,572	

Table 21: Annual Grants - Rural Halls

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Rural Halls	\$25,000	\$23,572	\$1,428

Youth Led Initiatives

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Saasha McMillan	Samuel Davis, 22, will run a series of Art workshops as part of Alphabet Soups weekly meetups. Alphabet soup gets higher attendance when there is an activity to do whilst catching up, and this also encourages skills building and teamwork. Sam Davis is a queer trans person who would like to extend support to queer young people.	\$3,000	\$3,000	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga	Members of the Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga's Youth As Ambassadors program are seeking support to purchase additional digital technology resources to assist in program facilitation including the weekly Jobs Club, Driver Licensing Access Program and Tech Savvy Communities Program.	\$3,000	\$1,300	Partially funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes, however, does not demonstrate clear alignment with all funding priorities.
Total		\$6,000	\$4,300	

Table 22: Annual Grants - Youth Led Initiatives

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Youth Led Initiatives	\$ 20,719	\$4,300	\$16,419

Arts, Culture and Creative Industries

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Blue Ark Films	Blue Ark Films is located in Wagga Wagga. Our team consists of both females and males, First Nations people and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. We want to showcase different life experiences and stories to a wide audience in a cinematic format.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Dane Simpson	We will host 10 x Comedy Workshops in Wagga Wagga. Each Comedy Workshop will be run by a Comedian with significant qualifications. Local people interested in performing Stand Up comedy will have access to a professional comedian, in an intimate setting and will be given the skills to grow as performers.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Harold Gretton	With the Grant from Council, the quartet will record an album, including new works as well as other works from its repertoire, much of which is original. The recordings will be made locally, with recording engineer, David Wilson. Mastering will be done by Bob Scott, a prestigious classical music specialist mastering engineer in Sydney.	\$2,916.00	\$2,916.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
KimBaker.Design	To paint a welcoming and vibrant kids landscape mural on the cubby house walls located at Livvi's Place Park, Bolton Park, Wagga Wagga. to create a welcoming and child-friendly space by using art to communicate community, safe play and incorporating the local natural environment; to cover over the existing graffiti that could be a deterrent to families and their children.	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Dr Sam Bowker	A series of twelve ambitious new public lectures surveying critical, regional, and historic movements in global art history, to be held in the 211-seat CSU Playhouse.	\$4,581.00	\$2,906.80	Part funding available and the number of applications received. An inclusive project with clear objectives and outcomes. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
St Michael's Cathedral Parish	Train, enhance and develop the skills of choir director, cantors, and choristers, who are a mix of people, specifically young Wagga Wagga residents, from a number of cultural backgrounds.	\$5,000.00	\$3,254.20	Part funding due to funding available and the number of applications received. Funding allocated for vocal lessons only. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
The Vaudeville Collective	The Curious Young Playwright competition is a play writing festival for young people in the Wagga Wagga Region. Writers between the age of 12-24 years will be able to submit a play they have written for consideration in the 23' show. The finalists work will then be performed by a group of actors in the same age range, from The Vaudeville Collective & Oddball Theatre. There will be writing meetups and workshops available before submission. As well as the actors benefiting from mentorship with local professionals in the region.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Part funding due to funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Wagga City Rugby Male Choir	<p>The Wagga City Rugby Male Choir performs at a wide range of venues throughout the Wagga Wagga and surrounding region. The Choir uses its own sound and amplification equipment at these venues. With the expansion of the Choir numbers, and to provide greater professional performances, the Choir would like to invest in more modern and higher performance equipment.</p> <p>The WCRMC has a strong association with The Murrumbidgee Magic Chorus and The Wagga Community Brass Band, and both groups would also have access to this new Sound and Amplification equipment for their performances.</p>	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Fully funded. An inclusive project with clear objectives and outcomes.
Total			\$30,077	

Table 23: Annual Grants - Arts, Culture and Creative Industries

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Arts, Culture and Creative Industries category	\$30,077	\$30,077	\$0

Events

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Bidgee Strawberries and Cream	Hold regular monthly events at Bidgee Strawberries and Cream throughout the picking season. They will begin in November, which will coincide with the commencement of the strawberry picking season and conclude on Mother's Day in May. Twilight Picking events during daylight savings on Friday evenings from 4pm - 9pm and the Good Friday and Mother's Day events will be daytime from 10am - 2pm, both with local musicians to provide entertainment for families and people of all ages. The food and services will be provided by other local businesses. These family focus events can include jumping castles, games, treasure hunts, pony rides, sheep feeding, and of course strawberry picking.	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	Fully funded. A detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Southern Cross Austereo	Hosting the Australian Army Band Kapooka, Triple M and Hit Riverina will hold the Christmas Spectacular in the new Riverside precinct. This would showcase local celebrities and people of note around town and celebrate the Wagga community after a few tough years. It would be held Sunday evening and we could have entertainment; food vendors and a market style feel to the night.	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	Fully funded. A detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.

Financial summary

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Dr Sam Bowker - The Green Beetle Company	"The Alchemist's Jar" (2022) is a new shadow theatre concert with live music - original, historic, and contemporary - inspired by the storytelling traditions of Egyptian medieval shadow puppetry (khayal al-zill) and orchestral Indonesian/ Malaysian wayang kulit. It will include three live performances in the 211-seat theatre of the CSU Playhouse. This unique event will commission Dr Harold Gretton's pop Baroque instrumentalists from the Riverina Conservatorium of Music and create many custom-designed shadow puppets by the Green Beetle Company (Dr Sam and Melinda Bowker). It includes performers from SOACT, Booranga Writers Centre, & the Creative Industries (Stage and Screen) at Charles Sturt University.	\$7,500.00	\$7,419.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding to still proceed with the event.
Tarcutta Hotel	Two pop up art events for the community of Tarcutta and surrounds at the Tarcutta Hotel in August and September 2022. These events will give the community a space to connect in their own way. This project is open to everyone.	\$3,900.00	\$3,900.00	Fully funded. A detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
MG Car Club of Wagga Wagga	The MG Car Club of Wagga Wagga is a Club for people who own and/or have an interest in MGs and other British cars in general. People of all ages, experiences and technical knowledge are welcome to join. The majority of the membership base is made up of our wonderful 60+ age group. The Gathering of the Faithful (GoF), attracts MG enthusiasts from all over Australia, along with car owners and supporters to Wagga Wagga for the annual event. This year celebrates the 25th year of the GoF. Entrants are provided with a relaxed weekend away in Wagga Wagga with an informal dinner on Friday night; car display, car 'run' and CWA afternoon tea and formal dinner on Saturday night.	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Fully funded. A detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Wagga Wagga Leagues Club Swimming Club	The Australian Winter Swimming event is held annually. We have been successful in our application to host the event. Usually there are 400-500 swimmers and 200 additional people travelling with the swimmers. They travel from all over Australia.	\$2,450.00	\$1,000.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding to still proceed with the event.
Total		\$30,850.00	\$29,319.00	

Table 24: Annual Grants - Events

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Events	\$29,319	\$29,319	\$0

Small Business

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Crow Mow	Removing all 2-stroke powered equipment and replacing it with battery equipment. This will enable a reduction in carbon emissions from 2 stroke fuel, which mixes oil and fuel, to power equipment.	\$2,036.50	\$1,800.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Freeroam Theatre Incorporated	Freeroam Theatre is applying for funds to assist with the marketing and community outreach as an entity focused on becoming the Riverina's only professional theatre production company. The funds will be allocated to the development of company business cards for distribution to local business and creative industry leaders, as well as pull-up banners for roaming events produced by Freeroam Theatre and the purchasing of a 'Gobo' for projection advertisement.	\$1,200.00	\$860.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Koorinal Pharmacy NSW Pty Ltd	We run a community pharmacy inside the Koorinal Mall offering 7 day a week professional services including but not limited to prescriptions, health management services, vaccinations including COVID rollout and National Immunisation Program Influenza Vaccines. We are currently open 54.5 hours a week - but with this grant would look to extend our practice and service to the community using a "robot" or piece of equipment that would connect to our dispensary robot and allow 24/7 collection of pharmacy products directly on the exterior of the pharmacy inside the Koorinal Mall.	\$10,000.00	\$7,500.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Riverina Regional Psychology Practice	We would like to undertake clinics and workshops to support our client base. We will do so by establishing a pain management clinic, to assist with individuals with chronic pain. We will also be establishing after school and school holiday programs for teens to support emotional development. These workshops will run for approximately 6 weeks at a time, at our practice at Johnston St, and will be run by our team of psychologists.	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	Fully funded. Inclusive project and detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Shaw Street Children's Centre	In August 2021, we were approved by Wagga Wagga City Council to extend our current area of land into the neighbouring block (previously used as a bowling club in Kent Crescent). As part of this expansion into the gained licence area, we are required to relocate our boundary fencing. Our planned project will involve construction of a retaining wall and relocation of our boundary fence along the eastern aspect of the centre. Consequently, the fence and privacy screening on the southern aspect will be extended to meet it.	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	Fully funded. Inclusive project and detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Twin City Skate	The 'Roller Disco Support' project aims to improve the customer experience for all Wagga Wagga and surrounding residents attending roller discos run by Twin City Skate, and thereby boost the expansion of Twin City Skate as a viable and prospering small business. In practical terms, the project entails the purchase of additional portable infrastructure such as lighting and signage, to improve the user experience as we operate out of Bolton Park Stadium.	\$10,198.18	\$7,500.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.

Financial summary

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Paint Place Wagga	To purchase a new manual tinting machine to increase our production capabilities and increase our staff numbers and to also have a backup machine so that we can continue production should the automatic machine break down. By purchasing a new manual tinting machine this will allow us to mix more paints and supply our customers in a more timely manner.	\$2,000.00	\$1,793.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Total		\$34,334.68	\$28,353.00	

Table 25: Annual Grants - Small Business

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Small Business	\$28,353	\$28,353	\$0

Local Heritage

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
The Glow Lab	Repainting the exterior front façade to bring a fresher and more aesthetically pleasing look that aligns with the renovations undertaken inside the building.	\$5,445	\$5,445	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Wagga Wagga District Historical Society	Featuring two panels providing details of the people buried in the Best Family Cemetery at Flowerdale, and some history of the Best Family.	\$1,300	\$1,300	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Tarcutta Hotel	Restore façade and back windows to a lasting condition by repair and repaint to heritage white, replace signage on front facade and hooded blinds that will showcase the 1940's building.	\$10,000	\$4,755	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Riverina Club	Conservation, repair, maintenance and repainting of original walls, windows, and roof on the top level of the Riverine Club.	\$10,000	\$4,000	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Total		\$26,745	\$15,500	

Table 26: Annual Grants - Local Heritage

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

Community Programs and Projects

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Boys to the Bush Ltd	<p>BttB Schools Program for 10 primary or early secondary students, held either in Term 4 2022 or Term 1 2023. The popular group program aims to build confidence, leadership, and social connection with local community. Selected participants typically meet the following criteria; poor school attendance, poor behaviour, lack of engagement and social skills and difficult transition to secondary school.</p> <p>We anticipate offering subsidised places to students from Tolland, Ashmont, Mount Austin and Glenfield. BttB currently employs an excellent Wagga Wagga resident and staff Mentor who is a proud First Nations-identifying man. He'll lead the Schools Program with support from BttB colleagues. In consultation with schools BttB will run five x fortnightly or weekly day-long, out-of-school group sessions; involving visits to local businesses, farms, and community amenities such as Men's Shed.</p>	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	<p>Fully funded.</p> <p>Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.</p>
Rapid Relief Team (RRT) Ltd	RRT Wagga Wagga is planning to provide and distribute another 100 x RRT Food Boxes to charities supporting communities impacted by homelessness, domestic violence, Covid-19 related poverty and families affected by criminal activities. Each Food Box contains enough food to feed a family for 48 hours. The box contains A variety of long-life shelf stable and culturally sensitive foods including breakfast cereal.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	<p>Fully funded.</p> <p>Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.</p>
Wagga Wagga TAFE Children's Centre	<p>The proposed project will see Wagga TAFE Children's Centre utilise the services of Giant Grass (https://www.giantgrass.com/zome/), an organisation specialising in unique educational journeys through bamboo infrastructure. The project will facilitate a staff learning development opportunity through construction of the structure itself but will greatly benefit the children who attend and utilise its services.</p> <p>The structures can be utilised as a safe space for children who may need to take time to undertake self- regulation strategies without the total disconnection from their peers. The cohort of children attending Wagga TAFE Children's Centre are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds too, we feel this will enhance their early education experience through providing an additional safe learning and development space out in nature, that could assist in building skills by connecting concepts to practical tasks.</p>	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	<p>Fully funded.</p> <p>Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.</p>
PCYC Wagga Wagga	<p>PCYC is a charity that aims to stop children from participating in crime or being the victims for crime. Fit for Life is a program for high school aged children and is jointly led by the Youth Engagement Officer and Club Manager and is a core PCYC NSW club activity. The activity will require support from a range of other internal and external stakeholders. The activity aims to improve physical fitness and overall wellbeing and introduce participants to the PCYC NSW Star Values.</p> <p>The program involves picking children up from their homes and bringing them to the club for a 7am start for physical activities and breakfast before dropping each child to school which has also resulted in increased school attendance.</p>	\$5,000.00	\$1,883.00	<p>Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.</p>
Wagga Wagga Art Society	<p>Supply and install safety railings along the ramp leading into our Studio.</p> <p>Supply and install safety rails to assist members when using our Studio Toilet.</p>	\$3,189.90	\$3,189.00	<p>Fully funded.</p> <p>Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.</p>

Financial summary

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Carevan Wagga Inc	Provision of equipment for food preparation, service, and delivery. Carevan meals are cooked from either donated or purchased food items and ingredients. Meals are cooked by volunteers on 3 days per week at the Carevan warehouse. Meals are packaged into plastic take-away containers, labelled with CV logo, date of packing and full list of ingredients. Meals are then frozen and stored in large freezers. Service providers collect enough meals to meet the needs of their clients, who either pick up the meals from community hubs, or meals are delivered to the home of clients.	\$3,057.00	\$2,610.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Wagga Wagga Women's Shed Inc	Electrical contractor to install motion sensor light and CCTV cameras to better protect the property from vandalism and theft.	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes
Multicultural Council of Wagga Wagga Inc	The "Strengthening Our Social Fabric" project aims to support women from diverse cultural backgrounds and a wide age range develop, share, and extend skills within various textile fields by offering multiple weekly group sessions, while also supporting members of group to build capacity to pursue and participate in opportunities within the broader community by linking participants to a range of services and activities. The project provides a safe space for women to build important social support networks and reduce social isolation while also offering a space to develop English language skills in an informal setting.	\$3,727.50	\$1,913.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Wagga Wagga Toastmasters Club	Potential Participants (PP) attend two Wagga Wagga Toastmasters Club (WWTMC) fortnightly meetings where they are introduced to the Club and where the Toastmasters Pathways Education program is explained. There would be considerable mentoring at every level. Mentoring is done by experienced Toastmasters and can be given before, during, or after meetings. Importantly, as much time is spent on mentoring in Leadership as is spent on Communication. Participants would join Toastmasters International and the Wagga Wagga Toastmasters Club to gain access to the Toastmasters Pathways educational modules. A maximum of 10 PPs are in the project.	\$4,840.00	\$1,680.00	Part funding due to amount of funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Triple H Forum - Housing, Homelessness and Human Services	Support requested toward a Homeless Persons' Week Expo. Funds to support advertising on the banner that hangs across the Baylis Street pedestrian crossing.	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Dr Raymond J King OAM	In the past, OM:NI produced a very successful publicity and recruitment brochure for distribution around the Riverina. The brochure now requires revision and reprinting.	\$250.00	\$250.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Total		\$38,539.40	\$30,000.00	

Table 27: 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
Amy Hurd Early Learning Centre	AHELC has engaged a local landscape architect and environmental education consultant to support the design and delivery of the 'Connect with Nature and Culture' Learning Garden. AHELC has an Indigenous Educational Leader who develops innovative ways to teach Wiradjuri language and culture.	\$3,000.00	\$2,387.00	Part funded as limited funds available. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Downside Recreation Reserve	The planting of 671 local indigenous trees and shrubs around the perimeter of the Downside Recreation Reserve in three rows. Plants shall be sourced from Wagga Wagga Nursery; tree guards and stakes shall be sourced from Arborgreen. The Trustees and local community will arrange a day to plant the trees and shrubs.	\$2,876.00	\$2,572.47	Part funded as limited funds available. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Lake Albert Public School	The project of building a Yarning circle and bush tucker garden will enhance the learning of culture and history for the students and teaching staff and the wider community including the local Pre-schools. The goal of the project is to increase the understanding of history and culture in an open outdoor learning environment that can be shared with the school and wider community.	\$1,950.00	\$1,068.00	Part funded as limited funds available. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Turvey Park Public School	To plan, design and construct a functional street seed/seedling library. To initiate a seed/seedling exchange program with the Turvey Park community. To educate Turvey Public School students on seed collection and storage. To increase the variety of produce in our school and community vegetable gardens. To promote growth and distribution of native flora within Turvey Park.	\$600.00	\$600.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
ErinEarth Ltd	The project involves removal of existing plants including weeds and digging out to create a clay-lined pond to depth required by regulations. The area will be revegetated with dense layers, diversity of plants and other habitat added such as rocks and fallen logs. Plants will include local provenance including water plants such as Nardoo, Phragmites and Rumex. The project includes joining the pond to our large water tank with pipe dug under the ground and path.	\$2,881.00	\$2,564.53	Part funded as limited funds available. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Total		\$11,307	\$9,192	

Table 28: Annual Grants - Natural Environment

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Natural Environment	\$9,192	\$9,192	\$0

Neighbourhood and Rural Villages

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Anglicare	Ashmont Community Resource Centre offers advocacy, information, and referral for all community members as well as a caring and safe space for people to drop in. Services include emergency relief (incl. food relief), playgroups, counselling, support groups, internet and computer access.	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.

Organisation Name	Project Description	Funding Requested	Funding Approved	Reason for Part Funding
Bidgee Dragons Inc	Members from 13 - 75 years paddle for fitness and friendship on Lake Albert three times per week in summer and train twice weekly in winter.	\$1,589.50	\$1,414.65	Fully funded, less GST. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Humula Progress Association Incorporated	The new concept and alternative community event TRIBE, a tug-o-war on water was cancelled twice due to COVID. The club also offers come 'n' try sessions for corporate team building and secondary school sport. Live music with dinner before the show & supper after. The event allows for participation of First Nations & other local community acts. The event is an opportunity for community to come together & have some fun & forget about events such as fires, floods, drought & a lack of places & events locally to attend where they can refurbish their mental health by enjoying interaction & the company of others. The opportunity to see a live performance which many community members have not been to.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Kachin Community of Wagga Wagga	Yawng Sa Sharin (All Come Learn Together) aims to provide opportunities for the local Burmese communities to practice and maintain language and other cultural practices such as dance and song. The project also aims to provide a welcome and inviting environment for people who would like to learn a new language and build understanding as the more opportunities we have to connect the more we learn from each and build respect. A cultural connection day will be hosted at the end of each term where members of the wider public will be invited to share a meal, learn a number of phrases in the Burmese language and enjoy a number of cultural presentations from our students.	\$4,348.89	\$4,348.89	Fully funded. Detailed application with clear objectives and outcomes.
Kylie Biltris	Art Starts Here is a creative workshop business that facilitates classes in various art mediums. These are fun and light-hearted classes that are as social as they are creative.	\$4,826.00	\$4,000.00	Part funding due to funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Ladysmith School P and C Association	Yoga at Ladysmith Hall would be held be accessible to the local and broader community. It would run on a twice weekly basis, at a time and day that would suit all walks of life from young adults, mothers, fathers, grandparents, and elderly residence within the community.	\$5,000.00	\$3,716.46	Part funding due to funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Oddball Theatre	Oddball Theatre will travel to local villages in 4 week blocks to run free drama classes and put on a public performance. Villages will be, Ladysmith, Tarcutta, Currawarna and Mangoplah.	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	Part funding due to funding available and the number of applications received. Application indicates they are willing to accept part funding.
Total		\$23,612	\$22,000	

Table 29: Annual Grants - Neighbourhood and Rural Villages

Annual Grants Category Description	Total Budget	Total funds Allocated	Total Funds
Neighbourhood and Rural Villages	\$24,480	\$24,480	\$0

ClubGRANTS 2022

Grant Recipients 2022

Recipient	Funding Amount	Grant recipient funding application details
Smith Family	\$4,750.00	Wagga Wagga Learning Clubs The Smith Family supports three Wagga Wagga after-school Learning Clubs based at the Tolland Community Centre, Multicultural Council Wagga Wagga and Koorringal Community Centre. The Wagga Wagga Learning Clubs provide support to disadvantaged school-aged children by providing free assistance with homework and tutoring to children who would otherwise not be able to access paid after school educational support due to severe financial constraints.
Wagga Wagga East Before and After School Care	\$7,000.00	Operation Upgrade We are a small centre providing before, after and vacation care for school age children. This project is to paint our small space to upgrade the area with a fresh new feel for children who use it now and in the future.
Carevan Incorporated	\$2,500.00	Carevan Returning to Community Meals In 2019, Carevan started providing night-time meals to people experiencing social isolation, homelessness, or food insecurity. Meals were served in a sit-down dining environment, conducive to sharing conversations and life experiences. These meals were suspended in March 2020, due to Covid restrictions. Since then, meals have been cooked and frozen at the Carevan warehouse and delivered to needy people by service agencies. We want to resume to pre covid meal service to our community, and will need additional equipment.
Miracle Babies Foundation	\$1,835.00	Peer-Developed Support Resources for Families with Babies Born Premature or Sick in Wagga Wagga Base Hospital We will provide Wagga Wagga Hospital with Milk Express Packs to mothers discharged before their newborns in Wagga Wagga Base Hospital's Special Care Nursery. By providing educational and practical resources for safe storage and transportation of expressed breast milk, this project aims to increase breast milk feeding rates for premature babies to support their nutrition, immunity and growth. We will also help these families celebrate their first Christmas, Mother's Day or Father's Day in the Special Care Nursery.
Amy Hurd Early Learning Centre	\$4,000.00	Suitable Irrigation System This project is to replace our outdated irrigation system with a modern sustainable one. We recently extended our yard increasing lawn and garden areas. With both sprinklers and drippers the Smart Irrigation automatically checks the weather forecast making minor adjustments to the irrigation schedule. The system shuts down if there is a chance of rain or keeps the system off after a certain amount. The Centre will continue to be waterwise with reduced runoff as the system targets all garden and lawn areas.
Ashmont Churches Caring for Children	\$4,000.00	Ashmont Breakfast Program Ashmont Churches Caring for Children Breakfast Program began in 1996 and provides a nutritious breakfast to disadvantaged children attending the Ashmont Public School. Breakfast is provided without judgement 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 sourced locally.
Solve-TAD Limited	\$5,625.00	Freedom Wheels Assessments for Wagga Wagga City Residents Fifteen children with a disability in Wagga Wagga City will receive an Occupational Therapy Assessment to prescribe and design a custom bike that will enable them to ride a bike so they can achieve greater independence. These assessments will be provided at no cost to the parents/carers of local children with a disability. This enables parents/carers to freely explore a safe and fun recreational activity for their child without any pressure, relieving them of both financial and emotional stress.
Little Wings Limited	\$8,281.41	Little Wings Children's Hospital Flight Program: Since 2012, Little Wings has provided free, safe and professional flight and ground transport service for seriously ill children and their families located in regional NSW. Our aim is to reduce the emotional and financial stress associated with traveling long distances to seek specialised medical treatment in Sydney and Newcastle. The funding will support flights for children from rural, remote, and regional NSW requiring treatment at the Sydney Children's Hospital Network.

Recipient	Funding Amount	Grant recipient funding application details
Men of League Foundation Limited	\$3,000.00	Wellbeing Support for the Men, Women and Children of the Rugby League Community The Men of League Foundation is a registered charity providing financial and emotional support to individuals and families in need of assistance from within the rugby league community. Financial grants and immediate relief packages are provided to help people through tough times and/or improve their quality of life when suffering debilitating illness or disability. Visits are also arranged to those receiving treatment, recovering from illness or struggling with social isolation.
St Vincent De Paul Society of NSW	\$5,000.00	Edel Quinn Homeless Support Service – Food Costs The support will help Vinnies Edel Quinn's Homeless Support Service with their provision of healthy food and hot meals to the homeless (including a Breakfast Club which is open 5 days a week) in a safe and welcoming environment and providing support and companionship to men who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
Riding for Disabled (NSW) Wagga Centre	\$4,500.00	Shirts for Volunteers We have approximately 50 volunteers who assist our disabled riders with riding lessons and well as carriage driving lessons. These volunteers attend lessons each week and sometimes several times a week at our Centre at 321 Plumptre Road Wagga Wagga. Our volunteers also help out with fund raising for our Centre so we can help fund these lessons.
Beyond the Badge Limited	\$22,500.00	Beyond the Badge Career Transition Program for First Responders Beyond The Badge Limited (BTB) is a Not-for-Profit registered Charity that delivers career transition workshops for members of the First Responder Community to support individuals who have sustained a physical injury or mental health related illness which has resulted in them having to end their employment and look to an alternative career opportunity. The Career Transition Program provides first responders with the skills and knowledge required to increase their level of employability.
Boys to the Bush Limited	\$7,500.00	Boys to the Bush (BttB) Supporting Wagga Wagga Youth Boys to the Bush (BttB) provides highly impactful preventive intervention and Mentoring support to vulnerable male youth aged 9-22 years living in regional NSW. We see young men who have transitioned out of care falling into gaps in funded support before they are ready to lead independent and full lives. The funding will support 17 half days of Mentoring for Wagga Wagga youth who have no other funded means of support.
Clontarf Foundation (Koorimal High School)	\$10,000.00	Engaging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students in Education and Employment in Wagga Wagga The Clontarf Foundation provides an important school-engagement mechanism for many at-risk, teenage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander male students who would otherwise not attend or have very low school attendance. The focus of this project is on supporting the opening of the proposed Koorimal Academy which will be located at Koorimal High School, Wagga Wagga (NSW). The academy is set to open in the second half of 2022 and projected to support 50 students.
Total	\$90,491.41	

Table 30: ClubGRANTS Recipients 2022




Performance measures 2022/23

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%	●

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	4,121M	4202M	●
The Regional Wellbeing Survey	The proportion of people who agree 'living costs are affordable here' is increasing	50.2%	63.4%	●

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 days	7 days	●

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	●



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