

North Rothbury



North Rothbury is located between the villages of Branxton and Nulkaba, located on the eastern side of Wine Country Drive. The village extent does not include the recently developed land known as "Huntlee", nor that area south of the original settlement, known as "Hanwood Estate".

The village is formed around a natural depression/water course, with development occurring on both northern and southern slopes. North Rothbury is zoned RU5 Village with a mapped minimum lot size of 750m².

Figure 1: North Rothbury Village Extent

Social Environment¹

The village has a moderate population size, and a relatively low median age, similar to that of the population in Greta. Rent is generally more expensive in North Rothbury compared to other villages.

Over half of the households in North Rothbury are couples with children, and a further 31.9% being couples. Approximately 12% of households are one-parent families. Over half of the dwellings in North Rothbury are being purchased, with at least 30% owned outright.

Approximately 27% of the population of North Rothbury had obtained a Certificate level qualification, whilst 11.8% having obtained a Bachelor, or degree or higher qualification. Approximately 29% of the population report an education to Year 11 or below.

The village has a comparatively high SEIFA (IRSD) Index score, meaning it is one of the least disadvantaged villages within the LGA.



**Total
Population: 898**



**Indigenous
Population:
5.4%**



Median Age: 33



**Average Weekly
Household
Income: \$1,600**



**Average Weekly
Rent: \$340**



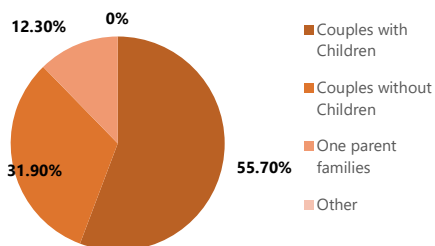
**Average
Monthly
Mortgage:
\$1,792**

¹ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13162), accessed 14 October 2021

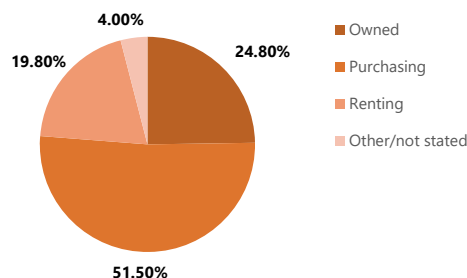
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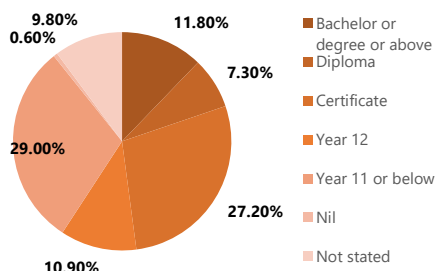
Household types



Housing tenure



Highest level of education



SEIFA (IRSD) Index Score²

1021

Economic Environment³

Over half of the resident population of North Rothbury (aged over 15 years) reported being employed in a full-time capacity, with a further 33% reported being employed on a part-time basis.

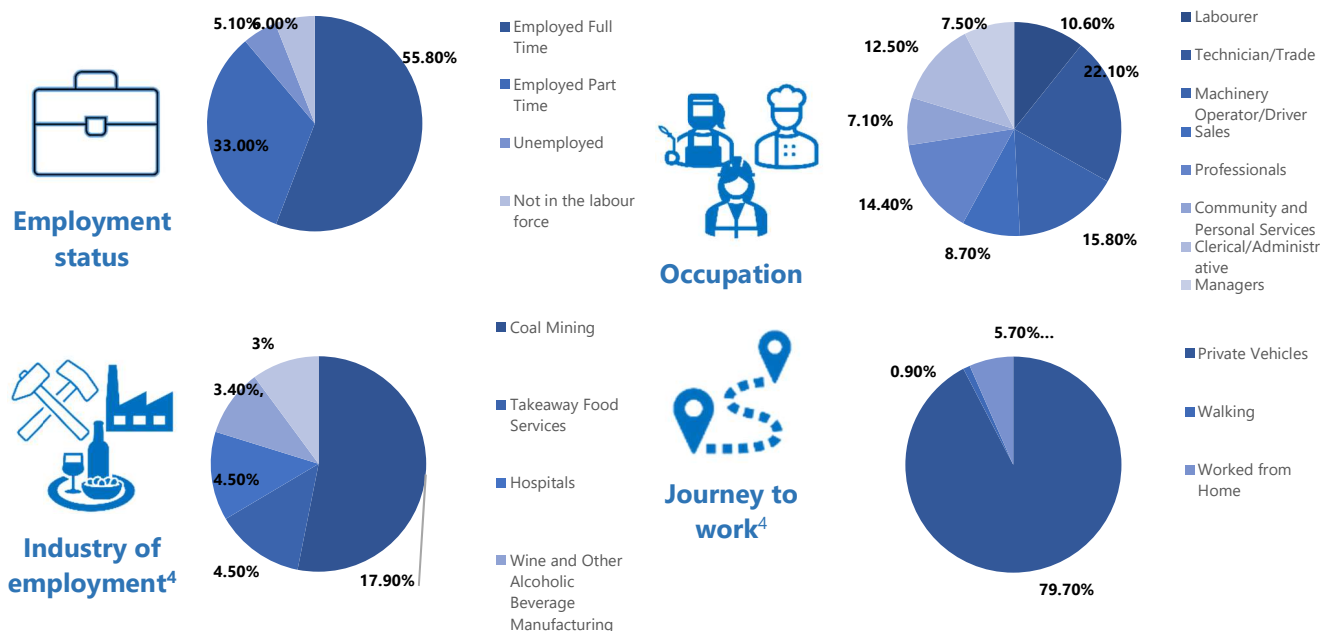
Technicians/trades, Sales, Community and Personal Service and Clerical or Administrative occupations are amongst the most prevalent of the population, with the coal mining industry being the top industry of employment.

The majority of residents travelled to work as either a passenger or driver of a private motor vehicle, however approximately 5.7% of the population worked from home.

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 \(cat. no. 2033.0.55.001\)](https://www.census.gov.au/quickstats/SSC13004), accessed 14 October 2021)

³ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13004), accessed 14 October 2021

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North Rothbury does not have a central commercial core, however there is evidence of past retail activity with converted shops located on Wine Country Drive. There is evidence of home businesses/occupations operating in the village and surrounding localities providing accommodation services.

Built & Natural Environment⁵

Aboriginal Heritage

The village is of moderate to high sensitivity for cultural values. Outside of the village extent, the sensitivity is very high. These areas generally align with the presence of local waterways and water features.

Given the wide scale use of land within the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA), there is also likely to be scattered artefacts, which provide evidence of Aboriginal occupation or the area.

⁴ Top responses only

⁵ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13004), accessed 14 October 2021

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Landscape, Vegetation & Constraints

The village is formed around a natural depression/water course, with elevated side slopes either side of this feature. To the north, views from the village extent over "Huntlee" toward Lambs Mountain (behind Lambs Valley), whilst views from the extent are located toward the Brokenback mountain ranges. Wine Country Road also provides a lineal view corridor, as do many roads within the village.



Plate 1: Landscape Views north (top) south (bottom) Figure 2: View Corridors

Vegetation canopy cover is approximately 18% of the village. Large ironbarks and eucalypts have been retained in some road reserves, and within the frontages of allotments. Large trees have also been retained in areas of open space.

Vegetation to the south and west of the village is relatively dense, as it is to the east. This vegetation in the east however is likely to be cleared for new development associated with "Huntlee." Vegetation along the western extent is categorised as Central Hunter Ironbark-Spotted Gum-Grey Box Forest Threatened Ecological Community (TEC).

The surrounding vegetation is Category 1 and 3 bushfire prone vegetation, with the village extents being within bushfire buffers.

During the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability Event (AEP) event, flooding within the central depressed section of the villages occurs, which can overtop Wine Country Drive.

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Figure 3: Vegetation Cover

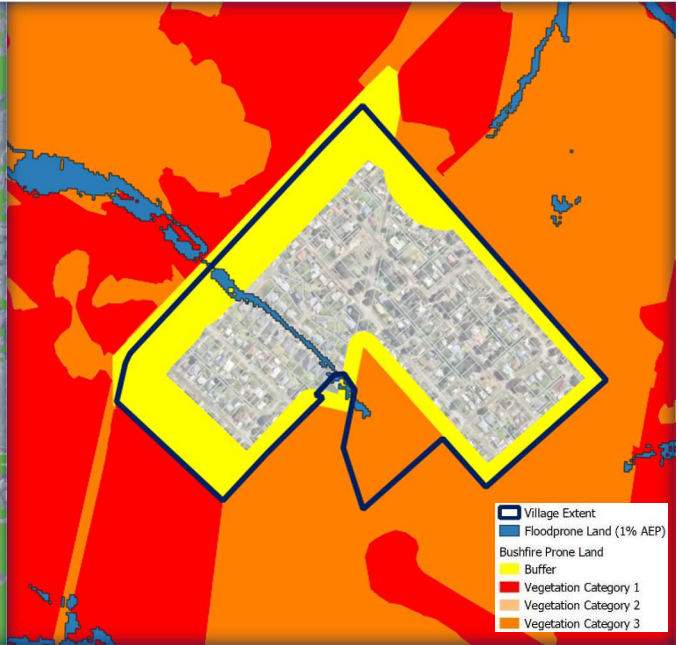


Figure 4: Bushfire Vegetation Categories and Flood prone Land

European Heritage

The establishment and growth of North Rothbury can be linked to the establishment of Rothbury Colliery, which opened in 1910. The village was developed with 116 allotments in 1912 to provide accommodation for the miners employed in the mine⁶. A public school was also opened in 1916⁷.

Rothbury Colliery is possibly most famous for being part of the Colliery "Lockout" of 1929.

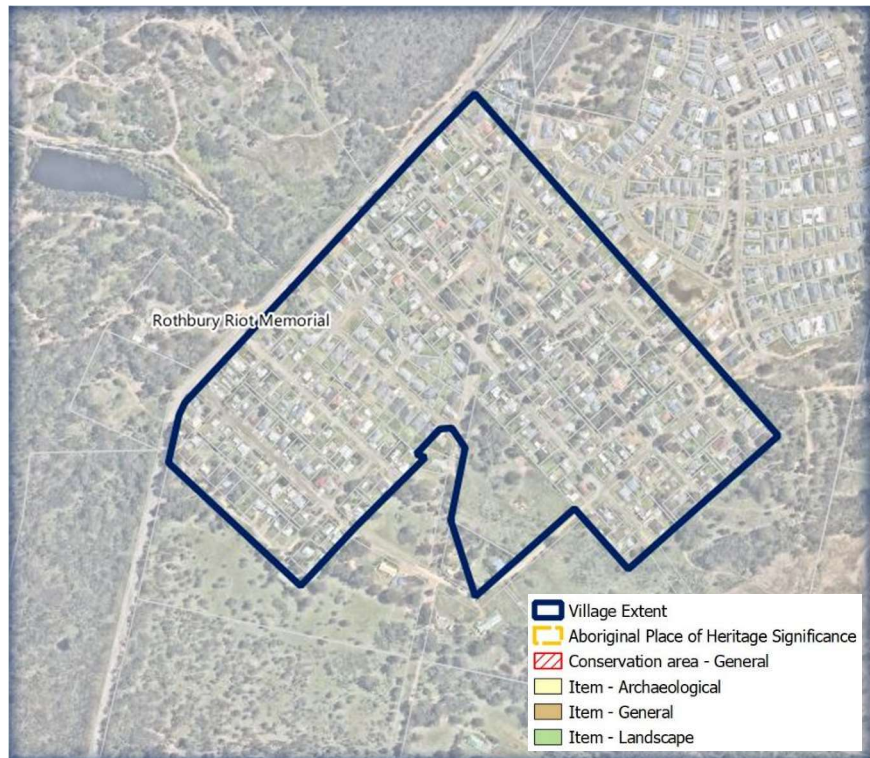


Figure 5: Heritage Items

⁶ Information Signage, Ayrfield Memorial Park, North Rothbury, inspected 1 October 2021

⁷ NSW Government, 2020, A History of NSW government schools, <https://nswgovschoolhistory.cese.nsw.gov.au/schoolHistory?schoolId=6825>, accessed 17 November 2021

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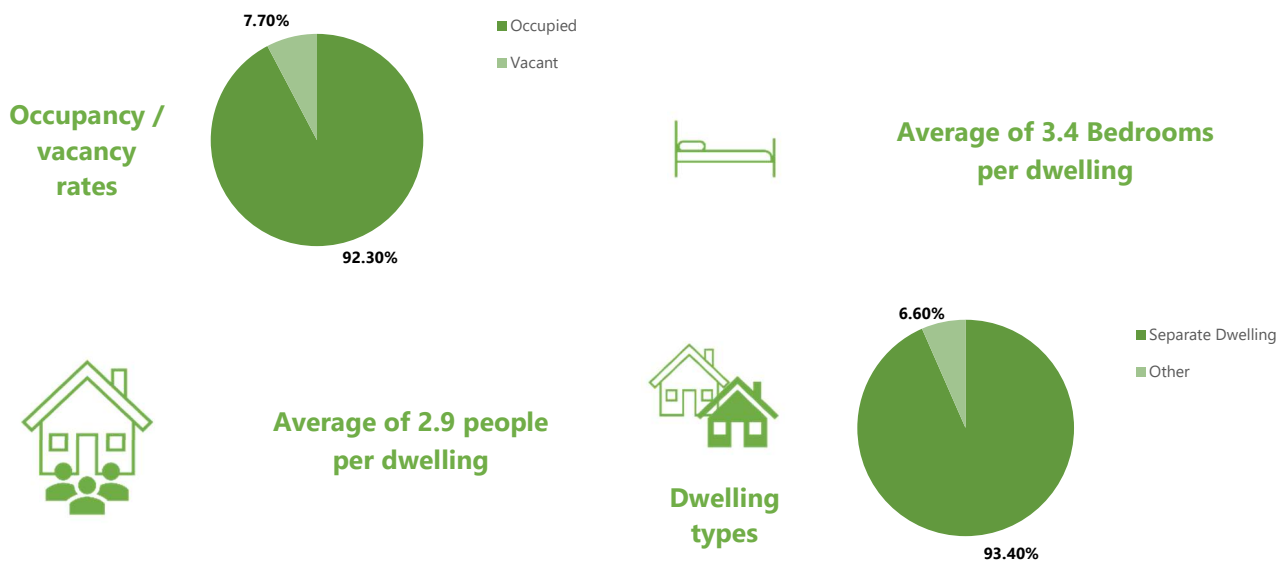
Prior to this in 1928, mine owners and the government had sought to reduce miner's wages by 12 1/2 %. The wage reduction, as well as a loss of other conditions was not accepted by the miners. Consequently, the mine owners locked out the miners, who were supported financially by the union. In December 1929, non-union labourers were brought in to reopen the mine. On 16 December 1929, Union members clashed with the Police where one death occurred, and many were injured. The colliery re-opened in June 1930 with union miners, but closed in 1931⁸.



The Rothbury Riot memorial was erected in memorium of this event. The memorial is heritage listed.

Plate 2: Rothbury Riot Memorial

Built Form & Density



The village was established during the early 1900's. The subdivision pattern is reflective of this era, being generally grid-like with mid-block laneways (unformed).

Laneways appear to be utilised frequently and there is a reliance on on-street parking. There is limited consistency with fencing types and styles, both along lot frontages and between allotments.

⁸ Rothbury Riot Anniversary: 60 years 1929 – 1989, 1989, Northern District Miners Women's Auxiliary NSW, <https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/80857?keywords=rothbury%20colliery&type=all&highlights=eylwjjoicm90aGJ1cnkiLC1xjoiY29sbGllcnkuliwiNil6lnJvdGhidXliLC13joiY29sbGllci9&lsk=49b67d80ada60d059ff74dbf7eec5f36>, accessed 17 November 2021

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Lots are or a regular shape and size, with frontages of approximately 20m and depths of around 40m. Road reserves are in the order of 20m with pavement widths of approximately 5.5m. Front building setbacks are in the order of 6-7m.

The average lot size is approximately 860m² with a dwelling density of approximately 8 dwellings per hectare.

Many dwellings in the locality also reflect the era of the subdivision, being small cottages. There is however a varied mix of dwelling styles and eras of development. More recent development evidence exists, with many dwellings north of Thomas Street, being constructed in the late 20th century. The most recent area of development within the village is that around Olivia Place. Dwellings are predominantly single dwellings.



Plate 3: Examples of dwellings

Servicing

North Rothbury is serviced by a reticulated water supply however there is a reliance on individual on-site sewage management systems for domestic effluent disposal.

There is limited stormwater management infrastructure with the village, exclusive of within the area of recent development in and around Olivia/Mason Place, which is also the only area within the village that has kerb and guttering.

Street lighting is at regular intervals along most streets.

The village has general waste, green waste and recycling collection services.

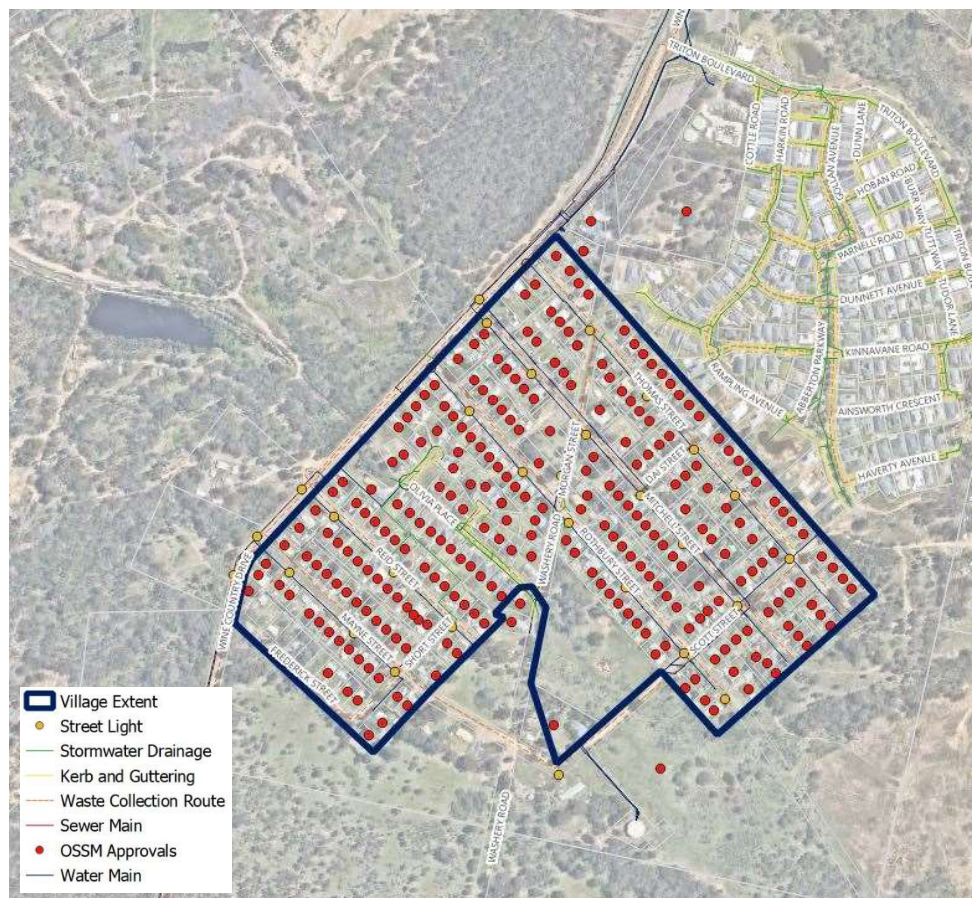


Figure 6: Servicing Infrastructure

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Connectivity

Wine Country Drive connects north Rothbury to both Cessnock (via Nulkaba) and Branxton. Wine Country Drive is a key connections to the vineyards within the LGA used by residents and tourists alike. The village is well positioned for access west to Singleton and east to Maitland/Newcastle via the Hunter Expressway.

A footpath on the eastern side of Wine Country Drive also connects North Rothbury to the Huntlee Development (inclusive of commercial/retail space), the Hunter Expressway and Branxton.

Bus services operate to/from Singleton and North Rothbury via Greta to Maitland / Greenhills (and those villages in between) starting from approximately 7:00am at 30 minute intervals until 10:00am, when services become less frequent up to and through the afternoon between Monday to Friday. Saturday services are fewer, commence later in the morning and stop earlier in the afternoon. Reverse trips reach Greta between 5:30 and 6:00pm⁹.

Open Space and Public Domain

The primary area of open space within North Rothbury is Ayrfield Miners Park, located on the corner of Rothbury, Morgan and Mitchell Streets.

The park comprises a multi-purpose court, play equipment and BBQ/kitchen facilities as well as seating and picnic tables. The kitchen facilities are locked and usage requires prior arrangement with the key holder.

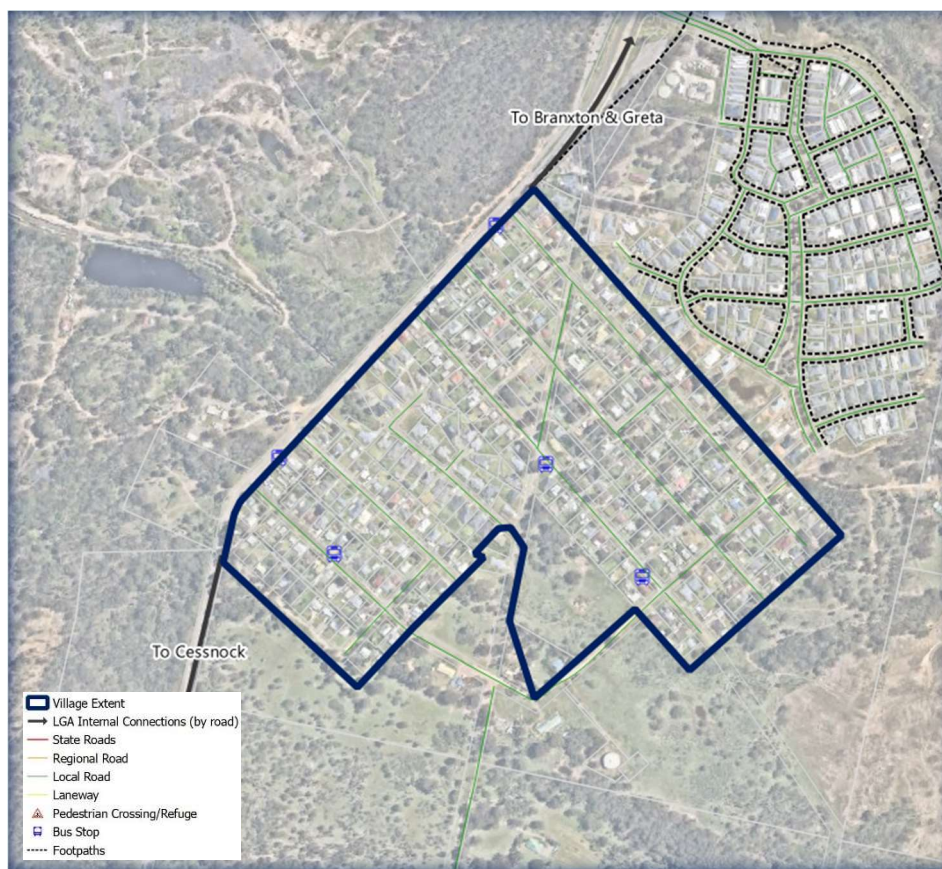


Figure 7: Connectivity within and beyond North Rothbury

⁹ Transport for New South Wales, Route 179 Stockland Green Hills to North Rothbury via Maitland Route <https://transportnsw.info/documents/timetables/46-179-Stockland-Green-Hills-to-North-Rothbury-via-Maitland-20211018.pdf>, Route 180 Stockland Greenhills to Singleton Heights via Maitland <https://transportnsw.info/documents/timetables/46-180-Stockland-Green-Hills-to-Singleton-Heights-via-Maitland-20211018.pdf>, accessed 19 November 2021

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Plate 4: Examples of Open Space – Multi-purpose court (left), Ayrfield Miners Park (right)

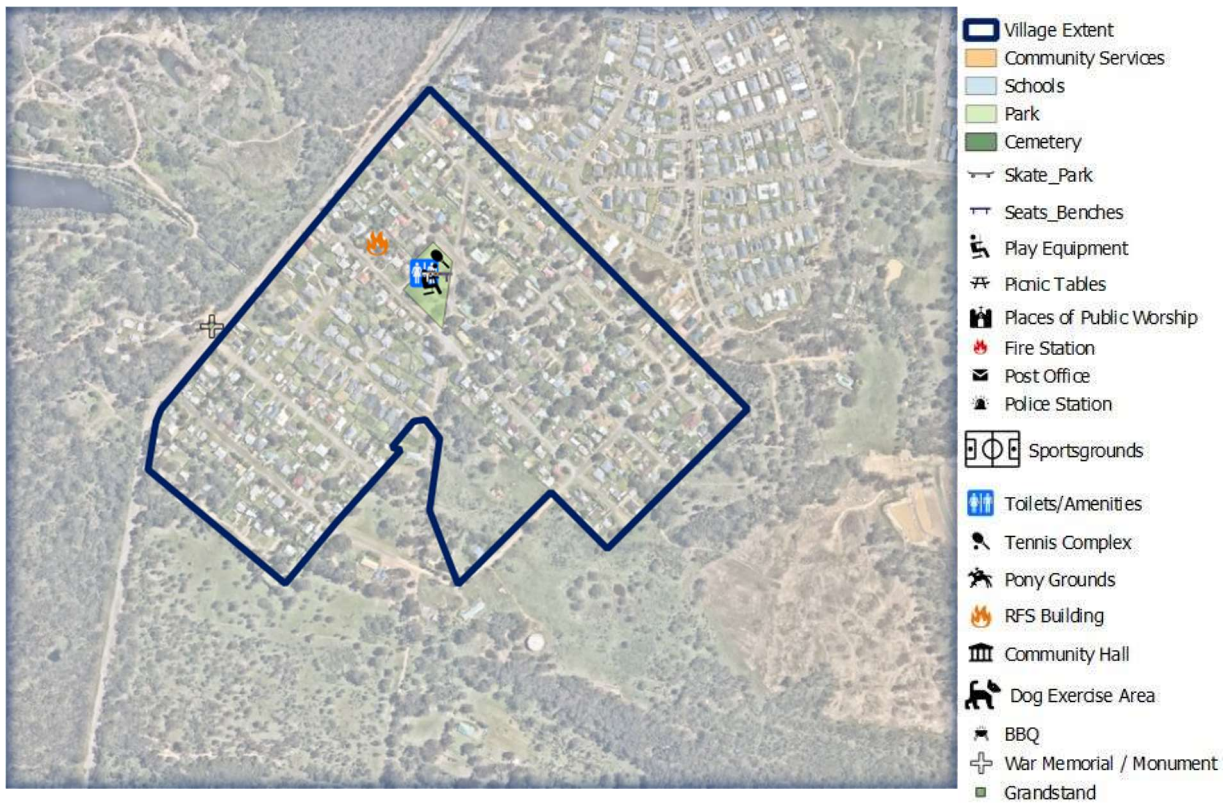


Figure 8: Existing Facilities / Embellishments within Open Space Areas

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Table 1: Recreation Facilities¹⁰

Name	Hierarchy	Area	Facilities / Embellishments
Rothbury Riot Miner's Memorial	Passive Pocket Park	0.01 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bench seat ▪ Fencing ▪ Gardens ▪ Memorial
Ayrfield Miners Memorial Park	Local Park	0.56 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bench seats ▪ Fencing ▪ Multi-purpose court ▪ Playground ▪ Public toilet ▪ Sheltered picnic bench and tables ▪ History/Information Signage ▪ Kitchen

Many large trees remain in the road reserve and in the private domain, particularly those in the eastern and southern sections of the village.

The existing village is not well-integrated with the "Huntlee" development, which is clearly delineated by colour bond fencing. Other fencing within the village includes metal sheeting, galvanised mesh, timber post and rail, sandstone, and timber picket/paling fences.

Entry signage is consistent with Council's current signage strategy, however street name signs are not.

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.

¹⁰ Cessnock City Council Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020

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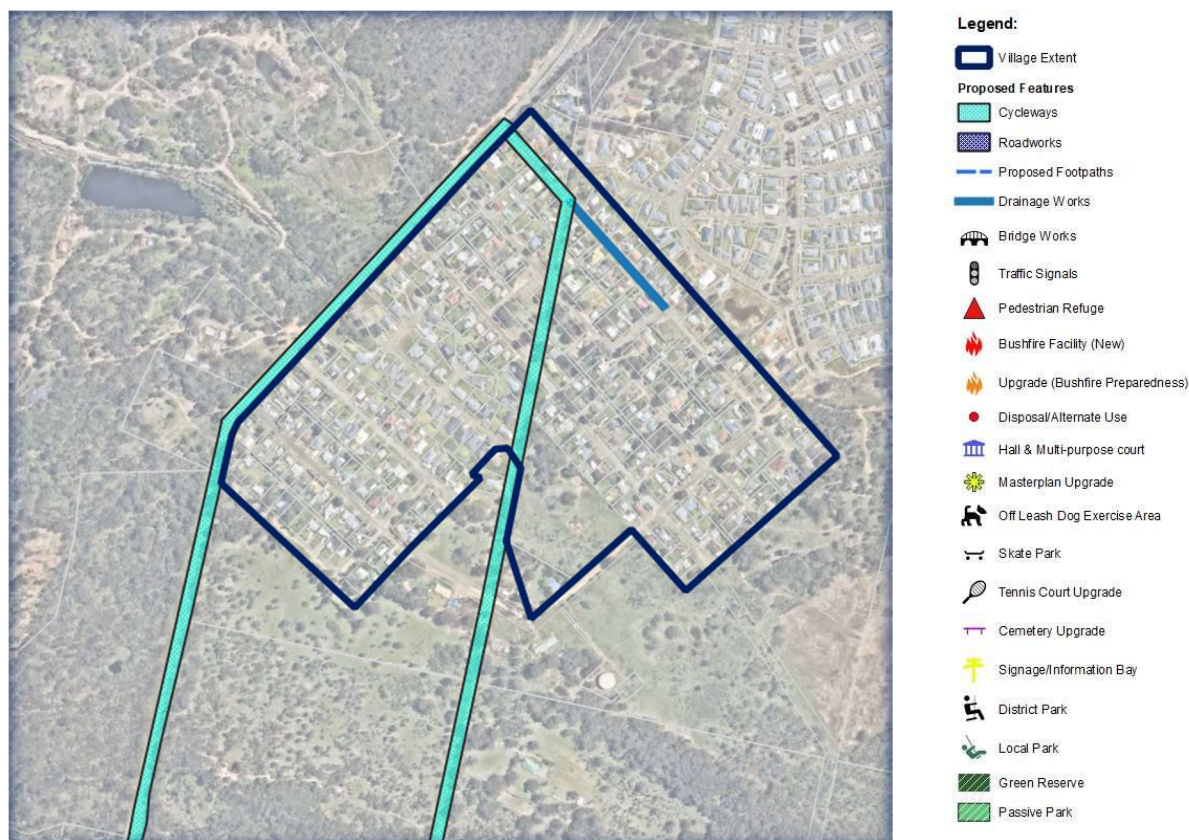


Figure 9: Audit Outcomes - Planned works and Infrastructure

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 off-off road pathway on Washery Road/Morgan Street and Thomas Street, connecting to existing cycleway on Wine Country Drive
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New regional on-road connection on Wine Country Drive from Old North Road to Thomas Street
Land Use Planning	2021 – 2022 Operational Plan	Create or review and update all policies identified as required or are due for review: D_26 Building approval conditions for land fronting unmade roads, North Rothbury
	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

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Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
		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.
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	Thomas Street Road Drainage Rehabilitation
Water and Sewer	2021 – 2022 Operational Plan	Participate in Hunter Water Corporation investigation and final report for North Rothbury Priority Sewerage Scheme