



Bathurst Regional Council

**2022/2023
Annual Report**





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Bathurst Regional Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of the land and pays respect to Elders both past and present.

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Section 1

Introduction



Message from the Mayor and General Manager

The last twelve months have seen a number of major projects come online. The opening of the state of the art Central Tablelands Collections facility in September 2022 was a major milestone for Council, and the arts in regional New South Wales.

The facility, the first of its kind in the region, provides industry standard storage with climate control, specialised racking equipment and security for regional collections. The facility accommodates valuable and fragile collections, archives and other significant objects currently held in public museums and galleries under the custodial care of Bathurst Regional Council. It also caters for collections from smaller regional volunteer run museums, historical societies, collection groups, education facilities, private collectors and storage for larger State Institutions.

In February 2023, the Bridle Track re-opened to four-wheel drive enthusiasts after being closed by a landslide 13 years earlier. The two kilometre diversion around Monaghans Bluff was a large and complex project, and Council received \$2 million in funding from the State Government to help fund the road project.

A vital infrastructure project, the water harvesting scheme, was started, designed to build additional water security capacity for our community.

The project will build a 36ML storage pond off Morrisset Street and 8ML storage pond at the Water Treatment Plant to capture water run-off from drains and local catchments. Once it is harvested and collected, the water will be pumped to the water treatment plant for filtration so that it is safe to use.

These major achievements and projects sit alongside the work undertaken by Council and its dedicated staff, delivering services and facilities to our community everyday.



Mayor Robert Taylor



David Sherley
General Manager

Highlights of the 2022-23 Financial Year

Construction work commenced on the Bathurst Water Harvesting Project, designed to increase the secure yield from Bathurst's town water supply by 1,500 megalitres (ML) per year. The project contains three main elements, a 36ML storage pond off Morrisett Street, upstream of the Wastewater Treatment Works. This will be filled with river water from a pumping station adjacent to the Macquarie River and pre-treatment systems will be installed at this location to cater for variability in water quality. Once the water is harvested and collected, the water will be pumped via a pipeline to the Water Filtration Plant for full treatment so that it is safe to drink (meeting Australian Drinking Water Standards). At the Water Filtration Plant, a new 8ML storage pond is being constructed to hold the harvested water ready to feed into the filtration system for full treatment. The estimated project cost is \$21 million. The NSW Government has provided \$20 million in funding to Council for water security projects including the Water Harvesting Scheme and the Winburndale pipeline project.

Council adopted its Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) to bring together key elements of Council's Framework of Climate Change Response – the Renewable Energy Action Plan, the Waste Reduction Plan, the Electric Vehicle Transition Plan and the yet to be developed Gas Transition Plan.

The ERP aims to help Council understand the options available to reach the proposed emission reduction targets, to align with the State Government's target to reach net zero emissions for the state by 2050.

Our goals:

- 25% emissions reduction by FY2025.
- 60% (aspirational) emissions reduction by 2035.
- Net Zero by 2050.

Council has established FY2019 as the baseline year for the ERP. In that year, our greenhouse gas emissions were 47,459 t. Almost 65% of emissions are due to landfill operations, and more than 25% are from electricity used to operate Council's facilities and streetlighting.

Following extensive community consultation council adopted its fourth Community Safety Plan 2023 - 2028.

The plan supports the development of a healthy, socially cohesive and safe community.

Bathurst and Mount Panorama Wapitani hosted the World Athletics Cross Country Championships, the first time in 27 years Australia has held a World Championship for the sport of athletics.

More than 500 athletes from 68 countries competed in the event, watched on by approximately 6000 spectators.

The event had been postponed twice due to the COVID 19 pandemic, with it originally to be held in 2021, then 2022.

Flooding in the Macquarie Wapitani River in November damaged the Young Lithgow gas pipeline owned by APA, causing a major gas outage in the communities of Bathurst, Lithgow, Wallerawang and Oberon.

A multi organisational response including local government, emergency services and the relevant gas agencies co-ordinated a multi-week response to bring gas supplies back on line to communities. Emergency gas supplies were organised for critical services while repairs to the gas pipelines were undertaken.

Major flooding in the Macquarie Wapitani River in mid-November caused extensive damage to the road network across the LGA with the Local Emergency Management Committee co-ordinating the broader community response.

Freemantle Road at Kellosheil Creek has remained closed since the flooding with a bypass in place while design work was been finalised and tenders called for the repair work.

Delivery of the KEY priorities

Aboriginal Commitment Strategy

Council continued to undertake Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments for the development of lands within the Bathurst Region as required.

Council applied for funding for an interpretation project to support the commemoration of the 1824 declaration of martial law. The application was unsuccessful.

Council's Aboriginal Commitment Strategy (Ngumbaay - Version one) was adopted on 17 August 2022. The strategy guides Council in working effectively and collaboratively with the local Aboriginal community.

The following activities have been undertaken since the adoption of the Strategy:

Reconciliation

Action	Progress
Implement, deliver and evaluate the Aboriginal Commitment Strategy	Council Departments have delivered relevant actions since the adoption of the Aboriginal Commitment Strategy.
Support reconciliation between Aboriginal people and the wider Bathurst Community:	Commemorate and host events for National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week.
Acknowledge the positive contribution of Aboriginal people in the community	ReConnect Bathurst public art project and digital StoryBank featuring the portraits and stories of local First Nations participants. Extensive use of Council's digital platforms to promote specific events and activities to engage the Aboriginal people in our community.
Increase cultural awareness to all Council staff	Cultural Awareness training being reviewed for delivery to Council staff
Increase employment opportunities for Aboriginal people	Additional identified positions have been advertised with alternative method of advertising the roles to reach the wider Aboriginal Community.



ABORIGINAL COMMITMENT STRATEGY

NGUMBAAY – VERSION ONE
AUGUST 2022

Protection

Action	Progress
Collaborate with the local Aboriginal community and service providers to restore Wiradjuri language and cultural traditions.	<p>Engaging an Aboriginal Cultural Consultant to assist preparation of water education materials focusing on the Macquarie/Wambuul and the importance/significance of water within Aboriginal communities, including extensive consultation.</p> <p>Continue to develop a project to consider the inclusion of Wiradjuri language words within Council's road name register.</p> <p>Inclusion of Acknowledgement of Country where appropriate.</p>
Work with the local Aboriginal community to acknowledge and respect traditional sites and significant places.	<p>New development controls in relation to Aboriginal Heritage under the Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan, public exhibition of the draft provisions to commence.</p> <p>Discussions underway with the Wiradjuri Traditional Owners Central West Aboriginal Corporation (WTOCWAC) to incorporate indigenous stories into the CBD wayfinding/ interpretation signage project.</p>

Community and Stakeholder Relationships

Action	Progress
Build positive relationships with the Aboriginal community and engage Recognised Aboriginal Parties.	<p>Staff continue to undertake consultation with the community around water and waste issues.</p> <p>Aboriginal Community Development Officer regularly attended meetings of Bathurst Aboriginal Interagency, Bathurst Aboriginal Education Consultative Group, NAIDOC Week Committee and Bathurst Aboriginal Health Service Advisory Group AMS Steering Committee.</p>
Engage with Aboriginal businesses where appropriate.	<p>Council engaged with Aboriginal Businesses, provides business concierge service to Aboriginal businesses to assist in the development of new business ventures.</p> <p>Negotiations are underway for long-term rental of BMEC commercial kitchen for food preparation.</p>

<p>Facilitate, support and promote initiatives that increases cultural awareness, create cultural connection and meet community needs.</p>	<p>Bathurst Library met with Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies education team to offer support for 1824 Bathurst Wars education resource.</p> <p>Series of six (6) workshops/sessions incorporating cultural awareness and cultural connections were undertaken to young people aged 8-16 years as part of the Marang Connections Program.</p> <p>Revealing Stories Series was launched at Bathurst, aimed to encourage conversations around history, truth telling and identity, with a particular focus on how the First Nations history was concealed.</p>
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Delivering Medical Services

Council received an application to insert a site-specific planning control into the Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP 2014). The Planning Proposal only sought to amend the Planning Controls to facilitate development of the sites for the Bathurst Integrated Medical Centre (BIMC) and the car park with a building height and Floor Space Ratio (FSR) greater than was permissible under the LEP 2014. The Planning Proposal will not result in the FSR and building heights to be increased anywhere else in the region.

The proposed BIMC will provide approximately 10,300m² of floor area for the provision of a variety of health and related education services catering to the population of Bathurst. This will allow for community, primary and allied health, and social support uses ancillary to the hospital uses. The co-location of such services within the Bathurst CBD ensures high accessibility and amenity to residents and visitors. The redevelopment of the George Street Carpart (GSC) will serve future visitors to the BIMC in addition to providing car parking for surrounding uses within the Town Centre. The total parking provided by the GSC is anticipated to cater for up to approximately 915 car spaces, an increase from 320 currently provided.

Council adopted the Planning Proposal to amend the Planning Controls to facilitate development of the sites for the BIMC on 14 December 2022, and they came into effect from 2 June 2023.

Water Security

Work on the city's water harvesting project is well underway with major works occurring near the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Excavation of the main storage pond has commenced which will be used to hold 36 megalitres of stormwater runoff. A 5.5km pipeline will be constructed to take the water to the Water Filtration Plant where it will be treated for the city's drinking water supply.

The water harvesting project will boost the city's water security by providing extra drinking water supply. The scheme will include a 36 megalitre storage pond off Morrisset Street to capture stormwater runoff from drains and catchments and an 8 megalitre storage pond at the Water Filtration Plant.

Once it is harvested and collected, the water will be pumped back to the Water Filtration Plant so that it is safe to use.

The scheme will have the ability to capture around 1500 megalitres of stormwater during rainfall and runoff events every year - which is approximately one third of the water used by Bathurst when under water restrictions.

The NSW Government has provided \$20 million in funding to Council for water security projects including the Water Harvesting Scheme and the Winburndale pipeline project.

Bathurst Animal Rehoming Centre

Works continued on the Bathurst Animal Rehoming Centre (BARC), which will be the start of a new era for the management of companion animals in the Bathurst Region. BARC will provide a modern, large-capacity facility centre which provides a welcoming customer environment and exceeds expectations for animal welfare outcomes.

The small animal pound has had a very successful rehoming program in recent years and this new facility will only boost this vital program. BARC features an adoption pavilion and companion animal education room which will be a first in regional NSW, incorporating a purpose-built facility aimed at maximising opportunities for animals to find their 'forever' home.

Review of the Macquarie River Flood Model

Council's current Floodplain Risk Management Plan for the Macquarie River was developed in 1993 and made various recommendations, including the construction of levee banks in various locations around Bathurst to protect houses from flooding in low-lying areas close to the river.

Council completed the last stage of flood levee construction in late 2021 with the construction of the Perthville Levee. Council has subsequently secured partial grant funding to develop a new Floodplain Model for the Macquarie River. The Floodplain Development Manual details that a Floodplain Risk Management Committee should be formed as the first step in the process. The Committee acts as both a forum and focus for the discussion of technical, social, economic, environmental and cultural issues, guiding the development of the flood plan model.

Council resolved to reestablish the Floodplain Risk Management Committee in September 2022, and the committee met twice during the reporting period. Council also sought quotes for consultants to prepare the updated Floodplain Management Plan. Works on the updated plan are expected to commence from August 2023.



Our Management Team



David Sherley
General Manager



Aaron Jones
Director Corporate
Services & Finance



Alan Cattermole
Director Cultural &
Community Services



Neil Southorn
Director Environmental,
Planning & Building
Services



Darren Sturgiss
Director Engineering
Services

Our Councillors



Mayor Robert Taylor



Deputy Mayor Ben Fry



Cr Warren Aubin



Cr Kirralee Burke



Cr Graeme Hanger



Cr Margaret Hogan



Cr Jess Jennings



Cr Ian North

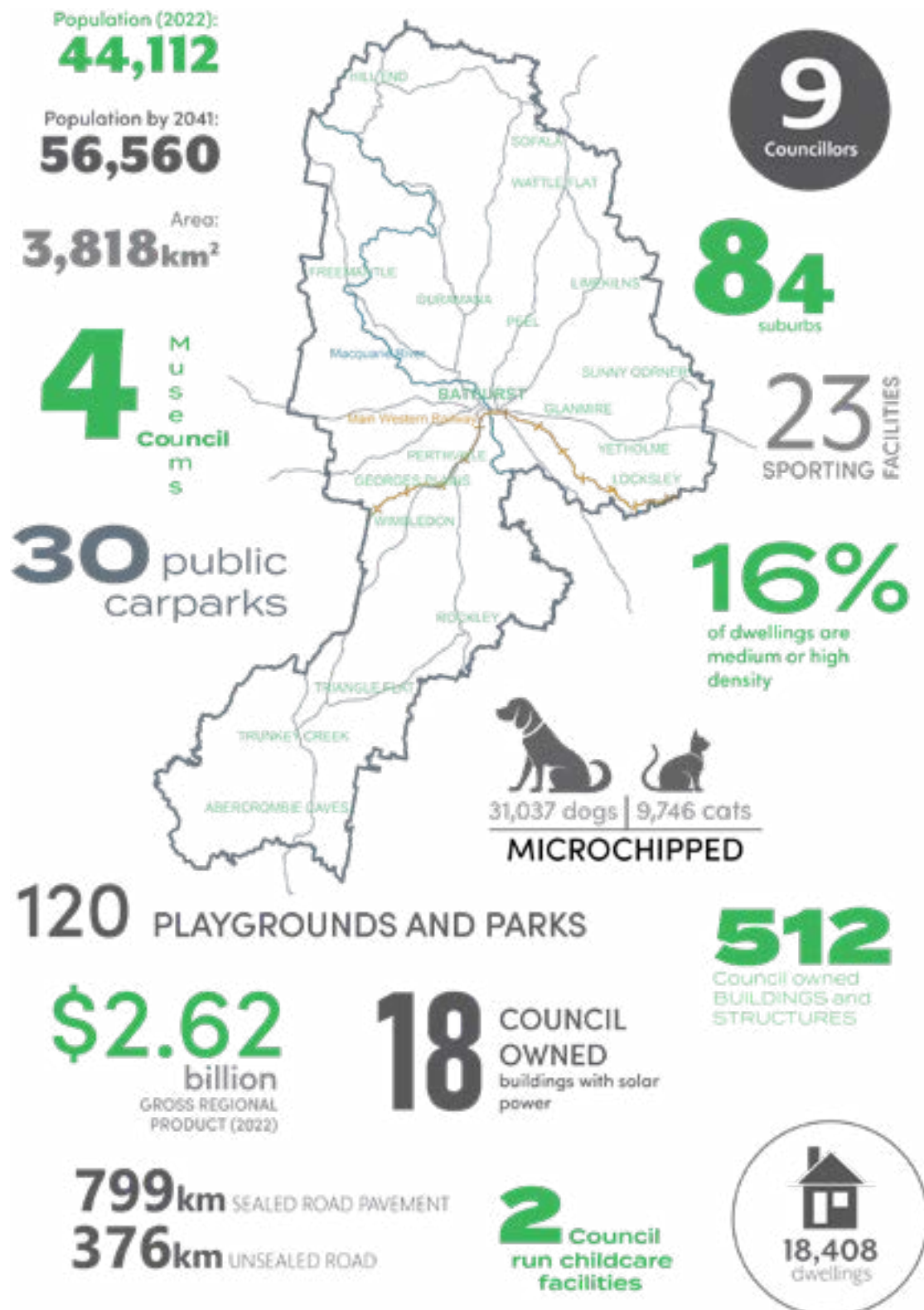


Cr Andrew Smith

Bathurst Snapshot

Bathurst is Australia's oldest European inland settlement located just over 200 kilometres west of Sydney on the Macquarie River. As the hub of central west New South Wales, Bathurst provides access to a market of more than 8 million people with Sydney just two and a half hours drive away.

An idyllic lifestyle is supported by quality infrastructure and essential services that contribute to an annual growth rate of 1.4%.



APPROX.
138 km
CYCLEWAY AND
FOOTPATH

 **26.8%**
couples
with
children

82.4%
of workforce are
local residents (2021)

MANUFACTURING

sector the largest economic contributor

MEDIAN
resident age is 37

19,000 ha
of LAND ZONED nature
reserves, NATIONAL PARKS
and recreation

765Kw
Total capacity
of Council's
solar

25.4%
RESIDENTS
aged under 20

7.2%
of our population
identify as Aboriginal
or Torres Strait Islander

20 
Public
e-vehicle
chargers

13
cemeteries

1,028,000
ANNUAL VISITORS

Education
sector the
largest

EMPLOYER



**Centre
of
Education**

Charles Sturt University
TAFE
5 high schools
18 primary schools
2 special support schools

5 top languages spoken
1. English
2. Nepali
3. Punjabi
4. Filipino
5. Arabic

3,703
local businesses

299 children
enrolled in childcare
in Council run services

1815
Australia's first
European Inland
Settlement

245 km of
DRAINAGE PIPELINE

Services we provide

Cultural & Community Services

- Community Development
- Library Services
- Tourism
- Bathurst Regional Art Gallery
- Museums Bathurst
- Disability Services
- Aboriginal Commitment Strategy
- Youth Council
- Social Planning
- Crime Prevention
- Community Halls
- Rural Village Development
- Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC)

Environmental, Planning & Building Services

- Placemaking
- Strategic Land Use
- Development Assessment
- Construction Certification
- Ranger and Animal Services
- Economic Development
- Business Development & Support
- Business Communications
- Fire Safety Inspections
- Animal Shelter
- Planning Proposals
- Environmental Management, Assessment and Education
- Submissions to Government Strategies
- Sustainable Energy Projects



BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL

Corporate Services & Finance

- Workforce Strategy & Planning
- Human Resources
- Work Health & Safety
- Corporate Governance
- Councillor Support
- Enterprise Risk Management & Insurance
- Council Meetings, Forums and Briefings
- Corporate Strategy
- Local Emergency Management
- Integrated Planning & Reporting
- Event Coordination & Management
- Information Technology
- Customer Service
- Financial Management
- Data & Information Management
- Council Property Management & Leasing
- Corporate Communication

Engineering Services

- Road Design
- Area Maintenance
- Facilities Planning & Maintenance
- Civil Construction & Maintenance
- Sporting Fields, Parks & Reserves
- Halls & Building Maintenance
- Public Spaces
- Trees & Roadside Vegetation Management
- Waste Collection & Management
- Bushfire Hazard Reduction Management
- Water & Sewerage Services



Post - COVID Recovery

Council built momentum to complete a number of key projects already underway and assist the Bathurst economy to continue to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Council also consolidated the strengths of its artistic and cultural assets with the visitation pattern returning to historic levels.

Council's financial assistance to residents, small business and the local community was further reduced, particularly with the increased pressures from the supply chain and general price increases for many of the products Council purchased.

Looking Ahead

The organisation's challenge for the next 12 months is to focus internally on how to evolve and respond to growth in these challenging times. We will continue to make recommendations for continued efficiency and effectiveness.





Our Community's

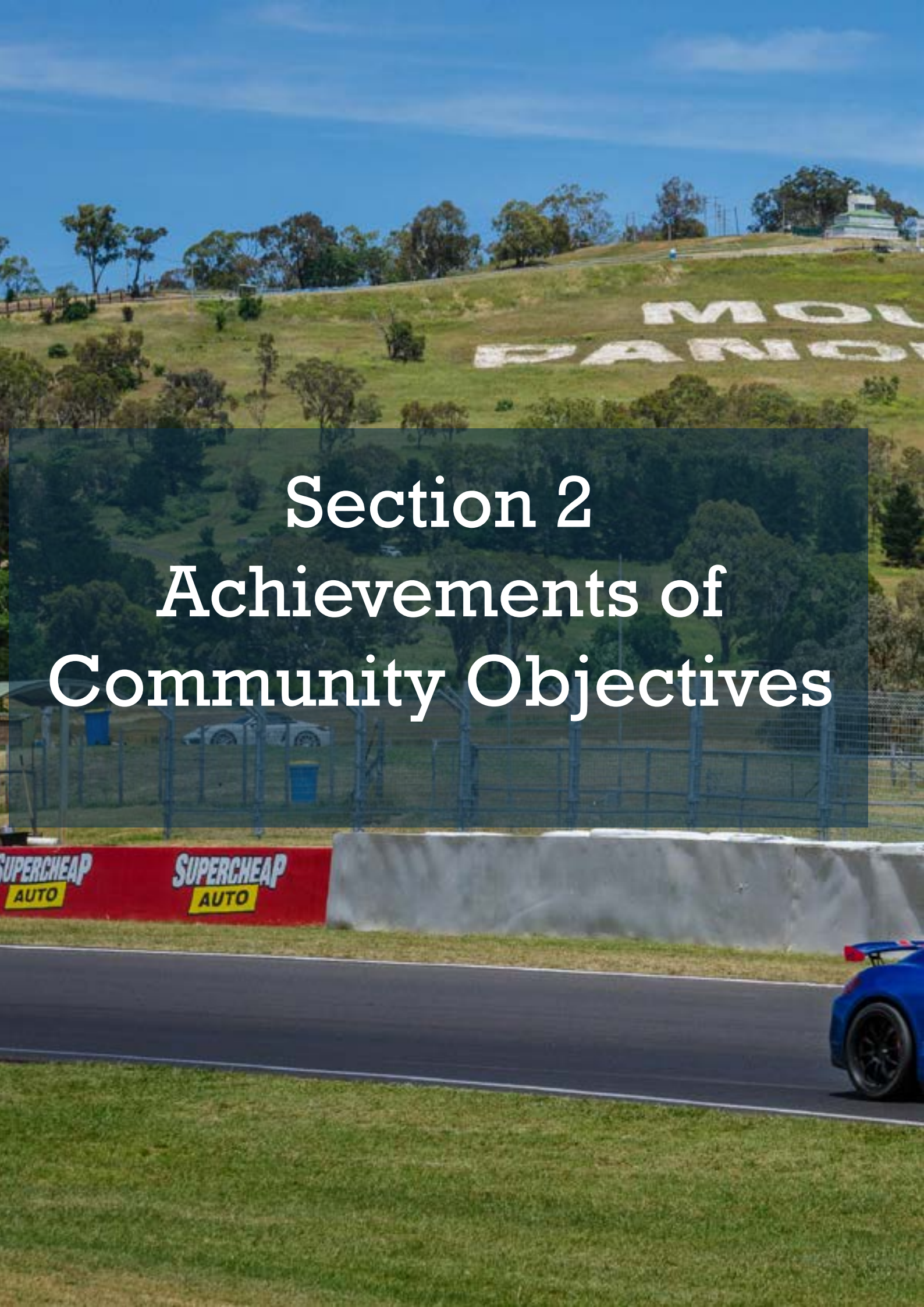
Vision

A Vibrant regional centre that enjoys a rural lifestyle. The Bathurst Region achieves health and well-being through strengthening economic opportunities, planning for sustainable growth, protecting and enhancing our assets and encouraging a supportive and inclusive community.

A Region full of Community spirit and shared prosperity.

Mission

The equitable development and maintenance of services provided for the general health and wellbeing of the citizens of the Bathurst Region and the adjustment of these services to meet the changing needs.



Section 2

Achievements of Community Objectives



Our Region Our Future Bathurst Community Strategic Plan

Our Region Our Future - the Bathurst Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2022 is a document under the NSW Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Reforms.

Its specific aim is:

To inform the community about the major directions and programs Council is undertaking in shaping the future of the Bathurst Region.

The CSP represents the “blueprint” for the future by describing the focus of Council's activities. It also recognises that others in the community (individuals, businesses, governments and agencies) can also contribute to future outcomes.

The CSP was revised at the commencement of the new term of Council (in 2021) in consultation with the community.

The CSP's key themes to provide for sustainability and community well-being are:

- We value Our sense of place and identity;
- We aspire to have A smart and vibrant economy;
- Strengthen Environmental stewardship;
- We encourage Sustainable and balanced growth;
- We foster Community health, safety and well-being; and
- We advocate for Community leadership and collaborations.

Delivering the plan

The 4 year Delivery Program links the “planning” in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) with its implementation via the annual Operational Plan.

The report on Council's achievements during the last 4 years in implementing the CSP is provided in the End of Term Report.

The Vision of the Our Region Our Future - Bathurst Community Strategic Plan is:

Bathurst: A vibrant and innovative region that values our heritage, environment, culture, diversity and strong economy.



OUR *Region* OUR *Future*
Bathurst Community Strategic
Plan 2022

Major Studies and Strategies 2022/2023

1. Vision Bathurst 2040 - the Bathurst Region Local Strategic Planning Statement

Council continues to implement Vision Bathurst 2040 – the Bathurst Region Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). The LSPS outlines the Bathurst Region’s economic, social and environmental land use needs of the next 20 years as the Region grows and changes. It highlights those characteristics that make our Region special and outlines how growth and change in land uses will be managed into the future. The LSPS responds to the NSW Government’s Central West and Orana Regional Plan.

Other Studies/ Strategies

Council’s Strategic Planning Section completed the following major studies and strategies in 2022/23:

- Bathurst Town Centre Master Plan
- Bathurst Bypass Economic Analysis Report
- Investigations into future urban release areas
- Urban Design/ Place Management

Council was successful in obtaining a further \$500,000 grant under the Governments Streets as Shared Spaces Round 2 funding program and completed works in Machattie Lane and Parrish Lane.

Council adopted the Policy “Futureproofing Our CBD 2022 and beyond” to establish principles to guide decision making in the public realm of the CBD.

Planning Control Amendments

Council amended the Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2014 as follows:

- Laffing Waters Planning Proposal
- Heritage Planning Proposal listing an additional 39 heritage items.
- Bathurst Integrated Medical Centre Planning Proposal - height and flood space ratio changes.

Council amended the Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan (DCP) 2014 as follows:

Update planning controls relating to land behind the Perthville flood levee.

- Update to section 9.6 Flooding – to relocate the LEP flood maps to the DCP.
- Community Participation Plan – update notification requirements for new development adjoining rural heritage items.

Work continues on other key amendments to Council’s development control plan including:

- New provisions to support the implementation of the Laffing Waters Master Plan.
- Updated provisions relating to Aboriginal Heritage
- Updated provisions under Council’s Community Participation Plan

Heritage Management

Council continues to implement the Bathurst Region Heritage Plan 2021-25. Updates on the implementation of the Plan are reported on Council's Yoursay website.

The Strategic Planning Section continued to implement the Bathurst Region Heritage Plan with key projects and programs including:

- Heritage Advisory service – free advice to property owners to encourage the maintenance and conservation of the Region's heritage – 109 site visits undertaken in the year.
- The Bathurst Region Local Heritage Fund – a small grants program to encourage the maintenance and conservation of the built heritage of the Bathurst Region by property owners. 26 projects completed at a value of \$490,119.
- The Bathurst Region Conservation and Interpretation Fund – a small grants program to encourage the interpretation and promotion of the Region's heritage. 4 projects completed at value of \$20,121.
- The Bathurst CBD Main Street Improvement Fund – a small grants program to encourage maintenance and improvements to buildings in the Bathurst CBD. 7 projects completed at a value of \$



- The Bathurst Macquarie Heritage Medal Project/Scholarship for 2022 did not proceed. Council reconsidered this program and has adopted instead the Dr Robin McLachlan Heritage Award, with the first award anticipated to be made in 2024.

Other key projects underway in 2022/23 included:

- Condition Assessment and Maintenance Plan for the historic street and park lamp standards.
- CBD wayfinding signage in the Bathurst Town Square.

A copy of the Heritage Plan can be found on Council's website https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council/plans-policies/heritage_plan_2021-2025_final.pdf

Caring for the Environment

Environmental and Health Programs

Council actively engaged with the community in 2022/23 through a range of environmental health compliance and education programs. Council assists local food businesses through access to free online food handling training, advice on premises fit-outs and the provision of regular educational newsletters. Council also places a focus on inspections and monitoring of temporary and mobile food premises to ensure that food safety is upheld at community events. These activities are supported by routine inspections of food and skin penetration premises, and implementation of Council's On-site Sewage Management Strategy. Council continues to work with landholders to increase the number of systems which have a current approval to operate in place, with a focus on high risk systems. Council has implemented the Legionella Management Plan to assist local businesses in complying with the requirements of the Public Health Act 2010.

Environmental Projects cover a broad range of issues from sustainability initiatives in the home to land rehabilitation works in our local waterways. Key activities include the Bathurst Backyard Bird Count - an interactive survey of local bird species held in October 2022 and two guided bird watching tours. Throughout the year the @sustainablebathurst Facebook page was used to communicate, educate and promote sustainability in the Bathurst Region. Council held the Sustainable Living Expo in March 2023 which included educational presentations and activities on various sustainability themes.

Council implemented the award winning River Connections education program during 2022/23, which is an experiential, engaging nature-based program to connect school students with the Macquarie Wambuul River. 300 students from seven schools participated, engaging in a value based learning program, including Wiradjuri cultural perspectives, science, art, and inquiry-based exploration. The program is targeted at Stage 3 students and is delivered in partnership with Wiradjuri Elders.

Council continued to roll out litter prevention and illegal dumping prevention programs. Banishing Bathurst Butts Beyond the CBD which saw a reduction in cigarette butt litter of 87.9% during a 12 month prevention program. Council prepared an illegal dumping action plan and implemented onground activities such as the installation of eight mobile illegal dumping cameras at dumping hotspots. This project saw a reduction of 50.65% in the number of illegal dumping incidents reported.

Council implemented several projects to address high priority actions which have been identified in Council's Biodiversity Management Plan and Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. Works in 2022/23 included ongoing construction of a rehabilitation and enhancement project at the Brick Pit wetland. Natural environment activities focused on maintenance works and re-vegetation in various urban tributaries of Queen Charlottes Vale, Sawpit and Raglan Creeks and urban drainage reserves.

During 2022/23 a pilot project commenced which included the installation of 94 smart controls in the street light network. As a part of the project temperature sensors have been installed, and an assessment will be prepared when the trial is completed later in 2023. The installation of renewable energy infrastructure continued with major projects including the the installation of a 100kW solar array at the Central Tablelands Collections Facility and an 8.7kW solar array with a 16kWh battery at the Chifley Home and Interpretation Centre. The total solar energy capacity on Council facilities at the end of the reporting period was 766kW. Council installed an electric vehicle charge station at Rockley Village. On 1 January 2023 a new contract for the electricity supply for large sites commenced with 100% renewable energy being supplied through a Power Purchase Agreement.

State of the Environment Report

The 2022/23 State of the Environment report provides Council and the community with a snapshot of the condition of the environment in the Bathurst Regional Local Government Area. The Integrated Planning and Reporting system requires that a State of the Environment report is produced every four years. The annual snapshot provides an update on trends under the themes of land, biodiversity, water and waterways, people and community, and towards sustainability. Data will continue to be collated on an annual basis.

Council also participated in the Regional State of the Environment data collation process with 14 other Councils from the Greater Central West Region of NSW. This project provides a snapshot report on trends in the above-mentioned themes across the most recent four-year period. The report for the 2021/22 period is available on Council's website.

The 2021/22 Bathurst State of the Environment Report (SOE Report) was available on Council's website from 15 December 2022. The updated SOE Report will be available on Council's website from 30 November 2023.

Looking after the Community

Community Safety

The Bathurst Community Safety Committee continued the rollout of actions related to the crimes identified in the Bathurst Community Safety Plan 2019-2023, including the following initiatives:

- Malicious damage to property awareness campaign;
- Red Bench project (domestic violence awareness);
- Partnering with ScamWatch for Scams Awareness Week 2023;
- Partnering with Chifley Police District to deliver a fraud seminar during Seniors Festival 2023;
- Elder abuse awareness campaign for Elder Abuse Awareness Week 2023;
- Council provides a small grant program, Bathurst CCTV Funding Program, for businesses to install CCTV adjacent to their premises to increase community safety in the direct area relating to their individual premises;
- Development of the 2023 – 2028 Bathurst Community Safety Plan.

The Community Safety Committee membership includes key stakeholders from a broad number of organisations that have a strong focus on community safety, including Chifley Police District, Bathurst Community Corrections, Housing NSW, Bathurst Liquor Accord, Bathurst Business Chamber, Charles Sturt University, TAFE NSW, Housing Plus, headspace and The Neighbourhood Centre.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Council continued to undertake Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments for the development of lands where required.

Community Service achievements included:

- Kelso Community Hub supported community service organisations to provide key services for the local community.
- ClubGRANTS Scheme 2022/23: The provision of administrative assistance for the implementation of funding to local community groups and organisations;
- Initiatives linked to Bathurst Community Safety Plan 2019 – 2023 were developed and implemented. The initiatives included: Red Bench project, Scams Awareness Week, a fraud seminar as part of Senior's Festival 2023, malicious damage to property campaign and elder abuse awareness campaign.
- Community and stakeholder consultation occurred during the year towards the development of the Bathurst Community Safety Plan 2023 – 2028.
- Council adopted the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2027.
- Initiatives linked to the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022 – 2027 commenced during the financial year, up to June 2023.
- Development and implementation of initiatives identified in Council's inaugural Positive Ageing Strategy 2021 – 2026 continued. The Strategy addresses community needs and assists with future planning for an ageing population.
- The provision of administrative support to the Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee, Senior's Festival Organising Committee and Bathurst Youth Network. Support and assistance is provided to Bathurst Regional Access Committee.
- The provision of support to the Bathurst Regional Youth Council and related youth activities.
- The coordination of community events, including Seniors Festival, Harmony Week, International Women's Day, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Community Gathering & performances and Youth Week.
- The Aboriginal Liaison Officer position had a title change. Changing to Aboriginal Community Development Officer, as the title better reflects the nature of the position. The role coordinated community development initiatives including 2022 NAIDOC Week Celebrations and Flag Raising Ceremony, the development of Aboriginal Commitment Strategy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders care packages, National Reconciliation Week Guest Speaker Panel, National Sorry Day commemoration. Council was successful in obtaining a grant through the COVID-19 Community Connection and Wellbeing Program (CCCWP)- Marang Connections a free 12-month program aiming to increase resilience, wellbeing and social connections for disadvantaged and disengaged young people aged 8-16 years.



Activities for Children

- Council facilitated several programs specifically for children during the year. This included the provision of a Child Care Centre for children, birth to five years of age. Council has 60 Long Day Care places with an average utilisation of 85% to 90% throughout the year.
- Bathurst Family Day Care Scheme provided care to approximately 205 registered children aged 0 to 12 years weekly with an average of 17 Educators.
- Kelso Community Hub provided a range of activities for all children in the Kelso Community. Many service providers and community organisations have assisted with the service delivery to the Kelso community, outlined in detail in the Kelso Community Hub section of this report. Essential medical programs including the Child and Family Health Clinic and the Sexual Health Clinic continued. Creative Community Concepts has provided a range of sporting activities as part of the Active Fest program and promotion of Active Kids Vouchers.
- Marang Connections provided monthly workshops and activities facilitated by professional and reputable organisations to promote Marang (well/good – Wiradjuri) lifestyles and connections for children and young people aged 8-16 years.

Various school holiday programs were held at the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery and Bathurst Library. Bathurst Library continues to provide Baby Rhyme Time sessions for babies and toddlers aged six months to three years. Storytime sessions are offered to children 3 to 5 years old and have a dedicated following.

Bathurst Library provides STEM activities for children with the Little Bang Discovery Club, a science children's program for pre-schoolers, and the Lego Club, an all-ability after school activity. The library also organises its popular Summer Reading Club.



Activities for Young People

Council facilitated the Youth Council, whose aim is to:

- Develop an understanding of Local Government planning and operational processes, and the role of the Youth Council within this framework;
- Develop and promote activities that encourage social interaction and inclusion within the Bathurst community;
- Seek and communicate the opinions and concerns of young people;
- Work with a range of local youth services to raise awareness of health, well-being and safety issues facing young people in Bathurst;
- Provide opportunities for young people to experience positive personal growth and develop leadership skills.

Projects undertaken during this period included;

- R U Ok? Day, September 2022.
- Headspace Day BBQ, October 2022.
- Mental Health Month Instagram takeover, October 2022.
- Marang Connections Sports Afternoon, October 2022.
- International Day of People with Disability, December 2022.
- Kelso Community Hub Christmas party, December 2022.
- International Women's Day, March 2023.
- Active Ageing Walk & Talk, May 2023.
- Sports Day, Youth Week Event, April 2023.
- Anzac Day, April 2023.
- Teen Mental Health First Aid, June 2023.



Cultural and Linguistic Programs

Council operates Kelso Community Hub and facilitates programs in partnership with a range of government and non-government agencies to support people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Council continues to support and consult with the broader Wiradjuri community, the Bathurst Wiradjuri and Aboriginal Community Elders group, Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council and other Aboriginal organisations operating within Bathurst.

Council celebrated NAIDOC Week on 30 June 2022 at Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre. The celebration included local performances, speeches, a flag raising ceremony and lunch catered by Indigenous Cultural Adventures. Council ran a NAIDOC week campaign from Sunday 3 July to Sunday 10 July 2022, profiling seven (7) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander local people who demonstrated the 2022 NAIDOC Week theme.

Seniors Festival was celebrated nationally from 1 February 2023 to 12 February 2023. Council provided 32 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elderly people with care packages. The care packages were delivered by Council and Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Marang Connections delivered four (4) of the twelve (12) programs from the calendar of events. The programs provided opportunity for disadvantaged and disengaged young people in Bathurst region to participate. Programs included a cooking workshop, sports afternoon, Aboriginal Artefact workshop and Swim Safety session.

Council commemorated National Sorry Day on 26 May 2023 by holding a morning tea in the Council Chamber. Recognised Aboriginal Parties and community members were invited.

Council hosted an event to acknowledge and celebrate National Reconciliation Week at Kelso Community Hub on 31 May 2023. A guest speaker panel included representatives from Recognised Aboriginal Parties. Representatives from the Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative group asked questions to the speaker panel.

Harmony Week celebrations occurred from 20-26 March 2023. Bathurst Regional Council partnered with The Neighbourhood Centre to work with individuals and families to participate in a local initiative to celebrate Harmony Week 2023. Participants attended three local early childhood services to be interviewed by preschool aged children regarding aspects of their culture which are important to them, including dress, values, traditions, food and music/dance. The interviews were recorded to be developed into an educational resource video for local early childhood services to utilise. The educational resource video was launched on Wednesday 22 March 2023 at the Bathurst Library. Early childhood services and community members were invited to attend and wear cultural dress for the launch of the educational resource video. Following the community event, the video was made available online through Council's and The Neighbourhood Centre's websites and social media pages.

Council provides, through its Library, a free service providing books in languages other than English. This service operates from the State Library and covers most languages.

Kelso Community Hub

The Kelso Community Hub, located in Bonnor Street, continued to provide a community hub of services for the Kelso community in 2022/23. Specialist activities provided at the hub included:

- NSW Health Child & Family Health Clinics
- Generocity Church food hampers
- New Street Western clinics
- Barnardo's Australia family mentoring
- Benevolent Society
- Birribee Housing
- Bathurst Library Van
- NSW Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- Creative Community Concepts – outdoor sporting activities.
- NSW Sexual Health Clinic
- Bathurst Local Aboriginal Lands Council – car restraint session
- Mobility Engineering – car restraint training
- NSW Land Council – Closing the Gap
- NSW Police Chifley Area – Community Meeting
- Orange Local Aboriginal Land Council – Mirganha Program
- Marang Connections Program – workshops
- Reconciliation Week Guest Speaker Panel
- Joblink Plus

Destination Management

A Bathurst Region Destination Management Plan (DMP) was endorsed at the 11 December 2019 Meeting of Council. The vision of this DMP is “A constantly evolving, sustainable and vibrant tourism industry that contributes strongly to the social and economic wellbeing of the community of the Bathurst Region”. The 104 action items within the DMP are being implemented according to priority listing with 56 actions, or 54%, complete or ongoing as of 30 June 2023.

The DMP includes a range of recommendations to develop Bathurst as a destination. To achieve the vision of the DMP and to build the Bathurst region brand has involved the establishment of a range of assets and tools to market the region. Key outcomes achieved during 2022/23 include:

- Worked with specialist public relations agencies to promote Bathurst Region.
- Delivered a campaign to support local spends and engage the Visiting Friends and Relatives market, “BX Marks the Spot”, Summer 2022/23.
- Media visits – Holidays with Kids, NRMA, Australian Traveller, Sydney Morning Herald, Better Homes & Gardens, Today Show, freelance journalists and social media influencers.
- Update and enhancement to destination website including new digital mapping.
- Developed new ‘Tourism Wayfinding and Signage Strategy’ with specialist consultant.
- Implementing 3-year marketing plan, adopted February 2021 with 33 of 39 action items (85% completed or underway) as of 30 June 2023.
- Development and execution of a digital marketing campaign in collaboration with Destination NSW to support the ‘Feel New’ brand campaign, August-October 2022.
- Attendance at the Australasian Incentives & Meetings Event in Melbourne, February 2023.
- Commissioning new images and video content available for ongoing promotional use.
- Attendance NSW Local Government Tourism Conference, Manly, May 2023 and Australian Regional Tourism Conference, Ballarat, October 2022.
- Attendance at Central NSW Joint Organisation of Councils tourism working group meetings and engagement with newly established Destination Network Central West.

Access and Equity

Council provides premises and ongoing maintenance at low-cost rental for The Neighbourhood Centre, the Senior Citizens' Centre, Bathurst Seymour Centre, West Bathurst Community House, Old Raglan School Hall and Kelso Community Hub. Council provides free or low-cost fees for the usage of its facilities by various community groups.

Council makes places available within all its Children's Services programs for children with disability and vulnerable children at risk of harm. Referrals are made through the local Child and Family Support Agencies, Early Intervention services and the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS). Council also provides for children with additional care requirements within its Long Day Care Centre Scallywags and Bathurst Family Day Care.

Council provides direct financial and/or infrastructure and/or in-kind support to many community groups and non-profit organisations to assist the provision of community services. These groups include Bathurst Regional Access Committee, women's health groups, pre-schools, community transport groups, senior citizens groups, nursing homes and long day care centres, youth groups and church groups.

Council also provides administrative support to the ClubGRANTS Local Committee, which distributes gaming revenue tax from local service clubs to community groups and non-profit organisations to improve access to a broad range of community services.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan (2022-2027)

Bathurst Regional Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2022 - 2027 aims to enable people living with disability to have greater access to the built environment and Council information, services, facilities and events.

Disability inclusion initiatives undertaken in the 2022/23 financial year include:

The provision of a range of programs and activities:

- Accessible programs facilitated by Bathurst Library;
- Winter Festival Accessibility Day;
- Support of local International Day of People with Disability events;
- Continued promotion of Council's accessibility through social media;
- Access at a Glance audits undertaken at selected Council facilities and events;
- Awareness raising campaigns developed for World Autism Awareness Day, World Down Syndrome Day and Dementia Action Week;
- Provision and support of Bathurst Access Improvement Grants 2022/23, to assist businesses and organisations to improve access to their premises.

Promotion of disability services and access to Council information:

- Disability Service Directory available on Council's website;
- Accessible Bathurst content including an Accessible Visitors Guide to Bathurst, accessible toilet and accessible parking maps available through the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre.

Recruitment practices and training:

- Training provided to Council staff regarding the Disability Inclusion Action Plan at induction;
- Recruitment software asks People with Disability to specify what additional requirements they need to assist them during the employment process.



Accessible Built Environments

- Continuing to implement strategies in the Bathurst Regional Council Access and Cycling Plan 2011 with a focus on the width of footpaths;
- Council has also completed some major footpath renewals in the CBD including further sections in William, George, and Havannah Streets. With further sections to be completed as more funding becomes available;
- Footpath maintenance ongoing with priorities identified through the access committee;
- Council continues to advocate for improved access to shops and businesses through the BCA and DA/CC assessment processes;
- Continued provision of accessible toilets, changing places Marveloo toilet, parking and site access for major events;
- A hearing loop is installed in Council's Chamber;
- Continued inspection and maintenance of accessible toilets;
- Roll out of street lighting upgrades;
- Charge stations for motorised wheelchairs at the Library/Art Gallery and BVIC;
- Accessible Parking included in CBD Master Plan;
- Continued provision of accessible toilets, parking and site access for major events.

Footpaths and Cycleways

Council throughout the year has continued works on constructing new footpaths and cycleways to assist with access to the Central Business District and other key areas of town. Construction works undertaken in 2022/23 include:

- Centennial Park (Rocket to Lambert St) – 580m
- Dean Street (Suttor to Vittoria Street) - 275m
- Morrisset Street (Peel to Commonwealth Street) - 685m
- Peel Street (Piper to Lambert Street) - 215m
- Rocket Street (Bant Street to Vale Road) - 141m
- Rockley Street, Perthville - 40m

Bathurst Regional Access Committee

Council continued to support the activities of the Bathurst Regional Access Committee (BRAC). The Committee meets monthly to promote awareness of the challenges faced by those with a disability in accessing local services and businesses. BRAC participates in Council's development, planning and policy processes and also provides information on access issues and lobbies for improvement.

Council provides:

- A venue for the committee to hold its meetings;
- Bathurst Access Improvement Grants totaling \$15,000 on an annual basis and administrative support for the grant;
- Assists the committee with the provision of a councillor delegate.

Positive Ageing Strategy

The Positive Ageing Strategy 2021 – 2026 is a whole of city Ageing Strategy and aims to improve the region's ability to cater for an ageing population.

Projects and initiatives developed in the 2022/2023 financial year include:

- Active Ageing Week including free exercise opportunities for older people, an Active Ageing in Bathurst booklet and online exercise classes and resources;
- Council customer service staff attended training by Dementia Australia;
- Council provided free dementia customer service training to local service providers and businesses;
- Council partnered with The Neighbourhood Centre to host an event for Dementia Action Week 2022. A Dementia Fact Sheet was also developed along with profiles of locals living with dementia and those involved in their care;
- Information on Retirement Villages and Aged Care Homes in Bathurst was placed on Council's web site;

- Social Futures engaged to conduct Access at a Glance accessibility audits on selected Council facilities and events;
- Annual support of the NSW Senior's Festival. In 2023, 31 free or low cost events were held for seniors during the Festival;
- Intergenerational activities hosted by Children's Services, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst Library and Bathurst Rail Museum;
- Council provided financial support to D'Caf, a social support group for people living with dementia and their carers;
- Technology sessions hosted by Bathurst Library;
- New development planning proposals support greater diversity of housing choice and connectivity for older people;
- Construction of new and maintenance of existing footpaths and cycleways;
- Council's Parking Strategy is regularly reviewed by the Traffic Committee following advice from residents and users.



Community Events

Council, as part of its community engagement programs runs multiple events to encourage physical activity, public participation and general entertainment for members of the community. Events organised by Council strategically align with our community strategic plans; Objective 1: Our Sense of place and identity, Objective 2: A smart and vibrant economy, Objective 5: Community health, safety and well-being.

Some of the main events include:

- **Bathurst NRL**

Fans flocked to Carrington Park on Saturday 29 April to see the Penrith Panthers take on the Wests Tigers as part of the annual agreement between Bathurst Regional Council and Penrith Panthers. The event saw large crowds of 11,055 people brave wet conditions as the Panthers went down to the Tigers, 8 – 12. Based on Localis data, which examines unique mobile devices at an event, an estimated 78.9% of those who attended were from outside Bathurst LGA. An analysis into 280+ hotels, motels and sharing properties in Bathurst LGA showed that during the event there was an average accommodation occupancy of 74%, which was a 23%



increase when compared to the non event period.

- **Bathurst Winter Festival**

The Bathurst Winter Festival returned for its eighth consecutive year in the heart of the CBD. The event saw an increase in accommodation occupancy levels, attendance to feature and key events and the addition of new activities and initiatives to enhance the overall event experience.

The event saw:

- More than 20,000 people skate on the McDonald's Bathurst Ice Rink;
- 56% of ice rink ticket purchasers were from outside 2795 postcode, up 15% on previous year;
- 51,352 tickets sold to Ferris Wheel and weekend rides;
- 18,000 people attended Opening Night and Brew and Bite events;
- Accommodation occupancy was 65% for the first weekend, 85% second weekend and 73% the final weekend;
- Average daily spend by locals and visitors on dining and entertainment increased by 175% on the year prior;
- Based on data supplied by Spendmap, Localis and Bathurst ID, total economic value created from this event was \$11.37 Million and 74 local jobs.



- **New Year's Eve Party in the Park**

New Year's Eve Party in the Park attracted large crowds of approximately 6,000 people to the Adventure Playground with just under half (44%) coming from outside Bathurst LGA. The event saw live entertainment, music, food, and concluded with fireworks at 9pm. The event received funding from the NSW Government which was used to hire popular children's performers – Bluey and Bingo, who performed on stage throughout the event.

- **Inland Sea of Sound**

The Inland Sea of Sound was delivered in the city centre with 2,011 people attending. Reconnecting NSW funding saw the introduction of a range of high-quality free events in Kings Parade attended by 1,519 people. The second Regional Song Contest Finalists' Showcase held at Keystone 1889 remained a festival highlight featuring singer songwriters from across the Central West region.

Library Services

Bathurst Library is open seven days a week and offers an extensive collection of books, DVDs, magazines as well as a suite of electronic collections and online resources to the Bathurst community. Access All Areas, the Bathurst Library Strategic Plan 2019-2024 adopted by Council in October 2019, guides the library activities and priorities.

Following a drop in attendance during the pandemic period, the number of people visiting the library has consistently grown throughout the year. From 1 July 2022 until 30 June 2023, 97,655 people visited Bathurst Library and 212,237 items (including electronic material) were borrowed. In June 2023, there were 10,040 active library members (25% of Bathurst LGA population).

Library staff and the Mobile Library Van continued to reach out to the community and schools in the villages (Hill End, Rockley, Sofala, Trunkey Creek, and Wattle Flat) and to homebound library members. The library van also popped up at Hill End as part of the 150-year celebration and was a welcome addition to the Centa-care Family Fun Day.

The library has recently added two new collections to its lending suite: a board games and card collection and a Comics collection in an electronic format.

The library provides programs for all age groups including early literacy and STEAM programs and activities for babies and children, popular school holiday activities, technology sessions for beginners, and author and information talks for adults. In 2022-23, 273 programs were delivered attracting 7,444 attendees.

Programs and services offered in 2022-23 were:

- Storytime: for children 3-5 years old
- Baby Rhyme Time: rhyme for babies and toddlers (6 months to 3 years old)
- Lego Club: an all-ability club
- Little Bang Discovery Club
- School holiday activities
- Children's Book Week
- Movie Matinees
- Author Talks, History, and Information Talks
- Computer Coffee Club
- Writing workshops

Program highlights included:

- A special show with Flacco and the Sandman



- Connecting Culture: Tracing Ancestors workshop for mob
- Live streaming of All About Women from the Sydney Opera House
- From the State Archives Collection, the Lord Carrington Album visit to Bathurst Library
- As part of the Bathurst Writers and Readers Festival, the library streamed multiple Live and Local sessions live from the Sydney Writers Festival.

In January 2023, the “1,000 books before school challenge” was launched. There are currently 134 participants with 115 active readers well on their way to read a thousand books before going to school. To encourage reading and participation, the library developed reading challenges for all ages during the year. To facilitate access to the varied resources on offer, library staff curate reading lists that are available in the library and online.

The Bathurst Library website functions as a virtual library branch. Library members can search the catalogue, check their accounts, and reserve items. The eLibrary platforms (eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines, film streaming) can be accessed via the library website. The library subscribes to several online resources on behalf of its members. These resources can be accessed from home or from the library. The website also features information pages to support recreation, research, and study, as well as community information pages to promote health and well-being.

The library offers access to technology to enable the community to participate fully in the world around them. It provides free Wi-Fi, free access to computers via a booking system, printing, scanning and photocopying facilities. The library also offers a mobile printing service allowing users to send print jobs from home and from mobile devices to the library printers. To contribute to bridging the digital literacy gap, Bathurst Library delivered 28 digital literacy programs.

Bathurst Library provides a reference service to the community, including Family History and Local History and is committed to honouring Wiradjuri history. The library promotes First Nations collections and resources via a monthly Facebook post.

Two free temporary exhibitions were displayed in the Chifley Library section of the Musum during the 2022/23 financial year. The first, Passenger Trains to Bathurst, marked the 10 year anniversary of the Bathurst Bullet’s inaugural journey and showcased the changes in train travel in the region over the years. The second, Before and After: how the railway changed Bathurst, presented photographic evidence of the rapid transformation in Bathurst with the opening of the railway.



Museums Unit

The 2022/23 financial year saw the lifting of national COVID restrictions, with a corresponding increase in visitation across the Museums Bathurst sites. Combined with the re-opening of the Chifley Home and Education Centre, the 2022/23 financial year saw a total of 118,052 people visit our Museums. Continued interest in domestic and regional tourism was aided by our exhibitions, programs and diverse offerings across the four sites.

Australian Fossil & Mineral Museum (AFMM) – home of The Somerville Collection

In the 2022/23 financial year a total of 34,450 individuals visited the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum with a turnover of \$467,610 through shop sales and admission.

Highlights for the year included 'The Dino-store', a dinosaur pet shop in the temporary exhibition gallery and in the local schools cabinet students from MacKillop College curated the 'Voices of the Future' exhibition and Bathurst Public School curated 'The Story of Ralph Entwistle'. The Museum also initiated 'Dino-Time', a session closed to the public which provided a controlled, sensory friendly environment.

Chifley Home and Education Centre

In the 2022/23 financial year total of 3,252 individuals visited Chifley Home and Education Centre with a turnover of \$26,839.70 through admissions and shop sales since the official reopening on 2 July 2022.

The site is now powered by renewable energy with solar panels installed on the roof of the Education Centre supplying both number 10 and 12 Busby Street. This was achieved through the Bathurst Regional Council Revolving Energy Fund.

The Education Centre showcased a temporary exhibition, Tea With Lizzie, from September through to November. Here, local community groups were given the opportunity to display tea cosy creations in honor of Elizabeth Chifley, her work with the community and love of handicrafts. There were 15 entries with community groups such as the Girl Guides, CWA and Bathurst Panorama Chorus participating.

In November, The Chifley Home was a featured presentation at the Regional Stakeholders Forum at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. The talk entitled Leveraging a pandemic to re-envision a house museum was delivered to a live and online audience.

Bathurst Rail Museum

In the 2022/23 financial year a total of 36,671 individuals visited the Bathurst Rail Museum with a turnover of \$267,619 through shop sales and admissions.

The Bathurst Steam Weekend was held once more on the June long weekend in conjunction with Transport Heritage NSW. Over 4,000 people rode the train over the weekend with an extra 300 school students taking advantage of a special journey from Tarana to Bathurst on the Friday. The event attracted over 750 visitors to the Museum. Markets were held on the Sunday at the Rail Museum as part of the festivities. There were more than 20 stall holders including great food and live music. Markets at the Rail Museum are now part of the annual calendar as a quarterly event also being held earlier in the year in April.

National Motor Racing Museum (NMRM)

In the 2022/23 financial year a total of 43,679 individuals visited the National Motor Racing Museum with a turnover of \$863,470 through shop sales and admission.

To celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Bathurst 1000 race sponsor Repco, the National Motor Racing Museum mounted a Special Exhibition "Repco: 100 Years" opening for the 2022 Race Weekend, with exhibits, graphics and other major elements, including the Brabham BT19 Formula 1 car, provided courtesy of Repco Australia. With significant publicity in the lead up to the event, plus large crowds at the major events at Mount Panorama, the 2022/23 year saw record attendance at the Museum and corresponding high retail sales throughout the financial year.

Bathurst Regional Art Gallery (BRAG)

BRAG is a respected, resilient, dynamic, and accessible facility that celebrates the visual arts which inspires, challenges, and connects our community and plays a leading role in developing Bathurst's reputation as the city of culture and heritage in Regional NSW.

Visitation to BRAG exhibitions and programs during 2022/23 was 29,176 in gallery, 114,602 to the foyer gallery, approximately 20,000 for BRAG touring projects, and approximately 12,000 for BRAG public art projects).

Grants/Sponsorships/Partnerships: BRAG received the following grants and sponsorship: Create NSW Creative Capital Grant (\$250,000) Create NSW Multi-year funding (\$100,000), BRAGS Inc (\$30,000), Gordon Darling Foundation (\$8,636), AGNSW/DET (\$5,000), M&G NSW Bursary (\$1,500), Bathurst Grange Distillery x BRAG Art Competition (\$500), private donation (\$50,000). BRAG established a total of 12 new program and event partnerships or sponsorships.

Awards: In 2023, Bathurst Regional Council was nominated for an IMAGINE Award in the SMALL Galleries (5 FTE staff or less) in the Exhibitions category.

Exhibitions: In 2022/23, BRAG presented 15 exhibitions, 14 of which were generated in-house with a focus on local artists, and including incoming touring projects (1), outgoing touring projects (2). Local Artist Projects (14), Off-site/ Public Art Projects (3), and Community Exhibition Projects (1). A total of 106 artists were represented in the BRAG program, including 104 regional artists, and 75 participants from the local community, BRAG touring exhibition included Adrienne Doig: It's all about me! (Blue Mountains Cultural Centre, final stop) and Luke Sciber-ras' Side of the Sky (developed with Campbelltown Arts Centre).

Education & Public Programs: BRAG delivered 83 education and public programs during 2022/2023, with 2,670 participants being a 171% increase in school engagement, with 550% increase in student engagement from 2021/2022 (total program number was down but participation was up from previous year). Solid legacy ticketed and non-ticketed programs were developed such as the weekly Sunday Sketch Sessions, and Life Drawing, as well as targeted public programs such as AGNSW Home Program, Winter Festival, NAIDOC, Bathurst Youth Advocates, Archie100 artist and author talks, performances and music concerts.

School Holiday Programs have continued to develop with collaboration, public displays and inter-generational and First Nations focused creation including the initiatives and Reconnect Bathurst.

Public Art: BRAG developed and delivered the following projects: Reconnect Bathurst (Until Then) in Pedrotta's Lane and BRAG Digital Platforms (Forecourt Projection). 'For Our Elders', BRAG Digital Platforms (Forecourt Projection) for NAIDOC and Winter Festival. The Wambuul Memorial Garden project was recovered and will be progressed forward in 2024-25.

Digital Engagement: BRAG continued to adapt to delivering online and screen-based digital content introducing a digital publishing strategy which pushes traffic between EDM, website, and social media platforms (May 2023). BRAG also introduced a new CMS Artwork Archive (May 2023) which has allowed for online viewing rooms and accessible engagement with our exhibitions.

Online engagement has continued to increase across BRAG's social media and website. Including a total of 12,035 an increase from 10,447 (21/22) being a 15.2% increase.

Facebook: 5.7% increase in average monthly reach. Instagram: 3.3% increase in annual new followers and a 103% increase in reach. For BRAG YouTube channel a 403.2% increase in subscribers and a 295.2% increase in views. Website: a significant increase in website traffic and engagement for bathurststart.com.au, 33% increase in visitors, and 30% increase in page views from previous year. All comparisons made to the previous period 2021/2022. BRAG launched its new website in 2023 as part of its collection accessibility strategy and its new digital publishing strategy.

Permanent Collection: Three works entered the collection through donation, Cultural Gift purchase and purchase, approximately valued at \$25,000.

Hill End AIR: The Hill End Artist In Residence (AIR) remained suspended in 2022/23 while negotiations advanced with NPWS for the leases of Murrays and Haefligers Cottages. BRC was the sole EOI submission and negotiations looks to be concluded by end of 2023. BRAG also submitted a revised EOI to TFNSW in February for the Station Master Cottage Residence, however, plans for upgrades to these buildings are now paused. BRAG established a key local partnership for residential intensives with Wilga Station's The Woolstore on Keppel Street, for much needed local accommodation for artists in town to complement the artistic program needs.

Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre (BMEC)

Attendance at BMEC events from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 was 55,384 with 294 events/activities facilitated by BMEC staff.

BMEC's purpose is to provide access to high quality performing arts activities and events for the community as audiences and/or active participants through BMEC Programs and to utilise these programs to: challenge thinking; stimulate creativity; develop skills; strengthen networks; encourage engagement with the performing arts by young people and encourage their retained engagement into adulthood and old age; encourage familiarity with and fluency in performing arts genres; and to generally encourage a clear sense of community cultural identity.

Sponsorship & Grants

In 2022/2023 BMEC received \$21,316 in sponsorship from Reliance Bank and \$4,000 in sponsorship from Ben & the late Martha Gelin. The latter sponsorship is part of a five-year commitment totalling \$20,000.

In 2022/2023 BMEC maintained its multi-year funding from Create NSW of \$80,000 per year.

Central Tablelands Collections Facility (CTCF)

Construction of the Central Tablelands Collections Facility was completed and opened on the 16th September 2022. Immediate community interest saw 34 events, functions, workshops or training activities hosted with a total of 378 attendees within the Financial Year.

Following the opening, 2133 items of Council owned collection material from Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, National Motor Racing Museum, Chifley Home and Bathurst Rail Museum were relocated into the facility for permanent storage.

Council also undertook storage of cultural material for two neighbouring Councils and a State Collecting agency in the period to 30 June.

Ongoing fit out saw the addition of a new compactus gifted by the Australian Museum to house the non-display items of the Sommerville Collection.

In May 2023 the facility won the National Sustainability project section at the Australian Museums and Galleries Association awards, and the Special project Initiative award at the NSW Local government professionals award ceremony. It also achieved a highly commended in the Conservation -Interiors and Objects Category of the NSW National Trust awards.



BMEC Annual Season

In the second half of 2022 Joel Bray's performances were cancelled due to the pandemic. All other Season shows were able to continue. In the first half of 2023 all season shows went ahead with an additional performance of Euphoria held at Lithgow's Union Theatre as part of an outreach strategy to build audiences. This resulted in return audiences to the Bathurst shows as well as good word of mouth to assist with ticket sales.

Local Stages

In 2022/23 Local Stages produced:

- Fast Cars by Kate Smith with a sold-out season of 4 performances despite bad weather for all four days.
- Bathurst Writers' & Readers' Festival was a collaboration between BMEC, Bathurst Library, Arts Out West, BooksPlus and volunteers. Some content was provided by Sydney Writers' Festival and the festival ran for 4 days from May 25 – 28, 2023. Events were held at Bathurst Library and BMEC. 29 events were held overall with 19 of those being livestreamed events from Sydney Writers' Festival. Attendances reached 1430 – more than double the figures of 2022.
- Compareo, weekly performing arts classes for local people with disability.
- The Regional Song Contest as part of the Inland Sea of Sound.
- Supporting the Lantern Making Workshops for Winter Festival.
- Creative development for Viv!.
- Supported APRA/AMPCOS Song Makers Workshop.

Seniors Festival Organising Committee

The Seniors Festival Organising Committee presented 31 free or low-cost entertainment, social activities and educational opportunities during Seniors Festival 2023, which was held from Wednesday 1 February 2023 through to Sunday 12 February 2023. Events included;

- Tours of the Central Tablelands Collections Facility;
- Tours of Chifley Home and Education Centre;
- Bus tours and lunches;
- Exercise classes including stretch classes, chair yoga and aqua aerobics;
- Live music at the Bathurst RSL Club – The Everly Brothers & Buddy Holly Tribute Show;
- Fraud Awareness Presentation by NSW Police Fraud Squad;
- Evans Art Council Open Day;
- Bathurst Seymour Centre activity afternoon;
- New Horizons Open Day;
- Author Talk at Bathurst Library;
- Trivia and games at Bathurst Seniors Centre;
- Miss Traill's House & Garden Morning Tea;
- Computer Coffee Club Launch at Bathurst Library;
- Movie Matinee at Bathurst Library;
- Outdoor Games at The Neighbourhood Centre.



Visitor Information Centre and Tourism Services

Bathurst Visitor Information Centre offers a wide range of services and products to visitors as well as to the local community of the Bathurst region whilst working with local businesses of the visitor economy and delivering promotional initiatives to drive increased visitation and overnight stays.

In 2022/23 44,089 visitors came through the doors, a 53.3% increase, though the 2021/22 period which was affected by the impact of COVID-19 lockdowns and the closure of the Centre.

151,162 users visited the bathurstregion.com.au destination website (6.2% Increase), 375,429 page-views (1.14% increase);

5,986 phone enquiries were received, a 5.96% decrease;

Social media: Total 11.3% increase in followers across Facebook, Instagram and YouTube to 25,398.

\$105,758 worth of retail sales generated (45.1% increase) and \$116,115 bookings taken via online/in-centre booking engine. (34.6% increase).

Tourism partners for 2022/23 totalled 125 (remained steady), with the paid partnership negatively affected by the macro-economic climate and uncertainty;

Creation of collateral to support new destination branding including printing of new 2022/23 destination planner (25,000 copies printed July 2022) and the new Villages Guide in addition to in-house informational and inspirational materials Coordination of heritage, community level and village-based events including;

- o The Autumn Colours Heritage Festival;
- o Bathurst Heritage Trades Trail, 15-16 April 2023;
- o Administering the Village Event Development Fund, supporting three village events in 2022/23.

Implementation of the actions of the Destination Management Plan (2019) and Destination Marketing Plan (2021).

Three staff members attended the LGNSW Tourism Conference May 2023, 2 staff attended the Australian Regional Tourism Conference, October 2022, 2 staff attended the Australasian Incentives & Meetings Event in Melbourne, February 2023, 4 staff completed Senior First Aid Training, 1 staff member completed 'Psychological Safety in the Workplace' training and one staff member attended the NSW Tourism Awards November 2022.

Provided 500+ information and promotional packs for events and community activities held in Bathurst.

'What's on' newsletters and new consumer and industry electronic direct mail distributed 4000 hardcopy and electronic newsletters, circulated monthly.

Step on guides: Eleven tours booked in 2022/23.

Sister City Relationship

Bathurst has had a sister city relationship with Ohkuma (Japan) since March 1991. Unfortunately, in March 2011, Ohkuma was affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. The nuclear power plant nearby was damaged and there was radioactive fallout resulting in the creation of an exclusion zone around the power plant. Ohkuma fell within the exclusion area and consequently the whole town was relocated to other parts of Japan. Many of the residents of Ohkuma were relocated to Aizu Wakamatsu, where schools have been set up for Ohkuma children and a housing area for residents.

Since March 2011, Ohkuma and Bathurst residents have continued their friendship via delegations of residents and officials travelling between Australia and Japan. In 2022/23 two groups that had been scheduled to visit from Toyo High School and Senshu were cancelled due to the ongoing logistical issues and uncertainties resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

School groups will resume travel in 2023/4, with four groups already booked with the first from KSKK (International Youth Exchange) to visit in August 2023. Representatives from Ohkuma will also visit Bathurst in March 2024 as part of the "Wings of Hope" program. This will be the first such visit since before the pandemic.

Council has also developed a relationship with Cirencester in the UK. Cirencester is the home of 9th Earl and Countess Bathurst. Bathurst was named after the 3rd Earl Bathurst. Over the past 12 months activities have included a continuing dialogue and exchange of information as well as an ongoing business venture between the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre (BVIC) and local Cirencester businesses to maintain a retail presence and interpretive area at BVIC.

Council maintained its Sister City relationship with Yangquan City, China.

Media Announcements

Bathurst Regional Council actively promotes its facilities, services and activities to residents and other users across the Bathurst Region across a range of media.

Events and a range of Council activities, projects and decisions are publicised to all sections of the local media through regular media releases, which are also made available on Council's online News Centre on the Your Say Bathurst website. Information about Council and upcoming events is also advertised regularly through a program of community service announcements on the Bathurst Region's main radio stations, Radio 2BS, B-Rock FM and 2MCE FM. Council also supports this with a range of paid radio ads to promote specific projects and activities.

Each week the local daily newspaper, the Western Advocate, carries a Mayoral Column which the Mayor uses to discuss issues, activities and events relating to Council. Regular weekly advertisements are also published in the Western Advocate promoting matters of relevance to the community. Council's weekly advertising is also included in a free local newspaper, Central West Village Voice to extend the reach of this messaging in the local community. These public notices are also made available via Council's website, and promoted through Council's Social Media Channels.

In addition to these channels of communication, Council produces a Community Newsletter four times a year which is direct mailed to ratepayers and is made available at a number of Council facilities and on Council's website.

Council continues to complement its media and communications activities with its social media platforms to increase the reach of its messaging, providing links to media announcements, Council activities, events and projects via these channels.

In 2022/23 Council's digital audience has continued to grow with increased numbers of followers on all our social media platforms. Council has also focused on growing our LinkedIn audience as a platform to increase our reach with fewer people engaging on Twitter, and decreasing usage of the platform.

Month	Facebook	Twitter	LinkedIn	Instagram
July 2022	15,581	1,767	2,225	3,356
June 2023	19,123	1,758	2,443	3,641
Trend	Increasing	Steady	Increasing	Increasing

Section 3

Legislative and other information





Review of Financial Accounts

The following information on Council's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 has been provided by Council's Auditor, Audit Office of New South Wales.

Income Statement

Operating result

	2023 \$m	2022 \$m	Variance %
Rates and annual charges revenue	53.0	51.0	↑ 3.9
Grants and contributions revenue	36.1	34.0	↑ 6.2
Operating result from continuing operations	(0.5)	6.2	↓ 108.1
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	(18.2)	(12.0)	↓ 51.7

The Council's operating result from continuing operations (\$0.5 million deficit including depreciation, amortisation and impairment expense of \$34.7 million) was \$6.7 million lower than the 2021–22 result.

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (\$18.2 million) was \$6.2 million higher than the 2021–22 result. Council spent significant funds on infrastructure repairs (primarily roads) during the year due to heavy rains and flood damage.

Rates and annual charges revenue (\$53.0 million) increased by \$2.0 million (3.9 per cent) in 2022–23, primarily due to rate peg increase of 2.5 per cent.

Grants and contributions revenue (\$36.1 million) increased by \$2.1 million (6.2 per cent) in 2022–23 due to:

- receiving \$6.3 million in funding for water harvesting under Safe and Secure Water Program
- receiving 96 per cent of the financial assistance grants for 2023-24 in advance (73 per cent in 2021-22)

Statement of Cash Flows

Cash flows for materials and services increased due to the need for flood remediation works.

Council drew down \$11.0 million in new borrowings during the 2022-23 financial year for the construction of the Winburndale Dam Safety Upgrade, Carrington Park Grandstand Extension, and road constructions.



Financial Position

Cash and Investments

Cash and investments	2023	2022	Commentary
	\$m	\$m	
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	98.5	106.0	Externally restricted balances comprise mainly of contract liabilities, unexpended grant funds developer contributions, <u>water</u> and sewer funds. Internal allocations are determined by council policies or decisions, which are subject to change.
Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments:			
• External restrictions	98.4	96.5	
• Internal allocations	--	9.4	

Debt

At 30 June 2023, Council had:

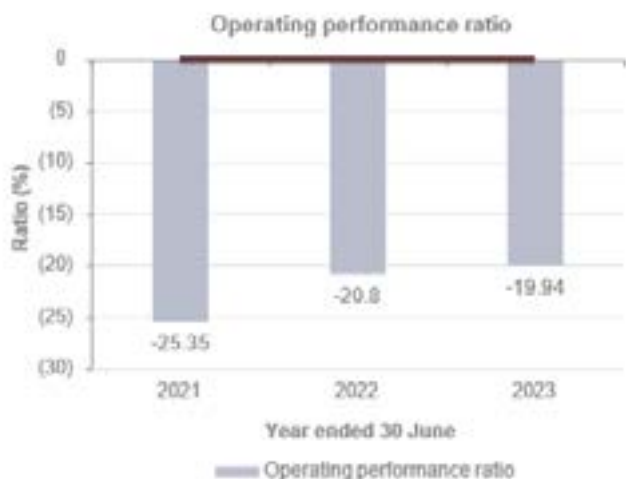
- \$39.9 million in secured loans (\$34.4 million in 2021-22)
- \$650,000 in approved overdraft facility with nil drawn down
- \$115,000 in credit card facility with nil used.

Performance

Performance measures

The following provides an overview of the Council’s performance against the performance measures and performance benchmarks set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) within the Department of Planning and Environment.

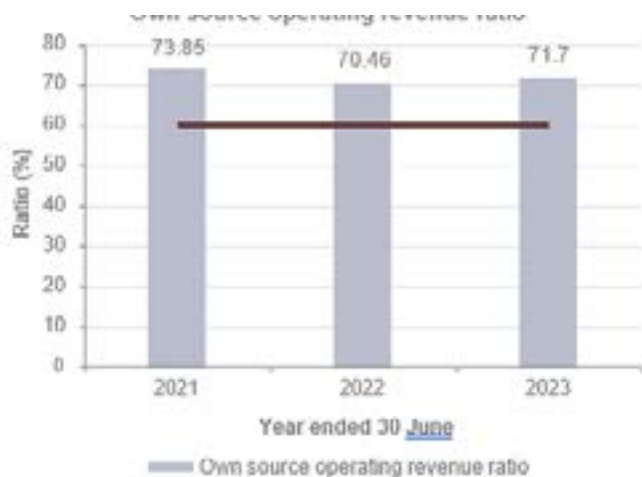
Operating performance ratio



Council’s result is consistently below the bench- mark due to reliance on land sales as source of general fund revenue. Gains on asset sales are excluded from the numerator of this measure.

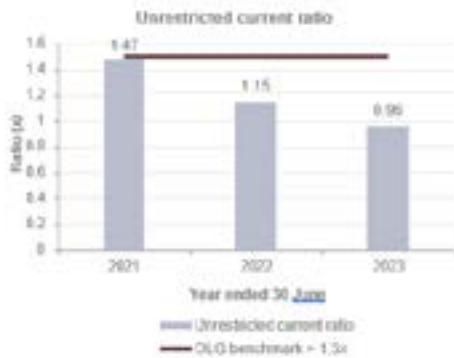
The ‘operating performance ratio’ measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and re- versal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by OLG is greater than zero per cent.

Own source operating revenue ratio



The Council continues to exceed the benchmark. The ‘own source operating revenue ratio’ measures council’s fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 60 per cent.

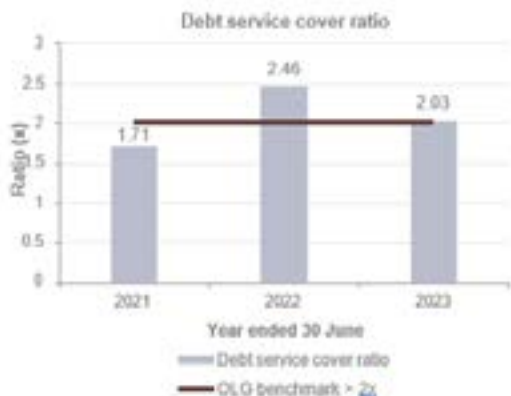
Unrestricted current ratio



The Council did not meet the benchmark for the current reporting period.

The ‘unrestricted current ratio’ is specific to local government and represents council’s ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.

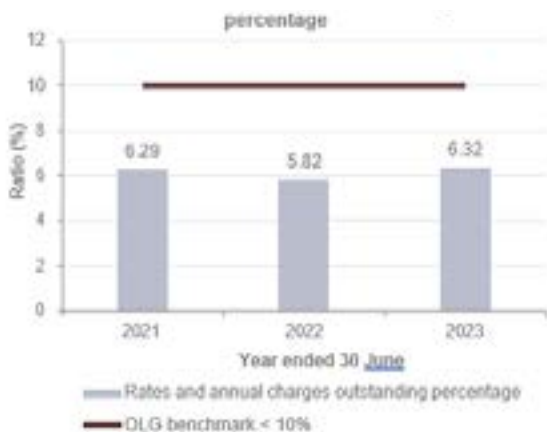
Debt service cover ratio



The Council has met the benchmark for the current reporting period.

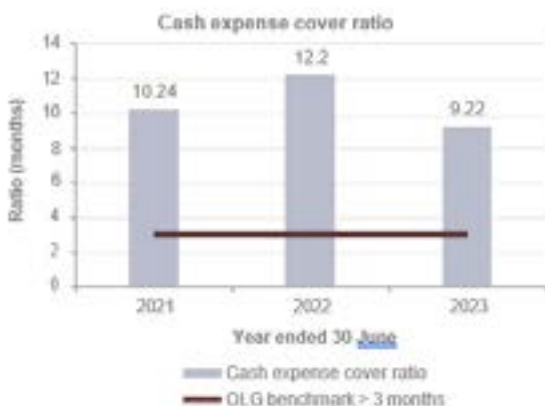
The ‘debt service cover ratio’ measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than two times

Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage



Council has continued to effectively manage its debt recovery, maintaining a ratio which is well below the benchmark for regional councils. The ‘rates and annual charges outstanding percentage’ assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council’s liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 10 per cent for regional and rural councils.

Cash expense cover ratio



The Council continued to exceed the benchmark.

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months the council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than three months.

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment renewals

Council renewed \$9.4 million of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment during the 2022-23 financial year. This was mainly spent on plant and equipment at \$3.7 million, bulk earthworks at \$1.9 million, and roads at \$1.7 million. A further \$32.8 million was spent on new assets.

Additional Special Variation

Council was advised by IPART in early 2022 that the rate peg applicable to Council's rate income had been set at 0.9%. Council had budgeted for 2.5%. IPART advised that the "rate peg was determined in the low inflation environment at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, high inflation and global uncertainty increased councils' costs. Some councils have demonstrated that without additional funds they will not be able to deliver the projects they have already consulted on and included in their budgets." The Office of Local Government then advised all Council's in NSW that an additional special variation (ASV) was available on application to IPART for a maximum amount of 2.5% in place of the 0.9%.

IPART approved applications by 86 NSW councils to increase their rates above the level of the annual rate peg. The modest increase of 2.5% was approved following compliance with an ASV process.

The application for an ASV was assessed against the guidelines provided by the Office of Local Government. The guidelines required council to show that it had budgeted for higher income than that provided by the rate peg and that Council needed the additional money to deliver on the projects that had already been planned and included in the budget.

The public were invited to make submissions regarding the ASV. No submissions were received by either Council or IPART.

The conditions of the ASV being granted were that Council report it's actual revenues, expenses and operating result against the projected revenues, expenses and operating result for the 2023 financial year, along with details of any significant variations. This information is included in the 2023 Annual Financial Statements that are included in this Annual Report. The other condition is to report the extra income provided by the ASV:

Permissible Rates for 2021/2022 Financial Year	\$29,007,406
Rate Peg allowed 2022/2023 @ 0.9%	261,067
Extra Rates Income from ASV of 1.6%	464,118
Total Rates for 2022/2023 Financial Year	\$29,732,591

Legislative Compliance

The audit identified a material deficiency in the Council's financial statements in regard to rural fire-fighting equipment that was not recognised. Except for that matter, accounting records were maintained in a manner and form that facilitated the preparation and the effective audit of the General Purpose Financial Statements. Staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.

Mayor & Councillor Fees, expenses and facilities

Money Expended during the 2022/23 Financial Year on:

Mayoral fees	\$61,280
Councillor fees	\$223,290
Councillors' expenses	\$45,790
Total	\$330,360

Councillor's expended listed above listed above the following items which mut be separately reported:

Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors	\$3,248
Telephone calls made by Councillors	\$11,971
Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars	\$16,292
Training of Councillors and provision of skill development	\$7,393
Interstate visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses	Nil
Overseas visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses	\$1,498
Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor	Nil
Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a Councillor	\$525

Overseas travel

Council has a sister city relationship with Ohkuma in Japan. Cr Jennings adn the General Manager attended Cirencester in England during August 2022 in the reporting period.

Senior staff salaries

Five senior staff were employed by Council during the 2022/23 Financial Year:

- General Manager;
- Director Corporate Services & Finance;
- Director Engineering Services;
- Director Cultural & Community Services; and
- Director Environmental, Planning & Building Services.

The total expenditure for 2022/23 in respect of employment of these senior staff, including salary, motor vehicle expenses, package benefits, fringe benefits tax, superannuation and provision for leave entitlements was \$1,566,145

General Manager	\$407,169
Directors	\$1,158,976

Contracts for Goods and Services over \$150,000

During the year Council awarded numerous contracts and tenders. The list of payments below shows payments to suppliers who received more than \$150,000 for the year. This will include all contracts and tenders but will also include a number of quotations, eg for car purchases.

Devcon Civil Pty Limited	Windy 1100 Subdivision	\$8,438,862.40
Hynash Constructions Pty Ltd	Water Harvesting Project	\$5,944,571.60
Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd	Resurfacing works	\$4,540,282.85
Eodo Pty Ltd	Winburndale Dam Project	\$4,300,630.94
J R Richards & Sons	Recycling and organics collection	\$3,950,486.45
Alto Valves & Fittings	Water pipes, valves and fittings	\$3,090,846.00
Graceys Earthmoving & Excavations Pty Ltd	Realignment works Bridle Track	\$2,825,748.75
Colas NSW Pty Ltd	Reseal & Roadworks	\$2,085,672.91
Motive Civil and Plant Hire Pty Ltd	Hereford Street carpark	\$1,697,853.76
Workcontrol Operations Pty Ltd	Traffic control services and plant hire	\$1,662,057.51
Iberdrola Australia Energy Markets Pty Ltd	Electricity	\$1,505,992.05
Energy Australia Pty Ltd	Electricity	\$1,335,893.05
Revenue NSW	Emergency Services Levy	\$1,309,573.44
Regional West Constructions Pty Ltd	BARC Construction Project	\$1,253,149.03
Oberon Quarries Pty Ltd	Roadbase	\$1,229,079.37
Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd	Pipes and fittings	\$1,166,536.25
Kingsline Pty Ltd	Centenial Park upgrade Project	\$1,157,740.97
Data #3 Limited	Software subscriptions	\$1,157,498.03
Hibbo Hire Pty Ltd	Plant Hire	\$1,147,045.19
Hewitt Holdings Bathurst Pty Ltd	Water Harvesting Project	\$1,123,314.29
Skillset	Labour Hire	\$1,103,163.33
Ryan's Drilling & Civil Pty Ltd	Plant hire	\$1,066,013.58
IXOM Operations Pty Ltd	Liquid Caustic Soda	\$1,044,313.56
Hynash Constructions Pty Ltd	Water & sewer main installation - Eglinton	\$1,024,454.93
Belgravia Health & Leisure Group	Management of Aquatic Centre	\$985,136.18
Tracserv Pty Ltd	Fleet Maintenance	\$976,263.86
Kelso Electrical	Electrical Maintenance	\$711,014.27
NSE Group Pty Ltd	Maintenance and repairs WWTW	\$708,128.20
Oilsplus Holdings Australia	Fuel	\$676,232.88
GB Bathurst Pty Ltd	Fleet purchase	\$669,002.90
Lowes Petroleum Service	Fuel	\$666,831.75
Tablelands Builders Pty Ltd	Collections Facility Project	\$654,424.64
Pelican Airlines Pty Limited	RPT Services	\$608,032.19
Civica Pty Ltd	Software licences	\$605,380.43
P C Brunton Electrical	Electrical Maintenance NFP+ Chifley Dam	\$578,645.78
Volvo Group Australia Pty Ltd	Fleet	\$576,596.86
Nick Harvey Constructions Pty Ltd	Amenity Building Hereford Street	\$546,837.88

Boral Construction Materials Group Limited	Emulsion and Coldmix	\$537,612.15
Easy Line Constructions	Bulldogs Rugby Club extensions	\$522,305.04
Vinidex Pty Ltd	Pipes and fittings	\$518,495.66
Aitken Civil Engineering Pty Limited	Bathurst Aerodrome Subdivision project	\$515,302.27
Essential Energy	Electricity	\$512,785.07
Westrac Equipment Pty Ltd	Fleet Maintenance	\$495,632.76
Nowra Chemicals	Chemical Supply WWTW	\$466,043.35
Taggle Systems Pty Ltd	Water Meters	\$456,513.34
Fitt Resources Pty Ltd	Sewer Asset maintenance	\$445,009.40
Omega Chemicals	Chemical Supply WFP	\$433,480.41
Commissioner of State Revenue	Payroll Tax	\$419,879.43
S & S Electrical	Electrical Maintenance	\$416,756.45
NSW Public Works Advisory	Contract Administration	\$411,072.75
JCB Construction Equipment Australia	Fleet Purchase and maintenance	\$407,207.26
Bucher Municipal Pty Ltd	Fleet purchase	\$397,199.86
Kwick Electical Pty Ltd	Electrical maintenance	\$394,082.77
Bathurst Toyota & Bathurst Volkswagen	Fleet Purchase	\$387,699.26
ROMBA Civil & Landscape	Sportsfield Hereford St and Sportsground	\$386,807.47
Bathurst Regional Security	Security patrol and maintenance	\$382,024.19
Nimdor Cleaning Services Pty Ltd	Cleaning of Council Buildings	\$381,421.82
Glenray Industries Ltd	Mowing Maintenance	\$376,884.92
Avesco - Bathurst 12 Hour	Bathurst 12 Hour	\$375,299.44
Penrith District Rugby League	Hosting Fee Penrith Panthers	\$372,926.80
Australian Native Landscapes	Top soil, mulch, processing of organics	\$372,272.66
Upright Mangement Pty Ltd	Contract Administration	\$357,549.65
Shell Energy Retail Pty Ltd	Electricity	\$343,869.26
Upper Macquarie County Council	Contribution for Weed control	\$337,124.76
Ampol Australia Petroleum Pty Ltd	Fuel	\$336,006.65
Bathurst Excavation Pty Limited	Plant Hire	\$326,095.38
TFH Hire Services Pty Ltd	Temporary fencing	\$323,565.43
TPG Network Pty Ltd	Internet & technology services	\$311,053.61
RBK Pty Ltd	Guardrail repairs - flooding	\$308,132.00
ARG Events Pty Limited (Bx International)	Bathurst International	\$302,433.76
Origin Energy Electricity Limited	Electricity	\$300,826.54
Central West Linemarking	Linemarking of roads	\$289,371.23
Interflow Pty Ltd	Water and Sewer pipe maintenance	\$284,205.61
Ethan Group Pty Ltd	IT equipment services	\$269,652.80
Ice Rinks Industries Pty Limited	Winter Festival Ice Rink	\$263,288.00
ESEM Projects	Winter Festival Illuminations	\$261,195.00
ARG Events Pty Limited (6 Hour)	Bathurst 6 hour	\$256,990.00

Tinbilla Pty Ltd	Plant hire	\$253,598.00
Iveco Sydney	Fleet	\$253,163.36
Reece Pty Ltd	Pipes and fittings	\$236,411.47
L E Suttor & Sons	Biosolids processing	\$234,306.53
O.S. Trees Pty Ltd	Tree removal and maintenance	\$233,462.34
TPG Telecom Limited	Interent charges	\$232,137.65
Conplant Pty Ltd	Fleet purchase	\$227,480.94
Central NSW Joint Organisation	Annual contribution	\$222,738.69
Premise Australia Pty Ltd	Water Harvesting Project	\$221,782.99
Motorsport Australia	Permit fee	\$216,696.90
Pattis Hire Service	Winter Festival structures	\$215,358.15
Bridge & Marine Engineering Pty Ltd	Howards Bridge project	\$211,181.02
Ben Hagney Electrical Pty Ltd	Electrical and plant hire	\$208,869.54
Cidweld Pty Ltd	Fabrication and metal maintenance	\$206,687.96
Vestone Capital Pty Ltd	Lease on IT equipment	\$206,381.44
Mr C J Scerri	Plant Hire	\$201,009.56
Custom Commercial Services Pty Ltd	Debt collection services	\$196,764.46
Australian Labratory Services	Water analysis	\$189,404.70
Keech Construction Pty Ltd	Footpath/concrete construction	\$188,668.54
Riceman Property Services	Grounds maintenance, bulk water supply	\$188,483.16
Department of Planning Industry & Environment	Companion Animal fees	\$186,588.00
Telstra Limited	Telephone services	\$184,730.29
Transport for NSW CED Unit	Vehicle registration	\$184,427.93
Hothams Sand, Soil & Gravel Supplies Pty Ltd	Top soil, mulch and gravel	\$184,000.01
Wilclean Event Services Pty Ltd	Cleaning services - Mt Panorama	\$182,626.09
Safety & Training Pty Limited	Safety and training services	\$182,550.00
Accelerate Events	Challange Bathurst	\$182,417.85
Kelso Truck Tyre & Mechanical Pty Ltd	Plant maintenance	\$177,643.72
Watermart Complete Water Shop	Plumbing and pipe fittings	\$177,611.13
Coates Hire	Plant and equipment hire	\$168,095.81
Bathurst Automotive Group Pty Ltd	Fleet purchase	\$165,186.96
Department of Planning Industry & Environment (Valuer General)	Land valuation services	\$162,441.16
Dunbar Hire Pty Ltd/as Dunbar Scaffold Hire	Scaffold hire	\$159,398.25
Barron GJM Pty Ltd	Chifly Dam flood repairs	\$159,131.50
Westco Distributors Pty Ltd	Washroom supplies	\$151,639.20
Mojo Events and Promotions	Winter Festival Services	\$150,367.19
		\$86,482,842.76

Legal Expenses

Environmental, Planning and Building Services	Development Application - Boundary Adjustment	\$2,920.00	Finalised
	Planned subdivision without consent	\$11,326.00	Finalised
	Railway Carriage Removal - Havannah Street	\$36,946.00	Finalised
Total Environmental, Planning and Building Services Costs		\$51,192.00	
Corporate Services and Finance	Debt Recovery	\$175,985.00	Ongoing
	Code of Conduct complaints	\$6,494.00	Finalised
	Wiradjuri Traditional Owners Corporation	\$32,894.00	
	Regis Resources - effluent use	\$11,520.00	Finalised
	Trademark & Business Name Expenses	\$2,140.00	Finalised
	Public Liability Claims below Excess	\$65,998.00	Finalised
	Strata Plan 47355	\$6,120.00	Finalised
	Mt Panorama Classic	\$2,840.00	Finalised
	Mt Panorama Section 10 application	\$38,863.00	Finalised
	Events	\$2,572.00	Finalised
	TAFE Building Adaptive Reuse	\$2,021.00	Finalised
	General & Leasing	\$23,863.00	
Total Corporate Services and Finance Costs		\$371,310.00	
Engineering Services	Road Reserve Adjustments	\$16,944.00	Finalised
	Aerodrome Leases	\$654.00	Finalised
	Environmental Protection Authority Administrative Fee	\$6,935.00	Finalised
	Natural Resources Access Regulator - Water Harvesting	\$98,707.00	Finalised
	Sewer Easement at Bathurst Showground	\$1,880.00	Finalised
	Engineering General	\$3,302.00	Finalised
Total Engineering Services Costs		\$128,422.00	
Total Legal Expenses		\$550,924.00	

External Bodies Exercising Functions Delegated by Council

During the 2022/2023 financial year the following external bodies exercised functions delegated by Council.

Committee	Area of Management
Eglinton Hall and Park Committee	Management of Eglinton Hall and Park
Perthville Development Group Inc	Management of Perthville Hall and Multi Purpose Court Complex
Raglan Hall & Park Committee	Management of Raglan Hall
Rockley Mill Museum Management Committee	Management of Rockley Mill Museum
Sofala Showground Hall Committee	Management of Showground facilities
Trunkey Creek Recreation Reserve Management Committee	Management of Recreation Reserve
Upper Macquarie County Council (noxious weeds)	Operating with delegates from Bathurst Regional Council
Wattle Flat Golf Club	Management of Wattle Flat Public Recreation Reserve including the racecourse and gold course.
Wattle Flat Progress Association	Management of Recreation Ground

1. Community Advisory Groups and Committees of Council

Duty Delegates

- Bathurst Agricultural, Horticultural & Pastoral Association Inc
- Bathurst And District Bicycle User Group (Bugs)
- Bathurst City & RSL Concert Band
- Bathurst Community Interagency Group
- Bathurst Domestic Violence Liaison Committee
- Bathurst Education Advancement Group (BEAG)
- Bathurst Family History Group
- Bathurst Health Council
- Bathurst Meals on Wheels Service Inc
- Bathurst Refugee Support Group
- Bathurst Regional Access Committee (BRAC)
- Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Society (BRAGs)
- Bathurst Senior Citizens Management Committee
- Bathurst Seymour Centre Inc
- Boundary Road Nature Reserve Landcare Group
- Central West Women's Health Centre
- Combined Pensioners & Superannuants Association
- Evans Art Council
- Great Western Walk Implementation Committee
- Hill End & District Volunteers Bush Fire Brigade (Formerly Hill End & Tambaroora Progress Association)
- National Trust Of Australia – Bathurst & District Branch (& Cox's Road Project Committee)
- NSW State Emergency Service – Bathurst Unit
- The Australian Milling Museum (Bathurst)
- Wattle Flat Heritage Lands Trust
- Wattle Flat (Bronze Thong) Racecourse Committee
- Western Sydney University Advisory Group
- White Rock Progress Association

1. Delegates

- Arts Out West
- Australian Airport Owners Assoc - Nsw Division
- Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly
- Australian Local Government National Local Roads Congress
- Australian Local Government Women's Association
- Bathurst Airport Users Group
- Bathurst Business Chamber
- Bathurst Community Climate Action Network Inc
- Bathurst Correctional Complex Community Consultative Committee
- Bathurst District Historical Society
- Bathurst District Sport & Recreation Council
- Bathurst Liquor Accord
- Bathurst Neighbourhood Centre (BNC)
- Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee
- Bathurst Regional Local Emergency Management Committee
- Bathurst Town Square Working Party
- Central NSW Joint Organisation
- Chifley Dam Catchment Steering Committee
- Chifley Local Area Command - Community Safety Precinct Committee
- Clubgrants Committee
- Country Mayors Association
- Eglinton Hall & Park Committee
- Floodplain Management Authority
- Friends of Bathurst War Memorial Carillon
- Greening Bathurst
- NSW Inland Forum - RCNSW NSW Rural Fire Service - Chifley Zone Liaison Committee, Senior Management Team (If Required)
- Perthville Development Group Inc (School of Arts)
- Public Libraries Association Nsw
- Rail Action Bathurst
- Skillset
- Somerville Collection Board Of Directors
- Upper Macquarie County Council
- Western Regional Planning Panel (WRPP)

2. Project Advisory Committee

- Bathurst Public Art Program Committee
- Bathurst Region Heritage Reference Group
- Bathurst Region Natural Resource Advisory Group
- Bicycle Facilities Working Party
- Councillors Meetings With Community Groups/Representatives
- International Women's Day Working Group
- Living Legends Working Party

3. Statutory Committees (S355 Management committees)

- Audit And Risk Management Committee (ARMC)
- Australia Day Working Party
- Bathurst Community Health Committee
- Bathurst Regional Youth Council
- Georges Plains Floodplain Management Sunset Committee
- Policy Committee
- Bathurst Regional Positive Ageing Strategy Committee
- Rockley Mill Museum Management Committee
- SBS For Bathurst Committee
- Sister Cities Working Party
- Sofala Floodplain Management Sunset Committee

4. Statutory Committee – Other Legislation

- Consultative Committee (Staff) - (Local Government (State) Award)
- Health & Safety Committee (Staff) - (Work Health & Safety Act 2011 And Regulations 2017)
- Mount Panorama Motor Racing Advisory Committee - (Mount Panorama Motor Racing Act 1989)
- NSW Rural Fire Service - Chifley Bushfire Management Committee - (Rural Fires Act 1997)
- Traffic Committee (Road Transport (Safety & Traffic Management) Act 1999)

5. Consortium

- Bathurst 1000 (October)
- Bathurst 12 Hour (February)
- Bathurst 6 Hour (Easter)
- Challenge Bathurst (November)
- Bathurst International (November/December)

Private Works

In this reporting period (2022/23) there were no Private Works carried out by Council that required a resolution of Council because they were charged an amount less than the approved fee in accordance with s67(2) (b).

Council Assets and Asset Renewal

Work continued on updating Council's stormwater management developer contribution plans.

A. Stormwater Management Services (if levied)

B. Collections Facility

C. BARC

D. Hereford Street Fields

Planning Agreements

Council has entered into the following Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA):

Development	Parties	Status
Seniors Living Development	Crighton Bathurst Pty Ltd	Development consent acted upon however agreement has not been formally entered into.
Crudine Ridge Wind Farm	Wind Prospects CWP Pty Ltd	Development consent granted by Department of Planning conditional upon a VPA. Council at its meeting held 16 August 2017 resolved to endorse the VPA and take the necessary steps to execute the VPA. The VPA has since been executed by both parties.

1. Planning Submissions

Council made submissions or attended events in relation to the following matters;

- Department of Planning and Environment – post public exhibition submission in relation to Employment Zone reforms.
- Agritourism Reforms – submission in relation to possible impacts on RU2 Rural Landscape zone at Mount Panorama.
- Draft Waterfront Development Guideline.
- Complying Development Regional Housing Questionnaire.
- Attendance at Complying Development Workshop with Canberra Region JO Councils.
- Complying Development – low rise and medium density housing investigations by DPE.

Community Grants Program

2. Economic Development Projects/Strategies

3. Smart Community Development

- Continued rollout of Smart Community Projects, cementing Bathurst's reputation as an emerging Innovation Centre.
- Zhaga sensors installed in CBD streetlights to monitor temperature.
- Continued evaluation of the Hybrid Electric Vehicle trial in the Council fleet.
- Continue to work with Spatial Services to enhance the Bathurst Spatial Digital Twin project to incorporate into the planning assessment process for large developments in the CBD.
- Council remains an active Foundation Partner with the Upstairs Start Up Hub attending bi-monthly board meetings as an observer.
- Continued use of data in the decision-making process and grant applications, including Spendmapp (card transaction data) and Localis (mobile analytics and web scraping data).
- Continue to work with nbn to increase the awareness of the new Enterprise Ethernet Fibre available to Bathurst businesses and residents.
- Continue to work with telecommunication companies to improve connectivity in the villages and remote area of the LGA.

4. Sponsorship, Funding and Grants

- Sponsorship secured from ATCO, CSU, Commonwealth Bank, Verto, nbn, TAFE NSW, 2BS B-Rock and the Central West Careers Advisers Association across the numerous 2022/23 economic programs.
- Successful in a consortium with Oberon Council and Lithgow City Council in securing a \$250,000 grant under the NSW Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program.
- \$2,500 NSW Small Business Month.

5. Business Support Programs

Bathurst Careers Expo Expo

- The Expo was held on Tuesday, 09 August 2022. A new venue, Charles Sturt University Gymnasium, was also used due to the large number of that exhibitors could not be accommodated at BMEC.
- Holding the event at CSU, also gave the visiting school students a chance to get to know more about the Charles Sturt University campus and open up the range of study options available to them at our own local university.
- Over 700 school students attended the event on the day along with local residents seeking a career or career change.

BizMonth

- BizMonth is held annually in September to promote business in Bathurst and offers a number of activities throughout the month. The main activity is the BizMonth Business Lunch.
- The major sponsor was ATCO with Commonwealth Bank and VERTO as support sponsors.
- Held at Bathurst Goldfield's and attended by 218 people (the largest crowd in three years), this year's guest speaker was surfing legend and mental health advocate, Layne Beachley.

Bathurst Buy Local Gift Card

- Continued growth of the Bathurst Buy Local Gift Card Program:
 - o 151 businesses participating in the program.
 - o 1,344 cards load with \$106,574 in 2022/23
 - o \$127,962 spent in local businesses in 2022/23 across 2,596 card redemptions.



Business Communication

- Over 850 subscribers to the Bathurst Business Hub newsletter, with 12 eNewsletters sent out (one for each month) and numerous business alerts to promote council projects.
- Continued improvements and enhancements to the bathurstliveinvest.com.au website.
- Bathurst Business Hub Facebook page visits increased 32.3% and an additional 258 followers across the year.

Grant Writing Workshops

- Two workshops were conducted across the FY with over 50 attendees in attendance.
- The workshops are designed to guide attendees through the main steps involved in grant applications and encourage them to get 'grant ready.'

Other business support initiatives included:

- Musicians in the Park funded by the Summer Nights Fund Grant.
- Telstra CEO Lunch: Held at Rydges Mount Panorama on 07 August 2022.
 - o The event welcomed Vicki Brady, the newly appointed CEO of Telstra. The lunch incorporated a question-and-answer session hosted by Nathan Pearce from the Bathurst Business Chamber Board.
 - o A total of 63 people attended the lunch demonstrating the willingness of the Bathurst Business community to support these types of events to have the opportunity to listen and engage with high-profile business leaders.
- Bathurst Young Professionals Function:
 - o The Economic Development team is a sponsor of the Bathurst Young Professionals group who consist of local professionals under 40 years of age.
 - o This event was held at the Bathurst Regional Art Gallery on 17 November 2022.
 - o The event was a question & answer session with Mark Renshaw who spoke about his career and the decision to move back to Bathurst to start his business.
- Bathurst Business Chamber Christmas Function, 13 December 2022.
 - o Held at Bathurst Regional Art Gallery and hosted by Bathurst Regional Council this event consisted of a short Economic Development presentation followed by a meet and greet between Councillors and Chamber members.

6. New Residents and Evocities

- Evocities website evolved to drive traffic to Council's website bathurstliveinvest.com.au
- New Resident Guide finalised, and a launch event held on Wednesday 16 March 2023 at the Upstairs Start Up Hub with local Real Estate Agents.
- All operations group meetings and steering committee meetings for Evocities attended.
- Two Welcome Lunches held on 30 October 2022 and 26 March 2023 outside the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre with over 120 people in attendance.

7. New Business Attraction, advocacy and promotion

- The Business Concierge Service continues to support and guide new businesses looking to relocate to Bathurst and existing businesses expand. Over the 2022/23 period, Economic Development met with over 115 investors and local business owners.
- Coordination and approval for 8 filming and photography projects including Better Homes and Gardens coverage of the 2023 Royal Bathurst Show.

8. New Business Attraction, advocacy and promotion

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- Coordination and approval for 8 filming and photography projects including Better Homes and Gardens coverage of the 2023 Royal Bathurst Show.

9. Economic Development Strategies

- Social Media Strategy
- Aerodrome Land Use Strategy commenced in January 2022. To be finalised in August 2023.

10. Stakeholder engagement and presentations

- Held over 115 meetings with local business and industry stakeholders and potential future businesses in the 12 months to June 2022.
- Economic Development presented to a number of stakeholder groups:
 - o Colliers property group
 - o BRC Managers meeting
 - o A selected group of Central West school careers advisors
 - o The Persuaders Business Networking group
 - o Bathurst Young Professionals
- The new CRM system embedded into work processes to support the tracking of engagement with local businesses and investors.

11. Signage

- New signage installed on all four billboards approaching Bathurst in February 2023.

Donations Under Section 356 Grants

During the year 2022/2023 Council donated a total of \$481,331 under Section 356 to a range of community groups.

General	\$83,765
BMEC Fee Waivers	\$71,636
Mount Panorama Fee Waivers	\$30,000
Market rental subsidies	\$295,930

Rates Subsidy

During the year Council abandoned \$1,524,996 in rates and charges (including postponed rates).

Pensioner rebate	\$1,281,998
Postponed rates	\$52,541
Other rates & charges	\$190,457

Swimming Pool Audit

Council initially adopted the Swimming Pool Inspections Policy in 2013 following amendments to the Swimming Pools Act surrounding establishment of the NSW Governments Swimming Pools register and compliance certificates at point of sale or leasing residential properties.

During the 2022/23 financial year Council issued the following certificates under the Swimming Pools Act.

Compliance	73
Non-compliance	7

Companion Animals

Lodgement of Pound Data Collection Return

Council completed its 2022/23 Survey of Council seizure of cats and dogs return in August 2022.

Dog Attacks

Council, during 2022/23 financial year, notified the Office of Local Government of 19 dog attacks.

Companion Animals Management and Activities

Council's budgeted expenditure on Companion Animal management and activities for 2022/23 was \$674,803. This includes all activities related to Companion Animals, impounding and regulatory control, necessary upgrades, maintenance and running of the animal pound, desexing programs and the provision of off leash areas.

Community Education - Companion Animals

Council's opportunities for community education activities were limited due to the implementation of Public Health Orders. A Pet Day was incorporated into the Bathurst Winter Festival program in July 2022. Community education has focused on social media activities through both the "Happy Tails" rehoming program and educational information on desexing, registration and other relevant matters.

Strategies to Promote and Assist the Desexing of Dogs and Cats

Council conducts a desexing program in conjunction with the RSPCA and local veterinary clinics which allows pensioners and health care card holders to have their dogs and cats desexed at a subsidised rate. Council contributed \$20,000 this year towards this program and encourages eligible residents with pets to take advantage of this opportunity. Council has allocated a further \$22,550 in the 2023/24 Budget to continue this program.

Bathurst Animal Rehoming Centre (BARC)

Construction of the new Bathurst Animal Rehoming Centre (BARC) continued in 2022/23. This new facility has three key components, an administration and operations building, a dog kennel building and the adoption pavilion. The administration building incorporates the public reception area, a training room, offices and workspaces for staff, amenities, veterinary treatment room, a cattery with a capacity for up to 30 cats and laundry and storage facilities. The dog kennel building incorporates 42 individual kennels (including 3 specialist enclosures for dangerous dogs) and outdoor facilities along with a secure animal loading area, food preparation and storage areas. The adoption pavilion includes a covered pavilion, purpose built to allow for interaction between dogs and their potential new owners. The animal holding facilities meet or exceed animal welfare regulations for the size and composition of the enclosures and provide a climate controlled environment.

The site has been landscaped to provide opportunities to exercise the animals on leash, customer and staff car parks and an impounding shed. The adoption pavilion and training room will provide opportunities for companion animals education programs to be run on site, as well as pets as therapy programs for people with a disability. The facility will maximise the opportunities for animals in Council's care to find their forever home through local adoption or through networks with rehoming organisations. Construction of the BARC will be completed in late 2023.



Strategies as an Alternative to Euthanasia

Council has in place the following strategies to reduce the need for euthanasia of impounded animals

- A regular radio segment which is utilised to advise the public of animals that are currently available at the pound;
- Posts on Council's Facebook page at least weekly promoting animals that are currently available at the pound, as well as posts detailing successful pet adoption stories. The success of the "Happy Tails" social media program was recognised by Local Government NSW, winning the "Excellence in Communication" category in August 2019;
- Animals which are impounded but not identified (or the owner's contact details are out of date) are posted on Council's Facebook page, which is very successful in helping Council find the owner;
- All animals available for adoption are posted on Council's website;
- Desexing program;
- Community Education Program including social media posts;
- Rehoming program through contacts within rescue organisations;

Off-Leash Areas

Council currently has twelve off-leash dog exercise areas which are located throughout the City of Bathurst and the surrounding villages of Eglinton, Perthville and Raglan. A full list of off-leash areas is provided below;

- Centennial Park (Subject to exclusion of playground area and operating hours before 8am and after 5pm).
- Kefford Street (Fully fenced and with solar lighting to improve accessibility);
- Kefford Street "small dogs" area (fully fenced);
- Hector Park and Rocket Street Reserve, including a fully fenced area;
- The River Walk between the Evans and George Street Bridges subject to operating hours before 8am and after 5pm;
- Russell Street opposite Police paddock, bounded by Vale Creek and Russell Street;
- Eglinton Showground, at the rear of Cottonwood Drive;
- Kelso Reserve between McMenamin, Rivett and Bell Places;
- Perthville, Brian Booth Oval, Vale Creek side;
- Raglan, Lavis Park and the reserve between Napoleon Street and Adrienne Street;
- South Bathurst Jaques Park, bounded by Alma and Violet Streets and
- Windradyne Drainage reserve, corner of Bradwardine and Evernden Roads.

Companion Animals Fund Monies

Council received \$83,822 from the Companion Animals Fund. Activities where these funds were expended include:

Companion animal registrations salaries	\$60,066
Small Animal Pound expenses	\$53,321
Microchipping expenses	\$8,298
Community Pet Desexing program	\$21,500
Cat impounding expenses	\$2,182

Workforce Diversity

Human Resources achievements during 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023:

- Council was met with challenges regarding recruitment of new staff and retention of existing staff over the 2022/2023 financial year.
- Bathurst Council staff participated in promoting council as a career path option at the Careers Expo at Charles Sturt University.
- Continued to host work experience students from surrounding local schools.
- Continued to support and host apprentices and trainees in partnership with Skillset Limited.
- Recruitment and On-Boarding system further streamlined to ensure compliance with and better support new staff integration.
- Recognition and presentation of service awards to long serving staff members at the staff afternoon teas.
- The Manager to Leader training program has continued which develops appropriate use of differing management styles and the climate they create for teams they manage. The focus being understanding and improving connections and employee engagement.
- Professional development training opportunities were provided to staff including Stepping into Supervisor as well as subsidised Certificate IV Leadership and Management.

Work Health Safety

Work Health and Safety achievements during 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023:

- Council's Alcohol and Other Drug Testing Program continued with approximately 84 staff tested with no adverse results confirmed.
- WHS safety related training during 2022/2023 was provided for staff members, in areas such as warden responsibilities, emergency management, evacuation, first aid, manual handling, traffic control, chemical safety, plant operations, chainsaw, elevated working platform, basic risk management, volunteer induction, Mount Panorama General Induction, and resuscitation and defibrillation use.
- The yearly health checks conducted in February, in conjunction with Capital Health Care continued with an increase in the number of 121 people participating, in comparison to the 2021/2022 health check with 118 employees attending. Taking into consideration attendance was voluntary, over 47% of eligible staff attended.
- A major effort was made across Council in 2022/2023 to update and modernise WHS documentation. This saw documents such as Safe Work Method Statements and Safe Operating Procedures being updated and digitised, and new documents introduced to help modernise and improve safety systems such as the Safe Work Instructions and Take 5 Books.
- Due Diligence training for the Executive Leadership Team, and WHS Responsibility Training for managers was also conducted in June.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)

- Continuation of online training compliance modules in Code of Conduct, Bullying & Harassment, Aboriginal Cultural Awareness, Discrimination & EEO, Privacy Awareness, Sexual Harassment Prevention and Work Health & Safety.
- Inclusion of information at new staff inductions on harassment and grievance procedures, and EEO practices relating to recruitment, promotions, and training opportunities.
- Staff exit surveys analysed to collect data on EEO comments or input.
- Inclusion of key strategies and actions in Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

During the financial year, a total of 1453 job applications were received with a total of 134 roles being advertised.

Employee Assistance Program

Council continued to provide access to free, confidential and professional counselling services to staff and their family members during the year through the provision of the Employee Assistance Program. During the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, 18 active assessment sessions were conducted. A total of 38 hours of service activities took place during this period.



Bathurst Regional Council Modern Slavery Statement

Reporting Period: FY 2022/2023

Introduction

This Modern Slavery Statement is provided by Bathurst Regional Council in accordance with Section 428 (4) of the NSW Local Government Act 1993.

This statement outlines Bathurst Regional Council's commitment to combatting modern slavery and the measures we have implemented during this reporting period to reduce the risk of our procurement activities resulting in or contributing to human rights violations.

Organisational Structure and Supply Chain

Bathurst Regional Council is located in the Central West of New South Wales servicing a population of 44,000 and over one million visitors each year. Bathurst Regional Council has a centralised procurement structure with an approximate overall spend of \$132 million. We recognise the importance of taking steps to ensure that goods and services procured by our council are not the product of modern slavery.

Our supply chain includes suppliers in civil engineering, roadworks, waste management, sewer and water infrastructure and energy and our highest spends are in these categories.

Policy

Bathurst Regional Council is currently updating its Purchasing Policy which will outline Council's commitment to preventing and addressing modern slavery in all its procurement activities. We hope to have the new Policy in place by December 2023.

Outcomes

Implementation of the above policy has resulted in the following actions undertaken and future initiatives planned in relation to Council's procurement processes.

Activity	Description	Actions Taken	Future Initiative
Staff Awareness and Training	Staff Awareness of Modern slavery and Council's policy and expectations	Yet to be actioned	Currently drafting a Training Module.
	Staff training	Yet to be actioned	Currently drafting a Training Schedule
Supplier engagement	Awareness of Council's policy and expectations	Yet to be actioned	Currently organising a Creditor Database
	Supplier Training	Yet to be actioned	
	Supplier self-assessment questionnaire (SAQ)	Yet to be actioned	Currently drafting a Questionnaire
	High risk supplier engagement	Yet to be actioned	Risk assessment to be done on all high-risk suppliers

Risk Assessment	Inherent risk assessment at a category level	Yet to be actioned	High risk categories currently being identified. Risk assessment currently being organised.
	Pre-purchase checklist to identify higher risk procurements	Yet to be actioned	Check list currently being drafted.
	Supplier risk assessment - existing suppliers	Yet to be actioned	Supplier risk categories currently being identified. Risk assessment to be done.
	Supplier risk assessment - new and potential suppliers	Yet to be actioned	Reviewing purchasing parameters with LGP and their risk assessments.
Tendering and contracting	Modern slavery tender criteria	Yet to be actioned	Drafting changes to Tender and Quotation documents.
	Procurement processes/ procedures includes the requirement to assess that the tendered price allows for at least the minimum level of wages and other entitlements required by law.	Yet to be actioned	Drafting changes to Tender and Quotation documents.
	Modern slavery contract clauses	Yet to be actioned	Drafting changes to Tender and Quotation documents.
	Supplier Code of Conduct	Yet to be actioned	Drafting new Supplier code of Conduct.
Reporting and Grievance Mechanisms	Confidential reporting mechanism/process for staff, contractors, community to report concerns related to modern slavery.	Yet to be actioned	Mechanisms to be reviewed and procedures to be set in place.
Response and Remedy Framework	Response and remedy framework involving actions, such as facilitation of access to health, legal or psychosocial services, financial compensation, and prevention of future harm.	Yet to be actioned	Framework under development.
Monitoring and Review	Monitoring and review of the effectiveness of modern slavery related processes.	Too early to be actioned	

Management of High-Risk Categories

Category	Due Diligence Measure	Progress	Planned
ICT Hardware	Supplier engagement	Awaiting guidance before commencing	
	Modern slavery risk assessment of suppliers	Yet to be actioned	Risk Assessment currently being organised.
	Modern slavery tender criteria	Yet to be actioned	Drafting changes to Tender and Quotation documents.
	Modern slavery contract clauses	Yet to be actioned	Drafting changes to Tender and Quotation documents.
	Supplier Code of conduct	Yet to be actioned	Drafting new Supplier code of Conduct
	Contract KPIs in relation to modern slavery in place	If using LGP ICT contract panel this is included in the Standing Offer Deed between Approved Contractor and LGP.	
	KPI measurement	This could include too early to perform.	
Renewable energy (Solar Panels)	Supplier engagement	Awaiting guidance before commencing	
	Modern slavery risk assessment of suppliers	Yet to be actioned.	Risk assessment currently being organised.
	Modern slavery tender criteria	Yet to be actioned.	Drafting changes to Tender and Quotation documents.
	Modern slavery contract clauses	Yet to be actioned.	Drafting changes to Tender and Quotation documents.
	Supplier Code of Conduct	Yet to be actioned.	Drafting new Supplier code of Conduct.
	Contract KPIs in relation to modern slavery in place		
	KPI measurement	This could include too early to perform	
Cleaning services	Supplier engagement	Awaiting guidance before commencing	
	Modern slavery risk assessment of suppliers	Yet to be actioned	Risk assessment currently being organised.
	Modern slavery tender criteria	Yet to be actioned	Drafting changes to Tender and Quotation documents.
	Modern slavery contract clauses	Yet to be actioned	Drafting changes to Tender and Quotation documents.
	Supplier Code of Conduct	Yet to be actioned	Drafting new Supplier code of Conduct.
	Contract KPIs in relation to modern slavery in place		
	KPI measurement	This could include too early to perform	

Government Information Public Access

Clause 8A: Details of the review carried out by the agency under section 7 (3) of the Act during the reporting year and the details of any information made publicly available by the agency as a result of the review

Reviews carried out by the agency	Information made publicly available by the agency
Yes	Yes

Clause 8B: The total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year (including withdrawn applications but not including invalid applications)

No. Applications	41
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Clause 8C: The total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year that the agency refused either wholly or partly, because the application was for the disclosure of information referred to in Schedule 1 to the Act (information for which there is conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure)

Number of Applications Refused	Wholly	Partly	Total
	0	1	1
% of total	0%	0%	

GIPA Act Schedule 2

Table A: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome*

	Access Granted in full	Access Granted in Part	Access Refused in Full	Information not held	Information already available	Reduce to Deal with Application	Refuse to Confirm/Deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn	Total
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private sector business	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
Not for profit organisations or community groups	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Members of the public (by legal representative)	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Members of the public (other)	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Total	41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	42

* More than one decision can be made in respect of a particular access application. If so, a recording must be made in relation to each such decision. This also applies to table B.

Table B: Number of applications by type of applicant and outcome

	Access Granted in Full	Access Granted in Part	Access Refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refused to Deal with Application	Refused to confirm/deny application	Application withdrawn	Total
Personal information applications*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
Access applications that are partly personal information and partly other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	41	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	42

* A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of Schedule 4 to the Act) about the applicant (the applicant being an individual).

Table C: Invalid applications

Reason for invalidity	Number of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	0
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	0
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	0
Total number of invalid applications received	0
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	0

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act

	Number of time consideration used*
Overriding secrecy laws	0
Cabinet information	0
Executive Council information	0
Contempt	0
Legal professional privilege	0
Excluded information	0
Documents affecting law enforcement and public safety	0
Transport safety	0
Adoption	0
Care and protection of children	0
Ministerial code of conduct	0
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	0
Privilege generally - Sch 1(5A)	0
Information provided to High Risk Offenders Assessment Committee	0
Total	0

**More than one public interest consideration may apply in relation to a particular access application and if so, each such consideration is to be recorded (but only once per application). This also applies in relation to Table E.*

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 14 of Act

	Number of times consideration used*
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	1
Business interests of agencies and other persons	0
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	0
Secrecy provisions	0
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	0
Total	1

Table F: Timelines

	Number of applications*
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	41
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	0
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0
Total	41

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)

	Decision Varied	Decision Upheld	Total
Internal review	0	0	0
Review by information Commissioner*	0	0	0
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0
Internal review follow recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0
Review by NCAT	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

**The Information Commissioner does not have the authority to vary decisions, but can make recommendations to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made by the Information Commissioner.*

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)

	Number of applications for review	% of Total
Applications by access applicants	0	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0	0
Total	0	0

Table I: Applications transferred to other agencies.

	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	0
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	0
Total	0
	Number of applications transferred
Agency-Initiated Transfers	0
Applicant – Initiated Transfers	0
Total	0

Privacy and Personal information protection

The privacy and Personal Information Protection (PIIP) Act requires New South Wales public sector agencies and their staff to protect personal information. The Act describes how this protection should happen, and includes having a Privacy Management Plan.

Council's Privacy Management Plan Outlines how private information is handled and how to deal with public requests and is currently due for periodic review.

There were 0 internal notifications of alleged breached of privacy during the reporting period.

Public Interest Disclosures Act

The Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (PID Act) sets up a scheme for people who work in the NSW Public sector (e.g. in a Council or Councillors) to come forward with important information.

All Australian government agencies, Commonwealth companies and public authorities have responsibilities under the Act.

These include establishing effective and clearly articulated internal procedures for facilitating and responding to public interest disclosures. Council meeting this obligation through its internal Reporting Policy and Internal Report Procedure.

Council has Corporate Governance Toolkit on its intranet which holds information and resources for Staff and Nominated disclosure Officers on how to make an Internal Report; how to investigate reports and tools to manage Public Interest disclosures.

Councils Internal reporting process is included in our staff induction program. An awareness PowerPoint is distributed periodically to all staff across the organisation for their information.

From October 2023 the Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022 will come into effect, which will consolidate staff training and reporting of disclosures. Staff were preparing for the introduction of the new Act under the guidance of materials provided by the NWS Ombudsman

The follow table details categories and numbers of Public Interest Disclosures for this reporting period.

Category of PID'S	Made by public officials performing their day to day functions	Under a statutory or other legal obligation	All other PID's
Number of Public Officials who made PIDs to Council	0	0	0
Number of PIDs received by Council in total	0	0	0

The number of public interest disclosures received by the Council in total and the number of public interest disclosures received by the Council relating to each of the following:

Category of PID's	Made by public officials performing their day to day functions	Under a statutory or other legal obligation	All other PID's
Corrupt Conduct	0	0	0
Maladministration	0	0	0
Serious and substantial waste of public money or	0	0	0
Local government money (as appropriate)	0	0	0
Government information contraventions	0	0	0
The number of public interest disclosures (received since 1 January 2012) that have been finalised by the Council	0	0	0

End of Term Report and Operational Plan Report

A copy of the 2020/2021 End of Term Report and Operational Plan Report can be found on Council's website https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council/annual-plan/end_of_term_report_final_.pdf





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