



AGENDA

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

14 OCTOBER 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 _____ pm.

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CCC25/48	LEAVE OF ABSENCE (ID25/495)	
CCC25/49	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (ID25/496) 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.	
CCC25/50	PRESENTATION BY YOUTH COUNCIL (ID25/1620) The Committee will be addressed by the Youth Council.	
CCC25/51	REPORT OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL - MEETING 4 SEPTEMBER 2025 (ID25/1861) The Committee had before it the report of the Youth Council meeting held 4 September 2025.	3
CCC25/52	DRAFT PUBLIC AMENITY STRATEGY (ID25/1847) The Committee had before it the report dated 12 September 2025 from the Manager Recreation and Open Spaces regarding Draft Public Amenity Strategy.	8
CCC25/53	OUTCOME OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION FOR RIVERSIDE RESERVES PLAN OF MANAGEMENT. (ID25/1849) The Committee had before it the report dated 13 September 2025 from the Manager Recreation and Open Spaces regarding Outcome of Public Exhibition for Riverside Reserves Plan of Management..	51

CCC25/54	PLAN OF MANAGEMENT - WESTERN PLAINS CULTURAL CENTRE (ID25/1807)	151
	The Committee had before it the report dated 4 September 2025 from the Cultural Development Coordinator regarding Plan of Management - Western Plains Cultural Centre.	
CCC25/55	MANAGEMENT POLICY - HOMELESS PEOPLE IN PUBLIC PLACES (ID25/1948)	189
	The Committee had before it the report dated 29 September 2025 from the Youth Development Officer regarding Management Policy - Homeless People in Public Places.	
CCC25/56	SUBMISSIONS - PUBLIC EXHIBITION - DUBBO REGION EVENTS STRATEGY (ID25/1887)	210
	The Committee had before it the report dated 24 September 2025 from the Events and Partnerships Team Leader regarding Submissions - Public Exhibition - Dubbo Region Events Strategy.	
CCC25/57	WATER SAFETY REPORT (ID25/1757)	270
	The Committee had before it the report dated 28 August 2025 from the Community Development Officer - Seniors and People with Disability regarding Water Safety Report.	



DUBBO REGIONAL
COUNCIL

Report of the Youth Council - meeting 4 September 2025

AUTHOR: Governance Officer
REPORT DATE: 19 September 2025

The Council had before it the report of the Youth Council meeting held 4 September 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

That the report of the Youth Council meeting held on 4 September 2025, be noted.



REPORT YOUTH COUNCIL 4 SEPTEMBER 2025

PRESENT: Councillor P Wells, the Manager Community Services, the Aboriginal Liaison Officer, A Forrester (Community Representative), N Jadhav (Community Representative), A Jones (Community Representative), and M Richardson (Community Representative).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor J Black, the Communication Services Team Leader, and the Community Services Administration Officer.

Councillor P Wells assumed the Chair of the meeting and handed the meeting over to A Jones to Chair.

An Acknowledgement of Country was delivered by A Jones.

The proceedings of the meeting commenced at 4:05 PM.

YC25/63 APOLOGIES (ID25/1517)

Apologies were received from Councillor J Cowley, the Director Community Culture and Places and the Youth Development Officer.

YC25/64 REPORT OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL - MEETING 7 AUGUST 2025 (ID25/1723)

The Committee had before it the report of the Youth Council meeting held 7 August 2025.

OUTCOME

That the report of the Youth Council meeting held on 7 August 2025, be noted.

YC25/65 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (ID25/1522)

The following matters were discussed:

- The Sister Cities Officer has been invited to the next Youth Council meeting to speak about the Sister Cities Program.
- Youth Hub on Council's Website is not live yet.
- The Dinawan's Connection launch occurred at Sandy Beach on 15 August 2025. The launch was very successful and the location should be kept in mind for future events.

- Wellington's NAIDOC events are being next week. The Aboriginal Liaison Officer will report on the events at the next meeting.

YC25/66 YOUTH COUNCIL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNT (ID25/1721)

The Youth Council was addressed by the Communication Services Team Leader.

OUTCOME

1. That the address by the Communication Service Team Leader be noted.
2. That Instagram is the preferred social media platform for the Youth Council.
3. That the Youth Council social media account be linked to Council's website.
4. That Youth Council members receive training from Dubbo Regional Council staff in regard to Council's Social Media Code of Conduct and Etiquette. This training to be provided during the school holidays with the date and time to be determined.

YC25/67 HOT TOPICS/ISSUES AND CONCERNS RAISED BY YOUTH (ID25/1526)

The following matters were raised:

- A Forrester - presenting at the Senior Campus school assembly tomorrow on behalf of the Youth Council. A Jones is going to be on stage also. An events board for youth activities is proposed to be erected at the Careers block.
- A Jones – R U OK Week being held at the Senior Campus this week. The first 15 minutes of period has been devoted to mental health.
- N Jadhav – being a member of the Youth Council has given him the inspiration to run for School Captain next week.

OUTCOME

That the Hot Topics raised be noted.

YC25/68 COUNCIL AND COMMUNITY UPDATES (ID25/1528)

The following updates were provided:

- The Youth Development Officer will be acting as the Manager Community Services for six (6) weeks. During this time a TAFE student will be acting as the Youth Development Officer.
- Youth Council members indicated their interest should an opportunity exist in the future for them to shadow the Youth Development Officer to gain further insights into the position.

OUTCOME

That the Council and Community updates be noted.

YC25/69 YOUTH ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION (ID25/1532)

In the absence of the Youth Development Officer, the meeting was addressed by the Manager Community Services.

The Youth Development Officer and Aboriginal Liaison Officer are working on some of the actions of the Plan. During the acting period for the Youth Development Officer position the following will be undertaken:

- Conducting research on the establishment of a Youth Centre
- Investigate any current Youth Hubs and Youth Centres
- Investigating how networking with services can be done more effectively
- Seek input from the Youth Council members on information found

OUTCOME

That the address by the Manager Community Services be noted.

YC25/70 UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES (ID25/1534)

The following upcoming events and opportunities were noted:

- Upcoming School NAIDOC Events:-
 - 8 September – South Dubbo
 - 18 September – Ballimore
 - 24 September – Buninyong
- 8 October – Todd Carney, Reboot: Mindset Academy – a few spots are still available.
- 28 November – Reclaim the Night – an event is being held at the Rotunda in Church Street and will include a march, music and speakers.
- This event supports an action in Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan - Activating areas in the CBD that make people feel safer and are positive places to be out and about at night.
- Night Patrol – this is a service that aims to make sure young people are safely at home or can safely get from one place to another by calling the service to be transported. The Night Patrol operates Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

OUTCOME

That the upcoming events and opportunities be noted.

YC25/71 BUSINESS AND NEW PROPOSALS (ID25/1540)

The following items were discussed:

- The Youth Council has been invited to present at the Council meeting to be held on 23 September 2025. All members have indicated their interest in attending.

OUTCOME

That the business and new proposals be noted.

YC25/72 NEXT MEETING DETAILS AND CLOSE (ID25/1544)

The Youth Council gave consideration to future meeting dates.

OUTCOME

1. **That the next meeting be held on 2 October 2025.**
2. **That along with the Sisters Cities Officer, guest speakers from Council’s Engagement Team and Police Youth Engagement be invited to attend the next meeting.**

The meeting closed at 5:00pm.

.....
CHAIRPERSON



REPORT: Draft Public Amenity Strategy

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 12 September 2025
TRIM REFERENCE: ID25/1847

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	• Seek endorsement	
Issue	• Seeking Council endorsement for the draft Public Amenity Strategy.	
Reasoning	• To implement the Public Amenity Strategy to guide future public facility planning, in line with a recent Council resolution.	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Community Culture and Places
	Funding Source	Recreation and Open Spaces
	Proposed Cost	\$500
	Ongoing Costs	Costs will be determined following community consultation and incorporation of renewal program into future capital renewal programs.
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Not applicable
	Impact on Policy	No policy implication

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 four principal themes and a number of objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme:	2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective:	2.7 We deliver services and enforce regulations fairly and responsibly to protect health, safety, and community standards.
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.7.1 Enhance community safety and crime prevention efforts to create a secure and welcoming environment.
Theme:	1 Growth, Infrastructure and Connectivity
CSP Objective:	1.2 Infrastructure is planned and built to support our growing community.
Delivery Program Strategy:	1.2.1 Ensure infrastructure maintenance and service delivery align with community expectations.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Public Amenity Strategy be adopted by Council.**
- 2. That it be noted that Council investigate strategies to reduce anti-social behaviour and vandalism at the Church Street amenity block.**
- 3. That Council shall modify the Cameron Park amenity block to create additional public toilets for the community with the original supplier of the facility, Pureable being engaged to undertake the works at an estimated cost of \$120,000 ex gst.**

Craig Arms

Director Community, Culture and Places

IM

Manager Recreation and
Open Spaces

BACKGROUND

Previous Resolutions of Council

26/11/2024 CCL24/302 PUBLIC TOILET STRATEGY (ID24/2150)	1. <i>In support of the draft Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan, Dubbo Regional Council develop a Public Toilet Strategy, focusing on the provision of accessible, sustainable, safe and clean public toilet network that meets the current and future needs of the community.</i> 2. <i>That, to reduce the cost of developing a policy/strategy, the CEO (or nominee) approach other councils that have an adopted public toilet policy/strategy and ask to be allowed to use parts of their document as a template for a Dubbo policy/strategy.</i>
24/06/2025 10 JUNE 2025 CCL25/38 (ID25/1141)	13. <i>That Council</i> a. <i>allocate \$250,000 in the 2025/2026 budget to fund additional toilet facilities at Cameron Park Wellington,</i> b. <i>That the design and specifications of the additional facilities be finalised after consideration of the Dubbo Region Public Toilet Strategy (expected in August 2025) - having regard to the \$250,000 budget allocation.</i> c. <i>That this be a priority project to be funded in the 2025/2026 financial year Quarterly Reviews through operational or other project savings.</i>

REPORT

Draft Public Amenities Strategy Overview

Dubbo Regional Council has developed a draft Public Amenity Strategy to guide future public facility planning, in line with a recent Council resolution. The term “amenity” is used to reflect the inclusion of facilities beyond toilets, such as parenting rooms and Changing Places rooms.

Scope and Focus

The strategy targets amenities typically found in parks and street settings (e.g. Church Street), excluding those at sporting grounds, which are tailored to specific user groups. For example, the Nita McGrath Netball Courts require more female toilets due to user demographics.

Research and Consultation

Council reviewed strategies from other local governments—including Inner West (NSW), Lake Macquarie (NSW), Bayside (VIC), and Wodonga (VIC)—and found no consistent standards for public amenities. The strategy also incorporates findings from the “Situational Assessment of Public Amenities” by John Maynard and aligns with the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan. Internal consultation ensured materials and designs meet asset management, safety, and accessibility goals.

Design Principles

The strategy outlines key principles for new amenities:

- Availability and Accessibility
- Safety
- Location and Ease of Access
- Building Design, Maintenance and Renewal

These must be considered early in any planning process.

Existing Facilities Audit

An audit was conducted for facilities in Dubbo, Wellington, and high-use parks in Geurie, Ballimore, and Stuart Town. Each site was assessed across five areas:

- Accessibility Compliance
- Functionality
- Condition
- Site Suitability
- Safety/Crime Prevention

An independent specialist scored each facility, with usage data from Council records. Scores help determine renewal priorities for future budgets.

Replacement Schedule

The strategy includes a proposed schedule categorising priorities as:

- Short-term (under 1 year)
- Medium-term (1–3 years)
- Long-term (4–10 years)

The draft will be formatted to match Council's template following endorsement by Council. Included in the recommendations to be considered by Council are:

- The undertaking of an investigation of the Church Street amenity block due to concerns raised regarding the high level of antisocial behaviour in and around the facility. This investigation to provide options on strategies to minimise poor behaviour and increase public safety in the immediate vicinity.
- In line with the Council resolution from June 2025, undertake modifications of the Cameron Park amenity block to increase the number of public toilets in the CBD of Wellington. A cost estimate of \$120,000 ex gst has provided by the original installer of the facility. These works could be finalised within this financial year.

Resource Implications

The audit and condition assessment of key public amenities across the Dubbo and Wellington townships has identified a replacement schedule with an estimated cost exceeding \$6 million.

APPENDICES:

1 [↓](#) Public Amenity Strategy 02102025

Dubbo Regional Council

Public Amenities Strategy 2025

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DRAFT

Executive Summary

Dubbo Regional Council manage a number of public amenities, servicing a diverse population. The majority of these amenities are located within public open space to service park users, track and trail users, or pedestrian/vehicular traffic.

This strategy identifies and analyses the provision of public amenities located within public open space areas within the urban centres. This strategy does not address the public amenities at rural reserves within the local government area.

The strategy reviews key elements including accessibility, safety, location/ease of access, building design and maintenance and renewal. Key principles are determined to guide future provision of amenities, and a current facility audit has informed a set of recommendations to improve provision of current amenities to better service amenities users.

Introduction

The provision of public toilets and amenities can have a significant impact on the accessibility and usability of public open spaces. The Dubbo Regional Council (DRC) amenities strategy aims to provide all park users with access to public toilet and associated facilities during daylight hours. The strategy aims to standardise future facilities to meet access, safety, location, design and maintenance standards. The strategy has been informed by best practice guidelines, with consideration of the localised community context.

Having safe, well maintained and accessible public toilets conveniently located in public open spaces supports community activities, encourages lengthier stays and contributes to positive perceptions and experiences of park users.

This strategy covers the scope of DRC owned and managed public toilet and amenities located in passive public open space areas. It does not include amenities at sporting grounds, reserves, private facilities or facilities located within buildings such as libraries, swimming pools and community centres.

This strategy will inform future asset management programs and design considerations for renewals or upgrades.

Principles

This objective of this strategy is to implement the below principles across the provision of public amenities within the DRC to ensure that public amenities are fit for purpose and suitable for all community members.

Availability and Accessibility	Ensure public amenities are well distributed throughout public open space in the LGA, and open at times that meet the needs of park and open space users.
Safety	Ensure public amenities are designed with best-practice crime prevention principles and users feel safe to access.
Location/Ease of Access	Ensure the location of public amenities are suitable within the context of the open space, signage is sufficient to guide users and appropriate information is available regarding access.
Building Design Requirements	Set a required expectation for well-designed buildings to ensure they are fit-for-purpose and consistent with the DRC asset classification system.
Maintenance and Renewal	Ensure facilities are well designed to minimise operational and maintenance requirements, whilst meeting intended life expectancy.

Availability and Accessibility

As a guide, public open space users require public amenities if they are utilising a space for longer than an hour, and no other toilet facilities are available in nearby buildings. These needs are higher for seniors, families with small children or people with medical conditions.

For these reasons, it is important to consider existing demographics of public open space users, the potential growth and demographics of the future population, and refer to existing usage data where possible when considering building new or upgrading existing facilities.

Public amenities are required to meet current accessibility standards (AS1428.1:2021).

Safety

In adopting current Safety by Design and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) standards, public amenities should be visible, easily identifiable and well maintained.

To increase a feeling of safety for all users, public amenities should:

- Be accessible directly from the public space, with no foyer area. Single cubicle unisex toilets are preferred, with a common handwashing area visible to the public space to increase casual surveillance
- Have adequate lighting in and around the amenities
- Have clear sight lines through the public open space to the amenities
- Provide a sharps disposal system in every public toilet facility
- Consider reduction of items that generate loitering in close proximity to the amenities, such as seating or notice boards.

Location/Ease of Access

In addition to safety principles, the location of public amenities should be considered within the wider context of the public open space and surrounding areas.

- Amenities should be located in a position which is easily accessible by the general public, near car parks or picnic facilities. The location should consider the surrounding context, including blind spots during both day and night.
- Public amenities are generally closed between sunset and sunrise to allow suitable use, to discourage antisocial behaviour and vandalism.
- Public amenities should be available to all users within a 400m walking distance/radius of public open spaces which are designed to encourage lengthier stays.
- Where access is not obvious, signage must be present to guide users. Excess signage is to be avoided.
- Large community recreational and sporting events are hosted within the DRC open space network. Where events see additional patronage and an increase in users over the event, the event organiser may be required to provide additional temporary public toilet facilities. The number of facilities required will be dependant upon number of people expected, proximity of event to existing toilet facilities, length of event and availability of alcohol at the event.

Building Design Requirements

Public toilets and amenities are to be designed considering the context in which they are located. This includes the classification of the public open space (POS) within the DRC open space hierarchy, and the surrounding infrastructure or amenity available. For example, a public toilet located at a regional playground or recreation facility will be required to meet 'changing places' standards to encourage usage by people with high support needs; an amenities facility on a sportsground will be required to meet the minimum standard of facility for the related sporting code.

Building designs must consider the acceptable life span of 50 years for public amenities within the Dubbo LGA. Durable and long-lasting materials are essential to reduce the overall lifetime costs of maintaining and operating these assets.

All amenity buildings must adhere to the National Building Code of Australia, and meet current accessibility standards (AS1428.1:2021).

Maintenance and Renewal

Vandalism is more likely to occur when toilets are located in areas away from public view, are located in remote sites or have a lower average usage level. The position of toilets within the public

open space will have an impact on the feeling of safety of users, as well as the repair and maintenance requirements of the facilities.

All public toilets should be designed to reduce maintenance requirements, adopting standardised fittings/fixtures across the LGA, utilising robust and durable fittings, with vandal proofing where appropriate. Passive lighting is preferred wherever practical.

The amenities building is designed with a life expectancy of 50 years, however internal fittings and fixtures will require regular maintenance or replacement during this time period.

DRAFT

Benchmarking Existing and Future Provision

There are currently no formal requirements for public amenity provision and benchmarking in New South Wales. Many council strategies adopt a population-based demand for 1 toilet per 60-100 expected peak users, plus a minimum of 1 unisex accessible toilet per amenities site. Other standards, such as the "Everyone Can Play" guidelines, emphasise proximity over provision numbers. These guidelines suggest that toilets should be provided within 150m of inclusive play areas.

In lieu of a formal adopted bench marking system for public amenities in NSW, DRC must consider current and future provision in the context of the needs of its population and the financial commitment of renewal and maintenance. Consideration in planning must include population demographics, inclusivity, sustainability and operations of the facility.

The below images identify the current public amenities located within both public open space and council owned publicly accessible buildings to indicate spread of existing facilities and gaps in provision. All amenities are identified as being retained, with consideration to be given to an additional location within the Wellington township.

Of note, is the reduction in accessibility of some locations, due to the crossing of the Macquarie River, which runs North/South through the Centre of Dubbo, as well as slightly reducing accessibility of some facilities within Wellington. This identifies that whilst general radii would indicate an oversupply of facilities, the ease of access to these facilities is impeded, and therefore a suitable proximity for access.

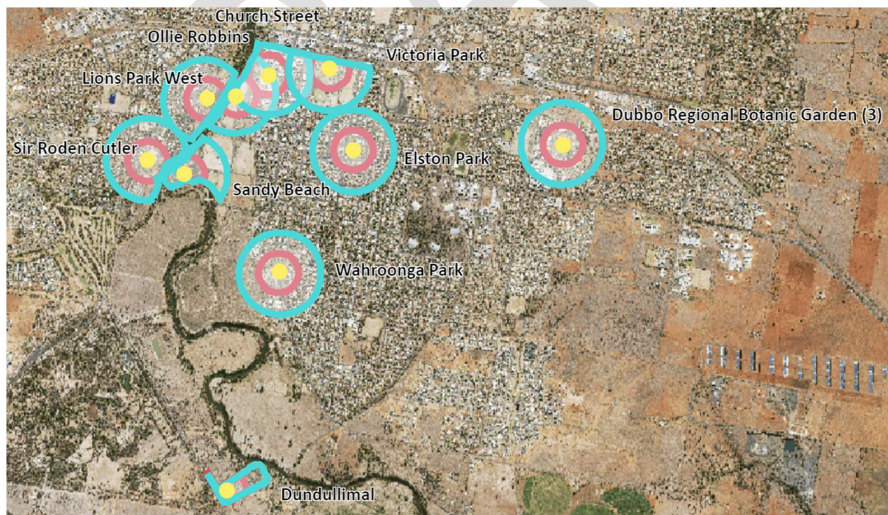


Figure 1. Dubbo Public Amenities - 400m and 800m radii

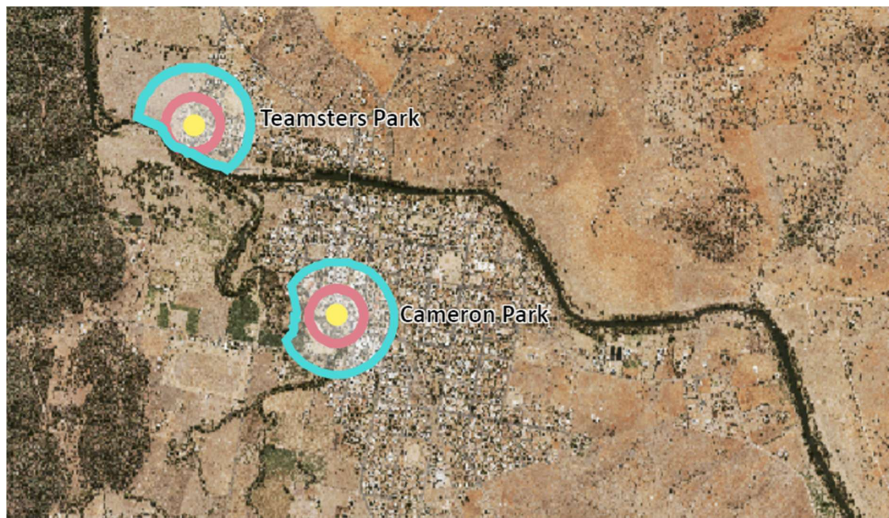


Figure 2. Wellington Public Amenities - 400m and 800m radii

DRC acknowledges that villages and public reserves are not identified through this benchmarking activity, as each have unique needs and service varying uses. For example, reserve toilets are often required on flood prone land which presents unique challenges. These areas are unable to be benchmarked and will be considered individually.

Design Guidelines

Building Design

- Public toilets and amenities can be designed specifically based on the needs of the users, the location and surrounding context.
- Public toilet and amenities buildings are to be designed and constructed for a minimum asset life expectancy of 50 years.
- Buildings should be constructed from durable materials with a preference for concrete, brick, or stone masonry, with colorbond roofing to ensure consistency and longevity of buildings across the LGA. The building must comply with the National Building Code of Australia.
- Buildings must be designed to ensure facilities are accessible and welcoming to all users and meet all relevant Australian Standards and accessibility regulations (AS1428.1 Design for Access and Mobility). This includes an accessible path of travel to and from the facility, internal design with clear circulation spaces, provision of fittings and fixtures that can be accessed by all users and appropriate provision of accessible or ambulant facilities.
- Where two adjacent cubicles are provided, one must meet the requirements of an accessible facility.
- Anti-graffiti requirements should be considered at each location. This includes avoiding blank light-coloured walls, using textured surfaces on exterior walls, and application of anti-graffiti coatings if appropriate.
- A non-potable water supply is suitable for flushing toilets if appropriate for the location, however potable water must be supplied for hand washing facilities.
- Passive lighting is preferred wherever practical.

Materials fittings and fixtures

- Urinals - provision of urinals are not recommended for new facilities as they require a screened lobby space, increase maintenance and have high vandalism rates.
- Floor finishes – provision of concrete floors or tiles and grout with a non-slip surface are acceptable. Floor material must be easy to clean and suitable for high pressure cleaning.
- Lighting – make use of natural lighting through high level openings whenever possible. Where evening and night security lighting is required, provide warm hue lighting with brightness that meets Australian Standards. LED light fittings are preferred where required.
- Toilet bowls – stainless steel bowls, with cisterns concealed behind wall sheeting are preferred.
- Tap ware and basins – stainless steel basins and tap ware with timers preferred to reduce water usage. Ensure location of all tap ware and basins are suitable and accessible for all users.
- Cubicle dividers – internal cubicles are not preferred, however where cubicle dividers are required, ensure they are sized appropriately to limit ability to view over or under.
- Hand drying – electric hand drying facilities will only be provided in select public amenities and will be determined on a case-by-case basis
- Feminine hygiene and incontinence bins – provide sanitary bins in all high traffic public toilets where they can be regularly maintained. Share the dignity vending machines are

more appropriate to be trialled at monitored/staffed locations. Bins for blokes to be trialled at high traffic locations.

- Baby change facilities – incorporate a baby change facility in select public facilities in accordance with Australian standards. Stainless steel fold down tables are preferred.
- ‘Changing Places’ Facilities – inclusion of a changing places facility is to be considered for regional level facilities, with high levels of use and extended visitation timeframes.
- Signage – Information and communication signage should be present at all amenities indicating opening hours, gender identification, ambulant facilities and council contact details.

DRAFT

Existing Facilities Audit – Local Assessments

DRC engaged a specialist in public health and Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principals (CPTED) to conduct an assessment on major public amenities within the local government area. Building condition and defect assessments have been undertaken by an independent third party. In addition to DRC expertise, the below assessments indicate the current status of Dubbo and Wellington town facilities, to inform the recommendations of this strategy.

The performance of facilities are scaled according to:

Accessibility: Adherence to current accessibility standards (AS1428.1). Presence of an accessible path to and from the facility, internal design has clear circulation space, fittings and fixtures are placed in positions accessible to all users, with appropriate accessible or ambulant toilet facility provided.

Functionality: Facilities currently provided meet user needs, including efficiency and reliability of fittings and fixtures.

Condition: The age and maintenance level of the facility is appropriate for the level of usage. Considers condition of facility in context with expected life span of facility.

Suitability to site: The number of facilities provided meet user needs. The amenity design suits the character of the context of the wider open space and is located in a suitable site within the precinct.

Usage Level: How frequented the public toilet and amenities are. This can be reflective of the location of the amenities and the context which surrounds the building.

Each above element is scored as 'poor, average, or good'. A scoring system based on the outcomes of the facility audit and assessment, utilising the below scoring method determines the overall total score for the facility.

With 5 elements to be scored, the highest possible score is 10.

Performance Element	Poor	Average	Good
			
Score	0 points	1 point	2 points

Facility	Total Score	Usage Level
Church Street	8	High
Botanic Gardens	10	High

Cameron Park	9	High
Elston Park	9	High
Lions Park West	8	Medium
Moxon Park	6	Low
Victoria Park	5	High
Sir Roden Cutler	4	Low
Wise Park	4	High
Tom Culkin Park	4	Low
Wahroonga Park	3	High
Dundullimal Reserve	3	Low
Thelma Pelosi	3	Low
Teamsters Park	2	Low
Sandy Beach	1	Low
Ollie Robbins Oval	1	Medium

It is noted that three high usage facilities have low performance scores (Wise Park, Victoria Park and Wahroonga Park). Noting that a Contractor has now been engaged to construct the new amenity block at Victoria Park, the next highest priorities for renewals should be Wise Park (Geurie) and Wahroonga Park (South Dubbo).

Victoria Park, Dubbo

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The city's large flagship park is centrally located and features a war memorial and avenue of trees, a children's playground, benches and bbqs, a family day care centre, an exercise/play area, skateboard facility and other heritage buildings relating to the botanical history of the site.

The new site for the amenity block is centrally situated to several active land uses including a public swimming pool, sports fields, tennis courts, an old bowling club, Dubbo Council staff and chamber buildings and the Regional Theatre and Convention Centre.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION (current):

The amenities block is a brick building situated at the eastern end of the site close to an exercise area and sports field car park.

The amenities are reasonably accessible, though not necessarily compliant with modern standards. Entry is via sealed paving which forms part of a network of good, wide and even pathways complementing large areas of well-maintained lawn interspersed with trees, shrubs and hedging. Sightlines throughout the park are generally very good while the tree canopies provide all important shade to maximise use of the space and to allow people to linger in comfort.

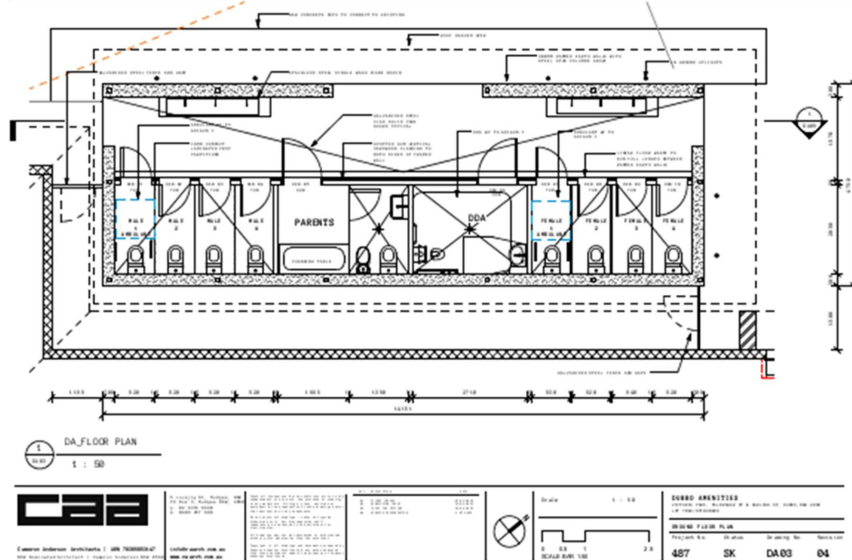
The design features men's and women's facilities with entrances at opposite ends of the building. The block features large areas of blank walls which could lend themselves to graffiti.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Inspections identify a typical incidence of major defects and a high incidence of minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. The interior was generally in poor condition, and it is advised the building is due for major renovation or replacement. The overall condition of the building is rated as *below average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance		●	
Functionality			●
Condition Assessment	●		

Suitability to site			
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles			
Usage Level			High
Score	5		



The above image shows the internal arrangement of the new amenities block to be constructed at Victoria Park.

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Locate the new amenities block beside the Dubbo Aquatic and Leisure Centre, designed in accordance with principles in this strategy.
2. Decommission existing amenities block and reinstate park for community use.

Church St, Dubbo

**SITE DESCRIPTION:**

The Church Street amenities block is situated in a central plaza beside a rotunda and a heavily patronised café in the town's CBD. It functions as the only public amenities for all foot traffic within the main street of the CBD.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION:

The facilities feature two unisex cubicles at one end with a disability/baby change facility at the other end. The design features a sloping roof, privacy screens at the two points of entry, a wide gap between the roof and masonry which facilitates good natural light and ventilation surrounded by pleasant landscaping.

Access to the site is along good quality, wide, even paving facilitating pedestrian movement both to the facility and around it, creating a sense of people observing one another during their routine. The site is well lit at night and features an illuminated footpath to encourage dancing and interaction and activation of the space.

This is a well-designed and well used facility which allows for people to linger for longer in the CBD which is good for business and broader economic development as well as a meeting place for community events and casual social encounters. Even so, the facility attracts high levels of anti-social behaviour and vandalism resulting in excessive repair costs and repeated callouts by emergency services and contractors.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

Inspections identify a low incidence of major and minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. The overall condition of the building is rated as *above average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance			●
Functionality			●
Condition Assessment			●

Suitability to site			
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles			
Usage Level			High
Score	8		

CONSIDERATION:

Consider lifting visual presence of amenities building by adding art or vinyl wrap onto external façade, in consultation with community preference.

Elston Park, Dubbo



SITE DESCRIPTION: Elston Park is a small, well maintained district park. It has active frontages on three sides, comprises tennis courts, a bridge club, splash park, and a disused amenities block while a network of paths provides good overall accessibility. The amenities block also houses the electrical switchboard for the Elston Park Bore and the filtration system for the splash park. Elston Park is an attractive green space with large areas of well-maintained lawns interspersed with trees which afford good visibility throughout the site except for one small area between the amenities block and the tennis courts where the landscaping is overgrown and provides a sense of enclosure. The site around the amenities block offers the splash park facility, bbqs, a bubbler, picnic tables and shade cloths lending itself to families with smaller children.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The well-designed amenities consists of three individual cubicles one for men, one for women and one for unisex with a transparent privacy screen. They are located some distance into the park making them susceptible to vandalism and are accessible via a ramp and path from Gipps Street. There is good quality natural light and ventilation throughout. The amenities block itself features large sections of blank wall making them susceptible to graffiti.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Inspections identify a low incidence of major defects and a typical incidence of minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. The overall condition of the building is rated as *above average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance			●
Functionality			●
Condition Assessment			●
Suitability to site			●
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles		●	
Usage Level			High
Score	9		

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Increase functionality by adding baby change table to the accessible toilet.
2. Improve lighting surrounding precinct to improve feeling of safety and increase usability.
3. Consider lifting visual presence of amenities building by adding art or vinyl wrap onto external façade, in consultation with community preference.
4. Trim or prune landscaping surrounding entry points to the amenities block to open the sight lines through the park and prevent a feeling of enclosure.

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Sandy Beach, Dubbo



SITE DESCRIPTION: Sandy Beach Reserve amenities are situated at the top of a lawn that slopes down to the river beside a carpark. The wider area is surrounded by bushland, minor roads and walking trails and as the name suggests in an attractive area of sandy beach to support river swimming. While the building is well maintained and in reasonably good condition this facility is a more isolated location. A masterplan exists for the wider river precinct.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The amenities are a large brick building with maze style entry that does not conform to CPTED principles. The facility is entered by men and women at different ends of the building. Entering a communal space in an isolated area where there is little activity may compromise a user's sense of safety and security, particularly as this building includes both toilet and the only hot water public shower facilities in the city. The building is well maintained and clean.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Inspections identify a high incidence of major and minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. Interior fixtures and linings of the building were in poor condition and it is recommended they are removed and replaced to prevent further defects. The overall condition of the building is rated as *below average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance	●		
Functionality		●	
Condition Assessment	●		
Suitability to site	●		
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles	●		
Usage Level	Low		
Score	1		

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Redevelop the Sandy Beach amenities as per the wider master plan for development of the site, in consultation with key stakeholders.

2. If refurbishment is planned, consider reconfiguring to outward facing accessible cubicles to remove internal space and assess requirement for public showers.

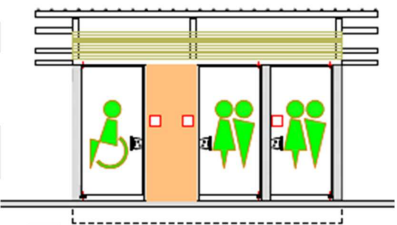
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Regand Park, Dubbo



SITE DESCRIPTION: Regand Park is a new riverfront site located at the Southern end of a sporting precinct adjacent to the Macquarie River. The precinct forms part of the Macquarie River Master Plan, which includes the South Dubbo Weir picnic area, an internal road and trail network, red river gum plantings, a dog off leash area and a carpark beside the river walking trail. Works are planned for a new accessible amenities block at the site.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: New facility in design phase.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance	 New Facility in Design Phase		
Functionality			
Condition Assessment			
Suitability to site			
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles			
Usage Level			

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Develop new amenities building to meet all criteria identified within this strategy and is located close to or adjacent to the proposed entrance gate to Regand Park.
2. The new amenities block be constructed of suitable materials to withstand flooding and inundation.

Lions Park West, Dubbo



SITE DESCRIPTION: Lions Park West amenities block is located on the southern side of the river along a popular cycling and pedestrian pathway. The surrounding area contains a local playground, boat ramp, seating and bbq areas.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The amenities are a 3D printer designed facility constructed of a unique material known as Contourcrete. Mens and Womens entrances are separated at either end of the facility. The internal communal area is spacious with good quality natural light and ventilation. The amenities require addition of a ramp or pathway from the street to increase accessibility from the street at the rear of the facility.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Inspections identify a typical incidence of major and minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. The overall condition of the building is rated as *average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance		●	
Functionality			●
Condition Assessment			●
Suitability to site			●
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles		●	
Usage Level		Medium	
Score	8		

CONSIDERATION:

Improve accessibility of the building by provision of a ramp or pathway from Beni Street to the entrance.

Sir Roden Cutler Park, Dubbo



SITE DESCRIPTION: The facility at Sir Roden Cutler park is situated on the edge of the reserve in the carpark of 'Club Dubbo' along the busy highway. The location is such that patrons attending the club can park surrounding the amenities block in formalised marked spaces. Whilst located in the carpark of the privately owned facility, the amenities are intended to serve the large reserve which continues to the riverfront down a steep slope. The park features BBQs and picnic areas, a ninja obstacle course and large open turfed space.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The small brick amenities were opened in 1993. The facility is in average condition, featuring separate men's, women's and accessible external entrances. The facility is accessible with a paved entry and disabled carparking spot located close by, however the internal fittings and fixtures do not comply with current accessibility standards. The building is located some distance from parts of the open space.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Inspections identify a typical incidence of major and minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. The plumbing fixtures throughout the building were in poor condition and recommended to be removed and replaced. The roof sheeting is rusted, with a life expectancy of 1-3 years. The overall condition of the building is rated as *average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance		●	
Functionality		●	
Condition Assessment		●	
Suitability to site	●		
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles		●	
Usage Level	Low		
Score	4		

CONSIDERATION:

Review amenities located within carpark at Sir Roden Cutler Reserve and investigate more suitable location for future facilities if required.

Dubbo Regional Botanical Gardens, Dubbo



SITE DESCRIPTION: The botanical gardens precinct hosts two separate amenities. Located in the Shoyoen Japanese Gardens and in the Adventure Playground. The precinct is an attractive high quality regional destination for both locals and tourists. The facilities hosted in the Shoyoen Japanese gardens are set amongst manicured lawns, landscaping and a large pond. The Adventure Playground facilities are located in a central location with the large, enclosed play space. The future masterplan for the facility includes an additional multicultural garden and the Wiradjuri Tourism Experience.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The Shoyoen Japanese Gardens amenities consist of two single unit modern unisex automated buildings accessible via a wide even path. The stainless-steel finishes ensure they are vandal proof. The Adventure Playground hosts a large contemporary toilet facility with a unisex and ambulant cubicle with external facing entries and communal handwashing facilities. In addition, an adult changing facility is available via separate entry. The building is designed with good ventilation and natural light, with vandal proof finishes.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Inspections identify a low and typical incidence of major and minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. The overall condition of the buildings is rated as *above average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance			●
Functionality			●
Condition Assessment			●
Suitability to site			●
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles			●
Usage Level			High
Score	10		

CONSIDERATION:

As the precinct develops, consider consolidation of public amenities into a centralised facility to improve usability and functionality.

Ollie Robbins Oval, Dubbo



SITE DESCRIPTION: Ollie Robbins Oval is located along the banks of the Macquarie River, close to a local shopping precinct and the main street of Dubbo. The parkland is close to sporting grounds, the Tracker Riley Promendae and a large expanse of open space which is often utilised for events.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The public amenities building is a large traditional brick building within an open turf space, close to a small off-road carpark. The building lacks accessibility with no formalised paths to the entry and no accessible cubicles present. The building has maze style entries with an internal shared space, decreasing feeling of safety. The building itself is in poor condition and is close to end of life. The building design includes change facilities which are not required at this location.

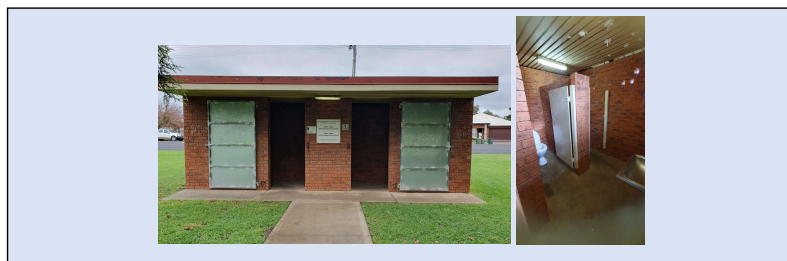
CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Inspections identify a typical incidence of major defects and a high incidence of minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. The interior tiling throughout and plumbing fixtures are advised to be replaced and the plumbing pipes have a life expectancy of approximately 2-5 years. The overall condition of the building is rated as *below average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance	●		
Functionality	●		
Condition Assessment	●		
Suitability to site		●	
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles	●		
Usage Level		Medium	
Score	1		

CONSIDERATION:

Rebuild amenities as per precinct masterplan design and existing DA approval, meeting all requirements in this strategy.

Wahroonga Park, Dubbo



SITE DESCRIPTION: Wahroonga Park is a popular local suburban park with large sections of maintained turf, established trees, a recently updated playground and well-connected pathways. The park has road frontages on all sides with clear sight lines to the amenities facility. There are multiple BBQ facilities and large seating areas, making it popular for parties and gatherings.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The Wahroonga Park facilities are a traditional accessible brick building with side-by-side male and female entrances. Internal maze entries and communal space decreases feelings of safety in the facility. The facility lacks accessibility with no identified accessible cubicle, and access from the road side limited.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Inspections identify a typical incidence of major defects and a high incidence of minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. The interior tiling throughout and plumbing fixtures are advised to be replaced and the plumbing pipes have a life expectancy of approximately 1-5 years. The overall condition of the building is rated as *below average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance	●		
Functionality		●	
Condition Assessment	●		
Suitability to site		●	
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles		●	
Usage Level			High
Score	3		

CONSIDERATION:

Undertake development of a masterplan for Wahroonga park, including consideration of location of amenities to other existing facilities.

Dundullimal Reserve, Dubbo



SITE DESCRIPTION: Dundullimal Reserve is located along the Tracker Riley Cycleway, featuring an off-road mountain bike track, which is heavily used by the community. The location is within a small carpark and bushland between Taronga Western Plains Zoo and Dundullimal Homestead, featuring a water station and seating, with plenty of passing traffic.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The single unit unisex accessible facility is made of vandal proof materials, including corrugated iron and timber. The facility is designed to allow for natural light and ventilation, with a composting toilet. Whilst there are good sight lines to the facility, the facility is geographically quite isolated, which may allow for vandalism and graffiti.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance	●		
Functionality		●	
Condition		●	
Suitability to site		●	
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles	●		
Usage Level	Low		
Score	3		

CONSIDERATION:

Improve feelings of safety and increase usability of facility by improving lighting throughout the carpark and amenities facility.

Cameron Park, Wellington



SITE DESCRIPTION: Cameron Park is centrally located within the CBD of Wellington on the Mitchell Highway. The facilities were renewed in 2019, with the new site include a large regional playground, new amenities and café building. The location of the facilities are behind a small fenced area within the play and park area, and are used by both locals visiting and travellers stopping along the highway.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The amenities within Cameron Park offer individual cubicles with communal handwashing and sight screens for male, female, unisex and people with a disability. The facilities include stainless steel vandal proof fittings, is well positioned with good use of natural light and ventilation. The clean, safe and inclusive facility is well utilised and meets all CPTED principles.

It is proposed to modify the underutilised adult changing space to provide three additional unisex ambulant toilets to increase the functionality of the facility, and to cater for park users and passing traffic.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Inspections identify a typical incidence of major and minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. The overall condition of the building is rated as *average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance			●
Functionality		●	
Condition			●
Suitability to site			●
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles			●
Usage Level			High
Score	9		

CONSIDERATION:

Modification of the adult changing spaces into three unisex ambulant toilets to increase the number of public toilets in the CBD of Wellington.

Teamsters Park, Wellington



SITE DESCRIPTION: Teamsters Park is a small local park with an amenity building, tennis courts, a playground and shaded seating. The amenities are poorly located and isolated toward the rear of the park without clear sight lines and a distance from all feature elements of the park and the road.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The Teamsters Park amenities is a traditional brick building, with maze style entry into a communal area, reducing feelings of safety. Male and Female entry points are at either end of the building, with artificial light and poor ventilation. The accessibility of the facility is limited with no formalised pathways through the park and no dedicated accessible toilet facility.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Inspections identify a typical incidence of major defects and a high incidence of minor defects to both internal, external and roofing fixtures. There are holes in ceiling and eaves which should be tested for asbestos. The overall condition of the building is rated as *below average*.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance	●		
Functionality		●	
Condition Assessment		●	
Suitability to site	●		
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles	●		
Usage Level	Low		
Score	2		

CONSIDERATION:

Assess need and demand for this facility within a local park. If retained, consider updating accessibility elements, including an accessible pathway and the addition of accessible fittings and fixtures.

Thelma Pelosi Park, Ballimore



SITE DESCRIPTION: Thelma Pelosi Park is located within the main street of Ballimore. The site is an open green space with children's playground, picnic table and bbq facilities. The amenities block is situated towards the back of the site behind the playground, making access difficult. There are no formalised paths to the entry of the facility.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The park facilities are functional and modern, with male and female entries at either end of the building. The entries, whilst maze style, are protected by a lattice style privacy screen. The corrugated iron and timber building is well maintained and reasonably vandal proof. The facility is not accessibility compliant.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance	●		
Functionality		●	
Condition		●	
Suitability to site		●	
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles	●		
Usage Level	Low		
Score	3		

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Improve accessibility of the facility by providing a formalised pathway to the entry points of the building.
2. Increase a feeling of safety and security by providing lighting along the path to the facility.

Wise Park, Geurie



SITE DESCRIPTION: Wise Park amenities are located along the main highway between Dubbo and Wellington in the village of Geurie. The amenities are popular for tourists and locals travelling between towns, as well as local pedestrians. The amenities are located along the road edge of a large open green space with picnic tables and a small fence along its frontage. The park is often used for local markets and events.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: Wise Park amenities are an older brick style building with a tiled roof. The traditional style facilities have male and female entries at either end of the building. Users enter into a communal space for hand washing, with three internal cubicles present. The amenities are in reasonable condition, with an internal accessible cubicle, however accessibility from the road to the facility could be improved. There is a reliance on artificial light within the facility, with ventilation limited.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance		●	
Functionality		●	
Condition	●		
Suitability to site		●	
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles		●	
Usage Level			High
Score	4		

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Improve accessibility of the amenities by formalising car parking/stopping zones and/or pedestrian access from the road side to the facility.
2. Consider integration of hand dryers, baby change table and sanitary bins trial at this location.

3. Upon renewal of the facility, integrate design aspects of this strategy to increase safety and usability of the facilities.

Tom Culkin Park, Geurie



SITE DESCRIPTION: Tom Culkin Park is located within the small village of Geurie, next to the main sporting ground for the population. The park includes a children's playground, skate park, tennis courts, picnic tables and plenty of established shade trees. The amenities service both local park users, and users of the adjacent sporting ground.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The amenities is a traditional brick building with a corrugated iron roof, with maze style male and female entry points at either end of the facility. The orientation of the building faces inwards towards the park, reducing visibility of entry points from casual surveillance. Patrons enter the facility into a communal hand washing space, with individual cubicles. The facilities are in good condition, however do not comply with current accessibility standards. There is one formalised entry path to the facility which does not connect to the rest of the park, and the location of the facility is not practical for the orientation of the park.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance	●		
Functionality		●	
Condition			●
Suitability to site		●	
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles	●		
Usage Level	Low		
Score	4		

CONSIDERATION:

Upon renewal of the facility, integrate design aspects within this strategy, and consider relocation of the amenities to better suit the functionality of the park, and increase safety of the facilities.

Moxon Park, Stuart Town



SITE DESCRIPTION: Moxon Park is centrally located on the Main St of the small town located approximately one hour from Dubbo. The amenities are located towards the back of the park, which features a child's playground, bbq facilities, picnic tables and landscaping. The park services both travellers stopping to use the amenities and local park users.

BUILDING DESCRIPTION: The traditional brick style building with tiled roof includes male and female entry points at either end of the building. The entries are behind maze style brick walls, with the building located towards the rear of the park, potentially reducing a feeling of safety for some users. There is a paved path from the road to the facility, however this is uneven in some places and could be improved. The building has open ventilation, however relies on artificial lighting.

	Poor	Average	Good
Accessibility Compliance		●	
Functionality		●	
Condition		●	
Suitability to site			●
Safety/Compliance with CPTED Principles		●	
Usage Level	Low		
Score	6		

CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Improve access to the facilities by upgrading the path from the road to the amenities building.
2. Improve lighting within the facility by adding park lighting and skylights to reduce reliance on artificial light.
3. Upon renewal of the facility, integrate design aspects within this strategy, and consider relocation of the amenities closer to the road edge to improve visibility and safety.

Existing Public Amenities Audits

After completion of an audit and condition assessment for major public amenities within the Dubbo and Wellington townships, the below replacement schedule has been identified, with current estimates for replacement of amenities.

Replacement Timeframe	0-2 years	2-5 years	5-8 years	8-15+ years	Estimate Ex gst (2025)
Botanic Garden (Shoyoen)				Yes	\$700,000 ¹
Botanic Garden (Playground)				Yes	\$700,000 ¹
Cameron Park				Yes	\$350,000 ²
Church Street				Yes	\$350,000
Elston Park				Yes	\$350,000
Lions Park West				Yes	\$400,000
Moxon Park		Yes			\$350,000
Ollie Robbins	Yes				\$1,970,000 ³
Sandy Beach			Yes		\$600,000 ⁴
Sir Roden Cutler		Yes			\$500,000
Teamsters Park		Yes			\$400,000
Tom Culkin Park			Yes		\$300,000
Victoria Park				Yes	\$550,000
Wahroonga Park		Yes			\$550,000
Wise Park	Yes				\$300,000
Total					\$6,400,000

Notes:

1. Botanic Garden – the long-term vision for the Dubbo Regional Botanic Garden is to consolidate the amenities at two locations for the entire precinct.
2. Cameron Park – additional facilities currently being considered that will be located close to the existing amenity block.

3. Ollie Robbins was to be replaced as part of the Macquarie Rover Event Precinct. The replacement figure is to construct the amenities in accordance with the approved Development Application to allow for the future development of the site as an event precinct.
4. Sandy Beach – A further assessment and community engagement is required to determine the type and level of facilities required at this site. The \$600,000 identified would enable shower facilities to be incorporated, as well as some storage space.

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

The below recommendations are categorised as short, medium and long term:

Short-Term Priorities	Urgent or immediate action required or planned in the next year
Medium-Term Priorities	Larger initiatives that require planning, coordination or investment within the next 1-3 years
Long-Term Priorities	Larger initiatives that require sustained effort, planning and investment, for delivery within 4-10 years

Recommendation	Location	Related Strategic Principle/s
Investigate new location for public amenities within Wellington to service travelling population.	Wellington	Availability and Accessibility
Make available a public toilet/amenities map for distribution via all customer and information centres, including features of each location.	LGA Wide	Availability and Accessibility
Install a sharps disposal facility at all locations	LGA Wide	Safety
Renew facility at Wise Park, Geurie due to end of useful life. Consider upgrade to modern single access cubicles with communal hand washing facilities and privacy screen to align with CPTED principles.	Wise Park, Geurie	Maintenance and Renewal Safety
Locate the new amenities block beside the Dubbo Aquatic and Leisure Centre, designed in accordance with principles in this strategy.	Victoria Park, Dubbo	Maintenance and Renewal
Increase functionality by adding baby change table to the accessible toilet. Improve lighting surrounding precinct to improve feeling of safety and increase usability. Consider lifting visual presence of amenities building by adding art or vinyl wrap onto external façade, in consultation with community preference. Trim or prune landscaping surrounding entry points to the amenities block to open the sight	Elston Park, Dubbo	Maintenance and Renewal Safety

lines through the park and prevent a feeling of enclosure.		
Improve accessibility of the building by provision of a ramp or pathway from Beni Street to the entrance.	Lions Park West, Dubbo	Availability and Accessibility
Review amenities located within carpark at Sir Roden Cutler Reserve and investigate more suitable location for future facilities if required.	Sir Roden Cutler Park, Dubbo	Location/Ease of Access
Improve feelings of safety and increase usability of facility by improving lighting throughout the carpark and amenities facility.	Dundullimal Reserve, Dubbo	Safety
Develop new amenities building to meet all criteria identified within this strategy and is located close to or adjacent to the proposed entrance gate to Regand Park.	Regand Park, Dubbo	All
Assess need and demand for this facility within a local park. If retained, consider updating accessibility elements, including an accessible pathway and the addition of accessible fittings and fixtures.	Teamsters Park, Wellington	Maintenance and Renewal Availability and Accessibility
Improve accessibility of the facility by providing a formalised pathway to the entry points of the building. Increase a feeling of safety and security by providing lighting along the path to the facility.	Thelma Pelosi Park, Ballimore	Availability and Accessibility Safety
Improve accessibility of the amenities by formalising car parking/stopping zones and/or pedestrian access from the road side to the facility. Consider integration of hand dryers, baby change table and sanitary bins trial at this location. Upon renewal of the facility, integrate design aspects of this strategy to increase safety and usability of the facilities.	Wise Park, Geurie	Availability and Accessibility Safety
Upon renewal of the facility, integrate design aspects within this strategy, and consider relocation of the amenities to better suit the functionality of the park, and increase safety of the facilities.	Tom Culkin Park, Geurie	Maintenance and Renewal Safety

Improve access to the facilities by upgrading the path from the road to the amenities building. Improve lighting within the park and facility by adding park lighting and skylights to reduce reliance on artificial light. Upon renewal of the facility, integrate design aspects within this strategy, and consider relocation of the amenities closer to the road edge to improve visibility and safety.	Moxon Park, Stuart Town	Maintenance and Renewal Availability and Accessibility
Rebuild amenities as per precinct masterplan design and existing DA approval, meeting all requirements in this strategy.	Ollie Robbins Oval, Dubbo	All
Redevelop the Sandy Beach amenities as per the wider master plan for development of the site, in consultation with key stakeholders. If refurbishment is planned, consider reconfiguring to outward facing accessible cubicles to remove internal space and assess requirement for public showers.	Sandy Beach Reserve, Dubbo	Safety Maintenance and Renewal Location/Ease of Access
As the precinct develops, consider consolidation of public amenities into a centralised facility to improve usability and functionality.	Dubbo Regional Botanic Gardens, Dubbo	Location/Ease of Access
Undertake development of a masterplan, including consideration of location of amenities to other existing facilities.	Wahroonga Park, Dubbo	All



REPORT: Outcome of Public Exhibition for Riverside Reserves Plan of Management.

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 13 September 2025
TRIM REFERENCE: ID25/1849

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	Seek endorsement	
Issue	Adoption of Plan of Management River Reserves, as required under <i>the Crown Land Management Act 2016</i>.	
Reasoning	Compliance with the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i> – Plan of Management for Crown Reserves (Community Land) managed under trust by Dubbo Regional Council.	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Community Culture and Places / Recreation and Open Spaces.
	Funding Source	General Rates
	Proposed Cost	\$500
	Ongoing Costs	Maintenance of facilities identified within the Plans of Management are identified within Council's annual budget and forecasts. Capital Works will be implemented as identified within forward budgets, or as funding opportunities are identified.
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 four principal themes and a number of objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme:	2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective:	2.3 Our community enjoys diverse sports, recreation, and social activities.
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.3.5 Maintain and enhance passive and active open spaces for community use.
Theme:	2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective:	2.3 Our community enjoys diverse sports, recreation, and social activities.
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.3.3 Increase opportunities for entertainment, recreation, and cultural activities for all ages.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council adopt the Riverside Reserves Plan of Management.**
- 2. That the Department of Planning, Housing, and Infrastructure – Crown Lands be notified that the Riverside Reserves Plan of Management has been adopted.**
- 3. That the Riverside Reserves Plan of Management be placed on Council's website to make it publicly available.**

Craig Arms
Director Community, Culture and Places

IM
Manager Recreation and
Open Spaces

BACKGROUND

Previous Resolutions of Council

10 June 2025 CCC25/26 ID25/417	1. Council endorse the draft Plan of Management for Riverside Reserves to progress through to public exhibition for a period of 42 days. 2. That following the public exhibition period, and any identified amendments, that the final version of the Riverside Reserves Plan of Management be submitted to Council for adoption.
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REPORT

Under the *Crown Land Management Act (CLM Act) 2016*, that came into force 1 July 2017, Councils are required to produce Plans of Management for Crown Lands under their care and management that are classified as “Community Land.”

Under the CLM Act the draft Plans of Management are to be publicly exhibited for 28 days, with a further 14 days for further comments. Council resolved to publicly exhibit the documents for the full 42 days.

The draft Riverside Reserves Plan of Management was placed on public exhibition from the 14 July to 25 August 2025. The mechanisms for the public exhibition included Council’s YourSay platform, social media as well as the provision of hard copies at the Macquarie Regional Library (Dubbo and Wellington) and the Civic Administration Building (Dubbo and Wellington).

Although there was reasonable activity and viewing of the documents, no submissions were received from the public exhibition of the Riverside Reserves Plan of Management. As a result, no changes were made to the document.

Below are the engagement snapshot statistics resulting from the public exhibition of the plans.



AUGUST 2025

Riverside Reserves Plan of Management Engagement snapshot

Outcomes of the Ordinary Council Meeting on Tuesday 10 June 2025 resulted in Council endorsing Report CCC25/26 - Draft Plan of Management for Riverside Reserves to be placed on public exhibition where community and stakeholders were encouraged to participate.

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

How we reached you and raised awareness



42 days of engagement

14 July - 25 August 2025



YourSay project page

- 85 visits
- 1 project followers
- 1 question submitted and answered
- 208 document downloads
- no formal submission received



Digital engagement

- 4,125 social media reach (the number of times a post has been viewed)
- 15 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



Email Campaigns

- 2 email campaigns sent to project followers
 - 339 recipients
 - 24 click throughs

Outcomes and next steps

A report will be provided to Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting, at a date to be confirmed, detailing the results of public exhibition, and seek adoption of the final plan.



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

yoursay.dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Consultation

The draft Riverside Reserves Plan of Management was placed on public exhibition from the 14 July to 25 August 2025.

Council developed and promoted the plans via the YourSay platform, social media as well as the provision of hard copies at the Macquarie Regional Library (Dubbo and Wellington) and the Civic Administration Building (Dubbo and Wellington).

Resourcing Implications

The Plan of Management will be placed on Council's website to ensure that the community has full access to it.

The Plans of Management, and any associated master plans and strategic documents associated with these public places, assist Council in managing and developing these spaces for our community. Additionally, the adoption of the Plans of Management assist Council in applying for external funding as they demonstrate a clear and concise direction for the future use of these areas.

Only minor resources are required internally of Council to put this into effect. The Plans of Management are to be formally reviewed every 10-years, however minor reviews may occur as required.

Planned Communication

The public will be informed of these and other Plans of Management as they are adopted by making them accessible via Council's website.

APPENDICES:

1 [↓](#) Dubbo Riverside Reserves PoM_June_PE



RIVERSIDE
RESERVES
PLAN OF
MANAGEMENT





Key Information

This Plan of Management (PoM) has been prepared by Dubbo Regional Council and provides direction as to the use and management of Council-managed Crown reserves classified as 'community land' in the Dubbo Regional Council area. The PoM is required in accordance with Section 3.23 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act) and Section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act).

The PoM outlines the way the land will be used and provides the framework for Council to follow in relation to the express authorisation of leases and licence on the land.

This PoM covers most of the community land and open space that is associated with the Dubbo Riverside environment. The Dubbo Riverside Reserves PoM has been prepared by Council and provides direction as to the use and management of crown reserves that border the Macquarie River between Devil's Hole and Sandy Beach within the city of Dubbo.

The land to which this plan applies includes Crown land that runs along the east and west banks of the Macquarie River from the Devil's Hole to Sandy Beach.



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.

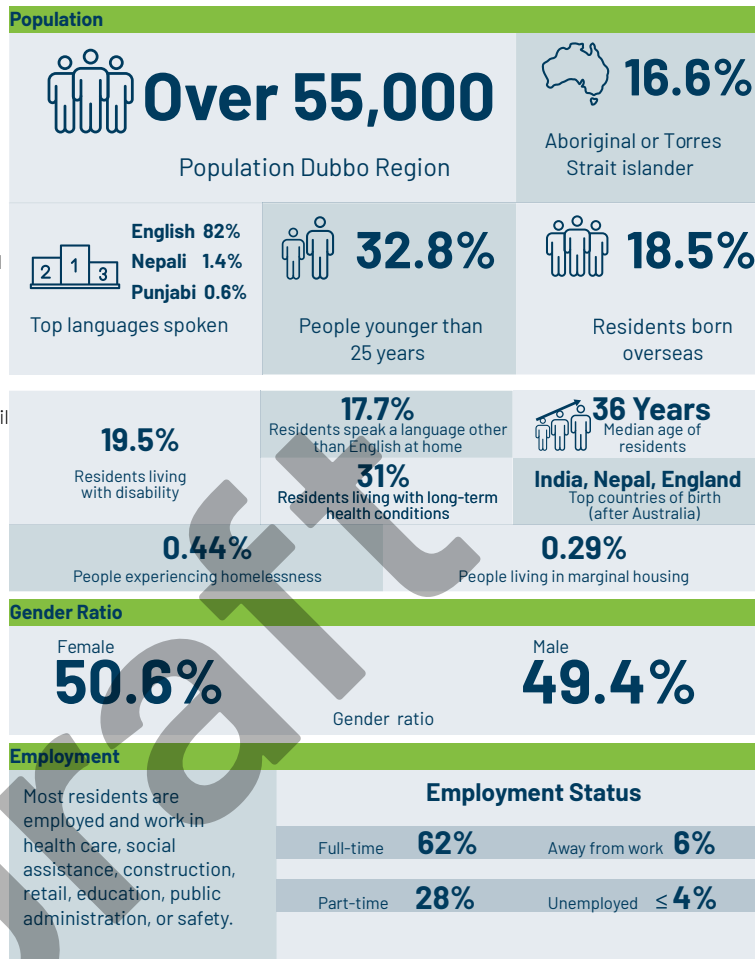
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Introduction

The Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Area (LGA) was proclaimed by the NSW Government on 12 May 2016 as an amalgamation of the former Dubbo City and Wellington Councils. The Dubbo Regional Council LGA is at the heart of the region and had an estimated population of 54,843 in 2020. It includes the regional city of Dubbo, the local service centre of Wellington and villages of Eumungerie, Ballimore, Geurie, Wongarbron, Stuart Town, Mumbil and Brocklehurst. Our LGA is shown below:

Figure 1: Dubbo Regional LGA



Dubbo Regional Council LGA contributed \$3.64 billion to GRP in 2019, supported by a diversity of economic sectors including health care and social assistance, public administration and safety, construction, manufacturing, retail, agriculture, transport and warehousing, and finance.

Dubbo is one of the largest inland regional cities in NSW and sits at the intersection of major road, rail and air routes. It services a catchment area of over 120,000 people from within the region and in the adjoining Far West region. Dubbo's broad range of industries reinforce its role as a regional city, supported by extensive educational, professional, government and retail services.

Wellington sits at the foot of Mount Arthur between the Macquarie and Bell rivers. It supports surrounding agricultural activities such as cropping, wool, beef, and prime lamb farming on rich productive soils. Tourists are attracted to the Wellington Caves complex, Lake Burrendong, the Burrendong Arboretum, Mount Arthur, small wineries, and boutique galleries.

Purpose of the Plan of Management

The *Local Government Act 1993* ("LG Act") requires a PoM to be prepared for all public land that is classified as 'community land' under that Act.



The *Crown Land Management Act 2016* ("CLM Act") authorises local Councils (Council land managers) appointed to manage dedicated or reserved Crown land to manage that land as if it were public land under the LG Act. Therefore, all Crown land reserves managed by Council are also required to have a PoM under the LG Act. The purpose of this generic PoM is to:

- contribute to the Council's broader strategic goals and vision as set out in Council's 2040 Community Strategic Plan and forward Delivery Plans
- ensure compliance with the LG Act and the CLM Act.
- provide clarity in the future development, use and management of the community land.
- ensure consistent management that supports a unified approach to meeting the varied needs of the community.

Further information about the legislative context of Crown Reserve PoM can be found in Appendix 10 of this document.

Process of preparing this plan of management

What are the steps in the process for drafting and adopting Plans of Managements?

Step 1

Drafting the Plan of Management

- The PoM must meet all the minimum requirements outlined in section 36(3) of the LG Act and identify the owner of the land. (templates provided)
- Any activities (including tenure or development) to be undertaken on the reserve must be expressly authorised in the PoM to be lawfully authorised.
- Councils must obtain written advice from a qualified native title manager that the PoM and the activities under the PoM comply with the NT Act.

Step 2

Notifying the landowner and seeking Minister's consent to adopt.

- The department as the landowner is to be notified of the draft PoM prior to public exhibition of the PoM under s.39 of the LG Act.
- Councils are also required to seek the department's written consent to adopt the draft PoM (in accordance with s3.23(6) CLM Act). The department's consent can be sought at the same time as notifying the landowner of the draft plan.

Step 3

Community consultation

Councils are required to publicly exhibit PoM under section 38 of the LG Act.

- Councils are **not** required to hold a public hearing under section 40A of the LG Act (in accordance with s3.23(6) CLM Act).

Step 4

Adopting a Plan of Management

- If there are any changes to the plan following exhibition of the draft PoM, councils must seek the department's consent to adopt the PoM.
- Council resolution of a PoM that covers Crown land should note that the PoM is adopted pursuant to section 40 of the LG Act in accordance with 3.23(6) of the CLM Act.
- Once a council has adopted the PoM, a copy of the adopted PoM should be forwarded to the department: council.clm@crowland.nsw.gov.au for record purposes.

Change and review of plan of management

This PoM will require regular review to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council priorities. Council has determined that it will review the PoM within ten (10) years of its adoption. However, the performance of this PoM will be reviewed on a yearly basis to ensure that the reserves are being managed in accordance with the PoM, are well maintained and provides a safe environment for public enjoyment in accordance with the reserve/s gazetted purpose/s.

Council may continue to acquire or divest land for the benefit of the community. Land may also come into Council's ownership by dedication of land for open space.

The community will have an opportunity to participate in reviews of this PoM.

Community consultation

This PoM was placed on public exhibition from [XX/XX/XXXX to XX/XX/XXXX], in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the LG Act. A total of [XX] submissions were received. Council considered these submissions before adopting the PoM.

In accordance with section 39 of the LG Act, prior to being placed on public exhibition, the draft PoM was referred to the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands, as representative of the state of NSW, which is the owner of the Reserve. Council has included in the plan any provisions that have been required by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands.

Council also conducted targeted consultation during the development of this plan with the following groups: Rivercare, Ozfish Riverbus, Dubbo Environment Group, Central West Local Land Services and Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

Land Description

The community land that is covered by this document is listed in Appendix A1. The land covered by this document is defined by real property identifiers (lots and deposited plans) and reserve numbers. Some open spaces are not covered by this PoM, generally because they need site-specific plans of management to be prepared.

Contact the Council or refer to the Council's website for information about other public land not listed in Appendix A1.

Owner of the land

The land includes land owned by the Crown which is managed by the Council as Crown land manager under the Crown Land Management Act 2016.



Figure 2: Map of reserves

Basis of Management

Dubbo Regional Council intends to manage its community land to meet:

- assigned categorisation of community land
- the LG Act guidelines and core objectives for community land
- restrictions on management of Crown land community land
- the Council's strategic objectives and priorities
- development and use of the land outlined in Section 6 of the LG Act.

The vision for this PoM is to manage the reserves for the benefit of:

- the aquatic environment
- riparian bushland
- passive recreation through walking, cycling and trail delivery
- active recreation through provision of quality sportsgrounds
- improved health and wellbeing through improved liveability
- improved sustainability through efficient energy and water use
- improved connections to Indigenous heritage
- creation of better places to live and work.

Features of this plan address:

- access to foreshore places
- built environment connections to the Macquarie River
- connections to the future release area in north-west Dubbo
- development and implementation of the adopted Macquarie River CBD Master Plan – 2020 and the Macquarie River Master Plan (North and South Precincts) – 2023
- maintenance of quality recreational grounds and amenities for football, netball, touch football, cricket, disc golf, triathlon, fishing and kayaking
- walking, cycling and commuting connections to the city centre through the Tracker Riley Shared Pathway loop extensions
- promotion of opportunities to create and enhance the riparian corridor and other habitat links
- artistic, wildlife and heritage interpretation areas.
- provision of a range of recreation and environmental experiences are part of the heritage and culture of a high quality city life style.

Categorisation of the land

All community land is required to be categorised as one or more of the following categories. Where the land is owned by the Crown, the category assigned should align with the purpose for which the land is dedicated or reserved.

The LG Act defines five categories of community land:

- **Park** – for areas primarily used for passive recreation
- **Sportsground** – for areas where the primary use is for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games
- **General community use** – for all areas where the primary purpose relates to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social, and intellectual welfare or development of members of the public. This includes venues such as community halls, scout and guide halls, and libraries
- **Cultural significance** – for areas with Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research or social significance
- **Natural area** – for all areas that play an important role in the area's ecology. This category is further categorised into bushland, escarpment, foreshore, watercourse and wetland categories.

The categorisation of the land is identified in Appendix 1, as well as shown by maps in Appendix 3 – 7.

Guidelines and core objectives for management of community land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, its purpose, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land. Council may then apply more specific management objectives to community land, though these must be compatible with the core objectives for the land.

The guidelines for categorisation of community land are set out in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. The core objectives for each category are set out in the LG Act. The guidelines and core objectives for the Park, Sportsground, General Community Use and Natural Area categories are set out in the relevant category sections of this PoM.

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Dubbo Regional Council area.

Restrictions on management of Crown land

Council is the Crown land manager of the Crown reserves described in this PoM in accordance with the legislation and conditions imposed by the minister administering the Crown Land Management Act 2016. The use of the land described in this PoM must:

- be consistent with the purpose for which the land was dedicated or reserved
- consider native title rights and interests and be consistent with the provisions of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993
- consider the inchoate interests of Aboriginal people where an undetermined Aboriginal Land Claim exists
- consider and not be in conflict with any interests and rights granted under the Crown Land Management Act 2016
- consider any interests held on title.

At the time of this submitted draft PoM there were eight active Aboriginal land claims and are listed in the table below.

Claim number	Claimant	Lots	Date	Status	Reserve	
21998	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	Lot 1 DP 130730	13-Nov-09	Incomplete	5890	Riverbank
23868	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	lot 379 DP 754308	15/1/2010	Incomplete	97642	Police Paddock
23869	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	lot 379 DP 754308	15/1/2010	Incomplete	97642	Police Paddock
23891	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	Lot 376 DP 754308	15-Jan-10	Incomplete	97134	Devil's Hole Billabong
46132	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	Lot 7016 DP 1020037	16-Oct-18	Incomplete	83803	Devil's Hole North
46149	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	Lot 7018 DP 1020036	22-Oct-18	Incomplete	97642	Police Paddock
55711	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	lot 332 DP 754308	2/5/2024	Incomplete	83803	Devil's Hole North
55736	New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council	lot 7045 DP 1114493	3/5/2024	Incomplete	83803	Devils Hole North

A schedule of leases, licences and other estates are provided in Appendix A2.

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) reveals one Aboriginal site on reserve 5890 with several more nearby other reserves (see Appendix A9).



Council's strategic objectives and priorities

Dubbo Regional Council, in consultation with the community, has developed the following strategies and plans to identify the priorities and aspirations of the community and the delivery of a vision for the future. They have a direct influence on the objectives, uses and management approach covered by PoMs.

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Dubbo Regional Council area.

The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

Dubbo Regional Council encourages a wide range of uses of community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of its land, where appropriate. Within buildings, swimming pools, and recreational and sporting facilities in particular, Dubbo Regional Council intends to permit and encourage a broad range of appropriate activities.

Dubbo Regional Council, in consultation with the community, has developed the following strategies and plans to identify the priorities and aspirations of the community and the delivery of a vision for the future. They have a direct influence on the objectives, uses and management approach covered by PoMs.

Council's 2040 **Community Strategic Plan** and 2025/2026 **Delivery Program and Operational Plan** includes the following relevant objectives, strategies and actions

Our community has access to a diverse range of recreational opportunities

- Passive and active open space is located to maximise access and use by the community
 - o Review and implement the Strategic Open Space Master Plan

- o Engage with the community in the planning and development of public open space
- o Implement the Public Open Space Guidelines to identify standards for future development
- Unique recreation and open space facilities are available
- Our sporting facilities cater for a wide range of events and opportunities
 - o Actively engage and collaborate with sports user groups and Dubbo Regional Sports Council to support effective asset management and development and viable responsive service delivery
 - o Complete irrigation renewal at John McGrath Oval

Land use management sustains and improves the built and natural environment

- The quality of the Macquarie, Talbragar and Bell river corridors are managed and enhanced
 - o Review the Parks and Bushcare Program in line with the adopted Volunteer framework
- Stormwater discharge into receiving waters is limited
- Endangered ecological communities, threatened species, habitats and environmental assets are protected

Two separate master plans have been developed for the Dubbo urban river reserves. The Macquarie River CBD Master Plan was adopted in April 2020 and focuses on the eastern bank of the Macquarie River between L.H. ford Bridge and Emile Seriser Bridge. The Macquarie River (North and South Precincts) Master Plan was adopted in April 2023. This master plan covers the remaining river corridor managed by Dubbo Regional Council from Devil's Hole in the North to Regand Park in the South, and on both the eastern and western banks of the river. Relevant sections of the Master Plans are included in the appropriate reserve section.

Council's Open Space Master Plan 2018

This master plan was preceded by the Dubbo City Park and Open Space System 2008. This master plan identifies 3 strategic directions:

- develop, promote, and link Destination Parks
- develop and expand the Green Web that links parks and open space
- build Resilience through improved planning.

A review on the Open Space Master Plan 2018 is currently being undertaken. The revised Open Space Master Plan 2035 builds on the success of its predecessor and provides a strong nexus between Developer Contributions and future works and improved linkages / connectivity of the public open space network.

Council's Recreation Strategy 2030

This strategy sets out how Council will deliver long term planning for the equitable spread of sports grounds across the LGA. This includes actions to:

- planning for future needs of the community through analysis of current supply, future needs, and gap analysis (in partnership with Office of Sport)
- provide quality playing surfaces and amenities
- focused improvement for key facilities for sporting associations
- develop plans for quality informal recreation to meet future needs of the community
- develop plans to activate precincts to meet future population growth areas, particularly in urban release areas including Keswick, Southlakes, Grangewood / Delroy, Holmwood and Montefiores
- provide opportunities for a diverse range of recreation opportunities to benefit the health and wellbeing of the community
- provide opportunities for engaging younger people in recreation
- provide a framework to allow for opportunities for private activation including business opportunities such as mobile food and coffee to bike or kayak hire
- plan for long term equitable spread of indoor and aquatic facilities
- investigate partnerships with key stakeholders such as, state sporting organisations, community groups and agencies, local schools and hospitals to expand offering of activities and complementary services
- improve water based sports
- improve communication and usage across all facilities
- develop healthy programs to foster activation, sustainable recreation and accessible physical activity programs
- promote fit for purpose facilities across the LGA

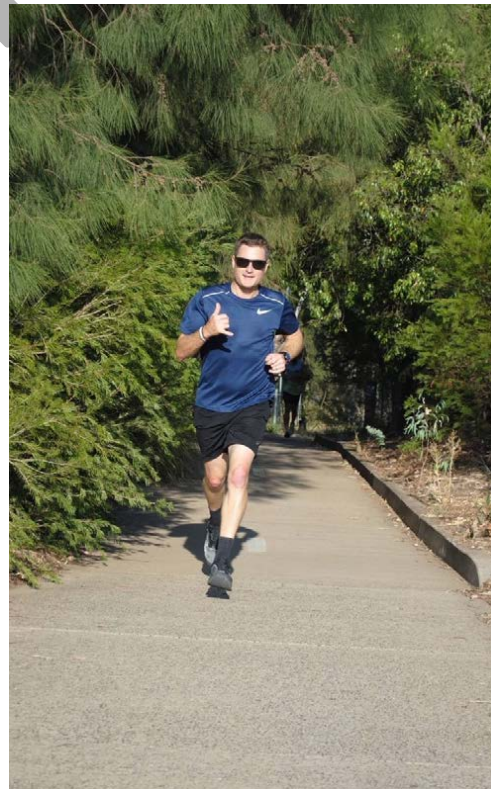
- undertake review of existing underutilised facilities
- grow sustainable opportunities for inclusive partnerships

The Recreation Strategy also sets out how we will improve recreational opportunities over the next ten years. The strategy sets out actions to address the following objectives:

- improve communication and usage across all facilities
Develop healthy programs
- promote fit for purpose facilities across the LGA
- grow sustainable opportunities for inclusive partnerships.

The overarching objectives of Council management of public lands are:

- to provide access to a range of community, cultural and open space facilities and areas
- to value our unique environment and ensure it is protected for future generations
- to achieve economic prosperity
- to fully realise our tourism assets
- to enhance our quality of life through key infrastructure and services.



As a part of the consultation process in developing the PoM program, a set of guiding principles and objectives were determined. These are:

Create Vibrant and Diverse Experiences

- deliver to the community a substantial Riverside precinct that builds on our unique region identity with offerings of contemporary recreation, exercise and cultural experiences
- respond to the needs of community to cater to new opportunities and innovative ways to better use the precinct. This may be to encourage a maximum diversity of programmed and unprogrammed uses that are compatible with the precinct
- plan areas of the precinct to cater to temporary installations, events, music, festivals, contemplative zones and large picnic spaces

Respect Cultural Heritage

- cater specifically for the needs of youth, families and cultural groups through flexible, multi-use facilities and programs. This may include incorporation of recreation opportunities and experiences for a wide range of user groups
- protect Aboriginal cultural heritage values

Strive For Environmental Sustainability

- support restoration or protection of existing natural biodiversity
- support and improve connections between the river, drainage lines, flora and fauna providing corridors and supporting buffer zones to encourage an ecological network across the precinct
- manage and restore cultural heritage elements and character of the precinct
- ensure that land use development is underpinned by common sustainability objectives and are linked by common physical structures
- seek energy efficient upgrades to lighting, including LED and solar where appropriate
- maximise the use of renewable energy sources as it becomes appropriate or available

Enhance Community Health

- contribute to community health and wellbeing through access to recreation and exercise
- provide safe pedestrian and cycling connections to adjoining communities, and Tracker Riley Shared Pathway loops
- provide social equity across access, way finding, recreation and exercise. Especially for new residential areas
- create opportunities for community uses to be interactive and responsive to social equity

Improve Financial Sustainability

- encourage community involvement and partnerships, including Indigenous involvement where possible
- create employment in the precinct associated with development and management of recreation, tourism and community facilities.





Development and Use

Current use of the land

Each relevant category section of this PoM contains information about the existing use of the land, including condition of the land and structures, use of the land and structures, and current leases, licences and estates on the land.

Crown land can be reserved or dedicated for various public purposes. The notified purpose(s) for reserves subject to this plan are public recreation.

The assigned categories are natural area bushland, natural area watercourse, park and sportsground.

Land Zoning

The land zoning for the reserves subject to this plan area RE1 and W2. A map of the zoning for each reserve is provided in each precinct profile.

Zone RE1 Public Recreation

Objectives of zone

- To enable land to be used for public open space or recreational purposes.
- To provide a range of recreational settings and activities and compatible land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural environment for recreational purposes.
- To provide for facilities and amenities to enhance the use of public open space.

Permitted without consent - Environmental protection works; Roads.

Permitted with consent - Aquaculture; Boat launching ramps; Boat sheds; Camping grounds; Cemeteries; Charter and tourism boating facilities; Community facilities; Eco-tourist facilities; Environmental facilities; Jetties; Kiosks; Mooring pens; Moorings; Recreation areas; Research stations; Signage; Water recreation structures; Water reticulation systems; Water storage facilities; Wharf or boating facilities (indoor); Recreation facilities (major); Recreation facilities (minor).

Zone W2 Recreational Waterways

Objectives of zone

- To protect the ecological, scenic and recreation values of recreational waterways.
- To allow for water-based recreation and related uses.
- To provide for sustainable fishing industries and recreational fishing.

Permitted without consent - Environmental protection works; Roads

Permitted with consent - Aquaculture; Boat launching ramps; Boat sheds; Car parks; Charter and tourism boating facilities; Environmental facilities; Jetties; Kiosks; Marinas; Mooring pens; Moorings;

Prohibited - Advertising structures; Industries; Multi dwelling housing; Residential flat buildings; Seniors housing; Warehouse or distribution centres (outdoor); Restaurants or cafes; Signage; Water recreation structures; Water reticulation systems; Wharf or boating facilities

Prohibited - Advertising structures

Table 2: Guidelines

Specific Guidelines	
Play and Recreational Equipment	Play equipment may be installed or removed. Equipment shall be regularly maintained and kept in a safe condition in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard and Council's Playground Strategy and the Community, Culture and Places / Recreation and Open Spaces Asset Management Plan.
Mowing	Park areas, playing fields and ovals will be mowed in accordance with approvals, manuals or schedules as required.
Watering	Watering of parks and sportsground areas shall be undertaken as required and according to specific water restrictions that may be in place.
Wet Weather Use	During periods of wet weather, Council may restrict the use of park areas, playing fields and rural reserves to prevent damage to grass surfaces.
Line Marking	Line marking may be undertaken (under cost recovery) but will normally be the responsibility of the user.
Erection of Posts	The erection of posts on playing fields is allowed by this PoM and is the responsibility of Council (under cost recovery). Users, in certain circumstances may erect posts, if they have the approval of Council.
Sand Arenas	The construction of sand arenas in the sportsground area is allowed by this PoM. The construction of sand arenas must have the prior written approval of Council.
Hours of Operation	Council may restrict the hours of operation of any area of the Park areas, playing fields and rural reserves at its discretion.
Alcohol	Note some reserves are alcohol free or have alcohol prohibited zones enforced. Where alcohol is allowed the occasional sale of alcohol by a sporting committee, club or user group requires the approval of the NSW Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing through the issue of a Limited Licence. The Licence should be provided to Council in each instance. When making application for the use of an active recreational area if the sale of alcohol is intended, applicants are required to comply with any requirements of both the Office of Liquor Gaming and Racing and Council.
Companion Animals	Domestic pets may use the land where authorised by signage provided that they are under the control of a responsible person at all times and do not cause loss of amenity to other users of the land, except where specifically publicly notified. Dogs are not permitted within any area that is: • set aside for the playing of organised games, or • within 10 metres of a children's playing apparatus or • within 10 metres of cooking or eating facilities. Dog clubs are required to seek Council permission to conduct dog obedience and training activities on all community land.
Parking	Parks and Sportsgrounds attract numerous user groups, and some car parking is required to be provided within the reserve. Car parking areas should not occupy valuable land but be positioned to minimise the impact on the reserves. Car parking is not to be situated near children's play areas. Existing car parking areas will be maintained to safety standards. Consideration will be given to the provision of parking spaces for people with a disability (in accordance with regulations). Internal roads and parking areas may be constructed or reconstructed to a safe and all weather standard.
Neighbours	Council shall endeavour to be a good neighbour and, as far as possible, shall consult with adjoining owners in respect of management activities which may affect them.

Building and Amenities	
Native Title Assessment	Where it is proposed to construct or establish a public work on reserved or dedicated Crown land, where native title is not extinguished, prior to approval Council will notify and give an opportunity for comment from any representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander bodies, registered native title bodies corporate and registered Native title claimants in relation to the land or waters covered by the reservation or lease as required under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> .
Aboriginal Land Claim	The terms of the authorisation for the commencement of any building or development activity on the areas of land subject to this PoM, should include advice that the land is not subject to a claim under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i> . If a claim is registered on the land activity cannot commence until the claim is resolved.
Buildings and Amenities	Buildings (including stages) and amenities may be provided where consistent with the need to facilitate the use of the land, the provisions of the LG Act and the <i>Crown Land Management Act 2016</i> have been complied with. Buildings and amenities are to be maintained to the highest possible standard.

Public Toilets and Amenities	Public toilets are provided at Ollie Robbins Oval, Sir Roden Cutler Park and Lions Park West and are to be maintained by the Council.
Play Equipment and Recreation Equipment	Play equipment shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the relevant Australian Standard and may be replaced or removed as required.
Outdoor furniture	Outdoor furniture shall be provided as required and maintained to a safe standard in accordance with any adopted landscape design.
Private buildings	Private buildings may be constructed only where there is a lease or licence from Council and that lease or licence specifically makes provision for the use or erection of a private building. Private buildings and the lease areas are to be fully maintained by the user.
Public Buildings	Public buildings may be constructed for any purpose ancillary to the purpose of the land, provided that the provisions of the LG Act and the Crown Land Management Act 2016 have been complied with. Community facilities may also be permitted.
Removal of Buildings or Utilities	Buildings or utilities that are no longer required may be removed by the Council subject to development approval. The land is to be rehabilitated following removal.
Horticultural Maintenance	Mowing shall be regularly undertaken as required in accordance with any adopted Council maintenance procedures manual. In areas of concentrated use reseeded or turfing may be undertaken as required.
Cleaning	Buildings and amenities will be regularly cleaned and maintained in a tidy condition in accordance with any Council schedule.

Infrastructure	
Native Title Assessment	Where it is proposed to construct or establish a public work on reserved or dedicated Crown land, where native title is not extinguished, prior to approval Council will notify and give an opportunity for comment from any representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander bodies, registered native title bodies corporate and registered Native title claimants in relation to the land or waters covered by the reservation or lease as required under the <i>Native Title Act 1993</i> .
Aboriginal Land Claim	The terms of the authorisation for the commencement of any infrastructure construction activity on the areas of land subject to this PoM, should include advice that the land is not subject to a claim under the <i>Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</i> . If a claim is registered on the land activity cannot commence until the claim is resolved.
Infrastructure	Any necessary infrastructure to service purpose of the land may be constructed.
Services and Utilities	Services and utilities such as water supply, sewerage, electricity supply, gas and telecommunications may be constructed, maintained or repaired on the land.
General Maintenance	General maintenance will match the level and type of use and wherever possible users will be encouraged to help. Areas held under lease, licence or regular occupancy shall be maintained by the user. Existing assets on the land shall be identified and measures taken to maintain them in a satisfactory manner. The Council may make arrangements for community groups to undertake maintenance for specific facilities on Council's behalf.
Energy Efficiency	Measures shall be taken to improve the energy efficiency of all buildings and activities carried out on the land. Measures shall include use of energy efficient lighting, periodic auditing of energy use, and appropriate orientation of any new buildings to incorporate passive solar design principles.
Lighting	Where appropriate, adequate lighting shall be provided on the land to ensure public safety and security for buildings and amenities as far as possible.
Floodlighting	Floodlights shall be designed and operated to minimize glare and spillage of light to adjoining properties. Floodlights shall comply with AS2560.
Fences	Fences may be constructed and shall be in accordance with any standards or guidelines adopted by Council.
Signs	Signs may be erected on the land in accordance with State Environmental Policy and any adopted Development Control Code and Policy.

Access	
Access and Occupation	The PoM seeks to facilitate access to the land to enable its use for its reserved purposes.
Access	Access to the land may be limited by Council at times where this may interfere with works or may have an adverse effect on the land.
Public Access	Public access to land to which this PoM applies can be denied to assist rehabilitation or protection of special items of significance or where a lease has been granted, but shall not otherwise be denied. Access can be denied during natural events, such as flooding or fire, to protect the public.
Occupation by Adjoining Land Owners	Where Council is aware of occupation or encroachment by private landowners onto the land, measures will be taken to prevent this occurring.
Roads and Parking	Roads and parking areas may be constructed or reconstructed to a safe all weather standard. New roads and parking areas may be constructed. In cases where significant new roadworks are proposed, a master plan should be prepared and the works constructed in accordance with the plan.

Pollution Control	
Pollution Control	Management should seek to ensure that no pollution is generated on the land and that adequate measures are taken to prevent adverse impacts from adjoining land.
Soil Erosion and Sedimentation	All activities are to ensure adequate controls to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation and are to be inspected periodically.
Nutrients	Measures shall be taken to minimise and to control nutrients entering watercourses, water bodies or groundwater.
Environmental Protection (noise control, dust, chemicals etc)	Measures shall be taken during any construction or maintenance works on the land to ensure that normal environmental protection, pollution control and health guidelines are met.
Litter	Litter shall be regularly collected and removed. Provision shall be made for the provision of litter bins at various locations. It is the responsibility of all users to ensure that the area and surrounds are left in a tidy manner after use.
Gross Pollutant Traps	Gross Pollutant Traps are to be cleaned out on a Schedule to ensure that they are operating efficiently.
Rubbish Dumping	Rubbish dumping is not permitted. Grass clippings or garden waste is to be disposed of in a manner that does not affect natural vegetation or encourage the spread of weeds.
Irrigation	Irrigation is to be managed on any grassed or mown areas to avoid runoff or impact negatively on the water table.
Noise	Noise from events shall be required to comply with noise pollution control requirements.
Drainage	Drainage works are allowed on the land to which this PoM applies. Any works are to comply with any environmental management guidelines adopted by Council to minimise the flow of nutrients and pollutants into watercourses.
Fertilisers and Pesticides	The use of fertilisers and pesticides may be permitted on land to which this PoM applies but only where no suitable alternatives exist, and no adverse environmental impact is likely to occur. New landscape designs are to minimise the need for these. Notification of pesticide use must be given in accordance with Council's adopted Pesticide Use Notification Plan.
Removal of Silt	Silt shall be removed from drains and silt traps as necessary.

Trees, Vegetation and Landscape	
Trees, Vegetation and Landscape	Proper management of landscaping measures, trees and vegetation is important to provide a high degree of amenity on the land.
Trees	Trees will be maintained, as will maintenance of appropriate growing conditions involving management of soil compaction and other encroachments, in accordance with any Council Tree Management Policy.
Tree Planting and Removal	Trees may be planted, removed, or replaced. In replacing trees, regard will be had to endorsed plans and policies outlining preferred species. Tree planting maintenance, removal and replacement shall be in accordance with Public Tree Amenity value standard, codes, manuals, or policies.
Tree Protection	Appropriate protection such as guards and barriers shall generally be provided for all new plantings as may be required.
Landsscape Design	Landscape design will be subject to approval by Council.
Gardens	Gardens may be constructed and maintained on the land.
Weed control	Weed control shall be by both taking preventative measures and active control measures. Prevention of weed infestation shall be by minimising actions that disturb the ground surface and discouraging the conditions that encourage weeds. Measure shall be taken to prevent the dispersion of weeds by fill or the transport of seeds on machinery. Control measures which are acceptable include physical removal or slashing, accepted biological control techniques, bush regeneration, or chemical spraying where Council is satisfied that there will be no adverse residual effects and no adverse effect on human health will occur.
Bushfire Hazard Reduction	Where a bushfire hazard is identified on the land measure shall be taken to reduce the bushfire hazard.

Information, Monitoring and Research	
Information monitoring and Research	Monitoring and collection of information relating to the land to which the PoM applies are important to enable good management.
Education and Research	Where a demonstrated need has been identified, an educational programme shall be developed to encourage use appropriate to the purpose to all or part of the land to which this PoM applies.
Monitoring	Management arrangements shall be implemented to regularly monitor the use of the land, environmental conditions and facilities.
Surveys	Surveys of visitation and/or satisfaction with the facilities may be undertaken to facilitate the management and use of the land.

Permissible uses / future uses

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, cultural, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the Dubbo Regional Council area.

The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

Dubbo Regional Council encourages a wide range of uses of community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of its land, where appropriate. Within buildings, event precinct, and recreational and sporting facilities in particular, Dubbo Regional Council intends to permit and encourage a broad range of appropriate activities.

The use of community land is often supported by appropriate ancillary development such as playground equipment, amenity blocks or food kiosks.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Park, Sportsground, General Community Use and Natural Area, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in tables in the relevant category section in this PoM.

List of Category sections

- Park
- Sportsground
- Natural Area Bushland
- Natural Areas Watercourse

Express authorisation of leases and licences and other estates

Under section 46(1)(b) of the LG Act, leases, licences and other estates formalise the use of community land. A lease, licence or other estate may be granted to organisations and persons, community groups, sports clubs and associations, non-government organisations, charities, community welfare services, non-profit organisations and government authorities.

The lease or licence must be for uses consistent with the reserve purpose(s), the assigned categorisation and zoning of the land, be in the best interests of the community as a whole, and enable, wherever possible, shared use of community land.

Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this PoM and the capacity of the community land itself and the local area to support the activity.

A lease is normally issued where exclusive control of all or part of an area by a user is proposed. In all other instances a licence or short-term licence or hire agreement will be issued.



Leases and licences authorised by the plan of management

This PoM expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land covered by the PoM, in accordance with section 46(1)(b) and section 36(3A) of the LG Act, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the LG Act or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the lease, licence or other estate is a valid act under the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the LG Act or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Tables in the relevant category sections of this PoM further identify the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this PoM, and the maximum duration of leases, licences and other estates.

Areas held under lease, licence or regular occupancy shall be maintained by the user. The user will be responsible for maintenance and outgoings as defined in the lease or licence or agreement for use. Granting of a lease or licence does not grant approval for any development applications or similar Council approvals that may be required.

Any lease or licence proposal will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this PoM and the capacity of the area to support the activity.

Short-term licences

There are specific limitations on short-term licensing under Clause 116 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*. Short-term licences and bookings may be used to allow the Council to program different uses of community land at different times, allowing the best overall use.

Short-term licences are authorised for the purpose of:

- (a) the playing of a musical instrument, or singing, for fee or reward
- (b) engaging in a trade or business
- (c) the playing of a lawful game or sport
- (d) the delivery of a public address
- (e) commercial photographic sessions
- (f) picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings
- (g) filming sessions
- (h) the agistment of stock.
- (i) for the purpose of an event

Fees for short-term casual bookings will be charged in accordance with the Council's adopted fees and charges at the time.

Native title and Aboriginal land rights considerations in relation to leases, licences and other estates

When planning to grant a lease or licence on Crown reserves, the Council must comply with the requirements of the Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993 (NT Act) and have regard for any existing claims made on the land under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983.

It is the role of the Council's engaged or employed native title manager to provide written advice in certain circumstances to advise if the proposed activities and dealings are valid under the NT Act (see Appendix A11 for more information).

Likely Extinguishment of Native Title

Considerations

- Devil's Elbow North End (R.83803) in part, being Lot 332 DP 754308, with the grant of Special Lease 1921-29 Dubbo granted to John Joseph Cuddy on 25 January 1923.
- Police Paddock (R.97642) in part, being Lot 379 & Lot 380 DP 754308, with the grant of Special Lease 1954-12 Dubbo to Bruce Rogers Douglas & 1954-13 Dubbo to William Henry Adolphus Haycox and William Leonard Haycox on 10 September 1954.
- Riverbank Reserve (D.520043) in part, being Lot 1 DP 243250 & Lot 701 DP 1070545, with the creation of former part of Macquarie Street closed on 11 August 1972 & 19 August 1977.

- Riverbank Reserve (R.5890) in part, being:
 - o Lot 247 DP 822452 in full & part Lot 7013 DP 1115445 with the vesting in Trustees & grant of Special Lease 1918-13 Dubbo granted to Arthur Henny on 15 November 1918.
 - o Lot 7012 DP 1095148 in full, with creation of an unnamed road closed on 10 September 1982.
 - o Lot 132 DP 547063 & Lot 25 DP 754308 in full, with a 17-acre, 2-rood, 9-perch Crown Grant to George Smith on 13 May 1858 and a 13-acre, 2-rood, 9-perch Crown Grant to Thomas Sutcliffe Mort on 6 August 1856.
 - o Lot 1 DP 130730 in full, with a 44-acre Crown Grant to Luke McGuinn on 13 January 1871 & a 28-acre Crown Grant to Denis McGuinn on 4 July 1870





Management of Land – Park

The parks in this plan are high use parks with a very popular network of trails. The trail network is a mixture of concrete, bitumen and hard packed gravel. Some of the concrete path is marked with a centre line and arrows. Parks included in this plan include:

- Devil's Hole
- Police Paddock
- Riverbank Reserve
- Sir Roden Cutler Park
- Lions Park West
- Biddybungli Reserve

Guidelines and core objectives

Parks are defined in clause 104 of the Local Government (General) Regulation Act 2021 as land which is improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational and cultural pursuits that do not intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.

The core objectives for parks, as outlined in Section 36G of the LG Act, are to:

- encourage, promote and facilitate recreational, cultural, social and educational pastimes and activities
- provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games
- improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

Key Issues

Safety and Risk Management

Safety is an issue Council needs to address on a permanent basis. Council has a statutory responsibility to provide facilities/structures that meet relevant Australian Standards and is obliged under common law to take appropriate steps to protect people from reasonably foreseeable risk or harm in the use of public spaces and public assets. This implies a responsibility to maintain all natural areas and associated facilities to an acceptable standard. Key safety issues include:

- the effects of anti-social behaviour
- increasing number of homeless camps
- dogs, off leash, can threaten the health and safety of other users
- parks are potentially affected by natural disasters such as flood, fire or severe windstorms, posing a threat to the safety of users.

Access and Parking

Access and parking are very important to provide access to parks

- not all parks have structured pathways, nor have suitable toilets, which can limit use by parts of the community
- design of facilities in the past has not taken in to account the needs of physically disabled users and parents with prams
- vandalism of fences and gates to allow unauthorised vehicular access is prevalent. Placing physical obstructions along access routes deems the route inaccessible for emergency or service vehicles.

Recreation and Land Use

Passive recreation activities are encouraged in parks:

- the drinking of alcohol within parks areas can lead to anti-social behaviour as well as broken glass causing a safety issue. Alcohol Prohibited Zones (APZ) may be implemented under Section 632A of the LG Act.
- currently there are private water pumps used for irrigation, located within parks areas
- there are two existing boat ramps and one pontoon
- there are some unauthorised tracks, this opens parks up to weed invasion and anti-social behaviour
- it is difficult to prevent the use of swing ropes into the river from riverside parks areas due to the vast number of areas requiring monitoring
- swimming and or diving into water bodies can be dangerous due to variable water quality and submerged logs, rocks.

Landscape Character and Design

Any structures, signs, paths etc in parks should be sympathetic to the existing setting, its landscape values or the unique character and features of each site:

- flooding is a constraint to the location and type of structures placed in riverside parks.
- stormwater is generally designed to flow into natural watercourses. This water often contains sediment, weed propagates and seed and is high in nutrients, thus promoting the spread of weeds into riverside parks.
- pumps and pipes and other infrastructure within parks can detract from the appearance of the reserve.
- consideration of Safety by Design principles should be incorporated into new designs for parks where possible, to improve safety of park users and staff and reduce the incidence of crime.

Maintenance of Parks and Associated Facilities

Due to the relative high use of parks, maintenance of these areas is important:

- vandalism and inappropriate behaviour is a problem in parks
- litter and dumping of household and industrial rubbish is a problem in many parks
- play equipment needs to be maintained to a high standard.

Community Involvement/Neighbour Relations

Good neighbourly relations are important in the management of parks. Neighbours and community users are vital for the contribution to the planning and management process as well as informing Council of any ongoing issues:

- there is often encroachment or dumping of rubbish and garden refuse into park
- in some cases, the community and neighbours are affected by issues such as anti-social behaviour.

Management framework for reserves categorised as Park

Council's Open Space Masterplan 2018 (under review) and Recreation Strategy 2030 provide the strategic direction for the management of the open space network. Council's Open Space Masterplan 2018 includes several specific actions to be addressed during the ten-year life of the plan.

The recreation strategy categories parks into levels:

Community Infrastructure – typically are provided for utilities and services

Local – typically have signage, trees for shade and a natural playing surface

District – typically have trees, wayfinding signage, litter bins, park furniture and playgrounds

Regional – typically have trees, picnic tables and BBQs, play spaces, bins, lights and amenities.

Council's Delivery Plan requires Council to support community initiatives and to provide volunteering opportunities and programs that allow safe participation in activities that meet the volunteer's needs and add value to the service delivery of Council. To support this program Council has produced its Parks and Bushcare volunteer guidelines and appointed a Parks and Bushcare Officer.

The management and presentation of the parks network within the Dubbo Regional Council Local Government Area exists within the Community, Culture and Places Division. Two (2) functions are involved – Recreation and Open Space as the asset owner provides the strategic management of these facilities that includes identifying future needs, master planning and the setting of Maintenance Service Levels that each of the public parks are categorised into based on the attributes found within the Asset Classification System. The Greenspace Operations team provides the recurrent maintenance to present these public parks in accordance with the agreed Maintenance Service Levels.

The Greenspace Operations function operates internal crews, and occasionally partner with external community groups, to support the primary functions associated with the maintenance and enhancement of these public park assets.

Conditions of use

General conditions

1. Council requires user groups to provide Public Liability Insurance Policy by way of a Certificate of Currency (minimum \$20,000,000) at least seven days prior to an event.
2. Event organisers are responsible for conducting their own risk assessment of Council's Parks and Gardens and submit a risk management plan to Council at least seven days prior to the event.
3. Booking dates and times are to be strictly adhered to.
4. Parks and gardens are a public space and therefore exclusiveness to an area booked for an event is not guaranteed.
5. Parks are to be used in the condition they appear (e.g. mowing and maintenance is not carried out for specifically for weddings but rather on a scheduled roster)
6. Parks are to be left clean and tidy after use. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the user group being invoiced for the 'actual costs' of litter control.
7. Many Council parks are an alcohol prohibited zone between 9pm and 9am daily, responsible consumption is required.
8. Electric barbeques are available at specific parks free of charge.
9. Council encourages user groups to utilise equipment which doesn't require power as only certain parks have power available.
10. It is the responsibility of user groups to have all appliances and electrical cords used on Council grounds tested and tagged in accordance with current Australian standards and regulatory requirements.
11. All marquees and signage erected must receive written approval from Council as the marking of underground services may be required at some parks, gardens and sporting facilities and incurs additional charges.
12. Bikes and skateboards are not permitted.
13. No unauthorised vehicles are to be driven or parked on any park, garden or non-defined vehicle area without written approval from Council.
14. For the use of jumping castles in Council parks and gardens the provider must have \$20,000,000 public liability insurance to comply and any injury or incident will be the responsibility of the user group. Also no pegs are to be used, only weights due to underground services (under review).
15. If user groups wish to engage external vendors/ services such as food vans it is the responsibility of the user group to ensure the vendor has the appropriate insurances, risk management plans and adheres to the terms and conditions of use for parks.
16. Any unsafe parks should not be used and reported to Council immediately on 6801 4000. Calls are logged using this service, and allocated to staff so the appropriate inspections and work can be carried out to ensure faults are fixed.
17. The user group hiring parks and gardens are responsible for all damage caused during their event and will be invoiced the 'actual costs' for any repairs required.
18. Signage for Temporary Events must comply with the following in accordance with the relevant legislation*:
 - a. One banner and one sign with a total combined area of less than 6m2 is permitted offsite.
 - b. Off-site signage must:
 - i. not be placed in residential areas,
 - ii. not be placed on any public land or assets,
 - iii. not be permanently fixed,
 - iv. not incorporate any illumination, bill posters or bunting,
 - v. have land owner/occupier consent.
19. All signage must not be displayed earlier than 14 days before the event and must be removed within 2 days after the event.

Failure to comply with the above may result in regulatory action and fines being issued.

Relevant legislation - Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1998 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.

Please note: Horse riding, dogs (not a leash), animals, lighting of fires, practising of golf, camping and removal of shrubs and trees are prohibited in ALL parks.



Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Park and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 3 below. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

The anticipated uses and associated development identified in the table are intended to provide a general guide. The terminology used is not intended to impose an exact meaning. For example, a reference to 'football' includes any variations of that game.

Table 3: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Park by Council

Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
- Active and passive recreation including children's play and cycling. - Group recreational use, such as picnics and private celebrations. - Eating and drinking in a relaxed setting - Publicly accessible ancillary areas, such as toilets - Festivals, parades, markets, fairs, exhibitions and similar events and gatherings - Low-intensity commercial activities (for example recreational equipment hire) - Filming and photographic projects - Busking - Public address (speeches) - Community gardening - Note: Some of the uses listed above require a permit from the Council.	- Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity and the visual character of the park, for example paths, public art, pergolas. - Development for the purposes of active recreation such as play equipment, exercise equipment, bike racks, half-court basketball courts, bocce courts. - Amenities to facilitate the safe use and enjoyment of the park, for example picnic tables, BBQs, sheltered seating areas. - Café or refreshment areas (kiosks/restaurants) including external seating. - Lighting, seating, toilet facilities, courts, paved areas - Hard and soft landscaped areas - Storage sheds - Car parking and loading areas. - Commercial development that is sympathetic to and supports use in the area, for example hire of recreation equipment. - Community gardens - Heritage and cultural interpretation, for example signs - Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that: - relate to approved uses/activities. - are discreet and temporary. - are approved by the Council. - Bio-banking and carbon sequestration initiatives - Water-saving initiatives such as stormwater harvesting, rain gardens and swales - Energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels - Locational, directional and regulatory signage - Car park infrastructure e.g. EV charging station

Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates – Park

This PoM **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Park, listed in table 3, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which the land was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the LG Act or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the lease, licence or other estate is a valid act under the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the LG Act or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Table 4: Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as Park.

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease	21 years (or up to 30 years with ministerial consent)	- café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables. - management of court facilities - hire or sale of recreational equipment. - Car park infrastructure e.g. EV charging station
Licence	21 years (or up to 30 years with ministerial consent)	- outdoor café/kiosk seating and tables - management of court or similar facilities - hire or sale of recreational equipment - Car park infrastructure e.g. EV charging station
Short-term licence	1 year	- community events and festivals - playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward - picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings - filming, including for cinema/television. - conducting a commercial photography session - public performances - engaging in an appropriate trade or business - delivering a public address - community events - fairs, markets, auctions, and similar activities - to transport building materials and equipment required in relation to building work that is to be, or is being, carried out on land adjoining the community land and/or to remove waste that is consequential on such work.
Other estates	Ongoing	This PoM allows the Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or public utility provider on the community land in accordance with the LG Act.

Action plan

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a PoM for community land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the Council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 5: Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Park			
Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Use and recreation	To enhance opportunities for a balanced passive recreational use of parks. To optimise public access to all areas of parks. Provide opportunities for all kinds of activity in open space for people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.	Maintain and increment the range of organised and informal/unstructured activities in parks. Provide improved facilities for event usage so that these functions may be accommodated without adversely affecting the values and character of individual parks. Provide amenities to increase use and enjoyment of parks including toilets, change rooms and kiosk/ café facilities. Undertake accessibility audit of facilities to identify compliance. Maintain in accordance with specified Maintenance Service Level	Increased local use of parks measured by survey and observation.
Safety	Prevent unsafe use	Install signage, conduct inspections, erect fencing in high-risk areas	Number of signs erected, number of inspections, number of fences
	Discourage anti-social behaviour	Redesign/restrict access to discourage anti-social behaviour	Reports of anti- social behaviour
	Ensure no one is harmed by dogs	Install signage instructing that dogs must be always on a lead, except in designated off leash areas	Number of complaints
	Ensure the public is not at threat from flood and fire	Parks are to be closed from the public whilst there is a high threat of fire or flood entering the reserve	Reserves closed
		Develop bushfire risk management plans for reserves that pose a high risk	Plans developed
Litter and dumping	Reduce the amount of litter and dumping	Track down offenders, clean up dumped rubbish immediately when appropriate, install signage, conduct targeted surveillance at hotspots	Number of incidents
Access management	Ensure access minimises impact, prevent unauthorised access, maintain existing tracks, trails, gates and fences	Close and rehabilitate unauthorised tracks, limit access from adjoining properties	Number of unauthorised accesses
Landscape character is maintained	Any structures, signs, paths should be sympathetic to the existing setting	Plan appropriately	Number of new structures etc that are sympathetic to the landscape

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Land use planning	Ensure development of adjoining areas do not impact on parks	Ensure there is a buffer between development and parks	Adequate buffers on development
	Ensure signage does not impact on visual quality	Limit amount of unnecessary signage	Signage policy
Harm to the aquatic environment	To protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses, and foreshores	Manage drainage lines, stormwater, and sewerage systems to reduce downstream impacts.	No serious environmental incidents
	To protect aquatic and riparian environments	Ensure all permits, eg: Fisheries, are in place prior to the commencement of works	Compliance. No serious incidents or legal action.



Section 36F of the LG Act, are to:

- encourage, promote and facilitate recreational pursuits in the community involving organised and informal sporting activities and games.
- ensure that such activities are managed having regard to any adverse impact on nearby residences.

Council has adopted a Recreation Strategy 2030. This strategy sets out how recreational opportunities will be improved. The strategic vision is:

"To enhance the lives of its people by offering diverse choices for quality sport and recreation and encouraging social connections for improved health and wellbeing for all. The strategy identifies the various sportsgrounds in the local government area and describes them as either structured sport or flexible open space."

Management of Land – Sportsground

The Sportsground covered by this PoM are:

- Bob Dowling Ovals
- John McGrath Fields
- Nita McGrath Netball Courts
- Katrina Gibbs Fields
- Hans Claven Oval
- Ollie Robbins Oval
- Lady Cutler Ovals

Guidelines and core objectives

Sportsgrounds are defined in clause 103 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 as land used primarily for active recreation involving organised sports or playing outdoor games.

The core objectives for sportsgrounds, as outlined in

Key issues

Safety and Risk Management

Safety is an issue Council needs to address on a permanent basis. Council has a statutory responsibility to provide facilities/structures that meet relevant Australian Standards and is obliged under common law to take appropriate steps to protect people from reasonably foreseeable risk or harm in the use of public spaces and public assets. This implies a responsibility to maintain all natural areas and associated facilities to an acceptable standard. Key safety issues include:

- sportsgrounds are potentially affected by natural disasters such as flood, fire or severe windstorms, posing a threat to the safety of users.
- chemical usage needs to minimise the potential impacts upon the community.

Access and Parking

Access and parking are very important issues to provide access to sportsgrounds:

- parking in conjunction with organised sport hubs such as netball and football is very congested leading to illegal parking on sportsgrounds and adjacent open space. This deteriorates the condition of the ground surface.
- design of facilities in the past has not properly taken in to account the needs of physically disabled users and parents with prams.

Recreation and Land Use

Organised sports and less structured playing of games are encouraged in sportsgrounds:

- The drinking of alcohol within sportsgrounds can lead to anti-social behaviour as well as broken glass causing a safety issue.

Landscape Character and Design

- consideration of Safer by Design principles should be incorporated into new designs for Sportsgrounds, to improve safety of users and staff and reduce the incidence of crime.

Maintenance of Sportsgrounds and Associated Facilities

Due to the relative high use of sportsgrounds, maintenance of these areas is very important.

Community Involvement/Neighbour Relations

Good neighbourly relations are important in the management of sportsgrounds. Neighbours and community users are vital for the contribution to the planning and management process as well as informing Council of any ongoing issues:

- there is often a lot of noise generated during sporting events
- in some cases, the community and neighbours are affected by issues such as anti-social behaviour.

Management framework for reserves categorised as Sportsground.

The recreation strategy categories sportsgrounds into levels:

- **Local** – typically have signage, trees for shade and a natural playing surface.
- **District** – typically have amenities, change rooms, canteens facilities, spectator space, irrigation, light and fencing, carparking.
- **Regional** – typically have covered spectator space, amenities, professional lights, irrigation, fencing, carparking with wayfinding and signage commercial canteen facilities, official rooms, functions rooms.

The management and presentation of the sporting facilities within the Dubbo Local Government Area exists within the Liveability Division. Two (2) functions are involved – Recreation and Open Space as the asset owner provides the strategic management of these facilities that includes identifying future needs, master planning and the setting of Maintenance Service Levels that each of the sporting facilities / complexes are categorised into based on the attributes found within the Asset Classification System. The Greenspace Operations team provides the recurrent maintenance to present these facilities in accordance with the agreed Maintenance Service Levels, and to undertake sport specific tasks to assist the sporting clubs and associations to partake in their chosen sport.

The Greenspace Operations function operates internal crews to support the two main functions associated with the service delivery of its core business associated with the provision of sporting facilities. The two functions associated with the provision of Sporting Facilities for the community is the ongoing maintenance and ongoing presentation of the facilities and sport specific preparation.

Sporting facilities are predominately located predominately within the major urban centres of Dubbo and Wellington, although there are a small number located within the villages.

Council staff work to prescribed standards and respond to client requests, sporting clubs and associations, as well as reactive and remedial asset maintenance works identified in budgets. Specialist tasks are supported by contractors including weed spraying, rubbish collection, plumbing, electrical, property maintenance and road repairs.

Council also operates a Sports Council. The Dubbo Region Sports Council has a constitution that sets out its objectives that includes amongst other things:

- cooperation, communication and collaboration between Council and sporting groups
- to make recommendations on ground allocation
- to negotiate with Council on mutually acceptable fees and charges
- to coordinate an awards night
- contribute to strategic planning, prioritisation, and promotion of sporting events.

Council has a ground allocation policy which is developed in consultation with the Dubbo Region Sports Council. This policy aims to:

- minimise the risk of potential litigation of Council.
- enable the greatest number of user groups to get the maximum use of fields.
- enable user groups wherever reasonable and possible, time to complete their seasonal training and competition.

The Dubbo Region Sports Council with the administration support of the Dubbo Regional Council, Recreation Coordinator will call for, review applications, and approve summer and winter sporting ground allocations on a seasonal basis per annum for pre-season, training, and competition.

The Dubbo Region Council Recreation Coordinator manages all one-off bookings including sporting carnivals, gala days or sporting and community events.

In allocating sporting grounds and facilities, the Dubbo Region Sports Council Management Committee and Recreation Coordinator will adhere to the following guidelines:

- The incumbent sporting organisation be given priority to sporting grounds, meaning in the first instances priority is given to the sporting organisation who in previous season/s held the allocation for a specific sporting facility. For a sporting organisation to overturn the incumbent sporting organisation continuing to maintain the allocation of a specific sporting facility a formal business case/letter must be submitted to the Dubbo Region Sports Council by the challenging sporting organisation. The Dubbo Region Sports Council Management Committee are to review the business case/letter and assess on a case-by-case basis.
- The 'type' or 'level' of booking whether it be seasonal sporting ground allocations, or a one-off carnival, gala day or major event be considered, and preference given in accordance with the hierarchy below:
 1. National Competition/Event
 2. State Competition/Event
 3. Regional Competition/Event
 4. Local Competition
 5. Training
 6. Pre-Season Training

Also senior competition/events/training takes precedent over junior competition/events/training.

Conditions of use

We appreciate, in advance, your cooperation and understanding of the terms and conditions for using Council's sporting facilities:

General conditions

1. Council requires user groups/users to provide their Risk Assessment and Public Liability Insurance Policy by way of a Certificate of Currency (minimum \$20,000,000) at least seven days prior to training, competition, or an event.
2. Event organisers are responsible for conducting their own risk assessment of Council's Parks and Gardens and submit a risk management plan to Council at least seven days prior to the event.
3. Signage for Temporary Events must comply with the following in accordance with the relevant legislation*:
 - a. One banner and one sign with a total combined area of less than 6m² is permitted offsite.
 - b. Off-site signage must:
 - o not be placed in residential areas,
 - o not be placed on any public land or assets,
 - o not be permanently fixed,
 - o not incorporated any illumination, bill posters, or bunting,
 - o have land owner/occupier consent.
 - c. All signage must not be displayed earlier than 14 days before the event and must be removed within 2 days after the event.

Failure to comply with the above may result in regulatory action and fines being issued.

Relevant legislation - Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1998 and State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.

Grounds and facilities

1. Booking dates and times are to be strictly adhered to.
2. Council must be notified of any updates, changes or cancellations to event or contact details as soon as possible.
3. User groups should take reasonable steps to check that no physical change to the facility/grounds has occurred since the previous use which may have rendered it unplayable. Any such physical change is to be reported to Council as soon as practicable.
4. Council requests that if you see turf damage happening from training patterns then you are required to move away from that area and train on a different part of the field. Council is asking that you respect other user groups that use the field for their competition and ensure that the playing surface is in the best possible condition throughout the season.
5. User groups are responsible for inspecting all structures such as goal posts, in-ground sprinklers to ensure the safety of the grounds prior to use.
6. In the event of wet weather, Council's Recreation Coordinator (or a representative) will liaise with representatives of affected user groups to determine the fitness for use of any ground.
7. If grounds are open for use by Council, then user groups are to make all pre-practice and pre-game inspections and decisions on the grounds prior to use.
8. No unauthorised vehicles are to be driven on any field or non-defined vehicle areas without written approval from Council.
9. No parking of vehicles is permitted on any grass area without written Council approval.
10. All marquees and signage erected must adhere to Council's Peg Policy for Sporting Grounds, Parks and Garden. This includes the use of star pickets or pegs bigger than 5mm wide and 200mm long not being permitted.
11. If user groups wish to engage external vendors/ services, such as food vans, it is the responsibility of the user group to ensure the vendor has the appropriate insurances, risk management plans and adheres to the terms and conditions of use for sporting fields.
12. Grounds are to be left in a clean and tidy condition after each use. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the user group being invoiced for the 'actual costs' of litter control.
13. No smoking is permitted within the facility, grandstand, or perimeter fence. It is the responsibility of your user group to ensure that all spectators attending abide by this regulation.
14. Amenities blocks are to be left in a clean and tidy condition. All taps should be turned off, lights turned off and doors locked.
15. Upon use of a canteen the user group must leave the canteen clean and tidy to Council standards ready for the next user group. In the case where the canteen needs to be cleaned by Council's contract cleaner the user group will be invoiced 'actual costs' per clean required.
16. No BBQs are to be cooked in designated areas where possible and nor on concrete or asphalt areas without a protective splashback material under the BBQ and against the building. If cleaning of such surfaces is required, then 'actual costs' will be invoiced to the user group.
17. The use or sale of glass bottles at all grounds is prohibited. It is the responsibility of user groups to ensure that all spectators attending matches abide by this regulation.
18. Prior to the commencement of the season, Council requires copies of licensing arrangement under which alcohol is sold.
19. User groups are to ensure sporting facilities are locked after use including amenities, canteen roller doors, gates etc. In the event that Council provides keys to a user group for a facility these should be returned within one business day following the event. If the keys are lost or damaged the replacement cost will be borne by the user group.

Electrical requirements

1. It is the responsibility of user groups to have all appliances and electrical cords used on Council grounds tested and tagged in accordance with current Australian standards and regulatory requirements.

Faults, damages and reporting

1. Any unsafe facilities/grounds should not be used and reported to Council immediately on 6801 4000. Calls are logged using this service, and allocated to staff so that appropriate inspections and work can be carried out to ensure faults are fixed.
2. All faults within a facility must be report to the Council within 72 hours, so the appropriate inspections and work can be carried out to ensure faults are fixed prior to the next event.
3. If a user group reports a fault during their event and it turns out to be caused by the user group negligence or misuse, then the user group will be invoiced for the 'actual costs' for fixing the fault. For example, a typical problem is the overloading of circuits which requires an electrical contractor call out.
4. The user group hiring facilities/grounds are responsible for all damage caused during their event and will be invoiced the 'actual costs' for any repairs required.

Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Sportsground, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 7 below. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

The anticipated uses and associated development identified in the table are intended to provide a general guide. The terminology used is not intended to impose an exact meaning. For example, a reference to 'football' includes any variations of that game.

It is anticipated that new sports may develop, and others increase or decrease in popularity. If this occurs, then some community land may be modified to facilitate the changing forms of 'active recreation' enjoyed by the community. References such as 'field', or 'court', are not intended to exclude other sporting surfaces.

Table 6: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Sportsground, by Council or the community.

Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
- Active and passive recreational and sporting activities compatible with the nature of the particular land and any relevant facilities - Organised and unstructured recreation activities - Community events and gatherings - Commercial uses associated with sports facilities	- Development for the purpose of conducting and facilitating organised sport (both amateur and professional), for example: - Sports field (cricket, football, track and field athletics, baseball, softball) - Marked court (basketball, volleyball, badminton, tennis, hockey, netball etc.) - Aquatic facility (learn to swim classes, squad training, fitness and health classes including aqua aerobics, recreational and competitive swimming and diving, organised water sports including water polo, diving, hydrotherapy facilities) - Professional rooms for hire - Change room/locker areas. - Shower/toilet facilities. - Kiosk/café uses. - Car parking and loading areas. - Ancillary areas (staff rooms, meeting rooms, recording rooms, equipment storage areas) - Shade structures - Storage ancillary to recreational uses, community events or gatherings, and public meetings - Facilities for sports training, e.g. batting cages, tennis walls - Provision of amenities to facilitate use and enjoyment of the community land including seating, change rooms, toilets, storage, first aid areas - Café/kiosk facilities - Heritage and cultural interpretation, e.g. signs - Equipment sales/hire areas - Meeting rooms/staff areas - Compatible, small scale commercial uses, e.g. sports tuition - Advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that: - relate to approved uses/activities - are discreet and temporary - are approved by the Council - Water-saving initiatives such as stormwater harvesting, rain gardens and swales - Energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels - Locational, directional and regulatory signage - Car park infrastructure e.g. charging station

Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates – Sportsground

This PoM **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Sportsground, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which the land was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the LG Act or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the lease, licence or other estate is a valid act under the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the LG Act or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Table 7 further identifies the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this PoM.

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease	21 years (or up to 30 years with ministerial consent)	• café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables • management of court facilities • hire or sale of recreational equipment • Car park infrastructure e.g. EV charging station
Licence	21 years (or up to 30 years with ministerial consent)	• outdoor café/kiosk seating and tables • management of court or similar facilities • hire or sale of recreational equipment • Car park infrastructure e.g. EV charging station
Short-term licence	1 year	• sporting fixtures and events • sports and fitness training and classes • broadcasting or filming of sporting fixtures • ancillary ceremonies (for example, rehearsal of opening and closing ceremonies, cheer squads, etc.) • uses reasonably associated with the promotion or enhancement of sporting groups, fixtures and events (for example, 'guest' events for juniors; gala days; club meetings) • to transport building materials and equipment required in relation to building work that is to be, or is being, carried out on land adjoining the community land and/or to remove waste that is consequential on such work.
Other estates	Ongoing	This PoM allows the Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or public utility provider on the community land in accordance with the LG Act.

Action plan

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a PoM for community land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the Council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets.
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 8: Objectives and performance target, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Sportsground			
Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Safety	Recreation fields, equipment, including playing facilities, tables, and the like shall be installed and maintained in accordance with acceptable standards	Conduct regular inspections in accordance with the Maintenance Service Standard	Inspections completed
Useage	Ensure all sporting fields area fit for play	Maintain in accordance with specified Maintenance Service Level	Inspections completed as per Maintenance Service Level.
	Discourage and limit anti-social behaviour	Prohibit the drinking of alcohol at sportsgrounds where appropriate	Sportsgrounds/events identified and signposted where appropriate
Vandalism	Lock facilities and restrict access to grounds where required	Erect fencing and install gates where required	Number of sites vandalised
Sporting surfaces	Reduce the loss of quality playing surfaces through overuse	Close sportsgrounds in accordance with Council's wet weather policy	Wet weather / ground closure policy implemented
	Allocate grounds and set usage	Consult with the Sports Council on ground allocations and usage	Ground Allocation Policy implemented
Access and Parking	Prevent unauthorised access	Close non-essential access, lock gates, provide dedicated parking areas and prohibit parking on grounds	Areas damaged by access and parking
Community involvement	Continue to operate the Dubbo Regional Sports Council	Sports Council operates effectively	Meetings held
	Reduce impact to neighbours	Respond effectively to any reports from neighbours, design lighting and limit use to reduce impact	Number of complaints



Management of Land - Natural Area

Natural area

Crown reserves categorised as Natural Areas in the Dubbo Regional Council area fall into two main categories. Those that are associated with riparian areas along rivers and creeks and those which are not. The latter are often small and isolated from each other and from other natural areas managed by the state. Council will manage its Natural Areas:

- to ensure management of natural areas takes into consideration the principles of Crown Land management
- to provide for public safety
- to efficiently and effectively manage public assets
- to provide the wider community with sufficient appropriate access to natural areas
- to encourage community involvement in the management of natural areas
- to create awareness of the importance of natural systems within the community
- to protect the natural areas as self-sustaining ecological systems, retaining as far as possible the native plants and animals
- to maintain the scenic, scientific, educational, aesthetic, cultural and heritage values of the natural areas
- to prevent degradation of natural areas and to minimise physical disturbance to land, and to work towards restoring or reclaiming degraded land including weed-infested areas
- to promote, foster awareness and support for the Council's natural areas management programme
- to provide a broad spectrum of safe, high quality recreational opportunities having regard to the objectives outlined above, and to limit development

in natural areas

- to undertake and to foster research and monitoring of the natural areas to document their significance and to assess and improve management practices.

This plan provides a framework for the management of nature based recreation in the Council's natural areas, aiming to balance the growing demand for nature based recreation with the preservation of the environment upon which it depends. Preserving natural values is of primary importance, as it is these values that attract people to the reserves to participate in nature based recreation.

Natural areas provide opportunities for nature based recreation. Nature based recreation is defined as outdoor recreation activities that:

- are dependent on the natural environment
- have an appreciation of nature as a key motivational factor
- do not require substantial modification to the natural environment
- are environmentally sustainable, as determined by an ongoing environmental monitoring program.

Whilst some of the following activities can potentially be considered nature-based recreation, they are not permitted in the Dubbo Regional Council area due to other factors including their potential impacts on the environment and neighbours, limited land area available to support such activities (which may further exacerbate impacts), inherently high risks and the costs of maintaining the necessary infrastructure:

- off road driving of motor vehicles including four-wheel-drive vehicles, except where permitted by a commercial use permit
- riding off-road motorcycles including trail bikes, motocross bikes, enduro bikes, quads and similar motorised vehicles
- electric or self-propelled vehicles (except eco-tourism operators)
- hang gliding
- hunting, archery, shooting
- camping
- fossicking, collecting.

Nature based recreation includes the following key activities:

- bushwalking
- mountain biking
- horse riding
- day use including picnicking
- nature study including birdwatching
- canoeing, kayaking and fishing
- orienteering, geocaching, trail running and adventure racing
- ecotourism and commercial use
- camping.

Mountain biking has become a popular nature-based recreation activity since its development in the 1980s. There are several different styles of mountain biking including cross country, track riding, dirt jumping, 4 X, dual slalom, freeriding, all-mountain and downhill riding.

The most common type of mountain biking is cross country. Cross country mountain bikers typically utilise a combination of off-road trails including fire trails and 'single track' (a narrow, flowing track following natural surface levels). Cross country riders also use other parts of Councils open space, such as Tracker Riley Shared Pathway. Cross country type trails are provided at Mugga Hill, Geurie Fauna and Flora Reserve Dundullimal Reserve and the Dubbo Regional Cycling Complex. Council encourages these to be multi use trails to allow more than one user group to utilise the area. Shared use trails can be successful provided they are designed appropriately, and the appropriate codes of conduct and guidelines are adhered to.

Unauthorised trail building is an issue and Council staff are working with mountain bike groups to try to provide sustainable trails and so reduce the number of environmentally damaging unauthorised trails.

Guidelines and core objectives

Natural areas are defined in clause 102 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 as land possessing a significant feature that would be sufficient to further categorise the land as bushland, wetland, escarpment, watercourse or foreshore.

Section 36A of the Act provides that community land that has been declared a critical habitat under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994 must be categorised as a natural area.

Section 36B of the LG Act provides that community land all or part of which is directly affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 or the Fisheries Management Act 1994 must be categorised as a natural area.

Section 36C of the Act provides that community land that is

the site of a known natural, geological, geomorphological, scenic or other feature that is considered by the Council to warrant protection or special management considerations, or that is the site of a wildlife corridor, must be categorised as a natural area.

The core objectives for natural areas, as outlined in Section 36E of the LG Act, are to:

- conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem function in respect of the land, or the feature or habitat in respect of which the land is categorised as a natural area
- maintain the land, or that feature or habitat, in its natural state and setting
- provide for the restoration and regeneration of the land
- provide for community use of and access to the land in such a manner as will minimise and mitigate any disturbance caused by human intrusion
- assist in and facilitate the implementation of any provisions restricting the use and management of the land that are set out in the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* or the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*.

Council will manage its natural areas to maximise its ecological values and connectivity. The conservation and protection of its environmental, scenic, catchment and cultural heritage values will be paramount. This will be achieved through adaptive ecological management and the provision of opportunities for low-impact sustainable nature-based public access, targeted interpretation and educational material.

The following objectives have been identified as important to achieving these strategic outcomes:

- maintain and enhance viable habitat corridors contributing to the ecological richness of the region
- conserve geological and geomorphological features and maintain natural biophysical processes
- protect and enhance the diversity, integrity and viability of native flora and fauna communities, particularly those identified as significant or threatened
- protect and monitor threatened and biogeographically significant species and their habitat
- undertake ecological restoration to repair the structure and integrity of degraded ecosystems, improve habitat function and to improve ecological resilience
- control pest plant and animal species

- implement fire management strategies that primarily protect life and property, whilst also ensuring the diversity and function of natural communities is maintained
 - protect catchment values of watercourses
 - protect and improve public appreciation of Aboriginal and European cultural heritage sites and values
 - involve traditional owners in cooperative management of Indigenous cultural heritage values
 - protect and enhance the significant landscape values
 - provide opportunities for safe, minimal-impact and sustainable nature-based recreation consistent with the protection of natural and cultural values
 - develop/design infrastructure that does not impact upon scenic values
 - mitigate against existing and potential human-induced impacts upon biodiversity such as rubbish dumping, inappropriate use of the reserves, the effects of increased visitation and adjacent land uses
 - foster greater public awareness and appreciation for the values and management of natural areas
 - provide interpretation and educational material that promotes appreciation of the reserves and support for the conservation of its values
 - manage impacts of pre-existing land uses, such as grazing, in a manner that supports and maintains natural and recreational values
 - develop and maintain strong relationships with neighbours, Government departments, other Council land and/or asset managers and other key stakeholders to enhance the protection, viability and integrated management of the reserves
 - adaptive management principles will be applied to all management guidelines and actions of this plan
 - manage in accordance with all relevant legislation and policy.
3. In this section, erection of a building or structure includes rebuilding or replacement of a building or structure.
 4. The following buildings and structures are prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1)(a)—
 - a. walkways,
 - b. pathways,
 - c. bridges,
 - d. causeways,
 - e. observation platforms,
 - f. signs.
 5. The following purposes are prescribed for the purposes of subsection (1)(b)—
 - a. information kiosks,
 - b. refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants),
 - c. work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land,
 - d. toilets or rest rooms.
 6. Despite subsection (1), a lease, licence or other estate may be granted, in respect of community land categorised as a natural area, to authorise the erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out, subject to the conditions prescribed by subsection (7) and the regulations.
 7. It is a condition of any lease, licence or other estate referred to in subsection (6)—
 - a. that any building or structure so erected must be temporary in nature, and
 - b. that as soon as practicable after the termination of the lease, licence or other estate—
 - i. any building or structure erected must be removed, and
 - ii. any damage to the land caused by the erection or use of a building or structure must be made good, and
 - iii. the land must be restored as nearly as possible to the condition that it was in at the time the lease, licence or other estate was granted, at the expense of the person to whom the lease, licence or other estate was granted.

Lease or licence in respect of natural area

1. A lease, licence or other estate must not be granted, in respect of community land categorised as a natural area—
 - a. to authorise the erection or use of a building or structure that is not a building or structure of a kind prescribed by this section or the regulations, or
 - b. to authorise the erection or use of a building or structure that is not for a purpose prescribed by this section or the regulations.
2. A lease, licence or instrument granting any other estate is void to the extent that its provisions are inconsistent with this section.



Management of Land - Natural Area - Bushland

The areas categorised as Natural Area Bushland throughout the LGA are generally either

- riparian vegetation along the Bell and Macquarie rivers and creeks such as Curra Creek and Jones Creek
- small patches of forest or woodland on hills and rocky slopes
- more rarely are open woodland on fertile soils

Along the Macquarie and Bell rivers and associated creeks there are still many of the magnificent old River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Rough-barked Apple (*Angophora floribunda*) and River Oaks (*Casuarina cunninghamiana*), representing part of the original riparian vegetation. On low lying and swampy areas Fuzzy Box (*E. conica*) is common, with Yellow Box (*E. melliodora*) on higher parts of the landscape.

Cypress Pine (*Callitris spp*) and Ironbark (*E. crebra* and *E. sideroxylon*) often occur on rocky hills and slopes, whilst white box communities (*E. albens*) can be found on basalt soils and other fertile soils.

Bushland immediately associated with the Macquarie and Bell rivers and other major watercourses is mapped as Natural Area (Watercourse) and in most instances the land from the top of the bank to the water edge is categorised as Natural Area (Bushland) and where this vegetation extends in its natural (and sometimes disturbed state) it is also categorised as Bushland. Where active groundcover management is taking place this provides the transition point to being categorised as general community use, park or sportsground.

Guidelines and core objectives

Bushland is defined in clause 107 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 as land containing primarily native vegetation that is the natural vegetation or a remainder

of the natural vegetation of the land, or although not the natural vegetation, is still representative of the structure or floristics of the natural vegetation in the locality. Such land includes—

- (a) bushland that is mostly undisturbed with a good mix of tree ages, and natural regeneration, where the understorey is comprised of native grasses and herbs or native shrubs, and that contains a range of habitats for native fauna (such as logs, shrubs, tree hollows and leaf litter), or
- (b) moderately disturbed bushland with some regeneration of trees and shrubs, where there may be a regrowth area with trees of even age, where native shrubs and grasses are present in the understorey even though there may be some weed invasion, or
- (c) highly disturbed bushland where the native understorey has been removed, where there may be significant weed invasion and where dead and dying trees are present, where there is no natural regeneration of trees or shrubs, but where the land is still capable of being rehabilitated.

The core objectives for bushland, as outlined in Section 36J of the LG Act, are to:

- ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna of the land and other ecological values
- protect the aesthetic, heritage, recreational, educational and scientific values of the land
- manage the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures to minimise or mitigate disturbance caused by human intrusion
- restore degraded bushland
- protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores
- retain bushland in parcels of a size and configuration that will enable the existing plant and animal communities to survive in the long term
- protect bushland as a natural stabiliser of the soil surface.

Key issues

Safety and Risk Management

Safety is an issue Council needs to address on a permanent basis. Council has a statutory responsibility to provide facilities/structures that meet relevant Australian Standards and is obliged under common law to take appropriate steps to protect people from reasonably foreseeable risk or harm in the use of public spaces and public assets. This implies a responsibility to maintain all natural areas and associated facilities to an acceptable standard. Key safety issues include:

- due to the number of natural areas distributed over a wide area, staff are unable to inspect each natural area on a regular basis
- the effects of anti-social behaviour
- dogs, off leash, can threaten the health and safety of other users
- natural areas are potentially affected by natural disasters such as flood, fire or severe windstorms, posing a threat to the safety of users
- people often defecate in natural areas where there are no toilet facilities provided. This may pose a health issue if other members of the public work in or visit these areas
- chemical usage needs to minimise the potential impacts upon the community
- there are some existing private pump houses in natural areas that may pose a safety risk to the public if moving parts are exposed.
- some high use natural areas require suitable parking areas
- as most natural areas are unfenced, unauthorised vehicular access is difficult and expensive to curb
- too many access tracks through natural areas exposes them to rubbish dumping, vandalism, anti-social behaviour and feral animal movements
- vandalism of fences and gates to allow unauthorised vehicular access is prevalent. Placing physical obstructions along access routes deems the route inaccessible for emergency or service vehicles
- gates on some entries to natural areas can limit access for emergency and service vehicles closure of natural areas can alienate the community.

Access and Parking

Access and parking are very important issues in natural areas as often this can lead to degradation of areas through introduction of weeds and pest animals. By their nature, natural areas are often difficult to access, therefore not always available to the broad cross section of the community:

- the majority of natural areas do not have structured pathways, nor have suitable toilets, which can limit use by parts of the community
- design of facilities in the past has not taken in to account the needs of physically disabled users and parents with prams
- provision of emergency access or egress from natural areas can often not be provided. Flood and fire evacuation of users' needs to be addressed
- there is limited access for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to and within natural areas
- in many areas horses, bicycles and motorbikes can damage tracks and cause problems such as erosion and spread of weeds



Recreation and Land Use

Recreation activities are encouraged in natural areas but are subsidiary to the objective of management of the land to retain its natural features and qualities. Risks to be managed include:

- the drinking of alcohol within natural areas can lead to anti-social behaviour as well as broken glass causing a safety issue
- a lack of signage identifying what can or cannot occur within each natural area makes it difficult to curb certain activities. The over usage of signs can however lead to clutter and visual pollution
- currently there are private water pumps used for irrigation, located within natural areas.
- in some natural areas, overnight camping is conducted even though camping is prohibited in natural areas
- off road recreation vehicles are prohibited in natural areas, except on properly constructed roads or where used for maintenance or management purposes
- horse riding is not permitted in natural areas except on designated tracks
- many unauthorised tracks are often created by horse or bike riders, this opens natural areas up to weed invasion and predation and can have negative impacts on the biodiversity values of the natural areas
- where barbeques have been provided in natural areas, they are open fireplaces. This is not appropriate where bushfires can easily be started or where fuel is sourced from natural areas
- often cyclists or horse riders do not stick to formed tracks
- it is difficult to prevent the use of swing ropes into the river from natural areas due to the vast number of areas requiring monitoring
- swimming and or diving into water bodies can be dangerous due to variable water quality and submerged logs, rocks.
- stormwater is generally designed to flow into natural watercourses. This water often contains sediment, weed propagates and seed and is high in nutrients, thus promoting the spread of weeds into natural areas
- pumps and pipes within reserves can detract from the appearance of the reserve
- consideration of Safer by Design principles should be incorporated into new designs for Natural Areas where possible, to improve safety of park users and staff and reduce the incidence of crime.

Biodiversity Conservation

Management and maintenance of natural areas needs to be carried out in an ecologically sustainable manner to prevent any long-term impacts upon the environment. It is necessary to maintain ecological processes and systems when managing natural areas:

- fragmentation of bushland areas can expose natural areas to impacts such as weed invasion, dumping, predation of native animals and other negative factors
- small isolated pockets of native vegetation may limit the viability of plant and animal populations
- it is important to ensure habitat values are not compromised
- biodiversity values may be compromised in response to public perceptions about threats posed by native fauna e.g.: snakes
- it is necessary to manage threatened species, communities and key threatening processes in accordance with recovery plans and threat abatement plans
- pest plants or animals compete with native plants and animals for resources
- domestic animals can prey upon native wildlife
- there is a lack of data about the attributes and condition of Council's natural areas
- there is a lack of data about the fire history of Council's natural areas, making it difficult to plan for hazard reduction activities and ecological burns.

Landscape Character and Design

Any structures, signs, paths etc in natural areas should be sympathetic to the existing setting, its landscape values or the unique character and features of each site. The inherent landscape features of natural areas thus need to be retained, and where possible enhanced, when developing natural areas:

- often natural areas are unsigned and entrances are not obvious
- flooding is a constraint to the location and type of structures placed in natural areas

Maintenance of Natural Areas and Associated Facilities

Due to the relative low use of natural areas, maintenance of these areas is often limited:

- there is minimal budget for maintenance of the infrastructure, roads, carparks or natural areas
- buildings, fences and other structures are often outdated and not appropriate to the needs of user, nor acceptable to the general community
- many natural areas lack essential facilities and structures such as shelters
- vandalism and inappropriate behaviour is a problem in natural areas
- litter and dumping of household and industrial rubbish is a problem in many natural areas
- security is difficult due to the lack of resources and the wide distribution of natural areas.

A challenge to the management of natural areas is to reduce bushfire risk to life and property while maximising biodiversity values:

- there is a need for appropriate asset protection zones and access tracks for fire management vehicles within natural areas
- there is a need for a Bushfire Risk Management Plan to be developed for Natural Areas.

Identification and management of areas of cultural heritage is important if these are to be retained:

- many areas of Cultural Significance have not yet been identified or documented.

Community Involvement/Neighbour Relations

Good neighbourly relations are important in the management of natural areas. Neighbours and community users are vital for the contribution to the planning and management process as well as informing Council of any ongoing issues:

- there is often encroachment or dumping of rubbish and garden refuse into natural areas
- in some cases, the community and neighbours are affected by issues such as anti-social behaviour and presence of pest animals such as rabbits and foxes
- often community awareness of natural area qualities and management issues is poor. A broader understanding would ensure that as far as possible residents and visitors have a positive interaction with the bushland.

Planning Framework

Development of adjoining private properties often impacts upon natural areas through pollution, spread of weeds, fire hazards, etc:

- although new adjoining developments should be designed with perimeter roads to assist in natural area management and fire protection, many older developments do not have such a buffer
- often there are no corridors for wildlife across private properties to or from Natural Areas.

Fauna

The riparian area provides habitat for a number of bats, birds and mammals. Commonly seen species include Spotted Harrier, Little Eagle, Little Lorikeet, Grey-crowned Babblers, Diamond Firetail and Red-browed Finches and Kingfishers.

Bushland associated with the Macquarie and Bell rivers also provides roosting habitat for the Grey-headed (GHFF) and Little Red Flying Foxes (LRFF). GHFF are listed as a vulnerable threatened species in NSW. GHFF are a semi regular visitor to Dubbo and Wellington with camps often staying for several months. Camp locations are variable and usually on the river. In Wellington the junction is an often-used site and in Dubbo the area behind the Water Treatment Works and near Dundullimal Reserve are often used. They have also established camps in Victoria Park and in trees between Tarlow Avenue and Yuille Court in West Dubbo.

Camps, once established, are monitored monthly by staff from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, unless they have young when they are monitored more frequently depending on the camp location. In times of heat stress camps are also monitored more frequently to rescue stressed animals and to collect deceased animals. Council is considering the development of a Camp Management Plan that would address all camps in the LGA.

More specific actions for individual species are included in the reserve plans where relevant.

Weeds

Local Councils that are the local control authorities for weeds under the Biosecurity Act 2015 must deliver specific weed management functions and:

- appoint and support staff as authorised officers under the Act
- inspect lands for high-risk weeds and seek compliance with the Act from owners/occupiers,
- educate their communities about weeds risk and best practice weeds management,
- control high-risk weeds
- submit reports about these activities to the Biosecurity Information System as per the NSW Metadata Standard
- participate in regional strategic weeds management through their Regional Weed Committee.

Local government weed management priorities should be guided by the Regional Strategic Weed Management Plans.

Council is a member of the Central West Regional Weed Committee. Council is responsible for the control of weeds on Council controlled lands such as reserves and roadsides. The Central West Region Strategic Weed Management plan sets out the State Priority weeds.

Management framework for reserves categorised as Natural Area – Bushland

Council's Natural Areas team leads the management of natural areas. Various volunteer groups have assisted Council in managing its natural areas over many years. This includes regular working bees that target litter, weeds and tree planting. Extensive plantings of eucalypts, casuarina, cooba and river cooba, bursaria, melaleuca, and various wattles have been undertaken in the riparian bushland.

Council's 2024-2025 Delivery Plan requires Council to support community initiatives and to provide volunteering opportunities and programs that allow safe participation in activities that meet the volunteer's needs and add value to the service delivery of Council. To support this program Council has produced its Parks and Bushcare volunteer guidelines and appointed a Parks and Bushcare officer.

Council has a Parks and Bushcare Volunteer Guideline which sets out to build community capacity to contribute to natural area management by actively restoring, maintaining and protecting healthy, resilient ecosystems.

The objectives for Council's Bushcare Program are to:

- support Bushcare and Landcare Groups to function on a regular basis
- provide volunteers with the skills and knowledge to contribute to the maintenance and management bushland effectively
- raise community awareness about invasive weeds and the impacts of living near the bush
- foster community support for bushland management and community conservation programs
- provide good governance and effective risk management for staff and volunteers and others
- improve the quality of community life through increased social interaction and sharing of information.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 9 below. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

The anticipated uses and associated development identified in the table are intended to provide a general guide.

Table 9: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland by Council or the community	
Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
• Preservation of the Council's natural heritage including the identified endangered ecological communities • Preservation of biological diversity and habitat • Providing a location for relaxation and passive informal recreation • Walking/hiking • Guided bushwalks • Environmental and scientific study • Bush regeneration works • Carbon sequestration • Bio-banking • Approved bush care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with protection of flora and fauna. • Fire hazard reduction.	• Visitor facilities: toilets, picnic tables, BBQs, sheltered seating areas, lighting, low impact carparks, refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants) • Low-impact walking trails • Interpretive signage, information kiosks • Water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens, swales and sediment traps • Bridges, observation platforms, signs • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out • Locational, directional and regulatory signage

Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates – Natural Area – Bushland

This PoM **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the LG Act or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the lease, licence or other estate is a valid act under the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*
- where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the LG Act or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Table 10: Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.		
Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease	21 years (or up to 30 years with ministerial consent)	• walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways • observation platforms, signs • information kiosk • kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants) • bicycle/boat hire or similar • work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land • toilets • temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Licence	21 years (or up to 30 years with ministerial consent)	• walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways • observation platforms, signs • Information kiosk • Kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants) • Bicycle/boat hire or similar • work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land • toilets • temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Short-term licence	1 year	This PoM allows the Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or public utility provider on the community land in accordance with the LG Act.
Other estates	Ongoing	This PoM allows the Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or public utility provider on the community land in accordance with the LG Act.

Other Permitted Activities

In addition to the uses requiring a lease or licence, this PoM authorises the following uses, to be leased or licensed as appropriate

Pumps

This PoM authorises the installation of pumps and bores on community land for the purpose of supplying facilities on that land with water. For example, to provide water to toilet blocks.

Stormwater

This PoM authorises the construction of relevant structures for the purposes of stormwater treatment and or retention as prescribed in s28 of the Regulations. This plan authorises the continued use of drains, channels and easements and creation of new drains, channels and easements.

Action plan

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a PoM for community land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the Council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 11: Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland			
Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Active management for biodiversity	to ensure the ongoing ecological viability of the land by protecting the ecological biodiversity and habitat values of the land, the flora and fauna (including invertebrates, fungi and micro-organisms)	Control pests and weeds, erosion and promote ecological processes such as fire when appropriate	Bushland in high condition
Safety	Prevent unsafe use	Install signage, conduct inspections, erect fencing in high risk areas	Number of signs erected, number of inspections, number of fences
	Discourage anti-social behaviour	Redesign/restrict access to discourage anti-social behaviour	Reports of anti-social behaviour
	Ensure no one is harmed by dogs	Install signage instructing that dogs must be on a lead at all times, except in designated off leash areas	Number of complaints
	Ensure the public is not at threat from flood and fire	Natural areas are to be closed from the public whilst there is a high threat of fire or flood entering the reserve	Reserves closed
		Develop Bushfire Risk Management Plans for reserves that pose a high risk	Undertake risk assessment of reserves
Litter and dumping	Reduce the amount of litter and dumping	Track down offenders, clean up dumped rubbish immediately when appropriate, install signage, conduct targeted surveillance at hotspots	Number of incidents

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Access management	Ensure access minimises impact, prevent unauthorised access, maintain existing tracks, trails, gates and fences	Close and rehabilitate unauthorised tracks, limit access from adjoining properties	Number of unauthorised access
Community involvement	Encourage participation in Bushcare program, promote awareness of the values of natural areas, reduce encroachment	Support volunteers, hold working bees, distribute newsletter, educate neighbours	Number of engaged people
Landscape character is maintained	Any structures, signs, paths should be sympathetic to the existing setting	Plan appropriately	Number of new structures etc that are sympathetic to the landscape
Land use planning	Ensure development of adjoining areas do not impact on natural areas	Ensure there is a buffer between development and natural areas	Adequate buffers on development
	Ensure signage does not impact on visual quality	Limit amount of unnecessary signage	Signage policy
Biodiversity Conservation	Maintain, protect and enhance natural areas	Work with volunteers to promote and encourage natural and assisted regeneration of native vegetation and weed management programs.	Plans developed
Pests and weeds	Control weeds and pest using best management practices to promote the management of the land in a manner that protects and enhances the values and quality of the land and facilitates public enjoyment of the land, and to implement measures directed to minimising or mitigating any disturbance caused by human intrusion	Conduct bush regeneration in natural areas when funding permits Promote the use and enjoyment of the reserve and provide opportunities for learning and educational experiences.	Hectares of reserve land regenerated
Harm to the aquatic environment	to protect existing landforms such as natural drainage lines, watercourses and foreshores	Manage drainage lines, stormwater and sewerage systems to reduce downstream impacts.	No serious environmental incidents
	To protect aquatic and riparian environments	Ensure all permits, eg: Fisheries, are in place prior to the commencement of works	Compliance. No serious incidents or legal action.
Cultural heritage	Identify and conserve areas of cultural significance	Involve relevant people with a cultural association with the land	Sites identified and protected
Facilitate the use of natural areas for recreation	Limit the impact of recreational activities of the environment and other users	Prohibit camping except where designated	Number of unauthorised camping
	Limit bushwalking, mountain biking and horse riding to designated tracks and trails	Maintain tracks and trails	Tracks and trails maintained



Management of Land – Natural Area – Watercourse

Watercourses on or adjacent to crown land reserves managed by Dubbo Regional Council include the Macquarie – Wambuul, Talbragar and Bell rivers and creeks such as Curra Creek and Jones Creek. Watercourses provide an important habitat for fish, aquatic invertebrates, shellfish and molluscs, turtles, platypus, water rats, water dragons and waterbirds.

The Macquarie – Wambuul is the river associated with reserves subject to this PoM.

Watercourses provide an important recreational and sporting asset and utilised by fisherman, kayakers and for swimming.

Guidelines and core objectives

Watercourses are defined in clause 110 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 as any stream of water, perennial or intermittent, in a natural or artificial channel, and associated riparian land or vegetation.

The core objectives for watercourses, as outlined in Section 36M of the LG Act, are to:

- manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows
- manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability
- restore degraded watercourses
- promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse, without compromising the other core objectives of the category.

Note: Although Council can have a positive impact on the health of the riparian corridor that can improve biodiversity and ecological values, water quality and bank stability, the management of the watercourse itself, and the water within it, remains the responsibility of the State.

Physical environment

By convention the Macquarie River is taken as being formed above Bathurst at the confluence of the Fish and Campbell's rivers. These two streams drain a high plateau consisting largely of undulating to hilly terrain. From Bathurst to Burrendong Dam the river is confined to a very narrow and steep sided valley. At the dam the Macquarie is joined from the north/north east by the Cudgegong River which rises in uplands above Rylstone and Kandos. From Burrendong Dam the Macquarie flows North West through Wellington and widens, the river flats gradually becoming more extensive. In places they are several kilometres wide. Upon entering the broader, flatter valley, the river's cross-section becomes broader and shallower. To Wellington itself, the Macquarie River has a catchment area of 14,250 square kilometres. Floods on this river within the Council area are considerably influenced by the mitigation effects of Burrendong Dam, 30 river kilometres above Wellington. Actual flows from the dam generally take 4-8 hours to reach the town but discharges are advised well beforehand.

Key issues

Flooding

Flooding of the Bell and Macquarie rivers at Wellington and the Macquarie River in Dubbo is a regular and normal natural event. Council staff monitor and assess the situation and take the necessary actions to protect reserves. The level of intervention will be based on the level of flooding expected.

Threatened fish

Five fish species that potentially occur within the Macquarie-Bogan Catchment are listed as threatened under the *NSW Fisheries Management Act 1994* (Table 12). These are trout cod, river snail, silver perch, purple spotted gudgeon and olive perchlet. A conservation stocking program has seen trout cod restocked into the Macquarie River over the past decade but it is not known whether any breeding populations have been established. Silver perch are stocked in Windamere and Burrendong dams for recreational fishing. The aquatic community of the Macquarie and Bogan rivers is part of the endangered community known as the aquatic ecological community in the natural drainage system of the lowland catchment of the Darling River. This includes 21 native fish species and hundreds of native invertebrate species that are found within the Darling River and its associated streams, wetlands, and anabranches within NSW. The community occurs in lowland riverine environments with meandering channels and a variety of aquatic habitats including deep channels and pools, wetlands, gravel beds and floodplains.

Table 12: Threatened aquatic species of the Macquarie-Bogan catchment

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Trout cod	<i>Maccullochella macquariensis</i>	Endangered
River snail	<i>Notopala sublineata</i>	Endangered
Silver perch	<i>Bidyanus bidyanus</i>	Vulnerable
Purple spotted gudgeon	<i>Mogurnda adspersa</i>	Endangered
Olive perchlet	<i>Ambassis agassizii</i>	Endangered
Population: Darling River EEC Aquatic ecological community in the natural drainage system of the lowland catchment of the Darling River Endangered Ecological Community		

Erosion

Council commissioned a River Health Report for the Macquarie and Bell rivers in 2018. The report was prepared by the Soil Conservation Service of NSW and mapped the riverbank health into four categories: stable (green), minor (yellow), moderate (orange) and severe (red). The areas identified as severe are highlighted below. Relevant actions from the report are included in the respective reserve plans.

The issue of river bank erosion through the two urban environments is a high-profile issue within the community. While the recent river bank erosion issues are of concern, they are not a recent phenomenon with historic changes to river use and regulation responsible for significant changes to in stream dynamics over time.

In Dubbo this is largely driven by public access to the river, particularly in utilising the Tracker Riley Shared Pathway as well as from active landcare and bushcare groups. During the 2016 and 2021 flood events the Shible and Tamworth Street footbridges were both closed for considerable periods because of flood damage. In addition, the Tracker Riley Shared Pathway through Regard Park was closed for many months due to bank slumping at the South Dubbo Weir, seating was removed from areas close to the river adjacent to Lady Cutler South playing fields following a bank collapse, and the Tracker Riley Shared Pathway downstream of the Tamworth Street footbridge is threatened by probable further large scale bank collapse.

Stormwater pollution

Stormwater has the potential to carry pollutants into the watercourse particularly from the urban landscape. Council is committed to reducing the pollution from stormwater and has installed gross pollutant traps to capture litter. Council continues to play its part in helping to reduce stormwater pollution through:

- Delivering stormwater education campaigns to the local community to ensure residents understand the impacts of stormwater pollution and ways they can help to reduce it.
- Installing stormwater treatment devices in developed areas where practical, such as Gross Pollutant Traps (GPTs).
- Requiring new developments to incorporate stormwater treatment measures, such as rainwater harvesting, swales, retention basins, wetlands and GPTs.
- Using asset management guidelines, developed by the Institute of Public Works Engineers Australia, to help manage the stormwater system.
- Undertaking street sweeping programs, rubbish collection and more.

Areas of the river bank identified at risk subject to this plan are shown below.



Figure 3: South Dubbo Weir

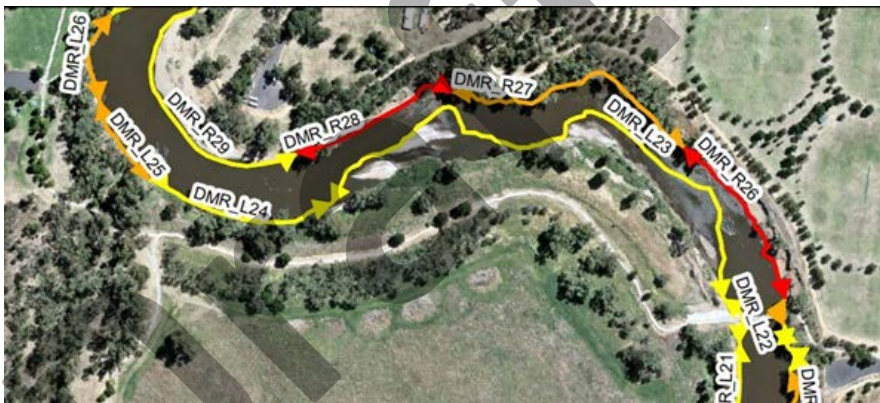


Figure 4: Tamworth St Bridge



Figure 5: Devil's Hole

Development and use

Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in

Table 13: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse by Council or the community.	
Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
• Preservation of the Council's natural heritage including the identified endangered ecological communities • Preservation of biological diversity and habitat • Providing a location for relaxation and passive, informal, water-based recreation, unless prohibited. • Approved bush care projects requiring ecological restoration activities associated with the protection and conservation of flora and fauna • Restoration works associated with the protection of the biodiversity and ecological values of the in-stream environment.	• Visitor facilities: toilets, picnic tables, BBQs, sheltered seating areas, lighting, low-impact carparks, refreshment kiosks (but not restaurants) • Low-impact walking trails • Interpretive signage, information kiosks • Water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens, swales and sediment traps • Bridges, observation platforms • Work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land • Bicycle/boat hire or similar • Temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out • Locational, directional and regulatory signage • Flood mitigation works, such as detention basins, realignment of water flows and banks, installation of pipes, culverts and other structures to assist in control of flood waters.

Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates – Natural Area – Watercourse

This PoM **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the LG Act or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the lease, licence or other estate is a valid act under the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the LG Act or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Table 14 further identifies the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the reserves identified in this PoM as Natural Area – Watercourse

Development and use

Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease	21 years (or up to 30 years with ministerial consent)	- walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways - observation platforms, signs - information kiosk - kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants) - bicycle/boat hire or similar - work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land - toilets - temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Licence	21 years (or up to 30 years with ministerial consent)	- walkways, pathways, bridges, causeways - observation platforms, signs - Information kiosk - Kiosk selling light refreshments (but not restaurants) - Bicycle/boat hire or similar - work sheds or storage sheds required in connection with the maintenance of the land - toilets - temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Short-term licence	1 year	- scientific studies and surveys or similar - bicycle/boat hire or similar - temporary erection or use of any building or structure necessary to enable a filming project to be carried out
Other estates	Ongoing	This PoM allows the Council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or public utility provider on the community land in accordance with the LG Act.

Action plan

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a PoM for community land details:

- objectives and performance targets for the land
- the means by which the Council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets
- the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 15: Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as Natural Area – Watercourse

Management Issues	s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Broad issues can be listed here (for example landscaping, equipment, facilities, traffic management, neighbour amenity) Example – Equity of access	Council must list all the objectives that apply to the land. Objectives must be consistent with core objectives under the LG Act. Example – Ensure access to and within parks to people with disabilities	List practical steps that will be taken to achieve the objectives. Example – Design wheelchair friendly paths.	List practical measures of assessment. Example – Assess useability of park by wheelchair users through surveys and observation.
Stormwater pollution	To manage watercourses so as to protect the biodiversity and ecological values of the instream environment, particularly in relation to water quality and water flows	Install upgrade and maintain gross pollutant traps	Traps operational and cleaned regularly
Bank stability	to manage watercourses so as to protect the riparian environment, particularly in relation to riparian vegetation and habitats and bank stability	Maintain riparian vegetation to maintain bank stability. Implement recommendations from the River Health Report	Number of river bank health actions implemented
Litter, riparian weeds, shopping trolleys	To restore degraded watercourses	Work with volunteers to promote and encourage natural and assisted regeneration of native vegetation and weed management and conduct river clean ups. Work with supermarkets to reduce incidence of shopping trolleys been dumped in rivers.	Number and effort of volunteers in the Parks and Bushcare Volunteer programs
River access	to promote community education, and community access to and use of the watercourse	Maintain the 2 boat ramps and pontoon.	Facilities operational
Flooding		Review and update as required the Contingency and Business Continuity Plan 2013 which details Council's response to a flood event in the Macquarie River	Plan updated



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- NSW Rural Fire Service. 2018. Planning for Bushfire Protection, [ONLINE] Available at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au>
- Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) Web Services (nsw.gov.au) [ONLINE] <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/awssapp/login.aspx>
- NSW BioNet Vegetation Classification [ONLINE] <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/NSWVCA20PRapp/LoginPR.aspx>

Appendix 1 – Community Land Covered by This Plan of Management

Table A1.1: Crown reserves					
Name	Also known as	Reserve	Lot	Purpose	Category
Devil's Hole North	Devil's Elbow	83803	Lot 332 DP 754308, Lot 7016 DP 1020037, Lots 7045-7046 DP 1114493	Public Recreation	Park / Natural Area Bushland
Devil's Hole Billabong	Brisbane / Bultje St Triangle	97134	Lot 376 DP 754308	Public Recreation	Natural Area Bushland
Police Paddock		97642	Lots 379-380 DP 754308, Lot 7018 DP 1020036	Public Recreation	Park / Natural Area Bushland
Riverbank Reserve	John McGrath Fields, Bob Dowling Ovals, Nita McGrath Netball Courts, Katrina Gibbs Fields, Riverbank Park, Ollie Robbins Oval and Hans Claven Oval	520043	Lot 1 DP 243250, Lot 7024 DP 1020024, Lot 7023 DP 1020031, Lot 7022 DP 1020035, Lot 7019 DP 1070545, Lot 7021 DP 1136248	Public Recreation	Park / Natural Area Bushland / Natural Area Watercourse / Sportsground
Riverbank Reserve	Sir Roden Cutler Park and Lady Cutler Ovals.	5890	Lot 1 DP 130730, Lot 247 DP 822452, Lot 7012 DP 1095148, Lot 7013 DP 1115445, Lot 132 DP 547063, Lot 25 DP 754308	Public Recreation; site investigation	Park / Sportsground / Natural Area bushland
Biddybungli Park	Biddybunge, Biddybungie, Lions West Park	520046	Lot 1 DP 1114367	Public Recreation	Park

Appendix 2 – Leases Licences and Other Estates

Table A2.1: Lease, licenses and other easements		
Reserve	Type	Date
5890	Licence CROWN LICENCE - LOT 1 DP 130730 - WATER PIPELINE FROM MACQUARIE RIVER / PIPELINE SIR RODEN CUTLER PARK / PIPELINE GOLF LINKS CREEK STORMWATER - DISCOVERY HOLIDAY PARKS	?
5890	Short term Crown Licence for access - Part Lot 7013 DP 1115445	1/12/2024- 30/11/2025
5890	Short term Crown Licence for access - Part Lot 7013 DP 1115445	1/12/2024- 30/11/2025
520043	Crown Licence - Lot 7021 DP 1136248 - Dubbo Riverbank Reserve R520043 - Nita McGrath Netball Clubhouse - Dubbo Netball Association Inc 2015 102 1	5 Year Licence 17.4.2016 - 16.4.2021
520043	Crown Licence - Lot 7021 DP 1136248 - Riverbank Reserve R520043 - Dubbo Touch Association Inc. 2015 39 1	5 Year Licence 30.7.12 - 29.7.17 5 Year Option 30.7.17 - 29.7.22 Option Taken

Easements Reserve 5890 - An easement exists on Lot 1 DP 130730 for water supply 2 metres wide.

Appendix 3 – Devil's Hole Reserves 83803 and 97134

Description

Devil's Hole is a popular passive recreation reserve and off leash dog area. 24 hour public access is provided to Devil's Hole.

The site is also known as the home of Boo the Bunyip and the place where the Devil lives in a hole in the river. Whilst there is no known records of culturally modified trees, scatters or artefacts, the site is of high cultural significance to Aboriginal people. There are opportunities to engage with the local Aboriginal community to develop interpretation, educational materials and experiences (action 1).

A settlement of tin huts and shanties were built on the banks of the river and were predominantly occupied by members of the Aboriginal community. In the 1950 floods, some 30 people from 10 families living there became displaced several times and sheltered at the Methodist Hall and later at the showground in marquees provide by No. 6 Stores Depot. In 1951 there was much discussion about moving the camps to the Troy Stock Reserve and the Pastures Protection Board agreed to revoke approximately 5 acres of TSR 1637 to provide for the resettlement. In 1951 Council passed a resolution to demolish all unauthorised structures within 12 months.

A pair of barking owls (*Ninox connivens*) has been known to roost in the reserve, successfully fledging young. Barking Owls are also notorious for their "screaming woman" call - it is described as a scream of terrifying intensity which sounds remarkably lifelike. This is not a common call and more likely to be used outside the breeding season. Its significance is unknown. There are other barking owl pairs known to nest and roost in the Riverside parks and reserves and Council should encourage monitoring of the local population by the relevant authorities (action 2). The reserve is also a popular fishing and bird watching location. Access to the river also supports recreation such as kayaking along the Macquarie River.

Note: Reserve 63074 which is adjacent to 83803 defaults to the Minister and is not included in this POM.

Part of Lot 321 DP 754308, being the part which was previously within or east of Special Lease

1929-3 Dubbo for Pipeline and erection of machinery (pumping plant) to George Albert Evans is

now included in Devil's Elbow North End (R.83803).

Facilities

At the entrance there is a car park and picnic shelter. A looped road provides access to the riverside and large sandy beach area. Bollards prevent access to sensitive areas.



Figure A3.1 Entrance to Devil's Hole

Signs are erected. Boom gates were installed in the past but have been removed. Bins are provided near the two picnic shelter.



Figure 3.2 Picnic Shelters

Issues

Reserve 63074 which is adjacent to R83803 is a reserve which defaults to the Minister. The role of Council in part managing the reserve is an informal arrangement that needs to be formalised.

Managing groundcover in the park area is a significant challenge. Excessive growth is controlled by mechanical slashing and weeds are controlled by mechanical slashing and chemical control (action 3).

Encouraging natural regeneration and weed control in the bushland areas is also a significant challenge with weed control the main challenge (action 4).

The roadside car park, picnic area and BBQ area needs an upgrade (action 5). Recent works have been completed to install a bore and to repair a broken stormwater outlet. Restoration of this area should be a priority (action 6). Secure perimeter fencing is required to prevent accidental access to the steep river bank adjacent to the picnic area.

During wet weather the loop road becomes inundated, potholes form, and the road surface becomes eroded by vehicular use. Consideration should be given to closing the reserve during wet weather and sealing of the Devil's Hole loop road and provide improved drainage to reduce inundation of the road (action 7).

Consideration should be given to installing a vehicle barrier in the far south western corner to prevent vehicles having direct access to a steep river bank to prevent illegal dumping (action 8).

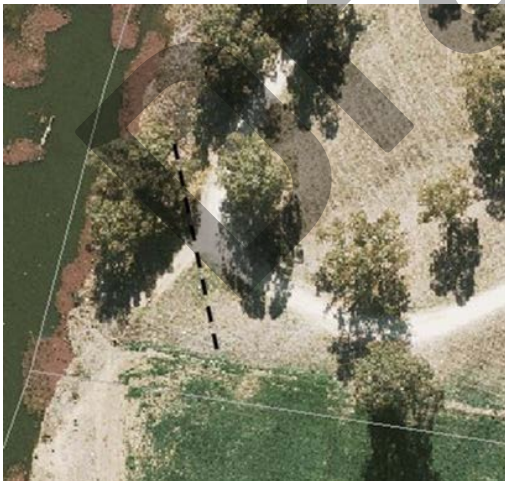


Figure A3.3 Access point

Upstream 100 m from Devil's Hole is a vertical eroding bank. The River Health report recommended installation of approximately 5 deflector structures and bench/batter upper bank followed by revegetation (action 9).



The western side of the river adjacent to the reserve will be significantly impacted by both the North West residential release and works associated with the proposed River St Bridge. These works provide an opportunity to open the land associated with the riparian corridor for a range of recreational uses. The Council Residential Release Strategy predicts significant residential development for North West Dubbo. Significant opportunities exist to coordinate and connect future residents to the riverside, parkland, Devil's Hole using cycling and walking trails (action 10).

Under s 7.11 (Developer Contribution Plan) an opportunity to extend the existing walking trail to the North Dubbo Weir on both sides of the Macquarie River is identified. Additional linkages may be possible to Devil's Hole.

This plan identifies the opportunity to create a river crossing to the adjacent urban release area. A pedestrian bridge/crossing point is suggested to link across the river at Devil's Hole where topography may support development of a bridge structure at this location. Consideration should also be given to providing possible trail riding access to this portion of the trail network for horses. Alternatively, and or in addition the weir structure may provide a substrate for a river crossing (action 12)

Devil's Hole Action Plan

The actions below indicate proposed actions for achievement over the 10-year period of this plan. Priorities may change over time and are dependent on council's Operation Plan/Delivery Plan and budget. Priorities may change over time, resulting in actions not being achieved within the given life span of this document.

#	Description
1	Commence discussions with Crown Lands in regards to the management of Reserve 63074.
2	Explore opportunities to enhance the educational and cultural experience of a visit to Devil's Hole by engage with local Aboriginal community to develop interpretation and educational materials and experiences
3	Work with the Department of Planning Industry and Environment to monitor the Barking Owl population
4	Maintain groundcover by chemical and mechanical means in the area categorised as park.
5	Undertake, support, and encourage bush regeneration and weed control in the area categorised as natural area.
6	Implement relevant actions from the Macquarie River Master plan including: the upgrade of the car park, picnic and BBQ area, looped shared internal road, improved signage, pedestrian bridge, pontoon, cycle and pedestrian links.
7	Encourage regeneration of eroded riverbank adjacent storm water outlet
8	Consider closing the reserve in wet weather and/or investigate the feasibility of sealing the loop road and other works to reduce inundation.
9	Consider installing vehicle barriers at illegal dumping point
10	Investigate the installation of approximately 5 deflector structures and bench/batter upper bank followed by revegetation in section DMR L48 and remove willows and revegetation with native species along other parts of the riverbank, subject to external funding applications to relevant state government departments.
11	Investigate opportunities to extend the existing pedestrian path, shared path, and cycle path network. Options for extensions identified include: - Wiradjuri Park to North West release area via the western bank or River St bridge works - Police paddock to Devil's Hole to Troy
12	Continue discussions with Water NSW and NSW Fisheries over the future of the North Weir and identify impacts to water level and recreational activities upstream and through the CBD of Dubbo
13	Undertake feasibility study into a river crossing from Devil's Hole to North release area

RESERVE_NO	83803
RESERVE_TY	RESERVE
RESERVE_NA	DEVILS ELBOW - NORTH END
GAZETTED	1962-04-19
STATUS	CURRENT
MANAGEMENT	COUNCIL CLM
MANAGER	Dubbo Regional Council
PURPOSE	Public Recreation
LOTS	Whole: Lot 332 DP 754308, Lot 7016 DP 1020037, Lots 7045-7046 DP 1114493 Parish Dubbo County Lincoln
Parish	DUBBO
County	LINCOLN
LGA	DUBBO REGIONAL
Council	DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
Suburb	DUBBO
Area_m2	36514.46792040

RESERVE_NO	97134
RESERVE_TY	RESERVE
RESERVE_NA	DEVILS HOLE BILLABONG RESERVE
GAZETTED	1984-01-13
STATUS	CURRENT
MANAGEMENT	COUNCIL CLM
MANAGER	Dubbo Regional Council
PURPOSE	Public Recreation
LOTS	Whole: Lot 376 DP 754308 Parish Dubbo County Lincoln
Parish	DUBBO
County	LINCOLN
LGA	DUBBO REGIONAL
Council	DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
Suburb	DUBBO
Area_m2	47357.19309182

Figure A3.5 Reserve details.

[illegible]

Figure A3.9 Gazette of 97134

Devil's Hole Maps

Figure A3.6 Gazette of 83803

(250) Sydney, 21st December, 1984.

ADDITIONS TO RESERVES FROM SALE

IN pursuance of the provisions of section 28, Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, I declare that the Crown lands described hereunder shall be added to the lands within the reserves specified in parentheses hereunder and such lands are added accordingly.

JANICE CROSIO, Minister for Natural Resources.

FOR PUBLIC RECREATION
Land District and City—Dubbo

Parish Dubbo, County Lincoln, about 1.7 hectares, being the area bounded by portion 332, public road, R. 63075 and the Macquarie River. (R. 83803, notified 19th April, 1962.)
DB80 H 2109.

Figure A3.7 Addition

(3176) Sydney, 13th January, 1984.

RESERVES FROM SALE

IN pursuance of the provisions of section 28, Crown Lands Consolidation Act, 1913, I declare that the Crown lands described hereunder shall be reserved from sale for the public purposes specified and such lands are reserved accordingly.

A. R. L. GORDON, Minister for Lands.

FOR ACCESS

Land District—Mussellbrook; Shire—Merriwa
No. 97170, Parish Cranbourne, County Brisbane, 1.659 hectares along Krui River, being lot 152, D.P. 46787. MD83 H 602.

Land District—Scone; Shire—Nundell
No. 97131, Parish Vant, County Hawes, 153.1 hectares, being lot 27, D.P. 45607. MD81 H 1169.

Land District and Shire—Scone
No. 97132, Parish Bronte, County Durham, 3.372 hectares along Omacale Brook, being lot 63, D.P. 46780. MD82 H 891.

FOR FUTURE PUBLIC REQUIREMENTS

Land District—Goulburn; Shire—Murrumbidgee
No. 97133, Parish Norrongo, County Argyle, about 3.2 hectares, being the balance of Travelling Stock and Camping Reserve 69435, withdrawn this day. GB83 H 2566.

FOR PUBLIC RECREATION

Land District and City—Dubbo
No. 97134, Parish Dubbo, County Lincoln, 4.527 hectares, being portion 376 at North Dubbo. DB80 H 2227.

Figure A3.8 Appointment of Council as trustees.

On 24 March 1995 the Dubbo City Council Crown Reserves Reserve Trust was appointed trustee of 97134 and 83803



Fig A3.10 LEP Zones

Reserve 83803 is zoned as:

- W2 – Recreational Waterway
- RE1 – Public Recreation

Reserve 97314 is zoned:

- RE1 – Public Recreation



Fig A3.11 Lots

Devil's Hole, as defined by this PoM is made up of the following parcels:

- 83803 – Lot 332 DP 754308, Lot 7016 DP 102002237, Lots 7045, 7046 DP 1114493
- 97314 – Lot 376 DP 754308
- 63704 – Lot 321 DP 745308



Fig A3.12 Categorisation

Reserve 83803 is categorised as:

- Park – blue
- Natural Area (bushland) – green
- Reserve 97314 is categorised:
- Natural Area (bushland) – green

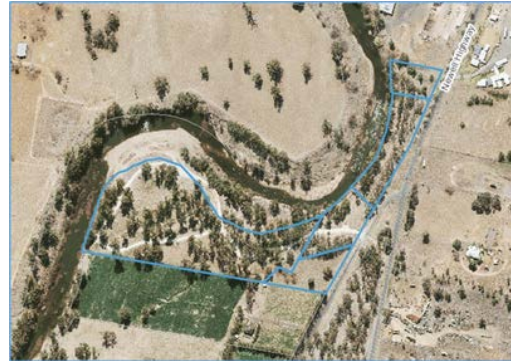


Figure A3.13 Aerial View

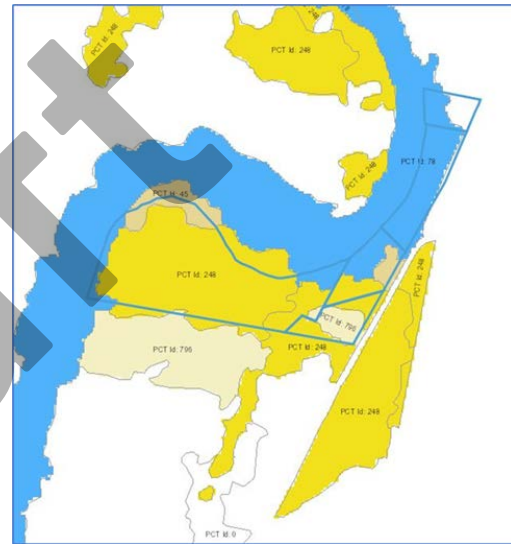


Fig A3.14 Vegetation

Devil's Holes reserve, as defined under this PoM has the following vegetation communities identified:

- River Red Gum riparian tall woodland / open forest wetland (PCT 78)
- Plains Grass grassland on alluvial mainly clay soils (PCT 45)
- Mixed box eucalypt woodland on low sandy-loam rises on alluvial plains (PCT 248)
- Derived grassland of the NSW South Western Slopes (PCT 796)
- Western Grey Box tall grassy woodland on alluvial loam and clay soils (PCT 76), and
- Western Grey Box - cypress pine shrub grass shrub tall woodland (PCT 81)

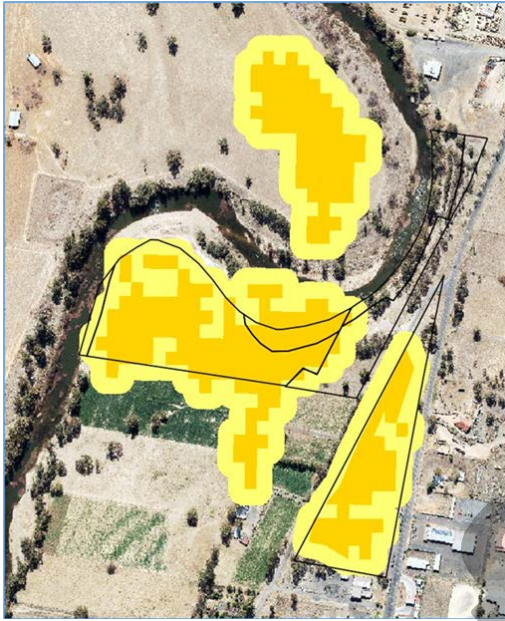


Figure A3.15 Bush Fire Prone Land

Bushfire Prone Land

- Vegetation Buffer
- Vegetation Category 1
- Vegetation Category 2
- Vegetation Category 3

Appendix 4 Police Paddock Reserve 97642

Description

The Police Paddock is an undeveloped area and includes a large stand of mature River Red Gums that grow in a flood runner that runs through the middle of the block. This separates the elevated eastern side from the lower western side of the block. The area was originally set aside for police purposes in 1896 and was used for training and the holding of horses, but as early as 1918 there were calls from the community for other uses including market gardens, a dairy or a park. In 1929 Council unsuccessfully wrote to the Minister for Agriculture seeking to dedicate the land as a recreation reserve. In 1953 the purpose was changed to access (a strip along the river) and future public requirements. This latter area then being leased to 2 different dairy farmers; however, it did not proceed as Council had a by law prohibiting dairying in the town.

The Dubbo Swimming Club also held carnivals in the river adjacent to the Police Paddock prior to the opening of the Dubbo Pool.

Under the adopted Macquarie River Master Plan (North and South Precinct) the already flat and cleared eastern side of the Police Paddock has been identified for the expansion of active recreation and supporting infrastructure including carparking and amenities. The western side of the Police Paddock, and incorporating the natural drainage channel, has been identified for riparian restorative works. These works have already commenced with the planting of over 400 endemic riparian trees and shrubs. These works will preserve and enhance its conservation value and opportunities for passive recreation.

The eastern side lends itself to a park or perhaps a sportsground. The western side has opportunities to be both sports fields and management to preserve and enhance its conservation value and for passive recreation.

Police Paddock forms a long-term opportunity to create a culturally focused outdoor arts and sculpture area. The Police Paddock precinct already has several large sculptural tree roots that lend to a community arts interpretation and development. Linked artistic interpretation, sculpture trails, environmental restoration, and educational opportunities will enhance this section of the Dubbo Riverside (action 1).

The future character of the area could incorporate long term options to extend passive recreation via the Tracker Riley Shared Pathway extension loop, a vibrant arts and sculptural sub-precinct and well established and maintained sports fields (action 2)

Facilities

There is currently only a gravel road circuit. There are signs erected. Previously Council allowed and promoted an area as a digging area for worms. Whilst this is no longer encouraged, the signs remain in place and the site is actively used by fisherpersons to dig for worms.

Issues

Managing groundcover in the park area is a significant challenge. Excessive growth is controlled by mechanical slashing and weeds are controlled by mechanical slashing and chemical control (action 3).

Encouraging natural regeneration and weed control in the bushland areas is also a significant challenge with weed control the main challenge (action 4).

In wet weather the gravel roads become impassable and the roads and open areas attract illegal vehicle use which further degrades the road surface. Currently it is not possible to physically close the reserve (action 5).

Dumping, litter and digging for worms are other management issues that could be targeted through a compliance program (action 6).

Police Paddock Action Plan

The actions below indicate proposed actions for achievement over the 10-year period of this plan. Priorities may change over time and are dependent on council's Operation Plan/Delivery Plan and budget. Priorities may change over time, resulting in actions not being achieved within the given life span of this document.

#	Description
1	Implement the Macquarie River (North and South Precincts) Master Plan including: ensuring retention of the high biodiversity value, travellers rest stop and associated facilities, off leash park, upgraded shared paths, boardwalk over stormwater channel, clubhouse and amenities, pedestrian bridge, flying fox foraging habitat plantings and the inclusion of educational and interpretative signage.
2	Develop a plan to extend the shared path from the riverside of the netball courts to Brisbane Street and to the Police Paddock
3	Maintain groundcover by chemical and mechanical means in the area categorised as park.
4	Undertake, support, and encourage bush regeneration in the area categorised as natural area.
5	Assess and review the current vehicle track network in the Police Paddock and close and rehabilitate and redundant tracks
6	Undertake a targeted litter, dumping and vehicle usage compliance program

RESERVE_NO	97642
RESERVE_TY	RESERVE
RESERVE_NA	POLICE PADDOCK
GAZETTED	1985-01-04
STATUS	CURRENT
MANAGEMENT	COUNCIL CLM
MANAGER	Dubbo Regional Council
PURPOSE	Public Recreation
LOTS	Whole: Lots 379-380 DP 754308, Lot 7018 DP 1020036 Parish Dubbo County Lincoln
Parish	DUBBO
County	LINCOLN
LGA	DUBBO REGIONAL
Council	DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
Suburb	DUBBO
Area_m2	144877.32448355

Figure A3.5 Reserve details.

The reserve was gazetted on for public recreation on 4 January 1985, being formerly part R 76107 (for access 24 July 1953) and part R 76109 (for future public requirements 24 July 1953).

Authority was given for a pump on 19 January 1968.

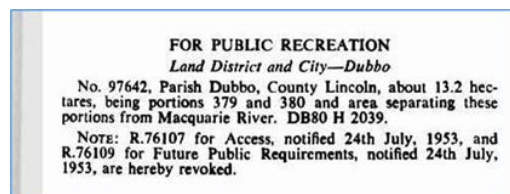


Figure A4.2 Gazettal notice.

Police Paddock Maps



Reserve 97642 zoned as:

- RE1 – Public Recreation

The proposed future use of this precinct is consistent with these zonings.



Fig A4.4 Future Plan — possible future shared path network

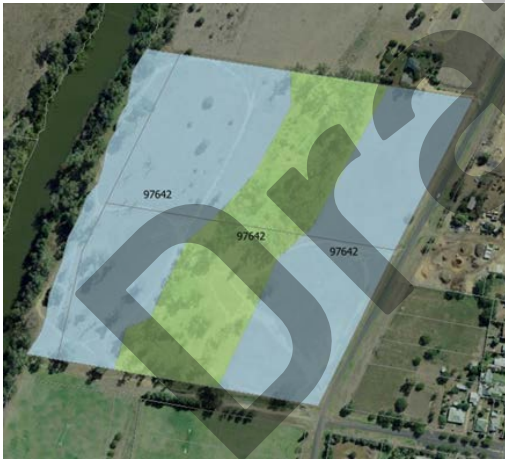


Fig A4.5 Categorisation

The crown reserves 97642 are categorised as either:

- Park– blue
- Natural Area(bushland)– green

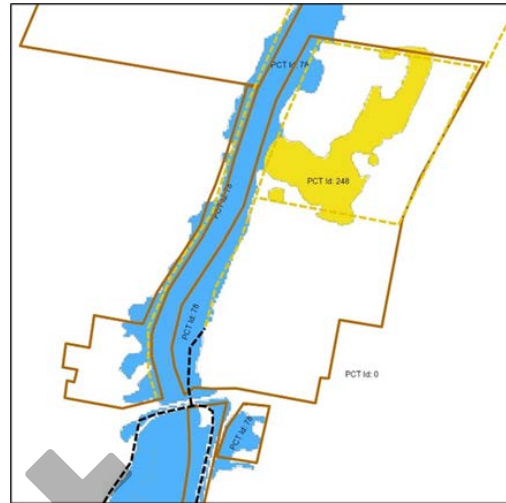


Fig A4.6 Vegetation

Two vegetation types are mapped in Figure 2.4 on the reserve being:

- River Red Gum riparian tall woodland / open forest wetland (PCT 78)
- Mixed box eucalypt woodland on low sandy loam rises on alluvial plains (PCT 248)

The mixed woodland is still dominated by river red gums.

Appendix 5 Riverbank 520043

Description



Figure A5.1 Aerial image

The Riverbank reserve is in three disjunct parts. In the north the reserve is primarily sporting fields known as John McGrath Fields, Bob Dowling Ovals, Nita McGrath Netball Courts and Katrina Gibbs Field.



Figure A5.2 Sporting field names - north

The fields are well developed for as sportsgrounds that supports cricket, touch football and netball. The David Martin cricket nets have been recently upgraded in the south east corner of Bob Dowling Ovals.

Servicing the northern sporting fields are clubhouses for Netball and Touch Football and an amenities block, shown below:



Figure A5.3 Netball Clubhouse.



Figure A5.4 Amenities.



Figure A5.5 Touch Football Clubhouse.



Figure A5.6 Sporting field names -CBD and south precincts.

The middle section includes Riverbank Park, Ollie Robbins Oval and Hans Claven Oval. On the south side of Victoria St there is an additional area of Riverbank Park. Hans Claven Oval provides two soccer fields, one of which is lit for night training and games.

The river and adjacent parks area also utilised for triathlon with the swim leg commencing at various locations between downstream of Sandy Beach and exiting at the boat ramp on the eastern side of the river. The cycle leg commences on Bligh St and the run leg utilises the Tracker Riley Walkway network. This forms part of a highly utilised 5.5 km path that encircles the river, crossing it at the Tamworth St low level bridge and the Emile Serisier Bridge. The path is also illuminated at night on the eastern bank. Dubbo Parkrun also utilises a section of this path. The river and foreshore are utilised by various groups including the Dragon Boat Club.

Two master plans have been developed for the riverside reserves that form part of this PoM. The first Master Plan – Macquarie River CBD Master Plan was adopted by Council in April 2020. This master plan focused on the eastern side of the river between L.H. Ford and Emile Serisier bridges. The masterplan introduces community activation through riverside access, improved amenity, and play space areas. The focal point is the Macquarie River Event Precinct (action 1) and Macquarie River Shared Pathway. This plan can be accessed from Council's website or at this address:

[https://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/242/ED20%20136835%20%20Macquarie%20River%20CBD%20Master%20Plan%20April%202020%20Group%20GSA%20adopted\(3\).PDF.aspx](https://www.dubbo.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/242/ED20%20136835%20%20Macquarie%20River%20CBD%20Master%20Plan%20April%202020%20Group%20GSA%20adopted(3).PDF.aspx)



Figure A5.7 Macquarie River CBD Masterplan

Council was successful in securing funding through the NSW Government (Destination Dubbo) for the development of two major projects including the Ollie Robbins Oval Event Precinct and Open Space Legacy Fund for the Shared Pathway.

The shared pathway, as identified in the funding agreement, recently completed, runs approximately 300 metres from the southern carpark at Ollie Robbins and connect back to the existing pathway north of Church Street.

The second master plan, Macquarie River (North and South Precincts) Master Plan, adopted, March 2023, covers nearly Council owned and managed land (Crown Land) from Regand Park to Devil's Hole on both side of the river. This plan can be accessed from Council's website or at this address:

2187_FinalMP_RevA_20230309_PartB.pdf.aspx

Currently in the middle section of the riverbank there is a boat ramp, shelters, BBQ areas, toilet facilities and exercise equipment. These existing facilities along the middle section of the riverbank reserve will be largely replaced as part of the wandering stage development. The soccer fields that occupy the area known as Hans Claven fields will eventually be relocated to Riverside Ovals.

Facilities

John McGrath Fields

- 2 concrete cricket pitches covered in synthetic grass in good condition.
- White post and rail fence in moderate condition
- The field is irrigated.

Bob Dowling Oval

- Touch Clubhouse
- Amenities Block

Nita McGrath Netball Courts

- Clubhouse
- Pump Station - Building
- Pool fence on the southern end of the courts
- Fence Post & Rail
- Nita McGrath-Irrigation
- 13 Netball Courts
- Nita McGrath-Netball Goal Posts
- Bore, Motors, Pumps, Equipment

Katrina Gibbs Fields

- Irrigation
- Park-Lighting - Floodlighting
- Bins
- Signs
- Fencing

Riverbank Park Nth LH Ford East Bank

- Boat Ramp
- Fencing- Steel
- Fitness Centre
- Irrigation
- Pedestrian Lighting
- Picnic Settings
- Pontoon
- Pontoon Fence
- Pontoon Light
- Paving
- Signage- Regulation
- Bins/ Holders
- Sign -Safety
- PED Lighting
- Signage - Risk
- Boom Gate
- Fitness Centre

Ollie Robbins Oval

- Cricket Wicket Concrete
- Irrigation
- Perimeter Fencing
- Picnic Setting
- Power Boxes
- Shade Structures
- Shade Structure Large
- Benches
- Bins
- Signs
- Amenities

Hans Claven Oval

- Training Lights
- Signs
- Bins
- Irrigation
- Fencing
- Goal Posts

Issues

The sportsgrounds are high use areas and are maintained fit for use in accordance with the specified maintenance service level (action 1). The park areas are also high use areas and are maintained by regular mowing and weed control to a lawn like condition (action 2). Natural regeneration and weed control is undertaken and encouraged along the natural areas adjacent to the river (action 3).

To help ensure that the future needs of the sporting community are met Council is required to implement the adopted master plans is (action 4), including actions 3.27 of the Recreation Strategy 2030.

Storage has been raised as an issue by several groups including the triathlon club (action 5) and actions 3.13 and 3.26 of the Recreation Strategy 2030.

Dubbo Riverside Action Plan

The actions below indicate proposed actions for achievement over the 10-year period of this plan. Priorities may change over time and are dependent on council's Operation Plan/Delivery Plan and budget. Priorities may change over time, resulting in actions not being achieved within the given life span of this document.

#	Description
1	Maintain Hans Claven soccer fields, Nita McGrath Netball Courts and John McGrath Fields in suitable condition for use for the allocated sport
2	Maintain groundcover in park areas by chemical and mechanical means.
3	Undertake, support, and encourage bush regeneration in the area categorised as natural area including to the water's edge.
4	Continue to implement the Macquarie River CBD Master Plan and the Macquarie River (North and South Precincts) Master Plan as funds and opportunities arise.
5	Review long term planning for Macquarie River to support accessibility, storage, and amenities. Facilities may include shared storage between other water-based sports and Dubbo Triathlon Club.

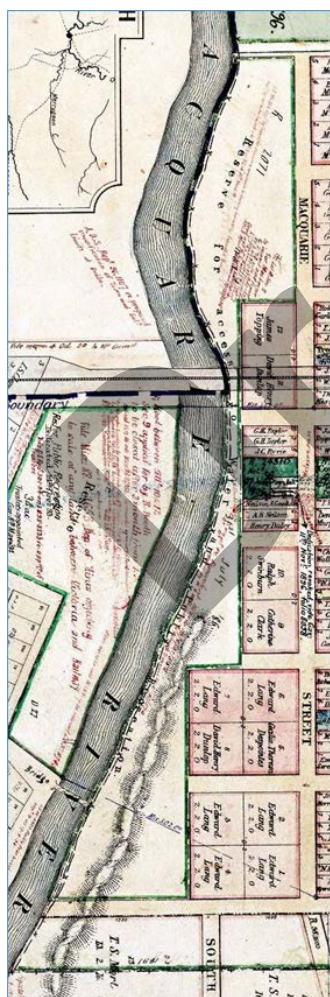


Figure A5.7 Parish Map 1884

RESERVE_NO	520943
RESERVE_TYP	DEDICATION
RESERVE_NAME	RIVERBANK RESERVE
GAZETTED	1945-11-02
STATUS	CURRENT
MANAGEMENT	COUNCIL CLM
MANAGER	Dubbo Regional Council
PURPOSE	Public Recreation
LOTS	Lot 7022 DP 1020035, Lot 7019 DP 1070545, Lot 7021 DP 1136248 Parish Dubbo
Parish	DUBBO
County	LINCOLN
LGA	DUBBO REGIONAL
Council	DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
Suburb	DUBBO
Area_m2	196999.70789363

Figure A5.8 Reserve details

The reserve was gazetted in its current form on 2 November 1945, from the former reserve 2071

[4794]	Department of Lands, Sydney, 31st July, 1886.
RESERVE FROM SALE FOR PUBLIC RECREATION.	
HIS Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, directs it to be notified that, in pursuance of the provisions of the 101st section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884, the land specified in the Schedule appended hereto shall be reserved from sale for public recreation, and is hereby reserved accordingly.	
HENRY COPELAND.	
No. 2,071. County of Lincoln, parish of Dubbo, town of Dubbo, area about 50 acres. The Crown Lands within the following boundaries: Commencing on the right bank of the Macquarie River, at its intersection with the north side of Cobra-street; and bounded thence on the south by that side of that street bearing east to the south-west corner of suburban allotment 4; thence on the east by a line partly forming the west boundaries of suburban allotments 4, 5, 8, and 7, bearing north to the north-west corner of the last-mentioned allotment; thence again on the south by the north boundary of that allotment bearing east to its north-east corner; thence again on the east by a line partly forming the west boundaries of suburban allotments 9 and 10, town section 30, and suburban allotments 11 and 12, bearing north to the north-west corner of the last-mentioned allotment; thence again on the south by the north boundary of that allotment bearing east to its north-east corner; thence again on the east by the west side of Macquarie-street bearing north to the south side of Myall-street; thence on the north by that side of that street bearing west to the Macquarie River aforesaid; and thence by that river upwards, to the point of commencement.	
Suburban allotments 4, 5, 8, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are shown on plan catalogued D. 2-1,340.	
Within the Land Board District of Dubbo. [Ms. 86-11,168]	

Figure A5.9 Gazettal for 2071

Riverbank Reserve Maps



Figure A5.10 Zones

Reserve 520043 is bordered in orange and zoned as:

- RE1 – Public Recreation

The proposed future use of this precinct is consistent with these zonings.



Fig A5.11 Precinct plan

The precinct masterplan is mapped in Figure 4.2. The Macquarie River CBD Masterplan for the eastern riverbank is shown above in Figure A5.3



Figure A5.12 Categorisation

The crown reserves 520043 are categorised as:

- Parkland – blue
- Natural Area Bushland – green
- Natural Area Watercourse – dark blue
- Sportsground – orange



Figure A5.13 Vegetation

The vegetation types are mapped in Figure 2.4 are:

- River Red Gum riparian tall woodland / open forest wetland (PCT 78)

Appendix 6 Biddybungli Reserve 520046

Description

Biddybungli Reserve site on the western bank of the Macquarie River between the Railway Bridge and LH Ford Bridge. Part of the reserve has been renamed Lions Park West, and Biddybungli is spelt several ways: Biddybunge, Biddybungie.

The western riverbank is almost completely taken up by Biddybungli Park and Lions West Park. On the western riverbank at the northern end of Biddybungli Reserve there exists an area containing a variety of sub-tropical rainforest plants. The informal track network that has formed on the western riverbank that should be reviewed.

Facilities

The Lions West Park section of the reserve contains a toilet block, picnic areas and play equipment. A shared trail runs north south through the reserve, forming an integral part of the Tracker Riley riverside shared path network.

The Lions Park West Amenity Block was replaced at a cost of \$370,000 in 2022/2023.

- Biddybungli Park-Benches
- Biddybungli Park-Concrete Path
- Biddybungli Park-Granite Path
- Biddybungli Park-Steel Fencing
- Biddybungli Park-Pedestrian Lighting
- Biddybungli Park-Timber Fencing

Lions Park West

- Lions Park West Dubbo-BBQ
- Lions Park West Dubbo-Concrete Path
- Lions Park West Dubbo-Granite Path
- Lions Park West Dubbo-Irrigation
- Lions Park West Dubbo-Pedestrian Lighting
- Lions Park West Dubbo-Picnic Setting
- Lions Park West Dubbo-Picnic Shelters
- Lions Park West Dubbo-Playground
- Lions Park West Dubbo-Playground Softfall
- Lions Park West-Bins
- Lions Park West-Bubbler
- Lions Park West-Signs
- Lions Park(West)- Amenities



Figure A6.1 Picnic Shelters overlooking the river.



Figure A6.2 BBQ and Picnic shelters.



Figure A6.3 Playground.



Figure A6.4 Amenities.

Issues

A portion of the shared path is gravel. It is a highly used path and the soft gravel is less conducive to wheeled forms of transport such as prams, strollers, scooters and wheelchairs. Consideration should be given to upgrading this path to concrete or bitumen seal (action 1).

On the western riverbank at the northern end of Biddybunge Reserve there exists an area containing a variety of sub-tropical rainforest plants. Consideration should be given to undertaking a stocktake and plan for the area (action 2).

The informal track network that has formed on the western riverbank that should be reviewed (action 3).

Managing groundcover in the park area is a significant challenge. Excessive growth is controlled by mechanical slashing and weeds are controlled by mechanical slashing and chemical control (action 4).

Encouraging natural regeneration and weed control in the bushland areas is also a significant challenge with weed control the main challenge (action 5).



Figure A6.5 bank erosion

Some undercutting and lower bank erosion is evident on the westside bank immediately upstream of the city side boat ramp, possibly from boat wake. This area needs to be monitored whilst bush regeneration work should continue on the western bank (action 6).



Figure A6.6 erosion scarp.

An erosion scarp exists downstream of the Emile Serisier Bridge and bare banks beneath bridge. The River health report recommended installation of rock toe protection to erosion scarp (~30 M) and bench/batter upper bank prior to revegetation (action 7).

Biddybunge Action Plan

The actions below indicate proposed actions for achievement over the 10-year period of this plan. Priorities may change over time and are dependent on council's Operation Plan/Delivery Plan and budget. Priorities may change over time, resulting in actions not being achieved within the given life span of this document.

#	Description
1	Implement actions from the Macquarie River (North and South Precincts) Master Plan including: Investigate the cost and feasibility of upgrading the gravel portion of the shared path and car parking, pontoon.
2	Undertake a stocktake and species identification of the western rainforest plantings and prepare a report making recommendations on its future
3	Assess and determine the future of the unauthorised trail network that has formed by usage along the western riverbank
4	Maintain groundcover by chemical and mechanical means in the area categorised as park.
5	Undertake, support and encourage bush regeneration in the area categorised as natural area including to the water's edge.
6	Monitor western bank for undercutting, planting of endemic species to assist in stabilisation efforts.
7	Investigate the installation of rock toe protection to erosion scarp (~30 M) and bench/batter upper bank prior to revegetation
8	Use 'Biddybungi' name consistently
9	Renew the Lions Park West Playground and softfall in the next 2-years estimated cost of \$130,000.

RESERVE_NO	520046
RESERVE_TY	DEDICATION
RESERVE_NA	BIDDYBUNGI PARK
GAZETTED	1893-11-14
STATUS	CURRENT
MANAGEMENT	COUNCIL CLM
MANAGER	Dubbo Regional Council
PURPOSE	Public Recreation
LOTS	Whole: Lot 1 DP 1114367 Parish Dubbo County Gordon
Parish	DUBBO
County	GORDON
LGA	DUBBO REGIONAL
Council	DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
Suburb	DUBBO
Area_m2	88568.95263936

Figure A6.7 Reserve details.



Figure A6.8 Parish Map

Department of Lands, Sydney, 14th November, 1893.									
[1893] His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to dedicate the Crown Lands hereunder described to the several public purposes mentioned in connection therewith, as Abstract of such intended dedication having been laid before Parliament, in accordance with the 104th section of the Crown Lands Act of 1884.									
[Mx. 98-1,963 Ind.] HENRY COPELAND.									
List No. 9 of 1893.									
Place.	County.	Portion.	Abstract.	Section.	Locality.	Area.	To what purpose dedicated.	No. of Papers.	Catalogue No. of Plan.
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	A 11-1,286 B.
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	B 10-1,475
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	C 11-1,475
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	D 11-1,475
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	E 11-1,475
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	F 11-1,475
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	G 11-1,475
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	H 11-1,475
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	I 11-1,475
Abbotsford	Darwin	1	1	1	Village of Abbotsford	4 2 0	Macquarie Institute Site	10 140 10	J 11-1,475

Figure A6.9 Gazette.

Riverbank Reserve Maps



Figure A6.10 Zones

Reserve 520046 is zoned as:

- RE1 – Public Recreation

The proposed future use of this precinct is consistent with these zonings.



Fig A6.11 Precinct plan



Figure A6.12 Categorisation

The crown reserve 520046 is categorised as:

- Park – blue

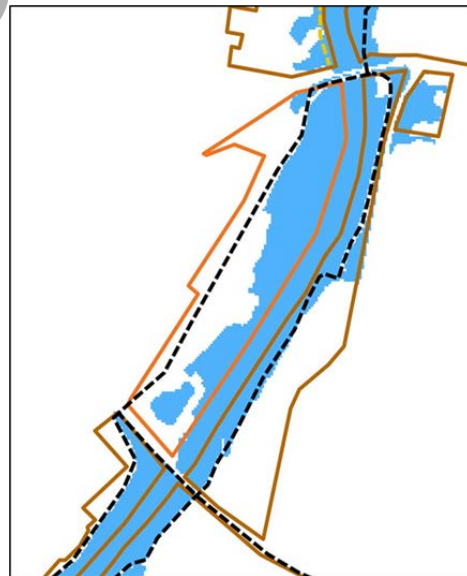


Figure A6.13 Vegetation

The vegetation types are mapped in Figure 2.4 are:

- River Red Gum riparian tall woodland / open forest wetland (PCT 78)

Appendix 7 Riverbank Reserve 5890

Description

Riverbank reserve 5890 runs along the west bank of the Macquarie-Wambool River south of LH Ford Bridge. Part of the reserve is known as Sir Roden Cutler Park. Part of the reserve is also on the east bank and is known as Lady Cutler Ovals.



Figure A7.1 Sporting ground field names

An off-leash dog area is located between Shire avenue and the river.

Lot 2 DP 1039425, known as Wiradjuri Park within Riverbank Reserve (R.5890) was acquired by Transport NSW on 14 October 2022.

Facilities

Sir Roden Cutler includes toilet facilities, a ninja exercise park, BBQ area and playgrounds. A viewing platform provides a pleasant vista of the river and overlooks Sandy Beach.



Figure A7.2 Viewing area

The Ninja course was funded by the Dubbo Mud Run, Club Dubbo, NSW State Government and Dubbo Regional Council.

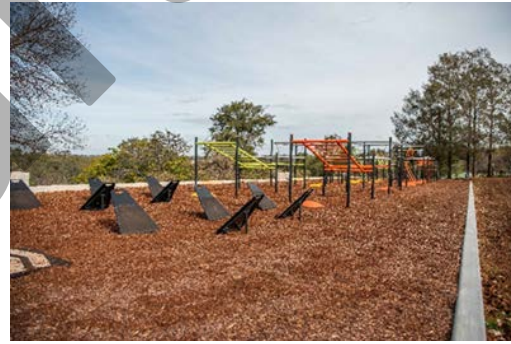


Figure A7.3 Ninja Course

Lady Cutler Ovals contains sports fields and complementary passive recreational activities and includes part of the disc golf course. The disc golf course extends across Sandy Beach reserve. Sandy Beach is adjacent and is a popular swimming and fishing location and launch point for a float downstream to exit at the pontoon or boat ramps.

Sir Roden Cutler Park

- Irrigation
- BBQ
- Picnic Setting
- Picnic Shelters
- Viewing Platform (damaged due to flood events)
- Signs
- Bins
- Bubbler
- Fence
- Amenities
- Fitness Centre



Figure A7.6 Stormwater outlet with failing apron

Slumping of bank fronting lookout and ongoing erosion between rock deflectors. Monitor and maintain/improve the quality of the riparian vegetation (action 9) as external funding allows.

Council is currently consulting with the community on a proposed new south bridge. Three options for the location and alignment of the proposed new bridge are outlined, following preliminary investigations in a Strategic Concept Design Report, prepared by GHD. Strategic costs are also provided, indicating total project costs between \$35.7 - \$41.4 million, including upgrades to the wider road network that will be necessary for the proposed Bridge to operate as intended.



Figure A7.7 Slumping of bank at Sir Roden Cutler Park.

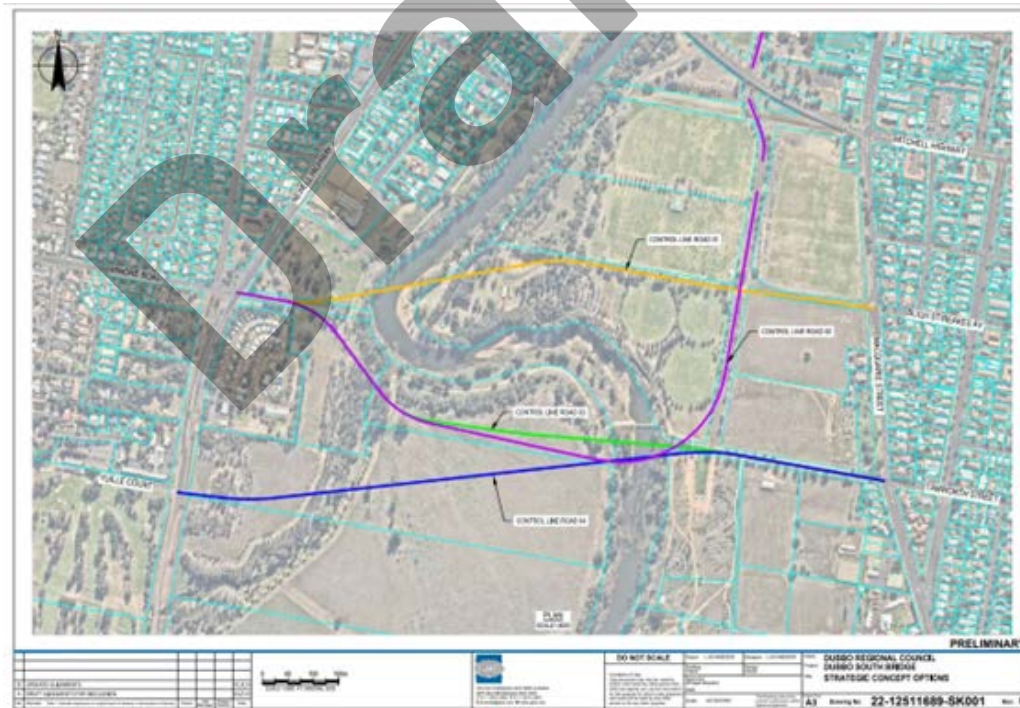


Figure A7.8 South bridge 3 options.

Encroachment into the reserve by garden extensions from adjacent properties has occurred in several locations. Some of these are subject to short term access licences.

Sir Roden Cutler, Lady Cutler and Wiradjuri Park (to be determined) Action Plan

The actions below indicate proposed actions for achievement over the 10-year period of this plan. Priorities may change over time and are dependent on council's Operation Plan/Delivery Plan and budget. Priorities may change over time, resulting in actions not being achieved within the given life span of this document.

#	Description
1	Implement actions from the Macquarie River (North and South Precincts) Master Plan including: motion sensor lighting, new playground, off leash dog area, amenities upgrade, stairs, improved car park, ev charging station
2	Work with TfNSW and the appropriate Aboriginal community/ies to ensure appropriate consultation on any necessary relocation of Aboriginal and cultural heritage items is carried out.
3	Work with NSW TfNSW to allow for construction of a shared path along the western riverbank from the City to the North West Release area and linking over the new bridge to North Dubbo. This will also potentially allow access to protect and enhance the riparian corridor along this route
4	Undertake, support and encourage bush regeneration in the area categorised as natural area including to the water's edge.
5	Investigate suitable locations for a bicycle trials area and additional fitness stations
6	Develop a access strategy for Golf Links Reserve addressing current vehicular access, lack of formed track, resting areas and destination points
7	Maintain groundcover by chemical and mechanical means in the area categorised as park.
8	Maintain sportsgrounds in a fit for purpose manner using chemical and mechanical means.
9	Develop a project plan to implement actions from the Dubbo River Health Report
10	Remove damaged viewing platform and investigate the feasibility of installing a new platform at a site less prone to riverbank erosion.
11	Approach Crown lands with a view to removing Council as land manager over lot 247 DP 822452 – electricity substation within lot 246 or alternatively encourage The West Dubbo Bowling Club to acquire the land.
12	Obtain a map of the easement over Lot 1 DP 130703
13	Renew the Sir Roden Cutler BBQs in 2025/2026
14	Undertake investigations to resolve any encroachment.

RESERVE_NO	5890
RESERVE_TY	RESERVE
RESERVE_NA	RIVERBANK RESERVE
GAZETTED	1888-04-07
STATUS	CURRENT
MANAGEMENT	COUNCIL CLM
MANAGER	Dubbo Regional Council
PURPOSE	Public Recreation
LOTS	§ Parish Dubbo County Gordon, Lot 132 DP 547063, Lot 25 DP 754308 Parish Dubbo County Lincoln
Parish	DUBBO, DUBBO
County	LINCOLN, GORDON
LGA	DUBBO REGIONAL
Council	DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL
Suburb	DUBBO
Area_m2	290577.84769754

Figure A7.9 Reserve details.

No. 5,890. County of Gordon, parish of Dubbo, town of Dubbo, containing an area of 12½ acres. The Crown Lands within the following boundaries: Commencing on the south-eastern side of Wylandra-street, at the westernmost corner of allotment 1 of suburban section 11; and bounded thence on the north-east by the south-western boundary of that allotment bearing south 65 degrees 56 minutes east 10 chains 1½ links; thence on the south-east and south by a line bearing respectively south 39 degrees 12 minutes west 3 chains 66 links, south 25 degrees 55 minutes 20 seconds west 8 chains 41 links and west 9 chains 60½ links; thence on the north-west by the south-eastern side of Wylandra-street aforesaid bearing north 24 degrees 4 minutes east 15 chains 87½ links, to the point of commencement. The above includes part of camping reserve 1,493, cancelled this day. Plan catalogued D 25-1,349 Roll. [Ms. 83-1,633]

Figure A7.10 Gazettal of 5890 7 April 1888

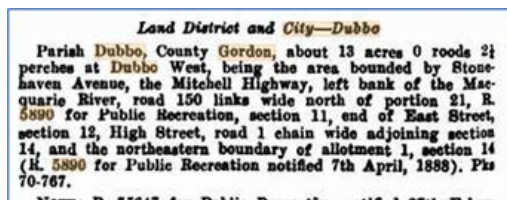


Figure 7.11(a) Addition of approx. 13 acres was added on 1 October 1971

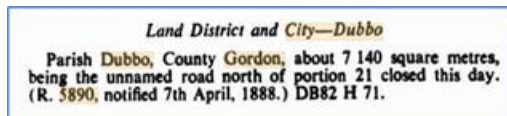


Figure 7.12 Unnamed Road reserve was added on 10 September 1982.



Figure 7.13(a) Revocation Lot 12 DP 227455 was added 20 May 1994.

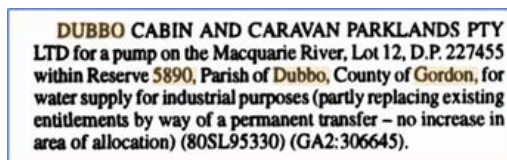


Figure 7.13(b) On 16 March 2018 the purpose of site inspection was added to reserve 5890.

Lot 247 DP 822452 is a minute lot that contains an electrical substation and is enclosed entirely within the fenced yard of 80 Whylandra St, a house owned by West Dubbo Bowling Club. Council should approach Crown lands with a view to removing Council as land manager over lot 247 DP 822452 – electricity substation within lot 246 (action 11) or alternatively for West Dubbo Bowling Club to acquire the land.

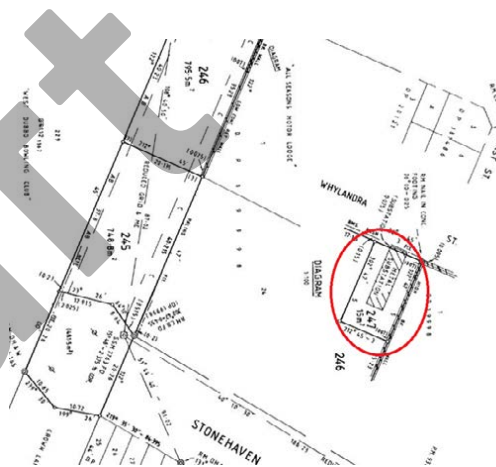


Figure A7.14 Deposited plan 822452 identifying Lot 247.

Riverbank 5890 Maps



Figure A7.15 Zones

Reserve 5890 is bordered in yellow and mapped as:

- RE1 – Public Recreation except for Lot 247 DP 822452 which is R2 Low Density residential.

The proposed future use of this precinct is consistent with these zonings.



Fig A7.16 Site plans showing Sir Roden Cutler Park, Riverbank Reserve and Lady Cutler Ovals.



Figure A7.17 categorisation

The Reserve 5890 is categorised as either:

- Parkland – blue
- Sportsground – Orange
- Natural Area bushland – green



Figure A7.18 vegetation.

The vegetation is mapped as:

- River Red Gum riparian tall woodland / open forest wetland (PCT 78)

Easements



FOLIO: 1/130730

SEARCH DATE	TIME	EDITION NO	DATE
23/9/2021	10:42 AM	-	-

CERTIFICATE OF TITLE HAS NOT ISSUED

LAND

LOT 1 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 130730
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA DUBBO REGIONAL
PARISH OF DUBBO COUNTY OF GORDON
TITLE DIAGRAM DP130730

FIRST SCHEDULE

THE STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

SECOND SCHEDULE (2 NOTIFICATIONS)

- * 1 DP1117006 EASEMENT FOR WATER SUPPLY SUPPLY 2 METRE(S) WIDE AND VARIABLE AFFECTING THE PART(S) SHOWN SO BURDENED IN DP1117006
- * 2 THE LAND IS A RESERVE WITHIN THE MEANING OF PART 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS ACT 1989 AND THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER AND OTHER DEALINGS IN THE LAND UNDER THAT ACT, WHICH MAY REQUIRE CONSENT OF THE MINISTER.

NOTATIONS

UNREGISTERED DEALINGS: NIL

*** END OF SEARCH ***

Figure A7.19 Title search listing easements over Lot 1.



Figure A7.20 Easements over Lot 2

Appendix 8 – Flood Maps

Legend

ROADS Label 15k-25k

Lot extents

- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 6.50m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 7.00m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 7.50m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 8.00m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 8.50m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 9.00m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 9.50m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 10.00m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 10.50m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 11.00m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 11.50m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 12.00m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 12.50m – Flood extent
- Macquarie River Dominant
Flood 13.00m – Flood extent

Recreational Areas

- Horticulture
- Landcare
- Sporting

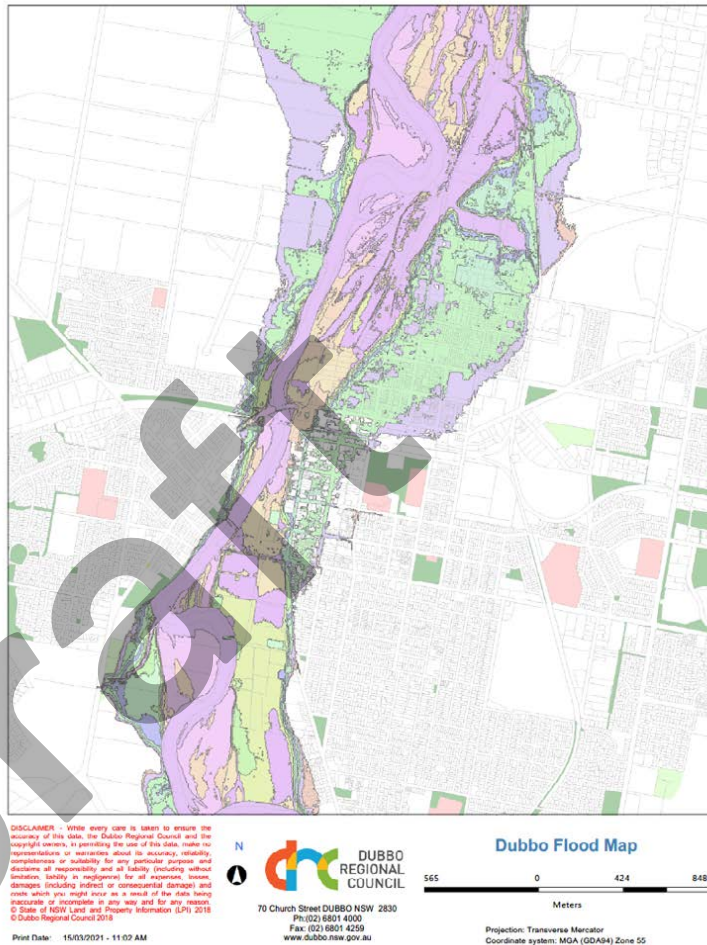


Figure A8.1 Dubbo Flood Map

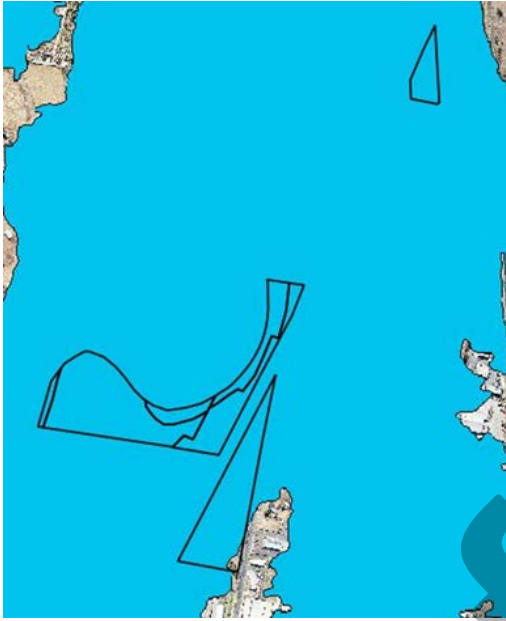


Figure A8.2 Reserve 1:100 Flood map



Figure A8.3 Reserve 1:100 Flood map.



Figure A8.4 Reserve 1:100 Flood map



Figure A8.5 Reserve 1:100 Flood map

Appendix 9 – AHIMS Search Results



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 83803

Client Service ID : 611141

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

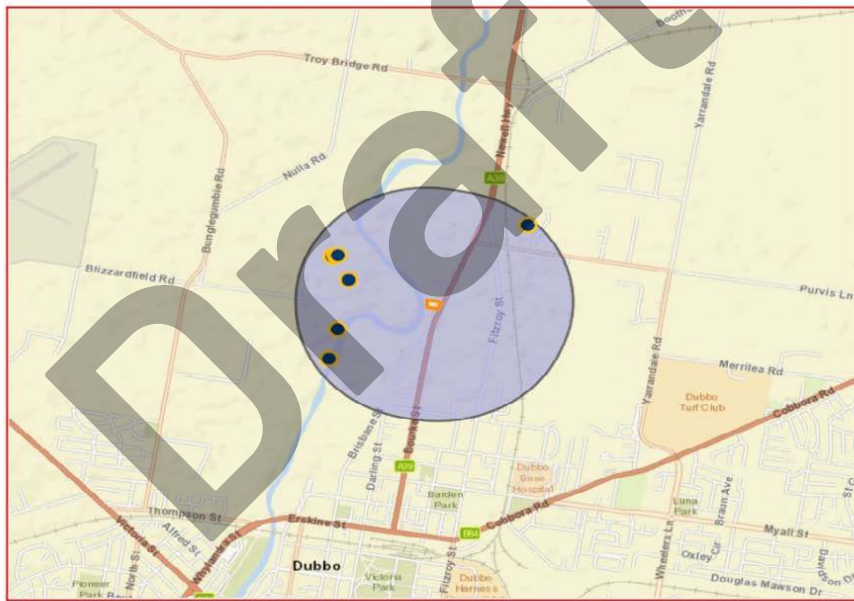
Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 332, DP:DP754308, Section : - with a Buffer of 1000 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

8	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

Reserve 97134



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 97134

Client Service ID : 611142

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 376, DP:DP754308, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

Reserve 97642



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 97642

Client Service ID : 611143

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 379, DP:DP754308, Section : - with a Buffer of 200 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

1	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

Reserve 520043



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 520043 - 6

Client Service ID : 611180

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

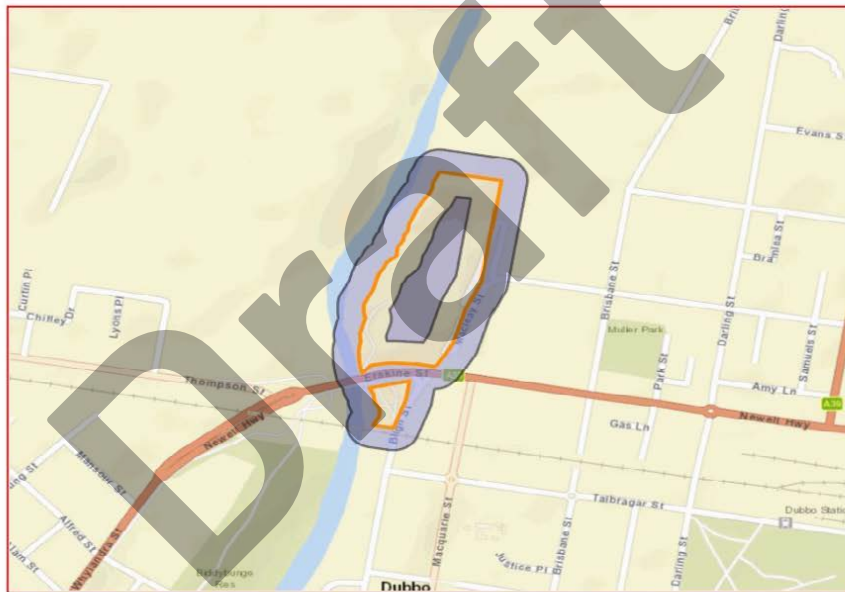
Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 7021, DP:DP1136248, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 520043

Client Service ID : 611168

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

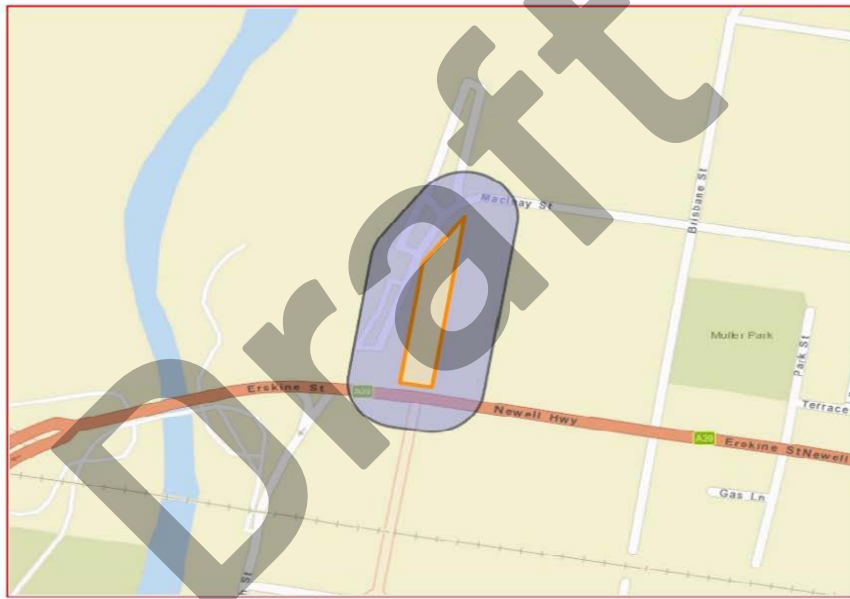
Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 1, DP:DP243250, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location.*



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 520043-4

Client Service ID : 611174

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 7022, DP:DP1020035, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 520043 3

Client Service ID : 611173

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

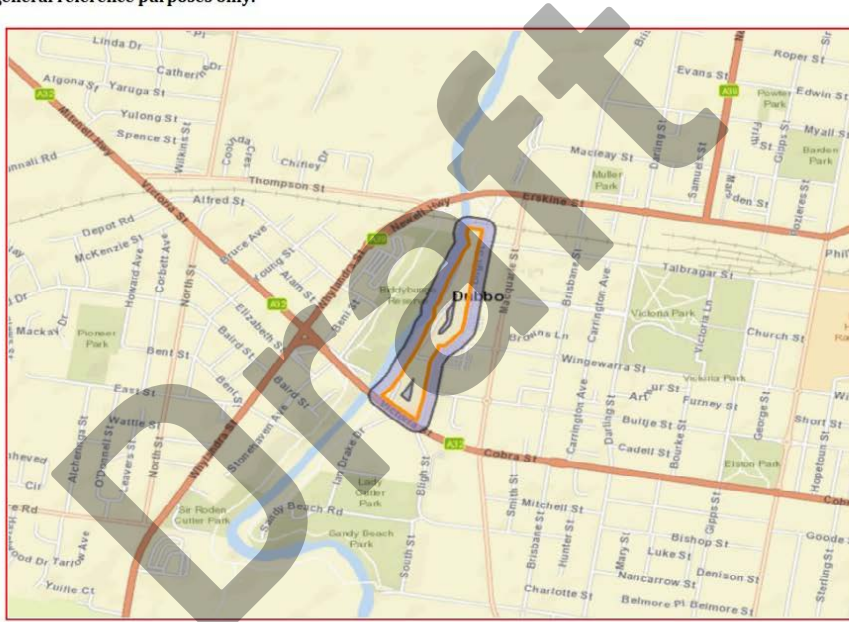
Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 7023, DP:DP1020031, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 520043-2

Client Service ID : 611172

Date: 05 August 2021

Dubbo Regional Council

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

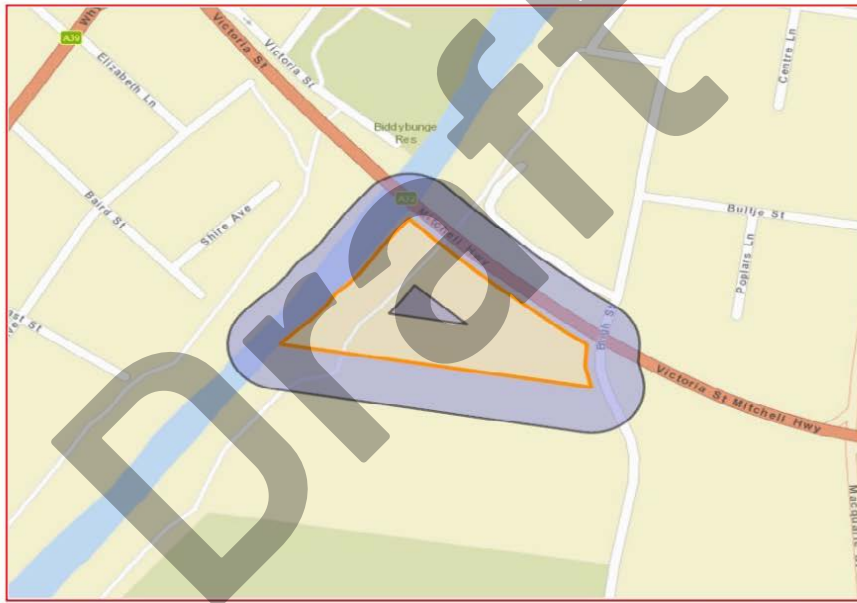
Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 7024, DP:DP1020024, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

Reserve 5890



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 5890-4

Client Service ID : 611137

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

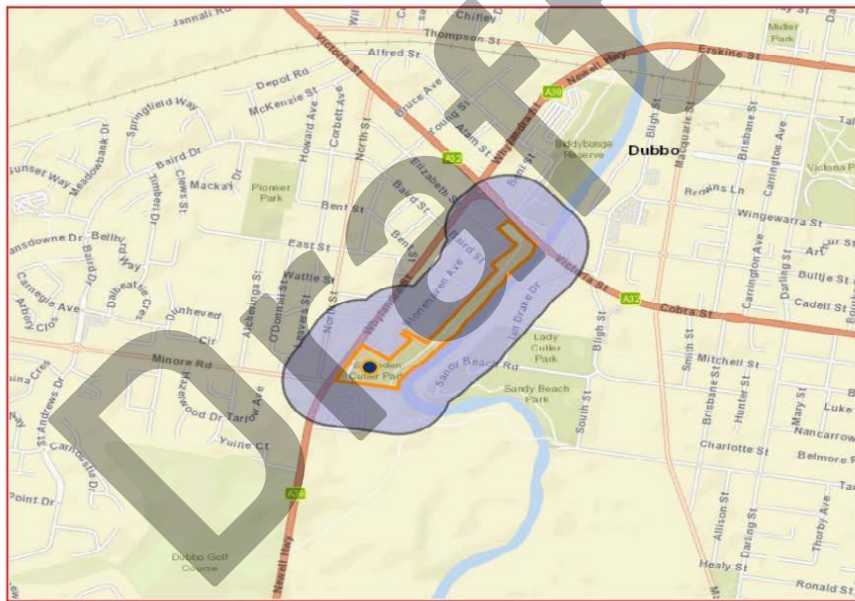
Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 7013, DP:DP1115445, Section : - with a Buffer of 200 meters. conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

1	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Extensive search - Site list report

Your Ref/PO Number : 294379

Client Service ID : 611535

SiteID	SiteName	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing	Context	Site Status **	SiteFeatures	SiteTypes	Reports
36-1-0094	M1 Dubbo	AGD	55	649550	6429950	Open site	Valid	Artefact : -	Open Camp Site	1065
	Contact	Recorders	N Franklin,Margrit Koettig,Rex Silcox							
			Permits							



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 5890-2

Client Service ID : 611131

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 2, DP:DP1039425, Section : - with a Buffer of 200 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

1	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 5890

Client Service ID : 611125

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

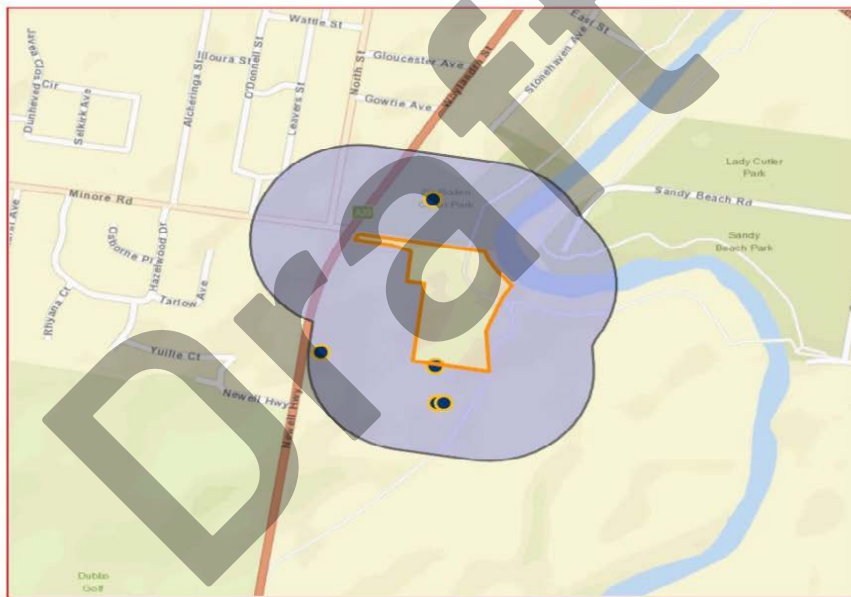
Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 1, DP:DP130730, Section : - with a Buffer of 200 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of IHeritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal IHeritage Information Management System) has shown that:

5	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

Reserve 520046



AHIMS Web Services (AWS) Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : 520046

Client Service ID : 611188

Dubbo Regional Council

Date: 05 August 2021

Darling St

Dubbo New South Wales 2830

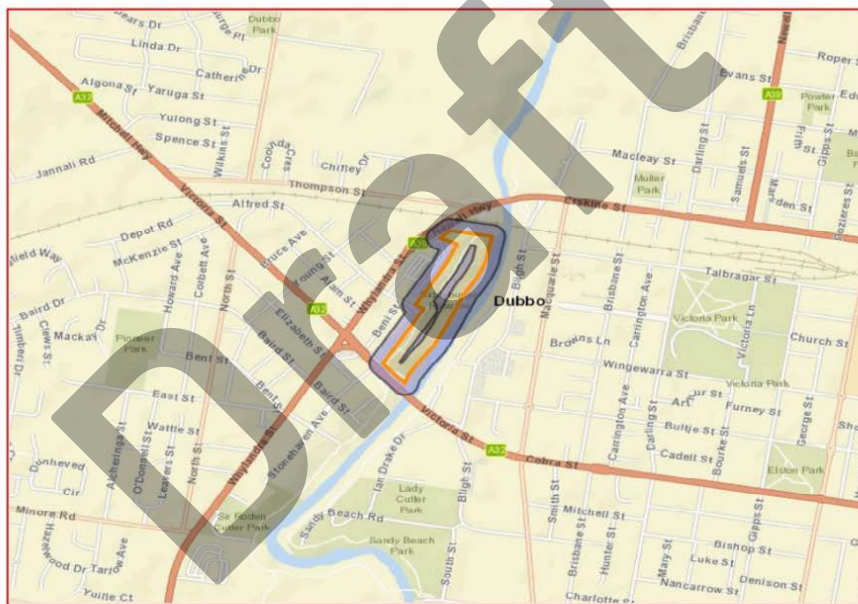
Attention: Peter Christie

Email: peter.christie@dubbo.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 1, DP:DP1114367, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Peter Christie on 05 August 2021.

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

Appendix 10 – Plan of Management Legislative Framework

Local Government Act 1993

Section 35 of the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) provides that community land can only be used in accordance with:

- the plan of management applying to that area of community land, and
- any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land, and
- the provisions of Division 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act.

Section 36 of the Act provides that a plan of management for community land must identify the following:

- a) the category of the land,
- b) the objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land,
- c) the means by which the Council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets,
- d) the manner in which the Council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets,

and may require the prior approval of the Council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

A plan of management that applies to just one area of community land:

- a) must include a description of:
 - (i) the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management, and
 - (ii) the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and
- b) must:
 - (i) specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used, and
 - (ii) specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise, and
 - (iii) describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Land is to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- a) a natural area
- b) a sportsground
- c) a park
- d) an area of cultural significance
- e) general community use.

Land that is categorised as a natural area is to be further categorised as one or more of the following:

- a) bushland
- b) wetland
- c) escarpment
- d) watercourse
- e) foreshore
- f) a category prescribed by the regulations.

Additionally, under section 36 of the LG Act, a site-specific PoM must be made for land declared:

- as critical habitat, or directly affected by a threat abatement plan or a recovery plan under threatened species laws (sections 36A(2) and 36B(3))
- by Council to contain significant natural features (section 36C(2))
- by Council to be of cultural significance (section 36D(2)).

Classification of public land

The LG Act requires classification of public land into either 'community' or 'operational' land (Section 26). The classification is generally made for Council-owned public land by the Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or in some circumstances by a resolution of the Council (Section 27).

Crown reserves managed by Council as Crown land manager have been classified as community land upon commencement of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act). Councils may manage these Crown reserves as operational land if written consent is obtained from the minister administering the CLM Act.

Classification of land has a direct effect on the Council's ability to dispose of or alienate land by sale, leasing, licensing or some other means. Under the LG Act, community land must not be sold (except for scheduled purposes), exchanged or otherwise disposed of by the Council, and the land must be used and managed in accordance with an adopted PoM. In addition, community land is subject to strict controls relating to leases and licences (sections 45, 46, 46A and 47) of the LG Act.

By comparison, no such restrictions apply to operational land that is owned by Councils. For example, operational land can be sold, disposed, exchanged or leased including exclusive use over the land, unencumbered by the requirements which control the use and management of community land. Crown reserves managed by Council as operational land may generally be dealt with as other operational land but may not be sold or otherwise disposed of without the written consent of the minister administering the CLM Act.

Operational land would usually include land held as a temporary asset or an investment, land which facilitates the Council carrying out its functions or land which may not be open to the general public (for example, a works depot).

The classification or reclassification of Council-owned public land will generally be achieved by a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or by a resolution of Council in accordance with sections 31, 32 and 33 of the LG Act. If land is not classified by resolution within a three-month period from acquisition it automatically becomes community land, regardless of whether it satisfies the objectives for community land as outlined in the LG Act.

For Crown land, Council cannot reclassify community land as operational land without consent of the minister administering the CLM Act.

Crown Land Management Act 2016

Crown reserves are land set aside on behalf of the community for a wide range of public purposes, including environmental and heritage protection, recreation and sport, open space, community halls, special events and government services.

Crown land is governed by the CLM Act, which provides a framework for the state government, local Councils and members of the community to work together to provide care, control and management of Crown reserves.

Under the CLM Act, Councils manage Crown land as if it were public land under the LG Act. However, it must still be managed in accordance with the purpose of the land and cannot be used for an activity incompatible with its purpose – for example, Crown land assigned the purpose of ‘environmental protection’ cannot be used in a way that compromises its environmental integrity.

Councils must also manage Crown land in accordance with the objects and principles of Crown land management outlined in the CLM Act. The objects and principles are the key values that guide Crown land management to benefit the community and to ensure that Crown land is managed for sustainable, multiple uses.

Principles of Crown Land Management

- Environmental protection principles are to be observed in the management and administration of Crown land.
- The natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna and scenic quality) will be conserved wherever possible.
- Public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land are to be encouraged.

• Where appropriate, multiple uses of Crown land should be encouraged.

• Where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained.

• Crown land is to be occupied, used, sold, leased, licensed or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the state of NSW, consistent with the above principles.

Crown Land Management Compliance

In addition to management and use of Crown reserves that is aligned with the reserve purpose(s), there are other influences over Council management of Crown reserves. For example, Crown land managers may have conditions attached to any appointment instruments, or Councils may have to comply with specific or general Crown land management rules that may be published in the NSW Government Gazette. Councils must also comply with any Crown land regulations that may be made.

Native Title Act 1993

The Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) recognises and protects native title rights and interests. The objects of the NT Act are to:

- provide for the recognition and protection of native title
- establish ways in which future dealings affecting native title may proceed and to set standards for those dealings
- establish a mechanism for determining claims to native title
- provide for, or permit, the validation of past acts invalidated because of the existence of native title.

The NT Act may affect use of Crown land, particularly development and granting of tenure.

Specifically, the CLM Act makes it mandatory for Council to engage or employ a native title manager. This role provides advice to Council as to how the Council's dealings and activities on Crown land can be valid or not valid in accordance with the NT Act.

Council must obtain the written advice from an accredited native title manager that Council complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation when:

- a) granting leases, licences, permits, forestry rights, easements or rights of way over the land
- b) mortgaging the land or allowing it to be mortgaged
- c) imposing, requiring or agreeing to covenants, conditions or other restrictions on use (or removing or releasing, or agreeing to remove or release, covenants, conditions or other restrictions on use) in connection with dealings involving the land
- d) approving (or submitting for approval) a plan of management for the land that authorises or permits any of the kinds of dealings referred to in (a), (b) or (c).

Council plans and policies relating to this plan of management

Council has developed plans and policies that are concerned to some extent with the management of community land. These documents have been considered when preparing this PoM.

The following is a list of documents that have a direct association with this PoM:

- 2040 Community Strategic Plan
- 2020-2021 Delivery Plan
- Dubbo Regional Council SPARC (2020-2025)
- Regional Council Asset Management Policy 2017
- Interim Asset management Plan
- Dubbo Local Environmental Plan 2011
- Wellington Local Environment Plan 2012
- Development Control Plans
- Council Defined Asset Management Plan 2017
- Dubbo Street Tree Masterplan
- Open Space Masterplan 2018
- Recreation Strategy 2030

Other state and Commonwealth legislation

NSW State Legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) provides the framework for planning and development across NSW and guides environmental planning instruments which provide a basis for development control.

The EP&A Act ensures that effects on the natural environment, along with social and economic factors, are considered by the Council when granting approval for or undertaking works, developments or activities.

This Act is also the enabling legislation for planning policies which may have a direct influence on open space management. On a state-wide level there are State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). On a regional level there are Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). On a local level there are Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) as well as Development Control Plans (DCPs).

Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) is important legislation that recognises the rights of Aboriginal people in NSW. It recognises the need of Aboriginal people for land and acknowledges that land for Aboriginal people in the past was progressively reduced without compensation. Crown land meeting certain criteria may be granted to an Aboriginal Land Council. This Act may affect dealings with Crown land that is potentially claimable.

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Statutory responsibilities on the Council arising from this Act specifically relate to the protection of sites of pre- and post-European contact archaeological significance. This Act may affect community land categorised as cultural significance, natural area or park.

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Note: This Act repealed several pieces of legislation including the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, the *Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001*, and the animal and plant provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

This Act covers conservation of threatened species, populations and ecological communities, the protection of native flora and fauna. This Act primarily relates to community land categorised as natural area. However, other categories may also be affected.

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* has been repealed and superseded by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. However, references to the former legislation remain in the LG Act and are therefore retained in this guideline.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Energy, Environment and Science division advises that recovery plans and threat abatement plans made under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* were repealed on the commencement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* in 2017. These plans have not been preserved by any savings and transitional arrangement under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* or LG Act, meaning pre-existing plans have no legal effect.

For this reason, requirements relating to recovery plans and threat abatement plans for local Councils preparing plans of management under section 36B of the LG Act are now redundant. Councils will be advised if future amendments are made to the LG Act to enable these mechanisms.

Certain weeds are also declared noxious under this Act, which prescribes categories to which the weeds are assigned, and these control categories identify the course of action which needs to be carried out on the weeds. A weed may be declared noxious in part or all of the state.

Fisheries Management Act 1994

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) includes provisions for the management of state fisheries, including the conservation of fish habitats, threatened species, populations and ecological communities of fish and marine vegetation and management of the riparian zone, waterways and threatened marine/freshwater aquatic species. This relates to community land categorised as natural area (foreshore, watercourse or wetland).

Where an area of community land is declared to be critical habitat, or if that area is affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under Part 7A of the FM Act, a site-specific plan of management will need to be undertaken.

Rural Fires Act 1997

This Act contains provisions for bushfire risk management and the establishment of a Bushfire Management Committee. It also includes direction on development in bushfire prone lands.

Water Management Act 2000

This Act is based on the concept of ecologically sustainable development, and its objective is to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources of the state for the benefit of both present and future generations. The Act recognises:

- the fundamental health of our rivers and groundwater systems and associated wetlands, floodplains, estuaries has to be protected
- the management of water must be integrated with other natural resources such as vegetation, native fauna, soils and land
- to be properly effective, water management must be a shared responsibility between the government and the community
- water management decisions must involve consideration of environmental, social, economic, cultural and heritage aspects
- social and economic benefits to the state will result from the sustainable and efficient use of water.

Heritage Act 1977

This Act contains provisions for the conservation of items of heritage and may relate to community land categorised as cultural significance or natural area.

Commonwealth legislation**Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Management Act 1999**

This Act enables the Australian Government to join with the states and territories in providing a national scheme of environment and heritage protection and biodiversity conservation. It incorporates threatened species on a national level and with relevance to Matters of National Environmental Significance.

Telecommunications Act 1997

This Act provides for telecommunication facilities being permitted on community land without authorisation in a PoM.

State Environmental Planning Policies**State Environmental Planning Policy no. 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas**

This planning policy deals with bushland in urban areas, so is applicable to PoMs for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

This planning policy lists development allowed with consent or without consent on community land.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011

This aims to protect quality of surface water and the ecosystems that depend on it and requires that any development would have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017

This policy deals with clearing of native vegetation in urban areas and land zoned for environmental protection.

Other relevant legislation, policies and plans

- *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Biosecurity Act 2015*
- *Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003*
- *Companion Animals Act 1998*
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Management Act 1999 (Cth)*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994*
- *Heritage Act 1977*
- *Local Land Services Act 2013*
- *Operations Act 1997*
- *Pesticides Act 1999*
- *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*
- *Retail Leases Act 1994*
- *Rural Fires Act 1997*
- *Soil Conservation Act 1938*
- *Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth)* *Water Management Act 2000*
- *NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015*
- *National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy*
- *NSW Biodiversity Strategy*
- *A Vegetation Management Plan for the Sydney Region (Green Web Sydney)*
- *Australian Natural Heritage Charter*

Appendix 11 – Aboriginal Interests in Crown Land

Crown land has significant spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance to the Aboriginal peoples of NSW. The CLM Act recognises and supports Aboriginal rights, interests and involvement in Crown land.

The management of Crown land can be impacted by the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth) and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW).

Native Title

Native title describes the rights and interests that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have in land and waters according to their traditional law and customs. Native title is governed by the Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act).

Native title does not transfer the land to the native title holder, but recognises the right to land and water by providing access to the land and, if applicable, compensation for any loss, diminution, impairment or other effect of the act on their native title rights and interests.

All Crown land in NSW can be subject to a native title claim under the NT Act. A native title claim does not generally affect Crown land where native title has been extinguished or it is considered excluded land.

When preparing a PoM, Council is required to employ or engage a qualified native title manager to provide advice and validate acts (developments and tenures) over the reserve, in line with the NT Act.

If native title rights are found to exist on Crown land, Council Crown land managers may be liable to pay compensation for acts that impact on native title rights and interests. This compensation liability arises for local Councils whether or not the act was validated under the NT Act.

For further information about native title and the future acts framework see the [Crown lands website](#).

Aboriginal Land Rights

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) seeks to compensate Aboriginal peoples for past dispossession, dislocation and removal of land in NSW (who may or may not also be native title holders).

Aboriginal land claims may be placed on any Crown land in NSW. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is responsible for investigating claims as defined in the ALR Act. If a claim is established, the land is transferred to the Aboriginal Land Council as freehold land.

At the time of preparing this plan of management, there are 44 reserves which are affected by an undetermined Aboriginal land claim. Council has considered the claim(s) in development of this plan of management.

Responsible Officer:	Manager Recreation and Open Space
Division:	Recreation & Open Spaces
Prepared by:	Manager Recreation and Open Space
Version:	1
Revision:	1
Document Date:	7 May 2025
Effective:	TBC (Council to endorse)

Cnr Church and Darling Streets, Dubbo
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REPORT: Plan of Management - Western Plains Cultural Centre

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 4 September 2025
TRIM REFERENCE: ID25/1807

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	• Seek endorsement	
Issue	• Seeking endorsement from Council to progress Western Plains Cultural Centre Plan of Management to be placed on public exhibition for community feedback.	
Reasoning	• Compliance with the <i>Crowns Management Act 2016</i> for Council to develop Plans of Management for Community designated land parcels Council operates or manages.	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Community Culture and Places /Arts and Culture
	Funding Source	Arts and Culture
	Proposed Cost	\$500.00
	Ongoing Costs	Nil
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Not applicable
	Impact on Policy	Not applicable
Consultation	Council staff and long term and irregular hirers of the WPCC.	

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 four principal themes and a few objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme: 3 Working Together for the Region

CSP Objective: 3.1 Our Council is open, fair, and accountable in its decision-making.

Delivery Program Strategy: 3.1.5 Operate with transparency, accountability, and integrity in all governance and decision-making processes.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council endorse the draft Plan of Managements for Westen Plains Cultural Centre be placed on public exhibition for 42 days.**
- 2. That following the public exhibition phase, the draft Plans of Management be submitted back to Council for consideration.**

Craig Arms
Director Community, Culture and Places

JM
Cultural Development
Coordinator

REPORT

A Plan of Management (PoM) is a strategic and legal document required under the *Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act)* and the *Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act)* for land classified as community land. It sets out how the land will be used, managed, and protected over time. For council-managed Crown reserves such as the WPCC site, a PoM ensures lawful use and occupation, supports good governance, and provides clarity for future development and community engagement.

Unlike Crown land, which is owned by the State and managed by Council, community land (such as the WPCC) is generally owned by councils and designated for public access and use. This reflects its importance to the community due to its use or special features.

To be classified as community land, a location must:

- Be categorised (e.g. park, general community use, cultural significance).
- Have a Plan of Management (PoM) to guide its use, development, and leasing or licensing.
- Not be sold or used for purposes inconsistent with its categorisation unless it is reclassified.

Under Section 36 of the LG Act, councils must prepare a PoM for all community land. The plan must:

- Identify the land's category (e.g. park, cultural significance, general community use).
- Set objectives and performance targets.
- Outline how these objectives will be achieved and assessed.
- Specify permitted uses, developments, and their scale or intensity.

A draft Plan of Management for the Western Plains Cultural Centre (WPCC) has been developed in collaboration with consultants Sala4D. As part of this process, the consultants reviewed a range of existing documents, including site plans, previous Operational and Business plans, and the current WPCC Marketing Plan. They also considered the adopted Victoria Park Master Plan, due to the site's proximity to Victoria Park.

The Plan of Management outlines the permissible uses of the site under its classification as General Community Use land. This designation broadly supports "*providing a location for, and supporting, the gathering of groups for a range of social, cultural, or recreational purposes.*" The current function and operation of the site align with this purpose, and the draft Plan of Management does not propose any changes to its existing use.

The draft Plan of Management outlines a series of recommended actions that promote transparent, community-focused, and practical planning for the ongoing management of the site. These recommendations reflect sound operational practice and have the support of staff. Several proposed actions have already been identified internally as priorities, with forward funding allocated to enable their implementation.

It is important to note that the area designated as General Community Use and occupied by the WPCC excludes a small portion of Crown Land located along the Wingewarra Street frontage. This excluded area measures 982m² contains part of the WPCC carpark, Tesla charging stations, a transformer station, hydrants, and some WPCC signage and falls within;

- Crown Reserve 520040 dedicated 4/11/1903 (area of 11.527 hectares); and
- the adopted Victoria Park Master Plan.

See image included below.



Staff have reviewed the possibility of applying to Crown Lands to have this strip reclassified and incorporated into the WPCC's designated 'Community Land' allocation. However, considering the cost and time required to undertake this process—alongside the minimal operational impact of the current arrangements—staff recommend that the existing land classifications remain unchanged.

The Plans of Management, and any associated master plans and strategic documents associated with these public places, assist Council in managing and developing these spaces for our community. Additionally, the adoption of the Plans of Management assist Council in applying for external funding as they demonstrate a clear and concise direction for the future use of these areas. This Plan of Management will be formally reviewed in 2035.

Consultation

- Current Lease – Creo Café
- Long Term Hirers – U3A, Family History Society, Orana Arts
- WPCC Co-Ordinator
- Selection of short term or sporadic venue hire clients

Resourcing Implications

As the Plan of Management formalises the existing operations and service levels of the Western Plains Cultural Centre (WPCC), there are no identified additional resourcing implications. Proposed initiatives, including the development of a Strategic Plan for the ongoing operation of the WPCC, Master Planning, and upgrades to toilet facilities, have already been incorporated into the forward four-year budget.

Planned Communications

All draft PoMs must be developed in line with the public exhibition requirements under section 38 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Under the *Crown Lands Management Act* the draft Plans of Management are to be publicly exhibited for 28 days, with a further 14 days for further comments. The report recommends that the WPCC Plan of Management be publicly exhibited for the full 42 days.

- Draft Plan of Management placed on public exhibition for 42 days through DRC 'Your Say Portal'.
- Communication Plan developed to encourage public review and submissions.
- Direct communication including Draft Plan of Management sent to current leases and long-term hirers of the Western Plains Cultural Centre to seek feedback.

Timeframe

Key Date	Explanation
23 rd October 2025	Ordinary Meeting of Council to Consider the Report
24 th October 2025	Placed on Public Exhibition for community comment and feedback
February 2026	Updated PoM incorporating any community feedback is presented back to Council for adoption.

APPENDICES:

- 1 [🔗](#) WPCC - DRAFT - Plan of Management - 2025



DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR WESTERN PLAINS CULTURAL CENTRE

...let's make the world a better place

sala4D

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KEY INFORMATION

This plan of management (PoM) has been prepared by Dubbo Regional Council (DRC) and provides direction as to the use and management of the Western Plains Cultural Centre (WPCC) which is classified as 'community land'. The PoM is required in accordance with Section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993.

This PoM specifically addresses the management of WPCC. The PoM outlines the way the land and buildings will be used and provides the framework for Council to follow in relation to the express authorisation of leases and license on the land.

The Western Plains Cultural Centre acknowledges the Wiradjuri people, the traditional custodians of country on which our centre stands. We are thankful for their continual connection to country, culture and community and value their stories and artistic expression. We aim to recognise and share the living culture of our region's first people for now and future generations.

This Plan of Management was prepared by:

sala4D – landscape architecture and urban design

www.sala4d.com

Version	Date	Drafted by
1	16-09-25	SM
2	17-09-25	SM
3	22-09-25	SM



INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the plan of management

The Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) requires a plan of management (PoM) to be prepared for all public land that is classified as 'community land' under that Act.

The purpose of this PoM is to:

- contribute to the council's broader strategic goals and vision as set out in the Community Strategic Plan
- ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 1993
- provide clarity in the future development, use and management of WPCC
- ensure consistent management that supports a unified approach to meeting the varied needs of the community.

Further information about the legislative context of PoMs can be found in Appendix A1 of this document.

Process of preparing this plan of management

Figure 1 illustrates the process undertaken by Council in preparing this PoM.

Figure 1: Process of preparing a PoM



Change and review of plan of management

This PoM will require regular review in order to align with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in council priorities. Council has determined that it will review the PoM within ten years of its adoption. However, the performance of this PoM will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that WPCC is being managed in accordance with the PoM, is well maintained and provides a safe environment for the public.

The community will have an opportunity to participate in reviews of this PoM.

Community consultation

DRC has adopted the following principles to guide its community engagement process:

Build relationships - Act in an honest, open and respectful way to build strong relationships, partnerships and trust with our stakeholders.

Right to be involved - Believe stakeholders have a right to be involved in decisions that affect them.

Clarity of purpose - Well planned with a defined purpose and stages for community input.

Accessible and inclusive - Seek views representative of the community ensuring the most comprehensive range of stakeholders are able to participate. A broad range of activities are to be considered for this to occur.

Timely and coordinated - Engage early and provide enough time for our stakeholders to provide input so that view can be considered.

Tailored - Use a range of communication and engagement methods that suit the purpose and type of project we are consulting on. Consider the impact, complexity, risk, timing and range of stakeholders.

Transparent - Provide information in a manner that enables community to provide input. Make decisions in an open and transparent way, provide feedback to our community to explain decision making processes and decision outcomes.

Continuous learning - Evaluate our engagement activities and learn from feedback and best practice.

This PoM was placed on public exhibition from XX to XX in accordance with the requirements of section 38 of the Local Government Act 1993. A total of [XX] submissions were received. Council considered these submissions before adopting the PoM.



LAND DESCRIPTION

This plan of management covers western Plains Cultural Centre. The site information is detailed in Table 1 and a plan shown in Figure 2. The Centre consists of the Dubbo Regional Gallery, Dubbo Regional Museum, Community Arts Centre, café, meeting rooms and associated infrastructure.

Figure 2: Town plan of Dubbo



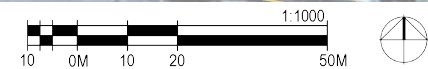
Table 1: Information about the site covered by this plan of management.

Land parcel/s (Lot/DP)	4601/DP1091311
Area (Ha)	1.18
LEP zoning	RE1 and RE2
Assigned category/categories	General community use

This PoM is specific to the land mentioned in Table 1. Contact the council or refer to the council's website for information about other public land not listed above.

Maps detailing the study area follow.

Figure 3: Lot and DP Plan



Plan of Management for Western Plains Cultural Centre .09

Figure 4: Categorisation

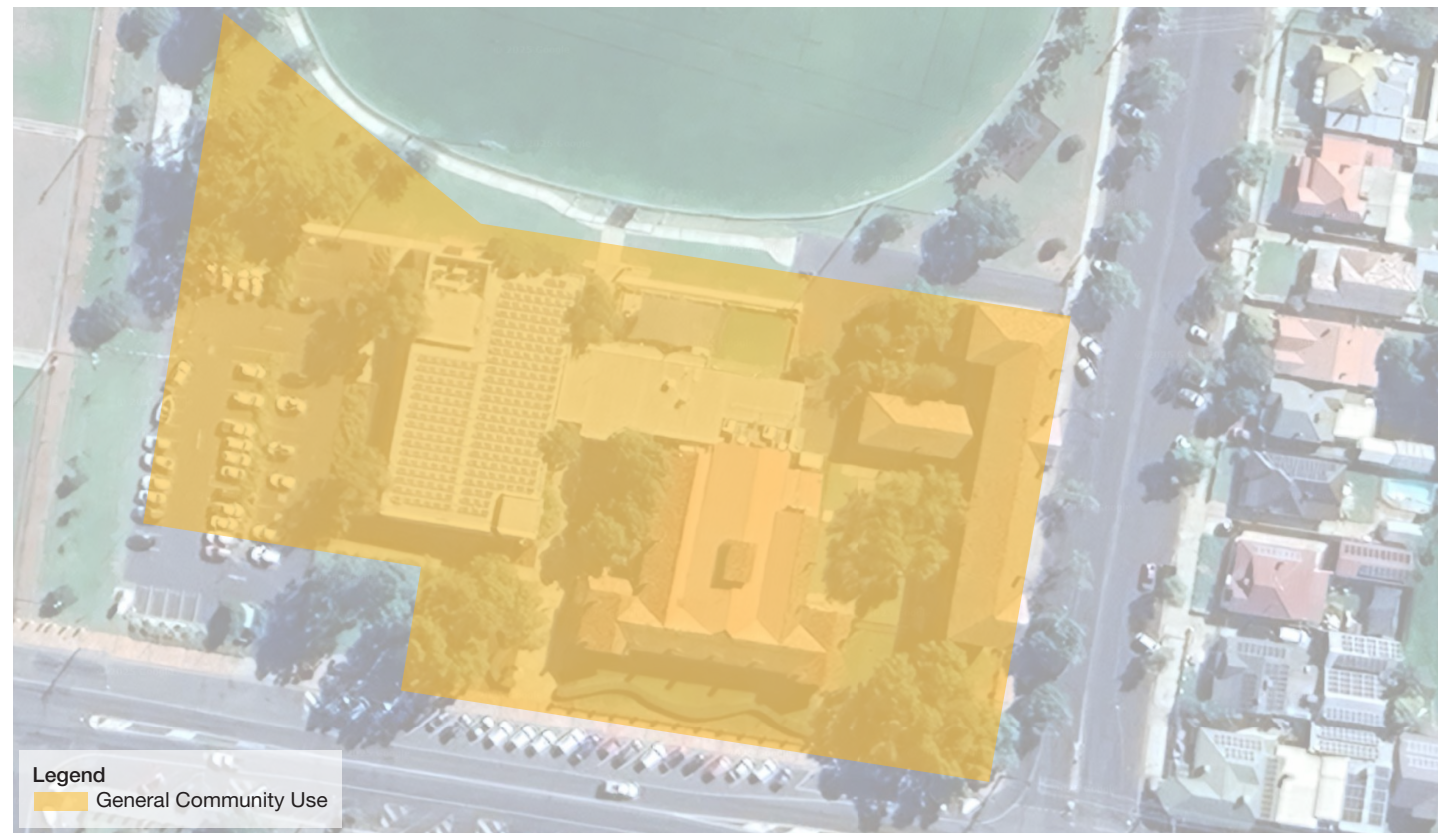


Figure 5: Land Use Zoning



Basis of management

DRC intends to manage its community land to meet:

- assigned categorisation of community land
- the LG Act guidelines and core objectives for community land
- the Council's strategic objectives and priorities
- development and use of the land outlined in Section 6 of the LG Act.

Categorisation of the land

All community land is required to be categorised as one or more of the following categories. The LG Act defines five categories of community land:

- **Park** – for areas primarily used for passive recreation.
- **Sportsground** – for areas where the primary use is for active recreation involving organised sports or the playing of outdoor games.
- **General community use** – for all areas where the primary purpose relates to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social, and intellectual welfare or development of members of the public. This includes venues such as community halls, scout and guide halls, and libraries.
- **Cultural significance** – for areas with Aboriginal, aesthetic, archaeological, historical, technical, research or social significance.
- **Natural area** – for all areas that play an important role in the area's ecology. This category is further subdivided into bushland, escarpment, foreshore, watercourse and wetland categories.

The categorisation of the land is identified in Figure 4.

Guidelines and core objectives for management of community land

The management of community land is governed by the categorisation of the land, its purpose, and the core objectives of the relevant category of community land (see Categorisation of the land). Council may then apply more specific management objectives to community land, though these must be compatible with the core objectives for the land.

The guidelines for categorisation of community land are set out in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The core objectives for each category are set out in the LG Act. The guidelines and core objectives for the Park, Sportsground, General Community Use and Natural Area categories are set out in the relevant category sections of this plan of management.

Council's strategic objectives and priorities

Like all Councils in NSW, DRC's strategic management is governed by the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, illustrated in Figure 6.





Figure 6. Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Source: <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/IPR-Graphic.png>

Within the Framework, DRC, in consultation with the community, has developed the following strategies and plans to identify the priorities and aspirations of the community and the delivery of a vision for the future. They have a direct influence on the objectives, uses and management approach covered by PoMs.

Council's Vision: In 2040 we will celebrate our quality of life, the opportunities available for us to grow as a community, our improved natural environment, and being recognised as the inland capital of regional NSW.

DRC's 2040 Community Strategic Plan contains six inter-related themes, objectives and supporting strategies:

- Theme 1 - Housing
- Theme 2 - Infrastructure
- Theme 3 - Economy
- Theme 4 - Leadership
- Theme 5 - Liveability
- Theme 6 - Environmental Sustainability

Council documents which support these strategies and plans are listed below.

- DRC 2040 Community Strategic Plan
- DRC Resourcing Strategy
- DRC Delivery Program
- DRC Operational Plan
- DRC Informing Strategies

This Plan of Management falls into the "DRC Informing Strategies" area and has direct influence on the Delivery Program of Council.



DEVELOPMENT AND USE

The WPCC is located on the site of the former Dubbo High School at 76 Wingewarra Street and opened to the public on 27 September, 2006. The official opening of the facility was on 10 February 2007 by the NSW Governor, Her Excellency Marie Bashir AC CVO.

Dubbo Regional Gallery was established in 1989 and the Museum formed by the Royal Historical Society in 1953. Following the termination of the property lease at Macquarie Street, the Museum collection was placed in storage at Dubbo City Airport, with staff relocating to the former High School at 76 Wingewarra Street.

Dubbo Regional Gallery was located in Darling Street, alongside the Western Plains Regional Council Civic Administration Building. In April 2003, as a result of a fire in the Civic Administration Building, Dubbo Regional Gallery suffered fire and smoke damage and was moved, along with the Gallery staff and the permanent collection, to the former High School site. The Dubbo Regional Gallery did however maintain a temporary exhibition space at the Dubbo Branch, Macquarie Regional Library throughout this time. The Civic Administration Building was redeveloped and in May 2005, Council staff returned to the Darling Street site.

During this time, Dubbo City Council approved the redevelopment of the High School site to become what is now the Western Plains Cultural Centre comprising of Dubbo Regional Gallery, Dubbo Regional Museum and the Community Arts Centre.

WPCC is the central exhibition space for Dubbo and is committed to promoting excellence in the arts and cultural history. The Centre provides 796m² of exhibition space and multiple workshops and events spaces.

Current use of the land

Each relevant category section of this plan of management contains information about the existing use of the land, including:

- Condition of the land and structures;
- Use of the land and structures; and,
- Current leases and licences on the land.

Permissible uses / future uses

Community land is valued for its important role in the social, intellectual, spiritual and physical enrichment of residents, workers, and visitors to the DRC area.

The intrinsic value of community land is also recognised, as is the important role this land plays in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem function.

DRC encourages a wide range of uses of community land and intends to facilitate uses which increase the activation of its land, where appropriate.

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as Park, Sportsground, General Community Use and Natural Area, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in tables in the relevant



category section in the Management of Land by Category section, which follows.

List of Category sections

- General community use

Express authorisation of leases and licences and other estates

Under section 46(1)(b) of the LG Act, leases, licences and other estates formalise the use of community land. A lease, licence or other estate may be granted to organisations and persons, community groups, sports clubs and associations, non-government organisations, charities, community welfare services, non-profit organisations and government authorities.

The lease or licence must be for uses consistent with the assigned categorisation and zoning of the land, and be in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Leases and licences authorised by the plan of management

This plan of management **expressly authorises** the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land covered by the plan of management, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved
- the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the Local Government Act 1993 or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate and the provisions of the lease, licence or other estate can be validated by the provisions of the Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)
- where the land is subject to a claim under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

Table 3 of this plan of management further identifies the purposes for which leases and licences may be issued over the WPCC.



MANAGEMENT OF LAND BY CATEGORY

General Community Use

All the WPCC site is categorised as general community use. (See Figure 4 – Categorisation, page 8.)



Figure 7: Western Plains Cultural Centre

Guidelines and core objectives

General community use land is defined in clause 106 of the LG (General) Regulation as land that may be made available for use for any purpose for which community land may be used, and does not satisfy the definition of natural area, sportsground, park or area of cultural significance.

The core objectives for community land categorised as general community use, as outlined in Section 36I of the LG Act, are to:

- promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land
- provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:
 - (a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
 - (b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, licence or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities).

Key issues

Threats to the use of this land as general community use include factors such as equity of access as well as the type and distribution of facilities.

Management framework for reserves categorised as General Community Use

Overarching objectives of Council management of public lands includes the following key future directions:

- To provide access to a range of community, cultural and open space facilities and areas.
- To value our unique environment and ensure it is protected for future generations.
- To achieve economic prosperity.
- To fully realise our tourism assets.
- To enhance our quality of life through key infrastructure and services.

Broad management principles and objectives are detailed below.

Create vibrant and diverse experiences

- Build on our unique region identity with offerings of contemporary recreation, exercise and cultural experiences.
- Respond to the needs of community to cater to new opportunities and innovative ways to better use the WPCC. This may be to encourage a maximum diversity of programmed and un-programmed uses that are compatible with the WPCC.
- Plan areas of the site to cater to temporary installations, events, music, festivals, contemplative zones and large picnic spaces.

Respect cultural heritage

- Cater specifically for the needs of youth, families and cultural groups through flexible, multi-use facilities and programs. This may include incorporation of recreation opportunities and experiences for a wide range of user groups.
- Protect and implement cultural heritage values across the site including memorial connections, Victorian heritage and future interpretation opportunities.

Strive for environmental sustainability

- Support the limited opportunities which exist across the site to restore or protect existing natural biodiversity.
- Manage and restore Victorian heritage elements of the site.



- Ensure that land use development with the site enhances water quality run-off, recycling or implement water sensitive design.
- Seek energy efficient upgrade to lighting including LED and solar where appropriate. Maximise the use of renewable energy sources as it becomes appropriate or available.
- Recycle plant materials and waste for soil improvement wherever possible.

Enhance community health

- Contribute to community health and wellbeing through access to recreation and exercise.
- Provide safe pedestrian and cycling connections to adjoining communities, showground and Tracker Riley loops.
- Provide social equity across access, wayfinding, recreation and exercise.
- Review development of the site at intervals based on community demand as outlined in consultation, recreation studies or other research.
- Create opportunities for community uses that are interactive and responsive to social equity, the need for specific age-based activities, or therapeutic and mental health benefits. This may include complementary therapeutic practitioners for example.

Improve financial sustainability

- Encourage community involvement and partnerships across the site and facilities management, including indigenous involvement where possible.
- Create employment at the site associated with development and management of recreation, tourism and community facilities.

Development and use

Areas of land categorised as "general community use" have many permitted uses, including providing a location for a range of social, cultural and recreational purposes.

Current use of the land

Condition of the land and structures

The Western Plains Cultural Centre is located on the former grounds of the Dubbo High School. It is the central exhibition space for Dubbo and is committed to promoting excellence in the arts and cultural history.

The land and buildings are well-maintained and able to fulfill the requirements designated to each space.



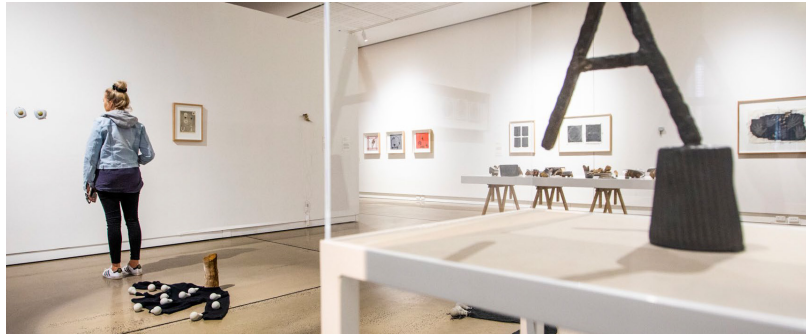


Figure 8: Western Plains Cultural Centre Gallery

Source: Western Plains Cultural Centre Marketing Plan 2024-2026, Hipscotch, 2024

Use of the land and structures

The land and structures house the WPCC and its associated activities including:

- Gallery
- Museum
- Café
- Meeting rooms
- Classrooms
- Associated infrastructure such as toilets, offices, storage spaces, carpark etc.

The carpark also provides the NRMA charging station for Dubbo.

Current leases and licences

Current leases/licences are as follows:

- Maths classroom – Orana Arts Incorporated, 1 year licence, 01-07-25 to 30-06-26
- Maths classroom – City of Dubbo Eisteddfod Society, 1 year licence, 01-07-25 to 30-06-26
- Family History rooms – Dubbo and District Family History Society Inc, 1 year licence, 01-07-25 to 30-06-26
- Doug Sadler Reading Room – Dubbo Wig Library Volunteers Inc - 1 year licence, 01-07-25 to 30-06-26
- English and geography rooms - University of The Third Age - 1 year licence, 01-07-25 to 30-06-26
- Creo Café – Norman and Samuel Wenman – 2 year lease – 20-07-24 to 19-07-26
- Carpark – NRMA – 5 year licence, with 5 year option – 31-12-18 to 30-12-28

Permissible uses / future uses

The general types of uses which may occur on community land categorised as General Community Use, and the forms of development generally associated with those uses, are set out in Table 2. The facilities on community land may change over time, reflecting the needs of the community.

Table 2: Permissible use and development of community land categorised as General Community Use by council or the community

Purpose/Use, such as...	Development to facilitate uses, such as...
Providing a location for, and supporting, the gathering of groups for a range of social, cultural or recreational purposes. Providing multi-purpose buildings (for example, community halls and centres) with specialised community uses such as: - casual or informal recreation - meetings (including for social, recreational, educational or cultural purposes) - functions - concerts, including all musical genres - performances (including film and stage) - exhibitions - fairs and parades - workshops - leisure or training classes - child care (for example, before and after school care, vacation care) - designated group use (e.g. scout and girl guide use) - educational centres, including libraries, information and resource centres - entertainment facilities - active cemeteries - caravan parks and camping grounds	Development for the purposes of social, community, cultural and recreational activities, such as libraries, childcare centres, youth services, aged services, men's sheds, health services, sports. Development includes: - provision of buildings or other amenity areas to facilitate use and enjoyment by the community - development (particularly within buildings) for the purposes of addressing the needs of a particular group (for example, a stage) - landscaping and finishes, improving access, amenity and the visual character of the general community area - water-saving initiatives such as rain gardens - energy-saving initiatives such as solar lights and solar panels - car parking and loading areas - advertising structures and signage (such as A-frames and banners) that: - relate to approved uses/activities - are discreet and temporary - are approved by the council - locational, directional and regulatory signage.

Express authorisation of leases, licences and other estates – General Community Use

Council may from time to time enter into or create a range of leases, licences, other estates, management agreements, and/or booking arrangements, in order to encourage the use the land and/or buildings appropriately and effectively. These arrangements are intended to support and encourage a range of uses, which enhance the level of activation and enjoyment of the space.

This plan of management expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as General Community Use, listed in Table 3 as well as:

- Issue short-term licences for a range of purposes such as holding recreational activities and events.
- Renew existing leases for terms of up to 21 years.
- Grant new leases for terms of up to 21 years.

Kiosks, restaurants, refreshment facilities, mobile vending, recreational equipment sale or hire (e.g. bicycle hire or sale of swimming accessories), may support the general community enjoyment of the site. Under this PoM, EV charging stations would be considered a compatible use. Each proposal will be reviewed to ensure it is compatible.

Furthermore, this plan of management expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land covered by the plan of management, in accordance with section 46(1)(b) of the LG Act, provided that:

- the purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved the purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land
- the lease, licence or other estate is for a permitted purpose listed in the Local Government Act 1993 or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 or the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021
- the issue of the lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for any of the purposes for which it was dedicated or reserved.

The following table illustrates some types of leases and licences that may be considered for future use. These examples do not preclude Council from being open to innovative and better ways to utilise its open spaces and assets. Granting of a lease or licence does not grant approval for any development applications or similar Council approvals that may be required.



Table 3: Leases, licences and other estates and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as General Community Use

Type of tenure arrangement	Maximum term	Purpose for which tenure may be granted
Lease	21 years	- Social purposes including child care, vacation care - Educational purposes including libraries, workshops and classes - Therapeutic purposes including physiotherapy and hydrotherapy - Recreational purposes including fitness, dance and swimming - Café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables - Hire or sale of recreational equipment
Licence	21 years	- Social purposes including child care, vacation care - Educational purposes including libraries, workshops and classes - Therapeutic purposes including physiotherapy and hydrotherapy - Recreational purposes including fitness, dance and swimming - Café/kiosk areas, including seating and tables - Hire or sale of recreational equipment
Short-term licence	Duration of event	- Community events and festivals - Playing a musical instrument, or singing for fee or reward - Picnics and private celebrations such as weddings and family gatherings - Filming, including for cinema/television - Conducting a commercial photography session - Public performances - Engaging in an appropriate trade or business - Delivering a public address - Community events - Fairs, markets, auctions and similar activities
Other estates		This PoM allows the council to grant 'an estate' over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities and provision of services, or connections for premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the council or public utility provider on the community land in accordance with the LG Act.

Action plan

Section 36 of the LG Act requires that a PoM for community land details:

objectives and performance targets for the land
the means by which the council proposes to achieve these objectives and performance targets
the manner in which the council proposes to assess its performance in achieving the objectives and performance targets.

Table 4 sets out these requirements for community land categorised as General Community Use included in this PoM.

Table 4: Objectives and performance targets, means of achieving them and assessing achievement for community land categorised as General Community Use

Management Action	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of achievement of objectives	Manner of assessment of performance
Create vibrant and diverse experiences	Develop inspiring and enriching audience engagement through dynamic and varied exhibitions, programmes and events. Develop programs and visitor experiences that are focused on diverse and broad representation and that value access and equity. Engage with and develop community arts skills through creative workshops and education programs to promote social, emotional and physical wellbeing.	Enact the recommendations from the Marketing Plan 2024-2026 Adoption of 2025-2030 Cultural plan to align cultural engagement and development goals to facility.	Marketing Success Metrics from the Marketing Plan Visitation and engagement goals set for each specific project and initiative.

Management Action	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of achievement of objectives	Manner of assessment of performance
Respect cultural heritage	Develop, renew and maintain a unique collection of collection material that reflects and engages the community. Explore local heritage to provide interesting and unique educational experiences, such as historical enquiry exhibitions	Seek appropriate funding and grants for project delivery.	New experiences provided.
Strive for environmental sustainability	Continue to use and promote renewable energy. Conduct periodic environmental audits to ensure efficiency and continued improvements where possible.	Develop a masterplan for the entire site with an environmentally sustainable focus	Implementation of the masterplan
Enhance community health	Continue to raise awareness around cultural role in addressing social isolation, community aging, wellness and connection. Continue to offer a varied platform of educational experiences for self-guided and organised visitation.	Enact the recommendations from the Marketing Plan 2024-2026 Adoption of 2025-2030 Cultural plan to align cultural engagement and development goals to facility.	Marketing Success Metrics from the Marketing Plan Visitation and engagement goals set for each specific project and initiative.

Management Action	Objectives and Performance Targets	Means of achievement of objectives	Manner of assessment of performance
Improve financial sustainability - Unclear room hiring policy	Ensure transparency and accountability for stakeholders in all facets of management. Ensure consistency of room hiring	Develop a strategic plan Develop a Venue Hire and Leasing Policy which is clear about which rates apply to which organisations and ensures the cost structure is relative to other businesses.	Implement a strategic plan Implement a Venue Hire and Leasing Policy and ensure it's adhered to. Communicate policy to the community .
Improve financial sustainability - Inadequate storage	Provide modern well-equipped venues for clients, with a focus on flexibility and service. Ensure sufficient storage for WPCC property	Develop a masterplan for the entire site considering expansion of existing buildings to accommodate additional storage	Implementation of the master-plan
Improve financial sustainability - Inadequate toilet facilities	Provide modern well-equipped venues for clients, with a focus on flexibility and service. Expansion of male toilet facilities Inclusion of a seat in the ambulant/baby changing facility	Expansion of toilet facilities via a site wide masterplan	Implementation of the master-plan
Other - Encroachment onto neighbouring lot	Ensure WPCC assets are within its boundary	Negotiate with the owner of the neighbouring lot	Encroachment resolved

APPENDICES

Appendix A1 – Plan of Management Legislative Framework

The primary legislation that impacts on how community land is managed or used is briefly described below. You can find further information regarding these acts at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au.

Local Government Act 1993

Section 35 of the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act) provides that community land can only be used in accordance with:

- the plan of management applying to that area of community land, and
- any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land, and
- the provisions of Division 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act.

Section 36 of the Act provides that a plan of management for community land must identify the following:

- a. the category of the land,
- b. the objectives and performance targets of the plan with respect to the land,
- c. the means by which the council proposes to achieve the plan's objectives and performance targets,
- d. the manner in which the council proposes to assess its performance with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets,

and may require the prior approval of the council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

A plan of management that applies to just one area of community land:

- a. must include a description of:
 - i. the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management, and
 - ii. the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and
- b. must:
 - i. specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used, and
 - ii. specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise, and
 - iii. describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Land is to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- a. a natural area
- b. a sportsground
- c. a park
- d. an area of cultural significance



- e. general community use.

Land that is categorised as a natural area is to be further categorised as one or more of the following:

- a. bushland
- b. wetland
- c. escarpment
- d. watercourse
- e. foreshore
- f. a category prescribed by the regulations.

Additionally, under section 36 of the LG Act, a site-specific PoM must be made for land declared:

- as critical habitat, or directly affected by a threat abatement plan or a recovery plan under threatened species laws (sections 36A(2) and 36B(3))
- by council to contain significant natural features (section 36C(2))
- by council to be of cultural significance (section 36D(2)).

Classification of public land

The LG Act requires classification of public land into either 'community' or 'operational' land (Section 26). The classification is generally made for council-owned public land by the council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or in some circumstances by a resolution of the council (Section 27).

Crown reserves managed by council as Crown land manager have been classified as community land upon commencement of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act). Councils may manage these Crown reserves as operational land if written consent is obtained from the Minister administering the CLM Act.

Classification of land has a direct effect on the council's ability to dispose of or alienate land by sale, leasing, licensing or some other means. Under the LG Act, community land must not be sold (except for scheduled purposes), exchanged or otherwise disposed of by the council, and the land must be used and managed in accordance with an adopted PoM. In addition, community land is subject to strict controls relating to leases and licences (sections 45 and 46) of the LG Act.

By comparison, no such restrictions apply to operational land that is owned by councils. For example, operational land can be sold, disposed, exchanged or leased including exclusive use over the land, unencumbered by the requirements which control the use and management of community land. Crown reserves managed by council as operational land may generally be dealt with as other operational land but may not be sold or otherwise disposed of without the written consent of the Minister administering the CLM Act.

Operational land would usually include land held as a temporary asset or an investment, land which facilitates the council carrying out its functions or land which may not be open to the general public (for example, a works depot).

The classification or reclassification of council-owned public land will generally be achieved by a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or by a resolution of council in

accordance with sections 31, 32 and 33 of the LG Act. If land is not classified by resolution within a three-month period from acquisition it automatically becomes community land, regardless of whether it satisfies the objectives for community land as outlined in the LG Act.

For Crown land, Council cannot reclassify community land as operational land without consent of the Minister administering the CLM Act.

Council plans and policies relating to this plan of management

Council has developed plans and policies that are concerned to some extent with the management of community land. These documents have been considered when preparing this PoM.

The following is a list of documents that have a direct association with this PoM:

- DRC 2040 Community Strategic Plan
- DRC Resourcing Strategy
- DRC Delivery Program
- DRC Operational Plan
- DRC Informing Strategies

Other state and Commonwealth legislation

NSW state legislation

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act) provides the framework for planning and development across NSW and guides environmental planning instruments which provide a basis for development control.

The EP&A Act ensures that effects on the natural environment, along with social and economic factors, are considered by the council when granting approval for or undertaking works, developments or activities.

This Act is also the enabling legislation for planning policies which may have a direct influence on open space management. On a state-wide level there are State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). On a regional level there are Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). On a local level there are Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) as well as Development Control Plans (DCPs).

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Statutory responsibilities on the council arising from this Act specifically relate to the protection of sites of pre- and post-European contact archaeological significance. This Act may affect community land categorised as cultural significance, natural area or park.



Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Note: This Act repealed several pieces of legislation including the *Native Vegetation Act 2003*, *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*, the *Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001*, and the animal and plant provisions of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

This Act covers conservation of threatened species, populations and ecological communities, the protection of native flora and fauna. This Act primarily relates to community land categorised as natural area. However, other categories may also be affected.

The Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 has been repealed and superseded by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. However, references to the former legislation remain in the LG Act and are therefore retained in this guideline.

DPIE's Energy, Environment and Science division advises that recovery plans and threat abatement plans made under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 were repealed on the commencement of the Biodiversity Conservation Act in 2017. These plans have not been preserved by any savings and transitional arrangement under the Biodiversity Conservation Act or LG Act, meaning pre-existing plans have no legal effect.

For this reason, requirements relating to recovery plans and threat abatement plans for local councils preparing plans of management under section 36B of the LG Act are now redundant. Councils will be advised if future amendments are made to the LG Act to enable these mechanisms.

Certain weeds are also declared noxious under this Act, which prescribes categories to which the weeds are assigned, and these control categories identify the course of action which needs to be carried out on the weeds. A weed may be declared noxious in part or all of the state.

Rural Fires Act 1997

This Act contains provisions for bushfire risk management and the establishment of a Bushfire Management Committee. It also includes direction on development in bushfire prone lands.

Water Management Act 2000

This Act is based on the concept of ecologically sustainable development, and its objective is to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources of the state for the benefit of both present and future generations. The Act recognises:

- the fundamental health of our rivers and groundwater systems and associated wetlands, floodplains, estuaries has to be protected
- the management of water must be integrated with other natural resources such as vegetation, native fauna, soils and land

- to be properly effective, water management must be a shared responsibility between the government and the community
- water management decisions must involve consideration of environmental, social, economic, cultural and heritage aspects
- social and economic benefits to the state will result from the sustainable and efficient use of water.

Heritage Act 1977

This Act contains provisions for the conservation of items of heritage and may relate to community land categorised as cultural significance or natural area.

Commonwealth legislation

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Management Act 1999

This Act enables the Australian Government to join with the states and territories in providing a national scheme of environment and heritage protection and biodiversity conservation. It incorporates threatened species on a national level and with relevance to Matters of National Environmental Significance.

Telecommunications Act 1997

This Act provides for telecommunication facilities being permitted on community land without authorisation in a PoM.

State Environmental Planning Policies

State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007

This planning policy lists development allowed with consent or without consent on community land.

State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017

This policy deals with clearing of native vegetation in urban areas and land zoned for environmental protection.

Other relevant legislation, policies and plans

Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

Biosecurity Act 2015

Companion Animals Act 1998

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Management Act 1999 (Cth)

Local Land Services Act 2013



Operations Act 1997
Pesticides Act 1999
Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
Retail Leases Act 1994
Rural Fires Act 1997
Soil Conservation Act 1938
Telecommunications Act 1997 (Cth)
NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015
NSW Biodiversity Strategy
Australian Natural Heritage Charter



Appendix A2 – References

- Western Plains Cultural Centre Marketing Plan 2024–2026, Hipscotch, 2024
- 2025–2035 Victoria Park Precinct Plan of Management, DRC, 2025





REPORT: Management Policy - Homeless People in Public Places

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 29 September 2025
TRIM REFERENCE: ID25/1948

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	Seek endorsement	
Issue	This proposed policy aims to guide staff and stakeholders in managing homelessness on Council managed lands with consistency, dignity, and operational clarity.	
Reasoning	- This policy contributes to Resolution CCL25/66. - It aligns with the 2025–2029 Community Safety Crime Prevention Plan, specifically Action 1.13: <i>“Develop a protocol for responding to homelessness and antisocial behaviour in spaces and places owned by Council.”</i> - Council-owned spaces such as parks, libraries, visitor centres, and public amenities are increasingly being used by individuals experiencing homelessness. Staff have reported uncertainty in how to respond appropriately, especially in situations involving extended occupancy, personal safety concerns, or potential damage to facilities. - The absence of a formal policy has led to inconsistent responses and reliance on ad hoc decisions, which may unintentionally escalate situations or overlook opportunities for support and referral.	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	No specific budget allocation at this stage.
	Funding Source	Various operational budgets
	Proposed Cost	There is no cost generated from this Management Policy. However, the cost of responding to camps has an impact to operational budgets.
	Ongoing Costs	- Green Space Operations clean-up (internal staff and external contractors). - Recreation and Open Space maintenance for damage related to unauthorised encampments. - Potential training costs for frontline staff in trauma-informed response and referral pathways.
Policy Implications	Policy Title	No policy
	Impact on Policy	No policy impacts
Consultation	Community Services	Internal and external

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 four principal themes and a number of objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme:	2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective:	2.4 People feel safe, respected and empowered to authentically express their identity.
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.4.2 Identify and address social service requirements to support vulnerable community members.
Theme:	2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective:	2.7 We deliver services and enforce regulations fairly and responsibly to protect health, safety, and community standards.
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.7.1 Enhance community safety and crime prevention efforts to create a secure and welcoming environment.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the Homelessness in Public Spaces Management Policy to guide staff responses to individuals experiencing homelessness on Council-owned spaces.

Craig Arms
Director Community, Culture and Places

CM
Youth Development
Officer

BACKGROUND

Homelessness has become a prominent concern for councils across New South Wales. A range of existing policies and strategic government frameworks recognise the issue and outline commitments to delivering meaningful outcomes. Two important documents influencing Dubbo Regional Council are:

Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places

Released in June 2022, the Protocol ensures that people experiencing homelessness in public spaces are treated with respect, dignity, and without discrimination.

It provides a framework for government and non-government organisations to interact appropriately with homeless individuals—only engaging when assistance is requested, or when health, safety, or wellbeing is at risk.

The Protocol does not override laws or regulations, but encourages empathetic, trauma-informed, and culturally sensitive responses when engagement is necessary.

It is a key element of NSW's broader approach to homelessness, aiming to connect people with services when needed, while recognising their right to occupy public spaces without harassment.

The NSW Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places has direct implications for how local councils approach homelessness in public spaces:

Council Responsibilities Under the Protocol include:

- **Respectful Engagement:** Council staff, including rangers and community officers, are expected to treat homeless individuals with dignity and avoid unnecessary interference unless there's a clear risk to health, safety, or wellbeing.
- **Non-Displacement Approach:** The Protocol discourages moving people on simply because they are homeless. Instead, councils should focus on connecting individuals to support services, not enforcing relocation.
- **Collaborative Response:** Councils are encouraged to work with housing providers, health services, and NGOs to ensure a coordinated and compassionate response.
- **Policy Alignment:** If a council develops its own homelessness policy or protocol (which Dubbo currently lacks), it should align with the principles of the NSW Protocol—especially around trauma-informed practice and cultural sensitivity.

Homelessness Strategy 2025–2035

In August 2025, the NSW Government unveiled its Homelessness Strategy 2025–2035—a comprehensive, whole-of-government plan designed to make homelessness in New South Wales rare, brief, and non-recurrent. The strategy prioritises access to safe, secure housing and the necessary supports to maintain it. Headed by Homes NSW, the initiative marks a shift

from reactive crisis responses to proactive measures focused on prevention, early intervention, and sustainable housing solutions.

With rising visibility of homelessness in public areas, Dubbo Regional Council has an opportunity to formalise its approach in a way that reflects best practice and state-level guidance.

Guided by the Homelessness Strategy and adopting the Protocol’s principles can help Council build trust with vulnerable communities, reduce conflict in public spaces, and ensure staff are supported with clear guidelines.

Previous Resolutions of Council

Ordinary Council Meeting 25 March 2025 CCL25/66	<i>In part Point 1: That through the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Reference Group, the CEO work with agencies and Non-Government Organisations, including Councillor representation to consider the current homeless challenges in our community and develop innovative options to address the level of homelessness in the LGA and particularly rough sleepers on the central Dubbo and river corridor area.</i>
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REPORT

In March 2025, Dubbo Regional Council formally endorsed its Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan (CSCPP). As part of this plan, Action 1.13 calls for the development of a protocol to guide responses to homelessness and antisocial behaviour in Council-owned spaces.

Under this action, Council assumes a leadership role—identifying key community safety issues and facilitating stakeholder responses. It is important to clarify that Dubbo Regional Council is not a health or welfare provider. Its role is centred on managing public spaces and collaborating with relevant government and non-government agencies to support individuals experiencing homelessness or sleeping rough within those areas.

Prior to the introduction of a formal homelessness protocol, there was no unified workflow or designated team responsible for coordinating responses to homelessness on Council-managed land. Over the past year alone, the Manager of Community Services has handled 912 homelessness-related correspondence, highlighting the growing demand for a structured approach. Council’s response currently spans multiple divisions and affects various budgets—none of which have dedicated funding for homelessness-related matters.

To address this gap, the Homelessness Management Policy has been developed to provide clear guidance for a coordinated Council response to reports of homelessness, rough sleeping, or visible vulnerability in and around Council-owned land and buildings.

Scope of the Policy

The policy applies to public spaces such as parks and outdoor areas—any location accessible to the public. It does not extend to private property or areas that are not publicly accessible.

This policy does not override existing laws or regulations, nor does it interfere with their enforcement. It also does not prevent other agencies from taking appropriate action where health or safety is at risk.

Homeless Management Group (HMG)

To implement the policy, the Management Policy has established a *Homeless Management Group* (HMG). Led by the Manager of Community Services, the group includes:

- Community Development Officer
- Youth Development Officer
- Aboriginal Liaison Officer

The HMG will coordinate responses across Council divisions—including the Environmental Compliance Team, Asset Owners, and the Customer Experience Team—and work collaboratively with external service providers to ensure consistent and compassionate support.

Protocol Workflow

Reports of illegal camping or occupation on Council-managed land, whether from staff or the public, are logged as Customer Requests and directed to the Environmental Compliance Team (ECT) for inspection. If identified as recreational camping, ECT retains responsibility. If the situation involves homelessness or vulnerability, it is referred to the Homeless Management Group (HMG) for further action.

Homeless Response Evaluation

The Management Policy introduces a scoring system to assess camps based on their impact to public spaces. Camps that obstruct access, intimidate others, or appear disorderly receive higher scores, triggering a more urgent response.

The HMG evaluates the individuals involved and categorises the situation as Tier 1 or Tier 2, guiding the level of response. All cases involve Orana Support Services (OSS), whose role is to engage individuals and connect them with Housing Pathways (Homes NSW). OSS can also arrange temporary accommodation. If the person is aged 24 or under, Doorways Uniting is contacted for youth-specific support.

Council staff may involve NSW Police if individuals are threatening, obstructing public access, or committing offences.

A recent high-profile camp near Sandy Beach amenities prompted multiple complaints. It was assessed as a Tier 2 camp and a trial of the response structure was commenced. Council, OSS, contractors, and Police worked together to respectfully disengage power access and support the individual to alternative accommodation—without requiring formal Police orders. The site was later cleaned and restored.

Consultation

Over the past 12–18 months, Council has engaged in regular external meetings with key stakeholders (Orana Support Services, Homes NSW, Police) and ongoing internal coordination across relevant divisions. Each homelessness case has required a tailored response, reflecting the complex individual circumstances involved. Council has also addressed numerous concerns from community members and businesses and drawn insights from the Community Safety & Crime Prevention Plan consultation and the March 2025 Community Insights Survey.

Resourcing Implications

The new Management Policy has been developed entirely in-house, utilising existing staff resources.

Ongoing implementation and responses to homelessness in public spaces will be managed within the current budgets allocated to each respective branch of Council. Alternatively, dedicated funding may be proposed for Community Services in future budgets to enhance response efforts, facilitate site clean-ups, and support public education initiatives.

The Manager of Greenspace Operations has estimated the cost of responding to homeless encampments during the 24/25 financial year—primarily through clean-up activities—at approximately \$44,000.

APPENDICES:

1 [↕](#) Draft - Management Policy - Homeless People in Public Places

A large, abstract graphic consisting of two overlapping circles. The left circle is a light blue-grey, and the right circle is a darker blue-grey. The intersection of the two circles is a solid dark blue. The text is positioned to the left of the intersection.

Management Policy

Homeless People in Public Places

ED25/174246

Document Overview

Document Category	Council Policy
Policy Title	Homeless People in Public
Policy Statement	This Management Policy provides guidance to all Dubbo Regional Council Divisions on how to appropriately and respectfully engage with individuals experiencing homelessness in public spaces that are owned or managed by the Council.
Date	10 September 2025
Resolution Date	TBC
Clause Number	TBC
Accountable Position	Director Community Culture and Places
Responsible Position	Manager Community Services
Branch	Community Services
Division	Community Culture and Places
CM Reference Number	ED25/174246
Version	1.0
Review Period	Standard 3 years, or with change in legalisation
Review Date	Calculated date from the adopted date
Consultation	For ELT endorsement
Document Revision History	Date

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Purpose

This Management Policy provides guidance to all Dubbo Regional Council Divisions on how to appropriately and respectfully engage with individuals experiencing homelessness in public spaces that are owned or managed by the Council.

Related Information

NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025 - 2035

The NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025–2035 is a whole-of-government initiative aimed at making homelessness in New South Wales rare, brief, and non-repeating by ensuring people have access to safe housing and the support needed to sustain it. Led by Homes NSW, the strategy shifts the focus from reactive crisis management to proactive prevention, early intervention, and long-term housing outcomes. It was developed in collaboration with housing and homelessness services, Aboriginal organisations, and individuals with lived experience, and includes reforms such as embedding the Housing First approach, establishing a statewide Street Sleeping Registry, and strengthening local service coordination. The strategy sets a clear blueprint for systemic reform, guiding investment, policy, and service delivery over the next decade.

Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places June 2022

The Protocol for Homeless People in Public Places (June 2022) is a commitment by the NSW Government and its partners to ensure that individuals experiencing homelessness are treated with dignity, respect, and without discrimination when in public spaces. It provides clear guidance for government agencies, non-government organisations, and businesses on how to engage with homeless individuals in a supportive, trauma-informed, and culturally sensitive manner. The protocol emphasizes that homelessness does not diminish a person's right to occupy public places and outlines appropriate circumstances for intervention—such as when a person requests help, appears distressed, or poses a risk to themselves or others—while reinforcing that any engagement must be empathetic and non-coercive.

2022 Housing and Mental Health Agreement

The 2022 Housing and Mental Health Agreement (HMHA 2022) is a strategic partnership between NSW Health and the Department of Communities and Justice, designed to improve outcomes for people living with mental health conditions by ensuring timely access to safe, secure, and appropriate housing alongside essential mental health supports. Recognising the deep interconnection between stable housing and mental wellbeing, the agreement aims to strengthen cross-agency collaboration, embed trauma-informed and recovery-oriented practices, and establish accountable governance structures across state, regional, and local levels. Its overarching goal is to enable individuals to live well in their communities and sustain their recovery through integrated, person-centred services.

Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Guidelines

The Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Guidelines, introduced alongside the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021, aim to support councils and other authorities in managing unattended items and animals in public areas across New South Wales. Their core intent is to maintain the safety, accessibility, and amenity of shared spaces by providing clear, consistent procedures for identifying, handling, and disposing of property left unattended. The guidelines encourage proactive, collaborative approaches that balance enforcement with community engagement, ensuring actions taken are lawful, proportionate, and respectful of individual circumstances.

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The new laws put the onus on owners and other responsible persons to be accountable for their items or animals or face strong regulatory action. Authorised officers can instead simply move an unattended item to a safer location if it poses an access or safety risk (section 27 of the Act).

Taylor Fry Pathways to Homelessness Report 2021

An analysis commissioned by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice. It dives deep into the government services people use before, during, and after experiencing homelessness, with the goal of improving prevention and early intervention strategies.

Related Legislation

Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2024 Regulates how property in public spaces is managed. Allows removal of unattended items posing safety/access risks, with conditions.

NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025–2035 *(Draft)* Framework to reduce and prevent homelessness in NSW. Aligns local actions with State-wide goals and systems.

Housing and Mental Health Agreement 2022 Supports people with mental health needs at risk of homelessness. Promotes collaborative referrals with health and housing services.

Local Government Act 1993 Governs council management of public land and services. Provides authority to act in public interest on Council land.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 Protects animal welfare. Council must refer animal concerns; cannot remove animals without authority.

Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 Child protection legislation. Staff must report concerns for minors who appear homeless or at risk.

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 Ensures safe work environments. Informs staff safety procedures and hazard reporting. Privacy

Personal Information Protection Act 1998 Protects individual privacy. Requires sensitive handling of personal information.

Scope

This Management Policy (The Policy) is to provide guidelines for all Dubbo Regional Council staff, contractors and volunteers to follow when responding to homelessness or persons sleeping rough (or exhibiting vulnerability) within and around Council owned land and buildings.

The Policy applies to public places such as parks and outdoor spaces which are accessible to the public. This may also include cars parked in public places such as on-street parking. It does not apply to private property, or property which is not accessible to the public.

The Policy does not override existing laws or regulations, or the enforcement of those laws or regulations. It does not prevent government or non-government organisations from taking appropriate action where health or safety is at risk.

Policy

Dubbo Regional Council is not a health or welfare provider. Its role is limited to managing public spaces and responding to individuals sleeping rough within those areas.

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This Policy is guided by principles that uphold the rights of people experiencing homelessness, including the right to occupy public spaces, manage belongings, participate in community life, and choose whether to accept support. It promotes respectful, trauma-informed, person-centred, and harm-reduction approaches.

The 2021 *Taylor Fry Pathways to Homelessness Report* identifies rough sleepers as highly vulnerable, with extensive interactions across homelessness, health, welfare, and justice systems.

Definitions

- **Rough sleepers:** No shelter or living in unsafe dwellings.
- **Homeless:** Temporarily housed or couch surfing without tenure.
- **At risk:** Living in social, private, or institutional housing with insecure tenure.

When to Engage

Staff should only approach individuals if:

- Assistance is requested.
- The person appears distressed or unsafe.
- Their behaviour poses a risk to themselves, others, property, or cultural heritage.
- They are sheltering in unsafe areas (e.g. during extreme weather).
- They are under 18 and at risk, especially if in care.
- Engagement is for sharing information.

All interactions must be empathetic, culturally appropriate, and trauma informed. If no risk or breach is present, staff must respect the person's choice not to engage.

Council is affected by homelessness in public spaces and must follow the NSW Homelessness Protocol. Homelessness is not a crime, and belongings cannot be removed without confirming habitation status (this is completed through the Homeless Management Group workflow, Page 6)

Procedure

When reports of illegal camping or occupation of a council owned asset or space are received from the public or staff, a Customer Request will be lodged and reference number generated. The initial report will be actioned to the Environmental Compliance Team to review the details and inspect the site.

Companion Animals

Many rough sleepers have companion animals essential to their wellbeing. Staff must engage respectfully and legally:

- Do not touch, feed, or remove animals without consent unless there's an immediate risk.
- Report concerns to Environmental Compliance, RSPCA NSW, or Council rangers.
- Coordinate cleaning to minimise animal stress.
- Include animals in risk assessments and referrals.
- Report neglect or threats to appropriate authorities.
- In emergencies, contact Police (000).

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When reports of illegal camping or occupation of a council owned asset or space are received

If the inspection results in rough sleepers / homeless / at risk persons being identified, the Environmental Compliance Team will create a referral within the request to the homeless management group.

To ensure a consistent and coordinated approach, the Community Services Manager serves as the designated 'Corporate Owner' overseeing Council's response to situations involving people experiencing homelessness / rough sleeping / or at risk on land managed by Dubbo Regional Council. This role involves collaborating with relevant internal teams and external partners to facilitate a professional and respectful response. Supported by Community Services staff, this collective is known as the 'Homeless Management Group' reporting to the Director Community, Culture and Places (refer to figure 1).



Figure 2 (below) outlines the potential response through the Customer Request system dependent on the circumstances.

When reports of illegal camping or occupation of a council owned asset or space are received from the public or staff, a Customer Request will be lodged and reference number generated. The initial report will be actioned to the Environmental Compliance Team to review the details and inspect the site.

If the inspection results in rough sleepers / homeless / at risk persons being identified, the Environmental Compliance Team will create a referral within the request to the homeless management group.

The Manager Community Service as the delegated policy owner of the homeless management group is responsible for the overseeing and delegation of tasks for Council's Response.

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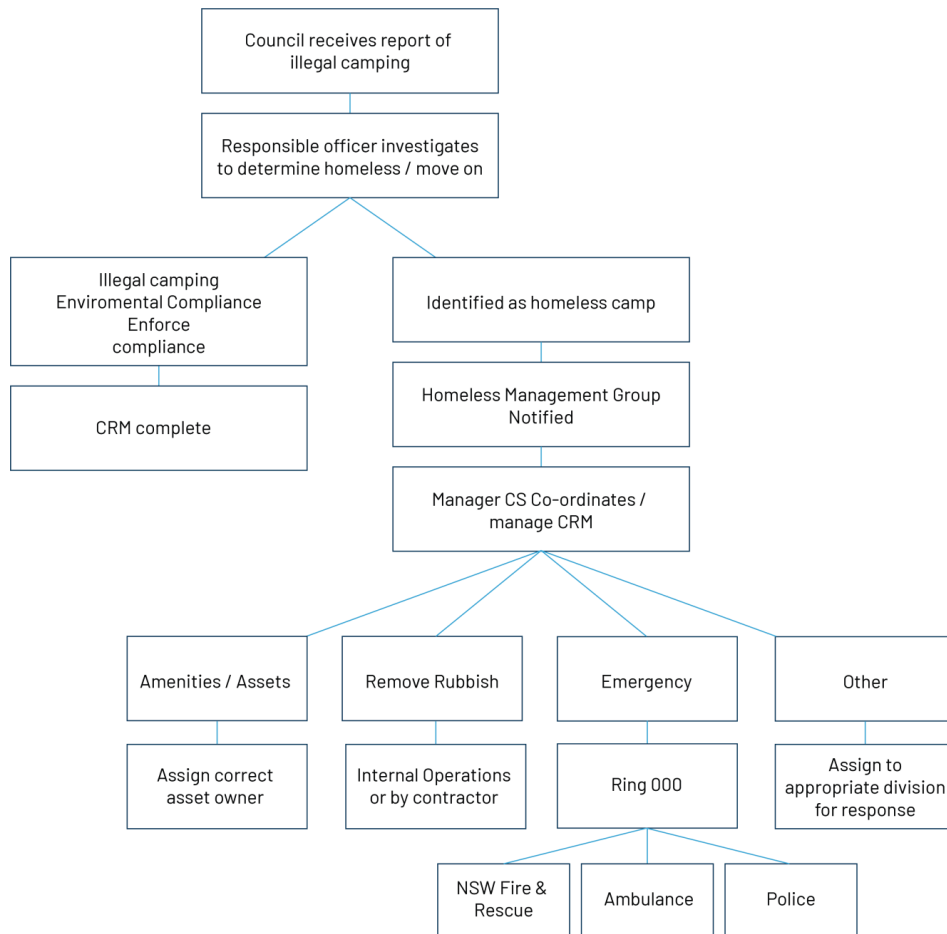


Figure 2

An identified rough sleeping/ homeless / at risk issue will trigger the Manager Community Services or a member of the Homeless Management group to coordinate with Orana Support Services who are the Government funded service agency for Homelessness in Dubbo, Wellington and Narromine for all people 24 years and older. For individuals younger than 24 years old, 'Uniting' is the Government funded service agency.

Councils Homeless Management group will work through required responses according to the issues highlighted in the Tier 1 and Tier 2 evaluation of people presenting as homeless.

If the individual(s) in question are in immediate harm or there are safety concerns for Council staff or members of public, the Police will be called **immediately on '000'**.

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For cleaning, items may be respectfully moved with clear signage. If someone is obstructing access to a facility, staff should contact the Homeless Management group who will connect with OSS or Police (000) if necessary. Campsite removal requires coordination with services and divisional approval.

Homeless Response Evaluation

The Homeless Management Group will assess the person(s) involved to gauge the appropriate response to the circumstance. The assessment will seek to categorise the circumstance as either a Tier 1 or Tier 2 situation. The assessment template can be found in Appendices 1.

Assessment Tier	Characteristics	General Action
1	Passive presence, clean site, limited impact to normal use of the public land, respectful contact with passers-by.	Accepted under specific conditions and in collaboration with DRC staff and service providers, though with a clear intention to transition elsewhere. No fixed timeline has been established for this move.
2	Disruptive presence. Untidy site, collection of waste and other materials, demonstrated impact with the normal use of the public land, unwelcome contact with passers-by.	Initiate a proactive and structured intervention to relocate the site to a more appropriate location or accommodation within a defined time frame.

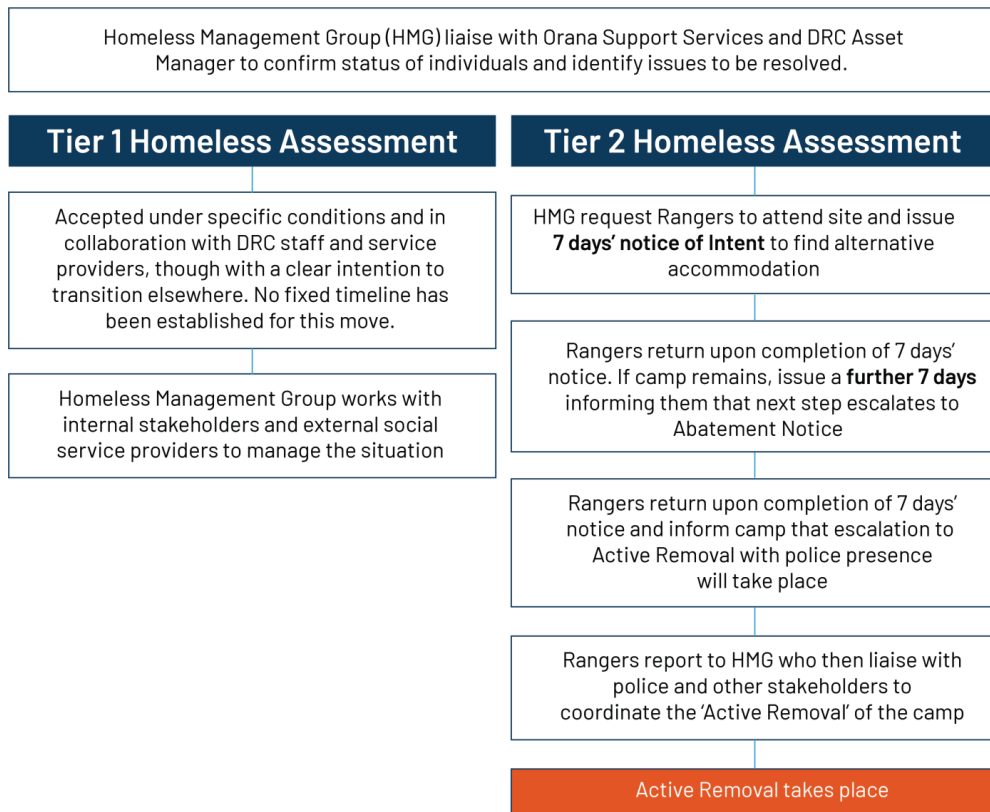
Action will always involve social workers from Orana Support Services (OSS) whose primary goal is to engage with the individuals and connect them with the Housing Pathways (Home NSW). Temporary accommodation can be sort through OSS.

Doorways Uniting will be contacted by OSS if the individual is 24 years or younger.

Council staff will also engage Police if the individuals are intimidating/threatening, blocking use of a public area or building or committing a crime.

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Outline of Tier 1 and Tier 2 response workflow



Responsibilities

Position	Responsibility
Manager Community Services	Coordinates Council's response to rough sleepers/ homeless/ at risk situations involving land managed by Dubbo Regional Council
Homeless Management Group	Supports the Manager Community Services in coordinating response to homeless situations as above. The group is headed by Manager Community Services and is composed of Community Development Officer, Youth Development Officer and Aboriginal Liaison Officer.
Environmental Compliance/Rangers	Compliance matters under the Local Government Act and other related legislation.
Asset Owners	Management of the built and/or natural asset being occupied by the homeless situation. Support the Homeless Management Group by providing asset management and user information.
Customer Experience	Receive reports from public or internal stakeholders and lodge customer requests in Council's Customer Request Management system

Definitions

To assist in interpretation, the following definitions apply:

Term	Definition
Homelessness	A person or persons experiencing housing and accommodation crisis. This can be short or long term. Evidenced by; sleeping rough, sleeping in vehicle, transient movements, living with others.
Lead agency	Department of Communities and Justice
Government Funded Service Agency	Orana Support Services
Operational presence	There are many State agencies and services who have a service or can assist people experiencing homelessness. Below is a list which Council can directly refer to: NSW Department of Communities and Justice Homes NSW NSW Police Force NSW Health/Mental Health NSW Transport for NSW
Sleeping rough	Are the most visible population experiencing homelessness. Sleeping outside with minimal protections or comforts; parks, reserves, public amenities, derelict buildings, streets, cars, railway stations, under bridges or structures

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Term	Definition
Companion animals	Any animal which resides with person/persons sleeping rough
Engagement	Face-to-face communication or meetings between homeless persons and agencies or services who provide support or services.
Public Place	A public place is a place that is open to or frequented by the public whether payment has been received for admission and whether it is usually open to the public. This may include a privately owned place which members of the public are permitted to access, including a shopping centre car park, a service station, a private gallery or museum or a thoroughfare.
Trauma	A traumatic event is defined as one where an individual is confronted with actual or threatened death, serious injury or sexual violation, or they are exposed to the death, injury or suffering of others. In the case of childhood trauma, this includes witnessing these events as they occur to others (especially primary caregivers) or learning that these events occurred to a parent or primary caregiver.
Unattended	'Powers under the PSUP framework are directly related to the concept of 'unattended' in relation to property. Unattended property means property not under the direct control or supervision of the responsible person. Authorised officers may only take possession of property if they reasonably believe it to be unattended. Depending on the circumstances, authorised officers must also give notice before taking possession of items.

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References

ED23/5724 Minutes and Collateral re Dubbo CBD Homelessness Roundtable.

HMHA 22, <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/Pages/housing-and-mental-health-agreement.aspx>;

[housing-and-mental-health-agreement-2022.pdf](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/mentalhealth/Pages/housing-and-mental-health-agreement-2022.pdf) (nsw.gov.au)

https://www.mindaustalia.org.au/sites/default/files/2023-05/Trauma_and_homelessness_initiative_service_framework.pdf

<https://www.launchhousing.org.au/explainer-rough-sleeping>

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/homelessness-services/sleeping-rough-profile-shs-clients/summary>

<https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/nsw-response-to-homelessness/new-nsw-homelessness-strategy-2024-2034#:~:text=The%20new%20Strategy%20and%20action,the%20support%20to%20keep%20it.Taken>

https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/842472/Pathways-to-homelessness-for-people-sleeping-rough-in-NSW-January-2023-Evidence-Brief.pdf

[Public Spaces \(Unattended Property\) Guidelines](#)

[NSW Homelessness Strategy 2025-2035 | NSW Government](#)

Local Agencies

Orana Support Service

9 – 11 White Street, Dubbo

Ph: 1800 353 199

Homes NSW

Senior Client Service Officer (Specialist), Level 1, 130 Brisbane Street, Dubbo Ph: (02) 6885 7133

Ph: (02) 6885 7133

Police – Orana Mid-Western Police District

Dubbo Police Station, 143 Brisbane Street, Dubbo

Ph: (02) 68831599

Uniting – Doorways

2 Alfred St, Dubbo

Ph: (02) 68845254

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Appendix 1

HOMELESSNESS RESPONSE EVALUATION			
ITEM	Max. SCORE	SCORE	COMMENT
Altering/Impeding the use of the surrounding area	2		
Causing obstruction - passage of pedestrians or vehicular traffic	2		
Public Health issues	1		
Causing nuisance / risk to users of facility/amenities in a public place	2		
Damage to public property	3		
Illegal camping eg in a "No Camping" Area	1		
Discarded Needles/Syringes/drug litter	1		
Supplying or obtaining illegal drugs	2		
Rubbish/hoarding/hazardous items	1		
Personal goods and effects left on Council Land, public places or roads	1		
Anti-social behaviour - e.g. drug/alcohol use	2		
Consumption of alcohol in Alcohol Free Zones	2		
Indecent behaviour – e.g. defecating, spitting, offensive acts	2		
Illegal behaviour	3		
Abusive/Insulting behaviour	2		
Aggressive behaviour	3		

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ITEM	Max. SCORE	SCORE	COMMENT
Intimidating/threatening/harassing behaviour	2		
Display offensive, threatening or abusive words or symbols	1		
Is the person known to Council or community?	1		
Is the person actively engaging with Orana Support Services?	1		
Has the person moved from previous camp or site?	1		
Have the Police been called to this site?	2		
Have Rangers been engaged?	1		
TOTAL			
Tier 1 Response	0-9		
Tier 2 Response	10+		

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Document Control

Responsible Officer:	Manager Community Services
Division:	Community Culture and Places
Prepared by:	Manager Community Services
Version:	1
Revision:	3 Years
Document Date:	10 September 2025
Effective:	TBC

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REPORT: Submissions - Public Exhibition - Dubbo Region Events Strategy

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 24 September 2025
TRIM REFERENCE: ID25/1887

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	• Seek endorsement	
Issue	• This report informs Council of submissions received following public exhibition of the draft 2025-2030 Dubbo Region Events Strategy.	
Reasoning	• Strategy endorsement.	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Performing Arts and Events Operational Budget
	Funding Source	Destination Events Fund and Community Funding Program
	Proposed Cost	Subject to applications received under the
	Ongoing Costs	Destination Events Fund and Community Funding Program
Policy Implications	Policy Title	Financial Assistance Policy
	Impact on Policy	No policy implications
Consultation	Community	Broad and targeted communications supported the public exhibition period.

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 four principal themes and a number of objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme: 2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective: 2.3 Our community enjoys diverse sports, recreation, and social activities.
Delivery Program Strategy: 2.3.3 Increase opportunities for entertainment, recreation, and cultural activities for all ages.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That the Dubbo Region Events Strategy be adopted with the following amendment:
Focus Area 2: Action 3: Investigate the use of public and private space to support niche and major event activity.**
- 2. That the CEO write to each respondent thanking them for their submission and providing a copy of Annexure A.**

Craig Arms
Director Community, Culture and Places

LW
Events and Partnerships
Team Leader

BACKGROUND

At its August 2025 meeting, Council reviewed the draft Dubbo Region Events Strategy, designed to enhance transparency around Council’s involvement in supporting and attracting events. The strategy features an analysis of the 2024 events landscape, highlighting gaps and opportunities, and reflects community aspirations gathered through stakeholder engagement. It is supported by a five-year implementation plan, with progress to be tracked and reported annually through measurable actions and outcomes.

The Strategy has three focus areas:

Focus Area 1: Our local events industry is diverse, culturally rich and appealing

Through strategic advice, best-practice leadership and strong engagement we will help facilitate meaningful and impactful events that resonate broadly with the community.

Focus Area 2: Our community enjoys a strong and dynamic event ecosystem

We will forge robust connections and pathways for stakeholders to capitalise on and thrive from event activities. Through strategic marketing, we will amplify local and visiting audiences, driving sustained growth and engagement.

Focus Area 3: The Dubbo Region is a premier destination for major and large-scale events

We will actively champion the strategic expansion of local events and attract major large-scale events, thereby cultivating a diverse and balanced portfolio that ensures event dispersal throughout the Local Government Area.

Previous Resolutions of Council

26 August 2025	1. That Council endorse the 2025-2030 Dubbo Region Events Strategy for public exhibition for a minimum period of 28 days. 2. That the Chief Executive Officer provide a report detailing feedback received during the public exhibition period.
----------------	---

The draft strategy was placed on public exhibition between 27 August 2025 and 25 September 2025.

REPORT

Council communicated the opportunity to provide feedback into the draft 2025/2030 Dubbo Region Events Strategy as follows:

Broad communications – wider community

- 4 x What’s On E-blasts (database: 4,327 recipients)
- 2 x YourSay Eblasts (database: 274 recipients)
- 94 x radio mentions
- 1 x media release
- 1 x Economic Development Eblast (database: 4,447 recipients)

3 x advertisements in newspapers
3 x pop up events (New Residents Night, Centro Shopping Centre and Geurie Markets)

Targeted communications – event organisers

4 x emails to Dubbo Region Events Network (database: 186 recipients)
3 x posts on Dubbo Region events Network Facebook page (156 members)

Submissions received

Following the close of the public exhibition period on 25 September 2025, a total of five submissions were received. Each was carefully reviewed and considered in relation to the overarching strategy, with relevant points aligned to existing actions across the three key focus areas.

Focus Area 1

Action		No of questions/ Concerns
Action 1	Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.	16
Action 2	Develop an Event Permit Policy that outlines safety and compliance obligations for public events in public spaces	7
Action 4	Investigate ways in which Council can help facilitate the initiation of cultural events and support events that engage local creatives and our live music industry.	2
Action 6	Develop tactics and resources to help event organisers attract and retain volunteers	1
Action 7	Develop a business case for Council's consideration on staff delivering events that will achieve strategic outcomes.	2
Total		28

Focus Area 2

Action		No of questions/ concerns
Action 1	Investigate and implement additional ways to promote events to the local community	4
Action 3	Investigate the use of public space to support niche and major event activity	1
Total		5

Focus Area 3

Action		No of questions/ concerns
Action 1	Investigate ways in which Council can support the dispersal and growth of locally organised events throughout the LGA	2
Action 2	Investigate and report on the scope of Wellington becoming an adventure sports hub.	1
Action 4	Seek to attract a live entertainment event appealing to youth	1
Total		4

Some questions focused on how Council intends to measure and report on outcomes, while other matters raised fell outside the scope of the strategy.

Measuring progress and reference to page 37 of the strategy	2
Matters or questions outside the scope of the strategy. Where possible, these will be addressed directly with the respondent.	9

Given that many questions and concerns centred on the development of the Event Support Policy (Focus Area 1: Action 1), it is important to clarify its intent.

The Event Support Policy aims to establish clear guidelines around the level of assistance Council provides. This encompasses a wide array of support for local event organisers, along with strategies designed to attract externally managed events to the region.

The policy will outline Council's reasoning for providing support to both locally hosted and regionally attracted events, helping to promote transparency and strengthen community awareness.

An accompanying implementation plan will guide the policy's delivery, with Council providing annual reports detailing the actions undertaken to support events and the outcomes achieved.

Amendment to action

Staff have identified the need to amend one focus area:

Focus Area 2, Action 3:

Investigate the use of public space to support niche and major event activity.

Amend to:

Investigate the use of public *and private* space to support niche and major event activity.

Timeframe

Key Date	Explanation
29 October	2025-2030 Dubbo Region Events Strategy finalised.
29 October	Letter thanking each respondent and attaching a copy of Annexure A.

APPENDICES:

- 1 [↓](#) Annexure A: Submissions - 2025 - 2030 Draft Dubbo Region Events Strategy
- 2 [↓](#) Draft 2025-2030 Draft Dubbo Region Events Strategy

SUBMISSIONS

2025-2030 DUBBO REGION EVENTS STRATEGY

SUBMISSION 1: TIM HOSKING

1) Council as an event manager - Council runs several events throughout the year including a schedule of live performances at the theatre. The value of these events to the local community could be highlighted.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 7

Develop a business case for Council's consideration based on staff delivering events that will achieve strategic outcomes.

2) Council choosing not to run big events like other Councils: This is inconsistent with a range of other Councils who can access significant levels of grant funding that are unavailable to the general community. Gil, Forbes, Orange, Bathurst all have run their own big events and generated significant activity with it, opportunities for local artists. I would question why DRC couldn't host a big event per year given the experience event management staff and facilities DRC has access to.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 7

Develop a business case for Council's consideration based on staff delivering events that will achieve strategic outcomes.

3) Lack of audiences: This is a key challenge for smaller events that struggle with basic financial viability. A mix of changing young person habits (not drinking), disconnection from local artists and a failure of social media platforms making it impossible to get the word out. Event managers (often volunteers or small venues) have to take big financial risks to get their events done, this is only possible for a limited time. DRC helping with small event promotion does assist here. Underwriting some of the other financial risks could also really help - insurance? Staging? production costs? grants for media promotion packages?

Strategy references

Focus Area 1: Action1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Focus Area 2: Action1

Investigate and implement additional ways to promote events to the local community.

4) mid-sized venues. Dubbo has a shortage of good 200-500 person performance spaces in the CBD that bookable for events. The theatre is too expensive, unsuitable or unavailable for many of these, civic centre room is too bulky even with the shutters. We have some aging unmaintained venues (eg Wesley, RSL) and some rooms that aren't activated for some reason (eg Amaroo basement). This limits our ability to put on and attract shows. Could Council work with venue operators somehow?

Strategy reference with proposed amendment

Focus Area 2: Action 3:

Investigate the use of public space to support niche and major event activity.

Amend to:

Focus Area 2: Action 3:

Investigate the use of public *and private* space to support niche and major event activity.

SUBMISSION 2: SHARON QUILL

Hello Events Team, thank you, I really welcome this strategy and the strong vision it sets for our community. The commitments around safe, successful, and sustainable events are spot on. I would however love to see some of the “how” brought forward. Right now it feels like the actions come late and are a bit light.

my notes:

Wellington and villages - Great to see dispersal mentioned, but how will this actually happen? Could we introduce an “Out of Dubbo” grant category or a dedicated budget stream? Incentives for organisers to take events to villages and Wellington would make a real difference. Helping organisers connect and work with village committees to shape and support local events would be valuable.

Strategy references

Focus Area 3: Action 1:

Investigate ways in which Council can support the dispersal and growth of locally organised events throughout the LGA.

Focus Area 3: Action 2:

Investigate and report on the scope of Wellington becoming an adventure sports hub.

Accessibility - I noted it's mentioned but not actioned. To be honest, I haven't checked, but an accessibility checklist and incentives for things like interpreters and other accessibility support would show we're serious about inclusion.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Co-design and alignment - Co-design feels missing. For example, WPCC locks in programming 18–24 months ahead - why not create an annual notice or forum so community event organisers can align with that schedule / collaborate to enhance each other's events? A regional events forum bringing together council teams, venues, and organisers so we're not working in silos could be beneficial.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Tracking success - I feel like there's no clear way to measure if we're hitting the mark.

Strategy reference

Page 37.

Measuring progress.

Marketing - Is there a crossover strategy between council marketing, venues, and village teams? A centralised calendar and joint campaigns would be powerful - and if communicated at an overall event forum for the future programming imagine the opportunities...

Strategy reference

Focus Area 2: Action1

Investigate and implement additional ways to promote events to the local community.

Final thoughts: Overall I think the vision is great, but we need clearer pathways. Dedicated resourcing for villages, real measures for success, practical accessibility actions, co-design opportunities, and stronger cross-team collaboration inside and outside of council would make this strategy really sing.

SUBMISSION 3: ERIFILI DAVIS

As a practicing creative, President of CrACN, Vice-President of Wesley House Players, Secretary of Dubbo Filmmakers, and small business owner of Studio 138 (which runs the inspire&ignite program for young people and coordinates the Dubbo Regional Council-supported Black Box Creative Sessions at the Western Plains Cultural Centre), I welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Dubbo Region Events Strategy.

Overall Theme

The strategy has strong foundations, but to achieve a truly vibrant and balanced events portfolio, it needs to give arts and culture equal visibility alongside sport. Both sectors drive economic growth, tourism, and destination branding, while also enriching liveability and community pride. By broadening its measures of value, improving transparency, leveraging existing systems, and providing plain-English tools for organisers, Dubbo can foster an events landscape where sports, arts, and community celebrations complement each other, delivering a sustainable, diverse, and appealing calendar year-round.

Gaps & Risks Identified

- **Imbalance in Event Mix**
Arts forms such as theatre, screen, visual arts, and conferences are underrepresented compared with sport and live music.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Focus Area 1: Action 4:

Investigate ways in which Council can help facilitate the initiation of cultural events and support events that engage local creatives and our live music industry.

Page 11

First paragraph

'This strategy does not cover private events, conferences, regular gatherings or locally organised sporting events.'

- **Narrow Measures of Value**
Economic benefits of cultural events like DREAM Festival are not highlighted despite comparable visitation and spend to the sports events listed on page 25.

The Strategy is an analysis of the events landscape in 2024.

- Sustainability Risks
Volunteer fatigue and rising costs threaten both community arts and sports events.

Strategy references

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Focus Area 1: Action 6:

Develop tactics and resources to help event organisers attract and retain volunteers.

- Promotion & Audience Development
The Dubbo Region Events Calendar is underutilised, with visitors often unaware of evening cultural activities.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 2: Action 1:

Investigate and implement additional ways to promote events to the local community.

- Practical Barriers
Compliance processes and frameworks can be complex; grassroots organisers need plain-English tools and templates.

Strategy references

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Focus Area 1: Action 2:

Develop an Event Permit Policy that outlines safety and compliance obligations for public events in public spaces.

- Transparency & Equity
Event bidding costs and hosting fees require greater clarity to help community understand value for money.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Opportunities & Suggestions

- Broaden and Balance the Event Mix
Position Dubbo as a destination for both major sports and major arts events, and seed new arts-led events in underutilised months (Jan, Feb, July, Nov).

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

- Strengthen Measurement of Arts Impact
Include case studies of previous arts events (e.g., DREAM Festival) to show comparable tourism and spend outcomes.

The Strategy is an analysis of the events landscape in 2024.

- Support Long-Term Sustainability
Implement an Event Support Framework for all event types and introduce sponsor–organiser matchmaking or showcase opportunities, particularly for grassroots events.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

- Boost Promotion & Visibility
More actively market the Dubbo Region Events Calendar to accommodation providers, attractions, and business events.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 2: Action 1:

Investigate and implement additional ways to promote events to the local community.

- Make Support Practical & Accessible
Provide editable templates, guides, and targeted training sessions (although sometimes they add to volunteer fatigue).

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

- Build Transparency and Trust
Publish information on event bidding and hosting costs, alongside rationale for support decisions.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

SUBMISSION 4: KERRY PALMER

These are my views, and questions that arise:

Overall I became aware of the Draft at the recent new resident's night that ArtClub supported. Although I had participated in Council held event strategy workshops last year, as a businessperson, community group representative and volunteer, I received no direct communication about this Draft.

Curious that we are actively encouraged to attend workshops and provide feedback into the development of an Event Strategy (and have local people and volunteers deliver events) ... but when it comes to submitting feedback on the DRAFT Dubbo Regional Events Strategy – no such follow-up engagement opportunity is offered on either the outcomes or for obtaining robust submissions. This seems like a missed opportunity and may impact how many submissions Council receives.

This isn't as transparent or strategic a pathway as can be for Dubbo Regional Council to support local event organisers and assist in the growth and prosperity of our local events program.

An outline of how we communicated the public exhibition period:

Broad communications – wider community

4 x What's On Eblasts (database: 4,327 recipients)

2 x YourSay Eblasts (database: 274 recipients)

94 x radio mentions

1 x media release

1 x Economic Development Eblast (database: 4,447 recipients)

3 x advertisements in newspapers

3 x pop up events (New Residents Night, Centro Shopping Centre and Geurie Markets)

Targeted communications – event organisers (including respondent)

4 x Emails to Dubbo Region Events Network (database: 186 recipients)

3 x Posts on Dubbo Region events Network Facebook page (156 members)

The draft strategy seems wordy, aspirational and of no specific targeted goals to ultimately deliver impactful economic, social and cultural benefits. However, it does appear to establish Council priorities to support events and attraction initiatives.

Mass participation sports events appear to be 'bread & butter' events that are attracted due to high volume and quality of our sporting facilities, accommodation, strong transport links and visitor services. It seems Council finds stakeholder engagement and management resource intensive.

Strategy references

Focus Area 3: Action 1: Investigate ways in which Council can support the dispersal and growth of locally organised events throughout the LGA.

Focus Area 3: Action 4:
Seek to attract a live entertainment event appealing to youth.

There are no reporting requirements. How does this draft strategy serve to enhance the social and cultural fabric of the community and regional identity? (while also driving economic growth and tourism)

Strategy reference

Page 37.
Measuring progress.

All document images should be captioned and attributed appropriately.

Noted.

Opportunity

Dubbos event calendar lacks creativity with self-expression and individuality with touch points for people that are relevant and resonant and meaningful to deliver impactful social and cultural benefits. Community-led events focus on social capital, equity and local community needs...

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 4:
Investigate ways in which Council can help facilitate the initiation of cultural events and support events that engage local creatives and our live music industry.

Such as DREAM (Dubbo Regional Entertainment Arts Music) Festival established in 2010. Sadly, momentum is significantly lost, and this events future is uncertain, after Council took over the volunteer run event in 2020 and ran it for the first and last time in 2023. Council demonstrated it cannot sustainably manage or grow such large-scale events, indicating that it lacks the resources to continue running the festival and was seeking to hand it back to a volunteer organisation !

The Strategy is an analysis of the events landscape in 2024.

Does Council have capacity to provide best-practice management and ensuring events are safe, successful, and sustainable, to become a leader in activating the Strategy?

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Provide opportunities for council innovation and capacity building in tandem with community. The NSW State Governments Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Events Program (CEP) aimed to support economic stimulating activity (post pandemic) in events for regional NSW. Dubbo Regional Councils CEP funding spend in 2022 was \$280,000. with an 'event' that imported a pre-made product from Victoria ('Sky Castles' that was created for an event in that state) DRCs approach to this non-competitive, allocated funding opportunity was to take an entirely internal decision-making process without community consultation and choose an easy course of action to throw something together rather than maximising the potential benefits for our community.

How might Dubbo Regional Council have invested that funding into developing a product that was unique to this region AND supported several local small businesses, creatives or community groups in the process, thereby injecting direct economic stimulus locally? Event evaluation must not only be measured by increased economic activity, including direct benefits for local businesses and increased visitation in event and hospitality sectors.

Outside the scope of the strategy.

Page 25 - Events should not be seen as a cost centre, rather as a driver of economic, social and cultural impacts for the region. The benefits and value of events should be measured and these event impacts should ideally be communicated both internally and externally to showcase the value of events. Events Research Paper 2021

The table on this page 25 in the Draft Strategy reflects the economic impact only. So, How will the social and cultural benefits and values be measured? and communicated?

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Thought should also be given to what an event aims to deliver- for example; Will it improve community cohesion and sense of belonging ? OR Will it increase levels of community pride? What evaluation processes will Council employ to assess the effectiveness and efficiency relevant to the needs of Dubbo groups and its communities? What will this strategy deliver in terms of event development and enhancing regional identity?

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Does this Draft inform future improvements to event planning, design, initial stages of event implementation and delivery, administration, monitoring and evaluation? How will Council demonstrate that existing events are enhanced? How will the Event Strategy create different forms of community connection, including between local community members, between council staff, stakeholders, local businesses, artists, schools, community organisations and residents? (and visitors to the region)

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Villages I have a property in Geurie with potential to develop for visitor economy activity, however the property is currently impacted by damage from water runoff from the roadway. This issue and concern have not been adequately addressed by Council and impacts our plans. Can Council also address that long standing issue via this submission? ArtClub classes and events are designed for rich creative experiences. As small businesspeople and community volunteers we constantly seek collaboration to support and foster our initiatives. This draft suggests there is great intent to do so, which we look forward to. Councils Submission processes have rarely been an engaging, interactive activity. When frank & fearless feedback is sought, we are happy to provide, hopefully without prejudice. I'm prepared to elaborate on any of the above points if require.

Outside the scope of the strategy.

SUBMISSION 5: GERALDINE MCKAY

Introduction

Thank you for providing the opportunity to contribute to the Draft Events Strategy. This submission is presented on behalf of Dubbo Rotunda Market, coordinated by Better Markets Inc. The following outlines our key concerns and recommendations regarding the strategy, with particular focus on its application to local markets.

Recognition of Markets as Events

We strongly advocate for Dubbo Regional Council to formally recognise markets as events. Currently, Council staff have indicated that markets are not deemed events and, as such, are not eligible for event funding. This position appears inconsistent, especially considering that the Macquarie Food & Wine Inc.–run Dubbo Farmers Markets previously received \$20,000 in Council funding. We seek consistent treatment of all market events.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 1:

Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council’s strategic support to local and externally organised events.

Fair and Transparent Administration of Market Regulations

It is essential that the Council administers market regulations in a manner that is fair, even-handed, and transparent. At present, Dubbo Rotunda Market is the only market required to provide risk assessments from participants, based on feedback from stall holders in both Dubbo and Wellington. Furthermore, Dubbo Rotunda Market uniquely prohibits food sellers from permitting dogs on their stalls or in their food-carrying vehicles. We request that regulations be applied consistently across all markets.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 2:

Develop an Event Permit Policy that outlines safety and compliance obligations for public events in public spaces

Addressing Congestion Rules

We encourage Council to reconsider the restrictive rule requiring a 3-metre clearance past stalls on Dubbo’s main street. In comparison, successful markets in Tamworth, Darlinghurst, and North Sydney operate with much narrower access—often just one metre—while still accommodating crowds, patrons with disabilities, and pram pushers. The 3-metre rule, which is unique to Dubbo, unnecessarily restricts market activity.

Outside the scope of the strategy.

Advance Booking for Market Dates

Better Markets Inc. has experienced difficulties securing future dates for advertising in the Dubbo Regional Council tourist booklet. In contrast, Dubbo Farmers Market has its dates confirmed well in advance, allowing inclusion in promotional materials. We request that all markets are granted equal access to advance booking for event dates.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 2:

Develop an Event Permit Policy that outlines safety and compliance obligations for public events in public spaces

No Smoking Policy

We recommend the adoption of a mandatory no smoking policy for all events where food is offered within the precinct. This would align with NSW legislation implemented in June 2015

Outside the scope of the strategy.

Markets as Tourism Drawcards

Markets are significant drawcards for tourism. Better Markets Inc. invests in advertising across television, radio, and social media, not only within Dubbo and the western regions but also targeting areas such as the Hunter Valley and Western Sydney. These efforts are aimed at attracting visitors to Dubbo and encouraging longer stays in the area.

Community Engagement and Volunteer Contribution

The Dubbo Rotunda Market Facebook page has 8,764 followers and received over 95,000 views in the past month—numbers that are comparable to Dubbo Regional Council’s own social media reach. All activities are carried out by volunteers, with no paid employees, representing a substantial contribution to the social and economic fabric of Dubbo.

Victoria Park as a Preferred Venue

Victoria Park should remain a preferred venue for events and markets, offering a shaded and inviting environment for the community and stallholders. By comparison, Ollie Robbins Oval lacks shade, is exposed to extreme temperatures, and does not provide a safe or comfortable setting for market and event participants. Workplace safety must be prioritised. Victoria Park’s visibility to passing traffic and its proximity to public transport, including both regional and local bus and rail services, make it highly suitable for attracting day trippers to Dubbo. The public give highly positive feedback re markets in Victoria Park and they enjoy picnicking in the shade of the trees with food from the market.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 2:

Develop an Event Permit Policy that outlines safety and compliance obligations for public events in public spaces.

No. 1 Oval Car Park as Wet Weather Alternative

In the event of wet weather, when sporting activities are typically cancelled, the No. 1 Oval car park provides an obvious alternative venue to Victoria Park Red Drive (Memorial Drive event space).

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 2:

Develop an Event Permit Policy that outlines safety and compliance obligations for public events in public spaces.

Concerns Regarding Ollie Robbins Oval

Ollie Robbins Oval is not a suitable venue for markets and events. It lacks adequate amenities, presents an unappealing outlook over the back of buildings on Bligh Street, and suffers from both insufficient parking and unsafe pedestrian crossings over Bligh Street.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 2:

Develop an Event Permit Policy that outlines safety and compliance obligations for public events in public spaces.

Formal Permitting Process

We request that the Council issue formal permits in the form of documents that can be presented to Police, serving as official authority to conduct markets or events within defined precincts. There have been multiple occasions when Police attending incidents on Macquarie Street were not satisfied with the documentation provided by Council.

Strategy reference

Focus Area 1: Action 2:

Develop an Event Permit Policy that outlines safety and compliance obligations for public events in public spaces.

Training for Stall Holders

As market organisers, we provide training to our stall holders, covering topics from basic email writing to conducting risk assessments and offering social media tips. Support from Council in the form of practical “how to” guides would be greatly appreciated, as many stall holders begin with little experience but can be nurtured to the point where some have established business premises in central Dubbo.

Outside the scope of the strategy.

Encourage Activity in the heart of Dubbo ie Macquarie St & Victoria Park

Since its start on 25th October 2015, the Dubbo Rotunda Market aimed to revitalise central Dubbo with Council's support. However, Dubbo Regional Council has since given the impression that the market is unwelcome at these venues. Every year there are new rules which make it harder to produce the market. Feedback from more than 100 businesses on Macquarie St shows the market is a valued event, providing financial benefits to those open that day and increasing their visibility. The market is funded completely by the stall holders site fees and the work of the volunteers, so this costs the Macquarie St businesses nothing but benefits them greatly. Sadly the voice of one (now retired shop keeper) has been heard – word for word in the negative and new rules imparted to the market organisers, by Council, as new restrictions have been placed on the market over the past decade. Why the animosity and such influence from one person?

The market has the best intentions to benefit the heart of Dubbo and much benefit in expenditure flows onto business across Dubbo and the region.

Some farming families told us that their participation at the Dubbo Rotunda Market kept them going mentally and helped put food on their table during the worst of the drought in recent years.

Outside the scope of the strategy.



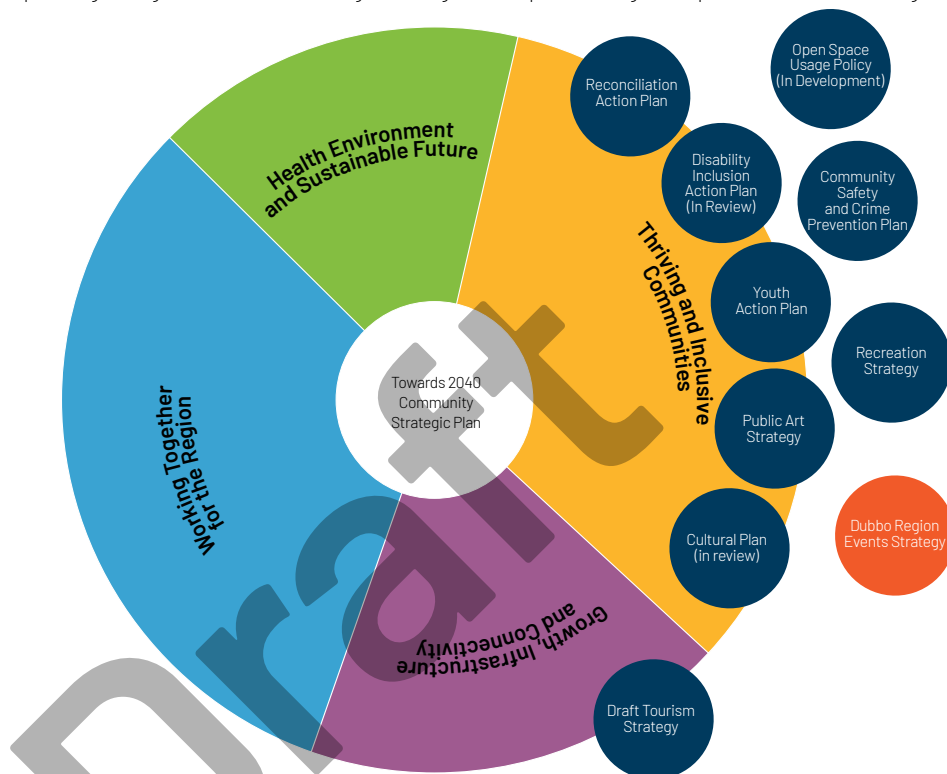
2025 - 2030
DUBBO
REGION
EVENTS
STRATEGY



How the Dubbo Region Events Strategy connects with our other strategic plans

The 2025-2030 Dubbo Region Events Strategy will be embedded in our integrated planning and reporting framework to ensure what is committed is delivered through measured planning and resource allocations.

At the centre of the framework is the Towards 2040 Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The Dubbo Region Events Strategy is a key document providing strategic direction and sits alongside a range of other plans, strategies and policies as shown in the diagram below.



Strategic Context

- CSP Strategic Pillar 2: Thriving and Inclusive Communities
- 2.3: Our community enjoys diverse sports, recreation, and social activities
- 2.3.3: Increase opportunities for entertainment, recreation, and cultural activities for all ages.
- 2025/2026 Operational Plan action 2.3.3.1: Finalise the Dubbo Region Events Strategy

External Documents

- Event Research Paper 2021 (Mayvin Global Pty Ltd, MI Associates Pty Ltd)
- Central Orana Regional Economic Development Strategy
- ODIN360 draft report
- Developing a Council Community Events Policy – A toolkit for NSW Councils (NSW Premier & Cabinet)

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

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 the time of completing this strategy and some information may change during the lifetime of the 2025-2030 Dubbo Region Events Strategy. 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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Executive summary

The Dubbo Region Events Strategy is a blueprint designed to guide the creation of new events, nurture the growth and sustainability of existing events, and ultimately cultivate a vibrant, diverse, and culturally rich events calendar. By fostering a thriving events landscape, this strategy not only serves to enhance the social and cultural fabric of the community but also drives economic growth, tourism, and regional identity.

Beyond shaping the future of events in the Dubbo Region, this strategy establishes clear pathways for strengthening connections between events and the broader community. It also seeks to attract and secure new events that will deliver widespread benefits across the entire Local Government Area (LGA), supporting the dispersal of economic, cultural, and social benefits.

The development of this strategy has been informed by face-to-face consultation with a diverse range of stakeholders, including event organisers, creative practitioners, event suppliers, hospitality venues, performers, tourism operators, and sporting organisations. Additionally, feedback from the wider community was actively sought and gathered through an online survey, providing valuable insights into community needs, preferences, and aspirations for the local events landscape.

A thorough analysis of the current events environment was undertaken as part of the strategic planning process, revealing critical gaps and untapped opportunities. This data-driven approach ensures that the strategy is not only responsive to existing challenges but also forward-thinking in its efforts to build on meaningful event activity. Further shaping this document is an extensive review of best-practice models, benchmarking against leading event strategies, and detailed online research to identify innovative and effective approaches to event development and management.

At its core, the Dubbo Region Events Strategy provides a structured and strategic framework for Council to undertake its role as a Provider, Leader, Collaborator, and Advocate for events. Through this approach, Council aims to develop a well-balanced and sustainable events portfolio that maximises social, cultural, and economic benefits, positioning the Dubbo Region as a premier destination for events.

Events provide compelling reasons for communities to come together and celebrate. They enrich communities, drive economic outcomes and build on our sense of place and destination appeal.

Our vision

Our community is connected and enriched through access to a diverse, culturally-rich and appealing range of events.

We want to grow our local events program, and by doing so fuel our community's pride, liveability, reputation and economy.



Our commitment

- Foster a transparent, accessible and responsive event support framework providing the time, tools and pathways to help events be safe, successful and sustainable.
- Support and secure event activity that delivers social, cultural and economic benefits to our community.
- Support the dispersal of event activity outside the city of Dubbo and into the town of Wellington and our villages.

The Dubbo Region profile

The Dubbo Region is home to a growing and diverse population. Our relaxed lifestyle coupled with opportunities for work/ life balance meld to create ideal opportunities for audience growth at home-grown fairs, festivals, celebrations and live performances.

Our central location, ease of access, breadth of accommodation, and our unique and memorable visitor experiences combine to create an attractive proposition as an ideal location for events.

Population



Over 55,000

Population Dubbo Region



16.6%

Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Youth



English 82%
Nepali 1.4%
Punjabi 0.6%

Top languages spoken



32.8%

People younger than 25 years



18.5%

Residents born overseas

19.5%

Residents living with disability

17.7%

Residents speak a language other than English at home

41.8%

Completed year 12 or equivalent



36 Years

Median age of residents

27.8%

Completed year 10 or equivalent

7.1%

Completed year 9 or equivalent

0.29%

People living in marginal housing

Dubbo Regional LGA



Service area of 7,534.5 km² including one city, town and villages.

Gender Ratio

Female

50.6%

Male

49.4%

Gender ratio

Employment

Most residents are employed and work in health care, social assistance, construction, retail, education, public administration, or safety.

Employment Status

Full-time

62%

Away from work

6%

Part-time

28%

Unemployed

≤ 4%

Economic Impact Snapshot



200,000 people

Catchment population



8 Major events

\$18.7M economic benefit



Beds > 5,000

Commercial properties



Daily flights

in and out of Sydney



\$277

Visitor spend per person per night*



29 Local-led

Annual events (500+ attendees)



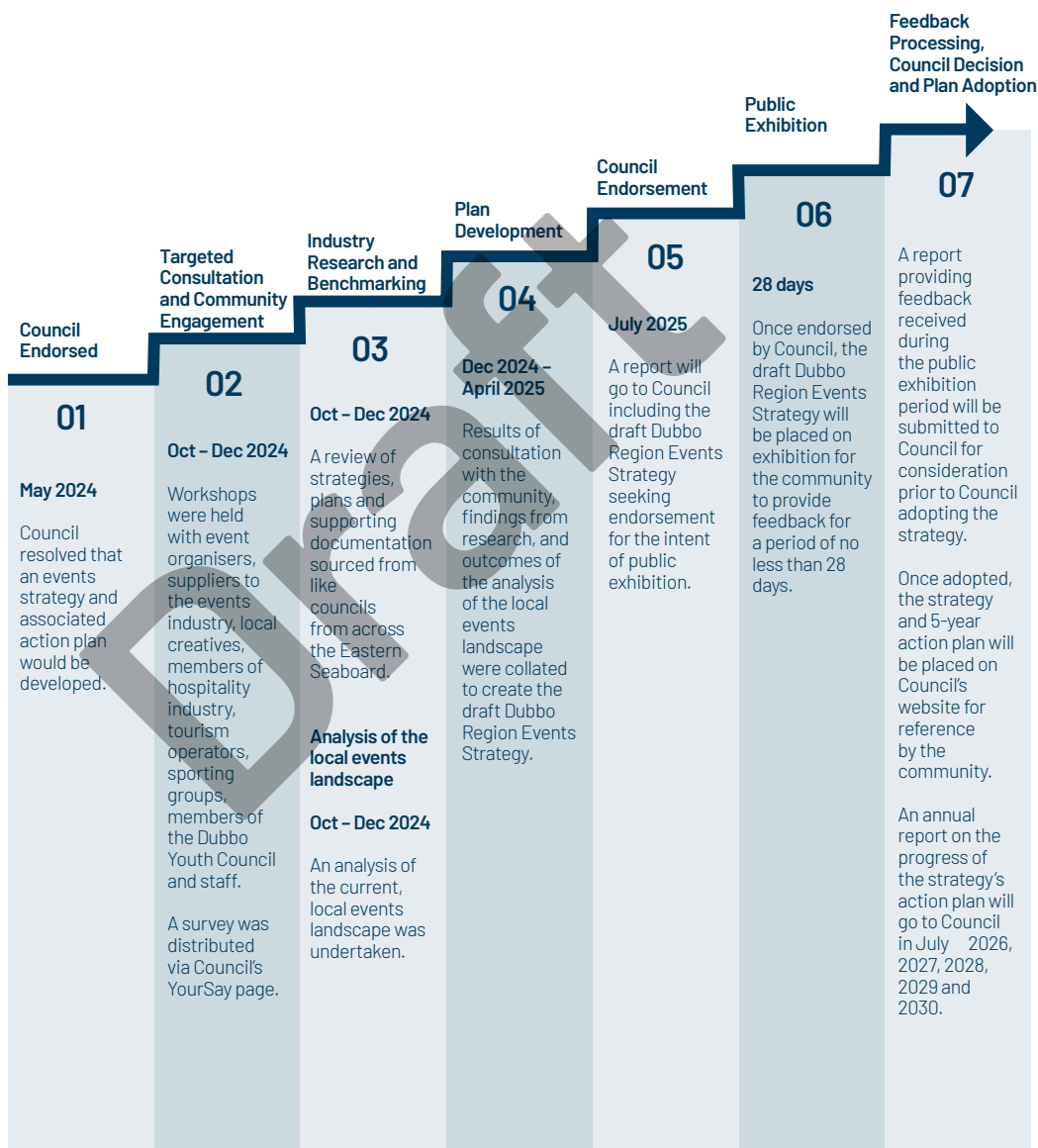
National and state level facilities

*Tourism Research Australia based on two years average spending YE June (2023-2024)

How we developed this strategy

Dubbo Regional Council developed this plan through an analysis of the current events landscape, online research and community consultation.

A deep dive into the 2024 events program helped to uncover gaps and opportunities, whilst desktop research informed Council of opportunities and challenges faced by similarly sized regional centres. Industry workshops and one-on-one meetings with key external and internal stakeholders unveiled the needs and aspirations of our community.



What our community told us

In 2024, we undertook a comprehensive engagement process to ensure the Dubbo Region Events Strategy reflects the needs and aspirations of those who bring our events to life.

As part of this process, we:

- Hosted 16 workshops with key stakeholders, providing a collaborative space to share ideas, challenges, and opportunities.
- Conducted one-on-one meetings with event organisers, creatives, suppliers, hospitality venues, performers, tourism operators, and sporting organisations to gain deeper insights into their experiences and needs.
- Collected valuable feedback from industry professionals and the broader community, helping to shape a strategic approach to event development, support, and innovation.

“ I don't know what you do and how you can support my event. ”

“ It's hard to find volunteers. ”

“ Council needs to provide more support. ”

“ We need help to promote our event. ”

“ There are too many forms to fill out. ”

“ Council's hire charges are too expensive. ”

“ We want more live music events (Youth Council). ”

“ Council and the community lack the understanding and appreciation of the arts and culture. ”

“ We don't know what's on. ”

“ I find out about the event after it's been held. ”

“ Lack of free events for families and access to public transport. ”

“ The event calendar on dubboregion.com.au is difficult to navigate. ”

“ Council needs to provide in-kind support. ”

“ Council favours sporting events. ”

“ Council needs to invest in local and externally organised cultural events. ”



Via our survey, in order of preference, our community told us they value experiences that ...

- 1  Celebrate different cultures
- 2  Include live performances
- 3  Offer entertainment for my family
- 4  Allow me to enjoy my favourite sport
- 5  Are cost free
- 6  Allow me to taste regional produce or provide a dining experience
- 7  Allow me to indulge in a special interest
- 8  Provide insights into our local history
- 9  Spark my creativity

Events generate enormous economic and social value. They bring our community together, support our arts and small business and contribute significantly to our community's well-being and our destination appeal.



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 Dubbo Region Events Strategy:

1

Integrated and Coordinated Proactive Approach

Federal, State and Local Government acts, regulations, policies and licensing as well as Council-led management policies.

2

Evidence-Based Decision Making

Continuous review and assessment of the current events landscape and consultation with the community will help inform future actions under the strategy.

3

Monitoring and Evaluation

The strategy sets out a five-year framework supported by an action plan that will be reviewed annually to monitor progress and adapt to community needs, ensuring that focus areas and priority actions are planned for and resourced.

Cultural events are gatherings that showcase aspects such as religion, cuisine, music, art, and other elements unique to a particular group or commonly shared. These events provide an opportunity for people to come together, socialise, connect, create, share meals, and find inspiration.

What is an event?

It is a gathering open to members of the public to attend. It can be a small gathering or an event of significant scope and scale. It can be described as a festival, fair, show, market or sporting event. It can be staged indoors or outdoors, on privately owned land or on public land. This strategy does not cover private events, conferences, regular gatherings or locally organised sporting events.

Council context

Council's role is to maximise outcomes from events held in the Dubbo Region. Council's Events Unit takes carriage of event support, compliance and capacity building.

Our core roles are:

Event support: single point of contact for events, strategic advice, financial assistance, best practice event management, guidance and facilitation of capacity building and skill development. Council also supports the promotion of events via a number of online, digital, broadcast and out-of-home touchpoints.

Event permits: facilitation of compliance and regulatory requirements for public events held on public land.

Event attraction: securing externally organised events that deliver economic, cultural and social benefits.

The Events Unit provides support to Council ceremonies and civic events, such as the Australia Day events as well as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

The Events Unit is not structured to curate or deliver community events.

Core roles of the Events Unit

The following pyramid graph indicates and provides a representation of where staff spend their time in relation to the key roles of the Events Unit.



Council's role is to champion community desires, advocate for event organisers and seek out opportunities to strengthen event activity and propel cultural, social and economic outcomes that can be delivered through building event capacity and capability.

Regional context

The Dubbo Regional Local Government Area (Dubbo Region) is situated 350 km north-west of Sydney and comprises of a major regional city, a township and 16 villages.

The Dubbo Region has a population of 56,600 (2023 REPLAN) and is anticipated to grow by almost 10,000 people by 2041. Serving as a core regional city for neighbouring towns, the city of Dubbo services a population of 200,000 and a land area one-third the size of NSW.

Key industries across the region include construction, health care and social assistance and accommodation and food services. With both public and private investment, the Dubbo Region continues to experience sustainable long-term growth. Significant growth is attributed to projects including NSW's first Renewable Energy Zone (Central West Orana), the Dubbo Project (polymetallic resource of rare earth materials), New Dubbo Bridge, Old Dubbo Gaol Heritage Plaza, Taronga Western Plains Zoo Serengeti Plains Visitor Experience and Eco-Accommodation, Inland Rail Narramine to Narrabri and the Mindyarra Maintenance Centre. The projects are expected to provide over 8,000 jobs in the region in the next five years with increased population to support the infrastructure projects.

With the events and tourism sectors closely intertwined, they play a vital role in supporting the growth of the region. Major events, such as festivals and sporting competitions, attract visitors from outside the area, boosting demand for local services including accommodation, dining, transportation and retail.

This influx of visitors and new residents not only generates direct economic benefits but also enhances the region's visibility and reputation as a vibrant destination. In turn, strong tourism infrastructure, supports the success of events by offering appealing amenities and experiences. Together these create a cycle of economic stimulation, job creation and community engagement that contributes to the sustainable development of our growing region.



Tourism context

Tourism is one of the key pillars in the Dubbo Region's economy, with visitors adding approximately \$155 million annually through spending on accommodation, dining, attractions and retail. The influx of tourism supports regional businesses and sustains employment across various sections.

Led by Taronga Western Plains Zoo, which welcomes around 300,000 visitors annually, the Dubbo Region offers a solid mix of visitor experiences including the Old Dubbo Gaol, Wellington Caves and the Royal Flying Doctor Service Visitor Experience. Dubbo Regional Council has a key marketing focus on attracting families to the region, with family focused events and activities.

Economic contribution from the tourism sector into the Dubbo Region

By integrating tourism and events strategies, Dubbo Region leverages its attractions and a vibrant events calendar to draw visitors, thereby driving economic development and reinforcing its position as a leading destination in Central NSW.

Dubbo Regional Council provides funding for events that focus on boosting the local economy and bringing people from outside the area to the Dubbo Region.

Council's support for events, ranging from major festivals to cultural gatherings, directly feeds into the Region's tourism success by increasing visitor numbers and spend, while showcasing Dubbo as a dynamic and welcoming destination.

In 2024, Council's event attraction program secured eight major sporting events, generating an economic impact of \$18.7 million. Six of these events involved junior competitors who travelled with their families, increasing the likelihood of visitors arriving early or extending their stay to visit local family-focussed attractions..



Visitors to the Dubbo Region	
	Two years average Year Ending June (2023-2024)*
Domestic - Day Trip	764,924
Domestic - Overnight	712,114
International	12,600
Total Visitors - Dubbo Region	1,489,637

Average Domestic and International Stay and Spend	
Two years average Spending Year Ending June (2023-2024)*	Current Average
Domestic - Day Trip Spend (no nights)	\$185
Domestic - Average Stay (nights)	2.2 nights
Domestic - Average Spend per Night	\$277
Domestic - Average Spend per Trip	\$614
International - Average Spend per Night	\$31
International - Average Spend per Trip	\$1,264

*Source Tourism Research Australia

Events and festivals are intrinsically linked with the visitor economy. This strategy will align the support and attraction of events with Council's destination marketing activity.

Why events are important

Events are powerful drivers of social cohesion, cultural expression, economic growth and community pride and well-being.

Factors such as an events program, target market and scope and scale influence outcomes and largely determine what benefits can be delivered to the community.

Events deliver **cultural** outcomes

Attributes

- Showcase our history and heritage
- Support the collaboration between local creatives
- Celebrate traditions and belief systems
- Boost creativity and innovation
- They are family focused

Outcomes

- Engage our creatives and live performance industry
- Support small business
- Enhance connectivity and community pride
- Provide a deeper understanding of cultural diversity and history



Events deliver **social** outcomes

Attributes

- Appeal to groups of locals and visitors
- Inclusive with broad community appeal
- Have an engaging program that promotes escapism

Outcomes

- Promote a sense of belonging and wellbeing
- Enhance the sense of place and liveability
- Support small to medium businesses



Events deliver **economic** outcomes

Attributes

- Attract mass participation or mass gatherings
- Are held over multiple days
- Are held outside school holiday and long weekend periods
- Has a marketing reach outside the LGA
- Engage a significant number of local suppliers, vendors and stallholders
- Can provide evidence-based visitor numbers

Outcomes

- Direct and indirect economic impacts
- Provide destination marketing opportunities
- Elevate the Dubbo Region's reputation as an events destination
- Support job creation and retention
- Stimulate asset or infrastructure development/renewal
- Draw the attention of local and regional media
- Incentivise return visitation as a tourist



Our events landscape 2024

The Dubbo Region boasts a stable of home-grown community events and an expanding portfolio of externally organised major sporting events. Understanding our region's profile and identity is integral to the growth and prosperity of our annual events calendar.

The Dubbo Region boasts an evolving events landscape that reflects diverse interests, different cultures, and the deep-seeded passion of our event organisers. With a mix of annual festivals, cultural celebrations and recreation events our event calendar plays a crucial role in enhancing social cohesion, driving tourism, and stimulating the local economy.

Events in our region are spread throughout the year, creating opportunities for residents and visitors to engage in unique and memorable experiences. However, some months—particularly January, February, and November—remain underutilised, presenting potential gaps for new event development. Identifying and addressing these gaps will ensure a well-balanced event calendar that maximises participation and benefits for the entire community.

The annual NAIDOC celebrations honour and showcase Indigenous Australian culture, while multicultural events provide platforms for diverse groups to share their traditions, cuisine, and artistry. Strengthening the synergy between Indigenous and multicultural events through event curation, production and timing, will further enrich our cultural programming and create deeper connections between communities.

Large-scale sporting events are a significant pillar of our event landscape, with competitions and tournaments drawing participants and spectators from across the state and beyond. From grassroots sports to elite-level competitions, these events not only foster community spirit but also position our region as a hub for high-calibre sporting activity. Continued investment in the attraction of these events during low visitation periods will enhance Dubbo's reputation as a go-to destination for major sporting events ultimately fuelling our economy and supporting long-term economic growth.

Creative empowerment builds meaningful and successful events.





Event classifications

In the Dubbo Region, events can be segmented into four classes based on the individual event's programming, audience and outcomes.

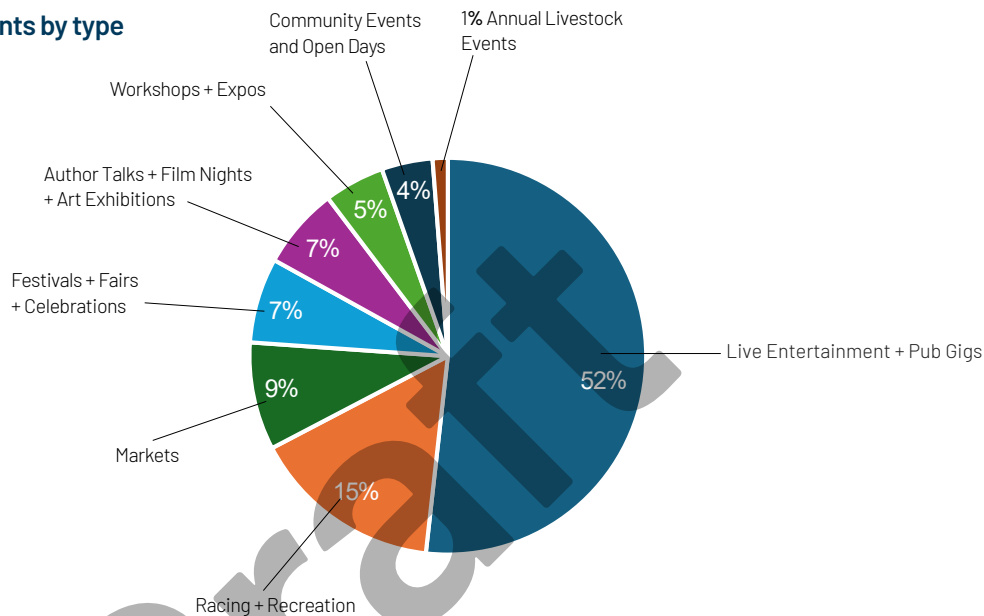
Community Events	Regional Events : 1,000 people or more	Major events : >20% attendance from outside LGA	Large Scale Events : >50% attendance from outside LGA
Events with a focus on community engagement and well-being. These events may promote our community's history and culture.	Events that celebrate our region, attract large numbers of locals and via programming create distinctive experiences with broad appeal.	Locally organised events that have broad community appeal, attract visitors and have the potential to showcase our Region.	Events arranged by external event organisers that include mass participation or attract mass gatherings.
Outcomes	Outcomes	Outcomes	Outcomes
Community well-being and connectivity, sharing of traditions and experiences, and support for creatives and performing artists.	Strong social and cultural benefits, adds diversity to the events calendar, engages suppliers and small business, and facilitates skill and volunteer development.	Delivers strong economic, social and cultural benefits, builds the region's reputation as a destination for events, has strong regional brand connections generating strong public relations and marketing opportunities.	Delivers strong economic, social and cultural benefits, builds the region's reputation as a destination for events, generates leads and provides significant media attraction and marketing opportunities.
Examples	Examples	Examples	Examples
- Fong Lees Lane - NAIDOC Celebrations - Michael Egan Book Fair	- Beers to the Bush - Cross Cultural Carnival - Man from Ironbark Festival	- Dubbo Stampede - Dubbo MotorFest	- NSW Rugby Junior State Championships - Little Athletics Region 3 Championships.

Types of events

In 2024, 649 event listings were processed by Council and promoted via a range of channels. (Refer page 22).

Live Entertainment and Pub Gigs are at the forefront of event activity with 52% of the annual events calendar offering live music and performances across a range of venues. Festivals, Fairs and Celebrations represented 7% of activity across the LGA presenting opportunities to build on this type of event activity.

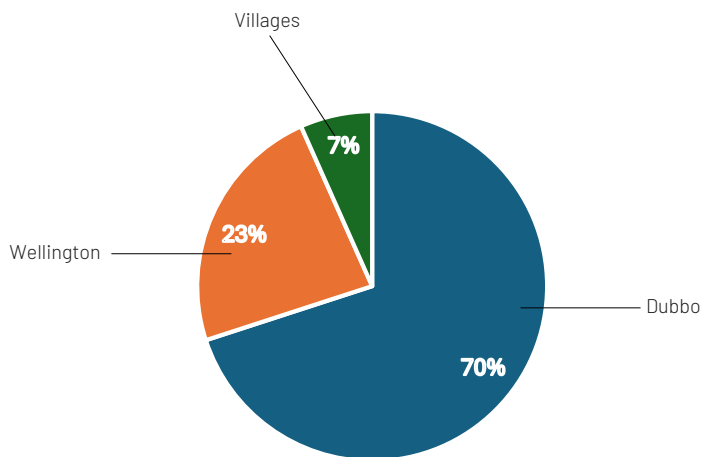
Events by type



Locations

Event and market activity takes place across the LGA. Not surprisingly, and due to its population base, access to accommodation and venues, the majority of event activity is staged in Dubbo.

Events and markets in our LGA



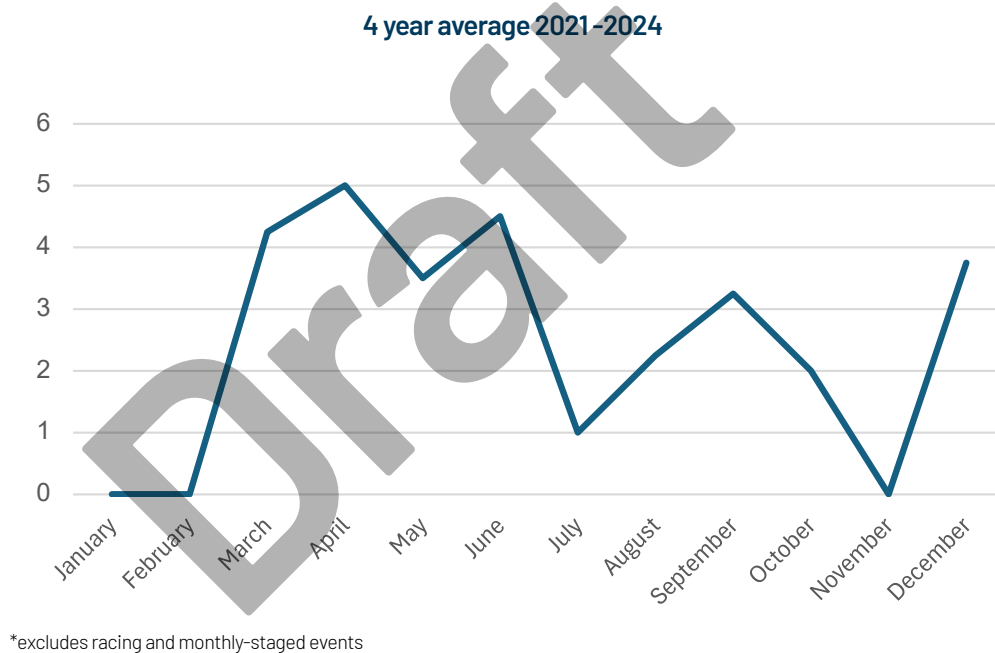
Annual community-led events

An analysis of annual event activity spanning four years, 2021-2024 shows that locally organised events recovered well following the pandemic in 2020/2021.

In 2024, the Dubbo Region hosted 29 annual events organised by the community, attracting 500 people or more.

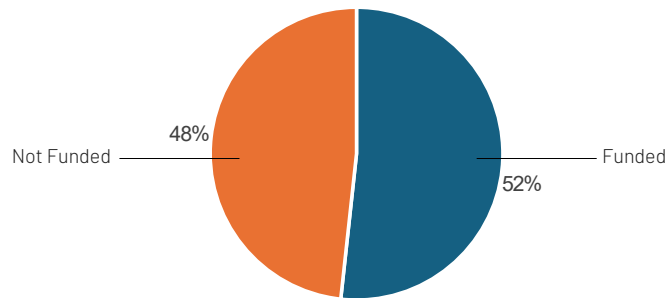
As demonstrated by the graph below, no local events (audience >500) are held in January and February likely due to seasonal heat conditions. In March event activity is strong peaking in April with our region enjoying moderate temperatures during these months. In July, there is a trough in event activity with only the local NAIDOC celebrations held during this time. Event activity rises again in Autumn and peaking in December due to Christmas/New Year event activity.

The months of January, February, July and November present opportunities to introduce new, home-grown events that would enrich the region's event calendar and ensure year-round activity.



In 2024 Council provided funding assistance to 15 locally organised, annual events delivering a range of social, cultural and economic benefits.

Council fund 52% of local annual events



Events that were supported financially by Council in 2024.

✓ Great Australian Stone Festival	✓ ORISCON Harmony Week Gala Nite	✓ Dubbo MotorFest
✓ Holi Mela Festival of Colours	✓ Stock Route Country Music Festival	✓ NAIDOC Celebrations Dubbo and Wellington
✓ Wellington Rotary Vintage Fair and Swap Meet	✓ Wellington Show	✓ Under Western Skies Festival
✓ Burrendong Fishing Classic	✓ Dubbo Eisteddfod	✓ Cross Cultural Carnivale
✓ Man from Ironbark Festival	✓ Dubbo Winter Whiskey Festival	✓ Carols by Candlelight Dubbo and Geurie



The event ecosystem

The Event Ecosystem is an interconnected network of stakeholders that collectively connect, or benefit from, event activity. Events generate spend throughout multiple industry and business sectors across the Dubbo Region. Events boost tourism, support creatives, create jobs and stimulate direct and in-direct spend.



What we do: We support events

Council plays a vital role in supporting event organisers, providing guidance and resources to assist the delivery of events that are well-planned, safe, sustainable and align to Council's strategic objectives. The delivery and ownership of the event remains with the organiser. Council does not deliver events. Council is committed to strengthening the capacity of event organisers and fostering a thriving, diverse events calendar.

Support extends across various areas, including strategic advice, assistance to plan events based on best-practice event management, advice on how to market and promote an event through to post event analysis. By empowering event organisers with the tools and knowledge needed to deliver high-quality events, Council helps create a dynamic events landscape that benefits the local economy, tourism, and community well-being.

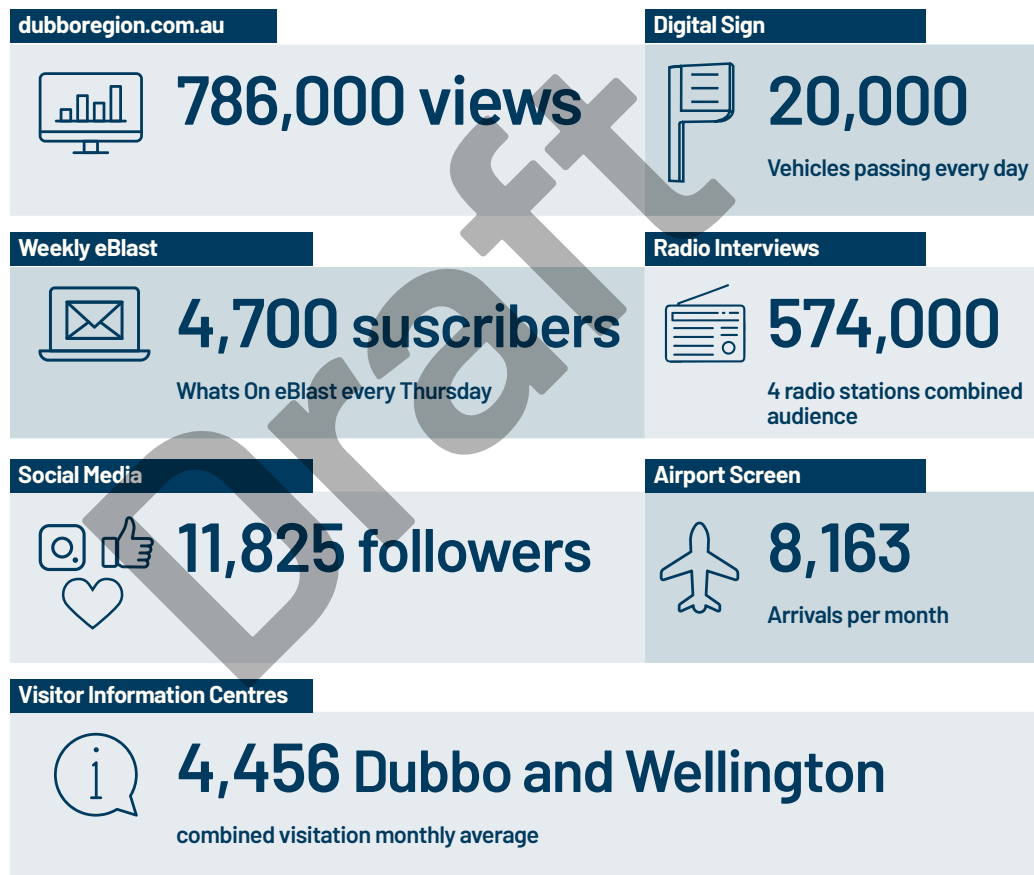


How we promote events

Council provides a range of free promotional opportunities across multiple channels. At the centre of this effort is the Dubbo Region Events Calendar, which serves as a key resource for residents, tourists, media and organisers to discover what's happening across the region.

In addition to a calendar listing, eligible events may also benefit from broader exposure through various promotional channels, including the weekly "What's On" eBlast, the digital sign at Elston Park, Dubbo Region social media platforms and screens at both the Dubbo and Wellington Visitor Information Centres and the Dubbo Regional Airport. Events may also be featured in the weekly "What's On" radio segment, broadcast every Friday across four local stations.

Through these initiatives, Council is committed to helping event organisers maximise their reach and impact, as part of our broader strategy to support and strengthen the region's diverse events landscape. This includes advice regarding the most effective ways that organisers can market and promote their events.



Access to the Events Calendar following
this link: www.dubboregion.com.au/events

or scan the QR code



What we do: We permit events

Under Section 68 of the Local Government Act, any public event held on public land requires Council approval. This process ensures events meet safety, regulatory, and compliance requirements while minimising risks to attendees, the environment, and surrounding infrastructure.

Safety emergency and risk, environmental compliance and corporate governance staff are responsible for regulatory compliance. The Events Unit plays a crucial role in guiding and supporting event organisers through the permit application process. This includes helping organisers to understand their obligations under State and Local acts, regulations, policies, and standards and ensuring they have the necessary documentation and plans in place.

By working collaboratively with event organisers, Council aims to facilitate a smooth and efficient approval process supporting events and, at the same time, increasing the capacity of event organisers to deliver safe, well-managed, and successful events.

In 2024, the Events Unit processed 55 event permits across 24 locations within the LGA.



What we do: We attract events

Large-scale events are powerful drivers of liveability, economic growth, and destination branding. They bring communities together, enhance the region's cultural vibrancy, and reinforce a destination's reputation as an event-friendly hub.

Beyond their immediate appeal, these events generate long-term benefits, including job creation, business growth, and infrastructure investment. They stimulate local industries such as hospitality, tourism, retail, and transport, while fostering innovation and attracting further event opportunities.

Moreover, large-scale events instil community pride, encouraging residents to engage with and celebrate their region. By positioning the Dubbo Region as a premier host for large-scale events, we enhance our profile, foster economic resilience, and elevate desirability as a place to live, work, and visit.

Who we target and why



Mass participation (sporting events) with junior competitors

- ✓ Increase spend and visitor night stays outside school holiday periods.
- ✓ Support our local tourism industry
- ✓ Create opportunities for local sporting clubs to increase skills of junior players through exposure/ interaction with elite-level competitors
- ✓ Builds the experience and capacity of sporting officials and volunteers
- ✓ Return immediate tourism benefits and/or return visitation
- ✓ Have broad participation appeal
- ✓ Can be secured over multiple years
- ✓ Return sustained growth and reputation capital



Mass gatherings (live entertainment events)

- ✓ Attract visitation from outside the Dubbo Regional Council LGA
- ✓ Deliver economic benefits through purchase of goods and services via our local event supply chain
- ✓ Create opportunities to engage local musicians, as well as suppliers to the live entertainment industry
- ✓ Heighten our liveability and generate civic pride
- ✓ Have broad spectator appeal
- ✓ Return social and cultural benefits

In 2024, Council secured eight events delivering a combined economic impact of \$18.7 Million. The economic impact of each event is calculated based on the number of visitors x number of nights x domestic overnight spend.

ref: Tourism Research Australia's Quarterly Report

	Event	Month	Nights	Visitors	TRA Domestic Overnight Spend pp*	Economic Benefit
1	Cricket NSW State Challenge	Jan	4	950	\$293	\$1,113,400
2	Little Athletics NSW Region 3	Feb	2	1,600	\$293	\$937,600
3	NSW Touch Junior State Cup**	Feb	3	11,000	\$293	\$9,669,000
4	Bowls NSW Championships	Feb	4	1,700	\$293	\$1,992,400
5	NSW Junior Rugby Championships U14 Boys and Girls	June	3	3,000	\$291	\$2,619,000
6	Veterans Cricket NSW over 60s	Oct	5	300	\$277	\$415,500
7	Veterans Cricket NSW over 70s	Nov	7	300	\$277	\$581,700
8	Cricket NSW Youth Championships	Dec	4	1,200	\$277	\$1,329,600
						\$18,658,200

**The NSW Touch Junior State Cup brought over 11,000 visitors to the region including surrounding towns such as Narromine and Gilgandra and estimated to have injected over \$9 million into the wider region.

*Ref. Tourism Research Australia's Quarterly Report

Events should not be seen as a cost centre, rather as a driver of economic, social and cultural impacts for the region. The benefits and value of events should be measured and these event impacts should ideally be communicated both internally and externally to showcase the value of events. Events Research Paper 2021.

Key strengths

Our competitive strengths in the event attraction market

- Strategically located in the centre of New South Wales
- Access to a catchment population of 200,000 people
- Strong transport links including road, rail and air
- Envyable air services including daily flights via two airlines Sydney/Dubbo/Sydney
- Availability of 5,000 beds in the Dubbo Region's commercial accommodation sector
- State-of-the-art and elite-level venues and sporting fields
- A strong tourism brand leveraging the iconic Taronga Western Plains Zoo
- Strategic linkages between destination marketing to attract visitors and destination marketing to attract large-scale sporting events
- A proven record for successfully hosting large-scale elite level sporting events
- Well-developed event supply industry
- The region is at the forefront of major advances in the green energy opening opportunities to attract trade/industry events, particularly to Wellington
- Wellington has natural attributes to support adventure sports and attract major event activity
- Gentle terrain are attributes attractive to car and bike rallies
- Distinct seasons



Key opportunities

Our natural attributes

Wellington is uniquely positioned to become a prime destination for adventure sports and outdoor events, thanks to its diverse natural landscapes and accessible terrain. Key natural assets include:

- Burrendong Dam – A premier location for water-based sports, including fishing competitions, skiing and paddle sports.
- Mount Arthur – Offering rugged terrain ideal for trail running, mountain biking, and adventure races.
- Macquarie and Bell Rivers – Providing a scenic setting for paddle sports, dragon boat races, and water-based recreational events.
- Cycle and Running Trails – A well-established network of trails suitable for marathons, cycling races, and multisport endurance events.

A key action of the Dubbo Region Events Strategy is to explore opportunities for Wellington to become a host destination for regional and state-level competitions.

By leveraging our natural attributes and investing in strategic locational positioning, the Dubbo Region can strengthen its reputation as a premier destination for outdoor adventure and competitive sports.

Our Indigenous community

Across Australia, events celebrating Indigenous culture, traditions, and deep connections to Country play a vital role in storytelling, education, and cultural preservation. With Indigenous residents making up 16.6% of the Dubbo Region's population, our community is uniquely positioned to initiate an event that not only honours Indigenous Australian heritage but also elevates young and emerging Indigenous talent and fosters Indigenous entrepreneurship.

From storytellers, artists, and musicians to dancers, filmmakers, and actors, we are home to a thriving cultural community that offers event organisers an abundance of talent and creative expertise. These practitioners bring depth and authenticity to events, ensuring that local and visiting audiences experience genuine and meaningful cultural engagement.

A key focus of the Dubbo Region Events Strategy is to foster stronger collaboration between event organisers, the creative community and our Indigenous People.

This strategy will align with actions under Council's Reflect Reconciliation Plan and support development of Indigenous sporting and cultural events.

*ABS 2021



STRATEGY**Our passion for cars and bikes**

Our community has an inherent passion for cars and bikes, a desire that is clearly reflected in the success of events such as the monthly meet of Dubbo Classic Cars and Coffee, and the large crowds attending the newly created Dubbo MotorFest. These events highlight our community's strong appetite for all things automotive, attracting car enthusiasts, collectors, and bike lovers from near and far. Further, owners of unique and iconic cars and bikes are often older, have greater expendable incomes and they prefer to travel outside school holiday periods.

With purpose-built venues like Morris Park Speedway and Lincoln County Speedway, Dubbo is well-equipped to host motorsport events. Additionally, the Wellington Aerodrome is perfectly suited to support drag racing and other high-octane activities.

A key goal of the Dubbo Region Events Strategy is to promote Dubbo as a premier destination for a variety of motorsport-related events, including rallies, ride-ins, and regional qualifiers. By capitalising on our existing infrastructure and the community's passion for cars and bikes, Dubbo can become a leading hub for motorsport in the wider region, drawing in enthusiasts and competitors from across the State.

Our sporting fields

Dubbo boasts a high standard of sporting infrastructure, with world-class playing fields that support a variety of sports, including football, cricket, and athletics. These facilities position Dubbo as a key player in attracting and hosting major sporting events that have a significant positive impact on both the community and the local economy.

Council strategically seeks to attract major sporting events that are staged outside school holiday periods and secured over multiple years. By doing so, we can ensure that Council-owned and managed facilities are utilised to their full potential, generating economic activity, tourism, and community engagement throughout the year.

Securing these events on a long-term basis not only brings economic benefits, including increased visitor numbers, accommodation bookings, and local business revenue but also helps to create a sense of pride within the community, foster skill development of players and volunteers, and provide an opportunity for residents to engage with high-quality sporting competitions on their home turf. Through this approach, Dubbo can build a reputation as a premier sporting destination, delivering ongoing benefits for both the local economy and the broader region.

This strategy will align with the Central Orana Regional Economic Development Strategy and its action to develop the region as a hub for regional sporting events.



STRATEGY

Our gap in winter

The Dubbo Region enjoys strong visitation, especially during the spring and autumn school holiday periods, thanks to attractions like Taronga Western Plains Zoo, which draws families and leisure travellers to the area. These periods see high demand for accommodation, providing a boost to local businesses and the region's tourism sector.

However, July experiences soft visitation. Event activity is also minimal during the month of July. This presents a significant opportunity for the development of a new winter-themed event, particularly one that appeals to families and capitalises on the school holiday period.

By creating a unique, family-friendly winter event, the Dubbo Region can fill the seasonal gap, attracting visitors during a traditionally quieter time. This would not only help increase bed occupancy rates and support local businesses but also contribute to the region's destination marketing activities, offering an exciting new attraction to both residents and visitors alike. The winter event would provide an opportunity for the community to showcase its creativity and foster a new tradition that could grow in significance year after year.

Our support to events

Consultation with event organisers revealed limited awareness of the various types of support Council provides to events especially beyond formal funding programs. There is also some confusion around how and why different levels of support are offered to locally developed events versus those attracted to the region.

A key opportunity for Council is to promote its objective event support decision-making framework, helping organisers and the broader community understand the rationale behind support levels.

Whilst Council is not structured to deliver events, it can help steer the passion and creative flair of a new event committee by providing best-practice event management guidance.

Conversely, a longstanding event may seek funding from Council to help market the event to audiences outside the Dubbo Regional LGA.

Staff time and financial support can be equally important depending on what stage the event sits on its lifecycle.

With measured and strategic support, events such as previously held DREAM Festival, and the current Cross Cultural Carnivale, Dubbo Stampede and Dubbo MotorFest, have potential to develop into flagship or hallmark events.

The development of an Event Support Policy will articulate Council's strategic, meaningful and measurable support to events depending on the event's outcomes and its lifecycle position (startup, growth, maturity and decline) with each stage presenting opportunities and challenges and requiring different levels of assistance.

Definitions:

Flagship Event: Reflects the unique culture of a place, drives overnight visitation, and delivers long-term regional benefits. (NSW Government Regional Event Fund)

Hallmark Event: A recurring event with such tradition, appeal, or publicity value that it defines the image or brand of the destination, the host venue, community or destination with a competitive advantage. Over time, the event and destination can become inseparable.

Ref: International Journal of Event Management Research



Our youth

The Council's Youth Action Plan, developed through months of comprehensive community and stakeholder consultation, identified several focus areas. One key area is to "attract and support events, recreation, and social opportunities." The Plan also emphasises Council's commitment to "support and attract events, programs, and services that promote youth mental health, social engagement, and opportunities for skill development." Further, under the Department of Regional NSW's Regional Youth Insights Report, a priority area for Central West and Orana included, 'Provide additional recreation activities and events'.

While our young people have opportunities to develop and nurture skills as musicians, singer/songwriters, and dancers through access to a conservatorium of music, four theatre companies, and six dance studios, there is a gap in our annual events calendar that meets the specific entertainment needs of our youth. Whilst Council stages a number of Youth Week events there remains an imbalance between family events and those specifically designed for young people (aged 12-24 years) which make up 32.8% of our residential population.

Council's support for the development of grass-roots live entertainment events appealing to young people, and/or its attraction of brand-led music festivals for youth will help bridge the current gap in our annual events calendar and help deliver outcomes for state and local plans.



'57% of youth noted that a 'more fun and interesting things' initiatives would make life in their town and surrounding areas better (most common answer), Priority areas for Central West and Orana, Regional Youth Insights Report

Key challenges

Streamlining Compliance Obligations

Section 68 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* outlines activities that generally require prior approval from the Council before being carried out. This includes a range of activities on public land, such as hosting events, engaging in trade or business, and using public address systems.

Council is responsible for issuing event permits and ensuring that activities are meeting local and state regulations. Our volunteer-run event organisers are sometimes reluctant to obtain these approvals due to several factors, including a perceived administrative burden, a lack of awareness of their obligations, concerns about potential delays or restrictions and fatigue.

Event organisers may not be aware of the importance of timelines, placing pressure on staff to review documentation within short lead times.

During the consultation phase, event organisers raised issues regarding the paperwork required by Council to permit events. A key action under the strategy is to investigate programs and systems that have the capacity to streamline event permits and reduce the burden placed on both the event organiser and Council, whilst maintaining legal obligations to protect the event organisers, members of the public and Council.

Event bidding and hosting fees

In the current competitive landscape hosting rights to stage a large-scale event is increasingly transactional. Third-party brokers, promoters and sporting organisations now often require Councils to pay for the rights to host their event. Regional centres such as Dubbo, Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee, Tamworth, and Wagga Wagga are all vying for the same high-profile events, making it a highly competitive market.

However, Council does not have an unlimited pool of funds or human resources to incentivise major events. Strategic decision-making is essential to ensure that each event opportunity is evaluated based on the potential outcomes it can generate. Council's return on investment is multifaceted and includes:

- Economic benefits, such as increased visitor numbers, tourism spending, and local business activity.
- Reputational outcomes from hosting state and national-level events, which enhance the region's status as a premier event destination.
- Social and cultural benefits, fostering community engagement and promoting diversity and inclusion.

To ensure the sustainable attraction and retention of these events, a key action in this strategy is to collaborate with local businesses through a partnership framework. This collaboration will provide tangible return benefits for businesses that invest in attracting large-scale events to the region. By pooling resources and building these strategic partnerships, Council can better support the long-term success of securing major events while sharing rewards with the local business community.

Well-managed events are an important part of the development of vibrant sustainable local communities, contributing to the community social fabric and the local economy. Increasingly, successful events have become an important strategy underpinning local economic development. It has also become increasingly clear that poorly managed events can result in significant environmental and personal harm. Developing a Council Community Events Policy – A Toolkit for NSW Councils – NSW Government Premier & Cabinet.

Lack of purpose-built outdoor event spaces

While the Dubbo Region boasts several attractive indoor venues for events, the availability of purpose-built outdoor (non-sporting) event spaces remains limited. The Dubbo and Wellington Showgrounds are the only primary venues designed to support a wide range of multi-faceted events. The region's showgrounds are fenced, offer undercover options, provide amenities, ample parking and attributes to support large-scale events attracting large numbers of people. However, these spaces are in high demand, with limited availability for event organisers. In 2024, the Dubbo Showground hosted 143 events and was booked for 264 out of 365 days, including event activity every weekend of the year. This high occupancy leaves little room for additional or new events to be scheduled.

Furthermore, there is a perception among external event organisers that the showground spaces do not meet high standards, which has led to a reluctance to book them for events. However, these spaces are well-equipped and fully capable of accommodating large-scale events.

Ollie Robbins Oval, while capable of hosting major events, presents challenges due to the lack of shade, fencing and car parking spaces. Event activity held on this location also impacts community access to Tracker Riley Cycleway. This has led event organisers to seek alternative venues, such as Victoria Park. However, Victoria Park is not designed for events; it holds a Regional Park classification and requires a high level of maintenance to ensure it is presented at a standard that can be enjoyed by the community and visitors. Its use for high-impact, large-scale events presents several issues:

- High turf quality and maintenance standards: The turf is maintained to a high standard for passive recreation and community enjoyment. Large-scale events can cause significant wear and damage, resulting in costly restoration and temporary loss of access for the public.
- Underground services: The Park has a network of underground utilities, which pose hazards for event organisers. These services must be marked, adding costs and complexity to event planning.
- Wet weather concerns: Victoria Park is unsuitable for use during wet weather, leading to further potential costs for the event organiser and heightened risks based on a requirement of the event to relocate to an alternate location.

This means increased costs and logistical challenges for event organisers and highlights the need for Council to investigate additional purpose-built event space in Dubbo.

The proposed development of the Macquarie River Event Precinct is currently in abeyance and subject to availability of funding. A key action under this strategy is to investigate availability of open spaces in the City in line with community desires, needs of event organisers and land management expectations.

As identified in both the Community Safety and Crime Prevention Plan and the Public Art Strategy, the inclusion of event activity in public spaces can add life to public spaces and create welcoming and safe locations for the community to gather and socialise. This strategy will also include the investigation into the activation of public spaces to support small-scale event activity.



STRATEGY

Fluctuation in event activity

In 2025, event organisers in the Dubbo Region are grappling with a number of challenges:

- Rising costs, which are putting pressure on event budgets and making it harder to maintain the scale and quality of events.
- Increased competition for the discretionary dollar, as people have fewer funds to spend on events amidst economic uncertainty.
- Difficulty attracting sponsors, as businesses face their own financial pressures and are more selective about where they invest their resources.

In addition, a significant concern is the reliance on volunteers. Like many cities and towns across Australia, the Dubbo Region is seeing a decline in the availability and capacity of volunteers to help organise and run events. This trend, driven by factors such as economic downturns and changing social dynamics, has led to the biannual scheduling or even cancellation of some events.

The number of home-grown annual events in the Dubbo Region is projected to decline from 29 to 22 in 2025, reflecting the growing strain on resources and volunteer capacity.

This trend underscores the need for a strategic response to ensure that event sustainability is supported, not only from the point of view of an individual event, but the entire local events landscape.

Council support is vital to help events explore alternative revenue sources, market to audiences outside the LGA and implement innovative volunteer engagement strategies.

An action under this strategy will be to provide a business case to Council on establishing a team of staff within the Organisation to deliver events that achieve strong cultural, social and economic outcomes.

Demand on accommodation

According to Destination Country and Outback NSW Ltd's draft Odin360 report, the Dubbo Region's accommodation sector faces several significant challenges:

1. The Central West Orana REZ and other major projects have increased demand for accommodation, driving up costs and making it difficult for leisure travellers to find affordable options.
2. Local accommodation property purchases to house workers has reduced the availability of accommodation for leisure travellers, impacting the leisure tourism sector
3. Insufficient investment in new accommodation developments and upgrades to existing facilities has worsened the shortage and constrained sector growth.

The Odin360 report also cites an expected and substantial influx of people from major construction projects, impacting accommodation, hospitality housing and other work opportunities.

This strategy will include key actions for Council to help address the anticipated shortages in accommodation that will be available to our visitor market. Whilst supply and demand typically lead to higher overnight tariffs, Council can, through education and advocacy, raise awareness of the consequences of overly inflated room rates. Whilst this practice does not occur in isolation in the Dubbo Region, it is important to consider that our destination has to work much harder than our counterparts on the eastern seaboard to attract major sporting events and high-profile live entertainment events. Large-scale events drive visitation that not only benefits the accommodation industry, but also benefit our attractions, our hospitality industry and small business.

Understanding the opportunities that can be garnered and shared through event activity by businesses across various industries in our region is a key action under this strategy.

As DRC looks to consolidate its event strategy, relevant to this report is identifying the other elements of the event industry – from event attraction and acquisition capabilities to accommodation and supplier capacities – that provide the necessary comparative framework to understand how to position Dubbo at the top of the host destination consideration set in regional NSW and beyond.

Events Research Paper 2021

Focus areas

Through an analysis of the current events landscape, and extensive consultation with key stakeholders and the broader community, three distinct focus areas are identified to guide the future development of events in the Dubbo Region.

Each of these focus areas is supported by a series of strategic actions to be implemented over a five-year period. This framework provides a clear, structured path for Council to Provide, Lead, Collaborate and Advocate for events, as well as define the outcomes we aim to achieve for the community.

Focus Area 1: Our local events industry is diverse, culturally-rich and appealing

Through strategic advice, best-practice leadership and strong engagement we will help facilitate meaningful and impactful events that resonate broadly with the community.

Cultivate Local Events

Focus Area 2: Our community enjoys a strong and dynamic event ecosystem

We will forge robust connections and pathways for stakeholders to capitalise on and thrive from event activities. Through strategic marketing, we will amplify local and visiting audiences, driving sustained growth and engagement.

Drive Business through Events

Focus Area 3: The Dubbo Region is a premier destination for major and large-scale events

We will actively champion the strategic expansion of local events and attract major large-scale events, thereby cultivating a diverse and balanced portfolio that ensures event dispersal throughout the Local Government Area.

Grow and Attract Events



Activating the strategy

Dubbo Regional Council plays an active role as a Provider, Leader, Collaborator, and Advocate to support the growth and success of events across the Local Government Area.

Council as a Provider and Leader

- Offers resources and expertise to help event organisers implement best-practice management, ensuring events are safe, successful, and sustainable.
- Continuously reviews and improves management policies, making it easier for the community to initiate and develop events.
- Guides local businesses on how to maximise opportunities from event activity.

Council as a Collaborator

- Develops strategies that encourage event organisers to engage local artists, creatives, and small businesses.
- Provides financial support and tools to help local event organisers create meaningful, engaging events that address gaps in the event calendar.
- Invests in external large-scale events to secure long-term cultural, social, and economic benefits.

Council as an Advocate

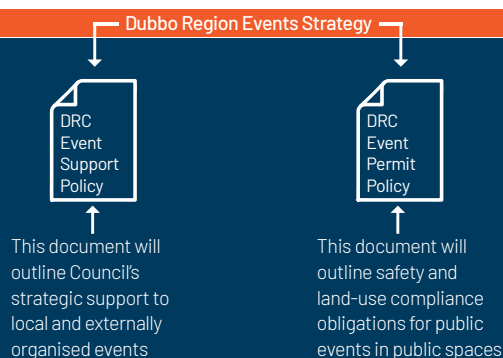
- Promotes events to help boost local attendance and attract visitors from outside the LGA.
- Markets the LGA to targeted audiences to increase large-scale event activity and its distribution across the region.
- Supports the expansion of locally organised annual events by promoting them to wider geographical markets.

This structured approach ensures that Dubbo Regional Council fosters a vibrant and diverse event landscape, benefiting both the community and the local economy.



Priority Actions

During the community consultation phase, it became evident that many event organisers and key stakeholders weren't fully aware of the types of support Council offers events. Furthermore, there was limited understanding of the rationale behind the varying levels of support provided. For example, the difference in support provided to a new community event compared to a large-scale sporting event. Council's key roles to support and permit events will be operationalised through the development of two key strategies.



Actions table

Focus Area 1: Our local events industry is diverse, culturally-rich and appealing. Through strategic advice, best-practice leadership and strong engagement we will help facilitate meaningful and impactful events that resonate broadly with the community.

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

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030
1. Develop an Event Support Policy that outlines Council's strategic support to local and externally organised events.	CCP	Provider	●				
2. Develop an Event Permit Policy that outlines safety and compliance obligations for public events in public spaces.	CCP	Provider	●				
3. Investigate a program that will streamline event applications.	CCP	Provider	●				
4. Investigate ways in which Council can help facilitate the initiation of cultural events and support events that engage local creatives and our live music industry.	CCP	Provider	●				
5. Develop a training program to help build the capacity of local event organisers	CCP	Provider	●	●	●	●	●
6. Develop tactics and resources to help event organisers attract and retain volunteers.	CCP	Provider		●			
7. Develop a business case for Council's consideration based on staff delivering events that will achieve strategic outcomes.	CCP	Provider					●

Focus Area 2: Our region enjoys a strong and dynamic event ecosystem. We will forge robust connections and pathways for stakeholders to capitalise on and thrive from event activities. Through strategic marketing, we will amplify local and visiting audiences, driving sustained growth and engagement.

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030
1. Investigate and implement additional ways to promote events to the local community.	CCP	Leader	●				
2. Develop collaborative opportunities for events seeking to promote to audiences outside the LGA.	CCP	Collaborator		●			
3. Investigate the use of public space to support niche and major event activity.	CCP	Leader			●		
4. Investigate strategies to address projected accommodation shortages to help meet future needs of event visitors.	SPE	Advocate					●
5. Develop a communications plan to heighten awareness of the business sector of the value of major events to the overall local economy.	CCP	Leader			●		
6. As part of the master planning project for the Dubbo and Wellington Showgrounds, investigate ways in which space can be made more attractive to event organisers.	CCP	Provider	●				

Focus Area 3: The Dubbo Region is a premier destination for major and large-scale events. We will actively champion the strategic expansion of local events and attract major large-scale events, thereby cultivating a diverse and balanced portfolio that ensures event dispersal throughout the Local Government Area.

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

Action	Responsible Division	Role of Council	2025/ 2026	2026/ 2027	2027/ 2028	2028/ 2029	2029/ 2030
1. Investigate ways in which Council can support the dispersal and growth of locally organised events throughout the LGA.	CCP	Leader					●
2. Investigate and report on the scope of Wellington becoming an adventure sports hub.	CCP	Leader					●
3. Develop a Corporate Partnership Program to attract private investment in the attraction of large-scale sporting events.	CCP	Collaborator			●		
4. Seek to attract a live entertainment event appealing to youth.	CCP	Advocate				●	
5. Develop marketing materials to attract externally organised events delivering strong economic and social benefits.	CCP	Advocate		●			

Measuring progress

Measuring and reporting on the strategy helps everyone understand how the region is progressing in supporting local events to launch and grow, creating a year-round offering of culturally rich, diverse and meaningful events. It will also articulate Council's progress against key outcome areas such as event attraction and dispersal of event activity across the LGA. In addition to internal quarterly updates, an annual report will be developed and provided to community. These reports will track progress, inform future bodies of work and will support evidence-based decision making. 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.

Draft

Status	Version	Author	Date	Changes
Draft	1.0	Events and Partnerships Co-ordinator	July 2025	

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

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REPORT: Water Safety Report

DIVISION: Community, Culture and Places
REPORT DATE: 28 August 2025
TRIM REFERENCE: ID25/1757

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose	- Addressing Council resolution - Provide review or update	
Issue	- Council resolution CCC25/17 (ID25/660) - Addressing issues regarding water safety in our inland waterway access points	
Reasoning	- Council can play a role in managing risks to safety at formal access points to inland waterways. An independent third party assessment of 17 formal access points across the LGA has been engaged. - There are a range of resources and learning programs available for local schools and community to access. - Council officers can assist in promoting their access.	
Financial Implications	Budget Area	Corporate Governance
	Funding Source	External and Internal
	Proposed Cost	\$12,750 plus GST and \$25,500
	Ongoing Costs	Nil
Policy Implications	Policy Title	No policy
	Impact on Policy	Nil

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 four principal themes and a number of objectives and strategies. This report is aligned to:

Theme:	2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective:	2.3 Our community enjoys diverse sports, recreation, and social activities.
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.3.5 Maintain and enhance passive and active open spaces for community use.
Theme:	2 Thriving and Inclusive Communities'
CSP Objective:	2.7 We deliver services and enforce regulations fairly and responsibly to protect health, safety, and community standards.
Delivery Program Strategy:	2.7.1 Enhance community safety and crime prevention

efforts to create a secure and welcoming environment.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. That Council note the engagement of third-party specialists to conduct a risk assessment of Councils formal inland waterway access points.**
- 2. Council note the action being taken to promote the availability of existing water safety programs from professional service providers.**

Craig Arms
Director Community, Culture and Places

RH
Community Development
OfficerSeniors and People
with Disability

BACKGROUND

After the recent tragic passing of a local youth in the Macquarie River at Sandy Beach (3 February 2025), the Chief Executive Officer was asked to provide information on existing water safety programs and provide advice on the installation of safety measures that could assist with community education regarding recreational activities relevant to inland waterways.

Previous Resolutions of Council

25 February 2025 CCL25/18 Waterway Safety Program	1. That Dubbo Regional Council notes the tragic passing of Taonashe 'Latroy' Chivhaku who drowned in the Macquarie River at Sandy Beach, Dubbo on 3 February 2025, and expresses our deep sympathy to the family and friends of Latroy. 2. That Dubbo Regional Council notes the enormous outpouring of community support at the vigil held at Sandy Beach on the evening of 6 February 2025. 3. That Dubbo Regional Council discuss with the Chivhaku family regarding their desire for an appropriate memorial to Latroy at Sandy Beach. 4. That the CEO provide a report back to Council on appropriate safety measures that could be implemented at Sandy Beach to reduce the risk of future drowning incidents and investigate any suitable Water Safety programs that can be provided to schools in the LGA to assist with educating students in river safety, and options for delivery.
1 April 2025 CCC25/17 Waterway Safety	1. That the CEO seek to engage an independent third-party specialist to conduct a risk assessment of Council's formal inland waterway access points and provide recommendation to address identified issues. 2. That Council consider an allocation of \$10,000 from the proposed Community, Culture and Places budget as part of its review of public comment to the Draft 2025/2026 Operational Plan and Budget. 3. That the CEO work with an independent third-party specialist to build a proposal for an inland waterways safety program for a targeted community audience and report back to Council for consideration.

REPORT

Community Development Officer reported to Council at the Ordinary Council meeting 1 April 2025, detailing Council's responsibilities and regulatory obligations. The report described in full the role of Council regarding water safety and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Risk Assessment of Council's Formal Inland Waterway Access Points

Conducting risk assessments for inland waterways is essential to ensure public safety around rivers, creeks, lakes, and dams. To support this, Council has commissioned Royal Life Saving Australia—an independent expert—to carry out a comprehensive water safety risk assessment across 17 formal inland waterway access sites within the Dubbo Local Government Area.

Organisations such as the Royal Life Saving Society of Australia provide specialised services that assist land managers in identifying potential hazards and implementing effective safety measures. Their assessments typically address areas including signage compliance, emergency response planning, and hazard identification.

The 17 designated access points are:

1. South Dubbo Weir
2. Sandy Beach
3. Lions Park West (boat ramp)
4. Ollie Robbins Oval (boat ramp)
5. Triathlon Stairs (LH. Ford Bridge and along the Tracker Riley Promenade)
6. Butlers Falls
7. Ponto Falls
8. John Oxley Reserve
9. Dickigundi Reserve
10. Terramungamine Reserve
11. Devils hole
12. North Weir (depending on final access after bridge build)
13. Caroline Reserve
14. Bril Bral Reserve
15. Pioneer Park Wellington
16. Thornton Street boat ramp (known as “the shallows”)
17. Falls Road crossing Wellington

Inland Waterways Safety Programs

Council's Community Development Officer has researched all existing water safety programs that are available to community.

A list of programs and resources are available to the public through free or paid connection with Royal Life Saving NSW-ACT-TAS and Royal Life Saving Australia (links below), as well as Belgravia Leisure (swim programs) and other community organisations (Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre T/a 'Connecting Community Services' – migrant swim programs).

Royal Life Saving (RLS) Information:

[Swimming and Water Safety | Royal Life Saving | NSW/ACT/TAS](#)
[Community Education | Royal Life Saving | Castle Hill](#)

Royal Life Saving Society - Australia

Primary school modules

Royal Life Saving NSW-ACT-TAS will be launching additional teacher resources for primary students their portal within the next 2-3 months.

- Schools must sign up as education partners (free) with RLS to have access to resources.
- Most programs are free.

Youth (High school students)

The following can be delivered as free online learning or by teachers. Schools need to register as education partners (free) with RLS to access resources.

- **Swim Safe, Swim Sober** (free online course) [Swim Safe Swim Sober](https://www.drowningprevention.org.au/high-school-education/swim-safe-swim-sober-) or <https://www.drowningprevention.org.au/high-school-education/swim-safe-swim-sober->
- **Stage 4 or Stage 5 Community Lifesaver courses** (Bronze e lifesaving- free online course) <https://www.drowningprevention.org.au/high-school-education/stage-4---lifesaving>
- **Stage 4 and 5 First Aid Awareness:** Partner resources supplied but program is to be delivered by the high school PDHPE teacher [Stage 4- First Aid Awareness Stage 5- First Aid Awareness](https://www.drowningprevention.org.au/high-school-education/stage-4--first-aid-awareness-) or <https://www.drowningprevention.org.au/high-school-education/stage-4--first-aid-awareness->

Other local water safety programs

- Multicultural Learn to Swim program – Connecting Community Servies (Dubbo Neighbourhood Centre) targeted at people from CALD backgrounds who have been in Australia less than 5 years.
- Murungidual Paddling Pathways 2025 – participants aged 12-17 years, www.TRIV3.com.au
- Several swimming skills development programs and water safety programs are provided by private businesses/swim schools:
Dubbo RSL Swim School ([SWIM SCHOOL - Dubbo Health Club](#))
Frog Pond Swim School ([Trent Croll's Learn To Swim Program](#))
Fitness Focus ([. — Fitness Focus Dubbo](#))

Actions for Council officers

The Community Development Officer will be sending correspondence to schools providing water safety educational information and resource links.

Council officers will provide the necessary information to schools within the Dubbo LGA and will encourage them to access, register and use the resources and programs available through Royal Life Saving NSW-ACT-TAS.

Council will also be promoting water safety messaging as part of a 'Community Safety Month' campaign during October 2025.

Consultation

Internal consultation with Community Development Officer, Manager Recreation and Open Space, Governance, Youth Development Officer, Manager Community Services, and Recreation Coordinator.

External consultation has been completed with Royal Life Saving NSW-ACT-TAS (Australia), Belgravia Leisure, Dubbo RSL Health Club, Connecting Communities, Murungidual Paddling Pathways, community members and local schools.

Discussions highlighted the needed site risk assessments and the available water safety programs and resources.

Resourcing Implications

The total cost for the 17 site assessments is \$12,750.00. This has been funded via a successful application for Risk Enhance funding through Council's insurer.