



ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15
Mid-Western Regional Council



MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL

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Mayor Councillor Des Kennedy
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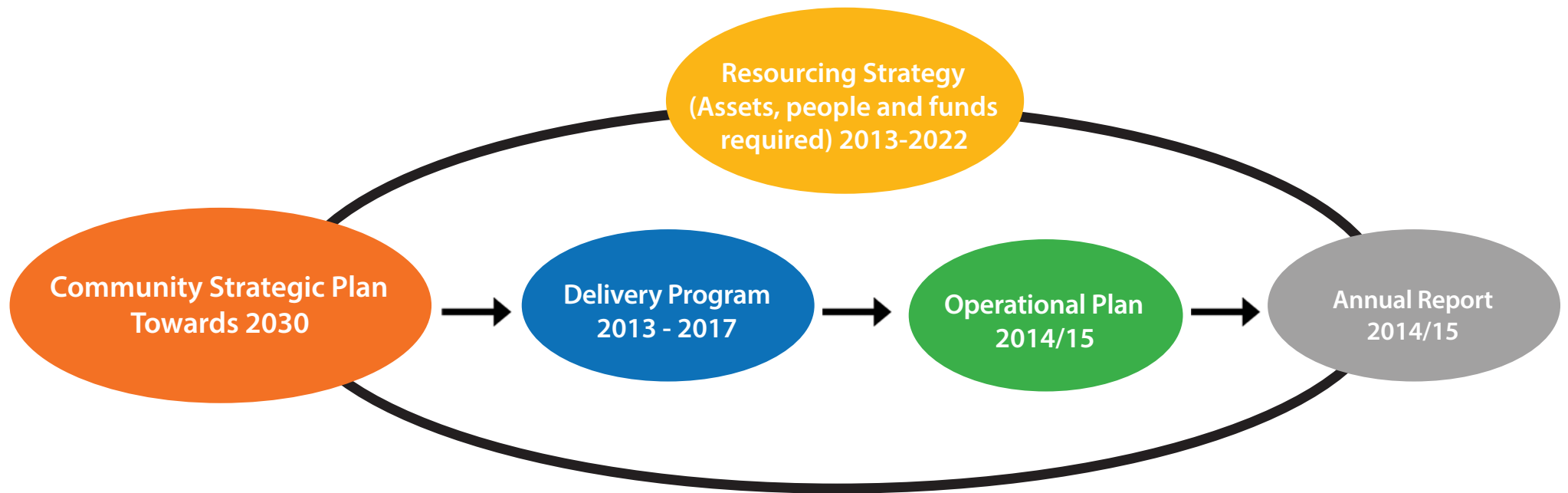


INTRODUCTION

READING THIS REPORT

The Annual Report evaluates Council's performance for the last financial year by assessing the achievement of projects outlined in the Delivery Program 2013-2017. The Delivery Program details the principal activities Council will undertake to achieve the goals established in the Community Plan. The Operational Plan sets out annual project and activity budgets.

The Annual Report contains general information about Council and the Mid-Western Region, a detailed evaluation of progress made on the Operation Plan and Delivery Program, audited financial reports and a range of other information required to be disclosed to meet statutory obligations.



Key	2014/15 Works Complete/Achieved	Partially Achieved	Not Complete/Not Achieved
	✓	—	✗

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

The 2014/15 year has been another very busy and productive one for Council. This year we adopted the 2015/16 Operational Plan which reflects our priorities in our Community Plan, Resourcing Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan.

These plans provide direction for staff and are focused on 5 key themes:

- Looking after our community
- Protecting our natural environment
- Building a strong local economy
- Connecting our region
- Good government

The Community Plan sets the framework for Council's work 'Towards 2030'. Strong growth and local development continue to be key factors for decision making and planning at Council.

The 2014/15 Annual Report demonstrates Council's strong financial performance. We've responsibly planned for the future through investment and prudent financial management, delivering debt-free budgets and a substantial capital works program.

Council continues to work closely with State and Federal Governments, government agencies, local business groups and organisations to anticipate the growth needs of the community and ensure community expectations are realised.

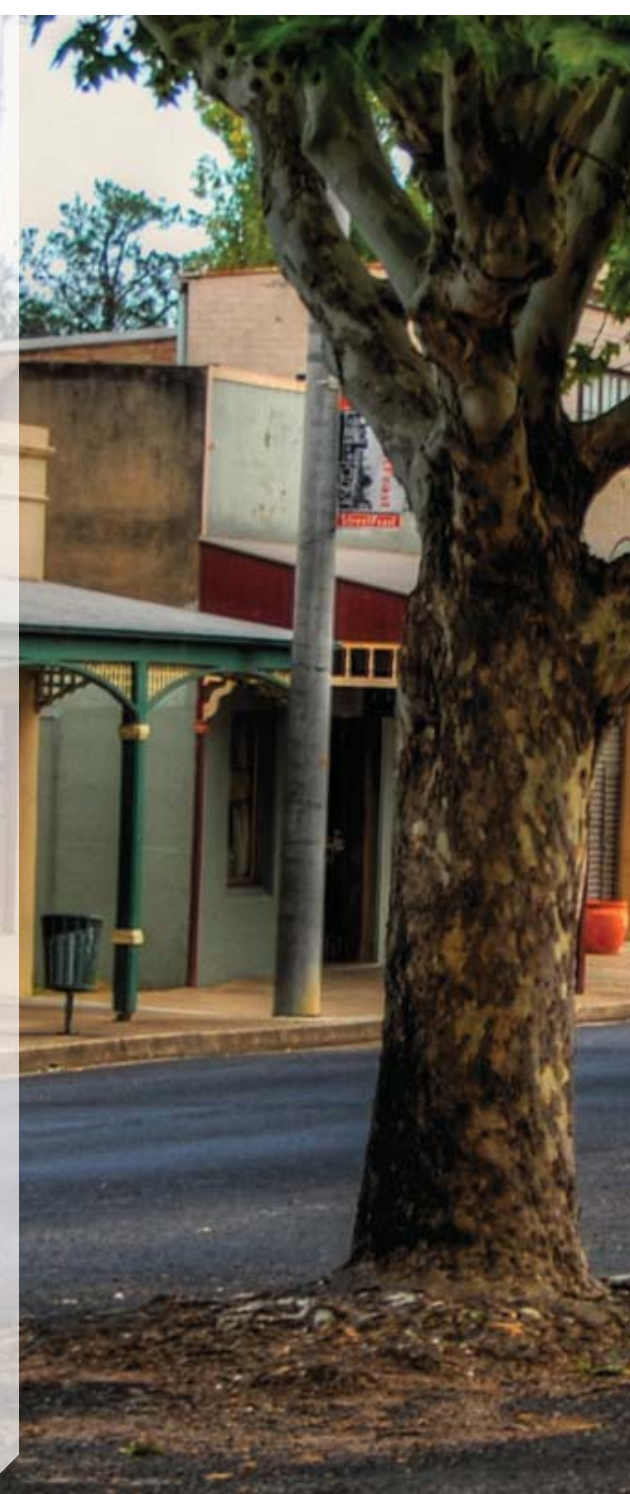
Major upgrades to Ulan Road continue as Cope Road upgrades are nearing completion. Council has also started design works on a major Rylstone/Kandos Sewer Augmentation. Work continues to maintain and upgrade public halls, parks and reserves across the region.

The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan has investigated the immediate and long term priorities for our footpath and walkway network which will be addressed in coming years.

Recent investment in asset management will ensure benefits from Council's strong capital expenditure program are maximised.

Local Government reform has ensured this Council continues to be accountable for our own sustainability, and we have plans in place to be Fit For The Future in the long term.

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER





MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I am consistently proud of the progress and projects of Council. This Annual Report is a summary of the efforts and achievements made in the last financial year.

I thank fellow Councillors for their leadership and representation, Council staff for their hard work and commitment, and every member of the community who has provided feedback and participated in consultation opportunities.

It is only with this collaborative process that Council can ensure the best possible outcomes are delivered and community priorities are recognised.

We continue to be successful in securing millions of dollars of grant funding, easing the burden on ratepayers and allowing us to complete major infrastructure projects. This grant funding is integral to the future growth of the region and encouragement of ongoing investment.

We've completed street upgrades, undertaken major road improvements, hosted bigger and better events, cultivated more engagement with businesses and maintained beautiful community facilities.

Some of the projects I'm most proud of include the Flavours of Mudgee street festival, construction of an early childhood centre, major upgrades to Ulan and Cope Roads, development of the Mudgee Airport and the return of commercial flights to the Region.

In the next twelve months, major roads projects will continue. A \$15 million upgrade to Wollar Road will commence, three timber bridges on key transport routes will be replaced and the upgrade of Fairydale and Saleyards Lanes will be completed.

The best possible outcome for each resident is always

front of mind for Council. We work hard to make sure there are opportunities for residents to have a say and it's very rewarding when residents take up these opportunities and get involved in the decision making process at Council.

I encourage you to continue to play an active role in Council operations and help us continue to make our region a wonderful place to live, work, invest and visit.

DES KENNEDY
MAYOR



YOUR COUNCIL

Mid-Western Regional Council is represented by nine Councillors including a Mayor elected annually from within.

Councillors are elected to a four year term, with the most recent elections occurring in September 2012. That election saw 42 candidates nominated to serve the Mid-Western Region, with Councillors Paul Cavalier, Des Kennedy, Esme Martens, Peter Shelley, Percy Thompson, Max Walker, John Webb, John Weatherley, and Lucy White elected.

Council elected Clr Kennedy as Mayor, and Clr Cavalier as Deputy Mayor for the period September 2014 through to September 2015.

The next round of Local Government elections is due in 2016.



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Councillor Lucy White

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CIVIC LEADERSHIP

THE ROLE OF COUNCIL

The Mid-Western Regional Council exists as a body politic under the NSW Local Government Act 1993. It consists of nine Councillors with the Mayor elected annually from within. Together, the Councillors as 'Council', form the governing body of the Mid-Western Regional Council.

The role of Council is to make policies on the Region's direction, funding, expenditure, investment, strategic development and growth.

The elected Council considers issues facing the Region to ensure ratepayers' money is allocated to priority areas and spent in the most effective way. This means balancing the needs of the community against the needs of individuals, and carefully considering the long and short term implications of decisions.

Day to day operations are delegated to the General Manager. Corporate performance is monitored by regular reports to Council, and this Annual Report.

COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council is recognised as a single entity and Councillors only have the authority to make decisions as a group, when they are acting as Council, that is, in Council meetings.

Council meetings are held at the Chambers of the Mudgee Administration Centre on the third Wednesday of every month except for January (no meeting). Occasionally Council holds extraordinary meetings. These are Council meetings held outside the normal meeting cycle, most often to consider matters of an urgent nature.

Meetings are open to the public, and residents and businesses are actively encouraged to attend and participate in the decision making process. Prior to the commencement of the formal Council meeting, Open Day is held. Open Day is an opportunity for members of the public to address Council on any issue of relevance to the Council.

Council also has advisory committees comprised of Councillors, members of the public and staff of the Council. These committees, focused on specific narrow areas of expertise, make recommendations for consideration by the Council.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillors and staff are bound by a Code of Conduct, which sets the standards for ethical behaviour and decision making.

The Code states Councillor and staff roles and responsibilities and outlines steps to be followed when making and investigating allegations of breaches of the Code.

During 2014/15, there were two Code of Conduct complaints made against Councillors.

Code of Conduct matters are dealt with via the following means:

- Referred to a Conduct reviewer
- Referred to the various legislative authorities where required (Office of Local Government, Independent Commission Against Corruption)
- Resolved in accordance with Council's Procedures for the Administration of the Code of Conduct

HAVING YOUR SAY

There are many ways for residents to have a say on the governing of the Mid-Western Region.

- Vote for Councillors every four years through the Local Government election for Mid-Western Regional Council
- Arrange to speak at Open Day
- Write to or telephone elected members of the Council
- Get social and connect with Council on social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
- Make a submission on Council's four year Delivery Plan including the one year Operational Plan when on exhibition year, or the ten year Community Strategic Plan when reviewed every four years
- Make submissions on other major projects of notified consents that are consulted or advertised throughout the year

Mid-Western Regional Council is committed to engaging its residents, stakeholders and staff in the development of policies and plans and the delivery of services for the community. Council's Community Engagement Policy recognises that community information sharing, consultation and participation are vital for effective decision making.

COUNCILLORS' FEES AND EXPENSES

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal is constituted under Sections 239 and 241 of the Local Government Act 1993 and is responsible for categorising Councils, County Councils and Mayoral Offices to determine the amounts of fees to be paid to Councillors, members of County Councils and Mayors in each category.

The Mayor and Councillors receive an annual fee established by Council and set within the approved range by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

The Mayor and Councillors also receive reimbursement of expenses relating to their roles as detailed in the approved Councillor Expenses Policy. Information relating to these expenses in 2014/15 can be found in Statutory Information on page 55.

The Mayor's Fee for 2014/15 was \$22,870 plus a Councillor Fee of \$10,480.

The Councillor's Fee for 2014/15 was \$10,480 for each Councillor.

COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

17 Ordinary Council Meetings were held between 1 July 2014 and 30 June 2015.

Two Extraordinary Council Meetings were held during the same period. The statutory meeting, including election of the Mayor, was held on 3 September 2014.

ELECTED MEMBER	ORDINARY MEETINGS ATTENDED		EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS ATTENDED	
	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
Clr Des Kennedy - Mayor	17/17	100	2/2	100
Clr Paul Cavalier - Deputy Mayor	16/17	94	2/2	100
Clr Esme Martens	17/17	100	2/2	100
Clr Peter Shelley	16/17	94	2/2	100
Clr Percy Thompson	17/17	100	2/2	100
Clr Max Walker	15/17	88	2/2	100
Clr John Weatherley	17/17	100	2/2	100
Clr John Webb	15/17	88	1/2	50
Clr Lucy White	13/17	76	2/2	100

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Towards 2030 Community Plan sets out the community vision for the future - where we are, where we want to be, how we will get there and how we know that we are there. The plan represents an opportunity for Mid-Western Regional Council and the community to strategically create and foster sustainable communities that reflect local values and aspirations. It allows the community to define and reconcile the economic, social, cultural and environmental priorities for the Region.

The Towards 2030 Community Plan was developed following an extensive consultation process that more than 3,000 residents participated in using varying forms. The key strategies and priorities identified are outlined below.

Theme 1:

Looking After Our Community

- 1.1 A safe and healthy community
- 1.2 Vibrant towns and villages
- 1.3 Effective and efficient delivery of infrastructure
- 1.4 Meet the diverse needs of the community and create a sense of belonging

Theme 2:

Protecting Our Natural Environment

- 2.1 Protect and enhance our natural environment
- 2.2 Provide total water cycle management
- 2.3 Live in a clean and environmentally sustainable way

Theme 3:

Building A Strong Local Economy

- 3.1 A prosperous and diversified economy
- 3.2 An attractive business and economic environment
- 3.3 High quality sustainable development
- 3.4 A range of rewarding and fulfilling career opportunities to attract and retain residents

Theme 4:

Connecting Our Region

- 4.1 High quality road network that is safe and efficient
- 4.2 Efficient connection of the region to major towns and cities

Theme 5:

Good Government

- 5.1 Strong civic leadership
- 5.2 Good communications and engagement
- 5.3 An effective and efficient organisation





ABOUT THE MID-WESTERN REGION

More than 24,000 people call the Mid-Western Region home.

One of regional NSW's fastest growing areas, the Region is the gateway to the Central West and Far West regions of the State. Just over 3 hours' drive from Sydney and Newcastle, it is easily accessible and centrally located to other major regional centres.

Gulgong, Kandos, Mudgee and Rylstone townships are alive with visitors and families. The Region has open spaces, parks and sporting facilities for activities and a large number of events held each year. Local markets celebrate culture by way of local produce and artisan creativity.

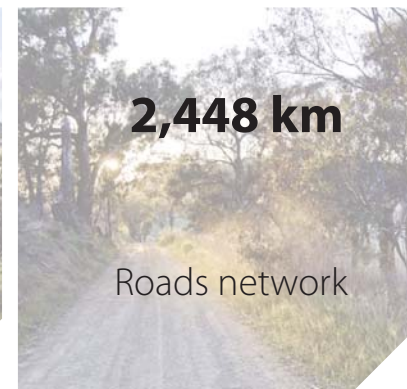
A key feature of the Region's economy is its diversity. Business and investment is driven by four major industry sectors – agriculture, viticulture, tourism and mining.

Each of these industries continues to provide job opportunities. The quality and diversity of the local labour force provides the Region with a competitive edge.

Whilst the current labour force provides access to a wide range of skills and education levels, the future growth expected in the Region will continue to increase the demand for new skills and qualifications.

Skilled workers such as engineers, builders, tradespeople, childcare and health professionals are likely to be in highest demand in the next three to five years.

Visitors to the Region experience a real country community with heart, soul and spirit. Locals love the place they call home and are happy to share the surroundings with almost 500,000 visitors each year.



Fast Facts

Major Towns and Centres
Mudgee, Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone

Major Industries
Agriculture, Mining, Tourism, Viticulture

Competitive Advantages

- Diverse and growing economic base
- Centrally located to Sydney and Newcastle and major regional centres in NSW
- Transport links - daily coach services
- Skilled workforce
- Strong business services sector
- Great lifestyle benefits
- Thriving tourism, arts and cultural sectors
- Adequate water supply



PROGRESS ON THE OPERATIONAL PLAN AND DELIVERY PROGRAM

We manage

\$840 m

of property and infrastructure

We raised

\$26 m

of rates and annual charges

We invested

\$27 m

into new and renewed assets

We achieved

\$16 m

of capital grants and contributions

We donated

\$147,000

to our community as grants and in-kind support

We spent

\$22 m

on roads, bridges and footpaths

MANAGING THE MONEY

Mid-Western Regional Council receives money in the form of rates on residential, business, mining and farmland properties; interest on investments; government grants and subsidies; contributions from major industry; annual charges for services like water, sewer and waste; and user charges and fees.

Major cash outflows include construction of new assets and renewal of existing infrastructure; labour; materials and contractor payments; insurances; and contributions to local and regional bodies.

The following information provides a brief summary of Council's 2014/15 financial statements in a format that is readily understood by the community, customers, employees and other stakeholders.

INCOME

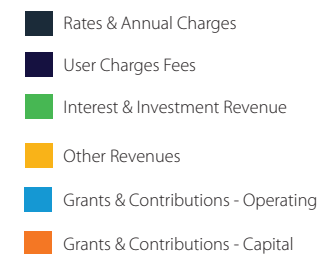
This year, Council's primary source of income was from Rates and Annual Charges of \$26 million or 33.7% of total income (2013/14: \$23.8 million or 38.5%).

Council generates a significant portion of revenue from fees and charges associated with provision of services and facilities such as swimming pools; contract works; planning and building regulation; water consumption; and waste management. This amounted to \$18.2 million or 24% in 2014/15 (2013/14: \$14.7 million or 24%).

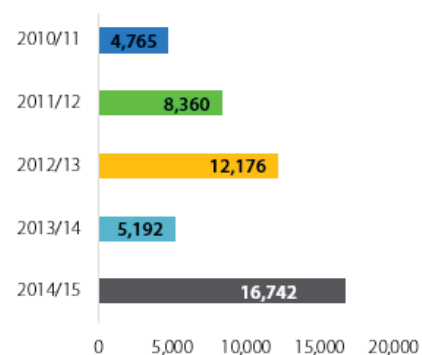
Grants and contributions from Government and Industry continue to be an important funding source for provision of services to, and maintenance and construction of infrastructure for the community. Council received a total of \$28.7 million or 37% in grants and contributions in 2014/15 (2013/14: \$19 million or 31%).

This demonstrates Council's day-to-day costs are greater than the total revenue stream, which impacts Council's ability to undertake capital works.

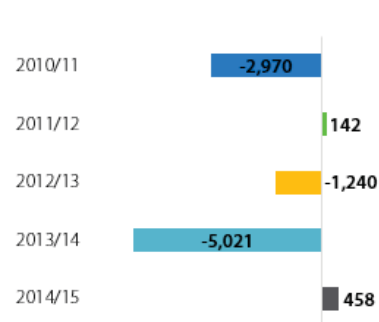
2014/15 Total Income \$77m



Operating Result (\$'000s)



Operating Result before Capital (\$'000s)



EXPENDITURE

Council continues to invest as much money as possible into the renewal of existing infrastructure to ensure it is in a satisfactory and serviceable condition.

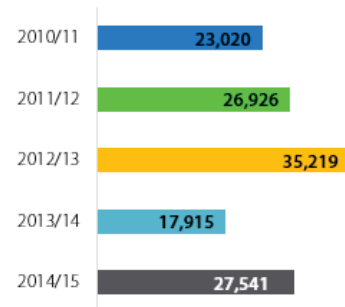
Council also continues to invest in new infrastructure to meet the demands of a growing community. Council delivered \$27 million of capital expenditure this year (2013/14: \$17.9 million).

2014/15 Total Expenditure \$60m

- Employee Costs
- Borrowing Costs
- Materials & Contracts
- Depreciation & Amortisation
- Other Expenses
- Loss on Disposal of Assets



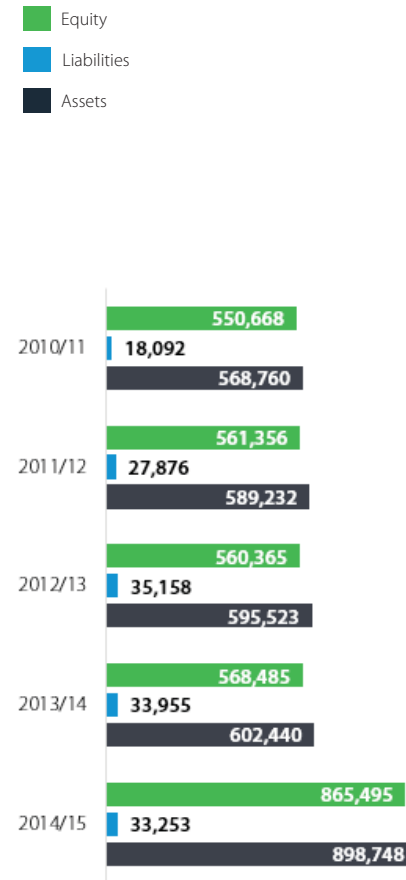
Capital Expenditure (\$'000s)



NET WORTH

The following graph compares Council's net accumulated financial worth as at 30 June 2015 to the previous four years.

Net Worth (\$'000s)



ASSET MANAGEMENT

Council owns and maintains over half a billion dollars' worth of infrastructure including roads, parks, buildings, swimming pools, sports grounds, stormwater drainage, water and sewer networks, footpaths, buildings, and waste management facilities. These assets, which are used by the community every day, deteriorate over time, and require ongoing maintenance and renewal or replacement to keep them in a satisfactory condition.

Deteriorating infrastructure is a major issue for the majority of councils across Australia. Economic and legislative constraints such as rate pegging, service cost shifting from other levels of government plus increasing costs for materials and utilities further restricts Council's ability to meet existing or emerging community priorities with respect to asset management.

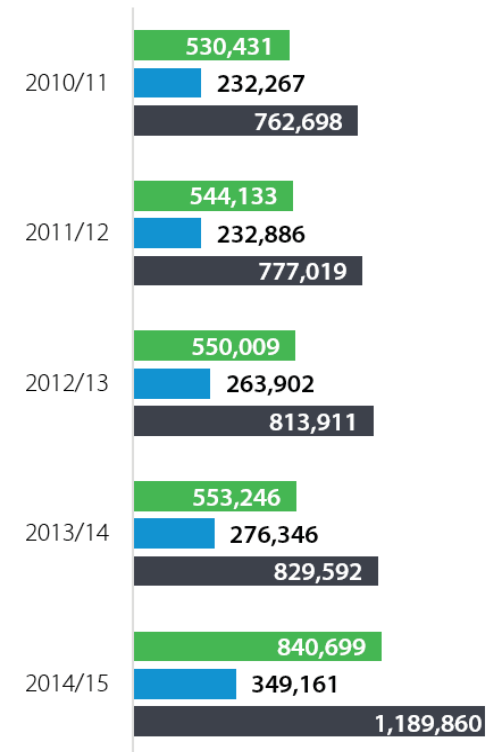
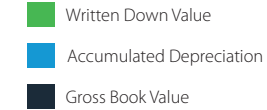
As the local population grows, so does the demand for services and the use and impact on assets. Unfortunately, the pool of money available to Council to maintain these assets simply does not keep pace with increased costs. The result is a funding gap, which contributes to a backlog of works and deteriorating assets.

The age of Council's assets and the increasing demand levels, means Council must continue to invest as much as possible in renewal programs to ensure assets meet community needs. Failure to renew assets at key points across their useful life will result in a higher backlog into the future. The money spent today on renewing assets will greatly reduce the cost to completely replace assets in years to come.

Council's current asset data requires continual improvement. Council is committed to improving asset knowledge so that data accurately records the asset inventory, how assets are performing and when assets are not able to provide the required service levels. Council also seeks to improve efficiency in operating, maintaining, renewing and replacing existing assets to optimise life cycle costs.

It is important to consider trade-offs between service levels and costs to ensure that the community receives the best return from infrastructure. This may include identifying assets surplus to needs for disposal in order to make savings in future operations and maintenance costs.

Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment (\$'000s)



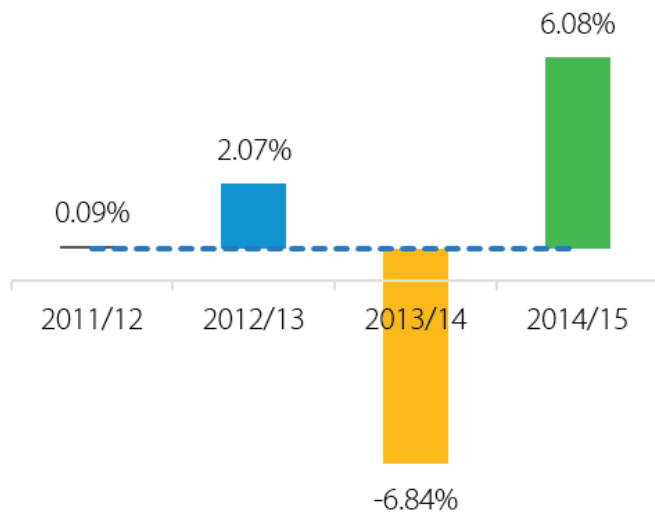
PERFORMANCE MEASURES - FIT FOR THE FUTURE

SUSTAINABILITY

Operating performance ratio

This ratio measures operating expenditure against operating revenue. It is important to distinguish that this ratio is focusing on operating performance and hence capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments and reversal of revaluation decrements are excluded.

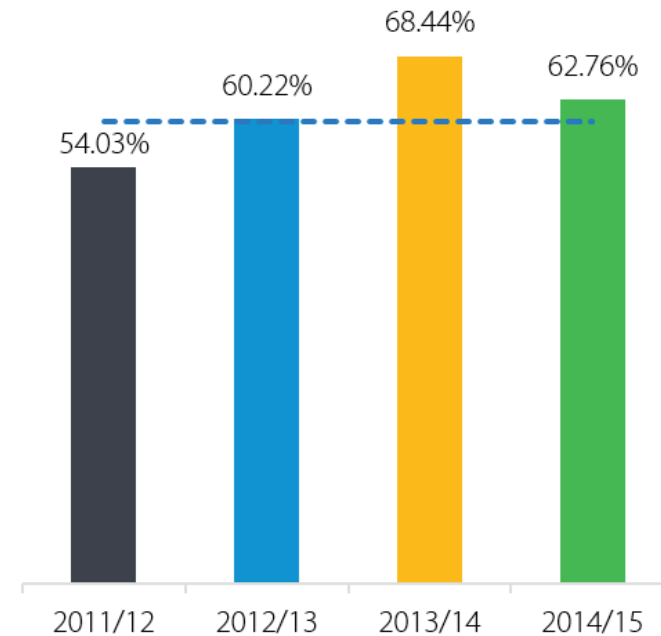
The benchmark operating performance ratio is greater than 0%.



Own source operating revenue

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. Council's financial flexibility is improved by a higher level of own source revenue.

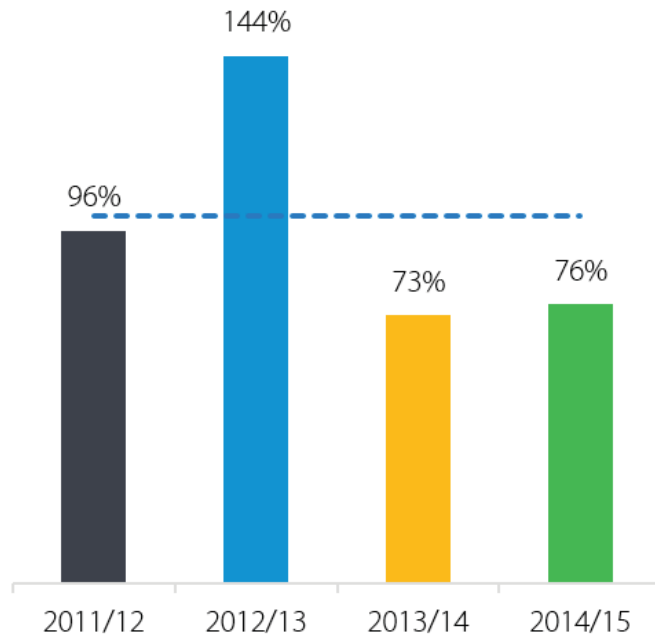
The benchmark own source operating revenue percentage is equal to or greater than 60%.



Buildings and infrastructure asset renewal ratio

This ratio assesses the rate at which assets are being renewed against the rate at which they are depreciating.

The benchmark buildings and infrastructure asset renewal ratio is 100%.

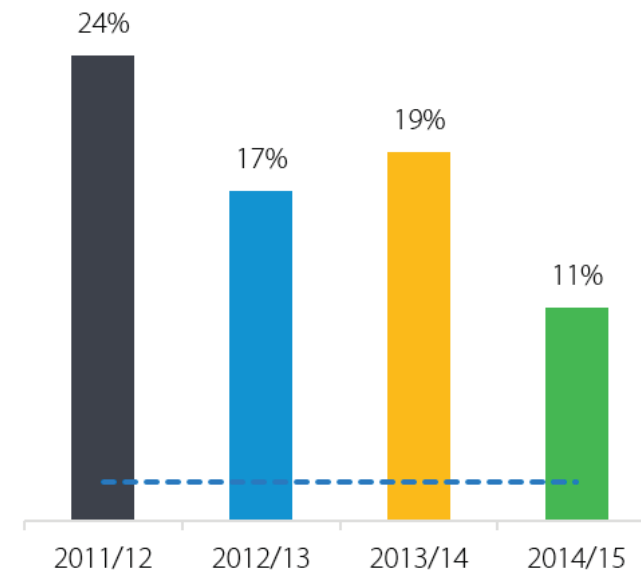


EFFECTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE MANAGEMENT

Infrastructure backlog ratio

This ratio shows the backlog proportion against the total value of Council's infrastructure.

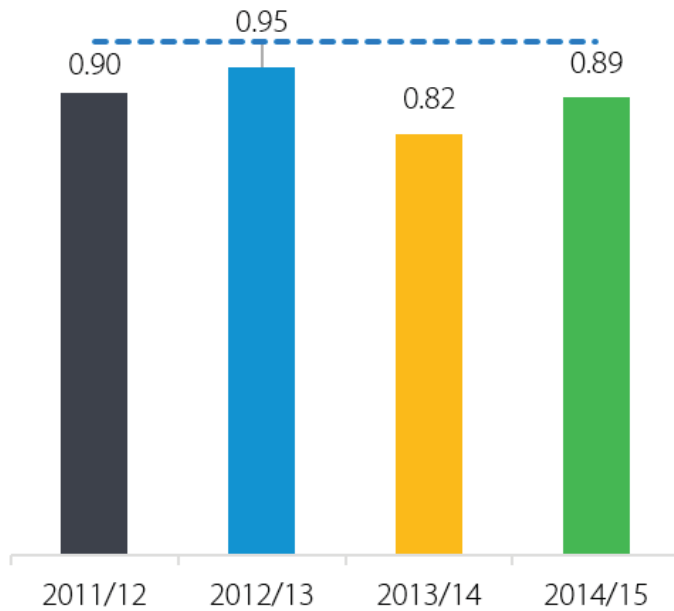
A benchmark of 2% was indicated as part of the Fit for the Future self-assessment tool, however there remains significant contention across the local government industry concerning both the benchmark being too low and the use of written-down value in the calculation itself.



Asset maintenance ratio

This ratio compares actual versus required annual asset maintenance. A ratio above 1.0 indicates that Council is investing enough funds within the year to stop the infrastructure backlog from growing.

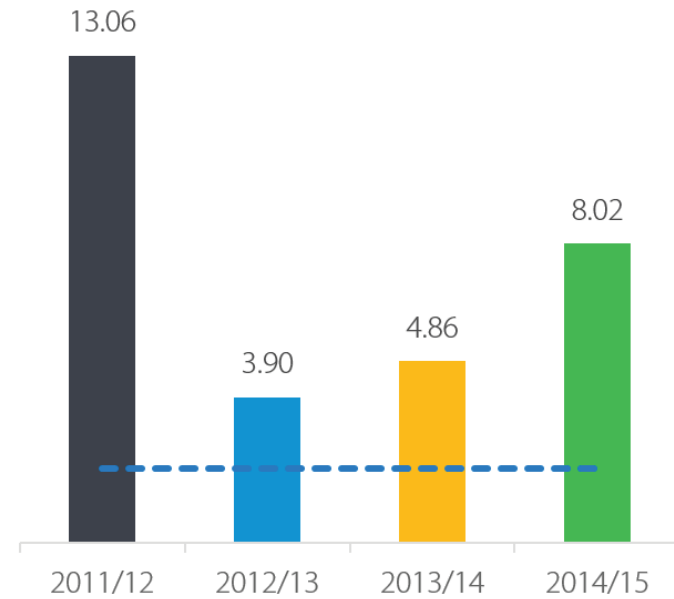
The benchmark asset maintenance ratio is equal to or greater than 1.0.



Debt service cover ratio

This ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. This measure replaces the debt service ratio.

The benchmark debt service cover ratio is greater than 2.0.



PROGRESS AGAINST DELIVERY PROGRAM TARGETS

Theme	No. of actions	100% complete	%
1. Looking after our community	67	65	97%
2. Protecting our natural environment	47	40	85%
3. Building a strong local economy	23	20	87%
4. Connecting our region	21	17	81%
5. Good Government	30	29	97%
Total	188	171	91%



LOOKING AFTER OUR COMMUNITY

Looking after our community

Goal 1.1: A safe and healthy community

Strategy 1.1.1: Maintain the provision of high quality, accessible community services that meet the needs of our community

Provide comprehensive community support programs that embrace social justice and access and equity	Continue to support the Transport Working Group	The Transport Working Group meetings continue to be auspiced by the Mudgee Community Transport Service and are held on a quarterly basis.	✓
	Provide Meals on Wheels Services	Council-auspiced Mudgee Meals on Wheels continues to provide meals to frail, elderly and disabled residents with the assistance of a strong volunteer base. For the year ended 30 June 2015, the service provided a total of 5,644 hot and frozen meals to its clientele. This equates to approximately 110 meals each week.	✓
	Provide Respite Care support services	Hours provided to respite clients continues to substantially exceed funding body requirements; over 4,000 hours were provided for the year ended 30 June 2015. Further hours of respite were provided under a sibling support program. The respite provided is by volunteers personally matched to clients and their individual needs.	✓
	Provide Home Modification and Maintenance service	The Home Modification and Maintenance Service undertook an array of works including bathroom renovations, installation of grab rails and slip resistant treatments to assist 30 frail, aged and disabled residents remain in their own homes. The jobs were undertaken within the Mid-Western Region and Warrumbungle Shire.	✓
	Provide Community Transport service	The Community Transport service continues to provide transport to the elderly, those at a transport disadvantage and the disabled and their carers residing within the region. The transport provided assists residents with health needs and everyday chores and also addresses issues of social isolation and risk of early institutionalisation. On average, the service provided 193 trips per week for clients.	✓
	Provide Youth Services	Youth Council funds are allocated for expenditure on Youth Services such as events during Youth Week. Youth Council delivered blog workshops, skate events, film workshops and film screenings. Funds also contributed to the provision of social and recreational programs and activities for young people aged 9-18 years in Kandos.	✓

Provide Family Day Care services

Family Day Care averaged 79 places for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 with educators operating in Mudgee, Wellington, Gulgong, Kandos and Narromine. There is a current waiting list and more educators are required to place these children.



Provide customer focused library and information services

Investigate options for better delivery of library services

For the year ended 30 June 2015, library visits across all branches increased by 4.4% on the previous financial year.



Continue to run Mobile Library Service within the Region

The Mobile Library Service continues to be a vital component of Council's Library service, providing outreach and promotion to small schools, nursing homes, and housebound and aged customers within the wider community.



Continue to run Children and Youth library programs including pre-school Bookworms and school holiday reading program

All library branches hosted a range of well-attended Bookworms and Born to Read programs during school terms. Mudgee Library initiated a new program called Toddler Time which has been very well attended and received by the community. All branches also held numerous children's craft programs and storytelling activities during school holidays, with the Summer Reading Program over the Christmas/New Year break very popular with all age groups.



Update and renew library collections

Library collections continue to be renewed in line with the Library Collection Development Strategy.



Maintain a Library Collection Policy

Council's Library Collection Development Strategy was renewed in June 2014. It is subject to periodic review.



Introduce a new reading programme for 2-3 year olds

A new reading programme for 2-3 year olds was introduced in July 2014.



Strategy 1.1.2: Work with key partners and the community to lobby for effective health services in our Region

Ensure commitment to construction of Gulgong MPS

Work cooperatively with Western NSW Local Health District to facilitate the development of an MPS

Gulgong MPS project was completed in March 2014 and is open to the public.



Explore funding opportunities for improved health services; Work in partnership with Western Local Area Health Network to promote health projects

Lobby government and industry for funding including potential upgrade of Mudgee Hospital

Council continues to work closely with the Local Western Area Health Network and local MPs to address local health priorities, this includes demonstrating the need for a major redevelopment of the Mudgee Hospital. A \$60 million redevelopment of the Mudgee Hospital was announced in March 2015.



	Liaise with Western NSW Local Health District and work with local Medical Services Organisations through Interagency meetings	Council continues to auspice meetings, including Interagency in both Mudgee and Kandos to engage with local health, medical and social service organisations. It also auspices the Transport Working Party on a quarterly basis, and attends Home and Community Care forums.	✓
	Continue to provide accommodation for doctors in the Region	Council continues to maintain a property in Rylstone for the Rylstone doctors and has provided rental assistance in Gulgong to support doctors living in the area and providing medical services.	✓

Strategy 1.1.3: Support networks, programs and facilities which promote health and wellbeing and encourage healthy lifestyles

Provide financial assistance in accordance with Council's Financial Assistance Policy	Continue financial assistance including for local and regional bodies in accordance with Financial Assistance Policy	The budget for the Financial Assistance program in 2014/15 was \$157,000. Council approved over \$147,000 of financial assistance grants to local and regional bodies throughout the year.	✓
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Strategy 1.1.4: Work with key partners and the community to reduce crime, anti social behaviour and improve community safety

Support and implement programs which aim to reduce anti-social behaviour.	Continue to liaise with Police	17 vandalism incidents were recorded in 2014/15 compared with 26 in 2013/14.	✓
	Participate in the Liquor Accord	All Liquor Accord meetings were attended by Council Staff as required.	✓
	Maintain Alcohol Free Zones in Town Centres	All alcohol free zones have been renewed until 2018.	✓

Maintain clean and attractive streets and public spaces where people feel safe	Maintain presence of street cleaners in all town centres	Street cleaning was undertaken throughout the year in accordance with the street cleaning schedule.	✓
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Effective animal control regulation	Utilise website to actively re-home animals	Councils web page contains a photo of impounded animals inviting the public to re-home them. Mudgee also has an active Friends of Mudgee Pound who utilise Facebook to promote and assist with re-homing of animals from the pound. During 2014/15 year 266 animals were successfully re-homed.	✓
	Conduct media campaign to encourage registration of dogs	Council conducted a media campaign informing the community of their dog registration obligations.	✓
	Provision of off-leash dog areas	Council provides off leash dog areas in Gulgong, Mudgee and Rylstone.	✓

Goal 1.2: Vibrant towns and villages

Strategy 1.2.1: Respect and enhance the historic character of our Region and heritage value of our towns

Review of Development Control Plan	Commence the 12 month review of the DCP	Annual Review was completed in December 2014.	✓
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Heritage advisory services and Heritage conservation	Provide opportunities for Heritage funding through Local Assistance Program	Annual heritage grants allocated.	✓
Support and assist preservation of important historical sites in the Region	Continue to support the Kandos Museum through covering insurance and rate costs	The Kandos Museum has been supported through the provision of financial assistance covering insurance, rates and operational costs.	✓
	Maintain historical sites within the Region, for example Red Hill Reserve	Design work for the Red Hill project has been completed in conjunction with the Red Hill Committee.	✓
Strategy 1.2.2: Manage growth pressure driven by the increase in mining operations in the Region			
Monitor employment and population growth	Work with State Government to provide updated population estimates based on building statistics and employment growth	Through the Urban Release Strategy Council used the Department of Planning population projections and applied local sensitivity analysis to accommodate the impacts associated with mining in the Region. These figures provide a more accurate estimate of projected population. This issue has also been raised through the Regional Land Use Plan and the Department of Planning have indicated that they are open to further refinement of the methodology used in population projections at a state wide level.	✓
Meet regularly with mining companies	Quarterly meeting with mine managers	Council is represented on each of the mine's Community Consultative Committees. Quarterly meetings are held with representatives of local mines.	✓
	Support the preparation of Central West Regional Land Use Plan	Planning staff have participated in the Technical Working Group for the Regional Land Use Plan currently being prepared by the Department of Planning and Environment. The Draft Plan is due to be considered by Cabinet in October 2015.	✓
Strategy 1.2.3: Make available diverse, sustainable, adaptable and affordable housing options through effective land use planning			
Ongoing monitoring of land release and development	Continue to review and release land for development as required	With the adoption of the Urban Release Strategy Council adopted a quarterly Land Monitoring Report on the building approvals, subdivision approvals, construction and subdivision certificates.	✓
	Complete the Urban Release Strategy	The Urban Release Strategy was adopted by Council in December 2014 and endorsed by the Department of Planning and Environment in February 2015.	✓
Regular updating of the Comprehensive Land Use Strategy	Complete review of Mudgee Town Structure Plan	Council resolved in May 2015 to amend the Comprehensive Land Use Strategy to reflect the 2ha MLS as part of the Town Structure Plan. This has been forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment for consideration.	✓

Promote Affordable Housing options within the Region	Provide funding to lease emergency housing for women and children leaving family violence	Council partners with Barnardos and Housing Plus to provide short term crisis accommodation to homeless families, women and children escaping domestic violence and young people who do not have somewhere safe to stay. Through this partnership Council provide the funds for rental, Barnardos provide the case management and Housing Plus manages the rental properties.	✓
Strategy 1.2.4: Maintain and promote the aesthetic appeal of the towns and villages within the Region			
Maintain and beautify civic open space and street access areas within towns and villages in the Region	Work in partnership with the Public Art Advisory Panel and local groups to apply for grants, buy, and erect sculptures across the Region	Program has been completed for the year including the purchase of two new sculptures for Lawson Park and planning for the Wood Sculpture Symposium to be held in Rylstone in October 2015.	✓
Goal 1.3: Vibrant towns and villages			
Strategy 1.3.1: Provide infrastructure and services to cater for the current and future needs of our community			
Review asset management plans and underpin with financial strategy	Review, update and develop asset management plans for each major category of infrastructure	Asset management plans for all categories except water/sewer have been completed and presented to Council.	—
Manage and maintain sportsgrounds, parks, reserves and playgrounds across the Region	Review and update Parks Management Plans	Plans are currently being reviewed and will be completed in the 2015-16 year.	—
	Undertake review of public toilet facilities	This action will be undertaken in 2015/16.	✗
	Upgrades of public toilets as per the Capital Works Program 2014/15	2014/15 capital program completed successfully.	✓
	Upgrade play equipment at Redbank Park, Mudgee Apex Park, Mudgee Pearls Park, Gulgong Victoria Park, Mudgee New Park - Melton Road area	Playgrounds were installed with play structures and swings which have increased use by families.	✓
	Upgrade the sporting facilities at Victoria Park Mudgee including lighting, resurfacing of cycle track and new cricket pitches	Lighting and resurfacing of cycle track completed, providing a better facility for sporting clubs. New cricket pitch location to be confirmed.	✓
	Install lighting and commence restoration of stone fence in Lawson Park	Lighting installed and completed, no further works being undertaken on wall after survey showed little or no movement.	✓
	Fencing Number 2 Field at Glen Willow	Installation of fencing around field 2 has been completed.	✓
Manage and maintain cemeteries throughout the Region	Continue maintenance and operation of cemeteries including rural cemeteries	Council continues to provide funeral services and general maintenance for 3 urban cemeteries and 8 rural cemeteries across the Region.	✓
Manage, plan and maintain buildings and other assets across the Region	Review data and update set Management Plans for buildings	Data is continually reviewed to maintain buildings most appropriately.	✓

	Review data and update Asset Management Plans for Plant & Airport	Assets management plans for Plant and Airport have been completed.	✓
	Upgrade of Community Buildings including as per the capital works program 2014/15	Community Buildings upgraded as per the capital works program 2014/15.	✓
	Complete construction of new pre-school facility	2014/15 works completed as planned.	✓
Showground upgrades at Gulgong and Rylstone	Update kiosk and other capital works at Rylstone Showground	All capital works at Rylstone Showground have been completed.	✓
	Upgrade electricity supply to Mudgee Showground	Additional power requirements for the new pavilion's commercial kitchen have been installed.	✓
	Sponsor upgrades at the Gulgong Showground	Upgrades at the Gulgong Showground have been completed, with a total value of \$192,600.	✓
Maintain and operate swimming pool centres across the Region	Continue to provide high quality swimming pool facilities at Mudgee, Gulgong and Kandos	Council owns 3 pools across the Region, 2 are owner operated and 1 leased. Council continues to manage these pools in alignment with the pool safety guidelines throughout the pool season.	✓

Goal 1.4: Meet the diverse needs of the community and create a sense of belonging

Strategy 1.4.1: Support programs which strengthen the relationships between the range of community groups

Continue youth representation through the Youth Council	Provide secretarial support for Youth Council	The Youth Council has been provided with secretarial support by the Community Development Officer.	✓
Provide meaningful employment to members of the disabled community	Maintain policies that support employment for people with disabilities at MWRC	The EEO Management Plan supports the provision of employment opportunities for people with disabilities. The services at Ironed Out and Recycling have provided ongoing support and employment during the year.	✓
	Continue Program at Mudgee Recycling	Council's Australian Disability Enterprise (ADE) provided meaningful employment to 36 supported employees throughout the year. The ADE successfully passed the annual audit.	✓
Work with lead agencies to ensure adequate provision of a range of services	Continue to attend inter-agency meetings	Council representatives attended all eleven Mudgee and all six Kandos Rylstone Interagency meetings convened during the financial year ended 30 June 2015.	✓
Promote volunteering through the community	Continue to run community services programs that encourage volunteering including Respite Care, Community Transport, and Meals on Wheels	Volunteering for Council's ageing and disability services is promoted through Community News, Council's website, social and general media. Council has actively involved Rotary volunteers to facilitate the operation of the Mudgee Town Hall Cinema. Youth are also encouraged to volunteer through participation in Youth Council.	✓

Strategy 1.4.2: Support arts cultural development across the region

Arts and Cultural events promotion	Support initiatives for events in the region by providing organisational and management assistance	Council continues to support the development and attraction of major events in the Region. Major events held include the NSW Country Rugby Championships, the NSW Tier 1 and 2 Rugby League Championships, NSW Libraries Conference and the Flavours of Mudgee Festival. Council also provides support for local event proponents, maintaining an events assistance manual and providing financial support through the Events Assistance Program.	✓
	Promote the use Council Facilities for significant events	Council continues to promote the use of Council owned facilities for major events. Major events held at Council owned facilities include NSW Country Rugby Championships, NSW Tier 1 and 2 Rugby League Championships and Flavours of Mudgee festival.	✓
Provision of meeting and exhibition space	Make existing community buildings available and reasonable cost & promote use and availability through the website	All facilities were in operation and available for hire.	✓
	Promote the use of Exhibition Space provided at the new Regional Library	Council continues to encourage and host public exhibitions at the library.	✓
Coordinate and facilitate cultural and arts projects throughout the Region	Continue to liaise with Cultural Development Committee, Public Art Advisory Panel, Orana Arts and local arts/cultural groups to develop cultural/artistic projects within the Region	Council continues to support the Cultural Development Committee and its sub-committee, the Public Art Advisory Panel, in formulating a Public Art Plan and addressing culture and public art opportunities across the Region. Orana Arts is represented within the Public Art Advisory Panel meetings and Council also regularly consults with other arts/cultural groups in the Region, such as Mudgee Arts regarding local events.	✓

Strategy 1.4.3: Provide equitable access to a range of places and spaces for all in the community

Public facilities to be accessible	On-going monitoring of existing buildings	Buildings adequately maintained throughout this period.	✓
Coordinate the provision of local community centres and halls for community use	Provide access to community facilities	All facilities were in operation and available for hire.	✓
Corporate and Community Buildings upgrades	Implement recommendations and actions of Buildings Strategic Plan	Implemented recommendations and actions of the Buildings Strategic Plan. Draft Building Asset Management Plan presented to Council.	✓

PROTECTING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Protecting our natural environment

Goal 2.1: Protect and enhance our natural environment

Strategy 2.1.1: Maintain the provision of high quality, accessible community services that meet the needs of our community

Include biodiversity and heritage as key components in the development application process	Implement Comprehensive Development Control Plan (DCP) through the development assessment process in relation to environment protection	Review of comprehensive DCP completed in December 2014.	✓
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Manage environmental and cultural factors impacted by physical works on Council lands	Continue to prepare for Council works	REF's were undertaken for the Roads Program.	✓
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Work with local Aboriginal Groups	Council has continued to liaise through the Aboriginal Reference Group in 2014/15.	✓
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Strategy 2.1.2: Minimise the impact of mining and other development on the environment both natural and built

Work with the community and government agencies to identify and address the issues and mitigate impacts associated with mining	Represent Council on Community Consultative Committees	Councillors are represented on Community Consultative Committees for local mines.	✓
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Address issues as part of Environmental Assessment	Council is represented on each of the Mine's Community Consultative Committees. Quarterly meetings are held with representatives of local mines. Council has continually worked with the Department of Planning Infrastructure to ensure that the local concerns are recognised in the assessment of State Significant Development.	✓
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Drive the development of studies and strategies aimed at addressing the longer term impacts of mining	Participate in the mining and resource development taskforce	Attended meetings of the mining and resource development taskforce.	✓
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Work with the Department of Planning in the approval process to ensure community concerns are addressed in consents	Address issues as part of Environmental Assessment	Council is represented on each of the Mine's Community Consultative Committees. Quarterly meetings are held with representatives of local mines. Council has continually worked with the Department of Planning and Infrastructure to ensure that local concerns are recognised in the assessment of State Significant Development.	✓
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Strategy 2.1.3: Raise community awareness of environmental and biodiversity issues

Deliver projects which work towards protecting biodiversity and regeneration of native environment	Implement a roadside vegetation management plan	Additional funding used to undertake more detailed investigation of vegetation at specific sites.	✓
	Pursue grant funding for environmental projects	The Central West LLS was successful in securing funding of \$450,000 over two years for Contaminated Land of which Council is a partner. Council was also successful in Green Army Funding in 2014.	✓
Support National Tree Day	Facilitate National Tree Day	Rather than a planting day this year a new initiative which involved a tree give away was launched. The program was a huge success with over 500 trees provided to the community.	✓
Work with schools to promote environmental awareness amongst students	Participate in Green Day	Council was again the major sponsor of Green Day in September 2014. Over 500 school children from across the region participated in this annual initiative run by Watershed Landcare.	✓

Strategy 2.1.4: Control invasive plant and animal species

Effective weeds management	Continue to manage noxious weeds	Property inspections of residential and Council owned lands occurred throughout the year in accordance with WAP and Council set targets. Inspection numbers were up on previous year.	✓
	Provide education through the web site	Councils website is used to promote effective weeds control and provides information to residents on Councils enforcement processes.	✓
	Undertake weed control on roadsides and Council land	Council roadside spraying program was completed in accordance with Council targets and the WAP.	✓
	Continue to host the Serrated Tussock State Weeds Management program	Council hosted the Serrated Tussock Weeds Management program throughout the year. This project is completed as of 30 June 2015.	✓
Collaborate with agencies to manage feral animals	Use the website to raise awareness of the impact of domestic pets on rural land managers	Council's web page publishes information and articles which stress the need to ensure dogs do not roam.	✓

Goal 2.2: Provide total water cycle management

Strategy 2.2.1: Identify and implement innovative water conservation and sustainable water usage management practices

Encourage reduced water consumption through Best Practice Pricing	Continue to implement water pricing with reliance on user charges	Council adopted a Water and Sewer pricing structure that complies with the requirements of NSW Office of Water Best Practice Guidelines. Water tariffs are structured such that a minimum of 75% of residential water revenue is generated via water consumption charges, with the balance from access charges. Water consumption is seasonal, and consumption for the 2014/15 year was slightly lower than anticipated.	✓
Implement water conservation and reuse programs	Investigate options for water conservation	Water conservation information is published on quarterly water bills. Metered standpipes have been purchased for Council maintenance purposes to reduce unaccounted for water. Average annual potable water consumption across the LGA decreased from 267KL/connection/year in 2013/14 to 252KL/connection/year in 2014/15.	✓
Work to secure water for agriculture and urban use	Continue to work with State Government to secure domestic water supply	Council continues undertaking dialogue with the State Government to ensure that subsidies are secured for the Rylstone/Kandos sewer scheme.	✓
Promote an active role and participate in the review of the Murray Darling Basin Plan	Continue to make representations	Council is represented at the Murray Darling Association by Cllr Lucy White and Mr Russell Holden.	✓
Identify and plan future maintenance, renewals and upgrades for Council's stormwater assets	Complete drainage works for the detention basin between Horatio Street and Winter Street	Tender process completed and successful tenderer selected at June 2015 Council meeting. Physical works to commence in 2015/16.	✓
	Identify and continue urban stormwater improvement program	Draft Rylstone & Kandos Flood Risk Management Plan study completed.	✓
	Identify and undertake culvert replacement & causeway improvement program	Culvert replacement works are completed for the many sites identified for the year. There were no causeways elected for replacement in 2014/15 with the allocated budget being used to replace the old timber bridge in 2015/16.	✓
Achieve NSW Government Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage	Implement an integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy	IWCM Evaluation Study completed and provided to NSW Office of Water (DPI Water) in April 2014 for concurrence. No response received to date. NSW Office of Water changed IWCM guideline and requirements in June 2014. Consultancy contract has been adjusted for preparation of IWCM Issues Paper and Strategy in accordance with NSW DPI Water July 2014 requirements.	—

	Implement a Drinking Water Management System	Drinking Water Management System implemented in 2014/15. Drinking Water Management Policy to be prepared for Council adoption in 2015/16.	✓
	Review Strategic Business Plans for Sewage and Water Supply Services	NSW Department of Primary Industries - Water (formally NSW Office of Water) reviewed Best Practice Management Guidelines in 2014/15. To achieve NSW Government Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage, Council is initially required to prepare an Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy which will include elements of the previous Strategic Business Plan requirements. The Strategic Business Plan will be reviewed every four years following adoption of an IWCM Strategy. A Strategic Business Plan, is therefore not required in 2014/15.	✗
Identify and plan future maintenance, renewals and upgrades for Council's water supply infrastructure	West Mudgee water distribution extension	Detailed design and tender documentation currently being prepared to enable call for tenders for construction work in association with commencement of Caerleon subdivision works. Tender documentation scheduled to be completed early in 2015/16 financial year. 2014/15 works completed as planned.	✓
	Identify and undertake mains replacement & improvement program	2014/15 mains replacement program completed to budget availability.	✓
Strategy 2.2.3: Protect and improve catchments across the Region by supporting Catchment Management Authorities			
Support the Central West Catchment Management and Hunter Central Rivers CMA Catchment Action Plan implementation	Represent Council on Central West and Hunter CMAs	Council continues to support and participate in LLS and associated programs and partnerships.	✓
Continue riparian rehabilitation program along waterways	Continue riverbed regeneration	Completed as part of the Green Army Project in both Mudgee and Rylstone.	✓
	Continue to manage Putta Bucca Wetlands Project	Management of Putta Bucca Wetlands continued throughout the year with assistance from local volunteer groups. Works included mowing, garden maintenance, tree planting and infrastructure upgrades. A Plan of Management is being drafted and under review.	✓
Provide education to the community of the importance of waterways	Participate in National Water Week activities	Successful carp muster held at Putta Bucca Wetland.	✓
Identify and plan future maintenance, renewals and upgrades for Council's sewerage treatment infrastructure	West Mudgee sewer pump station construction	Detailed design and tender documentation is currently being prepared to enable call for tenders for construction work in association with commencement of Caerleon subdivision works. Tender documentation scheduled to be completed early in 2015/16 financial year. 2014/15 works completed as planned.	✓

Decommissioning Mudgee Sewer Treatment Plant (Putta Bucca)	Physical removal of above ground structures commenced in 2014/15 and is complete. Consultant engaged to investigate options to reduce long term management and monitoring burden of the decommissioned treatment plant site.	✓
Identify and undertake mains replacement & improvement program	2014/15 budgeted mains renewal program completed, 2226m of sewerage gravity mains were relined in 2014/15. The main relining program has had a significant impact on decreasing reactive maintenance and raw sewage overflows.	✓

Improve and develop treatment options to ensure quality of waste water meets EPA standards	Sewerage treatment plans for Charbon	Community health concerns associated with existing septic system capacities have diminished as a result of Charbon's declining permanent population. Focus has shifted from the provision of a centralised sewerage system to a Council inspection program for existing septic systems to ensure privately owned septic systems are appropriately monitored and maintained.	✗
	Continue to improve outgoing water quality at all sewerage treatment plants across the Region	Council continues to improve discharge quality at all treatment plants through chemical dosing and process changes. Achieved 100% compliance with discharge requirements at Rylstone STP for 2014/15 reporting year which is a significant improvement on previous years. Both Kandos and Mudgee STP discharge quality improved from previous reporting years.	✓

Achieve NSW Government Best Practice Management of Water Supply and Sewerage	Develop and implement Liquid Trade Waste Policy and Pricing	A policy has been drafted for adoption by Council in 2015/16 financial year.	—
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Goal 2.3: Live in a clean and environmentally sustainable way

Promote a philosophy of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	Ongoing education through website	Council's website and also Community News are used to keep residents informed regarding the opportunities to recycle and also programs like Household Chemical Collection.	✓
Provide a domestic recycling and waste services for all residents through kerbside collection and rural waste transfer stations	Kerbside and local recycling facilities	Kerb-side collection and rural recycling services were provided throughout the year.	✓

Promote home composting initiatives for green waste	Develop an education program through Community News	Council has commenced a project of community engagement to determine if the community would like a kerb-side organics service. This service would replace the need for home composting. Community News is actively used for waste education and to inform the community on waste related matters.	✓
Strategy 2.3.2: Work regionally and collaboratively to implement strategies that will enhance environmental outcomes in regards to waste management and minimisation			
Participate in regional procurement contracts for waste services that provided added value.	Regional scrap steel, green waste processing, used motor oil, house hold chemical collection, e-waste	Council is participating in the regional scrap steel, green waste, used motor oil and house chemical collection contracts through NetWaste. In regards to e-waste staff have set up a trial system that includes Mid-Western, Bathurst and Cowra Council's.	✓
Participate in regional investigations for collaborative solutions to problem wastes types.	Participate in NetWaste steering committee for strategic direction of the group	NetWaste Steering Committee meetings attended throughout the year. From this group, participation in the regional organics collection tender was formed.	✓
Apply for available grants under the NSW Government 'Waste Less Recycle More' package	Apply for grants to upgrade or introduce services to the Mid-Western Community that reduces landfill tonnes and Co2 emissions	Grant funding was received through Waste Less Recycle More for construction of a Community Recycling Centre to handle some problem waste types. Further grants will be applied for next year should Council participate in the kerb-side organics project.	✓
Strategy 2.3.3: Support programs that create environmental awareness			
Build community awareness through environmental education	Investigate better use of Council's website for environmental awareness	This allocation will be undertaken in 2015/16.	✗
	Facilitate and promote community garden programs	This initiative requires the support of the community. There has been an initial investigation into the project.	—
Strategy 2.3.4: Consider technologies in Council's facilities, infrastructure and service delivery to reduce ecological footprint			
Implement alternative energy and sustainable technologies in physical works and service delivery	Nil Planned for 2014/15	Nil undertaken for 2014/15.	✗

BUILDING A STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY



Building a strong local economy

Goal 3.1: A prosperous and diversified economy

Strategy 3.1.1: Support the attraction and retention of a diverse range of businesses and industries


Business expos targeting businesses that complement key local industries	Presence at 2-3 conferences or events where the Region can be marketed	Council has participated in a number of conferences/ events to promote the Region including NSW Libraries Conference, Sydney Royal Easter Show and the RDA Orana Regional Relocation Initiative. Council continues to host the Flavours of Mudgee festival, which is the largest marketing event in the Region for the local wine industry.	✓
Work with business and industry groups to facilitate business development workshops for existing businesses in the region	Support the business chambers by attendance at meeting as required	Council representatives participated in meetings as required.	✓
	Investigate Programmes to support new business development and local entrepreneurial activities	Council continues to support visits to the Region by the Small Biz Bus and provide support for initiatives conducted by local chambers of commerce and business groups.	✓
Establish a process of capturing and monitoring relevant economic data to identify opportunities, trends and needs of local businesses	Produce annual update to Economic and Business Profile booklet	The booklet is updated on an annual basis.	✓
Develop and strengthen partnerships with major employers in the region	Conduct two Think Tank forums to encourage business leaders to participate in local economic development	This action will be undertaken in 2015/16.	✗
Work with the community to identify economic development opportunities	Be aware of new business investors coming to the Region and work with them to promote benefits	Respond to and follow up enquiries relating to new business investment in the Region and the expansion of local business activities. Conducted a forum for local businesses to learn how to present a business capability statement for new major projects in the Region.	✓
Work with Mudgee Regional (MRTI) to identify target markets and promote the region	Develop parameters for target markets in terms of how tourism will be developed in the Region	MRTI has a contract with Council to undertake tourism marketing on behalf of the Region.	✓
Develop existing events in the region and attract new event proponents to hold major events and festivals in the region	Identify opportunities to submit bids for new events and conferences and support event proponents holding or wishing to hold events in the Region	Council continues to support organisations hosting events or conferences in the Region. This has included NRMA, Country Rugby League, National Chevrolet Association, Football NSW, NSW Country Rugby. Council continues to provide an Events Assistance Program to support local event proponents in developing major events in the Region.	✓

Strategy 3.1.2: Encourage the development of a skilled and flexible workforce to satisfy local industry and business requirements

Work with business and industry groups to identify the main skills shortage areas	Conduct two think tank forums to encourage business leaders to participate in local economic development and provide feedback on skills issues	This action will be undertaken in 2015/16.	
Encourage workers to move to the region for employment opportunities where skills shortages exist	Presence at 2-3 conferences or events where the Region can be marketed	Council has participated in a number of conferences/ events to promote the Region including NSW Libraries Conference, Sydney Royal Easter Show and the RDA Orana Regional Relocation Initiative. Council continues to host the Flavours of Mudgee festival, which is the largest marketing event in the Region for the local wine industry.	

Goal 3.2: An attractive business and economic development


Strategy 3.2.1: Promote the region as a great place to live, work, invest and visit

Provide brand leadership, market the Region's competitive advantages and targeted marketing of investment opportunities	Presence at 2-3 conferences or events where the Region can be marketed	Council has participated in a number of conferences/ events to promote the Region including NSW Libraries Conference, Sydney Royal Easter Show and the RDA Orana Regional Relocation Initiative. Council continues to host the Flavours of Mudgee festival, which is the largest marketing event in the Region for the local wine industry.	
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Strategy 3.2.2: Provide leadership on economic development initiatives and identify resources and infrastructure required to drive investment and economic growth in the region

Promote the development of infrastructure at the Mudgee Airport as an opportunity for business expansion in the aviation industry	Review airport development strategy and promotional opportunities in the future	Update of Airport Master Plan 2015 completed. Continue to work with existing and new businesses regarding opportunities to relocate to Mudgee Airport.	
Facilitate the production of a study on investment opportunities in the local property market	Provide information package regarding development opportunities in property market	Property data and trends for the region are collected and included in Economic Profile Booklet.	
Lobby State and Federal Government on infrastructure needs of local businesses including transport and communications linkages	Continue to lobby government agencies and departments on the provision of infrastructure to meet community needs	Property data and trends for the Region are collected and included in the Economic Profile Booklet.	

Strategy 3.2.3: Support the expansion of essential services (education, health) to match business and industry development in the region

Lobby State and Federal Government for expanded health and education services	Continue to lobby government agencies and departments on the provision of infrastructure to meet community needs	Respond to and follow up enquiries relating to new business investment in the Region and the expansion of local business activities. Conducted a forum for local businesses to learn how to present a business capability statement for new major projects in the Region.	
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Work with local service providers to maintain an acceptable level of service delivery	Participate in regional planning working group	Council continues to work with the Department of Planning with the focus on delivery of regional land use plans.	✓
	Work towards highlighting the deficiencies in education needs across the Region in particular Pre-School and High School	Prepared business case to support need for Early Childhood Education and Intervention services for the Region. Secured \$1.0 million grant from Restart NSW Cobbora Transition Fund to develop new centre. Continue working with NSW Department of Education on demand for additional high school places and future infrastructure requirements.	✓

Strategy 3.2.4: Develop tools that simplify development processes and encourage high quality commercial and residential development

Develop a step by step guide to assist potential investors to work through the regulatory framework	Develop a guide to assist potential investors and developers to work through regulatory framework	This action will be undertaken in 2015/16.	✗
Review plans and controls with economic impacts	Continue to update and review guides, as required, to keep up with changes in legislation and the economy	Produce annual update to economic data to assist investors and developers understand local economy.	✓

Goal 3.3: A range of rewarding and fulfilling career opportunities to attract and retain residents

Strategy 3.3.1: Support projects that create new jobs in the Region and help to build a diverse and multi-skilled workforce

Work with lead agencies for employment to identify trends and discuss issues impacting employment	Continue to work with employment agencies to identify trends and develop strategies to assist employment opportunities across the Region	Continue to monitor workforce trends and identify regional projects which will lead to new job creation.	✓
Encourage local business to explore traineeships and apprenticeships	Continue to work with local businesses to promote traineeship and apprenticeship positions, including educating businesses on available government support	We continue to work with schools and businesses promoting careers, industry Apprenticeships and Traineeships.	✓

Strategy 3.3.2: Build strong linkages with institutions providing education, training and employment pathways in the Region

Work with lead agencies for education in the region and understand their roles and responsibilities in economic development	Continue to work with education providers on the provision of services to meet community needs	Council continues to work with all education stakeholders in the region to provide adequate education services. A major project has been the development of a new early childhood centre to expand the availability of preschool services in the Region.	✓
Pursue opportunities to develop a university outreach campus with offerings aligned to local industries	Continue to monitor and identify new opportunities as work to date has exhausted all avenues	Continue to support Western TAFE initiatives.	✓

CONNECTING OUR REGION

Connecting our region

Goal 4.1: High quality road network that is safe and efficient

Strategy 4.1.1: Provide traffic management solutions that promote safer local roads and minimise traffic congestion

Work with the RMS to improve road safety	Continue to liaise with the RMS on road safety matters	Regular meetings continue to be held with RMS representatives. Council staff have worked closely with RMS staff on several road traffic and safety projects including the Bylong Valley Way widening works, MR633 (Goolma Road) curve widening works both funded by BLACKSPOT, traffic blisters in Gulgong and the development of the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan. Council are still engaged to maintain the state highways and main roads under the RMCC and as part of this contract monthly meetings are held to look at solutions for traffic, congestion and safety issues on the state highways. Projects developed between RMS and Council include the completion of the Springfield widening project, Sydney Road asphalt works, heavy patching and reseal programs and smaller projects involving signage and drainage improvement.	✓
Regulate effective and appropriate user activities on the road network	Contribute to and support load limit variations and B-Double restrictions on various local roads as necessary	Council continue to review applications for B-double routes on local roads and make recommendations to support or reject these applications to our Local Traffic Committee. Council also review and comment on applications for oversize and overmass loads to travel on Council's roads via the NHVR.	✓
	Review speed limits and traffic management	Traffic management applications are reviewed by Council and feedback provided where necessary. Speed limit requests are forwarded to RMS for review and decisions. RMS is the regulatory authority for speed zoning.	✓
Participate in relevant regional transport committees and working parties	Facilitate the Local Traffic Committee	Regular monthly Local Traffic Committee meetings have been held in the reporting period.	✓

Strategy 4.1.2: Provide a roads network that balances asset conditions with available resources and community needs

Annually review the Roads Asset Management Plan	Undertake Review Asset Management Plans	The asset management plan was reviewed in 2014-15. However as Council were undertaking the fair value assessment on road and associated infrastructure, it was determined that the fair value findings were to be incorporated within the AMP. The AMP will be presented to Council for adoption in early 2015/16.	—
	Undertake a review of Roads Strategic Plan	The asset management plan was reviewed in 2014-15. However as Council were undertaking the fair value assessment on road and associated infrastructure, it was determined that the fair value findings were to be incorporated within the AMP. The AMP will be presented to Council for adoption in early 2015/16.	—
Implement the works program in accordance with the Roads Asset Management Plan	Complete Operational and Capital Expenditure Program for Roads and Bridges including Capital Works Refer Capital Works Section 3	The 2014/15 capital works program has been completed and the 2015/16 capital works program has been developed.	✓
	Manage State Roads in consultation with RMS	Council continues to have a strong relationship with RMS. Council have implemented the RMCC (Routine Maintenance Council Contract) throughout the year for the maintenance works on State Highway and RMS Main Roads in the LGA. Council have also delivered significant project works for RMS including the reseals and heavy patching program, Springfield widening project and drainage and signage projects. Council and RMS attended monthly meetings and Council attended and participated in the PEG (Peer Exchange Group) meetings.	✓
	Continue ongoing maintenance of regional road network	The adopted capital works program was completed on the regional road network with additional projects being carried out with project savings. Works this year on the regional network include reseals and drainage works on Hill End Road, reseals on Wollar Road and Gollan Road and shoulder grading and heavy patching on the Bylong Valley Way. Linemarking was refreshed along the full length of Hill End Road. Works continued on the Cope Road Upgrade project in 2014/15. General maintenance was also undertaken throughout the year.	✓
	Continue reseals, rehabilitation, grading, re-sheeting of Councils local road network consistent with Roads Strategic Plan	97% of capital projects were completed in 2014/15.	✓

	Continue to undertake upgrades of Ulan Road in accordance with the Ulan Road Strategy	Works have progressed throughout the year on the Ulan Road upgrade. Projects are on schedule and will continue into 2015/16 financial year.	✓
Pursue additional funding for upgrading of roads infrastructure	Lobby for funding for roads	Successfully applied for additional road funding through Resources for Regions program.	✓
	Ensure that major developers pay for the impact additional development will have on road network	Funding committed through Ulan Road Strategy and Resources for Regions program.	✓

Strategy 4.1.3: Provide a roads network that balances asset conditions with available resources and community needs

Implement the Pathways Strategic Plan	Undertake Kandos to Clandulla Pedestrian link and repair and reseal path from Rylstone to Kandos	The reseal on the Rylstone to Kandos path was deferred as the new sewer main to service the Rylstone Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade will be located on the same alignment as the existing footpath. The footpath will be repaired and resealed following installation of the pipework. The Kandos to Clandulla link is currently on hold awaiting ARTC approvals.	✗
	Provide walkways in Gulgong	The footpath and shared use pathway construction projects for Gulgong have been completed.	✓
	Continue Cudgegong River pedestrian walk way to Glen Willow/Putta Bucca	The construction of the Putta Bucca and Glen Willow shared pathways projects have been completed for 2014/15.	✓
	Construct pedestrian bridge at Bylong Bridge, Rylstone	The tender for the design and construction of the pedestrian bridge has been executed. However the tendered costs exceeded the current budget. The project validity is being reviewed and ongoing investigations are occurring 2015/16.	—

Goal 4.2: Efficient connection of the region to major towns and cities

Strategy 4.2.1: Develop a regional transport network that grows with the needs of business and industry

Support the continuation of commercial passenger services at Mudgee Airport	Work with service provider to maintain passenger services to end from Sydney	Worked with Fly Pelican to commence RPT services in June.	✓
	Continue maintenance and operation of Mudgee Airport	CASA and OLS reports completed with airport meeting all operational, safety and security requirements.	✓
Lobby for improved highway linkages along the Great Western Highway and Bells Line	Continue to lobby for improved access to Western NSW from Sydney	Participate in CENTROC transport infrastructure planning and General Manager meetings with Ministers.	✓

Strategy 4.2.2: Create a communication network that services the needs of our residents and businesses

Pursue improved broadband and mobile coverage with Government and major service providers	Continue to lobby for improved internet speeds and mobile coverage throughout the Region	Continue to meet with representatives of NBN in relation to rollout and timing.	✓
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GOOD GOVERNMENT

Good Government

Goal 5.1: Strong civic leadership

Strategy 5.1.1: Provide clear strategic direction through the Community Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plans

Ensure actions of the Operational Plan and Delivery Program are completed on time, on budget and meets success criteria	Successful delivery of 2014/15 Operational Plan	91% of projects/actuals of Operational Plan completed.	✓
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Strategy 5.1.2: Provide accountable and transparent decision making for the community

Conduct Open Days twice per month	Continue to hold "Open Day" prior to Council Meetings	Council has continued to offer Open Days prior to Council meetings. 76 people attended Open Days during the year.	✓
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Strategy 5.1.3: Provide accountable and transparent decision making for the community

Continue to lobby State and Federal Government on all matters that are of interest to the Mid-Western Region	Work with the Mayor to access Local Members and Ministers on relevant issues	Regular meetings held with local members and access provided to various ministers for specific issues (including transport, regional development, tourism, local government reform).	✓
	Strengthen relationships with local State and Federal members	Regular meetings held with local members and access provided to various ministers for specific issues (including transport, regional development, tourism, local government reform).	✓
	Engage with Regional Directors of State Government	Regular meetings held with local members and access provided to various ministers for specific issues (including transport, regional development, tourism, local government reform).	✓

Goal 5.2: Good communications and engagement

Strategy 5.2.1: Improve communications between Council and the community and create awareness of Council's roles and responsibilities

Publish monthly editions of Community News	Monthly distribution of Community News	Community News was published on a monthly basis.	✓
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Provide an up to date and functional web interface	Continue to update website	Council continues to utilise all available communication channels to raise awareness and engage the community in Council's activities. This includes updates to website, utilisation of social media, traditional media outreach and community surveys.	✓
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Regularly report to the community in a variety of interesting ways	Make full use of all media avenues including social media, radio and television	The next customer service survey is scheduled for Feb 2016.	✓
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Operate and maintain a community works request system that provides timely and accurate information and responses	Maintain Works Request System	Works requests responded to within 14 days have been reduced from 380 to 60. Identified need for further training and integration with ELO.	✓
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Ensure the community has clear information about who to contact in Council	Provide a customer focused website	The next customer service survey is scheduled for Feb 2016.	✓
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Educate the community on Council's roles and responsibilities	Provide access to Council's corporate planning documents both through the website and Administration Centres	The next customer service survey is scheduled for Feb 2016.	✓
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Strategy 5.2.2: Encourage community access and participation in Council decision making

Seek feedback on policy development and local issues	Continue to utilise and conduct community engagement activities including surveys and face to face workshops	Council provides ongoing opportunities for community engagement and feedback through survey monkey, workshops and facebook. Surveys include investigation into air services between Mudgee and Sydney, pARTicipate arts program, community centre usage, rates, public access mobility plan and major events feedback (Flavours of Mudgee, Healthy Communities Festival). Examples of workshops held include the rates reference group, update of the airport master plan, stallholder sessions for Flavours of Mudgee, pARTicipate arts program.	✓
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Provide opportunities and make it easy for the community to participate in and influence decision making	Encourage attendance at Council meetings	Council continues to provide open day prior to Council meetings.	✓
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Goal 5.3: An effective and efficient organisation

Strategy 5.3.1: Pursue excellence in service delivery

Benchmark Council's service delivery against relevant organisations	Provide Planning and Building Statistics to Department of Planning	Reports completed and submitted to Department of Planning as required.	✓
	Local Government Reporting	A report on comparative information on NSW Councils was presented to Council at its meeting on 18 March 2015.	✓

Conduct bi-annual community surveys 2014 & 2016	Conduct annual satisfaction survey	Preparation for 2016 survey is underway. Currently reviewing suppliers that provide a customer service benchmarking system to select a suitable option.	✓
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Reflect on service provision and review work regularly	Conduct quarterly all of Council Staff Updates across all work sites	Quarterly staff update meetings held.	✓
	Work with Staff towards ongoing productivity improvements	Councils Fit for Future improvement proposal identifies initiatives to increase service delivery and productivity up to 2020.	✓

Provide a responsive customer service function	Reply to all correspondence within 14 days	96.6% of correspondence was replied to within 14 days.	✓
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Strategy 5.3.2: Promote Council as a great place to work for talented people

Attract, retain and develop a skilled workforce	Implement a meaningful Training Program	Internal and external training undertaken across Departments that incorporated, leadership, professional and regulatory training.	✓
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	Promote our core values of Respect, Integrity and Recognition	Council's core values of respect, integrity and recognition are promoted throughout Council from recruitment; commencement of employment; induction; staff updates and the GM's update. The values are also promoted and measured during the employment performance process. The March 2015 EOS results were positive.	✓
	Continue to monitor and manage the performance of all employees to meet expectations	Annual Performance Appraisals completed by November 2014.	✓
Provide a safe, healthy and non-discriminatory working environment	Continue promotion of the Work Health and Safety Act and ensure the highest level of workplace safety	Council continues to promote work health and safety. In the Employee Opinion Survey undertaken in March 2015 employees scored "Providing a safe work environment" as the highest rated item, with "Providing for the health and wellbeing of employees" a close second. Workplace injuries and claims have reduced.	✓
	Provide a positive working environment	Employee Opinion Survey completed in March 2015. The results were positive with a Weighted Performance Index of 66.9%.	✓
Conduct annual Employee Opinion Surveys	Employee Opinion Survey 2014	Employee Opinion Survey completed in March 2015 with a response rate of 76%.	✓
Strategy 5.3.3: Prudently manage risks associated with all Council activities			
Monitor and review Council's policies and strategies	Provide up to date Policy Register	Council has a rolling program to review its policies and all policies have a review date. A register is maintained to track policy review compliance.	✓
Enhance the information systems that support delivery of Council activities	Redesign website to incorporate responsive design for mobile devices	New website has been launched with training underway.	✓
Provide long term financial sustainability through sound financial management	Update and Implement Long Term Financial Plan through Integrated Planning and Reporting process	The Long Term Financial Plan is currently being updated in line with the Operational Plan 2015/16. A delay due to staff vacancies, and competing statutory requirements means that the finalised Long Term Financial Plan is anticipated to be presented to Council for adoption before December 2015.	✗
Ensure strategic and asset management plans are underpinned by sound financial strategies	Maintain an up to date asset management system	The asset management system and data is being updated, with new procedures to manage and capture information being developed.	✓
Comply with relevant accounting standards, taxation legislation and other financial reporting obligations	Continue to achieve a high standard of financial management	Council received an unqualified audit report for the 2013/14 financial statements in October 2014. No material issues were identified in Management Letters. All of Council's taxation and other financial reporting obligations have been met on time to 30 June 2015.	✓

STATUTORY INFORMATION

ANNUAL CHARGES

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Council has not levied an annual charge for stormwater management services during the year.

COASTAL PROTECTION SERVICES

Council has not levied an annual charge for coastal protection services during the year.

COMPANION ANIMALS

Council undertakes companion animal management functions and activities, in accordance with the Companion Animals Act 1998 and the associated Regulations.

EXPENDITURE

During 2014/15, Council spent \$176,000 on companion animal management activities. Council employs one full time Ranger to enforce the provisions of the Companion Animal legislation. This Ranger also attends to after-hours stock impounding. As part of running an animal pound facility, Council utilises additional staff resources to ensure 7 day a week animal care and coverage.

The Office of Local Government provided \$12,500 of revenue to Council in 2014/15 for Animal Management Services. A further \$20,000 was received from stock impounding fees, animal release fees, fines, animal sales and other related revenue, helping to partially offset the total cost of companion animal management to the Mid-Western Region community.

REGISTRATION AND REHOMING

Council strongly encourages residents to have their dogs and cats micro-chipped. Micro-chipping is quick, painless, and easy. It is the easiest way a pet can be returned home, so it should be top priority for every pet owner. Council has a micro-chipping service, and charged \$30 for the service in 2014/15.

In addition, Council works with the local branch of the RSPCA regarding foster care and advertising of impounded animals. The Mid-Western Regional Council website always has a current listing of animals in the pound that are lost or looking for a new home. Across 2014/15, Council compiled Pound Data Collection Returns for the Office of Local Government. 405 animals were seized. Fortunately, 334 of those animals were able to be returned to their owners or Council successfully re-homed them. A total of 72 animals were required to be euthanased as they were either unsuitable or unable to be rehomed. 134 companion animals were registered through Council.

DOG ATTACKS AND DANGEROUS DOGS

Data relating to dog attacks is required to be lodged by Council with the Office of Local Government. During the 2014/15 period, there have been 31 separate dog attack incidents in the Mid-Western Region, with a number of animal (primarily stock) and human victims.

Actions taken following dog attacks can include infringement notices, animal seizure, police action, and euthanasia of the attacking dogs.

OTHER COMPANION ANIMAL ACTIVITIES

Council has three off-leash areas for companion dogs, located at Glen Willow Sports Complex in Mudgee, Peoples Park in Gulgong, and the Rylstone Showground.

COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL AND DELEGATIONS TO EXTERNAL BODIES

A range of committees conduct functions on behalf of Council. There are a number of different committee types including advisory committees, management committees, and appointments to external committees.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Advisory committees help Council stay connected with the views of our local citizens. Comprising of local community members and Council representatives, these committees provide advice and feedback to Council on key issues.

For 2014/15 there were 19 Advisory Committees and Reference Groups operating within the Mid-Western Region. Further information on these committees, including minutes and terms of reference, can be found on our website.

MUDGEE SHOWGROUND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Webb

The Mudgee Showground Management Committee assists Council to manage the showground facility.

GULGONG MEMORIAL HALL COMMITTEE

Councillor Representatives: Clr Thompson

The Gulgong Memorial Hall Committee assists Council with the management and promotion of the Gulgong Memorial Hall.

RED HILL RESERVE WORKING PARTY

Councillor Representative: Clr Cavalier

The Red Hill Reserve Working Party provides advice to Council on the development of a precinct master plan, and management of the site.

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL PEAK SPORTS COUNCIL

Councillor Representative: Clr Weatherley

The Peak Sports Council coordinates the activities of the three Sports Sub Committees for Mudgee, Gulgong, and Rylstone.

MUDGEE SPORTS COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Weatherley

The Mudgee Sports Council Sub Committee assists Council to manage active recreational facilities in Mudgee.

GULGONG SPORTS COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Thompson

The Gulgong Sports Council Sub Committee assists Council to manage active recreational facilities in Gulgong.

RYLSTONE SPORTS COUNCIL SUB COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Shelley

The Rylstone Sports Council Sub Committee assists Council to manage active recreational facilities in Rylstone/Kandos.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr White

The Heritage Committee advises Council about the preservation and enhancement of items and places within the Mid-Western Region that are of heritage significance.

MUDGEE AND GULGONG ACCESS COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Thompson, Alternate Clr Webb

The Mudgee & Gulgong Access Committee provide advice to Council on matters relating to accessibility in the Mudgee and Gulgong areas.

RYLSTONE AND KANDOS ACCESS COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Martens

The Rylstone & Kandos Access Committee provide advice to Council on matters relating to accessibility in the Rylstone and Kandos areas.

CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr White

The Cultural Development Committee provides advice to Council on the implementation of recommendations from the Cultural Plan

AUSTRALIA DAY SELECTION COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Kennedy, Clr Cavalier, Clr Weatherley, Clr Walker

The Australia Day Selection Committee selects the recipients of Council's annual Australia Day Awards

MUDGEE REGIONAL SALEYARDS COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Weatherley, Clr Webb

The Mudgee Regional Saleyards Committee provides advice to Council on the operation of and improvements to the Saleyards complex.

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

Councillor Representative: Clr Kennedy, Clr Cavalier

The Mid-Western Regional Youth Council provides consultation with and advocacy for youth.

COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Kennedy, Clr Cavalier

The Community Safety Committee provides advice to Council on the need for a Community Crime Prevention Plan

NOXIOUS WEEDS CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Representative: Clr Webb

The Noxious Weeds Control Advisory Committee provides advice to Council on weed control in the local government area.

KANDOS CENTENNIAL WORKING PARTY

Councillor Representative: Clr Martens

The Kandos Centennial Working Party was established to provide input into the celebration of the centenary of Kandos in 2014. This Committee was formally wound up in February 2015.

INTEGRATED WATER CYCLE MANAGEMENT PROJECT REFERENCE GROUP

Councillor Representative: Clr Cavalier, Clr Weatherley

The Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Project Reference Group provides advice to Council on IWCM issues, including required levels of service and assessment of the social, environmental and economic impacts that would result from any adopted IWCM strategy

PUBLIC ART ADVISORY PANEL

Councillor Representative: Clr Kennedy, Clr White

The Public Art Advisory Panel provides advice to Council on the commissioning, selection, maintenance, protection and deaccessioning of public art works and programmes.

EXTERNAL BODIES

In 2014/15, Council did not delegate any of its functions to external bodies such as County Councils.

However Council has appointed delegates to a number of external organisations and committees. These are:

- Bushfire Management Committee
- Rural Fire Service District Liaison Committee
- Mudgee Region Tourism Inc
- Ulan Coal Mine Community Consultative Committee
- Wilpinjong Community Consultative Committee
- Charbon Community Consultative Committee
- Moolarben Community Consultative Committee
- Inglenook Exploration Community Consultative Committee
- Bells Line Expressway Group
- Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Committee
- Joint Regional Planning Panel
- Botobolar Community Committee
- Goolma Amenities Committee
- Murray Darling Association



PARTNERSHIPS, COOPERATIVES AND JOINT VENTURES

CENTRAL WEST NSW COUNCILS (CENTROC)

Council became a full member of Central NSW Councils (Centroc) on 27th November 2014, at its AGM.

Centroc is a voluntary regional collaboration of councils in Central NSW. It exists to advocate for and improve operational efficiencies of its member councils - Bathurst, Blayney, Boorowa, Cabonne, Cowra, Forbes, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid Western Regional Council, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Upper Lachlan, Weddin, Young and Central Tablelands Water.

Centroc represents over 243,000 people covering an area of more than 72,500sq kms. Key areas of Centroc advocacy include improving transport infrastructure such as the Bells Line of Expressway, expanding telecommunications, increasing regional health workforce, ensuring water security and stimulating regional development.

HUNTER COUNCILS LIMITED

Council is an associate member of Hunter Councils Limited along with the other full member Councils of Hunter Councils, being Cessnock, Dungog, Gloucester, Great Lakes, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Muswellbrook, Newcastle, Port Stephens, Singleton and Upper Hunter. The activities of the organisation are not controlled by any one council.

Hunter Councils Limited was established to improve the quality and efficiency of local government across the Hunter Region. The organisation has several business units providing specialist services to member and non member councils including Regional Procurement, Local Government Training Institute, Hunter Records Storage, Screen Hunter Central Coast, Environment Division and Local Government Legal.

Hunter Councils Limited was established in January 2003 after receiving Minister's consent, pursuant to section 358(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1993. Council became an associate member of Hunter Councils Limited in 2011.

STATECOVER MUTUAL LIMITED

Council is a member of StateCover Mutual Limited and holds a partly paid share in the entity. StateCover is a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to the NSW Local government Industry, and specifically, Council.

Council has a contingent liability to contribute further equity in the event of the erosion of the Company's capital base as a result of the company's past performance and or claims experience or as a result of any increased prudential requirements from Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. These future equity contributions would be required to maintain the company's minimum level of Net Assets in accordance with its licence requirements.

MUDGEEREGION TOURISM INC.

Mudgee Region Tourism Inc (MRTI) is a not-for-profit independent incorporated tourism body funded by Council and its members. The region encompasses the towns of Mudgee, Gulgong, Rylstone and Kandos (and small villages in between).

Council and MRTI hold a three year contract, from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2016 whereby Council will contribute a set monthly rate, increased by CPI. Members of MRTI also provide financial support through membership payments. Losses of the entity would be borne by the entity or its members, with no set agreement in place for Council to fund losses.

The current intention is to continue to support MRTI with monthly contributions to promote tourism within the LGA.

FLYPELICAN

FlyPelican is a regional airline and aircraft charter company based in Newcastle on the east coast of Australia operating a fleet of 19 seat British Aerospace Jetstream 32 aircraft.

Council has a contract in place to provide initial support to FlyPelican to re-establish an airline service between Mudgee and Sydney. This contract agreement includes initial start up support of \$195,000; monthly support payments of \$15,000 per month for the first 12 months of operation; provision of ground handling staff; marketing and advertising (in-house) and waiver of landing fees for 12 months.

Any losses of the company would be borne by FlyPelican and there is no agreement in place for Council to provide additional support or cover any amount of loss from providing the airline service from Mudgee. There is an ongoing risk that the company may be unsuccessful or the service may be discontinued for financial reasons, but if this occurs contributions to the service from Council will be withdrawn. Council intends to continue to support FlyPelican through the terms of the contract only, which expires in June 2017.

Further information on financial support provided to Mudgee Region Tourism Inc and FlyPelican is provided under Note 19 of the 2014/15 Financial Statements.



CONTRACTS AWARDED

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and our own Procurement Policy, Council calls for tenders for the supply of various goods and services where the estimated spend under that contract exceeds \$150,000. The requirement to tender excludes the purchase or sale of land; purchases at public auction; contracts for employees of Council; purchase of goods and services under State Government or Commonwealth procurement contracts; emergency contracts; or where because of extenuating circumstances, remoteness of locality or the unavailability of competitive or reliable tenderers, Council decides by resolution (which states the reasons for the decision) that a satisfactory result would not be achieved by inviting tenders.

The following contracts were awarded during 2014/15:

CONTRACTOR	CONTRACT AWARDED	NATURE OF GOODS & SERVICES	CONTRACT AMOUNT (EX GST) \$
Advanced Airport Lighting Pty Ltd	November 2014	Renew airport lighting and install PAPI lights	737,580
Degremont Pty Ltd	November 2014	Water main cleaning - Gulgong	300,000
Telstra	October 2014	Fixed Voice and Mobile Phone Agreement	450,000
Iveco Trucks	October 2014	Iveco side loading garbage compactor	335,050
Lynch Building	January 2015	Design and construct Mudgee Childcare Centre	842,744
Statecover	July 2014	Workers Compensation insurance	530,410
Statewide	July 2014	Property, Public Liability and Vehicle Insurance	684,719
VCV Sydney	February 2015	Volvo truck with Palfinger hook lift	198,500
Garwood Australia Ltd	August 2014	Rear loading garbage compactor	158,385
A1 Earthworx Civil and Mining	December 2014	Construction of the Horatio St detention basin	262,108
Ingal Civil	March 2015	Supply only of Road Safety Barriers	Estimated over \$150k
Various - Panel	January 2015	Provision of Hardware and Building Supplies	Estimated over 150k

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Council has a program of financial assistance, as set out in the Financial Assistance and Event Management Policies, for organisations, groups and individuals that meet the goals and strategies as set out in Councils Community Plan 2030. In doing so, Council seeks to support a wide range of community and cultural services; an increase in community spirit and cohesion; effective, inclusive and equitable services within the community; and projects with a high level of community support and ownership.

Council regularly gives donations to local schools for award nights; village subsidies to progress associations for maintenance of local facilities; rates refunds to charitable and sporting organisations; sports people representing the region at a state, national or international event; tourism events; town Christmas parties; and Seniors Week activities.

During the 2014/15 financial year, Council provided total grants of financial assistance of \$147,293 to local and regional organisations, and individuals. Material donations and contributions (over \$5,000 inclusive of GST if any) provided during the year were:

RECIPIENT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Mudgee Chamber of Commerce	\$10,000.00	Business development and support
Lifeskills	\$25,000.000	Support of stage 1 of the construction project at Oporto Rd
Kandos Rylstone Community Radio Inc (Community Capers)	\$10,000.00	Kandos Rylstone Community Capers publication
Gulgong Chamber of Commerce Inc	\$10,000.00	Business development
Christmas Party Mudgee - Rotary	\$9,300.00	Local event assistance

CONDITION OF PUBLIC WORKS

Council is the custodian of a substantial portfolio of community infrastructure, property, plant and equipment with a fair value of \$1.182 billion. Council manages infrastructure assets with a fair value of \$811 million (written down value \$488 million) on behalf of the Mid-Western Region community. It is Council's role to ensure the right level of assets are maintained in a satisfactory condition, in a long-term sustainable manner.

A detailed report is set out in Special Schedule No. 7 - Condition of Public Works in the 2014/15 Financial Reports.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Council expended \$327,058 on legal costs during 2014/15.

Of that amount, \$113,648 related to the cost of obtaining legal advice or opinion in relation to various matters and not in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against the Council.

In addition, Council expended \$140,308 during the period in recovering outstanding rates and charges. These costs are debited as a charge against individual rate assessments. Council recovered \$138,090 of such costs during the period.

Council also recovered \$57,500 relevant to the MAC Group Appeal in 2013/14.

Summarised below are details of legal proceedings in which the Council was involved, together with the results of those proceedings and the nature and amount of legal costs incurred:

PROCEEDINGS	TYPE	STATUS	COST
MAC Group v MWRC 12/1119064 Land & Environment Court	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA0217/2012 for a 400 bed temporary works accommodation facility at Cope Road Gulgong	Appeal was upheld in 29/4/2014 in the Land and Environment Court. Costs were not awarded. However, \$57,500 was recovered to reimburse Council for expert advice costs on behalf of MAC Group.	\$1,514
Peabody Pastoral Holdings P/L v MWRC 12/31293-31295 NSW Land & Environment Court	Class 3 Appeal against Declaration of Rating Category (Sec 526 LG Act)	Matters did not proceed to hearing. Council gave its consent to orders upholding Peabody's appeal on 27 May 2013. On 5 June 2013, a Cost Hearing was held, the result being that the Land & Environment Court awarded costs against Council. Certificate of determination of costs was provided to Council on 23 June 2015. Final costs have been accounted for ¹	\$71,588
MWRC v Peabody Pastoral Holdings P/L 2013/195874 filed 27/6/2013 Supreme Court of NSW, Court of Appeal	Notice of Intention to Appeal against whole decision of Cost Hearing.	On 19 September 2013, the Supreme Court of NSW, Court of Appeal declined Council's application for leave to appeal the decision of the NSW Land & Environment Court in relation to Peabody Pastoral Holdings P/L v MWRC. Costs were awarded to the applicant ¹	See above ²

¹Subsequent to 30 June 2015, but prior to the completion of this Annual Report, a further notice of amended costs was received from the Supreme Court with an adjusting amount payable of \$2,422.

²Action for the class 3 Appeal and the Appeal against decision have merged due to negotiations wholly surrounding the matter of combined costs. Total legal costs on Peabody Pastoral Holdings Pty Ltd are \$71,588 for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

MAYORAL AND COUNCILLOR FEES AND EXPENSES

COUNCILLOR FEES PAID AND EXPENSES PAID OR REIMBURSED AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	GENERAL OPERATIONS	CR CAVALIER	CR KENNEDY	CR MARTENS	CR SHELLEY	CR THOMPSON	CR WALKER	CR WEATHERLEY	CR WEBB	CR WHITE	TOTAL \$'S
Councillor Fees	-	10,480	10,480	10,480	10,480	10,480	10,480	10,480	10,480	10,480	94,320.00
Mayoral Fees	-	-	22,870	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,870.00
Council Meeting Expenses (accommodation, travel and meals)	6,891.18	1,526.40	742.41	4,253.56	2,207.04	3,627.80	-	-	2,157.72	-	21,406.11
Councillor Representational/Lobbying Expenses (accommodation, travel and meals)	-	-	687.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	128.64	816.39
Provision of Vehicle	8,268.66	-	304.17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,572.83
Memberships and Subscriptions	66,600.61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,600.61
Miscellaneous Expenses (meals, sundries, stationery) but not associated with conferences, seminars and training	432.91	7.84	-	-	7.85	-	1,332.41	-	696.93	7.84	2,485.78
Provision of office equipment such as laptop, computers mobile telephones, landline telephones and facsimile machines installed in Councillor homes (equipment and line rental costs and internet access costs but not including all costs)	2,872.96	4,569.06	706.13	764.24	3,182.31	3,625.67	1,715.31	679.77	2,587.56	690.66	21,393.67
Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars	165.91	1,074.73	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,377.97	2,618.61
Training and provision of skill development for Councillors	8,365	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,365.00
Total \$'s	93,597.23	17,658.03	35,790.46	15,497.80	15,877.20	17,733.47	13,527.72	11,159.77	15,922.21	12,685.11	249,449.00

No expenses were incurred for provision of care for a child of, or an immediate family member of, a Councillor to allow the Councillor to undertake his or her civic functions.

OVERSEAS AND INTERSTATE VISITS

Council is required to disclose details of any interstate visits undertaken by elected members in relation to Council business, along with details of any overseas visits undertaken by any Council officers including Councillors and staff.

On occasion, the General Manager and Mayor are required to travel to Canberra for meetings with Commonwealth departments and ministers. No other interstate visits were undertaken by elected members.

There were no overseas visits undertaken by any Council officers in 2014/15.

PRIVATE WORKS

Council undertook private works in 2014/15 to the value of \$172,000, resulting in a profit of \$13,000. This represents a profit margin of 7.5%. No subsidies were provided, and all work was intended to be carried out on a for profit basis in accordance with Council's Private Works Policy.

RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

During 2014/15, \$12,591 of Rates and Annual Charges were written-off as a result of postponement of rates and charges.

Council also wrote off a further \$726,284 as Pensioner Rate Rebates in accordance with Council's Pensioner Concession Policy.

SENIOR STAFF

Council started the 2014/15 year with four Senior Staff positions in its organisation structure. Those positions were:

- General Manager
- Director Development & Community Services
- Director Finance & Administration
- Director Mid-Western Operations

There was a new structure in place by December 2014 which included five Senior Staff positions:

- General Manager
- Director Community
- Director Corporate
- Director Development
- Director Operations

The remuneration package for the General Manager totalled \$255,597, and included:

Salary component - \$208,713
Bonuses - NIL
Superannuation component - \$19,435
Non-cash benefits - \$ 15,096
Fringe Benefits Tax on non-cash benefits - \$12,353

The combined remuneration packages for all Directors for 2014/15 totalled \$606,556, and included:

Salary component - \$515,556
Bonuses - NIL
Superannuation component - \$52,624
Non-cash benefits - \$ 17,744
Fringe Benefits Tax on non-cash benefits - \$20,632

PLANNING AGREEMENTS

COMPANY	EFFECTIVE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	DUE DATE	PAID
Wilpinjong Coal	March 2006	Lump Sum - Coal Shipment	\$450,000	Payable prior to the first shipment of coal from the land	Yes
		Annual Contribution - Community Infrastructure	\$800,000	40,000 per annum for 20 years, with the first instalment due on the anniversary of the first loading and dispatch of coal.	8 of 20
		Annual Contribution - Road Maintenance	\$30,000 per annum	\$30,000 per annum for the life of the mining operation, with the first instalment due on the anniversary of the first loading and dispatch of coal.	8 of life
		Annual Contribution - Bus Routes	\$60,000	\$20,000 per annum for three years	Yes
Moolarben Coal Stage 1	February 2008	Lump Sum - Open Cut Coal	\$1,000,000	Payable in three equal annual instalments, with the first payment due within 7 days of first loading and dispatch of coal produced from the open cut operation.	Yes
		Lump Sum - Underground Coal	\$300,000	Payable in three equal annual instalments, with the first payment due within 7 days of first loading and dispatch of coal produced from the underground operation.	No
		Lump Sum - Road Maintenance	\$1,000,000	Payable in three equal annual instalments, with the first payment due within 7 days of the commencement of construction.	Yes

COMPANY	EFFECTIVE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	DUE DATE	PAID
		Annual Contribution - Road Maintenance	\$1,250,000	\$62,500 per annum for 20 years, with the first instalment due on the anniversary of the first loading and dispatch of coal.	6 of 20
		Annual Contribution - Community Infrastructure	\$1,000,000	\$100,000 per annum for 10 years, with the first instalment due on the anniversary of the first loading and dispatch of coal.	6 of 10
Xstrata	March 2011	Lump Sum - Community Infrastructure	\$3,475,000	\$2 million to be paid within 30 days of date of agreement. Balance of \$1.475 million to be paid within a year of the date of the first contribution.	Yes
		Annual Contribution - Road Maintenance Cope Road	\$1,050,000	\$50,000 per annum for 21 years, with the first instalment due within 30 days of date of agreement. Subsequent annual payments due on anniversary date of first contribution.	5 of 21
Charbon Coal	September 2010	Annual Contribution - Road Maintenance	\$0.05 per tonne per kilometre	Due by 31 July each year for coal hauled in previous year	4 of life
		Annual Contribution - Road Maintenance	\$0.77 per tonne	\$75,000 paid as bond. To be charged with calculated contribution on an annual basis until \$75,000 exhausted. A further \$75,000 shall then be paid to Council, with annual charges payable whilst mining continues.	Yes
		Lump Sum - Carwell Creek Bridge Upgrade	\$210,000	\$210,000 due within 30 days of commencement of construction works by Council	Yes
		Annual Contribution - Community Facilities	\$0.01 per Run of Mine tonnes per annum	Due by 31 July each year for coal hauled in previous year	4 of life

COMPANY	EFFECTIVE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	DUE DATE	PAID
		Lump Sum - Community Facilities	\$50,000	\$50,000 payable within one month of receipt of project approval for a community project in Rylstone, Kandos, Charbon and/or Clandulla	Yes
Wilpinjong Coal	January 2011	Lump Sum - Ulan-Wollar Road	\$50,000	Non cash contribution of \$50,000 of gravel to be used for upgrading of the Ulan-Wollar Road	Yes
		Lump Sum - Ulan-Wollar Road Upgrade	\$600,000	\$600,000 payable by instalments within 14 days of invoices as issued by Council at each stage of the primary road works	Yes
		Annual Contribution - Community Infrastructure	\$600 per annum per permanent employee contractor in excess of 100 for 20 year consent period	\$235,774 paid in 2014/15	3 of 20
Caerleon	September 2013	Fairydale Lane Contribution	\$500,000	Lump sum payment on connection of Fairydale Lane to the spine road, based on \$500 per lot of registered plans for the subdivision. Thereafter a per lot contribution upon registration.	No
		DSP Charges (water)	\$7,837 per ET water	On delivery of relevant infrastructure, per a project schedule	No
		DSP Charges (sewer)	\$3,558 per ET sewer	On delivery of relevant infrastructure, per a project schedule	No
		Community Open Space Network	Land for parks, recreation, stormwater and sewer	As stages are released	No

COMPANY	EFFECTIVE	PURPOSE	AMOUNT	DUE DATE	PAID
Cobbora	November 2013	Construction Personnel Contribution	\$250 per employee per annum	Minimum \$100,000 per annum, payable for construction phase	No
		Operational Personnel Contribution	\$150 per employee per annum, plus \$400 per employee living in the LGA per annum	Minimum \$60,000 per annum, payable for operational phase	No
		Rehabilitation Personnel Contribution	\$250 employee per annum	Payable for rehabilitation phase	No
		Road contributions - Laheys Creek Road	Contribution to works	Payable on approval of the Portion Works Plan by the Developer	No



EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Mid-Western Regional Council (MWRC) aims to provide an environment where employees and others in the workplace are treated fairly and with respect, and are free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and bullying.

The Council aims to ensure that when employment decisions are made, they are based on merit, not on irrelevant attributes or characteristics that an individual may possess. The Council also aims to create a work environment which promotes good working relationships.

In order to achieve our objective, Mid-Western Regional Council will:

- Develop and implement an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan;
- Incorporate Council's core values of respect, integrity and recognition and the principles of diversity, equality and merit into all relevant policies and procedures;
- Base all selection decisions on merit and the individual's ability to meet the requirements of the position;
- Provide training and development that is consistent with the principles of equity and that supports Council's EEO objectives;
- Provide a workplace free from bullying, harassment and discrimination;
- Promote EEO and workplace diversity throughout Council to ensure that every employee is aware of and understands Council's policies on EEO related matters;
- Provide those who work at Council with the Anti-Discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and the Workplace Bullying Policy which provides guidance on what is acceptable behaviour and establishes what may constitute discrimination, vilification, harassment and bullying at work; and
- Provide effective mechanisms to resolve complaints.

During 2014/2015 Council completed a number of communication and awareness raising initiatives including:

- Providing all new staff with the Anti-Discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and the Workplace Bullying Policy and provided training on these policies during the Induction Program
- Training on the Anti-Discrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity and Workplace Bullying was carried out for selected work groups
- Code of Conduct training was undertaken for target positions
- Workplace Support Skills training was undertaken for target positions
- Leadership training addressing Anti-Discrimination, EEO and grievance handling was undertaken for Managers and Supervisors
- Reviewed and updated Council's Recruitment and Selection Procedure
- Continued to offer assistance with flexible working arrangements for employees with family and carer's responsibilities whilst ensuring we continue to meet our operational, customer and employee requirements
- Developed a new Wage Assessment Tool for supported workers employed in Council's disability services. The tool is fair to employees, whilst meeting the needs of the disability services.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A copy of Council's audited financial statements is available at <http://www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au/council/Reports--Statements/> Hard copies of financial statements are available from Council upon request.



STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

A Regional State of Environment report has been prepared in partnership with the Central West Catchment Management Authority through the Central West Local Government Reference Group, which comprises the 16 Local Government Areas within the Central West Catchment area.

This report covers the entire catchment, not just individual Councils. The report contains information about environmental issues across the catchment, ranging from water quality, air quality, noise pollution to bio-diversity.



2014-2015 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT – SNAPSHOT

A State of the Environment (SoE) Report is an important management tool which aims to provide the community and Local Council with information on the condition of the environment in the local area to assist in decision-making.

Since 2007, the Councils of the Greater Central West Region of NSW (see map) have joined to produce Regional SoE Reports as part of Council reporting requirements.

Recent changes to NSW legislation mean that Councils are no longer required to produce SoE Reports each year, but only once every four years, in the year of the Council election (which will next be in 2016). However, the participating Councils have decided to continue reporting on an annual basis so that they can provide a detailed Regional SoE report in 2016 that covers trends in the intervening years.

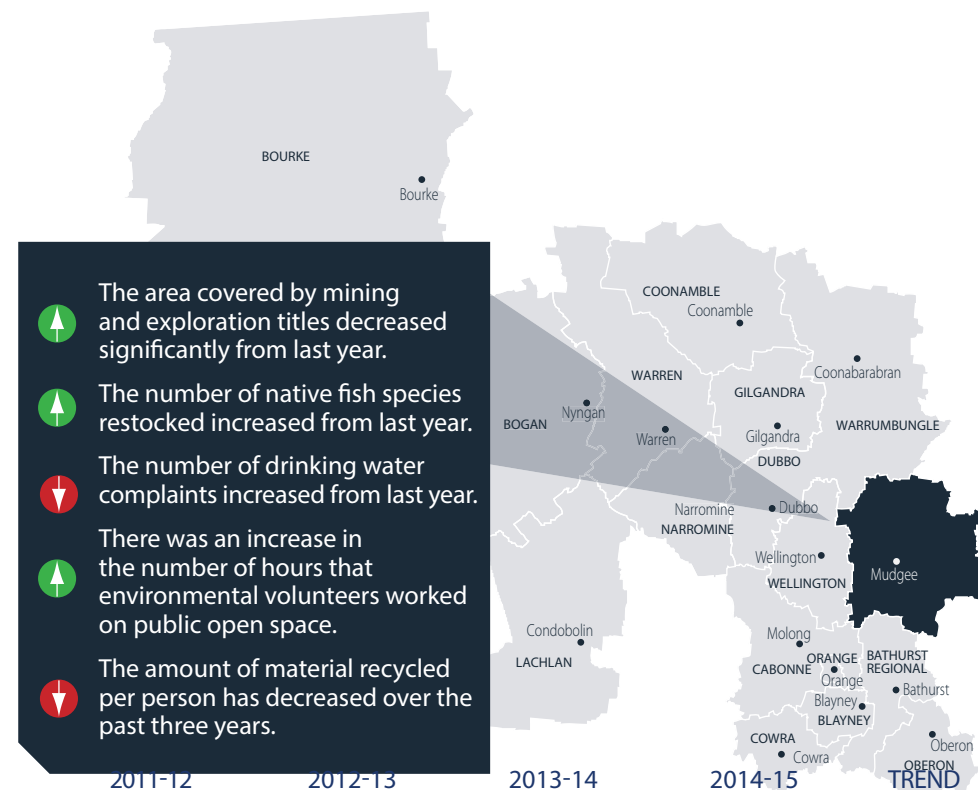
This is a brief snapshot of data for the Mid-Western Local Government Area in 2014-15 across a range of environmental indicators as shown in the tables below. The tables provide an understanding of trends by comparing this year's data with an average of previous years. The Council snapshot report should be read in conjunction with the 2014-15 Regional SoE snapshot report.

LAND

ISSUE	INDICATOR					TREND
		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	
Contamination	Contaminated land sites - Contaminated Land Register	1	1	1	1	
	Contaminated land sites - potentially contaminated sites	47	29	29	29	
	Contaminated sites rehabilitated	1	2	0	0	↔
Erosion	Erosion affected land rehabilitated (ha)	1	0	1	0	↑
Land use planning and management	Number of development consents and building approvals	649	456	431	376	↓
	Landuse conflict complaints	7	10	12	28	↓
	Loss of primary agricultural land through rezoning (ha)		612	19	0	↑
Minerals & petroleum	Number of mining and exploration titles		158	166	160	↓
	Area covered by mining and petroleum exploration titles (ha)		974,000	1,010,000	739,000	↑

Note: the trend is based on comparing the average of the previous three years of reporting with 2014-15

2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS



BIODIVERSITY

ISSUE	INDICATOR	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	TREND
Habitat Loss	Total area protected under voluntary conservation agreements and property agreements (ha)	1,277	1,349	1,381	1,381	↑
	Total area protected in Wildlife Refuges (ha)	7,652	7,652	7,652	5,689	↓
	Proportion of Council reserves that is bushland/remnant vegetation	4.6%	4.6%	8.3%	8.6%	↑
	Habitat areas revegetated (ha)	10	10	1	5	↓
	Roadside vegetation management plan	1	1	1	1	↔
Threatened Species	Threatened species actions implemented (e.g. PAS, recovery plans)	2	0	0	3	↑
	Fish restocking activities: native species	25,911	92,213	87,155	146,000	↑
Noxious weeds and feral animals	Invasive species (listed noxious or WONS) under active management	21	24	27	27	↓
	Number of declared noxious weeds	112	112	118	132	↓
	Fish restocking activities: non-native species	20,000	41,000	39,000	41,000	↓

WATER AND WATERWAYS

ISSUE	INDICATOR	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	TREND
Surface & Ground Water Quality	Average salinity levels in selected streams (EC)	468	515	536	587	↓
	<i>E.coli</i> remote from wastewater treatment plants		0	0	2	↓
Riparian	Riparian vegetation recovery actions	4	3	2	3	↔
	Riparian vegetation recovery area (ha)	8	6	2	7	↑
Industrial/ Agricultural Pollution	Load Based Licencing volume (kg)	69,352	78,467	79,379	15,144	↑
	Exceedances of license discharge consent recorded	3	11	3	0	↑
	Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council	1	3	3	1	↑
Stormwater Pollution	Number of gross pollutant traps installed	4	4	4	4	↔
	Total catchment area of GPTs (ha)	118	118	118	118	↔
	Water pollution complaints		2	0	0	↑
Dam Levels	Average dam levels	51.6%	58.0%	52.9%	46.5%	↓
Water extraction	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from surface water sources			325	325	↔
	Volume of surface water permissible for extraction under licences (GL)			36	38	↓
	Number of Water Supply Work Approvals from groundwater resources	6,383	3,247	2,239	2,346	↑
	Volume of groundwater permissible for extraction under licences (GL)		33	31	33	↓

ISSUE	INDICATOR	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	TREND
Council water consumption	Area of irrigated council managed parks, sportsgrounds, public open space (ha)	69	69	70	70	↓
	Water used by council for irrigation (including treated and untreated) (ML)	51	215	109	138	↓
Town water consumption	Annual metered supply (ML)	1,493	1,828	2,023	1,945	↓
	Annual consumption (Total from WTP) (ML)	2,023	2,362	2,505	2,384	↓
	Average annual household mains potable water usage (kL/household)	169.6	202.7	221.0	200.2	↓
	Level of water restrictions implemented	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	→
	Number of water conservation programs	0.0	0.0	0.0	1	↑
Town Water Quality	Number of instances drinking water guidelines not met	29	112	74	138	↓
	Number of drinking water complaints	18	32	61	100	↓

TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

ISSUE	INDICATOR	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	TREND
Waste Generation	Total waste entombed at primary landfill (tonnes)	17,054	26,394	22,811	26,711	↓
	Total waste entombed at other landfills (exc recyclables) (tonnes)	0	0	0	0	→
	Average total waste generated per person (tonnes)	0.74	1	1.85	1.11	↑
	Average cost of waste service per residential household	\$332	\$343	\$349	\$289	↑
Hazardous/Liquid Waste	Farm chemical drums collected through DrumMaster collections	3,057	1,599	1,164	52	↓
	Household Hazardous Wastes collected (kg)	2,079	2,471	4,216	3,935	↑
Reduce	Garden organics collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	2,068	2,122	3,388	2,603	↑
	E-Waste collected (diverted from landfill) (tonnes)	6	6	0	0	↓
Recycle	Amount of material recycled (tonnes)	3,661	4,288	4,014	2,886	↓
	Amount of material recycled per person (kg)	159	183	168	120	↓
Littering and illegal dumping	Number of illegal waste disposal complaints to Council	3	6	14	32	↓
Engineering, Infrastructure and Civil Works	New road construction (km)	0.5	0	1	1	↓
	Road upgrades (km)	30	32	51	74	↓
Risk Management	Increase in area covered by flood management plans / flood mapping		0	0	0	→
	Hazard reduction burns	0	14	9	6	↑

ISSUE	INDICATOR	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	TREND
Climate Change Mitigation	Office paper used by Council (reams)	2,136	2,282	1,984	2,023	↑
	Council sustainability initiatives	0	1	0	1	↑
	Council mitigation initiatives	2	0	0	0	↓
Council Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Annual electricity consumption for Council controlled facilities (MWh)	3,814	4,083	5,248	6,136	↓
	Annual natural gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (Gj)			0	0	→
	Annual bottled gas consumption for Council controlled facilities (L)	5,665	15,563	10,752	10,752	↓
	Total fuel consumption (KL)	990	1,516	1,020	1,132	↑
	Council total operational greenhouse gas emissions (tCO ² -e/year)		24,099	21,594	22,132	↑
Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Small scale renewable energy uptake (kW)	502	993	1,022	995	↑
	Number of solar water heaters and heat pumps installed	81	65	41	31	↓

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

ISSUE	INDICATOR	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	TREND
Active community involvement	Environmental volunteers working on public open space (hrs)	110	400	150	420	↑
	Number of environmental community engagement programs		4		5	↑
	Number of growers markets/local food retailers specialising in local food operating within LGA		3	2	3	↑
Indigenous Heritage	Number of Indigenous sites on AHIMS register			3,613	4,162	↑
	Inclusion in DCPs and rural strategies	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	→
	Extent of liaison with Indigenous communities (self-assessed from 0 = none to 3 = high)	2	3	2	2	↓
	Development on listed Indigenous sites	3	3	0	6	↓
	Actions to protect Indigenous heritage (including management plans)		2	4	0	↓
Non-Indigenous Heritage	NSW Heritage Inventory items	13	13	13	13	→
	Locally listed heritage items	526	526	526	526	→
	Actions to protect non-Indigenous heritage (including management plans)	3	1	0	1	↓
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists demolished/degraded in past year	0	0	0	1	↓
	Heritage buildings on statutory heritage lists renovated/improved in past year	1	3	4	9	↑

CASE STUDY: ENVIRONMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

Mid-Western Regional Council has been running an Environmental Grants Program throughout 2014 and 2015. The program seeks to support community initiated projects by groups, clubs and schools that improve the local environment and inspire environmentally sustainable behaviour within the Mid-Western LGA.

Two groups to benefit from these grants have, over the last year, put their money to good use and achieved excellent outcomes.

Mudgee's monthly Farmers Markets attracts large crowds keen to immerse themselves in the local food and culture. Mudgee Fine Foods, which organise these Markets, instigated the 'Kids Gardening Puts Food on the Table' project engaging children attending the Markets with hands-on activities while educating them about 'where your food comes from'.

Children were able to build and take home their own worm farms in Styrofoam boxes. The children found the class very engaging, learning first-hand about recycling food scraps and care for the soil in their gardens. On another weekend, a self-wicking garden bed was built on the grounds of the Farmers Markets. An old, corrugated iron water tank was sourced and volunteers helped with construction and guiding the children to fill it with soil and plant it out with herbs and vegetables. Children also planted a pot of mixed herbs each to take home.

The Eurunderee Provisional School Inc. manages the site of the Eurunderee School Complex, a five acre Crown Land reserve.

Henry Lawson was one of the first students to attend the old bark school at the site. Henry's fame brings visitors to the site in increasing numbers and the surrounding remnant Grassy Box Woodland is vulnerable to degradation.

The group's intentions are to maintain and improve a species-rich woodland within the grounds, thus enhancing educational, environmental and heritage values.

The funds they received were used to carry out:

- a plant survey and research sites of original gardens and bush plantings as well as recent plantings
- removal of non-endemic plants and replanting more appropriate species
- a rabbit and weed control program
- development of a concept management plan to act as a guide for further sustainable activity on the site



Part of the new Fine Foods garden - Mid-Western LGA



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