



CESSNOCK COMMUNITY
PERFORMING
ARTS
CENTRE

2011-12

Cessnock City
Annual Report



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The 2011-12 Annual Report, State of The Environment Report, Financial Statements and End of Term Report are available online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

In order to reduce our impact on the environment we encourage printing be kept to a minimum.

To ensure the information is accessible by all, copies of the full report are available at our Administration Centre and at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries.

Copies may also be requested by calling our Community Help and Information Centre on (02) 4993 4100.



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Introduction

This Annual Report is a report on Council's achievements in implementing its Delivery Program during 2011-12.

Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework

Council's integrated planning and reporting framework consists of a hierarchy of documents including a long-term Community Strategic Plan, a Resourcing Strategy (that includes an Asset Management Strategy, Long-Term Financial Plan, and Workforce Plan) and a Delivery Program for each term of the elected Council.

An Operational Plan is developed each year to outline the specific details of Council's activities and the annual budget.

Feedback to the community on Council's progress is regularly reported to Council as well as being included in the Annual Report.



Our Community's Vision and Desired Outcomes

The community's vision and desired outcomes for the local government area were articulated in the community strategic plan, *Cessnock 2020*, adopted in October 2010.

Cessnock
attractive, thriving
and welcoming

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

Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Cessnock City Council it gives me great pleasure to present Council's 2011-12 Annual Report.

In June 2011 Council adopted its first Delivery Program containing projects and initiatives to realise the community's vision described in the community strategic plan, *Cessnock 2020*:

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.

Council has continued to deliver infrastructure and services for the benefit of the community during 2011-12, including:

- Completing 25.8 km kilometres of local road re-seals;
- Upgrading 23 priority public transport stops to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act;
- Collecting 38,892 tonnes of waste that was landfilled at Cessnock Waste and Reuse Centre and collecting 4,447 tonnes of recyclables through the kerbside service;
- Maintaining 552 hectares of open space, parks, and gardens;

- Making 234,218 loans from the library;
- Having 7,889 young people attend and participate in structured youth programs and drop-in services;
- Increasing the audience at the Performing Arts Centre by 15%;
- Determining 945 development and Sec. 96 applications; and
- Handling 41,308 customer requests.

These statistics highlight the work undertaken by Councillors and staff to create the attractive, thriving and welcoming community that we all want.

Councillor Bob Pynsent
Mayor of the City of Cessnock



General Manager's Message

This year Council has built upon the structural changes made to provide a more streamlined approach to the provision of services and a greater focus on strategic planning for the future of our community.

This Annual Report demonstrates how much we have achieved over the last twelve months and I appreciate the efforts of all those who have been involved with, or contributed to, these outstanding results.

Some of the achievements of Council during the past year include:

- Being on track to achieve 99% of the initiatives in the 2011-13 Delivery Program;
- Completing 93% of the roads, bridges and drainage capital works program and 90% of the recreation and community buildings capital works program;
- The reinstatement of Council's planning powers resulting in local people making important decisions affecting our community;
- Cessnock Airport has been brought back under Council's control as a key community asset with enormous potential to further boost businesses and tourism;
- The replacement of the old pound with a best practice animal care centre run by the RSCPA – this is a new model for animal care that will be an example to all local government about how successful partnerships can bring positive outcomes;

- The great start on changing Council's approach to the maintenance of our roads and the delivery of our capital works program;
- Working hand-in-hand with the community to create a vision for our Vineyards area; and
- Progressing the Cessnock City CBD Renewal Project so that the revitalisation of our City can be addressed strategically and sustainably to ensure a bright future for businesses, residents and visitors.

These are all significant wins for both Council and the Community – and I am looking forward to even greater achievements in the year ahead.

Lea Rosser
General Manager



Mayor & Councillors

Cessnock City Council comprises thirteen (13) Councillors.

Three (3) Councillors are elected from each of four (4) Wards, plus the Mayor, who is elected by popular vote.

NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR & COUNCILLORS – FROM SEPT 2012			
THE MAYOR	Clr BOB PYNSENT		
Ward A	Ward B	Ward C	Ward D
Clr J Hawkins	Clr I Olsen	Clr J Maybury	Clr G Smith
Clr C Burcham	Clr M Campbell	Clr C Parsons	Clr J Ryan
Clr A Stapleford	Clr B Gibson	Clr S Wrightson	Clr R Doherty

FORMER MAYOR & COUNCILLORS – TO SEPT 2012			
THE MAYOR	Clr ALISON DAVEY		
Ward A	Ward B	Ward C	Ward D
Clr J Hawkins	Clr I Olsen	Clr J Maybury	Clr G Smith
Clr C Burcham	Clr B Pynsent	Clr A McCudden	Clr J Ryan
Clr R Main	Clr D Troy (to 28 June 2012)	Clr C Parker	Clr N Gorman

Key Statistics

Usual residence	2011	
	Number	%
Population		
Males	25,257	49.7
Females	25,348	50.3
Total Population	50,840	100.0
Australian citizens	46,302	91.1
Eligible Voters (citizens aged 18+)	34,271	67.4
Dwellings		
Total dwellings	20,985	100.0
Occupied private dwellings	18,999	90.5
Population in non-private dwellings	1,777	–
Average household size (persons per dwelling)	2.58	–
Culture and ethnicity		
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population	2,457	4.8
Australian born	44,657	87.8
Speaks a language other than English at home	969	1.9

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2011.

Summary of Council's Performance – 2011-12

This Annual Report is a report on Council's achievements during 2011-12 including Council's progress in implementing the 2011-13 Delivery Program.

For each of the desired outcomes articulated by the community in the community strategic plan, *Cessnock 2020*, Council has identified initiatives in its 2011-13 Delivery Program. At 30 June 2012 Council was on track to achieve 99% of these initiatives.

A detailed review of Council's progress against each of the initiatives is included in PART D – End-of-Term Report and a summary of Council's performance against its Delivery Program is presented in the following table.

	2011-13 Delivery Program Initiatives		
	On Track 	Not Achieved 	Total
A connected, safe & creative community	20	0	20
A sustainable & prosperous economy	12	0	12
A sustainable & healthy environment	22	1	23
Accessible infrastructure, services & facilities	16	0	16
Civic leadership & effective governance	19	0	19
Total	89	1	90
Percentage	99%	1%	100%



A Connected, Safe and Creative Community



A connected, safe and creative community

2011-12 Highlights

- Council implemented the Crime Prevention Plan.
- Council provided free food safety seminars for food operators and members of the general public.
- Council participated in the Scores On Doors program run in conjunction with the NSW Food Authority, designed to inform customers about food safety performance in the food retail and food services sector.
- Council carried out programmed inspections for on-site sewage management systems.
- Council held a free Microchip Day in June 2012 and the owners of 238 dogs and cats took advantage of this service.
- Council commenced work in North Avenue on improving the physical access for pedestrians, wheelchairs, prams and scooters between the major supermarkets in the Cessnock CBD.

Promoting Social Connections

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

The total Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander resident population in Cessnock local government area is approximately 2,457 (2011 Census). In 2011 Cessnock City Council worked in partnership with local Aboriginal services non government organisations to deliver 14 local NAIDOC Week events.

Council continued to be represented on the Cessnock Correctional Centre's Aboriginal Consultative Committee, until the Committee concluded its work in support of the construction of the extension to the Cessnock Correctional Centre. The Committee was dissolved in April 2012.

People with diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds

The 2011 Census found that there were over 30 languages being spoken by residents in the local government area and that 7.5% of residents were born overseas. The Hunter Valley Multicultural Friendship Group (Cessnock Branch) continues to meet and has been involved in many successful community projects. The group was established by representatives from the Social Work Service, Cessnock Hospital (Hunter New England Area Health Service), Northern Settlement Services (NSS) and Cessnock City Council.

This group provides an opportunity for culturally and linguistically diverse communities to come together and celebrate diversity.

Access

During 2011-12 the Access Advisory Committee (comprising elected Councillors, community representatives and Council officers) worked to improve access for people with disabilities.

Community Development Expenditure Scheme

Cessnock City Council facilitated the Community Development Expenditure Scheme (CDES) for 2011 with almost \$75,000 in funding allocated to 17 local and regional projects under the state-wide scheme. (This Scheme requires registered clubs with gaming machines profits over \$1M to contribute 1.5 per cent of those profits to the provision of front line services in the community.)

Strengthening Community Culture

Child care and pre-school services

Cessnock City Council assisted local Pre-school providers with support via the Pre-school Growth Program. The Pre-school Growth program provided an opportunity to apply for capital infrastructure funding to expand local Pre-school services.

Council also provided space for 8 Child care and Pre-school services across the Cessnock Local Government Area.

Youth services

Council operates the Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) which provides programs and activities to meet the social, recreational and vocational needs of young people. CYCOS operates with a full time co-ordinator, a permanent part-time youth worker and a team of casual staff.

During 2011-12 CYCOS had 7,889 young people attend and participate in structured programs, drop-in services and outreach activities. The latter included events at local skate parks, bike, scooter and skate competitions, programs within local schools and excursions. CYCOS was also heavily involved in the successful delivery of an extensive range of events as part of Youth Week.

A highlight of the year was the culmination of a project entitled April's Fool. The Smart Choices Committee (a partnership between Cessnock City Council, the NSW Police Force and CYCOS), in association with the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre and the Samaritans Information and Neighbourhood Centre provided every Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 student from the Local Government Area with the opportunity to attend a performance of April's Fool – an innovative play that engaged young people and the broader community about the dangers and impacts of illicit drug use. The 1,065 students who participated in the alcohol and drug education program were provided with information and contact details from local counsellors and youth support agencies following the performance.

The April's Fool project won the Performing Arts Initiative category in the Local Government Arts & Cultural Awards in November 2012.

Aged and disabled services

Cessnock City Council provides significant infrastructure for aged and disabled services operated by Home and Community Care Services in the local government area including:

- Domestic Assistance Service
- Personal Care Service
- Social Support Service
- Home Maintenance & Modification
- Transport Services
- Disability Services

Council was actively involved in organising, promoting and/or delivering 18 events as part of 2012 Seniors' Week activities.

Contributions and Grants

During 2011-12 Council provided \$95,900.74 in general financial assistance to community groups/organisations.

Group/Organisation	Amount
Community Halls \$ for \$ Program	
Bellbird Pre-School	\$1,487.50
Greta Arts & Sports Centre	\$3,894.00
Branxton Pre-School	\$2,106.50
Weston Civic Centre	\$1,150.00
North Cessnock community Hall	\$1,772.72
Wollombi Valley Progress Association	\$1,575.00
Cessnock Multi Purpose Children's Centre	\$5,625.00
Kurri Kurri Community Centre	\$2,414.50
Cessnock Gem and Mineral Club	\$2,122.00
Sub-Total	\$22,147.22

Group/Organisation	Amount
Community Cultural Development \$ for \$ Program	
Abermain Eisteddfod Society	\$368.00
Central Hunter Community	\$651.00
Cessnock District Historical Society	\$1,500.00
Cessnock Chamber of Commerce	\$1,600.00
Cessnock City Country Music Festival	\$2,000.00
Cessnock Gem & Mineral Club	\$725.00
Cessnock Youth Development	\$1,850.00
Coalfield Heritage Group	\$1,500.00
Cessnock Wood Turners	\$1,600.00
Richmond Vale Preservation Co-op	\$4,629.25
Sculpture in the Vineyards Inc	\$2,000.00
The Friends of St Michaels	\$1,600.00
Valley Artists	\$1,100.00
Weston Art Show	\$2,000.00
Wollombi Tidy Valleys	\$1,745.39
Wollombi Valley Arts Council	\$2,000.00
Sub-Total	\$26,868.64
Recreation Minor Projects \$ for \$ Program	
Wollombi Valley Pony Club Inc	\$2,475.00
Abermain - Weston Hawks R.L.F.C.	\$1,288.00
Cessnock Minor Rugby League	\$1,940.00
Cessnock District Netball	\$5,400.00
Cessnock Dog Club	\$3,350.00
Greta Branxton Pony Sports Club	\$4,000.00
Greta Branxton United Cricket Club	\$4,371.00

Cessnock Rugby League Football	\$13,966.00
Kurri Kurri Athletic Centre	\$1,075.00
Wollombi Tennis Club	\$3,000.00
YMCA – Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre	\$6,019.88
Sub-Total	\$46,884.88
Total	\$95,900.74

Promoting Safe Communities

Crime prevention

The third year of implementation of Council's Crime Prevention Plan 2009 – 2012 focused on minimising malicious property damage. The following strategies were completed during the year:

- A promotional campaign across the local government area highlighting the need to report malicious property damage crimes;
- Strategies to promote increased participation of youth within the community; and
- Policy development for the prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour in Council-owned community halls.

Companion animals

Cessnock City Council actively enforces the Companion Animals Act 1998 through the following activities:

- Regular patrols of the local government area.
- Educating the community on responsible pet ownership including distribution of pooch pouches, dog leads, brochures and promotional materials (magnets, pencils and balloons).
- Companion Animal Lifetime Registration audits and reminder letters.

- Dangerous and restricted dog audits and inspections
- Attending to complaints and ensure that Companion Animal Owners adhere to the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998 and regulations.

Cessnock City Council's Companion Animal Management Plan was adopted by Council in January 2010.

Cessnock City Council entered into an agreement with the RSPCA to provide pound facilities for the Cessnock City Local Government Area. From the 1 August 2011 all impounded animals have been taken to the RSPCA Rutherford Shelter.

Animal shelter data

There were 107 reported dog attacks in the Cessnock City Council LGA in 2011-12.

- 31 were infringed;
- 44 received cautions as they were minor incidents;
- in 21 cases, no action was taken due to the offending dog not being able to be identified; and
- 16 were seized and destroyed.

In 2011-12 Cessnock City Council seized 168 cats and 301 dogs. Of these animals, 40 cats and 223 dogs, were transferred to rescue groups for re-homing. Other key statistics include:

- 2 cat and 170 dogs were released to their owners by the animal care facility.
- 128 cats and 124 dogs were euthanased due to lack of holding room, illness, or poor suitability for re-homing due to temperament.
- There were 2 cats and 34 dogs surrendered by their owners.
- 10 cats and 184 dogs were brought to the animal care facility by members of the public who claimed they were not the animal's owner.

Off Leash Areas in the LGA

Cessnock City Council currently has 6 leash free areas for the community to use:

- The south-eastern portion of Varty Park, Weston
- The northern portion of Greta Central Park, Greta
- Stanford Merthyr Park at Maitland Street, Stanford Merthyr
- Northern end of Manning Park, Blackwood Avenue, Cessnock
- Northern end of Hall Park, West Cessnock
- The very western end of Miller Park, Branxton

Fostering an articulate and creative community

Cessnock City Libraries

Cessnock and Kurri Kurri libraries held several displays throughout the year with a particular focus on exhibitions by local artists, photographers, crafts people, school students and art, local history and community groups.

Other activities and events included talks by authors including Miranda Darling, Andrew Daddo, John Larkin, Romy Ash, Libby Gleeson, and Joy Dettman; public information talks; the annual sale of old library resources; and activities to celebrate several themes during the year. The Library participated in the local calendar of events for NAIDOC Week, History Week, Library Lovers Day, Seniors Week and Youth Week.

The Library was also successful in obtaining funding to deliver the Telstra Connected Seniors mobile phone training program.

The various activities and events generated considerable local media interest, with several articles in local newspapers.

A comprehensive promotional program to inform local schools of the Library's online resources, for example YourTutor and databases, commenced during the year resulting in significant increases in usage being recorded.

Creative writing groups were established for adults and juniors in response to demand from local library users and attendees of various events.



The regular program of activities for young children, their parents and carers continues to attract growing numbers of participants. This program includes rhyme time, pre-school storytimes, Kidz Club and the weekly cards and games club. Other activities held

during the year included participation in the National Simultaneous Storytime, competitions, occasional school visits to Cessnock Library, and the regular class visit program at Kurri Kurri Library.

In addition, the School Holiday Programs and Children's Book Week were also very successful.

From the start of 2012, the Library has supported the country-wide initiative of the National Year of Reading.

In terms of Library infrastructure improvements, a lighting upgrade was completed at Cessnock Library and new multi-screen customer promotional equipment was installed at both libraries.

Cultural Planning and Development

As part of the implementation of its Social and Cultural Plan 2009-2014 which encourages participation in community based events and festivals, Council oversaw the River of Black Gold festival to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the discovery of the Greta Coal Seam. The festival program ran during August 2011 and included many diverse events.

Cessnock City Council administered its Community Cultural Development \$ for \$ Grant Program in 2011-12 and \$26,869 was allocated to 16 projects.

The City of Cessnock Hall of Fame held its sixth induction in November 2011. Five nominees were recognised with the installation of bronze plaques at various locations across the Local Government Area, on Council's Hall of Fame website and on the Wall of Fame at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre. This brings the total number of inductees into the Hall of Fame to 48.

Cessnock Performing Arts Centre

Since the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre opened, in November 2008, the centre's reputation has grown as a cultural facility providing a program of professional arts events and performance experiences by leading Australian companies.

The centre also hosts a number of community and Council run events such as the Mayoral Academic Challenge, Senior Citizen of the Year and the Mayoral Academic Scholarship Awards.

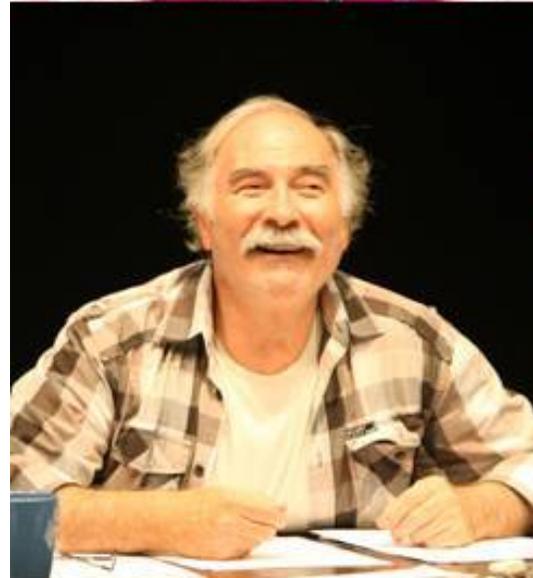
These activities coupled with the performance program have positioned the Centre as a cultural hub for the Cessnock local government area.

The expanded program is reflected in the audience numbers – which increased by 15% in 2011-12.

The 2011-12 program included sell-out performances of Rock Show II, Guy Sebastian and Looking Through a Glass Onion.

In addition, the Performing Arts Centre partnered with Council's Smart Choices program in the April's Fool project which won the Performing Arts Initiative category in the Local Government Arts & Cultural Awards in November 2012.

The Performing Arts Centre also conducted a series of free events (during NAIDOC Week and Seniors' Week) to strengthen its ties with the broader community. The Performing Arts Centre regularly partners with the Samaritans Neighbourhood Centre to host family events for Harmony Day and Grandparents Day in the outdoor plaza area.



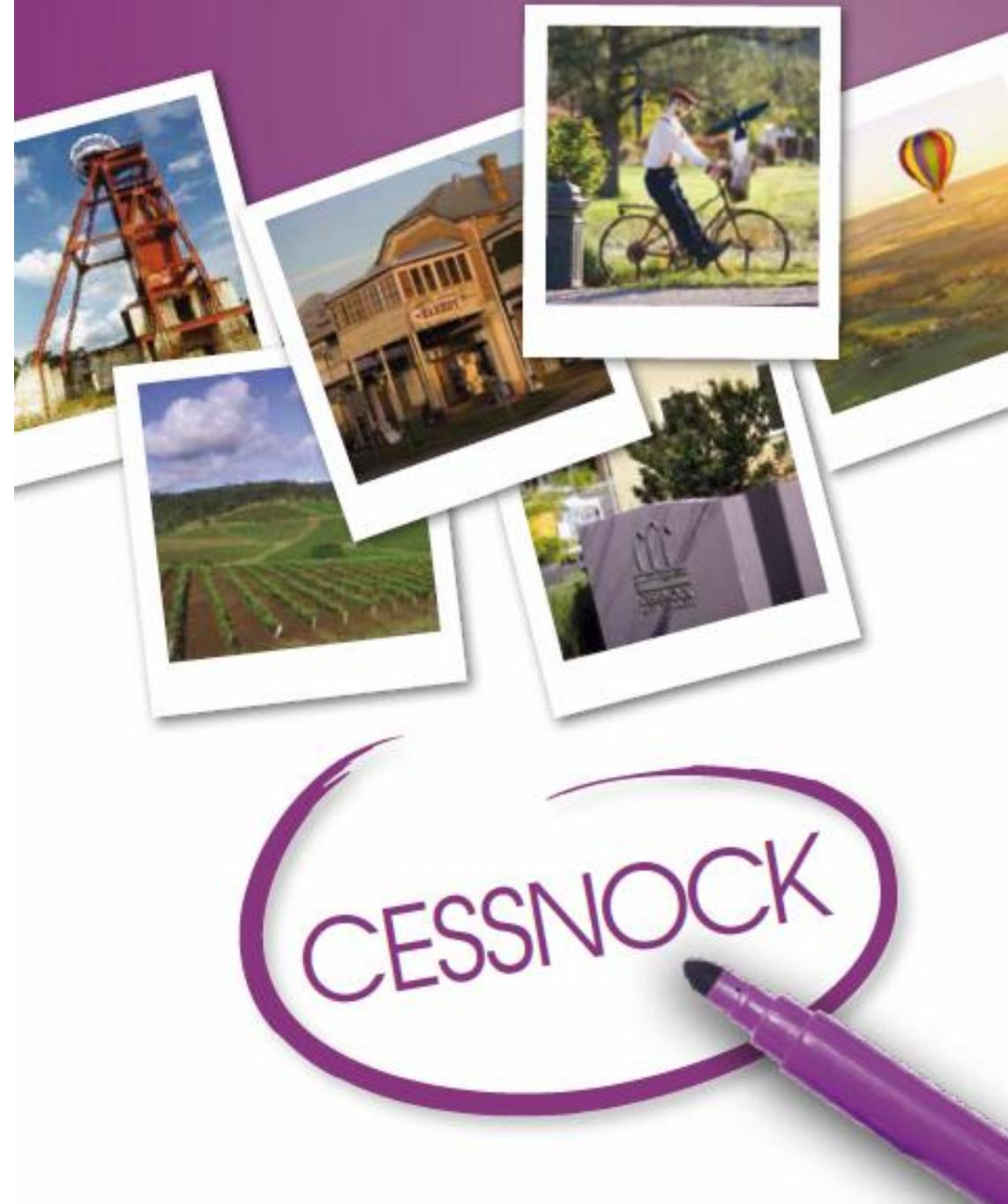


A Sustainable and Prosperous Economy

A Sustainable and Prosperous Economy

2011-12 Highlights

- Council prepared a 'Masterplan' for the Cessnock Central Business District (CBD), to improve economic diversity within the city centre and provide a wider range of employment opportunities for local people.
- Council updated marketing material for the local government area using the "Circle Cessnock" concept.



Draft Cessnock CBD Masterplan

During 2011-12 Council commenced the development of an holistic strategy that would tie together various existing ideas, visions and plans for the CBD into one Masterplan.

The Cessnock CBD Masterplan is a long-term strategy based on a collaborative process between Council, a multi-disciplinary consultant team and the Cessnock community. Its aim is to help position the CBD as a place that is safe, connected and inclusive, celebrates its history, has a strong community heart and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

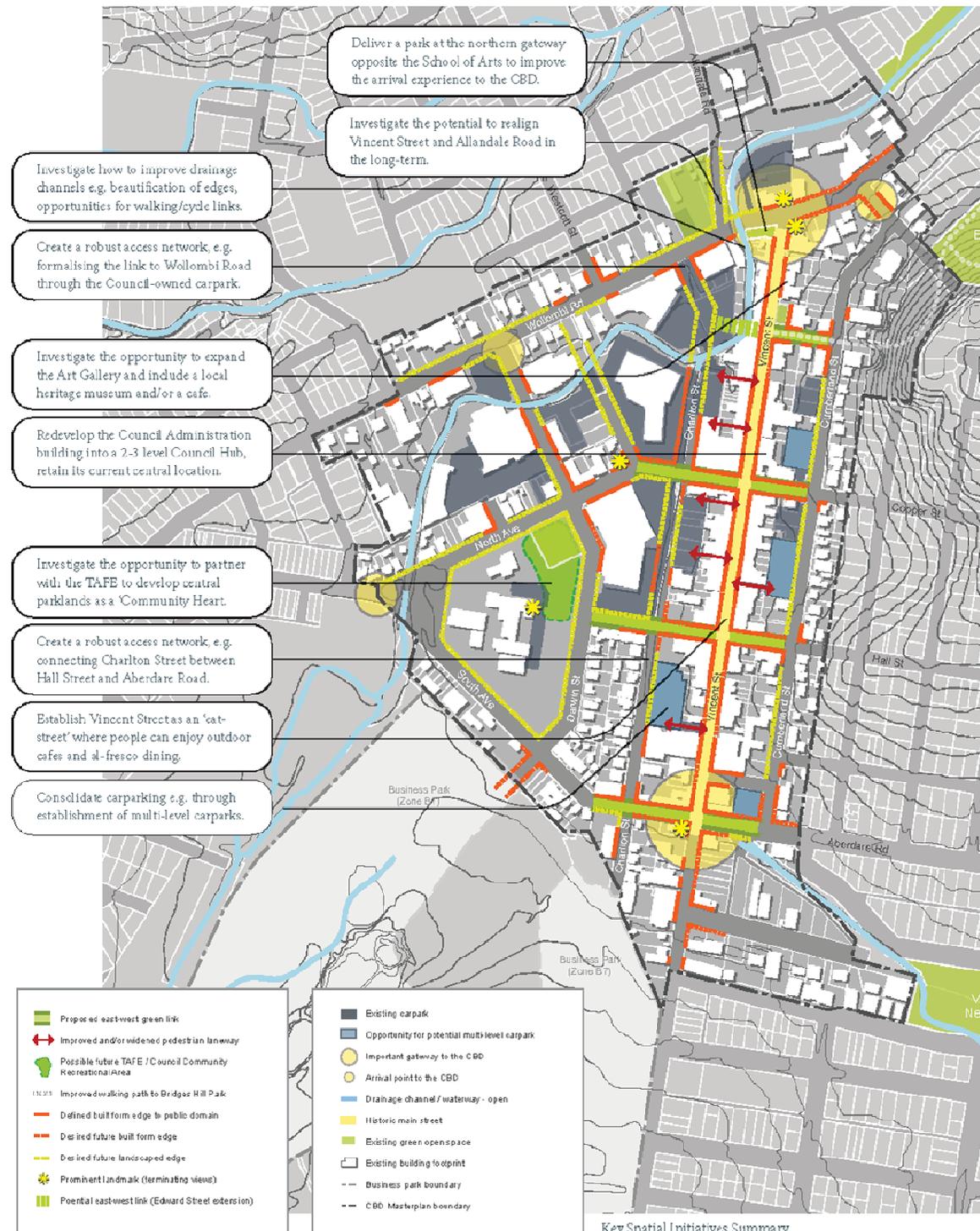
The Masterplan process discovered that the centre's spatial issues predominantly relate to infrastructure (roads and drainage), which hinders the renewal potential of the western CBD in particular. At a social level, the key is to create better connections and more public spaces for both locals and visitors in the centre of town.

The revitalisation of the Cessnock CBD will occur through physical changes (hard infrastructure) as well as activities, events and governance initiatives (soft infrastructure) ranging from bold changes to smaller interventions. The Masterplan proposes a framework which identifies where changes should occur in order to maximise their positive impact. The fundamental and simple idea behind this is that a place that increases its desirability attracts people and investment.

It is important that the Cessnock CBD continues to be a vibrant, economically sustainable commercial hub and that the centre unearths its identity in anticipation of the changes that are likely to occur due to predicted urban growth and development.

The draft Masterplan will be exhibited during November 2012 for public consultation and comment before being finalised and adopted by Council.

For more information on the draft CBD Masterplan please visit www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au or Council's Administration Centre at Vincent St, Cessnock.



Diversifying Local Business Options

Contracts

Council awarded the following contracts for amounts over \$150,000 (not including employment contracts) during 2011-12.

Successful Tender	Item	Amount payable per Tender (incl. GST)
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals NSW (RSPCA)	Deed of Agreement to transfer animal pound facilities to RSPCA	\$2,484,000.00
Robson Civil Projects Pty Ltd.	T1112/08 – Reconstruction Broke Road (East) Pokolbin	\$1,825,120.55
Alpall Pty Ltd.	T1112/12 – Construction of new amenities block Central Park Kurri Kurri	\$563,592.00
King&Wood Mallesons	Legal services – Cessnock Airport	\$329,164.30

Partnerships

Council did not hold any controlling interest in any companies during 2011-12.

- Council is a member of the Statewide Mutual Liability Scheme. This is a self-insurance scheme comprising the majority of Councils in New South Wales. It was established with the purpose of purchasing public liability and professional indemnity insurance. This enables Council to meet its insurance obligations under the Act.

- Hunter Resource Recovery is a public company, limited by guarantee. Registered ABN 35071432570.
- The company is made up of 16 Directors. Each Council is represented by four (4) Directors.
- During the period 2011-12 Cessnock Council recycled 4,447 tonnes via the kerbside service.
- Singleton Council joined the company in August 2012 and will participate in a new contract commencing 1 July 2013.
- Council is a joint guarantor for a loan which was drawn down on 1 July 2003 by Hunter Councils Limited. The total loan borrowing is \$2.86 million and Council's exposure is \$351,416.
- Hunter Councils Limited has been established to improve the quality and efficiency of local government service throughout the Hunter Region. One such service is the establishment and provision of a Record Repository Centre for the use of the Member Councils and to outsource this service to other organisations.
- Hunter Integrated Resources is a public company, limited by guarantee Registered ACN 095 330 813 established by the four (4) member Councils (Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and Newcastle) to investigate alternate waste technology that may benefit member Councils through economies of scale.

Controlling interests

Council held no controlling interests in companies as defined under S428(2) (p) of the Local Government Act.



Achieving more Sustainable Employment Opportunities

Employment

At June 2012, there were 23,432 employed residents in the Cessnock local government area.

The unemployment rate in the Cessnock local government area improved, relative to the state and federal rates, during the year.

Unemployment Rate	June 2011	Sept 2011	Dec 2011	March 2012	June 2012
Cessnock Local Government Area	6.8%	6.4%	6.3%	6.0%	6.0%
New South Wales	5.1%	5.1%	5.2%	5.2%	5.2%
Australia	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.10%

Source: Small Area Labour Markets (Dept of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations)

Increasing Tourism Opportunities & Visitation in the Area

Tourism

The Christmas Lights Spectacular at Hunter Valley Gardens won a silver award in the festival and events category at the 2011 NSW Tourism Awards.

Annual Average for period Sept 2008 – Sept 2011

	Cessnock LGA	NSW
Total visitors (overnight and daytrips)	755,000	73,759,000
Total spend	\$157m	\$23,592m

Source: Destination NSW and Tourism Research Australia's National Visitor Survey and International Visitor Survey



A Sustainable and Healthy Environment

A Sustainable & Healthy Environment

2011-12 Highlights

- Council completed 90% of the recreation and community buildings capital works program in 2011-12.
- Council had the Local Environment Plan 2011 gazetted.
- Council maintained 552 hectares of open space, parks and gardens.
- Council extended the agreement with YMCA for the management of Kurri Kurri Aquatic Centre to August 2014.
- Council refurbished amenities buildings at Kurri Kurri Sportsground and Weston Park.
- Council replaced playgrounds at Crawfordville Park, Carmichael Park, and Jeffery Park.
- Council resurfaced floors at Cessnock Indoor Sports Centre.
- Council undertook upgrade works at Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Wollombi Cemeteries.



Protecting & enhancing the natural environment & the rural character of the area

Development

During 2011-12 Council determined 5% more development applications (excluding Sec. 96 applications) than in the previous year.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS	2010-11	2011-12
Number of determinations	798	834
Mean gross determination time (days)	93	75
Median gross determination time (days)	25	31

Planning agreements

During 2011-12 one (1) Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) was endorsed by Council at Cessnock Civic Precinct for the management and protection of onsite environmental offsets.

This Planning Agreement will be enforced through the development approval process.

Bushfire reduction

Cessnock City Council is an important partner in the management of Volunteer Rural Fire Brigades. Council's participation includes financial support of volunteers and ongoing management of the local organisation through the

Service Level Agreement between the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) and Council.

There are 14 brigades and 3 support brigades in the Cessnock local government area and 640 active members.

Bushfire reduction works including firebreaks and slashing (mechanical fire breaks) were carried out during the year particularly in the areas of Neath and Kearsley.

During 2011-12 the RFS completed minimal hazard reduction exercises (although many were planned), due to the inclement weather.

Better utilisation of existing open space

Recreation facilities

Cessnock City Council maintains in the vicinity of 552 hectares of open space throughout the Local Government area, in the form of formal gardens and civic spaces, playgrounds, outdoor sports facilities, parkland and drainage reserves.

The majority of open space areas are maintained on a 4-6 week maintenance schedule depending on the time of year and climatic conditions. Many outdoor sporting facilities are heavily utilised during the winter period, in particular for soccer, netball and rugby league, whilst during summer the main user groups are cricket and athletics.

Council also operates three (3) public swimming pools at Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Branxton. There are six (6) major aquatics based clubs in the area, predominantly utilising Cessnock Pool. The establishment of the Kurri Kurri Aquatic

Centre provides a year round swimming facility which has proven to be highly popular with annual attendance levels in the vicinity of 100,000.

Cemeteries

Council has care, control and management of Aberdare, Branxton, Cessnock, Ellalong, Glenmore, Greta, Kurri Kurri, Millfield, Rothbury and Wollombi general cemeteries, and Gordon Williams Memorial Lawn Cemetery at Aberdare and Kurri Kurri Lawn Cemetery.

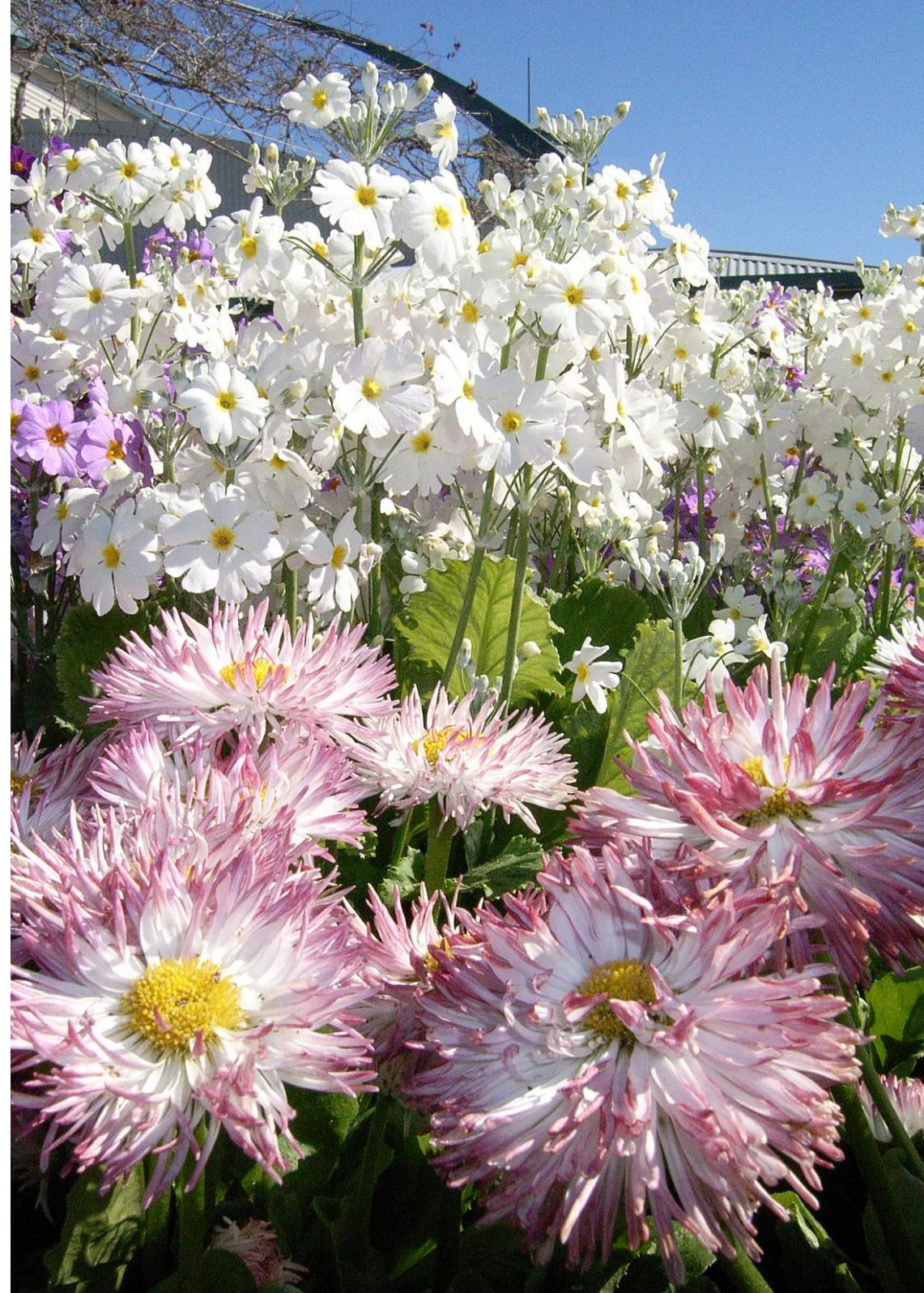
All general cemeteries are fully operational cemeteries with the exception of Cessnock, which only allows for interments in reserved lots or in a re-opened grave. A Cemetery Strategy outlining the future development of each cemetery has been adopted by Council.

Better waste management & recycling

Delegated functions

Hunter Resource Recovery (HRR) is the provider of Council's domestic kerbside recycling service. It is jointly owned and operated by Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland and Singleton Councils.

HRR manages the kerbside recycling collection service contract with Solo Resource Recovery.





Accessible Infrastructure, Facilities and Services

Accessible Infrastructure, Facilities & Services

2011-12 Highlights

- Council completed 93% of the roads, bridges and drainage capital works program in 2011-12.
- Council upgraded 23 bus stops during 2011-12 to improve access for people with disabilities.
- Council replaced Slacks, Narone and Sweetmans Creek bridges.
- Council constructed the Leggetts Dr/Lake Rd roundabout (RMS funded).
- Council completed 25.8 km of road reseals in 2011-12.
- Council took back management of Cessnock Airport.
- Council undertook safety improvements on Old North Rd Rothbury, Wollombi Rd Pelton, Sandy Creek Rd, Quorrobolong, and Old Maitland Rd Cessnock.
- Council commenced the first stage of the Vineyards Roads upgrade project.



Better Transport Links

Public transport

During 2011-12 Council upgraded twenty three (23) priority public transport stops to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act, 1992.

Cessnock Council is an active member of the Lower Hunter Transport Group consisting of representatives from Cessnock, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Newcastle and Port Stephens Councils. This group looks at public transport issues from a regional perspective.

Improving the Road Network

Traffic facilities

The installation of all traffic facility devices (roundabouts, road narrowing points, pedestrian refuges, traffic medians etc) as well as changes to traffic management and traffic flow infrastructure requires approval by the Local Traffic Committee and Council.

Facilities on State Roads are the responsibility of Roads & Maritime Services.

Streetsweeping and cleaning

During 2011-12 Council undertook street sweeping throughout the local government area to reduce the accumulation of debris on the road surface and improve road safety. Street cleaning operations were undertaken in Cessnock, Weston and Kurri Kurri to provide acceptable conditions for pedestrians.

Street lighting

Cessnock City Council's street lighting network is maintained by an external public utility authority (Ausgrid). Annual maintenance of the network has seen the replacement of a large number of older technology street lighting luminaries with newer, efficient lamps that consume less energy per annum and are less costly to maintain.

New subdivisions have adopted energy efficient luminaries in their street lighting designs.

Public Works

The condition of the infrastructure under Council's control, an estimate of the expenditure to bring it up to a satisfactory standard and the maintenance expenditure incurred during 2011-12 is included in Special Schedule 7 of Council's financial reports.

The financial reports, together with the auditor's reports, are included as Part C of this report and can be viewed at the Administrative Offices, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock or online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. The reports cover the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

Work on private land

Under Section 67 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council may, by agreement with the owner or occupier of any private land, carry out on the land any kind of work that Council may lawfully undertake.

Council undertook the following works during 2011-12:

Private Works on Public Land - NIL
Private Works on Private Land
Murrays Run Road, Laguna - maintenance grading
Public Works on Private Land - NIL

Capital Works Program

Capital works and improvement projects include expenditure on the acquisition and construction of new infrastructure assets and the augmentation or improvement of existing infrastructure assets.

In 2011-12 Council completed 93% of the roads, bridges and drainage capital works program and 90% of the recreation and community buildings capital works program.

It should be noted that Council often receives additional funding throughout the year to undertake works on behalf of other agencies such as Roads & Maritime Services. It is also not uncommon for larger projects to span multiple financial years which is often the reason for a larger revised budget.

PROGRAM 2011-2012	ADOPTED BUDGET	REVISED BUDGET – A	ACTUAL
CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAMS			
Local Road Construction	\$2,560,300	B \$5,702,418	\$3,573,756
Local Road Renewal	-	\$1,270,337	\$1,067,396
Regional Road Construction	\$526,000	C \$1,911,770	\$1,095,097
Regional Road Renewal	-	\$478,059	\$488,113
LGA Pathways	\$91,000	\$95,550	\$92,648
Bridge Construction	\$275,000	\$1,269,300	\$1,261,414
Drainage Construction	\$900,000	\$692,249	\$516,194
Traffic Facilities	-	\$133,784	\$55,046

Public Transport Facilities	-	\$368,132	\$238,879
SUB-TOTAL	\$4,352,300	\$11,921,599	\$8,388,543
SPECIAL RATE			
Urban Roads Program	\$744,200	\$545,500	\$533,302
Rural Roads Program	\$552,423	\$653,165	\$665,022
Regional Roads Program	\$87,500	\$99,800	\$72,624
SUB-TOTAL	\$1,384,123	\$1,298,465	\$1,270,948
RECREATION & PARKS			
Recreation Minor Works	\$151,700	\$136,350	\$135,353
Recreation Capital Works	\$404,000	D \$813,355	\$372,704
Playgrounds	\$70,000	\$251,191	\$250,454
Floodlighting	\$30,000	\$62,000	\$39,517
Pools	\$114,000	\$216,945	\$242,126
Cemeteries	-	\$108,800	\$73,426
SUB-TOTAL	\$769,700	\$1,588,641	\$1,113,580
BUILDINGS			
Recreation Buildings	\$154,000	E \$440,976	\$281,872
Community Buildings	\$283,000	F \$409,336	\$247,591
SUB-TOTAL	\$437,000	\$850,312	\$529,463
TOTAL	\$6,943,123	\$15,659,017	\$11,302,534

Notes:

- A The revised budget includes funds carried forward for incomplete works from 2010-11 and grant funds received during 2011-12 that were not originally budgeted for and, in some cases, are to fund works that span more than one financial year.
- B Includes additional grant funds for works such as Heddon St (Stanford Merthyr), Quarrybylong St, and the final sealing of Paynes Crossing Road to be carried forward to 2012-13.
- C Includes grant funds for works such as the Vineyard roads project which are to be carried forward to 2012-13.
- D Includes grant funds for works such as the Kurri Kurri skatepark.
- E Includes works such as the Kurri Kurri Central Oval that span two financial years.
- F Includes works such as the Kurri Kurri Senior Citizens' Hall to be carried forward to 2012-13.

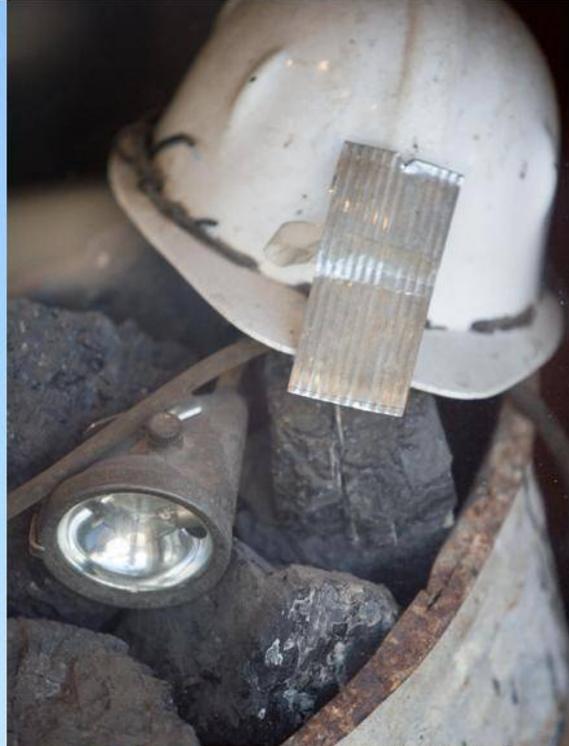
Improving Access to Health Services Locally

Improving Access to Health Services Locally

During the year Council made representations to the Department of Health & Ageing, Hunter New England Health Service, and Hunter Rural Division of GPs to maintain and upgrade health service levels in the local government area.

Ratio of GPs per 100,000 population	2011
Cessnock Local Government Area	1:1,575
Australia	1:1,400





Civic Leadership and Effective Governance

Civic Leadership & Effective Governance

2011-12 Highlights

- Council provided training to local community services providers on how to access grant opportunities and use community demographic information.
- Council held the Mayoral Academic Debate in June 2012.
- Council consulted with the community on the Cessnock CBD Masterplan.
- Council consulted with the community on the Vineyard Vision.



Fostering & Supporting Community Leadership

Councillor payments and expenses

Cessnock City Council has in place a Councillors' Expenses & Facilities Policy that governs the expenses paid and facilities provided to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors in the discharge of their civic duties. The Councillors' Expenses & Facilities Policy is published as a separate document and can be viewed at the Administrative Offices, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock or online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

In 2011-12 the cost of expenses incurred by and facilities provided to Councillors was \$55,638. This includes domestic travel expenses such as accommodation and registration fees for seminars and conferences, as well as office administration such as telephones, faxes, postage, meals and refreshments.

Annual fees were paid to the Mayor and Councillors as required by the Local Government Act 1993 and in accordance with the determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

The following summary shows the amount expended during the year on mayoral fees and councillor fees, the amount expended on provision of facilities for use by councillors and the payment of councillors' expenses.

Mayoral and Councillor fees for the year 2011-12 were fixed within the range of fees established by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. The Mayoral fee was fixed at \$36,320 and the Councillor fee at \$16,640.

The fees paid were as follows:-

Nature of Expenses	Amount
Mayoral Fees	\$36,320
Councillor Fees	\$216,320
Breakdown of Mayoral and Councillor Expenses	
Nature of Expenses	Amount
Provision of dedicated office equipment, including laptop computers, mobile phones, telephone, fax and installation of internet access.	\$8,578
Telephone calls, including mobiles, landlines, fax and internet services.	\$15,838
Spouse / Partner Accompanying Person	NIL
Conferences and Seminars	\$11,092
Training and Skill Development	\$8,900
Interstate Travel	NIL
Overseas Travel	NIL
Meetings - Travel	\$8,900
Care and Other Related Expenses	\$2,330
Total	\$55,638

In 2011-12 there were no overseas visits by elected Councillors.

Encouraging More Community Participation in Decision Making

Public participation

Cessnock City Council is a strong advocate of community consultation and uses this process to ensure it is meeting the community's needs and establishing the type of future the residents of Cessnock desire.

Some of the ways Council invites public participation and comment include:

- Residents are welcome to contact Council in person, by telephone or in writing with their views or suggestions for improving the local government area.
- Council seeks public comment on important matters. This may be by way of public meetings, public exhibitions or more formalised public hearings. Details of all public meetings and exhibitions are published in local newspapers.
- The elected Council considers all policy matters at Council meetings which are open to the public. Council's Code of Meeting Practice makes provision for members of the public to address Council meetings and prescribes the framework for such participation.
- There are also avenues for members of the public to personally participate in the policy development functions of the Council.

Council meetings

The elected representatives comprise the governing body of the Council. The role of the elected Council is to set the strategic direction and determine policies of Council. The decisions of the

Council are formalised through the meeting process.

Council has regular meetings in the Council Chambers on the first and third Wednesday of each month commencing at 6.30pm, with the exception that no meetings are held on the last meeting scheduled for December and the first meeting scheduled for January each year.

Council has a Code of Meeting Practice which provides comprehensive details of meeting procedure. A copy of the Code is available on request at Council's Administration Building or online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

The General Manager is responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the Council organisation and for ensuring the implementation of decisions of the Council.



Making Council More Responsive to the Community

Help and Information Centre

As part of the refurbishment of the Council's Administration building, Stage 1 of the upgrade to the Help and Information Centre was completed, including the establishment of a call centre room and the installation of a new service desk.

Customer Requests

Each year Council receives thousands of requests for information and/or assistance via correspondence, counter enquiries and telephone calls. This information is recorded as a 'request' within Council's Customer Request Management System (CRMS) and forwarded to an appropriate Council officer to action.

During 2011-12 Council received a total of 41,308 requests from community members, businesses and external government agencies. A month by month breakdown of the number of enquiries has been provided below.

Monthly CRMS Activity 2011-12	No. of Requests Received
July	3,850
August	3,904
September	3,797
October	3,418
November	3,800
December	2,751
January	2,782
February	3,281

March	4,040
April	3,108
May	3,461
June	3,116
TOTAL	41,308

In addition, countless general enquiries and questions are dealt with straight away by Council staff and are not recorded within the CRMS (or included in the figures above).

Privacy

When accessing Council documents, you need to be aware of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 which helps to protect personal information and the privacy of individuals. Councils are required to develop a privacy management plan under the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act and comply with other legislation regarding public access to information.

If you are refused access to documents on the grounds of privacy, you should read a document called 'Privacy, you and your local Council'. It provides a brief overview of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act and answers some frequently asked questions. This document is available at the Division of Local Government website at www.dlg.nsw.gov.au.

Council has a Privacy Management Plan which outlines how Council may use and disclose personal information. Personal information may be in written, photographic, video or auditory format.

The twelve Information Protection Principles outlined in the Act provide practical guidance regarding how Council collects and

deals with personal information.

Council is required to:

- Comply with, personal information protection principles.
- Identify any register which contains personal information and which is provided to third parties, and comply with public register provisions.
- Amend personal records immediately and free of charge to ensure the information held is accurate, relevant, up to date, complete and not misleading.
- Report compliance with the Act in each year's annual report and conduct an internal review of complaints made against it by the public.

Council's Privacy Management Plan and Privacy Code of Practice may be viewed at Council's Libraries and Administration Centre. Information about Privacy and Access to Documents as well as the Privacy Management Plan and Code of Practice are available on Council's web-site www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au.

Council's Privacy Contact Officer may be contacted on (02)4993 4100.



Cessnock City Annual Report 2011-12

During 2011-12 no reviews were conducted by or on behalf of Cessnock City Council under Part 5.

Accessing Council documents

Members of the public are entitled to have access to Council information and records under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (the GIPA Act) which, from 1 July 2010, replaced the Freedom of Information Act 1989 and Section 12 of the Local Government Act 1993.

The GIPA Act introduces a new scheme for providing public access to government information, and focuses on the legislative requirement in favour of disclosure of the information through consideration of the public's best interest.

Open access information (or mandatory release information) must be published on Council's website, unless to do so would impose unreasonable additional costs. It can also be made available in any other way. At least one of the ways in which Council makes the open access information publicly available must be free of charge.

The GIPA Act establishes 4 ways to access information:

1. Open Access (e.g. obligatory publication of information on the web)
2. Proactive release (e.g. certain publications and application tracking)
3. Informal release (e.g. documents under the repealed Section 12 of Local Government Act)
4. Formal Access (e.g. previously Freedom of Information application).

Open access information includes the following:

- a publication guide
- policy documents
- a disclosure log of access applications
- a register of Council contracts

Information can generally be made available free of charge although you may have to pay reasonable photocopying charges if you want your own copy. If you have a simple request that can be satisfied by reference to a single file or entry in a register Council can usually respond on the spot, and at no charge. However, in the case of a more complex request or access to third party information, you may be requested to complete a Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 application form to allow Council to process your request.

Amending Council Records

Members of the public interested in obtaining access to information or who wish to seek an amendment to the Council's records concerning their personal affairs, should contact Council's Public Information Officer.

If you are unhappy with the accuracy or use of your personal information held by Council you can ask that the information be amended. This can be done by writing to the Public Information Officer outlining the reasons for your request.

Further information regarding Accessing Council Information can be found in Council's Access to Information Policy or by contacting Council's Public Information Officer, Cessnock City Council, P.O. Box 152, Cessnock, 2325.



Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009

Council has reviewed its program for the release of government information in accordance with section 7. Details of requests for information received by Council for the year ending 30 June, 2012 are as follows:

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome*	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (other)	6	5	0	0	1	0	0	0

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table C: Invalid applications	
Reason for invalidity	No of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	0
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0
Total number of invalid applications received	0
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 to Act	Number of times consideration used
Overriding secrecy laws	0
Cabinet information	0
Executive Council information	0
Contempt	0

Legal professional privilege	0
Excluded information	0
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0
Transport safety	0
Adoption	0
Care and protection of children	0
Ministerial code of conduct	0
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of Act	Number of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	5
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	0
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0

Table F: Timeliness	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	12
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	3
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0
Total	15

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review	0	0	0
Review by Information Commissioner	0	0	0
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0
Review by ADT	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0

Human resources

Cessnock City Council's future success depends upon the skills, energy and commitment of its people. Council strives to attract, develop and retain employees of the highest quality and provide a working environment that will enable employees to maximise their contribution to the achievement of Council's strategic goals.

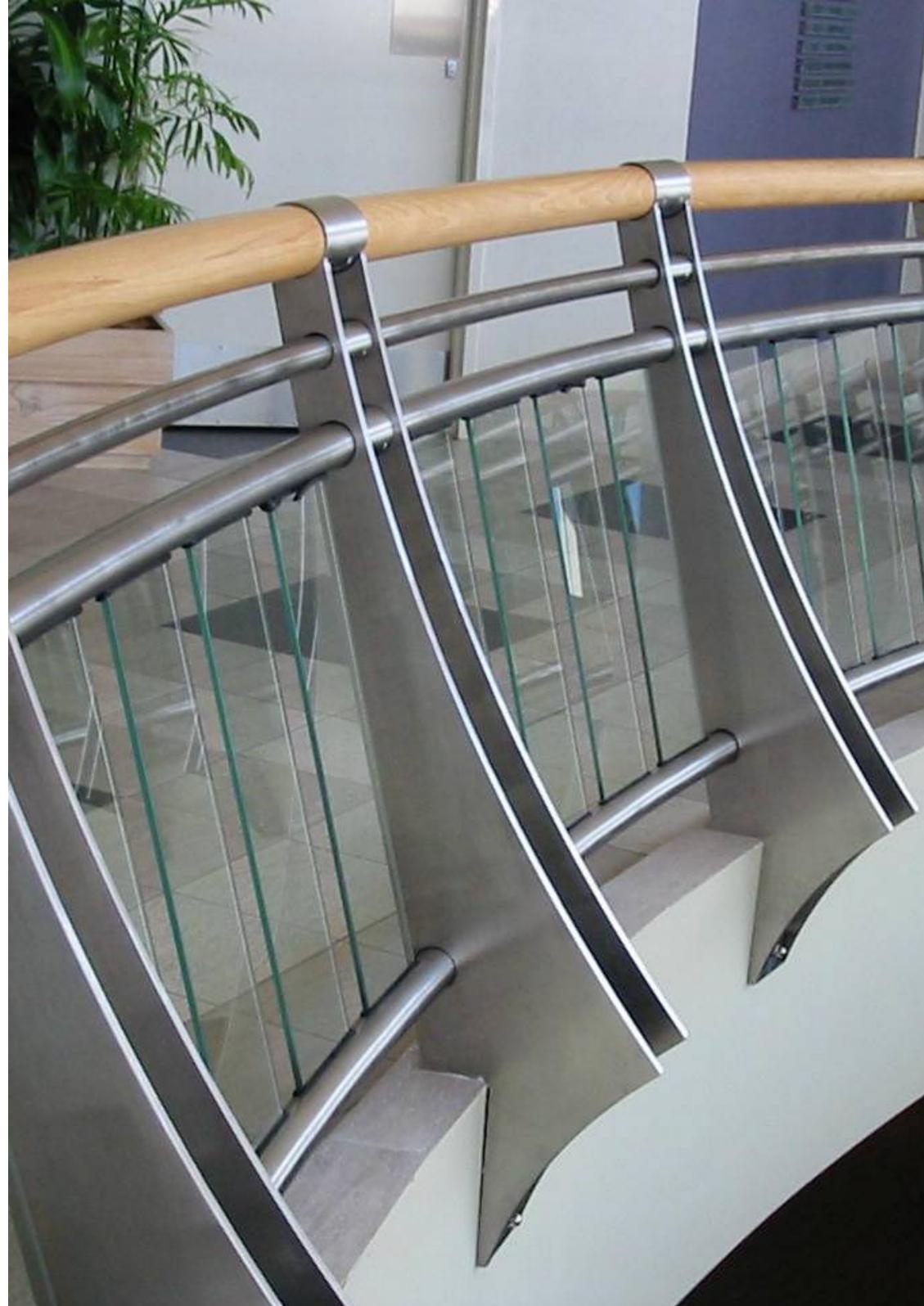
Equal employment opportunity

Council continues to raise awareness of Workplace Diversity through the Workplace Diversity Contact Officers network and an internal advertising campaign consisting of workplace posters and other promotional material used to raise staff awareness of the need to recognise and respect diversity in the workplace.

Senior staff

A statement of the total amount paid to each senior staff member employed during 2011-12.

	General Manager	Group Leaders
	01/07/11 to 30/06/12	01/07/11 to 30/06/12
Total Value of Salary Component of Package:	\$217,500.06	\$636,241.68
Total amount of any bonus payments, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary:	-	-
Total payable superannuation (salary sacrifice and employers contribution):	\$31,015.01	\$75,836.75
Total value of non-cash benefits – Provision of Motor Vehicle:	\$10,000.00	\$39,726.03
Total payable fringe benefits tax for non-cash benefits:	\$4,401.86	\$37,583.20
Total Remuneration Package	\$262,916.93	\$789,387.66



Legal proceedings

Summarised below are details of the costs incurred in regard to legal proceedings taken by Council or taken against Council during 2011-12. The result of the proceedings is shown together with the amount of the legal costs incurred.

Matter	Court	Cost	Result
Abernethy Developments Pty Ltd v Cessnock City Council 2011. Proceedings 10914 of 2010. Application directly to the Court to modify development consent.	Land & Environment Court	\$355.00	Appeal dismissed.
Cessnock City Council v Aviation & Leisure Corporation Pty Ltd NSWSC 221. Application for a permanent stay of proceedings on the basis that alternative dispute resolution should be undertaken.	NSW Supreme Court – Equity Division	\$113,667.69	Stay ordered. Council to pay costs.
Cessnock City Council v Bimbadgen Estate Pty Ltd 2011 NSWLEC 140. Proceedings for committing the offence of carrying out earthworks on land without consent.	Land & Environment Court	\$41,984.22	The respondent pleaded guilty and was convicted of offence.
Cessnock City Council v Burcham & ors. 89946 of 2012. Proceedings to prevent the dismissal of the General Manager.	NSW Supreme Court – Common Law Division	\$187,219.16	Court orders issued. In progress.
Covercopy Pty Limited v Cessnock City Council 2011 NSWLEC 1136. Appeal against refusal by Council to modify consent.	Land & Environment Court	\$32,072.53	Appeal dismissed.
William Creedon v Cessnock City Council NSWLEC 10264 of 2012. Appeal against refusal of development application.	Land & Environment Court	\$7,248.20	Appeal discontinued. DA approved.
Danckert v Cessnock City Council 2012 NSWLEC 1123. Appeal against refusal of Development Application.	Land & Environment Court	\$64,180.49	Appeal dismissed.

Matter	Court	Cost	Result
Cessnock City Council v Terrence Lee Hillier and Bales Investments Pty Limited. NSWLEC 41014 of 2011. Proceedings for non-compliance with orders to make repairs to fire-damaged building.	Land & Environment Court	\$35,568.02	Court orders issued for demolition.
Cessnock City Council v Laila Investments Pty Ltd NSWLEC 40598 of 2012. Class 4 proceedings regarding the issuing of an occupation certificate.	Land & Environment Court	\$37,561.59	Occupation Certificate declared invalid.
Cessnock City Council v Moani Pty Limited NSWLEC 10927 of 2011. Appeal against deemed refusal.	Land & Environment Court	\$12,451.30	Proceedings discontinued. DA approved.
Redstone Ridge Vineyards Pty Ltd v Cessnock City Council NSWLEC 10655 of 2011. Appeal against deemed refusal.	Land & Environment Court	\$56,194.87	Proceedings discontinued. DA approved.
Cessnock City Council v Rush & ors. NSWLEC 178 of 2012. Proceedings to prevent the delegation of the management of Council's court matters.	Land & Environment Court	\$118,967.19	Orders issued to prevent delegation of management of Court proceedings to Rush & ors.
Socares Support Group Inc v Cessnock City Council 2012 NSWLEC 23. Proceedings against Council for breaching its tendering obligations under the Local Government Act.	Land & Environment Court	\$197,665.73	Appeal dismissed.
Urbanesque Planning Pty Ltd v Cessnock City Council. Appeal against refusal of an application to modify a condition of development consent.	Land & Environment Court	\$3,686.47	Parties reached agreement and the appeal was upheld.
TOTAL		\$908,822.46	

Rates and charges

Details of gross rates and charges levied and written off are shown below:

Gross Rates and Charges Levied and Written Off		
Ordinary Rates (Specify)		
Residential	\$19,899,464	
Farmland	\$3,272,140	
Business	\$4,170,892	
Mining	\$804,699	
Total Rates		\$28,147,195
Domestic Waste Management Charges		\$8,520,536
Stormwater Management Charges		<u>\$460,775</u>
Gross Rates and Charges		\$37,128,506
Less: Written Off		
Pensioners (Section 575)	\$1,185,469	
Pensioners (Section 582)	\$121,789	\$1,307,258
		\$35,821,248
Net Transfers to and from Postponed Rates		<u>-\$10,455</u>
Net Rates and Annual Charges		\$35,810,793
Net Extra Charges - Interest and Legal per note 3		<u>\$217,674</u>
		\$36,028,467

Infrastructure Works from Additional Rate Increase 2011-12		
Rawson Street, Aberdare	Charles Street, Abermain	Doyle Street, Bellbird
King Street, Bellbird Heights	Gills Lane, Brunkerville	George Downes Drive, Bucketty
Fifth Street, Cessnock	Fifth Street, Weston	Hall Street, Cessnock
Margaret Street, Cessnock	Congewai Road, Congewai	Sandy Creek Road, Ellalong
Barton Street, Kurri Kurri	Boundary Street, Kurri Kurri	Heddon Street, Kurri Kurri
Rawson Street, Kurri Kurri	Great North Road, Laguna	Lovedale Road, Lovedale
Government Road, Loxford	Mount View Road, Millfield	Wollombi Road, Millfield
Mount Vincent Road, Mount Vincent	Northcote Avenue, Paxton	Marrowbone Road, Pokolbin
Oakey Creek Road, Pokolbin	Heaton Road, Quarrolong	Kline Street, Weston

The 2011-12 year was the first year of a special rates variation granted to Council by the Minister for Local Government. An amount of \$1,592,452 was levied under this special variation with the funds being expended on the following capital works:

Rate Subsidies

Under the provisions of Section 356 of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council may, for the purpose of exercising its functions, grant financial assistance to other persons.

During 2011-12 Council provided rates subsidies totalling \$21,942.43 to community groups/organisations.

Group/Organisation	Amount
RSL Hall - Maitland St, Branxton	\$1,676.39
RSL Hall - Wollombi Rd, Cessnock	\$881.83
RSL Hall - Cessnock Rd, Weston	\$809.29
Cessnock Masonic Hall	\$1,310.21
Paxton Masonic Hall	\$881.83
Weston Masonic Hall	\$942.63
Pre-School - Dudley St, Cessnock	\$1,842.22
Day Care Centre - Dudley St, Cessnock	\$1,130.57
Kurri Kurri Day Care Centre	\$1,697.12
Weston Pre-School	\$311.61
Aberdare Pre-School	\$1,552.03
Bellbird Pre-School	\$1,151.29
Greta Pre-School Kindergarten	\$1,489.85
Challenge Disability Services	\$1,987.31
Cessnock Homing Pigeon Club	\$816.89
Cessnock Pistol Club	\$736.18
Cessnock Mini-Bike Club	\$423.62

Kurri Kurri Motor Cycle Club	\$265.71
Richmond Vale Preservation Co-op Society	\$850.01
Cessnock Multi Purpose Children's Centre	\$1,185.84
Total	\$21,942.43

Stormwater Management Service Program

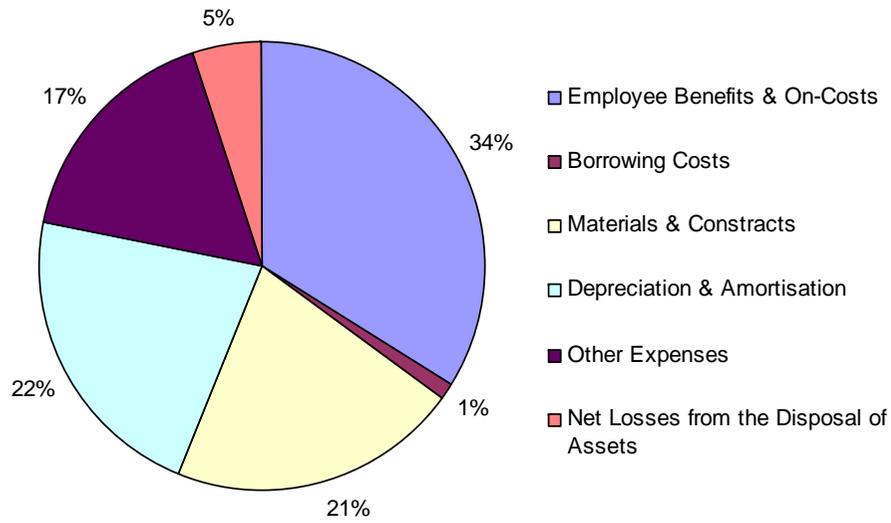
Church Street, Ellalong	Old Buttai Road
Railway Street,/Branxton Street, Branxton	Wollombi FRMS&P
Reid Street, North Rothbury	Cessnock FRMS&P
Whitburn Estate Drainage	Fishery Creek FRMS&P
Adopted 2011-12	Actual 2011-12
\$1,080,000	\$608,070

Financial statements

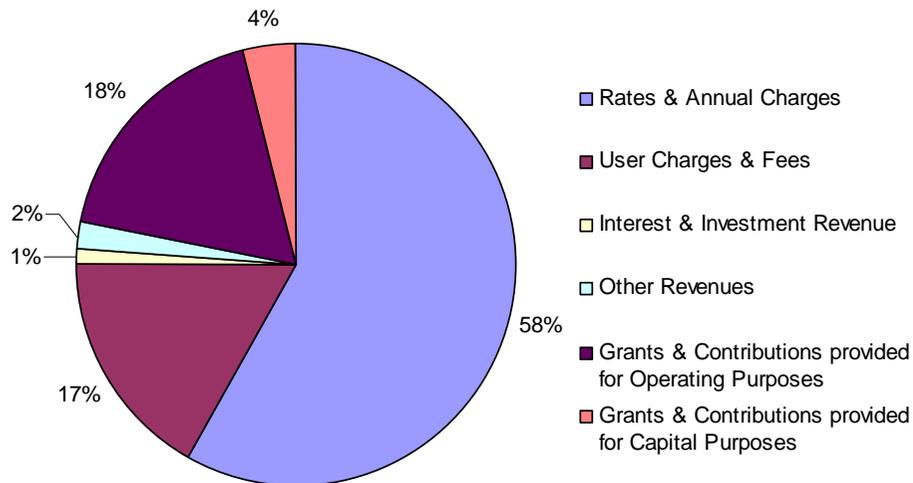
Under the provisions of Division 2 of Part 3 (Financial Management) of the Local Government Act, 1993, Council's audited financial reports and the auditor's reports for the year 2011-12 were adopted by Council on 7 November 2012.

The financial reports comprise general purpose financial reports and special schedules. The financial reports, together with the auditor's reports, are included as Part C of this report and can be viewed at the Administrative Offices, 62-78 Vincent Street, Cessnock or online at www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au. The reports cover the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012.

Operating Expenditure 2011-12



Operating Revenue 2011-12



Replacement and sale of assets

Council's policy is to replace all items of plant at the end of their useful economic life.

The general replacement schedule for sedans and station wagons over the past financial year has been no less than 60,000 kilometres and up to 100,000 kilometres or 2 years, whichever comes first.

The proposed and actual plant replacement program for the 2011-12 year is set out below. In all cases except those noted, the items shown were replaced by a similar unit.



Plant Replacement Program	Changeover Cost (Ex GST) and Number 2011-12	
	Proposed \$	Actual \$
Sedans and Wagons	672,000 (56)	564,921 (42) Note 1
Utilities and Vans (Group owned)	144,000 (12)	26,640 (4) Note 1
Utilities and Vans (Plant owned)	25,000 (1)	42,150 (2)
Two Tonne Utilities		119,500 (1) Note 3
Three Tonne Tippers	40,000 (1)	Note 2
Eight Tonne Tipping Trucks	90,000 (1)	Note 2
Slashers Mowers Tractor Driven	30,000 (2)	8,780 (1)
Tractors	77,000 (2)	Note 2
Ride-on Mowers/Heavy Duty	16,000 (1)	32,967 (2)
Skidsteer	90,000 (1)	Note 2
Compaction Rollers	100,000 (2)	Note 2
Backhoe	78,000 (1)	Note 2
Special Plant		
Other Special Plant – Jet patcher and scrubber	310,000 (2)	Note 2

Notes:

1. Some replacements postponed due to Vehicle Leaseback Policy Review.
2. Replacement postponed.
3. Replacement carried over from previous year



Statutory Requirements

REQUIREMENT	Section/Clause	Page
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1993		
1. Completed within 5 months after end of financial year	s428(1)	N/A
2. Copy provided to the Minister for Local Government (via the Division of Local Government)	s428(5)	N/A
3. Copy posted on council's website	S428(5)	N/A
In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and the General Regulation the Annual Report Must Contain:		
4. Council's achievements in implementing the delivery program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives at which those principal activities are directed.	s428(1)	Part D
5. Council's achievements in implementing the community strategic plan over the previous 4 years.	s428(2)	Part D
6. Copy of council's audited financial reports and notes and information required by the Regulation or the Guidelines.	s428(4)(a)	Part C
7. Amount of rates and charges written off during the year.	cl 132	45
8. Details of overseas visits by councillors, council staff or other persons representing council (including visits sponsored by other organisations).	s428(4)(b) cl 217(1)(a)	34
9. Total cost during the year of the payment of expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, councillors in relation to their civic functions. Including separate details of the total cost of: <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors. <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone calls made by councillors. <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance of councillors at conferences and seminars. <input type="checkbox"/> Training of councillors and provision of skill development. <input type="checkbox"/> Interstate visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses. <input type="checkbox"/> Overseas visits by councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses. <input type="checkbox"/> Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a councillor, being expenses payable in accordance with the Guidelines. <input type="checkbox"/> Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a councillor.	cl 217(1)(a1) 217(1)(a1)(i) 217(1)(a1)(ii) 217(1)(a1)(iii) 217(1)(a1)(iv) 217(1)(a1)(v) 217(1)(a1)(vi) 217(1)(a1)(vii) 217(1)(a1)(viii)	34
10. Details of each contract awarded for amounts greater than \$150,000. Includes: <input type="checkbox"/> Name of contractor <input type="checkbox"/> Nature of goods or services supplied <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount payable under the contract	cl 217(1)(a2)	21
11. Summary of the amounts incurred by the council in relation to legal proceedings. Includes: <input type="checkbox"/> Amounts, costs and expenses paid or received. <input type="checkbox"/> Summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and (if it has been finalised) result.	cl 217(1)(a3)	42
12. Summary of resolutions made under section 67 concerning work carried out on private land. Includes: <input type="checkbox"/> Summary or details of work. <input type="checkbox"/> Cost of work fully or partly subsidised by council. <input type="checkbox"/> Total amount by which council has subsidised any such work.	S67(3) cl217(1)(a4)	29
13. Total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 (financially assist others).	cl 217(1)(a5)	13
14. Statement of all external bodies that exercised functions delegated by council.	cl 217(1)(a6)	26
15. Statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which council held a controlling interest.	cl 217(1)(a7)	21
16. Statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which the council participated.	cl 217(1)(a8)	21

REQUIREMENT	Section/Clause	Page
17. Statement of activities to implement its EEO management plan.	cl 217(1)(a9)	41
18. Statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of the general manager. Includes:	cl 217(1)(b)	41
<input type="checkbox"/> Total value of salary component of package	cl 217(1)(b)(i)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of any bonus payments, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary component	cl 217(1)(b)(ii)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total amount payable by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the general manager may be a contributor.	cl 217(1)(b)(iii)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total value non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package.	cl 217(1)(b)(iv)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.	cl 217(1)(b)(v)	
19. Statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of all senior staff members, expressed as the total (not of the individual members. Includes:	cl 217(1)(c)	41
<input type="checkbox"/> Total value of salary component of package	cl 217(1)(c) (i)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary components of their packages.	cl 217(1)(c) (ii)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any may be a contributor.	cl 217(1)(c) (iii)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total value non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package.	cl 217(1)(c) (iv)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.	cl 217(1)(c) (v)	
20. A statement detailing the stormwater management services provided (if levied).	cl 217(1)(e)	45
21. A statement detailing the coastal protection services provided (if levied).	cl 217(1)(e1)	N/A
22. Particulars of any environmental upgrade agreement entered into, in accordance with any requirements imposed under s406.	S54P	N/A
23. Report as to the state of the environment in the area in relation to such environmental issues as may be relevant to the objectives established by the community strategic plan (the environmental objectives).	s428A(1)	Part B
24. Report on special variation expenditure if required to do so by the instrument made by the Minister.	s508(2) & s508A	44
25. Report on capital works projects. (see Capital Expenditure Guidelines)	Guidelines	30
COMPANION ANIMALS ACT 1998 AND COMPANION ANIMALS REGULATION 2008		
26. Statement on activities relating to enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act and Regulation, including information on:	cl 217(1)(f) &	14
<input type="checkbox"/> Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the Division.	16.2	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lodgement of data relating to dog attacks with the Division.	Guidelines on	
<input type="checkbox"/> Amount of funding spent on companion animal management and activities.	the Exercise of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Companion animal community education programs carried out.	Functions	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategies council has in place to promote and assist the de-sexing of dogs and cats.	under the	
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategies in place to comply with the requirement under section 64 (Companion Animals Act) to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals.	Companion	
<input type="checkbox"/> Off leash areas provided in the council area.	Animals Act	
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) ACT 2009 and REGULATION		
27. Information included on GIPA activity.	s125(1) cl 7 Sched 2	39
ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT ACT 1979		
28. Particulars of compliance with and effect of planning agreements in force during the year.	s93G(5)	25