Ordinary Meeting
Agenda

19 August 2025

maitland
CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 that a **Meeting of Maitland City Council** will be held in the **Council Chambers, Town Hall, High Street, Maitland,** commencing at **5.30pm.**

Jeff Smith
General Manager

Please note:

Councillors are reminded of their Oath or Affirmation of Office to undertake their duties in the best interests of the people of the City and Council and to faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993, or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgement. Councillors are also reminded of their obligations under the Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

In accordance with the NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act, you are advised that all discussion held during the Open Council meeting is recorded for the purpose of verifying the minutes. This will include any discussion involving a Councillor, Staff member or a member of the public.

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Present

1 Invocation

2 Acknowledgement of Country

3 Apologies, Leave of Absence and Remote Attendance

4 Declarations of Interest

5 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

- *The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held 15 July 2025 be confirmed.*

6 Business Arising from Minutes

7 Withdrawal of Items and Acceptance of Late Items of Business

8 Public Access

9 Mayoral Minute

9.1 The Passing of Graham Dark Oam

FILE NO:	**35/5/1**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**General Manager**
AUTHOR:	**Mayor**

MAYORAL MINUTE

THAT

Council acknowledge the significant community service contribution made by the late Graham Dark OAM to the City of Maitland.

BACKGROUND

Maitland City Council pays tribute to former Councillor, Mr Graham Dark OAM, who sadly passed away on Saturday 26th July 2025. A former Councillor and long-time Telarah resident, Graham was a passionate contributor to our community.

Graham's community involvement began in 1982 with the 3rd East Maitland Scout Group, where he served as a Cub Scout leader. He also became a member of the ALP's East Maitland branch, Lions (West Maitland), Senior Citizens, The Maitland Historical Society and was appointed a Justice of the Peace — roles that marked the beginning of a lifelong commitment to public service.

From 1999 to 2004, Graham served as a Councillor for Maitland City. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions, he was named Maitland's Citizen of the Year in 2005 and received the Order of Australia Medal in 2022, one of the country's highest civilian honours.

Graham also made a lasting impact as a dedicated educator, including teaching at Tenambit, Metford, Woodberry, and East Maitland Public Schools.

Much loved husband of Lyn. Loved father and father-in-law of Scott and Kerryann, and Melissa. Stepfather and father-in-law of Michelle (dec) and Darren Crimston, Scott and Courtney Everitt and foster dad of Rebecca. Adored grandfather and great-grandfather of many.

Council extends our sincere condolences to Graham's family, friends, and all who were touched by his remarkable life.

10 Office of the General Manager

10.1 Adoption of Code of Conduct and Procedures

FILE NO:	**35/7/4**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Code of Conduct 2022 (Under Separate Cover)** **2. Code of Conduct for Councillors (Under Separate Cover)** **3. Code of Conduct for Staff (Under Separate Cover)** **4. Council Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisers Code of Conduct (Under Separate Cover)** **5. Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct (Under Separate Cover)**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Office Manager** **General Manager**
AUTHOR:	**Team Leader OGM**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 4 Achieving together**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**4.1.3 Transparent decision making**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A council must, within 12 month after each ordinary election, review its adopted Code of Conduct and make such adjustments as it considers appropriate. The Code of Conduct is required to incorporate the provisions of the Office of Local Government's Model Code of Conduct.

The Office of Local Government has model codes that can be separated for Councillors, Council Staff and Committee Members, Delegates of Council and Council Advisers. Council's current Code of Conduct that was adopted on 12 July 2022, is a single document encompassing all Councillors, administrators, members of staff of council, delegates of council, (including members of council committees) however it is proposed that the Code of Conduct be separated into three distinct documents as per the models.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council rescinds the Code of Conduct 2022 (Attachment 1)**
2. **Council adopts the Code of Conduct for Councillors (Attachment 2)**
3. **Council adopts the Code of Conduct for Staff (Attachment 3)**
4. **Council adopts the Code of Conduct for Council Committee Member, Delegates of Council and Council Advisers (Attachment 4)**

ADOPTION OF CODE OF CONDUCT AND PROCEDURES (Cont.)

5. Council adopts the Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct 2025 (Attachment 5).

REPORT

Each Council is required to adopt a Code of Conduct within the first 12 months of the beginning of its term. The Code of Conduct is required to incorporate the provisions of the Office of Local Government's Model Code of Conduct.

Staff held off on presenting a new Code of conduct to Council for adoption as the Office of Local Government and the Minister for Local Government have been advising for some time that a review of the document is underway however as yet this has not been finalised.

The Model Code of Conduct sets the minimum standards of conduct for council officials. It is prescribed by regulation to assist council officials to:

- understand and comply with the standards of conduct that are expected of them
- enable them to fulfil their statutory duty to act honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence (section 439)
- act in a way that enhances public confidence in local government.

All councils must adopt a Code of Conduct that incorporates the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct. Councils can, should they wish to do so, incorporate requirements that are more onerous than those prescribed in the Model Code of Conduct, provided they are not inconsistent with the Model Code.

The Office of Local Government provides model Codes of Conduct that are separated into three distinct documents: one for Councillors, one for Council staff and a third for Council Committee Members and Delegates. Currently, Council's Code of Conduct is a single, consolidated document that applies to Councillors, Administrators, Council staff, and delegates (including committee members). However, it is intended that this Code be revised and divided into three separate documents in alignment with the model codes.

The intention of adopting separate Codes of Conduct provides greater clarity, better reflects the distinct roles of Councillors, Staff and Committee Members and Delegates. This supports tailored governance and upholds regulatory compliance which contributes to greater accountability, transparency and community confidence in local council operations.

CONCLUSION

The Council's Code of Conduct and Procedures remain aligned to the Office of Local Government's Model Code of Conduct which sets the minimum standards of conduct for Council officials.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no direct financial impact upon Council's adopted budget or forward estimates.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no specific policy implications for Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Adoption of the code of conduct and procedures align to the Model Code and Procedures ensuring compliance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

10.2 Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025

FILE NO:	**35/48**
ATTACHMENTS:	**LGNSW Conference – Draft Program** **Motion Submission Guide – 2025 (Under Separate Cover)**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**General Manager** **Office Manager**
AUTHOR:	**Executive Assistant**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 4 Achieving together**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**4.2.1 Excellence in leadership**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference will be held from Sunday 23 to Tuesday 25 November 2025 at Panthers Penrith and Western Sydney Conference Centre. The Annual Conference is the supreme policy-making body of LGNSW and an opportunity for councillors to come together to share ideas and debate issues that shape the way LGNSW is governed and advocates on behalf of the local government sector.

This report is presented to Council to determine voting delegates of Council for the purpose of voting on motions presented to the conference.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council nominate up to four (4) attending Councillors as voting delegates on motions and Board election at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference;**
2. **The names of Council's voting delegates be forwarded to LGNSW by Friday 7 November 2025;**
3. **Council note that the closing date of submissions of motions to LGNSW is 30 September 2025, therefore the last opportunity for Council to consider conference motions is the September 2025 Council Meeting.**

REPORT

Maitland City Council is a member of Local Government NSW (LGNSW) whose members consist of Councils across NSW. LGNSW provides advocacy, representation, and support to assist member councils to deliver improved services and better outcomes to their local communities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 (Cont.)

LGNSW will be hosting their Annual Conference at Panthers Penrith and Western Sydney Conference Centre to discuss key local government issues and debate motions to inform their advocacy agenda for the year. The draft Annual Conference Program for 2025 has been provided as Attachment 1.

Under Council's current Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy 2025, funding for conference attendance by voting delegates is aggregated (that is, it does not come from individual professional development allowances) and incorporated with the ALGA National General Assembly yearly allowance. The 2025 Registrations Fees are:

- Member Standard Registration - $1,550.00 (incl GST) per person
- Conference Dinner Ticket (optional) - $245.00 (incl GST) per person

There is also an opportunity for member councils to put forward motions to be considered at the Conference. Proposed motions should be strategic, affect members statewide and introduce new or emerging policy issues and actions. Motions must have evidence of support, being a resolution of Council. Attachment 2 provides information on the motion submission process. The closing date for submitting motions to the conference is 30 September 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This matter has minimal financial impact upon Council's adopted budget as attendance is accommodated within Council's Councillor expenses budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no specific policy implications for Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There are no statutory implications under the Local Government Act 1993 with this matter.

Office of the General Manager

Local Government NSW Annual Conference 2025

LGNSW Conference 2025 - Draft Program

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 6

PROGRAM

Conference Program

23 November

9.00am	✍️ Registration Opens
9.15am-11.45am	🛬 Western Sydney International Airport Site Visit

11.30am-12.30pm	🔧 Professional Development Workshops Location: Western Sydney Convention Centre **Workshop A:** **Affordable Housing Contribution Schemes for councils:** A practical forum tailored for councillors, offering a concise introduction to establishing affordable housing contribution schemes. Learn key policy tools, legal frameworks, and implementation strategies to support inclusive community development. **Workshop B:** **Emerging Invasive Species:** This workshop equips councillors with essential knowledge on identifying, managing, and mitigating the risks of emerging invasive species, including imported red fire ants and polyphagous shot-hole borer. Learn proactive strategies to protect local ecosystems and ensure council readiness.
	🚌 Bus Transfers Delegate Transfers: From selected hotels to Panthers Penrith
1.00pm	👷 Exhibition Opens Location: Panthers Penrith Event Centre
1.30pm-5pm	👫 Plenary Sessions Location: Panthers Penrith Evan Theatre 🍮 Afternoon Refreshments in Trade Exhibition area 👫 Plenary Sessions
5.15pm-7.15pm	🤝 President's Welcome Reception Location: Western Sydney Convention Centre 🚌 Bus Transfers Delegate Transfers: From Western Sydney Convention Centre to selected hotels

24 November

	🚌 Bus transfers • ALGWA Breakfast Delegate Transfers: From selected hotels to Western Sydney Convention Centre • Conference Delegate Transfers: From selected hotels to Panthers Penrith
7.00am	✍️ Registration Opens Location: Panthers Penrith Reception Satellite Location: Western Sydney Convention Centre (Breakfast Delegates Only)
7.30am-8.45am	🥐 ALGWA NSW Breakfast Location: Western Sydney Convention Centre
8.00am-2.15pm	✅ LGNSW Voting Open Location: Western Sydney Convention Centre
8.00am	👷 Trade Exhibition Opens Location: Panthers Penrith Event Centre ☕ Light refreshments available

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 (Cont.)

9.00am-5.00pm	📍 Conference Location: Panthers Penrith Evan Theatre • Conference Welcome and Introduction, David Reynolds, Chief Executive LGNSW • Opening Address, Cr Phyllis Miller OAM, President LGNSW • Voting on motions procedure and housekeeping, David Reynolds, Chief Executive LGNSW • Opening of the Federal & State Conferences adoption of standing orders, business sessions and consideration of motions and conference business • Presentation of financial reports, Cr Julie Griffiths, LGNSW Treasurer • Commencement of consideration of motions and conference business 🍩 Morning refreshments Location: Trade Exhibition, Panthers Penrith Event Centre ✅ LGNSW Voting Location: Western Sydney Convention Centre 🎤 Address by Elite Partner 📄 Consideration of Conference Business continued 🍴 Lunch • Delegates Location: Trade Exhibition, Panthers Penrith Event Centre • GM Lunch – partnered by StateCover Mutal Location: Western Sydney Convention Centre ✅ LGNSW Voting Location: Western Sydney Convention Centre 📄 Consideration of Conference Business continued Location: Panthers Penrith Evan Theatre 🍩 Afternoon refreshments Location: Trade Exhibition, Panthers Penrith Event Centre 📄 Consideration of Conference Business continued Location: Panthers Penrith Evan Theatre

5.00pm-6.30pm	🥛 Networking Drinks Location: Trade Exhibition, Panthers Penrith Event Centre 🚌 Bus Transfers Delegate Transfers: Panthers Penrith to selected hotels to Western Sydney Convention Centre
6.30pm-10.30pm	🍽️ LGNSW Conference Dinner Location: Western Sydney Convention Centre 🚌 Bus Transfers Delegate Transfers: From Western Sydney Convention Centre to selected hotels

25 November

	🚌 Bus Transfers Delegate Transfers: From selected hotels to Panthers Penrith
7.30am	✍️ Registration Opens Location: Panthers Penrith Reception 🧥 Cloak Room Opens Location: Panthers Penrith
8.00am	👷 Trade Exhibition Opens Location: Panthers Penrith Event Centre ☕ Light refreshments available

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025 (Cont.)

9.00am-12.45pm	🧑‍🤝‍🧑 Plenary Sessions Location: Panthers Penrith Evan Theatre 👋 Introduction, Housekeeping and Speaker Introductions 🧑‍🤝‍🧑 Plenary Sessions ☕ Morning Tea Location: Panthers Penrith Event Centre 🧑‍🤝‍🧑 Plenary Sessions 🎤 Keynote speaker 🙌 Annual Conference 2026 Host Council 🎤 Final Remarks, President LGNSW
12.45pm-1.45pm	🍴 Lunch Location: Panthers Penrith Event Centre
2.00pm	👏 Conference Concludes

11 City Planning

11.1 Waste Services Plant Procurement

FILE NO:	**61/2**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Planning** **Manager Environment & Sustainability**
AUTHOR:	**Operations Manager Waste Services**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 2 Sustainable Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**2.2.1 Sustainable leadership**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report requests approval to commence procurement activities for a number of items of plant to ensure efficient delivery of Council's Waste Service. The request includes a mix of new plant items and replacement of existing items of plant.

Due to plant delivery timeframes approval is requested to commence procurement in 2025/26 for several items of plant that will be funded in 2026/27. These will be included in the fleet program as part of the 26/27 capital investment program.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council approves procurement of the following items of plant, to allow for extended procurement and plant delivery timeframes:**
    a. **4WD ute**
    b. **Medium-sized (approx. 15m^3) hard body rear-loader collection vehicle**
    c. **Material handler (approx. 22 tonne)**
    d. **Pantech truck**
    e. **2 small tippers (4.5 GVM)**
2. **Council approves additional funding of $35,000 for purchase of plant in 2025/26 capital expenditure program from the Domestic Waste Reserve**
3. **Council approves the inclusion of $1.2 million for waste plant, and respective funding sources as outlined in this report, within the planned 2026/27 capital expenditure budget**

WASTE SERVICES PLANT PROCUREMENT (Cont.)

REPORT

Council's waste service relies on access to reliable and fit for purpose plant to deliver waste collection, disposal and resource recovery services in line with Council's existing Delivery Program and Operational Plan and the Waste Services Management Plan. A review of plant requirements for the period to 2030 has identified that two items of plant require replacement in the immediate term, and procurement of a further four items of new plant is required.

PLANT REPLACEMENT

Two existing items have been identified for replacement as they are not fit for purpose.

Waste Disposal Ute

The Waste Disposal 4WD Ute was due for replacement in 2022/23 financial year. The vehicle has been temporarily replaced with a 2-wheel drive ute which is not fit for purpose at the landfill in wet weather. It is recommended to replace the current Waste Disposal Ute with a 4WD Ute.

Rear-loader Collection Vehicle

A small (10m^3) rear-loader is currently used for public place bin servicing, servicing difficult locations such as narrow streets and collection of illegal dumping. This vehicle has been identified as a contingency for the Bulky Waste Collection Service in the case of break-down of the large (24m^3) rear-loader collection vehicle, however it is not currently fit for this purpose due to the small capacity and the body being designed for general waste rather than bulky waste.

The vehicle is five years old and had an initial replacement flagged for replacement in 2028, however to ensure continued delivery of the Bulky Waste Collection Service it is recommended to replace the small 10 m^3 rear-loader collection vehicle with a medium-sized (15m^3) hard body rear-loader collection vehicle.

NEW ITEMS OF PLANT

Several new items of plant are required to assist with efficient delivery of Waste Services.

Material handler for the Maitland Resource Recovery Facility

A material handler was identified in the 2022/23 and 2023/24 Plant Replacement Program, however delays in plant procurement resulted in funding being removed. The item of plant will assist in pulling additional items from landfill for recovery, such as metals, timber and concrete.

Due to plant delivery timeframes it is anticipated that this item of plant will be received in 2026/27 if tenders are undertaken and the item is ordered in late 2025.

WASTE SERVICES PLANT PROCUREMENT (Cont.)

It is estimated the material handler will save approximately $90,000 per year in landfill disposal and waste levy costs and could extend the landfill life by approximately 6 months. As the current estimate for landfill life is 3.5 years and the site transformation project is ongoing, the additional 6 months will provide crucial time to complete Stage 3 of the transformation, being the construction of a waste transfer station. The savings from avoiding diversion of general waste to Summerhill Waste Management Centre for 6 months is estimated to be over $4 million, providing a positive return on investment.

This item of plant will also be essential for operation of Stage 3 of the site transformation, ensuring access to fit for purpose plant over the long term.

Bulk Waste Collection Support Vehicle

The Bulky Waste Support Truck was identified for purchase as part of the 2023/24 Plant Replacement Program. It was decided to initially trial the vehicle to ensure the correct truck type was purchased. A Pantech truck is currently being hired at a cost of $48,048 per annum.

Small Tippers for Waste Collection and Disposal

Additional items of plant are required in both the Collection and Disposal teams due to increased staffing levels due to increased services and population growth. It is recommended that 2 small (4.5 T GVM) tippers are purchased to assist in delivering the service. These will be used for new service deliveries, event bin deliveries and litter collection at the waste facility.

CONCLUSION

This report outlines the need for both the replacement of plant that is no longer fit for purpose and the procurement of new equipment to support Council's Waste Services. The proposed items will enhance operational efficiency, ensure the continued delivery of services, and reduce long-term costs.

CONSULTATION

Waste services plant requirements have been identified based on the objectives of the Waste Services Management Plan, prepared based on detailed community feedback, and in consultation with the Waste Services workforce. Plant and Financial Services were consulted in the preparation of this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The total estimated cost for all plant is $1.25 million, which includes $400,000 for plant replacement and $850,000 for new plant acquisitions.

The financial implications for financial years 25/26 and 26/27 are summarised in Table 1.

WASTE SERVICES PLANT PROCUREMENT (Cont.)

Table 1 Financial Implication for Plant Procurement

Plant Items	Estimated cost	FY25/26		FY26/27	
		Budget	Unbudgeted	Budget	Unbudgeted
Plant Replacement					
4WD Ute	$50,000	$15,000	$35,000	$0	$0
Rear-loader	$350,000	$0	$0	$0	$350,000
New Plant Items					
Material handler	$500,000	$0	$0	$0	$500,000
Pantech truck	$150,000	$0	$0	$0	$150,000
Tipper truck - Collection	$100,000	$0	$0	$0	$100,000
Tipper truck – Disposal	$100,000	$0	$0	$0	$100,000
TOTAL	**$1,250,000**	**$15,000**	**$35,000**	**$0**	**$1,200,000**

The portion of each item of plant that is funded from Domestic Waste Revenue depends on its use and includes:

- Maitland Resource Recovery Facility – 70%
- Bulky waste collection – 100%
- Other collection services – 96%.

The funding model for the plant items are detailed in Table 2.

Table 2 Funding Arrangements for Plant Procurement

Plant Items	Purchase method	Estimated cost	Funding arrangement		
			Domestic Waste Revenue	Approved budget	General Revenue
Plant Replacement					
4WD Ute	Direct	$50,000	$35,000	$15,000	
Rear-loader	Equipment loan	$350,000	$336,000		$14,000
New Plant Items					
Material handler	Equipment loan	$500,000	$350,000		$150,000
Pantech truck	Direct	$150,000	$150,000		
Tipper truck - Collection	Direct	$100,000	$96,000		$4,000
Tipper truck – Disposal	Direct	$100,000	$70,000		$30,000
TOTAL		**$1,250,000**	$1,037,000	$15,000	$198,000

The domestic revenue component of the plant costs will be factored into the Domestic Waste Management Charge (DWMC) for 2026/27 and future years via the equipment loan cost or depreciation for items that are directly purchased. These costs are not expected to significantly change the DWMC for 2026/27 as equipment costs are factored into the charge each year.

The $198,000 of funding required from general revenue in 2026/27 will be built into the capital investment program.

WASTE SERVICES PLANT PROCUREMENT (Cont.)

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The risk implications of the approval for plant procurement are detailed below.

Risk	Risk rating	Proposed treatment	Proposed risk	Resourcing – within or additional (is additional explain)
Ageing and inappropriate plant impact of efficient service delivery.	Medium	Commence procurement in advance to reduce delays in receiving plant.	Low	Within resources.
Plant costs being higher than anticipated.	Medium	Staged procurement based on priority.	Low	Within resources.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations related to this matter are consistent with the following relevant council policies:

- Procurement Policy
- Plant and Equipment Replacement
- Asset Management Strategy, Policy and Plans
- Financial Reserves Policy
- Risk Management Policy

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This report relates to and is consistent with Section 496 and 504 of the Local Government Act 1993 regarding the requirements to make and levy an annual Domestic Waste Management Charge and the use of this charge to fund domestic waste services.

11.2 Management of Feral and/or Infant Animals Policy Review

FILE NO:	**106/2**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Planning** **Manager Environment & Sustainability** **Team Leader Compliance**
AUTHOR:	**Team Leader Ranger Services**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 2 Sustainable Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**2.1.2 Natural spaces**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been prepared to provide for the review of Council's Management of Feral and/or Infant Animals Policy in accordance with amendments to the Companion Animals Act 1998. This policy identifies the criteria for when/how an animal is assessed to be feral and/or infant and the applicable actions to be taken by Maitland City Council.

The review does not change the intention of the policy as adopted in February 2020 and primarily provides for updates due to amendments to the Companion Animals Act.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council endorses the revised Management of Feral and/or Infant Animals Policy to be placed on public exhibition for a period of twenty-eight (28) days.**
2. **Should there be no submissions of objection:**
    a. **Council adopts the draft revised Management of Feral and/or Infant Animals Policy**
    b. **Council delegates any minor changes of the Policy to the General Manager. Any significant changes will result in a further report and recommendation to Council.**

REPORT

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* ("The Act") requires that a person who seizes a Companion Animal under the provisions of the Act, must cause the seized animal to be returned to its owner, delivered to the Council pound, or surrender the animal to an Authorised Council Officer within a reasonable time. The Act outlines procedures for managing the animals, including statutory holding periods.

MANAGEMENT OF FERAL AND/OR INFANT ANIMALS POLICY REVIEW (Cont.)

In some case the animals which have been seized are feral, and in other cases an infant animal is of such a young age that it cannot support its own life. In these cases, the Act Section 64(2) requires Council to have a policy which provides clear guidance on the management of these animals, including alternatives to euthanasia, and euthanasia where alternatives are not available. In addition, the Policy includes procedures where it is considered cruel to keep the animal caged for any nominated statutory period as defined in Section 64(1) of the Act.

This policy identifies the criteria for when/how an animal is assessed to be feral and/or infant and the applicable actions to be taken by Maitland City Council.

The Management of Feral and/or Infant Animals Policy was adopted by Council in October 2015 and reviewed in February 2020. The Policy has been reviewed to reflect legislative amendments.

CONCLUSION

The review of the Management of Feral and/or Infant Animals Policy confirmed that the current guidelines, procedures, and safety measures for handling Feral and/or Infant Animals remain effective in managing associated risks. Additionally, it was reaffirmed that the Council complies with legislative requirements for the seizure of animals, ensuring that no situation arises where it would be deemed inhumane to keep the animal confined. It is anticipated that the adoption of the updated Management of Feral and/or Infant Animals Policy will continue to facilitate the servicing Companion Animal concerns in line with legislative requirements and customer expectations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While the implementation of this policy is not expected to generate large-scale costs, it is important to acknowledge that some minor administrative or operational expenses may be incurred. It is estimated the total cost of implementation to be approximately $250 annually. These costs are expected to be absorbed within existing budgets and resources, without the need for additional funding allocations. Providing this approximate estimate to articulate these modest financial impacts aims to ensure transparency and demonstrate fiscal responsibility in executing the policy.

CONSULTATION

The Council will facilitate public consultation via its official website, providing community members with the opportunity to review the policy and submit feedback.

MANAGEMENT OF FERAL AND/OR INFANT ANIMALS POLICY REVIEW (Cont.)

RISK

Risk	Risk Rating (H,M,L)	Proposed Treatment	Proposed Risk Rating (H,M,L)	Resourcing- Within Or Additional (If Additional Explain)
There is a legal, reputational and operational risk that, by not adopting the draft Policy, Council would be in breach of its operational requirements	High	Adoption of the Management of Feral and/or Infant Animals Policy	Low	Within existing resources

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This policy was originally adopted by Council in October 2015 and subsequently reviewed in February 2020. The current update incorporates revisions to reflect recent legislative amendments.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There are no statutory implications under the *Local Government Act 1993* associated with this matter. The Policy supports delivery of Council's statutory function under the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and has been reviewed and updated to reflect legislative amendments to the Companion Animal Regulation 2018.

11.3 DA/2023/415 for Demolition, 8 into 258 Lot Torrens Title Subdivision including 2 Public Reserves, 1 Drainage Reserve, Road Widening and Associated Infrastructure Over 14 Stages at 2 & 20A Cantwell Road, 25, 39 & 55 Wyndella Road Lochinvar

FILE NO:	**DA/2023/415**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Site Plan** **2. Plans** **3. Assessment Report (Under Separate Cover)** **4. Submission (Under Separate Cover)** **5. Conditions (Under Separate Cover)**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Planning** **Coordinator Planning & Development** **Principal Planner**
AUTHOR:	**Senior Development Planner**
APPLICANT:	**Lochinvar Developments Pty Ltd**
OWNER:	**Lochinvar Land Pty Limited**
PROPOSAL:	**Demolition, 8 into 258 Lot Torrens Title Subdivision including 2 public reserves, 1 drainage reserve, road widening and associated infrastructure over 14 stages.**
LOCATION:	**2 & 20A Cantwell Road, 25, 39 & 55 Wyndella Road LOCHINVAR**
ZONE:	**R1 General Residential**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*Development Application No. DA/2023/415 seeks development consent for demolition, a 258 Lot Torrens Title Residential Subdivision across 14 stages, including the dedication of two public reserves, one drainage reserve, road widening, and associated civil infrastructure at 2 Cantwell Road, 25, 39 & 55 Wyndella Road, Lochinvar (refer to **Attachment 1** for the Locality Plan and **Attachment 2** for the Plans).*

The subject site is zoned R1 General Residential under the Maitland Local Environmental Plan (MLEP) 2011 and is located within the Lochinvar Urban Release Area (URA).

The application was originally publicly notified/advertised for a period of 28 days from 15 June 2023 to 12 July 2023 in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act) and Council's Community Participation Plan (CPP). 4 submissions were received. The submissions raised concerns regarding existing flooding over Wyndella Road and adjoining sites, increased traffic and impacts on access from the New England Highway, adequacy of stormwater infrastructure, integration with adjoining properties, and the extent of road widening works required. These issues have been considered in detail

*within the assessment report provided in **Attachment 3** and addressed through revised documentation and technical referrals. A redacted version of the submissions is provided in **Attachment 4**.*

*During the assessment of the application, the proposal was placed on hold pending resolution of key issues relating to traffic and intersection performance, compliance with the URA masterplan, bushfire protection, flood modelling, stormwater and drainage design, road geometry and earthworks, biodiversity and riparian corridor management, acoustic attenuation from the New England Highway, and the arrangement of a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) to satisfy the requirements of Clause 6.1 of the MLEP 2011. These matters have now been resolved through the submission of revised plans and supporting documentation and are considered to be adequately addressed. A detailed assessment of these matters is provided in **Attachment 3** for the Assessment Report.*

The revised application was publicly notified/advertised for a period of 28 days from 14 August to 10 September 2024 in accordance with the Act and CPP. No submissions were received.

The site is located on bushfire prone land and accordingly General Terms of Approval (GTA's) have been obtained from the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for the proposed residential subdivision.

The proposed works are located within 40 metres of a first and second order watercourse and accordingly GTA's have been issued by the former Department of Planning and Environment – Water (DPE-W), now known as Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

The application also triggered Integrated Development referral under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 due to proposed works within a classified watercourse. General Terms of Approval (GTAs) were issued by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) requiring a permit for a Controlled Activity Approval under the Water Management Act 2000. Works must comply with best practice erosion and sediment control measures. These requirements have been incorporated into the conditions of consent to manage potential impacts to aquatic habitat and riparian vegetation.

Referral was also required under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974, with General Terms of Approval (GTA's) issued by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW). These GTAs require an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) and associated management measures, which have been reflected in the recommended conditions of consent.

A Satisfactory Arrangements Certificate (SAC) was issued for the revised residential subdivision by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on 16 July 2025 stating that satisfactory arrangements have been made to contribute to the provision of designated State Infrastructure.

The application is being reported to Council for determination as it exceeds Council Officer delegations, due to the estimated cost of works ($26,059,954.00).

*The proposed subdivision is consistent with the Lochinvar URA DCP, meets the requirements of the relevant environmental planning instruments, and reflects the strategic intent for the area. The application has been assessed against the relevant matters for consideration under Section 4.15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and is considered to be satisfactory subject to the imposition of conditions of consent as provided in **Attachment 5** for the schedule of draft conditions.*

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Development consent be granted to DA/2023/415 for demolition, a 258 lot Torrens Title subdivision, including two public reserves, one drainage reserve, road widening, and associated infrastructure over 14 stages at 2 & 20A Cantwell Road, Lochinvar, 25, 39 Wyndella Road & 55 Wyndella Road, Lochinvar, subject to the recommended conditions of consent contained in Attachment 5.**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an assessment of the proposed development to enable determination of DA/2023/415 proposing demolition of existing structures, a 258 lot Torrens Title subdivision across 14 stages, including two public recreation reserves, one drainage reserve, associated road widening, and infrastructure works.

The application is reported to Council for determination as the estimated cost of works exceeds staff delegation ($26,059,954.00).

A detailed assessment of the application has been undertaken in accordance with Section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW), with this report (**Attachment 3**) and recommended conditions (**Attachment 5**) presented to Council for consideration**.**

SITE DESCRIPTION

The land subject to the development application comprises the following parcels (refer to **Figure 1** below):

- Lot 2 in in DP 1299958 (20A Cantwell Road Lochinvar);
- Lots 2–6 in DP 747391 (2 Cantwell Road, Lochinvar);
- Lot 9 in DP 747391 (55 Wyndella Road, Lochinvar);
- Lot 12 in DP 1219648 (39 Wyndella Road, Lochinvar); and
- Lot 13 in DP 1219648 (25 Wyndella Road, Lochinvar).

Collectively, the site spans approximately 22.54 hectares, with frontages to the New England Highway (235m) and Wyndella Road (658m). It is situated within the Lochinvar URA and is zoned R1 General Residential under the Maitland Local Environmental Plan 2011 (MLEP). The site adjoins land zoned RU2 Rural Landscape to the north and east.

The land has historically been used for rural grazing, containing limited built structures including a dwelling, shed and septic tank, and features a gently undulating topography. Existing vegetation is generally sparse, with remnant patches in the north-western and south-western corners. Two drainage easements provide legal discharge points for stormwater from both the northern and southern catchments.

Lochinvar Creek traverses the southern portion of the site and comprises a combination of first and second order streams. The land is mapped as flood prone and bushfire prone, with areas affected by Class 5 Acid Sulfate Soils.

Minor works are proposed on adjoining lots to enable drainage works and road construction. Owner's consent for these works has been provided.

The site is partially constrained by environmental factors including flood risk and mapped watercourses, however these matters have been addressed through the supporting specialist reports and detailed stormwater, bushfire and ecological designs submitted with the application.

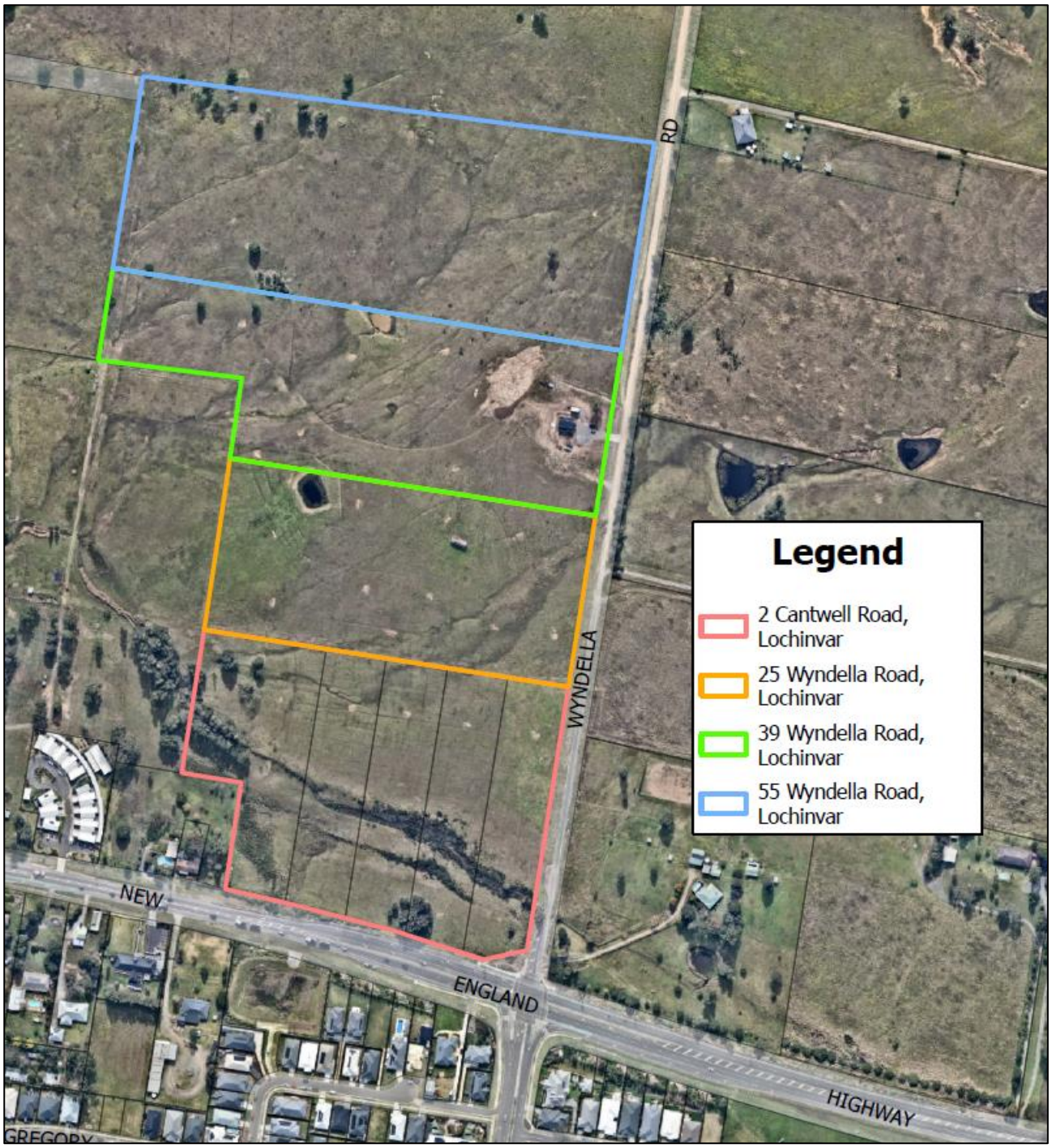


Figure 1: *Aerial view of subject site as delineated*

PROPOSAL

Development Application DA/2023/415 seeks consent for demolition of existing structures, a 258-lot Torrens Title Residential Subdivision, including two (2) public reserves, one (1) drainage reserve, road widening, and associated infrastructure over 14 stages. The proposal relates to land at 2 Cantwell Road, 25, 39 & 55 Wyndella Road, Lochinvar, legally described as Lots 2–6 and 9 in DP 747391 and Lots 12 and 13 in DP 1219648.

The key components of the development are as follows (refer to **Figure 2** below):

Subdivision and Onsite Works

- Demolition of all existing structures onsite;
- Removal of approximately 0.94ha native vegetation;
- 8 into 258 residential lots, varying lot sizes of 450m^2 to 1200m^2;
- Two public reserves (Lots 230 & 522) with an area of approximately 5,000m^2 each which will be dedicated to Council to accommodate two future Local Parks (subject to a separate application);
- Construction of road, footpath and stormwater infrastructure;
- Bulk earthworks and stockpiling of fill as required;
- Provision of underground water, sewer, stormwater, electrical and communication servicing throughout;
- Establishment of Asset Protection Zones (APZs);
- Landscape buffer along the New England Highway (NEH), street tree planting, planting of bio-retention basins, supplementary planting to riparian corridor; and
- Creation of necessary easements.

Offsite Works

- Road widening and upgrade works to Wyndella Road, including footpaths/shared paths, stormwater drainage infrastructure, and connection to the New England Highway;
- Earthworks batters and minor civil works extending into adjoining Lots 1 DP 65706, 2 DP 818314, and 11 DP 1219648;
- Construction of a shared boundary road (half-width) across Lot 2 DP 818314 (20A Cantwell Road).

Appropriate owner's consent was submitted for works proposed on adjoining lots.

Staging and Delivery

The subdivision will be delivered over 14 stages, as illustrated on the staging plan submitted with the application. No physical works (embellishments) are proposed to the parkland at this stage. Embellishment will occur in accordance with separate requirements or future Development Applications.

Dedication of Land to Council

The proposal includes dedication of the following lots to Maitland City Council:

- Lot 231 – Drainage reserve and riparian corridor;
- Lots 230 and 522 – Public reserve for use as future local parks;
- Lot 1401 – Additional drainage infrastructure land.

DA/2023/415 FOR DEMOLITION, 8 INTO 258 LOT TORRENS TITLE SUBDIVISION INCLUDING 2 PUBLIC RESERVES, 1 DRAINAGE RESERVE, ROAD WIDENING AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE OVER 14 STAGES AT 2 & 20A CANTWELL ROAD, 25, 39 & 55 WYNDELLA ROAD LOCHINVAR (Cont.)

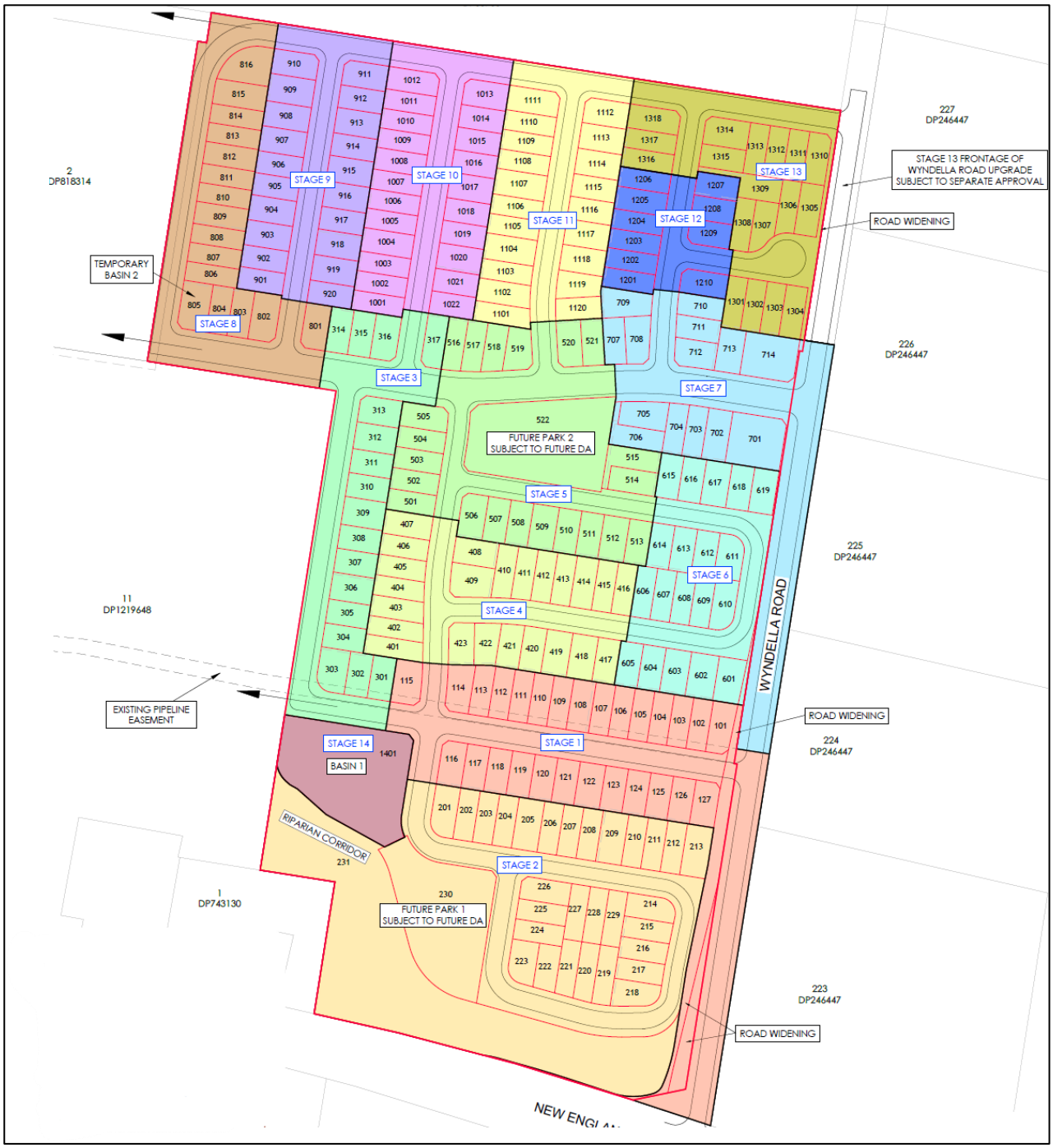


Figure 2: *Proposed Subdivision and Staging Plan*

KEY ISSUES

A detailed planning assessment of the application is provided at **Attachment 3**, with a summary of key issues and outcomes outlined below. The subdivision is of a large scale, comprising 258 Torrens Title residential lots across 14 stages within the Lochinvar URA, and the assessment considers matters including bushfire risk, biodiversity and riparian impacts, stormwater and flooding, road network integration, traffic impacts, noise exposure and site contamination,

These matters are summarised below.

Bushfire Risk

The subject site is identified as bushfire prone land. A Bushfire Assessment Report (BAR) was prepared and reviewed by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), which issued GTAs. Key matters raised during the assessment included treatment of land to be dedicated to Council (Lot 129), on-street parking on perimeter roads, and confirmation of compliant access staging. All matters were resolved in consultation with the RFS.

The risk to the existing dwelling west of the site was reviewed in the context of the revegetation strategy for the adjacent riparian corridor. Revised planting zones restrict vegetation structure in this area to prevent additional fuel loads, and modelling confirms the post development Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) remains unchanged (BAL-19).

Biodiversity and Riparian Impacts

A Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) and Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) were submitted and revised throughout the assessment. The proposal does not trigger any Serious and Irreversible Impacts (SAII). Onsite riparian corridors will be rehabilitated and managed for ecological and stormwater functions. The southwestern corridor incorporates a wetland and berm planting structure designed for minimal maintenance and low bushfire hazard. The BDAR and BMP has been reviewed by Council's Ecologist and is supported subject to appropriate conditions.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) was prepared and reviewed by Heritage NSW. A low-density artefact scatter was identified with limited archaeological significance. GTAs were issued, and conditions are recommended to address unexpected finds and manage Aboriginal heritage in accordance with statutory obligations.

Earthworks and Geotechnical Considerations

The proposed development involves extensive earthworks to facilitate the subdivision and associated infrastructure, including regrading, cut and fill operations, retaining walls, battering, and stockpiling. These works are necessary to achieve suitable lot gradients, enable stormwater management, and accommodate existing sewer alignments across the site.

According to the submitted earthworks plan, the development will involve approximately 153,000 m^3 of excavation (cut) and 115,000 m^3 of fill, with around 38,000 m^3 of surplus material to be removed from the site.

While some areas of the site will require cumulative fill depths of up to 4 metres, this is not represented as a singular vertical change in ground level. Rather, the fill is distributed progressively across the site in stepped and tiered formations that follow the subdivision design and stormwater drainage patterns. At no point will a single fill face exceed 2 metres in height. This approach reduces visual bulk, aligns with the natural topography, and provides stable, buildable lots.

A geotechnical report and supplementary addendum confirm that the proposed earthworks including the deeper, tiered fill areas can be safely engineered in accordance with applicable standards. Retaining walls ranging between 1 metre and 1.5 metres in height are incorporated throughout the development and are integrated with the road and drainage layout. Council's Development Engineers have reviewed the geotechnical documentation and civil plans and raise no objection, subject to the recommended conditions of consent.

Stormwater Management and Flooding

The proposed drainage strategy includes two bioretention basins, realignment of an existing watercourse, swale drains, and channel works. Revised stormwater modelling demonstrates no worsening of downstream flood risk. All proposed lots are flood free up to the PMF. Conditions are imposed to ensure long-term safety, capacity and freeboard compliance.

Traffic and Road Network Impacts

Traffic impacts were assessed via a peer reviewed Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA), which confirms that the proposed development can be accommodated within the existing and future local road network, subject to upgrades. The subdivision delivers a key section of the MC03 east–west distributor road, consistent with the Lochinvar URA road hierarchy, and includes works to Wyndella Road that reflect the ultimate configuration of a Primary Distributor Road as per the DCP.

Wyndella Road will be upgraded along the site's frontage to include kerb and gutter, verge treatments and a shared path on the development side, and a travel lane with sealed shoulder on the opposite carriageway. This staged approach ensures that the long-term road profile is safeguarded while responding proportionately to the current development context, including the rural zoning on the eastern side of Wyndella Road. Three intersections (MC01, MC03, and MC05) are proposed along Wyndella Road and will be constructed as part of the development. The design of these intersections reflects current traffic volumes and the projected function of Wyndella Road within the broader URA network.

TfNSW raised no objection to the development and confirmed support for the proposed interim treatment at the Wyndella Road and New England Highway intersection, which includes a "Keep Clear" zone and modified signal phasing to address potential queuing impacts. Modelling demonstrates that this treatment will maintain acceptable levels of service until at least 2031. Access concerns raised in submissions, particularly regarding Lot 223, are addressed through this interim solution. TfNSW has confirmed that the developer is required to enter into a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD) for all works on the classified road, including any signal modifications and associated signage or line marking. These works must be delivered at no cost to TfNSW and completed prior to the issue of the first Subdivision Certificate.

Earlier concerns raised by the applicant regarding the scope and staging of intersection construction conditions have been resolved through ongoing discussions with Council. Final engineering conditions now reflect the agreed design intent and sequencing of road and intersection works.

Acoustic and Visual Impact

A Noise Impact Assessment confirms that a 30m physical setback from the New England Highway satisfies internal noise criteria under SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021. No acoustic barrier is required. Landscaping along the highway will assist in visual screening but is not relied upon for acoustic mitigation. Dwelling placement and street tree planting assist in minimising visual impact.

Demolition

During the assessment of this application, a Complying Development Certificate (CDC) was lodged for a dwelling and detached shed on 39 Wyndella Road, Lochinvar (CDC/2025/96, CDC/2025/200 & CDC/2025/237). A condition of consent for this subdivision will require the demolition of all existing structures and remediation where necessary before the issue of the subdivision certificate of Stage 6 (the location of the staging where the building is currently located). Applicable conditions of consent for the management of this works will be included, such as the remediation of the land effected by the onsite sewage system.

Contamination

Phase 1 and 2 contamination assessments were submitted. The site is considered suitable for residential use subject to conditions for validation and management of any unexpected finds. Remediation of the existing dwelling site and septic system will be required prior to relevant subdivision stages.

PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The proposal was publicly notified for a period of 28 days (excluding public holidays), from 15 June 2023 to 12 July 2023, and re-notified from 14 August 2024 to 10 September 2024, in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and the Maitland Development Control Plan 2011.

A total of four (4) submissions were received during the initial exhibition period, all of which raised objections or provided comment on the proposed development. No submissions were received during the second exhibition period.

Redacted copies of the submissions are provided at **Attachment 4.**

A summary of the submissions is provided in the following table:

Issue	**Summary Response**
Traffic and Intersection Access Submissions raised concern regarding the impact of the development on access to Lot 223, which is located at the intersection of Wyndella Road and the New England Highway. It was argued that queuing at the signals would hinder safe access and that the driveway should be relocated at the developer's expense.	TfNSW and the project traffic consultant have reviewed the matter. While the access arrangement reflects an existing deficiency in the road network, the development may increase traffic volumes at the intersection. An interim treatment comprising a "Keep Clear" zone on Wyndella Road and modifications to signal phasing has been agreed with TfNSW to manage this impact. Updated traffic modelling confirms this approach will provide safe access and maintain acceptable levels of service until at least 2031. Accordingly, relocation of the driveway is not required.

Wyndella Road Upgrades and Cost Burden Concern was raised that future upgrades to Wyndella Road to meet Primary Distributor Road standards should be delivered wholly within the development site, and not shift future burden to landowners to the east. The submission also questioned whether the traffic assessment accounted for broader URA development beyond the applicant's site.	The development layout and engineering design have been updated to include half-road construction of Wyndella Road along the development frontage, comprising a travel lane, kerb and gutter, verge, and shared path. A sealed shoulder is also proposed on the opposite carriageway, consistent with a staged delivery of the full Primary Distributor Road. This approach reflects agreements with Council and considers the limited development potential on the eastern (RU2-zoned) side. The Traffic Impact Assessment has been updated to include future growth across the broader Lochinvar URA, including the adjacent Anambah URA precinct. Required upgrades to intersections (MC01, MC03, and MC05) and the New England Highway signalised intersection are included in the final engineering design and draft conditions of consent.
Flood Modelling and External Catchments Concern was also raised that the flood modelling did not adequately consider upstream or downstream impacts from surrounding developments including Hereford Hill and Lochinvar Ridge. There was also concern about the risk of stormwater backflow and inundation of lots within the development.	The application is supported by revised hydraulic modelling. Hereford Hill was modelled under fully developed conditions and Lochinvar Ridge as undeveloped but with anticipated stormwater controls. The modelling confirms no worsening of conditions for adjoining land. Areas previously identified as flood-affected within Stage 10 are no longer part of the proposal, and all remaining lots are confirmed to be flood free up to the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). Conditions are included to ensure compliance with Council's flood risk management standards.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The development attracts a monetary contribution of $6,711,560.00 in accordance with Council's adopted Lochinvar Section 7.11 Contributions Plan.

There are no immediate financial implications for Council, as the applicant has not yet entered into a Works-In-Kind (WIK) agreement. However, a condition of consent has been included to allow the applicant to enter into a WIK agreement with Council in the future, should they wish to deliver any of the following infrastructure items identified in the Lochinvar Section 7.11 Contributions Plan:

- L2 – Local Playground;
- L3 – Local Playground;
- L41 – Upgrade of Existing Basin;
- L42 – Upgrade of Existing Basin.

Should a WIK agreement be executed, it will result in offsets or reimbursements in accordance with the Contributions Plan and subject to Council approval. In this event, long-term financial implications will arise from the transfer of assets to Council, including ongoing responsibility for the maintenance and management of local parks, stormwater infrastructure, and public roads delivered under the agreement.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The application is being reported to Council for determination as it exceeds Council Officer delegations, due to the estimated cost of works ($26,059,954.00).

This matter has no specific policy implications for Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Statutory considerations relevant to the assessment of the application, including the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, applicable State Environmental Planning Policies, the *Maitland Local Environmental Plan 2011*, the Maitland Development Control Plan 2011, and other relevant legislation and guidelines, have been addressed in the body of this report (refer to **Attachment 3**).

CONCLUSION

The proposed 258 Lot Torrens Title residential subdivision represents a significant component of the ongoing development of the Lochinvar URA and is consistent with the strategic intent for the site under the MLEP 2011 and associated DCP provisions.

The application has been subject to a detailed assessment and has undergone several iterations to respond to agency referrals, community submissions, and Council's engineering and environmental requirements.

The subdivision provides for the delivery of new residential lots, drainage and road infrastructure, and two new public parks. It also facilitates the delivery of identified infrastructure under the Lochinvar s.7.11 Contributions Plan via Works-In-Kind agreements, including upgraded stormwater basins and local playgrounds.

The proposal has been assessed in accordance with Section 4.15 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and is considered acceptable in relation to the relevant matters for consideration. Subject to conditions, the development is considered to be in the public interest and is recommended for approval.

City Planning

DA/2023/415 for Demolition, 8 into 258 Lot Torrens Title Subdivision including 2 Public Reserves, 1 Drainage Reserve, Road Widening and Associated Infrastructure Over 14 Stages at 2 & 20A Cantwell Road, 25, 39 & 55 Wyndella Road Lochinvar

Site Plan

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 1

DA/2023/415 FOR DEMOLITION, 8 INTO 258 LOT TORRENS TITLE SUBDIVISION INCLUDING 2 PUBLIC RESERVES, 1 DRAINAGE RESERVE, ROAD WIDENING AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE OVER 14 STAGES AT 2 & 20A CANTWELL ROAD, 25, 39 & 55 WYNDELLA ROAD LOCHINVAR (Cont.)

City Planning

DA/2023/415 for Demolition, 8 into 258 Lot Torrens Title Subdivision including 2 Public Reserves, 1 Drainage Reserve, Road Widening and Associated Infrastructure Over 14 Stages at 2 & 20A Cantwell Road, 25, 39 & 55 Wyndella Road Lochinvar

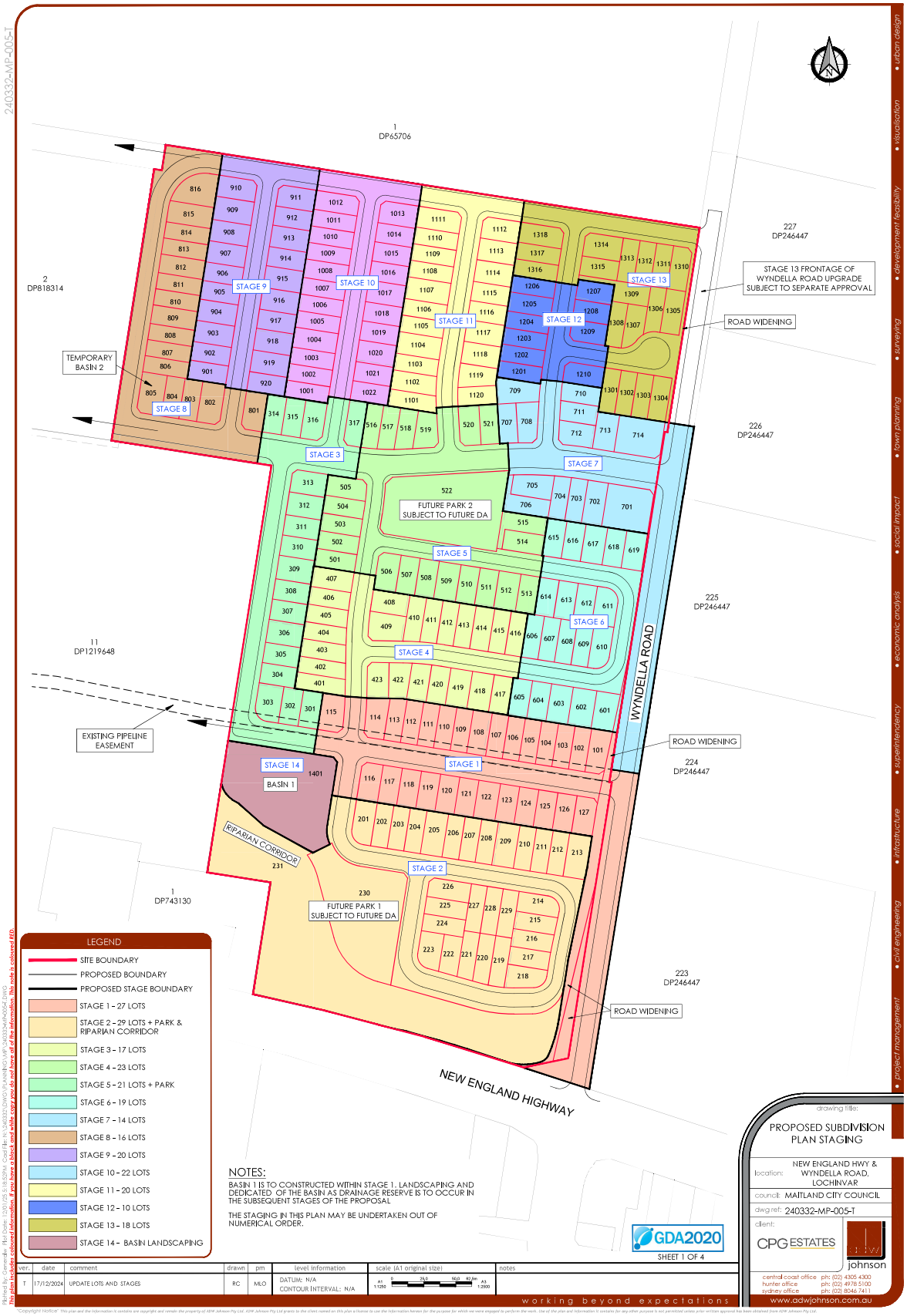
Plans

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 2

Number of Pages: 9

DA/2023/415 FOR DEMOLITION, 8 INTO 258 LOT TORRENS TITLE SUBDIVISION INCLUDING 2 PUBLIC RESERVES, 1 DRAINAGE RESERVE, ROAD WIDENING AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE OVER 14 STAGES AT 2 & 20A CANTWELL ROAD, 25, 39 & 55 WYNDELLA ROAD LOCHINVAR (Cont.)



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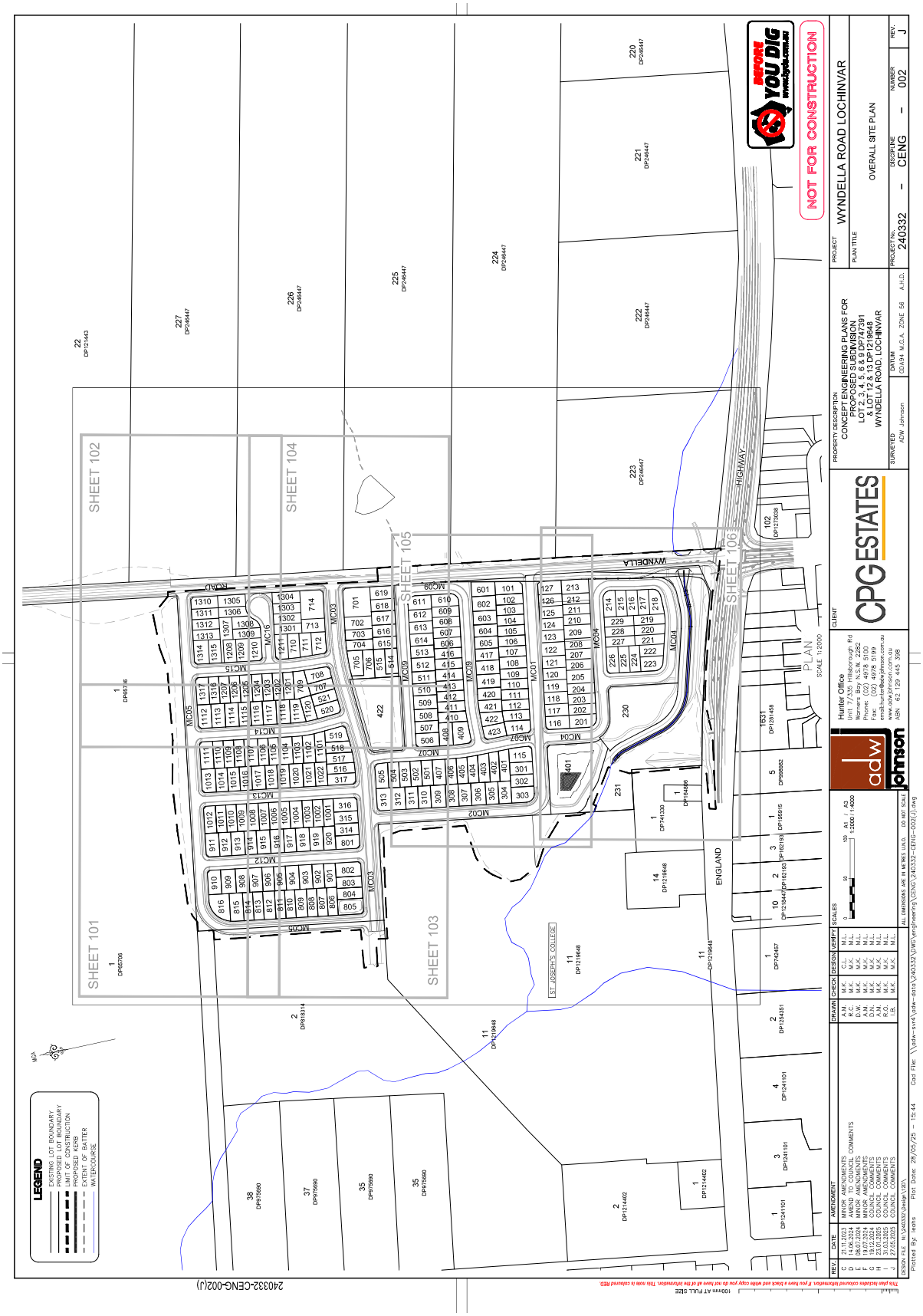

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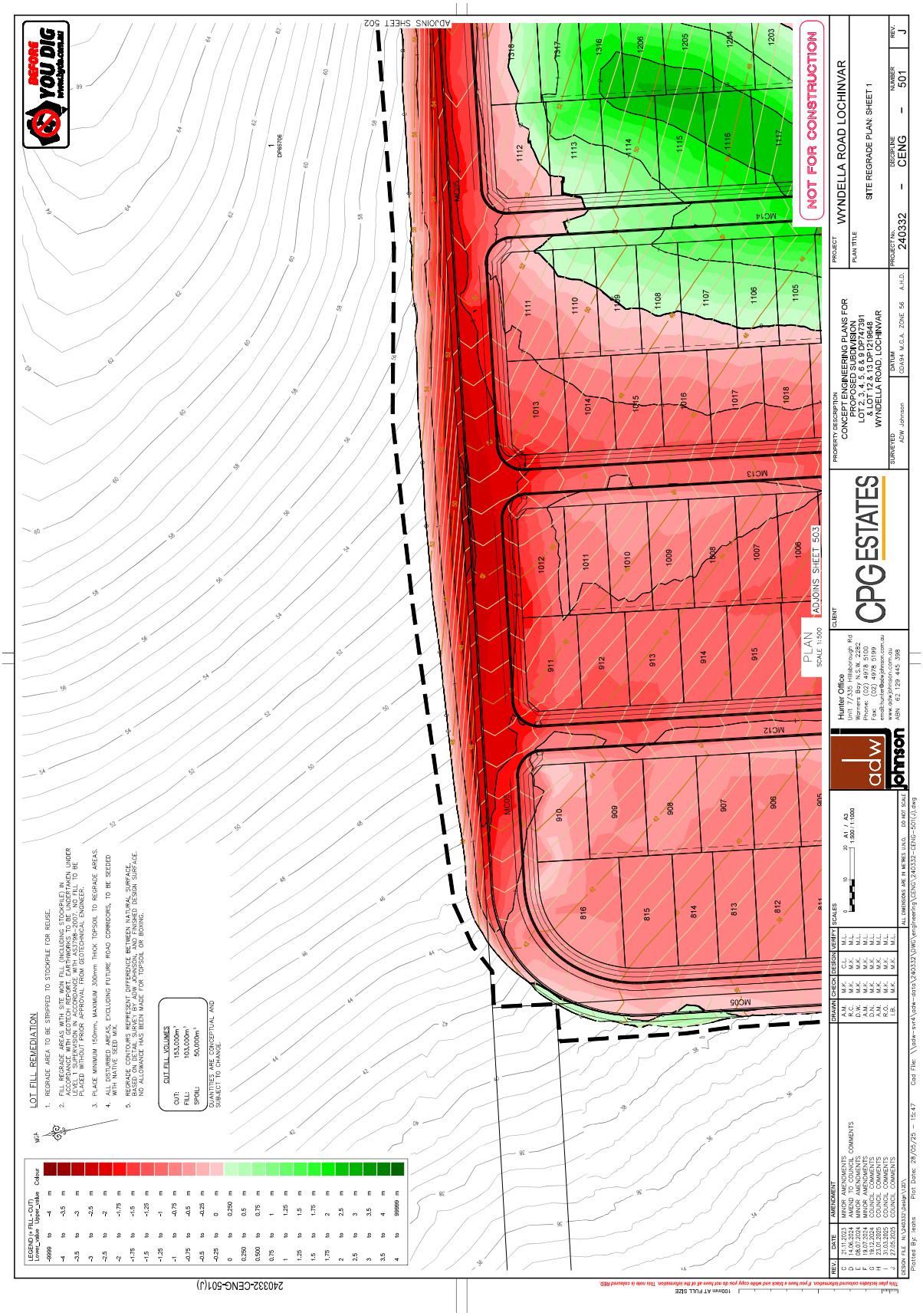

maitland CITY COUNCIL

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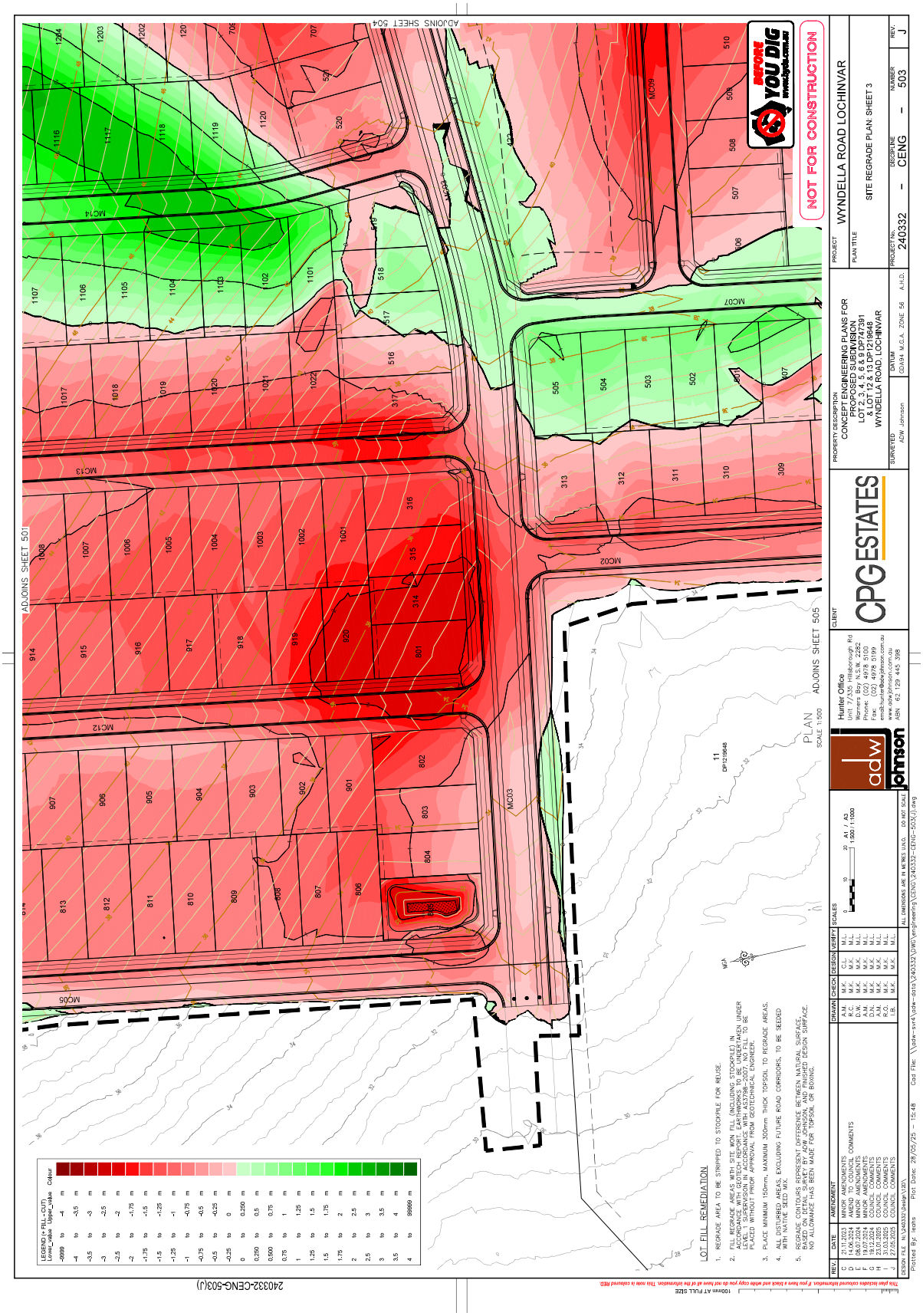

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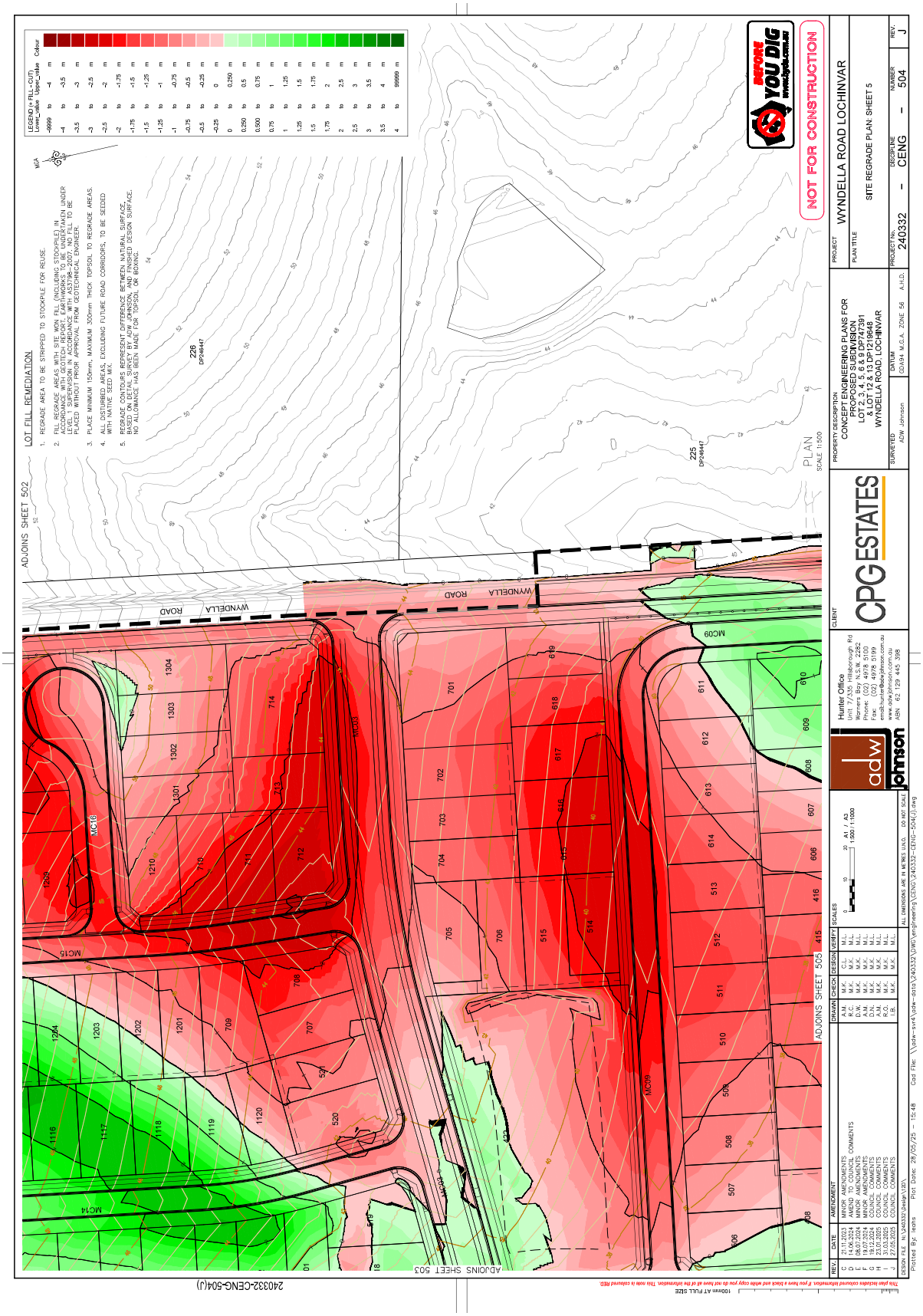

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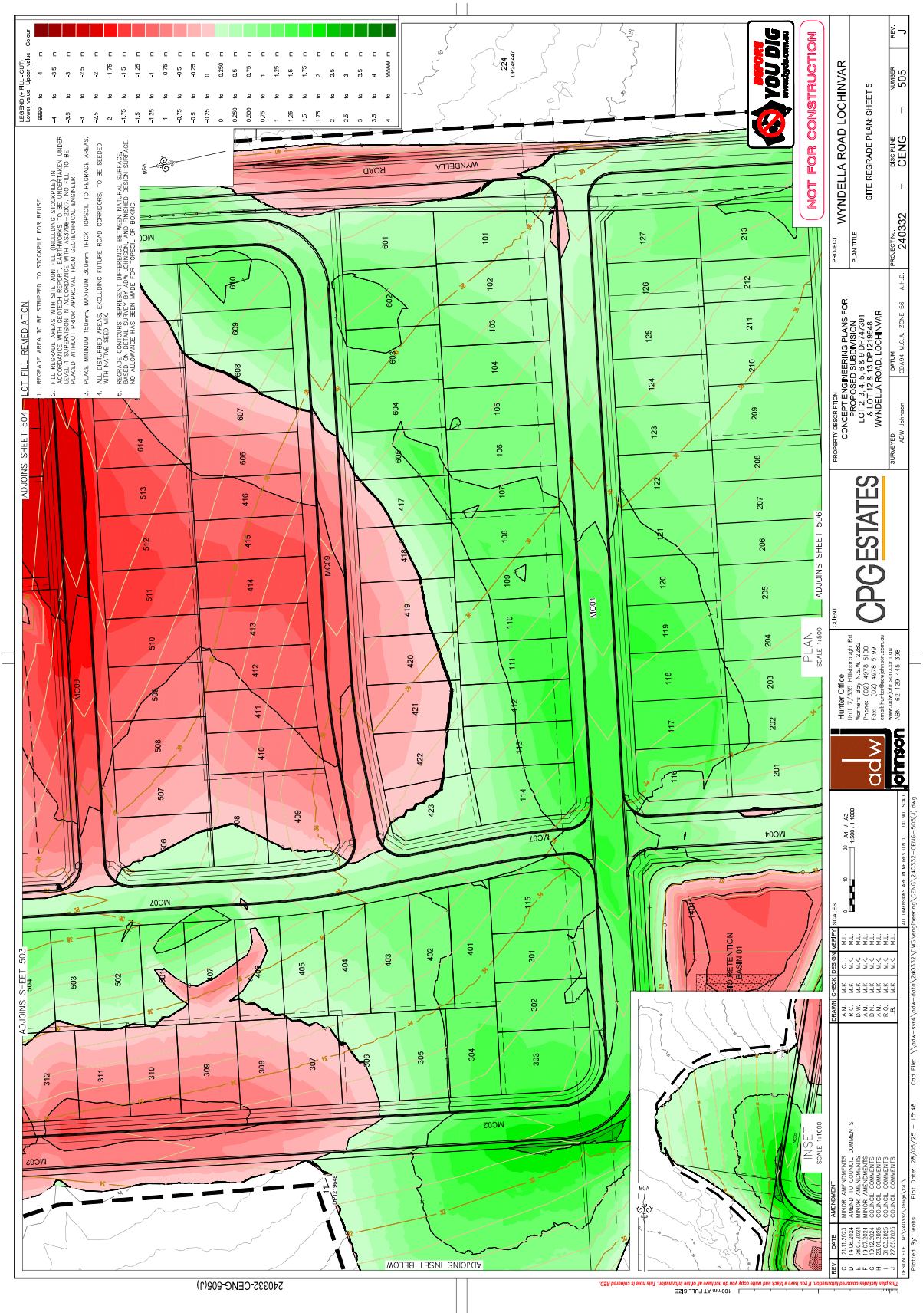

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12 City Services

12.1 Graffiti Management Policy Review

FILE NO:	**35/1**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Graffiti Management Plan 2015 (Under Separate Cover)** **2. Draft Graffiti Management Policy 2025**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Services**
AUTHOR:	**Manager Works**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 3 Vibrant Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**3.2.3 City presentation**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Graffiti Management Policy is intended to provide a framework and guidelines for the prevention, management, and removal of graffiti within the Maitland Local Government Area (LGA).

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council endorses the Draft Graffiti Management Policy (Attachment 2) to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days**
2. **Should there be no submissions of objection;**
    a. **Council adopts the Graffiti Management Policy**
    b. **Council delegates any minor changes of the Policy to the General Manager. Any significant changes will result in a further report and recommendation to Council**

REPORT

In 2015 Council adopted a Graffiti Management Plan (Attachment 1) outlining a series of principles and actions designed to reduce and prevent graffiti across the Maitland Local Government Area (LGA).

The Graffiti Management Plan (2015) was reviewed, and in its place, a Graffiti Management Policy developed. The new policy is better aligned to Council's current suite of policies and will be the framework for which Maitland City Council delivers graffiti management across the LGA. There are seven key areas of this policy based on contemporary approaches to address graffiti challenges:

GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW (Cont.)

1. Prompt removal of illegal Graffiti – Council will continue to deliver the timely removal of graffiti as per the service levels in this policy
2. Supporting Private Property Owners – This focus area was developed to provide scope for improved presentation of private assets located in prominent and high profiles areas. This provision is in line with the Graffiti Control Act 2008
3. Support legal and creative street art as a form of community expression – The policy provides guidance for Council facilitated street art projects
4. Collaboration and Enforcement – details how Council will work with NSW Police to deter graffiti
5. Community Education and Engagement – Programs and activities to educate and engage with the community
6. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Integration –asset delivery and maintenance that supports graffiti management practices
7. Graffiti Removal Community Grants Program – This focus area aims to formalise an annual program to foster relationships between Council and Service Organisations who provide cost effective graffiti management across the community

The Graffiti Policy provides the community with a process for graffiti management that ensures improved amenity, increased city presentation and pride. The policy also provides a framework for Council to collaborate and partner with community service groups in the delivery of graffiti prevention and removal programs.

CONCLUSION

The Graffiti Management Policy reflects Council's commitment to ensure the prevention, management and removal of graffiti is undertaken in a manner that improves the city's presentation and amenity.

CONSULTATION

The Draft Graffiti Management Policy incorporates internal consultation feedback from across the City Services and City Planning teams. Feedback was sought from each service organisation Council has engaged and partnered with over the past 10 years in the management of graffiti. The two active service groups that currently partner with Council in undertaking graffiti removal activities (East Maitland Rotary Club & Rutherford Telarah Rotary Club) provided feedback which is incorporated into the policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is an existing $10,000 allocation to support graffiti removal through community partnerships within the budget of City Services.

Council's budget for graffiti removal has been approximately $90,000 per year for the past three years. This budget has an allowance for a total of $5,000 of contributions to service/community groups for graffiti removal per year. The increased amount of $15,000 per year will be accommodated in the existing budgets.

GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW (Cont.)

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Risk rating	Proposed treatment	Proposed risk rating	Resourcing – within or additional
There is a financial risk that graffiti management may lead to budget impacts.	High	Adoption of new policy will support removal, education and prevention	Low	Within existing resources
There is a reputational risk due to lack of graffiti management that may lead to a lack of amenity across the LGA.	Medium	Adoption of new policy	Low	Within existing resources
There is a risk that not engaging and educating the community in graffiti management may lead to increased graffiti in the LGA	Medium	Adoption of the policy	Low	Within existing resources and partnering with service and not for profit organisations.
There is a risk of not engaging with service organisations that may lead to lower engagement from community groups in the removal of graffiti that could reduce the cities presentation standards.	Medium	Adoption of the policy	Low	Within existing resources and partnering with service and not for profit organisations.
There is a risk that graffiti may be left untreated or graffiti levels could increase that may lead to negative perceptions of our city.	Medium	Adoption of the policy	Low	Within existing resources
There is a risk that service organisations will not undertake graffiti removal that may lead to increased costs for Council.	High	Adoption of the policy	Low	Within existing resources

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This policy will work in conjunction with the following Maitland City Council Policies:

- CCTV Policy 2024
- Maitland Public Art Policy 2025

GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW (Cont.)

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The Graffiti Management Policy will operate in accordance with:

- Graffiti Removal Act 2008
- Roads Act 1993
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

City Services

Graffiti Management Policy Review

Draft Graffiti Management Policy 2025

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 2

Number of Pages: 4

Graffiti Management Policy

Date Adopted:

Version: 1

DRAFT

Policy Objectives

This policy outlines Maitland City Council's approach to the prevention, management, and removal of graffiti. The primary objectives are to:

- Maintain the aesthetic and amenity value of public and private spaces.
- Deter illegal graffiti through rapid removal and community engagement.
- Support legal and creative street art initiatives as a form of community expression.
- Collaborate with residents, service organisations, businesses, schools, and law enforcement to reduce and remove graffiti vandalism.
- Integrate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles into public space planning and asset design.
- Empower community-led responses to graffiti through targeted funding support.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all Council-managed assets, community infrastructure, and partnerships involving private property affected by graffiti within the Maitland Local Government Area (LGA). It includes proactive and reactive responses to graffiti, through engagement, education, and funding initiatives.

Policy Statement

Maitland City Council recognises graffiti vandalism as a community concern that negatively impacts public spaces, safety perceptions, city aesthetics and property values. Council is committed to the following actions:

1. **Prompt Removal of Illegal Graffiti**
    - Council will respond to reports of graffiti and aim to remove it from Council assets within 10 working days.
    - High-visibility or offensive graffiti will be prioritised for removal with 2 business days.
    - The MyCouncil reporting function will be used to facilitate community reporting. Additional contact points for reporting can be made to Council on 49 349 700 or email ask@maitland.nsw.gov.au

2. **Supporting Private Property Owners**
    - In accordance with the *Graffiti Control Act 2008 (NSW)*, Council may, with consent, remove graffiti from private property that is visible from a public place.
    - Council will act within the provisions of the Act to assist in reducing the visibility and recurrence of graffiti in high-profile or high-impact locations.
    - Vulgar or offensive graffiti may be removed by Council from private property in accordance with the Graffiti Control Act 2008 (NSW), without obtaining owner's consent prior to removal, providing the graffiti can be removed from a public space (not entering private land)
    - Any graffiti removal works from private property will be at the discretion of the General Manager.
3. **Encouraging Legal Street Art**
    - Through the implementation of Council's Public Art Policy there is scope to identify and manage designated mural and street art sites in collaboration with local artists, youth groups, and schools.
    - Funding opportunities and partnerships can be sought to commission murals in high-risk areas.
    - Legal art walls may be trialled in consultation with community and law enforcement.
4. **Collaboration and Enforcement**
    - Council will work with NSW Police to share information and support enforcement actions against repeat graffiti offenders.
    - Council rangers and Council community liaison officers will report graffiti hotspots and assist with deterrence.
    - CCTV footage, where available, will be used in investigations in line with Maitland City Council's CCTV Policy.
5. **Community Education and Engagement**
    - School-based programs and youth workshops will promote positive community values and respect for public spaces.
    - Council will promote volunteer clean-up events and community-led mural projects.
    - Council will run public education campaigns on the cost and consequences of graffiti vandalism.
6. **CPTED Integration**
    - Council will apply CPTED principles in the design and upgrade of community infrastructure, including:
        - Using graffiti-resistant coatings and materials.

DRAFT

- Improving lighting and sightlines in vulnerable areas.
- Use of landscaping, vegetation, plan boxes, green walls and decorative screens to reduce available surfaces
- Encouraging community ownership through maintenance and use of spaces.

- CPTED principles will be applied to capital works and public art project planning.

7. **Graffiti Removal Community Grants Program**

   - Council will establish a minimum annual fund of $15,000 to support community-based graffiti removal initiatives.
   - Local service groups, charity groups and not-for-profit organisations may apply for funding to support graffiti removal initiatives.
   - A maximum cap of $5,000 will be applied to each application
   - Successful applicants will provide Council with a list of completed works as an acquittal of funding.
   - Funding applications from the annual program will be assessed by City Services and presented to the General Manager for approval

Policy Definitions

- Graffiti: Unauthorised writing, drawings, or symbols applied to any surface without the property owner's consent.
- Graffiti Vandalism: The illegal act of defacing property with graffiti.
- Street Art: Legal, approved, and often commissioned artistic works in public spaces.
- Council Assets: Buildings, fences, signs, amenities, and other infrastructure owned or maintained by Maitland City Council.
- CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design): A multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behaviour through environmental design
- High Profile or High impact Locations – Prominent locations in built up residential or commercial areas or locations that attract a lot of community attention
- Vulgar or Offensive – words, phrases or expressions that are deemed rude, crude or inappropriate, violate social norms or cause offense.

Policy Administration

Business Group:	City Services
Responsible officer:	Manager Works
Council reference:	Ordinary Council Meeting 19 August 2025 – Item
Policy review date:	Three (3) years from date of adoption
File number:	35/1

DRAFT

Relevant legislation	Graffiti Control Act 2008
Related documents	Maitland City Council CCTV Policy (2024) Maitland City Council Public Art Policy (2025)

Policy History

VERSION	DATE APPROVED	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
1	TBA	New policy

DRAFT

12.2 Year-Round Grants Program Round One 2025/2026

FILE NO:	**10/5/27**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. 2024-25 Community Grants Program Annual Summary**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Services** **Manager Asset Strategy and Engineering**
AUTHOR:	**Operations Manager Asset Management** **Coordinator Community & Recreation Planning** **Community Development & Programs Officer**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 3 Vibrant Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**3.3.1 Growth opportunities**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Year-Round Community Grants Program aims to provide financial support to residents living in the Local Government Area (LGA) who are aspiring to achieve excellence at the highest levels in their chosen sport OR are seeking professional development or small project opportunities in the field of creative arts.

This report presents to Council a recommendation to endorse the funding of five (5) applications under Council's Year-Round Community Grants Program Round One (1) 2025/2026.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council approves the allocation of funds for Round One (1) of the Year-Round Community Grants Program 2025/2026, as recommended in this report for applications numbered one (1) to five (5) in accordance with Section 356 of the Local Government Act, 1993.**
2. **Council formally thanks all nine (9) applicants for their submissions and advises them of Council's decision.**
3. **Council notes that Megan Williams, previously endorsed to fill the vacancy on the Community Grants Assessment Panel is now unable to do so and as such Council endorse the appointment of Robert Kerr to the Community Grants Assessment Panel.**

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

REPORT

Maitland City Council's Year-Round Community Grants Program aims to provide financial support to individuals or sporting teams from the Maitland LGA. It aims to help people reach their full potential in national or international sporting events, pursue professional development or undertake small creative arts projects.

Through our Year-Round Community Grants Programs, we aim to:

- Provide applicants with support and encouragement that will help them to develop to their full potential within their chosen field.
- Offer financial assistance to individuals or teams representing the Maitland LGA in sporting endeavours at national or international levels or individuals undertaking professional development opportunities or small project opportunities in their field of creative arts.

The Year-Round Grants Program includes one distinct sub program, being the Individual Development Grants Program. This has two distinctive subcategories:

1. Sports
   This subcategory provides support in recognition for an individual or team achievement in fields of competitive sport. This grant is open to applicants all year and provides funding to assist individuals/teams who have been selected, qualified or are nominated by a recognised peak body to represent and compete at national or international level. The funds are provided to assist with the travel and event related costs of attending sporting championships.

   Grant amounts allocated in recognition of representation and participation at a national or international level are as follows:
   - $540 for individuals selected to compete on behalf of NSW at a national competition or equivalent
   - $900 for individuals selected to compete on behalf of Australia at an international competition or equivalent
   - $1,200 for individuals competing at the Commonwealth Games
   - $1,800 for individuals competing at the Olympic Games.
     Teams – 25% of the level of support for each selected individual.*

   *If Council identifies that individuals are part of a team, the level of support will be provided at a 25% level for each individual. Team applications will need to be submitted by a coach or equivalent instructor in the relevant field of competitive and recreational sport.

2. Creative Arts
   This subcategory is designed to support professional development opportunities for artists while also supporting small project initiatives. It aims to assist artists from diverse backgrounds and at all stages of their careers, encompassing a wide range of art forms and practices.

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

Individuals can apply for up to $900 per application.

Examples of funding proposals include:

- Support to develop a new exhibition, composition, or other artwork
- Small community projects (for example to initiate classes, groups)
- Creative production costs (e.g. printing, studio use, mastering)
- Small scale projects that do not employ others but have impact, practice development, marketing and distribution initiatives and/or capability development
- Professional development and learning opportunities to support your chosen arts creative or heritage practice.

At the 11 February 2025 Council Meeting, in accordance with Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council delegated the approval of Individual Development Grants (Sports) stream to the General Manager, effective from the closing of Round 4 (28 February 2025), in instances where assessment by the panel and approval by the elected Council would result in applicants being funded post attendance at their nominated event.
This was not required for any applications from Round One (1) 2025/26.

Applications Received

As these grants are Year-Round, applicants can apply at any time throughout the year with rounds closing periodically to allow assessment. Applications received after the closure date of a round will be presented for assessment in the following round. Noting throughout the year there are five (5) closure dates.

Applications for Round One (1) of the Year-Round Community Grants Program 2025/2026 closed Monday 30 June 2025. In response to the call for applications, nine (9) applications were received.

Five (5) applications received for Round One (1) were related to the sports category and four (4) applications were related to the creative arts category.

Council Officers acknowledge the decision from Councillors at the 25 February 2025 Council meeting regarding increased promotion of the Creative Arts stream to increase awareness and applications. A flyer promoting the Creative Arts stream has been developed and distributed to Council touchpoints, including Library branches and Maitland Regional Art Gallery.

CONSULTATION

The Community Grants Assessment panel was consulted for their assessments as outlined in the ‘review and assessment’ section of this report.

Council Officers have also been consulting internally with Libraries, Maitland Regional Art Gallery and Place Activation teams to identify additional promotional opportunities for the Creative Arts stream. It is anticipated that these additional promotional opportunities will create increased awareness and subsequently increased applications to the Creative Arts stream in the future.

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

Council Officers have developed promotional flyers for the Creative Arts Stream which have been distributed at key Council touchpoints. Additionally, a communications plan has been developed for the Creative Arts stream with monthly socials posts scheduled from May 2025. Social media promotion for the Creative Arts Stream occurred on 7 June and 28 June for Round One (1). Additional social posts occurred on the 30th July with a further social media post scheduled for later this month to cover future rounds. A social media schedule for the Sports stream is being developed.

REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

In accordance with Council's Community Grants Program Policy, the assessment of the nine (9) applications for the Community Grants Program Year-Round categories was conducted by a Council Officer, with a final review of all applications completed by the Assessment Panel.

The Assessment Panel consists of two Councillors, a Mayoral representative and two independent community representatives. Members of the Assessment Panel were Mayor Philip Penfold, Cr Mike Yarrington, Cr Kristy Flannery, Penny Chapman and one (1) vacant community representative position. The panel is responsible for reviewing and assessing applications submitted through Council's online grant management platform, SmartyGrants. Council Officers facilitated this process by preparing a summary of all received applications for the Community Grants Assessment Panel's consideration. There were no conflicts of interest declared by the Councillors or independent community representatives for Round One (1), and as such, each application was reviewed by the four panel members.

As previously noted, there was one vacant independent community representative position on the assessment panel. At the 15 July 2025 Council meeting, Council Officers recommended the endorsement of Megan Williams, a reserve representative for the independent community representative position, to fulfil the vacancy. This recommendation was endorsed by Council. Subsequent to this endorsement, Megan Williams has since advised that she is now unable to fulfill the role due to a change in circumstances. As such, Council Officers have commenced the next steps in contacting the second listed reserve community representative, Robert Kerr, in accordance with the Community Grants Program Terms of Reference. Robert Kerr has confirmed his interest in fulfilling the vacant community representative position on the panel and Council Officers recommend Council endorse his appointment.

The following table provides a brief description of the applicants, the funding amount requested, and the funding amount endorsed by the Community Grants Assessment Panel for Round One (1) 2025/2026.

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

Individual Development Grant Round One (1) – Sports							
Assessment Panel Funding Recommendations							
	Applicant Name	Level of Selection	Type of Sport	Competition	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Cumulative Total
1.	Melinda Clarkson	International	Dragon Boating	17th IDBF World Dragon Boat Racing Championships in Brandenburg, Germany in July 2025	$900.00	$900.00	$900.00
2.	Majak Boc	National	Basketball	NBL1 East Championship in Sydney, NSW in July 2025	$540.00	$540.00	$1,440.00
3.	Lily Sutton	National	Football	2025 Emerging Matilda's Championships in Glenwood, NSW in July 2025	$540.00	$540.00	$1,980.00
Individual Development Grant Round One (1) – Creative Arts							
Assessment Panel Funding Recommendations							
	Applicant Name	Application Category	Project Name and Details		Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Cumulative Total
4.	Alexander Holliday	Visual Arts	Summer Holliday Exhibition - vibrant solo exhibition by emerging Maitland based artist Xander Holliday.		$900.00	$900.00	$2,880.00
5.	Toni Mcleod	Visual Arts	Large Format Gel Plate Artworks - project supports the purchase of a large format gel plate and materials to expand the artist's creative practice.		$600.00	$600.00	$3,480.00
Total recommended funding for Individual Development Grant Round One (1)							$3,480.00
Total funding delegated by the General Manager for Individual Development Grant Round One (1)							$0
Total Expenditure for Individual Development Grant Round One (1)							$3,480.00

Four (4) applications did not meet the eligibility and assessment criteria outlined in the Community Grants Program Guidelines, due to issues such as the applicant not residing in the Maitland LGA, missing required documentation (such as proposals or quotes), lack of evidence of relevant experience or previous work, and supporting documentation not being supplied by recognised peak bodies. These applicants were presented to the panel to confirm ineligibility and as such, have been excluded from this report. Applicants who may be eligible in future rounds, pending submission of required documentation, will be advised to reapply in the next funding round, which closes on Sunday 31 August 2025.

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

CONCLUSION

With nine (9) applications received, the Community Grants Assessment Panel are recommending full funding to five (5) of the submissions. Funded applications will assist in helping applicants reach their full potential in national or international sporting events, or through creative projects and professional development within the creative arts sector. The Assessment Panel funding recommendations total $3,480.00 as outlined above and are within available budget allocations.

Round two (2) of the Year-Round Individual Development Grants is now open and will close on 31 August 2025.

ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 2024/2025 FY

Over the 2024/2025 financial year, Council provided funding to 77 applicants through our Community Grants Program. A total of $150,451.50 was distributed across the program's two key streams, Biannual and Year-Round, supporting a wide range of community initiatives and individual opportunities. The Biannual stream included two funding rounds during the year, while the Year-Round stream remained open all year, with five assessment rounds to ensure timely support for applicants throughout the year.

Funding supported activities such as community events, capacity-building programs, creative and cultural initiatives and individual participation in representative sporting opportunities. Funding was allocated as follows:

Stream		Applications Funded	Total Amount ($)
Biannual Grants	Community Project Grants	32	$110,812.00
	Community Celebrations Grants	6	$14,979.50
Year-Round Grants	Individual Development Grants	39	$24,660.00
		TOTAL	$150,451.50

A detailed summary of all funded applications for the 2024/2025 financial year is provided in Attachment 1.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The table below provides an overview of the expenditure to date for the Community Grants Program for 2025/2026 financial year.

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

Source	Amount (excl GST)	Comments
INCOME		
Section 356 Community Grants 25/26 Budget	$180,000.00	60% Community Projects Grants 12% Community Celebrations Grants 25% Individual Development Grants 3% Discretionary
Estimated Section 356 Community Grants 24/25 Budget rollover	$50,898.00	This rollover will be used as supplementary funding if any category fully expends funding and there are applications received that would otherwise be supported.
CURRENT INCOME BUDGET	**$230,898.00**	
EXPENDITURE		
Round One (1) Biannual Grants 2025/2026 Expenditure (completed)	$73,464.71	$73,464.71 for Community Projects
Proposed Round One (1) Year-Round Grants funding recommendations	$3,480.00	
TOTAL COST	**$76,944.71**	
RESULT	**$153,953.29**	Remaining 25/26 budget available

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Risk rating	Proposed treatment	Proposed risk rating	Resourcing – existing or additional
There is a reputational risk of the recommended applications not being funded that may lead to poor community outcomes.	Medium	Council endorse the recommended applications for funding.	Low	Existing resources
There is a financial risk of grant funding being used by applicants for something other than the identified project that may lead to misuse of Council funding.	Medium	Funding agreements will be developed that outline the requirements of expenditure including that funds cannot be spent on anything outside of the project scope. Acquittals will also need to be completed by applicants.	Low	Existing resources
There is a reputational risk of failing to offer financial support to applicants that may lead to a fractured reputation for Council within the community.	Medium	Council endorse the recommended applications for funding, upholding Council's commitment to financially support community initiatives.	Low	Existing resources

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

There is a reputational risk of perceived lack of transparency regarding funding allocations that may lead to a damaged reputation within the community.	Medium	Eligibility and assessment criteria for the program are available on Council's website which provides transparency regarding the assessment process, additionally scoring is completed by the panel which subsequently identifies funding.	Low	Existing resources
There is a financial risk associated with confusion around remaining available budget by the panel, where assessment is completed by the GM which may lead to incorrect funding recommendations being made by the panel.	Medium	Council Officers report to Council, outlining recommendations made by the GM, and resulting budgetary impacts. Council Officers regularly advise the Assessment Panel as to the expenditure and remaining funds available.	Low	Existing resources
There is a reputational risk associated with the panel operating with only four members during the assessment of Round One (1) applications, rather than the intended five members, this may lead to concerns around process integrity or completeness.	Medium	The Community Grants Program Terms of Reference allow for panel vacancies to be filled through a reserve list. The assessment proceeded in line with the Terms of Reference, and the process to appoint a reserve panel member has been initiated.	Low	Existing resources

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter refers to the *Community Grants Program Policy* and associated documents including guidelines and the Assessment Panel Terms of Reference. This policy provides direction on the types of programs that are funded, standard eligibility criteria for applicants and the governance and appeals processes for this program. This matter is in accordance with Council's adopted Code of Conduct.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This matter is in accordance with Section 356 and Section 377 of the Local Government Act 1993.

City Services

Year-Round Grants Program Round One 2025/2026

2024-25 Community Grants Program Annual Summary

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 13

Attachment 1
Year-Round Grants Program Application Summary 2024/2025

	APPLICANT NAME	LEVEL OF SELECTION	TYPE OF SPORT	COMPETITION NAME & LOCATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
Individual Development Grant Round One (1)					
1.	Drew Saxby	National	Cricket	National All Schools Boys Championships Mackay, QLD	$540
2.	Hunter Heath	National	Hockey	Schools Sport Australia Games Gold Coast, QLD	$540
3.	Sienna Compton	National	Swimming	School Sports Australia Championships Gold Coast, QLD	$540
4.	Samuel Bryan	National	Ice Hockey	Ice Hockey Australia: 2024 Kurt Defris National Championships Warners Bay, NSW	$540
5.	Darcy Bendeich	National	Basketball	2024 School Sport Australia Basketball Championship Carrara, QLD	$540

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

APPLICANT NAME		LEVEL OF SELECTION	TYPE OF SPORT	COMPETITION NAME & LOCATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
6.	Isabelle Burns	National	Basketball	2024 School Sport Australia Basketball Championship Carrara, QLD	$540
7.	Jack Edwards	International	Touch Football	Touch Football World Cup Nottingham, England	$900
8.	Tremayne Small	National	Cricket	2024 School Sport Australia Cricket Championship Mackay, QLD	$540
9.	Scarlett Crouch	National	AFL	PSSA Australian Football Championships Geelong, VIC	$540
10.	Isabella Crouch	National	AFL	PSSA Australian Football Championships Geelong, VIC	$540
11.	Sophie Crouch	International	Touch Football	Touch Football World Cup Nottingham, England	$900

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

	APPLICANT NAME	LEVEL OF SELECTION	TYPE OF SPORT	COMPETITION NAME & LOCATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
12.	Michele Thomas	International	Outrigger Canoeing	IVF World Club Championships 2024 Hawaii, USA	$900
Individual Development Grant Round Two (2)					
13.	Karen Montgomery	International	Outrigger Canoe Racing	IVF Va'a Wolrd Elite and Club Sprint Championship 2024 Hilo, Hawaii	$900
14.	Tomas Wawszkowicz	National	Basketball	2024 School Sport Australia Basketball Boys Championship Carrara, QLD	$540
15.	Annabelle Bridge	National	Cross Country	School Sport Australia Cross Country Championships Yarra Glen, VIC	$540
16.	Kierran Clarke	International	Petanque	World Men's Triples Petanque Championship Dijon, France	$900

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

APPLICANT NAME		LEVEL OF SELECTION	TYPE OF SPORT	COMPETITION NAME & LOCATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
17.	Zachary Thomson	National	Cross Country	Australian Cross Country Championships Perth, TAS	$540
18.	Harvie Oldham	National	Karate	Karate Australia National Championships Geelong, VIC	$540
19.	Rico Elers	National	Touch Football	2024 School Sport Australia Touch Football Championship Brisbane, QLD	$540
20.	Isaiah Jeremiah Maria Crisologo Diamoy	International	Dragon Boating	The 4th International Dragon Boat Federation World Cup Hunan Province, China	$900
21.	Xavier Schweinberger	National	Hockey	School Sport Australia 12 Years and Under Hockey Championship Cairns, QLD	$540

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

	APPLICANT NAME	LEVEL OF SELECTION	TYPE OF SPORT	COMPETITION NAME & LOCATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
Individual Development Grant Round Three (3)					
22.	Riley Barnes	National	Touch Football	2024 School Sport Australia Touch Football Championships Cleveland, QLD	$540
23.	Sienna Burgess	National	Softball	Under 23's Womens National Softball Championship Brisbane, QLD	$540
24.	Scarlett Clydsdale	National	Touch Football	2024 School Sport Australia Touch Football Championships Cleveland, QLD	$540
25.	Cassie Niszczot	International	Football	Singapore International Youth Cup Singapore	$900
26.	Arwen Kavanagh	National	Softball	WBSC U-18 Womens Softball Cup - Group C Dallas, Texas	$900

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

APPLICANT NAME		LEVEL OF SELECTION	TYPE OF SPORT	COMPETITION NAME & LOCATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
27.	Shelby-lee Wintle	National	Boxing	Elite Australian Boxing National Championships Brisbane, QLD	$540
28.	Ruby Young	National	Football	FA National Futsal Championships 2025 Melbourne, VIC	$540
29.	Caleb Hyslop	National	Athletics	2024 School Sports Australia Track & Field Championship Sydney, NSW	$540
30.	Chase Peterson	National	Baseball	National Baseball Championships Under 16's Blacktown, NSW	$540
Individual Development Grant Round Four (4)					
31.	Arwen Kavanagh	National	Softball	2024-2024 Elinor Mckenzie Shield Under 18 Girls National Softball Championships Blacktown, NSW	$540

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

	APPLICANT NAME	LEVEL OF SELECTION	TYPE OF SPORT	COMPETITION NAME & LOCATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
32.	Jesus T Diamoy	National	Dragon Boating	Australian Dragonboat Championships (AusChamps) Penrith, NSW	$540
33.	Noah Powell	National	Softball	2025 U18 Male National Softball Championships Blacktown, NSW	$540
34.	Jonathan Priestley	International	Football	Singa Cup Singapore	$900
35.	Hunter Heath	National	Hockey	2025 Hockey Australia U16 Championships Adelaide, SA	$540
36.	Arki Hearn	International	Ice Hockey	International Ice Hockey Federation's World Championships Sofia, Bulgaria	$900

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

APPLICANT NAME		LEVEL OF SELECTION	TYPE OF SPORT	COMPETITION NAME & LOCATION	AMOUNT FUNDED
Individual Development Grant Round Five (5)					
37.	Ashlyn Wall	National	Athletics	2025 Australian Athletics Championships Floreat, WA	$540
38.	Jaclyn Vickery	National	Cricket	Australian Masters Indoor Cricket Championships Modbury, SA	$540
39.	Mitchell Lightfoot	National	Athletics	2025 Australian Athletics Championships Floreat, WA	$540
				TOTAL	$24,660.00

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

Biannual Grants Program Application Summary 2024/2025

ORGANISATION NAME		PROJECT NAME	PROJECT COST	AMOUNT FUNDED
Biannual Grants Program Round One (1)				
Community Projects Grant Program				
1.	A Splash of Colour Swimming	A Splash of Colour Swimming Program	$8,000.00	$3,225.00
2.	Carrie's Place Domestic Violence and Homelessness Service Inc.	Supporting School Holidays Fun for Vulnerable Kids	$8,420.00	$4,000.00
3.	House of Grace	Child Development Awareness for Parents/Caregivers	$15,430.00	$4,000.00
4.	King Street Community Preschool	Nature Playground	$32,000.00	$5,000.00
5.	Largs Football Club	Largs Junior Football Club Launch	$9,905.00	$4,500.00
6.	Maitland Basketball Association	Assistance to host State Basketball Carnival	$29,600.00	$5,570.00
7.	Maitland Malayalee Association	Onam 2024	$48,200.00	$3,000.00
8.	Morpeth Men's Shed	Upgrade Damaged Woodwork Drill Press	$4,706.80	$2,300.00

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

ORGANISATION NAME		PROJECT NAME	PROJECT COST	AMOUNT FUNDED
9.	Sunnyfield	Community Connect	$1,050.00	$525.00
10.	We Care Connect	Begin Bright – Developmental Play for 2-5 years	$16,000.00	$5,000.00
11.	Newcastle Ultimate Incorporated	Come & Try Disc Golf at Stockade Hill	$1,990.00	$750.00
12.	Maitland Repertory Theatre	Maitland Flood Stories, 1955	$13,464.00	$2,500.00
13.	Maitland Tenambit BMX Club	Rider Development – Transponder Loop #3	$6,788.20	$1,894.00
14.	Hunter Valley Finch Club	Bird Expo	$17,800.00	$1,500.00
15.	Maitland Region Community Support	All About Women	$8,000.00	$4,000.00
16.	Got Your Back Sista	Begin Again	$11,300.00	$3,000.00
17.	Maitland Family Support	Woodberry Food Assistance	$8,000.00	$2,500.00
18.	Anglican Parish of East Maitland	2024 Carols on the Hill	$23,560.00	$5,000.00

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

ORGANISATION NAME		PROJECT NAME	PROJECT COST	AMOUNT FUNDED
19.	Cerebral Palsy Alliance	Specialised Equipment and Recourses for Children with Complex Disability in the Maitland Community	$9,827.31	$4,694.00
20.	Australian Museum of Clothing and Textiles	Beach Beauties to Classic Cocktails Fashion Parade	$3,053.00	$2,353.00
Community Celebrations Grant Program				
1.	Maitland RSL sub-Branch	Remembrance Day 2024	$5,550.00	$2,000.00
2.	East Maitland RSL sub-Branch	Remembrance Day 2024	$5,745.00	$495.00
3.	Maitland Family Support	Maitland Family Disco for National Families Week	$4,700.00	$1,645.00
Biannual Grants Program Round Two (2)				
Community Projects Grant Program				
1.	Millers Forest Progress Association	Purchase and installation of an Audio System for the Community Hall	$8,191.00	$4,096.00

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

ORGANISATION NAME		PROJECT NAME	PROJECT COST	AMOUNT FUNDED
2.	Our Circle	Relieving Hunger	$20,000.00	$6,000.00
3.	Girl Guides Association (NSW) Maitland District	Maitland Girl Guides Leadership Program	$8,600.00	$1,000.00
4.	Got Your Back Sista	Begin Again	$12,000.00	$6,000.00
5.	Maitland and Beyond Family History	Digitisation of Microfilm records	$3,300.00	$1,650.00
6.	RSPCA NSW	People & Pets in Crisis	$12,000.00	$6,000.00
7.	Maitland Bridge Club	Maitland Bridge Club Dealing Machine	$5,405.00	$2,700.00
8.	Maitland Regional Museum	Maitland Heritage Fest 2025	$22,350.00	$5,000.00
9.	Hunter Writer's Centre	Foundations of Storytelling	$4,700.00	$2,350.00
10.	Maitland Parkinsons Support Group	Drawing classes for People Living With Parkinsons (PLWP) residing in nursing home	$7,450.00	$3,725.00
11.	NovaCare Community Services	ActiveStrongerBetter with NovaCare	$6,620.00	$2,980.00

YEAR-ROUND GRANTS PROGRAM ROUND ONE 2025/2026 (Cont.)

ORGANISATION NAME		PROJECT NAME	PROJECT COST	AMOUNT FUNDED
12.	Maitland Malayalee Association	Merry Maitland	$18,700.00	$4,000.00
Community Celebrations Grant Program				
1.	Maitland RSL Sub Branch	ANZAC Day Services 2025	$13,195.00	$4,000.00
2.	East Maitland RSL Sub Branch	East Maitland RSL Sub-Branch ANZAC Day 2025	$18,474.00	$3,000.00
3.	Carrie's Place	It Takes A Team campaign	$8,049.50	$3,839.50
			TOTAL	$125,791.50
			SUBTOTAL OF YEAR ROUND AND BIANNUAL GRANTS	$150,451.50

12.3 Local Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes (July 2025)

FILE NO:	**140/5**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Local Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes July 2025 with attachments (Under Separate Cover)** **2. July Agenda Item 5.1 Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 - Event Traffic & Transport Management**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Services** **Manager Asset Strategy and Engineering**
AUTHOR:	**Traffic Management Officer** **Operations Manager Transport & Infrastructure Engineering**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 1 Liveable Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**1.2.1 Efficient and sustainable movement**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The minutes of Maitland City Council's Local Traffic Committee meeting held on Thursday 3 July 2025 are attached for information. At this meeting, temporary road closure applications were considered and endorsed for acceptance for one (1) event. Due to the date the application was received by Council and the dates of the corresponding Local Traffic Committee and Council Meeting, this temporary road closure in relation to the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show has been approved by the Mayor under Section 226(d.) of the Local Government Act 1993.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **The Local Traffic Committee meeting minutes of 3 July 2025 be noted.**
2. **The traffic management plans and road closures for the following events as recommended in the attached reports be noted:**
    a. **Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 – 8–10 August 2025 – Event Traffic & Transport Management**

REPORT

The minutes of Maitland City Council's Local Traffic Committee (LTC) Meeting held on Thursday 3 July 2025 are attached for information. The LTC recommended regulatory items contained within these minutes have been authorised by the General Manager under Council's Instrument of Delegated Authority, dated 20 May 2025.

LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (JULY 2025) (Cont.)

One (1) event involving temporary road closures was considered and endorsed for acceptance by the Local Traffic Committee at the meeting held on 3 July 2025 as tabled below.

Events / Road Closure/s	Event Timeframe
Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025	8 – 10 August 2025

The Hunter Valley Outdoor Show was originally reported at LTC in March 2025 and adopted in the April 2025 Council Meeting, however the event was cancelled due to rain and flooding in May 2025.

Due to the date the new application was received by Council and the corresponding LTC and Council Meeting dates, in order to allow approval for the road closures associated with Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 prior to the event, The Mayor has exercised the provisions of Section 226(d.) of the Local Government Act 1993 to apply, in the case of necessity, the policy making functions of the governing body of the Council between Council meetings.

The agenda items with recommended closures for the above events are attached.

CONCLUSION

The minutes for the LTC meeting held on 3 July 2025 are attached for information.

CONSULTATION

LTC agenda items state the consultation steps undertaken for each item as part of reporting to the LTC. The LTC agenda is issued prior to the meeting to allow LTC members to undertake any internal or external consultation as required prior to the LTC meeting. Items, including both agenda items and general business are discussed with all LTC participants prior to concluding recommendations and issuing of minutes.

In accordance with the Roads Act, the above events / road closures were advertised in the local newspaper for a period of 28 days to allow the public to submit any comment. This is also advertised on TfNSW's OneRoad platform.

Event / Road Closure	Notification Publication Date
Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025	Originally advertised 31 January 2025, re-advertised Friday 13 June 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs associated with application assessment and road closure advertising are charged in accordance with Councils adopted fees and charges. Council costs associated with providing regulatory signage and line marking are to be incorporated within existing CAPEX or OPEX budget allocations. Council organised event road closures are to be funded by the events budget.

All third party works, events and road closures, including works associated with subdivisions are at their cost.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Risk Rating	Proposed Treatment	Proposed Risk Rating	Resourcing
There is a financial risk of the proposed works increasing Councils assets base that may lead to increased maintenance and resourcing requirements.	High	Anticipated increases are expected to be negligible to minor for inclusion within total assets base.	Low	Use existing resources for ongoing management and maintenance.
There is an operational risk of the proposed event traffic & transport management being unsuitable that may lead to changes being required to the event traffic management.	Med	Review and recommendation for temporary road closures approval has occurred through Local Traffic Committee reducing the potential for this risk.	Low	Use existing resources for ongoing assessment and recommendations.
There is a reputational risk of publicised events not proceeding if approval is not granted for the associated road closures that may lead to reputational damage to Council for not appropriately managing the event approval process in a timely manner.	High	Application processes allow for adequate time to assess and process applications to ensure road closures can be recommended for approval in advance of the event. For the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 due to dates, the process is approval by the Mayor under the provisions of Section 226(d.) of the Local Government Act 1993	Low	Use existing resources for ongoing assessment and recommendations.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report relates to and is consistent with Councils adopted policies including:

- Asset Management Policy and associated adopted Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plans
- Activities on Public Roads Policy
- Events Policy.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The process associated with Local Traffic Committee and approval for works and event road closures is in line with relevant provisions including Section 115 of the Roads Act 1993 and Section 226(d.) of the Local Government Act.

There are no statutory implications under the Local Government Act 1993 with this matter.

City Services

Local Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes (July 2025)

July Agenda Item 5.1 Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 - Event Traffic & Transport Management

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 2

Number of Pages: 13

3 JULY 2025

5 LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1 HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

FILE NO:	**140/5**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. March 2025 LTC Agenda Item 5.2 Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 - Event Traffic & Transport Management**
AUTHOR:	Traffic Management Officer Operations Manager Transport & Infrastructure Engineering Manager Asset Strategy and Engineering

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received an application from Rural Scene Promotions, organisers of the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show to close a portion of Anzac Street between Blomfield Street and Cracknell Lane. The proposed event related road closures have previously been approved and postponed due to the 2025 May floods. The event has been rescheduled for Friday 8 August 2025 to Sunday 10 August 2025 at Maitland Showground.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **The previously approved temporary road closures associated with the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 be amended from those reported at the Local Traffic Committee meeting dated 6 March 2025 to be:**
    a. **From 8:00am Friday 08 August 2025 to 5:00pm Sunday 10 August 2025:**
        i. **Anzac Street between Blomfield Street and Cracknell Lane.**
2. **The previously approved changed traffic conditions associated with the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 be amended from those reported at the Local Traffic Committee meeting dated 6 March 2025 to be:**
    a. **From 8:00am Friday 08 August 2025 to 5:00pm Sunday 10 August 2025:**
        i. **Cultivation Road to be converted to southbound only for full length from Cracknell Lane to Trappaud Road.**
3. **The installation of devices and signs as shown on the submitted Traffic Guidance Schemes, to affect the proposed road closures, be approved.**
4. **The installation of devices and signs as shown on the submitted Traffic Guidance Schemes on classified roads, including the New England Highway, is contingent of lodgment and approval from Transport for NSW for a Road Occupancy License.**

3 JULY 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to notify of the change in date for the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 event and seek approval for the installation of the same traffic management plan(s) as recommended for approval at the March 2025 meeting of the Local Traffic Committee.

BACKGROUND

The Hunter Valley Outdoor Show was previously known as The Hunter Valley Caravan, Camping, 4WD, Fishing and Boat Show. The event had been scheduled to be held between Friday 23 May 2025 to Sunday 25 May 2025 at Maitland Showground. Adverse weather conditions, including extensive rainfall, caused flooding of the Maitland region in late May 2025 and the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show was postponed as a result.

PROPOSAL

The event has now been rescheduled to occur between Friday 8 August 2025 and Sunday 10 August 2025. It is proposed to maintain the traffic management plan(s) previously reviewed and recommended for approval by the Local Traffic Committee. It is recommended that the same plan(s) be approved for implementation on the revised dates being between Friday 8 August 2025 and Sunday 10 August 2025. All other aspects including the timing of previously identified temporary traffic and parking management proposal remains the same.

The original agenda item has been attached for information and review.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

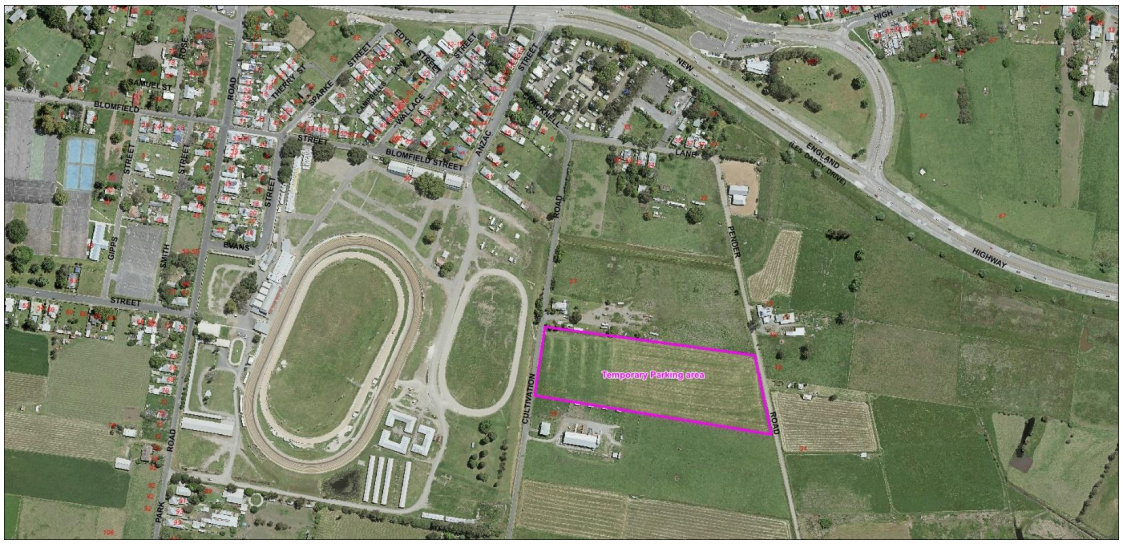
Council advertised the dates of the original event in the Maitland Mercury on Friday 31 January 2025 for a period of 28 days as required by the Roads Act. No submissions were received. Re-notification of the event occurred in the Maitland Mercury on Friday 13 June 2025. No submissions have been received at the time of writing this report, with comment required by the due date of Friday 11 July 2025. Any comments received will be incorporated into reporting to Council as part of the required event management approval.

CONCLUSION

The event and associated traffic management plan(s) have previously been reviewed by the committee and this report notes a change in date only. It is recommended that approval be granted for the implementation of the previously approved traffic management plan(s), subject to the incorporation of any comments received from further community consultation of the date change.

3 JULY 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)



Locality diagram. Includes temporary parking area

Site photo. Cultivation Road

Local Traffic Committee Reports

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

March 2025 LTC Agenda Item 5.2 Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 - Event Traffic & Transport Management

Meeting Date: 3 July 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 9

3 JULY 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

6 MARCH 2025

5.2 HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

FILE NO: 140/5

ATTACHMENTS:
1. 2025 Maitland Showground Hunter Valley Outdoor Show Road Closure Traffic Guidance Scheme
2. 2025 Maitland Showground Hunter Valley Outdoor Show Highway Speed Reduction Traffic Guidance Scheme

AUTHOR: Traffic Management Officer
Operations Manager Transport & Infrastructure Engineering
Manager Asset Strategy and Engineering

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council has received an application from Rural Scene Promotions, organizers of the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show to close a portion of Anzac Street between Blomfield Street and Cracknell Lane. It is also proposed to convert a portion of Cracknell Lane between Anzac Street and Cultivation Lane and the full length of Cultivation Road to one-way traffic movement (southbound) for the duration of this event which runs Friday 23 May to Sunday 25 May 2025 at Maitland Showground.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **The following temporary road closures to vehicular traffic associated with the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 be approved:**
    a. **From 8.00am Friday 23 May 2025 to 5.00pm Sunday 25 May 2025:**
        i. **Anzac Street between Blomfield Street and Cracknell Lane.**
2. **The following changed traffic conditions associated with the Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 be approved:**
    a. **From 08:00am Friday 23 May 2025 to 05:00pm Sunday 25 May 2025:**
        i. **Cultivation Road to be converted to southbound only for full length from Cracknell Lane to Trappaud Road.**
3. **The installation of devices and signs as shown on the submitted Traffic Guidance Schemes, to affect the proposed road closures be approved.**
4. **The installation of devices and signs as shown on the submitted Traffic Guidance Schemes on classified roads, including the New England Highway, is contingent of lodgment and approval from Transport for NSW for a Road Occupancy License.**

3 JULY 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

6 MARCH 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

PURPOSE

Hunter Valley Outdoor Show 2025 event traffic management plan is submitted to the committee for review.

BACKGROUND

This event previously known as The Hunter Valley Caravan, Camping, 4WD, Fishing and Boat Show continues to grow in popularity since its inaugural staging at Maitland Showground in 1997. The applicant informs Council that in past years there is an average of approximately 15,000 people attending, and 240 exhibit sites are planned for this year.

PROPOSAL

The event traffic management proposal is displayed on the Work Zone Traffic Guidance Scheme attached to this report.

The temporary traffic and parking management proposal includes:

- Convert Cultivation Road to southbound one-way traffic movement during this event to allow efficient vehicle movement into and out of the temporary car park on its eastern flank.
- Traffic controllers will be located to direct traffic at the intersection of Anzac Street and Cracknell Lane, and at the intersection of Cultivation Road and Trappaud Road.

ASSESSMENT

Existing Conditions:

PARAMETER	DATA
Road Name	Cultivation Road
Road Classification	Local road
Adjacent Land Use	Semi-rural
Road Width	Sealed width: 6.1m
Traffic Volumes	142 ADT
Speed Limit	50 km/h
85th Percentile Speed	N/A
Accident History	2012 – at Trappaud Road intersection – pedestrian in road – injury

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3 JULY 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

6 MARCH 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

	2013 – just east of intersection in Trappaud Road - Off road left into object – non casualty

With Proposal:

CONSIDERATIONS	COMMENTS INCLUDING IMPACTS
Access	**Road:** This event is considered to be a Class 3 event in accordance with the Guide to Traffic and Transport Management for Special Events. The event traffic management impacts local roads only. **Parking:** Temporary parking is available in the paddock on the eastern side of Cultivation Road and immediately north of the house at No. 39 (requiring conversion of Cultivation Road to one-way southbound traffic movement to reduce congestion). Parking inside the showground will be reduced to a few hundred vehicles to allow for a larger display area. Within the showground area, barriers will be established to separate parked vehicles from the display/pedestrian areas. Admission fees will be collected at the pedestrian access gates only. This arrangement will mitigate any congestion on local surrounding streets that would be caused by motorists having to stop and pay admission as they enter a parking area. **Disability parking:** Evans Street off Louth Park Road, near one of the showground access gates.
Traffic impacts	**Detour traffic:** A traffic detour will be in place along the Cracknell Lane – Cultivation Road route. Cultivation Road is converted to southbound one-way traffic flow to facilitate traffic movement into and out of the adjacent temporary car park located in the paddock on its eastern side. This is due to the relatively narrow width of Cultivation Road.
Speed	50 km/h zone

3 JULY 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

6 MARCH 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

Active Transport (walk/ cycle)	**Pedestrians / Cyclists:** No impact.
Public Transport (buses/ taxis)	**Bus routes/ stops:** Bus service 192 will need to detour past Pender Road to continue along Melbourne Street and back onto the New England Highway. **Taxis:** No impact
Freight Transport	**Service vehicles:** No impact.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council advertised this event in the Maitland Mercury on Friday 31 January 2025. As required by the Roads Act, the public have 28 days to submit any comments regarding the proposed temporary road closures. No submissions have been received at the time of writing this report with comment required by the due date of Friday 28 February 2025. Any comments received will be incorporated into reporting to Council as part of the required event management approval.

CONCLUSION

The applicant has submitted Event Traffic Management Plans for this event. The event temporary traffic management is designed to reduce congestion, facilitate traffic flow on the streets surrounding the Maitland Showground and to manage event parking.

3 JULY 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

6 MARCH 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

Locality diagram. Includes temporary parking area

Site photo. Cultivation Road

Maitland City Council | Local Traffic Committee Meeting Agenda P5

Local Traffic Committee Reports

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

2025 Maitland Showground Hunter Valley Outdoor Show Road Closure Traffic Guidance Scheme

Meeting Date: 6 March 2025

Attachment No: 1

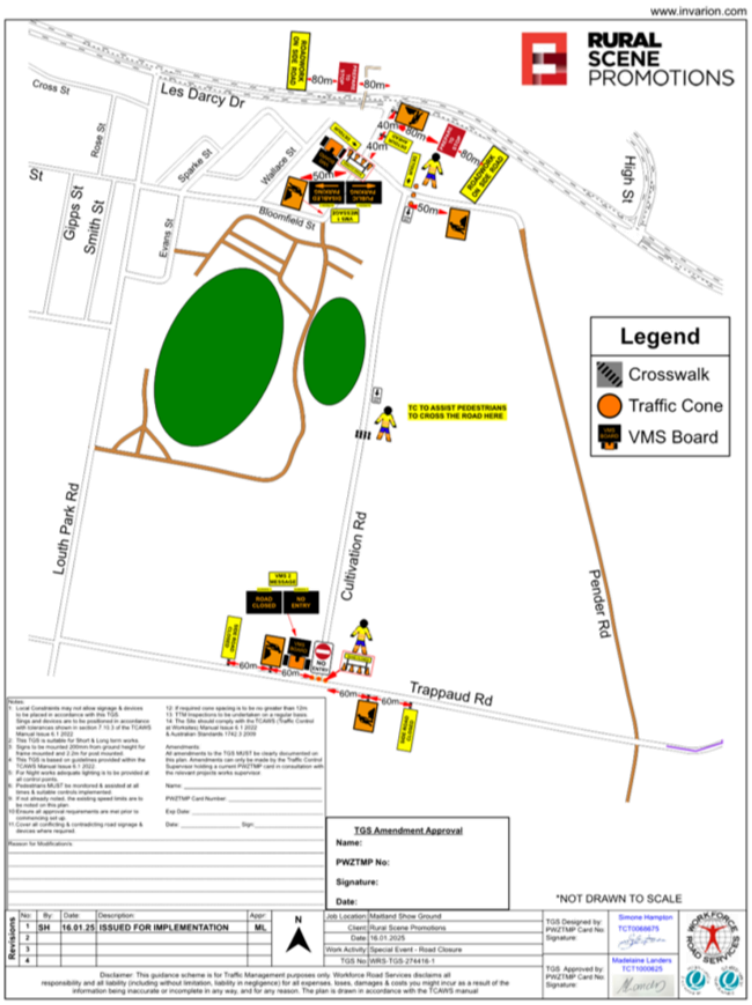
Number of Pages: 1

3 JULY 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

6 MARCH 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)



Local Traffic Committee Reports

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT

2025 Maitland Showground Hunter Valley Outdoor Show Highway Speed Reduction Traffic Guidance Scheme

Meeting Date: 6 March 2025

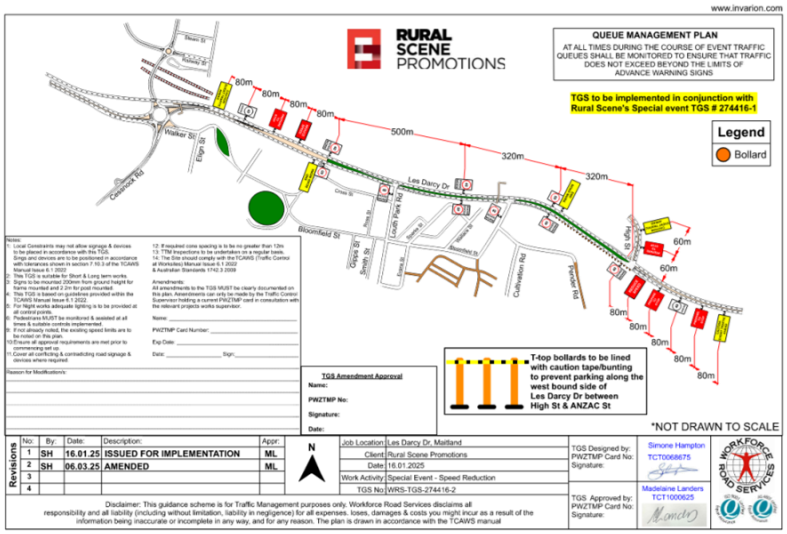
Attachment No: 2

Number of Pages: 1

3 JULY 2025

HUNTER VALLEY OUTDOOR SHOW 2025 - EVENT TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT (Cont.)

6 MARCH 2025



12.4 Priority Weeds Management Policy Review

FILE NO:	**99/3/3**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Priority Weeds Management Policy 2022** **2. Draft Priority Weeds Management Policy 2025**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Services**
AUTHOR:	**Manager Works**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 2 Sustainable Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**2.1.2 Natural spaces**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council's Priority Weeds Management Policy, last adopted 27 September 2022, has been reviewed in consultation with key Council staff, related Council policies and procedures, and best practice approaches.

The revised Priority Weeds Management Policy will ensure that Council effectively complies with, administers and enforces the Biosecurity Act 2015 relating to priority weed management. The Priority Weeds Management Policy also ensures that there are clear guidelines for the management of priority weeds on all Council owned and managed land.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council endorses the Draft Priority Weeds Management Policy (Attachment 2) to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days**
2. **Should there be no submissions of objection;**
    a. **Council adopts the Priority Weeds management Policy**
    b. **Council delegates any minor changes of the Policy to the General Manager. Any significant changes will result in a further report and recommendation to Council**

REPORT

A review of the Priority Weeds Management policy adopted 27 September 2022 has been undertaken. The existing policy worked well to ensure Council managed and monitored priority and new weed infestations on Council managed lands. Implementation of this policy will minimise the impact of weeds on the local environment, community and economy.

No changes have been made to the current policy as part of the review.

PRIORITY WEEDS MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW (Cont.)

CONCLUSION

The Priority Weeds Management Policy 2025 will provide guidance to Council in relation to the management of priority weeds on public land. It is recommended that Council adopt the reviewed 2025 Priority Weeds Management Policy.

CONSULTATION

The Priority Weeds Management Policy incorporates internal consultation feedback from the City Services Weeds Management Team, along with external consultation with the Hunter Regional Weeds Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications of this policy are managed within Council's Operating Expenditure budget and Weeds Action Program (WAP) grant funds for works on Council lands. Works on Crown land are managed with funds from Crown Lands Improvement Funds (CRIF) grants.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Risk rating	Proposed treatment	Proposed risk rating	Resourcing – within or additional
There is an environmental risk that priority weed incursions could expand within the Local Government Area, that may lead to irreparable environmental damage or loss of flora and fauna	High	Adoption of new policy	Low	Within existing resources
There is an environmental risk that new priority weed incursions could occur within the Local Government Area, that may lead to irreparable environmental damage or loss of flora and fauna	High	Adoption of new policy	Low	Within existing resources
There is a financial risk by not undertaking due diligence in the identification and management of priority weeds that may lead to significant eradication and management costs or financial penalty for Council (and individuals)	High	Adoption of new policy and training of staff	Low	Within existing resources
There is a reputational risk to Council in not undertaking correct priority weeds management practices that may lead to negative and damaging reputation impacts for Council	Medium	Adoption of new policy and training of staff	Low	Within existing resources

PRIORITY WEEDS MANAGEMENT POLICY REVIEW (Cont.)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This policy will work in conjunction with the following Maitland City Council Policies:

- Asset Management Policy 2022
- Risk Management Policy 2022
- Contaminated Land Policy 2023
- Roadside Environment Policy 2022
- Management of Trees on Public Land policy 2024

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The Priority Weeds Management Policy has the following statutory implications:

- Biosecurity Act 2015
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Heritage Act 1997
- Local Government Act 1993
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Biosecurity Regulation 2017
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Local Land Services Act 2013
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Roads Act 1993
- Rural Fires Act 1997
- Waste Management Act 2000
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011

City Services

Priority Weeds Management Policy Review

Priority Weeds Management Policy 2022

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 5

Priority Weeds Management Policy

Date Adopted: 27 September 2022

Version: 2.0

Policy Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

1. To ensure that Council is fulfilling its functions as the Local Control Authority in relation to weeds, according to the Biosecurity Act 2015.
2. To ensure that Council is fulfilling its biosecurity duty in relation to weeds, according to the Biosecurity Act 2015.
3. To provide clear guidelines and maintain a consistent approach in the management and control of priority weeds on Council owned and managed land.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all Council owned and managed land (including all bodies of water on Council owned and managed land) within the Maitland Local Government Area.

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to deliver a consistent approach to the management of priority weeds found on Council land in the Maitland Local Government Area. Implementation of this policy will minimise the impact of weeds on the local environment, community and economy.

1. Weeds management prioritisation

The Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan (HRSWMP) was developed to guide investment in weed management across the Hunter region and provide a consistent basis for regional weed management planning and implementation. Council will prioritise its management of weed species in accordance with the HRSWMP and the *Biosecurity Act 2015* that underpins the plan.

1.1 Weed risk assessments

To ensure that limited resources are used to their best effect, and that management of weeds is commensurate with the risk posed by each species, risk assessments have been undertaken on weed species across the state and within the Hunter region by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Hunter Regional Weeds Committee (HRWC) respectively. The state and regional weed risk assessment process culminated in the identification of high-risk weeds and the development of a priority weed list for the Hunter region.

1.2 Priority weed categories

Priority weeds fall into two broad categories: State Priority Weeds and Regional Priority Weeds. These are further divided into sub-categories depending on their presence, distribution, risk, and feasibility of control/prevention. This determines the associated objective for each weed species in the HRSWMP as prevention, eradication, containment and asset protection as outlined below:

State Priority Weeds:

Prevention: These weeds are currently not found in the state, pose significant biosecurity risk and prevention is a reasonably practical objective.

Eradication: These weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the state, and elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.

Containment: These weeds are widely distributed in some parts of the state and while broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Asset Protection: These weeds are widely distributed in some areas of the state and as "Weeds of National Significance", their spread should be minimised to protect priority assets.

Regional Priority Weeds:

Prevention: These weeds are currently not found in the region, pose significant biosecurity risk and prevention is a reasonably practical objective.

Eradication: These weeds are present in limited distribution and abundance in some parts of the region, and elimination of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is a reasonably practical objective.

Containment: These weeds are widely distributed in some parts of the state and while broad scale elimination is not practicable, minimisation of the biosecurity risk posed by these weeds is reasonably practicable.

Asset Protection: These weeds are widely distributed in some areas of the region and their spread should be minimised to protect priority assets.

1.3 Biosecurity duty

As a land manager, Council has a duty under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* to prevent, eliminate or minimise any biosecurity risk that weed species on its land may pose. To ensure that this biosecurity duty is being fulfilled, Council must undertake certain activities depending on the weed species and the biosecurity risk posed in each situation. For example, these activities could include eradicating a particular weed species from Council land; mitigating spread of a weed species from Council land; or reducing impacts of weed species on a priority asset.

2. Council owned and managed land

Priority weed control on Council land will be scheduled according to weed species and category, seasonal timing, and resource availability. The existence of new weed incursions, isolated infestations, and weed species posing the greatest biosecurity risk will be given priority over lower risk, existing and widespread weeds. All proposed priority weed control works will be considered by Council to ensure that the chosen method and timing of control is safe, suitable, effective, and environmentally sound.

2.1 Herbicide use

All herbicide use undertaken by Council to control priority weeds will be in accordance with the product label, Safety Data Sheet (SDS), Council's Pesticide Use Notification Plan and Pesticide Use Procedure. A suitable permit will be obtained from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Association (APVMA) if a particular herbicide is required to be used contrary to the label.

2.2 Biological control

Biological controls of priority weeds will be utilised by Council where an appropriate biological agent is available and suitable release site/s can be established. All biological control agent releases will occur in consultation with the Department of Primary Industries (DPI).

2.3 Manual / mechanical removal

In some instances mechanical or manual removal of weeds will be the most suitable method of management for a particular weed species.

2.4 Council works sites

Where priority weeds are present on a Council work site, Council's Biosecurity & Environmental Operations Advisor should be consulted to determine if there are any special requirements that need to be implemented to minimise or eliminate a biosecurity risk.

3. Weeds inspections

Inspections for weeds will be carried out in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and Council's Weeds Inspection and Enforcement Procedure. Council will schedule weeds inspections on its own land according to priority, seasonal timing, and resource availability. The threat or existence of new weed incursions, isolated infestations, and weed species posing the greatest biosecurity risk will be given priority over lower risk, existing and widespread weeds.

4. Data reporting

All priority weeds inspections and control undertaken by Council will be recorded and mapped using GIS mapping software. This data will be provided to NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to be collated within the Biosecurity Information System (BIS). For Council as a local control authority, providing this data is a requirement of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and is directly linked to the NSW Weeds Action Program (WAP) funding that is received by Council.

5. Grant funding

Grant funding for the control of priority weeds will be sought by Council when suitable opportunities for such projects arise.

6. Staff training

Council will support the provision of training to its staff involved in priority weeds management, inspections and enforcement. Council will ensure that these staff remain up to date with the skills and knowledge required to achieve the objectives of this policy and the requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Policy Definitions

Priority Weed: A weed that has been identified as a priority on a state and/or regional level in NSW and as a result may have a duty, measure, limitation or requirement associated with its control, movement, management or sale under the *Biosecurity Act 2015.*

New Weed Incursion: A weed that has not previously been recorded to occur or be present in a particular area.

Local Control Authority: A council, county council or joint organisation which is responsible for the weed control functions of a particular area under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* as per section 370 of the Act.

Biosecurity Duty: Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.

Biosecurity Risk: The risk of a biosecurity impact occurring.

Biosecurity Impact: An adverse effect on the economy, the environment or the community that arises, or has the potential to arise, from biosecurity matter (in this case weeds), as per section 13 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015.*

Policy Administration

Business Group:	City Services
Responsible officer:	Manager Works
Council reference:	
Policy review date:	Three (3) years from date of adoption
File number:	99/3/3
Relevant legislation	Biosecurity Act 2015
Related documents	Weeds Inspection and Enforcement Procedure Pesticide Use Procedure Pesticide Use Notification Plan

Policy History

VERSION	DATE APPROVED	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
1.0	27 August 2019	Policy rescinded
2.0	27 September 2022	Policy updated
2.1	-	Updated to new branding and alignment to organisation structure. No change to content.

City Services

Priority Weeds Management Policy Review

Draft Priority Weeds Management Policy 2025

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 2

Number of Pages: 5

Priority Weeds Management Policy

Date Adopted:

Version: 3.1

DRAFT

Policy Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

1. To ensure Council is fulfilling its functions and obligations as the Local Control Authority in relation to weeds, according to the Biosecurity Act 2015.

2. To provide clear guidelines and maintain a consistent approach in the management and control of priority weeds on Council owned and managed land.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all Council owned and managed land (including all bodies of water on Council owned and managed land) within the Maitland Local Government Area.

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to deliver a consistent approach to the management of priority weeds found on Council land in the Maitland Local Government Area. Implementation of this policy will minimise the impact of weeds on the local environment, community and economy.

1. Weeds management prioritisation

The Hunter Regional Strategic Weed Management Plan (HRSWMP) was developed to guide investment in weed management across the Hunter region and provide a consistent basis for regional weed management planning and implementation. Council will prioritise its management of weed species in accordance with the HRSWMP and the *Biosecurity Act 2015* that underpins the plan.

1.1 Weed risk assessments

To ensure that limited resources are used to their best effect, and that management of weeds is commensurate with the risk posed by each species, risk assessments have been undertaken on weed species across the state and within the Hunter region by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Hunter Regional Weeds Committee (HRWC) respectively. The state and regional weed risk assessment process culminated in the identification of high-risk weeds and the development of a priority weed list for the Hunter region.

1.2 Priority weed categories

Priority weeds fall into two broad categories: State Priority Weeds and Regional Priority Weeds. These are further divided into sub-categories depending on their presence, distribution, risk, and feasibility of control/prevention. This determines the associated objective for each weed

species in the HRSWMP as prevention, eradication, containment and asset protection as outlined below:

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2. Council owned and managed land

Priority weed control on Council land will be scheduled according to weed species and category, seasonal timing, and resource availability. The existence of new weed incursions, isolated infestations, and weed species posing the greatest biosecurity risk will be given priority over lower risk, existing and widespread weeds. All proposed priority weed control works will be considered by Council to ensure that the chosen method and timing of control is safe, suitable, effective, and environmentally sound.

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2.3 Manual / mechanical removal

In some instances, mechanical or manual removal of weeds will be the most suitable method of management for a particular weed species.

2.4 Council works sites

Where priority weeds are present on a Council work site, Council's Biosecurity & Environmental Operations Advisor should be consulted to determine if there are any special requirements that need to be implemented to minimise or eliminate a biosecurity risk.

3. Weeds inspections

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4. Data reporting

All priority weeds inspections and control undertaken by Council will be recorded and mapped using GIS mapping software. This data will be provided to NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) to be collated within the Biosecurity Information System (BIS). For Council as a local control authority, providing this data is a requirement of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and is directly linked to the NSW Weeds Action Program (WAP) funding that is received by Council.

5. Grant funding

Grant funding for the control of priority weeds will be sought by Council when suitable opportunities for such projects arise.

6. Staff training

Council will support the provision of training to its staff involved in priority weeds management, inspections and enforcement. Council will ensure that these staff remain up to date with the skills and knowledge required to achieve the objectives of this policy and the requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

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Policy Definitions

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New Weed Incursion: A weed that has not previously been recorded to occur or be present in a particular area.

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Biosecurity Impact: An adverse effect on the economy, the environment or the community that arises, or has the potential to arise, from biosecurity matter (in this case weeds), as per section 13 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015.*

Policy Administration

Business Group:	City Services
Responsible officer:	Manager Works
Council reference:	Ordinary Council Meeting 19 August 2025
Policy review date:	Three (3) years from date of adoption
File number:	99/3/3
Relevant legislation	Biosecurity Act 2015
Related documents	Weeds Inspection and Enforcement Procedure Pesticide Use Procedure Pesticide Use Notification Plan

DRAFT

Policy History

VERSION	DATE APPROVED	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
1.0	27 August 2019	Policy rescinded
2.0	27 September 2022	Policy updated
2.1	-	Updated to new branding and alignment to organisation structure. No change to content.
3.1	TBA	3-year Policy review

DRAFT

12.5 Thornton Road Network - Thornton Road Design Development

FILE NO:	**222/865**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Services** **Manager Asset Strategy and Engineering**
AUTHOR:	**Operations Manager Transport & Infrastructure Engineering**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 1 Liveable Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**1.2.3 Safe and efficient road networks**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to establish the funding mechanism and timing to start the delivery of critical Thornton Road network infrastructure works to allow for the connectivity from the New England Highway to the Thornton Rail Bridge.

It is proposed that available developer contributions within the Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2008 (Amended 2025) be used to progress tasks associated with the design and land acquisition of the infrastructure works.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **A total of $10,859,939 from the Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2008 (Amended 2025) identified for upgrades and intersections on Thornton Road (TN41, TN52 and TN53) be used to progress tasks associated with delivery of these works.**

BACKGROUND

On Friday 20 June 2025, the NSW State Government announced an additional $35 Million (total $50 Million commitment) towards the Thornton Bridge duplication project. Delivery of this project is expected to ease congestion and expand access to Thornton Road. Without other corresponding road infrastructure works, it is anticipated that the congestion will simply be relocated to the next "bottleneck" point in the road network, where two traffic lanes merge into one. In this case, that would be the local road corridor of Thornton Road between Huntingdale Drive and Glenwood Drive, for which Council is the roads authority.

As previously reported to Council, the Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2008 (Amended 2025) has been financially constrained due to the introduction of a cap on the collection of developer contributions and further restricted as project costs increase without an appropriate increase in the indexation of developer contributions. This has had significant financial implications in the delivery of the infrastructure needs of the Thornton and Chisholm suburbs.

THORNTON ROAD NETWORK - THORNTON ROAD DESIGN DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)

The specific Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2008 (Amended 2025) traffic facilities are:

- TN41 - Thornton Road - Railway Avenue to Glenwood Drive
- TN52 - Huntingdale Drive/Thornton Drive
- TN53 - Thornton Road/Glenwood Drive.

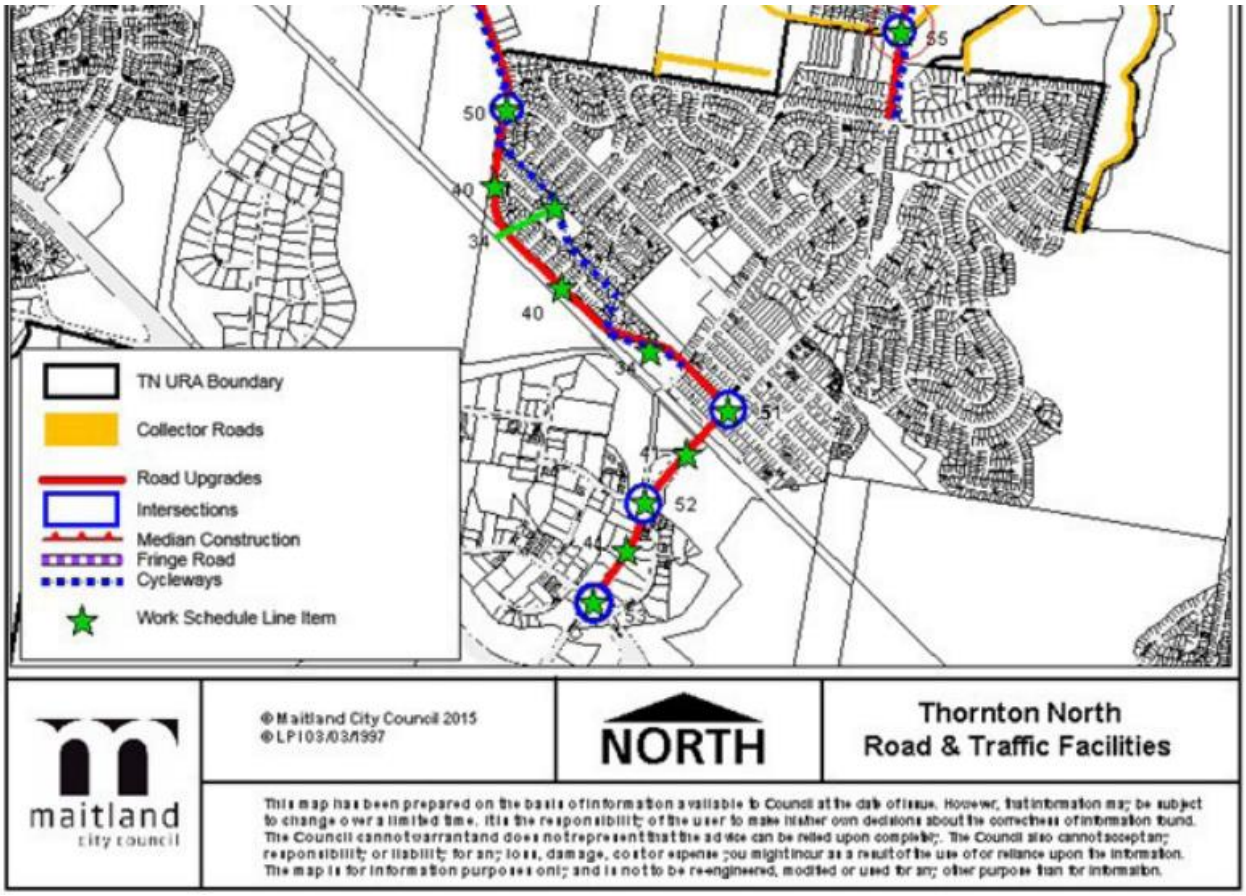


Figure 1: Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2008 (Amended 2025) - Road & Traffic and Cycleways Facilities Map - (TN41, TN52 and TN53)

These road infrastructure projects have been identified as a high priority for Council and included previously as part of Councils delivery program.

Previous reports to Council have resolved to pursue infrastructure grant opportunities to assist with funding shortfalls in the delivery of this infrastructure. Council was successful in securing grants for works in the Thornton area including:

- $200K under Resources for Region Round 8 for a business case development by a specialist consultant for the upgrade of the Thornton Road / Glenwood Drive intersection to assist in prioritising works and supporting evidenced based requests for grant funding
- $9.5M under the Housing Acceleration Fund for the Government Road and Raymond Terrace Road intersection
- $5M under the State Voluntary Planning Agreement Program to go towards upgrading the intersection of Taylor Avenue and Haussman Drive to provide a roundabout and new western fourth leg
- $3.7M under the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program for lane duplication along Haussman Drive between Taylor Avenue and Raymond Terrace Road.

THORNTON ROAD NETWORK - THORNTON ROAD DESIGN DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)

Council was unsuccessful in a number of attempts to secure grant funding towards the Haussman Drive & Raymond Terrace Road intersection upgrade and Thornton Road duplication upgrade.

Council officers have noted that there is an increasing trend in many grant conditions that is requiring Council to own the land for the project. This aligns to successful grant applications being “shovel ready” at the time of grant application.

Grant programs also often have a limited total fund capacity and individual project funding limits that inhibit the consideration of large-scale projects. Exploring segmented works scopes to deliver individual stand-alone projects in a staged timeframe may also help improve Council’s chances of success when applying.

REPORT

The purpose of this report is to establish the funding mechanism and timing to start the delivery of critical Thornton Road network infrastructure works to allow for the connectivity from the New England Highway to the Thornton Rail Bridge.

The extent of works for this proposal is defined as the upgrade of Thornton Road and Glenwood Drive from the Thornton Rail Bridge through to, and including the Weakleys Drive roundabout. The following road infrastructure items are considered to form part of the scope of this work.

- Thornton Road lane duplication – Rail Bridge to Glenwood Drive
- Glenwood Drive lane duplication – Thornton Road to Weakleys Drive
- Huntingdale Drive and Thornton Road Intersection Upgrade – Traffic Control Signals
- Thornton Road and Glenwood Drive Intersection Upgrade - Traffic Control Signals
- Glenwood Drive and Weakleys Drive Intersection Upgrade – Traffic Control Signals

THORNTON ROAD NETWORK - THORNTON ROAD DESIGN DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)

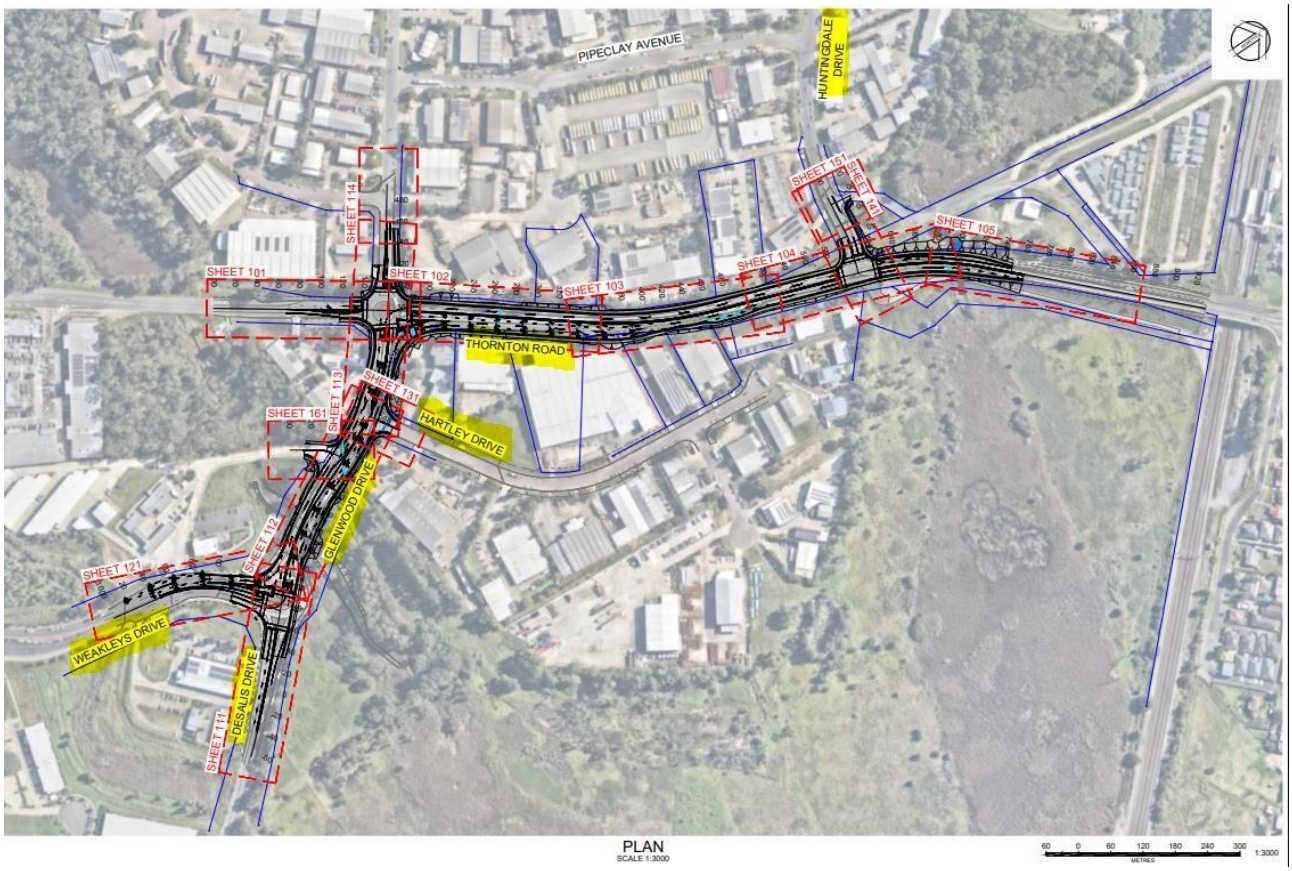


Figure 2: Thornton Road Concept Plan 2022

The objective is to have these projects sufficiently developed to align with critical stages of the Thornton rail bridge duplication including its completion.

A business case for the above works scope was completed in 2024. This established concept design plans, a capital cost estimate of $75M and a benefit cost ration of 1.5 overall positive benefits associated with implementation of the infrastructure works. This estimate has been increased further to $87M based on a staged delivery of the works and further cost escalation over time.

Funding within the Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2008 (Amended 2025) associated with the above projects has been identified up to the value of $12,525,558. Thus, leaving a potential deficit of at least $74.5M to facilitate delivery of this work.

Whilst there is insufficient funding to enable construction delivery and completion of these works, available developer contributions can be used to further progress these projects by undertaking the following tasks.

1. Engage specialist consultants and contractors to help Council deliver the projects
2. Define appropriate segmented staging of the overall work scope into stand-alone projects that reduces the complexity associated with delivery of the full works scope whilst allowing for improved opportunities to seek grant funding within potential funding program limits
3. Further develop existing concept designs to detailed design and ready for issue for construction plan sets

4. Fund necessary applications to separate authorities such as Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Works Authorisation Deed and utility provider relocation approvals.
5. Acquire property to secure land necessary to deliver the works based on 'for construction' plans
6. Progress projects towards being "shovel ready" thereby potentially improving opportunities for successful grant applications.

It is proposed that available developer contributions be accessed to progress the above tasks associated with the works.

Additional funding sources including grants will be necessary to enable further delivery of these associated projects and Council officers will continue to identify and apply for potential grant opportunities.

CONCLUSION

Dedicating funding from the Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2008 (Amended 2025) towards the progression of Thornton Road infrastructure works will enable Council to work on the delivery of critical infrastructure works associated with the Thornton and Chisholm precincts. Noting that further funding will be needed to construct the works, Council officers will continue to seek and apply for grant funding opportunities to enable delivery of identified critical infrastructure.

CONSULTATION

Through Council's engagement process, there is consistent feedback from the community that indicate the need for and community demand for infrastructure upgrade works in this road network.

Council continues to liaise regularly with TfNSW including project update meetings associated with the development of the Thornton Bridge duplication and other critical infrastructure projects led by TfNSW.

Consultation has occurred with Councils Internal Contribution Committee, the Executive Leadership Team and Councillors via a Councillor briefing.

THORNTON ROAD NETWORK - THORNTON ROAD DESIGN DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Risk Rating	Proposed Treatment	Proposed Risk Rating	Resourcing
There is a risk of not completing the projects in a timely manner to align with TfNSW bridge works, that may lead to reputational damage to Council	High	adopt the recommendation to commence preliminary design aspects.	Med	Within available contribution allowance for preliminary design aspects. Requires additional officer resourcing as recommended.
There is a safety, environmental and financial risk of not completing the Thornton Road project, that may lead to increased traffic congestion, increased pollution and lower productivity for commuters and workers.	High	adopt the recommendation to commence preliminary design aspects.	Med	Within available contribution allowance for preliminary design aspects. Requires additional officer resourcing as recommended.
There is a risk of developer contributions funding being expended and sufficient funding not being available to complete the projects, that may lead to a financial burden on Council to complete and deliver the works	High	There is already insufficient funding to deliver the projects. Adopt the recommendation to commence preliminary design aspects.	High	Within available contribution allowance for preliminary design aspects. Continue seeking grant funding opportunities as recommended.
There is a reputational and financial risk associated with land ownership required to complete the works, that will result in council being unsuccessful with grant funding as land ownership is nearly always a condition of the grant.	High	Adopt the recommendation to commence preliminary design aspects and land acquisition.	Medium High	Within available contribution allowance for preliminary design aspects. Continue seeking grant funding opportunities as recommended.
There is an operational risk that Council will not have 'for construction' designs complete and the required lands acquired, that will result in Council being unsuccessful with grant funding as the project is not shovel ready.	High	Adopt the recommendation to commence preliminary design aspects and land acquisition.	Medium	Within available contribution allowance for preliminary design aspects. Continue seeking grant funding opportunities as recommended.

THORNTON ROAD NETWORK - THORNTON ROAD DESIGN DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A quantity surveyor cost estimate was prepared as part of the concept design and business case that identified total costs of approximately $87M for delivery of the identified works scope.

Nominal values have been listed for the tasks identified within this report. Whilst noting that items were established as provisional items and a percentage of estimated construction costs, these values have been compared to the amount of funding available for dedication towards delivery of these projects.

Description	Amount (excl GST)	Comments
Income		
Income source A – Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Item TN41	$ 7,210,932	S7.11 Amount in full remaining
Income Source B – Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Item TN52	$ 1,137,847	S7.11 Amount in full remaining
Income Source C – Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Item TN53	$ 4,176,785	S7.11 Amount in full remaining
CURRENT INCOME BUDGET	$ 12,525,558	
EXPENDITURE		
Allowance for Design Fees External design consultant	$ 4,365,252	Sourced from 2024 independent Business Case
Allowance for Authority Fees & Charges TfNSW WAD and utility providers.	$ 1,091,313	Sourced from 2024 independent Business Case
Allowance for Client Side Project Management Costs	$2,182,626	Sourced from 2024 independent Business Case
Property Acquisition – Areas estimated from concept plans	$ 3,220,748	Sourced from 2024 independent Business Case
TOTAL COST	$ 10,859,939	
RESULT	**$ 1,665,619**	**Funds Remaining**

The need for supplementary funding has always been identified for Thornton North road infrastructure items. Grant funding is proposed to further construct and complete these works. There is no guarantee that any future grant application will be successful. In this case, Council officers will continue to advocate for and pursue infrastructure grant opportunities as they arise to resolve funding shortfalls and assist in the delivery of this infrastructure.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations related to this matter are consistent with the following relevant council policies:

- Asset Management Strategy, Policy and Plans
- Asset Capitalisation Policy
- Procurement Policy

- Financial Reserves Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Thornton North Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2008 AMENDED 2025.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This report relates to and is consistent with the following legislation:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Roads Act 1993
- SEPP (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021
- Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979.

12.6 Morpeth to Walka Shared Pathway - Identification of Proposed Route

FILE NO:	**103/20**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Morpeth to Walka Shared Pathway Proposed Route** **2. Item 13.2 23 January 2024 Agenda** **3. Item 13.2 23 January 2024 Minutes**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Services** **Manager Asset Strategy and Engineering**
AUTHOR:	**Operations Manager Transport & Infrastructure Engineering**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 1 Liveable Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**1.2.2 Connected active transport**
Previous Items:	**13.2 - Route Options for a Shared Pathway from Belmore Bridge to Walka Water Works - Ordinary Council - 23 Jan 2024 5:30 PM**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to place the proposed route for the Morpeth to Walka Shared Pathway on Public Exhibition for community consultation. A number of potential route alignment options were developed and a multi-criteria assessment was undertaken. This resulted in an assessment of potential pathway options being refined into a single proposed route for the Morpeth to Walka (and Rutherford) Shared Pathway.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Following previous community feedback, Council officers recommend that the proposed route alignment for the Morpeth to Walka (and Rutherford) shared pathway (Attachment 1) be used for the purposes of undertaking further community consultation and public exhibition.**
2. **Council officers recommend that the proposed route alignment for the Morpeth to Walka (and Rutherford) shared pathway (Attachment 1) be exhibited for a minimum period of 28 days.**
3. **Council officers recommend a further report be submitted to Council following public exhibition of the Morpeth to Walka (and Rutherford) proposed route, including a Response to Submissions Report.**
4. **Council officers recommend that the previous resolution for the Council meeting dated 23 January 2024 agenda item 13.2 – Route Options for a Shared Pathway from Belmore Bridge to Walka Water Works (Attachment 2 and 3), be rescinded.**

MORPETH TO WALKA SHARED PATHWAY - IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ROUTE (Cont.)

REPORT

The purpose of this report is to confirm the proposed route for the Morpeth to Walka Shared Pathway. Councils 2024-25 Operational Plan identified the action to:

> *Develop a concept plan identifying a shared pathway route across the city including Rutherford to Walka Water Works, Walka Water Works to Central Maitland, Maitland to Morpeth and identify funding to deliver the section from Walka to Central Maitland.*

A preferred route was reported to Council on 23 January 2024 to enable Council officers to continue matters associated with finalisation of detailed design of the shared path including site survey and negotiation with impacted property owners for land acquisition. At the time, impacted residents objected to the preferred route.

To achieve the objectives of the operational plan and support the identification of a proposed route, a number of potential route alignment options were developed and a multi-criteria assessment was undertaken. This assessment considered and assigned prioritised weighting to defined factors considered relevant to pathway route option selection. Factors included:

- Overall route length
- Ratio of off-road to on-road segments with a preference towards off-road facilities
- Integration and connectivity to existing active transport infrastructure
- Design considerations such as whether desirable or minimum widths
- Consideration as to whether the route is subject to extensive and lengthy flooding
- Quantity and complexity of land acquisition
- Approval and permit requirements
- Route amenity and the presence, quantity and quality of supplementary facilities
- Financial impacts
- Alignment with guidance material including Movement and Place and Cycleway Design Toolbox Principles
- Level of potential user experience associated with safe systems approach and surrounding environment
- Environmental factors
- Constructability and maintenance considerations.

The shared pathway was divided into segments for assessment as follows.

- Rutherford to Walka Water Works
- Walka Water Works to Central Maitland
- Central Maitland to East Maitland
- East Maitland to Morpeth.

A preliminary route review was undertaken to consider viable route options which were then reduced to six (6) route options for each stage for assessment, with the exception of the Rutherford to Walka segment which considered two (2) routes only due to its limited variability and short linkage length. This resulted in the identification of a preferred shared pathway route from Morpeth to Walka (and Rutherford) based on the established factors considered relevant to the provision of the pathway. The resultant and combined proposed route is shown in Attachment 1.

MORPETH TO WALKA SHARED PATHWAY - IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ROUTE (Cont.)

The proposed route alignment shown in the attached plan will be used for the purposes of undertaking public exhibition and engagement for consultation with the community. For this community consultation on the new proposed route to occur, the endorsed preferred route from the 23 January 2024 Council meeting will require rescinding.

CONCLUSION

The completion of a multi-criteria analysis on a number of route options for each pathway segment has resulted in a robust assessment of potential pathway options being refined into a single preferred route for the Morpeth to Walka (and Rutherford) Shared Pathway. Adoption of the preferred route will support Council officers as they continue to progress the project and engage further with the community on the nominated alignment.

CONSULTATION

Internal project consultation has occurred with Council officers, Executive Leadership Team and Councillors through memos, meetings and briefings. Due to the level of interest in the project; senior staff and Councillors have also participated in a bus tour to visually inspect key points of interest along the preferred route alignment.

Previously, consultation has occurred with individual land owners directly impacted by the nominated route alignments. City wide community consultation has not occurred for the full length of the project. Given the significant level of community comment that has occurred on individual project stages, it was proposed to undertake public exhibition of the proposed routes to gain the opinions of the directly impacted residents and the broader Maitland community.

Land owners who were impacted by the Belmore to Walka route alignment previously reported to Council on 23 January 2024 but will no longer be, have been notified of this meeting and the recommendations contained within this report to publicly exhibit the current preferred route alignment.

Land owners who remain impacted and new properties impacted by the current proposed route alignment have also been notified in advance of this meeting and the report recommendations.

Subject to resolution, it is proposed to exhibit the preferred route alignment for a minimum period of 28 days. During this period, the draft documents will be available for review on Council's Have Your Say webpage. Following the exhibition period, a further report will be prepared to Council for consideration of submissions received. At this stage changes be required, the report will be accompanied by an updated proposed route alignment.

MORPETH TO WALKA SHARED PATHWAY - IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ROUTE (Cont.)

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Risk Rating	Proposed Treatment	Proposed Risk Rating	Resourcing
There is a risk of Council not delivering on the DPOP requirement, which may lead to reputational damage and missed future grant opportunities.	High	Adopt proposed route. Advocate for further funding for design development.	Medium	Withing existing internal project management resource
There is a risk of landowners (from acquired land) and community complaints on the proposed route, which may lead to reputational damage and potential redesign.	High	The route selection criteria has eliminated the footpath splitting or dividing land parcels in half. To undertake public exhibition and notification to impacted land owners.	Medium	Withing existing resources
There is a risk associated with this matter having previously been resolved by Council to change the preferred route which may lead to reputational damage associated with the reversal of a Council resolution.	High	Process to be open and transparent including community consultation and Council reporting.	Medium	Withing existing resources
There is a risk around land acquisition negotiations which may lead to negative opinions regarding Councils dealings and increased project costs to acquire land.	High	The route selection criteria has eliminated the footpath splitting land parcels in half. Undertake public exhibition and notification to impacted land owners.	Medium	Withing existing resources

MORPETH TO WALKA SHARED PATHWAY - IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ROUTE (Cont.)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This matter has minimal cost implications associated with the adoption and exhibition of the preferred route alignment. Staff time and any additional costs associated with the notification, exhibition and consultation processes will be accommodated within existing CAPEX and/or OPEX budgets.

Please note that future construction delivery of the project is subject to the availability and success of grant funding with potential for supplementary funds from Developer Contribution Plans and CAPEX funding. Future funding requirements including costs and identified funding sources are expected to be addressed as part of further reporting to Council following the exhibition period and any potential amendments to the preferred route alignment. However, a high level cost estimation of the preferred route alignment has been undertaken as summarised below.

FINANCIAL PROPOSAL		
SOURCE	**AMOUNT (EXCL. GST)**	**COMMENTS**
INCOME		
Current Income Budget	$ 3,000,000	Subject to confirmation of route, future capital works investment and grant funds
EXPENDITURE		
Proposed Route – Estimate	$ 13,000,000	Subject to confirmation of route
TOTAL COST	$ 13,000,000	
RESULT	**($ 10,000,000)**	Works are currently unfunded

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The recommendations related to this matter are consistent with the following relevant council policies:

- Asset Management Strategy, Policy and Plans
- Asset Capitalisation Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Financial Reserves Policy
- Risk Management Policy.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This report relates to and is consistent with the following legislation:

- Local Government Act 1993
- Roads Act 1993
- Conveyancing Act 1919
- SEPP (Transport & Infrastructure) 2021
- Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979
- Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.

City Services

Morpeth to Walka Shared Pathway - Identification Of Proposed Route

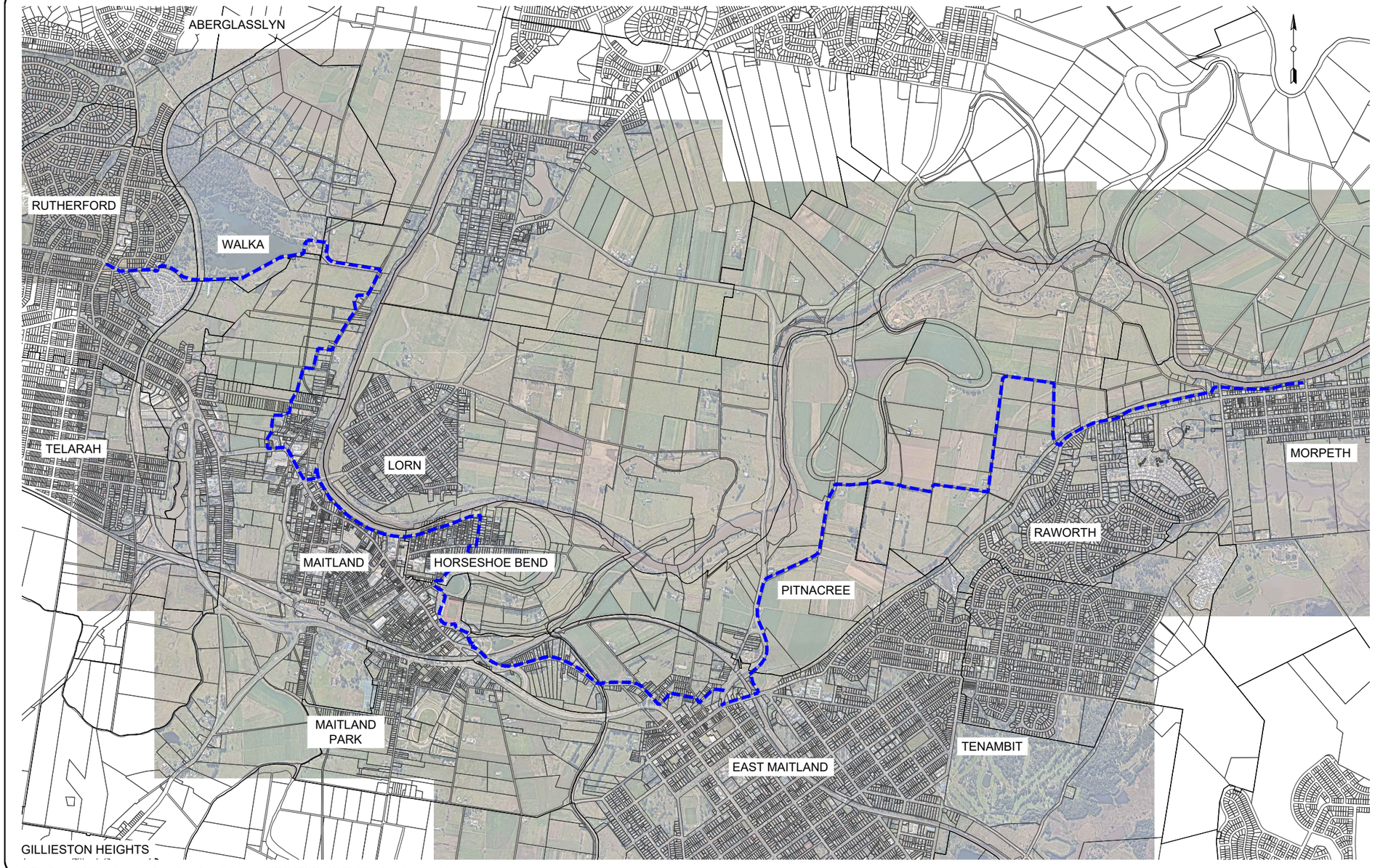
Morpeth to Walka Shared Pathway Proposed Route

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 1

MORPETH TO WALKA SHARED PATHWAY - IDENTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ROUTE (Cont.)



P:\Task Folders 2425\Morpeth to Walka Shared Path - Strategic Overview - 4269\02 DESIGN\4269-0C - Whole Route Assessment.dwg

C	COUNCILLOR PRIMARY ROUTE NOMINATION	C.P.	29/05/2025
B	EXISTING LINKAGE CONNECTIONS	C.P.	20/05/2025
A	ORIGINAL APPROVAL	C.P.	02/05/2025
	SHEET REVISION	BY	DATE

Plotted: 30/06/2025 4:42:02 PM By: CI

CONCEPT PLAN - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

RATIO @A3
Horizontal Ratio: 1:25,000
Vertical Ratio:

SURVEYOR	DATUM
N/A	A.H.D.
DESIGNER	DATE OF PLAN
C. Pinchen	20/05/2025

MAITLAND CITY COUNCIL
CITY SERVICES

263 HIGH STREET
P.O. BOX 220
MAITLAND 2320

PHONE: (02) 49349700
FAX (02) 49333209
DX 21613 MAITLAND

MORPETH TO WALKA WATER WORKS SHARED PATH
STRATEGIC OVERVIEW
ALL SEGMENTS
PREFERRED ROUTE OPTION

PLAN No.
4269-0C
Sheet 01 of 1

maitland CITY COUNCIL

City Services

Morpeth to Walka Shared Pathway - Identification of Proposed Route

Item 13.2 23 January 2024 Agenda

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 2

Number of Pages: 8

23 JANUARY 2024

13.2 ROUTE OPTIONS FOR A SHARED PATHWAY FROM BELMORE BRIDGE TO WALKA WATER WORKS

FILE NO:	**103/20**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Maitland to Rutherford Shared Pathway General Arrangement Plan**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**David Moloney - Group Manager Infrastructure & Works** **Kevin Stein - Manager Engineering & Design**
AUTHOR:	**Chris Pinchen - Operations Manager Transport & Infrastructure Engineering**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 2 To easily get to where we want to go**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**2.2.1 Develop and promote Council's long term program for road and related infrastructure construction and maintenance**
Previous Items:	13.2 - Route Options for a Shared Pathway from Belmore Bridge to Walka Water Works - Ordinary Council - 08 Dec 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rutherford to Maitland to Morpeth shared pathway has been identified for delivery in line with Councils priorities and identified opportunities. Concept design for the path segment identified as Maitland to Rutherford incorporating the section between Belmore Bridge and Walka Water Works has been undertaken using LIDAR survey information and aerial imagery. The project is now progressing towards detailed design.

Support is sought from Council on the selected route alignment to allow works to continue to progress towards delivery including enabling officers to discuss with impacted landowners arrangements for access for site survey and to commence discussions regarding the acquisition of land needed to deliver the works.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **The status report on the Rutherford to Maitland to Morpeth shared pathway project stages be noted.**
2. **The shared pathway route nominated by this report (Modified Option 3) for the section between Belmore Bridge and Walka Water Works be adopted by Council.**
3. **Council initiates steps associated with the purchase of property from the owners of land parcels along the route to facilitate site access and to acquire land needed to deliver the shared path works.**

4. Details associated with the acquisition of land needed to deliver the shared path works be reported to Council for further approval.

REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the identified preferred route for the segment of the Rutherford to Maitland to Morpeth Shared Pathway from Belmore Bridge to Walka Water Works. Support is sought from Council on the selected route alignment to allow works to continue to progress towards delivery and completion of this stage of the project.

BACKGROUND

The Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+ has identified as a priority to "*Improve access to, from and within the city and encourage public and active transport to connect people and places".* Councils Destination Management Plan 2020 – 2030 identifies opportunities aligning with this priority to provide a network of shared pathways linking Morpeth with Walka Water Works and Central Maitland.

The Rutherford to Maitland to Morpeth shared pathway has been identified for delivery in line with Councils priorities and identified opportunities. The project has been segmented into stages for delivery which when implemented will help provide access to over 17 kilometres of active transport routes linkages between major destination hubs, public open space, tourist attractions, town centres and residential areas.

Reports and briefings have previously been presented to Council detailing route options for the stage of the shared pathway between Walka Water Works and Belmore Bridge. Key milestones associated with this process include the Council briefing on route options on the 26 November 2019 and the Council report on the 8 December 2020 which resolved *"A report on the preferred Cycleway Route be made to Council".* This report seeks to define the preferred route and outline the delivery strategy needed to progress actions required to deliver this segment of the shared pathway including required land acquisition, funding and project timeframes.

23 JANUARY 2024

ROUTE OPTIONS FOR A SHARED PATHWAY FROM BELMORE BRIDGE TO WALKA WATER WORKS (Cont.)

ROUTE OPTIONS AND SELECTION

At the briefing held 26 November 2019 four (4) route options were presented. These are shown in the figures below.

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

Option 4

Further investigation into route viability including liaison with Hunter Water to utilise their pipeline corridor and the Office of Environment and Heritage with regards to construction works in proximity to Hunter Valley Flood Mitigation Scheme assets has occurred. Factors such as design standards, utility relocations, land acquisition, property access issues and end user amenity have been identified and considered as part of this investigation. Consideration has also been given to other Council projects occurring in the area including the Walka Water Works redevelopment and the Scobies Lane road reconstruction in proximity to the Powerhouse Control.

In respect to the four options and detailed investigation, the following commentary is provided:

- Option 1.
  The initial preferred route was Option 1 however the use of Mount Pleasant Street was problematic due to the existing narrow footway width, presence of utilities and the potential impacts to adjoining properties with shallow dwelling setbacks

- Option 2.
  The connection point associated with Option 2 at the Long Bridge lacked the ease of wayfinding and connectivity back to existing infrastructure at the Riverwalk

- Option 3.
  Is the preferred option for adoption and progressing to detailed design with alignment adjustment to the north within Council land and included in the attachments.

- Option 4.
  This option was not pursued as construction of the path along some sections of the riverbank is not viable due to degradation and site gradients.

The recommended alignment (Modified Option 3) is varied slightly from the original Option 3 previously presented to Council, it maintains the same route along the river bank from Maitland to Oakhampton Road. However, adopts a direct route between Oakhampton Road and Walka over Council owned land, reducing impacts to the Hunter Water Corridor maximizing Council owned land and reducing impacts to private property holdings.

PROJECT STATUS AND TIMEFRAME

Investigation and Concept designs for this project are complete, following adoption of the preferred Cycleway route included in this report. The project will now progress towards detailed design. Minor adjustments to the proposed alignment of the shared pathway may occur as part of detailed design however the general location and the impact to identified properties has been defined and is not anticipated to vary.

Funding has been secured from the Get NSW Active Program 2022/23 to complete detailed design for the segments of the shared pathway network from Rutherford to Maitland that incorporates the Belmore Bridge to Walka Water Works shared pathway segment as shown in the attached plan. Detailed design is required to be completed in accordance with the requirements of the grant funding deed by June 2024.

DELIVERY STRATEGY INCORPORATING LAND ACQUISITION

During conceptual design, property owners impacted by the proposed works were notified to request Council access to carry out survey and investigation works. Signed permits to enter have been received for some land parcels, however a number of landowners have declined consent subject to further information and the identification of possible impacts to their properties which will include the requirement for Council to acquire portions of land.

Whilst Council officers will continue to discuss and attempt to negotiate mutually beneficial outcomes for both Council and the impacted property owners, objection from some impacted property owners is expected, regardless of the route alignment.

Council support is sought to enable officers to discuss with impacted landowners, arrangements for access for site survey and to commence discussions regarding the acquisition of land needed to deliver the works on the adopted route. It is proposed to commence land acquisition discussions with all impacted landowners to negotiate resolution by voluntary agreement. Where agreement cannot be reached voluntarily, it is proposed to follow processes associated with compulsorily acquiring the land in accordance with Section 10A of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*. To reduce the potential for delays it is proposed to run the compulsory acquisition process, which requires a minimum period of six (6) months negotiation prior to initiation, concurrently with the voluntary acquisition negotiations and the compulsory acquisition process will be activated where negotiation by voluntary agreement has not been achieved within the nominal six-month period.

As part of negotiations, independent property valuations will be undertaken to establish market value and the value of other relevant matters to be considered in determining amounts of compensation such as any loss attributable to severance, disturbance or disadvantage from relocation and contributory works like fencing, gates, etc. as required in accordance with Section 55 of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*.

Thirty (30) individual land parcels have been identified as being impacted by the proposed works. However, there are a number of owners that hold multiple parcels and some of these listed parcels are owned by Council and other authorities including Crown Land and Hunter Water Corporation. It is considered that negotiation will be required with sixteen (16) landowners to allow site access and acquisition of land to facilitate delivery of the project.

Whilst this report seeks support to commence discussions regarding acquisition of land over the impacted properties, details associated with the acquisition of land needed to deliver the shared path works will be reported to Council later for further approval.

CONCLUSION

Approval is sought on the identified preferred route for the segment of the Rutherford to Maitland to Morpeth Shared Pathway from Belmore Bridge to Walka Water Works.

Support is sought to allow works to continue to progress towards delivery and completion of the detail design stage of the project including engaging in discussions with impacted landowners to allow Council access and to acquire portions of land from parcels identified within this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications or impacts on current budget, sufficient funds are available to complete the detail design and commence land acquisition. The funding to complete the cycleway construction will be subject to successful application of future grant funding or works programs. Council currently has $84,884.00 for the project which can be allocated to fund land acquisitions.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no specific policy implications for Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There are no Statutory Implications arising from this report, the proposed Land acquisition methodology outlined in this report complies with the relevant sections of the Local Government Act 1993 and Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.

Infrastructure and Works

ROUTE OPTIONS FOR A SHARED PATHWAY FROM BELMORE BRIDGE TO WALKA WATER WORKS

Maitland to Rutherford Shared Pathway General Arrangement Plan

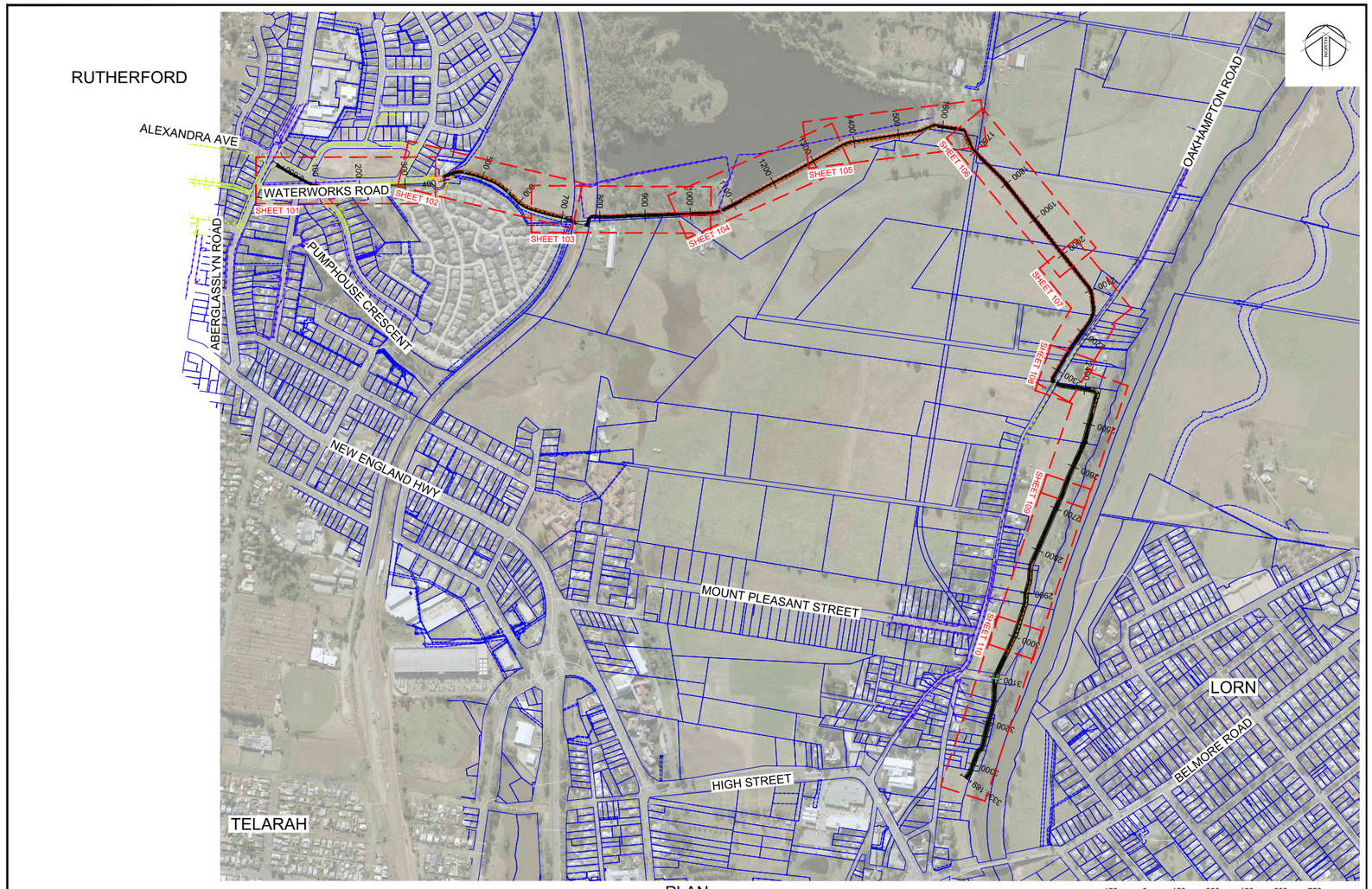
Meeting Date: 23 January 2024

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 1

23 JANUARY 2024

ROUTE OPTIONS FOR A SHARED PATHWAY FROM BELMORE BRIDGE TO WALKA WATER WORKS (Cont.)



PLAN
SCALE 1:7500

150 0 150 300 450 600 750 METRES 1:7500

REV	AMENDMENT	ISSUED	DATE
A	CONCEPT DESIGN	AS	21/07/23

BARKER RYAN STEWART
TOTAL PROJECT SOLUTIONS
SYDNEY P: 02 9659 0056
CENTRAL COAST P: 02 4325 5255
HUNTER P: 02 4966 9368
S.E. QLD P: 07 5552 5555
www.brs.com.au
mail@brs.com.au
ABN: 26 134 067 842

Client: maitland city council

MAITLAND TO RUTHERFORD
SHARED PATHWAY

GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

Designed: AS
Drawn: RG
Checked: SB

Scales: @A3 Plan 1:7500 Horiz. - Vert. - X-Sect. -
Datum: A.H.D.

Plan No. 220920-01-021
File Ref. 220920
REV. A

City Services

Morpeth to Walka Shared Pathway - Identification of Proposed Route

Item 13.2 23 January 2024 Minutes

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 3

Number of Pages: 2

23 JANUARY 2024

13.2 ROUTE OPTIONS FOR A SHARED PATHWAY FROM BELMORE BRIDGE TO WALKA WATER WORKS

FILE NO:	**103/20**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Maitland to Rutherford Shared Pathway General Arrangement Plan**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**David Moloney - Group Manager Infrastructure & Works** **Kevin Stein - Manager Engineering & Design**
AUTHOR:	**Chris Pinchen - Operations Manager Transport & Infrastructure Engineering**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 2 To easily get to where we want to go**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**2.2.1 Develop and promote Council's long term program for road and related infrastructure construction and maintenance**
Previous Items:	13.2 - Route Options for a Shared Pathway from Belmore Bridge to Walka Water Works - Ordinary Council - 08 Dec 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rutherford to Maitland to Morpeth shared pathway has been identified for delivery in line with Councils priorities and identified opportunities. Concept design for the path segment identified as Maitland to Rutherford incorporating the section between Belmore Bridge and Walka Water Works has been undertaken using LIDAR survey information and aerial imagery. The project is now progressing towards detailed design.

Support is sought from Council on the selected route alignment to allow works to continue to progress towards delivery including enabling officers to discuss with impacted landowners arrangements for access for site survey and to commence discussions regarding the acquisition of land needed to deliver the works.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **The status report on the Rutherford to Maitland to Morpeth shared pathway project stages be noted.**
2. **The shared pathway route nominated by this report (Modified Option 3) for the section between Belmore Bridge and Walka Water Works be adopted by Council.**
3. **Council initiates steps associated with the purchase of property from the owners of land parcels along the route to facilitate site access and to acquire land needed to deliver the shared path works.**

23 JANUARY 2024

4. Details associated with the acquisition of land needed to deliver the shared path works be reported to Council for further approval.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT

1. The status report on the Rutherford to Maitland to Morpeth shared pathway project stages be noted.

2. The shared pathway route nominated by this report (Modified Option 3) for the section between Belmore Bridge and Walka Water Works be adopted by Council.

3. Council initiates steps associated with the purchase of property from the owners of land parcels along the route to facilitate site access and to acquire land needed to deliver the shared path works.

4. Details associated with the acquisition of land needed to deliver the shared path works be reported to Council for further approval.

Moved Cr P Garnham, Seconded Cr B Whiting

CARRIED

For:	Cr R Aitchison	Against:
	Cr L Baker	
	Cr S Fisher	
	Cr K Flannery	
	Cr P Garnham	
	Cr M Griffin	
	Cr B Hackney	
	Cr B Mitchell	
	Mayor P Penfold	
	Cr K Ranadive	
	Cr B Whiting	
	Cr M Yarrington	

12.7 Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog

FILE NO:	**35/7/4**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Notice of Motion - Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog - 15-4-25** **2. Asset Class Portfolio Overview** **3. Special Schedule 2 and backlog calculations** **4. Backlog breakdown Roads and Building Assets** **5. Capital Expenditures** **6. Strategic Context and Development**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Services** **Manager Asset Strategy and Engineering**
AUTHOR:	**Operations Manager Asset Management** **Senior Asset Management Planner**
MAITLAND'S FUTURE	**1 Liveable Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**1.1.2 Connected living**
Previous Items:	**17.3 - Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog - Ordinary Council - 15 Apr 2025 5:30 PM**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council unanimously resolved at the meeting of 15 April 2025 a Notice of Motion that Council address the infrastructure backlog as a priority and that staff should undertake appropriate investigations, community engagement and prepare a 4-year program to achieve this.
This report outlines the significance of the backlog and Council's proposed approach to progress this Notice of Motion.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council notes the contents of this report and the data in respect to the asset portfolio current state.**
2. **A further report be provided to update Council on status of progress of the "Backlog Delivery Program" no later than December 2025.**
3. **The December 2025 report addresses the key actions that will be undertaken to enable increased allocation of planned rate revenue income to help address the current asset renewal funding shortfall.**

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

REPORT

Background

The resolved Notice of Motion on the 15 April 2025 outlined the need for Council to address the infrastructure deficit and prioritise our strategic asset management. A copy of the Notice of Motion and Resolution is included as Attachment 1.

This deficit directly impacts the condition and availability of essential community assets, from local roads and drainage to sporting fields, change rooms, community parks, play spaces, libraries, and community halls. These are the spaces where our residents come together, stay active, learn, and connect and many are in urgent need of maintenance or renewal.

A 4-year program of works is to be prepared to address the backlog that includes:

- Priority projects for all key asset classes
- Identification of potential funding sources
- An informed delivery program including project timelines
- A collaboration plan involving key government partners.

This 4-year program will focus on the renewal and upgrade of existing assets only and will be referred to as the Backlog Delivery Program (BDP).

Purpose of this report

This report aims to inform on the extent of the backlog and outline Councils approach to addressing the issue. The following key topics are included:

- Current Situation
    - Annual report on infrastructure assets
    - Estimated cost to bring to satisfactory standard methodology (Attachment 3)
    - Condition rating relationships of assets (Attachment 3)
    - Growth of asset value over time
    - Infrastructure backlog ratio
    - Backlog cost by asset class
    - Backlog breakdown and condition ratings over time of buildings and roads (Attachment 4)
    - Capital expenditures
    - Capital asset expenditure of all asset classes (Attachment 5)
    - Comparison of actual expenditure Vs depreciation (Attachment 5)
    - Expenditure Vs depreciation of buildings (Attachment 5)
    - Impacts
    - What we have done
    - Available funding
- Approach Moving Forward
    - Strategic context and development (Attachment 6)
    - Funding
    - Organisational efficiency
    - Funding source identification and planning
    - Advocacy
- Milestones and timelines
    - Key Steps
    - Expected timing

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

Current Situation

Maitland City Council manages over $2.2 billion in infrastructure assets, including roads, buildings, drainage, footpaths, bridges, aquatics facilities, and open space areas. Attachment 2 provides a list of asset classes and what is included in each asset class. These assets vary significantly in age, condition, and location, ranging from contemporary infrastructure in newer suburbs to ageing and foundational infrastructure in older areas of the city.

As the city continues to grow, ageing infrastructure is increasingly limiting the level of service that can be delivered to the community. This has resulted in a substantial backlog of works, with the estimated cost to bring assets up to either a satisfactory or agreed level of service ranging from $130 million to $223 million, depending on which benchmark standards is used. An explanation on how these figures is derived is provided in Attachment 3.

While Council invests an average of $60 million annually in capital works, made up approximately of 55% asset renewals and 45% new assets, much of this has been reactive. This is focusing on poor-condition assets rather than proactive, being preventative capital maintenance. Over the past decade, asset values and associated depreciation have doubled, from a gross replacement cost of $1.1 billion in 2016 to $2.2 billion in 2024. Despite this growth, actual renewal investment has often lagged behind, contributing to a decline in the condition of key assets, particularly on roads and buildings. The details on historical expenditure are provided in Attachment 5.

Council's infrastructure backlog ratio has consistently failed to meet the Office of Local Government benchmark, reinforcing the urgent need for a more strategic and sustained approach to asset renewal is required. Addressing this challenge will require a renewed focus on long-term planning and investment, shifting from reactive upgrades to a proactive, service-based renewal program.

The following sections provide detail associated with Council's annual financial reporting and asset data on infrastructure assets from 2016 to 2024 and identify trends attributed to the declining condition of our asset portfolio.

Annual report on infrastructure assets

The annual report on infrastructure assets, known as Special Schedule no.2 (as shown in Attachment 3) provides information related to the condition, maintenance and renewal of infrastructure assets as of the end of each financial year.

In the MCC financial statement up to 30 June 24, the special schedule no.2 indicated that:

- The estimated cost to bring to a satisfactory standard was $223M
- The estimated cost to bring to an agreed level of service was $130M
- The annual required maintenance based on modelled depreciation was $15.26M
- The actual maintenance spent based on physical condition was $25.03M
- The net carrying value of assets was $1.71B
- The gross replacement cost of infrastructure assets was $2.21B
- 9.1% of our assets were below condition level 3.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

Attachment 3 provides definitions for the above-mentioned terms and articulation of the process to determine the provided results.

Growth of asset value over time

Figure 1.1 shows the growth of gross replacement cost over time from 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2024. The gross replacement cost of infrastructure has doubled since 2016 from $1.1B to $2.2B. This significant increase of asset value is a result of both substantial population growth within the Maitland area resulting in new residential related infrastructure and new construction combined with increasing infrastructure construction costs.
Since depreciation is derived from the gross replacement cost over the useful life, higher replacement rates increase the rates of depreciation where the useful life remains the same.

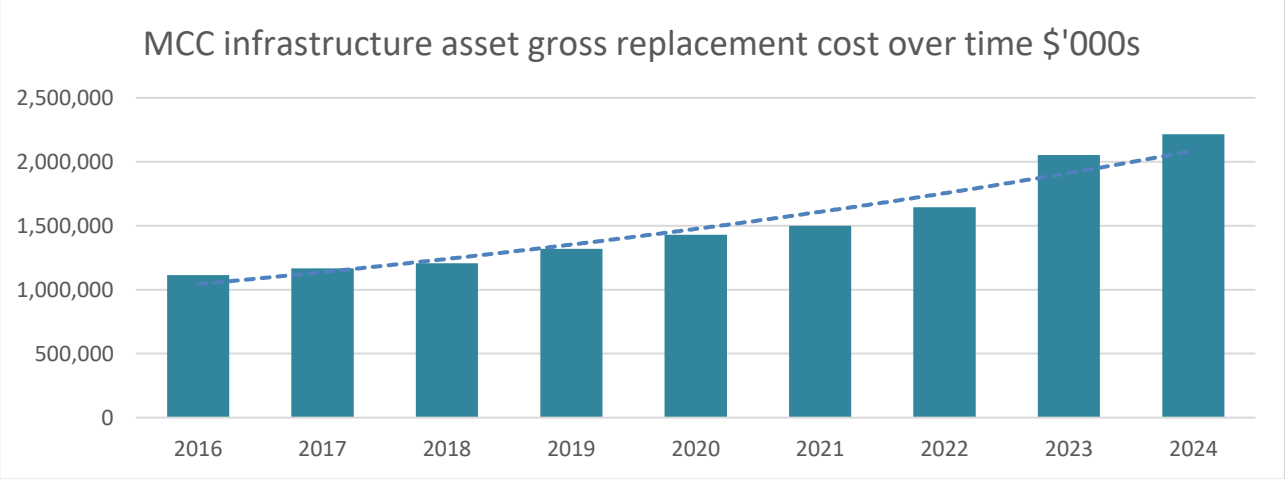
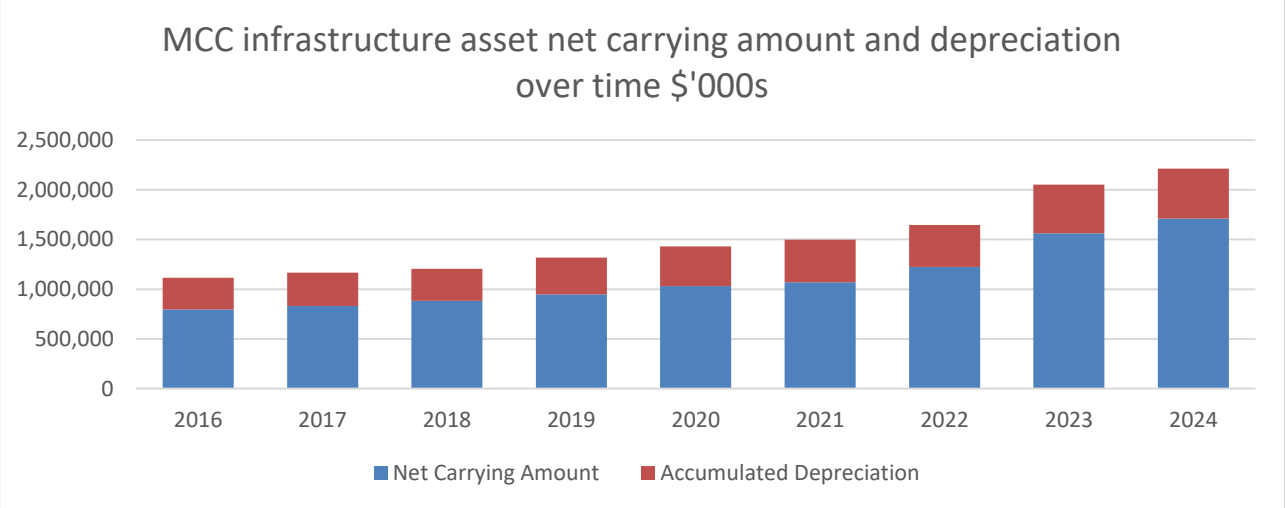


Figure 1.1 MCC infrastructure asset gross replacement cost over time. Data source: Maitland City Council annual financial statements.

Figure 1.2 shows asset net carrying amount and depreciation over time. The net carrying amount increases from acquired assets from new development, higher costs of replacement and longer asset lives for existing assets. The condition deterioration and shorter asset lives work against the net carrying amount.



ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

Figure 1.2 MCC infrastructure asset net carrying amount and depreciation over time. Data source: Maitland City Council annual financial statements.

The trend shows exponential increase of net carrying amount from $795M in 2016 to $1.7B in 2024, reflecting exponentially increasing value of assets from expanding subdivision developments and new construction projects.

The cost to bring to satisfactory condition over time is shown in Figure 1.3. Higher costs indicate poorer asset condition ratings and higher values of depreciation.

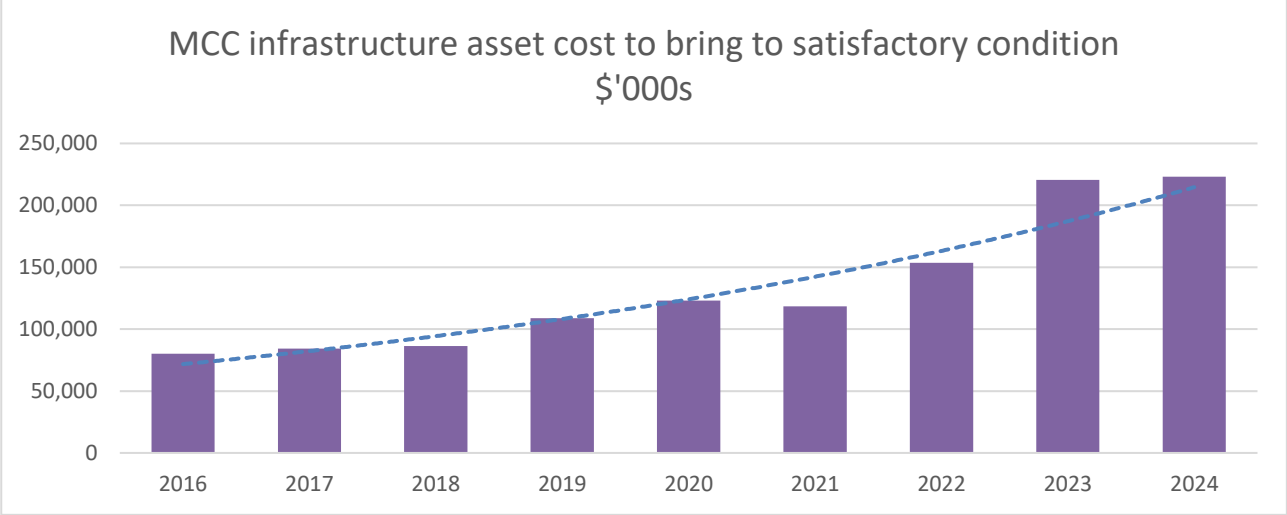


Figure 1.3 MCC infrastructure asset cost to bring to satisfactory condition. Data source: Maitland City Council annual financial statements.

The trend shows exponential increase cost to bring to satisfactory, indicating declining asset condition ratings and higher depreciation. Overall, the cost to bring these assets to satisfactory condition has surged from $80M in 2016 to $223M in 2024. In 2021 the cost to bring to satisfactory fell from $123M to $119M, indicating net improvement of asset condition rating. This is attributed to improvement of recreation infrastructure assets ($3.5M) and road assets ($1.5M) offsetting the deterioration from buildings and stormwater drainage.

The cost to bring to agreed level of service over time is shown in Figure 1.4. This amount reflects the backlog of assets in poor and very poor condition.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

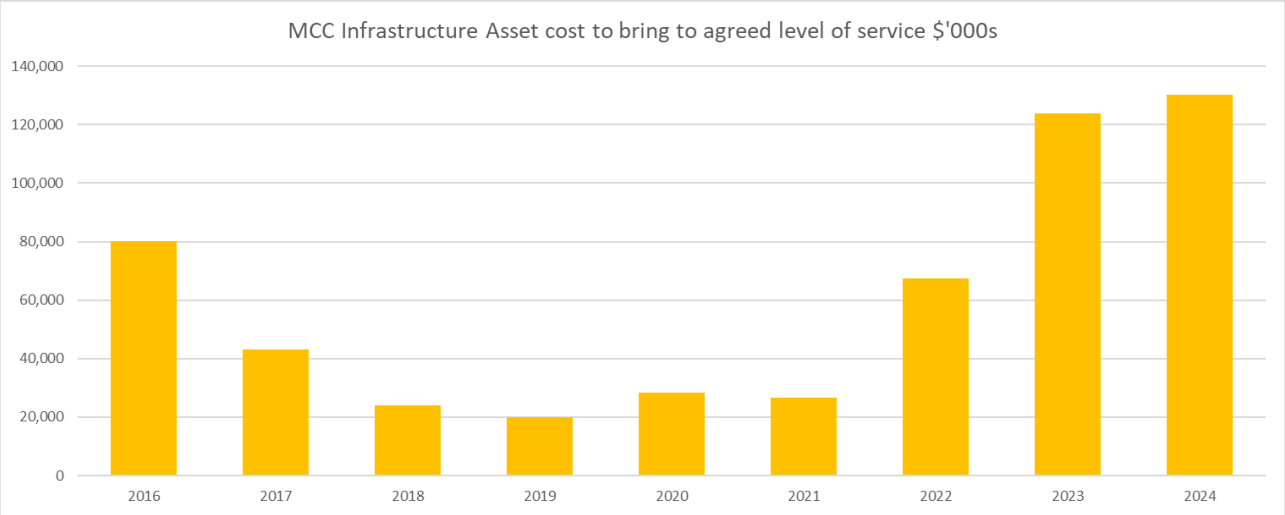


Figure 1.4 MCC infrastructure asset cost to bring to agreed level of service. Data source: Maitland City Council annual financial statements.

This graph indicates that backlog of the poorest condition assets decreased from 2016 to 2019 and has since increased rapidly up to $130M by 30 June 2024. This trend indicates that more assets are being re-evaluated from 'good' and 'fair' condition ratings into 'poor' and 'very poor' condition ratings. It can also indicate additional assets which are already in poor condition are included into the asset register.

Infrastructure backlog ratio

Supplementary to the special schedule 2, the report on infrastructure assets includes performance indicators to compare against benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG). The infrastructure backlog ratio indicates what proportion the infrastructure backlog is against the total amount of a council's infrastructure. This ratio is represented by the formula:

$$\frac{\textit{Estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory condition (\%)}}{\textit{Net carrying amount}}$$

Or

$$\frac{\textit{Figure 1.3}}{\textit{Figure 1.2}}$$

Target: OLG Benchmark <2%

Figure 1.5 shows the infrastructure backlog ratio as it relates to MCC infrastructure from 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2024 against the 2% benchmark set by OLG. A higher ratio indicates that the required costs to restore assets is outpacing the rate at which the asset values are increasing, indicative of declining condition, as cost inflation factors cancel out.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

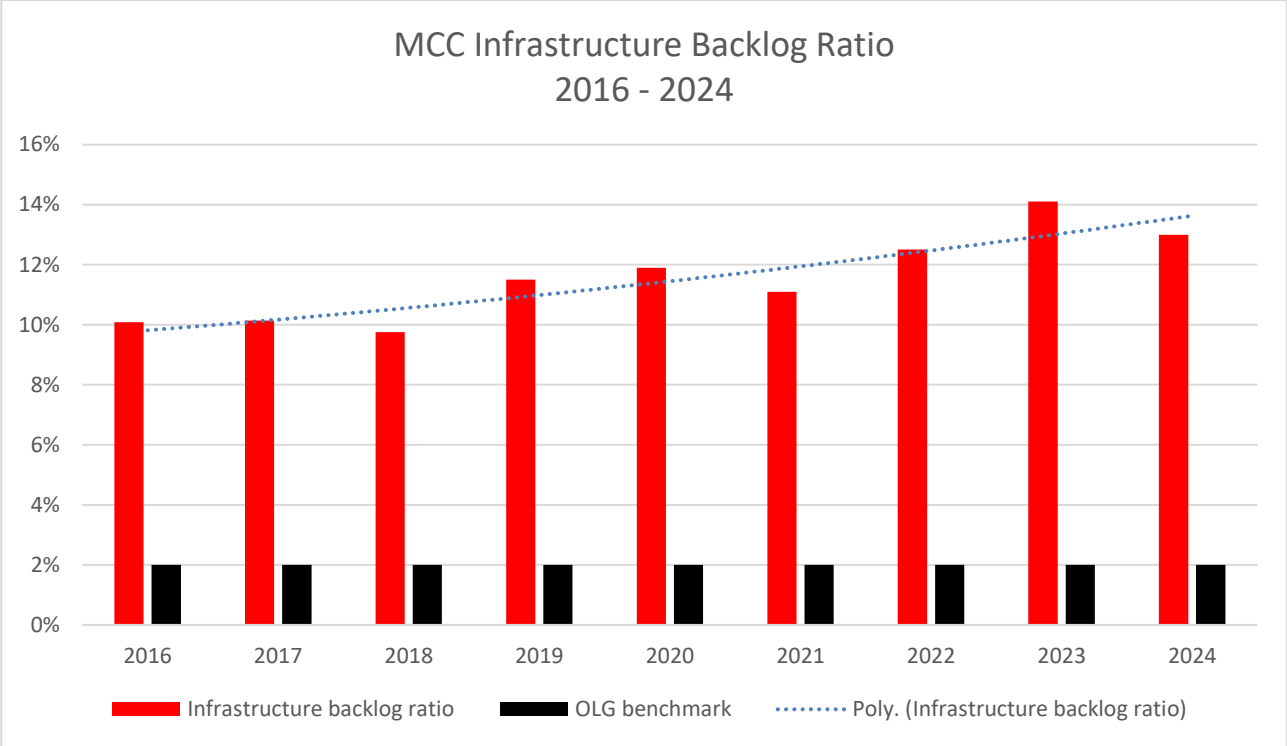


Figure 1.5 MCC infrastructure backlog ratio 2016-2024.

It can be seen from the history of this indicator that not only is Council not achieving the benchmark set by OLG, but has regressed further from 2016, indicating that the inflating costs of restoration is greater than the value of assets and indicative that the overall condition is declining. The graph shows in 2018, 2021 and 2024 the rate at which the network value increased outpaced the cost to bring to satisfactory standard, although the only year which the overall cost to bring to satisfactory standard decreased overall was in 2021.

Backlog cost by asset class

Figure 1.6 indicates the cost to bring to satisfactory standard for each asset class between 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2024.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

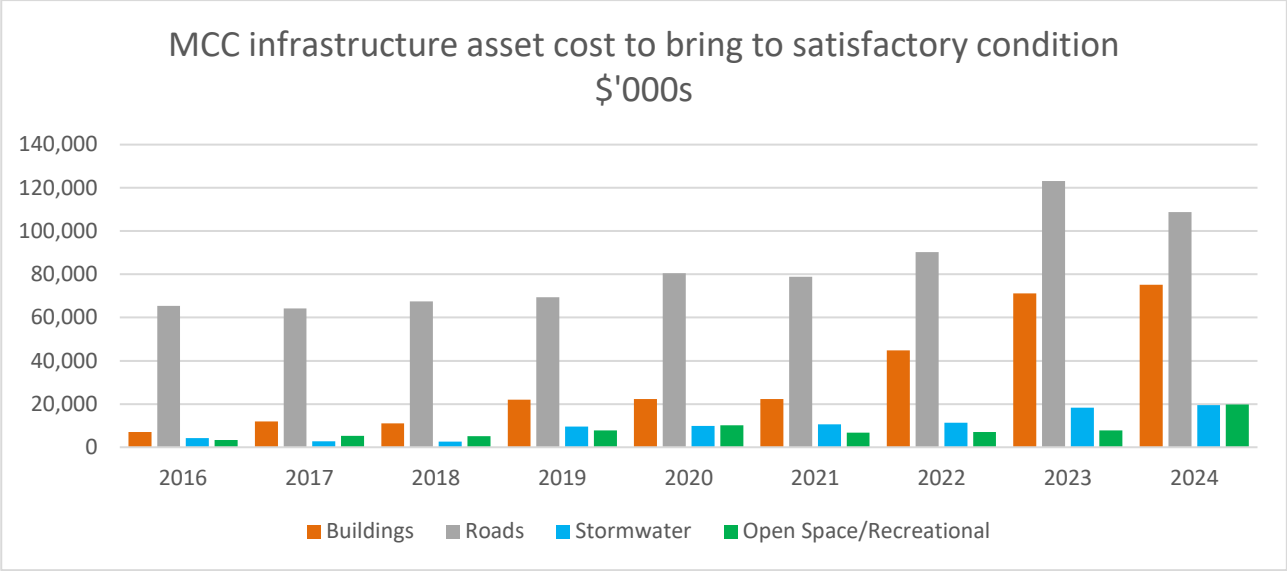


Figure 1.6 MCC infrastructure asset cost to bring to satisfactory condition.

From this graph, all asset classes are indicating growing trends to bring to satisfactory condition. The highest asset classes at 30 June 2024 were roads ($108.8M) and buildings ($75.1M). Stormwater assets indicate a gradual increase from 2016 to $19.4M and open space and recreational assets which includes swimming pools, more than doubled between 2023 ($7.8M) to 2024 ($19.7M) as a result of updated swimming pool assets condition data.

Figure 1.7 indicates the cost to bring to agreed level of service for each asset class between 30 June 2016 to 30 June 2024.

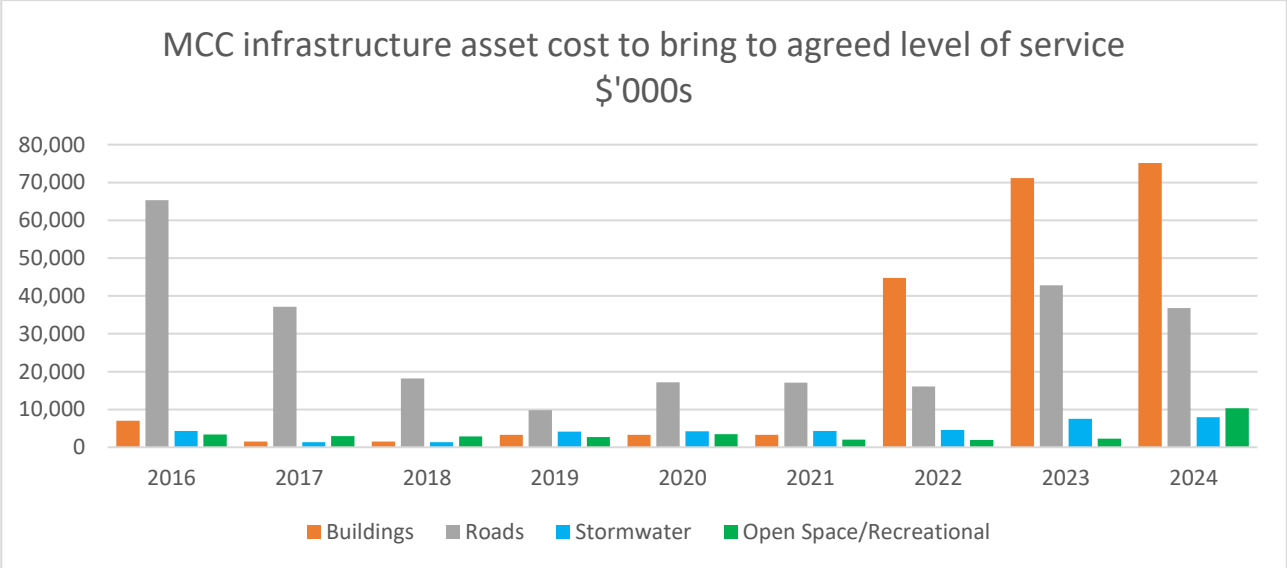


Figure 1.7 MCC infrastructure asset cost to bring to agreed level of service.

This graph shows that at 30 June 2024, the asset classes with the most expensive assets in poor and very poor condition are buildings and roads estimated at $75.1M and $36.8M respectively. The cost of stormwater assets is gradually increasing, reaching $8 million by mid-2024. Recreation and open space assets saw a significant rise, jumping from $2.3 million in 2023 to $10.3 million in 2024, partly due to updated information about the condition of the swimming pool assets.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

Attachment 4 provides further detail on the condition ratings over time for the highest backlog value assets- Roads and buildings.

Capital expenditure

The following section provides a high-level overview of capital expenditure trends across key asset classes from 2021 to 2024. It highlights investment priorities, patterns of asset renewal, and the relationship between spending, asset condition, and depreciation. Further detailed analysis and figures are provided in Attachment 5 for reference.

A review of capital expenditure across key asset classes from 2021 to 2024 shows that investment has primarily focused on the renewal of road assets, particularly through reactive reconstruction and rehabilitation projects. Proactive maintenance, such as resealing and resurfacing, received significantly less funding. This reactive investment pattern may contribute to increased long-term renewal costs due to the deferred treatment of early deterioration (Figure A5.1 in Attachment 5).

Across all asset classes, the highest capital outlays were consistently directed towards road and open space/recreation projects, with modest and steady investment in stormwater drainage, and community buildings (Figure A5.2 in Attachment 5).

Analysis of renewal expenditure compared to annual depreciation and the cost to bring assets to a satisfactory condition indicates that while 2023 saw renewal funding exceed depreciation, this has not translated into a sustained reduction in backlog. This highlights the need for consistent long-term investment above depreciation levels to address asset condition gaps (Figures A5.3 and A5.4 in Attachment 5). This was also reflected in a rapid increasing trend of cost to bring to agreed level of service (Figure 5.5 in Attachment 5).

In the building's asset class, renewal investment has generally fallen short of depreciation—particularly when applying a 50-year useful life assumption—contributing to a rising cost to maintain satisfactory condition levels (Figure A5.6 in Attachment 5).

Assessment regarding available rate revenue for capital expenditure compared to annual asset depreciation is provided within the following Available Funding section of this report.

Impacts

In recent years the declining condition of Council assets has resulted in several asset closures and assets being identified as having high risk. Not addressing the asset backlog will likely result in further impacts to the community.

Key assets that have been impacted in recent years are as follows:

- Walka Water Works
- Maitland Gaol
- Senior Citizen Centre
- Old Council Administration Building
- Visitor Information Centre
- Maitland Basketball Centre – Mezzanine Level

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

- Rathluba Lagoon Toilet Block
- Heritage Park Toilet Block
- Mechanics Institute (East Maitland Community Centre)
- East Maitland Aquatic Centre
- Brooklyn Park pedestrian bridge
- Dagworth Road – Gillieston Heights.

High Risk Assets:

- Morpeth Scout Hall
- Lowes Building
- Dagworth bridge (load limit)
- Maitland Aquatic Centre
- St Ethels Main Building
- Rutherford Library.

What have we done since 2024

Council completes a number of annualised programs of work to maintain, upgrade and renew our existing assets in the form of scheduled and reactive maintenance and capital programs.

In recent years Council has commenced more focused investigations into understanding the risks and community requirements associated with the asset backlog to help inform actions to address the issue.

- Asset Revitalisation Program (ARP)
  The ARP commenced in 2024 and is currently in the final stages of development. This large body of work includes technical condition-based assessment of all existing building related assets ranging from toilet blocks and recreational buildings through to community facilities, libraries and operational buildings. Each asset was assessed based on risk, with works scoped, costed and prioritised to allow a building upgrade program of works to be developed to the value of $44.5M.

  Key ARP development points include:
  - Prioritisation - High priority Buildings have been categorised by community and operational risk
  - Fire and Lifeline Safety Compliance Upgrade Project - completed
  - Baseline condition assessments - completed
  - Building Valuations - completed
  - Asset Life Plan Template developed
  - Level of Service Assessment - completed
  - Major Issue tracking - completed
    - High level summary of known data based on activities completed
    - Each main asset assessed
    - Known Risks assessed
    - Assets grouped by risk into possible closure ranges
    - Order of magnitude costs developed
  - Draft 5yr program of works developed with an overall value of $44.5M.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

- Outdoor Sports Community Engagement
  - Commenced engagement in 2024
  - Developed as part of the Community Infrastructure Strategy supporting plans (CIS)
  - All main outdoor sports included
  - All clubs within the Local Government Area engaged with
  - Future asset related data captured relating to sporting clubs needs and wants
  - Project and maintenance registers developed.

- Maintenance Programs
  - Completed annualised maintenance works across all asset classes to the value of $25M
  - Scheduled maintenance is completed, yet a large proportion of the annual works is reactive.
  - Priority works completed to the value of approximately $1M in the 2024/25 year on sports related assets as a direct result of Outdoor Sports Community Engagement process.

- 2025 – 2029 Capital Delivery Program
  - The approved 2025/26 delivery program is largely informed by the ARP and Outdoor Sports Community Engagement, including projects from the ARP to the value of $4.4M
  - The Draft 2026 – 2029 long term delivery program also includes a nominated list of projects to help address the asset backlog as informed by the ARP and Outdoor Sports Community Engagement, yet these works are currently largely unfunded and will need to be included within the future Backlog Delivery Program (BDP).

Available Funding

Council's current approach to funding capital renewal is capped at $14 million per annum from general rate revenue. This level of funding is significantly below both the average annual asset depreciation and forecast renewal expenditure, highlighting a substantial and ongoing shortfall:

- Average annual asset depreciation over the past six years (inclusive of 2025/26 depreciation forecast) is $29.6 million, meaning there is a yearly shortfall of more than $15.6 million just to keep pace with asset wear and tear
- The forecast capital renewal expenditure for 2025/26 is $37 million, which represents a gap of approximately $23 million when compared to rate revenue funding levels.

This structural funding gap means Council is not fully funding the renewal of its existing assets from its own-source revenue. Although total annual capital expenditure averages around $60 million, a large portion of this is funded through grants and developer contributions. These external funds are generally:

- Restricted to growth-related projects or specific funding objectives
- Unreliable from year to year; and
- Unsuitable for addressing asset renewal needs.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

Relying on these external sources to fill the renewal gap poses a serious long-term financial risk. A sustainable approach to asset management requires a secure, predictable funding stream, primarily through general rate revenue, to match the long-term consumption and degradation of infrastructure. Without addressing this funding gap, critical infrastructure will continue to deteriorate, leading to a growing backlog and reduced service levels for the community. To reverse this trend, Council must either increase the allocation of general rate revenue to asset renewal or identify new, internally sustainable funding mechanisms to ensure long-term investment in infrastructure and avoid further decline.

Approach moving forward

Strategic development

By focusing on long-term financial sustainability, risk management, and community expectations, strategic development ensures that Maitland's assets are managed efficiently and responsibly. This approach supports the city's growth while delivering services that enhance the quality of life for all who live, work or visit Maitland.

The recently adopted Asset Management Strategy (AMS) is a critical component of Maitland's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework, linking directly with several informing strategic documents.

The AMS introduces a modern, service-focused approach to managing Maitland's assets. It integrates key plans like the Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS) and Civil Asset Strategy (CAS) to align asset decisions with community needs and strategic priorities. Supporting Service Asset Plans (SAPs) are being developed to guide sustainable asset management and inform a prioritised BDP to address existing infrastructure needs. Community engagement and data collection will underpin this ongoing process.

Further details related to assets and strategic development are included within Attachment 6.

Funding

As can be seen by the data provided within this report, significant funding will be required over several financial years to undertake the Backlog Delivery Program (BDP). Councils recently endorsed Long Term Financial Plan has outlined a path to financial sustainability to assist with this.

The starting point will be to address the shortfall in rate revenue that is available for renewal works. Having said that, Council will not be able to fund these works entirely and additional funding will be required from varying sources such as State and Federal grants supplemented by Council sourced co-contributions.

Council's approach to actioning this funding issue involves three key processes:

- Organisational efficiency
- Funding identification and planning
- Advocacy.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

Organisational efficiency

Councils recently endorsed Long Term Financial Plan 2025/26 – 2035/36 (LTFP) provides strategic direction for Council on the path to financial sustainability. With this planning in place, long term capital investment and reserves can be better forecasted year on year allowing Council to identify additional funding needs.

Achieving the LTFP aspirations and addressing the asset backlog will require a strategic and disciplined approach to organisation efficiency.

Council has experienced significant growth in operating expenditure since 2021, being 44%. This has reduced the opportunity for increased rate revenue income to be used for capital renewal purposes.

There is an urgent need to start doing “more with the same” from an operating perspective. This is required to free up existing and future rate revenue to be reallocated to planned capital renewals. As mentioned above, the required annual depreciation is a logical target to pursue. This is also essential to free up funds for provision of new assets for our growing community.

Funding source identification and planning

Council has commenced annualised planning for proactive grant opportunities, creating a draft grants calendar and pipeline identifying possible State and Federal grant programs for unfunded projects or projects requiring further funding contributions. This grant planning will be developed in parallel with Council’s LTFP, and capital investment planning attributed to the BDP.

Advocacy

‘Maitland’s Future’ is our shared vision for achieving a connected city with thriving communities. ‘Delivering Maitland’s Future’ is our Delivery Program and Operational Plan which outlines how Council will work to achieve this vision within the funding and resources we have available. A Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy is being presented to council for public exhibition in August 2025. This strategy will identify how we can work with key partners and other levels of government to deliver on our shared vision. The strategy will outline roles and responsibilities and the projects and community priorities we are going to be advocating for.

Partnership projects are identified within the Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy. These projects will be within the capability of Council to deliver if funding / grants become available. Priority and major projects within the BDP will be considered when identifying partnership projects moving forward.

It is proposed that the Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy is reviewed and updated each year this will align with the development of the BDP to ensure it remains relevant and current for our community.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

Key Steps and Timelines

Key Steps

1. Strategic Development
    - Adopt a service-based asset planning model through the Asset Management Strategy (AMS), aligned with:
        - Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS): Ensures infrastructure meets current/future community needs.
        - Civil Asset Strategy (CAS): Focuses on civil assets like roads and drainage.
        - Service Asset Plans (SAPs): Detail service-specific asset requirements.
    - Objective: Link assets to service levels for better planning, sustainability, and community alignment.

2. Data-Driven Planning
    - Develop the Backlog Delivery Program (BDP) using:
        - Service-based asset data
        - Condition and financial data
        - Community engagement inputs.
    - Use this to prioritise and deliver projects addressing asset backlog.

3. Funding Strategy
    - Recognise significant funding gaps and opportunities and plan to:
        - Maximise organisational efficiency and update the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) with a focus on increasing rate revenue expenditure on capital renewal
        - Identify and plan for external funding (State and Federal Government grants)
        - Utilise the Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy to build government relationships and promote priority projects.

It should be noted that while we progress the above-mentioned key steps, we will continue to use existing asset data, ARP, CIS and CAS to drive decision making in regards to annual capital investment programs.

Expected Timing

1. Strategic Development
   Several of the noted Strategies and Plans required to address the infrastructure backlog are currently already in development or planned to commence.
    - The CIS is currently under development and is forecast for completion and endorsement within quarter four of the 2025/26 financial year.
    - Funding for the development of the CAS is included within the 2025/26 operational budget (OPEX), in turn the development of this strategy will commence as soon as possible and is forecast to take 18 – 24 months to complete.
    - The ARP is in its first draft and is suitable to be included within the first iteration of the BDP.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

- The Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy is currently being finalised, with Council endorsement to go on public exhibition forecast early in the 2025/26 financial year (August).

2. Data Driven Planning
   - Based on the Strategic Development above, it is intended to develop a first draft of the BDP within quarter four of the 2025/26 financial year in line with the completion of the CIS.
   - Progressive revisions will be completed as the CIS, CAS and associated SAPs are developed and finalised over the next 12 to 24 months.

3. Funding Strategy
   The development of a funding strategy will commence immediately and will be completed in parallel to both the Strategic Development and Data Driven Planning as required BDP budgets are developed. Updates will be provided progressively in line with BDP revisions.

CONSULTATION

The approach to addressing the infrastructure backlog was developed in consultation with various departments within Council including Corporate Planning and Performance, Finance, Community and Recreation Planning, Works and Capital Works Delivery.

The development of the key informing strategies including the CIS and CAS will include detailed community engagement via several platforms such as face-to-face engagement, pop-ups, surveys, Strategic Committee engagement and Councillor workshops.

Engagement data will be used to help develop these key strategies and in turn develop the Backlog Delivery Program (BDP), with each strategy including the BDP going through a public exhibition phase prior to being endorsed by Council.

CONCLUSION

The collated historical asset and financial data detailed within the body of this report clearly identifies that we have a deteriorating asset base resulting in a significant backlog of required works. Immediate action is required to ensure that the backlog does not increase on its current trajectory.

Council Officers will continue to work toward addressing the infrastructure backlog via the approach outlined within the body of this report.

A further progress report will be submitted to Council in December 2025 providing further detail on the progress of the BDP and associated strategies and plans.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This matter will have significant financial impact on the Council's Long Term Financial Plan. However, the specific details of these implications will not be fully realised until the works outlined within the body of this report are undertaken and the BDP is developed.
It is noted that all efforts will be made to identify funding opportunities and develop funding models to mitigate adverse impacts on the Council's ongoing financial planning.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk	Risk Rating	Proposed Treatment	Proposed Risk Rating	Resourcing (within or additional)
There is a financial risk that the infrastructure backlog is not fully defined and therefore cannot be fully funded, that may lead to lower levels of service, public safety issues, asset closures, financial impacts and reputational damage.	High	Development of funding models best utilising Council funding supplemented by identified grant programs.	Medium	Existing resources
There is a financial risk that the actual cost of bringing assets to satisfactory standard or agreed levels of service are higher than the estimated costs which are based on theoretical depreciation that may lead further financial costs being reported.	High	Conduct project investigations to develop cost estimates based on project scope to incorporate into asset management financial models.	High	Additional internal or external resources required
There is a workforce and operational risk that this is a large scale and resource intensive project that may lead to programme delays or ill-informed planning	Medium	Development of a feasible program of works with suitable resources allocated	Low	Additional internal or external resources required
There is a public and staff safety risk that existing assets are not adequately assessed and fail prior to required work being programmed and completed that may lead to legal, liability, financial and reputational issues.	High	Ensure the development of strategies and plans are informed by accurate condition assessment data and planning	Medium	Additional internal or external resources required
There is a reputational risk of poor transparency if	High	Undertake community consultation as	Low	Additional internal or external

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

community consultation is not undertaken that may lead to a lack of confidence in Council.		part of the CIS and CAS.		resources required
There is an environmental risk associated with various assets that may fail due to poor condition prior to required works being programmed and completed that may lead to legal, liability, financial and reputational issues.	High	Ensure the development of strategies and plans are informed by accurate condition assessment data and planning	Medium	Additional internal or external resources required
There is a reputational risk that the Council is not seen to be acting on known infrastructure issues that may result in community dissatisfaction, trust and reputation damage.	High	Detailed community communications planning is undertaken ensuring the community is up to date regarding the status of the infrastructure backlog progress	Low	Exiting Resources
There is a delivery risk of the programme extending due to unforeseen project issues that may lead to delayed works, increased costs and reputational damage.	High	Delivery program developed to include key project phases allowing adequate contingencies and hold points	Low	Existing Resources
There is a risk that Councils approach to CAPEX planning and delivery is not best practice that may lead to delayed delivery, increased costs and poor-quality works	High	Ensure the development of strategies, delivery processes and frameworks are informed by accurate data, planning and tested contemporary methods	Low	Exiting Resources

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter is related to the following Maitland City Council Policies.

- Asset Management Policy
- Asset Revaluation Policy
- Asset Capitalisation Policy
- Risk Management Policy
- Delivery Program 2025-2029 - Operational Plan 2025-26

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This matter relates to the Local Government Act 1993 and the Roads Act 1993.

City Services

Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog

Notice of Motion - Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog - 15-4-25

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 4

15 APRIL 2025

17.3 Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog

Notice of Motion Submitted by Cr Ken Jordan

FILE NO:	**35/7/4**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**General Manager**

Cr Ken Jordan has indicated his intention to move the following Notice of Motion at the next Council Meeting being held on 15 April 2025:

THAT

This motion seeks Councillors commitment to proactively tackle the infrastructure deficit — not only as a fiscal responsibility but as an investment in the wellbeing and future of Maitland's existing and growing population.

As a starting point and while work is undertaken on the development of strategic Asset Management Plans and other infrastructure strategies, Council staff should undertake appropriate community engagement and prepare a 4-year program that provides for:

- **A breakdown of priority projects requiring immediate attention, with a focus on community-critical infrastructure such as sporting fields and amenities, public parks and playgrounds, libraries, community halls, roads, drainage, and footpaths.**
- **Identification of potential funding sources, including but not limited to council contributions, state and federal government grants, partnerships, and innovative financing models to accelerate delivery.**
- **A proposed delivery program that includes clear timelines ensuring accountability and progress tracking.**
- **A collaboration plan with government partners to explore co-investment opportunities that leverage available support for regional infrastructure renewal.**

BACKGROUND

Similar to many Councils across the state, asset management is a strategic challenge and needs to be of the highest priority. Not getting this right is a significant barrier to the city's long-term growth, liveability, and community wellbeing. This backlog directly impacts the condition and availability of essential community assets — from local roads and drainage to sporting fields, change rooms, community parks, playgrounds, libraries, and community halls. These are the spaces where our residents come together, stay active, learn, and connect — and many are in urgent need of maintenance or renewal.

Neglecting this backlog risks worsening asset degradation, limiting access to safe and inclusive spaces, and missing opportunities to support the physical, social, and economic vitality of our community.

To address this, Maitland City Council should ensure our Asset Management Plans, Long Term Financial Plan and Capital Works program have clear focus and priority on addressing this issue in a timely manner.

RESPONSE BY DIRECTOR CITY SERVICES

City Services staff have commenced work that is consistent with what is identified in this Notice of Motion. Staff will provide a report to Council by July 2025 to outline the proposed approach to progress the Notice of Motion.

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

15 APRIL 2025

17.3 Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog

Notice of Motion Submitted by Cr Ken Jordan

FILE NO:	**35/7/4**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**General Manager**

Cr Ken Jordan has indicated his intention to move the following Notice of Motion at the next Council Meeting being held on 15 April 2025:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT

Council staff should undertake appropriate community engagement and prepare a 4-year program that provides for:

- **A breakdown of priority projects requiring immediate attention, with a focus on community-critical infrastructure such as sporting fields and amenities, public parks and playgrounds, libraries, community halls, roads, drainage, and footpaths.**
- **Identification of potential funding sources, including but not limited to council contributions, state and federal government grants, partnerships, and innovative financing models to accelerate delivery.**
- **A proposed delivery program that includes clear timelines ensuring accountability and progress tracking.**
- **A collaboration plan with government partners to explore co-investment opportunities that leverage available support for regional infrastructure renewal.**

Moved Cr K Jordan, Seconded Cr S Halliday

CARRIED

15 APRIL 2025

The division resulted in 11 for and 0 against, as follows:

For:	**Cr A Atkinson**	**Against:**
	Cr R Barstow	
	Cr D Ferris	
	Cr K Flannery	
	Cr M Griffin	
	Cr B Hackney	
	Cr S Halliday	
	Cr K Jordan	
	Mayor P Penfold	
	Cr W Penfold	
	Cr M Yarrington	

City Services

Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog

Asset Class Portfolio Overview

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 2

Number of Pages: 1

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

Summary of Council's asset portfolios

ASSET PORTFOLIO	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT REPLACEMENT COST $'000
Community and culture	Community building's including libraries, halls and cultural facilities	145,411
Plant and equipment	Plant, fleet and furniture and fittings	31,663
Transport	Roads, bridges, carparking, footpaths and cycleways, public domain elements	1,369,946
Drainage	Stormwater drainage including, pits and pipes, culverts headwalls, open channels, water quality devices	436,534
Recreation	Sports facilities, playgrounds, structures, aquatic facilities, retaining walls, park furniture, wharfs and lookouts	119,505
Property	Investment properties	0
Operational	Maitland Town Hall, Waste management facility, Maitland Administration Centre, works depot. Other operating facilities	150,524
TOTAL		**2,253,583**

City Services

Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog

Special Schedule 2 and backlog calculations

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 3

Number of Pages: 3

Special Schedule 2 and Backlog Calculations

The annual report on infrastructure assets, known as special schedule no.2 (as shown in Figure A3.1) provides information related to the condition, maintenance and renewal of infrastructure assets as of the end of each financial year.

Special Schedule No. 2: Report on infrastructure assets as at 30 June 2024

Asset class	Asset category	Estimated cost to bring to a satisfactory standard	Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service set by Council	2023-24 Required maintenance	2023-24 actual maintenance^	Net carrying amount	Gross replacement cost (GRC)	Assets in condition as a % of Gross Replacement Cost				
		$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	1	2	3	4	5
Buildings *		75,135	75,135	2,292	3,391	161,812	289,265	18.4%	20.6%	15.5%	30.5%	15.1%
Other structures *		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Roads *	Sealed Roads	36,319	14,664	4,646	11,722	723,030	865,059	58.1%	33.4%	5.8%	2.2%	0.5%
	Unsealed Roads	3,833	3,833	14	84	1,632	5,739	60.0%	31.3%	5.9%	2.6%	0.2%
	Other Roads Assets	42,808	16,145	1,399	709	184,641	252,976	45.0%	20.0%	26.0%	6.0%	3.0%
	Bridges	5,500	16	643	68	53,555	62,520	62.6%	28.6%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%
	Footpaths	20,366	2,183	1,048	1,386	139,267	183,652	47.0%	33.6%	17.9%	1.2%	0.2%
	Sub total	108,826	36,841	7,750	13,969	1,102,125	1,369,946					
Stormwater drainage *		19,434	7,979	3,117	1,421	358,135	436,534	68.3%	24.3%	5.2%	1.0%	1.2%
Open space / recreational assets *	Other open space / recreational assets	19,716	10,285	2,096	6,245	90,357	119,505	55.0%	20.0%	15.0%	9.0%	1.0%
	Sub total	19,716	10,285	2,096	6,245	89,879	118,986					
Total classes	**Total - all assets**	**223,111**	**130,240**	**15,255**	**25,026**	**1,711,951**	**2,214,731**					

Infrastructure Asset Condition Assessment

Level	Condition	Description
1	Excellent / Very good	No work required (normal maintenance)
2	Good	Only minor maintenance work required
3	Satisfactory	Maintenance work required
4	Poor	Renewal required
5	Very poor	Urgent renewal / upgrading required

* Reconciles with Note C1-5

^ Required maintenance is the amount identified in Council's asset management plans.

Figure A3.1 - Special Schedule No.2 (Maitland City Council (2024)

Definitions

Gross replacement cost is the calculated cost of initial construction of an asset type. Assets of the same asset type share the same theoretical gross replacement cost. Assets of the same type, such as road wearing surface of a common material type share a common replacement cost as a result.

Depreciation is a theoretical value based on linear diminishing value of assets over the useful life. Assets of the same type, such as road wearing surface of a common material type share a common useful life as a result.

Net carrying amount, also known as written down replacement cost, is the calculated value of the initial construction of an asset, less the consumed depreciation.

Condition is rated on a scale of 1-5, with '1' representing 'excellent condition' and '5' representing 'very poor condition'.

Estimated cost to bring to a satisfactory standard also referred to as 'backlog' is represented as the theoretical cost to repair or renew assets to condition 2 or better. The cost to 'bring to satisfactory standard' is calculated as the total depreciation consumed in assets rated beyond condition 2. This is also used to calculate the infrastructure backlog ratio.

Estimated cost to bring to the agreed level of service is represented as theoretical cost to repair or renew assets to condition 3 or better. The cost to 'bring to agreed level of

service' is equivalent to the total depreciation consumed in assets rated beyond condition 3.
Annual required maintenance is represented by the annual depreciation of assets which require maintenance, that being beyond condition 1.

Estimated cost to bring to satisfactory standard methodology

The estimated cost to bring to satisfactory standard is a theoretical value based on the depreciation of an asset. The net carrying value and therefore depreciation is based on the evaluated condition of an asset as a percentage of health.

The estimated cost to bring to satisfactory standard is determined by:

1. Assets are assessed to a percent health rating or estimated life remaining in years.
2. A condition rating of 1 to 5 is assigned corresponding to the percent health or life remaining.
3. Straight-line depreciation is calculated for all recorded assets.
4. The estimate is calculated as:

   Cost to bring to satisfactory standard = Σaccumulated depreciation all assets which are in condition bands 3 to 5; or

   The difference between replacement cost and net carrying value for the percentages of assets in condition bands 3-5.

   This formula represents the theoretical cost to repair assets rated below condition 2. In practice this cost can be greater, as assets in poor condition can be completely renewed at replacement cost.

Estimated cost to bring to agreed level of service methodology

The estimated cost to bring to satisfactory standard is calculated with the same methodology to bring to a satisfactory standard with the exception that it only includes the depreciation of assets of condition rating 4 and 5.

The estimated cost to bring to agreed level of service is determined by:

1. Assets are assessed to a percent health rating or estimated life remaining in years.
2. A condition rating of 1 to 5 is assigned corresponding to the percent health or life remaining.
3. Straight-line depreciation is calculated for all recorded assets.
4. The estimate is calculated as:
   Cost to bring to agreed level of service = Σaccumulated depreciation all assets which are in condition bands 4 to 5; or

   The difference between replacement cost and net carrying value for the percentages of assets in condition bands 4-5.

   This formula represents the theoretical cost to repair assets rated below condition 3. In practice this cost can be greater, as assets in poor condition can be completely renewed at replacement cost.

Condition rating relationships of assets

Table A3.1 demonstrates relationships between asset classes, condition ratings and percent health thresholds. Threshold limits are assigned by MCC Assets Strategy and Engineering based on the existing age of assets.

Table A3.1: Asset condition rating relationships to % health and estimated renewal limits.

Asset Class	% Health thresholds	Estimated renewal program limit (years)	Condition rating
Road surface	100 82 60 40 20	15-35 12-29 9-21 6-14 3-7	1 2 3 4 5
Road base structure	100 82 60 40 20	70 57 42 28 14	1 2 3 4 5
Stormwater	100 80 60 40 20	140 112 84 56 28	1 2 3 4 5
Footpath	100 75 50 25 0	100 75 50 25 0	1 2 3 4 5
Recreation	100 90 75 40 10	50 45 37 20 5	1 2 3 4 5

Note: Buildings have not been included as varying building types include a broad range of thresholds and renewal limits.

City Services

Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog

Backlog breakdown Roads and Building Assets

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 4

Number of Pages: 2

Condition ratings over time of building and road assets

As buildings and roads are the asset classes which have the highest costs to bring to both satisfactory standard and agreed level of service these asset classes have been considered further.

The condition rating distribution of buildings over time is shown in Figure A4.1.

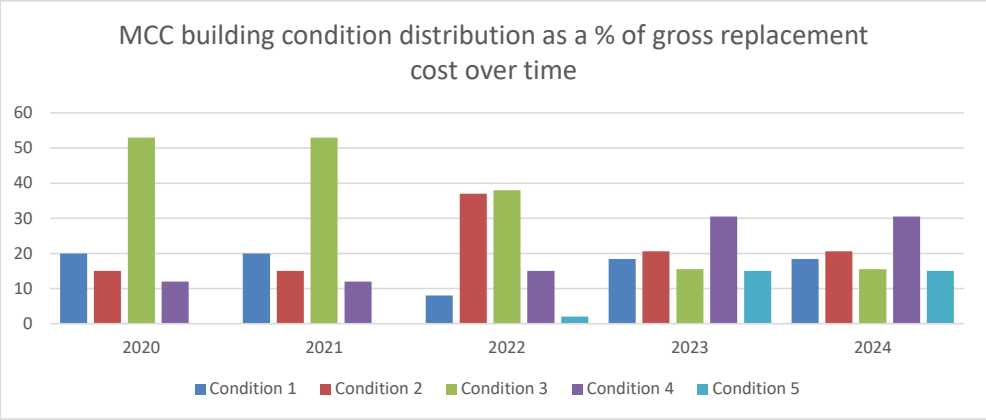


Figure A4.1 MCC building condition distribution as % of gross replacement cost over time.

It can be seen from the above graph that there is a trend of identified building deterioration, with percentage of replacement cost in condition 4 increasing from a low of 5.9% in 2017 (not shown on graph) up to 30.5% by 2023, and condition 5 emerging up to 15% of the whole replacement cost value.

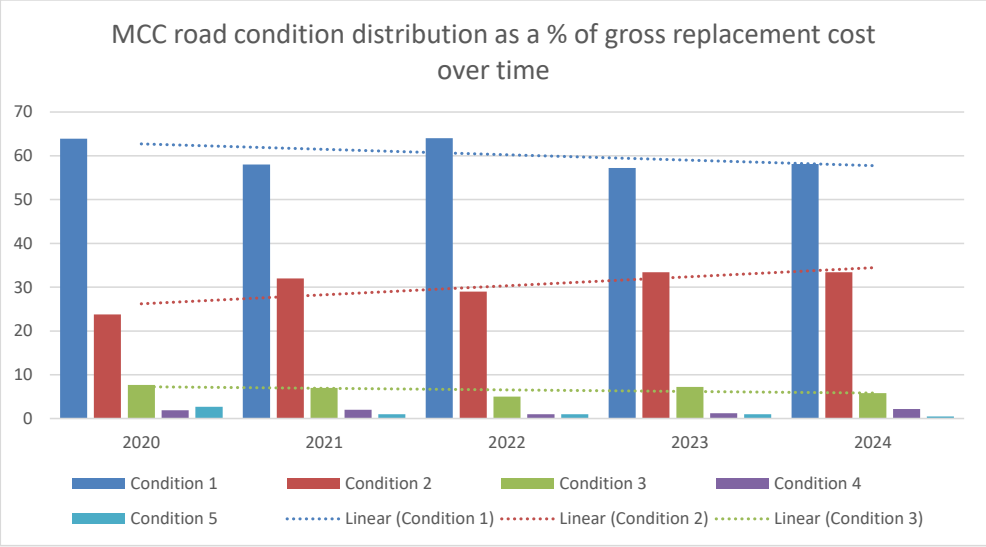


Figure A4.2 MCC road condition distribution as a % of gross replacement cost over time

ADDRESSING THE INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG (Cont.)

The graph shows road condition as a percentage of gross replacement cost has experienced trends of condition creep, despite the road network growing with new condition 1 assets every year. The condition trend of roads appears to indicate that further investment is needed into proactive resealing and resurfacing projects to slow the impact of condition-creep to support the investment into road rehabilitation and reconstruction projects.

City Services

Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog

Capital Expenditures

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 5

Number of Pages: 4

Capital expenditures

This attachment provides an overview of capital expenditure trends across key asset classes from 2021 to 2024. It highlights investment priorities, patterns of asset renewal, and the relationship between spending, asset condition, and depreciation.

Figure A5.1 compares expenditure of delivery program road projects over time from 2021 to 2024. The graph shows the comparison of expenditure on reconstruction and rehabilitation projects which reactively address poor condition assets (generally those in condition 4 and 5) against resealing and resurfacing projects which are targeted towards proactive treatments to preserve assets in good condition (condition ratings 1 and 2).

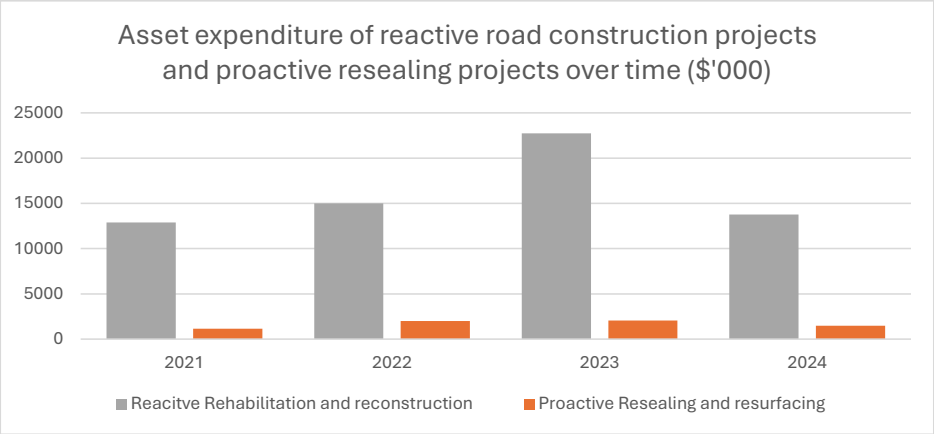


Figure A5.1 Asset expenditure of reactive road construction projects and proactive resealing projects over time.

This graph indicates that expenditure of reconstruction and rehabilitation projects has far outpaced resealing and resurfacing projects and that expenditures for reconstructions and rehabilitations have a growing trendline, where resealing and resurfacing has had modest variation over time. This investment profile targets reactive treatment of very poor condition roads but is not targeted at addressing condition-creep of roads, which can lead to more expensive treatments in the future.

Capital asset expenditure of all asset classes

Figure A5.2 compares expenditure of delivery program projects from all asset classes over time from 2021 to 2024 inclusive. The data includes projects which are capital upgrades and expansions as well as renewals. Capital expansions increase the net carrying amount, as they create new assets, while capital renewals primarily address condition.

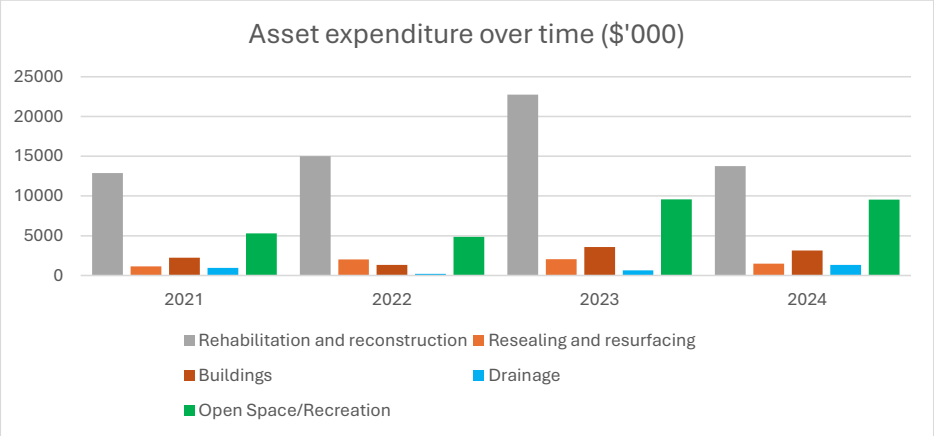


Figure A5.2 Asset expenditure over time (existing assets).

The graph indicates that the highest expenditures have been on road rehabilitations and reconstructions and on open space and recreation projects. The graph also shows that there is relatively modest variance in the expenditure on community building renewals, stormwater drainage and resealing programs, which correlates to declining condition of these asset classes.

Comparison of actual expenditure Vs depreciation

Expenditure of renewal was assessed against the annual depreciation of assets and estimated cost to bring to satisfactory to see the impact of the expenditure. The results are shown in Figure A5.3 below.

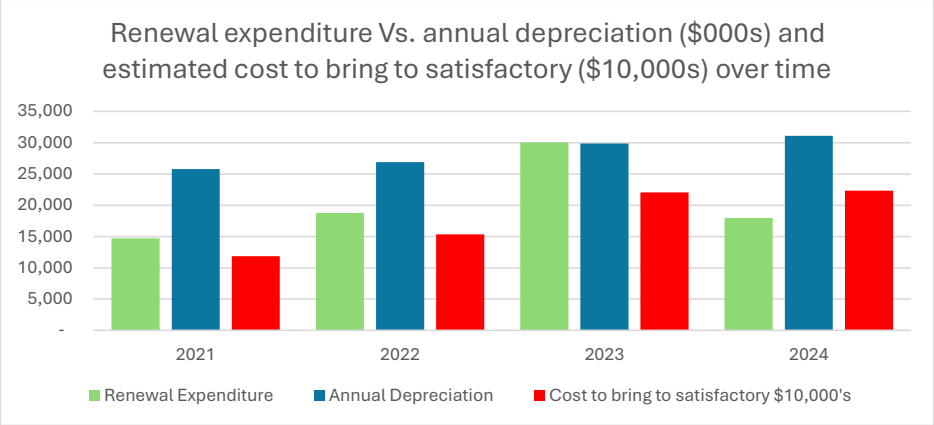


Figure A5.3 Renewal expenditure Vs. annual depreciation and estimated costs to bring to satisfactory over time.

The graph indicates that when renewal expenditure is greater than the annual depreciation the cost to bring to satisfactory was slowed the following year, as with 2023 expenditure and 2024 cost to bring to satisfactory. This trailing condition indicator can be attributed to the condition data only being applied after the

completion of projects, while expenditure is recorded during project construction. It is noted that even when the renewal expenditure was significantly higher than the annual depreciation in 2023, it did not correlate to an impactful drop in the cost to bring to satisfactory. This is highlighted when compared to Figure A5.4, which shows expenditure, depreciation, and estimated cost to bring to satisfactory on the same scale.

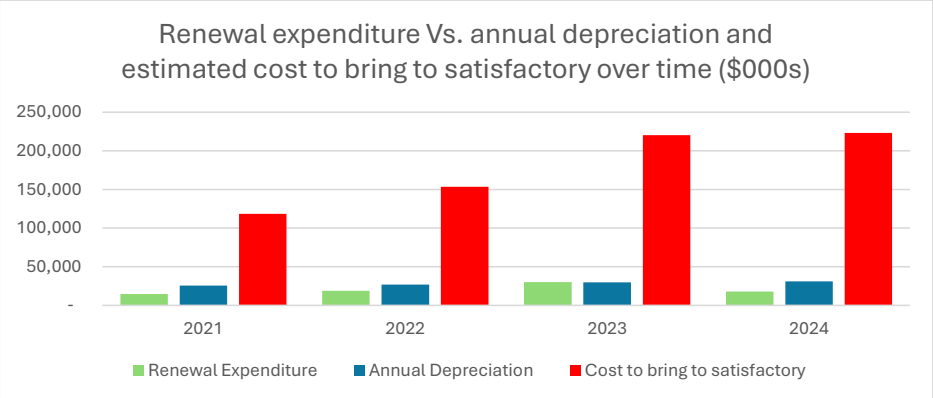


Figure A5.4 Renewal expenditure Vs annual depreciation and estimated costs to bring to satisfactory over time.

This graph indicates that historical renewal expenditure has not had significant impact on reducing the cost to bring to satisfactory over time.

Figure A5.5 includes the cost to agreed level of service which shows the trend of asset depreciation in assets condition rated 4 and 5 over time. An increasing trend indicates that the current expenditure is not impacting positively enough on preventing assets from deteriorating into poor and very poor condition.

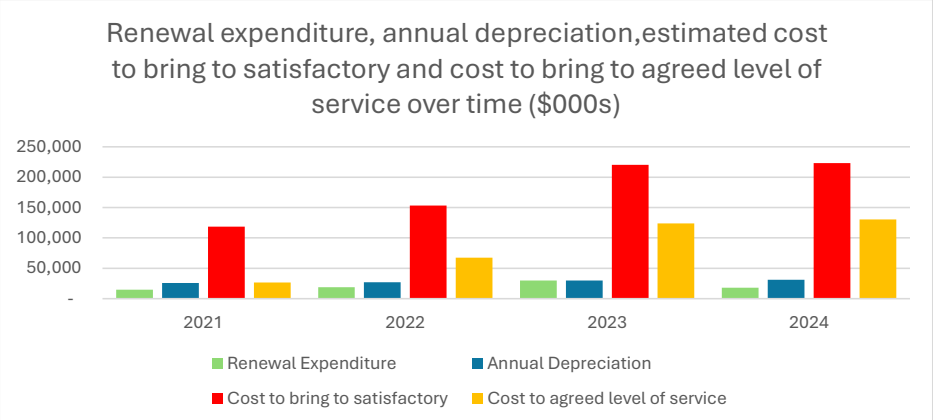


Figure A5.5 Renewal expenditure, annual depreciation, estimated cost to bring to satisfactory and cost to bring to agreed level of service over time.

This graph indicates that the backlog costs to bring to an agreed level of service have also increased over time and that further investment is needed in asset renewal and proactive preventative treatments above current expenditure to reduce the backlog cost burden.

Expenditure Vs depreciation of buildings

Of particular note, the buildings asset class has had modest investment into renewal projects and trailing indicators of condition. Figure A5.6 below compares the renewal expenditure of buildings compared to useful lives of a depreciation rate of 2% of gross replacement cost.

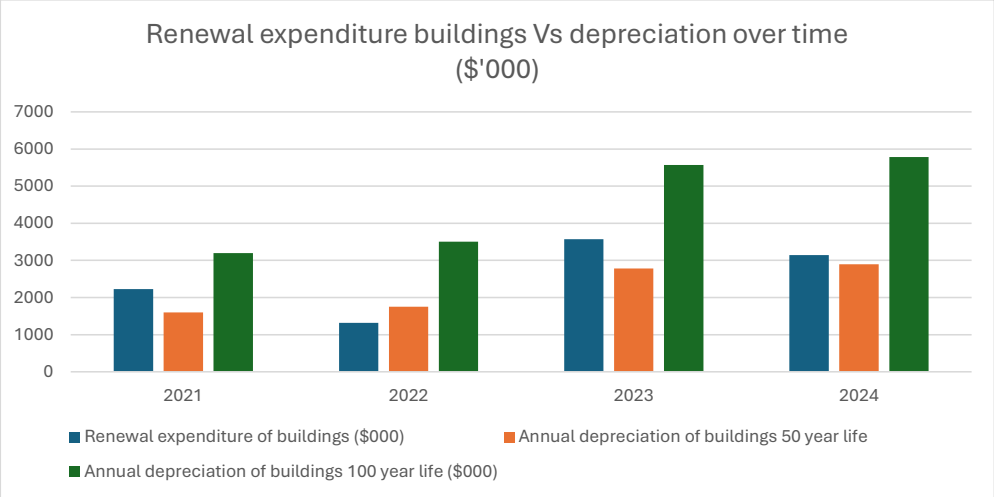


Figure A5.6 Renewal expenditure of buildings Vs depreciation over time.

This graph shows that the expenditure Vs annual depreciation comparison varies depending on the useful lives of the buildings. If all buildings are assessed as having a useful life of 100 years the annual renewal expenditure appears to be in line with the rates of depreciation, however as buildings approach useful lives of 50 years it can be seen that annual expenditures have been historically a lot lower than annual depreciation rates and correlate to an increase in estimated cost to bring to satisfactory in this asset class. It is important to note that most building types fall within the 50-year projected life.

City Services

Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog

Strategic Context and Development

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 6

Number of Pages: 2

Strategic Context and Development

By focusing on long-term financial sustainability, risk management, and community expectations, strategic development ensures that Maitland's assets are managed efficiently and responsibly.

The Asset Management Strategy (AMS) is a critical component of Maitland's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework, linking directly with several informing strategic documents as shown in Figure A6.1.

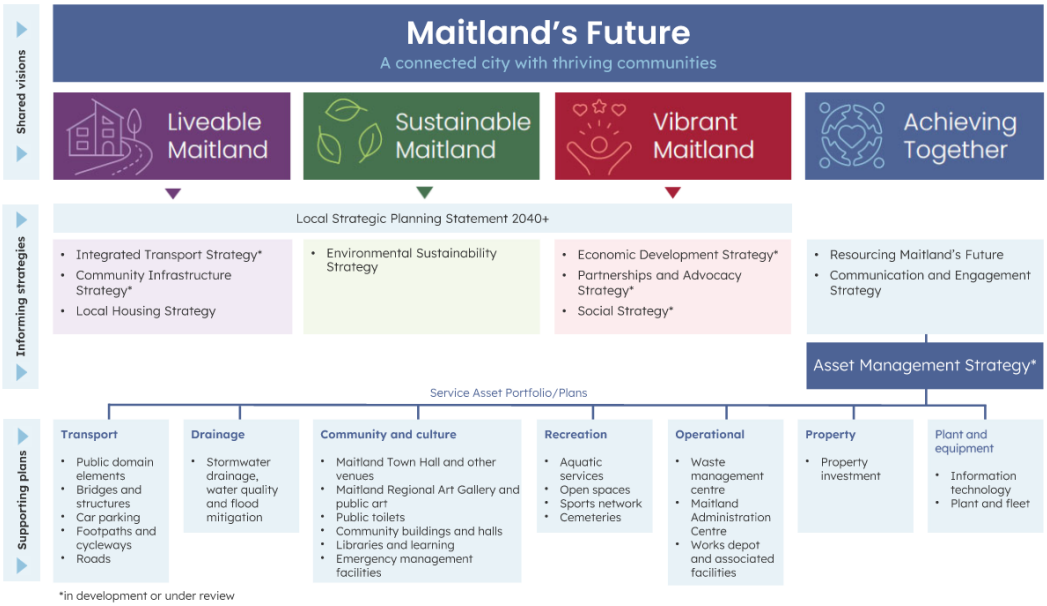


Figure A6.1 Relationship with other strategic documents

The Asset Management Strategy (AMS)

- The recently adopted Asset Management Planning document 2025 - 2029 which includes the Asset Management Policy, Asset Management Strategy and Service Asset Management Plan provides an informed and wholistic service-based approach to Council's asset planning and management.
- This suite of documents details the shift to a more contemporary method to asset management that is based on key service planning via informing strategies such as the Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS) and Civil Asset Strategy (CAS). By linking services to assets, we ensure that decisions about planning, maintaining, and renewing assets are driven by the service levels required to achieve strategic priorities.

- Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS)
  - Outlines the planning and delivery of infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of Maitland's growing community, ensuring facilities and services are accessible, adaptable, and aligned with community

priorities. It serves as a guiding document to prioritise investments, address gaps, and enhance the quality of life for residents through well-planned infrastructure development.

- Civil Asset Strategy (CAS)
    - Guides the planning, management, and development of essential civil assets, including roads, bridges, drainage, and footpaths, to support Maitland's growing population and economic activity. It ensures these assets are sustainable, resilient, and aligned with service levels and community needs, providing the backbone for connectivity, safety, and livability across the city.
- Service Asset Plans (SAPs)
    - Linking directly to each of the above strategies supporting plans, the SAPs detail the requirements necessary to effectively manage the assets which exist to support service delivery. SAPs establish a framework to ensure sustainable community service expectations are met.

These key informing strategies and plans are currently in development and will allow for significant community engagement, level of service, condition, asset, and financial data to be collated for service-based assets.

This data will be used to progress and inform Service Asset Plans (SAPs) and in turn develop an informed wholistic Backlog Delivery Program of priority projects to address the infrastructure backlog associated with our existing assets.

13 Customer and Digital Services

Nil

14 People and Performance

14.1 Exhibition of the Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy 2025-2026

FILE NO:	**35/33/21/4**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Draft Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy 2025-2026**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Executive Manager People and Performance**
AUTHOR:	**Manager Corporate Strategy and Communications Corporate Grants Lead**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 3 Vibrant Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**3.3.2 Advocacy and partnerships**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy 2025-2026 has been developed to identify how we can work with others to deliver on our shared vision for Maitland's Future.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council endorses the public exhibition of the Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy 2025-2026.**

REPORT

Maitland's Future is our shared vision to achieve a connected city with thriving communities.

Delivering Maitland's Future is our Delivery Program and Operational Plan which outlines how Council will work to achieve this vision within the funding and resources we have available.

Our Partnership and Advocacy Strategy has been developed to identify how we can work with others to deliver on our shared vision. The strategy outlines roles and responsibilities, projects and community priorities for 2025-2026.

As we move towards achieving our shared vision, we will look to work closely with our community, private industry and other levels of government to partner on the actions, identified projects and services we need to deliver to bring our vision to life.

The objective of this document is to identify how we prioritise, partner and advocate over this term of Council.

EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

Partnership Projects – This plan identifies the top key infrastructure priorities for our community. These projects are within the capability of Council to deliver if funding/ grants become available. These have been prioritised by Council staff based on feedback from our community, Executive Leadership Team and Councillors during the development of Maitland's Future, our community satisfaction survey and community (club) engagement in the initial preparation of the draft Community Infrastructure Strategy.
These projects include:

- A citywide playspace of significance at Maitland Park,
- Thornton Road network upgrades: Haussman Drive and Raymond Terrace Road intersection,
- Thornton Road network upgrades: Glenwood Drive and Thornton Road,
- Morpeth to Walka shared-pathway,
- Walka Water Works Redevelopment: Pumphouse building and chimney,
- Walka Water Works Redevelopment: Picnic area and playspace,
- Maitland Gaol redevelopment,
- Maitland Aquatic Centre expansion,
- Lochinvar Sports Complex/ Community Centre,
- Cooks Square Park new clubhouse,
- Motorcycle track Rutherford,
- Maitland Park cricket net complex,
- King Edward Park new amenities building,
- Ernie Jurd Oval (Largs) amenities building,
- Roy Jordan amenities building,
- Max McMahon amenities building: Stage 2.

Advocacy Agenda – This plan identifies the top key improvement areas for our community. These areas are outside of Council's control and ability to deliver but which will help to deliver Maitland's shared vision for the future. These have been identified from actions in our existing adopted informing strategies and include:

- Housing,
- Roads and traffic management (including road reclassification),
- An integrated public transport network,
- Healthcare,
- Education,
- Cost of living for our residents,
- Social support,
- Green infrastructure,
- Environmental sustainability,
- Prepared communities - disaster resilience (including a flood evacuation route for Central Maitland and Lorn, as well as Gillieston Heights)
- Investment attraction,
- Strengthened and diversified precincts,
- Destination development,
- Long-term financial viability,
- Grant programs simplification.

EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

It is proposed that the Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy is reviewed and updated each year in line with our integrated planning and reporting timetable. In particular, the development of our Delivery Program and Operational Plan to ensure it remains reflective of our current community.

CONCLUSION

The importance of the Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy document is to identify how we intend to prioritise and deliver infrastructure and services to achieve Maitland's Future. Working together, partnering with different levels of government and private industry we can create a connected city with thriving communities.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no direct financial impact upon the Council's adopted budget or forward estimates. However, the priority partnership projects listed in the document represent an estimated $288,100,000 worth of infrastructure and outlines Maitland City Council's proposed funding as co-contribution for each of the priority projects.

Partnership Project	Project estimate	Council funds	Grant required
Playspace of significance at Maitland Park	$15,000,000	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
Thornton Road network upgrades: Haussman Drive and Raymond Terrace Road intersection	$36,700,000	$10,000,000	$26,700,000
Thornton Road network upgrades: Glenwood Drive and Thornton Road	$87,100,000	$12,500,000	$75,600,000
Morpeth to Walka shared pathway	$13,000,000	$3,000,000	$10,000,000
Walka Water Works Redevelopment: Pumphouse building and chimney	$10,000,000	$2,000,000	$8,000,000
Walka Water Works Redevelopment: Picnic area and playspace	$2,500,000	$1,000,000	$1,500,000
Maitland Gaol redevelopment	$30,000,000	$11,700,000*	$20,000,000
Maitland Aquatic Centre expansion	$60,000,000	$20,000,000	$40,000,000
Lochinvar Sports Complex/ Community Centre	$10,000,000	$5,000,000	$5,000,000
Cooks Square Park new clubhouse	$7,000,000	$2,000,000	$5,000,000
Motorcycle track Rutherford	$3,000,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000
Maitland Park cricket net complex	$800,000	$300,000	$500,000
King Edward Park new amenities building	$3,000,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000
Largs amenities building	$4,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000
Roy Jordan amenities building	$4,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000
Max McMahon amenities building Stage 2	$2,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Totals	$288,100,000	$80,500,000	$210,300,000

Project costs indicated are current estimates and subject to change based on further design, investigations and cost escalation.
*Maitland Gaol Council funds $1.2M, Federal funding $5M, State funding $5.5M.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no specific policy implications for Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There are no statutory implications under the Local Government Act 1993 with this matter.

People and Performance

Exhibition of the Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy 2025-2026

Draft Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy 2025-2026

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 90

City Shaping: Maitland's Future

Draft Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy

2025–2026

maitland CITY COUNCIL

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land within the Maitland Local Government Area. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and future with a spiritual connection to these lands.

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DRAFT

Mayor Philip Penfold

General Manager Jeff Smith

DRAFT

A message from our Mayor and General Manager

Maitland is a city evolving — family-friendly, welcoming, and proud of its heritage. Centrally located in the heart of the Hunter region, we offer the perfect blend of city convenience with a warm country charm.

Our Community Strategic Plan, Maitland's Future outlines our shared vision for achieving a connected city with thriving communities. Our commitment to this process ensures Maitland not only remains a great place to live but evolves into a thriving, connected city where everyone can contribute to and benefit from our collective success.

As we move towards achieving our shared vision, we aim to work closely with our community, industry and other levels of Government to partner on the actions, projects and services we need. We embrace new opportunities and growth, making Maitland a dynamic place to live, work, enjoy and succeed.

We are a busy and productive community, and we have a thriving local economy diversified across health, construction, service and knowledge industries. Maitland supports more than 35,000 jobs and has an annual economic output of over $15 billion.

Maitland is one of the fastest growing cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent. The city's continued population growth is a significant strength for the local economy, providing industries and businesses with access to a broad workforce from both within Maitland and neighbouring areas, thanks to our central location in the Hunter region.

This growth, along with the lifestyle benefits our city offers, helps attract people to support the key industries that drive our economy.

At the same time, our growing population brings both opportunities and challenges. It places pressure on the environment, transport corridors and on a range of services and amenities.

The importance of this Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy document is to identify how we intend to prioritise and deliver infrastructure and services to achieve Maitland's Future. Working together, partnering with different levels of government and private industry we can create a connected city with thriving communities.

While there is plenty to love about Maitland today, we always need to keep our focus on tomorrow, and on how our growing, evolving community can continue to enjoy this place we love, well into the future.

"Working together, partnering with different levels of government and private industry we can create a connected city with thriving communities."
Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy | 2025–2026
15

Introduction to our strategy

DRAFT

Purpose

This strategy aims to identify and prioritise the future planning and delivery of infrastructure and services for the city, which is fundamental to fully capture our population growth potential and is critical for liveability and economic resilience.

- **Maitland's Future:** Outlines our shared vision for achieving a connected city with thriving communities.
- **Delivering Maitland's Future:** Our delivery Program and Operational Plan outlines how we will work to achieve our shared vision within the funding and resources we have available.
- **Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy:** Illustrates how we can work together to create opportunities for growth, work and participation. Identifying the City Shaping partnerships and advocacy priorities needed to achieve Maitland's Future.

Maitland: Local Government Area (LGA)
Maitland City Council (MCC): Organisation
Council: Elected body

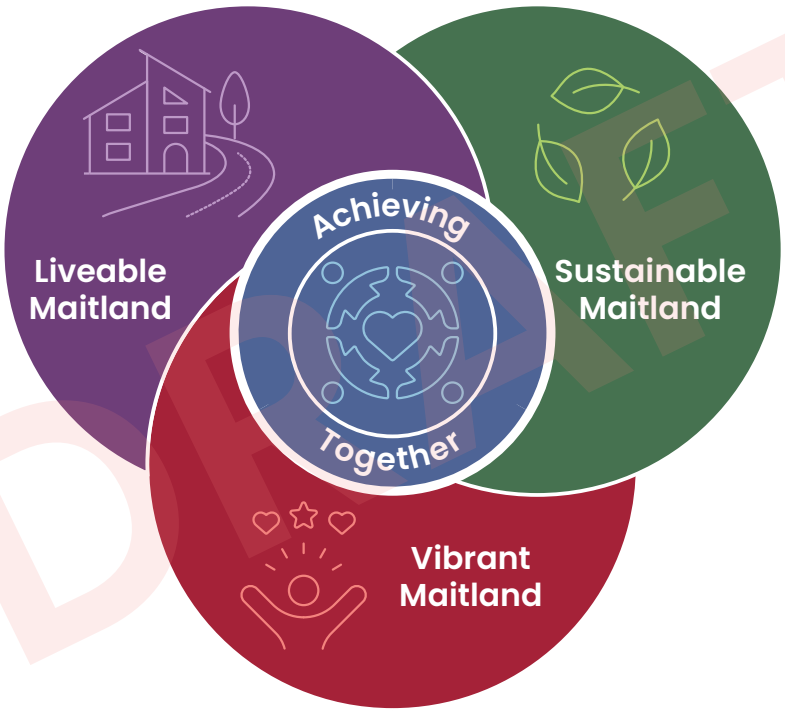
As we move towards achieving our shared vision, we will work closely with our community, private industry and other levels of government to partner on the actions, projects and services we need to deliver to bring our plan to life.

The objective of this document is to identify how we intend to prioritise, partner and advocate over this term of Council.

Our strategy identifies how we aim to:

- **Partner** on key projects within Council's control that require funding assistance to deliver priority infrastructure and,
- **Advocate** for key priorities for our community that are outside of Council's control but help to deliver Maitland's shared vision for the future.

Our shared vision: A connected city with thriving communities



DRAFT

Vibrant Maitland

Working together to create opportunities for growth, work and involvement.

3.1 Diverse local economy

- Investment attraction
- Strengthened and diversified precincts
- Future skill

3.2 Welcoming communities

- Celebrate diversity and culture
- City activation and presentation
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections
- Community connections

3.3 City shaping partnerships

- Growth opportunities
- Advocacy and partnerships

The heart of the Hunter

Who we are

Maitland is a city evolving – family friendly, welcoming, and proud of its heritage. Centrally located in the heart of the Hunter region, we offer the perfect blend of city convenience with a warm country charm.

We embrace new opportunities and growth, making Maitland a dynamic place to live, work, enjoy and succeed.

Almost 96,000 people call Maitland home, and we welcome around 2,000 new people each year. By 2041, we expect about 145,000 people to call our city home.

The Wonnarua and Guringai Peoples are the Traditional Keepers and Custodians of the lands within the Maitland LGA.

It is one of the oldest regional centres in Australia, built on the banks of the Hunter River. The Hunter River winds its way through the countryside and the city, offering a beautiful backdrop to our daily lives.

9.4% speak a language other than English at home

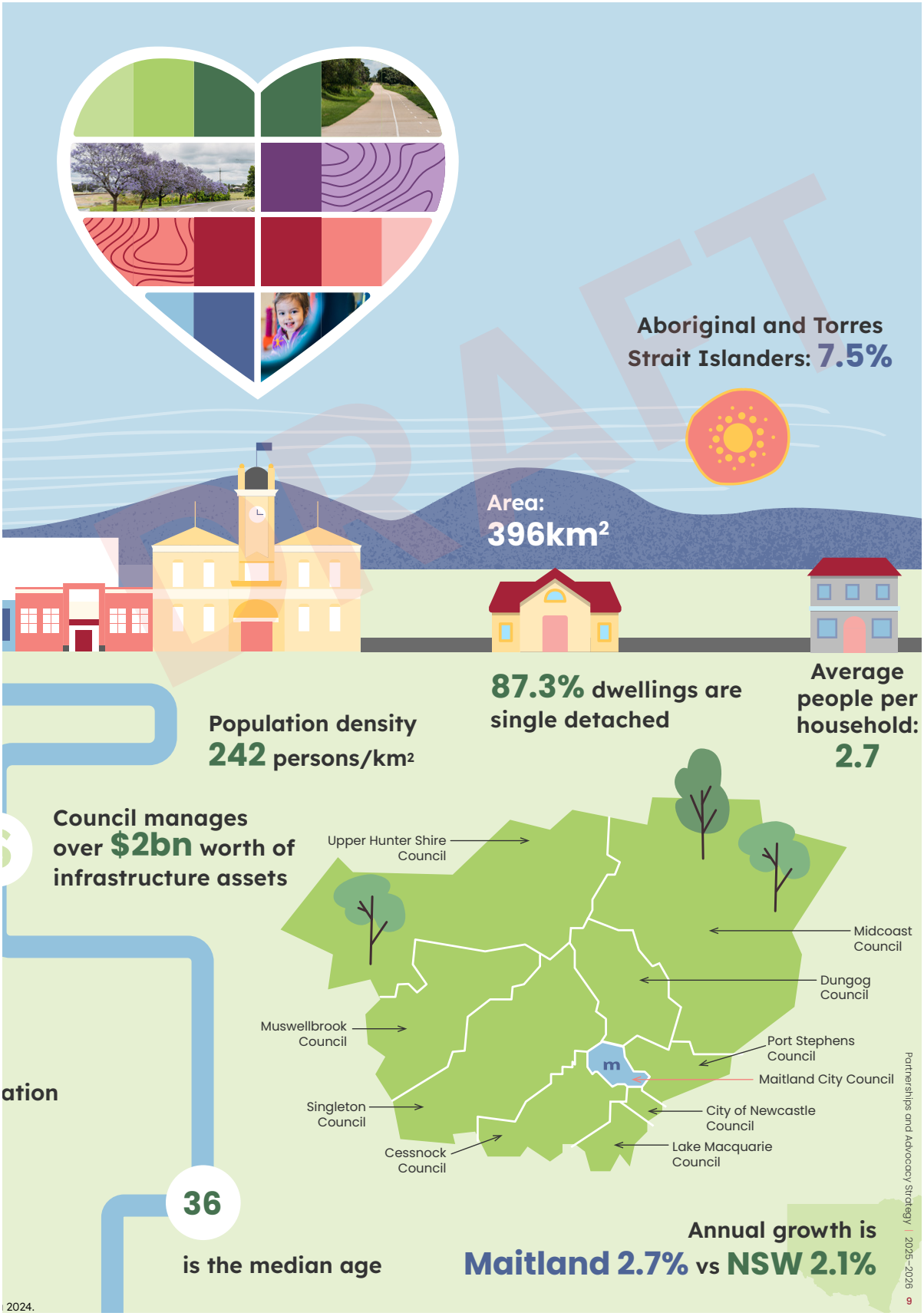
6.7% people with a disability

95,957 is the estimated pop

144,536 is the projected 2041 population

Source data: Planning NSW 2023 population projections, Census data 2021 and Remplan

EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)



maitland CITY COUNCIL

Maitland: The heart of the Hunter

Our economic identity

Maitland is emerging as one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing economies in regional New South Wales. As the heart of the Hunter, Maitland combines heritage and innovation to create a distinct economic profile, one built on strong population growth, infrastructure investment, diverse industry sectors, and a thriving local business community. This growth is not just about numbers, it's about enabling a better quality of life for our community.

Driving local growth

Maitland's economy is built on a foundation of established and emerging industries. Sectors such as construction, healthcare, retail, professional services, advanced manufacturing, and education continue to expand in response to strong population growth and demand for local services. New and expanding employment precincts are unlocking investment potential, while the city's accessible location, lifestyle appeal, and infrastructure pipeline are attracting a new wave of entrepreneurs, employers, and workers.

The future economy

Our city is ready to evolve into a centre of innovation, creative industries, and knowledge-based jobs. As we grow, we are focused on supporting a future-ready workforce, enabling small business success, encouraging investment, and ensuring local employment opportunities keep pace with community needs. Our economic development priorities are tied to creating liveable, connected places and a resilient economy that supports both productivity and wellbeing.

Education and skills

Maitland is well-positioned to foster the skills and talent needed to meet the demands of a changing economy. With access to nearby tertiary institutions like the University of Newcastle and strong connections with TAFE NSW, our city supports pathways for lifelong learning, vocational training, and workforce development. Local schools and business partnerships help shape the future workforce and foster a culture of learning and innovation.

Strategic connectivity

Maitland boasts strong connections with major road and rail infrastructure linking our economy to neighbouring centres, ports, and airports. These connections support freight movement, commuting, and economic exchange, making Maitland a highly sought-after location for business and investment. Within the city, investments in precinct development, active transport, and digital connectivity are shaping the conditions for economic success and ensuring that growth contributes to daily liveability and wellbeing.

A place for business and community

Our direction for Maitland's economy is inclusive and forward focused. We are creating a city where businesses thrive alongside vibrant communities; where jobs are local and diverse; and where economic development supports quality of life. As the heart of the Hunter, Maitland is not just keeping pace with regional change, we are helping to lead it, ensuring that growth goes hand-in-hand with the wellbeing of our people.

Liveable city

Maitland is a liveable city, with a population growth rate of 2.7 per cent, showing that people are choosing to live here for the lifestyle it offers. When residents have access to parks, entertainment, shops and services within walking distance of their homes and workplaces, they are more likely to engage directly with the local economy. Liveability fosters a sense of community, stability and belonging, and helps to support a strong visitor economy. Businesses and companies are more likely to invest in places that offer a high standard of living, places that reflect their values and attract the workforce they need.

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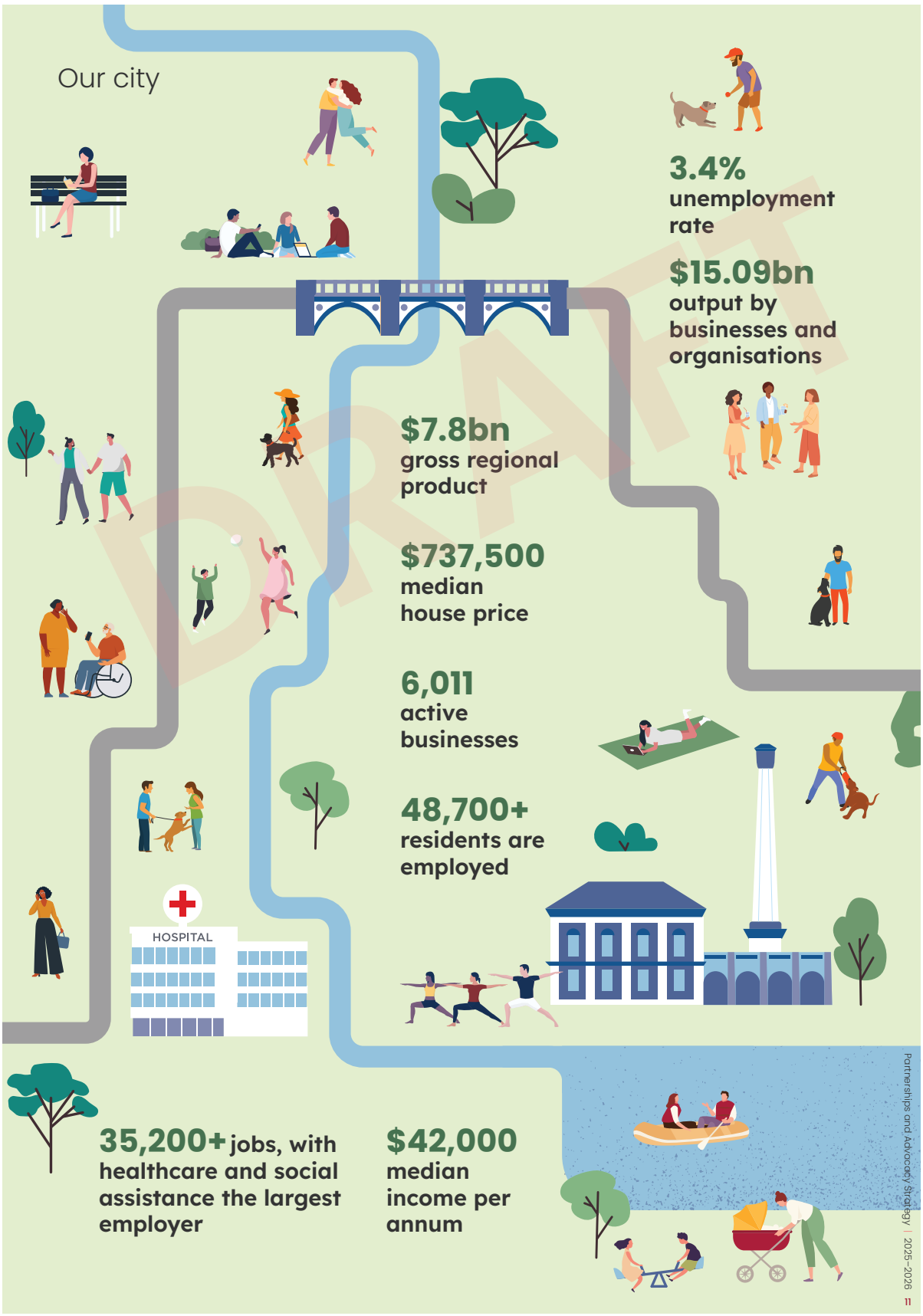
EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)



maitland CITY COUNCIL

"While there is plenty to lov
to keep our focus on tomor
community can continue t

Mayor Philip Penfold

Our Councillors

Maitland City Council has a popularly elected Mayor and 12 Councillors elected by residents in four wards which changed before the 2024 election.

Ward One

Cr Amelia Atkinson

Cr Sally Halliday

Cr Ken Jordan

Ward Two

Cr Race Barstow

Cr Kristy Flannery

Cr Mitchell Griffin

Ward Three

Cr Bill Hackney

Cr Ben Whiting

Cr Ben Worth

Ward Four

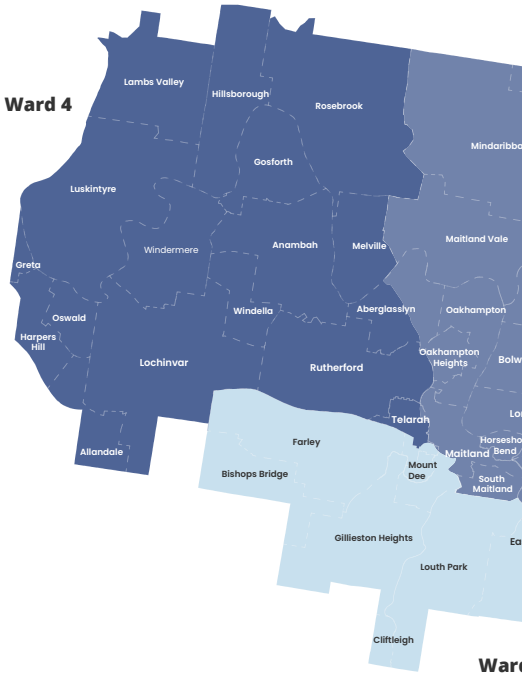
Cr Don Ferris

Cr Warrick Penfold

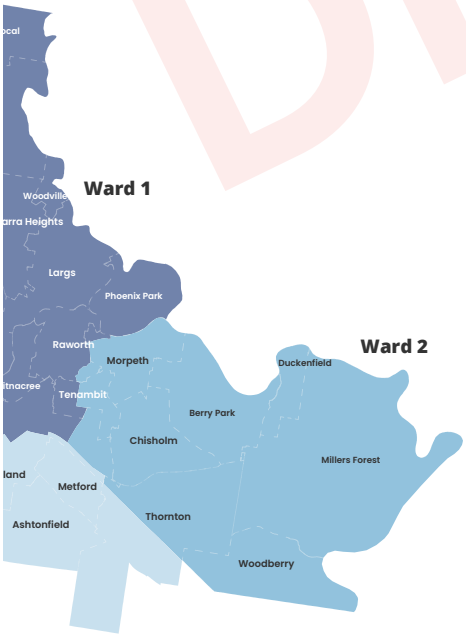
Cr Mike Yarrington

Electoral wards

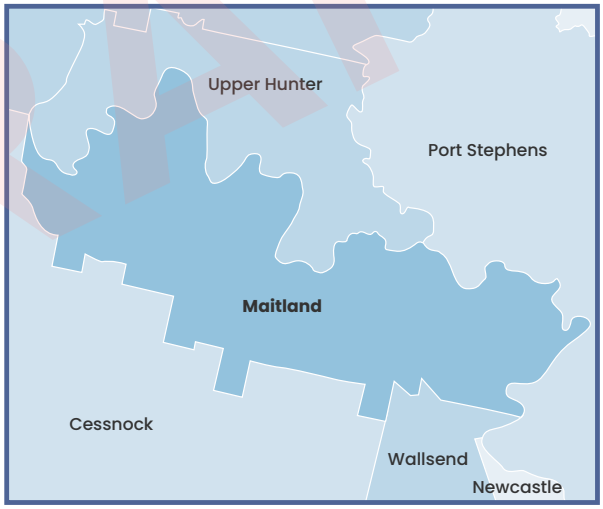
Local wards



about Maitland today, we always need
ow, and on how our growing, evolving
enjoy this place we love, well into the future."



State electoral boundaries



Federal electoral boundaries

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Our organisation

Maitland City Council is a diverse organisation employing over 610 employees across a range of services. As one of the largest employers in the Maitland area, our structure is designed to meet the community's vision for the city.

Maitland City Council has a focus on business improvement with our newly refined executive team and organisational structure which establishes clear lines of accountability and responsibility to ensure we achieve the outcomes our community expects.

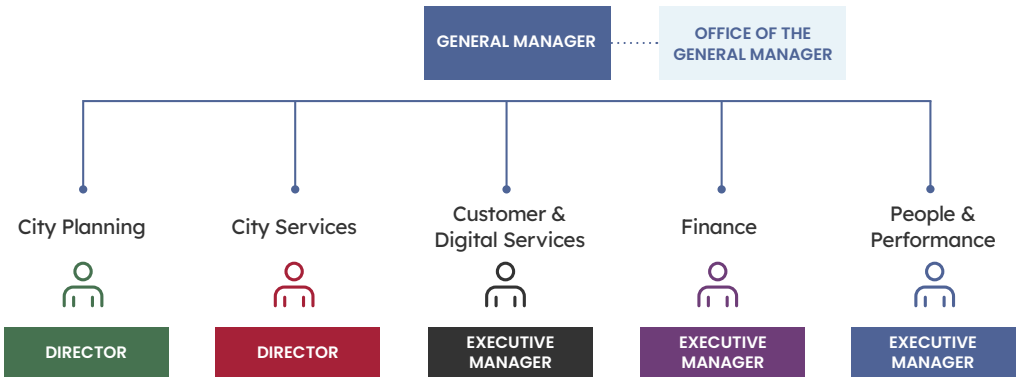
Our Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework allows us to plan resources and maintain accountability and transparency through regular reporting.

Our Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) is updated annually. The LTFP ensures that Maitland maintains financial sustainability into the future and effectively mitigates financial impacts and challenges as they occur, including population growth and the changing needs across our city. The project's scope of works is well within Council's delivery experience.

Council manages $2.1B worth of infrastructure and assets. In addition to rates, fees and charges and other income, and has a track record of delivering grant funded projects.

Some of the recent Council projects have delivered include:

- The new Maitland Administration Centre ($45M) including the $7M Harold Gregson Playspace upgrade
- The Maitland Regional Sports Complex ($35.6M)
- An intersection upgrade at Government Road and Raymond Terrace Road, Thornton ($26M)
- The Riverlink Building in The Levee Central Maitland ($10M)
- Melville Ford Timber Bridge replacement underway ($8.2M)
- Cooks Square Park sporting upgrades ($1M)
- Maitland Netball Courts reconstruction ($1M)
- A new skate park and playspace at Roy Jordan Oval, Gillieston Heights ($500K).



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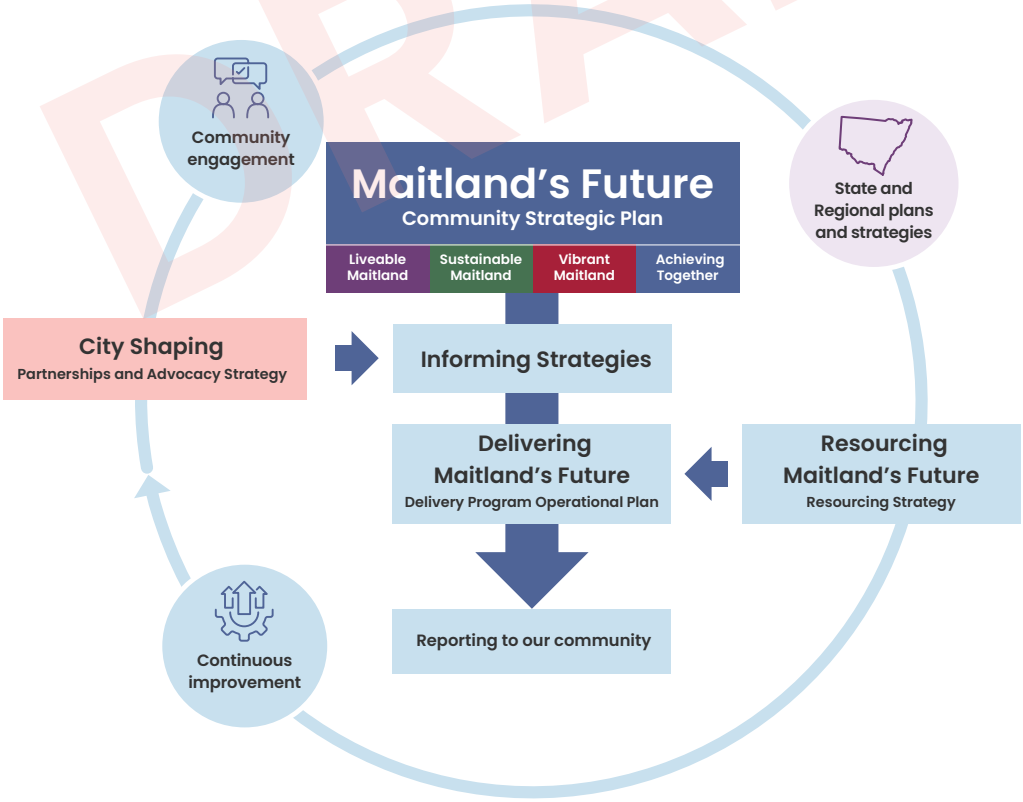
EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

How we plan

This strategy ensures the effective planning of Maitland's economic development to enable delivery of the community's priorities and objectives as identified in Maitland's Future, our Community Strategic Plan. It is a critical part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework.

Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework

The NSW Government requires local councils to work with their communities to plan for the future. This involves creating long, medium, and short-term plans that reflect the community's vision and priorities. These plans are shaped by community input and supported by informed planning around finances, assets, and resources. This approach under the *Local Government Act 1993*, called the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework, helps councils across NSW to make thoughtful, sustainable decisions for a brighter future.



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Strategic alignment

This strategy forms part of Council's broader strategic framework. While it aligns most closely with one focus area, it cannot be delivered in isolation. The success of Maitland relies on how all focus areas — liveability, sustainability, vibrant and achieving together — connect, overlap and support each other.

A city that is truly thriving depends on more than any single effort. Our approach is integrated and future-focused. By achieving together across teams, functions and priorities, we can deliver on our shared vision for a connected city with thriving communities.

Liveable Maitland

Working together to foster strong connections, quality infrastructure, and efficient mobility. Enhancing how we live, move, and connect with people and place.

1.1 Great neighbourhoods

- Quality open space network
- Connected living
- Housing diversity
- Inclusive public places and spaces

1.2 Integrated movement

- Efficient and sustainable movement
- Connected active transport
- Safe and efficient road networks

Sustainable Maitland

Working together to commit to environmental stewardship and community resilience, centred around strong connections to nature and ensuring our communities thrive.

2.1 Valuing our natural environment

- Functional biodiversity corridors
- Natural spaces
- Environment engagement
- Waterway management

2.2 Sustainable and resilient communities

- Sustainable leadership
- Living sustainably
- Prepared communities
- Circular economy

Vibrant Maitland

Working together to create opportunities for growth, connection, and participation, shaping a city where people belong and thrive.

3.1 Diverse local economy

- Investment attraction
- Strengthened and diversified precincts
- Future skill

3.2 Welcoming communities

- Celebrate diversity and culture
- City activation and presentation
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections
- Community connections

3.3 City shaping partnerships

- Growth opportunities
- Advocacy and partnerships

Achieving Together

Working together to foster a culture built on trust, empowering an engaged workforce that embraces change.

4.1 Trusted services

- Meaningful consultation and engagement
- Trusted customer experience
- Transparent decision making

4.2 Engaged workforce

- Excellence in leadership
- Collaborative organisation
- Development and growth of our people

4.3 Resilient future

- Informed planning
- Culture of improvement and innovation
- Leverage technology and data

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Guiding principles

Our guiding principles help guide us to live and breathe customer centric behaviours that our customers value. We embrace these principles in everything we do, whether we're planning a new road, designing a new policy or interacting directly with our community.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES	HOW WE WILL APPLY THEM IN THIS STRATEGY
Make things easy	**Apolitical** – Our partnership and advocacy priorities are apolitical; we aim to work with all levels of government and sides of politics to achieve strong outcomes for our community.
Be welcoming	**Collaborate** – We aim to work collaboratively with partners, community and other organisations to deliver on our shared vision in Maitland's Future.
Be open minded	**Achieving together** – We aim to present a unified and coordinated approach to our partnership and advocacy priorities to ensure the messaging is clear, consistent and resonates with a broader audience. **Focused on the future** - We aim to continue to look forward and work towards achieving positive long-term outcomes and benefits for our city.
Keep your promises	**Open** – We will continue to report on the outcomes against our partnership and advocacy priorities via our Integrated Planning and Reporting processes. **Evidence based** - Our partnership and advocacy priorities are developed based on community, councillor, and organisational input and alignment to Regional, State and national strategies and priorities.
Look out for me	**Community centred** – Our partnership and advocacy priorities reflect the needs, aspirations and expectations of our community and feedback gathered through ongoing community engagement and the development of our shared vision - Maitland's Future. **Transparent** - Our partnership and advocacy priorities are to be regularly monitored and reviewed each year in line with our Integrated Planning and Reporting process to ensure we deliver the best outcomes for our community.

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EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

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Our role

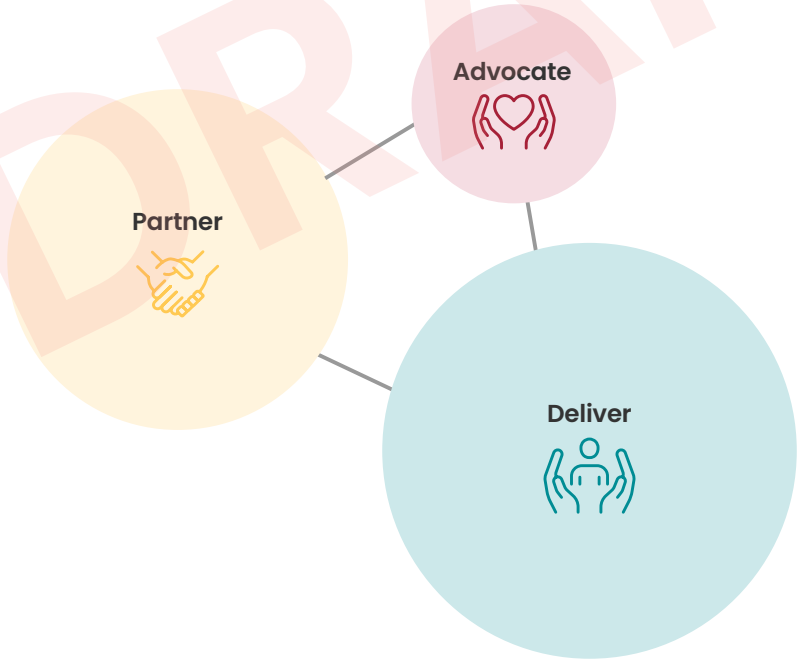
As Maitland continues to grow, Council, our stakeholders and our community need to work together to invest in our individual and collective wellbeing.

While Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and delivering **Maitland's Future** on behalf of the community, it is not solely responsible for its implementation.

Many of the issues and concerns facing Maitland are complex and beyond the direct control and influence of us, such as public transport, health, education, housing, planning and employment.

To deliver our shared vision, Council works with various stakeholders and partners, including other levels of government and their affiliated agencies, local businesses and industry, educational institutions, community groups, and other service providers.

Depending on the activity, Council's role is to deliver, partner and/or advocate. By building partnerships, taking a strong leadership role and delivering on its commitments, Council plays an important role in shaping our city and making Maitland a place for everyone.



Deliver

We deliver a wide range of programs and services, including waste collection, libraries, maintenance of local roads and public spaces, recreation facilities and programs, community support, special events and regulatory functions.

Partner

There are areas in which we have partial or shared responsibility or influence. We build strategic partnerships with federal and state government agencies, the private sector, and a range of other stakeholders whose work will contribute to delivering our long-term priorities.

Advocate

Many issues important to the community are outside Council's control. Council gives a voice to the needs and aspirations of the community by advocating for changes in policy and action at relevant levels of government and industry.

Our priorities for Maitland

A connected city with thriving communities

Our shared vision for a connected city with thriving communities focuses on creating vibrant neighbourhoods, centres, and towns. These areas will blend timeless charm with modern design and practical features, resulting in beautiful and functional spaces. We aim to foster a strong sense of community while maintaining close connections to nature. Our shared vision strikes the perfect balance between country outlook and the convenience of city living.

Improved transport connectivity will make it easier for residents to interact and for businesses to thrive, ensuring that people have access to a wider choice of housing in both existing and new communities, located close to jobs, shopping, and services, and supported by public transport, walking, and cycling options.

The natural environment will enrich the living experience by valuing open space, local bushland, wetlands, flood plains, and biodiversity. By building resilient and sustainable communities, promoting sustainable leadership, and supporting circular economy initiatives, we ensure an adaptable future for all communities.

By fostering a diverse local economy and promoting vibrant community life, we aim to shape a thriving city. Our shared vision creates opportunities for work, personal growth, and engaging activities, enriching daily experiences and overall wellbeing. Through city-shaping partnerships, building trust, and cultivating an engaged workforce, we will ensure Maitland remains resilient and prosperous for future generations.

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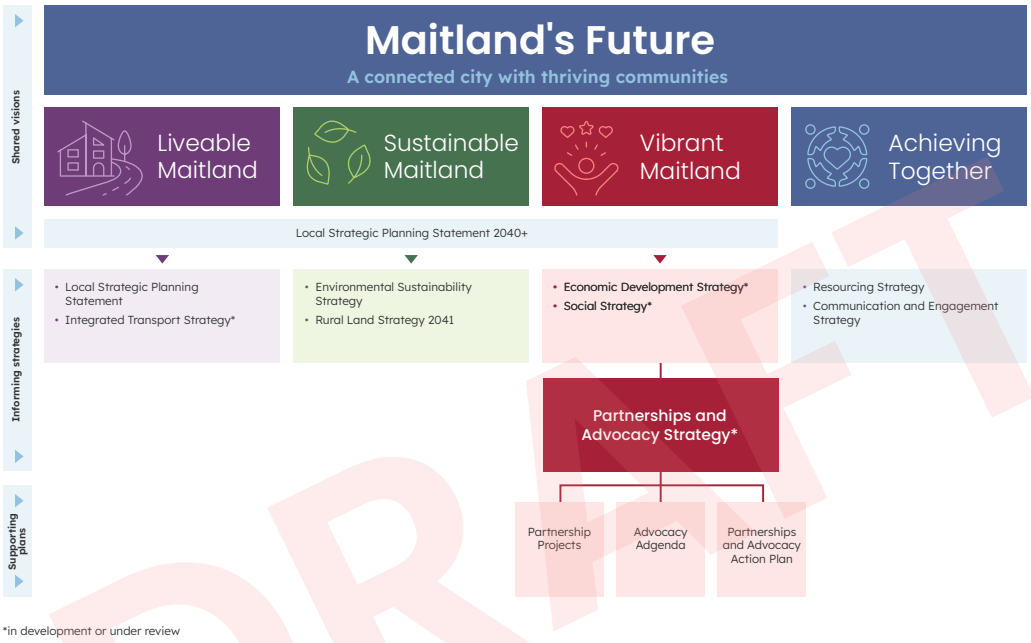
EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)



*in development or under review

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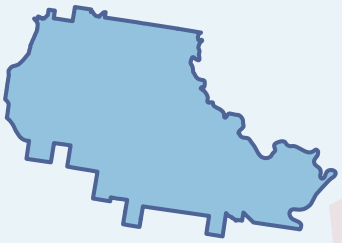
Strategic alignment from local to global

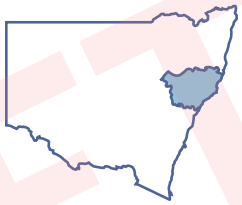
How **Maitland's Future** fits in with other strategies and plans.



Delivered at the local level

Includes: local roads, parks, waterways, waste, libraries, events, community wellbeing and facilities, development

- Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (featuring **Maitland's Future** Community Strategic Plan)
- Maitland's informing strategies
- Maitland's policies, strategies and plans.



Delivered at the regional level

Includes: regional planning, health and wellbeing, and water catchment management.

- Hunter Regional Plan 2041
- Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036
- The Hunter New England Health District Strategic Plan 2021-2026
- Hunter Joint Organisations Strategic Plan 2032
- Greater Hunter Regional Water Strategy 2018
- Hunter Regional Economic Development Strategy update 2023
- Destination Sydney Surrounds North Destination Management Plan 2030
- Greater Newcastle Future Transport Plan 2056.

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Delivered at the state level

Includes: health, care (aged, child, disability), transport, education, employment, police, development

- State Plan NSW Housing
- NSW State Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2042
- NSW Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021–2025
- NSW Net Zero Plan 2020-2030
- Transport for NSW: Smart NSW Roadmap 2022-2027
- Future Transport Strategy 2056
- NSW State Health Plan: Future Health 2022-2032
- NSW Government Visitor Economy Strategy 2030
- NSW State Emergency Service Strategic Plan 2021-2041
- NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041
- NSW Circular Economy Policy Statement 2019
- Biodiversity Conservation Investment Strategy 2018
- NSW Flood Prone Land Policy within the NSW Flood Risk Management Manual.

Delivered at the national level

Includes: defence, immigration, taxation, communications, and trade.

- Australian Modern Manufacturing Strategy 2020
- National Agreement on Closing the Gap 2020
- Thrive 2030 Strategy - The re-imagined Visitor Economy
- Australia's Biodiversity and Conservation Strategy 2010-2030
- National Digital Economy Strategy 2030
- Infrastructure Australia Strategy 2021
- National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021-2025
- National Urban Policy 2024
- National Waste Policy and Action Plan 2019.

Delivered at the global level

Includes: environmental and social issues; political, health or economic crises.

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
- Paris Climate Agreement
- Global Biodiversity Framework.

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"We are committed to ensuring no voice goes unheard in our rapidly growing and evolving community."

Engagement and key drivers from our community

We all have an important role to play in Maitland's Future. Together, we have developed an ambitious long-term vision that sets out our priorities for the future. Our community is passionate about Maitland, and they love where they live. This willingness to engage has helped shape our city's future.

Building on what we have heard

Before we go out and ask more questions, Maitland City Council believes it is important to reflect on what the community has already shared with us. This ensures we acknowledge past insights, identify recurring themes, and build on existing feedback to guide meaningful conversations moving forward.

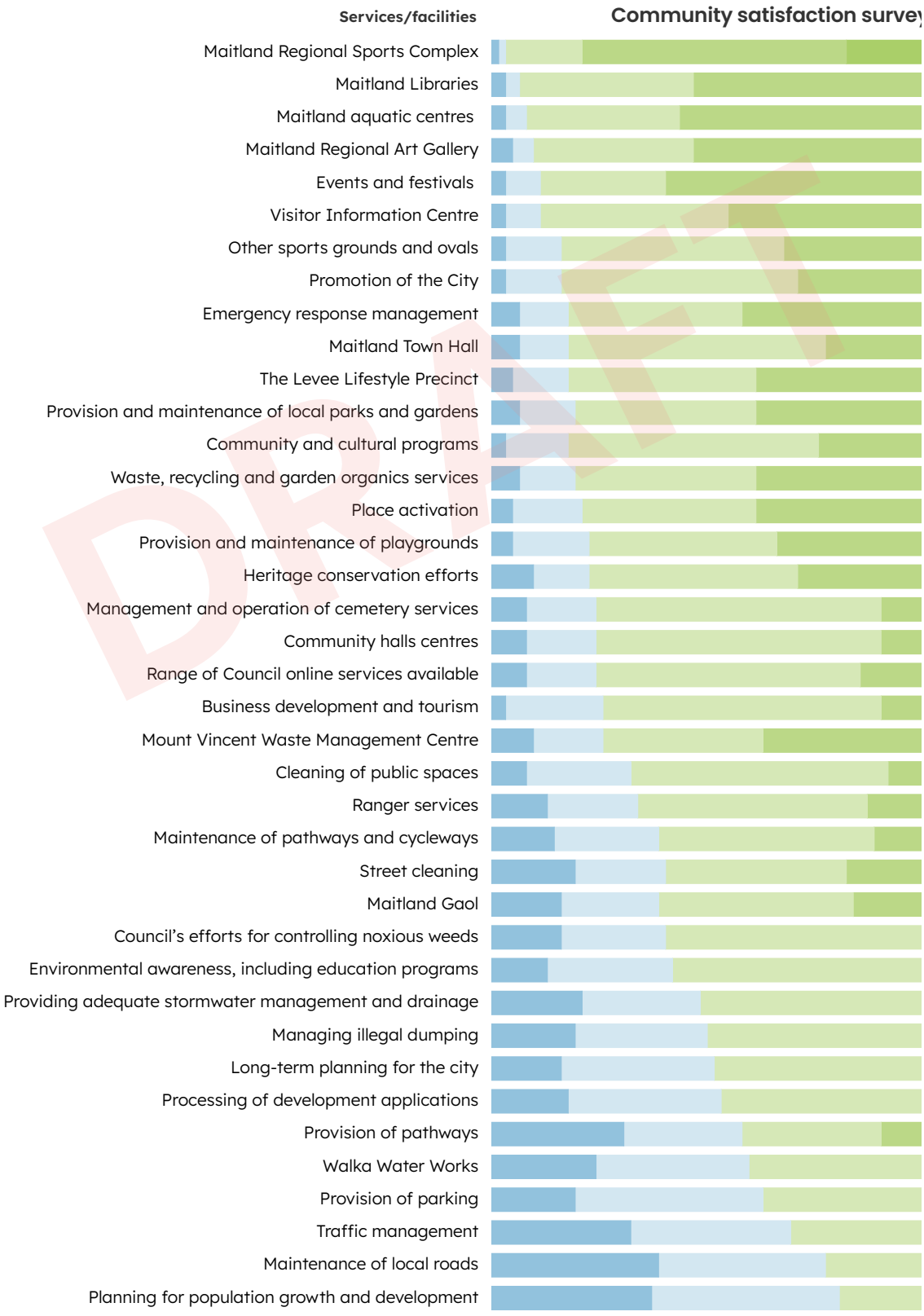
Our ongoing conversation with community engagement considered as part of the development of Maitland's Future included:

- Local Strategic Planning Statement 2019: 8,277 interactions across all channels
- Community Satisfaction Survey 2022 (May 2022): 600 surveys completed
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan (May 2022): 300 surveys completed and 27 interviews with people with lived experience
- Environmental Attitudes Research (July – August 2022): 501 surveys completed
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (November – December 2022) – 500 phone surveys completed and 2338 responses to an online survey
- Australian Liveability Census (March – June 2023): 927 surveys completed
- Economic Development Strategy engagement (May - July 2023): 1061 people engaged
- Community Satisfaction Survey 2024 (May 2024): 500 surveys completed
- Maitland Aquatics Strategy engagement (August 2023): 1796 participants via online surveys, focus groups, meetings and pop ups
- Maitland's Future – Our Shared Vision (2024): 3,745 contributions.

What is most important to the community

- traffic management
- greener, more open spaces
- range of housing prices / affordable housing
- road maintenance
- walking, jogging, bike paths that connect housing to communities
- protecting the natural environment
- recreation spaces and parks / sports, aquatic centres
- local history, historic building and features
- access to neighbourhood services and facilities
- arts and cultural programs
- local employment options
- local education options

EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)



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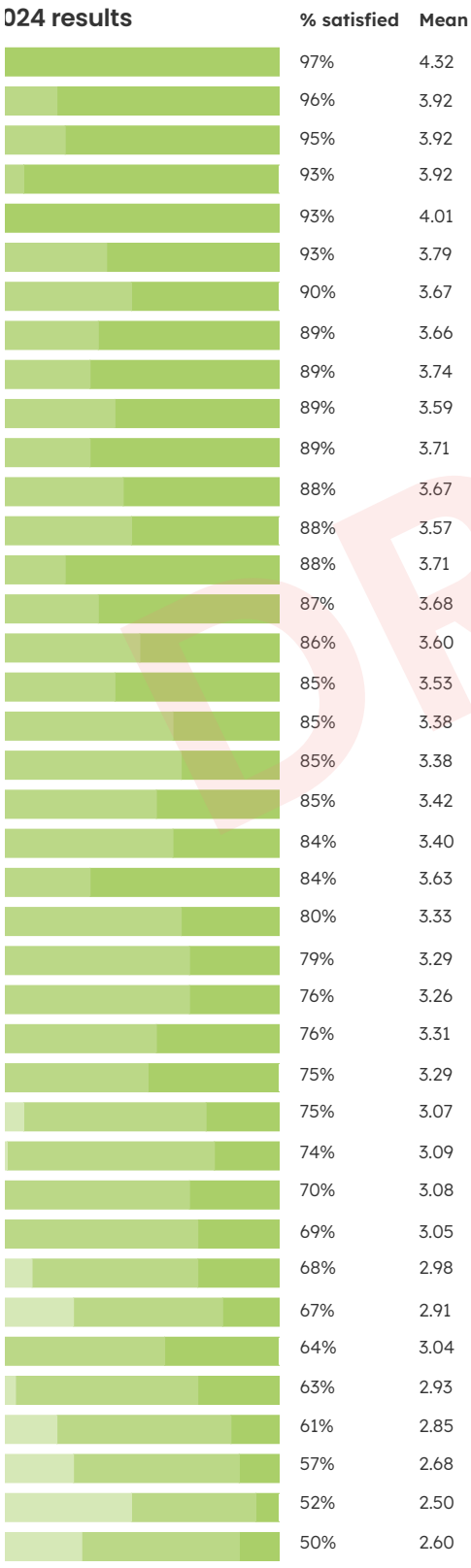
EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)



Community Satisfaction Survey

One of the ways we engage with our community is through a citywide community survey, conducted every two years, with the most recent one completed in mid 2024. The survey revealed that satisfaction with Council's level of communication with the community was a top priority for residents and had a substantial impact on overall satisfaction with the performance of Council. One of the top areas of concern for residents was having access to diverse housing options as well as planning for the long-term growth of our LGA, including planning for population growth and development.

By identifying our community's satisfaction with the services we provide, we can address community priorities and areas for improvement.

90%

rated their quality of life living in the Maitland LGA as good to excellent

28/39

services/facilities received a satisfaction score of 75% or more

86%

of residents were at least somewhat satisfied with council's performance over the 12 months prior

- Not at all satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Satisfied
- Very satisfied

Mean figure represents the average rating of all responses received.

Satisfied percentage is the total percentage rated somewhat satisfied, satisfied and very satisfied.

"A strategy to identify, prioritise and deliver infrastructure and services of the city is fundamental to fully capture our population growth potential, and is critical for liveability and economic resilience of Maitland into the future."

30

Opportunities and challenges

Our growing population brings both opportunities and challenges. The population increase will support growth in the local economy, creating diverse employment opportunities and reinforcing Maitland's role as a major regional strategic centre, servicing the hinterland and rural areas of the Hunter Region and beyond. It also places pressure on our existing infrastructure, environment, rural land, transport corridors, community services and facilities.

Council aims to identify, prioritise and deliver the required housing and fundamental infrastructure to capitalise on our growth potential. It is also critical for liveability and economic resilience for the city to remain an attractive place to live, work, and to raise a family.

Recent growth has seen around 1,000 new dwellings built each year. Such high growth presents our council with some very distinct challenges, including increased demand for essential services and infrastructure to accommodate the expanding community.

Expected population growth rates influence our strategic and recreational planning to ensure an adequate mix of land release for housing and community infrastructure for the expected increase in families with young children.

Rapid population growth is expected to continue, with an additional 54,800 residents within 25,200 dwellings. Maitland is forecast to grow from 93,497 in 2021 to at least 144,550 by 2041, representing a forecast population growth of 61 per cent over the next 20 years.

This increase in population will drive growth in the local economy, creating new and diverse employment opportunities. As the population grows, it needs to be supported by adequate infrastructure, services and amenities.

Our aim is to ensure this growth is managed in a sustainable way – socially, economically and environmentally.

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OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
Location	
Our city is located at the geographical centre of the Hunter region, approximately 32km northwest of Newcastle and 163km north of Sydney. Maitland is well connected with a 90-minute freeway drive to Sydney, 30-minute drive to the Hunter vineyards, Newcastle, Port Stephens and the airport, shipping terminals and freight rail access.	Maitland covers a relatively small geographical area and has a total area of 396-km2, from Woodberry in the east to Lochinvar in the west, Mindaribba in the north and Gillieston Heights in the south.
Population growth	
Today, our city is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent. The growth of our city has been driven by our locational advantages, our road and rail connections to Newcastle, Sydney and the broader Hunter region, our access to the Hunter River and our proximity to both Newcastle and the mining activities further north in the Hunter region. Maitland also provides relatively affordable housing options and diverse employment opportunities. As a high growth metropolitan area, we continue to attract residents and businesses to the city. The growing population and economy further reinforces our role as a major regional centre, servicing the hinterland and rural areas of the Hunter Region and beyond.	Our city is growing by just over six people every day bringing around 2,000 new residents each year. Maitland's population is forecast to grow from 93,497 in 2021 to at least 144,550 by 2041. Our growing population brings both opportunities and challenges. It places pressure on the environment, transport corridors, community and sporting infrastructure and on a range of services and amenities. While Maitland is rich in many things, like community spirit, pride and river frontage, unlike our surrounding regional neighbours, we do not possess the abundance open natural spaces like parks, beaches and lakes – with our residents driving outside of area to access these.
The Hunter River	
The Hunter River meanders through our urban and rural areas and adds a unique character to our city and sets out a scenic backdrop to our everyday lives. The same river system responsible for the floods also has a significant benefit to our natural environment, including delivery of water to flood dependent ecosystems and improving soil nutrients for agricultural land	Maitland has been built on the banks of the Hunter River and has a long history of destructive flood events. The recent 70th anniversary of the 1955 flood reminds us of the devastating cost of flooding to our local community and economy. The river and its extensive floodplain provides a natural boundary for urban growth and urban development potential is generally limited to areas south of the Hunter River.
History	
Maitland, situated on Wonnarua land in the heart of the Hunter region is one of the oldest regional centres in Australia dating back to the early 1800s.	Maitland's rich history and heritage can also be reflected by ageing infrastructure with an asset strategy heavily reliant on grants to replace or upgrade these facilities. Heritage places can include buildings and areas with special historical, cultural, social, architectural, archaeological or natural value.
Lifestyle	
From a lifestyle perspective, Maitland offers many advantages including, good local services, natural amenities within the city and in surrounding regions. It is Council's aim to identify, prioritise and deliver required housing and fundamental infrastructure to capitalise on our growth potential.	Maitland's social demographics highlight the need to ensure we have access to the right mix of services and facilities for our evolving population. It is also critical for liveability and economic resilience of the city to remain an attractive place to live and work, and to raise a family.

Maitland's demographics:

- The annual population growth rate for Maitland from 2016 to 2021 was 3.1 per cent, compared to 1.07 per cent for the Hunter Region.
- The single largest cohort is people aged 30 to 34 years, representing 7.4 per cent of Maitland's population.
- The largest life stage group in Maitland is 'workers' (35 to 49 years) representing 19.5 per cent of the overall population.
- 64 per cent of the community participate in the labour force.
- The top two largest industry sectors are health care and social assistance (16.4 per cent) and retail trade (13.2 per cent) have remained consistent with 2016 statistics, while construction (11.5 per cent) replaced mining as the third largest.
- Maitland is a diverse and growing multicultural community with Irish the most common ancestry and cultural background at 10.7 per cent.
- The percentage of residents who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander in the Maitland LGA (7.5 per cent) ismore than double the NSW state average (3.4 per cent).
- Maitland has higher rates of health risks than NSW Primary Health Network in a number of categories.For every 100 adults in 2017 - 2018 (Primary Health Network 2021):
  - 17.9 smoked tobacco (14.4 in NSW)
  - 18.3 consumed alcohol at high risk (15.5 in NSW)
  - 44.7 were obese (30.9 in NSW)
  - 24.0 had high blood pressure (23.1 in NSW)
  - 48.4 ate adequate fruit (52.5 in NSW)
  - 69.4 undertook low or no exercise (65.3 in NSW)

(*ABS 2021a, REMPLAN 2021)

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Levels of partnerships and advocacy

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE	RESPONSIBILITY
Local	
On a local level partnerships with our community are essential to delivering on Maitland's Future. Vitally important local networks, committees and informal community connections can involve a range of contacts with members of organisations. They provide a means to gather and distribute information and ensure we continue to capture our community input. Examples include our business community, sporting clubs, school groups or local Landcare initiatives.	Mayor and Councillors Executive Team Council staff
Regional	
On a regional level Maitland is actively involved in regional planning and joint advocacy on issues and opportunities that relate to the Hunter. For example, Maitland is part of the Hunter Joint Organisation. A collaborative body that brings together the 10 councils in the region to provide a united and local voice for our communities. As the hub for local intergovernmental collaboration, the statutory mandate for the Hunter JO includes identifying key regional strategic priorities, advocating for these priorities, and building collaborations around these priorities with other levels of government, industry and community. Some examples include – disaster resilience, connecting to Shiraz to Shore and enabling housing infrastructure.	Mayor and Councillors General Manager Executive Team Council staff
State	
At a state level, Maitland City Council dedicates significant effort in advocating to state members to ensure the delivery of important infrastructure and services for Maitland. Some examples of past partnerships and grant projects include the Maitland Regional Sporting Complex, Maitland Regional Athletics Centre, Harold Gregson Park and the Raymond Terrace Road and Government Road intersection upgrade. It is also Council's role to advocate on behalf of our community and this strategy looks to identify areas outside of Council's control and ability to deliver on Maitland's Future.	Mayor and General Manager
Federal	
Many grant and funding opportunities relate to Australian Government policy, infrastructure and services. There are many Maitland priorities and projects that align strategically at a federal level and help to deliver on Federal priorities. Some examples of past partnerships and grant projects include Cooks Square Park Stage 1 upgrades. It is also Council's role to advocate on behalf of our community and this strategy looks to identify areas outside of Council's control and ability to deliver on Maitland's Future.	Mayor and General Manager
Collaboration	
Council plays a strong leadership role connecting partnerships and advocacy activities across these levels. For example, when advocating to the NSW and Australian Government to fund a particular project, Council plays a pivotal role in bringing all parties together to discuss a unified way forward.	Mayor and General Manager Executive Team

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Identifying our partners

We continue to work towards identifying and developing partnerships to deliver Maitland's Future. Listed below are just some of the ongoing partnerships we have identified.

MAITLAND'S FUTURE 'A CONNECTED CITY WITH THRIVING COMMUNITIES'			
LIVEABLE MAITLAND	SUSTAINABLE MAITLAND	VIBRANT MAITLAND	ACHIEVING TOGETHER
People who live in Maitland (residents)	Landcare Groups	People employed in our area	Council staff
Community groups	Environmental volunteers	People who visit our area	Local Aboriginal Land Councils - Mindaribba
Sporting clubs and groups	Local special interest groups, such as Slow Food Hunter Valley, Hunter Bird Observers Club, Renew - Hunter Region Branch	Local business community and associations	University of Newcastle
School groups	Historical society	Social service providers	NSW TAFE
Maitland Park Run	Utility services such as Ausgrid and Hunter Water	It Must be Morpeth Incorporated	Volunteers
NSW Public Libraries Association	National Emergency Management Agency	Arts and cultural organisations	Population groups
Australian Library Information Association	LGNSW Planning Network	Hunter Regional Economic Development Professionals	Local Government NSW
Urban Development Institute of Australia NSW	Country Mayors Association	Hunter Defence Task Force	Local Government Professionals
Property Council of Australia	Regional Institute of Australia	Newcastle Tourism Industry Group (NTIG)	Local Government Internal Audit Network
Australian Water Association	RSPA	Destination Sydney Surrounds North (DSSN)	Hunter Integrated Planning and Reporting Network
Transport for NSW	NSW Police	Port Authority of NSW	Hunter Inwards Grants Network
	Tocal College (DPIRD)	Committee for the Hunter	Hunter Regional Council Safety Group
	NSW Food Authority	Business Hunter	Hunter Councils Risk Management Team
	Active transport community groups such as Maitland Cycling Infrastructure Group	Hunter Innovations Festival	Australian Local Government Association
	NRMA	Destination NSW	Hunter JO
		Economic Development Australia	

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City shaping partnerships

Maitland City Council understands the only way to move forward is to develop and strengthen our relationships. Working together with various partners is vital to achieving our shared vision.

We will advocate and build strong partnerships. By actively engaging with stakeholders, aligning shared goals, leveraging grant funding, and driving collaborative initiatives to enhance connectivity within our city and across the region.

We will look to work collaboratively. Whether those relationships are with other levels of government, individuals, industry, community organisations and our our Local Aboriginal Land Council Mindaribba. We have some work to do to create and develop partnerships that support our city and ensure decision-making considers the needs of past, current and future generations.

We will work to optimise growth opportunities. By leveraging grant funding, fostering regional collaboration, and aligning with our shared vision of a connected city, ensuring sustainable development that enhances community connectivity and regional integration.

We will look to our community. Our community and business groups, our sporting clubs, our residents and visitors have told us what is important to them we need to work together to deliver.

We will continue to work collaboratively with our neighbours. Maitland is part of the Hunter Joint Organisation which brings together the ten councils in the region to provide a united and local voice for our communities. As the hub for local intergovernmental collaboration, the role of the Hunter Joint Origination includes identifying key regional strategic priorities, advocating for these priorities, and building collaborations around these priorities with other levels of government, industry and community.

Government partners

Regional

Hunter Joint Organisation includes:

- Cessnock City Council
- Dungog City Council
- Lake Macquarie City Council
- Maitland City Council
- Mid Coast Council
- City of Newcastle
- Muswellbrook Shire Council
- Port Stephens Council
- Singleton Council
- Upper Hunter Shire Council

State

NSW Governement:

- Premier's Department
- The Cabinet Office
- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- The Department of Communities and Justice
- The Department of Creative Industries, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport
- The Department of Customer Service
- The Department of Education
- The Department of Health
- The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
- The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Transport for NSW (TfNSW)
- NSW Treasury

Federal

Australian Government departments:

- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Department of Defence
- Department of Education
- Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
- Department of Finance
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Health and Aged Care
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Industry, Science and Resources
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts
- Department of Social Services

Our priorities

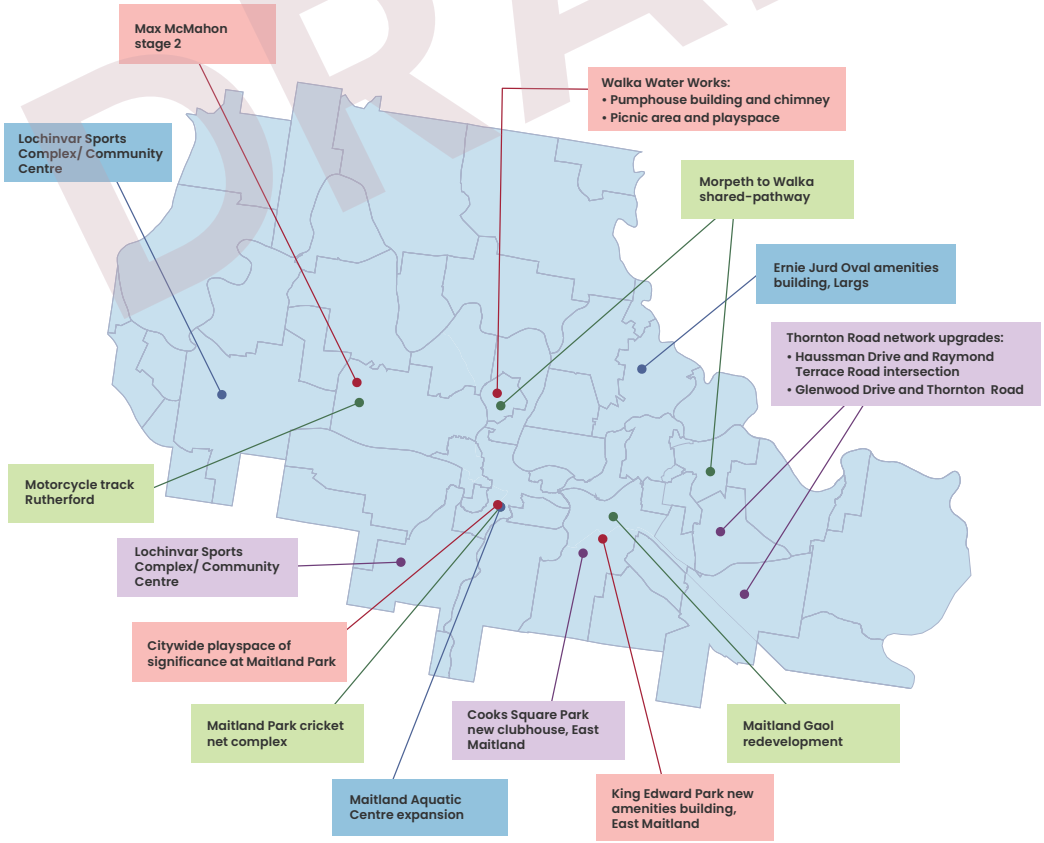
Partnership projects – are key infrastructure priorities for our community. These projects are within the capability of Council to deliver if funding/ grants become available.

Advocacy agenda – covers key improvement areas for our community. These areas are outside of Council's control and ability to deliver but help to deliver Maitland's shared vision for the future.

Partnership Projects

Map of key priority infrastructure partnership projects

These are key infrastructure priorities for our community. These projects are within the capability of Council to deliver if funding/grants becaome available.



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Partnership projects – top priority infrastructure projects

	PROJECT ESTIMATE	COUNCIL FUNDS	GRANT REQUIRED
Recreation and open spaces			
Citywide playspace of significance at Maitland Park	$15,000,000	$5,000,000	$10,000,000
Roads, transport and drainage			
Thornton Road network upgrades: Haussman Drive and Raymond Terrace Road intersection	$36,700,000	$10,000,000	$26,700,000
Thornton Road network upgrades: Glenwood Drive and Thornton Road	$87,100,000	$12,500,000	$75,600,000
Active transport			
Morpeth to Walka shared-pathway	$13,000,000	$3,000,000	$10,000,000
Major venues and facilities			
Walka Water Works redevelopment: Pumphouse building and chimney	$10,000,000	$2,000,000	$8,000,000
Walka Water Works redevelopment: Picnic area and playspace	$2,500,000	$1,000,000	$1,500,000
Maitland Gaol redevelopment	$30,000,000	$11,700,000*	$20,000,000
Aquatics			
Maitland Aquatic Centre expansion	$60,000,000	$20,000,000	$40,000,000
Sporting and community facilities			
Lochinvar Sports Complex/Community Centre	$10,000,000	$5,000,000	$5,000,000
Cooks Square Park new clubhouse	$7,000,000	$2,000,000	$5,000,000
Motorcycle track Rutherford	$3,000,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000
Maitland Park cricket net complex	$800,000	$300,000	$500,000
King Edward Park new amenities building	$3,000,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000
Ernie Jurd Oval (Largs) amenities building	$4,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000
Roy Jordan amenities building	$4,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000
Max McMahon Stage 2	$2,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Total	$288,100,000	$80,500,000	$210,300,000

Project costs are current estimates and subject to change based on further design, investigations and cost escalation.

*Maitland Gaol Council funds $1.2M, Federal funding $5M, State funding $5.5M.

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Advocacy agenda – top priorities areas

TOP 15 PRIORITIES	WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE FOR MAITLAND?
Great neighbourhoods	
Housing	• Supporting diverse and affordable housing options to meet the needs of our growing population.
Integrated movement	
Roads and traffic management (and road reclassification)	• A solution for a westbound flyover at the Cessnock Road and New England Highway roundabout in Maitland. • Multi-modal infrastructure upgrades to support the Anambah to Branxton corridor and Kurri Kurri to Maitland corridor upgrades. • Ensuring roads are classified appropriately to secure better funding and maintenance that reflects their usage and importance.
An integrated public transport network	• Advocating for a seamless transport network that connects our community with safe, efficient, and accessible options. Including place-based transport planning (East Maitland and Metford), and upgrades to Lochinvar Train Station.
Valuing our natural environment	
Green infrastructure	• Expanding green spaces, tree canopies, and sustainable urban design to enhance liveability and environmental outcomes. • Biodiversity reforms, improved health of the Hunter River, local wetlands and waterways.
Sustainable and resilient communities	
Environmental sustainability	• Securing sustainable water resources to support our community, environment, and future growth. Net zero emission community targets and a circular economy.
Prepared communities - disaster resilience	• Flood evacuation route for Central Maitland and Lorn as well as flood free access for Gillieston Heights. • Strengthening our city's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters through proactive planning and infrastructure investment.
Diverse local economy	
Investment attraction	• Attract investment by positioning Maitland as an innovative, well-connected city that is easy to do business.
Strengthened and diversified precincts	• Increase employment opportunities for our growing population.
Welcoming community	
Destination development	• Growing our agri-tourism sector to support local producers, attract visitors, and boost the regional economy.
Healthcare	• Quality healthcare services, facilities, and specialist care close to home. • Unlocking the economic potential of the old Maitland Hospital site.
Education	• Adequate funding for new and existing primary and secondary schools to accommodate our growing population.
Cost of living for our residents	• Addressing financial pressures by pushing for fairer service costs, energy affordability, and local support programs.
Police and social support	• Enhancing community safety through increased policing, crime prevention and social services.
A resilient future	
Long-term financial viability	• Seeking financial flexibility for councils to set rates that reflect local needs and service expectations.
Grant programs simplification	• Advocating for streamlined grant processes to ensure funding is accessible and efficiently delivered to communities.

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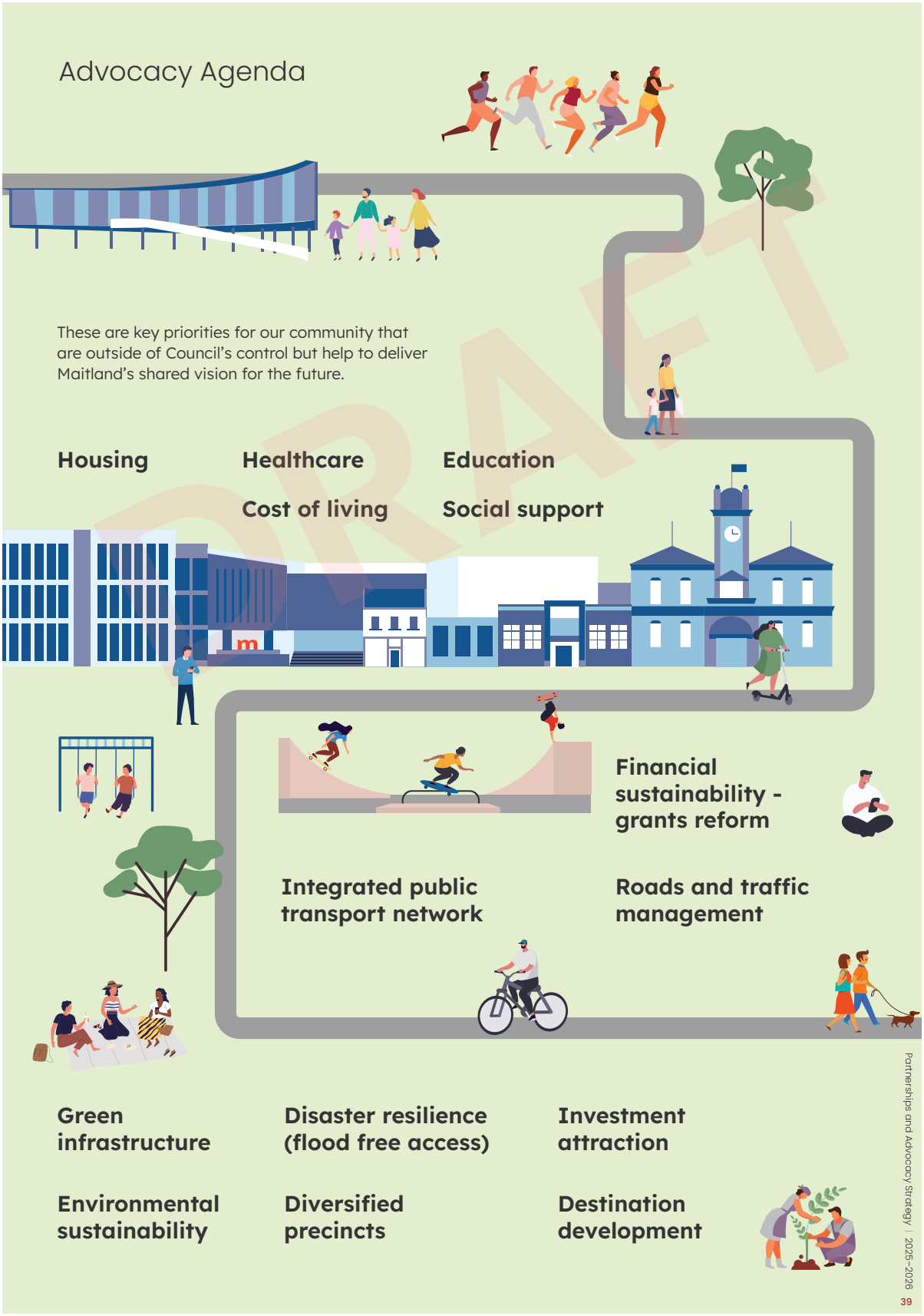
EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)



maitland CITY COUNCIL

Our plan

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Our action plan – how will we get there?

PLAN, DELIVER, IMPROVE	TOP 10 - ACTIONS FOR 2025-26	RESPONSIBILITY	MAITLAND'S FUTURE ALIGNMENT	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4
PLAN	Align Council's strategic priorities to appropriate regional, state and federal government priorities.	People and Performance	Achieve together				
PLAN	Progress partnership priority projects to ensure they are 'grant ready' to apply for grant opportunities as they arise.	City Services	Achieve together				
PLAN	Identify potential funding opportunities for identified key infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects to provide prioritised new infrastructure, programs or events for the city.	People and Performance/ City Services	Achieve together				
DELIVER	Advocate on behalf of Maitland through regular meetings with identified partners (local, regional, state and federal levels).	Executive Leadership Team	Achieve together				
DELIVER	Proactive media on key priorities for Council throughout the year based on a communications and engagement plan and regular conversations with Maitland's Mayor.	People and Performance	Achieve together				
DELIVER	Report as part of Council's quarterly performance report and annual report on partnership and advocacy actions throughout the year.	People and Performance	Achieve together				
IMPROVE	Empower and build staff capacity across the organisation in grant application and management.	People and Performance	Achieve together				
IMPROVE	Continue to grow and develop the Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy.	People and Performance	Achieve together				
IMPROVE	Review key priorities annually in line with Integrated Planning and Reporting timelines.	Executive Leadership Team	Achieve together				
PLAN	Develop and mature Council's partnership policy to ensure appropriate governance of existing and future partnerships.	Office of the General Manager	Achieve together				

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Our roles and responsibilities – who is going to do it?

ROLES	RESPONSIBILITIES
Mayor	• Is the principal spokesperson and representative for Council • Identifies key priority projects for the term • Attends regular meetings with state and federal members • Attends regular meetings with the Hunter Joint Organisation and other local Councils to advocate on behalf of Maitland • Proactively and reactively advocates to the media on key projects and priorities for Maitland
Councillors	• Maintain networks with community partners, organisations, industry groups and key contacts • Identifies key priority projects for the term • As elected officials advocate for key priorities • Attend relevant conferences and events to advocate on behalf of Maitland, for example the Australian Local Government Association conference
General Manager	• Is the principal spokesperson and representative for the organisation • Identifies key priority projects for the term • Attends regular meetings with state and federal members • Attends regular meetings with the Hunter Joint Organisation and other local Councils to advocate on behalf of Maitland • Proactively and reactively advocates to the media on key projects and priorities for Maitland
Executive Team	• Identifies key priority projects for the term • Advocates for Maitland's key priorities with community partners, organisations, industry groups and key contacts • Maintains memberships to networks and private industry • Attend conferences, relevant industry meetings and professional networks • Seek key speaking opportunities to advocate for Maitland's priorities • Present at key stakeholder meetings • Proactively and reactively advocates to the media on key projects and priorities for Maitland
Council staff	• Maintaining partnerships, networks and professional memberships with community partners and relevant industries • Attend conferences, relevant meetings, professional networks • Seek key speaking opportunities to advocate for Maitland's priorities • Create consistent messaging for key projects • Develop collateral for key projects • Develop business cases and progress relevant planning and project material for key projects to ensure they are ready for funding and delivery • Identify and apply for grant funding opportunities for the identified key priority projects.

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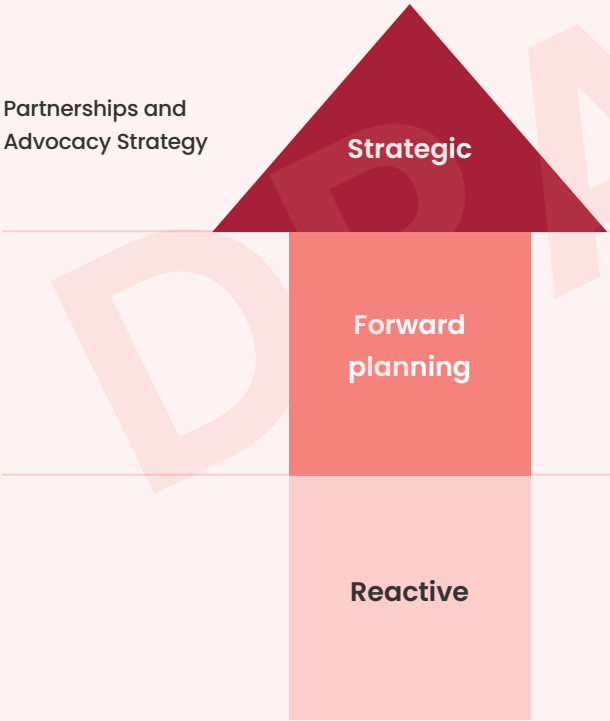
Our alignment to grant opportunities

Working together with key partners is vital to deliver on our key infrastructure and community requirements to move towards our shared vision for Maitland's Future. As an organisation we will continue to identify and apply for grants and funding opportunities to progress these priority projects.



Strategic (new) - major

Larger unfunded key priorities for Council and our community over the term of Council and outlined in this strategy document. This list is reviewed annually in line with our Integrated Planning and Reporting processes.

Forward planning (new) - moderate

Smaller infrastructure projects identified in:

- Delivery program
- Forward capital works planning

Reactive (business as usual) - minor

Identified in:

- Operational Plan
- Capital Works Program

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Measuring success

How do we know we are there?

Status key

✓ Complete ▲ Improvement

Performance measures and success

INDICATOR	BASELINE DATA	ROLE (DELIVERY/ PARTNER /ADVOCATE)	TARGET	TREND DIRECTION	REVIEW SCHEDULE
Number of submitted grant applications	37 submitted (2023-2024)	Delivery	38	▲	Annual survey
Number of successful grant applications	33 successful (2023-2024)	Delivery	34	▲	Quarterly reporting schedule
Amount of grant Funding received	$27,000,000 (2023-2024)	Delivery	$28,000,000	▲	Quarterly reporting schedule
Maitland Council social media posts on key priority projects	N/A	Advocate	Baseline to be developed	▲	Quarterly reporting schedule
Media articles and media mentions for key priority projects	N/A	Advocate	Baseline to be developed	▲	Quarterly reporting schedule
Community satisfaction survey (biennial) quality of life question	N/A	Advocate	Baseline to be developed	▲	Biannual survey
Completed reporting on our achievements against the action plan in Cascade	N/A	Delivery, partner	Reporting completed	✓	Quarterly reporting schedule
Completed annual reporting against each of the key priorities/ projects	N/A	Delivery, partner	Reporting completed	▲	Annual report

Review Strategy documentation

REVIEW TIMEFRAME	ACTIVITIES	OUTCOME
Annual review **Report to:** ELT, GRIP, PREP, ARIC, Councillors	Annual report against action achievements against the action plan in Cascade. Annual report against each of the key priorities/ projects prepared. Review of the strategy and included priorities annually to align with the development of the Delivery Plan and Operational Plan.	Ability to adjust the strategy as a result of any outcomes or completed initiatives. Celebrate achievements or positive outcomes.
Quarterly monitoring **Report to:** ELT, GRIP, PREP, ARIC, Councillors	Reporting on our achievements against the action plan in Cascade.	Enable proactive intervention, adjust and intervene with proactive media opportunities. Advocacy meetings held.
Four-year comprehensive review **Report to:** ELT, Councillors, community	Review the Strategy and align with strategic priorities, the development of the new Community Strategic Plan and future service needs of the community for the incoming Council.	Alignment to new Community Strategic Plan priorities.

EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

Appendix

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Glossary

ADVOCACY The act of speaking or arguing in favour of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy. In the context of the strategic priorities, it refers to another sphere of government or organisation delivering a service or outcome for the city.

AEP: Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) is a term which expresses the likelihood of a flood of a given size or larger occurring in a given year. AEP is expressed as a percentage (%).

ARIC: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee.

BIODIVERSITY: The variety of all living things including plants, animals and microorganisms, their genes and the ecosystems which they are a part

CIRCULAR ECONOMY: A model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products as long as possible.

MCC: Maitland City Council.

COMMUNITY: A community is a diverse and dynamic network encompassing residents, businesses, sporting groups, cultural organisations, and other stakeholders who live, work, and engage in shared activities within Maitland.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: The process of involving the community in decision-making, planning, and feedback to ensure that the services provided align with their needs and expectations.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES: The needs and goals identified by the community that guide decision making and service delivery. These include infrastructure, services, and other resources that support the quality of life for residents.

DELIVER: To successfully provide or complete a task, service, or outcome according to set expectations, timelines, and standards.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION (DA): A merit-based assessment conducted directly through MCC.

ELT: Executive Leadership Team

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: The ability for Maitland City Council to generate sufficient revenue to meet its ongoing obligations and investments without relying on unsustainable borrowing or depleting reserves.

FOCUS AREAS: Core focus areas that support and guide the achievement of our vision.

GRIP: Governance Risk Internal Panel.

IPR: Integrated Planning and Reporting.

INTEGRATED PLANNING: The coordination of different planning areas, such as workforce, asset, and financial planning, to make certain that resources are allocated effectively to meet community needs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA (LGA): Maitland LGA covers an area of 392sqkm.

MAITLAND'S FUTURE: This is our integrated Community Strategic Plan which provides clear strategic direction for the long term, and identifies the main priorities, aspirations and shared vision of the community.

MINDARIBBA: The traditional name of the Maitland area, acknowledging the cultural and historical significance of the land to the Wonnarua people, the Traditional Custodians.

OBJECTIVE: A specific and measurable outcome that supports the achievement of a priority, providing clear direction for actions and initiatives. PARTNERING A structured approach to working together with other parties to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome.

PREP: Project Request Evaluation Panel

PRIORITY: A key area of focus within a focus area that defines what needs to be addressed to drive progress and deliver meaningful outcome.

RAPID GROWTH: The fast increase in population, infrastructure demands, and service requirements that challenges Maitland City Council to scale and deliver effectively.

RISK MANAGEMENT: A discipline for developing appropriate procedures to reduce the possibility of adverse effects from future events.

SES: State Emergency Services

TfNSW: Transport for New South Wales

WE/OUR/US: Refers collectively to the community of Maitland and Maitland City Council.

Maitland: Local Government Area (LGA)
Maitland City Council (MCC): Organisation
Council: Elected body

Strategic alignment - document links

Maitland's Future	Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+	Maitland's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030	Maitland Social Profile
Maitland's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2026	Maitland Local Housing Strategy 2041	Maitland Rural Land Strategy 2041	Waste Services Management Plan
Maitland Destination Management Plan 2030	Draft Maitland Economic Development Strategy (in development)	Draft Maitland Community Infrastructure Strategy (in development)	Draft Maitland Social Strategy (in development)
Thornton North Master Plan 2003	Thornton North Section 94 Contributions Plan 2008	Walka Water Works Plan of Management	Walka Water Work Master Plan (in development)
Hunter Regional Plan 2041	Draft Hunter Regional Transport Plan 2041	Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036	Crown Land Strategic Plan 2031
Cricket NSW Infrastructure Strategy – Greater Hunter	Office of Sport Strategic Plan	Hunter Regional Economic Development Strategy	Destination Sydney and Surrounds North Destination Management Plan
NSW Visitor Economy Strategy	LG NSW Advocacy Principles	Hunter JO Advocacy Strategy	

Types of partnerships and how they are managed

A partnership is a joint initiative coordinating a strategic approach to achieve a common vision, goal, or outcome.

Partnerships and collaboration bring a variety of benefits to Council and can enhance our ability to deliver projects and services for our community.

Our partnerships need to align to Council's vision and guiding principles.

Council has a responsibility to fulfil its statutory obligations under the Local Government Act 1993 and to manage its resources effectively and efficiently; this includes its management of partnerships. To do this, Council will ensure partnerships promote accountability using the most appropriate formal or informal mechanism. The table below outlines the tools available to Council.

TYPE	EXPLANATION	MECHANISM OF PARTNERSHIP
Local networks	Networks are established informal relationships and can involve a range of contacts between members of organisations. They provide a means to gather and disseminate information not commonly shared through more formal means.	Informal - can be managed via an agreed terms of reference/ meeting agendas
Committees	Local committees between Council and the community. This structure is governed by the Committees Structure and Terms of Reference for special purpose and strategic committees.	Office of the General Manager Terms of reference for special purpose and strategic committees
Reference panels	Reference panels are developed as needed on a project basis and are governed by the Communications and Engagement Policy and Strategy.	Communications and Engagement team
Strategic partnership	A strategic alliance is an ongoing partnership with no or limited, defined parameters and no fixed conclusion date. Strategic alliances are formed when it becomes evident to partners that they could benefit from sharing information or supporting each other to deliver shared objectives. A strategic alliance is typically recognised through a letter of intent co-signed by each partner. The mechanism for this type of partnership is a Memorandum of Understanding.	Memorandum of understanding
Formal partnership agreement	A formal partnership agreement is a clearly defined partnership with a definitive end date. Formal partnership agreements are signed agreements such as a contract or a memorandum of understanding. Such a document can cover multiple projects or activities, if it is appropriate to do so.	Formal partnership agreement such as a memorandum of understanding
Funding arrangements	Funding arrangements are grant-funded or financially sponsored projects or activities and include a formal agreement. Equally shared resources and decision-making do not characterise these arrangements. The budget is provided by one party, although on occasions it may be provided on the condition that the other party contribute funding.	Funding agreements - contracts
Sponsorships	Council provides a number of sponsorship opportunities to our community to help deliver local projects, priorities and events. These are governed by ... and are managed via formal funding agreements.	Funding agreements – contracts managed by MCC Community Planning team
Public-private partnerships	Not addressed.	Legal contract

Partner Maitland Heart of the Hunter

maitland
CITY COUNCIL

02 4931 2816 | gm@maitland.nsw.gov.au | mait.city/investMaitland

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Our priorities

Map of key priority infrastructure partnership projects

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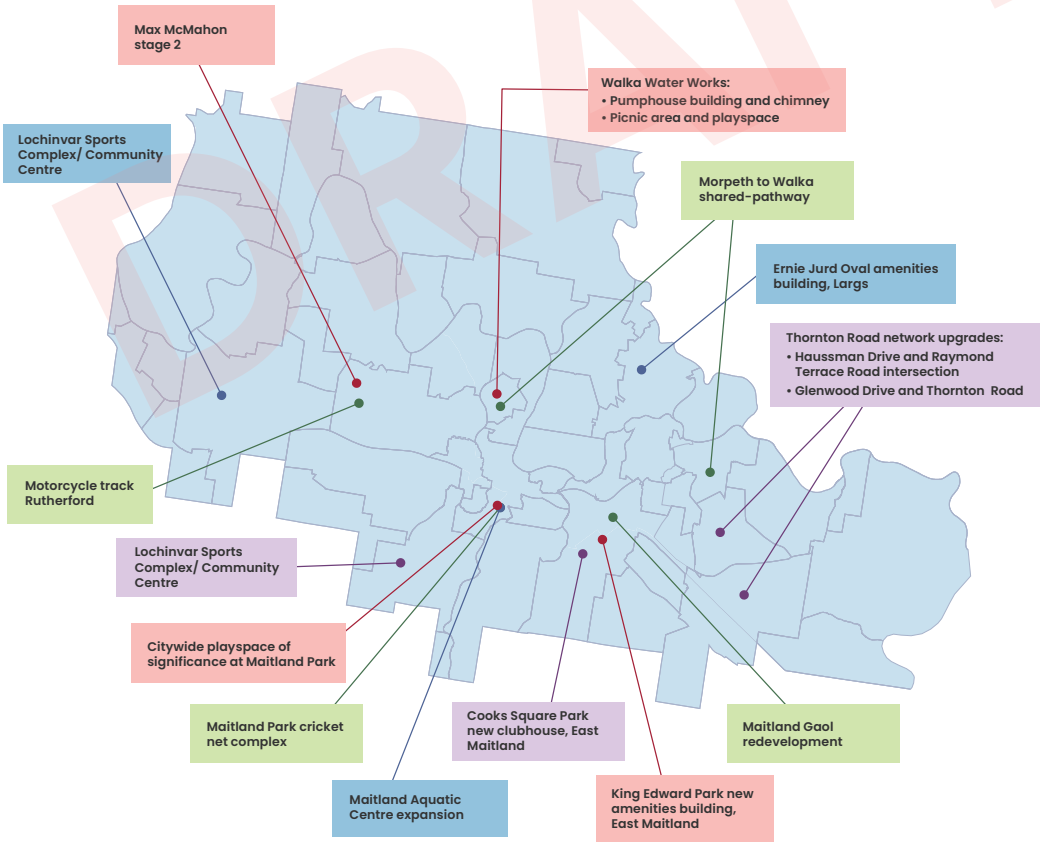

Partnership projects – top priority infrastructure projects

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CITYWIDE PLAYSPACE OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Maitland Park

The site: Maitland Park is a significant greenspace in the heart of Maitland, and a regional recreation destination supporting organised events, leisure, and play.

The challenge: Our city is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent. Maitland's continued high population growth rates will continue to influence strategic and recreational planning to ensure adequate mix of housing and community infrastructure for the expected increase in population. We aim to ensure that Maitland grows in a sustainable way – socially, economically and environmentally. As the population grows, it needs to be supported by adequate infrastructure, services and amenities. If not, this growth can lead to pressure on existing infrastructure and services.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Maitland Park citywide playspace of significance	
Project details	The project is to redevelop the existing playspace, increasing its size from 0.2ha to 0.6ha to create an inclusive and accessible playspace of significance for our growing community. The inclusive concept design seeks to provide a range of play experiences for different ages, as well as being challenging, accessible, intergenerational, creative, robust, while minimising impact on the natural environment. Community consultation has been undertaken on the concept design with plans to triple the size of the current Maitland Park playspace. The community engagement highlighted the community was supportive of the design with the inclusion of water play, a focus on shade, disability inclusion and additional parking. The concept design retains all existing canopy trees that are fundamental to the existing significant character of Maitland Park.
Project stage	Concept design and community consultation complete. Due diligence reports underway. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	To provide a playspace of significance for our growing city. Redevelopment of the existing playspace, increasing its size from 0.2ha to 0.6ha.
Community engagement	The 2025 Maitland Park Playspace Expansion Project received a 70 per cent community approval rating on the proposed concept design for an expanded play space. Recent engagement results reflect a growing community sentiment for the need for an expanded play space in Maitland and to be similar quality to other major play ground facilities that families travel outside the LGA to access. Source: yoursay.maitland.nsw.gov.au/maitland-park-playground-concept-design
Community benefits	This project provides a citywide playspace, a large inclusive/all abilities playspace, diverse play equipment servicing the families of Maitland. It allows for intergenerational play opportunities and improves outdated asset (addressing potential safety risks). The principles intrinsic to the playspace concept design are inclusive, accessible, intergenerational, sustainable and include cultural and environmental theming.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – creating a Liveable Maitland by providing inclusive public spaces and places • Maitland Park Master Plan • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Disability Inclusion Action Plan • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030

STATE SEAT: Maitland	**FEDERAL SEAT:** Paterson	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:** $15,000,000	**COUNCIL FUNDS:** $5,000,000	**GRANT REQUIRED:** $10,000,000

DRAFT

ROADS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:
Thornton North Road Infrastructure

The site: Thornton North (Chisholm), is a key growth area and the fastest growing area within Maitland's eastern sector.

The challenge: A funding cap imposed on the Thornton North Section 94 Contributions Plan in 2011, limited the amount that could be levied per new lot. This significantly reduced the funds collected from developers leading to a major funding shortfall which has hampered ongoing development of land in area and has caused delays in the construction of key infrastructure including vital road upgrades. Further funding is critical to address these issues.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Haussman Drive and Raymond Terrace Road Intersection, Thornton	
Project details	This project will see traffic control signals at Haussman Drive and Raymond Terrace Road Intersection, Thornton with lane duplication of Raymond Terrace Road between Settlers Boulevard and Harvest Boulevard. (TN36, 37 and 45).
Project stage	Ready for construction **INITIATE** **DESIGN** DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	The Haussman Drive intersection is considered a critical link for traffic passing through the area, connecting to the existing facilities including Thornton Primary School and the shopping complex as well as the regionally significant employment precincts of Thornton and Beresfield. The project would facilitate housing growth and road safety for over 10,000 vehicles and road users on a daily basis. This site is identified as providing significant employment and economic opportunities to support the rapid population growth. Immediately to the west the road infrastructure upgrades will support the development of the regionally significant Brickworks Employment Precinct.
Community engagement	There is a long history of community and political lobbying to improve this intersection. In ten years to June 2018, there were eight recorded crashes at or in the close vicinity of the intersection. (parliament.nsw.gov.au) A community petition in 2018 was undertaken for funding for the intersection upgrade. 48 per cent of all Maitland residents in 2024 are not satisfied with maintenance of local roads (CSS 2024) In 2019, Council received 151 comments related to intersection upgrades in Thornton, specifically Government Road, Haussmann Drive and Raymond Terrace Road.
Community benefits	Improved safety between state and arterial road corridors, reduced accidents, reduced congestion, reduced wait times. These important transport linkages, allow access to unlock future housing and economic land.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future - Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring safe and efficient road networks • Thornton North Master Plan 2003 and Thornton North Section 94 Contributions Plan 2008 • Maitland Local Housing Strategy 2041 • Maitland's Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+ • Hunter Regional Plan 2041 • Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 • The Draft Hunter Regional Transport Plan.

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$36,700,000	$10,000,000	$26,700,000

THORNTON	**CHISHOLM**
• **10,690** people	• **4,577** people
• Most households have **two** motor vehicles	• Most households have **two** motor vehicles
• **64 per cent** use cars as preferred transport method	• **60 per cent** use cars as preferred transport method
• **0.8 per cent** of working population walk or ride a bike	• **0.5 per cent** of working population walk or ride a bike
• **1.1 per cent** use public transport to travel to work	• **0.6 per cent** use public transport to travel to work
• **56 per cent** of people have a long-term health condition	• **40 per cent** of people have a long-term health condition

ROADS AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT:
Thornton North road infrastructure

The site: Thornton North (Chisholm) area, is a key growth area within Maitland's eastern sector.

The challenge: Further funding is critical for the delivery of this project. A funding cap imposed on the Thornton North Section 94 Contributions Plan in 2011, limited the amount that could be levied per new lot. The cap significantly reduced the funds that could be collected from developers leading to a major shortfall. The funding shortfall has hampered the ongoing development of land in area and caused delays in the construction of key infrastructure including vital road upgrades.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Glenwood Drive and Thornton Road, Thornton	
Project details	This project outlines the next stages of works required for the Thornton North Road Infrastructure upgrade which comprises of: • Thornton Road and Glenwood Drive, lane duplications - preliminary works including detailed design, land acquisition and service relocations (TN41, 52 and 53) • Glenwood Drive and Thornton Road intersection - traffic control signals including lane duplication of Glenwood Drive from Thornton Road to Weakleys Drive (TN53) • Thornton Road lane duplication including Huntingdale Drive intersection - traffic control signals and lane duplication of Thornton Road from rail bridge to Glenwood Drive (TN41 and 52) • Glenwood Drive and Weakleys Drive intersection - traffic control signals to replace roundabout intersection control.
Project stage	Design underway **INITIATE** **DESIGN** DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	These works will support the provision of essential infrastructure and allow for further development to be realised within the rapid growth area. The works will improve access for the residents of Thornton and Chisholm to the New England Highway. Commuter traffic from these two areas has increased significantly in the last 10 years and congestion is experienced most weekdays.
Community engagement	Long history of community and political lobbying to improve road congestion in the area.
Community benefits	Improved safety, reduced accidents, reduced congestion, reduced wait times. Important transport linkages between state and arterial road corridors.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future - Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring safe and efficient road networks • Thornton North Master Plan 2003 and Thornton North Section 94 Contributions Plan 2008 • Maitland Local Housing Strategy 2041 • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement • Hunter Regional Plan 2041 • Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 • The Draft Hunter Regional Transport Plan

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$87,100,000	$12,500,000	$75,600,000

THORNTON	**CHISHOLM**
• **10,690** people	• **4,577** people
• Most households have **two** motor vehicles	• Most households have **two** motor vehicles
• **64 per cent** use cars as preferred transport method	• **60 per cent** use cars as preferred transport method
• **0.8 per cent** of working population walk or ride a bike	• **0.5 per cent** of working population walk or ride a bike
• **1.1 per cent** use public transport preferred to travel to work	• **0.6 per cent** use public transport to travel to work
• **56 per cent** of people have a long-term health condition	• **40 per cent** of people have a long-term health condition

DRAFT

WALKA WATER WORKS REDEVELOPMENT:
Pumphouse and chimney

The site: Walka Water Works is a much-loved site for the Maitland community, a heritage-listed complex set on 64 hectares of reserve. The former industrial site, owned by Crown Lands, has been managed by Maitland City Council since 2007. The complex features its pumphouse with a striking chimney and ornate brickwork and is one of the largest and most intact 19th Century industrial complexes in the Hunter Valley. The Pumphouse building was added to the NSW State Heritage Register in 1999 and has National Engineering Significance putting it alongside the likes of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The challenge: The historic pumphouse remains closed for public safety. Heritage restoration is required for the 1887 Pumphouse building as well as improvements to the Eastern Annex for it to be able to reopen for weddings and functions. Conservation works are necessary to the Pumphouse Building and chimney, to bring the external areas back to original condition maintaining historic elements for future generations. Stabilisation of the chimney structure is required to preserve the aesthetics of the site.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Walka Water Works: Pumphouse building revitalisation and chimney intervention	
Project details	This project will remediate the Pumphouse and chimney making it safe for community use, thereby protecting this valuable example of State significant heritage. The project will create additional employment opportunities for local business both existing and new through the first stage of reopening the building as a function and wedding venue.
Project stage	The project is currently in pre-planning with the delivery of the draft Plan of Management and a Master Plan being developed for the site. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	• Heritage restoration of the significant 1887 Pumphouse building • Preservation of the historical aesthetics of the site • Stabilisation of the chimney structure to make the site safe for community use • Improvements to the Eastern Annex to reopen for weddings and functions
Community engagement	In 2024, a survey of over 500 respondents indicated a strong desire for historical engagement at Walka Water Works, and a resorted pumphouse was the number one improvement area identified, with 76 per cent of all respondents supporting this.
Community benefits	***The vision:*** *Walka Water Works is the heart of healthy Maitland – a revitalised open space and community destination promoting wellness and connection to history and nature, attracting both locals and visitors.* A protected State significant heritage building maintained for future generations, additional employment opportunities created, the function and wedding venue reopened. .
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future - Creating a Vibrant Maitland by ensuring a diverse local economy through investment attraction and vibrant community life • Walka Water Works Plan of Management and Master Plan • Maitland Destination Management Plan 2030 • Draft Maitland Economic Development Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Crown Land Strategic Plan 2031 • Hunter Regional Economic Development Strategy • NSW Visitor Economy Strategy • Destination Sydney and Surrounds North Destination Management Plan • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$10,000,000	$2,000,000	$8,000,000

DRAFT

WALKA WATER WORKS REDEVELOPMENT:
Picnic area and playspace

The site: Walka Water Works is a unique 64ha parcel of land, including a lake and heritage buildings, in government ownership. A valuable community asset and visitor attraction. The nature reserve offers extensive lawn and picnic areas that border the lake and surrounding bushland with its native fauna and flora. The large lake area with over 140 species of birdlife and approximately 12km of trails for walkers and cyclists surround the lake. The site is steeped in history, making it a special place in the Lower Hunter.

The challenge: Council was appointed the Reserve Trust Manager in August 2007. In 2022, asbestos contamination was discovered in areas between the pumphouse and reservoir, leading to the site's complete closure in February 2022. While the site was partially reopened in December 2022, several areas remain closed for public safety reasons, alongside the historic pumphouse. Remediation works are needed to remove the asbestos and will require the removal of existing assets.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Walka Water Works redevelopment: Picnic area and playspace (post remediation).	
Project details	This is a project to revitalise the picnic area and playspace at Walka Water Works to renew the community recreation space on the site. Following the remediation of the contaminated areas (assumed to have been completed as a precursor to these works). This project will reinstate community use facilities such as shade structures, barbecues, seating, tables and basic play facilities to improve usage following the extended closure.
Project stage	The project is currently in pre-planning with the delivery of the draft Plan of Management and a Master Plan being developed for the site. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	This investment will have long lasting accumulative positive impacts on the community, being a place that they can be proud of, connect through and use as a vehicle towards a healthy lifestyle. Improved site attendance following the extended closure on the site and the return of community organised events, Replacement of the aged infrastructure at the site will see enhancements to existing infrastructure and nature-based opportunities.
Community engagement	73 per cent and 57 per cent of those surveyed in 2024 from a sample size of over 500 indicated a desire to improve picnic areas and play areas respectively at Walka Water Works.
Community benefits	***The vision:*** *Walka Water Works is The Heart of Healthy Maitland – a revitalised open space and community destination promoting wellness and connection to history and nature, attracting both locals and visitors.* While Maitland is rich in many things, like community spirit, pride and river frontage, unlike our surrounding regional neighbours, we do not possess the abundance open natural spaces like parks, beaches and lakes, with our residents driving outside of area to access these. This makes Maitland, and the Walka Water Works asset specifically, poised as a prime opportunity for investment to make long-term positive impacts to a large number of people. A revitalised recreation space, the largest public green space available in Maitland.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future - Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring great neighbourhoods and quality open space networks • Walka Water Works Plan of Management and Master Plan • Maitland Destination Management Plan 2030 • Draft Maitland Economic Development Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Crown Land Strategic Plan 2031 • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$2,500,000	$1,000,000	$1,500,000

DRAFT

AQUATICS:
Maitland Aquatics Centre expansion

The site: Maitland Aquatics Centre plays an important role in the leisure and recreation services offering to the Maitland community.

The challenge: Our city is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent. Maitland's continued high population growth rates will continue to influence strategic and recreational planning to ensure adequate mix of housing and community infrastructure for the expected increase including families with young children.

Rapid population growth for Maitland is expected to continue, with Maitland forecast to grow from 93,497 in 2021 to at least 144,550 by 2041 representing a forecast population growth of 61 per cent over the next 20 years. We aim to ensure that Maitland grows in a sustainable way – socially, economically and environmentally. As the population grows, it needs to be supported by adequate infrastructure, services and amenities. If not, this growth can lead to pressure on existing infrastructure and services.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Maitland Aquatic Centre expansion	
Project details	Upgrades to Maitland Aquatic Centre to become a contemporary citywide aquatic centre. The project includes redeveloped changerooms and amenities, a health and fitness centre, warm water program pool and spa, an upgraded entrance, foyer and cafe providing improved connection to Maitland Park and a redeveloped toddler pool and adventure water zone.
Project stage	The project is at the strategic concept phase to understand the aquatic needs of the whole city. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	• Maitland is growing and will continue to grow, and as such there is a need to balance the facilities available with current and future demands of our population growth • Appropriate infrastructure for the expected increase in families with young children • Given the central location within Council's citywide parkland, Maitland Aquatic Centre is well placed to be further developed as Council's citywide aquatic facility • Geographically, no open natural spaces for swimming – with our residents driving outside of area to access these.
Community engagement	In the 2023 'Aquatic Strategy' engagement which heard from over 1700 respondents, over half of all respondents (58 per cent) indicated they visited aquatic facilities outside of Maitland due to aquatic facilities in Maitland not meeting user needs. In the same engagement, the expansion of Maitland Pool was the fourth priority cited for area for investment. 95 per cent of residents in Maitland LGA refer to swimming pools as an indicator of satisfaction. (CSS 2024)
Community benefits	• Central location within the local government area with good public transport connections. • Population catchment of over 86,326 residents, which is forecast to grow over the next 20 years. • Synergies with other sport and recreation facilities of Maitland Park.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring a welcoming community with inclusive public places and spaces • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Draft Maitland Aquatics Plan • Hunter Regional Plan 2041 • Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 • Maitland Park Master Plan • Disability Inclusion Action Plan

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$60,000,000	$20,000,000	$40,000,000

DRAFT

ACTIVE TRANSPORT:
Morpeth to Walka shared pathway

The site: A shared pathway connection between Maitland's tourism destinations Morpeth, The Levee and Walka Water Works.

The challenge: Funding is required for the construction of new dedicated active transport infrastructure to create a safe network along priority routes between Maitland's main tourism destinations. The cycleway network needs to be expanded beyond Maitland, with a focus on safe, direct routes connecting employment hubs and residential areas.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Morpeth to Walka shared pathway	
Project details	The creation of a pathway connection between Maitland's key tourism destination including Morpeth, The Levee and Walka Water Works, including completing connection from Morpeth Bridge to Queens Wharf.
Project stage	Project in planning stages. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	• Active transport opportunities for residents and visitors. • A connected footpath and cycleway network supports the health and wellbeing of our residents by providing opportunities to be physically active, • Access to local facilities to engage in shared activity and foster stronger community connections. • A pathway connection provides access between tourism destinations Morpeth / The Levee / Walka Water Works. • Facilitation of cycle tourism around the Hunter vineyards and connecting strategic cycle routes to the coast. This project also represents a connection to a relevant regional project, the Shiraz to Shore cycle trail.
Community engagement	• Engagement completed for the 2019 Maitland Destination Plan, linking of Morpeth with Walka Water Works and Central Maitland through a network of shared pathways with way finding and interpretative signage was a key opportunity identified from the 1,100 community suggestions. • A 2019 product gap analysis of Maitland's tourism product offering showed poor connectivity between anchor destination points.
Community benefits	• Investing in infrastructure that helps people get to school, work and local services safely without needing to jump in the car is vital for connecting our community, helping our community to thrive. • Health benefits for residents and the growing population. A complete footpath network also helps achieve social equity goals. The most physically and economically disadvantaged groups tend to rely more on walking including walking to public transport stops. People who cannot drive and must use public transport and need a footpath for mobility, are seriously disadvantaged. • Safe and accessible active transport options, like walking and cycling, help boost social connection, promote healthy choices and make our cities and regions more vibrant places to live.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring integrated movement through connected active transport • Disability Inclusion Action Plan • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 • Maitland Destination Management Plan 2030 • Hunter Joint Organisation - Advocacy priority – Shiraz to Shore Project • Draft Hunter Strategic Regional Integrated Transport • Queens Wharf Plan of Management and Master Plan

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$13,000,000	$3,000,000	$10,000,000

DRAFT

SPORTING FACILITIES:
Lochinvar sports/community centre

The site: A sporting complex and community centre for Lochinvar Town Centre (planned) - a new town centre to support the significant planned growth within the Lochinvar urban release area.

The challenge: Maitland is also home to fast growing, regionally significant strategic centres, which service the hinterland and rural areas which are significant contributors to the supply of greenfield housing for the Greater Newcastle area. Our city is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent.

Maitland's continued high population growth rates will continue to influence strategic and recreational planning to ensure adequate mix of housing and community infrastructure for the expected increase in population. As the population grows, it needs to be supported by adequate infrastructure, services and amenities.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Lochinvar Sports Complex/Community Centre	
Project details	The current sports fields are used for cricket, and football (soccer). Based on the development of a preferred concept plan the new sporting hub for the growing area could include a community centre, amenities building, two additional fields including irrigation, lighting and fencing, playspace, two netball courts, skate parks and a new carpark
Project stage	Concept plan options developed. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	Maitland's western precinct contains established communities including Rutherford and Telarah, existing urban release areas such as Aberglasslyn and future urban release areas at Lochinvar, Anambah and Farley. This precinct is home to around 23,000 residents and is expected to grow to over 40,700 residents, with an additional 17,700 residents between now and 2040. The proposed local centre at Lochinvar (together with Rutherford Town Centre), will be the future employment and residential lands in the western precinct will form a strong relationship with Maitland's rural areas, the Upper Hunter region and beyond.
Community engagement	• Major venues and facilities clubs audit in 2024. Community Infrastructure Strategy draft in development.
Community benefits	• Co-location of recreational and community facilities • Health and wellbeing improvements for current and future residents.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring a welcoming community with inclusive public places and spaces • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 • NSW Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2024-2028

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$10,000,000	$5,000,000	$5,000,000

LOCHINVAR

- 1,095 people
- 426 houses and 10 units
- Most households have two motor vehicles
- 1.9 per cent of working population walk or ride a bike
- 61 per cent use cars as preferred transport method
- No residents use public transport as their preferred transport method to travel to work
- The most common long-term health conditions in Lochinvar are mental health condition (including depression or anxiety), arthritis, asthma, any other long-term health condition(s), and diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)
- 52 per cent of people have a long-term health condition
- Lochinvar is identified as a greenfield residential area – priority housing release area to accommodate future growing population.

SPORTING FACILITIES:
Cooks Square Park – new clubhouse

The site: Cooks Square Park located in East Maitland has been home to Maitland Football Club (FC) since 1968. It is one of only two city-wide football facilities within Maitland's eastern precinct.

The challenge: The club has recently experienced strong growth, increasing from three teams (2014) to 23 teams (2021). Without funding, delivery of enhanced facilities will be significantly delayed.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Cooks Square Park – New clubhouse	
Project details	This project includes the delivery of a new regional level clubhouse located on the western side of main field one, including grandstand seating, large function areas and commercial kitchen, four gender inclusive changerooms and associated amenities, storage spaces and toilets.
Project stage	Project in planning stages. Concept plan options are in development. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	• East Maitland was identified as a catalyst area in the Hunter Regional Plan 2041, and will attract an additional 25,000 people by 2041. • The club has recently experienced significant growth, increasing from three teams to 23 teams • The club has over 300 elite registered players, and a rapid increase in female membership • Facility is one of only two citywide football facilities within the eastern precinct of Maitland • Maitland's sportsgrounds are at carrying capacity, overuse causes high cases of ground damage and general wear and tear, which leads to increased maintenance cost and downtime
Community engagement	Football (soccer) is the most commonly played sport in New South Wales, and girls football in particular is currently experiencing record community participation rates.
Community benefits	• This project represents recreational and sporting opportunities, general health and wellbeing improvements for current and future residents. Contemporary facilities, gender inclusive upgrades and regional level facilities appealing to larger sporting events. • East Maitland is a diverse, young suburb with a high proportion of families with children, this project encourages healthy lifestyles and a liveable Maitland.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring a welcoming community with inclusive public places and spaces • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 • Hunter Regional Plan 2041 • NSW Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2024-2028

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$7,000,000	$2,000,000	$5,000,000

EAST MAITLAND

- 11,860 people
- 3,955 houses and 1,435 units
- Most households have one motor vehicle
- 1.5 per cent of working population walk or ride a bike
- 60 per cent use cars as preferred transport method
- 1.2 per cent use public transport preferred transport method to travel to work
- 67 per cent of people have a long-term health condition
- The most common long-term health conditions in East Maitland are mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety), arthritis, asthma, any other long-term health condition(s), and diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes).
- As with any growing centre, the accelerated delivery of new or upgraded community infrastructure is needed to support a changing population and meet demand for services.

DRAFT

SPORTING FACILITIES:
Motorcycle Track Rutherford

The site: Rutherford Motorcycle Track. The Rutherford Town Centre, together with the proposed local centre at Lochinvar, and the future employment and residential lands in the western precinct will form a strong relationship with Maitland's rural areas, the Upper Hunter region and beyond.

The challenge: The illegal use of community bushland for motorcycles within the LGA needs to be addressed and people should be encouraged to learn to ride in a safe and more responsible way. Maitland's continued high population growth rates will continue to influence strategic and recreational planning to ensure adequate mix of housing and community infrastructure for the expected increase in population. We aim to ensure that Maitland grows in a sustainable way – socially, economically and environmentally. As the population grows, it needs to be supported by adequate infrastructure, services and amenities. If not, this growth can lead to pressure on existing infrastructure and services. Our city is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Motorcycle Track Rutherford	
Project details	A competitive and recreational motocross riding facility within the Hunter Valley, where members and community can ride in a safe and controlled environment.
Project stage	Project in planning stages. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	Maitland's western precinct contains established communities including Rutherford and Telarah, existing urban release areas such as Aberglasslyn and future urban release areas at Lochinvar, Anambah and Farley. This precinct is home to around 23,000 residents and is expected to grow to over 40,700 residents, with an additional 17,700 residents between now and 2040.
Community engagement	A major venues and facilities clubs audit was conducted in 2024. The Community Infrastructure Strategy draft is currently in development.
Community benefits	• This project represents recreational and sporting opportunities for current and future residents, • The Maitland District Motorcycle Club, Rutherford has approximately 500 club members, both male and female, aged from four to over 50 years old. Their aim is to provide a family orientated motocross riding facility within the Hunter Valley, where members can ride in a safe and controlled environment. • Prevent the illegal use of community bushland within the LGA and encourage people to learn to ride in a safe and more responsible way.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring a welcoming community with inclusive public places and spaces • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 • NSW Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2024-2028

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$3,000,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000

RUTHERFORD

- 13,091 people
- 4,536 houses and 702 units
- Most households have one motor vehicles
- 1.5 per cent of working population walk or ride a bike
- 68 per cent use cars as preferred transport method
- 1.4 per cent use public transport preferred transport method to travel to work
- 72 per cent of people have a long-term health condition
- The most common long term health conditions in Rutherford are Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety), Asthma, Arthritis, other long term health condition(s), and Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)
- Rutherford Town Centre has potential to be vibrant, providing retail, community, recreational and other land uses to support forecast residential growth over the next 20 years.

DRAFT

SPORTING FACILITIES:
Maitland Park Cricket Net Complex

The site: Maitland Park is a significant greenspace in the heart of Maitland, and a regional recreation destination supporting organised events, leisure, and play.

The challenge: Our city is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent.

As our population grows, there will be increased demand on existing facilities and services and, additional infrastructure will be required to meet the needs of our community and to enhance the liveability of our city. If not, this growth can lead to pressure on existing infrastructure and services.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Maitland Park Cricket Net Complex	
Project details	This project is to design and construct fully enclosed eight-lane cricket net complex at Maitland Park.
Project stage	Project in planning stages. Is within the Maitland Park Masterplan. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	Council provides a range of community facilities and services across the city including sporting fields, aquatic centres, parks and libraries to meet our community needs. This project is to cater to the area's growing population and Maitland's increasing demand for outdoor sporting facilities. Our community infrastructure provides space and opportunity for our community to come together to share, learn and celebrate. Access to good quality and adequate community infrastructure is key to the health and wellbeing of our residents.
Community engagement	Feedback on the Maitland Park Master Plan and a major venues and facilities clubs audit that was conducted in 2024. The Community Infrastructure Strategy draft is currently in development.
Community benefits	• A cricket hub within Maitland Park, training facility for Maitland Park clubs and surrounding clubs. • An enclosed facility will reduce current conflict between existing nets and other sporting codes and all of community. • This project represents recreational and sporting opportunities, general health and wellbeing improvements for current and future residents. • Our community want to see existing sporting and community facilities upgraded, and for more opportunities to be active and healthy.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring a welcoming community with inclusive public places and spaces. • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 • NSW Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2024-2028 • Cricket NSW Strategic Plan • Cricket NSW Infrastructure Strategy – Greater Hunter • Maitland Park Master Plan

STATE SEAT: Maitland	**FEDERAL SEAT:** Paterson	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:** $8,000,000	**COUNCIL FUNDS:** $3,000,000	**GRANT REQUIRED:** $5,000,000

MAITLAND

- Maitland has higher rates of health risks than NSW in a number of categories – of every 100 adults (2017-18) Primary Health Network 2021:
- 17.9 smoked tobacco (NSW 14.4)
- 18.3 consumed alcohol at high risk (NSW 15.5)
- 44.7 were obese (NSW 30.9)
- 24.0 had high blood pressure (NSW 23.1)
- 48.4 ate adequate fruit (NSW 52.5)
- 69.4 undertook low or no exercise (NSW 65.3).

COMMUNITY AMENITIES:
King Edward Park (East Maitland)

The site: King Edward Park is located in East Maitland, a diverse, young suburb with a high proportion of families with children expected to attract an additional 25,000 people by 2041.

The challenge: Our city is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent. As our population grows, there will be increased demand on existing facilities and services and, additional infrastructure will be required to meet the needs of our community and to enhance the liveability of our city. If not, this growth can lead to pressure on existing infrastructure and services.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: King Edward Park - new amenities building, East Maitland	
Project details	The current sports fields are used for cricket and rugby league. This project is to design and construct a new amenities building. Including a function area and commercial kitchen, four gender inclusive changerooms, associated amenities, storage spaces and toilets.
Project stage	Project in planning stages. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	Currently the facilities and amenities are in a poor condition and do not meet the requirements or needs of its users. Our community infrastructure provides space and opportunity for our community to come together to share, learn and celebrate. Access to good quality and adequate community infrastructure is key to the health and wellbeing of our residents. East Maitland was identified as a catalyst area in the Hunter Regional Plan 2041, as it will attract an additional 25,000 people by 2041.
Community engagement	A major venues and facilities clubs audit was conducted in 2024. The Community Infrastructure Strategy draft is currently in development.
Community benefits	• This project represents recreational and sporting opportunities, general health and wellbeing improvements for current and future residents • A much-needed contemporary facility with gender inclusive upgrades • Our community want to see existing sporting and community facilities upgraded, and for more opportunities to be active and healthy
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring a welcoming community with inclusive public places and spaces • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 • Hunter Regional Plan 2041 • NSW Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2024-2028

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Paterson	$3,000,000	$1,500,000	$1,500,000

EAST MAITLAND

- 11,860 people
- 3,955 houses and 1,435 units
- Most households have one motor vehicle
- 1.5 per cent of working population walk or ride a bike
- 60 per cent use cars as preferred transport method
- 1.2 per cent use public transport preferred transport method to travel to work
- 67 per cent of people have a long-term health condition
- The most common long-term health conditions in East Maitland are mental health condition (including depression or anxiety), arthritis, asthma, any other long-term health condition(s), and diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)
- As with any growing centre, the accelerated delivery of new or upgraded community infrastructure, is needed to support a changing population and meet demand for services and facilities.

COMMUNITY AMENITIES:
Ernie Jurd Oval (Largs)

The site: Largs is a developing township adjacent to Bolwarra Heights, the historic town of Largs is located north of Morpeth.

The challenge: Our city is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent. As our population grows, there will be increased demand on existing facilities and services and, additional infrastructure will be required to meet the needs of our community and to enhance the liveability of our city. If not, this growth can lead to pressure on existing infrastructure and services.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Ernie Jurd Oval (Largs) amenities building	
Project details	The current sports fields are used for cricket and football (soccer). This project is to design and construct a new amenities building. Replacement and upgrade of existing amenities building based on standardised gender inclusive design. Modern sports facilities underpin local sporting clubs which are essential to encouraging healthy lifestyles for Maitland's residents. Access to quality community infrastructure makes our neighbourhoods better and our residents happier and healthier.
Project stage	Project in planning stages. Concept masterplan options developed, including a standardised amenities design appropriate for LGA wide application/upgrades. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	Currently the facilities and amenities are in a poor condition and do not meet the requirements or needs of its users. Our community infrastructure provides space and opportunity for our community to come together to share, learn and celebrate. Access to good quality and adequate community infrastructure is key to the health and wellbeing of our residents. Outdoor recreation encourages our community to gather, socialise and build relationships, creating a sense of belonging. Strong community clubs support the health and wellbeing of our residents by providing places to be physically active and to engage in shared activity and foster stronger community connection.
Community engagement	A major venues and facilities clubs audit was conducted in 2024. The Community Infrastructure Strategy draft is currently in development.
Community benefits	• This project represents recreational and sporting opportunities, general health and wellbeing improvements for current and future residents • A much-needed contemporary facility with gender inclusive upgrades • Facilities to cater for a population growth-area • Our community want to see existing sporting and community facilities upgraded, and for more opportunities to be active and healthy
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring a welcoming community with inclusive public places and spaces • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 • NSW Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2024-2028

STATE SEAT:	**FEDERAL SEAT:**	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:**	**COUNCIL FUNDS:**	**GRANT REQUIRED:**
Maitland	Lyne	$4,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000

LARGS

- 1,962 people
- 643 houses and 78 units
- Most households have two motor vehicles
- 0.3 per cent of working population walk or ride a bike
- 62 per cent use cars as preferred transport method
- 0.4 per cent use public transport preferred transport method to travel to work
- 55 per cent of people have a long-term health condition
- The most common long term health conditions in Largs are mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety), asthma, arthritis, other long-term health condition(s), and diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)

COMMUNITY AMENITIES:
Roy Jordan (Gillieston Heights)

The site: Gillieston Heights, an established suburb that provides critical links between Central Maitland and Cessnock to the south. The suburb is home to 4,796 residents with this projected to increase to 11,337 by 2041.

The challenge: Our city is one of the fastest growing inland cities in Australia with an annual growth rate consistently above 2.5 per cent. As our population grows, there will be increased demand on existing facilities and services and, additional infrastructure will be required to meet the needs of our community and enhance the liveability of our city.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Roy Jordan amenities building, Gillieston Heights	
Project details	The current sports fields are used for cricket, baseball and football (soccer). This project is to design and construct a new amenities building. Replacement and upgrade of existing amenities building based on standardised gender inclusive design. Modern sports facilities underpin local sporting clubs which are essential to encouraging healthy lifestyles for Maitland's residents. Access to quality community infrastructure makes our neighbourhoods better and our residents happier and healthier.
Project stage	Project in planning stages. Concept masterplan options developed, including a standardised amenities design appropriate for LGA wide application/upgrades. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	Currently the facilities and amenities are in a poor condition and do not meet the requirements or needs of its users. Our community infrastructure provides space and opportunity for our community to come together to share, learn and celebrate. Access to good quality and adequate community infrastructure is key to the health and wellbeing of our residents. Outdoor recreation encourages our community to gather, socialise and build relationships, creating a sense of belonging. Strong community clubs support the health and wellbeing of our residents by providing places to be physically active and to engage in shared activity and foster stronger community connection.
Community engagement	A major venues and facilities clubs audit was conducted in 2024. The Community Infrastructure Strategy draft is currently in development.
Community benefits	• This project represents recreational and sporting opportunities, general health and wellbeing improvements for current and future residents • A much-needed contemporary facility with gender inclusive upgrades • Facilities to cater for a population growth-area • Our community want to see existing sporting and community facilities upgraded, and for more opportunities to be active and healthy
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring a welcoming community with inclusive public places and spaces • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 • NSW Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2024-2028

STATE SEAT: Maitland	**FEDERAL SEAT:** Paterson	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:** $4,000,000	**COUNCIL FUNDS:** $2,000,000	**GRANT REQUIRED:** $2,000,000

GILLIESTON HEIGHTS

- 4,796 people
- 1,520 houses and 145 units
- Most households have two motor vehicles
- 0.4 per cent of working population walk or ride a bike
- 65 per cent use cars as preferred transport method
- 0.7 per cent use public transport to travel to work
- 53 per cent of people have a long-term health condition
- The most common long term health conditions in Gillieston Heights are mental health conditions (including depression or anxiety), asthma, any other long term health condition(s), arthritis, and diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)

SPORTING FACILITIES:
Max McMahon Stage 2

The site: Max McMahon Oval, Rutherford.

The challenge: The Rutherford Town Centre, together with the proposed Local Centre at Lochinvar, and the future employment and residential lands in the Western Precinct will form a strong relationship with Maitland's rural areas, the Upper Hunter Region and beyond. Maitland is growing and will continue to grow. It is important to balance the facilities available with current and future demands of our population growth,

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Max McMahon Oval – Stage 2	
Project details	The current sports fields are used for cricket and AFL. The project involves the delivery of stage two of the amenities building redevelopment.
Project stage	Stage 1 works are currently underway this project would see the Delivery of stage 2 of the redevelopment project. **INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	Maitland's Western Precinct contains established communities including Rutherford and Telarah, existing urban release areas such as Aberglasslyn and future urban release areas at Lochinvar, Anambah and Farley. This precinct is home to around 23,000 residents and is expected to grow to over 40,700 residents, with an additional 17,700 residents between now and 2040.
Community engagement	A major venues and facilities clubs audit was conducted in 2024. The Community Infrastructure Strategy draft is currently in development.
Community benefits	Our community infrastructure provides space and opportunity for our community to come together to share, learn and celebrate. Access to good quality and adequate community infrastructure is key to the health and wellbeing of our residents. Outdoor recreation encourages our community to gather, socialise and build relationships, creating a sense of belonging. Strong community clubs support the health and wellbeing of our residents by providing places to be physically active and to engage in shared activity and foster stronger community connection.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future – Creating a Liveable Maitland by ensuring a welcoming community with inclusive public places and spaces • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Maitland Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 • NSW Office of Sport Strategic Plan 2024-2028

STATE SEAT: Maitland	**FEDERAL SEAT:** Paterson	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:** $2,000,000	**COUNCIL FUNDS:** $1,000,000	**GRANT REQUIRED:** $1,000,000

RUTHERFORD

- 13,091 people
- 4,536 houses and 702 units
- Most households have one motor vehicles
- 1.5 per cent of working population walk or ride a bike
- 68 per cent use cars as preferred transport method
- 1.4 per cent use public transport preferred transport method to travel to work
- 72 per cent of people have a long-term health condition
- The most common long term health conditions in Rutherford are Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety), Asthma, Arthritis, any other long term health condition(s), and Diabetes (excluding gestational diabetes)
- Rutherford Town Centre has significant potential to be a vibrant centre, providing retail, community, recreational and other supporting land uses to support forecast residential growth in the western precinct over the next 20 years.

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COMMUNITY AMENITIES:
Maitland Gaol redevelopment

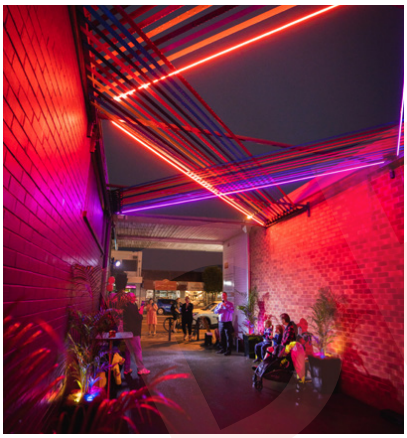
The site: Maitland Gaol is a state heritage item and the longest continuously operating gaol in New South Wales, open from 1848 until its closure in 1998. The different policies and social changes occurring over the Gaol's history contribute strongly to its historical and cultural value.

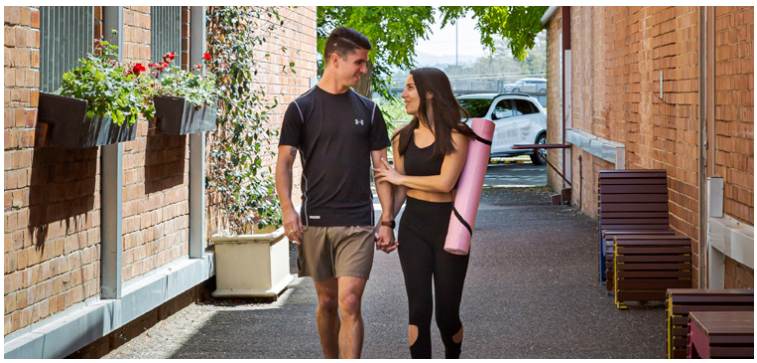
The challenge: The Gaol, which Council manages on behalf of the NSW Government as a tourist attraction, is currently closed following an independent safety review of the site, including the fire and electrical systems. As a 170-year-old heritage site, Maitland Gaol has always required ongoing specialist maintenance, but it became clear that the site's safety issues posed a risk to staff and visitors.

PROJECT NAME: Maitland Gaol redevelopment	
Project details	Major redevelopment works at Maitland Gaol look to transform the historic site into a vibrant precinct and iconic destination for the Hunter, driven by its unique heritage, connection to the community and innovative experiences. The Australian Government, NSW Government, and Council have allocated over $11.7 million in funding for the redevelopment. However, Council's developed scope of works, timeframe and budget indicated more than $30 million is required for essential and high-priority works to remediate and rejuvenate the site, revealing a $20 million shortfall to bring the site up to standard.
Project stage	**INITIATE** **DESIGN** DELIVER COMPLETE
Purpose (why is it important?)	Major redevelopment works planned for Maitland Gaol look to transform the historic site into a vibrant precinct and iconic destination for the Hunter, driven by its unique heritage, connection to the community and innovative experiences. The Maitland Gaol Development Plan and associated Site Master Plan and Plan of Management provide a comprehensive guide for the future development and management of the Maitland Gaol site.
Community engagement	The Maitland Gaol Development Plan was shaped by input from the community, with two engagement periods run from November 2018 to February 2019, and July 2020 to August 2020 and adopted by Council at its meeting on 8 September 2020. Maitland Gaol is one of five identified 'priority destinations' in Maitland Destination Management Plan 2020-2030 which is currently under review.
Community benefits	Through the NSW Government, Australian Government and Council funding, over $11.7 million has been allocated for the next stage of the Maitland Gaol redevelopment – which includes investment in boutique accommodation, a new activity hub, innovative interpretation of the site and the provision of new event infrastructure. Access to the Gaol site will be opened up through the existing walls, allowing for improved community access to the activity hub and internal courtyard area. However, the current funding does not cover the entirety of the project.
Strategic alignment	• Maitland's Future - Creating a Vibrant Maitland by ensuring we leverage our city's connections, to attract investment • Maitland Gaol Development Plan and associated site Master Plan and Plan of Management • Maitland Destination Management Plan 2030 • Draft Maitland Economic Development Strategy • Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040 • Crown Land Strategic Plan 2031 • Draft Community Infrastructure Strategy

STATE SEAT: Maitland	**FEDERAL SEAT:** Paterson	**PROJECT ESTIMATE:** $30,000,000	**COUNCIL FUNDS:** $2,000,000 **FEDERAL FUNDING:** $5,000,000 **STATE FUNDING:** $5,500,000	**GRANT REQUIRED:** $20,000,000

Advocate Maitland
Heart of the Hunter





maitland
CITY COUNCIL

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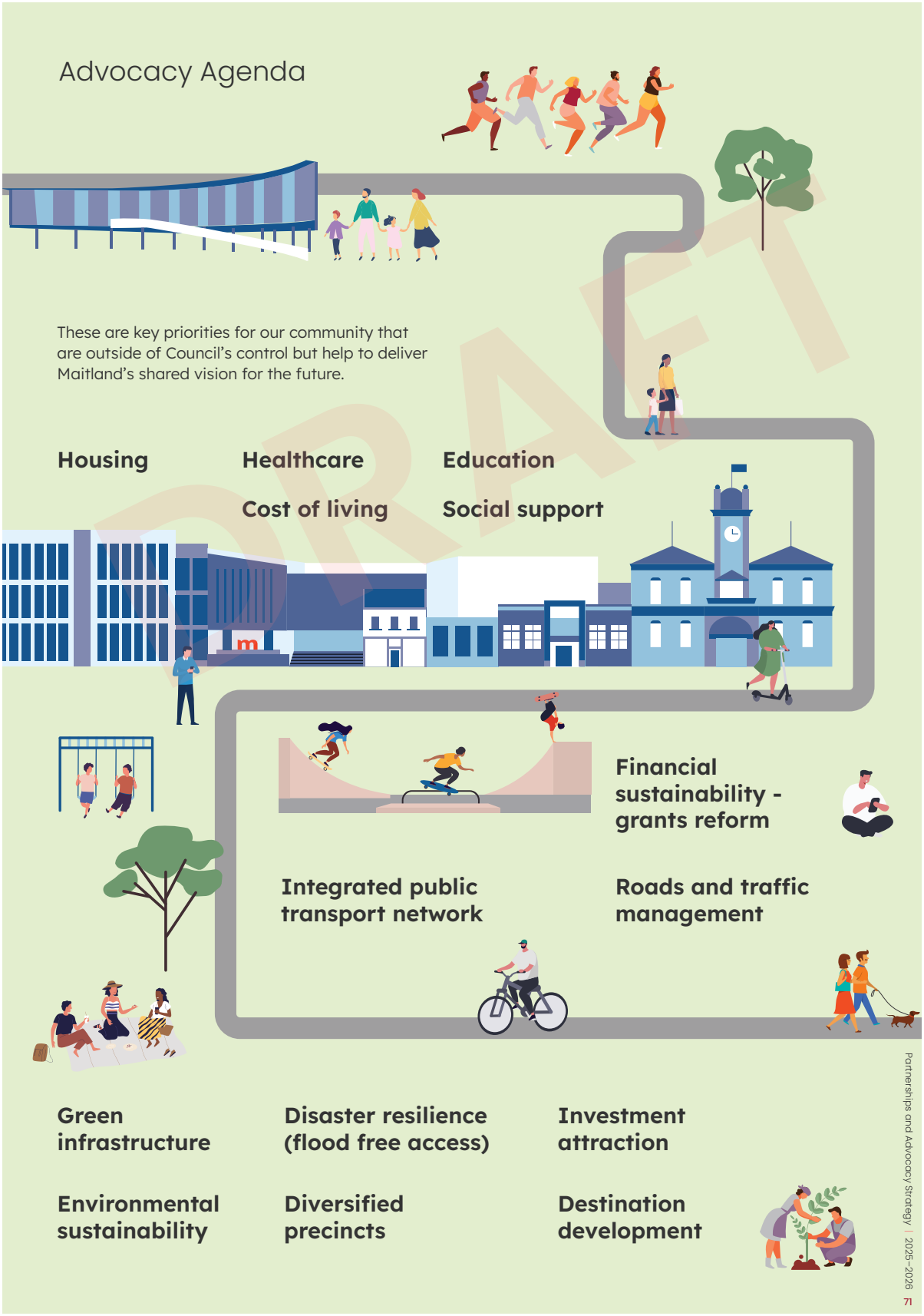
Advocacy agenda – top priorities areas

TOP 15 PRIORITIES	WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE FOR MAITLAND?
Great neighbourhoods	
Housing	• Supporting diverse and affordable housing options to meet the needs of our growing population.
Integrated movement	
Roads and traffic management (and road reclassification)	• A solution for a westbound flyover at the Cessnock Road and New England Highway roundabout in Maitland. • Multi-modal infrastructure upgrades to support the Anambah to Branxton corridor and Kurri Kurri to Maitland corridor upgrades. • Ensuring roads are classified appropriately to secure better funding and maintenance that reflects their usage and importance.
An integrated public transport network	• Advocating for a seamless transport network that connects our community with safe, efficient, and accessible options. Including place-based transport planning (East Maitland and Metford), and upgrades to Lochinvar Train Station.
Valuing our natural environment	
Green infrastructure	• Expanding green spaces, tree canopies, and sustainable urban design to enhance liveability and environmental outcomes. • Biodiversity reforms, improved health of the Hunter River, local wetlands and waterways.
Sustainable and resilient communities	
Environmental sustainability	• Securing sustainable water resources to support our community, environment, and future growth. Net zero emission community targets and a circular economy.
Prepared communities - disaster resilience	• Flood evacuation route for Central Maitland and Lorn as well as flood free access for Gillieston Heights. • Strengthening our city's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters through proactive planning and infrastructure investment.
Diverse local economy	
Investment attraction	• Attract investment by positioning Maitland as an innovative, well-connected city that is easy to do business.
Strengthened and diversified precincts	• Increase employment opportunities for our growing population.
Welcoming community	
Destination development	• Growing our agri-tourism sector to support local producers, attract visitors, and boost the regional economy.
Healthcare	• Quality healthcare services, facilities, and specialist care close to home. • Unlocking the economic potential of the old Maitland Hospital site.
Education	• Adequate funding for new and existing primary and secondary schools to accommodate our growing population.
Cost of living for our residents	• Addressing financial pressures by pushing for fairer service costs, energy affordability, and local support programs.
Police and social support	• Enhancing community safety through increased policing, crime prevention and social services.
A resilient future	
Long-term financial viability	• Seeking financial flexibility for councils to set rates that reflect local needs and service expectations.
Grant programs simplification	• Advocating for streamlined grant processes to ensure funding is accessible and efficiently delivered to communities.


Advocacy Agenda
These are key priorities for our community that are outside of Council's control but help to deliver Maitland's shared vision for the future.
Housing
Healthcare
Education
Cost of living
Social support
Financial sustainability - grants reform
Integrated public transport network
Roads and traffic management
Green infrastructure
Disaster resilience (flood free access)
Investment attraction
Environmental sustainability
Diversified precincts
Destination development
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Advocacy agenda – areas

Liveable Maitland

Great neighbourhoods

We are committed to creating great neighbourhoods that thrive on connectivity by offering a mix of housing, accessible open spaces, and essential services. Together, we aim to ensure a high quality of life for everyone.

What does this look like for Maitland?

The **Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+** sets out a 20-year vision for land use. The statement identifies the challenges the local area will face in coming years and outlines how growth and change will be managed into the future, working with the community and other stakeholders.

The statement also informs how we plan our land use for a Sustainable and Vibrant Maitland. It outlines how state and regional plans, such as the Hunter Regional Plan 2036, the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036, and Council's strategic plans will be implemented in the Maitland local government area.

Housing diversity

The Maitland Local Housing Strategy 2041 sets out a framework to guide future growth and change of our residential areas over the next 20 years. It recognises and responds to evidence about what types of housing will be needed for our growing and changing population, where it can be best located and how Council will deliver better housing outcomes, together with community and other stakeholders.

Demand for housing in Maitland has grown significantly over the past decades, driven by growing population, lifestyle attractors, relative affordability and locational advantages. Maitland has a relatively young population, with the median age of residents being 36 years. Families with children, living in separate houses, represent 45 per cent of total households. Population projections indicate an increase of 54,800 residents by 2041 (DPE 2022). This translates to a requirement for approximately 25,200 additional dwellings over the next 20 years.

Future housing supply in Maitland is guided by the Hunter Regional Plan 2041, the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036 and the Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+. Delivering the existing urban release areas and investigation for infill development opportunities in urban areas have been identified in the regional and metropolitan plans as key priorities for Maitland.

We aim to facilitate affordable and diverse housing options to ensure everyone has a place to call home in all stages of life.

We will advocate for:

- Diverse and affordable housing options to meet the needs of our growing population.
- Redevelopment of existing housing stock to meet the changing needs of our population.
- Encourage provision of small lot housing, senior housing, social and community housing opportunities in appropriate location of urban release areas.
- Work with relevant stakeholders to ensure the timely delivery of enabling infrastructure and services.
- Work in collaboration with the relevant NSW Government agencies for planning and development of East Maitland Catalyst Area.
- Work with the relevant NSW Government agencies to prepare place strategy for the Branxton to Anambah regionally significant growth area.
- Work with the Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council to identify how their landholdings can be planned and developed for culturally appropriate housing and address the housing needs of Aboriginal communities.
- Work with the relevant government agencies, nongovernment agencies, development industry and service providers to address the housing needs of low-income households and homelessness.
- Explore potential opportunities to deliver affordable housing on public land in strategic locations to catalyse redevelopment.

EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

Integrated movement

We all have an important role to play in Maitland's Future. Our community is passionate about Maitland, and they love where they live. They have consistently told us that traffic management is important in creating a Liveable Maitland. Therefore, it is our priority to advocate for an efficient and sustainable transport network, connecting people through well-maintained roads, planned traffic management, reliable public transport, and safe infrastructure for active movement. An Integrated Transport Strategy is currently being developed to inform future planning.

Roads and traffic management

What does this look like for Maitland?

Ensuring safe, efficient, functional and connected roads that facilitate seamless travel and connectivity throughout our community.

We will advocate for:

- **A solution for a westbound flyover at the Cessnock Road and New England Highway roundabout in Maitland.** Since the delivery of an eastbound flyover near Maitland Station in 2016, traffic queues on the other side have been remained unaddressed with continued congestion during the morning and evening commutes for motorists.
- **A solution for upgrades to the Thornton Bridge, including potential upgrades along Thornton Road to address congestion and access to the Thornton rail station.** Funding should be a priority for the duplication of the road and bridge to improve access for the residents of Thornton and Chisholm to the New England Highway. Commuter traffic from these two areas has increased significantly in the last 10-years and congestion is experienced most weekdays. This road and bridge duplication needs transport planning combined with upgrades to Thornton Train Station for bus and pedestrian access and vehicle parking. These works should be planned and delivered in conjunction with current and proposed funding for works between Thornton Road and the Weakleys Drive roundabout and Hausmann Drive.
- **Multi-modal infrastructure upgrades to support the Anambah to Branxton corridor.** The Anambah to Branxton Regionally Significant Growth Area (RSGA) is identified in the Hunter Regional Plan 2041 and the Draft Hunter Strategic Regional Integrated Transport Plan. Strategic transport planning is required to consider future population growth against the capacity of the New England Highway and the Hunter Expressway. Such planning needs to identify opportunities for improved public transport like rapid bus transport services and higher frequency passenger train services.
- **New England Highway Corridor Study within Maitland LGA**.
  - The increasing traffic congestion along the New England Highway is of key concern to the community and Council. The existing road network relies heavily on the New England Highway and is under significant pressure from traffic growth from new urban development in and around Maitland. The majority of Councils new urban release areas are located away from the existing public or active transport options such as railway stations, bus interchanges or cycleways. Therefore, there is a heavy reliance on private vehicles and direct access to the New England Highway to connect to Maitland and the wider region.
  - There are concerns that the New England Highway western corridor is reaching capacity in the Rutherford and Telarah area from Denton Park Drive to the High Street roundabout. Recent planning proposals have highlighted the capacity issues of the New England Highway and associated intersections. Any future proposals will be increasingly difficult to achieve acceptable service levels on the transport network and immediate network planning is required to identify opportunities for increased capacity.
  - The New England Highway is the primary east–west transport corridor between Maitland, Newcastle and the Hunter Valley for commuters and freight. Capacity constraints of the New England Highway are expected to become a significant impediment to unlocking future housing in the medium to long term.
  - To meet the projected population growth, a Corridor Study for the New England Highway from Thornton to Lochinvar is a key priority for Maitland. This study is required to understand the utilisation levels (volume and capacity) of the New England Highway and to identify diverse and integrated infrastructure and service improvements along its corridor across the whole Maitland LGA.

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- **Road reclassification. We will advocate to ensure roads are classified appropriately to secure better funding and maintenance that reflects their usage and importance.**

  The reclassification of Mount Vincent Road. The reclassification of Mount Vincent Road to a state road and increased funding would also ensure that this main road, which forms part of the connection from the Hunter Expressway to East Maitland, is provided to a safe standard for the travelling public.

  An upgrade to address traffic congestion at the Raymond Terrace Road and Metford Road intersection. This would improve accessibility to the new Maitland Hospital site and surrounding Metford Road employment area, whilst improving traffic circulation and active transport connection to East Maitland and Chisholm.
  As Metford Road is a key connection between two state roads, the New England Highway and Raymond Terrace Road, we will advocate for Metford Road to be reclassified as a state road. This is required to acknowledge its critical connection and to ensure road infrastructure upgrades meet the road service levels required both now and in the future.

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An integrated public transport network

What does this look like for Maitland?

A seamless transport network that connects our community with safe, efficient, and accessible options.

We will advocate for:

- **Place-based transport planning for the East Maitland Catalyst Area (EMCA):** The EMCA is an identified regionally significant growth area within the Hunter Regional Plan 2041, and a Catalyst Area within the Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036. The area has undergone State and Local Government collaboration since 2018. Transport planning has already undertaken by TfNSW and Council within the East Maitland to Thornton Integrated Transport Plan (ITP). We will advocate to ensure the recommended high priority transport directions within the East Maitland to Thornton ITP priorities are linked within the TfNSW strategic policy framework.
- **Upgrades to the Metford Train Station:** A northern access to this station has long been advocated for improving passenger rail access for Chisholm residents and this will alleviate traffic on Raymond Terrace Road and Thornton Road. This will provide a transport option which is walkable for residents of Chisholm.
- **Upgrades to the Lochinvar Train Station:** upgrades to Lochinvar train station to facilitate increased passenger services and provide appropriate travel choice to the surrounding residential growth areas in Lochinvar.
- **The Kurri Kurri to Maitland corridor** connects the suburbs of Heddon Greta, Cliftleigh and Gillieston Heights and is anticipated to accommodate a further 5,000 dwellings across the next 20 years. Combined with the traffic growth on the corridor as a result of the opening of the Hunter Expressway, there is a clear need to invest in infrastructure and services to manage increasing trips in the future. Already, Transport has invested significant funds along the corridor including increasing the flood resilience of Testers Hollow and improving traffic signals at the intersection of Main Road and Heddon Street. New investments in the area may include active transport connections between the suburbs and across to Kurri Kurri and faster, more frequent and direct bus services between Cessnock and Maitland. Transport will work with relevant planning authorities including Cessnock and Maitland Councils and DPHI to improve access points into surrounding residential catchments and to ensure the connecting road between Gillieston Heights and the Hart Road interchange is delivered in a timely manner.
- **Increasing Passenger Rail Transport on the Hunter Line and North Coast Line:** Whilst the draft Hunter SRITP outlines options for rail improvements, more frequent and reliable services are needed to encourage use of passenger rail services. Early planning for the Anambah to Branxton Regionally Significant Growth Area (RSGA) is required to understand how transport infrastructure and services can meet future demand. Planning for the improvement, upgrade, relocation or introduction of new train stations in the RSGA is required to support and relieve the New England Highway. Opportunities for improved accesses to the existing rail corridor at Metford and Aberglasslyn/ Oakhampton should be investigated. The Aberglasslyn and Oakhampton area, which continues to expand east to the North-Coast line, would benefit from a new railway station and passenger rail service. Historically, the Oakhampton Train Station was located on this line, and a train station at the same location as the old location would require extending regular passenger rail services on the Hunter Rail Service by only one stop.
- **The electrification of the passenger rail services on the Hunter Line to service major greenfield release areas to maximise growth potential for the city:** upgrades to Lochinvar rail station to facilitate increased passenger services and provide appropriate travel choice to the surrounding residential growth areas in Lochinvar. Bus Network Improvements: implement bus and coach service improvements to better connect regional communities to key health and employment hubs and Newcastle Airport. Increasing Passenger Rail Transport on the Hunter Line and North Coast Line.
- **Bus Network Improvements:** New urban growth areas require regular bus services to offer alternative transport options for residents to access town centres and transport hubs, especially train stations. Council seeks to work closely with Transport for NSW to review and identify such bus service routes that would also improve capacity on the State Road network. For example, the Aberglasslyn urban release area is placing increasing pressure on the New England Highway, and local bus services could initiate a modal shift.

EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

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Advocacy agenda – areas

Sustainable Maitland

Valuing our natural environment

We value and enhance our natural environment to ensure a thriving community and resilient ecosystems. By nurturing our bushlands, wetlands, and waterways we support biodiversity, improve public health, create economic opportunities and maintain the natural beauty of our surroundings.

What does this look like for Maitland?

Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 - The Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030 is a strategy for a more liveable and sustainable Maitland.

Green infrastructure

We will advocate for:

Functional biodiversity corridors:

- To establish and maintain functional biodiversity corridors to support wildlife movement, enhance ecosystem health, and promote a balanced natural environment. Bioidiversity corridors are connections across the landscape that link up areas of habitat. They support natural processes that occur in a healthy environment, including the movement of species to find resources like food, water and shelter. In 2023 Council made a commitment to deliver functional biodiversity corridors within our city and adopted a green and blue grid map which sets out a hierarchy of biodiversity corridors. The map provides a high level, strategic direction for biodiversity corridors and preservation and enhancement of bushland, wetlands and waterways within Maitland.
- To enable us to deliver functional biodiverity corridors within our city across public and private land:
  - Widen areas of existing pinch points to connect vegetation and to provide more suitable habitat for species within the corridor.
  - Create new 'stepping stones' along corridors to reduce interpatch distances between existing core habitats.
  - Improve functional connectivity through multi-layered vegetation plantings, log placement and habitat resources (e.g. leaf litter, artificial hollows) that can be used by multiple faunal groups with the aim to create a mosaic of habitat types across the landscape.
  - Reduce road barriers (in targeted, priority areas) through implementation of crossings in conjunction with other mitigation measures of plantings, fencing, speed control (subject to review) and adaptive management protocols. (Source: Ecological Australia, 2025 p.53)
- Deliver wildlife crossings across key infrastructure barriers owned by other entities within Maitland's adopted biodiversity corridors (for example underneath New England Highway at Four Mile Creek). It is recommended that:
  - Where known populations for target species occur, existing culverts and bridges should be assessed for their ability to provide safe access under roads.
  - Consider the installation of microbat roosting habitat within large culverts and under bridges.
  - Use vegetation to funnel fauna into culverts. This can increase the likelihood of fauna utilising culverts rather than crossing roads/ railways.
  - Deliver squirrel glider connective infrastructure including glider poles and rope bridges across priority areas in Thornton, Chisholm, East Maitland, Rutherford and Lochinvar.
    Source: Ecological Australia (2025, pp.62,66)
- Advocate for biodiversity reforms to enable biodiversity restoration outcomes through the Biodiversity Offset Scheme including opportunities to create Biodiversity Stewardship Agreement sites with private landholders.

Climate resilient neighbourhoods:

- Increase tree canopy cover through broad scale park and street tree planting to improve resilience to urban heat.
- Council has adopted a target to aim for 30 per cent canopy cover target in residential areas.

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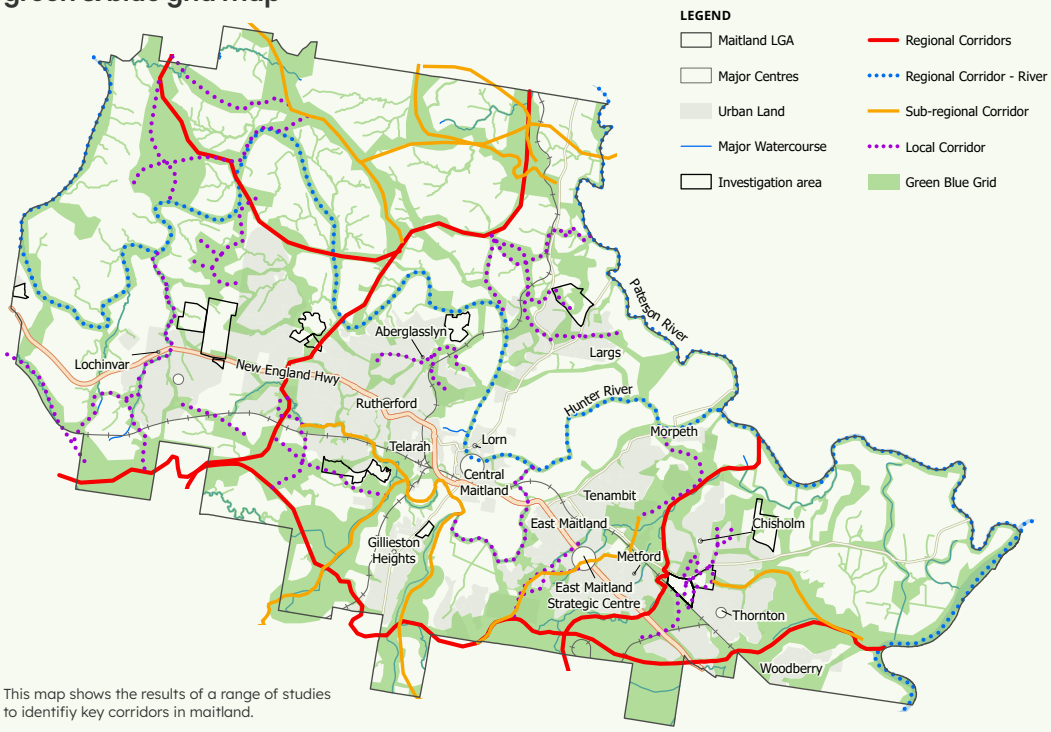
Good urban tree canopy cools cities, provides shade and protects against over exposure to sunlight, which can result in skin cancer. Strategically placed trees can reduce home air conditioning needs and energy bills.

- Baseline data captured in 2021 indicates that approximately 75 per cent of the canopy cover in residential areas comes from trees on private land. In addition to undertaking our own planting program within public parks and streets we need to advocate to both protect existing and plant new shade trees on private land, for example in backyards, private carparks, school playgrounds, landscaped areas of shopping centres etc.
- Getting from an average canopy cover in residential areas of 15.6 per cent in 2021 to 30 per cent is achievable, however it will take sustained investment from Council, developers and other funding sources such as State government.

Waterway management:

- We will manage and maintain comprehensive waterways that include stormwater drainage, floodplains, wetlands, and our river, aiming to protect the environment, enhance community safety, and support the overall wellbeing of our community.
- Work with our neighbours and state government to improve the health of the hunter river and local wetlands and waterways which extend beyond the Maitland LGA.
- We will advocate for improvement in waterway health through the implementation of appropriate construction site management practices on private construction sites, litter prevention initiatives

green & blue grid map



This map shows the results of a range of studies to identifiy key corridors in maitland.

Sustainable and resilient communities

Sustainable and resilient communities We build sustainable, resilient communities by reducing reliance on non-renewable energy, improving resource efficiency, embracing a circular economy, and empowering residents to create vibrant, green neighbourhoods that enhance wellbeing.

Environmental sustainability

What does this look like for Maitland?

Our Environmental Sustainability Strategy sets out a pathway to improve community health and wellbeing and economic opportunity through improving the health of our local environment.

We will build sustainable, resilient communities strengthening our city's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters through proactive planning and infrastructure investment.

We will advocate for:

Sustainable leadership

- Champion sustainable practices and set a precedent for environmental responsibility and climate change mitigation. We inspire and guide others through actions and plans to foster a culture of sustainability and achieving enhanced resilience. Net zero emission community targets.

Living sustainably

- Foster practices that reduce environmental impact and promote resource efficiency across all aspects of daily life, including the development of a sustainable built environment. Our outcome is a community that embraces sustainable habits, designs, and opportunities, leading to improved ecological health and a higher quality of life for all communities. Water resilience program – Securing sustainable water resources to support our community, environment, and future growth.

Circular economy

- Contribute to a shift towards a circular economy, conserving resources, maximising the value of materials, and creating markets for reused, recycled and recovered resources and products.
- We will advocate for our residents and business community to divert waste from landfill and provide information and education to encourage increased use of recycled products.

Prepared communities – Disaster resilience

What does this look like for Maitland?

Maitland has been built on the banks of the Hunter River and has a long history of destructive flood events. The recent 70th anniversary of the 1955 flood reminded us of the devastating cost of flooding to our local community and economy.

However, the same river system responsible for the floods also has a significant benefit to our natural environment, including delivery of water to flood dependent ecosystems and improving soil nutrients for agricultural land.

The Hunter River travels through our urban and rural areas and adds a unique character to our city and sets out a scenic backdrop to our everyday lives. The river and its extensive floodplain provide a natural boundary for urban growth and urban development potential is generally limited to areas south of the Hunter River.

DISASTER RESILIENCE:
Central Maitland and Lorn suburbs

The site: Central Maitland and Lorn suburbs

The challenge: An increased population in Central Maitland has been supported through various local and regional plans. However, Central Maitland is surrounded by high-hazard floodways. Higher ground in Central Maitland provides refuge for a one per cent Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood, but this area diminishes in larger floods.

The current primary evacuation route - the Long Bridge is not overtopped in a five per cent AEP flood or similar and, is unlikely to remain serviceable during extreme flood events. Further, structural concerns over the Long Bridge also underscores the urgent need for a safer, flood-immune alternative route for the city.

Without a high-level flood evacuation route, further residential development in Central Maitland will compound existing vulnerabilities, placing more lives at risk and undermining emergency response capabilities. Securing this route is a pre-requisite for sustainable urban growth and effective floodplain management.

The opportunity:

PROJECT NAME: Flood Evacuation Route for Central Maitland and Lorn	
Project details	Planning and delivery of a high-level, flood evacuation route for Central Maitland and Lorn
Project stage	**INITIATE** DESIGN DELIVER COMPLETE Project in planning stages.
Purpose (why is it important?)	Central Maitland is situated within a high-hazard floodway, making it extremely vulnerable during major flood events. The absence of a reliable evacuation route for major floods represents a critical gap in the city's future growth and infrastructure. The planning and delivery of a high-level evacuation route for Central Maitland and Lorn is critical to ensuring the safety and resilience of the community during flood events. Without a high-level evacuation route, further development in Central Maitland will compound existing vulnerabilities, placing more lives at risk and undermining emergency response capabilities. Securing this route is a pre-requisite for sustainable urban growth and effective floodplain management.
Community benefits	A high-level, flood evacuation route will: • significantly reduce risk to life by ensuring residents of Central Maitland and Lorn have reliable access to safety during major flood events. • enhance the capacity of emergency services to better access to flood prone areas when existing infrastructure is compromised. • unlock residential and commercial development potential of Central Maitland by addressing a critical barrier to intensification of land use in line with local and regional strategic plans.
Strategic alignment	***Hunter Regional Plan 2041*** (page 101) identifies that additional residential development and urban renewal must consider flood mitigation infrastructure and initiatives. ***Greater Newcastle Metropolitan Plan 2036*** (page 35) indicates that the Department will work with MCC to investigate and develop safe evacuation for Central Maitland. ***Maitland Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040+*** identifies flood resilient infrastructure as a prerequisite for further residential and commercial development in Central Maitland. ***Central Maitland Structure Plan 2009*** sets out an ambitious vision, aiming for 'residential led recovery' and setting a target to return to its pre-1955 population by 2030. ***NSW Flood Risk Management Framework 2023*** encourages integrated and risk-based planning approaches to floodplain development.

STATE SEAT: Maitland	**FEDERAL SEAT:** Paterson	**ESTIMATED PROJECT COST:**	
		PLANNING AND APPROVALS: $2,000,000	**DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION:** $75,000,000*

Building Lifelines: Gillieston Heights permanent flood-free access road

The Building Lifelines project for Gillieston Heights will seek funding to create a permanent flood-free access road connecting Gillieston Heights to Cliftleigh.

This critical infrastructure will prevent community isolation during flooding events, which have affected 4,796 residents six times in the past 15 years and are unfortunately becoming more frequent. With the population projected to increase to 11,337 by 2041, completing this project would ensure emergency access, protect vulnerable community members, and provide a reliable evacuation route during severe flooding events. Gillieston Heights becomes isolated when Cessnock Road is inundated during a flood event of five per cent (one in 20) Annual Exceedance Probability. Completing this infrastructure project will ensure emergency access, protect vulnerable community members, and provide a reliable evacuation route during severe flooding events.

This project will provide a permanent flood free access road to Gillieston Heights during the one per cent (1/100) AEP in the short term and to the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) in the long term when the wider road network is constructed as part of the project known as Regrowth – Kurri Kurri.

A partnership opportunity has been identified with the proposed solution to seek funding to bring forward the delivery of a road connection that would provide flood-free access for Gillieston Heights residents. This project also represents a funding model for effective public-private partnerships in disaster risk reduction, demonstrating the collaborative approach advocated in the State Disaster Mitigation Plan. Following the implementation of a formal agreement between Councils and developers. The funding will be returned to Council to create a funding pool for future disaster preparedness projects. These outcomes represent a transformational approach to disaster risk reduction that provides immediate protection and long-term community benefits.

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EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

Advocacy agenda – areas

Vibrant Maitland

Diverse local economy

What does this look like for Maitland?

Our draft Economic Development Strategy has been prepared to enhance the economic viability, liveability and growth of Maitland. The strategy outlines the key programs, policies and activities that we will deliver to improve the economic wellbeing and quality of life of Maitland.

By fostering a diverse local economy and promoting vibrant community life, we aim to shape a city that thrives. Our shared vision creates opportunities for work, personal growth, and engaging activities, enriching the daily experiences and overall wellbeing.

By cultivating partnerships and creating an attractive environment for business and investment, we ensure that our community remains a vibrant hub for innovation. Our commitment to providing a rich array of activities and amenities enhances the quality of life, making Maitland a place where people can live, work and thrive.

We will advocate for:

Investment attraction

To attract investment by positioning Maitland as an innovative, well-connected city that is easy to do business. Driving economic growth, enhance infrastructure, and create opportunities that benefit both investors and the broader community.

Strengthened and diversified precincts

What does this look like for Maitland?

Strengthen and expand our existing business precincts by empowering local providers and developing new strategic areas, ensuring that our community has access to diverse and meaningful job opportunities to support its growth.

We will advocate for:

- Place-based planning and solutions
- Driving local job creation and skills development to strengthen our economy and workforce
- Partner with and support educational institutions, training providers and industries to ensure our community has the necessary knowledge, skills, qualifications, and innovative capabilities to enhance future employment opportunities.
- Enhance Council's engagement and collaboration with the local Aboriginal community to foster cultural inclusion and skills development.
- Facilitate the development of cultural experiences that respect and celebrate diverse heritage, strengthening community identity and pride.
- Enhance Maitland's identity and awareness to position it as the destination of choice for investors, developers, employers and visitors.

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EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

Destination development

What does this look like for Maitland?

As outlined in our draft Economic Development Strategy, Maitland is emerging as one of the most dynamic and fastest-growing economies in regional New South Wales.

As the heart of the Hunter, Maitland combines heritage and innovation to create a distinct economic profile, one built on strong population growth, infrastructure investment, diverse industry sectors, and a thriving local business community. This growth is not just about numbers, it's about enabling a better quality of life for our community.

The community values the city's natural assets, so identifying, protecting, and managing the rural and environmental land is a key priority identified in the Maitland Rural Land Strategy. It recognises the important contribution of rural land to the local and regional economy and supports its diversification, particularly employment opportunities.

The Maitland Rural Land Strategy 2041 provides an evidence-based framework for guiding and managing of our rural land over the next 20 years. It aims to support and protect agricultural land in the long term, facilitate investment and open opportunities for local economic growth and diversification.

Maitland has a unique position in terms of agricultural production, being located in the Lower Hunter region just adjacent to the cities of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie, and easily accessible to Sydney, providing a market of over five million people. The benefits for both farmers and the urban population are evident through reduced food miles and provenance, and also amenity, research and tourism opportunities. (NSW DPI, 2020).

The agricultural economy is important to the Maitland local government area and to the Lower Hunter, particularly because of its proximity to transport and markets. In 2020-2021, the estimated 'gross value' of total agricultural production for the Maitland LGA was estimated at almost $33 million, while Maitland was in the 'top 10' LGAs in the state for the value of the following products (ABS, 2022):

- Cultivated turf: second highest value of production in the state
- Commercial egg production: tenth highest value of production in the state
- Pumpkins: tenth highest value of production in the state.

Maitland's recent and expected future strong population growth is resulting in ongoing pressures on rural land to accommodate for new urban development. This has the potential to have significant impact on high value agricultural land, scenic landscapes, waterways and potentially introduce land use conflicts.

Therefore, rural and environmental land needs to be appropriately identified, protected, and managed for the future as the city grows. It is particularly important for the Lower Hunter region to retain agricultural production in a local setting. There are also many types of rural land uses and key infrastructure that need protecting from encroaching development.

We will advocate for:

- Growing our agri-tourism sector to support local producers, attract visitors, and boost the regional economy.
- Attracting investment from green industries, supporting sustainable economic development and environmental responsibility.

We aim to strengthen and expand our existing business precincts by empowering local providers and developing new strategic areas, ensuring that our community has access to diverse and meaningful job opportunities to support its growth.

We will advocate for:

- Developing place-based planning and solutions.
- Driving local job creation and skills development to strengthen our economy and workforce.
- Partnering with and supporting educational institutions, training providers and industries to ensure our community has the necessary knowledge, skills, qualifications, and innovative capabilities to enhance future employment opportunities.
- Enhancing Council's engagement and collaboration with the local Aboriginal community to foster cultural inclusion and skills development.
- Facilitating the development of cultural experiences that respect and celebrate diverse heritage, strengthening community identity and pride.
- Enhancing Maitland's identity and awareness to position it as the destination of choice for investors, developers, employers and visitors.

Welcoming community

Create and maintain neighbourhoods where residents can connect to essential facilities and community infrastructure, fostering a sense of community, enhancing convenience, and improving overall quality of life.

What does this look like for Maitland?

The Maitland Social Profile 2021-2025 provides a snapshot of our community, gauging key social indicators to provide insights into wellbeing and disparities across precincts and neighbourhoods. It also facilitates comparison with state and national averages.

This document helps narrate the demographic story of the Maitland community, offering an understanding of the evolving characteristics of its residents. Additionally, it provides information to support grant applications. A Social Strategy is currently in development.

We are developing a Social Strategy to support initiatives and services promoting social inclusion, provide lifelong learning opportunities and connect our community to information, knowledge and ideas.

We will advocate for:

Community connection

- Ensuring people of all abilities can connect safely and fully enjoy our public places and spaces by promoting accessibility, inclusivity, and a sense of belonging for everyone in our community.
- Enhancing community safety though increased community partnerships, crime prevention, social services and where necessary, policing
- Addressing local safety issues. Funding for neighbourhood watch, similar initiatives and place-based partnerships.

Healthcare

- Improving access to quality healthcare services, facilities, and specialist care close to home.
- Adequate staffing and service levels at Maitland Hospital.
- Reduced emergency wait times at Maitland Hospital.
- Unlocking the economic potential of the old Maitland Hospital site.

Education

- Advocating for better schools, training facilities, and lifelong learning opportunities for all residents
- Work with the NSW Government to ensure that our existing educational facilities are expanded, and new facilities are constructed in a timely manner to support planned growth.

Cost of living for our residents

- Addressing financial pressures by pushing for fairer service costs, energy affordability, and local support programs.
- An increase to the pensioner rates rebate.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander connections

Respecting the deep connection of Aboriginal people to the land and honouring the rich cultures of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples by actively supporting reconciliation, acknowledging their diverse histories, and building stronger relationships.

Multicultural community

Continuing to support, acknowledge and celebrate our diverse communities by embracing all forms of heritage and culture. Through inclusive experiences and connections such as the Maitland Riverlights Festival.

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Advocacy agenda – areas

Achieving Together

A resilient future

What does this look like for Maitland?

We create a resilient future through informed planning, leveraging innovation, technology and data to foster change.

Long-term financial viability

We will advocate for:

- Ensuring long-term financial viability of Councils.
- Financial flexibility for councils to set rates that reflect local needs and service expectations.
- The removal of rate pegging, and reform of the rating system (including removal of inequitable rate exemptions) to allow greater autonomy and flexibility.
- Financial Assistance Grants to be restored to one per cent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.

Grant programs simplification

We will advocate for:

- A streamlined grant processes to ensure funding is accessible and efficiently delivered to communities.
- The simplification of grant application processes along with milestone reporting and payments.
- Improvements and consistency in grants program management.

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EXHIBITION OF THE PARTNERSHIPS AND ADVOCACY STRATEGY 2025-2026 (Cont.)

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maitland
CITY COUNCIL

14.2 Six Monthly Progress Report - January to July 2025

FILE NO:	**35/33/18/12**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Six Monthly Progress Report Jan-Jun 2025**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Executive Manager People and Performance** **Manager Corporate Strategy and Communications**
AUTHOR:	**Corporate Strategy Lead** **Corporate Planning & Reporting Officer**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 4 Achieving together**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**4.1.3 Transparent decision making**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Six Monthly Progress Report has been revised to strengthen trust and support clear and open communication. We want to ensure our community stays up to date on the things that matter most to them.

Our Six Monthly Progress Report offers a summary of the projects and initiatives within Council's Operational Plan 2024-25 and Delivery Program 2022-2026.

With a strong community focus, the report provides accessible and transparent updates on budgetary and operational performance for the period of 1 January to 30 June 2025. It includes performance highlights, key operational activities aligned with the themes of our Community Strategic Plan, infrastructure works delivered under our capital works program, and our financial position as of 30 June 2025.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council receive the Six Monthly Progress Report, a report for the period January to June 2025 on progressing the Delivery Program 2022 - 2026; and**
2. **The report be made available to the community on Council's website and promoted via social media.**

REPORT

The Six Monthly Progress Report provides an overview on progress towards our Delivery Program 2022 – 2026, a statement of commitment to the community from our elected Council, translating the community's vision and priorities from our Community Strategic Plan into actions.

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

The report is presented under the four focus areas of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan and provides an overview of progress toward our community outcomes for the second half of the financial year, encompassing the quarter three and quarter four of the year being January to June 2025. In addition to meeting our legislative obligations, the objectives of the report are to:

- communicate our vision, themes and outcomes to the community.
- instill community confidence in our ability to show strong leadership and deliver on our promises.
- demonstrate our commitment to being open and transparent.
- celebrate the achievements of our organisation.
- provide transparent progress updates against Operational Plan actions

Furthermore, the Six Monthly Progress Report outlines progress towards our services workload measures outlined in the Delivery Program 2022 – 2026. It also includes a status update on all Operational Plan actions, operating income and expenditure summary, an overview of our grant applications and Capital Works projects.

CONCLUSION

Our Six Monthly Progress Report provides an overview of the delivery of projects and activities within Council's Delivery Program 2022 - 2026 over the period January to June 2025.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no direct financial impact upon Council's adopted budget or forward estimates.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no specific policy implications for Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The production of the Six Monthly Progress Report meets the requirements of Section 406 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines for six monthly reporting against the Delivery Program.

People and Performance

Six Monthly Progress Report - January to July 2025

Six Monthly Progress Report Jan-Jun 2025

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 48

JANUARY 2025 – JUNE 2025

Six Monthly Progress Report

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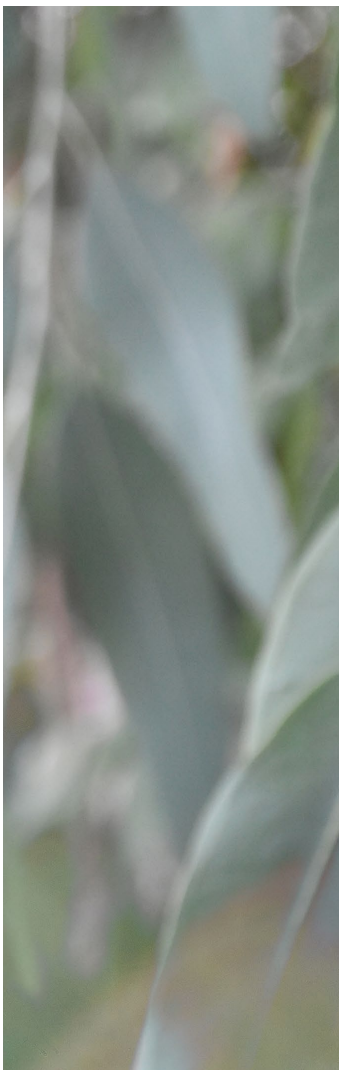
Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wonnarua People as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land within the Maitland Local Government Area. Council pays respect to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and future with a spiritual connection to these lands.



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Reporting to our community

The Six Monthly Progress Report provides an overview of Council's performance and achievements across each of the four focus areas, demonstrating our commitment to delivering on our vision for a connected city with thriving communities as set out in Maitland's Future, our Community Strategic Plan.

In addition to meeting our legislative obligations, the objective of the report is to:

- communicate our vision and priorities to the community
- instil community confidence in our ability to show excellence in leadership and deliver a trusted customer experience
- demonstrate our commitment to transparent decision making

Welcome

General Manager Jeff Smith

Message from our General Manager

I am delighted to present our six monthly progress report for the period of 1 January 2025 to 30 June 2025. This report summarises our achievements across our four focus areas which align with our vision for a connected city with thriving communities outlined in Maitland's Future, our Community Strategic Plan.

Maitland is a city evolving at the heart of the Hunter, and one of Australia's fastest growing regional cities. Key milestones outlined in this report reflect our progress, including the processing of 544 development applications, an investment of $48.8 million in our capital works program, and $14.3 million secured through grant funding.

An overwhelming number of awards and recognitions have been highlighted over the past six months, showcasing the successes we can achieve when working together across the organisation.

The vibrancy of Maitland shone through a range of events, including our flagship event, Hunter Valley Steamfest, which is in its 37th year and remains a highlight of Maitland's event calendar, with over 50,000 visitors enjoying the diverse range of heritage on display.

Maitland City Council has embedded our culture of sustainable leadership through the implementation of our Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service in June 2025. This initiative has been a collaborative effort with our community and neighbouring councils, moving us closer towards Maitland's goal to divert 80 per cent of waste from landfill, as outlined in our Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

The endorsement of key strategies has highlighted our efforts and focus on long-term planning for our community. Maitland's Delivery Program and Operational plan was endorsed highlighting $231 million in investment to deliver essential services, infrastructure and improvements over the 2025-26 financial year. In May 2025, we placed our draft Development Control Plan and first-ever draft Economic Development Strategy on public exhibition. These documents will help shape Maitland's future and build great neighbourhoods with economic vitality and resilience.

The projects and actions outlined in this report represent a snapshot of what has been delivered across the city. Through our passion and commitment, we have made significant progress in making Maitland a great place to live, work, enjoy, and succeed.

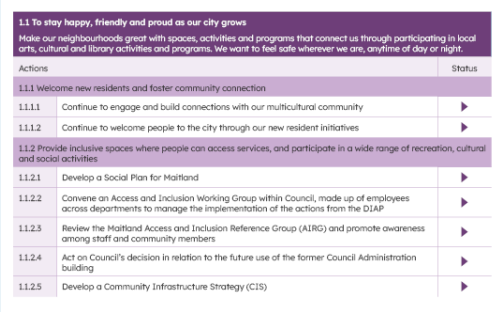
Achieving together, we can become a connected city with thriving communities.

How to read our progress report

Our reporting documents, including our Delivery Program and Operational Plan, are presented under the four focus areas of Maitland's Future, our Community Strategic Plan.

Our achievements

This section details our achievements and highlights in implementing our Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Progress and performance charts provide an overview of the status of Council's deliverables, with an organisational health check to summarise overall performance.



1.1 To stay happy, friendly and proud as our city grows

Make our neighbourhoods great with spaces, activities and programs that connect us through participating in local arts, cultural and library activities and programs. We want to feel safe wherever we are, anytime of day or night.

Actions		Status
1.1.1 Welcome new residents and foster community connection		
1.1.1.1	Continue to engage and build connections with our multicultural community	▶
1.1.1.2	Continue to welcome people to the city through our new resident initiatives	▶
1.1.2 Provide inclusive spaces where people can access services, and participate in a wide range of recreation, cultural and social activities		
1.1.2.1	Develop a Social Plan for Maitland	▶
1.1.2.2	Convene an Access and Inclusion Working Group within Council, made up of employees across departments to manage the implementation of the actions from the DIAP	▶
1.1.2.3	Review the Maitland Access and Inclusion Reference Group (AIRG) and promote awareness among staff and community members	▶
1.1.2.4	Act on Council's decision in relation to the future use of the former Council Administration building	▶
1.1.2.5	Develop a Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS)	▶

Our progress

This section details our performance results and our progress of our Delivery Program and Operational Plan actions. This section has been modified to align to the four focus areas of Maitland's Future, our new Community Strategic Plan.

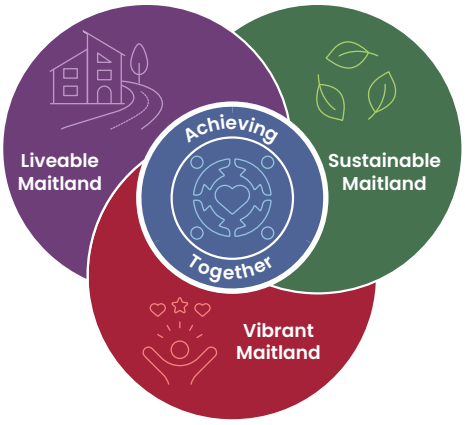
The status of actions and measures throughout the document are shown by:

▶ On track/Complete ◆ Monitor*

*Progress is delayed, but delivery is still expected unless otherwise stated. Action may need support or adjustment to stay on course.

A connected city with thriving communities

Our shared vision



SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

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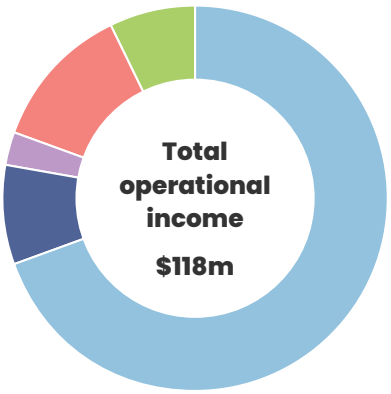
Our achievements

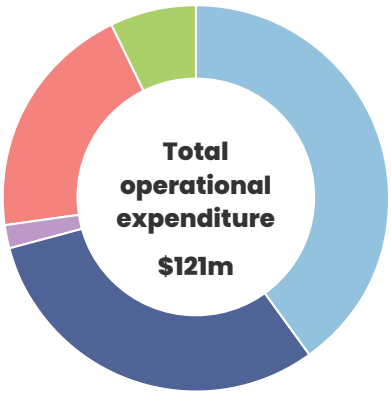
Showcasing our achievements

- 86% On track/complete
- 14% Monitor

- 100% On track



- 72% Rates and annual charges
- 8% User charges and fees
- 2% Other revenue
- 10% Grants and contributions
- 8% Interest and investments



- 40% Employee costs
- 33% Materials and services
- 1% Borrowing costs
- 20% Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non financial assets
- 6% Other expenses

The above financials represent the March quarter position. The final financial position for the year will be presented in our Annual Report following the financial audit process.

Organisation scorecard

Tracking our progress is essential to ensuring we remain a strong, effective, and responsive organisation. Our organisation scorecard goes beyond financial metrics to provide a well-rounded view of our health and performance. It measures key areas that reflect our ability to serve the community effectively, including community outcomes, service delivery, staff wellbeing, governance, and compliance.

Status key

On track Monitor Off track

On track: Progress is being made as planned with no significant risk or delays
Monitor: Within 10% variance of target and being observed to ensure variations or minor delays are addressed
Off track: Greater than 10% variance of target and may not be meeting key deliverables. Additional action may be required

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES	TARGET	ACHIEVEMENT	REVIEW PERIOD	STATUS
Community satisfaction with Council's overall performance	Maintain	86%	Biennial	
Community satisfaction with overall quality of life	Maintain	90%	Biennial	
SERVICE DELIVERY				
Operational Plan delivery	>80% on track or completed	86% on track or completed	Six monthly	
Capital Works projects in progress	>80% in progress	96% in progress	Six monthly	
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY				
Operating surplus/deficit	Deficit	$8.8 million deficit	Projected annual*	[1]
Average investment income return	4.50% benchmark	4.2%	Projected annual*	
Debt service ratio	OLG target of >2x	2.5x	Projected annual*	
STAFF WELLBEING				
Staff wellbeing score	Benchmark for Council's 62%	64%	Biennial	
Staff engagement score	Benchmark for Council's 73%	75%	Biennial	
GOVERNANCE AND COMPLIANCE				
Internal audit actions	>80% on track or completed	79% on track or completed	Six monthly	
Policy reviews completed within prior financial year	>80% on track or completed	56% completed	Six monthly	[2]
ASSET MAINTENANCE				
Asset maintenance ratio	100%	164%	Annual	
Infrastructure backlog ratio	<2%	13%	Annual	[3]

[1]While we reported an $8 million deficit, this was a planned result driven by one-off investments in major projects. When these are removed, our underlying financial position is much closer to balanced.

[2]An additional 19 policies were new or reviewed ahead of their due date and have not been included

[3]Our asset backlog (the value of infrastructure that isn't being maintained or renewed at the required standard) currently 13%. While this is not uncommon for fast-growing councils like Maitland, it highlights the need for ongoing investment as well as long-term planning. Reducing the backlog is a key priority in our new Asset Planning documents.

*March 2025 position

Communication and engagement

Communication and Engagement Strategy endorsed

Council endorsed the Communication and Engagement Strategy 2024-2028 on 18 March 2025 following a 50-day public exhibition period. The Strategy reached over 20,000 people, with five submissions being received.

The Strategy is guided by how the community told us they want to stay informed and engaged. It is a fundamental step in fostering meaningful consultation and engagement by actively involving stakeholders in decision making processes, ensuring their voices are heard. This will ultimately allow us to strengthen trust and collaboration, leading to more informed and effective outcomes for all.

Top-performing Maitland City Council Facebook posts

As part of our commitment to building trust and improving access to information, Council published more than 650 posts online during the period. The posts reached an audience of more than 44,000 and over 557,000 engagements.

The top-performing Facebook posts were:

- Road closure weather updates with 50,703 combined total engagements across three posts
- Melville Ford Bridge with 14,629 total engagements
- Glenwood Drive Thornton traffic changes with 11,438 total engagements.

Community engagement

Maitland Your Say, an online engagement hub used by Council, has recently released a translation tool to allow our community to read about our engagement projects in 15 different languages. Since launching the new feature, 56 views have been recorded where visitors have opted to translate their page or complete a task in a language other than English.

In January 2025, we celebrated Global Engagement Day to highlight the important role and function of engagement within local government. The day was acknowledged on the corporate Facebook page, and users were encouraged to register for the Maitland Your Say platform to stay connected and have a say in Council's decision-making.

A highlight of key projects undertaken during the period include:

- Maitland Libraries future programming planning
- Flood Management planning
- Maitland Park Master Plan
- Revitalise Maitland Station project
- Community Infrastructure Strategy project
- Melville Ford bridge renaming proposal
- Maitland Regional Art Gallery 2030 your gallery, your say page.

60

projects had engagement activities

36,036

Corporate Facebook page followers

3,939

contributions to Maitland Your Say platform

29,472

people average daily reach per Facebook page

182
Capital works projects listed

$55.1m*
approved capital works program budget

96%
of projects in progress

$48.8m*
total capital spend year to date

*The final financial position for the year will be presented in our Annual Report following the financial audit process.

12

Capital works

Chisholm's first sportsground

Construction commenced in May 2025 on Chisholm's first sportsground on Suncroft Street in Sophia Waters. The new facility will feature two mixed sports fields, a turf cricket wicket, amenities, irrigation, field flood lighting, fencing and over 100 parking spaces, including accessible parking. Once complete, the new facility will cater to the growing sport and recreation needs of people living in Thornton, Chisholm and surrounds.

Government Road and Raymond Terrace Road intersection

A major milestone was reached in February 2025 with the completion of works and traffic lights turned on at the intersection of Government Road and Raymond Terrace Road in Thornton. This $26 million upgrade, funded by Council and the NSW State Government, will make the intersection safer for road users with a new four-way intersection with two lanes each direction. It is a critical piece of infrastructure that will greatly improve traffic flow through the area.

Construction of the new bridge at Melville

Works have continued to progress with the construction of a new bridge at Melville which will be much higher than the existing bridge to minimise or avoid road closures in the event of flooding.

The craning of large concrete planks and super tee girders spanning the bridge piers and commencement of the bridge deck works were key milestones during this period.

In late May 2025, Maitland experienced significant flooding, which resulted in the bridge sustaining damage. At this stage it's unclear how long the delay will be. However Council is continuing to work with contractors to assess the site and have works completed as soon as possible.

Key projects completed

- New playground at Largs Oval, Largs and Metford Recreation Reserve, Metford
- 129 new car parks and new solar lighting at Maitland Park, Maitland
- New floodlights at four sportsgrounds at Thornton, East Maitland and Woodberry
- Major road improvements along Cartwright Street, Gillieston Heights
- Road improvements at Luskintyre, Thornton and Pitnacree.
- Shared pathway improvements at Swan Street, Morpeth
- New skate park at Taylor Avenue, Thornton
- New roundabout at Tigerhawk Drive, Chisholm.

Key projects commenced

- New amenities building at Max McMahon Oval, Rutherford
- Upgraded playspace at Lorn Park Oval, Lorn
- New sportsground at Sophia Waters, Chisholm
- Upgraded playspace at Hunterglen Drive Park, Bolwarra
- New parking bays along Heyes Street, Gillieston Heights
- Updated city entrance signs at over eight locations across Maitland.

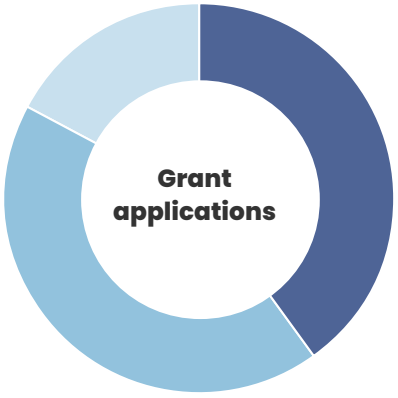
Grants

Grant funding is a critical source of Council revenue to advance the strategic vision and priorities outlined in Maitland's future, our Community Strategic Plan. Smart investment of grant funds helps deliver projects and initiatives that align with the objectives outlined in Council's Delivery Program, the actions within our Operational Plan and other strategic plans adopted by Council.

Council staff have applied or advocated for $30.7 million of funding across 14 grants, between January to June 2025. We successfully secured 19 grants worth $14.3 million, including approvals for grant applications from previous reporting periods.

Key grants received:

- $3,745,400 million received from Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program for Haussman Drive and Raymond Terrace Road intersection
- $295,000 received from round two of the Fresh Start Program for Local Government Apprentices, Trainees and Cadets
- $250,000 received from Multicultural grants program major festivals for Riverlights Festival
- $179,000 received from Natural Disaster Relief Assistance Program
- $169,468 received from Get Active NSW Walking and Cycleway grant for a new footpath in Gillieston Heights
- $100,000 received from NSW Government's Local Small Commitment Allocation Program for East Maitland Library Playspace
- $100,000 received from Caring for State Heritage, NSW Heritage Grants program for the Maitland Town Hall.



- 40% Applications successful
- 43% Applications submitted pending notification
- 17% Applications unsuccessful

$14.3m
worth of successful grants

38
annual grant projects completed

75
grant projects open

14
applications submitted

13

$281.1m
planned capital investment in our city from DAs

32 days
median processing time for DAs

45 days
median processing time for CCs

697
mandatory development inspections

14

Development in our city

Maitland continues to be one of the fastest-growing regional cities in Australia. Our approval statistics indicate the amount of building and development activity across the city and the efficiency of our processing systems. Our median processing times remain well below the Premier's target of development applications (DA's) processed in under 40 days.

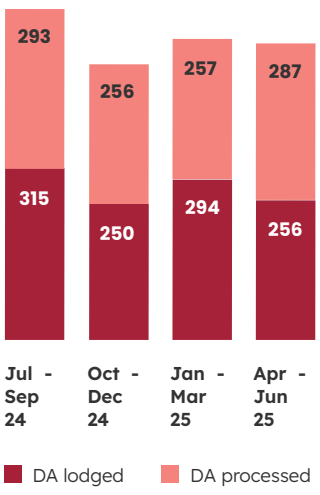
The NSW Government has developed a council league table which is an interactive dashboard to monitor performance for lodgement and assessment of development applications. From July 2024 to June 2025, Maitland City Council recorded the fastest average development application lodgement time in the state, achieving two days for a total of 891 lodgements.

During this period, we saw a decrease in the number of development applications and construction certificates lodged compared to the previous reporting period between July and December 2024.

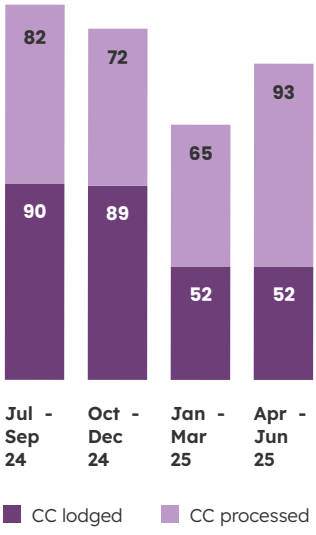
Major development application approvals include:

- New multi-purpose centre at All Saints College, Maitland
- Two separate subdivisions at Owlpen Lane, Farley with a combined total of 180 lots
- Childcare centre at Gillieston Heights
- Childcare centre at Chisholm
- Warehouse at Rutherford
- Subdivision at McFarlanes Road, Chisholm, of 325 residential lots
- Subdivision at Darkmouth Street, Chisholm, of 282 residential lots
- Commercial use approvals at Mitchell Drive East Maitland, High Street, Maitland, and Gardiner Street, Rutherford
- Childcare facility at Loane Street, Farley.

Development applications (DA) lodged and processed



Construction certificates (CC) lodged and processed



Customer and digital experience

Council's Customer Experience Team received 27,545 calls, a consistent amount compared to the prior corresponding period of 27,645. Our corporate website received over 378,053 visits, and we facilitated 2,550 live chats.

Council has agreed service levels we aim to meet for each customer service request category, subject to the seriousness of the issue. These range from three days for waste-related matters to 20 days for pothole repairs and footpath maintenance. Of all the requests finalised during the period, we completed 66 per cent within agreed service levels.

Process improvements

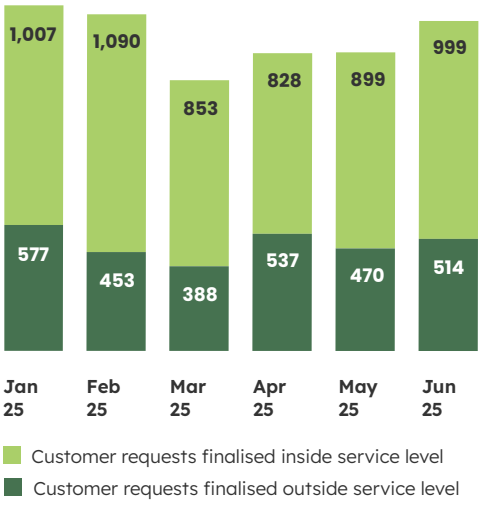
In the first six months using the new Enghouse phone system, our Customer Experience Team saw significant service improvements. Average caller wait times have dropped from four minutes and 36 seconds to just one minute and 53 seconds with abandoned calls decreasing from 20 per day down to an average of five.

We're also achieving an impressive 80 per cent first call resolution rate, meaning four out of five calls are fully resolved without needing a transfer. This move to a new system is part of our commitment to developing a trusted customer experience for our community and also helps to reduce pressure on internal teams.

Top five customer service requests:

- Bin repair - 1,473
- Tree maintenance - 604
- Potholes - 442
- Garbage bin collection issue - 412
- Stray dogs - 257

Customer service requests closed – 8,615



27,545
phone calls received

3,735
in person visitors

378,053
website visits

4/5
customer satisfaction score

15

Our flood response

In May 2025, Maitland faced significant flooding that impacted thousands across the East Coast of NSW. Persistent heavy rainfall was experienced which resulted in flooding and flash flooding, impacting residents, businesses and roads across the entire Local Government Area. The flooding event was listed as a natural disaster and turned streets into rivers, causing significant damage to infrastructure and properties, loss of livestock and isolated residents.

Through the destruction and devastation, the true community spirit and resilience of Maitland shone. With community wellbeing and communication as the highest priority, our dedicated teams worked relentlessly. It was all hands-on deck with our outdoor crews braving the elements to support with road closures and traffic control. Our customer experience team, communications team and logistics staff were holding the fort behind the scenes 24 hours a day to ensure our community was connected with clear and constant information as it rapidly changed.

Maitland cemented itself as the heart of the Hunter and for the first time Maitland City Council became State Emergency Services (SES) communication headquarters for the week hosting daily press conferences from Maitland Town Hall. We welcomed several high-profile visitors, including senior agency officials from the SES, NSW Police, and the Bureau of Meteorology, as well as members of Parliament, including the NSW Premier and Prime Minister.

The Maitland Flood Recognition 2025 event was delivered in June at Harold Gregson Reserve to acknowledge and thank NSW State Emergency Services and community volunteers for their efforts in supporting the city during the May flood event. The event drew an attendance of approximately 150 people and featured an official presentation ceremony, food trucks, music and free face painting.

The recovery and clean up effort will continue for the months following the floods with assessment of damages and reconstruction repairs. Maitland recovery centre was opened within Maitland City Council administration building and was one of five centres in NSW. The centre provided our community with direct access to in person support from government service agencies, housing and reconstruction authorities and community welfare organisations.

While the road to recovery continues, the response to the May 2025 floods has shown once again that Maitland is a community built on resilience, compassion and strength.

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

225.8mm
total May rainfall

8.1m
Hunter River peak

103
local roads impacted

69
road closures

21
internal response team meetings

10%
increase in daily calls

53
social media updates

7.6 million people
media coverage reach

maitland CITY COUNCIL

Highlight stories

Awards and recognition

Our Aquatic Centres completed this year's Royal Life Aquatics Facility Assessment with results published in April 2025. Both centres achieved a near-perfect rating. Maitland Aquatic Centre was awarded 99 per cent out of 100 safety rating with a 99 per cent five-star Safety Partner Accreditation score. East Maitland Aquatic Centre retained its 98 per cent safety rating from last year and achieved a perfect 100 per cent five-star score.

On top of an already successful period for our Aquatic Centres, our very own Aquatics Officer, Mel Sweeney, was crowned the 2025 "Pool Lifeguard of the Year" at the Royal Life Saving NSW annual awards gala.

Maitland City Council was shortlisted as a finalist in all four categories we entered at the 2025 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards. Our submissions showcased the innovation, dedication, and collaboration we have been achieved together through various projects, including our digital transformation journey, workplace wellbeing initiatives, leadership approach and Maitland Riverlights. While we didn't take home a category win, Maitland Riverlights Festival was proud to receive a Highly Commended Award in the Community Partnerships category.

The 2025 National Trust (NSW) Heritage Awards recognised two of Maitland City Council's local history projects. Flood Level 1955 took out first place in the Events, Exhibitions and Tours category, while Maitland in Focus received a Highly Commended in the Resources and Publications category.

Our Deputy Director of Maitland Regional Art Gallery, Courtney Novak, was awarded a Museum and Galleries of NSW Fellowship. This professional development program will see Courtney travel to Paris to develop skills and cultivate networks within a leading contemporary art centre.

Our Annual Report 2023-24 was awarded a silver award at the Australasian Reporting Awards, held in May 2025. The award reflects the high quality and transparency of our reporting to our community, with annual reports benchmarked against the strictest criteria.

Community grants

Council's bi-annual Community Grants program allocated over $56,000 towards 15 community projects in round two of the Community Projects and Celebrations program.

Applications for round one of the program for the next financial year were open throughout May 2025. Successful recipients will be presented to Council for endorsement of funding early in the next financial year.

The Individual Development Grant is available year-round and offered five rounds of funding opportunities between January 2025 and June 2025. Council awarded over $24,600 to 39 successful applicants.

Lending a hand with Cyclone Alfred clean up efforts in Tweed Shire

As a flood-prone community, we understand the challenges that arise during an emergency and the immediate recovery period. That's why 12 of our outdoor staff volunteered to head north to assist Tweed Shire Council with clean-up efforts following Cyclone Alfred. Staff attended from a range of teams, including plant operators, labourers, greenkeepers and mechanics, who helped over two weeks in March 2025.

The team removed countless tree branches and other debris from roadways, processed dozens of mulch loads and helped clean up an entire housing estate. The assistance from our staff was greatly appreciated by Tweed Shire Council and is a testament to the generosity and spirit of our staff and community.

Keeping Maitland green

Parks Week was celebrated in March 2025 to highlight the key role that parks, and open spaces play in our community. We celebrated our Recreation Works team, comprising of 60 staff who regularly mow, weed, plant and prune over 300 hectares of recreational space throughout our community.

Council has commenced planning with providers to upgrade water and electricity meters across 130 Council facilities. This upgrade will provide near real-time monitoring with remotely read meters, allowing the close monitoring of energy and water to achieve economic and sustainable efficiencies. We anticipate upgrades will commence within the next financial year.

Between January and June 2025, Council planted over 4,600 seedlings and 123 trees. Over 90 per cent of the trees planted were semi-mature and planted in high-risk areas for urban heat and parks with limited shade coverage.

Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) launch

The FOGO initiative allows the disposal of both food scraps and garden waste in the existing green organic bins. We launched a FOGO education campaign to assist our community transition to using the FOGO service. Staff conducted multiple community pop-up stalls, workshops and presentations between January and June 2025, reaching over 840 residents across 31 suburbs and delivering more than 20 school education talks.

Having successfully rolled out the kitchen caddies and liners to all residential premises across Maitland, the FOGO service started on 30 June 2025.

Green organics bins along with red general waste bins are now collected weekly, and the yellow recycling bins continue to be collected fortnightly.

The implementation of FOGO addresses legislative requirements and helps us reach our Environmental Sustainability Strategy target to divert 80 per cent of landfill by 2030.

Maitland Libraries

We invited Maitland residents to have their say about the future of Maitland libraries with a community survey, ideas board and pop-up engagements launched on Library Lovers Day in February 2025. The engagement received over 550 interactions, with the campaign providing feedback across our collections, programming, service provision, room booking options, technologies and more.

The Literature Live series continues to bring audiences to the library to experience author talks celebrating diverse heritage and cultural experiences through a love of reading. The libraries hosted six authors through the series with over 368 attendees from January to June 2025.

Branch closures due to the impacts from weather events and required maintenance have led to a four per cent decrease in physical library loans compared to last year. However, access to our online collections through the Library Digital Application, has seen a 20 per cent increase in online collection use.

Maitland Visitor Economy Forum

The annual Maitland Visitor Economy Forum took place on Wednesday 25 June, at Tocal College, attracting over 40 local tourism operators, plus industry representatives and staff.

Delegates heard from Council, Destination Sydney Surrounds North, the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner, and Newcastle Airport. The program included networking opportunities and workshops on accommodation development, agritourism development and nighttime economy.

Since the adoption of the Maitland Destination Management Plan in 2020, we've held this event on an annual basis to showcase Maitland and strengthen our local visitor economy.

Major venues and facilities

Our Town Hall team has been working hard to improve the events offering at Town Hall and has seen the booked hours across all rooms increase by an astounding 134 per cent when compared to the same six-month period last year. This increase has been driven by the Town Hall Operations team providing a high level of service to all attendees and by fostering a culture of improvement throughout their processes.

The International Women's Day 2025 event at Town Hall brought together over 130 attendees for a morning celebration of women's achievements. The event also featured a keynote address by Sam Lane and the presentation of the inaugural International Women's Day Loretta Baker Scholarship to Isabella Crebert.

The Seniors Festival 2025 was held over two weeks in March 2025, delivering an inclusive program of over 45 free or low-cost activities to strengthen connections within our senior's community.

Maitland Town Hall hosted two highlight events including Rock, Roll and Shine, a seniors' lunch and show, and Time to Shine, a seniors discover and connect exhibition.

We saw our Town Hall used as a flood recovery centre while still providing service to hirers including the VET Apprenticeship & Traineeship Pathways Career Expo, A-List Entertainment with Akmal's return performance, Department of Education exams, Mother's Day performances, and many more.

Despite ongoing wet weather and cancellations, Maitland Regional Athletics Centre continues to exceed expectations, hosting three major athletic events and 39 school athletic carnivals. The growing popularity of public access to the regional athletics facilities on Monday nights has led to the extension of the trial throughout this period.

Maitland Regional Art Gallery

This year, Maitland Regional Art Gallery celebrates being in operation for 50 years with many exhibitions aimed at celebrating Hunter based artists and stories. The Friends of Maitland Regional Art Gallery group will be actively involved in the gallery's 50 year celebrations, supporting two initiatives, a children's book of art activities and the acquisition of an emerging artist's work into the collection.

Over 465 visitors to the gallery completed the customer satisfaction survey, resulting in an astounding average satisfaction score of 99.7 per cent. Gallery volunteer numbers continue to grow with 48 volunteers supporting the community and increasing access to art, programs and our collection.

Events and activation

Maitland was excited to welcome back Hunter Valley Steamfest in April 2025, welcoming over 50,000 visitors to the event. The program offered steam and diesel train journeys, vintage machinery, classic car display, live entertainment and family-friendly activities.

January saw another successful Australia Day, with over 2,500 attendees participating in a range of activities on offer in Maitland Park, an official ceremony at Maitland Town Hall, and free pool entry at Maitland Aquatic Centre, and a dive in cinema.

Harold Gregson Reserve hosted two key events, with over 450 people enjoying live music at Summer Night Sounds and over 500 attendees strapping on their roller skates for the Maitland Roller Disco in February.

The Levee was cooled down in January and February 2025 with inflatable misting tunnels and free ice blocks on offer for our community. Live at The Levee's Coffin Lane and Street Party returned with over 600 people participating across the two events. Five Street Eats were held across the city, while Level Up at The Levee attendees enjoyed a vibrant hub of fandom, featuring cosplay, interactive experiences, collectibles, and more.

Over 950 attendees participated in a range of events for Youth Week in April. Youth Week Live and Youth Express Art Exhibition at Maitland Regional Art Gallery provided young artists a platform to showcase their performances and artworks where a learn to skate workshop was held to promote skill development. The program provided opportunities for the wider community to connect with young people and celebrate youth voices, creativity and social interaction.

Council's newest event, Luminous, attracted over 12,500 people in June. Designed to ignite a new winter tradition in the heart of the city, Luminous offered a free, family-friendly night out featuring glowing installations, interactive art, roving performers and live music, which proved a hit with the crowd.

Long Term Planning

Maitland's Future, our Community Strategic Plan, was endorsed by Council in March 2025 with a shared vision for a connected city with thriving communities. A successful public exhibition period was undertaken which saw 35 formal submissions received, over 59,000 people reached through social media, and over 73,500 video views.

Delivering Maitland's Future, our Delivery Program and Operational Plan, and Resourcing Maitland's Future were endorsed in June 2025 and outline our detailed plans for the next four years, clearly showing how we will achieve, implement and resource the priorities in Maitland's Future in terms of our actions, our people, our assets and our finances.

Council endorsed our first Economic Development Strategy for public exhibition in May 2025, a significant milestone for Maitland. The strategy puts community wellbeing at the forefront, focusing on people, place, prosperity and partnerships. Through meaningful conversation with the community, local businesses, industry groups and schools, we've shaped a strategy that reflects our community's priorities and values as it continues to grow. A total of 15 submissions were received, including seven letters of support. The Economic Development Strategy will be presented back to Council following the public exhibition period for submission consideration and endorsement.

Eight submissions were received for the draft Maitland Residential Density Guide when Council endorsed it for public exhibition in March. The revised draft is expected to be reported to Council in late 2025 for endorsement.

In May, Council placed the draft Development Control Plan on extended public exhibition for 70 days. This extension allows Maitland City Council to conduct extensive community consultation, including hosting four community information sessions.

Flood Level 1955 – 70th anniversary

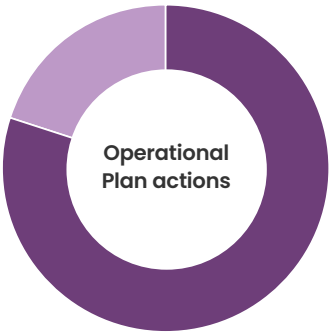
Flood Level 1955 was a three-week commemorative event held in February and March 2025 which highlighted the community resilience of the 1955 flooding event. Over 1,200 attendees took part throughout the event which included an official remembrance ceremony, plaque unveiling, grand opening of Flood Level 1955 - a Historical Exhibition, rescue vehicle and watercraft display, launch of Beyond the Flood Levels – Augmented Reality Heritage Walk and a free community barbeque.

The three-week exhibition held at the Maitland Administration Centre presented a multi-faceted narrative through carefully co-curated displays by an array of local community groups and government agencies. The display aimed to take visitors on a journey of reflection, remembrance and resilience.

Our progress

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

Liveable Maitland



Library visitation

JAN–JUN 24
107,020

5%
Decrease

JAN–JUN 25
101,400

Decrease in numbers due to branch closures for required maintenance following impacts from weather events.

Aquatic Centres visitation

JAN–JUN 24
119,137

–
Maintain

JAN–JUN 25
119,114

Status key

On track/complete Monitor

1.1 To stay happy, friendly and proud as our city grows Make our neighbourhoods great with spaces, activities and programs that connect us through participating in local arts, cultural and library activities and programs. We want to feel safe wherever we are, anytime of day or night.		
Actions		Status
1.1.1 Welcome new residents and foster community connection		
1.1.1.1	Continue to engage and build connections with our multicultural community	▶
1.1.1.2	Continue to welcome people to the city through our new resident initiatives	▶
1.1.2 Provide inclusive spaces where people can access services, and participate in a wide range of recreation, cultural and social activities		
1.1.2.1	Develop a Social Plan for Maitland	▶
1.1.2.2	Convene an Access and Inclusion Working Group within Council, made up of employees across departments to manage the implementation of the actions from the DIAP	▶
1.1.2.3	Review the Maitland Access and Inclusion Reference Group (AIRG) and promote awareness among staff and community members	▶
1.1.2.5	Develop a Community Infrastructure Strategy (CIS)	▶

Our achievements

146
new citizens welcomed in three ceremonies

13,136
potholes filled

27,371
Aquatic Centre program attendance

7,327
attendees at 433 events held at our Libraries

185,216
e-resources and physical library loans

2,246
planning certificates processed

1.1.2.6	Develop a site plan and project initiation brief (PIB) for Sophia Waters	▶
1.1.2.8	Develop and deliver a memorial garden, using donated WW1 commemorative stones, at Judd Greedy Commemorative Garden, Gillieston Heights	◆
1.1.2.10	Implement initiatives to increase usage and availability of our community centres	▶
1.1.2.11	Implement initiatives to increase usage of community spaces in the Maitland Town Hall	▶
1.1.2.12	Develop concept plans and costings to complete identified priority sports venues of Largs Oval Sportsground, Roy Jordan Sportsground, Beryl Humble Sportsground & Lochinvar Sports Complex, for funding opportunities	▶
1.1.2.13	Facilitate the establishment of community gardens within the Maitland LGA	▶
1.1.2.14	Deliver programmed maintenance and improvements across prioritised assets	▶
1.1.2.15	Determine and prioritise asset and building accessibility upgrades as part of asset management, service level planning, and strategic infrastructure provision.	▶
1.1.2.16	Act on Council's decision in relation to the future use of the former Council Administration building	▶
1.1.3 Improve the appearance and presentation of the city, supporting a sense of community pride		
1.1.3.1	Complete the installation of branded signage for the city	◆
1.1.3.2	Deliver a citywide graffti removal program in partnership with Rotary	▶
1.1.3.3	Maintain New England Highway medians and verges under agreement with Transport for NSW	▶

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

1.1.4 Deliver vibrant and valued community events and programs		
1.1.4.1	Investigate new opportunities and continue to deliver neighbourhood events and place activation activities across our suburbs	▶
1.1.4.2	Engage with our community to develop community programs	▶
1.1.5 Commence construction of new multipurpose centres at Thornton, Tenambit and Chisholm		
1.1.5.1	Commence delivery of a new multipurpose centre at Tenambit	◆
1.1.5.2	Commence delivery of a new multipurpose centre at Chisholm	◆
1.1.6 Enhance library facilities, content and collections to maximise opportunities for community connection and learning		
1.1.6.1	Create and deliver member and community promotional campaigns to increase participation with Maitland Libraries	▶
1.1.6.2	Deliver library service and physical space improvements to remove inclusion barriers	▶
1.1.6.3	Deliver new access initiatives through collection enhancements and member experiences	▶
1.1.6.4	Deliver online resources and access to collections and technologies through Maitland Libraries	▶
1.1.6.5	Manage library buildings and spaces, including meeting room hire	▶
1.1.7 Deliver contemporary and engaging art exhibitions and cultural programs to our community and visitors through Maitland Regional Art Gallery		
1.1.7.1	Identify potential additional streams of revenue for the Maitland Regional Art Gallery while continuing to reduce reliance on rate income	▶
1.1.7.2	Provide a range of inclusive and accessible cultural and educational programs and partnerships that engage local artists, youth, students, First Nations, multicultural and disabled communities	▶
1.1.7.3	Store and display the city's collection of art, including increasing the availability of online content through asset digitisation	▶
1.1.7.4	Provide opportunities to connect with and enjoy local, national and international artists, through a program of exhibitions, creative workshops and artistic programs	▶
1.1.7.5	Increase community engagement with the gallery through memberships, volunteering or engagement with online content	▶
1.1.8 Design and manage our public spaces to ensure people feel safe		
1.1.8.1	Increase the perception of safety through supporting increased night time place activation	▶
1.2 To easily get to where we want to go We will plan to meet the need of those using our roads and make it safe and easy to get around the city, no matter how we choose to travel.		
1.2.1 Better align land use and transport planning to move toward the region's target of 15 minute neighbourhoods with access to housing, jobs, services and transport		
1.2.1.1	Participate in long term transport planning that supports the delivery of state and regional plans	▶
1.2.1.2	Advocate to and engage with Transport for NSW on the long term management of city roads and road related infrastructure	▶
1.2.2 Work with the State Government to fund the timely maintenance and/or delivery of essential State infrastructure across the City and its urban release areas		
1.2.2.1	Continue to work with Transport for NSW to address the increasing traffic congestion along the New England Highway corridor	▶

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

1.2.2.2	Work with Transport for NSW and other stakeholders to develop a Place Plan for Maitland LGA, focusing on the Eastern, Western and Central Precincts	▶
1.2.2.3	Represent community needs to the NSW Government in relation to funding and partnering for improvements to Raymond Terrace Road the corridor through Thornton linking Weakleys Drive and Raymond Terrace Road	▶
1.2.3 Develop and promote Council's long term program for road and related infrastructure, construction and maintenance		
1.2.3.1	Promote Council's Capital Works Program and major infrastructure projects via the web and other mediums to increase community awareness	▶
1.2.4 Make our roads safer through the timely delivery of road maintenance and safety programs		
1.2.4.1	Deliver a road safety program, in accordance with funding provided by the State Government's Local Government Road Safety Program	▶
1.2.4.2	Review and update the Road Safety Action Plan	◆
1.2.4.3	Progress construction of the Raymond Terrace and Government Road intersection upgrade at Thornton, in accordance with Council's works program and part funding received by the State Government Restart NSW program	▶
1.2.4.4	Deliver pump house control access road at Oakhampton Heights	▶
1.2.4.5	Deliver traffic facilities, such as pedestrian refuges and line marking, to support road user safety	▶
1.2.4.6	Deliver major road maintenance and construction programmed works at Luskintyre, Duckenfield, Gillieston Heights, Maitland Vale, Rutherford and Thornton	▶
1.2.4.7	Deliver citywide programmed urban and rural road maintenance, rehabilitation, resurfacing and renewal works	▶
1.2.4.8	Continue to progress the delivery of programmed improvements to the Thornton Road network	▶
1.2.4.9	Deliver programmed bridge and culvert maintenance and inspection works	▶
1.2.5 Continue to advocate for more and improved public transport services including stops and service frequency in areas of identified residential and economic growth		
1.2.5.1	Advocate for more reliable, frequent and connected public transport services	▶
1.2.6 Resolve parking and accessibility challenges in key community and recreation precincts		
1.2.6.1	Deliver programmed car park maintenance and construction works	▶
1.2.7 Replace the bridge at Melville Ford to improve access for residents		
1.2.7.1	Remove and replace Melville Ford Bridge with a raised deck	◆
1.3 To acknowledge First Nations peoples and their stewardship of the land within our city Recognise and respect our First Nations peoples and their connection with the land and waterways for thousands of years.		
1.3.1 Acknowledge and improve engagement with our indigenous community, the caretakers of the land, who have been looking after both land and waterways for thousands of years		
1.3.1.1	Continue to draw on information, guidance and strategic advice through a revised and representative Aboriginal Reference Group on matters relating to Aboriginal community, culture and heritage	▶
1.3.1.2	Engage with our Aboriginal community to progress the development and implementation of a Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan	▶
1.3.1.3	Support the delivery of NAIDOC Week celebrations	▶
1.3.1.4	Engage and partner with Mindaribba Local Aboriginal Land Council our Aboriginal community to explore options for progressing relevant cultural tourism experiences identified in the Destination Management Plan	◆

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

1.4 To be healthy and active with access to local services and facilities Ensure the community and health services and facilities we need are available as our population grows and changes. Expand and enhance formal education opportunities from preschool to post graduate and provide facilities that enable us to participate in recreational and sports activities, no matter our background, ability or age.		
1.4.1 Deliver Council's community health responsibilities		
1.4.1.1	Provide four free immunisation clinics each month for children up to four years of age, in line with the NSW immunisation schedule	▶
1.4.1.2	Investigate, enforce and educate the community on local laws, policies and guidelines as they refer to food safety and hygiene	▶
1.4.2 Provide continued and improved cemetery services		
1.4.2.1	Prepare a project plan and cost estimates for the digitisation of cemetery records and headstones	▶
1.4.2.2	Manage cemetery enquiries and the administration of cemetery records	▶
1.4.2.3	Identify and implement a prioritised program for the replacement and maintenance of cemetery fencing across the city, as required	▶
1.4.2.4	Facilitate burials and ash interments at the city's four operational cemeteries	▶
1.4.3 Manage community assets in line with agreed levels of service as captured in asset management plans, policy and strategy		
1.4.3.1	Develop asset lifecycle plans for high priority assets	◆
1.4.3.2	Review Council's asset planning suite of documents in line with our Asset Management Policy	▶
1.4.3.3	Deliver the plant replacement program	▶
1.4.3.4	Develop a plan of management for community land, including Crown Land sites	◆
1.4.4 Progress the delivery of improvements to Cooks Square Park		
1.4.4.1	Upgrade amenities and changerooms to provide gender inclusivity and accessibility, at Cooks Square Park, East Maitland, in accordance with funding provided by the State Government Stronger Country Communities Fund	◆
1.4.5 Provide play spaces across the city to accommodate all age and ability groups		
1.4.5.1	Deliver programmed play space works across the city	▶
1.4.5.2	Deliver an inclusive play space and skate park in Roy Jordan Oval, Gillieston Heights, in accordance with funding provided by the State Government's Places to Play Program	▶
1.4.6 Construct, maintain and manage inclusive sport and recreation facilities across the city		
1.4.6.1	Commence delivery of the Chisholm sportsground	◆
1.4.6.2	Commence delivery of the Max McMahon Oval building and facilities in Rutherford	▶
1.4.6.3	Maintain and improve the quality of sportsground playing surfaces, lighting and facilities	▶
1.4.6.4	Provide access to a range of community sporting and recreation facilities that support various sporting pursuits, through scheduled bookings for sporting clubs, schools and other parties	▶
1.4.6.5	Manage the booking and use of the Maitland Regional Sports Complex, including the Maitland Regional Sportsground and Maitland Regional Athletics Centre grounds and function rooms	▶

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

1.4.6.6	Identify a suitable site and develop a concept plan for a full size pump track within the LGA with consideration to include adjacent to existing BMX facility	◆
1.4.6.7	Progress the development application for the playground of significance at Maitland Park, and James St Reserve Morpeth, together with proactively seeking funding opportunities to advance construction	◆
1.4.6.8	Deliver shared pathway and exercise stations at Norm Chapman Oval, Rutherford, in accordance with funding provided by the State Government's Stronger Country Communities fund (Round 5)	▶
1.4.6.9	Upgrade sports and recreation amenities and changerooms works program to provide accessible and inclusive access	◆
1.4.7 Plan and build more shared pathways that connect sites and centres via walking and riding, both within the Maitland local government area and regionally		
1.4.7.1	Continue to work with Transport for NSW on shared path link from Hillgate Drive to Settlers Boulevard on Raymond Terrace Road	▶
1.4.7.2	Develop a concept plan identifying a shared pathway route across the city including Rutherford to Walka Water Works, Walka Water Works to Central Maitland, Maitland to Morpeth and identify funding to deliver the section from Walka to Central Maitland	◆
1.4.7.3	Deliver Stage 2B of a shared pathway route from Walka Water Works to Morpeth, linking Steamer Street to Queens Wharf Road via Morpeth Road, in accordance with funding provided by the State Government's Resources for Regions Fund	▶
1.4.7.4	Continue the delivery of improved shared pathway connections between Chisholm and Thornton, including construction of a shared pathway between Hillgate Drive and Allan and Don Lawrence Field, Thornton	◆
1.4.7.5	Review and update the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan together with Maitland Bicycle Plan	◆
1.4.7.6	Deliver programmed pathway maintenance works	▶
1.4.7.7	Progress planning to act on an enclosed off leash dog area on the western side of the LGA	▶
1.4.8 Operate Council's aquatics service in line with community needs		
1.4.8.1	Operate community pools in compliance with NSW Health, Royal Life Saving NSW and Workplace Health and Safety requirement	▶
1.4.8.2	Deliver a range of inclusive and accessible aquatics programs, including learn to swim, swim and survive, and fitness and squad programs	▶
1.4.9 Plan for the long term management and improvement of the Maitland Park precinct		
1.4.9.1	Commence the design and delivery for the Maitland Park Cricket Net Complex and identify funding sources	▶
1.4.9.2	Review and update the Plan of Management (PoM) for Maitland Park	◆
1.4.9.3	Install shared pathway and facility lighting around Maitland Park and commence placement of flood lighting on the outer fields in accordance with funding provided by the State Government Stronger Country Communities Fund	▶
1.4.9.4	Prioritise the progression of the Maitland Park outer fields power upgrade	◆
1.4.9.5	Undertake a review of the Maitland Park masterplan to ensure planning is in line with current and future community requirements	▶
1.4.10 Work in partnership with the State Government to remediate and improve the Walka Water Works Precinct		
1.4.10.1	Deliver Walka Water Works site remediation as funded by Crown Lands	▶

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

1.4.11 Progress the delivery of the Maitland Aquatics Masterplan, including new and inclusive amenities		
1.4.11.2	Development of Maitland Aquatic Centre Master Plan	▶
1.4.12 Plan for and facilitate the development of an expanded health precinct at the East Maitland catalyst area		
1.4.12.1	Work in partnership with State Agencies to finalise the East Maitland Structure Plan and Infrastructure Needs Analysis	◆
1.4.13 Advocate for the provision of education facilities and services that meet current and anticipated community growth		
1.4.13.1	Deliver engaging programming to foster literacy development and lifelong learning opportunities	▶
1.5 To celebrate what makes our city unique - our history, our people and our river Understand and acknowledge the rich culture of our people and recognise the importance of our heritage buildings and precincts and embrace the Hunter River as an iconic part of our city.		
1.5.1 Curate and promote our unique history through our collections, museums and experiences		
1.5.1.1	Promote our unique history to attract visitors and investment	▶
1.5.1.2	Continue to deliver projects from the Maitland Heritage Interpretation Master Plan, including plans for post markers and shopfront projections	▶
1.5.2 Support the recording of stories and development of new narratives about Maitland's identity		
1.5.2.1	Deliver actions from the Open Minds Open Musuems plan	▶
1.5.2.2	Commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 1955 Maitland Flood	▶
1.5.3 Support a modern approach to the interpretation of our city's built heritage through development controls and incentives		
1.5.3.1	Administer the Maitland Heritage Group	▶
1.5.3.2	Conserve the city's heritage items through a heritage incentive program, providing matching funding for works approved within the guidelines of the Local Heritage Fund, and a heritage works grant program to undertake restoration, interpretation and improvement	▶
1.5.3.3	Continue implementation of the Central Maitland Heritage Interpretation Plan	▶
1.5.3.4	Prepare a citywide Cemetery Heritage Interpretation Plan	▶
1.5.3.5	Promote the heritage of Maitland through publications	▶
1.5.4 Manage Council's heritage assets, including our buildings and cemeteries, in line with community expectations		
1.5.4.1	Deliver improvement and restoration works at Morpeth Museum	◆
1.5.5 Improve facilities at the Steamfest Rally Ground		
1.5.5.1	Continue to support the delivery of Steamfest and support of the Steamfest working group	▶

Within this focus area, Council has identified 20 actions under "monitor", due to delays in progress. However, unless otherwise stated, delivery is still expected. The reasons for these actions not being delivered within the initially scheduled time frames are:

- seven due to change of scope/priorities
- seven due to external factors
- three due to budget/funding
- two due to scheduling
- one due to resourcing
- one due to weather

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

Sustainable Maitland

Recyclables collected at kerbside

9%
Decrease

JAN–JUN 24
2,582t

JAN–JUN 25
2,342t

Shifts toward lighter plastic packaging and increased use of recycling schemes like the Container Deposit Scheme (Return and Earn) have resulted in reduced overall recycling weights.

Waste collected at kerbside

5%
increase

JAN–JUN 24
12,433t

JAN–JUN 25
13,055t

Increase is likely due to the growth of our LGA with new additional domestic waste services delivered in the reporting period.

Status key

▶ On track/complete ◆ Monitor

3.1 To love and look after our outdoors

Tread lightly while enjoying our areas of bushland and open spaces, protect our native plants and animals and improve the quality of our waterways and wetlands.

Actions		Status
3.1.1 Promote opportunities to access public bushland and open space across the city		
3.1.1.1	Continue opportunities for the community to be involved in Landcare on public land and conservation projects	▶
3.1.1.2	Work with our community to design and improve natural spaces in accordance with funding provided by the State Government Resources for Regions Fund	▶
3.1.2 Retain areas of bushland and open space, including wildlife corridors		
3.1.2.1	Investigate mechanisms to facilitate restoration outcomes through the Biodiversity Offset Scheme and the opportunity to establish environmental stewardship sites	▶
3.1.2.2	Undertake citywide wildlife corridor fauna surveys and prepare plans and guidance for corridor improvement	▶
3.1.3 Manage revegetation and the control of weeds and invasive animals in public natural spaces		
3.1.3.1	Maintain priority weeds on public and private land, to manage their negative impact on our environment	▶

Our achievements

83.3%
average of impounded animals returned home

2,960
seedlings given away to residents

88
illegal dumping incidents

1,415
Recycle Smart pickups

4,620
seedlings planted by Council

76t
e-waste collected

3.1.3.2	Provide care for seized, lost and abandoned pets and animals through Maitland Animal Management Facility	▶
3.1.3.3	Upgrade and expand Maitland's Animal Management Facility	▶
3.1.4 Improve the management of stormwater to protect homes, improve water quality and mitigate water wastage		
3.1.4.1	Deliver tree planting at strategic locations across the city	▶
3.1.4.2	Look after our wetlands and lagoons by monitoring water quality, and implementing signage to advise on appropriate site usage	▶
3.1.4.3	Deliver programmed drainage works to improve their ability to deal with localised flooding events	▶
3.1.5 Partner with relevant parties to protect, enhance, maintain and restore river and wetland health and amenity through the development and delivery of a Hunter River Estuary Coastal Management Plan		
3.1.5.1	Deliver a Hunter River education project, 'Vibrant River', in accordance with funding provided by the State Government Coastal and Estuary Grants Program	▶
3.2 To reduce our reliance on non-renewable natural resources Learn how to positively contribute to our environmental wellbeing, at home and as a community.		
3.2.1 Provide opportunities to participate in environmental learning activities and programs		
3.2.1.1	Deliver a Green Communities program of information and events, including our school programs and environmental youth forum	▶
3.2.1.2	Deliver Landcare program in accordance with Council's Landcare Policy	▶

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

3.2.2 Implement solutions that reduce our reliance on non-renewable natural resources		
3.2.2.1	Identify water and energy initiatives for Council assets	▶
3.2.2.2	Monitor energy use at our facilities, and install building and lighting upgrades as identified to maximise use of renewable energy	▶
3.2.3 Develop a remediation action plan for former landfill sites		
3.2.3.1	Implement and manage remediation action plan for the former Anambah landfill	◆
3.3 To be ready for more hot days, storms and floods **Understand climate risks and our impacts and take action against these.**		
3.3.1 Address urban heat island effects through increased tree planting and retention across the city		
3.3.1.1	Work with the community to restore and improve the integrity of local ecosystems in accordance with funding provided by the NSW Environmental Trust including the Flying fox home base project at Earthcare Park, Tenambit	▶
3.3.1.2	Develop and implement a comprehensive Biodiversity Offset Policy	◆
3.3.1.3	Encourage community involvement in environmental initiatives, through seedling giveaways and tree planting events	▶
3.3.1.4	Develop strategic initiatives to support increased tree canopy cover and reduce urban heat across selected Council managed lands	▶
3.3.1.5	Increase street tree planting on roadsides and community spaces	▶
3.3.1.6	Develop dashboards and data sharing approaches to monitor and share our environmental performance over time	▶
3.3.2 Support the State Government's commitment to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and use of fossil fuel		
3.3.2.1	Monitor water and energy use at select Council sites, and develop and implement site specific water and energy effciency programs where high use is detected	▶
3.3.2.2	Participate in the development of a Hunter Regional Electric Vehicle (EV) charging regional strategy with the Hunter JO and Hunter Councils and develop a local approach to its implementation	▶
3.3.3 Participate in partnerships and seek grant funding to achieve climate change action		
3.3.3.1	Develop local climate resilience policy for locations affected by heat, fire and flooding	▶
3.3.3.2	Take a regional approach to environmental sustainability, working with other Hunter councils on projects to increase our environmental resilience	▶
3.3.4 Ensure Council is appropriately managing the risk to current and future residents on land impacted by flooding		
3.3.4.1	Revise the Maitland Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for the whole of Maitland LGA in accordance with the NSW floodplain risk management process, pending the availability of funding	▶
3.3.4.2	Improve the availability of flood mapping data for the Maitland community	▶
3.3.4.3	Install flood warning signage on major evacuation routes	◆
3.3.4.4	Undertake a review of the Maitland Local Environmental Plan 2011 and/ or Maitland Development Control Plan to reflect State changes to flood planning in New South Wales	▶
3.3.4.5	Undertake further Hunter River and local catchment flood studies to address flood information gaps (pending the availability of funding)	◆

3.4 To reduce our waste Limit the amount of waste we create and send to landfill.		
3.4.1 Support the State Government's commitment to diversion of waste from landfill		
3.4.1.1	Reduce the amount of waste produced at Council events	▶
3.4.1.2	Develop technical guidance and monitoring tools to support the use of circular economy enabled goods and services	▶
3.4.1.3	Provide community recycling and reuse education, workshops and programs	▶
3.4.1.4	Continue the RecycleSmart collection program to increase recycling of problem wastes	▶
3.4.2 Deliver a sustainable waste management collection and disposal service		
3.4.2.1	Commence a review for the long term use of the tip face and remediation of the Maitland Resource Recovery Facility landfill	◆
3.4.2.2	Develop an Asset Management Plan for Waste Services	◆
3.4.2.3	Provide additional resource recovery options at our waste and recycling centres	◆
3.4.2.4	Operate the Maitland Resource Recovery Facility	▶
3.4.2.5	Provide general waste, organics and recycling collection services	▶
3.4.2.6	Deliver an on demand bulky waste management service and engage the community on the correct use of this service	▶
3.4.3 Increase focus on eliminating litter and illegal dumping		
3.4.3.1	Collect waste and investigate illegal dumping activities, at the same time educating our community on alternatives for getting rid of problem waste, like mattresses, tyres and furniture	▶
3.4.4 Complete construction of the Mount Vincent Waste Transfer Station		
3.4.4.1	Progress the staged delivery of the Waste Management Centre upgrade	▶
3.4.5 Implement waste service changes, including the introduction of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection		
3.4.5.1	Deliver a community education program to introduce the Food Organics Garden Organics service	▶
3.4.5.2	Roll out kitchen caddies and liners to all residential premises in preparation for the food organics service	▶

Within this focus area, Council has identified seven actions under "monitor", due to delays in progress. However, unless otherwise stated, delivery is still expected. The reasons for these actions not being delivered within the initially scheduled time frames are:

- two due to change of scope/priorities
- two due to resourcing
- two due to scheduling
- one due to budget/funding.

Vibrant Maitland

Maitland Regional Art Gallery visitation

JAN-JUN 25

61,859

Data is not comparable to previous years due to the transition from a manual counting process to an automated system. This change allows us to capture more accurate data.

Major venues and facilities hours of usage

JAN-JUN 25

43,771

Data is not comparable to previous years due to the implementation of a new facility management software. This change allows us to capture more accurate data.

Status key

On track/complete Monitor

2.1 To shop and work locally

Access what we need in our local neighbourhoods and attract new and innovative industries and opportunities.

Actions		Status
2.1.1 Review existing Development Contribution Plans (7.11) in line with State Government changes, to allow for improvements to local facilities and services required within areas of urban and commercial growth		
2.1.1.1	Negotiate and facilitate planning agreements including Works In Kind agreements	▶
2.1.1.2	Prepare, administer and update Development Contribution Plans	▶
2.1.1.3	Prioritise and facilitate delivery of infrastructure identified in Council's repealed and current S7.11 Contributions Plans using funds held in Council's S7.11 Reserve, and where appropriate, facilitate grant readiness	▶
2.1.2 Plan for employment land to support projected growth		
2.1.2.1	Develop an Employment Lands Strategy for exhibition that identifies how and where employment lands will be provided across the city	▶
2.1.3 Complete and implement a new approach to economic development		
2.1.3.1	Develop a City Economy Strategy to support economic and social growth	◆

Our achievements

2,096
booked hours across all rooms at Maitland Town Hall

50,000
attendees at Hunter Valley Steamfest

7,690
attendees at 248 events at Maitland Regional Art Gallery

280
Greenfield lots approved for construction

165,599
visits to the My Maitland website

4
business events held or sponsored

2.2 To afford the house in the neighbourhood we like Access different housing options in new and old suburbs, villages and townships, manage growth sustainably while respecting our rural amenity and character.		
2.2.1 Implement a Local Housing Strategy that identifies how and where housing will be provided across the city		
2.2.1.1	Facilitate the Local Urban Development Program to monitor the supply of residential and employment land across the city	▶
2.2.1.2	Implement the actions of the Local Housing Strategy and the Rural Land Strategy	▶
2.2.2 Manage guidelines for appropriate design and construction of major subdivisions		
2.2.2.1	Commence development of Urban Design Guidelines to improve outcomes for Special Precincts and Urban Release Areas	▶
2.2.2.2	Deliver civil infrastructure projects that support the development of Urban Release Areas	▶
2.2.2.3	Provide advice on development applications for transport and drainage standards	▶
2.2.2.4	Assess developer works in new subdivisions to ensure compliance with approved plans	▶
2.2.3 Deliver development assessment approach that supports development in new and established areas		
2.2.3.1	Assess scoping and planning proposals against the adopted Planning Framework, and refer these for determination by the state government as required	▶

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

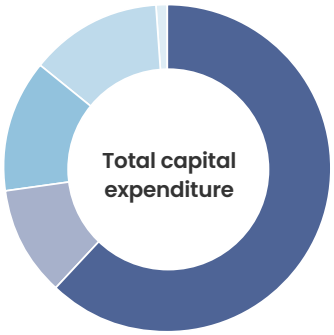
2.2.3.2	Provide heritage, development contributions, urban design, and strategic planning advice on development applications and work programs and to the community, and engage with planning reforms of the State and Federal Governments	▶
2.2.3.3	Provide advice and receive and assess planning applications, including the provision of electronic lodgement and processing, and the issuing of planning property certificates	▶
2.2.3.4	Receive and assess construction certificates, including mandatory inspections, fire safety, on site sewage and issuing of relevant certificates	▶
2.2.3.5	Prepare a contaminated land information system	▶
2.2.3.6	Provide environmental impact advice on development and rezoning applications	▶
2.2.4 Review the city's Development Control Plan and Local Environmental Plan		
2.2.4.1	Facilitate a rolling review of the Maitland Local Environmental Plan and Maitland Development Control Plan	▶
2.2.5 Update city's planning and engineering policies and guidelines to ensure a contemporary legislated framework to guide development activities		
2.2.5.1	Commence and complete a review of Council's Manual of Engineering Standards which sets the engineering guidelines and drawings for major subdivision testing and construction	▶
2.2.5.2	Commence a review of the Local Strategic Planning Statement	◆
2.3 To have Central Maitland as the vibrant heart of our city Make Central Maitland the place to visit that is contemporary, vibrant and full of experiences.		
2.3.1 Continue to promote and market the business and shopping opportunities within Central Maitland		
2.3.1.1	Support the delivery of a range of events and public programs in Central Maitland, including night time events	▶
2.3.1.2	Develop guidelines for the use of the public spaces within The Levee	◆
2.3.1.3	Deliver a marketing and activity plan for The Levee which delivers marketing campaigns, promotions and activities	▶
2.3.2 Continue to deliver infrastructure improvements in Central Maitland		
2.3.2.1	Deliver the Central Maitland Sports Precinct signage	◆
2.3.3 Deliver car parking improvements in Central Maitland		
2.3.3.1	Improve the number of and accessibility of car parking in Central Maitland	◆
2.4 To show off our city Showcase our iconic attractions and experiences while promoting major facilities to attract events and activities and retain and promote our unique rural landscapes, farms and food markets.		
2.4.1 Deliver flagship events and place activation programs		
2.4.1.1	Deliver an annual program of events	▶
2.4.1.2	Plan and deliver expanded Riverlights Multicultural Festival in line with the Multicultural NSW Funding	▶
2.4.1.3	Commence planning for the new biennial event in Central Maitland, following the successful pilot program	▶
2.4.1.4	Review the Maitland Place Activation Strategy	◆
2.4.2 Progress the implementation of the Maitland Destination Management Plan		
2.4.2.1	Facilitate accommodation development opportunities to increase the supply of visitor accommodation	▶

2.4.2.2	Implement the outcomes of the visitor information services review and continue to provide a visitor information service	▶
2.4.2.2	Progress Stage 1 of the reopening and activation of Walka Water Works	▶
2.4.2.3	Refresh our destination marketing brand and marketing plan	▶
2.4.3 Progress the delivery of Maitland Gaol Development Plan		
2.4.3.1	Progress application for the works of the Maitland Gaol through to DA submission	▶
2.4.3.2	Continue upgrade works at the historic Maitland Gaol, including an activity hub, boutique accommodation and Chapel improvements in accordance with funding received from Federal and State Governments	◆
2.4.4 Operate Maitland Gaol as an iconic tourism destination, driven by its unique heritage and innovative experiences		
2.4.4.1	Present findings from the Maitland Gaol assessment to guide plans for the future use of the site	▶
2.4.5 Support visitor experience at Morpeth		
2.4.5.1	Partner with the 'It Must be Morpeth' Business Association to establish Morpeth as a priority destination hub in line with the Destination Management Plan	▶
2.4.6 Support opportunities for agritourism across the city, including access to local and seasonal produce and farm gate experiences		
2.4.6.1	Identify education, planning and promotional pathways for agritourism and deliver actions to develop and grow the industry	▶
2.4.7 Attract major events and increase utilisation of major venues including the Maitland Regional Sports Complex, Maitland Regional Art Gallery and Maitland Town Hall		
2.4.7.1	Review Council's annual flagship event program	▶
2.4.7.2	Attract significant national and regional sporting and cultural events	▶
2.4.7.3	Provide guidance and opportunities for external event organisers to host events	▶

Within this focus area, Council has identified seven actions under "monitor", due to delays in progress. However, unless otherwise stated, delivery is still expected. The reasons for these actions not being delivered within the initially scheduled time frames are:

- three due to change of scope/priorities
- one due to budget/funding
- one due to external factors
- one due to scheduling
- one due to resourcing.

Achieving Together



- 62% Roads
- 11% Bridges and major structures
- 13% Recreation
- 13% Buildings
- 1% Drainage

- 98% On track/complete
- 2% Monitor

Status key

▶ On track/complete ◆ Monitor

4.1 To build trusted services

We build trusted services through transparent decision making informed by meaningful consultation and engagement.

Actions		Status
4.1.1 Meaningful consultation and engagement		
4.1.1.1	Continue to develop an online engagement space to support our ongoing conversation with the community	▶
4.1.1.2	Actively engage with hard to reach groups to increase involvement in Council's decision making	▶
4.1.1.3	Review Council's Communication and Engagement Strategy	▶
4.1.1.4	Develop and implement a program of activities and promotions for Local Government Week	▶
4.1.1.5	Report on the outcomes of the biennial community satisfaction survey	▶
4.1.1.6	Review and trial a new approach to measure community satisfaction	▶
4.1.2 Trusted customer experience		
4.1.2.1	Proactively share clear, consistent, accessible and relevant information, leading to an understanding of our actions and decisions by celebrating the success of Council and the community through sharing positive stories across communication channels	▶
4.1.2.3	Operate Council's Customer Experience Team	▶

Our achievements

724
face-to-face training sessions delivered to staff

7m
cyber threats blocked

54
community grants provided

207
food premises inspections completed

496
formal and informal Government Information Public Access requests received

99%
occupancy rate for Council- managed properties

4.1.3 Transparent decision making		
4.1.3.1	Complete a review of Council committees	
4.1.3.2	Support meetings of Council through legislative advice, production of agendas and minutes and administrative support	
4.1.3.3	Administer Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy	
4.1.3.4	Appropriately manage the investment of funds in accordance with legislative requirements	
4.1.3.5	Manage the receipt and expenditure of funding in line with legislated requirements	
4.1.3.6	Complete annual financial statement and audit processes in line with legislated requirements	
4.1.3.7	Review Council's community and operational land and buildings for potential disposal including exploring the merits of establishing an Asset Disposal and Acquisition Committee	
4.1.3.8	Control and manage Council owned properties to ensure effective use of the assets	
4.1.3.9	Provide accurate and current advice on all property matters to stakeholders and have a strategic view on properties for acquisition and/or disposal	
4.1.3.10	Celebrate our achievements with open and accountable reporting to our community on our projects and services outlined in the Delivery Program	
4.1.3.11	Ensure a consistent approach and management of legal risk across the organisation	
4.1.3.12	Embed an Enterprise Risk Management Framework including assurance planning	
4.1.3.13	Maintain an internal audit function delivering four internal audits per year	

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

4.2 To foster an engaged workforce We foster an engaged workforce committed to development and growth, ensuring the wellbeing of our people.		
4.2.1 Excellence in leadership		
4.2.1.1	Investigate options for a new Leadership Development Program for leaders at all levels that also fosters emerging leaders as part of Council's succession planning	▶
4.2.1.2	Implement programs on mental health and wellbeing to minimise psychosocial risks and ensure staff feel safe in our workplace	▶
4.2.1.3	Develop program of induction for councillors about roles and responsibilities including code of conduct, planning responsibilities, IPR, financial and more	▶
4.2.1.4	Provide opportunities for councillors to develop their local government knowledge, experience and skills via a professional development and learning program	▶
4.2.1.5	Engage with, and advocate to, our regional, state and federal politicians and departments to identify and deliver opportunities to deliver our Community Strategic Plan	▶
4.2.1.6	Continue to represent the views of stakeholders at relevant forums	▶
4.2.2 Collaborative organisation		
4.2.2.1	Investigate, enforce and educate the community on local laws, policies and guidelines, including food safety, swimming pools, parking, animal control, illegal dumping, development compliance, beauty services and abandoned vehicles	▶
4.2.2.2	Deliver Council's Section 356 Community Grants Program, including sponsorships, annual community grants, commemorative and recognised days and high achievers	▶
4.2.2.3	Promote Council's health and wellbeing programs to maximise staff awareness and engagement with programs provided to support improved health outcomes	▶
4.2.2.4	Join member councils at the Hunter Joint Organisation to deliver a regional approach to planning for our economic, environmental and social future	▶
4.2.2.5	Review and rewrite the Workforce Management Strategy as part of the Resourcing Strategy, ensuring alignment with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.	▶
4.2.2.6	Deliver a program of business development functions, initiatives, trader networking and education programs to support business development and attraction	▶
4.2.3 Development and growth of our people		
4.2.3.1	Empower and build staff capacity across the organisation in grant application and management	▶
4.2.3.2	Refine our attraction, selection and rentention methods to enhance customer experience, streamline operations and incorporate forward thinking sourcing strategies to meet future skill needs within the Council	▶
4.2.3.3	Review induction and onboarding programs for new and promoted employees	▶
4.2.3.4	Review Council's competency framework including leadership roles with a focus on core capabilities	▶
4.2.3.5	Implement a Learning Management System (LMS) to ensure our workforce have the core capabilities required to enable Council to deliver on our commitments to the community	▶
4.2.3.6	Review Council's performance development and review system	▶
4.2.3.7	Develop a program that incorporates a suite of educational materials and engagement opportunities that build community understanding of local government	▶
4.2.3.8	Increase employment of people with a disability and possible identified positions to increase the representation of employees with disabilities across the organisation, including in leadership positions.	▶

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

4.3 To create a resilient future We create a resilient future through informed planning, leveraging innovation, technology and data to foster change.		
4.3.1 Leverage technology and data		
4.3.1.1	Provide technology and equipment that supports workplace efficiency and effectiveness to improve customer experience	▶
4.3.1.2	Design and implement secure, adaptable IT solutions that support the delivery of Council's strategic outcomes	▶
4.3.1.3	Deliver the program of works for the Growing Cultural and Community Spaces portfolio under the Customer Driven Transformation	▶
4.3.1.5	Deliver the program of works for the Sustainable Future portfolio under the Customer Driven Transformation	▶
4.3.1.6	Deliver the program of works for the Connected Workforce portfolio under the Customer Driven Transformation	▶
4.3.1.9	Continued review and enhancement of Council's WHS Management systems to enable staff to easily meet their WHS responsibilities through intuitive and accessible systems	▶
4.3.2 Informed planning		
4.3.2.1	Deliver Council services within available financial resources and in compliance with local government performance benchmarks	▶
4.3.2.2	Align Council's strategic priorities to appropriate state and federal government funding opportunities to provide prioritised new infrastructure, programs or events for the city	▶
4.3.2.3	Deliver a revitalised Community Strategic Plan that aligns with our strategic framework and ensure that both staff and newly elected councillors are aware of its priorities	▶
4.3.2.4	Develop Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan by applying an integrated and collaborative approach that aligns the priorities of Maitland +10	▶
4.3.2.5	Work with Lower Hunter councils and stakeholders to revise the Hunter Estuary and Coastal Zone Management Plan	◆
4.3.2.6	Assist our community to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergency events through joining with key agencies to develop and maintain emergency plans	▶
4.3.3 Culture of improvement and innovation		
4.3.3.1	Manage Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee in accordance with regulations	▶
4.3.3.2	Undertake an audit and review of Council's brands	▶
4.3.3.3	Use Council's Service Review Framework to implement a continuous improvement program to increase efficiencies in our service delivery	▶
4.3.3.4	Implementation of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and change management solution	▶

Within this focus area, Council has identified one action under "monitor", due to delays in progress. However, unless otherwise stated, delivery is still expected. The reason for this action not being delivered within the initially scheduled time frame is due to resourcing.

Appendix

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

Service workload measures

Our services are crucial to help Council deliver on key outcomes to the community and are vital for ensuring we are open and transparent in our reporting and decision making. The measures are part of a newly developed framework to reflect the work capacity across the organisation along with the effectiveness and efficiency of our service delivery. Some workload measures are assessed annually and will be reported on in our next progress report. Efficiency and effectiveness measures are assessed annually and will be reported on in our Annual Report.

Status key

◆ Off track ▶ On track

	SERVICE	MEASURE	TARGET	RESULTS JAN-JUN	STATUS
LIVEABLE	Aquatic Centres	Visitation at aquatic centres	Increase	119,114	▶
	Asset management and planning	Value of assets managed	Maintain	$2 billion	▶
	Building projects and service	Percentage of capital works projects in progress	New*	96%	New*
	Cemetery operations	Total number of customer requests processed for cemetery services, including burial permits, interments and monumental works applications	New*	6	New*
	Libraries and learning	Number of visitors to Libraries and library website	Increase	258,676	▶
	Community Planning and Development	Deliver two week long community celebrations	Maintain	2	▶
	Parks and open spaces	Hectares of passive and open space maintained	Maintain	450ha	▶
	Roads and transport infrastructure	Number of kms of road maintained	Maintain	780km	▶
SUSTAINABLE	Emergency management	Number of meetings, workshops or opportunities to support preparedness, resilience and recovery	Maintain	9	New*
	Floodplain and estuary management	Number of actions completed from Coastal Management Programs and Flood Risk Management Plan	New*	Assessed annually	New*
	Environmental management	Number of seedlings planted by Council	Increase	4,620	▶
	Waste management	Tonnes of waste collected at kerbside - general, organics and recyclable	Maintain	General : 13,055 Organics : 5,543 Recyclables : 2,342	▶

SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - JANUARY TO JULY 2025 (Cont.)

	SERVICE	MEASURE	TARGET	RESULTS JAN-JUN	STATUS
VIBRANT	City and visitor economy	Number of business events held or sponsored	4	4	▶
	Development and compliance	Number of development applications assessed	Maintain	550 (lodged) 544 (processed)	▶
	City events and activation	Number attendees at flagship events	Increase	Steamfest : 50,000 Australia Day : 2,500 Luminous : 12,500	▶
	Land use planning	Number of scoping and planning proposals under assessment	New*	23	New*
	Maitland Regional Art Gallery	Visitation at Maitland Regional Art Gallery	Increase	61,859	▶
	Major venues and facilities	Hours of usage for major venues and facilities	Increase	43,771	▶
ACHIEVE	Community engagement	Number of community engagement activities organised	Maintain	60	▶
	Customer experience	Total number of digital customer interactions including MyCouncil, online chat and website.	Increase	MyCouncil : 3,221 Online chat : 2,550 Website visits : 378,053	New*
	Corporate strategy	Number of reports and plans prepared	Maintain	15	▶
	Digital information and security services	Number of innovation projects launched to leverage emerging technologies to drive business growth	3	4	▶
	Finance and property	Number of Rates assessments (RA) and average employees paid per pay period (EM) and number of invoices paid (IN)	Maintain	RA : 41,394 EM : 676 IN: 13,701	▶
	Marketing and communication	Number of media releases (MR) and social media posts (SMP)	New*	MR: 47 SMP : 655	New*
	Governance and leadership	Number of Council resolutions	Maintain	123	▶
	People and culture	The number of face to face corporate training activities undertaken by employees	Increase	724	▶
	Risk, safety and wellbeing	Number of WHS initiatives implemented	New*	Assessed annually	New*

New* : targets will be set after 12 months of data collection

Note : measures are considered on track when they are within 10% variance of target and off track when greater than 10%.

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maitland
CITY COUNCIL

14.3 Quarterly Progress Report - Q4 FY2024-25

FILE NO:	**35/33/18/12**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Executive Manager People and Performance**
AUTHOR:	**Corporate Performance Lead** **Manager Corporate Planning and Performance**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 4 Achieving together**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**4.1.3 Transparent decision making**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Quarterly Progress Report to Council is a new initiative introduced in Q1 FY2024–25 to strengthen trust and support transparent decision-making. While it informs the Six-Monthly Progress Report to the community, it also provides Councillors with additional insights, including trend data and updates on the implementation of Council resolutions.

This Quarter Four (Q4) progress report provides a snapshot of Council's 2022–2026 Delivery Program, outlining key projects, initiatives, and performance from April to June 2025. It details progress on our operational plan, performance metrics, and financial and capital status as of 30 June 2025. The report highlights service and infrastructure delivery, major achievements, grants progress and financial performance, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Please note this report excludes the usual Financial highlights, as those figures will be finalised through the Financial Statements and included in the Annual Report.

In addition, a community report will be published every six months, summarising key achievements, challenges, and financial insights from the preceding half-year.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

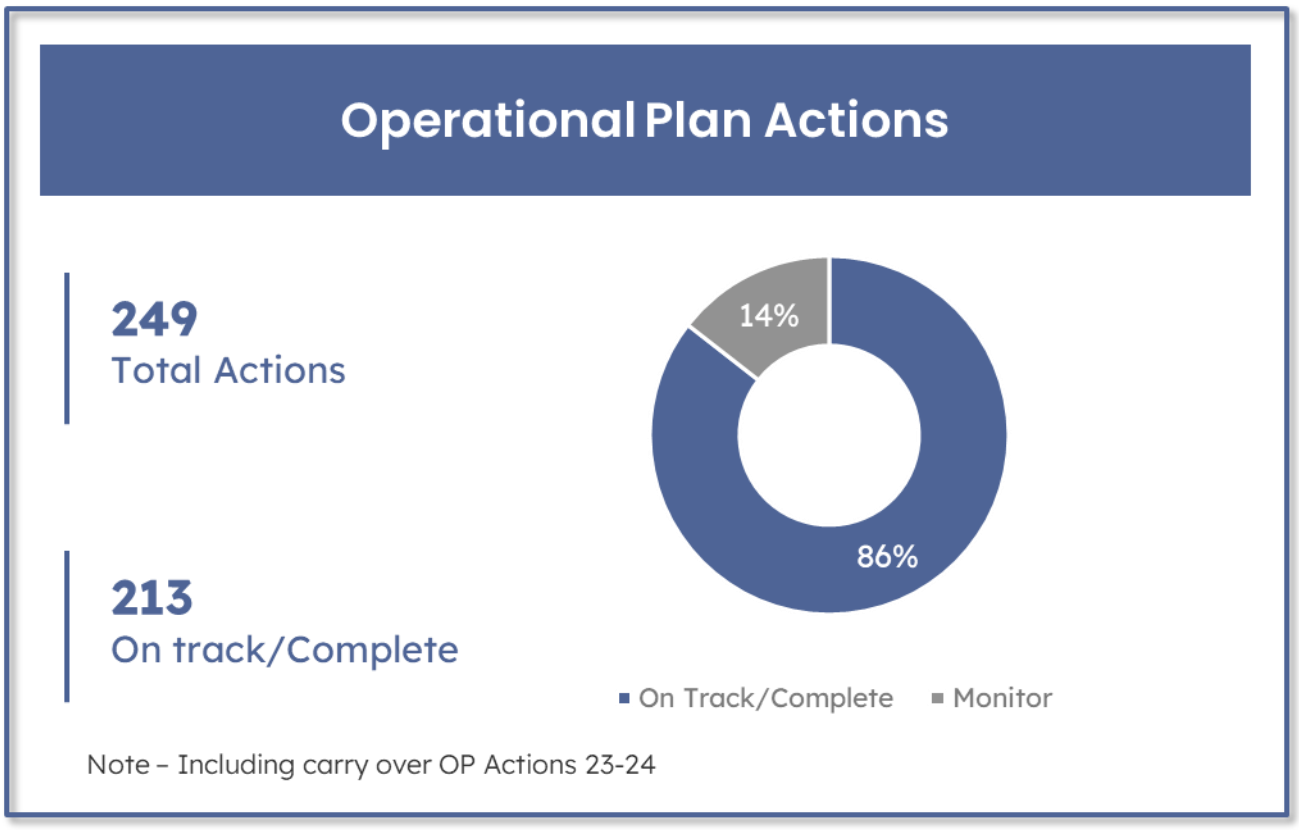
THAT

1. **Council receives the quarter four Progress Report for the period April to June 2025 on progressing the Delivery Program 2022 – 2026.**

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

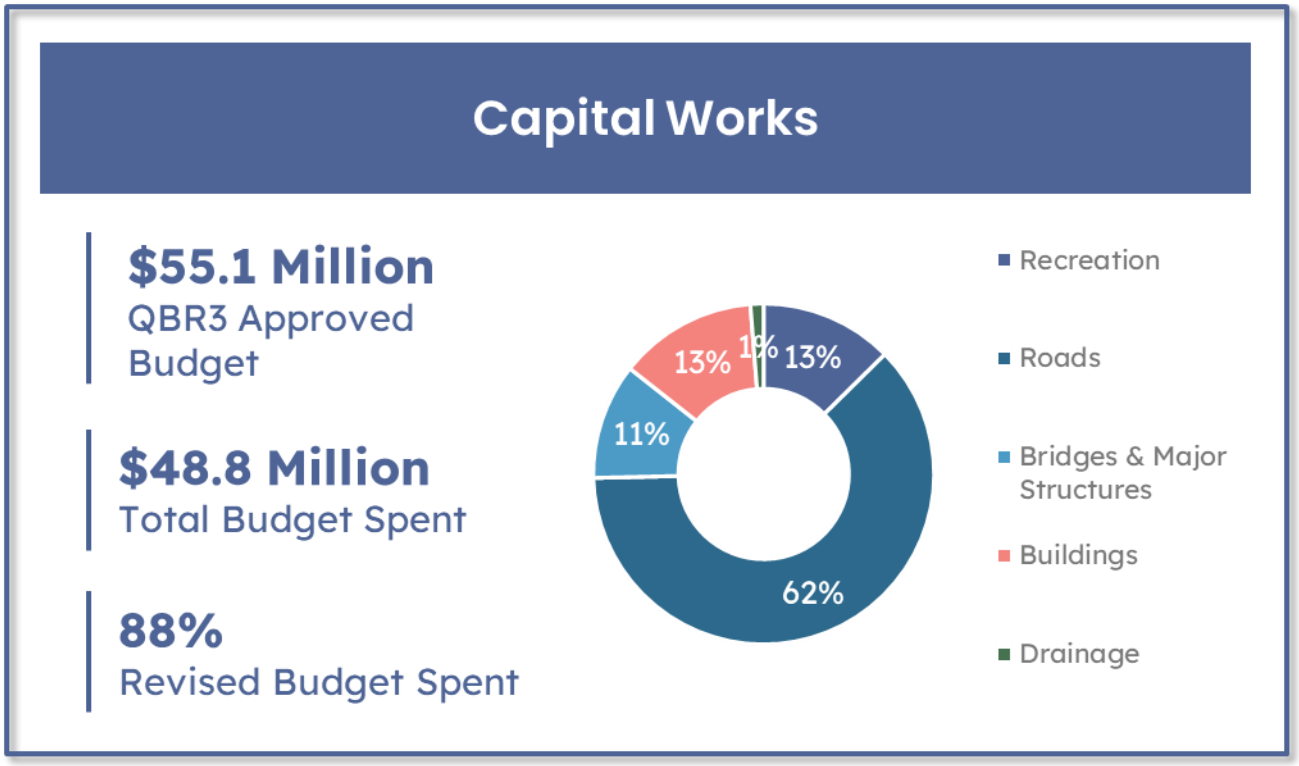
REPORT

Operational Plan Progress



QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

Capital Works



maitland CITY COUNCIL

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

Customer Experience

Compared to the previous quarter, **Q4 saw a decline in customer interactions across all channels.**

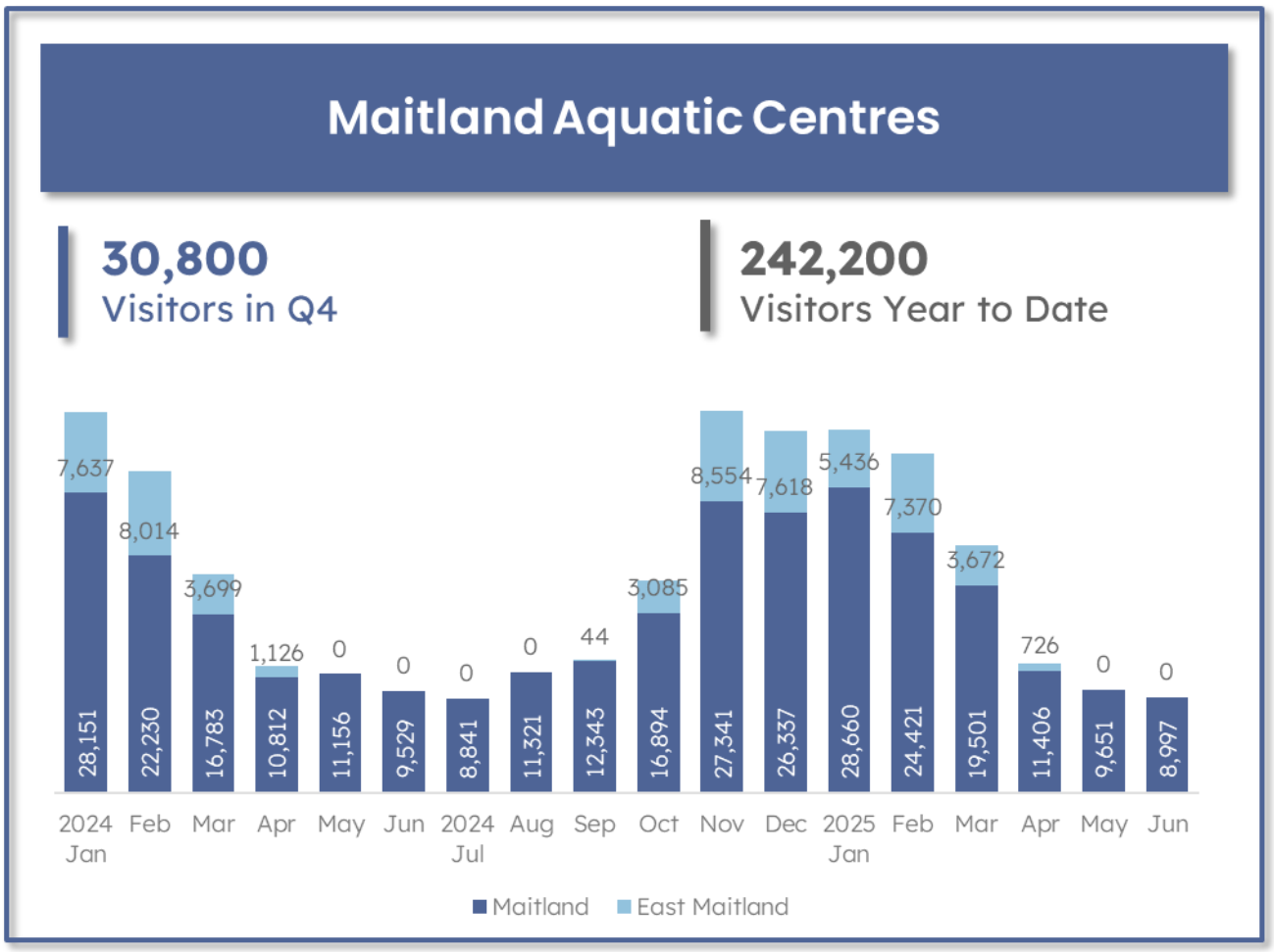
- Phone calls decreased by **4%**
- Live chat enquiries dropped by **13%**
- In-person visits to the customer service desk fell by **25%**

At the same time, engaged website sessions increased significantly, largely driven by the flood event and high interest in *Bulky Waste & Bin Collection* services and the *Luminous* event.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

Visitation

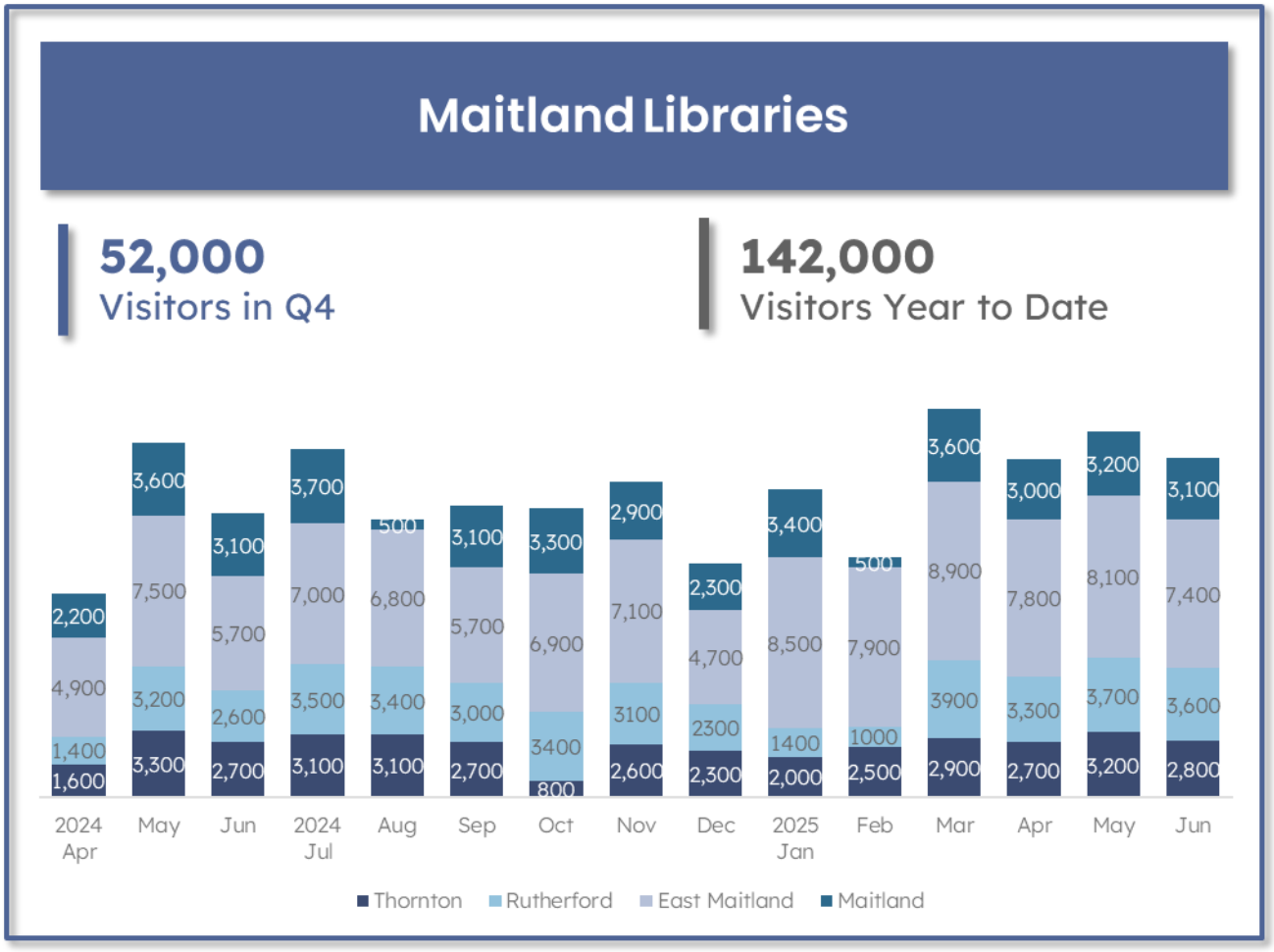
Maitland Aquatic Centres



Maitland and East Maitland Aquatic Centre welcomed a total of **242,200 visitors** in the financial year, a **6% increase** on the previous year.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

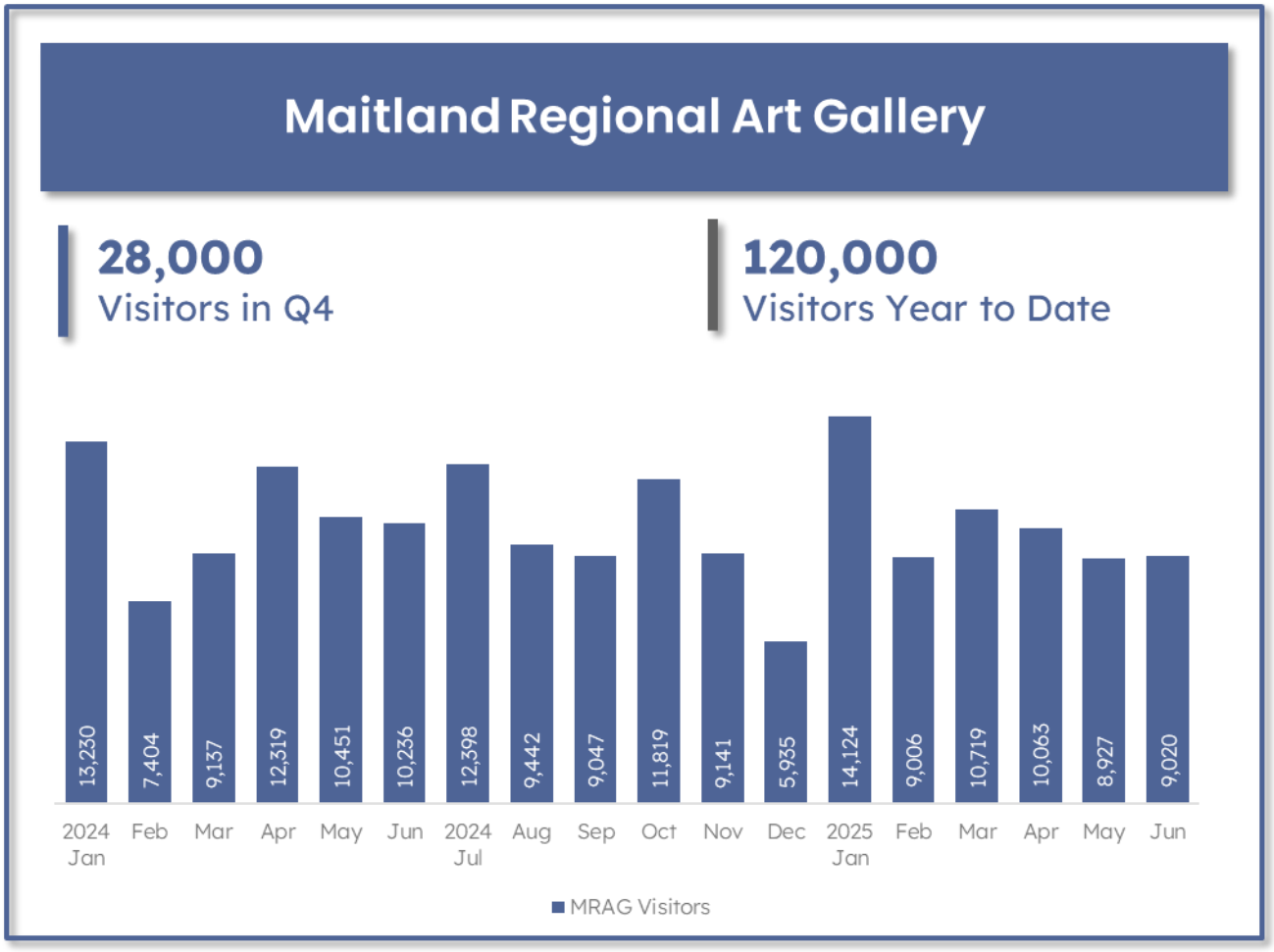
Maitland Libraries



In Q4, our libraries welcomed **52,000 visitors,** a **5% increase** compared to the previous quarter.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

Maitland Regional Art Gallery



Maitland Regional Art Gallery welcomed a total of **120,000 visitors** in the financial year, a **24% increase** on the previous year.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

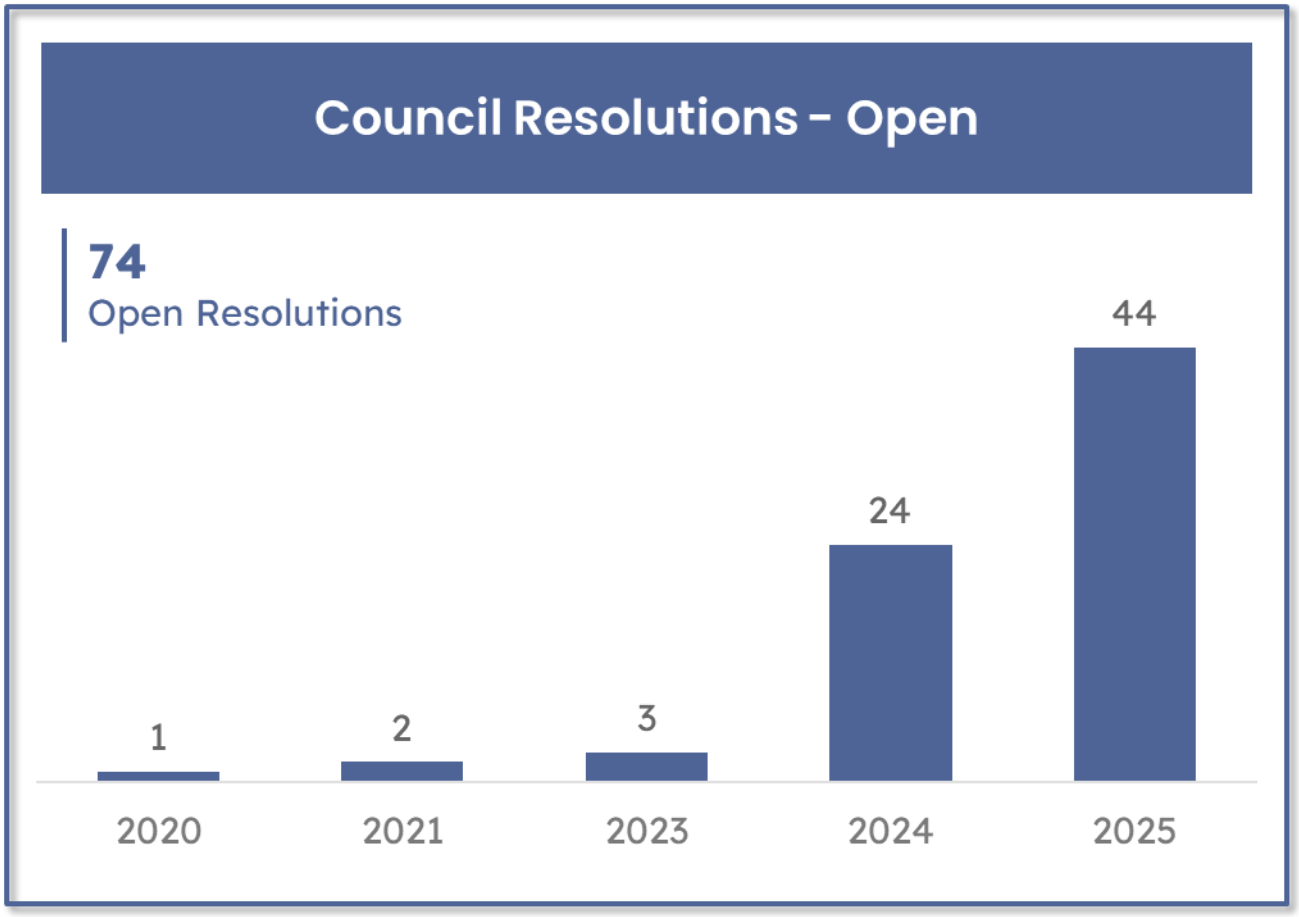
Visitor Information Centre

Visitation to the Maitland Visitor Information Centre **decreased by 4% in Q4** compared to Q3, and by 24% compared to the same period last year.

Across FY24–25, total visitor numbers **decreased by 39% compared to FY23–24**.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

Council Resolutions – Open



Open Resolutions by Directorate

27 City Services

19 City Planning

8 Finance

4 People and Performance

4 Office of the General Manager

12 Council Motions/Mayoral Minutes

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

Councillor Notice of Motions for the period of 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2025:

MEETING DATE	REPORT TITLE	STATUS	COMMENT
14 July 2020	Trial CCTV for Maitland LGA	Ongoing	The matter has received ongoing consideration since 2020. This has included reviews of similar endeavours by Ryde City Council. Funding to complete further research and trials of the proposed mobile CCTV platforms has not been provided, and therefore, this body of work has not yet been completed.
12 December 2023	CCTV Trial in Maitland LGA	Ongoing	
27 February 2024	Maitland Senior Citizens Building	In progress	Director City Services and Council officers met with members of the Senior Citizens Association on 31/03/2025 and provided an update on the current status of the hall. Further conversations will be undertaken when the CIS is complete.
23 July 2024	Turtle Conservation	In progress	Recruitment for the Environmental Restoration Officer is almost complete, and we are expecting the preferred candidate to start in early May. One of the key responsibilities for this role will be to grow Council's Landcare Program. Updated comment: Council has filled the Environmental Restoration Officer role. An EOI for a Landcare site at Walka has been received by Council and staff are in the process of addressing the EOI in line with our Landcare Policy.
27 August 2024	Martins Creek Quarry	In progress	Legal proceedings concluded, currently awaiting judgment. No updates.
22 October 2024	Future Planning for the current term of Council (22 Items detailed below): 1. Council better align actions/funding in	Ongoing	The 20205/26 budget has seen an increase in budget allocation for asset renewal and a broader capital works program in line with community survey feedback.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

MEETING DATE	REPORT TITLE	STATUS	COMMENT
	operational plans with future community survey results.		
	2. Council reaffirm its support of Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) waste collection, weekly general waste bin collections, and retention of bulky waste collection services.	Completed	The Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service is now available for all Maitland residents. The FOGO program commenced on 30 June 2025. Organics/ FOGO waste is collected weekly. General waste is collected weekly. Recycling waste is collected fortnightly.
	3. Future playground proposals to include shade provision.	In progress	Shade sails/provisions are being incorporated into future playground designs. Since the Mayoral Minute, a shade sail has been installed at the Metford Oval Play space; however, multiple play spaces have been installed under existing shade sails, including Roy Jordan in Gillieston Heights and Hunterglenn Drive in Bolwarra Heights. Upcoming playgrounds with shade clothes include East Maitland Library, Farley and Chisolm. Playgrounds that have existing established shade trees are being monitored to determine if additional shade sails /provisions are required, where Largs Oval is an example of this.
	4. Council advocate to the government to reconsider an increase to the pensioner rates rebate.	Completed	Council wrote to the relevant Government department recommending a review of the pensioner rates rebate.
	5. Council focus on progressing future stages of the Queens Wharf Morpeth Master Plan.	In progress	Council Officers will progress the redevelopment of the Queens Wharf Plan of Management and Master Plan in the 25/26 Financial Year, as these documents are outdated and may not reflect current community priorities. Stage A of the current Master Plan was completed in October 2020. Stage B has been

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

MEETING DATE	REPORT TITLE	STATUS	COMMENT
			implemented with the installation of a temporary car park and boat trailer parking area. Council Officers are continuing discussions regarding land acquisition, which impacts Stages C and D of the Master Plan.
	6. Council prioritise delivering the new large playground at Maitland Park.	In progress	The Maitland Park masterplan was presented to the councillors as a council briefing in early July 2025. The masterplan is being reported to council at the July 2025 council meeting.
	7. Council actively work with Cricket NSW and local cricket clubs on advancing cricket nets at Maitland Park.	In progress	In conjunction with the Maitland Park masterplan, the design of the cricket nets has commenced. Council has been talking with Cricket NSW about additional grant funding options, as there is insufficient developer contributions funding available for the project.
	8. Council report back on a plan to address key gaps in the footpath network.	In progress	A report to Council has been scheduled for November 2025 to update the council on the plan to address key gaps in the footpath network. Current major footpath works either in planning or under construction include Government Road in Thornton and Cessnock Road in Gillieston Heights.
	9. Council give favourable consideration, within existing funding, on a winter fireworks display in 2025 and include the same in future operational plan considerations.	Completed	Fireworks were delivered as part of the Luminous Event on 21 June 2025.
	10. Council consider over the coming council term the renewal/redesign of the river walk street furniture between the Riverlink Building and St Andrews Street.	In progress	A review of assets along the river walk is planned for the 25/26 financial year. This review, along with the updated Service asset plan updates, will guide any renewals or redesigns along the river walk.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

MEETING DATE	REPORT TITLE	STATUS	COMMENT
	11. Council actively progress with plans for irrigation and drainage at more sports grounds, including Shamrock Hill Oval.	In progress	Upcoming projects with sport field irrigation or subsoil drainage are: - Shamrock irrigation - TN17 Chisholm irrigation and drainage - TN18 Chisholm irrigation and drainage - Lochinvar oval irrigation Council staff are actively working with local sporting clubs for the purpose of obtaining additional grants for sports field irrigation and drainage.
	12. Council works with Maitland Saints AFL with a view to acting on the risk of balls being chased outside the fence line near Alexandra Avenue at Max McMahon Oval.	Completed	This work has been completed.
	13. Council allocate up to $5,000 for an Australian flag giveaway for private properties this Australia Day. Details of the offering be delegated to the Mayor. Recommendations for funding this action to be included in the next quarterly budget review.	Completed	Council called for expressions of interest from residents to display an Australian flag at a private property within the Maitland Local Government Area. Residents could choose from a flag to be used on an existing flagpole or a bracket and pole kit to be installed on an external wall of a property. Council received 147 expressions of interest. 34 flags could be supplied to local residents within the budget of $5,000. The successful and unsuccessful residents were advised of the outcome of their expressions of interest. The flags were collected by 10 January 2025.
	14. Council actively work on the potential to improve traffic flow by reviewing the lane layout in the Thornton Road network south of the railway line, while continuing to seek	In progress	Council officers are currently drafting an ELT briefing and Council report to present to Council in August 2026, detailing the use of Developer contributions money to complete design and land acquisitions for the intersections along Thornton Road and Glenwood

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

MEETING DATE	REPORT TITLE	STATUS	COMMENT
	government support to act on the bigger issues in the precinct.		Drive. Council will then advocate for grant funding for the Thornton Road Glenwood Drive intersections, plus the Raymond Terrace Road and Haussman Drive intersection.
	15. Council explore the potential for enhancement of recreational facilities at O'Hearn Street Tenambit in support of youth recreation.	In progress	Inception and design for multi court facility at the location is on design list for Q1 2025/26, with delivery of the designs in October 2025.
	16. In future reviews of council committees, consideration be given to an Events Committee and a Youth Committee.	Completed	A review of Committees was undertaken with the revised structure for special-purpose and strategic committees endorsed at Council Meeting on 20 May 2025. An Events or Youth working group will be formed as needed by the Culture and Community Strategic Advisory Committee.
	17. Council work with the Hunter River Agricultural and Horticultural Society on the potential to enter into an arrangement for parking at the Showground on days of high need in Maitland Park including netball events.	In progress	A Councillor briefing is being prepared for 05/08/2025. A report will then be presented to council meeting on 19/08/2025.
	18. Council explore more proactive approaches to dealing with graffiti, including how we can better work with Rotary.	In progress	Meetings with Rotary clubs have occurred, and feedback is coming back in. Expect to have policy presented to August 2025 council meeting.
	19. Council progress work for pathway connection between Morpeth / The Levee / Walka Water Works, including completing connection from Morpeth Bridge to Queens Wharf.	In progress	Two councillor briefings have been conducted and the route will be inspected as part of the End of July Councillor Bus Tour. The proposed route will be reported to council to be placed on Public exhibition.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

MEETING DATE	REPORT TITLE	STATUS	COMMENT
	20. Council explore the provision of recycling bins at some key public spaces.	In progress	Waste Services will be undertaking a public place recycling review during Quarter 1, which will include reviewing current locations for effectiveness and considering suitable future locations. Recommendations from the review will be implemented throughout 2025/26.
	21. Council explore the prospect of a fountain at Telarah Lagoon for the visual impact and the environmental benefits to the water body.	In progress	Further work on this request requires additional resourcing. Additional resourcing will be made available in October 2025. It is expected a Council report will be provided in February/March 2026.
	22. Council work with the NSW Govt to act on Walka Water Works lawn contamination as a priority.	In progress	Council information report was provided June 2025. Councillors were briefed 1 July 2025. The General Manager has finalised a Deed of Agreement with Crown Lands for a 4 stage asbestos remediation approach. Council has received $3.1m in grant funds for stage 1 of these works. Approvals process will commence ASAP with a forecast DA submission in March/April 2026. Works commencement will be subject to development approval of works. Estimate for all 4 stages is circa $13m. The Plan of Management (and associated supporting documents) are with Crown Lands for review and approval before they are reported Council for exhibition. We await advice on $5m grant application for Pumphouse renewal works.
28 January 2025	125 Years of Federation	In progress	Funding opportunities are currently being sourced for the proposed exhibition that was supported by Councillors at the briefing on 13 May 2025.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

MEETING DATE	REPORT TITLE	STATUS	COMMENT
28 January 2025	New Years Eve Traffic	In progress	Council's traffic team have started the conversation with the Events team to provide a coordinated solution. A report providing an update is planned for Council for the meeting on 19 August 2025. Council officers will also undertake an investigation into options to reduce congestion, including additional parking locations, with this work planned for Q4 2025.
28 January 2025	Renaming of the Melville Ford Bridge	In progress	A report was presented to Council meeting of 17 June for determination on this proposal. Councillors resolved to proceed with the renaming of the bridge to "Milton Morris Bridge". Officers will commence the process of renaming and signage for installation upon completion of the construction of the new bridge.
18 March 2025	King Edward Park East Maitland	In progress	Council is continuing to work with the club to refine the concept designs and progression of the DA documentation. It is aimed to have documentation ready for submission by the end of 2025. $50,000 has been allocated in the 2025/26 CAPEX budget to assist the club with the DA process.
15 April 2025	Urgent Audit of Council Commercial Property Holdings and Performance	In progress	The inaugural Property Advisory Panel considered a draft portfolio summary at the recent meeting. The review of the portfolio will be an ongoing agenda item, and the panel will decide when to bring a more comprehensive business paper back to council.
15 April 2025	East Maitland Cemetery	In progress	Council has recently upgraded the access points to East Maitland Cemetery. We have also advocated our position to TfNSW for other works in the area. Pending response/outcomes from TfNSW's

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT - Q4 FY2024-25 (Cont.)

MEETING DATE	REPORT TITLE	STATUS	COMMENT
			review of traffic in the area, Council will be able to form a view and plan for future works.
15 April 2025	1955 Flood Boat	In progress	A report will be presented to Council at the meeting of 19 August 2025 with recommendations following the investigation of this request.
15 April 2025	Addressing the Infrastructure Backlog	Ongoing	This work has commenced with the 2025/26 CAPEX Program list. A report will go to Council meeting on 19 August 2025 to outline the ongoing process.
20 May 2025	Writer's Festival	In progress	Council officers have commenced actions on this resolution. A report is planned to be presented with an update to Council at the meeting of 21 October 2025.
17 June 2025	Road Infrastructure for Maitland LGA	Completed	Council officers have confirmed that a letter has been sent to the Minister for Roads & Regional Transport, the Honourable Jenny Aitchison MP, as per the resolution. Council is currently awaiting a response.

CONCLUSION

The **Q4 Progress Report** provides a clear assessment of the progress made within Council's **2022–2026 Delivery Program** between April to June 2025. It also serves as a strategic checkpoint, ensuring we stay aligned with our priorities while making necessary adjustments to enhance our effectiveness and deliver on our commitments.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no direct financial impact upon Council's adopted budget or forward estimates.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no specific policy implications for Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The Q4 Progress Report fulfils the requirements of *Section 406 of the Local Government Act 1993* and the *NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines* for quarterly Delivery Program reporting. Beyond compliance, this report demonstrates our commitment to proactive monitoring and transparency, ensuring Councillors remain well-informed about our progress in delivering key priorities.

14.4 Quarterly Grants Update

FILE NO:	**35/33/18/12**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Executive Manager People and Performance**
AUTHOR:	**Manager Corporate Strategy and Communications** **Corporate Grants Lead**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 3 Vibrant Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**3.3.2 Advocacy and partnerships**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In recognition of the increasing significance of grant funding and to align with our Draft Partnership and Advocacy Strategy, this Quarterly Grants update introduces a clear and transparent overview of Council's grant activities. This includes a summary of applications submitted, successful awards, pending outcomes, and unsuccessful bids.

This section aims to provide Councillors and the community with a comprehensive snapshot of our efforts to secure external funding, supporting key projects and initiatives within the Delivery Program 2022–2026.

By sharing this information every quarter, we keep the community informed about how we're working to secure funding and support important projects. This helps build trust and shows our dedication to partnering with others to make a positive difference for everyone.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

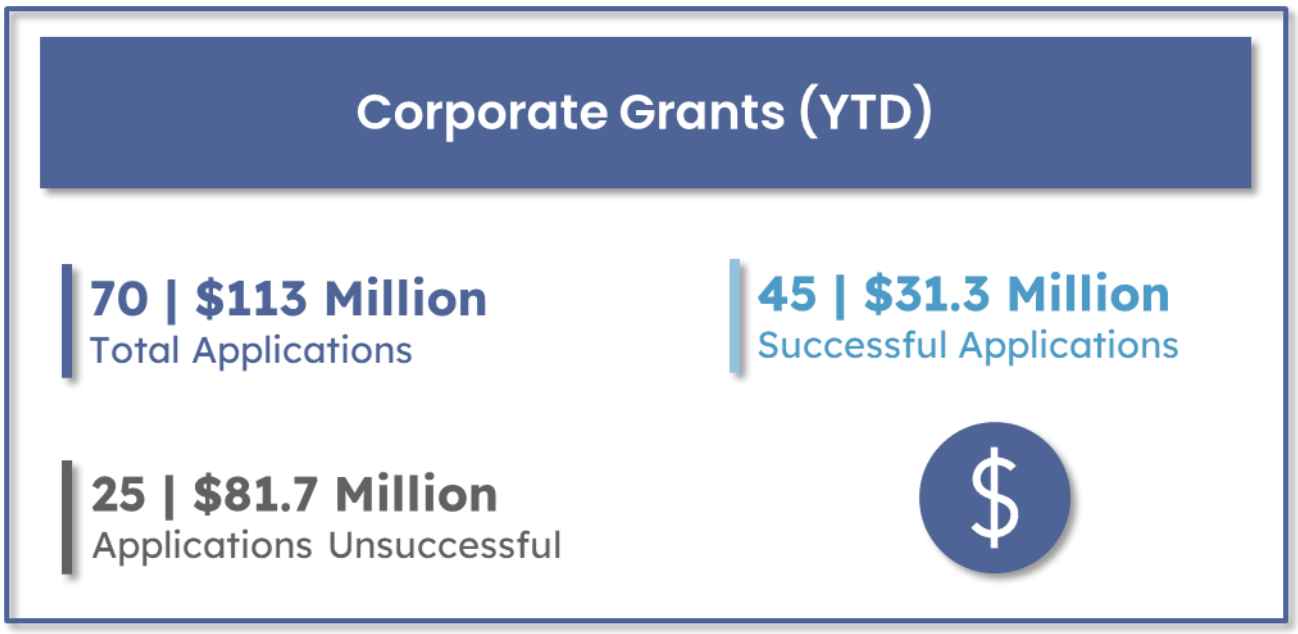
THAT

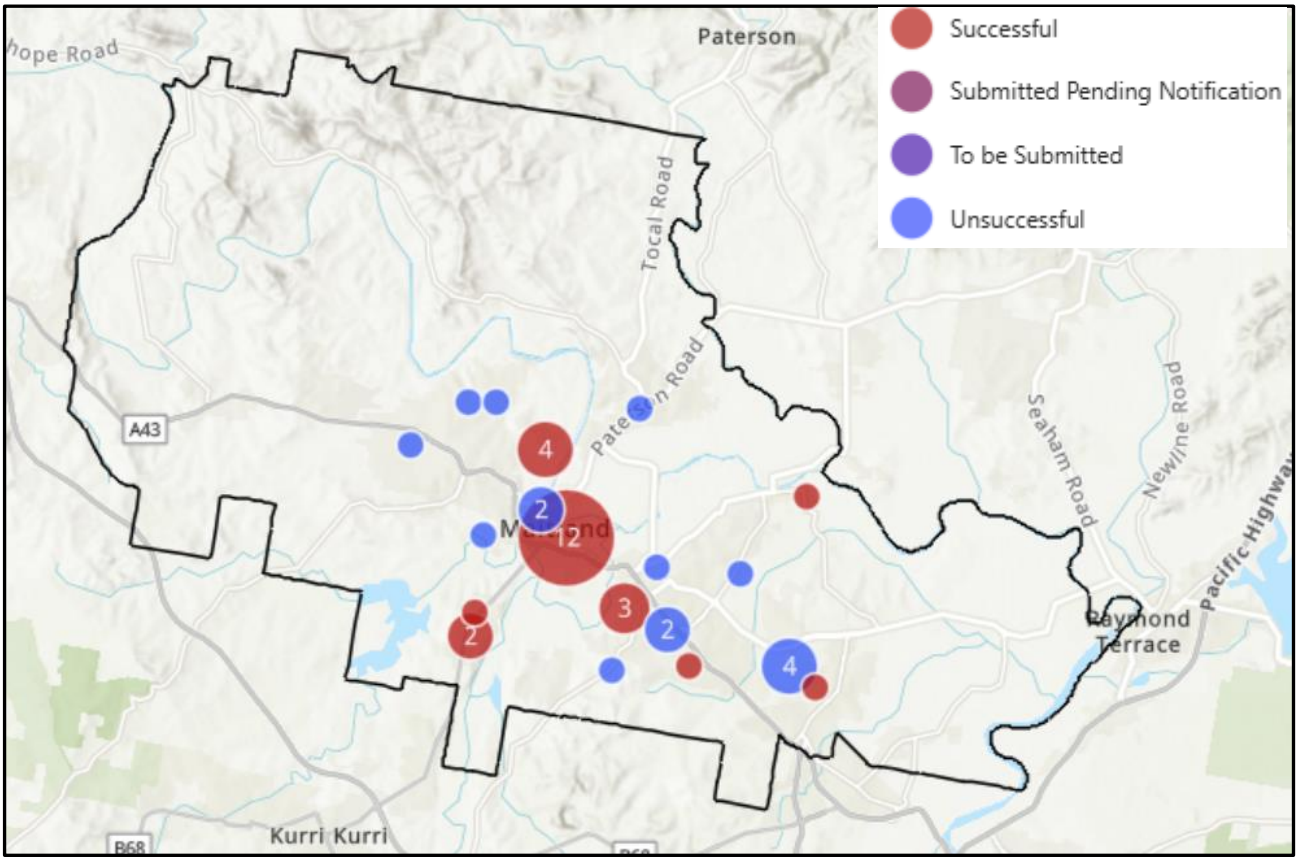
1. **Council receives the quarter four Grants update for the period April to June 2025 on progressing the Delivery Program 2022 – 2026.**

QUARTERLY GRANTS UPDATE (Cont.)

REPORT

Corporate Grants





maitland CITY COUNCIL

QUARTERLY GRANTS UPDATE (Cont.)

Grant funding is an important source of Council revenue to advance the strategic vision and priorities set out in Maitland's Future, our Community Strategic Plan. Smart investment of grant funds helps deliver projects and initiatives that align with the objectives outlined in Council's Delivery Program, the activities of our Operational Plan and other strategic plans adopted by Council.

Council staff have applied for or advocated for $113 million of funding across 70 grants throughout the year and successfully secured 45 grants worth $31 million. Partnering with the New South Wales and Australian Governments helps Council to deliver services and improve facilities to our community through one off grant funding secured for new projects. Some of the **significant grants** received in the 24-25 financial year (FY) include:

- **$5,000,000** received from State Voluntary Planning Agreement Funding Program - Round 4 to fund Thornton North Road infrastructure including the Haussman Drive and Taylor Avenue roundabout - NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.
- **$3,745,400** received from Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program for Haussman Drive and Raymond Terrace Road intersection - Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.
- **$1,000,000** received from reVITALise grant to fund Next Stop: Maitland project - Transport for NSW.
- **$423,000** received from Road Safety Program to fund School Zone Road Safety Infrastructure at Ashtonfield Public School - Transport for NSW.

Some of the **successful grants** in this reporting period Q4 FY24-25 (April to June 2025) include:

- **$3,050,000** - Crown Lands provided funding for Walka Water Works remediation.
- **$169,000** - Get Active NSW Walking and Cycling Grant for a footpath in Gillieston Heights.
- **$100,000** - Caring for State Heritage - NSW Heritage Grants Program – Town Hall.
- **$47,900** - Caring for State Heritage - NSW Heritage Grants Program - Glebe Cemetery.
- Multiple applications - Crown Reserves Improvement Fund for weed control at Glebe Cemetery ($16,960), Morpeth ($7,1940) and Walka Water Works ($15,840).

Applications submitted and **pending outcome** in the reporting period include:

- **$5,000,000** – Regional Economic Development and Community Infrastructure Fund for Walka Water Works pumphouse building revitalisation and chimney intervention.

QUARTERLY GRANTS UPDATE (Cont.)

- **$700,000** - Black Spot Program for roundabout at Dragonfly Drive and Grasshawk Drive intersection, Chisholm.

- **$250,000** – Black Spot Program for raised intersection threshold treatment at McKeachies Drive and Oakhampton Road intersection, Aberglasslyn.

- **$966,928** - Community Energy Upgrade Fund Round 2 - Maitland Art Gallery and Maitland Aquatic Centre.

- **$101,334** - Floodplain Risk Management Program - overland flood study.

Pending outcome applications will be carried forward and tracked under FY25-26 reporting period.

Applications **unsuccessful** during Q4 include:
- $15.4 million - Disaster Ready Fund for a flood-free access road from Gillieston Heights to Cliftleigh.

CONCLUSION

The **Quarterly Grants update** provides a clear assessment of the progress made within Council's 2022–2026 Delivery Program for Q4 FY24-25. It also serves as a strategic checkpoint, ensuring we stay aligned with our priorities while making necessary adjustments to enhance our effectiveness and deliver on our commitments.

Some of the applications staff are working to submit in the next quarter include:
- Grid Enhancing Technologies Program
- Country Passenger Transport Infrastructure Grants Scheme
- Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program
- NSW Seniors Festival Grant Program 2026

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Grant funding is an important source of Council revenue to advance Maitland's strategic vision and priorities. Grant funds help to deliver projects and initiatives that would not be possible for Council to deliver alone.

This matter has a financial impact upon Council's forward estimates with just over $31 million in funding for key projects and services. These projects will form part of our Capital Works Delivery Program for 25-26 and incorporated into our budget moving forward.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This relates to Council's:
- Grants Management Framework 2025
- Draft Partnerships and Advocacy Strategy 2025-2026
- Maitland's Future – Community Strategic Plan 2025-2034
- Delivering Maitland's Future – Delivery Program and Operational Plan 2025-2026

QUARTERLY GRANTS UPDATE (Cont.)

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The Q4 Grants Update fulfils the requirements of *Section 406 of the Local Government Act 1993* and the *NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting guidelines* for quarterly progress reporting. Beyond compliance, this report demonstrates our commitment to proactive monitoring and transparency, ensuring Councillors remain well-informed about our progress in delivering key priorities.

15 Finance

15.1 Review of Investment Policy

File No:	**82/1**
Attachments:	**1. Investment Policy 2025**
Responsible Officer:	**Executive Manager Finance**
Author:	**Manager Financial Reporting**
Maitland +10	**Outcome 4 Achieving Together**
Council Objective:	**4.1.3 Transparent Decision Making**

Executive Summary

In accordance with Council's policy review process, the Investment Policy has been reviewed and the revised policy is presented for adoption.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. Council adopt the Investment Policy 2025

REPORT

As part of Council's policy review process, the Investment Policy has been reviewed against relevant legislation and guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government. In addition, the Investment Policy has also been reviewed by Council's investment advisors, Prudential Investment Services (Prudential). Prudential have proposed some minor changes that do not affect Council's investment strategy. All changes have been marked up for information. Council's strategy is to maintain a conservative, well diversified portfolio with highly rated institutions. Council's investment advisors, Prudential, have not recommended any other changes of substance to the policy presented.

The Investment Policy has been reviewed and amended as follows:

- Section 6.1 (a) Overall Portfolio Credit Framework – Specific ministerial forms of investment amended to include 'non-growth' for clarification purpose. NSW Treasury Corporation funds with growth assets are not allowed per policy. Maximum exposure changed from 50% to 35% on basis that NSW Treasury Corporation now only has one non-growth fund, being the 'short term income fund'. Limit exposure has been reduced to match the individual limit exposure shown in Section 6.1 (b).

- Section 6.1 (b) Institutional Credit Framework – 'NSW TCorpIM Cash Fund (unrated)' removed from table. NSW Treasury Corporation has closed this fund.

REVIEW OF INVESTMENT POLICY (Cont.)

- Section 6.1 (c) Term to Maturity Framework – BBB+ and BBB rated ADI's removed from the maturity table. NSW Treasury Corporation no longer requires Council to abide by limits based on credit ratings. Limits were unnecessarily restrictive given Councils existing credit and maturity limit framework.

- Policy administration table – updated from 1 to 2 year review cycle – for practical expediency reasons.

The Investment Policy has been reviewed and endorsed by the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee and is recommended for adoption by Council.

A briefing to Councilors on Council's investment strategy review was provided by Council's investment advisors, Prudential, at the 12 August 2025 briefing session.

CONCLUSION

The adoption of the Investment Policy 2025 will ensure Council operates in line with current industry practices and guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government, and that Council's investment portfolio and cash flow are managed in an appropriate and sound manner.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no direct financial impact upon Council's adopted budget or forward estimates.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no specific policy implications for Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There are no statutory implications under the Local Government Act 1993 with this matter.

Finance

Review of Investment Policy

Investment Policy 2025

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 10

Investments Policy

Date Adopted: 19 August~~17 June~~ 2025

Version: 11.0

Policy Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Provide a framework for the investing of Council's funds.
- Give due consideration to preservation of capital, liquidity, risk and return on investment

Policy Scope

This policy applies to employees that form part of the Maitland City Council Investment Strategy Group.

Policy Statement

1.0 Purpose of this Policy

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that Council and its representatives exercise care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise in investing funds that are surplus to Council's immediate requirements.

2.0 Policy Objective

To provide a framework for the investing of Council's funds at the most favourable return available to it at the time whilst having due consideration of risk and security for that investment type and ensuring that its liquidity requirements are being met.

While exercising the power to invest, consideration needs to be given to preservation of capital, liquidity, risk and the return on investment.

- Preservation of capital is the principal objective of the investment portfolio. Investments are to be performed in a manner that seeks to ensure security and safeguarding the investment portfolio. This includes managing credit and interest rate risk within identified thresholds and parameters.
- Investments should be allocated to ensure there is sufficient liquidity to meet all reasonably anticipated cash flow requirements, as and when they fall due, without incurring the risk of significant costs due to the unanticipated sale of an investment.
- Investments are expected to achieve a market average rate of return in line with the Council's risk tolerance.

3.0 Policy Guidelines

3.1 Legislative requirements

All investments are to comply with the following:

- Local Government Act 1993 (NSW);
- Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW);
- Local Government Act 1993 – Investment Order (of the Minister) – in accordance with the most recently published Order;;
- Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting;
- Australian Accounting Standards; and
- Office of Local Government Circulars

3.2 Delegation of authority

Authority for implementation of the Investment Policy is delegated by Council to the General Manager in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW).

The General Manager may in turn delegate the day-to-day management of Council's investment to the Responsible

Accounting Officer or senior staff, subject to regular reviews.

Delegated staff will have the appropriate level of skills to undertake the investment functions of Council.

Officer's delegated authority to manage Council's investments shall be recorded and required to acknowledge they have received a copy of this Policy and understand their obligations in this role.

Delegations and signatories are required to be reviewed annually in conjunction with the Investment Policy review, and amendments to delegations and signatories will be made immediately upon the commencement or cessation of staff.

3.3 Prudent person standard

Council has a fiduciary responsibility when investing. The investment will be managed with the care, diligence and skill that a prudent person would exercise. As trustees of public monies, officers are to manage Council's investment portfolios to safeguard the portfolio in accordance with the spirit of this Investment Policy, and not for speculative purposes.

3.4 Ethics and conflicts of interest

Officers shall refrain from personal activities that would conflict with the proper execution and management of Council's investment portfolio. This policy requires officers to disclose any conflict of interest to the General Manager.

Independent advisors are also required to declare that they have no actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

4.0 Approved Investments

Investments are limited to those allowed by the Ministerial Investment Order and include:

a) Investments with Australian Deposit-taking Institutions (ADI) and foreign subsidiary ADI's

- At call deposits
- Senior ranked Fixed Rate Bonds
- Term Deposits
- Senior ranked Floating Rate Notes
- Bank Bills and Negotiable Certificates of Deposits (NCD's)

~~Maitland City Council | Investment Policy p 3~~

b) Investments not with ADI's

- Commonwealth/State/Territory Government Securities e.g.: bonds
- Deposits with NSW Treasury &/or Investments in NSW Treasury Corporation's Investment Management (NSW TCorpIM) Funds

5.0 Prohibited Investments

This investment policy prohibits but is not limited to any investment carried out for speculative purpose, including;

- Derivative based instruments;
- Principal only investments or securities that provide potentially nil or negative cash flow; and
- Stand-alone securities issued that have underlying futures, options, forwards contracts and swaps of any kind.

This policy also prohibits the use of leveraging (borrowing to invest) of an investment.

6.0 Risk Management Guidelines

Investments are expected to achieve a market average rate of return in line with the Council's risk tolerance and are to be considered in light of the following key criteria:

- Preservation of Capital – the requirement for preventing the loss of capital and considering the effect of the time value of money the total value of the portfolio.
- Diversification – spreading the portfolio over different institutions and investing in different asset types to mitigate credit risk.
- Issuer/Credit risk – the risk of default of the Issuer/Counterparty. Note that any issuer default may result in partial or total investor capital loss.
- Market risk –The risk to the value of an investment caused by changes in related markets. Tradeable securities are exposed to market perceptions of issuer credit and credit markets generally.

- Liquidity risk – The risk that Council may be unable to sell any or part of an investment on to the secondary market at a level suitable to them – or at all. Tradeable securities may be liquid in normal market conditions; however, rates/margins may change substantially in periods of market stress.
- Maturity risk – the risk relating to the length of term to maturity of the investment. The larger the term, the greater the length of exposure and risk to market volatilities.

Interest Rate risk – the risk to the value of an investment caused by changes by in market interest rates. Floating Rate Securities have limited interest rate risk; Fixed Rate Securities are exposed to mark-to-market changes caused by movements in swap markets.

6.1 Credit and maturity guidelines

Investments are to comply with three key criteria relating to:

- **Overall Portfolio Credit Framework**: limit overall credit exposure of the portfolio;
- **Institutional Credit Framework**: limit exposure to individual institutions based on their credit ratings; And
- **Term to Maturity Framework**: limits based upon maturity of securities.

(a) Overall Portfolio Credit Framework

To control the credit quality on the entire portfolio, the following credit framework limits the percentage of the portfolio exposed to any particular credit rating category.

S&P Long Term Credit Rating Category*	Maximum %
AAA	100%
AA	90%
A	60%
BBB+ and BBB total	35%
BBB+	up to 35%
BBB	up to 15%
Specific Ministerial Approved Forms of Investment	
NSW Treasury Corp: TCorpIM Funds (unrated non-growth)	3550%

* or Moody's / Fitch equivalents

(b) Institutional Credit Framework

Exposure to an individual institution will be restricted by their credit rating so that single entity exposure is limited, as detailed in the table below:

S&P Long Term Credit Rating Category*	Maximum %

AAA	45%
AA	35%
A	20%
BBB+	10%
BBB	5%

Specific Ministerial Approved Forms of Investment	
~~NSW TCorpIM Cash Fund (unrated)~~	~~45%~~
NSW TCorpIM Short Term Income Fund (unrated)	35%

* or Moody's / Fitch equivalents

If any of the Council's investments are downgraded such that they no longer fall within the investment policy, they will be divested as soon as practicable.

(c) Term to Maturity Framework

The investment portfolio is to be invested within the following maturity constraints:

Overall Portfolio Term to Maturity Limits		
Portfolio % ≤ 1 year	Min 40%	Max 100%
Portfolio % > 1 year	Min 0%	Max 60%
Portfolio % > 3 year ≤ 5 year	Min 0%	Max 30%
~~BBB+ rated ADI 3 year maximum~~		
~~BBB rated ADI 12 month maximum~~		

7.0 Investment Strategy

An Investment Strategy will run in conjunction with the Investment Policy. The investment strategy will be reviewed with an independent investment advisor at least once a year. The Strategy will outline:

- Council's cash flow expectations;
- Optimal target allocation of investment types, credit rating exposure and term to maturity exposure; and
- Appropriateness of overall investment types for Council's portfolio.

8.0 Investment Advisors

Council's investment advisor must be approved by Council and licensed by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. The advisor must be an independent person who has no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to investment products being recommended and is free to choose the most appropriate product within the terms and conditions of the Investment Policy.

Council is required to conduct an ASIC search annually in conjunction with the Investment Policy review and also on appointment of an advisor. This is to ensure that the advisor is appropriately licensed and that evidence of this is sufficiently documented.

The independent advisor is required to provide written confirmation that they do not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to the investments they are recommending or reviewing. Any commissions paid to the advisor by banks/product providers will be rebated, or otherwise onforwarded, to Council as per ASIC requirements for an independent investment advisor.

Annually, on the anniversary of the appointment of the advisor, a written declaration of continued independence is to be obtained from the advisor stating that no conflicts of interest have arisen since the signing of the last declaration.

9.0 Measurement

The investment return for the portfolio is to be regularly reviewed by an independent financial advisor by assessing the market value of the portfolio. The market value is to be assessed at least once a month to coincide with monthly reporting.

10.0 Performance Benchmarks

The performance of the investment portfolio shall be measured against the industry standard Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index and/or the Official Cash Rate.

11.0 Reporting and Reviewing of Investments

For all new investments, an investment authority is to be prepared by one staff member, then reviewed and approved by a second authorised staff member. This will be filed electronically with all rates, investment advice and reason for the decision.

Documentary evidence must be held for each investment and details thereof maintained in an investment Register. The documentary evidence must provide Council legal title to the investment.

Certificates must be obtained from the financial institutions confirming the amounts of investments held on the Council's behalf as at 30 June each year and reconciled to the Investment Register.

All investments are to be appropriately recorded in Council's financial records and reconciled at least on a monthly basis.

A monthly report will be provided to Council. The report will detail the investment portfolio in terms of performance, percentage exposure of total portfolio, maturity date and changes in market value.

12.0 Review of Investment Policy and Variation to Investment Policy

This Investment Policy will be reviewed at least once a year or as required in the event of legislative changes. The General Manager or his/her delegated representative is authorised to approve variations to this Policy if the investment is to council's advantage and/or due to revised legislation.

All changes to this Investment Policy are to be reported as soon as practicable with any amendments to the Investment Policy to ultimately be by way of Council resolution.

Schedules (5 pages)

- Schedule 1 – Investment Instrument Descriptions;
- Schedule 2 – Standard's & Poor's Ratings Description;

SCHEDULE 1 (two pages)

Investment Instrument Description

At call deposits

Cash invested on an overnight basis with an Australian Authorised Deposit-taking Institution (ADI). Funds can be recalled or re-invested prior to the bank's Real Time Gross Settlement cut-off each day.

Term Deposit

Interest bearing deposit held at an ADI for a specific contracted period. Term deposits are not tradeable in the market. They typically have a fixed rate for their life, but floating rate term deposits are also available. Prior to the introduction of Covered Bonds into the Australian market, in early 2012, term deposits ranked at the top of an ADI's capital structure.

Bank Bills and Negotiable Certificates of Deposits (NCDs)

Similar types of interest-bearing securities issued/accepted by ADIs, typically short dated. Unlike term deposits, these are tradeable in the market prior to maturity.

Floating Rate Note/Bond (FRN)

The FRN is a longer-term debt security issued for a fixed period of time but has a variable (floating) coupon on a monthly or quarterly basis. The coupon reflects current interest rates, which is determined as a margin over the BBSW rate set. FRN's appeal to investors who are reluctant to commit funds to fixed interest investments for longer periods in times of fluctuating interest rates. Typical issuers are banks, corporates, financial institutions and securitised vehicles. Only Senior FRNs issued by an Australian Authorised Deposit Taking Institution such as a bank, credit union or building society are an eligible form of FRN investment.

Fixed Interest Securities (Bonds)

Securities issued by Commonwealth, State or corporate institutions that pay a fixed rate of interest (coupon) and mature at a fixed point in time. The interest (coupon) is paid at regular intervals (semi-annually, but can be paid monthly, quarterly, or annually). These securities are generally issued for a period of greater than one year.

NSW Treasury Corporation's Investment Management Funds:

The NSW Treasury Corporation Investment Management Funds (TCorpIM Funds) comprises a number of pooled managed funds options each set up as a unit trust. The current cash and fixed income options available through TCorpIM are the Cash Fund and the Short-Term Income Fund.

The Cash Fund is primarily a cash management tool allowing for same day access to funds whilst paying a slightly higher return than could be expected from a bank cash management account. This fund is designed as a high-volume transactional account for investors that deposit and redeem large

tranches of funds at least weekly. The fund is designed for investments with time horizons ranging from overnight to 1.5 years.

The Short-Term Income Fund holds longer dated securities than the Cash Fund, consequently it has potential for more volatile month-to-month returns than its sister fund. The intended investment time horizon for the Strategic Cash Fund is 1½ to 3 years, making it an alternative to medium length term deposits.

Both funds will pay back the balance of the investment generally within 24 to 72 hours.

SCHEDULE 2 (three pages)

Standard & Poor's Ratings Description

Credit Ratings

Standard & Poor's (S&P) is a professional organisation that provides analytical services. An S&P rating is an opinion of the general creditworthiness of an obligor with respect to particular debt security or other financial obligation — based on relevant risk factors.

Credit ratings are based, in varying degrees, on the following considerations:

- Likelihood of payment.
- Nature and provisions of the obligation.
- Protection afforded by, and relative position of, the obligation in the event of bankruptcy, reorganisation or other laws affecting creditors' rights.

The issue rating definitions are expressed in terms of default risk.

Long-Term Obligations Ratings are:

AAA: An obligation/obligor rated AAA has the highest rating assigned by S&P. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is extremely strong.

AA: An obligation/obligor rated AA differs from the highest rated obligations only in a small degree. The obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligations is very strong.

A: An obligation/obligor rated A is somewhat more susceptible to the adverse effects of changes in circumstances and economic conditions than obligations/obligor in higher rated categories. However, the obligor's capacity to meet its financial commitment on the obligation is still strong.

BBB: An obligation/obligor rated BBB exhibits adequate protection parameters. However, adverse economic conditions or changing circumstances are more likely to lead to a weakened capacity to the obligor to meet its financial commitment on the obligation.

Plus (+) or Minus (-): The ratings from "AA" to ""CCC may be modified by the addition of a plus or minus sign to show relative standing within the major rating categories.

CreditWatch highlights an emerging situation, which may materially affect the profile of a rated corporation and can be designed as positive, developing or negative. Following a full review, the rating may either be affirmed or changed in the direction indicated.

A Rating Outlook assesses the potential direction of an issuer's long-term debt rating over the intermediate-to-long term. In determining a Rating Outlook, consideration is given to possible changes in the economic and/or fundamental business conditions. An outlook is not necessarily a precursor of a ratings change or future CreditWatch action. A "Rating Outlook – Positive" indicates that rating may be raised. "Negative" means a rating may be lowered. "Stable" indicates that ratings are not likely to change. "Developing" means ratings may be raised or lowered.

Policy Administration

Business Group:	Finance
Responsible officer:	~~Manager Financial Services and~~ Manager Financial Reporting
Council reference:	Ordinary Council Meeting – ~~28 February 2023~~ 19 August ~~17 June~~ 2025– Item xx.x
Policy review date:	~~One (1)~~ Every two years from date of adoption
File number:	82/2
Relevant legislation	• Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) • Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW) • Ministerial Investment Order 2011 • Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting • Australian Accounting Standards • Office of Local Government Circulars • Trustee Act 1925
Related documents	

Policy History

VERSION	DATE APPROVED	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
1	8 February 2005	

REVIEW OF INVESTMENT POLICY (Cont.)

2	24 April 2007	
3	14 April 2009	
4	22 June 2010	
5	28 June 2011	Ministerial Investment Order in section 3.1 and Schedule 3 updated to latest 2011 version. Addition in section 3.2 of requirement of staff to have an appropriate level of skill. Addition in section 3.3 noting that Council has a fiduciary responsibility. Land mortgages and deposits with Local Government Investment Services Pty Ltd deleted from section 4.
6	25 September 2012	Formalisation of process for Authorised Signatories and independence of Investment Advisor and ASIC checks.
7	February 2014	Update wording of sections 4, 6 to match the investment strategy and portfolio review provided by Council's investment advisors 30/01/14.
8	26 April 2016	Periodic review. Update to approved investment categories & references
9	25 June 2019	Periodic review. Updated to reflect investment framework proposed by TCorp
10	24 January 2023	Periodic review. Update to limits on various credit category ratings which allow increases in weightings to higher rated institutions. Provided better clarity to definition of Independent Investment Advisor.
10.1	-	Updated to new branding and alignment to organisation structure. No change to content.
11.0	19 August 2025~~17 June~~ 2025	Periodic review.

15.2 Two Proposed Amendments to 2025/26 Fees

FILE NO:	**35/33/21**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Executive Manager Finance**
AUTHOR:	**Manager Financial Reporting**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 4 Achieving together**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**4.1.3 Transparent decision making**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An administrative error resulted in the omission of two fee items from the draft 2025/26 Fees and Charges schedule that was publicly exhibited and subsequently adopted by Council at its meeting of 17 June 2025. These items relate to one development application fee category and one specific burial fee classification. The development application fee provides a charge based on a rate per $1,000 of the value of developments in the one to ten million dollar cost category. This rate is currently $1.19/$1,000, however the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021 provides for $1.44/$1,000. The burial fee item relates to burials for destitute persons. These are currently treated as being exempt in Council's fee schedule. However, with the influx of these burials from outside of the LGA, the exemption is proposed to be removed. These burials will be funded by the NSW Public Health Dept with no impact to LGA rate payers. These changes are to be placed on exhibition for at least 28 days and then returned to Council for approval.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **Council resolves to place two draft 2025/26 fee amendments, as outlined in this report, on public exhibition for at least 28 days prior to final consideration by Council.**

REPORT

There are two proposed amendments to the 2025/26 Schedule of Fees & Charges for the financial year 2025/26, adopted by Council at its meeting of 17 June 2025.

The development application fee provides a charge based on a rate per $1,000 of the value of developments in the one to ten million dollar cost category. This rate is currently $1.19/$1,000. However, the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021 provides for a fee of $1.44/$1,000. The move to the new fee aligns with the requirement to be consistent with the Regulation.

The cemetery charges fee schedule provided an exemption for burials for destitute persons. However, given the influx of these burials from outside of the LGA, the exemption is proposed to be removed. Council has also identified there are limited spaces for burials and charging for these services may curb those applications from outside the LGA, providing additional space for residents of the LGA. It should be noted that these charges are funded by the Department of NSW Public Health with no impact to ratepayers of the LGA.

TWO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 2025/26 FEES (Cont.)

These changes are to be placed on exhibition for at least 28 days and then returned to Council for approval.

The proposed amendments to the fees for 2025/26 are marked up as follows:

Customer and Digital Services

FEE NAME	Updated Description	2025/2026 FEE AMOUNT EXC. GST	GST $	2025/2026 Amount Inc. GST
Cemetery Charges		**$ exc GST**	**GST $**	**$ inc GST**
Application for burial permit interment (per application)	No charge applies ~~to destitute persons or~~ children 0-2yrs, reduced charge applies for children over 2yrs-12yrs.	$ 295.54	$ -	$ 295.54
Interment Service Levy CCNSW (for burial)	No charge applies ~~to destitute persons or~~ children 0-2yrs, reduced charge applies for children over 2yrs-12yrs.	$ 156.00	$ 15.60	$ 171.60
Application for interment of ashes (in burial plot per application)	No charge applies ~~to destitute persons or~~ children 0-2yrs, reduced charge applies for children over 2yrs-12yrs.	$ 295.54	$ -	$ 295.54
Interment Service Levy CCNSW (for ashes)	No charge applies ~~to destitute persons or~~ children 0-2yrs, reduced charge applies for children over 2yrs-12yrs.	$ 63.00	$ 6.30	$ 69.30
Application order of Interment ashes (into the columbarium wall)	No charge applies ~~to destitute persons or~~ children 0-2yrs, reduced charge applies for children over 2yrs-12yrs.	$ 295.54	$ -	$ 295.54

CITY PLANNING

FEE NAME	2024/2025 FEE DESCRIPTION	2025/2026 FEE AMOUNT EXC. GST	GST $	2025/2026 Amount Inc. GST
Development Application And Subdivision Fees				
Scale of fees - Development				
Item 2.1 - What is the fee for a development application?				
Development Application for development, other than a development application referred to in item 2.2 or 2.3, involving the erection of a building, the Estimated cost of development (clause 251 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulation 2021 details what should be included in				
$1,000,001 to $10,000,000		$3,484 plus an additional ~~$1.19~~ $1.44 for each $1,000 (or part of $1,000) by which the estimated cost exceeds $1,000,000	$ -	$3,484 plus an additional ~~$1.19~~ $1.44 for each $1,000 (or part of $1,000) by which the estimated cost exceeds $1,000,000

CONCLUSION

The proposed amended 2025/26 fees represent changes in line with regulatory provisions and community purpose.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The revenue generated by the amending fees has been factored into the adopted 2025/26 budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This matter has no specific policy implications for Council.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

This report is prepared considering Council obligations under the:

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*

15.3 Statement of Investments as at 31 July 2025

FILE NO:	**82/2**
ATTACHMENTS:	**1. Council's Holdings as at 31 July 2025**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Executive Manager Finance** **Manager Financial Reporting**
AUTHOR:	**Financial Accountant**
MAITLAND'S FUTURE	**4 Achieving together**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**4.1.3 Transparent decision making**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 requires Council to report on its investments.

As at the end of July 2025, Council had investments totaling $216,622,930 under management.

Council's investment portfolio recorded a marked-to-market return of 4.99% per annum versus the bank bill index benchmark return of 3.60% per annum. The actual investment return for the month of July was $1,012,630, a favourable variance of $158,121 when compared to the monthly budget forecasts of $854,509

Council remains fully compliant with all Investment Policy requirements.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT

1. **The report indicating Council's Funds Management position be received and noted.**
2. **The certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.**

REPORT

For the month of July 2025, Council has total cash on call and investments of $216,622,930 comprising:

- On call accounts $3,647,930
- Investments $212,975,000

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2025 (Cont.)

This is compared to the month of June 2025 where Council had $228,615,445 under management. The decrease in Council's investment holdings is due to the expected increase in expenditure following the end of the previous financial year.

Whilst Council has in excess of $200 million under management, 60% of the portfolio is externally restricted funds, pertaining to developer contributions and domestic waste management reserves.

In July, Council's investment portfolio recorded a marked-to-market return of 4.99% per annum versus the bank bill index benchmark return of 3.60% per annum. Over the past 12 months, the investment portfolio has returned a marked-to-market return of 5.17%, versus the bank bill index benchmark's 4.31%.

Without marked-to-market influences, Council's investment portfolio yielded 4.77% per annum for the month. This is based on the actual interest income being earned on existing investments and excludes the underlying changes to the market value of the bonds in the portfolio. This reflects the downward trend of market interest rates in expectation of RBA rate cuts in the coming months.

During July, Council had maturities of $14.5 million across five term deposits with original terms in the 7-12 month range months which were yielding an average of 5.27% per annum.

For its long term portfolio, Council invested $3 million in a Newcastle Permanent Senior Floating Rate Note (maturing February 2029) paying quarterly interest of 3 month bank bill swap rate +1.85%, currently 5.64% per annum. Council also invested $2 million in another Newcastle Permanent Senior Floating Rate Note (maturing January 2030) paying quarterly interest of 3 month bank bill swap rate +1.25%, currently 4.93% per annum.

Cash flow requirements are considered before any new investments are established therefore maturing investments are not always reinvested as they may be required for expenditure commitments. Also, where there is surplus cash after expenditure commitments Council will, on advice of our investment advisors, invest these funds until required.

Council has a well-diversified portfolio invested among a range of term deposits, fixed rate bonds and floating rate notes from highly rated Australian authorized deposit-taking institutions.

Global issues – Commentary provided by Prudential Investment Services:

- In the United States, economic growth expanded at a surprising 3% annual pace from April through June, bouncing back at least temporarily from a first-quarter drop that reflected disruptions from President Trump's trade wars.
- However, economists expect a deterioration in the months ahead, as tariffs work their way through supply chains, federal job cuts filter through the economy and stricter immigration policies take a toll on industries that rely on foreign-born workers.
- With United States inflation still above the Federal Reserve's 2% target and concern that higher consumer prices stemming from tariffs will lead to a persistent inflation problem, the central bank kept interest rates unchanged in the 4.25-4.50% range at its July meeting.

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2025 (Cont.)

- The European Central Bank also left rates on hold at 2%. Another rate cut is considered likely in the coming months with tariffs expected to be a drag on the economy.
- Latest Chinese economic data was mixed. Retail sales and investment came in weaker than expected but industrial production, credit growth and Gross Domestic Product at 5.2% came in better than projected helped by strong export figures. Chinese property data remains weak.
- Global shares ended the month higher with the anticipation of the chaotic United States tariff messaging coming to an end with deals gradually being ironed out and interest rates continuing to trend lower. United States shares were up 2.2% with China (+5%), Japan (+3%) and European markets (+1%) all recording gains as well. Australian shares had a strong month (+2.6%), led by the Healthcare and Energy sectors, keeping the 12 month return close to +12%.

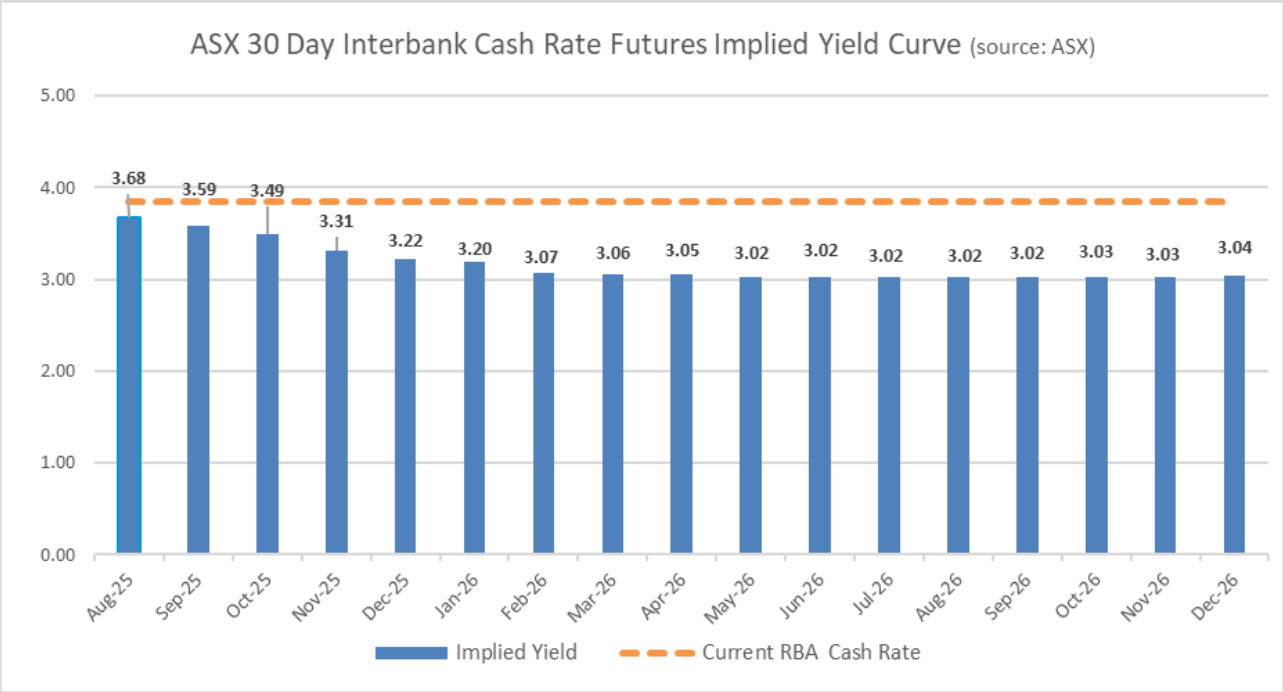
Domestic issues – Commentary provided by Prudential Investment Services:

- Latest quarterly inflation data showed further easing, with headline Consumer Price Index at 2.1% for the June quarter down from 2.4% in the March quarter. The trimmed mean, the RBA's preferred measure, fell to 2.7% from 2.9% last quarter.
- This represents the lowest trimmed mean inflation figure since December 2021, showing promising signs that underlying inflation is steadily approaching the central bank's midpoint inflation target of 2.5%.
- The main contributor to the slowdown in the pace of inflation was a 10% drop in automotive fuel prices compared to last year. Annual inflation for food and non-alcoholic beverages remained around 3% for the past five quarters.
- The latest Australian jobs market data showed broad based softness with weak employment for the second month in a row, a fall in full time employment, a fall in hours worked, and a rise in unemployment to 4.3%, its highest since the pandemic.

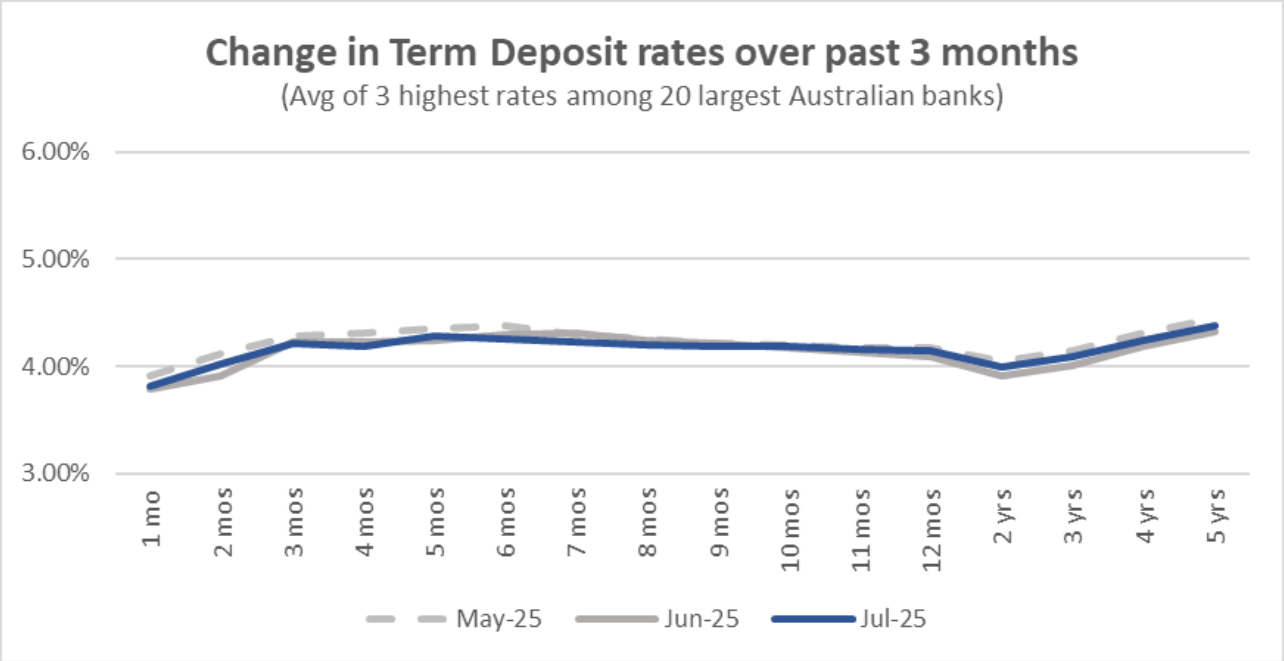
Interest rates

- In a surprise move, the RBA held the official cash rate at 3.85% at its early-July meeting. The RBA Board noted that:
  "it could wait for a little more information to confirm that inflation remains on track to reach 2.5 per cent on a sustainable basis. It noted that monetary policy is well placed to respond decisively to international developments if they were to have material implications for activity and inflation in Australia."
- Economists are expecting that the inflation and jobs data released in July will be the triggers for the RBA to make an interest rate cut in August. The market is pricing in 50 basis points worth of interest rate cuts by the end of 2025 and another 25 basis point cut in the first quarter of 2026:

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2025 (Cont.)



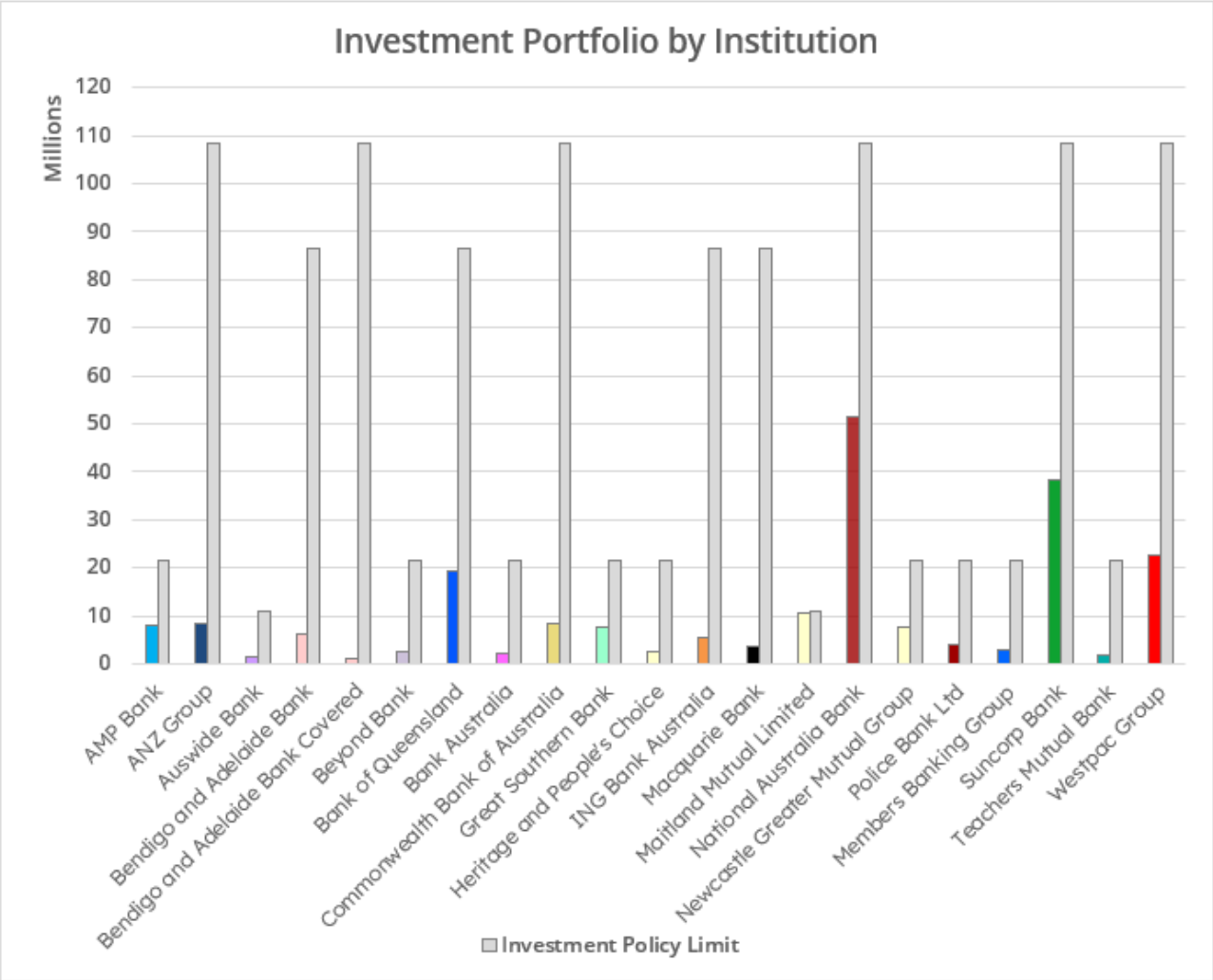
- Term deposit rates across the 1 – 12 month range were little changed from last month. The 5 - 7 month area is offering the best rates in the 4.20% to 4.30% area. Long dated rates moved a bit higher over the month with 2 - 5 year rates up an average of 7 basis points and ranging from 4.00% to 4.38%:

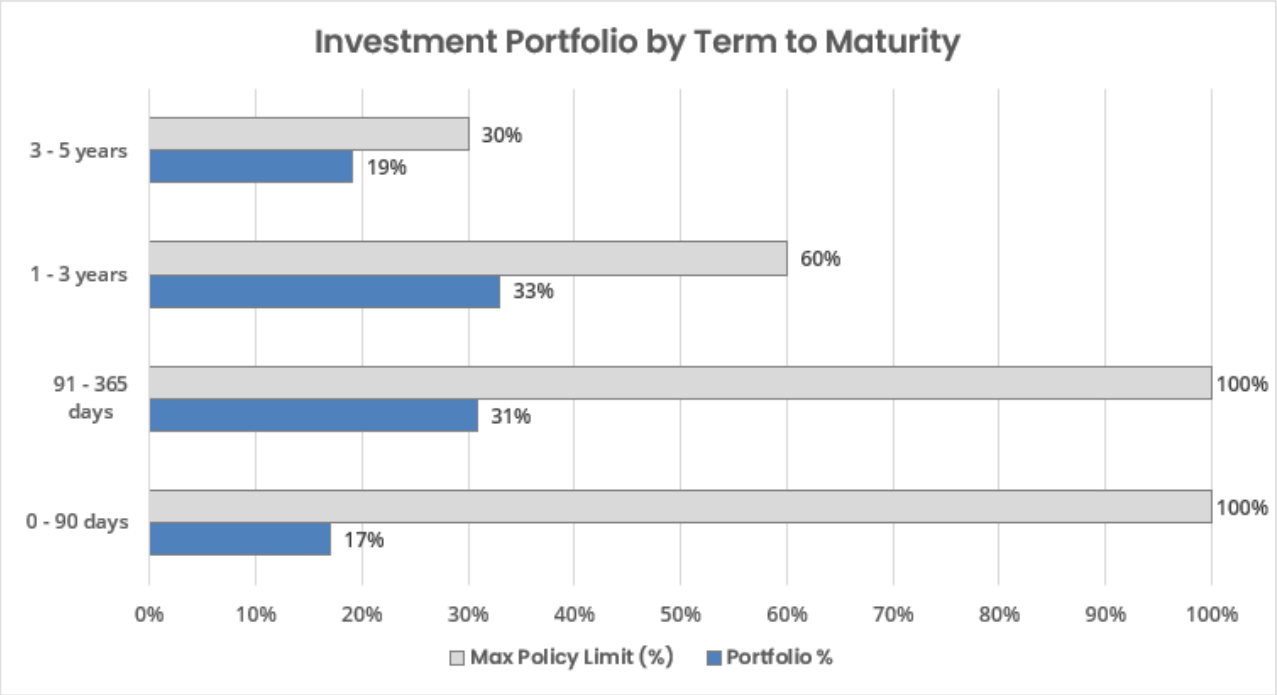


All market commentary is provided by Prudential Investment Services who advise on the management of Council's investment portfolio.

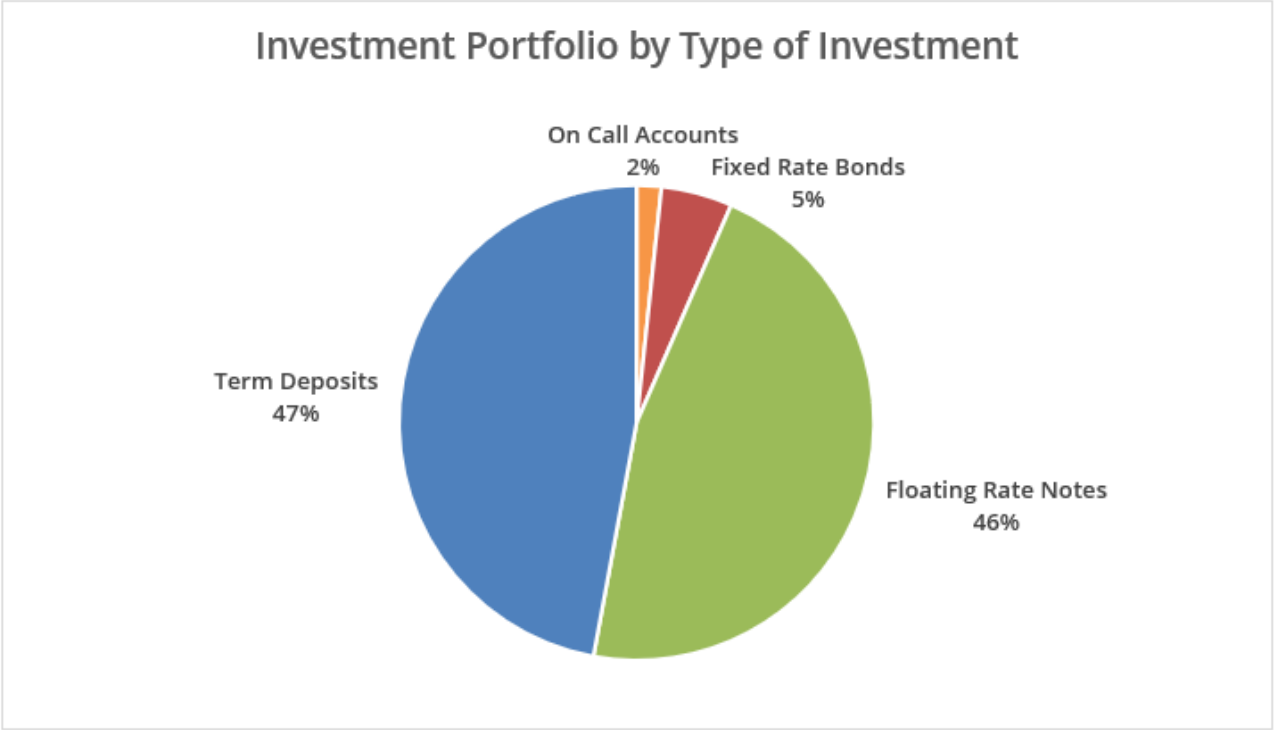
STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2025 (Cont.)

PORTFOLIO ANALYSIS





STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2025 (Cont.)



STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Portfolio Performance vs 90 day Bank Bill Index	✓	Council's investment performance did exceed the benchmark for the rolling 12 month period

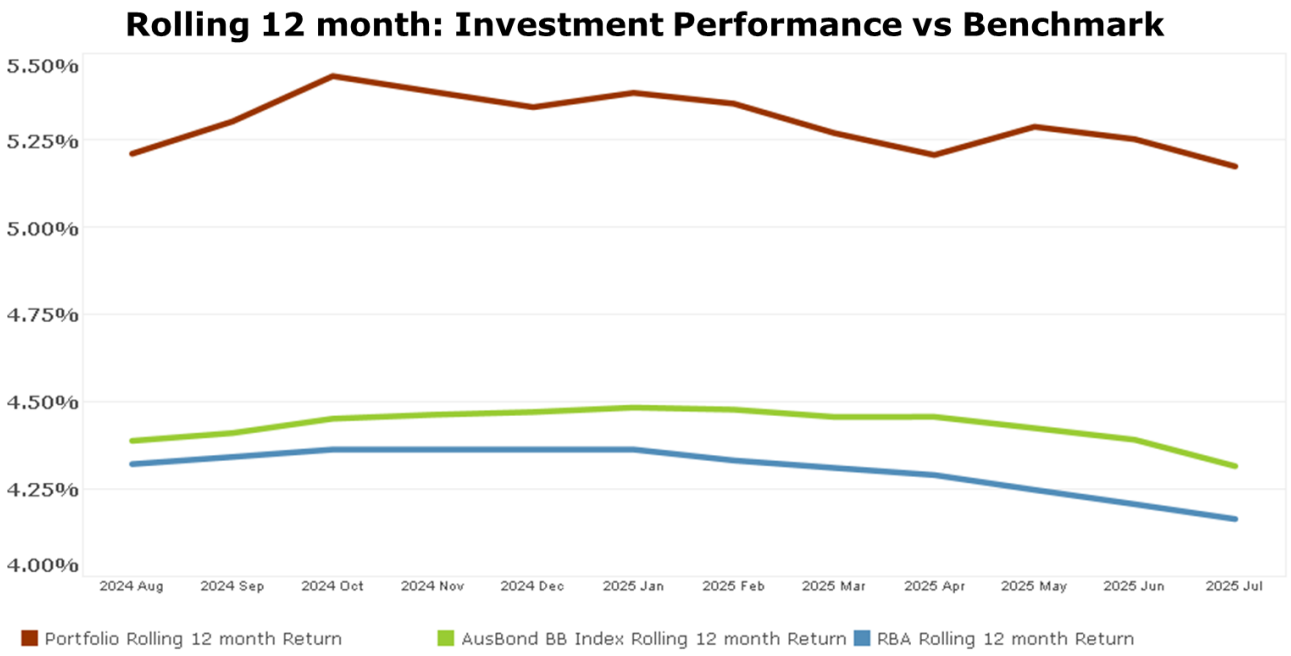
Investment Policy Requirement

Legislative requirements	✓	Fully compliant
Portfolio credit rating limit	✓	Fully compliant
Institutional exposure limits	✓	Fully compliant
Term to maturity limits	✓	Fully compliant

Investment Performance v Benchmark

Term	Investment Portfolio Return	Benchmark: Bloomberg AusBond 90 day Bank Bill Index	RBA cash rate
1 month	4.99%	3.60%	3.85%
3 months	5.33%	3.89%	3.85%
6 months	5.04%	4.11%	3.97%
FYTD	4.99%	3.60%	3.85%
12 months	5.17%	4.31%	4.16%

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2025 (Cont.)



CONCLUSION

Certification of the Responsible Accounting Officer

The Responsible Accounting Officer certifies that the investments listed in the attached report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government act 1993, Clause 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulations 2021 and Council's Investment Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The actual investment return for the month of July was $1,012,630. This amounts to a favourable variance of $158,121 when compared to the monthly budget forecasts of $854,509. The favourable variance can be attributed to the current high interest rate environment with a return for the month of 4.99%pa compared to the budgeted 4.48%pa. It should be noted that $82,980 of this variance has been reallocated back to the externally restricted funds.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Council's investments are made in accordance with Council's Investment Policy.

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The above amounts have been invested and reported in accordance with:

- Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993
- Clause 212 of the Local Government (general) Regulation 2021

Finance

Statement of Investments as at 31 July 2025

Council's Holdings as at 31 July 2025

Meeting Date: 19 August 2025

Attachment No: 1

Number of Pages: 2

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2025 (Cont.)

COUNCIL'S HOLDING AS AT 31 JULY 2025

Bonds

	Face Value	Coupon	Borrower	Credit Rating	Maturity	Term of Investment	Current Value
11-Aug-25	1,800,000.00	3.9000	WBC Snr Bond (Aug25) 3.90%	AA-	11-Aug-25	11	1,833,087.67
18-Aug-25	2,000,000.00	4.2000	CBA Snr Bond (Aug25) 4.20%	AA-	18-Aug-25	18	2,038,092.35
11-Nov-25	2,300,000.00	4.9000	WBC Snr Bond (Nov25) 4.90%	AA-	11-Nov-25	103	2,330,054.54
18-Aug-25	1,500,000.00	4.7500	CBA Snr Bond (Aug26) 4.75%	AA-	17-Aug-26	382	1,545,820.22
15-Sep-25	1,400,000.00	4.9460	MAC Snr Bond (Sep26) 4.946%	A+	14-Sep-26	410	1,441,666.66
19-Sep-25	1,500,000.00	5.0000	WBC Snr Bond (Sep28) 5.00%	AA-	19-Sep-28	1,146	1,568,103.59
Totals	**10,500,000.00**	**4.5942**					**10,756,825.03**

Cash

	Face Value	Current Yield	Borrower	Credit Rating			Current Value
31-Jul-25	1,500,000.00	4.0000	National Australia Bank	AA-			1,500,000.00
31-Jul-25	2,147,929.87	4.1172	Macquarie Bank	A+			2,147,929.87
Totals	**3,647,929.87**	**4.0690**					**3,647,929.87**

Floating Rate Note

Reset/ Coupon	Face Value	Current Coupon	Borrower	Credit Rating	Maturity	Term of Investment	Current Value
25-Aug-25	1,500,000.00	5.2095	RACQ Snr FRN (Feb26) BBSW+1.50%	BBB+	24-Feb-26	208	1,518,348.97
25-Aug-25	1,700,000.00	4.1595	SUN Snr FRN (Feb26) BBSW+0.45%	AA-	24-Feb-26	208	1,713,336.92
18-Aug-25	2,000,000.00	4.8576	SUN Snr FRN (May26) BBSW+1.05%	AA-	18-May-26	291	2,029,176.57
25-Aug-25	3,900,000.00	4.1195	NAB Snr FRN (Aug26) BBSW+0.41%	AA-	24-Aug-26	389	3,929,491.11
15-Sep-25	2,300,000.00	4.1938	SUN Snr FRN (Sep26) BBSW+0.48%	AA-	15-Sep-26	411	2,311,926.28
23-Oct-25	1,200,000.00	5.2900	GSB Snr FRN (Oct26) BBSW+1.60%	BBB+	23-Oct-26	449	1,213,466.86
23-Oct-25	3,250,000.00	5.2900	GSB Snr FRN (Oct26) BBSW+1.60%	BBB+	23-Oct-26	449	3,286,472.75
30-Oct-25	1,650,000.00	5.2018	BOz Snr FRN (Oct26) BBSW+1.50%	BBB+	30-Oct-26	456	1,661,203.55
18-Aug-25	2,000,000.00	5.3576	POL Snr FRN (Nov26) BBSW+1.55%	BBB+	17-Nov-26	474	2,021,723.97
14-Oct-25	2,000,000.00	4.4168	CBA Snr FRN (Jan27) BBSW+0.70%	AA-	14-Jan-27	532	2,010,596.30
27-Oct-25	2,250,000.00	4.4997	SUN Snr FRN (Jan27) BBSW+0.78%	AA-	25-Jan-27	543	2,258,534.15
8-Aug-25	1,220,000.00	5.4198	HPC Snr FRN (Feb27) BBSW+1.60%	BBB+	8-Feb-27	557	1,249,232.97
8-Aug-25	1,400,000.00	5.4198	HPC Snr FRN (Feb27) BBSW+1.60%	BBB+	8-Feb-27	557	1,433,546.03
11-Aug-25	2,250,000.00	5.4596	GSB Snr FRN (Feb27) BBSW+1.65%	BBB+	9-Feb-27	558	2,305,940.76
25-Aug-25	2,400,000.00	4.4295	NAB Snr FRN (Feb27) BBSW+0.72%	AA-	25-Feb-27	574	2,427,434.07
5-Sep-25	1,500,000.00	5.3048	RACQ Snr FRN (Mar27) BBSW+1.60%	BBB+	5-Mar-27	582	1,523,571.31
14-Aug-25	1,300,000.00	4.7938	BEN Snr FRN (May27) BBSW+1.00%	A-	14-May-27	652	1,321,249.31
22-Sep-25	1,800,000.00	4.9639	TMB Snr FRN (Jun27) BBSW+1.30%	BBB+	21-Jun-27	690	1,824,325.01
20-Aug-25	2,800,000.00	4.6643	ING Snr FRN (Aug27) BBSW+0.87%	A	20-Aug-27	750	2,837,656.08
15-Sep-25	1,500,000.00	5.0475	AusW Snr FRN (Sep27) BBSW+1.33%	Baa2	13-Sep-27	774	1,510,164.14
1-Aug-25	1,000,000.00	4.7199	GSB Snr FRN (Nov27) BBSW+1.03%	BBB+	1-Nov-27	823	1,013,712.10
8-Aug-25	2,000,000.00	4.9698	POL Snr FRN (Nov27) BBSW+1.15%	BBB+	8-Nov-27	830	2,035,565.01
25-Aug-25	2,500,000.00	4.9095	NAB Snr FRN (Nov27) BBSW+1.20%	AA-	25-Nov-27	847	2,555,847.40
15-Sep-25	1,100,000.00	4.9638	SUN Snr FRN (Dec27) BBSW+1.25%	AA-	14-Dec-27	866	1,120,906.32
13-Oct-25	3,000,000.00	4.8668	CBA Snr FRN (Jan28) BBSW+1.15%	AA-	13-Jan-28	896	3,044,700.20
21-Aug-25	500,000.00	5.4325	BOz Snr FRN (Feb28) BBSW+1.70%	BBB+	21-Feb-28	935	512,151.58
22-Sep-25	2,500,000.00	4.8139	BEY Snr FRN (Mar28) BBSW+1.15%	BBB+	21-Mar-28	964	2,512,709.05
12-Aug-25	2,500,000.00	4.8003	NAB Snr FRN (May28) BBSW+1.00%	AA-	12-May-28	1,016	2,549,431.80
14-Aug-25	2,500,000.00	5.2938	MMB Snr FRN (May28) BBSW+1.50%	BBB	15-May-28	1,019	2,528,644.53
16-Sep-25	1,200,000.00	4.8638	BEN Cov FRN (Jun28) BBSW+1.15%	AAA	16-Jun-28	1,051	1,220,543.66
11-Sep-25	1,400,000.00	4.6649	ANZ Snr FRN (Sep28) BBSW+0.93%	AA-	11-Sep-28	1,138	1,418,869.31
18-Aug-25	2,000,000.00	4.8272	NAB Snr FRN (Nov28) BBSW+1.03%	AA-	16-Nov-28	1,204	2,040,526.82
5-Aug-25	2,000,000.00	4.8100	ANZ Snr FRN (Feb29) BBSW+0.96%	AA-	5-Feb-29	1,285	2,038,693.42
14-Aug-25	600,000.00	5.6438	NPBS Snr FRN (Feb29) BBSW+1.85%	BBB+	14-Feb-29	1,294	621,081.21
14-Aug-25	3,000,000.00	5.6438	NPBS Snr FRN (Feb29) BBSW+1.85%	BBB+	14-Feb-29	1,294	3,105,406.04
19-Sep-25	1,500,000.00	4.6736	SUN Snr FRN (Mar29) BBSW+0.98%	AA-	13-Mar-29	1,321	1,516,718.83
22-Sep-25	2,800,000.00	4.5639	NAB Snr FRN (Mar29) BBSW+0.90%	AA-	22-Mar-29	1,330	2,830,350.59
30-Oct-25	2,500,000.00	4.9818	BoQ Snr FRN (Apr29) BBSW+1.28%	A-	30-Apr-29	1,369	2,528,932.44
30-Oct-25	4,000,000.00	4.9818	BoQ Snr FRN (Apr29) BBSW+1.28%	A-	30-Apr-29	1,369	4,046,291.90
18-Sep-25	5,000,000.00	4.5594	ANZ Snr FRN (Jun29) BBSW+0.86%	AA-	18-Jun-29	1,418	5,048,691.32
14-Aug-25	3,100,000.00	4.6138	NAB Snr FRN (Nov29) BBSW+0.82%	AA-	14-Nov-29	1,567	3,138,210.70
28-Aug-25	3,000,000.00	4.5200	BEN Cov FRN (Nov29) BBSW+0.83%	A-	28-Nov-29	1,581	3,024,087.95
21-Oct-25	2,000,000.00	4.9317	NPBS Snr FRN (Jan30) BBSW+1.25%	BBB+	21-Jan-30	1,635	2,005,332.53
18-Sep-25	3,200,000.00	4.5294	NAB Snr FRN (Mar30) BBSW+0.83%	AA-	18-Mar-30	1,691	3,225,430.72
21-Aug-25	850,000.00	4.6625	SUN Snr FRN (May30) BBSW+0.93%	AA-	21-May-30	1,755	860,376.17
15-Sep-25	2,800,000.00	4.6675	ING Snr FRN (Jun30) BBSW+0.95%	A	13-Jun-30	1,778	2,823,648.68
Totals	**100,470,000.00**	**4.8373**					**101,759,589.92**

STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS AS AT 31 JULY 2025 (Cont.)

Term Deposits

	Face Value	Current Yield	Borrower	Credit Rating	Maturity	Term of Investment	Current Value
	2,000,000.00	5.0500	National Australia Bank	AA-	5-Aug-25	5	2,099,339.73
	2,500,000.00	5.0000	National Australia Bank	AA-	19-Aug-25	19	2,617,465.75
	3,000,000.00	5.0000	National Australia Bank	AA-	27-Aug-25	27	3,139,315.07
	4,000,000.00	5.0000	National Australia Bank	AA-	3-Sep-25	34	4,184,657.53
	4,000,000.00	4.9500	National Australia Bank	AA-	9-Sep-25	40	4,180,098.63
	4,000,000.00	5.0700	National Australia Bank	AA-	16-Sep-25	47	4,136,681.64
	2,000,000.00	5.0700	Suncorp Bank	AA-	23-Sep-25	54	2,076,397.26
	2,000,000.00	5.1700	Suncorp Bank	AA-	30-Sep-25	61	2,067,989.04
	2,000,000.00	4.4000	AMP Bank	BBB+	7-Oct-25	68	2,012,536.99
	2,000,000.00	5.1000	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank	A-	14-Oct-25	75	2,072,657.53
	2,000,000.00	4.3500	Bank of Queensland	A-	21-Oct-25	82	2,017,638.36
	2,000,000.00	4.7600	Suncorp Bank	AA-	21-Oct-25	82	2,042,774.79
	2,000,000.00	5.0900	Suncorp Bank	AA-	28-Oct-25	89	2,076,419.73
	2,000,000.00	4.8000	Suncorp Bank	AA-	4-Nov-25	96	2,046,816.44
	3,000,000.00	5.1900	Westpac Group	AA-	18-Nov-25	110	3,033,699.45
	5,000.00	5.1000	National Australia Bank	AA-	25-Nov-25	117	5,171.86
	2,500,000.00	5.0700	Suncorp Bank	AA-	25-Nov-25	117	2,585,078.77
	2,000,000.00	4.8000	Suncorp Bank	AA-	2-Dec-25	124	2,046,816.44
	2,000,000.00	5.0000	AMP Bank	BBB+	10-Dec-25	132	2,064,109.59
	2,000,000.00	5.1000	AMP Bank	BBB+	17-Dec-25	139	2,062,597.26
	2,000,000.00	4.4000	Bank of Queensland	A-	23-Dec-25	145	2,017,600.00
	2,000,000.00	4.2800	Suncorp Bank	AA-	30-Dec-25	152	2,008,677.26
	3,000,000.00	4.3000	Bank of Queensland	A-	7-Jan-26	160	3,020,852.05
	4,000,000.00	4.7900	Suncorp Bank	AA-	13-Jan-26	166	4,089,238.36
	2,000,000.00	4.3500	Bank of Queensland	A-	20-Jan-26	173	2,017,400.00
	2,000,000.00	4.7000	Westpac Group	AA-	2-Feb-26	186	2,000,257.53
	3,000,000.00	4.6500	National Australia Bank	AA-	10-Feb-26	194	3,058,857.53
	3,000,000.00	4.6300	Westpac Group	AA-	24-Feb-26	208	3,025,496.71
	3,000,000.00	4.6300	Westpac Group	AA-	3-Mar-26	215	3,025,116.16
	3,000,000.00	4.3300	Suncorp Bank	AA-	24-Mar-26	236	3,013,167.95
	2,000,000.00	4.1700	Bank of Queensland	A-	31-Mar-26	243	2,013,481.10
	2,000,000.00	4.6000	Westpac Group	AA-	7-Apr-26	250	2,016,383.56
	3,000,000.00	4.2700	Suncorp Bank	AA-	21-Apr-26	264	3,012,985.48
	2,000,000.00	4.2200	National Australia Bank	AA-	28-Apr-26	271	2,015,261.37
	2,000,000.00	4.1500	Bank of Queensland	A-	5-May-26	278	2,013,643.84
	3,000,000.00	4.0500	National Australia Bank	AA-	26-May-26	299	3,011,650.68
	2,000,000.00	4.0900	Westpac Group	AA-	2-Jun-26	306	2,013,446.58
	2,000,000.00	4.3000	Westpac Group	AA-	23-Jun-26	327	2,017,200.00
	4,000,000.00	4.6500	The Mutual	BBB	6-Oct-26	432	4,075,928.77
	4,000,000.00	4.7500	The Mutual	BBB	16-Feb-27	565	4,080,684.93
Totals	**102,005,000.00**	**4.6850**					**104,128,128.71**
Grand Totals	**216,622,929.87**						**220,292,473.53**

16 Items for Information

Nil

17 Notices of Motion/Rescission

17.1 Local Government NSW Annual Conference

Notice Of Motion Submitted by Cr Mitchell Griffin

FILE NO: **35/7/4**

ATTACHMENTS: **Nil**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: **General Manager**

Cr Mitchell Griffin has indicated his/her intention to move the following Notice of Motion at the next Council Meeting being held on 19 August 2025:

THAT

Council submits the following motions and relevant commentary to the 2025 Local Government NSW Annual Conference:

1. **Waste Levy Motion**
   That LGNSW advocates to the NSW Government and the Environmental Protection Agency for a review of categorisations of the waste levy which unfairly places numerous regional councils as "Metropolitan" under the levy. This is despite these councils being categorised by the State Government and LGNSW as "Regional" councils when it comes to grants, road and infrastructure funding and remuneration.

2. **Plastic Straws and Cutlery**
   That LGNSW advocates to the NSW State Government to rescind the 2022 ban on plastic straws and cutlery.

3. **Return and Earn**
   That LGNSW advocates to the NSW Government to further expand the roll out of Return and Earn recycling with an increase to the reward from 10 cents per item to 20 cents to factor in inflation and encourage further recycling.

4. **E-Bikes and E-Scooters**
   That LGNSW notes the rise in the use of e-bikes and e-scooters and advocates to the State Government for a review of laws surrounding their use to ensure the safety of pedestrians and wider community.

5. **Freedom of Choice for Energy**
   That LGNSW rescinds its current policy platform position which advocates for a transition away from domestic use of gas in homes and adopts the new policy position for freedom of choice in energy type for homeowners and commercial businesses.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Cont.)

6. **Immigration During Housing Crisis**
   That Local Government NSW:
   a) **notes that NSW is currently experiencing a housing crisis which has now led to the NSW State Government overriding local councils on planning proposals across the state in order to provide more housing.**
   b) **advocates to the Federal Government to make immediate reductions to immigration until such a time as the housing crisis is back under control to avoid the State Government overruling local councils with unnecessary and inappropriate planning decisions.**

BACKGROUND
The 2025 LGNSW Annual Conference will be held on 23-25 November 2025 in Penrith. For each of the proposed motions identified above, it is proposed that the following commentary is submitted in support of each motion.

Motion 1 – Waste Levy Commentary

There is a need for regional councils in New South Wales to be properly classified as regional under the NSW Waste Levy framework. This is not just a matter of terminology, it's a matter of equity.

The current classification system places many councils that are clearly regional in geography, population, and infrastructure under the same regulatory and financial burden as metropolitan Sydney. And that is fundamentally flawed.

Let's be clear: regional councils are not Sydney councils. We don't have the same access to waste processing infrastructure. We don't have the same economies of scale. And we don't have the same population density that allows for the efficient collection and processing of waste. Penalising regional communities for these unavoidable limitations is unjust.

The waste levy was designed to encourage recycling and reduce landfill, but when applied without regional consideration, it becomes a regressive tax on rural and regional communities.

Regional councils already stretch every ratepayer dollar. Applying a full metro-rate levy in places with vastly different logistical and economic challenges only leads to increased council rates, reduced community services, or both. That's unacceptable for communities already facing rising living costs and limited resources.

Regional councils are committed to sustainable waste practices. But we need a system that recognizes the structural differences between metropolitan and regional areas—and adjusts accordingly.

It's time for the NSW Government to acknowledge what is obvious to anyone who's ever stepped outside the Sydney basin: regional councils are different, and policy must reflect that.

By classifying regional councils as regional under the Waste Levy, we promote equity, common sense, and a more effective approach to waste and sustainability.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Cont.)

Motion 2 – Plastic Straws and Cutlery Commentary

While the motives behind the legislation on plastic straws and cutlery are laudable—reducing litter and aiding the environment—the ban imposed in 2022 has unintended consequences that disproportionately impact people with disabilities and those with medical needs.

Plastic straws enable people with disabilities to drink safely and easily. Reusable metal or bamboo straws require cleaning, paper straws become soggy and pose a choking risk. By banning plastic straws outright, we risk excluding this community from everyday activities—drinking a coffee, attending events, or simply dining out.
To the general population bamboo and paper straws also have serious limitations. For paper, they lose rigidity, may collapse or dissolve mid-drink, and are simply unusable for thick beverages like shakes. Metal/bamboo/silicone straws can be rigid, conduct heat, or pose injury risks, and require maintenance that some users can't manage. Thus, alternative straws are not one-size-fits-all—they may even introduce new hazards.

Our society's commitment to environmental sustainability should never come at the cost of basic accessibility. Plastic straws might be a small piece of the environmental puzzle—but they're a lifeline for many individuals. We need to lead with empathy and inclusivity, not regulation that marginalises.

Motion 3 – Return and Earn Commentary

When Return and Earn was introduced in 2017, it was a game-changer. For the first time, people were paid to do the right thing—to recycle, to reduce litter, and to rethink how we treat waste. And it's worked: over 10 billion containers have been returned in NSW, and litter has dropped by more than 50% in some areas. But now, it's time to take the next step.

Right now, there are many parts of NSW—especially in regional, rural, and outer suburban areas—that don't have easy access to Return and Earn machines. If people have to drive 20 to 30 kilometres just to return their containers, participation drops. It becomes a burden, not a habit. We need more locations, more drop-off points, and smarter accessibility—including mobile collection units, integration with shopping centres, and more incentives for local businesses to host machines. If we want to increase recycling rates, we have to remove the barriers, not reinforce them.

The current 10-cent refund hasn't changed in years. In fact, with inflation, it's worth less now than when the scheme began. Meanwhile, the cost of living has gone up. For many families, a higher return could make a real difference.

Raising the refund to 20 cents would make recycling more worthwhile for individuals and families. It would encourage greater participation across all age groups and demographics, provide a bigger incentive for schools, sports clubs, and community groups who collect cans and bottles as a way to raise money, and help low-income households turn waste into value. More money in people's pockets. More containers out of landfills. Everyone wins.

Communities are ready. People want to do the right thing—they just need the means and the motivation. Across NSW, councils, community leaders, and families are calling for more machines, better access, and stronger rewards. Raising the refund shows we're listening. Expanding the network shows we're serious.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW ANNUAL CONFERENCE (Cont.)

The Return and Earn program has proven that smart environmental policy can work. But if we want to take it from a good idea to a great system, we need to go further.

Motion 4 – E-Bikes and E-Scooters Commentary

There is a need for legislative reform in New South Wales to ensure their safe, fair, and effective use of e-bikes and e-scooters

Our current legislation in relation to the use of this technology is outdated. In NSW, we've seen confusing and inconsistent rules about where and how e-scooters and e-bikes can be used in comparison to other powered scooters and bikes.

This patchwork approach to laws surrounding these items is no longer workable. We need clear, statewide legislation that recognises the reality on our streets.

We need a legal framework that empowers local governments and police to enforce rules fairly and consistently. We can't ask authorities to uphold safety without giving them the tools and clarity to do it.

E-bikes and e-scooters are already being used—whether the law fully supports them or not. What we need now is a sensible, forward-looking legislative framework that allows these devices to operate safely, legally, and responsibly.

E-bikes and e-scooters represent a cleaner, more efficient, more accessible way to travel—but only if we legislate wisely.

New South Wales must act now with:

• Clear and consistent statewide legislation,
• Enforceable safety standards,
• Infrastructure planning that supports micromobility, and
• A focus on education and shared responsibility.

Motion 5 – Freedom of Choice for Energy Commentary

In recent years, there's been a growing push in some places to restrict or outright ban the use of natural gas in residential and commercial buildings. While there is no opposition to the efforts to create a cleaner, more sustainable future, we must be careful not to sacrifice freedom of choice, practicality, and affordability in the process.

Homeowners today are asking for the freedom to make informed decisions about what works best for their family or business.

Our homes are the most personal spaces we occupy. Choosing how to heat them, cook in them, and power them is not just a technical decision—it's a deeply personal one. In a free society, choice matters. Mandating a single energy source removes freedom from citizens and centralizes control in ways that are not always in the best interest of individuals or communities.

Natural gas remains one of the most cost-effective and reliable energy sources available. It heats homes quickly, powers stoves efficiently, and provides backup during emergencies when electric grids can fail. For many working families, gas isn't a luxury—it's the most practical and economical choice available.

This is not about gas versus electric. This is about preserving the rights of homeowners to choose what's best for their households, while continuing to innovate, invest, and improve our energy systems.

We must protect freedom of choice, support affordable and resilient energy systems, and encourage a pragmatic path to sustainability.

Motion 6 – Immigration During Housing Crisis Commentary

Immigration has been and continues to be a cornerstone of Australia's success. It brings talent, diversity, and economic dynamism. However, even good things can have unintended consequences if not managed properly — and housing supply is one area where our planning has not kept pace with population growth.

In the past decade, NSW — particularly Sydney — has experienced rapid population growth, much of it driven by overseas migration. Between 2011 and 2021, Sydney's population grew by over 800,000 people. This increase in population has put substantial pressure on housing demand..

Here's the problem: housing supply hasn't kept up. In 2023 alone, NSW received more than 160,000 new migrants, while housing completions fell well short of that number. This mismatch fuels competition for existing dwellings, pushing vulnerable Australians — including young people, women, and low-income earners — out of the housing market altogether. This drives up prices, which drives up rents, and that leaves more people struggling to find somewhere to live.

To be clear, this is not the fault of migrants. They are not to blame for a policy failure. Our leaders must acknowledge the reality: high immigration without matching infrastructure and housing supply is unsustainable. It's not anti-immigration to say this.

By continuously allowing in more people than there is available housing for is irresponsible and shifts the issue from the Federal Government to the State Governments. This leads to poor planning decisions by people who do not have local knowledge and are not locally based where these developments are occurring.

17.2 Greta to Rutherford Shared Pathway

Notice of Motion Submitted by Cr Don Ferris

FILE NO: **35/48**

ATTACHMENTS: **Nil**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: **General Manager**

Cr Don Ferris has indicated his intention to move the following Notice of Motion at the next Council Meeting being held on 19 August 2025:

THAT

1. **Council staff be ready to pursue any grant funding that becomes available to plan for and build pedestrian and cycle infrastructure in central Lochinvar better connecting Lochinvar residential areas to the 3 local schools (stage 1).**
2. **Council staff be ready to pursue any grant funding that becomes available to plan for and build pedestrian and cycle infrastructure to connect Lochinvar to Rutherford with a 2.5 metre off road concrete shared pathway in the New England Highway road corridor (stage 2).**
3. **Council staff be ready to pursue any grant funding that becomes available, in consultation with Cessnock Council, to plan for and build pedestrian and cycle infrastructure to connect Lochinvar to the Branxton - Greta shared pathway (due for completion in 2025) with a 2.5 metre off road concrete shared pathway in the New England Highway road corridor (stage 3).**
4. **Council report back within 6 months on progress.**

BACKGROUND

Maitland is growing at an extraordinary rate. This growth needs to be supported by transport infrastructure that eases pressure on roads, encourages active transportation and helps school children get to and from school safely.

Maitland's residential population growth is faster than any other regional area in the state with Maitland being one of the fastest growing areas in Australia. Sustainable residential growth requires adequate investment into transport infrastructure including shared pathways.

Lochinvar has 3 busy schools – Lochinvar Public School, St Patricks Primary School and St Joseph's College. On a typical weekday Lochinvar experiences an unacceptable level of congestion around school times. Traffic backs up to Harpers Hill in the west and to Airds in the east each morning and afternoon. Lochinvar has limited footpaths or shared pathways

GRETA TO RUTHERFORD SHARED PATHWAY (Cont.)

connecting the schools to the residential areas of Lochinvar. Investing in shared pathways will give the community more safe and healthy transport options.

Lochinvar is a beautiful scenic town that enjoys amazing panoramas in every direction despite this it is difficult and unsafe to move around outside of using a car. A number of the new subdivisions have no safe pedestrian access in or out.

The shared pathways proposed will encourage more healthy lifestyles, increase social interaction and physical activity and reduce short trips made by people using a vehicle. Improving connectivity in the Lower Hunter by building more shared pathways will not only have a positive impact on those who get out and get active but it will also bring increased economic activity in the form of tourism opportunities connecting Maitland with Wine Country and the Shiraz to Shore network when it is built.

Sustainable development promotes concentrating development and increasing density around transport corridors. Maitland and particularly the west of Maitland has 3 main transport arterials in proximity. The New England Highway, The Hunter Expressway and the Main North Heavy Rail Line are within 4 kilometres of each other at Lochinvar (& within 2 kilometres at Allandale Rd). This area is ideal for development however there needs to be adequate investment into infrastructure that will help to reduce traffic over time, get people active and free up the roads for people who have no choice but to drive.

RESPONSE BY ACTING DIRECTOR CITY SERVICES

1. Council officers have received multiple requests for additional footpaths and shared paths in Lochinvar. There are currently three (3) projects in Lochinvar that are currently being investigated, with future potential for grant funding, being:

    i. A new footpath segment along the New England Highway between St Patrick's Primary School and Springfield Drive.

    ii. A new footpath segment along the New England Highway from Irma place to Lochinvar Public School.

    iii. A new footpath segment along Station Lane from Gregory Lane to Christopher Road.

    Each footpath and shared path project request is assessed and prioritised against all the other active travel infrastructure project requests covering the whole Maitland local government area. The factors for assessment include location, missing connectivity links to existing active travel networks, proximity to community hubs (including shops, schools, sporting facilities and amenities), usage and safety.

    Ongoing subdivision development works in Lochinvar will continue to provide footpath and shared path infrastructure as per their approved development applications. The Active Travel Strategy, which is currently under development, will help guide future footpath and shared path projects in Lochinvar.

GRETA TO RUTHERFORD SHARED PATHWAY (Cont.)

2. Council officers have received requests for footpath and shared path infrastructure linking Rutherford and Lochinvar. A large portion of this active travel infrastructure will be delivered by developers as part of land development along the route. A section of this route will be covered by and included in the Anambah to Branxton regionally significant growth area.

3. Council is also currently liaising with Cessnock City Council and Singleton Council on the structure plan for the Anambah to Branxton regionally significant growth area, which also incorporates the Lochinvar to Branxton – Greta footprint. All future active travel infrastructure will need to be coordinated with the strategic planning of the Anambah to Branxton regionally significant growth area.

4. Noted

17.3 Blue Tree Programme

Notice of Motion Submitted by Cr Bill Hackney

FILE NO: **35/48**

ATTACHMENTS: **Nil**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: **General Manager**

Cr Bill Hackney has indicated his intention to move the following Notice of Motion at the next Council Meeting being held on 19 August 2025:

THAT

1. **Council identifies a suitable location and fully engage in the "Blue Tree" program in support of mental health and suicide awareness.**
2. **The General Manager be delegated to take all actions necessary to fulfil this action during 2025.**

The Blue Tree Project exists to break the silence and the stigma surrounding mental health and suicide. What began as a grassroots movement has grown into a global mental health movement, driving change and amplifying the conversation around mental health.

RESPONSE BY ACTING DIRECTOR CITY SERVICES

Council officers have identified two sites for further investigation to facilitate the painting of a blue tree at each location. One site is located in Thornton and the other in East Maitland.

17.4 Future of Motorcycling Facilities in the Lower Hunter

Notice of Motion Submitted by Cr Warrick Penfold

FILE NO: **35/48**

ATTACHMENTS: **Nil**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: **General Manager**

Cr Warrick Penfold has indicated his intention to move the following Notice of Motion at the next Council Meeting being held on 19 August 2025:

THAT

1. **Council form a "Future of Motorcycling Facilities in the Lower Hunter" working party**
2. **Council hold an initial Regional Forum in 2025 for same**
3. **Council invite neighbouring councils to get involved in same**
4. **Council choose, from among themselves, a Councillor to lead the working party meetings and Regional Forum**
5. **Council provide all required administrative and professional support**
6. **Council report back periodically on actions and outcomes of the working party**
7. **Council delegate all other required decisions for same to the General Manager**

RESPONSE BY ACTING DIRECTOR CITY SERVICES

City Services can support the actions required within current resources.

Through the Community Infrastructure Strategy, Council officers will undertake a review of all sport and recreation activities within the Local Government Area. The provision of motorbike riding facilities can be considered as part of this process.

17.5 Access to North-West of Maitland

Notice of Motion Submitted by Cr Don Ferris

FILE NO: **35/48**

ATTACHMENTS: **Nil**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: **General Manager**

Cr Don Ferris has indicated his intention to move the following Notice of Motion at the next Council Meeting being held on 19 August 2025:

THAT

1. **Council makes any post flood condition assessment(s) on the bridge construction project available to the public at its earliest possible convenience.**
2. **Council makes any legal advice pertaining to who is responsible for the repairs to the bridge available to the public at its earliest possible convenience but not so early as to compromise any negotiations with the contractor or jeopardise any proceedings.**

BACKGROUND

The new Melville Ford bridge construction has been dealt a blow with recent floods damaging the new bridge's foundations. This will inevitably mean delays until the Contractor and Council can sort out what damage has been done and who is responsible for repairing. Meanwhile residents of Maitland Vale, Melville, Rosebrook and Hillsborough (& other) localities are being burdened with extensive extra travel times.

RESPONSE BY ACTING DIRECTOR CITY SERVICES

1. Council is unable to provide flood condition assessment and rectification at this time. We are working closely with our specialist bridge contractor to assess the full impact of the flood events. Unfortunately, the bridge structure has experienced a second flood event in August requiring further assessment to be undertaken. When the flood impact assessment is complete, we will provide further information to Council.

2. Council is unable to make public any legal advice it receives pertaining to who is responsible for the repairs to the bridge because Council wishes to retain legal professional privilege over that advice. This will ensure that Council does not in any way prejudice its legal position now or in future. This position may change at the conclusion of the project.

18 Questions with Notice

18.1 Mechanics Institute East Maitland

Submitted by Cr Mitchell Griffin

FILE NO: **35/7/2**

ATTACHMENTS: **Nil**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: **General Manager**

Cr Mitchell Griffin has asked the following Question With Notice for the Council Meeting being held on 19 August 2025:

The Mechanics Institute in Bank Street East Maitland built in 1859 was the site of the first local government meeting within the current day LGA boundary. For many years now the site has remained derelict with the non-original frontage propped up to prevent collapse.

Can officers advise:

- Has there been any investigations into demolishing the current frontage of the building and restoring the front of the building back to its 1859 design?
- If so, what would the appropriate cost be to carry out this work?

RESPONSE BY DIRECTOR FINANCE

There have been a number of investigations undertaken into the Mechanics Institute building and site. The most recent report to Council on 27 September 2022 outlined, among other matters, findings from investigations into a proposed demolition of the current frontage. This report provided Council with an update on the structural condition of the building and associated costs. The report outlined the significant structural challenges with this building and provided three options for Council consideration, including demolition of the façade. With reference to the question on demolition and restoration costs, please note the below extract from *Item 10.5 of the Council report 27 September 2022*.

Option 2 – Demolish the front façade and construct a temporary wall to seal and secure the building.
This option would allow the structural props to be removed and allow pedestrian access. A recent cost estimate for this option was in the vicinity of $800,000.

The temporary wall would be an interpretation of the original colonnade façade. This cost estimate would now be higher, with a generalised internal estimate of over $1.3 million today. It is noted that repairing the front façade alone will not allow the building to be used. Additional construction work would be required, at an estimate of $3 - $4 million in 2022 as per the Council report, which includes but is not limited to compliance (BCA, accessibility, fire, electrical) and significant structural repairs.

MECHANICS INSTITUTE EAST MAITLAND (Cont.)

Council's resolution under report Item 10.5 at the 27 September 22 Council meeting, is outlined below. It was resolved that:

1. Council endorse the decision that the Literary Institute Lots 1 and 2 DP 997833, 2022 Bank Street East Maitland is not required as part of Maitland City Councils' community facilities network;

2. Council commences a land reclassification process for Lot 2 DP 997833 20 Bank Street East Maitland from Community Land to Operational Land.

The broader issue of decisions on the future of the Mechanics Institute building is now clearly on the agenda for Council's newly formed Property Advisory Panel (panel). The panel will receive regular updates on the reclassification process. In addition, options for the building will be explored by Council Officers with support from relevant external experts and reported to the panel for review and endorsement. Once reviewed and endorsed by the panel, all recommendations for this matter will come to Council via a report for consideration.

19 Urgent Business

20 Committee of the Whole

20.1 Consideration of Tender - 2023/2432 Maitland Resouce Recovery Facility Metals Tender

FILE NO:	**61/23**
ATTACHMENTS:	**Nil**
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	**Acting Director City Planning**
	Manager Environment & Sustainability
	Operations Manager Waste
AUTHOR:	**Sustainability Officer**
MAITLAND +10	**Outcome 2 Sustainable Maitland**
COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:	**2.2 Sustainable and resilient communities**

THAT Council move into Confidential Session to discuss this item under the terms of the Local Government Act 1993 Section 10A(2), as follows: (d) (i) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tenders were called to engage a suitably qualified and experienced contractor to efficiently and sustainably manage metal items received at the Maitland Resource Recovery Facility.

This report provides details of the tender assessment and a recommendation to award a contract for the works. This report is being presented to the Committee of the Whole as it contains confidential commercial information.

21 Committee of the Whole Recommendations

22 Closure