

# Paxton



Paxton is centrally located between Millfield and Ellalong. It is one of the bead of villages encountered when travelling to/from the rural west of the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA).

Like both Ellalong and Millfield, the establishment of Paxton related to the growth of the coal mining industry in the area.

The village has a diverse range of housing ages, styles and lot sizes. Paxton is zoned RU5 Village and R5 Large Lot Residential with mapped minimum lot sizes of 750m<sup>2</sup> and 2,000m<sup>2</sup> respectively.

Figure 1: Paxton Village Extent

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

The village has a moderate total population, with a comparatively higher indigenous population than other villages within the Cessnock Local Government Area (LGA). The predominant household types are couples with (48.6%) and without (29.6%) children.

The village has a comparably higher indigenous population than other villages.

There is a high rate of home ownership, with over 31% of homes owned outright, and a further 52% of homes being purchased. 25.5% of the population reported having obtained a Certificate level education, whilst close to 40% of the population reported an education level to Year 11 or below.



**Total  
Population: 942**



**Indigenous  
Population  
10.1%**



**Median Age: 36**



**Average Weekly  
Household  
Income: \$1,257**



**Average Weekly  
Rent: \$273**



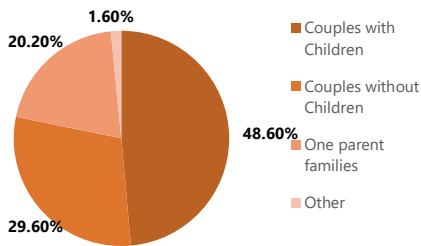
**Average  
Monthly  
Mortgage:  
\$1,549**

<sup>1</sup> ABS 2016 Quick Stats ([https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13162](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13162)), accessed 14 October 2021

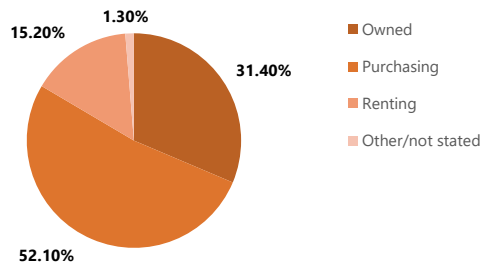
# Paxton



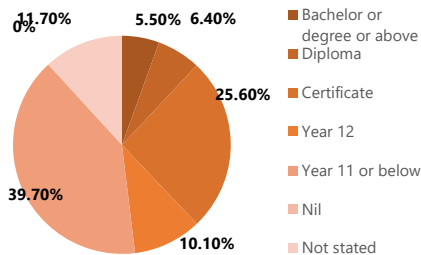
**Household types**



**Housing tenure**



**Highest level of education**



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

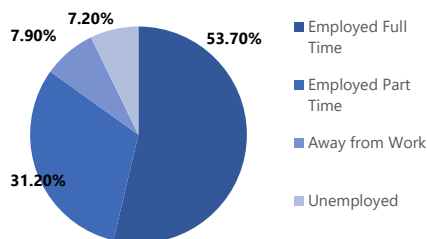
**947**

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

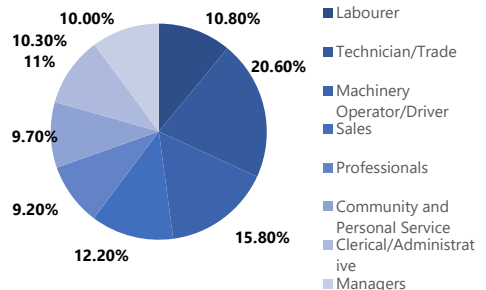
In 2016, over 53% of the population of Paxton (aged over the age of 15) reported being employed on a full-time basis, with a further 31.2% being employed on a part time basis. Technicians/Trades, Machinery Operators/Drivers and Sales made up the highest proportion of employment in the village, with Coal Mining representing the top industry of employment. Most people travelled to work by private vehicle as either a driver or passenger.



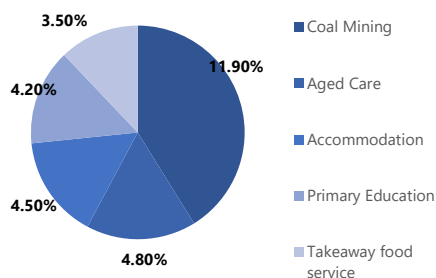
**Employment status**



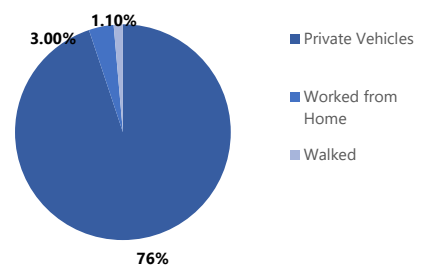
**Occupation**



**Industry of employment<sup>4</sup>**



**Journey to work<sup>4</sup>**



<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/ausstats/abs@/lookup/census?catno=2033.0.55.001), accessed 14 October 2021)

<sup>3</sup> ABS 2016 Quick Stats ([https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13162](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13162)), accessed 14 October 2021

<sup>4</sup> Top responses only

# Paxton

Businesses within Paxton include a Bowling Club, general store and pub/hotel. Home businesses/occupations also exist in the locality. Surrounding industry includes a coalmine and accommodation services.



Plate 1: Examples of Businesses in Paxton (left to right) Bowling Club, General Store & Pub/Hotel

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

### Aboriginal Heritage

Waterholes are a source of fresh water for Aboriginal groups that may have traditional ceremonial or dreaming significance and/or may also be used to the present day as a rich resource gathering area<sup>6</sup>. Ellalong Lagoon, also accessible and visible from Paxton, has been identified as being an important cultural feature as has much of the surrounding locality, particularly along creek lines.

Given the wide scale use of land within the Cessnock LGA and the area, there are scattered artefacts, Potential Archaeological Deposits (PAD) and art sites that provide evidence of Aboriginal occupation or the area.

### Landscape, Vegetation & Constraints

Paxton Village is slightly elevated from surrounding land but still has relatively low elevation in comparison to the mountain ranges that surround the village to the east and west. Surrounding drainage and creek lines (including Congewoi Creek) feed into Ellalong Lagoon system. Many areas of the village offer views of these surrounding mountains.



Figure 2: Significant View Corridors

<sup>5</sup> ABS 2016 Quick Stats ([https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13162](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13162)), accessed 14 October 2021

<sup>6</sup> Virtus Heritage 2021, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study, Cessnock City Council

# Paxton



Plate 2: View Corridors (left to right) Millfield Road (to the west), Millfield Road (to the east – Ellalong Lagoon), western view from village interior

Paxton is surrounded by dense vegetation all sides excluding the south-west (the site of the former Paxton Colliery), which is generally cleared with scattered trees.

Vegetation within the village is sparse at approximately 10% canopy coverage, with the most contiguous area of vegetation being that surrounding the school and adjoining park.

Vegetation surrounding the village includes Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), including Lower Hunter Spotted-Gum Ironbark Forest and River-flat Eucalypt Forest TECs.

This vegetation is predominantly Category 1 bushfire prone. Vegetation within the village extent does not present a bushfire risk, however there would be risk associated with ember attack.

During the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability Event (AEP) event, Paxton becomes isolated, with local creeks and waterways overtopping connecting roadways.



Figure 3: Vegetation Cover

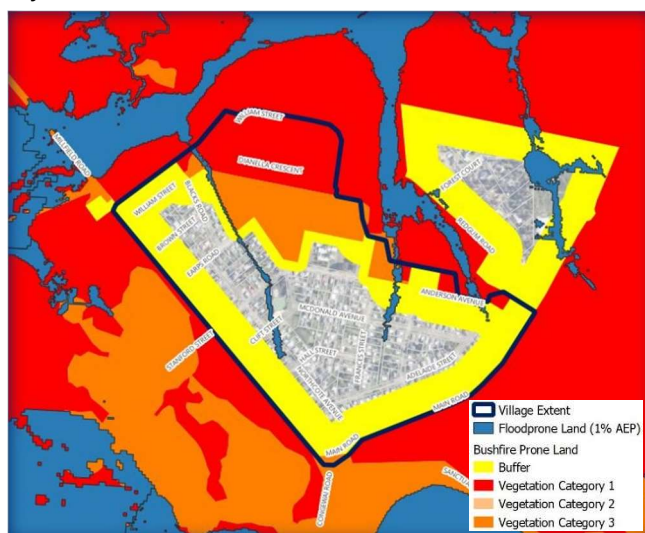


Figure 4: Bushfire Vegetation Categories and Flood prone Land

# Paxton

## European Heritage

The village of Paxton was established in 1922 by the East Greta Coal Mining Company to provide housing for miners of the Stanford Main No. 2 Colliery<sup>7</sup> (Paxton Colliery/Coal Mine). Many streets within the subdivision were named after company officials within East Greta Coal Mining Company<sup>8</sup>.

The mine itself commenced operations with the sinking of bores in 1919<sup>131</sup>.

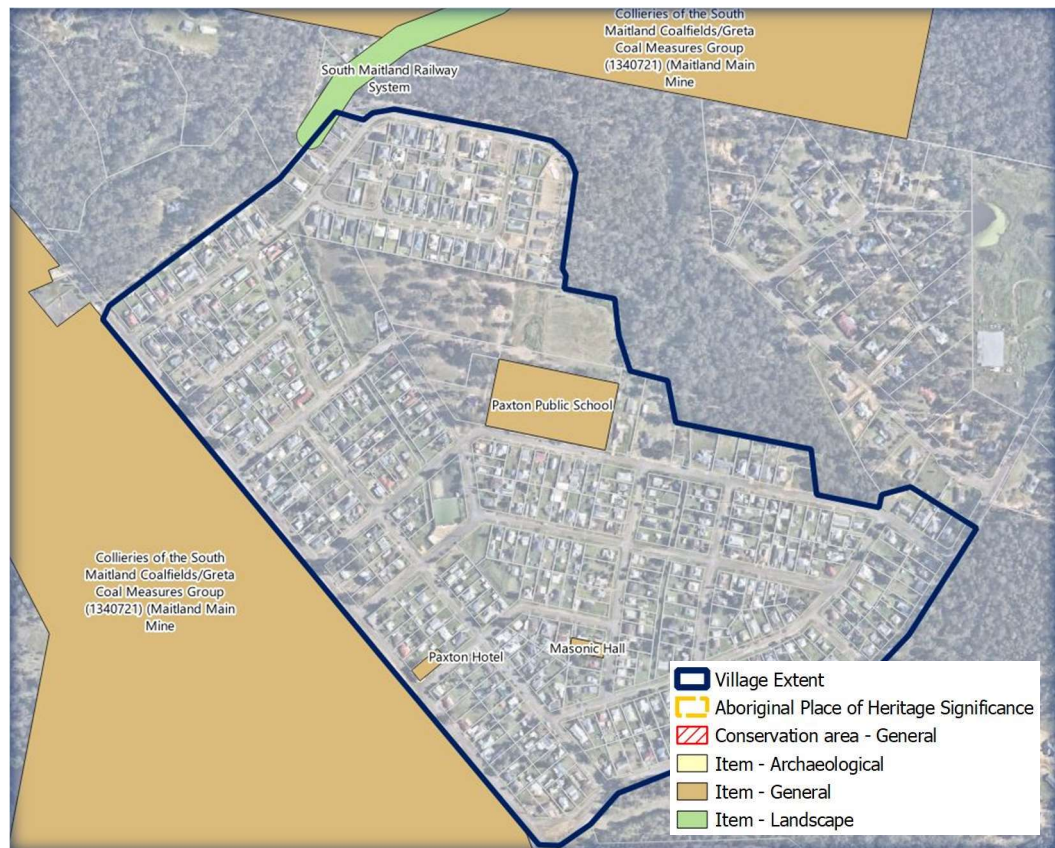


Figure 5: Heritage Items



Plate 3: Examples of heritage (left to right) Former colliery buildings and Paxton Hotel

The mine closed in 1961. Many buildings remain on the site, including the former pay office, bath house (constructed in the early 1950's), powerhouse, winding engine house, chimney and head frame.

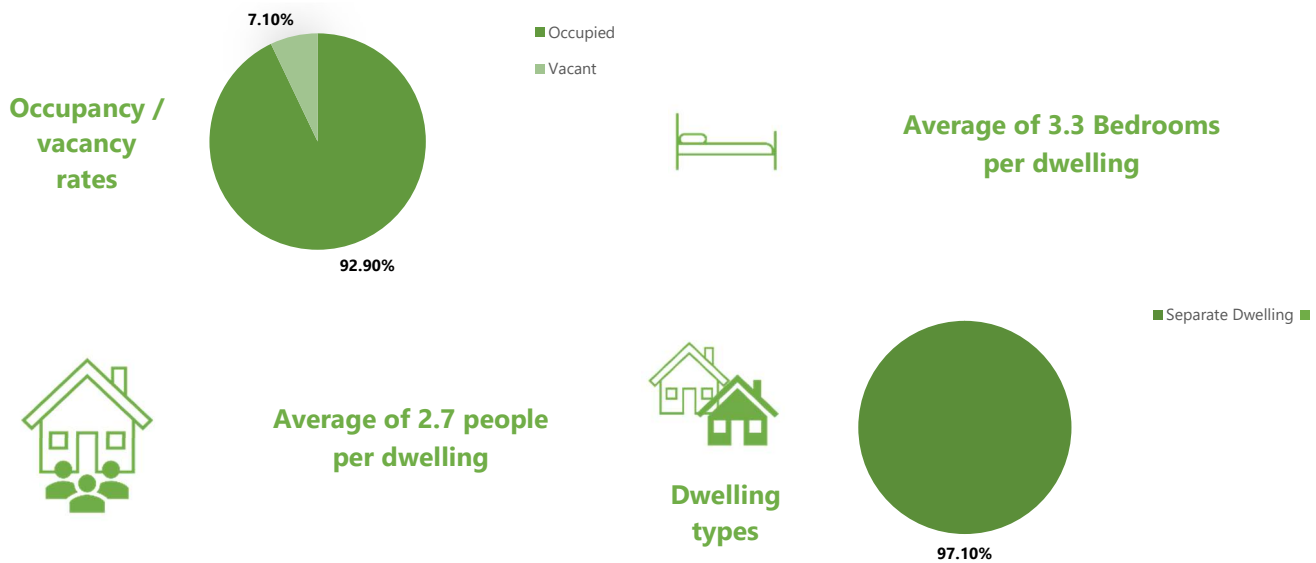
Other heritage listed items within the village include the Paxton Hotel, Masonic Hall and Paxton Public School, all of which were developed to support the village during the operation of the mine.

<sup>7</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 18 November 2021

<sup>8</sup> Cessnock City Council, 2011, Cessnock Development Control Plan Part E Specific Areas: E.4 Stanford Main, <https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/hprtrim/information-management-plans-strategies-website/land-use-planning--cessnock-dcp-2010--e4-stanford-main--ccc-website-doc.pdf>, accessed 18 November 2021

# Paxton

## Built Form & Density



Outside of the village extent, two large lot residential subdivisions exist, on Redgum Road (with an average lot size of approximately 5,000m<sup>2</sup>), and the other on Dunlop Drive, (comprising much larger lots in the order of 1.7 hectares).

There are two distinct areas of development within the village extent.

In the original 1922 subdivision, the pattern is a grid-like, with regular sized and shaped allotments. However, curved roads and irregular shaped lots have been introduced to land between Northcote Avenue, Adelaide Street and Anderson Avenue to account for the triangular shape of the area.

Lots in the original subdivision are in the order of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> with a dwelling density of approximately 5 dwellings per hectare. Lots have frontages of approximately 18-20m and depths of around 50m.

Road reserves are wide, in the order of 20m, with verges of approximately 6m either side of the road pavement. Laneways do not exist in the subdivision, however mid-block drainage easements exist between Frances and Sawyer Streets, and between Northcote and McDonald Avenues.

The predominant dwelling type is detached dwellings. Many dwellings are representative of common built form of the era, including cottages with combination front gable and hipped roofing, however some renewal within the original subdivision is occurring, with some contemporary homes evident, particularly along Anderson Avenue.

Dwellings are generally located toward the frontage of lots. Front boundary fencing is irregular with forms including galvanised mesh, hedging, colourbond, pickets, and post and rail fences. Some canopy cover exists within the private domain, however, many lots are cleared.

The second area is a new subdivision located north of the original village area. The subdivision comprises an external perimeter road, coupled with one internal though road and two cul-de-sacs, which support battle-axed lots.

# Paxton

In this locality, road reserves vary in width, with the widest being the perimeter road at 20m, down to approximately 13m in the cul-de-sacs. Road verges range from approximately 4m to 3m. Dwelling styles are contemporary project homes, set back generally 4m from the lot boundary.

The average lot size is approximately 810m<sup>2</sup>, and the dwelling density is around 10 dwellings per hectare. Within this locality, homes are generally separate dwellings, however, there is evidence of higher density development, including dual occupancies and secondary dwellings/studios. There is little to no canopy cover in this locality.



Plate 4: Examples of dwellings

## Servicing

Paxton village is supplied with reticulated water and sewerage infrastructure.

Kerb and guttering is located on Millfield Road, in the block where the general store is located, and along the street frontages of new developments. Stormwater is managed by a series of road culverts and inter-lot drainage easements.

General waste, green waste and recycling collection services operate within the village.

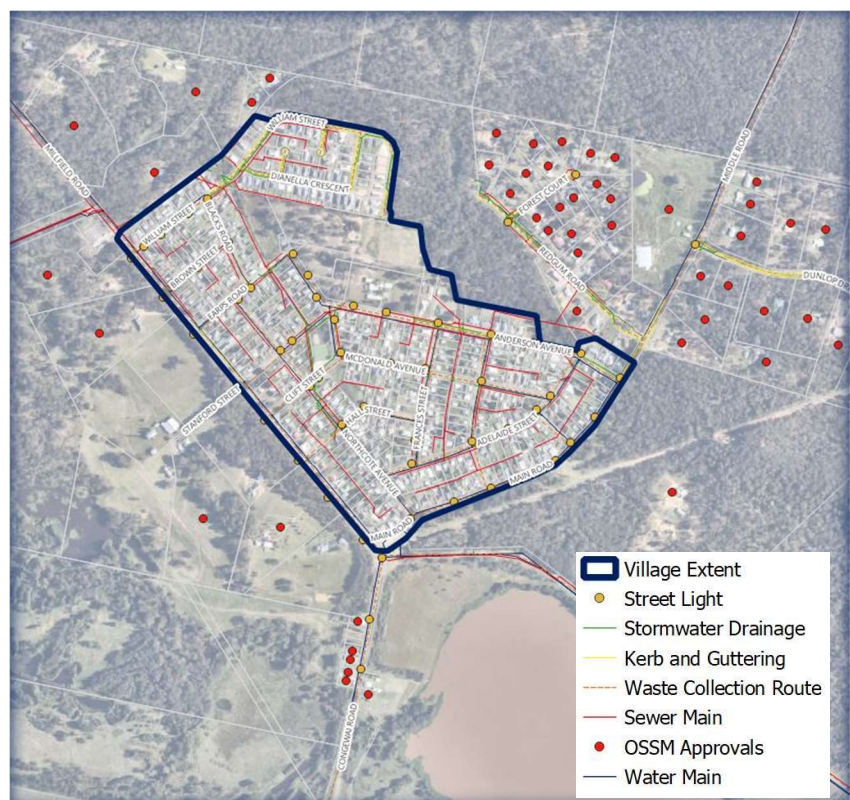


Figure 6: Servicing Infrastructure

# Paxton

Street lighting is at regular intervals through the village, but minimal within the park.

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>9</sup>

## Connectivity

Paxton is centrally located between Millfield and Ellalong. It is one of the bead of villages encountered when travelling to/from the rural west.

Paxton is connected to Bellbird/Cessnock via Middle Road, to Millfield via Millfield Road and to Ellalong via Sanctuary Road. It is also connected to the hamlet of Congewoi via Congewoi Road.

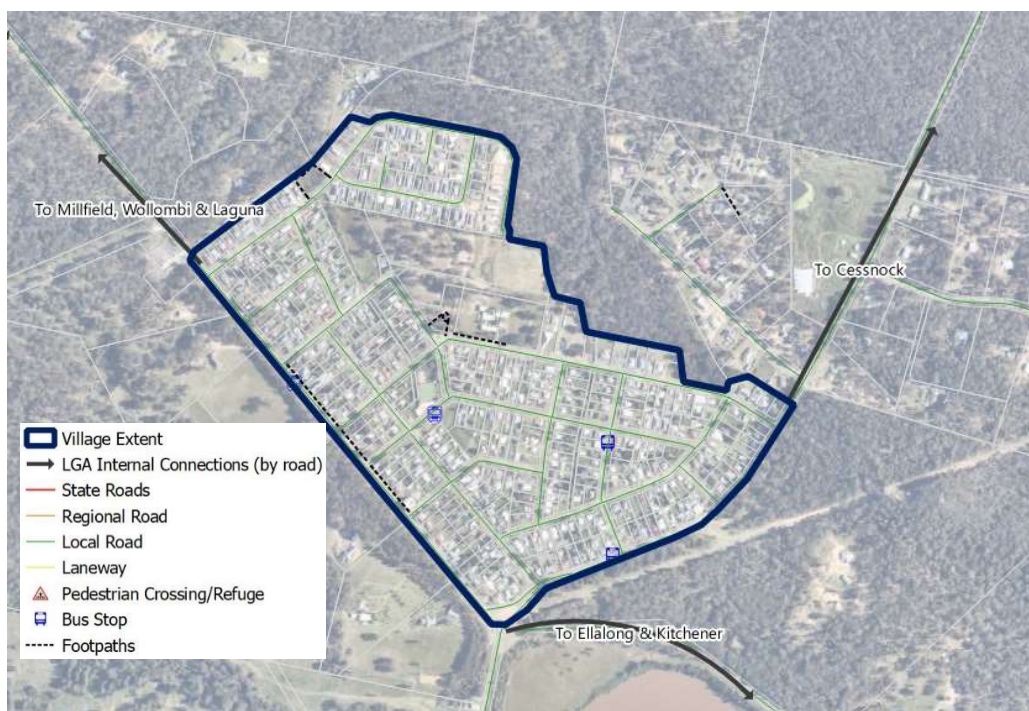


Figure 7: Connectivity within and beyond Paxton

A series of easements and informal tracks through bushland also provide some degree of connectivity to adjoining villages.

Internally, a footpath from the Hotel (Hall Street) runs for a section of Millfield Road to Earps Road and in front of the public school on Anderson Avenue. Pedestrian movement within the village is otherwise required to use the road/road reserves.

## Open Space and Public Domain

The primary area of public open space in Paxton is Paxton Park, located on Anderson Avenue adjoining the public school. The park comprises a shaded play equipment area and seating. The northern portion of the park supports a series of informal tracks between scattered trees.

Private recreational tennis and lawn bowl facilities are provided by the Bowling Club, located on McDonald Avenue. Millfield Road is also on the route of the Great North Walk.

<sup>9</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 19 November 2021



# Paxton



Plate 5: Examples of Open Space (left to right) Paxton Park, Tennis/bowling facilities at Paxton Bowling Club, Great North Walk



Figure 8: Existing Facilities / Embellishments within Open Space Areas

Table 1: Recreation Facilities<sup>10</sup>

Name	Hierarchy	Area	Facilities / Embellishments
Paxton Park	Local Park	1.30 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bench seat</li> <li>▪ Fencing</li> <li>▪ Lighting</li> <li>▪ Path</li> </ul>

Some street trees exist in the original subdivision road reserves, however are limited in application and species selection. A street tree planting program has been implemented in the new subdivision.

<sup>10</sup> Cessnock City Council Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020

# Paxton

In most cases, there is not a clear delineation between the public and private domain, with many lots not comprising front fencing (particularly in the new subdivision), and a range of fence types and materials have been adopted in the original subdivision.

Drainage easements within the original subdivision appear well-maintained.

Entry signage is consistent with Council's Signage Strategy, however internal road 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.

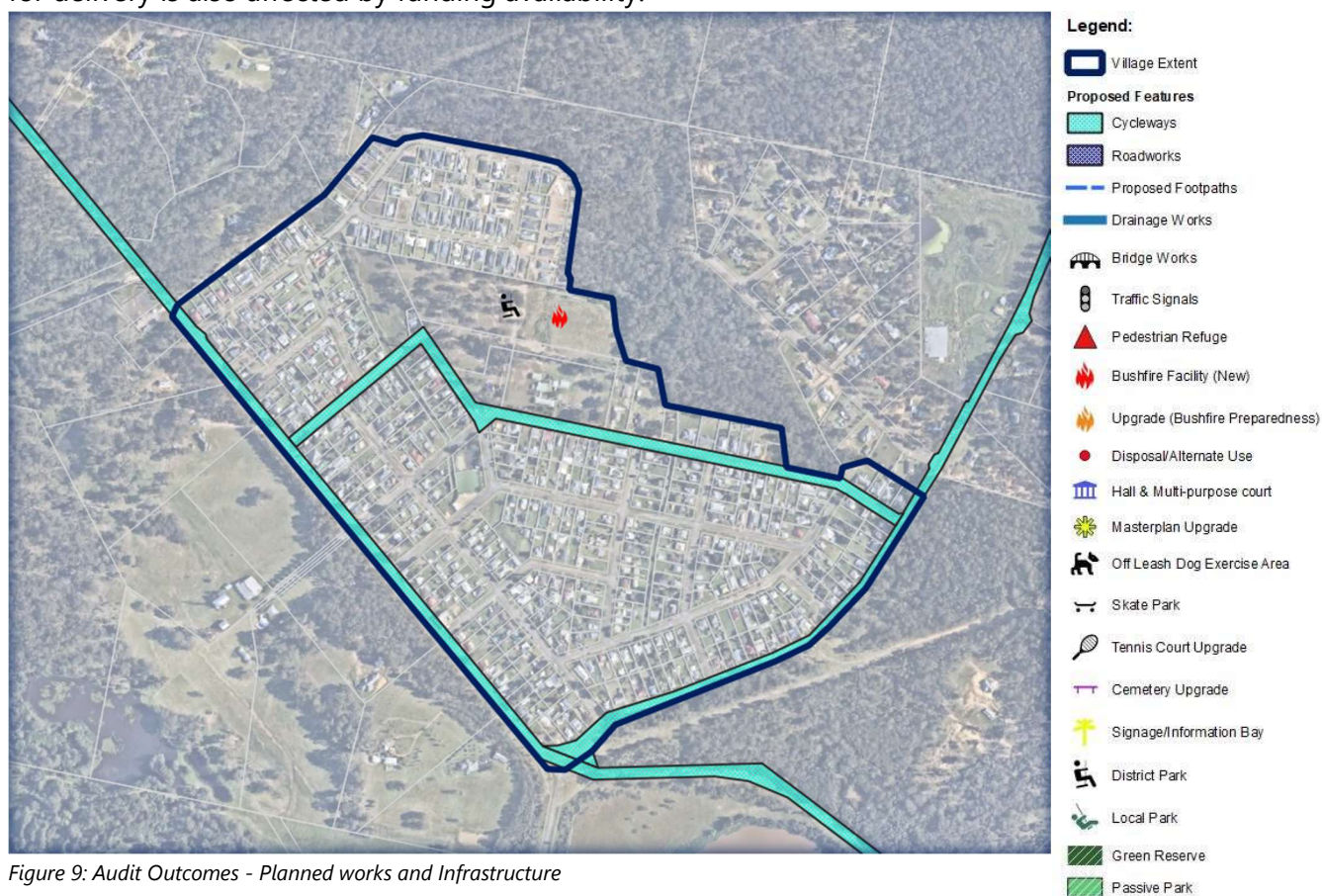


Figure 9: Audit Outcomes - Planned works and Infrastructure

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 local off-road path on Earps Road, McDonald Avenue and Anderson Avenue
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New local on-road connection on Middle Road - Wollombi Road to Millfield Road
Land Use Planning	Urban Growth Management Plan 2021	Paxton URA developed to capacity – village lifestyle lots
	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.		
Open Space	Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020 / City wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	Develop Paxton Park into a District Park by utilising a portion of Lot 1 DP 327619, 46 McDonald Avenue, Paxton.
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	Rehabilitate Congewoi Road

Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
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.