



19 June 2020

To All Councillors

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, that an Extraordinary Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chambers, on Wednesday, 24 June 2020 at 6.30 pm, for the purposes of transacting the undermentioned business.

The meeting is to be held as per the COVID-19 legislation Amendment (Emergency Measures) Bill 2020 and will be closed to the public. The public may view the meeting via a link on Council's website.

AGENDA:

PAGE NO.

- | | | |
|------------|--|----|
| (1) | OPENING PRAYER | |
| (2) | ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL LAND OWNERS | |
| (3) | RECEIPT OF APOLOGIES | |
| | Apologies received from: | |
| | Councillor Dunn | |
| (4) | DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST | |
| | PPDI1/2020 Disclosures of Interest | 4 |
| (5) | MAYORAL MINUTES | |
| (6) | CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY | |
| | CC56/2020 Adoption of the 2020-21 Operational Plan & Budget..... | 5 |
| | CC57/2020 Making the Rate 2020-21 | 55 |



Principles for Local Government

Exercise of functions generally

The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by Councils:

- a) Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
- b) Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
- c) Councils should plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
- d) Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out their functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.
- e) Councils should work co-operatively with other Councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
- f) Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
- g) Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
- h) Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
- i) Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

Council's Values

- Integrity
- Accountability
- Respect
- Excellence
- Teamwork

Our Community's Vision

Cessnock will be a cohesive and welcoming community living in an attractive and sustainable rural environment with a diversity of business and employment opportunities supported by accessible infrastructure and services which effectively meet community need.

Cessnock – thriving, attractive and welcoming.

Our Community's Desired Outcomes

- A connected, safe and creative community.
- A sustainable and prosperous economy.
- A sustainable and healthy environment.
- Accessible infrastructure, facilities and services.
- Civic Leadership and effective governance.



Council adopted Model Code of Conduct

Council adopted its current Code of Conduct on 17 April 2019. This Code provides details of statutory requirements and gives guidance in respect of the way in which pecuniary and conflict of interest issues must be disclosed.

Generally, the Code outlines the following issues:

1. Councillors are under an obligation at law to disclose any interest they may have in any matter before the Council and to refrain from being involved in any consideration or to vote on any such matter
2. Councillors must disclose any interest in any matter noted in the business paper prior to or at the opening of the meeting
3. The nature of the interest shall be included in the notification
4. Councillors shall immediately and during the meeting disclose any interest in respect of any matter arising during the meeting which is not referred to in the business paper
5. All declarations of interest shall be recorded by the General Manager
6. All disclosures of interest shall as far as is practicable be given in writing
7. Any member having a pecuniary or non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest shall leave the meeting and remain absent while the subject of the interest is being considered by Council
8. The meeting shall not discuss any matter in which a Councillor has a pecuniary or non-pecuniary significant conflict of interest while the Councillor is present at the meeting

Disclosures Of Interest

Report No. PPD11/2020

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: *DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST*

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: *Finance and Administration Manager - Andrew Glauser*

RECOMMENDATION

That Councillors now disclose any interests and reasons for declaring such interest in the matters under consideration by Council at this meeting.

SUMMARY

The provisions of Chapter 14 of the Local Government Act, 1993 regulate the way in which Councillors and nominated staff of council conduct themselves to ensure that there is no conflict between their private interests and their public trust.

The Act prescribes that where a member of Council (or a Committee of Council) has a direct or indirect financial (pecuniary) interest in a matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council (or Committee), that interest must be disclosed as soon as practicable after the start of the meeting and the reasons for declaring such interest.

As members are aware, the provisions of the Local Government Act restrict any member who has declared a pecuniary interest in any matter from participating in the discussions, voting on that matter, and require that member to vacate the Chamber.

Council's Code of Conduct provides that if members have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, the nature of the conflict must be disclosed. The Code also provides for a number of ways in which a member may manage non pecuniary conflicts of interest.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC56/2020

Corporate and Community Services



SUBJECT: ***ADOPTION OF THE 2020-21 OPERATIONAL PLAN & BUDGET***

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: ***Finance and Administration Manager - Andrew Glauser***

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Council to adopt the Operational Plan for the year 2020-2021.

Section 405 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) requires Council to adopt an Operational Plan prior to 30 June each year.

Council adopted the draft 2020-21 Operational Plan for public exhibition on 20 May 2020 (Report CC42/2020) which resulted in 2 formal public submissions and 71 survey responses from the community. Internal reviews also highlighted a number of proposed changes to the draft 2020-21 Operational Plan detailed in this report for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes the significant improvement in the operational budget result from the draft Operational Plan placed on public exhibition which forecast a \$744,699 deficit and that as a result of changes the forecast is a \$423 operating surplus before capital grants and contributions.
2. That Council notes the feedback obtained from residents, the impacts of Council resolutions and the internal reviews during the public exhibition period as outlined in the report.
3. That Council adopts the 2020-21 Operational Plan, as exhibited, with the amendments outlined in this report, including:

2020-21 Budget

- Increase in rates and annual charges income of \$272,900.
- Decrease of \$314,422 for salaries and wages.
- Decrease of \$52,250 for operating grants and contributions.
- Increase of \$3,179,179 for capital grants and contributions.
- Decrease of \$200,050 for materials and contracts.
- Increase of \$10,000 for user charges and fees.

2020-21 Capital Works Program

Amend the 2020-21 Capital Works Program as detailed below:

- Community Buildings Construction Program (CBC)
 - Add CBC-2021-002 Branxton Community Hall – Storage facility \$71,000
- Cultural and Community Buildings Renewal Program (RBC)

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- Add RBC-2021-012 Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service – Kitchen upgrade \$120,226
- Add RBC-2021-011 Cessnock Performing Arts Centre – Kitchen upgrade \$75,100
- Drainage Construction Program (CDR)
 - Remove CDR-2018-003 Margaret and Thomas Streets, Cessnock – Upgrade Street Drainage – Phase 2 Detailed design, Phase 3 Construct \$0
- Local Road Construction Program (CRL)
 - Correction CCL-2021-001 Hart Road, Gingers Lane, Government Road, Loxford – Replace Roundabout Phase 3 Construct \$2,004,000

2020-21 Objectives and Actions

Amend the 2020-21 objectives as detailed below:

- From 5.3.8.d (d_07) Adopt a Climate Change Policy
Target:
Engage consultant by 31 July 2020
Engage consultant to undertake baseline greenhouse gas emissions report by 31 December 2020
Draft Climate Change Strategy by 31 March 2021.
- To 3.1.6.a Prepare a baseline greenhouse gas emission report
Target:
Engage consultant by 31 August 2020
Undertake baseline greenhouse gas emissions report by 31 December 2020
Commence the preparation of a climate change strategy
- Defer second listed target to 2021-22
5.3.12.a Continue enhancement of Council's IP&R system to support greater integration between Council strategies and enhance processes for the development and tracking of Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Delivery Program objectives and projects.
Target:
 1. Support mapping between Council's detailed strategies and draft CSP/Delivery program objectives by 31 March 2021.
 2. Develop adopted CSP and Delivery Program fully integrated with other Council Strategies by 30 June 2021.

Interest on Overdue Rates

- The rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges is:
 - seven per cent (7%) per annum, simple interest, calculated daily for the period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 and
 - zero per cent (0%) per annum, simple interest, calculated daily for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Expected Rate Yields

- Amend the expected rate yields as below:

Rate Type	Rate	Base	Est Yield
Residential	0.441170	430.00	27,596,483
Residential – Rural	0.368610	430.00	3,556,397
Farmland	0.314017	430.00	2,359,789
Farmland – Mixed Use	0.807579	535.00	203,160
Farmland – Business Rural	0.807579	535.00	235,556
Business	1.721402	535.00	5,870,290
Mining	3.725175	1500.00	1,410,550
			41,232,225

Change in wording regarding the Levy for Hunter Catchment Contribution

- Council, in accordance with Clauses 36 and 40, Part 4, of the *Local Land Services Regulation 2014*, prescribes that the rate at which the Hunter Catchment Contribution to be applied for the financial year shall be the rate gazetted by the Minister for the Hunter Catchment Contribution.

4. That Council sets the Fees and Charges for 2020-21 as detailed in the 2020-21 Operational Plan, as exhibited, with the amendments outlined below:

<i>Section</i>	<i>Proposed Change</i>
Review of determination under Section 82A	From Section 82A. To Section 8.2
Fee for review of modification application S96AB	From Fee for review of modification application S96AB. To Review of determination of modification application under Section 8.2.
Occupation Certificates	From Final or Interim Occupational Certificate. To Final/Full or Interim/Part Occupation Certificate
Refunds	From Part 4a Certificates. To Part 6 Certificates.
Copies of Endorsed Certificates	From Part 4a Certificates. To Part 6 Certificates.
Registration Of Certificates With Council	From Part 4a Certificates. To Part 6 Certificates.
Roads Act Approval and Civil Construction Certificates (Plan Checking) – Subdivision, Roads and Drainage	From Roads Act Approval and Civil Construction Certificates (Plan Checking) – Subdivision, Roads and Drainage. To Roads Act Approval and Subdivision Works Certificate (Plan Checking) – Subdivision, Roads and Drainage.

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Corporate and Community Services



Section 149 Planning Certificates	From Section 149 Planning Certificates. To Section 10.7 Planning Certificates.
Applications For Amendment To Cessnock Local Environmental Plan (Planning Proposals) -Category C	From Section 94, S94 or S94A. To Section 7.11, S7.11 and S7.12.
Dog Control (As Prescribed In Regulation To Companion Animal Act) (Lifetime Registration)	New Regulatory Fee - Annual Permits - Declared Dangerous Dogs - \$195
Dog Control (As Prescribed In Regulation To Companion Animal Act) (Lifetime Registration)	New Regulatory Fee - Annual Permits - Restricted Dog Breeds - \$195
Cat Control (As Prescribed In Regulation To Companion Animal Act) (Lifetime Registration)	New Regulatory Fee - Annual Permits - Non-desexed Cats - \$80
Temporary Food Premises	Remove wording from NOTE: Exemption does not apply to urgent applications.
Inspection for DA compliance of Non-licensed Food Premise	Remove heading and wording - Fees do not apply to a food business that operates for the sole purpose of raising funds for a community or charitable cause.

BACKGROUND

Council has exhibited the draft 2020-21 Operational Plan in accordance with the provisions of Section 405 of the Act.

The draft 2020-21 Operational Plan is structured around the community's five desired outcomes from the Community Strategic Plan, *Cessnock 2027*:

- A connected, safe and creative community;
- A sustainable and prosperous economy;
- A sustainable and healthy environment;
- Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities; and
- Civic leadership and effective governance

The draft 2020-21 Operational Plan provides information to the community about Council's ongoing activities and the key initiatives to implement Council's 2017-21 Delivery Program. It also incorporates the 2020-21 budget, Capital Works Program and Revenue Policy.

Details of the draft 2020-21 Fees & Charges (which are part of the Revenue Policy) are presented in a separate volume.

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The draft documents were placed on public exhibition between 20 May 2020 and 17 June 2020. During the exhibition period, copies were made available for viewing on the “Have Your Say” page on the Council website. In addition, the public exhibition was promoted via boosted posts on social media and emailed to local business and community groups.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

In accordance with Section 405 of the Act Council must adopt an Operational Plan after a draft has been prepared and exhibited. In deciding on the final plan to be adopted Council must take into consideration any submissions that have been made concerning the Draft Operational Plan.

Operational Plan Overview

The draft 2020-21 Operational Plan includes:

- Introduction and background on the planning framework and the Local Government Area;
- Details of Council’s operational actions to work towards achieving the community’s desired outcomes;
- Financial forecasts;
- Capital Works Program; and
- Revenue Policy.

The Draft Fees & Charges are part of the Operational Plan and are presented in a separate volume.

Internal reviews of the draft document, as well as other influences such as grant applications and Council resolutions have also necessitated proposed changes, and these changes are highlighted within the report.

Summary of Changes Impacting on 2020-21 Operational Plan

There are four changes to the Operational Plan 2020-21 which have the most material impact on Council’s financial position. Additional information became available during the public exhibition period that required these changes to be considered. These are:

1. An increase in rates income of \$272,900 due to an increase in land values arising from subdivision activity within the Local Government Area (LGA). The NSW Valuer General Supplementary List weekly reports, particularly for April and May 2020 which recognised increases totalling approximately \$11 million in land value within the LGA have contributed to this increase.
2. A decrease of \$52,250 in operating grants and contributions offset by an increase of \$3,179,179 in capital grants and contributions being recorded for new grants such as Stronger Country Community Grant, Restart NSW and Fixing Country Roads and Transport NSW.
3. A decrease of \$314,422 for salaries and wages arising from the anticipated award increase for 2020-21 being 1.5%, whereas the exhibited operational plan provided for a 2.5% increase, resulting in a forecast saving.

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4. A decrease of \$200,050 in materials and contracts.

Recent Grant Funding announcements not Included within the 2020-21 Operational Plan

Council has been successful in two significant grant applications and the finalisation of the grant funding deeds and project plans is proceeding but not complete in time for inclusion in the 2020-21 Operational Plan to be presented to Council for adoption. The projects, associated grant and Council funding requirements will be reported to Council separately and included in the 2020-21 Operational Plan as part of the September Quarterly Budget Review process. The projects are:

- A \$1.95m grant to assist construction of the Branxton to Greta Cycleway:
Federal Government round 4 of the Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream listed Council as being a successful applicant for the Branxton to Greta Cycleway. Council will also need to contribute funds.
- A \$6.6m grant to help restart Hunter Valley tourism post Covid-19:
The grant will support major upgrades to Cessnock Airport. Council will be providing a co-contribution of \$2.1m.

Summary of Impact on the 2020-21 Operational Plan

The impact on the Operational Plan of the changes can be divided into the following categories:

1. ***Operating Position (before capital grants and contributions).*** Council will now budget for an operating surplus.

Operating result – (surplus)/loss in exhibition document	\$744,699
Additional rates income	(\$272,900)
Decrease Salaries and Wages	(\$314,422)
Decrease Operating Grants and Contributions	\$52,250
Decrease Materials and Contracts	(\$200,050)
Miscellaneous changes	(\$10,000)
Operating surplus before capital grants and contributions	(\$423)

As noted as a result of these changes there will be a \$423 operating surplus before capital grants and contributions. In addition the forecast cash budget result has improved to also reflect a surplus, which is forecast to be \$110,839.

The Operational Performance Ratio has changed to 3.88% for 2020-21 and a three-year average of 1.65% (compared to the Fit for the Future benchmark of >0).

2. ***Changes which do not materially impact the 2020-21 Operational Plan***

- Changes have been captured (other than minor wording, formatting changes and clarification of project descriptions) in the detailed log of changes later in this report. These changes do not have a material impact on Council's operating or cash positions.
- There have been some reallocation of funding sources (without changing the capital works program) to ensure funding sources are optimally aligned with projects.
- There have been limited changes to Fees and Charges.

Financial Impact from the Coronavirus Pandemic

The Coronavirus pandemic has had an impact on Council. Due to the uncertainty and significance of the impact modelling was essential. This included a stress test of Council's resilience, the extent of response possible to support the community, and identification of contingency plans if required. This was a key input into the development of the Operational Plan. The Draft Operational Plan applied the base case scenario (which aligned to the Federal Government position and associated RBA appraisal).

Conditions have improved markedly since that initial assessment. The Optimistic Scenario can now be viewed as a more likely outcome and this is now being used as a base for the final Operational Plan. Some adjustments to that scenario are required to support recent government policy changes in recent weeks.

The basis of this change is that lockdown requirements are being loosened faster than originally anticipated. For example, regional travel is commencing which will benefit the Hunter. Tourism operations (part of one of the most impacted sectors) can now reopen. These changes will help moderate the impact on the local economy. Consequently, fewer ratepayers might need to rely upon hardship or deferred payment arrangements. In addition, Council can resume some (but not all) of the services that were previously closed as part of the lockdown.

The key impacts now are as follows:

The Operating loss reflected in the exhibition document was predominantly due to the impact of Coronavirus and any changes in the impact are reflected in the Summary provided above.

Rates & Charges: The only impact to Rates & Charges from the current pandemic is the possible deferral of payments by ratepayers who are having difficulty paying. Rates revenue will continue to be recognized (rates cannot be waived or written-off) however Council's cash and investments position is forecast to be impacted due to an additional month being provided for payments of the 1st instalment and the possibility of overdue payments.

Assumptions on deferred payments: Banks have experienced high levels of deferral requests for loan repayments (major banks between 9% and 14% of borrowers have sought some deferral). Council's experience to date however is limited hardship applications and 4th instalment receipts being paid in line with historical trends. Based on this analysis deferrals for budgeting purposes will be 5%. There is still some element of risk that deferrals might be greater than this assumption as 19% of survey respondents during public exhibition indicated they might seek deferral of payment of rates. Caution is required as this was not a randomised survey and the sample is relatively small.

Councils Balance Sheet: The bottom line however is that Council has stress tested our financial health and is able to sustain a substantially higher level of deferrals provided these funds are ultimately received sometime in the future. Council however cannot easily cater for permanent loss of revenue. Permanent losses would result in a funding gap which would need to be resolved by either reducing services or recovering the lost funds possibly via higher rates. This is not viewed as a preferred outcome.

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Impact on Investment Revenue: Lower receipts will impact Councils cash and investments position which will result in lower investment revenue. With more optimism the impact on revenue will be less than originally assumed in the draft Operational Plan. This benefit however is offset by two other factors:

- The Office of Local Government provided a directive that Councils do not charge any interest on arrears (including existing debt) for the first 6 months of 2020/21. This change almost fully offsets the benefit from lower deferral payments.
- Interest rates are likely to remain low (and possibly reduce further) and some banks have indicated in recent weeks that they do not require investment funds. This situation is reducing Councils investment options and reducing the level of competition for funds. Consequently, there is some risk that rates available might decrease further. Some contingency has been built into the budget to cover this risk however significant reductions in rates would require a possible quarterly review adjustment.

Other revenue impacts remain unchanged from the draft: There are two other primary drivers impacting revenues. The accelerated removal of lockdown will not impact these:

- Development activity is forecast to remain subdued. Both Development Services and Health and Building have reduced revenue forecasts to reflect this.
- The six-month reduction in Visitor Information Centre membership fees will be retained. Although tourism related businesses are beginning to reopen the impact to date has been significant. In addition, businesses will continue to be impacted by social distancing requirements.

Impact on Council Expenses: on the expense side of the Budget the primary impact is a reduction in salaries and wages due to the award increase for 2020/21 expected to be a 1.5% increase instead of 2.5% anticipated and allowed in the exhibited Operational Plan. This is marginally reduced by the reinstatement of some employee costs where savings as a result of recruitment deferral for vacant positions are now not anticipated to be realised. With a number of services now coming back online some recruitment has recommenced.

Based on these movements there will not be a significant change in the financial impact arising from Coronavirus.

The impact on Council's financial statements of these changes are as follows:

- Council's Operating position (before capital grants and contributions will now result in an operating surplus (from \$744,699 deficit to \$423 surplus).
- The increase in Councils Operating Surplus (after capital grants and contributions) from \$11,312,536 to \$15,236,837 is due to the increase in capital grant funding.
- The cash position is not impacted by the increased capital grant funding as grant funding is fully applied to projects.

Detailed Operational Plan Changes – Volume 1

There have been some minor wording, formatting changes and clarification of project descriptions, in addition to the following proposed changes to the draft Operational Plan, as exhibited:

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Table 2 Proposed Changes to Draft 2020-21 Operational Plan – Volume I

Page	Section	Proposed Change
28	Capital Works Program	<u>Community Buildings Construction Program (CBC)</u> Add CBC-2021-002 Branxton Community Hall – Storage facility \$71,000 Reason: Contribution from the Branxton Lions Club \$71,000
28	Capital Works Program	<u>Cultural and Community Buildings Renewal Program (RBC)</u> Add RBC-2021-012 Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service – Kitchen upgrade \$120,226 Reason: Stronger Country Communities Fund Grant \$120,226
28	Capital Works Program	<u>Cultural and Community Buildings Renewal Program (RBC)</u> Add RBC-2021-011 Cessnock Performing Arts Centre – Kitchen upgrade \$75,100 Reason: Stronger Country Communities Fund Grant \$75,100
53	Capital Works Program	<u>Drainage Construction Program (CDR)</u> Remove CDR-2018-003 Margaret and Thomas Streets, Cessnock – Upgrade Street Drainage – Phase 2 Detailed design, Phase 3 Construct \$0 Reason: Project to be included once funding is identified.
65	Capital Works Program	<u>Local Road Construction Program (CRL)</u> Correction CCL-2021-001 Hart Road, Gingers Lane, Government Road, Loxford – Replace Roundabout Phase 3 Construct \$2,004,000 Reason: Correct funding amount from \$2,604,000 in the draft to \$2,004,000 (Administrative error)

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Page	Section	Proposed Change																																				
75	Objectives	<p><u>From (Page 75)</u> 5.3.8.d (d_07) Adopt a Climate Change Policy Target: Engage consultant by 31 July 2020 Engage consultant to undertake baseline greenhouse gas emissions report by 31 December 2020 Draft Climate Change Strategy by 31 March 2021.</p> <p><u>To (Page 42)</u> 3.1.6.a Prepare a baseline greenhouse gas emission report Target: Engage consultant by 31 August 2020 Undertake baseline greenhouse gas emissions report by 31 December 2020 Commence the preparation of a climate change strategy.</p> <p>Reason: Administrative error.</p>																																				
78	Objectives	<p><u>Defer second listed target to 2021-22</u> 5.3.12.a Continue enhancement of Council's IP&R system to support greater integration between Council strategies and enhance processes for the development and tracking of Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Delivery Program objectives and projects. Target: 3. Support mapping between Council's detailed strategies and draft CSP/Delivery program objectives by 31 March 2021. 4. Develop adopted CSP and Delivery Program fully integrated with other Council Strategies by 30 June 2021.</p> <p>Reason: Change in IP&R timeframes as a result of Covid-19 response from Office of Local Government.</p>																																				
95	Revenue Policy	<p>Rating Structure Table: Additional revenue has been included as a result of additional sub-division activity being included in the budget for next year. This has necessitated another rates modelling with changes to the rate and estimated yield. Changes in the rate from the draft are insignificant.</p> <p>Amend table column for Est Yield as below:</p> <table><tr><th>Rate Type</th><th>Rate</th><th>Base</th><th>Est Yield</th></tr><tr><td>Residential</td><td>0.441170</td><td>430.00</td><td>27,596,483</td></tr><tr><td>Residential – Rural</td><td>0.368610</td><td>430.00</td><td>3,556,397</td></tr><tr><td>Farmland</td><td>0.314017</td><td>430.00</td><td>2,359,789</td></tr><tr><td>Farmland – Mixed Use</td><td>0.807579</td><td>535.00</td><td>203,160</td></tr><tr><td>Farmland – Business Rural</td><td>0.807579</td><td>535.00</td><td>235,556</td></tr><tr><td>Business</td><td>1.721402</td><td>535.00</td><td>5,870,290</td></tr><tr><td>Mining</td><td>3.725175</td><td>1500.00</td><td>1,410,550</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>41,232,225</td></tr></table>	Rate Type	Rate	Base	Est Yield	Residential	0.441170	430.00	27,596,483	Residential – Rural	0.368610	430.00	3,556,397	Farmland	0.314017	430.00	2,359,789	Farmland – Mixed Use	0.807579	535.00	203,160	Farmland – Business Rural	0.807579	535.00	235,556	Business	1.721402	535.00	5,870,290	Mining	3.725175	1500.00	1,410,550				41,232,225
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Page	Section	Proposed Change
97	Revenue Policy	<p>Hunter Catchment Contribution: Change wording from Catchment contributions are collected under Clause 40, Part 4, of the <i>Local Land Services Regulation 2014</i>, with the Local Land Services setting the rate in the dollar each year. The rate applicable to all land within the defined catchment area is TBA of a cent in the dollar on the current value of land within the area. The rate in the dollar is expected to be confirmed by Local Land Services in May 2020.</p> <p>To Council, in accordance with Clauses 36 and 40, Part 4, of the <i>Local Land Services Regulation 2014</i>, prescribes that the rate at which the Hunter Catchment Contribution to be applied for the financial year shall be the rate gazetted by the Minister for the Hunter Catchment Contribution.</p> <p>Reason: Hunter Catchment Contribution now gazetted.</p>

Detailed Fees & Charges Changes – Volume II

There have been some minor wording and formatting changes, in addition to following proposed changes to the Draft Fees & Charges, as exhibited:

Table 4: Proposed Changes to Draft Fees & Charges – Volume II

Page	Section	Proposed Change
23	Review of determination under Section 82A	From Section 82A. To Section 8.2
27	Fee for review of modification application S96AB	From Fee for review of modification application S96AB. To Review of determination of modification application under Section 8.2.
31	Occupation Certificates	From Final or Interim Occupational Certificate. To Final/Full or Interim/Part Occupation Certificate
33	Refunds	From Part 4a Certificates. To Part 6 Certificates.
34	Copies of Endorsed Certificates	From Part 4a Certificates. To Part 6 Certificates.
34	Registration Of Certificates With Council	From Part 4a Certificates. To Part 6 Certificates.

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Page	Section	Proposed Change
34	Roads Act Approval and Civil Construction Certificates (Plan Checking) – Subdivision, Roads and Drainage	From Roads Act Approval and Civil Construction Certificates (Plan Checking) – Subdivision, Roads and Drainage. To Roads Act Approval and Subdivision Works Certificate (Plan Checking) – Subdivision, Roads and Drainage.
41	Section 149 Planning Certificates	From Section 149 Planning Certificates. To Section 10.7 Planning Certificates.
42, 43	Applications For Amendment To Cessnock Local Environmental Plan (Planning Proposals) - Category C	From Section 94, S94 or S94A. To Section 7.11, S7.11 and S7.12.
47	Dog Control (As Prescribed In Regulation To Companion Animal Act) (Lifetime Registration)	New Regulatory Fee - Annual Permits - Declared Dangerous Dogs - \$195
47	Dog Control (As Prescribed In Regulation To Companion Animal Act) (Lifetime Registration)	New Regulatory Fee - Annual Permits - Restricted Dog Breeds - \$195
47,48	Cat Control (As Prescribed In Regulation To Companion Animal Act) (Lifetime Registration)	New Regulatory Fee - Annual Permits - Non-desexed Cats - \$80
49	Temporary Food Premises	Remove wording from NOTE: Exemption does not apply to urgent applications.
50	Inspection for DA compliance of Non-licensed Food Premise	Remove heading and wording - Fees do not apply to a food business that operates for the sole purpose of raising funds for a community or charitable cause.

Community Consultation

Council has significantly expanded the level of community engagement for the public exhibition of the 2020-21 Operational Plan. This is in response to feedback received from the biennial community satisfaction survey last year. It was identified that overall community satisfaction can be improved the most by improving community engagement.

Social media has been used more extensively with excellent results. In addition, the Open Space & Community Facilities Team sent out an electronic notification (by email) to 68 recreation & community facility key stakeholders. Stakeholders included s355 volunteer management committees, summer and winter sporting clubs, such as athletics, cricket, football, horse sports, netball, rugby league, rugby union and tennis clubs as well as swimming

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clubs who utilise Council's outdoor pools". User groups were provided with the necessary links and process to provide a written submission or complete the online survey.

During the exhibition period, copies of the draft documents were made available for viewing on the "Have Your Say" page on the Council website, promoted via boosted posts on social media, emailed to key stakeholder community and sporting groups, and local businesses have been informed via the Economic Development ENewsletter.

The temporary change in the meeting schedule for Council meetings to one per month created a tight timeline and in addition, the lockdown requirements associated with the pandemic restricted some traditional channels. Copies could not be held at Council locations for viewing and newspapers could not promote awareness that the Operational Plan was on exhibition.

Council received two formal public submission and 71 survey responses during the exhibition period and these submissions will guide Council in future improvements and support existing plans however they did not necessitate any changes to the draft Operational Plan.

Submissions via traditional channels**Table 1: Summary of Public Submissions**

Summary	Recommendation:
Submission about the proposed change of category for the church from "residential" to "light commercial" relating to Onsite Sewage System Management fees.	<p>Categorisation of the Church as a residential system is not appropriate as it has been appropriately categorised as light commercial with a suitable routine inspection schedule.</p> <p>The charging of an inspection fee on a cost recovery basis is appropriate for not for profit organisations noting the existing provisions allowing consideration for the reduction or waiver of fees and charges are sufficient to support not for profit organisations experiencing hardship. The Church should be encouraged to consider their eligibility based on the existing provisions for the waiver and reduction of fees and charges.</p> <p>The proposed inspection fee is recommended to proceed without change.</p>
Objective 2.3 HRFWDC gives in principle support to this objective and the strategic direction, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the many prospects to increase tourism that Cessnock and surrounding areas are looking for.	<p>No change to the Operational Plan.</p> <p>Economic Development & Tourism staff will contact Hunter Region Four Wheel Drive Council to discuss tourism.</p>
Objective 2.3	No change to the Operational Plan.

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<p>The forecast increase in domestic tourism as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic is an opportunity Cessnock City Council should capitalise on and is not identified in the Operational Plan.</p>	<p>Initiatives to address the impacts of COVID-19 are being undertaken within actions 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.1.4, 2.2.1.</p> <p>Council has allocated \$350,000 towards a variety of tourism initiatives, including destination marketing and tourism infrastructure improvements.</p>
<p>Action 3.1.4.a</p> <p>HRFWDC would like more information about the "Our Bushland Festival", we have regularly participated in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Biodiversity Day at Blue Gum Hills Regional Park. We think the Our Bushland Festival could present an excellent opportunity to promote environmentally aware camping and driving techniques. Showcase what the local four wheel drive clubs do in the local communities, such as Clean Up Australia Day events, along with benefits of membership such as accredited driver training</p>	<p>No Change to Operational Plan</p> <p>Can be considered to determine whether it fits into existing programmed educational activities and the available resources.</p>
<p>Action 4.1.1.a</p> <p>Council should seek funding to repair the bridge on Watagan Creek Rd. This would re-open a touring route into the area. Importantly this would re-open a bush fire evacuation route out of the Watagans National Park & State Forest.</p> <p>We have had a Rural Fire Bridge Captain on the east side of the Watagans tell us how this bridge failure had prevented his brigade from assisting fellow brigades in Cessnock Council LGA.</p>	<p>No Change to Operational Plan</p> <p>This is an ownership/responsibility matter that has a long history, and it was raised again at the most recent Bush Fire Management Committee. (This is a matter that will be resolved as a day to day operational issue with the key stakeholders being Council / NSW Forestry and NSW Crown Land)</p>
<p>Action 4.1.4.b</p> <p>Hunter Region Four Wheel Drive Council seeks to have representation on the Trails Reference Group as a key stakeholder on many of the actions contained in the strategic outcomes of the Trail Strategy. We believe we have valuable input and methods to bring economic benefits to the Cessnock Council LGA.</p>	<p>No Change to Operational Plan</p> <p>Trails Strategy adopted by Council on 20 May 2020</p> <p>Officers will consider inclusion of 4WD representatives on Reference Group as required</p>

Corporate and Community

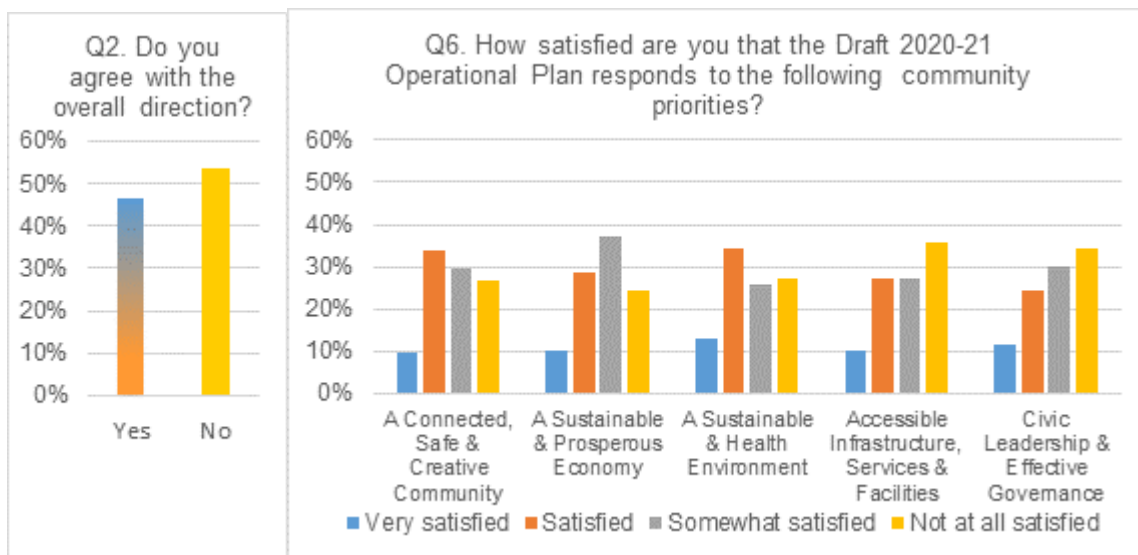
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**Other Community feedback**

The survey has received an excellent response (71) and an analysis of the feedback is provided below.

The overall direction of the Operational Plan is approved by 46% and not supported by 54% of respondents. There is a higher degree of satisfaction across each of the community priorities. The percentage of respondents that are at least somewhat satisfied by theme ranges from 78% for Sustainable and Prosperous Economy to 64% for Accessible Infrastructure, Services and Facilities.



A total of 49 of the 71 respondents provided comments. The survey sought the following feedback:

- The reasons why respondents did not agree with the overall direction;
- Anything else that should be considered to meet these community priorities; and
- Comments regarding the Draft 2020-21 Budget, the Draft 2020-21 Capital Works Program, the Draft 2020-21 Revenue Policy and the Draft 2020-21 Fees & Charges.

As can be seen from the questions feedback sought encouraged respondents to raise their own preferences. An analysis of these comments assisted in identifying a number of themes:

- Respondents that generally agree with the general direction have either made no comment (19) or have raised additional projects without challenging the elements of the proposed program (11).
- Respondents that do not agree with the direction primarily suggest either reallocation of funds towards priorities which are more aligned to their preferences (16) or are unsatisfied with current projects (9) and suggest these funds be reallocated or Council spend less. In both instances some reference to past or current projects is often referenced in indicating overall direction. A positive past experience appears important in garnering support for future plans.
- Some respondents that do not agree with the overall direction have not challenged specific elements of the program but are seeking additional works (8).

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- The primary services of interest are roads and recreational facilities. A number of projects are suggested relating to footpaths, cycleways and kerb and gutter. Many of the suggestions request are location specific.
- Some respondents are possibly not aware of the extent to which Council is reliant on grant funding to undertake substantial projects and certainly capital works.

An analysis by respondent rather than by reviewing by each question individually assisted in providing a more complete understanding of the feedback – often the answers across questions help ascertain the interests of each respondent. A total of 71 survey responses is too large to present individually in this report. **Enclosure 3** of this report provides the detail for reference and a summary is shown below. Key comments across all questions in the survey has been aggregated to identify the primary feedback and the analysis is broken down by funding considerations and services.

1. Additional Services (& Projects) requiring Funding

A number of residents would like to have greater expenditure on their respective areas. A number of these are for specific assets to be built. There was a particular focus for a pathway to be built in Rothbury / Greta (3 comments). One comment requesting more investment in Kurri, another requesting expenditure outside of Cessnock, and a specific request for traffic lights at the Charles St/Cessnock Rd Abermain intersection.

Services or Alternate	Agree with overall direction?			Selection of Comments / Themes	Assessment & Recommendation
	No	Yes	Total		
Transport & Drainage	2	8	10	Primary focus of respondents is improving condition of certain roads (generally outside Cessnock CBD), Some K&G requests, cycleways & stormwater.	19 respondents have proposed additional projects (details in separate table). A number of these projects proposed are substantial in nature - if these were identified as priorities these projects would require grant funding to proceed. Some more specific projects of more limited scale will be captured for consideration along with other priorities.
Recreation	5	2	7	Sporting Fields & Recreational Areas with specific mention of Mulbring, Varty & Peace Parks. One request for new swimming pool with parking.	
Environment	1	1	2	Include Climate Change Strategy, Lower DMWC, more flexible use of vouchers.	
Total	8	11	19		

2. Reallocate Funds

Many ratepayers are recognising that Council needs to make choices on where funds should be allocated. There were two primary areas suggested: that funds be spent in areas other than Cessnock (6 comments), the Branxton-Greta cycleway (3) and roads more generally are raised as preferred areas of focus. Many of the Transport & Drainage suggestions are also location specific.

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Services or alternate	Agree with overall direction?			selection of Comments / Themes	Assessment & Recommendation
	No	Yes	Total		
Transport & Drainage	9	1	10	Takes too long to complete projects, need to fix roads not patching, focus on majority of ratepayers, one respondent wants less expenditure on roads	17 respondents recognising that there are finite resources and therefore proposing reallocation of funds between areas (details in separate table). Respondents might not however be aware that some works receive grant funding which enables Council to undertake those works at limited cost to ratepayers. In addition, reallocation will not provide enough funds to have a material impact (e.g. funds on events are limited and might not assist roadworks). Will capture proposed projects for consideration.
Reallocate between Locations	6		6	Branxton / Greta receive multiple mentions, some general comments about less expenditure in Cessnock CBD & more in smaller towns	
Address Current Assets rather than New	1		1	Maintain existing assets. Some other feedback on services also focuses on existing assets	
Total	16	1	17		

On 4 June 2020 (after the draft Operational Plan was placed on exhibition), the Federal Government announced the successful applicants of Round 4 of the Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream. Council was successful in its grant application for the Branxton to Greta Cycleway. The grant will be for a total of \$1,950,000. This grant has not been included within the budget as the associated deed has not yet been finalised. Council will also need to contribute funds.

Council has been seeking funding support for this project for many years and needed this funding assistance to have the capacity to undertake this project. This is an excellent example of combined community and council support to achieve an outcome that is important to the community.

3. Poor Use of Council Funds

The concerns are primarily directed towards two past / current projects: Cooper Street and Wine Country Signage. Both these projects have relatively high profile. It is possible that many in the community are not aware these projects are largely grant funded. It is not possible to redirect funds to some of the options proposed. It is recommended that community engagement on how Council projects are being funded might avoid some dissatisfaction as ratepayer dollars are not the primary source of those projects.

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Services or alternate	Agree with overall direction?			selection of Comments / Themes	Assessment & Recommendation
	No	Yes	Total		
Transport & Drainage	7	1	8	Two projects: Cooper Street & Wine Country Signage. Comments about there being better options for Council funds and for Cooper St some quality or design concerns.	Respondents might not be aware that both projects identified involve significant grant funding and that Cooper St is just one stage of a broader CBD revitalisation. There might also not be awareness of a similar program for Kurri Kurri which should highlight revitalisation is not limited to Cessnock.
Assist Businesses & Ratepayers on rates	1		1	Believes that deferring rates does not assist people who are struggling financially. A number of comments were made that rates keep increasing.	Under the Local Government Act rates cannot be waived or written-off. Lower rates would need to be applied by class and would impact capacity to deliver services. Ultimately the community as a whole decides level of services expected and willingness to pay for these services. The rate cap limits the increment allowed (this is 2.6% for 2020-21). This is in line with inflation as determined by IPART and does not enable additional expenditure in real terms.
Support businesses / families during Covid	1		1	Believes Council funds should be directed to helping families rather than some projects	Survey responses were very positive about Councils response. In addition, a significant number of respondents (18%) might utilise the deferred payment options Council is providing.
Total	9	1	10		

4. Other Feedback

There is some limited feedback which does not naturally fit into other categories. These have been included for completeness.

Services or alternate	Agree with overall direction?			selection of Comments / Themes	Assessment & Recommendation
	No	Yes	Total		
Not fully understand plan	1		1	Respondent indicated did not understand some parts of the operational plan	Continue focus on making operational plans easy to understand.
Discount for early payment of rates & charges	1		1	Respondent thought early receipt of funds with say a 5% discount would benefit council.	Receiving full rates payment is more important to Council than early payment.
Concern plan will not be delivered		1	1	Specific mention of Hart Rd	Continue focus on program delivery and reporting of progress.
Total	2	1	3		

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Corporate and Community Services**Facebook feedback**

The public exhibition was promoted via boosted posts on Facebook resulting in 29,658 people reached, 27 shares and 942 link clicks.

While Facebook comments are not part of the formal submission process they have been considered as part of overall feedback to ascertain a snapshot of wider community views. This allows council to engage with community members that might not usually provide comment or input for public exhibitions.

	Number of comments		
Services or Alternate	Total	Selection of Comments / Themes	Assessment & Recommendation
Transport & Drainage	26	Primary focus of respondents is improving condition of certain roads (generally outside Cessnock CBD). Some traffic light requests, cycleways, footpaths, safety and flooding issues.	The poor condition of roads is a common theme which cannot be addressed unless substantially more funding is obtained via rate increases or grants. Not all roads are council responsibility, so more community education could be undertaken in this area. The biennial community satisfaction survey last year identified that overall community satisfaction can be improved the most by improving community engagement.
Recreation	7	Recreational Areas with specific mention of toilets in parks, maintenance, bigger basketball court, bike tracks, workout equipment, shade.	
Environment	6	Roadside pickup requests, flexible use of tip vouchers and rubbish in bushland.	
Communication	10	Not listening to rate payers and no follow-up on feedback given is a common theme.	
Total	49		

OPTIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

The draft documents were placed on public exhibition in accordance with legislative requirements.

During the exhibition period, copies of the draft documents were made available for viewing on the "Have Your Say" page on the Council website. In addition, the public exhibition was promoted via boosted posts on social media (29,658 People Reached, 942 Link clicks), email sent to key stakeholder community and sporting groups (68 groups emailed), and local businesses have been informed via Council's Economic Development ENewsletter.

Council officers have also undertaken internal reviews of the draft documents, and along with changes for Council resolutions and external influences, a number of changes are proposed.

Community Engagement

A tailored approach to engagement has been undertaken during the exhibition period recognising current restrictions on gatherings and closure of community facilities to the public due to the pandemic. Engagement activities relied more than usual on online delivery which included Facebook posts and placement of content on councils 'Have Your Say' webpage.

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The engagement approach is detailed below:

- Placed documents on public exhibition immediately after the council meeting to meet the 28 day advertising requirement.
- Actively promoted awareness early within the public exhibition period to elicit early feedback where possible. Promotion via boosted Facebook posts in the first 2 weeks of the 4 week exhibition period.
- A brief survey has been undertaken to promote feedback (closed on 3 June).
- Survey included specific feedback on relevant information of impact on the community of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Any feedback provided after the finalisation of this report to be considered as part of September Quarterly Review (if necessary).

STRATEGIC LINKS

Delivery Program

The 2020-21 Operational Plan details the activities to be undertaken by Council during 2020-21 to implement the 2017-21 Delivery Program.

The Operational Plan is a key part of the organisation's governance framework – in line with the community's desired outcome of "*Civic Leadership and Effective Governance*."

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

N/A

b. Financial Implications

The draft Operational Plan includes Council's budgetary allocations for 2020-21.

c. Legislative Implications

Section 405 of the Act requires the Operational Plan to be adopted prior to 30 June, however an amendment has been enacted this year due to COVID-19 which allows for a Council (if it chooses) to delay this adoption until 31 July 2020. It is not proposed to utilise this amendment, as the Operational Plan is complete, exhibited and recommended for adoption.

d. Risk Implications

N/A

e. Other Implications

N/A

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CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopts the draft 2020-21 Operational Plan with the proposed changes outlined in this report.

ENCLOSURES

- 1** [↓](#) 2020-21 Operational Plan - Distributed Under Separate Cover
- 2** [↓](#) Public Submission 1
- 3** [↓](#) Public Submission 2
- 4** [↓](#) Feedback, Analysis & Response arising from Public Exhibition
- 5** [↓](#) Facebook Comments (May 21 Post)
- 6** [↓](#) Facebook Comments (May 20 Post)

Placeholder for Enclosure 1

Corporate and Community No.

2020-21 Operational Plan - Distributed Under Separate
Cover

The General Manager

Ms Lotta Jackson

Cessnock City Council

28 May 2020

RE: DRAFT 2020-21 OPERATIONAL PLAN – SEPTIC SYSTEM FEES

Dear Ms Jackson

In response to the recently released final draft of the Council's Operational Plan 2020-21, I would, on behalf of the Mulbring Uniting Church, like to make a submission about the change of category of the rate for septic system inspections.

This involves the proposed change of category for the church from "residential" to "light commercial".

First, Mulbring Uniting Church is a very small church in a small village with a likewise small congregation which normally meets only twice a month.

Other than that there are a few funerals and a rare wedding each year.

The building has one toilet room and one sink.

Therefore, the use of the septic system is much lighter than a residence with say, a family of four, who use bathrooms, laundries and kitchen sinks as well as toilets.

Second, the Uniting Church in Australia, Kurri Kurri Weston Congregation of which Mulbring is a part, is a "Not for Profit" Charity registered with the Australian Government's Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit's Commission as per attached information.

The Church is kept open for the use of the community for religious services, including funerals, with funds raised by our small group.

This "light commercial" fee is a further impost on our hard-won finances.

Therefore I ask that the Council would consider leaving the charge for septic system inspection of Mulbring Uniting Church in the "residential" category.

Please find attached evidence of the "not for profit " status of our organisation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Joan Avery

Treasurer





Hunter Region Four Wheel Drive Council.

Hunter@4wdnow.com

June 17th, 2020

General Manager
Cessnock City Council
PO Box 152
Cessnock NSW 2325

Draft 2020-21 Operational Plan

The Hunter Region Four Wheel Drive Council (HRFWDC) is a subcommittee of Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT Inc.

HRFWDC is made up of representatives from local Four Wheel Drive Clubs affiliated with Four Wheel Drive NSW and ACT. Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT is the peak body (an association incorporated in the ACT) formed to represent its member clubs located throughout New South Wales & the Australian Capital Territory. Four Wheel Drive NSW & ACT is an environmentally aware and responsible organisation and promotes these values through mechanisms such as its code of conduct and driver education.

HRFWDC meets bi-monthly to discuss local matters affecting the 4WD community and plan combined club activities usually with community focus. HRFWDC works with local land managers (primarily N.P.W.S & Forest Corporation) on many of these initiatives. The associated 4WD clubs and their members have long been visitors and residents in the Cessnock LGA.

We believe NSW as a whole misses out on a massive swathe of the 4WD touring dollar with huge numbers of residents travelling out of state each year to places like Cape York and the Victorian High Country and residents of those two states travel through NSW to get to these locations but don't leave the main highways as they transit through. We see this as a weakness in the NSW Government's tourism policy.

The Hunter Region and Cessnock in particular could capitalise on the untapped potential of the 4WD touring market. Newcastle & Hunter Region, it could be said, is the home of recreational 4WDing in NSW. The first 4WD club in NSW and the 2nd in Australia was formed in our region. With 4WD touring programs being hugely popular on television and various social media platforms such as YouTube, our region is the home to one of the originators of this genre, The Leyland Brothers.

Objective 2.3 HRFWDC gives in principle support to this objective and the strategic direction, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss the many prospects to increase tourism that Cessnock and surrounding areas are looking for. The forecast increase in domestic tourism as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic is an opportunity Cessnock City Council should capitalise on and is not identified in the Operational Plan.

Action 3.1.4.a HRFWDC would like more information about the "Our Bushland Festival", we have regularly participated in the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Biodiversity Day at Blue Gum Hills Regional Park. We think the Our Bushland Festival could present an excellent opportunity to promote environmentally aware camping and driving techniques. Showcase what the local four wheel drive clubs do in the local communities, such as Clean Up Australia Day events, along with benefits of membership such as accredited driver training.

Action 4.1.1.a Council should seek funding to repair the bridge on Watagan Creek Rd. This would re-open a touring route into the area. Importantly this would re-open a bush fire



Hunter Region Four Wheel Drive Council.

Hunter@4wdnow.com

evacuation route out of the Watagans National Park & State Forest. We have had a Rural Fire Bridge Captain on the east side of the Watagans tell us how this bridge failure had prevented his brigade from assisting fellow brigades in Cessnock Council LGA.

Action 4.1.4.b Hunter Region Four Wheel Drive Council seeks to have representation on the Trails Reference Group as a key stakeholder on many of the actions contained in the strategic outcomes of the Trail Strategy. We believe we have valuable input and methods to bring economic benefits to the Cessnock Council LGA .

HRFWDC would like to work with Cessnock Council and the other stakeholders to maximise the opportunity of Cessnock City Council Trail Strategy, to share the deep knowledge of our members. How the creation of connected tourism routes could be maximised to the benefit of Cessnock Council and adjoining LGA's, as well as providing further insight into this type of tourist and their wants and needs, including possible touring routes and provide examples of what we consider best practice from the extensive travels throughout Australia by our members, show how these routes could be communicated and a system of grading the difficulty of tracks.

Four Wheel Drive groups are a broad cross section of people with disposable incomes who have hobbies such as bush walking, bird watching, photography, fossicking, film, food, attend festivals and musical concerts, mountain biking, undertake family history research and enjoy sightseeing pristine environments that offer breathtaking scenery which all work hand in hand with four wheel driving.

Cessnock and surrounding LGA's have a fantastic opportunity to become a destination of choice for responsible low impact bush touring and camping. By connecting features, points of interest and activities, be they natural, man-made or commercial, gives visitors a reason to consider the area a touring destination, rather than just being widely dispersed, individual points that are difficult to join in a touring route.

HRFWDC has working links with National Parks and Wildlife Services & Forest Corp via a Memorandum of Understanding. HRWDC has in the past operated a Controlled Access System (CAS) with State Forests. This system was mutually beneficial to both parties along with protecting the environment. Sensible maintenance using environmentally sound techniques could be undertaken on trails by qualified and accredited volunteers from affiliated 4WD clubs in this region so that access may be provided for responsible, environmentally sound bush touring.

For initial contact please email hunter@4wdnow.com

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the Cessnock Council Operational Plan 2020-2021.

Yours sincerely

Brock Smith

Secretary - Hunter Region Four Wheel Drive Council
hunter@4wdnow.com

Feedback, Analysis & Response arising from Public Exhibition of the 2020-21 Operational Plan

This document supports the feedback and analysis provided in the Council report. To ensure this document can be viewed as a complete record this document incorporates material that is also reflected in the Council report.

This document provides further detail on the analysis provided in the report so that there is a clear audit trail with links the actual feedback and comments provided by the community with the analysis provided. In addition an appendix is provided at the end of this document which lists feedback for each question in the survey. The appendix also includes (unedited) all comments received.

The aggregate analysis has become important as the full complement of responses for each respondent provides a more complete picture of their feedback. There were often consistent themes across questions for each respondent and by viewing responses across questions a better understanding was possible of what response is being sought from Council.

Background

Council has significantly expanded the level of community engagement for the public exhibition of the 2020-21 Operational Plan. This is in response to feedback received from the biennial community satisfaction survey last year. It was identified that overall community satisfaction can be improved the most by improving community engagement.

Social media has been used more extensively with excellent results. In addition, the Open Space & Community Facilities Team sent out an electronic notification (by email) to 68 recreation & community facility key stakeholders. Stakeholders included s355 volunteer management committees, summer and winter sporting clubs, such as athletics, cricket, football, horse sports, netball, rugby league, rugby union and tennis clubs as well as swimming clubs who utilise Council's outdoor pools". User groups were provided with the necessary links and process to provide a written submission or complete the online survey.

During the exhibition period, copies of the draft documents were made available for viewing on the "Have Your Say" page on the Council website, promoted via boosted posts on social media, emailed to key stakeholder community and sporting groups, and local businesses have been informed via the Economic Development ENewsletter.

The change in the meeting schedule for Council meetings to one per month created a tight timeline. In addition, the lockdown requirements associated with the pandemic restricted some traditional channels. Copies could not be held at Council locations for viewing and newspapers could not promote awareness that the Operational Plan was on exhibition.

Community Reach and Community Response

The Facebook posts on the 2020-21 Operational Plan reached 29,658 Facebook users. Based on this reach there were 942 clicks on the links provided. The survey was completed by 71 people.

The posts were boosted with a very small amount of funds being expended (a budget of \$359 was spent on the campaign). In addition, there were 27 shares which would have assisted in reaching more members of the community. There were 71 survey responses during the exhibition period. Many of these responses probably arose from the Facebook posts.

Council has only received one formal public submission which is provided first below..

Submissions received via traditional channels

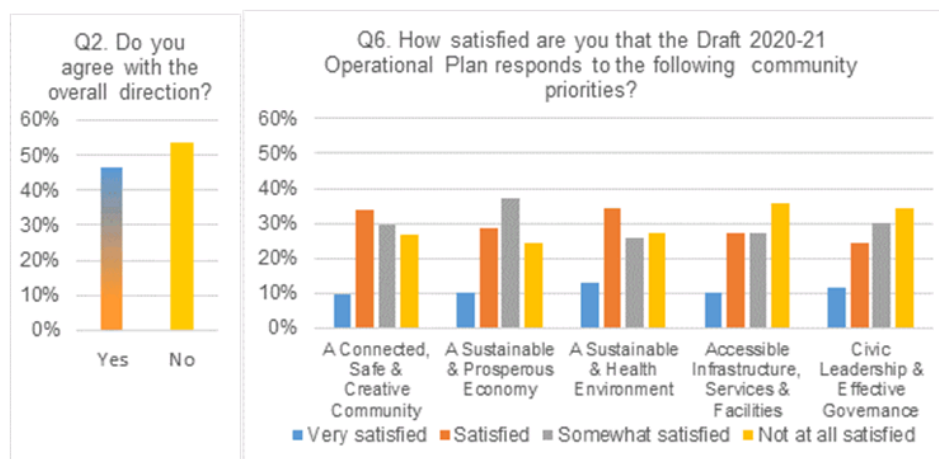
Table 1: Summary of Public Submissions

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Community Feedback from the Survey

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Recreation	5	2	7	Sporting Fields & Recreational Areas with specific mention of Mulbring, Varty & Peace Parks. One request for new swimming pool with parking.	

Environment	1	1	2	Include Climate Change Strategy, Lower DMWC, more flexible use of vouchers.	limited scale will be captured for consideration along with other priorities.
Total	8	11	19		

The responses are listed below by individual respondent (as categorised). The responses have been paraphrased to so that the full position of each individual respondent can be viewed in a summary form. All comments are included verbatim in the appendix by question.

Services	Agree Overall?	Summary of Why Not	Summary of Additional Comments
Transport & Drainage	No	Main Rd Greta, Kerb & Gutter for all streets	Free dump drop off, focus on areas other than Cessnock,
		Roads need more funding (e.g. Sawyers Gully, Mitchel Ave intersection). Spend more on locals.	Fix roads and spend money on locals
	Yes		Path East Cessnock / Neath
		Traffic lights or roundabout Charles St / Cessnock Road	Look at traffic issues in Abermain. Also address flooding including clearing creek and stormwater drains.
			21 bends redone
			Date Avenue - care required to not damage cars
			Glad to see Kurri Kurri works however need more footpaths
			K&G & footpath Dalwood Road
			Upgrade bike track behind Cessnock High & footpath from bike track to tennis courts
			Upgrade/restore Kurri streets
Recreation	No	Mulbring park - support bigger kids & provide sun shade	
		Parks - toilets / undercover seating / disabled friendly playgrounds	
		Parks (bins) & Footpaths (west Cessnock)	Elections should not be postponed, not just CBD, shouldn't be fees for town planner, maintenance does not appear a priority, spending does not add up
		Sporting Fields & Recreational areas	
			Upgrade Heddon Greta park
	Yes		Existing Parks (Varty Park)
			Peace Park workout equipment
Environment	No		More flexibility and leniency on overdue rates. Lower DWSC & more flexible use of waste vouchers
	Yes		Include Climate Change Strategy. Need more breakdown of budget - how much on each project/action. More fees for services (e.g. development related).

2. Reallocate Funds

Many ratepayers are recognising that Council needs to make choices on where funds should be allocated. There were two primary areas suggested: that funds be spent in areas other than Cessnock (6 comments), the Branxton-Greta cycleway (3) and roads more generally are raised as preferred areas of focus. Many of the Transport & Drainage suggestions are also location specific.

Services or alternate	Agree with overall direction?			selection of Comments / Themes	Assessment & Recommendation
	No	Yes	Total		
Transport & Drainage	9	1	10	Takes too long to complete projects, need to fix roads not patching, focus on majority of ratepayers, one respondent wants less expenditure on roads	17 respondents recognising that there are finite resources and therefore proposing reallocation of funds between areas (details in separate table). Respondents might not however be aware that some works receive grant funding which enables Council to undertake those works at limited cost to ratepayers. In addition, reallocation will not provide enough funds to have a material impact (e.g. funds on events are limited and might not assist roadworks). Will capture proposed projects for consideration.
Reallocate between Locations	6		6	Branxton / Greta receive multiple mentions, some general comments about less expenditure in Cessnock CBD & more in smaller towns	
Address Current Assets rather than New	1		1	Maintain existing assets. Some other feedback on services also focuses on existing assets	
Total	16	1	17		

The responses (paraphrased) are listed below by individual respondent (as categorised).

Services	Agree Overall?	Summary of Why Not	Summary of Additional Comments
Transport & Drainage	No	Branxton-Greta-North Rothbury pathways	perhaps CCC should visit our town
		Branxton-Greta-Pokolbin neglected need cycleways & pathways	
		Finish projects (e.g. Testers Hollow) & fix condition of roads. Rates up but roads not fixed.	Listen to community -takes too long to complete projects (e.g. Heddon Greta). Instead of putting up rates listen to community. Complete jobs quickly as delays create issues.
		Need basic infrastructure	Remember who pays you and provide essential infrastructure (e.g. Main Road Heddon Greta is deadly). Support majority.
		New roads not patching & new pool with carpark rather than parks	Sheltered bus stops
		Roads & Drainage not events	Focus on ratepayers - not events - fix roads & drainage. Only service I receive is bin pickup - waste of money
		Stop wasting money on beautification & fix roads	Roads throughout LGA not just Cessnock
		Too much emphasis on roads	Less on roads - more on off-road cycleways
		O'Connor's more in need of upgrading than Gingers Lane	Lights on roundabout at Jurd St., Improve Main street appeal to visitors, CBD parking, playgrounds in vineyards for visiting families
	Yes		Local Roads in Disrepair in Greta (e.g. York and Leconfield). So much spent on Gingers Lane & Flame Drive. Half of Whitburn is dirt road.
Reallocate between Locations	No	Beyond CBD	Beyond CBD
		Beyond Cessnock CBD	
		Branxton-Greta-Pokolbin including cycleway	Greater investment in Greta/Branxton - Painting old chambers less impact than roads. Interested in significant investment in Waste Management.
		Focus on works outside of Cessnock (money wasted on some works). Listen to ratepayers	Keep Facebook updated (like Singleton who keep public informed on latest works). Do projects more quickly (e.g. maintenance), avoid too many jobs at once and finish jobs. Uniform fees for council facilities (e.g. halls)
		Kurri not just Cessnock	(blank)

Services	Agree Overall?	Summary of Why Not	Summary of Additional Comments
		Less funds on Cessnock, more on surrounds	
Address Current Assets rather than New	No	Current Assets rather than New	Get simple things right before bigger items. Consider tendering.

On 4 June (after Councils draft Operational Plan was placed on exhibition) the Federal Government announced the successful applicants of round 4 of the Building Better Regions Fund – Infrastructure Projects Stream. Cessnock City Council was successful in its grant application for the Branxton to Greta Cycleway. The grant will be for a total of \$1,950,000. Council will need to contribute funding of \$329,100 for a total project cost of \$2,279,100.

Council has been seeking funding support for this project for many years and needed this funding assistance to have the capacity to undertake this project. This is an excellent example of combined community and council support to achieve an outcome that is important to the community.

3. Poor Use of Council Funds

The concerns are primarily directed towards two past / current projects: Cooper Street and Wine Country Signage. Both these projects have relatively high profile. It is possible that many in the community are not aware these projects are largely grant funded. It is not possible to redirect funds to some of the options proposed. More community engagement of on how Council projects are being funded might avoid some dissatisfaction as ratepayer dollars are not the primary source.

Services or alternate	Agree with overall direction?			selection of Comments / Themes	Assessment & Recommendation
	No	Yes	Total		
Transport & Drainage	7	1	8	Two projects: Cooper Street & Wine Country Signage. Comments about there being better options for Council funds and for Cooper St some quality or design concerns.	Respondents might not be aware that both projects identified involve significant grant funding and that Cooper St is just one stage of a broader CBD revitalisation. There might also not be awareness of a similar program for Kurri Kurri which should highlight revitalisation is not limited to Cessnock.
Assist Businesses & Ratepayers on rates	1		1	Believes that deferring rates does not assist people who are struggling financially. A number of comments were made that rates keep increasing.	Under the Local Government Act rates cannot be waived or written-off. Lower rates would need to be applied by class and would impact capacity to deliver services. Ultimately the community as a whole decides level of services expected and willingness to pay for these services. The rate cap limits the increment allowed (this is 2.6% for 2020-21). This is in line with inflation as determined by IPART and does not enable additional expenditure in real terms.
Support businesses / families during Covid	1		1	Believes Council funds should be directed to helping families rather than some projects	Survey responses were very positive about Councils response. In addition, a significant number of respondents (18%) might utilise the deferred payment options Council is providing.
Total	9	1	10		

The responses (paraphrased) are listed below by individual respondent (as categorised).

Services	Agree Overall?	Summary of Why Not	Summary of Additional Comments
Transport & Drainage	No	Don't support Cooper street. Upgrade Peace Park equipment	Upgrading the play equipment at peace Park
		Poor outcome Cooper street	Listen to community - stop wasting money
			Poor outcome Cooper street
		Wine Country Signage (& Cooper Street)	Need events that are not wine related - for locals - don't support Stomp festival
			Do useful things - don't waste - avoid ridiculous projects
		Wine Country Signage (rates allocated elsewhere)	Parks in North Rothbury and Huntlee
		Wine Country Signage - reallocate to roads & drainage	Over spending on playground & walking area. Check numbers. Don't increase rates to spend on things not needed.
	Yes	Wine Country Signage should not be funded by Council	Address CBD parking instead. 4.2% rise steep in current climate
Support businesses / families during Covid	No	Support businesses / families during Covid	
Assist Businesses & Ratepayers on rates	No	Waste money	Assist businesses & ratepayers (deferring rates does not help) - wasted money on shopping centre - took business out of Cessnock because no parking

4. Other Feedback

There is some limited feedback which does not naturally fit into other categories. These have been included for completeness.

Services or alternate	Agree with overall direction?			selection of Comments / Themes	Assessment & Recommendation
	No	Yes	Total		
Not fully understand plan	1		1	Respondent indicated did not understand some parts of the operational plan	Continue focus on making operational plans easy to understand.
Discount for early payment of rates & charges	1		1	Respondent thought early receipt of funds with say a 5% discount would benefit council.	Receiving full rates payment is more important to Council than early payment.
Concern plan will not be delivered		1	1	Specific mention of Hart Rd	Continue focus on program delivery and reporting of progress.
Total	2	1	3		

The responses (paraphrased) are listed below by individual respondent (as categorised).

Services	Agree Overall?	Summary of Why Not	Summary of Additional Comments
Not fully understand plan	No	Not fully understand plan	
Concern plan will not be delivered	Yes		Concern budget will not be completed (e.g. Hart Rd) or will require ongoing maintenance
Discount for early payment of rates & charges	No		Discount if you pay rates early - would give council more working money.

Appendix: Draft 2020-21 Operational Plan Survey Summary

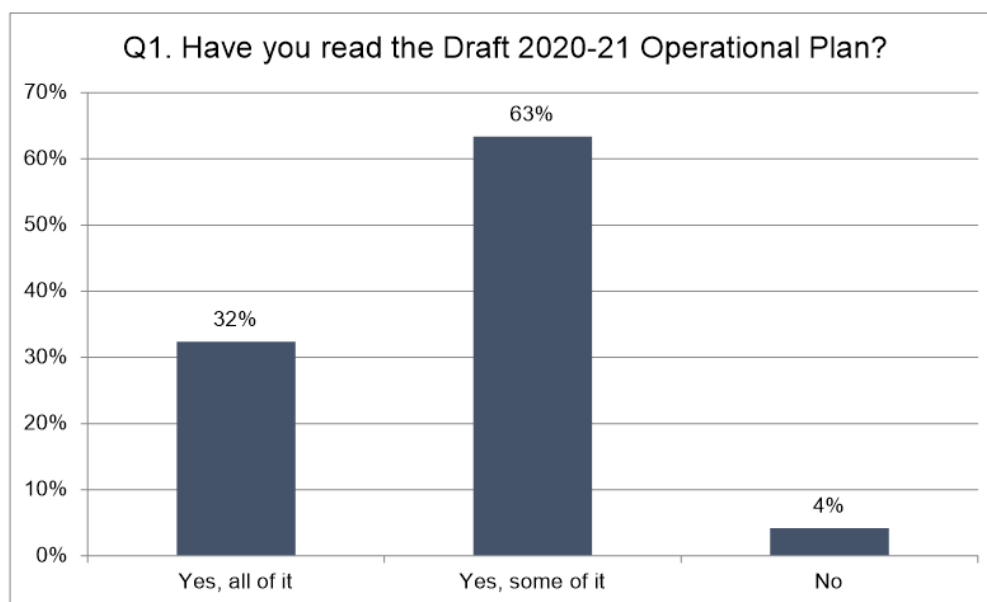
The survey has had an excellent response rate and formed the basis of most of the feedback received from the community.

The survey was intentionally kept brief to maximize responses. There was opportunity to respond to a number of open ended questions to ensure members of the community could provide more detailed feedback. The survey involved 11 questions. Six of these questions provided an opportunity for comments.

The Draft 2020-21 Operational Plan survey was open from 20 May and will close 3 June. A total of 71 surveys were completed.

Q1. Have you read the Draft 2020-21 Operational Plan?

Only 4% of respondents had not read the Operational Plan at least to some degree. This is a very strong result and helps ensure the document promotes interaction with the community.

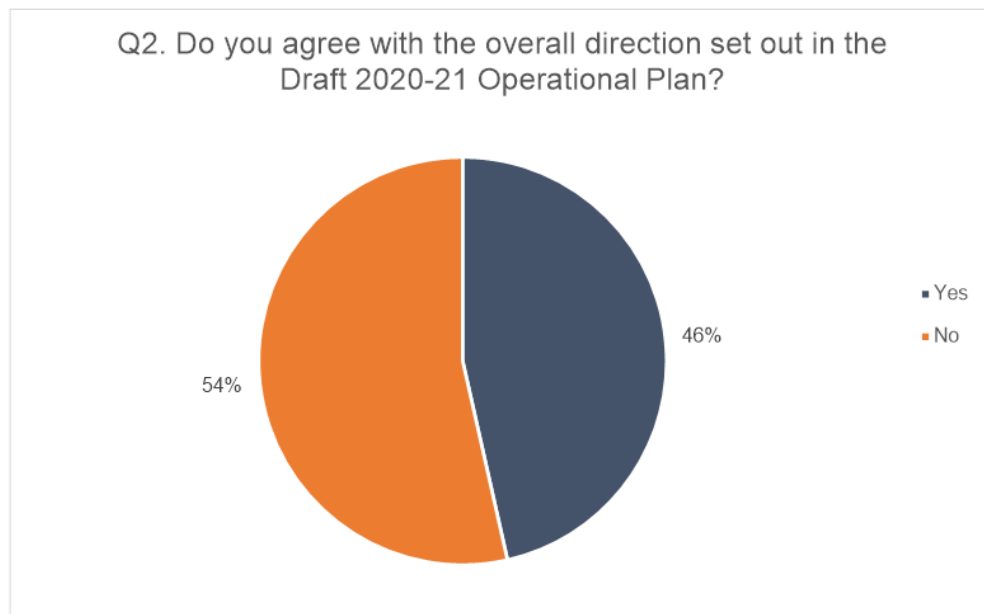


Q2. Do you agree with the overall direction set out in the Draft 2020-21 Operational Plan?

Respondents that do not agree with the direction primarily suggest either reallocation of funds towards priorities which are more aligned to their preferences (16) or are unsatisfied with current projects (9) and suggest these funds be reallocated or Council spend less. In both instances some reference to past or current projects is often referenced in indicating with overall direction. A positive past experience appears important in garnering support for future plans.

Some respondents that do not agree with the overall direction have not challenged specific elements of the program but are seeking additional works (8).

The primary services of interest are roads and recreational facilities. A number of projects are suggested relating to footpaths, cycleways and kerb and gutter. Many of the suggestions request are location specific.



Q3. If not, why don't you agree?

Most respondents who answered "No" to question 2 provided reasons for why they did not agree with the overall direction. Many of these respondents also provided comments to other questions. This assisted the analysis as there were often consistent themes by respondents across questions.

As noted in the analysis, respondents that do not agree with the direction primarily suggest either reallocation of funds towards priorities which are more aligned to their preferences or are unsatisfied with current projects and suggest these funds be reallocated or Council spend less.

Reference to past or current projects is reflected prominently in many responses. This might indicate that some "No" responses reflect an existing dissatisfaction with historic issues. These respondents might be taking this experience into account in assessing what Council might do in 2020-21.

The primary services of interest are roads and recreational facilities. A number of projects are suggested relating to footpaths, cycleways and kerb and gutter. Many of the suggestions request are location specific.

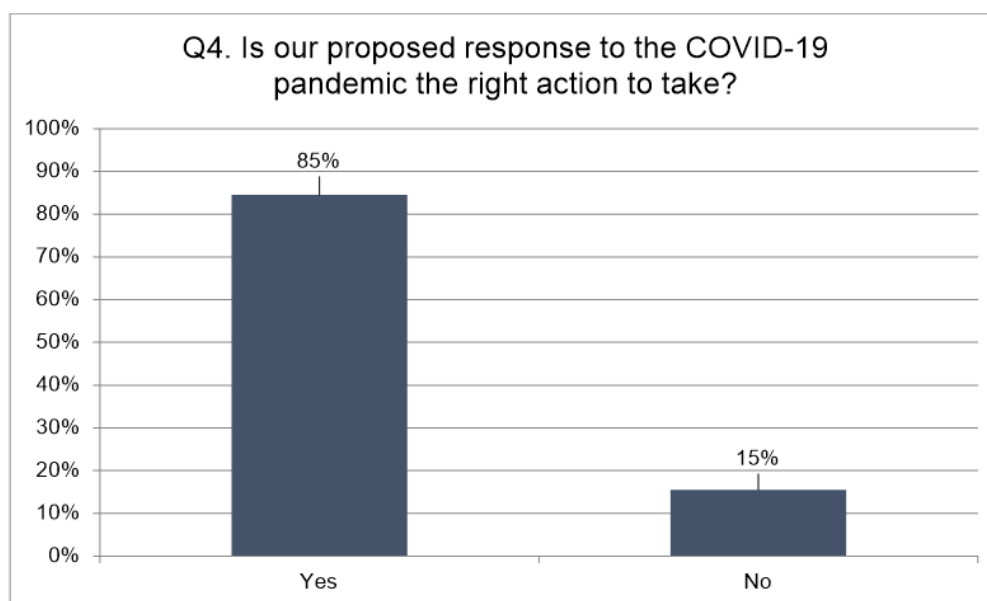
Q3. Verbatim responses
No point in community activities without basic infrastructure.
This seems to be a waste of money right up there with that monstrosity in Cooper street. There is so much our community needs and signage in wine regions is not one of them
The amount of money being put into ridiculous ventures e.g. vineyard signage and botched roundabouts.
Because covid impacted the economy on families and people and that money could be useful for businesses or for the people. Using it to help would be better then upgrading a park that doesn't bring money in for families to survive.
If only in one area, Maitland is a big place!
Half completed jobs wasting money have been a theme of this council! The round about installed near best & less is almost impossible to see in the rain. The paint is not visible and will be a sight of many tourist accidents who do not know to expect a round about there.
Council has lost focus, how about roads and drainage instead of planning airy fairy events for every diverse group in the community.
I believe the rapidly expanding SA2 of Branxton-Greta-Pokolbin is being neglected. There is rapid growth in the area. Notably the age groups 0-14 is much higher than the surrounding SA2s. But this area has a severe lack of infrastructure such as pathways and cycleways. The above mentioned age group are in need of safe pathways and cycleways.
As a long term resident of Branxton, I am disappointed by the lack of interest shown by CCC to the Branxton, Greta and North Rothbury areas. For years we have tried to get a pathway linking the townships of Greta and Branxton. This would allow pedestrians to walk in safety between the towns. Many of the footpaths here in Branxton are full of potholes or overgrown grass. I'm beginning to think that "out of sight, out of mind" applies to those towns a distance of Cessnock.
The parks have been done! We need new main roads instead of patching them and a new pool with car parks!

I agree with most. And I use gingers lane but it is by far not in need of upgrading as much as O'Connor's red Nulkaba. This road is used by winery workers and tour operators and is extremely bad and dangerous.
Could make sure there's a bin at every park in councils domain for a starters and maybe add some footpaths to west cessnock so people pushing prams around arnt stuck doing so on the rd.
Cessnock Council is simply incapable of public works. Decades of failed projects demonstrates this. Most recently is the Cooper Street fiasco which was falling apart before it was even finished. Cessnock Council never be allowed to spend another cent of rate payers money ever again!
It seems to forget the smaller township.
Cause I understand some but not understand otghers
Only one thing for funding put more money into kurri not just cessnock
I feel that CCC need to prioritise maintenance and infrastructure before they try to take on new projects
Signage for the Vineyards is a Vineyard problem that should not be funded by council. Council would fund sinage for any other business in the lga
Limited capital expenditure in Greta/ Branxton. The community would benefit from a cycle path between Greta & Branxton, connecting the towns. Noting, COVID-19 impacts have definitely changed the priorities.
Vineyards don't need signage upgrade. That's money needs to be put towards roads & drainage. In areas haven't got it.
Money waste
Too much emphasis on roads
It would be really great to see traffic lights or a roundabout at the Charles Street/Cessnock road intersection in abermain or somewhere in this vacinity. The traffic during peak times is incredibly challenging and unsafe
Don't think our rates money should be going to this to be done Hunter Valley Wine Country Tourist Signage (\$1,948,876)
I I agree with everything except the CBD upgrades The upgrade you have already done in the CBD outright ridiculous people do not even abide by the 10 k's an hour rule and the roundabout no-one even goes around it they just go through it the tiling at the roundabout is coming up
What about finishing off the stuff that's been started or meant to have started like Testers Hollow ? How about fixing the shitty roads that we have to drive on daily ? Our rates go up our registration goes up but our roads (back streets) aren't being fixed . What about Curb and Guttering in all streets not just main roads ?
Money needs to be spent on making more accessible toilets (that aren't small) and more under covered seating and more disabled access playgrounds that could be sensory friendly for all individuals
I
It doesn't seem like we really spend money on our sporting fields or recreation areas

Q4. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic we have focused on maintaining current services and supporting the community with additional financial hardship options. Is this the right action for Council to take?

The response below is positive. Most respondents believe the action taken is appropriate.

It should be noted that Council support has been clearly communicated as part of rate notices. To date there has been an increase in hardship requests however this has not had a material impact on Council's financial position.

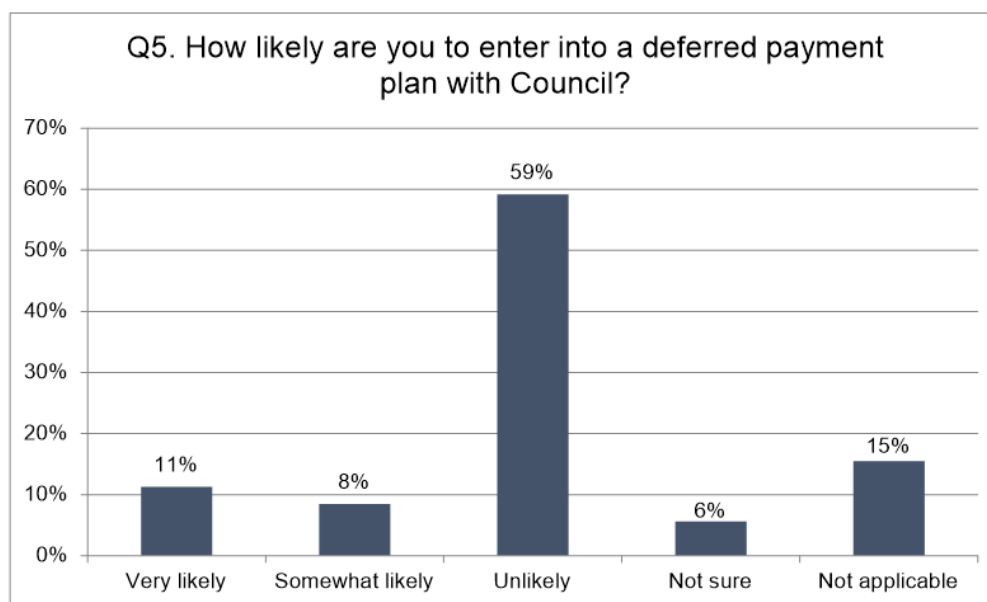


Q5. Our Budget assumes a number of ratepayers may need to defer payments due to the financial impact of COVID-19. How likely are you to enter into a deferred payment plan with Council?

A significant number of respondents indicated it was at least somewhat likely they might need to defer payments (19%) and enter into a deferred payment plan with Council.

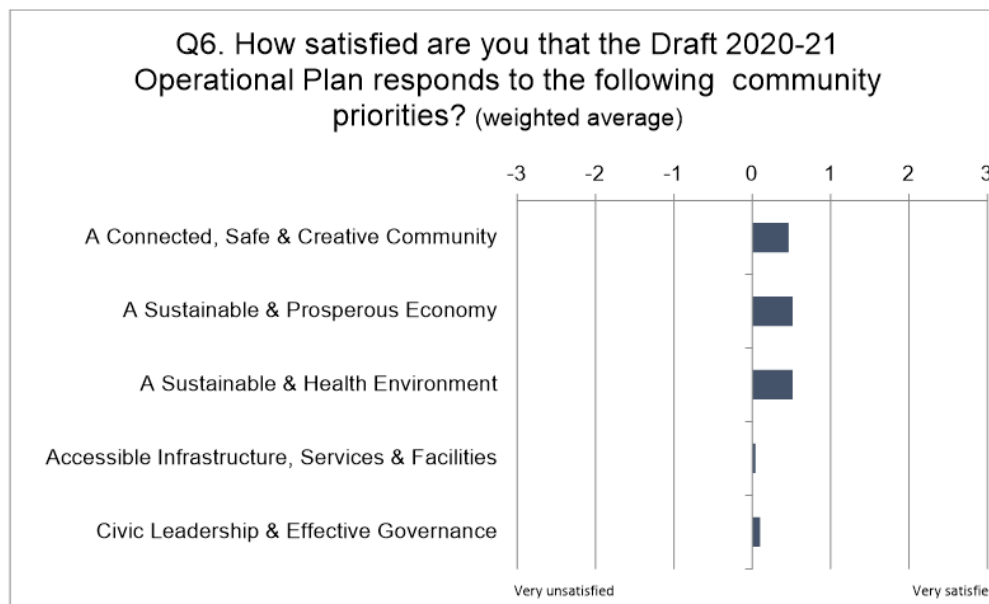
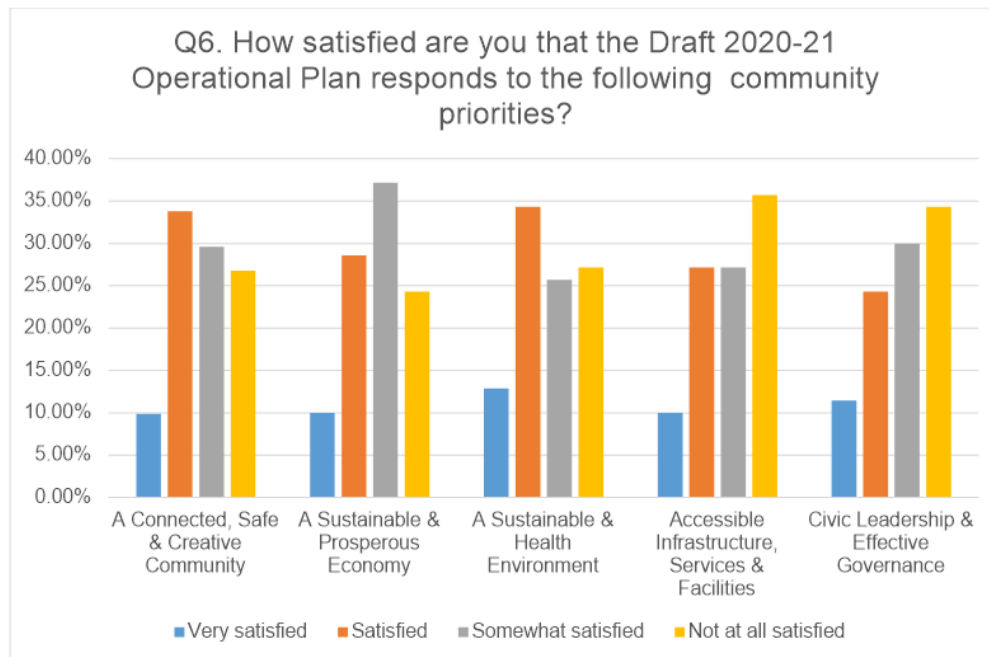
As noted above this has not reflected in current community response. A number of metrics are currently being monitored. The most notable metrics are (1) applications for financial hardship or discussions regarding entering deferred payment plans and (2) current rates payment receipts compared to historical trends. Neither of these metrics indicates a significant demand at this time for deferred payment plans.

The survey feedback however needs to be considered as a possible indicator of future intentions and therefore Council will remain prepared incase this need arises within the community. Council has stress tested its capacity to support deferred payments of approximately 15% of rate payments and although this will place a significant degree of stress on Councils cash and investments position Council has the capacity to provide this level of support if necessary.



Q6. How satisfied are you that the Draft 2020-21 Operational Plan responds to the following community priorities?

The community are generally more positive in their scoring of satisfaction on each theme than they are on the overall satisfaction with the overall direction of the 2020-21 Operational Plan.



Q7. Is there anything else that should be considered to meet these community priorities?

This is an open ended question and does not request the respondents to consider what "should not be funded" to enable these suggestions to be considered. This type of question is still useful to elicit further feedback however Council needs to consider this feedback in the context of other priorities and capacity to fund the suggestions. Some suggestions would require substantial funding.

Q7. Verbatim responses
Remember that people who work and pay for things still have needs and rights.
Kurri streets need an upgrade/restoration
Events that are not wine related teens needs somewhere or something to do they don't want to go to a park with young children they are bored and most become despondent give them something to do to events that are not focused on wine I get we live in a wine region but this offers nothing to locals events are important if there are events not focused on wine please advertise the only thing I have seen is the nonsense of the stomp festival give your locals a reason to think you put their interests first this has not been seen in my 40 years here.
Doing useful things with ratepayers money instead of wasting it.
Workout equipment at peace park
21 bends should be re done, for safer & more effective travel
Kerb and guttering and footpath on Dalwood Road East Branxton.
Listen and talk to us!!!! Please please stop wasting money when it could be spent so much better
Focus on your ratepayers you are not community event organisers
As mentioned above in regards to the Branxton-Greta-Pokolbin SA2
Perhaps the CCC need to arrange a visit to our town.
Sheltered bus stops
It would be nice to see existing parks improved. A working tap and bin at Varty Park off leash area.
Putting in lights or a roundabout at Jurd st and Allandale road. It is so dangerous with the amount of traffic and people not slowing down for customers entering in PK's petrol station.
I think the elections shouldn't have been postponed as soon as the council had a excuse too. Cessnock city council needs a review done on its spending as it dosnt add up with the figures you put on paper.
Yes. Every single person associated with Cessnock Council should quit. Or drive into the ocean and drown themselves. Either way just go away.
Greta needs additional street lighting, curb and gutter, A bike path not as part of roadway so children can ride or walk safely between Greta and Branxton (to use the pool) traffic lights at an intersection so cars can safely join the New England Highway. Maybe Nelson Street.

No
Try to get the simple things right before taking on bigger ones
Parking in the CBD needs to be address which is a complexd issue due to how the town was designed.
As above, ensuring that the smaller towns in the area have sufficient allocation of capital investment to create a connected and prosperous community.
Council needs to open so can go in not other places have stayed open. If you put in place covid 19 steps it shouldn't have closed
What good are deferred rate payments ?
If people are struggling to pay their rates, what good is having them rack up a bigger bill when the next rates are due
The preparation of a Cliamte Change Strategy should be added to the operational plan as an action. This was identified in the recently adopted council climate change policy.
Off road cycle ways for residents and tourists eg rail trail Kurri to Newcastle.
As mentioned above, a look at the traffic issues in abermain. It would also be great to see more initiative for solutions to flooding in abermain. The creek that runs behind Charles and Elizabeth Street has recently been cleared by volunteers but more needs to be done to ensure that we residents aren't affected in the future. Clearing the creek further down do it dosent get backed up and clearing storm drains would be a good start. Parks and walking paths are great for the community, but anxiety and stress each time it rains takes its toll on my family who have seen some horrific images and lost personal belongings due to flooding.
Parks in North Rothbury and Huntlee
Upgrading the play equipment at peace Park because to be quite honest it's looking a bit piss poor
Upgrade Heddon Greta park
No
We need a path between East Cessnock and neath and also going up Duffy drive towards aberdare

Q8. If you have any comments about the Draft 2020-21 Budget, please provide them here.

Responses to this question reflect some commentary on not spending more (unlike responses to the last question).

Q8. Verbatim responses
More money back to things the majority need. Stop focusing on pandering to vocal minorities. (And I don't mean race).
Don't spend millions on ridiculous projects.
As above
Glad to see Kurri kurri finally get something done to its centre. How about a few more footpaths so people don't have to walk on the roads. Its very dangerous and grass verges very uneven.
Other then to cumbersome roundabout put in near coles and Woolworths, what work was done to the Main Street to improve wanting to go there. Nothing has been done about parking in the area but now Kurri Kurri is getting work done. Cessnock has more please and Sydney visitors, we need to get our centres organised for people to use. Tours think we are a joke. They tell me all the time at work.
The draft should be focusing on cessnock city and surrounding areas no upgrades in a 3km radius other than the building itself but of a slap in the face.
Too much wastage on Signage
Did not read the Budget in detail but curious about the significant investment in operational expenditure for Waste management in FY2021
Roads roads roads. Kerb & drainage in the town & surrounding areas which don't have them...or remove that cost off land rates till do.are you aware how many people come to this town & don't return because they drive sports cars & road conditions are so dam bad.
Need more of breakdown in the budget I.e. how much money is allocated for each project/action identified within the operational plan.
I am concerned that the budget required will not be allocated and works like the hart road round about will not be completed or will be done in a way that requires regular maintenance
Upgrade Heddon Greta park
Nil

Q9. If you have any comments about the Draft 2020-21 Capital Works Program, let us know here.

Generally suggestions to spend more in capital works rather than less. Additional work on Roads (as with other surveys) has received some comments.

As has been noted before in response to other surveys this will be a key area of focus in the next CSP / Delivery Program and the community will need to be actively engaged on the level of service they expect (particularly for roads) and the willingness or capacity to fund that expected level of service. This process will commence within the next financial year.

Q9. Verbatim responses
Insufficient infrastructure works in areas you are receiving the most money from. Eg: Main road Heddon Greta is deadly and should be a priority.
Fix the roads and drainage
Try putting some playgrounds out in the vineyards for visiting families to sit and have lunch and a coffee or just to let the kids out and stretch their legs.
More money will go into planning than jobs getting done sad really
Yes not above.
CCC needs to realise that they aren't always able to complete these works themselves and MUST consider putting them to tender
Would be good to see greater investment in Greta & Branxton. Painting the old Chambers building will have a lesser impact than fixing roads and building community infrastructure that will create community prosperity.
Over spending on a playground & walking area is stupid when this town needs so much more. Council needs a revamp & reality check..
Council doesn't look after business.
Look what you have wasted money on in the shopping centre.
I took my business out of Cessnock long ago because you took parking away.
Local roads are in a state of disrepair in Greta and I'm sure other places... eg most of York St and Leconfield Rd are both really bad. Money needs to be spent on streets where people live being fixed before they just crumble. There are cracks and loose rocks. The roads are literally falling apart. So much money and time had been spent in and around Gingers lane and Flame drive the last 3 years. Time to look at other areas. Half of Whitburn street in Greta is a dirt road. Every time it rains they end up with water pooling on the road.
Upgrade Heddon Greta park
No
I think that some works on the bike track behind Cessnock High could be improved. It's unusable for scooters and somewhat uneven and dangerous in places. It hasn't been upgraded in over 30 years. There's no footpath from the bike track up to the tennis courts, this small part could be connected for safety and usability as well as from Aberdare rd along the school on Brandis st. That area behind the school is beautiful, and a blank canvas of opportunity but at least could be repaved.

Q10. If you have any comments about the Draft 2020-21 Revenue Policy, let us know here.

The comments for this question need to be considered in conjunction with Question 11 as many comments also reference rates.

Q10. Verbatim responses
Remember who pays you and provide those people essential infrastructure like roads so we get to work without dying.
Revenue is all you're good at.. I notice maintenance isn't a priority of the council
How about you get your figures right before publicly putting out..we seen the post by I am Olsen thankfully his being open with everything none this hush what they don't know crap.
Upgrade Heddon Greta park
No

Q11 – If you have any comments about the Draft 2020-21 Fees & Charges, let us know here.

Many of the responses in this section relate to rates rather than Fees and Charges.

Q11. Verbatim responses
Why is there not a discount if you pay all your rates for the year by the 1st 1/4 This would give you more working money. Even 5% would be good
As a ratepayer I don't get any service other than bin pickup, total waste of money.
There shouldn't be a fee the councils and town planner get paid to contribute time and answer on behalf of the community when there bothered to listen
4.2% rise is bit steep givin current climate
What are you going to increase rates too for your over spending on rubbish that isn't needed
You should help people, not just deffer payments. If people are in trouble, help them, don't just rack up their debts. People pay all the time, and you idiots rort and waste that money more often than not
Need to charge more for certain council services. Fees should be more in line with LMCC, Newcastle and port Stephens councils. For example the fees for pre-movement meetings, DA and planning proposal assessment fees, subdivision fees etc should all be reviewed and raised.
Instead of "fixing " useless crap fix our roads INCLUDING back streets , finish projects before starting new ones for e.g Testers Hollow ?
Instead of continually putting our rates up and not doing what the community ask for maybe listen to what we want , instead of your employees standing around for 6 months of the job or putting up barriers for 6 months and not do anything e.g Heddon Greta , Main Rd and Heddon St intersection actually do some work and get it done . By taking months to get the job done it's actually causing more issues rather than just getting in and doing it
No
I believe CCC is the least flexible and lenient in relation to overdue rates. One reminder and Bam- court action. I know a lady who was in hospital and by the time she got out she had court paperwork. Council needs to introduce a x2 reminder system. Further- the dump pass debarcle is unsatisfactory! Issue the dump passes and be glad they are used, that family and friends can share and rubbish has been disposed of correctly. Attaching them to an address is impractical and to be honest- penny pinching at the cost of local bush land. Yes make it an offence to sell or profit from them, but let them be used, council allocated for their use in the budget! Why worry about fancy signage when everywhere you look there's garbage dumped?
Let dump passes be used by anyone for household waste, that's what you agreed to at the beginning and that's what this community needs. This low socio economic community CANNOT afford tip fees! My husband and I work full time and can not afford tip fees. Fix this problem please CCC, it's a big one that is having a significant impact on the community/environment/economy and tourism, the very issues you have said you represent in this proposal. I did not read anywhere a plan for waste???

Cessnock City Council
Annalise Home Create

Overview

All Ads
Audiences

Performance

You've spent \$256.99 over

Link Clicks
638

Activity

Engagement on Facebook

Link Clicks
Comments 42
Shares 22

Help Center

Recent Ads

Ads activity is reported

Completed

Post Engagements

As of today and next week

3,045 Reach

Completed

Website Visitors

We want your feedback on

23,144 Reach

Recent Ads

Ads activity is reported

Completed

Post Engagements

As of today and next week

3,045 Reach

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Recent Ads

Ads activity is reported

Completed

Comments On Your Ad

Cessnock City Council
Written by Annalise Handling [?], May 21 at 4:23 PM

We want your feedback on our upcoming works, activities and key initiatives for 2020-21. We've got some exciting projects planned.

Complete our survey for your chance to HAVE YOUR SAY!

Draft Operational Plan Survey ends Wed 3 June

SURVEYMONKEY.COM
Do our survey! Learn More

All Comments

Wayne Swan 1st question where do I get the draft operational plan to read & 2nd how about focusing on better roads/curb & gutter & drainage before council goes blowing \$ on other things... get the infrastructure in place & right then expand & build nice thing.
See More

Like Reply Message 2w Edited 12

Barry Magennis Wayne Swan curd?
Like Reply Message 2w

Wayne Swan Barry Magennis thanks Barry contacted Stupid auto correct
Like Reply Message 2w

Barry Magennis Wayne Swan still curb is an American word. But I understand what you're saying.
Like Reply Message 2w

Keri Hennessy Totally agree Wayne Swan... I (usually) have a lot of friends and family come stay (I'm in Kurrajong from various whor reports are states), and the most prominent observation from ALL of them is the terrible state of our roads. For such a tourism reliant region to have such an obvious fail law is pretty sad!
Like Reply Message 2w 1

Joanne Myers Spelt Curb in America, spell Kerb in Australia... it's an Australian word missing paved footpath edging
Like Reply Message 2w 2

Wayne Swan Joanne who really cares it was spelled curb when I went to school
Like Reply Message 2w 1

Cessnock City Council Good morning, you can access the Draft Operational Plan here: https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Draft-2020-21_Kne regards, CCC
Like Reply Commented on by Annalise Handling [?] 2w 1

Write a reply

Samantha Morris Mulrington park needs to be updated and shade installed it's now a boring park and what is there is unusable in summer
Like Reply Message 1w 1

Cessnock City Council Hi Samantha Morris. Please make a submission or do the stick survey so we can capture and listen to what you have to say. Kind regards, CCC
Like Reply Commented on by Scarlett Leotta [?] 1w

Andrew Lay Could make sure there's a bin at every park in council's domain let a starters and maybe one some footpaths to west cessnock so people pushing prams around amt stuck doing so on the rd
Like Reply Message 2w Edited 1

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Website Visitors
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23,144
Reach

Cessnock City Council Hi Andrew Lav, Please make a submission or do the quick survey so we can capture and listen to what you have to say. Kind regards, CCC

Like Reply Commented on by Scarlett Leatha (7) 1w

Andrew Lav Cessnock City Council if you've read the submissions you'd know I've already done so

Like Reply Message 1w

Write a reply

Peta-Maree Kearns Put in workout equipment like Cliffhugh meadows in peace park please

Like Reply Message 2w

Cessnock City Council Thanks for the feedback Peta-Maree. Please make a submission or do the quick survey so we can listen to what else you have to say. Kind regards, CCC

Like Reply Commented on by Annaliese Hambling (7) 2w

Jes Anderson Are this is the one you respond to Cessnock City Council how about you fix my road at 44th avenue it's a joke the pot holes are beyond ridiculous on the Gravel road that floods you would think you'd at least check it more than Once a year if we're lucky

Like Reply Message 1w Edited

Write a reply

Gina Michelle I love to see the bike track behind Cessnock High school upgraded. It's pretty rough and it would be good for kids scooters. Plus the footpath linked on either side of the track. It's beautiful and a great walk.

Like Reply Message 2w

2 Replies

Keith John For Adams St Haddon Grata needs curb and gutters council has been out twice to fix not once have they used tar on the edges of the road just leave it and next time it rains straight back the way it was just wasting money Cessnock council at there best

Like Reply Message 1w

Nate John bigger basketball court at bridges hill would have been great. The one there now is pretty good for what it is

Like Reply Message 1w

Julie Hamilton How about sealing Old Maritime Road. The road gets grated and within days it's got pot holes or like after the recent works it's dangerously slippery. Then dusty then it's as bad as ever. Ground hog day!!

Like Reply Message 1w

3 Replies

Paul Stanaway Buy a lawnmower and whippersnapper for whoever looks after the Amal at duck pond in Grata. It hasn't been done since last year

Like Reply Message 1w Edited

Sass Brown Traffic lights at Haddon Grata ... What happens? No work has been done for a while now. Park in Haddon Grata needs more shade trees and a bike path around the perimeter for kids to ride. Roads around Haddon Grata are like pot hole city. Especially Adams Street with trucks and extra traffic due to no work getting done with the traffic lights

Like Reply Message 2w

Sam Bailey Sass Brown I know where some unsafe traffic lights

Like Reply Message 2w

Cessnock City Council Hi Sass Brown, the NSW Roads and Maritime Services manage traffic lights, so they would be the best contact for this. In regards to your other comments, please make a submission or do the quick survey so we can capture and listen to what you have to say. Kind regards, CCC

Like Reply Commented on by Scarlett Leatha (7) 1w

Write a reply

Julie Bartlett Do something about Come Road, it's dangerous and a joke. How many times can you patch up a road??? Extremely busy Speed bumps needed on Nelson St Grata. A school zone but people insist on doing 80 or more, someone will be killed - kids on bikes on this road all the time especially on weekends and before and after school

Like Reply Message 2w Edited

Robert Snelgrove Haven't read it, but certainly hope it does not contain anything like that abortion in Cooper St

Like Reply Message 1w

Helen Payne Can they do something to M1 View Road in Cessnock to slow down cars to the speed limit rather than a race track before someone is killed. Speed bumps would help

Like Reply Message 1w

Cessnock City Council Hi Helen Payne, Please make a

to 2,840 people daily
est: "In early April

post

Gray's Loop
Danielle, Natalie, Belinda

to 2,840 people daily
est: "In early April

post

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Danielle, Natalie, Belinda

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submission or do the quick survey so we can capture and listen to what you have to say. Kind regards, CCC
Like Reply Commented on by Scarlett Leatha (P) 1w

Loretta Mears Fix the McGrane Street bridge. It thumps every time a vehicle goes over it day and night. Workers come and inspect but never seem to correct it.
Like Reply Message 1w

Belinda L Sunderland Fix roads and put in some kerb and gutters in Gidea on New England Highway. Doid st Devon st Road all chipped away on side - pot holes.
Like Reply Message 2w

Kenneth Moore Pity they didn't ask before the money was lost at Bully Drive "Roundabout" in "plus corner" "Roundabout".
Like Reply Message 1w

Linda Tuhega Why even bother the council never does what they say and promise anyway the ratepayers and residents are talking on deaf ears just like the entrance to the Correctional Centre being moved from Lindsay St did that happen of course not.
Like Reply Message 2w Edited

Peter Carney Fix the flood area in south Cessnock and Main Street and drain at Bolton's auto shop would be a good start.
Like Reply Message 2w

Angela Haddock Do we have to do this every year? Where you ask us for feedback to look as if you are engaging the community but pay no attention to our answers.
Like Reply Message 1w

Glenda Sharpe Reduce tip fees or start kerbside pickup. The amount of garbage in the bush around the local area is disgusting.
Like Reply Message 1w

Terry Zaichenko Stop spending money on cessnock by other places.
Like Reply Message 1w

Cessnock City Council Hi Terry, Please make a submission or do the quick survey so we can listen to what else you have to say. Kind regards, CCC
Like Reply Commented on by Scarlett Leatha (P) 1w

Lyndi Hill Apparently there are no toilets in the new park on Convent Hill.????
Like Reply Message 1w

David Delaney Lyndi Hill I spoke to a woman from the council, I think she's pretty high up, about those toilets 3 months ago while she was inspecting the park and she told me they're waiting for approval from hunter water. That was 3 months ago give them another year after they get approved to erect them.
Like Reply Message 1w

Write a reply

Lynne McGrath How about a crossing at KURRI KURRI high school, it is a wonder no one has been killed yet. Make it safer for our school kids.
Like Reply Message 1w

Janice Musgrove What about our terrible roads in town.
Like Reply Message 1w

John-Rick Filby Council curb clean up instead of vouchers pensioners people who don't drive or haven't cars that can carry to the tip have to pay people to take it and it's not cheap... it'll also stop a lot of dumping in the national park and bush.
Like Reply Message 1w

Tricia Crawford Ball Start curb side pickup x2 year.
Like Reply Message 1w

Kirsty Eather Where do we have our say on the heddon greta traffic lights other than the project manager?
Like Reply Message 1w

Cessnock City Council Hi Kirsty, the NSW Roads and Maritime Services manage traffic lights, so they would be the best contact for this. Kind regards, CCC
Like Reply Commented on by Scarlett Leatha (P) 1w

Miranda Louise put gates on aberdare park!
Like Reply Message 2w

Vicki Ingle The only problem is they never listen to what anybody has to say.
Like Reply Message 2w

Luke Freeman Worst council ever!!
Like Reply Message 2w

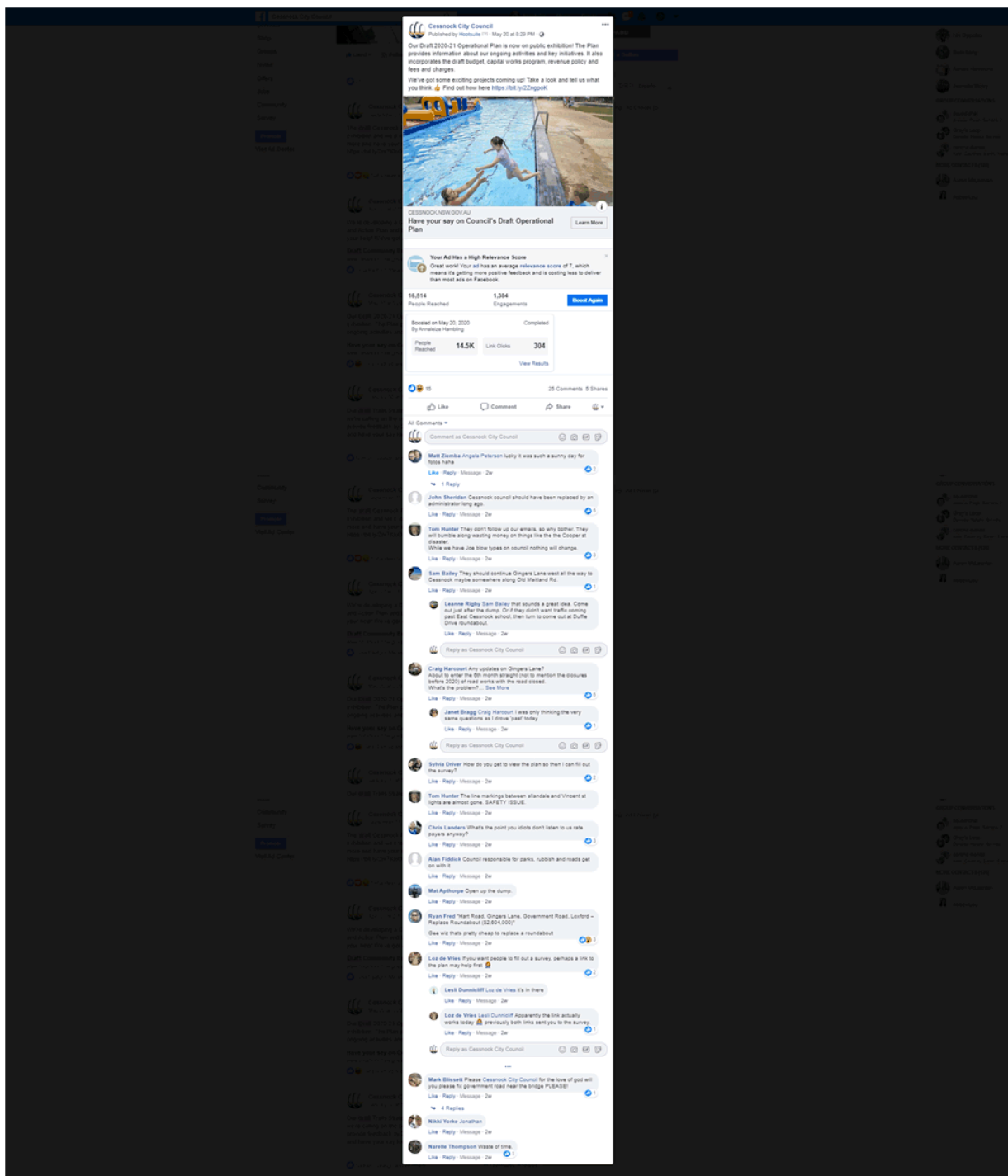
Julie Hamilton Tar 21 Bands
Like Reply Message 1w

April Arja Why? Nothing gets listened to anyway.
Like Reply Message 1w

The screenshot shows a Facebook post from the Cessnock City Council. The post is titled "Draft 2020-21 Operational Plan" and includes a link to the council's website. The post has received several comments from community members, many of which are critical of the council's plans and budget. The comments are as follows:

- Jayne Heroes Manning**: I hey wont do a thing. (2w)
- Helen Jackson**: Forget it. (2w)
- Kerryn Brunner**: Laura Archibald isnt this one of your young ladies. She is famous. (2w)
- Sylvia Driver F**: (2w)
- Cathie Irene Keeble**: When is the council going to stop this stupid idea of emptying the garbage bins every fortnight. My poor daughter has 2 in nappies and has so much garbage piled up in her backyard because there is never enough room in the bin. By the time they empty... See More. (1w)
- Steven Sewell**: Link dont work. (1w)
- Cessnock City Council** (Author): Good morning Steven, we've checked the link and it's working. Let us know if you have any other issues. Kind regards, CCC. (2w)
- Sandy Marjoribanks**: the link to the survey is working but not the link to the plan. (2w)
- Scott Johnson**: Neither does Cessnock Council. Total air thieves. (1w)
- Cessnock City Council** (Author): Sandy, here is a link to our website where you can download the plan https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/_/Draft:2020-21... Kind regards, CCC. (1w)
- Lisa Lever Stanford**: Laura Archibald is that penny? (2w)
- Laura Archibald**: Lisa Lever Stanford yes it is. (2w)
- Matty Muzz Musgrove**: Hurry up with gingers lane u dickheads we r fkn sick of going thru chinamens hollow. (2w)
- Mandy Lindsay**: Matty Muzz Musgrove \$2million to replace that round about. (2w)
- Michael Burrows**: Local councils, same everywhere... ask the public, then continue the same old. Patch ups, slow work, money spent on low priorities in the residents eyes. (1w)

The post also shows engagement metrics: 23,144 Website Visitors, 3,045 Post Engagements, and 3,045 Reach. The post is categorized as "Completed".



Corporate and Community

Report No. CC57/2020

Corporate and Community Services

**SUBJECT: MAKING THE RATE 2020-21****RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Finance and Administration Manager - Andrew Glauser****SUMMARY**

The Operational Plan 2020-21 incorporated the rates and charges proposed to be levied for the year commencing 1 July 2020. Council is statutorily required to make the rate following the adoption of the Operational Plan to ensure the legality of the rates levied.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council make the following rates and charges for the year commencing 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021:

1. Ordinary Rates

The following Ordinary Rates now be made for the year commencing 1 July 2020.

Category	Sub Category	Ad-valorem Amount Cents in \$	Base Amount \$	Base % of Total Rate
Residential		0.441170	430.00	35.85%
Residential	Rural	0.368610	430.00	21.20%
Farmland		0.314017	430.00	16.13%
Farmland	Mixed Use	0.807579	535.00	7.11%
Farmland	Business Rural	0.807579	535.00	8.40%
Business		1.721402	535.00	13.74%
Mining		3.725175	1,500.00	0.53%

2. Waste Charges

Council do hereby prescribe and order under Section 496 of the Local Government Act 1993 for rateable land categorised for rating purposes as residential or farmland and situated within the area in which a Domestic Waste Management Service is able to be provided, that the following waste charges be now made for the year commencing 1 July 2020.

Domestic Waste Management Service Charge

Domestic Waste Management Availability Charge ¹	\$72.00
Domestic Waste Management Service Charge ²	\$599.00
Additional Domestic Waste Management Service Charge ³	\$599.00
Additional Domestic Waste Management Service Charge – Recycling	\$70.00
Additional Domestic Waste Management Service Charge – Organics	\$75.00

- Charge applies to vacant rateable land situated within the area in which a Domestic Waste Management Service is able to be provided.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC57/2020

Corporate and Community Services



2. Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin mixed waste service per week, one fortnightly collection of recyclable material and one fortnightly collection of organic material for each Domestic Waste Management Service Charge.
3. Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin mixed waste service per week for each Additional Domestic Waste Management Service Charge.

Council do hereby prescribe and order under Section 501 of the Local Government Act 1993, for land not categorised for rating purposes as residential or farmland and situated within the area in which a Waste Management Service is able to be provided, that the following waste charges be now made for the year commencing 1 July 2020.

Waste Management Service Charge

Waste Management Service Charge (GST inclusive) ¹	\$780.00
Additional Waste Management Service Charge (GST inclusive) ²	\$780.00
Additional Waste Management Service Charge - Recycling	\$70.00
Additional Waste Management Service Charge - Organics	\$75.00

1. Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin mixed waste service per week and one fortnightly collection of recyclable material for each Waste Management Service Charge. Each premise is also entitled to one fortnightly collection of organic material for each Waste Management Service Charge upon request and justification of needs.
2. Each premise is entitled to one approved mobile waste bin mixed waste service per week for each Additional Waste Management Service Charge.

3. Stormwater Management Services Charges

Council do hereby prescribe and order under Section 496A of the Local Government Act 1993, for land situated within the designated stormwater area, that the following stormwater charges be now made for the year commencing 1 July 2020.

Stormwater Management Service Charge

Stormwater Management Service Charge - Residential	\$25.00
Stormwater Management Service Charge - Residential Strata	\$12.50
Stormwater Management Service Charge - Business	\$25.00 per 350m ² (or part thereof) to a maximum \$500

4. Interest on Overdue rates and Charges

Council do hereby determine and order, in accordance with Section 566 of the Local Government Act 1993, that if rates and charges are unpaid at the due date, the amount shall be increased by a sum calculated at:

- seven per cent (7%) per annum, simple interest, calculated daily for the period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 and
- zero per cent (0%) per annum, simple interest, calculated daily for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020

5. Hunter Local Land Services

Council, in accordance with Clauses 36 and 40, Part 4, of the Local Land Services Regulation 2014, prescribes that the rate for the year commencing 1 July 2020 shall be the rate gazetted by the Minister for the Hunter Catchment Contribution for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 inclusive being 0.00947 of a cent in the dollar of rateable land value.

BACKGROUND

The Operational Plan for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 incorporates the revenue policy for rates and charges proposed to be levied for 2020-21. Council is required to make the rates and charges for the financial year commencing 1 July 2020 in accordance with Sections 535, 537 & 538 of the Local Government Act 1993.

REPORT/PROPOSAL

Council's Operational Plan for 2020-21, inclusive of the revenue statements with respect to each Ordinary and Special Rates and Charges proposed to be levied, was resolved to be placed on public exhibition by Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 20 May 2020 (report CC42/2020). Council's Operational Plan 2020-21 is being considered for adoption at this meeting of Council.

In accordance with Sections 535, 537 & 538 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council is required to make the rates and charges for the financial year commencing 1 July 2020.

Extracts of the relevant sections of the Act are reproduced below for Council's information.

Section 535 Rate or charge to be made by resolution

A rate or charge is made by resolution of the Council.

Section 537 Form of resolution specifying base amounts of rates

In the resolution that specifies a base amount of a rate, or the base amount of a rate for a category or sub-category of an ordinary rate, the Council must state:

(a) the amount in dollars of the base amount, and

(b) the percentage, in conformity with section 500, of the total amount payable by the levying of the rate, or the rate for the category or sub-category concerned of the ordinary rate, that the levying of the base amount will produce.

Section 538 Form of resolution for special rate

(1) In the resolution that makes a special rate, the Council must state whether the special rate is to be levied on all rateable land in the Council's area or on only a part of that land.

(2) If the special rate is to be levied on only a part of that land, the Council must specify in the resolution the part on which it is to be levied.

The OLG (circular 20-19 Information about Ratings 2020-21) has prescribed the maximum interest rate on overdue rates and charges as follows:

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC57/2020

Corporate and Community Services



In accordance with section 566(3) of the Act, it has been determined that the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 (inclusive) will be 0.0% per annum and that the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 (inclusive) will be 7.0% per annum.

The interest rate has been set at 0.0% for the first half of the 2020-21 financial year in response to the financial impacts faced by the community as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The methodology used to calculate the interest rate applicable for the period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 is the Supreme Court methodology (the Reserve Bank cash rate plus 6%), rounded to the nearest half per cent of the maximum interest rate for the previous year. The cash rate used for the purposes of the maximum interest rate for local government is based on the cash rate as at 4 December 2019.

Notice giving effect to these decisions will be published in the NSW Government Gazette.

OPTIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

Consultation has taken place with Councillors and Council staff in preparing the draft Operational Plan, incorporating the proposed rates and charges to be levied. The Operational Plan inclusive of the Revenue Statement was publicly advertised for 28 days.

STRATEGIC LINKS

a. Delivery Program

This report is a part of the organisation's governance framework – in line with the community's desired outcome of: *Civic Leadership and Effective Governance*.

b. Other Plans

Nil

IMPLICATIONS

a. Policy and Procedural Implications

N/A

b. Financial Implications

The Operational Plan includes budgetary allocations for 2020-21 and the levying of rates and charges provides a significant portion of the required funds for Council's operations.

Corporate and Community

Report No. CC57/2020

Corporate and Community Services



c. Legislative Implications

The making of the rates and charges for the year commencing 1 July 2020 satisfies legislative obligations under Sections 535, 537 & 538 of the Local Government Act 1993.

d. Risk Implications

If Council does not make the rates and charges as required under the Local Government Act 1993, Council may be exposing itself to the possibility of a legal challenge on the validity of any rates and charges levied in 2020-21.

e. Other Implications

Nil

CONCLUSION

The making of the rates and charges for the year commencing 1 July 2020 satisfies legislative obligations under Sections 535, 537 & 538 of the Local Government Act 1993 and ensures Council's rates levied in 2020-21 are legally raised.

ENCLOSURES

There are no enclosures for this report.