

BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



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Cr Bobby Bourke
Mayor of Bathurst

It has been an unprecedented year for Council and our community as we dealt with the far reaching impact of COVID-19. The pandemic has had a major impact on Council's facilities and our budget. We had to adapt to facilities being closed, changing the way we delivered services and events and adjusted how we interacted with our community on a daily basis. The resilience of our organisation has been obvious, with staff rising to the challenge to provide vital services to the community, within the limitations of changing public health orders.

Events like the Bathurst Winter Festival were re-imagined, to provide the community with the ability to enjoy a celebration of winter but in a very different manner to previous years; while our Library ventured into the world of click and collect services for the book-lovers in our city.

Infrastructure works have continued, with the Winbundale Dam wall strengthening works progressing. Planning is also well advanced for two long term water security projects, the stormwater harvesting scheme and the Winburndale Dam pipeline.



Works have also started on the region's newest cultural facility; the Central Tablelands Collections Facility will be a large-scale repository, conservation and learning space for regional NSW.

Council has also continued with its commitment to creating a Smart Community. Key projects include the changeover to LED lights for the city's street light network which will bring about long-term environmental and financial savings, the installation of the third stage of the CBD CCTV project and the announcement of Bathurst as the home for a world-class data centre.

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

From the Mayor and General Manager



David Sherley
General Manager



THE BATHURST 2040 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2009, new guidelines were legislated by the NSW Government to help improve the way Local Government strategically plans for the future. The Bathurst 2040 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 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 will be revised at the commencement of each term of Council (councils are elected for 4 year terms) in consultation with the community.

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

- Our sense of place and identity;
- A smart and vibrant economy;
- Environmental stewardship;
- Enabling sustainable growth;
- Community health, safety and well-being; and
- Community leadership and collaborations.

DELIVERING THE PLAN

The 4 year Delivery Program links the “planning” in the Bathurst 2040 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 Bathurst 2040 Community Strategic Plan is:

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

The Key strategies under the plans objectives are as follows:

Our Sense of Place and Identity

1. Respect, protect and promote the region's Aboriginal Heritage Assets.
2. Protect, enhance and promote the region's European heritage assets and character.
3. Enhance the cultural vitality of the Region.
4. Protect and improve the region's landscapes, views, vistas and open space.
5. Promote good design in the built environment.



A Smart and Vibrant Economy

1. Support local business and industry.
2. Grow local employment, investment and attract new businesses by nurturing and supporting entrepreneurs, partnerships and local skills development.
3. Develop Bathurst as a Smart City.
4. Support agriculture, local manufacturing, food production and education as significant contributors to the region's economy.
5. Support Mount Panorama as a premier motor sport and event precinct.
6. Promote our City and Villages as a tourist destination.

Environmental Stewardship

1. Protect and improve our natural areas and ecosystems, including the Macquarie River and other water ways.
2. Protect the City's water supply.
3. Minimise the City's environmental footprint, live more sustainably and use resources more wisely.
4. Protect and improve the region's biodiversity.
5. Increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change.

Enabling Sustainable Growth

1. Facilitate development in the region that considers the current and future needs of our community.
2. Provide safe and efficient road, cycleway and pathway networks to improve accessibility.
3. Ensure services, facilities and infrastructure meet the changing needs of our region.
4. Provide parking to meet the needs of the City.
5. Work with partners to improve public transport, and passenger and freight transport connections to and from the region.
6. Plan for, assess and regulate development activity.

Community Health, Safety and Well Being

1. Provide opportunities for our community to be healthy and active.
2. Help make the Bathurst CBD, neighbourhoods and the region's villages attractive and full of life.
3. Help build resilient, inclusive communities.
4. Make our public places safe and welcoming.
5. Plan and respond to demographic changes in the community.

Community Leadership and Collaboration

1. Communicate and engage with the community, government and business groups on important matters affecting the Bathurst region.
2. Work with our partners and neighbouring Councils to share skills, knowledge and resources and find ways to deliver services more efficiently.
3. Advocate for our community.
4. Meet legislative and compliance requirements.
5. Be open and fair in our decisions and our dealings with people.
6. Manage our money and our assets to be sustainable now and into the future.
7. Invest in our people.
8. Implement opportunities for organisational improvement.

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%.

Average Temperatures

27.8°C

Summer maximum

11.2°C

Summer minimum

13.4°C

Winter maximum

0.5°C

Winter minimum

Weather



per annum
(Bathurst area)

Rainfall

631mm

Major Industries

Education, Food Manufacturing,
Health Care, Public Administration

Distance from Sydney

Transport

207 km

By road approx. 2.5 hours

239 km

By rail approx. 3.5 hours

144 km

By air approx. 40 mins

43,618

Population

3,815 sq. km

Area Bathurst Region



COUNCIL'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.

COUNCIL'S 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.



149°
39.1' E
Longitude

33°
24.6' S
Latitude

Bathurst
Elevation
670 m

Metres above Sea Level
Mount Panorama **874 m**
Mount Ovens (Yetholme) **1276 m**
Mount Tennyson (Yetholme) **1152 m**
Mount Horrible **1204 m**

BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA MAP



BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL 2020/2021

Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors as at 30 June 2021



Cr Bobby Bourke
Mayor



Cr Warren Aubin



Cr Alex Christian



Cr John Fry



Cr Jess Jennings



Cr Graeme Hanger OAM



Cr Monica Morse
OAM



Cr Ian North
Deputy Mayor



Cr Jacqui Rudge

COUNCIL STRUCTURE

Senior Staff as at 30 June 2021



General Manager
David Sherley



**Corporate
Communications**



Director
**Corporate Services
& Finance**

Aaron Jones

-
- Payroll
 - Administration
 - Governance
 - Stores/Purchasing
 - Information Services
 - Geographic Information System
 - Records
 - Human Resources
 - Risk Management/Insurance
 - Rates
 - Creditors/debtors
 - Business Papers
 - Government Information (Public Access)
 - Public Interest Disclosures
 - Work, Health & Safety
 - Internal Audit
 - Annual Report
 - Delivery & Operational Plan
 - Financial Management
 - Committee Secretariat
 - Switchboard
 - Customer Request Management System
 - Customer Service
 - State Emergency Service
 - Rural Fire Service
 - Emergency Management
 - Events
 - Property Development & Management
 - Mount Panorama Business



**Director
Engineering
Services**

Darren Sturgiss



**Director
Environmental,
Planning & Building
Services**

Neil Southorn



**Director
Cultural &
Community
Services**

Alan Cattermole

- Water
- Sewer
- Waste & Recycling Collection
- Waste Management Centre
- Parks & Gardens
- Aquatic Centre
- Depot
- Plant (Workshop)
- Floodplain Management
- Mount Panorama Operations
- Maintenance (roads, bridges, kerb & guttering)
- Construction (roads, bridges)
- Contract Management
- Design Works
- Disaster Planning
- Aerodrome
- Asset Management
- Project Management
- Forward Planning:
 - Environment
 - Recreation
 - Infrastructure
- Rural Works
- Indoor Sports Stadium
- Tennis Courts
- Traffic Management
- Buildings Maintenance
- Subdivision Design & Construction
- Vegetation Management Plan
- Cemeteries
- Drainage/Stormwater
- Private Works

- Land Use Planning
- Corporate Planning
- Environmental Planning Control
- Building Control
- Health
- Pollution Control
- Development Control & Applications
- Traffic Inspectors (parking control)
- Rangers
- Stock Impounding
- Heritage & Conservation
- Regulatory Functions
- Animal Control
- Companion Animals
- Food/Health Inspections
- Immunisation
- State of Environment
- Tree Preservation Order
- Septic Tanks
- Strategic Planning
- Subdivision Planning
- Ordinance Control
- Licence Monitoring
- Section 94 Contributions
- Plumbing & Drainage
- Environmental Management
- Contamination
- Economic Development

- Art Gallery
- Library
- Chifley Home & Education Centre
- Somerville Collection
- Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre
- Children's Services
- Community Services
- Cultural Planning
- Community Social Planning
- Community Development
- Destination Management
- Historical Society
- Youth Council
- Crime Prevention
- Community Facilities
- Community Halls/Groups
 - Eglinton
 - Raglan
 - Perthville
- Community Organisations
 - Rockley
 - Hill End
 - Sofala
 - Eglinton
 - Wattle Flat
 - Trunk Creek
 - The Neighbourhood Centre
 - Home & Community Care Centre
 - Kelso Community Centre
- Club Grants
- Community Interagencies
- Senior Citizen Centre
- National Motor Racing Museum
- Bathurst Rail Museum
- Tourism
- Sister City



CORPORATE SERVICES & FINANCE

Bathurst Regional Council recognises the importance of attracting and retaining a capable, efficient and skilled workforce who can deliver the key outcomes contained in its Community Strategic Plan. Employing around 430 staff across 20 locations, considerable focus has been placed on the development and wellbeing of our people as this is integral in ensuring we retain talented staff to drive a productive working culture and achieve outcomes for the Bathurst community.

HUMAN RESOURCES & RISK MANAGEMENT

Establish and build on effective networks with other councils to identify areas for operational improvements and efficiencies.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	4.5, 6.1, 6.2	
Regularly participate in cross-functional teams with CNSWJO and identify opportunities for efficiencies.	BRC HR Team members participate in CNSWJO HR meetings work with relevant committees and sub-committees to ensure developing & implementing HR best practice. Focus for next 12 months is in the areas of Training & Performance Management systems.	Council HR continues to regularly meet with other Councils within the NSW JO area as part of quarterly HR Group meetings, to discuss current HR issues and exchange ideas for improved service delivery. In addition we also regularly meet now with the WHS and Training Development groups. HR meetings with “Evo-city” council HR are also ongoing as all Councils of similar size to BRC. Quarterly meetings facilitated by LGNSW are also attended by HR staff.

Ensure all staff complete induction training, ongoing compliance updates and professional development.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.1, 5.3, 6.4, 6.7	
Review & improve staff induction program and identify opportunities to streamline into HRIS onboarding and performance areas	Improve the use of on-line generic style training required for compliance. Review and improve staff induction process to better meet new starter needs and allow a targeted approach depending on main area employed. Implement new Recruitment & Onboarding system to streamline this process.	The new staff induction program has now been implemented with a focus on providing all new staff with a positive and informative (and compliant) start to their time with Council. In addition, an improved recruitment and onboarding process has also recently been developed & implemented. Computer terminals have been set up at the Depot training area to further improve training opportunities for our outdoor staff and maximise use of our e-learning platform. This should support all staff to complete their required compliance training during their probation period with an aim to have most staff completed within their first month of employment. Changes to the post recruitment through to end of probation have also now been further streamlined. Work to develop the Employee Engagement Program and Workforce strategy has commenced.

Provide a range of education and training opportunities for Council's workforce.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.2, 6.7, 6.8	
Identify areas across Council to target education and training to support the achievement of the KPI's and develop a Workforce Plan.	Implement targeted position to support education & training of BRC staff. Ensure Education and training programs align to KPI's. Develop Council's Workforce strategy and Plan.	HR are working to further improve and streamline the Performance Appraisal process for 2021 based on feedback from 2020 process. Improvements in relation to education & training have been implemented as part of this process, including dedicated resource to support co-ordination of staff training & development. The BRC Training Plan has also now been developed and adopted. The BRC Workforce strategy and supporting plan has been drafted.

Develop and implement programs and initiatives to foster a strong leadership culture.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.7, 6.8	
Review current framework that underpins leadership capability and identify areas for improvement. Focus on improvement of Employee Engagement Programs and supporting training.	Review of current systems that underpin the employee life cycle at BRC completed. Plans to implement required improvements being developed with aim to implement next 12 months.	A full review of this area has now commenced with plans to develop an Employee Engagement Program covering all aspects of the employee lifecycle and focus on career development and succession planning. The Employee Engagement policy has now been approved through Dept. Heads. Further improvements will continue to be implemented as part of the revised performance strategy across all staff levels. Targeted Senior & Middle Management training has commenced.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Communicate and engage with the community.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.1	
Bathurst Regional Council Community Survey.	Overall satisfaction rating > 70%	Community satisfaction survey completed May 2021. The Survey found that 75% of the community were somewhat satisfied or higher (the response of somewhat satisfied, satisfied & very satisfied)
	Ensure community consultation occurs	<p>As at 30 June 2021:</p> <p>100% consultation projects on Your Say Bathurst (Irrigation portal, Lodging planning applications online, heritage assistance funds, draft delivery program & operational plan, Bathurst town centre master plan, Streets as Shared spaces, Sofala Village Plan, Rockley Village Plan, Peel Village Plan, Financial Assistance Covid-19 Stimulus measures, go-kart track development, Pillars of Bathurst, Community Participation Plan, off-leash hours, land sales policy, library survey, 2021 community survey.</p> <p>Social media followers:</p> <p>July: 11,583 August: 11,761 September: 11,931 October: 12,115 November: 12,222 December: 12,326 January: 12,437 February: 12,510 March: 13,086 April: 13,169 May: 13,390 June Total: 14,785 (sum of FB & Twitter)</p> <p>Website visits</p> <p>August: 54,706 September: 60,123 October: 102,642 November: 50,338 December: 45,807 January: 54,263 February: 74,332 March: 80,014 April: 64,792 May: 60,136 Total: 90,994</p>

PROPERTY

Manage development of new residential land releases to ensure appropriate level of supply.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.5, 6.4, 6.5, 6.8	
Complete development of residential land in accordance with Council plans.	Sales of Sunnybright Estate Stages A & B	<p>Sunnybright Stage 'A' has <u>all</u> lots sold.</p> <p>Sunnybright Stage 'B' has <u>all</u> lots sold.</p> <p>Sunnybright Stage 'C' is due for registration in July 2021.</p>

Manage development of new commercial and industrial land releases as required to meet the needs of new businesses.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	2.1, 4.1, 6.4	
Development in Bathurst Trade Centre and Kelso Industrial Park as required.	Provision of land to meet demands.	<p>Kelso Industrial Park has 7 lots available at end of June 2021.</p> <p>Stage 11 of Bathurst Trade Centre is in planning stage.</p> <p>Kelso Industrial Park grant funding (Drought Relief) – DA lodged, plans on hold due to Covid-19.</p>

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Ensure Council's long term financial sustainability.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.1, 6.6	
Review need for special variation in rate income	<p>Long Term Financial Plan completed and adopted by Council.</p> <p>Special Rate Variation considered by Council.</p>	<p>Long Term Financial Plan completed for 2021/22.</p> <p>Council did not apply for a special rate variation for 2021/22 Operating/Delivery Plan.</p>
Improve Council's cash flows	Rates and Charges Outstanding Ratio less than 10%.	<p>As per 2019/20 Financial Statements achieved 6.49% (2018/19 6.30%).</p> <p>(2017/18 6.17%).</p> <p>(2016/17 5.68%).</p> <p>(2015/16 5.85%).</p> <p>(2014/15 6.63%).</p>
Ensure Council's level of debt is manageable	Debt service ratio less than 10%	<p>MA's per 2019/20 Financial Statements achieved 1.05% (2018/19 2.17%).</p> <p>(2017/18 3.66%).</p> <p>(2016/17 4.12%).</p> <p>(2015/16 3.95%).</p> <p>(2014/15 4.10%).</p>
Maximise invested funds within prudential guidelines	Outperform monthly 90 day bank bill swap rate.	<p>At 30th June 2021 current year average:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment earnings – 0.79% (2019/20 average 1.58%) 90 day Bank Bill Swap Rate – 0.048%

INFORMATION SERVICES

Improve long-term viability and availability of electronic data for both the current and long term.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	2.3, 2.5, 6.8	
Review Backup Strategy with a view to allowing auto fail over to DR site.	Process implemented and tested.	Project has been Completed. A DR test to test the new architecture has been postponed from June to August 2021 due to Covid-19 restrictions
Install Software to monitor the movement of Tax File numbers within and without the organisation	Software installed and tested	Software has been installed and configured. Monitoring has begun. Reports are being sent to the Manager Corporate Governance. Project is complete.
Refresh Server & SAN infrastructure at the Civic Centre and at Council's DR site (Library)	Server and San hardware installed and tested and implemented	Server & SAN infrastructure has been purchased and installed. Configuration is complete. Data and servers have been migrated to new hardware. Project is complete.
Implement cloud based VOIP telephone system.	Phone system installed and functioning	The new VOIP phone system has been pushed to fiscal year 21-22 due to resource limitations and Covid-19.
Migrate file server data to SharePoint.	All data migrated and removed from SAN storage.	SharePoint migrations have begun. All department data has now been migrated to SharePoint data is being used daily. Project is complete.

Support the Smart Cities project.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	2.2, 2.3, 2.6, 5.2	
Complete Stage2 of CBD CCTV	System installed and functioning.	All works have been completed including delivery and installation of screens and new PC to the police station. System is being used by the police. Project is complete.

EVENTS

Coordinate and deliver events to enhance the cultural life of residents and promote the Bathurst Region.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.6, 5.2, 5.3, 6.3	
Deliver events including New Years Eve, Australia Day, Bathurst Cycling Classic, NRL game, Bathurst 1000 off track events.	90% or more of residents attend an event.	<p>July</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully organised and executed the Bathurst Winter Festival in a Covid Safe environment. Reimagined parts of the event to ensure safety of event and attendees, including the illuminations, Brighten Up Bathurst and the drive-in cinema held at Mount Panorama which alone brought in approx. \$50,000 economic benefit to the region. A focus on business benefit during the pandemic resulted in multiple business initiatives including; food nights, music nights, live streaming music from venues, treasure hunts, window display competitions and online markets. <p>August</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manager Events presented to City of Sydney Council on what worked for BWF and how it went ahead during Covid Celebrated Local Government week <p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launched the Bathurst 1000 Off track events which included; Verto scavenger Hunt, colouring in comp, legends dinner and business engagement around the event

		<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully managed the off-track events for Bathurst 1000 week. • Hosted the Legends Dinner as part of the Bathurst 1000 at Rydges. <p>November & December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYE Party in the Park was reformed into NYE Party at your Local due to Covid. The new event supported 24 venues and musicians to bring in the new year at venues across Bathurst. • Garage Sale Trail was a huge success across Bathurst with 2,770 residents participating in the event. • The successful running of Challenge Bathurst • Christmas tree, flags and decorations installed around town in December <p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Australia Day Working Party to run Australia Day which included; citizenship ceremony, Australia Day Awards, Australia Day by the Pool and the Fun Fair. <p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Supercars Bathurst 500 with a picnic in the Parade event in Kings Parade on Friday 26 Feb, up to 250 people attended this outdoor gathering. <p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered the Bathurst Cycling Classic to almost 1,000 riders from around the state. The Tour event was well received and will continue to grow in future years, • Delivered the Sustainable Living Expo event with a successful Friday night dinner and Saturday event. Approx. 3,000 people attended the event <p>April & May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered key events including; Bathurst 6 Hour with new partner ARG, The Bathurst NRL Panthers v Sharks to max crowd of 6,000 under covid regulations, Proclamation Day and the commissioning of the Carillon Bells. <p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful launch of Bathurst Winter Festival in a Covid safe environment, including Ice Skating, Illuminations, carousel and ferris wheel, plus several other sites around Bathurst CBD.
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GOVERNANCE

Ensure Council policies reflect community needs and organisational requirements.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4, 6.5, 6.8	
Regular review of Council's policies (Policy Manual).	Individual Policies reviewed for relevance and compliance with statutory requirements.	All Council policies are undergoing review. Policies are then forwarded to Council meetings for adoption. Program continuing.
Implementation of the Government Information Public Access Act (GIPA Act).		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4, 6.5	
Provision of Contract Register on Council's website.	Register updated monthly.	Online Contract Register is available. We continue to review opportunities for improvement.
Action requests for information under GIPA Act.	Information requests (formal and informal) actioned in accordance with statutory guidelines.	22 applications received in 2020/21 year to date. 22 completed year to date
Ensure Council's continuity of operations.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	4.3, 6.4	
Review of Disaster Recovery Plan and Business Continuity Plan.	Plan reviews completed	Information Services Disaster Recovery Plan is to be tested early July following updates to procedures done throughout 2020/2021.



REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

The following information on Council's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 has been provided by Council's Auditor, Audit Office of New South Wales.

INCOME STATEMENT

Operating result	2021 \$m	2020 \$m	Variance %
Rates and annual charges revenue	49.2	46.8	5.1
Grants and contributions revenue	27.6	30.3	8.9
Operating result for the year	5.6	4.1	36.6
Net operating result before capital grants and contributions	(9.2)	(12.7)	27.6

Council's operating result (\$5.56 million surplus including the effect of depreciation and amortisation expense of \$33.5 million) was \$1.5 million higher than the 2019–20 result.

The net operating result before capital grants and contributions (\$9.2 million deficit) was \$3.6 million higher than the 2019–20 result. Council realised \$13.1 million in gains from the sale of real estate assets in 2020–21 compared to \$6.7 million in the previous financial year.

Rates and annual charges revenue (\$49.2 million) increased by \$2.4 million (5.1 per cent) in 2020–2021. This increase is higher than the approved rate pegging increase of 2.6% as annual charge income increased by 7.3%.

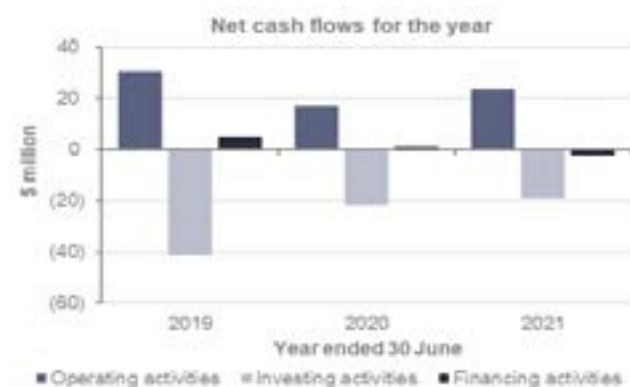
Grants and contributions revenue (\$27.6 million) decreased by \$2.6 million in 2020–2021. Council had funding approved and planned to commence work on a go kart track and second racing circuit on Mount Panorama / Wahluu, however the Federal Environment Minister made a declaration under s.10 of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act that has halted all construction, pending further clarification.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Cash balances increased from \$3.2 million to \$6.2 million at 30 June 2021.

Net cash used in investing activities reduced in the current year.

Council drew down \$3.9 million in new borrowing during the 2020–21 financial year. Of that amount, \$2.3 million, related to construction of a go kart track, was unspent at 30 June 2021.



DEBT

Council has an approved overdraft facility of \$0.65 million and an approved credit card facility of \$0.12 million. At 30 June 2021, Council had not used either its approved credit card facility or its approved overdraft facility.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Cash & Investments

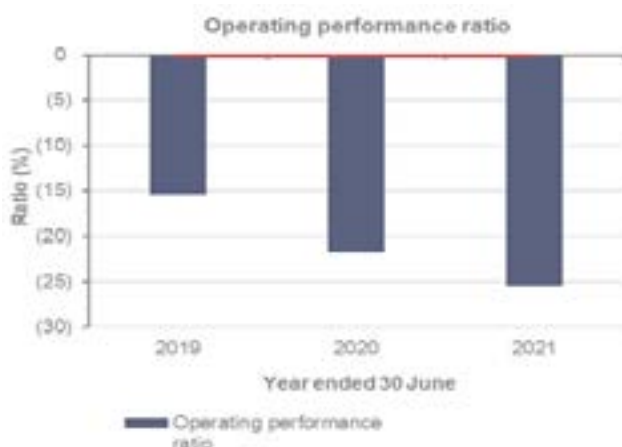
Cash & Investments	2021 \$M	2020 \$M	Commentary
External restrictions	79.0	75.8	Growth in external restrictions is mostly attributable to growth in unexpended developer contributions
Internal restrictions	14.1	1.1	Growth in internal restrictions is notable in the land development account, which is used to fund buying, maintenance, development and sale of real estate.
Unrestricted	0.1	0.1	Unrestricted balances provide liquidity for day-to-day operations
Cash and investments	93.2	77.0	

PERFORMANCE

Operating Performance Ratio

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

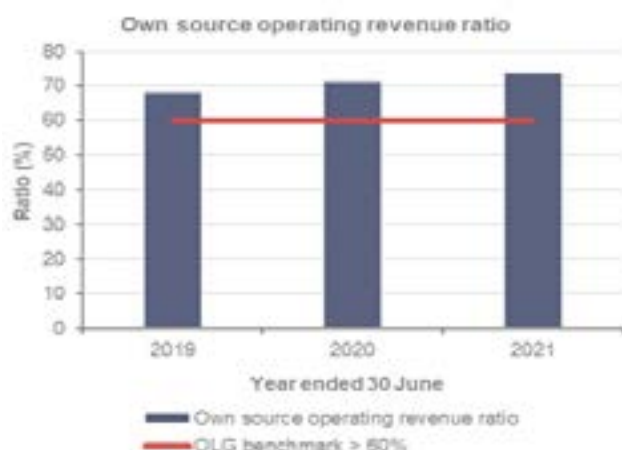
The 'operating performance ratio' measures how well council contained operating expenditure within operating revenue (excluding capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments, and reversal of revaluation decrements). The benchmark set by the Office of Local Government (OLG) is greater than zero per cent.



Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio

Council has continued to exceed the benchmark for this ratio.

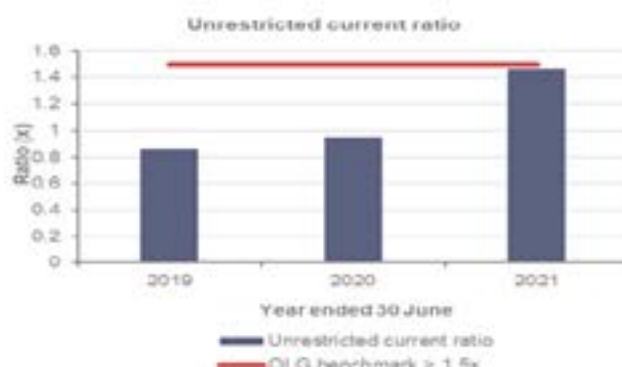
The 'own source operating revenue ratio' measures council's fiscal flexibility and the degree to which it relies on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. The benchmark set by the former OLG is greater than 60 per cent.



Unrestricted current ratio

Council is just below the benchmark for the current reporting period.

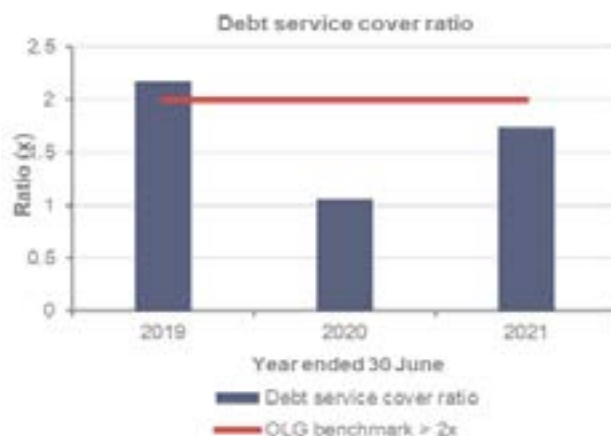
The 'unrestricted current ratio' is specific to local government and represents council's ability to meet its short-term obligations as they fall due. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than 1.5 times.



Debt service cover ratio

Council has reversed its declining trend in this measure and is once again nearing benchmark performance.

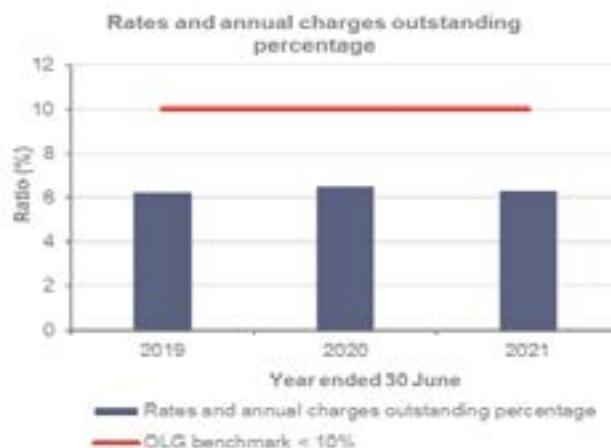
The 'debt service cover ratio' measures the operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The benchmark set by OLG is greater than two times.



Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage

Council has continued to effectively manage its recovery, maintaining a ratio which is well within the benchmark for regional councils.

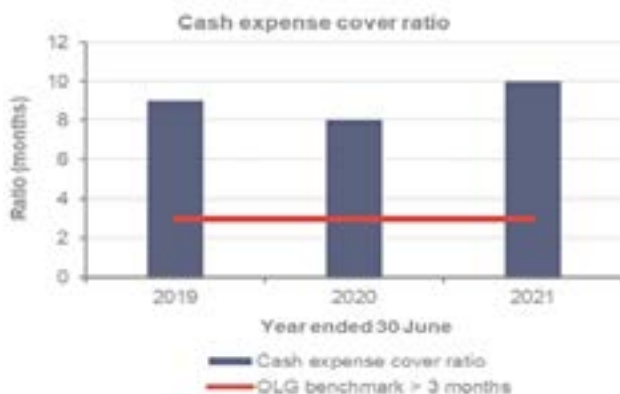
The 'rates and annual charges outstanding percentage' assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on council's liquidity and the adequacy of debt recovery efforts. The benchmark set by OLG is less than 10 per cent for regional and rural councils.



Cash expense cover ratio

Council's strong liquidity is reflected by this measure. Council has exceeded the benchmark for a number of years.

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 the former OLG is greater than three months.



Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment renewals

Council has renewed \$13.7 million of assets in the 2020-21 financial year compared to \$20.1 million in the 2019-20 financial year. A large portion of this was spent on water infrastructure, including \$4.2 million for the Winburndale Dam flood security upgrading.

Legislative Compliance

The audit of Council's annual financial statements did not identify any instances of non-compliance with legislative requirements or a material deficiency in the Council's accounting records or financial statements. The Council's:

- accounting records were maintained in a manner and form to allow the General Purpose Financial Statements to be prepared and effectively audited
- staff provided all accounting records and information relevant to the audit.

LEGAL EXPENSES

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a3)]

Area	Matter	Cost	Status
Corporate Services & Finance	Code of Conduct	3,706	Finalised
	General legal costs	4,849	Ongoing
	Trademark fees	4,568	Ongoing
	SAI copyright fees for standards	1,070	Ongoing
	GIPA advice	6,199	Finalised
	Events	2,935	Finalised
	Land & Buildings	10,230	Finalised
	Debt recovery	46,938	Ongoing
	Other general matters - small amounts	3,585	Finalised
	Total Administrative Legal Costs	84,080	
Environmental, Planning and Building Services	Dog Attacks	9,000	Finalised
	Other general matters - small amounts	1,151	
	Total Planning Legal Costs	10,151	
Engineering Services	Go Kart track	168,813	Ongoing
	Stormwater Harvesting projects	122,424	Finalised
	Mt Panorama general	19,831	Finalised
	Road adjustments - Bridle Track	35,904	Ongoing
	Minor road adjustments	13,942	Finalised
	Land adjustments	75,750	Finalised
	Leases	675	Ongoing
	Other general matters - small amounts	3,161	Finalised
		440,500	
Cultural & Community Services	Leasing	2,125	
	Total Cultural & Community Legal Costs	2,125	
Total Legal Expenses		536,856	

COUNCILLORS' FEES AND EXPENSES 2019/2020

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a1)]

Money Expended during the 2020/2021 Financial Year on:

Mayoral fees	\$60,080
Councillors' fees	\$218,940
Councillors' expenses	\$18,797
Total	\$297,817

Councillor's expenses listed above include the following items which must be separately reported:

Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors	\$1,194
Telephone calls made by Councillors	\$6,779
Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars	\$2,184
Training of Councillors and provision of skill development	Nil
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	Nil
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	Nil

Council's Policy on Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Councillors can be viewed on the Public Documents section on Council's website www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au. Councillors all participated in Council's e-learning program. This is an eight-course program that covers Council's compliance requirements and includes courses on Code of Conduct, Bullying & Workplace Violence, Aboriginal Cultural Awareness, WHS, Privacy.

OVERSEAS VISITS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a1)]

Council has a sister city relationship with Ohkuma in Japan. No visit occurred in this year.

SENIOR STAFF REMUNERATION

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (b)]

Five senior staff were employed by Council during 2020/2021:

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

The total expenditure for 2020/2021 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 \$1,439,513

The annual remuneration paid to senior staff for year ended 30 June 2019 was as follows.

General Manager	\$376,263
Directors	\$1,063,250

DONATIONS UNDER SECTION 356

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a5)]

During the year 2020/2021 Council donated a total of \$419,994 under Section 356 to a range of community groups.

General	\$74,133
BMEC Fee Waivers	\$46,753
Mount Panorama Fee Waivers	\$16,070
Market rental subsidies	\$283,038

CONTRACTS FOR GOODS AND SERVICES

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a2)]

During the year Council awarded numerous contract 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.

Australia Post	Postage, envelopes, parcels and stationery	\$178,579
Alto Valves & Fittings	Water pipes, valves and fittings	\$1,207,558
Aquamonix	Design, install and repairs to water telemetry systems	200,045
Aussie Digger Bobcat Pty Ltd	Plant hire	252,831
Australian Native Landscapes	Top soil, sand, processing of food and garden waste	446,567
AVIS Riverina	Vehicle and plant hire	227,255
Banika Pty Ltd	Plan hire	184,962
Bathurst Regional Security	Security services	219,722
Belgravia Health & Leisure Group	Management of Aquatic Centre	789,830
BioRemedy Pty Ltd	Sewer treatment chemicals	157,117
Boral Construction Materials Group Limited	Supply of cold mix	238,665
Bridge & marine Engineering Pty Ltd	Howards bridge design and construction	1,036,725
Bustin Free Earthworks	Construct Lawrence Drive roundabout and other plant hire	1,149,762
Caltex Australia Petroleum P/L	Petroleum products	253,573
Central Commercial Printers	Printing services	156,515
Central NSW Joint Organisation	Annual fees and online training services	245,357
Civica Pty Ltd	Authority fees, computer software	360,380
Coats Hire	Vehicle and plant hire	211,914
Colas NSW Pty Ltd	Legal Services	420,387
Computer Systems Australia P/L	Computer support, system licences and new hardware	158,267
Crennan Legal Pty Ltd	Legal Services	420,387
Data#3 Limited	Computer support, system licences and new software	405,387
Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd	Cold mix, hot mix, stabilise and pave various locations	1,059,518
Easy Line Carpentry	Refurbishment of NMRM and BVIC accessible toilets and various maintenance works	246,097
Energy Australia Pty Ltd	Electricity Charges	2,183,958
Eodo Pty Ltd	Winburndale Dam upgrade, various constructions works	5,026,795
ESEM Projects	Winter festival design and installation	335,256
Essential Energy	Electricity & Street lighting charges	1,112,395
Ever-Ready Concrete	Readymix concrete	213,378
Extent Heritage P/L	Heritage due diligence services for various sites, including Go Kart track, stormwater harvesting and Perthville levee	355,328
Fitt Resources Pty Ltd	Sewer mains maintenance and construction	185,433
Forpark Australia	Design, supply and install playground at Eglinton Oval	274,285
GB Bathurst Pty Ltd	Supply of vehicles and spare parts	377,025
Glenray Industries Ltd	Supply of vehicles and spare parts	377,025
Hibbo Hire Pty Ltd	Hire of plant, supply of sands and soils	686,818
Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd	Supply pre-cast pipes and headwalls and ready mix concrete	166,443
Hothams Sand, Soil & Gravel Supplies Pty Ltd	Sand and gravel supplies and plant hire	221,081
Hynash Constructions Pty Ltd	Perthville Flood Mitigation works and Sunnybright land development works	945,316

Interflow Pty Ltd	Sewer relining various locations	615,858
Iveco Sydney	Purchase of truck	402,429
J R Richards & Sons	Household recycling and food and garden waste	2,723,205
James Nagy Pty Ltd	Road and pedestrian works various locations	336,161
JE & SL Bennett Pty Ltd	Plant hire	178,912
Kelso Electrical	Electrical works and equipment	571,171
Kennards Hire Pty Ltd	Vehicle and plant hire	281,737
Lowes Petroleum Service	Diesel and fuel products	529,196
Mr C J Scerri	Plant hire	177,921
MRG Electrical Services	Electrical works and equipment	266,818
Nimdor Cleaning Services Pty Ltd	Cleaning Council and public buildings	279,230
Northern Contract Cleaning Pty Ltd	Cleaning Council and public buildings	158,328
NSE Group Pty Ltd	Various works Chifley Dam, various reservoirs and WFP	652,747
NSW Public Works Advisory	Winburndale Dam consultancy services	324,730
O.S.Trees Pty Ltd	Tree maintenance various locations	301,935
Oakleigh Plumbing Pty Ltd	Plumbing services	163,161
Oberon Quarries Pty Ltd	Supply and delivery of roadbase material	1,438,926
Oilplus Holdings Australia Pty Ltd	Petroleum Products	319,409
Omega chemicals	Water treatment chemicals	458,754
Origin Energy Electricity Limited	Electricity & Street lighting charges	586,754
PC Brunton Electrical	Electrical works and equipment	374,815
P&TS Group Pty Ltd	CCTV conduit works	179,363
Premise Australia Pty Ltd	Storm water harvesting project and Winburndale Dam environmental works	415,589
Redox Chemical Pty Ltd	Water treatment chemicals	583,665
Reece Pty Ltd	Plumbing supplies	427,006
Revenue NSW	Emergency services levies	1,262,954
Rollers Australia Pty Ltd	Plant hire	272,154
Ryan's Drilling & Civil Pty Ltd	Plant hire	831,960
S&S Electrical	Electrical works	150,694
Skillset	Hire of staff and apprentices	1,359,077
Tableands Builders Pty Ltd	Construction works collections facility, Carillon, Headmasters Cottage and other various locations	623,452
Taggle Systems Pty Ltd	Supply smart water meters, software licences and associated equipment	269,118
Talis Civil Pty Ltd	Construction works Lambert/ Suttor roundabout	768,670
Telstra	Supply of landline and mobile phone services	210,489
Terra Farma	Acceptance, reprocessing and reuse of biosolids	387,183
TFH Hie Services Pty Ltd	Hire of temporary fencing	176,555
Tinbilla Pty Ltd	Plant hire	275,379
TPG Network Pty Ltd	Internet services	525,856
Tracserv Pty Ltd	Supply of heavy vehicles	153,576
Upper Macquarie County Council	Contribution for control of noxious weeds	356,716
VOCS Pty Ltd	Mowing and grounds maintenance services	177,368
Webber Concrete Constructions	Mount Panorama Walkway and various other constructions works	417,775
Welsh & Major Architects Pty Ltd	Architectural services for Bathurst Animal Rehoming Centre	161,128
Work Control Pty Ltd	Traffic control services	1,806,837

Xylem Water Solutions Australia Limited	Supply various Sewer equipment	241,820
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HUMAN RESOURCES WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Council undertook the following human resource activities during 2020/2021 :

- The implementation of a dedicated function to support staff training & career development has resulted in the creation and implementation of a Council training plan which has been successfully implemented.
- Investment into staff training and development has resulted in improved compliance, customer service and staff satisfaction.
- Manager to leader training program initiative has commenced.
- Ongoing commitment to financial support and study leave for eligible staff under Council's Staff Education Assistance Scheme.
- Strategies continue to be reviewed to ensure HR proactively provide support to all business units.
- Continued commitment under Memorandum of Understanding with Charles Sturt University by hosting three paid industry placements for engineering students.
- Recruitment and On-Boarding system (including induction) streamlined to ensure compliance and better support new staff needs.
- Continuation of review and updating of staff policies and supporting procedures.
- Improved Performance Appraisal Process to meet Council needs implemented.
- Recognition and presentation of service awards to long serving staff members at the regular staff afternoon teas supported in compliance with Covid-19 safety restrictions.
- Integral part of the Council Covid-19 response and ongoing support & communication with management & staff.

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Major Work Health and Safety achievements include the following:

- Council's alcohol and other drug testing program continued 2020/2021 with approximately 85 staff tested. No adverse results were confirmed.
- Training during 2020/2021 was provided for staff members, volunteers and contractors in areas such as warden responsibilities, emergency management, evacuation, first aid, manual handling, basic risk management, volunteer induction, Mount Panorama General Induction, armed holdup and loss prevention, and resuscitation and defibrillation use.
- Manual handling training was conducted by Ethos Health for all Council staff members in May and June 2021. This training was very engaging and had positive feedback from both the trainers as well as the staff members involved. Follow up visits by Ethos Health have had to be postponed due to the current Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, however these will be scheduled as well as any catch-up sessions, once lockdown restrictions ease.
- Council continued its roll out of Defibrillator's, unit standardisation and training to other areas. The additional units were paid for by the workers compensation refund including an additional training unit identical to the Lifeline View units to allow for training in house. The purchase also included alarmed boxes and are now available in most of Council's larger public facilities as well as major locations such as Water Filtration Plant. BRC now has 17 units installed throughout its facilities, as well as the training unit.
- The Bathurst LGA has many communications dead spots that have been problematic for both safety and operational reasons. A member of the Rural Works Crew found a solution in the form of satellite communications equipment and contacted his Health and Safety Committee Representative who found a more suitable item in the ZOLEO Global Satellite Communicator. The Rep presented the idea the WHS Committee and after a suitable trial period 9 units were purchased for roll out in the 21 – 22 FY.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a9)]

Activities undertaken to implement Council's EEO Management Plan include:

- Development and implementation of Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Policy.
- Council values & policies supporting a workplace culture built on fairness & equity, zero tolerance in regards to bullying & harassment, and following EEO practices relating to all aspects of the employee lifecycle.
- Continuation of online training modules in Bullying and Harassment, Aboriginal Cultural Awareness and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO).
- Staff exit surveys continue to be analysed to collect data on EEO comments or input to improve these processes.
- Inclusion of key strategies and actions in Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan and Reconciliation Action Plan as well as Ageing Workforce.
- During the financial year, a total of 1,104 job applications were received.

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Council continued to provide access to free, confidential professional counselling services for staff and their family members during the year through the provision of the Employee Assistance Program. Council's EAP provider offers staff counselling as well as additional services targeting Managers, Money Assist, Family Assist and Legal Assist. During the period 1 August 2020 to 30 June 2021, 18 initial assessment sessions were conducted. A total of 75 hours of service activities took place during this period which resulted in an overall utilisation rate of 3.8% when family members are taken into account.

EXTERNAL BODIES EXERCISING FUNCTIONS DELEGATED BY COUNCIL

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a6)]

During the 2020/2021 financial year the following external bodies exercised functions delegated by Council.

- **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 & Park
- **Rockley Mill Museum Management Committee**
Management of Rockley Mill Museum
- **Sofala Showground Hall Committee**
Management of Showground facilities
- **Trunk Creek Recreation Reserve Management Committee**
Management of Recreation Reserve
- **Upper Macquarie County Council**
(noxious weeds) Operating with delegates from Bathurst Regional Council
- **Wattle Flat Bronze Thong Committee**
Management of Racecourse
- **Wattle Flat Progress Association**
Management of Recreation Ground

CONTROLLING INTEREST IN COMPANIES

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a7)]

Council had no controlling interest in any companies, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies during the year.

PARTNERSHIPS, COOPERATIVES AND JOINT VENTURES

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (a8)]

- The Somerville Collection Ltd – Council is a member of this company limited by guarantee with the Australian Museum, Charles Sturt University, Mr Warren Somerville and the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. The Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum housing the Somerville Collection opened in June 2004;
- NetWaste – regional collection of waste materials;
- Evocities;
- Upper Macquarie County Council (control of noxious weeds);
- Central NSW Joint Organisation (formerly CENTROC) and
- Bathurst and Orange Councils (internal audit program).

RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 132]

During the year Council abandoned \$1,449,406 in rates and charges (including postponed rates).

Pensioner rebate	\$1,278,706
Postponed rates	\$50,268
Other rates & charges	\$120,432

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 - Section 125(1), Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 - Clause 14]

The Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 was introduced on 1 July 2010 (GIPA Act). As a result of the introduction of the GIPA Act, section 12 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Freedom of Information Act were repealed. The GIPA Act provides a general “Right to Information” presumption that was not evident in previous legislation.

METHODS OF ACCESSING COUNCIL INFORMATION

The Council can make information available to the public in 4 different ways:

1. Mandatory Release – where Council is required under legislation to make information available free of charge to the public
2. Proactive Release – Councils are encouraged to release as much other information as possible in an appropriate manner (though this may sometimes result in a cost)
3. Informal Release - Councils are encouraged to release information in response to an informal request subject to reasonable conditions (e.g. may be copying charge involved)
4. Formal Release - Councils may release information in response to a formal request. This is the last resort, if the information is not available in any other way. There is a fee associated with a formal application (currently \$30) and an application form is available on Council’s website. Other processing charges may also apply in accordance with the Act.

Review of proactive release program – clause 7(a)

Section 7(3) of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) requires Council to undertake a review of the way it releases government information to identify the kinds of information held by Council that should, in the public interest be made publicly available and that can be made publicly available without imposing unreasonable cost on the agency.

Council has a website which can be accessed by members of the public at any time. Many of the Council’s publicly available documents are listed on this website and the majority are available for download.

During the 2020/2021 financial year, Council undertook a review of the documents that it makes publicly available and the methods by which it makes those documents available. In completing this review Council undertook several steps including:

1. Reviewing the requirements under the GIPA Act.
2. Examining other documents that were publicly available and how they were made available to the public.
3. Investigating whether there were any new reporting requirements.
4. Identifying training needs of staff members.

Following the review and as a result of ongoing monitoring, new documents were added to the Council website during the year. Council has a Public Documents section on its website that lists the documents that are available and, in many instances, makes them available for download at no cost.

Should any document listed on the website be required, they can be requested by contacting Council. Depending upon the document required, there may be some copying

charges involved but all documents listed are available for viewing free of charge.

Proactive Release of Documents throughout the year

As part of its requirements under separate Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation, Council has developed the Community Strategic Plan 2040. There were a significant number of plans that formed the development of this document, as well as significant public consultation. As part of its review under the GIPA Act, Council has decided to proactively release the majority of the strategic plans that were used to facilitate the development of the Community Strategic Plan 2040.

The documents are available for public access in the Public Documents section of the Council website.

A wide range of Council plans, policies, codes, statements and other documents developed throughout the 2020/2021 financial year have also been added to Council's Public Documents section on the website.

Mandatory Release of Documents

Council has developed a Publication Guide in accordance with Section 20 of the GIPA Act and this is also publicly available on the website. This document lists in detail the many methods by which residents and other interested parties can access Council information. It provides a detailed schedule of publicly available documents and the means by which they can be accessed. Council also has its contracts register available for viewing on the Council website.

There are many other documents that Council must make available, and these are listed on the website or in the Publication Guide together with the methods by which they can be accessed.

Number of access applications received - Clause 7(b)

During the 2020/2021 financial year, Council received 22 formal access applications under the GIPA Act. All 22 applications were accepted as valid applications and all requested documents were provided in full. A summary of the applications received is detailed in the table below, which is in the format required by section 125 of the GIPA Act and Schedule 2 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018.

Number of refused applications for Schedule 1 information - Clause 7(c)

During the 2020/2021 financial year, Council did not refuse any access applications because the information requested was information referred to in Schedule 1 of the GIPA Act. (Information for which there is a conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure).

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT

[Local Government Act 1993 – Section 428, NSW Public Interest Disclosures Act Section 31 and Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011 Clause 4]

Council must report annually on its obligations under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994. The report for the year 2020/2021 financial year is detailed below.

No of public officials who made public interest disclosures to your public authority	0
No of public interest disclosures received by your public authority	0
Of public interest disclosures received, how many were primarily about:	0
Corrupt conduct	0
Maladministration	0
Serious and substantial waste	0
Government information contravention	0
Local government pecuniary interest contravention	0
No of public interest disclosures (received since 1 Jan 2012) that have been finalised in this reporting period	0
Have you established an internal reporting policy?	Yes
Has the head of your public authority taken action to meet their staff awareness obligations?	Yes
If so, please select how staff have been made aware	
Policy briefing from senior managers, Staff undertaking that they have read and understood your Organisation's internal reporting policy, Training provided by your organisation, Email message to all staff, Messages in staff newsletters, Messages in payslips.	
Training provided to new staff during induction.	

PRIVACY ACT

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 - Section 33 (3)]

In accordance with Section 33(3) of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 (PPIP Act), Council has adopted a Privacy Management Plan developed by the Office of Local Government. Additionally, Council is subject to the Privacy Code of Practice for Local Government and the application of the Information Protection Principles under the PPIP Act as they apply to Local Government. Council's investigative functions are subject to further policies and procedures imposed by various government bodies.

Council was required to undertake one review under Part 5 of the PPIP Act during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Statistical information about access applications - Section 125 of the GIPA Act and Schedule 2 of the GIPA Regulation

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	Refuse 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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Members of the public (other)	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Total	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome*

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn	Total
Personal information applications*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22

*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).

* 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 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 times 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
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 the Act	
	Number of times consideration used*
Responsible and effective government	0
Law enforcement and security	0
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	0
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	0

Table F: Timeliness	
	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	22
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	0
Not decided within time (deemed refusal)	0
Total	22

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

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	1	0	1
Review by Information Commissioner*	0	0	0
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act	0	0	0
Review by NCAT	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1

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

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

Table I: Applications transferred to other agencies	
	Number of applications for review
Agency-Initiated Transfers	0
Applicant-Initiated Transfers	0
Total	0

ACCESS TO COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETINGS/ DISCUSSION FORUMS

Council meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber (except the December meeting is held on the second Wednesday in December, and the January meeting is held on the first Wednesday in February). There is a public forum session for the public from 6.00 pm.

On the first Wednesday of each month, Council holds a Policy Committee Meeting and, when required, discussion forums on matters of interest to the community. This provides a platform where the community can readily access the decision-makers of Council. Covid-19 has meant that neither Policy Committee meetings nor Discussion Forums have been held since the last Annual Report.

Council continued to hold monthly sessions whereby community groups and organisations met with Council to discuss issues of relevance.

The following groups attended sessions throughout the 2020/2021 financial year:

- Cycle Safe Bathurst
- Panorama Punish
- Regis Resources Ltd
- Bathurst Thoroughbred Racing Club
- Vitality Central West – Cancer Survivorship & Wellness Centre
- Festival of Bells

- Performing Arts Centre Group
- Bathurst Agricultural Horticultural & Pastoral Association Inc
- Regional Express Airlines
- Housing Plus
- Friends of McPhillamy Park
- ATCO – Central West Pumped Storage Hydro Project
- 2022 Winter Festival
- NEOEN – Eglinton Solar Farm
- Transport for NSW

In addition to the regular program, Council also held community meetings at the following villages: Hill End, Trunkey Creek, Wattle Flat, Peel, Perthville and Sunny Corner

COUNCIL BUSINESS PAPERS

Council Business Papers are available on Council's website (www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au) for viewing or printing prior to each Council meeting. Council business papers can also be viewed at the Council foyer and the library. Copies may be obtained from the Corporate Services Department, 1st Floor, Civic Centre, or at the Council or Committee meetings.

DELIVERY AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

In accordance with Chapter 13 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council has a four-year financial plan which outlines the strategies and financial resources required to implement the key directions identified by the community in the Bathurst 2040 Community Strategic Plan (Delivery Plan).

The Plan is reviewed and updated every financial year. Before the Plan is adopted each June, it is placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. Comments are encouraged and considered prior to the final adoption of the Plan. The Delivery Plan is reviewed every year in a one-year plan that spells out the details of the Delivery Plan, identifying the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken in the financial year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Plan (Operational Plan).

Council's Delivery and Operational Plan is available on Council's website (www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au) in the Public Documents section.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Council operates several committees that involve active representation from members of the community. Council representatives also participate in many community committees.

This assists groups to access resources provided by Council and promotes close involvement in the decision-making processes of local government.

Council continued to nominate delegates to community organisations to assist in meeting community needs.

The following groups have delegates/duty delegates appointed:

- Accessible Living Options;
- All Saints Cathedral Chapter;
- Arts OutWest;
- Australian Airport Owners Assoc;
- Bathurst Airport Users' Group;
- Bathurst AH&P Association Inc;
- Bathurst & District Bicycle User Group;
- Bathurst Arts Council;
- Bathurst Business Chamber;
- Bathurst City & RSL Concert Band;
- Bathurst Community Climate Action Network Inc;
- Bathurst Community Interagency Group;
- Bathurst Correctional Complex Community; Consultative Committee;
- Bathurst District Historical Society;
- Bathurst District Sport and Recreation Council;
- Bathurst Domestic Violence Liaison Committee;
- Bathurst Education Advancement Group;
- Bathurst Family History Group;
- Bathurst Liquor Accord;
- Bathurst Meals on Wheels Service;
- Bathurst Neighbourhood Centre;
- Bathurst Refugee Support Group;
- Bathurst Regional Access Committee;
- Bathurst Regional Art Gallery Society (BRAGS);
- Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee;
- Bathurst Regional Youth Council;
- Bathurst Senior Citizens Management Committee;
- Bathurst Seymour Centre;
- Bathurst Town Square Working Party;
- Boundary Road Nature Reserve Landcare Group;
- Carillon Working Party;
- Central West Heritage Network;
- Central West Women's Health Centre;

- CENTROC (Central NSW Joint Organisation);
- Chifley Dam Catchment Steering Committee;
- Chifley Local Area Command – Community Safety Precinct Committee;
- Combined Pensioners & Superannuates Association;
- ClubGRANTS Committee;
- Country Mayors Association;
- Eglinton Hall & Park Committee;
- Evans Arts Council;
- Floodplain Management Authority;
- Greening Bathurst;
- Hill End & District Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade;
- Joint Regional Planning Panel - Western;
- Local Emergency Management Committee – Bathurst Region;
- National Trust of Australia – Bathurst Branch;
- NSW Inland Forum;
- NSW Rural Fire Service - Chifley Zone Bushfire Liaison Committee;
- NSW State Emergency Services – Bathurst Unit;
- Perthville Development Group Inc;
- Public Libraries Association;
- Rail Action Bathurst;
- Skillset;
- Somerville Collection Board of Directors;
- The Australian Milling Museum (Bathurst);
- Upper Macquarie County Council;
- Wattle Flat (Bronze Thong) Racecourse Committee;
- Wattle Flat Heritage Lands Trust;
- Western Regional Access Committee;
- Western Sydney University Advisory Group and
- White Rock Progress Association.

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, Bathurst City Life, 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 is increasing its use of social media channels to reach the community and provides links to media announcements, Council activities, events and projects via these channels. The increasing use of social media to connect with the community and support traditional media activity is in response to community feedback from the 2016 Community Survey saying it was a preferred mechanism for hearing from Council.

In 2020/2021 Council's digital audience has continued to grow with increased numbers of followers on all our social media platforms.

Month	Facebook	Twitter
July 2020	9843	1632
June 2021	13076	1709

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Council, as part of its community engagement programs runs several large community events to encourage physical activity, public participation and general entertainment for members of the community. Whilst many events were impacted by Covid-19, Council continued to deliver programs and events to bring the community together.

Some of the main events include:

BATHURST CYCLING CLASSIC

The Bathurst Cycling Classic continued for another year with changes to adhere to Covid-19 restrictions. The three-day event held in March 2021 featured the Hill Climb, Criterium Racing and the much-loved B2B race with reduced participants. While numbers for the event were smaller than average, cyclists enjoyed closed roads, and a covid safe event.

BATHURST NRL

After missing a year in 2020 due to Covid-19, the Penrith Panthers were welcomed back to Bathurst for their clash against Manly Sea Eagles on Saturday 1 May 2021. A reduced crowd capacity of 5,798 enjoyed the match including a pre-match game from NSW Cup and Group 10 teams, Bathurst Panthers v Orange Cym.

BATHURST WINTER FESTIVAL

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the event, held in June-July 2021 shifted its focus from a major tourism attraction to a locally supported event intended to boost community spirit, support local businesses and create shared experiences for residents. Activities were structured around the Covid-19 NSW Public Health Order and included a Drive in Cinema at Mount Panorama, all in-car experience for illuminations, live music at cafes and restaurants, business engagement activities and online videos and workshops for all ages.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY IN THE PARK

Restrictions around public gatherings meant the NYE Party in the Park was unable to go ahead its usual format at the Adventure Playground. Instead, a revised initiative of NYE Party at Your Local saw Council support multiple local musicians to play at 15 venues across Bathurst and welcome in the New Year. This event encouraged money to be spent locally at venues open for the new year.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

The nation-wide Garage Sale Trail campaign replaced the existing Mount Panorama Garage Sale in November 2020. A successful, Covid safe event saw 109 garage sales across Bathurst, saving 15 tonnes of waste from landfill and generating \$16,000 in economic benefit to locals.

HARMONY WEEK 2021

Council, in conjunction with the Bathurst Neighbourhood Centre produced a series of promotional posters featuring photos of local families and what the theme of Harmony Week "Everyone Belongs" means to them. The posters were displayed in a number of venues and on Council's social media platforms.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING EXPO

Special guest Fast Ed from Better Homes and Gardens hosted a dinner and a cooking demonstration for 80 people to kick off of this year's Sustainable Living Expo. Held in March 2021, the Expo continued as part of the monthly Farmers' Markets with waste and sustainable education for up to 4,000 attendees.



Bathurst Cycling Classic 2021



ENGINEERING SERVICES

The key to developing a sound foundation for growth and prosperity of the Bathurst Region is by ensuring infrastructure needs are keeping pace with demand. With a budget in excess of \$90m Council's Engineering Services Department has the responsibility to ensure the current needs of the community are met and the capacity exists to cater for future growth. A clean, safe and reliable water supply, quality local road network, and environmentally responsible waste management systems are all high priorities for engineering the future of the Bathurst Region.

ASSET MANAGEMENT

Improve pedestrian access within the urban area.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	4.1, 4.2, 5.1	
Completion of additional concrete footpaths/cycleways in accordance with the Bathurst Regional Community Access and Cycling Plan 2011.	500 lineal metres of footpath and/or cycleway completed.	Bant Street Lewins to Busby 166m Stanley St George to Rankin 200m Rankin St Stanley to Morrisset 200m Browning St William to George Park 50m Charlotte St 40m Graham Dve to Mendel Dve 300m complete
Monitor condition of footpaths.	100% of urban footpath inspected.	Level 1 (CBD) – 100% as at 26/10/20 Level 2 – 100% as at 23/7/20
Maintain and improve the existing road infrastructure consistently throughout the network.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	4.1, 4.5	
Improvement of road infrastructure to upgrade sub-standard sections of the sealed network.	Reconstruction and resealing works as per Council's 2020/2021 capital works and routine maintenance programs. Completion of 2020/2021 Roads to Recovery Program.	The Bridle Track Widen and seal 500m approach to Howards Bridge – Complete Limekilns Rd Reconstruct, widen and seal 2km – Complete Limekilns Rd Stage II Reconstruct, widen and seal 2km – Complete 2km rehabilitate widen and seal on Freemantle Rd – Complete 1km rehabilitate widen and seal Rockley Rd – Complete 1.5km Freemantle Rd Stage II complete 2.2km Bridle Track rehabilitate, widen and seal – Complete 4km Turondale Rd widen and seal 3km complete



Renewal of gravel road surface throughout the network.	Completion of 2020/2021 Unsealed Roads Gravel Resheeting program.	Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none">Brewongle Ln – 600m of granite re sheeting. Feb 2021West Wimbeldon - 300m of granite re sheeting. Dec 2020Caloola Rd – 1500m of gravel re sheeting from Kellys Pit. Feb 2021Roothog Rd– 700m of gravel re sheeting from Freemantle Pit. May 2021Freemantle Rd - 2350m of gravel re sheeting from Freemantle pit. May 2021Cashens Ln - 450m of gravel resheeting with profiled material. June 2021																		
Undertake maintenance program in accordance with allocated budget.	Greater than 90% of the urban road network remains at condition index 3 or above.	<div>Complete (last assessment 2019, next assessment due 2023)</div> <table><thead><tr><th></th><th>Percentage</th><th>Condition Rating</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Excellent</td><td>35.0</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Good</td><td>38.9</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Fair</td><td>22.1</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Poor</td><td>3.9</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Bad</td><td>0.1</td><td>5</td></tr></tbody></table> <div><div>96%</div><div>4%</div></div>		Percentage	Condition Rating	Excellent	35.0	1	Good	38.9	2	Fair	22.1	3	Poor	3.9	4	Bad	0.1	5
	Percentage	Condition Rating																		
Excellent	35.0	1																		
Good	38.9	2																		
Fair	22.1	3																		
Poor	3.9	4																		
Bad	0.1	5																		

Protection of urban areas on the Bathurst Floodplain.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	4.1, 4.3	
Completion of flood mitigation works as outlined in the Georges Plains Flood Management Plan.	Substantial Completion of Design and Environmental Assessment.	Funding Grant application through NSW Government Floodplain Management Program in 2020/21 unsuccessful. Further application has been made in 2021/22 program, decision pending.

MOUNT PANORAMA

Increase profile of Mount Panorama as the premier motor racing venue in Australia.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4, 6.5, 6.8, 2.5	
Construction of optic fibre communications loop.	Installation of Optic fibre network to Mount Panorama Circuit as per 2020/2021 Capital Works Plan.	Current budget allocation will complete 1,700m of conduit. This will complete 5,640m of installation, leaving approx. 1,000m of conduit to be installed from future budgets.
Development of the second circuit.	Development Consent obtained.	Masterplan Complete. Preliminary Design Complete Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment completed. Draft Environmental Impact Assessment completed, has been submitted to NSW Planning for adequacy review prior to lodgement. Community Consultation completed for EIS drafting. Detailed design to be completed Sep 21. Ready for lodgement with EIS to NSW Planning.

RECREATION SERVICES

Plan for increasing population and ageing population in the provision of suitable recreational projects.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.4, 5.1, 5.5	
Construct additional facilities as determined in budget.	New amenity building, including flood zone mounding for additional sports fields 5 & 6 Hereford Street	DA approved, Tender advertised and closed early April and contract awarded. Contractor to complete detailed design by mid-June and commence on site works by July 2021. Mound works for amenities building has commenced. Field construction contract awarded. Anticipate on site field construction works to commence end July 2021.
Update sporting venues, including associated infrastructure.	Upgrade Walmer Park including lighting and external amenities	Quotations called in February 2021, closed 23 February 2021 and contract awarded in March 2021. Detailed design being prepared by contractor. On site works commenced in June with lighting tower footings completed. Light tower installation works to commence in July 2021. Toilet block pre fabrication being undertaken off site by manufacturer. Anticipate delivery and installation on site by end July 2021.
	Replacement of synthetic turf surface to International Courts – John Matthews Tennis Centre	Works postponed for 2021, due to Covid-19 budget deficit.

Maintain existing and future recreational areas.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.4, 5.1, 5.5	
Maintain existing levels of service to all parks, reserves, open space areas and other recreational facilities	Maintenance activities undertaken to all recreation Assets in accordance with adopted maintenance service levels in the Asset Management Plan.	Ongoing as part of adopted maintenance service levels and funding provisions of the current Council Operational Plan.

Continue environmental programs identified within the Bathurst Vegetation Management Plan.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.4, 5.1, 5.5	
To ensure that appropriate Environmental Management Plans for the Bathurst Region are current, relevant and provide long term strategies for the Region	Arrange for 11 Tree Planting and volunteer engagement activities.	Seven community and five school group planting days have been held in Bathurst to date. Project sites where community planting activities have occurred include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Links Place Drainage Reserve - Kefford Street Open Space - Hawthornden Creek drainage Reserve - Jaques Park - Queen Charlotte Vale Creek - Hereford Street open space - O'Keefe Park - Rankens Bridge Park Over the year a total of 1,384 plants have been installed within the Bathurst Region by 669 community and school volunteers.
	Complete the revegetation component of the Queen Charlotte's Vale Creek Grant Project	Revegetation site protection fencing complete. Stage 1 of woody weed control commenced in December 2020. Plant supply contract awarded. Anticipate planting to commence in March 2022 – has been delayed due to drought conditions and hold up of site access due to Stormwater harvesting project. Expect completion of all on-site works under this grant by April 2022, as per funding agreement. Works also to include a 12 month maintenance program which will expire March 2023.

WATER, SEWER & WASTE

Maintain and upgrade existing water and sewer infrastructure to meet the needs of all stakeholders into the future.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 4.3, 6.2, 6.6	
Operate, maintain, repair and upgrade Water Filtration Plant	Achieve the Australian Drinking Water Standards 90% of the time	Water Filtration Plant daily operations are ongoing, with maintenance and repairs conducted as required. The treatment processes are constantly monitored through a SCADA system and reviewed daily by staff. To the 23 June 2021, 2850 (includes monitoring for Fluoride) tests were undertaken and there was 97.7% compliance with Australian Drinking Water Guidelines.
Operate, maintain, repair and upgrade water distribution system.	Customer complaints regarding flow and pressure are kept below 52 p.a.	Water distribution system operations are ongoing, with monitoring, maintenance and repairs conducted as required. Water main in Mountain Straight, Mount Panorama is currently being re-laid. Significant reservoir improvements have been completed, with further work planned, to continue to improve the integrity of the drinking water system around Bathurst. Complaints regarding flow and pressure were 28 for the 2020/21 year.
Respond effectively to discoloured water complaints	Respond to 90% of complaints within 4 hours.	Complaints regarding discoloured water are responded to as soon as possible, usually within 4 hours. Complaints regarding discoloured water for period 1 January 2021 to 30 June 2021 were 61. The system used to track calls prior to Dec 2020 has been improved and has enabled accurate tracking since Jan 2021.

Review, update and adhere to Drinking Water Management System (DWMS).	Monthly Review Undertaken	<p>A Drinking Water Management System (DWMS) document has been completed and is in effect. Details on addressing the actions to ensure continuous improvement are being documented.</p> <p>A weekly and monthly internal review takes place, along with an external check of our water quality results through the NSW Health laboratory, and continuous external monitoring of Critical Control Points by D2K Information Pty Ltd.</p> <p>Financial year 97.7% compliance.</p>
Winburndale Dam Flood Security Upgrade	Project is constructed and commissioned	<p>Work on Tender Item is in progress and is currently over 67% complete at 18 June 2021.</p> <p>A second project scope change request has been lodged and a response remains outstanding.</p>
Stormwater Harvesting Project Stage 1	Project is constructed and commissioned	<p>Survey, design reports and approvals are being progressed for this project, tenders have been advertised and are currently open to selected contractors who are pricing the proposed works.</p> <p>Tenders close 27 July 2021.</p>
Review and update existing Best Practice Guidelines plans as required	Best Practice Guidelines compliance reported quarterly.	<p>There are no new Best Practice Guidelines introduced since the 2007 Best Practice Guidelines.</p> <p>Compliance remains at 100%.</p>
Continue implementation of Trade Waste Policy.	Maintain approvals at over 90% of active businesses.	<p>Trade Waste Policy is current, has been approved by NSW Office of Water, and adopted by Council.</p> <p>As at the 25 June 2021 there were 332 approvals in place, with 354 active businesses (93%).</p> <p>The recently released 2021 Liquid Trade Waste Management Guidelines from DPIE are being reviewed for changes.</p>
Monitor and action developments from State Government regarding changes in the Best Practice Guidelines.	Review Guidelines monthly, then action as required.	<p>The existing level of compliance with the Best Practice Guidelines is 100% for both Water and Sewer.</p> <p>The review of further initiatives will be commenced, once DPIE advises the outcomes of their proposed review of the guidelines.</p> <p>As at the end of June 2021 DPIE is yet to release their issues paper and monitoring of this continues.</p>

Prepare reports and studies for Winburndale Dam and Chifley Dam to achieve compliance with NSW Dams Safety Committee regulatory requirements.	Compliance with NSW Dam Safety Committee requirements, reported quarterly.	<p>For both Chifley and Winburndale, a Dam Safety Emergency Plan is in place, and has been updated. Chifley Dam is safe to withstand a 1 in 1,000,000 year flood event.</p> <p>A surveillance inspection of Chifley Dam was undertaken in September 2020. Winburndale Dam surveillance inspections are on hold for the next 12 months during the construction period.</p> <p>Winburndale Dam is not safe to withstand a 1 in 100,000 year flood event, however detailed design is complete, the tender has been awarded and construction has commenced to improve the dam safety.</p> <p>Grant funding was sought through the NSW Safe and Secure Water Program. Council has been successful in procuring \$2.225 million towards this project under the Program.</p> <p>A tender was awarded at the 3 July 2019 Council Meeting to EODO for Winburndale Dam Safety Upgrade. Work is currently over 67% complete for contract works.</p>
Work with CNSWJO on Water Utilities Alliance goals	Meeting attended. Relevant projects supported. Goals delivered.	Work is continuing, through meetings and projects. Alliance Business Plan has been developed and adopted. Bi-monthly meetings attended, with other projects and correspondence dealt with as required.
Operate, maintain, repair and upgrade Waste Water Treatment Works to comply with licence conditions.	Achieve over 90 % compliance with EPA licence conditions.	<p>Wastewater Treatment Works operations are ongoing, with maintenance and repairs conducted as required. Investigations have commenced into the condition assessment of discharge sewer mains at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.</p> <p>Plans for minor upgrades are underway. Daily and weekly sampling and monitoring of the plant's performance are continuing, with internal and external testing performed.</p> <p>Ongoing testing of wastewater discharged to the Macquarie River as per EPA Licence 1647 for the test period commencing 1 April for the licence period to date 88 tests to 23 June 2021 have been completed and 99.9% compliance achieved</p>
Continue program of sewer main CCTV inspection, and lining if warranted	Mains where blockages or overflows occur are inspected	<p>Identification of appropriate locations for CCTV is ongoing through customer issues, staff advice and development proposals.</p> <p>Any issues found are scheduled for repair or replacement as required.</p> <p>Financial year to 23 June 2021 569m sewer main inspected, relined and ongoing relining of sewer junctions is progressing.</p>
Identify, plan and undertake water and sewer construction works.	Complete capital works program	<p>Liaison with Technical Services staff to obtain advice on road projects and / or developments is continuing. The aim is to ensure water and sewer services are relocated prior to RMS or BRC projects commencing.</p>

Maintain and upgrade existing waste infrastructure to meet stakeholder requirements.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.4, 3.3, 4.3, 6.2, 6.6	
Replace waste collection vehicles on a 4 yearly cycle.	One waste collection vehicle replaced.	The waste collection vehicle fleet is up to date.
Review Waste Management Centre filling plans to ensure the optimum long-term strategy is delivered, and to enable future planning timelines to be developed.	Survey and monitor the remaining air space of the landfill annually. Air space reduction minimised.	A stormwater management audit of the WMC has been conducted by EPA staff. A review has been conducted by an independent consultant. The final report has been received and recommendations are being put into effect. Aerial survey was completed on 19 April 2021 which is done annually to monitor actual fill and the final fill plan.
Reduce waste to landfill.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	2.2, 3.3, 6.1, 6.2, 6.6	
Work with NetWaste on waste projects and opportunities, for greater diversion from landfill and increased efficiencies.	Meeting attended. Relevant projects supported and delivered.	All options available to Bathurst Regional Council through NetWaste are supported. Examples include recycling of waste tyres, mattresses, Household Chemical Cleanout, Waste 2 Art and collection and recycling of scrap metal. Recycling and organics collection service started in April 2016. The contract is proceeding well. A textile recycling trial is underway and the Garage Sale Trail 2020 was a success with over 55 households participating.
Council to continue education and promotion of appropriate WasteWise behaviours regarding green waste and recycling. Promote recycling to maximise diversion from landfill.	10 recycling promotion and education programs run. Combined diversion target is 5,000 tonnes	For 2020/21 to the end of May 2021, food and garden tonnage is 4,638 and recycling is 1,864 giving a total of 6,503 tonnes. 20,109 tonnes of food and garden waste have been sent for composting in the first 62 months (April 2016 to May 2021). Combined with recycling, totals show a diversion from landfill of over 32,151 tonnes, or 32.1 million kilograms over this time. WasteWise education works are continuing, and the recycling contract education strategies are also underway.
Identify, assess and implement appropriate diversion opportunities.	Opportunities reviewed to determine cost/benefit and reported quarterly.	Council participates in all 9 NetWaste Regional collection contracts being used - motor oil, scrap metal, E-waste, wood/timber processing, landfill environmental monitoring, regional waste services, tyres, household chemical cleanout, and mattress recycling.

PRIVATE WORKS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005-Clause 217(1) (a4)]

In accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Act, 1993 Council from time to time carries out work on privately owned land in accordance with the fee structure adopted as part of the management plan at the beginning of the year. There were no works carried out during the year that required a resolution from Council (in accordance with Section 67 2(b) of the Local Government Act, 1993) to waive or reduce the fees charged under this section.

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

[Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (e)]

Council did not levy a stormwater management charge in 2020/2021, however, Council undertook the following stormwater management works as part of its Annual Operational Plan.

Stormwater Drainage Works 2020/1 financial year

- Maintenance \$2,862,770

Capital Works

- New Subdivisions \$292,816
- Roadworks \$166,604
- Detention Basin Works \$26,921
- Perthville Levee Banks \$681,221

Total 2020/2021 \$4,030,332

NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Council has identified its water, sewer and waste activities as Category 1 business activities. Council has not identified any Category 2 businesses. A summary has been prepared in accordance with the NSW Government Policy Statement 'Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government' and the Office of Local Government guidelines 'Pricing & Costing for Council Businesses: A Guide to Competitive Neutrality'.

The summary is provided in the 'Notes Forming Part of the Special Purpose Financial Reports' and 'Income Statements' shown in the Special Purpose Financial Statement. (Part of the Financial Statements document which forms part of this Annual Report.)

The following progress has been made on the implementation of competitive neutrality principles: Category 1 businesses have:

- been identified
- had strategic Business Plans prepared
- been separated within Council's reporting system
- had competitive neutrality pricing requirements applied, including calculation of tax equivalents, debt guarantee fees and appropriate rates of return on capital.



Ben Chifley Dam



ENVIRONMENTAL, PLANNING & BUILDING SERVICES

MAJOR STUDIES AND STRATEGIES 2020/2021

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 the Region special and outlines how growth and change in land uses will be managed into the future. The LSPS is a new requirement under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, and 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 2020/21:

- Bathurst Town Centre Master plan - Council is yet to finalise its position "Futureproofing our CBD" in relation to the Master Plan.
- Health and Knowledge Precinct Discussion Paper
- Laurence Drive Extension to Great Western Highway
- CBD off street car parking usage surveys.

Work commenced on the preparation of:

- Hereford Street corridor investigations.

Urban Design Projects

Council was successful in attracting a grant of \$767,884 under the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces program for the Bathurst Streets as shared spaces pilot project in William and Church Streets and Ribbon Gang Lane. Works are due for completion in 2021/22.

Council has commenced a review of the region's village plans.

PLANNING CONTROL AMENDMENTS

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

- Open space Planning Proposal to implement the recommendations of the 2040 Open Space Strategy.
- Minor amendments to: clarify schedule 2 exempt development; update the lot size map legend and zone the Eusdale Nature Reserve to E1 National Parks and Nature Reserves.
- Insert Natural Disaster clause.
- Listing of moveable and monumental heritage items

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

- Various housekeeping updates.

Work commenced on other key amendments to Council's planning controls including:



- Implementation of the Laffing Waters Master Plan.
- Implementation of the Bathurst Heritage Conservation Area review.

DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTION PLANS

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

HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Council's Strategic Planning Section continued to implement the Bathurst Region Heritage Plan 2017-2020.

Key projects and programs included:

- Heritage Advisory service – free advice to property owners to encourage the maintenance and conservation of the region's heritage – 125 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. Forty-seven (47) projects completed at a value of \$535,055.
- The Bathurst Region Conservation and Interpretation Fund – a small grants program to encourage the interpretation and promotion of the region's heritage. Ten (10) projects completed at value of \$95,420.
- The Bathurst CBD Main Street Improvement Fund – a small grants program to encourage maintenance and improvements to buildings in the Bathurst CBD. Eight (8) projects completed at a value of \$172,951.
- The Bathurst Macquarie Heritage Medal Project/ Scholarship (grant of \$10,000) for 2021 did not proceed.

Other key projects completed in 2020/21 included:

- Chifley House Maintenance Plan

- Archaeological Assessment for 128 Bentinck Street.
- 11 Pillars of Bathurst were launched (from 2020).

Work commenced on the following projects:

- Interpretation Plan for the Mount Panorama Wahluu Boardwalk.
- Conservation Management Plan for the former Ambulance Station.
- Conservation Management Plan for the former St Martin's Church at Perthville

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

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

The Interpretation Plan for the Mount Panorama Wahluu Boardwalk included stories from the Bathurst Region Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation Strategy.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Meet Council's responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act 1998 by continuing to provide community programs relating to responsible pet ownership.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4, 5.2, 5.4	
Complete Responsible Pet Ownership community programs	Two Community desexing programs conducted	The first community desexing program was completed in November 2020, with a total of 90 animals desexed. The second program was completed in June 2021 with a total of 105 animals desexed.
	Pet Education event held	Pet education activities were delayed due to the restrictions for events under the Public Health Order. Event now planned for 9 July 2021 in conjunction with Bathurst Winter Festival activities.
Maintain and enhance areas for off-leash recreation for dogs	Educational radio interviews conducted weekly	Regular radio interviews undertaken throughout the reporting period.
	Educational social media posts conducted monthly	16 educational Facebook posts made between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.
	Maintain Kefford Street Off Leash areas fortnightly	Off leash areas maintained by contractors throughout the reporting period.
Meet Council's responsibilities under the Companion Animals Act 1998 and Impounding Act 1993 by promptly responding to customer requests and implementing enforcement action for breaches.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4, 5.4	
Investigate animal related complaints, including matters reported after hours	95% of customer requests responded to within adopted corporate standards	98.13% of customer requests responded to within adopted corporate standards for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.
Undertake regulatory action consistent with Council's Enforcement Policy for identified breaches	100% response to customer requests reported out of hours	1100 customer requests were investigated during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.
		100% of customer requests responded to out of hours
Meet Council's responsibilities under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 and the Impounding Act 1993 in the operation of the Small and Large Animal Impounding Facilities.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4	
Operate Small Animal Pound at Vale Road site.	Implement social media program to promote rehoming of impounded dogs and cats	44 adoption posts were made between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021. 36 "feel good furiday" posts were made between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.
	Increase the % of impounded dogs returned to owner or sold or released to welfare organisation	81.70% of dogs were returned to owner, sold or released to welfare organisations in the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. This is an increase from 76.1% in the previous reporting period.
	Increase the % of impounded cats returned to owner or sold or released to welfare organisation	69.83% of cats were returned to owner, sold or released to welfare organisations in the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. This is an increase from 47.24% in the previous reporting period.

New Small Animal Impounding Facility designed and construction commenced.	Construction 50% completed by 1 April 2021	Development application and construction certificate have been approved. Council awarded the contract at the ordinary Council meeting in June 2021. The project inception meeting was held on 25 June 2021, with site works to commence in mid-July 2021. Delayed due to longer than anticipated design process.
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Meet Council's responsibilities under the Road Rules 2014 and Fines Act 1996.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4, 4.4, 5.2, 5.4	
Monitor and enforce parking regulations on public roads. Implement a community education program regarding the Australian Road Rules.	Daily monitoring undertaken Educational social media posts conducted monthly	Frequent monitoring undertaken, with enforcement focusing on high priority areas such as no stopping zones and disabled parking spaces. Transition to pre-covid enforcement commenced in April 2021, with advice to the community made through a media release and social media posts. Seven educational posts made between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.

Meet Council's contractual obligations under the Local Government Act 1993 in monitoring and enforcing parking regulations in off street car parks.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4, 5.2	
Monitor and enforce parking regulations in off street car parks in accordance with contractual obligations.	100% compliance with contractual obligations.	Monitoring of car parks undertaken during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, with enforcement focusing on high priority areas such as no stopping and disabled parking areas. Transition to pre-covid enforcement commenced in April 2021.

Meet Council's responsibilities under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 6.4, 1.4	
Investigate customer requests and pollution incidents. Undertake regulatory action consistent with Council's Enforcement Policy for identified breaches.	95% of customer requests responded to within adopted corporate standards.	98.99% of customer requests responded to within adopted corporate standards for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. 299 customer requests were registered with Council in the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.
Undertake educational programs to enhance community knowledge.	Monthly posts on the @sustainablebathurst Facebook page.	Monthly posts focused on themes such as water restrictions, litter prevention projects and illegal dumping incidents. 11.15% of people reached engaged with the post (i.e. commented, clicked, liked or shared)

Continue to improve the community's awareness and capacity with regard to environmental sustainability.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	3.3, 3.5, 6.1	
Communicate sustainability messages via a range of on-line and traditional media sources	Weekly posts on the @sustainablebathurst Facebook page	An average of two posts per week between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021. Likes for page have increased from 1384 to 1620 during the period. Average reach is 3762 and average clicks is 385.
Conduct sustainability education programs	<p>Conduct Sustainable Living Expo in March 2021</p> <p>Conduct a sustainability education program targeting primary school aged students by December 2020</p>	<p>Implementation of the "Get Grubby" schools education program ongoing, with 23 schools signed up for the program. The "Get Grubby" for family's program was also launched in October 2020 with 107 families signing up to the program. Active engagement with the program for both schools and families is above average for the nationally available program.</p> <p>The SLE 2021 took place on 27 March 2021 with an estimated 4000 people in attendance. The Friday night event was popular and provided an excellent forum for education regarding minimising food waste and considering the source of food products.</p> <p>Local primary schools hosted the Enviromentors program in March and May 2021 across 10 days with 35 sessions presented. The program was delayed until 2021 to meet the needs of the schools due to Covid-19.</p>

Implement Council's Onsite Sewage Management Strategy and meet Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 1993.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	3.1, 3.2, 6.4	
Conduct inspections and issue approvals for existing onsite sewage management systems without approvals or requiring renewal	Increase the number of onsite sewage management systems with a current approval to operate	<p>Inspection program is ongoing with a focus on high risk systems and systems where the ownership is changing due to sale of the property.</p> <p>285 approvals to operate have been issued for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.</p>

Meet Council's obligations under the Local Government Act 1993 and community expectations to manage, restore, enhance and conserve the natural environment.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	3.1.3.4, 3.5, 1.4	
Implement the Urban Waterways Management Plan	Implement a priority project identified in the Urban Waterways Management Plan.	UWMP projects have focused on works in Hawthornden Creek and Raglan Creek catchments. Weed control, slashing and other maintenance activities undertaken during December 2020. Further revegetation maintenance activities undertaken in May 2021.
Implement the Biodiversity Management Plan	Implement a priority project identified in the Biodiversity Management Plan.	The Backyard Bird Count in association with Birdlife Australia was successfully promoted and completed in October 2020. 8325 birds were counted in one week by 184 participants. The count contributes to Council's understanding of bird populations and is relevant to both biodiversity and pest bird management.
Implement the Pest Bird Management Plan	Implement a priority project identified in the Pest Bird Management Plan	Nest box program commenced in late 2020 increase available habitat for Native birds within the urban areas. 246 Nestboxes and insect hotels had been provided to the Bathurst community during the program.
Implement the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan	Implement a priority project in the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan	<p>A myna bird trapping research program was conducted in early Spring 2020.</p> <p>Pigeon removal works were conducted in November 2020 removing 187 pigeons, in March 2021 removing 136 pigeons and in June 2021 removing 132 pigeons from the CBD.</p> <p>Signage received for high conservation value sections of roadway identified in the RVMP. Installation to commence in July 2021.</p>

Implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at Council facilities.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	3.5, 3.3, 6.6	
Implement the Renewable Energy Action Plan	Implement a priority project identified in the Renewable Energy Action Plan	<p>The installation of a 90kWh solar array at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre was completed in July 2020.</p> <p>The installation of an additional 10.3kW of solar panels, and a 13kW battery was completed at Scallywags in July 2020.</p> <p>Contract was awarded in October 2020 for the installation of a 40kW solar array and 25kW battery storage system at the Bathurst Rail Museum. The NSW Heritage Office refused Council's s60 permit application on aesthetic grounds, and an appeal is currently underway. Installation of 24kW of the array and battery storage was completed in June 2021.</p> <p>A contract was awarded in May 2021 for the installation of a 44kW solar array at the Waste Management Centre. Installation to commence in July 2021.</p>

Meet Council's obligations under the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Fisheries Management Act 1994 and Water Management Act 2000.

Meet Council's obligations under SEPP55 and related planning policies.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	3.1, 3.4, 6.4, 1.4, 4.6	
Ensure the assessment of development applications meets all of the requirements of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016, Fisheries Management Act 1994, Vegetation SEPP and Koala SEPP	Number of development applications assessed and professional advice provided.	250 development applications were assigned for environmental assessment between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021. Advice was provided throughout the reporting period for various Council activities and their implications under the Biodiversity Conservation Act.
Ensure that Council activities are compliant with the requirements of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016	Council policies and plans are reviewed and updated where required to ensure consistency with current legislation	Council also investigated 19 customer requests relating to alleged breaches of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.
Ensure the assessment of development applications meets all of the requirements of SEPP55 and Council's Contaminated Land Policy	Assess vegetation removal applications in urban zones in accordance with the vegetation SEPP in Council's DCP. Professional advice provided including pre-DA advice on contaminated land matters	A new web-based enquiry process was developed in August 2020 which has streamlined the enquiry and application process for vegetation removal. 29 enquiries were processed by 30 June 2021. Advice provided on a regular basis. Staff have participated in technical training in contaminated land management during April and May 2021.

Contribute to the development of Bathurst as a Smart City.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	2.3, 3.3, 5.2	
Establish the Bathurst Region as an EV charging destination	Implement a priority project to meet NSW plan targets	The Electric Vehicle transition plan has been reviewed by GM and Department Heads and implementation has commenced. The Bathurst Region now has 6 Tesla superchargers and one Tesla destination charger; Eight Universal chargers (BVIC, Courthouse Lane, Bathurst Rail Museum, Armada Shopping Centre and Bathurst Showground).

Meet Council's statutory reporting obligations under the Local Government Act 1993.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	3.3, 3.5, 6.4, 3.1	
Monitor the operational footprint of Council's operations and report on trends identified.	Collate data and prepare reports on Environmental data on an annual basis	Trends in Council's operational footprint included in the monthly report prepared for internal review, with annual data included in the State of Environment (SOE) reporting.
Measure and collate the trends in environmental condition across the Local Government Area		The Regional SOE and Bathurst SOE were presented to Council at its ordinary meeting in November 2020 and are available to view on Council's website.

Meet Council's obligations in the Food Regulation Partnership and the Food Act 2003.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4, 5.4	
Conduct a program of inspections of food premises including home-based food premises to ensure compliance with regulations	<p>Conduct an inspection of all high and medium risk food premises by June 2021</p> <p>Implement a risk based inspection program for home-based food premises</p> <p>Prepare and distribute educational material on food safety three times annually</p> <p>95% of customer requests responded to within adopted corporate standards</p>	<p>Food inspection program ongoing throughout the reporting period 2021. 287 routine inspections and 215 inspections of temporary food premises were undertaken between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021.</p> <p>In November 2020 educational food safety calendars were distributed to all food businesses. December 2020 business registration forms were update and received from participating businesses. Newsletters were sent in February and May 2021.</p> <p>19 customer requests were registered with Council during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 with 94.73% of customer requests were responded to within adopted corporate standards.</p>

Meet Council's obligations under the Public Health Act 2010 and associated regulations.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.4, 5.4	
Conduct a program of inspections of skin penetration premises, public swimming and spa pools and cooling towers	<p>Conduct an inspection of all skin penetration premises</p> <p>Conduct an inspection of all public swimming pools and spa pools</p> <p>Implement the activities identified as Council's role in Legionella management and the inspection of cooling towers</p> <p>95% of customer requests responded to within adopted corporate standards</p>	<p>Skin penetration premises were not inspected between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021 unless a complaint was received, as staff were focused on other priority areas given Covid-19. NSW Health conducted inspections of skin penetration premises during September 2020 to ensure compliance with the Public Health Order.</p> <p>Public swimming pool inspections will recommence in Spring 2021. Many facilities were closed for all or part of the reporting period due to Covid-19.</p> <p>Liaison with operators of cooling towers was ongoing during the reporting period. Council has an up to date register of premises and has completed tasks related to the risk management plans.</p> <p>88 customer requests were registered with Council during the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021, with 97.73% responded to within adopted corporate standards.</p>

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Prepare relevant planning proposals to ensure Council's planning controls remain relevant and up to date.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.5, 2.1, 3.3, 4.6, 5.5, 6.4	
Prepare draft LEP and DCP amendments	Planning proposals referred to NSW Department of Planning & Environment for gazettal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LEP Amendment: Moveable and Monumental Heritage. Gateway determination received. Adopted by Council. Forwarded to DPIE for gazettal. Advice received from DPIE that Council will not be able to proceed with listing of 'collections'. An amended LEP amendment is being finalised. 2. LEP Amendment: Open Space. Gateway determination received. Adopted by Council. Gazetted. 3. LEP and DCP Amendment: Laffing Waters Master Plan. Planning Proposal being prepared. 4. LEP and DCP Amendment: Heritage Conservation Area Review. Awaiting Gateway Determination from DPIE. 5. DCP Amendment Housekeeping - adopted by Council 3 February 2021. 6. DCP amendment – mapping review – project underway. 7. s.3.22 Application – Minor amendment to Schedule 2 - Minor clarification required to Schedule 2 – Exempt Development – Gazetted. 8. s.3.22 Application – Minor amendment to Schedule 2 - Minor clarification required to Schedule 2 – Exempt Development – Gazetted. 9. Natural Disasters Standard LEP clause – Council adopted to have standard clause inserted into the LEP - 3 February 2021. New Clause came into effect on 23 June 2021. 10. S.3.22 Application - update lot size map legend - gazetted. 11. Community Participation Plan Amendment – to update notification procedures for new development adjacent to rural heritage items – public exhibition completed. 12. Housekeeping DCP Amendment - Make administrative updates - draft DCP amendment being prepared.

Investigate relevant land use and planning issues of the Bathurst Region.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.5, 2.1, 3.3, 4.6, 5.5, 6.4	
Prepare studies and plans.	Draft studies/plans are well underway by 30 June 2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bathurst Town Centre Master Plan. Council response to the Master Plan prepared "Futureproofing our CBD" and placed on exhibition until 24 May 2021. Submissions being collated. 2. Health and Knowledge Precinct Discussion Paper. Discussion paper received and finalised. 3. Village Plans. Investigations and research underway. Consultation for Rockley, Sofala and Peel completed. Heritage review for Rockley, Sofala and Peel completed. Draft Plans being prepared for Rockley, Sofala and Peel. 4. Bathurst Streets as Shared Spaces Pilot Project – Construction contractors engaged, with works to be undertaken in June/July/August 2021. Communication of the commencement of works ongoing. 5. Hereford St Corridor investigations – Investigations underway. Additional traffic surveys undertaken. Report received and additional advice being sought. To be presented to Council working party July 2021. 6. Lawrence Drive Extension to GWH investigations - Completed. 7. CBD Car Parking Survey – survey to determine utilisation rates of the off street car parks within the CBD – December survey completed. June survey completed.

Review and update Council's section 7.11 plans.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	4.1, 4.6, 6.4	
Review existing or prepare new s7.11 Plans	Draft plans considered and adopted by Council	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Final report and section 7.11 plan received.

Implement the Bathurst Regional Heritage Plan		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 4.6, 5.5	
Provide a Heritage Advisory Service	Number of site visits undertaken by the heritage advisory service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2020/21 site visits: 125 (Due to Covid-19 some site visits are occurring on-line/virtually) 2. Review of guidelines and production of a video/webinar for preparation of Statement of Heritage Impact underway. 3. Preparation of guidelines and production of a video/webinar for the preparation of heritage interpretation strategies underway.

Provide heritage incentive funding programs to protect, maintain, enhance and promote the regions heritage assets.	Value of works generated from Council's incentive funds	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bathurst Region Local heritage fund 2020/21-47 project completed with a total project value of \$535,055. Applications for the 2021/22 fund closed and being assessed. 2. Bathurst Region Conservation and Interpretation Fund 2020/21-10 projects completed with a total project value of \$95,420. Applications for the 2021/22 fund closed and being assessed. 3. Bathurst CBD Main Street Improvement Fund 2020/21 - 8 projects completed at a value of \$172,951. Applications for the 2021/22 fund closed and being assessed.
Prepare and implement projects for the interpretation and display of cultural heritage and history information	New interpretative/promotional information made available.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mount Panorama (Wahluu Boardwalk) - Interpretation Plan inclusive of text for signage at lookout and along the walk drafted - comments from Plan Partners received. Contractor engaged to design and manufacture stage 1 signage. Content for stage 1 being finalised. 2. Pillars of Bathurst project paused for 2021. 2020 Pillars announced at 2021 Proclamation Day. Nominations for new Pillars in 2022 open until end of October 2021
Prepare research/studies into the region's heritage values	Studies/plans considered and adopted by Council. Number of local heritage items included in the Local Environmental Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bathurst Region Heritage Plan review Draft plan prepared. Workshop with Heritage Reference Groups held on 28 April 2021.

DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT

Ensure the assessment of development and other applications, in accordance with planning instruments, development control plans and policies, occurs within appropriate timeframes.

2040 Strategy Reference	4.5, 4.1, 4.6, 6.4				
Process all development applications within statutory time frames set out in the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979	To be at or below the state average for determination times of development applications		NSW State Average 2017-18	Bathurst Regional Council June 2021	Bathurst Regional Council year to date average
		Average gross days taken to determine a DA	84	41.79	54.60
		Average nett days taken to determine a DA	47	40.90	43.94
	To be at or below the state average of determination times for complying development		NSW State Average 2017- 2018	Bathurst Regional Council June 2021	Bathurst Regional Council year to date average
		Average days taken to determine a CDC	15	5.71	4.37

ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH PROGRAMS

Council actively engaged with the community in 2020/2021 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. These activities are supported by routine inspections of food and skin penetration premises, and implementation of Council's Onsite 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 updated and 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 2020 and the Bathurst Backyard Ranger program which included the provision of 246 nest boxes and insect hotels for local residents. Throughout the year the @sustainablebathurst Facebook page was used to communicate, educate and promote sustainability in the Bathurst Region. More than 2000 people attended the Sustainable Living Expo in March 2021.

Council implemented several projects to address high priority actions which have been identified in Council's Pest Bird Management Plan, Biodiversity Management Plan and Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. Two key projects completed in 2020/2021 included commencement on construction of a rehabilitation and enhancement project at the Brick Pit wetlands and weed removal and rehabilitation on the Bridle Track. Pigeon removal activities took place throughout 2020/2021 with 455 pigeons removed. Natural environment activities focused on maintenance works and revegetation in various urban tributaries of Sawpit and Raglan Creeks.

During 2020/2021 the bulk lamp replacement of streetlights with LED luminaires commenced in November 2019 with 5715 replaced by the end of June 2021. 140 Heritage Lamp Standards and heritage park area lights were replaced with energy efficient LED luminaires. Actions identified in Council's Renewable Energy Action Plan were implemented during the year including energy efficiency projects such as lighting replacements at the Civic Centre and Bathurst Manning Aquatic Centre. The installation of renewable energy infrastructure continued with major projects including a 90kW solar array installed at the Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre in July 2020 and expansion of the Bathurst Railway Museum solar array to 32kWh (from 10kWh) with a 27kWh battery in May 2021. The total solar energy capacity on Council facilities was 593kW. Council also supported the preparation of an Electric Vehicle Infrastructure mapping project with other Central

NSW Councils.

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428A]

The 2020/2021 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, rather than annually as previously required. 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 will participate 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 on across the most recent four year period.

The 2019/2020 Bathurst State of the Environment Report (SOE Report) was available on Council's website from 30 November 2020. The new SOE Report will be available on Council's website from 30 November 2021.

PLANNING AGREEMENTS

[Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 - Section 7.4]

Council agreed to enter 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.

COMPANION ANIMALS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428, Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 217(1) (f)]

LODGEMENT OF POUND DATA COLLECTION RETURN

Council lodged its 2020/2021 Survey of Council seizure of cats and dogs with the Office of Local Government in July 2020.

DOG ATTACKS

Council, during 2020/2021 financial year, notified the Office of Local Government of 24 dog attacks.

COMPANION ANIMALS MANAGEMENT AND ACTIVITIES

Council's budgeted expenditure on Companion Animal management and activities for 2020/2021 was \$557,121. 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 2021. 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 \$21,705 this year towards this program and encourages eligible residents with pets to take advantage of this opportunity. Council has allocated a further \$22,000 in the 2021/2022 Budget to continue this program.

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;
- Desexing program;
- Community Education Program including social media posts;
- Rehoming program with the RSPCA;
- Partnerships with other rescue organisations and
- A volunteer program which assists in exercising and socialising impounded dogs, assisting in the transition to a new forever home.

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 \$53,311 from the Companion Animals Fund. Activities where these funds were expended include:

Dog registration clerk salary	\$55,531
Dog Pound expenses	\$34,379
Dog Microchipping expenses	\$7,588
Dog Community Desexing program	\$21,705
Cat Impounding expenses	\$0

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Implementation of the Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022 and associated actions.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 4.1, 4.5, 5.5, 6.3	
Nurture economic infrastructure development by supporting the development of the aerodrome, industrial precincts and telecommunications.	Seek funding for economic infrastructure projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal Regional Connectivity Program reviewed. Not suitable at present. - Aerodrome promotional prospectus completed - DA under assessment for Kelso Industrial Estate expansion (\$4.8M Drought Stimulus Fund) - Aerodrome Expansion list of funded projects under discussion with grant authority (Growing Local Economies Fund \$2.9M)
Market-leading promotional campaigns to increase residential relocations and a sense of place.	<p>Continued support for joint regional relocation campaigns.</p> <p>All 4 entrance billboards and welcome signs updated/maintained as required.</p> <p>Lifestyle promotional content created/updated. including the Bathurst Region website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 entrance billboards updated with Doors Open branding - Collaboration with NSW Regional Cities on new relocation campaign. Meeting held with Bathurst indicating conditional support. - Lifestyle promotional content will be added to the Bathurst Business Hub website. - A resident attraction brochure will be available by the end of 2021
Support local businesses and start-ups through engagement, support and economic programs.	<p>12 eNewsletters issued.</p> <p>Cluster Strategy developed and cluster groups activated.</p> <p>Run BizMonth, Buy Local Gift Cards and Business Leaders Lunch programs.</p> <p>Bathurst Business Hub website updated/maintained.</p> <p>Attendance at 75% of Business Chamber After-Hours events.</p> <p>Representation at all "Upstairs Start-up Hub" board meetings. Promote resources to businesses including the ID websites and Spendmapp</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12 eNewsletters sent in the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. - Cluster Strategy completed. Ready for implementation - BizMonth held in September, with more than a dozen events and the BizMonth Lunch attracting 80 attendees - Representation at all virtual Business Chamber events to date - All Upstairs Startup hub board meetings attended to date - Planning underway Biz Month Sep 2021

Grow local employment, investment and attract new businesses	<p>Organise the Bathurst Jobs Expo with minimum 40 stalls and 1,500 attendees.</p> <p>Minimum of 60 new local jobs promoted each month</p> <p>Develop relocation proposals, relocation materials and support the relocation of new businesses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1,276 jobs posted on Evojobs for period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 - Bathurst Jobs Expo cancelled due to Covid restrictions. Planning underway for Careers Expo (former Jobs Expo) for Aug 2021 - Ongoing support for the relocation of numerous businesses in manufacturing and IT industries
<p>Develop Bathurst into a Smart Community of national significance.</p> <p>Support innovative practices from industry.</p>	<p>Monthly Project Group meetings held.</p> <p>Seek funding and roll out Smart Community priority projects.</p> <p>Promote Bathurst as a Smart Community through marketing campaigns and speaking at events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly meetings held to date - Discussions ongoing with various IT software development firms to be based in Bathurst - Selection of locations for placement of Smart Benches (Community Building Partnerships Grant). Finalisation of quotes. - Quote sought for the placement of parking sensors on William Street and associated network infrastructure - Investigations ongoing for the use of CCTV cameras for people and vehicle counting

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS/STRATEGIES

Smart Community Development

- Continued rollout of Smart Community Projects, cementing Bathurst's reputation as an emerging Innovation Centre.
- CCTV stage 2 complete incorporating 8 additional cameras and connection to the Bathurst Police Station;
- CCTV stage 3 commenced running CCTV cable on Havannah Street from the Rail Museum to the new Collections Facility.
- The rollout of 5,000 new LED streetlights throughout the city completed;
- 26 start-up businesses operating at the Upstairs Start-up Hub with Council as an active Foundation Partner;
- Purchase and installation of smart benches across a number of locations.
- Mitsubishi PHEV trial ongoing;
- Ongoing strategic partnership with the University of Wollongong's SMART Infrastructure Facility and investigations for joint projects underway to develop sensors for use in traffic management in the CBD;
- Part of the national funding bid for a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) "Future Cities";
- Monthly meeting of the Smart Community Project Group (cross-departmental)
- Active members of the Australian Smart Communities Association (ASCA) and the Smart Cities Council.
- This year Economic Development purchased Spendmapp. Spendmapp uses card transaction data to measure consumer spending, of both locals and visitors, in a geographic area over time. This data can be used for grant applications, event evaluation and monitor changes in night time and visitor economies. It can also be used to show "cash leakage" through online shopping and residents shopping in other LGA's.
- In addition to Spendmapp, Economic Development partnered with the Bathurst Visitor and Information Centre to purchase another software tool, Localis. Localis provides information on visitors to LGA's, where they come from, how long they stay for and their financial status. Used in conjunction with Spendmapp, accurate event reports can now be undertaken.
- Mobile black spots at Wattle Flat, Sunny Corner and Limekilns being resolved in Round 4 of the Mobile Black Spots Program.

Sponsorship, Funding and Grants

- 1.9m grant approved for the Aerodrome under the Growing Local Economies Fund
- Sponsorship secured from Commonwealth Bank, CSU, Verto, Rydges, 2BS B-Rock and the Central West Careers Advisers Association across the numerous 2020/2021 economic programs.
- \$10,000 NSW Festival of Place grant (refer also Business Support Programs).
- \$1,000 BizMonth grant from the NSW Government to assist with the seminars conducted as part of BizMonth.

Business Support Programs

- Continued growth of the Bathurst Buy Local Gift Card Program:
 - 135 businesses participating in the program
 - 3,264 cards load with \$257,525 in 2020/2021
 - \$188,851 spent in local businesses in 2020/2021
 - December 2020 saw the highest monthly sales ever with \$107,661 loaded onto 1,429 cards
- Approximately 900 active local businesses on Council's Business database with 12 eNewsletters sent out (one for each month) and numerous business alerts to promote Council projects;
- BizMonth held in September 2020 in partnership with the Western Advocate, 2BS B-Rock, Rotary Club of Bathurst, Bathurst City Life, Central West Business HQ and the Bathurst Business Chamber. Major events/promotions included Crazy Day and Corporate Duck Race.
- For the first time the Bizmonth Business Lunch speaker (Gus Balbontin) spoke remotely from Melbourne due to Covid restrictions. Whilst numbers were down those present thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.
- Due to Covid restrictions the 2020 Jobs Expo was cancelled.
- Bathurst Business Hub facebook site, Bathurst Region (live section) and Evocities websites regularly updated and refreshed with new information.
- Ran the Doors Open Campaign to encourage local retail spending post the March/April 2020 Covid lockdown. The campaign demonstrated Council's support for local businesses and its commitment to promoting the continued and often altered operations of these businesses. Advertising was undertaken on radio, TV, print and social media. The campaign concluded in December 2020.
- Musicians in the Park: Funded by the NSW Festival of Place grant. This initiative had musicians perform in Kings Parade from February 2021 to April 2021 during Friday and Saturday lunchtimes and evenings.

New Residents and Evocities

- 793 jobs loaded on Evojobs;
- All Operations Group meetings and Steering Committee meetings attended (2020 virtually)
- Welcome Wagon Mayoral Receptions held 17 May 2021 with 32 people in attendance. Covid restrictions prevented the November 2020 event from being held.

New Business Attraction, advocacy and promotion

- Successful in working with Leading Edge Pty Ltd from initial contact, locating a suitable site to build their infrastructure and through to DA submissions and approval.
- Coordination and approval for 12 filming and photography projects including Better Homes and Gardens and Farmer Wants a Wife.
- Representation for Council at numerous events, including Bathurst Business events, CSU functions and other industry events.
- Continued partnerships with NSW Government to support and promote the Small Biz Business Month.
- Hosted the Bathurst Business Chamber Christmas event at the Bathurst Rail Museum with 40 attendees.
- Worked with Service NSW to assist small business to register for the NSW Dine and Discover Vouchers. Registered the BRC Events and Museums teams for the NSW Dine and Discover Vouchers.

Economic Development Strategies

- Industry Cluster Strategy presented to Council. The Industry Cluster Strategic Plan supports the business community to develop links that encourage business attraction and expansion, develop competitive supply chains, invest in upskilling the workforce and attract investment.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PRESENTATIONS

- Held over 80 meetings with local business and industry stakeholders and potential future businesses in the six months to June 2021.
- Presented to a number of stakeholder groups, including the Bathurst Business Chamber on the role of economic development at BRC and the state of the economy.

SIGNAGE

- Doors Open Campaign on billboards approaching city limits.



CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Bathurst Regional Council supports a vibrant culture and community. Lifestyle in the Bathurst Region is enriched by providing a diverse range of cultural facilities and programs and by promoting cultural diversity. Community well-being is promoted through social planning, community development and ensuring access to community services.

CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Work in partnership with key stakeholders to develop administer and deliver community planning that reflects the strengths and needs of specific sectors and the community as a whole.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.5 - 6.3	
Undertake the actions identified in the Bathurst Community Safety Plan in partnership with the Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee.	<p>Provide administrative support to 4 meetings of the Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee.</p> <p>Relevant campaigns / projects developed and implemented as per actions identified in the Bathurst Community Safety Plan.</p>	<p>YTD six (6) Community Safety Committee meetings held.</p> <p>YTD three (3) campaigns undertaken in accordance with the Bathurst Community Safety Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Break and Enter Dwelling Campaign launched 27 November 2020 as part of NSW Crime Prevention Grant • Steal from Motor Vehicle Campaign • Neighbour Day Campaign



Implementation of the strategies and actions identified in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) that address each of the four focus areas of the plan 2017-2021.	Undertake monthly review to determine number of actions in progress or complete. Research and draft second DIAP 2022-2027	Review of actions and strategies listed in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan undertaken. YTD 22 of 50 actions in progress (44%) YTD 11 actions complete (22%) While Covid-19 has had an impact on the DIAP with 21 out of the 50 actions affected (42%), many actions are “ongoing” and remain a priority for Council. Research and drafting of second DIAP commenced in May 2021.
Research and Draft Positive Ageing Strategy	First draft completed by 30 June 2021	The Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2021 – 2026 was presented to Council in June 2021. Public exhibition of the Draft Positive Ageing Strategy 2021 – 2026 commenced in June 2021.

The provision of the Kelso Community Hub as a safe community hub and venue for outreach service provision that meet the needs of the community.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	5.1, 4.3, 1.3, 5.4, 6.2, 6.3	
Continue to provide ongoing review of service delivery for future direction of Kelso Community Hub.	Facilitate 2 meetings with Kelso Community Hub stakeholders. Provide 2 Kelso Community Hub update reports to Council.	YTD Two (2) stakeholder meetings held, November 2020 and April 2021. YTD Two (2) Kelso Community Hub update reports provided to Council, 21 October 2020 and 16 June 2021.
Encourage and facilitate the use of the Kelso Community Hub by outside services, organisations and businesses to meet the needs of the community.	Gaps in service provision identified and proactive contact made with appropriate services to meet these identified gaps at the Hub.	YTD sixteen (16) services have been proactively contracted to meet identified needs.

Develop and provide programs and activities that meet the identified needs of the community	Deliver the breakfast program 3 days per week during school terms	Breakfast Program did not operate during June 2021 due to Covid-19. YTD zero (0) days Breakfast Program has operated due to Covid-19.
	Source three external services to deliver school holiday activities each school holiday period	YTD two (2) school holiday activities undertaken. The numbers are reduced due to Covid-19.

Value and support opportunities for young people to understand the processes of Local Government and be involved in relevant projects.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	5.1, 5.3, 1.3, 6.2, 6.3, 6.7	
Value and support opportunities for young people to understand the processes of Local Government and be involved in relevant projects	Facilitation of 6 Bathurst Regional Youth Council meetings, including attendance numbers	YTD seven (7) Youth Council meetings have been held, with a total of 65 participants in attendance.
	Undertake at least 6 youth initiatives, activities, programs and events including attendance numbers.	YTD seven (7) face to face initiatives have been undertaken with a total of 70 participants. Online initiatives have been held with 1,082 people engaged.

Provision of high quality child care facilities to cater for children aged 0-12 years in the Bathurst Community.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4	
Update policies and procedures to ensure alignment with: 1. Education and Care Services National Quality Standards. 2. Education and Care Services National Regulations and Law	25% of policies reviewed.	Annual policy review completed for all Children's Services policies and procedures. Policies provided to Council for adoption in July 2021. YTD 100% Policies reviewed.
	Develop Quality Improvement Plans (QIP) aligning with Self-Assessment Tools	Family Day Care Assessment Tool commenced during June 2021. YTD Family Day Care QIP complete. YTD Scallywags QIP/Self-Assessment completed.

Promotion of Children's Services.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference		
Build community awareness of services offered by Children Services section	Undertake one annual promotional initiative for the section.	YTD five (5) annual promotional initiatives have taken place. Facebook was used to promote long day care and activities the services had been engaging in, including Healthy Harold, and National Reconciliation Week
	Facilitate 3 marketing mechanisms	YTD nine (9) marketing mechanisms have been undertaken using the Children's Services Facebook page.
	Facilitate 1 marketing mechanism relating to transition to school programs	YTD two (2) marketing mechanisms relating to transition to school programs have been facilitated.

The provision of Council's Children Services, setting a benchmark for education and care in the Bathurst LGA.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference		
Ongoing review of service delivery for future growth of occupancy rates of all services.	Facilitate 1 survey for Family Day Care (FDC) for review of service delivery.	YTD no survey completed for Family Day Care. Extensive communications with families and FDC educators during Covid-19 resulting in altered business practices, no survey deemed necessary.
	Facilitate 1 survey for Long Day Care (LDC) for review of service delivery.	YTD two (2) family surveys sent to Scallywags families.
	Provide 1 Children's Services update report to Council	YTD one (1) report submitted to Council.
Maintain occupancy rates within Children's Services	75% occupancy rate for long day care	YTD current occupancy rate at 92%
Build profile of Family Day Care (FDC) Scheme in the Bathurst Community	10% increase on 2019/2020 occupancy rate in Family Day Care	YTD fifty-eight (58) new families registered with the service. YTD a decrease of 8%, from 2019/2020 occupancy level due to Covid-19. Reduction of occupancy levels from previous year due to the loss of approx.. ten educators due to retirement, Covid-19, medically retired, maternity leave and leaving the industry. This impact on the number of children in care. Campaign to recruit Educators will be rolled out in 2021/2022.

Connect and collaborate with Children's Services networks locally and regionally to ensure service provision reflects strengths and needs of the sector.		
2040 Strategy Reference		
Provide community awareness activities relevant to Council's Children's Services	Facilitate 1 industry, local community forum	YTD no local community forums have been facilitated, due to Covid-19 restrictions.
	Attendance/ participation of 1 regional relevant forum	YTD five (5) attendances at regional events has occurred.

MUSEUMS UNIT

The 2020/2021 financial year saw the continued development of the Bathurst Regional Council Museums Unit, with the reopening of the museums (excluding Chifley Home) following Covid shutdowns between March and early June 2020. In preparation for the reopening, Covid plans were developed for each museum to ensure the safety of visitors and staff.

Despite restrictions to the numbers of individuals permitted in the museums at any one time this financial year saw a record number of visitors with 113,671 people enjoying our museums. This demonstrated a 97% increase on the 52,189 visits in the previous financial year. This increase was contributed to by the high-quality museum offerings and the marked increase in domestic and regional tourism.

AUSTRALIAN FOSSIL & MINERAL MUSEUM (AFMM) – HOME OF THE SOMERVILLE COLLECTION

In the 2020/2021 financial year a total of 35,718 individuals visited the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum with a turnover of \$479,705 through shop sales and admission.

Other highlights for the year included the installation of a timelapse Earth History film for the Fossil Gallery titled 'Portrait Earth'. An interactive microscope was also installed in the Mineral Gallery kindly donated by the Friends of the museum. This microscope provides an opportunity for visitors to explore selected specimens up close through a connected screen.

In collaboration with other Bathurst Regional Council teams, the museum also hosted two Inland Sea of Sound concerts in the museum carpark, a Youth Week 'Spooky Tour' and Library story time.

The Albert Chapman Collection from the Australian Museum continues to attract visitors in the temporary exhibition space. This exhibition will be returning to the Australian Museum in early 2022.

CHIFLEY HOME AND EDUCATION CENTRE

In the 2020/2021 financial year Chifley Home and Education Centre remained closed due to Covid-19 requirements. Bathurst Regional Council took this opportunity to undertake the development of a revised Conservation Management Plan along with other reports and inspections of the building in preparation for conservation works. These works are planned to commence in the 2021/2022 financial year.

BATHURST RAIL MUSEUM

In the 2020/2021 financial year a total of 40,696 individuals visited the Bathurst Rail Museum with a turnover of \$401,645 through shop sales and admissions.

The Bathurst Rail Museum celebrated the 145th anniversary of the Great Western Line arriving in Bathurst with shuttle trips in a 1960's Vintage Rail Motor running on the 3rd and 4th of April. The return of 3801 in early June after a decade absence from the Central West also generated a positive community response and helped to forge a rewarding partnership with Transport Heritage NSW.

Overall design choices continue to prove fruitful as Kids Central and the Café work well to enhance the visitor experience. This success can be seen in the growing rate of annual BRM membership sales and renewals (which totalled 405 in number). The Layout continues to engage the community as our volunteer program provides a rewarding experience for all involved. The Public Gallery has had considerable success as a hireable space with several events, including those hosted by Marathon Health and the Bathurst Historical Society, generating positive feedback.

CENTRAL TABLELANDS COLLECTIONS FACILITY (CTCF)

Construction of the Central Tablelands Collections Facility commenced in the 2020/2021 financial year. Excavation on site was completed with external work on steel and other building components underway. Completion of the build is scheduled for the first half of 2022.

NATIONAL MOTOR RACING MUSEUM (NMRM)

In the 2020/2021 financial year a total of 37,257 individuals visited the National Motor Racing Museum with a turnover of \$655,762.73 through shop sales and admission.

The 2020/2021 financial year saw the reduction of the Museum's special exhibitions program to a single new exhibition, 40th Anniversary of Dick Johnson Racing, opening in October 2020. Although the Museum was closed for the Bathurst 1000 race weekend, this exhibition was still able to gain significant media exposure and served to attract large numbers of visitors and retail sales for the remainder of the financial year.



145th Anniversary of the Great Western Line

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.

ATTENDANCE: Visitation to BRAG exhibitions and programs during 2020/2021 was 106,312 (including 85,293 to the foyer gallery), representing a 3% increase on 2019/2020 gallery visitation figures, despite decreased international, interstate and other visitation due to Covid -19. BRAG touring projects (VOID) reached 51,516 visitors across four venues in WA, VIC, and NSW.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: BRAG Director took up the role of President RPG NSW and continues as M&G NSW Peer.

CAPACITY BUILDING: BRAG Director worked with COSO on master planning for development of Keppel Street Cultural Precinct and brokered the Penn O'Shea Bequest.

GRANTS & SPONSORSHIP: BRAG received \$182,627 through grants and sponsorship including: Create NSW Multi-year funding (\$100,000), M&GNSW Let's Get Digital Grant (\$13,000), M&GNSW Audience Development Fund (\$7512.50), Arts OutWest Quick Grants (\$6,000), Create NSW Arts ReStart – Regional Residencies/BRAGS (\$48,570), Private sponsorship (\$7,545).

AWARDS: 2020 M&G NSW Innovation & Resilience Highly Commended Award with the ART + COLLECT collection project.

EXHIBITIONS: In 2020/2021 BRAG presented 23 exhibitions (19 of which were generated in-house) with a focus on local artists, community and the artists of Hill End including incoming touring projects (3), Collection (2), Local Artist Projects (14), Off-site/Public Art Projects (4), and Community Exhibition Projects (2). A total of 206 artists were represented in the BRAG exhibitions program, including 108 regional artists, 66 participants from the local community and 28 artists with connections to Hill End. BRAG touring exhibition Void (developed with UTS Gallery and M&G NSW) travelled to 3 venues.

EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMS: BRAG delivered 85 education and public programs during 2020/2021,

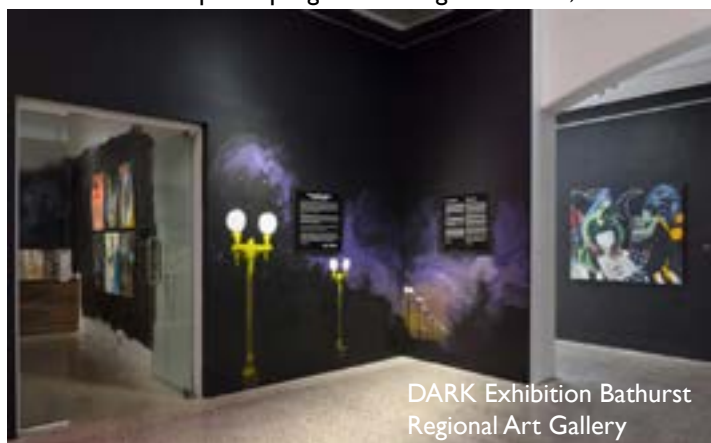
with 5,676 participants including 1463 students and 23 groups. Innovative programs were developed such as the BRAG Youth Advocates, Art of Wine, and High Tea events targeting and engaging new audiences. Major education programs included HOME (developed with DET Arts Unit & AGNSW), Abdul Abdullah incursion (SkillSet Senior College), and the Central West Visual Arts Teach Meet. The Art in a Suitcase went to four schools and the School Holiday Programs have been developed to engage with collaboration, public displays and inter-generational creating with a highlight being the artist-led Big Draw with artist Catherine O'Donnell.

PUBLIC ART: BRAG worked with a range of partners to develop and deliver public art projects including Adaptation (Goldberg Aberline Studios), Banha Belong mural/digital artwork (LALC, Kelso Community Hub and Kelso High students); Streets as Shared Spaces (with Council's Planning Department), installed the Out There Bathurst projector BRAG forecourt (2021 Winter Festival), and coordinated local photographic content for Festival of the Bells. The Public Art Program Committee developed a range of resources which are accessible via the BRAG website.

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT: BRAG continued to adapt to delivering online content during the Covid-19 restrictions including delivering online school holiday workshop, the Home Program artist led workshop and online exhibitions ('Pictures of You' and Bathurst Young Archies). The BRAG Studio Set tours continued with 12 local artists engaged. Facebook: 91% increase in average monthly reach, 6% increase in average monthly engagement, 19% engagement rate. Instagram: 53% increase in annual new followers between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. Website: a significant increase in website traffic and engagement for bathurstart.com.au, 38% increase in users, 33% increase in sessions (a user is actively engaged in the site) and -2.5% on bounce rate (percentage of single page visit).

HILL END AIR: Eight (8) artists participated in the Hill End Artists in Residence Program (HEAIR). Due to Covid-19, HEAIR was suspended from March 2020 with residencies postponed to January 2021. Cottage upgrades were undertaken through Community Drought Funding (\$80,000).

PERMANENT COLLECTION: 154 works entered the collection through donation, Cultural Gift, purchase and commission approximately valued at \$367,921 including a generous donation by Mandy Martin consisting of 39 works, and 64 prints by Luke Sciberras spanning 25 years. BRAG loaned five (5) works to three galleries including Art Gallery of NSW, Heide Museum of Modern Art and Newcastle Regional Art Gallery.



DARK Exhibition Bathurst
Regional Art Gallery

BATHURST REGIONAL ART GALLERY

Provide a focus on the visual arts for the community by providing education and public programs that challenge thinking and stimulate creativity, and promote cultural vitality in the region through the development and care of the permanent collection, temporary exhibitions and research facilities.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.3	
Increase community participation and engagement through public programs and events.	At least six public programs / events / education programs delivered per exhibition slot with participation over 350.	YTD Target achieved: 94 Programs; 12,627 participants
Increase student and teacher engagement through education programs and outreach.	5% increase in school engagement on 2019/20 Develop Teacher Professional Development Program.	YTD target achieved: # programs: 45 = 78% increase; # participating schools 50 = 68% increase; # participating students: 1,415 = 125% increase
Provide opportunities for the professional development of regionally based artists through exhibition.	Staging of 4 regional artist projects with at least 3,250 attendees Launch AR+ Central program.	YTD TARGET ACHIEVED: Ten (10) regional artist projects; Attendance: 40,336 1. JULY – AUGUST: Stephen Hogan: Imagine (Foyer Space). Total Attendance: 3,269 2. AUGUST – SEPT: Pictures of You community exhibition (August – October). Attendance to 30 September: 4,680 3. SEPTEMBER: Joel Tonks: Forged by fire, shaped by time (Foyer Space, Sept). Total Attendance: 3,107 4. OCTOBER – NOVEMBER: Tom Buckland: Flight Paths (Foyer) to 20 November: 11,526 5. OCTOBER – NOVEMBER: Amala Groom: RE: Union. Attendance: 2,290 6. DECEMBER - JANUARY: Adrienne Doig: It's All About Me! Attendance 3,337 7. FEBRUARY - APRIL - Rebecca Wilson: Mythmaking, Heroes and Villains: Attendance: 2,161 8. 5 JUNE – 25 JULY: Chester Nealie: Etched In Fire June visitation: 10,060 9. 5 JUNE – 25 JULY: Angela Malone: June Visitation: 2063 10. JUNE – 25 JULY: Andrew Merry & Euan Macleod: Stirring the Ash: June Visitation: 2063 ART CENTRAL replaced with CEL: Artist As Animator
	Production of 3 online resources / catalogues.	YTD TARGET ACHIEVED Nine (9) catalogues/ resources produced
Develop community access to and understanding of contemporary indigenous art through exhibition and tour development.	Staging of 2 exhibitions.	YTD TARGET ACHIEVED: Three (3) exhibitions staged

Develop community access to the permanent collection through exhibition, research, loans and touring exhibitions on an as needs basis.	Staging of 2 permanent collection exhibitions.	YTD TARGET ACHIEVED: Three (3) collection exhibitions staged; Attendance: 3,599
	Improve database access through transition to KEmU 100% completion by July 2021.	YTD TARGET ACHIEVED: 100% complete
	Develop timeline and budget for Gallery Store conversion	COMPLETED. Gallery Store conversion to be delivered in 2021/2022

Communicate and engage with the community		
2040 Strategy Reference	6.1, 2.6	
Increase community engagement on social media platforms.	Increase BRAG Instagram followers to 2,500	YTD: TARGET ACHIEVED Instagram followers: 2,947
	Increase Hill End Air Instagram followers to 500	YTD: Target achieved Instagram followers: 1,128
	Increase BRAG Facebook likes by 5%	YTD: TARGET ACHIEVED Facebook likes increase: 9.6%

Promote cultural activity in the Bathurst CBD, neighbourhoods and the region's villages through the development of inclusive and accessible satellite programs and events, and the promotion of Hill End as a significant site of contemporary and historic Australian art and culture.		
2040 Strategy Reference	5.2	
Develop community understanding of the achievements of the Hill End Artists in Residency Program through exhibition and partnerships.	Staging of 3 Hill End Artists in Residency exhibitions with at least 3,250 attendees.	YTD TARGET ACHIEVED: Three (3)Hill End AIR exhibitions; Attendance: 6,354
	Develop residency partnership: National Art School.	YTD: project postponed due to Covid-19 residency carry-overs from 2020
	Source funding for cottage refurbishment projects.	YTD: TARGET ACHIEVED \$87,500 raised Drought Fund Cottage maintenance project complete
Broaden access and inclusion to the Gallery's exhibition program through off-site and public art projects	Develop and deliver one community participatory public art project	YTD: TARGET ACHIEVED: four (4) community participatory projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRAG commissioned Turn by local artists Sonny Day & Biddy Maroney for the 2020 Winter Festival illuminations program (July 2020). • May: Kelso Hub Mural Project delivered. \$13,000 MGNSW Let's Get Digital Grant • Banhav Belong projection (Winter Festival 2021) Adaptation: Winter Festival 2021
	Delivery of 2 off-site programs / events with at least 1,000 participants	YTD TARGET ACHIEVED: four (4) off-site program; Attendance 10,560 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRAG commissioned Turn by local artists Sonny Day & Biddy Maroney for the 2020 Winter Festival illuminations program (July 2020). • May: Kelso Hub Mural Project delivered. \$13,000 MGNSW Let's Get Digital Grant • Banha Belong projection (Winter Festival 2021) • Adaptation: Winter Festival 2021

Implement relevant activities within the Public Art Policy as resources permit	Develop Public Art Policy Asset Register	Delivered within available resources.
	Develop Public Art Policy Artists Register	YTD TARGET ACHIEVED: Completed.

Increase in revenue generated from gallery retail outlet and programs

2040 Strategy Reference	1.3, 6.6	
An increase on 2019/20 total revenue generated from gallery retail and sales	5% increase in revenue	YTD TARGET ACHIEVED: total (July-June): 2019-2020: \$40,974.55; 2020-2021: \$67,830; 65.5% increase.

BATHURST LIBRARY

Develop a strategic approach to planning the next-practice library.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	4.3	
Review Library against available benchmarks	Report to Council by June 2021	Available benchmarks were developed pre-Covid-19, and as a result, no relevant benchmarks are currently available to review the library performance against.

Maintain and improve community participation in the Library Services.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	5.3	
Maintain and improve membership base	Membership is 30% or more of total population	To date, the total active membership of Bathurst Library is 11,565 = 27% of Bathurst population. Excluding non-2795 members, membership is 10,784 = 25% of Bathurst population. Reciprocal/Temporary (non-2795 postcode) membership is 781.
Maintain and improve visitations	Yearly visitations are 140,000 or more (monthly average: 11,666)	YTD: 84,168 people visited the library, impacted by Covid-19.
Maintain and improve program and event delivery	Deliver 240 or more programs / events per year (monthly average: 20)	YTD 201 Programs delivered, impacted by Covid-19.
Maintain and improve attendance at programs and events	7,800 attendees or more to programs / events per year (monthly average: 650)	Adult programs are delivered both online and in-house. Children's programs have recommenced in-house with bookings only from Term 4 2020 onwards, numbers impacted by Covid-19. YTD: 2,432

Maintain and improve access to information and life-long learning.

CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	5.3	
Maintain and increase circulation of all library material	Loans exceed 240,000 per year (monthly average: 20,000)	YTD: 223,873 items borrowed
Improve online information	500 digitised Local Studies images are available on Trove by June 2021.	2005 images uploaded to Trove.

Improve adult digital literacy skills	Provide at least 200 tech sessions for adults yearly	One on One Tech Assist sessions currently suspended due to Covid-19 as these cannot be delivered within the physical distancing guidelines.
Improve community access to technology	15,600 Public PC bookings or more per year (monthly average: 1,300) and 78,000 Wi-Fi logons or more per year (monthly average: 6,500).	YTD 8,337 Public PC bookings. YTD 12,251 Wi-Fi logons. Note: From 9 June 2020, to ensure appropriate physical distancing, only six (6) public PCs are available, impacted by Covid-19.
Launch Readers Online portal	Launch + demonstration workshop is held by June 2021	Wiradjuri resources webpage is live. It will be reviewed and updated periodically. https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/research/local-history/97-community/library/3832-wiradjuri-resources.html
Honour Wiradjuri History	Create and publish a list of relevant research resources by June 2021	New page live and launched during Library and Information Week. https://www.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/home/97-community/library/3770-discover-more-what-to-read-next.html

Communicate and engage with the community.		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.1	
Growth in followers on the library social media platforms	More than 2,250 Facebook likes and more than 900 Twitter followers	Facebook: 2933 Twitter: 927
Monitor community satisfaction with Library Services, Programs and Collections	Launch Library Community Survey in June 2021	2021 survey underway, results available in August 2021.

Maintain and create partnerships with local organisations and neighbouring councils		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	6.2	
Further the partnership with the Kelso Community Hub	Deliver at least two (2) activities	Monthly visit of Library Van to KCH started on Tue 23 Feb 21. Visit #5 to Kelso Community Hub on Tue 29 June.

LIBRARY FACILITIES

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.

From 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2021, 85,194 people visited Bathurst Library and 223,873 items (including electronic material) were borrowed. In June 2021, there were 11,565 library members, 4,000 of these are registered users of the library electronic collections (eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and film streaming).

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. In February 2021, the Bathurst Mobile Library added another stop to its schedule, now visiting the Kelso Community Hub regularly. The Mobile Library van now visits the Kelso Community Hub on the last Tuesday of each month from 3.30pm to 4.30pm to provide library services to the local community.

The library provides programs for all age groups including storytelling and activities for babies and children, school holiday activities, technology sessions for beginners and author and information talks for adults. During 2020-2021, the library continued to follow NSW Health Covid-19 guidelines, implementing physical distancing and restricting numbers to in-house programs. All programs required people to book to ensure numbers complied with the health guidelines. Other programs were delivered online. During 2020/2021, 201 programs were delivered attracting 2,432 attendees.

In 2021, the library launched the Little Bang Discovery Club, a fun-filled, hands-on STEM program for children aged

3-5 years. In this stimulating six-week program, children build their science knowledge by conducting experiments with everyday objects and exploring scientific processes, such as classifying, measuring, and collecting. The program has been well received, with available spaces booking out each term.

In February 2021, the library launched the 'Discover more... Technology' workshops. Designed for beginners, these workshops were held each month and cover a range of topics, including opening an email account, shopping online, Facebook, video calling and more. The series began with a workshop on using the Service NSW QR code system.

Programs and services offered in 2020/2021 were:

- Storytime: for children 3-5 years old
- Baby Rhyme Time: rhyme for babies and toddlers (6 months to 3 years old)
- After School Club: for children 5-12 years old
- Lego Club: an all-ability club
- Code Club
- Little Bang Discovery Club
- School holiday activities
- Children's Book Week
- HSC study workshop
- Author Talks, History, and Information Talks
- Discover More... Technology sessions
- Writing Workshops

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. In 2020/2021, 8,337 bookings were made on the library public PCs and the library Wi-Fi was accessed 12,251 times.

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. In 2020/2021, two new web pages were curated and added to the website: the "Wiradjuri Resources" page which provides links about Wiradjuri and First Nations history and culture, and, in the new Readers Lounge section, the "Discover more - what to read next" page which provides inspiration on how to find the next great book to read.

Bathurst Library provides a reference service to the community, including Family History and Local History. One of the strategic priorities for Bathurst Library is to make digitised Local History material accessible by making it available online. The library currently holds 2,689 digitised historical images. These images can be accessed via the library catalogue. In 2021, working with the National Library of Australia (NLA), 2,005 digitised historical images were uploaded to Trove, the NLA online discovery website.

BATHURST MEMORIAL ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE (BMEC)

ATTENDANCE at BMEC events from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 was 26,632 with 126 events/activities facilitated by BMEC staff.

MISSION & PURPOSE: The BMEC Mission is quality, diversity, challenge and joy

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 2020/2021 BMEC received \$20,762 in sponsorship from Reliance Bank and \$5,000 in sponsorship from Ben & the late Martha Gelin. The latter sponsorship is part of a four-year commitment totalling \$20,000.
- In 2020/2021 BMEC maintained its multi-year funding from Create NSW increasing this support from \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year. BMEC remains one of only three Performing Arts Centres in NSW in receipt of multi-year funding.
- \$20,000 was received from Create NSW, via ArtsOutwest towards the 2021 Inland Sea of Sound festival.
- BMEC received \$19,800 through the Regional Arts Fund for the world premiere of Kangaroo by Miranda Gott. This project also received cash and in-kind support from the Q Theatre Penrith and Lingua Franca.
- A \$2,000 micro grant was received from Arts OutWest for the Bathurst Writers' & Readers Festival.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The BMEC Creative producer continued to sit as a Peer Assessor on the Create NSW Artform Board - Theatre

BMEC ANNUAL SEASON

Seven (7) of 17 programmed productions were delivered in the BMEC Annual Season with 10 either cancelled or postponed due the Covid-19 pandemic.

Local participation in the Annual Season included the full cast of Cabaret Kite – Unsolicited Advice, local choir Ecclectica's guest appearance in the Mission Songs Project and the Mitchell Young Voices appearance in Opera Australia's Carmen.

INLAND SEA OF SOUND

The Inland Sea of Sound was delivered in the city centre with 1,425 people attending. Local musicians were featured in equal numbers to visiting artists. A highlight was the use of the TAFE / Fossil Museum carpark as the main outdoor venue.

LOCAL STAGES

In 2020/2021 Local Stages presented:

- The Bathurst Writers' & Readers Festival'. Live and pre-recorded sessions & Sydney Writers Festival sessions returned. 750 attendees recorded. Australian Poetry Slam Bathurst heat was presented online and in partnership with Bathurst library.
- Weekly Drama Classes for young people in primary and early secondary school. These were held online via zoom while BMEC was closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Local Emerging Artists Program (LEAP) performances held in cafes and bars across Bathurst over two weekends in February
- 'Nicoles Fancy Party' presented as BMEC reopened following the Covid lockdown in 2020. This immersive new work was created by four (4) local artists and attended by 72 audience members. This was BMEC's first Covid Safe theatre experience.
- Local Stages supported the presentation of The Persian Queen, a new musical by local writers/composers. This had a company of 20 community members and was viewed by 579 people over 4 nights.
- Kangaroo, a local production was produced in partnership with the Q Theatre. Penrith, local company Lingua Franca & Arts OutWest and was in rehearsals in June 2021. To be presented at BMEC in the Annual Season on 9 & 10 July 2021 and at Cowra Civic Centre on 7 August. As Penrith performances were not possible due to Covid-19

restrictions a podcast is to be created and distributed.

- Support for Stage One of Fast Cars and Dirty Beats, which has had a series of community workshops and professional development as well as the creation of a new professional work which will be presented in May 2022. 21 Professional artists have been engaged. Over 300 primary aged school children from three small schools, and over 100 members of the community have participated in this stage.

BATHURST MEMORIAL ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

Implement a strategic approach to planning the next-practice Performing Arts Centre.		
2040 Strategy Reference	4.1, 1.1, 1.2, 5.3, 6.2	
Consultant to develop framework, provide timeline, and produce interim solution.	Timeline and interim solution provided by July. Framework provided by August	COMPLETED. The Next Practice Performing Arts Facility Framework is completed, including quality survey, engineered design options for the necessary interim works to BMEC.

Maintain and improve community participation in BMEC services and activities.		
2040 Strategy Reference	5.2, 5.3	
Maintain and improve average number of tickets purchased per Member	Average of at least 5 tickets per Member	In the 2020/2021 Financial year there was 9.7 average Tickets Purchased per Member. However, actual purchases for the financial year will decrease as refunds have been required due to Covid-19 cancellations or postponements. In the 2020/2021 Financial year 151 current members were rolled over from 2020 into 2021 year and 83 members have had their 2021 show bookings reserved.
Maintain and improve venue attendance	Attendances exceed 55,000	In the 2020/2021 Financial year there were 25,022 – Visitors, total number of people through the venue. As the financial year comes to a close BMEC continues to be affected by cancellations due to Covid-19. Over the year this has had a dramatic impact on attendances
Maintain and improve program and event delivery	Deliver approximately 14 Season and other events, 7 associated workshops and a Local Stages Program including LEAP program, local writers and other performing arts development	17 Events are programmed in the 2021 Annual Season which is a calendar year program. To date seven (7) of these have been delivered. 18 events were programmed in the 2020 Annual Season. Two (2) were delivered and 16 cancelled due to Covid-19 impact. In the financial year 10 events out of 17 were cancelled or postponed. The 2020/2021 Financial year has seen four works either delivered or in development; Cabaret Kite, Kangaroo, Highway of Lost Hearts and Fast Cars and dirty beats. There have been regular drama classes delivered for young people each week during the school terms.
Maintain and improve attendance at programs and events	5,200 attendees or more to Season shows and 4,000 at associated and Local Stages projects per year	In the 2020/2021 Financial year there were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,148 attendees at Season shows. As 10 of 17 events were cancelled or postponed this attendance percentage suggest the target of 5,200 could have been reached if all shows had gone ahead. • Seven (7) projects were supported and managed by Local Stages Associated and Local Stages Attendance was 2,480 at live events and 190 artists have been involved in the Fast Cars and Dirty Beats development.

Communicate and engage with the community.		
CSP 2040 Objective Strategy	1.1, 1.2, 5.3	
Growth in community engagement	<p>At least one intrinsic impact study per year.</p> <p>2% growth in social media followers over 2019/2020</p>	<p>An intrinsic impact study took the form of BMEC inclusion in the national Audience Outlook Monitor. This study surveyed discrete segments of Australian venue audiences at different stages of the pandemic to gauge their readiness or hesitancy about returning to live performances. The study was commissioned by the Australia Council for the Arts and involved selected regional and metropolitan venues across the nation. To date three surveys have occurred with the final survey scheduled for November 2021.</p> <p>In the 2020/2021 Financial year 11.02 % growth in facebook followers from 5 June.</p> <p>BMEC currently has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,100 facebook followers • 505 Twitter Followers • 1,071 instagram followers

MUSEUMS

An increase in the total educational/schools engagement with the Bathurst Regional Council managed museums of 8% over 4 years,		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 6.6	
<p>An increase on 2017/18 total visitor numbers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum; • National Motor Racing Museum; • Chifley Home and Education Centre and • Bathurst Rail Museum 	Total increase of 6% in education/school engagement	In the 2020/2021 Financial year total visitors to Council's Museums was 113,671 which is a 97% increase from 57,496 in the 2017/2018 Financial year.

An increase in the total educational/schools engagement with the Bathurst Regional Council managed museums of 8% over 4 years,		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 6.6	
<p>An increase of 6% in total education/schools engagement from 2017/18 numbers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum; • National Motor Racing Museum; • Chifley Home and Education Centre and • Bathurst Rail Museum 	Total increase of 6% in education/school engagement	<p>In the 2020/2021 Financial year total education/school visitors to Council's Museums was 2,134 which is a 50% decrease from 4,280 in the 2017/2018 Financial year.</p> <p>*Note, education visits restarted in Nov 2020 after Covid-19 guidelines changed. Capacity numbers within the museums have reduced the number of education/school visits.</p>

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Service achievements included:

- Kelso Community Hub supported community service organisations to provide key services for the local community.
- ClubGRANTS Scheme 2020/2021: 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 and the Don't Be Next campaign which targeted steal from motor vehicle and break and enter residential offences.
- The provision of administrative support to the Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee, Senior's Festival Organising Committee and Bathurst Youth Network.
- The provision of support to the Bathurst Regional Youth Council and related youth activities.
- The coordination of public events, including Seniors Festival, Harmony Week, International Women's Day, NAIDOC Flag Raising and Youth Week.
- Aboriginal Liaison Officer commencement in February 2021 and delivered initiatives, including National Close the Gap Day, Care Packages for Indigenous elderly community during Seniors Festival, Kelso Community Hub Mural Project (Banha Belong), National Sorry Day planting, National Reconciliation Week activities and Aboriginal Community Images project.

The provision of a range of public programs, exhibitions and community events at the Bathurst Regional Council managed museums.		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 6.6	
Undertake exhibitions, public programs and community events across the Bathurst Regional Council managed museums.	Minimum six exhibitions, five public programs and two community events.	<p>In the 2020/2021 Financial year there has been a total of: <u>Six exhibitions (target 6)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chapman Collection – Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum 2. Online exhibition, Interpretations: A reproduced history – Chifley Home and Education Centre 3. Local Stories Cabinet, Cole Family story – Bathurst Rail Museum 4. Local Stories Cabinet, The O'Connell Family story – Bathurst Rail Museum 5. Local Stories Cabinet, Michael Burrell story – Bathurst Rail Museum 6. Dick Johnson Exhibition – National Motor Racing Museum <p><u>Six Public Programs (target 5)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jurassic Park After Dark - spooky tour after hours for Youth Week – Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum 2. Seniors Week Tour and morning tea – Bathurst Rail Museum 3. Winter festival after hours behind the scene tour – National Motor Racing Museum 4. Bikes at Work talk during Bathurst Cycling Classic – Bathurst Rail Museum 5. Behind the scenes layout talk to sponsors and visiting model railway club – Bathurst Rail Museum 6. 3801 Locomotive train journeys – Bathurst Rail Museum <p><u>Two Community Events (target 2)</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First birthday celebration weekend 20th/21st February – Bathurst Rail Museum 2. Journey West – Vintage Rail Journeys 3-4 April – Bathurst Rail Museum <p>Covid-19 restrictions have limited public gatherings that have resulted in the cancellation of some planned events/programs.</p>

An overall increase in revenue generated from museum retail outlets and venue hire across the Bathurst Regional Council managed museums.		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 6.6	
An increase of 6% total revenue from 2017/18 numbers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum National Motor Racing Museum Chifley Home and Education Centre Bathurst Rail Museum 	Total increase of 6% in revenue	In the 2020/2021 Financial year total gross revenue for Council's Museums was \$615,536 which is a 74% increase from \$352,962 in 2017/2018 Financial Year.

Central Tablelands Collectoin Facility		
CSP 2040 Strategy Reference	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 6.6	
Commence construction of Central Tablelands Facility including preparation of BRC objects for move into the facility	Commence construction and object preparation for move	In the 2020/2021 Financial year the construction of the Central Tablelands Facility and object preparation commenced.

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

- 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 92% throughout the year.
- Bathurst Family Day Care Scheme provided care to approximately 190 registered children on a weekly basis with an average of 24 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. Some programs were suspended due to Covid-19, however, essential medical programs including the Needle Syringe Program (NSP), Child and Family Health Clinic and the Sexual Health Clinic continued.
- 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. In 2021, Bathurst Library launched Little Bang Discovery Club, a new science children's program for pre-schoolers. The library also organises a popular Summer Reading Club.

ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

Council facilitated the Youth Council, whose aim is to:

- 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 community awareness project;
 - Find the Elf in the Shop initiative and
 - Youth Week activities including Fitness for Fun held at Kelso Community Hub and Jurassic Park after Dark held at the Australian Fossil and Mineral Museum.

KELSO COMMUNITY HUB

The Kelso Community Hub, located in Bonnor Street, continued to provide a community hub of services and activities for the Kelso community in 2010/2021. Specialist activities provided at the hub included:

- Building Strong Foundations run by Child and Family Health
- C3 Church providing outreach to the community
- Generocity Church
- Sexual Health Clinic
- Needle Syringe Program (NSP) Clinic
- Bathurst Seventh-Day Adventist Church
- Bathurst Library
- Kelso High Campus
- Skillset Youth Connect
- Mission Australia
- Event held for Youth Week
- Active Kids Day

Additional landscaping works were also completed as part of the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program. The work included the addition of boulders, raised garden beds, shrubs and trees.

SENIORS FESTIVAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The Seniors Festival Organising Committee presented a full range of entertainment, social activities and educational opportunities during Seniors Festival 2020. They included:

- Community Safety Information Session;
- Home Security Workshops
- Exercise classes;
- Majellan Bowling Club Lawn Bowling;
- Live music at Bathurst RSL Club;
- Technology Workshops;
- Scam Awareness Workshops
- Evans Art Council Creative Arts and Crafts Workshops;
- The Beggars Australian Songbook live shown at BMEC;
- Information Sessions at Bathurst Seymour Centre;
- Monday Movie Matinee;
- Art of Ageing Digital Exhibition at Bathurst Library and
- Bathurst Rail Museum tour and Morning Tea.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

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

- Red Bench project (domestic violence awareness);
- Don't be Next Campaign targeting steal from motor vehicle and break and enter residential offences.

The Committee membership includes key stakeholders from a broad number of organisations that have a strong focus on community safety. The Committee consists of members from Chifley Police District, Bathurst Community Corrections, Community Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Service, FACS Housing, Bathurst Liquor Accord, Bathurst Business Chamber, Charles Sturt University, TAFE NSW, and the Neighbourhood Centre.

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC PROGRAMS

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

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 (ATSI) 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 and other Aboriginal organisations operating within Bathurst.

Due to Covid, NAIDOC Week was moved to November 2020 and marked with a virtual Flag Raising Ceremony, featuring local Aboriginal Community Members. The video was shared on Council's social media platforms and website.

Council has continued delivering actions from the 2019-2021 Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) with the Working Group meeting quarterly to implement the deliverables. The plan continues to provide opportunities and direction to build relationships, understanding and respect between local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community. Council acknowledged National Reconciliation Week through various initiatives.

Council appointed an Aboriginal Liaison Officer, who commenced in February 2021, working in the Community Development Team.

National Close the Gap Day occurred on 18 March 2021. Council, in partnership with NSW Police, Western Sydney University, Bathurst Young Mob and Orange Aboriginal Medical Service hosted activities at Kelso Community Hub, including a BBQ breakfast, free health checks and

security workshop.

Seniors Festival was celebrated nationally from 13 – 24 April 2021. Council provided 27 Aboriginal elderly people with care packages. The care packages were delivered by Council, the Youth Mayor, the Deputy Youth Mayor and Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council.

A mural project titled “Banha Belong” was undertaken at Kelso Community Hub from 10 – 14 May 2021. The project was a partnership between Bathurst Regional Council, Bathurst Regional Art Gallery, Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council and Denison College Kelso High Campus. 12 Aboriginal students worked with Aboriginal street artist Sven Rogers, Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council CEO and Council’s Aboriginal Liaison Officer to complete the mural, consisting of giant letters spelling BANHA (Wiradjuri for ‘truly’) BELONG.

Council acknowledged National Sorry Day on May 26 by planting a Native Lilac Hibiscus (National Sorry Day recognised plant) at the Civic Centre. The Hibiscus was planted by Mayor Bobby Bourke and community members impacted by the Stolen Generation.

In June 2021, Council worked with a local photographer to capture a range of Aboriginal community members, groups and school students. These images will be used for Council’s advertising, promotion, social media and website.

Harmony Week celebrations occurred from 15-21 March 2021. Council, in partnership with The Neighbourhood Centre, sought residents to participate in a local initiative. Participants were photographed and asked to explain what the Harmony Week message ‘Everyone Belongs’ means to them. Photos and responses were collated and displayed throughout the community.

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.

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. While the city itself was not damaged 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 2020/21 two groups that had been scheduled to visit from Toyo High School and Senshu were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Representatives from Ohkuma had been scheduled to visit Bathurst in March 2021 as part of the “Wings of Hope” program and to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the original Sister City Agreement. Unfortunately, this was also cancelled due to Covid-19. A virtual ceremony took place online on Thursday 25th March 2021 where the Mayors of both Bathurst and Ohkuma signed a renewed agreement. A commemorative booklet was produced by Bathurst Regional Council to mark the occasion. A tree planting also took place in the Bathurst’s Japanese Garden on the 11th March 2021 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake attended by the Mayor of Bathurst and the Deputy Consul General of Japan, Ms Tanaka Noriko.

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.

ACCESS AND EQUITY

[Local Government Act 1993 - Section 428]

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 support to many community groups and non-profit organisations to assist the provision of community services. These groups include 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 (2017-2021)

Council has developed its first Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 (DIAP). Actions identified in the plan have ensured that Council will assist in making Bathurst a more welcoming and accessible region, provide a framework for the four-year delivery program, to progress aims, objectives and support People with Disability.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 (DIAP) was adopted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting held Wednesday 21 June 2017 and endorsed actions contained in the Plan, to provide meaningful outcomes for People with Disability in the Bathurst Regional Council Local Government Area.

Disability inclusion initiatives undertaken in the 2020/2021 financial year include:

The provision of a range of programs and activities:

- The Bathurst Library All Ability Lego Club;
- Winter Festival Live Better Accessibility Day;
- Continued promotion of Council's accessibility through social media;
- AUSLAN introduced at Baby Rhyme Time at the Library.

Promotion of disability services and access to Council information:

- All Council websites provide Readspeak function including an enlarge font button;
- Disability Service Directory available on Council's website;
- Council staff trained to improve customer service for people living with disability.

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 sections in William, George, Keppel and Russell Streets. With further sections to be completed as more funding becomes available.
- Footpath maintenance ongoing with priorities identified through BRAC;
- Footpath constructed in Perthville, Trunkey and Wattle Flat with drought relief funding;
- Bathurst Access Improvement Grants continues to be provided with the assistance of the Bathurst Regional Access Committee (BRAC);

- Council continues to advocate for improved access to shops and businesses through the BCA and DACC assessment processes;
- Purchase of portable ramps for use at Council 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 installed at the Library/Arty Gallery and BVIC;
- Accessible Parking included in CBD Master Plan
- Continued provision of accessible toilets, parking and site access for major events.

BATHURST REGIONAL ACCESS COMMITTEE

Council continued to support the activities of the Bathurst Regional Access Committee. The Committee meets monthly to promote awareness of the challenges faced by those with a disability in accessing local services and businesses. It 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 for small business grants totalling \$15,000 on an annual basis and administrative support for the grant;
- Assists the committee with the provision of a councillor delegate.

OTHER ACCESS ACTIVITIES

CYCLEWAYS

Council throughout the year has continued works on its cycleways to assist with access to the Central business district and other key areas of town. Construction works undertaken in 2020/2021 include:

- Stanley Street – George to Rankin 200m
- Rankin Street – Stanley to Morrisset 200m
- Browning Street – William to Furness 80m
- Lambert Street - George to Stewart 200m
- Alexander Street - Eglinton School 100m
- Charlotte Street – 29-27 40m
- Lambert Street – Seymour to Havannah 200m

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

- In 2020/2021 46,050 visitors came through the doors, an 18.1% increase.
- 113,115 users visited the bathurstregion.com.au destination website (25.4% Increase), 417,553 page-views (73.5% increase), 146,754 sessions (29.6% increase);
- 5,879 phone enquiries were received, a 0.8% decrease;
- Social media: 14,887 Facebook page likes (18.6% Increase), 4,147 Instagram followers (55.6% Increase);
- \$89,073 worth of sales generated 28.2% increase;
- Tourism partners for 2020/2021 totalled 186 (33% increase), with fees for the program suspended for the financial year to provide support to businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic;
- Creation of collateral to support new destination branding including printing of new 2021 destination planner (25,000 copies printed);
- Coordination of heritage, community level and village-based events
- Implementation of the actions of the Destination management Plan (2019) and

New three-year destination marketing plan prepared, adopted February 2021.

One staff member attended the AVIC Summit and LGNSW Tourism Conference May 2021, one staff member attended Australian Regional Tourism conference held virtually in October 2020, 1 staff completed Mental Health First Aid training November 2020, 2 staff attended senior first aid training, 7 staff completed 'MoveSafe' WHS training in May 2021 and one staff member completed 'Manager to Leader' training in May 2021.

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: No tour activity in the financial year due to Covid restrictions Bathurst.

DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

A new 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 29 actions, or 28%, complete or ongoing as at 30 June 2021.

The 2019 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 2020/2021 include:

- Worked with specialist public relations agencies to promote Bathurst Region;
- Media visits – Weekend Sunrise, Women's Weekly, Open Road, Weekend Travel, Australian Financial Review, Sydney Weekender, freelance journalists;
- Updated and enhancement to destination website including improved site optimisation and navigation;
- Development of new industry specific website;
- Incorporation of new online e-commerce platform 'Shopify' into website to generate retail sales;
- Ongoing refurbishment of Bathurst Visitor Information Centre to reflect new brand which included upgrading the amenities and adding interpretive elements;
- Developing and implementing a new 3-year marketing plan, adopted February 2021;
- Development and execution of a digital marketing campaign and public relations activity to support the vignettes of the Bathurst region;
- Participation and collaboration with Bathurst Region Heritage Reference Group;
- Commissioning new images and video content available for ongoing promotional use;
- Attendance NSW Local Government Tourism Conference, Port Macquarie;
- Attendance Australian Regional Tourism Conference, held virtually in 2020 due to Covid pandemic
- Attendance at Central NSW Joint Organisation of Councils tourism working group meetings

TOURISM

Grow the number and engagement of businesses associated with the Visitor Economy		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.1, 6.1	
Work with local operators in the provision of visitor services	10 new packages, products or experiences developed	YTD eleven (11) experiences developed. Five (5) New experience packages developed for 'Greatest Staycation' campaign New Bathurst Wine Explorer Plan complete for Mount Panorama Boardwalk experiences (4) and interpretation, awaiting Council approval New 'Bathurst Heritage Explorer' trialled Heritage Week 2021
Grow Regional Tourism Partnership program	Number of tourism partners increased by 10%	YTD 33% increase in tourism partners 186 tourism partners as of 30 June 2021. Partnership fees waived for 2020/2021 due to Covid-19. Campaign targeting new businesses ongoing.
Increase stakeholder advertising in Destination Planner	Advertising revenue increased 10%	YTD 19.3% increase in revenue from 2019/2020. 53 ads booked. COMPLETED

Provide visitors and prospective visitors to the area with quality information and services.		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6	
Develop new engaging content for Bathurst Step Beyond App	2 new tour products added	YTD three new products being developed. Funding for this area was reduced due to budget restrictions imposed by Covid 1. Wiradjuri Tour, preliminary meeting held in July. Project on hold. 2. Hill End Tour, Script completed, and narrator selected 3. St Joseph's Perthville. Initial meeting held 21 May 2021 - awaiting funding
Increase volume of online bookings	Increase of 20% bookings through online portal	YTD 194.8% increase against 2019/2020 figures to total \$85,820 with total BVIC commission of \$9090.63. New e-commerce ticketing through Shopify booking engine trial for Heritage Trades Trail and Festival of Bells - \$11,170 total online sales revenue for 2021
Develop annual Destination Planner	2021 Destination Planner published	Printing of 20,000 copies complete. Delivered February 2021 and distribution underway. COMPLETED
Develop new Bathurst region villages touring itineraries	6 new itineraries created and published on website/available at BVIC	YTD ten (10) new itineraries for families/couples/younger travellers published on website. COMPLETED
Create focused local range of retail products and souvenirs at BVIC	Retail sales at BVIC increase by 10% over previous year	YTD 28.2% Increase to \$89,073

Effectively promote and market the Bathurst Region as a key destination.		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6	
Develop new 2020-2022	Plan completed & adopted by Council	New plan adopted by Council at February meeting. 17 of 39 action items completed or underway as of 30 June COMPLETED
Implement online content strategy	Destination website page views increase 15% Industry website page visits increase 20% Total social media following increase 20%	Pageviews: YTD 73.5% increase on 2019/2020 To 30 June 2021, 417,553 YTD No metrics available for industry website page visits. Social Media: YTD of 25.2% total social media increase to total 19,120 followers
Develop and produce new resident information for Mayoral Welcome Wagon	Material produced and distributed at Welcome Wagon events	Welcome Wagon event held 17 May 2021 Material created and distributed to event attendees. 30 packs made up.

Increase total number of visitors and overnight stays in the Bathurst region		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6	
Promote Bathurst region to niche and specialist markets as identified in Destination Management Plan and Brand strategy	Overnight visitors increase by 5% Average length of stay increases by 7.5%	Annual Tourism Research Australia figures released October 2020. Overnight visitor nights increased by 6.1% Average length of stay steady at average three nights
Promote BVIC as essential step off point for Bathurst region.	Annual visitation to BVIC increases 3%	YTD visitation increase of 18.1% on 2019/2020 being 46,050 total.



DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

Utilise the Destination Management Plan as a basis for marketing, promotion and tourism development.		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6	
Implement the Strategic priorities of the 2019 DMP	25% of actions completed or underway	YTD 28% or 29 of the 104 priority actions completed or underway as of 30 June 2021.

Support the Tourism Reference Group (TRG), which consists of a cross section of the industry.		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6	
Improved collaboration between industry groups and Council.	Hold at least 4 meetings with industry	YTD Four (4) industry meetings held February - meeting with Bathurst vigneron association held. March – Meeting with accommodation providers and STR Travel held April – Meeting with Bathurst Cycling Group, 'Cycle Safe Bathurst' re tourism potential May 11 – Tourism Partner networking and capacity building training held at BVIC

Connect with industry.		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6	
Continue monthly industry eDM	Minimum of 12 eDMs issued	eDMs Issued: YTD 44
Host minimum of 4 industry gatherings	Minimum of 4 events held	Industry Events: YTD one formal industry event held 11 May. Multiple industry partner familiarisations and individual/small group meetings held.
Increase engagement with industry website	Pageviews increase 25%	Pageviews: No metrics yet available for this site.

Set and measure benchmarks		
2040 Strategy Reference	2.6	
Publish annual market intelligence report to strengthen knowledge and guide investment.	Report produced	Strategy for producing report accepted at July 2020 meeting of Council. New location analytics company 'Localis' appointed May 2021 to provide data sets. Initial discussions held with key stakeholders. Report due September 2021 as per DMP.





BATHURST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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