

Abernethy



Figure 1: Abernethy Village Extent

The village area of Abernethy is located between the villages of Kearsley and Kitchener.

The primary roads are Ferguson Street and Murray Roads, which respectively form Kearsley Road and Abernethy Street.

The village is comparatively small in area to other villages and generally comprises regular shaped allotments, supporting predominantly low-density housing.

The village is zoned RU5 Village. The mapped minimum lot size is 750m².

Social Environment¹

The village has a low total population, commensurate with the village area. Most household types are couples, either with or without children. The village area has a low median age.



**Total
Population: 348**



**Indigenous
Population:
4.1%**



Median Age: 32



**Average Weekly
Household
Income: \$1,575**



**Average Weekly
Rent: \$300**



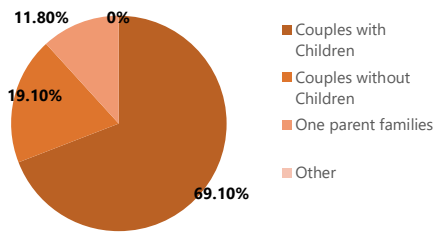
**Average
Monthly
Mortgage:
\$1,733**

¹ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC10011), accessed 14 October 2021

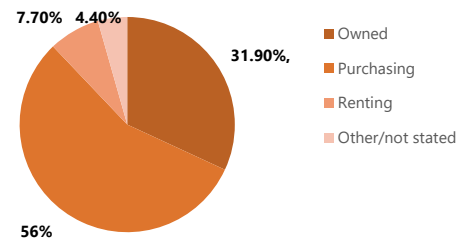
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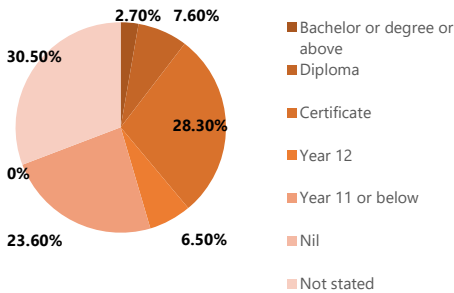
Household types



Housing tenure



Highest level of education



SEIFA (IRSD) Index Score²

1,004

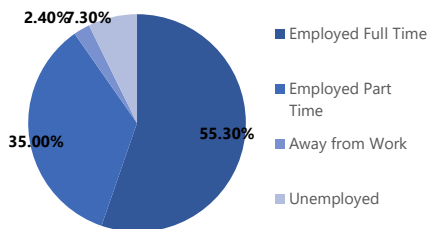
Economic Environment³

Over half of the residents of Abernethy (aged over 15 years) are employed in a full-time occupation, with a further third of the population participating in part-time employment.

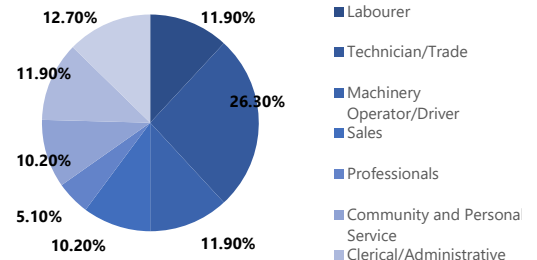
Occupations with the highest employment are labourers and technicians or trades. Most people (greater than 80%) travelled to work by private vehicle.



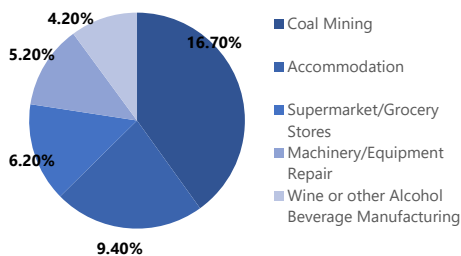
Employment status



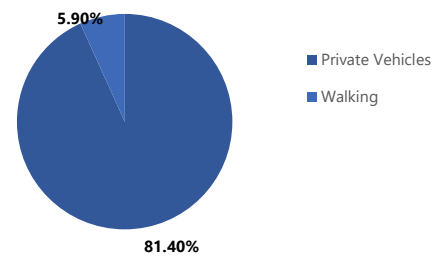
Occupation



Industry of employment⁴



Journey to work¹⁶



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/SSC10011), accessed 14 October 2021

⁴ Top responses only

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There are no operational business/retail premises with street frontages within Abernethy, exclusive of the Abernethy Guest House. There are however likely to be other home businesses operating within the village.

Built & Natural Environment⁵

Aboriginal Heritage

The village area of Abernethy is located between two tributaries that flow into Swamp Creek. The low-lying areas around the creek lines are likely to be highly sensitive for indigenous cultural values. Additionally, being located between the two creek lines, the Abernethy village area is also likely to have high cultural sensitivity.

Landscape, Vegetation & Constraints

The village area is relatively low lying, surrounded on at least three sides by elevated landforms. Local view corridors exist from Murray Street to the west (Abernethy Street) and Ferguson Street to the north (Kearsley Road). Other views are obscured by vegetation.

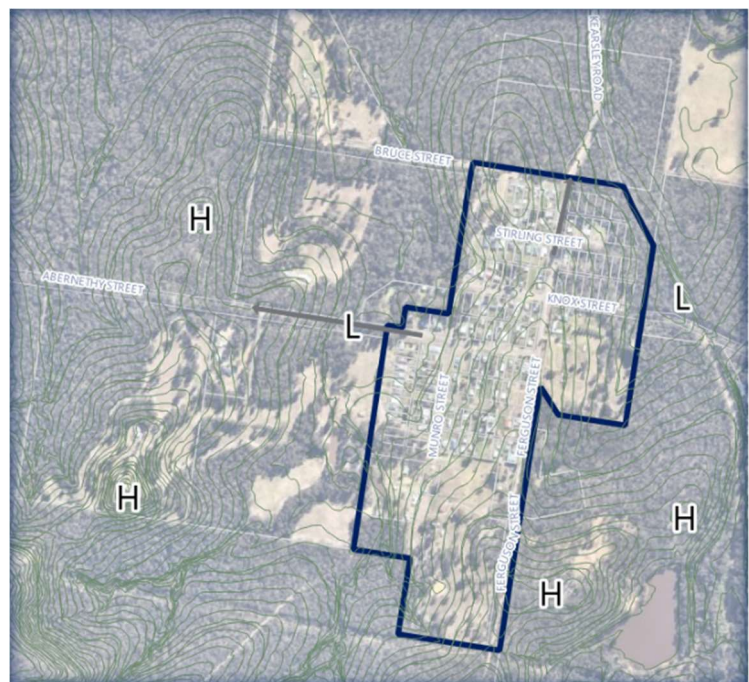


Figure 2: View Corridors



Plate 1: (from left to right) View from Murray Street up to and along Abernethy Street, view from Ferguson Street up to along Kearsley Road

The local tributaries of Swamp Creek expand and encroach onto adjoining land during the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flooding event.

⁵ ABS 2016 Quick Stats (https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC10011), accessed 14 October 2021

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The village area is surrounded by bushfire prone vegetation, including parcels of Crown land and Werakata National Park, to the north and south, as well as land subject to flooding. Vegetation to the north, south and west comprises the Lower Hunter Spotted Gum-Ironbark Threatened Ecological Community (TEC).

Vegetation within the village area is minimal with a canopy cover of approximately 19%. However, pockets of vegetation exist around the southern and western perimeter, (Ferguson Street and south of Munro Street) as well as a larger extent between Ferguson Street and Knox Streets in the north east. There is sparse vegetation in the local playground, located on the corner of Murray and Munro Streets.

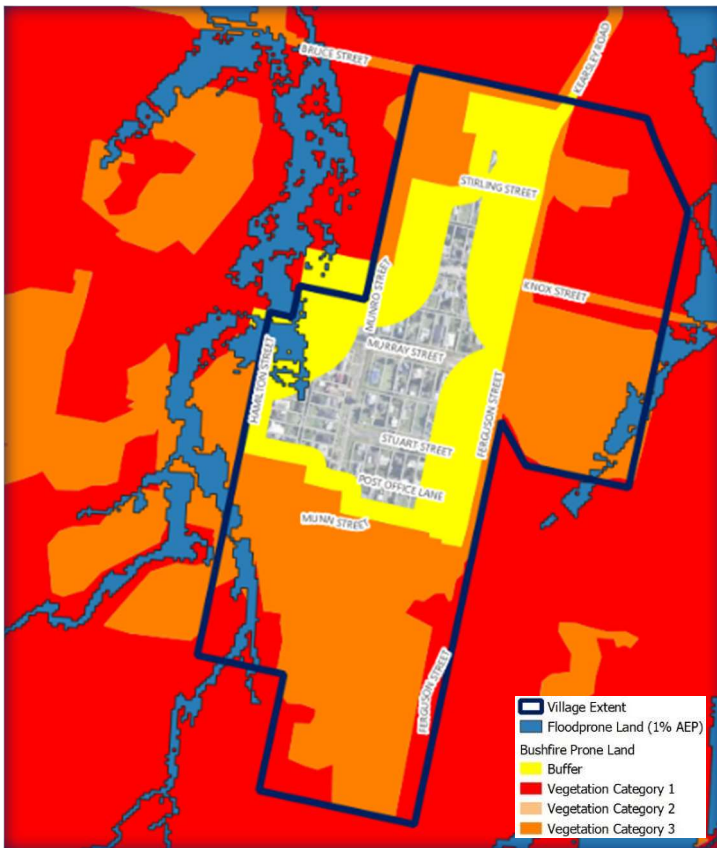


Figure 3: Bushfire vegetation categories and flood prone land



Figure 4: Vegetation Cover in Abernethy

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European Heritage

The village of Abernethy was formed as a result of the high employment levels of the Abernethy Main colliery which commenced operation in 1910. The colliery was known locally as Siberia, given its relative isolation from other workings and poor physical condition⁶.

Abernethy Hotel opened in 1927 approximately six weeks prior to the closure of the colliery⁷. Uses thereafter included a care home for elderly men¹⁹ and now a guest house, wedding and conference venue or for short term accommodation⁸.

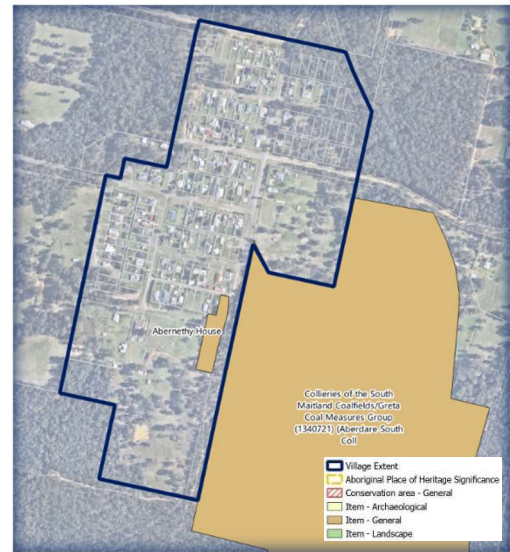


Figure 5: Heritage Items



Plate 2: Abernethy Dam and former colliery infrastructure

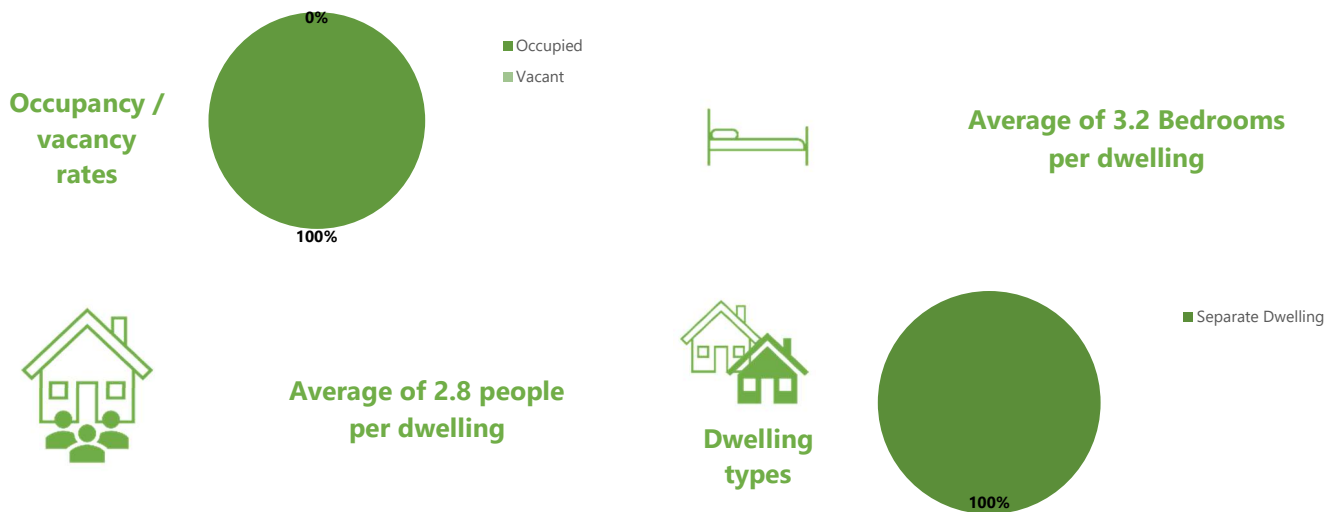
⁶ Pike, Walker and Associates, 1992-93 City of Cessnock Heritage Study (Aberdare South Colliery Inventory Item Sheet Ref. No. 042)

⁷ Pike, Walker and Associates, 1992-93 City of Cessnock Heritage Study (Abernethy Hotel Inventory Item Sheet Ref. No. 077)

⁸ Abernethy House <http://abernethyhouse.com.au/>

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Built Form & Density



Like other settlements formed on the back of the coal industry, some dwellings in the village retain a representation of the built form of the era, including fibro/weatherboard cottages with hipped roofs a verandahs along the fronts

The area has seen more recent development activity. Some of which has been associated with the rebuilding after the impacts of the October 2002 bushfire, and other bushfire events prior to this.



Plate 3: Dwelling Examples

The subdivision pattern is grid like, with mid-block laneways (unformed).

The total carriageway of local streets is wide, incorporating large reserves to allotments (approximately 12m either side of the road pavement). There are few street trees within the internal subdivision; however, both entry roads to the village (Murray and Ferguson Streets) are tree-lined.

The average lot size is approximately 1000m². The dwelling density is approximately 4.8 dwellings per ha.

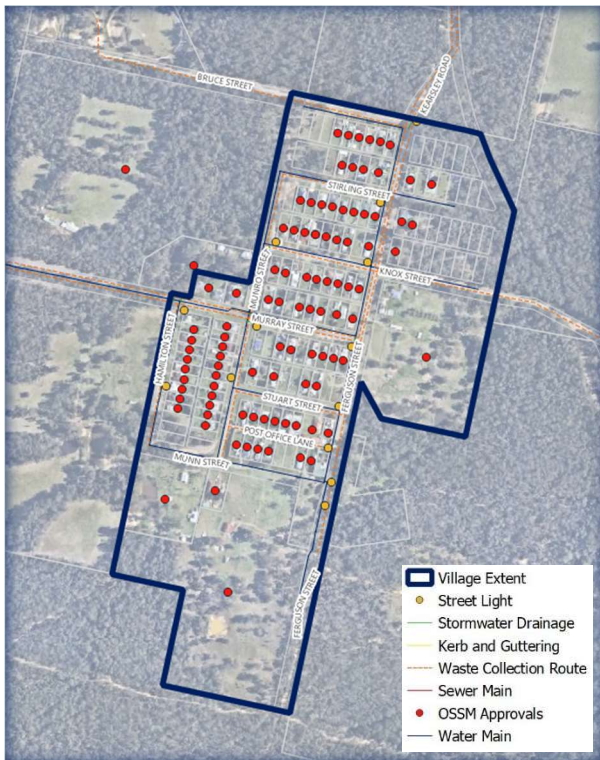
Servicing

The village of Abernethy is serviced by reticulated water supply however relies on domestic on-site wastewater management systems for effluent disposal.

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

Street lighting is located predominantly at the intersection or end of each internal street.

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Stormwater management relies on a series of culverts under Knox, Murray and Munro Streets, as well as at the northern end of Ferguson Street. These drain water into the eastern and western tributaries of Swamp Creek either side of the village.

Figure 6: Servicing Infrastructure

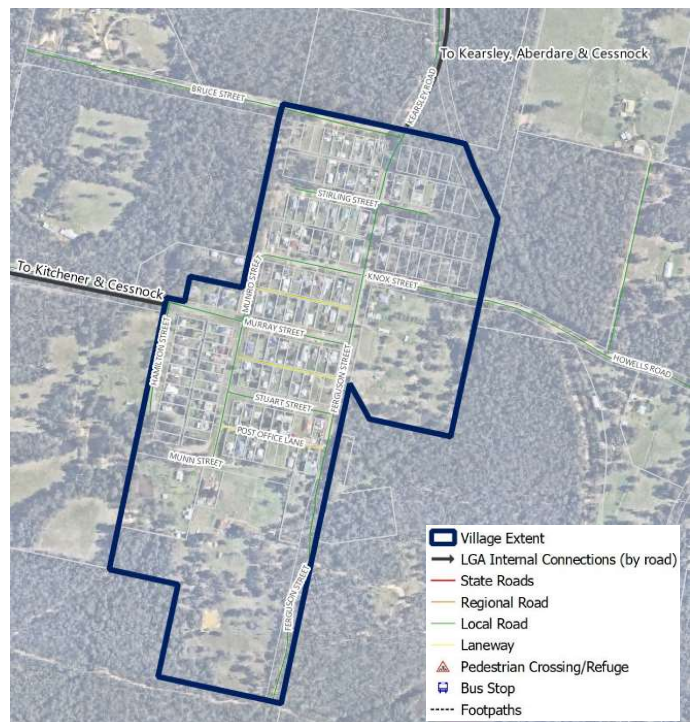
Connectivity

Abernethy connects to Kitchener and Cessnock via Abernethy Road; and Kearsley, Cessnock and Mulbring via Kearsley/Lake Road.

As series of local streets and laneways provide vehicular and pedestrian movement pathways within the village area. There are no formal footpaths or cycleways.

A bus loop service between Abernethy to/from Kearsley and Cessnock operates daily. During the week, three morning and two afternoon services are available at approximately two hourly intervals commencing from 7:40am. Two morning and one afternoon service is available on Saturdays. There are no services on Sundays⁹.

Figure 7: Connectivity within Abernethy and beyond



⁹ Transport for NSW Bus Route 162 Timetable <https://transportnsw.info/documents/timetables/42-162-Cessnock-to-Abernethy-via-Kearsley-20211018.pdf>, 12 November 2021

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Open Space and Public Domain

Abernethy Park is the only formal open space provided within the village area. It comprises play equipment, a shade structure and sheltered picnic table.



Plate 4: Abernethy Playground

Table 1: Abernethy Recreation Facility Inventory¹⁰

Name	Hierarchy	Area	Facilities / Embellishments
Abernethy Playground	Local Park	0.20 ha	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground Sheltered picnic bench and tables

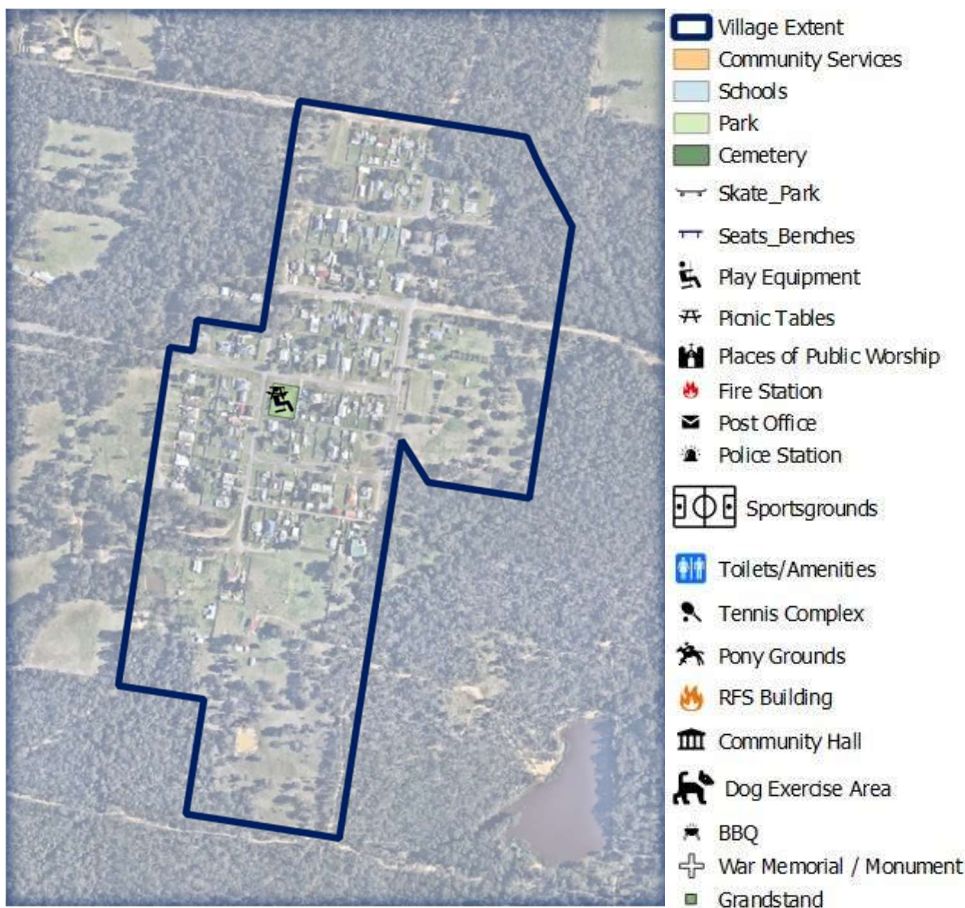


Figure 8: Open Space and Community Facilities

Fencing within the village comprises a range of forms and materials, including rural post and rail fencing, colourbond, galvanised mesh and timber pailings. There is minimal vegetation/plantings within the street reserve.

Street signage is not consistent with the current adopted signage strategy, and there does not appear to be a formal entry sign to the village.

¹⁰ Cessnock City Council Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020

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.

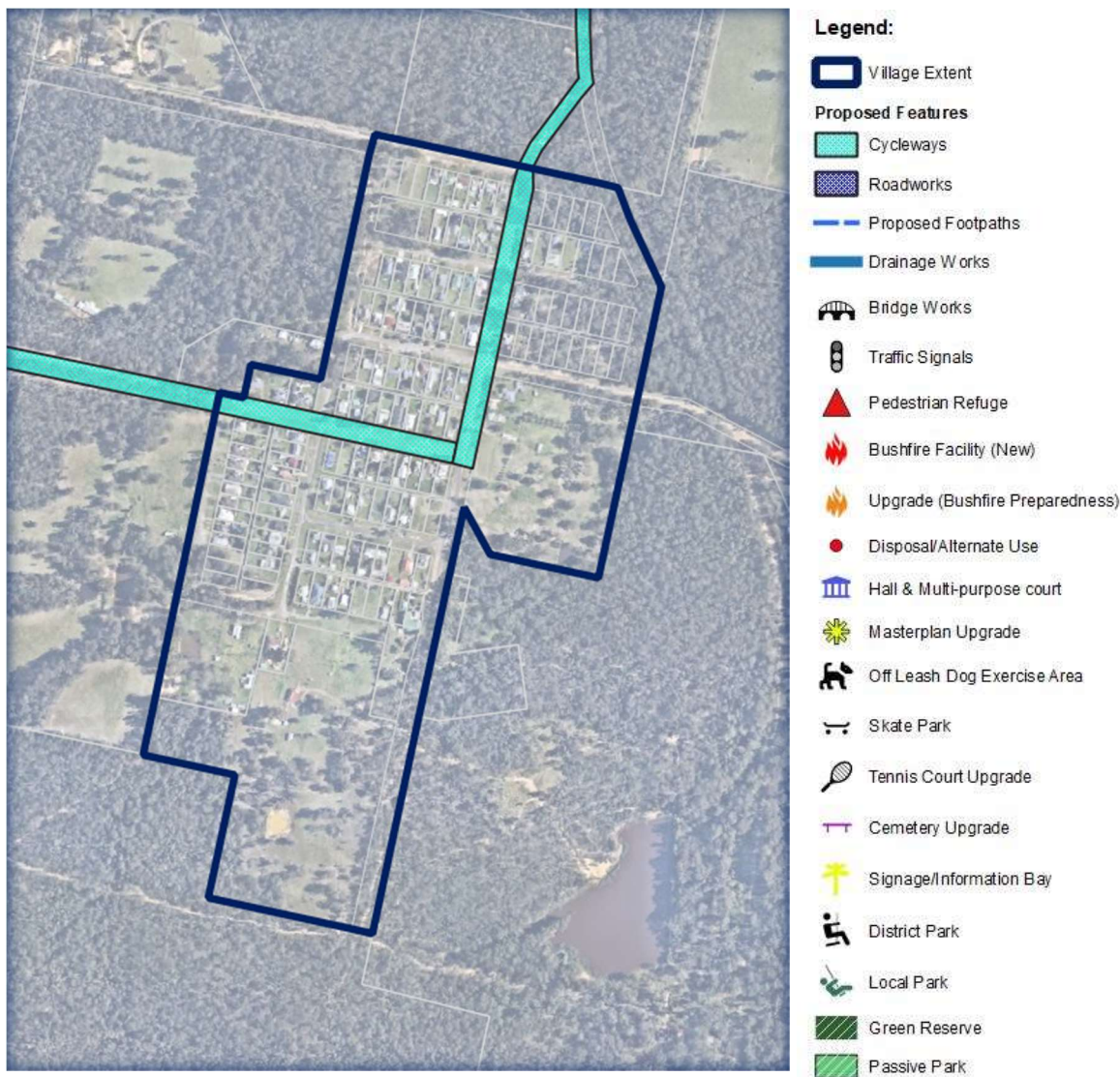


Figure 9: Planned works and Infrastructure

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

Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
	Trails Strategy 2020	Formalise an off-road cycling trail utilising the existing informal trail adjacent to Kearsley Road, from Lake Road to Abernethy.
	City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New district off-road path on Ferguson Street/Kearsley Road – Murray Street to Lake Road
	Trails Strategy 2020	Determine the most appropriate and complementary uses (e.g. horse riding, bike riding, walking, camping, historical display/s) for the area surrounding the Abernethy Poppet Head and Dam, and formalise the trails network accordingly.
Land Use Planning	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.
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
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.