



2013–2014 Annual Report

Delivering Services & Infrastructure for Our Community

Cessnock - thriving, attractive and welcoming

OUR VISION

Cessnock will be a cohesive and welcoming community living in an attractive and sustainable rural environment with a diversity of business and employment opportunities supported by accessible infrastructure and services which effectively meet community needs.

In summary, the vision is:

**Cessnock -
thriving,
attractive and
welcoming.**

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The Annual Report

The Annual Report has been developed to provide a summary of Council's achievements during the 2013-14 year. Progress is measured against the programs, budget and desired outcomes in the 2013-14 Operational Plan. The Operational Plan aims to achieve the longer term objectives of the Delivery Program and Community Strategic Plan.

This document focuses on Council's implementation of the 2013-17 Delivery Program and Operational Plan because these are the plans that are wholly the responsibility of Council.

The Annual Report provides an insight into Council's financial position and operations, and is prepared to comply with the Local Government Act 1993.

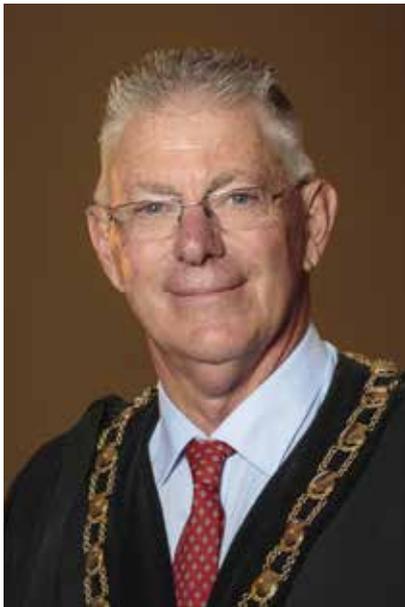
Major highlights, key initiatives, operating performance and achievements are presented against five desired outcomes as identified in the Community Strategic Plan, *Cessnock 2023*.

They are:

- A connected, safe and creative community
- A sustainable and prosperous economy
- A sustainable and healthy environment
- Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities
- Civic leadership and effective governance

The Financial Statements are presented in a separate document to this report.





Mayor Councillor Bob Pynsent

On behalf of Cessnock City Council, it gives us great pleasure to present Council's 2013-14 Annual Report, which details the progress we have made in implementing our 2013-14 Operational Plan.

This year Council has been recognised with State Awards for our innovative Youth Week program and our energy efficiency and water conservation program. In addition, our local government area was voted the 12th best tourist destination in the South Pacific region.

During 2013-14 we have continued to strengthen Council's governance framework and the Audit Committee's first full year of operation has been a significant contributor to this.

As well as continuing to deliver services and capital works for our community, Council is positioning itself for the future with adoption of a Financial Sustainability Initiative so that, in the long-term,



General Manager Stephen Glen

Council will generate sufficient funds to provide the levels of service and infrastructure agreed with the community.

In addition, Council will also be preparing a roadmap to ensure it is a fit for the future organisation that is able to provide effective and efficient services and have the scale and capacity to meet the needs of our community.

We hope you enjoy reading about the 2013-14 highlights for our local government area and will continue to support Council in its efforts to create an attractive, thriving and welcoming community.

Bob Pynsent

Mayor of the City of Cessnock

Stephen Glen

General Manager

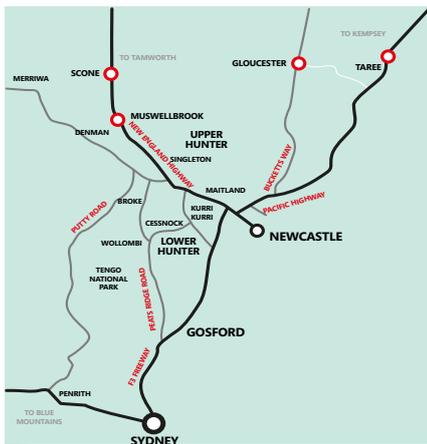
Message from the Mayor & General Manager

Cessnock Local Government Area

LOCATION

Cessnock City is located in the Hunter Valley, New South Wales, about 120 kilometres north of Sydney and 40 kilometres west of Newcastle.

The LGA is bounded by Maitland City in the north; the Cities of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie in the east, Wyong Shire and the Cities of Gosford and Hawkesbury in the south; and the Singleton Council area in the west.



AT A GLANCE

The population of the LGA was 54,313 at 30 June 2013, with a population density of 0.28 people per hectare.

In the LGA, 14% of households earned \$2,500 or more per week.

Only 8% of the dwellings are medium or high density, compared to 16% in regional NSW.

Almost 20% of our population is aged between 35 and 49 with 12.3% aged 25 to 34 and 13.4% aged 50 to 59. Just over 11% are aged 60 to 69 years.

HISTORY

Cessnock is named after Cessnock Castle in Ayrshire, Scotland.

The LGA is largely made up of the traditional lands of the Wonnarua people. European settlement dates from the 1820s when pastoralists arrived using land mainly for farming, market gardening and timber getting.

The Great North Road was constructed in the 1830s, linking the Hawkesbury and Hunter Valleys. Wollombi was the centre of the area till the late 1800s. The township of Branxton emerged from 1848, spurred by its accessibility to water, rich agricultural land and its location as a road junction.

The three largest ancestry groups in 2011 in the LGA are Australian, English and Scottish. Over 64% live and work in the LGA with 35% of working residents travelling out of the area for work.

Only 1% of the working population use public transport to get to work.

12.4% of those employed work in Manufacturing, 11.5% in Retail Trade, 11% in Health Care and Social Assistance, 10.2% in Mining, and 10% in Accommodation and Food Services.

The township of Cessnock developed from 1850 as a service centre at the junction of the Great North Road. There was some growth in the 1850s and 1860s with wheat, tobacco and grapes being grown, especially around Cessnock, Nulkaba and Pokolbin.

Significant development in Cessnock occurred when coal was struck in 1892 and several coal mines were established.

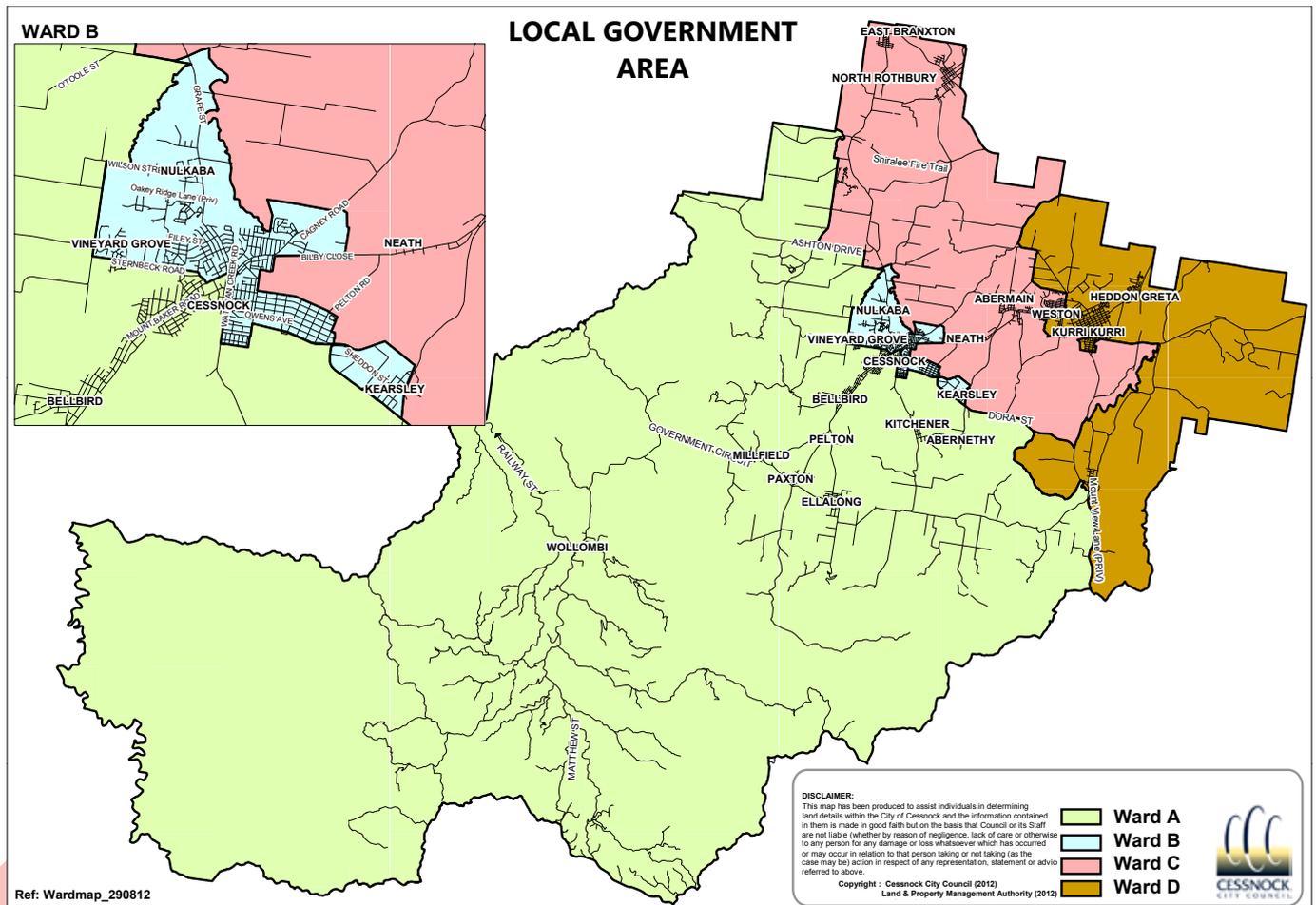
By 1926 the Cessnock local government area had a population of 12,000 increasing to 18,000 by the 1940s. Up to the 1960s mining was the principal industrial base and source of employment in the Cessnock area.

The Cessnock LGA covers approximately 1,950 square kilometres within the Hunter Valley of New South Wales.

Whilst mining was the principal industrial base and source of employment in the LGA for the first half of the 20th century, changes to the mining industry, including automation and the introduction of sophisticated computerised equipment, led to the closure of the vast majority of mines in the area.

The decline of mining has been paralleled by growth in the wine industry. The Hunter Valley wine-growing area in the LGA is Australia's oldest wine region and one of the most famous, with around 2,664 hectares under wine grapes. The vineyards of Pokolbin, Mount View and Allandale, with their rich volcanic soils tended by entrepreneurial vignerons, are also the focus of a thriving tourism industry.

As well as vineyards and wineries there are fine restaurants, motels, cabins, guest houses and galleries. Wine-related tourism has also created opportunities for other attractions, such as the historic Marthaville Arts and Crafts Centre, Wollombi Village, the Richmond Main Mining Museum and the Richmond Vale Railway. Other primary industries in the LGA include beef and poultry.



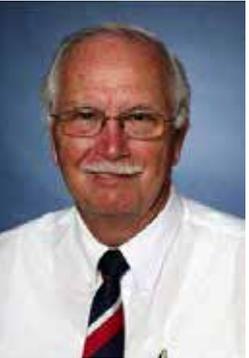
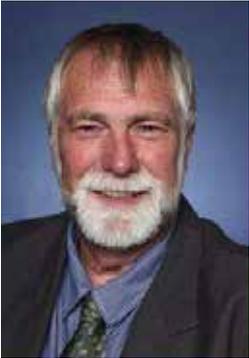
Council's Charter

Cessnock City Council is constituted as a body politic of the State under section 220 of the Local Government Act 1993. Section 8 of the Local Government Act states that a Council's charter is:

- to provide directly or on behalf of other levels of government, after due consultation, adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities for the community and to ensure that those services and facilities are managed efficiently and effectively
- to exercise community leadership
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and actively promotes the principles of multiculturalism
- to promote and to provide and plan for the needs of children
- to properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development
- to have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions
- to bear in mind that it is the custodian and trustee of public assets and to effectively plan for, account for and manage the assets for which it is responsible
- to engage in long-term strategic planning on behalf of the local community
- to exercise its functions in a manner that is consistent with and promotes social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights
- to facilitate the involvement of councillors, members of the public, users of facilities and services and council staff in the development, improvement and co-ordination of local government
- to raise funds for local purposes by the fair imposition of rates, charges and fees, by income earned from investments and, when appropriate, by borrowings and grants
- to keep the local community and the State government (and through it, the wider community) informed about its activities
- to ensure that, in the exercise of its regulatory functions, it acts consistently and without bias, particularly where an activity of the council is affected
- to be a responsible employer.

The charter is a set of principles that guide the Council in the carrying out of its functions.

Councillors

THE MAYOR	WARD A	WARD B	WARD C	WARD D
				
Clr B Pynsent	Clr J Hawkins	Clr M Campbell	Clr J Maybury	Clr R Doherty
				
	Clr A Stapleford	Clr B Gibson	Clr C Parsons	Clr J Ryan
				
	Clr C Troy	Clr I Olsen	Clr S Wrightson	Clr G Smith

Cessnock City Council comprises 12 Councillors who are elected from four (4) Wards, with three (3) representatives from each Ward.

The Mayor, who is elected by popular vote, is also deemed to be a Councillor.

How We Compare



Local Government provides many services and manages significant public assets that people in local communities rely upon.

In order to monitor and compare important aspects of a council's performance against groups of similar sized local government areas the Office of Local Government compiles an annual Local Government Comparative Information Report.

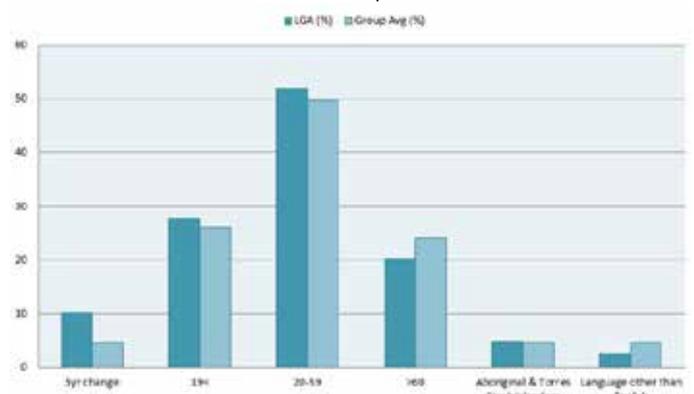
A summary of Cessnock's comparative information from the most recent publication for 2012-13 is provided on the following pages. A full copy of the report is available to view on the Office of Local Government website www.olg.nsw.gov.au

Council	Cessnock	Group Avg
Councillors (No.)	13	10
Population per Councillor (No.)	4,099	4,055
Equivalent Full Time Staff (No.)	261	312
2012/13 Revenue (\$'000)	69,712	79,325
2012/13 Expenses (\$'000)	66,335	73,370
Residential Pensioner Rebates (%)	22	21
Population Density (residents per km ²)	27.10	59.81

Local Economy	Cessnock	Group Avg
SALM Unemployment Rate (%)	7.5	5.8
Avg Taxable Income (\$)	43,430	40,087
Avg Household Size (No.)	3.0	2.9
Largest Industry Employer	Manufacturing	
Value of DAs determined (\$'000)	138,998	103,374
Active Businesses in LGA (No.)	2,840	3,158

Local Population	Cessnock	Group Avg
Five year population change (%)	10.3	4.6
Population aged 19 or less (%)	27.8	26.1
Population aged between 20 & 59 (%)	51.9	49.6
Population aged above 60 (%)	20.2	24.2
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders (%)	4.8	4.7
Language Spoken other than English (%)	2.5	4.7
Socio-Economic Index Rank (1 low, 152 high)	28	N/A

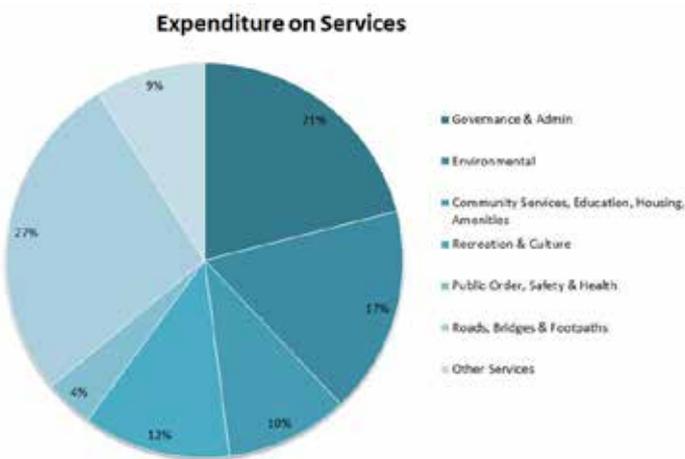
Our Local Population





Council's Services	Cessnock	Group Avg
Governance & Administration Expenditure per capita (\$)	262.23	266.44
Environmental Expenditure (including waste) per capita	206.80	236.74
Community Services, Education, Housing, Amenities Expenditure per capita (\$)	123.63	178.49
Recreation & Culture Expenditure per capita (\$)	149.82	252.82
Public Order, Safety & Health Expenditure per capita (\$)	49.69	63.87
Other Services Expenditure per capita (\$)	115.92	225.45
Library Services Expenditure per capita (\$)	29.78	45.92
Library Circulation per capita (Items)	4	7
Domestic waste not going to land fill (%)	20	43
Development Applications (mean gross days)	77	61
Development Applications determined (No.)	752	452
Companion Animals microchipped (No.)	28,917	17,347
Companion Animals microchipped and registered (%)	64	58

Public Facilities	Cessnock	Group Avg
Public Swimming Pools (No.)	3	3
Public Halls (No.)	22	13
Public Libraries (No.)	2	3
Open Public Space (ha)	833	946
Total Road Length (km)	1,027.3	1,101.8
Access to Internet at Home (%)	67.0	68.3

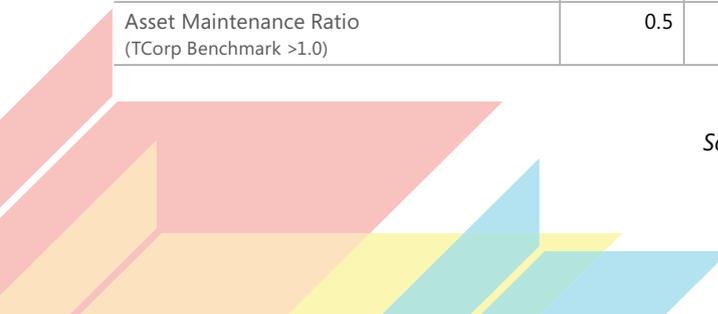


Council's Community Leadership	Cessnock	Group Avg
DAs determined by Councillors (%)	3	3
Audited Financial Reports submitted by due date	Y	N/A
Code of Conduct Complaints (No.)	1	2
Complaints investigated requiring action (No.)	0	1
Cost of dealing with Code of Conduct Complaints (\$)	300	4,908
Population per Equivalent Full Time Staff (No.)	204	125

Council's Assets	Cessnock	Group Avg
Roads, Bridges and Footpath expenditure per capita (\$)	336.73	349.74
Building & Infrastructure Renewal Ratio (%) (TCorp Benchmark >100%)	110.5	75.9
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio (%) (TCorp Benchmark <20%)	21.0	10.6
Road Length per '000 capita (metre)	19.3	30.7
Asset Maintenance Ratio (TCorp Benchmark >1.0)	0.5	0.8

Council's Finances	Cessnock	Group Avg
Average Ordinary Residential Rate (\$)	968.61	878.05
Average Ordinary Business Rate (\$)	2,867.24	3,168.15
Average Ordinary Farmland Rate (\$)	1,887.67	1,834.89
Average Ordinary Mining Rate (\$)	152,000.00	206,823.71
Total Land Value/Total Rate Revenue (\$)	139.10	166.32
Average Domestic Waste Charge (\$)	486.68	287.64
Own Source Revenue (%) (TCorp Benchmark 60%)	73	64
Grants & Contributions Revenue (%)	23	28
Operating Performance Ratio (%) (TCorp Benchmark >4.0%)	-1.3	-6.4
Unrestricted Current Ratio	1.9	2.9
Outstanding Rates & Annual Charges (%)	6.2	6.1
Debt Service Cover Ratio (TCorp Benchmark >2.0)	9.2	4.4
Cash Expense Cover Ratio (Mths) (TCorp Benchmark >3 mths)	2.5	4.3

Source: Comparative Information on NSW Local Government 2012-13
(Office of Local Government)





Delivering
**a connected,
safe and creative
community**

COMMUNITY'S DESIRED OUTCOME:

A connected, safe & creative community

This Desired Outcome relates to community wellbeing, connectedness and safety. During the community engagement program in 2010 participants expressed the desire for a healthy, active, engaged and cohesive community that maintained its unique local identity and friendliness into the future.

Council has undertaken the following principal activities during 2013-14 to achieve the objectives established in the community strategic plan, Cessnock 2023.



Community & Cultural Activities

- Community planning
- Events
- Libraries
- Youth services
- Cessnock Performing Arts Centre



Community Health & Safety

- Animal management
- Building compliance and safety
- Parking enforcement
- Public health inspections
- Regulation enforcement programs
- Road Safety programs and facilities
- Emergency Management



Community Assets

- Community halls and centres
- Early childhood facilities
- Cycleways

Promoting Social Connections

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

The total Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander resident population in the LGA is approximately 2,457 (2011 Census).

In 2013 Council worked in partnership with local Aboriginal services and non-government organisations to deliver 11 local NAIDOC Week events.

The Aboriginal Advisory Committee has been established and regular meetings have been held throughout the year. The Committee is working on developing a Reconciliation Action Plan.

PEOPLE WITH DIVERSE CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC BACKGROUNDS

The 2011 Census found that there were over 30 languages being spoken by residents in the LGA and that 6.6% of residents were born overseas.

Harmony Day was celebrated in March 2014 with a significant community event in the plaza adjacent to the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. The event was well attended.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS TORCH RUN THROUGH CESSNOCK

On Friday 29 November 2013 the spectacle of an Olympics Torch Run once again thrilled Cessnock

residents – this time on its way to the Special Olympics 2013 Asia Pacific Games which was held in Newcastle on 1 – 7 December 2013.

The Special Olympics Flame of Hope was carried through the streets of Cessnock as a part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Not only did it serve to raise awareness of the Special Olympics being held in Newcastle, but it also reminded us of the importance of enabling those with an intellectual disability to participate in sport in a safe and supportive environment and to recognise and celebrate their achievements.

The Special Olympics 2013 Asia Pacific Games provided 2,500 athletes with an intellectual disability, from more than 32 countries, with the opportunity to compete, celebrate and achieve their personal best.

ACCESS

The Access Advisory Committee (comprising Councillors, community representatives and Council officers) met to consider issues of access for people with disabilities.

CLUB GRANTS 2013

For the 2013-14 Club Grants Funding Round, the Committee received 57 applications and was able to partially or fully fund 24 projects. The total allocation of grant funds was \$94,784.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND GRANTS

During 2013-14 Council provided \$90,350.81 in general financial assistance to community groups/organisations.

GROUP/ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
RECREATION MINOR PROJECTS \$ FOR \$ PROGRAM	
Cessnock District Netball Association	\$715.00
Cessnock Minor Rugby League	\$3,348.35
Cessnock Rugby League Football Club	\$13,504.32
North Rothbury Tidy Towns	\$2,500.00
Piranhas Cricket Club Inc.	\$2,467.50
Wollombi Valley Pony Club Inc.	\$4,046.25
Kurri Kurri Aquatic & Fitness Centre	\$11,612.48
SUB-TOTAL	\$38,193.90

GROUP/ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
COMMUNITY HALLS \$ FOR \$ PROGRAM	
Abermain Plaza Hall Management	\$603.18
Cessnock Multi Purpose Childrens Centre	\$7,451.60
Greta Arts & Sports Multipurpose	\$7,272.72
North Cessnock Community Hall	\$1,750.00
Wollombi Valley Progress Association	\$2,270.91
SUB-TOTAL	\$19,348.41
COMMUNITY CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS \$ FOR \$ PROGRAM	
Abermain Eisteddfod Society	\$2,497.00
Cessnock City RSL Pipes & Drums	\$3,000.00
Cessnock Community & Youth Development	\$1,950.00
Cessnock District Historical Society	\$2,700.00
Cessnock Regional Art Gallery	\$2,000.00
Central Hunter Community Broadcasters	\$511.50
Cessnock Woodturners Inc	\$700.00
Coalfield Heritage Group Inc	\$1,200.00
Kurri Kurri & District Preschool	\$950.00
Sculpture in the Vineyards Inc	\$5,300.00
Wollombi Valley Arts Council	\$2,000.00
SUB-TOTAL	\$22,808.50
TIDY TOWNS \$ FOR \$ PROGRAM	
Branxton Tidy Towns	\$250.00
Gingers Lane Tidy Towns	\$788.63
Greta Tidy Towns	\$5,250.00
Kurri Kurri Tidy Towns	\$752.50
Weston Heritage & Tidy Towns	\$903.00
Weston Heritage & Tidy Towns	\$1,461.95
Wollombi Valley Tidy Towns	\$593.92
SUB-TOTAL	\$10,000.00
TOTAL	\$90,350.81

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Promote the range of community services across the Local Government Area.		
Engage with the indigenous community. - Organise and deliver a range of NAIDOC Week events.		
Develop a program to increase social connections across the Local Government Area. - Organise and deliver a range of Seniors' Week events. - Organise and deliver a range of Youth Week events. - Organise other civic events - Australia Day, Carols in the Park, Citizenship Ceremonies, etc. - Work with the Cessnock Chamber of Commerce to develop a major festival. - Support the Kurri Kurri Nostalgia Festival.	 	
Commence implementation of the Cessnock City Bicycle Plan. - Identify potential funding sources to implement the priority projects from the Cessnock City Bicycle Plan.		

Delivery Program Performance: Achieved 3 Not Yet Achieved 0 At Risk 1

Strengthening Community Culture

CHILD CARE AND PRE-SCHOOL SERVICES

Council provided space for nine child care and pre-school services across the LGA.

In January 2014 Council adopted the Discussion Paper entitled *'Early Childhood Care and Pre School Services: An Analysis of Current and Future Needs within the Cessnock Local Government Area'*. The Discussion Paper aims to better assist Council to understand the gaps in and effectively plan for future of early childhood services within the Cessnock Local Government Area.

YOUTH SERVICES

Council's Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) is now in its 16th year of operation. CYCOS has a suite of programs for the LGA's youth, including in-house and outreach drop-in facilities, informal educational programs in schools, referral for young people to other services, court support and youth events. During 2013-14 CYCOS had 8,945 occasions of service (i.e. interactions with young people).

Council and community organisation representatives won the award for "Most innovative Youth Week

Program" at the National Youth Week Awards. The award recognised all the time and effort that goes into delivering a massive Youth Week program in our LGA. CYCOS played a major role in the planning and programming of activities for Youth Week. This year the program of activities and events engaged and entertained more than 1,113 young people. Youth Week 2014 included a big breakfast at three of the local high schools, a cooking competition, photography workshop, two movie and pizza nights at the local libraries, a circus skills workshop, an open mic night, outdoor activities and a free BBQ, a scooter bike and skate competition, a fun pool night at Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre and a Youth Fest! It was fantastic to see so many happy and engaged young people displaying positive youth culture in its many forms.

CYCOS has also continued to grow and develop informal educational programs that are provided to schools. In 2013-14 CYCOS delivered programs to the three public high schools on the topics of health promotion, crime prevention and prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault.



Accepting the award for Most Innovative Youth Week Program 2014 are: Lakin Agnew, Kylie Pratt, Kate Warner, Emily Cant, Wil Doran, Simon Eade and Mayor Bob Pynsent.

AGED AND DISABLED SERVICES

Cessnock City Council provides significant infrastructure for aged and disabled services operated by Home and Community Care Services across the LGA including:

- Domestic Assistance Service
- Personal Care Service
- Social Support Service
- Home Maintenance & Modification
- Transport Services
- Disability Services

In January 2014 Council adopted the Discussion Paper entitled 'The Provision of Residential Aged Care Services and Care Packages within the Cessnock Local Government Area'. The purpose of the Discussion Paper was to determine whether the LGA is adequately positioned to meet the future needs of older residents in relation to the availability of residential aged care facilities. This issue will be of considerable importance to the LGA as the population for people aged 70 years and over is forecast to grow a further 48% between Census years 2011 and 2021. Furthermore, in 2031 the total population for people aged 70 years and over is anticipated to be 9,300 people (a 95% increase when compared to Census 2011).

Council was actively involved in organising, promoting and/or delivering 19 events as part of 2014 Seniors' Week activities.

DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

As part of the state review of the Disability Services Act 1993, Council provided feedback on the Disability Inclusion Bill 2014 (which will be called the Disability Inclusion Act 2014). Council expressed its support for the Draft Disability Inclusion Bill 2014 and the requirement that mandates local governments to develop a Disability Action Plan.

TIDY TOWNS AWARDS

The LGA took out six awards at the annual NSW State Tidy Town Awards held in November 2013.

Winner – Cessnock Tidy Towns for the Mt View corridors project in the Wildlife Corridors and Habitat Conservation category

Winner - Kurri Kurri Tidy Towns for the Towns with Heart 2013 Nostalgia Festival in the Bush Spirit category

Winner - Council's Community Water and Energy program in the Energy Efficiency and Water Conservation category

Highly Commended - Casscar Creative Arts Studio in the Young Legends category

Highly Commended - Gingers Lane in the New Towns category

Highly Commended - Council's Don't Waste your Organics program in the Waste Management and Litter Reduction category

The Keep Australia Beautiful Tidy Town program has been running for more than 30 years and the LGA has been represented every year with Kurri Kurri announced the overall winner in 1993.

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Collaborate with the community to develop and deliver services.		
Develop a strategic plan for social welfare and community facilities needs across the Local Government Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In conjunction with the Local Area Planning Team, finalise the Needs Analysis of the social infrastructure in the Local Government Area (including child care and aged care) and identify gaps to be addressed. - Undertake a review of community facility usage. 	 	
Support groups to manage and improve community and sporting facilities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to support community, cultural and sporting facilities and projects (e.g. Cultural \$ for \$ grants; Sporting/Community \$ for \$ grants; Tidy Towns \$ for \$ grants). 		
Commence implementation of the priority projects from the CYCOS Business Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the priority youth projects from the CYCOS Business Plan 		
Delivery Program Performance: Achieved 4 Not Yet Achieved 0 At Risk 0		

Promoting Safe Communities



CRIME PREVENTION

'Smart Choices' is an eight-week youth crime prevention education program designed by Council, Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service and the Central Hunter Local Area Command (NSW Police). It was delivered to a secondary high school on two occasions and approximately 150 year seven students participated in the program.

In August 2014 Council adopted as part of the Cessnock Development Control Plan 2010, Chapter 8 '*Social impact assessment and crime prevention through environmental design guidelines for a proposed development*'. The Chapter provides advice to both Council and proponents regarding what type of development requires a social assessment.

COMPANION ANIMALS

Council actively enforces the Companion Animals Act 1998 through the following activities and community education programs:

- Free microchipping day for Companion Animals in the LGA.

- Regular patrols of the local government area.
- Educating the community on responsible pet ownership including distribution of pooch pouches, dog leads, brochures and promotional materials (magnets, pencils and balloons).
- Companion Animal Lifetime Registration audits and reminder letters.
- Dangerous and restricted dog audits and inspections.
- Attending to complaints and ensuring that Companion Animal Owners adhere to the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 and regulations.

Council's Companion Animal Management Plan was adopted by Council in January 2010.

Council has an agreement with the RSPCA to provide pound facilities for the Cessnock City local government area. From August 2011 all impounded animals have been taken to the RSPCA Rutherford Shelter.

DE-SEXING OF DOGS AND CATS

Council refers Companion Animal owners to Hunter Animal Watch to assist with desexing of animals for pension card holders. Council Rangers engage with animal owners and discuss the options of desexing their animal.

ANIMAL SHELTER DATA

The RSPCA Rutherford completes and lodges pound data collection returns with the Office of Local Government as part of Council's Agreement.

There were 27 reported dog attacks involving 33 attacking dogs in the LGA in 2013-14.

For the year ended 30 June 2014 there were 50 actions relating to these dog attacks including:

- 2 were declared dangerous;
- 19 were infringed;
- 4 received warnings;
- 3 were seized and taken to the pound;
- 2 dogs were destroyed;
- 4 are still under investigation;
- 3 required police action;
- 1 was declared menacing; and
- 8 other actions were taken.

ALTERNATIVES TO EUTHANASIA FOR UNCLAIMED ANIMALS

As part of Council's ongoing agreement with the RSPCA, animals are held for the prescribed time and, if unclaimed, their ownership transfers to the RSPCA, and the animals are put through an assessment program to establish if they are suitable for rehoming.

OFF LEASH AREAS IN THE LGA

Council currently has six leash-free areas for the community to use:

- Branxton: the very western end of Miller Park
- Cessnock: northern end of Manning Park in Blackwood Avenue
- Cessnock West: northern end of Hall Park
- Greta: northern portion of Greta Central Park

- Stanford Merthyr: Stanford Merthyr Park in Maitland Street
- Weston: south-eastern portion of Varty Park

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Council spent approximately \$33,000 on community education programs in 2013-14 including a free microchip day. Council also conducts a bulk mail out of companion animal brochures to promote responsible pet ownership.

ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY

In June 2014 Council adopted the Cessnock City Road Safety Strategic Plan 2014-18. The objectives of the Plan are to:

- Establish clear road safety goals for Council and the community;
- Strive towards a reduction in road trauma and associated social and monetary costs to Council and the local community;
- Enhance community awareness and ownership of road safety issues to encourage a voluntary compliance with traffic laws amongst all road users;
- Continue to highlight road safety as a priority within Council design, development and delivery processes; and
- Improve Council's capacity to take advantage of Commonwealth and State road safety funding programs.

The Plan is the foundation document for the development of a Local Road Safety Three Year Action Plan, which will provide the framework for the development and implementation of linked road safety projects. These projects will be based on the internationally adopted Safe System approach to road safety.

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Participate in collaborative partnerships to prevent crime. - Draft a social impact assessment chapter (including crime prevention through environmental design principles) for the Development Control Plan.		
Carry out regulatory and education programs to protect residential amenity and community health and safety. - Review the swimming pool inspection program in line with new legislative requirements. - Review the Companion Animal Management Plan.	 	
Commence implementation of priority projects from the Road Safety Strategy. - Commence road safety initiative for safety in school zones.		
Delivery Program Performance:  Achieved 3  Not Yet Achieved 0  At Risk 0		

Fostering an Articulate and Creative Community

CESSNOCK CITY LIBRARIES

This year Council undertook a major library review which underpinned the development of a Draft 2014-24 Cessnock City Library Strategic Plan.

There has been ongoing development of the e-resource collection with the inclusion of e-books and e-magazines and continuing work with digitisation of local studies resources.

New furniture was purchased for both Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries that better accommodates the use of personal technological devices.

Cessnock City Library has also focused resources on building better partnerships by extending Outreach Services to schools, preschools and playgroups throughout our LGA.

This has allowed the Library Service to better support literacy throughout our community by the delivery of an annual Book Week Roadshow, offering a range of author talks and special library introductory sessions. Database training sessions were also delivered to years 7 and 11 students at three local high schools

Library programs continue to expand with the introduction of Film Club, Young Adult Path Finder Club (game), Photography Club and In the Loop (knitting and crochet) activities.

Cessnock City Library was successful in securing grant funding (\$161,397) for the installation of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification Disks). This system will greatly assist with Collection management, provide a self-check system for library patrons and improve resource security.

Cessnock City Library also received a \$5,000 grant from Telstra to deliver a Tech Savvy Seniors Program. To date 144 people have attended an introductory class about either the Internet, Email or Tablets.

CULTURAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Council administered its Community Cultural Development \$ for \$ Grant Program in 2013-14 and \$22,808 was allocated to 11 projects (see details on page 15).

Throughout the year four people were inducted into the Hall of Fame. This brings the total number of inductees

into the Hall of Fame to 52. All inductees are listed on the Cessnock City Council Website.

CESSNOCK PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE

The Cessnock Performing Arts Centre has developed strong ties with the community and has a solid reputation as a cultural facility providing a program of professional arts events and performance experiences by leading Australian and international companies. Two of the productions from our 2013 Season, *Animal Farm* and *Jack Charles vs the Crown*, have shared the award of 'Tour of the Year' in the Annual Drover Awards. This prestigious award is open to productions that have undertaken national tours and is judged by a panel of industry peers.

The centre remains committed to both co-presenting and hosting free events (during NAIDOC Week and Seniors' Week) to strengthen ties with the broader community.

The Centre partners with the Samaritans Neighbourhood Centre to host family events for Harmony Day and Grandparents' Day in the outdoor plaza area. In addition, Council run events such as the Mayoral Academic Challenge, Senior Citizen of the Year and the School Leaders' Breakfast are all hosted by the centre.

These activities coupled with the performance program have positioned the Centre as a cultural hub for the Cessnock local government area.

The Performing Arts Centre presented Cessnock City Councils' first major outdoor event, Spring Awakening, in September 2012. The event was nominated for a NSW Local Government Arts & Cultural Awards in May 2014.



Uncle Jack from Jack Charles vs the Crown in the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre foyer

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Continue implementation of the priority projects from the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre business plan. - Establish a website for Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. - Investigate opportunities to activate the space around the Performing Arts Centre.	🟢	🟢
Commence implementation of the priority projects from the Library Strategic Plan. - Identify the priority projects from the Library Strategic Plan.	🟢	⚠️
Promote and participate in a range of cultural and heritage activities across the Local Government Area. - Continue the ongoing actions from the Social & Cultural Plan.	🟢	🟢
Delivery Program Performance: 🟢 Achieved 2 🟡 Not Yet Achieved 0 ⚠️ At Risk 1		

MEASURES:

MEASURES	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	BASE	2013-14 RESULT	TARGET
Km of Cycleways in the LGA	This is a measure of the bitumen and concrete off-road linkages within and between the towns and villages of the Local Government Area. At 30 June 2012, there was 13.6 km of sealed off-road cycleways in the Local Government Area.	13.6 km 2012	N/A	Increase
Engagement with young people	This measure is the number of young people attending and participating in structured programs and drop-in services with CYCOS each year. This is a measure of the effectiveness of Council's provision of services to young people. This measure was 8,708 in 2010-11.	8,708 2010-11	7,471	>8,700 p.a.
Completion of programmed health & safety inspections	This measure is the number of registered premises at 1 July: and the number of public health inspections carried out divided by the programmed public health inspections during a year. Public health inspections include food shop inspections, hairdressing shop inspections, and public swimming pool inspections. This is a measure of Council's contribution to the health of the community. In 2011-12 there were 658 premises and 100% of programmed inspections were carried out.	658 100% 2011-12	662 100%	N/A 100%
Completion of water cooling system inspections	This measure is the number of registered premises at 1 July: and the number of water cooling towers inspected for legionnaires' disease divided by the programmed number of water cooling tower inspections during a year. This is a measure of Council's contribution to the health of the community. In 2011-12 there were 51 premises and 100% of programmed inspections were carried out.	51 100% 2011-12	35 100%	N/A 100%
Library Utilisation	These measures are the number of visits to Council's libraries plus the number of hits on the library page of Council's website. This data is sourced from the counters at the entrances to the libraries and from Council's internal website analysis. This is a measure of the community's utilisation of Council's library resources for the purpose of both recreation and education.	206,485 visits 2011-12 25,814 hits 2011-12	201,459 visits 48,085 hits 249,544 combined	> 235,000 p.a. Combined
Cessnock Performing Arts Centre Audience	This measure is the number audience members that have attended performances at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre in a calendar year. This measure is sourced from the centre's ticketing system. This is a measure of the community's exposure to community events and cultural experiences at the centre.	16,873 2012	11,835 2013	18,500 p.a.



Delivering
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COMMUNITY'S DESIRED OUTCOME:

A Sustainable & Prosperous Economy

This Desired Outcome identifies the need to attract a diverse range of businesses, industries and services together with improved access to education, training and employment opportunities to ensure we have a sustainable and prosperous economy in Cessnock in 2023.

Council has undertaken the following principal activities during 2013-14 to achieve the objectives established in the community strategic plan, Cessnock 2023.



Economic Development

- Supporting business growth and investment
- Strategic infrastructure
- Economic governance
- Securing grants



Education

- Scholarships and academic competitions
- Building workforce capability



Strategic Land Use Planning

- Industrial land

Diversifying Local Business Options

PARTNERSHIPS

- Council is a member of the Statewide Mutual Liability Scheme. This is a self-insurance scheme comprising the majority of Councils in New South Wales. It was established with the purpose of purchasing affordable public liability and professional indemnity insurance. This enables Council to meet its insurance obligations under the Act.
- Hunter Resource Recovery is a public company, limited by guarantee. (Registered ABN 35071432570) that manages the kerbside recycling collection service contract with Solo Resource Recovery.

The company is made up of 16 Directors representing each of the four member councils

(Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and Singleton).

During the period 2013-14 Cessnock Council recycled 4,734 tonnes via the kerbside service.

- Hunter Integrated Resources is a public company, limited by guarantee (Registered ACN 095 330 813) established by the four (4) member Councils (Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and Newcastle) to investigate alternative waste technology that may benefit member Councils through economies of scale.

CONTROLLING INTERESTS

During 2013-14 Council held no controlling interests in companies as defined under S428(2) (p) of the Local Government Act.



CONTRACTS

Council awarded the following contracts for amounts over \$150,000 (not including employment contracts) during 2013-14.

SUCCESSFUL TENDER	ITEM	AMOUNT PAYABLE PER TENDER (incl. GST)
Buttai Gravel Pty Ltd, t/as Daracon Quarries Hebden Quarries Pty Ltd Hunter Quarries Pty Ltd MetroQuarries Pty Ltd Quarry Products (Newcastle) Pty Ltd Steelstone Texas Class Pty Ltd t/as Wild Quarries Civil	Supply and Delivery of Road Base, Sub-base and Rockfill Materials	\$2,738,685
Civilbuild Pty Ltd	Refurbishment of Millgang Bridge, Sandy Creek Road, Ellalong	\$843,700
Barker Ryan Stewart	Provision of Development Engineering Services	\$406,444.50
Timber Restoration Systems Pty Ltd	Refurbishment of Bob Wells Bridge, Fourth Street, Weston	\$402,408.00
Hartcher Hall Pty Ltd Ryan Wilks Pty Ltd Nerencom Pty Ltd	Electrical Maintenance & Installations on Buildings	\$363,000 (estimated)
Timber Restoration Systems Pty Ltd	Refurbishment of Crawford's Bridge Congewai Road, Congewai	\$205,422.35
Forsythes	External Audit Services	\$168,000 over 6 years plus C.P.I

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Continue to update marketing material for the Local Government Area. - Develop an Investment Prospectus for the Cessnock Local Government Area.		
Support local business support agencies. - Support the "mainstreet" programs for Cessnock and Kurri Kurri.		
Commence implementation of the Economic Development Strategy. - Identify priority projects from the Economic Development Strategy and commence implementation within available resources.		
Commence implementation of the Cessnock CBD Masterplan. - Identify the priority projects from the Cessnock CBD Masterplan (including a Civic Park). - Commence a development strategy for Cessnock CBD (including draft development control plan and draft contributions plan).	 	

Delivery Program Performance:  Achieved 3  Not Yet Achieved 0  At Risk 1

Achieving more Sustainable Employment Opportunities

EMPLOYMENT

At June 2014, there were 24,237 employed residents, a reduction of 45 on the previous year.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	JUNE 2013	SEPT 2013	DEC 2013	MAR 2014	JUNE 2014
Cessnock LGA	6.5%	6.4%	6.6%	7.4%	8.3%
NSW	5.2%	5.4%	5.6%	5.7%	5.7%
Australia	5.4%	5.5%	5.7%	5.8%	5.9%

Source: Small Area Labour Markets (Dept. of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations)

INDUSTRY SECTORS

The LGA has a long history of coal mining, manufacturing, construction, agriculture (e.g. grazing, poultry), viticulture and related tourism activities, all of which are still its primary employment sectors. Cessnock town centre is the administrative, retail and service centre for the LGA with Kurri Kurri town centre being an important secondary retail node and the industrial heart of the LGA. Local villages service the basic needs of the rural and outlying areas.

AGRICULTURE

The main agricultural activities in the LGA are poultry (egg and meat) production, grazing, equine industries and viticulture. In recent years there has been a diversification of the agricultural base, with new activities including hydroponic vegetable production, production of organic vegetables and herbs for the local restaurant trade, olives, lavender, finger limes, garlic, snails and cut flowers. The equine and canine sectors in the LGA are also expanding.

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

Current mining operations in the LGA contribute \$179.1million (9.3%) of Gross Regional Product. There are the following mining operations within the LGA:

- Consolidated Coal Leases x 4
- Consolidated Mining Leases x 2
- Dam Site Lease x 1
- Exploration Licences x 8
- Mineral Mining Leases x 14
- Mining Purposes Leases x 6
- Petroleum Exploration Licences x 3

Five quarries provide gravel and road base materials and a sandstone quarry provides decorative and building stone. The LGA has a cluster of companies, including Orica Explosives that provide services to the mining industry.

Based on current estimates of resources, coal mining is likely to continue in the LGA for the next 20-30 years.

MANUFACTURING

The LGA is a recognised centre for manufacturing in the Hunter Region, with output including industrial and metal based products, wine making, and boutique food and beverage products.

WINE

The Hunter Valley is Australia's oldest surviving wine region and one of the highest profile wine areas in Australia.

The industry is concentrated in the LGA with around 90 wineries / cellar doors in the area. The wine industry in the LGA is dominated by small and boutique businesses, most of which are independently owned and operated. These wineries rely on local and regional sales outlets (including Wine Selectors), wine clubs, cellar doors and internet sales to sell bottled wine. The concentration of cellar door outlets in the LGA is a major tourist attraction.

In 2012, there were 2,664 hectares under wine grapes in the Hunter Valley of which 1,511 hectares were white wine grapes and 1,153 hectares were red wine grapes.

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Support programs that promote education and training for local people. - Continue to award scholarships for academic, professional and trade excellence.		
Support programs that promote employment for local people. - Advocate for the implementation of education, training and employment initiatives from the Economic Development Strategy.		

Delivery Program Performance: Achieved 2 Not Yet Achieved 0 At Risk 0

Increasing Tourism Opportunities & Visitation in the Area

TOURISM

The Hunter Region is one of the most visited regions in Australia with the Wine Country area in the LGA being one of the primary destinations. The Wine Country area is the focus for visitor attractions, events and activities with a secondary node centred on Wollombi. Events held in the vineyard areas are major generators of visitors. Protection of the scenic assets, physical environment and character of the vineyards area is critical to the ongoing sustainability of the tourism sector.

In the year ended March 2014 the Hunter Region received nearly 2.9 million domestic overnight visitors - up 3.3% on the last year, with visitors spending 7.7M nights in the region - down 1.2% on the previous year.



CESSNOCK VOTED TOP TOURIST DESTINATION

In April Cessnock was voted as the 12th best tourist destination in the South Pacific region in the latest TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice awards.

Cessnock was competing against many major cities, including Sydney which claimed first place, but Cessnock was found to be one of the surprise inclusions of the list, sitting between Port Vila, Vanuatu and Wanaka, New Zealand.

The Travellers' Choice Destinations honour top travel spots worldwide based on the millions of reviews and opinions from TripAdvisor travellers.



TOURISM AWARDS

The 2014 Hunter Central Coast Tourism Awards were successful for the LGA with the following Awards:

- *Festival and Events - Gold Award*
Snow Time in the Garden, Hunter Valley Gardens
- *Business Tourism - Gold Award*
Chateau Elan at The Vintage Hunter Valley
- *Adventure Tourism - Highly Commended*
Beyond Ballooning, Hot Air Balloon Rides over the Hunter Valley Wine Region
- *Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries - Silver Award*
Bimbadgen
- *Hosted Accommodation - Silver Award*
Hermitage Lodge
- *Unique Accommodation - Gold Award*
Golden Door Health Retreat & Spa Elysia
- *Unique Accommodation - Bronze Award*
The Sebel Kirkton Park Hunter Valley
- *Unique Accommodation - Highly Commended*
Casa La Vina
- *Deluxe Accommodation - Highly Commended*
The Vintry
- *Luxury Accommodation - Gold Award*
Chateau Elan at The Vintage Hunter Valley



HUNTER VALLEY VISITOR CENTRE

Council took over the management of the Hunter Valley Visitor Centre in August 2013.

On its first Saturday under Council's management, the Centre welcomed 430 visitors through its doors. Although the majority of visitors to the Centre are from NSW, staff have also welcomed international tourists visiting from China, Malaysia, England, South America, Canada, the Middle East, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Denmark, France and New Zealand.

The Hunter Valley Visitor Centre is open seven days, 9am - 5pm Monday to Saturday and 9am - 4pm Sundays and Public Holidays. For more information the Centre can be contacted on 1300 69 486837 or at myhuntervalley.com.au.

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Support programs that promote visitation across the Local Government Area. - Investigate mechanisms to maximise the return on Council's tourism investment across the entire Local Government Area.	🟢	🟢
Support programs that promote a diversification of visitor experiences. - Support a regional approach to tourism and destination management. - Investigate opportunities for tourism product development (e.g. RV sites). - Commence a strategic review of the Richmond Vale Railway Museum Precinct.	🟢 🟢 🟢	🟢
Delivery Program Performance: 🟢 Achieved 2 🟡 Not Yet Achieved 0 ⚠️ At Risk 0		

MEASURES:

MEASURES	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	BASE	2013-14 RESULT	TARGET
Grants secured for the community	These three measures are: - the number of grants applied for; and - the number and value of grants and sponsorships that were secured for the community with assistance by Council.	94 Applied for 2012	110	Maintain
	This is a measure of Council's contribution to economic and community capacity building – by gaining funding for projects and services within the Local Government Area.	46 Secured 2012	70	Improve
	For the period January 2012 to February 2013, 46 grants and sponsorships totalling \$2,318,041.04 were secured, with Council assistance, for the community.	\$2.3m Secured 2012	\$1.5m (for 16 months from March 2013 to June 2014)	Improve



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COMMUNITY'S DESIRED OUTCOME:

A Sustainable & Healthy Environment

This Desired Outcome focuses on the conservation and preservation of the natural environment whilst balancing the impact of development to ensure a sustainable and healthy community.

Council has undertaken the following principal activities during 2013-14 to achieve the objectives established in the community strategic plan, Cessnock 2023.



Strategic Land Use Planning

- Assess planning proposals
- Development Contributions planning
- Heritage
- Planning policy
- Strategic land use planning



Development Assessment



Health

- Environmental pollution monitoring & enforcement
- On-site sewage management system inspections



Recreation

- Aquatic facilities
- Recreation facilities and management
- Weed management



Strategic Asset Planning

- Develop and review Plans of Management



Natural Environmental Planning

- Biodiversity management



Environment & Waste

- Kerbside waste and recycling service
- Waste management facility

Protecting & Enhancing the Natural Environment & the Rural Character of the Area

DEVELOPMENT

During 2013-14 Council determined 957 development applications (excluding Sec. 96 applications).

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS	2013-14
Median time to determine (days)	29.0
Mean (Average) time to determination (days)	50.6
Applications determined <20 days	34.24%
Applications determined <40 days	61.27%
Applications determined <80 days	80.79%

PLANNING AGREEMENTS

The following planning agreements have been entered into in accordance with Section 93F of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*:

Name	Short Description	Date Entered Into	Parties	Land to which Agreement Applies
Anvil Creek	This agreement provides a mechanism to provide public infrastructure to the area commonly known as Anvil Creek, that would normally be provided under Section 94 of the <i>EP&A Act 1979</i> .	20 August 2008	Cessnock City Council of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, NSW, 2325; and Greta Estates Pty Limited (Greta) of 12 Woodside Avenue, Burwood, NSW, 2134.	Lots 1-6 of DP 1036942 and Lots 263-264 of DP 755211.
Averys Village	This agreement provides a mechanism to provide environmental offset land to the area commonly known as Averys Village.	3 October 2013	Minister for the Environment; Cessnock City Council of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, NSW, 2325; Hunter Land Holdings of 1 Hartley Drive, Thornton, NSW, 2322; Averys Rise Investor Pty Limited of Level 2, 77 Hunter Street, Newcastle, NSW, 2300; L Elliott of NSW; G & P Field of Qld; HL Eco Trades Pty Ltd of 1 Hartley Drive, Thornton, NSW, 2322.	Lot 20 DP 11823, Lot 12 DP 755231, Lot 13 DP 755231, Lot 5 DP 1082569, Lot 8 DP 10443 and Lot 119 752445 Averys Lane, Heddon Greta.
Cessnock Civic	This agreement provides a mechanism to provide for the management of mine subsidence and environmental offset land within the area commonly known as Cessnock Civic.	21 August 2012	Cessnock City Council of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, NSW, 2325; Cessnock Land Management P/L of C/-Level 1, 106 King Street Sydney, NSW, 2000; Vincent Street Holdings P/L of C/- 1 Hartley Drive, Thornton, NSW, 2322; and Hardie Oceanic P/L of C/-Level 1, 106 King Street Sydney, NSW, 2000	Lot 251 DP 606348, Lot 1 DP 1036300, Lot 23 DP 845986 and Lot 22 DP 845986.

Name	Short Description	Date Entered Into	Parties	Land to which Agreement Applies
Cliftleigh	This agreement provides a mechanism to provide public infrastructure to the area commonly known as Cliftleigh, that would normally be provided under Section 94 of the <i>EP&A Act 1979</i> .	20 August 2008	Cessnock City Council of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, NSW, 2325; and Winten (No 23) Pty Limited of Level 10, 61 Lavender Street, Milsons Point, NSW, 2061	Lots 61 & 62 DP 1076974, Lot 23 DP 607899, Lots 61 & 62 DP 785115, Lot 3 DP 1039042, Lots 1&2 DP 1072111, Lot 22 DP 607899 and Lot 1 DP 1039042 Main Rd, Cliftleigh.
Heddon Greta	This agreement provides a mechanism to provide public infrastructure to the area commonly known as Heddon Greta, that would normally be provided under Section 94 of the <i>EP&A Act 1979</i> .	3 November 2010	Cessnock City Council of 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock, NSW, 2325; and Kurri Autos Pty Limited of P.O. Box 61 Kurri Kurri, NSW, 2327	Part Lot 404 of DP 1127085 and Part Lot 102 of DP 1112059 off Main Road, Young and Bowden Streets, Errol Crescent, Madeline and Ashley Close and Forbes Crescent at Heddon Greta.

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Prepare a City Wide Development Strategy. - Commence review of the City Wide Settlement Strategy.		
Commence implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy. - Identify Priority actions from the Biodiversity Strategy within available resources and pursue potential sources of funding.		
Complete further Flood Studies and Risk Management Plans for major catchments in the Local Government Area. - Commence Lower Black Creek (North) Flood Study. - Complete Hunter River Flood Study. - Seek funding for implementation of priority projects from the Wollombi Flood Risk Management Plan. - Seek funding for implementation of priority projects from the Cessnock Flood Risk Management Plan. - Seek funding for implementation of priority projects from the Swamp/Fishery Flood Risk Management Plan.	 	
Commence implementation of Council's Trunk Stormwater Drainage Strategy. - Complete Trunk Stormwater Drainage Strategy.		
Carry out regulatory and education programs to protect and enhance the natural environment. - Develop and implement education programs in relation to vegetation removal and landfill.		
Continue to efficiently and effectively process development applications and respond to planning-related enquiries. - Implement on-line applications relating to development assessment.		
Prepare a comprehensive Carbon Management Strategy and commence implementation. - Complete the development of a Carbon Management Strategy.		
Establish Council's position in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation and implement priority actions. - Review climate change adaptation and mitigation recommendations from documents and studies.		
Commence implementation of the Vineyard Vision. - Commence development of a Cessnock Local Government Area Signage Strategy.		
Delivery Program Performance: Achieved 5 Not Yet Achieved 0 At Risk 4		

Better Utilisation of Existing Open Space

RECREATION PLANNING

During 2013-14 Council conducted an Aquatic Needs Analysis to effectively plan for aquatic facilities over the next 20 years and beyond. The analysis involved consultation with pool user groups, swimming clubs, Council staff and the general public to identify the key issues and demands for aquatic facilities in the LGA. The recommendations of the study will better inform Council's recreation plans and strategies to ensure an equitable and efficient provision of aquatic facilities.

Looking ahead, in 2014-15 Council will conduct a Recreation Needs Analysis for recreation facilities across the LGA, including sportsgrounds, parks, passive open space, indoor sports centres and community buildings. This Recreation Need Analysis will be prepared in consultation with the community, sporting groups, Council staff and other relevant stakeholders. The recommendations of both

the Aquatics Needs Analysis and Recreation Needs Analysis will accompany Council's adopted Skate and BMX Facilities Needs Assessment in informing the upcoming revision of Council's recreation plans and strategies.

In recognition of the benefits of cycling and to take advantage of consultation on recreation needs, Council will also be taking proactive steps to service increasing demand for cycleways by drafting a Cessnock City Cycleway Strategy and Action Plan. In consultation with the community, cycling groups, Council staff and industry professionals, the strategy will assess current and future demand for cycleways and identify actions and infrastructure required to service future demand. The outcomes of the strategy will be integrated into Council's policies and procedures and Capital Works Program.



RECREATION FACILITIES

Council maintains in the vicinity of 555 hectares of open space throughout the LGA, in the form of formal gardens and civic spaces, playgrounds, outdoor sports facilities, parkland and drainage reserves.



The majority of open space areas are maintained on a 4-6 week maintenance schedule depending on the time of year and climatic conditions. Many outdoor sporting facilities are heavily utilised during the winter period, in particular for soccer, netball and rugby league, whilst during summer the main user groups are cricket and athletics.

Council also operates three public swimming pools at Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Branxton. There are six major aquatics based clubs in the area, predominantly utilising Cessnock Pool. The establishment of the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre provides a year round swimming facility

which has proven to be highly popular with annual attendance levels increasing from 126,261 in 2012-13 to 134,061 during 2013-14. The types of visits to the centre included aqua and dry land fitness, squad swimming, aquatic education, recreational swimming and birthday parties.

CEMETERIES

Council has care, control and management of Aberdare, Branxton, Cessnock, Ellalong, Glenmore, Greta, Kurri Kurri, Millfield, Rothbury and Wollombi general cemeteries, and Gordon Williams Memorial Lawn Cemetery at Aberdare and Kurri Kurri Lawn Cemetery.

A Cemetery Strategy outlining the future development of each cemetery has been adopted by Council.



Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Complete the Recreation Needs Analysis and review the Recreation & Open Space Strategic Plan 2009-2014. - Complete the priority components of the Recreation Needs Analysis.	✓	✓
Develop new Plans of Management.	✓	✓
Finalise implementation of the Recreation & Open Space Recreation Strategic Plan 2009-2014.	✓	✓
Continue to implement the adopted Masterplans for Council's recreation and community facilities.	✓	✓
Delivery Program Performance: ✓ Achieved 4 ✗ Not Yet Achieved 0 ⚠ At Risk 0		

Better Waste Management & Recycling

WASTE MANAGEMENT

After extensive research and consultation, Council adopted a new Cessnock Waste Management Strategy in March 2014.

As part of the comprehensive review Council prioritised investigations toward reducing the green waste stream (approximately 20% of total) and the organic waste stream (approximately 20% of total) from entering our landfill. The Strategy aims to deliver the community a Waste Strategy that:

- is appropriate for our community
- informs and educates our community
- is financially robust
- meets legislative requirements
- delivers on commitments to other strategies and plans.

Considerable knowledge and data has been collected by Council in relation to the existing waste stream and areas that have the potential to make significant contribution to reducing the volume of waste to landfill, including:

- Kerbside audit of both waste and recycling bins
- Comprehensive analysis of audit data
- Community survey relating to service satisfaction and focus
- Input into the specification for the next kerbside recycling contract
- Secured approval for landfill expansion
- Inclusion of transfer facility in expansion proposal
- Arrangements for landfill gas management
- Numerous "free" drop off facilities on site.

The Strategy encompasses objectives and actions for issues that extend beyond kerbside and business-generated waste management, to include waste generation, education and illegal waste flows. The Strategy will provide a sustainable and least cost waste service to the people of Cessnock, whilst complying with

environmental, legislative and safety obligations as well as encouraging waste minimisation.

The Cessnock Waste Management Strategy can be viewed at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au



HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL CLEAN OUT DAY

Council in association with the NSW EPA has recovered over 10t of household hazardous chemicals that may otherwise have been destined for landfill.

In a joint collection operation held in May 2014, residents were able to deliver their unwanted chemicals to the free Drop Off site for collection and safe disposal. The event saw over 150 residents deliver over 10t of unwanted household chemical such as paints, gas bottles, acids & alkalis, herbicides & pesticides.

Collection, transport and safe disposal was conducted by Transpacific who are contracted by the EPA to provide the service. Onsite, the trained staff members unload, check and characterise the waste products with a resident chemist present to inspect the products.

Due to the positive feedback from residents another event is scheduled for February 2015.

This event is an initiative in Council's recently adopted Waste Management Strategy, aiming to educate and engage the community in actions that minimise waste to landfill and prevent illegal disposal.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

In May 2014 Council conducted a free workshop where local residents were given the opportunity to learn how to set up a food garden in different spaces and created their very own vegetable garden in a recycled container to take home.

Council has also conducted EnvironMentors school education sessions for schools; as well as community workshops on worm farming and composting.

Council continues to organise sustainability workshops for the community on relevant topics.



Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Commence implementation of the priority projects from the revised Waste Management Strategy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify the priority projects from the revised Waste Management Strategy. - Introduce a new kerbside recycling service. - Commence stage 1 construction of the Waste Management & Re-use Centre expansion project. - Implement the priority actions of the Office of Environment & Heritage - Waste & Sustainability Improvement Program. 		
Delivery Program Performance: Achieved 1 Not Yet Achieved 0 At Risk 0		

MEASURES:

MEASURES	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	BASE	2013-14 RESULT	TARGET
Development Application Processing Times	This measure is the mean and the median number of days to process Development Applications (for all DAs which have been determined).	75 Mean 2011-12	50.6	Maintain
	This data is sourced from the Local Development Performance Monitoring Report.	31 Median 2011-12	29.0	Maintain
Environmental health and protection inspections	This measure is the number of on-site sewage management inspections carried out in line with Council's On-Site Sewage Management System Strategy. This is a measure of Council's contribution to the health of the local environment. This measure was 1,193 in 2011-12.	1,193 2011-12	1,046	>900
Completion of Capital Works Program - Recreation	This measure is the number of completed projects divided by the total number of projects (in the CFR, CBR, CFP, CBC, and CFC sections) of the adopted Recreation & Buildings Capital Works Program.	N/A	67%	>85%
Waste & Recycling	This is a measure of the number of tonnes recycled via the kerbside recycling service. The kerbside recycling service was provided to 18,881 properties in 2011-12. This measure is sourced from Hunter Resource Recovery.	4,447t 2011-12	4,734t	>4,500t p.a.
Waste & Recycling	This is a measure of the number of domestic waste collection services provided by Council. In 2011-12 there were 23,781 rateable properties and approximately 17,500t of domestic waste (out of a total of 38,892t) was disposed of at Council's landfill site.	18,881 2011-12	20,224	Increase



*Delivering
accessible
infrastructure,
services and
facilities*



COMMUNITY'S DESIRED OUTCOME:

Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities

This Desired Outcome identifies the local, state and federal infrastructure, services and facilities needed to serve the current and future community of Cessnock while ensuring there is adequate access to these facilities and services.

Council has undertaken the following principal activities during 2013-14 to achieve the objectives established in the community strategic plan, Cessnock 2023.



Strategic Asset Planning

- Capital Works Program development
- Community Buildings
- Flooding & Drainage
- Public transport stops
- Recreation Facilities
- Roads and Bridges



Design Delivery

- Contract management
- Project management



Works Delivery

- Construction of new infrastructure
- Infrastructure renewal
- Road, footpath & drainage maintenance



Depot & Support Services

- Building Maintenance
- Plant & Fleet
- Procurement



Council Assets

- Cessnock Airport
- Cemeteries

Better Transport Links

CESSNOCK AIRPORT

In January 2014 Council adopted the Cessnock Airport Strategic Plan to guide the future development of this valuable community asset.

The key elements of the vision for Cessnock Airport are that it is well-planned and well-managed, focuses on economic development and is sensitive to the local environment.

The Strategic Plan identified Cessnock Airport as being uniquely placed to be *“the gateway to the Hunter Valley”* and, in order to realise this vision, Council is focused on three objectives for the aerodrome.

- To be a safe and complying facility that minimises negative impacts on residential amenity;
- To promote economic and tourism development across the local government area; and
- To provide a sustainable revenue stream to Council.

During 2013-14 Council commenced implementation of the priority actions from the adopted Strategic Plan and this resulted in the Civil Aviation Safety Authority advising Council in June 2014 that its application for the registration of Cessnock Aerodrome had been approved and the airport had been placed on the aerodromes register.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Council is an active member of the Lower Hunter Transport Group consisting of representatives from Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens Councils. This group looks at public transport issues from a regional perspective.

The Hunter Regional Transport Plan was adopted in March 2014. The Plan outlines specific actions to address the unique challenges of the Hunter area.

The following actions have been identified for the LGA:

- Improve opportunities for walking and cycling
- Improve public transport services
- Manage road capacity and safety.

If you would like more information please visit www.transport.nsw.gov.au



Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Contribute to the Transport for NSW's Hunter Regional Transport Masterplan. - Participate in the development of Transport for NSW's Hunter Regional Transport Masterplan.	✓	✓
Advocate for increased transport funding. - Identify and support opportunities for increased public transport funding.	✓	✓
Complete all components of the City Wide Infrastructure Strategy. - Commence the Transport & Land Use Planning Needs Analysis component of the City Wide Infrastructure Strategy.	✓	✓
Commence implementation of priority projects from the City Wide Infrastructure Strategy. - Identify and support physical access to public transport. - Communicate the public and community transport options available within and beyond the Local Government Area.	✓ ✓	✓
Commence implementation of the Cessnock Airport Strategic Plan. - Identify the priority projects from the Airport Strategic Plan within available resources.	✓	✓

Delivery Program Performance: ✓ Achieved 5 ✗ Not Yet Achieved 0 ⚠ At Risk 0

Improving the Road Network

ROADS

There are more than 1,015 kilometres of roads within the Cessnock Local Government Area and that does not include roads in state forests or national parks. Council is the responsible authority for more than 980 kilometres of those roads.

More than 650 kilometres of roads in the LGA are sealed with an annual budget to maintain and renew of just under \$8 million.

More than 330 kilometres of roads in the LGA are

unsealed. The annual budget to maintain these roads is just under \$1.5 million

The road maintenance and construction schedules can be viewed on Council's website and are updated regularly. If you wish to report a maintenance requirement, please contact Customer Service on 4993 4300.

There are 172 Major Waterway Structures in our LGA, which includes 34 concrete / composite bridges, 39 timber bridges, 62 major concrete culverts and 37 pedestrian bridges. Some bridges have load limits so please be aware of this when travelling with heavy loads.

CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM

Capital works and improvement projects include expenditure on the acquisition and construction of new infrastructure assets and the augmentation or improvement of existing infrastructure assets.

PROGRAM 2013-14	ADOPTED BUDGET	REVISED BUDGET - A	ACTUAL
CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMS			
Local Road Construction	\$1,236,000	\$2,585,523	\$2,305,769
Local Road Renewal	\$3,210,000	\$2,988,330	B \$2,067,738
Vineyard Roads Construction	\$5,000,000	\$10,048,000	B \$5,461,914
Pathways Construction	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$68,471
Bridge Construction	\$2,135,000	\$2,194,000	B \$914,074
Drainage Construction	\$580,000	\$892,370	B \$322,388
Traffic Facilities	-	\$42,409	\$42,435
Public Transport Facilities	-	\$234,622	B \$36,907
SUB-TOTAL	\$12,311,000	\$19,135,254	\$11,219,696
SPECIAL RATE			
Local & Regional Roads Program	\$1,725,302	\$1,725,302	\$1,725,302
SUB-TOTAL	\$1,725,302	\$1,725,302	\$1,725,302
RECREATION & PARKS			
Recreation Facilities Construction	\$150,000	\$332,238	\$352,311
Recreation Facilities Renewal	\$150,000	\$281,881	\$87,703
Pools Facilities Renewal	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$87,788
Cemeteries Facilities Construction	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$7,648
SUB-TOTAL	\$420,000	\$734,119	\$535,450
BUILDINGS			
Recreation Buildings Construction	\$85,000	\$161,000	\$11,887
Recreation Buildings Renewal	\$120,000	\$110,712	\$99,730
Community Buildings Construction	\$0	\$72,700	\$71,163
Community Buildings Renewal	\$150,000	\$167,050	\$168,295
SUB-TOTAL	\$355,000	\$511,462	\$351,075
TOTAL	\$14,811,302	\$22,106,137	\$13,831,523

NOTES:

- The revised budget includes funds carried forward for incomplete works from 2012-13 and grant funds received during 2013-14 that were not originally budgeted for and, in some cases, are to fund works that span more than one financial year.
- Where the budgeted works were not completed during 2013-14, funds have been carried forward to 2014-15.

FUTURE FUNDING FOR COUNCIL'S ROADS

In June the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) announced that Cessnock City Council was successful in its Special Rate Variation application for 2014-15.

The special rate variation that was approved allows for 9.55% to remain permanently in the rate base, comprising two components: the rate peg of 2.30% that is available to all NSW councils and an increase of 7.25% for road infrastructure renewal. This increase will replace a 6.5% special variation that was already in place.

The impact on ratepayers is not expected to be significant, with a net increase in rates of 3.5 per cent or approximately \$39 per annum for the average residential ratepayer. The impact on an individual ratepayer will vary depending on the land value and rating classification of their property.

The IPART noted in its determination that while the special variation will improve Council's operating position over the next ten years, it will not secure the Council's financial sustainability.

The ability of Council to deliver the desired level of service to the community, as well as improvements in its infrastructure such as roads, remains a challenge for Cessnock and many other local government areas.

This special rate variation is only one of a number of projects that Council is proposing in order to be

financially sustainable and provide the levels of service and infrastructure agreed with the community.

PUBLIC WORKS

The condition of the infrastructure under Council's control, an estimate of the expenditure to bring it up to a satisfactory standard and the maintenance expenditure incurred during 2013-14 is included in Special Schedule 7 of Council's financial reports.

The financial reports, together with the auditor's reports, form part of this report and can be viewed at the Administrative Offices, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock or online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. The reports cover the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

WORK ON PRIVATE LAND

Under Section 67 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council may, by agreement with the owner or occupier of any private land, carry out on the land any kind of work that Council may lawfully undertake.

Council undertook the following works during 2013-14:

Private Works on Public Land	NIL
Public Works on Private Land	Moon Mountain Vineyard, Broke Road Pokolbin. Property access works in conjunction with adjacent roadworks. Full cost to owner.

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Improve the corporate asset management system. - Complete Asset Management Implementation Project Round 2.		
Advocate for road funding to better manage traffic impacts on the local road network. - Advocate for appropriate reclassification of roads to cater for the traffic changes associated with the Hunter Expressway. - Identify and support opportunities for road funding.	 	
Deliver prioritised capital works programs in line with adopted asset management plans. - Renew and maintain roads, bridges and drainage infrastructure.		
Improve support services and facilities to assist works delivery. - Implement the priority initiatives from the Procurement Review.		
Adopt the City Wide Section 94 Contributions Plan. - Commence preparation of the City Wide Section 94 Contributions Plan.		
Delivery Program Performance:  Achieved 3  Not Yet Achieved 0  At Risk 2		

Improving Access to Health Services Locally

IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES LOCALLY

During the year Council made representations to Hunter New England Health Service to maintain and upgrade health service levels in the local government area.

RATIO OF GPs TO POPULATION BENCHMARKS	2014
Cessnock Local Government Area	1:1,597
Australia	1:1,400



Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Advocate for health services on behalf of the community. - Commence development of a Health Strategic Plan for the Cessnock Local Government Area.		
Delivery Program Performance: Achieved 1 Not Yet Achieved 0 At Risk 0		

MEASURES:

MEASURES	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	BASE	2013-14 RESULT	TARGET
Asset Management Maturity	This measure is the qualitative assessment of Council's Asset Management maturity. The measure is assessed on a scale of basic, core and advanced.	Basic	Basic June 2014	Core
Completion capital works program – roads, bridges and drainage	This measure is the number of completed projects divided by the total number of projects (in the <u>CRL</u> , <u>CRR</u> , <u>CRV</u> , <u>CBS</u> , <u>CDR</u> , <u>RRL</u> and <u>RRR</u> sections) of the adopted Roads, Bridges & Drainage Capital Works Program.	N/A	88%	>85%



Delivering
**civic leadership
and effective
governance**

COMMUNITY'S DESIRED OUTCOME:

Civic leadership and effective governance

This Desired Outcome focuses on the need for strong civic leadership and effective governance with an engaged community actively participating in decision making processes affecting their future.

Council has undertaken the following principal activities during 2013-14 to achieve the objectives established in the community strategic plan, Cessnock 2023.



Community Engagement

- Communications
- Customer Service



Governance

- Corporate Administration
- Mayor & Councillors secretariat
- Internal Audit
- Integrated Planning
- Policies
- Property



Finance

- Rates
- Accounting
- Risk and Insurance



Information

- Information Systems
- Corporate Records
- Geographic Information Systems

Fostering & Supporting Community Leadership

COUNCILLOR PAYMENTS AND EXPENSES

Council has in place a Councillors' Expenses & Facilities Policy that governs the expenses paid and facilities provided to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors in the discharge of their civic duties. The Councillors' Expenses & Facilities Policy is published as a separate document and can be viewed at the Administrative Offices, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock or online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

In 2013-14 the cost of expenses incurred by and facilities provided to Councillors was \$76,387. This includes domestic travel expenses such as accommodation and registration fees for seminars and conferences, as well as office administration such as telephones, faxes, postage, meals and refreshments.



Annual fees were paid to the Mayor and Councillors as required by the Local Government Act 1993 and in accordance with the determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

The following summary shows the amount expended during the year on Mayoral fees and Councillor fees, the amount expended on provision of facilities for use by Councillors and the payment of Councillors' expenses.

Mayoral and Councillor fees for the year 2013-14 were fixed within the range of fees established by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. The Mayoral fee was fixed at \$38,160 and the Councillor fee at \$17,490.

In 2013-14 there were no overseas visits by elected Councillors.

NATURE OF EXPENSES	AMOUNT
Mayoral Fees	\$38,160
Councillor Fees	\$227,370
BREAKDOWN OF MAYORAL AND COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES	
NATURE OF EXPENSES	AMOUNT
Provision of dedicated office equipment, including laptop computers, mobile phones, telephone, fax and installation of internet access.	NIL
Telephone calls, including mobiles, landlines, fax and internet services	\$19,446
Spouse / Partner Accompanying Person	NIL
Conferences and Seminars	\$41,171
Training and Skill Development	NIL
Interstate Travel	NIL
Overseas Travel	NIL
Meetings - Travel	\$14,690
Care and Other Related Expenses	\$1,080
TOTAL	\$76,387

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Establish a professional development program for Councillors. - Provide professional development for Councillors.		
Explore opportunities within the Council workforce for traineeships, apprenticeships and work experience programs. - Implement the priority actions from the Workforce Plan. - Investigate opportunities to encourage youth leadership.	 	
Recognise the work of community leaders.		

Delivery Program Performance: Achieved 2 Not Yet Achieved 0 At Risk 1

Encouraging More Community Participation in Decision Making

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Council is a strong advocate of community consultation and uses this process to ensure it is meeting the community's needs and establishing the type of future the residents of Cessnock desire.

Some of the ways Council invites public participation and comment include:

- Residents are welcome to contact Council in person, by telephone, in writing or via social media with their views or suggestions for improving the LGA.
- Council seeks public comment on important matters. This may be by way of public meetings, public exhibitions or more formalised public hearings.
- Details of all public meetings and exhibitions are published in local newspapers.
- The elected Council considers all policy matters at Council meetings which are open to the public.
- Council's Code of Meeting Practice makes provision for members of the public to address Council meetings and prescribes the framework for such participation.
- There are also avenues for members of the public to personally participate in the policy development functions of the Council.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The elected representatives comprise the governing body of the Council. The role of the elected Council is to set the strategic direction and determine policies of Council. The decisions of the Council are formalised through the meeting process.

Council has regular meetings in the Council Chambers

on the first and third Wednesday of each month commencing at 6.30pm, with the exception of December and January.

Council has a Code of Meeting Practice which provides comprehensive details of meeting procedure. A copy of the Code is available on request at Council's Administration Building or online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au

The General Manager is responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the Council organisation and for ensuring the implementation of decisions of the Council.

YOUTH FORUM

The first meeting of the newly established Cessnock City Youth Council Committee was held in February 2014. The Committee is a forum for young people who live in the LGA.

The forum will encourage young people to engage with Council, contribute ideas, express opinions and discuss topics that have a direct impact on their lives and lifestyles in our communities.

The members of this enthusiastic and articulate group are aged between 11 and 18 years and are residents from across the LGA including Aberdare, Abermain, Abernethy, Bellbird, Bellbird Heights, Cessnock, Kearsley, Kitchener, North Rothbury, Sawyers Gully and Weston.

Council has been very supportive of the Committee's proposal that it meet on a regular basis, with each meeting to focus on a specific topic. Topics that have been listed for discussion at meetings include public transport (in particular buses), skate parks, bullying, drug and alcohol abuse, education/career and vocational guidance/ skilling, and community volunteering.

Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Commence implementation of priority projects from the Communications & Engagement Strategy. - Re-design Council's website.		
Improve Council's use of technology to inform and engage the community. - Implement on-line customer requests.		
Delivery Program Performance:  Achieved 1  Not Yet Achieved 0  At Risk 1		

Making Council More Responsive to the Community

CUSTOMER SERVICE

Each year Council receives thousands of requests for information and/or assistance via correspondence, counter enquiries and telephone calls. This information is recorded as a 'request' within Council's Customer Request Management (CRM) system and forwarded to an appropriate Council officer to action.

During 2013-14 Council received a total of 16,971 requests from community members, businesses and external government agencies.

A month by month breakdown of the number of enquiries has been provided below.

MONTHLY CRM ACTIVITY 2013-14	NO. OF REQUESTS RECEIVED
July	1,761
August	1,657
September	1,600
October	1,833
November	1,316
December	971
January	1,234
February	1,459
March	1,440
April	1,129
May	1,316
June	1,255
TOTAL	16,971

In addition, countless general enquiries and questions are dealt with straight away by Council staff and are not recorded within the CRM system (or included in the figures).

PRIVACY & PERSONAL INFORMATION

Council has adopted a Privacy Management Plan to meet its legislative requirements under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998, to confirm Council's commitment to privacy protection, and to outline Council's practice for dealing with privacy and

personal information in accordance with the information protection principles.

Council also uses the Privacy Management Plan to comply with the Health Privacy Principles as set out in the Health Records and Information Privacy Act.

During the 2013-14 period Council received no privacy review applications.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE (FSI)

Following much deliberation and several reports over the course of 2013-14, Council recently endorsed a Financial Sustainability Initiative (FSI) to ensure that, over the long-term, Council has sufficient funds to provide the levels of service and infrastructure agreed with our community.

The FSI incorporates a number of projects that aim to reduce costs, increase revenues and/or improve value-for-money. FSI Projects include:

- Service Review
- Productivity improvements & cost savings project
- Sponsorship & subsidies review
- Strategic property review
- Fees & charges review
- Assets, depreciation & capital commitments review
- Developer contributions review
- Business opportunities framework
- Special rate variation strategy.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Council adopted a Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994: Internal Reporting Policy 2011 in October 2011.

Council has met its obligations in relation to staff awareness of its Public Interest Disclosures Internal Policy by delivering organisation wide training to all staff and Councillors and ensuring this forms part of the standard staff induction process.

During the 2013-14 period Council received no public interest disclosures.

ACCESSING COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Members of the public are entitled to have access to Council information and records under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the GIPA Act).

The GIPA Act provides public access to government information, and focuses on the legislative requirement in favour of disclosure of the information through consideration of the public's best interest.

Open access information (or mandatory release information) must be published on Council's website, unless to do so would impose unreasonable additional costs. It can also be made available in any other way. At least one of the ways in which Council makes the open access information publicly available must be free of charge.

The GIPA Act establishes four ways to access information:

1. Open Access
2. Proactive release
3. Informal release
4. Formal Access

Open access information includes the following:

- an agency information guide
- policy documents
- a disclosure log of access applications
- a register of Council contracts

Information can generally be made available free of charge although you may have to pay reasonable photocopying charges if you want your own copy. If you have a simple request that can be satisfied by reference to a single file or entry in a register Council can usually respond on the spot, and at no charge. However, in the case of a more complex request or access to third party information, you may be requested to complete a Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 application form to allow Council to process your request.

AMENDING COUNCIL RECORDS

Members of the public interested in obtaining access to information or who wish to seek an amendment to the Council's records concerning their personal affairs, should write to Council's Governance & Business Services Unit outlining the reasons for your request.

Further information regarding Accessing Council Information can be found in Council's Access to Information Policy or by contacting Council's Governance & Business Services Unit, Cessnock City Council, PO Box 152, Cessnock, 2325.

SOLAR SAVES COUNCIL

As part of an ongoing focus to minimise the increasing cost of electricity, Council carried out its first installation of a solar generation system at its Works Depot in June 2013.

The Works Depot is the third highest electricity consuming Council facility behind the Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre and the Administration Centre.

The Depot's average power usage per month is 14,720 kWh costing approximately \$4,000. The solar system is designed to reduce electricity costs by around \$7,200 per year and has a payback period of less than six years.

Commercial solar installations are different to domestic in that there is no opportunity to generate income from excess generation as feed-in tariffs are low. As such the 20kW system is considered the optimum size for this facility matching electricity generation with usage during peak operating times.

Council has also been investigating other areas of electricity usage, including:

- Free standing solar light poles. Council has committed to consider alternatives at times of major repair, replacement or new installation
- Regional action in relation to energy efficient street lighting, (which is also the responsibility of and a cost to Council)
- Participation in a competitive reverse auction approach for all our electricity supply accounts.

"It is this type of initiative which will ensure Council's financial viability into the future. It may seem a minor saving but if we continue to be able to reduce our operational costs across the board, the end result is that we will have more money to spend on services and facilities for our community.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) REGULATION 2009

Council has reviewed its program for the release of government information in accordance with section 7. Details of requests for information received by Council for the year ending 30 June, 2014 are as follows:

Table A: Number of applications by type of application and outcome*	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	18	6	0	0	0	0	0	4
Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome*	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	32	8	1	0	0	0	0	4
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Table C: Invalid applications	Reason for invalidity							No. of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)								0
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)								0
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)								0
Total number of invalid applications received								0
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications								0
Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 to Act								No. of times consideration used
Overriding secrecy laws								0
Cabinet information								0
Executive Council information								0
Contempt								0
Legal professional privilege								1
Excluded information								0
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety								0
Transport safety								0
Adoption								0
Care and protection of children								0
Ministerial code of conduct								0
Aboriginal and environmental heritage								0

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of Act	No. of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	0
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0

Table F: Timeliness	No. of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	43
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	2
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0
Total	45

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review	0	0	0
Review by Information Commissioner	0	1	1
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0
Review by ADT	0	0	0
Total	0	1	1

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)	No. of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0

HUMAN RESOURCES

Council's future success depends upon the skills, energy and commitment of its people. Council strives to attract, develop and retain employees of the highest quality and provide a working environment that will enable employees to maximise their contribution to the achievement of Council's strategic goals.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Council continues to demonstrate a commitment to Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and strategies to deter workplace bullying and harassment. Council is currently undertaking a review into its EEO and Bullying and Harassment Policies and procedures.

SENIOR STAFF

Statement of the total amount paid to each senior staff member employed during 2013-14.

	General Manager	Directors
	01/07/13 to 30/06/14	01/07/13 to 30/06/14
Total Value of Salary Component of Package:	\$208,162.00	\$616,726.60
Total amount of any bonus payments, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary:	-	-
Total payable superannuation (salary sacrifice and employers contribution):	\$27,128.91	\$75,057.56
Total value of non-cash benefits - Provisions of Motor Vehicle:	\$12,184.43	\$33,776.37
Total payable fringe benefits tax for non-cash benefits:	\$7,730.00	\$34,009.00
Total Remuneration Package	\$255,205.34	\$759,569.53

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Summarised below are details of the costs incurred in regard to legal proceedings taken by Council or taken against Council during 2013-14. The result of the proceedings is shown together with the amount of the legal costs incurred.

MATTER	COURT	COST	RESULT
Cessnock City Council v Bimbadgen Estate Pty Ltd 2011 NSWLEC 140. Proceedings for committing the offence of carrying out earthworks on land without consent.	Land & Environment Court	\$6,329.65	The respondent pleaded guilty, was convicted of offence and ordered to pay costs.
Friends of Tumblebee Incorporated v ATB Morton Pty Limited. Proceedings 40027 of 2014. Lot 1 Cessnock Rd, Weston	Land & Environment Court	\$13,158.46	Result pending.
Independent Commission Against Corruption v Cessnock City Council - 306081 of 2012 (replacing 89946 of 2012) Injunction to prevent the dismissal of the General Manager.	NSW Supreme Court	\$4,860.00	General Manager resigned and injunction no longer required.
Cessnock City Council v Mattick Proceedings regarding the orders for demolition of a dwelling and the provision of sanitary facilities in another dwelling.	Land & Environment Court	\$14,006.88	Following the first mention Council orders were complied with. Matter closed.
Cessnock City Council v Peter Pihlak Proceedings for failure to comply with development consent regarding stormwater connection.	Local Court	\$5,323.37	Court orders issued. \$500 fine imposed and ordered to pay costs up to \$1,000.

In addition, during 2013-14 Council incurred costs totalling \$495,322.84 pursuing unpaid rates, charges and sundry debtor accounts via debt recovery agents and through the courts.

During 2013-14, Council also incurred other legal costs of \$173,938.30 for legal advice, negotiating agreements, and undertaking workplace and code of conduct investigations.

RATES AND CHARGES

Details of gross rates and charges levied and written off are shown below:

GROSS RATES AND CHARGES LEVIED AND WRITTEN OFF		
Ordinary Rates (Specify)		
Residential	\$22,112,655	
Farmland	\$3,412,384	
Business	\$4,339,304	
Mining	\$927,778	
Total Rates		\$30,792,121
Domestic Waste Management Charges		\$11,290,698
Stormwater Management Charges		\$478,286
Gross Rates and Charges		\$42,561,105
Less: Written Off		
Pensioners (Section 575)	\$1,191,698	
Pensioners (Section 582)	\$128,906	\$1,320,604
		\$41,240,501
Net Transfers to and from Postponed Rates		<u>-\$1,613</u>
Net Rates and Annual Charges		\$41,238,888
Net Extra Charges - Interest and Legal per note 3		<u>\$197,007</u>
		\$41,435,895

2013-14 was the final year of a special rates variation granted to Council by the Minister for Local Government. An amount of \$1,725,302 was levied under this special variation with the funds being expended on the following renewal works:

INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS FROM ADDITIONAL RATE INCREASE 2013-14	
Boomerang St, Cessnock	Northcote St, Aberdare
Callaghan St, Kurri Kurri	Northcote St, Kurri Kurri
Coronation St, Kurri Kurri	Oakey Creek Rd, Cessnock
Doyle St, Bellbird	Orange St, Abermain
Dudley St, Cessnock	Paynes Crossing Rd, Wollombi
Great North Road, Laguna	Percy St, Cessnock
Great North Road, Wollombi	Rugby St, Ellalong
Helena St, Ellalong	Sandy Creek Rd, Brunkerville
Kent St, Greta	Sandy Creek Rd, Mt Vincent
Melbourne St, Aberdare	Seaham St, Stanford Merthyr
Millfield St, Cessnock	Stephen St, Cessnock
Mount View Rd, Cessnock	Swansea Cr, Cessnock
Myra St, Cessnock	Wyndam St, Greta



RATE SUBSIDIES

Under the provisions of Section 356 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council may, for the purpose of exercising its functions, 'grant financial assistance to other persons'.

During 2013-14 Council provided rates subsidies totalling \$28,030.01 to community groups/organisations.

GROUP/ORGANISATION	AMOUNT
Aberdare Pre-School	\$1,854.97
Bellbird Pre-School	\$1,375.65
Cessnock Homing Pidgeon Club	\$993.85
Cessnock Masonic Hall	\$1,524.40
Cessnock Mini Bike Club	\$355.59
Cessnock Multi Purpose Children's Centre	\$1,532.67
Cessnock Pistol Club	\$806.95
Challenge Disability Services	\$2,342.54
Country Womens Association & Branxton Greta CWA	\$1,045.91
Country Womens Association NSW	\$1,664.89
Day Care Centre - Dudley Street, Cessnock	\$1,458.29
Greta Pre-School Kindergarten	\$1,499.61
Kurri Kurri Day Care Centre	\$1,945.87
Kurri Kurri Motor Cycle Club	\$273.41
Paxton Masonic Hall	\$1,144.26
Pre-School - Dudley Street, Cessnock	\$2,152.47
Richmond Vale Preservation Co-op Society	\$887.21
RSL Hall - Branxton	\$1,921.08
RSL Hall - Cessnock	\$1,119.46
RSL Hall - Weston	\$656.68
Weston Masonic Hall	\$1,152.52
Weston Pre-School	\$321.73
TOTAL	\$28,030.01

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICE PROGRAM

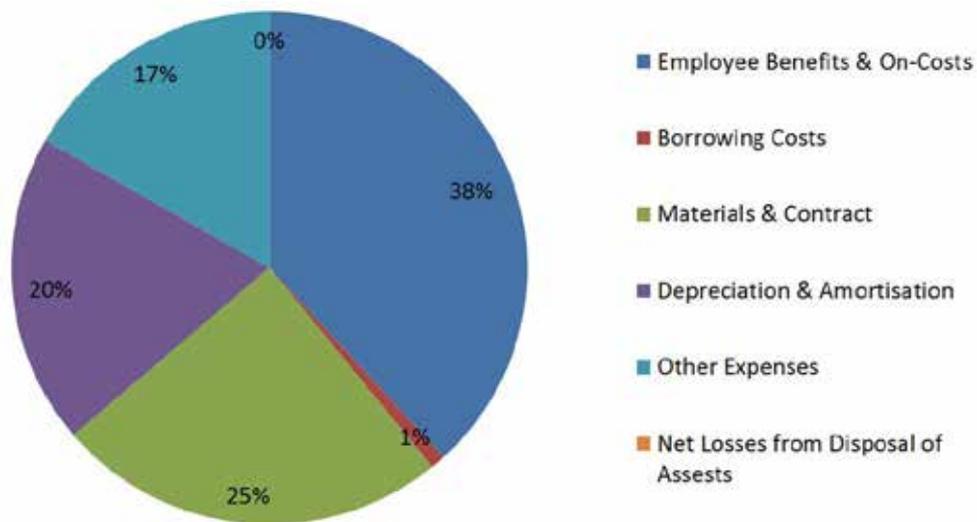
ADOPTED 2013-14	ACTUAL 2013-14
Flood Mapping & Strategic Studies	Flood Mapping & Strategic Studies
Northcote St Aberdare	Northcote St Aberdare
Macquarie Ave Cessnock	Macquarie Ave Cessnock
Northcote St Kurri Kurri	Northcote St Kurri Kurri
John St Ellalong	John St Ellalong
Quarry St Cessnock	Quarry St Cessnock
Armidale St Abermain	Armidale St Abermain
Main Rd Heddon Greta	Main Rd Heddon Greta
Orange St Abermain	Orange St Abermain
Mount View Flood Detention Basin	
\$478,000	\$271,207

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

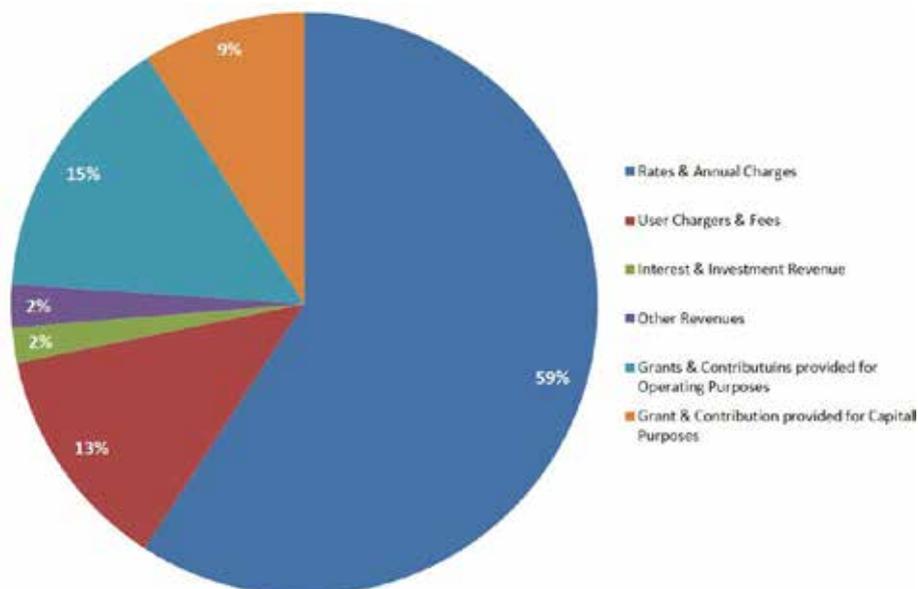
Under the provisions of Division 2 of Part 3 (Financial Management) of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council's audited financial reports and the auditor's reports for the year 2013-14 were presented to Council and the public on 19 November 2014.

The financial reports comprise general purpose financial reports and special schedules. The financial reports, together with the auditor's reports, are part of this report and can be viewed at the Administrative Offices, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock or online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. The reports cover the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

OPERATING EXPENDITURE 2013-14



OPERATING REVENUE 2013-14



REPLACEMENT AND SALE OF ASSETS

Council's policy is to replace all items of plant at the end of their useful economic life.

The proposed and actual plant replacement program for the 2013-14 year is set out below. In all cases except those noted, the items shown were replaced by a similar unit. The replacement program was adjusted significantly in 2013-14 to provide the necessary plant for the restructure of the Works Delivery operations area.

PLANT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM Description of Items	CHANGEOVER COST (EX GST) AND NUMBER 2013-14	
	Proposed \$ (No. items)	Actual \$
Passenger Fleet	\$672,000 (43)	\$796,764 (40) Note 1
Utilities and Vans	\$50,000 (2)	0 (0) Note 2
3T Tippers with Toolbox	\$150,000 (2)	\$158,963 (2)
3T Truck	(\$10,000) (1)	(\$6,934) (1) Note 3
4T Tipping with Crane/Emulsion	\$100,000 (1)	\$103,668 (1) Note 4
5/6T Tonne Single Cab Trucks with Hiab	\$200,000 (2)	\$191,777 (2) Note 4
Skid Steer Loader	(\$20,000) (1)	(\$19,882) (1) Note 3
8T Tonne Tipping Truck	(\$10,000) (1)	(\$20,497) (1) Note 3
Special Plant		
Other Special Plant – Flocon Truck	\$265,000 (1)	\$84,312 (1) Note 5

Notes:

1. Additional cost due to several outright purchases and items going to auction in 2014-15 .
2. Replacement postponed.
3. Sold as part of Works Delivery restructure.
4. Purchased for Works Delivery restructure.
5. Cab Chassis purchased - body due for completion December 2014.

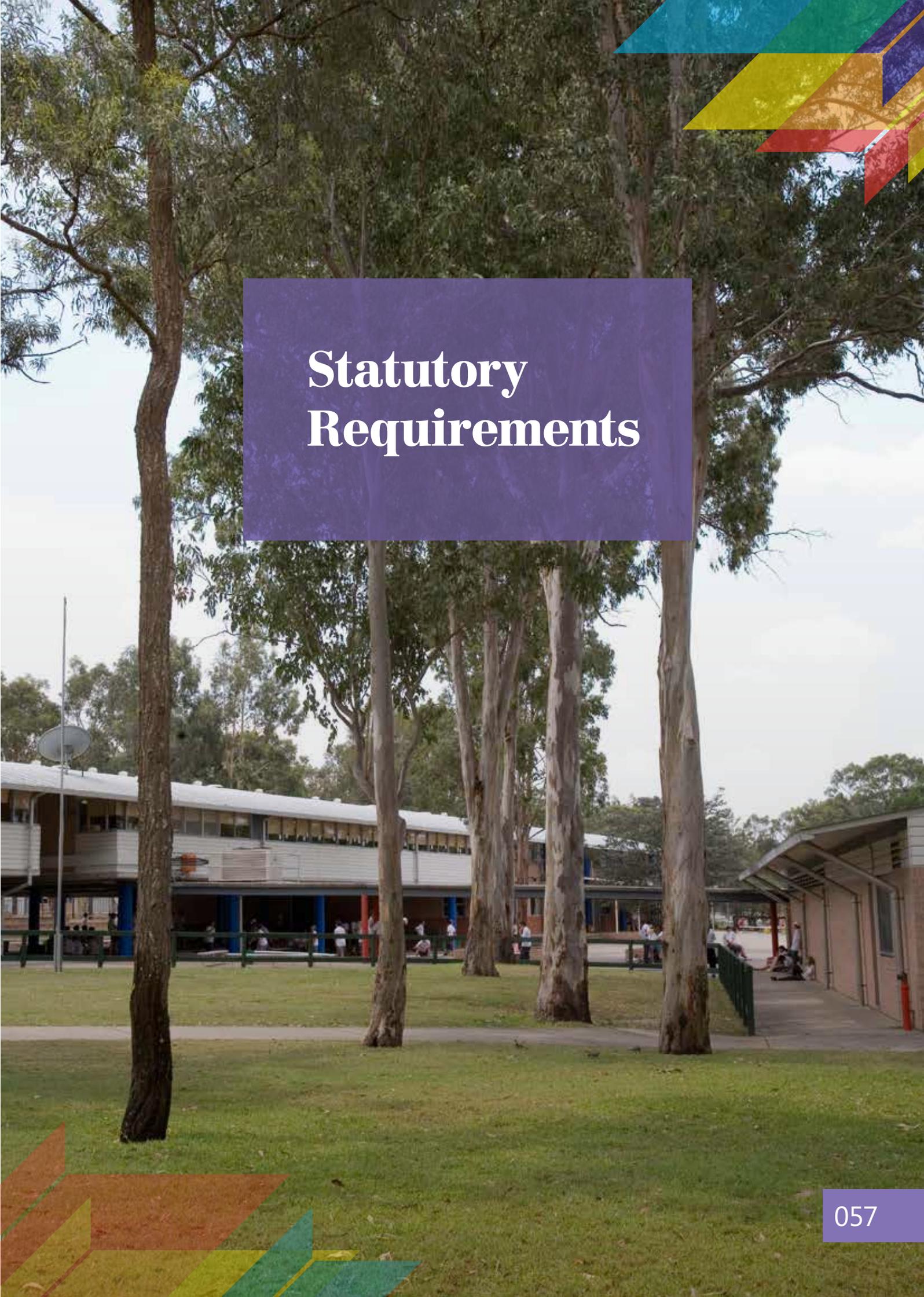
Delivery Program Performance

Action	2013-14 Result	Delivery Program Result
Commence implementation of the priority projects from the Customer Service Strategy. - Identify the priority projects from the Customer Service Strategy.		
Implement systems and strategies to improve productivity across the organisation. - Implement the Performance Management System. - Implement a new remuneration system.	 	
Develop and implement a strategic and operational internal audit program. - Implement the annual internal audit program.		
Review and implement a revised Risk Management Strategy. - Review Council's risk profile. - Update and test the effectiveness of Council's business continuity plans.	 	
Carry out governance functions, provide advice and conduct education programs to comply with legislation and best practice. - Undertake a review of Council's policies.		
Review the Community Strategic Plan.		
Develop and implement a special rate variation strategy. - Prepare the phase 1 special rate variation application seeking a special rate variation of 9.55%.		
Delivery Program Performance: Achieved 4 Not Yet Achieved 0 At Risk 3		

MEASURES:

MEASURES	CONTEXT/BENCHMARK	BASE	2013-14 RESULT	TARGET
Satisfaction with Council's performance overall	<p>This measure is from a random survey of residents where they are asked to rate their satisfaction with Council's performance overall on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = low satisfaction and 5 = high satisfaction.</p> <p>The benchmark in 2009 from similar surveys with over 15,000 residents across 25 local government areas was 3.5.</p> <p>Current Rating = 2.4 (compared with 3.2 in August 2009)</p>	2.4 2012	N/A	>3
Response to Telephone Calls	<p>The number of telephone calls to the call centre that are not abandoned divided by the total number of telephone calls to the call centre.</p> <p>This data is sourced from Council's telephone system.</p>	87.7% 2011-12	85.8%	90%
Response to Customer Requests	<p>The number of customer requests that are completed within agreed timeframes divided by the total number of customer requests completed.</p> <p>This data is sourced from the workflows in Council's Customer Request Management system.</p>	N/A	80%	80%



The background image shows a schoolyard with several tall, slender trees in the foreground. In the middle ground, there is a long, two-story school building with a covered walkway. People are visible walking along the path. The sky is overcast. There are colorful geometric shapes in the top right and bottom left corners of the page.

Statutory Requirements

STATUTORY REPORTING INDEX

Requirement	Section/Clause	Page
Local Government Act 1993 and General Regulation		
1. Completed within 5 months after end of financial year.	s428(1)	N/A
2. Copy provided to the Minister for Local Government (via the Office of Local Government).	s428(5)	N/A
3. Copy posted on council's website.	s428(5)	N/A
Contains:		
4. Council's achievements in implementing the delivery program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives at which those principal activities are directed.	s428(1)	12-55
5. Copy of Council's audited financial reports and notes and information required by the Regulation or the Guidelines.	s428(4)(a)	Separate document
6. Amount of rates and charges written off during the year.	cl 132	51
7. Details of overseas visits by councillors, council staff or other persons representing council (including visits sponsored by other organisations).	s428(4)(b) cl 217(1)(a)	45
8. Total cost during the year of the payment of expenses of , and the provision of facilities to, councillors in relation to their civic functions. Including separate details on the total cost of:	cl 217(1)(a1)	45
• Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors.	cl 217(1)(a1)(i)	45
• Telephone calls made by councillors.	cl 217(1)(a1)(ii)	45
• Attendance of councillors at conferences and seminars.	cl 217(1)(a1)(iii)	45
• Training of councillors and provision of skill development.	cl 217(1)(a1)(iv)	45
• Interstate visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses.	cl 217(1)(a1)(v)	45
• Overseas visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses.	cl 217(1)(a1)(vi)	45
• Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a councillor, being expenses payable in accordance with the Guidelines.	cl 217(1)(a1)(vii)	45
• Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a councillor.	cl 217(1)(a1)(vii)	45
9. Details of each contract awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000. Includes:	cl 217(1)(a2)	25
• Name of contractor.	cl 217(1)(a2)	25
• Nature of goods or services supplied.	cl 217(1)(a2)	25
• Total amount payable under the contract.	cl 217(1)(a2)	25
10. Summary of the amounts incurred by the council in relation to legal proceedings. Includes:	cl 217(1)(a3)	51
• Amounts, costs and expenses paid or received.	cl 217(1)(a3)	51
• Summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and (if it has been finalised) result.	cl 217(1)(a3)	51
11. Summary of resolutions made under section 67 concerning work carried out on private land. Includes:	s67(3) cl 217(1)(a4)	41
• Summary or details of work.	cl 217(1)(a4)	41
• Cost of work fully or partly subsidised by council.	cl 217(1)(a4)	41
• Total amount by which council has subsidised any such work.	cl 217(1)(a4)	41
12. Total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 (financially assist others).	cl 217(1)(a5)	14
13. Statement of all external bodies that exercised functions delegated by council.	cl 217(1)(a6)	24
14. Statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which council held a controlling interest.	cl 217(1)(a7)	24
15. Statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which the council participated.	cl 217(1)(a8)	24
16. Statement of activities to implement its EEO management plan.	cl 217(1)(a9)	50
17. Statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of the general manager. Includes:	cl 217(1)(b)	50
• Total value of the salary component of the package.	cl 217(1)(b)(i)	50
• Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of the salary component.	cl 217(1)(b)(ii)	50

Requirement	Section/Clause	Page
Contains:		
• Total amount payable by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the general manager may be a contributor.	cl 217(1)(b)(iii)	50
• Total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package.	cl 217(1)(b)(iv)	50
• Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.	cl 217(1)(b)(v)	50
18. Statement of the total remuneration comprised in remuneration packages of all senior staff members, expressed as the total (not of the individual members). Includes:	cl 217(1)(c)	50
• Total value of salary components of their packages.	cl 217(1)(c)(i)	50
• Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary components of their packages.	cl 217(1)(c)(ii)	50
• Total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor.	cl 217(1)(c)(iii)	50
• Total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package.	cl 217(1)(c)(iv)	50
• Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.	cl 217(1)(c)(v)	50
19. A statement detailing the stormwater management services provided (<i>if levied</i>).	cl 217(1)(e)	52
20. A statement detailing the coastal protection services provided (<i>if levied</i>).	cl 217(1)(e1)	N/A
21. In the year of an ordinary election of councillors is to be held the Annual Report must include a report as to the state of the environment in the local government area.	s428A(1)	N/A
22. Particulars of any environmental upgrade agreement entered into, in accordance with any requirements imposed under s406.	s54P	N/A
23. Report on special variation expenditure if required to do so by the instrument made by the Minister.	s508(2) s508A	40 & 52
24. Report on capital works projects.	Capital Expenditure Guidelines	40
Companion Animals Act 1998 and Companion Animals Regulation 2008		
25. Statement on activities relating to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulation. Includes:	Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 cl 217(1)(f) Guidelines on the Exercise of Functions under the Companion Animals Act	18 & 19
• Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the Division.	16.2 (a) Guidelines	19
• Lodgement of data relating to dog attacks with the Division.	16.2 (b) Guidelines	19
• Amount of funding spent on companion animal management and activities.	16.2 (c) Guidelines	19
• Companion animal community education programs carried out.	16.2 (d) Guidelines	19
• Strategies council has in place to promote and assist the de-sexing of dogs and cats.	16.2 (d) Guidelines	18
• Strategies in place to comply with the requirement under section 64 of the Act to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals.	16.2 (e) Guidelines	19
• Off leash areas provided in the council area.	16.2 (f) Guidelines	19
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Regulation		
26. Information included on GIPA activity.	s125(1) cl 7 Sch. 2	49
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979		
27. Particulars of compliance with and effect of planning agreements in force during the year.	s93G(5)	31 & 32
Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and Regulation		
28. Information on number of public interest disclosures and whether public interest disclosure policy is in place.	s31 cl4	47
Carers Recognition Act 2010		
29. Councils considered to be 'human service agencies' under the Act must report on compliance with the Act for the reporting period in the reporting period in their Annual Report.	s8(2)	N/A