

Council adopts key plans for building a vibrant, growing and sustainable community

Wagga Wagga City Council this week adopted its Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) suite of documents, including an overall budget of \$277.1 million for the 2025/26 financial year.

Council's total operating expenditure budget for the next financial year is \$163.9 million, with an additional capital expenditure program of \$113.2 million.

Included in the IP&R suite, adopted on 23 June, are Council's Delivery Program 2025/2029 and Operational Plan 2025/26, Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2025/26, and Fees and Charges 2025/26.

Deputy Mayor of the City of Wagga Wagga Councillor Georgie Davies said these documents are designed to turn community priorities, identified through the *Wagga Wagga 2050 - Community Strategic Plan*, into real action.

"These are our plans to deliver services and projects to make Wagga Wagga and its surrounding villages vibrant, growing and sustainable," Cr Davies said.

"We will continue to focus on renewing and replacing ageing facilities, roads and drainage as well as constructing new assets in our suburbs.

"Council will also continue to fight for long term tenure at the Wagga Airport and maintain our strong advocacy to ensure housing supply keeps pace with Wagga Wagga's current and projected growth."

Capital works projects and programs account for more than \$113.2 million of the planned activities for the 2025/26 financial year.

Among the significant one-off capital works projects are:

- Lake Albert Water Sports and Event Precinct
- Southern Growth Area - Plumpton Road Project
- Northern Growth Area – Sewer Upgrades
- Active Travel (continuation of stages 1 to 3)
- Levee System Upgrade - North Wagga (early planning and investigation)
- Gregadoo Waste Management Centre Upgrades
- Oasis Energy Efficiency Upgrade.

The \$53.9 million allocation for roads includes one-off projects (\$40.4 million) and recurrent program (\$13.5 million), such as works on the Gregadoo Road and Pine Gully Road corridors, the Pavement Rehabilitation Program (\$6.4 million), and the Reseal Program – Renewal (\$2.8 million).

The 2025/26 budget also includes about \$2.5 million in contributions, grants and donations provided by Council to the community.

Council has forecast a balance budget for 2025/26.

“Arriving at this balanced position was a complex and challenging task as, like other local government organisations across the state, we’re facing a growing income gap as costs increase at a greater rate than revenue,” Cr Davies said.

“The regulatory environment, constrained revenue growth, the rising cost of providing services, and increasing demands on our existing infrastructure and facilities and services are all placing pressure on Council’s long-term sustainability.

“These factors will require Council to be highly innovative and efficient in delivering the Operational Plan and Delivery Plan items.”

Council’s IP&R documents are available at www.wagga.nsw.gov.au/budget or from the Customer Service desk at our Civic Centre.

Integrated Planning and Reporting suite of documents

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) is the planning and reporting framework the Council uses to work towards achieving the community’s vision.

Under NSW Government legislation, councils must prepare a number of plans that provide details on how a council intends to deliver works and services in the short and long term.

This is based on the community’s priorities, which have been identified through consultation and engagement, as well as the resources available to council in delivering these items.

The framework ensures councils illustrate their various plans together, to understand how they interact in planning for the future.

Delivery Program

The Delivery Program is a four-year plan which outlines Council’s commitment to achieving the outcomes and strategies of the [Wagga Wagga 2050 - Community Strategic Plan](#) (CSP).

The plan aligns with the elected Councillors four-year term and describes the elected Council’s commitment to deliver against the CSP over those four years.

Operational Plan

The Operational Plan sits within the Delivery Program and identifies annual projects and activities to deliver against the Delivery Program outcomes. It includes council’s annual budget and Statement of Revenue Policy.

Long Term Financial Plan

The Long-Term Financial Plan covers a 10-year period and outlines the financial implications of delivering on Council's responsibilities contained in the CSP.

The purpose of the plan is to ensure that Council is a financially viable, adequately funded, and sustainable organisation to meet community expectations of service levels.

The plan is formulated using a number of estimates and assumptions, to project the future revenue and expenditure required of Council to deliver those services, projects and programs expected by the community for the next 10 years.

Fees and Charges

The Fees and Charges 2025/26 is a document which stipulates Council's revenue and pricing policy and the fees and charges applicable for Council services including: the hire of Council facilities, sewer charges, waste management charges, special rate variation, rates and annual charges, planning fees and stormwater charges.

--- Ends ---

Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of \$277.1 million.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre, and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina, and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds, and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

Keep updated on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).