

Our Plan, Our Future, Our Cessnock



# Cessnock

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

2020-2021



*Image: Mount Yengo, located in Yengo National Park, is of great significance to local Aboriginal people.*

## Acknowledgement of Country

Cessnock City Council acknowledges that within its local government area boundaries are the Traditional Lands of the Wonnarua people, the Awabakal people and the Darkinjung people. We acknowledge these Aboriginal peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices and operations are located, and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We also acknowledge all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now live within the Cessnock Local Government Area.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this document may contain images of people who have died.

### Disclaimer

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### Document History

Revision	Date Approved	Description of Changes
1	September 2021	Version 1 for Council consideration
2		
3		
4		

# Cessnock City Council



**Annual Monitoring  
Report**  
Published August 2021

## Availability



The Cessnock Annual Monitoring Report is available on Council's website:

[www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CCC	Cessnock City Council
CPP	Community Participation Plan
CSP	Community Strategic Plan
DCP	Development Control Plan
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
GNMP	Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan
HRP	Hunter Regional Plan
IP&R	Integrated Planning and Reporting
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LSPS	Local Strategic Planning Statement
NSW	New South Wales
TfNSW	Transport for NSW
UGMP	Urban Growth Management Plan
URA	Urban Release Area

## TIMEFRAMES

Intermediate	0-2 Years
Short Term	3-5 Years
Medium Term	5-10 Years
Long Term	10+ Years
Ongoing	For actions that will continue to be implemented for the lifespan of the document.





Note: This data has been extracted from Councils corporate application system. Data may vary from figures reported by the NSW Planning Portal and the ABS.

# 1. Population Growth

The Cessnock Local Government Areas has a population of 61,256<sup>1</sup> as of 2020. This is an increase of 1,278 people since 2019 and represents a growth rate of 2.13%.

This growth rate is significantly higher than the growth rate of regional NSW (0.83%) and NSW as a whole (1.3%) in the same 12 month period. The high growth rate may be a combination of the regions rural character and amenity, the location within the Greater Newcastle Area and easy access to the Hunter Expressway and the significant number of Urban Release Areas in the LGA.

Figures related to the occupancy rate are released with each census. The 2021 Census has recently been undertaken. The first release of data from the census is anticipated to occur in March 2022. More comprehensive and accurate statistics will be provided in the 2021/2022 Annual Monitoring Report. As of the 2016 Census, the occupancy rate in the LGA collectively was 2.57 persons per household<sup>2</sup>, slightly higher than the average for regional NSW (2.41). This may be reflective of the trend of young families moving to the LGA. It is important to note that the occupancy rates varies between suburbs with Bellbird and Cliftleigh having higher occupancy rates.

	<p>2020 61,256</p> <p>2036: 70,000-80,000</p>
	<p>10 year average population growth</p> <p><b>Cessnock:</b> 1.8%</p> <p><b>NSW:</b> 1.3%</p>
	<p>New Jobs by 2036</p> <p><b>5,369</b></p>
	<p>Average household size:</p> <p><b>Cessnock:</b> 2.57</p> <p><b>Regional NSW:</b> 2.41</p> <p><b>NSW:</b> 2.42</p>

<sup>1</sup> ID Demographics

<sup>2</sup> 2016 Census, ABS

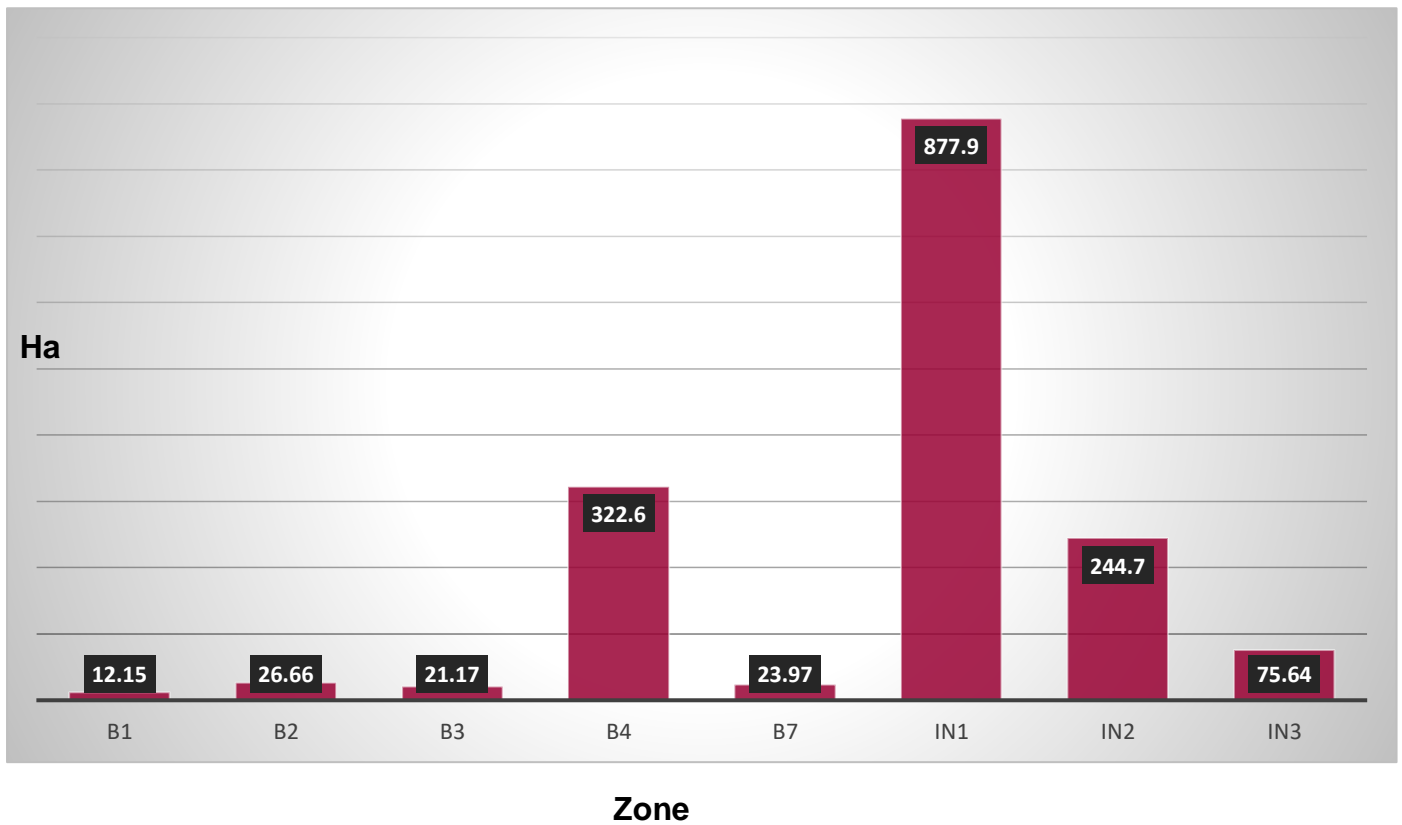
## 2. Commercial and Industrial Land

There is currently 406 hectares of commercially zoned land in the LGA (B1 Neighbourhood Centre, B2 Local Centre, B3 Commercial Core, B4 Mixed Use and B7 Business Park) and 1198ha of land zoned for industrial purposes (IN1 General Industrial, IN2 Light Industrial and IN3 Heavy Industrial).

The commercial land is generally located in the town centres and the industrial land is located at Black Hill, Kurri Kurri, Cessnock, Branxton, Weston and the HEZ.

Studies that were completed to support the LSPS indicate that there is a substantial supply of land for both commercial and industrial purposes to accommodate future growth. In the case of commercial land supply, there is an adequate supply until at least 2046.

**Figure 1: the area of commercial and industrial land in the LGA.**



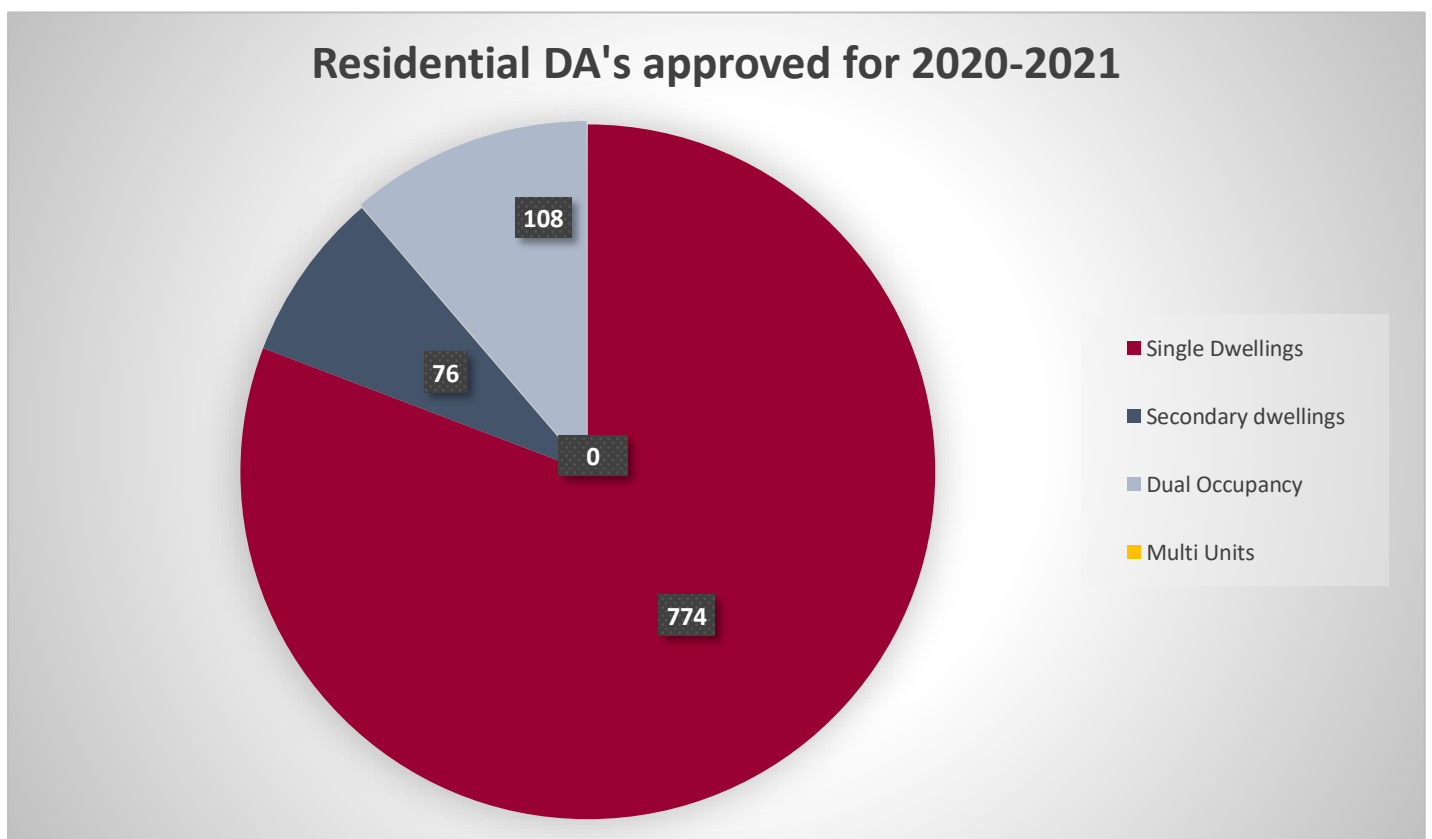
### 3. Residential Development

958 residential development applications were approved in 2020-2021. Of these 774 were single dwellings, 108 were dual occupancies and 76 were secondary dwelling (Figure 2). As expected, most of the residential development occurred in the R2 Low Density Residential zone (565 application) and the R1 General Residential zone at Huntlee (185 applications). Growth continued to occur in the village zone with 70 DAs approved in the RU5 Village zone.

Dual occupancy development occurred predominantly in the R2 zone (81). The R3 Medium Density Residential zone, where Council generally targets higher density development such as dual occupancy and multi-unit development, was predominantly characterized by single dwelling, with 11 single dwelling, 10 secondary dwelling, 5 Dual Occupancies and no multi-unit development. This highlights an area Council should undertake more research into to understand why multi-unit development and dual occupancies are not the predominant form of development.

	Residential Development Applications Approved: <b>958</b>
	Subdivision Certificates Issued: <b>465</b>

Figure 2: A summary of the type of residential DAs approved



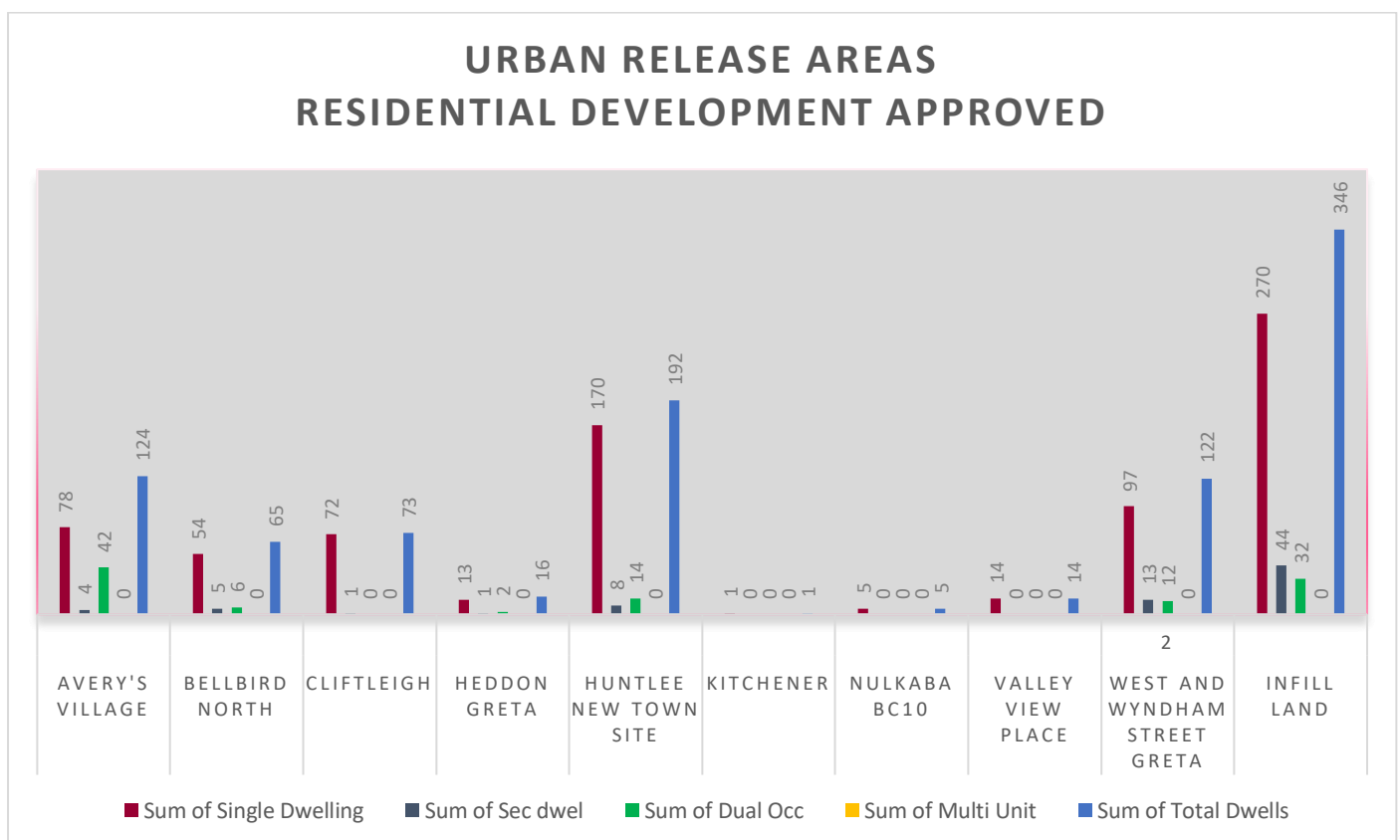


## 4. Where Is Growth Occurring

As expected most of the residential development occurred in the Urban Release Areas (URAs). Avery's Village, Huntlee and West and Wyndham Street, Greta were the most active URAs for the number of DA's approved. Over 35% of residential development occurred outside the URAs. **Figure 3** shows the residential development approved in each URA.

The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan (GNMP) has a target of 60% of development occurring as infill housing and 40% as greenfield, split across the whole of the GNMP area. It is expected that more infill would occur in denser areas such as Newcastle and Lake Macquarie. In 2020 – 2021 Cessnock had 64% of development occur in URAs (greenfield). 36% of residential development occurring outside a URA, either as infill development or on rural land.

**Figure 3: Residential development approved in each URA.**



## 5. Urban Release Areas

Cessnock has 17 Urban Release Areas (URA's):

1. Anvil Creek
2. Avery's Village
3. Bellbird North
4. Bellbird Heights
5. Cessnock BC5
6. Cliftleigh
7. Government Road
8. Heddon Greta
9. Huntlee
10. Kitchener
11. Millfield CC5
12. Mount View Road Millfield
13. Nulkaba BC10
14. Paxton
15. Rose Hill
16. Valley View Place
17. West and Wyndham Street

URAs at Rose Hill, Paxton and Kitchener are developed to capacity.

In the 2020-2021 period Avery's Village, Huntlee and West and Wyndham Street Greta had the highest number of dwellings approved. The URA of Huntlee and Cliftleigh had the highest number of subdivision certificates issued indicating that there will be substantial dwelling construction in these areas in the coming years (**Figure 4**). This is a trend that has continued the past few years with Cliftleigh and Huntlee consistently having the highest number of subdivision certificates issued since 2017, along with Avery's Village and West Wyndham Street (**Figure 5**).

**Figure 4: Subdivision certificates issued in 2020-2021 by URA**

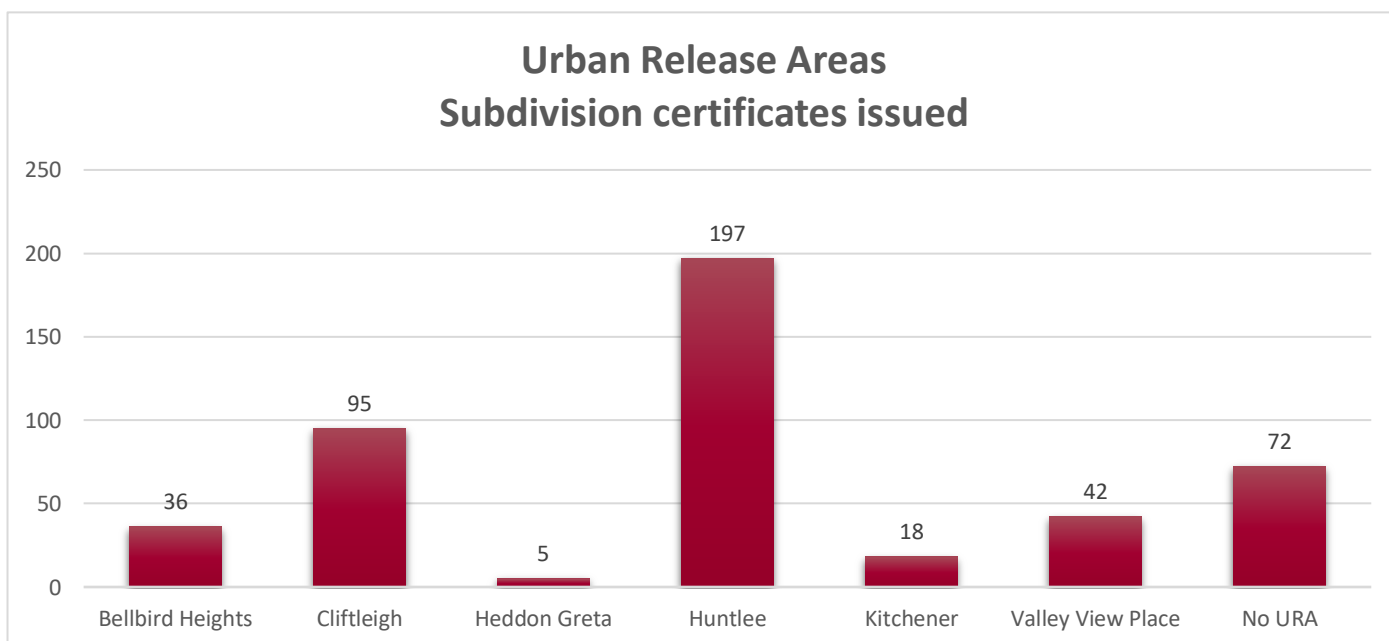
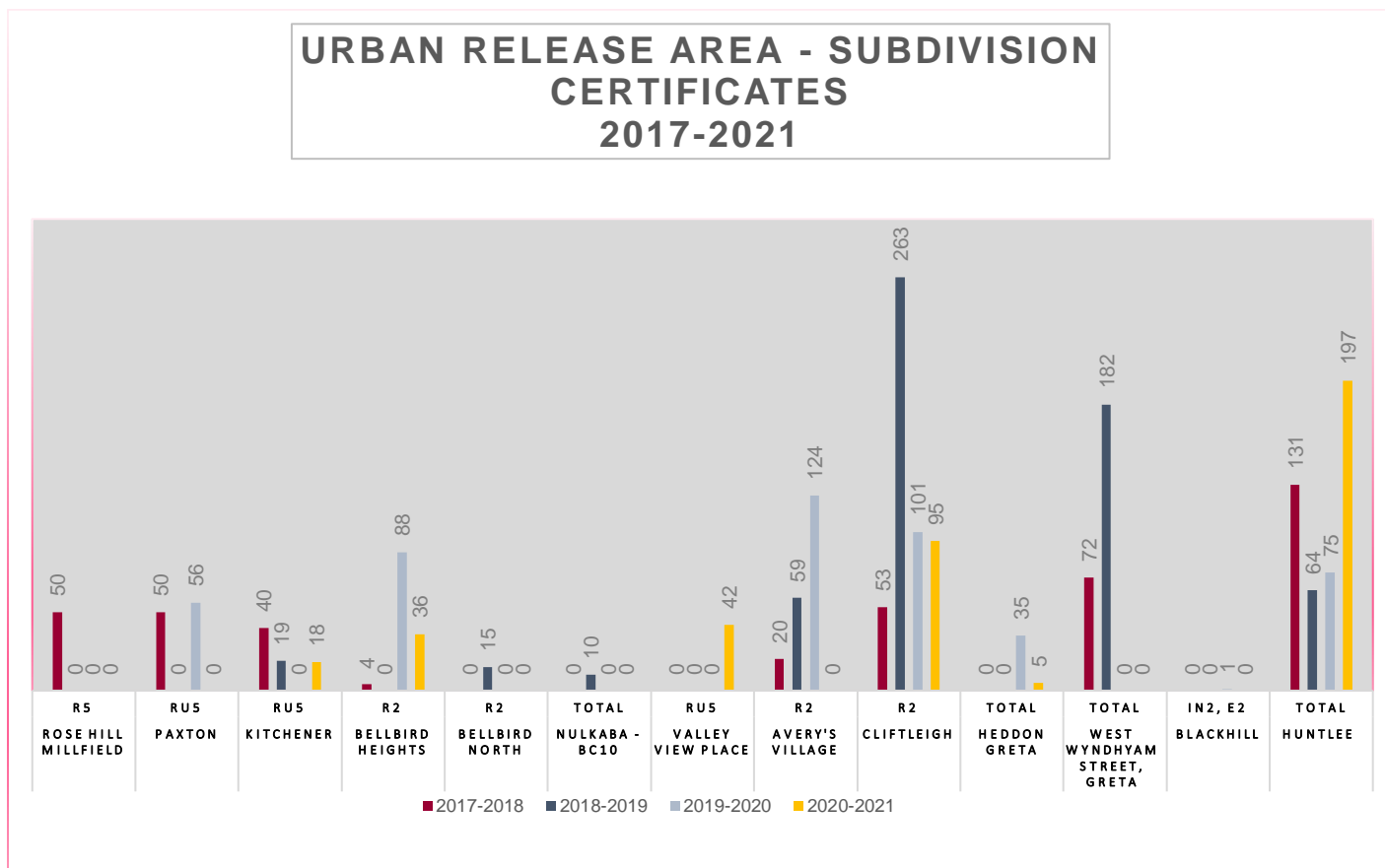


Figure 5: Subdivision certificate released in each Urban Release Area over the last 5 years



In terms of the type of development occurring in each of the URAs single dwelling is the dominant use. **Figure 3** showed the breakdown of the type of dwellings. Avery's Village had the highest number of Dual Occupancies (42) followed by Huntlee (14).

# Progress of each URA

The following represents how each of the URAs are progressing.

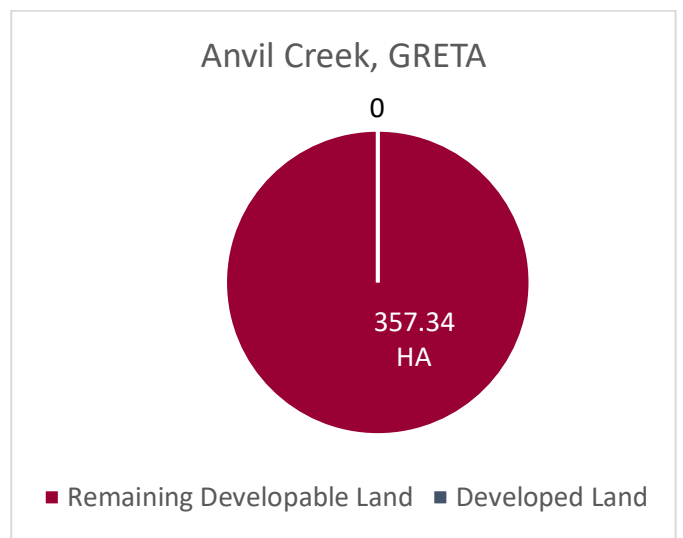
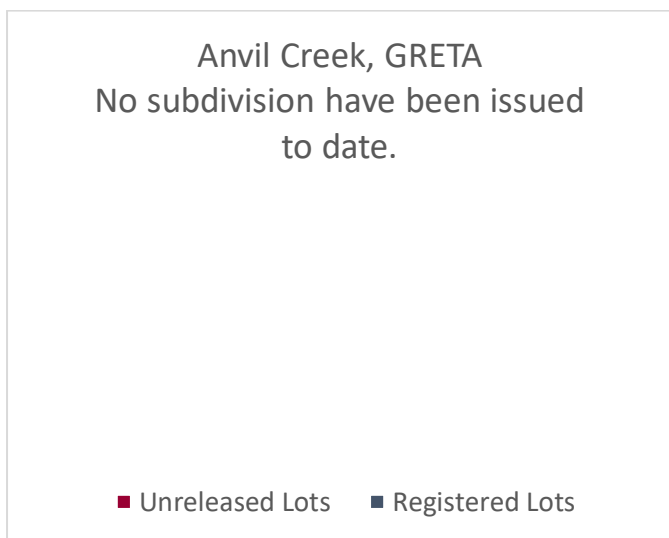
Note: Unreleased lots are lots that have been DA Approved but have not had a subdivision certificate issued.  
Registered lots are lots that have been approved and had subdivision certificates issued.

Land developed is land that had has had lots registered i.e. lots approved and released  
Remaining Developable land is the land left in the URA for development.

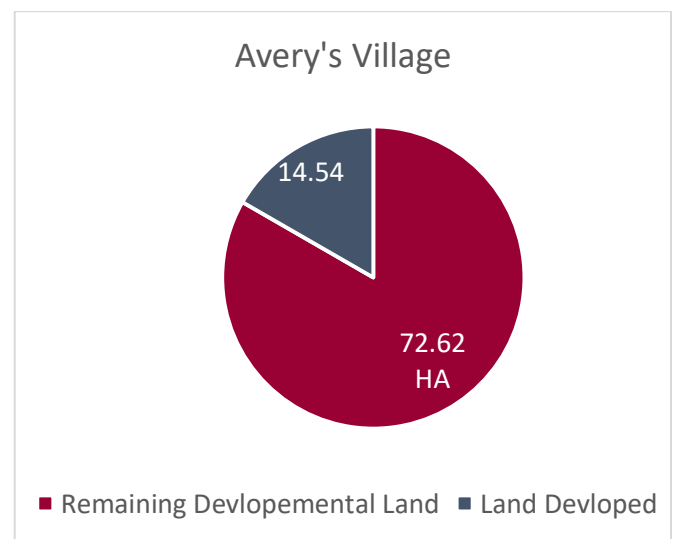
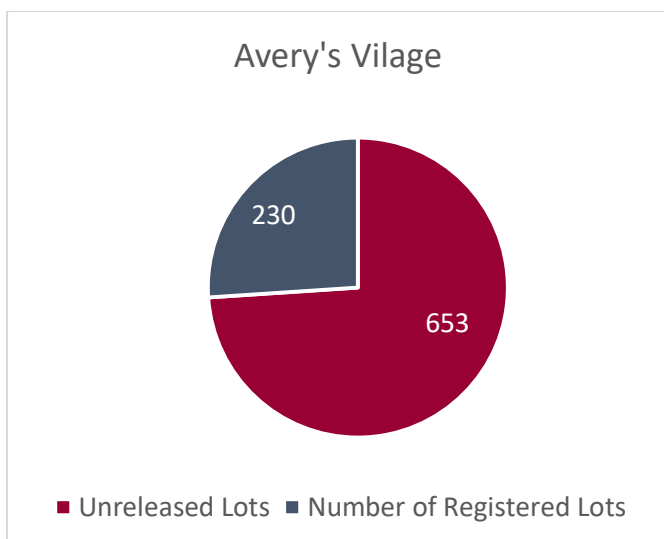
**Please note:** the remaining developable land figures are shown in HA.

## Anvil Creek

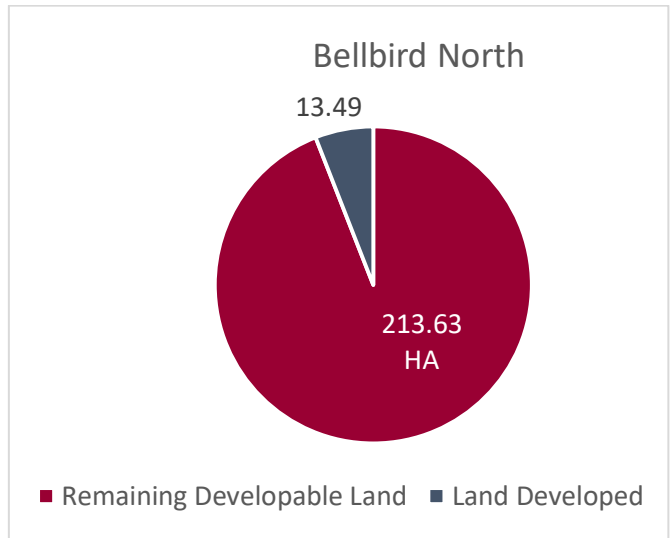
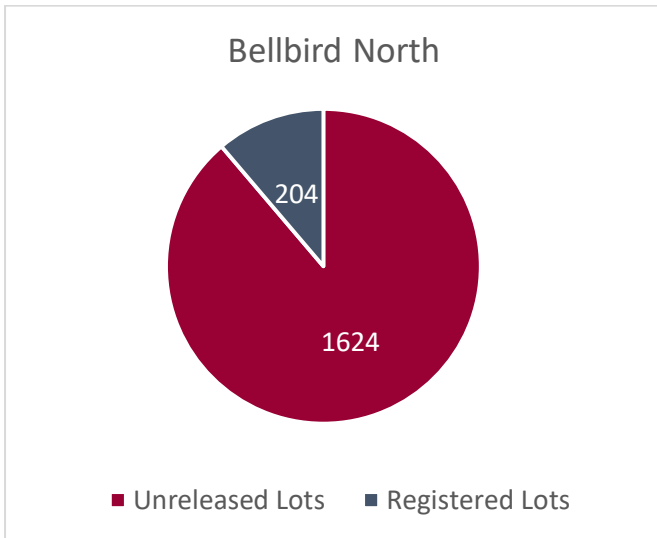
No lots for subdivision have been approved in this URA



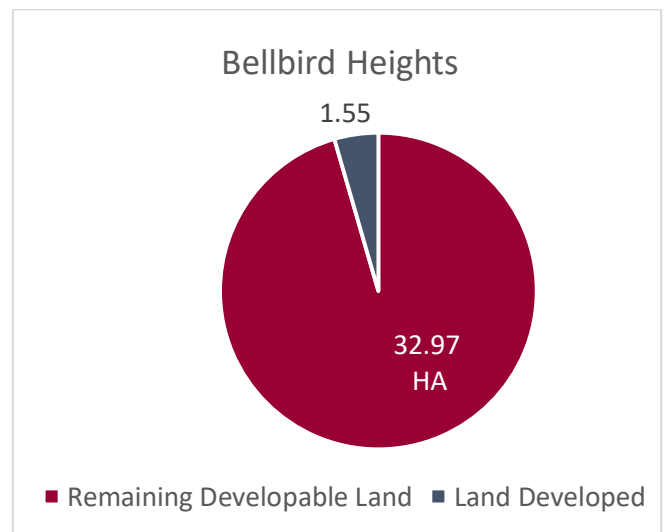
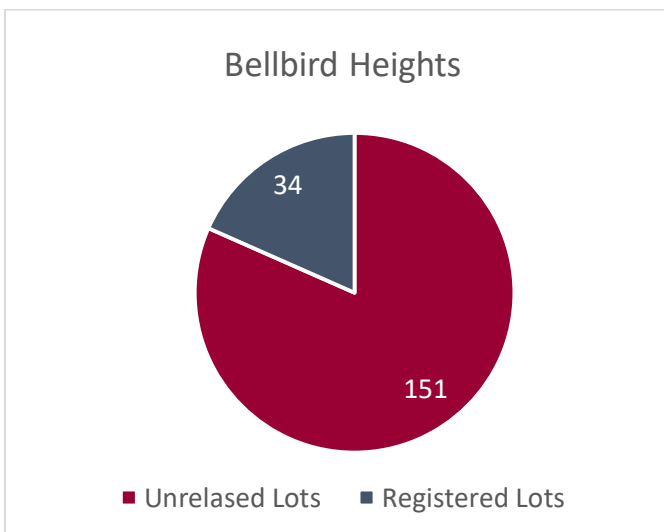
## Avery's Village



## Bellbird North

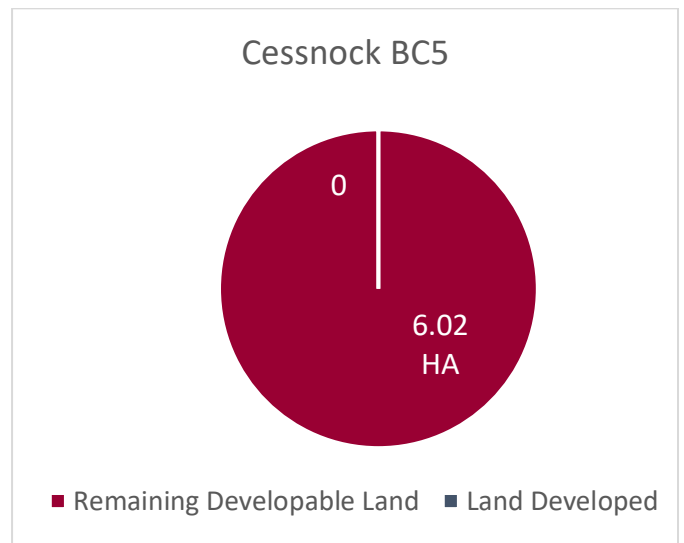
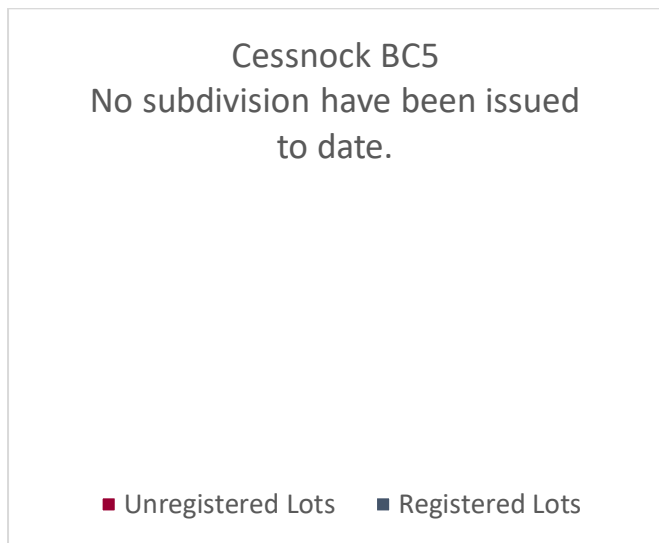


## Bellbird Heights

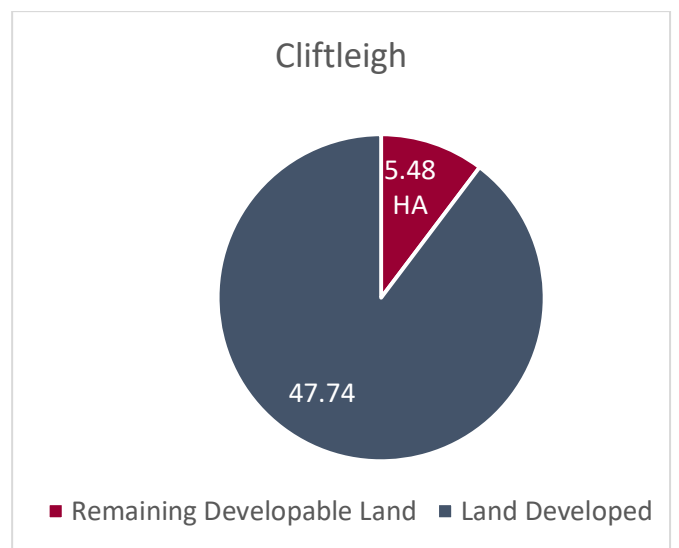
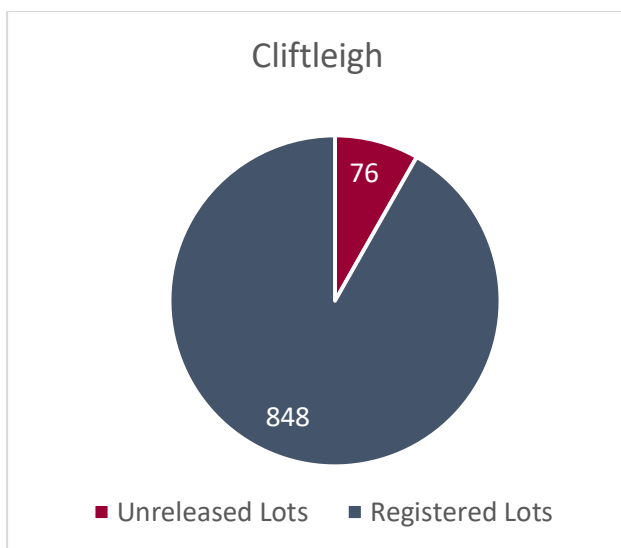


## Cessnock BC5

No lots for subdivision have been approved in this URA

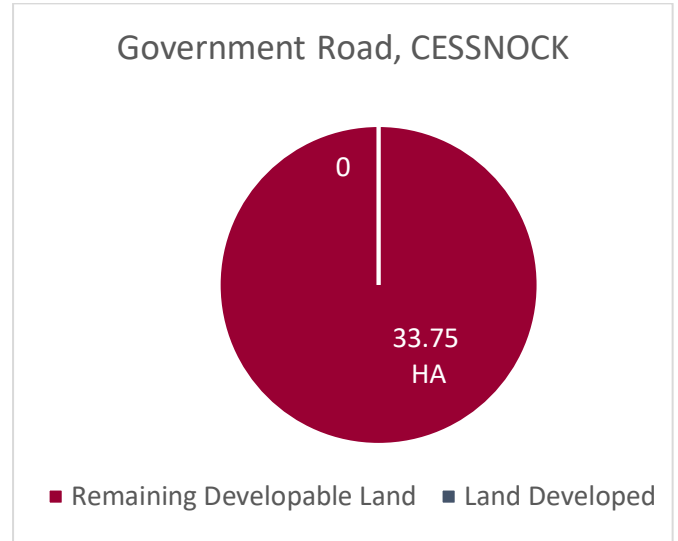


## Clifleigh

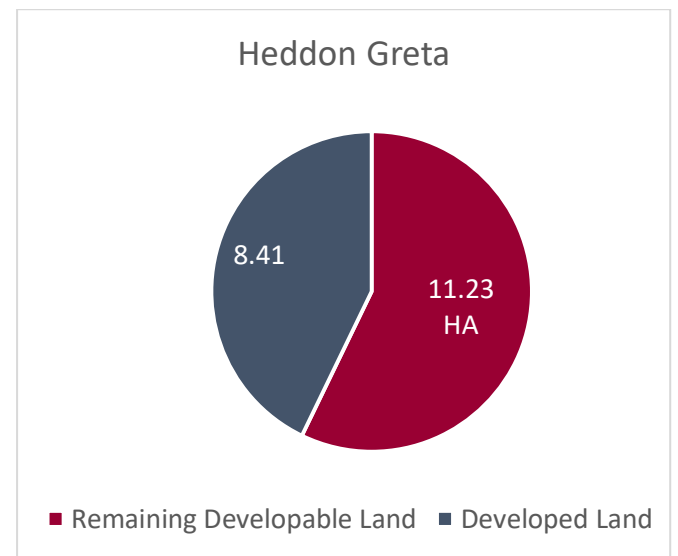
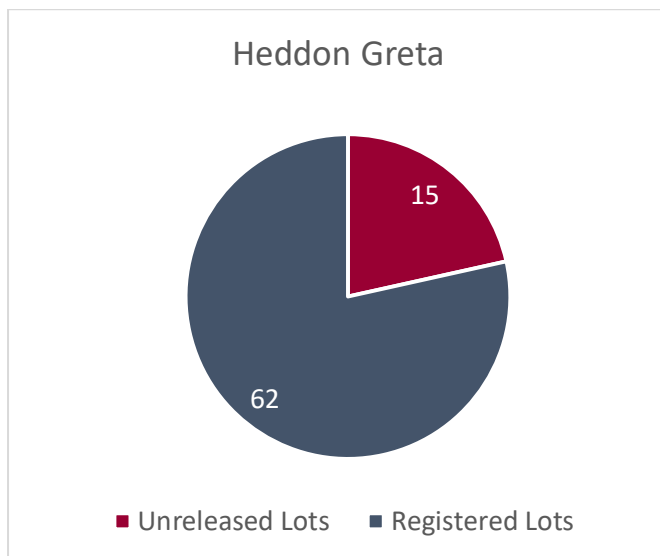


## Government Road

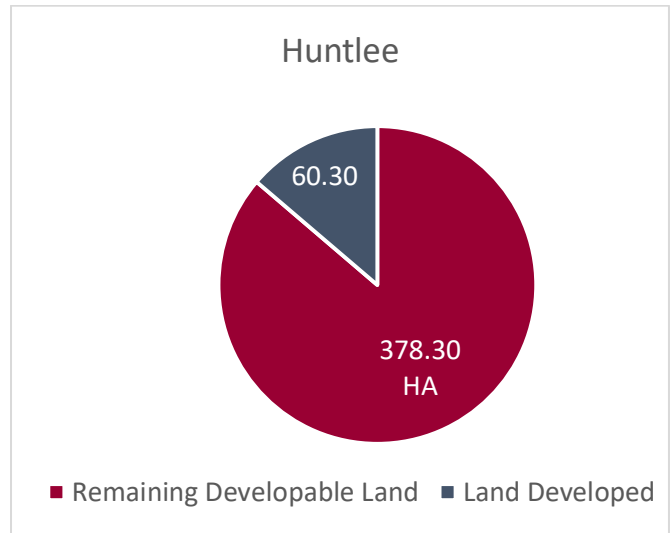
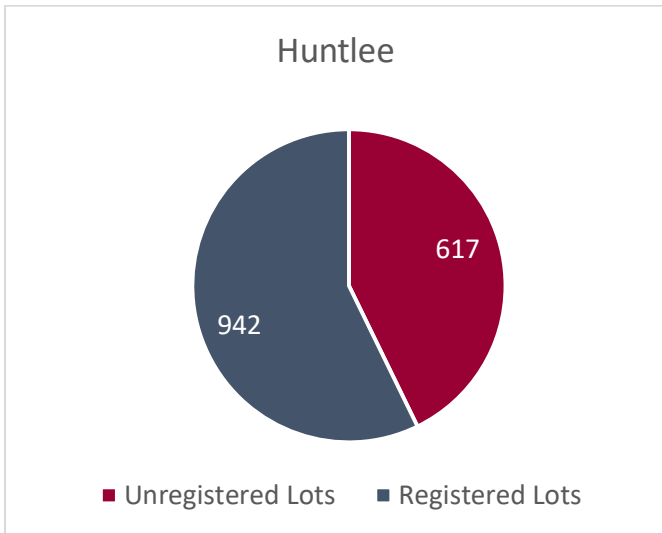
No lots for subdivision have been approved in this URA



## Heddon Greta

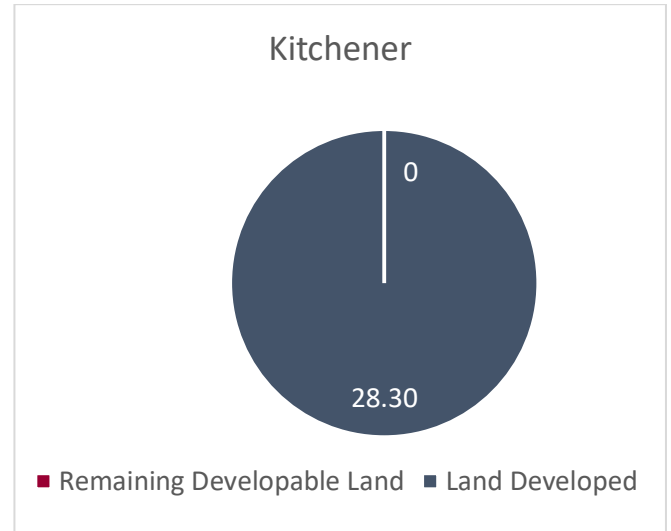
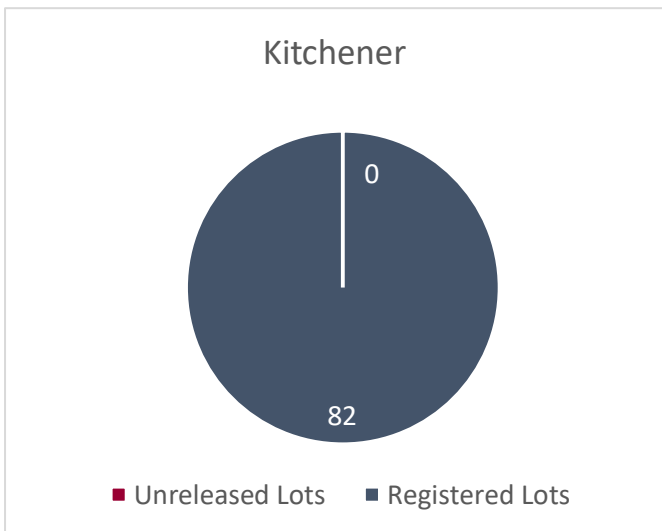


## Huntlee – (Stage 1)



## Kitchener

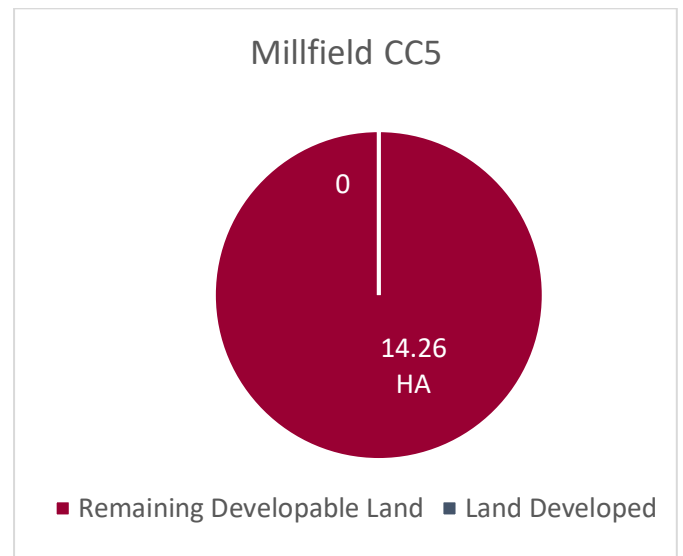
This URA is fully developed.





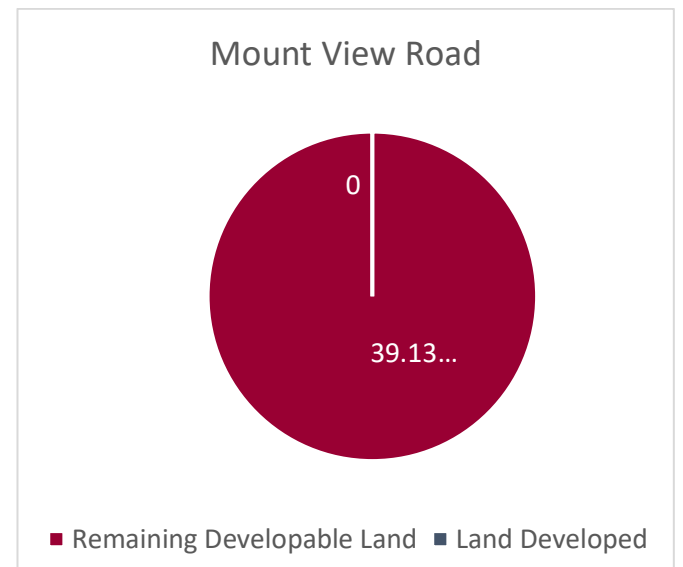
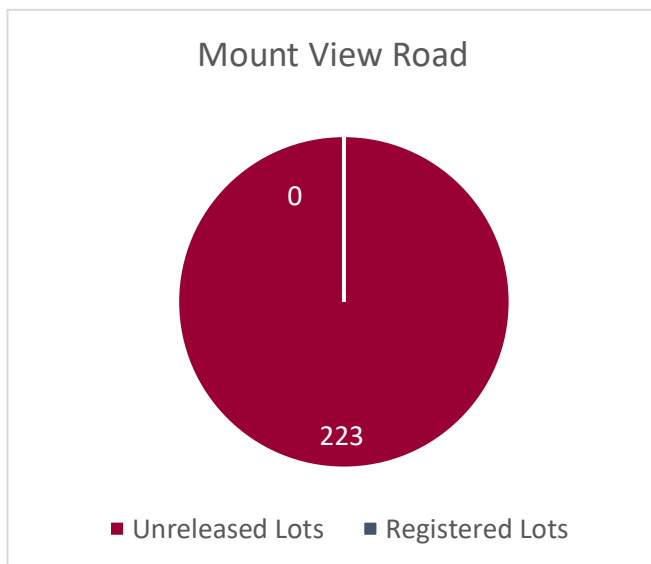
## Millfield CC5

No lots for subdivision have been approved in this URA

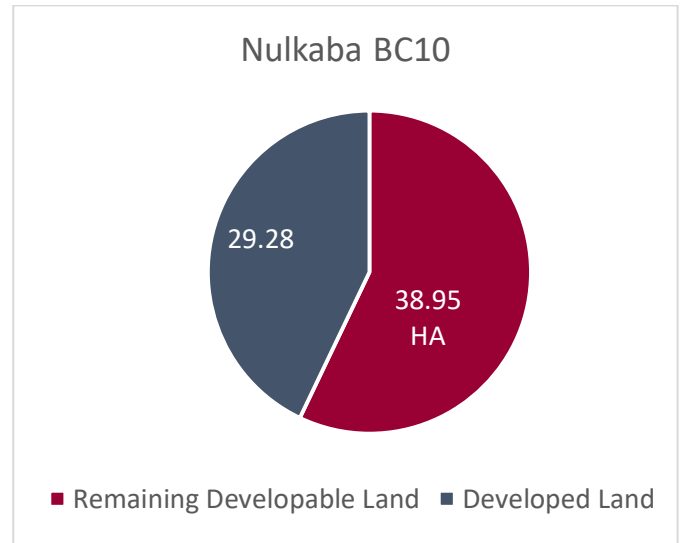
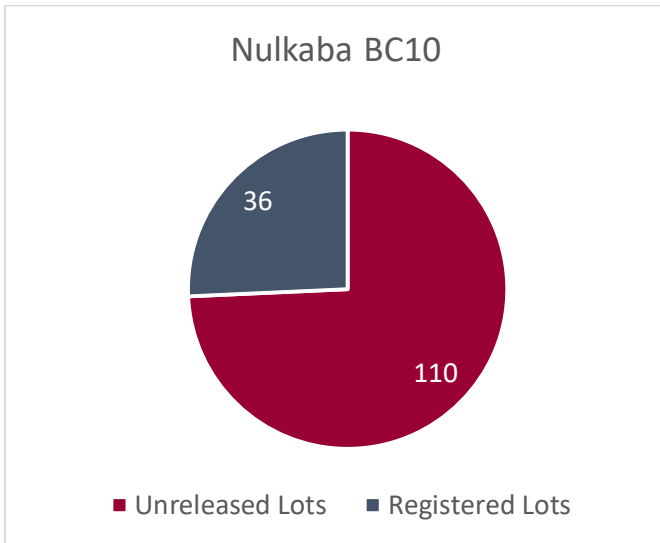


## Mount View Road Millfield

Note: Lots have been approved in this URA however none have been released.

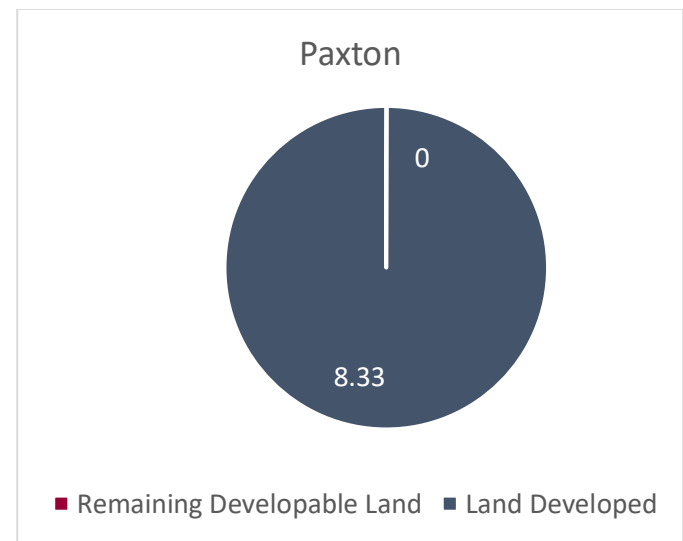
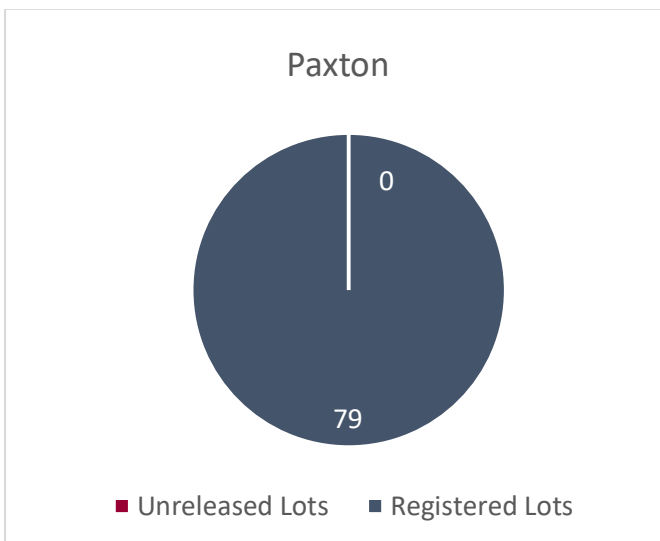


## Nulkaba BC10



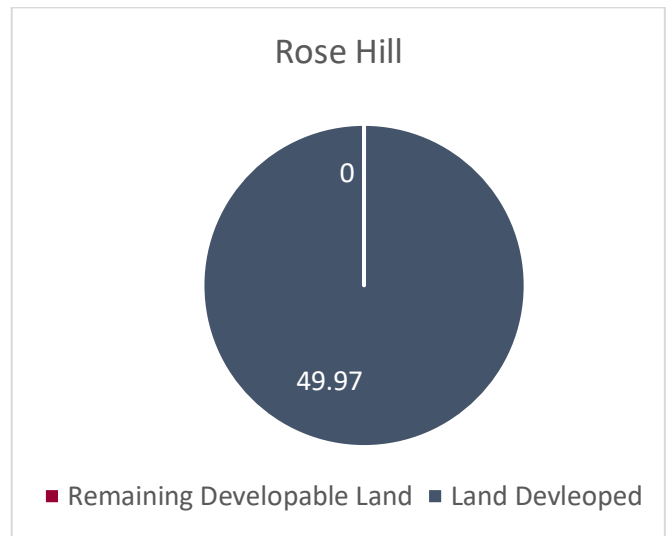
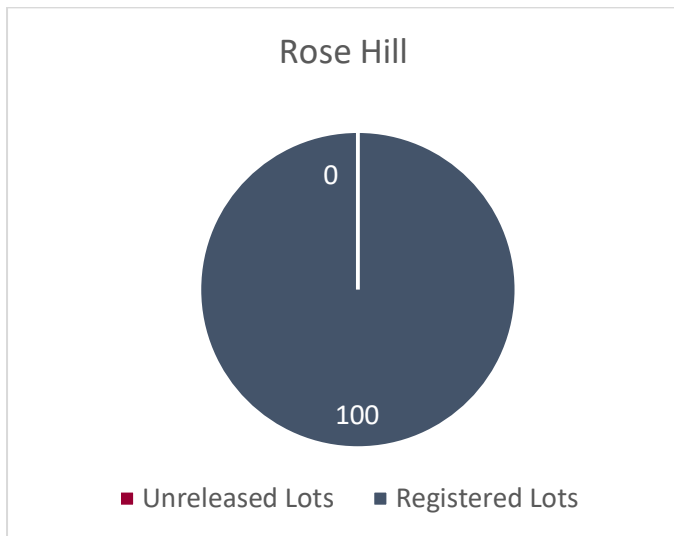
## Paxton

This URA is fully developed

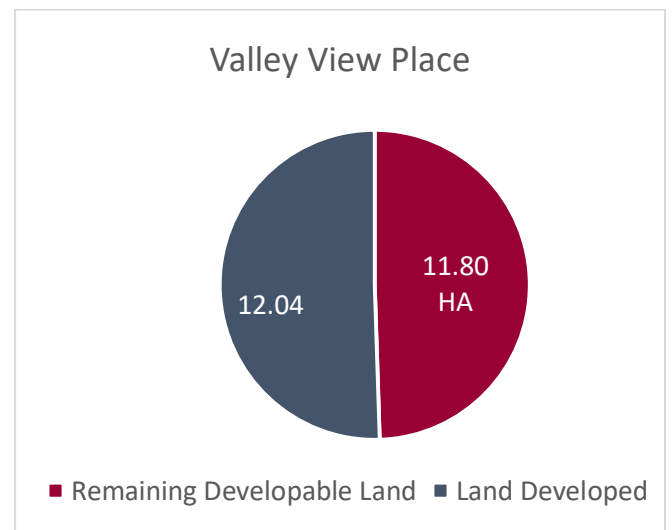
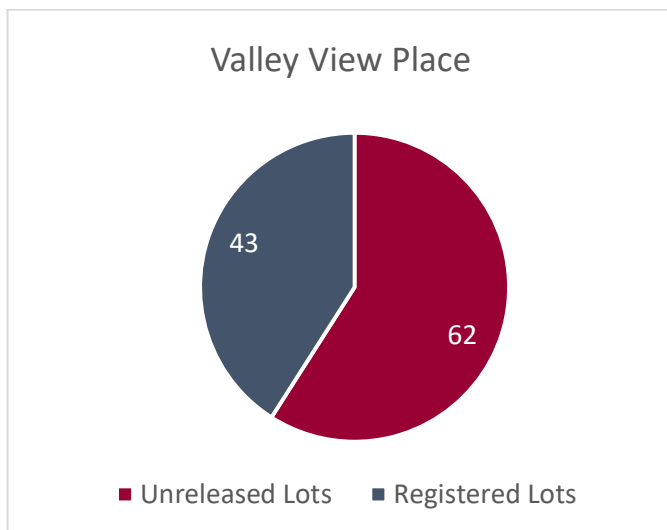


## Rose Hill

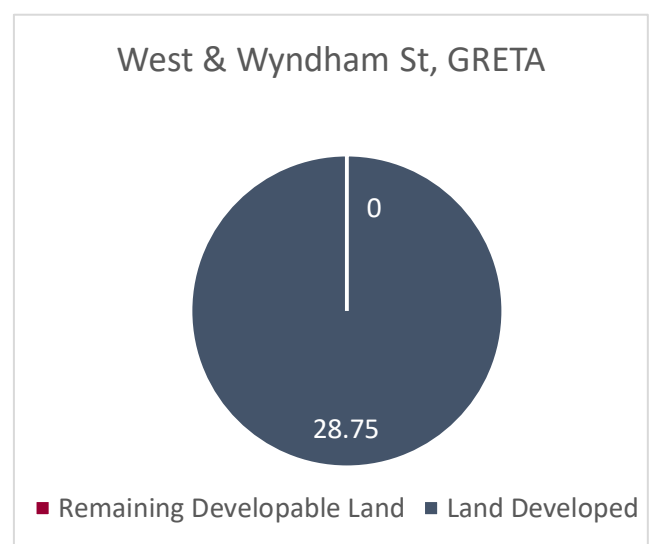
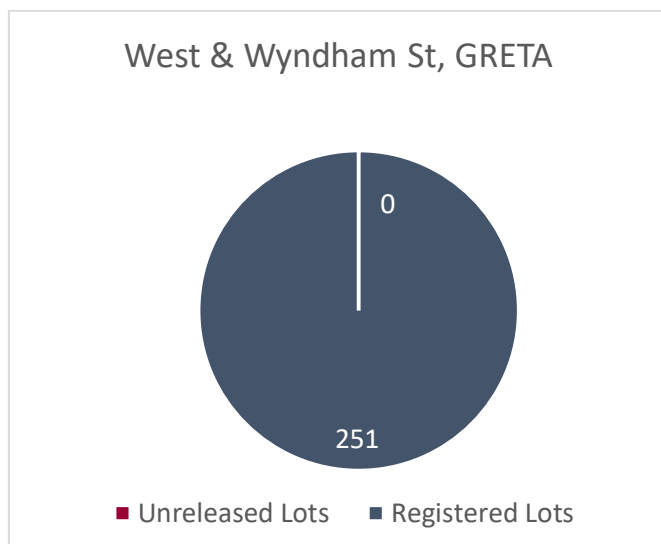
This URA is fully developed.



## Valley View Place



## West and Wyndham Street



## 6. Urban Growth Management Plan

The Urban Growth Management Plan (UGMP) is intended to guide the future release of land to support the growth of our community. The UGMP provides for different lifestyle opportunities across the region and it allows Council to consider planning proposals for new residential land within each of these categories when the supply for that category reaches 15 years or less. Based on a medium demand of scenario of 450 dwellings per annum and the *market* lot size scenario Cessnock has the following supply:

<b>Lifestyle category</b>	<b>Current supply (As of 30 June 2021)</b>	<b>Previously reported supply (March 2021 – Adoption of the UGMP)</b>
Village lifestyle	12 years	11 years
Established Urban	18 years	20 years
Commuter Urban	21 years	22.5 years

As the supply in the Village Lifestyle Category remains below 15 years supply Council is in a position to progress planning proposal for investigation areas in the village lifestyle category.

The supply in the Established Urban and Commuter Urban category is above the 15 year supply threshold. As such Council is not in a position to progress planning proposal in the Establish Urban or Commuter Urban Category.

The UGMP on Councils webpage along with the methodology statement should be read in full for further information on how these figures were derived.

## 7. Progress of the Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Cessnock Strategic Planning Statement 2036 (LSPS) was adopted by Council in June 2020. The LSPS is the local strategic land-use document that sets out how Council will manage land use across Cessnock. It is informed by the Community Strategic Plan and has a direct relationship with the Local Environmental Plan and the Development Control Plan. It is also a mechanism to implement regional strategic land-use priorities established under the Hunter Regional Plan and the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan at a local level. The LSPS contains 72 actions, along with an Implementation and Actions Plan. Actions in the LSPS have a priority of:

- Immediate: 0-2 years
- Short term: 3-5 years
- Medium: 5-10 years
- Long term: 10 years+
- Ongoing: for actions that will continue to be implemented for the lifespan of the LSPS.

The LSPS has been in place for one year with Council focusing on the actions of immediate priority. Some short term actions have also been completed in the 2020/2021 year. **Table 1** provides a summary of all actions that are identified as immediate or short term priority in the LSPS along with other actions in the LSPS which have had progress made on them in the last 12 months. Additionally short term projects are scheduled to commence 3-5 years after the LSPS is adopted. The LSPS has been in place for 1 year.

**Table 1: Progress of actions in the Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement.**

Action No.	Action	Priority	Status	Comment
1	<p>Prepare a Local Housing Strategy that–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyses local housing needs and housing preferences.</li> <li>• Responds to the spectrum of housing types and needs across the local government area.</li> <li>• Prioritises the delivery of infill housing within existing urban areas</li> <li>• Meets social and affordable housing requirements for low and very low-income households.</li> </ul> <p>*additional components of this actions will be picked up as part of the comprehensive LEP review</p>	Immediate	Completed	Housing Strategy adopted on 19 May 2021.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Status	Comment
2	Prepare an Urban Growth Management Strategy including a sequencing strategy for future development	Immediate	Completed	Urban Growth Management Plan adopted on 17 March 2021.
3	Prepare a corridor plan for the Cliftleigh – Heddon Greta Corridor– · To ensure the area is adequately serviced and new growth is integrated with the existing residential areas.	Immediate	Commenced	The project continues to be delayed pending the release of DPIE’s draft Hunter Expressway Corridor Plan, the Main Road 195 Strategy and the finalisation of the Hart Road/HEX Modelling.
4	Prepare an annual monitoring report– · To report on land and housing supply and demand. · To inform when it is necessary to investigate the provision of additional land for development. · To record the use and uptake of employment land over the life of the strategy. · To inform when it is necessary to investigate the provision of additional employment land.	Ongoing	Completed	AMR presented to Council.
5	Review the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan *additional components of this actions will be picked up as part of the comprehensive LEP review. Only parts of the action that have been commenced or completed have been included in this report.	Immediate	Commenced	Given the nature of the documents and the size of this task, the project has been split into themes. Each land-use planning theme of the LEP and the corresponding chapters of the DCP will be reviewed concurrently. The benefit of this approach is enabling specific issues or themes to be addressed simultaneously in a LEP amendment and a DCP amendment. It will also ensure consistency between the DCP and LEP. For example, the residential zones and clause of the LEP will be reviewed concurrently with the subdivision and urban housing controls and of the DCP.  Strategic Planning staff are currently working on the following themes: residential, recreation, rural land and employment land.

Action No.	Action	Priority	Status	Comment
6	<p>Review the Cessnock Development Control Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· To update the trees and vegetation management provisions.</li> <li>· To review and update the tree species list to ensure that it contains primarily local native species.</li> <li>· To review development on flood prone land provisions, the Flood Risk Management Policy and existing flood studies to include climate change considerations.</li> </ul> <p>*additional components of this actions will be picked up as part of the comprehensive DCP review. Only parts of the action that have been commenced or completed have been included in this report.</p>	Short	Commenced	<p>This action has a number of components that will be completed over the coming years. Progress has been made on the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redundant Chapters deleted</li> <li>• Revised Flood Prone Land, Contamination and Airport Chapters adopted.</li> <li>• Tree Management and the Vintage Chapters have been reviewed and publicly exhibited.</li> <li>• Remaining chapters will be reviewed over time</li> </ul>
7	<p>Review Council's development contribution framework–</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· To ensure that appropriate infrastructure is funded by the developer.</li> <li>· To contribute to the active transport works in Council's Traffic and Transport Strategy.</li> <li>· To ensure that appropriate infrastructure is funded by the developer.</li> <li>· To incentivise infill development within existing urban areas.</li> <li>· To repeal the Tourism S94 Plan.</li> <li>· To capture contributions from tourist-related development under council's Section 7.12 Levy Contributions Plan.</li> <li>· To ensure that tourism development contributes to infrastructure provision and town centre improvements.</li> </ul> <p>*additional components of this actions will be picked up in further projects.</p>	Short	Commenced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First review of the City Wide Contributions Plan commenced</li> <li>• Repeal of the Tourism s94 Plan complete</li> <li>• Tourism related development captured under the 7.12 Plan</li> </ul>

Action No.	Action	Priority	Status	Comment
11	Prepare a town centre place-making strategy to encourage development and investment that will increase activation, amenity and use of existing sites in our centres.	Short	Not commenced	Short term projects are scheduled to commence 3-5 years after the LSPS is adopted. The LSPS has been in place for 1 year.
12	Target the Local Heritage Fund to façade improvement for heritage buildings in our centres.	Short	Commenced	A component of the 2021-2022 Local Heritage Fund scoring criteria is that the project is located in a commercial centre.
13	Prepare a villages strategy that– · Identifies key features of each village. · Identifies opportunities for improvements to the public domain in each village.	Short	Not commenced	Short term projects are scheduled to commence 3-5 years after the LSPS is adopted. The LSPS has been in place for 1 year.
15	Investigate options for a cycleway and trail through the Vineyard District.	Immediate	Completed	Brochure outlining cycling opportunities for the Vineyard's District prepared. Cycling Strategy outlines several options for a cycleway through the Vineyard's District. Trails Strategy adopted by Council on 20 May 2020.
16	Prepare a Greener Places, Urban Forest Policy and Street Tree Policy.	Medium	Completed	Urban Tree Canopy Policy was adopted by Council on 19 May 2021.
20	Council will continue to monitor residential land supply.	Ongoing	Completed	Incorporated into Annual Monitoring Report.
21	Council will continue to participate in the Hunter Urban Development Program.	Ongoing	Completed	Council continues to be a member on the Hunter Urban Development Program.
22	Undertake an Environmental Lands Study.	Immediate	Commenced	Phase 1 of the Environmental Lands Study has been publicly exhibited and is being finalised.
23	Investigate a precinct planning approach for the rural and environmental areas to reflect the different character and capabilities of land across the region.	Immediate	Not commenced	This will be influenced by the outcomes of the Environmental lands study and the Vineyards District project. Both of which are currently underway.
24	Identify and map important agricultural land, significant agricultural landscapes and sensitive view sheds.	Short	Commenced	Edge Land Planning have been engaged to complete the project.
27	Investigate the viability of new and emerging agricultural industries and how to support diversification of the sector through local planning policies.	Short	Commenced	This will be completed as part of the rural land theme in the comprehensive LEP review.



Action No.	Action	Priority	Status	Comment
28	Prepare a Rural Lands Policy.	Short	Not commenced	Short term projects are scheduled to commence 3-5 years after the LSPS is adopted. The LSPS has been in place for 1 year.
29	Continue to facilitate the Vineyard District Community Working Group for the Vineyards District Project.	Immediate	Complete	Stage 1 of the Vineyards District project is complete and included extensive consultation with the Working Group. Stage 2 of the Vineyard's District project is well advanced. Consultation with working group members has occurred as part of Stage 2. Draft DCP (Character Statement) currently being prepared by Consultant Edge Land Planning.
30	Progress the 'Hydro' Planning Proposal-	Immediate	Commenced	The Hydro Planning Proposal was public exhibited in late 2020. Council continues to liaise regularly with the proponent, DPIE and TfNSW including resolving traffic related issues.
31	Engage with local business chambers and public organisations to determine how the local planning framework can be modified to support their continued growth and diversification.	Short	Not commenced	Consultation will be undertaken with the business chambers as part of the comprehensive LEP review. This will be completed as part of the employment theme in the comprehensive LEP review.
39	Investigate park and ride facilities and commuter parking at public transport nodes and HEX interchanges in collaboration with the RMS.	Immediate	Underway	Councils preference for a park and ride facility at the HEX interchanges continues to be raised with TfNSW.
43	Prepare a Smart City Strategy.	Short	Not commenced	Short term projects are scheduled to commence 3-5 years after the LSPS is adopted. The LSPS has been in place for 1 year.
44	Prepare an Environmental Strategy.	Immediate	Not commenced	Scheduled for completion 2021/2022.
46	Investigate if it is appropriate to introduce a sensitive land map with a clause that requires Council to consider the environmental qualities of the land in any planning proposals or development applications.	Short	Commenced	This is incorporated into the Environmental Lands Study.
47	Engage with Austar, Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other major land holders about the future management of their lands and to reflect the environmental value of these lands in the Environmental Lands Study.	Short	Commenced	Consultation occurred as part of the Environmental Lands Study.

50	Investigate planning mechanisms to provide greater protection for areas of high biodiversity and biodiversity corridors.	Short	Commenced	This is incorporated into the Environmental Lands Study.
<b>Action No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comment</b>
51	Investigate the possibility of Council making strategic land purchases for the purpose of establishing Biodiversity Stewardship Sites.	Short-Medium	Not commenced	Short term projects are scheduled to commence 3-5 years after the LSPS is adopted. The LSPS has been in place for 1 year.
52	Work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify lands of high biodiversity and strategies to protect and enhance these areas.	Short-Medium	Commenced	This is incorporated into the Environmental Lands Study.
57	Investigate the zoning of lots that contain significant waterbodies to ensure the type, location and extent of zoning is appropriate.	Short	Commenced	This is incorporated into the Environmental Lands Study.
59	Implement a water-sampling program to establish a base line for monitoring the success of the Environmental Strategy.	Short	Not commenced	Short term projects are scheduled to commence 3-5 years after the LSPS is adopted. The LSPS has been in place for 1 year.
61	Prepare a Climate Change Policy	Immediate	Complete	Climate Change Policy was adopted in May 2020.
62	Prepare a Green Building Policy.	Short	Not commenced	Short term projects are scheduled to commence 3-5 years after the LSPS is adopted. The LSPS has been in place for 1 year.
63	Prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Strategy in consultation with local Aboriginal people and groups.	Short	Completed	A grant from OEH has been received to complete this project over the next two years.
64	Undertake Phase 2 of the Aboriginal Heritage Study.	Intermediate	Completed	Final report received by Council in June.
65	Continue to apply for funding to continue the local heritage small grants program and heritage advisory service.	Ongoing	Completed	Funding has been obtained for the Heritage Advisor Service and Local Heritage Fund for 2021-2023.
66	Prepare a Heritage Strategy	Short	Not commenced	Short term projects are scheduled to commence 3-5 years after the LSPS is adopted. The LSPS has been in place for 1 year.
69	Prioritise the implementation of the Richmond Vale Rail Trail.	Immediate	Commenced	Council continues to liaise with relevant stakeholders to implement the Richmond Vale Railway.
70	Continue to undertake the Vineyards District Project	Immediate	Commenced	Stage 1 of the Vineyards District project is complete and included extensive consultation with the Working Group. Stage 2 of the Vineyard's District project is well advanced. Consultation with working group members has occurred as part of Stage 2. Draft DCP (Character Statement)

				currently being prepared by Consultant Edge Land Planning.
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## 8. Progress of the Climate Change Policy

Council adopted the Cessnock Climate Change Policy on 21 May 2020. The policy outlines Council's position on climate change and commits Council to a target of net zero emissions by 2050. The Policy makes a series of policy commitments to help support the transition to net zero emissions and to build climate resilience. Actions in the Climate Change Policy that have been progressed to date are outlined in **table 2**.

**Table 2: Actions that have been progressed in the Climate Change Policy**

Policy Commitment No.	Action	Status	Comment
5.1.1.2	Develop a Climate Change Strategy by June 2021, which identifies actions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating the impacts of climate change and building climate resilience	Commenced	This project is scheduled to be complete in 2021-2022.
5.1.2.1	Engage with the community and other stakeholders in the development of the Climate Change Strategy	Commenced	Internal Climate Change Working Group has been established and meetings are held every 6 weeks. Engagement with the community will occur at appropriate stages through the project
5.1.4.1	Develop a Cessnock Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory using regional data to establish baseline emissions for the region. Undertake regular monitoring so that Council knows if the actions being employed to reduce emissions are succeeding and can amend actions if required.	Completed	The Snapshot Community Climate Tool is publicly available.
5.1.4.2	Undertake an annual corporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory including Scope 1 (direct) and Scope 2 (indirect) emissions utilising the National Greenhouses and Energy Reporting Act 2007 (cth).	Completed	Ironbark Sustainability was engaged to prepare a baseline Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Action Plan. Final report and inventory provided to Council on 1 July 2021.

## 9. Progress of the Housing Strategy

The Cessnock Housing Strategy was adopted by Council on 19 May 2021. The Cessnock Housing Strategy considers the unique housing needs and aspirations of our community now and into the future. It explores expected population growth, the changing characteristics of our community and also our housing preferences. The Strategy makes a series of recommendations to help support the delivery of appropriate, affordable and diverse housing across Cessnock. The Strategy contains a Delivery Plan with actions listed as immediate, short term, medium term, and long term and ongoing.

This AMR focuses on the actions that are of immediate priority and ongoing actions that have had work completed. It is anticipated that a more substantial update on the Housing Strategy will be provided in the 2021-2022 AMR. Actions in the Cessnock Housing Strategy that have been progressed to date are outlined in **Table 3**.

**Table 3: Progress of actions in the Cessnock Housing Strategy**

Action	Priority	Status	Comment
Lobby the NSW State Government to review the timing of Section 7.11/7.12 contributions to reduce the financial burden on the development and housing industries.	Ongoing	Commenced	This issue is raised in Council's comments on the legislation reforms.
Promote that Council's s7.11 contributions are significantly less in existing, established urban areas.	Ongoing	Commenced	Council's 7.11 rates are published on Council's webpage. Further promotion of Council's rates will be undertaken when appropriate.
Advocate for the ongoing reform of the NSW Planning System	Ongoing	Commenced	Council continues to make submission on the NSW planning system reforms.
Provide a submission to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the SEPP (Housing Diversity) Explanation of Intend Effects.	Immediate	Completed	A submission was provided to DPIE on the SEPP (Housing Diversity) Explanation of Intend Effects.
Continue to be a member of the Big Ideas on Homelessness Network and work towards developing a regional strategy for homelessness and a 'Common Ground' facility in Newcastle' to serve the wider regional community.	Ongoing	Commenced	Council continues to be a member of Big Ideas.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Comprehensively review the Cessnock Local Environment Plan.	Ongoing	Commenced	Housing related matters will be addressed in the housing theme of the comprehensive LEP review. This theme has commenced.
Comprehensively review the Cessnock Development Control Plan.	Ongoing	Commenced	Housing related matters will be addressed in the housing theme of the comprehensive DCP review. This theme has commenced.
Maintain timeframes and improve regulatory efficiencies where possible.	Ongoing	Commenced	The median days for processing a DA in Cessnock Council is 32 days.
Continue to lead on Local Government e-planning initiatives	Ongoing	Commenced	Council continues to lead Local Government in e-planning initiatives and be responsive to changes in technology.
Maintain application tracker and be responsive to technological improvements to improve interactivity with the community.	Ongoing	Commenced	Council continues to lead Local Government in e-planning initiatives and be responsive to changes in technology.

