



AGENDA

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

8 JULY 2025

MEMBERSHIP: Councillors J Black, L Butler, S Chowdhury, J Cowley, M Dickerson, R Ivey, K Richardson, A Ryan, P Toynton, P Wells and M Wright.

The meeting is scheduled to commence at 5:30 PM.

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CCC25/29	LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID25/477)	
CCC25/30	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID25/478) In accordance with their Oath/Affirmation under the Act, and Council's Code of Conduct, Councillors must disclose the nature of any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which may arise during the meeting, and manage such interests accordingly.	
CCC25/31	REPORT OF THE SISTER CITY COMMITTEE - MEETING 2 JUNE 2025 (ID25/1139) The Committee had before it the report of the Sister City Committee meeting held 2 June 2025.	2
CCC25/32	2025/2026 AQUATIC LEISURE CENTRE FEES AND CHARGES AND SEASON LENGTH (ID25/766) The Committee had before it the report dated 23 June 2025 from the Manager Recreation and Open Spaces regarding 2025/2026 Aquatic Leisure Centre Fees and Charges and Season Length.	5
CCC25/33	2025-2029 YOUTH ACTION PLAN (ID25/1234) The Committee had before it the report dated 26 June 2025 from the Youth Development Officer regarding 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan.	13



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Report of the Sister City Committee - meeting 2 June 2025

AUTHOR: Governance Officer
REPORT DATE: 12 June 2025

The Council had before it the report of the Sister City Committee meeting held 2 June 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Sister City Committee meeting held on 2 June 2025, be noted.



REPORT SISTER CITY COMMITTEE 2 JUNE 2025

PRESENT: Councillors S Chowdhury, M Wright, the Cultural Development Coordinator, the Sister Cities Officer, K Hyland (Community Representative), G Knight (Community Representative), G M Mann (Community Representative) and B Palmer (Community Representative).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors J Black and J Cowley OAM, the Governance Team Leader, the Director Community, Culture and Places and the Administration Officer Community Services.

The Cultural Development Officer assumed the Chair of the meeting.

An Acknowledgement of Country was delivered by the Cultural Development Coordinator.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 5:30 pm.

SCC25/1 APOLOGIES (ID25/909)

Apologies were received from the Manager Arts and Culture and K Damen (Community Representative).

SCC25/2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID25/910)

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared.

SCC25/3 INDUCTION - COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEES (ID25/911)

The Committee reports having met with the Governance Team Leader.

SCC25/4 SISTER CITY COMMITTEE - ADOPTION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE (ID25/912)

The Committee had before it the report dated 12 May 2025 from the Governance Officer regarding Sister City Committee - Adoption of Terms of Reference and Code of Meeting Practice.

OUTCOME

That the Terms of Reference and Code of Meeting Practice – Sister City Committee, attached at Appendix 1, are adopted by the Committee.

SCC25/5 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON (ID25/913)

At this junction, the called for nominations for Chairperson of the Sister City Committee.

Councillor S Chowdhury was nominated by Councillor M Wright.

Councillor S Chowdhury accepted the nomination.

As there was only one nomination, Councillor S Chowdhury was declared Chairperson for the Council term.

Councillor S Chowdhury assumed Chair of the meeting following agenda item SCC25/5.

SCC25/6 OVERVIEW OF UPCOMING PROGRAM (ID25/914)

The Committee received a presentation from the Sister Cities Officer.

OUTCOME

- 1. That the presentation be distributed to Committee members.**
- 2. That an invitation to attend the Information Night, 23 June 2025, is to be extended to all Committee members.**

SCC25/7 GENERAL BUSINESS

The following items of General Business were discussed:

1. The Director Community, Culture and Places addressed the meeting regarding the Council's Sister City Relationships Report that went before Council in April 2025. A copy of the report to be sent to committee members for their information.
2. The Director Community, Culture and Places encouraged members of the Committee to view the plans currently on the Dubbo's Regional Council website – www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au

SCC25/8 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Sister City Committee gave consideration to future meeting dates.

OUTCOME

That the next Sister City Committee meeting be held Monday 1 September at 5:30pm.

The meeting closed at 6:04pm.

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CHAIRPERSON



REPORT: 2025/2026 Aquatic Leisure Centre Fees and Charges and Season Length

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 23 June 2025
TRIM REFERENCE: ID25/766

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seek endorsement or direction	
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2025/2026 Fees and Charges for Aquatic Leisure Centres	
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Under the executed contract Council determines a minimum and maximum increase for fees and charges for the Aquatic Leisure Centres.Belgravia Leisure has requested an increase to assist them in offsetting increased operational costs.	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Community Culture and Places / Recreation and Open Spaces / Aquatics
	Funding Source	Not Applicable
	Proposed Cost	Not Applicable – increase in admissions and fees and charges do impact contract agreement
	Ongoing Costs	Not Applicable
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Not Applicable
	Impact on Policy	Not Applicable

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Towards 2040 Community Strategic Plan is a vision for the development of the region out to the year 2040. The Plan includes six principal themes and a number of objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme:	5 Liveability
CSP Objective:	5.5 Our community has access to a diverse range of recreational opportunities
Delivery Program Strategy:	5.5.2 Unique recreation and open space facilities are available
Theme:	5 Liveability
CSP Objective:	5.5 Our community has access to a diverse range of recreational opportunities
Delivery Program Strategy:	5.5.3 Our sporting facilities cater for a wide range of events and opportunities

RECOMMENDATION

1. That either:
 - a. Council accepts Belgravia Leisure's request for a 3.5% increase in admissions / fees and charges for the Dubbo Aquatic Leisure, Wellington Aquatic Leisure Centre and Geurie Pool.
 - or
 - b. Council determines what, if any, increase be approved for the fees and charges for the Aquatic Leisure Centres for the 2025/2026 season.
2. That Council approve the current season lengths for Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre (33 weeks), Wellington Aquatic Centre (31 weeks) and Geurie Pool (18 weeks).
3. Council note that the season lengths may be extended at Belgravia Leisure's discretion dependent on prevailing weather conditions and training requirements for National / State Swimming Championships.

Craig Arms
Director Community, Culture and Places

IM
Manager Recreation and
Open Spaces

BACKGROUND

Dubbo Regional Council entered a 5-year contract with Belgravia Leisure (Belgravia) for the management of the three aquatic leisure facilities (Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre, Wellington Aquatic Leisure Centre and Geurie Pool) on 18 August 2023, pursuant to a resolution of Council made 30 June 2023.

Under the contract Council will set a minimum and a maximum fee structure for the upcoming swim season. Additionally, Council can also determine the length of the swim season for each of the three facilities.

In July 2024 Belgravia Leisure applied for a 9% average increase in their fees and charges citing increased industry costs and that it would bring it in line with industry competition benchmarks. This was in line with Council's own approach to fees and charges that year and was approved by the elected body.

Previous Resolutions of Council

30 June 2023 CCL23/175 ID23/1578	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That Council award the management of the Dubbo Regional Council Aquatic centres to Belgravia Leisure under a fully external management model for \$1,487,336 (excluding GST) per annum, with annual increases as specified in the proposal.2. That all documentation in relation to this matter be signed under common seal of Council.3. That all documentation in relation to this matter remain confidential to Council.
25 July 2024 CCL24/174 ID24/922	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That Council note that the average increase across the fee structure is 9%. This is in line with Council's current fees and charges.2. That Council note that the proposed fee structure responds to increased industry costs and brings it in line with industry competition benchmarks.3. That Council approve the proposed Fees and Charges for Admission and Other Fees 2024/2025 associated with the Aquatic Leisure Centres.

REPORT

Belgravia Leisure is proposing a 3.5% increase across their fee and charges to offset “multiple cost increases, including but not limited to staff wages, utility expenses, and chemicals, all of which are vital for maintaining the safe and efficient operation of the venues.”

Council's adopted Fees and Charges Schedule increased on average between 2.5% and 3%. Some individual fees ranged to 12%.

In justifying the requested 3.5% increase in fees and charges Belgravia Leisure has stated:

"This modest adjustment is necessary to keep pace with several cost pressures that are currently impacting our operations. In particular:

- The national minimum wage has increased by 3.5%, affecting wage costs across our team.*
- Utility costs have risen significantly, with a projected 9% increase this financial year.*
- The cost of goods and supplies we rely on has also gone up by approximately 3% on average."*

Belgravia Leisure has provided Table 1 below identifying a 3.5% increase across the board to offset increased operating costs.

Table 1. Proposed admissions / fees and charges for 2025/2026 – Aquatic Leisure Centres

Dubbo Regional Council - Aquatic Leisure Centres			
Fees and Charges			
DUBBO AQUATIC LEISURE CENTRE & WELLINGTON AQUATIC LEISURE CENTRE ADMISSION			
Item	Current 24/25	Percentage Increase	Proposed 25/26
DALC/WALC Season Pass – Adult	\$140.00	3.5%	\$144.90
DALC/WALC Season Pass – Child	\$98.00	3.5%	\$101.43
DALC/WALC Season Pass – Concession	\$98.00	3.5%	\$101.43
DALC/WALC Season pass – Family	\$325.00	3.5%	\$336.38
DALC/WALC 28 Day Pass (Direct Debit or Manual) – Adult	\$28.00	3.5%	\$28.98
DALC/WALC 28 Day Pass (Direct Debit or Manual) - Child	\$22.50	3.5%	\$23.29
DALC/WALC 28 Day Pass (Direct Debit or Manual) – Concession	\$22.50	3.5%	\$23.29
DALC/WALC 28 Day Pass (Direct Debit or Manual) – Family	\$50.00	3.5%	\$51.75
10 Entry Pass – Adult	\$55.00	3.5%	\$56.93
10 Entry Pass – Child	\$32.00	3.5%	\$33.12
10 Entry Pass – Concession	\$32.00	3.5%	\$33.12
Single Entry/Casual Pass – Adult	\$7.50	3.5%	\$7.76
Single Entry/Casual Pass – Child	\$5.50	3.5%	\$5.69
Singlet Entry/Casual Pass – Concession	\$5.50	3.5%	\$5.69
Single Entry - Family	\$22.00	3.5%	\$22.77
Non-Swimmer & Visitor	\$2.20	3.5%	\$2.28
Children aged 2 and under	No charge	No charge	No charge
Child Pick-up (under 10 minutes)	No charge	No charge	No charge
Companion Card	No charge	No charge	No charge
Replacement Membership Tag	\$2.00	3.5%	2.07
GEURIE SWIMMING POOL ADMISSION			
Season Pass – Geurie Only - Adult	\$110.00	3.5%	\$113.85

Season Pass – Geurie Only - Child	\$70.00	3.5%	\$72.45
Season Pass – Geurie Only - Concession	\$70.00	3.5%	\$72.45
Season pass – Geurie Only - Family	\$170.00	3.5%	\$175.95
28 Day Pass - Geurie Only - (Direct Debit or Manual) – Adult	\$25.00	3.5%	\$25.88
28 Day Pass – Geurie Only - (Direct Debit or Manual) - Child	\$20.00	3.5%	\$20.70
28 Day Pass – Geurie Only - (Direct Debit or Manual) – Concession	\$20.00	3.5%	\$20.70
28 Day Pass – Geurie Only - (Direct Debit or Manual) – Family	\$45.00	3.5%	\$46.58
10 Entry Pass – Adult	\$38.00	3.5%	\$39.33
10 Entry Pass – Child	\$27.50	3.5%	\$28.46
10 Entry Pass – Concession	\$27.50	3.5%	\$28.46
Single Entry/Casual Pass – Adult	\$6.50	3.5%	\$6.73
Single Entry/Casual Pass – Child	\$4.50	3.5%	\$4.66
Singlet Entry/Casual Pass – Concession	\$4.50	3.5%	\$4.66
Single Entry - Family	\$16.50	3.5%	\$17.08
Non-Swimmer & Visitor	\$2.20	3.5%	\$2.28
Children aged 2 and under	No charge	No charge	No charge
Child Pick-up (under 10 minutes)	No charge	No charge	No charge
Companion Card	No charge	No charge	No charge
Replacement Membership Tag	\$2.00	3.5%	\$2.07
FACILITY HIRE AND LANE HIRE			
Full exclusive use of the entire facility (closed to the public) – admission not included – per hour (excludes waterslide)	\$360.00	3.5%	\$372.60
Full exclusive use of the entire facility (closed to the public) – admission not included – per 6-hour block (excludes waterslide)	\$1,140.00	3.5%	\$1,179.90
50m Pool – Admission not included – per hour (1 lane must remain open to public)	\$90.00	3.5%	\$93.15
50m Pool – Admission not included – per 6 hour block (1 lane must remain open to public)	\$300.00	3.5%	\$310.50
Entire Leisure/Learn to Swim Pool/Splash park – admission not included – per hour	\$55.00	3.5%	\$56.93
Entire Leisure/Learn to Swim Pool/Splash park – admission not included – per 6-hour block	\$170.00	3.5%	\$175.95
Entire 25m Pool (Geurie only) with lane ropes if required – admission not included – per hour	\$55.00	3.5%	\$56.93
Entire 25m Pool (Geurie only) with lane ropes if required – admission not included –	\$170.00	3.5%	\$175.95

per 6-hour block			
Lane Hire – Private – per hour	\$32.00	3.5%	\$33.12
Lane Hire – Clubs, Carnivals & Recreational School Visits – per lane – per hour	\$7.50	3.5%	\$7.76
Partial Leisure Pool for Community Aqua Aerobics program – per session	\$18.00	3.5%	\$18.63
Clubroom/ Multi-Purpose Room – per 6-hour block	\$140.00	3.5%	\$144.90
Clubroom/Multi-Purpose Room – per hour	\$36.00	3.5%	\$37.26
Clubroom/Multi-Purpose – per season – Swim Club only	\$240.00	3.5%	\$248.40
Out of Hours Staffing fee – Dubbo/Wellington – per Structure/Amenity – per hour – Admission and Facility Hire not included	\$78.00	3.5%	\$80.73
Out of Hours Staffing Fee – Geurie – per hour – Admission and Facility Hire not included	\$40.00	3.5%	\$41.40
Pool Party Package – includes admission for 15 children, 2 adults, 1-hour non-exclusive waterslide pass, use of BBQ, shelter and tables	\$230.00	3.5%	\$238.05
Storage Room Hire – per square metre – per season	\$9.00	3.5%	\$9.32
Additional Cleaning – Amenities/Meeting Rooms/Clubhouse	Actual cost	Actual cost	Actual cost
Loss/Damage/Repair of Equipment	Actual cost	Actual cost	Actual cost
LEARN TO SWIM			
Learn to Swim – Skill level assessment	Free	Free	Actual cost
Learn to Swim – Survival Skills – Per lesson – Group (1:5)	\$17.00	3.5%	\$17.60
Learn to Swim – Survival Skills – Per lesson – Private Lessons (1:1)	\$30.00	3.5%	\$31.05
Learn to Swim – Advanced Skills - Per lesson – Group (1:5)	\$17.00	3.5%	\$17.60
Learn to Swim – Advanced Skills - Per lesson – Private Lessons (1:1)	\$30.00	3.5%	\$31.05
Learn to Swim – Adult group lesson (1:3+)	\$17.00	3.5%	\$17.60
Learn to Swim – Adult private lesson (1:1)	\$30.00	3.5%	\$31.05
SCHOOL PROGRAMS AND CARNIVALS			
Hire of DRC Learn to Swim Instructor – School Swimming & Water Safety Program – Per session	\$45.00	3.5%	\$46.58
Admission – Schools and carnivals – per student – Lane/Facility Hire additional	\$5.50	3.5%	\$5.69

Admission – Schools and carnivals – Parents & Spectators	\$2.50	3.5%	\$2.59
Admission – Schools and Carnivals – Teachers & Officials assisting with event	Free	Free	Free
Learn to Swim Equipment Hire – Per Session	\$17.00	3.5%	\$17.60
AQUATIC PROGRAMS			
Aqua Aerobics – Adult (with Season Pass, 10 visit pass or Fitness Passport)	\$10.00	3.5%	\$10.35
Aqua Aerobics – Child/Concession (with Season Pass, 10 visit pass or Fitness Passport)	\$7.00	3.5%	\$7.25
Aqua Aerobics – Adult – includes Admission	\$16.00	3.5%	\$16.56
Aqua Aerobics – Child/Concession – includes Admission	\$11.00	3.5%	\$11.39
NSW Industry Occupational Aquatic Competency Assessment – per person – includes admission	\$10.00	3.5%	\$10.35
Active Pools Program – per child – includes 8 week All Access Membership	\$120.00	3.5%	\$124.20
ONLINE PAYMENT FEES			
Direct Debit Transaction Fee – per transaction attempt	Set By Debit Success	Set By Debit Success	Set By Debit Success
Direct debit Dishonour Fee – per failed transaction	Set By Debit Success	Set By Debit Success	Set By Debit Success
Direct debit Dishonour Fee – per failed transaction	Set By Debit Success	Set By Debit Success	Set By Debit Success

Note: minor rounding up/down applied.

Season length

Under the contract Council sets the season length of each facility, again with a minimum and maximum identified. Under agreement between the parties the length of the seasons is:

- Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre operates for approximately 33 weeks commencing from 1st weekend in September (06/09/2025 – 24/04/2026). This year's season was reduced back to 30 weeks to allow for works to commence on the Plant Room Refurbishment.
- Wellington Aquatic Leisure Centre operates for approximately 31 weeks commencing from 1st weekend in September (06/09/2025 – 12/04/2026). This year's season was increased to 33 weeks to compensate for the works on the Plant Room Refurbishment at Dubbo Aquatic Leisure Centre.
- Geurie Pool operates for approximately 18 weeks commencing 1st weekend in November (01/11/2025 – 08/03/2026).

Belgravia Leisure is proposing to retain the existing season length for each of the facilities, however, it proposes to keep the option open to extend the length of the Wellington Aquatic Leisure Centre for up to 2 weeks dependent on favourable weather conditions, and to work with the community surrounding State and National Swimming Titles.

Consultation

Consultation has been held between Dubbo Regional Council and Belgravia Leisure. Belgravia Leisure has indicated that the existing admissions / fees and charges need to be increased to meet increased operating costs, including staff wages, chemicals and utilities.

Resourcing Implications

No additional internal staff resources are required.

Planned Communications

Belgravia Leisure would be responsible to communicate the revised admissions/fee and charge's structure.



REPORT: 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 26 June 2025
TRIM REFERENCE: ID25/1234

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seek endorsement	
Issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Report provides information on the submissions received following public exhibition of the 2025-29 Youth Action Plan.	
Reasoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At its Council meeting 22 April 2025, Council endorsed the public exhibition of the draft 2025 –2029 Youth Action Plan (CCC25/13)The public exhibition process has been completed.Five public submissions were received, and no amendments need to be made to the plan.	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Community Services
	Funding Source	Internal Budget and seek external grant assistance as recommendations are endorsed.
	Proposed Cost	The Youth Action Plan includes a range of actions that will be undertaken as business-as-usual activities. However, this work will highlight further recommendations to Council that will require financial considerations.
	Ongoing Costs	As Above
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Nil
	Impact on Policy	Nil
Consultation	Community Engagement	Public Exhibition from 19 May 2025 till 17 June 2025. Extensive consultation during the development of the plan as explained the previous report.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The Towards 2040 Community Strategic Plan is a vision for the development of the region out to the year 2040. The Plan includes six principal themes and a number of objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme: 5 Liveability
CSP Objective: 5.3 The lifestyle and social needs of the community are supported
Delivery Program Strategy: 5.3.2 A variety of youth activities and entertainment is available

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the submissions received during the public exhibition, as well as the contributions made by the community during the community engagement phase, be acknowledged.**
- 2. That Council endorse the 2025 – 2029 Youth Action Plan.**

Craig Arms
Director Community, Culture and Places

CM
Youth Development
Officer

BACKGROUND

Previous Resolutions of Council

CCC24/13 (CCL24/45) 7 March 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>That the progress report provided by Director Community, Culture and Places be noted.</i> 2. <i>That it be noted that the Community Safety Plan will encompass 'Crime Prevention Priorities' and associated action plans.</i> 3. <i>That the Chief Executive Officer develop a 'Youth Strategy' in collaboration with the Youth Council and other key stakeholders.</i>
CCC25/13 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan (ID25/419) 8 April 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>That Council endorse the 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan for the purpose of public exhibition.</i> 2. <i>That the CEO provide a report detailing the results of the Public Exhibition period.</i>

Addressing youth engagement, health, and participation has long been a significant focus across all levels of government. However, until recently, Dubbo Regional Council had not developed a dedicated strategic document in this area. At its meeting on 7 March 2024, Council resolved to fill this gap (CCC24/13).

In March 2024, Council adopted the Community, Safety and Crime Prevention Plan (CSCPP), which included a commitment to develop a Youth Action Plan. While the two documents are closely aligned and mutually supportive, each maintains its own distinct identity. With thoughtful planning and implementation, both plans are positioned to enhance one another and contribute meaningfully to overall community wellbeing.

REPORT

Over the past 15 months, Council staff, the Youth Council, and a range of community stakeholders have collaborated extensively to develop the draft Youth Action Plan.

The 2025–2029 Youth Action Plan is designed to address the changing needs of young people in the Dubbo Local Government Area. It outlines targeted initiatives shaped by meaningful engagement with both youth and the wider community, while also drawing on the insights and objectives of relevant State Government strategies and reports. The Plan sets out Council's key priorities for engaging with, supporting, and empowering young people aged 12–25 across the region. It builds upon previous consultations, including surveys, forums, and youth-focused events.

A vital part of the plan's development has been the contribution of the Dubbo Regional Council Youth Council. Members played a significant role in shaping the structure of the online engagement process and were closely involved throughout the drafting phase. The Youth Council has formally endorsed the draft plan for Council's consideration.

The 2025–2029 Youth Action Plan (Appendix 1) has been shaped through input from young people and the broader community, ensuring it aligns with the needs and aspirations of youth within the Dubbo Local Government Area. Key engagement activities included:

Engagement Tool	Description
Youth Survey	A total of 290 young people participated in a survey, providing insights into key priorities and challenges they face.
Stakeholder Consultation	Meetings and discussions were held with community groups, service providers, schools, and youth organisations to gather input on youth-related issues and opportunities.
Workshops & Focus Groups	Targeted engagement sessions were conducted with diverse youth populations, including Indigenous, multicultural, and disadvantaged groups, to ensure inclusivity in the planning process.
Public Feedback	Online and in-person feedback opportunities allowed young people and the broader community to contribute their perspectives on the draft plan.

The engagement process identified key themes for young people in the Dubbo LGA. Young people told us they want:

- Safe and welcoming public spaces
- More activities and events.
- Better public transport and accessibility
- Support for mental health and wellbeing
- Opportunities for learning and employment
- Stronger youth voice in decision-making

In response, the Youth Action Plan prioritises effort down four ‘Focus Areas’:

Focus Area 1: Provide youth-friendly public spaces and infrastructure

Focus Area 2: Attract and support events, recreation, and social opportunities

Focus Area 3: Build partnerships and participation for improve youth service provision

Focus Area 4: Promote opportunities for youth participation and leadership

Currently there are 20 actions identified across the four Focus Areas. Each action has an associated timeframe for completion.

The Role of Council

A key consideration in developing and implementing the Youth Action Plan is understanding the scope of Council’s authority as a Local Government entity in relation to youth service delivery. Council can affect positive outcomes for youth through the following roles:

Council Role	Description
Provider	Provide and maintain public infrastructure to facilitate youth activity, engagement and enjoyment. Attract and support programs, events, and services for youth development, leadership, and participation in community life
Leader	Act as a leader and identify key issues affecting young people and drive initiatives that respond to their needs and aspirations.
Collaborator	Support and work in partnership with youth organisations, schools, community groups, and government agencies to create opportunities for young people.
Advocator	Represent youth priorities in decision-making and promote young people's interests at local, state, and federal levels.

Strengthening the Youth Council is a cornerstone of Council's strategy to deepen direct engagement with young people and create more meaningful opportunities for their involvement in decision-making—ensuring their voices are genuinely heard. A key commitment (Action 4.1) outlines Council's intent to adopt a deliberate, strategic approach to developing the Youth Council into a high-performing, influential body that aspires to set a benchmark within local government.

Consultation

Public Exhibition Overview

The Draft Youth Action Plan 2025–2029 was endorsed for public exhibition at the 22 April 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting. It was placed on public exhibition from 19 May 2025 to 17 June 2025. During this period the plan was made available on Council's website and YourSay platform. Promotion occurred via Council's social media, Youth Council networks, and school newsletters. Submissions were accepted via online form and direct email. To be noted is the high number of views to the YourSay page (274) and the number of downloads of the document (157).

Explanation of the community engagement response can be viewed as an attachment to this report (Appendix 2)

Submissions Received

A total of five formal submissions were received during the public exhibition of the Draft Youth Action Plan 2025–2029. These submissions provided valuable insights and recommendations from key stakeholders and community members.

The below table seeks to explain some of the main themes of the submissions and provide Council's response.

Theme	Focus issue	Council response
Strong support for a dedicated Youth Centre in Dubbo.	Safe and Inclusive Spaces	Council as Leader: 1.2 Investigate and provide a scoping report into the provision of a dedicated Youth Centre and/or public space.
	Concern regarding safety at night and in public places.	Council as Provider: 2.5 Assess and report on available public spaces for youth-focused events to enhance social engagement and participation. Addressed through existing planning frameworks including CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles; feedback shared with Community Safety Reference Group.
	Emphasis on culturally safe, inclusive, and accessible spaces.	Council as Leader: 2.3 Integrate youth-focused actions into the 2025–2040 Cultural Plan, prioritising both youth engagement and skills development.
Emphasis on culturally safe, inclusive, and accessible spaces.	Events, Culture and Community Connection	Council as leader: 2.3 Integrate youth-focused actions into the 2025-2040 Cultural Plan, prioritising both youth engagement and skills development as distinct priority areas. Council as a Provider: 2.5 Assess and report on available public spaces for youth-focused events to enhance social engagement and community participation. Review existing public spaces across the Dubbo region to identify opportunities for hosting youth-oriented activities
	Desire for creative, cultural, and non-sport-based engagement.	Council as Leader: 2.2 Conduct a scoping report on the provision of youth-focused creative development venues/spaces and required resourcing. 2.3 Integrate youth-focused actions into the 2025–2040 Cultural Plan.
Need for collaborative service delivery and early intervention.	Education and Employment Pathways	Council as a Collaborator: 3.1 Continue to support and actively promote career expos and employment opportunities for young people.
	Health and Wellbeing	3.2 Continue Council contribution to Youth Interagency meetings

		<p>3.3 Support the Youth Action Meeting (YAM) initiative driven by NSW Police</p> <p>4.2 Work with Youth Council to review and action the 'Your Voice, Our Future' interim and final report when released.</p>
Importance of youth voice in decision-making and program design.	Civic Participation and Youth Voice	<p>Council as a Provider:</p> <p>4.1 Prepare a strategic plan that outlines best practice principles to build capacity of our Youth Council.</p> <p>4.3 Continue to support the Sister City Exchange Program as an opportunity for youth to demonstrate civic leadership on an international platform</p> <p>Council as a Leader:</p> <p>4.2 Work with Youth Council to review and action the 'Your Voice, Our Future' interim and final report when released</p>
Desire for creative, cultural, and non-sport-based engagement.	Events, Culture and Community Connection	<p>Council as a Leader:</p> <p>2.2 Conduct a scoping report on the provision of youth focused creative development venues/spaces and required resourcing.</p> <p>2.3 Integrate youth-focused actions into the 2025-2040 Cultural Plan, prioritising both youth engagement and skills development as distinct priority areas</p>
Recognition of transport and regional access barriers.	Health and Wellbeing	<p>Public transport in the region is under Transport NSW delegation.</p> <p>Council as a Collaborator:</p> <p>Issues of transport have been linked to the 'Your Voice, Our Future' interim report.</p> <p>4.2 Work with Youth Council to review and action the 'Your Voice, Our Future' interim and final report when released.</p>

Quotes from submissions

"We strongly support the plans guiding vision to empower young people and ensure they feel connected, valued, and supported in the Dubbo region"

"... supports the development and maintenance of youth-friendly public spaces. Our work has consistently identified the importance of safe, culturally appropriate environments for young people particularly Aboriginal youth to gather, connect, and participate in positive activities."

"I strongly support the Youth Action Plans recognition of the importance of:

- Inclusive, safe spaces for youth.
- Support for mental health and wellbeing.
- Accessible programs that foster skill development and social connection
- Incorporating youth voice in program design via a youth advisory panel”

“I write to express strong support for Action 1.2 the investigation into a dedicated Youth Centre or public space and to recommend further enhancements grounded in regional best practices and community insight.”

Resourcing Implications

An allocation of \$10,000 has been approved in the draft budget for 2025/2026.

The specific costs for individual actions outlined in the draft Action Plan have not yet been determined. Several initiatives are considered business-as-usual and will be delivered using existing financial resources.

Some actions, however, may necessitate the development of business cases to support potential service enhancements and associated funding requirements. These proposals will be further assessed through Council’s annual budget planning processes. Additionally, Council will remain proactive in pursuing relevant grant opportunities to support delivery.

Reporting on the Youth Action Plan actions

Updates on the relevant actions will be reported each quarter through the Delivery and Operational Plan reporting.

Timeframe

Key Date	Explanation
July 2025	Report to the Ordinary Council Meeting detailing the results of the Public Exhibition period and seeking adoption of the Draft Plan.
Post Adoption	Implementation of the Plan to commence.
October 2025	Report on the progress of the Plan through quarterly reporting.

APPENDICES:

- [1](#) Appendix 1 - Draft 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan
- [2](#) Appendix 2 - Draft 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan Engagement Snapshot



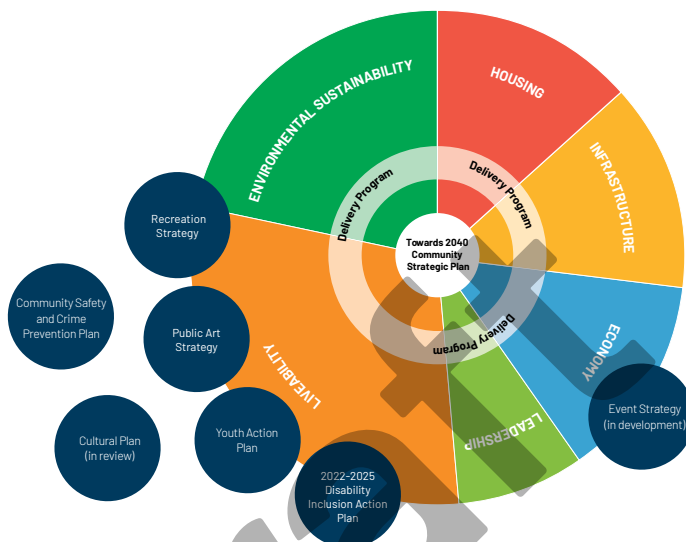
2025-2029 YOUTH ACTION PLAN



How the Youth Action Plan connects with our other strategic plans

The 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan will be embedded into our integrated planning and reporting framework to ensure what is planned is delivered through robust planning and resource allocations.

At the centre of the framework is the Towards 2040 Community Strategic Plan – it describes the community's vision and aspirations. The Youth Action Plan is a key document providing specific strategic direction and sits alongside a range of other plans, strategies and policies as shown in the diagram below.



The design of the Plan has a whole-of-community approach, to be used by everyone in the region, creating a thriving vibrant inclusive community.

Strategic context

Towards Community Strategic Plan: Theme 5 Liveability

Goal	We are a diverse, vibrant, safe and healthy region that includes a variety of public spaces and amenities
Objectives	5 Liveability
Strategies	5.3 The lifestyle and social needs of the community are supported 5.3.2 A variety of youth activities and entertainment is available
Actions	5.3.2.1 Develop and implement the Youth Strategy.

For more information on Council's plans visit:
dubbo.nsw.gov.au/About-Council
(A-Z Plans and Strategies)



or scan the QR code

Disclaimer statement

The information is current at time of completing this plan and some information may change during the lifetime of the 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan. Community members are advised to contact relevant service providers, organisers, authorities, and Dubbo Regional Council Customer Experience Team if they have any questions.



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to Elders past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation and thank them for their care of the land, water and sky and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.

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Our vision

Our vision is to lead a thriving, vibrant, and inclusive community where young people are empowered to reach their full potential.

We aim to cultivate an environment where youth feel valued, connected, and supported, and where they actively contribute to shaping the future of the Dubbo region.



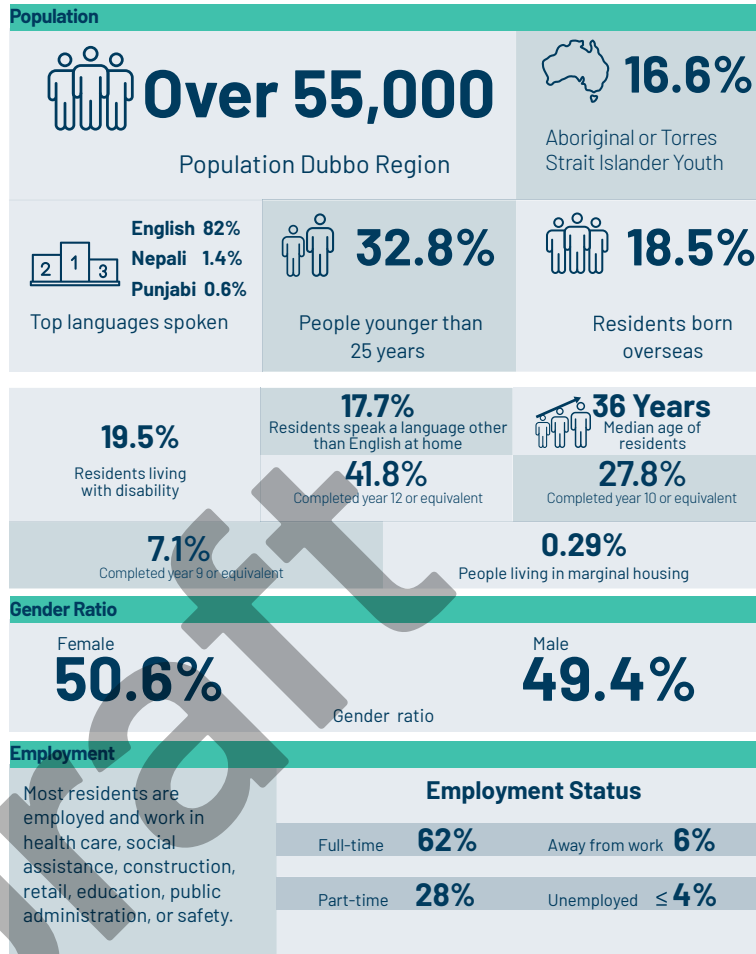
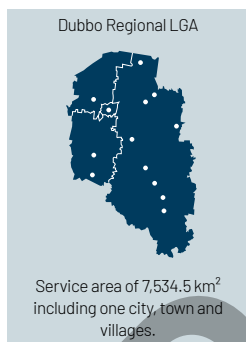
Our commitment

- Strengthening the role of the Youth Council to encourage young people to have a voice in local decision-making.
- Supporting youth-driven sporting events, promoting inclusivity in sports, and maintaining quality sporting facilities.
- Promoting youth involvement in cultural spaces
- Support and attraction of events, programs, and services that promote youth mental health, social engagement, and opportunities for skill development.

Youth Profile in the Dubbo Region

The Dubbo Region is home to a growing and diverse population with broad skills and experiences providing richness to our culture, health and wellbeing. Diversity brings strength to a community.

Our Region is growing and becoming more culturally diverse. Our youth (0-25 years) bring with them their energy and the potential for future economic growth and a stronger more resilient community.



Our challenges and opportunities

The Dubbo Region is a vibrant and growing community with a diverse youth population that has access to health services, social support, recreational parks, and sporting facilities. However, there is a need for better coordination and collaboration between youth services, schools, community groups, and government agencies to enhance safety and ensure that public spaces remain inclusive and engaging for young people. Strengthening these efforts will help reduce the risks of anti-social behaviour and create more opportunities for youth to thrive in the community.



What is a Youth Action Plan?

After input from local consultation, Dubbo Regional Council has developed a Youth Action Plan outlining its commitments in response to identified youth issues, desires and aspirations. Actions for this plan will seek to enhance the experience of local youth aged 12-24 living in our Local Government Area (LGA) and contribute to building capacity as they mature.

Council seeks to approach these commitments with a collaborative mindset. Partners will include young people, community groups, government and non-government organisations.



Guiding principles

When developing strategic documents, three guiding principles ensure that Council remains connected to and representative of community needs and voices. The principles detailed below steer the Youth Action Plan:



A whole-of-community approach

Youth well-being and community support is everyone's responsibility, and no single entity—whether government, community service providers, or individuals—can be solely responsible for, nor achieve, positive outcomes that address the underlying challenges and barriers faced by young people in the Dubbo Region. Contributing to a cohesive and supportive community where young people feel safe and connected requires the active involvement of a broad range of stakeholders, each bringing unique insights and strengths to the table.

To ensure positive outcomes for youth engagement, safety, and development, there must be coordinated collaboration between local government, service providers, educational institutions, businesses, and community organisations. This collaboration is essential in designing, implementing, and delivering programs and services that effectively meet the needs of young people. Additionally, it requires ongoing accountability from all stakeholders to ensure the outcomes of these programs are achieved, contributing to a safer, more inclusive, and supportive community for young people to thrive.

Council's Role in Supporting Young People Dubbo Regional Council plays a key role in fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive environment for young people. Through leadership, collaboration, and advocacy, Council works to ensure young people in the region have access to opportunities, services, and programs that enhance their wellbeing, skills, and engagement in the community.	The Role of the Community in Supporting Young People The wider community plays a vital role in creating a positive and inclusive environment where young people can thrive. Families, schools, businesses, and community groups all contribute to supporting youth by providing opportunities, guidance, and a sense of belonging.
Provider <i>Provide and maintain public infrastructure to facilitate youth activity, engagement and enjoyment. Attract and support programs, events, and services for youth development, leadership, and participation in community life.</i>	Mentorship & Support <i>Encourage and guide young people by offering mentorship, career advice, and personal support.</i>
Leader <i>Act as a leader and identify key issues affecting young people and drive initiatives that respond to their needs and aspirations.</i>	Involvement & Participation <i>Engage with youth-led initiatives, events, and programs to create a more connected and inclusive community.</i>
Collaborator <i>Support and work in partnership with youth organisations, schools, community groups, and government agencies to create opportunities for young people.</i>	Safe & Welcoming Spaces <i>Ensure young people have access to safe, supportive, and accessible places where they can learn, socialise, and express themselves.</i>
Advocate <i>Represent youth priorities in decision-making and promote young people's interests at local, state, and federal levels.</i>	Listening & Advocacy <i>Acknowledge and amplify youth voices by supporting their ideas and advocating for their needs in decision-making processes.</i>
	Collaboration <i>Work alongside Council, youth organisations, and schools to create meaningful opportunities for young people.</i>

What the Regional Youth Insights report told us

Flowing from the NSW Government's Regional Youth Framework and associated Action Plan (2020) the NSW Office of Regional Youth (ORY) released in 2022 their Regional Insights Report presenting priority areas for investment in each region to improve economic and social outcomes for young people living in regional NSW.

The ORY was guided by the Regional Youth Framework. This reflected the views of young people in regions with four pillars – Work Ready, Wellbeing, Connectivity and Community. Nine investment themes across these pillars were identified for further government investment.

ORY developed evidenced-based priority areas for each region via engagement with young people, survey responses and data from key economic and social indicators in each region. The priority areas for our region area displayed below.

The priority areas for Central West and Orana Region are:

Pillar	Pillar	Pillar	Pillar
Work Ready	Wellbeing	Connectivity	Community
Investment Theme	Investment Theme	Investment Theme	Investment Theme
Skills	Health	Transport	Belonging
Consultations	Consultations	Consultations	Consultations
High school students expressed a desire for more opportunities for skill development and career pathway options through school.	Improved access to health services. Particularly mental health and specialist services.	Improve access to public transport. Young people raised this as a significant barrier to living their lives. They raised issues around frequency, reliability and disability access.	Provide additional recreational activities and events. Young people raised the need to have better access to a variety of activities and entertainment. Growth Centres were also mentioned as lacking access to affordable activities for older youth and indoor facilities during winter.

The Youth Insights report also identified secondary and other priorities such as:

- improved education around life skills in schools (Skills),
- reduce bullying and racism in schools (Education),
- improved public access to internet (Digital),
- reduce substance misuse and abuse, such as alcohol, drugs and vaping in schools (Health),
- improved access to sexual health amenities and education (Education),
- improved access to feminine hygiene products (Health).

Agency and housing were raised as 'other' issues.

The previous State Government priorities were identified and funded through their Regional youth Action Plan. Much of this work sits outside the scope of Dubbo Regional Council, however they remain relevant and contribute to the intent of this plan especially around the 'Belonging' Investment Theme.

Your Voice, Our Future Interim Report

Since then, the Office of Primary Industries and Regional Development have shared the findings of Your Voice, Our Future Interim Report. It is a youth consultation initiative and is all about hearing from 4,880 young people in NSW aged 12 to 24 years to discover what is important to them, how the NSW Government can involve young people in decision-making, and how the government can better support young people.

The Interim Report states that consistent themes are emerging from the Your Voice, Our Future consultation: voice, action, and support

- Young people want to have a voice to have a say and be heard.
- Young people want to take action and make a difference in their communities.
- Young people need better support to meet their needs and reach their goals.

As of 31 October 2024, the top issues facing young people in NSW as identified in the interim report are:

- Vaping, alcohol and drugs
- Cost of living
- Availability of housing
- Climate change and the environment
- Mental health.

The Final Report will be published in 2025.



What our community told us

In 2024, the Dubbo Regional Council gathered valuable input from the community through various engagement activities, including the Youth Action surveys and consultations. These activities helped shape the focus areas for this Youth Action Plan.

The Youth Action Plan has been informed by the contributions of 290 young people from the Dubbo region, gathered through an extensive youth survey. This feedback reflects the diverse perspectives and needs of the local youth community, ensuring the plan is grounded in the lived experiences and aspirations of the youth.

The youth of our community shared their views, highlighting key areas of concern such as the need for greater involvement in local activities, more opportunities for youth-driven events, and a greater focus on inclusivity and representation. From these conversations, it's clear that enhancing community engagement, providing safe and accessible spaces, and supporting youth participation in local projects are top priorities for the next decade.

Key Insights:



Through this plan, we recognise the importance of strengthening youth involvement in shaping the future of our region. We aim to create a sense of belonging, inclusivity, and empowerment for all young people, ensuring that they feel heard and valued in the local community.



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What We Heard: Insights from the Dubbo Regions Young People

Dubbo Regional Council engaged with young people to develop the Youth Action Plan 2025-2029 through various activities aimed at understanding their needs and aspirations. One of the key initiatives was a survey designed to gather insights directly from youth aged 12 to 24. The survey included a section titled "If I was mayor for a day" where participants could share their ideas and suggestions for the community.

Our young people's responses from **If I were Mayor for a Day**



“
Organise a multi-level facility where homeless people can sleep in.
”

“
Encourage or build public transport such as buses or taxis.
”

“
Reduce youth crime rates.
”

“
I would put more car parks for elderly people. This would be more convenient for them as they won't have to walk as far.
”

“
I would put more focus on improving the infrastructure around the edges of Dubbo.
”

“
I would organise for more volunteer opportunities for younger people to allow them to gain experience in aiding the community.
”

“
Fix all the roads and make Dubbo a safer place.
”

“
I would improve Dubbo's sporting facilities.
”

“
I would create a youth hub for me and my mates to hang out in a safe space.
”

“
Promote cultural diversity and creativity through art exhibitions, music festivals, and theatre productions.
”

“
I would introduce more extracurricular activities for before and after school, ensuring the learning of youth both in and out of school.
”

“
I would improve our public spaces. Enhancing our parks and recreational facilities will provide safe and enjoyable places for families.
”



Key themes that local young people told us they want...

Safe and welcoming public spaces

More activities and events

Better public transport and accessibility

Support for Mental Health and Wellbeing

Opportunities for Learning and Employment

Stronger Youth Voice in Decision-Making

Community expects Council staff to....

Implement and lead actions that will address reported youth issues and desires which will lead to positive outcomes for their perceptions of belonging and enjoyment of living in our LGA.

Focus Areas

It was through months of holistic community and stakeholder consultation that a range of information was collected which set the direction of the Plan, with four distinct focus areas.

Focus Area 1:



Provide youth-friendly public spaces and infrastructure

- Develop and maintain spaces where young people feel comfortable and engaged.
- Invest in community hubs, parks, and cultural venues that support youth activities.
- Ensure facilities are accessible and inclusive for all young people.

Focus Area 2:



Attract and support events, recreation, and social opportunities

- Supporting and attracting youth-focused events such as music festivals, creative arts workshops, and sporting competitions.
- Improving access to recreational spaces, including skate parks, sports fields, and cultural venues.
- Promoting inclusive activities that cater to diverse interests and backgrounds.

Focus Area 3:



Build partnerships and participation for improving youth service provision

- Strengthening collaboration between youth services, schools, and community organisations to enhance safety and reduce risks of anti-social behaviour.
- Advocating for improved public transport options, including bus services.
- Contribute to integrated efforts to improve the physical and mental wellbeing of local youth.

Focus Area 4:



Promote opportunities for youth participation and leadership

- Encouraging young people to have a voice in decision-making through initiatives like the Youth Council.
- Providing leadership development opportunities, mentoring, and youth-led projects.
- Supporting young people in advocating for issues that matter to them.

Through these focus areas, Dubbo Regional Council aims to lead a community where young people feel **safe, supported, and empowered** to reach their full potential.

Activating the Youth Action Plan

As a local government body, Dubbo Regional Council is committed to playing a leadership role in supporting and empowering young people across the region. Council can advocate and collaborate with service providers, educational institutions, and community organisations to enhance opportunities for youth engagement, wellbeing, and participation.

Council also ensures that public spaces and facilities are designed and maintained in a way that promotes youth-friendly environments, safety, and accessibility. By fostering inclusive and vibrant spaces, young people are encouraged to actively participate in their community, reducing social isolation and increasing their sense of belonging.

Council's active roles as a **Provider, Leader, Collaborator, and Advocate** are applied through various pathways to ensure positive outcomes for young people in the region.

Council as a Provider and Leader.

Council has a direct role in the development and maintenance of public infrastructure, youth-friendly spaces, and recreational facilities. Well-designed and well-maintained environments foster youth engagement, social connection, and a greater sense of community pride.

Council can enhance youth-focused infrastructure and services through:

- Ensuring public spaces, parks, and recreational facilities are designed with young people's needs in mind, incorporating accessible, safe, and youth-friendly design principles.
- Supporting youth access to inclusive sporting, cultural, and recreational activities to promote active lifestyles and social connections.
- Maintaining effective lighting, well-maintained parks, roads, footpaths, and public amenities to enhance safety and usability for young people.
- Establishing safe, alcohol-free, and smoke-free zones in youth-focused areas to promote health and wellbeing.
- Providing spaces for creative and cultural expression and fostering opportunities for youth-led arts and cultural initiatives.

Council as a Collaborator.

Council as a Collaborator, Council can:

- Partner with schools, youth organisations, and service providers to support programs that address youth mental health, employment, education, and social inclusion.
- Work with local Police and community groups to promote youth safety, awareness, and engagement initiatives.
- Increase awareness of available youth services, ensuring young people have access to the support and opportunities they need.
- Maintain open communication with young people through digital presence such as social media platforms and websites, and youth-specific engagement initiatives.

Council as an Advocate

As an Advocate, Council can ensure that the voices of young people in the region are heard and communicated to relevant bodies, such as the NSW Government and Australian Federal Government, Youth Advisory Committees, community organisations and non-government organisations, local businesses and industry leaders, schools and educational institutions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives, local health and wellbeing providers, regional development and planning groups.

Actions table

Focus Area 1: Provide youth-friendly public spaces and infrastructure

Key: CCP: Community Culture and Places SPE: Strategy Partnerships and Engagement IN: Infrastructure

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
1.1 Implement the actions from the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan	CCP	Leader	●	●	●	●
1.2 Investigate and provide a scoping report into the provision of a dedicated Youth Centre and/or public space.	CCP	Leader	●			
1.3 Advocate for the planning of a new community based indoor multi-sport facility to meet the needs of sports and the community	CCP	Advocate	●			
1.4 Define maintenance service levels for Recreation and Open spaces.	CCP	Provider	●			
1.5 Monitor, assess and report on emerging trends in youth participation to guide the development of future sporting facilities.	CCP	Provider		●		
1.6 Complete an assessment of quality, safety and maintenance of Dubbo Regional Council's recreation facilities. Report on outcome and recommendations.	CCP	Collaborator			●	
1.7 Partner with the operator of Dubbo Region's Aquatic Leisure Centres to expand and enhance youth activity programs, ensuring they are accessible, engaging, and aligned with young people's interests and needs.	CCP	Collaborator	●	●	●	●

Focus Area 2: Attract and support events, recreation, and social opportunities

Key: CCP: Community Culture and Places SPE: Strategy Partnerships and Engagement IN: Infrastructure

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
2.1 Develop and implement a Regional Events Strategy. Seek to attract events that appeal to youth, and where possible, establish multi-year agreements.	CCP	Leader	●			
2.2 Conduct a scoping report on the provision of youth-focused creative development venues/spaces and required resourcing.	CCP	Provider		●		
2.3 Integrate youth-focused actions into the 2025-2040 Cultural Plan, prioritising both youth engagement and skills development as distinct priority areas.	CCP	Leader	●			
2.4 Ensure communications about youth based events and activities are directed to the intended audience through appropriate channels. Report on how this may have evolved.	CCP	Leader	●			
2.5 Assess and report on available public spaces for youth-focused events to enhance social engagement and community participation. Review existing public spaces across the Dubbo region to identify opportunities for hosting youth-oriented activities.	CCP	Provider		●		

Focus Area 3: Build partnerships and participation for improve youth service provision

Key: CCP: Community Culture and Places SPE: Strategy Partnerships and Engagement IN: Infrastructure

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
3.1 Continue to support and actively promote career expos and employment opportunities for young people.	CCP	Collaborator	●	●	●	●
3.2 Continue Council contribution to Youth Interagency Meetings	CCP	Collaborator	●	●	●	●
3.3 Support the Youth Action Meeting initiative driven by NSW Police	CCP	Collaborator	●	●	●	●
3.4 Through Dubbo Regional Sports Council, provide support to sporting clubs with an aim to enhance their sustainability and continued delivery of participation opportunities for youth.	CCP	Collaborator	●	●	●	●

Focus Area 4: Promote youth participation and leadership

Key: CCP: Community Culture and Places SPE: Strategy Partnerships and Engagement IN: Infrastructure

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
4.1 Prepare a strategic plan that outlines best practice principles to build capacity of our Youth Council.	CCP	Provider	●			
4.2 Work with Youth Council to review and action the 'Your Voice, Our Future' interim and final report when released.	CCP	Leader	●			
4.3 Continue to support the Sister City Exchange Program as an opportunity for youth to demonstrate civic leadership on an international platform.	CCP	Leader	●	●	●	●

Measuring progress

Measuring and reporting on the action plan helps everyone understand how the region is progressing in delivering improved youth experiences and service outcomes and initiatives that support young people. In addition to internal quarterly updates, an annual report will be developed and provided to the community. These reports will track progress, inform bodies of work and will support evidence-based decision making. Regular evaluation ensures transparency, accountability and continuous improvement.

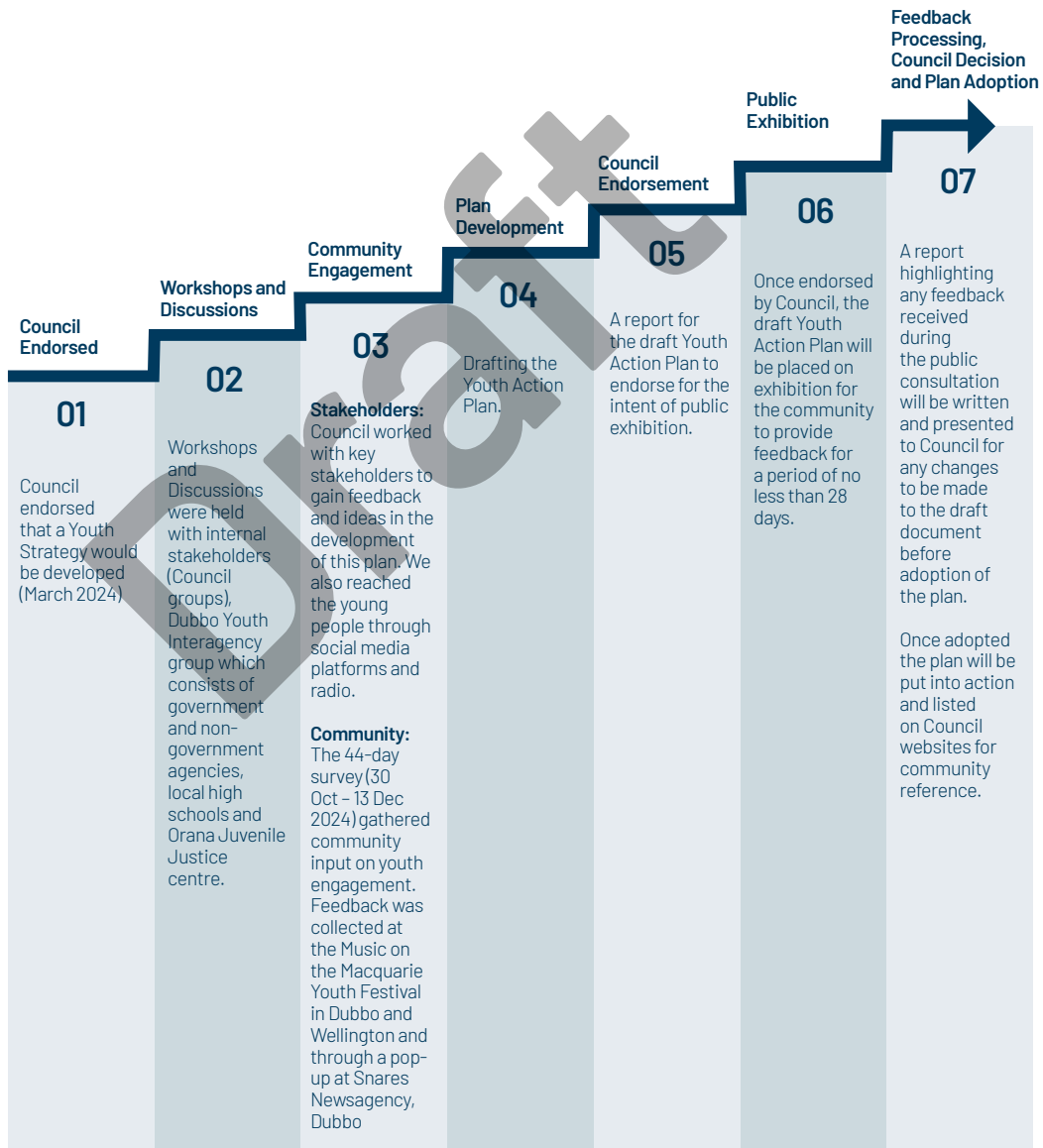
The Community Insights biennial survey provides quantifiable community insights on Council's services and living within the Dubbo Region. These figures are analysed and assessed against Council's corporate measures in a broader regional and environmental context to inform our priorities and actions.

The LGA is a safe place to live, work and play.	2024	2022	2019
	37%	70%	78%

How we developed this plan

Dubbo Regional Council developed this plan through a process of research and community consultation. To seek an understanding of our region's challenges for youth service provision, we were guided by the NSW Office of Regional Youth Action Plan and Regional Youth Insights Report, as well as consulting with government law enforcement and justice agencies.

Workshops were held with internal and external stakeholders to gain insights into what a vibrant community looks like regarding youth experience and services. This was followed by public consultation through Community Insights and Input Survey during 2024. These surveys collected information from community members through online opportunities (YourSay page, Dubbo Regional Council website), phone and in-person or face-to-face opportunities at pop-up stalls during the community consultation periods. Additional conversations with members representing service provider agencies, social community groups, and sporting community groups assisted in building a broader understanding of the views, concerns and suggestions to help inform the development of this plan.



Draft

Status	Version	Author	Date	Changes
Draft	1.0	Youth Development Officer	April 2025	

Cnr Church and Darling streets, Dubbo
Cnr Nanima Crescent and Warne Street, Wellington

Ph: (02) 6801 4000
dubbo.nsw.gov.au





JUNE 2025

Draft 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan

Engagement snapshot

On Tuesday 22 April 2025, Council endorsed the Draft 2025-2029 Youth Action Plan for Public Exhibition.

Our engagement approach aimed to actively **INVOLVE** the community in reflecting the voice and vision of today's youth, and to help shape future programs, activities and opportunities that will provide meaningful contributions to the lives of 12 to 25-year-olds. YourSay facilitated all engagement activities, while targeted communications and marketing strategies ensured residents remained informed about key highlights, impacts, and messaging.

A summary of the engagement activities and community participation are highlighted below.

How we reached you and raised awareness



29 days of engagement

19 May - 17 June 2025



YourSay project page

- 274 visits
- 5 project followers
- 5 formal submissions
- 157 document downloads



Traditional media

- 1 media release distributed
- 1 inclusion in Council News e-newsletters
- 3 newspaper advertisements
- 10 mentions across 2 radio stations



Digital engagement

- 16,725 social media reach (the number of times a post has been viewed)
- 163 social media engagements (the number of times a post was interacted with - which can be likes, shares, comments etc)



Customer support & information

- Copies were available at:
- Council Customer Experience Centres
 - Wellington and Dubbo
 - Macquarie Regional Library
 - Wellington and Dubbo



Community events and activities

- 3 Face-to-face Pop-up Community Conversation events conducted during the engagement period
 - Career Day Senior Campus
 - Youth Action meeting
 - Dubbo Show
- Conversations with schools, Youth Council Members, Dubbo Koori Interagency, Youth Interagency and Dubbo Interagency



Email Campaigns

- 1 email campaign sent to project followers

Outcomes and next steps

A report will be provided to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting, 5.30pm, Tuesday 22 July 2025.

- All feedback will be considered and Council will decide on recommendations to adopt the plan.



We would like to thank everyone who participated in this activity. Your valuable feedback is greatly appreciated.

yoursay.dubbo.nsw.gov.au