



Vincent Street  
CESSNOCK

13 May 2025

# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY, 21 MAY 2025**

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**CESSNOCK**  
CITY COUNCIL

**PLANNING PROPOSAL**

1

**AMENDMENT TO THE CESSNOCK LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2011**

Land Reclassification

Old Maitland Road Cessnock

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Planning Proposal – Reclassification

<b>APPLICATION NUMBER:</b>	18/2024/6/1
<b>PROPOSAL:</b>	Reclassification of Council Land
<b>PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:</b>	Part of Lot 312 DP 566724 (Old Maitland Road, Cessnock)
<b>PROPONENT:</b>	Cessnock City Council

Version 1B

23 April 2025

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Strategic Planner

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**Revision History**

Revision	Description	Date
1	Draft for Council Endorsement	20/11/2024
2	Draft for Gateway determination	21/11/2024
3	Draft for Consultation	13/12/2024
4	Draft Post-exhibition	22/04/2025



## **PART 1: OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES**

This proposal seeks to:

- Amend the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011 to reclassify land at Site 1 (an approximately 1.2-hectare portion of LOT: 312 DP: 566724 at Old Maitland Road Cessnock) from Community to Operational and remove the Public Reserve status from the subject land.

## PART 2: EXPLANATION of PROVISIONS

This Planning Proposal will achieve the intended outcomes by amending Cessnock LEP 2011 as below:

The proposal seeks to reclassify Site 1, a portion of Public Reserve, from Community Land to Operational Land under Schedule 4 of Cessnock LEP 2011. The proposal also seeks to remove the public reserve status from the subject land.



Figure 1: Site 1 – Approximately 1.2-hectare portion of LOT: 312 DP: 566724, Old Maitland Road, Cessnock.

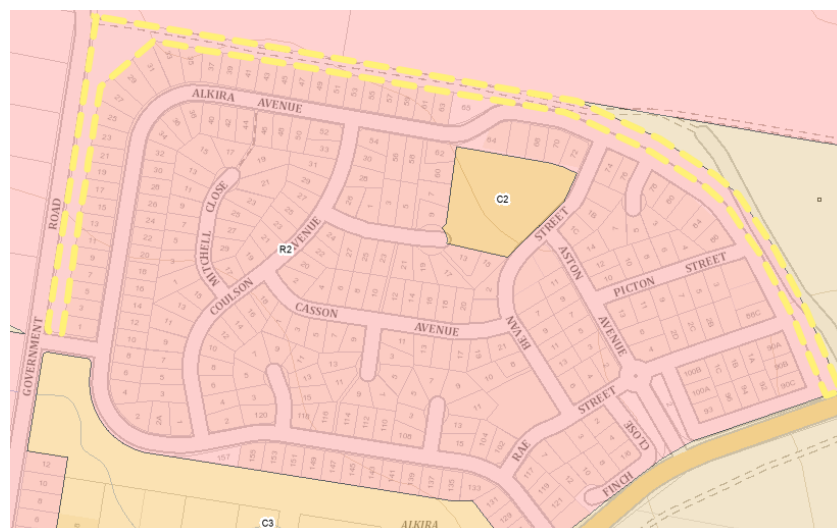


Figure 2: Current Land zoning, Site 1 – R2 Low Density Residential. No changes are proposed to the current zone.

## **PART 3: JUSTIFICATION**

In accordance with the Department of Planning and Environment's "Guide to Preparing Planning Proposals", this section provides a response to the following issues:

- Section A: Need for Proposal;
- Section B: Relationship to Strategic Planning Framework;
- Section C: Environmental, Social and Economic Impact; and
- Section D: State and Commonwealth Interests

### **Section A: Need for the Planning Proposal**

#### **1 Is the planning proposal a result of an endorsed LSPS, strategic study or report?**

This Planning Proposal seeks to implement resolutions of the elected Council and the Executive Leadership Team:

- At Ordinary Council Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> November 2024, it was resolved that;
  - Council reclassify part Lot 312 DP 566724 (Old Maitland Road, Cessnock) from Community Land to Operational Land pursuant to Section 30 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*; and
  - Council requests a Gateway determination for a Planning Proposal from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure pursuant to Section 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to Reclassify part of Lot 312 DP 566724 (Old Maitland Road, Cessnock) from Community Land to Operational land; and
  - Council requests authorisation under Section 3.31 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* to act as the local plan-making authority to make the Local Environmental Plan.
- At Executive Leadership Team Meeting held 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023, it was resolved that part of Lot 312 DP566724 be reclassified, subject to Council authorisation.

Council has entered into a Deed of Agreement with Land Specialists Estates NSW PTY LTD (Land Specialists), whereby it has agreed to make the subject land available for purchase by Land Specialists. This Deed requires the reclassification of the subject land from community to operational land as a prerequisite to sale. Land Specialists intends to undertake residential subdivision on the adjacent land to the north and requires secondary access via the subject land.

#### **2 Is the planning proposal the best means of achieving the objectives or intended outcomes, or is there a better way?**

Yes, a planning proposal is the only way to reclassify the subject land from Community to Operational and amend Schedule 4, Part 2 of Cessnock LEP 2011.

## **Section B: Relationship to Strategic Planning Framework**

### **3 Will the planning proposal give effect to the objectives and actions of the applicable regional or district plan or strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?**

#### **Hunter Regional Plan 2041**

The Hunter Regional Plan (HRP) provides the overarching strategic framework to guide development, investment and planning within the Hunter region to 2036. The HRP sets the following regionally focused goals:

- The leading regional economy in Australia
- A biodiversity-rich natural environment
- Thriving communities
- Greater housing choice and jobs

The Planning Proposal is consistent with the following directions and/or actions of the HRP:

#### **Objective 3: Create 15-minute neighbourhoods to support mixed, multi-modal, inclusive and vibrant communities**

Performance outcomes:

3. Neighbourhoods provide local access to education, jobs, services, open space and community activities
4. Neighbourhoods encourage healthy lifestyles with opportunities to experience and engage in the cultural, entertainment, sport and recreation, and educational and activities.
5. Neighbourhoods establish or reinforce local identity.
6. Public spaces are designed to invite community interactions and economic, social and cultural activity. They enable a sense of social inclusion, wellbeing, comfort and belonging.

The Planning Proposal facilitates the sale of surplus Council land, reducing maintenance burden for Council's Open Space and Communities team. This assists the continued and improved use of recreation facilities that are important to the local community, aligning it to Objective 3.

#### **Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan**

The Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan (GNMP) sets out strategies and actions that will drive sustainable growth across Cessnock City, Lake Macquarie City, Maitland City, Newcastle City and Port Stephens, which together make up Greater Newcastle. The plan also helps to achieve the vision set in the Hunter Regional Plan 2036 for the Hunter to be the leading regional economy in Australia with a vibrant new metropolitan city at its heart.

The Planning Proposal is consistent with the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan:

Outcome 2: Enhance environment, amenity and resilience for quality of life



As with the relationship to Objectives within the HRP 2041, this Planning Proposal will allow for the sale of surplus Council land, reducing the maintenance burden for Council's Open Space and Communities team. This assists the continued and improved use of recreation facilities that are important to the local community.

**4 Is the planning proposal consistent with a council LSPS that has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary or GSC, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?**

**Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 (LSPS)**

The Cessnock Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 (LSPS) establishes a 20-year vision for land use planning in the Cessnock LGA. The LSPS sets out the important character and values, which are to be preserved and establishes planning principles to manage land use planning in the future.

The following planning priorities and principles are relevant to the proposal.

- Action 17 Continue to implement Council's adopted plans for access and mobility, recreation and open space, traffic and transport and community.

**Community Strategic Plan - Our People, Our Place, Our Future**

The Cessnock Community Strategic Plan 2027 (CSP) was prepared in 2013 and identifies the community's main priorities and expectations for the future and ways to achieve these goals. The vision of the CSP is:

*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 needs.*

A range of strategic directions are provided which relate to the social, environmental and economic health, sustainability and prosperity of the Cessnock LGA. The Planning Proposal is consistent with the following themes of the CSP:

- Objective 5.3.3 Our Council is financially sustainable.

**5 Is the planning proposal consistent with any other applicable State and regional studies or strategies?**

**A 20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW**

The Economic Vision for Regional NSW seeks to drive sustainable, long term economic growth in regional NSW. The planning proposal is consistent with the principles of this strategy.

**State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN)**

The State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) provides a coordinated and comprehensive approach to emergency management in NSW. The Plan identifies the importance of land use planning in prevention of impacts of hazards on the community.

**NSW Department of Planning and Environment Practice Note: PN 16-001**  
**Classification and reclassification of public land through a local environmental plan:**

The following response is provided for PN16-001, with respect to the proposed reclassification of Site 1, **Portion of Lot 312 DP 566724**:

The current and proposed classification of the land	As outlined in the Planning Proposal, the site is currently classified as Community land. The proposal is to reclassify the site to Operational and remove the public reserve status from the portion of land identified as Site 1 in Part 2 of the Planning Proposal. The remaining portion of this lot will remain Community land.
Whether the land is a public reserve	The Planning Proposal intends to remove the public reserve status from the subject portion of land
the strategic and site-specific merits of the reclassification and evidence to support this	This is outlined throughout the Planning Proposal. Specifically, Section A Part 1 of the Planning Proposal outlines the history of the proposal.
whether the planning proposal is the result of a strategic study or report	Refer to Section A Part 1 of the Planning Proposal.
whether the planning proposal is consistent with council's community plan or other local strategic plan	Refer to Section B Part 3 and 4 of the Planning Proposal.
A summary of council's interests in the land, including: - how and when the land was first acquired (e.g., was it dedicated, donated, provided as part of a subdivision for public open space or other purpose, or a developer contribution) - if council does not own the land, the land owner's consent; - the nature of any trusts, dedications etc;	The site is vested to Council as a public reserve. Lot: 312 DP: 566724 was created in 1974 by registration of subdivision plan where Lot 312 was dedicated as "Public Reserve".
whether an interest in land is proposed to be discharged, and if so, an explanation of the reasons why;	The public reserve status for this portion of land is proposed to be discharged as the intention of this reclassification is to dispose of the land via sale to Land Specialists Estates NSW PTY LTD, as described in Part 3 Section A of this Planning Proposal.
the effect of the reclassification (including, the loss of public open space, the land ceases to be a public reserve or particular interests will be discharged);	The effect of the loss of public open space is expected to be negligible, due to this land providing no recreational value.
evidence of public reserve status or relevant interests, or lack thereof applying to the land (e.g., electronic title searches, notice in a Government Gazette, trust documents);	A title search for the land is provided in Appendix 3.
current use(s) of the land, and whether uses are authorised or unauthorised;	The site is currently owned by Council and does not have an identified use or purpose.
current or proposed lease or agreements applying to the land, together with their	There are no leases or use agreements applying to the land.

Planning Proposal – Reclassification

duration, terms and controls;	
current or proposed business dealings (e.g., agreement for the sale or lease of the land, the basic details of any such agreement and if relevant, when council intends to realise its asset, either immediately after rezoning/reclassification or at a later time)	Council has entered into a Deed of Agreement with Land Specialists Estates PTY LTD, as described in Part 3 Section A. Through this deed, Council has agreed to carry out the steps necessary to facilitate the sale of the land to the Land Specialists.
any rezoning associated with the reclassification (if yes, need to demonstrate consistency with an endorsed Plan of Management or strategy)	The subject land is currently zoned R2 Low Density Residential. No change is proposed to this zoning.
how council may or will benefit financially, and how these funds will be used;	The subject land portion is proposed to be sold at market value to Land Specialists Estates Pty Ltd. Funds will be credited to Council's Property Investment Fund reserve and allocated in accordance with the adopted Council policies.
how council will ensure funds remain available to fund proposed open space sites or improvements referred to in justifying the reclassification, if relevant to the proposal	Funds will be credited to the Property Investment Fund reserve and allocated in accordance with the adopted Council policies.
Land Reclassification (part lots) Map, in accordance with any standard technical requirements for spatial datasets and maps, if land to be reclassified does not apply to the whole lot; and	Land Reclassification (part lots) Map will be created, as described in Part 4 of the Planning Proposal.
Preliminary comments by a relevant government agency, including an agency that dedicated the land to council, if applicable.	Consultation with government agencies has not been undertaken yet. This will be undertaken in accordance with the Gateway Determination (Appendix 4).

## 6 Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable SEPPs?

An assessment of relevant SEPPs against the planning proposal is provided in the table below.

Table 1: Relevant State Environmental Planning Policies

SEPP	Consistency and Implications
State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP
State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP
State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP
State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP
State Environmental Planning Policy No 65—Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP
State Environmental Planning Policy (Planning Systems) 2021	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP

SEPP	Consistency and Implications
State Environmental Planning Policy (Primary Production) 2021	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP
State Environmental Planning Policy (Resources and Energy) 2021	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP
State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	Nothing in this Planning Proposal impacts on the operation of this SEPP

## 7 Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (section 9.1 Directions)?

An assessment of relevant Section 9.1 Directions against the planning proposal is provided in the table below.

Table 2: Relevant Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions

Ministerial Direction		Consistency and Implications
Planning Systems		
1.1	Implementation of Regional Plans	Consistent. As described in Section B of this Planning Proposal.
1.2	Development of Aboriginal Land Council Land	N/A
1.3	Approval and Referral Requirements	N/A. This Proposal will not introduce any development provisions.
1.4	Site Specific Provisions	N/A. This Proposal will not introduce any site-specific controls.
1.4A	Exclusion of Development Standards from Variation	N/A. This Proposal will not affect the application of Clause 4.6.
Planning Systems – Place-based		
Design and Place		
Biodiversity and Conservation		
3.1	Conservation Zones	N/A. This Proposal does not apply to land within a conservation zone or land otherwise identified for environment conservation/protection purposes in a LEP.
3.2	Heritage Conservation	Consistent. This Proposal does not apply to any identified items, areas, objects or places of environmental heritage significance or indigenous heritage significance.
3.5	Recreation Vehicle Areas	Consistent. This Proposal does not enable land to be developed for the purpose of a recreation vehicle area.
3.6	Strategic Conservation Planning	Consistent. This Proposal does not apply to land identified as avoided land or a strategic conservation area
Resilience and Hazards		



Planning Proposal – Reclassification

4.1	Flooding	Consistent. This Proposal does not apply to land mapped as Flood Prone Land.
4.2	Coastal Management	N/A
4.3	Planning for Bushfire Protection	Can be made Consistent. This Proposal applies to land mapped as bush fire prone land. Council will consult with the NSW Rural Fire Service following receipt of a gateway determination under section 3.34 of the Act, and prior to undertaking community consultation in satisfaction of clause 4, Schedule 1 to the EP&A Act, and take into account any comments so made.
4.4	Remediation of Contaminated Land	Consistent. Contamination and remediation have been considered and there is no known contamination affecting the subject land.
4.5	Acid Sulphate Soils	N/A
4.6	Mine Subsidence and Unstable Land	Consistent. This Proposal does not apply to land that is within a declared mine subsidence district.
Transport and Infrastructure		
5.1	Integrating Land Use and Transport	Consistent. This Proposal does not propose to change any requirements relating to this direction.
5.2	Reserving Land for Public Purposes	Consistent, pending the approval of the Planning Secretary to remove the reserve status of the subject land.
5.3	Development Near Regulated Airports and Defence Airfields	N/A
5.4	Shooting Ranges	N/A
Housing		
6.1	Residential Zones	Consistent. The subject land is currently zoned R2 Low Density Residential. The effect of this Proposal will be to facilitate the sale of this land to enable the necessary access to an adjacent proposed residential subdivision.
6.2	Caravan Parks and Manufactured Home Estates	Consistent. This Proposal will not alter the permissibility of caravan parks or manufactured home estates.
Industry and Employment		
7.1	Business and Industrial Zones	N/A
Resources and Energy		
8.1	Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries	N/A
Primary Production		
9.1	Rural Zones	N/A
9.2	Rural Lands	N/A
9.3	Oyster Aquaculture	N/A

## **Section C: Environmental, Social and Economic Impact**

### **8 Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected because of the proposal?**

The subject land contains a small area mapped as Biodiversity Values Map under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. The remainder of the proposed area contains larger trees that could contribute to biodiversity habitat for threatened species such as the Regent Honeyeater (*Anthochaera Phrygia*). Therefore, any future development would require a biodiversity development assessment report, but would likely be undertaken as a streamlined assessment in accordance with the Biodiversity Assessment Method.

### **9 Are there any other likely environmental effects of the planning proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?**

No.

### **10 Has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?**

The planning proposal will facilitate the sale of land that has been identified as surplus to Council needs and has no known community purpose. This will reduce the maintenance burden on Council and assists the continued and improved use of recreation facilities that are important to the local community.

Planning Proposal – Reclassification

## **Section D: Infrastructure (Local, State and Commonwealth)**

### **11 Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal?**

This planning proposal will not create additional demand for public infrastructure.

## **Section E: State and Commonwealth Interests**

### **12 What are the views of state and federal public authorities and government agencies consulted in order to inform the Gateway determination?**

The views of NSW Rural Fire Service, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate and Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council were sought in accordance with the Gateway determination. Responses are as follows:

#### Rural Fire Service Response (Appendix 5):

On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, NSW Rural Fire Service advised that the Planning Proposal is supported without any specific bush fire protection measures.

#### Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate (DCCEEW) Response (Appendix 6):

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025, DCCEEW advised that the Planning Proposal does not provide sufficient detail to determine the extent of potential areas of High Environmental Value (HEV) within the site including the following:

- Known and potential key habitat for a number of threatened species including, *Eucalyptus parramattensis* subsp. *decadens*, *Callistemon linearifolius*, *Grevillea parviflora* subsp. *parviflora*, *Rutidosia heterogama*, Squirrel Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, Brush-tailed Phascogale and Grey-headed Flying-fox.
- Potential key habitat for a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), such as Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin and NSW North Coast Bioregions.

The DCCEEW recommend that:

Further ecological assessment within the appropriate survey period is recommended in areas of HEV. This assessment is to ensure that areas of HEV are adequately identified earlier in the planning process so that measures to avoid and minimise can be applied. The recommended assessment it to include the following:

- Threatened flora search (for the species listed above).
- Daytime camp survey (Grey-headed Flying-fox).

The associated ecological assessment should consider local planning guidelines specifically:

- Flying-fox Camp Management Policy 2015.

The DCCEEW recommended a C2 Environmental Conservation Zone for the remaining portion of Public Reserve which is of High Environmental Value and has Biodiversity Values mapped (Threatened species or communities with potential for serious and irreversible impacts).

#### Council officer response:

While an area of approximately 100m<sup>2</sup> of the subject land is mapped as having Biodiversity Values, Council's Senior Environmental Planner has advised that seasonal survey work at this stage is considered unnecessary. The current zoning (R2 low density residential) of the site is not proposed to be changed and the ecological surveying required by DCCEEW can be required to be undertaken as part of any future DA, if and when the site is proposed to be developed. This would allow areas of



Planning Proposal – Reclassification

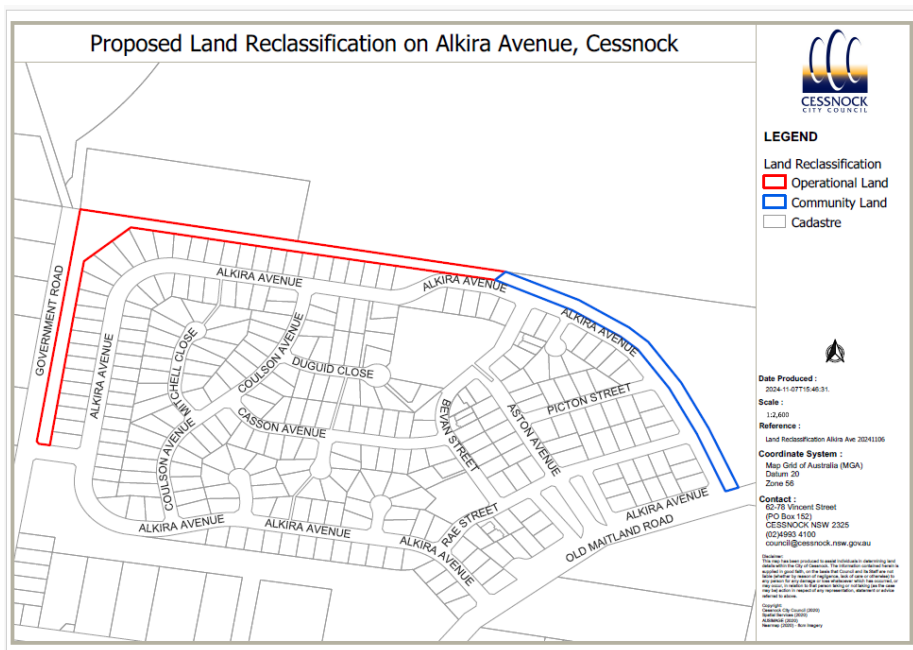
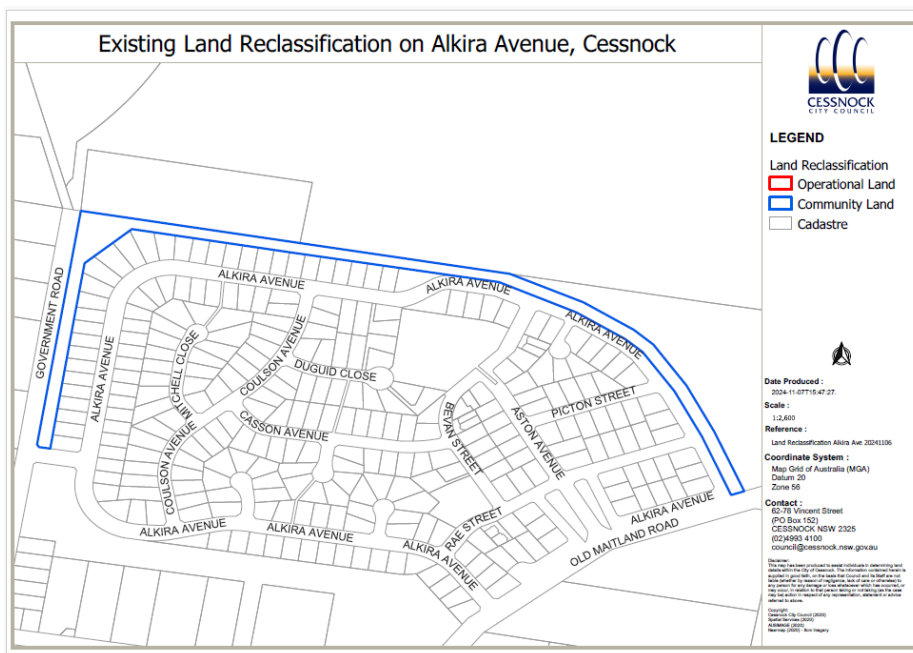
HEV to be avoided by any future development. On this basis, no change is proposed to the current Planning Proposal.

Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council:

No response was received.

## PART 4: MAPS

Proposed reclassification maps



Planning Proposal – Reclassification

## **PART 5: COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Community consultation was carried out in accordance with the Gateway determination (Appendix 4) and Council's Community Participation Plan.

Public exhibition of the proposal occurred between 3 February, 2025 to 3 March, 2025. The exhibition material was accessible online via a project page on Council's website and hard copies were made available at Council's administration building and at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries. Letters were mailed to adjoining land owners providing details on the exhibition and inviting submissions. Seven public submissions were received during exhibition. A summary of responses is provided at Appendix 7.

A Public Hearing was also held, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1993.

## **PART 6: PROJECT TIMELINE**

Table 3: Indicative project timeline.

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Timeframe and/or date</b>
Consideration by council	November 2024
Gateway determination	December 2024
Agency Consultation	January 2025
Commencement and completion of public exhibition period	January/February 2025
Public Hearing	April 2025
Post-exhibition review	May 2025
Submission to the Department for finalisation (where applicable)	July 2025
Gazettal of LEP amendment	September 2025



## **Appendix 1: Council Report and Minutes (dates)**

Report to Ordinary Meeting of Council – 20/11/2024

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council – 20/11/2024

All Council reports and minutes are accessible from Council's website:  
<http://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings>.

## Appendix 2: Executive Leadership Team Resolution – reclassify Lot 312 DP 566724 – 14.07.2023

LISTED MATTERS - COMMITTEE NO. ELTCLM37/2023			
SUBJECT: DRAFT INTERNAL LAND REVIEW PROTOCOL			
MOTION	Moved: Maginnity	Seconded: Mickleson	
526			
RECOMMENDATION			
That the Executive Leadership Team;			
1. Revoke the Internal Land Review Protocol 2020 Revision 1 and adopts the Internal Land Review Protocol Revision 2.			
2. Request the Principal Property Specialist prepare a short presentation to be presented at the August MAT Meeting.			

LISTED MATTERS - COMMITTEE NO. ELTCLM38/2023			
SUBJECT: INTERNAL LAND REVIEW MEETING MINUTES - 7 JUNE 2023			
MOTION	Moved: Mickleson	Seconded: Maginnity	
526			
RECOMMENDATION			
1. That the Minutes of the Internal Land Review panel meeting of 7 June 2023 be adopted by the Executive Leadership Team.			
2. Subject to a future subdivision excising the lot portion adjoining Council's Works Depot boundary, schedule the process to reclassify and rezone lot 312 in DP533724. Commencement of the LEP amendment process is subject to Council <u>authorisation</u> and the proponent entering into a conditional purchase contract.			
3. <u>Authorise</u> Council Officer actions and approve amendment of Authority fields to effect AO assignment and transfers detailed in Attachment A of the minutes. ELT note that no budget for land management expenses is currently allocated.			

## Appendix 3: Title Search – Lot 312 DP 566724

10/3/24, 10:10 AM

Order — Property Information



### NEW SOUTH WALES LAND REGISTRY SERVICES - TITLE SEARCH

FOLIO: 312/566724

SEARCH DATE	TIME	EDITION NO	DATE
3/10/2024	10:09 AM	-	-

VOL 12346 FOL 56 IS THE CURRENT CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

LAND

LOT 312 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 566724  
AT CESSNOCK  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CESSNOCK  
PARISH OF CESSNOCK COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND  
TITLE DIAGRAM DP566724

FIRST SCHEDULE

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREATER CESSNOCK

SECOND SCHEDULE (3 NOTIFICATIONS)

- 1 LAND EXCLUDES MINERALS AND IS SUBJECT TO RESERVATIONS AND CONDITIONS IN FAVOUR OF THE CROWN - SEE CROWN GRANT(S)
- 2 K200000P CAVEAT BY THE REGISTRAR GENERAL FORBIDDING REGISTRATION OF INSTRUMENTS NOT AUTHORISED BY THE PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1919 RELATING TO PUBLIC RESERVES
- 3 DP700484 EASEMENT TO DRAIN WATER APPURTENANT TO THE LAND ABOVE DESCRIBED

NOTATIONS

UNREGISTERED DEALINGS: NIL

\*\*\* END OF SEARCH \*\*\*

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<https://search.dyedurham.com.au/propertyinformation/>

1/1

## Appendix 4: Gateway Determination



Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

### Gateway Determination

*Planning proposal (Department Ref: PP-2024-2550): Reclassify Part of Lot 312 DP 566724, Old Maitland Road, Cessnock from Community to Operational land*

I, the Acting Director at the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, as delegate of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, have determined under section 3.34(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act) that an amendment to the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 to reclassify Part of Lot 312 DP 566724, Old Maitland Road, Cessnock from Community to Operational land should proceed subject to the following Gateway conditions.

The LEP should be completed within nine months from the date of the Gateway determination.

#### Gateway Conditions

1. Prior to agency and community consultation, the planning proposal is to be amended to:
  - (a) update the explanation of provisions to confirm that the public reserve status, or if any other covenants, will be extinguished.; and
  - (b) update the project timeline to reflect the date of the Gateway determination and timeframe to complete the LEP.
2. Public exhibition is required under section 3.34(2)(c) and clause 4 of Schedule 1 to the Act as follows:
  - (a) the planning proposal must be made publicly available for a minimum of 28 days; and
  - (b) the planning proposal authority must comply with the notice requirements for public exhibition of planning proposals and the specifications for material that must be made publicly available along with planning proposals as identified in *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline* (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023).
3. Consultation is required with the following public authorities and government agencies under section 3.34(2)(d) of the Act and/or to comply with the requirements of applicable directions of the Minister under section 9 of the Act:
  - NSW Rural Fire Service
  - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Biodiversity, Conservation and Science Directorate
  - Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council

Each public authority is to be provided with a copy of the planning proposal and any relevant supporting material via the NSW Planning Portal and given at least 30 working days to comment on the proposal.

4. A public hearing is not required to be held into the matter by any person or body under section 3.34(2)(e) of the Act. This does not discharge Council from any obligation it may otherwise have to conduct a public hearing (for example, in response to a submission or if reclassifying land).
5. Council must ensure that all relevant obligations in relation to the reclassification of public land through the LEP are undertaken in accordance with the LEP Making Guidelines, Practice Note PN 16-001 Classification and reclassification of public land through a local environmental plan.

Dated 13 December 2024



**Craig Diss**  
A/Director, Hunter and Northern Region  
Local Planning and Council Support  
Department of Planning, Housing and  
Infrastructure

Delegate of the Minister for Planning and  
Public Spaces

PP-2024-2550 (IRF24/39302)

## Appendix 5: Rural Fire Service Response



Cessnock City Council  
PO Box 152  
CESSNOCK NSW 2325

Your reference: (REF-3382) PP-2024-2550  
Our reference: SPI20241218000265

ATTENTION: Alex Worthing

Date: Tuesday 1 April 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Strategic Planning Instrument**  
**LEP Amendment – Planning Proposal**  
Reclassify Part of Lot 312 DP 566724 Old Maitland Road, Cessnock from Community to Operational land

I refer to your correspondence dated 16/12/2024 inviting the NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS) to comment on the above Strategic Planning document.

The NSW RFS has considered the information submitted and provides the following comments.

Based on a review of the documentation provided for the planning proposal, the NSW RFS advises that the reclassification of the strip of land Part of Lot 312 DP 566724 from Community Land to Operational Land is supported without any specific bush fire protection measures.

It is acknowledged that the future subdivision on the adjoining northern lot 33 Government Road Cessnock will utilise the subject land to provide secondary road connectivity for Stage 1 of the proposed subdivision connecting to Alkira Avenue as recommended in the NSW RFS general terms of approval dated 5 April 2022 for Council ref: 8/2021/21939/1.

For any queries regarding this correspondence, please contact Rohini Belapurkar on 1300 NSW RFS.

Yours sincerely,

Kalpana Varghese  
Supervisor Development Assessment & Plan  
Built & Natural Environment

1

**Postal address**

NSW Rural Fire Service  
Locked Bag 17  
GRANVILLE NSW 2142

**Street address**

NSW Rural Fire Service  
4 Murray Rose Ave  
SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK NSW 2127

T (02) 8741 5555  
F (02) 8741 5550  
[www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)



## Appendix 6: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Response



Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Your ref: PP-2024-2550, Ref - 3383  
Our ref: DOC24/1036257

Alex Worthing  
Strategic Planner  
Cessnock City Council  
PO Box 152, Cessnock NSW 2325  
Email: alex.worthing@cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Dear Alex,

**Re: Reclassification of Part Lot 312 DP 566724 Old Maitland Road, Cessnock**

Thank you for your Planning Portal request dated 16 December 2024 seeking advice from the Conservation Programs, Heritage & Regulation Group (CPHR) of the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) on Reclassification of Part Lot 312 DP 566724 Old Maitland Road, Cessnock.

Please note that Biodiversity, Conservation and Science (BCS) is now referred to as Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group (CPHR).

CPHR considers that the proposal can proceed to the next stage of assessment, provided the comments in this letter are addressed. This commentary is provided in **Attachment 1**.

If you have any further questions about this issue, please contact our Hunter Central Coast Planning Team at [huntercentralcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:huntercentralcoast@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joe Thompson'.

Joe Thompson  
Director Hunter Central Coast  
Conservation Programs, Heritage & Regulation Group

6 February 2025

Enclosure – Attachment 1

Appendix 6 Cont.: Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Response

Attachment 1 - CPHR Comments

Amendment to the Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 - Planning Proposal

Key Assessment Issues

1.	Consistency with Ministerial Direction 1.1 and Objective 6 of the Hunter Regional Plan 2041	<p>Ministerial Direction 1.1 issued under Section 9.1 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (EP&amp;A Act) requires planning proposals to be consistent with Regional Plans. Objective 6 of the Hunter Regional Plan 2041 (Regional Plan) requires areas of High Environmental Value (HEV) to be protected.</p> <p>The Planning Proposal does identify HEV onsite as key habitat for threatened species, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger trees that could contribute to biodiversity habitat for threatened species such as the Regent Honeyeater (<i>Anthochaera Phrygia</i>).</li> </ul> <p>The Planning Proposal does not however, provide sufficient detail to determine the extent of potential HEV within the site including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Known and potential key habitat for a number of threatened species including, <i>Eucalyptus parramattensis subsp. decadens</i>, <i>Callistemon linearifolius</i>, <i>Grevillea parviflora subsp. parviflora</i>, <i>Rutidosia heterogama</i>, Squirrel Glider, Yellow-bellied Glider, Brush-tailed Phascogale and Grey-headed Flying-fox.</li> <li>• Potential key habitat for a Threatened Ecological Community (TEC), such as <i>Lower Hunter Spotted Gum Ironbark Forest in the Sydney Basin and NSW North Coast Bioregions</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommended action:</b></p> <p>Further ecological assessment within the appropriate survey period is recommended in areas of HEV. This assessment is to ensure that areas of HEV are adequately identified earlier in the planning process so that measures to avoid and minimise can be applied. The recommended assessment it to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threatened flora search (for the species listed above).</li> <li>• Daytime camp survey (Grey-headed Flying-fox).</li> </ul> <p>The associated ecological assessment should consider local planning guidelines specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flying-fox Camp Management Policy 2015.</li> </ul> <p>A C2 Environmental Conservation Zone is recommended for the remaining portion of Public Reserve which is of High Environmental Value and has Biodiversity Values mapped (Threatened species or communities with potential for serious and irreversible impacts).</p>
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## Appendix 7: Summary of Public Submissions

Public Submissions – 18/2024/6/1 – Planning Proposal seeking Reclassification of Land, Old Maitland Road/Government Road, Cessnock.

Name	Summary of Submission Details	Response to Submission
Submission 1	Full support for the proposal. Belief that the proposal will facilitate needed housing and that it may help reduce anti-social behaviour occurring on and around the land.	Noted. No change proposed.
Submission 2	<p>Not supportive of the proposal due to impacts on traffic and road network, particularly Maitland Road. Querying the lack of information on the source of funds to be used in the maintenance of the road network (to be facilitated) to and from this proposal. Increased traffic may increase risks for children at the nearby school. Unhappy with the current state of the existing road network. Increased traffic will also increase risk to the kids in the school so by doing this is only a money grab with no further funding for the upkeep of the surrounding.</p> <p>Due to access, I am against reclassification as this council has provided no information on up keep of the road network to and from this proposal. It has also become clear that this council cannot afford the road network it already has.</p>	<p>At this time, no information is known on the details of a potential future road covering the subject land as an application for this has not been lodged with Council. The impact of any future roads including an assessment of impacts would be subject to a separate development application and approval.</p> <p>The cost of new roads required by any new development would be funded in accordance with Council's Infrastructure Contributions charges or an alternative method through negotiation with the developer and agreement with Council. No change proposed.</p>
Submission 3	Council needs to take a stand against developers and council themselves proposing subdivisions with impossibly narrow streets. The public hate them, the people living there hate them. Minimum roads widths of 2 cars plus parking should be adopted. You are cramming more and more people into areas not equipped with infrastructure, just so developers can make more money. The shops, parking, roads etc can't keep up with this population explosion, between sites like this Bellbird, Nulkaba and others.	This proposal does not relate to design requirements for streets or development in general. No change proposed.
Submission 4	Strongly against further development of lands within Cessnock LGA, there is insufficient infrastructure as seen by the Wollombi Rd debacle and we as locals are losing our country town at a great place without benefiting from development, there are no new schools, shops, local jobs etc being created as more and more bushland is destroyed for houses.	The NSW Government has established housing targets that many councils, including Cessnock LGA are required to incorporate into local planning. Site specific considerations such as biodiversity or traffic will need to be addressed as part of a separate development application, should the land be reclassified and sold. No change proposed.
Submission 5	No approval, vital old red gums currently living there essential for endangered regent honey eater and other birds. Will increase traffic directly behind houses it's bad enough with the motorbikes.	Site specific considerations such as biodiversity or traffic will need to be addressed as part of a
		separate development application. No change proposed.
Submission 6	I object to the change in zoning. This is council owned land and should be maintained as community land. As a ratepayer and community member I want it to be maintained as community land. I do not want it sold off to a developer. This is short term gain for long term pain, a sugar hit of money to council and will never be green open space again once sold. I believe the loss of trees and green space would be a detrimental effect on the environment and help contribute to the negative effects of climate change. The area is a green corridor in an urban environment that provides visual amenity and increase in biodiversity in the area.	While the proposed reclassification would facilitate the sale of land which is likely to result in a future development application being lodged, site specific considerations such as biodiversity or traffic will need to be addressed as part of any future development application. No change proposed.
Submission 7	<p>Council should require full plans from any developer for what the site will look like before during and after the changes so that the residents can give an actual informed consent or rejection of these proposals.</p> <p>Without any further information provided, I have to make the assumption that the use of that land and possible reduction in civic amenities that that land gives me, will reduce the value of my property as I will have lost an access point to my property and then therefore would be seeking compensation, to the full amount that my property will be reduced by.</p> <p>I would also object on the basis of natural wildlife habitation impact as koalas are now considered endangered and the proposed change would impact the gum trees on the land in question.</p> <p>Currently Government Road has many trucks up and down daily and it seems to be handling this traffic without issue and I cannot see why (because of the lack of plans shown) any changes would need to be made and access to the land could be done from the government road directly.</p> <p>Again, the failure of the council to demand full plans to provide to the public is limiting the ability for the public to give fully informed positions and therefore are limited to worse case thinking.</p>	<p>At this time, no information is known on the details of a potential future road covering the subject land as an application for this has not been lodged with Council. The impact of any future roads including an assessment of impacts would be subject to a separate development application and approval, should the land be reclassified and sold.</p> <p>The subject land does not form a legal access point for properties fronting Alkira Avenue. While it may have been used as such, the proposal will not result in the removal of any legal access to properties.</p> <p>Site specific considerations such as biodiversity or traffic will need to be addressed as part of a separate development application.</p> <p>The request to reclassify this land has been made to facilitate a potential road connection to a residential subdivision proposed on adjoining land to the north. A secondary access point is required by the NSW Rural Fire Service, should the proposed residential subdivision be approved. No change proposed</p>

## Public Submissions – 18/2024/6/1 – Planning Proposal seeking Reclassification of Land, Old Maitland Road/Government Road, Cessnock.

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## Public Submissions – 18/2024/6/1 – Planning Proposal seeking Reclassification of Land, Old Maitland Road/Government Road, Cessnock.

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## LEP practice note

### LOCAL PLANNING

Ref No.	PN 16-001
Issued	5 October 2016
Related	Supersedes PN 09-003

## Classification and reclassification of public land through a local environmental plan

The purpose of this practice note is to update guidance on classifying and reclassifying public land through a local environmental plan (LEP). This practice note emphasises the need for councils to demonstrate strategic and site specific merit, includes a comprehensive information checklist and clarifies issues arising for public reserves and interests in land. It should be read in conjunction with *A guide to preparing local environmental plans* and *A guide to preparing planning proposals*.

### Classification of public land

Public land is managed under the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) based on its classification. All public land must be classified as either community land or operational land (LG Act ss.25, 26).

- *Community* land – is land council makes available for use by the general public, for example, parks, reserves or sports grounds.
- *Operational* land – is land which facilitates the functions of council, and may not be open to the general public, for example, a works depot or council garage.

#### What is public land?

*Public land* is defined in the LG Act as any land (including a *public reserve*) vested in, or under council control. Exceptions include a public road, land to which the *Crown Lands Act 1989* applies, a common, land subject to the *Trustees of Schools of Arts Enabling Act 1902* or a regional park under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

### Why classify public land?

The purpose of classification is to identify clearly that land made available for use by the general public (community) and that land which need not (operational). How public land is classified determines the ease or difficulty a council can have dealings in public land, including its sale, leasing or licensing. It also provides for transparency in council's strategic asset management or disposal of public land.

Community land must not be sold, exchanged or otherwise disposed of by a council. It can be leased,

but there are restrictions on the grant of leases and licences, and also on the way community land can be used. A plan of management (PoM), adopted by council, is required for all community land, and details the specific uses and management of the land.

There are no special restrictions on council powers to manage, develop, dispose, or change the nature and use of operational land.

#### How is public land classified or reclassified?

Depending on circumstances, this is undertaken by either:

- council resolution under ss.31, 32, or 33 (through LG Act s.27(2)), or
- an LEP under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* (through LG Act s.27(1)).

Councils are encouraged to classify or reclassify land by council resolution where suitable.

**Classification** of public land occurs when it is first acquired by a council and classified as either community or operational.

**Reclassification** of public land occurs when its classification is changed from community to operational, or from operational to community.



### Reclassification through an LEP

Classification and reclassification of public land through an LEP is subject to both the local plan-making process in the EP&A Act and the public land management requirements of the LG Act.

A planning proposal to classify or reclassify public land, will need to be prepared in accordance with this practice note and the additional matters specified in Attachment 1 to this practice note.

Reclassification through an LEP is the mechanism with which council can remove any public reserve status applying to land, as well as any interests affecting all or part of public land (LG Act s.30).

It is critical that all interests are identified upfront as part of any planning proposal. If public land is reclassified from community to operational, without relevant interests being identified and discharged, then the land will need to be reclassified back to community (usually by council resolution under LG Act s.33<sup>1</sup>) before being reclassified in a new planning proposal to operational, to explicitly discharge any interests.

While a reclassification proposal to remove the public reserve status of land and/or discharge interests may not necessarily result in the immediate sale or disposal of the land, the community should be aware the public land in question is no longer protected under the LG Act from potential future sale once it has been reclassified to operational.

Councils should obtain their own advice when proposing to discharge any interests and be aware that this may attract a claim for compensation under the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

Where land has been dedicated to council by a State agency for a particular purpose and a trust exists, it is advisable for council to seek the views of that agency prior to council commencing any planning proposal affecting the land.

**Public reserve** is defined in the LG Act and includes a public park and land declared or dedicated as a public reserve.

Land can be dedicated as a public reserve by either:

- registering a deposited plan with a statement creating a lot(s) as 'public reserve', or
- publishing a notification in the Government Gazette for an existing parcel.

**Interests in land** refers to property ownership as well as rights and privileges affecting land, such as leasehold, easements, covenants and mortgages.

For the purpose of reclassification through an LEP, 'interests' means trusts, estates, dedications, conditions, restrictions and covenants affecting the land.

A legal owner of land may not be the only person with an interest in the land. For example, one person may have the benefit of an easement for services, such as water, electricity or sewerage over someone else's land.

Certain interests are registered on title to ensure they are on record and cannot be disregarded if sold to a new owner. An electronic title search is generally conducted to determine the land owner, correct land description and the type of interests which may affect the land.

### Standard Instrument LEP requirements

Clause 5.2—Classification and reclassification of public land in Standard Instrument LEPs enables councils to classify or reclassify public land as operational land or community land in accordance with the LG Act. The land to be reclassified or classified is described in Schedule 4 of the LEP.

Schedule 4 is not to refer to any land already classified or reclassified.

Where there is no public land to be classified, or reclassified, through a principal LEP (i.e. the LEP applies to the whole of a local government area), Schedule 4 will appear blank.

Note: At a later stage council may lodge a planning proposal to remove previous listings in Schedule 4. This will not affect the classification status of these parcels of land.

### Department assessment

A proposal to classify or reclassify public land through an LEP must have planning merit. The Department will undertake an assessment to determine whether the proposal demonstrates strategic and site specific merit.

### Community consultation

Planning proposals to reclassify public land are to be publicly exhibited for at least 28 days.

A copy of this practice note is to be included in the public exhibition materials.

<sup>1</sup> Note: Council is required to give public notice of the proposed resolution and provide a period of at least 28 days during which submissions may be made (LG Act s.34).

## Public hearings

Councils must hold a public hearing when reclassifying public land from community to operational (EP&A Act s.57 & LG Act s.29). This gives the community an opportunity to expand on written submissions and discuss issues with an independent person in a public forum.

After the exhibition period has ended, at least 21 days public notice is to be given before the hearing. This allows the person chairing the hearing sufficient time to consider written submissions and all issues raised.

There are specific requirements for the independence of the person chairing the hearing, their preparation of a public hearing report and council making the report publicly available (LG Act s.47G).

## Governor's approval

The Governor's approval is required when a reclassification proposal seeks to remove any public reserve status and/or discharge any interests affecting public land (s.30).

When a council reports back to the Department on the community consultation undertaken and requests the Department make the LEP, the Department will arrange legal drafting of the LEP, including recommending the Governor approve the provisions before the LEP can be legally made.

Where the Governor's approval is required, the council's report accompanying the final planning proposal must address:

- council's interests in the land;
- whether the land is a 'public reserve';
- the effect of the reclassification, including loss of open space, any discharge of interests, and/or removal of public reserve status;
- the strategic and site specific merits of the reclassification and evidence to support this;
- any current use of the land, and whether uses are authorised or unauthorised;
- how funds obtained from any future sale of the land will be used;
- the dates the planning proposal was publicly exhibited and when the public hearing was held;
- issues raised in any relevant submissions made by public authorities and the community;
- an explanation of how written and verbal submissions were addressed or resolved; and
- the public hearing report and council resolution.

## Authorisation of delegation

Local plan making functions are now largely delegated to councils.

A Written Authorisation to Exercise Delegation is issued to a council as part of the Gateway determination. However, where an LEP requires the Governor's approval, this council delegation cannot be issued. In this instance, the council must request the Department make the LEP.

A decision to classify or reclassify public land cannot be sub-delegated by council to the general manager or any other person or body (LG Act s.377(1)(l)).

## Background

On July 1, 1993 when the LG Act commenced, the following land under council ownership or control, was automatically classified as *community* land:

- land comprising a public reserve,
- land subject to a trust for a public purpose,
- land dedicated as a condition of consent under s.94 of the EP&A Act,
- land reserved, zoned or otherwise designated for use under an environmental planning instrument as open space,
- land controlled by council and vested in Corporation Sole - Minister administering the EP&A Act.

Councils must keep a register of land under their ownership or control (LG Act s.53) and anybody can apply to a council to obtain a certificate of classification (LG Act s.54).

## Further information

A copy of this practice note, *A guide to preparing planning proposals* and *A guide to preparing local environmental plans* is available at: <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au>

For further information, please contact the Department of Planning and Environment's Information Centre by one of the following:

Post: GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001.

Tel: 1300 305 695

Email: [information@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@planning.nsw.gov.au)

**Authorised by:**  
**Carolyn McNally**  
**Secretary**

**Important note:** This practice note does not constitute legal advice. Users are advised to seek professional advice and refer to the relevant legislation, as necessary, before taking action in relation to any matters covered by this practice note.

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[www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au)

**Disclaimer:** While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of publication, the State of New South Wales, its agencies and employees, disclaim any and all liability to any person in respect of anything or the consequences of anything done or omitted to be done in reliance upon the whole or any part of this document.



## ATTACHMENT 1 – INFORMATION CHECKLIST FOR PROPOSALS TO CLASSIFY OR RECLASSIFY PUBLIC LAND THROUGH AN LEP

The process for plan-making under the EP&A Act is detailed in *A guide to preparing planning proposals* and *A guide to preparing local environmental plans*.

Importantly, *A guide to preparing local environmental plans* contains the Secretary's requirements for matters that must be addressed in the justification of all planning proposals to reclassify public land. Councils must ensure the Secretary's requirements are addressed.

Councils must also comply with any obligations under the LG Act when classifying or reclassifying public land. More information on this can be found in *Practice Note No. 1 - Public Land Management* (Department of Local Government, 2000).

All planning proposals classifying or reclassifying public land must address the following matters for Gateway consideration. These are in addition to the requirements for all planning proposals under section 55(a) – (e) of the EP&A Act (and further explained in *A guide to preparing planning proposals* and *A guide to preparing local environmental plans*).

- ☐ the current and proposed classification of the land;
- ☐ whether the land is a 'public reserve' (defined in the LG Act);
- ☐ the strategic and site specific merits of the reclassification and evidence to support this;
- ☐ whether the planning proposal is the result of a strategic study or report;
- ☐ whether the planning proposal is consistent with council's community plan or other local strategic plan;
- ☐ a summary of council's interests in the land, including:
  - how and when the land was first acquired (e.g. was it dedicated, donated, provided as part of a subdivision for public open space or other purpose, or a developer contribution)
  - if council does not own the land, the land owner's consent;
  - the nature of any trusts, dedications etc;
- ☐ whether an interest in land is proposed to be discharged, and if so, an explanation of the reasons why;
- ☐ the effect of the reclassification (including, the loss of public open space, the land ceases to be a public reserve or particular interests will be discharged);
- ☐ evidence of public reserve status or relevant interests, or lack thereof applying to the land (e.g. electronic title searches, notice in a Government Gazette, trust documents);
- ☐ current use(s) of the land, and whether uses are authorised or unauthorised;
- ☐ current or proposed lease or agreements applying to the land, together with their duration, terms and controls;
- ☐ current or proposed business dealings (e.g. agreement for the sale or lease of the land, the basic details of any such agreement and if relevant, when council intends to realise its asset, either immediately after rezoning/reclassification or at a later time);
- ☐ any rezoning associated with the reclassification (if yes, need to demonstrate consistency with an endorsed Plan of Management or strategy);
- ☐ how council may or will benefit financially, and how these funds will be used;
- ☐ how council will ensure funds remain available to fund proposed open space sites or improvements referred to in justifying the reclassification, if relevant to the proposal;
- ☐ a Land Reclassification (part lots) Map, in accordance with any standard technical requirements for spatial datasets and maps, if land to be reclassified does not apply to the whole lot; and
- ☐ preliminary comments by a relevant government agency, including an agency that dedicated the land to council, if applicable.



**PUBLIC HEARING REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION  
FOR PROPOSED RE-CLASSIFICATION FOR  
CESSNOCK CITY COUNCIL**

**4 April 2025**

Prepared by Alexandra Joy  
UQ Power  
3226 Great North Road Wollombi 2325  
0415 843 654

1



As principal of UQ Power I have been engaged by Cessnock City Council to conduct and independently chair a Public Hearing into the proposed re-classification and Rezoning of Council Owned Land - Summary of Submissions Received During the Exhibition Period and to prepare a subsequent report back to Council. Currently the subject land is classified as Community Land and will require reclassification to Operational use to enable the sale.

This report provides acknowledgement that there were only two members of the public present at the Public Hearing pertaining to the re-classification of the defined land held at the East Cessnock Bowling Club on 3 April 2025.

### **Background**

The proposal seeks to reclassify an approximately 1.2-hectare portion of LOT: 312 DP: 566724 Old Maitland Road CESSNOCK (as shown in the maps), a Public Reserve, from Community Land to Operational Land under Schedule 4 of Cessnock LEP 2011. The proposal also seeks to remove the public reserve status from the subject land.

If finalised, the Planning Proposal will result in the site being classified as Operational Land. This classification that means the site can be sold by Council.

Council has entered into a Deed of Agreement with the land owner directly to the north of the subject land, to make the subject land available for purchase. This Deed requires the reclassification of the subject land to Operational land as a prerequisite to sale. The adjacent land owner intends to undertake residential subdivision and requires a secondary access road via the subject land.

On 20th November 2024, Council resolved to reclassify the subject land to Operational and request approval from the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to progress a planning proposal to carry out the requested changes.

It is understood that the planning proposal was publicly exhibited between 3 February, 2025 to 3 March, 2025. Letters were sent to adjoining properties informing land owners of the exhibition and inviting public submissions. Social media posts and an exhibition page on Council's website were released, providing details on the proposal and inviting submissions.

### **Details of Hearing:**

**Public Hearing** – Thursday 3 April 2025 from 5:30pm - 6:30pm

As this planning proposal included the reclassification of public land from Community to Operational, under the Local Government Act 1993 a public hearing must be held.

The Public Hearing is an independent process to hear and capture community views about the proposed reclassification. This will help to inform Council's decision about the proposal. All community members were welcome to attend this hearing independently chaired and facilitated by myself.



**POWER**

I declare to be independent, I am not a councillor or employee of the council holding the public hearing being Cessnock City Council nor have I been a councillor or employee of that council at any time during the 5 years before the date of my appointment. That I am submitting this report the following day to the hearing (received a report from the person presiding at the public hearing as to the result of the hearing, and note that the council must make a copy of the report available for inspection by the public at a location within the area of the council.

**Purpose of the report**

This public hearing report has been prepared under Section 29 of the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) and Section 1 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). The purpose of this report is to provide Cessnock City Council with information and advice as to the submissions made in relation to a public hearing held of which there was no representation from members of the public

The Public Hearing room was kept open for the time advertised 5.30-6.30pm, at which two respondents attended:

1 – Female from Central Coast who has family in the area

She had no submissions to make or issues to raise, she came to observe, to learn about the process and to hear what other residents had to say.

2 – A gentleman with an investment property in the area (no name provided)

He pointed out on the map where his investment property was and said he had no complaints about the proposal as he hoped it would reduce the number of youth motorcycle riding in the area and damaging property such as his property. He indicated on the map where his investment property was located backing onto reserve land and indicated that his tenants complained about the constant noise of motorcycles and that the youth would ride past the houses and kick their fences in. He was considering selling the property due to the inconvenience and cost of repairs. He said it had continued despite him installing cameras and that he was in support of the reclassification and sale of the land.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

In conclusion, after consideration of the feedback from community surrounding the reclassification of the subject land - it has been determined that, given there was minimal attendance at the public hearing and that the general sentiment was in support or watch and see that the proposed reclassification is appropriate. No further comment can be provided due to minimal community representation about the Public Hearing.

It is also recommended that Council makes available a copy of this report to the general public within four (4) business days in accordance with Section 47(G)(3) of the Local Government Act 1993.

Signed

*A Joy*





# CESSNOCK

## Operational Plan Quarter 3 2024-25



Planning for  
our people,  
our place,  
our future



## Acknowledgement of Country

Cessnock City Council acknowledges that within its local government area boundaries are the traditional lands of the Wonnarua people, the Awabakal people and the Darkinjung people. We acknowledge these Aboriginal peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which our offices and operations are located, and pay our respects to Elders past and present. We also acknowledge all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now live within the Cessnock Local Government Area.



*Journey Through Time, created by local school students and artist Steven Campbell.*



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# Navigating this report

## Outcomes

These are the community's long-term priorities and aspirations for the city, as set out in the Community Strategic Plan. They contribute to achieving the city's vision. Council has a custodial role in working towards realising these objectives; however, it is not wholly responsible for achieving them. Other partners, such as state agencies and community groups, have an important role to play in achieving these outcomes.

## Objectives

Our objectives guide us to achieve our outcomes over the four-year period of our delivery program. Strategies Align strategic directions to core functions and sustainability and achieving long-term objectives.

## Actions

Our actions are the activities and projects we commit to undertake each year, through delivery of our operational plan, to achieve our strategies under our objectives

## Key for Status Updates



**NOT DUE TO START**

Indicates resources are not currently available to undertake this action during this reporting period



**IN PROGRESS**

Indicates an action is likely to be achieved in the following reporting period



**COMPLETE**

Indicates an action was achieved during the reporting period



**NOT PROGRESSING**

Generally, indicates potential inhibitors to an action being undertaken in this reporting period



**DEFERRED**

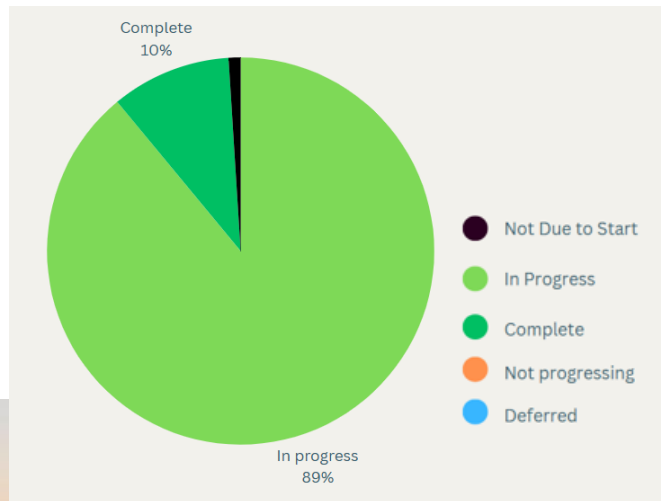
Indicates an action has been carried over to a future reporting period



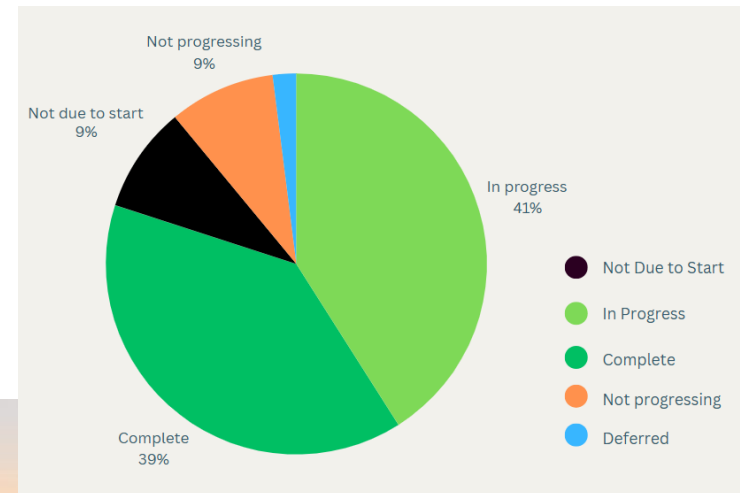
**AT RISK**

Indicates inhibitors to an action being undertaken

## Actions



## Capital Projects



## 1: A connected, safe and creative community

### 1.1: Promoting social connections and wellbeing

#### 1.1.1: Engage with the community in reconciliation activities


Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.1.1.a	Engage with the community in reconciliation initiatives and in implementing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Action Plan.	▶	NAIDOC Week 2024 featured 16 events across the Cessnock Local Government Area, including Council-hosted activities developed with the previous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee. The Draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Action Plan, exhibited for 90 days until 21 November 2024, will undergo further consultation with the Cessnock City Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Committee in May.	Community and Cultural Development Manager

## 1.1.2: Develop and deliver programs to engage young people



Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.1.2.a	Deliver inclusive programming for Council's Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) that engages and encourages young people to participate in a diverse range of social, recreational and educational activities and aligns with the Cessnock City Council Youth Engagement Strategy.	►	After school drop in sessions were held weekly at Council's youth centre. Professionally facilitated wellbeing sessions were delivered during drop in sessions as a result of young person feedback. Council's Youth Services team delivered a range of wellbeing programs in partnership with local schools and the young parents group continues to meet regularly at the youth centre.	Community and Cultural Development Manager
1.1.2.b	Deliver inclusive programming strategy through Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service (CYCOS) that engages Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people, their families and community groups to participate in a diverse range of social, recreational and educational activities.	►	NAIDOC Week 2024 featured programs for young people, including weaving, cooking, and setting up a bush tucker garden. Activities at the youth centre included Aboriginal art and craft, online trivia, take-home art packs, and a Didgeridoo workshop for Aboriginal boys. Case management services supported young people in accessing mental health services, securing housing, and referrals to other services.	Community and Cultural Development Manager
1.1.2.c	Continue working in partnership with external organisations to implement youth-based wellbeing programs that promote and encourage wellbeing, school attendance and address alcohol consumption and illicit drug use.	►	Council's Youth Services team facilitated LGBTQIA+ school-based friendship groups, the Lovebites program, and healthy relationship and domestic violence prevention sessions for Year 10 students. They also delivered alcohol and other drug education sessions, partnered with agencies for reproductive health programs, and continued supporting young parents in partnership with NSW Health. Additionally, the Transition to High School program was facilitated for Year 6 students at local primary schools.	Community and Cultural Development Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.1.2.d	Develop a 2025 Youth Week program that is inclusive, engaging and celebrates young people.	►	Youth Week 2025 will be held in April and the events calendar has been developed in consultation with young people.	Community and Cultural Development Manager
1.1.2.e	Promote and deliver diverse and inclusive activities including during school holidays engaging with children, young people and families across the Cessnock Local Government Area.	►	For the July school holidays, Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries, Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service, and Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) delivered over 14 activities, including My Pet Dinosaur at Cessnock Library, Baking with High Tea, Weaving at PACC, and a Boxing Workshop. The Spring School Holiday program featured over 20 events, such as an Upcycling Glass Jars Workshop, Boxing with a Yarn, Felt Finger Puppet Making, and Pet Portraits. The January School Holiday program offered over 60 activities, attracting strong interest.	Community and Cultural Development Manager
1.1.2.f	Further promote the positive image and value of young people and strengthen the presence of Cessnock Youth Centre & Outreach Service (CYCOS) within the community.	►	In August, the Youth Services team conducted outreach in East Cessnock in partnership with a local youth service organisation, gathering feedback from young people on desired programming. Council's Youth Service social media pages regularly highlight activities, promote upcoming programs, and share local service information. Youth Ambassadors shared their opinions and participated in consultations for Council's next Disability Inclusion Action Plan.	Community and Cultural Development Manager

**1.1.3: Continue implementation of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.1.3.a	Actively pursue continuous improvement opportunities building an organisation which has a focus on inclusion and accessibility.		Community consultation for the development of the next Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2025–2029) has concluded and the plan is now being drafted. A request for quote has been sought for the preparation of a concept design for access improvements to the outdoor toilet amenities at Marthaville Arts and Cultural Centre.	Community and Cultural Development Manager

**1.1.4: Develop and deliver a program of community and civic events**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.1.4.a	Coordinate and promote a community Program of Events for the 2025 Cessnock Local Government Area Seniors Festival.		Seniors Festival was held 3 to 16 March 2025. The call for community sponsorship supporting Seniors Festival was well received by local businesses. The program was developed in consultation with the Seniors Reference Group and over 50 activities were listed that aligned with the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.	Community and Cultural Development Manager
1.1.4.b	Organise and deliver throughout December a diverse program of free Christmas events engaging children, young people and families including Carols in the Park.		On December 6, nearly 2,000 people attended the Carols in the Park event, enjoying live performances and Christmas carols. Two free NSW Seniors Christmas Concerts, funded by the NSW Government, were held at Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) on December 12, with all tickets exhausted. PACC also hosted three Christmas movies and a live performance of JD's Christmas Magic. In the lead-up to	Community and Cultural Development Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
			Christmas, children and youth events were held at Council's youth centre, Cessnock Library, and Kurri Kurri Library.	
1.1.4.c	Organise ceremonies (and associated activities) for civic events such as Australia Day, Mayoral Scholarships and Citizenship presentations.	►	The 2025 Australia Day Awards and Citizenship Ceremony featured a Welcome to Country, smoking ceremony, and National Anthem, with Auslan interpretation provided. Thirty-three new citizens from 12 countries were welcomed, and 13 awards were presented. Celebrations included free pool entry, BBQs, and entertainment. Planning is underway for upcoming events, including the next Citizenship Ceremony, Freeman of the City ceremony, and Mayoral Scholarship.	Executive Assistant to Mayor

## 1.2: Strengthening community culture

### 1.2.1: Continue to promote the range of community services across the local government area

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.2.1.a	Promote Council's community and cultural services and activities hosted by Cessnock Library Branch, Kurri Kurri Library Branch, Cessnock Youth Centre and Outreach Service, Performance Arts Culture Cessnock, and Community Services.	►	Activities at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries, Cessnock Youth Centre, PACC, and the Community Services team are promoted on Council and program social media. Strategies aim to boost the circulation of the e-Library and e-PACC Newsletters. The libraries deliver diverse lifelong learning programs for all ages, with the Talking History Events – Local Studies program remaining popular.	Community and Cultural Development Manager



**1.2.2: Collaborate with the community to develop and deliver services**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.2.2.a	Be an active member of collaborative network groups that strive for inclusive, safer and healthier communities and in partnership with stakeholders deliver diverse and innovative community development initiatives.	►	Network meetings are regularly attended by the Community Development team and includes participation in the planning and delivery of Cessnock Walks Kawuma and is coordinated by the Cessnock Anti Violence Network. Council is an active member of the Cessnock Anti Violence Network.	Community and Cultural Development Manager
1.2.2.b	Promote and administer Council's Community, Sporting and Environment Grant Scheme.	✓	The funding round opened August and closed 13 September. At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held December 2024, it was resolved that 10 services be provided with funding in the \$25,000 Community and Cultural Development stream.	Community and Cultural Development Manager

**1.2.3: Continue implementation of the Community Infrastructure Strategic Plan**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.2.3.a	Liaise with community groups who operate from Council owned community and cultural facilities, to provide a welcoming, engaging, inclusive, safe and accessible environment.	►	Regular communication has been maintained with the Richmond Vale Preservation Society, the Marthaville Arts and Cultural Centre Management Committee, and representatives from the Wollombi Cultural Centre. Repairs to the access ramp at Marthaville Arts and Cultural Centre have been completed. A funding application for remediation works at the former Richmond Main Colliery Explosive Bunkers was submitted to the NSW Government, with the outcome pending.	Community and Cultural Development Manager

## 1.2.4: Provide and manage a range of community, sporting and aquatic facilities

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.2.4.a	Deliver and promote an engaging exhibition program at Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) and continue to activate the makers space with workshops that represent a diverse range of genres.	►	Exhibitions at Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) included Songspirals (June 29 – August 18), Philip Quirk's The Eisteddfods (August 30 – October 20), Lionel's Place (November 2 – January 5), Confluence (January 18 – February 22), and Reach Beyond (March 3 – March 29). Workshops were also held in the makerspace as part of the school holiday and exhibition programs. More details are available on the PACC website.	Community and Cultural Development Manager
1.2.4.b	Deliver road safety education and awareness programs on identified road safety priorities under the joint Local Government Road Safety Program and CCC Road Safety Strategic Plan 2020-2024	►	All programs delivered and or planned implementation.	Infrastructure Manager
1.2.4.c	Promote and deliver Council's Dollar for Dollar programs to community groups	►	February round completed all funding expended.	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager
1.2.4.d	Prepare and submit applications for funding to improve and/or construct community, sporting and aquatic facilities	►	Applications have been submitted for Weston Bears grandstand seating not successful, submitted crown lands Cemeteries funding, submitted application for water bubbler Maybury Peace Park awaiting outcomes.	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager

**1.2.5: Develop and implement adopted masterplans for community facilities**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.2.5.a	A concept plan is developed for Kitchener Poppethead Regional Playspace	►	Awaiting final concept designs community consultation completed.	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager

**1.2.6: Provide a variety of interment options to the community**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.2.6.a	Implement the Cessnock City Council Cemeteries Masterplan through a new columbarium wall at Kurri Kurri Cemetery.	►	Project complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager

**1.3: Promoting safe communities****1.3.1: Participate in collaborative partnerships to prevent crime**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.3.1.a	Collaborate through participation on the Cessnock City Liquor Accord and Community Safety Precinct Committee.	►	Have communicated with community groups and attended where required.	Infrastructure Manager

**1.3.2: Carry out regulatory and education programs to protect residential amenity and community health and safety**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.3.2.a	Conduct two Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops for supervisors and learners\drivers.	►	Both of the planned workshops have been delivered.	Infrastructure Manager
1.3.2.b	Engage with Schools within the Cessnock LGA regarding road safety around schools.	►	Education program has been delivered to seven schools to date with consultation to deliver a further 4 scheduled.	Infrastructure Manager

**1.3.3: Continue to comprehensively and professional process construction certificates and complying development certificates**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.3.3.a	Upon receipt of all required information, assess and determine Complying Development Certificate applications within 10 days and Construction Certificate applications within 25 days from the date of lodgement.	►	YTD, Council has determined 7 CDC's with an average processing time of 7 days and 205 CC's with an average processing time of 32 days.	Regulatory Services Manager

**1.3.4: Continue development and delivery of road safety projects under the local government program in line with Council's Road Safety Strategic Plan 2020–2024**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.3.4.a	Implement next steps of local government road safety project from the Road Safety Strategic Plan	▶	All prescribed transport awareness and education programs have been delivered to the target audience; implementation will continue for the remainder of the financial year.	Infrastructure Manager

**1.3.5: Improve the safety of the road network**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.3.5.a	On-going assessment of applications for Restricted Access Vehicle movements within the Local Government Area.	▶	All NHVR applications processed and determined.	Infrastructure Manager
1.3.5.b	Prepare reports for and facilitate the Local Traffic Committee.	▶	All meetings completed and report detailing outcomes/results will be communicated at ordinary Council meeting.	Infrastructure Manager
1.3.5.c	Oversee the accelerated replacement of existing eligible street lights with energy efficient LEDs.	✓	All LED's replaced.	Infrastructure Manager

## 1.4: Fostering an articulate and creative community

### 1.4.1: Develop and deliver the Performance, Arts, Culture, Cessnock season program

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.4.1.a	Deliver an engaging Performance Arts Culture Cessnock (PACC) season with programming strategy that considers Councils community plans, diversity and inclusion.	►	The 2024 season program featured 78 performances, including sell-outs of The Listies and Arc, Aboriginal performance The Visitors, and various music, dance, and drama performances. Audience feedback through post-show surveys and discussions helps keep programming current and dynamic. December was the busiest month, with many local dance schools showcasing end-of-year performances. The 2025 Season Program, which began in February is receiving strong interest.	Community and Cultural Development Manager

### 1.4.2: Continue implementation of the priority projects from the Cessnock City Library Review, Report and Strategy (2014-2024)

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.4.2.a	Develop and promote Cessnock City Library digital services including 24/7 eBranch.	►	The delivery of Tech Savvy Seniors Programs across both libraries has enabled and supported skill development within the community for how to access the 24/7 eBranch. The Library e-newsletter regularly promotes the offerings of the 24/7 eBranch.	Community and Cultural Development Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
1.4.2.c	Progress the development of the next Cessnock City Library Strategic Plan.	►	A review of the 2014-2024 Cessnock City Library Strategic Plan has been conducted to guide the next plan. A successful funding application was submitted to the State Library of NSW Local Priority Grants Program 2024/2025. The project scope for the next 10-year Library Strategic Plan has been finalised and the plan is now in development which includes community consultation sessions held in March.	Community and Cultural Development Manager

## 1: A connected, safe and creative community

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### Cemeteries





Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Branxton Cemetery - implementation of masterplan	✓	A columbarium wall has been installed.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Cessnock Cemetery - implementation of masterplan	✓	Works are now complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide Cemeteries - deliver cemeteries signage renewal	►	Section markers ready to be installed at Millfield Cemetery.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Greta Cemetery - implementation of masterplan	✓	New interment options and access improvements are now complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities








Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Various Citywide Cemeteries – deliver cemeteries fencing renewal	▶	Minor works to be completed.	Open Space and Community Facilities

#### Buildings

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Kurri Kurri Library – deliver toilet refurbishment	▶	Development consent has been secured and detailed design for the construction certificate has been finalised and the issue of a construction certificate is now being assessed.	Community and Cultural Development
CPAC Refurbishment	▶	In 2023 the refurbishment and air conditioning replacement works were undertaken and the new PACC spaces opened October of that year. Further improvements have since been made to the air-conditioning system in 2024 and the installation of the CCTV system finalises the refurbishment project.	Community and Cultural Development
Branxton Community Hall – deliver window and board repairs and replacement	▶	Works complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide Community Halls – deliver painting of community buildings	✓	Painting is complete at Greta Arts and Sports Community Hall.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Weston Civic Centre – deliver flooring	▶	Works complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Wollombi Community Hall – develop and deliver retaining wall reconstruction (staged)	✓	Designs are complete to upgrade the retaining wall at Wollombi Community Hall.	Open Space and Community Facilities

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock Indoor Sports Centre - deliver scoreboard replacement		Awaiting EOI process for stadium to be finalised.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Cessnock Civic Indoor Sports Centre - roof ventilation remediation and automated rollers		Roof ventilation works have been completed and new blinds installed within the indoor stadium.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Booth Park, Kurri Kurri - toilet block renewal		The public toilet amenities have been upgraded.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Kurri Kurri - VRA improvements and demolition		VRA improvements are complete and included a new driveway/car park, demolition of aging car ports and a kitchen refurbishment.	Open Space and Community Facilities

#### Recreation & Community Facilities

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Orange Street Oval, Abermain - deliver floodlights upgrade		Project complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Cessnock Netball Courts - deliver playing surface replacement		Project is nearing completion courts constructed surfacing completed lighting being installed.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Turner Park, Cessnock - deliver tennis clubhouse changerooms upgrade		Works commenced project due to be completed Q4.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Cessnock Regional Skate Park - deliver a regional skate park		The construction of a regional skatepark is complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Bridges Hill Park, Cessnock - deliver pathway lighting		Works have commenced pole footing have been installed awaiting pole installation.	Open Space and Community Facilities

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Baddeley Park, Cessnock deliver cricket nets upgrade	✓	New cricket nets have been installed.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Greta Central - deliver environmental works	✓	Works are now complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Carmichael Park BMX Track	✓	The BMX facility and roadway are complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Bridges Hill Park, Cessnock – deliver stake park upgrade	✓	The Skate Park at Bridges Hill has successfully been replaced and upgraded with an extension to the park and accessible pathways and a drinking fountain.	Open Space and Community Facilities
North End Park Shade Sail – s355 Fund	✓	A new shade sail has been installed.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide – deliver playground replacement program	✓	The playspace renewal at Birralelee is complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Kurri Kurri Sportsground – deliver sportsground upgrades	▶	Storage building complete for lions and rotary , grandstand amenities upgrade complete, players shelter and flood lighting upgrade complete project scope underway for mod fields up grade	Open Space and Community Facilities
Kurri Kurri Netball Facility – deliver facilities construction	▶	Works well under way excavations works, drainage retaining walls complete, carpark set out underway.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide – develop skate park remediation audit	▶	The project is currently being scoped, works are not due to commence until Q4.	Open Space and Community Facilities

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Averys Lane Local playspace	✓	A new playspace has been constructed.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Cliftleigh Playground - deliver shade sail	✓	Projects are complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide Community & Cultural Building - investigate and develop community building renewal program	▶	Water connection Mt View basin club house complete, Kurri Senior citizens access complete, orange street oval change rooms complete. Project planning for additional projects underway for completion Q4	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide - deliver playground edging and surface program	✓	Projects are complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide - deliver parks and reserves renewal program	▶	Boundary fence completed Orange Street Oval, Abermain.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide - deliver sporting facilities lights and/or LED replacement program	▶	Completed removal of 3 deteriorated timber poles Drain Oval. Orange Street Oval flood lights switch upgrade to be completed in Q4.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide - deliver parks and reserves fence replacement program	✓	Replacement of the southern boundary fence at Orange Street Oval is complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide - deliver parks and reserves irrigation replacement program	▶	Works due to commence in Q4 quotation received.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Wollombi Walking Path	▶	Works due to commence May 2025.	Open Space and Community Facilities

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock Hockey - hockey surface replacement	✓	The project is complete with a new synthetic surface installed.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Orange Street, Abermain - multi-purpose court relocation	✓	A new multipurpose court has been constructed at Abermain Centenary Park.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Macquarie Avenue, Cessnock - playground upgrade	✓	A new local playspace has been installed at Macquarie Avenue Park.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Margaret Johns Park, Kurri Kurri - renew practice cricket wicket	✓	New cricket practice wickets were constructed in Baddeley Park.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide - develop skate park remediation audit	▶	The project is currently being scoped, works are not due to commence until Q4.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Cessnock Hockey Fence	▶	Scope of work being confirmed regarding the fencing that can be achieved on site.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Locations - pre-construction design of recreation facilities	▶	Rec preconstruction Greta Skate Park contractor engaged to complete concept and detailed design and community engagement completed March 2025. Concept plans for Poppethead, Ellalong and Orange Street Oval community engagement are complete. Awaiting final concept plans, condition assessments for Cessnock and Branxton pools contractor engaged works commenced. Biodiversity assessment for Wollombi and Kitchener complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Kitchener Poppethead Park - concept plan	▶	A consultant has been engaged and is preparing a concept plan. Community engagement held in March.	Open Space and Community Facilities

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Kitchener Poppethead Park - engineering retaining walls	✓	Designs for the retaining walls near the dam are complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Bridges Hill Park, Cessnock - shade sail water play	▶	Waterplay item procured.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Howe Park, Abermain - upgrade floodlights	✓	Works complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Pokolbin Hall - upgrade hall toilet S355 Fund	✓	Works complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Various Citywide - deliver renewed tennis courts supporting infrastructure	▶	Works due to commence April 2025.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Ernie Dunlop Park, Weston - deliver multi-purpose courts	✓	The multipurpose court upgrade is complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Weston Bears Park - deliver amenities and grandstand upgrade	▶	Tender submissions have now closed awaiting tender evaluation for construction phase.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Wollombi Nature Trail Stairs	✓	Project is now complete.	Open Space and Community Facilities
Wollombi Pong Club Building - Insurance/Grant	▶	Works due to commence April 2025.	Open Space and Community Facilities

**Libraries**

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Citywide Libraries – deliver adult book purchases	►	The Library Management System informs what resources are popular within the community and assists to develop the library collection.	Community and Cultural Development

**Aquatic Facilities**

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Various Citywide – deliver aquatic facilities renewal program	►	UV works have commenced at KKAC.	Open Space and Community Facilities

**2: A sustainable and prosperous economy****2.1: Diversifying and growing our economy****2.1.1: Identify opportunities and advocate for economic development and infrastructure funding**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.1.1.a	Seek grant funding for the Shiraz to Shore Trail – Hunter Valley Gardens to Abermain section.	►	We are currently waiting other funding opportunities. No further updates on grants, we have worked with infrastructure team to look at alternative route around Broke Road to save costs, this was put to the Hunter JO and approved.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager
2.1.1.b	Submit a minimum of three grant applications that align with the Cessnock	►	2 grants applied for Kurri Kurri Arts. Grant submitted for Kurri Arts festival on 25th April 2025, this is a similar grant proposal	Economic Development & Tourism Manager



Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
	City Council Economic Growth Agenda and social priorities for the community.		to the Kurri Curry and Arts Festival held in August 2024, the proposal this year is to hold events for the next 3 years. Grant submitted for STOMP festival on 4th April 2025 to be held in August 2025, this grant has been applied for as the Cessnock Business Chamber has cancelled the event and Council is now looking at taking this on.	
2.1.1.c	Undertake a review/study of the Cessnock Employment Lands and prepare an Employment Lands Strategy	▶	Request for quotations sought for a consultant to prepare a revised Employment Land Study. The project has been awarded to SGS Economics and Planning to prepare the revised study. Study is expected to be received in July 2025. Council will then prepare a concise Employment Lands Strategy to accompany the study.	Strategic Planning Manager

#### 2.1.2: Continue to implement the Business Investment Attraction Program

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.1.2.a	Complete investment attraction opportunities analysis in collaboration with the Office of Regional Economic Development.	✓	Council completed investment attraction opportunities analysis in collaboration with the Office of Regional Economic Development and developed the Cessnock Local Government Area investment attraction factsheet and pitch deck. This pitch deck has been placed on the Advance Greater Cessnock website with other investment attraction material <a href="https://advancecessnock.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Department-of-Regional-NSW-Investment-Attraction-Pitch-Deck_-_Cessnock-v2.pdf">https://advancecessnock.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Department-of-Regional-NSW-Investment-Attraction-Pitch-Deck_-_Cessnock-v2.pdf</a>	Economic Development & Tourism Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.1.2.b	Create a Cessnock Local Government Area investment attraction factsheet and pitch deck in collaboration with the Office of Regional Economic Development.	✓	Council completed an Investment Attraction Workshop with the Department of Regional NSW to identify opportunities to attract niche and valuable businesses to the Cessnock LGA that align with the Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy. The investment attraction factsheet and pitch deck has been created and placed on the Advance Greater Cessnock website at <a href="https://advancecessnock.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Department-of-Regional-NSW-Investment-Attraction-Pitch-Deck-_-Cessnock-v2.pdf">https://advancecessnock.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Department-of-Regional-NSW-Investment-Attraction-Pitch-Deck-_-Cessnock-v2.pdf</a>	Economic Development & Tourism Manager

### 2.1.3: Provide support for activation of commercial centres, business engagement, promotion and support of business growth

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.1.3.a	Support business chambers and tourist associations through providing economic development grants and sponsorship for projects which improve the business environment, build capacity and capabilities amongst businesses, stimulate investment, enterprise and job creation as well as enhance the city's image.	✓	Ten Advance Greater Cessnock Partners projects have been funded by Council to the value of \$127,000 under the Economic Development Grants and Sponsorship Program. These projects include event sponsorship, Town Coordinator funding, Kurri Kurri Visitor Information Centre financial support, weed eradication, business support training and business awards sponsorship.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager
2.1.3.b	Support and nurture existing economic activity in the Cessnock local government area by running 10 Support	▶	The Support Local Program this quarter received strong support from the Mayor's office. In January, prizes focused on favourite activities in the Cessnock LGA, including a Sanctuary Tour and gift cards. February highlighted	Economic Development & Tourism Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
	Local campaigns to boost local spending and increase engagement with local businesses.		favourite gifts from local businesses, and March featured prizes from local gyms, yoga studios, and fitness trainers.	
2.1.3.d	Review of the Cessnock CBD Masterplan and Public Domain Plan (including the preparation of a Parking and Access Strategy)	►	Request for Quotation (RFQ) currently being prepared for a Flood Risk Management Study and Plan for the CBD. Request For Quotations currently with State Emergency Service (SES) and NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's (DCCEEW) for review. The Study will improve Council's understanding of flood risks a to identify mitigation measures to reduce risk. Traffic and transport modelling is currently being undertaken to inform the Master plan review. This study will consider parking demand and supply and vehicle and pedestrian movements.	Strategic Planning Manager

## 2.2: Achieving more sustainable employment opportunities

### 2.2.1: Develop and communicate employment related information to businesses

#### 2.2.2: Create a skilled and employment ready workforce

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.2.2.a	Continue to implement the Greater Cessnock Jobs Strategy 2036	►	Cessnock Jobs Connect, held on April 8, featured attendees including Kempsey Litten, Graham Irwin, Training Services NSW, the Cessnock Mayor, local job agencies, and employers. Sixty people registered to discuss future job prospects in Cessnock, including industries, training programs, and opportunities in the Cessnock LGA.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.2.2.b	Advocate for additional bus services between Cessnock and Branxton via Wine Country as a means of supporting employment and facilitating better social outcomes for the community.	▶	No update to this in this quarter.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager
2.2.2.c	Award a minimum of eight Mayoral Scholarships that assists local residents financially to achieve their educational goals at TAFE or university.	▶	Mayoral Scholarships sponsor notifications were sent out to the community in January 2025. We received 12 positive responses. Applicants for the scholarships are currently being received. Judging will commence on Friday April 11th.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager

### 2.2.3: Provide and promote graduate, apprenticeship and traineeship programs with Council

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.2.3.a	Continue to implement the graduate, trainee and apprenticeship framework.	✓	This action is complete. Recruitment being finalised for 2025 positions; 1x Apprentice Civil Construction 1x Apprentice Sports Turf Management 1x Trainee Visitor Information Centre 1x Trainee Business Support - Identified position 1x Trainee Business Support 1x Information Technology Undergraduate 1x Environment & Waster Undergraduate	People and Culture Manager

### 2.3: Increasing tourism opportunities and visitation in the area

#### 2.3.1: Collaboratively identify markets and promote the local government area's tourism industry

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.3.1.a	Hold four Hunter Valley Wine Tourism Alliance meetings with Singleton Council and Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association to develop strategies to grow the visitor economy.	►	Meeting held Tuesday April 18th at 2.00pm, next meeting is scheduled for 20th May.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager
2.3.1.b	Provide a joint tourism service with Hunter Valley Wine and Tourism Association that provides destination marketing and in destination tourism services for the benefit of regional tourism.	►	The Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre and Hunter Valley Wine and Tourist Association provide tourism services to 280 members, including destination marketing, website updates, bookings, event and conference attraction, visitor services, product sales, eNewsletters, training, and the production of the annual Hunter Valley Magazine and Map. New Trail brochures have also been designed and printed in collaboration with the HVWTA alliance.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager
2.3.1.c	Deliver four priority actions from the Hunter Valley Destination Management Plan using budgeted resources.	►	An events prospectus is being developed to promote the area as an event destination, currently in draft form and under consultation with planners. The Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre (HVVIC) promotes both small and large events through verbal communication, posters, and event information displayed at the HVVIC, as well as through social media and the Wine Country website.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.3.1.d	Grow Council's tourism and business image library by completing two photo or video shoots.	►	Wollombi Village tourism video completed; this was submitted to Tiny Towns tourism awards on March 2025. Wollombi road videos have been produced for 5 businesses registered in stage 1 to assist promoting businesses affected by road works on Wollombi Road.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager

### 2.3.2: Promote and grow the Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
2.3.2.a	Provide quality visitor services to Level 1 Accreditation standards for 364 days a year.	►	The Hunter Valley Visitor Information Centre holds current accreditation as a NSW Visitor Information Centres. Council is providing visitor services in accordance with accreditation standards for 364 days a year. The annual accreditation audit is currently being assessed with results being announced shortly. We are also excited to share that we've recently implemented a weekly family program for our team members commencing in April 2025.	Economic Development & Tourism Manager

## 2: A sustainable and prosperous economy

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### Project Management

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Branxton, Church Street to Anvil Creek Bridge (north side) - develop town centre upgrade	▶	Planning and design works continued, community consultation expected to be undertaken in mid 2025.	Infrastructure
Cessnock CBD - Library Shared Zone - deliver Stage 2	▶	Concept design 75% completed, plan for design to be completed by June 2025 but all construction works will be subject to successful grant funding applications.	Infrastructure

#### Kurri Kurri Town Centre Program (CTK)

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Upgrade Kurri Kurri commercial centre: associated roadworks - phase 2 detailed design - phase 3 construction	✓	Project completed.	Infrastructure



### 3: A sustainable and healthy environment

#### 3.1: Protecting and enhancing the natural environment and the rural character of the area

##### 3.1.1: Finalise Cessnock City Planning Strategy and commence implementation

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.1.1.a	Finalise the planning for the Nulkaba Urban Investigation Area	►	Biodiversity constraints remain ongoing and unresolved. Council has written to the minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Costings of local infrastructure provision are being reviewed and analysed.	Strategic Planning Manager
3.1.1.b	Continue review of Cessnock LEP 2011	►	Residential theme review. An issues paper and draft discussion paper has been prepared. Consultation has been undertaken with the UDIA regarding key issues for the Housing Discussion paper. Councillors to be briefed on the Housing Discussion Paper prior to public exhibition.	Strategic Planning Manager
3.1.1.c	Continue review of the Cessnock DCP 2010 chapters.	►	Draft Tourist and Visitor accommodation in Rural and Environmental zones, Signage and Vineyards District DCP Chapters are currently on public exhibition from 28 March to 9 April 2025. Community drop in sessions to be held during the exhibition. Refer to Councils website for details.	Strategic Planning Manager

##### 3.1.3: Progress the review of land use planning controls within the vineyard district

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.1.3.a	Progress the Vineyards Planning Proposal (including DCP) and Place Strategy.	►	Draft Vineyards District Place Strategy was presented to the Vineyards District Community Reference Group and	Strategic Planning Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
			Councillors in March 2025. Draft Place Strategy is currently on public exhibition from 28 March to 9 April 2025. Community drop in sessions to be held during the exhibition. Refer to Councils website for details.	
3.1.3.b	Undertake a review/study of the Cessnock Rural Lands and prepare a Rural Lands Strategy	►	Consultant engage and progressing review, update of current Rural Lands Study.	Strategic Planning Manager

#### 3.1.4: Continue implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy and manage Council's environmental assets

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.1.4.a	Promote and deliver community focused biodiversity education programs	►	Koala funding request successful with Deed currently under review. Bushland Festival 2024 was held, with no plans for 2025 event as now being held two -yearly. Next event will be planned for 2026. Various Landcare group meetings have been conducted with Memorandum of Understanding between Landcare and Council currently being considered. Biosecurity Management Coordinator has also attended these meetings to assist with Weed education and control.	Environment and Waste Services Manager
3.1.4.b	The Cessnock City Council Tree Strategy is implemented through promoting and delivering a Tree Giveaway event for local residents.	✓	A successful Tree Giveaway event was held in November 2024. 1,620 plants were provided to local residents.	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.1.4.c	Review and update standard conditions of development consent in relation to roadside drainage elements.	✓	Final Specifications and Drawings are adopted and available online now.	Asset Planning Manager
3.1.4.d	In collaboration with internal and external stakeholders, facilitate a review of Council's Biodiversity Strategy.	►	Internal stakeholder review of Biodiversity Strategy is ongoing. The sustainability team have been actively involved and work closely with Strategic Planning who will finalise the strategy.	Environment and Waste Services Manager

### 3.1.5: Continue the implementation of the Climate Change Resilience Plan

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.1.5.a	Continue to work on energy efficiency of Council facilities under the Revolving Energy Fund	►	New contract with Red Energy for streetlighting and large sites commenced on 1 July 2024. 50% of power now sourced from renewable sources and this will increase to 100% by July 2026. In addition, cost savings in the 2024-25 year for these sites is estimated to be \$60,000. An electric mower is on loan and currently being trialed by Open Space teams. 2 dual destination EV chargers installed in Bridges Hill carpark for community use. Developing business cases for installation of solar panels on PACC and Kurri Library in 2025-26.	Environment and Waste Services Manager
3.1.5.b	Continue the implementation of the Climate Change Resilience Plan.	►	Opportunity trial electric mowers was shared with the Climate Change Resilience Steering Committee. 2 dual destination EV chargers installed in Bridges Hill carpark are being well accepted and used by community. Hydrogen	Environment and Waste Services Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
			truck trial discussions on-hold as Newcastle Hub is not ready at this stage. HJO landfill gas emission monitoring and reporting continues.	

### 3.1.6: Manage the risk and improve resilience to extreme weather events, flooding, bushfires, mine subsidence and land contamination

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.1.6.b	Implement high priority projects from the Greta/Anvil Creek Flood Study including investigation of flood mitigation works.	►	Greta/Anvil Creek Flood Risk Management Study is in final stage and will be completed by April 2025.	Asset Planning Manager
3.1.6.c	Seek funding for delivery of Floodplain Management Program.	►	This Grant is now available and an application is being developed for Wollombi-Brook	Asset Planning Manager
3.1.6.d	Manage declared dams in accordance with NSW Dams Safety legislation.	►	Working with Dam Safety NSW to move towards down grading the basin so it is not a declared dam, not anticipated to be confirmed before end of financial year.	Infrastructure Manager
3.1.6.e	Contribute to assessing the flood impacts of development.	►	Investigate and design of high priority works identified in the Stormwater, Waterway and Floodplain Strategy is an ongoing task.	Asset Planning Manager
3.1.6.f	Raise community awareness about the implications of developing flood impacted land through the provision of Flood Certificates.	►	Flood certificates are issued as requested as a paid service.	Asset Planning Manager

## 3.1.7: Protect and enhance the natural environment and environmental health

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.1.7.a	Inspect commercial and residential on-site sewerage management systems in accordance with risk based priority routine inspection program.	►	Council has completed 90% of the scheduled on-site sewerage system inspections year to date.	Regulatory Services Manager
3.1.7.b	Conduct routine inspection of all food and regulated premises, including public pools and skin penetration premises in accordance with the NSW Food Authority Partnership and relevant legislative requirements.	►	Council has completed 80% of the annual scheduled food, pool and skin penetration inspections year to date.	Regulatory Services Manager
3.1.7.b	Continue the implementation of Council's Biosecurity (invasive weed species) Management program in line with Regional and State priority species.	►	WAP grant funding successful, awaiting final sign-off. Chartis software is now live and all inspections and activities are being reported in accordance with regulatory requirements. All invasive and priority weeds are being managed in-line with Hunter Region and NSW expectations. Community education sessions held with local Landcare groups and Schools in order to increase awareness and encourage pro-active identification and treatment of priority weeds.	Environment and Waste Services Manager
3.1.7.c	Continue to facilitate community engagement and education initiatives relating to conservation of the natural environment.	►	Weeds education sessions were held with Landcare groups and schools, along with a Composting Workshop, Repair Cafe, and Clean-up Australia Day. A pop-up event for the Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy was held in Branxton. The Green Teacher's Network continues its	Environment and Waste Services Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
			activities, and a Memorandum of Understanding with Landcare is being prepared. The Grants Advisory Committee recommended grants for Council consideration.	

### 3.2: Better utilisation of existing open space

#### 3.2.1: Continue to implement the Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2019

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.2.1.a	The Recreation & Open Space Strategic Plan 2019 is reviewed and updated.	►	Consultants have sent in analysis of current facilities across LGA for review and mapping. Proposed frame works has been sent for review. Consultants finalising documents based on feedback from Rec planning.	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager
3.2.1.b	Concept plans are prepared for a new pump track at Miller Park, Branxton.	►	Following the developers commitment at Huntlee to provide a high quality pump track, and its proximity to Miller Park, Branxton, Council is not proceeding with a concept Plan for the Miller Park pump track.	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager
3.2.1.e	Develop Generic Plan of Management for Sportsgrounds	►	The Plan of Management has been drafted and has been distributed for internal review. Final editing phase.	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager

**3.2.3: Continue to implement the adopted masterplans for Council's recreation and community facilities and spaces**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.2.3.a	Design and construction drawings are developed for a new amenity building at Weston Bears Park	►	Designs under review	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager

**3.2.4: Provide and maintain recreation facilities, streetscapes and public open space**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.2.4.a	Asset Management Plans are updated	►	With managers and directors for final review.	Asset Planning Manager

**3.3: Better resource recovery and waste management****3.3.2: Continue landfill extension project**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.3.2.a	Administration of the Cessnock Waste Management Centre Biodiversity Offset Area in accordance with adopted plan.	►	Biodiversity Offset Area continues to be managed as per the plan, with some fencing and signage being upgraded in conjunction with Landfill Extension project.	Environment and Waste Services Manager
3.3.2.b	As part of the new landfill extension project, implement materials sourcing and reuse strategies to benefit operational business needs.	►	All materials generated by the Landfill Extension civil works continue to be stockpiled and tested, and either reused within the project, used for cover on the operating landfill or remaining in stockpile for future use. To date, the only materials that have been imported for the Landfill Extension	Environment and Waste Services Manager



Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
			Project are those materials that are essential for the project and will be subject to an Operational Purpose Deduction.	

### 3.3.3: Continue implementation of projects from the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2020–25

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.3.3.a	Continue to operate the Community Recycling Centre in collaboration with the NSW EPA in accordance with operational deed of agreement.	►	The Community Recycling Centre continues to divert waste but was on hold due to the Cleanaway fire. A mattress drop-off event was held in February, and events will be reviewed with the Waste Strategy. The Household Chemical Event may be delayed, and the Sharps program continues. Emerging waste streams, like batteries and PV are being considered with lithium-ion battery storage vessels identified for strategic locations.	Environment and Waste Services Manager
3.3.3.b	Develop policies and procedures to increase the efficiency of waste services.	►	VENM procedure ready for peer review. Overloaded Vehicle procedure currently being finalised. Contaminated Load procedure in early stages of development.	Environment and Waste Services Manager
3.3.3.c	Commence development of 2026–31 Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.	►	Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2026–2031 has been presented to Council at a briefing and is now out for Public Exhibition until 2 May.	Environment and Waste Services Manager

## 3.3.4: Continue to provide an efficient and effective Waste Management Service

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.3.4.a	Continue to implement community focused waste avoidance and reuse initiatives.	►	Mattress drop-off event held in February. Composting Workshop held in March. Repair Cafe held February. Home Grown Healthy Living, including fermentation demonstration held in February. Community pop-up event held at Branxton for Draft Waste Strategy and two more planned for April. Household Chemical Collection scheduled for June 2025 however may be delayed due to Cleanaway St Mary's processing facility fire.	Environment and Waste Services Manager
3.3.4.b	Continue to work collaboratively with regional partners in relation to contract services for organics (green waste) kerbside collection.	►	Working with partner Councils and contractors in preparation for FOGO commencement 30 June 2025. Presently on target. Starting Scraps advertising and education material has commenced in preparation. Bin audit was completed in late 2024 and with community survey helped form Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2026-2031.	Environment and Waste Services Manager
3.3.4.c	Continue to work collaboratively with regional partners in relation to contract services for recycling kerbside collection.	►	Contract meetings with contractors (collections and processing) and regional partners (Maitland and Singleton Councils) ongoing. Sorting and processing tender assessment committee has been formed with tender release imminent. Kerbside Recycling collection contract short-term extensions have been agreed and executed.	Environment and Waste Services Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.3.4.d	Continue to operate the Cessnock Waste Management Centre in accordance with the NSW EPA Environment Protection Licence and relevant legislation.	►	All environmental and pollution parameters are being monitored in accordance with the EPL. Volumetric Survey completed in December and lodged with EPA. Resource recovery and diversion from landfill for dry waste is being considered, with funding application submitted (pending). Monthly WARRP reports submitted accurately and on-time. All Operational Purpose Deductions (OPD's) relating to the Landfill Extension Project are being managed accurately.	Environment and Waste Services Manager

### 3.3.5: Continue to implement programs that reduce littering and illegal dumping

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
3.3.5.a	Facilitate community focused litter reduction and awareness programs and events.	►	Clean-up Australia Day held 2 March with Council supporting this through collections and disposal. Public litter bins review completed now awaiting internal feedback. Illegal Dumping Grant Funding successful with Stakeholder Working Group meeting expected to be held in April.	Environment and Waste Services Manager

### 3: A sustainable and healthy environment

#### CAPITAL PROJECTS

##### Drainage

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Portland Street, Millfield - trunk drainage	▶▶	Not due to start.	Infrastructure
Cessnock Road, Branxton - upgrade drainage	▶	Phase 2 - detail design is complete.	Asset Planning
Trenchard Street, Heddons Greta - deliver drainage upgrade	▶	Working with PM as part of Avery Lane Upgrade Works to address these stormwater issues.	Asset Planning
Government Road, Cessnock - deliver drainage reconstruction	▶▶	It is recommended to defer Government Road Cessnock-Reconstruct Drainage as further investigation is required.	Asset Planning
Main Road, Heddons Greta - deliver drainage upgrade	▶	Phase 1 - concept is complete.	Asset Planning
Government Road, Cessnock: reconstruct drainage	■	Further investigation and information are required.	Asset Planning
Cruickshank Street, Bellbird - drainage upgrade and construction	▶	Phase 2 - detail design is complete. Project will be delivered subject to funding.	Asset Planning
Mansfield & Bell Streets, Greta - upgrade drainage: design	▶	Concept design/Phase1 design is complete.	Asset Planning
Whitburn Street, Greta- upgrade drainage: design and construction	▶▶	To be included in next delivery Program. Carried over	Asset Planning





Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Kurri Kurri, Booth Street - upgrade drainage: design	✓	Detailed design (phase2) complete	Asset Planning
Various Locations: drainage - minor investigation and works	▶	Minor Investigation and Works are ongoing tasks as required.	Asset Planning
Various Locations: drainage renewal	▶	Drainage renewal at various locations is an ongoing task and is completed as required.	Asset Planning
Various Locations: roadside drainage program	▶	Roadside Drainage Program is an ongoing task completed as required.	Asset Planning
Hospital Road, Weston: upgrade drainage	✓	Investigation and design complete (phase 1 and 2)	Asset Planning

#### Floodplain Management

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Mount View, Cessnock: detention basin improvement	▶	Public Work Advisory (Dam Engineering) to prepare an investigation & Design proposal. Phase 2 - design will occur according to next Delivery Program. Project will be carried over.	Asset Planning
Heddon Greta - investigate floodplain mitigation	▶	Drainage assessment will be carried out after construction of road and drainage projects within Avery Lane and Clift Street.	Asset Planning
Greta - develop floodplain risk management plan	▶	Draft FRMSP report has been reviewed.	Asset Planning
South Cessnock - deliver flood mitigation	▶▶	Project complete. Final mulching and planting of greenery to be completed along with additional scope of work to bring	Asset Planning

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
		road section back up to standard post construction of bund wall.	

## Waste Management

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock Waste Management Facility - deliver new landfill facility		Bulk earthworks nearing completion. Waste relocation in old cell complete. Bridging layer complete. Gas line relocation almost complete. Wheel wash pad currently under construction. Project has had minor delays due to wet weather but is on target for completion Q1 2026.	Environment and Waste Services
Biodiversity offset - Cessnock Waste Management Centre: signage and Stage 2 fencing		All perimeter signage complete. Second section of fencing towards Leachate dam area complete. Additional perimeter fencing will be reviewed in consideration with Landfill Extension Project.	Environment and Waste Services
Stage 1 remediation - former sanitary depot Kurri Kurri		Former site at Kurri Kurri has been handed back to Crown Lands. No further action is expected.	Environment and Waste Services
Cessnock Waste Management Facility - capping design		Final capping and cell closure notification to be completed within 12 months of current cell closure. This is reliant upon the Landfill Extension program and will continue to be monitored and prepared in line with Landfill Extension project timeline. NSW EPA provided with update and request ongoing timing updates as we move towards completion of the new cell and closure of the existing cell.	Environment and Waste Services

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Various Locations - remediation of former landfill sites	▶	Awaiting further update from Auditor, now that Ground Water Data Gap Assessment findings have been provided.	Environment and Waste Services
Domestic Waste Management - Capital	✓	Replacement pump for supply of site water/water storage tanks purchased and installed.	Environment and Waste Services
Environmental planning - revolving energy improvement program: RID program	▶	Round 2 Stream 4 Illegal Dumping Prevention Grant deed signed and returned, with stakeholder working group scheduled to commence meetings in April.	Environment and Waste Services
EV Charging Stations	✓	EV charging stations installed and being utilised at Bridges Hill Park carpark.	Environment and Waste Services
Waste Weighbridge building - replace roller shutters	✓	Replacement of shutters completed August 2024.	Environment and Waste Services

## 4: Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities

### 4.1: Better transport links

#### 4.1.1: Advocate for increased funding for road and community transport and associated infrastructure

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
4.1.1.a	Prepare applications for grant funding to improve commuter transport links identified in the 2023 Traffic and Transport Strategy.	▶	12 transport related grant applications have been prepared and submitted and advocacy for funding for strategic projects has occurred with key political stakeholders.	Infrastructure Manager



Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
4.1.1.b	Continue upgrade of Public Transport stops to ensure DDA compliance and apply for available funding in accordance with grant funding guidelines and timeframes	►	All projects progressing as noted in CW report.	Infrastructure Manager

#### 4.1.2: Continue implementation of the Traffic and Transport Strategy

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
4.1.2.a	Seek funding opportunities for the high priority upgrade of Key Strategic Links as per the Cessnock LGA Traffic & Transport Strategy.	►	Grant funding secured for Wollombi Road Upgrade project to allow scope increase for Stage 1, originally Abbotsford Street to West Avenue and Now Abbotsford Street to Allandale Road. Funding also secured for the northern alternate route planning and investigation.	Infrastructure Manager

#### 4.1.3: Continue implementation of the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
4.1.3.a	Implement the pathway project from the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan.	►	All pathways projects progress noted in capital works report.	Infrastructure Manager

**4.1.4: Continue implementation of the Trails Strategy**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
4.1.4.a	Implement the Trails Strategy via Meetings of the Trails Reference Group	►	March meeting held.	Open Space and Community Facilities Manager

**4.1.5: Contribute to investigations and planning for the Richmond Vale Rail Trail**


Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
4.1.5.a	Collaborate with HJO and TfNSW for the implementation of the Richmond Vale Trail where resources permit.	►	Have continued consultation and collaboration where required and provided supportive advocacy letters. No grant funding has been secured to this point of the financial year.	Infrastructure Manager

**4.2: Improving the road network****4.2.1: Develop prioritised capital works programs in line with adopted asset management plans**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
4.2.1.a	Develop and deliver prioritised Capital Works Programs in line with adopted Asset Management Plans.	►	Projects are progressing where possible and individual reports are provided on each one.	Infrastructure Manager
4.2.1.b	Develop guidelines for the opening of roads	►	Consultation between internal stakeholders has commenced. CCC has joined Street Opening Coordination Council (SOCC) to allow for better communication between external stakeholders for overlapping projects (hunter water	Asset Planning Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
			Jemena etc). Program Coordinator tasked with updating policy regarding the roads opening guidelines.	




#### 4.2.2: Deliver prioritised on ground capital works and maintenance programs

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
4.2.2.a	Continue implementation of the Plant and Fleet Management review to ensure efficient and effective use of resources.		Currently developing a Plant and Fleet Asset Management Plan in conjunction with the Asset Planning team. Unit rate review complete to support replacement program.	Works and Operations Manager

## 4: Accessible infrastructure, services and facilities

### CAPITAL PROJECTS










#### Infrastructure Management










Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Anderson Ave Paxton - active transport		Not due to start.	Infrastructure
Booth Park – Street parking and surrounds improvements		Not due to start.	Infrastructure
Dalwood Road, East Branxton - shared path		Design works completed, seeking grant funding opportunities to allow construction to commence.	Infrastructure

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Various Citywide – investigate and develop pre-construction design and contracts	▶	Progressing smaller design and investigation projects as the FY progresses.	Infrastructure
East Esplanade, Weston – active transport	▶	Construction is due to commence in April 2025.	Infrastructure
Congewai Road – structure culverts	✓	Project completed.	Works and Operations
Pre-construction design: design and contracts – various locations	✓	Project completed.	Infrastructure
Scott Street, Weston – carpark community presch	✓	Project completed.	Infrastructure
Mathieson Street, Bellbird – stabilisation and sealing	✓	Completed.	Infrastructure

#### Traffic & Transport

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Wollombi Road – develop traffic facilities project	▶		Infrastructure
Various bus stops – Upgrade bus stops for Disability Discrimination Act Compliance	▶▶	Have submitted further applications for funding, have completed an additional 5 designs and those projects are transitioning to construction in the rest of the 24/25 FY.	Infrastructure
Various bus stops – Upgrade bus stops for Disability Discrimination Act Compliance	✓	Project completed.	Infrastructure
Various Citywide – deliver DDA compliant bus stops	▶	Continued to implement upgrades where funding has been confirmed and submitted applications for further funding.	Infrastructure

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Extension to Wollombi Road - Wollombi Road Cessnock: grant funding dependent		Grant funding secured for Stage 2 under Federal governments Housing support program.	Works and Infrastructure
Sandy Creek Road, Mount Vincent - investigate and develop road safety plan		Completed.	Infrastructure
Abernethy Street, Kitchener - investigate and develop road safety plan		Project has been de-prioritised.	Infrastructure
Old Maitland Road, Bishops Bridge - investigate and develop road safety plan		Project awaiting funding to move into detailed design and construction phase.	Infrastructure
Various Citywide - deliver Safer Roads/Blackspot program		Budget allocated to other projects within OP to improve safety outcomes.	Infrastructure
Greta, Branxton - deliver cycleway from Greta to Branxton		Awaiting approval from TfNSW before works can commence.	Infrastructure
Log of Knowledge Park, Pelaw Main - deliver shared pathway to Neath		Federal Grant Funding application has been submitted to fund the project delivery. Project will be dependent on the successful application.	Infrastructure
Bridges Hill Park, Cessnock - deliver shared pathway to Wine Country Driver		All construction works completed.	Infrastructure
Government Road, Cessnock - deliver shared pathway and 2 bus shelters from Anzac Avenue to URA		Confirmation that developer contributions for this project have yet to be collected.	Infrastructure

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Bellbird Public School, Bellbird - deliver shared pathway to Sparke Street		NSW Get Active application submitted November 2024, response expected in April 2025. Project dependent on grant funding for delivery.	Infrastructure
Cessnock - deliver shared pathway to Abermain		This project is only funded for design by TfNSW. Design works are approximately 50 percent complete. A project scope extension request has been submitted to TfNSW and is under review, the request includes extension of shared path design.	Infrastructure
Richmond Street and Abernethy Street, Kitchener - deliver shared pathways		Awaiting outcome of grant funding application from TfNSW.	Infrastructure
Kitchener Public School, Kitchener - deliver shared pathway to Poppet Head Park		Awaiting outcome of grant funding application from TfNSW.	Infrastructure
Wine Country Drive, Nulkaba - deliver shared pathway from Lomas Lane to Broke Road (extension of BHP to St Philips)		Project funding has been reallocated within current operational plan.	Infrastructure
Pokolbin Visitors Information Centre - Deliver pathway and retaining wall		This project is now complete.	Infrastructure
George Downes Drive, Bucketty - investigate and develop road safety plan		Contractor has commenced on site, work due for completion July 2025.	Infrastructure
Pokolbin Visitors Information Centre - Deliver shared pathway to Hall Road		Not progressing.	Infrastructure
Cessnock to Abermain - shared pathway		This project is only funded for design by TfNSW. Design works are approximately 50 percent complete. A project scope	Infrastructure

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
		extension request has been submitted to TfNSW and is under review, the request includes extension of shared path design.	
Millfield to Paxton to Ellalong - shared pathway	▶▶	Future project, not due to start this FY.	Infrastructure
Fourth Street Swanson Street to Chinamans Hollow, Weston - shared pathway	▶▶	Future project, not due to start this FY.	Infrastructure
Cessnock Road, Testers Hollow - deliver shared pathway	▶	Design process almost complete and construction expected to commence late 2025.	Infrastructure

#### Roads


Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Thomas Street, North Rothbury - deliver road renewal	▶	Construction works expected to commence in May 2025.	Infrastructure
Cooper Street and Charlton Street Intersection, Cessnock - investigate and develop road renewal plan	■	Elected Council did not support the proposed plan for improvement in operation of this intersection and the change to the pavement type that would reduce the maintenance burden.	Infrastructure
Cessnock, Old Maitland Road - develop road renewal plan	■	Funding allocation has been redirected in the current Operational plan.	Infrastructure
Sandy Creek Road, 440m west of Leggetts Drive	▶	Design work is progressing to enable implementation of improved safety measures.	Infrastructure
Sealed Roads	▶	Tender awarded. Works planned to be completed in April.	Works and Operations

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Sawyers Gully Road flood	▶	Tender awarded. Works to be completed in April.	Works and Operations
Sweetwater Creek Road – flood	▶	Tender awarded. Works planned to be completed in April 2025.	Works and Operations
Natural Disaster – project management	▶	Works underway to finalise EPAR 1012 and 1025 packages.	Works and Operations
Paxton, Middle Road – deliver road renewal	▶	Design works progressing, design will be completed by end of FY. No construction funding has been allocated at this stage.	Infrastructure
Various Locations – renew car parks	▶	Planned to allocate budget to carpark upgrade and fit into construction program before end of June 2025.	Infrastructure
Lovedale Road, Wilderness Road to Majors Lane	✓	Stabilisation works completed.	Works and Operations
Sweetwater Creek Road – non-flood	▶	Tender awarded. Works planned to be completed in April.	Works and Operations
Various Local Roads – road reconstruction	▶	Budget being utilised to support other road projects during the FY as required.	Infrastructure
Bathurst Street, Abermain – road rehabilitation: investigation and design	▶	Works in progress, expect completion by July 2025.	Infrastructure
Goulburn Street, Abermain – road rehabilitation: investigation and design	■	Project has had funding reallocated within current operational plan.	Infrastructure
Hetton Street, Bellbird – road rehabilitation: investigation and design	■	Other road rehabilitation priorities have emerged.	Infrastructure









Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Quorrobolong Road, Kitchener - road rehabilitation: investigation and design		Project funds have been reallocated within the current operational plan.	Infrastructure
Wilderness Road, Rothbury - Road rehabilitation: investigation and design		Project funds have been reallocated within current operational plan.	Infrastructure
Various Locations - deliver gravel rehabilitation and resheeting program		Works have commenced, 3 locations complete. Works to be finalised in Q4.	Works and Operations
Mount View Road, Cessnock - road rehabilitation		Construction completed, contract issues being resolved with contractor.	Infrastructure
Kitchener, Quorrobolong Road from Stanford Street north to CH2830 -road rehabilitation		Project completed.	Infrastructure
Paynes Crossing, Paynes Crossing Road - deliver road renewal		Project deferred subject to funding confirmation.	Works and Operations
Various Citywide - deliver local road reseal program		Asset Planning and W&O have built plan for implementation in remainder of this FY. Funds will be committed and program of works completed by end of financial year,	Infrastructure
Sawyers Gully Road, Sawyers Gully - investigate and develop road renewal plan		Design completed. Construction of a section has commenced.	Infrastructure
Averys Lane, Heddon Greta - Investigate and develop road renewal plan		Drainage Works have progressed under a Works in Kind agreement with the developer to provide greater flood resilience for the community.	Infrastructure
Dalwood Road, East Branxton - investigate and develop road renewal plan		Design has been completed. Grant funding opportunities being explored for delivery.	Infrastructure


Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Deakin Street, Kurri Kurri – investigate and develop road renewal plan	✓	Project completed.	Infrastructure
Abernethy Street, Abernethy – Road rehabilitation: investigation and design	■	Project has been deprioritised and funding has been reallocated to other projects.	Infrastructure
Campbell Street, Ellalong –Investigate and develop road renewal plan	▶	Construction works commenced, works expected to be completed by July 2025.	Infrastructure
Marrowbone Road, Pokolbin –Road rehabilitation: investigation and design	■	Project not progressing, other road rehab priorities have emerged.	Infrastructure
Swanson Street, Weston – Investigate and develop road renewal plan – stage 1	■	Project funds have been reallocated within current operational plan.	Infrastructure
Various Locations – deliver roads reseal program	✓	All sealing works complete.	Works and Operations
Wollombi Road, Millfield – deliver road renewal 500m from residence 1610 to residence 1368	✓	Project completed, project closure process commenced.	Works and Operations
Wollombi Road Stage 1	▶	Project tracking to program.	Works and Infrastructure
Orange Street, Abermain – deliver road renewal Stage 1 600m from Cessnock Road	✓	Project completed.	Works and Operations
Wollombi Road, Cessnock/Bellbird – deliver road renewal Stage 2 from Allandale Road to Abbotsford Street	▶▶	Detailed design out to tender for Stage 2.	Works and Infrastructure

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Sandy Creek Road, Sandy Creek - deliver defect rectification		Awaiting funding allocation to complete works.	Infrastructure

**Civil Works**

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Flood gates and warning system		Project is delivered in FY 2023-24 and installed flood gates and warning system at various locations.	Asset Planning
Great North Road - Laguna 800m North Fern N/B - Deliver natural disaster remediation		All works completed.	Works and Operations
Great North Road - Laguna 800m North Fern N/B Deliver natural disaster remediation		All works completed.	Works and Operations
Great North Road - South Bank - Deliver natural disaster remediation		All works completed.	Works and Operations
Great North Road - South Bank (500m) Deliver natural disaster remediation		All works completed.	Works and Operations
Rhino Corner - Glenloona Road, Laguna - natural disaster rehabilitation		Project completed in previous reporting period.	Infrastructure

**Bridges**

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Westcott Street, Cessnock - bridge replacement		Project completed.	Infrastructure

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Watagan Creek #3 Laguna - bridge replacement:	✓	Project completed.	Infrastructure
Bathurst Street, Abermain - investigate and develop bridge construction	▶	Investigation and design of Bathurst Street bridge are underway. Construction to commence next FY.	Asset Planning
Cuneens Bridge, Wollombi - investigate bridge demolition	✓	Cuneens bridge has been replaced with new concrete bridge. Old timber bridge is fenced off to restrict the access for general use. Demolition was investigated and it was found to be not financially viable.	Asset Planning
Deasys Road, Pokolbin - investigate bridge replacement	▶▶	Council's maintenance team will carry out necessary maintenance work based on level 3 inspection.	Asset Planning
Doyle Street, Cessnock - deliver bridge replacement	▶	Bridge investigation and design is underway with Project Management team.	Asset Planning

#### Airport

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock Airport - replacement of museum hangar	▶▶	Deferred to 24/25 FY Budget.	Works and Operations

#### Fleet Management

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Council Works Depot, Cessnock - deliver vehicle plant upgrade purchases	▶	Ongoing replacement program underway.	Works and Operations
Cessnock Waste Services, Cessnock - Deliver major plant upgrade purchases	✓	Tender awarded for 2025-2026 side loading collection vehicle.	Works and Operations

## Depot Management

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock Council Works Depot, Cessnock - deliver building modifications	▶▶	Works awaiting Master Planning Activity for depot.	Works and Operations
Cessnock Council Works Depot, Cessnock - deliver depot pavement construction	▶	Quotation called and received for pavement stabilisation works. Works planned for late April 2025.	Works and Operations
Cessnock Works Depot, Cessnock - deliver sewer connection to depot	▶	All sewer line works completed. Final restorations underway. Final connection planned for mid April.	Works and Operations
Council Works Depot, Cessnock - deliver building modifications	▶▶	Project awaiting outcomes of Depot Master Planning Activity.	Works and Operations
Cessnock, Council Works Depot - deliver storage construction	▶▶	Works underway - Shed storage project complete - Additional gravel storage bays constructed - Further works planned in Q4	Works and Operations
Congewoi Road - Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations
Great North Road - Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations
Old Maitland Road - Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations
Old North Road - Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations
Paynes Crossing Road - Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Watagan Road – Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations
Congewoi Road – non Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations
Great North Road – non Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed.	Works and Operations
Old Maitland Road – non Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations
Paynes Crossing Road – non Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations
Watagan Road – non Flood	✓	Stabilisation works completed	Works and Operations

## 5: Civic leadership and effective governance

### 5.1: Fostering and supporting community leadership

#### 5.1.3: Our Council is committed to implementing our Community's vision

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.1.1.a	Develop an updated Councillor Induction Program and training program outlining compulsory minimum training requirements. Induction of new Councillors to be completed by January 2025.	✓	Councillor induction program completed post election.	Chief Financial Officer

**5.2: Encouraging more community participation in decision making****5.2.1: Continue implementation of the projects from the Communications and Engagement Strategy**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2022-23 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.2.1.a	Increase opportunities for community engagement by providing accessible information on a variety of platforms for audiences with diverse needs and preferences.	►	F2F engagement tracking to significantly exceed targets. Cessnock continues to maintain engagement rates on Engagement HQ platform significantly higher than sector average.	Communications and Engagement Manager
5.2.1.b	Prepare and adopt an updated Community Engagement Strategy for 2025-29.	✓	Strategy adopted at March Council meeting. Project complete.	Communications and Engagement Manager
5.2.1.c	Research and trial opportunities to increase youth participation in community engagement on Council projects, plans and strategies.	✓	Research through this action has identified two ongoing opportunities to increase youth participation in community engagement. Both underway. A supplementary workshop following the school leaders' morning tea is set for early August, and schools have been approached for regular presentations to existing student bodies.	Communications and Engagement Manager

**5.2.2: Actively participate in and collaborate with the Hunter Joint Organisation to promote the interests of the local government area**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.2.2.a	Actively participate in and collaborate with Hunter Joint Organisation to promote the interests of the LGA.	►	The Mayor and General Manager attend and participate in the Hunter JO Bi-monthly Board meetings, in addition to attending the recent Hunter JO Board Strategic Planning workshop in April 2025 to discuss the HJO Strategic Plan	Executive Assistant to General Manager

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
			2035 process, Delivery Program 2025–29 and proposed Advocacy Agenda priorities.	

**5.2.3: Continue to monitor and respond to the State Government's local government reform programs to improve the financial sustainability of councils**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.2.3.a	Monitor and respond to the State Government's local government reform program.	►	Submissions made as required on drafts and inquiries that have occurred.	Chief Financial Officer

**5.3: Ensuring Council is accountable and responsive to the community**

**5.3.1: Continue implementation of the Customer Service Strategy**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024–25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.1.a	Build an organisation which has a focus on the customer by having well trained staff who are committed to providing a quality service.	►	Our Customer Relations Team has undertaken Mental Health Resilience training and Archistar Property Platform training.	Business Support and Customer Relations Manager
5.3.1.b	Build a customer centric culture that encourages empathy and understanding with values and behaviours that focus	►	Call Centre call evaluations to review quality assurance has commenced to monitor agent's interactions with customers	Business Support and Customer Relations Manager



Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
	employees on delivering great customer experiences.		in line with council values, ensuring processes are followed and reviewed to gain improvements to current services.	
5.3.1.c	Ensure our processes, procedures and roles have the right capability in place to manage expectations and deliver what we promise.	►	Workshops have been undertaken with the Contact Centre and Customer Relations teams to look at opportunities and obtain further understanding of the processes and procedures which could enhance customer and user experience.	Business Support and Customer Relations Manager
5.3.1.d	Use technology to share knowledge and to design interactions that are seamless and easy for customers and staff.	►	Website enhancements are currently underway, with online forms and content continuing to be reviewed. Intranet improvements have been undertaken working with individual business units to ensure information sharing is current and in an easy format to understand. We are continuing to develop and implement Archistar as part of the AI in NSW Planning project. We have commenced investigations for an online booking system.	Business Support and Customer Relations Manager
5.3.1.e	Increase customer understanding and use it to design services that improves our customer experience.	►	A review has been completed in relation to public use of Snap Send Solve for requests relevant to the Cessnock LGA. Cessnock City Council website "Report an Issue" remains the correct contact method for our community to lodge customer requests.	Business Support and Customer Relations Manager

**5.3.2: Conduct regular development consultation forums**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.2.a	Conduct regular development consultation forums.	►	Development Services is in regular contact with applicant and stakeholders. Multiple meeting have been held with stakeholders.	Development Services Manager

**5.3.3: Efficiently and effectively process development applications and respond to planning enquiries**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.3.a	Efficiently and effectively process development applications and respond to planning-related enquiries.	►	Development Services have improved development application processing times during this period. The team have actively reduced the number of current applications over 100 days. All emails and telephone calls are responded within the agreed timeframes and our duty counter provides timely responses to all planning -related enquiries.	Development Services Manager
5.3.3.b	Continue the expansion of the application programming interface (API) between the NSW Planning Portal (ePlanning) and Council's systems.	►	Investigation has commenced in relation to the development of API capabilities for Section 68 applications.	Business Support and Customer Relations Manager
5.3.3.c	Continue to review and enhance our internal processes and workflows in line with the Departments Development Assessment Best Practice Guide.	►	We continue to review and enhance our internal processes and performance times to meet NSW Government Statement of Expectations Order 2024, which is part of the Faster Assessment program. As a result, we have improved our lodgement performance days (9 days) and development assessment performance days (66 days).	Business Support and Customer Relations Manager

## 5.3.5: Continue to embed a culture of Enterprise Risk Management throughout the Council

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.5.a	Continue to develop and implement workplace health and safety and employee wellbeing initiatives.	►	Council's health and safety committee continue to meet and function in accordance with the committee charter. Document review continues as per review timeframes and consultation process. New safety KPI's and objectives have been developed and will be implemented. Implementation of Vault upgrade to BeSafe safety management system is in progress and due to be completed by 19 May 2025.	People and Culture Manager
5.3.5.b	Maintain an internal audit function delivering the approved annual internal audit plan in accordance with the IPPF and recognised best practice / Manage Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee in accordance with statutory obligations and recognised best practice	►	ARIC Meetings (4) completed. IA Plan in progress.	Internal Auditor
5.3.5.c	Review and implement an Enterprise Risk Management Framework to mature and enhance decision-making in supporting the delivery of Councils vision, purpose and objectives.	►	Further work has been undertaken on review and development of operational risk registers. Risk Policy was adopted by the Executive Leadership Team in February 2025. Risk matrix workshops are rolling out through the organisation.	People and Culture Manager

**5.3.6: Undertake Service Delivery reviews and implement recommendations to improve productivity throughout the council**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.6.a	Review asset management processes and systems to provide evidence-based outcomes that inform the allocation of priorities identified in Councils Asset Management Plans for inclusion in Council's Long Term Financial Plan.	►	Asset Management framework has been established. Currently upgrading the Asset Management database to assist in managing data. Recently completed road condition survey to establish a whole of network condition allowing us to drive decision making, Asset management plans, Asset Management Strategy, Delivery plan and 10-year long term financial plan are completed in draft ready for community consultation.	Asset Planning Manager
5.3.6.b	Undertake service delivery review of the Debt Collection function to be completed by December 2024.	►	Review has commenced with reporting to the Executive due by the end of the financial year.	Chief Financial Officer
5.3.6.c	Undertake Service Delivery Review of Procurement and Stores Function	►	Council is undertaking Service Delivery Reviews in Debt Management, Procurement and Open Spaces. The recommendations will be reported to the Executive and the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.	Chief Financial Officer

**5.3.7: Continue to manage Council governance functions and statutory requirements**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.7.a	Review and update Council's Fraud Control and Corruption Prevention Framework to align with best practice	►	Governance is undertaking stage one of the Council's Fraud Control and Corruption Prevention Framework in conjunction with updating of business risk registers.	Chief Financial Officer

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.7.b	Complete all requirements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework	►	Annual report has been completed and published in conjunction with the State of the City Report. These were noted in the November council meeting. Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy and Operational Plan is to go to April Council meeting to be placed on exhibition.	Chief Financial Officer
5.3.7.c	Manage Council's corporate governance in accordance with regulations.	►	Governance continues to provide support to Council Officers and Councillors on all governance requirements including policies and procedures.	Chief Financial Officer
5.3.7.d	Review and update Council's Ethical Behaviour Framework to ensure delegations and authorisations meet legislative and compliance requirements.	▶▶	Will commence in May 2025.	Chief Financial Officer

#### 5.3.8: Continue to identify and implement Financial Sustainability Initiatives

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.8.f	Facilitate inter-departmental working group to review and develop new procedures for Council property leases and licences and associated subsidy assessments	►	The working group and internal stakeholders have completed a review of subsidy assessment methodology, amending several criterion and scoring levels. Once the revised matrix is reviewed and endorsed by the CFO, requests for applications to occupy community facilities which are currently available or occupied under expired licences can be issued.	Chief Financial Officer

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.8.h	Develop a comprehensive Expression of Interest (EOI) for Richmond Main Colliery site, outlining a strategic plan for its future ownership, management, and use	►	Stage 1 of the EOI process ran from November to February 2025. Following a preliminary evaluation, complying respondents were invited to participate in the Stage 2 Select Tender which closes on 29 April 2025.	Chief Financial Officer
5.3.8.i	Create and maintain a detailed easement register, ensuring accurate documentation and regular updates of all easement agreements and related activities	►	Creation of an easement register is a collaborative project involving Business Support (P&E), GIS and Property Services (C&CS). Collation of data on existing property rights affecting Council land has commenced. Integration and activation of the registers within council systems will be completed with regard to capacity of staff from the contributing teams.	Chief Financial Officer

#### 5.3.9: Ensure Council develops and improves Information Technology and Communication systems to meet organisation requirements

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.9.a	Share information regarding the status of current Capital Works particularly with respect to traffic disruptions and construction works.	►	Works & Infrastructure directorate provides regular updates to Live Traffic NSW which is accessible to the general public in relation to any planned road works/events/incidents that contribute to traffic interruptions.	Infrastructure Manager

**5.3.10: Implement the Workforce Management Strategy**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.10.a	Implement Council's Leadership and Capability Framework actions	►	Last Leadership foundational development day for 2024/2025 financial year is occurring March/April 2025. Feedback survey will be sent to all Leaders after development day concludes. Leadership potential and succession planning assessments are at 80% completion. Data analysis for tailored training sessions to occur in Quarter 2 2025.	People and Culture Manager
5.3.10.b	Develop and implement a succession planning and talent management framework that is fit for purpose for Council.	►	Leadership potential and succession planning assessments completed for leaders at Manager and Coordinator level. Assessments for leaders at Team Leader level to commence in Quarter 2 2025. Critical roles to be reviewed and updated in Quarter 2 2025. Data analysis of results to begin in Quarter 2 2025 to determined solutions required.	People and Culture Manager

**5.3.11: Review the need to apply for a Special Rate Variation to manage the burden of increasing cost of Council to maintain assets and meet community requirements**

Action ID	Operational Plan 2024-25 Action	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer
5.3.11.a	Complete financial modelling to determine future income and expenditure requirements to assess need for a Special Rate Variation.	►	Independent advisor has supplied their report and will brief council in early April. A copy of the report will be put to the Council in the April meeting with a decision around future modelling required.	Chief Financial Officer

## 5: Civic leadership and effective governance

### CAPITAL PROJECTS

#### Networks & Systems

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Corporate Administration, Cessnock – deliver equipment upgrades	▶▶		Information Technology
Elected Members – Capital	✓	Councillor equipment deployed.	Information Technology
IT Capital Steering Committee – Civica – Online Applications	✓	All Civica upgrades have been completed. System now on v7.1.	Information Technology
IT equipment – Infrastructure	✓	Rollout completed.	Information Technology

#### Asset Planning

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Infrastructure Administration, Cessnock – deliver specialised asset planning upgrades	✓	Camera purchased and in operation.	Asset Planning
GRANT – Local Priority 2022 – Capital	▶	Furnishing for the children's areas at both Cessnock and Kurri Kurri Libraries purchased and installed. Conferencing equipment purchased and installed at Kurri Kurri Library. Lighting upgrades in the foyer at Cessnock Library Branch complete. Acquittal being prepared.	Community and Cultural Development
GRANT – Local Priority Program 2017/18 – Capital	▶	Financial acquittal underway for the successful delivery of the grant and was for 2 self-check machines, with one	Community and Cultural Development



Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
		located at Kurri Kurri Library and the other at Cessnock Library Branch.	
GRANT – Local Priority Program 2024-2025 Minor Furnishing	▶	Lounge furniture has been purchased and installed within the public areas of Cessnock Library Branch.	Community and Cultural Development
GRANT – Local Priority Program 2024-2025 Hublet Un	▶	Hublets purchased and have been installed at Kurri Kurri Library and well received by customers. Acquittal of project required in the next financial year.	Community and Cultural Development

#### Open Space and Community Facilities Management

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Recreation Services administration Cessnock – deliver equipment upgrades	▶	Supply and installation of IT workstations and equipment is ongoing.	Open Space and Community Facilities

#### Depot Management

Project Name	Status	Comments	Responsible Officer Unit
Cessnock Council Works Depot, Cessnock – investigate and develop depot residence office space masterplan	▶	Depot Master Plan consultancy underway. – Meeting with key stakeholders complete – Existing building assessment complete – Review of services complete – Option development underway	Works and Operations



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 2024  
2025

Planning for our  
people, our place, our  
future

**CESSNOCK**  


QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW STATEMENT  
Quarter 3 March 2025

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## Welcome Acknowledgement of Country

Cessnock City Council acknowledges that within its local government area boundaries are the Traditional Lands of the Wonnarua people, the Awabakal people, and the Darkinjung people.

We also acknowledge all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now live within the Cessnock Local Government area



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### Report by Responsible Accounting Officer

The following statement is made in accordance with Clause 203(2) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021:

It is my opinion that the Quarterly Budget Review Statement for Cessnock City Council for the quarter ended 31 March 2025 indicates that Council's projected financial position at 30 June 2025 will be satisfactory at year end, having regard to the projected estimates of income and expenditure and the original budgeted income and expenditure and remains in line with Council's financial strategy. As noted previously the ongoing increase in capital works, dedicated assets and increasing maintenance requirements will continue to place a pressure on financial sustainability primarily through depreciation, maintenance costs and brought forward losses on disposal of assets. This can be sustained in the short term but with substantial construction projects underway there will be required adjustments to budgets in the future through sourcing ongoing additional income via a Special Rate Variation and a reduction in expenditure via a decrease in service levels.

Signed:



**Matthew Plumridge – Responsible Accounting Officer**

Date:

8/05/2025

## Income and Expenses Budget Review Statement

Budget review for the quarter ended 31 March 2025

	Original budget 2024/25	Approved Changes			Revised budget 2024/25	Variations for this Mar Qtr		Notes	Projected year end result	Budget YTD figures	Actual YTD figures
		Carry forwards	Sep QBRS	Dec QBRS							
Income											
Rates and annual charges	70,358,703		325,000	376,625	71,060,328	141,662	1	71,201,990	71,060,328	71,169,136	
User charges and fees	9,962,618		27,800	-	9,990,418	156,199	2	10,146,617	7,222,756	7,659,243	
Other revenues	2,521,969		-	182,000	2,703,969	119,000	3	2,822,969	2,096,759	2,333,037	
Grants and contributions - operating	13,193,411	39,765	5,078,075	2,417,849	20,729,100	725,638	4	21,454,738	11,245,683	9,388,274	
Grants and contributions - capital	64,735,944	3,014,505	(41,366)	534,433	68,243,516	(1,175,520)	5	67,067,996	22,880,939	28,389,159	
Interest and investment revenue	2,783,830		250,000	-	3,033,830	146,170	6	3,180,000	2,156,526	2,769,003	
Total income from continuing operations	163,556,475	3,054,270	5,639,509	3,510,907	175,761,161	113,149		175,874,310	116,662,991	121,707,853	
Expenses											
Employee benefits and on-costs	46,799,782		2,023,813	-	48,823,595	20,000	7	48,843,595	37,331,961	37,281,809	
Borrowing costs	376,363		67,125	(31,875)	411,613	-		411,613	252,229	187,358	
Materials and services	32,526,110	247,397	2,771,071	4,372,216	39,916,794	1,023,638	8	40,940,432	30,189,610	25,051,757	
Depreciation and amortisation	20,815,196		6,038,357	4,030,915	30,884,468	-		30,884,468	19,697,903	18,536,894	
Other expenses	6,898,800	5,875	111,000	-	7,015,675	-		7,015,675	5,195,280	5,760,491	
Net Loss from disposal of assets	5,000,000		10,000,000	(5,000,000)	10,000,000	-		10,000,000	2,500,000	(215,280)	
Total expenses from continuing operations	112,416,251	253,272	21,011,366	3,371,256	137,052,145	1,043,638		138,095,783	95,166,983	86,603,029	
Net operating result from all operations	51,140,224	2,800,998	(15,371,857)	139,651	38,709,016	(930,489)		37,778,527	21,496,008	35,104,824	
Net Operating Result before Capital Items	(13,595,720)	(213,507)	(15,330,491)	(394,782)	(29,534,500)	245,031		(29,289,469)	(1,384,931)	6,715,665	





## Operating Performance

The year to date operating result before capital income is a surplus of \$6.7m

Council levies rates and annual charges for the whole year in July, however ratepayers are provided the option to make payments in quarterly instalments throughout the year due in August, November, February and May. Income is recognised up front in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (Guidelines), therefore the Actual YTD figures represent the full year of levied income despite timing differences in payment receipts.

Favourable YTD operating income in rates, user fees income related cemetery, pool and airport activities and greater than expected other and interest income. New operating grants received but not budgeted, increased income from Developer contributions and a difference in phasing of capital grants budgets and actuals have resulted in a positive YTD variance for Grants and Contributions.

Differences in phasing of legal expenses and works funded by grants and contributions are resulting in a favourable YTD budget variance in materials and other expenses of \$5.1m, however we expect to incur these expenses by the end of the year.

The revised estimated net operating result before capital income for the year to 30 June 2025 is a deficit of \$29.3m (original budget was a deficit of \$13.5m). This has been mostly driven by the increased capital works program, including natural disaster works, with an expected increase in loss of assets of \$5m and increased depreciation of assets of \$10.0m. A review of the useful lives of assets resulting in accelerated depreciation of these assets has contributed to the increased depreciation expense.



### Income and Expense Budget Changes

Variations to income and expenses for this March review (Notes 1 to 8)

Council has conducted a review of its operating income and expenses for this March quarterly budget review for major items and proposes a net decrease to the projected year end deficit of \$0.2m to \$29.3m. Forecasts for estimated full year budgets have been based on trends and currently available information. The following notes provide commentary on proposed material changes to operational results.

Note	Income & Expenses Budget review statement Recommended changes to revised budget include the following material items
1	Increased revenue for rates due to the addition of new developments
2	Increased User Charges & Fees income from cemetery, pool and airport fees
3	Increased Other Income for Airport lease income and pools sale of goods
4	New Operating Grants received, mostly related to natural disaster projects
5	Reduction to Capital Grants due to rephasing of projects and revision of grant duplicated in operating grants.
6	Increase in Interest on overdue rates and charges
7	Minor adjustment to employee costs relating to pools.
8	Increased material/contract expenses mostly funded by new Grant income received.



## Capital Expenditure Budget Review Statement

Capital Expenditure	Original Budget 2024-25	Carry Forwards	Variations Sept QBRS	Revised Budget 2024-25	Variations for this Dec QTR	Revised Budget 2024-25	Variations for this Mar Qtr	Projected Year End Result	Actual YTD Figures
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Branxton Town Centre Program (CTB)	157,913	51,149	0	209,062	0	209,062	0	209,062	6,518
Bridge Construction Program (CBS)	1,798,219	1,022,634	86,870	2,907,723	(688,500)	2,219,223	60,056	2,279,279	2,020,891
Cemetery Facilities Construction Program (CFC)	125,811	133,964	(58,336)	201,439	0	201,439	0	201,439	176,097
Cessnock Civic Precinct Revitalisation Prog. (RC)	333,000	118,082	0	451,082	(353,485)	97,597	(50,000)	47,597	17,409
Community Buildings Renewal Program (RBC)	830,000	24,211	(24,211)	830,000	204,135	1,034,135	(498,645)	535,490	413,831
Design & Contracts Pre-Construction Design (DC)	346,524	0	(200,000)	146,524	0	146,524	0	146,524	23,263
Drainage Construction Program (CDR)	2,781,355	59,081	(1,000,000)	1,840,436	(638,725)	1,201,711	(67,917)	1,133,794	428,918
Floodplain Management Program (PMF) Capital	4,786,600	637,585	0	5,424,185	0	5,424,185	449,217	5,873,402	4,602,929
Gravel Rehab & Resheeting Program (RRG)	343,200	0	0	343,200	0	343,200	0	343,200	94,388
Kurri Town Centre Program (CTK)	0	200,000	131,000	331,000	0	331,000	0	331,000	343,397
Library Books	199,000	0	0	199,000	0	199,000	0	199,000	77,000
Local Road Construction Program (CRL)	27,000	0	0	27,000	(7,000)	20,000	(10,000)	10,000	2,473
Local Road Renewal Program (RRL)	9,819,500	692,185	3,126,110	13,637,795	(3,290,038)	10,347,757	(693,117)	9,654,640	6,177,959
Natural Disaster Remediation	5,569,707	1,013,992	4,476,932	11,060,631	308,016	11,368,647	0	11,368,647	10,044,768
Other Fixed Assets (OFA)	617,845	116,145	83,211	817,201	(22,217)	794,984	370,000	1,164,984	739,340
Pathways Construction Program (CPW)	5,830,186	534,184	(2,086,891)	4,277,479	(810,038)	3,467,441	433,469	3,900,910	2,308,152
Plant and Fleet Acquisitions (PFA)	5,023,000	919,228	0	5,942,228	0	5,942,228	0	5,942,228	4,822,559
Pool Facilities Renewal Program (RFP)	278,142	0	0	278,142	0	278,142	(45,000)	233,142	115,706
Recreation Buildings Renewal Program (RBR)	1,024,507	0	(400,000)	624,507	0	624,507	(110,000)	514,507	300,537
Recreation Facilities Construction Program (CFR)	3,701,340	759,762	70,000	4,531,102	161,143	4,692,245	(10,000)	4,682,245	3,211,781
Recreation Facilities Renewal Program (RFR)	2,196,741	0	209,763	2,406,504	254,675	2,661,179	206,313	2,867,492	1,781,091
Recreation Pre-Construction Design	289,344	0	0	289,344	0	289,344	(80,000)	209,344	111,174
Regional Road Renewal Program (RRR)	11,514,027	0	(156,360)	11,357,667	(67,527)	11,290,140	55,000	11,345,140	6,122,695
Safer Roads Program (RMS Blackspot) (CRR)	2,121,000	19,789	(452,910)	1,687,879	(117,000)	1,570,879	490,000	2,060,879	182,774
Signage Program (CRV)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7,337
Traffic Facilities Program (CFT)	178,617	154,450	689,500	1,022,567	(90,869)	931,698	(80,000)	851,698	100,224
Waste Facility Construction Program (CFW)	16,300,000	81,121	(1,012,000)	15,369,121	0	15,369,121	0	15,369,121	7,096,704
Waste Major Plant	1,200,000	0	46,900	1,246,900	225,000	1,471,900	0	1,471,900	1,152,311
Works Depot Construction Program	1,825,000	0	0	1,825,000	(650,000)	1,175,000	(438,638)	736,362	648,493
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>79,217,578</b>	<b>6,537,562</b>	<b>3,529,578</b>	<b>89,284,718</b>	<b>-5,582,430</b>	<b>83,702,288</b>	<b>-19,262</b>	<b>83,683,026</b>	<b>53,130,719</b>

## Capital Expenditure Budget Changes

Actual Capital Expenditure for the year to 31 March 2025 was \$53m which equates to 63% spent of current budget of \$83.7m.

Variations to capital expenditure for this March review

All projects within the capital works program were reviewed as part of the Q3 Quarterly Budget Review Statement process and a net decrease to the overall capital works program of \$19k is proposed. Material movements are listed below.

Unit	Program	Amount \$	Comment
Open Space and Community Facilities	Community Buildings Renewal Program (RBC)	(450,000)	Defer Developer funded Kurri Kurri Library toilet refurbishment
Open Space and Community Facilities	Recreation Facilities Renewal Program (RFR)	436,313	New funding (Grant, Developer, contributions) for Poppethead Pk Boardwalk. Reserve funding for studies plans design of Cessnock Civic Pk
Infrastructure	Local Road Renewal Program (RRL)	(725,000)	Sawyers Gully Rd – Investigate & Design, spending deferred.
Infrastructure	Pathways Construction Program (CPW)	433,469	Grant Funding TfNSW East Esplanade Weston-Active Transport Connection
Infrastructure	Safer Roads Program (RMS Blackspot) (CRR)	490,000	Additional grant funding TfNSW George Downes Dr Bucketty Rd Safety Project
Infrastructure	Floodplain Management Program (PMF)	449,217	South Cessnock Bung Wall - flood mitigation project, internal technical overhead costs, funded from Grant and Stormwater levy
Property	Other Fixed Assets (OFA)	380,000	Property Land Acquisitions associated with the South Cessnock Bung Wall - flood mitigation project



### Cash and Investments

Council's cash and investment balance as at 31 March 2025 was \$63,187,380. All investments are held in accordance with Council's Investment Policy and the Ministerial Investment Order and further details are available in Council's monthly Investment Reports.

The cash at bank amount has been reconciled to the bank statements as at 31 March 2025 as per below:

Cash at bank (as per bank statement)	\$4,137,415
Less : Unpresented bank file transactions	(18,361)
Add : Unpresented Authority cashbook transactions	17,813
<b>Reconciled General Fund Cash as per General Ledger</b>	<b><u>\$4,136,867</u></b>

## Cash Reserves

The below table shows closing cash restrictions as at 30 June 2024 per Council's audited financial statements as well as the original budget adopted as part of the Operational Plan 2024-25, and the actual balances as at 31 March 2025.

<b>CASH RESERVES</b>	<b>Actual 2023-24</b>	<b>Original Budget 2023-24</b>	<b>Actual March 2025</b>
<b>External Restrictions</b>	<b>\$000's</b>	<b>\$000's</b>	<b>\$000's</b>
Developer Contributions	41,945	42,036	43,952
Specific purpose Unexpended Grants	17,256	8,057	14,315
Domestic Waste Management	430	430	430
Stormwater management	945	0	-
Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates - Surplus	721	0	737
<b>Total externally restricted</b>	<b>61,297</b>	<b>50,524</b>	<b>59,434</b>
<b>Internally restricted</b>			
Plant and vehicle replacement	622	1,000	-
Employees leave entitlement	1,624	3,706	-
Bridge replacement	296	0	-
Insurance provisions	50	50	-
Miscellaneous projects	635	447	-
Grant fund leverage	-	0	-
Operations and programs reserve	639	336	-
Property investment fund	2,133	2,541	-
Waste depot and rehabilitation	7,738	6,655	-
Unexpended loan funds	585	0	-
Security deposits / bonds	4,205	3,721	3,450
<b>Total internally restricted</b>	<b>18,527</b>	<b>18,455</b>	<b>3,450</b>
<b>Total Restrictions</b>	<b>79,824</b>	<b>68,979</b>	<b>62,884</b>
<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>3,309</b>	<b>884</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>Total Cash &amp; investments</b>	<b>83,133</b>	<b>69,863</b>	<b>63,187</b>

### Key Performance Indicators

Based on the proposed changes to budgets contained in this quarterly budget review, Council's QBRs forecasts that four out of six key performance indicators will exceed Office of Local Government benchmarks. Due to the net operating position forecasting a deficit, the Operating Performance Ratio is no longer meeting the benchmark to break even. Additionally increasing grant income, particularly for ongoing natural disaster works is placing the Own Source Operating Revenue below the benchmark.

Performance Measure	Benchmark	Original Budget 2024-25	Original Budget 2024-25	Projected Result 2024-25	Projection 2024-25
Operating Performance Ratio	>0.00%	(5.94%)	X	(19.24%)	X
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio	>60.00%	40.21%	X	49.27%	X
Unrestricted Current Ratio	>1.50x	2.03	✓	1.73	✓
Debt Service Cover Ratio	>2.00x	11.82	✓	6.71	✓
Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage	<10.00%	7.28%	✓	6.65%	✓
Cash Expense Cover Ratio	>3.00 mths	12.11	✓	6.81	✓







### Contracts

Major contracts equal to or greater than \$50,000 entered into during reporting period 1 January 2025 to 31 March 2025 are summarised below:

Contractor	Contract detail & Purpose	Contract Value	Start date	Duration of contract	Budgeted (Y/N)
Professional Engineering Services Pty Ltd	T2025-08 Recruitment of a Construction Surveillance Officer	\$458,304	10/02/25	18 months	Y
Programmed Property Services	Q2025-81 Grounds Maintenance - Airport and Visitors Information Centre	\$46,559.60	17/02/25	12 months	Y
ANA Industries Pty Ltd	Q2025-72 Road Resurfacing Flood Recovery (Quote Sourced Under Existing Contract)	\$720,317.00	05/03/25	3 months	Y
KCE Pty Ltd	T2025-07 Betterment of Thomas Street North Rothbury	\$3,398,700.00	20/03/25	12 months	Y

### Other Expenses

A consultant is a person or organisation engaged under contract on a temporary basis to provide recommendations or high-level specialist or professional advice to assist decision making by management. Generally, it is the advisory nature of the work that differentiates a consultant from other contractors.

	Actual YTD	Budgeted Y / N
Consultancies	\$900,925	Y
Legal Fees	\$1,446,934	Y*

\* Due to the nature of emergent and unforeseen matters, legal fee budgets are reviewed at least quarterly and adjustments are proposed if required.

### Employee Numbers

The following table shows approved employee numbers as at 31 March 2025 based on Full Time Equivalent (FTE) measurement which is where 1.0 FTE equals a position where the hours are contracted for the full week (either a 35 or 38 hour week). The below figure includes all positions both occupied and vacant however excludes casuals.

Employee Type	Approved FTE 2024-25*	Actual FTE Mar 2025
Permanent	462.22	416.60
Temporary	13.73	14.41
Apprentice / Trainee	17.80	20.00
Total Approved Full Time Equivalents	493.75	451.01

\*2024-25 FTE per 24-25 Operational Plan



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### **Evaluation of Tenders**

**Tender Evaluation Team:** In accordance with *CCC Procurement Guidelines*, a Tender Evaluation Team (TET) was formed with the following members:

- Senior Open Space Project Officer, Works & Infrastructure
- Acting Building Projects Coordinator, Works & Infrastructure
- Building Maintenance Coordinator, Works & Infrastructure
- Procurement Administration Officer, Corporate & Community

**Evaluation Process:** The evaluation was conducted according to the following process:

1. Assessment of receipt
2. Assessment of conformance
3. Shortlisting of tenders
4. Weighted evaluation
5. Due diligence checks on preferred tenderers
6. Determine evaluation result
7. Independent review of the tender selection process

The evaluation criteria and their weightings were documented in the Contract Preparation Checklist and Tender Evaluation Plan, reviewed by the Open Space & Community Facilities Manager prior to tenders being invited.

#### **1. Assessment of Receipt**

Tenders were received and assessed against the first threshold criteria:

Threshold Criteria	
Criterion 1	Submission on time

The following tenders were received and are listed in alphabetical order.

Tender	Tenderer	Business Address	Criterion 1
1	Affinity Roofing	Gateshead NSW	On time
2	Affinity Roofing Submission 2	Gateshead NSW	On time
3	Booth Contracting	Rutherford NSW	On time
4	Connex Management & Construction	Somersby NSW	On time
5	Kingston Building	Broadmeadow NSW	On time
6	MRW	Rutherford NSW	On time
7	Pluim Commercial Contractors	West Gosford NSW	Late Submission
8	RTC Group	Beresfield NSW	Late Submission

Six tenders were received on time and met threshold Criterion 1.

## **2. Assessment of Conformance**

The tenders were then assessed for conformance with the remaining threshold criteria:

Threshold Criteria	
Criterion 2	Acceptable legal entity;
Criterion 3	Conformance with the RFT;
Criterion 4	Financial capacity to satisfactorily complete the work

Three tenders included a number of qualifications that were subsequently clarified.

The submissions from Affinity Roofing and Booth Contracting were classed as non-conforming and did not progress to the assessment of conformance.

The submissions from Pluim Commercial Contractors and RTC Group were late submissions and did not progress in the evaluation process.

Three tenders were considered conforming in threshold Criteria 2, 3 and 4. Three tenders were progressed to the next stage of evaluation, subject to the financial capacity of those tenderers, found to be in contention, to be confirmed at the Due Diligence stage of evaluation.

## **3. Shortlisting**

With three competitive tenders received, shortlisting was not considered necessary. Three tenders were progressed to the next stage of evaluation.

## **4. Weighted Evaluation**

Tenders were evaluated using the following weighted evaluation criteria:

Criterion 5	Total Tendered Price
Criterion 6	Contract Program
Criterion 7	Previous Experience
Criterion 8	WHS
Criterion 9	Project Methodology & Capabilities to Service the Contract
Criterion 10	Modern Slavery

To assess tenders against the evaluation criteria, the TET used information obtained from the tender documents. A Weighted Evaluation Matrix, containing full details of the tender amounts and weighted evaluation is provided as confidential **Enclosure 1**.

Tender four scored highest for the tendered amount, as well as scoring competitively on all other weighted criteria. With the highest score, Tender four from Connex Management & Construction was identified as the preferred tender.

## **5. Due Diligence**

Referees, provided by the preferred tenderer, were contacted and positive comment on past performance was received. Performance on other known work was also considered.

Equifax Australasia Credit Ratings Pty Ltd was engaged to independently assess the preferred tenderers' financial capacity. The assessment confirmed conformance with threshold Criterion 4, having current financial capacity to satisfactorily complete the work.

#### **6. Evaluation Result**

Following steps 1 to 5 of the evaluation process, the TET found that Tender four from Connex Management & Construction met the requirements of the RFT and recommended acceptance of Tender four.

#### **7. Independent Review**

The evaluation process and recommendations were reviewed by the TAP and determined to be in accordance with relevant documents and legislation:

- *Cessnock City Council Procurement Policy,*
- *Cessnock City Council Procurement Guidelines,*
- *Local Government Act 1993, and*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.*



<b>Division:</b>	Ordinary Council	<b>Date From:</b>	
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date To:</b>	
<b>Officer:</b>			
<b>Action Sheets Report</b>		<b>Printed: Tuesday, 13 May 2025 9:20:54 AM</b>	

**28 Mar 2025 10:39am Donnelly, Patricia**  
Draft Waste Strategy reported to Council on 19 March and approved for community exhibition. Exhibition period will end on 2 May 2025 with report due back to Council in June.

**28 Mar 2025 10:43am Donnelly, Patricia - Target Date Revision**  
Target date changed by Donnelly, Patricia from 30 May 2025 to 27 June 2025 - Extended community exhibition period requested by Council

**30 Apr 2025 1:19pm Donnelly, Patricia**  
Report for adoption going to May meeting

**05 May 2025 2:48pm Meyers, Kristy - Completion**  
Completed by Meyers, Kristy on behalf of Donnelly, Patricia (action officer) on 05 May 2025 at 2:48:40 PM - Report listed for 21 May 2025 Council meeting.

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
	Ordinary Council 20/11/2024	Worthing, Alex	Planning Proposal 18 2024 6 1 - Reclassification of part Lot 312 DP 566724 Old Maitland Road Cessnock	27/05/2025	22/11/2024	30/04/2025
PE26/2024 <a href="#">52</a>		Chrystal, Peter				
<p><b>22 Nov 2024 9:54am Worthing, Alex</b> Reclassification Planning Proposal submitted to the Planning Portal 21/11/2024. DPHI ref# PP-2024-2550. Awaiting response</p> <p><b>20 Jan 2025 7:35am Worthing, Alex - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Worthing, Alex from 18 December 2024 to 22 September 2025 - Timeline in accordance with DPHI assessment timeframes. Gateway determination has been issued by the DPHI. Public exhibition commencing February.</p> <p><b>26 Mar 2025 1:07pm Worthing, Alex</b> Pending outcome of Public Hearing, booked for April 3. Outcome of public exhibition and Public Hearing will be reported together.</p> <p><b>26 Mar 2025 1:11pm Worthing, Alex - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Worthing, Alex from 22 September 2025 to 27 May 2025 - Pending outcome of Public Hearing report to be provided by independent facilitator</p> <p><b>30 Apr 2025 10:29am Worthing, Alex - Completion</b> Completed by Worthing, Alex (action officer) on 30 April 2025 at 10:29:02 AM - This Proposal is being reported to Council's May 2025 meeting. This will finalise the last task in the resolution.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
	Ordinary Council 11/12/2024	Elliott, Jessica	Minutes of the Council Initiated Awards Committee Meeting held 7 November 2024	30/04/2025	13/12/2024	16/04/2025
CC73/2024 <a href="#">72</a>		Maginnity, Robert				
<p><b>13 Dec 2024 12:14pm Drage, Natalie - Reallocation</b> Action reassigned to Elliott, Jessica by Drage, Natalie - Referred to Community Development Officer for implementation of the resolutions.</p> <p><b>23 Jan 2025 3:13pm Anderson, India - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Anderson, India from 08 January 2025 to 28 February 2025 - Changes have been discussed and are with Communications &amp; Engagement team for finalisation.</p> <p><b>27 Feb 2025 12:04pm Elliott, Jessica - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Elliott, Jessica from 28 February 2025 to 30 April 2025 - Awaiting completion.</p> <p><b>16 Apr 2025 2:17pm Elliott, Jessica - Completion</b> Completed by Elliott, Jessica (action officer) on 16 April 2025 at 2:17:55 PM - Hall of Fame Guidelines have been updated, and uploaded to the website.</p>						

<b>Action Sheets Report</b>	<b>Division:</b> <b>Committee:</b> Ordinary Council <b>Officer:</b>	<b>Date From:</b> <b>Date To:</b> <b>Printed: Tuesday, 13 May 2025 9:20:54 AM</b>
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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
CC3/2025 <a href="#">93</a>	Ordinary Council 19/02/2025	Varghese, Arun Maginnity, Robert	Credit Card Policy	19/03/2025		5/05/2025
<b>05 May 2025 2:47pm Varghese, Arun</b> Adopted Policy updated on Council website. Revised Application Form updated on intranet. Action Completed. <b>05 May 2025 2:48pm Varghese, Arun - Completion</b> Completed by Varghese, Arun (action officer) on 05 May 2025 at 2:48:53 PM - Policy updated on Council website. Application Form updated on intranet.						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
BN2/2025 <a href="#">100</a>	Ordinary Council 19/02/2025	Johnson, Martin Chrystal, Peter	State Significant Developments - Community Concerns	19/03/2025	26/02/2025	30/04/2025
<b>26 Feb 2025 12:23pm Lorenzen, Cherie - Reallocation</b> Action reassigned to Johnson, Martin by Lorenzen, Cherie - Reallocated to Acting Director Planning & Environment to review and action. <b>30 Apr 2025 3:22pm Blake, Yvonne - Completion</b> Completed by Blake, Yvonne on behalf of Johnson, Martin (action officer) on 30 April 2025 at 3:22:27 PM - Current SSD's (SSD-71547218 & SSD-79012238) related to this site are up to preparation of an EIS. Once the EIS is submitted, Council will be afforded with another opportunity to comment.						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
WI2/2025 <a href="#">121</a>	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	Donnelly, Patricia McLachlan, Paul	Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2026-31	27/06/2025	24/03/2025	5/05/2025
<b>28 Mar 2025 10:44am Donnelly, Patricia - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Donnelly, Patricia from 30 May 2025 to 27 June 2025 - Extended exhibition period requested by Council <b>28 Mar 2025 10:44am Donnelly, Patricia</b> Community Exhibition commenced and will close on 2 May 2025 <b>30 Apr 2025 1:20pm Donnelly, Patricia</b> Report going to May meeting for adoption <b>05 May 2025 2:48pm Meyers, Kristy - Completion</b> Completed by Meyers, Kristy on behalf of Donnelly, Patricia (action officer) on 05 May 2025 at 2:48:46 PM - Report listed for 21 May 2025 Council meeting.						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
PE7/2025 <a href="#">132</a>	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Mackinnon, Hamish Chrystal, Peter	Development Application No. 8/2024/197/1 proposing a Centre-based Child Care Facility (124 Children) with Basement Level Car Parking	14/05/2025	22/04/2025	28/04/2025
<b>28 Apr 2025 10:35am Mackinnon, Hamish - Completion</b> Completed by Mackinnon, Hamish (action officer) on 28 April 2025 at 10:35:13 AM - Reviewed report and tracked to BS to prepare determination documents.						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
MM2/2025 <a href="#">134</a>	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Liddell, Ken	Targa Rally for Cessnock	14/05/2025	22/04/2025	30/04/2025
<b>30 Apr 2025 12:58pm Cocking, Tracey</b> Letter emailed to Targa Australia expressing interest in hosting Targa event. <b>30 Apr 2025 1:00pm Cocking, Tracey - Completion</b> Completed by Cocking, Tracey on behalf of Liddell, Ken (action officer) on 30 April 2025 at 1:00:37 PM - Letter expressing interest in hosting event emailed 30/4/2025.						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
PE11/2025 <a href="#">138</a>	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Honnef, Joh	Tender - T2025-10 Background Studies and Structure Plan for Anambah to Branxton Regional Significant Growth Area	14/05/2025	22/04/2025	30/04/2025
<b>30 Apr 2025 10:24am Honnef, Joh - Completion</b> Completed by Honnef, Joh (action officer) on 30 April 2025 at 10:24:28 AM - Letter of Engagement and Instrument of Agreement for Contract T2025-10 was sent to Urbis Ltd on Monday 28/04/2025						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
CC17/2025 <a href="#">139</a>	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Roberts, Deslie	Donations under Section 356 - Rates Subsidy Policy	14/05/2025	22/04/2025	22/04/2025
<b>22 Apr 2025 3:17pm Roberts, Deslie</b> Letters sent 22.04.25 to all applicants that have already applied and provided the required documents. Diarised 31 May 2025 a review of any future applications to be reviewed and letters sent if sufficient documentation is received by 31 May 2025 <b>22 Apr 2025 3:20pm Roberts, Deslie - Completion</b> Completed by Roberts, Deslie (action officer) on 22 April 2025 at 3:20:48 PM - Action completed						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
WI4/2025 <a href="#">144</a>	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Collier, Melanie	Minutes of Floodplain Risk Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27 February 2025	14/05/2025	22/04/2025	28/04/2025
<b>28 Apr 2025 8:32am Collier, Melanie</b> Complete <b>28 Apr 2025 8:34am Collier, Melanie - Completion</b> Completed by Collier, Melanie (action officer) on 28 April 2025 at 8:34:40 AM - Complete						

<a href="#">Action Sheets Report</a>	<b>Division:</b>	Ordinary Council	<b>Date From:</b>
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	<b>Officer:</b>		<b>Printed: Tuesday, 13 May 2025 9:20:54 AM</b>

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Subject	Est. Compl.	Emailed	Completed
	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Gambotto, Daniela	Minutes of Grants Advisory Committee meeting held Wednesday 19 March 2025	14/05/2025	22/04/2025	5/05/2025
W16/2025 <a href="#">146</a>		McLachlan, Paul				
05 May 2025 2:47pm Meyers, Kristy - Completion Completed by Meyers, Kristy on behalf of Gambotto, Daniela (action officer) on 05 May 2025 at 2:47:36 PM - Noted.						





<b>Action Sheets Report</b>	<b>Division:</b> <b>Committee:</b> Ordinary Council <b>Officer:</b>	<b>Date From:</b> <b>Date To:</b> <b>Printed: Tuesday, 13 May 2025 9:22:20 AM</b>
<p><b>26 May 2022 9:22am Waghorn, Peter</b>  Bellbird Park Bowling Club officials have confirmed that Marshall Scott Surveyors were engaged by the previous Board to prepare a plan of acquisition. Once the draft plan is provided to Council for review and verification, the process to reclassify the identified portion of Bellbird Park can be commenced. Transfer of the land to the Club can only be effected on gazettal of the reclassification.</p> <p><b>26 May 2022 9:50am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision</b>  Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 15 June 2022 to 30 December 2022 - The planning proposal to amend the LEP and reclassify a portion of Bellbird Park is a lengthy process and yet be commenced. Transferring ownership to the Club is deferred pending gazettal of the land reclassification for Community to Operational land.</p> <p><b>30 Jun 2022 3:12pm Waghorn, Peter</b>  An LEP amendment request to reclassify the portion of Bellbird Park the Club requires has been scheduled with Strategic Planning.</p> <p><b>28 Jul 2022 2:49pm Waghorn, Peter</b>  A survey plan prepared by Marshall Scott Surveyors on behalf of Bellbird Park Bowling Club has been provided to Strategic Planning. A planning proposal requesting amendment of the Cessnock LEP land classification of the nominated portion of Bellbird Park is in progress.</p> <p><b>31 Aug 2022 4:46pm Keegan, Robyn</b>  Further updates are subject to progression of a planning proposal to amend the Cessnock LEP and change the community land classification of the nominated portion of Bellbird Park.</p> <p><b>25 Nov 2022 3:47pm Waghorn, Peter</b>  Internal Property staff followed up with Marshall Scott Surveyors 24/11/2022 and were advised that the survey plan detailing the area to be acquired by the club and prepared by their firm on behalf of Bellbird Park Bowling Club is yet to be lodged with Land Registry Services for assessment. Council staff actions are deferred pending plan registration and gazettal of the proposed land reclassification.</p> <p><b>16 Jan 2023 12:12pm Waghorn, Peter</b>  Property staff visited BPBC on 4/1/2023 to enquire with management as to the status of survey plan approval and were advised that they will follow up with Marshall Scott Surveyors. As at 16/1/2023, Mark Scott of MSS has not been contacted by BPBC.</p> <p><b>16 Jan 2023 12:21pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision</b>  Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 30 December 2022 to 31 March 2023 - Delayed pending Bellbird Park Bowling Club approval of draft survey plan of acquisition and the outcome of a Council request to reclassify the relevant portion of Carmichael Park to be acquired</p> <p><b>03 Apr 2023 10:44am Waghorn, Peter</b>  The Strategic Planning unit has scheduled a report seeking approval to submit the LEP amendment required to reclassify the portion of Bellbird Park the Club requires. Reclassification to operational land is required to facilitate any transfer of council community land. The report will be considered at the April 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting. .</p> <p><b>03 Apr 2023 11:11am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision</b>  Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 31 March 2023 to 30 June 2023 - The report seeking approval to submit an LEP amendment to reclassify the required portion of Bellbird Park is scheduled for the April 2023 OCM. Reclassifications necessarily involve state planning departments and completion of that process cannot be accurately determined at this time.</p> <p><b>26 May 2023 3:16pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision</b>  Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 30 June 2023 to 31 March 2024 - A planning proposal to amend the Cessnock LEP community land classification of a portion of Carmichael Oval adjoining Bellbird Park Bowling Club was approved for submission to Dept. of Planning &amp; Environment (DPE) on 19 April 2023. Subject to obtaining a DPE Gateway determination to reclassify the land from community to operational use, consultation will be undertaken with public authorities and the community. Unresolved objections must be submitted to Council for consideration before DPE is requested to make the Plan and publish LEP changes in the Government Gazette. This process is anticipated to take six to nine months. On completion, Property staff will prepare contract documentation to transfer the required land.</p> <p><b>25 Sep 2023 3:37pm Waghorn, Peter - Email</b>  On 15 September, Officers arranged for surveyors to attend and mark the site, allowing a partially installed fence to be completed along the new boundary with a lockable pedestrian access. Illegal private vehicular use of CCC community land is understood to have been occurring and neighbouring residents will be notified prior to erection of the final stage of fencing. Formal transfer of the land portion to BPBC is subject to land reclassification and the revised target date is still projected as March 2024.</p> <p><b>24 Nov 2023 9:41am Waghorn, Peter</b>  No further updates from Property Services pending completion of land reclassification process and subsequent land transfer</p> <p><b>28 Mar 2024 11:17am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision</b>  Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 31 March 2024 to 30 May 2024 - Council's Strategic Planning unit advise the planning proposal seeking to amend the LEP land classification is currently being reviewed by the relevant state government planning department</p> <p><b>25 Jun 2024 10:52am Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision</b>  Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 30 May 2024 to 29 November 2024 - On 29/5/2024 Council's Strategic Planner advised Planning proposal PP-2023-1296 to amend Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP) has received Gateway determination. The advice refers to issues remaining to be addressed and requires the amending LEP to be finalised on or before 6 months of the Gateway determination date.</p>		

<b>Division:</b>	Ordinary Council	<b>Date From:</b>	
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**27 Nov 2024 4:33pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision**

Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 29 November 2024 to 31 January 2025 - Department Planning Housing and Infrastructure has endorsed the Planning Proposal to rezone and reclassify the strip of land at Bellbird Park Bowling Club for finalization. Once the public reserve status is removed from title, the portion required by the club can be excised from Carmichael Park and transferred to the Club in accordance with the resolution.

**26 Mar 2025 2:27pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision**

Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 31 January 2025 to 31 March 2025 - Planning Proposal PP-2023-1296 was sent to DPHI for gazettal on 27 November 2024. The Department recently advised to expect further delays associated with the PP dealing with reclassification of land owned by a council.

**06 May 2025 3:05pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision**

Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 31 March 2025 to 30 June 2025 - Planning Proposal PP-2023-1296 to amend Cessnock Local Environmental Plan 2011 (LEP) is still with Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
W175/2022	Ordinary Council 14/12/2022	Dennis, Johanna	Works and Infrastructure	Cessnock LGA Hall Booking/Management	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">383</a> <b>MOTION</b> 383 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Watton	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Burke		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Council notes the information contained within the report with regard to the implications and resourcing requirements required to overhaul the current practices has adopted relating to hall bookings, maintenance and potential promotions;</li> <li>That Council completes a hall booking trial using the Bookeasy system at four community halls; and</li> <li>That if the hall booking trial is successful, that Council implements the Bookeasy system at all community halls in consultation with the s355 volunteer management committees as resources allow.</li> </ol>						
<b>16 Jan 2023 4:28pm Eveleigh, Nathan - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Eveleigh, Nathan from 11 January 2023 to 30 June 2023 - Test webpage and platform completed for Bellbird Hall. Officers liaising with BookEasy on some minor amendments required for regular bookings. Additional halls will come online after testing is completed with Bellbird Community Hall as per the Council report.						
<b>02 Mar 2023 9:41am Eveleigh, Nathan</b> BookEasy set-up in final testing phase for Bellbird Community Hall before going live.						
<b>27 Mar 2023 11:56am Eveleigh, Nathan</b> Bellbird Community Hall Bookeasy portal went live on 20/3/2023. Will roll out 3 additional facilities following initial trials and feedback.						
<b>28 Jun 2023 11:36am Eveleigh, Nathan</b> Hunter Valley VIC staff have commenced work on Ellalong & Millfield Community Halls following successful roll-out of the BookEasy online bookings at Bellbird Community Hall for 3 months.						
<b>28 Jun 2023 11:40am Eveleigh, Nathan - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Eveleigh, Nathan from 30 June 2023 to 30 September 2023 - 2 additional halls being set-up. A 4th hall will be added once these two halls are online in the coming months.						
<b>25 Aug 2023 8:36am Eveleigh, Nathan - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Eveleigh, Nathan from 30 September 2023 to 20 December 2023 - VIC staff working on 2nd & 3rd hall in consultation with open Space staff and s355 committee's.						
<b>01 Mar 2024 11:29am McNally, Kate</b> 1. Noted, 2. The Bookeasy system is in place for Bellbird Hall. Ellalong and Millfield Hall are ready to go live following training and engagement with the s355 committees., 3. To be completed after item 2.						
<b>01 Mar 2024 11:31am McNally, Kate - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Harris, Kate from 30 April 2024 to 28 June 2024 - Training must be undertaken with S355 Committee members prior to online bookings progressing.						

<b>Division:</b>	Ordinary Council	<b>Date From:</b>	
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date To:</b>	
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<p><b>24 Jun 2024 1:26pm McNally, Kate</b> 1. Noted, 2. The Bookeasy system is in place for Bellbird Hall with Millfield Hall coming on line by the end of July 2024. Ellalong Hall will be the next facility to provide online bookings., 3. To be completed after item 2.</p> <p><b>24 Jun 2024 1:29pm McNally, Kate - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Harris, Kate from 28 June 2024 to 30 August 2024 - Council Officers are in the process of transitioning community halls to the online booking system. Millfield Hall will be complete by the end of July and then moving to Ellalong Hall.</p> <p><b>30 Oct 2024 1:00pm Dennis, Johanna</b> Council staff undertook system training with Millfield Hall s355 committee volunteers in August and the booking system has been set up and will go live in November.</p> <p><b>30 Oct 2024 1:05pm Dennis, Johanna - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Dennis, Johanna from 30 August 2024 to 31 December 2024 - AGM being held for Ellalong s355 Committee 18 November. New committee will be trained on booking system before implementation.</p> <p><b>02 Dec 2024 12:24pm Dennis, Johanna</b> Booking system for Millfield Hall has gone live and is being utilised.</p> <p><b>03 Feb 2025 1:36pm Dennis, Johanna</b> Booking system for Ellalong Hall is now live. Fourth community hall for online booking system currently being determined in consultation with s355 committees.</p> <p><b>03 Feb 2025 1:40pm Dennis, Johanna - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Dennis, Johanna from 31 December 2024 to 30 June 2025 - Fourth site for trial will be determined in consultation with s355 committees and training undertaken.</p> <p><b>30 Apr 2025 9:15am Dennis, Johanna</b> Council Officers are liaising with s355 committees investigating the fourth trial site for online booking system.</p>
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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC32/2024	Ordinary Council 15/05/2024	Plumridge, Matthew	Corporate and Community	Minutes of the Confidential Strategic Property & Community Facilities Committee meeting held on 1 May 2024	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">763</a> <b>MOTION</b> 763 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Hill	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Paynter		
<p><b>That Council:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Undertakes an Expression of Interest process to determine potential uses for lot 31 DP 594396 and lot 2 DP 716009, being Council-owned operational land comprising the former Richmond Main Colliery land and buildings, that outlines the community benefit of the future proposed use of the site.</b></li> <li><b>Requests the Expression of Interest results be provided to the Strategic Property and Community Facilities Committee for consideration and advice to Council.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>12 Jun 2024 11:50am Anderson, India - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Anderson, India from 12 June 2024 to 31 December 2024 - The EOI process has commenced.</p> <p><b>29 Jul 2024 2:42pm Hooper, Carolyn</b> Initial planning commenced on EOI process.</p> <p><b>13 Feb 2025 3:11pm Anderson, India - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Anderson, India from 31 December 2024 to 25 March 2025 - The EOI is currently on exhibition and closes on 25 Feb 2025.</p> <p><b>06 May 2025 9:19am Anderson, India - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Anderson, India from 25 March 2025 to 30 June 2025 - EOI closed and applicants being assessed.</p>						

<b>Division:</b>		<b>Date From:</b>	
<b>Committee:</b> Ordinary Council		<b>Date To:</b>	
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**06 May 2025 3:03pm Anderson, India**

Stage 1 of the EOI process ran from November to February 2025. Following a preliminary evaluation, complying respondents were invited to participate in Stage 2 (Select Tender) which closed on 29 April 2025. Two tenders were received and a Tender Evaluation Panel has been convened to assess the submissions and identify the preferred proponent. Completion of assessments is expected no later than 9 May 2025 and the outcome of the EOI/tender and a recommendation responding to the resolution\* dated 15 May 2024 will be reported to Council. The assessment will be completed this week, reported to ELT and likely to the June council meeting for endorsement.

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE24/2024	Ordinary Council 20/11/2024	Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia	Planning and Environment	Planning Proposal 18 2022 6 1 - Reclassification and Rezoning of Council Land - Post exhibition	31/05/2025	
<a href="#">50</a> <b>MOTION</b> 50 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Chrystal, Peter Councillor Hill	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Pascoe		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Council note the outcomes of community consultation for Planning Proposal 18/2022/6/1 - Reclassification and Rezoning of Land at Bellbird and Abermain.</li> <li>That Council forwards the Planning Proposal for Reclassification and Rezoning of Council Land to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces with a recommendation that the plan be made pursuant to Section 3.36 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>.</li> <li>That Council remove the Public Reserve Status from Part of Lot 3 DP 624793.</li> </ol>						
<b>26 Nov 2024 9:43am Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia from 18 December 2024 to 15 January 2025 - Liaising with PC for finalisation. <b>24 Jan 2025 1:42pm Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia from 15 January 2025 to 31 March 2025 - Liaising with DPHI to finalise the Planning Proposal. <b>01 Apr 2025 9:03am Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia from 31 March 2025 to 10 May 2025 - DPHI is the plan making authority. The Planning Proposal is with DPHI for finalisation. <b>30 Apr 2025 9:11am Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia from 10 May 2025 to 31 May 2025 - Planning Proposal still with the Department for Finalisation.						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
WI27/2024	Ordinary Council 11/11/2024	Pople, Alena	Works and Infrastructure	Naming of Averys Rise Park	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">79</a> <b>MOTION</b> 79 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Hill	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Palmowski		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Council endorses naming the new park and playground Averys Rise Park.</li> <li>That Council supports a naming proposal be submitted to the NSW Geographical Names Board for consideration and gazettal.</li> <li>That signage be updated following the gazettal of the Place Naming Proposal by the NSW Geographical Names Board (subject to approval).</li> </ol>						

<b>Division:</b>	Ordinary Council	<b>Date From:</b>	
<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date To:</b>	
<b>Officer:</b>			
<b>Action Sheets Report</b>		<b>Printed: Tuesday, 13 May 2025 9:22:20 AM</b>	

<p><b>03 Feb 2025 1:08pm Pople, Alena</b> An application for naming has been submitted to the Geographical Names Board. The GNB have requested further information on the Avery family, then more specifically birth and death dates of William Avery, his occupation and any time served on Council which is currently being researched by the Library historian and will be provided to the GNB.</p> <p><b>26 Feb 2025 11:31am Pople, Alena</b> All historical information has been provided to the GNB. The proposal for Averys Rise Park will be considered by the NSW Geographical Names Board (the Board) at a forthcoming meeting. , Council will be notified of the Board's resolution after the meeting.</p> <p><b>27 Feb 2025 9:24am Pople, Alena - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Pople, Alena from 19 March 2025 to 30 June 2025 - Awaiting approval of name from Geographical Names Board</p> <p><b>26 Mar 2025 10:54am Pople, Alena</b> The proposal for Averys Rise Park will be advertised for public comment in the Hunter Valley News, Branxton-Greta Vineyard News and Hunter River Times on 04 April 2025. , The Geographical Names Board will be accepting submissions on its website from 04 April 2025 until 04 May 2025. Council will be advised if any objections are received.</p> <p><b>30 Apr 2025 9:31am Pople, Alena</b> The proposal for Averys Rise Park is currently being advertised for public comment in the Hunter Valley News, Branxton-Greta Vineyard News and Hunter River Times. , The Geographical Names Board will be accepting submissions on its website until 04 May 2025. Council will be advised if any objections are received.</p> <p><b>06 May 2025 10:02am Pople, Alena</b> The period calling for any comments for the name of Averys Rise Park has expired. There were no comments either in support or objecting to the name and as such the Geographical Names Board have moved to formally gazette the name., The gazettal will be published on Friday 9 May 2025</p>
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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE4/2025	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	Rush, Iain	Planning and Environment	Exhibition of the Draft Cessnock Vineyards District Place Strategy and the Draft Vineyards District Development Control Plan	30/06/2025	
109 MOTION 110 RESOLVED	Moved:	Chrystal, Peter Councillor Pascoe	Seconded:	Councillor Lea		
1.	That Council place the Draft Cessnock Vineyards District Place Strategy and Draft Vineyards District Development Control Plan chapter on public exhibition for a period of 40 days.					
2.	That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the Draft Vineyards District Place Strategy and Draft Vineyards District Development Control Plan chapter.					
01 Apr 2025 12:56pm Rush, Iain - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Rush, Iain from 16 April 2025 to 30 June 2025 - Target date extended to allow time to publicly exhibit the draft documents, respond to submissions and report the final plans to Council for adoption.						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE5/2025	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	Rush, Iain	Planning and Environment	Exhibition of Draft Infrastructure Contributions Plans	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">111</a> <b>MOTION</b> 111 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Chrystal, Peter Councillor Hill	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Pascoe		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Council place the Draft Cessnock City Wide s.7.11 Infrastructure Contributions Plan and Draft Cessnock City Wide s.7.12 Infrastructure Contributions Plan on public exhibition for a minimum period of 40 days.</li> <li>That Council endorse an application to apply for a Ministerial Direction to increase the contribution cap from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per lot for the Loxford and Huntlee local catchments.</li> <li>That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the draft infrastructure contributions plans.</li> </ol> <p><b>01 Apr 2025 12:56pm Rush, Iain - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Rush, Iain from 16 April 2025 to 30 June 2025 - Target date extended to allow time to publicly exhibit the draft documents, respond to submissions and report the final plans to Council for adoption.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE6/2025	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	Worthing, Alex	Planning and Environment	Exhibition of Draft Cessnock Development Control Plan chapters - 'Tourist Accommodation on Rural and Conservation Lands' and 'Signage and Outdoor Advertising'.	1/12/2025	
<a href="#">112</a> <b>MOTION</b> 112 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Chrystal, Peter Councillor King	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Jurd		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Council place the Draft Tourist and Visitor Accommodation on Rural and Conservation Lands Development Control Plan chapter on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.</li> <li>That Council place the Draft Signage and Outdoor Advertising Development Control Plan chapter on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.</li> <li>That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the Draft Development Control Plan chapters if unresolved objections are received or significant amendment to the Draft Development Control Plan Chapters are made post exhibition. Where there are no unresolved objections nor significant amendments proposed post exhibition, the Draft Development Control Plan Chapters be adopted by Council pursuant to the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2001</i>.</li> </ol> <p><b>30 Apr 2025 10:36am Worthing, Alex</b> These chapters are currently on exhibition until May 24, 2025. A report will be prepared with the outcome of the public exhibition.</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC10/2025	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	Waghorn, Peter	Corporate and Community	Land Acquisition - South Cessnock Bund Wall	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">114</a> <b>MOTION</b> 114 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Lea	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Harrington		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That Council acquires by voluntary agreement of Austar Coal Mine Pty Ltd land and easement rights, being portions of lots 34, 35 and 36 in DP 755215, required for the South Cessnock Flood Mitigation Scheme Bund Wall project.</li> <li>That Council delegates authority to the General Manager to acquire the land at the assessed market value for the sum of \$43,300 and compensate the landowner for reasonably incurred valuation and legal costs on presentation of paid invoices in accordance with the <i>Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991</i>.</li> <li>That Council authorise the General Manager to execute all documents relating to the acquisition and/or documents relating to any application to the Office of Local Government for the approval of the Minister and the Governor for compulsory acquisition if required.</li> <li>That Council authorise the General Manager in the event of failure to acquire by agreement to make any application to the Office of Local Government for the approval of the Minister and the Governor for compulsory acquisition.</li> <li>That on transfer of ownership, Council resolves to classify the land being portions of lots 34, 35 and 36 in DP 755215 as operational land.</li> </ol> <p><b>26 Mar 2025 10:40am Anderson, India - Reallocation</b> Action reassigned to Waghorn, Peter by Anderson, India - Whitney on leave</p> <p><b>26 Mar 2025 1:43pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 16 April 2025 to 30 June 2025 - Verbal acceptance of Council's purchase offer was voluntarily agreed and a formal letter of offer has been sent. It is anticipated contracts will exchange no later than 31 March and be finally settled in four to six weeks.</p>						



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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC12/2025	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	Plumridge, Matthew	Corporate and Community	Authorisation to Borrow	31/05/2025	
<a href="#">117</a> <b>MOTION</b> 117 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Hill	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor King		
<p>1. That Council applies for a loan facility in the amount of \$13,600,000 for a maximum period of twenty (20) years for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. \$10,000,000 towards construction of the new Waste Facility</li> <li>b. \$1,400,000 for the Bridge Replacement Program</li> <li>c. \$1,000,000 towards Shared Pathways Program</li> <li>d. \$1,200,000 towards South Cessnock Flood Mitigation</li> </ul> <p>2. That Council delegates the General Manager to negotiate the terms of the loan including tenure, rate and repayment periods.</p> <p>3. That Council authorise the Mayor and General Manager to execute the documents relating to the Loan Agreement including affixing of the Council Seal if required.</p> <p><b>06 May 2025 9:18am Anderson, India - Target Date Revision</b>  Target date changed by Anderson, India from 16 April 2025 to 31 May 2025 - Assessing quotes being received.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
BN6/2025	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	McNally, Kate	Business With Notice	Investigation for Opportunities to Reduce Vandalism in Public Spaces	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">123</a> <b>MOTION</b> 123 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	McLachlan, Paul Councillor King	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Jurd		
<p>That Council reconvene to further consider options available to help address impacts of crime within the Cessnock LGA after further consultation is undertaken between Cessnock Councillors and NSW Police.</p> <p><b>05 May 2025 3:53pm Meyers, Kristy</b>  A Councillor Briefing to be organised for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).  <b>05 May 2025 3:55pm Meyers, Kristy - Target Date Revision</b>  Target date changed by Meyers, Kristy from 30 June 2025 to 30 June 2025 - To organise Councillor Briefing.</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
BN7/2025	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	Martin, Cam	Business With Notice	Report on Unsealed Roads and Costs	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">124</a> <b>MOTION</b> 124 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Hill	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Suvaal		
<p>1. That the General Manager provide a report to Council on the unsealed road network review, including information on Unsealed Road Maintenance Schedule, Council's Asset Management Framework and budget in line with the Long Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>2. Currently what grants are available to help with our unsealed road program.</p> <p>09 Apr 2025 10:10am Meyers, Kristy Investigating data set.</p> <p>05 May 2025 2:49pm Meyers, Kristy Report expected June/July 2025.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC16/2025	Ordinary Council 19/03/2025	Waghorn, Peter	Corporate and Community	Authorisation to Purchase Property adjacent to Council Facility	30/05/2025	
<a href="#">128</a> <b>MOTION</b> 128 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Suvaal	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Hill		
<p>1. That Council delegate to the General Manager authority to purchase Lot: 4 DP: 835450, known as 69 Vincent Street, Cessnock to facilitate the future expansion of the Cessnock Library Building.</p> <p>2. That Council delegate to the General Manager authority to enter negotiations for purchase of the property within 10% of the recommendation associated with this report + GST.</p> <p>3. That Council authorises the General Manager authority to execute the Transfer documentation of the purchase between Cessnock City Council and the private property owner.</p> <p>4. That the Council authorises use of funds from the Development Contributions Plan for purchase and fit out of the property.</p> <p>5. That on transfer of ownership, Council resolves to classify the land being Lot: 4 DP: 835450, as operational land.</p> <p>26 Mar 2025 1:46pm Waghorn, Peter - Target Date Revision Target date changed by Waghorn, Peter from 16 April 2025 to 30 May 2025 - The property owner's managing agent has been advised of Council's authorisation of the proposed purchase and a formal letter of offer was issued 25 March 2025.</p> <p>06 May 2025 3:29pm Waghorn, Peter Council's lawyers emailed 5/5/2025 advising the vendors have instructed their own lawyers to exchange sale contracts in anticipation of prompt settlement</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE8/2025	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Mewing, Jenny	Planning and Environment	Draft Villages Strategy	31/07/2025	
<a href="#">135</a> <b>MOTION</b> 135 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Chrystal, Peter Councillor Hill	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Mason		
1. That Council place the draft Villages Strategy on public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days. 2. That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the draft Villages Strategy.						
<b>29 Apr 2025 3:19pm Mewing, Jenny - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Mewing, Jenny from 14 May 2025 to 31 July 2025 - Exhibition to commence 1 May 2025.						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE9/2025	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia	Planning and Environment	Anomalies Planning Proposal Post Exhibition Report	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">136</a> <b>MOTION</b> 136 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Chrystal, Peter Councillor Lea	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Hill		
1. That Council note the outcomes of community consultation for Planning Proposal 18/2024/3/1 – Anomalies Planning Proposal 2. That Council forwards the Anomalies Planning Proposal to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces with a recommendation that the plan be made pursuant to Section 3.36 of the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> .						
<b>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY</b>						
<b>30 Apr 2025 9:12am Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Lewis-Curnoe, Olivia from 14 May 2025 to 30 June 2025 - Currently liaising with the Department to finalise the Planning Proposal.						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
PE10/2025	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Worthing, Alex	Planning and Environment	Exhibition of draft Development Control Plan - The Vintage	9/10/2025	
<b>137 MOTION 137 RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Chrystal, Peter Councillor Lea	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Hill		
<p>1. That Council places the draft 'The Vintage' Development Control Plan on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, as required by Council's Community Participation Plan.</p> <p>2. That Council receive a further report following public exhibition of the Draft Development Control Plan chapters if unresolved objections are received or significant amendment to the Draft Development Control Plan Chapter are made post exhibition. Where there are no unresolved objections nor significant amendments proposed post exhibition, the Draft Development Control Plan Chapters be adopted by Council pursuant to the <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2001</i>.</p> <p>30 Apr 2025 10:37am Worthing, Alex Public exhibition will commence Friday May 2nd, 2025. At the conclusion of the exhibition a report will be prepared detailing the outcomes.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC18/2025	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Varghese, Arun	Corporate and Community	Placement of Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents 2025-26 on Public Exhibition	14/05/2025	
<b>140 MOTION 140 RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Pascoe	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor King		
<p>That Council places the draft Integrated Planning and Reporting documents comprising the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Community Strategic Plan <i>Cessnock 2040</i>;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Resourcing Strategy consisting of the Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy and Workforce Management Strategy;</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Delivery Program incorporating the 2025-26 Operational Plan including the budget, Revenue Policy, and Statement of Fees and Charges;</li> </ul> <p>on public exhibition for 28 days in accordance with Section 405 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</p>						

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Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
CC19/2025	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Plumridge, Matthew	Corporate and Community	Engagement of Advisor for Special Rate Variation	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">141</a> <b>MOTION</b> 141 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	Maginnity, Robert Councillor Pascoe	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Mason		
<p>1. That Council notes the report of the Institute for Regional Futures of the University of Newcastle, outlining the financial sustainability challenges for Cessnock City Council.</p> <p>2. That Council authorises the General Manager to:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a. engage an independent advisor to provide further advice to Council on the potential for a special rate variation</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">b. report to Council on the recommendations of the advisor prior to any decision being made on a Special Rate Variation application by Council.</p> <p><b>06 May 2025 9:18am Anderson, India - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Anderson, India from 14 May 2025 to 30 June 2025 - Commenced discussions and currently negotiating contract.</p>						

Type	Meeting	Officer/Director	Section	Subject	Est. Compl.	Completed
W15/2025	Ordinary Council 16/04/2025	Gambotto, Daniela	Works and Infrastructure	Nomination of Section 355 Committees	30/06/2025	
<a href="#">145</a> <b>MOTION</b> 145 <b>RESOLVED</b>	<b>Moved:</b>	McLachlan, Paul Councillor Hill	<b>Seconded:</b>	Councillor Mason		
<p>1. That Council delegates the care, control and management of Council's community and recreation facilities, other Council owned and controlled land, to relevant Section 355 Committees.</p> <p>2. That Council authorise the management of the Section 355 Committees to be in accordance with any practices and procedures adopted by the General Manager.</p> <p>3. That Council authorise the General Manager to execute documents confirming the delegated functions with each of the appointed community representatives for each of the respective Section 355 Committees in accordance with any practices and procedures.</p> <p>4. That Council establishes the following Section 355 Committees:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a) Cessnock Tidy Towns</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b) Greta Tidy Towns</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c) Kearsley Tidy Towns</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">d) Millfield Tidy Towns</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">e) North Rothbury Tidy Towns</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">f) North Rothbury Bushcare</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">g) Paxton Tidy Towns</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">h) Weston Tidy Towns.</p> <p><b>05 May 2025 3:11pm Gambotto, Daniela - Target Date Revision</b> Target date changed by Gambotto, Daniela from 30 June 2025 to 30 June 2025 - Awaiting further advice from Insurance</p>						