



Attachment 1 to Item 10.2.2.

Submissions – Draft Community Strategic Plan-Our
Hawkesbury 2045, Draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 and
Draft Operational Plan 2025-2026

Date of meeting: 10 June 2025

Location: Council Chambers

Time: 6:30pm

Submissions – Draft Community Strategic Plan: Our Hawkesbury 2045, Draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Draft Operational Plan 2025/2026 and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2025-2035

Draft Community Strategic Plan: Our Hawkesbury 2045	
#	Submission
1.	<p>There is no mention in this draft of the Pitt Town Bypass?</p> <p>It would also be awesome if we had more bike paths and safe walkways connecting the smaller towns with Windsor - e.g. Pitt Town to Windsor, Wilberforce to Windsor.</p> <p>Council could also lobby NSW Transport to provide the on-demand bus services in the Hawkesbury as the current buses are not very frequent and don't start very early if you don't want to drive to a station.</p> <p>Don't forget about the rate payers on acres, we don't ask for much and don't get much for our rates. The people in the subdivisions lobby for parks and toilet facilities and mowing where those on acres look after their property and public areas themselves.</p>
2.	<p>More shared cycle paths.</p> <p>More entertainment for all age levels.</p> <p>Less rent for shops, so the community and visitors will have more and better options.</p> <p>In conjunction with state level/DOE, at least another high school.</p> <p>Upgrading/creating more parks.</p> <p>More one-off events so we can get more people visiting our community and spending.</p>
3.	<p>Recreation spaces, Roads and Rubbish forget the woke ideology. Do not vote or raise items that are not local. The proposed road running alongside Southee Road for the new proposed bridge is not acceptable. As a Hawkesbury resident for 39 years, a safer route would be The Driftway then onto Crowley's Lane cross the river to the roundabout at Grose Vale Rd and Grose River Rd giving easy access to the Redbank development taking traffic away from North Richmond.</p>
4.	<p>A large attractive playground with bike/scooter paths and a decent water playground at McQuade Park, with open toilets.</p> <p>Aquatic Centre with water playground.</p> <p>Updated signs at the Governor Macquarie memorial in McQuade Park.</p>
5.	<p>I would like Council to focus on roads and shared footpaths/bike tracks as well as providing a community bus as there is a large lack of public transport and connections between the villages in the Hawkesbury. Other municipalities run a small community bus to fill the gap where there is no public transport to and from the train stations and shopping areas we only have Peppercorn for the elderly. This service is needed 7 days a week.</p> <p>There is no safe place to walk from North Richmond to Richmond except along the edge of a very busy road this needs to change. Services west of the river up to Bilpin are almost nonexistent. Everyone west of the river needs a car to get anywhere. HCC is not a pedestrian or bike rider friendly area and the roads are substandard and unsafe.</p>

6.	Multiple level carpark station located in Windsor (example like the ones along northwest metro line).
7.	Sealing of Portland Head Road.
8.	<p>It would be good to see improvement to the main roads heading into Windsor.</p> <p>Currently, the access is terrible - uninviting, congested, unfriendly, no nice signs or lights, footpaths or features. This applies to both Windsor Road and Richmond Road. Both main roads should be two large, spacious lanes with streetlights, footpaths, cycleways and greenery.</p> <p>George St and Macquarie St should go through a major improvement with footpaths, cycleways, greenery, double lane road with streetlights - Get rid of those housing commission houses.</p> <p>Instead, build 1, 2 and 3 bed bed-sitter type houses in place of those large blocks to house those people to allow easier maintenance and care of properties that don't look like an eyesore. You get more affordable housing in place and better living conditions with proper insulated homes with heating etc., footpaths, cycleways, greenery and fencing along the main road to provide protection for pedestrians and cyclists.</p> <p>Build a large, nice and neat fence around the graveyard with a side entrance with some parking, a garden bed etc. to take away the "deathly/negative" aspect of the main town. How depressing is it to drive into Windsor to see a large, old, rarely maintained graveyard.</p> <p>The main city should have boutique and brand name stores, longer opening hours, lights and greenery, small / mini-train rides for families and elderly travelling from one side to the other with a bell - providing more jobs for the young and elderly and given people something to do. Night cinemas, night markets, Hawkesbury's own vivid along the river, river markets, sale says etc.</p> <p>Windsor could be a beautiful town.</p>
9.	<p>This response to the draft Community Strategic Plan - Our Hawkesbury 2045 has been prepared by the board of Kurrajong Nursing Home Ltd. We understand the importance of this overarching document that provides the opportunity for the Hawkesbury to work collaboratively.</p> <p>We support the statement in the Plan about a shared responsibility, requiring collaboration across all levels of government, non-governmental agencies, industry groups, businesses, community organisations and individuals.</p> <p>We understand the processes to establish the 4 Strategic Directions adopted in the CSP of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Place to Live - Sustainable Environments and Heritage - Thriving Economy - Effective Leadership <p>When we look at the guiding principles for each of the strategic directions we have deliberately chosen to read the words through the lens of an older person living in the Hawkesbury.</p> <p>In recent times Kurrajong Nursing Home has undertaken a strategic review of its operations and our role in the Hawkesbury community. We will be expanding our support for all recipients of aged care support either in their own homes, in our existing Kurrajong Nursing Home and Parklands Village or in new purpose built aged care residential facilities. This review has short, medium and long term goals for us.</p>

	<p>One of our goals is to have a better understanding of the long-term health condition of anyone over 65 and as a starting point we are using recent census data to inform us. We note there are more than 11,000 people, 65 and over, living in the Hawkesbury with 461 people reported as having dementia.</p> <p>We believe the Community Indicators in the CSP need to be explained and/or expanded and a process adopted to share this information with the wider community on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Delivery Partners shown for each of the four directions does not appear to have any representation or a voice from the 11,000 people over 65 living in the Hawkesbury. Of more concern there is no apparent process in the CSP to hear or engage with the Hawkesbury aged care residential sector.</p> <p>We recently attended a webinar on Local Approaches to Managing and Recovering from Natural Disasters that presented the findings of two research projects by Sydney University and Western Sydney University. When we listened with our 'aged ears perspective' we were encouraged to hear confirmation of some ideas we have pondered for some time. Five of the ideas we heard were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community resilience is about connection and reciprocity. - Transparency and information is the cornerstone of everything we do. - All responses should be continuous not episodic. - Like minded self-organising groups should be encouraged. - Social isolation leads to on-going hardship. <p>Over the last 12 months Kurrajong Nursing Home has reached out to the other aged care operators in the Hawkesbury to share our experiences. Initially, this has been informal and at a senior operations level and we have been encouraged with the willingness of the Hawkesbury facilities to engage. This has led to regular meetings over the last few months with a PHN representative being invited to these meetings.</p> <p>In closing, we appreciate the considerable work Hawkesbury Council staff have undertaken in preparing the CSP to provide the vision document for everyone in the Hawkesbury. We ask that any future decisions our Hawkesbury Councillors make will consider the older Hawkesbury residents and are made with the 'wisdom of older lenses'.</p>
10.	<p>Formal Submission as part of Hawkesbury City Council 2045 - Draft Community Strategic Plan incorporating the rezoning of the eastern part of Oakville along Boundary Road - Supporting Council's Strategic Growth, Financial Sustainability, and Community Vision</p> <p>Executive Summary: This submission proposes the rezoning of the Oakville East pocket of land, located north of Vineyard Stage 1 and west of Box Hill, as a proactive solution to meet the objectives outlined in the Hawkesbury City Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP), Delivery Program 2025–2029, Operational Plan 2025/2026, and the Long Term Financial Plan 2025–2035 and Our Hawkesbury 2045.</p> <p>The Oakville East rezoning proposal supports Council's goals to sustainably manage growth, increase revenue, enhance connectivity, and align with regional and state planning initiatives. This initiative enables Hawkesbury to address long-term financial challenges while preserving rural heritage and maximising strategic land use near existing infrastructure.</p> <p>Proposal Summary: The Oakville East rezoning development seeks to create a seamless extension between the Hawkesbury and Hills LGAs, linking the Vineyard Stage 1 development with the Box Hill precinct. This location provides an ideal opportunity for strategic infill, offering a non-floodprone area that complements both regional and local development plans.</p>

Key Supporting Arguments:

Alignment with Strategic Planning Frameworks

This proposal aligns directly with:

- Greater Sydney Regional Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities
- Western City District Plan
- Western Sydney Aerotropolis planning
- Hawkesbury's Delivery Program 2025–2029, which emphasises managing growth sustainably and improving liveability
- Operational Plan 2025/2026, highlighting the review of the LEP and DCP as mechanisms to manage growth
- Long Term Financial Plan 2025–2035, which stresses the urgent need for increased revenue opportunities through development

Revenue Growth to Address Financial Constraints

Council is facing constrained revenue growth due to:

- Rate pegging limitations
- Minimal growth factor allocations under the new methodology
- Increasing infrastructure renewal costs

Rezoning Oakville East offers Council a way to significantly increase its rate base and access Section 7.11 and Section 64 contributions, as outlined in the Delivery Program and LTFP. The additional housing development will assist in bridging the funding gap, directly addressing one of Council's most pressing challenges.

Integration with Existing Infrastructure

The proximity of Oakville East to the Box Hill development in The Hills Shire allows for shared access to existing and planned:

- Roads
- Parks
- Retail centres
- Utilities

This makes the Oakville East proposal a cost-effective expansion area that doesn't require the same infrastructure investment as greenfield sites elsewhere in the LGA.

Support for Major State and Regional Infrastructure Plans

This development supports and benefits from key regional infrastructure projects, including:

- Western Sydney International Airport • Western Sydney Freight Line
- Richmond Bridge Duplication and flood evacuation road upgrades

The proposal also complements the objectives of the Sydney Green Grid – West District and improves disaster resilience by focusing growth in non-flood-prone areas.

Minimal Environmental and Heritage Impact

	<p>The site is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside flood zones • Not within heritage precincts • Adjacent to existing urban developments <p>This ensures that rural character and environmentally sensitive areas are preserved, consistent with the community's vision outlined in the CSP.</p> <p>Conclusion: The Oakville East rezoning proposal presents a unique, timely, and strategic opportunity for Hawkesbury City Council. It is well aligned with the Council's financial goals, growth management strategy, and state planning frameworks. The proposal is a logical extension of current development activity, offering high community benefit, improved connectivity, and strengthened financial sustainability.</p> <p>A comprehensive 19-page supporting document accompanies this submission, providing further detail, mapping alignment with Council's plans, and evidence of the strategic value of this initiative. Thank you for considering this submission. I would welcome the opportunity to present or further discuss this proposal with Council representatives.</p>
11.	<p>Development is inevitable to any area, in particular to amazing areas such as the Hawkesbury region. No one takes time out to visit say, Kellyville for a weekend, as it holds no areas of relaxation, views and the overall calm. As a long term local I do wonder what we obtain as a result of rising council fees.</p> <p>We have no curbed roads, the roads are rarely graded, nor maintained well. Recently I encountered both smoke from backburning combined with fog. A potentially lethal combination wherein I had zero visibility for some time as there were no lines on the road, nor reflectors to use as a guide. I travelled home close to midnight after a busy hospital shift.</p> <p>Most streets have no streetlights, there is no police, no hospital, no ambulances on this side of the bridge, and the fire brigade are local volunteers. Yet we pay the same taxes, GST and council rates. It can take me 15 minutes to 1 hour and 15 minutes to get to work due to traffic to Richmond. I allow 1 hour and 15 minutes to travel to my other job in Bella Vista, this is officially a 45 minute drive. Many weekends also the traffic is gridlocked, with visitors to the area or those just passing through. Without improvements to infrastructure the bottle necks will increase.</p> <p>This increases frustrations and it is not right to punish locals through council seemingly only interested in the developer dollars. Build, build, build but no planning, with no way of coping with the increased traffic. The area needs improved roads- at least dual lanes. A bridge system that allows flood bypass. A train service that extends beyond the Richmond line or to introduce a tram system. Health, police and fire support on this side of the bridge due to the increasing population, you cannot just grow certain elements and expect what is already there to just cope.</p> <p>The largest shops this side of the bridge is at North Richmond. It can take 15 minutes + to get out of the carpark! Traffic again is just built up with nowhere to go. It was created for a much smaller population, not for all the estates now sweeping up in the area. I used to drive home and feel a sense of calm, as things were just different on this side of the bridge.</p> <p>Now sadly, it is highly irritating too often, many cannot make it to the speed limit even, yet keep the same speed through the school areas. People do not bother to let you pass, a courtesy I always try to extend if I am say, towing our float. Working in an emergency department you never know why people are in a hurry or would like to just stick to the upper limit. I have often had to call loved ones with time limited. I have also had to cart injured animals to the 24 vets in Baulkham Hills, not nice to have your animal howling in pain whilst you are stuck behind someone blocking the traffic. Ideally dual lanes should be available, in particular, areas to overtake.</p>

Draft Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2025/2026

#	Submission
1.	<p>As a mother to three young children, I am writing to express deep concern over the continued lack of action regarding the dangerous intersection of Putty Road and Teale Road in East Kurrajong. This intersection has long posed a threat to the safety of all road users, particularly families like mine who live in and travel through the area regularly.</p> <p>Despite being flagged as an issue as far back as 1999, no meaningful action has been taken. This intersection has seen multiple documented concerns, professional assessments, and even detailed plans drawn up as recently as June 2022. Yet, the 2025–2026 Draft Operational Plan contains no mention of it—despite referencing broader commitments to road safety and community wellbeing under CSP Strategy 3.1.1 and 4.4.1.</p> <p>On page 9, the Plan speaks of collaboration with key partners to ensure mutual benefits and progress. However, the lack of visible cooperation between Council and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) on this specific issue is troubling. Since the September 2023 communication from TfNSW—indicating further work was expected in the following 12 months—no updates or tangible outcomes have been made public.</p> <p>The success measure listed for Strategy 3.1 is “community satisfaction with roads and transport.” I must ask: who is being consulted? I’ve never received any formal request for feedback, and my neighbours are equally unaware of any engagement efforts. After more than two decades of documented inaction, I would be surprised if any local parent or resident expressed satisfaction.</p> <p>This is not just about numbers and plans. Every morning, I buckle my kids into their seats and approach that intersection with heightened awareness and anxiety, hoping that the blind spots and speeding traffic won’t put us in danger that day. The risks are real, documented, and—most frustratingly—preventable.</p> <p>I urge Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Include the Putty Road x Teale Road intersection in the updated Operational Plan under road safety works.2. Provide a public update on the status of the 2022 plans and communication with TfNSW.3. Clarify how resident feedback on transport safety is being measured and offer clear avenues for formal submission and engagement. <p>For over 25 years, this issue has been passed between agencies, with no meaningful resolution. I implore you not to let another year pass without action. Please help ensure that local children—mine included—can travel safely through their own community.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>A concerned mother of three.</p>
2.	<p>Macdonald Valley Association Submission</p> <p>Page 33 3.4.1: This was presented to HCC in response to their call for Place Plans back in 2021</p> <p>Mission Statement ‘St Albans Beautification Projects’ is a delegated activity of the Macdonald Valley Association (MVA). Its purpose is to investigate, fund and deliver on simple and potentially more complex works that enhance the physical and emotional environment of St Albans Village and the surrounding areas. These are to be consistent with the MVA Mission of ‘Protecting, Enhancing and Promoting the Natural and</p>

Human Environment'. The SABP 'Wish List' After consultation with various interest groups and individuals in the Valley - and being cognisant of the restrictions imposed through Hawkesbury City Council's most recent update to the relevant flood plan which severely limits the opportunities for landowners to otherwise invest in or develop their properties - it has become evident that the key to reinvigorating the Village is to focus on the infrastructure requirements of those major events that are hosted each year, where outside bodies come into the village and operate - creating opportunities for social connectedness and potential employment and/or commercial benefit to valley residents.

These then generate added commercial and fundraising opportunities to the local community well beyond each individual event, also providing infrastructure that is useful to the local community independent of each event. Examples are: Shahzada 400, St Albans Folk Festival, Convict 100

In addition to this, we will look at opportunities for local history, flora and fauna to be used as a drawcard for a walking trail & exercise trail around the village. Specific 'wish list' items are:

1.A Shahzada rebirthing wish-list has multiple components not related to SABP, and our focus will be on the construction of infrastructure to re-establish the water supply to horse troughs throughout the local area, with a pump in the river and connected piping – as this has the potential to support other potential village projects (see below). A large scale water tank facing outwards on the corner of the block intersecting Wharf St and Bulga St (ie the Shahzada home block) could be used to serve the needs of multiple Village projects. The MVA would be nominated as the local custodian of this item, and event organisers would be charged for replenishment of the tank either before or after use, as needed. It will be a clear demonstration of the MVA working to represent and improve local assets for the benefit of all members, residents and visitors.

The Hawkesbury Mayor is supportive of a proposal to investigate what Council instruments or other support may be available that would see a combination art installation/suitable very large water tank (think silo art, but water tank/s) and related water pipes to not only horse troughs, but drink fountains, and maybe even a community orchard (all only brainstorming ideas at this stage). As to the envisaged artwork – it will be a painted collage reflecting the current and past residents of the valley, key activities, the flora, fauna, and the river. It aims to be a beautiful and strong image that represents all valley residents, past & present. NOTE: This idea will require a multi agency response, with grant funding sought from multiple sources. It is a significant project that will entail community engagement only after further solid information has been gathered and confirmed – particularly with the property owner.

2. The installation of community information/arts structures on the public verge outside those blocks that currently do not, and may no longer have other uses, for example – a walking trail past:

- a. A panel that discusses the indigenous history of the area
- b. A panel that looks at the early European settlement
- c. A panel on the fauna and flora of the area, and how it has changed over time i. ii. The contents of each of these will at all times be historically accurate without being 'judgemental', or driven by any individual agenda.

Their aim is to unify, not divide. Subject matter experts within and outside the Valley would be consulted where needed. Initial thoughts are that these would be spread along Bulga St opposite the Settlers Arms Inn and outside the empty blocks diagonally opposite the Pickled Wombat.

3. Locally produced rustic slab seating at various points around the village – safely sited on council verges, providing rest points – particularly on the more steep streets. 10-12 bench seats with backs are envisaged.

4. An exercise trail constructed and safely sited on council verges – using simple timber structures – giving visitors and locals a reason to be active within the village.

5. A review of current street lighting with specific reference to it being 'fit for purpose' both day to day, and during 'events' where portable lights are sited. Safety & Security are the key features to address.

6. Water sourced from the water tank (if built) could supply a network of bubblers along the walking and exercise trails.

7. A commemorative work on Caroline Chisholm – a Hawkesbury (Windsor) resident, philanthropist and champion in support of immigrant women and families during the early 19thC, who visited the Macdonald Valley and wrote on it in her various publications. Being the original pathway to the north, she would travel through the area more than once as her work extended to Maitland in the lower Hunter. Mrs. Chisholm is commemorated on 16 May in the Church of England calendar of saints (even though she converted to her husband's religion of Catholicism), and a dedicated rest area with fencing on the front of the Anglican church property adjacent to the Pickled Wombat is worth investigating.

8. The possibility of an electric vehicle charging station being installed above the reach of flood waters at the top of Wharf St near the entrance to the council depot. Potentially, this could drive a review and refurbishment of electrical infrastructure in the area, and may even be supportive of our ongoing demands for a cell phone tower at height, with a permanent power supply. Electric vehicles are the transportation form of the future, and this effectively brings a fuel depot back into the valley. There are many unknowns here, but like the water tank project, it would require the involvement of multiple agencies to establish.

Page 24 1.5.1. re First nations Initiatives;

Dual signage – Yes please request it as we won't get far without council support

Truth telling / truth listening initiatives would be good to see here too (Hawkesbury one of the worst being an early frontier)

They need to include Darkinjung also (only mention Dharug). I also believe the LGA extends up into the Blue Mountains so it should also include Wiradjuri at least.

Page 34 3.6.1 Host and support celebrations and cultural expression.

There's a distinct lack of any First Nations cultural learning programs here! Deerubbin Centre 20th anniversary would be an ideal opportunity
Their 2nd point: Review Events Program and Sponsored Events Program should include National Reconciliation Week and Naidoc week, but it concerns me they haven't mentioned First Nations culture (only sustainability and lifecycle programs)

Page 22 1.4.1

We all I guess, consider there is a need for HCC to conduct full review of road safety issues including along St Albans road, leading onto Webbs creek ferry, especially including the signage leading into and along St Albans road and leading onto Webbs Creek ferry along with a signage at the turning circle for the queue leading onto Webbs Creek ferry.

Page 22 1.3.1 Community Sponsorship program:

HCC is a vital source of grant funding, without which a variety of MVA community involvement initiatives would not have taken place over the past 3 years.

These have included multiple Trivia Nights, plus the original 'A Picnic In The Garden' event in 2023 - all of which brought together community members with subsidised ticket prices so that all community members might participate regardless of their financial situation.

Further, a small grant has been received towards the cost of this year's 'Picnic' event, which has been very gratefully received.

Page 33 3.3.1 Tourism Initiatives:

The Macdonald Valley Association would very much like to see updated Council marketing literature developed that promotes not only the natural beauty of the area, but moves away from it being regarded as 'The Forgotten Valley' and is rebranded as 'The Northern Hawkesbury' with its own unique character and attractions. MVA support would be provided in this area, if requested.

'The Forgotten Valley' might be viewed in a romantic historic light, but it also points to and even justifies the lack of commercial and tourism infrastructure and support that is evident throughout the Macdonald Valley.

The focus on road and riverbank rebuilding over the past two years has seen a slight resurgence in visitor numbers towards those that existed prior to the 2019-20 Gospers' Mountain Firestorm, then Covid pandemic, then 7 floods in 3 years – but significant damage was done to public perception of St Albans as a focal point for visitor traffic and spending – which then impacted local employment and commercial opportunities. Also, since introduction of the HCC 2021 Flood Plan which raised the St Albans flood risk level from H4 to H6, it is now no longer possible to build anything new at this elevation, leading to the very real possibility that this community will over time shrivel and die.

For these reasons we seek Council's overt and active support in generating real and substantial opportunities for what is in many areas an affluent and willing community to participate in regenerating the commercial heart of the Macdonald Valley – being the Village of St Albans.

Creating and promoting tourism interest is key to this goal, and was at the heart of the detailed Place Plans Submission of 2 years ago that received zero feedback from Council.

Page 33 3.4.1 Place based Activities:

The Macdonald Valley Association made a detailed submission to Council's request for input prior to the 21 June 2023 deadline.

A summary of that document is above titled Mission Statement

We followed up on 9 December 2023, to be advised that the recommendations would be reported to Council at its first meeting of 2024, following which they would go back to the Community prior to being finalised.

During Sept 2024, it was raised with (then) Cr Les Sheather, who said he would investigate and get back to us.

During 2024 we sought funding from an avenue other than Hawkesbury Council for implementing some of the initiatives in our Place Plans Submission – only to be told that they could not be considered for grant funding unless and until Hawkesbury City Council Planning Approval had first been obtained. A classic chicken and egg situation, with nowhere to go.

Addressing Resilience Strategy -Page 20 1.11 and 1..1.2 Collaborate with and empower the community to be resilient

The Macdonald Valley Association has put in place a very robust communication system under the management of the Connected and Prepared sub-committee. The eventual aim of this program is to have every dwelling in the valley connected via two-way radio in the event of natural disasters or emergencies. This system works side-by-side and in collaboration with the local Rural Fire Service and the SES to assist people in difficulty.

This program was put in place at a local level, by local people, to address issues faced by residents and visitors when access and normal communication systems are unavailable. I am unaware of any input from local council in this initiative, but a lot could be learned about resilience strategies from the system that has been put in place here. Perhaps this is something the council might like to take on board as a future

	<p>plan for other communities in similar circumstances.</p>
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	<p>Page 26 1.6.2 Floodplain Risk Management Study:</p>
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	<p>This will be addressed in a separate submission due on 26th May 2025.</p>
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