

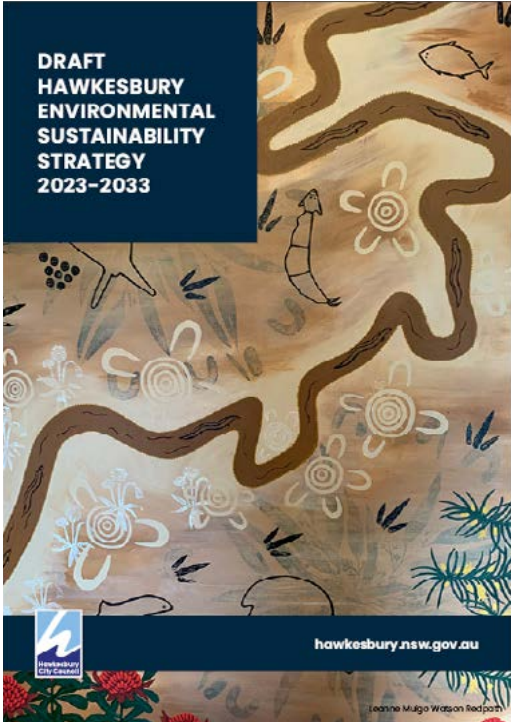
HAWKESBURY ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

2023–2033



hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Leanne Mulgo Watson Redpath



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STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

Council acknowledges the Darug and Darkinjung peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout the Hawkesbury.

Council recognises the continuing connection of First Nations people to their Country and respects the cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of this land.



CONTENTS

Caring For Country	6
Statement From The Next Generation	7
About The Strategy	9
How Did We Develop This Strategy	10
Capacity Building For Sustainability	11
What Our Community Said	13
What We Heard	13
Our Hawkesbury	14
Global To Local	16
Looking To The Future	17
Strategy Themes	18
Sustainable Development Goals	19
Theme 1: The Natural Environment	21
Land	22
Water	24
Theme 2: The Built Environment	27
Open Space And Connectivity	28
Urban Greening	29
Urban Cooling	30
Sustainable And Active Transport	31
Theme 3: Sustainable Living	33
Energy Use	34
Water Use	35
Waste Minimisation & Resource Recovery	36
Strategic Actions: Introduction	37
Strategic Actions: The Natural Environment	38
Strategic Actions: The Built Environment	42
Strategic Actions: Sustainable Living	46
Implementation	49
Measuring Progress	50
Key References	51

CARING FOR COUNTRY

The Hawkesbury Region is home to the Darug and Darkinjung people. To Traditional Custodians, the natural environment is integral to culture, community and individual wellbeing and cannot be separated from human life. Traditional Custodians have been Caring for Country for thousands of years and continue to do so.

Caring for Country draws on laws, knowledge and customs that have been inherited from First Nations ancestors to ensure the continued health of our natural environment, if you look after Country, Country will look after you.

Caring for Country will require us to consider natural systems that include people, animals, resources and plants equally as an eco-centered view (figure 1). Council's definition of sustainability (see page 7) supports this view.

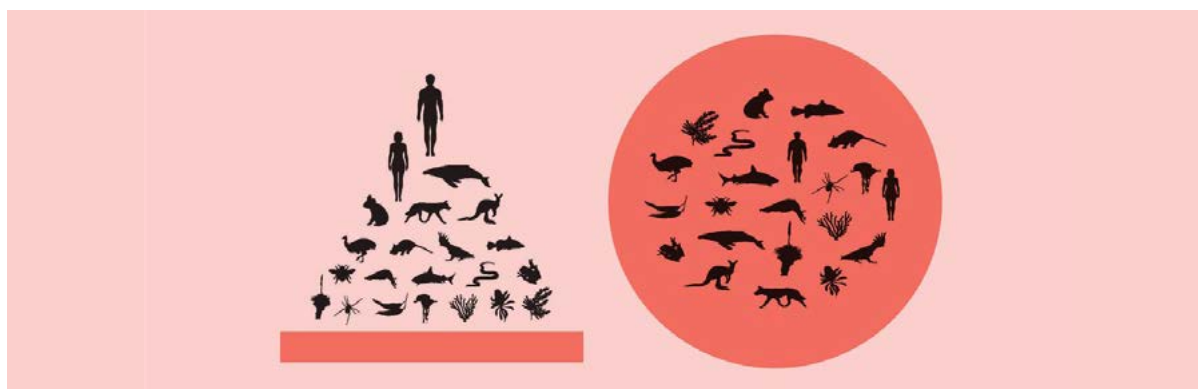


Figure 1: Human Centered v Eco Centered - Draft Connecting with Country, Government Architect New South Wales

There are significant opportunities to engage with Traditional Custodians to ensure the continued protection and recognition of the rich Aboriginal heritage of the region and to create greater awareness and recognition of Caring for Country practices. The Hawkesbury Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study identifies specific opportunities and recommendations that complement this Strategy.

The desired future state for the Hawkesbury is to have a well-established framework for engaging Traditional Custodians in land use management, environment protection and heritage conservation.

“ The sustainability of natural environment to community is of the utmost importance. We have to embrace Nature; not destroy our natural environment.We need to be mindful nature cleans our air, our water, provides foods, medicines, helps with floods. Provides coverage from the sun. Nature provides to our native animals, a habitat and foods as well. This helps to keep us all healthy when the ecosystem is in balance..... The way forward is our past. ”

Aboriginal community member (excerpt from a survey response)

STATEMENT FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

We want to see a welcoming and inclusive community that, together with Council, takes joint action to care for the environment and shows respect for the rich Aboriginal natural and cultural heritage of our unique Hawkesbury.

We will achieve this by:

Being the change

We will make ourselves heard and seen amongst decision-makers, demanding a seat at the table to bring about urgent action on climate change that radically breaks with past practice. Aware of our own ability to influence our surroundings, we will spread the word to others and promote sustainability throughout our communities. We will champion and role-model the behaviours we want to see by buying less, buying better, travelling lighter and leaving less behind.

Understanding Country

We will ask Aboriginal Elders to help us understand how better to Care for Country and will always respect and recognise First Nation's people's unbroken connection to Country.

Making sense of the evidence

We will make conscious decisions that take next generations and long-term perspective into account. Our decisions will be based on best available science and the lived experience of the local population. We will educate, communicate, and motivate positive change through creative methods and proactive engagement.

Collaborating and caring

We will band together and link up to take local action on global issues; we see collaboration as the only way forward to tackle the complex challenges of the future and will make sure no one is left behind. We know that future impacts of climate change will hit some people harder than others and will look out for those most in need.

Going local on clean energy and food

We want to be self-sustaining in producing the essentials of living: clean energy and good food. We are committed to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, and will meet our needs for heating, cooling and fuel through locally produced renewable energy sources. We will produce much of our food locally in a thriving and greener agricultural sector, improving food security, reducing food miles and protecting water quality.

Protecting our unique natural environment

We will protect the natural environment and continue to look after our vast bushland, rich biodiversity, and extensive waterways that sustain our lives and define our identity.





ABOUT THE STRATEGY

The implementation of this Strategy will be guided by the principles of Caring for Country, the Statement from the Next Generation and our community's desire to see a sustainable Hawkesbury. A more sustainable Hawkesbury will be achieved through inclusive joint Council and community actions.

Purpose

To provide a framework for collaborative action and direct change toward living more sustainably and in harmony with our history and environment

The Strategy consolidates existing knowledge, actions, and directions, providing a long-term foundation for progressing the sustainability of the Hawkesbury Local Government Area whilst aligning with the United Nations sustainable development goals.

As a 10-year plan, the Strategy sets the course for a continuous journey towards a more sustainable environment. Further actions will be developed over time and in step with Council's overall Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (see page 47).

Definition of Sustainability

Sustainability is understood as *"meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"*. Building upon this United Nations (UN) Brundtland Commission definition, and based on input and feedback from the Strategy engagement, our definition of sustainability is:

- our programs, projects and works will not compromise the ability of **future generations** to meet their needs
- the environmental, economic, and social implications of our work will be considered with **everything we do**

HOW DID WE DEVELOP THIS STRATEGY

The approach for developing the Strategy is outlined in Figure 2 below.

STEP 1: Research and document review

This stage involved a comprehensive review of existing Council strategies and plans as well as key reference documents

STEP 2: Establishment of planning context

Internal engagement across Council was undertaken to ensure the planning and implementation content is well understood and defined

STEP 3: Initial engagement

Engagement of youth (Youth Forum and follow up survey), Aboriginal community (survey), community and business representatives and internal engagement

STEP 4: Public exhibition of draft strategy

Broader public engagement to seek input and feedback on the Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy

STEP 5: Final strategy

Based on community feedback, the strategy will be finalised and presented to Council for adoption

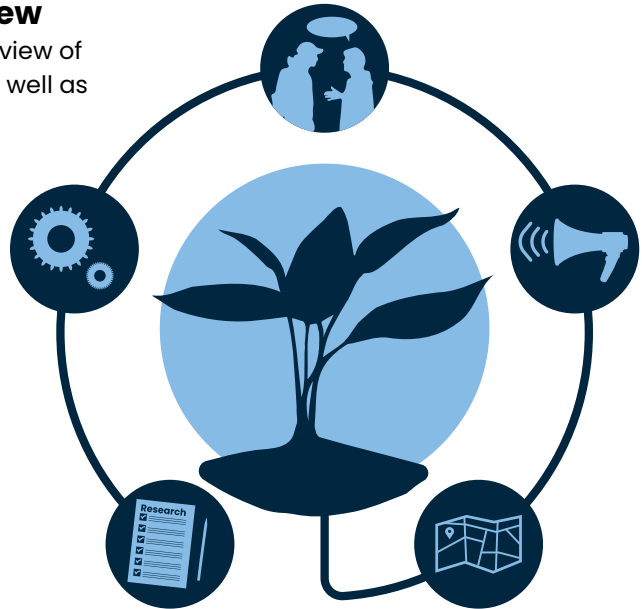
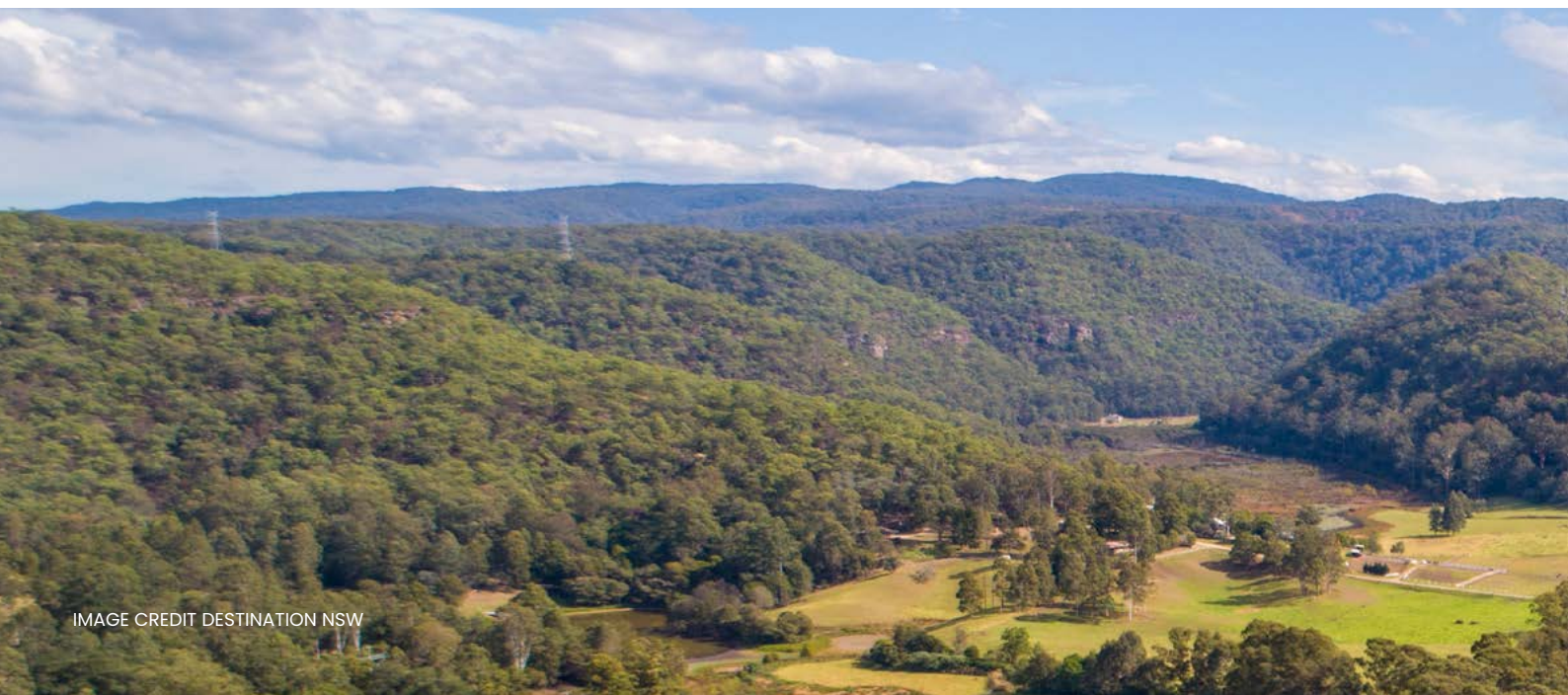


Figure 2: Approach



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

We have identified five key areas for capacity building as shown in Figure 3 below. Each of the strategic actions, outlined on pages 36–46, is described in terms of how it will deliver on these core capacity building elements.

KNOWLEDGE

Establish baseline data and methods of knowledge sharing internally and in partnership with research institutions, agencies and the community

POLICY

Develop a policy and strategy framework for long term change

AWARENESS

Creating a greater sense of awareness of personal and collective opportunities for action

PARTNERSHIPS

Strengthening partnerships and building networks for ongoing collaboration

TRIALS

Conduct demonstration projects and on-ground works

Figure 3: Capacity building for sustainability







WHAT OUR COMMUNITY SAID

Community feedback obtained during the development of the Community Strategic Plan 2022–2042 and other Council projects (for example the Liveability Projects), has been incorporated into the development of this Strategy. In addition, targeted engagement was undertaken, as outlined below:

- A **Youth Forum** was held to develop an understanding of how future generations of Hawkesbury residents envisaged their Hawkesbury in years to come. A Statement from the Next Generation was developed expressing their desire for joint action- Council and community- inclusive of First Nations peoples, to care for the environment. The Statement also lists specific actions that can be undertaken to enable collective action.
- A **First Nations survey** was developed and circulated to First Nations individuals/ groups. We asked for perspectives on Caring for Country, the value of Country, and how we engage with First Nations People in the future.
- **Environmental groups** and our **business community** were invited to participate in a workshop to provide feedback and input on Strategy actions and reaffirmed the collaboration and partnership approach for the Strategy.

WHAT WE HEARD

Our community want to work collaboratively and with Council to bring about the changes needed to ensure a sustainable Hawkesbury, now and for future generations.

We heard that:

- Circular economy and waste reduction is critical to our sustainability.
- Protecting the environment is integral to our identity, belonging and wellbeing.
- Looking after the bushland, waterways and biodiversity of Hawkesbury requires a holistic approach on all fronts and across natural and urban environments.
- We need to Care for Country and protect the rich Aboriginal heritage of the Hawkesbury.
- Our agricultural lands are critical to our resilience and local economy.
- Partnerships for Power – investing in renewable energy is critical to our local power supply and provides a long-term economic opportunity for the region.

OUR HAWKESBURY

The Hawkesbury Local Government Area (LGA) lies approximately 52 kilometres northwest of the Sydney CBD. It is the largest LGA in the Sydney Metropolitan region covering an area of nearly 2,800 square kilometres and surrounded by adjoining councils. The Hawkesbury region is characterised by its vast bushland, extensive rivers and wetlands and rich Aboriginal continuous history and heritage. There are four river valleys, fertile flood plains and wetlands, hills, ridges and gorges within the Hawkesbury. The Hawkesbury River, known to the Darug people as Dyarubbin, was a significant place in Dreaming stories, rich in resources, and a critical means of transport¹.

While Hawkesbury is the largest LGA in the metropolitan Sydney region in land area, it is one of the smallest LGAs in terms of size of population. Figure 4 shows the Hawkesbury's population dispersion and density.

Most of the land (two thirds) in the LGA is comprised of agricultural land and extensive areas of National Parks, mainly located in the north of the LGA. The Upper Hawkesbury River flows through the LGA, from Wisemans Ferry to Yarramundi.

The regions abundant bushland, river systems and unique landscapes form an integral aspect of the values and identity of the community, starting with our First Nation people.

The Hawkesbury community have shown great resilience and community spirit in the face of increasing impacts of climate change and natural disasters. These core strengths are invaluable as the region, like the rest of the world, faces increasing and compounding challenges relating to climate change, such as heat waves and the increasing frequency and intensity of floods and bushfires.



85,050 people are projected to be living in the Hawkesbury by 2036

67,581 people live in the Hawkesbury

66% of the population live in urban townships

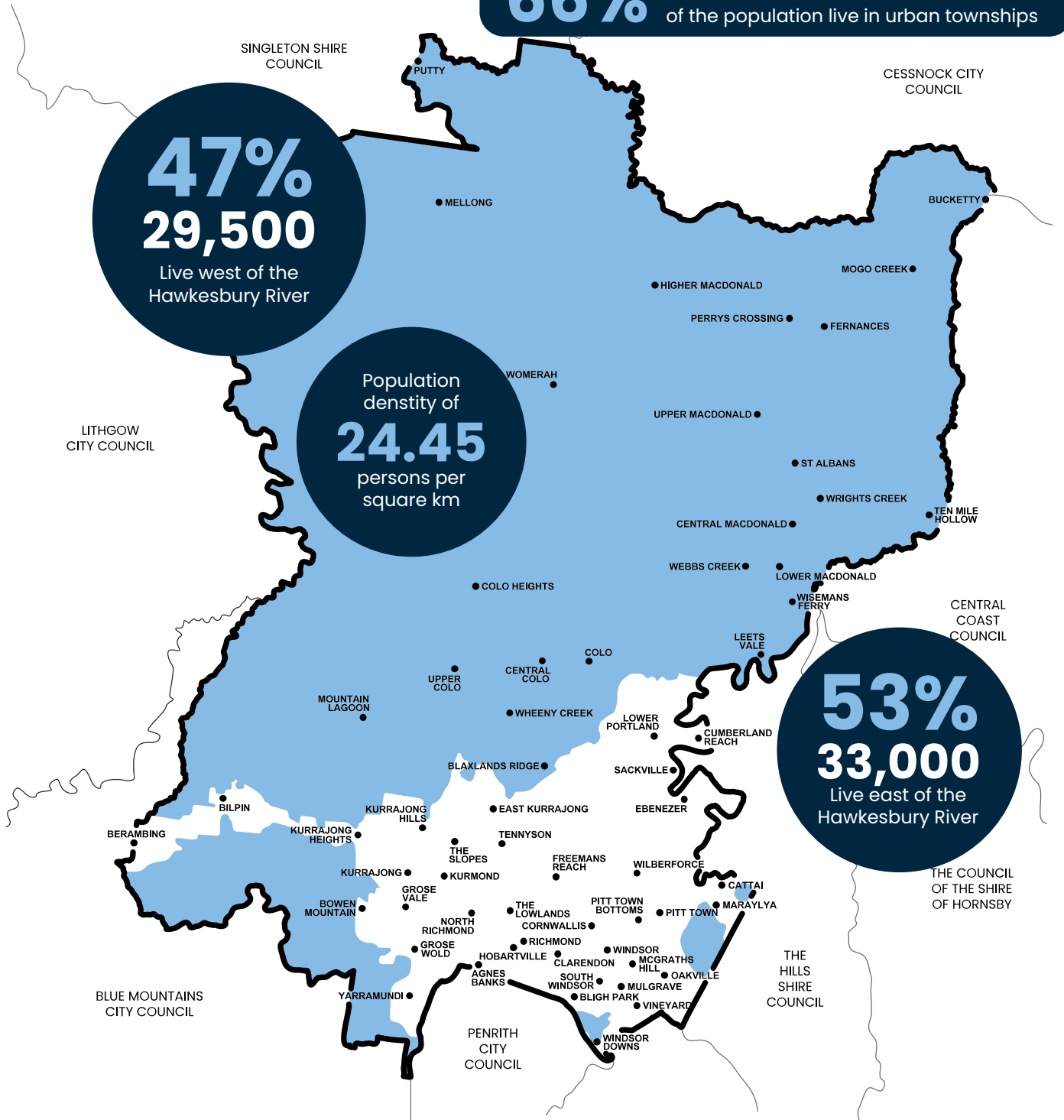


Figure 4: Hawkesbury LGA

GLOBAL TO LOCAL

This Strategy is informed by key global, federal, state, regional and local directions, as pictured in the infographic below. This is not a comprehensive list; it highlights some of the strategic context directly relevant to this strategy.

FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL

Global

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
- UN Convention on Biodiversity
- UN FCCC: Paris Agreement

Federal

- The Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Australia State of the Environment 2021
- Climate Change Bill 2022

State

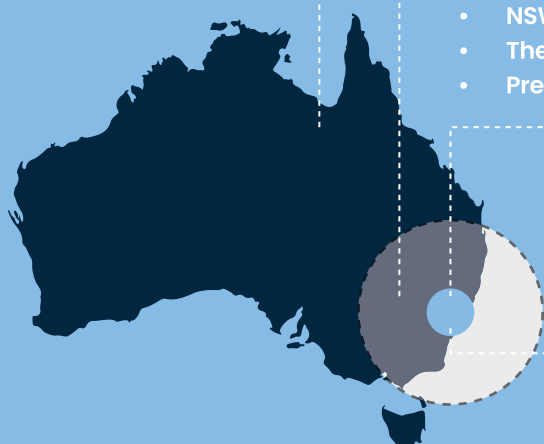
- NSW Climate Change Adaption Strategy
- NSW Net Zero Plan: Stage 1: 2020–2030
- NSW State of the Environment 2021
- The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Premier's Priorities – Greening Our City, Greener Public Spaces

Regional

- Greater Sydney Commission – Greater Sydney Regional Plan
- Greater Sydney Commission – Western Sydney District Plan
- WSROC – Turn Down the Heat Strategy and Action Plan 2018
- Future Transport Strategy 2056

Local

- Hawkesbury City Council Community Strategic Plan 2022–2042
- Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040
- Hawkesbury LGA Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study 2021
- Hawkesbury Net Zero Emissions and Water Efficiency Strategy 2021



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

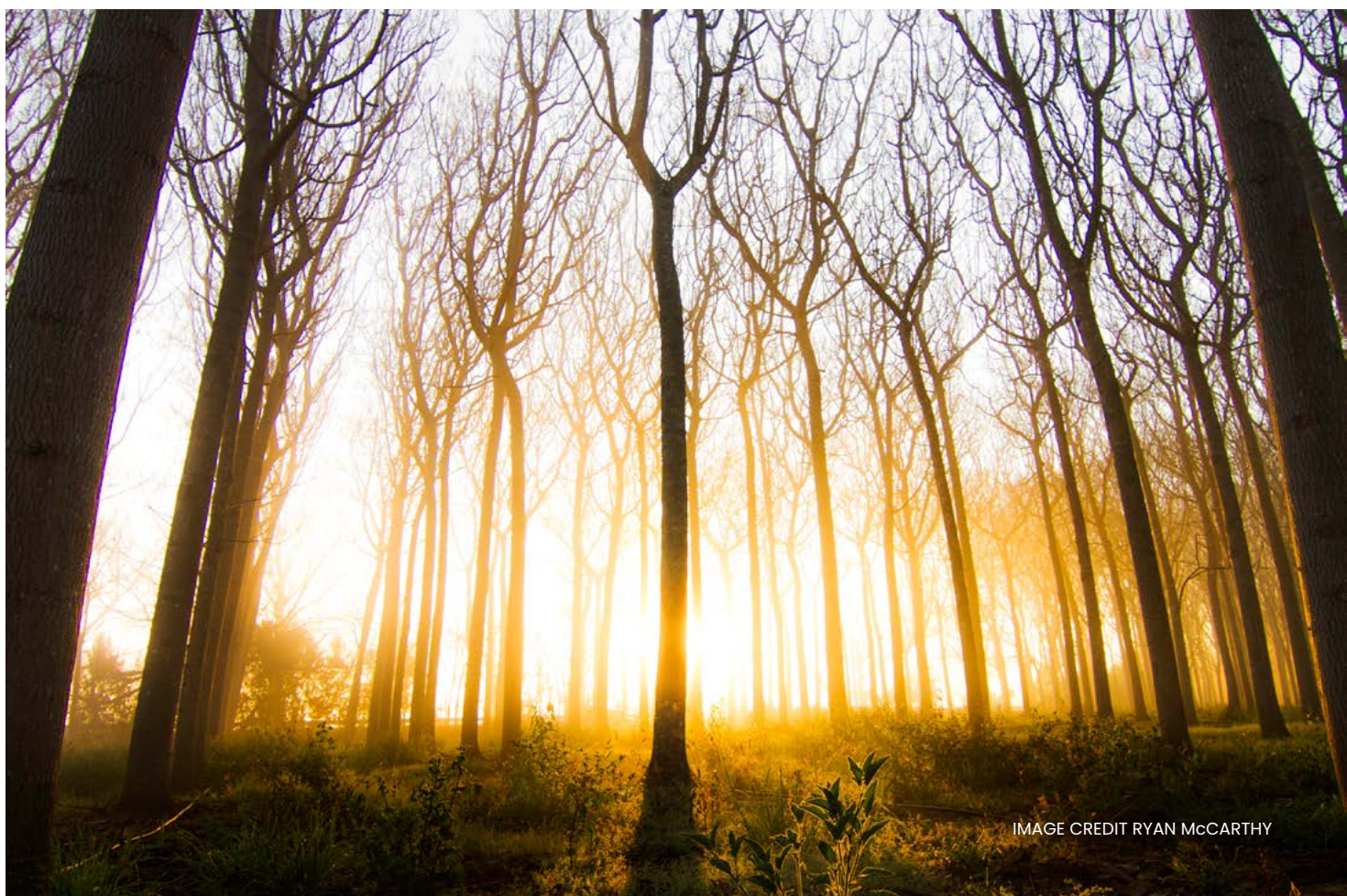
The Hawkesbury LGA faces unique challenges in looking after its community and vast natural, cultural, built assets and environment.

Climate change will have direct impacts on our lives, and particularly vulnerable groups. It will also affect biodiversity and water quality as ecosystems respond to increased temperatures. Severe storms and floods will impact not only natural and built assets, but also have potential to erode Aboriginal heritage sites.

The Hawkesbury's population is expected to increase to 85,050 by 2036. We need to work together to reduce our carbon emissions as well as protect our natural environment, history and heritage.

While the challenges may seem overwhelming at times, there are also significant positive opportunities for bringing about lasting change. For example, technology has changed how we live and work, and potentially reducing our reliance on transport by offering work from home options, household solar power has become more affordable and waste management and recycling options are more readily available.

The more sustainable actions and decisions we make, no matter how small, whether they be at an individual or household level, collectively, will move us towards the more sustainable future we all desire.



STRATEGY THEMES

The challenges and opportunities ahead are complex and call for partnerships and collaboration on all fronts and across all sectors. The Strategy focusses on building upon the already well-established networks and partnerships across government, non-government organisations, research institutes and the local community.

Based on the initial research and engagement, the Strategy centres around three core themes and 9 sub-themes, as shown below:

The Natural Environment



LAND



WATER

The Built Environment



OPEN SPACE & CONNECTIVITY



URBAN GREENING



URBAN COOLING



SUSTAINABLE & ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Sustainable Living



ENERGY USE



WATER USE











WASTE MINIMISATION & RESOURCE RECOVERY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Strategy themes will guide our progress towards the strategy's purpose. In a broader sense, the Strategy themes and sub-themes have been informed by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The below figure identifies each theme, sub-theme and their alignment with the UN SDG's.

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>  <p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>  <p>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>  <p>Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages</p>	<p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>  <p>Reduce inequality within and among countries</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>  <p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>  <p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>  <p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>
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THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>  <p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>  <p>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>  <p>Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages</p>	<p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>  <p>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>  <p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p>
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SUSTAINABLE LIVING



<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>  <p>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>  <p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>  <p>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p>	<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>  <p>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>  <p>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>  <p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p>
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THEME 1: THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

“ *The quality of our natural environment reflects the quality of the life we live.* ”
Hawkesbury’s Aboriginal Heritage Study Aboriginal, 2021

Our natural environment supports the life we live every day; from the air we breathe to the food we enjoy and the places that offer us respite and cultural connection.

We have divided Theme 1 into two sub-themes as shown below:



The sub-theme Land refers to the plants, animals, insects, and micro-organisms that live on or under the land. Our bushland could be described as the lungs of our environment as the plants it contains cleans our air, our animals, including our iconic species like Koalas and the Swift Parrot play their part in sustaining our environment. Insects, particularly bees, pollinate our food, plants and play an essential role in our very survival. Many different species and microorganisms also play vital roles in keeping our environment healthy, particularly soil health, productivity, and decomposition.



The sub-theme Water refers to our rivers, creeks, wetlands, and ground water. While these are heavily influenced by the land (i.e., the catchments they are in) they have their own ecological character that warrants their own sub-theme. The Hawkesbury is home to five rivers, and numerous creeks and wetlands. Water is essential to all living things and requires continued protection and management.

SNAPSHOT OF THE HAWKESBURY’S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Over 1500 hectares of native bushland



The Upper Hawkesbury River flows through the LGA, a total length of around 76km



71% of land in Hawkesbury LGA is National Parks



495 regionally significant wetlands in the Hawkesbury-Nepean River catchment



LAND

Land-based ecosystems play defining roles in our ability to live sustainably without causing further harm to the natural environment and give us a sense of belonging and well-being. The biodiversity in our land-based ecosystems includes rain forests, dry sclerophyll forests, grasslands, heathlands and complex understories of herbs, fungi, mosses and lichens. All of these species provide food and shelter to the biodiversity of animals, insects and microorganisms.

The Hawkesbury LGA contains extensive areas that have high biodiversity value, which within National Parks and State Reserves are protected through a range of State and Commonwealth Legislation. Although the Hawkesbury is characterised by vast bushland and natural areas that support significant biodiversity, many species and ecological communities are diminishing and are under threat. For example, the Hawkesbury is home to 238 threatened species and 49 endangered ecological communities¹. The Hawkesbury's diverse environment is a key part of our identity and it is incumbent on Council, together with the community to take responsibility to protect and preserve it for future generations.

Challenges

- Urban growth (causing habitat destruction)
- Conserving and restoring critical habitat corridors
- Impacts of natural disasters (flooding, bushfires, drought, heat and storms.)
- The effects of rising temperature
- Invasive species (weeds, pest animals, insects e.g., verroa mite, and pathogens e.g., plant pathogen *Phytophthora*) all have the potential to impact land-based ecosystems.

Opportunities

- Council's bushland management program and partnership with the Hawkesbury River County Council (HRCC), aims to reduce or eliminate the adverse impacts of urban development whilst restoring and conserving native plant and animal communities
- With an environmentally conscious and active local community, there may be opportunities to expand the existing groups (e.g., Bushcare, Birdwatch, Frogwatch, and other volunteer groups)
- Citizen science groups

Desired future state

- Continued implementation of Council's bushland management and education programs
- Strengthened collaboration with community groups, research organisations and all levels of Government to improve the knowledge we have about land-based ecosystems and the actions we can take to help conserve and restore them
- An increased number of bushcare volunteers and number of groups caring for species or types of species (e.g., Koala Groups, Wildplant Rescue, Birdwatch etc.)
- Improved knowledge of local biodiversity, with easier access to data documenting the current state of habitats and species, and usage of this data and knowledge to inform decision making
- Evidence of increased biodiversity in both our natural and urban land-based areas
- Strengthened provisions on actions for environmental land-based conservation (e.g. such as habitat protection) within Local Strategic Plans and Development Control Plans





WATER

Water-based ecosystems also play defining roles in our ability to live sustainably without causing further harm to the natural environment and give us a sense of belonging and well-being. Water-based ecosystems such as riparian zones, wetlands, creeks, rivulets, rivers and groundwater contain a vast biodiversity of plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms.

The landscape of the Hawkesbury is characterised by its waterways and natural areas around it, the Hawkesbury is home to five rivers, numerous creeks, wetlands and catchments. Traditional Custodians within the Hawkesbury have a strong cultural attachment to the rivers and the banks and trees around them that now provide important natural, economic, cultural and recreational assets. Well-managed and healthy rivers and catchments can help reduce the risk of flooding and assist in preventing soil erosion. Our local waterways are also used for recreation purposes, and ensuring our waterways are healthy is important.

Challenges

- Riparian vegetation clearing (exacerbate bank erosion risks)
- Weed invasion of riparian areas
- Pollution, illegal dumping and litter entering our water-based ecosystems (including through stormwater runoff)
- Impacts from extreme weather events
- Water quality
- Pets and feral animals
- Many of the banks of the river are in private ownership

Opportunities

- Water recycling, stormwater harvesting and implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design elements to cool urban environments, improve the quality of stormwater runoff, secure water supply to the region, and to assist in maintaining water flows during drought periods
- Partnership with 6 other councils on the development of the Hawkesbury- Nepean Coastal Management Program to support the coordinated management of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River system

Desired future state

- Strengthened collaboration with community groups, research organisations and all levels of Government to improve the conservation and restoration of water-based ecosystems
- Regeneration of local wetlands and lagoons through improved management and stewardship
- Implementation of the Coastal Management Plan
- Continue to monitor water quality within the Hawkesbury River with the assistance of the NSW Government
- Implementation of water sensitive urban design practices to address water issues
- Strengthened provisions on actions for environmental water-based conservation (e.g. such as habitat protection) within Local Strategic Plans and Development Control Plans
- Improved knowledge of local biodiversity, with easier access to data documenting the current state in both our natural and urban water-based areas
- Evidence increase in biodiversity in both our natural and urban water-based areas





THEME 2: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The built environment in Australia is estimated to generate 40% of global energy related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and consumes almost half of the total global raw material.² The majority of the Hawkesbury LGA population live in urban townships - in single dwellings - this is an area of particular importance in terms of reducing emissions as well as preparing for the projected impacts of climate change, such as increases in heatwaves.

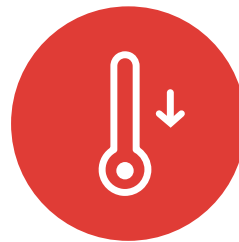
We have identified four sub-themes for creating a more sustainable built environment:



OPEN SPACE & CONNECTIVITY



URBAN GREENING



URBAN COOLING



SUSTAINABLE & ACTIVE TRANSPORT

SNAPSHOT OF THE HAWKESBURY'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



1,333 ha Council managed public open space



5 -10 additional hot days by 2030



214 parks and reserves



<10% Tree Canopy in Town Centres



13.1% medium or high-density dwellings

² www.wbcsd.org/Programs/Cities-and-Mobility/Sustainable-Cities/Blueprint-for-a-sustainable-built-environment



OPEN SPACE AND CONNECTIVITY

Open space includes public parks, gardens, community sportsgrounds, plazas, reserves, rooftop gardens, green corridors and linkages in our cities. Open spaces provide a wide range of benefits - improved physical wellbeing as well as mental health, strengthened social cohesion, visual amenity, cultural heritage, and protection of biodiversity and environmental values.

Challenges

- Impacts of climate change combined with increased development may place more pressure on existing open space with limited opportunities and resources to acquire land for future open spaces given the geographic constraints of the area
- Annual budget for open space provision and ongoing maintenance is limited
- Extreme weather events, flooding and heatwaves have significant implications for open space planning and use
- Characterised by its vast land area and geographically constrained by rivers and gorges, connectivity remains a key Council priority (Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement 2021)
- While there are many well-used parks in the City, open space provision across the LGA are random in certain areas and not easily accessible

Opportunities

- With its extensive river systems and scenic outlooks, the Hawkesbury region has great potential to use its natural assets and open space to support the well-being of its community & natural environment, and help boost the visitor economy.
- The river systems also offer unique opportunities for the creation of green – blue infrastructure that provides connectivity, recreation and cooling benefits, as well as a range of other social, and environmental opportunities

Desired future state

- Updated Regional Open Space Strategy addressing the diverse needs of the community.
- Local neighbourhoods have easy access to quality open spaces.
- Mapped opportunities for improving blue/green infrastructure and connectivity.
- Continue investigating opportunities for partnerships, funding, and collaboration to improve access to open space.
- New developments provide reinvestment into public open spaces.



URBAN GREENING

Urban trees play a significant role in creating liveable neighbourhoods that support the health and wellbeing of communities. They are important assets for the community that bring many benefits to cities and town centres, including, biodiversity support, urban cooling, aesthetic appeal, improved water and air quality, reduced noise and increasing energy efficiency.

Challenges

- Some of the key challenges include selection of appropriate trees and managing dual needs for tree canopy in urban areas with maintenance and water requirements
- Low canopy cover in urban areas
- Low percentage of trees planted on private land
- Vandalism of public trees
- Smaller minimum lot sizes for new developments

Opportunities

- Through NSW Government grants, tree planting has occurred in a number of suburbs throughout the LGA
- Work with the community on incorporating tree planting and protecting mature trees on private land
- Council is currently developing an Urban Greening Strategy to guide how tree canopy and greening can be increased within our urban areas, and encouraging planting on private land

Desired future state

- Urban Greening Strategy adopted
- Identified priority areas for tree planting and heat mitigation interventions
- The community has a high-level appreciation of the importance of urban greening
- Continue investigating opportunities for encouraging and enabling private, commercial and industrial landowners and public institutions to plant appropriate trees and understory on their properties
- Baseline data identifying the current trees planted on Council managed land, within urban town centres
- Have adopted tree asset management plans and conduct regular tree audits and maintenance to better protect mature trees on public land.



URBAN COOLING

We need to implement effective urban cooling measures to reduce the impact of urban heat and also to decrease the demand for energy and water consumption. Improving urban cooling in our urban areas by integrating urban green infrastructure (e.g. street trees, green walls, green roofs) and incorporating sustainable building materials (e.g. cool roofs and permeable pavements).

Challenges

- Climate change and urbanisation will see increases in urban heat, and the impacts will be experienced by our community, especially amongst the vulnerable populations

Opportunities

- Implementation of the Urban Heat Planning Toolkit (2021) in collaboration with Western Sydney Organisation of Council's (WSROC) and research Institutes, to inform planning provisions
- There is already a significant body of knowledge and research available to inform future planning, providing an opportunity for significant reduction to urban heat through better urban design (e.g., integration of Water Sensitive Urban Design, adoption of passive cooling methods in building design, controls for using heat mitigating roofs used in residential sector)

Desired future state

- Have a standalone provision on urban heat management included in the Hawkesbury Development Control Plan (DCP) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP)
- Implementation of urban heat response mitigation and adaptation measures through collaborating with research institutions, state government and industry
- Continue investigating opportunities for using stormwater harvesting, recycled water, and green infrastructure to support cool urban environments
- Continue to work with WSROC and its associated Council's to implement the actions within the Turn Down the Heat Strategy and Action Plan (2018), to create cooler, more resilient communities.³

³ www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/210836/20220628AT6toitem1-Urban-Heat-Planning-Toolkit.pdf



SUSTAINABLE AND ACTIVE TRANSPORT

Sustainable transport is low/zero-emission, energy efficient modes of transport, which include electric or alternate fuel vehicles, that cause less impact on the environment. Active transport refers to walking and cycling and are a subset of sustainable transport.

Challenges

- There are currently approximately 3.22 cars per household in the Hawkesbury LGA (Household Travel Survey 2019/20, Transport for NSW)
- Provision of public transport opportunities is outside the control of Council and remains a priority area for advocacy with NSW Government.

Opportunities

- The Hawkesbury Net Zero Emissions and Water Efficiency Strategy (2021) identifies sustainable and active transport as a core component for reducing carbon emissions. Engagement for the strategy identified that 96% of survey respondents were supportive of sustainable transport options, including active transport
- Many residents work within the LGA, providing an opportunity for more localised transport options other than by private vehicle.⁴ This would help in reducing emissions and in travel costs for residents
- Hawkesbury's community survey results, to inform the Net Zero Emissions and Water Efficiency Strategy found that the community is receptive to changing to more sustainable modes of transport.

Desired future state

- Continue investigating partnerships and funding opportunities for enabling active and/or electric transport options and infrastructure throughout the LGA
- Continue to enable and promote opportunities for community uptake of sustainable, active and/or electric transport choices
- Safe mobility options for all
- An adopted Active Transport Plan

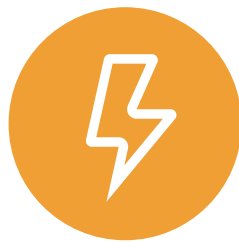
⁴Hawkesbury ID Profile



THEME 3: SUSTAINABLE LIVING

The United Nations environment program defines sustainable living as an understanding of how our lifestyle choices impact the world around us and finding ways for everyone to live better and lighter. With an increase in population comes more demand for food, fashion, travel, housing and related aspirations. In a world stretched thin for resources and under the threat of global biodiversity loss and climate change, our lifestyles decisions are putting the planet at risk. To combat these impacts, we need targeted local actions.

We have identified three sub-themes for sustainable living which require high attention in our daily life choices:



ENERGY USE

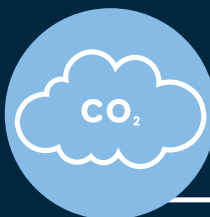


WATER USE

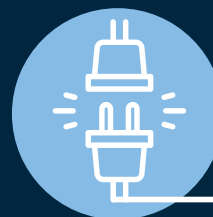


WASTE MINIMISATION & RESOURCE RECOVERY

SNAPSHOT OF THE HAWKESBURY'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



848 thousand tonnes of CO₂ generated by community (2020/21)



On average Hawkesbury households use 8,456 kWh compared to the Greater Sydney household average of 5,576 kWh (2020/21)



28.7% of households have solar systems (Sept 2022)



5.27M kL/year of water use (2020/21)



40% of household red garbage bins are made up of food and garden waste



ENERGY USE

Reducing our energy consumption (e.g. heating and cooling) is not only good for our household economy; it's also critical to our collective and global responsibility of reducing greenhouse gas Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Challenges

- The prevalence of heat absorbing materials such as dark-coloured pavements and roofs, and concrete, in addition to building design, urban canyons trapping hot air, and lack of shade and green space in dense urban environments deepens the need for electricity.

Opportunities

- Hawkesbury residents are installing solar systems at an accelerating rate
- Council's Net Zero Emissions and Water Efficiency Strategy, outlines actions to work towards the target of Net Zero Emissions by 2030, for both council operations and community
- Council is currently investing in solar power and sustainability measures to reduce energy consumption.

Desired future state

- Continue to demonstrate leadership and motivate change through showcasing renewable energy initiatives on Council assets
- Continue to enable, educate and inspire the community to reduce their carbon emissions
- Have an established reporting framework for monitoring and reporting on Council's carbon emissions and energy consumption
- Partnerships and investments into local renewable and more sustainable energy production and storage options.



WATER USE

We all want to live in cool, green and clean spaces, and this wouldn't be possible without water. Only 1% of water in the whole world is fresh, drinkable and accessible to us and increasing demand in water and high consumption is leaving our future generations vulnerable to safe drinking water.

Challenges

- Some of the key challenges include run-off from urban development and pollution of rivers and water systems that are exacerbated by extreme weather events and flooding
- Extreme temperatures and heat waves during summer, along with regular periods of prolonged drought conditions, result in water restrictions, and present a serious threat to quality of life, public health and economic prosperity.

Opportunities

- Increasing the use of recycled water to cool suburbs, by irrigating greenery, gardens, open spaces
- Council manages significant wastewater infrastructure which can be utilised to reduce the impact of urban development on water resources, reduce water extraction and save valuable potable water for personal use and drinking.

Desired future state

- Established measuring and reporting requirements for water efficiency targets
- Continue community education programs outlining water conservation, recycling and water reuse
- Continue investigating opportunities for ongoing and extended provision of drought-resistant water supplies through provision of recycled water infrastructure and services
- Continue investigating options for improving stormwater management to reduce run-off and sewer overflows.



WASTE MINIMISATION & RESOURCE RECOVERY

In 2021/2022 the Hawkesbury community recycled 5,185 tonnes and composted 6,090 tonnes of materials through their household bins. This has resulted in water, energy, emissions and landfill savings. Council has adopted the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2032 to rethink waste as a resource as we move towards higher waste diversion from landfill through increased services as well as a circular economy approach that boosts the agri-business sector, and assists in providing for sustainable food production.

Challenges

- Achieving the NSW Government's 80% recovery rate by 2030 for Council's household waste and recycling services. Council's current recovery rate is 36%
- Currently Council is landfilling an estimated 8,046 tonnes of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO). FOGO material when landfilled produces methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, which over a 20-year period is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide
- Council's landfill only has another 4 years of capacity remaining. Post-2026 alternate residual waste disposal options will be required.

Opportunities

- The NSW Government has mandated the introduction of Food Organics & Garden Organics (FOGO) for all households by 2030. This will ensure this material is diverted from landfill which will help to achieve zero emissions from organics in landfill by 2030
- Collaborate with key stakeholders including for example Western Sydney University and Sydney Water to establish local circular economy initiatives
- Continue to deliver community waste education programs to maintain low levels of recycling and garden organics contamination, further reduce litter and generate community support for the introduction of FOGO
- Develop a Sustainable Food Systems Policy

Desired future state

- Have baseline data and be reporting publicly on key waste measures
- Continue investigating the possibility of circular economy initiatives through collaboration with research institutes, agriculture, industry, the business community and wider public
- Have sustainable government procurement practices implemented
- Continue to support the implementation of the Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2032
- Adopt and implement a Sustainable Food Systems Policy.

STRATEGIC ACTIONS: INTRODUCTION

This section presents the Strategic actions to progressing the community's vision and ensure a more sustainable Hawkesbury. With a focus on motivating change and building capacity, the strategic directions have been developed with the following key elements in mind:


- **KNOWLEDGE:** Establishing baseline data and methods of knowledge sharing internally and in partnership with research institutions, agencies and the community
- **POLICY:** Developing a policy and strategy framework
- **AWARENESS:** Creating a greater sense of awareness of personal and collective opportunities for actions
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** Strengthening partnerships and building networks for ongoing collaboration
- **TRIALS:** Conducting demonstration projects and on ground works

Indicative timelines are provided in the tables, where:

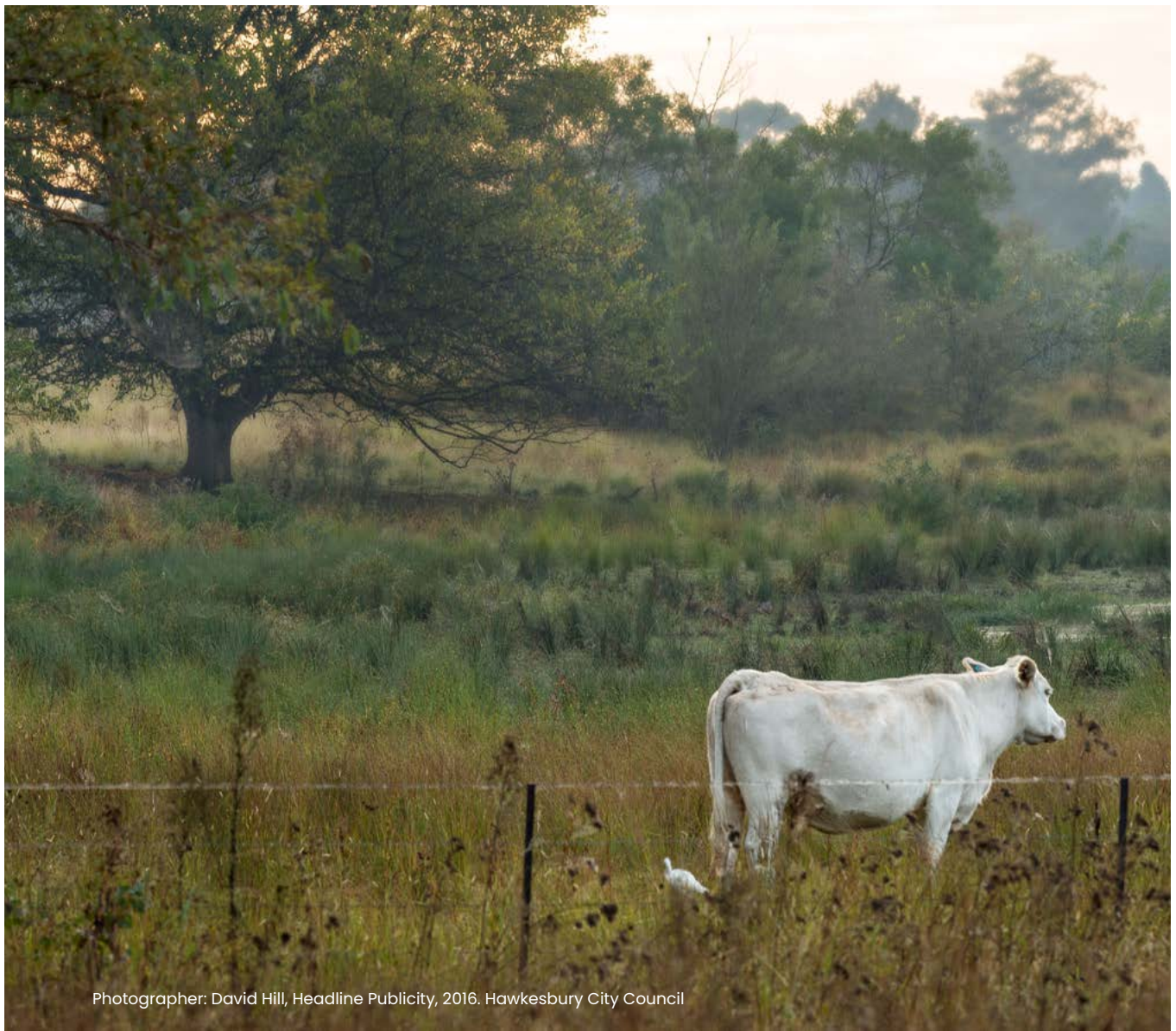
- Short-term is estimated to be delivered within a 1-2 year timeframe;
- Medium-term is estimated to be delivered within a 3 – 5 year timeframe; and
- Long-term estimated to be delivered within a 5- 10 year timeframe.

It should be emphasised that these are approximations only and are subject to refinement in step with Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting framework as well as any arising opportunities. It should also be noted that the timelines do not signify relative importance; all strategic actions identified are critical to progress the overall vision for the Hawkesbury.


STRATEGIC ACTIONS: THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
 <p>LAND</p>	1.1 Motivate, educate, and include the community in initiatives to conserve and restore land-based ecosystems	Awareness Trials	Ongoing	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Bushcare volunteers, Hawkesbury Community, Hawkesbury Environment Network, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network, Hawkesbury River County Council
	1.2 Gather baseline data on the current state of our land-based ecosystems	Knowledge Partnerships	Short Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Hawkesbury River County Council, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network
	1.3 Identify and map land-based habitat corridors.	Partnerships Awareness Trials	Medium Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Hawkesbury River County Council, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network
	1.4 In collaboration with research institutes and volunteer groups, monitor the health of land-based ecosystems	Knowledge Awareness Trials	Long Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Hawkesbury River County Council, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network, Council's Bushcare volunteers
	1.5 Establish a Conservation and Restoration Strategy to cover Land and Water	Policy Awareness Trials	Long Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Hawkesbury River County Council, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network
	1.6 Extend partnership, collaboration, and volunteering opportunities land-based conservation and restoration (e.g. Bushcare, Citizens Science, schools and research institutes), with priority given to threatened and endangered species	Awareness Trials	Long Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network, Hawkesbury River County Council, Western University, Hawkesbury TAFE, Bushcare volunteers, Hawkesbury Environment Network
	1.7 Protect Aboriginal natural and cultural heritage and engage appropriately with Traditional Custodians on how to look after sites (and as informed by the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study 2021)	Partnerships Awareness	Medium Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Water NSW, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Local indigenous Groups, Hawkesbury Heritage Committee

SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
	1.8 In collaboration with Traditional Custodians and the local Aboriginal community, recognise the importance of the land-based ecosystems to the First Nations people of Hawkesbury through culturally appropriate signposting, artwork, and community education.	Partnerships Awareness Trials	Medium Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Water NSW, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Local indigenous Groups, Hawkesbury Heritage Committee
	1.9 Review the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) to strengthen provisions related to conserving and restoring land-based ecosystems	Policy	Short Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment



Photographer: David Hill, Headline Publicity, 2016. Hawkesbury City Council


SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
 <p>WATER</p>	1.10 Collect baseline data and conduct subsequent regular ongoing monitoring of water quality to help monitor the health of local waterways	Knowledge Trials	Short Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Water NSW, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Sydney Water, Hawkesbury- Nepean Coastal Management Program
	1.11 Investigate opportunities and set priorities for reducing run-off and pollution entering rivers, creeks and catchments (e.g., through initiatives such as implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design measures, such as, constructed wetlands, and instalment of gross pollutant traps.)	Trials	Medium Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Water NSW, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Sydney Water, Hawkesbury- Nepean Coastal Management Program
	1.12 Motivate, educate, and include the community and businesses in initiatives to conserve and restore our water-based ecosystems	Partnerships Awareness	Short Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Hawkesbury Community, Hawkesbury Environment Network, Hawkesbury- Nepean Coastal Management Program
	1.13 Conserve and restore the health of local water-based ecosystems in collaboration with research institutions, industry (agricultural and commercial), and the community.	Partnerships Awareness	Long Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Water NSW, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Western University, Hawkesbury TAFE, Department of Primary Industries, Sydney Water, Hawkesbury Community, Hawkesbury- Nepean Coastal Management Program
	1.14 Strengthen regulatory compliance measures and monitoring of potential run-off and pollution activities of industry, agriculture and properties and enforce environmental protection of water-based ecosystems.	Policy	Long Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Water NSW, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Environment Protection Authority, Hawkesbury- Nepean Coastal Management Program


SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
	1.15 In collaboration with Traditional Custodians and the local Aboriginal community, recognise the importance of the water-based ecosystems to the First Nations people of Hawkesbury through culturally appropriate signposting, artwork, and community education.	Partnerships Awareness Trials	Medium Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Water NSW, Natural Resources Access Regulator, Aboriginal Affairs NSW, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Local indigenous Groups, Hawkesbury Heritage Committee
	1.16 Review the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) to strengthen provisions related to conserving and restoring water-based ecosystems	Policy	Short Term	NSW Department of Planning and Environment




STRATEGIC ACTIONS: THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT


SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
 <p>OPEN SPACE AND CONNECTIVITY</p>	<p>2.1 Review current provision and quality of open space throughout the LGA and update the Regional Open Space Strategy (2013) so that it continues to address the evolving and diverse needs of the community.</p>	<p>Knowledge</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<p>Greater Cities Commission, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Government Architects, Hawkesbury Sports Council</p>
	<p>2.2 Ensure local neighbourhoods have easy access to quality open spaces (e.g., as per Government Architect NSW strategic directions and other best practice guidelines)</p>	<p>Policy Knowledge</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<p>Greater Cities Commission, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Government Architects</p>
	<p>2.3 Identify and map opportunities for improving blue/green infrastructure and connectivity, ensuring sustainable and welcoming access to rivers, creeks, and waterways</p>	<p>Knowledge</p>	<p>Short term</p>	<p>Greater Cities Commission, WSROC, Hawkesbury- Nepean Coastal Management Program, NSW Department of Planning and Environment</p>
	<p>2.4 Investigate opportunities for partnerships, funding, and collaboration to improve access to open space throughout the LGA, and with a particular focus on high need areas (such as neighbourhoods characterised by a mix of medium to high density housing, low socio-economic disadvantage, and high proportion of seniors, children and young people).</p>	<p>Policy Awareness</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>Greater Cities Commission, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, WSROC</p>
	<p>2.5 Ensure new developments provide reinvestment into public benefits, and namely in terms of provision of quality public open space and community facilities</p>	<p>Policy Awareness Trials</p>	<p>Medium term</p>	<p>Greater Cities Commission, NSW Department of Planning and Environment</p>


SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
 <p>URBAN GREENING</p>	<p>2.6 Prepare an Urban Greening Strategy to understand the current state of the urban tree canopy and set direction for tree selection, development of a tree inventory for public trees, management of climate change impacts (namely heat and drought), and mitigation and management of risks of pests and disease.</p>	<p>Policy Partnerships</p>	<p>Short Term (currently being developed)</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Research Institutes, Resilient Sydney</p>
	<p>2.7 Using existing data and information on urban heat, prioritise areas for tree planting and heat mitigation interventions across the LGA.</p>	<p>Knowledge Awareness</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>WSROC, Government Architect NSW, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Research Institutes</p>
	<p>2.8 Investigate opportunities for encouraging and enabling private, commercial and industrial landowners and public institutions to plant appropriate trees and understory on their properties</p>	<p>Awareness Trials</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Department of Planning & Environment</p>
	<p>2.9 Maintain and monitor tree cover by adopting tree asset management plans and conducting regular tree audits to better protect mature trees on public land</p>	<p>Policy Trials</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment</p>


SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
 <p>URBAN COOLING</p>	<p>2.10 Review and revise the Hawkesbury Development Control Plan (DCP) 2002 and Local Environmental Plan (LEP) to include a standalone provision on urban heat management (e.g., in alignment with WSROC urban heat planning toolkit or similar guidance).</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Infrastructure NSW, WSROC</p>
	<p>2.11 Collaborate with research institutions, state government and industry to develop urban heat response mitigation and adaptation measures to be integrated into the various areas of Council services and functions</p>	<p>Awareness</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>WSROC, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Research Institutions</p>
	<p>2.12 Investigate opportunities for using stormwater harvesting, recycled water, and green infrastructure to support cool urban environments.</p>	<p>Knowledge</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Water NSW, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Research Institutions, Sydney Water, developers</p>

SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
 <p>SUSTAINABLE & ACTIVE TRANSPORT</p>	<p>2.13 Investigate partnership opportunities and funding options for enabling active and/or electric transport options and infrastructure throughout the LGA, and with a particular focus on ensuring safe mobility options for vulnerable groups in the community (such as seniors, children, and young people).</p>	<p>Awareness Trials</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Hawkesbury community</p>
	<p>2.14 Prepare an Active Transport Plan for Hawkesbury</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Transport for NSW, NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Hawkesbury Community, local bike groups</p>
	<p>2.15 Enable and promote opportunities for community uptake of sustainable, active and/or electric transport choices.</p>	<p>Partnerships Trials</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Transport for NSW, NSW Department of Planning and Environment</p>

STRATEGIC ACTIONS: SUSTAINABLE LIVING

SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
 <p>ENERGY USE</p>	<p>3.1 Encourage and promote the use of electric or hybrid vehicles to reduce transport related energy consumption and carbon emissions (e.g. through showcasing electric vehicles in Council's fleet)</p>	<p>Partnerships Trials</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Bushcare volunteers, Hawkesbury Community, Hawkesbury Environment Network, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network, Hawkesbury River County Council</p>
	<p>3.2 Demonstrate leadership and motivate change through showcasing renewable energy initiatives on Council assets</p>	<p>Partnerships Trials</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Hawkesbury River County Council, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network</p>
	<p>3.3 Enable, educate and inspire the community to reduce their carbon emissions</p>	<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Hawkesbury River County Council, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network</p>
	<p>3.4 Establish a reporting framework for monitoring and reporting on Council's carbon emissions and energy consumption</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Hawkesbury River County Council, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network, Council's Bushcare volunteers</p>
	<p>3.5 Investigate opportunities for partnerships and investments into local renewable and more sustainable energy production and storage options to reduce local consumption of fossil fuels.</p>	<p>Awareness</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>NSW Department of Planning and Environment, Local Land Services, Hawkesbury River County Council, Hawkesbury-Nepean Landcare Network</p>

SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
 <p>WATER USE</p>	<p>3.6 Conduct community educational programmes on opportunities for water conservation, recycling, and water reuse</p>	<p>Partnerships</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NSW Office of Energy & Water (EWON), Department of Planning and Environment, Sydney Water</p>
	<p>3.7 Investigate opportunities for ongoing and extended provision of drought-resistant water supplies through provision of recycled water infrastructure and services</p>	<p>Policy Knowledge</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>Water NSW, Sydney Water</p>
	<p>3.8 Investigate options for improving stormwater management to reduce run-off and sewer overflows, such as through provision and maintenance of drainage systems and infrastructure; stormwater treatment options; and other actions to protect the health of rivers and waterways</p>	<p>Policy Trials</p>	<p>Medium Term</p>	<p>NSW Environment Protection Authority, Department of Planning and Environment, Sydney Water</p>
	<p>3.9 Establish measuring and reporting requirements for the water efficiency targets adopted within Hawkesbury's Net Zero Emissions and Water Efficiency Strategy</p>	<p>Policy</p>	<p>Long Term</p>	<p>Resilient Sydney, Sydney Water, Department of Planning and Environment. Greater Cities Commission</p>

SUB-THEMES	Strategic Actions	Capacity building elements	Timelines	Partnerships
 <p>WASTE MINIMISATION & RESOURCE RECOVERY</p>	3.10 Collect data and report publicly on key waste measures- waste generation, recycling, recovery and disposal performance	Knowledge	Short Term	NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), WSROC, Hawkesbury Community
	3.11 Investigate the possibility of circular economy initiatives through collaboration with government, research institutes, agriculture, industry, the business community and wider public	Awareness	Medium Term	NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), Research institutes, Department of Primary Industries, Regional Development Australia, Department of Planning and Environment, Office of Energy and Climate Change (OECC)
	3.12 Implement sustainable government procurement practices that encourage greater use of recycled products and support local market development.	Awareness Trials	Long Term	NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA), WSROC, Local Government Procurement, Department of Planning and Environment
	3.13 Support the implementation of the Hawkesbury's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2032 through educational and behavioural change initiatives that can enable a circular economy approach to waste.	Policy	Long Term	WSROC, Department of Planning and Environment, NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
	3.14 Develop a Sustainable Food Systems Policy	Policy	Medium Term	Department of Primary Industries, Department of Planning and Environment, Greater Cities Commission, Hawkesbury Community

MEASURING PROGRESS

As the purpose of the Strategy ultimately is to increase Council's and the Hawkesbury community's capacity for living more sustainably and protecting and enhancing the natural and built environments of the region, the key measures of success relate to the five components of capacity building, namely:

CAPACITY BUILDING ELEMENT	KEY MEASURES OF SUCCESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a baseline of data and information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data and maps of current condition of bushland and biodiversity, including identification of critical habitat and endangered species, established Maps of bushland connectivity and corridors provided Data and framework for monitoring water quality, river and wetland health established Map of priority areas for urban tree planting and heat mitigation measures provided Data collection on waste and recycling measures undertaken
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a policy framework and addressing gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation and Restoration Strategy adopted Updates to LEP and DCP (namely regarding bushland and biodiversity conservation, urban heat management provision, provision of public open space and active transport infrastructure) implemented Urban Greening Strategy adopted Tree asset management plans provided Active Transport Plan adopted Reporting framework for monitoring and reporting on Council's energy consumption and emissions established Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy implemented
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening and establishing partnerships and networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with research institutes established Increase in number of bushcare volunteers Collaboration agreements with government agencies (namely regarding water management and water quality) in place Ongoing collaboration with Traditional Custodians established
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Council and community knowledge and awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community educational programs and web-based resources extended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting demonstration projects and on ground works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restoration and enhancement projects of critical bushland areas Water quality and pollution reduction infrastructure implemented Water Sensitive Urban Design measures (including stormwater harvesting) implemented Improved access to quality open space Renewable energy flagship projects on Council assets implemented

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Address	366 George Street, Windsor NSW 2756
Mailing Address	PO Box 146, Windsor NSW 2756
Phone	(02) 4560 4444
Email	council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
Website	www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au
Office Hours	Monday to Friday 8:30am - 5pm