

Stanford Merthyr



Figure 1: Stanford Merthyr Village Extent

Stanford Merthyr is located east of the village of Pelaw Main and south of the town of Kurri Kurri.

The village is bounded by Leconfield Street to the south, Mulbring Street (forming John Renshaw Drive) to the southwest, Colliery/Heddon Street to the northeast and Railway Street to the north/northwest. Despite the close proximity to other urban areas, the village is separated from these by bushland on all sides.

Stanford Merthyr is zoned R2 Low Density Residential and has a mapped minimum lot size of 450m².

Social Environment¹

The total population of Stanford Merthyr is comparatively low, but representative of its smaller physical extent. The village has a slightly higher weekly household income to Pelaw Main and slightly higher SEIFA (IRSD) Index Score.

The predominant household types are couples without children, followed by couples with children and one-parent households (23.9%). There is a high rate of home ownership, with 43% of homes owned outright, and a further 38.5% of homes being purchased.

The majority of the population reported an education to Year 11 or below. 25.6% of the population reported having completed a Certificate, and 3.7% reported having obtained a Bachelor or degree or higher qualification.



Total Population: 552



Indigenous Population: 5.1%



Median Age: 43



Average Weekly Household Income: \$1,091



Average Weekly Rent: \$270



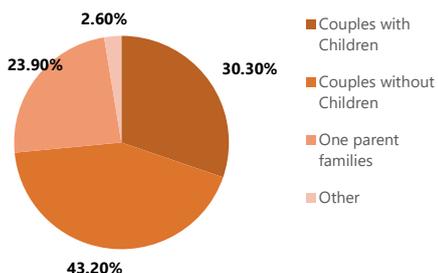
Average Monthly Mortgage: \$1,408

¹ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13647), accessed 14 October 2021

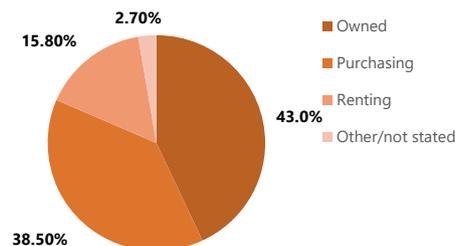
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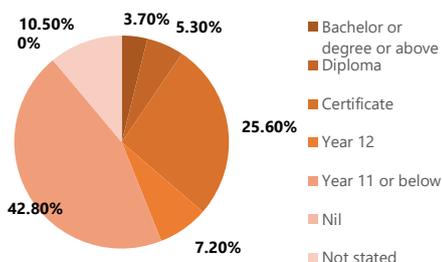
Household types



Housing tenure



Highest level of education



SEIFA (IRSD) Index Score²

915

Economic Environment³

Under half of the resident population of Stanford Merthyr (aged over 15 years) reported being employed full-time. 39.4% reported being employed in a part-time capacity, whilst 9.3% of the population were unemployed.

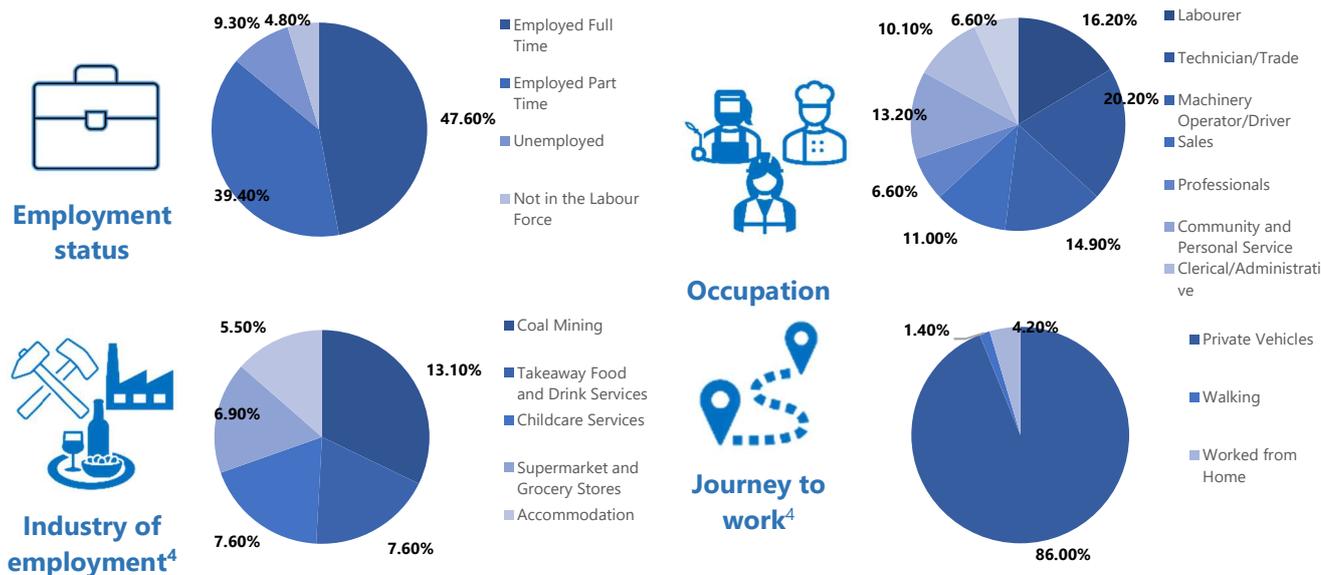
Technicians/trades were the predominant occupation of residents, followed by Labourers, Machinery Operators/Drivers and Community and Personal Service occupations. Coal mining, takeaway food and drink services and childcare were the dominant industries of employment.

Most residents travelled to work by private vehicle as either a passenger or driver.

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/SSC13647), accessed 14 October 2021)

³ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13647), accessed 14 October 2021

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Businesses in Stanford Merthyr include a food and drink premises (McDonalds Restaurant) and Kurri Kurri Bowling Club located at the northern entry to the village on Tarro Street, and a service station on the corner of Mulbring Street (John Renshaw Drive) and Wallsend Street. Home businesses/occupations also operates within the village.

Built & Natural Environment⁵

Aboriginal Heritage

The village extent of Stanford Merthyr is generally of low to moderate sensitivity for cultural heritage value. However, scattered artefacts within the locality are representative of the broader occupation of the area and linkages to the Pelaw Main Learning Place.

Landscape, Vegetation & Constraints

The intersection of Wallsend and Rhondda Streets is the highest elevation within the village. From this point, land generally slopes downward in all directions. The lowest point in the village is at the northern village extent (end of Wickham and Anvil Streets).

Views to surrounding bushland are available, as well as along the wide streets within the village.

⁴ Top responses only

⁵ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC13647), accessed 14 October 2021

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Figure 2: Significant View Corridors



Plate 1: Local street view corridor - Maitland Street

Canopy cover within the village is approximately 20% of the area. The village is surrounded on all sides by bushland. Much of the surrounding vegetation comprises Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs), including the Kurri Sand Swamp Woodland TEC and Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest TEC.

The surrounding vegetation comprises Category 1 and 3 bushfire prone vegetation, with the external areas of the village providing a buffer to the internal subdivision.

Some localised flooding is likely to occur during the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event within the lower-lying areas of the village, around Stanford Merthyr Park/Pony Grounds.



Figure 3: Vegetation Cover

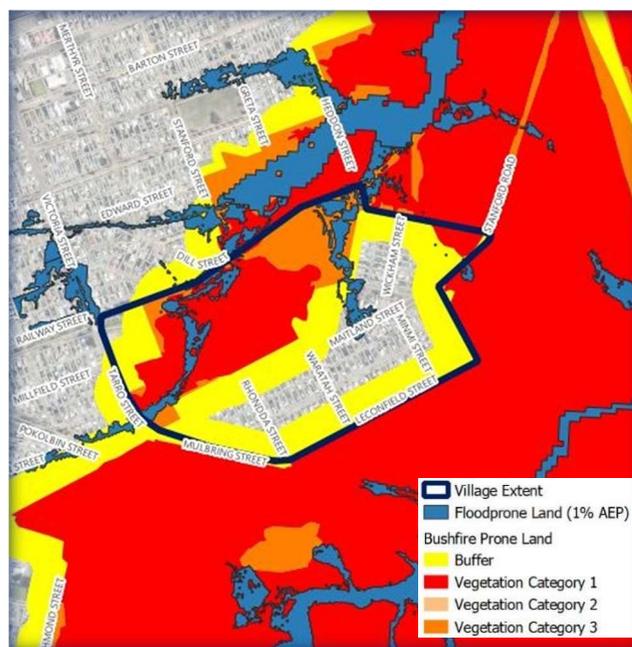


Figure 4: Bushfire Vegetation Categories and Flood prone Land

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European Heritage

The Stanford Main No. 1 Colliery (prev. Stanford Greta No. 1 Tunnel) was located on land adjacent to the now Kurri Bowling Club and commenced operations in 1901. The mine was connected to the South Maitland Railway System, which also supported passenger movements⁶.

An explosion within the mine occurred in October 1905, killing six men⁷. A memorial plaque is located on the mine site to commemorate this disaster. Mining operations ceased in 1957⁸.

The railway easement remains heritage listed, however no other remnants of the mine exist.

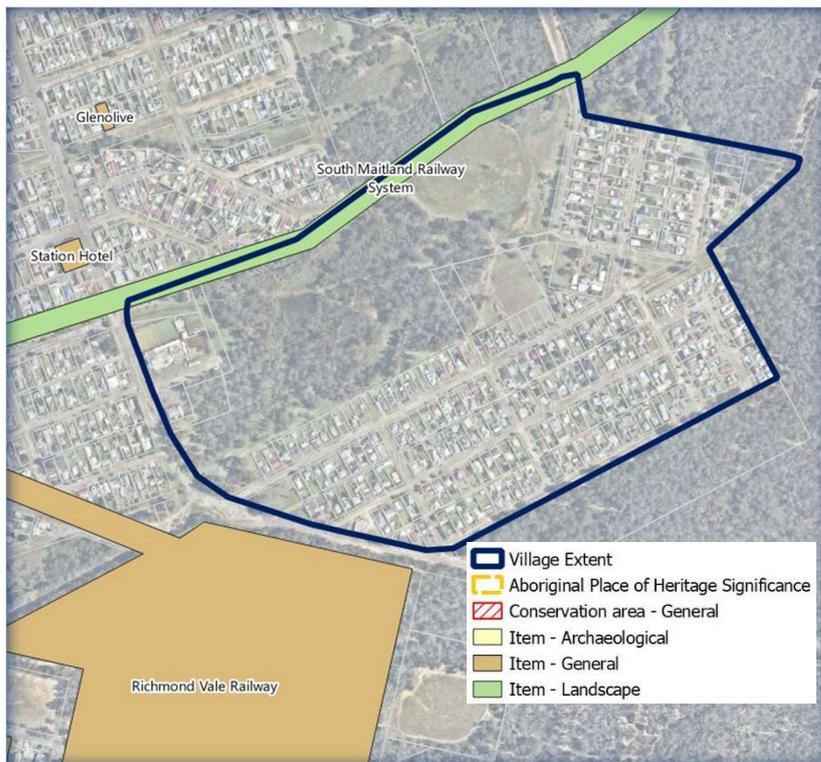
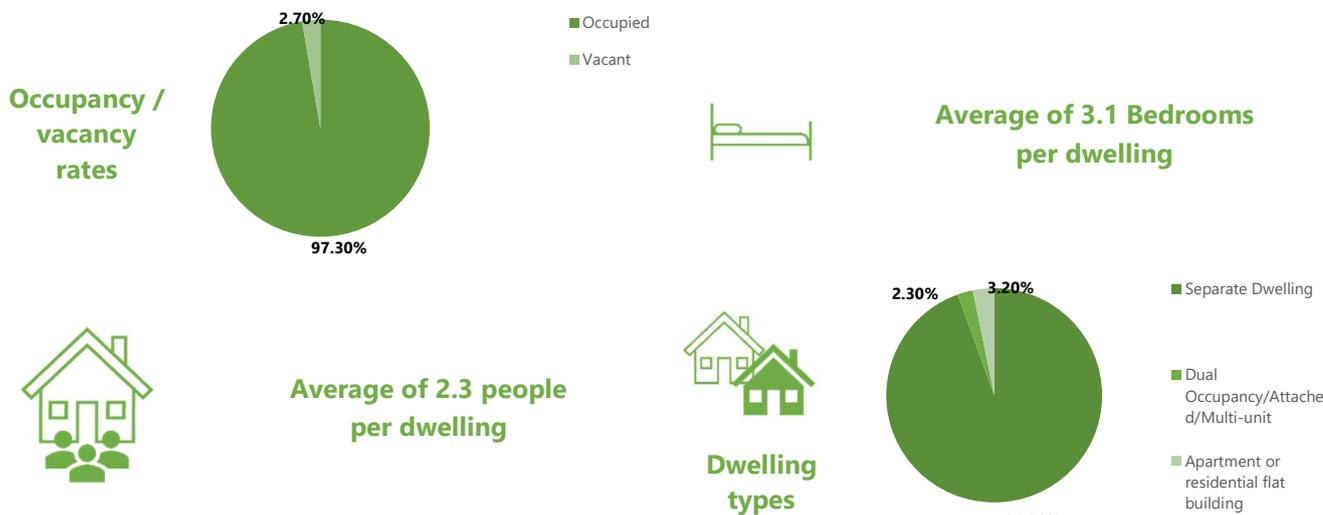


Figure 5: Heritage Items

Built Form & Density



⁶ 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

⁷ *The Town and Country Journal*, 1 November 1905, <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/71536483/5724913>, accessed 19 November 2021

⁸ 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

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The subdivision pattern of Stanford Merthyr is typical of the era. Subdivision pattern is grid like, with wide road reserves (of at least 20m) and mid-block laneways (unformed). Lots are generally regular in shape and size (with the exclusion of those adjoining Mulbring Street/John Renshaw Drive), with frontages of approximately 20m and depths of approximately 50m.

Lot sizes are an average of approximately 940m², with a dwelling density of about 8 dwellings per hectare.

Most dwellings are single dwellings, however there is evidence of subdivision occurring, urban renewal with replacement dwellings and higher density development forms including dual occupancies and (limited) multi-dwelling units (e.g. townhouses)

Dwelling styles are varied, with small hipped roof cottages evidence of the era of the subdivision (circa 1900's) and dwellings representing later periods, including gabled bungalows. Examples of more recent development of weatherboard construction, as well as contemporary brick homes also exist. These are particularly evident in the area around Bloomfield Street, which was subdivided in 1982⁹.



Plate 2: Dwelling Examples (top to bottom) cottages and bungalows, circa 1980's dwellings, multi-dwelling housing, and contemporary dwellings

⁹ DP262836, Plan of Subdivision of Lot 273 DP 41836, 27 May 1982

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Servicing

The village is serviced by a reticulated water supply and sewerage infrastructure for wastewater disposal.

The Stanford Merthyr Public School, located between Maitland and Wickham Street provides for education of primary school aged children.

Kerb and guttering is located around the school, including an extended section of Maitland Road near the school and toward Tarro and Mulbring Streets (John Renshaw Drive). A pedestrian crossing is located on Wickham Street in front of the school.

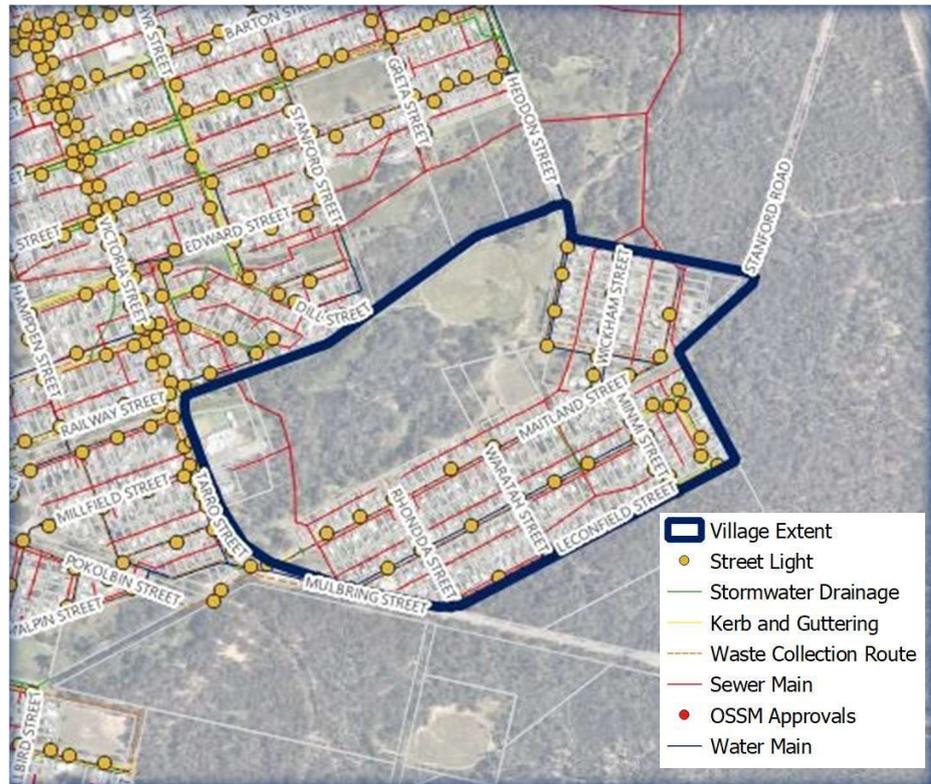


Figure 6: Servicing Infrastructure

Stormwater is managed by road drainage, inclusive of a series of under road culverts and inter-lot drainage easements between Wallsend and Maitland Streets, and from Bloomfield Street.

Street lighting is provided at regular intervals through the village.

General waste, green waste and recyclable collection services operate in the village

Connectivity

Stanford Merthyr is connected to the township of Kurri Kurri via Mulbring/Tarro Streets, to Heddon Greta by Heddon Street and to East Maitland (Greenhills) via John Renshaw Drive/Buchanan Road. John Renshaw Drive also provides connectivity to the Hunter Expressway and George Booth Drive, providing connection options to Mulbring, Newcastle, Branxton/Singleton and Beresfield/Thornton.

Footpaths are limited to Wickham Street in front of the school. An on-road cycleway from the intersection of Maitland and Tarro/Mulbring Street connects the village to Kurri Kurri.

The road network, inclusive of laneways within the village promote a high level of permeability within the village.

Stanford Merthyr has alternative transport connections to Pelaw Main via Spion Kop, and informal access trails through the former colliery site and bushland to the northeast. Access to Spion Kop requires crossing Mulbring/Tarro Street. A pedestrian refuge (without a crossing) is provided for this purpose.

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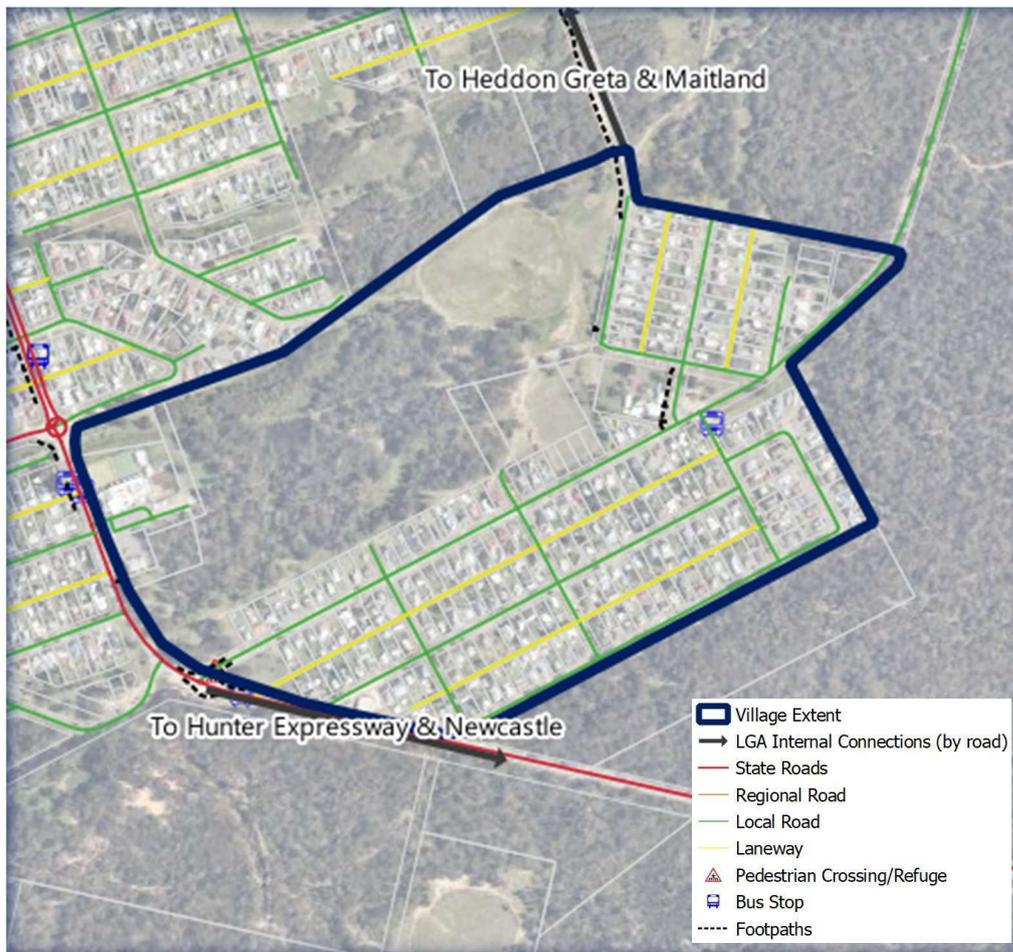


Figure 7: Connectivity within and beyond Stanford Merthyr

Bus services operate between Cessnock, East Maitland and Greenhills, generally at two hourly intervals in the mornings and three hourly intervals in the afternoon during weekdays. Three services operate on Saturday at two hourly intervals commencing at around 9am. No services operate on Sundays or public holidays through Stanford Merthyr¹⁰¹¹.

Open Space and Public Domain

There are a number of areas within Stanford Merthyr providing opportunities for both active and passive recreation. Apex Park and Wickham Street Reserve predominantly provide opportunities for passive recreation.

The playground located on Wallsend Street provides for active play, with a covered play equipment area and seating.

Both Stanford Merthyr Park and the Pony Ground provide space for structured recreational activities, as well as an off-leash dog exercise area.



Plate 3: Examples of Open Space – Apex Park (top), Stanford Merthyr Park (bottom)

¹⁰ Transport for NSW Bus Route 164, 2021, https://www.rovercoaches.com.au/client_images/2199050.pdf, accessed 18 November 2021

¹¹ Services still operate from Kurri Kurri

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Figure 8: Existing Facilities / Embellishments within Open Space Areas

Table 1: Recreation Facilities¹²

Name	Hierarchy	Area	Facilities / Embellishments
Apex Park	Passive (Pocket Park)	1.46 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing Picnic bench and table
Stanford Merthyr Park	Passive (Pocket Park)	2.90 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designated dog off leash area Fencing Gardens
Wickham Street Reserve	Passive (Pocket Park)	0.24 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fencing
Stanford Merthyr Playground	Local Park	0.20 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bench seat Playground Sheltered picnic bench and table Water bubbler
Stanford Merthyr Park Pony Ground	Local Sportsground	1.17 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amenities building Fencing

Some streets support evidence of a street tree planting with plantings of Bottlebrush (*Callistemon sp.*) within some road reserves, as well as in front of the fencing at Stanford Merthyr Park.

There is occasionally a distinct separation between the public and private domain, with low front fencing of varying materials, such as galvanised mesh, timber palings, masonry, brick and vegetation (hedges), however this is inconsistent throughout the village. Colourbond or iron sheeting is also utilised on side and rear boundaries.

¹² Cessnock City Council Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020

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Signage comprises varying forms through village, including standardised directional and safety road signage on main roads (Tarro/Mulbring Streets and John Renshaw Drive). Street name signs vary in form and presentation, some inconsistent with Council's current signage strategy.

There are two entry signs to the village from the southern and northern approaches; both are different in materials and composition.

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

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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 on-road connection on John Renshaw Drive – Buchanan Road to Maitland Street
	Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2016 ¹³	New Path Between Victoria Street and Colliery Street
		New path between Railway Street and Maitland Street
	Trails Strategy 2020	Formalise a recreational trail through Stanford Merthyr (near the off-leash dog park & adjacent bushland).
Formalise a recreational trail, utilising the Bushfire Asset Protection Zone and informal trails, from Log of Knowledge Park to Stanford Merthyr.		
Land Use Planning	Urban Tree Canopy Policy 2021	Develop an Environmental Strategy that aims to create an interconnected Urban Tree Canopy across the Cessnock Local Government Area (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;
	Kurri Kurri District Strategy 2018	Prepare a street tree planting program
	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.
	Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2020	Review the permissible uses within the environmental and rural land use zones to ensure economic activities associated with nature based tourism are included.
		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.
Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2020	Utilise street pole banners in activation areas to promote upcoming activity, events, landmarks to community and visitors.	

¹³ Additional pathways are proposed which are located in similar locations to proposed cycleways

Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
		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	Off Leash Dog Exercise Area Plan 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Engagement is undertaken with Crown Lands requesting Council be the Crown Land Manager for the OLDEA ▪ Bollards are installed to delineate the OLDEA: 0.5ha in size ▪ A site assessment and design is completed following the bollards to determine the level of park infrastructure required as well as its location ▪ Park infrastructure items to be factored into future recreation capital works programs
Recreation Buildings / Amenities	Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021 - 2025	Improve the accessibility of public spaces and facilities
Public Transport	Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021 – 2025	Support safe and accessible transport options
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.