

Kitchener



Kitchener is located between the village of Abernethy and the township of Cessnock. It lies on the route from Cessnock to the bead of villages in the rural west (i.e. Ellalong, Paxton and Millfield).

The village core is located on Cessnock Street. Focal points are the hotel and Poppethead Park.

The village comprises three distinct areas of development, the first being the original subdivision, the second being a recent large lot subdivision to the east, on Stanford Street, and a new, undeveloped subdivision to the south, on Abernethy Street.

Figure 1: Kitchener Village Extent

All areas of the village are zoned RU5 Village. The new subdivisions have a mapped minimum lot size of 600m², whilst the original subdivision has a mapped minimum lot size of 750m². There is a portion of the on the corner of Bellbird and Stanford Street which is mapped at 450m².

Social Environment¹

The total population of Kitchener in 2016 was relatively low in comparison to other villages. Couples with, and without, children form the predominant household types. There is also a high rate of home ownership, with over 40% of homes owned outright, and over 40% of homes being purchased.



**Total
Population: 479**



**Indigenous
Population:
6.4%**



Median Age: 39



**Average Weekly
Household
Income: \$1,156**



**Average Weekly
Rent: \$290**



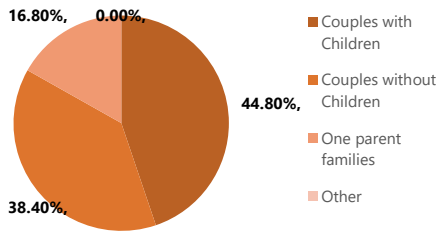
**Average
Monthly
Mortgage:
\$1,517**

¹ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12174), accessed 14 October 2021

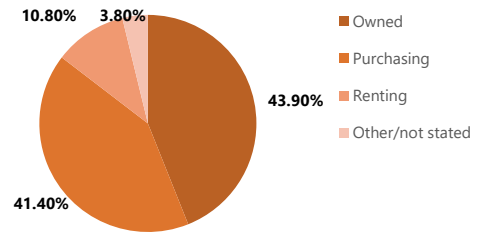
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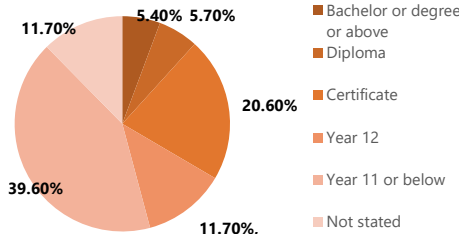
Household types



Housing tenure



Highest level of education



SEIFA (IRSD) Index Score²

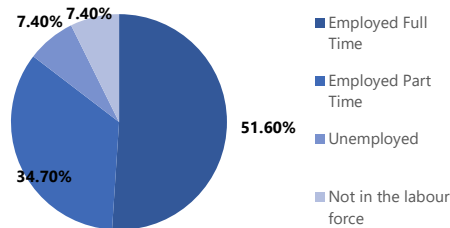
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Economic Environment³

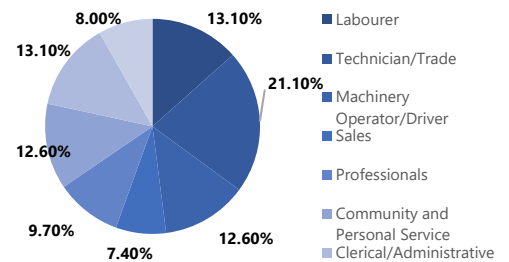
Over half of the residents of Kitchener (aged over 15 years) were employed on a full-time basis, with a further 34.7% employed in a part-time capacity. Coal mining, similar to other villages was reported as a top industry of employment, with Labourers, Technicians or Trades and Machinery Operators or Drivers being the prevalent occupations of residents. At least 80% of residents utilised a private vehicle (as either a passenger or driver) to get to work.



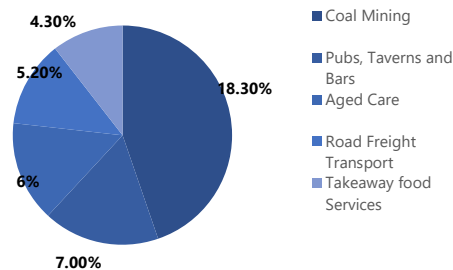
Employment status



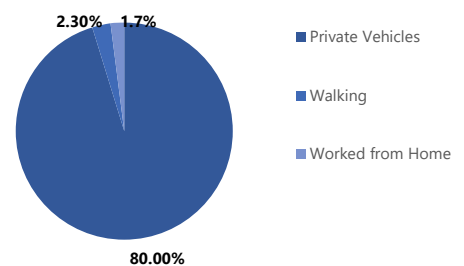
Occupation



Industry of employment⁴



Journey to work⁴



The hotel is the primary businesses in the village, however, home businesses/occupations are likely to be present.

² The Socio Economic Index for Areas (SEIFA) ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. The Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is a general socio-economic index that summarises a range of information about the economic and social conditions of people and households within an area. This index includes only measures of relative disadvantage. A low score indicates relatively greater disadvantage in general. A high score indicates a relative lack of disadvantage in general (Source: [Census of Population and Housing: Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas \(SEIFA\), Australia \(cat. no. 2033.0.55.001\)](#), accessed 14 October 2021)

³ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12174), accessed 14 October 2021

⁴ Top responses only

Built & Natural Environment⁵

Aboriginal Heritage

Much of the land that comprises development in the village has low to moderate sensitivity for cultural heritage value. However, as occupation was widespread, evidence of isolated artefacts and PAD sites have been located around the village.

Land north of the village towards Cessnock and north-west toward Bellbird is highly sensitive and correlates with Black Creek and local drainage lines. Some land in this locality is in the ownership of the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Landscape, Vegetation & Constraints

The village of Kitchener sits at relatively low elevation. Views to other areas/locations are obscured by vegetation.

Within the village, most local streets have view corridors to the adjoining vegetation.



Figure 2: Significant View Corridors



Plate 1: Local View Corridors (Aberdare Street & Cessnock Street)



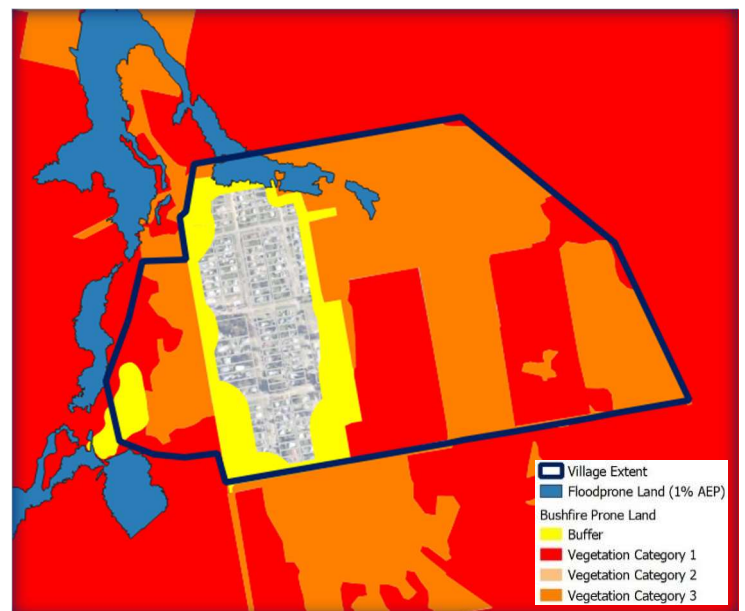
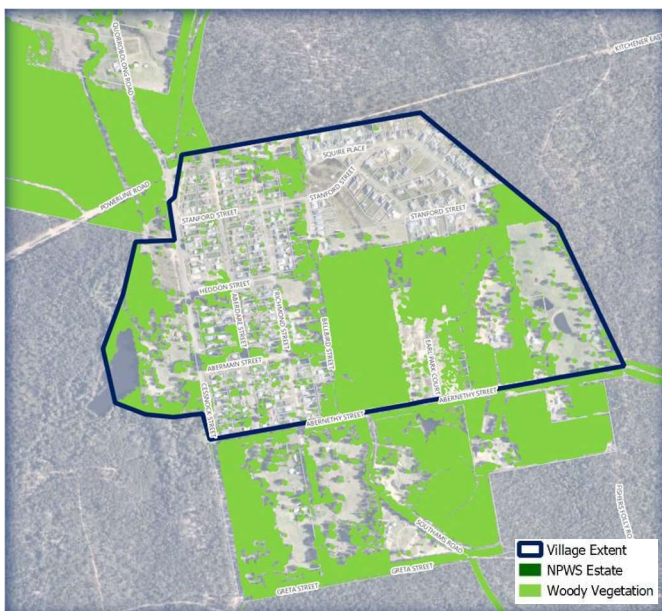
⁵ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12174), accessed 14 October 2021

The village area is surrounded on all sides by vegetation. To the east, south and west, this includes vegetation within the Werakata National Park, much of which is Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Forest Threatened Ecological Community (TEC). Pockets of vegetation around Poppethead Park are River-Flat Eucalypt Forest and Kurri Sand Swamp Woodland TECs.

Vegetation within the village is generally sparse (at about 27% canopy cover), exclusive of that surrounding Poppethead Park and the former colliery dam, and landholdings on Abernethy Street, either side of Earl Park Court.

Much of the surrounding vegetation is Category 1 bushfire prone vegetation, with both the subdivisions of Earl Park Court and Stanford Street being high-risk areas.

During the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), local flooding occurs along creek lines and low-lying areas, which isolates the village from Abernethy and Cessnock during such events.



European Heritage

The establishment and growth of Kitchener is correlated with the opening and working of the Aberdare Central Colliery. The colliery opened during the First World War, with Khartoum Hotel opening in 1926.⁶

The village was named after Lord Kitchener, the British Secretary for War, and the hotel named after his victory in the Sudan in 1896⁷.

⁶ Pike, Walker and Associates, 1992-93 *City of Cessnock Heritage Study (Aberdare Central Colliery Site Inventory Item Sheet Ref. No. 041 & Khartoum Hotel Inventory Item Sheet Ref, No. 061)*

⁷ State Heritage Inventory, Khartoum Hotel, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1340473>, accessed 12 November 2021

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Kitchener Public School was constructed in 1920 and contained two classrooms to accommodate 84 pupils. The new school replaced a provisional school which was operational from 1917⁸.

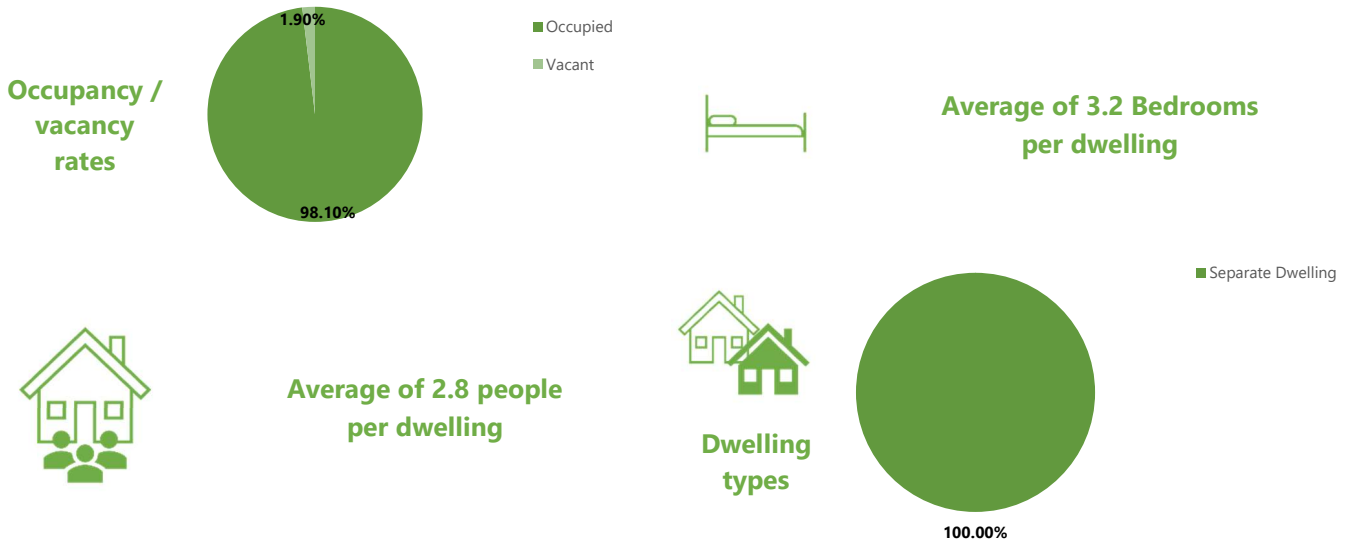


Plate 2: Examples of heritage (left to right) Poppethead, Khartoum Hotel, Colliery Dam)



Figure 5: Heritage Items

Built Form & Density



The village comprises three distinct areas of development, the first being the original subdivision fronting Cessnock Street, the second being a recent large lot subdivision to the east on Stanford Street, and a new subdivision to the south on Abernethy Street comprising vacant allotments.

The original subdivision comprises predominantly single dwellings, with some dwellings retaining the characteristics or the era of settlement of the village. There is evidence of newer development taking place in this locality.

This subdivision also comprises mid-block laneways (unformed), and total carriageway widths are in the order of 30m. Lots are deep, at approximately 50m, with frontages of approximately 20m. The average

⁸ State Heritage Inventory, Kitchener Public School, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1340560>, accessed 12 November 2021

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lot size in this locality is approximately 1,000m² with an average density of approximately 6 dwellings per hectare.

The newer large lot subdivision comprises predominantly large and contemporary dwellings, with most lots having large ancillary sheds to the rear of lots and swimming pools. The average lot size is approximately 2,300m², with a dwelling density of 2.5 dwellings per hectare. This subdivision has a single access road (Stanford Street) which crosses a local drainage channel.

Dwelling construction has not yet commenced in the new subdivision off Abernethy Street (Earl Park Court). Lots in this subdivision are in the order of 2,500m². The subdivision has a single access/egress point onto Abernethy Street.



Plate 3: Examples of dwellings

Servicing

Reticulated water and sewerage infrastructure is available within the original subdivision of Kitchener. There is evidence that not all properties are connected to the sewerage infrastructure, with some still reliant on domestic on-site wastewater management systems. Reticulated sewerage infrastructure is not provided within the new subdivisions.

Kerb and guttering and formal stormwater management infrastructure is provided within the new subdivision localities, but restricted to the eastern and western ends of Stanford Street in the original subdivision.

All properties within Kitchener are supported with general waste, green waste and recycling collection services.

Street lighting is at regular intervals throughout the village.

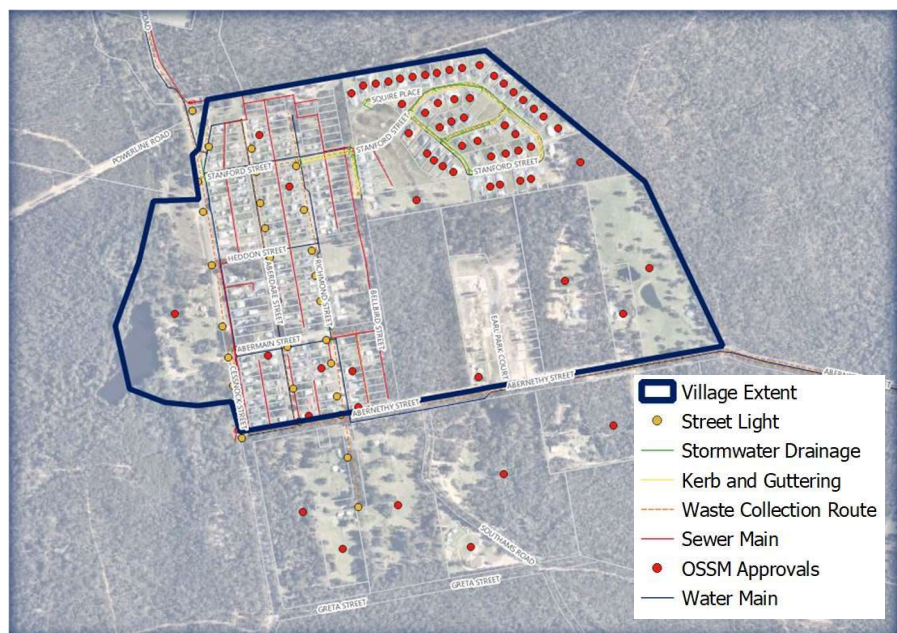


Figure 6: Servicing Infrastructure

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Connectivity

Kitchener lies on the route from Cessnock to the bead of villages in the rural west (e.g. Ellalong, Paxton and Millfield) via Quorrobolong Road. To the east, Kitchener is connected to Abernethy via Abernethy Street.

Informal connections via firetrails and tracks connect Kitchener to Abernethy and Kearsley, and Ellalong to the southwest via the power line easement and other informal tracks.

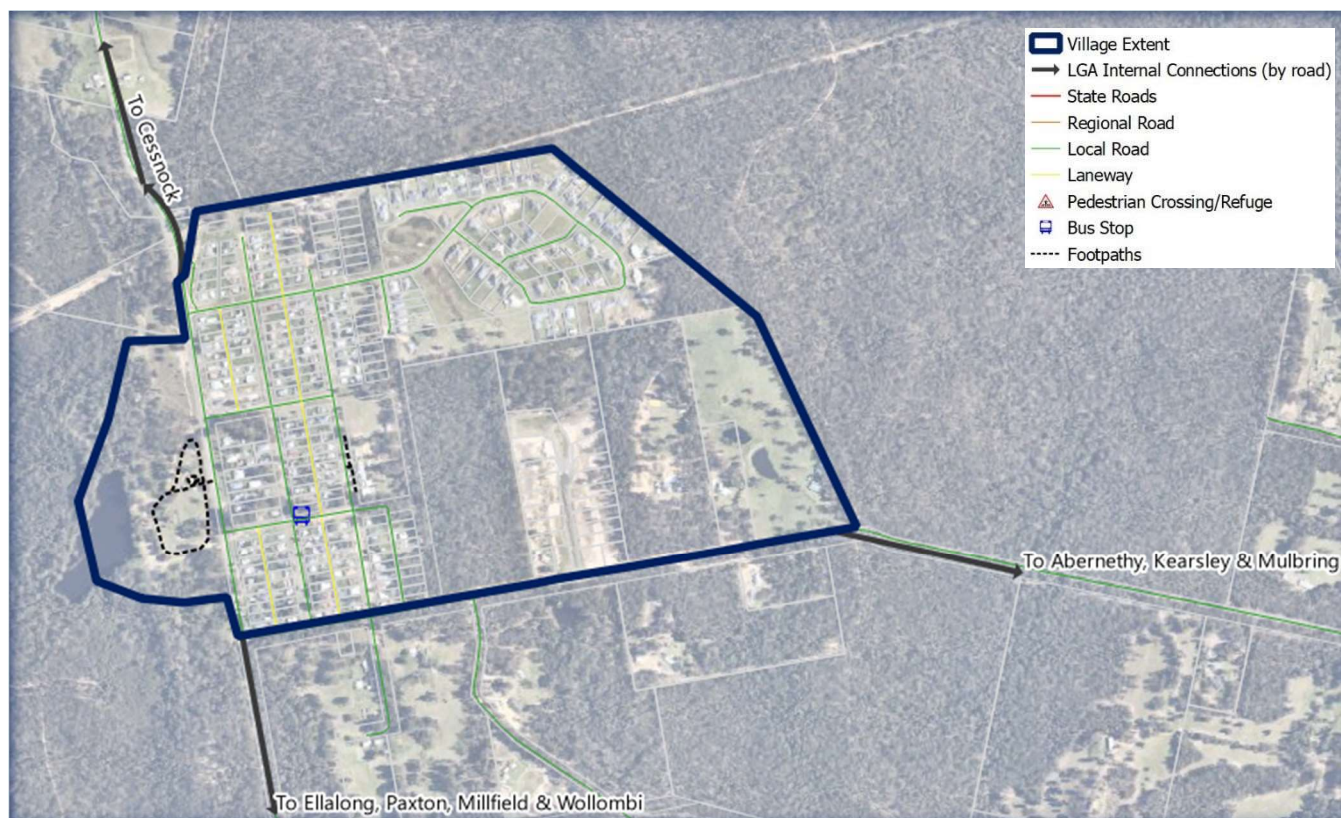


Figure 7: Connectivity within and beyond Kitchener

Internal connections rely on the grid pattern of laneways and local streets for permeability. There are no footpaths or cycleways in the village, exclusive of a path within Poppethead Park.

A school bus services operates pick up and drop off services to Kitchener Public School⁹, however there are no public bus services connecting the village to Cessnock.

Open Space and Public Domain

Poppethead Park located on Cessnock Street is the primary area of open space within the village. It has recently been embellished to incorporate a path, play equipment and sheltered picnic facilities. Limited sealed formal car parking is provided in front of the park. Limited formal parking is also located in front of the hotel.

⁹ Rover Coaches School Timetable, S898, 2021, <https://www.rovercoaches.com.au/site/route-pm18mwtf-s898>, accessed 12 November 2021

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Plate 4: Open Space (from left to right) Poppethead Park, Community Hall/Tennis Court, Colliery Dam viewing platform.

Table 1: Recreation Facilities¹⁰

Name	Hierarchy	Area	Facilities / Embellishments
Poppet Head Park	Regional Park	12.67 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barbecue ▪ Car parking ▪ Large sheltered picnic bench and table ▪ Remnant mining infrastructure ▪ Path ▪ Playground ▪ Public toilet ▪ Timber boardwalk



- Village Extent
- Community Services
- Schools
- Park
- Cemetery
- Skate_Park
- Seats_Benches
- Play Equipment
- Picnic Tables
- Places of Public Worship
- Fire Station
- Post Office
- Police Station
- Sportsgrounds
- Toilets/Amenities
- Tennis Complex
- Pony Grounds
- RFS Building
- Community Hall
- Dog Exercise Area
- BBQ
- War Memorial / Monument
- Grandstand

Figure 8: Existing Facilities / Embellishments within Open Space Areas

¹⁰ Cessnock City Council Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020

The Kitchener Community Hall, located between Richmond and Bellbird Street provides opportunities for active play, and comprises soccer goals posts, a hardstand court and bench seating.

Public domain is relatively free from embellishment within the original village extent, exclusive of that identified above. Within the newer subdivisions on Earl Park Court and Stanford Street, the road reserve has been embellished with street trees, but no footpaths.

Front fencing is either non-existent or varies in material, including hedging, timber pailings/pickets, masonry, stock fencing, metal sheeting, and galvanised mesh.

The northern approach signage is consistent with Council’s signage strategy, however street name signage within the original village is not. There are also multiple signs and styles of signage associated with and around the park and community hall.

Planned Public Domain Facilities / Embellishments and Works Projects

An audit of existing Council strategies and plans has been prepared to identify works which are currently being undertaken (or have recently been completed), and those planned. Additionally, the audit has identified key principles for the delivery and supply of services and infrastructure, which may assist in identifying additional public domain projects.

Where practicable these are identified on Figure 9, but are listed in full in Table 2. The location of the planned improvements is indicative only, and may alter subject to further planning and design. Timing for delivery is also affected by funding availability.



Figure 9: Audit Outcomes - Planned works and Infrastructure

Table 2: Audit Outcomes – Planned Works, Infrastructure and Principles

Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
Cycleways / Paths / Trails	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New district off-road path on Abernethy Street/Murray Street – Quorrobolong Road to Ferguson Street
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New district on-road connection on Quorrobolong Road – Baddeley Park to Stanford Street Kitchener
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New district off-road path on Cessnock Street – Stanford Street to Abernethy Street
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New local off road path on Richmond/Stanford Street – Abernethy Street to Cessnock Street
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New local on-road connection on Quorrobolong Road – Abernethy Street to Sandy Creek Road
	Trails Strategy 2020 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	Enhance and develop the Kitchener Dam Loop Trail and support infrastructure and promote as an integral part of a wider trail network Investigate the feasibility of an off-road, recreational trail connecting Bellbird, West Cessnock and Kitchener
Land Use Planning	Urban Growth Management Plan 2021	Existing URA developed to capacity - no additional land identified for future development
	Urban Tree Canopy Policy 2021	Develop an Environmental Strategy that aims to create an interconnected Urban Tree Canopy across the Cessnock LGA to assist in climate mitigation and adaptation, reducing the urban heat island effect, improving health and wellbeing, supporting healthy urban ecosystems, improving soil moisture and water quality and providing links to green spaces;
	Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2020	Develop a local character statement for each town to inform place activation and development
		Develop heritage colour and material palette options for buildings along the main street which integrates with the street furniture and signage strategy.
		Improve the visual amenity of public domains and commercial centres by implementing masterplans in Cessnock, Kurri Kurri, Branxton and other strategic locations.

Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
		Utilise street pole banners in activation areas to promote upcoming activity, events, landmarks to community and visitors.
		Review the permissible uses within the environmental and rural land use zones to ensure economic activities associated with nature based tourism are included.
Recreation Facilities	Skate and BMX Strategy 2020 / 2021 – 2022 Capital Works Program / City Wide Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2020	A masterplan be completed for Kitchener Poppethead Park incorporating a local level facility (skate spot/node)
Open Space	Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020	Amend the Cessnock LEP to remove the following parcels of land from the land acquisition register: Lot 558 DP 729017 – Quorrobolong Road, Kitchener
Public Transport	Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021 – 2025	Support safe and accessible transport options
Recreation Buildings / Amenities	Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021 - 2025	Improve the accessibility of public spaces and facilities
Roads and Drainage	2021 – 2022 Capital Works Program	Renew Aberdare Street (Stage 2 from Abermain to Abernethy) Phase 2 – detailed design and Phase 3 - construction
		Renew Stanford Street North Phase 2 – detailed design Phase 3 - construction
Signage	Cessnock LGA signage Strategy	Suburb Entry Signs: It is recommended that all Suburb Entry Signs be installed simultaneously. Existing suburb signage is to be removed.
		Street Signs: A gradual replacement of street signs is recommended. In order to achieve economies of scale it is recommended that areas be identified for upgrade and new signage progressively rolled out across the LGA. Where individual replacement signs are required, old signs are to be removed and new signs installed.