



Wollondilly Health Alliance

Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy

Volume 2 - Strategy

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A partnership project by:



Health
South Western Sydney
Local Health District

Table of contents

1.	Background	1
1.1	Introduction to Volume 2 – Strategy	1
1.2	What is a Social Planning Strategy and why do we need one?	1
1.3	Objectives	2
1.4	Structure of the Social Planning Strategy	2
2.	Approach and methodology	5
2.1	Approach.....	5
2.2	Leading best practice frameworks	5
2.3	Methodology	7
3.	Wollondilly's role within Greater Sydney.....	9
3.1	Policy context.....	9
3.2	Greater Macarthur Land Release Investigation: Preliminary Strategy & Action Plan (2015)	11
4.	The current and future Wollondilly Community	13
4.1	Wollondilly's communities	13
4.2	Future population	17
5.	Fostering social inclusion and cohesion and community participation	18
5.1	Community diversity.....	18
5.2	Community participation and democracy.....	20
5.3	Community facilities	23
5.4	Community programs and events.....	24
5.5	Community organisations and volunteering	25
5.6	Summary of challenges	26
6.	Facilitating accessibility and connectivity	28
6.1	Transport use and behaviour	28
6.2	Active transport	31
6.3	Connectivity in Wollondilly	32
6.4	Opportunities for behaviour change.....	36
6.5	Summary of challenges	36
7.	Providing diverse and affordable living	39
7.1	Current housing and households in Wollondilly.....	39
7.2	Affordable Housing	45
7.3	Housing diversity to cater for different population groups	46
7.4	Future dwellings.....	49
7.5	Summary of challenges	50
9.	Supporting education, lifelong learning and economic wellbeing	53
9.1	Formal education attendance and opportunities in Wollondilly	53
9.2	Lifelong learning.....	63

9.3	Wollondilly economy and employment opportunities	64
9.4	Summary of challenges	66
10.	Creating healthy, safe and secure communities	68
10.1	Current health status of the Wollondilly community	68
10.2	Access to health services and facilities	75
10.3	Recent health and wellbeing initiatives	77
10.4	Recreation and leisure opportunities and participation	77
10.5	Community safety	78
10.6	Access to healthy and affordable food	81
10.7	Social and health considerations incorporated into planning for new & existing communities	83
10.8	Summary of challenges	83
	References	86

Table index

Table 1	Overview of themed chapters within the Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy	4
Table 2	NSW Government policies relevant to this Social Planning Strategy	10
Table 3	Impact of challenges on target population groups	26
Table 4	Comparative transport data from BTS 2011	30
Table 5	Impact of challenges on target population groups	37
Table 6	Tenure by dwelling type in Wollondilly, 2011	43
Table 7	Median indicators for income and housing payments in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	43
Table 8	Expected waiting times for social housing by number of bedrooms in South West Sydney, 2014	49
Table 9	Impact of challenges on target population groups	50
Table 10	Impact of challenges on target population groups	67
Table 12	Number of offences between July 2014 and June 2015	79
Table 13	Location of major supermarkets and food stores	81
Table 14	Fresh food initiatives in Wollondilly	82
Table 15	Impact of challenges on target population groups	84

Figure index

Figure 1	The three volumes of the Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy	3
Figure 2	World Health Organisation (WHO) <i>Social Determinants of Health</i>	6
Figure 3	Development of Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy	7

Figure 4 Greater Macarthur Preliminary Land Release plan to 2036	11
Figure 5 Age profile of Wollondilly LGA compared to Greater Sydney	14
Figure 6 Family characteristics of Wollondilly LGA compared to Greater Sydney	15
Figure 7 Forecast age profile of Wollondilly LGA.....	17
Figure 8 Vehicle ownership	29
Figure 9 Household internet connections in Wollondilly and Greater Sydney	33
Figure 10 Locations visited by the Mobile Library service	35
Figure 11 Population density in Wollondilly, 2011.....	40
Figure 12 Dwelling types in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	41
Figure 13 Number of bedrooms per dwelling in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	41
Figure 14 Household composition in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	42
Figure 15 Tenure in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	42
Figure 16 Monthly mortgage repayments for households in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	44
Figure 17 Housing stress, mortgage stress and rental stress for households in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011.....	45
Figure 18 Formal education attendance in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011.....	54
Figure 19 Early Childhood Education Facilities in Wollondilly LGA	56
Figure 20 Primary and secondary schools in relation to Wollondilly.....	58
Figure 21 Primary school attendance in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	59
Figure 22 Secondary school attendance in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	60
Figure 23 Tertiary education facilities in relation to Wollondilly	62
Figure 24 Education levels in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	63
Figure 25 Industries of employment for Wollondilly residents compared to Greater Sydney, 2011	65
Figure 26 Occupations of Wollondilly residents compared to Greater Sydney, 2011.....	66
Figure 27 Self-reported health status for persons aged 16 years and over, 2010.....	69
Figure 28 Health behaviours of residents of Wollondilly LGA and NSW aged 16 years and over, 2008-2010.....	70
Figure 29 Social capital persons aged 16 and over, 2007-2009.....	71
Figure 30 Rate of hospitalisations of Wollondilly residents relative to NSW average.....	72
Figure 31 Rate of deaths in Wollondilly relative to NSW	73
Figure 32 Top causes of death in Wollondilly, 2005-2007	74
Figure 33 Rate of avoidable, preventable and treatable deaths of residents aged 15 to 64 (per 100,000 people), 2004-2007	74

1. Background

1.1 Introduction to Volume 2 – Strategy

The Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy (SPS) has been divided into three volumes: Implementation Plan; Strategy; and Appendices. This volume should be read in conjunction with Volumes 1 and 3. The chapters in this volume have been structured in line with the other volumes.

This volume provides the approach and methodology that has informed the development of the SPS. This volume includes the review of the demographic profiles of communities within Wollondilly Local Government Area (LGA), the services and facilities that serve these communities, and the key social challenges facing communities. Section 1.4 outlines the structure of the SPS and other volumes.

1.2 What is a Social Planning Strategy and why do we need one?

Social planning strategies are planning documents which outline how decision-makers, agencies and communities can work together to address community needs and build stronger, healthier and socially sustainable communities.

Social sustainability is a key requirement for sustainable development. The wellbeing of our communities is dependent on achieving high quality environmental, economic and social outcomes both now and in the future. Social Planning Strategies can provide a framework to identify and assess social issues and opportunities and prioritise strategies to deliver social and wellbeing outcomes.

One of the key themes in the *Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033* (2013) is “looking after the community”. The Community Strategic Plan acknowledges that the “Wollondilly community faces a specific set of challenges that arise from its relatively low population, its location on the fringe of a city and is dispersed and varied towns and villages”¹. The development of a Social Planning Strategy for Wollondilly has been identified as an action to address these challenges.

¹ Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033, pg 19

1.3 Objectives

The key objectives of the SPS include:

- Highlight the profile of Wollondilly's communities and emerging social trends.
- Development of an implementation plan with measurable actions to address social challenges faced by the Wollondilly Community.
- Raise the profile of social planning within Wollondilly Shire Council, particularly in the context of future growth, demographic change and the creation of healthy and active new communities.
- Provide an evidence-base for advocacy, lobbying, and negotiations regarding the provision of social infrastructure and services in Wollondilly Shire and the region.
- Provide an evidence-base to support informed decision making by Council, the community and other agencies.
- Use research and available data to tell the story of Wollondilly.

To ensure that the SPS achieves these objectives it is recommended that the SPS and its Implementation Plan be reviewed within two years of adoption and updated after the release of every new CSP.

1.4 Structure of the Social Planning Strategy

The SPS has been structured around five key themes. For each theme a detailed analysis has been undertaken of the services and facilities available in the Wollondilly LGA, challenges experienced by the current and potential future community and opportunities. The themes include:

1. Fostering social inclusion and cohesion.
2. Facilitating accessibility and connectivity.
3. Providing diverse and affordable living.
4. Supporting education, lifelong learning and economic wellbeing.
5. Creating healthy, safe and secure communities.

Each theme is based on a 'whole of community perspective' recognising the interconnecting and interrelating nature of social issues and outcomes across the community. However specific target groups have also been identified and discussed where relevant. These target groups include: families with children, young people, older people, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) people, Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands, and people with disability. A summary of the chapters is provided in Table 1.

Given the amount of data reviewed in the preparation of the Wollondilly SPS, the report has been divided into three volumes as depicted in Figure 1. These are:

- *Volume 1 – Implementation Plan* provides a summary of the challenges within each of the five themes and contains the implementation plan.
- *Volume 2 – Strategy* provides the detailed analysis including a review of the services and facilities that operate within the Wollondilly LGA.
- *Volume 3 – Appendices* provides the background and supporting data.



Figure 1 The three volumes of the Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy

Table 1 Overview of themed chapters within the Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy

Chapter theme	Objective based on Green Star Community Framework and World Health Organisation (WHO) <i>Social Determinants of Health</i>	Areas of focus
Fostering social inclusion and cohesion	Providing diverse and inclusive places for all ages, abilities, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds within the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community diversity • Community participation and democracy • Community facilities • Community programs and events • Volunteering opportunities
Facilitating accessibility and connectivity	Providing effective connectivity between transport, communication, social and physical infrastructure systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport use and behaviour • Active transport • Connectivity in Wollondilly
Providing diverse and affordable living	Providing a diversity of dwellings, buildings and facilities that support a diverse community with a range of needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity of dwelling types and sizes • Affordable housing • Housing for different population types • Planning for new developments using the Healthy Urban Development Checklist
Supporting education, lifelong learning and economic wellbeing.	Providing opportunities for the community to access a variety of education and learning systems and creating opportunities for economic prosperity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary education • Secondary education • Tertiary education • Lifelong learning • Economy and employment opportunities
Creating healthy, safe and secure communities	Enabling and promoting healthy and safe communities that support physical activity and social engagement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to health services and facilities • Community safety and safety at home • Recreation and leisure opportunities and participation • Access to healthy and affordable food

2. Approach and methodology

2.1 Approach

The development of the Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy (SPS) has built on work already undertaken by Wollondilly Shire Council. This work includes the research undertaken as part of the *Wollondilly Health Needs Assessment (2014)* (discussed in detail in section 3) and the consultation undertaken as part of the *Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033* (discussed in detail in section 3). It is understood that a review of the Community Strategic Plan will commence in late 2016. The work undertaken in the preparation of the Wollondilly SPS will inform the engagement process and methodology for conducting the review of the Community Strategic Plan.

2.2 Leading best practice frameworks

This SPS has been developed in line with leading practice frameworks for developing socially sustainable, healthy and connected communities. These include the World Health Organisation's (WHO) *Social Determinants of Health* and the Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) *Green Star Communities National Framework*.

2.2.1 World Health Organisation (WHO) Social Determinants of Health

The *Social Determinants of Health* are “the (living) conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, and the systems put in place to deal with illness”. These circumstances are shaped by political, social and economic forces. The social determinants are mostly responsible for health inequities, which are defined as “the unfair and avoidable differences in health status seen within and between countries”.

“Abundant evidence shows that the higher your income or level of education in Australia, the better your health will tend to be. People in the most disadvantaged social groups are also far more likely than those in the higher socioeconomic groups to have long-term physical or mental health problems. They are less able to gain an education or maintain a job to retirement and are more likely to die at a younger age.” (Social Determinants of Health Alliance, 2013).

The research into the social determinants of health confirms that community wellbeing and health is dependent on a range of factors, all of which are linked to how communities and the built environment are planned. Considering the social determinants of health in how the Wollondilly Shire is planned will contribute to the community's long-term health and wellbeing.

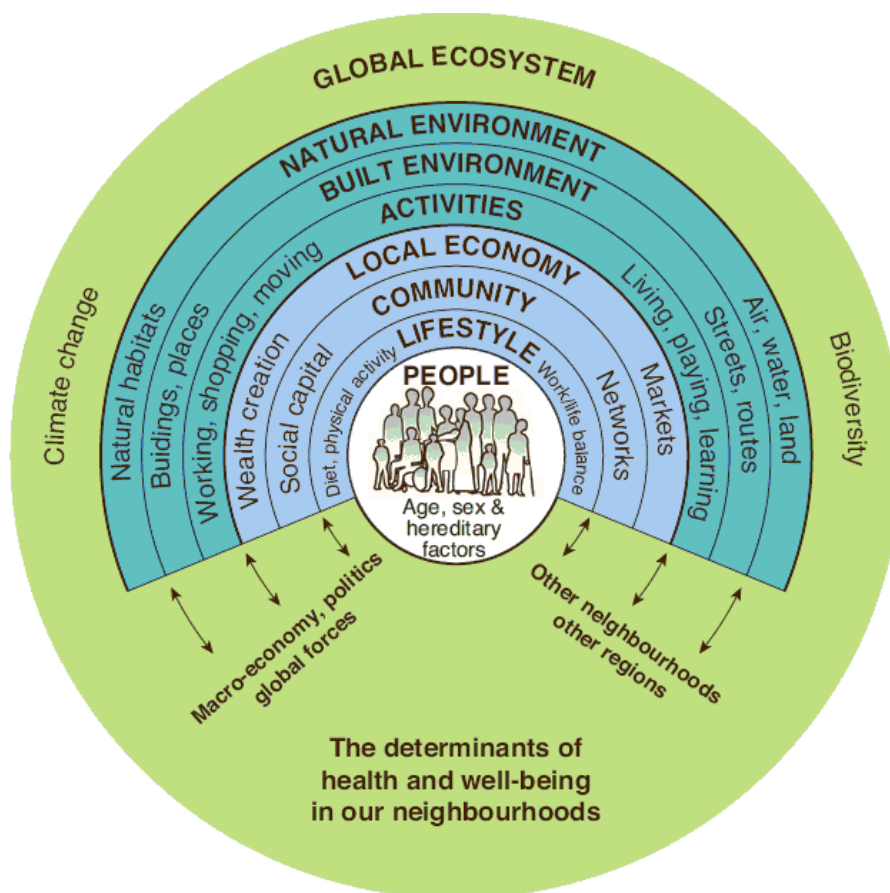


Figure 2 World Health Organisation (WHO) Social Determinants of Health

2.2.2 Green Building Council of Australia - Green Star Communities National Framework

The *Green Star Communities National Framework* was developed to help guide and support the development of sustainable communities. It aims to provide national consistency and common language around the definition of sustainable communities, as well as provide a basis for consistent and ongoing assessment and evaluation of sustainable communities.

The Wollondilly SPS has been developed in line with the Framework to ensure that the planning and management of future change and growth of the Wollondilly Shire is considered under national best practice principles and benchmarks. This would contribute to the Shire's liveability for existing and future communities.

The Framework provides five national principles for consideration when planning for sustainable communities.

- Enhance liveability.
- Create opportunities for economic prosperity.
- Foster environmental responsibility.
- Embrace design excellence.
- Demonstrate visionary leadership and strong governance.

The principles (described in more detail in Volume 3) have been considered in the development of this SPS. The Framework recognises that these principles are not achievable without an integrated and collaborative approach. For Wollondilly communities, all stakeholders would need to work together towards a shared vision and outcome for the Shire.

2.3 Methodology

The development of the SPS has been undertaken in four distinct phases as outlined in Figure 3.

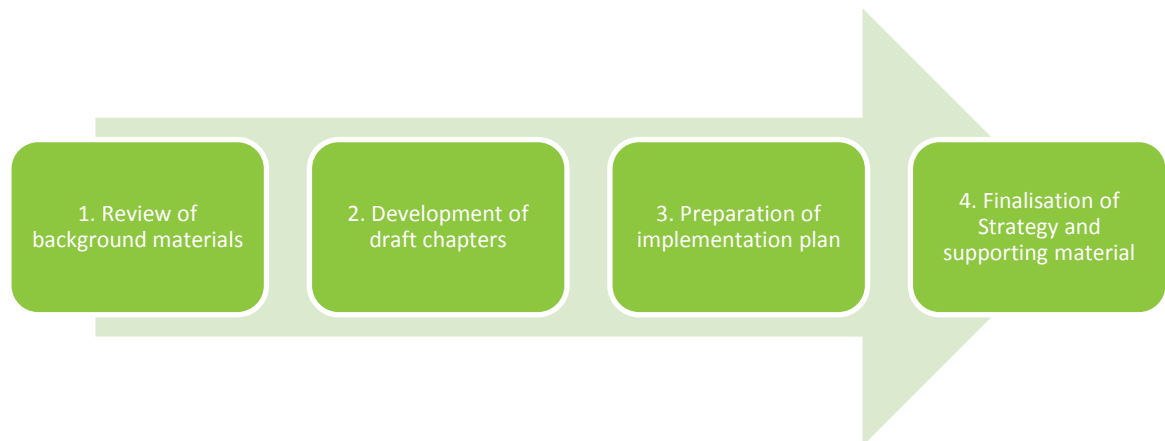


Figure 3 Development of Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy

Phase 1: Review of background materials

Council had already undertaken a substantial amount of background work that informed the development of the SPS. The objective of this phase was to:

- Review all of the work done to date as well as background materials.
- Confirm with Council the proposed table of contents and themes to be explored within the SPS.

Phase 2: Development of the draft chapters

The objective of this phase was to develop the draft chapters that comprise the body of the Draft SPS. A workshop with Council and a representative from the Wollondilly Health Alliance (WHA) assisted in determining the themes that would be discussed within the chapters, and their format. The WHA is discussed in further detail in Section 10.2.

A series of workshops with Council were facilitated to confirm and prioritize the key social issues that should be the focus of the SPS. Through this process, opportunities and challenges were identified for each key theme in the SPS. Council provided further background information to inform the SPS.

Phase 3: Development of the Implementation Plan

The objective of this phase was to confirm and prioritize the actions of the draft Implementation Plan. A workshop was held with Council and key stakeholders to:

- Identify achievable actions that can be implemented by Council and the WHA to address the key social issues.
- Investigate potential future Council resources including services and programs that would support the identified actions.
- Develop key principles for supporting social planning and community development approaches.

Phase 4: Finalisation of strategy and supporting material

Each of the draft chapters were submitted to a Review Team comprising representatives from Council as well as key community stakeholders identified by Council. The feedback received was incorporated into the draft Strategy that was presented to Council prior to finalization.

3. Wollondilly's role within Greater Sydney

The Wollondilly Shire is located on the south western outskirts of Sydney, at the foothills of the Southern Highlands and covering a vast area of 2,560 square kilometres. Wollondilly Shire Council is one of a network of peri-urban councils that define themselves as the interface between urban and rural areas. This area typically comprises a “mix of urban and rural residential areas with productive agricultural lands, biodiversity areas and diverse topographies”.

In Wollondilly, the rural lifestyle and agricultural industry continue to be part of the local economy, community and landscape. Wollondilly is also considered critical to the future resilience of Greater Sydney for its environmental, cultural and economic values and role as an important food bowl. As the Sydney Metropolitan Area (in particular Western Sydney) grows, Wollondilly faces challenges related largely to managing growth while preserving the rural lifestyle and landscapes of the Shire. These challenges, as identified by the Sydney Peri-Urban Network of Councils include:

- Protecting Wollondilly's food security role for Greater Sydney.
- Impact from significant growth pressures on accommodation options in the Shire.
- Maintaining Wollondilly's environmental values including, as “green lungs” replenishing Sydney's air quality, minimising urban heat island effects, and function as Sydney's water catchment.
- Maintaining Wollondilly as a recreation and tourism resource contributing to the health and psychological wellbeing of Sydney's residents.
- Protecting Wollondilly's cultural significance, including its rich European and Aboriginal heritage.
- Recognising Wollondilly's economic role for Greater Sydney (e.g. agriculture, tourism and mining industries).

3.1 Policy context

A review of the NSW Government and Council policies was undertaken to inform the development of this SPS. The purpose of the review was to understand the social context and strategies relevant to the planning of Wollondilly's communities. Table 2 below lists the policies that have been reviewed. Volume 3 provides the comprehensive policy review relevant to each key theme of the SPS.

Table 2 NSW Government policies relevant to this Social Planning Strategy

NSW Government policies	Council policies
NSW Making It Happen (2015)	Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033 (2013)
A Plan for Growing Sydney (2014)	Wollondilly Health Needs Assessment (2014)
Greater Macarthur Land Release Investigation: Preliminary Strategy & Action Plan (2015)	Wollondilly Growth Management Strategy (2011)
Western Sydney Infrastructure Plan (2015)	Economic Development Strategy (2015)
NSW Long Term Transport Masterplan (2012)	MACROC South West Rail Link Extension Submission
2014 State Infrastructure Strategy Update	Ageing Strategy (2011)
State Environmental Planning Policy – Affordable Rental Housing 2009 (AHSEPP)	Youth Area Action Plan 2010
State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004	Draft Wollondilly Disability Action Plan 2012
Apartment Design Guide (2015)	Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy (2014)
National Rental Affordability Scheme (2008) (NRAS)	Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan 2009-2012
Healthy Urban Development Checklist (2009)	Wollondilly Tourism Business Plan 2002-2011
NSW State Health Plan (2014)	Draft Community Engagement Policy (2016)
Planning New Schools, School Safety and Urban Planning Advisory Guidelines (2015)	
NSW Kids and Families- Healthy+Safe+Well: A strategic health plan for children, young people and families 2014-24 (2014)	
Urban Land Institute Healthy Places Toolkit (2015)	
Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)	
Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) (2014)	
NSW Disability Inclusion Plan (2015)	
National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)	
Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)	
NSW Government Plan for Aboriginal affairs: education, employment & accountability (2013)	
Multicultural Planning Framework (Unknown)	
NSW Volunteering Strategy (2012)	
Social Impact Investment Policy (2015)	
What's Up West – a report on young people in Western Sydney (2013)	

3.2 Greater Macarthur Land Release Investigation: Preliminary Strategy & Action Plan (2015)

In September 2015, the NSW Government announced the Greater Macarthur Land Release Investigation (NSW DPE 2015). The NSW Government is currently working with Campbelltown and Wollondilly Councils to investigate the possibility of releasing land in the Greater Macarthur area for new homes and jobs to meet projected population growth to 2036, in line with *A Plan for Growing Sydney*.

This strategy identifies Greater Macarthur as suitable for urban development and proposes the infrastructure required to support growth and connections to jobs and services in other parts of Metropolitan Sydney. Figure 4 shows the preliminary plan for Greater Macarthur by 2036. It proposes a new town located in West Wilton, with 16,600 new dwellings four other villages centres are also proposed at West Wilton, Maldon, Bingara Gorge and Wilton Village. Wilton's future land uses will include a major centre, residential, commercial and industrial uses. Wilton is expected to be a main employment contributor to Greater Macarthur and cater for Wollondilly's growing population to 2036.

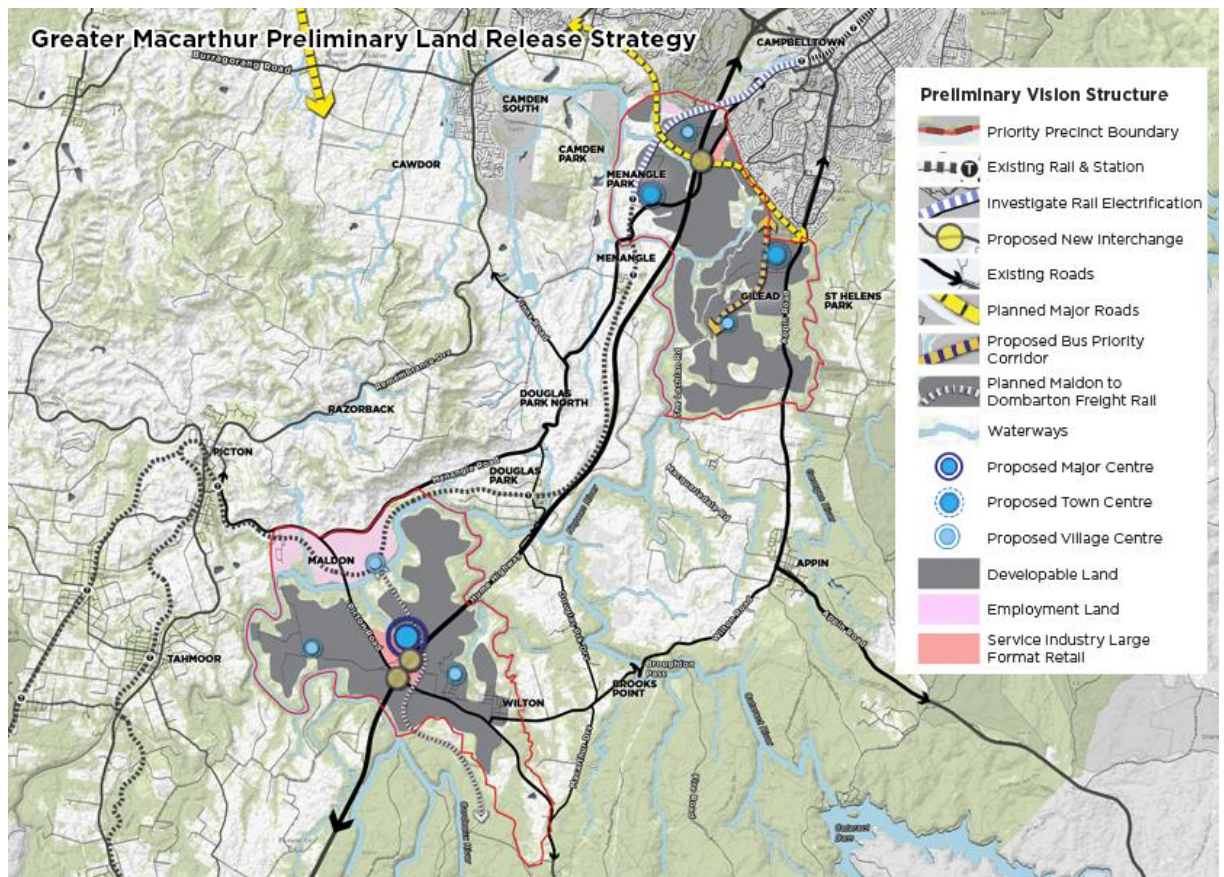


Figure 4 Greater Macarthur Preliminary Land Release plan to 2036

The proposed growth of Wilton Junction will deliver new homes, jobs, infrastructure and services that will increase access and choice for Wollondilly residents to health, education, emergency services and district and regional open space. It will also improve the connections between Wollondilly and opportunities in other parts of Metropolitan Sydney. Increased access can help link residents to a range of opportunities, which can improve health and wellbeing outcomes. Social infrastructure required to service the anticipated population includes:

- Seven primary schools.
- Two high schools.
- One specialty school (i.e. agriculture).
- Ambulance hub.
- Police station.
- Integrated health facility.
- Cultural facility.
- Regional park.
- District park.

The strategy states that areas outside the planned urban centres (i.e. Menangle Park, Mount Gilead and Wilton), such as Appin Village, will remain rural in nature to 2036, with small scale development that can be supported by the existing infrastructure and transport network. Beyond 2036 there are opportunities to provide another 33,000 homes and jobs, supported by the construction of the Outer Sydney Orbital, upgraded Hume Highway interchange and the Maldon-Dombarton freight rail line.

4. The current and future Wollondilly Community

This chapter provides a snapshot of the current and projected future Wollondilly community. The future community is heavily influenced by the growth of Sydney and also the recently announced Greater Macarthur Growth Area. In addition to analysing the population, this chapter defines the target populations that will benefit most from the implementation of the SPS.

4.1 Wollondilly's communities

In 2014, Wollondilly's estimated population was 47,084 (.id, 2014). Wollondilly's population is dispersed with population density of 0.17 persons per hectare (.id, 2011). This density is low when compared to 3.55 persons per hectare within the Greater Sydney Region. The majority of residents live in or near the three largest centres of Picton, Tahmoor and Thirlmere.

From 2006 to 2011, the population grew from 40,344 to 43,259 (an additional 2,915 persons or 7.2% increase) which was a slightly higher growth rate than that experienced in the Greater Sydney Region (6.6%).

In developing the Wollondilly SPS the needs of specific population groups have been considered. The following list of target groups has been identified because of their varied social infrastructure and service requirements. The target groups comprise:

- Children and families.
- Young people.
- Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands.
- Culturally and linguistically diverse community (CALD).
- People with disability.
- Older people.

4.1.1 Children and families

The Shire's rural living *lifestyle* appeals to *many* families due to the large open spaces, family-oriented housing and typically *larger* properties. There are also opportunities for families to live on 'acreage' where they can accommodate horses and other livestock. The area also offers relatively more affordable housing compared to adjacent areas although this affordability is also coupled with limited access to public transport services and facilities. In 2011, 82.2% of Wollondilly households were families (compared to 73.1% in Greater Sydney).

Both Wollondilly and Greater Sydney had a median age of 36 years. As depicted in Figure 5, 35 to 49 year olds made up the largest proportion (22%) of Wollondilly's population, followed by 50 to 59 year olds (14%). This was compared to 22% and 12% in Greater Sydney. The percentage of people aged over 60 years (17%) was slightly lower than Greater Sydney (18%).

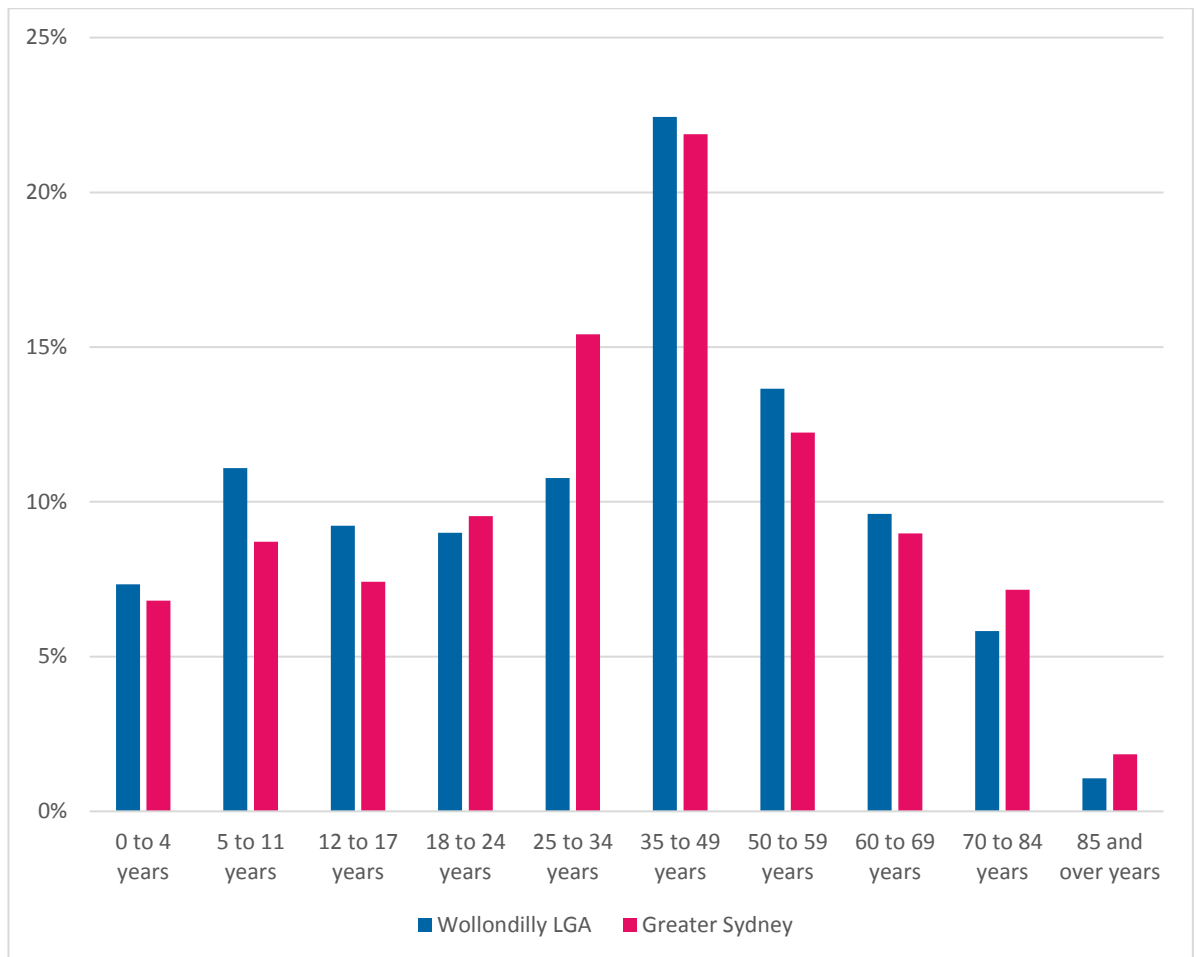


Figure 5 Age profile of Wollondilly LGA compared to Greater Sydney

Children under 18 years made up a larger proportion (28% compared to 23% in Greater Sydney). Most children were aged 5 to 11 years (11% compared to 9%), followed by 12 to 17 year olds (9% compared to 7%).

Households with children require different services and facilities than other household types. As children and families age, their social and health needs also change. The family structures within Wollondilly LGA are similar to that of Greater Sydney as depicted in Figure 6. Over half of total families in Wollondilly were couples with children (53%), while 14% were one parent families. These were similar to Greater Sydney (49% and 16% respectively).

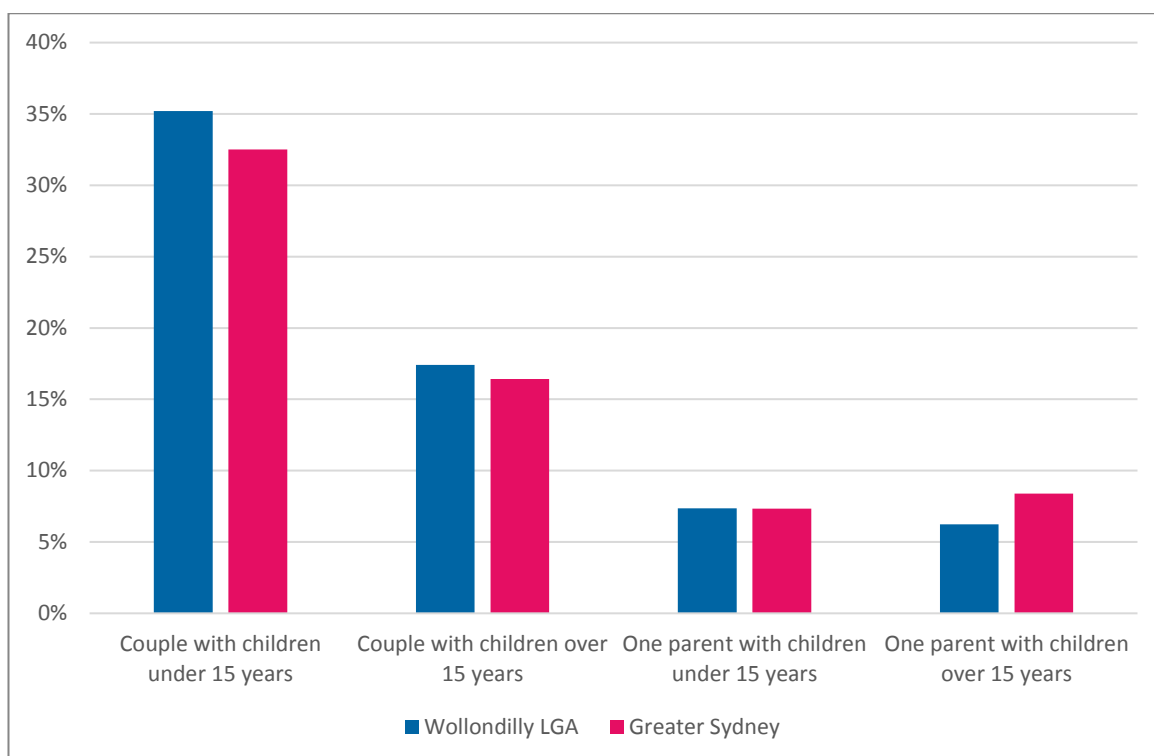


Figure 6 Family characteristics of Wollondilly LGA compared to Greater Sydney

Significant travel distances, particularly for working parents, place increased demand for childcare services particularly long day care and out of school hours care. Similarly, low income families, families living on benefits and families with children with a disability also need to be supported to ensure equal access for their children to programs, services and activities, including childcare.

4.1.2 Young people

The term 'young people' is generally used when referring to people aged 12 to 24 years. Within this age range there are two main groups being high school students (12 to 17 years), and tertiary students and independents (18 to 24 years). High school students made up 9% of Wollondilly's population, while tertiary students and independents made up 9%.

Overall, there was a smaller percentage of high school-aged people attending a secondary school (77% compared to 81% compared to Greater Sydney) and a slightly higher percentage attending TAFE (3% compared to 2%). This was also seen among 18 to 24 year olds, with 14% attending TAFE (compared to 10% in Greater Sydney). 4% of high school-aged people were not attending any educational institution (compared to 3% in Greater Sydney). This was higher among 18 to 24 year olds (60% compared to 44%) and may be due to the long distances needed to access educational facilities. A detailed discussion regarding education within the Wollondilly Shire is presented in Chapter 9.

4.1.3 Older people

The term 'older people' is generally used when referring to people over the age of 65 years. Within this age range, Wollondilly Shire Council's community profile (.id, 2016) categorises three main service age groups:

- Empty nesters and retirees (60 to 69 years).
- Seniors (70 to 84 years).
- Elderly (85 years or over).

In Wollondilly, 10.7% of residents are aged 65 years or older (compared to 12.8% in Greater Sydney). There were lower proportions of seniors (5.8%) and elderly residents (1.1%) compared to Greater Sydney (7.2% and 1.8% respectively) and a slightly higher proportion of empty nesters and retirees (9.6% compared to 9%).

4.1.4 Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands

Aboriginal and People from the Torres Strait Islands made up 2.4% or 1,039 people of Wollondilly's population. This was double the percentage recorded for Greater Sydney (1.2%). This also increased since 2006 (736 people). Women made up the larger portion of the Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islander population at 51.8% (538 people), with men making up 48.2% (501 people).

Compared to Greater Sydney, there was a significantly higher proportion of children aged under 18 years (43.8% compared to 27.6%) and lower proportion of people aged over 65 years (1.9% compared to 10.8%). Overall, 36% of Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands had a tertiary qualification, compared to 41.3% for the total Wollondilly population. The Year 12 completion rate for the Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands population in Wollondilly was 27.3%, compared to 35% in the overall Wollondilly population.

4.1.5 Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community

Wollondilly residents are predominantly Australian born and English speaking. 5.2% of residents were born in a non-English speaking country and 5.1% spoke a language other than English at home (compared to 26.3% and 32.5% in the Greater Sydney Region respectively).

4.1.6 People with disability

3.8% of the population in Wollondilly required assistance with one or more of the core everyday activities of self-care, mobility and communication due to disability (compared to 4.4% in Greater Sydney).

4.2 Future population

Population projections prepared by profile.id in 2014 estimate that Wollondilly's population will increase to 56,768 persons by 2031. These estimates do not include the population anticipated for the Greater Macarthur Land Release that could accommodate an additional 46,978 residents by 2036². However, this additional land release area is spread across the LGAs of Wollondilly and Campbelltown. It is anticipated that as plans for Greater Macarthur are confirmed that the population projections will be updated.

The population forecast from profile id. illustrated in Figure 7 shows that the age profile is expected to remain fairly consistent, with the largest growth in the 70 to 84 years age group (3% increase from 2011 to 2031), as above the age projections have not included population forecasts from the Greater Macarthur Land Release.

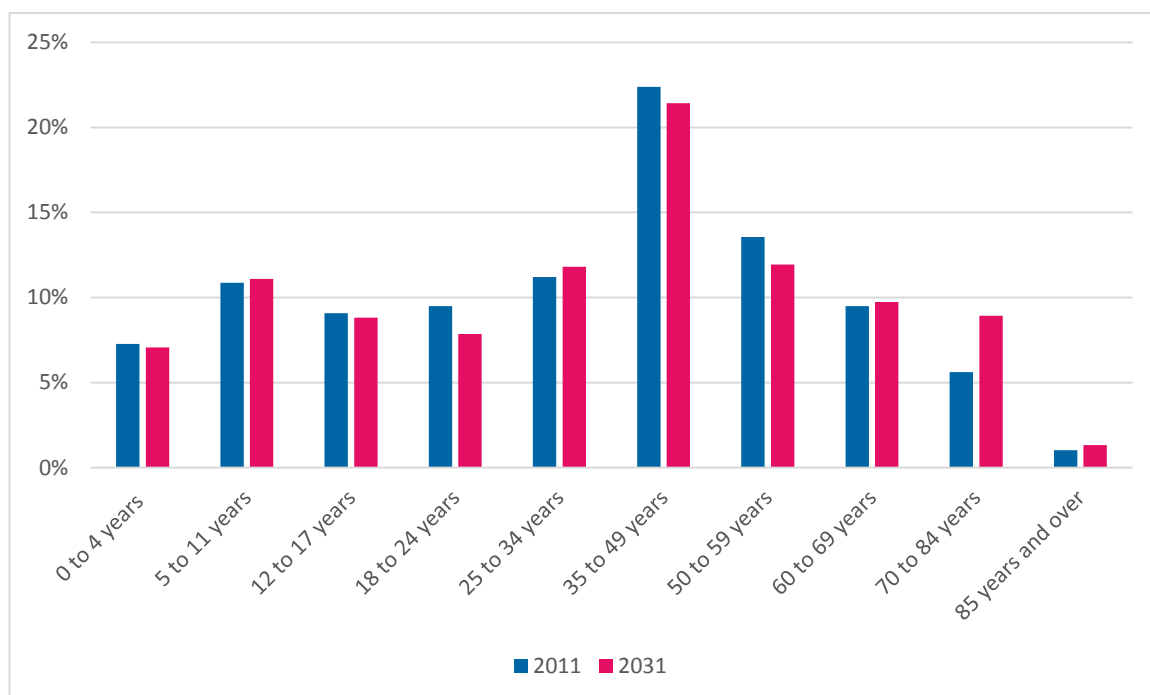


Figure 7 Forecast age profile of Wollondilly LGA

² This was based on an average household size of 2.83 persons per dwelling, from Population and household forecasts, 2011 to 2031, prepared by .id.

5. Fostering social inclusion and cohesion and community participation

Aim: To provide diverse and inclusive places for all ages, abilities, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds within the community

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2009), social inclusion is a “process by which efforts are made to ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of their background, so that they can achieve their full potential in life. It is a multi-dimensional process aimed at creating conditions which enable full and active participation of every member of the society in all aspects of life, including civic, social, economic, and political activities, as well as participation in decision-making processes”.

Social exclusion has a major impact on health. According to the *Social Determinants of Health*, those that are socially excluded are often prevented from gaining access to services and participating in society. People who have less social and emotional support from others are more likely to experience isolation, depression, an increased risk of poor health outcomes and less wellbeing. Good social and community relationships and support help give people the emotional and practical support they need, having a positive impact on health.

Providing diverse and inclusive places in Wollondilly for all ages, abilities, cultures and socio-economic backgrounds is therefore important to foster social inclusion, cohesion and community participation. According to the *Green Star Communities National Framework* engaging with stakeholders and creating opportunities for a diversity of uses and activities contributes to sustainable communities.

5.1 Community diversity

Wollondilly's community diversity can be defined in many ways including ancestry, background and culture, religion, age, and gender.

5.1.1 Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands

The earliest known inhabitants of the Wollondilly area were the Gundangurra Tribe, who gave the area its name. In 2011, 2.4% or 1,039 Wollondilly residents identified as Aboriginal people or people from the Torres Strait Islands.

Wollondilly's wealth of Aboriginal heritage contributes significantly to the area's cultural significance and sense of place. Aboriginal people are the original owners of the land and it is important that this special position is recognised and incorporated into community activities and services. This enables the wider community to pay respect to Aboriginal people and share in Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands can face barriers to social inclusion due to intergenerational disadvantage. Many cultural and historical factors need to be acknowledged by anyone who works closely with Aboriginal people.

Recognition and respect of cultural heritage, and support for Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands, can help foster a more socially inclusive Wollondilly community.

5.1.2 Culturally and linguistically diverse communities

Wollondilly residents are predominantly Australian-born and English-speaking. The majority of residents were born in Australia (83.1%), 7.2% were born in main English-speaking countries, and 5.2% were born in non- English-speaking countries. The top non- English-speaking countries of birth in 2011 were Italy, Germany, Malta, Netherlands and Croatia.

The majority of Wollondilly residents (91.2%) spoke English only. The top languages spoken at home other than English differ slightly from the countries of birth, although languages include Italian (0.8%), Maltese (0.4%), German (0.3%) and Croatian (0.3%), other languages spoken include Arabic (0.5%), and Greek (0.3%).

Although Wollondilly residents were predominantly English-speaking and Australian-born, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities contribute to the rich cultural fabric of Wollondilly. These communities share knowledge from their cultures and experience to educate and raise community awareness.

Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands Recognition of cultural diversity through celebrations, targeted programs and engagement in decision-making opportunities with CALD communities can help build understanding, respect and relationships between cultures towards a socially inclusive community.

CALD people can face significant barriers to social inclusion and need support in connecting with the community. Barriers may include language, communication and cultural differences, each of which can affect how people access resources and services and may lead to social isolation. Limited access to resources means that they may not be able to fully participate in the community, access services in the area, link with social networks and support or have a say in decision-making processes.

5.1.3 Religious groups

A socially inclusive community respects the diverse beliefs of its community members. In Wollondilly, most residents nominated a religion (77.9%) while 15.4% said they had no religion, which is similar to the average for Greater Sydney (74.1% and 17.6% respectively). The majority of those who identified as religious are Christian (76.7%). 1.2% of residents had a non-Christian religion, including Buddhism (0.5%) and Islam (0.3%). This was lower than the Greater Sydney average (13.2%). Recognising different religious beliefs can help promote community understanding and break down assumptions.

5.1.4 Children and young people

Community diversity also involves catering to each age group within the community. Children and young people are particularly impacted by long travel distances because they are reliant on parents and carers to transport them to various activities. Consultation indicates there are not enough locally based youth services within Wollondilly and this is discussed further in section 5.3.

All young people need to feel safe, accepted and supported. Growing up in isolated areas can exacerbate some young people's feelings of being alone, with access to support services often limited. LGBTQI youth who 'come out' at school are particularly susceptible to bullying and feelings of isolation. Fostering social inclusion among young people includes the diversity existing within this group.

Challenges

The challenges for building and maintaining community diversity in Wollondilly include:

- Capturing and retaining unique features/valued assets of Wollondilly as it grows.
- Low levels of provision of locally based youth services.
- Lack of locally based services and programs that cater to CALD and Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands residents.
- Recognition and respect of cultural heritage, and support for Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands.

5.2 Community participation and democracy

Community engagement provides people with the opportunity to actively participate in decision-making processes. Community engagement can involve formal or informal dialogues between Council, communities and residents on a range of policy, program and service issues in the local area. Meaningful engagement promotes communication, community understanding and trust among individuals and with organisations and decision-makers. It also allows Council to gain a better understanding of local needs and identify issues which may not otherwise have been considered. Council has a Community Engagement Framework, including a Community Engagement Policy which guides engagement activities across the organisation. This document is currently under review and consultation on a revised framework will be undertaken.

Council's community engagement involves three elements:

- **Information** - to provide the community and key stakeholders with balanced and objective information.
- **Consultation** - to obtain feedback from the community and key stakeholders on analysis and alternatives to inform a decision.
- **Participation** - decision making in some instances be shared with the community and stakeholders.

The following sections discuss the ways in which Council engages with the local community on issues that may affect them.

5.2.1 Providing information to the community

Council can play a vital role in facilitating connections among residents and between residents and Council.

Council launched a new website in December 2015. The website includes a media centre, a simplified structure, social media integration and mobile compatible design to support greater accessibility and customer interaction. The new website provides information about the services offered by Council as well as alerts, news, events and emergency information. The website includes an online engagement portal called *Engage.Wollondilly*. This website is a 'one stop shop' for many projects for which Council is inviting the community to provide feedback.

Council's website currently received approximately 1,900 hits per day. 55% of viewers are return visitors. A very small percentage of viewers browsed the website in a language other than English (1.4%).

Council uses social media to engage with the community using its Facebook page and Twitter account. The Facebook page in October 2016, had 6,013 followers, and is used to provide the community with information about events in Wollondilly including community events, road work

and sportsground closures etc. The community can provide comments on Council's posts in accordance with Council's social media guidelines.

Council's Twitter feed as at October 2016 had 1,143 followers. Council tweets regularly on events in the LGA and links to both Council's website and Facebook page. Various Council services also engage with the public through social media, with the Dilly Wanderer and the Library each having their own Facebook pages and Twitter feeds.

Council also provides information to the community through:

- The 2MCR 100.3 Community FM Radio channel. Council's Communications Officer speaks on the radio for an hour on the last Wednesday of the month from 3pm-4pm. They talk about current and upcoming events in Council and the broader community.
- Local newspapers; The District Reporter, The Macarthur Chronicle and The Wollondilly Advertiser.
- Mobile library, connecting community members with information by providing the use of laptops/tables, free wifi internet access, printing and photocopying. The mobile library is discussed further in Section 6.3.2.
- The Dilly Wanderer, a mobile community information and development service, is discussed further in Section 6.3.2.

5.2.2 Committees and advisory groups within Council

Council has a range of committees and advisory groups, which promote community participation. Most groups recruit volunteers from the local area and some also include Council staff. These groups meet throughout the year to raise concerns with Council or provide ideas and suggestions, which may be used by Council to inform decisions. Council also provides information to the committees and advisory groups in order to distribute information or consult with the wider community. Committees and advisory groups (which include community involvement opportunities) include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australia Day Committee.• Community Management Committees.• Community Leisure Centre Users Group.• Companion Animals Reference Committee.• Disability Access Advisory Committee.• Economic Development Advisory Group.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment and Heritage Committee• Road Safety Group.• Rural Industry Liaison Committee.• Minerals & Energy Resources Committee• Transport Advisory Committee.• Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).
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While these committees provide a valuable avenue for community members to have direct input into Council's planning and programs, attendance is sometimes low and participants are often not representative of the broader community.

Volume 3 provides details on the role of the above committees and advisory groups, as well as participation numbers where available.

5.2.3 Public and community forums

Council holds a monthly Community Forum (one week prior to the ordinary Council meeting to engage the wider community on an informal face-to-face basis). Each month, the forum profiles a key project or initiative or invites guest speakers on a range of topics. Topics have included the Wollondilly Health Alliance (WHA), community safety, planning, economy, governance and environment. This forum gives residents the opportunity to raise or discuss matters and suggestions, which Council can consider when making decisions. The forums are generally well attended, with as many up to 100 people at a meeting (although this is largely dependent on the level of community interest in the agenda items for that month).

The monthly Council Meetings are open to the public, except when confidential issues such as legal, commercial or staffing matters are discussed. Community attendance is not recorded for these meetings.

Council runs a number of forums targeted at different population groups to gain information and understand issues within the broader community. The forums provide information to the different target groups about current projects, programs and initiatives.

The following forums are run quarterly:

- Seniors Forum for people aged 65 years and over.
- Disability Forum.
- Aboriginal Forum.
- Arts and Culture Forum.

Attendance at the forums is variable and dependant on the topic for discussion. Generally, these forums attract 25-35 participants.

5.2.4 Broad community engagement

Council regularly consults with the community to inform its plans, strategies and community needs assessments. Council's online community engagement portal called *Engage. Wollondilly* also provides the community with the opportunity to comment on Council projects. Recent Council projects that were informed through community participation include:

- Wollondilly Health Needs Assessment (2014) - This study involved a consultation process with residents and service providers to explore community perceptions and experiences of the health care system in Wollondilly.
- Special Rate Variation (2014) - A large scale engagement process took place to discuss the need for a special rate variation during late 2014. This process included a broad media campaign, workshops, information sessions, kiosks and a telephone survey.
- Community Strategic Plan 2033 - This plan was published in 2010 with a subsequent revision in 2013 following updated information from community workshops in 2012.

Challenges

The challenges for community participation and democracy in Wollondilly include:

- Maintaining and increasing participation levels in Council's community engagement activities.
- The dispersed nature of the villages and communities across the Wollondilly LGA.
- Achieving diverse representation of participants in Council engagement activities.
- Lack of opportunity to be involved in community building initiatives.

5.3 Community facilities

Community facilities support the physical, social, cultural intellectual development and wellbeing of the community. They include libraries, community centres and cultural facilities that facilitate the delivery of social services and activities. Community facilities can be a focal point within a community and bring people together to meet, interact and participate in their community.

Providing diverse and inclusive community facilities in Wollondilly, including mixed-use facilities, can help create a sense of place. According to the *Wollondilly Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy* (Clouston Associates, 2014) there are 19 Council-owned community facilities within Wollondilly which provide space for activities or services. These are listed in Volume 3.

Four community facilities are located in Picton, which are considered district level facilities. These are Picton Library, The Old Post Office, Wollondilly Shire Hall and Picton School of Arts. Picton Library is well-used by the community, with programs and services targeted to children, adults and seniors. The library has recently been upgraded and was reopened in August 2016. It is open until 5 pm on weekdays (6 pm Thursday) and until noon on Saturdays catering to parents and children to attend after work and school. The Old Post Office has been temporarily closed due to damage from storms in July 2016. The Tourism Office that would usually operate from The Old Post Office is currently operating from Council Administration Centre (June 2016).

Providing more safe, accessible and inclusive places for young people is necessary for their social development. Local youth services are currently only based at Tahmoor Community Centre and Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre. Church youth groups also provide places for young people to participate in safe and healthy activities. Youth groups are available at churches including The Oaks Anglican Parish (Catch Plus and The Catch), Wollondilly Presbyterian Church Tahmoor, Thirlmere Anglican Church, Bargo Anglican Church, St Stephen's Anglican Church, C3 Church Wollondilly Camden and HisHouse Church. Most youth groups are run weekly.

Childcare services also provide important places for social interaction for both children and their parents or carers. Childcare services include long day care and preschools. Within Wollondilly, there are 26 childcare facilities, which includes long day care, preschool, Family Day Care (FDC) and Outside of School Care (OOSH). Childcare services are discussed in more detail in section 8.1.1.

Based on the *Wollondilly Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy* (Clouston Associates, 2014), a number of community facilities are old or in poor condition. Community facilities in Warragamba, The Oaks, Mount Hunter and Oakdale are all older facilities and often serve several local communities around them. The Strategy noted that there is a lack of facilities in Thirlmere since the closure of the Thirlmere Community Hall. Community facilities, particularly buildings and amenities, are also duplicated across the Shire. Many facilities have single users, frequently with declining usage patterns. Providing adequate, appealing and mixed-use community facilities can help improve usage and meet diverse community needs.

There are limited cultural facilities available within the Shire. The *Wollondilly Cultural Plan (2010)* identified the limited availability of facilities within the Shire. It recommended that additional indoor venues and locations should be developed within the Shire for cultural activities. The Plan also recommended the employment of a Community Project Officer – Arts/Cultural Development to drive and implement the Cultural Plan.

Wollondilly's newer facilities are all located in the south and include four facilities co-located with sportsgrounds (Wilton and Douglas Park Community Centres and Bargo and Appin Community Halls). Wollondilly also has 101 parks and open spaces, which are common places where families and young children interact. Parks and open space allow for a diverse range of active and passive activities and many offer safe and appealing places for different groups.

Based on short term and long term population projections for Wollondilly (2021 to 2036), the Strategy proposed the following high level facilities:

- New District Level community facilities/hub in Picton and Wilton.
- Neighbourhood level community facilities in Warragamba, The Oaks, Thirlmere, Tahmoor and Wilton (2 facilities).
- Local level community facilities in Tahmoor, Bargo, Wilton, Appin, Douglas Park and Camden Park/Menangle.

The proposed development of Wilton will also present opportunities for new community facilities. With a potential population of over 45,000 people, there would be a need for new district level facilities, such as libraries, community centres, sports fields, as well as new local facilities including childcare, primary schools, local parks and others. New facilities would be vital to creating a sense of place and creating connections in these new communities, as well as increasing provision for existing communities in Wollondilly.

Challenges

The challenges for providing diverse and inclusive community facilities in Wollondilly include:

- Limited access to community facilities.
- Many community facilities across the Shire are dated and in poor condition.
- New facilities are difficult to provide due to Wollondilly's dispersed population.
- Limited availability of facilities that can accommodate cultural activities.

5.4 Community programs and events

Council runs community events throughout the year which bring people of diverse backgrounds together. These events provide opportunities for people to meet and interact within an informal setting. These informal connections and networks help to build a sense of community. Council has recently undertaken an Events Review and the outcomes of this review will determine the direction of future events in the Shire.

A number of annual events for the general population include Australia Day, Wollondilly IlluminARTE Festival, Garden Competition, Christmas Lights Competition and the Mayors Charity Day. A complete list of events and estimated attendance numbers in 2015 is provided in Volume 3. Most events are popular within the community in particular Australia Day (over 5,000 visitors), Wollondilly IlluminARTE Festival (20,000 visitors) and the Councillors Volunteer Community Christmas Function (500 attendees).. These events rely heavily on time contributions of residents and businesses.

Council also runs events catered to specific population groups. These include Youth Week, Local Government Schools Week and Wollondilly Education Training and Employment Expo (young people), International Day for People with Disability, and Seniors Week Expo. Some events, such as Youth Week and the Training and Employment Expo, have struggled to gain enough attendance as residents prefer to attend larger events in neighbouring areas. As a result, the Training and Employment Expo also has difficulties securing businesses and organisations to participate in this event. This continues to impact on the viability of some community events in Wollondilly.

Although Wollondilly residents are predominantly English-speaking and Australian-born, smaller social groups such as CALD and Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands residents contribute to the rich cultural fabric of Wollondilly. The Information Expo for NAIDOC Week celebrates Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands culture amongst the broader community. There are currently no events specifically catered to CALD residents, which may be a barrier to social inclusion.

Challenges

The challenges for delivering community programs and events in Wollondilly include:

- Low attendance levels at some community events and activities.
- Currently no events to recognise and celebrate minority groups such as CALD communities.

5.5 Community organisations and volunteering

Community organisations are generally not-for-profit organisations, where people come together to work towards a common cause. They may raise money and recruit volunteers to provide community projects, events and support for the benefit of the community. Council supports a number of local and regional community organisations and community-based events through the provision of funding, facilities, access to public and open spaces, advice and guidance. These organisations organise events which promote a range of areas such as health, education, culture, arts and tourism within Wollondilly. Community organisations currently operating in Wollondilly are listed in Volume 3.

Volunteering is a way for residents to connect and participate in community life. Volunteering helps deliver important services to the community which would otherwise not be provided or would be more expensive and less accessible to the community. It allows both volunteers and community members to interact and establish social networks, reducing isolation.

Volunteering can indicate the cohesiveness of a community and level of willingness of residents to contribute to their community. In Wollondilly, volunteering among residents for an organisation or group was slightly higher at 16.6% compared to the Greater Sydney average at 15.1%. Residents are able to volunteer in a number of opportunities with local organisations or groups. Volume 3 provides a list of volunteering opportunities.

Local services in Wollondilly that rely on the assistance of volunteers to deliver their services report that retention of volunteers is becoming more difficult due to the ageing of volunteers generally and the social change where younger people and a greater number of working parents are unable to donate their time.

Challenges

- Levels of volunteering in Wollondilly have decreased over time.

5.6 Summary of challenges

Wollondilly currently provides many opportunities for community interaction and participation through community events, engagement activities and volunteering roles within Council and community organisations. Volunteering is popular among Wollondilly residents generally, however some Council committees and community events struggle to gain adequate attendance. A key challenge for the Wollondilly community is improving and maintaining participation levels in the long term and across generations, as well as ensuring that smaller social groups, such as CALD and Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands residents, can participate.

There are various factors contributing to decreasing participation levels. Generally, it is assumed that residents are time-poor because of long travel distances/times to school and work. There is the potential that this is impacting on the time available for community participation, although more research is required to assess if this is the case. Children and young people, as well as other members of the community who cannot drive or do not have access to a car, are particularly impacted because they are reliant on parents and relatives to take them to community activities. Limited public transport options also increase the reliance on others for travel to activities. Decreased participation levels could be due to an increased use of online and virtual technology and this could be explored further.

Many community facilities in Wollondilly are dated and in poor condition. They are often used by single users and have declining usage patterns. A number of towns and villages do not have any community facilities, so residents are required to travel out of their local area to access their closest facility, which is often in poor condition. For young people there are not enough locally based youth services within the LGA. The lack of services and the distances across Wollondilly makes engagement with these diverse groups challenging. A lack of adequate facilities and funding to improve existing facilities makes it difficult to sustain these.

Compared to neighbouring LGAs of Camden and Campbelltown, attendance levels at community events in Wollondilly are relatively low as a result of its lower population coupled with the distances between places and time constraints faced by residents. It is not known if residents would prefer to attend larger events in neighbouring areas, or the implications this would have on the viability of current community events in Wollondilly.

The challenges impact on different population groups in different ways. Table 3 Impact of challenges on target population groups provides a summary of the impact that lack of opportunities for social inclusion, cohesion and community participation can have on each of the target population groups.

Table 3 Impact of challenges on target population groups

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
Children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School children are unable to participate in the community due to long travel times and less time for leisure. Community participation is important to their social development and wellbeing.• Work or family commitments and long travel times could prevent parents from being able to devote more time to participating in the community. This affects the ability of children to also access opportunities for community participation.• Picton Library is required to operate longer hours to cater for long commuting times of families and children. The library has limited staffing to extend the hours further.

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing volunteering by the general community has implications on the access of this group to community services (e.g. Dilly Wanderer, Community Links).
Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people are unable to participate in the community due to long travel times and less time for leisure and a lack of locally based youth services. Community participation is important to their social development and wellbeing. Increased risk of anti-social behaviour due to limited ability to access opportunities for participation. A lack of adequate, appealing and inclusive community facilities catered to young people, including those not at risk. Decreasing volunteering by the general community has implications on the access of this group to community services (e.g. Community Links).
Older people and People with disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreasing volunteering by the general community has implications on the access of this group to community services (e.g. South West Community Transport, Wollondilly Community Bus, Community Links).
Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited opportunities for community participation, especially for young Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands.
Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language, communication and cultural differences may affect the opportunities for CALD people to participate in the community. This may lead to social isolation. Limited community activities, services, programs and engagement with CALD people, which affects their ability to fully participate in the community.

6. Facilitating accessibility and connectivity

Aim: Provide effective connectivity between transport, communication, social and physical infrastructure systems

The ability to access services and connect to others across the Wollondilly community is vital to ensuring quality of life. Providing accessibility involves ensuring that local residents are able to access the services and facilities that are required to live, work and play either within or outside their LGA.

According to the *Social Determinants of Health*, "healthy transport means less driving and more walking and cycling, backed up by better public transport". Limited transport options in the Shire can impact a person's ability to participate in daily activities, whether these are work, social, recreation or education-related. This in turn can impact on physical or mental health and wellbeing.

The overall objective of this SPS is to provide effective connectivity between transport, communication, social and physical infrastructure systems, and employment opportunities. Overall accessibility and connectivity can be improved by providing jobs, facilities and services locally. As a geographically large LGA with a dispersed population, this is a key challenge for Wollondilly, however potential future population growth (i.e. Greater Macarthur) provides opportunities for improved infrastructure and service provision, in turn leading to improved accessibility and connectivity. It must be acknowledged that the rural lifestyle valued by Wollondilly's residents contributes to some of the issues associated with poor accessibility and connectivity.

Recognising the different elements of access and connectivity, this chapter focuses primarily on physical accessibility and connectivity, particularly in terms of transport systems, and communication such as online and virtual connections. Social connectivity is explored further in Chapter 5.

6.1 Transport use and behaviour

A key challenge for Wollondilly is the dispersed population across 16 separate towns and villages and low population which is not sufficient to support major public transport infrastructure. The following sections discuss existing vehicle, public transport and active transport use in Wollondilly.

6.1.1 Vehicle usage

There is a high level of car ownership across all households within Wollondilly, with 72% of households owning two or more cars in comparison to 47% for Greater Sydney, as depicted in Figure 8. Only 3.4% of households do not own a car compared to 12.5% for Greater Sydney.

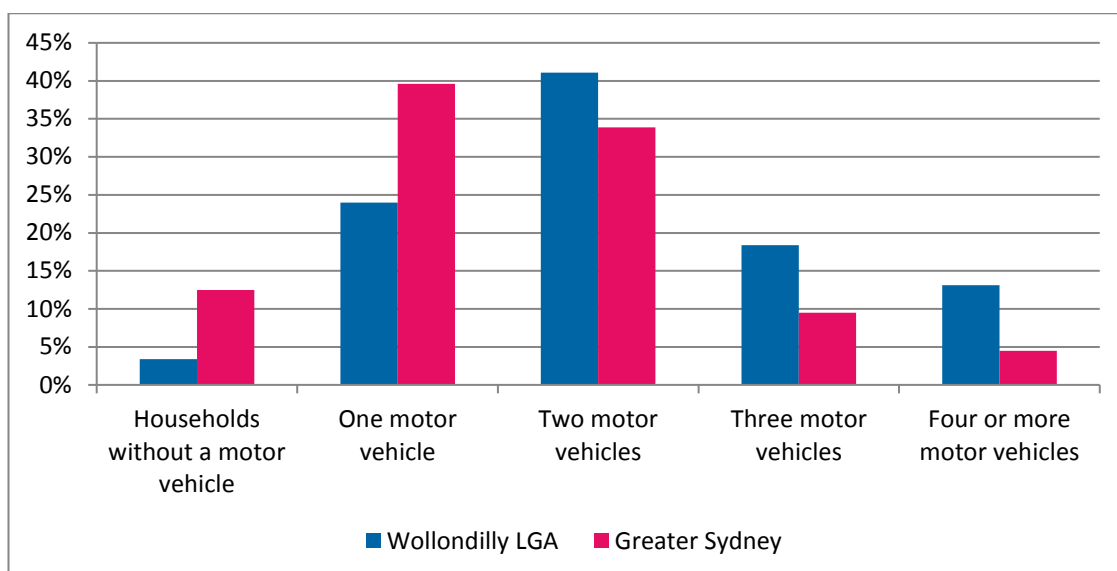


Figure 8 Vehicle ownership

The high dependency on private vehicles is reflected in travel to work data. Within the Wollondilly LGA 87% of workers travel by private vehicle (including car, truck, motorbike or scooter) compared to 67% for Greater Sydney. Consistent with this, when analysing those that travel by one mode of transport there are low levels of public transport usage (5% compared to 22% for Greater Sydney) and low levels of active transport such as cycling and walking (2% compared to 6% for Greater Sydney).

The high levels of car reliance and low levels of public and active transport use reflects the distances residents must travel to access jobs, schools and other facilities and services, and the lack of public transport infrastructure provision, as discussed in the next section.

The Wollondilly Transport Forum have investigated the issue of transportation across the LGA. Table 4 Comparative transport data from BTS 2011

provides a comparison on key travel indicators, for residents in Wollondilly Shire Council compared to the worst case council in each of the identified outer SD areas, as well as the Sydney average.

The table demonstrates that residents in Wollondilly travel the furthest and expend the greatest amount of time travelling of any residents in the Greater Metropolitan Sydney Region, and that they have a significant reliance on private vehicles. The travel time has significant time and costs for residents, impacting on family budgets, and adding to ongoing family stress. It also results in residents having fewer opportunities for incidental exercise, which can play an important role in maintaining health and wellbeing.

Table 4 Comparative transport data from BTS 2011

	Wollondilly Council	Gosford / Wyong	Blue Mtns / Hawkesbury / Penrith	Wollongong / Kiama / Shellharbour	Winge-carribee / Shoalhaven	Sydney Average
Daily Travel Time per capita (mins)	103	85	91	81	77	79
VKT / person (km)	47.3	30.3	37.7	35.3	37.3	18.2
Average work trip (mins)	45	37	36	36	24	35
Vehicles / household	2.3	1.7	2.1	1.9	2.0	1.54

6.1.2 Public transport

There are five train stations that service the LGA, located in: Menangle, Douglas Park, Picton, Tahmoor and Bargo. The train line connecting these stations is the Southern Highlands line which operates between Campbelltown and Goulburn. Campbelltown provides connections to Sydney's suburban train network through the Cumberland Line and the Airport, Inner West and South Lines. The Southern Highlands Line operates a service on average every hour with peak services operating every half hour. The average train trip from Picton to Central is 90 minutes, to Parramatta is 100 minutes and to Penrith is 140 minutes.

Bus services in Wollondilly are operated by three providers; their services operate throughout the Wollondilly Shire and connect to areas outside of the LGA. Westbus operates bus services from Picton to Warragamba, Penrith and Camden. Picton Buslines and Busabout operate services to Camden, Campbelltown, and Douglas Park. These services vary in frequency, with the most popular routes, such as the 911 which connects Picton and Tahmoor, operating hourly or every half hour during peak times. Picton Buslines has a 'hail and ride' program that operates throughout Wollondilly which enables commuters to catch a bus without having to be at a bus stop. There are also four taxi services currently servicing Wollondilly.

Wollondilly residents travel the furthest and expend the greatest amount of time travelling of any residents in the Greater Metropolitan Sydney Region, and also have a significant reliance on private vehicles. This demonstrates residents' transport isolation. Overall, there is a lack of a regular and frequent public transport system (both rail and bus) within the Shire which limits access to a range of facilities and services including: lifestyle, employment, educational, health services and other opportunities (Wollondilly Shire Council, 2014).

6.1.3 Community transport

Community transport refers to transport services that are provided for the frail aged and People with disability to maintain their independence and quality of life whilst staying in their own homes. The services are provided through the Commonwealth Home Support Program for the Aged and will be transitioned to the National Disability Insurance Scheme for People with Disabilities.

South West Community Transport is the provider for Wollondilly as well as Camden, Campbelltown, Liverpool and Fairfield. They provide transport services for residents that meet the following criteria:

- Older and frail persons with moderate, severe or profound disability.
- Younger persons with moderate, severe or profound disability.
- Carers of these people.

The services provided by South West Community Transport include transport for shopping, doctors' appointments, hospital visits and medical treatment (e.g. physiotherapy). In addition to providing individual transport, South West Community Transport organises regular shopping trips. For Wollondilly clients this includes a fortnightly trip to Tahmoor (every second Tuesday) or Macarthur Square (every second Thursday).

Council provides a community bus that is available for use by community groups within the Shire for a nominal fee. The bus is provided to assist those within the community that have limited access to transport.

During January 2016, Council with Tahmoor Underground provided the 'Beach Bus' service from Wollondilly to Wollongong. This provides access for community members without their own transport, such as young people and older people, with free transport to the beach and other attractions in Wollongong.

6.2 Active transport

Active transport refers to travelling by walking and cycling and the infrastructure that supports this, for example, footpaths and crossings that encourage pedestrian access, or cycleways. Active transport provides many health benefits, including lowering stress levels, obesity and risk of heart disease and improving mental wellbeing. Currently, few Wollondilly residents walk or cycle to work due to long travel distances within the Shire and between the Shire and other parts of Sydney. However, improvements to local pedestrian and cycling facilities can help promote active transport for other types of trips, such as recreation and shopping.

When considering pedestrian access within an area the area's 'walkability' is measured. This refers to a measure of how conducive the area is to walking. Factors that are taken into consideration include; street connectivity, residential density, access to mass transit, presence and quality of footpaths, proximity to services and facilities. Across the Wollondilly Shire walkability is low due to the low density and significant travel distances required for residents to access local services which is a direct consequence of the rural lifestyle, valued by Wollondilly residents.

However, while many residents may have moved to Wollondilly for the rural lifestyle, children and young people inherit this decision, which can restrict their own lifestyles. Given children and many young people cannot drive or do not have access to a car, they rely on parents and carers for a lift or public transport to participate in social activities and events. Encouraging the provision of pedestrian facilities such as quality footpaths, street furniture, and shaded walkways is therefore important to allow improved connectivity for younger people. This would also lead to

improved accessibility for other groups in the community, such as people with disability and older people, and contribute to improved health and wellbeing outcomes.

Encouraging cycling as a viable mode of travel involves the provision of safe and accessible cycle routes that are either on road, shared cycleways or dedicated cycle paths. Council adopted a shared cycleway plan for the LGA in 2011. The following principles were adopted for identifying shared cycleway routes:

- Connecting logical start and end points (e.g. schools to residential areas, towns to each other etc.).
- Maximising/using off road routes wherever feasible.
- On road routes along major connecting roads may be considered in rural areas to reduce construction costs and increase useability.
- Target known future land release areas for off road routes.
- Link tourist and other places of interest to encourage visitors and residents into recreational cycling.

The cycleway plan is being implemented progressively throughout the LGA, with a focus on upgrading existing assets. The plan also informs decisions and planning about new developments in the LGA.

Challenges

The challenge for active transport in Wollondilly include:

- Poor provision of active transport infrastructure including safe and accessible cycle routes and high quality pedestrian facilities.

6.3 Connectivity in Wollondilly

Facilitating connectivity involves considering how services can be taken to residents and other people that they serve, rather than expecting service users to be able to physically access facilities. The improved provision of internet, particularly through the National Broadband Network and social media are vital tools that can be used to encourage connections between members of the community, and between the community and Council. Other more traditional models such as mobile services whereby Council services are taken to different areas around the LGA also provide an important service. Online and mobile services allow residents to stay informed about local matters, events and services, which contribute to their sense of community. Improved access to resources also includes residents being able to access information and services, facilitating them to make informed decisions. The following section explores both models of connectivity.

6.3.1 Virtual connections e.g. online

Access to the internet across the LGA is consistent with that of Greater Sydney, as depicted in Figure 9. In 2011 just over 15% of households in Wollondilly did not have any internet connection and the large majority of those with internet had broadband internet access (including ADSL, cable, wireless, satellite, fibre and mobile connections). The Commonwealth Government is currently establishing the National Broadband Network (NBN) across Australia, and the rollout of NBN services in town centres in Wollondilly is expected to be available in 2017/2018. NBN is currently available for most households in Jarvisfield Estate (Picton) and Appin Valley which are both new residential developments although connections are often slow. The rollout of the NBN in Wollondilly town centres would connect more residents to this service however in remote areas residents will still be disadvantaged.

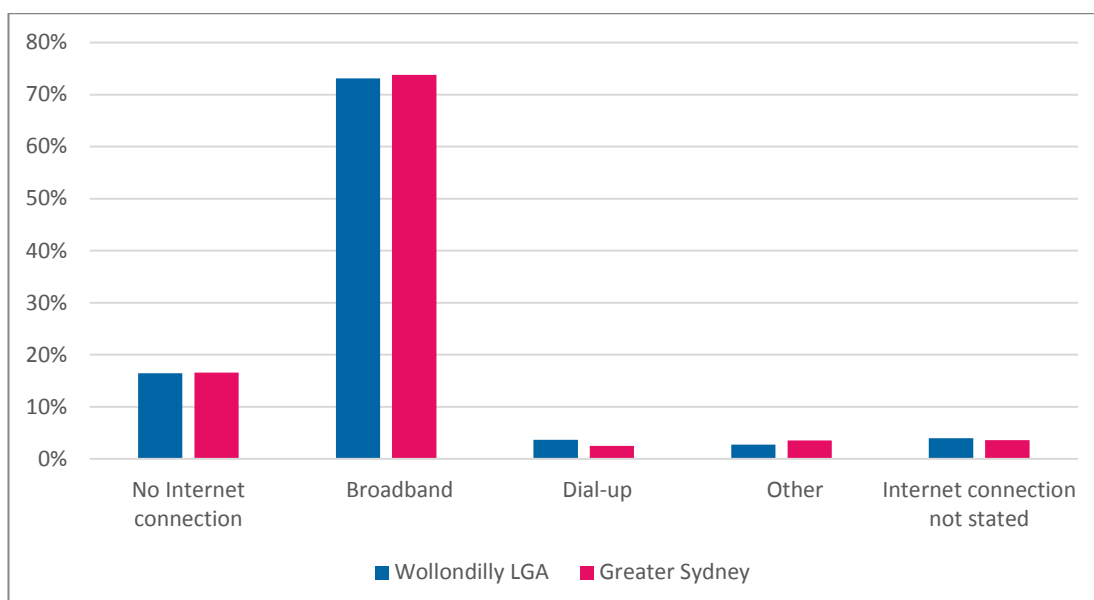


Figure 9 Household internet connections in Wollondilly and Greater Sydney

Although the NBN will facilitate faster and more reliable internet connections, it will only be available to those who can connect to the internet. This means that some population groups such as the elderly, those of a lower socio economic status and those members of the community who are unable to use a computer may be further disadvantaged in communicating, and in accessing information and services.

The Wollondilly Shire Library provides free internet access at its branch in Picton and also in the mobile library. To assist those members of the community who are less computer literate, the library also offers technology workshops that provide training in using computers, the internet and other technologies. Increased access to resources can help improve individual understanding and knowledge about health issues and connections with relevant services.

The high levels of internet connections combined with the rollout of the NBN will allow Wollondilly residents to access information and services more easily. Websites and social media provide a means of communication between community members, and with organisations, such as Council. Most government agencies are now providing the majority of services online; this includes the www.my.gov.au portal that connects services from Centrelink, Medicare and the Australian Tax Office. These are also enabling people to connect to information about services including health and financial support without the need to physically access an office or branch.

Council has also developed an online community engagement portal that assists customers in being able to find a range of information and make comment on Council matters/engagement opportunities. The portal increases community access to information about Council and community issues and policies, which is particularly important for Wollondilly given the dispersed population and distances many people must travel to attend information sessions or visit Council's offices. The online portal is available at www.engage.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au.

Challenges

The challenges for virtual connectivity in Wollondilly include:

- Poor internet connection and accessibility across the LGA.
- Members of the community who do not have access to the internet will be unable to participate in online engagement activities.

6.3.2 Mobile services

Given the dispersed population, Council has implemented a number of mobile services that allow services to be distributed across the LGA on a regular basis, these services include a mobile library and the Dilly Wanderer Mobile Community Engagement Service.

Mobile library

Council has two mobile libraries that operate on a weekly timetable visiting all 16 townships. The mobile libraries operate Monday to Friday excluding Thursdays and spend up to three hours in each location, as seen in Figure 10. The service is available to anyone within the community. The locations, times and services provided for the mobile library is available on an interactive map on the Wollondilly Library and Information Services website (<http://www.library.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/Mobile-Library>).

According to usage data for January to October 2015, over 5,300 people used the mobile library services over the ten month period, and almost 7,000 loans were made from the mobile library³.

Services offered by the mobile library include books for loan, use of laptops/tables, free wifi internet access, printing and photocopying. By providing internet connectivity that is accessible to all, residents can stay informed about their local area. Improved access to resources also enables residents to be able to access information and services, such as health, and make better informed decisions. The mobile library also provides an environment for local residents to interact within in their locality, which can enhance their sense of community.

³ Wollondilly Mobile Library Useage Statistics for January to October 2015, provided to GHD by Wollondilly Shire Council 17 November 2015

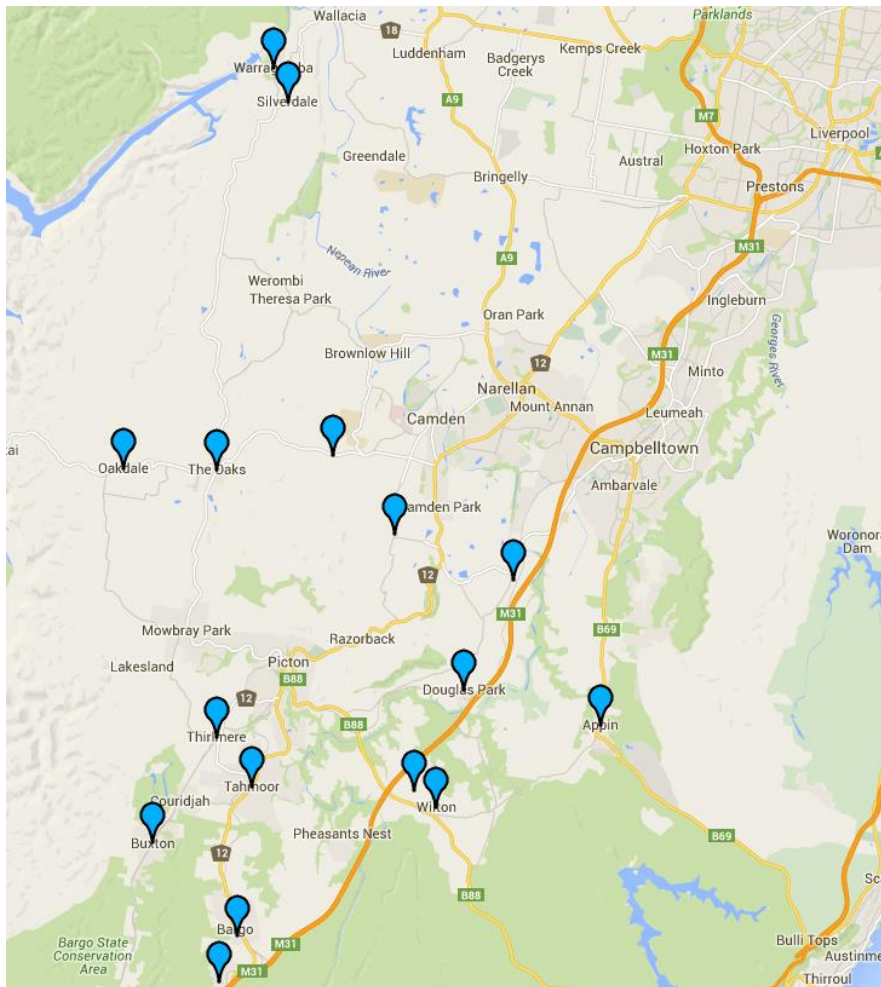


Figure 10 Locations visited by the Mobile Library service

The Dilly Wanderer Service

The Dilly Wanderer is a mobile community information and development service. One of the aims of the service is to reduce isolation for families with young children across the Wollondilly Shire. 'The Dilly' visits most of the villages and towns on a two week rotating roster, visiting three villages per week. Each visit is up to two hours in duration. The service operates by setting up children's activities in a local park and encouraging interaction between parents and children in an informal setting. The service provides information and hosts guest speakers on a range of topics such as; health, parenting, local services, events/activities and general Council information.

A partnership with the Wollondilly Health Alliance (WHA) has now enabled the Dilly Wanderer to visit villages and shopping centres across the Shire to promote healthy lifestyle projects happening in the Shire. The service is particularly important given the dispersed population and low level of service provision across the LGA. According to usage data for August to September 2015, an average of 123 community members used the Dilly Wanderer per month⁴.

⁴Dilly Wanderer Usage Statistics for August to September 2015, provided to GHD by Wollondilly Shire Council 17 November 2015

Challenges

In Wollondilly, the challenge for improving accessibility is the high demand for existing mobile Council services.

6.4 Opportunities for behaviour change

New developments, such as the potential development of Wilton Junction, provide opportunities to deliver new transport infrastructure, including increased public transport provision and active transport infrastructure (e.g. cycle and pedestrian pathways) which connect to key destinations and facilities.

Given the distance of Wollondilly from key employment and service centres, and the dispersed population, the overall population is likely to continue to rely on cars for daily travel. However, with the proposed development of Western and South Western Sydney providing new housing, employment and transport opportunities, distances travelled may be reduced and travel behaviour changes may be seen over time. This could help promote incidental exercise and healthy lifestyles through public and active transport, particularly for recreation and shopping trips by residents.

Challenges

The challenges for increasing transport use and behaviour in Wollondilly include:

- Poor provision of public transport options within the LGA.
- High levels of car reliance restrict opportunities for young people and those without a car to participate in social activities.
- Population growth and the development of the Western Sydney Airport will increase traffic congestion on roads in Wollondilly.
- Low levels of knowledge amongst residents about available public transport services and timetables that operate within the LGA.
- Poor provision of active transport infrastructure.
- The dispersed nature of villages and towns in the LGA results in long distances between destinations, however future development in the area may result in more local destinations and greater population densities that have the capacity to support improved public transport as well as active transport networks.

6.5 Summary of challenges

Low population density and a limited local economy has created few opportunities for employment, education, community services, shopping, cultural and recreational activities within the Wollondilly LGA. Local residents are required to travel significant distances to access these facilities and services. Combined with poor provision of public transport services, Wollondilly residents have a high level of car dependency for, and those with access to a car travel considerable distances.

The impact of long travel times and distances, and lack of access to public transport, impacts groups within the community in different ways. Table 5 provides a summary of the impact that these challenges can have on each of the target population groups.

Table 5 Impact of challenges on target population groups

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
Children and young families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The time parents spend commuting to work reduces time spent with the family, which is particularly important for families with very young children who require a higher level of care. • A lack of local employment opportunities often results in one parent (most often the mother) not being able to work or taking lower paid/reduced hours work to allow for family commitments. • Longer childcare hours required to accommodate commuting time for parents. This includes early childcare as well as before and after school care. • There is the potential that longer commuting times results in less time available to spend with family restricting extra-curricular activities for both parents and children, particularly during the week. It could also impact on time available to spend with neighbours or contributing to the local community. • High commuting costs related to fuel, toll roads and general car maintenance.
Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time spent commuting to and from school restricts ability to participate in extra-curricular activities. • Difficulty accessing a social network or attending social activities located in different areas of the LGA. • Poor public transport provides little opportunity for independent travel with an increased reliance on parents or those with access to a car. • Restricted access to health and social services that are tailored to their specific needs. • Increased risk of anti-social behaviour due to limited ability to access age appropriate recreational activities. • Long travel distances restrict the services and facilities that can be accessed by active travel methods leading to increased risk of poor health outcomes.
Older people and people with disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor public transport provides little opportunity for independent travel with an increased reliance on friends or relatives that can drive. • Long travel distances restrict the services and facilities that can be accessed by active travel methods leading to increased risk of poor health outcomes and social isolation for older people. • As the population increases, community transport providers will be stretched to meet the needs of existing and future residents with a disability.

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands and CALD people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor public transport and long travel distances may restrict opportunities for accessing targeted services and participating in cultural opportunities.

7. Providing diverse and affordable living

Aim: Provide a mix of dwellings that support a diverse community with a range of needs

Housing and shelter is a basic human right, and providing diverse and affordable housing options can assist with improving quality of life for community members. Housing must be available to reflect the needs of residents and the projected future population, and also be affordable. Based on the *Social Determinants of Health*⁵, housing problems that can have a negative impact on a person's health including:

- Poor quality housing that is overcrowded or poorly ventilated can lead to physical and mental health problems.
- Housing that is poorly located can impact on people's ability to access the services or facilities they require.
- Housing stress which is defined as housing costs exceeding more than 30% of the household income. This can lead to housing insecurity. The risks associated with relocation as a result of the loss of accommodation can disrupt established social networks and cause significant stress.
- Some members of the community are unable to access housing that is safe, secure or appropriate to their needs. Homelessness is strongly correlated with poor mental health.

The provision of diverse, affordable and well-designed housing options can address some of the housing problems outlined above that impact on health. The location, structure and size, tenure type and price of housing are key factors that determine where people live, how they live and ultimately the social diversity within the community.

7.1 Current housing and households in Wollondilly

7.1.1 Population density

Wollondilly Shire is made up of predominantly two-thirds national park land (around 245,749 hectares). Two-thirds of the population live in the 16 towns and villages located in the eastern part of the LGA, while one-third live in rural areas. As discussed in section 4.1, due to the size, character and location of the LGA, the overall population density is low at 0.17 person per Ha.). In 2011, there were 15,479 private dwellings in Wollondilly, and of these, the majority (92.8%) were occupied and 7% were unoccupied, which is similar to the Greater Sydney average.

The 16 villages within the Wollondilly Shire are predominantly residential areas, with the centres of Picton, Tahmoor and Thirlmere the most densely populated as illustrated in Figure 11. Other key centres also include Appin and Warragamba.

⁵ Queensland Health, *Social Determinants of Health* Factsheet, Housing

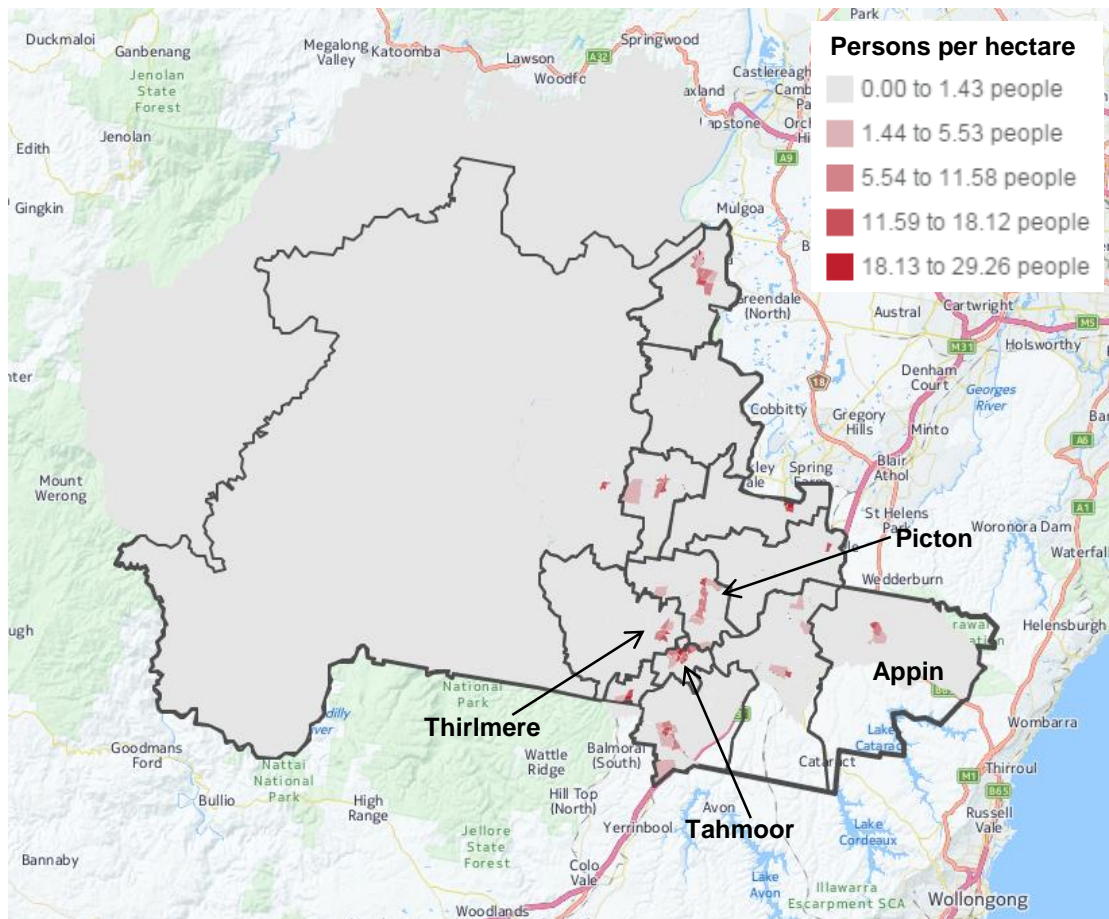


Figure 11 Population density in Wollondilly, 2011

7.1.2 Dwelling structure and size

The majority of occupied private dwellings within Wollondilly Shire are separate houses (94%) and a further 5% are semi-detached dwellings (e.g. townhouses and terraces). There are very few apartments or other dwelling types such as caravans. As shown in Figure 7, the dwelling types within the Wollondilly Shire are significantly different to higher density areas such as Greater Sydney where 59% of dwellings are separate houses and 21% are flats, units or apartments.

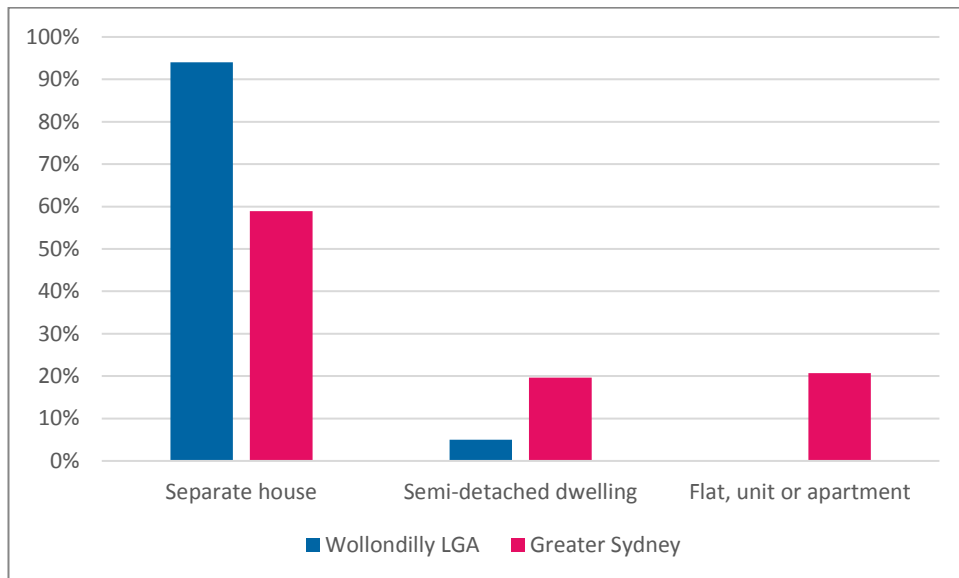


Figure 12 Dwelling types in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

The average household size in Wollondilly in 2011 was 2.9 persons, which was slightly larger than Greater Sydney at 2.7 persons. Dwellings in Wollondilly are slightly larger than dwellings across Greater Sydney. Wollondilly has a significantly larger percentage of dwellings with more than four bedrooms (50%) compared to Greater Sydney (27%) as depicted in Figure 13. There are also very few one or two bedroom dwellings in Wollondilly.

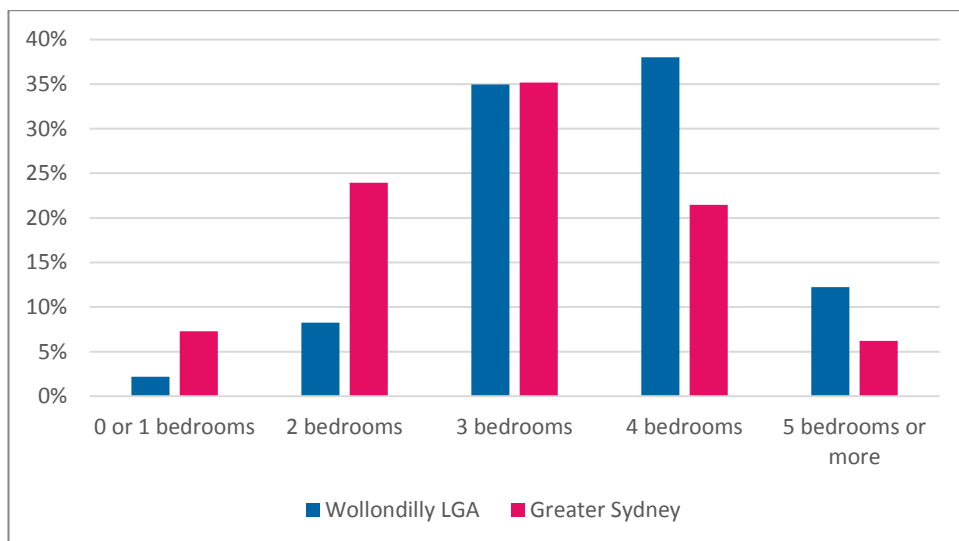


Figure 13 Number of bedrooms per dwelling in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

7.1.3 Households

Family households, particularly those comprising of couples with children, are the most common household type (43%) in Wollondilly, as depicted in Figure 14. Lone person households were significantly lower in Wollondilly (16%) when compared to Greater Sydney (22%), which reflects the small number of smaller dwellings such as units or apartments that are more suitable for single person households.

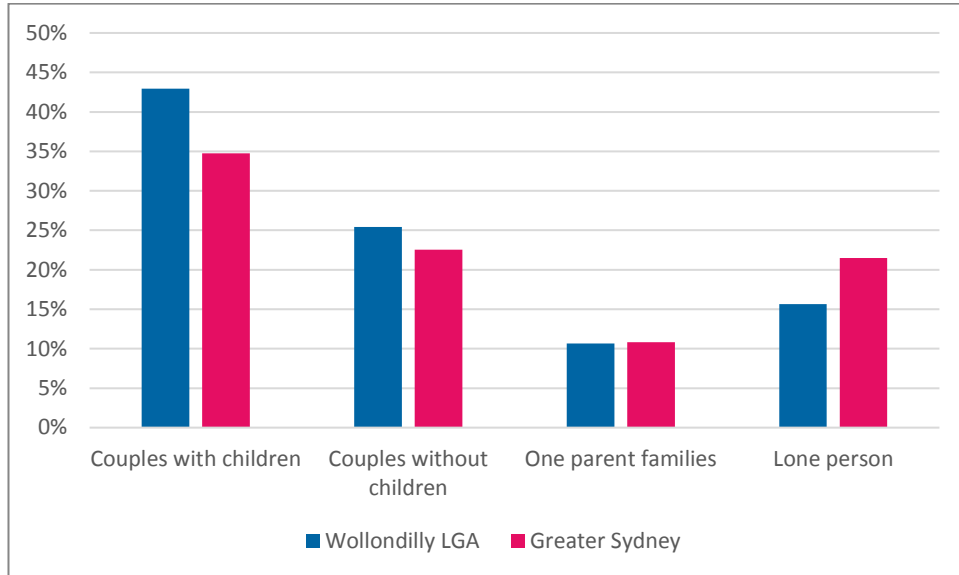


Figure 14 Household composition in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

7.1.4 Tenure type

Within the Wollondilly Shire, households are less likely to rent and more likely to either own their own home outright (30%) or be in the process of purchasing a home with a mortgage (48%) when compared to Greater Sydney (29% and 33%). There was a lower level of renting in Wollondilly (16% compared to 30% in Greater Sydney), and of those households that rented, 1.5% rented from social housing providers, lower than Greater Sydney (5%).

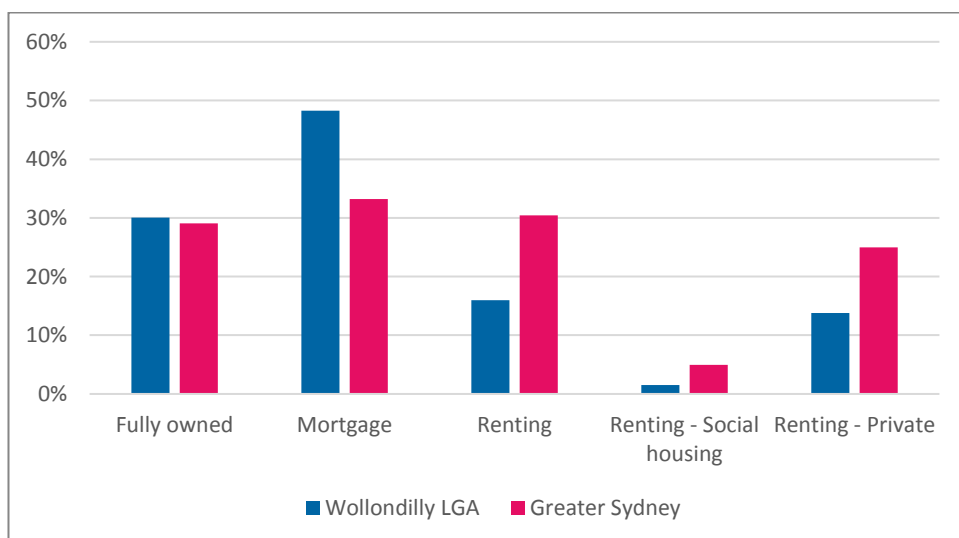


Figure 15 Tenure in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

As shown in Table 6 below, most Wollondilly households live in a separate house, in line with the dwelling composition. The highest proportion of households renting both semi-detached and flats/units/apartments are those renting social housing dwellings.

Table 6 Tenure by dwelling type in Wollondilly, 2011

Tenure type	Separate house	Semi-detached dwelling	Flat, unit or apartment	Other dwellings (e.g. caravans, cabins, etc)
Fully owned	94%	4%	1%	1%
Owned with a mortgage	99%	1%	0%	0%
Renting	86%	6%	6%	3%
Renting - Social housing	73%	11%	16%	0%
Renting - Private	89%	6%	4%	1%

The Shire does not contain many transient residents, possibly due to the low levels of rental properties that are available, with 84% and 60% having lived at the same address one and five years ago respectively (compared to 80% and 53% in Greater Sydney respectively).

7.1.5 Housing price

The average sale price for all dwellings in Wollondilly was \$636,000, while the median sale price was \$581,000 for the June quarter of 2015 (Housing NSW 2015). Housing was more affordable in Wollondilly compared to overall Greater Sydney (\$581,000 and \$750,000 respectively) with an annual change of 9.6% (compared to 15.4% in Greater Sydney) (Housing NSW 2015).

Table 7 below shows the median indicators for income and housing payments in Wollondilly. Median weekly household incomes in Wollondilly (\$1,478) were consistent with Greater Sydney (\$1,447), and median monthly mortgage repayments for both Wollondilly and Greater Sydney were the same at \$2,167.

Table 7 Median indicators for income and housing payments in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

Medians	Wollondilly	Greater Sydney
Median weekly individual income	\$617	\$619
Median weekly family income	\$1,661	\$1,683
Median weekly household income	\$1,478	\$1,447
Median mortgage repayment (per month)	\$2,167	\$2,167
Median rent (per week)	\$270	\$351

Overall, a slightly smaller proportion of Wollondilly households paid high mortgage repayments (\$2,600 per month or more) at 32% (compared to 36% in Greater Sydney), while 12% paid low repayments (less than \$1,000 per month) which is consistent with the Greater Sydney average (12%). This is shown in Figure 16 below. Based on Table 7, the median monthly mortgage repayment exceeds 30% of the median weekly household.

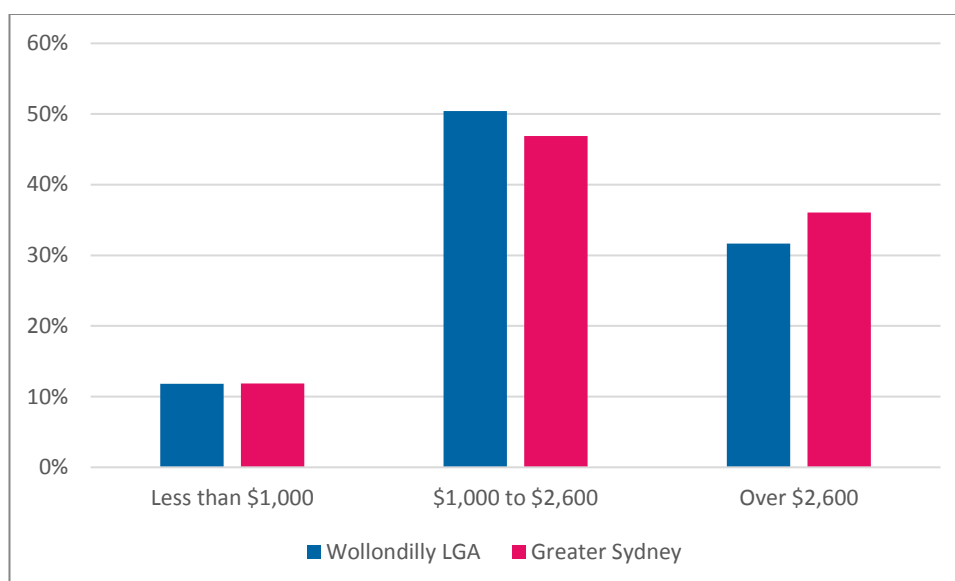


Figure 16 Monthly mortgage repayments for households in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

7.1.6 Housing stress

Housing stress is defined as per the National Centre for Social and Economic Modelling as households in the lowest 40% of incomes who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on housing costs. Housing stress encompasses households experiencing mortgage stress and rental stress.

In 2011 in Wollondilly:

- 1,379 or 9.6% of households were experiencing housing stress, which was low compared to Greater Sydney at 11.5%.
- 716 or 10.3% of households with a mortgage were experiencing mortgage stress, which was lower than Greater Sydney at 11.6%.
- 663 or 28.9% of households in Wollondilly were experiencing rental stress, which was high compared to Greater Sydney (25.1%).

Rental stress is therefore a particular issue in Wollondilly. This is shown in Figure 17 below.



Figure 17 Housing stress, mortgage stress and rental stress for households in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

7.1.7 SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage

The SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage measures the relative level of socio-economic disadvantage in one area compared to others. It is based on a range of Census attributes that reflect disadvantage such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations. A *higher* score on the index means a *lower* level of disadvantage, where as a *lower* score on the index means a *higher* level of disadvantage.

Based on the SEIFA Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage, Wollondilly had a lower level of disadvantage (1033.6 compared to 1011.3 in Greater Sydney). Despite the overall SEIFA results for the region, Wollondilly still contains some pockets of disadvantage such as Warragamba, Tahmoor, Yanderra, and Oakdale with scores for these communities well below the regional level, ranging from 941 to 990. The different SEIFA index across the LGA, could be due to variances in the cost of housing, level of educational attainment of residents and types of employment.

7.2 Affordable Housing

Affordable housing is housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of very low to moderate income households and priced so that these households are also able to meet other basic living costs such as food, clothing, transport, medical care and education. People who earn very low, low and moderate incomes often require supported or subsidized housing to afford to live in an area, particularly close to where they work. These income groups are defined by the Centre for Affordable Housing (2016) as:

- Very low income – those earning less than 50% of the NSW or Sydney median income.
- Low income – those earning between 50 to 80% of the NSW or Sydney median income.
- Moderate income – those earning 80 to 120% of the NSW or Sydney median income.

Affordable housing is not the same as social housing. Households can earn moderate level of income and still be eligible for affordable housing.

Housing that is considered affordable absorbs no more than 30% of a very low, low or moderate income households' gross income (Centre for Affordable Housing, 2016). Affordable housing can be privately owned, but must be available at a price below market value rent

The NSW Government has introduced the *Affordable Housing State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP 70)* and other planning mechanisms to support the provision of affordable housing (see Volume 3).

Affordable rental housing is often provided by Community Housing Providers (CHPs) for people on low to moderate incomes who cannot find suitable housing in their local area, or close to where they work. Argyle Community Housing Limited is the only community housing provider in Wollondilly. They provide approximately 200 affordable and social homes in the Wollondilly Shire for low income households⁶.

Challenges

The challenges for providing affordable housing options in Wollondilly includes:

- Shortage of affordable housing options within the LGA
- A high amount of rental stress within the LGA.

7.3 Housing diversity to cater for different population groups

Different groups within the community have specific needs, with some requiring supported housing options, or housing that is designed to meet their needs. The section below discusses the options that are available in Wollondilly.

7.3.1 Young people

Young people who are socially excluded or have less social and emotional support from others are more likely to experience social isolation, less wellbeing, and more mental health issues such as depression. These factors can place young people at risk of becoming homeless, which has further health implications.

Young people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in Wollondilly have access to medium to long term semi supported (shared) accommodation through Vinnies Youth Housing. The service is located in Picton and has 15 properties located in Macarthur, Camden, Wollondilly and Wingecarribee. However, the service has limited capacity and additional support may be required as the population increases.

The service is available for young people aged 16 to 21 years, sole parents and couple families with children aged 16 to 24 years. As well as shelter, the service provides outreach to tenants on a weekly basis to support young people to maintain their tenancy up to two years. Over this time, the service supports tenants to develop their living skills, engage in education, and focus on reconciling with their families if it is safe to do so. Providing stable housing can contribute to improving the mental health and wellbeing of tenants.

In addition to official youth homelessness, many young people may also experience unofficial homelessness, with the phenomenon of 'couch surfing' providing many young people with short term accommodation but no fixed address or stable living situation. Couch surfing arrangements may continue for varying lengths of time, including short overnight stays to escape home, or extended periods moving from house to house. There is often a lack of security and stability associated with couch surfing, which can lead to problems such as friendship breakdown and increased stress and anxiety, which can take a toll on physical and mental health. Despite these negative effects, studies have found that people engaging in couch surfing lifestyles often will not identify themselves as being homeless or at risk of being homeless (Thielking et al. 2015).

⁶ Information provided to GHD by Wollondilly Shire Council, 2015

7.3.2 Housing for older people

A range of services are available to Wollondilly's older residents, including personal care, day or night respite options, domestic assistance, meal delivery and aged care facilities. Many services provide home-based options so that older residents can continue to live in their own home as independently as possible. The majority of home-based service providers come from areas outside of Wollondilly, such as Camden, Campbelltown, Penrith and Wollongong regions. Services that are not home-based, such as aged care facilities and some respite options, would require residents to travel or move outside of Wollondilly to access these, away from existing social networks. Volume 3 lists the aged care facilities in and surrounding Wollondilly.

Home-based service providers cater to individual needs and level of care of older residents or people with disability. Services include assistance with housekeeping, undertaking errands and shopping, meal preparation, assistance with bathing or showering. Approximately 34 service providers located across Western and South Western Sydney provide home-based care for Wollondilly residents. These are listed in Volume 3.

Aged accommodation options located in Wollondilly range from retirement living to high needs care. There are five aged accommodation facilities in Wollondilly currently, with three of these planned to expand. These are listed in Volume 3. Of these facilities, only one provides high care, with 102 high care beds in 2015.

The population forecast from profile id. indicates that the largest growth in Wollondilly from 2011 to 2031 will occur in the 70 to 84 years' age group (3% increase), however these projections have not taken into consideration the development of the Greater Macarthur Land Release Area. The increased population will require additional aged care and accommodation options. Providing home-based care services is critical to enabling older people to remain in their homes and live independently for longer. With only one existing high care facility in Wollondilly, there is potential for additional high care facilities to grow in Wollondilly. This will become more important to reduce the need for frail aged people to leave the LGA to find appropriate accommodation. As the population grows the services will need to be provided from within the LGA rather than serviced from adjacent areas as is currently the case.

The announcement of the Greater Macarthur Land Release may lead to new opportunities for increased provision of new aged care facilities, and well designed and located housing for older people.

A number of government policies and frameworks have been developed to assist with the provision of well-designed and appropriate housing for older people. These are discussed in more detail in Volume 3. These include the principle of Universal Design. Universal Design is an international design philosophy that enables people to continue living in the same home by ensuring that dwellings are able to change with the needs of the occupants. Universally designed homes benefit all members of the community including older people. The seven principles of Universal Design (Centre for Excellence in Universal Design, 2014) are:

1. Equitable use
2. Flexibility in use
3. Simple and intuitive use
4. Perceptible use
5. Tolerance for error
6. Low physical effort
7. Size and space for approach and use.

Liveable Housing Design Guidelines provide a national framework for making homes easier and safer to live in for people of all ages and abilities (Livable Housing Australia, 2012). The NSW Department of Planning and Environment's *Apartment Design Guide* provides design guidance for new apartment developments – to achieve a benchmark of 20% of the total apartments incorporating the *Liveable Housing Guideline*'s silver level universal design features. The *Liveable Housing Guideline* aims to make dwellings capable of cost-effective adaptation, and designed to better anticipate the changing needs and abilities of occupants. Liveable homes are designed to be: easy to enter, easy to navigate in and around, capable of easy and cost-effective adaptation, and responsive to the changing needs of home occupants. Research shows that it is up to 22 times more efficient to design a dwelling to be universal rather than retrofit when an unplanned need arises (Livable Housing Australia, 2012).

Granny flats and secondary dwellings can also provide an affordable option for older people, with families able to provide these smaller dwellings on the same lot as the main house. Families often also use this form of housing for young people, or to rent out to the market, providing an affordable housing option.

New developments, particularly the proposed development of Wilton, provide an opportunity to deliver new housing that is designed to meet people's needs as they age.

The *Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability SEPP 2004* will ensure that a minimum of 10% of dwellings within new developments will be adaptable. In addition, housing that has been designed to be universal, or in line with the *Liveable Housing Design Guidelines* can be modified at a later stage to be adaptable.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is currently developing a new Apartment Design Code and revised SEPP 65 which are expected to require that all new apartments/units are universally designed and support ageing in place.

7.3.3 Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands

Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands households are often more likely to be disproportionately affected by decreasing housing affordability. Ensuring Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands have access to affordable, quality, accessible and culturally appropriate housing is a key requirement to ensure they can remain living in Wollondilly. This is important in maintaining existing social networks and sense of community, which supports health and wellbeing.

The NSW Government established the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) under the *Aboriginal Housing Act 1998 (NSW)* to ensure that Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands have access to affordable, quality housing. The AHO works to provide an increased range of housing choices for Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands, especially for those most in need and financially unable to gain access to the private rental market. The AHO aims to break the cycle of disadvantage for Aboriginal social housing tenants by working in partnership with Aboriginal Community Housing Providers (ACHP). ACHP's are not-for-profit or volunteer organisations that exclusively service the Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands community, providing a range of services including: crisis accommodation; transitional housing; social housing; co-operative housing; affordable housing; and home-ownership programs (Aboriginal Housing Office, 2014).

As at June 2012, there were 16 ACHP dwellings in Wollondilly (NSW Aboriginal Housing Office 2012). Of these, 13 are managed by the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council (TLALC). These homes are available for voting members of TLALC.

7.3.4 People from low socio-economic backgrounds

Social housing is rental housing provided by not-for-profit, nongovernment or government organisations to assist people who are unable to access suitable accommodation in the private rental market (NSW Family and Community Services, 2016).

Social housing dwellings provided by community housing providers and Housing NSW are available in Wollondilly for very low and low income households. Table 8 shows the expected waiting times for social housing in South West Sydney (NSW Department of Family and Community Services 2014).

Table 8 Expected waiting times for social housing by number of bedrooms in South West Sydney, 2014

LGA	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4 bedrooms
Bankstown	10+ years	10+ years	10+ years	10+ years
Fairfield	10+ years	10+ years	10+ years	10+ years
Liverpool	5 to 10 years	10+ years	10+ years	10+ years
Campbelltown	10+ years	5 to 10 years	5 to 10 years	10+ years
Camden	10+ years	5 to 10 years	5 to 10 years	10+ years
Wollondilly	10+ years	5 to 10 years	5 to 10 years	5 to 10 years
Wingecarribbee	5 to 10 years	10+ years	2 to 5 years	10+ years

Table 8 demonstrates that there is an extreme shortage of social housing across South West Sydney. Although Wollondilly has a slightly shorter waitlist for two, three and four bedroom dwellings the expected wait time is still five to ten years. For people who are unable to access social housing for a long time, this can be a stressful experience and have a negative impact on their health.

Challenges

The challenges for increasing housing diversity in Wollondilly include:

- Very few apartments or smaller dwellings that cater for smaller households.
- Insufficient provision of crisis/emergency accommodation.
- Poor provision of housing that is suitable for older people or people with disability.
- Shortage of Home Care Services.
- Long wait times for social housing in Wollondilly.

7.4 Future dwellings

Wollondilly's population was previously expected to increase to 56,768 persons by 2031, as a result of both natural increase and net migration (.id, 2012). The number of dwellings in Wollondilly was also forecast to grow from 15,609 in 2011 to 20,779 in 2031, with the average household size falling slightly from 2.95 to 2.83 by 2031 (.id, 2012).

However, as discussed in section 3.2, the NSW Government recently announced that Wollondilly will experience significant residential development over the next 20 to 30 years at the new townsc centre within Wilton. Located on the eastern edge of the LGA, Wilton is expected to provide 16,600 dwellings when it is fully developed.

Along with the projected 20,779 dwellings in the remainder of the LGA by 2031 (forecast id 2012), this would lead to over 37,300 dwellings in the LGA housing over 103,000 people by 2036.

The development of Wilton provides an opportunity to not only increase housing supply in Wollondilly, but also housing diversity. As a significant town centre, smaller and well-designed dwellings such as universally designed dwellings can be delivered, as well as affordable dwellings. Council will need to review the GMS once more detail is released from the Department about what is proposed within the Greater Macarthur Land Investigation Area

7.5 Summary of challenges

The low levels of population density and development has resulted in a relatively homogenous housing stock. The predominant housing type in Wollondilly is separate houses, primarily on large areas of land and with an average of three to four bedrooms. The majority of the existing residents either own their own home outright or are in the process of purchasing their home. There is also a high proportion of households experiencing rental stress in the LGA.

Housing is more affordable in Wollondilly when compared to housing in Greater Sydney, and particularly parts of inner Sydney. However, Wollondilly residents also bear much higher financial costs associated with the distance required to access employment, education, community services, shopping, cultural and recreational activities both in terms of financial and time costs.

Council recognises the need to provide diverse and affordable living to cater for existing and new residents however there has been little development of residential rental housing through the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009* in Wollondilly. Some affordable housing has been achieved through the development of granny flats or secondary dwellings. This may be a growing trend among residents who wish to rent out their secondary dwelling.

The challenges associated with housing are experienced by different groups within the community in different ways, as summarised in Table 9.

Table 9 Impact of challenges on target population groups

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
Children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The increase in property values in the area will make it increasingly difficult for people to buy housing locally. Families experiencing housing stress will be under further pressure due to high travel costs.
Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The lack of rental accommodation makes it difficult to find places to live in the community. The increase in property values in the area will make it increasingly difficult for young people to buy their own homes.

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing is not suitable for older people's requirements preventing them from ageing in place. • Large dwellings often have significant maintenance requirements which are difficult for older people. • Long travel distances restrict the services and facilities that can be accessed particularly if people with disability cannot drive themselves. • Increasing land values will increase rates and land tax making the area unaffordable for many older people, particularly if they are on a limited income.
People with disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing that is not designed for People with Disability can limit their mobility and independence. • Large dwellings often have significant maintenance requirements which are difficult for people with disability. • Long travel distances restrict the services and facilities that can be accessed particularly if people with disability cannot drive themselves. • Increasing land values will increase rates and land tax making the area unaffordable for many people with disability, particularly if they are on a pension.
Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of Aboriginal Housing in the area for low income Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands leading to lack of social diversity in the long term • The increase in property values in the area will make it increasingly difficult for people to buy housing locally, leading to a lack of community diversity in the long term. • Families experiencing housing stress will be under further pressure due to high travel costs. • Availability of housing stock for different family types – extended families.
CALD people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing property values in the area will make it increasingly difficult for people to buy housing locally, leading to a lack of social diversity in the long term. • Families experiencing housing stress will be under further pressure due to high travel costs and lack of affordable housing options. • Availability of housing stock for different family types – extended families.
Very low to moderate income earners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very few rental properties available within Wollondilly Shire providing limited affordable accommodation options.

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of affordable housing options for low to moderate income households within Wollondilly, leading to lack of social diversity in the longer term. • Affordable housing options are often poorly located away from services and facilities and with poor provision of public transport. • Long waiting time for social housing in Wollondilly leading to inadequate housing situations, and lack of social diversity in the longer term.

9. Supporting education, lifelong learning and economic wellbeing

Aim: Provide opportunities for the community to access a variety of education and learning systems and create opportunities for economic prosperity

Access to high quality education early in life plays a significant role in creating better economic opportunities later in life. A person's level of education and qualifications influences their employment opportunities, which in turn influences their ability to secure accommodation, healthy food, health care and other services. In addition, access to education opportunities enhances a sense of self-worth and independence.

According to the *Social Determinants of Health*, good health involves reducing levels of educational failure, reducing insecurity and unemployment and improving housing standards. Societies that enable all citizens to play a full and useful role in the social, economic and cultural life of their society will be healthier than those where people face insecurity, exclusion and deprivation.

The following chapter will identify the formal education opportunities that are available to the Wollondilly community including early childhood education, primary and secondary schooling, and tertiary education. Lifelong learning refers to the informal learning that continues after adults finish their formal education. It includes community courses and other informal activities that facilitate knowledge sharing.

Although formal and informal education provides residents with the skills for employment, job creation is based purely on the economic opportunities within an area. In addition to investigating education and lifelong learning, this chapter will explore the economic and employment opportunities within Wollondilly. The chapter is not an economic analysis but rather investigates those factors that contribute to greater employment opportunities within the LGA.

9.1 Formal education attendance and opportunities in Wollondilly

Formal education refers to education that is delivered in a classroom setting by a trained teacher, often as part of a program that will result in a formal qualification. In NSW, formal education settings include:

- Early childhood education – under five years of age.
- Primary school – between five and 12 years.
- High school – between 12 and 18 years.
- Tertiary including TAFE and university – for those aged 15 years and over.

Formal education can be delivered by public (government) or private (non-government) providers. Private schools include those affiliated with religious organisations (e.g. Catholic, Anglican, Islam) or independent schools.

Figure 18 shows the percentage of Wollondilly residents who at the time of the 2011 census were enrolled in formal education. Overall, education attendance rates were generally consistent with Greater Sydney. The proportion of Wollondilly residents not attending an educational institution at 69% was similar to the Greater Sydney average (68%). Pre-school, primary and secondary school attendance was slightly higher than the Greater Sydney average (20% compared to 16%), which reflects Wollondilly's larger child population compared to the Greater Sydney average (28% compared to 23%). Tertiary education attendance (i.e. TAFE and university) was slightly lower at 5%, compared to 8% in Greater Sydney.

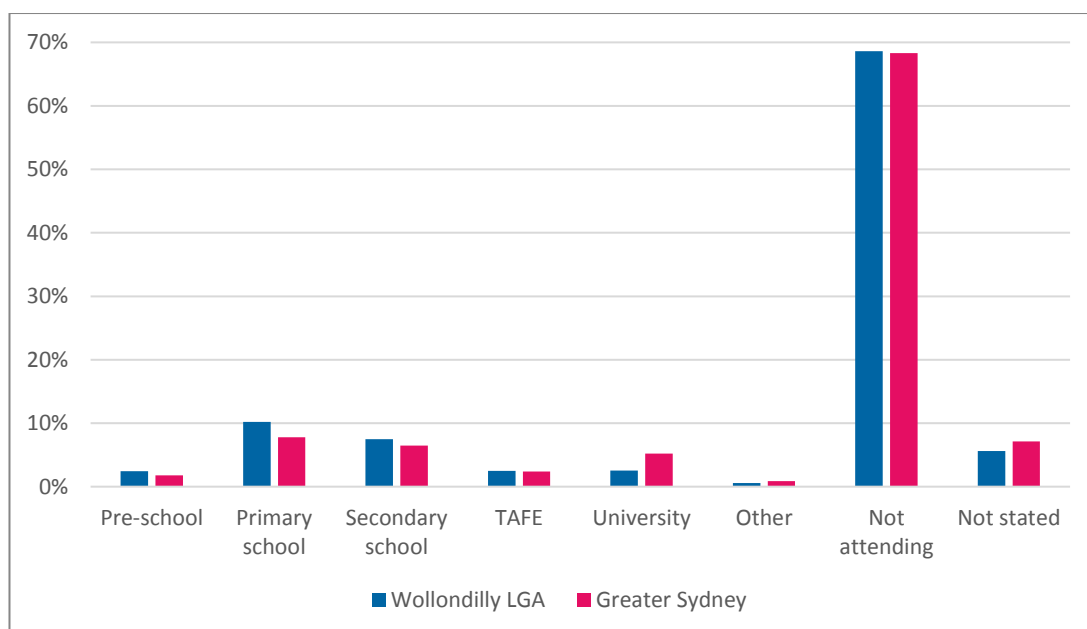


Figure 18 Formal education attendance in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

9.1.1 Early childhood education

In 2011 there were 3,163 children under the age of five in Wollondilly, comprising 7.4% of the total population which is comparable to Greater Sydney (6.8%). Within Wollondilly, there are 24 childcare facilities providing approximately 1,063 places. Most of the childcare centres are located in Picton, Bargo, Thirlmere and Tahmoor, as illustrated in Figure 17. There are also five preschools in Wollondilly providing around 106 places, which specifically provide early learning programs for children that focus on the transition into formal schooling.

These services include the Wollondilly Family Day Care Scheme which is facilitated by Council. Family Day Care is an approved form of childcare that is provided in the educator's home. Family day care educators are early childhood education and care professionals, registered with a family day care service that is responsible for approving, supporting, training and advising its educators. Council's Children's Services manage a total of 33 Family Day Care providers; of these, 26 are located in the LGA, with one in Campbelltown and six in Camden.

Outside of School Hours (OOSH) care (i.e. before school care, after school care or vacation care) is usually associated with schools and catered to primary school children. Most OOSH services are operated by community and private organisations. Their purpose is to provide supervised care and recreation for children based on their interests and abilities, which can contribute to childhood learning and development.

Nine operators provide approximately 276 places, including Wollondilly Council and six associated with the following primary schools:

- Appin Public School
- Bargo Public School
- Picton Public School
- Thirlmere Public School
- Wollondilly Anglican College
- St Anthony's Primary School, Picton.

Three childcare facilities also offer OOSH care in Picton, Tahmoor and Warragamba. This includes Council's Year Round Care (Picton), which has identified transport, staffing and number of placements as areas for improvement.

Challenges

The challenges for early childhood education in Wollondilly includes:

- Additional childcare services required to accommodate population growth.
- Childcare services require extended hours due to longer commuting times for parents.

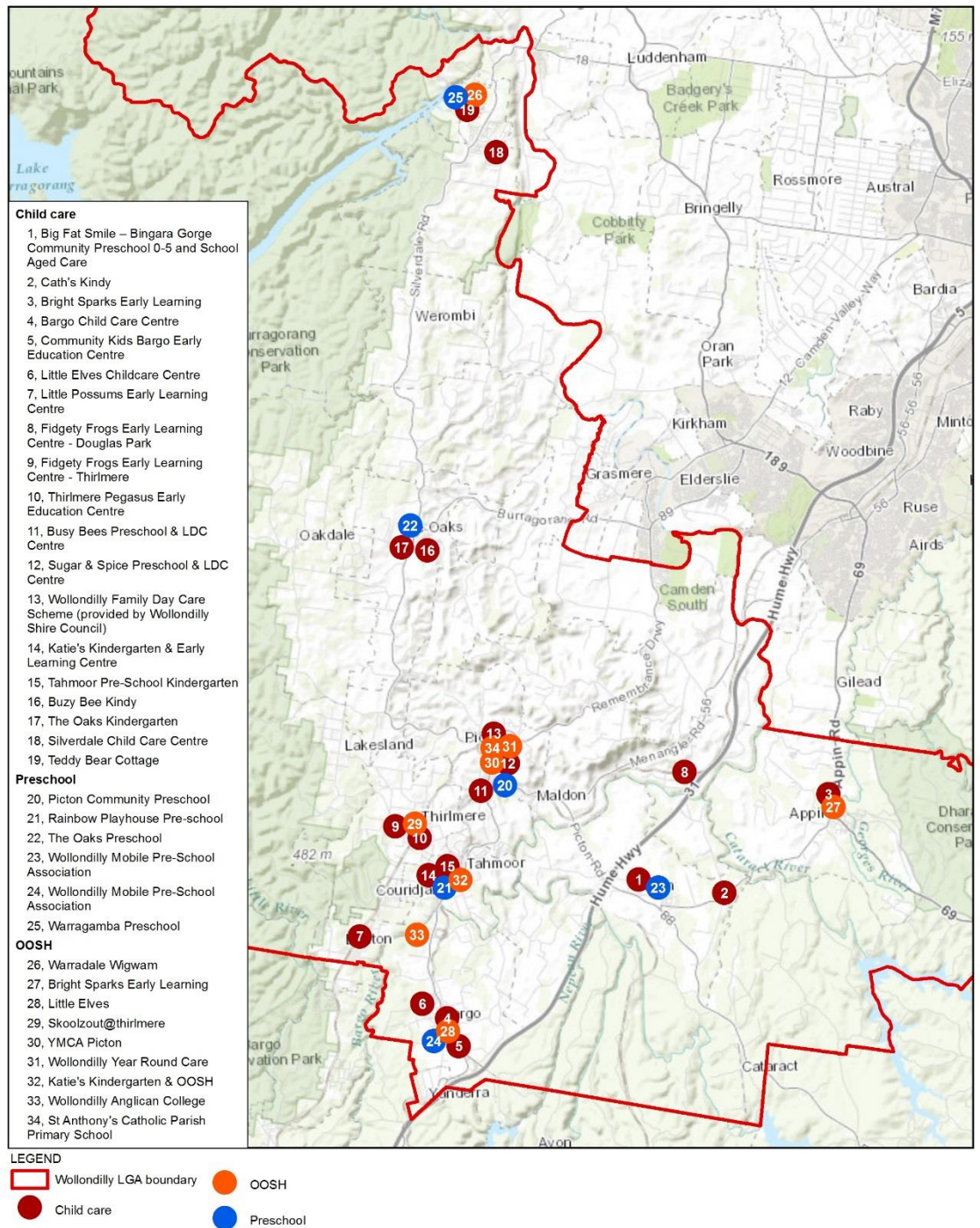


Figure 19 Early Childhood Education Facilities in Wollondilly LGA

9.1.2 Primary and high schools in and around Wollondilly

In 2011, there were 9,402 children of school age (between the ages of 5 and 18). As a percentage, Wollondilly has a larger population of children under 18 years than Greater Sydney (28% compared to 23%).

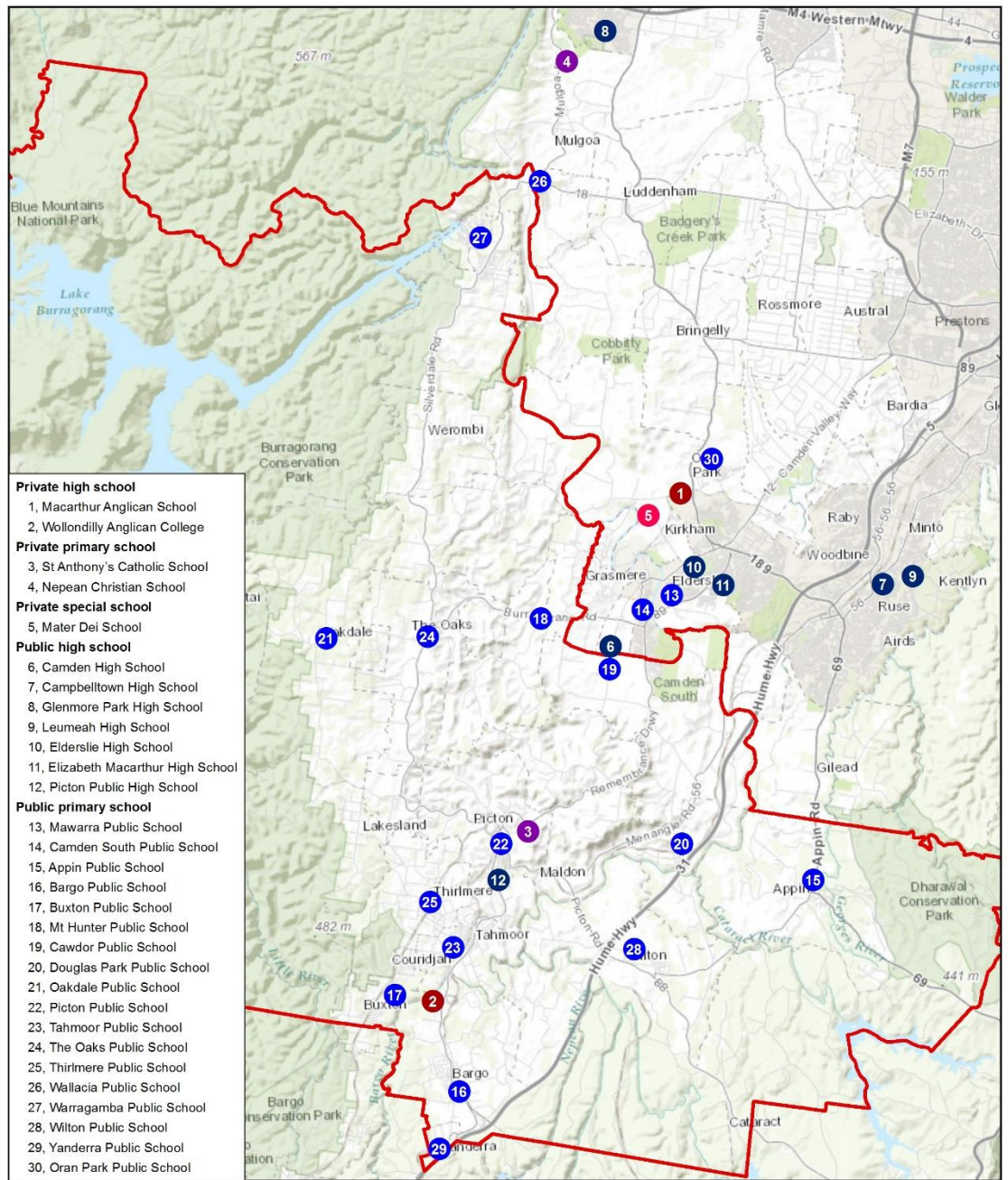
There are 15 primary schools within Wollondilly and 14 of these are public schools, as shown in Figure 20.

In 2014, 3,366 students attended these public schools. The following schools had the highest number of enrolments within Wollondilly:

- Picton Public School (458 students)
- Warragamba Public School (379 students)
- Thirlmere Public School (367 students)
- Bargo Public School (358 students)
- Tahmoor Public School (358 students).

In comparison, the following schools had the lowest number of enrolments during 2014 and it is assumed would therefore have capacity to accommodate additional students:

- Mt Hunter Public School (46 students)
- Yanderra Public School (54 students)
- Cawdor Public School (61 students)
- Wallacia Public School (82 students – located just outside the Wollondilly LGA boundary).



LEGEND

- Private primary school
- Public high school
- Private high school
- Private special school
- Wollondilly LGA boundary
- Public primary school

Figure 20 Primary and secondary schools in relation to Wollondilly

Wollondilly's primary schools are located in Wollondilly's more densely populated towns and villages, where higher proportions of primary school children live. Children living in rural areas however may need to travel longer times and distances to attend a primary school.

The distribution of students across public, Catholic and independent primary schools in Wollondilly is similar to that of Greater Sydney, as depicted in Figure 3. Most children living in Wollondilly attend a government primary school (69%), which is slightly higher than the Greater Sydney average (66%). Fewer children attended a Catholic primary school (16%) than the Greater Sydney average (21%). The proportion of children attending an independent school (14%) was slightly higher than the Greater Sydney average (12%). Given that Wollondilly Anglican College at Bargo and St Anthony's Catholic School are the only Catholic or independent schools within the LGA, it is anticipated that the majority of non-government school students are accessing schools outside the LGA in the neighbouring areas of Camden, Campbelltown or even Wollongong.

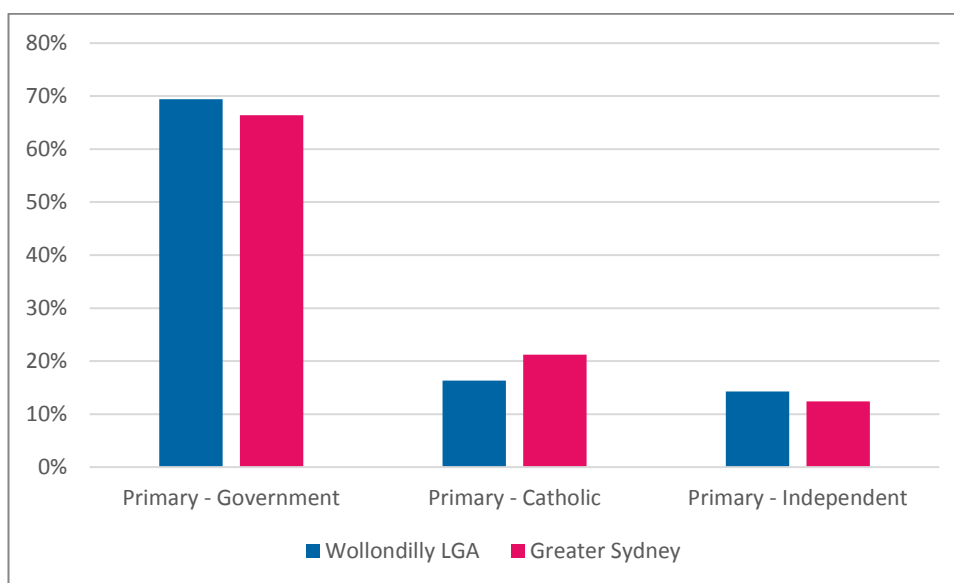


Figure 21 Primary school attendance in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

Although there are 15 primary schools within Wollondilly. Picton High School is the only public secondary school within the Wollondilly LGA. The High School is considered to be nearing capacity with 1,170 enrolments in 2014. In terms of non-government high schools, there is only one non-government option within the LGA and this is Wollondilly Anglican College. Secondary school children living in Wollondilly therefore have limited education options within the area.

Almost two-thirds of secondary school-aged children living in Wollondilly also attended a public high school (63%), which is higher than the Greater Sydney average (56%). The 2011 census identified 3,990 residents aged 12 to 17 years with 1,737 students enrolled at the two high schools within the LGA. It is therefore estimated that 56% of high school students are travelling outside Wollondilly to attend school.

Both primary and high school students from Wollondilly are potentially travelling long distances to access schools. For children living in Bargo, Picton, Tahmoor or Thirlmere, they could be travelling between 17 to 33 minutes by car to access Camden High School, which is the closest public high school outside Wollondilly (between 17 km to 24 km). For children who live in Wallacia, Warragamba or Silverdale, the closest public high school is Glenmore Park High School, which is approximately 15 to 22 minutes away (between 15 to 22 km).

Picton Bus Lines provides a school bus service for the schools within the Wollondilly LGA. There are 26 school bus routes catering for most of the schools and townships, although the

journey times vary amongst school routes, some of the bus routes start their collection at 6:30 am arriving at their destination up to two hours later. Long travel distances and times can greatly limit the time and ability of children to participate in after school activities, which can impact on their health and social development. Spending a lot of time travelling to and from school on transport can reduce the chance of incidental exercise and active lifestyles among children. This also has an impact on social cohesion, as children who make friends at school, may live long distances from each other, limiting opportunities to spend time together on weekends and after school.

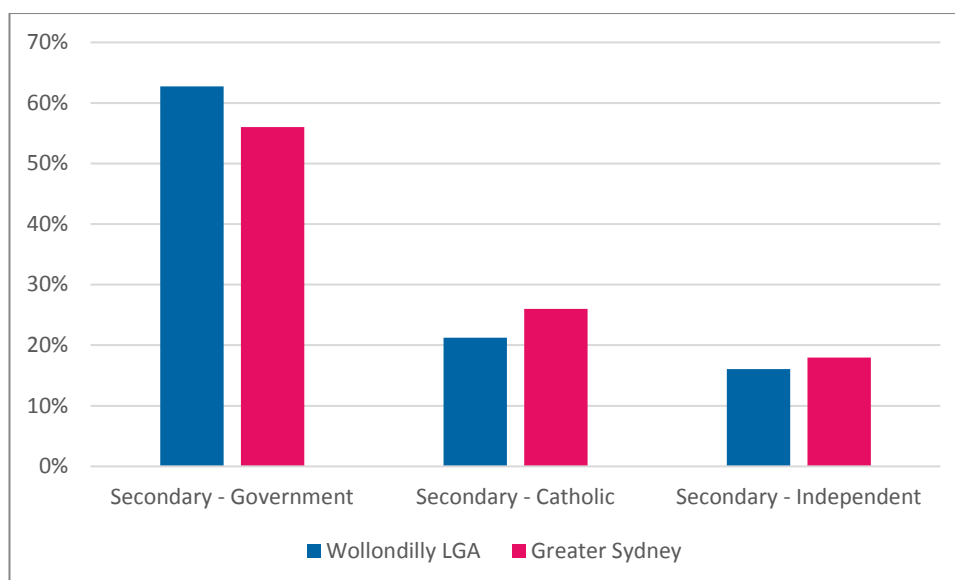


Figure 22 Secondary school attendance in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

Within Wollondilly, four primary schools and one secondary school have special education units to cater to students with a range of disabilities and special needs such as autism, emotional disturbances and intellectual disabilities. These schools include:

- Picton Public School (Range of disabilities)
- Bargo Public School (Autism)
- Tahmoor Public School (Range of disabilities)
- Wilton Public School (Intellectual disabilities and autism)
- Picton High School (Range of disabilities, autism and emotional disturbance).

There are however, no specific specialist schools within Wollondilly. Children from Wollondilly may attend the Mater Dei School at Camden (non-government), which is the closest specialist school catered for children with mild to moderate cognitive disabilities. For children living in Bargo, Picton, Tahmoor or Thirlmere, their journey could take between 24 to 36 minutes by car (between 24 km to 46 km).

Within Wollondilly there are two Environmental Education Centres (EECs) that are managed by the NSW Department of Education and Communities. The Wooglemmai EEC located in Oakdale and Camden Park EEC in Menangle are part of a network of 25 EECs across the State that provide farm-based, heritage and environmental field work opportunities for K-12 students. Schools are able to participate in EEC programs, including day visits, peer support/recreational activities and overnight programs.

Challenges

The challenges for school aged education in Wollondilly include:

- Limited public and private schools within the LGA resulting in long travel times for school students.
- Approximately 56% of high school students living within Wollondilly travel outside the Local Government Area to attend school
- Inadequate provision of OOSH care facilities to accommodate demand.

9.1.3 Tertiary education

The University of Sydney Camden Campus' Veterinary teaching hospital is the only tertiary education campus within Wollondilly. The research units and programs at this campus are however, only available to students studying veterinary science. For those who wish to study other tertiary programs, tertiary students living in Wollondilly are able to access nine tertiary institutions in neighbouring LGAs (Camden, Campbelltown, Wingecarribee and Wollongong). Institutions include the University of Sydney, University of Western Sydney and University of Wollongong.

Tertiary students are also likely to travel further to attend tertiary education across the Greater Sydney Region, including Campbelltown and Wollongong. Based on this, there are up to 13 tertiary education campuses available to Wollondilly residents in these areas. The tertiary education facilities are identified in Figure 23. Students that live in Wollondilly would most likely travel by train to their respective tertiary institutions, for some the travel time would be over 2 hours. The long travel distances would impact on their ability to work part time.

The limited number of tertiary education facilities could be correlated to the lower level of educational attainment due to limited opportunities. Figure 24 shows the education levels of Wollondilly residents.

In 2011 fewer residents had a Bachelor or higher degree (11% compared to 24% in Greater Sydney). A larger proportion of Wollondilly residents however had a vocational qualification (26% compared to 15% in Greater Sydney). Completion of Year 12 among Wollondilly residents was lower than Greater Sydney (35% compared to 55%). However, a higher proportion of residents completed Year 10 (37% compared to 20%). It indicates that Wollondilly residents are more likely to undertake vocational training following their completion of Year 10.

Challenges

In Wollondilly, there are limited opportunities for tertiary education.

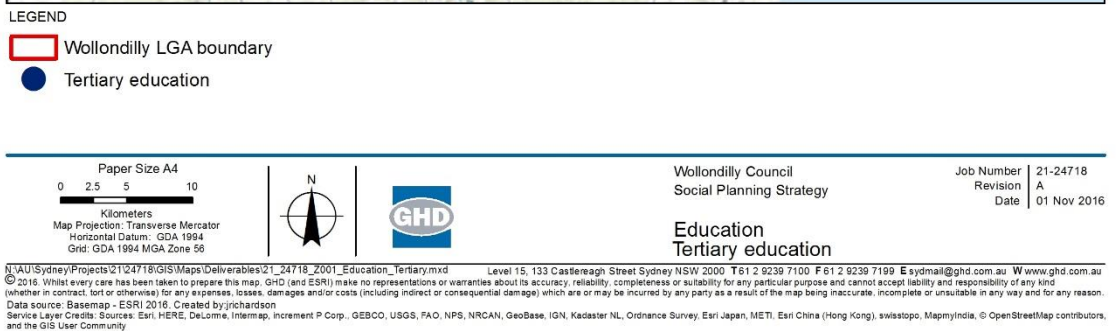
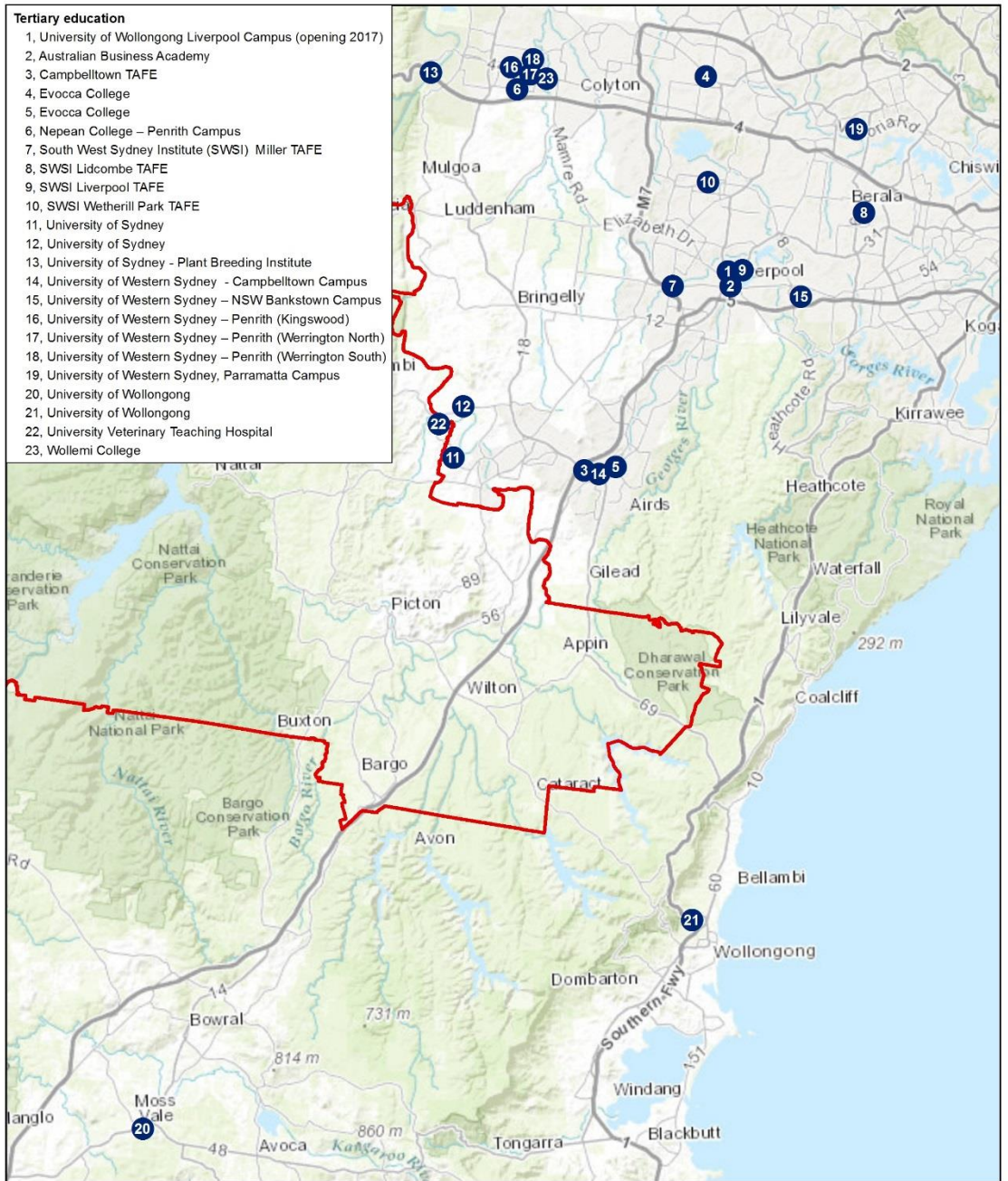


Figure 23 Tertiary education facilities in relation to Wollondilly

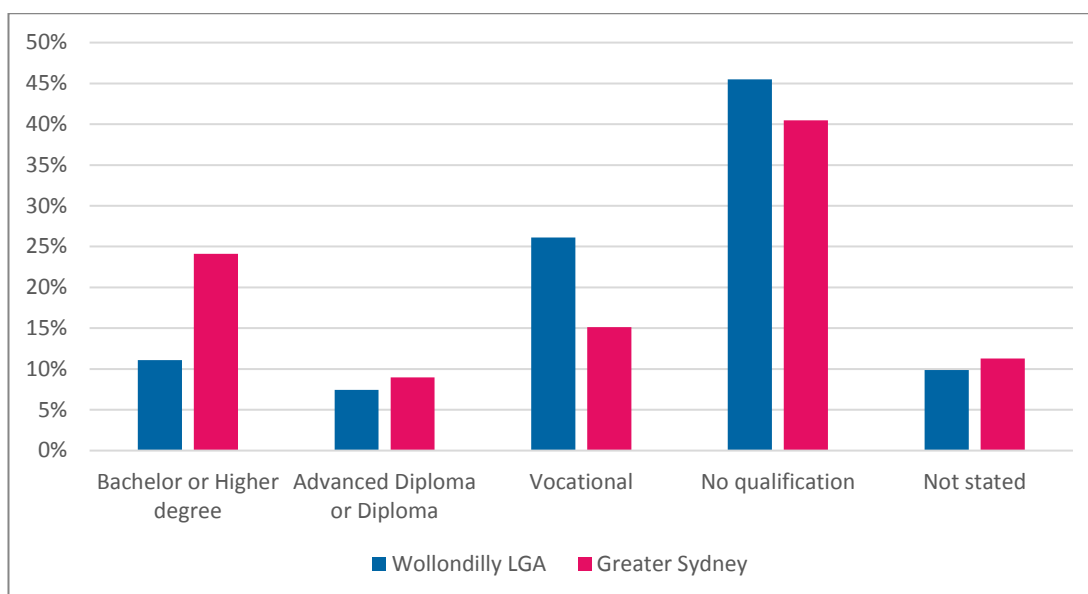


Figure 24 Education levels in Wollondilly compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

9.1.4 Future provision

The development of Western and South Western Sydney presents significant opportunities to increase access to education facilities in the region as the population continues to grow. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment has stated that within the Greater Macarthur and Wilton area that they are planning for new education facilities⁷ These will include:

- Private and public primary and high schools
- Technical and further education facilities
- More facilities at universities

Wollondilly Shire Council should continue to work with the Department in the planning and development of these facilities.

9.2 Lifelong learning

Lifelong learning may be broadly defined as learning that is pursued throughout life: learning that is flexible, diverse and available at different times and in different places (Lifelong Learning Council Queensland, 2016). Lifelong learning can be acquired anywhere, and is often provided outside the classroom by informal providers such as community colleges, community based organisations or through Council at the public library. Whilst informal learning does not necessarily result in gaining a formal qualification, the courses can be used to obtain skills required to gain entrance to, or supplement the learning undertaken, at a formal institution. Lifelong learning can also enhance work or leisure skills and knowledge. These skills can help people re-enter the workforce, providing positive economic and social outcomes. Lifelong learning can help people become more adaptable through an enhanced skillset.

Participation in lifelong learning programs can also help individuals build and retain activity levels and social connection. This is especially important for groups such as the senior population, as life events such as retirement from the workplace can mean increased levels of social isolation. Social isolation and loneliness can contribute to poor mental health and place people at increased risk of illness (Retire Australia n.d). Participation in lifelong learning

⁷ NSW Department of Planning and Environment (2016), Greater Macarthur and Wilton, Frequently Asked Questions retrieved 16 October 2016 from <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/~media/Files/DPE/Factsheets-and-faqs/faqs-greater-macarthur-and-wilton-frequently-asked-questions-2016-07.ashx>

programs is therefore beneficial to maintaining social connections and good health and wellbeing outcomes (University of Rochester Medical Centre, 2016). Council is the main provider within Wollondilly of community based learning programs and services, which are primarily provided through services at the Library, a list of programs is provided in Volume 3. The Library offers free technology workshops for seniors and help sessions for people who need assistance with using the internet and other technologies. In addition, the Library runs programs for National Family History Month, including drawing and technology workshops and history tours.

The Library offers online access for customers to e-resources (e.g. e-books, e-audio books, e-journals, newspapers, magazines, language resources). It also runs a Home Library Service targeted to housebound customers. This relies on volunteers to deliver this service.

In addition, Wollondilly Council's environment team runs Sustainability Works which is a series of workshops at the nursery including:

- Waste and Recycling
- Composting and Worm farming
- No Dig Gardening
- Love Food Hate Waste

Other workshops organised by the team focus on plant propagation, seed collection and processing.

Council also coordinates the Sol youth leadership program where local youth are mentored to organise the Festive Earthen Mud Building Events. These events educate people about the basic elements of building a shelter and other structures from mud and also the historical and cultural uses of mud building throughout the world. Structure built has part of this program include: Cob Oven, Rocket Stove and an outdoor kitchen.

In addition to Council, Macarthur Community College provides a limited number of informal education courses within Wollondilly. The College also runs a wider range of courses at the Campbelltown Arts Centre, outside Wollondilly.

Challenges

In Wollondilly, there are limited opportunities for lifelong learning within the LGA.

9.3 Wollondilly economy and employment opportunities

According to Council's quarterly business report (October 2015) Wollondilly Shire's Gross Regional Product was \$1.62 billion in 2014, about 0.5% of the Greater Sydney economy. The local economy is reliant on mining, construction and manufacturing. In terms of GDP, Council's Economic Development Strategy (2015), estimates that these industries combined make up over half of the local economy.

In 2011, Wollondilly's total labour force comprised 22,230 persons. Labour force participation was higher than Greater Sydney (67% compared to 62%). The rate of unemployment was also lower (4.2%) compared to Greater Sydney (5.7%).

62% of working residents were employed full-time, while 31% worked part-time. This was consistent with Greater Sydney (62% and 30% respectively). The proportion of people looking for full-time and part-time work was also consistent with Greater Sydney at 3% and 2% respectively.

The main industries of employment for Wollondilly residents were manufacturing (12.5%), construction (12%), health care and social assistance (9.9%) and retail trade (9.8%). Health

care and social assistance and retail trade were the dominant employers in Greater Sydney. This is shown in Figure 25.

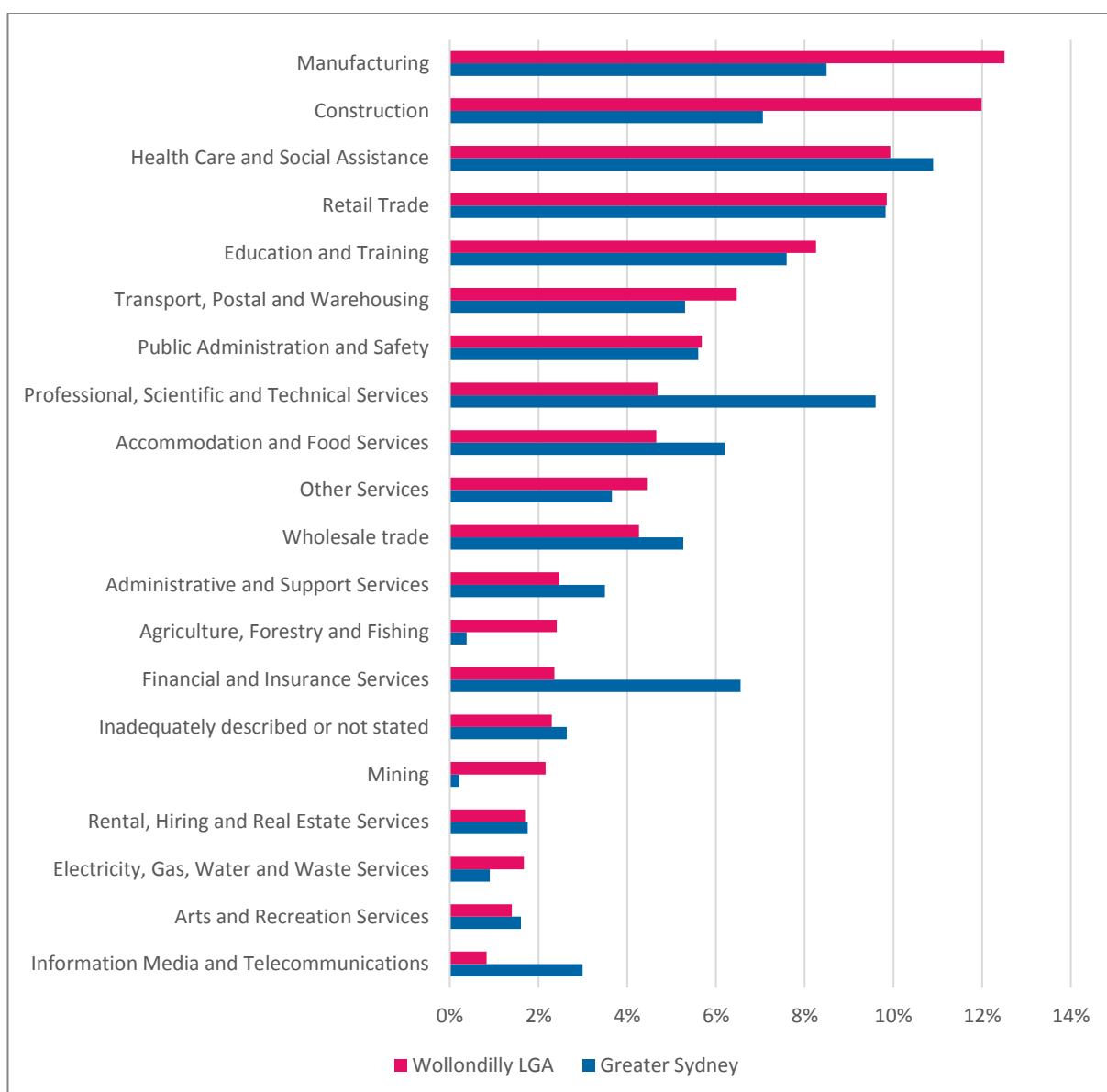


Figure 25 Industries of employment for Wollondilly residents compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

Wollondilly residents were employed in occupations which generally reflected these main employment industries. Figure 26 shows that the most common occupations were technicians and trades workers (18.3%), clerical and administrative workers (15.4%) and professionals (15.2%). Professionals and clerical and administrative workers were the most common occupations in Greater Sydney. There were also higher percentages of residents employed as machinery operators and drivers (9.8%) and labourers (9.6%), compared to Greater Sydney (5.7% and 7.3% respectively).

In 2011, median individual incomes in Wollondilly (\$617) were similar to Greater Sydney (\$619) although median weekly household incomes in Wollondilly (\$1,478) were slightly higher than Greater Sydney (\$1,447). This could be due to more income earners living in each household, which is reflected by Wollondilly's slightly larger households (2.94 persons compared to 2.69 persons in Greater Sydney).

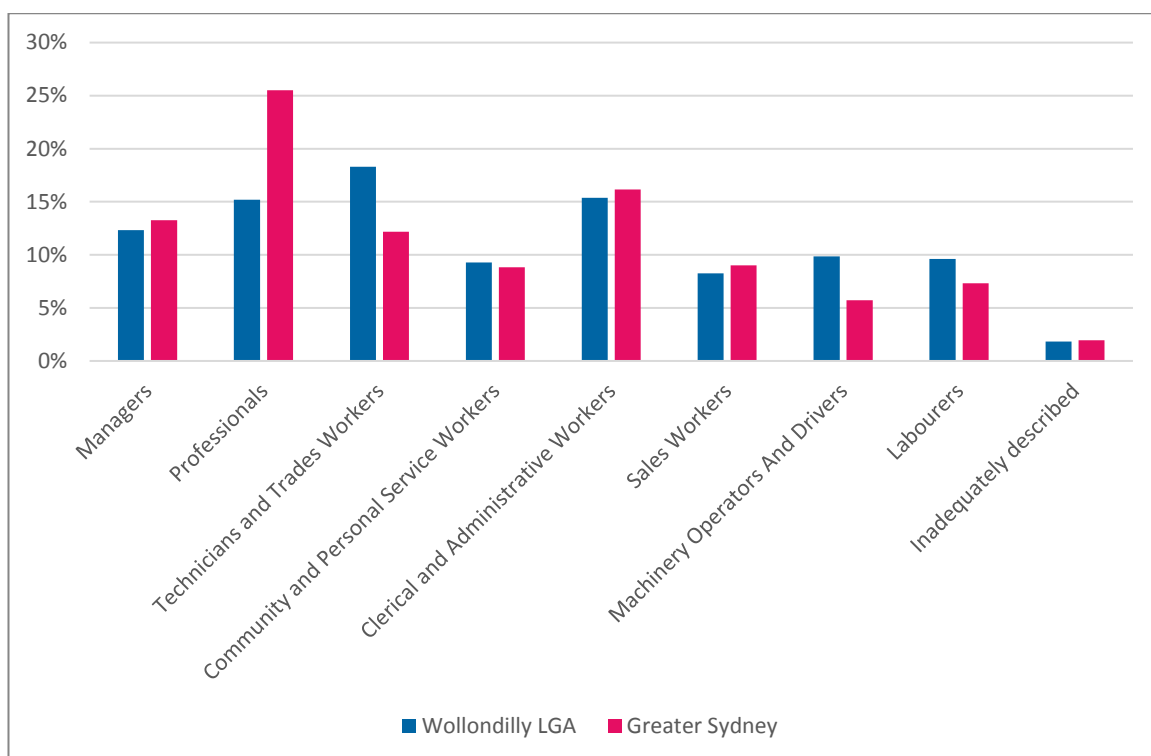


Figure 26 Occupations of Wollondilly residents compared to Greater Sydney, 2011

In 2011, 58.4% of Wollondilly's working residents travelled outside of the area to work (Profile.id. 2014). A large proportion travelled to work by car as a driver or passenger (73% compared to 58.4% in Greater Sydney). Only 4.7% travelled to work by public transport, which was significantly lower than Greater Sydney at 22.2%. Overall, the average trip by Wollondilly residents to work was 44 minutes (Bureau of Transport Statistics 2012).

Challenges

The challenges for employment opportunities in Wollondilly include:

- Limited casual and part time employment opportunities within the LGA.
- Lack of knowledge based jobs within the LGA.

9.4 Summary of challenges

There is a lack of educational and employment opportunities within the Wollondilly LGA. Consequently, residents are travelling long distances on a daily basis to attend school or work, impacting on the quality of life for both school students and local workers. Approximately 58% of the workforce leaves the area to access employment.

The main industry within Wollondilly is agriculture and there is concern from Council that this will be threatened as the pressure for urban development within the LGA increases. Local job opportunities will need to be created to enable new residents to work within the area enabling money to be reinvested back into the LGA rather than in the adjacent Council areas. Wollondilly has a shortage of knowledge based jobs, lacks strategic educational assets such as a university or TAFE presence and key infrastructure to support economic development (e.g. broadband infrastructure). This impedes innovation, growth of high income jobs and home-based businesses. Consequently, there is a "brain drain" as young people move out of the area to access tertiary institutions or employment opportunities.

The challenges associated with education, lifelong learning and economic wellbeing are experienced by different groups within the community in different ways, as summarised in Table 10 below.

Table 10 Impact of challenges on target population groups

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
Children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare services are required to operate longer hours to allow for longer commuting times of parents. • Additional before and after school care services are required to cater for long commuting times of parents. • School students are traveling out of the area to access education facilities. – long travel times, less time for leisure etc • Less time for parents to spend with families
Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited public and private schools within the LGA resulting in long travel times and distances to access education. • There are no tertiary facilities within the LGA so significant travel is required to obtain formal qualification, this risks? young adults moving out of the LGA to be closer to their educational institutions.
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older people may be at risk of social isolation and reduced health outcomes. • Limited lifelong learning opportunities in the LGA
People with disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no specialist schools for children with disabilities within the LGA. However, the Public Schools do have specialist units to accommodate students with special needs. • Distance to tertiary institutions present greater barrier for people with disability.
Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of education and employment opportunities can contribute to increased disadvantage for Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands.
CALD people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of social isolation for people who cannot gain employment
Local workforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of knowledge based jobs resulting in limited job diversity and opportunities. As a result, residents seek these opportunities outside the LGA. • Limited opportunities for tertiary education resulting in young adults either travelling long distances to attend educational institutions; or moving out of the LGA to be closer to their educational institutions • Significant travel required to access employment outside of the LGA, which reduces the time available for people to engage in social and recreational activities. • Limited casual and part-time employment options resulting in limited job diversity and opportunities, and residents seeking opportunities outside the LGA.

10. Creating healthy, safe and secure communities

Aim: Enable and promote healthy and safe communities that support physical activity and social engagement

The concept of health is now widely recognised as not just the absence of disease or illness, but a state of physical, mental and social wellbeing (World Health Organisation, 1946). The *Social Determinants of Health* establish the relationship between social factors and a person's health status, recognising that changing the social aspects that contribute to poor health can not only prevent and improve health, but also deliver on broader social, economic and environmental outcomes. Public health in NSW has moved beyond a focus on the individual and behaviour change to also consider these broader factors and their influence on individual and community health (NSW Health, 2009).

The objective of the Wollondilly SPS is to enable and promote healthy and safe communities that support physical activity and social engagement. While building healthy communities depends on a range of interrelated factors, the focus of this chapter is primarily on physical health and safety, with other chapters focusing on other elements of community health, such as social engagement. This chapter therefore explores the current health status of Wollondilly's communities, access to facilities and programs which promote physical health, access to healthy food, and community safety.

10.1 Current health status of the Wollondilly community

Based on the *Wollondilly LGA Health Profile 2014* (South Western Sydney Local Health District 2014), between 2002 and 2006, the life expectancy of Wollondilly residents was 80.6 years for males and 85.1 years for females. This was slightly higher than the NSW averages of 79.6 years for males and 84.4 years for females. In 2005, Wollondilly's mortality rate was lower (ratio of 88.3) than NSW. These indicators are influenced by the health status of residents, which are discussed in the following sections. As discussed in the previous chapters of this strategy, health is shaped by a number of social and economic conditions, including the social environment and access to health services, support, education and housing, as well as the health behaviours and lifestyles of residents.

10.1.1 Self-rated health status

In 2010, 81.3% of Wollondilly residents self-rated their health as excellent, very good or good, compared to 80.2% in NSW. The proportion of residents who suffered a high or very high psychological distress was lower (8.3% compared to 11.1% in NSW). More residents had private health insurance (50.1%) and visited the dentist in the last 12 months (64.1%), compared to 48.2% and 58.9% respectively for NSW.

While residents felt that they were generally healthy, a higher proportion than the NSW average reported that they suffered from the following health issues:

- Asthma (13% compared to 11%)
- Diabetes or high blood glucose (10% compared to 8%)
- Overweight (41% compared to 33%)
- Obesity (26% compared to 20%).

Figure 27 compares these indicators between Wollondilly and NSW. These health issues may be linked to the behaviours of residents, as discussed in the next section.

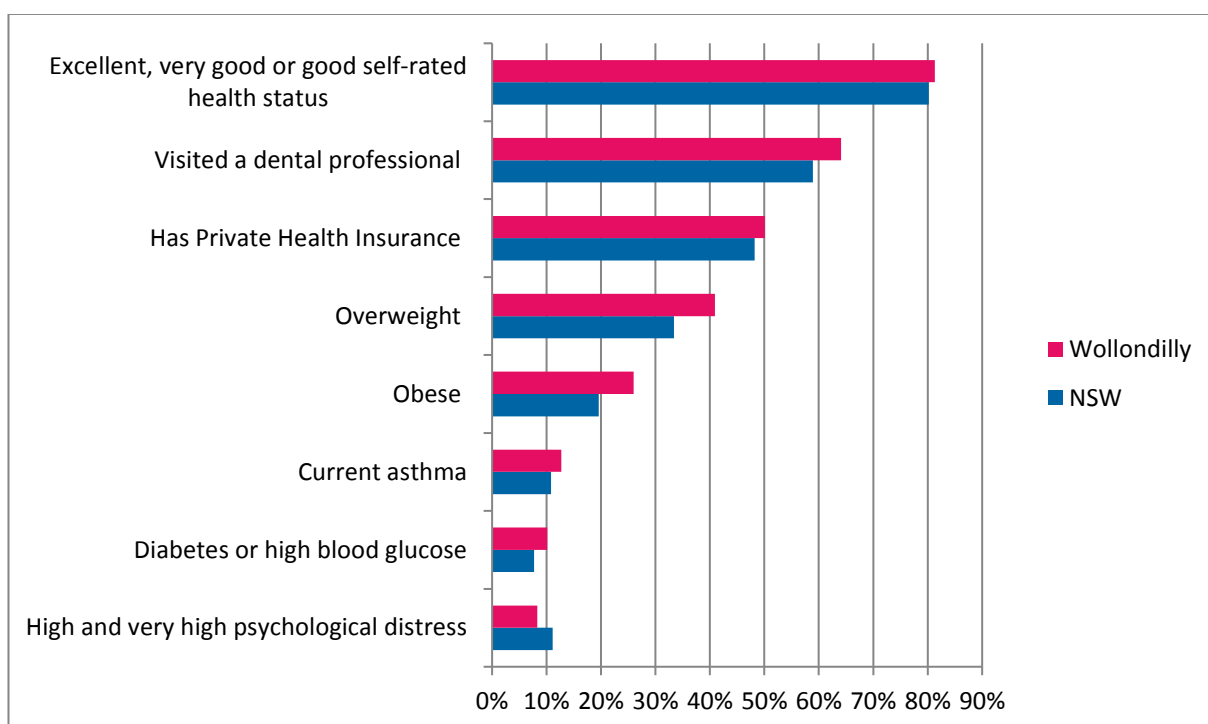


Figure 27 Self-reported health status for persons aged 16 years and over, 2010

Source: Wollondilly Local Government Area Health Profile 2014 (South Western Sydney Local Health District, 2014)

10.1.2 Health behaviours

Figure 28 below shows the health behaviours of Wollondilly residents between 2008 and 2010. Compared to the NSW average, residents reported slightly lower levels of:

- Cervical Screening Biennial screening rate (women aged 20 to 69) (55% compared to 57%).
- Vaccination against pneumococcal disease in the last 5 years (64+ year olds) (53% compared to 56%).
- Adequate physical activity (53% compared to 55%).

A higher proportion of residents drank more than two standard drinks a day when drinking alcohol (33% compared to 30% in NSW), but a lower proportion engaged in high risk alcohol drinking (8% compared to 10% in NSW). The proportion of smokers in Wollondilly was consistent to the NSW average (17%).

A slightly higher proportion of residents were vaccinated against influenza in the last 12 months (73% compared to 72%). Women aged between 50 and 69 years also reported a higher level of mammogram screening in the last two years (84% compared to 76% in NSW).

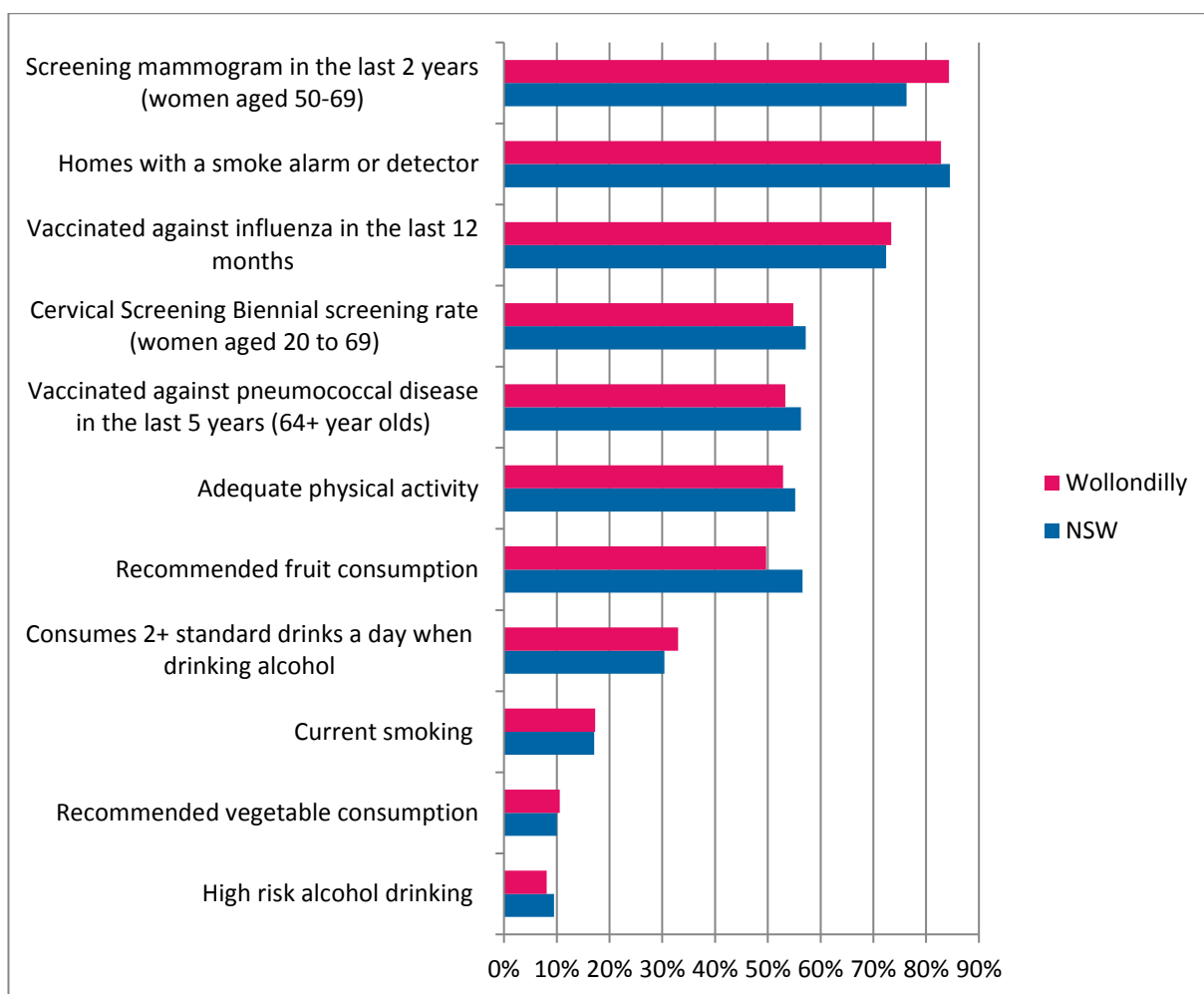


Figure 28 Health behaviours of residents of Wollondilly LGA and NSW aged 16 years and over, 2008-2010

Source: Wollondilly Local Government Area Health Profile 2014 (South Western Sydney Local Health District, 2014)

10.1.3 Social capital

Social capital is a term used to describe social relationships within a group or community, for example the extent of trust between people; whether they have a shared understanding of how they should behave toward, and care for one another; and the extent of participation in civic organisations, such as sporting clubs and school councils. Higher levels of social capital and social trust contribute to positive health outcomes.

Figure 29 below shows the social capital of Wollondilly residents between 2007 and 2009. In Wollondilly, slightly higher proportions of residents would state the following when compared to NSW:

- They ran into friends and acquaintances when shopping in the local area (87% compared to 82% in NSW)
- The local area had a reputation for being safe (87% compared to 76% in NSW)
- They felt safe walking down their street after dark (74% compared to 72% in NSW).

However, there were lower percentage of residents in Wollondilly commenting on the ability to trust people or visiting neighbours.



Figure 29 Social capital persons aged 16 and over, 2007-2009

Source: Wollondilly Local Government Area Health Profile 2014 (South Western Sydney Local Health District, 2014)

CALD people can face barriers to social inclusion, which may include language, communication and cultural differences, each of which can affect how people access resources and services and may lead to social isolation. Culturally appropriate health care and interpreter services can help address these issues.

10.1.4 Maternal indicators

In 2011, there was a higher fertility rate in Wollondilly (2.08 births) compared to NSW (1.91 births). Smoking during pregnancy was also more prevalent in Wollondilly than NSW between 2008 and 2010 (ratio of 115.6 compared to 100 in NSW).

10.1.5 Rates of hospitalisations

Figure 30 shows the rate of hospitalisations of Wollondilly residents relative to NSW. Overall, the rate of total hospitalisations was lower than NSW. Hospitalisations due to the following conditions were higher compared to NSW:

- High body mass index.
- Coronary heart disease.
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

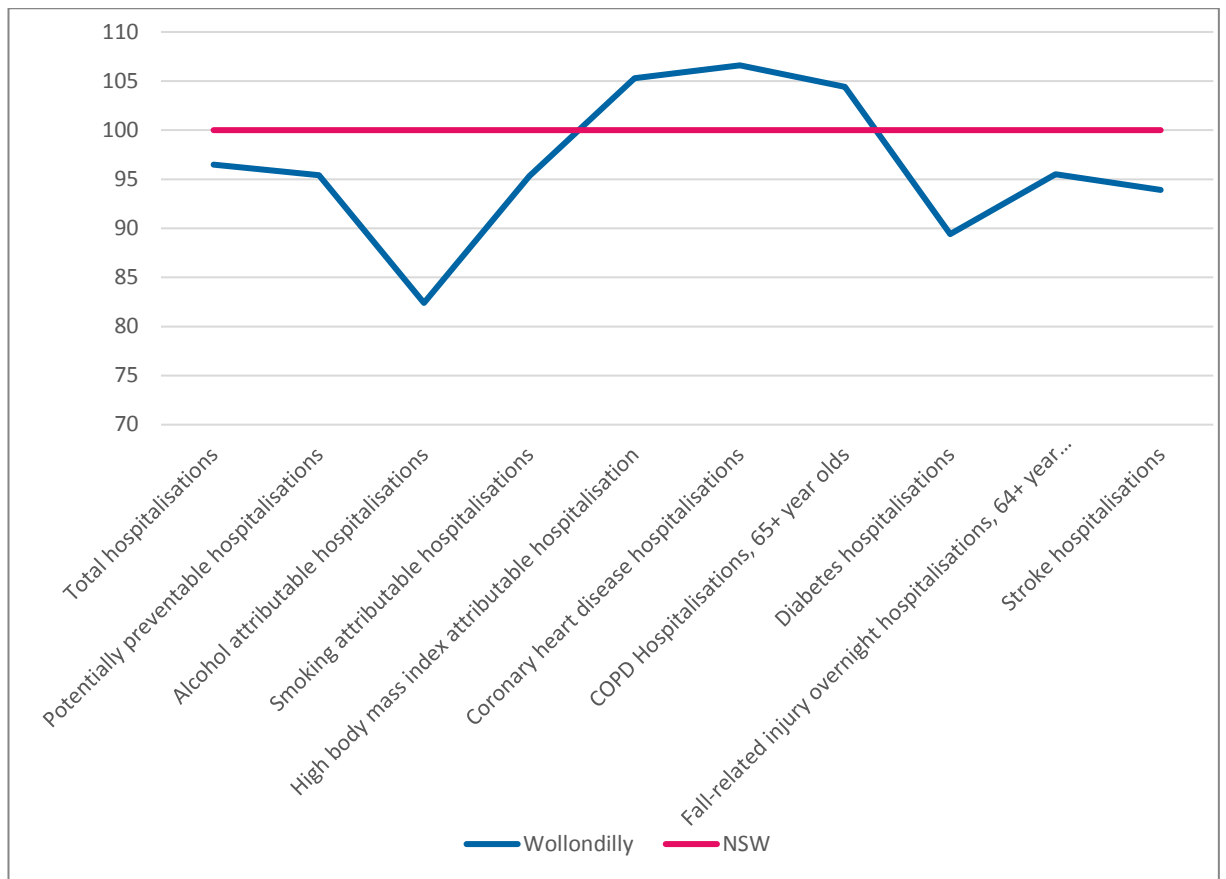


Figure 30 Rate of hospitalisations of Wollondilly residents relative to NSW average

Source: Wollondilly Local Government Area Health Profile 2014 (South Western Sydney Local Health District, 2014)

10.1.6 Rates of mortality

Figure 31 shows the rate of deaths in Wollondilly relative to NSW. Deaths due to high body mass index and smoking were higher than NSW. The rate of alcohol attributable deaths was similar to NSW.

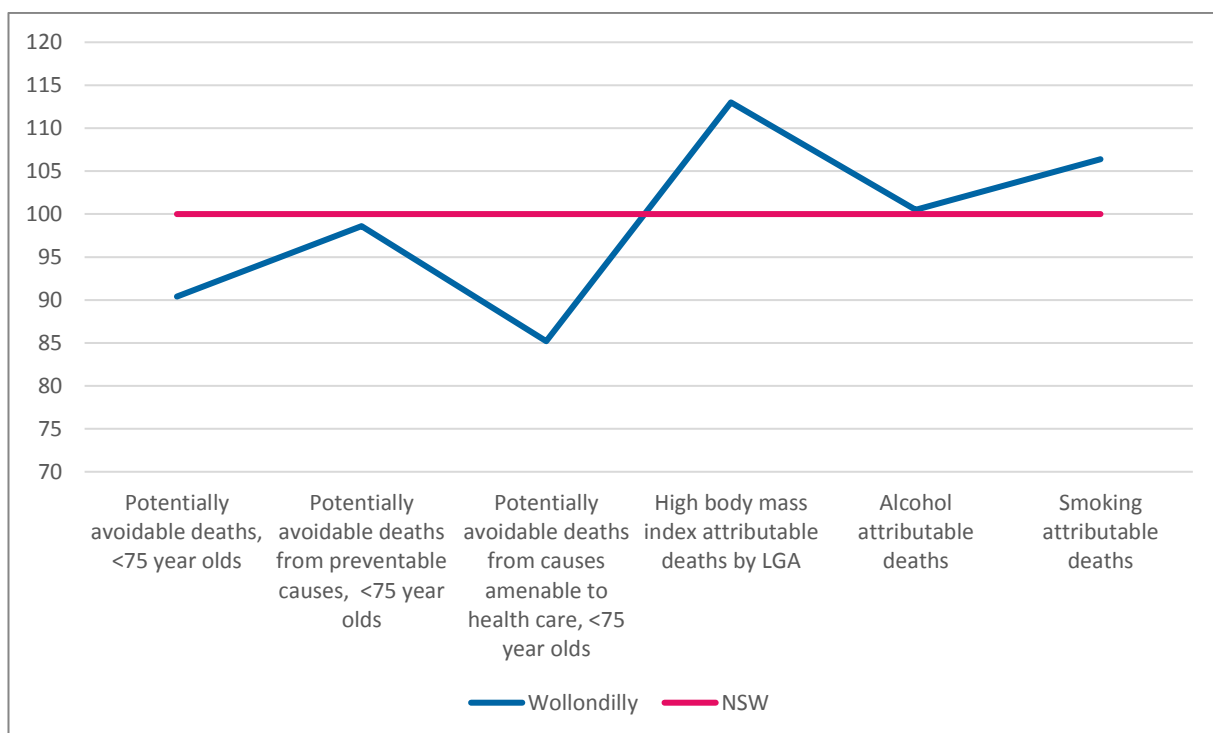


Figure 31 Rate of deaths in Wollondilly relative to NSW

Source: Wollondilly Local Government Area Health Profile 2014 (South Western Sydney Local Health District, 2014)

Figure 32 shows the top causes of death in Wollondilly between 2005 and 2007. The top causes of death were:

- Cardiovascular disease (32%), although this was lower than NSW (37%).
- Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (31%).
- Respiratory disease (10%).

Compared to NSW, there were substantially higher proportions of deaths caused by:

- Malignant neoplasms (cancer) (31% compared to 29%).
- Injury and poisoning (including external causes) (8% compared to 5%).

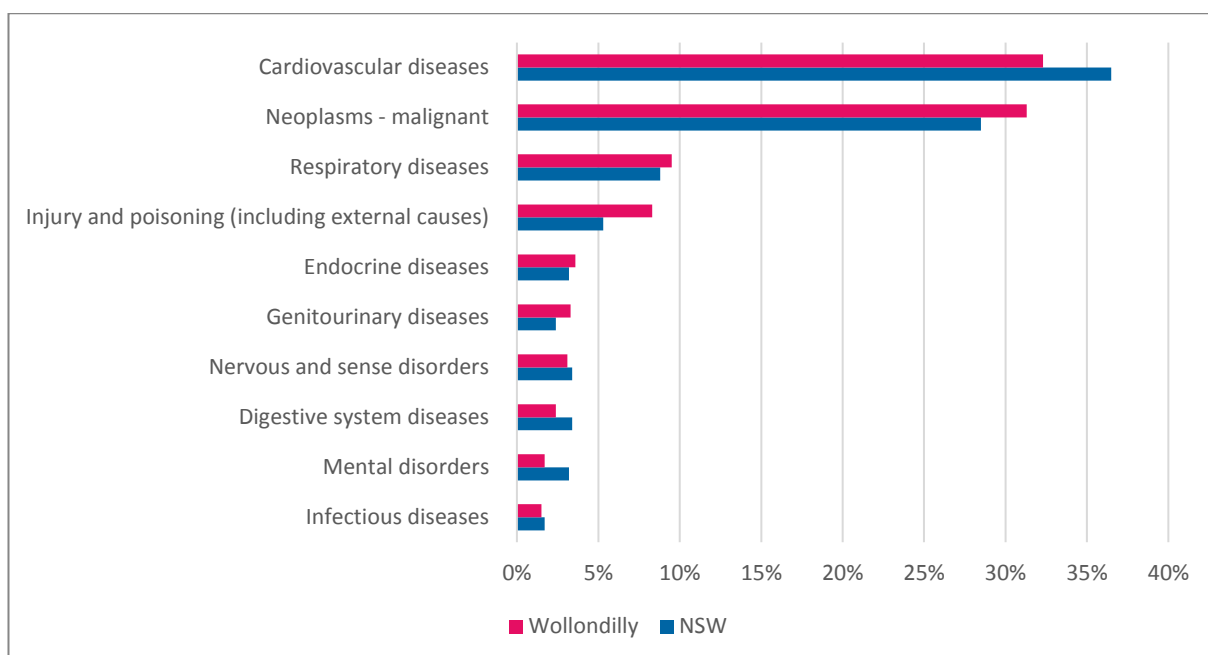


Figure 32 Top causes of death in Wollondilly, 2005-2007

Source: Wollondilly Local Government Area Health Profile 2014 (South Western Sydney Local Health District, 2014)

Figure 33 shows the rate of avoidable, preventable and treatable deaths of Wollondilly residents between 2004 and 2007. Compared to NSW, there were higher rates of:

- Deaths from preventable causes.
- Deaths from cancer, in particular, lung cancer.
- Road traffic injuries.

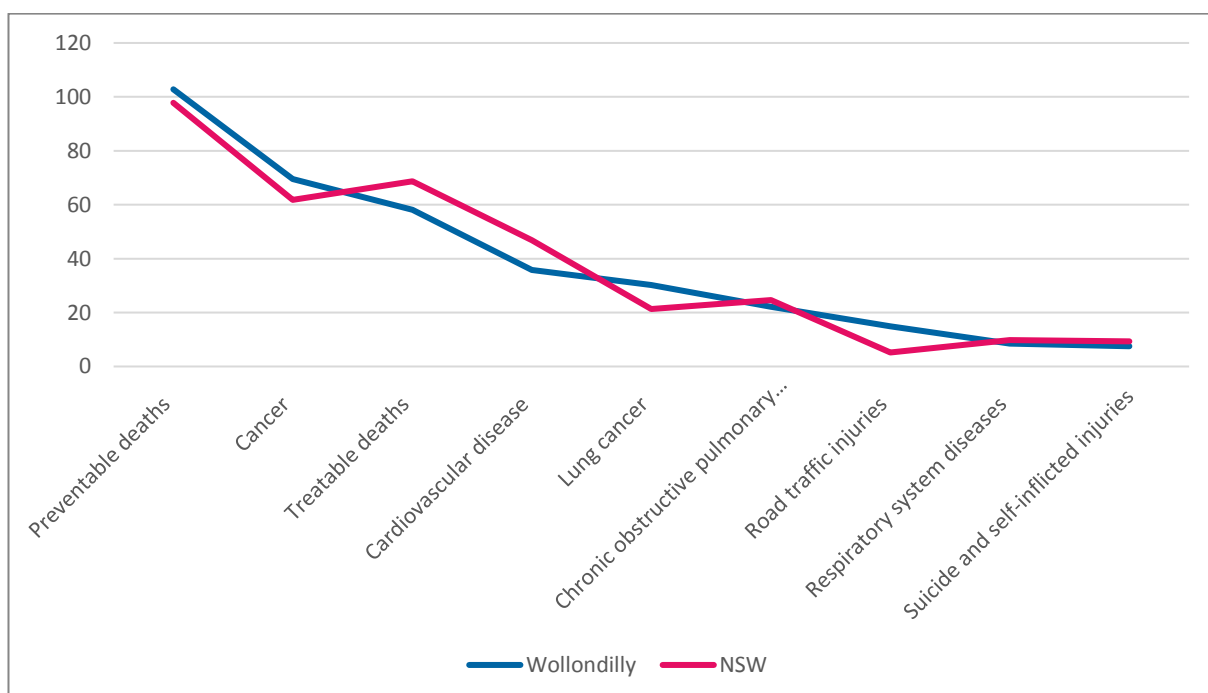


Figure 33 Rate of avoidable, preventable and treatable deaths of residents aged 15 to 64 (per 100,000 people), 2004-2007

Source: Wollondilly Local Government Area Health Profile 2014 (South Western Sydney Local Health District, 2014)

10.1.7 Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA)

The *Social Determinants of Health* state that “life expectancy is shorter and most diseases are more common further down the social ladder in society. Disadvantage can include having poorer education, insecure employment, living in poor housing or difficult circumstances”. The Socio-economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are used to rank geographic areas across Australia according to their socio-economic characteristics. The Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage (IRSD) contains indicators of disadvantage such as low income, high unemployment and low levels of education.

Relative disadvantage is associated with a low number. The average across Australia is 1000. A number below 1000 indicates lower socioeconomic status. In 2011, the IRSD for the Wollondilly was 1033. This indicates that Wollondilly had slightly lower levels of disadvantage. Within Wollondilly however there were areas with varying levels of disadvantage. Suburbs which had an IRSD below 1000 included:

- Warragamba (941).
- Tahmoor (958).
- Menangle Park (985).
- Yanderra (983).
- Oakdale (990).
- Couridjah (991).

This indicates that there may be vulnerable residents living in these areas, including lone person households, older residents and low income households. Planning for services in these suburbs needs to consider the different health and social needs of these communities.

10.2 Access to health services and facilities

According to the *Wollondilly Health Needs Assessment* (Elton Consulting, 2014), most health services within Wollondilly are located in Picton and Tahmoor. There are five general practices in Wollondilly (Appin, Bargo, Tahmoor and two practices in Picton) and allied health professionals and pharmacists in different townships, as listed in Volume 3. Most medical practices do not have afterhours or weekend services. It is currently challenging for residents to access health services in Wollondilly during weekdays, due to the lack of services and time available, long wait times, and the need to travel far to access specific services within the Shire. The number of allied health services within Wollondilly appears to be increasing, with Council reporting that the number available in Tahmoor has recently increased.

While Picton and Tahmoor appear to have several allied health services in the area, consultation with Council has indicated that many of these are understaffed or do not operate regular hours. This is considered to be due to the location of Wollondilly on the edge of the Sydney Metropolitan area and the Sydney South West Local Health District. Council noted that it is often difficult to attract and retain health professionals to Wollondilly, and the staff that do service the area can often be sent to other locations to relieve other staff or address demands, and they often will not return.

The Tahmoor Community Health Centre is the only major health centre serving Wollondilly. There are no public or private hospitals within the Shire, so residents are likely to access major health facilities in neighbouring LGAs (Camden, Campbelltown and Wingecarribee). Residents may also travel outside the Wollondilly LGA to access afterhours and weekend services due to the lack of local services of these types.

The closest major health services to Wollondilly include:

- Liverpool LGA – one principal referral hospital, affiliated health organisations and four community health centres.
- Camden LGA - one public hospital, two affiliated health organisations and one major community health centre.
- Campbelltown LGA - one public hospital, one affiliated health organisation and two major community health centres.
- Wingecarribee LGA - one public hospital and one major community health centre.
- Penrith LGA – one public hospital

Based on the *Wollondilly Health Needs Assessment* (Wollondilly Health Alliance 2014), Wollondilly residents experience poor access to health services, as currently most local services are in Picton and Tahmoor. This is a result of the lack of services and difficulty to provide viable local services, and the resultant need to travel outside of their town or Wollondilly to access major health facilities, such as a major community health centre or hospital. Community consultation for the *Wollondilly Health Needs Assessment* highlighted that this is a major community concern.

For young people, the service providers surveyed as part of the development of the Wollondilly Health Needs Assessment, identified a number of specific issues for this population group. The majority of young people are reliant on public transport to access health services independently, however poor public transport creates a barrier to seeing the local GP or Community Health Practitioner. Consequently, they are not able to access the services required or know where to go to for help. This issue is experienced by all members of the community who are reliant on public transport to access services. For young people it is further exacerbated by a shortage of services that are tailored to their specific requirements.

The *Wollondilly Health Needs Assessment* emphasised the need to address the shortfall of health services within Wollondilly. It recognised that while the population is currently not large or concentrated enough to attract and support private/commercial services, such as specialists and allied health services, there are alternative ways to deliver health benefits to the community, including:

- Health prevention and promotion programs targeting health issues, such as obesity, smoking and drug use, particularly among young people.
- Encourage developers to plan neighbourhoods and provide facilities, particularly in new release areas, that encourage physical activity, in line with the principles of the Healthy Urban Development Checklist (NSW Health 2009).
- Improve use of Telemedicine to access specialists in cases where appropriate.
- Utilise the Dilly Wanderer to reach young children and parents with messages about health promotion.
- Explore development of an interactive social media and web facilitated Healthy Wollondilly Community to enhance preventative health, health promotion and healthy lifestyles.
- Enhance sport, leisure and recreation opportunities for young people at the local level, including opportunities linked to the natural environment and rural lifestyle of Wollondilly.

10.2.1 Cemeteries

Cemeteries can have a personal, social, spiritual or cultural significance to individuals. Being able to visit a cemetery that is close to where people live is important to maintaining mental health and connections to the deceased or place. Within Wollondilly, there are three cemeteries (Picton, Bargo and Thirlmere). Lack of land may be a challenge for new or expanded cemeteries.

10.3 Recent health and wellbeing initiatives

The WHA has started implementing a number of new initiatives to address the issues identified in the Health Needs Assessment.

10.3.1 Telemonitoring

The WHA is currently trialing telemonitoring as a way of providing health services to people with chronic health conditions to keep them out of hospital. Using electronic monitoring tools in their homes, people can perform a routine test and send the data to a healthcare professional in real-time. Some examples of these mobile medical devices are glucose metres for people with diabetes, and heart or blood pressure monitors for people receiving cardiac care.

10.3.2 Telehealth Clinics

The WHA is currently working to set up Telehealth Clinics to assist Wollondilly residents to access specialist services outside of the Shire via tele-consults. Similar to video conferencing, tele-consults use video cameras and monitors to connect to health care professionals. Tele-consults are particularly useful if physically visiting a specialist is not required, and they can increase access to a larger number or diversity of health specialists.

Challenges

The challenges for improving access to health services and facilities in Wollondilly include:

- Limited access to local health facilities including GPs as well as specialist services.
- Reliance on private transport to access health facilities and sport and recreation facilities.
- Limited and variable availability of adequate internet for users of telehealth initiatives.
- Poor provision of services that are tailored to the needs of specific population groups for example young people.

10.4 Recreation and leisure opportunities and participation

According to the *Wollondilly Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy* (Clouston Associates 2014), Wollondilly has 255 hectares of local open spaces and reserves managed by the Council. This includes 14 sportsgrounds, over 101 parks and reserves, 10 tennis courts, four skate parks, one BMX park and two swimming pools (including one leisure centre at Picton). Volume 3 lists the range of sport and recreation facilities available across the Shire, which support active recreation (e.g. participating in a team sport) and passive recreation (e.g. walking, running and hiking).

Wollondilly also has good access to national parkland for passive recreation opportunities, including Bargo State Conservation Area, Thirlmere Lakes National Park, Nattai National Park, Dharawal National Park, Nepean River, Georges River and Western Sydney Parklands.

Warragamba and Picton have the most sport and recreational facilities of Wollondilly's towns, including a public swimming pool and sports ovals. To meet future sport and recreation needs of the community, the strategy recommended creating a regional outdoor sports hub at

Warragamba and district level sports hubs at Wilton, Appin, Douglas Park, The Oaks and Picton/Thirlmere. It also identified opportunities to integrate Wollondilly's natural bushland as part of the open space network as well as supporting sport, recreation and tourism activities.

The *Wollondilly Open Space, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy* (Clouston Associates 2014) states that play provision is a generator of high social interaction across generations, including in passive parklands and sports facilities. Providing well-designed places to play creates higher usage levels, more physical activity, greater social interaction and longer visit times. This can increase community awareness, the sense of safety and ownership of open spaces and sport and recreation facilities.

The design of sports facilities and open space, particularly accessibility and visibility on the street front, is key to improving its usage and increasing perceptions of safety around the facility. The strategy recognises that although the Shire has limited public transport connections and high car dependency, improving local pedestrian and cycling networks within towns and villages can encourage residents to use active transport for journeys less than 2km. The design of new residential estates could provide for improved active transport networks. Good lighting of public areas, including around sport and recreation facilities, can help improve night time activity and feelings of safety while reducing anti-social behaviour.

10.4.1 Sporting clubs and organisations

The sport and recreation facilities mentioned above support many sporting clubs and organisations within the Shire. Most clubs and organisations are based in Picton, Tahmoor and Thirlmere. Despite Warragamba being well-served by sport and recreation facilities, it currently only has two sporting clubs in the area. Volume 3 provides a list of local sporting clubs and organisations available to residents, with participation numbers where available. Based on available numbers, participation in clubs and organisations is popular among residents in Picton, Thirlmere, Bargo and Buxton.

Challenges

In Wollondilly, there is a lack of well-designed local open space and sport and recreation facilities, which impacts on access and participation.

10.5 Community safety

Wollondilly residents consider their local area as a safe place and feel safe walking down their street at night (South Western Sydney Local Health District, 2014). While perceptions of safety are positive, crime and anti-social behaviour still occurs, impacting on actual community health and safety. Boredom can also lead to anti-social behaviour and crime. Preventing crime can improve both perceived and actual safety, however the causes of crime and anti-social behaviour are complex and one strategy or approach alone cannot prevent crime. The design of public places, access to support services and looking after each other in the community are ways that can help reduce crime. Table 11 shows the number of reported offences for specific crime types in Wollondilly between July 2014 and June 2015, based on 2015 NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research data. These numbers may be underrepresented as people may not report offences due to different factors, for example, fear or long wait times for emergency response as a result of long travel distances from services.

Table 11 Number of offences between July 2014 and June 2015

Offence	Wollondilly LGA (2014-2015)	Change from July 2013 to June 2014
Malicious damage to property	289	-17
Assault - domestic violence related	174	+13
Fraud	125	-19
Assault - non-domestic violence related	112	-36
Steal from motor vehicle	106	-31
Break and enter – dwelling	88	-31
Steal from dwelling	78	+16
Motor vehicle theft	63	-8
Sexual assault	63	+9
Indecent assault, act of indecency and other sexual offences	58	-10
Break and enter - non-dwelling	55	-36
Steal from retail store	51	-4
Steal from person	10	+4
Robbery without a weapon	3	-5
Robbery with a weapon not a firearm	2	+1
Robbery with a firearm	1	+1
Murder	0	-1

Source: 2015 NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research - July 2014 and June 2015

Based on Table 11, the most frequently recorded crimes for specific types in Wollondilly between July 2014 and June 2015 were:

- Malicious damage to property (a drop of 17 offences from the previous year).
- Domestic violence related assault (an increase of 13 offences from the previous year).
- Fraud (a drop of 19 offences from the previous year).
- Non-domestic violence related assault (a drop of 36 offences from the previous year).
- Stealing from a motor vehicle (a drop of 31 offences from the previous year).

Of the above most reported crimes, only domestic violence related assault increased from the previous year. Family and domestic violence can be violent, threatening, intimidating or controlling, and can affect anyone of any socio-economic background (Australian Government Department of Human Services 2015). Victims may live in fear even when they have left an

abusive relationship, which can affect their health and wellbeing. Access to support services can assist victims of violence, which in Wollondilly include Lifeline Macarthur and Community Links Wollondilly. The Camden Wollondilly Domestic Violence Committee (2016) also plays a role in prevention work and in improving service delivery to women and children experiencing domestic violence in the Camden and Wollondilly local government areas. National initiatives include the 1800RESPECT counselling service, and international initiatives include White Ribbon which is a campaign to end men's violence against women and girls.

Malicious damage to property was the most reported crime and includes the destruction, damage or defacement of property. The causes are complex and may stem from boredom, lack of social connections, lack of recreation opportunities or youth unemployment. Young people are most at risk of becoming bored and engaging in graffiti or vandalism. Providing more safe, accessible and inclusive places for young people is necessary for their social development which may reduce risk-taking and anti-social behaviour. Within Wollondilly's natural bushland areas, crime and anti-social behaviour including underage drinking and use of unregistered motorcycles are ongoing issues. These areas are often isolated, hard to manage due to their large area and lack passive surveillance.

Other reported crimes that increased from 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 were:

- Stealing from a dwelling (an increase of 16 offences).
- Sexual assault (an increase of nine offences).
- Stealing from a person (an increase of four offences).

Residents can protect their personal safety by staying in well-supervised and well-lit areas, which often deter criminals from committing crimes or anti-social behaviour. The design of public places can influence this, which is further discussed in Section 10.4. In the Shire's rural communities where there are lower levels of passive surveillance, residents can help protect their personal safety and belongings by securing their property and applying Crime Prevention through Environmental Design principles, as outlined below.

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a crime prevention strategy that focuses on the planning, design and structure of cities and neighbourhoods. The NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2001 guidelines *Crime Prevention Legislative Guidelines into Section 79C of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* outline how consent authorities can ensure that development provides safety and security to users and the community. The Guidelines outline the four principles of CPTED:

- Surveillance – the attractiveness of crime targets can be reduced by providing opportunities for effective surveillance, both natural and technical.
- Access control – physical and symbolic barriers can be used to attract, channel or restrict the movement of people, which minimises opportunities for crime and increase the effort required to commit crime.
- Territorial reinforcement – community ownership of public space sends positive signals, and well-used places reduce opportunities for crime and increase risk for criminals.
- Space management – space management ensures that space is appropriately utilised and cared for.

Challenges

In Wollondilly, community safety is a challenge because households are vulnerable to break ins and local crime due to vast distances with little through traffic in neighbourhoods.

10.6 Access to healthy and affordable food

As one of the *Social Determinants of Health*, access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food is integral to maintaining a healthy and active life. Food security is defined as including both physical and economic access to food that meets people's dietary needs as well as their food preferences. It is built on three pillars:

- Food availability - sufficient quantities of food available on a consistent basis.
- Food access - having sufficient resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
- Food use - appropriate use based on knowledge of basic nutrition and care, as well as adequate water and sanitation (World Health Organisation 2015).

Although Wollondilly has a productive agricultural industry, the general public accesses fresh food through supermarkets, food stores and cafes/restaurants, and farmers markets.

Major supermarkets and food stores are primarily located in town centres, shown in Table 12.

Table 12 Location of major supermarkets and food stores

Location	Stores
Picton	Coles Supa IGA
Tahmoor	ALDI Woolworths Foodworks
Thirlmere	IGA Thirlmere Thirlmere Produce & Supermarket Mowbray Park Produce
Bargo	Bargo Supermarket Friendly Grocer
Oakdale	Oakdale Supermarket Foodworks
The Oaks	Friendly Grocer The Oaks
Silverdale	IGA Silverdale
Warragamba	Foodworks

The only farmer's markets in Wollondilly are the Picton Markets which are held the first Sunday of each month from 9 am to 2 pm at the Shire Hall in Picton. Although not official farmer's markets, other markets across the LGA also sell fresh food and produce.

A number of other initiatives are available throughout the LGA to increase community access to fresh food. These are outlined in Table 13 below.

Table 13 Fresh food initiatives in Wollondilly

Initiative	Detail
Wollondilly Harvest Experience	An online tool to locate local food growers. However it has not been updated for a number of years and the farmers / producers have not been engaged with to see who is still operating. www.wollondillyharvestexperience.com.au
Wollondilly Resilience Network	Wollondilly Resilience Network (WReN) raises awareness of practices that support a strong and resilient community adopting local solutions to achieve environmental and personal wellbeing. WReN provides leadership to care for the planet, people and fair share. https://wollresnet.wordpress.com/
Fairy WReN Food Hub	The Fairy Wren Food Hub is a major project of WReN, aiming to bring healthy and sustainable food to Wollondilly and surrounding areas. The hub is a food cooperative and provides an online store selling products including local, organic and fair trade food and goods. http://fairy.wren.org.au/
Tahmoor Uniting Community Garden	Located at the Tahmoor Uniting Church, the community garden is available to community members. Volunteers meet at the garden on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am-1 pm and work together growing heirloom varieties of vegetables and herbs.
Wollondilly Community Nursery and Environmental Resource Centre	The Wollondilly Community Nursery grows a variety of native plants, from grasses and groundcovers to shrubs, vines and shade trees. The environmental resource centre is a hub for finding out about environmental issues and activities in the Wollondilly Shire and has a comprehensive library of books and brochures providing information on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing native Plants • Habitat and Fauna • Managing weeds • Sustainable living • Composting • Water wise gardening • Growing your own food. Volunteers meet at the nursery on Tuesdays and Thursdays to tend the gardens.

Challenges

Promoting access to healthy and affordable food is a challenge in Wollondilly because food that is locally produced is exported across Sydney with limited amount for sale within the LGA.

10.7 Social and health considerations incorporated into planning for new & existing communities

New developments, such as the potential development of Wilton Junction, provide opportunities to provide new health and social infrastructure as well as be designed to incorporate the principles of Healthy Planning. There are a number of guiding documents such as *Healthy Urban Development Checklist* by NSW Department of Health (2009) and the Urban Land Institute's *Healthy Places Toolkit* (2015). These documents recognise that the quality of the built environment has the potential to influence people's health, and that "lifestyle diseases", such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease, can be linked to poor urban design. The Checklist and Toolkit identify opportunities to enhance health at a building or project level, such as during the design of public spaces and communities. New developments provide an opportunity to incorporate these opportunities in the early planning stages.

Challenges

In Wollondilly, there is a need to increase social and health considerations as an integral part of the planning process for new and existing communities.

10.8 Summary of challenges

The size of the Wollondilly LGA and the dispersed population present a significant challenge for many community members in accessing health services and opportunities for healthy lifestyles. The *Wollondilly Health Needs Assessment* identifies that there are limited services within the LGA, and the community must rely on neighbouring LGAs, particularly Campbelltown which has the largest hospital and associated community health services in the south west region. The lack of health services in Wollondilly has led to high use of afterhours services (e.g. emergency services) particularly for non-urgent issues, long wait times to see a GP, and lack of dealing with health issues due to limited choice and availability. While residents felt that they were generally healthy, higher proportions of residents suffer from health issues, including asthma, diabetes, overweightness and obesity, compared to the NSW averages. There were also higher rates of death from preventable causes, cancer in particular lung cancer, and road traffic injuries.

Residents had a slightly lower level of adequate physical activity compared to the NSW average. The provision of sport and recreation opportunities closer to homes may encourage physical activity. Currently, the majority of the Shire's sport and recreation opportunities are in Warragamba and Picton and residents need to travel significantly to access a facility.

While perceptions of safety are positive, crime and anti-social behaviour still occurs, impacting on actual community health and safety. Between July 2014 and June 2015, of the most reported crimes outlined in Table 11 Number of offences between July 2014 and June 2015, only domestic violence related assault increased from the previous year. The causes of crime and anti-social behaviour are complex and one strategy or approach alone cannot prevent crime. Further, community safety may be affected by the design of public places, including local open space, community facilities and sport and recreation facilities.

A lower proportion of residents ate their recommended fruit consumption of at least five servings per day although their recommended vegetable consumption was slightly higher compared to the NSW averages. Although Wollondilly has a productive agricultural industry, the general public accesses fresh food through supermarkets, food stores and cafes/restaurants, and to a very limited extent, farmers' markets.

The challenges associated with creating health, safe and secure communities are experienced by different groups within the community in different ways, as summarised in Table 14.

Table 14 Impact of challenges on target population groups

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
Children and families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very limited availability of female GPs disadvantages women particularly in relation to sexual health and gynaecological issues • Lack of local specialists and child health services leads to need to travel significant distances (especially to Liverpool and Campbelltown) • Boredom and limited opportunities for leisure and recreation involving physical activity • Lack of well-designed local open space and sport and recreation facilities may discourage usage • Limited access to healthy food can impact on maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle • Families who feel that their personal and family safety is at risk are less likely to participate in the community, including sport and recreation opportunities or walking alone in public areas
Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of choice for young people who may not want to visit their family GP in order to maintain confidentiality may lead to health concerns being unaddressed • Very limited availability of female GPs disadvantages girls particularly in relation to sexual health and gynaecological issues • Reliance on public transport to access health services independently can be a disincentive • Poor access to sexual health and mental health services • Reliance on public transport to access sport and recreation facilities independently can be a disincentive • Lack of well-designed local open space and sport and recreation facilities may discourage usage by young people • Lack of adequate footpaths and wayfinding may discourage active transport • Boredom and limited opportunities for leisure and recreation involving physical activity. Boredom can lead to anti-social behaviour and crime • Young people who feel that their personal safety is at risk are less likely to participate in the community, including sport and recreation opportunities or walking alone in public areas • Limited access to healthy food can impact on maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle

Target population	Impact of challenges on target population groups
Older people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of local specialists leads to need to travel significant distances (especially Liverpool and Campbelltown) • Reliance on public transport to access health services independently can be a disincentive • Reliance on public transport to access sport and recreation facilities independently can be a disincentive • Shortage of home care services relative to demand which is compounded by the distance HACC services must travel to care for people in their homes • Lack of residential aged care leading to the frail aged having to leave the area for supported accommodation, or living in unsupported environments • Lack of adequate footpaths and wayfinding may discourage active transport • Lack of well-designed local open space and sport and recreation facilities may discourage usage • Older people who feel that their personal safety is at risk are less likely to participate in the community, including sport and recreation opportunities or walking alone in public areas • Limited access to healthy food can impact on maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle
People with disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of local specialists leads to need to travel significant distances (especially Liverpool and Campbelltown) which is compounded for people with disability who are heavy users of health services • Lack of sport and recreation facilities across the Shire which cater to people with disability. • Limited access to healthy food can impact on maintaining a healthy and active lifestyle • People who feel that their personal safety is at risk are less likely to participate in the community, including sport and recreation opportunities or walking alone in public areas
Aboriginal people and people from the Torres Strait Islands people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of local services which specialise in Aboriginal health and the costs and time associated with travel may lead to poor health outcomes for Aboriginal People and People from the Torres Strait Islands.
CALD people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty for those who speak a language other than English to understand what health and support services are available to them

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



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