Ellalong

Figure 1: Ellalong Village Extent

Ellalong is the first village in the bead of villages when travelling to Wollombi from Leggets Drive along Sandy Creek Road. The village is also accessible from Ellalong Street off Wollombi Road via Bellbird.

Most elevated areas of the village have views of the surrounding mountain ranges.

A key feature of the village is also Ellalong Lagoon, located to west of the village

The village comprises a diverse range of housing styles, with a similarly diverse range of lot sizes. The village is generally zoned RU5 Village with a mapped minimum lot size of 1,500m². North of Watson Street is zoned R5 with a mapped minimum lot size of 2,000m².

Social Environment[1]

The village has a relatively modest population size. The majority of households comprise couples with children, and there is a high rate of home ownership, and homes being purchased.

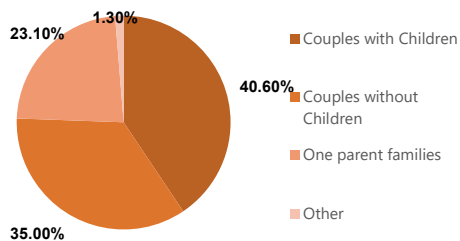|					
Total Population: 1,089	Indigenous Population: 5.7%	Median Age: 39	Average Weekly Household Income: $1,370	Average Weekly Rent: $300	Average Monthly Mortgage: $1,600

Ellalong

Household types

- Couples with Children — 40.60%
- Couples without Children — 35.00%
- One parent families — 23.10%
- Other — 1.30%

Housing tenure

- Owned — 30.50%
- Purchasing — 53.20%
- Renting — 12.70%
- Other/not stated — 3.60%

Highest level of education

- Bachelor or degree or above — 8.20%
- Diploma — 8.20%
- Certificate — 24.70%
- Year 12 — 10.40%
- Year 11 or below — 32.80%
- Nil — 0%
- Not stated — 11.90%

SEIFA (IRSD) Index Score[2]

961

Economic Environment[3]

Over half of the population (aged over 15 years) is employed on a full-time basis, with a further 36% being employed in part-time work. Labourers, Technicians and Trades and Machinery Operators or drivers are the predominant occupation of employed residents, with the coal mining industry being one of the top industries of employment.

Most of the employed population travel to work in private vehicles as either a passenger or driver.

Employment status

- Employed Full Time — 52.50%
- Employed Part Time — 36.00%
- Away from Work — 5.50%
- Unemployed — 6.10%

Occupation

- Labourer — 10.10%
- Technician/Trade — 16.90%
- Machinery Operator/Driver — 13.90%
- Sales — 8.90%
- Professionals — 11.60%
- Community and Personal Service — 13.30%
- Clerical/Administrative — 12.90%
- 11.00%

Industry of employment[4]

- Coal Mining — 7.80%
- Accommodation — 5.00%
- Takeway food services — 3.80%
- Road freight transport — 3.10%
- Building and other Industrial Cleaning — 3.10%

Journey to work[4]

- Private Vehicles — 80.40%
- Work from Home — 6.60%

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[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*

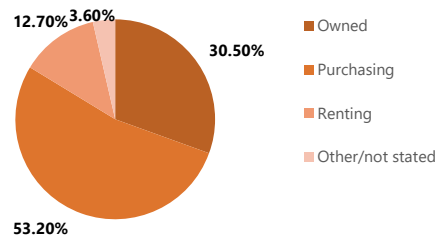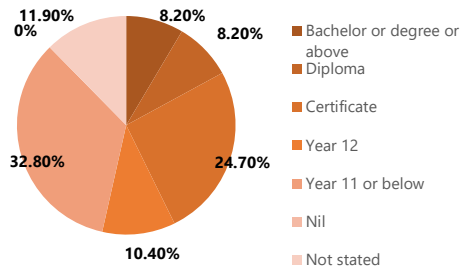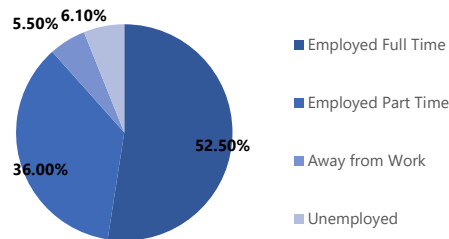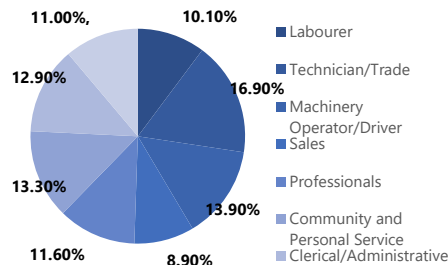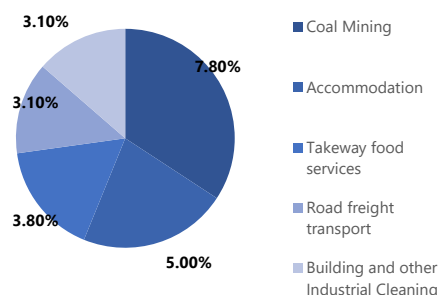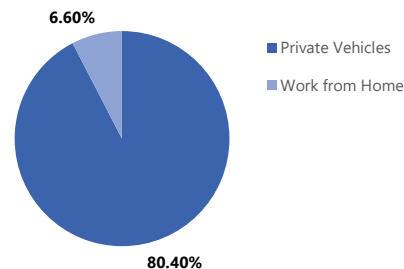[4] *Top responses only*

Ellalong

Local businesses include Ellalong Hotel and a local store / café. A number of accommodation services exist in the area surrounding the village, as well as some home occupations. Nearby industries include coal mining and a horse stud/training facility.

Plate 1: Examples of businesses (from left to right) Ellalong Hotel, General Store and horse facility)

Built & Natural Environment[5]

Aboriginal Heritage

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

Plate 2: (from left to right) local tributary feeding into Ellalong Lagoon, Ellalong Lagoon (from Paxton)

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

[6] *Virtus Heritage 2021, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study, Cessnock City Council*

Ellalong

Landscape, Vegetation & Constraints

Ellalong 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, south and west, including the Watagan State Forest and Watagan National Park. Surrounding drainage and creek lines (including Quorrobolong Creek) feed into Ellalong Lagoon system.
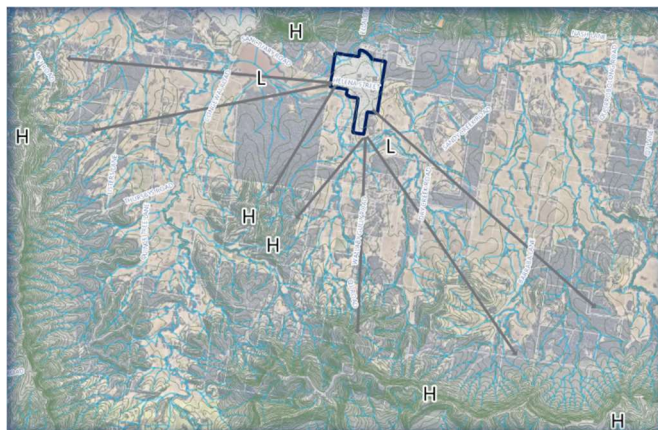

Figure 2:   Significant View Corridors

Plate 3: Viewsheds (from left to right) Church Street looking south, Alexander Street looking west (see also Plate 1 for view from Helena Street looking east)

Ellalong is surrounded by relatively dense bushland to the north of the village extent, and grasslands on the floodplains to the south and south west (comprising Ellalong Lagoon), and east of the village.

Vegetation throughout the village is consists of scattered trees, mostly within the private domain. The largest concentration within the village is north of the cemetery and in and around the public school. Canopy cover within the village sits at approximately 40%. There are also pockets of vegetation in the north of the village that comprise River-flat Eucalypt Forest Threatened Ecological Community (TEC).

Vegetation surrounding the village is bushfire prone vegetation, as are the grasslands on the floodplains. During the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability Event (AEP), Quorrobolong Creek and other local waterways feeding Ellalong Lagoon flood, which isolate the village during such events.
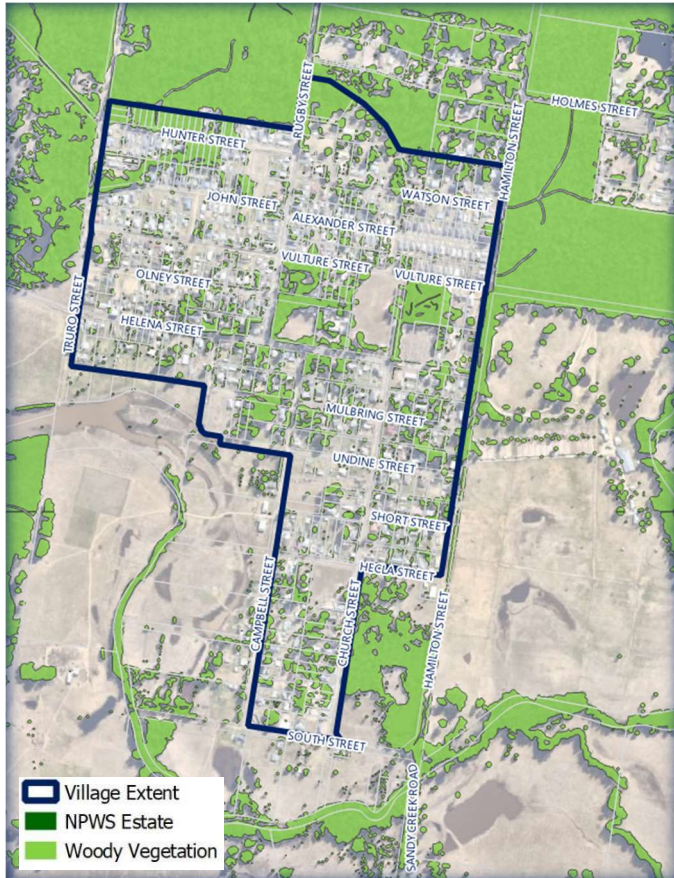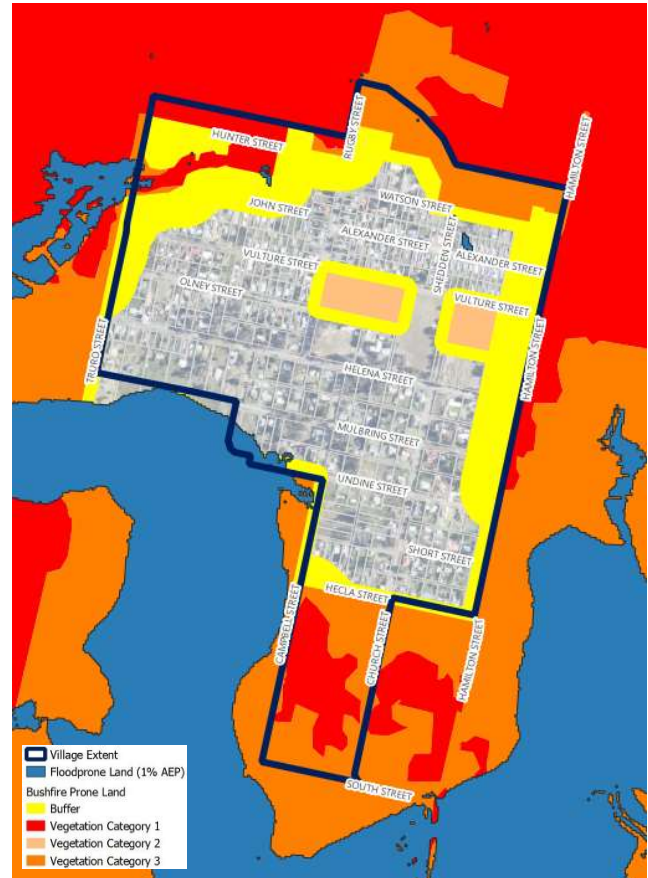
Ellalong

Figure 3: Vegetation Cover

Figure 4: Bushfire Vegetation Categories and Flood prone Land

European Heritage

The settlement of Ellalong occurred during the 1850's and was one of the very early agricultural settlements. The primary school opened in 1858, closed in 1863 and reopened in 1868 when the present school buildings were established. The village remained as a small service town until the Kalingo mine opened in 1922. The current Ellalong Hotel was opened around the same time[7].

The Ellalong Lagoon also has its own history, and was used by the locals as a swimming spot. By the 1930s the lagoon had its own swimming club and its own organisation, the Ellalong Swimming Baths Committee[8].

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[7] *Pike, Walker and Associates, 1992-93 City of Cessnock Heritage Study (Ellalong Hotel Inventory Item Sheet Ref. No. 070, Ellalong Cemetery Inventory Sheet Item Ref. No. 260 & Ellalong School Inventory Sheet Item Ref. No. 261)*

[8] *O'Sullivan, Kimberly "Unlocking the Past Peaceful Ellalong Lagoon" Cessnock Advertiser, January 17 2019* *https://www.cessnockadvertiser.com.au/story/5845017/unlocking-the-past-peaceful-ellalong-lagoon/, accessed 9 November 2021*
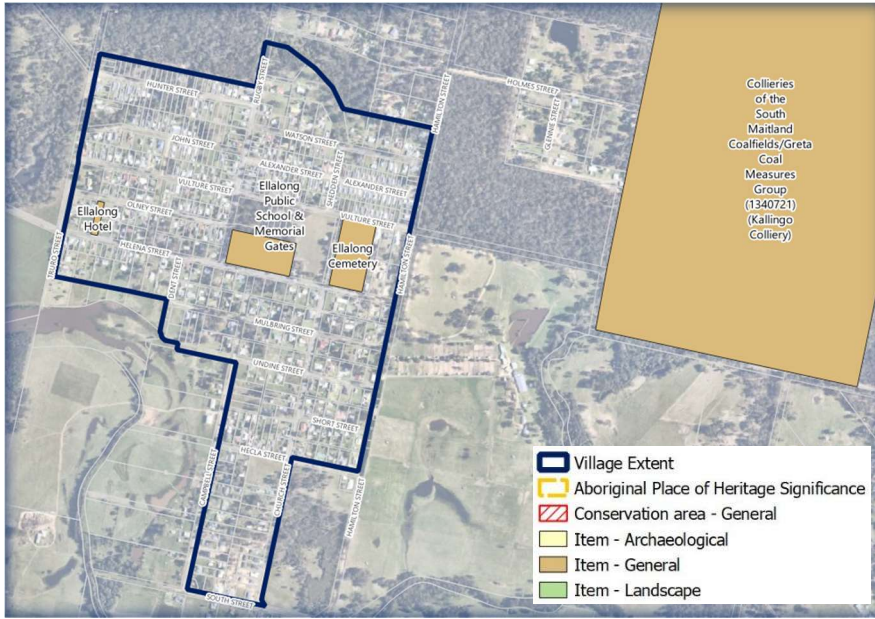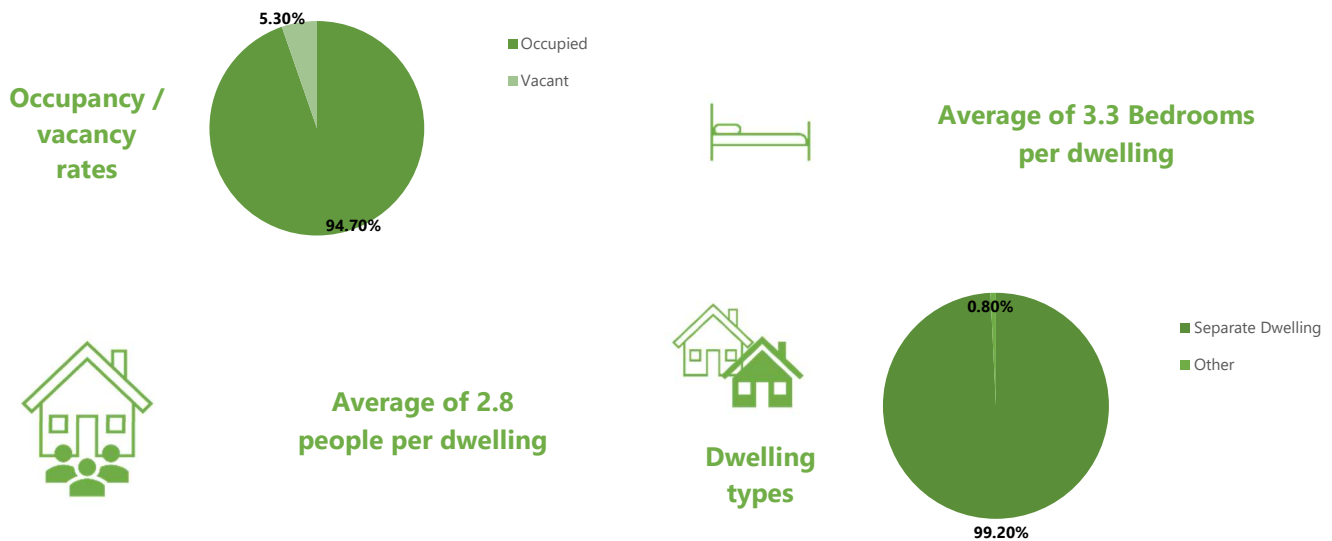
Ellalong

Figure 5: Heritage Items

Village Extent
Aboriginal Place of Heritage Significance
Conservation area - General
Item - Archaeological
Item - General
Item - Landscape

Plate 4: Ellalong Cemetery and Government Architect Sketch War Memorial Gates[9]

Built Form & Density

Occupancy / vacancy rates

5.30%
94.70%

Occupied
Vacant

Average of 3.3 Bedrooms per dwelling

Average of 2.8 people per dwelling

Dwelling types

0.80%
99.20%

Separate Dwelling
Other

Examples of the establishment and growth of the village exist in some dwellings, but dwelling designs vary considerably.

Like villages established in similar eras, the subdivision pattern is grid like, with mid-block laneways (unformed). Most roads have carriageways in the order of 20m, with verges set at 5-6m.

Whilst the village can be seen as relatively uniform in terms of dwelling type (i.e. separate dwellings), the density and lot size is variable in different parts of the village.

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[9] *Virtual War Memorial Australia, Ellalong Public School Memorial Gates* https://vwma.org.au/explore/memorials/5361,*accessed 9 November 2021*

For example, the area east of Church Street between Hecla and Helena Streets has an average lot size of approximately 1,900m² and a dwelling density of 3.6 dwellings per hectare. North of Helena Street, between Olney and John Street, the average lot size is approximately 1,000m² with a density of approximately 6.2 dwellings per hectare. New development within the village, between Alexander and Vulture Street, has an average lot size of approximately 625m² and a dwelling density of 11 dwellings per hectare.

Plate 5: Examples of dwellings

Servicing

Ellalong has access to a reticulated water and sewerage service, exclusive of larger lot subdivisions north of the village extent between Rugby and Hamilton Street, and Holmes Street.

Notwithstanding, many parcels still have on-site sewerage management systems, exclusive of newly developed areas in Alexander/Vulture and Church Streets.

The entire village has access to domestic general waste, green waste and recycling collection services.

Street lighting is provided at regular intervals along most streets/roads, however is limited in the areas surrounding the school, cemetery and the newly developed areas around Alexander/Vulture and Church/Campbell Streets.
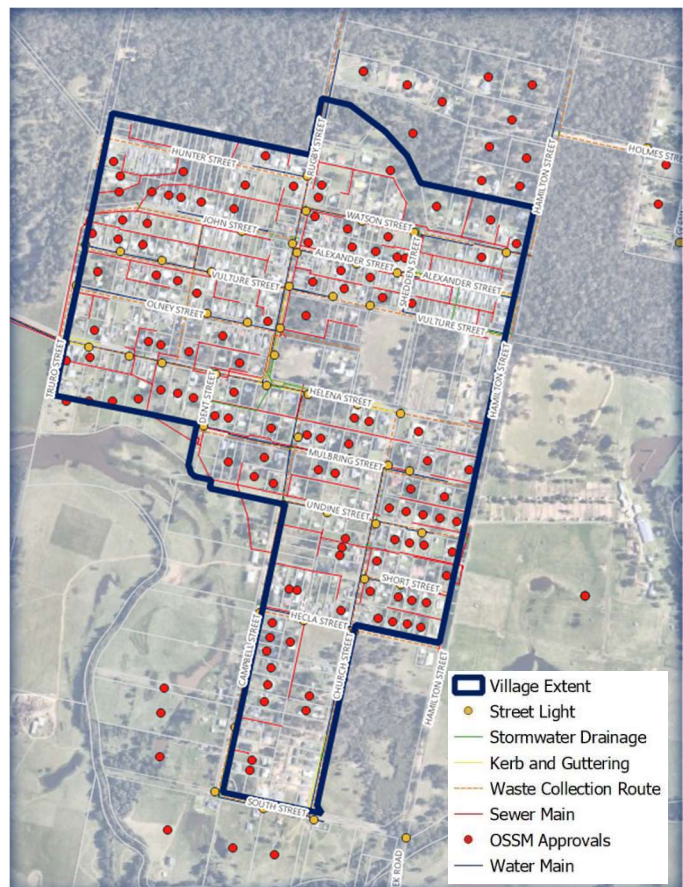

Figure 6: Servicing Infrastructure

Ellalong

Stormwater is managed via street drainage and in some instances inter-lot/laneway drainage easements, with flows contributing to the lagoon system. Formal kerb and guttering is restricted to streets around the school and newly developed areas in Alexander/Vulture and Church Streets.

Connectivity

Ellalong is connected to Bellbird and Cessnock via Ellalong Road, to Kitchener and Cessnock via Sandy Creek/Quorrobolong Road, and to Paxton, Millfield and Wollombi via Sanctuary Road.

Footpaths and pedestrian road crossing facilities are limited to locations close to the primary school, and the newly developed areas around Church and Campbell Streets.

Bus service operate between Cessnock, Ellalong 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.[10]

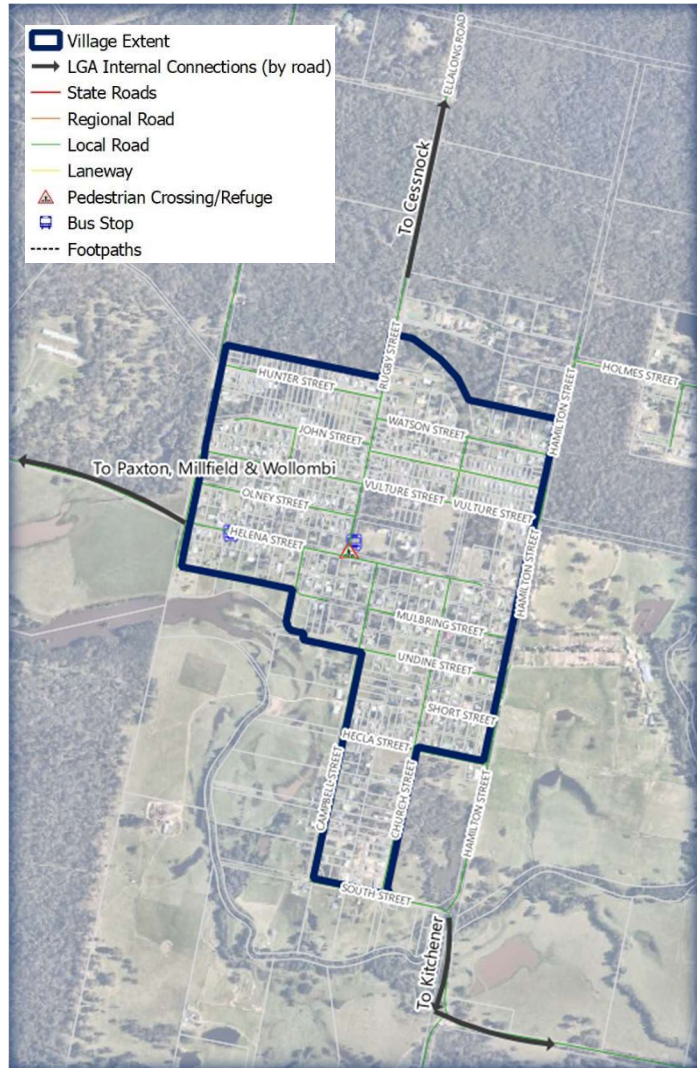A school bus service operates to/from Ellalong and Bellbird/Cessnock and Mount View[11].

Plate 6: Footpath extent on Campbell Street

Figure 7: Connectivity within and beyond Ellalong

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[10] *Transport for NSW Bus Route 168 https://www.rovercoaches.com.au/client_images/2199049.pdf, 19 November 2021*

[11] *Rover Coaches School Timetable, 2021, School Services https://www.rovercoaches.com.au/site/index.cfm?display=256899, accessed 15 November 2021*

Ellalong

Open Space and Public Domain

The supply of open space in Ellaong is centralised around the primary school between Vulture and Helena Streets. Open space areas comprise Ellalong Park and Ellalong cemetery. The Ellalong Community Hall is located between Olney and Helena Streets.
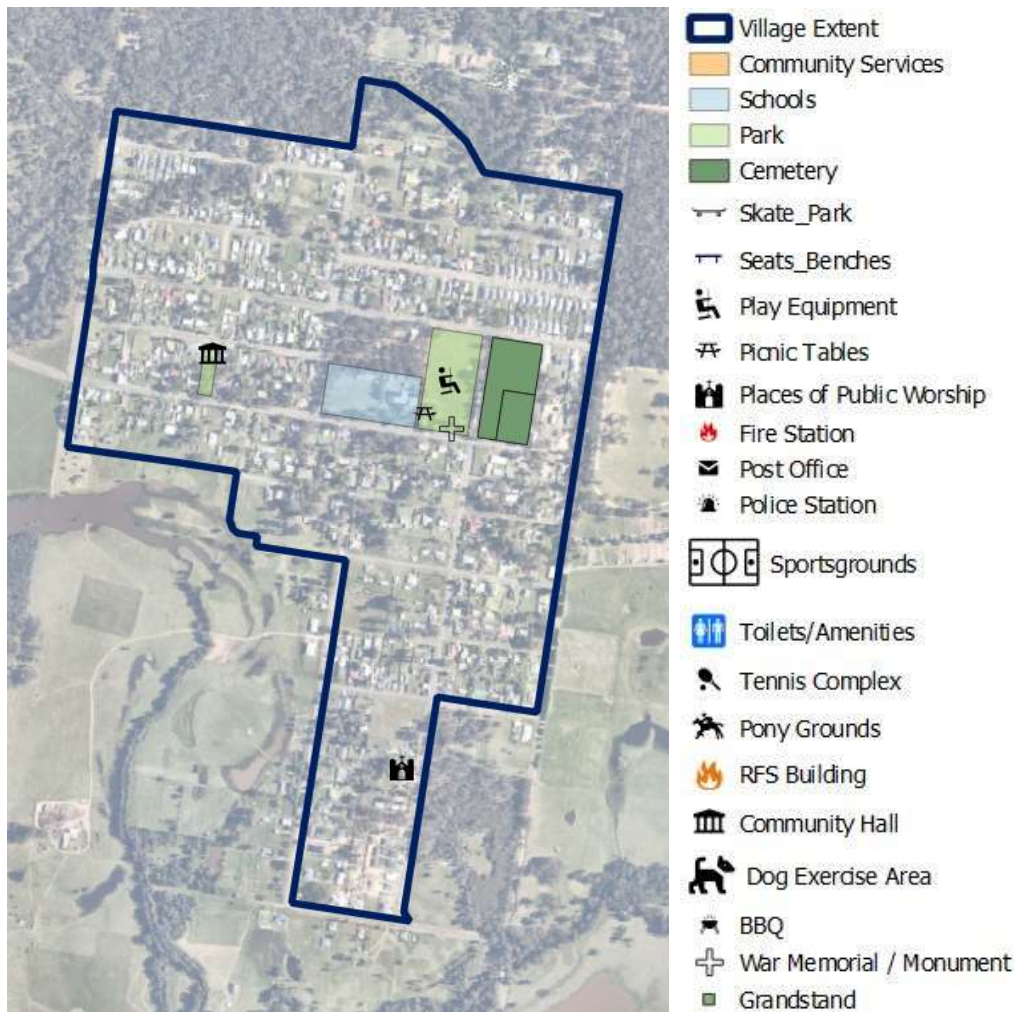

Plate 7: Ellalong Park

Figure 8: Open Space and Community Facilities within Open Space Areas and

The park comprises some multi-sport facilities and other infrastructure as described in .

Table 1: Ellalong Recreation Facilities Inventory[12]

Name	Hierarchy	Area	Facilities / Embellishments
Ellalong Park	Local Park	2.09ha	▪ Composite sports goals/posts ▪ Fencing ▪ Playground ▪ Shelter picnic bench and table

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[12] *Cessnock City Council Recreation and Open Space Strategic Plan 2020*

Name	Hierarchy	Area	Facilities / Embellishments
			▪ 1 basketball half court

Delineation between the public/private domain varies. Fencing of lot frontages varies from non-existent to a range of materials including hedging, colourbond, galvanised mesh, iron sheeting and rural post and rail fencing.

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

There are few public domain improvements within the village, and minimal evidence of street tree planting.

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.
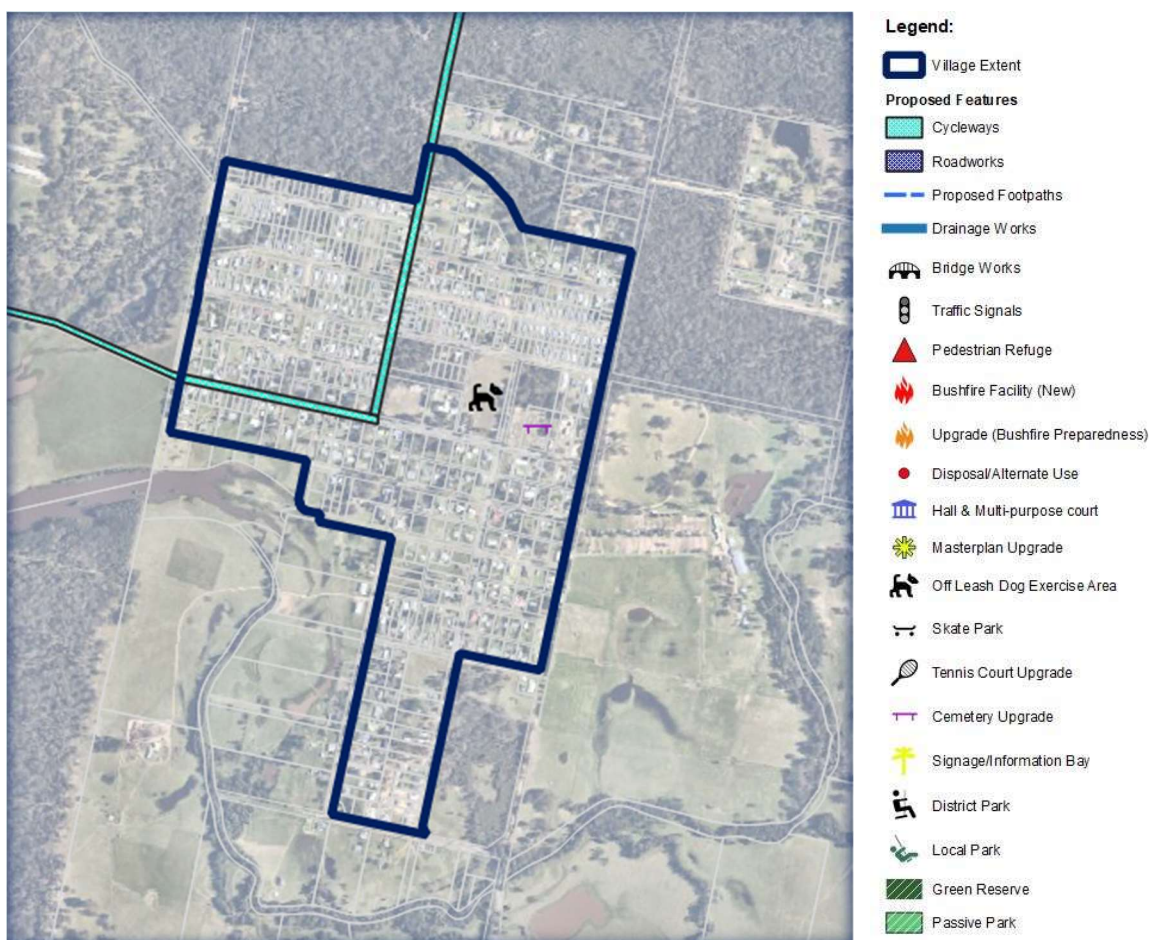

Figure 9: Audit Outcomes - Planned works and Infrastructure

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

Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
Cycleways / Paths / Trails	2021 – 2022 Capital Works Program	Pathway connection Pathway connection within Ellalong Park
	City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New off-road path on Millfield Road/Helena Street – Bennett Street to Rugby Street
	Cycling Strategy 2016 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	New district on-road connection on Ellalong Road/Rugby Street - Wollombi Road to Helena Street
Land Use Planning	2021 – 2022 Operational Plan	Create or review and update all policies identified as required or are due for review: D_27 Building approval conditions for land fronting unmade roads, Ellalong
	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.
Other Open Space	Ellalong Cemetery Masterplan 2019 / City Wide Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	Existing cemetery upgrade - Upgrades to seating and fencing, new wayfinding signage, formalized road, additional landscaping
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
Recreation Facilities	Off Leash Dog Exercise Plan 2021 / City Wide Local	▪ A District OLDEA is established at Ellalong Park (22 Helena Street, Ellalong) ▪ Fencing is to be installed to delineate the OLDEA: 0.5Ha -1Ha in size.

Category	Strategy / Plan	Action
	Infrastructure Contribution Plan 2020	▪ A site assessment and design is completed following the fencing 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
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.