

# Millfield



Millfield is the third village in the bead of villages located on Wollombi Road, heading either east or west on Wollombi or Millfield Roads respectively. Millfield is located between the villages of Wollombi and Paxton.

Figure 1: Millfield Village Extent

Millfield is zoned a combination of RU5 Village and R5 Large Lot Residential. Mapped minimum lot sizes do not necessarily correlate with zone boundaries and range from 750m<sup>2</sup> to 4,000m<sup>2</sup> inside the village extent, with a 4 hectare area located the east of the village extent.

Millfield has recently seen extensive change with the development of new large lot residential development, south of the original village.

## Social Environment<sup>1</sup>

In 2016, the village had a moderately sized population, with a media age of 39, roughly comparable with the median age of the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA) population of 38 years.

Households comprised predominantly couples, with children (44.7%) and without children (36.5%). Most homes were in the process of purchase, whilst approximately 36% of homes owned outright.

Approximately, 9% of the population of Millfield had obtained a Bachelor or Degree or above qualification, whilst 22.4% had completed a Certificate. 34.7% of the population had completed Year 11 or below.



**Total Population:**  
**1,006**



**Indigenous Population:**  
**4.9%**



**Median Age: 39**



**Average Weekly Household Income: \$1,288**



**Average Weekly Rent: \$270**



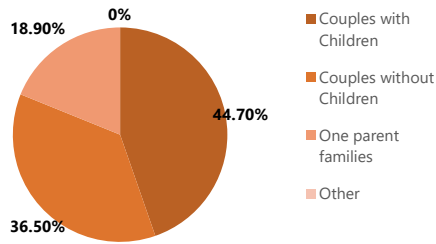
**Average Monthly Mortgage: \$1,430**

<sup>1</sup> ABS 2016 Quick Stats ([https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12620](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12620)), accessed 14 October 2021

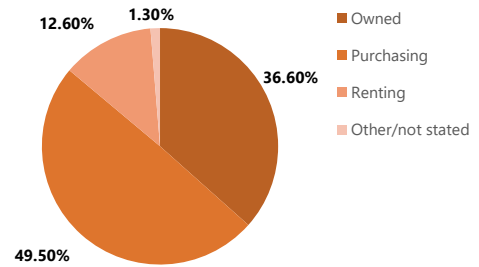
# Millfield



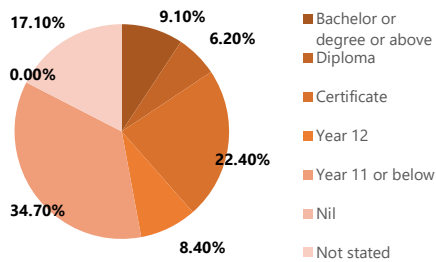
**Household types**



**Housing tenure**



**Highest level of education**



**SEIFA (IRSD) Index Score<sup>2</sup>**

**943**

## Economic Environment<sup>3</sup>

Over 50% of the residents of Millfield (aged 15 years or over) were employed full-time. A further 32.8% were engaged in part-time employment. The village had a comparatively higher rate of unemployment (10%) to other villages and the broader Cessnock LGA.

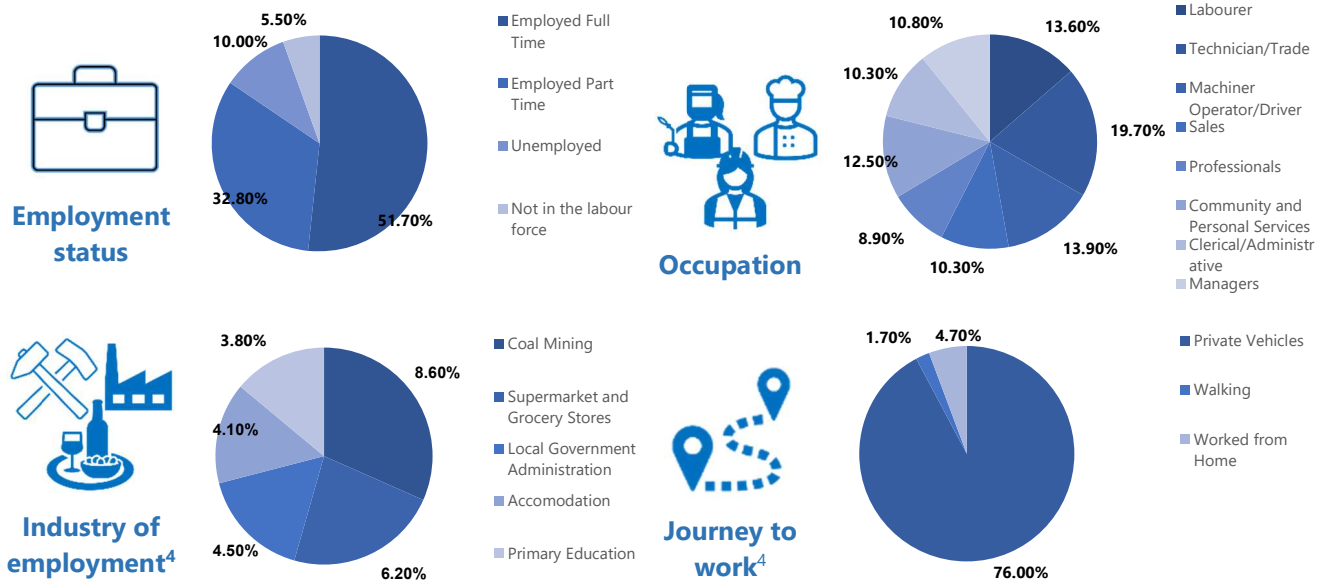
The occupations of Labourer, Technician/Tradesperson, Machinery Operator/Driver were relatively well represented by the residents of Millfield. Additionally, Community and Personal Service professions, as well as Managers were also well-represented occupations in Millfield.

Coal mining was the top industry of employment reported, followed by Supermarket and grocery stores and Local Government Administration. The majority (76%) of residents travelled to work as the driver or passenger of a private vehicle.

<sup>2</sup> 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 \(cat. no. 2033.0.55.001\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12620), accessed 14 October 2021)

<sup>3</sup> ABS 2016 Quick Stats ([https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12620](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12620)), accessed 14 October 2021

# Millfield



Businesses include “The Central” general store and cafe. The locality also supports a number of accommodation services and home businesses/occupations.



Plate 1: Examples of local businesses (from left to right) B&B, General Store, Millfield Timber Mill

## Built & Natural Environment<sup>5</sup>

### Aboriginal Heritage

Much of the landscape around the village of Millfield has high to very high cultural heritage significance. This particularly evident in areas around natural waterways.

There are a number of potential archaeological deposit sites, in addition to known artefacts and modified trees in the locality.

### Landscape, Vegetation & Constraints

In a landscape context, Millfield is within a relatively low-lying valley, surrounded by mountains. Consequently, many areas of Millfield offer views to mountain ranges in the Corrabare, Watagan and Pokolbin State Forests. This includes views along Wollombi Road to the east and west.

<sup>4</sup> Top responses only

<sup>5</sup> ABS 2016 Quick Stats ([https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12620](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC12620)), accessed 14 October 2021



# Millfield



Figure 2: Significant View Corridors



Plate 2: Landscape & Corridor Views (top to bottom) rural dwellings with mountain backdrops, Wollombi Road, Floodplains

Vegetation cover within the village area is minimal, with a canopy cover of approximately 10%. The largest concentrations of contiguous vegetation is located in the northern portion of Crawford Avenue, and in the far west, along the riparian corridor behind the school.

Extensive vegetation located to the north and east of the Village is Lower Hunter Spotted Gum – Ironbark Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), but also Category 1 bushfire prone vegetation. Grasslands to the south and west of the village are Category 3 bushfire prone land.

Being in a low-lying area means that during the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event, Congewoi Creek (south of the village) floods, which isolates the village during such events. Vegetation along Congewoi Creek includes River-flat Eucalypt TEC.

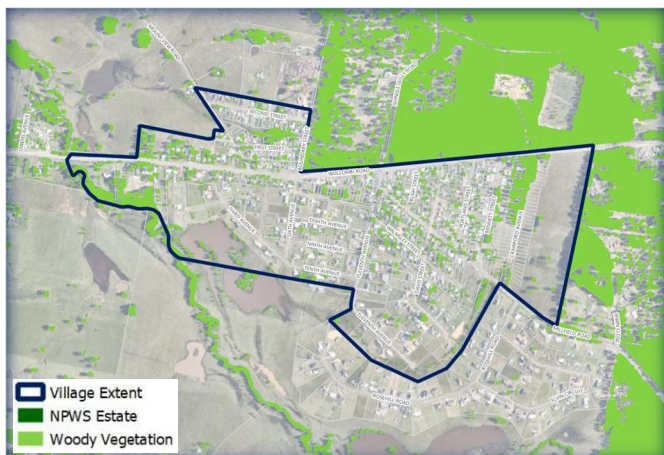


Figure 3: Vegetation Cover

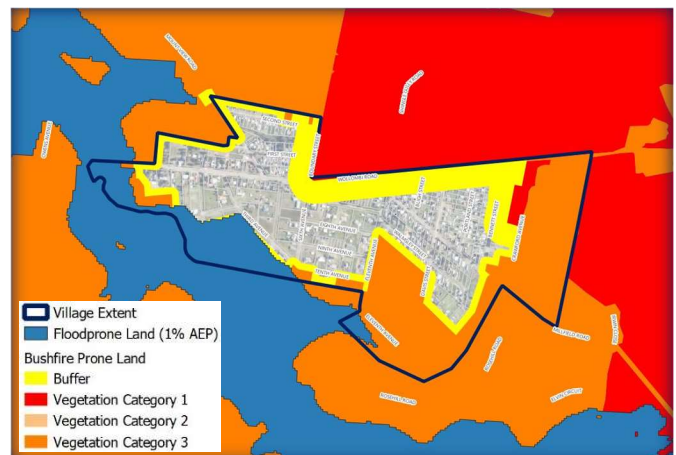


Figure 4: Bushfire Vegetation Categories and Flood prone Land

## European Heritage

The settlement of Millfield related to the construction of the Great North Road, which provided an inland connection from Sydney to the Hunter Valley. The village began as a cluster of buildings and was named for a large flour mill (which is no longer present)<sup>6</sup>.

Heritage items associated with the establishment of the village remain, including the former Rising Sun Inn, built in c1838. The inn was converted into a general store in about 1866, including a post office, then as a residence from approximately 1895 to 1980, when restoration works commenced to rectify damage and sunken floors<sup>83</sup>.

The Millfield Public School was opened as a provisional school in 1868, and became an established school in 1871<sup>7</sup>. The cemetery was consecrated later in 1901<sup>8</sup>.

During the early 1920's coal mines began to open in the locality to mine the Greta coal seam. The Millfield Greta Colliery was the predominant mine, but also included the Millfield North Colliery. Maitland Main was also established in the locality, east of the Millfield Greta Colliery<sup>9</sup>.

Also during the early 1920's the memorial gates at Millfield Public School were also erected<sup>84</sup> as well as St Luke's Church Hall on Wollombi Road<sup>10</sup>. Crawfordville Infants School (now community hall) also opened during this time, to cater for overflow from Millfield Public School, associated with the growth of the village during the coal mining boom<sup>11</sup>.

The area is also well known for timber milling which remains an operational industry.



Plate 3: Examples of heritage (left to right) Former Infants School, Former Rising Inn, St Lukes Community Hall

<sup>6</sup> State Heritage Inventory, 2021, Rising Sun Inn (former), <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=5045088>, accessed 16 November 2021

<sup>7</sup> State Heritage Inventory 2021, Millfield Public School and Memorial Gates, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1340484>, accessed 16 November 2021

<sup>8</sup> State Heritage Inventory, 2021, Millfield General Cemetery, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1340052>, accessed 16 November 2021

<sup>9</sup> National Library of Australia, 2009, A History of the Greta Coal Measures, <https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20090706230119/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/100781/20090610-1630/hosting.collectionsaustralia.net/newcastle/greta/frames.html>, accessed 16 November 2021

<sup>10</sup> State Heritage Inventory, 2021, St Luke's Church Hall, <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1340592>, accessed 16 November 2021

<sup>11</sup> State Heritage Inventory, 2021, Crawfordville School (former), <https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=1340021>, accessed 16 November 2021



# Millfield

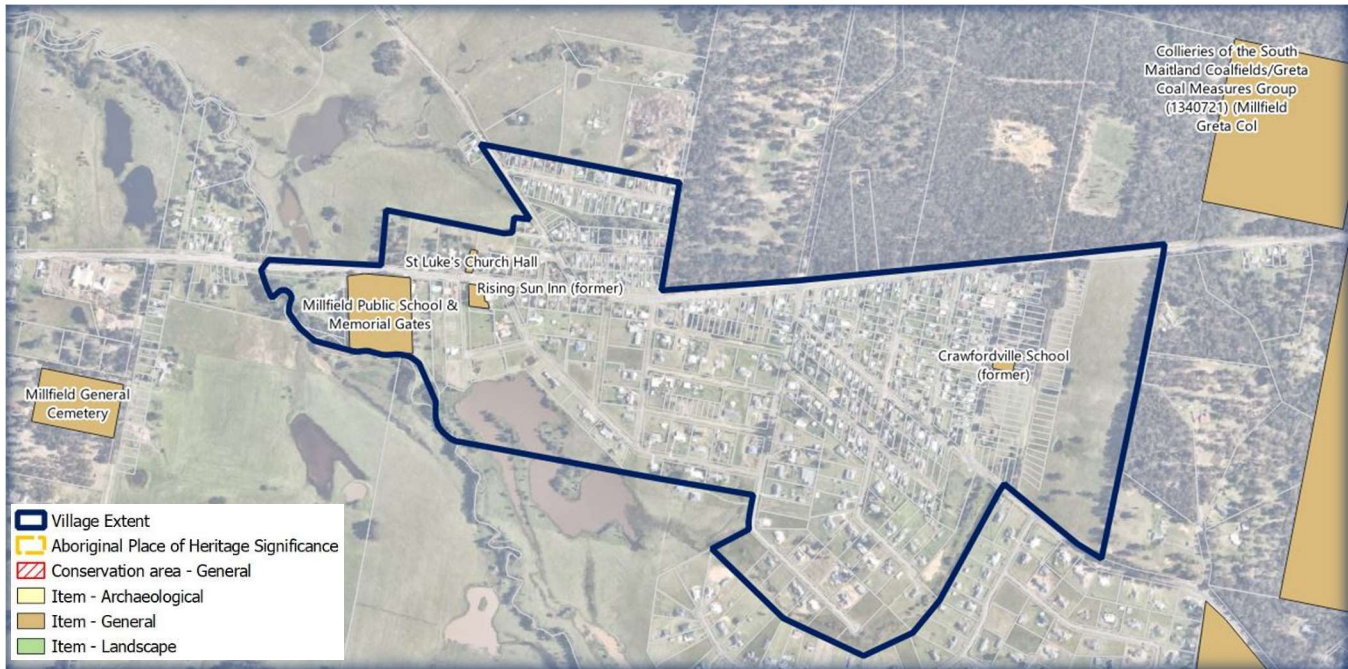


Figure 5: Heritage Items

## Built Form & Density



The village subdivision is a mix of small and large lots with a mix of regular and irregular shaped lots. Between Congewoi Creek and Eleventh Avenue, lots generally larger in size, (exclusive of those directly south of Wollombi Road). In this area, mid-block laneways (unformed) are also present. Lot sizes range from 540m<sup>2</sup> to 4,000m<sup>2</sup>.

Dwelling types in this locality vary, inclusive of timber slab construction (e.g. the former Rising Sun Inn), prefabricated cottages and federation style homes. There is some evidence of gentrification and replacement of older homes occurring.

North of Wollombi Road (First and Second Streets) and from Eleventh Avenue to Crawford Avenue (inclusive of Millfield and Walmsley Street) lots are generally smaller and more regular in size. Lots are an average of approximately 1,100m<sup>2</sup>. Dwelling density is approximately 8.6 dwellings per hectare.

# Millfield

Dwellings in this locality are of the federation era, most likely constructed during the coal mining boom.

The final distinct settlement pattern is the new large lot subdivision, between Millfield Road and Congewoi Creek. Lots in this locality are in the order of 4,500m<sup>2</sup>. Dwelling density is approximately 1.8 dwellings per hectare. Dwellings in this location are larger contemporary homes, many with large sheds and pools to the rear of dwellings.

Street widths and types are comparable in most areas of the village. Most dwellings are single-detached dwellings, however there is evidence of some secondary/studio dwellings occurring, particularly within the newer subdivision area.



Plate 4: Examples of dwellings

## **Servicing**

Reticulated water supply services are available within the village area. Additionally, most, but not all parcels have access to reticulated sewerage infrastructure. Some parcels still rely on-site wastewater management systems for disposal of effluent.

Street lighting is generally provided throughout the village, however is limited between Third and Eleventh Avenue.

Kerb and guttering is provided along sections of Wollombi Road, Mount View Road and sections Third and Sixth Avenues. Stormwater disposal relies on street drainage and under road culverts to drain water to the Congewoi Creek floodplain.

Waste collection services for general waste, green waste and recyclables are provided.



# Millfield

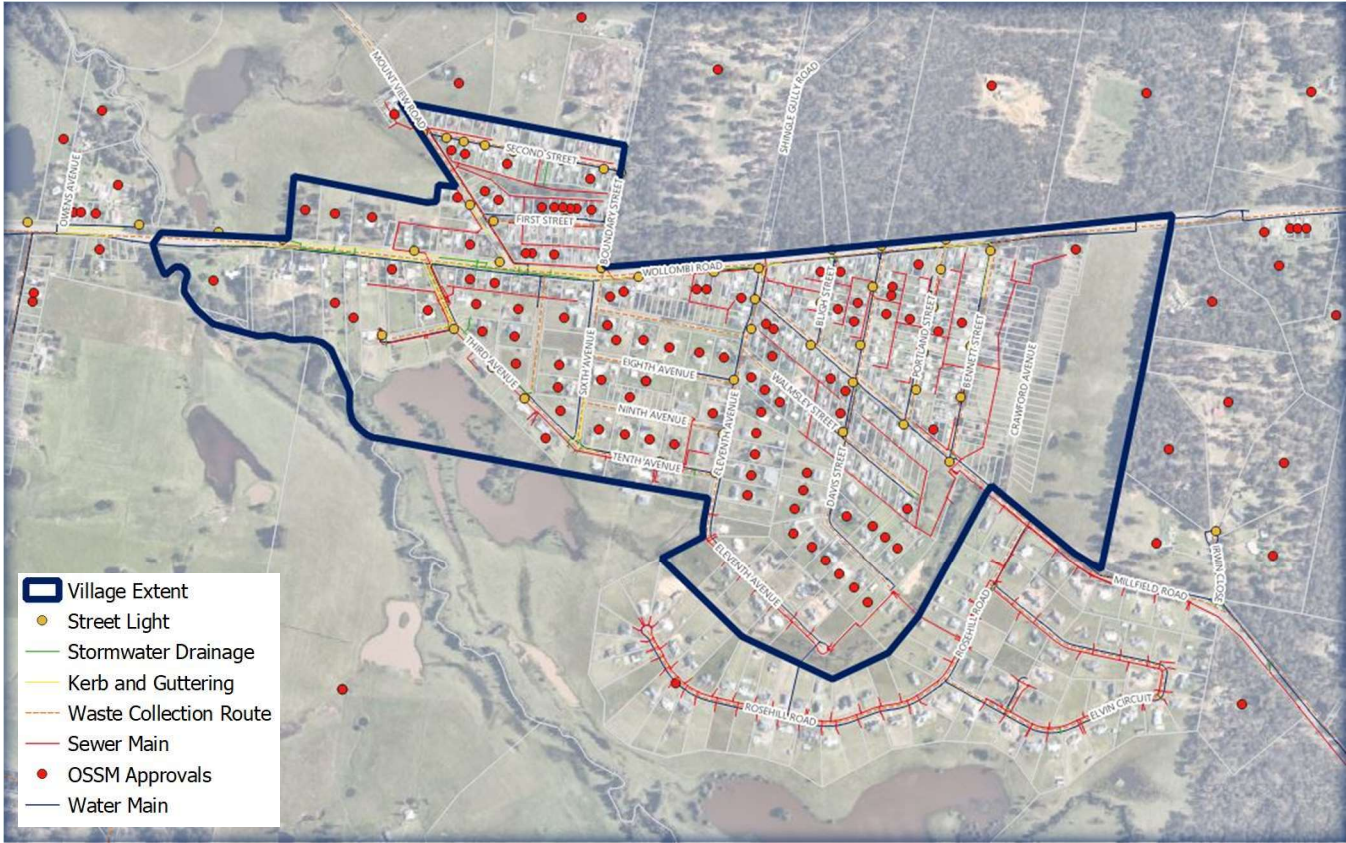


Figure 6: Servicing Infrastructure

## Connectivity

Wollombi Road connects Millfield to Cessnock and Wollombi. Additionally, connection to Cessnock via Mount View and Bellbird is also available from Mount View Road. Millfield is connected to Paxton and Ellalong via Millfield/Sanctuary Road.

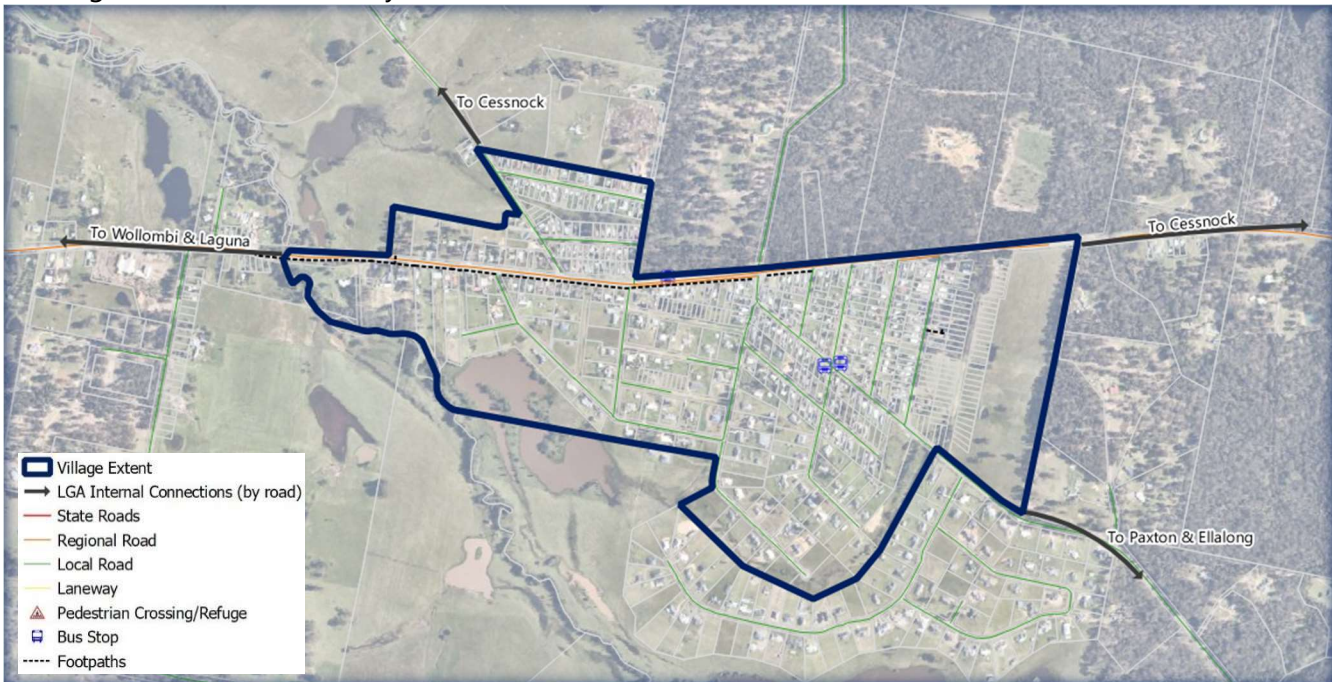


Figure 7: Connectivity within and beyond Millfield



# Millfield

Bus service operate between Cessnock, Ellalong, Paxton and Millfield at approximately two hourly intervals during the week (from 6:15am), with three and four services at three to four hourly intervals respectively on Saturday and Sundays.<sup>12</sup>

A school bus service operates to / from Millfield and Bellbird / Cessnock and Mount View<sup>13</sup>.

## Open Space and Public Domain

Exclusive of the cemetery outside of the village extent, the consolidated area of Crawfordville Park and Millfield Playground provide the only areas of formal open space in the village. This incorporates Millfield Skatepark which opened in May 2021.

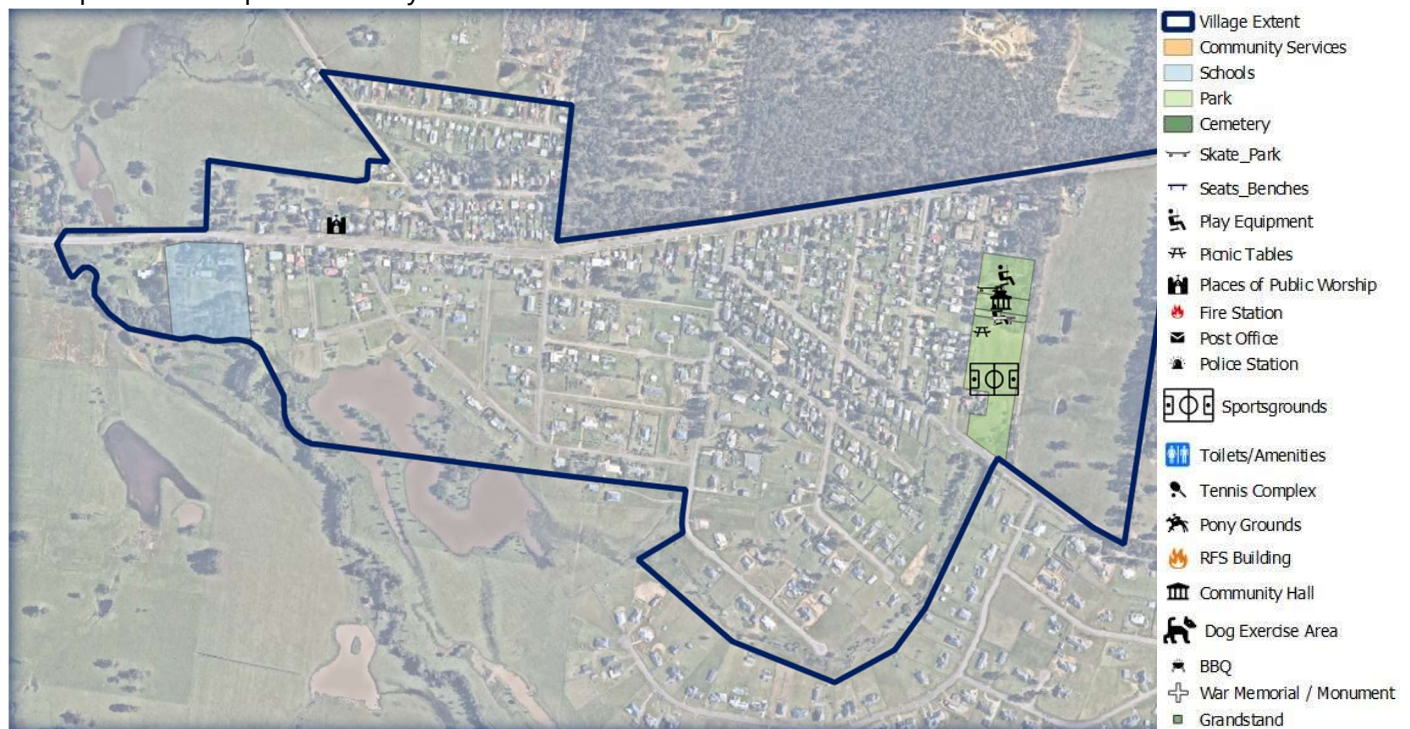


Figure 8: Existing Facilities / Embellishments within Open Space Areas



Plate 5: Examples of Open Space Crawfordville Park

The park provides opportunities for both active and passive recreation, with the hall/community building (former infant school) providing an indoor space for community groups and gatherings. There are no formal plantings within this locality, however car parking areas have been sealed and line marked.

<sup>12</sup> Transport for NSW Bus Route 168 [https://www.rovercoaches.com.au/client\\_images/2199049.pdf](https://www.rovercoaches.com.au/client_images/2199049.pdf), accessed 15 November 2021

<sup>13</sup> Rover Coaches School Timetable, 2021, School Services <https://www.rovercoaches.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=256899>, accessed 15 November 2021

Table 1: Recreation Facilities<sup>14</sup>

Name	Hierarchy	Area	Facilities / Embellishments
Crawfordville Park	Local Sportsground	1.97 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fencing</li> <li>▪ Sheltered picnic bench and table</li> <li>▪ 1 turf cricket pitch</li> </ul>
Millfield Playground	Local Park	1.23 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Car park</li> <li>▪ Community building</li> <li>▪ Playground</li> <li>▪ Sheltered picnic bench and tables</li> <li>▪ Skate park</li> </ul>

Exclusive of street lighting, there are no public domain improvements within the new subdivision areas of Millfield, and only a few examples of streetscape improvements within the original village, such as tourist information signage and landscaping in front of some lot boundaries along Wollombi Road.

Entry signage is consistent with Council's Signage Strategy, as are some street name signs, however others are not.

Front boundary fencing comprises a number of forms and materials including timber picket/paling, galvanised mesh, metal sheeting, post and rail fencing or none.

### **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.

<sup>14</sup> Cessnock City Council Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020



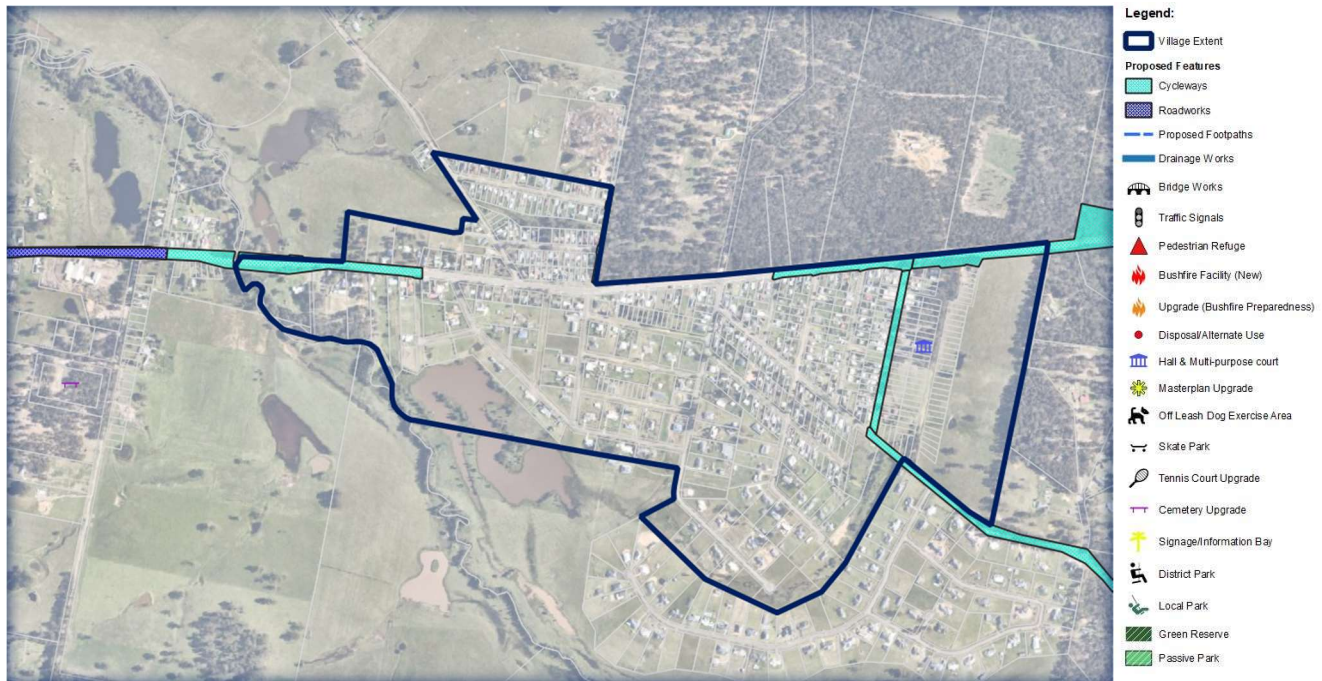


Figure 9: Audit Outcomes - Planned works and Infrastructure

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

Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
Community Facilities	Community Infrastructure Strategic Plan 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	Upgrade to Millfield hall and multi-purpose court
	City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New bushfire facility
Cycleways / Paths / Trails	2021 – 2022 Capital Works Program	Pathway – Rose Hill Estate to Wollombi Road via Crawford Park Phase 1 – investigation and design, Phase 2 – detailed design, Phase 3 - construction
	Trails Strategy	Upgrade existing Council controlled trails, advocate for improvements to trails managed by other agencies and progress with current trail development projects (with reference to the Great North Walk)
	City Wide Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2020	Great Wineries Walk off-road path - Millfield to Pokolbin
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New local off-road path on Boundary Street - URA to Wollombi Road
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New local off-road path on Bennett Street - Wollombi Rd to Millfield Rd
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local	New district off-road path on Wollombi Road – Bennett Street to Bligh Street

Category	Strategy / Plan	Action	
	Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020		
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New district on-road connection on Wollombi Road – Doyle Street, Bellbird to Bennett Street	
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New district on-road connection on Wollombi Road – First Avenue to Wollombi	
Land Use Planning	Urban Growth Management Plan	Rose Hill - URA developed to capacity- village lifestyle lots Millfield CC5 – current URA - village lifestyle lots Mount View Road – proposed URA for village lifestyle lots – not yet commenced	
	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.
			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.
	City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New local park / upgrade to existing park Mount View Road (location to be determined)	
Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020	Investigate opportunities to accommodate increased demand from population growth at low utilised facilities, including: Crawfordville Park, Millfield		
Other Open Space	Millfield Cemetery Masterplan 2019 / City wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	Upgrade to existing cemetery - New seating, wayfinding signage and landscaping, formalized road and upgraded fencing	
Public Transport	City wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	Wollombi Road - one bus stop/shelter	
	Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021 – 2025	Support safe and accessible transport options	



Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
Recreation Buildings / Amenities	Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021 - 2025	Improve the accessibility of public spaces and facilities
Recreation Facilities	2021 – 2022 Capital Works Program / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	Construction of Skatepark – Crawfield Community Hall/Park
Roads and Drainage	2021 – 2022 Capital Works Program	Rehabilitation of the existing road for 4.1km from Owens Avenue, Millfield to Cedar Creek Road, Cedar Creek Wollombi Road upgrade Stage 7.2 from Hayes Road towards Cedar Creek Road Phase 1 – investigation and design, Phase 2 – detailed design, Phase 3 – construction
	Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2020	Prioritise the upgrade, maintenance and visual amenity of high volume tourist entry points to the Cessnock LGA. These roads include Freemans Drive, Leggetts Drive, Lake Road, Lovedale Road, Wine Country Drive and Wollombi Road.
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.