



Wingecarribee Shire Council

Annual Report

2020/21



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Introduction

The Annual Report 2020/21 provides a detailed account of Wingecarribee Shire Council's operational and financial performance during the period of 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The strategies and actions set out in Council's Delivery Program 2017-2022 and annual Operational Plans aim to achieve the broader objectives and aspirations of Council's long-term Community Strategic Plan (CSP), *Wingecarribee 2031*, which was developed in response to extensive community consultation. These broader objectives are summarised in Council's CSP through five key strategic themes – Leadership, People, Places, Environment and Economy. Council's Delivery Program 2017-2022 sets out a total of 100 key actions under these five themes, the achievement of which aims to ensure that Council is working towards the long-term vision for the community articulated in the CSP.

Council's Delivery Program 2017-2022 is further supplemented by an annual Operational Plan and Budget adopted each financial year which sets out annual deliverables – key activities, projects, and activities – aiming to ensure that Council continues to work towards the commitments set out in the Delivery Program and ultimately, the objectives of the CSP.

In particular, this report focuses on Council's achievements and challenges throughout the 2020/21 Financial Year in implementing Council's Delivery Program 2017-2022 and Operational Plan 2020/21. It also outlines the involvement of Council, the State and Federal Governments, volunteers and the community in response to the challenges presented by the 2019-20 bushfires and the COVID-19.

This report also includes statutory information as prescribed by the *Local Government Act 1993*, *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and any other applicable legislation which require certain information to be included in this report. These statutory reporting requirements also include audited financial information that details Council's financial performance for the 2020/21 Financial Year. This financial information is annexed to this report.



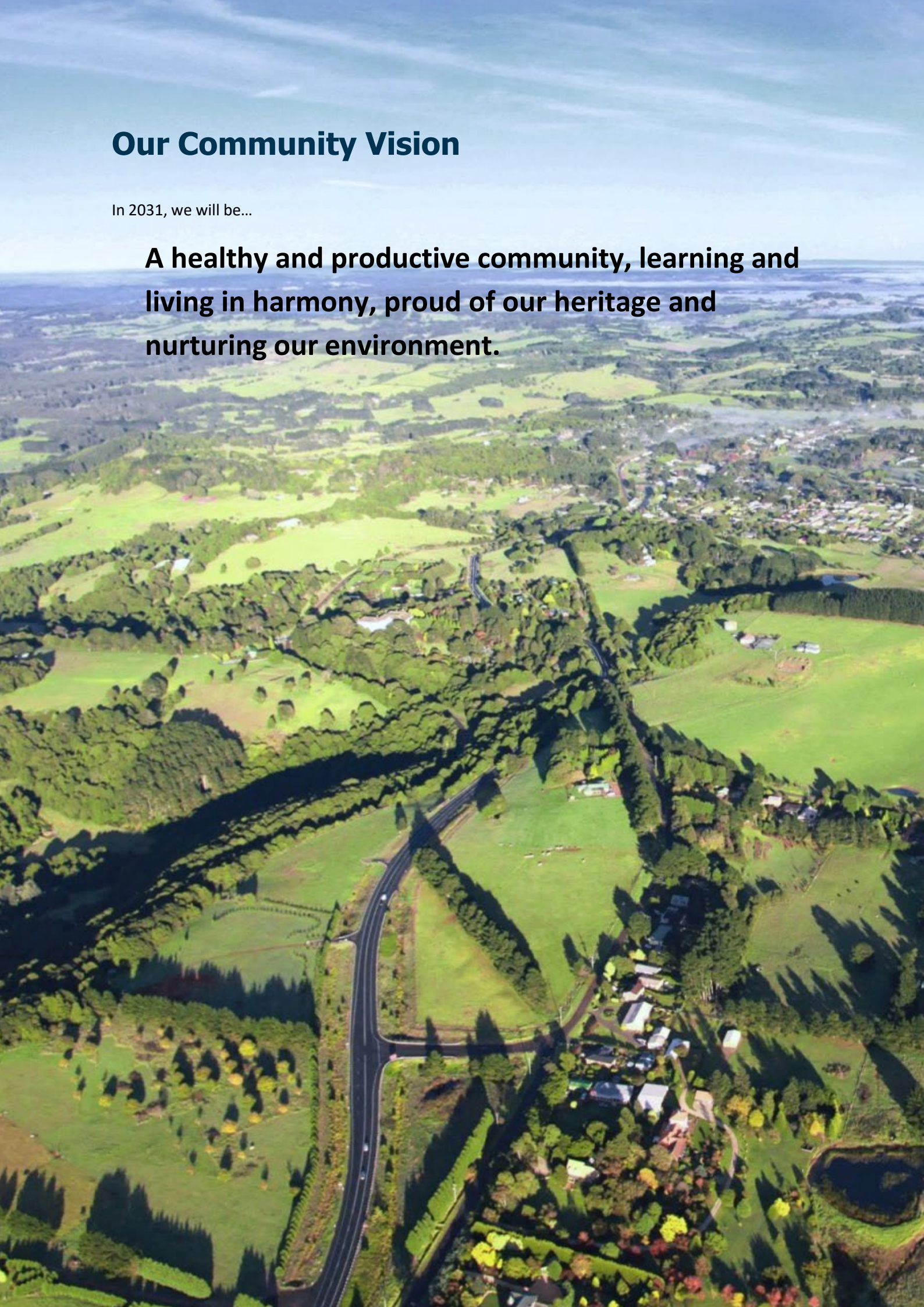
Acknowledgement of Country

The Wingecaribee Shire acknowledges the Gundungurra and Tharawal people as the traditional custodians of this land we now call the Wingecaribee Shire. We pay our respect to Elders both past, present and emerging.”

Our Community Vision

In 2031, we will be...

A healthy and productive community, learning and living in harmony, proud of our heritage and nurturing our environment.



Interim Administrator Message



Following continued dysfunction and community dissatisfaction the Minister for Local Government, the Honourable Shelley Hancock MP suspended Wingecarribee Shire Council in March 2021.

The NSW Government's intervention, and my appointment as Interim Administrator, was necessary to re-establish openness and transparency and restore community trust in Council.

During my time I have met with hundreds of residents and heard of their experiences. Visiting the Shire's numerous towns and villages has been one of the highlights of my short tenure.

These visits have revealed to me the breadth and beauty of the region's environment. It was this very environment that was threatened during the *Black Summer* bushfires and Council's subsequent management of this disaster proved a major catalyst in their suspension. Council's handling of the bushfires also became the focus of an independent review commissioned by me. This review, coupled with others delving into the organisation's finances, planning, tourism and economic development activities led me to form the opinion that the previous Council had stopped listening to residents and had failed in its public duties.

However, the review into the management of the bushfires also highlighted the contribution of Council staff. These findings concur with my own impressions and it's important that the past and continued efforts of staff are not confused with the failings of the former Council.


There have been other challenges.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic borne heavily on retail businesses and tourism operators. Many long-standing and popular community events including Tulip Time 2020 were cancelled while others were moved online.

Heavy rains twice closed the Mittagong Swimming Pool and at the time of this report the facility remains closed awaiting a Shire-wide Aquatics Strategy.

Despite these distractions and challenges staff remained focused on delivering essential services.

The establishment of a Local Planning Panel, refurbishment of the Bowral Memorial Hall and commencement of detailed designs for the long-awaited Moss Vale Bypass are standouts.



The appointment of Ms Lisa Miscamble as General Manager was another highlight. In her short period at Council, Ms Miscamble has already made a significant contribution to the organisation and greater Shire.

2020-21 will remain a watershed year for Wingecarribee Shire Council.

I am confident that the strategic changes already implemented including a corporate re-focus will provide long-term opportunities for the Southern Highlands for many years to come.

Viv May PSM

Interim Administrator


General Manager's Foreword



Whilst my appointment with Council commenced days prior to the end of the financial year, the below achievements were recorded in the twelve months prior to 30 June 2021.

Highlights include:

- Opening the Berrima All Abilities Playground and securing funding to upgrade Moss Vale's Church Road Oval playground and Mittagong's Cook Street Park playground.
- Allocating \$115,000 to fifty-one community projects as part of the annual Wingecarribee Community Assistance Scheme.
- Completing construction on the Church Road Playing Fields Amenities block and Eridge Park Netball Courts.
- Securing \$542,000 in Australian Government funds to refurbish the Mittagong SES Centre.
- Commencing preliminary investigations including designs for the Moss Vale Bypass Project.
- Progressing construction on the Moss Vale Civic Centre Refurbishment Project.
- Amending the Wingecarribee Local Environment Plan to provide greater flexibility for tourism and hospitality operators.
- Organising and promoting bushfire recovery and resilience initiatives including allocating community grant funding, hosting a Recovery Concert and unveiling a memorial in honour of fallen Rural Fire Service volunteers Geoffrey Keaton and Andrew O'Dwyer.
- Commencing refurbishment works on the Bowral Memorial Hall.
- Hosting in-person or virtual community events including Australia Day Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of Year, NAIDOC Week festivities and Learn to Skate workshops.
- Replacing 6.3 kilometres of water/sewer mains.
- Opening the refurbished Seymour Park including off-leash facilities in Moss Vale,

- 
- Securing State and Federal grant funding to repair Wombeyan Caves Road,
 - Launching the Wingecaribee Disaster Dashboard, and
 - Drafting an Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

The year was not without its challenges including continued post-*Black Summer* bushfire recovery actions, ongoing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions including remote working arrangements and the suspension of Council.

Despite these obstacles staff have shown incredible flexibility and resilience over the past year and I commend them for their dedication.

I look forward to working with Council's new Executive team, establishing long-term partnerships with the Highlands community and exploring the beautiful Wingecaribee Shire.

Lisa Miscamble

General Manager

Our Shire



Location and geography

The Wingecarribee Shire local government area (LGA) is located 75 kilometres from the south-western fringe of Sydney and 110 kilometres from Sydney's central business district. The Shire has a total area of approximately 2,700 square kilometres, 56 per cent of which is north of the Wingecarribee River. It is comparable in size to that of urban Sydney, averaging 55 kilometres from east to west and 45 kilometres from north to south, with its geographic centre north-west of Berrima and its demographic centre to the south-east of Bowral. Much of the Shire is located at or above 640 metres above sea level.

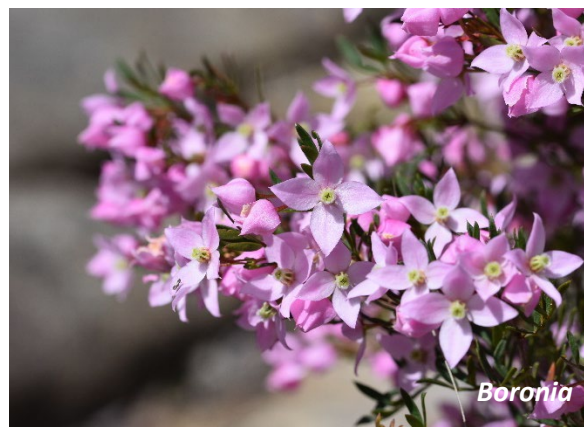
Environment

The Wingecarribee Shire has outstanding biodiversity values primarily due to a diverse geology, large rainfall gradient east to west and the altitude changes that occur resulting in many different habitat types. Habitats include sandstone forests, tall forests, rainforests, grassy woodlands, Permian slopes, riverine habitats, and upland swamps.

There is great diversity of native flora, with over 2,150 species. There are over 370 vertebrate fauna species, approximately 50 threatened plant species, over 56 threatened animal species and one endangered animal population in the Shire. There are also 15 Threatened Ecological Communities, and over 69 different plant community types

The Southern Highlands is home to the largest koala population in southern NSW, with more than 3,000 koalas estimated to reside in the Shire, which represents approximately 10 per cent of the total number of koalas left in the State's wild.

The Wingecarribee Shire has large areas of high conservation value including part of the World Heritage Greater Blue Mountains area, and two declared wilderness areas.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians

Wingecarribee Shire Council acknowledges the Gundungurra and Tharawal (or Dharawal) people as the traditional custodians of this place we now call the Wingecarribee Shire. The Wingecarribee, Wollondilly and Nattai Rivers which run through the Shire are closely connected to the culture, dreaming and songs of the traditional custodians. A Dreamtime creation story, Gurangatch and Mirragan, describes an almighty struggle between two ancestral creator spirits, one a giant eel-like creature, Gurangatch, and the other, a large native cat, Mirragan. The scuffle resulted in the gouging out of the land to form the river systems of the Wingecarribee and Wollondilly regions.

Despite the impact of European settlement in Australia, the Gundungurra and Dharawal Aboriginal heritage has not been extinguished. The remains of prehistoric and historic Aboriginal occupation exist throughout the Southern Highlands. State Government records indicate over 400 significant Aboriginal sites within the Shire, including 86 sites or objects that exist in the vicinity of Council-managed land or roadside reserves. The Shire includes one sacred Aboriginal Place called *Nungunngunulla* (Jubilee Rocks), which in 2015 was declared by the State Government as the 100th Aboriginal Place in New South Wales.

Our Community¹

Population

The Wingecarribee Shire LGA has an estimated resident population of 51,760.

The Shire's median age of 47 years is ten years higher than the State and national median ages.

There has been an increase in the number of people in the Shire needing assistance due to disability in recent years, with the most current census data indicating an increase from 2,328 people needing assistance due to disability in 2011 to 2,703 in 2016.

The composition of the Shire's population is provided below.

Population: 51,760

Male: 48%

Female: 52%



Age Group	Wingecarribee	NSW	National
0-14	17.5%	18.5%	18.7%
15-24	11.5%	12.8%	12.8%
25-59	38.8%	46.8%	47.1%
60-84	29.4%	19.7%	19.4%
85 and over	2.9%	2.2%	2%



84.2%

of people in the Wingecarribee Shire were born in Australia

2.0%

of residents identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

¹ Data is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) [website](#), including the Region data for the Wingecarribee Shire LGA which references figures from the *Census of Population and Housing 2016* in addition to other ABS Datasets and ID profile [website](#)

Employment

A breakdown of employment figures for the Shire is provided below. Please note that ABS statistics count only persons aged 15 years and over who reported being in the labour force.

Median equivalised total household income (weekly)*

\$839

compared with a State median of \$891 and national median of \$877



Employment type	Wingecarribee	NSW	National
Full-time	6.1%	9.2%	7.7%
Part-time	5.6%	9.7%	0.4%
Away from work	.6%	.8%	.0%
Unemployed	.8%	.3%	.9%

* Equivalised income is a measure of household income that takes account of the differences in a household's size and composition, and thus is made equivalent for all household sizes and compositions.

More than 81 per cent of people who work in the Shire also live in the area.

Over 23 per cent of the Shire's population participated in volunteering activities in the 12 months preceding the 2016 Census, higher than the New South Wales state figure of 18.1 per cent.

Housing

An overwhelming majority (90.7 per cent) of the Shire's residents live in standalone dwellings, with medium and high-density housing accounting for just under eight per cent of the total housing stock.

Our Council

On 12 March 2021 the Minister for Local Government, the Hon Shelly Hancock MP suspended Wingecarribee Shire councillors and appointed Mr Viv May PSM as an Interim Administrator. The Interim Administrator acts as the Council, effectively replacing the role previously performed by the Mayor and Councillors. On 27 May 2021 the suspension period was extended for three months until the anticipated date at that time of the local government elections. As part of Mr May's role, in the 2020/21 Financial year he consulted broadly with the community by conducting meetings in towns and villages across the Shire with over 200 individual community members and 37 community groups.

Mr May also conducted a selection process and appointed a new General Manager, Ms Lisa Miscamble, who commenced duties on 21 June 2021.

Our Staff

Workforce Demographics

Council continues to ensure that a skilled and professional workforce is employed to support the achievement of its operational and strategic goals. Like most local councils in New South Wales, Wingecarribee Shire Council has an ageing workforce, with those aged 45 and over comprising 50.3 per cent of the workforce. Currently, 42.8 per cent of Council's workforce is female and 57.2 per cent are male.

Council is working towards creating apprenticeship, traineeship and cadetship employment opportunities within Council, with several positions already operating across various branches of Council. This will provide sustainable employment opportunities for residents within the Shire, and will create a solid foundation of skills for future workforce planning. It will also help with proactively managing skills shortages in some professions within Council.

As at 30 June 2021, Council had 495 full-time equivalent employees in the following age groups.



Age Group	Total
17-24	58
25-34	73
35-44	115
45-54	125
55-64	96
65+	28
TOTAL	495



Council Recognition



Executive Officer from the Water Directorate (left) presents Council's former Manager of Assets with the Sam Samra Award

In the first half of 2020/21 Council was awarded the *Sam Samra Award* at the Local Government NSW Water Management Conference for its Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy, effective Asset Management Systems and continuously improving asset management practices and systems.

Another noteworthy achievement was Council's Pie Time event being finalist at the Canberra Region Tourism Awards in November 2020. This was the third year that the Pie Time event had been nominated at this event.

Grants Received

During 2020/21 Council received over \$18M in grant funds and subsidies. Details are provided below.

Project/Program	Funding Body	Funding
Exercise 'Boral ESVR with hazardous release'	Resilience NSW / Fire NSW	\$1,514
Seniors Festival	Department of Communities & Justice NSW	\$6,100
Bush Fire Prevention	NSW Rural Fire Service	\$281,842
Bushfire Risk Mitigation & Resilience Grant	NSW Rural Fire Service	\$16,650
RFFF Bush Fire Grant Expenditure	NSW Rural Fire Service	\$40,418
Emergency Services Levy	Office of Local Government NSW	\$347,858
Bushfire Community Recovery Officer (CRO) Program	Resilience NSW	\$131,738
Child Care Subsidy - Family Day Care & Out of School	Department of Education & Training	\$494,530
Child Care Viability Grant - Open Competitive Sustainability	Department of Education & Training	\$25,224
Special Needs Children Services Salary Subsidy - Inclusion Support Program	Department of Education & Training	\$7,843
Child Care Covid 19 Program Family Day Care & Out of School	NSW Dept of Education & Training	\$12,100
The Festival of Place - Summer Fund	Department of Planning, Industry & Environment NSW	\$4,094
Australia Day Messaging & Branding Grant	National Australia Day Council Limited	\$1,000
Bushfire Community Resilience and Recovery Fund (BCRRF Round 1)	Regional NSW	\$250,000
Bushfire Recovery Grant Experiencing Nature - Health Activities	South Western Sydney Primary Health Network	\$8,636
Rapid Appraisal of Riparian Condition Professional Development	Australian Citizen Science Association	\$1,000
Bushfire Generated Green Waste Cleanup	EPA NSW	\$22,761
SOS Koala Conservation	Office of Environment & Heritage NSW	\$150,000
Financial Assistance Grant (FAG)	Office of Local Government NSW	\$5,213,835
Mittagong War Memorial Clock	Veterans Affairs NSW	\$7750
Review Wingecarribee River Flood Study	Department of Planning, Industry & Environment NSW	\$70,000

Grants Received Continued

Project/Program	Funding Body	Funding
Transition to New Planning Portal Grant Program	Department of Planning, Industry & Environment NSW	\$50,000
Better Waste Recycling	EPA NSW	\$86,844
Waste Composition Audit	EPA NSW	\$67,500
Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS)	-	\$89,938
Crown Reserves Improvement Fund (CRIF) - Weed Controls	Department of Planning, Industry & Environment NSW	\$37,750
Weed Control Project Coolatai at Balmoral	Local Land Services NSW	\$15,000
Aboriginal Project Worker Project	Department of Communities & Justice NSW	\$100,289
NAIDOC Week	Dept of Prime Minister & Cabinet	\$2,100
Wingecarribee Heritage Advisor	Office of Environment & Heritage NSW	\$6,000
Library Per Capita Subsidy	State Library of NSW	\$135,294
Traffic Route Lighting Subsidy	Transport for NSW	\$112,000
Potable Water Treatment Feasibility Study	Local Government NSW	\$47,964
Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery (RTBR) - 4 projects	Australian Trade & Investment Commission	\$105,000
Small Business Month Grant	NSW Treasury	\$1,255
Southern Highlands Produce Hub Feasibility Study	Regional NSW	\$23,373
RID Regional Illegal Dumping Program	EPA NSW (IPJO-Kiama Council)	\$64,276
RID No such thing as free fill	Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation	\$5,000
Block Grant - M & I Programme- Regional Roads	Transport for NSW	\$1,027,000
Block Grant - Traffic Facilities - Regional Roads	Transport for NSW	\$206,000
Natural Disaster Assistance Funding - works on various disaster events	Transport for NSW	\$1,326,443
Road Safety Officer (RSO) Subsidy	Transport for NSW	\$10,173
Youth Week	Department of Communities & Justice NSW	\$4,618

Community Assistance Scheme

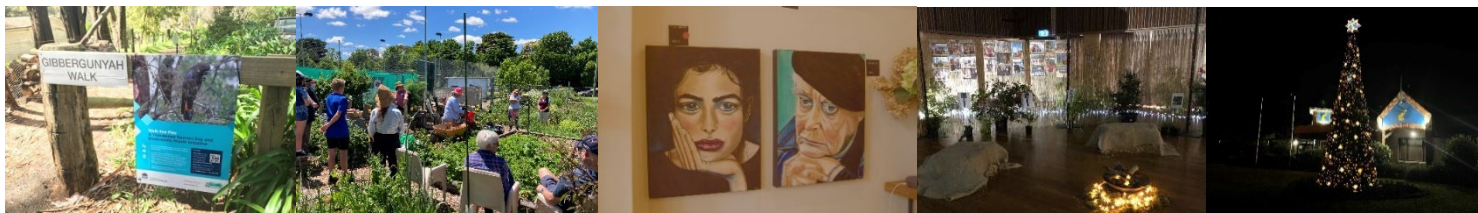
Council continued to provide financial support to community initiatives through the annual Wingecarribee Community Assistance Scheme. The Scheme allows Council to provide funding to local organisations for the purpose of implementing and improving community-based projects within the Shire. In 2020/21 54 applications were received and \$115,024.80 of the available allocation of \$120,000 was distributed to community organisations, including the following substantial grants capped at \$7,000:

Organisation Name	Project Title	Grant or Donation	Funding
Bundanoon Bowling Club	Rejuvenation of Bowling Facility	Grant	\$7,000
Highland FM 107.1	Build a new interactive community focussed website	Grant	\$6,000
Robertson Environment Protection Society	Guide to Yarrawa Brush Book 2 nd Edition	Grant	\$5,500
Soul Warmers	Fridge	Grant	\$5,340
Southern Highlands Artisans Collective	The SHAC and Robertson Village Arts Destination Promotion	Grant	\$5,000
Southern Highlands Key Stakeholders Group - Arts & Culture Working Group	Southern Highlands Cultural Planning Research Project	Grant	\$6,000
Southern Highlands Netball Association	Eridge Park Netball Courts Engineering Report	Grant	\$4,300
Wingecarribee Vocal Muster	Portable Staging	Grant	\$5,596

Environmental projects are funded up to \$2,000 from an allocation of \$10,000 from the Environment Levy. In 2020/21 four applications were received and funds of \$3,988 were distributed to the following organisations:

Organisation Name	Project Title	Grant or Donation	Funding
Glenquarry Public School	Solar Project	Grant	\$2,000
St Michel's Parish Primary School	Sustainable Waste Management at St Michael's	Grant	\$1,988

Events



September 2020

- Walk See Play – Biodiversity Month and Threatened Species Day
- RUOK Day

November 2020

- Walk a Mile Youth Workshop
- NAIDOC Community Exhibition
- National Recycling Week
- Southern Highlands Arts Trail
- Photo Voice: Renewal and Resilience Exhibition

December 2020

- Virtual Community Christmas Concert

Note: due to Covid-19 restrictions no events were held in July and August 2020





January 2021

- Learn to Skate Workshop
- Australia Day

February 2021

- Community Services Expo

March 2021

- Eats and Entertainment
- Earth Hour – Sculptures in the Garden
- Chemical Clean Out

April 2021

- Seniors Festival
- Fools Festival
- Community Recovery Concert

May 2021

- Reconciliation Week
- Integrated Planning and Reporting Roadshow
- International Compost Awareness Week

June 2021

- Pie Time



Integrated Planning and Reporting

All local councils in NSW work within the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework. Council's framework is shown in Figure 4. The framework recognises that Council plans and policies should not exist in isolation and are strategically linked to the aspirations of the community.

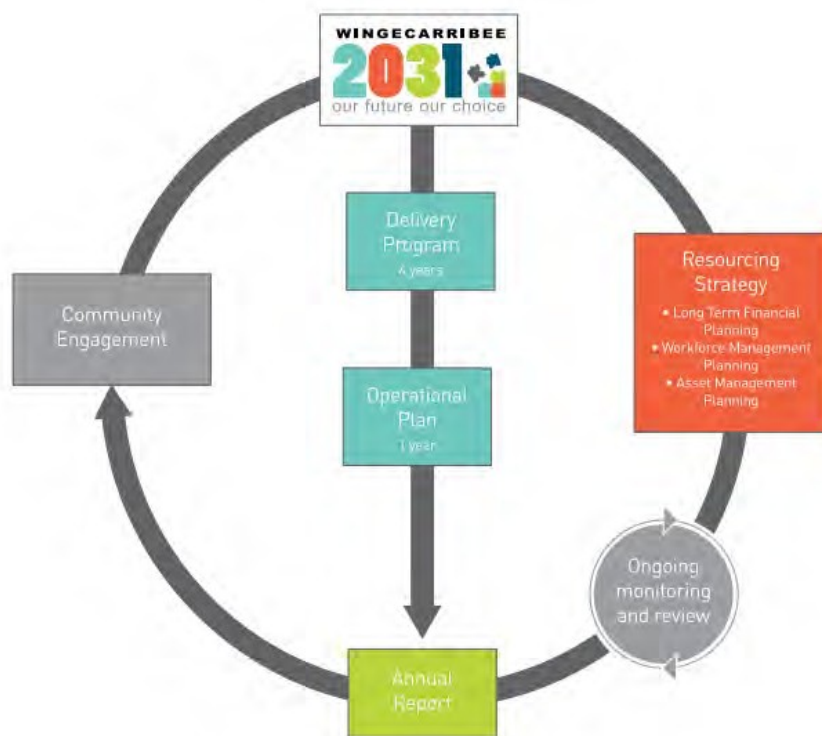


Figure 1- Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The framework ensures that Council, in partnership with the community, articulates the aspirations of the community in a Community Strategic Plan (CSP) which provides at a minimum a 10-year outlook.

Council's CSP outlines five key themes underpinned by strategies that support the achievement of the community's long-term goals and aspirations. These themes are:

1. Leadership
2. People
3. Places
4. Environment
5. Economy

The CSP is supported by a four-year Delivery Program that outlines the actions Council will undertake to achieve the goals of the CSP. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSW Government decided that the existing Delivery Program for each council will apply for a further 12 months, maintaining the key themes and any activities not yet completed.

An annual Operational Plan is also developed to specifically detail the activities to be performed in, and the budget for, the relevant financial year. Council's Operational Plans are developed in support of the relevant Delivery Program in order to ensure that Council continues to work towards the actions set out in the Delivery Program on an annual basis.

Further, Council's Resourcing Strategy demonstrates how Council will manage its workforce, finances and assets to achieve the aspirations and issues identified in the CSP.

To view Council's integrated planning and reporting documents please visit Council's [Integrated Planning and Reporting](#) webpage.





Leadership



Leadership Services

Asset Planning and Support

Civic Leadership

Corporate Information

Corporate Relations

Corporate Strategy

Customer Service

Development Services

Economic Development

Employee Services

Financial Services

Governance and Legal

Information Services

Property Services

Wingecarribee 2031 Community Aspiration

The Wingecarribee Shire is vibrant with strong ethical civic and community leadership, underpinned by meaningful communication, engagement and community participation in decision making. Decisions are made in a respectful and inclusive manner to advance agreed community priorities and our leaders are held accountable for their decisions. Our leadership is responsive to the changing environment at a local and global level. We embrace the ideas of the full spectrum of our community and actively seek out ways to include a diversity of views and input into decision making.

To achieve this aspiration by 2031, our community goals are:

- 1.1 Our Council has the trust of the community and well informed decisions are made to ensure long term sustainability of our Shire.
- 1.2 Council communicates and engages with the community in a diverse, open and inclusive way.
- 1.3 Developing community leadership, strong networks and shared responsibility for the Shire promotes and enhances community capacity

Leadership Indicators	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Percentage of formal access applications under the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i> decided within statutory timeframes or as agreed with the applicant	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%
Hours lost due to workplace injury	2,275	539	1,269	2,627	2,751
Complaints received and recorded in Complaints Register	177	274	126	111	139
Compliments received and recorded in Compliments Register	-	104*	93	96	70

* Data includes only compliments received between 1 October 2017 and 30 June 2018. Compliments were not formally recorded in a register prior to this.

Customer Service Indicators	
Number of face-to-face customer transactions at the Civic Centre customer service counter*	7980
Number of views of Council webpages	Old Website 1/07/20 to 09/02/21 - 768,932 Since launch of the new corporate website 10/02/21 to 30/06/21 - 953,236
Number of unique visitors to Council's website	Old Website 1/07/20 to 09/02/21 - 638,166 Since launch of the new corporate website 10/02/21 to 30/06/21 - 438,822
Number of phone calls received by the Contact Centre	90601
Percentage of calls answered within 30 seconds	70.51
Average call wait time	42 seconds
Average call length	193 seconds

Our Year in Review

Performance Improvement Order

The Honourable Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government issued Council's with a Performance Improvement Order on 8 September 2020, requiring councillors to undergo a variety of training and participate in a structured mediation process.

The final compliance report was due four months from the date of service of the order.

Appointment of Administrator

On 12 March 2021, the Honourable Shelley Hancock, Minister for Local Government suspended Council for a period of three months and appointed Mr Viv May PSM as Interim Administrator. The period of administration was extended for a further three months on 24 May 2021.

Mr May commissioned a series of independent reviews, commencing with:

- Governance, Human Resources and Statutory Reporting
- Council Finances
- Planning, Development and Regulatory Services.

Recommendations from the reviews will assist in guiding improvements across the organisation.

New General Manager

Following the resignation of the General Manager in October 2020 a recruitment process was commenced in March 2021 for a new General Manager. The selection panel included two community representatives.

At the Council meeting on 20 May 2021 the Interim Administrator announced that Ms Lisa Miscamble had been appointed to the role of General Manager. Ms Miscamble commenced in June 2021 as Council's new General Manager.

New Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) established

In June 2021 an expression interest process commenced in order to establish a new ARIC.

The role of the ARIC is to keep under review and provide independent advice to the General Manager and the governing body of Council about the following aspects of Council's operations:

- compliance
- risk management
- fraud control
- financial management
- governance
- implementation of the strategic plan, delivery program and strategies
- service reviews
- collection of performance measurement data by Council

- internal audit and any other matters prescribed by the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005.

Council's ARIC is made up of four appropriately qualified independent external members.

2021 Community Research

The results of the 2021 biennial community research highlighted diminishing satisfaction with council. Five drivers of overall satisfaction with council were identified as:

- Performance of Councillors
- Council's level of communication
- Enforcement of building and development regulations
- Opportunities to participate in decision making
- Provision of information to residents

To identify strategies and actions to address the diminishing satisfaction an internal working group was formed and an external facilitated service delivery review for the Corporate Relations service was commenced in response.

Weekly e-newsletter

In October 2020 council launched a weekly e-newsletter. Distribution of the publication has increased since inception and is issued to over 2,500 subscribers. The e-newsletters provides residents with an update on the latest Council information.

Improved online and Information Technology Services

The introduction of Electronic Cash Receipting (ECR), E-Services and the launch of Council's new website has enhanced customer interaction through improved access to customer information, more open and transparent processes as well as the introduction of more self-service, online options including online payments, online fillable forms and increased contact methods.



A new electronic document management system was launched to the organisation in March 2021. The system, together with staff education, will ensure Council meets its obligations under the *NSW State Records Act 1998*.

Council pivoted its IT systems to ensure that service delivery could be maintained during the phases of the pandemic, whilst complying with Public Health Order and continuing to offer a high level of customer service and interaction.

Implementation of Council's new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) System has commenced, which will allow Council to track all incoming correspondence and enable Council to monitor compliance with agreed response times. Customers and residents will be able to track their requests in real time, enabling greater transparency of interactions with Council.

Council elections

Before the announcement that the 2021 Local Government Elections would be delayed, candidate information sessions were held over May and June 2021 to support residents in standing for Council. Three sessions were facilitated by Local Government NSW and two sessions were delivered by the Australian Local Government Women's Association NSW Branch, to encourage women to stand for Local Government election, as well as provide an overview of the role and responsibilities of a councillor and key information about local government.

Code of Meeting Practice

Following the suspension of Council and the appointment of an Interim Administrator, the Code of Meeting Practice was revised. The new Code reflects a commitment to becoming a paper-lite office and improves transparency and openness with respect to pre-meeting briefing sessions, workshops and other information sessions.

Service Delivery Review Program

During the financial year the Aquatic Services and Community Wellbeing Service Delivery Reviews were completed. The review outlines a number of options for future service delivery and service improvements.

Following on from the 2021 Community Research and recommendations from reviews commissioned by the Interim Administrator, the Corporate Relations service was prioritised to undergo review. A suitably qualified independent consultant has been engaged by Council to commence the review in early 2021/22.

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of 2020/21 Annual Deliverables
DP01	Develop and implement an elected-member professional development program	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP02	Strengthen Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting and Governance Frameworks	<p>Eight deliverables are on track/ongoing and one needs attention.</p> <p><i>Needs attention – OP002 Implement a revised corporate performance and measurement framework</i></p> <p>The drafting of both a Corporate Reporting General Manager Practice Note and a project plan for developing a revised corporate performance and measurement framework remain in progress.</p>
DP03	Improve community understanding and awareness of Council decisions	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP04	Develop and maintain an engaged and safe workforce	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP05	Manage Council's WHS risk management profile to ensure risks are mitigated	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP06	Develop and maintain Council's Organisational Development Programs	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP07	Implement actions from Council's Fit for the Future Improvement Program	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP08	Ensure Council's financial systems, procedures and practices are in line with industry best practice and compliant with applicable legislation	<p>Six annual deliverables are on track/ongoing and one is on hold.</p> <p><i>On hold – OP024 Undertake a review of all Farmland rating properties to ensure they comply with section 515 of the Local Government Act 1993</i></p> <p>This review has been placed on hold due to the pandemic until further notice.</p>
DP09	Manage Council's Fleet to ensure that all plant and equipment is appropriately utilised, fit for purpose and cost effective	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP10	Council's property activities and dealings are undertaken within the community's best interests and within legislative requirements	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP11	Procurement activities are undertaken to achieve best value while underpinned by a robust ethical framework which enables local supplier participation	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of 2020/21 Annual Deliverables
DP12	Develop and implement enhanced asset management practices	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP13	Develop and implement Business Transformation Program	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP14	Enhance customer interaction with Council	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP15	Deliver an Information and Communication Technology service that meets Council's business delivery requirements	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP16	Deliver Corporate Systems that meet Council's business delivery requirements	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP17	Ensure council services are delivered efficiently and effectively	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP18	Identify opportunities for regional collaboration	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP19	Provide quality, timely and accessible information to the community	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP20	Implement an effective Community Engagement Framework	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP21	Support Council committees and working groups	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP22	Actively build capacity for community participation in leadership including mentoring and support	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP23	Develop partnerships and networking with community, government and business	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing



People



People Services

Aquatic Services

Asset Planning and Support

Children's Services

Civic Leadership

Community Wellbeing

Economic Development

Emergency Management

Library Services

Natural Area Management

Parks and Recreation

Wingecarribee 2031 Community Aspiration

Our Shire has a strong sense of community, where diversity is embraced and new people and ideas are welcomed. We actively encourage participation in community life where residents feel connected and their contributions are valued.

The wellbeing of the community is enhanced through local service provision, opportunities for active and passive recreation, and a vibrant network of community organisations catering for all stages of life. We work together to build on opportunities to support those vulnerable in our community.

We attract and nurture a diverse, creative and vibrant community. We participate in informal and formal life-long learning to enhance our quality of life. Our people are able to live, work and enhance their knowledge locally.

To achieve this aspiration by 2031, our community goals are:

- 2.1 Our people have the opportunity for a happy and healthy lifestyle.
- 2.2 We are an inclusive community which actively reduces barriers for participation in community life.
- 2.3 Wingecarribee values and nurtures a diverse, creative and vibrant community

People Indicators

People Indicators	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Area of sports fields per 1,000 residents (hectares)	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Operating cost of actively maintained land per hectare (\$)	12,702	12,003	12,967	12,701	12,892
Actively maintained land per 1,000 residents (hectares)	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	6.2
Provision of playgrounds per 1,000 children aged 0- 14	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.0	6.0

People Indicators	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total library loans	248,195	247,796	249,873	204,547	200,192
Library visits	167,225	166,972	160,807*	113,484	74,772**
Enquiries^	-	39,575	33,355	31,425	23,262
Internet sessions	16,786	14,851	12,432	7,514	3,836
Wireless sessions#	10,589	14,534	13,862	8,200	4,418
eLibrary downloads±	9,815	18,590	30,180	41,473	48,978
Library website visits	48,867	51,545	51,824	41,948	33,190

Our Year in Review

Community Events

Council continued to hold and support events, many of which were impacted by COVID-19 restrictions. Some of the highlights were:

- The 'Create & Celebrate' youth program a music festival called the 'Fools Festival' brought together over 700 young people from schools across the Shire. The event was supported by 30 service providers in sharing service information and interactive activities.
- The 2020 Southern Highlands Arts Trail was a success despite COVID-19 restrictions. Close to 12,000 visitors attended studios and galleries throughout the Shire over two weekends in November 2020.
- NAIDOC week was celebrated nationally between 8 and 12 November 2020, with the theme for the 2020 celebrations was 'Always Was, Always Will Be'. Celebrations included a two-day community exhibition at Bowral Memorial Hall. The exhibition displayed a range of community activities including basket weaving, boomerang painting and a video of Guula Ngurra National Park.
- The 2021 Seniors Festival was delivered with funding provided by the NSW Government, Macarthur Disability Services and Council. A total of 57 community events were provided for Wingecarribee seniors, designed to connect community, improve knowledge, provide information, improve health and wellbeing and increase awareness of local services.

Recovery and Resilience

The Social Recovery Subcommittee held a number of events during the financial year to support bushfire impacted communities. Events included a pop-up drive in movies, community recovery concert, skateboarding workshops, wellbeing workshops and 'Stories that Heal Us' workshops

Council partnered with Southern Highlands Foundation to deliver the PhotoVoice Project. Over 200 people visited the exhibition of photos submitted, that captured the resilience and regrowth following the 2019/20 summer bushfires. A photo book was created following the exhibition, with over 2,000 copies printed for distribution.

A *Disaster Dashboard* (a disaster and preparedness information portal) which can be accessed from Council's homepage went live in December 2020 and provides current information on hazard related conditions in the Shire such as weather impacts and road closures. The portal also provides emergency contacts for the Shire and comprehensive preparedness guidelines for all hazards with the potential to occur.



Southern Highlands Regional Art Gallery

The first of five annual \$500,000 contributions from Council to support the Southern Highlands Regional Art Gallery was paid following presentation of their Business Plan to the 11 November 2020 meeting of Council, in accordance with a resolution of Council from 18 September 2018. A ceremony to mark the official building works for the Gallery was held

11 December 2020 and was attended by Council representatives.

Sport, Recreation and Leisure

In May 2021 Mittagong Pool was impacted by a severe weather event and was flooded as a result. This took place after contractors commenced works to rectify damage caused by the December 2020 flood. The facility will be closed for the upcoming season to enable a review of works to be undertaken.

The Moss Vale Aquatic Centre focussed on rebuilding services to members and guests while maintaining COVID-19 safety in line with NSW Public Health restrictions. The learn to swim program peaked with 221 classes and 8620 students participating during the financial year. Annual attendance reached 23,430 compared to 14,593 the previous financial year. This year has seen the strongest enrolment of students in the seven years of the Moss Vale Aquatic Centre operations.

Funding was brought forward and refurbishment of the Eridge Park Netball Courts fast tracked, after the Southern Highlands Netball Association secured grant funding from the NSW Government for reconstruction of four netball courts and the resurfacing of a further two courts.



Amenities at Church Road Playing Fields, Moss Vale were upgraded by refurbishing the existing facilities and providing new amenities including change rooms, referee rooms, additional storage and accessible toilets. A first-floor addition will also be constructed with wet weather training areas, kitchenette, storeroom and an accessible car park providing all abilities access.

Children's Services



Council successfully re-negotiated the licence (lease) with Mittagong Public School and the NSW Department of Education for the Out of School Hours service. The new licence provides Council with the use of the facilities to run the Before and After School Care service as well as Vacation Care for a minimum of five years, with an option to extend to eight years.

Libraries



Moss Vale Branch Library remained closed during refurbishment and upgrade project. Reopening of the branch will coincide with completion of the wider Civic Centre Refurbishment project.

Council's Library service was affected by COVID-19 Safety Plan restrictions, which limited community access to facilities and resulted in the suspension of certain events, programs and activities at both the Bowral and Mittagong Branch Libraries.

Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

A LEMC field exercise took place on 19 April 2021, in conjunction with local agencies at the Boral Berrima Cement Works.

The exercise was the first that focussed on a multi-agency rescue response that also presented a serious threat to the local community. Whilst executed successfully, a number of areas were identified for future training and response work.

Changing profile of the Shire

Council has purchased a comprehensive suite of data information tools from Profile .id, including Economy .id, Forecast .id and Atlas.id. The tools are available on Council's website and will be of significant benefit to the Wingecarribee community, through the provision of accurate, consistent and in-depth data which will assist in assessing changing profile and ability to prioritise services.

New Animal Shelter



On 11 November 2020 Council resolved to proceed with acquisition of land in Moss Vale for the purposes of building a new animal shelter. Completion of the purchase of land took place in May 2021.

Draft concept plans have been prepared.

Suitability of the site for co-location with a new the SES building is also being considered.

allocation of \$120,000, announced in July 2021 allocates donations of \$600 and grants up to \$7,000. The funds help to establish, improve or enhance resources, services and facilities and access for residents of the Shire, by providing grants for capital works, equipment, programs, activities and events or facilities.

Community Assistance Scheme

The 2021/22 Community Assistance Scheme received 55 applications, requesting a total of \$198,878 in funding.



Bundanoon Garden Club received a grant for a new seat in the Nancy Kingsbury Memorial Park in 2020/21

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of Annual Deliverables
DP24	Advocate for improved health services in the Shire	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP25	Partner with community-based organisations in provision of services	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP26	Partner with State and community organisations to provide a broad range of health and wellness programs to target specific needs of the community	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP27	Provide access to sport, recreation and leisure services	<p>Six annual deliverables are on track/ongoing one is on hold and one delayed.</p> <p><i>On hold – OP066 Develop Sports Facilities Strategy</i></p> <p>Council has completed data collection for all Sports Parks and has undertaken a 'Sports and Active Recreation' community survey to provide baseline data for the preparation of the strategy.</p> <p>Development of the Sports Facilities Strategy has been put on hold until the new Council and Sport and Recreation Committee is established, following the next Council election.</p> <p><i>Delayed – OP67 Complete Lackey Park Sporting Hub Design</i></p> <p>Delays relating to the required procurement process have impacted expected delivery dates. A shortfall of funding has also been identified resulting from the outcomes of the feasibility study and the MoU with Moss Vale District Basketball Association, which has been reported to Council.</p> <p>Consultation is continuing with the stakeholders and the NSW Office of Sport. A staged approach to the design and construction is being adopted, in order to better position the project to a shovel ready position to seek necessary grant funding.</p>
DP28	Partner with Police, business and community representatives to implement the Community Safety Plan	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP29	Partner with agencies to ensure emergency management processes and procedures are in place	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP30	Implement public health and safety regulatory programs	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of Annual Deliverables
DP31	Assess the changing profile of the Shire and prioritise services accordingly	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP32	Provide children services to support family life	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP33	Support agencies to implement community programs and initiatives	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP34	Support agencies to implement community programs and initiatives	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP35	Support initiatives which enhance opportunities for learning and skill development	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP36	Provide a range of services and programs through Council Library service	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP37	Implement sector plans that address key barriers to participation in community life	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP38	Develop and implement initiatives that support new residents participating in community life	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP39	Support intergenerational programs and projects	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP40	Support and coordinate a diverse range of community festivals and celebrations	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP41	Promote and deliver initiatives which enhance community understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP42	Facilitate the promotion of community arts, emerging artists and cultural awareness and activities	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing



Places



Places Services

Aquatic Services

Asset Planning and Support

Children's Services

Civic Leadership

Community Wellbeing

Economic Development

Emergency Management

Library Services

Natural Area Management

Parks and Recreation

Regulatory Compliance

Wingecarribee 2031 Community Aspiration

We have a strong 'sense of place' where people feel connected to and belong within the network of unique towns and villages.

We value our heritage and preserve what makes our built and natural environment unique. Development is tightly controlled to ensure the integrity of what makes our Shire special is not compromised, while providing a diversity of housing choice for current and future generations.

Our town and village design is sensitive to the local environment and provides safe spaces for people to live, work, learn and play.

We actively encourage the broader provision and use of public transport linkages both within and out of the Shire. Our public transport network is supported by safe, accessible and interconnected shared pathways that encourage people to be active.

To achieve this aspiration by 2031, our community goals are:

- 3.1 We have an integrated and efficient network of public transport and shared pathways.
- 3.2 Wingecarribee has maintained a distinct character and separation of towns and villages.
- 3.3 Our built environment creates vibrant and inviting public spaces.
- 3.4 We have safe, maintained and effective assets and infrastructure.

Places Indicators	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Construction certificates issued	521	438	363	297	353
Development applications approved	934	985	995	722	1229
Subdivision certificates approved	79	92	77	57	69
Sealed road network re-sealed annually (%)	7.9	9.1	3.3	7.2	6.8
Unsealed road network re-sheeted (%)	5	6	10	4	5
Unsealed road network maintained (maintenance grade) (kms)	207	200	205	206	220
Footpath maintained annually (carriageway kms)	10.08	13.6	15.6	16.2	11.5
Shared paths and cycle paths repaired (lineal metres)	4,410	3,311	1,640	4,456	6,859
Footpath installed annually (lineal metres)	1,420	1,100	500	203	810
Shared paths and cycle paths installed annually (lineal metres)	450	320	0	0	420

Our Year in Review

Local Environment Plan amendments

The *Wingecarribee Local Environment Plan* (LEP) was amended to provide greater flexibility for the Shire's tourism and hospitality industries. The amendments include:

- Increasing the maximum number of bedrooms in Bed and Breakfast Accommodation establishments and Farm Stay Accommodation premises.
- Permitting function centres with consent in the RU2 Rural Landscape zone.
- Excluding function centres from the operation of clause 2.8 – Temporary Use of Land, and
- Permitting Artisan Food and Drink Industry with consent in the RU1, RU2, RU4 and SP3 zones, in addition to the existing IN1 General Industrial zone where Artisan Food and Drink Industry is already permitted with consent.

Council is also in the process of undertaking a major review of Heritage listings within the LEP, including the review of over 200 potential heritage items that were identified in the Wingecarribee Heritage Survey and deferred by Council in 2012. This project will ensure that significant properties are protected through the LEP for current and future generations.

Local Strategic Planning Statements and Local Housing Strategy

Council recently adopted the Wingecarribee Local Strategic Planning Statements and Local Housing Strategy, which aims to, among other things, retain the character of the Shire's towns and villages and provide an objective framework to ensure that growth is managed in a way that is consistent with the community's expectations.

Council has commenced a comprehensive review of its Development Control Plans, which will include character statements and place-based development controls for the Shire's towns and villages. The updated planning framework will ensure that the unique characteristics of our towns and villages are protected and enhanced.



Local Planning Panel

In March 2021, Council resolved to establish a Local Planning Panel for the Shire and appointed an Interim Advisory Planning Assessment Panel to make recommendations on development applications, all planning proposals and other planning matters. Formally constituting the Local Planning Panel was to be undertaken in early 2021/22. This a step forward for Council, ensuring the independence and integrity of the assessment process

Footpaths

Footpath maintenance, renewal and construction projects were undertaken to improve connectivity within the Shire, as seen with the construction of the Renwick Shared Path, which connects Renwick to Mittagong Railway Station via a footpath approximately two kilometres in length, including intersection ramps.

Council has approved \$500,000 in new footpaths across villages as part of the 2021/22 capital works program.

Recreational Walking Tracks Strategy

Council adopted the Recreational Walking Tracks Strategy November 2020. Implementation of the strategy will improve active transport links between hubs and projects will be considered for inclusion in future Capital Works Programs.



Town and Village Centre Improvements

Planning work has commenced on the development of the Winifred West Masterplan.

Council has been successful in obtaining grant funding from the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund to undertake stages 1-3 of the Casburn Park, Wingello Masterplan.

Playgrounds

Council was awarded a \$200,000 grant by the NSW Government under the Everyone Can Play program to upgrade the playspace and amenities at Seymour Park, Moss Vale, to provide an accessible playground, two accessible parking spaces and an accessible toilet within the new amenities building.



An all abilities playground at Berrima was also opened in October 2020.

Civic Centre Refurbishment

The Civic Centre refurbishment progressed despite COVID-19 and inclement weather impacts. Construction activities carried out include:

- Demolish existing library
- Major earthworks,
- Installation of 24 supporting columns
- Structural steel installation
- Electrical overhaul
- Upgrade of old air-conditioning system

Bowral Memorial Hall

Council was successful in its application to the Commonwealth Governments' Building Better Regions Fund Infrastructure Projects Stream Round 4, being awarded \$2.8 million for the redevelopment of the Bowral Memorial Hall.

The redevelopment will include structural upgrades and improvements such as installation of a new air conditioning system, sound and lighting equipment, upgraded seating and improved building acoustics, while heritage elements will be rejuvenated.



Bowral Memorial Hall artists impressions

Concept Station Street

At the 12 May 2021 council meeting it was resolved that, inter alia, Council no longer proceed with the Station Street Upgrade Project and make no further financial commitments, due to insufficient funding, time constraints and uncertainty regarding the concurrent approval of other agencies.

Improvements regarding road pavement, parking formalisation, drainage improvements street tree maintenance and camelia plantings along Station Street were considered at the 23 June 2021 Council meeting, for inclusion in the 2021/22 capital works program.

A further report will also be bought back to Council with respect to preparing a Bowral CBD Masterplan.

Road construction and maintenance

Programmed and reactive maintenance continued on Councils road networks.

Council staff continued to seek grant funding opportunities to provide improved service delivery for the community and made several successful applications including:

- \$3.4 million for safety improvements along Eridge Park Road
- \$4.3 million for rehabilitation of a section of Old South Road, Throsby Street and three roundabouts
- \$2.4 million to progress the Moss Vale Bypass project to the shovel ready stage.

Water and Sewer services

Council uses the Integrated Water and Cycle Management Strategy and recently updated Water Master Plan, to implement projects that improve efficiency, reduce risk and ensure the required level of service is met.

Wingecarribee and Bundanoon Water Treatment Plant upgrade options assessment is underway, with the final process review reports and option reports in progress.

The strategy also identified the requirement to upgrade Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs). Detailed

designs for these projects are in progress. Council's upgrade strategy includes innovation through automation, energy efficiency, improved reliability, service delivery and integration between the STPs and the distribution network.

ClearSCADA process management system upgrades have been completed at five STPs with the remaining Robertson STP to be completed in 2021/22.

Council also completed the review and accepted the conditions of the water supply agreement with Water NSW, for the supply of raw water from the Wingecarribee Reservoir. The next review will be undertaken in 2025.

Operational planned and reactive maintenance and long-term capital programs of Council's water and sewer infrastructure have continued to be delivered.

Stormwater management

Council staff regularly review and implement floodplain management strategies, which guide and inform Council's floodplain management projects.

A review of the Wingecarribee River Flood Study has been undertaken and will be reported to Council for public exhibition and final adoption in 2021/22.



Bowral, Mittagong and Moss Vale Sewerage Treatment Plants

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of Annual Deliverables
DP43	Undertake advocacy activities to further the development of an integrated public transport network	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP44	Provide infrastructure linkages between public transport hub	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP45	Promote public transport options and linkages across the Shire	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP46	Expand our network of footpaths and cycle ways to improve connectivity of the Shire	Three annual deliverables are one track/ongoing and one delayed. <i>Delayed - OP100 Implement footpaths, shared paths and cycle ways construction and renewal capital works program</i> The Bowral to Mittagong Road Pathway construction will be identified as an expenditure revote and completed next financial year. Delays have been experienced as service relocations are required prior to the pathway being constructed.
DP47	Partner with agencies to advocate for improved transport services	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP48	Provide a rigorous planning assessment framework which reflects State legislation and Council's adopted land use strategy to ensure appropriate development outcomes	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP49	Review and prepare planning strategies, policies and studies that retain the character of the Shire's towns and villages	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP50	Implement initiatives that promote and protect cultural heritage	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP51	Implement a program of towns and village centre improvements	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP52	Deliver the Urban Street Tree Implementation Plan	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP53	Provide and maintain high quality community facilities across the Shire	Four annual deliverables are on track/ongoing and one delayed. <i>Delayed – OP115 Finalise implementation of Civic Centre rectification works</i> Internal works are complete in respect to the originally contracted scope of works. External works are scheduled for commencement in order to finalise make good and landscaping. The Contractor continues to not meet the contract schedule and is requiring significant management effort.

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of Annual Deliverables
DP54	Undertake the redevelopment of Bowral Memorial Hall	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP55	Effectively plan for and deliver on the diverse needs of people with a disability	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP56	Ensure planning controls allow for diversity of housing choice	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP57	Partner with agencies to plan and deliver a program of road upgrades, renewals and maintenance	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP58	Implement a long-term solution for the use and disposal of roadside spoil	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP59	Review and implement Water Master Plan	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP60	Review and implement Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade Strategy	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing



Environment



Environmental Services

Development Services

Economic Development

Environmental Services

Natural Area Management

Regulatory Compliance

Strategic Land Use Planning

Waste Management

Wingecarribee 2031 Community Aspiration

Our unique natural environment is valued, protected and enriched. The health of local waterways and air quality is enhanced and there is a greater reliance on renewable energy and waste is minimised. We are leaders in sustainable living and our rural landscapes are productive and preserved.

Our wildlife corridors are actively managed and the Shire's natural assets are protected through programs which engage and encourage community partnerships and participation in initiatives which preserve our native flora and fauna.

To achieve this aspiration by 2031, our community goals are:

- 4.1 Wingecarribee's distinct and diverse natural environment is protected and enhanced.
- 4.2 Sustainable living practices are actively encouraged.
- 4.3 Wingecarribee achieves continuous reduction in waste generation and disposal to landfill.
- 4.4 Wingecarribee addresses, adapts, and builds resilience to climate change

Environmental Indicators

Environment Indicators	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Bushcare and Landcare participants (groups)	17	17	17	18	15 (active)
Community volunteers environmental work (hours)	3,237	3,786	3,905	2,021*	1573****
Native trees and shrubs planted on public land and established native plant species	14,712	13,383	10,807	3,300**	4,994/2,200 Public Land / private land
Bushcare group work sessions	179	201	179	50*	137****
Domestic recycling diverted from landfill (tonnes)⁺	5,345	5,857*	4,276*	3,785	3,988
Putrescible total (tonnes)	12,284	12,084	12,124	12,348	12,428
Green waste (tonnes)	9,256	8,380	8,518	9,075	9,855
Onsite sewerage management system inspections	350	301	300	269	300
Notices/infringements issued	21	28	44	115 ⁺	135
Food shop inspections[#]	409	279	338	265	232
Workshops in the correct operation of wood heaters	1	2	0*	0***	0***

* Program affected by drought, bushfires, and COVID restrictions

** Plantings affected by drought

*** No workshops were held as a series of advertising and promotion campaigns were conducted instead.

**** Program affected by COVID restrictions

This figure includes both routine inspections and subsequent reinspections.

Our Year in Review

Guula Ngurra National Park Opening

The new Guula Ngurra National Park was officially opened by the NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian on 23 August 2020. Gundungurra Traditional Owners recommend the new name “Guula Ngurra”, which translates to ‘Koala Country’, because of the importance of the habitat.

Public Natural Assets

Environmental management activities continue to be successfully implemented by the Environment Levy funded Bushcare program team and contractors across 59 different reserves and management sites. Council's Community Bushcare and Rivercare Program recommenced in October 2020, with strict COVID-19 protocols and saw an increase in community volunteers applying to participate.

Over 3,000 plants were dispatched from the Community Nursery, which continues to operate with volunteer support when not subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Council is working with the NSW Government on recovery projects for important Threatened Species in the Shire. These projects include:

- Southern Highlands Koala Conservation project
- Southern Highlands Glossy Black Cockatoo Conservation "Glossies in the Mist"
- Eucalyptus macarthurii
- Persoonia glaucescens
- Phyllota humifusa
- Eucalyptus aquatica

The Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project is achieving significant results in koala habitat restoration, facilitating conservation across private land, improving fire planning in key koala habitat, and developing new koala monitoring tools which will help Council's across the State.

Strategic planning for The Southern Highlands Platypus Conservation Project trialled the use of eDNA sampling of specific watercourses in March 2021, for platypus in the waterways where current data is minimal. Community based data collection is being supported through training and the use of the Council developed 'Platypus Spotter' app for smartphones and tablets.

Council continues to implement the flora and fauna bushfire recovery program. Bushfire affected reserves are being managed for weed infestations, monitoring has occurred on a monthly basis for regeneration and weed incursions.

Improvements to the protection of Council's Bushland reserves from unauthorised activities continued, with further reinforcement of reserves boundaries to protect Berrima Weir Reserve and Mount Alexandra Reserve (particularly around the Welby, Mittagong and Colo Vale areas), as 4WD vehicles continue to force access and damage fire trails, gates and infrastructure.

Energy Management

A register of energy management opportunities is maintained across Council.

A number of projects with energy efficiency elements have also been implemented as part of the capital works program including refurbishment of buildings, upgrades to water and sewerage pumps and renewals to sewer mains and manholes.

The refurbishment of Council's Civic Centre once complete will include heating, ventilation and air conditioning the building as well as installation of a 100-kilowatt solar energy capture system, funded by Council's Revolving Energy Fund (REFund).



Climate Change

The Environment and Climate Change Strategy is a key strategy that will provide a ten-year guide to deliver both environmental and climate change targets. This strategy is

currently under development. Council undertook community consultation in early 2021, with over 550 residents participating in online workshops, pop up stalls and surveys. The result of the consultation will feed directly into the next phase of the strategy development.

Council's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan is currently under development. This will be a Net Zero carbon roadmap for Council's operations. It will propose targets, key actions and implementation dates. This is due to be ready in the first half of the 2021/22.

A draft Biodiversity Offset Scheme policy has been prepared and is currently being considered across the organisation. This will focus on offsets of impacts from Council works and assist decision making, transparency, reporting and flag early triggers.

The Climate Change Adaptation Plan (CCAP) was adopted in 2019 and provides a plan of agreed actions across Council. Progress is being made on a number of CCAP actions including bushfire prone assets, biodiversity and climate change, embedding climate change adaptation in strategies including asset management and improvement plans (buildings), development of heatmaps, climate change actions in the Local Strategic Planning Statements, street tree species consideration, engineering standards review, water efficient irrigation specifications, flood studies and drought management plan review. Heatmaps are being developed in-house, which can be used as an indicator of heat zones.

Private Land Conservation and Bushfire Recovery

Council's Private Land Biodiversity Conservation Strategic Plan continues to be implemented. Council encourages conservation on private land through a three-tiered program to support different types of landholders and conservation values. The three programs open to the community are Land for Wildlife (for large landholders),

Habitat and Wildlife and Private Conservation Agreements. The total of number of active Land for Wildlife properties comprises 167 properties, 6,404 hectares of property and 3,686 hectares of conservation area.

Over 1,500 koala feed trees were supplied to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for community tree planting, in October 2020 at Guula Ngurra National Park. A regular supply of koala feed trees is also being made available for purchase at Wariapendi Native Nursery, Colo Vale under an agreement with Council. All profit from the sale of these trees goes back to koala carers. Over 1,000 koala trees have been provided free to properties registered with Council's Land for Wildlife Program. Large-scale habitat restoration on private lands in the Kanglagoon area is also progressing.



Properties affected by the 2019/20 bushfires were eligible for Council's Private Land Conservation Bushfire Program, enabling bushfire affected property owners to sign up to free enhanced versions of Council's Land for Wildlife and Habitat for Wildlife Programs.

Community Partnerships and Education Programs to Reduce Pollution

Council operates and investigates an enforcement program to respond to pollution and illegal dumping matters.

Operation Houdini was a major campaign organised jointly with NSW Government stakeholders targeting illegal landfill operators, specifically in the Wingecarribee Local Government Area. This has resulted in the interception of asbestos laden waste trucks heading in the Shire.

Pollution complaints for landfill have decreased, although land based asbestos complaints have increased, mostly due to bushfires and the clearing of land exposing historical dumping.

Key Natural Resources


Council has developed Geographic Information Systems environmental datasets for development assessment, planning considerations and environmental assessments of Council projects. Key datasets include fire management units, weed management units, roadside management plan vegetation model, koala habitat and environmental assessment layers. Processes are in place to ensure the currency of this information.

Council is developing an online map product which can be used by the community (at a property level) to provide guidance in the selection of appropriate Koala feed trees and other native plants for restoring cleared areas of their property. This is based on the plant communities which are predicted to have been present prior to clearing. This tool will directly contribute to the reconstruction or improvement of koala habitat and biodiversity in the Shire.

Community Awareness Programs Promoting Sustainability

Council co-hosted the fourth annual Earth Hour event with the Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens. Earth Hour 2021 - Sculptures in the Garden, with eight stallholders showcased sustainable living practices such as cycling, thrift shopping and electric cars. The event was designed to cater for a wide cross section of the community, and an estimated 1,000 residents attended. Activities included six performers including roving educational performers who delivered a children's workshop during the lights out part of the night.





In a new initiative, Council joined with the EnviroMentors program. This year saw 931 students participating in sustainability workshops in nine schools over ten days, educating students in waste reduction, management and recycling.

Resource Recovery Centre

The Resource Recovery Centre complied with all licence conditions which included activating the Pollution Incident Response Management Plan (PIRMP), due to excessive rain fall during storm events. Council continues to work towards finalising a storm water management plan in accordance with a direction issued by the Environment Protection Authority.

An Asset Management Plan for the site has been completed which includes a proposed capital renewal and improvement plan that will be used to inform future works and Council's Long-Term Financial Plan.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions impacting on community education and awareness programs, activities and programs continued to be developed and where possible held online.

Encourage Carbon Reduction Across the Shire

Council has undertaken extensive research in the option to enter into a 100% Renewable Energy Power Purchase Agreement (PPA). Council has joined a bulk buy group, led by Procurement Australasia.

Small sites will be on a separate PPA through Local Government Procurement. This arrangement means that once our current electricity contracts expire in January 2023, 100% of Council's greenhouse gas emissions from this electricity can be discounted.

A pilot is currently being developed to trial a public electric vehicle charging station in Moss Vale. Further energy efficiency projects at the Moss Vale Aquatic Centre are currently under development.

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of Annual Deliverables
DP66	Manage public natural assets	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP67	Maintain and build high value environmental lands and corridors	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP68	Ensure the impacts of development on biodiversity are assessed, monitored and mitigated	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP69	Build community partnerships and education programs to reduce pollution	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP70	Reduce the impact from Council infrastructure and operations	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP71	Develop and implement policies that support health, environment and sustainability outcomes within Council and across the Shire	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP72	Implement planning controls that protect the Shire's natural resources	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP73	Advocate to State and Federal government to ensure planning controls, plans and proposals reflect community priorities	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP74	Develop partnerships with community and agencies to identify,- update and maintain awareness of key natural resources	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP75	Implement community awareness programs that promote sustainable living	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP76	Develop partnerships and networks to leverage off existing programs	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP77	Implement State Government regulations	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP78	Advocate and educate for improved development outcomes	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP79	Support the establishment and expansion of businesses that produce goods locally	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP80	Promote and encourage waste minimisation and recycling	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP81	Implement strategies to reduce illegal dumping	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of Annual Deliverables
DP82	Manage the Resource Recovery Centre in accordance with Environmental Protection Authority licence and ensure efficient and cost-effective operations	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP83	Develop and implement a Council Waste Strategy and Policy	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP84	Implement strategies to improve energy management	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP85	Undertake initiatives that increase awareness and encourage water, energy and waste reduction	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP86	Implement strategies to address the impacts of climate change	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP87	Improve resource and energy efficiency at Council facilities and monitor carbon emission	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP88	Encourage carbon reduction across the Shire	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing



Economy



Economic Services

Economic Development

Development Control

Tourism and Events

Southern Regional Livestock Exchange

Wingecarribee 2031 Community Aspiration

We harness the economic potential of the area by building on the intrinsic advantages of the Shire. Our primary industries are thriving through the protection of good quality agricultural land, water and the environment. We broaden our economic base to provide a variety of jobs locally while embracing and capitalising on technological advancements. Our sustainable economy attracts and retains people to live and work in the area.

We encourage creativity and innovation in the expansion of 'clean' industries in the Shire. Local training and development opportunities are tailored to complement the skillsets required by current and future local employers.

To achieve this aspiration by 2031, our community goals are:

- 5.1 Our Shire attracts people to work, live and visit.
- 5.2 Sustainable business and industry work in harmony with local community and environment.
- 5.3 We support the productive use of our agricultural land and promote our diverse and thriving local agriculture industry and its right to farm.
- 5.4 Local business is supported through a connected community.

Economy Indicators

Economy indicators	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20*	2020/21
Accommodation bookings/commission through the Welcome Centre (\$)	25,628	30,298	47,021	54,612	56,471
Commission from events ticketed through the Welcome Centre (\$)^	3,041	4,044	3,273	1,545	845
Visitation to the Welcome Centre	61,907	57,653	55,603	32,506	41,812
Tourism website hits [†]	286,657	354,370	559,340	275,685	387,657

Our Year in Review

Southern Highlands Escape

The 2021-22 *Southern Highlands Escape* is Destination Southern Highlands new annual publication, which has been expanded to include tourism, lifestyle and business services. The new style incorporates consumer information with the addition of living in the Southern Highlands, making it a publication catering to visitors and locals.

It will be distributed in July 2021 to:

- Council's Southern Highlands Welcome Centre and Civic Centre
- 160 Information Centres throughout NSW
- Destination NSW and Tourism Australia offices, both here and overseas
- Fulfillment of information requests via Destination Southern Highlands
- Local accommodation houses and venues
- Promotional packages for special interest groups, weddings and conferences
- Included in Welcome Packs available for businesses and residential enquiries
- High visitation locations throughout the Southern Highlands, including (but not limited to) cellar doors, speciality shops, attractions, etc.
- All advertisers

Destination Strategy

Southern Highlands Destination Strategy 2020-2030 was developed to provide a roadmap for Wingecarribee Shire Council to move forward with strategic planning and actions for Tourism and Economic Development for the next 10 years. It is the first to combine both Tourism and Economic Development into one plan and identify increased opportunities across tourism and attractions, agribusiness, equine, professional business services, creative industries, healthcare, advanced manufacturing and education. Through these combined opportunities the Southern Highlands can create new jobs which will attract young families to the area and help to rebalance our demographics into the future. Our economy will become more diverse, we will grow whilst protecting the unique character of our region.



Local Economic Development

Following the impacts of bushfires and COVID-19 on local businesses in 2020, Council waived its Industry Partnership Program fees for 2020/21. As the business sector recover a revised program which offers new initiatives and benefits for industry commenced in January 2021.

Council has continued an economic recovery campaign with a particular focus on retailers and tourism operators aimed at encouraging the purchase of goods and services of local business that are operational but experiencing difficulties.

Southern Regional Livestock Exchange

The Southern Regional Livestock Exchange (SRLX) remained functional during COVID-19 restrictions. Throughput at the facility has been down compared to previous years, which is due to several factors, such as producers restocking after drought conditions have improved.

Works are proceeding with the redevelopment of the SRLX, which is being delivered through funding secured from the NSW State

Government. The upgrades will improve user safety, animal welfare, efficiency of use, biosecurity and productivity.

Expected completion date for grant funded works is scheduled for April 2022.

Promoting the Southern Highlands

Destination Southern Highlands' major marketing campaign was Pie Time 2021. Local business participation was encouraged, providing marketing opportunities during what typically is an offseason period for the Southern Highlands. The number of pies sold across the many participating businesses for the month of June was in excess of 75,000.

Southern Highlands Innovation Park

Following the adoption of the Destination Strategy, Council has commenced work on Stage 1 of a Master Plan and Servicing Strategy project for the Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP). The Master Plan will provide clearer direction on the future of the SHIP and provide greater certainty to industry in the provision of infrastructure and services.



Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of Annual Deliverables
DP89	Support regional activities and partnerships to broaden and promote the range business and industry investment	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP90	Build on partnerships that increase and broaden local employment opportunities	<p>One annual deliverable needs attention. <i>Needs attention - OP185 Explore partnership opportunities that increase and broaden local employment opportunities</i></p> <p>An itinerary was created for a local Manufacturing Industry Tour attended by Careers Advisors Southern Highlands (CASH), TAFE, UoW and Training Services NSW. There is regular engagement with the South Coast Illawarra Local Jobs Program and advocacy to Training Services NSW and Department of Education for expansion of Winter Skills pilot to the Southern Highlands. There has been liaison with hospitality providers regarding issues with filling local vacancies including involvement with a TAFE hosted Industry Forum. Grant programs are promoted relating to jobs creation.</p>
DP91	Ensure tourism development assessment is based on quadruple bottom line principles (i.e. considers environmental, economic, social and governance factors)	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP92	Promote the Southern Highlands as a world class tourist destination	<p>Two annual deliverables are on track and one needs attention. <i>Needs Attention - OP187 Introduce promotional strategies from Southern Highlands Destination Plan 2020-2030</i></p> <p>Outcomes of the Small Business Roundtable held in June 2021 to inform the Southern Highlands Destination Strategic Plan 2020-2030 and subsequent action plan development that had been placed on hold.</p>
DP93	Develop and implement marketing and promotional activities to promote the Southern Highlands	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing
DP94	Explore options to progress Moss Vale Enterprise Zone	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP95	Support the establishment and expansion of clean industries	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP96	Manage the operation of the Southern Region Livestock Exchange	All annual deliverables on track/ongoing

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of Annual Deliverables
DP97	Ensure development does not impact on viable primary production and food security	Annual deliverable on track/ongoing
DP98	Facilitate programs and networks that support and strengthen business development	<p>Two annual deliverables need attention.</p> <p><i>Needs attention – OP200 Finalise and progress with the implementation of the Southern Highlands Destination Plan 2020-2030</i></p> <p>Since adoption of the Destination Strategy in November 2020, a workplan has been created to ensure there are engagements and projects in progress in support of each of the eight Major Industries, five Key Catalytic Projects and Priority Activities defined under the four pillars of People Place Prosperity and Partnership.</p> <p><i>Needs attention - OP201 Develop business-wide recovery plans in response to the impacts of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic</i></p> <p>Communications continue with business groups and networks regarding bushfire and Covid-19 support and funding opportunities. Business liaison support was provided for Wander the Wingecarribee, Pie Time and NSW Top Tourism Town. Grant Guru has been reviewed and recommended for Council's use as a new product to more effectively access and manage grant applications.</p>

Number	Delivery Program Action	Status of Annual Deliverables
DP99	Support initiatives that provide opportunities for business mentoring and connection	<p>Two annual deliverables need attention.</p> <p><i>Needs attention – OP202 Participate in Business Forums and work with Business Chambers</i></p> <p>There is regular communication with the three local business Chambers including liaison and networking with Six Degrees of Separation, Business Women’s Network and Highlands Connect.</p> <p>Council is an active participant in a Christmas planning committee initiated by local business.</p> <p><i>Needs attention – OP203 Investigate opportunities to introduce business mentoring opportunities</i></p> <p>There is currently no formal mentoring program in place. Informally business support is provided on a needs basis and referrals made to agencies that provide a mentoring type service such as Business Connect.</p>
DP100	Support regional economic development initiatives	<p>One annual deliverable needs attention.</p> <p><i>Needs attention – OP204 Participate in regional economic development initiatives</i></p> <p>There is routine engagement with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional NSW South East • Regional Development Australia Southern Inland • Canberra Region Joint Organisation • Live Music NSW • Sydney Peri-Urban Network • Destination Sydney Surrounds South, Business NSW • AusIndustry • Business Australia • Southern Region Business Enterprise Centre; and • other regional agencies as required. <p>Under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding there is regular engagement and collaboration with Service NSW Business Concierge and monthly engagement session are facilitated between representatives from three tiers of government working in the region.</p>



Statutory Information

The following section provides additional detailed supporting information and addresses statutory requirements under Chapter 13, Parts 2 and 4 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Part 9, Division 7 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005* and any other legislation which requires information to be included in this report.

Private Works

Section 67(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 and clause 217(1)(a4) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Private works will be undertaken by Council's Infrastructure Services branch if sufficient resources are available and the undertaking of the private works does not impact on Council's works program or core business activities. Any private works undertaken will ensure that Council does not incur a loss and that the work is to an acceptable standard.

Council's annual reports must include details or a summary of resolutions made during the relevant financial year concerning work carried out on private land and details or a summary of such work if the cost of the work has been fully or partly subsidised by Council, together with a statement of the total amount by which Council has subsidised any such work during that year.

Private works	Summary or details of work	No. of works	Total costs	Owner contribution	Council contribution
General fund	General private works	1	\$15,531.82	\$17,850.00	\$0
Water fund	Water main works	20	\$150,914.15	\$166,693.38	\$0
Sewer fund	Sewer main works	71	\$184,009.73	\$329,360.51	\$0

Contracts Awarded

Clause 217(1)(a2) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

The following is a list of contracts for amounts greater than \$150,000 awarded during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

In accordance with sections 6 and 18 and Division 5 of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, Council keeps and publishes a register of government contracts valued at \$150,000 or more. This register is available at [Register of Council Contracts with Private Sector](#).

Description of Works	Contractor	Contract Value
Mittagong Memorial Hall (Playhouse) Structural Repair and Refurbishment	NBRS & Partners Pty Ltd	\$323,623.00
Asphalt Concrete Works - Throsby Street & Exeter Road	Roadworx Surfacing Pty Ltd	\$298,479.65
West Bowral Trunk Main Duplication	Fluid Plumbing & Drainage Services Pty Ltd	\$2,145,058.08
Werai to Exeter Water Trunk Main – Design Services	Kellogg Brown & Root Pty Ltd	\$237,047.47
SPS MT-7 Containment – Design and Construct	Quickway Constructions Pty Ltd	\$572,644.57
Supply of Bulk Materials	Panel of 14 Contractors	In excess of \$400,000 per year
Septic Screen for Berrima STP	Aqseptence Group Pty Ltd	\$162,804.00
Purchase of a 12T Smooth Drum Roller	Porter Equipment Australia Pty Ltd	\$166,057.10

Description of Works	Contractor	Contract Value
Queen Street Water Supply, Bowral	Quickway Constructions Pty Ltd	\$284,923.56
Cleaning of Council's Civic Centre, Moss Vale	Pacific Facility Services Pty Ltd	\$348,041.64
Water Assets Emergency Generators	Essential Power Systems Pty Ltd	\$1,566,337.40
Purchase of an 8T Excavator	Komatsu Australia Pty Ltd	\$160,820.00
Bowral to Moss Vale Duplication Water Main – Design Services	GHD Pty Ltd	\$418,302.73
Penrose Hall Renewal	Connors Building Pty Ltd	\$216,520.00
Asphalt Concrete Works for 5 Roundabouts	Avijohn Contracting Pty Ltd	\$404,301.96
Bowral Memorial Hall Refurbishment	Belmadar Pty Ltd	\$5,825,050.00
Microsoft Enterprise Agreement 1 April 2021 to 30 March 2024	Datacom Systems (AU) Pty Ltd	\$946,424.94
Reservoir Leak Repair – Oxley Drive Reservoir	Southern Cross Reservoir Services Australia Pty Ltd	\$279,203.00
SPS Access Road & Water Service Construction	Donnelley Civil Pty Ltd	\$192,854.78
Eridge Park Road – Detailed Design	SMEC Australia Pty Ltd	\$247,216.00
Mittagong SES Building Refurbishment - Stage 2	Connors Building Pty Ltd	\$248,848.00
Seymour Park Playground Upgrade	Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd	\$491,006.29
Mittagong STP Upgrade – Detailed Design	Hunter H2O Holdings Pty Ltd	\$726,869.00
SCADA and Control Systems Support & Maintenance	Panel of 3 Contractors	In excess of \$250,000.00
Water & Sewer Renewal - Throsby Street, Moss Vale	Carve Earthworks & Construction Pty Ltd	\$1,431,723.98
Design & Construction for Lift Installation - SRLX	Adaptive Pty Ltd t/a Dezin	\$242,660.00
Electrical & Networking and Air Conditioning Services	Panel of 10 Contractors	In excess of \$250,000.00
Painting Services	Panel of 5 Contractors	In excess of \$250,000.00
Plumbing Services	Panel of 8 Contractors	In excess of \$250,000.00
Horticultural & Landscaping Services	Panel of 5 Contractors	In excess of \$250,000.00
Fleet Maintenance Services	Panel of 4 Contractors	In excess of \$250,000.00
Roadside Mowing	GLG Greenlife Group Pty Ltd	\$180,794.50
SPS BU7 & SPS BU2 Containment – Design and Construct	Gongues Constructions Pty Ltd	\$577,500.00

Description of Works	Contractor	Contract Value
Transport and Disposal of Shredded Organic Waste	Australian Native Landscapes Pty Ltd	in excess of \$500,000.00
Old South Road - Detailed Design	MakerENG Pty Ltd	\$404,744.00
Mittagong SES Building Works – Stage 1	Connors Building Pty Ltd	\$177,446.50
Berrima Road Deviation Project - High Voltage Relocation	Endavour Energy Network Unregulated Partnership	\$870,687.92
Bulk Water Treatment Chemicals	Panel of 5 Contractors	in excess of \$2,300,000
Design Development & Construction of Saleyard Upgrades	ProWay Livestock Equipment Pty Ltd	\$4,251,464.11
Moss Vale Cemetery Upgrade – Detailed Design	Indesco South Coast Pty Ltd	\$194,095.00
Code of Conduct Review Panel	Panel of 5 Contractors	in excess of \$300,000.00
WSC Civic Centre Cleaning and COVID Cleaning 2020-21	TST Property Services Pty Ltd	\$170,000.00
Construction Works - 107 Kangaloon Road, Bowral	Simpson Landscapes and Consultants Pty Ltd	\$222,246.56
Direct Negotiations for the Supply & Delivery of Premixed Concrete	Panel of 3 Contractors	in excess of \$600,000.00
Moss Vale STP Upgrade – Detailed Design	Hunter H2O Holdings Pty Ltd	\$758,751.40
Design & Installation of CCTV at Moss Vale Saleyard	Secure People Pty Ltd	\$224,658.69
Church Road Oval - Amenities Building Upgrade	Direct Projects Pty Ltd	\$560,236.19

Condition of Public Works

2020/21 Capital Works Projects Expenditure

Works	Expenditure
Community and operational buildings	\$4,332,000
Roads and related assets	\$11,613,000
Footpaths and cycleways	\$2,112,000
Stormwater drainage	\$4,120,000
Water network	\$4,313,000
Sewer network	\$4,401,000
Parks, reserves and sports fields	\$2,933,000
TOTAL	\$33,824,000

Source: Note C1-8 General Purpose Financial Reports

Note: this list includes capital projects dedicated to Council relating to new development. The list does not include capital expenses relating to plant replacement, library books, furniture and fittings and land.

Capital Expenditure Review

Capital Expenditure Guidelines

Capital Expenditure Guidelines in accordance with the Office of Local Government's Capital Expenditure Guidelines issued under section 23A of the Local Government Act 1993, Council undertook a Capital Expenditure Review of the refurbishment of Bowral Memorial Hall prior to the commencement of works. The Guidelines aim to ensure that a council's evaluation of the proposed capital expenditure is consistent and transparent, that the merits of projects can be compared and that resource allocation can be made on an informed basis. After reviewing the information provided by Council, the Office of Local Government determined that Council had satisfactorily addressed the criteria required in the Guidelines.

Special Rate Variation

Sections 508(2) and 508A of the Local Government Act 1993 and Special Rate Variation Guidelines

Description of Works	Expenditure
Maintenance Works	
Roads Maintenance	\$1,397,880
Building Maintenance	\$654,582
Parks Maintenance	\$322,320
Drainage Maintenance	\$256,020
Total Maintenance Expenditure	\$2,630,802
Capital Works	
Local Roads Resealing	\$746,117
Local Roads Gravel Resheeting	\$582,848
Church Road Oval Amenities Building	\$447,363
Merrigang Street pavement renewal	\$420,374
Bendooley / Bundaroo Street Roundabout	\$293,411
Exeter Road renewal	\$236,738
Seymour Park Playground renewal	\$215,293
Heavy Patching	\$171,782
Construct Drainage Argyle Howard Streets	\$155,000
Construct Footpath Argyle St to Robertson Rd	\$146,766
Kirkham Street Sub Soil Drainage	\$117,672
Penrose Hall upgrade	\$114,756
Throsby Street renewal	\$109,080
Council Chambers Technology renewal	\$100,000
Vandenburgh Road renewal	\$95,212
Moss Vale Depot upgrade	\$92,414
Mittagong Sportsground Irrigation	\$88,346
Wattle Lane Car Park	\$82,908
Mount Broughton Road	\$80,179
Pedestrian Bridge Hampden Park	\$79,277
Construct Drainage Erith Street	\$76,238
Lackey Park Regional Sporting Hub Design	\$75,072
Construct Drainage Jasmine Street	\$70,964
Footpath Old Hume Highway Yerrinbool	\$67,000

Description of Works	Expenditure
Footpath Mittagong Road Bowral	\$64,104
Berrima Market Place Playground	\$57,700
Lake Alexandra Outlet	\$47,783
Safety Improvements Old Hume Highway	\$45,000
Local Drains New Culverts	\$40,000
Regional Roads Gravel Resheeting	\$33,000
Construct Drainage Glebe Street	\$32,002
Wembley Road Drainage	\$30,302
Mittagong Playhouse Rectification Works	\$30,000
Construct Drainage Dangar Street	\$30,000
Pool Infrastructure renewal	\$28,000
Levee Swale Design High Street	\$27,617
Robertson Community Centre Roof Works	\$27,492
Minor Capital Projects < \$20,000	\$116,873
Total Capital Expenditure	\$5,274,681
TOTAL	\$7,905,483

IPART Reporting Requirements: Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) Comparison

General Fund	LTFP Projection ('000)	Actual 2020/21 ('000)	Variation ('000)
Income from Continuing Operations			
Rates and Annual Charges	\$58,202	\$61,692	\$3,490
User Charges and Fees	\$7,842	\$11,437	\$3,595
Investment Income	\$1,869	\$746	-\$1,123
Other Revenues	\$3,453	\$999	-\$2,454
Grants and Contributions Operating	\$8,588	\$10,776	\$2,188
Grants and Contributions Capital	\$2,666	\$25,690	\$23,024
Rental Income	-	\$530	\$530
Net gain from disposal of assets	-	-	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations	\$82,620	\$111,870	\$29,250
Expenses from Continuing Operations			
Employee Costs	\$31,930	\$32,986	\$1,056
Borrowing Costs	\$406	\$474	\$68
Materials and Contracts	\$15,732	\$31,152	\$15,420
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$16,421	\$19,869	\$3,448
Other Expenses	\$12,139	\$3,625	-\$8,514
Net Loss from the disposal of assets	-	\$2,381	\$2,381
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	\$76,628	\$90,487	\$13,859
Net Operating Result	\$5,992	\$21,383	\$15,391
Net Operating Result excluding Capital Grants and Contributions	\$3,326	-\$4,307	-\$7,633

Major Variations Compared to Long Term Financial Plan (General Fund)

Movement	Reporting Line	Description of Variations	'000
Increase	Rates and Annual Charges	Additional rate income and domestic waste management income when compared to budget	\$3,490
Increase	User Charges and Fees	Additional development income and user charges at Council's waste facility	\$3,595
Decrease	Investment Income	Interest rates on term deposits have decreased significantly due to COVID-19	-\$1,123
Decrease	Other Revenues	Decrease due to reclassification of rental income and other revenues to user charges and fees	-\$2,454
Increase	Grants and Contributions Operating	Additional income from financial assistance grant, disaster recovery grants, children's services grants, and environment protection grants	\$2,188
Increase	Grants and Contributions Capital	Increase in dedicated infrastructure (non-cash income), Council does not budget for dedicated infrastructure	\$23,024
Increase	Rental Income	Rental income was previously classified as other income, however to ensure compliance with accounting standards it is now shown separately	\$530
Income variations			\$29,250
Increase	Employee Costs	Additional employees and increase in Workers Compensation Premium	\$1,056
Increase	Borrowing Costs	Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme adjustment to reflect grant as operating income	\$68
Increase	Materials and Contracts	A range of increases have led to this variation including (but not limited to) tree contractors (due to disaster recovery events), development contractors, and traffic control contractors. There are also a number of account reclassifications where expenses have been recorded as materials and contracts, rather than other expenses	\$15,420
Increase	Depreciation Expenses	The increase in depreciation is primarily due to dedicated infrastructure handed to Council as part of the subdivision process. Council does not budget for dedicated infrastructure	\$3,448
Decrease	Other Expenses	This relates to the reclassification of expenses as Materials and Contracts, rather than other expenses. This is to ensure compliance with accounting standards and the Local Government Code of Accounting practice	-\$8,514
Increase	Net Loss from disposal of assets	Council does not estimate the net profit/loss from the disposal of assets as part of the annual budget; instead estimates are based on the expected sale proceeds	\$2,381
Expense variations			\$13,859
Net reportable variations			\$15,391

Environment Levy

The following 2020/21 projects and programs were funded by the Environment Levy:

Program	Total
Biodiversity Conservation	
Bushland Restoration and Weed Management	\$556,079
Revegetation	\$8,489
Vertebrate Pest Management Plans	\$8,813
Vegetation Conservation	\$29,359
Contribution to CRJO Contaminated Lands	\$7,404
Interpretative Material Natural Assets	\$314
Vehicle Purchase	\$26,273
Green Web Action / Strategy	\$21,637
	\$658,368
Community Capacity and Commitment	
Awareness Campaigns	\$49
Community Education	\$4,323
Community Support	\$18,884
Landcare and Bushcare	\$53,573
Environment and Sustainability Committee	\$24,139
Environment Levy Awareness	\$5,436
Rural Partner Program	\$22,080
Urban Sustainability Partner Program	\$51,626
	\$180,110
Program Coordination	
Environment Levy Program Coordination	\$123,358
Grant Applications	\$16,093
	\$139,451
Environmental Systems	
Data Collection Biodiversity	\$823
Water Quality Equipment	\$643
	\$1,467
River Health and Wetlands	
Riparian Management Plans Delivery	\$95,306
Boundary Fencing Welby Weir Reserve	\$30,624
	\$125,930
Sustainable Living	
Community Sustainability	\$49,917
	\$49,917
Corporate Support	
	\$72,689
Expenditure	
	\$1,227,932

Stormwater Management Charge

Clause 217(1)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Works	Expenditure
Construct Cavendish Street Drainage	\$34,562
Construct Armstrong Cres Drainage	\$35,558
Dangar Street Stormwater Remediation	\$50,000
Lake Alexandra Outlet	\$26,000
Floodplain Management Program matching grant	\$1,114
Review Wingecarribee River Flood Study	\$35,000
Asset Inspection and Data Collection	\$101,866
Stormwater Minor Maintenance Works	\$54,340
Creek Cleaning	\$15,780
Wetlands Maintenance	\$7,290
Stormwater Drainage Maintenance	\$77,572
TOTAL	\$439,082

Rates and Charges Written Off

Clause 132 of the Local Government (General Regulation) 2005

Amount of Rates and Charges written off during 2020/21	
Postponed Rates under Section 595(1) LGA (1993)	\$19,263.12
Pensioners under Section 575 LGA (1993)	\$1,637,653.59
Water Determinations	\$62,817.80
Sewer Charges – non rateable properties	\$0.00
Other	\$32,893.91
TOTAL	\$1,752,628.42

Financial Assistance to Persons for Council Functions

Clause 217(1)(a5) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Contributions made by Council under section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 in 2020/21 comprised:

Category	Donations/ Contributions	Community Assistance Scheme	Rate Subsidies	Total
Arts & Culture Bodies	\$508,000	\$2,100	-	\$510,100
Charity/Welfare Groups	\$44,374	\$12,873	\$7,501	\$64,748
Community Groups	\$406,929	\$79,627	\$67,574	\$554,130
Environmental Groups	\$4,125	-	-	\$4,125
Local Schools	\$1,285	\$121	-	\$1,406
Other Councils	-	-	-	-
Sporting and Recreation Groups	\$59,851	\$11,034	-	\$70,885
TOTAL	\$1,024,564	\$105,755	\$75,075	\$1,205,394

Legal Proceedings

Clause 217(1) (a3) Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

The following is a summary of the amount incurred by Council in relation to legal proceedings in 2020/21.

- Amounts, costs and expenses paid or received by way of out of court settlements, other than those the terms of which are not to be disclosed
- Summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and (if it has been finalised) the result.

Legal Matter	Amounts, costs and expenses paid or received		Summary of the state of progress	Result
	Paid	Received		
Lasovase	\$176,217	-	Ongoing	N/A
ERF Hospice	\$109,784	-	Finalised	The Land and Environment Court dismissed the appeal. Council's defence of the appeal was successful.
Mittagong Central Developments	\$84,585	-	Ongoing	N/A
Rochester Estate	\$71,381	-	Finalised	The Land and Environment Court approved the revised/amended application from 12 lot to 4 lot subdivision.
Zube	\$51,857	-	Ongoing	N/A
Bowral Garage Development Pty Ltd	\$33,813	-	Finalised	The Land and Environment Court dismissed the appeal. Council's defence of the appeal was successful.
Reulie Land Co	\$32,293	-	Ongoing	N/A
Michael Brown Planning	\$29,883	\$148,500	Ongoing	N/A
Bennett	\$28,258	-	Finalised	The Land and Environment proceedings were discontinued.
Stock	\$25,392	-	Finalised	The Land and Environment Court dismissed the appeal. Council's defence of the appeal was successful.
Delaney	\$24,809	-	Ongoing	N/A
Neilson	\$22,624	-	Finalised	The judicial review was discontinued by Council.

Legal Matter	Amounts, costs and expenses paid or received		Summary of the state of progress	Result
	Paid	Received		
Winifred West Schools	\$21,593	-	Ongoing	N/A
Woodbine Park Nominees Pty Ltd	\$17,931	-	Ongoing	N/A
Maly	\$17,634	-	Ongoing	N/A
Feldkirchen Pty Ltd	\$5,730	-	Ongoing	N/A
PS Design & Construction	\$4,914	-	Finalised	The Land and Environment proceedings were discontinued.
Koshakji	\$3,786	-	Ongoing	N/A
Garry Turland	\$1,156	\$20,000	Finalised	The development was the subject of the Land and Environment Court appeal that was approved during the hearing stage and the matter was therefore successfully resolved between the parties.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Section 13(1) of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014

Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 (DIAP) has continued to be implemented through a variety of actions and initiatives that seek to achieve better access and inclusion for people with disability.

Attitudes and Behaviours – Council supports and encourages positive and inclusive attitudes and behaviour towards people with disability

Council has launched the See Me, Hear Me Campaign. Postcards highlight stories of those in the community who are service users, service staff and the services available locally and is designed to support, promote and create awareness. Additional stories have been prepared for print to be distributed across the Shire.

Liveable Communities – Council supports the community to promote access and inclusion for everyone and reduce barriers to liveability factors such as transport, recreation and social inclusiveness

- Provision of additional accessible parking space at the Moss Vale War Memorial Aquatic Centre and supply of accessible parking spaces at the end of the Kirkham Road reconstruction project in Bowral
- Commencement of the construction of the Renwick Shared Path, which will connect Renwick to Mittagong Railway Station via a footpath of approximately two kilometres in length. This will include ramps at intersections that meet access requirements in accordance with the Australian Standards
- Several of the Shire's community facilities and open spaces received upgrades to improve access and inclusion, such as:
 - An access ramp was constructed, and the internal toilet converted to meet accessibility standards at Wingello Mechanics Institute
 - An elevator was installed at the Bowral Rugby Clubhouse in Burradoo as part of the upgrade works, to ensure for accessible access to the first floor
 - Improved access to toilets at Burrawang Oval, Winifred West Park in Mittagong and Leighton Gardens was provided as part of renewal works.
- Council received a NSW Government grant under the Everyone Can Play program to upgrade the playspace and amenities at Seymour Park to provide an accessible playground, two accessible parking spaces and an accessible toilet within the new amenities building.

Employment – Council is committed to equal employment and workplace opportunities for current and future employees in the workplace

Plans are underway to deliver the disABILITY AWAREness training for staff online. The training is designed to promote awareness of the barriers, both environmental and attitudinal, experienced by people with a disability and identify ways in which these barriers may be overcome.

Systems and Processes – Council systems and processes are inclusive of people with disability with improved access to information and services

- The Master Locksmith Access Key (MLAK) system is continually reviewed to ensure that the key is easier to obtain for residents with disability to gain 24 hours a day, seven days a week access to a network of public facilities including wheelchair accessible toilets
- New Council website was designed with a goal of meeting Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The current rating is WCAG 2.0AA but aiming for a AAA rating.

Government Information Public Access Activity

A total of 36 valid access applications were received by Council under Part 4 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act).

The below table summarises the decisions made with respect to the access applications decided by Council during the reporting period.

Decision	No. of decisions*	Percentage of total
Access to information granted in full	6	11%
Access to information granted in part	22	42%
Access to information refused in full	1	2%
Information not held	8	15%
Information already available to applicant	3	6%
Refuse to deal with application	4	8%
Refuse to confirm or deny whether information is held	0	0%
Application withdrawn by applicant	9	17%
TOTAL	53	

* More than one decision may be made in respect of a particular access application, as provided by section 58(2) of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. Statistics do not include two access applications which remained in progress as at 30 June 2021. Statistics include access applications which were received prior to 1 July 2020 but decided within the 2020/21 reporting period.

Further information regarding how Council decided access applications under the GIPA Act during 2020/21 is available at Council's [Proactive Release of Information Register](#) webpage.

In accordance with section 21 of the GIPA Act, Council conducted its annual review of its agency information guide. The NSW Information and Privacy Commission (IPC) was consulted during this process and confirmed that Council's draft agency information guide met the mandatory requirements of the GIPA Act and incorporated recommended practices pursuant to the IPC's guidelines.



Public Interest Disclosures

Section 31(1) of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 and clause 4 of the Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011

During 2020/21, Council received four public interest disclosures.

Council has adopted a Public Interest Disclosures Policy which is available on the Council's [Policies](#) webpage. This document is also available to staff through Council's Intranet.

Privacy Statement

Section 33 of the *Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998* requires Council to have a Privacy Management Plan. Council's Privacy Management Plan, available at Council's [Privacy Guidelines](#) webpage, includes a commitment by Council to include a statement concerning privacy in its Annual Report.

Council continues to collect personal information for lawful purposes as part of its proper functions under the *Local Government Act 1993* and other relevant legislation. This includes, for example, personal information concerning rates records and development applications. People have the right to access their personal information which is held by Council, and to request that their own personal information be appropriately amended.

Council's Privacy Management Plan provides more detail about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information by Council.

Mayor and Councillor Expenses

Clauses 217(1)(a) and (a1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Part E of the Councillor Induction and Professional Development Guidelines

Expense Category	Councillors	Interim Administrator	Total
General travel	\$4,213	\$3,894	\$8,107
Interstate, overseas travel	-	-	-
Accommodation and meals	\$9,886	\$17,389	\$27,275
Professional development	\$65,855	-	\$65,855
Conferences and seminars	\$300	-	\$300
Community meetings and non-council functions/events	-	\$2,579	\$2,579
Information communication, technology and office	\$26,903	\$131	\$27,034
Carer for child or family member	-	-	-
Councillor/Mayoral/Interim Administrator Fees	\$180,158	\$80,161	\$260,319
TOTAL	\$287,315	\$104,154	\$391,469

External Bodies Exercising Power

Clause 217(1)(a6) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

No external bodies exercised functions delegated by Council during the financial year. Council did not hold any controlling interests in companies during the financial year.

Bodies Council Participated In

Clause 217(1)(a8) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Council participated in the following bodies during 2020/21:

- Canberra Region Joint Organisation
- Illawarra Academy of Sport
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (for its Regional Illegal Dumping program)
- Regional Development Australia Southern Inland
- Southern Tablelands Arts
- South West Sydney Primary Health Network
- Statewide Mutual
- Sydney Peri Urban Network.

Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

Clause 217(1)(a9) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Council delivered Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Training to all staff during month of November 2020.

Remuneration Package for the General Manager and Senior Staff

Clauses 217(1)(b) and (c) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005

Statement of the total remuneration comprised in remuneration packages of all senior staff members, expressed as the total (not of the individual members).

Includes:

- Total value of salary components of their packages.
- Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary components of their packages.
- Total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor.
- Total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package.
- Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.

Position	Remuneration Package as at 30 June 2021
General Manager ¹	\$571,154
Deputy General Managers ²	\$964,724
TOTAL	\$1,335,878

1. This includes termination payments in accordance with the Standard Contract of Employment of General Managers.

2. This includes termination payments in accordance with the Standard Contract of Employment of Senior Staff.

Environmental Upgrade Agreements Entered Into

Section 54P(1) of the Local Government Act 1993

Council did not enter into any environmental upgrade agreements under the Local Government Act 1993 during 2020/21.

Companion Animals Management

Clause 217(1)(f) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Part 16 of the Guideline on the Exercise of Functions under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (Companion Animals Guidelines)

Council has undertaken a strategic education program in a staged process to ensure companion animal owners register their animals. This is predominately achieved through a system of issuing notices requiring companion animals to be registered under the *Companion Animals Act 1998*. Council has found this is an effective way to ensure owners accept responsibility when owning a companion animal and comply with the statutory provisions.

Council regularly advises customers to update the details of their companion animals as part of maintaining the Companion Animal Register. Council updates and maintains information with respect to the Wingecarribee Animal Shelter and advertises all aspects of the Animal Shelter through external social media platforms such as Facebook.

Clause 16.1.2(a) of the Companion Animals Guidelines: Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the Office of Local Government

Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the OLG during the 2020/21 Financial Year are included in the below table. (see table below)

Animal Shelter Information	Cats	Dogs
Impounded (seized and stray)	248	142
Surrendered	24	30
Released to owner	11	113
Sold	145	40
Transferred to rescue organisation	4	3

A summary of the animals euthanised during 2020/21 is provided in the table below.

Companion animals subject to euthanasia	Cats	Dogs
Dangerous dogs	N/A	1
Illness/Injury	25	3
Unsuitable for rehoming	4	5
Unable to be rehomed	0	0
Feral/Infant animal	56	0
TOTAL	85	9

Clause 16.1.2(b) of the Companion Animals Guidelines: Lodgement of data about dog attacks with the Office of Local Government

Council officers have recorded all reported dog attack incidents in the Shire on the NSW Companion Animals Register. The table below provides a summary of reported incidents.

Status	Incidents reported	Attacking Dogs	Animal Victims	Human Victims	Total
Reported (investigation not commenced as at 30 June 2021)	13	15	17	7	52
Finalised	12	12	17	6	47
Under investigations	1	3	0	1	5
TOTAL	26	30	34	14	104

Clause 16.1.2(c) of the Companion Animals Guidelines *Amount of funding spent on companion animal management and activities* and **Clause 16.1.4 of the Companion Animals Guidelines.** No money was paid from the Companion Animals Fund for managing and controlling companion animals in the Shire during the year.

Activity	Expenditure
Animal Shelter	\$426,042
Rangers	\$185,731
TOTAL	\$611,773

Clause 16.1.2(d) of the Companion Animals Guidelines: *Community education programs and strategies in place to promote and assist the desexing of cats and dogs*

Companion animal community education programs carried out and Strategies council has in place to promote and assist the de-sexing of cats and dogs. All dogs and cats rehomed through the Animal Shelter are desexed at the time of release as a standard policy measure. Council is looking to further expand its educative programs to specifically include education and awareness days relating to the benefits of desexing animals.

Clause 16.1.2(e) of the Companion Animals Guidelines: *Strategies for complying with the requirement under section 64 of the Act to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals*

Strategies for complying with the requirement under section 64 of the Companion Animals Act to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals.

Clause 16.1.2(f) of the Companion Animals Guidelines: *Off leash areas provided in the Wingecarribee Shire local government area*

The Wingecarribee Shire has four off leash parks:

- Centennial Park, Centennial Road Bowral (fenced);
- Jordan's Crossing, Bindar Crescent Bundanoon (unfenced);
- Alexandra Square off leash area, Edward Street Mittagong (fenced); and
- Seymour Park, Spencer Street Moss Vale (fenced).

Further information about off leash areas in the Wingecarribee Shire is available on Council's [Leash-Free Areas in the Wingecarribee Shire](#) webpage.

Swimming Pool Inspections Program

Section 22F of the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and clause 23 of the Swimming Pools Regulation 2018

During 2020/21 the following inspections of private swimming pools were undertaken under Division 5 of Part 2 of the Swimming Pools Act 1992:


Type of Inspection	Number
Tourist and visitor accommodation	14
Premises with more than two dwellings	2
Inspections that resulted in issue of a certificate of compliance under section 22D of the Swimming Pools Act 1992	56
Inspections that resulted in issue of a certificate of non-compliance under clause 21 of the Swimming Pools Regulation 2018	16
TOTAL	88

Status of Voluntary Planning Agreements

Section 7.5(5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

If Council has entered into one or more voluntary planning agreements (VPAs) and while any such agreement remains in force, Council must include in its annual report particulars of compliance with and the effect of the VPAs during the reporting period to which the report relates. The below table provides this information.

Description of VPA	Description of Works	Address	Party to Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)	Status	Agreement Date
Renwick VPA	Monetary Contribution, detailed design of open space to be dedicated under VPA.	Renwick Drive, Renwick	Landcome / Wingecarribee Shire Council	Active	11 September 2008
Douglas Road VPA (Lot 24)	Infrastructure provision.	Lot 24 Douglas Road Moss Vale	Maloney Nominees Pty Ltd	Active	23 March 2010
Douglas Road VPA (Lot 21)	Infrastructure provision.	Lot 21 Douglas Road Moss Vale	Ronald James Arkcoll Ross Gordon Hales Kevin N. Dunlop K.N.D Nominees Pty	Active	23 March 2010



Frensham Pool VPA	Public access to pool.	Range Road Mittagong	Winifred West School	Active	07 December 2012
Nattai Ponds VPA	Dedicating land Community Facilities and road works	Isedale Road Mittagong	Feldkirchen Pty Ltd	Active	11 April 2013



Annexures

Council's Audited Financial Statements are available online at [Annual Reports](#).