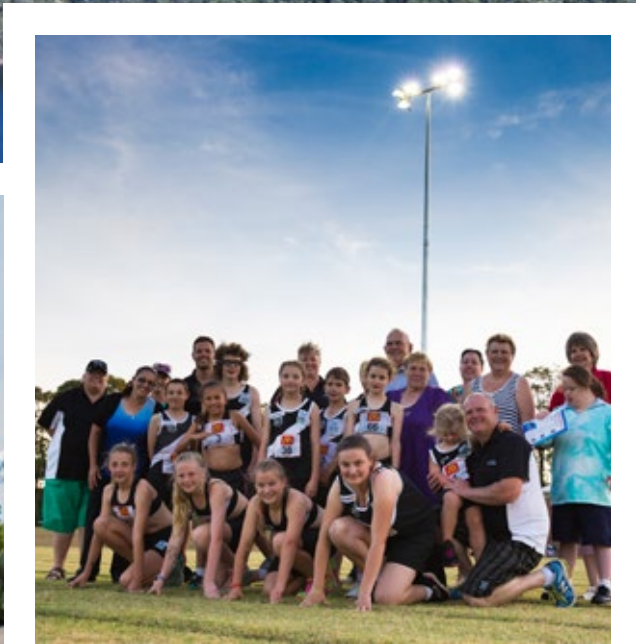
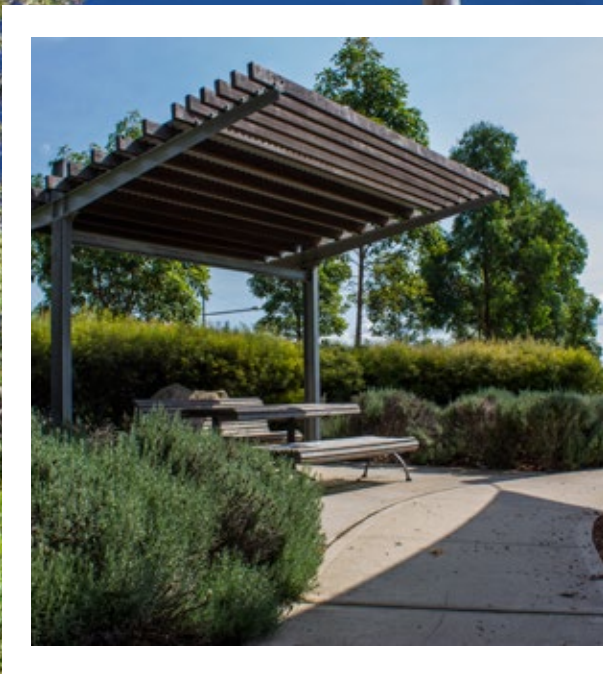
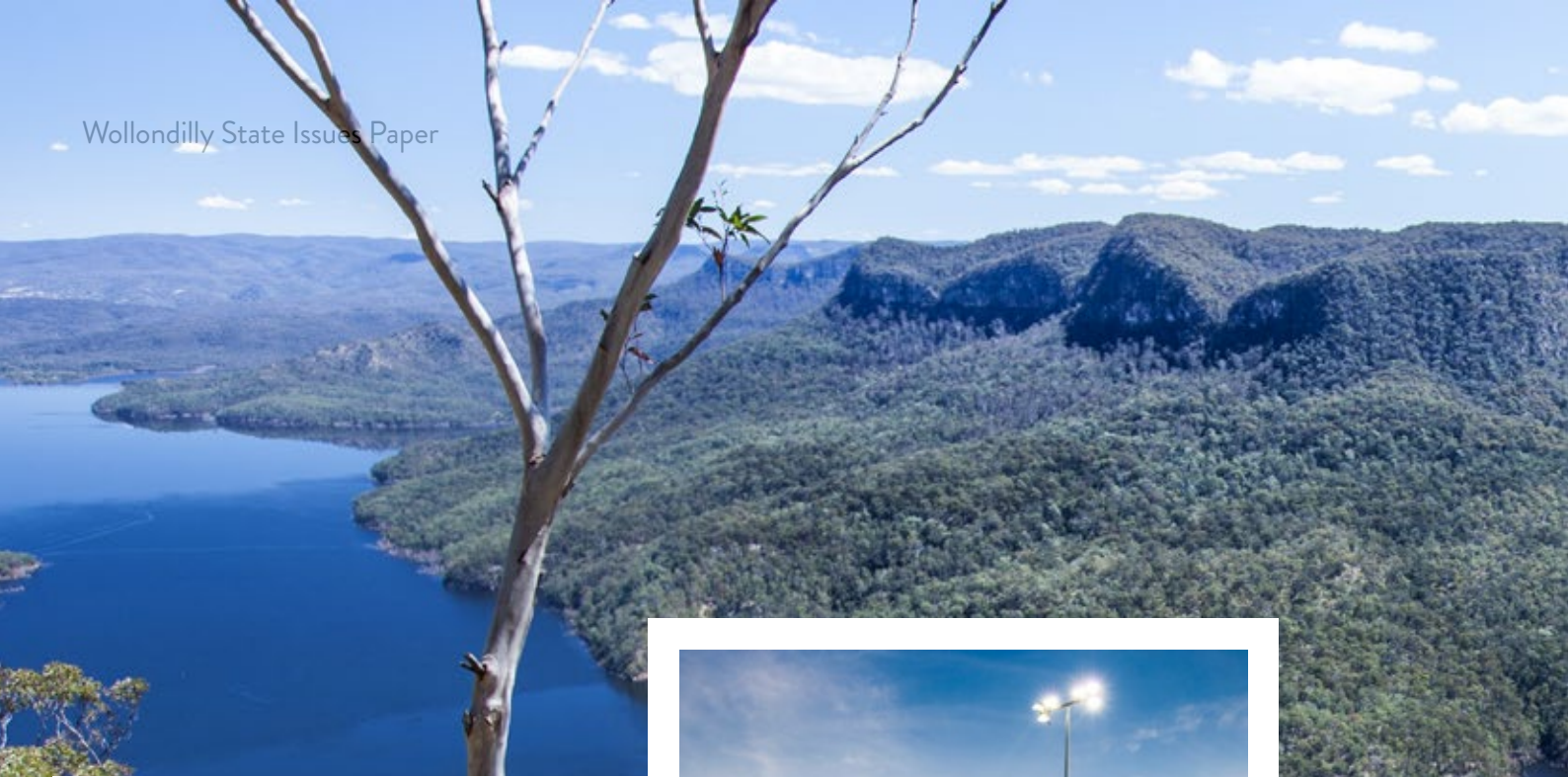


ADVOCATING FOR YOUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Issues for Wollondilly

Identifying and advocating for solutions







Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2033 articulates the needs of our community and is designed to align with and link to the strategic plans and directions of other levels of Government. In turn the agencies of State and Federal government must listen and respond to the needs of our community which are advocated through the strategic direction of Council. Council's ability to successfully work towards the CSP outcomes is therefore highly dependent on collaboration and partnership, particularly with other levels of government.

Wollondilly Federal/State Issues Paper 2014 has been developed to assist with this challenge. The paper highlights and advocates for a range of priority issues and outcomes over which Council has limited, or no direct control – e.g. better health services, public transport improvements, access to funding resources, etc.

This Issues Paper will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis as new issues arise or as issues are progressed so as to ensure it remains up to date and relevant to our community.

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GROWTH & PERI-URBAN

A COUNCIL WITH UNIQUE ISSUES

SOLUTIONS

- State Government endorsement of the Wollondilly Growth Management Strategy
- Separate funding and resourcing streams for Peri-urban Councils i.e. not rural, not metropolitan but Peri-urban opportunities
- Research and program funding to help redress the relative lack of data and policy for Australia's Peri-urban regions.
- Policy development to address the unique issues facing Peri-urban Councils – Develop a Centre of Excellence
- Providing new infrastructure as new development proceeds as well as fixing community infrastructure backlogs
- Local jobs in a strong economy i.e. 1 job per household for major land releases
- Identification of lands having strategic Peri-urban values e.g. agricultural /urban interfaces; water catchment protection; mining and CSG interfaces
- Consistent and non-ambiguous environmental legislation between State and Federal Governments which focuses on clear policy relating to coexistence issues with extractive industries and growth
- Wollondilly be considered a "release area" and contribution cap be increased to \$30,000
- Review of the cap for S94 contributions to allow the provision of adequate infrastructure
- Consideration to proclaiming further areas within Wollondilly Shire as National Park, Conservation areas and National Heritage listed (e.g. Bargo River Gorge & Burragorang State Conservation Area; Bargo State Conservation Area; Yerrandrie).
- A State and Federal policy position on food security for Sydney
- Planning controls and incentives to encourage and support agricultural production in Peri-urban areas, relating to the Sydney Basin e.g. implementation of Agricultural Enterprise Credits developed by local farmer Ed Biel.
- Improve the consultative and coordination of National Park activities with Local Government and other State and Federal agencies to manage interface areas.
- Access to the Bents Basin Lookout on RMS land in Silverdale

BACKGROUND

- Wollondilly is characterised by both urban and rural social and economic activities.
- We are at a unique point in our history, being asked to consider a number of major urban development proposals that would significantly increase our population over the next 30-40 years
- In the Peri-urban area rural uses mix and often clash. The Peri-urban area can be viewed as a landscape type in its own right and often are neither fully urban nor rural but form a mosaic of often incompatible and unplanned uses.
- Often peri-urban areas miss out on funding opportunities due to confusion of fitting into either metro or rural funding guidelines
- Without significant intervention Peri-urban areas can have a poor ratio of local jobs to workers
- Peri-urban areas usually contain important natural resources, remnant biodiversity and significant landscapes, are important for agriculture and recreation and attract diverse populations of people.
- Better planning processes and policies are needed across a range of key government and agencies whose decisions and policies impact on the peri-urban region.
- Some Peri-urban areas have finite boundaries for urban growth. These areas become distinct interfaces between development and environmental protection e.g. water catchment; extractive industries; national parks.
- Key environmental protection legislation is contradictory in application and interpretation which leads to inconsistency with their application and impacts on the environment
- The National Park lands (and their surrounding environments) support many State and Federally protected flora and fauna species as well as protected ecological communities and significant cultural and historic assets for both the Aboriginal and Post European communities.
- The National Park system forms an important role in Wollondilly Shire, supporting tourism, providing a recreational and educational experience, supporting local businesses etc.

STATE & FEDERAL ISSUE

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(Council resolution, 291/2011; 118/2012; 155/2013; 197/2013; 221/2013; 42/2014; 68/2014; 78/2014; 101/2014; 134/2014; 190/2014; 211/2014)



IMPACTS OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

SOLUTIONS

- Sydney's drinking water supply be protected from Coal Seam Gas exploration and extraction by placing a ban on CSG mining and exploration in catchment areas
- Consistent and non-ambiguous environmental legislation between State and Federal Governments which focuses on clear policy relating to coexistence issues with extractive industries and growth
- Council, the community and the Mine Subsidence Board be adequately compensated through mining royalties for the additional cost of infrastructure and environmental restoration projects
- Wollondilly Local Government Area ranking in the Resources for Regions program be improved to be eligible for the State governments Resources for Regions funding.
- Funding for rigorous and independent research to understand the impacts of mining, CSG and extractive industries and the development of sound strategies to avoid or mitigate these impacts eg. Thirlmere Lakes, George's River, Cataract Creek
- Community Engagement strategies developed and implemented to feedback findings of independent reviews and Government research into the impacts of CSG and other Extractive Industries
- No new long wall mining, CSG or extractive industries should be approved until the potential impacts have been comprehensively determined and that those impacts will have no detrimental effect on the natural, built and human environment.
- The determining of safe buffer zones for these industries from surface and ground water systems, residential areas, sensitive ecosystems, cultural and social assets through rigorous scientific assessment.
- Increase the role and status of local communities and Local Government in the consultative and approval processes of these industries.
- Provision of adequate and appropriate resourcing of independent studies into the environmental impacts of these industries.
- Funding to assist with the implementation of Extractive Industry Audits
- Implementation of a 10¢ refundable deposit scheme on beverage containers
- Inclusion of the impact of communities and infrastructure from coal mine gas drainage in the criteria of local government assistance through the Resources for Regions Program.

BACKGROUND

- Long wall mining can cause significant and irreparable damage to the natural environment including river and creek bed cracking, cliff falls and draining of underground aquifers. Impacts of mining have resulted in damage to Cataract River, Georges River, Brennan's Creek, Nepean River, Thirlmere Lakes and numerous other surface waters.
- The impacts of CSG are also yet to be understood or realised. This interference to underground aquifers is still unknown but thought to be just as significant
- Aquifer interference impacts also affect the rural production of the affected areas and potentially drinking water catchments.
- Historically there has been a lack of scientific certainty as to the long term or cumulative impacts of these industries on the communities or bioregions.
- The Wollondilly community has expressed growing concerns regarding the impacts of these industries on the natural, human and built environments.
- There are conflicts in Wollondilly Shire between these industries, residential development and environmental protection and these conflicts are escalating.

STATE & FEDERAL ISSUE

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(Council resolution, 292/2011; 59/2012; 133/2012; 134/2012; 118/2013; 172/2013; 240/2013; 90/2014; 186/2014)



INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG

SOLUTIONS

- Ongoing asset management capacity building programs that assist Councils in meeting asset management requirements
- Targeted capacity building programs to be developed with a specific focus on improving Council capacity in the fields of Community Service Level Negotiations, Risk Management, Infrastructure Vulnerability Assessments and Identification of Critical Infrastructure i.e storm water management and sewerage connections
- Seek funding opportunities for the Picton Bypass, Appin Bypass; the Wilton Junction Interchange and cycleway linkages
- Grant funding and other resources to address asset management requirements.
- Examine the distribution of Financial Assistance Grants to see if a greater share can be provided to Councils with less capacity, to help manage infrastructure
- Increase in Black Spot funding and Regional road Block Grants to reflect true annual growth in costs, not just CPI.
- Wollondilly Local Government Area ranking in the Resources for Regions program be improved to be eligible for Resources for Regions funding to compensate for mining impacts on the community
- Increased State funds for driver education awareness programs, promoted by RMS, Rotary and other organisations
- Either remove the vehicle registration levy placed on vehicles over 975kgs, or State Government provide all money collected from Wollondilly residents to Council, for use on roads in Wollondilly Shire.
- Innovative solutions be investigated to address the skills shortage within the field and promote sector wide collaboration
- Refine State, Federal and Local Government relationships and processes to fine tune and partner in the delivery of projects on the ground
- Implement initiatives to become a “fit for the future Council”
- Commitment to fund the Maldon/Dombarton rail line project once the design process has been completed
- Certainty of the M9 Corridor and links to Badgerys Creek Airport and Wollondilly be given a seat on the Greater Western Sydney Commission
- Have an Airport conversation with the people of Warragamba and Silverdale Area
- That the concept of a Very Fast Train be investigated

BACKGROUND

- Much of the essential infrastructure that we rely upon on a day-to-day basis falls under the care and control of local councils. Councils are responsible for \$131 billion worth of assets. Infrastructure assets are the systems and networks that provide services to communities such as roads, buildings, cemeteries, waste facilities, parks, reserves and storm water drainage
- Population growth, changing demographics, rising customer expectations, competing demands for funding and an increasingly demanding external regulatory environment have contributed to a situation where it is essential for Council to make well-informed asset management decisions
- One of the most pressing challenges identified in the review of Local Government was the capacity of councils to provide and maintain infrastructure assets
- A comprehensive review has been undertaken of all council road assets, with an updated inventory, and new condition ratings and assessments of the gap in funding to maintain the road network in a satisfactory condition. The overall asset backlog is over \$50m, mainly affecting roads
- Wollondilly Shire Council is currently not eligible for Resources for Regions Program funding despite significant mining within the Wollondilly Local Government Area
- Feedback from ongoing community engagement continues to identify maintenance of local roads as a high priority for residents, including management of traffic flow.
- Regional NSW motorists are paying higher registration charges to fund Sydney-centric transport projects and will not see any of this money reinvested in regional roads, many of which are in poor condition.
- Ongoing high levels of traffic accidents, excessive speed, fatigue, youth inexperience and attitudes, alcohol-social impacts
- The State Government, together with councils, the Federal Government and other key stakeholders will need to continue to work together to address the challenges identified in the June 2013 Local Government Infrastructure Audit Report
- Councils need to demonstrate how they will become a “fit” Council through the State Governments Fit For The Future Program

STATE & FEDERAL ISSUE

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(Council resolution - 118/2012; 146/2013; 241/2013; 15/2014; 91/2014; 107/2014; 112/2014; 115/2014; 159/2014)



HUMAN SERVICE PROVISION & OUTREACHING WITHIN THE WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

SOLUTIONS

- Increase access to individualised and portable funding packages
- Funding for innovative approaches for Camden and Campbelltown hospital to provide outreach services in the Wollondilly
- Provision of greater access and innovative approaches to tertiary educational opportunities
- Increased funding for allied health services such as podiatry, physiotherapy, dietetics, speech pathology and occupational therapy.
- Increased access to community transport services and improved rail timetables to encourage more people onto public transport and increased frequency of rail and bus services
- Government to invest in more sustainable public transport systems an improve connections between bus and rail - responsive to late rail arrivals
- Upgrade public transport infrastructure so as to provide access for elderly, mothers and persons with disabilities
- Grant funding to assist with the implementation of Library and Cultural Facilities
- More support for disengaged young people, school-industry partnerships and entry level training
- Range of flexible childcare options to meet changing workplace hours and family requirements
- Support to improve telecommunication and broadband services to increase community access to online services, information and access to employment opportunities online.
- Pro-active and efficient Lease/License renewals and free rental or peppercorn leases for Emergency Service Facilities located on Government owned or Crown Land
- Improved resource and facility sharing by Emergency Services and community resilience support programs
- Emergency Services levy to be collected by State Government and to include current contribution by both Local and State Governments
- That land be set aside for future Hospital and medical services
- That land be set aside for another 2 High Schools

BACKGROUND

- Social isolation due to geographical nature of the Shire
- Limited access to General Practitioners and specialists across Wollondilly and increased ageing population
- Limited State and Federal Funding specific for Wollondilly - Macarthur funded services limit their outreach to Wollondilly
- High dependence on outreach service provision and referral to adjoining local government areas
- Wollondilly residents are the most transport disadvantaged area in NSW, with the highest vehicle kilometers travelled per person, longest work trip time and longest daily travel time.
- Increased community expectations for Council to provide community services and infrastructure due to cost shifting and new residents having higher expectations of community service provision than what currently exists
- Outreaching services focus on those “at risk” and are short term focused
- Limited public transport restricts access to employment, educational, recreational and lifestyle opportunities
- Limited mobile phone coverage in many areas of Wollondilly
- Wollondilly residents have poor access to broadband and therefore cannot access online services and/or information. Many households are still on dial up services.
- This creates inequity and barriers in relation to information access, employment growth and opportunities.
- Council is currently held up in State agency processes to acquire land for the Bargo Rural Fire Service
- Currently RFS pays rent on the buildings/land they are housed in which are not owned by the Council. Council buildings are rent free and will continue to be so. The payment of rent comes from the RFS fighting fund.

STATE & FEDERAL ISSUE

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(Council resolution, 149/2011; 118/2012; 239/2012; 129/2013; 64/2014; 111/2014; 137/2014)



LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

SOLUTIONS

- Implement initiatives to become a “fit for the future Council”
- Provide additional funding to meet legislative imposts, and give Council adequate revenue tools to recover costs
- Replace the current contribution system for emergency services with a broad based property levy
- Funding from Governments to implement mandatory requirements imposed upon Local Government through State/Federal Government legislation
- Eliminate the current rate pegging structure to allow Councils to maintain, improve & acquire assets to the level supported by the community
- Council should receive a proportion of mining royalties that originate from the Wollondilly Local Government Area (LGA) to compensate the community for mining impacts
- Deregulate legislative fees whilst allowing for hardship and public benefit to be considered
- Support Local Government as the third tier of Government through constitutional reform
- Funding support to address time lags between population growth and the generation of income from this to assist with planning requirements
- State Government to refine planning processes to prevent delays experienced by Council in finalizing planning proposals
- Support from State Government to resolve bureaucratic red tape issues i.e. Lighting on the roundabout at Avon Dam Road; relocation issues for Bargo Rural Fire Service
- That a popularly elected Mayor be implemented to save money on a referendum

BACKGROUND

- Local Government Shires Association (LGSA) annual cost shifting survey has revealed that NSW councils continue to foot the bill for other Government responsibilities, with local communities ultimately paying the price. Councils are continuing to deliver services that are other Government responsibilities without receiving the matching funding
- Some of the major cost shifting items include:
 - mandatory contributions to the NSW Fire Brigade and Rural Fire Service
 - inflated charges for the Local Government elections
 - inadequate funding for public libraries
 - inadequate funding to regulate companion animals and swimming pools
 - inadequate funding to manage contaminated land,
 - inadequate funding to control food safety
 - inadequate funding to administer environmental regulation noxious weed control and flood control management
- increased costs for the management of lands and roads previously owned by the State
- reduced income raising capability on Crown Lands
- Council currently struggles under the restrictions of rate pegging and inadequate tax allocation to provide essential community infrastructure and services. Our communities are growing and restrictions on our income imposed by other spheres of government mean that we simply don't have the means to raise the funds to meet their increasing demand on services and facilities. NSW is the only state in Australia that is constrained by rate pegging. Council is happy to deliver services to its community, as we are often the best positioned to do so since we are the level of government closest to the community. Council does not have the means to keep taking on new jobs without being provided with adequate financial resources to fund them. We need to be able to fully recover costs, and our residents shouldn't be the ones picking up the tab.
- Councils are obliged to collect some state taxes e.g. waste levies. This results in both financial and reputational impacts of that collection
- Local Government faces uncertainty under the current constitutional arrangements and to reinforce the need for constitutional reform to include Local Government as a full partner in the Federation.

STATE & FEDERAL ISSUE

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Council Issue	State Plan Strategy	State Plan Goal	State Target
<p>GROWTH & PERI-URBAN A COUNCIL WITH UNIQUE ISSUES</p>	Rebuild the Economy	Drive Economic Growth in Regional NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow employment by an average of 1.25% per year to 2020 • Increase the share of jobs in regional NSW • Protect strategic agricultural land and improve agricultural productivity
	Renovate Infrastructure	Build liveable centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning policy to encourage job growth in centres close to where people live and to provide access by public transport
	Strengthen our Local Environment and Communities	<p>Protect our natural environment</p> <p>Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and restore priority land, vegetation and water habitats • Protect local environments from pollution • Increase the devolution of decision making, funding and control to groups and individuals for local environmental and community activities
	Restore Accountability to Government	Restore confidence and integrity in the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase stakeholder satisfaction with planning processes and transparency • Increase opportunities for people to participate in local government decision making • Increased proportion of people who feel able to have a say on issues that are important to them

Council Issue	State Plan Strategy	State Plan Goal	State Target
IMPACTS OF EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES	Strengthen our Local Environment & Communities	Protect our natural environment Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase renewable energy • Increase the devolution of decision making, funding and control to groups and individuals for local environmental and community activities
	Restore Accountability to Government	Restore confidence and integrity in the planning system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to date information about planning decisions • Promote integrity and accountability in the public sector • Increase customer satisfaction with government services • Increased proportion of people who feel able to have a say on issues that are important to them
INFRASTRUCTURE BACKLOG	Return Quality Services	Improve Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase walking and cycling • Reduce fatalities to 4.3 per 100,000 population by 2016
	Renovate Infrastructure	Invest in Critical Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase expenditure on critical NSW infrastructure • Improve the quality of urban and rural State roads • Enhance rail freight movement • Secure long term potable water supplies for towns and cities supported by effective effluent management

Council Issue	State Plan Strategy	State Plan Goal	State Target
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">HUMAN SERVICE PROVISION & OUTREACHING WITHIN THE WOLLONDILLY SHIRE</p>	<p>Rebuild the Economy </p>	<p>Strengthen the NSW skill base</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people gain higher level tertiary qualifications • More young people participate in post school education and training
	<p>Return Quality Services </p>	<p>Reduce travel time</p> <p>Grow patronage on public transport by making it a more attractive choice</p> <p>Improve customer experience with transport services</p> <p>Keep people healthy and out of hospital</p> <p>Improve education and learning outcomes for all students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise public transport waiting times for customers • Consistently meet public transport reliability targets • Improve customer satisfaction with transport services • Improve outcomes in mental health • Reduce potentially preventable hospitalisations • All children have access to quality early childhood education
	<p>Strengthen our Local Environment & Communities </p>	<p>Enhance cultural, creative, sporting and recreation opportunities</p> <p>Ensure NSW is ready to deal with major emergencies and natural disasters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of opportunities for cultural participation • Increase participation in sport, recreational, arts and cultural activities in rural and regional NSW from 2010 to 2016 by 10% • Support Aboriginal Culture, Country and Identity • Ensure NSW has appropriate arrangements in place to respond to and recover from natural disasters • Increase community resilience to the impact of fires through prevention and preparedness activities

Council Issue

State Plan Strategy

State Plan Goal

State Target

Council Issue	State Plan Strategy	State Plan Goal	State Target
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM	Rebuild the Economy	Increase the competitiveness of doing business in NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce red tape
	Strengthen our Local Environment & Communities	Make it easier for people to be involved in their communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Community participation • Improve our Sense of community
	Restore Accountability to Government	<p>Restore confidence and integrity in the planning system</p> <p>Restore trust in State and Local Government as a service provider</p> <p>Improve government transparency by increasing access to government information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase stakeholder satisfaction with planning processes and transparency • Increase customer satisfaction with government services • Improve innovation within the public sector • Up-to-date information about government services • Increase opportunities for people to participate in local government decision making

NSW 2021 32 GOALS

REBUILD THE ECONOMY

1. Improve the performance of the NSW economy
2. Rebuild State finances

RETURN QUALITY SERVICES

TRANSPORT



7. Reduce travel times
8. Grow patronage on public transport by making it a more attractive choice
9. Improve customer experience with transport services
10. Improve road safety

HEALTH

11. Keep people healthy and out of hospital
12. Provide world class clinical services with timely access and effective infrastructure

RENOVATE INFRASTRUCTURE

19. Invest in critical infrastructure

STRENGTHEN OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

22. Protect our natural environment
23. Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments
24. Make it easier for people to be involved in their communities

RESTORE ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PEOPLE

29. Restore confidence and integrity in the planning system
30. Restore trust in State and Local Government as a service provider

- 3. Drive economic growth in regional NSW
- 4. Increase the competitiveness of doing business in NSW

- 5. Place downward pressure on the cost of living
- 6. Strengthen the NSW skill base



FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES



- 13. Better protect the most vulnerable members of our community and break the cycle of disadvantage
- 14. Increase opportunities for people with a disability by providing supports that meet their individual needs and realise their potential

EDUCATION



- 15. Improve education and learning outcomes for all students

POLICE & JUSTICE



- 16. Prevent and reduce the level of crime
- 17. Prevent and reduce the level of re-offending
- 18. Improve community confidence in the justice system

20. Build liveable centres

21. Secure potable water supplies

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES

- 25. Increase opportunities for seniors in NSW to fully participate in community life
- 26. Fostering opportunity and partnership with Aboriginal people
- 27. Enhance cultural, creative, sporting and recreation opportunities
- 28. Ensure NSW is ready to deal with major emergencies and natural disasters

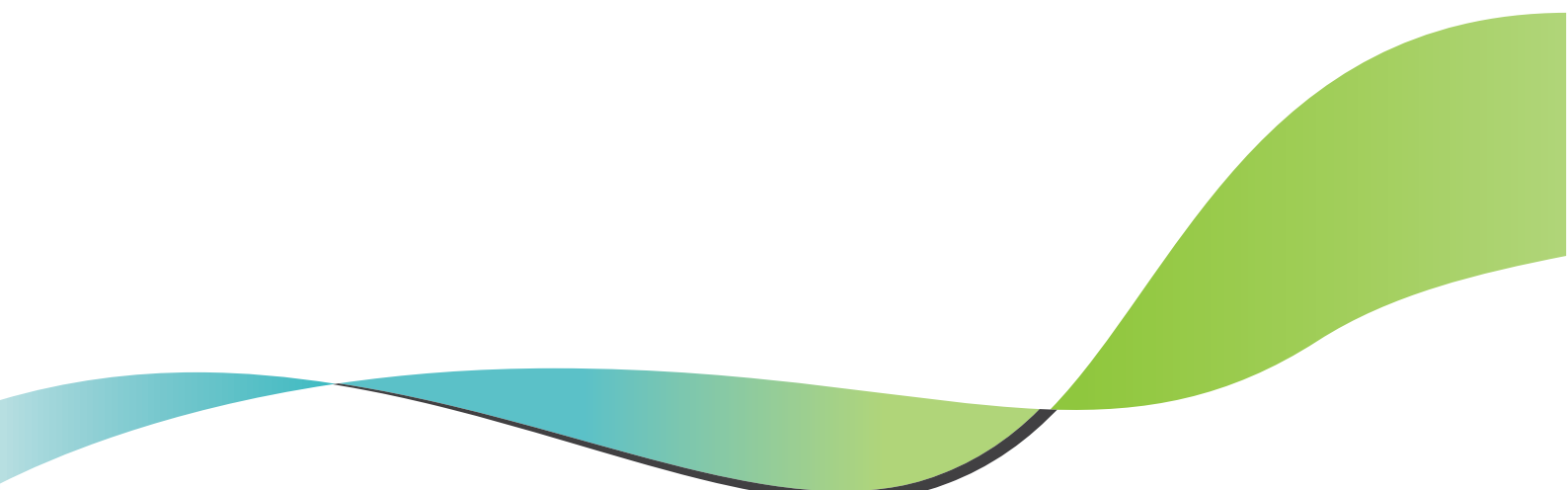
GOVERNMENT

- 31. Improve government transparency by increasing access to government information
- 32. Involve the community in decision making on government policy, services and projects



Wollondilly

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