



# **Attachment 2 to Item 4.3.2**

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## Summary of Submissions Received and Council Officer Responses

Date of meeting: 11 July 2023  
Location: Council Chambers  
Time: 6:30 p.m.



## SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED AND RESPONSES

The primary matters raised across all submissions along with Council Officer's responses are summarised below:

Public Submission	Summarised Comments	Council Officer Response
1	The success of the strategy will be measured by how well Council implements the goals across the Hawkesbury Local Government Area	The draft Strategy will be implemented as a core and integral component of Council's overall business planning and reporting. The draft Strategy will be reviewed and updated in step with Council's four-year Delivery Program.
2	The term 'Hawkesbury County Council' should be amended to read 'Hawkesbury River County Council'	The term 'Hawkesbury County Council' has been amended throughout the draft Strategy to read 'Hawkesbury River County Council'
	Throughout the Strategic Actions, in the 'Partnerships' column, it is suggested that Hawkesbury River County Council is listed against actions: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5.	The term 'Hawkesbury County Council' has been amended throughout the draft Strategy to read 'Hawkesbury River County Council', which in turn addresses the majority of these suggestions. Additionally, 'Hawkesbury River County Council' has been added in the partnership column for Strategic Actions 1.1 and 3.1.
3	A need to focus on building better roads. Specifically, in regards to the cost of natural resources being used for a short time and then land-filled.	This matter is addressed through the Strategic Action 3.12 within the Waste Minimisation & Resource Recovery sub-theme of the draft Strategy: " <i>Implement sustainable government procurement practices that encourage greater use of recycled products and support local market development.</i> " Additionally, this matter is addressed as part of Council's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, Action 5: " <i>Council leads by example through waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable procurement.</i> "
4	For the Hawkesbury community and Council to preserve and enhance our natural environment as the vital resource that sustains lifestyles and provides huge opportunities for natural tourism development.	Council preserving and enhancing our natural environment is addressed under the draft Strategy theme "The Natural Environment" and the sub-themes and strategic actions which fall under this theme. Additionally, this will be addressed in more detail under the implementation of Strategic Action 1.5 in the draft Strategy to: " <i>Establish a Conservation and Restoration Strategy to cover Land and Water.</i> "  The link to natural tourism development is addressed throughout Council's adopted Destination Management Plan 2022-2024.

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		<p>Specifically, through the strength of <i>'Reconnect in Nature'</i> for example, through Agritourism and National Parks. Additionally, the key experience pillars for the Hawkesbury as listed in Councils adopted Destination Management Plan 2022-2024 are: <i>"Agri &amp; Artisan, Nature, Adventure and Heritage &amp; Culture."</i> Additionally, Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), Part 1, section 1.2 Aims of Plan, (g) states: <i>"to encourage tourism-related development that will not have significant adverse environmental effects or conflict with other land uses in the locality."</i></p> <p>The Hawkesbury Local Government Area has significant rural agricultural land, and through the adopted Hawkesbury Rural Land Strategy, agriculture has been identified as being a key driving force of the Hawkesbury's economy. The inclusion of new agritourism provisions from the NSW Government Standard Instrument provided an opportunity through the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) to help boost the economic viability of the Hawkesbury's rural agricultural lands, and in doing so help to retain rural agricultural lands for farming/primary production purposes. Such uses strengthen the economic viability of rural agricultural lands and provide farmers with additional sources of income while maintaining primary production as a principal use. Council has already nominated agritourism land use or subsets of farm experience premises and farm gate premises ancillary to farming/primary production as permissible land uses with consent in RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape and RU4 Primary Production Small Lots zones.</p>
	<p>We can further develop the built environment in safe areas while maintaining our rural appeal. This would involve strong environment &amp; sustainable planning. In doing this we should demonstrate best practice sustainable building methodologies such as passive orientation and design, lifecycle analysis of building materials, renewable energy requirements, water and waste recycling management. We have the opportunity to offer world class sustainable living here in the Hawkesbury. We have the space, there is a huge</p>	<p>'Sustainable Living' is addressed throughout the draft Strategy as one of the three themes; with three sub-themes identified within this theme, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Energy Use</i></li> <li>- <i>Water Use, and</i></li> </ul>

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	<p>demand for housing and our proximity to the city positions us for an enviable growth future.</p>	<p>- <i>Waste Minimisation &amp; Resource Recovery.</i>”</p> <p>Additionally, some of the key measures of success as highlighted in the draft Strategy include development, adoption and implementation of:</p> <p>“- <i>Conservation and Restoration Strategy</i></p> <p>- <i>Urban Greening Strategy</i></p> <p>- <i>Active Transport Plan</i></p> <p>- <i>Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy.</i>”</p> <p>Council has developed 6 strategies towards a more sustainable and resilient future within its adopted Net Zero Emissions + Water Efficiency Strategy, including:</p> <p>“- <i>A more resilient and renewable powered grid</i></p> <p>- <i>Greener suburbs and better design</i></p> <p>- <i>Low carbon and local transport</i></p> <p>- <i>Towards a zero-waste community</i></p> <p>- <i>Drought resilient, green centres, and</i></p> <p>- <i>Council leading by example.</i>”</p>

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		<p>'Waste recycling management' is addressed in detail throughout Councils Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy, within the strategies three key themes of:</p> <p><i>"- Resource responsible citizens</i></p> <p><i>- Generational legacy, and</i></p> <p><i>- Environmental stewardship."</i></p> <p>Further development of the built environment is outside the scope of the draft Strategy. A clear plan to deliver the housing vision in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area is part of the endorsed Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy. The Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy has a vision for housing of: "Hawkesbury LGA will provide a diversity of housing to meet the future needs of the community without compromising safety, environmental quality and local character."</p>
	<p>If we can envisage and invest in a long-term view of connecting infrastructure that brings our flood free suburbs west of the river to our existing transport corridors we will develop and prosper while championing sustainable living.</p>	<p>This is addressed broadly through the draft Strategy's Strategic Action 2.13 <i>"Investigate partnership opportunities and funding options for enabling active and/or electric transport options and infrastructure throughout the LGA, and with a particular focus on ensuring safe mobility options for vulnerable groups in the community (such as seniors, children, and young people)."</i> Additionally, 'connecting infrastructure' will be addressed in more detail under the implementation of Strategic Action 2.14 of the draft Strategy to <i>"Prepare an Active Transport Plan for Hawkesbury."</i> The development of an Active Transport Plan has already commenced.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>The words "environmentally sustainable" included in this draft strategy can be very broadly interpreted. Can we hear Council's interpretation?</p>	<p>Sustainability is understood as <i>"meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"</i>. Building upon this United Nations (UN) Brundtland Commission definition and based on input and feedback from the draft Strategy engagement, Council's definition of sustainability is: <i>"Our programs, projects and works will not compromise the ability of</i></p>

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		<p><i>future generations to meet their needs and, the environmental, economic, and social implication of our work will be considered in everything we do.”</i></p>
	<p>The essence and ambience of the Hawkesbury area should be retained.</p>	<p>This will be continued in line with NSW Legislation, including Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP). Part 1, section 1.2 Aims of Plan:</p> <p><i>“(2) The particular aims of this Plan are as follows—</i></p> <p><i>(aa) to protect and promote the use and development of land for arts and cultural activity, including music and other performance arts,</i></p> <p><i>(a) to provide the mechanism for the management, orderly and economic development and conservation of land in Hawkesbury,</i></p> <p><i>(b) to provide appropriate land in area, location and quality for living, working and recreational activities and agricultural production,</i></p> <p><i>(c) to protect attractive landscapes and preserve places of natural beauty, including wetlands and waterways,</i></p> <p><i>(d) to protect and enhance the natural environment in Hawkesbury and to encourage ecologically sustainable development,</i></p> <p><i>(e) to conserve and enhance buildings, structures and sites of recognised significance that are part of the heritage of Hawkesbury for future generations,</i></p> <p><i>(f) to provide opportunities for the provision of secure, appropriate and affordable housing in a variety of types and tenures for all income groups in Hawkesbury,</i></p>

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		<p><i>(g) to encourage tourism-related development that will not have significant adverse environmental effects or conflict with other land uses in the locality."</i></p>
	<p>Towns such as Kurrajong, Bilpin and Glossodia lend themselves as cogs in wheels that radiate out into agricultural-producing areas. How big should this radius be? My suggestion is about one kilometre. The balance which is arable land should be retained, as agricultural zones of minimum 10 acres can be very productive e.g. vegetable growing, cellar door on vineyards and various animal interests are just some of potential rural activities. With sensible legislation much farmgate activity can be developed leading to profitable tourism.</p>	<p>This would be specifically addressed in detail through implementing Strategic Action 3.14 of the draft Strategy, 'Develop a Sustainable Food Systems Policy.'</p> <p>The link to natural tourism development is addressed throughout Council's adopted Destination Management Plan 2022-2024. Specifically, through the strength of 'Reconnect in Nature' for example, through Agritourism and National Parks. Additionally, the key experience pillars for the Hawkesbury as listed in Councils adopted Destination Management Plan 2022-2024 are: "Agri &amp; Artisan, Nature, Adventure and Heritage &amp; Culture."</p> <p>Additionally, Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), Part 1, section 1.2 Aims of Plan, (g) states: <i>"to encourage tourism-related development that will not have significant adverse environmental effects or conflict with other land uses in the locality."</i></p> <p>The Hawkesbury Local Government Area has significant rural agricultural land, and through the adopted Hawkesbury Rural Land Strategy, agriculture has been identified as being a key driving force of the Hawkesbury's economy. The inclusion of new agritourism provisions from the NSW Government Standard Instrument provided an opportunity through the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) to help boost the economic viability of the Hawkesbury's rural agricultural lands, and in doing so help to retain rural agricultural lands for farming/primary production purposes. Such uses strengthen the economic viability of rural agricultural lands and provide farmers with additional sources of income while maintaining primary production as a principal use. Council has already nominated agritourism land use or subsets of farm experience premises and farm gate premises ancillary to farming/primary production as</p>



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		<p>permissible land uses with consent in RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape and RU4 Primary Production Small Lots zones.</p>
	<p>As far as the Hawkesbury is concerned, an important development is the Badgery's Creek Airport. The plan is to fly fresh agricultural produce into South East Asia. Whilst this area can play a part in this work, it would need to cooperate with the Central West which has a far greater potential for agricultural produce. With this potential in view, Council should seek common ground with towns such as Bathurst, Cowra, Orange and Mudgee.</p>	<p>This would be specifically addressed in detail through implementing Strategic Action 3.14 of the draft Strategy, <i>'Develop a Sustainable Food Systems Policy.'</i></p> <p>Agritourism is addressed specifically, through Council's Destination Management Plan 2022-2024, through the strength of <i>'Reconnect in Nature'</i> for example, through Agritourism and National Parks. Additionally, Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), Part 1, section 1.2 Aims of Plan, (g) states: <i>"to encourage tourism-related development that will not have significant adverse environmental effects or conflict with other land uses in the locality."</i></p> <p>The Hawkesbury Local Government Area has significant rural agricultural land, and through the adopted Hawkesbury Rural Land Strategy, agriculture has been identified as being a key driving force of the Hawkesbury's economy. The inclusion of new agritourism provisions from the NSW Government Standard Instrument provided an opportunity through the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) to help boost the economic viability of the Hawkesbury's rural agricultural lands, and in doing so help to retain rural agricultural lands for farming/primary production purposes. Such uses strengthen the economic viability of rural agricultural lands and provide farmers with additional sources of income while maintaining primary production as a principal use. Council has already nominated agritourism land use or subsets of farm experience premises and farm gate premises ancillary to farming/primary production as permissible land uses with consent in RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape and RU4 Primary Production Small Lots zones.</p>
	<p>Any development around towns should reflect the ambience of the Hawkesbury. Developers should be restrained from squeezing permission from Council to build small anti-lifestyle blocks. Commercial development should be in keeping with the pervading ambience of the Hawkesbury. For example, retail facades are</p>	<p>There are 3 Strategic Actions in the draft Strategy to review or add to the Development Control Plan (DCP) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP), including 1.9, 1.16, and 2.10.</p>

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	<p>extremely important. Anything that clashes with this concept should be firmly rejected by Council.</p>	<p>- 1.9 <i>“Review the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) to strengthen provisions related to conserving and restoring land-bases ecosystems”</i></p> <p>- 1.16 <i>“Review the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) to strengthen provisions related to conserving and restoring water-bases ecosystems”</i></p> <p>- 2.10 <i>“Review and revise the Hawkesbury Development Control Plan (DCP) 2002 and the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) to include a standalone provision on urban heat management (e.g., in alignment with WSROC urban heat toolkit or similar guidance).</i></p> <p>The above three dot points are included in Councils Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) review.</p> <p>Further development of the built environment is outside the scope of this draft Strategy. A clear plan to deliver the housing vision in the Hawkesbury Local Government Area is part of the endorsed Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy. The endorsed Hawkesbury Local Housing Strategy has a vision for housing of: <i>“Hawkesbury LGA will provide a diversity of housing to meet the future needs of the community without compromising safety, environmental quality and local character.”</i></p>
	<p>If properly planned by Council, cooperating with State and even Federal governments, this area could be developed into an international tourist destination - "the Tuscany of the South Pacific".</p>	<p>Hawkesbury Tourism is addressed through Council’s adopted Destination Management Plan 2022-2024.</p> <p>Additionally, Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), Part 1, section 1.2 Aims of Plan, (g) states: <i>“to encourage tourism-related development that will not have significant adverse environmental effects or conflict with other land uses in the locality.”</i></p> <p>The Hawkesbury Local Government Area has significant rural agricultural land, and through the adopted Hawkesbury Rural Land</p>

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		<p>Strategy, agriculture has been identified as being a key driving force of the Hawkesbury's economy. The inclusion of new agritourism provisions from the NSW Government Standard Instrument provided an opportunity through the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP) to help boost the economic viability of the Hawkesbury's rural agricultural lands, and in doing so help to retain rural agricultural lands for farming/primary production purposes. Such uses strengthen the economic viability of rural agricultural lands and provide farmers with additional sources of income while maintaining primary production as a principal use. Council has already nominated agritourism land use or subsets of farm experience premises and farm gate premises ancillary to farming/primary production as permissible land uses with consent in RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape and RU4 Primary Production Small Lots zones.</p>
6	<p>That the large population of equestrians in the Hawkesbury could get a multi-use facility which was safe and open to all, similar to the one offered by Camden Council (The Bicentennial Equestrian Park), the more development that happens in the Hawkesbury the less safe places we have to ride or drive our horses. National Parks have closed many of the places we used to trail ride in around the area which also has limited the places we can ride and/or drive safely away from traffic. It would be appreciated if this could be something you could look at when deciding what to do with open spaces in the area, keeping the equines and their humans safe as a priority.</p>	<p>Specific usages of Open Space within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area is out of the scope of the draft Strategy.</p> <p>Council is currently developing a Social Infrastructure Strategy that will guide future decisions about the planning, delivery, funding and management of open spaces, sporting and recreation facilities, and community and cultural facilities for the next 10 years. The strategy will consider the communities' requirements now and in the future. It is expected that this will be reported to Council within the next 3-months.</p>
7	<p>Native Title Claim of "<i>The Guringau</i>" and how it has been spelt "<i>kuringai, Kuring-gai, Cooringay, Guringai, Gooreeggai, Goreenggai, Gourenggai, Gingai, Gringai, Corringorri, Guringay and Goringai.</i>"</p>	<p>Submission provided related to Native Title Claim outside of the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.</p>