



Hawkesbury City Council

Attachment 1 to item 029

Draft Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040

date of meeting: 25 February 2020

location: council chambers

time: to commence at the

conclusion of the

extraordinary meeting on

25 February 2020,

which commences at 6:30pm



 SHAPING *our* FUTURE
HAWKESBURY

Local Strategic Planning *Statement*
HAWKESBURY



DRAFT

2040



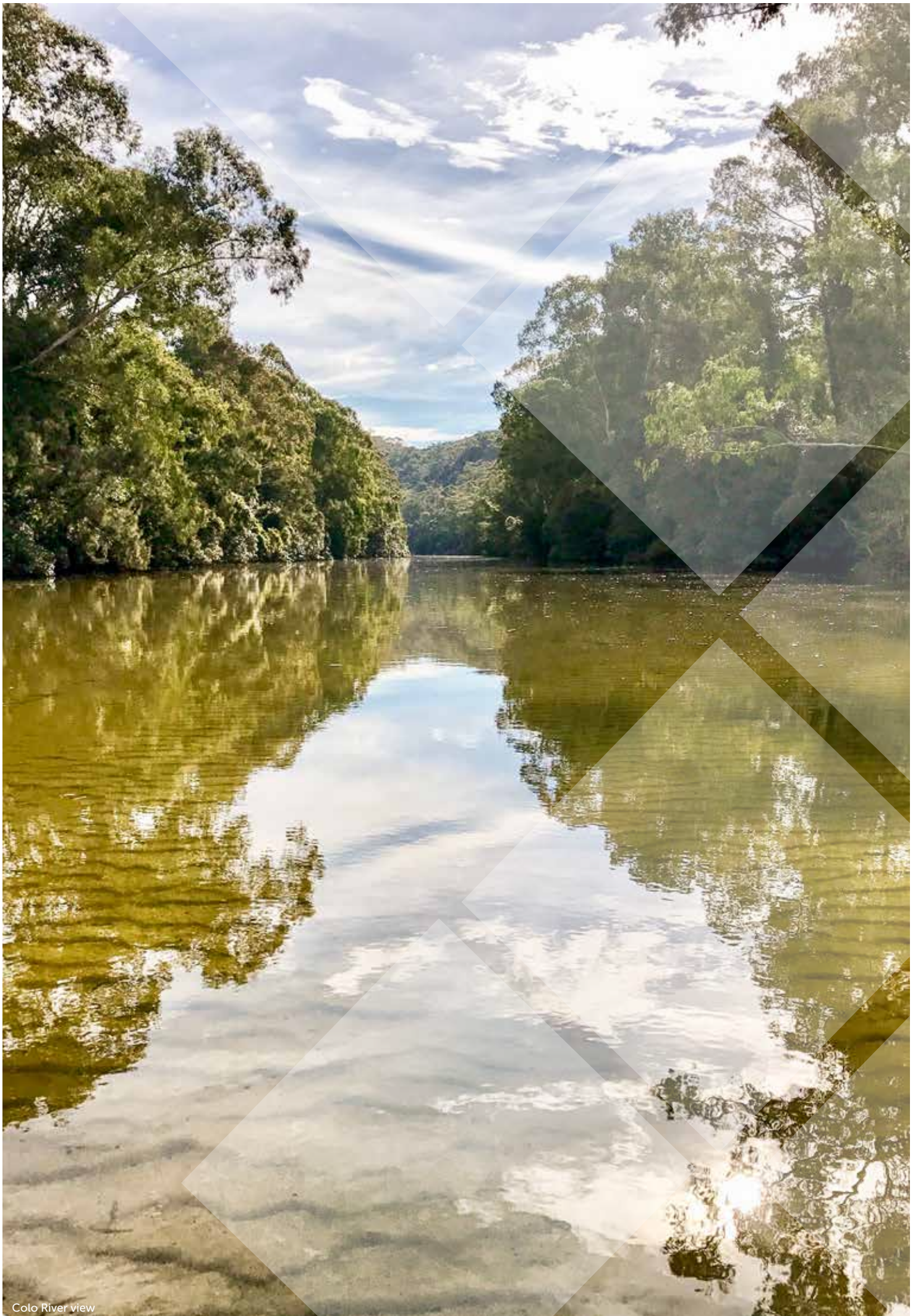
Abbreviations

CSP	Community Strategic Plan
DCP	Development Control Plan
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act
GSC	Greater Sydney Commission
IP&R	Integrated Planning and Reporting
LHC	Land and Housing Corporation
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LG Act	Local Government Act
LSPS	Local Strategic Planning Statement
OEH	Office of Environment and Heritage
RMS	Roads and Maritime Services
TfNSW	Transport for NSW

Hawkesbury timeline page 17, photo credits:

Lachlan Macquarie, ca. 1819 – watercolour. Courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW;
Hawkesbury flood in 1816. Courtesy Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW; View of Windsor, upon the River Hawkesbury
[1824] by Joseph Lycett. Courtesy State Library of NSW; Arthur Phillip Esq., Captain General and Commander in Chief in
& over the territory of NSW, engraved by W. Sherwin. Courtesy National Library of Australia.

Front cover photo: © Destination NSW, Horse riding photo



Colo River view



Acknowledgement of Country

Hawkesbury City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, bounded by the City of Hawkesbury, the Darug and Darkinjung nations. We pay our respect to the Darug and Darkinjung peoples elders past, present and emerging for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and the hopes for the future.

Through thoughtful and collaborative planning, we seek to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

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Message from our Leaders....

We are proud to introduce the draft Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement. We look forward to working with you to deliver an exciting future for our beautiful Hawkesbury area.

This plan sets out a 20 year vision for land use in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area. It identifies the special characteristics of the Hawkesbury which contribute to its identity, the shared community values which are to be maintained and enhanced, and how growth and change will be managed into the future.

The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement is based on the vision and values of the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036, and how this vision gives effect to the Greater Sydney Commission's Greater Sydney Region Plan and Western District Plan, based on local characteristics and opportunities.

The planning for Greater Sydney is built upon a vision of a metropolis of three cities where most residents live within 30 minutes of jobs, education, health facilities, services and great places. It seeks to rebalance opportunities and deliver economic and social benefits more equitably across the metropolitan area.

The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement is a pivotal tool for local strategic planning in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area. The draft Local Strategic Planning Statement is an evolving document that will direct the future refinement of the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Hawkesbury Development Control Plan.

This plan is a core document underpinning Council's future land use planning. It provides direction and focusing of resources and efforts towards reaching our goals for the future we want to see.

Central to achieving the Priorities and Actions of the draft Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement is the need for effective community consultation and engagement. Accompanying this draft Plan is a draft Community Participation Plan which enhances opportunities for all members of the community to participate in planning decisions to achieve better planning outcomes. The draft Community Participation Plan details how Council will engage the community in the planning decisions it makes. Together we will map out a vision we believe is achievable, and work through issues in a collaborative manner.

We acknowledge the major challenges ahead of us, but conversely we know we are rich in potential and opportunities which can be realised through strong effective governance, strategic partnerships and a willingness to be steadfast in pursuing our goals. We will work alongside our executive team to build stronger connections within Council, and between Council and stakeholders, to be collaborative and innovative in finding solutions best suited to protect and enhance that which makes the Hawkesbury special.

Our scenic region, rich in history and natural beauty is unique and precious, and provides us with a platform from which to launch our economic development strategies and define our place within the greater Sydney Metropolitan area.

We must reduce our consumption of resources, clearly define what requires protection, and identify our areas of growth. Growth must be balanced and supported by adequate infrastructure to ensure it does not detract from the characteristics valued strongly by the community such as our semi-rural amenity. Our magnificent river must be treasured, respected and utilised, our natural and heritage environment protected and enhanced and a healthy lifestyle encouraged and supported.

We invite you to be part of this journey – please be involved and contribute however possible so that we can forge ahead with strength and commitment. It is our plan, our Hawkesbury, our future.





Councillors



Barry Calvert
(Mayor)



Amanda Kotlash



John Ross



Patrick Conolly



Peter Reynolds



Danielle Wheeler



Mary Lyons-Buckett
(Deputy Mayor)



Paul Rasmussen



Tiffany Tree



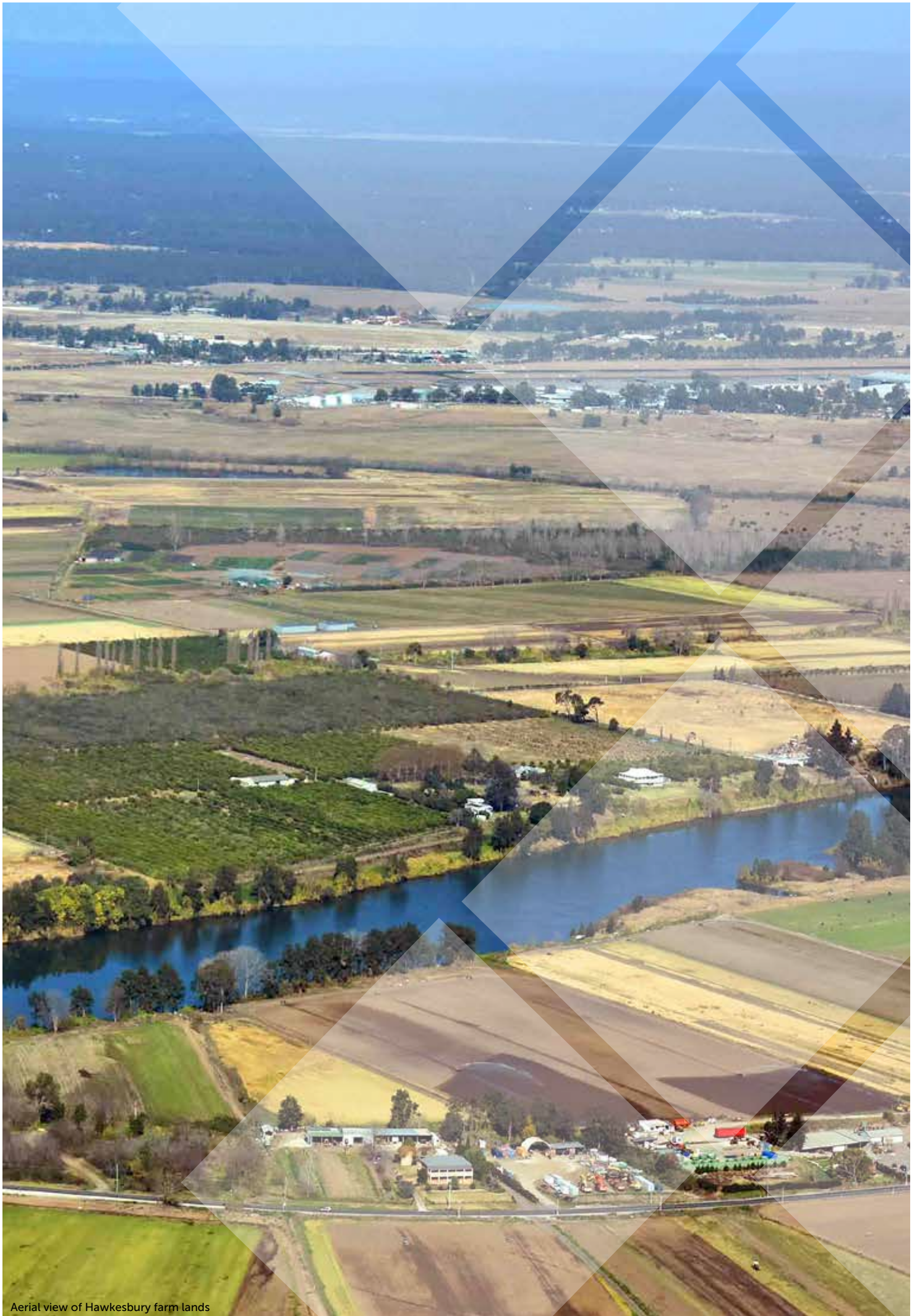
Emma Jane Garrow



Sarah Richards



Nathan Zamprogno



Aerial view of Hawkesbury farm lands

Introduction

Welcome to the Draft Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

The Hawkesbury LSPS plans for the Hawkesbury Community's economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years. The Hawkesbury LSPS gives effect to the Sydney Region Plan and the Western City District Plan. The Hawkesbury LSPS sets a clear line of sight between the key strategic planning priorities of infrastructure, economy, liveability and sustainability.

The LSPS reflects the vision of the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036, which was prepared following extensive community engagement. The Hawkesbury LSPS provides the local context and local scale expression of actions and priorities, and sets the line of sight with State Environmental Planning Policies and Ministerial Directions- S9.1. The LSPS is a key document to guide Local Strategic Planning in the Hawkesbury LGA as shown in Figure 1.

This LSPS has been prepared based on place based planning principles, focusing on how specific locations within the LGA work and utilising collaborative processes that recognise the value and need for local expertise, knowledge, responsibility and investment with a shared vision and values between Council and the Hawkesbury Community.

The LSPS details how the vision will be implemented, and the places activated, monitored and managed. The LSPS will be monitored and actions implemented through staging, sequencing and re-visioning with continual amendments to improve and reflect desired change.



Figure 1: Relationship between various planning frameworks.

Purpose of Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

The purpose of the Hawkesbury LSPS is to:

- Provide a 20 year land use vision for the Hawkesbury LGA;
- Outline the characteristics which make the Hawkesbury unique;
- Identify Hawkesbury's shared values to be enhanced or maintained;
- Direct how future growth and change will be managed;
- Update the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP);
- Identify further detailed strategic planning for future needs.

Legislative context:

Section 3.9 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* requires a Local Strategic Planning Statement to include or identify the following:

- a) the basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters,
- b) the planning priorities for the area that are consistent with any strategic plan applying to the area and (subject to any such strategic plan) any applicable community strategic plan under section 402 of the *Local Government Act 1993*,
- c) the actions required to achieve those planning priorities
- d) the basis on which the council is to monitor and report on the implementation of those actions.

The LSPS gives effect to the Sydney Regional Plan and the Western City District Plan, implementing the directions and actions at a local level.

The LSPS works with Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP), which has a similar but broader purpose on how Council will work to meet on the community's needs. The LSPS's planning priorities, strategic directions and actions provide the rationale for decisions about how we will use our land to achieve the community's broader goals.

State Environmental Planning Policies and Ministerial Directions:

In undertaking strategic land use planning processes, planning authorities must give effect to the Greater Sydney Region Plan, Western City District Plan, including other plans, local strategies and policies that form part of the strategic planning framework for the Greater Sydney including:

- State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) – these policies provide guidelines to meet specific social, economic and environmental matters that may impact planning in the Hawkesbury.
- Section 9.1 Directions- Ministerial Directions issued under section 9.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, are a suite of objectives and directions which require consideration and consistency for local plan making. These directions include employment and resources; environment and heritage; housing, infrastructure and urban development; hazard and risk; regional planning; local plan making; and metropolitan planning.

Community Engagement

Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036

Hawkesbury City Council considers that effective community engagement is crucial to understanding the aspirations of the community in order to support its future planning of the LGA. The Hawkesbury LSPS aligns with and responds to the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan. Figure 2 highlights some of the key messages council heard from the community in preparing the Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan.



Figure 2: Community Strategic Plan survey summary.

Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036: Overview

Our Mission

Hawkesbury City Council leading and working with our community to create a healthy and resilient future.

Our Vision

We see the Hawkesbury as a vibrant and collaborative community living in harmony with our history and environment whilst valuing our diversity, striving for innovation, a strong economy and retaining our lifestyle and identity.



Figure 3: The Hawkesbury CSP focus areas.



Richmond in Autumn

Hawkesbury City Council- Town Centres Placescore: Overview

In order to understand more about what residents, visitors and workers thought about our town centres, council used Place-Score, a place experience diagnostic, engagement, benchmarking and data tracking platform that helps guide and measure more effective investment in urban environments.

Online and face to face surveys were conducted during December 2017 and February 2018 to understand the place attributes that were most important for the ideal town centre, and how much they impacted on enjoyment of the place.

What did the community say?

The key results from the Place-Score survey highlighted that, the top town centre place attributes valued by all respondents are:

1. Local history and heritage – buildings and features;
2. Cleanliness of public spaces;
3. Elements of natural environment (views and vistas);
4. Overall visual character of the area; and
5. Vegetation and natural elements (street trees, planting, water etc.

"Maintaining clean streets and footpaths, respecting the cultural heritage of the area and promoting local events markets community events etc."

"Windsor is my town and I want to enjoy it after hours. An entertainment centre for live music and theatre would be great."

"To do everything possible to keep the small business people trading by supporting them and my town centre."

"We make our homes beautiful, natural, historically relevant, well maintained, clean, practical, useful, comfortable memorable spaces. Towns are extensions of our homes!"

Hawkesbury Town Centres

Our top 10 places attributes

RANK	OVERALL (N=1710)	%	RANK	OVERALL (N=1710)	%
#1	Local history, heritage buildings or features	71%	#6	Sense of safety (for all ages, genders, day/night etc)	50%
#2	Cleanliness of public space	62%	#7	Evidence of public events happening here (markets, street entertainers, festivals etc.)	48%
#3	Elements of the natural environment (views, vegetation, topography, water etc)	59%	#7	Maintenance of public spaces and street furniture	48%
#4	Overall visual character of the area	56%	#9	Outdoor restaurant, café and/or bar seating	47%
#5	Vegetation and natural elements (street trees, planting, water etc)	52%	#10	Car accessibility and parking	45%

Local Strategic

Planning Statement Preparation Councillor Workshops

Preparation of the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement included a series of workshops with Councillors.

Workshop included:

- LSPS legislative requirement and line-of-sight.
- 10 Directions of the Region plan.
- Strategic directions & themes.
- Social, economic and environmental context.
- Local character of each town & village.
- Flooding - INSW Flood Study and risk assessment.
- Climate change and heat island impacts.
- Mega trends.
- Site tour.



Photos from the LSPS Councillor Workshops



Pitt Town residential

Our Hawkesbury

The Hawkesbury is a unique area located in the Hawkesbury River Valley approximately 50 kilometres north-west of the Sydney central business district. Hawkesbury City Council is the largest Local Government Area in the Sydney Metropolitan Region, covering approximately 2,800 square kilometres.

The Hawkesbury straddles the divide between urban metropolitan Councils to its east and rural Councils to its west. While the south east corner of the LGA is predominantly urban, the remainder of the LGA forms a much larger rural hinterland. In comparison with adjoining metropolitan Councils, Hawkesbury has a relatively smaller, but growing population of 67,083 (est 2018) persons.

Originally inhabited by the Darug and Darkinjung people for over 40,000 years there were up to 3,000 Aboriginal people living in the Hawkesbury area in 1788. Hawkesbury was discovered in 1789 by Governor Phillip and is the third oldest European settlement in Australia.

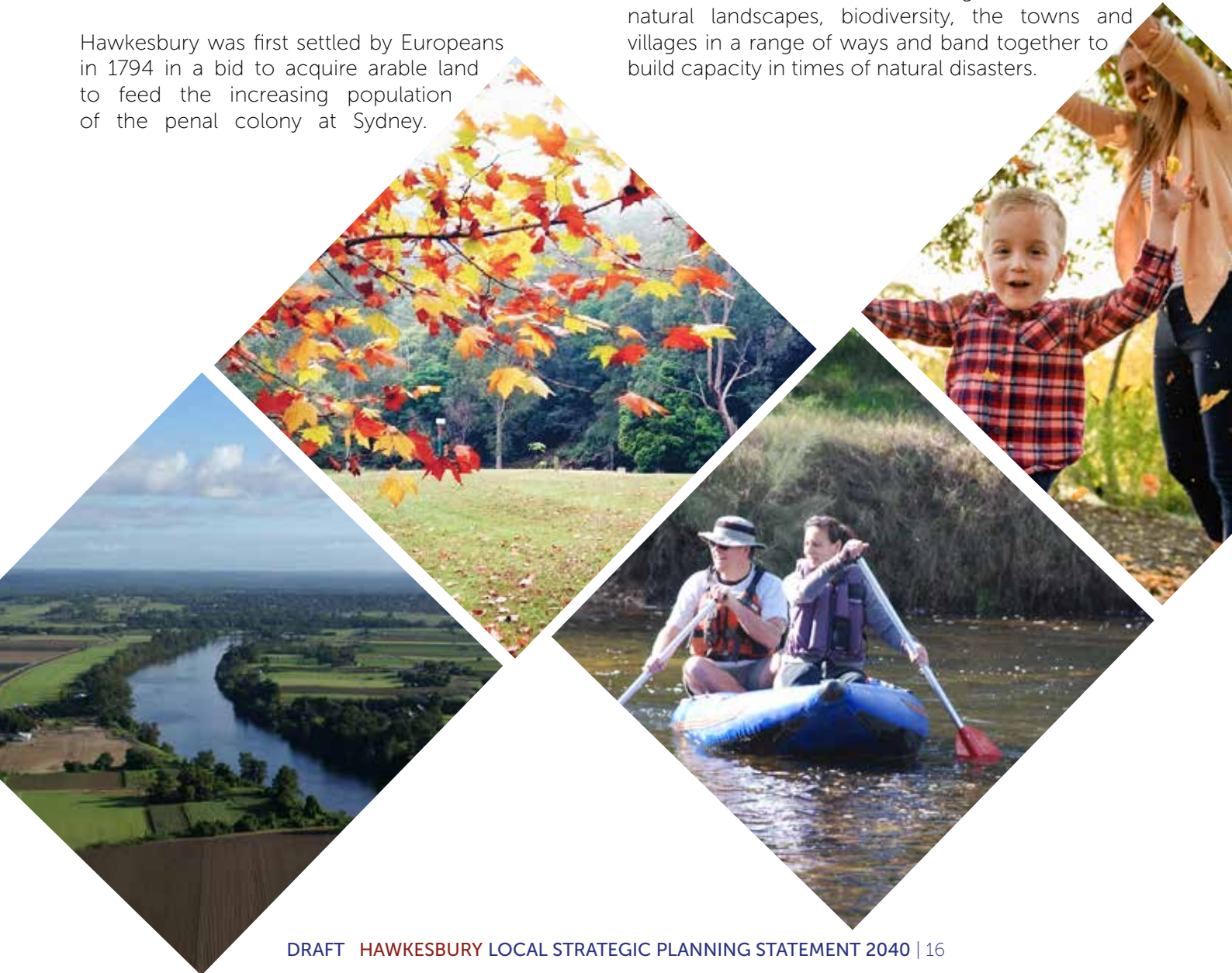
Hawkesbury was first settled by Europeans in 1794 in a bid to acquire arable land to feed the increasing population of the penal colony at Sydney.

Hawkesbury has 65 towns and villages with very distinctive identities, communities and stories, and include 4 of the 5 Macquarie Towns laid out by Governor Macquarie.

Hawkesbury is classed as a metropolitan rural area due to its location on the periphery of the metropolitan area and its natural beauty around its five rivers, tributaries, mountains, national parks, wilderness areas, farmland and scenic landscapes and heritage towns of Windsor, Richmond, Pitt Town, Wilberforce, St Albans, Ebenezer and others.

There are many narrations from the first Aboriginal communities along Deerubbin, (The Hawkesbury River) to those of the European settlers and many other stories of the people who have experienced natural disasters – the ferocity of fires and floods that define us.

The Hawkesbury community is diverse, unique and most of all resilient, who come together to celebrate natural landscapes, biodiversity, the towns and villages in a range of ways and band together to build capacity in times of natural disasters.



History of the Hawkesbury

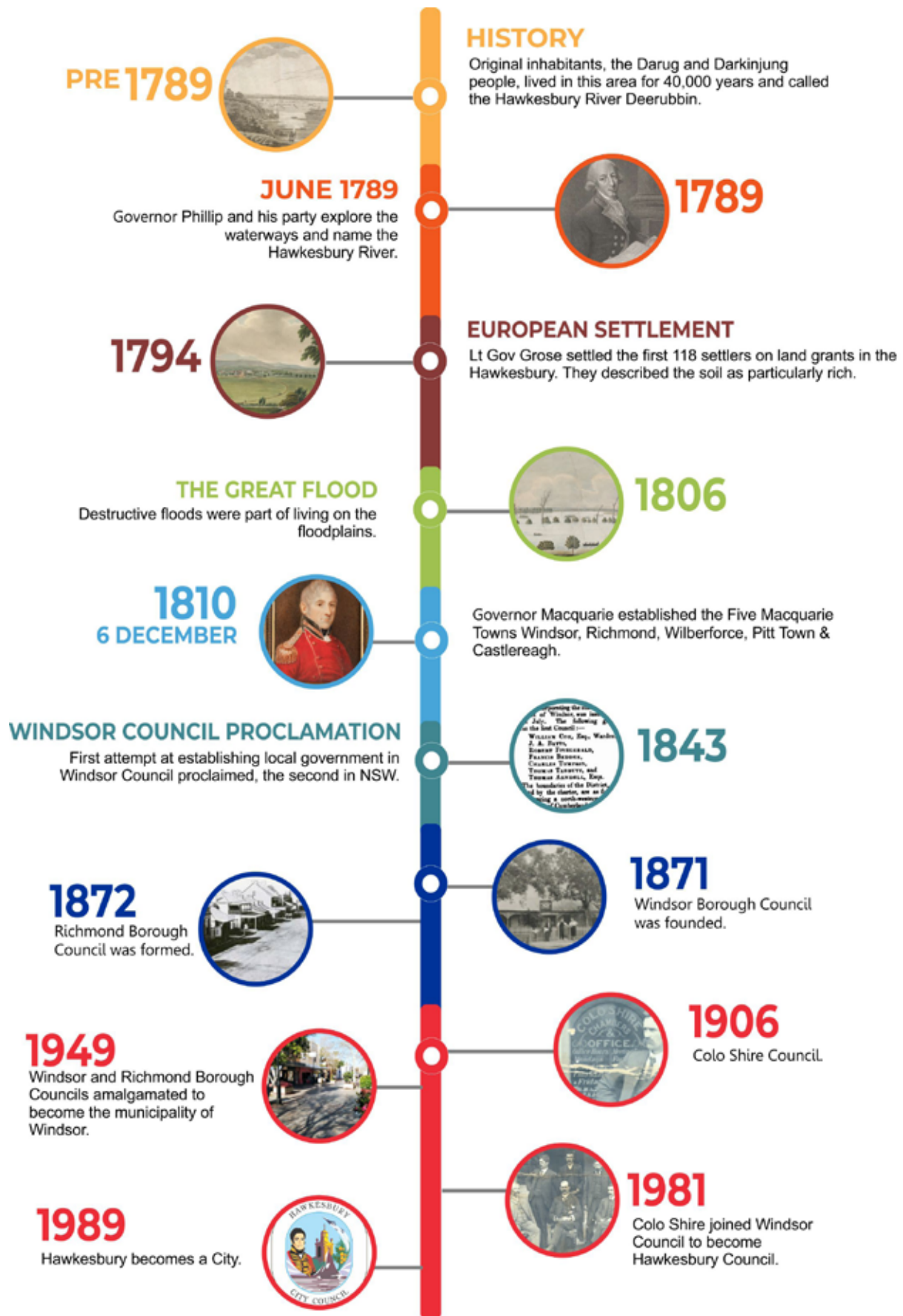


Figure 4: Timeline of the Hawkesbury

Hawkesbury has



66,623

Population (2017)



85,050

Population 2036



21%
of Businesses have
turnover \$500,000
or more



Dwellings owned or
mortgage
72.5% 64.5% NSW



6,336

Businesses



65

Towns and Villages



64

Bridges



8

Boat Ramps



24

Emergency Services
Buildings



Tourism supports

1,435 Jobs

954,996 Visitors (2017)



214

Parks and Reserves



Gross Regional
Product

\$4.29Bn



13

Childcare Centre



2,776km²

Area



Hawkesbury LGA

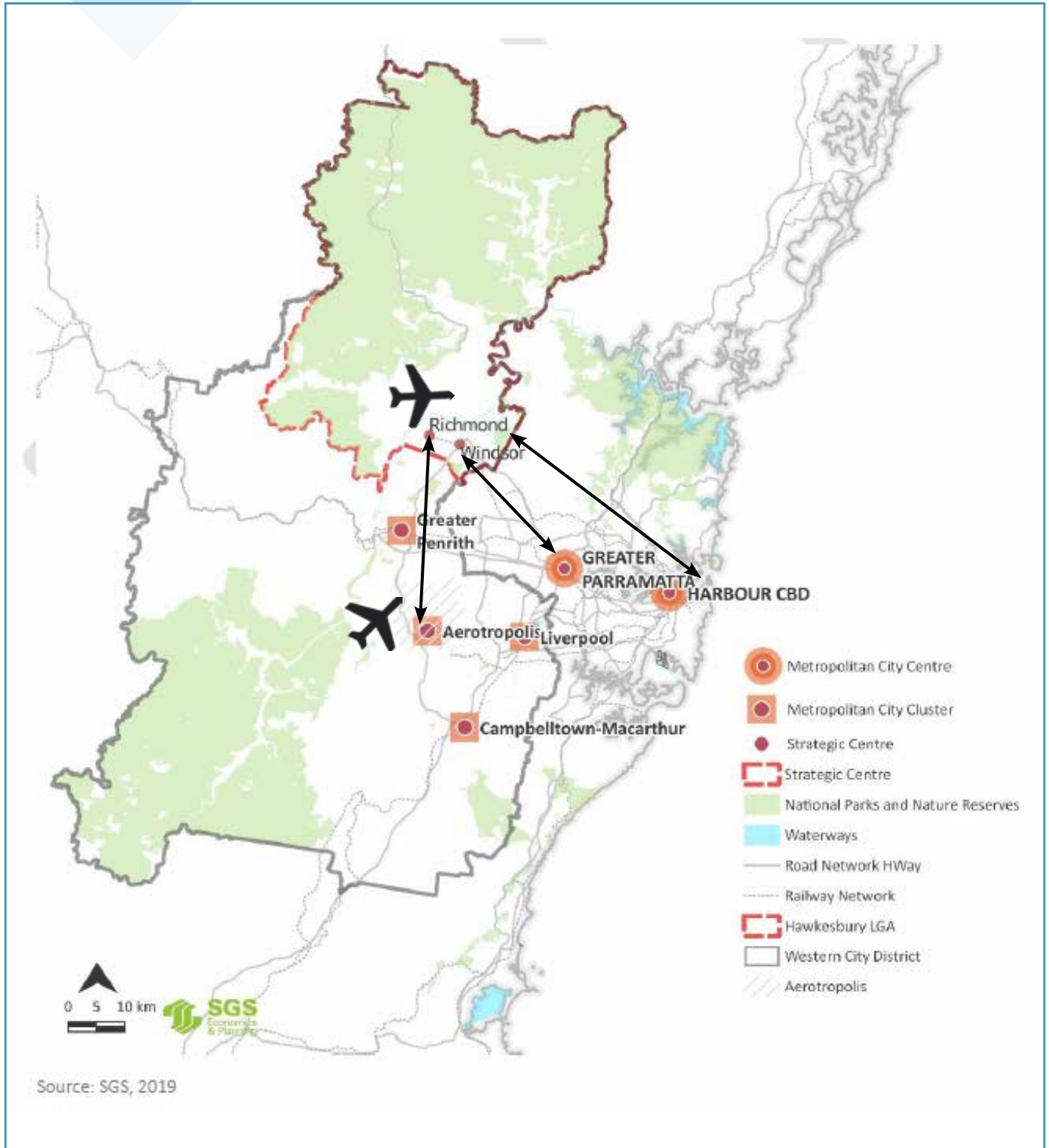


Figure 5: Regional context map



Role in the region and its opportunities and challenges

The Hawkesbury along with other local government areas of the Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Liverpool, Penrith and Wollondilly forms the Western Parkland City Region. Together each of these LGA's contribute through local identity, economy and sustainability to achieve the vision of the Western Parkland City.

The Aerotropolis Core, being the heart of the Western Parkland City will offer a diversity of industries including defence and aerospace jobs connected to potential new science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based universities as identified in the Western Sydney City Deal.

The Hawkesbury plays an essential role in supporting the region, especially the Aerotropolis Core through its defence and university activities, its history, heritage, natural environment, industries and most of all communities to achieve the vision of the Region and District Plans.

Positioned as a peri-urban centre on the north-west boundary of the Metropolitan Sydney area, the Hawkesbury provides a gateway to Regional Western NSW. The Hawkesbury is relatively close to the Sydney CBD, and the completion of the North-South Rail link will connect Hawkesbury community to the Metro services enabling faster access to North Sydney, Sydney CBD and also to the South- Macarthur and Leppington.

The Hawkesbury has the potential to emerge as leaders in a new economic geography of regional development of the Western Parkland City. On the one hand we are close enough to the major strategic centres of Parramatta, Blacktown and Penrith which provides accessibility to key supply chains and provides opportunities to leverage off economic-spill over effects.

On the other hand, our separation from the core metropolis allows for a degree of self-sufficiency which is seen as a foundation for a diverse and resilient local economy. The Hawkesbury is well situated to provide input to leverage the activities within the Aerotropolis Precinct through its industrial, agri-business, education and tourism opportunities and natural assets. This resilience though requires careful management to ensure that existing competitive advantages are retained while new innovative ones are explored.

Hawkesbury's economic abilities are further strengthened by the activities from the Richmond RAAF Base and the Western Sydney University Richmond Campus which not only supports the local communities but also the state, national and international level. These factors provide a platform for Hawkesbury to build impetus towards a stronger and innovative future, and become future ready for changing Mega Trends.

The economy of the Hawkesbury is based on a diverse

industrial and employment base built around the natural environment. Industries such as construction, manufacturing, agriculture, retail trade, equine, food and accommodation, health care and social assistance, in addition to public administration and support services add to the Hawkesbury's economy.

Hawkesbury provides many opportunities for people to experience and connect with the built and natural environment it contains. Being the third oldest European settlement after Sydney and Parramatta, the Hawkesbury is the custodian to a wealth of history. The 65 historic townships and villages within the Hawkesbury have amazing stories of the first settlers and showcases landmark buildings from the 1800s era which are characterised by its modest building volumes, high pitched roofs, small front setbacks with verandahs, green leafy streetscapes and beautiful heritage listed cathedrals and churches.

The Hawkesbury has Victorian concept parks of which one of the best examples is Richmond Park, which boasts a central oval, the outer layer with wide footpaths covered with native and exotic trees as old as the third oldest European settlement, heritage listed pavilion and amphitheatre, rotunda and beautiful rose beds with a water fountain. The Hawkesbury also has a number of reserves and pocket parks that cater for passive recreational activities and are equipped with public amenities and picnic infrastructure. The heritage graveyards including St Mathew's Anglican cemetery are also an attraction for visitors, where famous people like William Cox and Sir John Tebbutt are buried.

The Hawkesbury hubs the Richmond RAAF Base which plays a vital role in the region by actively operating to provide defence support (state, national and international) through combat, logistic support and maintenance capabilities. Located between Windsor and Richmond, is the well-established defence and aviation facility at Richmond RAAF Base. It was the first Air Force Base in NSW, established in 1916 and stationed in 1925 as the fledgling services first air base outside Victoria. Richmond RAAF Base forms a key economic strength for the Hawkesbury which creates synergy opportunities with the activities at the Western Sydney Airport.

Supporting these facilities and capabilities at the Richmond RAAF Base with a productive transport network will ensure national security and contribute to the economy of the Hawkesbury through enabling and complementing Defence industry, procurement opportunities, employment and Defence personnel and their families forming part of the wider community.

Transport for NSW is working with the Australian Defence Force Joint Logistics Command to incorporate the needs of Defence into the development and operation of the NSW transport network.

Particular areas of focus will include the unique Defence transport network requirements such as:

- Enhancing the capacity of NSW-based (Richmond Base) Defence industry to support Australian Defence Force operations, maintenance and sustainment;
- HML access for ADF logistics and combat vehicles to the NSW road network particularly in areas of NSW where it may not be required by industry;
- ADF requirements for the movement of oversize over-mass (OSOM) vehicles and equipment on the NSW road network through the Defence Road Transport Exemption Framework;
- Vehicle and equipment lay down and assembly areas as part of national mobilisation movement plans;
- Consideration in road design and construction for OSOM and emergency or expedient aircraft landing areas on NSW State roads;
- Movement by rail of ADF vehicles and equipment on the NSW rail network particularly for maintenance and sustainment tasks;
- Connection of the ADF freight activity precincts to the State network (Moorebank, Holsworthy, Orchard Hills, Richmond, Williamstown, and Eden); and
- The carriage and storage of dangerous goods including incorporating ADF requirements for locations of rest areas for vehicles carrying dangerous goods through NSW and Hawkesbury.

The Western Sydney University (WSU) Richmond Campus

– originally the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, established by the NSW Department of Agriculture in 1891, later became the College of Advanced Education until 1989, and then the Western Sydney University was established in 2000. The Richmond Campus is located on a 1,300 hectare site in the Hawkesbury Valley, adjoining the town of Richmond. The University offers programs in environmental health, forensic science, nursing, medical science, natural science (environmental, agriculture and horticulture), and secondary school science teaching. With stronger partnership and greater collaboration with the Council, Study NSW and Department of Education, to implement programs at the Western Sydney University to enhance international student experience.

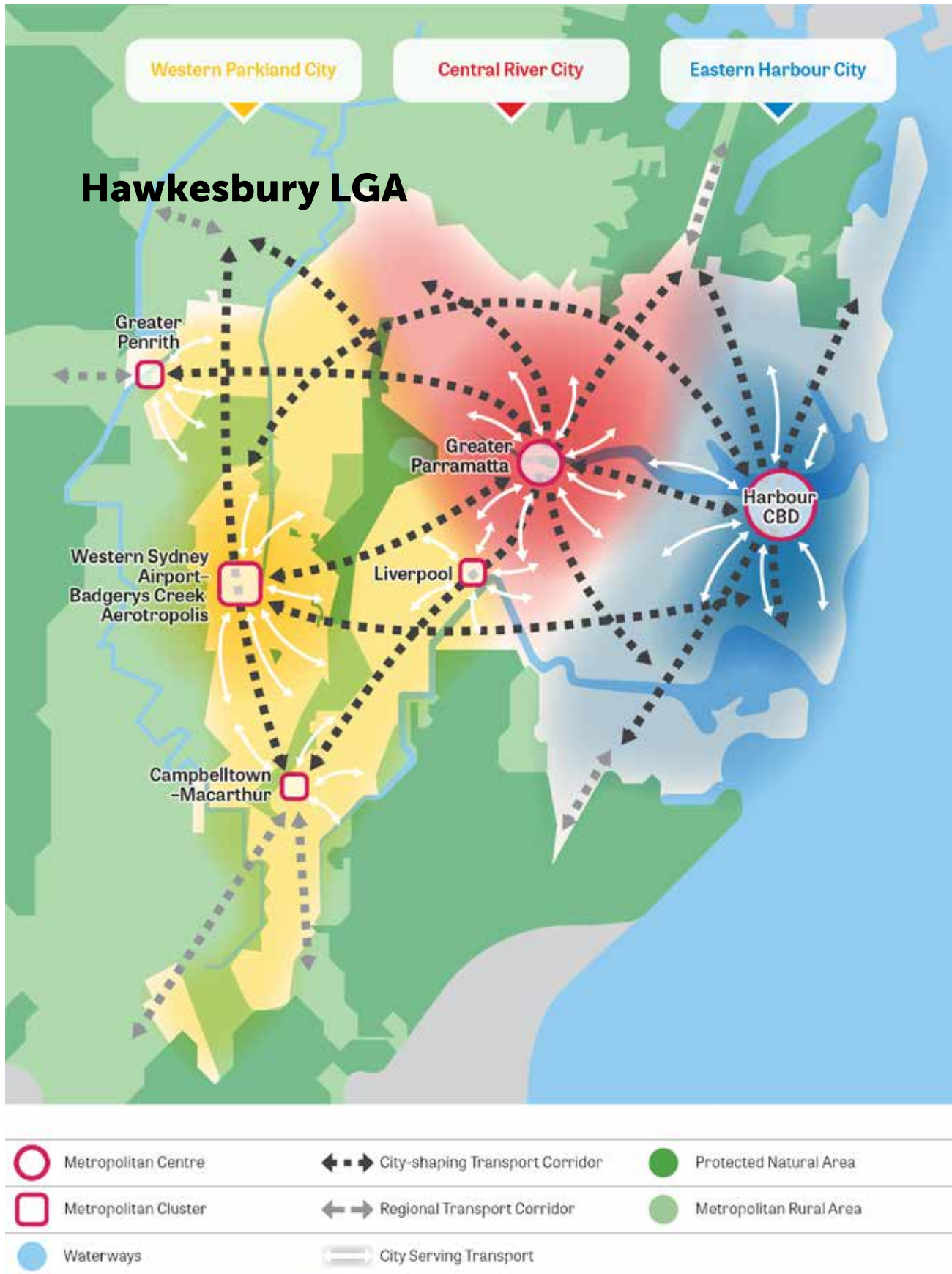
The Hawkesbury campus facilities include research labs, farmland, equine facilities, residential halls and cottages, a conference centre, religious centres, a campus social hub called Stable Square, featuring cafeterias, a music room and a large collection of Hawkesbury Agricultural College memorabilia.

Over the next 20 years, Council has a challenging task of facilitating the required infrastructure to provide housing, jobs and services for the anticipated population growth, while managing the environment, biodiversity and recognising the environmental constraints including the climate change crisis at the same time protecting the unique and distinctive heritage, culture and local character of the Hawkesbury. Strong and continuous partnership with the three tiers of government, adjoining Councils and stakeholders is imperative to achieving the land use vision of the Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040.

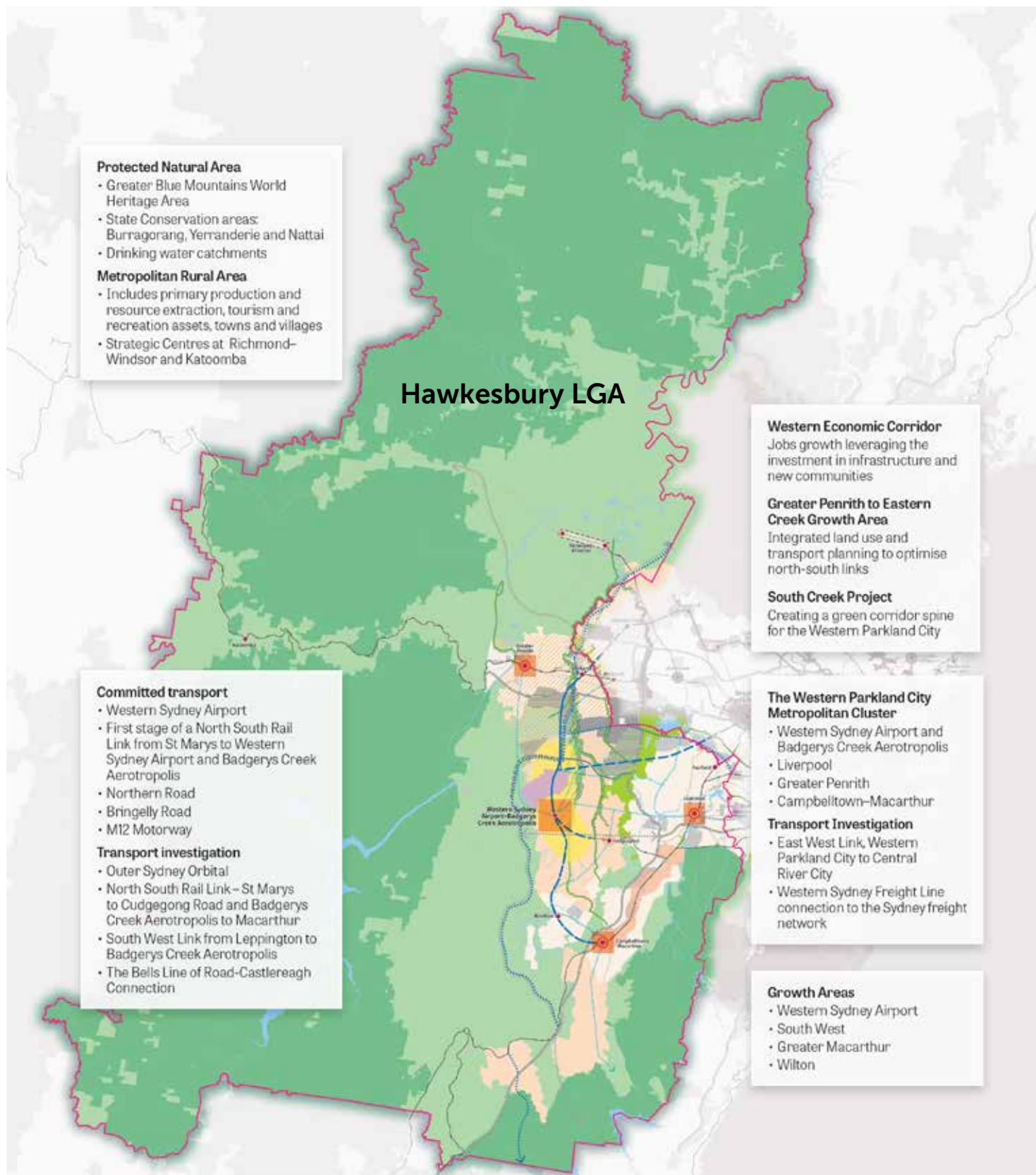


Windsor Mall

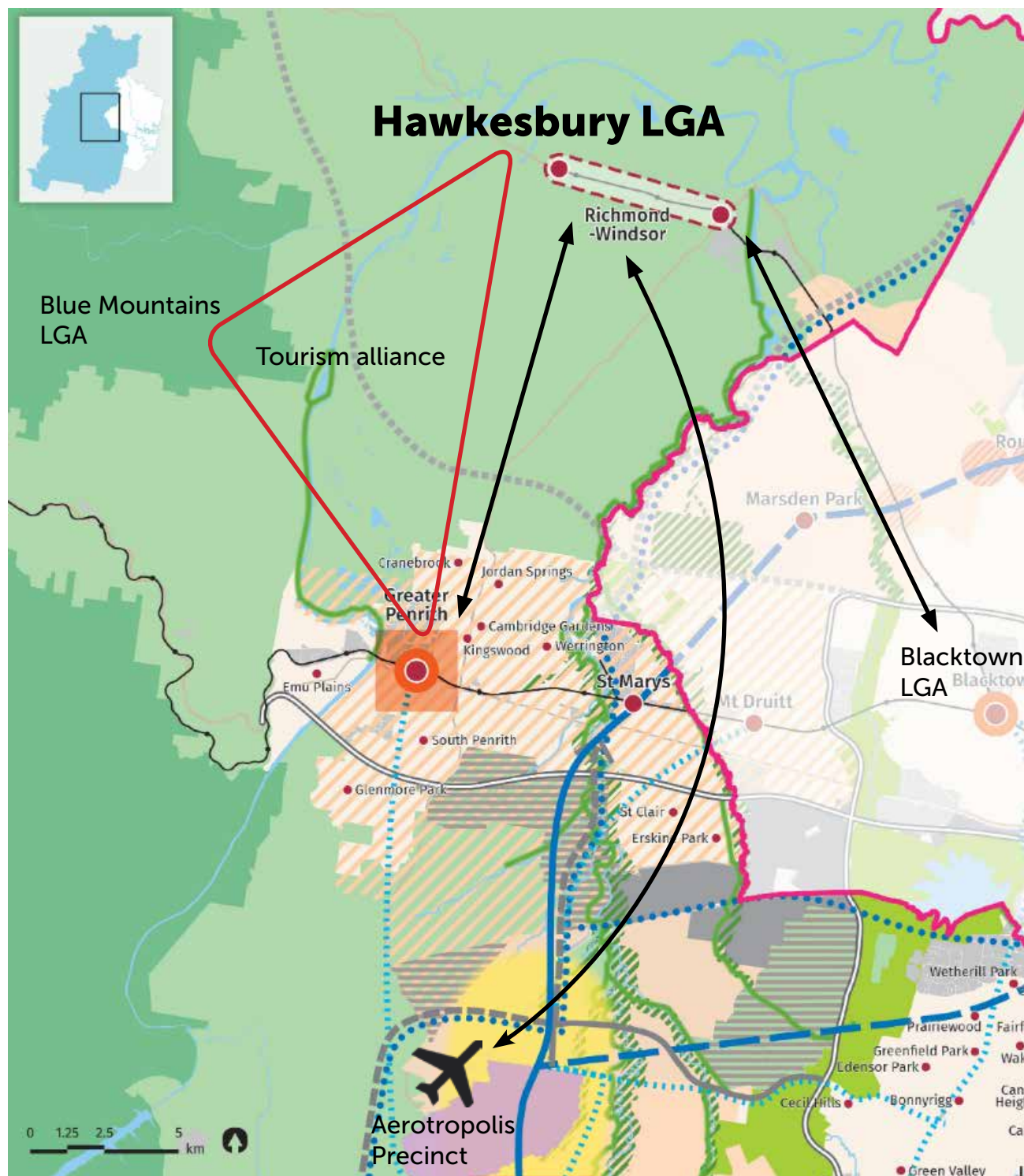
Hawkesbury in the Metropolis of three cities



Hawkesbury in the Western Parkland City



Hawkesbury in the Western Parkland City



'We see the Hawkesbury as a vibrant and collaborative community living in harmony with our history and environment whilst valuing our diversity, striving for innovation, a strong economy and retaining our lifestyle and identity.'



Hawkesbury is envisaged as a “vibrant and collaborative community living in harmony with our history and environment whilst valuing our diversity, striving for innovation, a strong economy and retaining our lifestyle and identity.”

By 2040, Hawkesbury will evolve into a more vibrant, diverse, economically innovative, resilient and sustainable community which embraces and supports its heritage and distinct local character. All communities in the Hawkesbury are considered to be significant and all play an important role in how we achieve economic, social and environmental goals.

This will be supported by Hawkesbury's productive townships and villages, agricultural industries, equine industries, defence force and university precincts. The unique environment of the Hawkesbury will be protected and preserved and transformative infrastructure will enable Windsor & Richmond to achieve its objective as a Strategic Centre and enhance the business and activity centres of the LGA.

Important employment lands between Richmond and Windsor will enable an agglomeration of activities at the Clarendon Precinct to support the economy while meeting the Western City District Plan objectives.

The prospect of a better connected area is already proving to be a catalyst for investment in the Western Sydney Airport, as it seeks to become the export gateway to deliver the region's sought after fresh food produce to new domestic and international markets.

Improved access to public transport in the Hawkesbury will significantly improve connectivity, providing an efficient link to other areas in the metropolitan Sydney area, and Western Sydney Airport for agricultural producers, and for residents, businesses and visitors. These strategic connections will create a strong platform to leverage the Hawkesbury's existing specialisation in agriculture and manufacturing to emerge as an international export standard commodity producers, and a key part of national and international supply chains.

Planning to take advantage of this connected future will be supported by protecting prime productive agricultural land. Allocating space for agricultural-related businesses to grow will create new economic opportunities. Co-locating space for emerging industries close to the Western Sydney University in an Agri-knowledge precinct presents an opportunity to leverage existing specialisations in agricultural technology and related businesses.

The hinterland and rural villages are important for tourism and providing services to surrounding agricultural lands. These lands are envisioned to evolve into an innovation of diverse and productive agri-businesses taking advantage of new global markets.

These emerging opportunities are supported by the Hawkesbury's many historic, vibrant and dynamic places, connection to nature and plentiful recreation and entertainment opportunities, all of which contribute to an enviable liveability for people of all ages.

The Hawkesbury LGA will continue to be an attractive alternate lifestyle option to inner city living. It offers a range of affordable housing in convenient and walkable locations with equitable access to community facilities and open space. Council will mitigate land use conflicts through robust planning controls where applicable. The various communities within the Hawkesbury are dispersed in towns and villages, and whilst resilient with some having a level of public transport, others are entirely dependant upon private transport.

Renewable energy developments will be concentrated in planned areas with high electricity generating potential, but where they will have least impact on productive agricultural land and any visual impacts can be appropriately managed. A new solar farm is proposed to be built at South Windsor Wastewater Treatment Facility. This plan is part of Council's long term sustainability goals to reduce carbon emissions and save energy. Similarly, Council will explore and advocate for other opportunities for renewable energy through the advantages the natural environment the Hawkesbury presents.

Sustainability and climate change management continues to be at the core of Council's activities and community expectations for existing and new development. The emerging population of the Hawkesbury is envisioned to be future ready for global mega trends through collaboration, on going dialogue and preparedness, starting from now.



Metropolitan Context

Planning for future residential uses in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area (LGA) needs to consider how the LGA itself, and the wider district and region, is expected to grow and change over the next few decades.

This requires Council to work within the strategic planning direction set by the NSW Government and the Greater Sydney Commission for:

- Greater Sydney in the Greater Sydney Region Plan - a metropolis of 3 Cities including the Western Parkland City
- The Western City District, of which the Hawkesbury is a part.

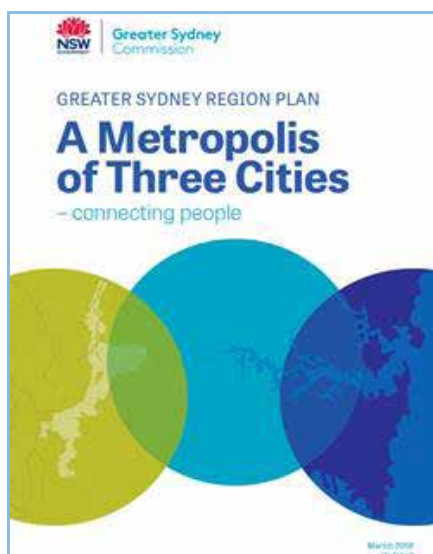
Greater Sydney Region Plan

The Sydney Region Plan was released by the NSW Government in March 2018, and sets a 40-year (to 2056) vision and 20-year plan to manage growth and change for Greater Sydney in the social, economic and environmental context.

It is a guide for strategic land use planning across Greater Sydney. The Region Plan responds to the needs of Greater Sydney's people and the region's current and future structural challenges. The Region Plan reflects the settlement patterns, unique geography and growth pressures that need to be addressed if the region is to achieve its potential.

The Sydney Region Plan is based on the concept of the three cities and aligns with the Future Transport 2056 and Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038 to align land use, transport and infrastructure outcomes for Greater Sydney :

- the Western Parkland City
- the Central River City
- the Eastern Harbour City



The Sydney Region Plan also sets 10 Directions for the metropolis of three cities to achieve its vision for liveability, productivity and sustainability.



Metropolitan Context continued

The key focuses of the Sydney Region Plan are:

- Greater Sydney as a Metropolis of Three Cities and Hawkesbury being part of the Western Parkland City;
- Optimised infrastructure and business investment, employment and liveability outcomes which Hawkesbury will achieve through continued advocacy and collaboration with stakeholders;
- Place making to help design neighbourhoods with fine grain fabric and human scale ensuring that the local character and cultural values are respected and enhanced resulting in an improved healthy lifestyle and a connected community;
- Windsor and Richmond identified as a strategic centre to manage and enhance industrial and urban services lands within the Hawkesbury LGA and create opportunities that enable a 30-minute- city concept;
- Hawkesbury LGA identified as the Metropolitan Rural Area to retain and enhance the integrity and values of the natural environmental characters; and
- Contributing to the South Creek to enhance its character as a cool and green corridor.

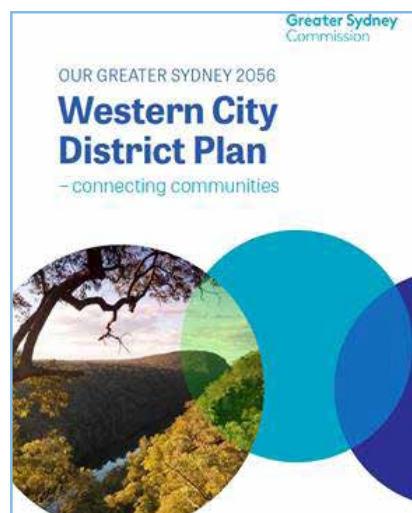
Western City District Plan

The Western City District Plan implements the Sydney Region Plan at the district level and acts as a bridge between regional and local planning. The District Plan is a 20-year plan that guides growth management at a district and LGA scale.

The key focuses of the Western City District Plan are:

- Creating a once-in-a-generation economic boom with the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis bringing together infrastructure, businesses and knowledge-intensive jobs;
- Building on the Western Sydney City Deal to transform the Western City District over the next 20 to 40 years by building on natural and community assets and developing a more contained Western City District with a greater choice of jobs, transport and services aligned with growth;
- Delivering the first stage of the North South Rail Link;
- Collaborating and building strong relationships between Liverpool, Greater Penrith and Campbelltown-Macarthur reinforced by the emerging Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis forming a unique metropolitan cluster;
- Providing major transport links for people and freight by unprecedented transport investments;
- Developing a range of housing, providing access to public transport and infrastructure including schools, hospitals and community facilities;
- Linking walking and cycling paths, bushland and a green urban landscape framed by the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, the Scenic Hills and Western Sydney Parklands;

- Enhancing and protecting South Creek, Georges River and Hawkesbury-Nepean river systems
- Mitigating the heat island effect and providing cooler places by extending urban tree canopy and retaining water in the landscape;
- Protecting the District's natural landscapes, heritage and tourism assets, unique rural areas and villages;
- Protecting the environmental, social and economic values of the Metropolitan Rural Area.



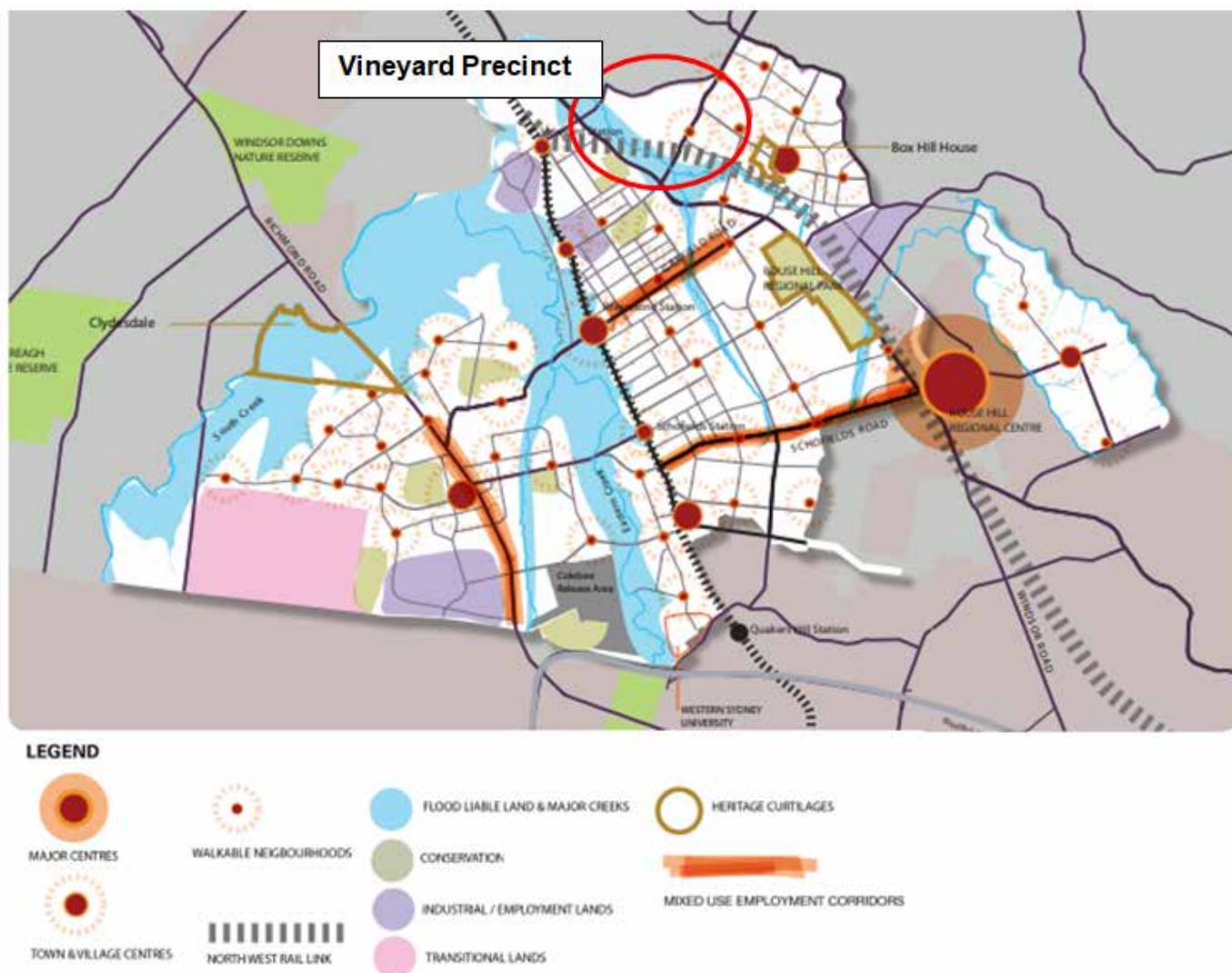
North West Growth Area

The North West Priority Growth Area development is a NSW State Government initiative which provides substantial land release areas for homes and jobs in Sydney's northwest and is forecasted to contribute approximately 12% of the homes needed to meet demand over the next 20 years. The North West Priority Growth Area is close to transport nodes, including the M7 Motorway with connections to the M4 Motorway and the new Western Sydney Airport. It is well located to capitalise on new infrastructure such as the Sydney Metro Northwest to Cudgegong Road Station, and a public transport corridor extension toward Marsden Park.

The vision of the North West Growth Area is 'a focus on employment growth that supports local communities with a diverse range of housing to meet varying household needs and underpins the framework for further detailed planning to occur in the North West Priority Growth Area.'

When fully developed, the North West Priority Growth Area will accommodate approximately 90,000 homes, 20,000 more than were forecast in 2006. This Strategy provides a framework to facilitate the delivery of over 33,000 of these homes over the next ten years and identifies the infrastructure needed to support this growth.

Within the Hawkesbury, Vineyard Precinct – Stage 1 has been rezoned as part of the North West Priority Growth Area. Almost 2,500 dwellings are anticipated from the Vineyard Precinct rezoning initiatives.



Western Sydney City Deal

The Western Sydney City Deal is the single largest planning, investment and delivery partnership in the history of the nation, maximising the advantages of the region to support the emerging Western Parkland City. The City Deal builds on the Australian Government's commitment to deliver a Western Sydney Airport and leverage other key infrastructure investments to catalyse jobs growth and better transport links in the region.

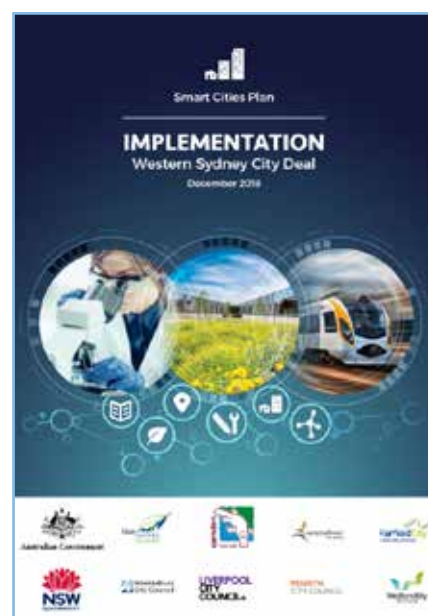
Hawkesbury City Council will collaborate with all levels of government, industry and the community to manage the competing needs of infrastructure. New infrastructure will leverage Hawkesbury's proximity and input to the Western Sydney Airport and Aerotropolis Precinct.

The Western Sydney City Deal defines the Hawkesbury as:

The core objectives of the Western Sydney City Deal are:

- Realising the 30-minute city by delivering the Sydney Metro Greater West (formerly the North South Rail Link).
- Creating 200,000 jobs by supercharging the Aerotropolis and agribusiness precinct as catalysts.
- Skilling our residents in the region and initiating an Aerospace Institute.
- Respecting and building on local character through a \$150 million Liveability Program.
- Coordination and innovation through a Planning Partnership.
- Getting on with delivering for the Western Parkland City with enduring tri-level governance.

Hawkesbury City Council has been able to secure fundings from the Western Sydney City Deal to undertake projects to improve the town centre of Windsor, Richmond and South Windsor.



Hawkesbury's Themes and Planning



Efficient,
supportive
and reliable

INFRASTRUCTURE

PLANNING PRIORITY 1

Bridge the shortfall of infrastructure through stakeholder collaboration to support the current and future growth and industries.

PLANNING PRIORITY 2

Form partnership with stakeholders and agencies.



Healthy, diverse,
preserve heritage
and character

COMMUNITY

PLANNING PRIORITY 3

Provide a diversity of housing types to meet the needs of the changing demography.

PLANNING PRIORITY 4

Protect and promote Aboriginal and European heritage and its transition into innovative, creative and adaptive re-uses.

PLANNING PRIORITY 5

Mitigate and manage land use conflicts in rural area.

PLANNING PRIORITY 6

Manage, enhance and celebrate the distinctive heritage character of our towns, villages and naturally landscaped environment.



Priorities



Innovative and
adaptable

PRODUCTIVITY

PLANNING PRIORITY 7

Promote and support all sectors of industry and businesses of the Hawkesbury to meet the current and future demands and trends.

PLANNING PRIORITY 8

Explore opportunities at the Western Sydney University, Richmond RAAF Base and other industries to create value chain at the Western Sydney Airport.

PLANNING PRIORITY 9

Encourage the economic self-determination of the Aboriginal community through their land holdings and culture.



Sustainable
and aware

SUSTAINABILITY

PLANNING PRIORITY 10

An aware and resilient city that can adapt to natural hazards of flood, bushfire and climate change.

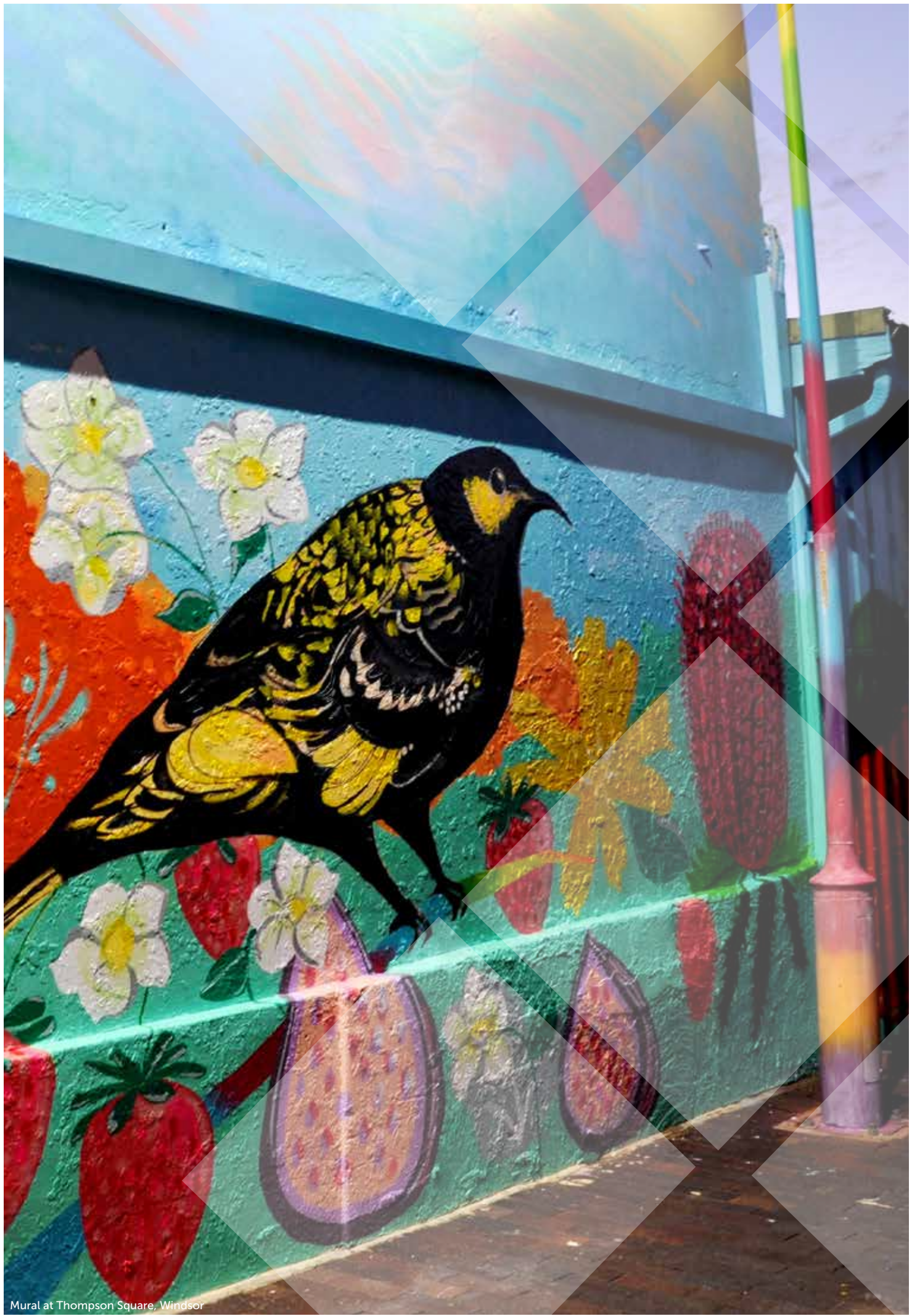
PLANNING PRIORITY 11

Protect our rivers, creeks and areas of high biodiversity and environmental values to provide a cool atmosphere.

PLANNING PRIORITY 12

Champion, educate and support the transition to renewable waste and energy.





Mural at Thompson Square, Windsor



INFRASTRUCTURE AND COLLABORATION

Hawkesbury Gas Flare Project

Saving over 13 Million kilo's
of carbon greenhouse
gas emissions each year

Leading green by example



Hawkesbury City Council



Hawkesbury's Infrastructure and Collaboration

efficient, supportive and reliable

It is imperative that the provision of adequate infrastructure that is robust and efficient will not only improve the economy but will also improve liveability and well-being of the Hawkesbury community and support industry and businesses.

The Western City District Plan, Directions for Infrastructure and Collaboration include:

- A city supported by infrastructure
- A collaborative city

Planning Priority 1

Bridge the shortfall of infrastructure through stakeholder collaboration to support the current and future growth and industries.

Parts of the Hawkesbury suffer from a lack of sewerage and water infrastructure which limits potential residential development including housing diversity, and also development of business and industrial lands to meet the on-going demand for housing and business.

With the costs of asset maintenance and delivery increasing faster than the available source of funding, infrastructure across the Hawkesbury does not always meet the needs and expectations of the community, investors and visitors.

The population of the Hawkesbury is projected to increase to 85,050 by 2036 based on (source). This increase in population has resulted in significant pressure and challenges to ensure the timely delivery of adequate infrastructure such as additional open space embellishments, community facilities, public transportation, improved road network, health and educational facilities.

Transport Planning, as the Western City District Plan has correctly stated this the key to unlocking local jobs, housing choice and other economic opportunities for our communities.

Council strongly believes that there is a need to build an additional crossing of the Hawkesbury River. This will reduce travel time for residents and traffic congestion and support the transport of time-sensitive agricultural products from Hawkesbury's farming activities to exciting and emerging markets.

For the Hawkesbury this would mean improving public

transport links to other parts of the Sydney region, and to Penrith and Western Sydney Airport which has been consistently raised as a high priority through Council's community engagement processes.

Greater certainty is required in terms of corridor planning including the Outer Sydney Orbital corridor and the role of Bells Line of Road. The need for a robust and fully functioning evacuation network is considered essential in order to ensure the safe evacuation of residents during fire and flood events.

When planning for infrastructure, Council will include consideration of how such investments contribute to shaping and connecting the Hawkesbury to the Western Sydney Airport, and Greater Sydney as a metropolis of three cities.

The Hawkesbury will also set itself to be future ready for transformative infrastructure, including innovative digital infrastructure to drive 'smart cities' initiatives and build digital capacity across the LGA that will assist the Hawkesbury in achieving its social, economic and environmental goals. Investment in infrastructure is critical to the prosperity and growth of the LGA.

Partnerships with other levels of government and stakeholders are required to secure this investment and ensure that the Hawkesbury can leverage opportunities for its industries, businesses and residents. Over the next 20 years the delivery of physical and social infrastructure will be vital for the Hawkesbury's productivity, liveability and sustainability.

30-Minute-City

The TfNSW Future Transport Strategy 2056 defines a 30-minute-city as 'one where people can access jobs and services in their nearest metropolitan city and strategic centres within 30 minutes by public transport and active transport, 7 days a week. This principle is based on established research that indicates that if people are required to travel more than 60 minutes a day, it impacts on quality of life and the liveability of a city.'

The 30-minute-city concept has two components:

1. Connecting people in each of the three metropolitan cities to their nearest centres. For the Hawkesbury, this means easy connectivity to the Western Sydney Airport-Aerotropolis Precinct, Greater Penrith and to Parramatta CBD.
2. Connecting residents in each of the districts to one of their nearest strategic centres by public and active transport systems. For the Hawkesbury, this means better connectivity to the Windsor and Richmond strategic centre.

Realizing the size and dispersed locations of the towns and villages of the Hawkesbury, achieving a whole of 30-minute-city concept for the Hawkesbury is not possible. However, where doable, Council has committed to providing walking and cycle paths to connect residential suburbs around the Windsor and Richmond to the town centres and outer suburbs and villages to the social infrastructures.



Council has historically and continues to advocate for an improved train services to the Hawkesbury by suggesting a duplication of the train tracks to allow efficiency of train transport. Council is also continuously advocating for increased bus services and on-demand services to service the remote rural parts of the Hawkesbury.

The 30-minute-city concept will be embedded in the future infrastructure delivery plans and policies of Council to deliver a smart city with ease of access to essential services.



Figure 6: 30-Minute-City concept TfNSW

Freight and Logistics Networks

Freight and logistics are an indispensable component of economic activity. An estimate of the proportion of Gross State Product (GSP) attributable to logistics significantly understates its contribution to the whole economy, as logistics is a facilitator or enabler of almost all economic activity. New industries are dependent upon efficient and low cost transport, and improved logistics can transform the economy.

According to 2031, the freight task in NSW is projected to nearly double to 794 million tonnes. The volume of all commodities demanding capacity on the freight network is expected to grow as population and economic activity increases across NSW. The major driver for the movement of goods is demand, both domestic and international. The key indicators of the freight task are therefore the export of goods and State Final Demand (SFD) for goods.

Given the significant volumes and value of regional commodities moving on the State's transport network, enhancing road freight productivity is critical.

Economic growth in regional NSW including the Hawkesbury (peri-urban area) relies on the movement of goods through efficient and effective transport networks. The ability of farmers and producers to move agricultural, industrial products and natural resources to domestic and export markets in a timely and efficient manner directly impacts on productivity and competitiveness – and hence the economic performance of the area and the region.

FNSW Future Transport 2056 indicates that two major road corridors will traverse the Hawkesbury. These corridors will be transporting significant volumes of freight and logistics. These corridors include the Bells Line of Road, and the Outer Sydney Orbital.

Outer Sydney Orbital and Bells Line of Road – Corridor Planning

Corridor planning that impacts the Hawkesbury LGA includes the Outer Sydney Orbital and the role/function of Bells Line of Road. The Outer Sydney Orbital will ultimately provide an outer bypass of Greater Sydney and connect to the Central Coast from the Illawarra, including freight lines.

The benefits of the Outer Sydney Orbital Corridor include:

- Provide for a major transport link between the North West and South West Growth Areas.
- Provide connections to the planned Western Sydney Airport and future employment lands.
- Support growing communities, businesses and new jobs in Western Sydney.
- Provide a freight rail connection between Port Botany, Western Sydney and regional NSW.
- Support the further separation of freight and passenger rail.
- Move freight more rapidly, efficiently and safely by rail.

However, at this stage there is uncertainty in terms of the corridor location. The Castlereagh Freeway construction based on the 1951 plan is yet to commence by the State Government.

However, the advantages of the corridor once constructed would be:

- Provides an additional access to the Blue Mountains.
- Creates significantly better flood free access for the communities in the Hawkesbury and Penrith lakes area.
- Provides an alternative to the M4 Motorway, Great Western Highway, Windsor Road and Richmond Road.
- Council will advocate for greater ?? in terms of corridor planning.

North-South Rail Link

The North South Rail Link connecting Tallawong with Macarthur via St Marys and the future Western Sydney Airport site is critical to integrated land use and transport planning for the future of Western Sydney. Council will continue to advocate for the missing link from St Mary's to Tallawong in order to provide improved accessibility and connections through an interchange with the Richmond line.

North-West Growth Centres SEPP – Vineyard Precinct Stage 1

To support the development of the Vineyard Precinct, which was rezoned by the NSW State Government, Council will ensure delivery of adequate and timely infrastructure in the precinct.

This includes:

- Transport infrastructure
- Storm-water drainage infrastructure; and
- Social infrastructure

The challenge to delivering the above infrastructure is having sufficient capital and contributors to invest towards the delivery of required infrastructure in the precinct which is not supported by SIG or LIGS funding. Council will embed infrastructure delivery for Vineyard Stage 1 Precinct in its Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Digital Infrastructure

Emerging technologies and infrastructure have advanced the smart cities concept driving it into a reality. With partnerships with the Australian Federal and State Government through the City Deals initiatives, council will transform cities into "Smart Cities" through advancing biometric technologies.

A Smart City is officially defined under international standards as the:

"Effective integration of physical, digital and human systems in the built environment to deliver a sustainable, prosperous and inclusive future for its citizens." (ISO PAS 180, 2014).

Digital infrastructure will enable new mechanisms to monitor and control communities with technology, including smart management of infrastructure functions such as CCTV cameras with facial recognition capabilities, LED 'smart lights' and sensors, pedestrian trackers, city movement monitoring systems, and 'environmental analysis' to understand air quality such as dust, pollution and temperature.

A key focus for Hawkesbury is to harness the smart city abilities and put appropriate data in the public domain. Council welcomes the Australian Governments vision for our cities through the Smart Cities Plan and will embed the three pillars of Smart City:

- Smart Investment
- Smart Policy
- Smart Technology





Planning Priority 2

Form partnership with stakeholders and agencies.

Digital connectivity and smart technology

Western City Digital Action Plan

Local governments will lead the development of a Western City Digital Action Plan in collaboration with the Australian and NSW governments, and industry partners.

Smart Western City Program

The NSW Government will deliver a Smart Western City Program to enable NSW agencies to embed interoperable smart and secure technology – such as transport and utility monitoring systems – into new infrastructure as it is rolled out.

5G strategy

The NSW and local governments will develop a 5G strategy for the Western Parkland City, which will include partnering with a telecommunications carrier to deliver a trial of 5G technology.

Openly available data sets

NSW and local governments will explore, identify and make data publicly available in line with open-data principles. To facilitate this, the Australian Government will establish a Western Parkland City data catalogue on data.gov.au and NationalMap, and support local governments to fully utilise the platform. Better access to local data has the potential to drive innovation and improved service delivery across the Western Parkland City.

Partnership and collaboration between the three tiers of government and across State agencies is essential for coordinating land use and infrastructure planning and delivery. It is also important to engage and collaborate with the community and other stakeholders.

Council has continuously supported State Government initiatives to deliver infrastructure that provides community benefits and will continue to advocate and collaborate for future delivery of infrastructure and resources.

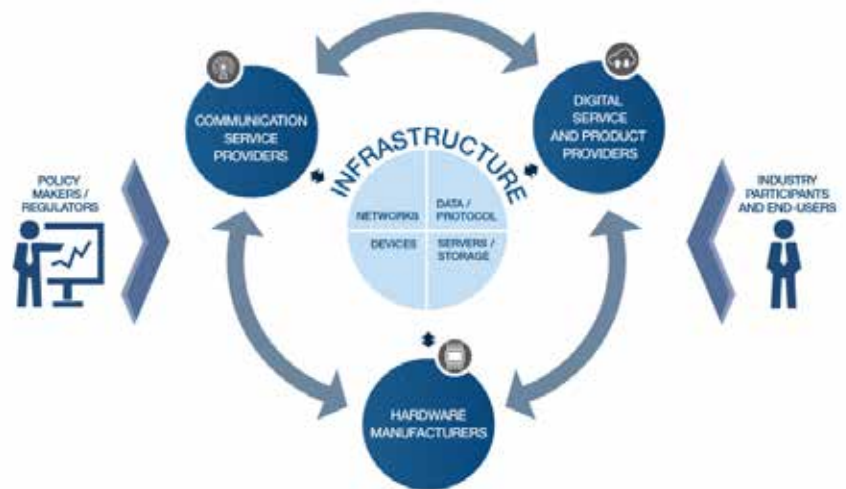
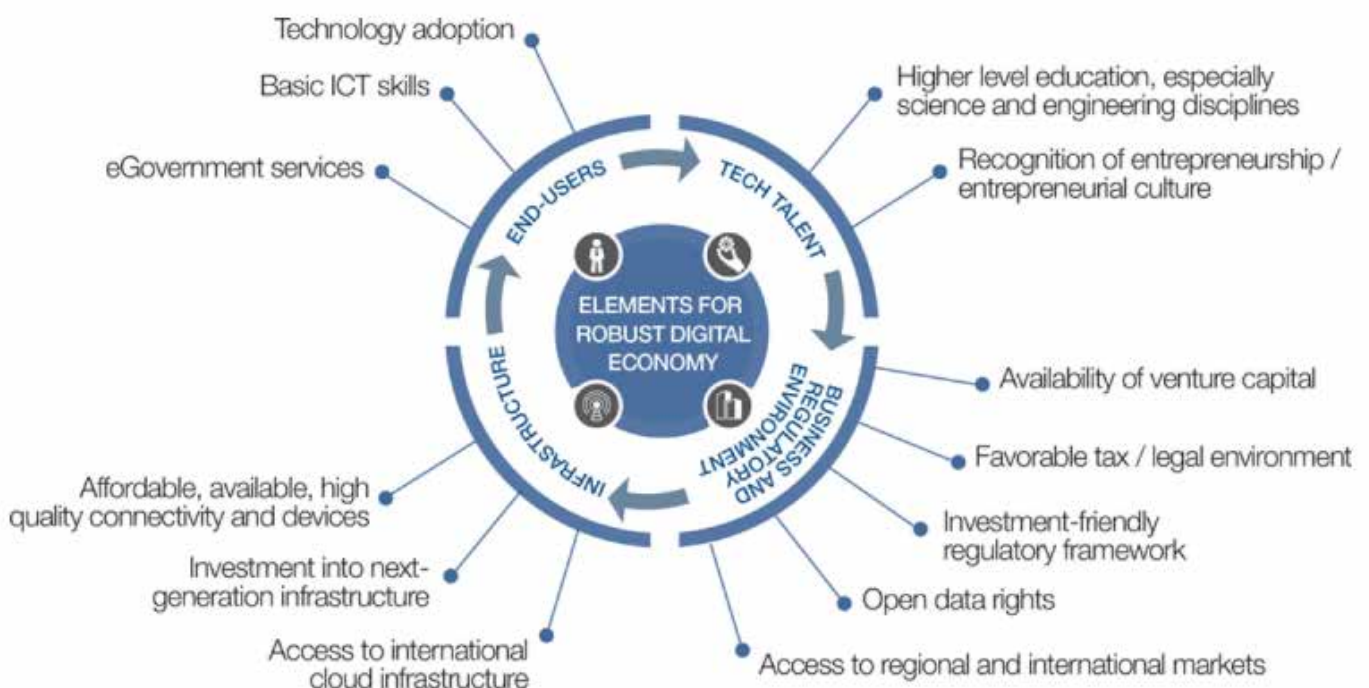


Figure 8: Digital Infrastructure and associated suppliers

Figure 7: Digital connectivity & smart technology.



Sources: BCG analysis Figure 9: Elements for robust digital economy.





Planning Priorities

Planning Priority 1

Bridge the shortfall of infrastructure through stakeholder collaboration to support the current and future growth and industries.

Measure

- Appropriate Infrastructure projects identified by location to meet the forecasted population, housing and employment targets.
- Land use development and public transport efficiency to meet the 30-minute-city concept.
- Continue advocacy and partnership with state agencies to meet the shortfall of infrastructure in the Hawkesbury.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 1.1 - Monitor and report project delivery status and continue investigating and prioritising infrastructure shortfall delivery.
- 1.2 - Council will work with Transport for NSW and RMS to ensure that transport decisions enables and supports liveability, employment and long term community outcomes.
- 1.3 - Council will advocate for efficient bus routes between Blacktown, Rouse Hill, Windsor, Richmond, St Marys and Penrith.

Short Term

- 1.4 - Identify the shortfall of infrastructure to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of the growing community.
- 1.5 - Investigate the funding opportunities to bridge the infrastructure gap. Prepare/Review Council's Capital Works Program.
- 1.6 - Council will investigate on-demand bus service with private providers to serve the remote communities of the LGA.

Short - Medium Term

- 1.7 - Prioritise and lock infrastructure projects in the Delivery program.
- 1.8 - Deliver projects through Operational Plan.

Planning Priority 2

Form partnership with stakeholders and agencies.

Measure

- Stronger partnership with stakeholders and agencies where collaborated projects are delivered on time.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 2.1 - Form partnership and collaborate with stakeholders to ensure efficient and expedited delivery of infrastructure in the Hawkesbury.
- 2.2 - Continue lobbying for infrastructure for efficient public transport to meet the 30 minute city concept.
- 2.3 - Continued advocacy and lobbying with State agencies to undertake STEM standard pilot projects in the Hawkesbury LGA.



COMMUNITY



Hawkesbury's Community

affordable and diverse, preserves heritage and local character

The quality of life that residents enjoy in their neighbourhoods, work places and communities is central to liveability. Maintaining and improving liveability requires housing, infrastructure and services in the right locations to meet people's needs and enable them to stay in their neighbourhoods and with their communities as they transition through different stages of life. Planning for people recognises that liveability not only contributes to productivity and sustainability, but is also an important influence on individual wellbeing and community cohesion.

The Western City District Plan, Directions for Liveability include:

- A city for people
- Housing the city
- A city of great places

Planning Priority 3

Provide a diversity of housing types to meet the needs of the changing demography.

The Hawkesbury's demography is comprised of people from different backgrounds and a range of age structures. As a community, we will continue to work together to shape and enjoy its future and to respect and nurture its wild and untamed beauty.

The Hawkesbury hosts more people aged between 45-69 years compared to the Greater Sydney Region, and has a greater number of over 85 year age groups.

Hawkesbury's Housing Diversity and Population

The Hawkesbury currently lacks housing diversity to cater for the changing housing needs of its population. It is clear the area suffers a mismatch between household size and dwelling types. Currently, majority of the dwelling types in the Hawkesbury is made up of single detached dwellings. The Hawkesbury does not have much medium density housing stocks including secondary dwellings, boarding houses and student accommodations.

The Hawkesbury's population is projected to grow from 67,083 to 85,050 by 2036 (Western District Plan). This population increase puts significant pressure and challenge for the council to identify and secure land to meet the housing needs as well as provide adequate social, economic and environmental infrastructures to sustain the growth.

The ABS Census 2016 data indicates that the Hawkesbury is trending towards a higher percentage of aging (over 70 years) population. Hence, an ageing population requires a targeted housing supply and type including independent living units, and residential aged care facilities. While there are approximately six seniors housing sites including aged care in the Hawkesbury, an

What is the age profile?

Population by age, 2016

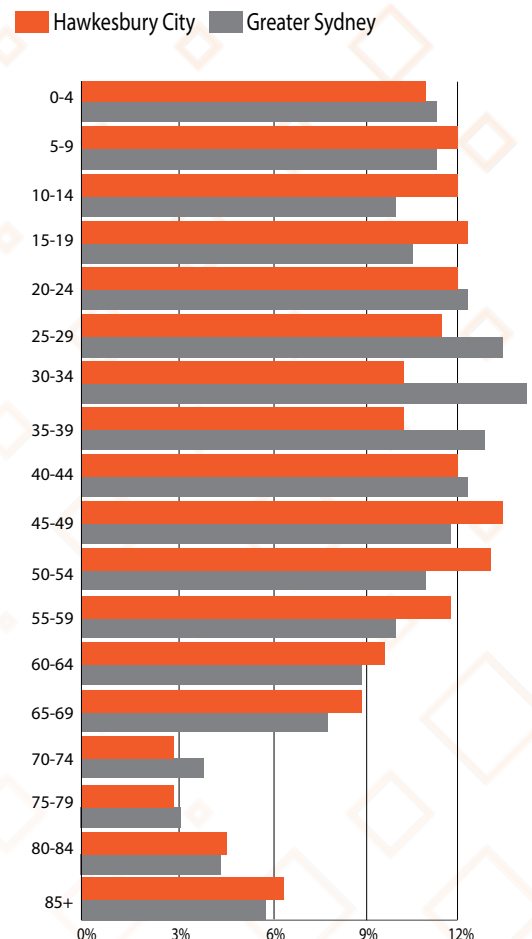
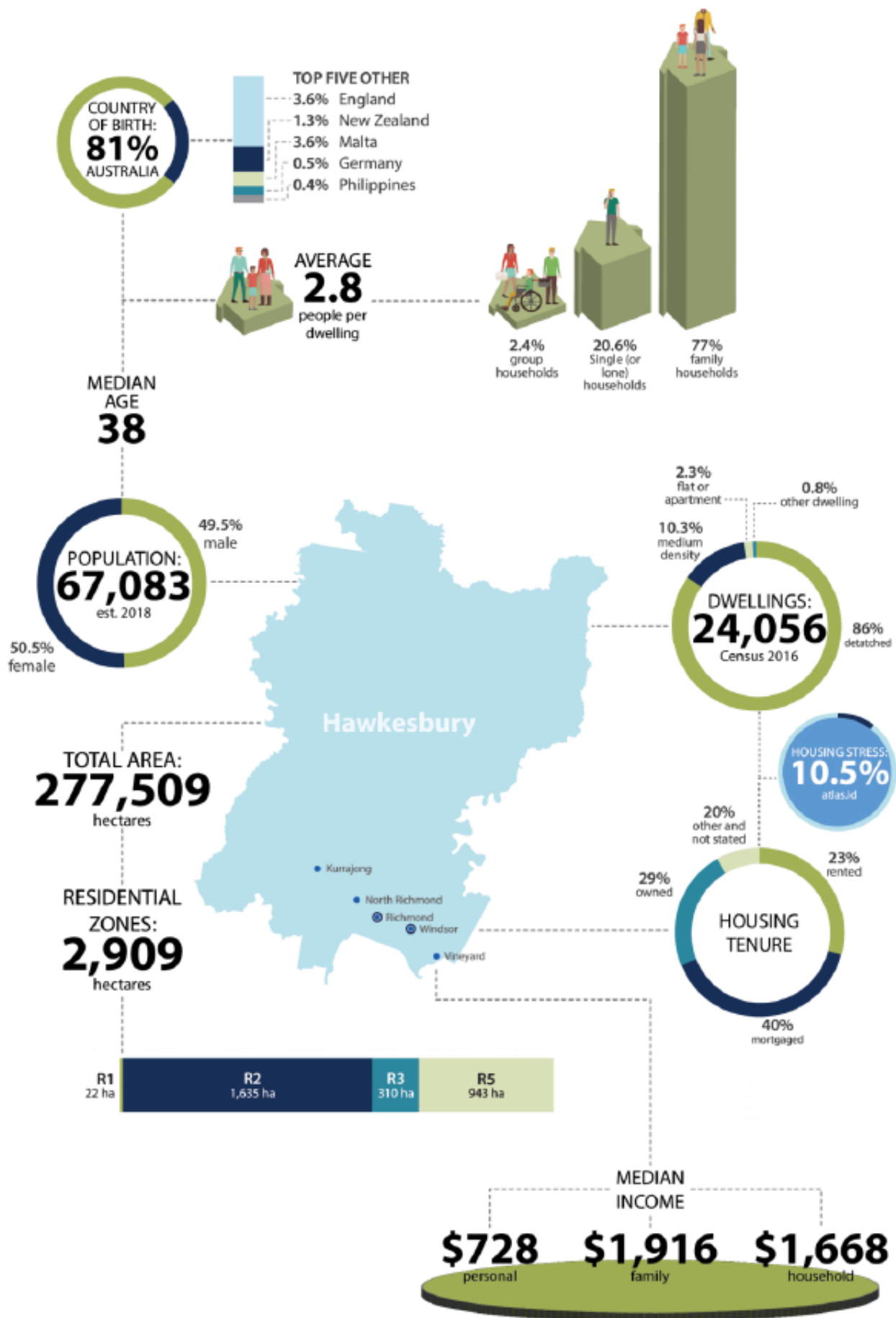


Figure 10: The age profile of Hawkesbury.
Source: ABS Census, 2016

Hawkesbury's Housing Diversity and Population Analysis





overall Hawkesbury wide investigation of the demand and supply of seniors living and aged care facilities will provide a clear understanding on whether the area has capacity to meet future demand.

While the Hawkesbury is able to achieve and exceed its five year housing target set by the Western City District Plan under the current planning controls, it is important that the Council review its planning controls to accommodate further housing diversity to meet the changing demography and needs of the community.

The major impediment of development in the Hawkesbury is the extent of flooding impact within the urban footprints of most of the centres including Windsor and Richmond. A large part of the Hawkesbury also contains significant vegetation and biodiversity which is prone to development threats risking the environmental values as well as properties and lives during a bushfire event.

The challenge for Council is to ensure that the growing population is accommodated within the flood free plains, while the distinct local character and heritage of the Hawkesbury towns, villages, rural landscapes and biodiversity is also preserved. Additionally, the RAAF Richmond base - ANEF contours and Airport Protection Zones adds additional restrictions in determining appropriate locations for further housing allocation.

Hawkesbury's population growth is not only driven by those relocating from other parts of Metropolitan Sydney to the LGA for a lifestyle change, but also increasingly as a result of people moving from overseas to make Australia and Hawkesbury their home. Demand for housing in the Hawkesbury is also a result of changing demographic trends.

Council will explore possibilities for medium density housing provision through zonings and amending the Local Environmental Plan provisions and development controls where appropriate (constraint free areas) to make provision for affordable housing.

Provision of a range of housing types in the Hawkesbury and putting people at the heart of planning will lever active life-style, increase the number of people living close to transport and jobs, health and other amenities. New housing development will also drive opportunities for targeted developments on a precinct scale where the residents, especially seniors who downsize or move to seniors living still continue to experience the same or even better quality of life which they always had.

Hawkesbury's Affordable and Social Housing

Compared to the rest of Sydney, it can be considered that housing is still affordable in the Hawkesbury. However, part of the Hawkesbury where one could consider housing to be affordable is cut off from the rest of Sydney due to lack of infrastructure and other amenities.

Part of the Hawkesbury's population is under housing stress, both mortgages and rental. The Hawkesbury community also suffers social disadvantages (income, access to employment, qualifications, efficient transportation, quality health and education service, other infrastructure) due to its location being at the periphery of the Sydney metropolitan region. To assist reduce mortgage and rental stress in the LGA, Council will advocate and support Federal and State Government incentives and initiatives.

Council through the Local Housing Strategy is trying to understand the disparity of housing affordability on a local level and also seek mechanisms to achieve affordable housing in the Hawkesbury. In undertaking all this work, Council will ensure that gentrification is kept at bay and no community member is forced to leave the Hawkesbury.

Council will advocate with State Agencies, Non-Government Organisations and other social housing providers to identify opportunities to provide social housing for the community where most needed.

The Demand for Social Affordable Housing in the Western Sydney City Deals (WSCD) area - 2018, commissioned by NSW Community Housing Industry Association identified that demand for Social and Affordable Housing is driven by households that either:

- Cannot access market housing (including homeless persons);
- Have low household incomes and spend a high proportion of this income on rent (rental stress).

The WSCD area needs 87,800 Social and Affordable Housing dwellings by 2036, which is 16% of the demand in the whole of NSW. The report indicated the forecast demand for SAH 2016-2036 for Hawkesbury as follows:

Year	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036	Change	AAGR
SAH Target	2,945	3,184	3,424	3,693	4,015	1,070	1.6%

The challenge of accommodating the growth in demand for Social and Affordable Housing is significant, and require a concerted effort including private community home providers and State agencies.



Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy

The Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy aims to set a clear plan for housing in the LGA for the next 10 and 20 years. The Strategy ties Council's vision for housing with the State Government led strategic plans. The Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy responses for housing supply and how the housing components of the 'Western City District Plan' and 'A Metropolis of Three Cities' will be delivered locally.

The Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy identifies locations where the housing demands will be met given the availability of services and infrastructure in these areas, as well as with considerable deliberation of constraints affecting the opportunities to unlock lands for housing purposes. Council will commit to providing connected suburbs which can be accessed by walking or cycling.

The Department of Planning Industry and Environment's projections suggest that an additional 8,000 dwellings will be needed in the 20 years 2016 to 2036, requiring an annual average housing delivery of around 400 dwellings per annum. This is more than double the average annual housing approvals for the past 10 years of 185 dwellings per annum (see section 3.2.5). If historical trends continue, dwelling demand is more likely to be in the order of 2,600 to 3,700 dwellings.

While the Vineyard release area may attract increased dwelling approvals in the future, being part of the North West Growth Area, it is unlikely that this would increase dwelling delivery to the levels suggested by the below projections.

Household type, 2016

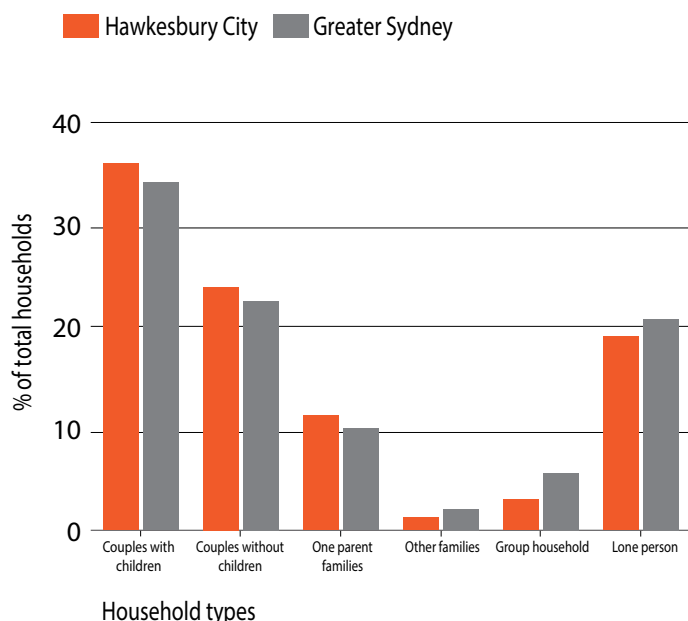


Figure 11: The household types in the Hawkesbury.

Due to the extreme flood constraints and an obligation to preserve the local heritage character of the Hawkesbury, housing needs near the public transport will be delivered through infill medium density developments. New housing types in the Hawkesbury will be encouraged in accordance with the "Better Place" – Good Design principles in the existing developed urban areas and in the metropolitan rural areas, development will be influenced by local demand with limited rural housing where appropriate. Shop top housing opportunities will be explored near transport nodes and dual occupancy; secondary dwelling opportunities will be sort at appropriate sites where there are no flood or fire constraints. Council will explore its vacant lands and advocate with community housing providers to create partnerships to develop social and affordable housing.

Areas around the Western Sydney University in Hobartville will be investigated to identify potential opportunities for student accommodation and possibly creation of a mixed use area to assist with some retail to meet the daily needs of student and residents in the area. Providing housing for students near the university precinct within walking distance will also assist in reducing traffic congestion. Medium density developments will be considered in existing residential areas where the determined risks from flooding are deemed appropriate.

The remainder of the Vineyard precinct has potential to zone land to meet housing needs, however, uncertainty in the corridor planning for the Outer Sydney Orbital through the Hawkesbury impacts upon planning. Once the Outer Sydney Orbital corridor is finalised by the state government Council will then consider zoning opportunities along the corridor.

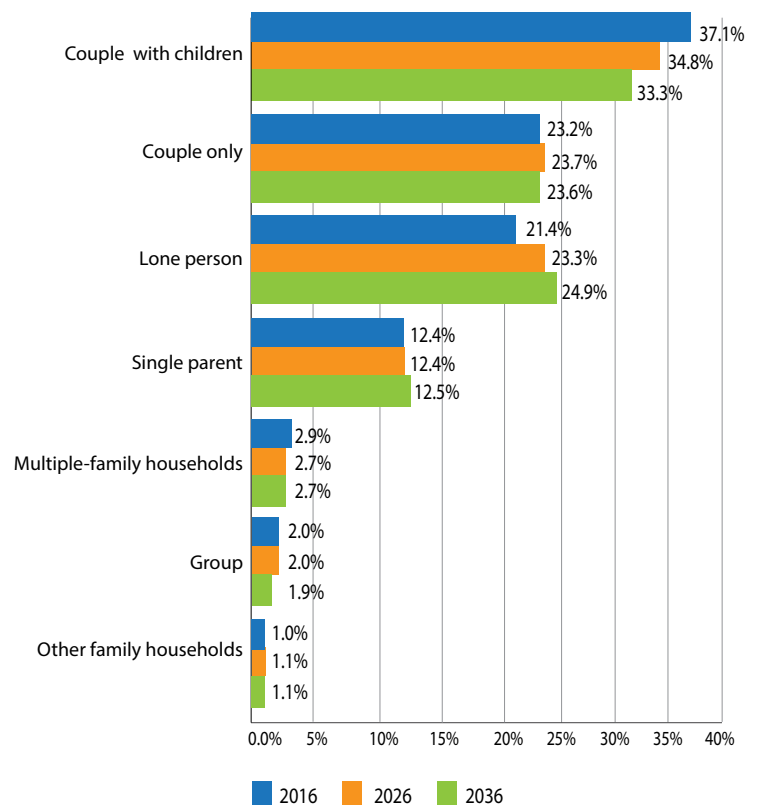


Figure 12: Household projections 2016-2036

Projection	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	2036
Total Population	64,350	67,800	71,000	74,800	79,400	85,050
Total Households	22,750	24,600	26,150	27,850	29,700	32,000
Average Household Size	2.78	2.71	2.66	2.63	2.61	2.59
Implied Dwellings	24,450	26,400	28,100	29,900	31,950	34,400
Change		2011-16	2016-21	2021-26	2026-31	2031-36
Total Population Change		3,450	3,200	3,800	4,600	5,650
Average Annual Population Growth Rate (%)		1.0%	0.9%	1.0%	1.2%	1.4%
Total Household Change		1,800	1,600	1,650	1,900	2,300
Average Annual Household Growth (%)		1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.3%	1.5%

Source: Department of Planning and Environment

Figure 13: Population projection



North Richmond

The Sydney Region Plan indicates that the housing diversity means providing housing for a range of income groups at various points on the housing continuum as depicted below:

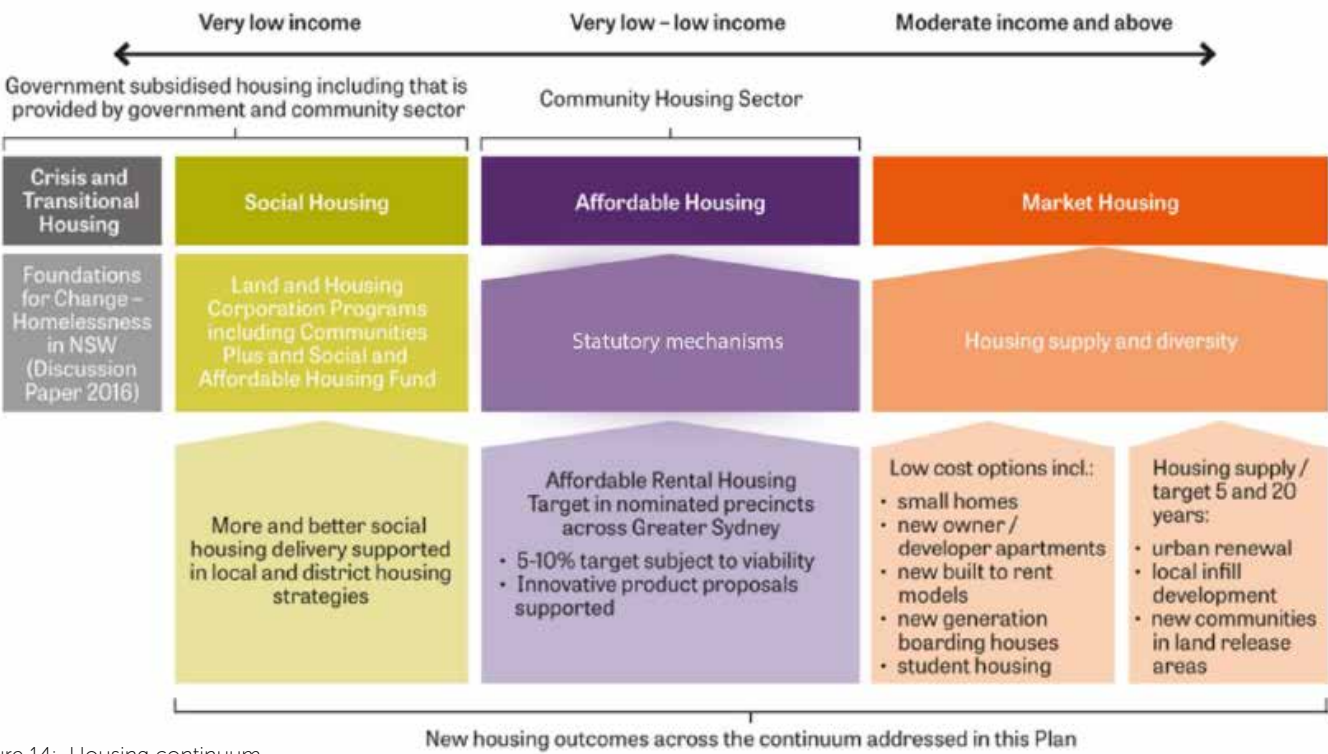


Figure 14: Housing continuum

The figures below provide potential housing capacity under the current planning controls (HLEP 2012), however, developments within these unconstrained lots will have to be in accordance with the INSW flood evacuation policies and the capacities of the evacuation routes.

Lands with potential to meet Hawkesbury’s housing supply Windsor:

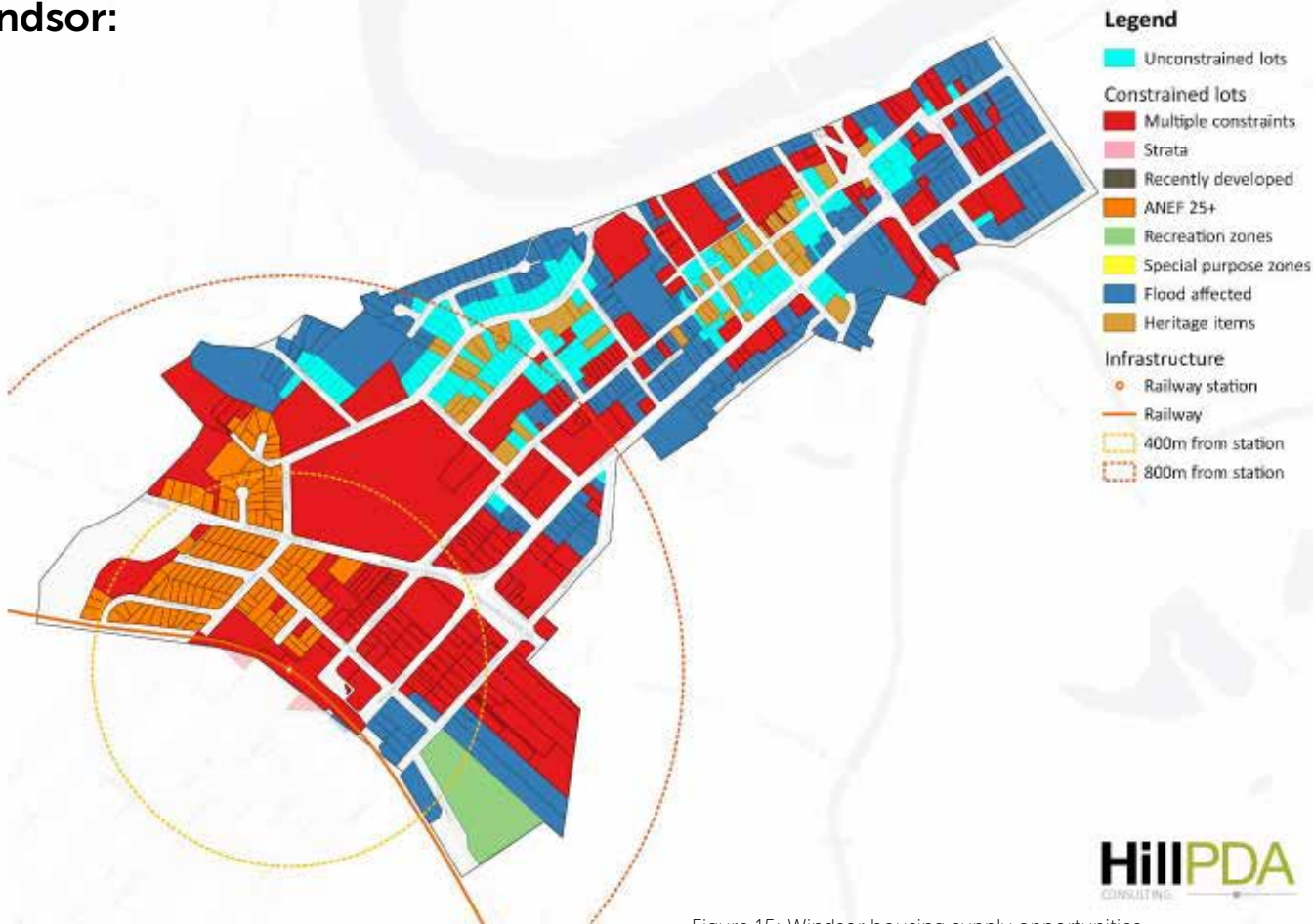


Figure 15: Windsor housing supply opportunities

South Windsor:



Figure 16: South Windsor housing supply opportunities

Richmond:

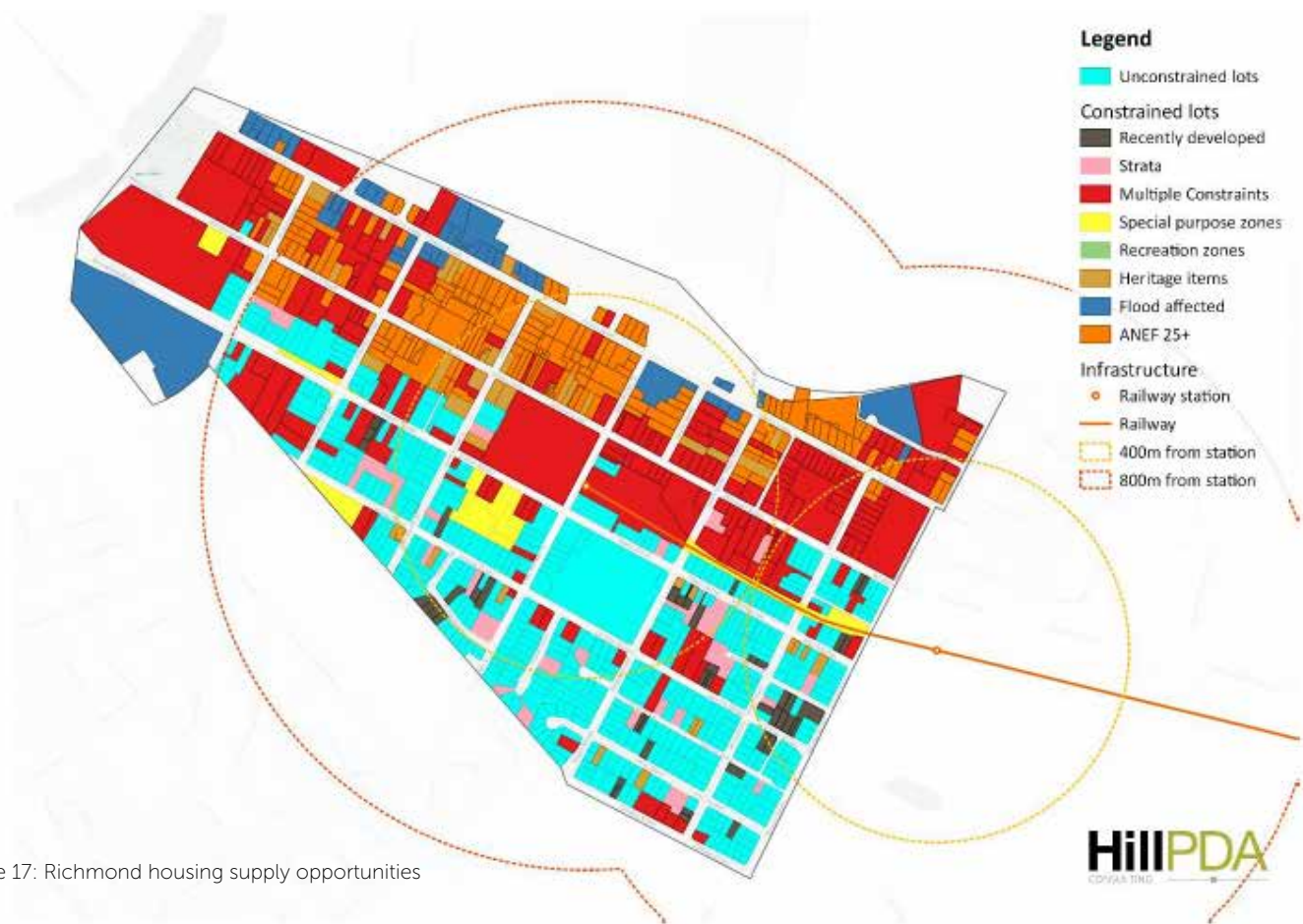


Figure 17: Richmond housing supply opportunities

North Richmond:



Hobartville:



Hawkesbury's Open and Recreation Spaces

Hawkesbury has in excess of 214 parks and reserves. Of these, some are for general community use; some reserves form the bushlands and escarpments, foreshore, watercourse and wetland areas, parks and sports grounds. Areas where there are dense residential developments have open spaces which are embellished with play equipment, exercise equipment and skating facilities.

Currently there is a strong community involvement in the management and enhancement of open space in the LGA. The Hawkesbury River remains a largely unrealised recreational asset with great potential to enhance livability and the local economy.

The national parks and natural reserves together with the rivers, creeks and mountains of the Hawkesbury offer unlimited choice of passive and active recreational opportunities for the locals and visitors. Currently, all the Councils within the Western Parkland City Region are working collaboratively to implement the South Creek Green Grid Project of creating a continuous open space corridor along the entire South Creek that provides ecological protection and enhancement and a regionally significant corridor for recreational uses.

Place-based planning principles will be incorporated in future Greenfield and infill developments to ensure sufficient open space is provided within residential developments with an increased access and connectivity built around people.

Through the Draft LSPS submissions, a lot of interest for additional sporting facilities has been highlighted. During the review of the Hawkesbury Open Space and Recreation Strategy, Council will identify the disparity of sporting grounds and seek funding to ensure timely delivery of sporting infrastructures in areas where there is a gap.

Hawkesbury's Community Facilities

Currently, Hawkesbury has a number of assets to meet the needs of community including community centers, Library, the regional museum, and swimming pools. Council will collaborate with the government agencies especially local schools (Department of Education and Training) within the Hawkesbury to explore the mechanism of shared and joint use of facilities which the community can benefit from.

A challenge for the Hawkesbury is to ensure that the current community facilities are adaptive to the future

needs of the community. A LGA wide Community Facilities study will identify the gaps and needs of community facilities to accommodate the future needs and will also enable Council to incorporate these needs and implementation strategies into the long term infrastructure plans of Council including the Hawkesbury Development Contributions Plan to source funding for it.



Hawkesbury's Arts and Culture

Hawkesbury's history and culture as being the Third European Settlement in Australia reins it to pride and share its stories through art and creative expressions with the rest of the world. The NSW Government also supports investments in arts, screen and culture through a number of strategies including the Arts 2025.

Key focus areas in the strategic framework includes working across Government to make NSW a place that inspires and connects people through arts and creativity, growing and promoting Sydney as a creative destination and a cultural capital of the Asia – Pacific, improve liveability by integrating arts, screen and culture in urban regeneration, cultural precincts and creative place-making with best practise business models to support artists and experiences for all communities.

Council has started to invest in cultural and creative expressions through art work and murals in the town centres. The idea of co-locating artists and creative organisations in the Windsor Town Centre could be one way of supporting creative enterprise and vice-versa leveraging the revitalisation of the town centre.

Hawkesbury LGA celebrates cultural diversity through the various events including Australia Day celebrations, Hawkesbury Fest and through continuous events held by Council's Library, the Hawkesbury Regional Arts Gallery and the Museum.

Council is exploring ways to activate the night time economy at the Windsor, South Windsor and Richmond Centres as part of the Liveability Program and place-based approaches which can be capitalised through local arts and cultural activities, eat streets, small bars and cinemas.

Furthermore, Council will investigate and advocate for other supporting social infrastructure such as educational and community facilities, community initiatives, clubs and sporting organisations that assist to connect people to one another.



Planning Priority 4

Protect and promote Aboriginal and European heritage and its transition into innovative, creative and adaptive re-uses.

Heritage and history are key components of local identity and contribute to the character and feel of a place. 'Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives. Often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to the lived experiences. These are historical records that are important as tangible expressions of Australian identity and experience...Places of cultural significance reflect the diversity of our communities telling is about who we are and the past that has formed us and the Australian landscape. They are irreplaceable and precious. These places of cultural significance must be conserved for present and future generations (ICOMOS 1999).'

The Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2017-2036 states "Recognise, conserve and promote the area's history and heritage for current and future generations."

The Hawkesbury community prides its history and heritage and aspires to protect and preserve it. The Hawkesbury contains a number of Aboriginal and European heritage items in the form of landscapes, parks, buildings, cemeteries and monuments.

The Darug and Darkinjung people have long inhabited the land of the Hawkesbury as their country prior to the European settlement after Hawkesbury was established in 1789 by Governor Arthur Philip and further developed into villages and townships by Governor Lachlan Macquarie from 1810 onwards.

The Hawkesbury is an open air gallery showcasing a wealth of wonderful memories of the past which are reflected through the Aboriginal storytelling, European built forms, arts and culture creating a distinctive local character.

Hawkesbury's European Heritage

The Hawkesbury contains memories of the early European settlement through its landmark colonial era homesteads and its curtilages and cultural landscapes. The overall built form of the Hawkesbury is of immense heritage significance— the Georgian design buildings designed by Francis Greenway are still admired today. The Royal Hotel – now Macquarie Arms, St Mathews church, the Bell Inn, Mountain View, Hobartville, Richmond Post Office and the Court House are some of the iconic buildings. Parks and open spaces designs based on 19th century Victorian concepts (Richmond Park is one of them) and Hawkesbury's villages are infused with history and scenery.

Each town and village within the Hawkesbury has a story of an early settler and his/her legacy to share. The villages and townships provide a village and farm feel with picturesque views and vistas of the mountains, valleys, orchards, and farms while keeping one at peace with the serenity of the environment. The art and storytelling of Hawkesbury's heritage is promoted through the local library events, gallery displays and museum.

It is important that Council continues to educate and create awareness of the history and heritage of the Hawkesbury to the community. Currently Council encourages revitalisation and adaptive reuse of heritage listed buildings through "Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund", this funding allows conservation and maintenance works of the heritage listed properties on a part funding basis.

Council will continue to seek funding and encourage initiatives to ensure that the Communities aspiration of protecting and preserving the heritage and history of the Hawkesbury continues in the future.

The Hawkesbury's rich Aboriginal culture and natural heritage reinforces its sense of place and identity. A combination of Hawkesbury's indigenous and European heritage forms a kaleidoscope of cultural and character advantage for the LGA.

Identifying, conserving, interpreting and celebrating Hawkesbury's heritage values leads to a better understanding of history and respect for the experiences of diverse communities. Heritage identification, management and interpretation are important so that heritage places and stories can be experienced by current and future generations.



View of George Street Windsor. Hawkesbury Library Service

Aboriginal Heritage

The original Custodians- for the past 40,000 years, within the Hawkesbury have been the Darug and Darkinjung tribes. The Darug tribe comprised smaller groups who inhabited the area known as Cumberland Plains, covering the territory from the mouth of the Hawkesbury River. The Darkinjung lived in the areas bounded by Wilberforce, and Wisemans Ferry on the Hawkesbury River.

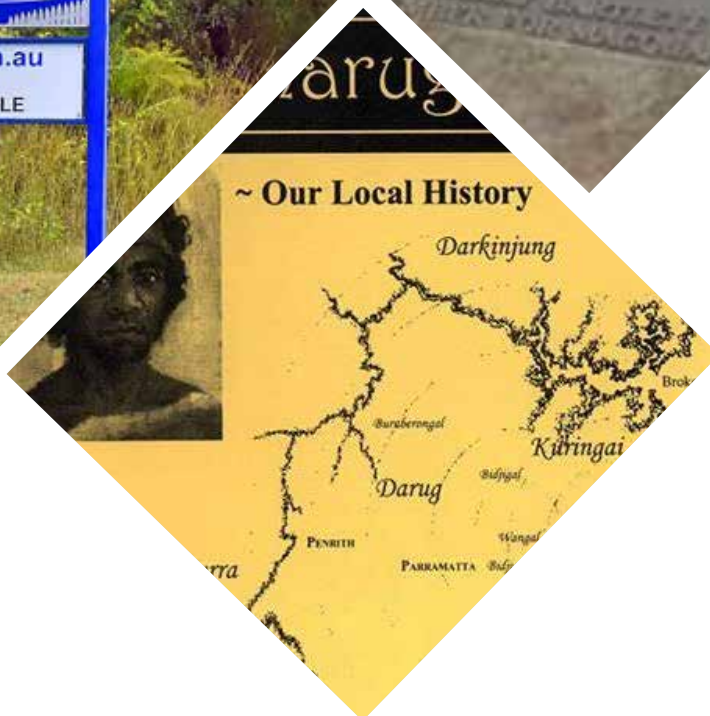
Darug tribal leaders who were known to their people as Caradgee or wise men and doctors of their tribe, are said to have welcomed Governor Phillip to their land in friendship on 14 April 1791 at Bardenarang Creek - known at the time as Bardo Narang (meaning 'little water') - at Pitt Town Bottoms. The tribal leaders' names were Gombeeree and his son Yellowmundi -the latter of which is the namesake of the suburb of Yarramundi. The Hawkesbury LGA has a number of sites significant to Aboriginal culture and heritage.

Hawkesbury's Aboriginal community is 3.7% of the LGA's population compared to 1.5% in Greater Sydney. Greater engagement with the Aboriginal community is considered essential, especially in matters of land use planning through consultation with Local Aboriginal representatives.

Aboriginal Heritage OCHRE- (Opportunity, Choice, Healing, Responsibility and Empowerment)

is the community focused plan for Aboriginal affairs in NSW. It commits the NSW Government to a different way of working with and in support of Aboriginal communities by building strong working partnership that have at their heart respect for local Aboriginal culture, leadership and decision making.

Council will commit to protecting and enhancing Aboriginal heritage and liveability. Council will encourage active community engagement with the Aboriginal people in land use planning matters and connect with the Aboriginal people who hold knowledge about Aboriginal culture and heritage to bring that wealth to the design of places within the community.



Planning Priority 5

Mitigate and manage land use conflicts in rural area

By 1798 more than 400 hectares of the Hawkesbury's fertile river valleys were under cultivation and became the centre of Sydney's agricultural expansion and supplied the colony's staple grain crops.

Hawkesbury has historically been the food bowl of Sydney, which was leveraged by the fertile soils along the Hawkesbury river banks. The Hawkesbury still continues to be the top producer of perishable vegetables, turf, nursery and flowers in Sydney.

However, in the past few years the Hawkesbury has experienced a significant increase in residents seeking a more relaxed country lifestyle from inner city living. Rural residential housing is a popular choice in the LGA, due to its picturesque location with scenic views and vistas from the ridgelines and village character. However, increasing rural residential development leads to land use conflict with valuable agricultural and environmental land.

These developments add pressure to existing services by impeding certain agricultural activities and also demands new and improved access to infrastructure and amenities. It is imperative that Council consider each of the areas for residential development on a case by case basis, ensuring that no prime agricultural land is compromised and no additional land use conflict situation is created.

Council is also undertaking the Hawkesbury Rural Lands Strategy to identify the future of agricultural enterprises and rural industries in the LGA. The study also investigates the impact of rural residential development in prime agricultural lands. Council will undertake a communication strategy aimed at potential rural land purchases by issuing a series of factsheets along with planning certificates on living in rural areas of the Hawkesbury. Fact sheets will outline the right to farm concept and legitimate and compliant rural activities in rural zones.

Planning Priority 6

Manage, enhance and celebrate the distinctive heritage character of our towns, villages and naturally landscaped environment.

Hawkesbury boasts its river views from the winding Hawkesbury River and four other rivers that meet the Hawkesbury river and the UNESCO Heritage listed Blue Mountains national reserve backdrop that further compliments the landscape and scenic qualities that people from all over the world come to experience. The farms, rural towns and villages, rural residential developments, heritage scenic and cultural landscapes, escarpments, mineral resources and the national reserves and parks make the Hawkesbury's kaleidoscope. The Sydney Region Plan and the Western City District Plan have classed the Hawkesbury (except the Vineyard Precinct) as a Metropolitan Rural Area.

The character of each town and village within the Hawkesbury is distinct, offering an experience of a kind whether one wants to experience the serenity of a lush bushland landscape with picturesque views, or the water activities and views, or whether one wants to dwell in the historic village which offers farm gate experiences with historic pubs, churches and grave sites.

The Hawkesbury hosts four of the five Macquarie townships – Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce and Pitt-Town. The character and built form of each of these towns is very different from other metropolitan towns of Sydney due to its heritage conservation values and also flooding impacts that has restricted further dense development of these towns.

The village of St Albans in the Macdonald Valley is a hidden paradise also known as the 'forgotten valley'. The village sits on a picturesque location which provides tranquillity, history, and the natural beauty of the Macdonald River and the national park. St Albans meets all the prerequisites of being a unique destination for people looking for a break

from their busy city lives. Packaged with accommodation on land in a historic house or boat house, bush walks, water activities, horse riding trails along the river banks and occasional music festivals or local fairs will attract tourists not only local but also international to the area.

The urban settlement at Windsor, Richmond and Pitt Town is characterised by a blend of history and post war development. Windsor and Richmond being the strategic centres which also provides business and industrial activities, the areas are more densely developed compared to other areas of the LGA.

The future challenges that the Hawkesbury faces is maintaining the local character and culture of the distinct towns and villages and its surrounding landscapes while ensuring that the towns and villages are also timely revitalized to keep their integrity and form for the future generations to come.

Council has recently secured a grant from the Western City Deals- Liveability Program initiatives to revitalize its town centres of Windsor, South Windsor and Richmond. The masterplan will recognize Windsor and Richmond as Strategic Centres within the Sydney Region Plan and will explore retail, commercial, tourism and housing opportunities through the detailed modelling systems.

The outcome of the master plan aims to guide a place-based revitalization which will shape these towns into more sustainable places that promote a higher level of accessibility, cohesion and liveability for the businesses and community.



Autumn fun at Pughs Lagoon, Richmond

Planning Priorities

affordable and diverse, preserves heritage and character



Planning Priority 3

Provide a diversity of housing types to meet the needs of the changing demography.

Measure

- New planning controls to accommodate additional housing in the identified by Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy in unconstrained locations close to amenities.
- Encourage a greater participation of the Aboriginal community in land use planning matters.
- Sympathetic developments that maintain and enhance the local character of the towns, villages and open spaces.
- Meet the housing targets by providing greater housing diversity to suit the changing needs of the community.
- Housing costs within the affordability scale.
- Champion smart buildings that are sustainable to the impact of natural disasters and urban heat island effect through planning controls and policies.

Timeframe Short Term

Actions

3.1 - Develop a Housing Strategy to identify potential areas for a diversity of housing, with consideration of the various constraints and Infrastructure NSW's evacuation routes.

3.2 - Prepare appropriate Local Environmental Plan and Developmental Control Plan for developments that respect the character and amenity of the existing areas.

Short - Medium Term

3.3 - Investigate potential locations for affordable and social housing opportunities.

3.4 - Ensure that there is adequate social and environmental infrastructure available to match the additional population and housing diversity.

Planning Priority 4

Protect and promote Aboriginal and European heritage and its transition into innovative, creative and adaptive re-uses.

Measure

- A greater participation of the Aboriginal community in land use planning matters.
- Awareness, protection and promotion of heritage items - increased visitor numbers.
- Adaptive re-use of buildings approved and completed.
- All European Heritage items recorded in the Council's heritage register.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

4.1 - Engage with the Aboriginal community at all stages of land use planning.

4.2 - Seek heritage grants each year to support and encourage maintenance of heritage items.

Short - Medium Term

4.3 - Collaborate with the Aboriginal communities and the Local Aboriginal Land Council to identify opportunities to share and promote Aboriginal cultural heritage where appropriate.

4.4 - Collaborate with the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment to develop statutory land use controls to facilitate economic development of Aboriginal lands.

4.5- Council will include all the European heritage items in the Heritage register.

Planning Priority 5

Mitigate and manage land use conflicts in rural area.

Measure

- Land classed as prime agricultural is protected and promoted for agri-activities.
- Land use objectives are promoted and land use conflicts are minimised.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

5.1 - Take measures to limit land use conflicts.

Short - Medium Term

5.2 - Limit rural residential developments in areas identified as prime agricultural lands.

Long Term

5.3 - Map and categorise all prime agricultural land within the Hawkesbury LGA.

Planning Priority 6

Manage, enhance and celebrate the distinctive heritage character of our towns, villages and naturally landscaped environment.

Measure

- Enhanced streetscape and public realm in local centres and villages by responding to local character and place specific activation strategies.
- Public spaces and places are accessible, attractive and safe.

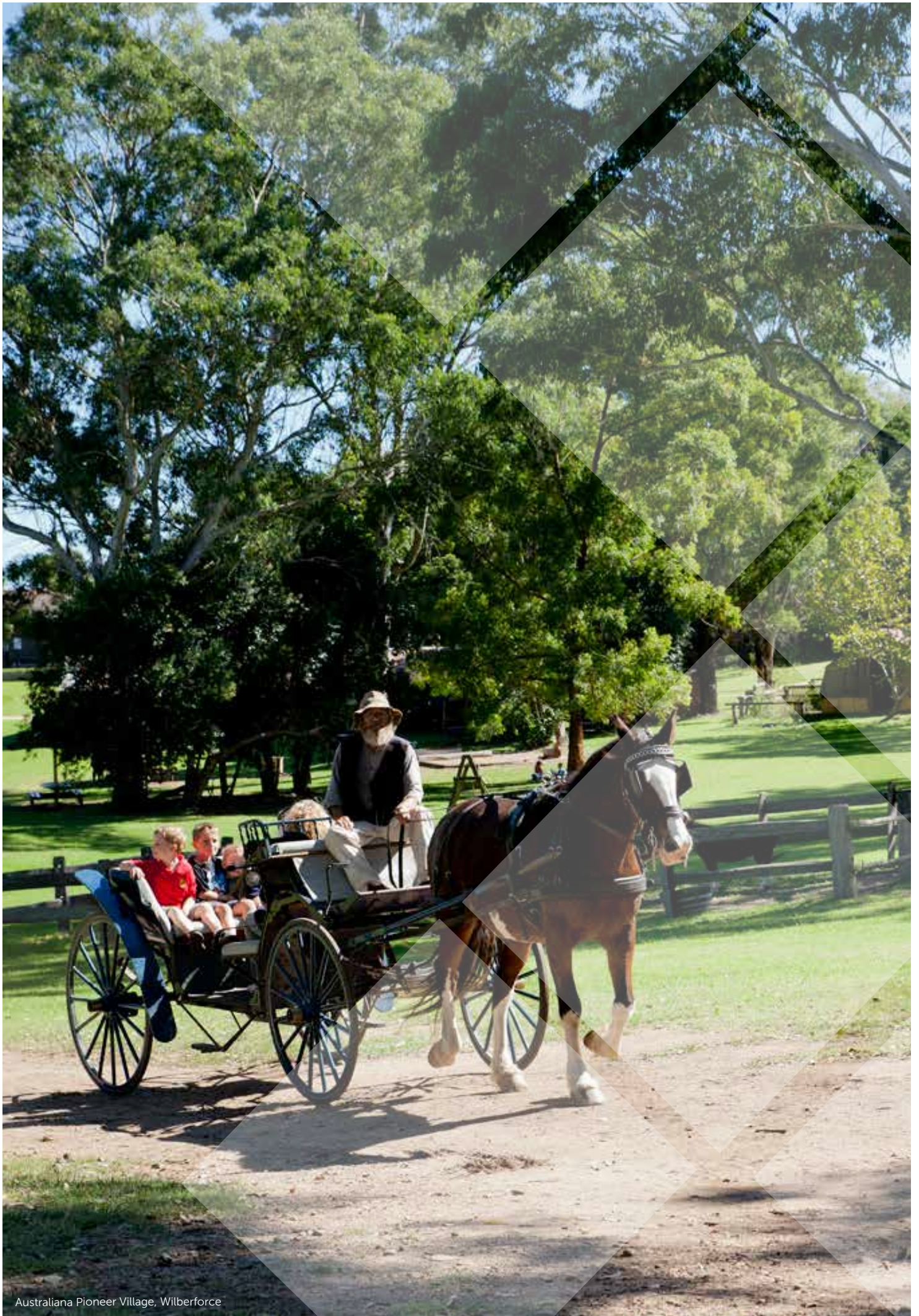
Timeframe On-Going

Actions

6.1 - Implement the Vibrant Towns and Villages Master Plan to enhance the distinctive heritage character of Hawkesbury's towns and villages.

6.2 - Retain and preserve the natural environment in its natural form to meet the objectives of the Metropolitan Rural Area.







PRODUCTIVITY



Hawkesbury's Productivity

Innovative and adaptable

The Sydney Region Plan envisions The Western Parkland City as the economic catalyst to transform the Western City District over the next 40 years. It intends to be the hub for globally significant defence and aerospace activities and have significant freight and logistics strength. The establishment of the Aerotropolis as the heart of the Western City District, it will agglomerate the economic activities.

Hawkesbury is well positioned for economic growth with increasing population and strength in some key areas with export potential. The industrial and services sectors are growing exponentially, becoming more efficient and adaptable, providing more jobs and making a key contribution to the Western City District's Economy. Agriculture is still an important industry in the Hawkesbury and continues to play a vital role in defining the character and landscape of the district. Data indicates that only 8% of land across Greater Sydney is presently zoned for non-residential uses such as industrial and urban services land. The Property Council of Australia has expressed concerns that with take up rates of industrial lands at approximately 150 hectares per annum across Greater Sydney, the currently available 295 hectares represents less than two years forward supply. Critical shortage of industrial lands has also led to land price increase in the Western City District over the past years.

Windsor and Richmond are classified as 'Strategic Centres' within the Western City District Plan. Employment growth is the principle underlying economic goal for metropolitan and strategic centres. Therefore, the designation of a commercial core within a strategic centre, for economic and employment uses may be necessary to manage the impact of residential developments encroaching on commercial activity. The balance between mixed-use and residential developments around the commercial core zones ensures new residential development can benefit from access and services in the centres.

The 2016 ABS Census data indicates that the total employment estimate for the Hawkesbury is 25,384 jobs. The Western City District Plan indicates that specifically within Windsor and Richmond in 2016 there were 10,300 jobs. This data confirms that the strategic centres of Windsor and Richmond makes up fifty percent of the whole LGA jobs. However, the task at hand is to rejuvenate job opportunities within these centres to meet the 2036 higher target of 16,500 jobs.

A high quality urban environment is critical to the success attracting and retaining knowledge workers and supporting a vibrant town centre. New development should support a diverse service economy and must be designed to positively contribute to an attractive public realm. Development will need to demonstrate a high quality urban design which responds to local character and built heritage of Windsor and Richmond.

Hawkesbury's economy will be strengthened by building on the education, defence and growing the agri-business together with advanced manufacturing sector and move to the next level of innovative and internationally competitive economy.



Hawkesbury turf farm



Planning Priority 7

Promote and support all sectors of industry and businesses of the Hawkesbury to meet the current and future demands and trends.

Hawkesbury City Council recognises that it has a major role in fostering and enhancing the economic growth and wellbeing of the community. There is a shift towards services and knowledge with an impact on the location of jobs. Bigger cities rely on outer metropolitan areas to lever their business activities as well as creating opportunities for smaller townships to unlock their employment capacities.

Currently the major employment sector in the Hawkesbury is the construction industry. Despite it being the major catalyst towards job supply, Council recognises that the construction industry boom is also of concern particularly considering structural change and an inevitable transition from a construction led economy once Greenfield land development is exhausted.

Following construction, health care and social assistance and retail trade are the second and third employment sectors of the Hawkesbury. Moving forward, properly planned investment can provide opportunities to increase high-tech jobs. Developing connections to local agglomerations with the right attributes that attract higher skill jobs.

In the recent past years, Hawkesbury has experienced a decline in the farming activity and a shift from production of fruit and vegetables to turf. This could be due to high cost and maintenance of fruit and vegetable production, costs associated with farm recovery from flood damages, and the agricultural sector becoming more efficient and highly specialised with advances in agricultural technology.

Council will collaborate and support the agricultural industry to evolve and grow over time. Increased innovative and high tech agricultural activities will increase jobs and production. It is important that the agricultural lands are protected from potential land use conflicts.

Windsor and Richmond will continue its role as the primary business and retail hub for the LGA and will be supported by well-considered incremental supportive zones and serviced lands to ensure an increased provision of commercial and retail development.

Council has commissioned the 'Hawkesbury Employment Lands Strategy' and the 'Hawkesbury Vibrant Town Centres and Villages Master Plan', to seek guidance for development of employment lands within the LGA.

Hawkesbury's Agriculture

The gross value of agricultural commodities in Hawkesbury is \$158.7m. Approximately 75.5% of Hawkesbury's gross value of agricultural output is supported by 'crop' commodities followed by 'Livestock products' and 'Livestock slaughtered' production 12% each.

A total of 6,945 hectares of land is used in the Hawkesbury to support the region's agricultural sector. Of this, 2,791 hectares is directly used to support crop commodity production. The remaining 4,153 hectares is used to support livestock and other agricultural land uses such as storage, sheds, roads, and other indirect agricultural industry infrastructure.

Hawkesbury's agriculture plays a key role in the social and economic fabric of the LGA. It is essential that Hawkesbury's land use planning and policy is integrated across state and local government initiatives so that the growth of agricultural production can be accommodated in a sustainable manner which addresses land use conflicts.





Agriculture continued

Agri-Production

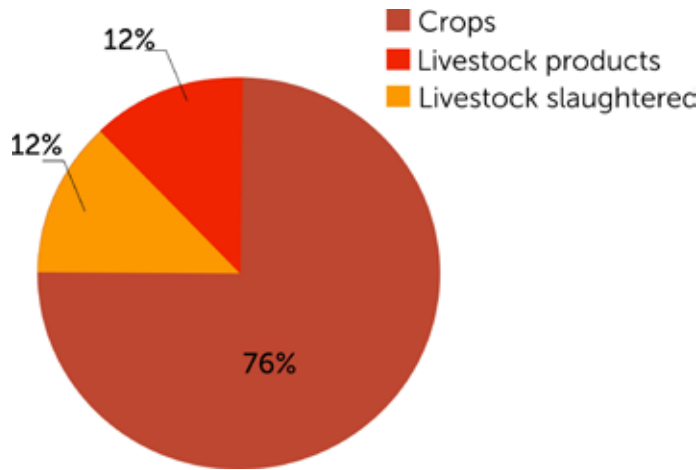
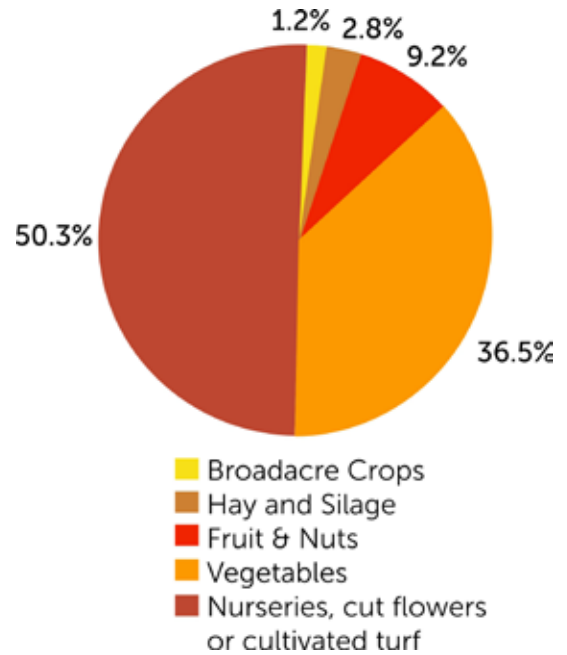


Figure 20: Hawkesbury's agricultural production.

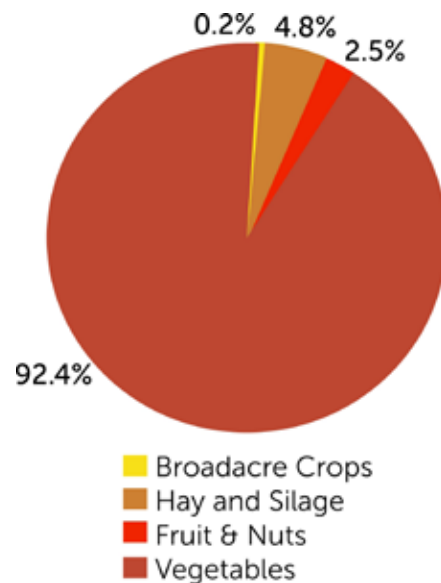
Crop Land Uses



Figures 21: Hawkesbury's crop land uses.

Crops	
	Broadacre crops
	Hay
	Nurseries
	Cut Flowers
	Cultivated turf
	Fruit and nuts
	Vegetables
Livestock products	
	Wool
	Milk
	Eggs
Livestock slaughtered and other disposals	
	Cattle and calves
	Pigs
	Poultry
	Sheep, Goats and other
Total agriculture	

Crop Production



Figures 22: Percentage of land use for crop production

With the challenge at hand for global agriculture towards 2050, with a predicted need for 70% more food globally, the Hawkesbury's agricultural entrepreneurs and stakeholders have to consider this seriously. A stronger stakeholder partnership with robust initiatives will be the way forward to an evolving and more specialised response to the pressure to produce more from less. The future focus for agriculture is on faster delivery and hi-tech, requiring new skills and infrastructure.

The Hawkesbury Rural Lands Strategy is currently being prepared. The recommendations of the study will guide the future of the agricultural/rural land uses and will be reflected in the Hawkesbury LEP and DCP.



Number 1

producer of perishable
vegetables in Sydney and NSW and
13th in Australia.

49.8% of NSW perishable vegetables
5.8% of Australia's



Number 1

producer of turf in Sydney and
NSW and Australia.

79.9% of NSW turf
24.0% of Australia's turf

Number 1

producer of nurseries and
flowers in NSW and Sydney.

39.2% of NSW nurseries
8.6% of Australia's nurseries
54.3% of NSW flowers
7.1% of Australia's flowers



Number 2

producer of eggs in Sydney and
4th NSW and 8th in Australia.

36.8% of NSW Eggs
11.6% of Australia's Eggs

Number 4

producer of poultry in Sydney
and NSW and 5th in Australia.

35.6% of NSW Chicken Meat
11.9% of Australia's chicken Meat
64.5% of NSW other poultry
27.5% of Australia's other poultry





Hawkesbury's Equine Industry

Hawkesbury's equine industry includes a wide range of activities related to agribusiness, leisure, horse racing, polo, manufacturing, animal nutrition and veterinary care. The equine industry is not a standard industry sector and as such does not neatly align with formal industry definitions. The table in Figure 16 below summarizes the economic activity of several industry sectors which may have partial association with the equine industry in the Hawkesbury. No explicit inference to the degree to which these sectors are associated with Hawkesbury's equine industry has been made.

Though the equine industry in the Hawkesbury LGA has historically operated and will continue to operate, potential land use conflicts resulting from the use of prime agricultural land needs careful consideration as to whether this undermines the highest and best potential of land which otherwise could be a farming/ agriculture related activity.



ANZSIC Industry Sector	Equine Assoc	Output (\$M)	Employment (Jobs)	Value Added (\$M)	Regional Exports (\$M)
Horse Farming	Associated	\$18.980	51	\$11.854	\$15.041
Other Agriculture and Fishing Support Services	Horse breaking & massage services	\$21.958	52	\$7.492	\$8.437
Veterinary Pharmaceutical & Medicinal Product Manufacturing	Horse Veterinary Products	\$0.000	0	\$0.000	\$0.000
Other Transport Equipment Manufacturing	Horse Drawn vehicle manufacturing	\$6.110	6	\$0.378	\$3.877
Other Agriculture product Wholesaling	Live Horse wholesaling	\$22.720	58	\$11.463	\$2.961
Scenic and Sightseeing Transport	Horse drawn carriage transport	\$4.249	7	\$2.040	\$0.464
Other Motor Vehicle and Transport Equipment Rental and Hiring	Horse trailer hiring & leasing	\$3.794	6	\$1.122	\$0.180
Farm Animal and Bloodstock Leasing	Race horse leasing	\$0.017	0	\$0.005	\$0.001
Veterinary Services	Horse Veterinary Care	\$33.673	126	\$15.940	\$1.315
Sports and Physical Recreation Instruction	Horse riding school operation	\$10.509	149	\$5.976	\$0.741
Horse and Dog Racing Administration and Track Operation	Associated	\$6.298	34	\$1.983	\$2.467
Other Horse and Dog Racing Activities	Associated	\$15.453	83	\$4.866	\$6.054
Amusement and Other Recreational Activities	Horse riding tours	\$4.818	26	\$1.517	\$1.887
Other Gambling Activities	Horse gambling services	\$4.085	8	\$1.518	\$0.228
Other Personal Services	Horse Training	\$6.882	66	\$2.655	\$0.159
TOTAL EQUINE SERVICES	TOTAL	\$159.55	672	\$68.809	\$43.812

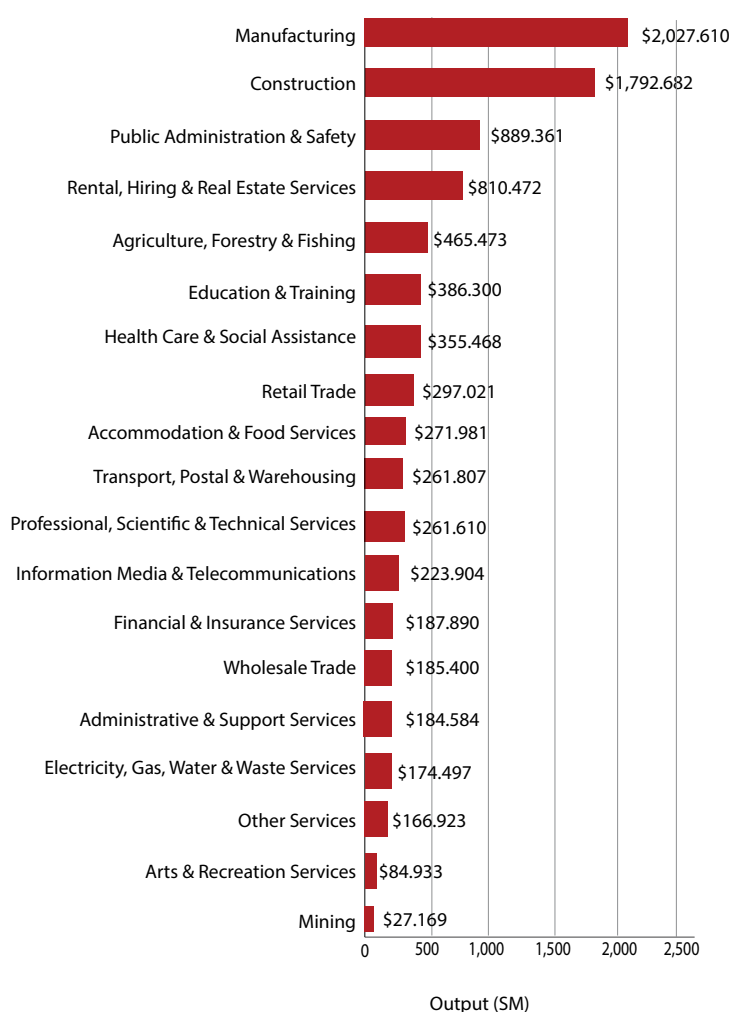
Figures 23: Sectors involved in equine industry.



For the last five years, Hawkesbury has experienced growth in GRP and gross regional product per capita.

	GRP (\$M)		Output (\$M)		Value Added (\$M)		Regional Exports (\$M)		Regional Imports (\$M)	
Hawkesbury	\$4,287.884		\$9,055.084		\$4,004.884		\$3,453.554		\$2,567.345	
Greater Western Sydney	\$138,895.548	3.1%	\$284,064.474	3.2%	\$127,385.876	3.1%	\$64,242.907	5.4%	\$62,959.998	4.1%
New South Wales	\$576,716.000	0.7%	\$1,134,633.260	0.8%	\$538,184.998	0.7%	\$152,399.787	2.3%		

Figure 24: Hawkesbury's product per capita.



Figures 25: Hawkesbury's employment industries.

- In the recent past, Hawkesbury experienced changes in the composition of output produced in the following sectors:
- Construction increased by \$504.954 million or 39.2%
- Education & Training increased by \$89.399 million or 30.1%
- Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing increased by \$72.910 million or 18.6%
- Manufacturing declined by \$705.198 million or -25.8%
- Wholesale Trade declined by \$157.867 million or -46.0%
- Public Administration & Safety declined by \$74.888 million or -7.8%





Hawkesbury's Export

The total regional export estimate for the Hawkesbury is \$3.454 billion. The 'Manufacturing' sector has the highest level of regional exports of \$1.363b, followed by 'Public Administration and Safety' worth \$652.93m and 'Construction' worth \$494.25m.

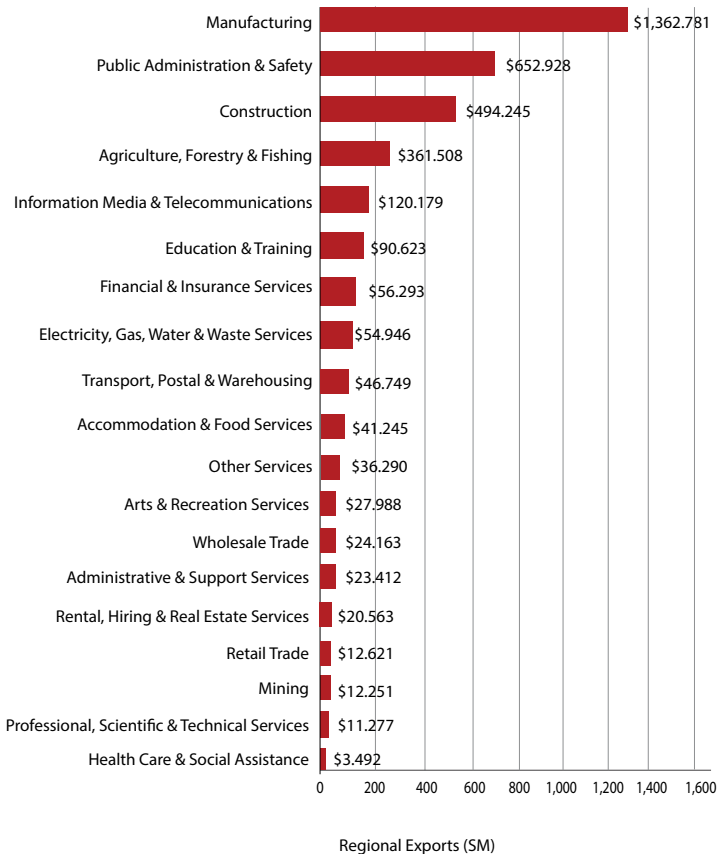


Figure 26: Hawkesbury's exports.



Hawkesbury's Growth and declining industries

Between 2016 and 2017, the city produced an additional \$66.923 million in output. However, there were significant internal changes in the composition of output produced within the region. The top three largest increases in output by sector were:

- 'Construction' increased by \$504.954 million or 39.2%
- 'Education & Training' increased by \$89.399 million or 30.1%
- 'Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing' increased by \$72.910 million or 18.6%

However, the largest declines in output for the Hawkesbury LGA occurred in the following sectors:

- 'Manufacturing' declined by \$705.198 million or -25.8%
- 'Wholesale Trade' declined by \$157.867 million or -46.0%
- 'Public Administration & Safety' declined by \$74.888 million or -7.8%



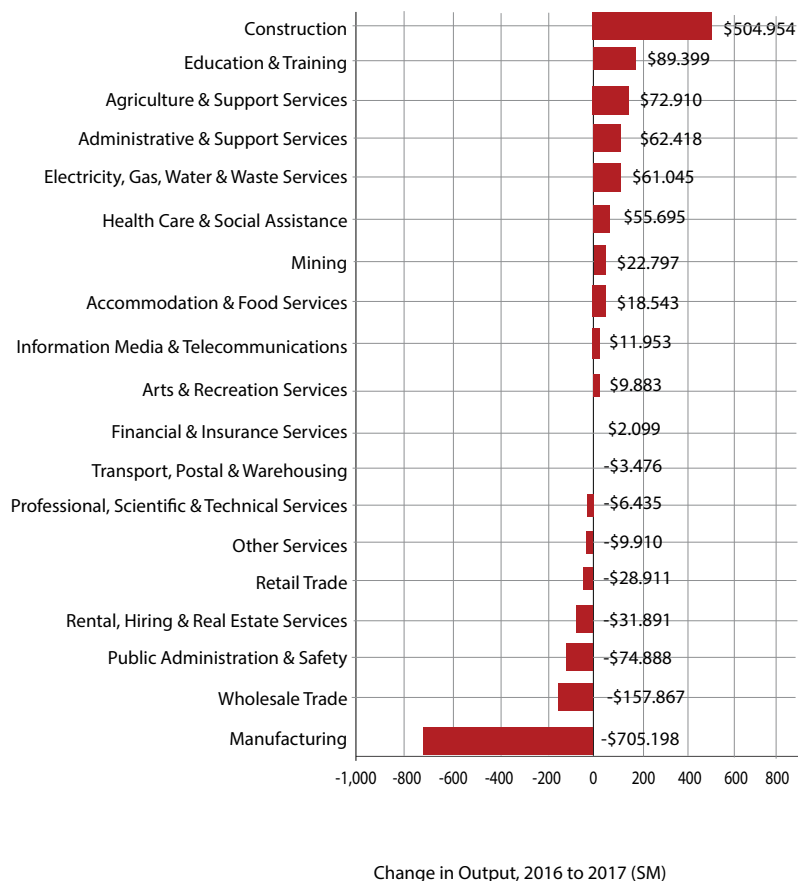


Figure 27: Hawkesbury's growth and declining industries.



To strengthen productivity in the Hawkesbury, key industrial and employment opportunities will be investigated through ongoing strategic studies. Council will explore and support innovative, smart –technological industries and knowledge intensive jobs that will have the capacity to flow its benefits into health and education, retail, hospitality and industrial sectors that will leverage Hawkesbury's economy to a global standard.

Council recognises that in an increasingly competitive global economy, access to knowledge and creativity are central to abilities of businesses and other economic sectors to deliver new cost savings, or add value through product differentiation. Highly skilled workers will become the new drivers for economic prosperity.

Knowledge brings value to the local economy as workers carry a high economic wealth, are adaptable, flexible and possess transferable skillsets. The knowledge sector also places a premium on the area's lifestyle attributes including its recreation, leisure, entertainment, community and cultural infrastructure.

Council will explore the hybridisation of industries such as 'Technology', 'Creative Sector', and Customised Manufacturing' starting with basic level interconnection to seek opportunities to leverage Hawkesbury's economy to meet the global standards and future mega trends.

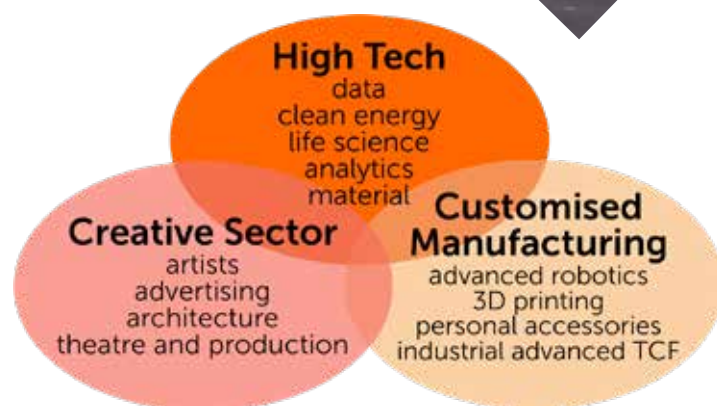


Figure 21: The sectors that can be hybridised.



Hawkesbury's Tourism

Hawkesbury's tourism contributes \$263.477 million as the ninth largest contributing sector towards the economy. The graph in Figure 22 below shows the gross revenue generated by businesses and organisations in the Hawkesbury to service demand generated by tourists to the area. Approximately, 39.6% of tourism output is associated with activity in 'Accommodation & Food Services'.

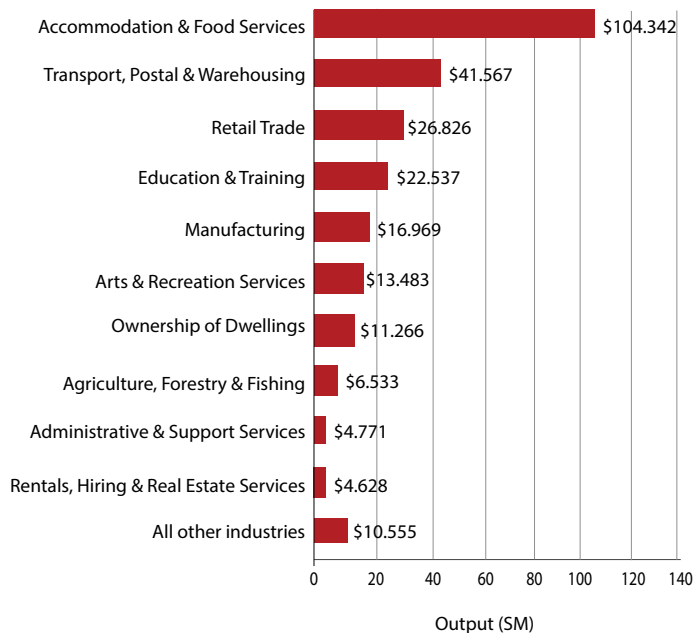


Figure 28: Gross revenue generated through tourism activities

Hawkesbury's tourism sector is primarily comprised of small to medium sized tourism businesses with a number of these being lifestyle operators which are not open all the year round or all days of the week. Hawkesbury's tourism brand is associated with the river, however, the river though an important natural feature forms only a small component of the LGA. Apart from the river, Hawkesbury is an open air gallery in itself, showcasing historic landmark buildings and natural landscapes and scenic views.

Overall, visitor numbers are on the rise in the LGA with a 10.4% trend increase. The 'Domestic Overnight' visitor market accounted for 883,000 visitors (95%) of total visitors. The 'Business' visitor market is the largest source market in the region contributing just short of half of total visitation to the region. The average length of stay overnight is three nights.

Council will integrate tourism marketing and development potential by strengthening its key towns and village's tourism nodes and hubs as part of its place making initiative. Each of the towns and villages in the Hawkesbury has its own unique character and an experience to offer which has the opportunity to strengthen its tourism destination.

Council will take a stronger lead and play an active role in promoting Hawkesbury's tourism. Council will collaborate with industries to form a robust working partnership to support the industry initiatives and grow the visitor economy.





Tourism continued

The Hawkesbury Tourism Strategy identified that the LGA offers many attractive areas and products as a visitor destination. The historic structures, landmarks, parks and gardens together with the picturesque scenic views and vistas of the Hawkesbury; each town and village offering a story and unique character and feeling to share strengthens the Hawkesbury as a tourist destination.

Locations such as St Albans, Kurmond, Kurrajong, Bilpin, Wilberforce and Pitt Town offer unique local characteristics and tranquility either through the scenic views of the bushland and valleys of the Hawkesbury or through the long river banks and flowing waters of the Hawkesbury River. Each town and village has an interesting story that tells the legacy of a settler and their contribution towards the agricultural revolution of the Hawkesbury LGA. These destinations will drive the tourist numbers over the next 20 years and beyond and must be preserved and promoted.

Kurmond-Kurrajong centres have established itself as a food and refreshment stopover for passing by travellers and visitors. The local cafes and restaurants provide the travellers with well sorted homemade cakes and muffins with beverages. Future opportunities exist in these areas to provide tourist accommodation, facilities, and small scale events to further grow its role as a tourism destination. The older historic churches can be promoted as a wedding destination.

In the rural destinations of Bilpin, Wilberforce, Ebenezer and St Albans, farm stay, farm-gates and cellar door opportunities are encouraged in a way that does

not compromise productive agricultural lands. The picturesque rural villages, historic values and unique natural landscapes of the Hawkesbury positions it as a prime location for a range of domestic and international film productions.

The LGA has a number of national parks and a state forest area. These parks and forests are managed by state government agencies. These agencies provide recreational activities such as mountain bike riding, bush walks, 4 wheel-driving etc. in the state forests and national parks. Council will strengthen its partnership with these agencies to promote and facilitate new tourism opportunities.

Council will also work with Local Aboriginal Stakeholders and Aboriginal communities to promote tourism opportunities, where appropriate. Council will seek to build capacity to share and celebrate Aboriginal cultural heritage with the wider community.

A major challenge for the Hawkesbury is finding a balance between the positive effect of tourism on the economy and the protection of the renowned natural and heritage qualities of the LGA. Council will foster additional tourist activities in the appropriate locations.



Hawkesbury Employment Lands Strategy 2020

The aim of the Hawkesbury Employment Lands Strategy is to identify opportunities for employment lands within the Hawkesbury to ensure continued support for job creation, investment, business and industrial expansions for a sustainable future. The strategy recognises the importance of industrial and business lands and the nature of change the economic sector is experiencing due to emerging technology and new industries with different requirements.

The Hawkesbury Employment Lands Strategy analyses the quality and quantity of employment lands within the Hawkesbury and provides guidance for land use planning that focuses economic development in the right locations that build on:

- the Hawkesbury’s natural advantages, its rich soils and associated agricultural lands, and its areas of natural beauty and wilderness;
- its strengths, the cluster of aerospace, education, research and employment activities at Clarendon between Windsor and Richmond;
- Windsor and Richmond as a strategic centre, recognising its expanded role as a hub for retail and commercial services, major health facilities including the Notre Dame University medical teaching campus;
- growing tourism opportunities focussed on heritage, rural character, equine industry, agriculture and environmental assets including the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, the Hawkesbury River and the surrounding agricultural lands of the Macquarie Towns.

The Draft Hawkesbury Employment Lands Strategy 2020

Hawkesbury Rural Lands Strategy

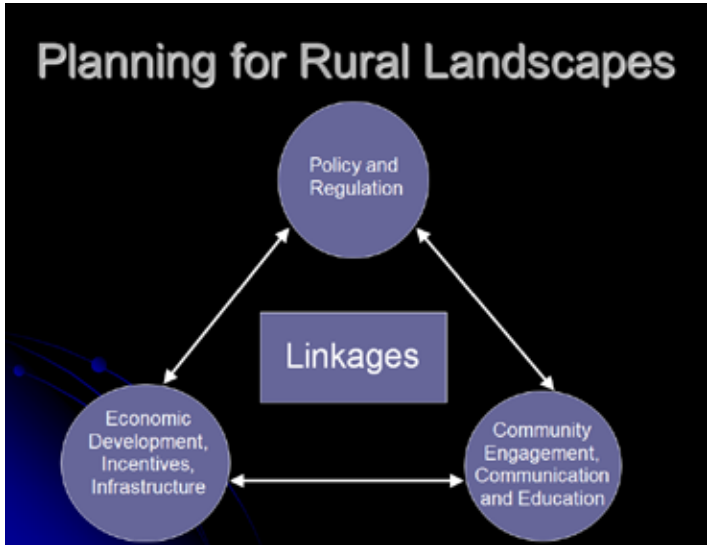
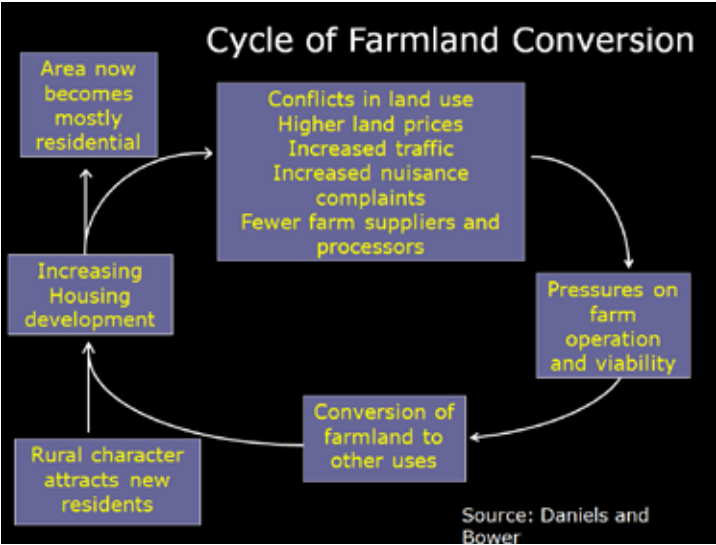
The aim of the Hawkesbury Rural Lands Strategy is to analyse the quantity and quality of rural lands and identify the needs of the local community and their aspirations for the future of rural lands. The strategy investigates and makes recommendations in relation to the most viable agricultural uses for the different part of the LGA, and includes considerations for innovative agricultural activities that meets global export standards on prime agricultural land.

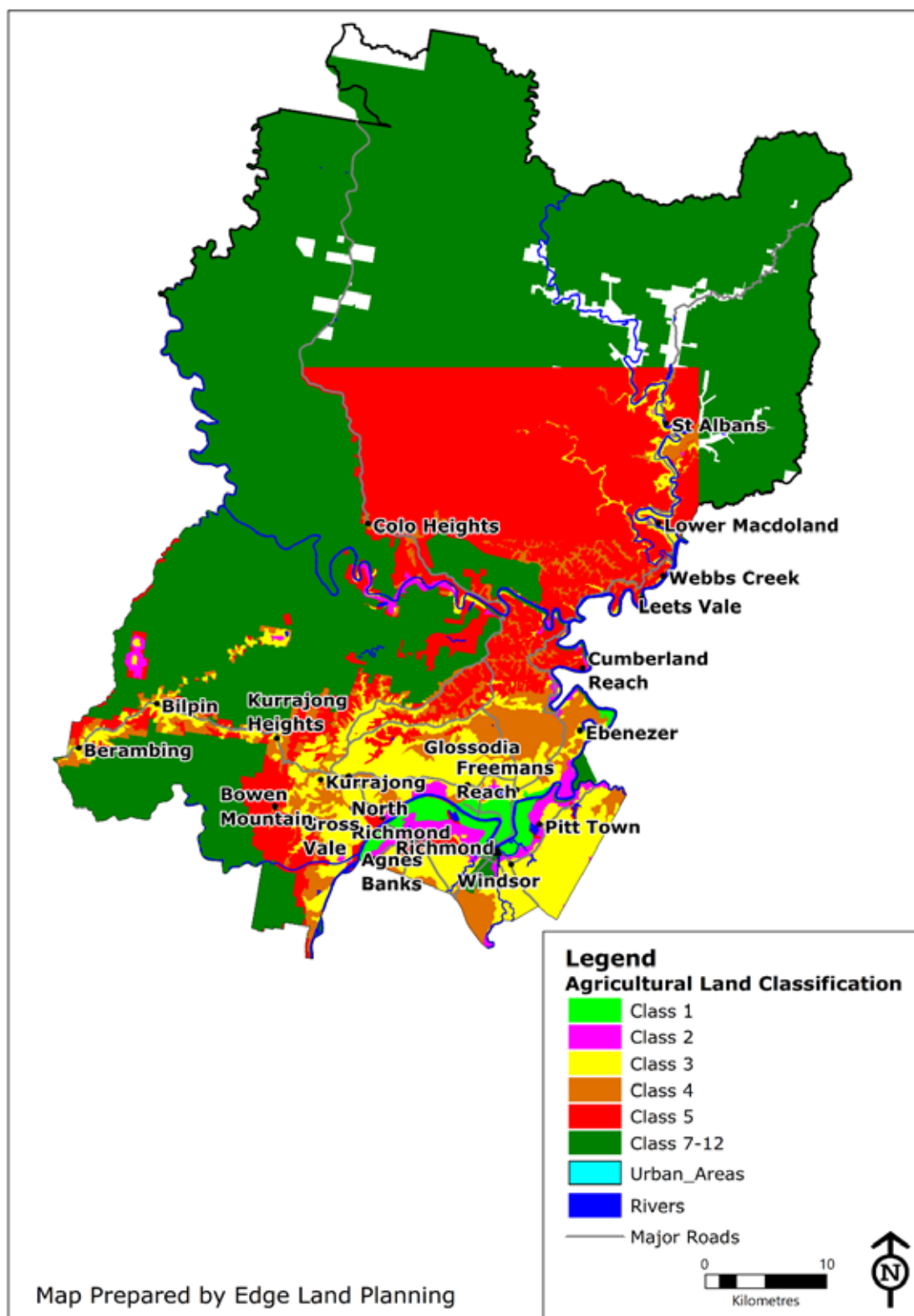
The study also identifies the economic, environmental and social opportunities for the preservation, management and enhancement of rural lands within the Hawkesbury for future, with in-depth consideration of the impact of the climate change.

The Strategy identified that rural lands in the Hawkesbury face certain pressures including pressure for rural residential and urban development, change of land use, change to rural residential by purchase, land use conflicts, climate change impacts, biodiversity and water quality, and water supply.

This cycle of farmland conversion has been evident in the Hawkesbury LGA. This is very evident with the change of land use by sale of land. Many farms have been sold and have not been kept as a farm, but have changed to a rural residential use of the land.

The Hawkesbury Rural Lands Strategy also identified that currently the HLEP 2012 rural land zones are not consistent with the uses that are carried on the land. The rural land zonings need to consider the agricultural activities first including soil and land classification, slope profiles, land uses- intensive agriculture, holding sizes- mostly large lots, primary production zones and land with high scenic and landscape values.





The Hawkesbury Rural Lands Strategy identified Hawkesbury's future agricultural opportunities through:

- new zoning and objectives that promote agricultural activities;
- link zones to incentives and land use conflict issues;
- economic development strategies and incentives;
- new agricultural practises such as protected cropping;
- linking to activities at the Western Sydney Airport precinct;
- correcting the existing land uses that are inappropriate for the uses;
- review of rural village zones;
- promote and link agriculture to tourism;
- Promote the equine activities with tourism;
- Preserve and promote the natural environment and local village character of the Hawkesbury.

Planning Priority 8

Explore opportunities at the Western Sydney University, Richmond RAAF Base and other industries to create value chain at the Western Sydney Airport.

The Western City District Plan states (pg. 73) that the aerospace and defence industry at the Western City Airport Precinct will build on existing aerospace and defence activities at Richmond RAAF base, which is now the hub of logistics support for the Australian Defence Force. The RAAF Base and its existing facilities, Western Sydney University – Hawkesbury Campus, and TAFE Richmond. The activities at the Richmond RAAF Base play a significant role in the overall productivity of the LGA. The Western Sydney University is working in collaboration with the government agencies and local government to implement programs that not only provide local but experiences for international student.

Council supports the NSW Department of Industry in their initiative in leading the development and coordination of sector-specific industry development strategies to grow and globally position key sectors of the economy. The Western Sydney University Richmond Campus provides strategic advantage to the area by being the knowledge hub that potentially will deliver projects that build better collaboration and encourage economic growth through:

- Financial services,
- Medical technology,
- Creative industries,
- Transport and logistics, and
- Energy and resources.

Hawkesbury anticipates taking full advantage of the assistance from NSW Trade and Investment to develop its industry sectors through international investment

attraction, export support and the promotion of the Hawkesbury as a globally competitive, strong and agile economy.

Skill gaps are a barrier to major economic development particularly in an economy that favours qualified workers. Council will encourage reducing barriers to post-school education and training and target strategies at keeping students at school until they complete Higher School Certificate.

Council will champion the involvement of young people in the knowledge based industries and providing more at work apprenticeship opportunities. Collaboration with neighbouring LGAs (Penrith, Blacktown, and the Hills Shire) to seek opportunities in the knowledge based sectors for young people in the LGA will also be explored. Vocational training will be encouraged for adults and seniors who want to remain in the workforce.

Council will undertake a feasibility study to understand the benefits of a new agglomeration precinct at Clarendon with a cluster of aviation, university, TAFE, equine activities with perhaps some office space and commercial activities will assist Council in achieving jobs target. The advantage of the agglomerated precinct is that businesses will be able to benefit from:

- o Economies of scale
- o Robust labour market and supply chain
- o Sharing and leveraging of infrastructure
- o Learning from others to improve productivity.

Planning Priority 9

Encourage the economic self-determination of the Aboriginal community through their land holdings and culture.

The right to self-determination has particular application to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Self-determination is an 'ongoing process of choice' to ensure that Indigenous communities are able to meet their social, cultural and economic needs.

Hawkesbury's Aboriginal community, their histories and connections to Country and community and continued contributions towards the LGA's heritage, culture and identity is highly valued. These are the levers that will provide synergy to support Aboriginal self-determination through economic participation and contemporary cultural expression and development of culturally appropriate social infrastructure.

Future development visions of Aboriginal owned lands will be discussed with the Aboriginal Land Holdings Council to identify land use opportunities to support the Aboriginal self-determination and economic participation.

Australia is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The right to self-determination is contained within article 1 of both treaties. This right is also contained in article 3 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

The objectives of these treaties are honoured and implemented through the planning priorities of Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement. Council will work with the relevant stakeholders to investigate opportunities to promote and share the Aboriginal culture through Hawkesbury's overall tourism promotion initiatives. Council through partnerships will explore opportunities to support and encourage entrepreneurial aspirations of the Aboriginal community for future business developments.



Planning Priorities

Innovative and adaptable



Planning Priority 7

Promote and support all sectors of industry and businesses of the Hawkesbury to meet the current and future demands and trends.

Measure

- Improved and increased Hawkesbury's Gross Regional Product.
- Innovative industries and agri-business initiatives in the Hawkesbury.
- Increased tourist and visitor related activities and services.
- Increased number of jobs by industry.
- Employment lands retained and enhanced at appropriate locations.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 7.1 - Protect and foster all sectors of industries and business locally and globally and encourage digital technology innovations.
- 7.2 - Promote Hawkesbury's art and culture through engaging local artists and story tellers through the local gallery and museum events.

Short - Medium Term

- 7.3 - Encourage tourism experiences and opportunities that do not compromise agricultural lands.
- 7.4 - Partner and form alliance with neighbouring LGAs and government agencies to explore opportunities to enhance export capability for industries and agriculture in the LGA.

Short - Long Term

- 7.5 - Implement the recommendations of Hawkesbury Employment Land Strategy once its complete.

Planning Priority 8

Explore opportunities at the Western Sydney University and Richmond RAAF Base to create value chain at the Western Sydney Airport and STEM Industry.

Measure

- An agglomerated Clarendon Precinct developed where activities from the WSU, RAAF Base and Equine industry create synergy and value chain to lever activities at the Western Sydney Airport.

Timeframe Medium - Long Term

Actions

- 8.1 - Facilitate the development of the Clarendon Agglomerated Precinct.
- 8.2 - Identify opportunities that will assist industries in creating a value chain with the Sydney Western Airport activities.

Planning Priority 9

Encourage the economic self-determination of the Aboriginal community through their land holdings and culture.

Measure

- Improved economic self-determination of the Aboriginal Community.

Timeframe Short – Medium Term

Actions

- 9.1 - Collaborate with the Local Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal communities to promote tourism opportunities and where appropriate lever increase economic participation on country through land uses.



The image is a full-page photograph of a lush forest. Two hikers, a man and a woman, are seen from behind, walking along a narrow dirt path. The man is wearing a blue shirt, dark pants, and a hat, and has a backpack. The woman is wearing a grey shirt, dark pants, and a hat. The forest is dense with tall trees and large ferns. A large, bright green diagonal banner runs across the center of the image, containing the word 'SUSTAINABILITY' in white, uppercase letters. There are also several semi-transparent green diamond shapes overlaid on the image, creating a layered effect.

SUSTAINABILITY



Hawkesbury's Sustainability

Sustainable and aware

Of the almost 2776km² of land within the Hawkesbury, 70% is contained within the national parks, natural reserves and State recreation areas. The Hawkesbury's diverse environment forms its identity and is incumbent on Council, together with the community to take responsibility to protect and preserve it for the future generations. The Hawkesbury is the custodian to part of the UNESCO World Heritage National Park which contains the famous Blue Mountains. The Hawkesbury is also home to a diversity of flora and fauna which inhabit the bushlands, forests, wetlands, mountains, gorges, creeks and the rivers it contains and play a vital role in preserving and regenerating the ecosystem.

The abundance of environmental biodiversity also requires the community of Hawkesbury to be aware and prepared for natural disasters of bush fires and flooding together with extreme heat waves due to climate change. Crucial to building a strong and resilient community is the ongoing awareness support and synergy between the Council, SES, RFS and the Hawkesbury's community. Waste management is also important to a sustainable environment.

Planning Priority 10

An aware and resilient city that can adapt to natural hazards of flood, bushfire and climate change.

Flooding Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley

The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley is changing from a semi-rural landscape to an urbanised area covering 425km² of floodplain and falls mainly in four growing local government areas including Hawkesbury, Penrith, the Hills Shire and Blacktown. The valley has a high flood hazard, with both historical and geological evidence of widespread flooding across the valley.

There is also a high level of flood exposure as the floodplain is located in an area with a large and growing population. Expansion of development across the valley means that flood exposure will increase in the future. Up to 134,000 people live and work in the floodplain area and could require evacuation in an extreme event. Over 25,000 residential properties and 2 million sqm of commercial space are currently subject to flood risk.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean has a long history of flooding. The largest flood on record in the valley occurred in 1867 when the river levels reached 19.7m at Windsor (considered to be equivalent to about a 1 in 500 year flood). The combination of large upstream catchments and narrow downstream sandstone gorges results in floodwater backing up behind natural choke points in the valley.

The valley has been described as a 'bathtub', with five main taps (being the main tributaries) but only one plug hole, the Sackville Gorge. By 2041, impacts of an 1867 like flood are estimated to increase dramatically, even under conservative assumptions.

The Hawkesbury LGA, compared to other metropolitan LGA's has a unique flood characteristic. The Hawkesbury floodplain experiences larger depths of floodwaters with up to 9m between the 1 in 100 flood event and the Probable Maximum Flood which represents increased risks compared to other floodplains.

The flood hazards are compounded by depth of floodwaters, extent of floodwaters (bathtub), rapid rise of floodwaters, limited warning time, low lying roads (which can get flooded and impede evacuation), existing urbanised floodplains.

Furthermore, the flood risk within the Hawkesbury is heightened by:

- Insufficient road capacity to safely evacuate the whole population in a timely fashion;
- Low community awareness about the flood risk.

If a 1 in 100 chance per flood occurred today, more than 64,000 people would need to evacuate the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. This number could rise to 90,000 people for a 1 in 500 chance per flood i.e. the same as the highest recorded flood in 1867. Figure 24 on the next page illustrates the unique characteristics of the Hawkesbury's flood compared to other areas in NSW.

Despite the nature and depth of flooding in the Hawkesbury, no significant floods have occurred for the past 30 years. The last significant floods and the depths of the floods have been recorded in Table 1 and Table 2 on

the following page illustrates a sample of flood events for the Hawkesbury.

The MacDonald Valley within the LGA experiences, fast rates of rise and fall of floodwaters. It has low lying roads that are cut off in minor flood events. The area has no flood warning system; the State Emergency Services relies on intelligence from contacts in the valley. MacDonald Valley has population bases that has lived in the area for a significant period and understand the need for flood preparedness. Historically, many residents have ‘sheltered in place’ during the flood events.

However, the State Emergency Services is concerned with the increasing number of weekenders who lack flood awareness and preparedness.

Council will ensure that it continues to provide flood awareness to the community, especially, to the visitors in the area. The Council will encourage tourist activity hosts such as B&B, hotel and motel businesses to include flood evacuation and preparedness information provided to visitors about the hotel premises as part of the business operation plan.

In areas where the risk to life and property is high, Council will discourage developments. Council will also ensure that residential and community land uses such as seniors living, schools and hospitals are not located in areas identified as high flooding risk.

Currently, Hawkesbury LEP 2012, Clause 6.3 – Flood Planning provides legislative guidance to development in the floodplain if the development is compatible with the flood hazard of the land. However, compatibility of a new development with the hazard categories is depending on:

- type of the development
- density/scale of the development
- demographics of occupants
- frequency and times of use
- design and structure of buildings

INSW’s Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Study indicates that in a 1 in 5 AEP event, the areas between Windsor-Richmond and Pitt Town can be severely inundated with flood waters at H5 and H6 level of risks.

Council will consider the INSW Hawkesbury-Nepean Flood Study and use of the information to prepare robust planning controls to guide development within the LGA. Council will make well informed decisions regarding future developments in the H5 and H6 marked areas.



Figure 29: Characteristics of Hawkesbury's flood comparison

River	Most recent recorded Significant Flood Event			Highest Recorded Flood Level	
	Location	Peak Flood Height (m)	Year	Peak Flood Height (m)	Year
Hawkesbury	-	10.82	1992	19.68	1867
MacDonald	St Albans	8.75	1990	15.1	1949
Colo	Putty Road	15.8	1978	-	-

Table 1: Sample of flood events in the Hawkesbury.

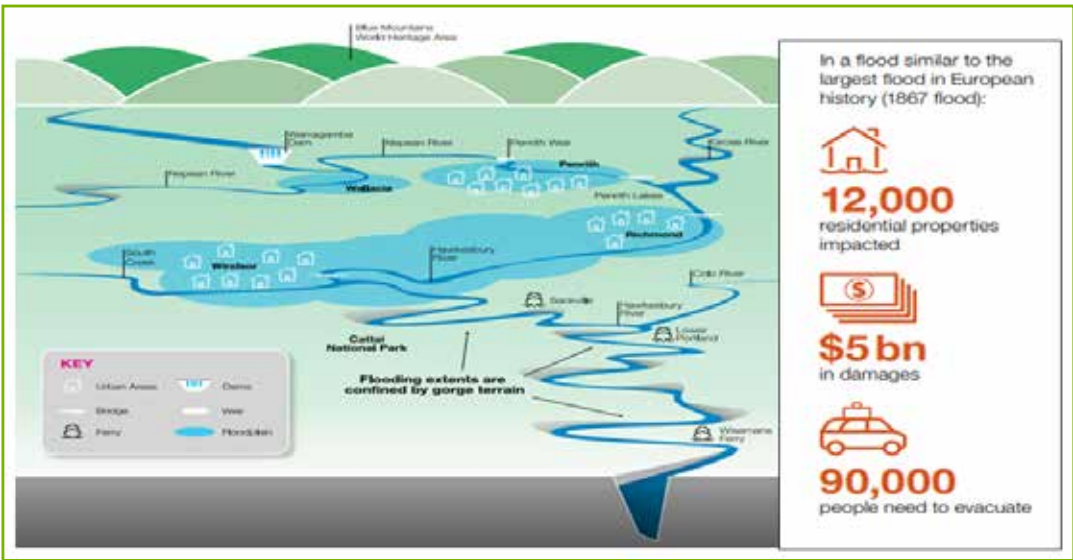


Figure 30: Hawkesbury's Nepean floodplains

Flood Size		Depth m AHD (Australian Height Datum)				
Level	ARI	AEP	Windsor Bridge	North Richmond Bridge	St Albans	Colo Bridge
1 in 5	1:5	20%	11.1	12.5	9.8	-
1 in 10	1:10	10%	12.3	14.0	11.6	-
1 in 20	1:20	5%	13.7	15.3	12.6	-
1 in 50	1:50	2%	15.7	16.4	13.7	-
1 in 100	1:100	1%	17.3	17.5	14.6	10.4
1 in 200	1:200	0.5%	18.7	18.9	15.5	-
1 in 500	1:500	0.2%	20.2	20.4	16.7	-
1 in 1000	1:1,000	0.1%	21.9	22.1	-	-
PMF	1:100,000	-	26.4	26.5	19.6	-

Table 2: Sample of flood events in the Hawkesbury.

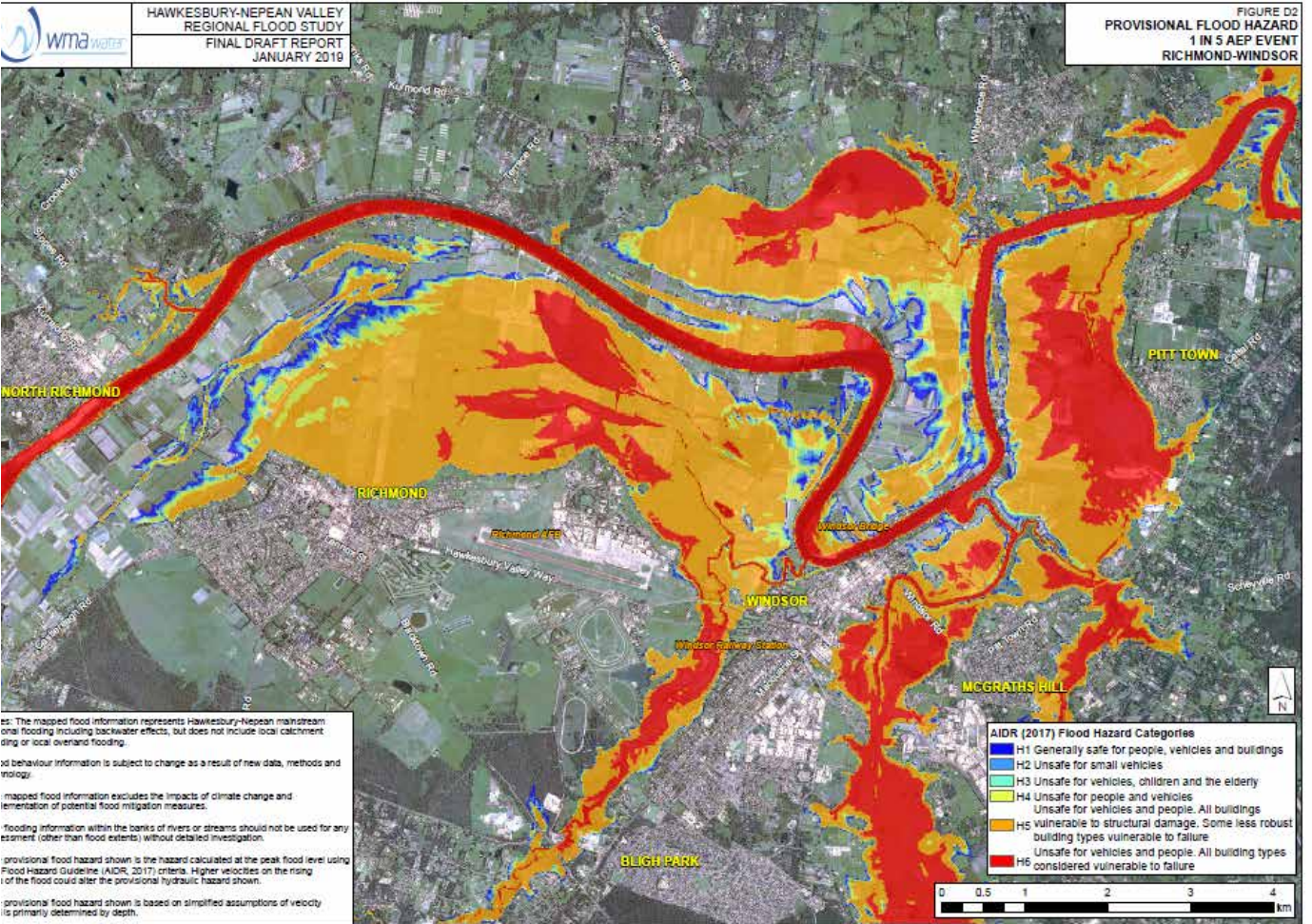


Figure 31: Flood impact of 1 in 5 AEP event., Windsor-Richmond.



Bushfire



This fire event has been a catalyst for Council to ensure that the current bushfire management strategies are reviewed and made even more robust. More natural disaster related awareness will be provided to the community to build greater resilience and current partnerships with the RFS and other agencies will be strengthened further to ensure that future disaster events are tackled with more strength and synergy.

Council has mapped bush fire prone areas and supports bush fire hazard reduction through the current LEP and back burning policy.

To ensure that Hawkesbury has a sustainable environment, the green infrastructure has to be maintained and managed. This includes Hawkesbury's green spaces, natural systems and semi-natural systems including waterways, wetlands, bushlands, mountains, gorges, scenic landscapes, flood plains and farmland, with considerable ecological significance. It is imperative to ensure scenic and cultural heritage together with productive landscapes are protected. To manage the impact of climate change on the natural environment, Council will commit to maintaining the health of the Hawkesbury-Nepean River and South Creek to assist in cooling the environment as well as protecting the aquatic ecosystem in and around it.

Council also acknowledges the existence of its bushland that provides habitat for local wildlife and offset sites for biodiversity and commits to protect, restore and enhance it. Council understands that to protect and manage the bio-diversity contained within the LGA, required careful management of the environmental, social and economic values of the metropolitan rural area and the protected natural areas is required.

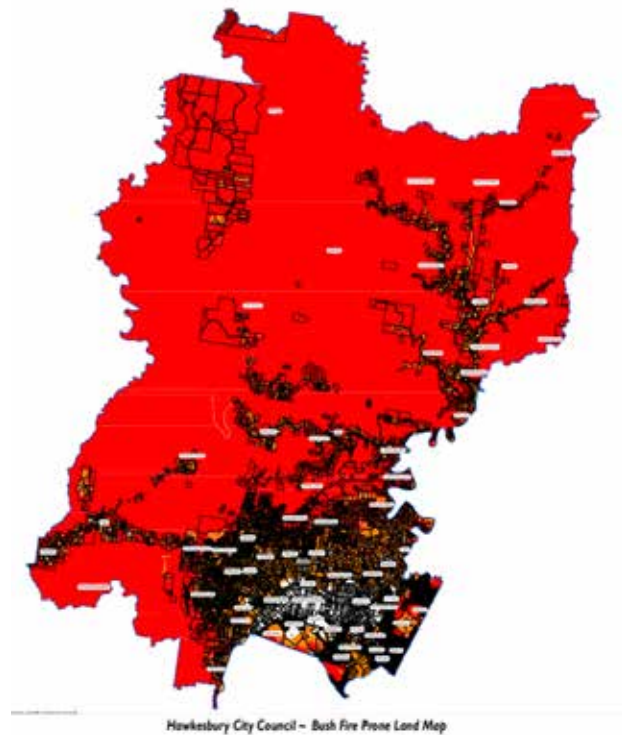


Figure 32: Hawkesbury's Bush Fire Prone Land Map.

With almost 70% of the Hawkesbury covered with heavy vegetation of significant national parks and state forests, bushfire management is critical. Council in partnership with the Hawkesbury Rural Fire Services works collaboratively and continuously to ensure that the Hawkesbury is protected from the natural disaster of bushfires.

Previously, the Hawkesbury has experienced bushfires. However, the extreme longer period of drought and prolonged hotter days has seen severe bushfire events in the Hawkesbury in 2019. Properties and lives have been under extreme danger, some resulting in a catastrophe.



Gospers Mountain



Climate Change

Hawkesbury Council recognizes the impact of global warming and the state of climate emergency the world including the Hawkesbury is in. There is an urgency to address urban heat islands by reducing carbon emission from the environment at an accelerated level to prevent the negative impacts on the Hawkesbury community and also throughout the State, Australia and the world. Adapting to climate change is crucial for Hawkesbury's future resilience to natural hazards and managing the worsening impact on human health.

Global warming leading to climate change has resulted in intense weather patterns including frequent heatwaves resulting in extreme weather, frequent bushfires, heavy rainfall, sea level rise and flooding, which has adverse effects to the riparian ecosystems, biodiversity as well as to the community.

It is important that the Hawkesbury community understand that it is everyone's responsibility to take action to mitigate the effects of global warming and to preserve the sustainable natural systems that generate 'ecosystems' by providing water, absorbing and converting waste, moderating the local climate and creating attractive places and recreational spaces in the Hawkesbury.

Council has committed itself to climate change initiatives by becoming partners with a number of organizations and programs that foster and advocate for reversing global warming and reducing carbon footprint.

In order to implement the aims of the 'United Nations Paris Agreement' and subsequent actions of the 'Climate Change Policy for NSW', Council is in the process of preparing the 'Hawkesbury Sustainability Strategy' to form actions to mitigate the climate change and global warming issues. Implementation of the Strategy will include embedding robust actions into policies and educating the community about improving sustainability by reducing carbon emissions, incorporating natural landscape features into the urban environment, protecting and managing natural systems, cooling the urban environment, innovative and efficient use and re-use of energy, and educating communities on natural and urban hazards, shocks and stresses.

The key objectives of the Paris Agreement include:

- a goal to limit the increase in global temperatures to well below 2 degrees and pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5 degrees
- a commitment to achieve net-zero emissions, globally, by the second half of the century differentiated expectations for developed nations, including Australia, that they will reduce their emissions sooner than developing nations

- a five year review and ratchet process which is likely to lead to more ambitious commitments from countries in the future.

Climate change is increasing the intensity of heatwaves. Heatwaves are becoming hotter, lasting longer and occurring more often. The Hawkesbury LGA experiences continuous 5-10 days with temperatures greater than 35 degrees and these are projected to worsen. Prolonged number of days with higher temperatures is detrimental to the people, property, community, biodiversity and the environment.

Council recognises that heatwaves have widespread impacts, ranging from direct impact on our health to damage to ecosystems, agriculture and infrastructure. Extreme heat impacts the infrastructure especially the electricity transmission and other essential services such as transportation. The increased number of heat wave days can have adverse impact on the elderly and people with pre-existing medical conditions. There are also a number of indirect effects of extreme heat on people's health, leading to reduction in work ability.

Despite the complexity of global food supply, there are well-established linkages between growing season temperatures, precipitation and crop performance. For wheat, maize and barley, there is a clear negative response of global yields to increased temperatures. Plants and animals like humans are susceptible to extreme heat events. Birds and flying foxes are impacted by extreme heat, exposure to air temperatures over 40°C can lead to heat stress and death from dehydration, especially when very hot conditions are accompanied by dry weather. Lactating females and their young are the most at risk.

Some of Australia's most iconic marsupials are also at risk during extended periods of hot weather. Hotter, drier conditions in the future are predicted to put this and many other rainforest marsupials at increased risk of population decline and eventual extinction.

Heatwaves, combined with extended droughts, have also been observed to cause mass mortality in koalas. Riparian and marine organisms are also affected by the impacts of severe heat. Heatwaves can occur in the surface waters of the ocean, sometimes leading to dramatic impacts on riparian and marine ecosystems.

Other impacts of heat waves that are detrimental to the Hawkesbury's environment are the resulting drought and bushfires. Council acknowledges the urgency to limiting the increase in heatwave activity and deep reductions in the emissions of greenhouse gases.

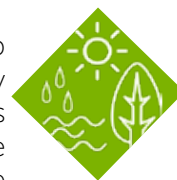
To achieve this aim, Council will implement climate smart land use management policies to plan for the climate risks and provide targeted support for households, communities and businesses that is fair, efficient and in the public interest. Figure 27 on the next page illustrates the map indicating the number of heatwave days with temperatures over 35 degrees.

The built form should reflect sustainable urban design principles that respond to risks of heat stress and drought by minimising reliance on mechanical heating and cooling through tree planting, landscaping improvements and green roofs. So far to mitigate the effects of global warming, and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, Council has installed gas extraction wells at the Waste Management Facility. Initially from 11 wells, council has now installed a total of 30 wells across the landfill area resulting in 266% increase in greenhouse gas capture and abatement.

Council acknowledges that to reduce the effects of global warming and climate change, significant work needs to be done to stop emissions of greenhouse gases and remove the excess emissions already in the atmosphere. There are certain measures that can be immediately implemented such as spreading awareness of global warming, encouraging recycling and food share initiatives,

Protecting the forests and bushland. However, solutions such as renewable energy are dependent upon council's financial capacity and ability to lobby government or investor lead pilot projects in the LGA.

Council will continue to form partnership with all tiers of government, the Hawkesbury Community, agencies and stakeholders and work collaboratively to mitigate the climate change to ensure that the diverse and profound biodiversity of the Hawkesbury remains sustainable now leading into the many future years.



Among Council's other efforts in reducing mains grid electricity usage and emissions was the replacement of 650 mercury vapour street lights with LED lighting, a move that will save more than \$740,000 and avoid more than 3,260 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over the next 20 years.

In 2016, Hawkesbury City Council resolved to participate in the 'Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program', in recognition of the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the local level. Since then, the Council has undertaken a number of initiatives and programs to reduce corporate greenhouse emissions.

In February 2019, the Council in partnership with the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) has kicked off to a new 2 year energy efficiency program that could benefit low-income households. The aim of the program is to consider a number of options such as expanding energy efficiency upgrades across council owned facilities, boosting renewable energy investments, and developing an affordability program for low-income households.



Aerial view of Hawkesbury River



WESTERN SYDNEY EXPERIENCES MORE EXTREME HEAT EVENTS, AND THESE ARE PROJECTED TO WORSEN. WE NEED TO ACT NOW.

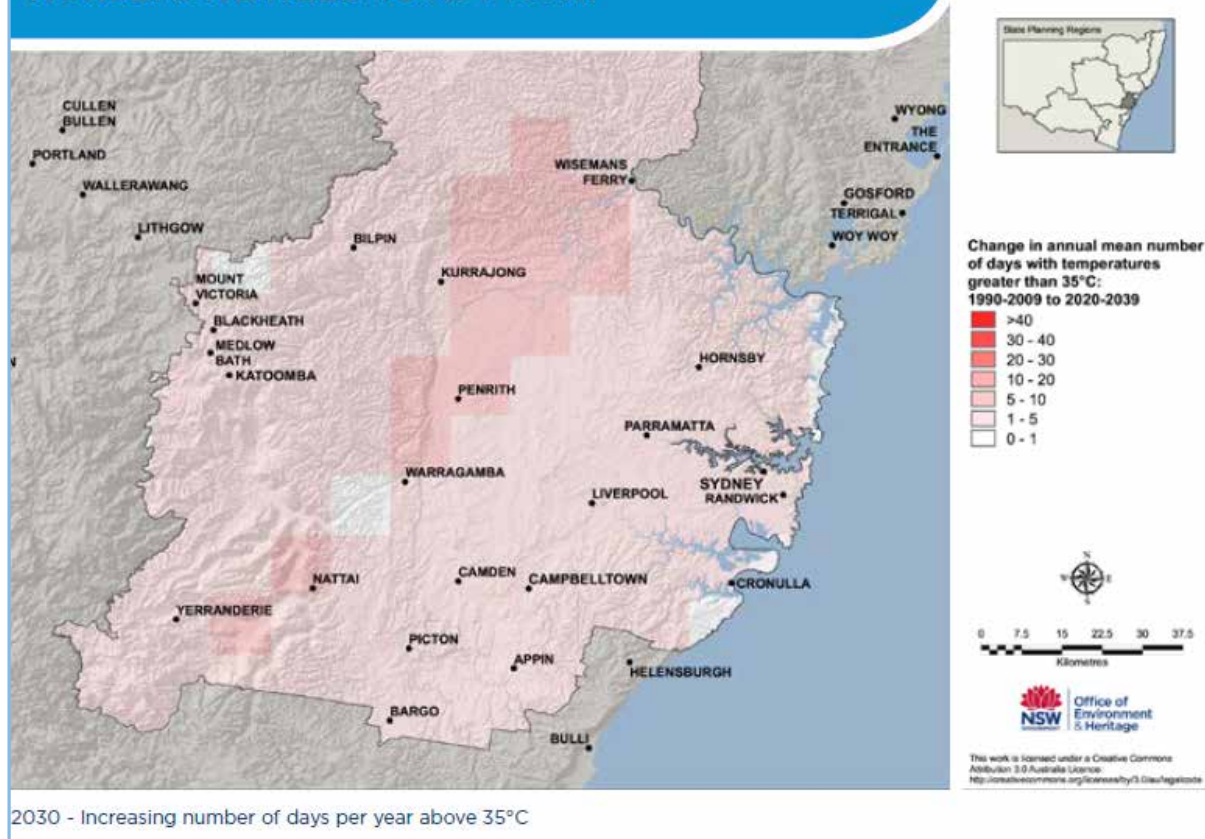


Figure 33: Number of heatwave days in Hawkesbury with temperatures of 35°C.





Metropolitan Rural Area (MRA)

The Hawkesbury is classed as a MRA through the Sydney Region and Western City District Plan due to containing a wide range of environmental, social and economic values such as farms, rural towns and villages, rural residential developments, heritage, scenic and cultural landscapes, mineral resources which makes it a perfect location for recreation and tourism.

Farming and agricultural industries in the MRA is integral to the supply of Greater Sydney's fresh food value chain. The MRA also has an abundance of mineral resources which enables extraction at commercial levels. Materials that assist the construction industries including sand stone and clay is important and requires protection to ensure longevity of these industries.

The Sydney Region Plan states that the MRA is not the answer to Sydney's housing shortage, however, states that land use in the MRA will be influenced by demands for biodiversity offset sites, local demand to live and work in the rural towns and villages, cultural heritage conservation, tourism and recreation opportunities and growing fresh food that will leverage with the Western Sydney airport precinct activities.

Hawkesbury's Riparian Lands

The landscape of the Hawkesbury is characterised by its waterways and the biodiversity in and around it. The Hawkesbury is the home to five rivers, a number of creeks and wetlands.

Waterways support coastal, marine and groundwater dependent ecosystems which benefit from continued protection and management, thus, the health of waterways is essential. It is imperative that management of coastal catchments are undertaken in accordance with the Coastal Management Act and SEPP Coastal Management.

The Aboriginal community of the Hawkesbury from the early times have had a strong cultural attachment to the rivers, and the banks and trees around it that now provide important natural, economic, cultural and recreational assets.

The Hawkesbury-Nepean River has a 21,400km² catchment and is one of the largest water catchment

east of the Great Dividing Range in the State. The river system is a source of drinking water for most of the Greater Sydney, Illawarra and Central Coast with major water storage at the water dams including the Warragamba.

The Western City District Plan recognise the Hawkesbury River as a highly valued natural asset that links protected bushlands, rural and urban areas. It is imperative that the health of the waterways is improved and maintained at a level that sustains the marine and ground water ecosystems. However, activities associated with the river and its tributaries such as tourism, urban developments and intensive agricultural activities can cause profound damage to the health of river and its ecosystems.

Council will include actions within the Hawkesbury Sustainability Strategy to educate and create awareness to ensure that the health of the waterways within the Hawkesbury is enhanced and protected. Council understands that it's paramount to have an integrated approach to the protection and management of waterways with comprehensive monitoring and reporting of the water health. Currently, Council in collaboration with the other Council's within the Western City District is undertaking the "Western Parkland City Sensor Network Project" to monitor water quality of the Hawkesbury River. The project is a pilot and upon success will roll out to assess other waterways in the region. The project is funded through the Western City Deals.

Air quality in the Western City Region is generally considered to be good, climate change impacts leading to extreme heat and resulting bush fires can lead to air-pollution exceeding the acceptable standards. The 2019 Christmas season having more than 100 bush fires burning within the Hawkesbury and other parts of the NSW had exposed air pollution up to 11 times the base hazardous levels. Prolonged days of hazardous air pollution in the atmosphere lead to an increased public health emergency.

Urban developments, especially factories that have the potential to emit smoke and exhaust into the atmosphere can impact the air qualities of the Western City Region as pollutant air can get trapped within the valleys surrounded by the mountains for longer periods.



Hawkesbury River, Yarramundi

South Creek

The South Creek from Narellan to the Hawkesbury has been identified as an important environmental spine for the Western Parkland City. Restoring and protecting the South Creek corridor is important to form sustainable urban parkland. It is one of the natural assets that the Western Sydney Airport and the surrounding development will be dependent on for providing cool, green, local habitat and an attractive landscape. Past rural activities and urban developments has had a profound negative impact on the South Creek including the downstream Hawkesbury River.

The development of the Western Sydney Airport and surrounding residential development will put further pressure on the South Creek as the demand for passive and active recreation increases. It is crucial that all Councils within the Western Parkland City work in partnership to ensure that the health and well-being of the South Creek, its tributaries and the ecosystems dependent on this creek are managed and maintained.

Hawkesbury City Council will work in collaboration with other Western City Parkland Council's to implement the South Creek Project which intends to create a continuous open space corridor along the entirety of the South Creek that provides ecological protection and enhancement, better stormwater treatment and regionally significant corridor for recreation purposes. The upgrade of the Governor Philip Park at Windsor through the 2017-2018 Metropolitan Greenspace Project was linked to the South Creek project.

The Upper Hawkesbury River flows through the LGA, from Wisemans Ferry to Yarramundi, a total length of around 76km. The tidal limit of the Hawkesbury River occurs at Yarramundi, approximately 140km upstream of the river mouth.

There are a number of major tributaries from the Upper Hawkesbury River including the Colo, Nepean, Macdonald and Grose Rivers and other tributaries like South Creek, Redbank Creek, Rickabys Creek, Webbs Creek and Cattai Creek.

The catchment has a distinct appearance. From the Grose River junction to Lower Portland the channel is sandy. Around Windsor the channel has large meanders and wide floodplains. There are also lagoons and floodplain wetlands like Pitt Town Lagoon and Long Neck Lagoon which provide significant bird habitat and are listed on the register of the National Estate. From Windsor to Sackville the river is wide and deep and the flat banks are cleared and cultivated.

Other lagoons and wetlands within the LGA are under pressure from farming, urbanisation and climate change. Hawkesbury Council aims to regenerate the wetlands and lagoons and protect this important habitat for future generations through improved management and stewardship.

Most of the banks of the river are in private ownership. This is one of the key pressures on the Upper Hawkesbury River. This land use along the bank of the river directly impacts on the waterway by changing the shape of the river bank, putting pollutants into the river and introducing exotic species, particularly weeds.

To better manage all the pressures on the river a Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMP) has been prepared. As part of the preparation of the CZMP there was lots of consultation with landowners and key river users. The CZMP also looked in detail at some of the areas of erosion and structures (like jetties and seawalls) that have been built along the river and also areas of weed infestation, particularly the species *Arundo donax*, the giant weed.



Pughs Lagoon, Richmond

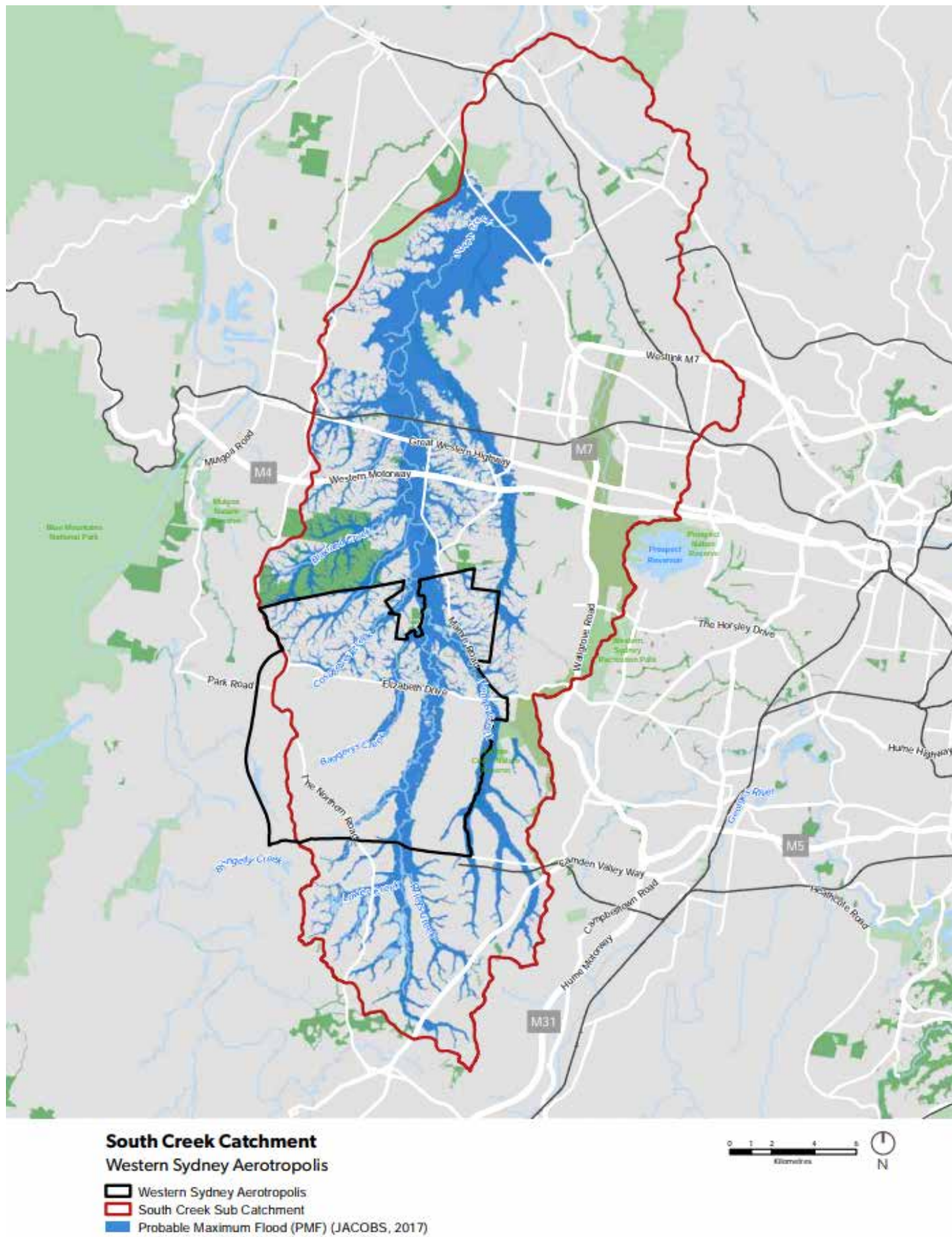


Figure 34: South Creek Catchment



Biodiversity

Biodiversity within the Hawkesbury is vast and composes almost 70% of the land area. The biodiversity within the national and state parks and reserves are protected through a range of State and Commonwealth Legislations.

Council has formed partnerships with and works collaboratively with the Office of Environment and Heritage and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services to provide updated maps of areas of high biodiversity values and protect and enhance the environment at the same time. Biodiversity off set mechanisms are in place to ensure that developments within the Hawkesbury compensate for any disturbance to the biodiversity. Where there are remnant vegetation within the development areas, Council encourages its incorporation into the design of the development.

The Hawkesbury LGA's national parks and state forests contain high terrestrial biodiversity values. The Draft Hawkesbury Environment and Biodiversity Strategy includes maps which captures the biodiversity layers into classifications including:

- Priority 1 – Lands identified as incorporating the highest biodiversity values to be managed for conservation objectives / investment where possible.
- Priority 2 – Lands which include important biodiversity values that provide a supporting function to highest biodiversity lands.

The land zones within the Hawkesbury LEP 2012 that identifies and protects the biodiversity within the LGA are E2-Environmental Conservation, RE1-Public Recreation, SP2-Infrastructure, W1-Natural Waterways, and W2-Recreational Waters. Figure 35 illustrates the distribution of Priority 1 and 2 across the LGA.

The vegetation of the Hawkesbury area is diverse and complex, reflecting the diversity of environment with regard to influences such as the Hawkesbury-Nepean River, geology, and climate.

With respect to vegetation in the Hawkesbury, this range may generally be categorised into three main groups:-

Cumberland Plain and associated ecosystems - Cumberland Plain vegetation occurs as far north as Wilberforce (Robinson, Fairley and Moore), and can be recognised by the dominant species *Eucalyptus moluccana*, *E. tereticornis* and *E. fibrosa*. The topography is undulating, uniformly between 20 and 100m ASL (Benson), and consists of low hills and boggy depressions.

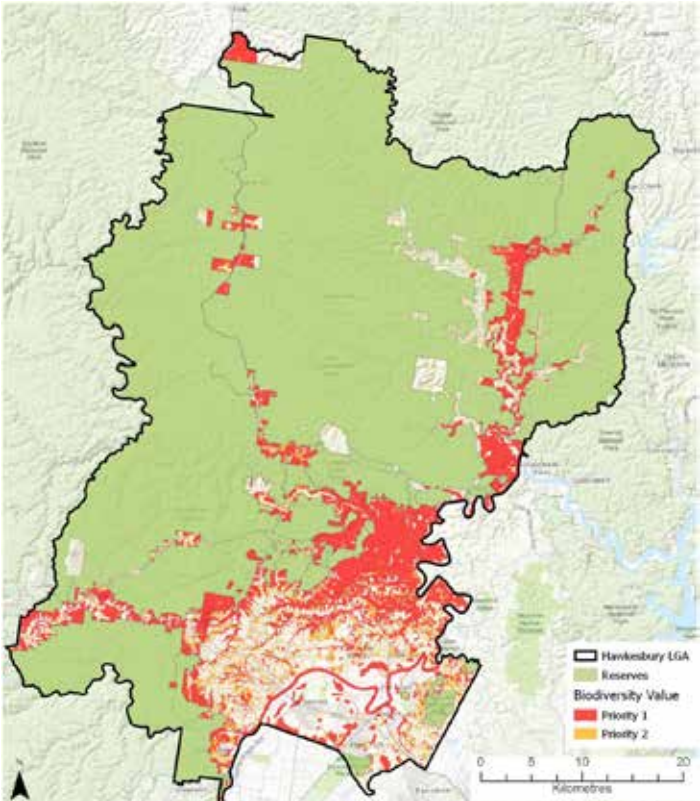


Figure 35: Biodiversity distribution

Generally soils are poorly drained and poorly aerated, and are heavy clay soils. Cumberland Plain vegetation also contains vegetation on poorly consolidated Tertiary alluvial deposits.

Hawkesbury Nepean River floodplain and associated ecosystems - The underlying sediments here consist of Holocene alluvium, which result in River Flat Forest and Freshwater Reed Swamps, both vegetation communities are directly related to the river. Generally there is very little of the native vegetation remaining as this sediment represents one of the most fertile of the Hawkesbury. Small patches remain at Agnes Banks, Ebenezer, Cattai with larger areas along Roberts Creek and the Colo and MacDonald Rivers. *Eucalyptus tereticornis* is the dominant tree along the upper reaches of the Hawkesbury.

Hawkesbury sandstone and associated ecosystems – Includes two major vegetation associations. Sydney Sandstone Gully Forest, which is the moist forest type associated with sheltered hillsides and moist gullies, and Sydney Sandstone Ridge top Woodland which is associated with dry plateaus and ridges.

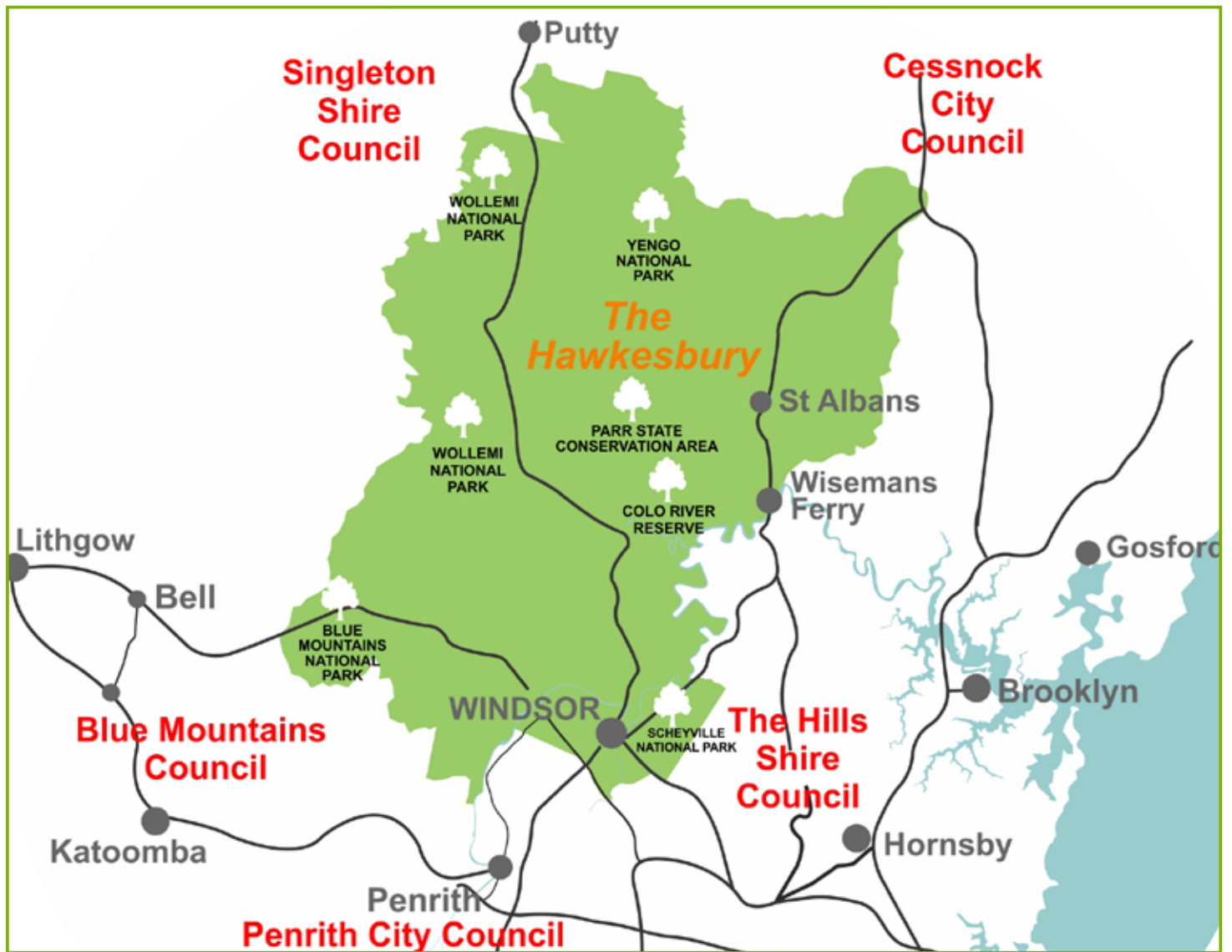


Figure 36: Hawkesbury's National Parks and significant forests.



Hawkesbury rural views



Koala habitat

Recently, Koalas have been seen in increasing numbers around the Hawkesbury areas of Grose Vale, through Kurrajong, Blaxland’s Ridge, Bilpin and Colo Heights. A local map with assistance from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage has been developed to identify and protect these areas. Figure 31 below illustrates the map where Koalas were sighted. Risks to these Koalas include vehicle collision, attacks by domestic dogs and habitat fragmentation. Council as part of its campaign will continue to work with relevant stakeholders and provide community awareness and encourage the community to report any more koala sightings to Council to enable protection and preservation of the Koala habitats in these areas.

Council is mindful of the impacts of any council led activities such as bushland regeneration, weed control, bushfire hazard reduction or recreation activities on the wildlife habitats. The control of feral animals (foxes, wild dogs, feral cats etc.) is undertaken within the natural areas. Council is aware that the use of natural areas for exercising or training of domestic animals is an activity which is incompatible with the protection and management of native fauna and habitat.

Council will include the koala sited areas as a conservation area within the Hawkesbury LEP 2012 and provide awareness to the residents and visitors in these areas about protection of the koalas.

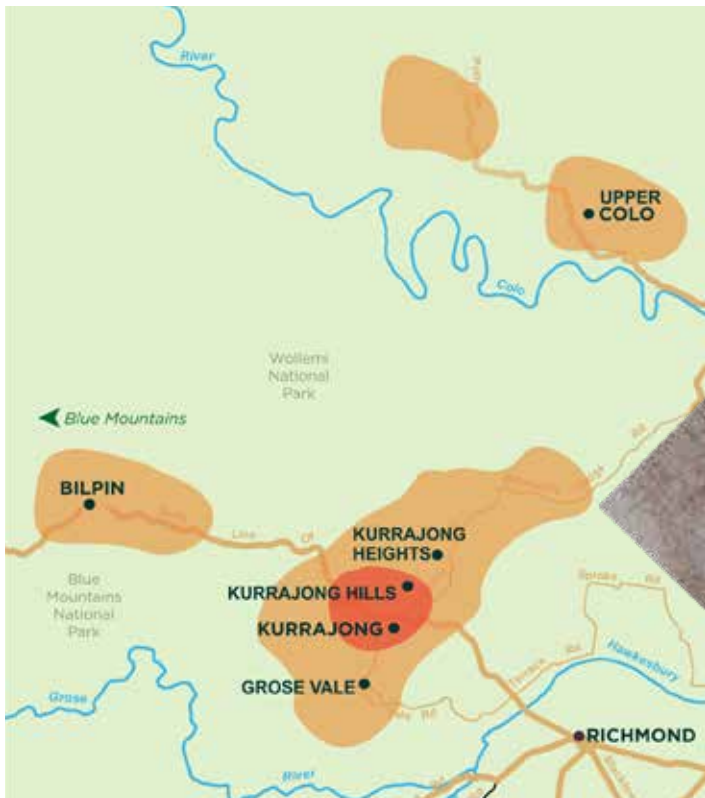
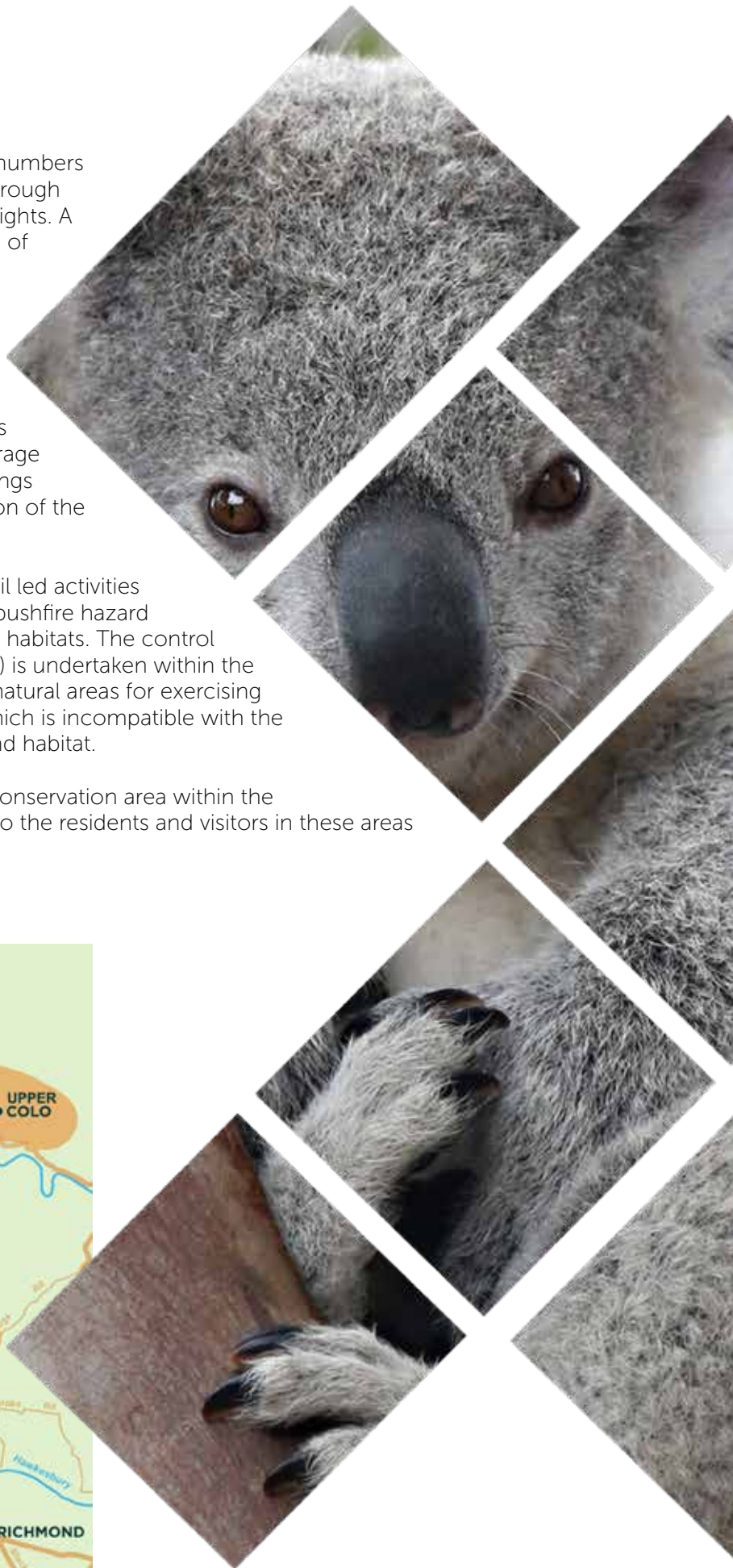


Figure 37: Koala habitat in the Hawkesbury.



Planning Priority 12

Champion, educate and support the transition to renewable waste and energy.

Adapting a place-based approach is necessary for the Hawkesbury to achieve the sustainable outcome for renewable waste and energy. Incorporating better design for energy, water and waste systems will encourage a circular economy.

Council has also launched the 'Solar Program', with solar panels to be installed on 13 more of its buildings. The rollout will see 600kW of capacity added. Among the sites to have solar panels installed will be wastewater treatment facilities at South Windsor and McGraths Hill, Hawkesbury Leisure & Learning Centre and the Council Administration Precinct.

Among Council's other efforts in reducing mains grid electricity usage and emissions was the replacement of 650 mercury vapour street lights with LED lighting, a move that will save more than \$740,000 and avoid more than 3,260 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over the next 20 years.

In 2016, Hawkesbury City Council resolved to participate in the 'Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Program', in recognition of the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the local level. Since then, the Council has undertaken a number of initiatives and programs to reduce corporate greenhouse emissions.

In February 2019, the Council in partnership with the Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (WSROC) has kicked off with a new 2 year energy efficiency program that could benefit low-income households. The aim of the program is to consider a number of options such as expanding energy efficiency upgrades across council owned facilities, boosting renewable energy investments, and developing an affordability program for low-income households.

Council delivers a suite of waste education programs and events each year which include a War on Waste Workshop Series, Chemical Clean Out, Community Recycling Centre, Recycle Right Campaign, Compost Revolution, Remote Area Collection Events and Clean Up Australia Day.

As part of the Hawkesbury LSPS Action, Council will continue to champion and encourage waste recycling and re-use and renewable energy initiatives.



Hawkesbury Community Recycling Centre



Planning Priorities

Innovative and adaptable

Planning Priority 10

An aware and resilient city that can adapt to natural hazards of flood, bushfire and climate change.

Measure

- Temperature in the Hawkesbury during summer and winter seasons.
- Aware, prepared and resilient community.
- Reduced carbon emission through various initiatives and projects.
- Climate change and urban heat island strategies incorporated into Council's policies and strategies.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 10.1 -Continue on-going community preparedness, awareness and resilience against natural hazards of flood, bushfires, and climate change.
- 10.2-Commit to and champion the net zero emission by 2050 or sooner.
- 10.3-Support NSW State agencies Regional Land Use Strategies.

Short - Medium Term

- 10.4 -Develop planning controls to protect and mitigate development in areas prone to natural hazards where the risk to life and property is high.
- 10.5 -Prepare and adapt the Hawkesbury Sustainability Strategy.
- 10.6 -Adopt and embed climate change policies to reduce carbon footprint through land use development and activities within the Hawkesbury.

Short - Long Term

- 10.7 -Encourage tree planting in public open spaces and provide shade to pedestrian routes.

Planning Priority 11

Protect our rivers, creeks and areas of high biodiversity and environmental values.

Measure

- Biodiversity of the area is identified, mapped and protected for future generations.
- Biodiversity off-set schemes undertaken where developments impact on biodiversity.
- The rivers and wetlands and its eco-systems are protected and enhanced.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 11.1 -Protect and enhance natural assets and ensure the biodiversity of the Hawkesbury is identified and preserved.
- 11.2- Ensure development at the interface of areas of significant biodiversity has minimal environmental impact.

Short – Medium Term

- 11.3- Promote community stewardship of the natural environment including our rivers, creeks, wetlands and bushlands to ensure its vitality into the future.

Short – Long Term

- 11.4 -Encourage tree planting and bush regeneration in public open spaces and provide shade to pedestrian routes.
- 11.5 -Adapt the draft Hawkesbury Environmental Biodiversity Strategy.

Planning Priority 12

Champion, educate and support the transition to renewable energy and waste.

Measure

- Renewable energy information and initiatives provided to community and pilots undertaken.
- Community made aware of waste recycle benefits.
- Council buildings are supported by 100% renewable energy by 2050.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

12.1 -Undertake and promote solar energy initiatives to future proof its buildings to renewable energy.

12.2-Continue to install gas extraction wells at the waste management facilities.

12.3-Encourage waste recycle and reuse.

12.4-Educate and encourage water and waste recycling.

Short – Medium Term

12.5-Replace all the street lights with LED lights.





TOWNS & VILLAGES

Hankebury's

Hawkesbury Towns & Villages each have a unique and distinctive feel that is captured in the following local character statements.



Hawkesbury's

Towns and Villages local character - Northern District St Albans, Colo Heights and Ebenezer



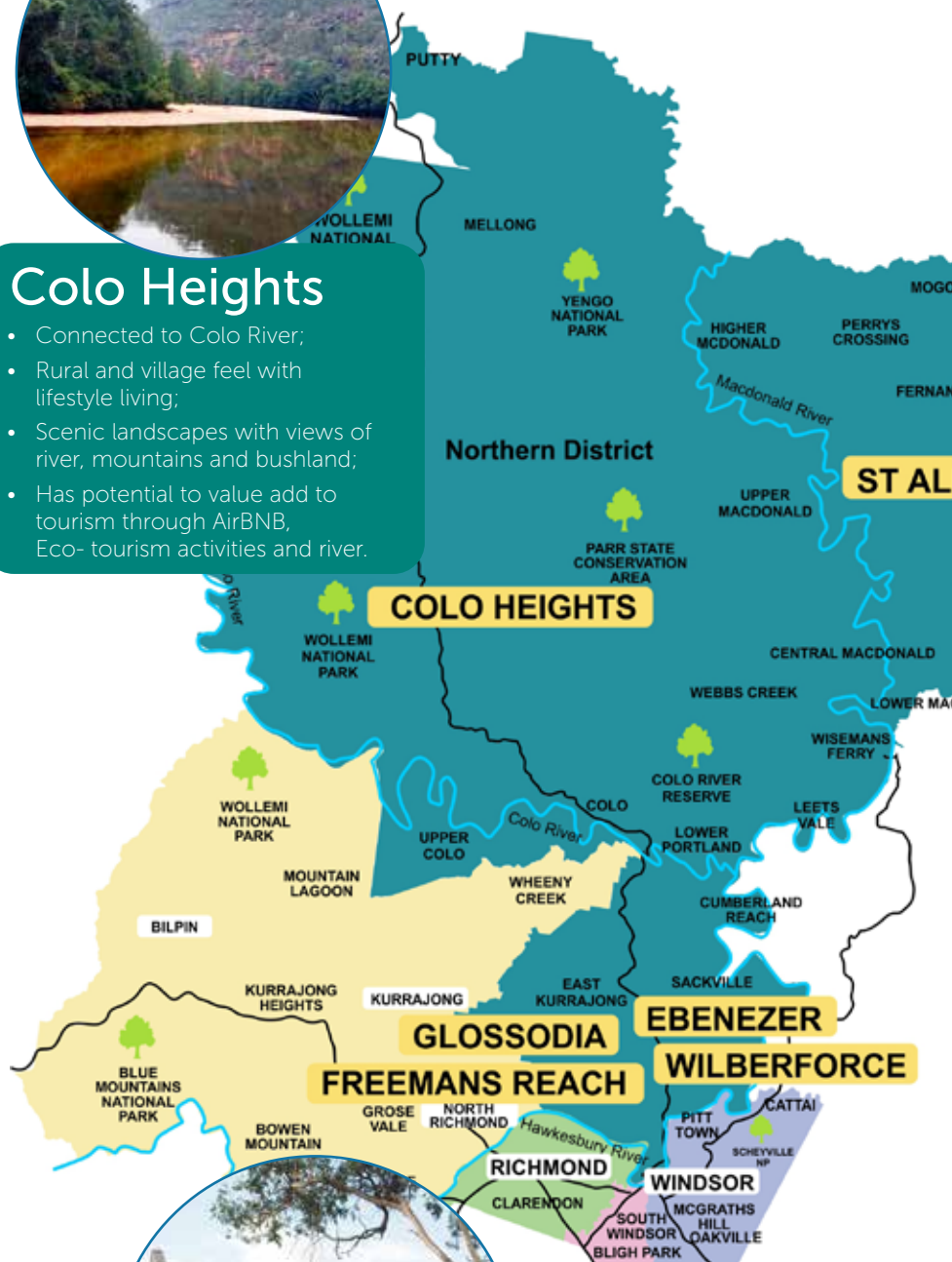
Colo Heights

- Connected to Colo River;
- Rural and village feel with lifestyle living;
- Scenic landscapes with views of river, mountains and bushland;
- Has potential to value add to tourism through AirBNB, Eco- tourism activities and river.



St Albans

- Small rural historic village on the Macdonald River;
- 'Forgotten Valley' with Agricultural lands;
- Hosts historic buildings such as the Settlers Arms Inn, the Court House and Police Lock Up, the Price Morris Cottage, the Anglican Church and the Wesleyan Methodist Church;
- Tranquil and picturesque scenic views of the river, and valley;
- Culturally rich tourist destination;
- Has tourism potential.



Ebenezer

- Small rural village on the banks of the Hawkesbury River;
- Typical agricultural area;
- Historic buildings, including Presbyterian Church, Tizzana Winery and the School;
- Picturesque views and vistas of the river and tranquil surrounds;
- A tourist destination for people wanting to escape city living;
- Equestrian and aquatic activities;
- Potential to lever tourism from Equine and Aquatic activities, Air BNB and Bush and heritage tours.



Glossodia

- Small rural village
- Shopping centre



Freemans Reach

- Sprawling area but mostly agricultural use;
- Equine activities; and
- Strong connected community.

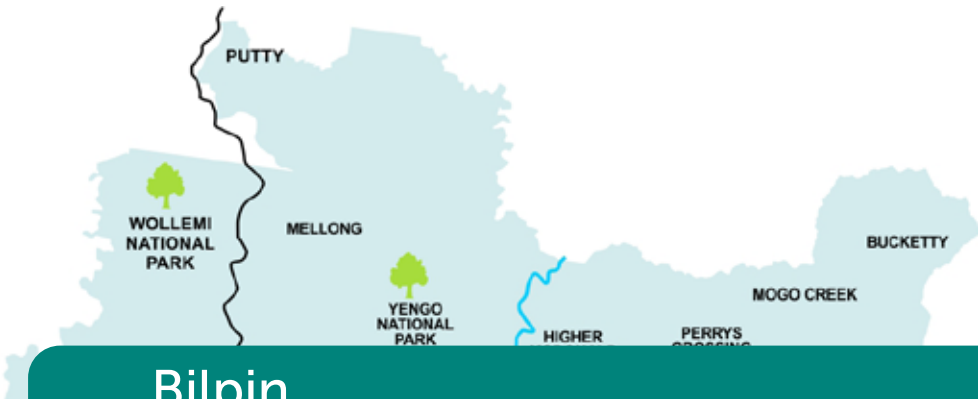


Wilberforce

- One of the five Macquarie towns;
- Granary for the colony;
- Birth of the river boat industry through the 19th century;
- Host to historic buildings including St John's school, church and the grave, Rose cottage, Wilberforce Park and the Australian Pioneer Village;
- Headquarters RFS, SES and Council Depot;
- Pioneer Village can value add through tourist activities;

Hawkesbury's

Towns and Villages local character - Western Bilpin and North Richmond



Bilpin



- Small rural village feel;
- Fertile agricultural land with fruit orchards including apples;
- Tourist destination and farm gate;
- Transit location to Lithgow, Bathurst and Dubbo;
- Provides the scenic landscape of the Blue Mountains and bushlands;
- Serene environment;
- Tourism potential for overnight stay tourist through AirBNB; and
- Combination of tourist activities can value add to the tourism experience.



North Richmond



- Semi rural suburban area;
- Scenic landscape with the river, and the backdrop of the Blue Mountains;
- An emerging area in the LGA with newer medium and low density housing stock;
- Bells line of road as a major infrastructure spine;
- Retail and industrial opportunities;
- Provides a range of services including supermarket, liquor land, pharmacy, cafes and restaurants, dentists and post office;
- River and view can be capitalised to value add; and
- Traffic/ infrastructure issues that constrain the area from achieving its potential.

Hawkesbury's

Towns and Villages local character - Western Kurrajong and Kurmond



Kurrajong

- Rural village feel located at the base of the Blue Mountains;
- Scenic views of the valleys, Blue Mountains and escarpment;
- Hosts historic buildings including Donnybrook, the Kurrajong Heights Hotel, St Gregory's Church, St James Anglican Church and cemeteries;
- Agricultural lands historically used to cultivate orchards, apples and citrus;
- An oasis of hidden treasure providing the serenity and tranquility of the bushlands;
- Travellers and tourist dream;
- Lifestyle living;
- Active and affluent community;
- Grocer, cafes, restaurants, liquor shop, and boutique retail;
- Engaged community through cultural activities and events.

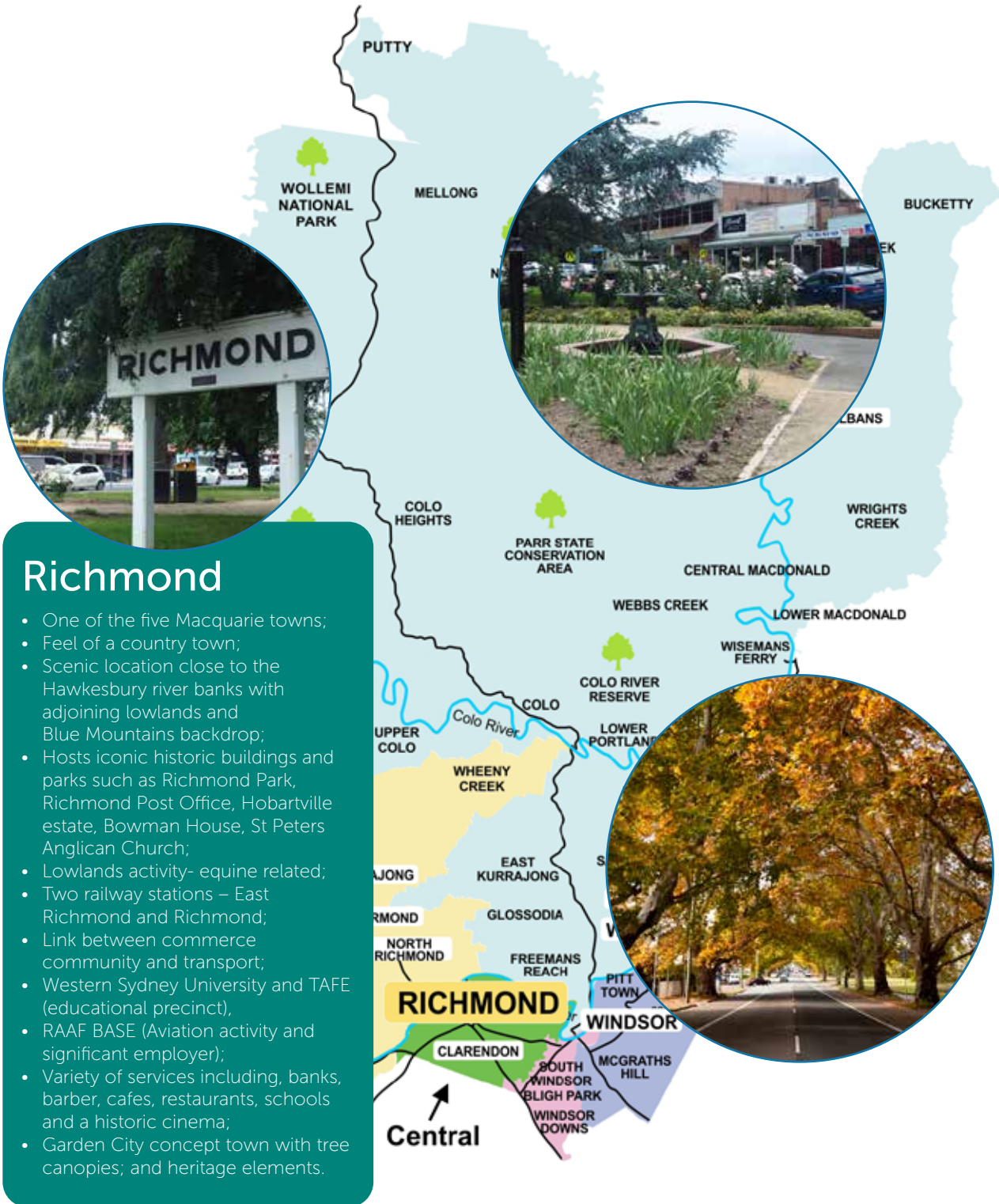


Kurmond

- Rural village feel which boasts picturesque views of the valleys, pastoral lands and Blue Mountains;
- Hosts historic buildings including Longleat;
- Farming and country living lifestyle ;
- A grocer, cafes, fruit shop, service station and a restaurant;
- Vibrant, active and affluent community;
- Opportunity for up market dining outlets; and
- Transitioned from agricultural to lifestyle living.

Hawkesbury's

Towns and Villages local character - Central Richmond



Richmond

- One of the five Macquarie towns;
- Feel of a country town;
- Scenic location close to the Hawkesbury river banks with adjoining lowlands and Blue Mountains backdrop;
- Hosts iconic historic buildings and parks such as Richmond Park, Richmond Post Office, Hobartville estate, Bowman House, St Peters Anglican Church;
- Lowlands activity- equine related;
- Two railway stations – East Richmond and Richmond;
- Link between commerce community and transport;
- Western Sydney University and TAFE (educational precinct),
- RAAF BASE (Aviation activity and significant employer);
- Variety of services including, banks, barber, cafes, restaurants, schools and a historic cinema;
- Garden City concept town with tree canopies; and heritage elements.

Hawkesbury's

Towns and Villages local character - South Eastern South Windsor and Bligh Park



South Windsor

- Suburban feel and living with a mix of residential, retail and industrial activities;
- Access to Windsor train station;
- Affordable and convenient;
- Walkable and potential for active
- Transport to connect to Windsor, Bligh Park, and Richmond;
- Industrial and retail hub with employment opportunities;
- Town centre needs a public domain to connect residents;
- Cafes, restaurant, pharmacy, medical centre; and
- Large catchment which can value add to the LGAs workforce.



Bligh Park

- Transitioning to a denser settlement pattern;
- Small but active neighbourhood centre;
- Lacks open space and community interaction areas; and
- Walkable community and passive surveillance.



Hawkesbury's

Towns and Villages local character - Eastern Windsor and Pitt Town



Windsor

- Largest of the five Macquarie Towns, 3rd oldest European settlement;
- Host to colonial heritage – Thompson Square, Macquarie Arms Hotel, St Mathews Church, the Court House and cemeteries;
- Boutique style shops;
- Cultural hub (library/museum/art centre);
- Food Precinct;
- Hospital (Health Precinct);
- Windsor train station
- Heritage elements; and
- Hawkesbury River (Tourism/Recreation).



Pitt Town

- One of the five Macquarie towns;
- Site of first use of irrigation and windmill for the production of flour in Australia;
- Site of boatbuilding enterprise in the 19th century;
- Rural community with agricultural landscape producing maize, grain and corn and later to citrus farming;
- Hosts historic buildings including St James Church, Maid of Australia Inn, the Old Manse and the Presbyterian Church, and Pitt Town Public School;
- River frontage and rural vistas;
- Affluent community (old and new community conflict);



Hawkesbury's

Towns and Villages local character- Eastern Cattai and Oakville



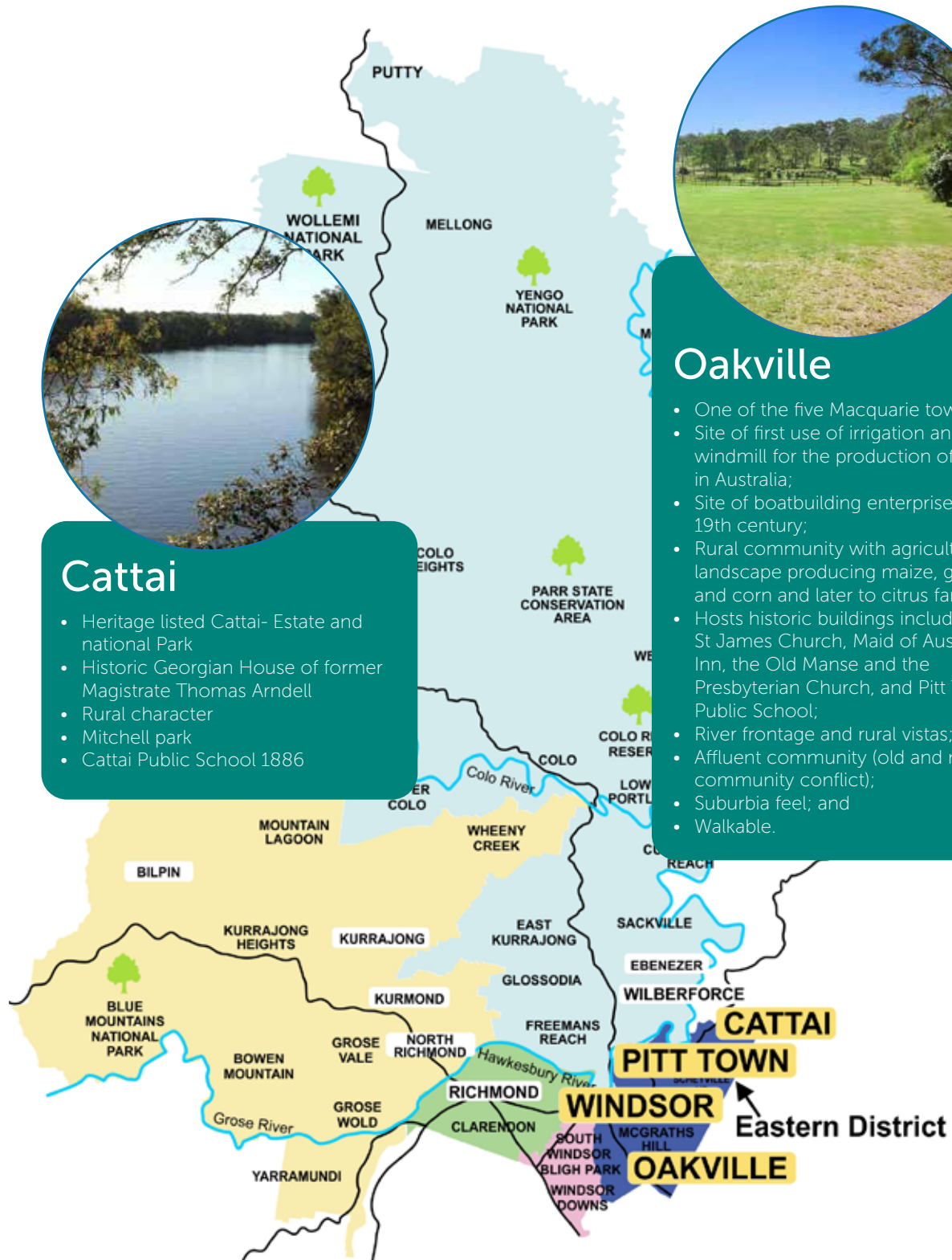
Cattai

- Heritage listed Cattai- Estate and national Park
- Historic Georgian House of former Magistrate Thomas Arndell
- Rural character
- Mitchell park
- Cattai Public School 1886



Oakville

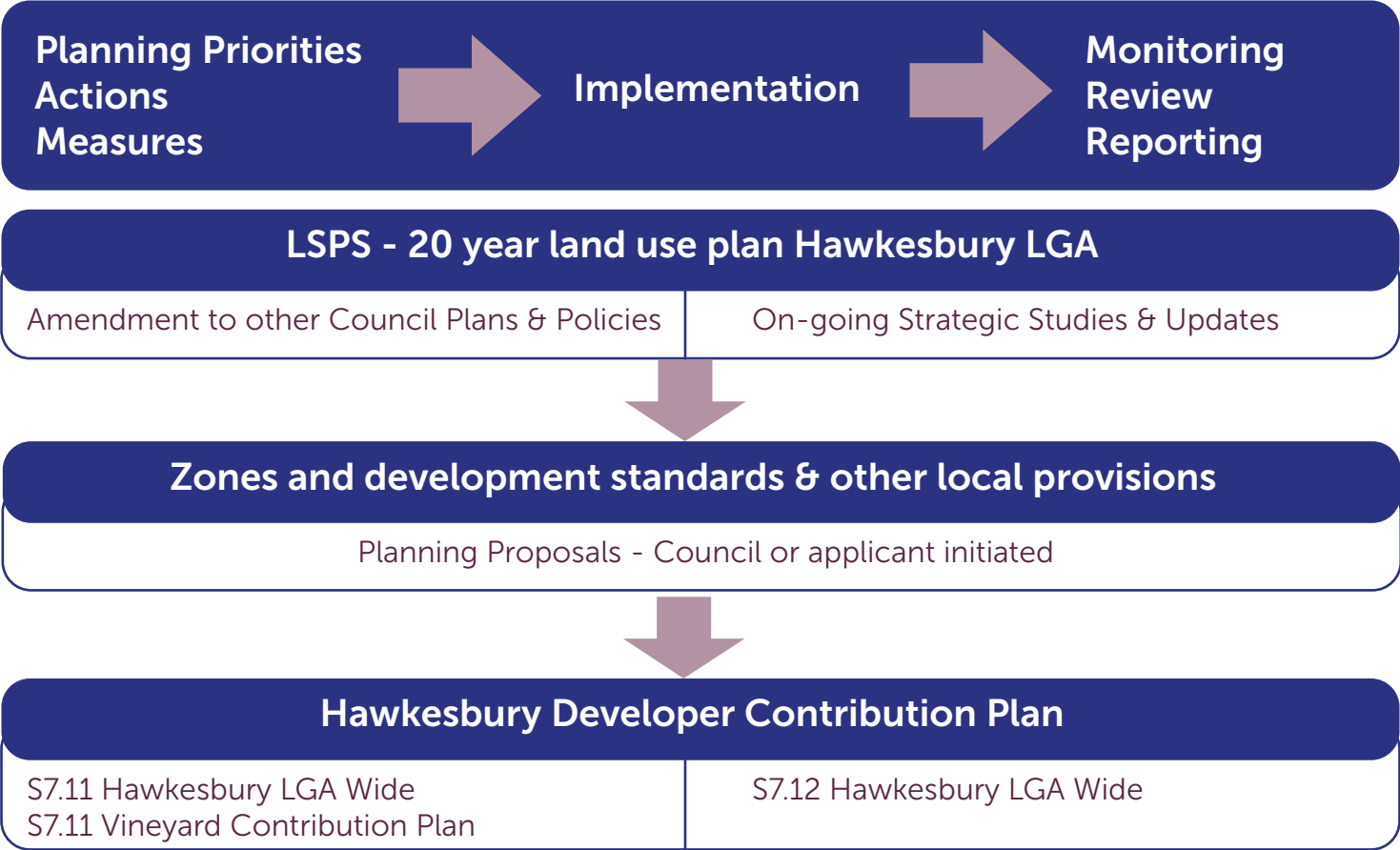
- One of the five Macquarie towns;
- Site of first use of irrigation and windmill for the production of flour in Australia;
- Site of boatbuilding enterprise in the 19th century;
- Rural community with agricultural landscape producing maize, grain and corn and later to citrus farming;
- Hosts historic buildings including St James Church, Maid of Australia Inn, the Old Manse and the Presbyterian Church, and Pitt Town Public School;
- River frontage and rural vistas;
- Affluent community (old and new community conflict);
- Suburbia feel; and
- Walkable.





IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation



The LSPS communicates the long term land use strategy for the Hawkesbury LGA over a 20-year planning horizon. To realise this vision, a series of amendments to other Council plans which provide the delivery framework for Council’s strategic planning will be required.

Future land use developments within the Hawkesbury LGA will ensure alignment with the Directions and Objectives of the Sydney Region Plan and Western City District Plan and be implemented through the Hawkesbury Local Strategic Planning Statement.

These plans and their functions are described below.

Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan

The HLEP 2012 is the principle statutory document which establishes the planning controls for developments within the LGA. Through zoning development standards, and other local provisions the HLEP 2012 provides the legal framework to ensure development is appropriate and reflects the community’s vision for land use in the LGA.

Hawkesbury Development Control Plan

It is a non-statutory plan that provides detailed planning and design guidelines and development controls to support the HLEP 2012.

Hawkesbury Strategic Plans and Studies

Specifically, the Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy, Hawkesbury Rural Lands Strategy and Hawkesbury Employment Lands Strategy provide planning guidance on future land use developments to meet the required and desired development needs. These strategies also inform amendments to the LEP and DCP.

Hawkesbury LEP Amendments

Amendment to the LEP is subject to planning proposals in accordance with section 3.4 of the EP&A Act 1979. Proposed developments which align to the strategic planning directions in the LSPS may require changes to development controls or land use zoning to occur before a development application can be submitted. In this case, an amendment to the HLEP 2012 would be required.

Planning Proposals

Proposed rezoning and changes to the planning standards are subject to amendment of the Hawkesbury LEP in accordance with section 3.4 of the EP&A Act 1979, which may either be initiated by Council or applicants.

Hawkesbury Development Contribution Plans (Included Vineyard Precinct Development Contributions Plan)

Division 6 of Part 4 of the EP&A Act 1979 gives Council the power to collect developer contributions for public infrastructure required as a consequence of a development.

Implementation continued

Planning Agreement Policy

Planning Agreement stipulates the mechanism of sharing in part of the uplift in land value accruing to a developer from infrastructure investment, rezoning or development approval which allows a more intense and higher value use of the land. Planning Agreements are in addition to the developer contributions.

Monitoring and Review

Council will monitor, review and report on its Local Strategic Planning Statement to ensure that its planning priorities are being achieved. Council will use the existing Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework under the Local Government Act 1993 for the purpose of monitoring implementation of the LSPS.

The Hawkesbury LSPS review will be undertaken every 7 years with the first review commencing in 2028, to align the review period with Council's overarching community strategic planning and IP&R under the Local Government Act.

Regular reviews will ensure that the LSPS reflects the vision the community has for future of the Hawkesbury and is aligned to the latest trends and information available about the environment and the community's social and economic needs.

Funding

The LSPS will play an important role in Council's resourcing strategy, with preparation of strategies and studies required by this plan funded in the 4-year Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plans.



Implementation for Hawkesbury's Infrastructure and Collaboration

– Efficient, supportive and reliable



Relationship to other Plans and Policies:

Sydney Region Plan	A city supported by infrastructure A collaborative city
Western City District Plan	Planning for a city supported by infrastructure. Working through collaboration.
Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan (CSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcing and establishing effective strategic partnerships and shared responsibilities. • Creating an integrated and well maintained transport system is an important local priority. • Facilitate the delivery of infrastructure through relevant agencies and Council's works. • Respond proactively to planning and the development of the right local infrastructure. • Provide the right places and spaces to serve our community.
Other Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawkesbury Transport Planning Strategy • Hawkesbury Employment Lands Strategy

CSP: 4.1 Transport infrastructure & connections

Creating an integrated and well maintained transport system is an important local priority

- 4.1.1** Our roads and other transport infrastructure will be planned and provided to ensure connected, efficient and safe movement for all modes of transport
- 4.1.2** Establish and maintain relationships with transport providers and other levels of government to improve and extend public transport services.
- 4.1.3** Have a comprehensive transport system of well-maintained local and regional linkages that are financially and environmentally sustainable and respond to community safety, priorities and expectations.
- 4.1.4** Provide mobility links throughout the City to connect our centres, parks and facilities.

4.2 Utilities

Facilitate the delivery of infrastructure through relevant agencies and Council's own works

- 4.2.1** Our community's current and future utility infrastructure needs (water, sewer, waste, stormwater, gas, electricity and telecommunications) are identified and delivered.
- 4.2.2** New development and infrastructure provision is aligned and meets community needs.

Action Plan:

Planning Priority 1

Bridge the shortfall of infrastructure through stakeholder collaboration to support the current and future growth and industries.

Measure

- Appropriate Infrastructure projects identified by location to meet the forecasted population, housing and employment targets.
- Land use development and public transport efficiency to meet the 30-minute-city concept.
- Continue advocacy and partnership with state agencies to meet the shortfall of infrastructure in the Hawkesbury.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 1.1 - Monitor and report project delivery status and continue investigating and prioritising infrastructure shortfall delivery.
- 1.2 - Council will work with Transport for NSW and RMS to ensure that transport decisions enables and supports liveability, employment and long term community outcomes.
- 1.3 - Council will advocate for efficient bus routes between Blacktown, Rouse Hill, Windsor, Richmond, St Marys and Penrith.

Short Term

- 1.4 - Identify the shortfall of infrastructure to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of the growing community.
- 1.5 - Investigate the funding opportunities to bridge the infrastructure gap. Prepare/Review Council's Capital Works Program.
- 1.6 - Council will investigate on-demand bus service with private providers to serve the remote communities of the LGA.

Short - Medium Term

- 1.7 - Prioritise and lock infrastructure projects in the Delivery program.
- 1.8 - Deliver projects through Operational Plan.

Planning Priority 2

Form partnership with stakeholders and agencies.

Measure

- Stronger partnership with stakeholders and agencies where collaborated projects are delivered on time.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 2.1 - Form partnership and collaborate with stakeholders to ensure efficient and expedited delivery of infrastructure in the Hawkesbury.
- 2.2 - Continue lobbying for infrastructure for efficient public transport to meet the 30 minute city concept.
- 2.3 - Continued advocacy and lobbying with State agencies to undertake STEM standard pilot projects in the Hawkesbury LGA.

Implementation for Hawkesbury's Community



– Healthy, affordable and diverse, preserves heritage and character

Relationship to other Plans and Policies:

Sydney Region Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A city for people Housing the city A city of great places
Western City District Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs. Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities. Providing housing supply, choice and affordability, with access to jobs, services and public transport. Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage.
Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan (CSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and enable our community to participate in a healthy lifestyle. Build on a sense of community and well-being. Enable broad and rich celebration of our local culture and significant heritage. Encourage informed planning, balanced growth and community engagement. Value, protect and enhance our built environment as well as our relationship to Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal history. Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression.
Other Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy Hawkesbury Open Space Strategy





CSP: 5.1 Strategic Planning and Governance

Creating an integrated and well maintained transport system is an important local priority

- 5.1.1 Council's Planning is integrated and long term.
- 5.1.2 Council's decision making on all matters is transparent, accessible and accountable.
- 5.1.3 Council will continually review its service provision to ensure best possible outcomes for the community.
- 5.1.4 Encourage increased community participation in planning and policy development.
- 5.1.5 The needs of our community will be reflected in Local, State and Regional Plans.

5.2 Management of Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal Heritage and the Built Environment

Value, protect and enhance our built environment as well as our relationship to Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal history

- 5.2.1 Our planning and actions will ensure that Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal heritage are integral to our City
- 5.2.2 Encourage and implement progressive urban design, sensitive to environment and heritage issues.
- 5.2.3 Sympathetic, adaptive and creative uses for heritage sites and buildings across the City will be encouraged and promoted.
- 5.2.4 As a community, we will identify ways to become better connected with our Aboriginal people, their history and culture.

5.3 Shaping our Growth

Respond proactively to planning and the development of the right local infrastructure

- 5.3.1 Growth and change in the Hawkesbury will be identified, planned for and valued by the community.
- 5.3.2 The diverse housing needs of our community will be met through research, active partnerships and planned development.
- 5.3.3 Plan for a balance of agriculture, natural environment and housing that delivers viable rural production and maintains rural character.

2.5 Cultural development and heritage

Enable broad and rich celebration of our local culture and significant heritage

- 2.5.1 Encourage and support all residents to participate in all aspects of community, cultural and civic life.
- 2.5.2 Provide community and cultural services through a range of affordable and accessible facilities.
- 2.5.3 Recognise, conserve and promote the areas history and heritage for current and future generations.

4.3 Places and Spaces

Provide the right places and spaces to serve our community

- 4.3.1 Provide a variety of quality passive recreation spaces including river foreshores, parks, bushland reserves and civic spaces to enhance our community's health and lifestyle
- 4.3.2 Provide a variety of quality active recreation spaces including playgrounds, sporting fields, pool, stadium and multipurpose centres to enhance our community's health and lifestyle.
- 4.3.3 Provide a variety of quality shared spaces including meeting spaces accommodating public art, cultural and environmental amenity to enhance our community's health and lifestyle.

Action Plan:

Planning Priority 3

Provide a diversity of housing types to meet the needs of the changing demography.

Measure

- New planning controls to accommodate additional housing in the identified by Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy in unconstrained locations close to amenities.
- Encourage a greater participation of the Aboriginal community in land use planning matters.
- Sympathetic developments that maintain and enhance the local character of the towns, villages and open spaces.
- Meet the housing targets by providing greater housing diversity to suit the changing needs of the community.
- Housing costs within the affordability scale.
- Champion smart buildings that are sustainable to the impact of natural disasters and urban heat island effect through planning controls and policies.

Timeframe Short Term

Actions

- 3.1 - Develop a Housing Strategy to identify potential areas for a diversity of housing, with consideration of the various constraints and Infrastructure NSW's evacuation routes.
- 3.2 - Prepare appropriate Local Environmental Plan and Developmental Control Plan for developments that respect the character and amenity of the existing areas.

Short - Medium Term

- 3.3 - Investigate potential locations for affordable and social housing opportunities.
- 3.4 - Ensure that there is adequate social and environmental infrastructure available to match the additional population and housing diversity.

Planning Priority 4

Protect and promote Aboriginal and European heritage and its transition into innovative, creative and adaptive re-uses.

Measure

- A greater participation of the Aboriginal community in land use planning matters.
- Awareness, protection and promotion of heritage items - increased visitor numbers.
- Adaptive re-use of buildings approved and completed.
- All European Heritage items recorded in the Council's heritage register.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 4.1 - Engage with the Aboriginal community at all stages of land use planning.
- 4.2 - Seek heritage grants each year to support and encourage maintenance of heritage items.

Short - Medium Term

- 4.3 - Collaborate with the Aboriginal communities and the Local Aboriginal Land Council to identify opportunities to share and promote Aboriginal cultural heritage where appropriate.
- 4.4 - Collaborate with the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment to develop statutory land use controls to facilitate economic development of Aboriginal lands.
- 4.5- Council will include all the European heritage items in the Heritage register.

Action Plan continued:

Planning Priority 5

Mitigate and manage land use conflicts in rural area.

Measure

- Land classed as prime agricultural is protected and promoted for agri-activities.
- Land use objectives are promoted and land use conflicts are minimised.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

5.1 - Take measures to limit land use conflicts.

Short - Medium Term

5.2 - Limit rural residential developments in areas identified as prime agricultural lands.

Long Term

5.3 - Map and categorise all prime agricultural land within the Hawkesbury LGA.

Planning Priority 6

Manage, enhance and celebrate the distinctive heritage character of our towns, villages and naturally landscaped environment.

Measure

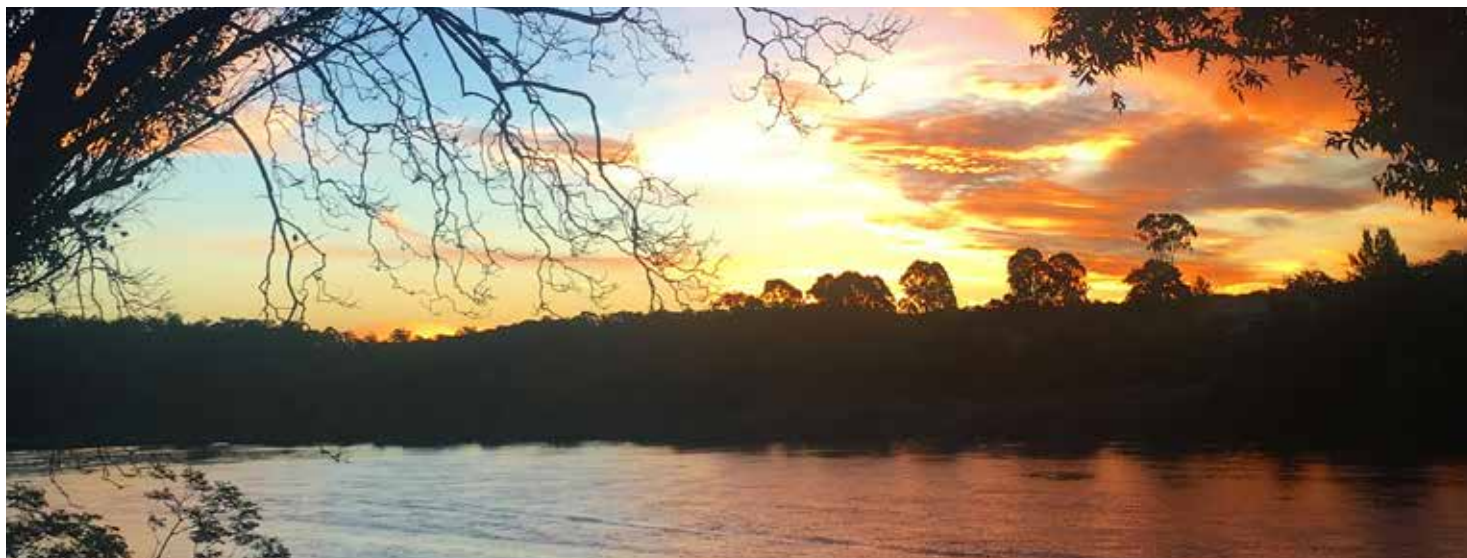
- Enhanced streetscape and public realm in local centres and villages by responding to local character and place specific activation strategies.
- Public spaces and places are accessible, attractive and safe.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

6.1 - Implement the Vibrant Towns and Villages Master Plan to enhance the distinctive heritage character of Hawkesbury's towns and villages, once the master plan is complete.

6.2 - Retain and preserve the natural environment in its natural form to meet the objectives of the Metropolitan Rural Area.



Implementation for Hawkesbury's Economy and Productivity

– Innovative and adaptable



Relationship to other Plans and Policies:

Sydney Region Plan	A well connected city. Jobs and skills for the city.
Western City District Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing the land use and transport structure to deliver a liveable, productive and sustainable Western Parkland City. Leveraging industry opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis. Growing and strengthening the metropolitan cluster. Maximising freight and logistics opportunities and planning and managing industrial and urban services land. Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres.
Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan (CSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and enable the community to make sustainable choices. Support the revitalisation of our town centres and growth of our business community. Promote our community as the place to visit, work and invest. Increase the range of local industry opportunities and provide effective support to continued growth.
Other Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkesbury Employment Lands Strategy Hawkesbury Tourism Strategy





CSP: 4.3 Places and Spaces

Providing the right places and spaces to serve our community

- 4.3.4** Manage commercial spaces available for business and investment across the Hawkesbury's local centres.

5.5 Reinforcing our dynamic places

Support the revitalisation of our town centres and growth of our business community

- 5.5.1** Revitalise and enhance our two significant town centres of Windsor and Richmond, to create thriving centres each with its own character that attracts residents, visitors and businesses.
- 5.5.2** Create active partnerships to develop a network of vibrant centres, creating opportunities for business growth and community connection.
- 5.5.3** Assist our town and village centres to become vibrant local hubs.

5.6 Instigating place making programs

Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression

- 5.6.1** Foster and promote an annual program of events, festivals, sporting and cultural activities that allows our communities to connect and celebrate with one another.
- 5.6.2** Master-planning processes will be prepared in consultation with the community, key stakeholders and partners to establish the specific strategies for town and village centres.

5.7 Tourism and Economic Development

Promote our community as the place to visit, work and invest

- 5.7.1** Working in partnership we will actively market our City and our capabilities to existing and potential businesses, visitors and investors.
- 5.7.2** Develop Hawkesbury tourism to enhance and strengthen opportunities within our tourism sector.
- 5.7.3** Businesses are encouraged and upskilled to adopt more ethical and sustainable practices.

5.8 Industry

Increase the range of local industry opportunities and provide effective support to continued growth

- 5.8.1** Plan for a range of industries that build on the strengths of the Hawkesbury to stimulate investment and employment in the region.
- 5.8.2** Increase the focus on jobs and innovation to build on our strengths and achieve a diverse industry base.
- 5.8.3** Actively support the retention of the Richmond Royal Australian Airforce Base and enhanced aviation related industry, building on existing facilities.
- 5.8.4** Work towards ensuring that all people in our community have access to safe, nutritious, affordable and sustainably produced food.
- 5.8.5** Plan for the continuance and growth of agricultural industry uses within the Hawkesbury

Action Plan:

Planning Priority 7

Promote and support all sectors of industry and businesses of the Hawkesbury to meet the current and future demands and trends.

Measure

- Improved and increased Hawkesbury's Gross Regional Product.
- Innovative industries and agri-business initiatives in the Hawkesbury.
- Increased tourist and visitor related activities and services.
- Increased number of jobs by industry.
- Employment lands retained and enhanced at appropriate locations.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 7.1 - Protect and foster all sectors of industries and business locally and globally and encourage digital technology innovations.
- 7.2 - Promote Hawkesbury's art and culture through engaging local artists and story tellers through the local gallery and museum events.

Short - Medium Term

- 7.3 - Encourage tourism experiences and opportunities that do not compromise agricultural lands.
- 7.4 - Partner and form alliance with neighbouring LGAs and government agencies to explore opportunities to enhance export capability for industries and agriculture in the LGA.

Short - Long Term

- 7.5 - Implement the recommendations of Hawkesbury Employment Land Strategy once its complete.

Planning Priority 8

Explore opportunities at the Western Sydney University and Richmond RAAF Base to create value chain at the Western Sydney Airport and STEM Industry.

Measure

- An agglomerated Clarendon Precinct developed where activities from the WSU, RAAF Base and Equine industry create synergy and value chain to lever activities at the Western Sydney Airport.

Timeframe Medium - Long Term

Actions

- 8.1 - Facilitate the development of the Clarendon Agglomerated Precinct.
- 8.2 - Identify opportunities that will assist industries in creating a value chain with the Sydney Western Airport activities.

Planning Priority 9

Encourage the economic self-determination of the Aboriginal community through their land holdings and culture.

Measure

- Improved economic self-determination of the Aboriginal Community.

Timeframe Short – Medium Term

Actions

- 9.1 - Collaborate with the Local Aboriginal Land Council and Aboriginal communities to promote tourism opportunities and where appropriate lever increase economic participation on country through land uses.

Implementation for Hawkesbury's Environment

– Sustainable and climate change responsive



Relationship to other Plans and Policies:

Sydney Region Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A city in its landscape. An efficient city. A resilient city.
Western City District Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and improving the health and enjoyment of the District's waterways. Creating a parkland city urban structures and identity, with South Creek as a defining spatial element. Protecting and enhancing bushland and biodiversity. Increasing urban tree canopy cover and delivering Green Grid connections. Protecting and enhancing scenic and cultural landscapes. Better managing rural areas. Delivering high quality open spaces. Reducing carbon emission and managing energy, water and waste efficiency. Adapting to the impacts of urban and natural hazards and climate change.
Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan (CSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value, protect and enhance our unique natural environment. Identify and make best use of our local resources and awareness of contribution to the environment. Identify ways of our community to reduce, reuse and recycle waste. Encourage and enable our community to make sustainable choices. Protect, enhance and celebrate our rivers.
Other Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hawkesbury Biodiversity Strategy





CSP: 2.1 Community safety is improved

Enable a shared responsibility for community safety and disaster management

2.1.1 Meet the needs of our community through effective flood, fire and other natural disaster management plans that promote the protection of life, property and infrastructure.

2.1.2 Make the Hawkesbury a friendly place where people feel safe.

3.1 The natural environment is protected and enhanced

Value, protect and enhance our unique natural environment

3.1.1 Encourage effective management and protection of our rivers, waterways, riparian land, surface and ground waters, and natural eco-systems through local action and regional partnerships.

3.1.2 Act to protect and improve the natural environment, including working with key agency partners.

3.1.3 Minimise our community's impacts on habitat and biodiversity, and protect areas of conservation value.

3.1.4 Use a range of compliance measures to protect the natural environment

3.2 To live sustainability and reduce our ecological footprint

Identify and make best use of our local resources and awareness of contribution to the environment

3.2.1 Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint.

3.2.2 Alternative forms of energy are embraced throughout the Hawkesbury.

3.2.3 Become a carbon neutral Local Government Area.

3.3 We reduce, reuse and recycle

Identify ways for our community to reduce, reuse and recycle waste

3.3.1 Develop and maintain active partnerships that will result in the innovative management of our community's waste, with an emphasis on resource recovery and waste minimisation.

3.3.2 Undertake community education on best practice environmental sustainability and climate change issues.

3.4 The sustainability of our urban environment is improved

Encourage and enable our community to make sustainable choices

3.4.1 Work with businesses and tourism operators to promote good practice and sustainability principles.

3.4.2 Development is functional, attractive and sympathetic with the environment, and avoids unnecessary use of energy, water or other resources.

5.4 Celebrating our rivers

Protect, enhance and celebrate our rivers

5.4.1 Celebrate and use our rivers for a range of recreation, leisure, tourism and event activities.

5.4.2 Develop active partnerships and implement programs designed to improve the health of our rivers and river banks.

5.4.3 Encourage agriculture production, vegetation conservation, tourism, recreation and leisure uses within our floodplains.

Action Plan:

Planning Priority 10

An aware and resilient city that can adapt to natural hazards of flood, bushfire and climate change.

Measure

- Temperature in the Hawkesbury during summer and winter seasons.
- Aware, prepared and resilient community.
- Reduced carbon emission through various initiatives and projects.
- Climate change and urban heat island strategies incorporated into Council's policies and strategies.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 10.1 -Continue on-going community preparedness, awareness and resilience against natural hazards of flood, bushfires, and climate change.
- 10.2-Commit to and champion the net zero emission by 2050 or sooner.
- 10.3-Support NSW State agencies Regional Land Use Strategies.

Short - Medium Term

- 10.4 -Develop planning controls to protect and mitigate development in areas prone to natural hazards where the risk to life and property is high.
- 10.5 -Prepare and adapt the Hawkesbury Sustainability Strategy.
- 10.6 -Adopt and embed climate change policies to reduce carbon footprint through land use development and activities within the Hawkesbury.

Short - Long Term

- 10.7 -Encourage tree planting in public open spaces and provide shade to pedestrian routes.

Planning Priority 11

Protect our rivers, creeks and areas of high biodiversity and environmental values.

Measure

- Biodiversity of the area is identified, mapped and protected for future generations.
- Biodiversity off-set schemes undertaken where developments impact on biodiversity.
- The rivers and wetlands and its eco-systems are protected and enhanced.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

- 11.1 -Protect and enhance natural assets and ensure the biodiversity of the Hawkesbury is identified and preserved.
- 11.2- Ensure development at the interface of areas of significant biodiversity has minimal environmental impact.

Short – Medium Term

- 11.3- Promote community stewardship of the natural environment including our rivers, creeks, wetlands and bushlands to ensure its vitality into the future.

Short – Long Term

- 11.4 -Encourage tree planting and bush regeneration in public open spaces and provide shade to pedestrian routes.
- 11.5 -Adapt the draft Hawkesbury Environmental Biodiversity Strategy.

Planning Priority 12

Champion, educate and support the transition to renewable energy and waste.

Measure

- Renewable energy information and initiatives provided to community and pilots undertaken.
- Community made aware of waste recycle benefits.
- Council buildings are supported by 100% renewable energy by 2050.

Timeframe On-Going

Actions

12.1 -Undertake and promote solar energy initiatives to future proof its buildings to renewable energy.

12.2-Continue to install gas extraction wells at the waste management facilities.

12.3-Encourage waste recycle and reuse.

12.4-Educate and encourage water and waste recycling.

Short – Medium Term

12.5-Replace all the street lights with LED lights.

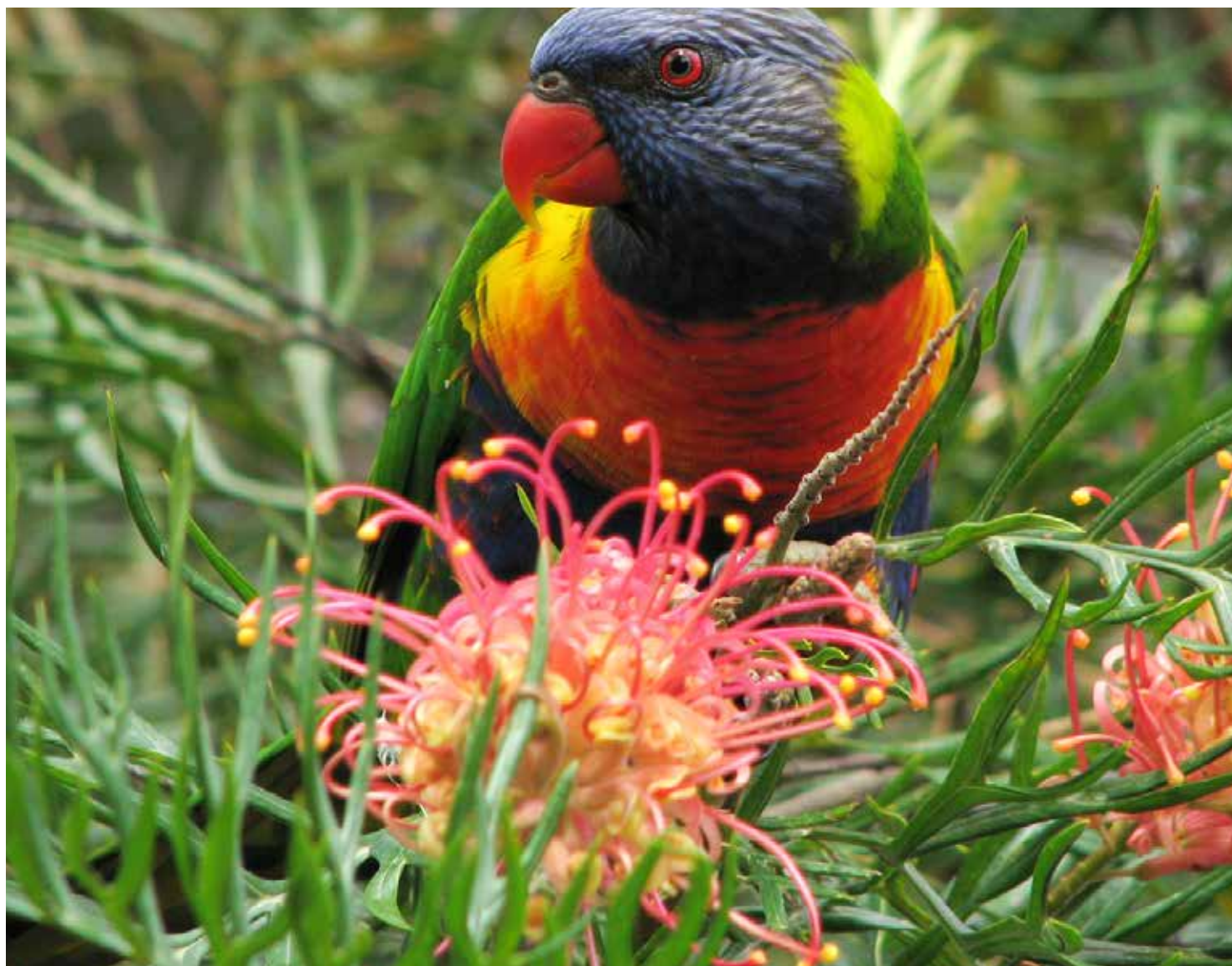




Photo: CPL David Gibbs, Welcome to Richmond and Glenbrook Annual Handbook 2019



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