

BATHURST REGION'S VILLAGES STRATEGY 2025



Wiradjuri COUNTRY



The Bathurst Regional Council Local Government Area encompasses part of the Traditional Lands of the Wiradjuri people.

The Wiradjuri people are the people of the three rivers – the Wambuul (Macquarie), the Calare/Kalari (Lachlan) and the Murrumbidgee.

Bathurst Regional Council would like to acknowledge and pay its respects to the Traditional Custodians of these lands, past, present and future.

In acknowledging the Aboriginal Community's deep and enduring connection to Country, it is also recognised that this Community is integral to the future of the special places and landscapes of the Bathurst region.

Pictured are members from Dirraybang Footprint performing at the 2024 Bathurst NRL match.

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ABOUT OUR VILLAGES STRATEGY

The Bathurst Region Villages Strategy aims to guide resources and actions by the Council and community in the future of the villages. The Villages Strategy has been undertaken to support the vitality of each location.

Strategic Overview

Located within the Bathurst region are the region's rural villages with surrounding rural settlements and farmland that provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the rural lifestyle of the region.

Each village and rural settlement area has a unique identity and history linked to the region's pastoral, grazing and mining history. Many of our villages are of local, state or national significance for their aesthetic, historic, scientific and social values to past, present and future generations.

The need for the Villages Strategy is embedded in several of Council's Strategic Plans, including Council's:

- Community Strategic Plan (CSP)2025-2045
- Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), known as *Vision Bathurst 2040*.

The Villages Strategy will inform and be informed by:

- Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan 2014 (LEP)
- Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan 2014 (DCP)
- Council's four-year Delivery Plan and annual budgets.

The actions within the Villages Strategy responds to these plans in a feedback loop.

It is also supported by other Council Plans:

- Bathurst Region Community Heritage Plan
- Positive Aging Strategy
- Aboriginal Commitment Strategy
- Bathurst Region Active Transport Strategy
- Bathurst Library Strategic Plan
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Economic Development Strategy
- Smart Bathurst Strategies.



MAYOR & GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE



Our villages are part of the essence of the Bathurst region. Each one has its own unique character, history, and sense of community, and together, they enrich the identity and strength of our region.

This Villages Strategy is Council's commitment to ensuring the voices of our village communities are not only heard, but acted upon. It recognises the value of these communities and sets out a shared vision to help them thrive, whether through improved health and safety, economic growth, social connection, cultural celebration, or environmental care.

We understand that at times, village communities may feel left behind. That's why this Strategy focuses on what matters most to you: enhancing infrastructure and services, supporting local business and tourism, strengthening health and wellbeing, protecting heritage and the environment, preparing for emergencies, and building resilience for a sustainable future.

Council is proud to work alongside our village communities. We see the leadership, dedication and strong volunteer spirit that make our villages special, and we are committed to continuing to support and strengthen this through the actions in this plan.

We want every village to feel part of this journey. The Villages Strategy reflects your priorities and your sense of pride for your community. Together, we can ensure our villages remain vibrant, resilient and supported into the future, as we grow together and shape our future.

Growing Together and Shaping Our Future

BATHURST REGIONAL COUNCIL OVERVIEW



OUR RURAL VILLAGES AND SETTLEMENTS

Located within the Bathurst region are nine rural villages with surrounding rural settlements and farmland that provide opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the rural lifestyle of the region.

Each village and rural settlement area has a unique identity and history linked to the region's pastoral, grazing and mining history. Most of our villages are of local, state or national significance for their aesthetic, historic, scientific and social values to past, present and future generations.

The current Village Plans and the future review of Council's Rural Settlement patterns (Rural Strategy) will be undertaken to support sustainable growth and vitality of each location.

A high level of village and rural services is important for each location. Enhanced community facilities, smart technology, viable business and tourism opportunities and adequate access to transport and community services remain important to ensure strong and viable communities.





SUNNY CORNER

Location: 29km East of Bathurst
Population: 94 people



TRUNKY CREEK

Location: 50km South of Bathurst
Population: 118 people



WATTLE FLAT

Location: 32km North of Bathurst
Population: 270 people



GEORGES PLAINS

Location: 12km South of Bathurst
Population: 218 people



ROCKLEY

Location: 30km South of Bathurst
Population: 180 people



SOFALA

Location: 39km North of Bathurst
Population: 111 people



YETHOLME

Location: 22km East of Bathurst
Population: 241 people



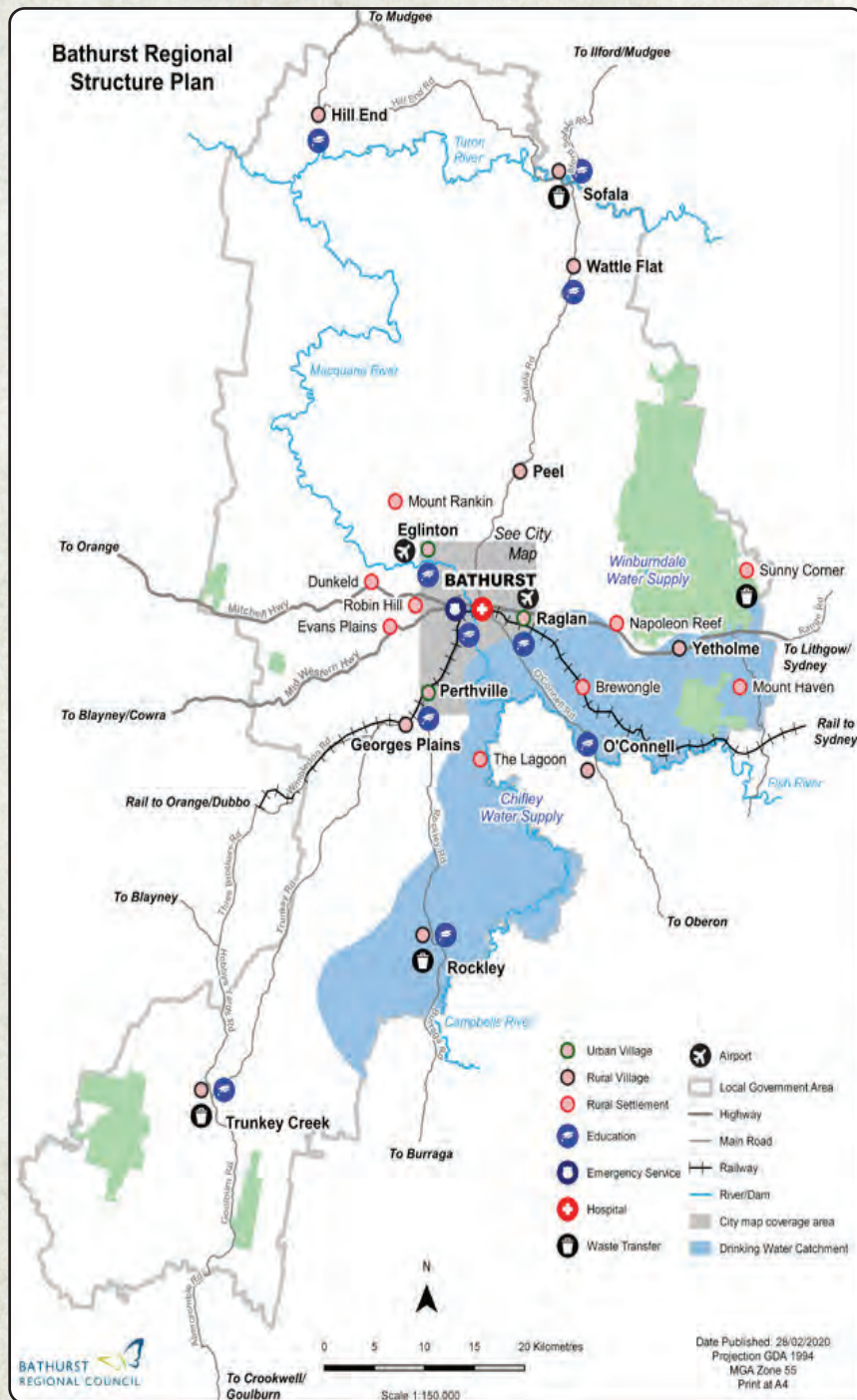
HILL END

Location: 45km North of Bathurst
Population: 111 people



PEEL

Location: 13km North of Bathurst
Population: 255 people



THE VILLAGES

The Strategy does not have a strictly defined application area but its scope includes the villages of:

- Hill End
- Peel
- Rockley
- Sofala
- Sunny Corner
- Trunk Creek
- Wattle Flat
- Yetholme
- Perthville
- Georges Plains

In the rural context, the role of the villages is not limited to their physical boundaries as they are a focal point for people who live outside of the villages and are actively involved in community life, local businesses, events or local community associations.

All of the village locations are zoned RU5 Village under the Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan 2014 except for Perthville and Sunny Corner. Perthville is zoned R1 Residential as it has reticulated water and sewer services, and Sunny Corner is zoned RU1 Primary Productions with limited growth potential due to past mining activities.

Eglinton, Raglan and Perthville are referred to within Council as urban villages due to the provision of reticulated water and sewer services at each location. The urban villages of Eglinton and Raglan have not been included in the Villages Strategy as their proximity to the City of Bathurst and their role in city growth does not generally fit the descriptor for a rural village for the purposes of this strategy. Perthville more comfortably fits within this descriptor due to its distance from the City Centre and so has been included.

LINKS TO OTHER COUNCIL PLANS

Community Engagement Strategy (CES) 2024
Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2025-2045
Delivery Program (DP) and Operational Plan (OP) 2025-2029
Revenue Policy Annual Statement 2025-2026
Detailed Budget 2025-2026
Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2025-2035
Our Workforce Strategy 2025-2029
Asset Management Strategy and Plans
Annual Report (AR) 2023-2024
Financial Statements 2023-2024
State of Our Region Report (SORR)
Heritage Plan (HP) 2021-2025
Village Plans 2015
Destination Management Plan 2019
Bathurst Regional Cultural Vision 2036
Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2027
Economic Development Strategy (EDS) 2018-2022
Land Use Plan
Community Survey 2024



In 2024 our community helped build our Vision for the Bathurst Region.



OUR VISION

A thriving region where
history, culture, and nature are valued,
diversity is celebrated,
and economic growth
is balanced with sustainability.



Bathurst is a vibrant regional centre, rich in history, culture, sport, and community spirit. Established in 1815 as Australia's first inland European settlement, Bathurst honours its significant Wiradjuri heritage, while embracing the future with warmth and innovation. With its historic villages, welcoming country feel, award-winning liveability, and stunning natural environment, Bathurst attracts over one million visitors each year. From the world-famous Mount Panorama Wahlen, home of the Bathurst 1000, to thriving arts, museums, live music, festivals, picturesque parks, and outstanding food and wine experiences, Bathurst truly offers something for everyone.



What is the Community Strategic Plan?

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the highest level plan that Council will prepare. It's the cornerstone document for the New South Wales (NSW) Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework. It identifies the community's most important priorities and aspirations. Developed with and on behalf of the community, the CSP represents an exciting vision for the region over a 20 year horizon.

Our Plan

Our CSP reflects the hopes and priorities of our community, shaping a shared vision for the Bathurst region through to 2045. More than just a Council initiative, this plan has been shaped by the community, for the community.

The Plan is our blueprint for both short-term and long-term programs of works that the community has requested, as well as known maintenance and renewal works to be delivered across our Local Government Area (LGA). It identifies our **four Strategic Directions** for achieving our long-term vision and goals which are further broken down through our Resourcing Strategy, the four-year Delivery Program and the Annual Operational Plan.

At the heart of our CSP, and all Council decision-making processes, are the following **Social Justice Principles**:



EQUITY

There should be fairness in decision making, prioritising and allocation of resources, particularly for those in need.



ACCESS

All people should have fair access to services, resources and opportunities to improve their quality of life.



PARTICIPATION

Everyone should be given genuine opportunities to participate in decisions which affect their lives.



RIGHTS

Equal rights should be established and promoted, with opportunities provided for all people from all backgrounds.

Our Four Strategic Directions

The Villages Strategy aligns with the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and outlines how Council and the community will reach our desired future.

Building a Strong
Local Economy

Council Leadership
and Collaboration

A Sustainable
Region

A Caring and
Resilient Community

Quadruple Bottom Line

Our four Strategic Directions are built around the quadruple bottom line (QBL), ensuring our Community Strategic Plan reflects these principles along with Social Justice considerations, helping us take a balanced and holistic approach to our region's future.



ECONOMIC

Maintain a strong and stable local economy. Financial sustainability is achieved across industry, business, transport and tourism.



GOVERNANCE

Council engages with the community and involves them in key decision-making to promote community leadership. Strong governing frameworks addressing regional priorities. Leaders are ethical and transparent.



ENVIRONMENTAL

Protection of the environment and preservation of biodiversity. Reduce the impact on the environment through a variety of innovative eco-friendly initiatives. Growth is managed and is sustainable.



SOCIAL

Community has equitable access to all services and is supported to foster cohesive and diverse connections. The Bathurst Region is a great place to live.

WHO IS INVOLVED

Several departments and teams within Council, various agencies, as well as a range of community groups, each play a specific role and contribute to the success of the Bathurst Region Villages Strategy.

COUNCIL DEPARTMENTS AND TEAMS

Strategic Planning Team

- Administers the actions in the Strategy, including the management of heritage, the preparation of planning studies and plan-making, updating development controls, bushfire planning, and more.

Community Services

- Supports community development across the region.

Economic Development

- Supports economic development, smart infrastructure and grant applications across the Region.

Bathurst Tourism Information Centre (BVIC)

- Promotes and activates tourism in the Bathurst Region.
<https://www.bathurstregion.com.au/contact-the-visitor-information-centre/>

Bathurst Library Services

- Provides library services that extend to the rural village locations. The library has developed a Community Directory to link community to services and support.
<https://library.bathurst.nsw.gov.au/Services/Bathurst-Community-Information>

Engineering Services

- Manages Council's infrastructure and maintenance programs for roads, water and waste management, recreation, rural cemeteries and flood planning.

Corporate Governance

- Facilitates the emergency management committees.

Environmental & Regulatory Services

- Manages Council's On-site sewerage management program and facilitates programs to support environmental protection and rehabilitation.

General Managers Office

- Facilitates Village Meetings, agendas and minutes.

KEY AGENCY PARTNERS

NSW Police

- Community safety, addressing anti-social behaviour.

NSW State Emergency Services (SES)

- Assistance during an emergency such as a flood or storm.
- Community first responders and road crash rescue.

Rural Fire Service (RFS)

- Hill End, Rockley, Peel, Sunny Corner/Meadow Flat, Trunkey Creek, Wattle Flat/Sofala, Yetholme, Perthville/Georges Plains.

Crown Lands

- Has primary responsibility for Crown Lands/Crown Roads through direct management of lands, assets and infrastructure and the oversight of professional and volunteer land managers.

Central Tablelands Weeds Authority

- Responsible for implementing strategies to identify and control the spread of weeds.
<https://ctwa.nsw.gov.au/>

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

- Involvement in Hill End, in particular, as a major landholder and authority.

Department of Education

- Managing schools in villages.

NSW Resources

- Managing Mining and exploration in NSW.

Forestry Corporation

- Managing environmental sustainability, tourism, and renewable timber production in NSW's State owned native and plantation forests.

Connecting NSW

- This site allows users to quickly search or browse for all government information and then be redirected to the relevant government agency website.
<https://www.nsw.gov.au/>

COMMUNITY

Village Progress Associations:

- Yetholme Progress Association
- Rockley & District Community Association
- Sofala Progress Association
- Sunny Corner & District Progress Association
- Trunkey Creek Progress Association
- Peel Residents Association
- Wattle Flat Progress Association
- Perthville Development Group Inc.

OUR VILLAGES



BACKGROUND

Villages have a strong sense of community, where residents are familiar with each other. This helps with a shared vision but can also lead to considerable attachment to the status quo. Balancing the preservation of traditional village life with the need for growth, resilience, and adaptation to future changes presents challenges. Successful planning must carefully navigate these tensions, and effective community consultation is crucial.

The 2021 Census data highlights key demographic trends in the villages:

- Home ownership is higher in the villages (48%) compared to the Bathurst regional average (34%).
- Many villages have an older population, with places like Hill End, Sofala, and Trunkey Creek having median ages above 50, which has implications for human services and infrastructure.
- Income levels vary, with some villages (e.g., Peel, Georges Plains, Perthville) having higher than regional median incomes, while others (e.g., Sofala, Hill End) are lower.
- Villages show higher volunteering rates than Bathurst Regional, with Sofala standing out at 30%.
- High vacancy rates are noted in some villages, such as Hill End (52%) and Sofala (34%), suggesting seasonal or absentee ownership.

Overall, village planning must account for these factors to create sustainable, resilient communities that balance tradition with future needs.

What do our village communities care about?

Village communities in the Bathurst Region prioritise quality of life, valuing rural tranquility, safety, heritage, and natural beauty. Following the 2004 amalgamation of Evans Shire and Bathurst City Local Government Areas, the Rural Village Improvement Program (2005-2021) helped villages self-identify and develop new infrastructure, such as parks and community halls. Villages focused on community services, including health and education, event tourism to support their local economy, and facilities like parks and showgrounds.



Volunteering

Volunteering is vital in the villages, with residents playing key roles in maintaining local infrastructure and services. However, challenges include an aging volunteer base, fatigue, and a lack of younger recruits. Additionally, some volunteers report skill gaps in grant writing and managing funded projects.

Training and support for volunteers is crucial to make volunteering more attractive and sustainable. Programs offered by the Centre for Volunteering (NSW Govt) and the Council's Economic Development team can help build capacity and assist with funding applications. There are diverse views on the level of Council involvement, with some communities preferring more autonomy while others seek greater collaboration.

Economic Diversification and Local Culture and Business

Villages in the Bathurst Region leverage their unique culture and heritage as assets for tourism. Events like the Rockley markets, Sofala's Rebellion on the Turon, Wattle Flat's Car & Bike Show and Peel Jam attract visitors and raise money to support local facilities. The Village Event Development Fund, introduced in 2019, provided modest funding to help develop and sustain such events. This fund is currently being reviewed.

Villages generally have small-scale economic activity, primarily driven by tourism, local service industries, and small businesses such as general stores and cafes. The Smart Bathurst Strategy advocates for better mobile coverage, and initiatives like the Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Rockley, installed in 2023. Additionally Council supports the Bathurst Region Live Invest program to encourage people to move to regional areas, promoting the villages in print publications and on the website.



Growth in Villages

Village growth has been slower than the overall regional growth rate of 1.1-1.3% per year. Many villages, such as Peel and Sofala, have seen declining populations, with limited new housing demand. Despite rezoning efforts in 2014 to support growth, factors like bushfire risk and rural land fragmentation have constrained development. The Bathurst Region Local Strategic Planning Statement identifies the need to update the Rural Settlement Strategy to review rural settlement patterns to support sustainable, planned growth while preserving the character of the villages.

Village	2016 Census Population	2021 Census Population	Growth Rate
Bathurst Region	41,300	43,567	1.1%
Hill End	102	111	1.7%
Peel	290	255	-2.5%
Rockley	182	180	-0.2%
Sofala	131	111	-3.3%
Trunkey Creek	120	118	-0.3%
Wattle Flat	257	270	1.0%
Yetholme	243	241	-0.2%
Georges Plains	248	218	-2.5%
Sunny Corner	92	94	0.4%
Perthville	624	567	-1.9%

Crown Land and Vacant Land

The Crown holds large areas of land around villages that are vacant, leading to ongoing debates about their use and responsibility. Issues like weed and vermin infestations are raised, with some residents believing the Council should be involved, while others disagree. Ownership and maintenance of Crown roads is also an ongoing issue.

Community groups, such as Crown Land Trusts and Landcare groups, have successfully managed crown lands, improving biodiversity and local amenity. Notable examples include the Wattle Flat Heritage Lands Trust and the Peel Native Flora and Fauna Reserve Trust.

Ongoing discussions will be required between the Council and the Crown in relation to Crown roads. Council will not support a transfer of roadways to Council where they are not upgraded to the relevant Council standard prior to handover.





Resilience, Escalating Environmental Risks and Natural Hazards

Bathurst Regional Council has acknowledged the impacts of climate change in its Climate Change Position Statement. The region has already experienced significant climate-related events, such as severe droughts, bushfires, and flooding. Projections for the region include:

- More prolonged droughts and hot days (above 35°C).
- Rising temperatures (0.5-1°C increase by 2030).
- More intense rainfall, leading to increased flash flooding.
- A potential rise in severe thunderstorms and hail.

All villages in the region are bushfire-prone, and the risk of extreme fire weather is expected to increase by 2030 according to AdaptNSW. Climate change also brings concurrent risks like heatwaves, bushfires, and floods, which could have compounding effects.

To enhance resilience, a review of village infrastructure should be undertaken to ensure it can provide heat refuge during extreme heat events and address disaster preparedness for natural hazards. Effective planning and community engagement are essential for mitigating these escalating risks.

Emergency Management

The Bathurst Region Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) describes the local approach to emergency management, the governance and coordination arrangements together with the roles and responsibilities of agencies. Key risks for villages include flooding, bushfires, severe storms, and transport incidents. The NSW SES, NSW RFS, and NSW Police manage these risks as combat agencies. The village communities are historically self-sufficient with Rural Fire Services and State Emergency Services.

CONSULTATION

A community consultation workshop for the Villages Strategy was held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. In December 2024, the Council shared two documents with its list of village associations, groups, and key contacts. These documents included a discussion paper that outlined the Council's understanding of the village context, as well as a draft villages strategy featuring six goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics. Importantly, the draft Strategy encompassed responsibilities for both state and local governments, as well as community groups and organisations—not just local government duties.

The discussion paper and draft Strategy were compiled from several previous consultations with the villages, particularly the Conference of the Villages, held on 14 December 2023. This Conference was designed for attendees to highlight issues among the villages and collaborate to help solve them. Representatives from each village made a presentation on their village, any issues and solutions.

An invitation to participate in the strategy consultation held in February 2025 was extended to the list of village associations, groups and key contacts. The workshop began with an introduction and a brief overview of the discussion paper, the role of local government, and the strategy itself. The strategy discussion was organised into three tasks. The first task involved identifying the most important goal and its associated objective, strategy, and tactic. The second task focused on identifying the least important goal and its corresponding objective, strategy, and tactic. The final task asked participants to highlight what objectives, strategies, or tactics the community is already working on or could begin to implement, as well as any barriers to achieving these goals.

The workshop was attended by 24 people, representing the villages of Hill End, Sofala, Trunkey Creek, Rockley, Sunny Corner, Perthville, and Peel. Three representatives from Wattle Flat advised they were unable to attend. The 2024 Discussion Paper and a summary of the workshop outcomes is provided as Appendix A.

HILL END



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

ROCKLEY

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR OUR VILLAGES

1.

Strong village economies where local businesses, tourism, and community events are supported.

2.

Village voices are heard, local leaders are supported, and Council works together with communities and government to deliver shared outcomes.

Vibrant, connected and future-ready villages, where local voices shape growth, communities thrive, and history, environment and wellbeing are proudly protected.

3.

Village growth is well-planned with secure water, healthy environments and prepares for disaster resilience.

4.

Villages are welcoming places to live and visit, where history is preserved, public spaces are inviting and support the health and safety of residents and visitors.



HOW TO READ THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ACTION PLAN

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: Council Leadership and Collaboration.		
OBJECTIVE 2.1 Advocate for village communities.		
Code	Project or Program of Works	Responsibility
Strategy 2.1.1 Enhance communication between village communities and the Council.		
2.1.1a	Relay the needs of village communities to the Council, gathering local input and ensuring it reaches the appropriate contacts. Collaboratively develop community plans to present to the Council outlining necessary actions.	Village Community groups
2.1.1b	Review the community directory to guide villages on how to access support. This would include contact information for relevant Council departments, state government agencies, and connections with regional community groups (e.g., Rotary).	Library Services (Council)
2.1.1c	Focus the discussions at the Council led community village meetings on actions required, completed and underway under the Villages Strategy. Provide annual reporting for each village as part of the cycle of village meetings.	Village Community General Manager Office

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: Building a Strong Local Economy.

OBJECTIVE 1.1 Achieve success in funding applications and address skill gaps in grant application writing.

Code	Project or Program of Works	Responsibility
Strategy 1.1.1 Prepare consolidated funding application/s for multiple villages as the Council as the sponsor.		
1.1.1a	Review available funding opportunities and consult with villages to identify needs that align with funding objectives.	Village Community & Economic Development (Council)
1.1.1b	Develop a master plan, as required, to guide funding applications for the villages.	Village Community & Strategic Planning (Council)
1.1.1c	Prepare and submit consolidated funding application/s for multiple villages, where appropriate for large scale funding opportunities.	Village Community & Economic Development (Council)
Strategy 1.1.2 Support village communities in securing smaller grants.		
1.1.2a	Provide clear guidance to village communities on where to find information about available funding opportunities.	Village Community & Economic Development (Council)
1.1.2b	Offer support with grant writing to increase the likelihood of securing funding. Continue organising grant writing workshops.	Village Community & Economic Development (Council)
OBJECTIVE 1.2 Ensure services, facilities and infrastructure meet the changing needs of village populations.		
Strategy 1.2.1 Provide each village with appropriate and evolving infrastructure and services.		
1.2.1a	Encourage community members to contact Council directly to ensure immediate maintenance requirements are identified in Councils Work Request and Complaints system.	Village Community
1.2.1b	Review village infrastructure and infrastructure maintenance on an ongoing basis.	Village Community & Engineering (Council)
1.2.1c	Advocate for enhanced transportation options for village residents.	Village Community General Manager / Mayor (Council)
1.2.1d	Ensure continued access to the Bathurst Library for village residents.	Library Services (Council)
1.2.1e	Address challenges associated with long timelines between planning and the delivery of infrastructure projects (e.g., Perthville Village Square). Explore ways to keep projects relevant as communities evolve throughout the planning and delivery process.	Village Community Strategic Planning (Council) Engineering (Council)
1.2.1f	Support self-help initiatives by identifying ways village communities can contribute to enhancing public spaces through volunteer efforts, such as building BBQ facilities in community spaces.	Village Community & Engineering (Council)
1.2.1g	Explore affordable options for new infrastructure, emphasising that simpler solutions can often meet the community's needs without compromising quality.	Engineering (Council)

OBJECTIVE 1.3 Capitalise on tourism through the Destination Management Plan, focusing on the Villages and Local Operators.		
Code	Project or Program of Works	Responsibility
Strategy 1.3.1 Raise awareness of the villages among both tourists and locals.		
1.3.1a	Increase the profile of the villages and their events. Continue to distribute the village brochure at the Bathurst Visitor Information Centre (BVIC) and maintain an online presence on Bathurst Step Beyond.	Bathurst Visitor Information Centre (BVIC) (Council)
1.3.1b	Support the research and interpretation of the stories of the villages that highlight their unique character to guide future tourism development.	Village Community & Strategic Planning (Council) BVIC (Council) & Library Services(Council)
1.3.1c	Promote 'experience tourism' around the villages, such as Trunkey Creek/Abercrombie Caves or Hill End/4WD NPWS. Continue to promote 'trail drives' and explore potential tourist 'drawcards'. Explore opportunities to link villages based on shared themes like food, art, history or camping.	Village Community & BVIC (Council)
Strategy 1.3.2 Maximise the potential of the region's arts and cultural infrastructure, events, and activities.		
1.3.2a	Showcase the cultural heritage and art of the villages through dedicated events.	Village Community
1.3.2b	Investigate the possibility of Aboriginal cultural tourism in the Villages.	Village Community
Strategy 1.3.3 Enhance understanding of the village visitor economy and the motivations behind tourism.		
1.3.3a	Better understand the village visitor economy to inform future decision making.	BVIC (Council) & Community
1.3.3b	Review how village events align with destination tourism strategies to extend visitor stays.	BVIC (Council)
Strategy 1.3.4 Advocate and facilitate collaboration between government agencies and the tourism industry.		
1.3.4a	Liaise with state government agencies to promote key tourism priorities for the Villages.	Village Community BVIC (Council) & Economic Development (Council)
Strategy 1.3.5 Improve facilities to meet the needs of tourists, such as mobile service and electric vehicle chargers.		
1.3.5a	Explore grant application opportunities for the provision of electric vehicle charging stations and caravan/RV dump points. (eg under The Regional Tourism Activation Fund).	Economic Development (Council)
1.3.5b	Continue advocating for improved mobile coverage across the region.	Economic Development (Council)
OBJECTIVE 1.4 Integrate the Village economy with the surrounding rural economy.		
Strategy 1.4.1 Strengthen synergies between agritourism providers and village communities.		
1.4.1a	Encourage agritourism providers to participate in village progress associations and community events & promote agritourism providers at village events to enhance visibility and integration.	Village Community & Progress Associations, Event committees, Agritourism providers

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: Council Leadership and Collaboration.		
OBJECTIVE 2.1 Advocate for village communities.		
Code	Project or Program of Works	Responsibility
Strategy 2.1.1 Enhance communication between village communities and the Council.		
2.1.1a	Relay the needs of village communities to the Council, gathering local input and ensuring it reaches the appropriate contacts. Collaboratively develop community plans to present to the Council outlining necessary actions.	Village Community groups
2.1.1b	Review the community directory to guide villages on how to access support. This would include contact information for relevant Council departments, state government agencies, and connections with regional community groups (e.g., Rotary).	Library Services (Council)
2.1.1c	Focus the discussions at the Council led community village meetings on actions required, completed and underway under the Villages Strategy. Provide annual reporting for each village as part of the cycle of village meetings.	Village Community General Manager Office
Strategy 2.1.2 Support the development of leaders and volunteers within village communities.		
2.1.2a	Encourage uptake in training opportunities for community groups through the Centre for Volunteering.	Strategic Planning (Council) Economic Development (Council)
Strategy 2.1.3 Partner with village communities to address key issues with state government agencies.		
2.1.3a	Act as a liaison to convey the needs, concerns, and issues of village communities to state government agencies.	Village Community General Manager / Mayor (Council) Strategic Planning (Council)

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: A Sustainable Region		
OBJECTIVE 3.1 Plan for, assess and regulate development activity.		
Code	Project or Program of Works	Responsibility
Strategy 3.1.1 Ensure planning instruments address the availability of housing and workplaces.		
3.1.1a	Undertake a review of the Bathurst Region Rural Strategy to review the Region's rural settlement strategy.	Strategic Planning (Council)
3.1.1b	Ensure the Bathurst Regional Local Environmental Plan and Bathurst Regional Development Control Plan do not create barriers to appropriate and sustainable development in each village.	Strategic Planning (Council)
OBJECTIVE 3.2 Improve water security, water quality and biodiversity.		
Strategy 3.2.1 Seek to diversify the water supply.		
3.2.1a	Promote the use of recycled water in areas where it is not yet utilised.	Environmental (Council)
Strategy 3.2.2 Improve biodiversity retention and enhancement and improve waterways.		
3.2.2a	Explore nature-based solutions and eco-tourism opportunities.	Village Community
3.2.2b	Continue implementing actions outlined in the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP), including re-vegetation projects near villages, as funding becomes available.	Engineering (Council)
3.2.2c	Advocate with the Central Tablelands Weeds Authority to continue the roadside spraying program, and to offer training and technical support for weed control and eradication within the villages.	Village Community & Councillor Delegates Central Tablelands Weeds Authority
OBJECTIVE 3.3 Increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change.		
Strategy 3.3.1 Complete mapping for villages with flood and bushfire risk.		
3.3.1a	Complete the update to the Bathurst Flood study (underway) and associated flood plain management plan/s and identify opportunities for funding for other relevant flood study updates in village locations.	Engineering (Council)
3.3.1b	Complete the Bathurst Bushfire Map review.	Strategic Planning (Council) NSW Rural Fire Service
Strategy 3.3.2 Establish preparedness and recovery plans for natural hazards.		
3.3.2a	Collaborate with NSW emergency service organisations on ongoing preparedness to meet an increase in consecutive and concurrent events.	Village Community RFS, SES, Resilience NSW
OBJECTIVE 3.4 Support engagement with Crown Lands.		
Strategy 3.4.1 Engagement with Crown Lands.		
3.4.1a	Advocate for land management and road maintenance issues on Crown Land.	Engineering (Council)
3.4.1b	Review where appropriate and keep up to date Council policies and plans relating to Crown Lands/roads.	Engineering (Council)

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: A Caring and Resilient Community		
OBJECTIVE 4.1 Promote, Protect, and Preserve the Historical and Cultural Assets of the Villages.		
Code	Project or Program of Works	Responsibility
Strategy 4.1.1 Support the identification of, protection and the maintenance of historical and cultural assets.		
4.1.1a	Continue to offer heritage advice and assistance and interpretation funding to support village communities in maintaining cultural and historical assets.	Village Community Strategic Planning (Council)
4.1.1b	Undertake regular review of the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan to ensure heritage, urban design, and other planning controls remain relevant and up to date.	Strategic Planning (Council)
Strategy 4.1.2 Provide a permanent, accessible home for historical documents and information within the village communities assets.		
4.1.2a	Incorporate community information on heritage into the local history section of the Bathurst Library.	Village Community Strategic Planning (Council)
4.1.2b	Continue to research and record information in relation to village heritage assets and update the State Heritage Inventory database.	Strategic Planning (Council)
OBJECTIVE 4.2 Promote/retain the villages as attractive places to live.		
Strategy 4.2.1 Encourage visitation and relocation to the villages of the region.		
4.2.1a	Conduct a marketing review to identify attractors for potential new residents to the villages.	Village Community Economic Development (Council)
4.2.1b	Evaluate the effectiveness of the Villages on “Live Invest” website and continue showcasing the villages through this platform.	Economic Development (Council)
4.2.1c	Collaborate with the community to identify and address any barriers to sustainable village growth.	Village Community Strategic Planning (Council)

OBJECTIVE 4.3 Ensure public spaces are safe and welcoming.		
Strategy 4.3.1 Collaborate with NSW Police to address antisocial behavior in village communities.		
Code	Project or Program of Works	Responsibility
4.3.1a	Advocate for enhanced road safety.	Village Community, NSW Police, Engineering (Council), Transport for NSW
4.3.1b	Support objectives 1.1 to 1.4 of the Bathurst Community Safety Plan to promote safe neighborhoods within the villages.	Village Community, NSW Police, Community Services (Council)
4.3.1c	Support efforts to reduce the impact of increased four-wheel-drive tourism, including issues such as petty crime, vandalism, environmental damage, litter, bushfire risks, accidents, and trespassing, especially in areas inaccessible to emergency services.	Village Community, NSW Police, BVIC (Council) (Visitor Education)
OBJECTIVE 4.4 Ensure health and safety of village residents and visitors.		
Strategy 4.4.1 Support the health and safety of village residents and visitors.		
4.4.1a	Advocate for extending community health services to include Rockley, Trunkey Creek, and other villages, in addition to the current services for Sofala and Hill End. Advocate for targeted mental health services in these areas.	General Manager / Mayor (Council)
4.4.1b		
4.4.1c	Advocate for outreach services, such as respite care, to be offered in the villages.	General Manager / Mayor (Council)
	Advocate for change to prevent campers and four-wheel-drive vehicles from using Crown Land "roads" to access unofficial camping spots listed on platforms like Google. (These areas are often inaccessible to emergency services and create significant safety concerns.)	Crown Lands & Engineering (Council)
OBJECTIVE 4.5 Ensure infrastructure requirements for health and safety are met.		
Strategy 4.5.1 Ensure waste management protects human health, the environment and waterways.		
4.5.1a	Continue implementing the Council's On-Site Sewerage Management strategy, including regular maintenance of septic tanks.	Environment (Council)
4.5.1b	Develop and implement a rural waste strategy.	Engineering (Council)
4.5.1c	Maintain and enforce fines for illegal dumping and littering.	Engineering (Council)

IMPLEMENTATION

Departments, agencies and community the responsibility of carrying out the corresponding actions. To ensure those participating remain accountable Council will undertake regular 12 monthly reviews to identify the actions achieved in each village location. Each 12 monthly review will correspond to the cycle of village meetings as organised by Council.

The cycle of village meetings organised by Council should, as its primary focus, identify what has been achieved, what is needed next and what else might be missing from the Villages Strategy.

As the third tier of government, local government is responsible for ensuring local communities run as smoothly and efficiently as possible, with citizens able to access the services and programs they need to live safe and healthy lives. Local councils have arguably the biggest impact on people's day-to-day lives.

The Villages Strategy sets out an ambitious range of actions to improve the day-to-day lives of each of the Bathurst Region's villages. The ability for Council to implement projects and programs under those actions will be dependent upon the financial and resourcing capacity of Council. Important to the village meeting process will be the identification of priority actions so that existing budgets and resources can be allocated to those issues, projects and programs that matter most and for the community to identify where it can play a role. Priority setting will also help to identify where grant opportunities should best be targeted.



FRONT COVER: SOFALA
BACK COVER: HILL END



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