

2023 / 24

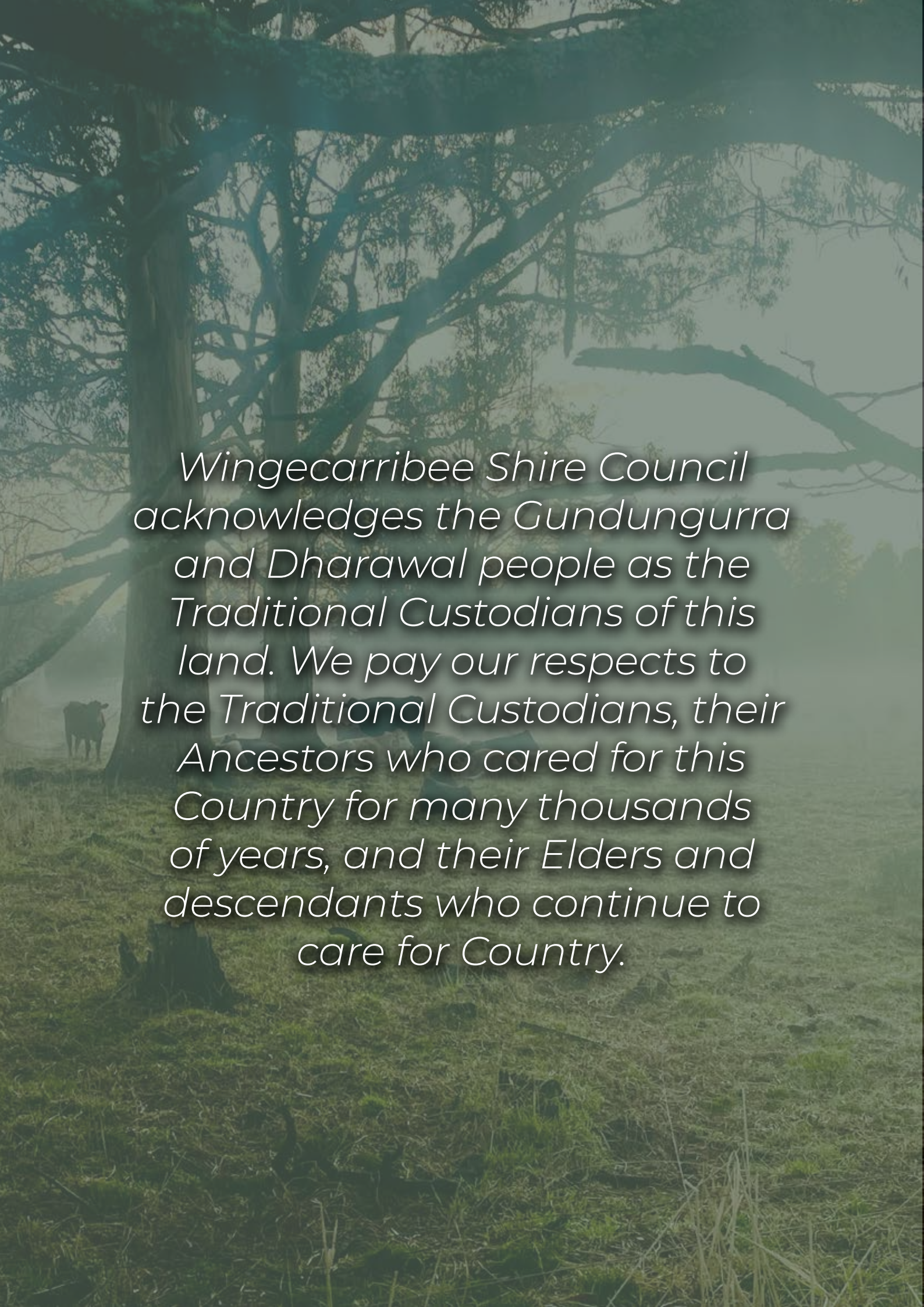
# Annual Report



Wingecarribee  
SHIRE COUNCIL

*We're with you.*





*Wingecarribee Shire Council  
acknowledges the Gundungurra  
and Dharawal people as the  
Traditional Custodians of this  
land. We pay our respects to  
the Traditional Custodians, their  
Ancestors who cared for this  
Country for many thousands  
of years, and their Elders and  
descendants who continue to  
care for Country.*



## *Our Community's Vision*

Wingecarribee 2041

We are...

*... a healthy, respectful, productive community,  
learning and living in harmony, proud of our  
heritage and nurturing our environment.*

## *Our Organisation's Vision*

*We strive to make a positive impact  
in our community!*





## MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

It is with great pleasure I present our Annual Report for the 2023/24 financial year.

A key document that provides us with the opportunity to keep the community up to date on progress made towards achieving our strategic and corporate objectives, the Annual Report reflects our accomplishments over the past year as well as the challenges we've faced and the resilience we've shown together.

2024 marks the end of the Administration period and we close this chapter, confident that legacy issues have been addressed by dedicating ourselves to strong governance, fostering transparent civic leadership, enhancing efficiency and ensuring accessible communication and engagement with our community.

We welcome the newly elected Council and are supporting them with a comprehensive induction program designed to equip them with the information they need to deliver strong strategic oversight and governance.

We are committed to creating a nimble and innovative organisation that responds effectively and efficiently to community needs and look forward to working with the Councillors to make a meaningful impact in our Shire.

2024 has seen remarkable achievements and growth that encourage residents to live, work and stay in the Shire.

The \$20 Million Old South Road rehabilitation project was completed, there has been significant progress on the development of the Wingecarribee Integrated Transport Strategy, the new Emergency Operations Centre opened

in May 2024 and a focus on engaging with local youth has created positive opportunities for our future generation.

Other highlights include:

- Launched of the Participate Wingecarribee engagement platform
- Re-opened Bowral Memorial Hall as a premier, multi-purpose venue
- Completed three (3) cultural burns within Gibbergunyah Reserve
- Completed Mobile Community Recycling Centre rollout
- Re-opened Casburn Park in Wingello
- Adopted the Wastewater Asset Management Plan
- Launched the Upcycle Centre at the Moss Vale Resource Recovery Centre
- Delivered Wingecarribee Seniors Festival program of events
- Completed Defibrillator installation project at Council's hall facilities
- Adopted the Robertson Village Place Plan

Community is at the forefront of all we do. We are committed to providing the landscape and foundation for our Shire to flourish and thrive for now and into the future.

If you would like to learn more about any of the projects and initiatives in our Annual Report, I encourage you to get in touch.

*Lisa Miscamble*  
General Manager





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Wingecarribee 2041: Our Community's Vision .....	3
Message from the General Manager .....	4
About the Annual Report .....	7
Our Community .....	8
About the Council .....	9
Achievements .....	10
<b>Part 1: Our Year In Review .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Overall Performance .....	12
2023/24 Highlights .....	14
Leadership .....	18
People .....	26
Places .....	32
Environment .....	40
Economy .....	46
<b>Part 2 : Statutory Information .....</b>	<b>58</b>
Anti-Slavery Statements .....	59
Environmental Upgrade Agreements Entered Into .....	59
Rates and Charges Written Off .....	59
Special Rate Variation .....	60
IPART Reporting Requirements: Long Term Financial Plan Comparison .....	61
Major Variations Compared to Long Term Financial Plan (General Fund) .....	62
Environment Levy .....	64
Interim Heritage Orders .....	65
Councillor professional development .....	65
Overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing the Council .....	65
Mayor and Councillor Expenses .....	65
Contracts Awarded .....	66
Legal Proceedings .....	68
Private Works .....	72
Financial Assistance .....	72
External Bodies Exercising Power .....	72
Bodies Council Participated In .....	73
Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan .....	73
Remuneration Package for the General Manager and Senior Staff .....	73
Labour statistics on 14 February 2024 .....	74
Stormwater Management .....	74
Companion Animals Management .....	75
Capital Expenditure Review .....	78
Capital Works .....	78
Disability Inclusion Action Plan .....	78
Status of Voluntary Planning Agreements .....	81
Development contributions .....	82
Swimming Pool Inspections Program .....	83
Government Information Public Access Activity .....	84
Public Interest Disclosures .....	84
Privacy Statement .....	84
<b>Part 3 – Financial Performance .....</b>	<b>85</b>



# ABOUT THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Report is a key point of accountability between Council and the community and provides a detailed account of Wingecarribee Shire Council's operational and financial performance during the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The Report reflects the five themes of the Community Strategic Plan, each of which has its own vision statement that explains what the community aspires to, and how we aim to achieve these shared goals.

They Are:

## 1. Leadership



## 2. People



## 3. Places



## 4. Environment



## 5. Economy



# COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

## POPULATION

2024 Population = 53,109



population increased by 4,825 people (10.1%) from 2016 to 2021. An average of 1.94% per year over the period.

Our projected population in 2041 is 65,659



49% of the population are males \*2024

51% of the population are females \*2024



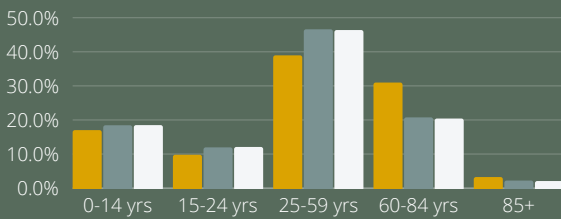
In 2021, 2,940 people (or 5.6% of the population) reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This was a similar percentage to 2016.



2.3%

of residents identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in 2021

## AGE STRUCTURE



■ WINGECARRIBEE ■ NSW ■ National



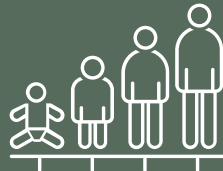
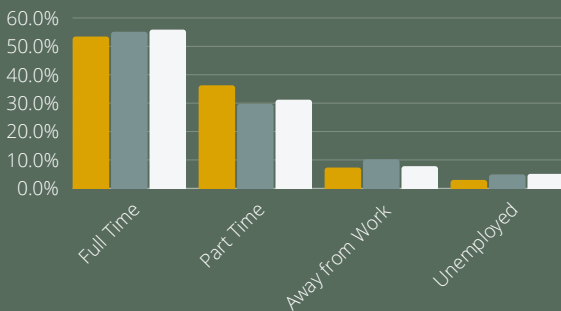
77% of us were born in Australia



7% of us speak a language other than English

In 2016 Median age was 48 years compared to a State average of 39 years

## EMPLOYMENT



The largest changes in the age structure between 2016 and 2021

- Seniors (70 to 84) (+2,036 people)
- Young workforce (25 to 34) (+775 people)
- Older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59) (+454 people)
- Parents and homebuilders (35 to 49) (+345 people)



12.8% of the population earned an income of \$2,000+ per week.



36.3% of us have a long-term health condition

## HOUSING



90.1% Shire's residents live in standalone dwellings



8.9% high-density housing



23,573 total dwellings



24.8% single person households



32% two person household



43.3% Own our home



26% of us are couples with children



79.2% Work and Live in the Shire



18% participate in volunteering activities higher than NSW figure of 15.5%



15% of us are at school



Land Area 2,689 square km



Over 370 native mammal reptile and bird species  
50 threatened or endangered native plant species  
2,150 native flora species  
54 threatened or endangered native animal species

\*Source: <https://forecast.id.com.au/wingecarribee> prepared by ID (Informed decisions), September, 2024 and Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)



# ABOUT THE COUNCIL

Wingecarribee Shire Council is a local government organisation governed by the requirements of the Local Government Act (1993) and other relevant legislative provisions.

For the period of 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024, Wingecarribee Shire Council was under Administration. In the absence of the elected body, the Administrator determined Council policy, strategic direction and major corporate decisions in discussion with key stakeholders.

This context is critical to understanding the Council’s priorities and performance since the elected body was suspended in March 2021 and subsequently dismissed in July 2022. Council has prepared an Administrator’s End of Term Report which focuses largely on the internal mechanisms of the Council over the past few years and the key achievements under Administration.

Going forward, the Council will produce two key reports in the year of a local government election: the Annual Report and the State of Our Shire.

How the reports fit together:

Annual Report 2023/24	State of Our Shire 2021/24	Administrator’s End of Term 2021/24
<p><b>Focus</b></p> <p>Progress against the Delivery Program and Operational Plan with a focus on the past 12 months (financial year 2023/24).</p> <p>Covers the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.</p> <p>Includes statutory reporting including comprehensive financial reporting.</p>	<p><b>Focus</b></p> <p>Council’s role in progressing the Community Strategic Plan (CSP).</p> <p>Covers the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2024.</p> <p>Published as an addendum to the Annual Report in November 2024.</p> <p>Includes reporting against the key performance indicators under each theme in the CSP.</p>	<p><b>Focus</b></p> <p>Council’s current position and achievements since the Administration period.</p> <p>Covers the period March 2021 to June 2024.</p> <p>Includes progress by key result areas i.e. those priorities identified for action during Administration.</p> <p>Published as a separate document, to be read in conjunction with the Annual Report and State of Our Shire Report. Provides additional information about the period March 2021 to June 2024.</p>

The local government elections on 14 September 2024 has restored democratic processes and local representation, with elected officials once again leading and making decisions on behalf of their constituents.

The incoming Council’s role is to maintain and build on the momentum, ensuring that future plans are responsible, effective and representative of the community’s aspirations and needs.

Day to day operations are delegated to the General Manager, as provided for in Council resolutions and delegations, and in accordance with relevant legislation.



# ACHIEVEMENTS

The Annual Report 2023/24 is divided into three parts

**Part 1 - Our Year in Review** which details progress made towards our planned activities, goals and targets including key highlights. A detailed breakdown of progress against the Operational Plan Priority Actions was published in the June 2024 Quarterly Progress Report on Council's website



<https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/council/progress-reports/wsc-quarterly-delivery-program-progress-report-june-2024.pdf>

**Part 2 - Statutory Information** which provides information as prescribed by the Local Government Act 1993, Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and any other applicable legislation.

**Part 3 - Financial Performance** – another statutory reporting requirement is the inclusion of our audited financial statements detailing Council's financial performance for the 2023/24.

Our audited financial statements have been included as a link to Council's website.





# **PART 1:** OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

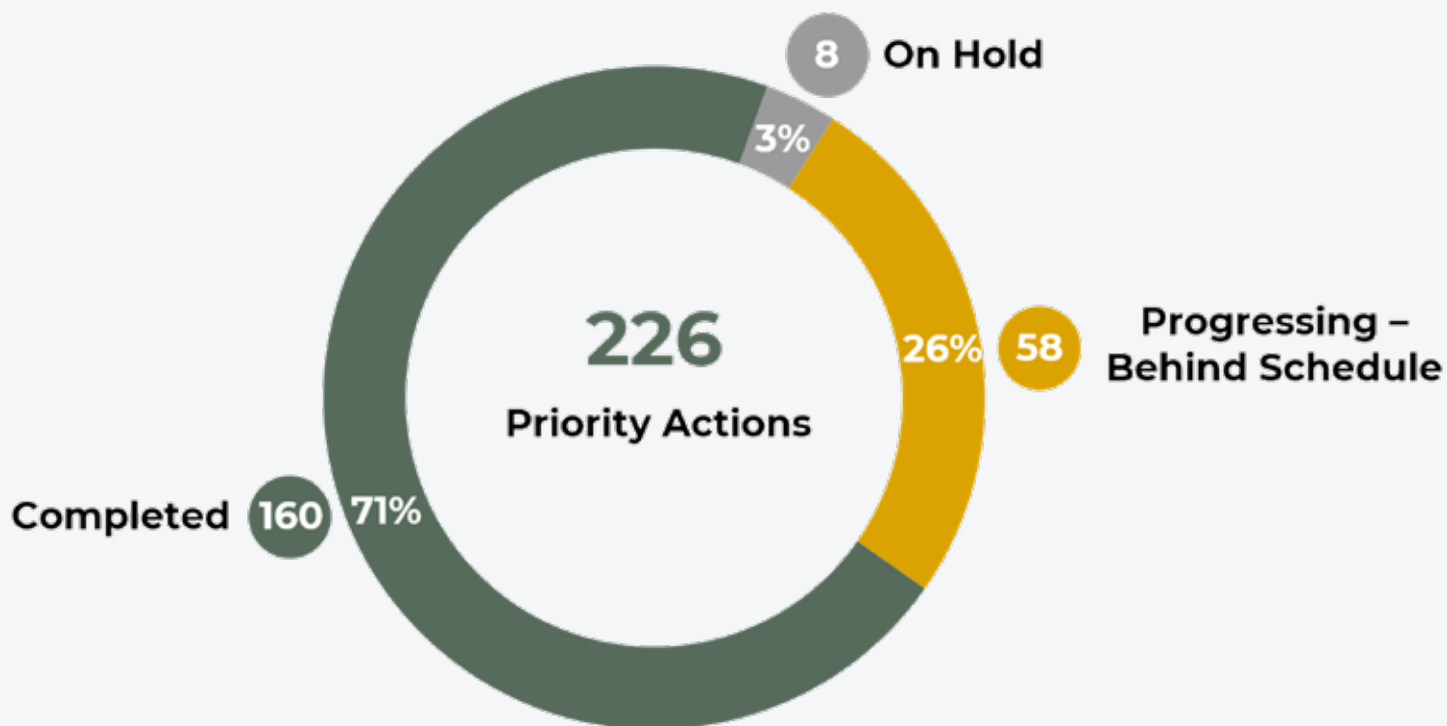


# OVERALL PERFORMANCE

At the end of the FY2023/24 financial year, 8 priority actions were 'On Hold', 58 were Progressing - Behind Schedule', and 160 were 'Completed'.

The priority actions that were "Progressing – Behind Schedule" had all commenced by 30 June 2024 and 6 actions have since been closed in the first half of the 2024/25 financial year.

Some of the priority actions are milestone actions linked to multiyear projects, which will continue and be finalised in the 2024/25 financial year.









JULY 2023

Celebrating Indigenous Art and Culture for NAIDOC Week



Youth Drop-in Sessions at Hilltop Community Centre



Community Heritage Study



AUGUST 2023

Bundanoon Off-Leash Dog Park unveiled



Careers @ Council Expo attended by 161 students



SEPTEMBER 2023

Another successful Tulip Time Festival with over 62,000 attendees



Emergency Management and Resilience Meetings held across the Shire



Establishment of the Economy Community Reference Panel





# 2023 - 2024 Highlights

Bowral Classic cycling event brought tourism to the region



First Candidate Information Session held for 2024 Local Government Elections



Implementation of 'Technology One' corporate system to enhance Council's digital infrastructure



OCTOBER 2023

Participate Wingecarribee community engagement platform launched



Bundanoon Folk Festival



Resilience Ready Expo



NOVEMBER 2023

Angels in our Town Parade & Concert



Old South Road rehabilitation project completed



War on Waste Earth Flix environmental initiative with 160 attendees



DECEMBER 2023



JANUARY 2024

Australia Day Celebrations



Rollout of defibrillator installation project at Council-owned community halls



FEBRUARY 2024

Resilient Towns Initiative workshops held in Wingello & Balmoral Village



Adoption of the Environment and Climate Strategy



MARCH 2024

Mobile Community Recycling Centre launched



Wingecarribee Seniors Festival



Environmental Awareness Week activities





# 2023 - 2024 Highlights

Council facilitated two successful Aboriginal Cultural Burns in the Shire



Bridgerton in Bowral events; bringing tourism to the region



Robertson Village Place Plan was adopted



APRIL 2024

Local Matters Forums held



Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at Moss Vale Civic Centre officially opened



“Wingecarribee Remembers’ Atrium Exhibition



MAY 2024

Grand Re-opening of Casburn Park in Wingello



Wingecarribee Youth Forum



JUNE 2024

# Leadership



## Leadership Vision for Wingecarribee 2041

We trust the governments that represent us. They work together in the best interests of the community. They are open, accountable and allocate resources wisely.

We are confident that they are making decisions that support our goals.

Governments listen to the community and involve us in decision-making. They are knowledgeable but also seek out new ideas and points of view.

They regularly communicate and keep us informed, ensuring we all have opportunities to have a say on what matters to us.

Most of all, our governments show strong leadership and are connected to the communities they serve.

## LEADERSHIP SERVICES

Asset Planning and Delivery	Development Services
Civic Leadership	Economic Development
Communications and Engagement	Employee Services
Corporate Information	Financial Services
Corporate Relations	Governance and Legal
Corporate Strategy	Information Services
Customer Service	Property Services

## GOALS

1.1

Ethical and trusted levels government that work together in the best interest of the Shire

1.2

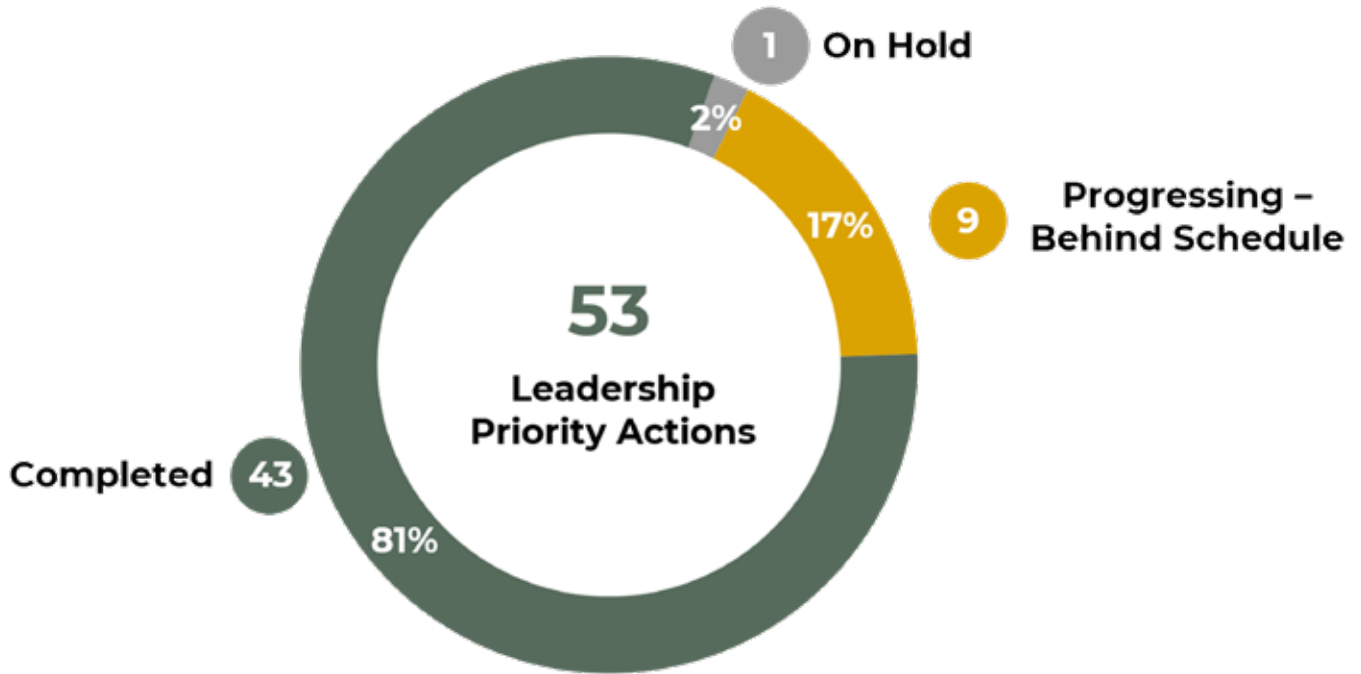
A well-informed, engaged community

1.3

A leading community



## REPORTING OUR PROGRESS: LEADERSHIP



↑ Increasing   
 ↓ Decreasing   
 █ Stable

Leadership Indicators	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Percentage of formal applications under the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act</i> decided within statutory timeframes or as agreed with the applicant	85%*	100%	↑
Complaints received and recorded in Complaints Register	91	169	↑
Compliments received and records formally captured in Compliments Register	38**	77**	↑
Number of hours lost due to workplace injury#	2,932	4,497	↑
Subscribers to weekly eNews	3450	3667	↑
Click through rates for weekly eNews	14.1%	9.63%	↓
Number of cyber threats successfully managed	No significant threats	No Significant Threats	█

\* Results impacted by staff shortages however levels normalised in 2023/24.

\*\* Does not include compliments received by individual staff not formally registered in our system

# Historical Data for previous year has been corrected to match StateCover's Smart System.

## Moving forward as an Organisation

In 2022 “Our Road Map: Moving forward as an Organisation” was developed to better understand the organisation and to provide direction following a period of significant disruption.

Over the past 12 months we have continued to focus on achieving our short-term objectives of refocusing, reinvigorating and rebuilding the organisation.

Horizon 1 'Back to Basics' is due to conclude in 2025 and is progressing well.

Highlights have included:

- ✓ Review of the salary system and implementation of Operational Management Standards and procedures
- ✓ Review and adoption of updated Asset Management Plans to coincide with the review of the Resourcing Strategy 2024-2034
- ✓ Review of delegations and implementation of a delegations' management system
- ✓ Adoption of a Community Recreational Facilities Strategy to guide infrastructure planning and resource management
- ✓ Adoption of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- ✓ Adoption of the Service Planning & Review Framework (Delivering Better Services)
- ✓ Implementation of Fraud and Corruption controls
- ✓ Updates to Council's website and a partial rebranding, to refresh and improve Council's communications
- ✓ Development of a Risk Framework and Policy
- ✓ Improvements to the annual Performance Feedback Development process to reflect the Local Government capability framework

## Application Tracker Enhancements

Council is committed to leveraging technology to enhance transparency and provide open access to development application information. A significant update to our Application Tracker system in 2023/24 resulted in more detailed and accessible information for Development Applications and enhanced the overall user experience.

Key technological improvements included:

- ✓ Enhanced Data Access: Users now have access to more comprehensive documentation, including internal floor plans, public submissions, requests for additional information, supplementary documentation throughout the application lifecycle, final referral advice from both internal/external parties, and specialist consultant advice where relevant
- ✓ Advanced Document Management: The system ensures that all formal documents related to applications are easily accessible online, with advanced redaction features protecting sensitive information
- ✓ Improved User Experience: The second phase of the Application Tracker enhancements, launched in late March, and introduced a modernized user interface designed to improve the online experience

## A new Portal ready for our newly elected Councillors

A new portal has been developed that enables Councillors to access the information that they require to assist them to undertake their civic responsibilities.

The Councillor Portal has been designed to access business papers, policies, procedures and Councillor onboarding information and to also allow Councillors to submit notice of motions and requests for information - all electronically and appropriately workflowed to ensure an efficient and timely business process.



## **Strategic Reporting is a key focus**

Council successfully upgraded and enhanced its reporting capabilities to align with the Community Strategic Plan's core themes of Leadership, People, Places, Environment and Economy.

Through the implementation of Pulse Software, Council streamlined its data management and reporting processes, resulting in improved accuracy and timely insights across all strategic areas. This upgrade not only ensured that Council operations were transparent and responsive to community needs but also fostered better decision-making and accountability.

The enhanced reporting capabilities played a crucial role in supporting a cohesive approach to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the Delivery Program 2023-2025 and the Operational Plan 2023-2024.

## **Welcoming our new Citizens**

During the reporting period Council conducted four (4) Citizenship Ceremonies with 95 local residents from 25 different countries of birth proudly gaining Australian Citizenship.

## **Appointing an ARIC**

Council appointed four (4) independent members to Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC), to provide independent advice and assurance to the General Manager and Council on matters such as internal and external audit, risk management, strategic planning and service delivery.

The newly appointed ARIC will operate under a new Internal Audit Charter and Terms of Reference in accordance with the amendments made to the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 which came into effect from 1 July 2024.

## **Policy Review**

During the reporting period 32 key policies were reviewed to ensure that they were still relevant to local circumstance and continued to be compliant with legislation. Of the 32 policies reviewed 30 required amendments, 1 was deferred for review and 1 was deemed no longer relevant and as such was rescinded by Council.

This policy review has ensured that the newly elected Council will be able to operate knowing that Council policies were up to date and relevant to circumstance.

Council will still be required to review all policies during their term of office.

## **Successful Migration of Media Centre Content to Main Council Website**

Council successfully completed the migration of five (5) years of historical media content from the Media Centre to the main Council website, enhancing accessibility and user experience. The project involved transferring media releases, news articles, and community announcements to a new centralised News section.

A dedicated landing page was created to serve as a user-friendly hub for all news-related content, improving navigation and search functionality through enhanced categorisation. This migration streamlined the management of news content and allowed more efficient updates and dissemination of information.

This successful migration marks a key achievement in Council's efforts to improve service delivery and ensure residents and stakeholders can easily access important news and updates.

## Community Research

Community Research Surveys are completed every 2 years to understand community perceptions and priorities as well as compare Council's performance against similar local government areas.

Surveys were completed in late 2022, and again in 2024, to help inform the incoming Council and establish a baseline for improvement.

Over 400 people participated in each survey providing researchers with a sample profile of the broader community.

Results from the 2022 and the 2024 survey showed that awareness of the Administrator was high and residents were feeling underrepresented by a democratically elected body.

Continuation of the Community Satisfaction Surveys throughout the Administration period has been an important activity given the guidance it provides when preparing the Operational Plan and Budget and assists prioritising Council services for review under the 'Delivering Better Services' Framework.

## IN FOCUS – ENFORCEABLE UNDERTAKING (EU)

### Background

On 25 October 2018, two contractor workers received serious injuries at Council's Moss Vale Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP).

An investigation by SafeWork NSW found that the crane driver had not been provided a site-specific induction and was unlicensed to operate the crane.

Council was accused of violating sections 19(1) and 32 of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, leading to prosecution on 25 October 2020.

Since the violations were not classified as category one offences, Council submitted an Enforceable Undertaking (EU) application instead of facing court. The EU was accepted on 25 May 2022, and prosecution proceedings were withdrawn on 20 June 2022.

### Report

Council committed to meeting the terms of the EU which involved three (3) workplace strategies and one (1) community benefit strategy which were intended to deliver benefits to the workplace, industry and the wider community.

1. Develop and implement an automated WHS induction program for Council
2. Develop and implement a Council contractor management program
3. Implement a WHS cultural improvement program at Council;
4. Implement a community safety awareness program as part of National Safe Work Month, which will be repeated each October, for the life of the EU.



## PROGRESS

### **Workplace Strategy 1 - Automated WHS Induction Program**

To address alleged failures of not inducting contractors and subcontractors at Moss Vale Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Council has committed to develop an automated WHS induction software system.

#### **2023/24 Update**

Based on the recommendations, Council committed to develop an automated WHS induction software system to address failures of not inducting contractor correctly.

The online induction system from WorkMetrics was selected for implementation and the Integrated Risk Management team has been working with WorkMetrics to ensure a smooth and efficient implementation.

This system will ensure a streamlined Contractor Onboarding process, including upload and review of all mandatory documents, certifications and licenses prior to commencing work.

Further, the inbuilt automated checks relating to compliance monitoring and notifications will assist in verifying that the Contractors remain compliant throughout their engagement.

### **Workplace Strategy 2 - Contractor Management Program**

Given Council's alleged failure of not inducting contractors and subcontractors, Council has also committed to implement a new contractor management system.

#### **2023/24 Update**

To enable a structured approach to contractor management, a new Contractor Safety Management Procedure was developed to provide clarity on the requirements of Council staff to manage Contractors in a consistent way across Council.

There will also be Centralised Register that will ensure monitoring of insurance requirements, capture of Contractor's performance including safety incident reporting, review and upload of Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS), mandatory Permits to Work, licenses, etc. Council is in the process of staff consultation, subsequent adoption and implementation of a new Contractor Safety Management Procedure.

This procedure enables work health and safety (WHS) to be incorporated into each phase of the contractor management lifecycle and sets out WHS performance standards required at each stage. Integrated Risk Management team is currently working on a plan for the rollout of the procedure with the implementation of the online induction system.

The Contractor performance management system will continue to progress, change and evolve beyond the term of the EU and Council is committed to the ongoing improvements of controls, systems and processes.

### **Workplace Strategy 3 - WHS Cultural Improvement Program**

Council has committed to develop and implement a WHS Cultural Improvement Program to address outstanding cultural issues.

#### **2023/24 Update**

The EU recognises that the WHS cultural maturity at the time of the incident was a factor that led to several failings outlined by SafeWork NSW therefore this strategy is targeted to improve the overall WHS culture at Council.

As part of the WHS cultural uplift within Council, multiple initiatives were identified and actioned as part of this process and the focus remains on continuing to progress this cultural change.

The initial 'People At Work Survey' (PAWS) led to creation of focus groups enabling development of a

detailed psychosocial hazard and risk assessment. A follow-up PAWS is planned in October 2024. Results will be compared with the initial PAWS and detailed report including corrective actions (if any) will be documented.

A Leadership Development Program was introduced to upskill executive and middle management teams in developing their leadership behaviours, working collaboratively across Council, and leading positive change throughout the organisation.

A Change Ambassador Leadership program was also introduced, where participants were assigned to four (4) project groups that focused on rejuvenation of Council's Core Values and Vision, Workplace Culture, Communication and Collaboration.

A staff engagement survey was conducted in March 2024 to obtain organisational insights that serve as the baseline as Council continues its journey to create a more positive culture for the organisation.

Executives and Managers attended risk training delivered by KPMG on the importance of risk management in a Council environment and the need to transition from a compliance-based culture to a risk-based learning culture.

Due Diligence training was conducted by StateCover for the Executive Team in 2023 and 2024. This training focussed on understanding the WHS duties and responsibilities of an Officer and the steps to demonstrate WHS due diligence.

Multiple WHS trainings were conducted in the last year for staff to ensure that they remain accredited (where required) as well as being regularly updated on legislative requirements, basic and mental health first aid, accident counselling, fire warden training, etc.

One of the outcomes of the EU investigation was to develop a Fair and Just Response Operating Management Standard (OMS) and Procedure. The OMS and procedure provide a transparent framework to guide consistent and appropriate leadership responses to an individual's behaviour. These documents are currently in the consultation phase.

Through the development of the EU systems, the following procedures were reviewed and updated: Safe Systems of Work (SSOW), e.g. Risk Assessment (RA), Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS), Safe Operating Procedures (SOP), and TAKE 5, plus Permits to Work and specific procedures for high-risk activities (including templates, checklists and forms).

## **Community Strategy 1 - Annual Community Safety Awareness Program**

Council has committed to partner with SafeWork NSW throughout the life of the EU to deliver a range of educational safety presentations and other related activities in the community to promote the importance of safety in the workplace. The topics for all these presentations and activities will be based on the safety initiatives identified by SafeWork NSW as part of each year's National Safe Work Month.

### **2023/24 Update**

The SafeWork NSW Safety Month community awareness campaign was held in October 2023. This campaign involved community presentations and a broad community awareness campaign. In close cooperation with SafeWork, presentations raising awareness about workplace safety fundamentals and promoting SafeWork Australia's Safety Month 2023 were rolled out across the Shire.

Council also promoted National Safety Month through internal and external websites, social media avenues, email signatures, hold messaging on incoming WSC phone lines, physical displays on selected Council fleet vehicles and facilities including banners on depots, and posters in libraries and the Civic Centre to ensure maximum reach in the community.





# People



## People Vision for Wingecarribee 2041

Everyone is welcome in the Shire.

We celebrate our differences and are open to new ideas. People feel valued, connected and safe and have plenty of opportunities to get involved in the community.

We are a happy, resilient and healthy community. No matter your age or personal circumstances, you can easily access the services that you need.

We have removed the barriers that stop vulnerable or disadvantaged people from leading full and healthy lives.

We are a creative, educated and vibrant community that values the arts. We celebrate our culture, learning from the past to create a better future.

## PEOPLE SERVICES

Aquatic Services

Arts and Cultural

Asset Planning and Delivery

Out of School Hours Care

Civic Leadership

Community Development

Economic Development

Emergency Management

Library Services

Natural Area Management

Open Space, including Parks and Recreation

## GOALS



**2.1**  
A happy, healthy, active and resilient community



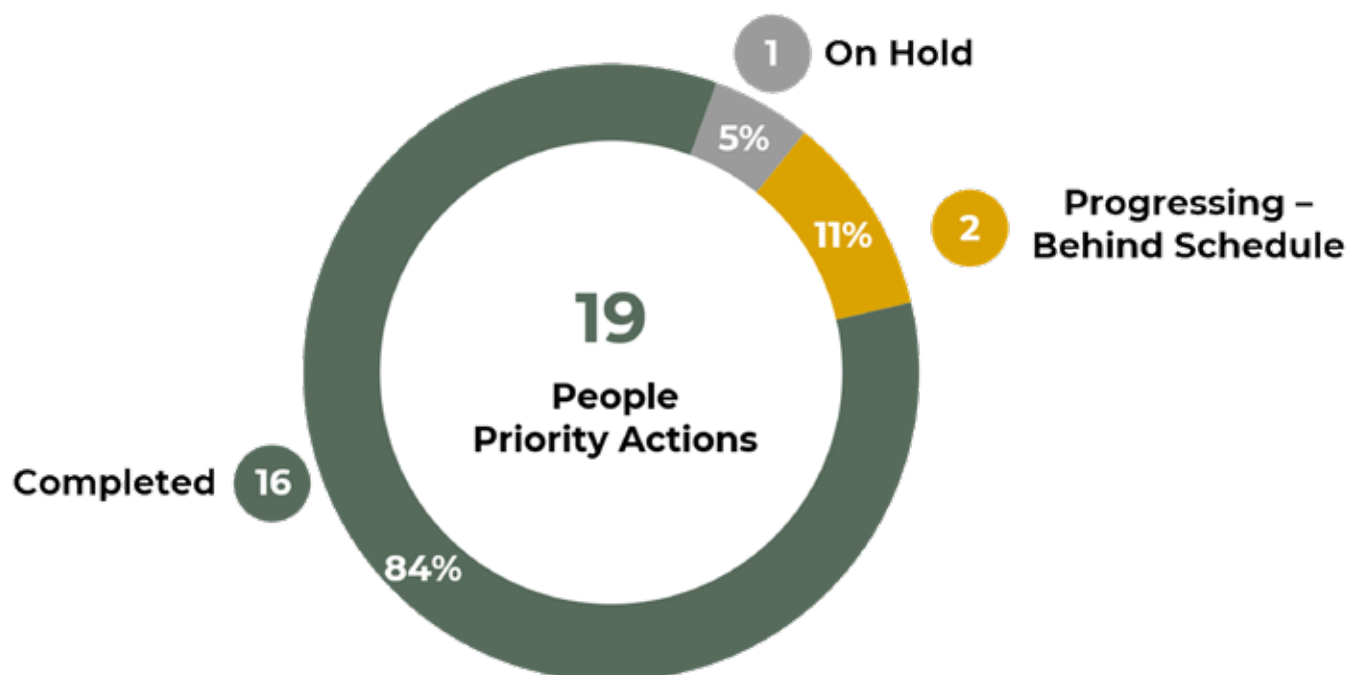
**2.2**  
An inclusive community where everyone can participate in community life



**2.3**  
A creative, diverse and vibrant community



# REPORTING OUR PROGRESS: PEOPLE



↑ Increasing   
 ↓ Decreasing   
  Stable

People Indicators	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Area of sports fields per 1,000 residents (hectares)	2.0	2.0	█
Actively maintained land per 1,000 residents (hectares)	5.8	5.95	█
Provision of playgrounds per 1,000 residents	5.6	6.2	↑

Library statistics	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Total library loans	221,276	235,761	↑
Library visits	113,239	123,689	↑
Enquiries	32,240	34,230	↑
Internet sessions	4,399	5,441	↑
Wireless sessions	8,817	10,540	↑
eLibrary downloads	48,905	52,064	↑
Library website visits	40,889	47,121	↑

## Sharing stories and achievements for NAIDOC Week

Each year, Council celebrates NAIDOC Week (July) which holds immense significance in acknowledging and celebrating the contributions and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It serves as a platform to raise awareness about the history, culture, and rights of Indigenous Australians. The theme for 2023 was “For Our Elders”.

In 2023 Council conducted a NAIDOC Flag raising and smoking ceremony and Elders breakfast at Council's Civic Centre, this was followed by cultural activities for community hosted at the Wingecarribee Aboriginal Cultural Centre.

## Listening to our Young People

The Wingecarribee Youth Forum 2024 was held in June 2024 at Council's Civic Centre. All local high schools in the Wingecarribee Shire were invited, and 50 students from years 7-10 attended.

The event provided young people with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, identify issues impacting young people and share their priorities for the Shire, while interacting with peers and local leaders.

The program was designed to promote the voices of young people and youth advocacy around local community issues.

## Building Resilient Towns

The Resilient Towns Initiative (RTI) focused on strengthening disaster preparedness and mitigation in partnership with the University of NSW (UNSW) and the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

In 2024, workshops were conducted in Wingello and Balmoral Villages to engage residents in proactive planning to develop localised preparedness plans led by the community. These plans, based on the Australian Red Cross' RediPlan framework, enhance the capacities, resources, and networks within each village, fostering resilience and self-reliance.

A highlight of these workshops was the interactive “big map” exercise, where residents could walk across a large-scale map of their village, simulating real-time discussions on potential disaster impacts. This exercise allowed community members to collaboratively explore how disasters might affect their homes and surrounding bushland, identify safe locations, and strategise resource sharing.

Through discussions on what matters most to the community and the support they require, residents identified critical actions and resources—both internal and external—that will be essential for implementing their plans.

RTI's work ensures that these villages are better equipped to cope with and recover from future emergencies, empowering local leadership and strengthening community connections.

## Opportunities to get our Youth EmpowerED

The EmpowerED project was designed to foster youth leadership by embedding young people's input throughout its planning, design, delivery, and evaluation.

A Youth Panel was established to guide the project and the Youth Week activities, providing recommendations on student incentives and goodie bags for the “Careers @ Council” event and Council staff worked closely with panel members to incorporate their feedback.

The project has successfully improved young people's access to community activities, strengthened their local connections, and developed their skills for future participation.

Feedback from the “Careers @ Council” event showed an increase in students' interest in Council work placements and careers, with 19% expressing interest post-event compared to 10% previously. Participants also reported greater confidence in writing resumes for Council positions. By engaging directly with local employers at the Careers Information Night, young people developed valuable knowledge about career pathways and local opportunities, enhancing both their social and economic participation.

## Bringing together Community Circles

Council partnered with Community Circles Wingecarribee to bring together community groups, volunteers, friends and neighbours to provide meaningful support and community connections.

This initiative aims to reduce social isolation and loneliness in the community by creating genuine and sustained connections.

Community Circles facilitates connections between those in need and those who can offer support or assistance, as well as between those with shared interests and a desire to form a social or support group.

As a pilot project, Community Circles Wingecarribee far exceeded initial estimates in terms of numbers of connections, with over 680 connections made across the Southern Highlands between 2022-2024.



## Celebrating International Women's Day 2024

Council's International Women's Day Breakfast was held at Centennial Vineyards in 2024 and hosted 180 local women and students.

This year's IWD theme 'Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress' provided an opportunity to advocate for equal opportunities and to celebrate diversity.

This year's speakers were Margherita Colley from Highland Recruitment, Nicole Feggans from Jamberoo Mountain Farm, Petrea King, Founder and CEO of Quest for Life Foundation, and proud Wiradyuri woman Fiona Harrison from Chocolate on Purpose.

The master of ceremonies was local artist Harriett Goodall and performances were by Moss Vale High School CAPA students.

The event was a great success, encouraging attendees to reflect and come together to celebrate the strength, resilience, and achievements of women around the world, and right here in the Shire.

## Engaging with the Community through Participate Wingecarribee

Wingecarribee Shire Council successfully migrated its online community engagement platform from Engagement HQ to Social Pinpoint. This transition has significantly enhanced the Council's ability to engage with residents and stakeholders through digital channels.

Social Pinpoint offers a comprehensive suite of over 40 tools designed to facilitate effective online engagement. These tools include features such as surveys, polls, forums, and live chat, enabling the Council to gather valuable feedback, foster discussions, and provide timely responses to community enquiries.

By leveraging the capabilities of Social Pinpoint, Council has been able to strike a better balance between online and in-person engagement. The platform has empowered residents to participate in decision-making processes from the comfort of their homes, while also complementing traditional face-to-face interactions. This shift has resulted in increased community participation and a more inclusive decision-making process.

 <https://participatewingecarribee.wsc.nsw.gov.au>

## A revitalised Website to access Council's services

Council's website was redesigned and updated in November 2023 to provide residents and businesses with a more user-friendly and accessible experience.

Council's new website features improved navigation, quick links to popular services, a dedicated section for new residents, and a news feed for the latest news and media updates. These enhancements make it easier for community members to find what they need and stay informed about local happenings.

 <https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/Home>

## A new Integrated Library Management System (ILMS)

Wingecarribee Public Libraries successfully migrated to a new Integrated Library Management System in 2023-2024. This modern and interactive system will meet the current and future needs of the Wingecarribee Shire community with features including greater access to resources and information, more autonomy in the selection and borrowing of materials and improved tracking of resources.

Further efficiencies will be made using the new features and modules of this system and through the automation of manual tasks.

## New signage for the Mittagong and Bowral Libraries

The signage project was successfully completed in April 2024 and involved the creation and installation of directional, street and place signs for the Bowral and Mittagong Branch Libraries.

The library collaborated with many stakeholders including traffic professionals, heritage advisors, contractors, staff and customers to ensure signage was clear, functional and accessible.

## IN FOCUS – COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME

Council continued to provide financial support to community initiatives through the annual Wingecarribee Community Assistance Scheme.

The Scheme allows Council to provide funding to local organisations for the purpose of implementing and improving community-based projects within the Shire.

The Scheme supports local groups and organisations such as sporting associations, local Men's Sheds, Rotary, Village associations and aged care facilities to deliver much needed support to the community, including some of Wingecarribee's most vulnerable people.

Grant recipients use the funds to deliver diverse programs including arts and cultural events, sports and recreation activities, and environmental sustainability projects. Recipients work to create more inclusive, welcoming, safe and healthy communities

The Scheme builds local capacity, encourages community participation, and fosters collaboration in maintaining valuable community assets.





The 2023/24 Wingecarribee Community Assistance scheme opened on 5 April 2024 and closed on 10 May 2024. There were 30 applications submitted for grants and donations, with funds distributed as follows:

Organisation Name	Project Title	Grant or Donation	Amount
Highlands Community Centres Incorporated	The Cooking Hub	Grant	\$7,000.00
Bundanoon Community Association Incorporated	Bundanoon Winterfest 2024	Grant	\$7,000.00
The Highlands Pipes And Drums	Expansion Purchases 2024	Grant	\$7,000.00
Bowral Tennis Club Incorporated	Acquiring a Ball Machine	Grant	\$3,500.00
WinZero Incorporated	Wingecarribee Virtual Energy Network Pilot	Grant	\$2,000.00
Highland Grace Incorporated	Bridging the Gap Between Physical and Emotional Support at Highland Grace Incorporated	Grant	\$6,718.89
Moss Vale Tennis Club Incorporated	Surface Restoration After Removal of Tree Damaged Decking	Grant	\$5,000.00
Challenge Southern Highlands Limited	Empowering People living with Disabilities in the workforce	Grant	\$1,500.00
Wingello Village Association	Insurance	Donation	\$600.00
The Hill Top Men'sShed Inc	Belt Sander	Grant	\$1,177.00
Bowral Butterflies Netball Club	Match-ready netballs for 2025	Donation	\$600.00
Bowral-Mittagong Uniting Church	Upgrading equipment for Uniting Kids Playgroup	Donation	\$600.00
Southern Highlands Symphony Orchestra Inc	Purchase or Hire of Music including Australian compositions in 2024 and 2025 SHSO	Donation	\$600.00
Ctc Robertson Incorporated	Replacement of Old Doors with New Door and Window	Grant	\$7,000.00
St Jude'S Music Association	Providing additional music stands and lighting for members of the Highlands Sinfonia.	Donation	\$600.00
Bundanoon Folk Festival Association	Dressing the Bundanoon Memorial Hall	Grant	\$1,791.20
Burrawang Wildes Meadow Progress Association Incorporated	History Week Project	Grant	\$7,000.00
Moss Vale Hockey Club	Junior Player Support	Donation	\$600.00
Moss Vale Football Club Inc.	Water Bubbler	Grant	\$7,000.00
Southern Highlands Australian Plants Society	Marketing Budget for the Phytophthora Awareness Campaign	Donation	\$600.00
Friends Of Hill Top War Memorials Inc	Lighting	Donation	\$600.00
Southern Highlands Botanic Gardens Limited	Digital equipment for guided tours	Grant	\$7,000.00
Highland Fm 107.1 Co-Operative Limited	Maintaining the high visibility of Highland FM	Grant	\$5,821.00
Yerrinbool Bargo Soccer Club Inc	First Aid Supplies	Donation	\$600.00
Bundanoon Tennis Club Inc	Tennis Club Deck	Grant	\$7,000.00

# Places



## Places Vision for Wingecarribee 2041

We feel deeply connected to the places we live, work and play in.

Our towns and villages are vibrant, safe and tranquil, offering a special mix of urban and rural lifestyles.

Our heritage is important to us and that is why our rich history is clearly visible in our public places, art and buildings.

Our towns and villages exist in harmony with our natural environment, and we welcome new places and development that continue this tradition.

It is easy to move around and stay connected to our family and friends. We have plenty of transport options and safe, accessible and linked roads and footpaths. We also have interconnected pathways that encourage us to ride and walk.

It is easy to live here because we have a choice of affordable and accessible housing suitable for all ages - from young people to families and older residents. Our neighbourhoods are close to the facilities and services we need.

## PLACES SERVICES

Aquatic Services	Library Services
Asset Planning and Delivery	Natural Area Management
Children's Services	Open Space, including Parks and Recreation
Civic Leadership	Regulatory Compliance
Community Development	Strategic Land Use Planning
Economic Development	Water and Sewer
Emergency Management	Place Liaison

## GOALS



3.1

A physically and digitally connected Shire



3.2

Unique towns, villages and rural landscapes



3.3

Liveable and sustainable communities

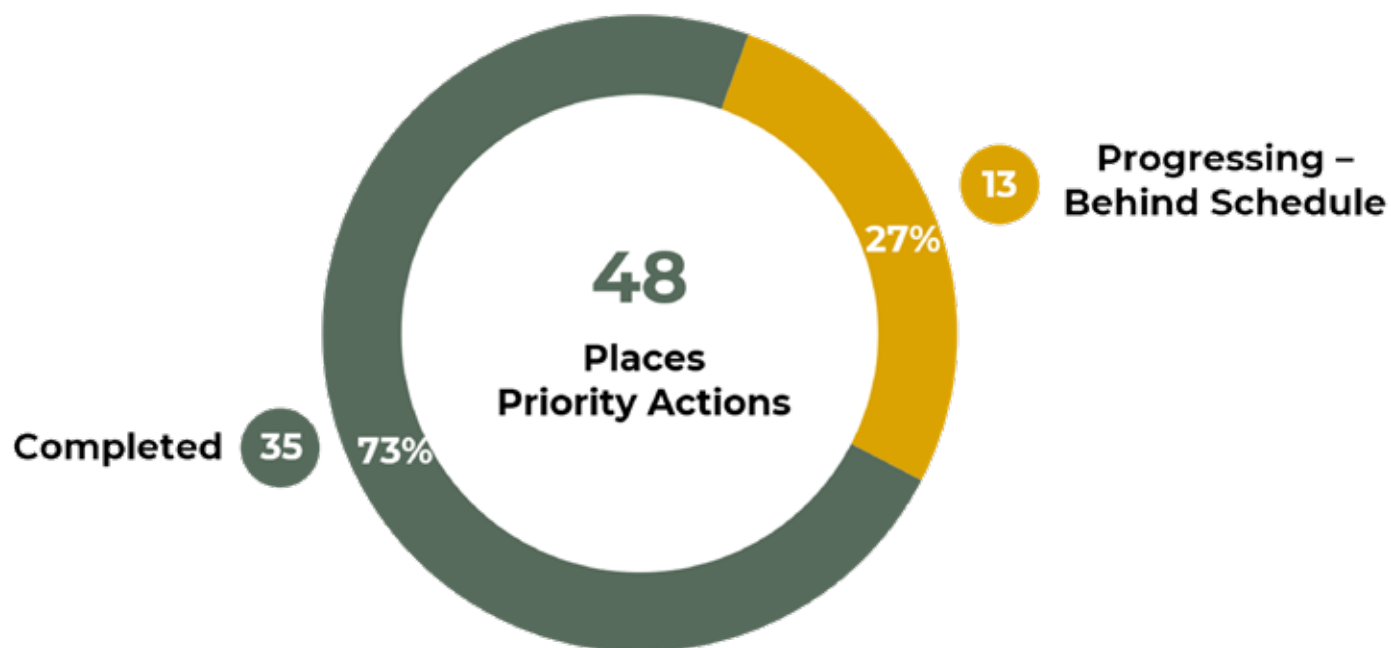


3.4

Housing that meets the needs of current and future generations



# REPORTING OUR PROGRESS: PLACES



↑ Increasing ↓ Decreasing ■ Stable

Places Indicators	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Unsealed road network re-sheeted (%)	3	3	■
Unsealed road network maintained (maintenance grade) (kms)	210 **	120	↓
Footpath maintained annually (carriageway kms)	1.25 ***	0.7	↓
Shared paths and cycle paths repaired (lineal metres)	5,000	500	↓
Footpath installed annually (lineal metres)	710	490	↓
Shared paths and cycle paths installed annually (lineal metres)	860	560	↓
Construction Certificates approved	187	48	↓
Development Applications approved	731	586	↓
Subdivision Certificates approved	42	25	↓
Meters of wastewater network surveyed (CCTV) <sup>^</sup>	8,406	5,135	↓
Number of reportable sewer overflow requests	373	122	↓
Number of reportable overflow incidents	7	122	↑
Number of reported water outages	43	103	↑
Average duration in hours of water outages	4.08	4.88	↑
Development application assessment timeframes	125 days	216 days#	↑

Note:  
 \*\* Some sections of unsealed roads have been graded multiple times over the 22/23 year.  
 \*\*\* Council resources were refocused towards road maintenance due to storm damage, resulting in a better service for the community. Council foresees a return to trend numbers over the coming years.  
 #The NSW Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure has changed the way they are reporting DA processing times and it now includes gross days (days when the DA is outstanding requested information).  
<sup>^</sup> The team is actively working to enhance their data collation, processing, and management processes to align with the most accurate current estimates. (Internal Note: previous years data was calculated and averaged from calendar year data)

## Focusing on Local Roads

In the face of unprecedented natural disasters, Council has remained committed to providing a safe and reliable local road network.

Wingecarribee Shire Council, along with the Illawarra councils and Upper Lachlan Shire, has experienced the highest number of formally declared natural disasters in NSW the over the past four and a half years.

This has had an extraordinary impact on communities and the condition of local infrastructure, in particular local roads.

## Old South Road

Old South Road is a local distributor road that connects the Old Hume Highway to residential areas east of Mittagong and Bowral town centres.

Several compounding issues, including weather events and increasing traffic volumes, had impacted the road over many years, resulting in the dilapidation of large sections of adjacent pavement, and the ongoing need for heavy maintenance patching.

Construction commenced in 2023 and involved road pavement widening and rehabilitation, installation of guardrails, construction of stormwater pits and pipes and other associated works.

The \$19 million Old South Road Rehabilitation Project will provide improved traffic flow, a safer ride for motorists and easier access between residential areas and town centres.

The project is funded through a combination of Federal and State government grants as well as Council contributions.

## Range Road Reconstruction, Glenquarry

Council has completed reconstruction of a portion of Range Road, from Tourist Rd, Glenquarry, north towards Mittagong for 2.5 kilometers. The road was in poor condition after the significant rain events in February 2022.

Works included:

- √ Stormwater pit and pipe installations
- √ Subsoil drainage installation
- √ Concrete dish gutter construction
- √ Road pavement widening and reconstruction
- √ Fence and utility relocations
- √ Guard-rail installation
- √ Road signage upgrade
- √ Tree planting, grass seeding and soil scour protection

On completion of the works, the road now offers much improved driving conditions and road safety, upgraded stormwater drainage and improved water quality runoff, increased road pavement life, and enhanced aenvironmental outcomes.

Works were completed in June 2024.

## Road Condition Audit

Council manages a network of 1,200km of roads, comprising 800km sealed, 120km asphalt and 270km unsealed roads.

With increasing focus on road conditions and to better understand the condition of the road network to enable Council to plan for the future, industry experts Infrastructure Management Group (IMG) were engaged in 2023 to complete an inspection of the full Wingecarribee Shire road network.

As a result of the condition scores, IMG provided recommendations as to how Council can better



inform its capital works program for the next 4 years to address roads in proper condition. This recommendation consisted of \$36.5M capital renewals and \$2.3M proactive maintenance.

As part of this engagement and Council's commitment to continuous improvement in Asset Management Maturity, the capital works program now comprises of a detailed projects list and each road segment to be renewed across the four (4) years is listed within the program.

### **Moss Vale Bypass**

Council delivered the 50% 'Detailed Design' milestone of the Moss Vale Bypass in August 2023. This included a revised cost estimate for the construction of the whole project from \$197m to \$153m. The reduction in cost estimate is the result of the improved understanding of the site constraints, utility authority input and design refinements.

In June 2024, Council secured an additional \$10.8m in funding from the NSW Government to complete the detailed design and, subject to satisfactory business case, commence some initial enabling works.

The continued commitment to this project will ensure that traffic relief to Argyle Street and improved resilience to the transport network is delivered.

### **Pavement Rehabilitation and Maintenance Works**

#### **Sallys Corner Road and Off Ramp - Sutton Forest Eastern Service Centre**

The South Bound Off Ramp and Sallys Corner Road provides access to the eastern service centre and two (2) fast food outlets for heavy and light vehicles.

Heavy traffic movements are significant in this area which have caused severe damage to the pavement surface. The existing pavement has subsided, cracked, and had failed in many places with rutting, shoving, depressions, potholes which indicate pavement failures.

Pavement Rehabilitation and Maintenance Works involved repair of the existing pavement, maintenance works on table drains, road shoulders and reinstating the line marking.

#### **Taylor Avenue, Medway Road and Argyle Street Pavement Rehabilitation**

Taylor Avenue and Medway Road are major transport routes for transporting of goods and services to and from the Shire. Due to the significant heavy traffic movements, the existing pavement was in poor condition with severe damage which included shoving, heaving, depressions, and potholes.

Rehabilitation works involved the full width of Taylor Avenue from Old Hume Highway to Argyle Street (1km length), selected failed patches on Medway Road from Old Hume Highway to Hume over pass and pavement upgrade on a small portion of Argyle Street.

#### **Asphalt Renewal Program Alice Avenue, Hayley Street and Village Lane**

As part of the Asphalt Renewal Program, Alice Avenue, Hayley Street and Village Lane pavements were identified as being in very poor condition and were renewed.

Works involved a new asphalt wearing surface to help extend the life of the pavement.

#### **Moss Vale and Bowral Sewer Scheme Model and Masterplan**

Installation of flow gauges across the sewer schemes now enable the sewer model to be calibrated with real world data.

With the calibrated model, areas with high infiltration and inflow can be identified and prioritised for investigation and actioning to reduce the amount of stormwater entering the system.

A masterplan was created for 2050 to ensure growth and modern standards are accommodated by the sewer schemes.

## **Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades**

In the last year there have been numerous storm events with significant rainfalls recorded over 110mm in 24-hour periods. The team have successfully managed the operation of the plants and pump stations through these challenging events to minimise impact on the environment despite significant inflows to sites.

To meet the growth in the Shire upgrades to three (3) of Council's Sewer Treatment Plants have been progressed during the 2023-2024 financial year.

Construction commenced on the \$56M upgrade of Bowral STP and construction has progressed to 50% complete.

Construction also commenced on the \$65M Moss Vale STP upgrade in June 2024.

The concept design of the Mittagong STP upgrade was completed in the 2024/25 financial year and the detailed design commenced.

## **Cherry Tree Walk, Bowral, Trunk Main Repair**

On 16 November 2023 a critical 525mm Trunk Main supplying Bowral with drinking water failed.

The repair was completed within a working day without any customers experiencing any water outage. Water quality and water pressure were maintained for the duration of the works.

## **Completion and delivering of Diamond Fields Bridge Project**

Diamonds Field Bridge is an old timber bridge which was decommissioned due to its deteriorated condition.

Four (4) bridges were replaced as part of the grant received from "the Fixing Country Bridges Program". All four bridges have been successfully delivered with Diamonds Field bridge being the last one completed in December 2023.

## **Argyle St and Taylor Avenue intersection drainage upgrade, New Berrima**

Taylor Avenue and Argyle Street are two (2) lane sealed roads with a speed limit of 80 and 50 km/hr. Taylor Ave is a regional road that connects to Hume Highway, New Berrima and Moss Vale town centre. Sections of the road pavement were in poor condition including poor drainage system.

Works for this project commenced in April 2024 and completed by June 2024. The works included:

- √ Road re-sheeting
- √ Construction of kerb and gutter
- √ Reconstruction of concrete driveways at the service station
- √ Improved on-street parking provided at the centre of the road
- √ Installation of line marking and signage

## **Completion of Casburn Park**

Casburn Park is approximately 6,900m<sup>2</sup>. The park is situated within Wingello Village opposite to the Wingello train station. The project upgraded the Park to a Level 1 play space consistent with the adopted Casburn Park Master Plan. The park upgrade has renewed infrastructure that was in poor condition and has upgraded the playground facility to provide inclusive and accessible play opportunities.

The Project upgrade also includes the upgrade of Railway Parade to address traffic safety concerns, parking, Village Plaza, picnic area, BBQ and toilets.

It also includes a new pump track which is the first in Wingello and the Wingecarribee region

The project is funded by NSW State Government and Commonwealth Government in conjunction with Wingecarribee Shire Council. The upgraded park was opened on the 28th of June 2024.



## Bong Bong Common

Bong Bong Common is a historic site that now features an accessible pathway, cycleway, seating, walking, and scenic riverfront settings.

In 2023, works commenced to upgrade the Common to include new playspace areas, improved car parking, public toilets and other features to improve the area's amenity, riverfront access and to highlight the site's significance to both Aboriginal and European histories. The upgrade works were completed, and Bong Bong Common was opened to the public late 2023.

In 2023 Council commenced due diligence investigations (including a cost analysis) on the feasibility of constructing a shared path that adjoins Bong Bong Common and Cecil Hoskins Nature Reserve to the emerging Bowral South New Living Area along the Wingecarribee riverfront.

This project is intended to strengthen broader connectivity between the three (3) town centres and supports the strategic direction of encouraging safe and accessible active transport opportunities in the Shire.

The project included increased parking, a new amenities block, playspace, sensory garden, protection and interpretation of archaeological finds and a more prominent location for the Trachyte Obelisk. Additionally, it included new river boardwalks and signage.

The project was jointly funded by the State Government and Council and was completed in June 24.

## Implementation of Tree Plotter

Council invested in data management software to support holistic tree management for the shire and its residents. Tree Plotter is a cloud-based GIS solution designed for comprehensive tree management across the Shire.

The system simplifies inventorying, managing, and decision-making for both public and private trees through an intuitive online mapping system. Council has uploaded its existing inventory as well as creating a new data set to map and track trees.

By using the online mapping tool, Tree Plotter allows for real-time updates and data sharing. Wingecarribee Shire Council can now efficiently monitor canopy coverage, track the growth of mature trees, and manage the costs of ongoing care.

This tool supports the Shire in addressing future environmental challenges while ensuring sustainable tree management.

## IN FOCUS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC)

Council identified disaster risk mitigation as a key priority within its Shire Priorities 2023 document. Reducing disaster risk is critical to supporting communities and economies to be resilient in challenging times. The sheer scale of these disasters demands a far greater emphasis on coordinated action to limit adverse impacts on communities.

Over the past 12 months, Council has worked to strengthen resilience through a focus on:

- ✓ prevention
- ✓ preparedness
- ✓ response
- ✓ recovery

An independent “Bushfire Response & Recovery Review” was commissioned by Council during 2021 in response to the 2019/2020 bushfires. The review, conducted by Dave Owens, identified the need for a dedicated space to ensure a rapid and coordinated response to natural disasters and severe weather events across agencies.

Council’s project delivery team researched emergency response centres in other regions to benchmark plans for this new facility and worked diligently to secure the funding needed to achieve a state-of-the-art fit-out and facility.

The Wingecarribee Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was co-designed in close collaboration with Council, the Local Emergency Operations Controller, Regional Emergency Management Officer and local emergency response agencies, who provided insights and expertise to ensure a high-level outcome aligned with operational requirements for the Shire.

Funding for the EOC represents a successful partnership. A \$200,000 grant was secured from the State Government ClubGRANTS Category 3 Infrastructure Grant, with the remaining funds invested by Wingecarribee Shire Council.

The EOC was opened in May 2024, located within the Moss Vale Civic Centre, and is strategically positioned near critical response agencies like the Incident Control Centre, RFS, SES, and the Police Southern Highlands Headquarters. This will facilitate a faster, more coordinated response during emergencies, allowing real-time data and information sharing with the community.

The EOC is a true hub of collaboration with advanced communication technology so that emergency services can work together seamlessly during critical situations.

The EOC ensures that Council and emergency response agencies remain adaptable and fully equipped to address any challenge the community may face and demonstrates Council’s commitment to emergency preparedness and response.

In June 2024, the first drill was completed at the EOC to test its effectiveness and to refine operational readiness for key stakeholder. The exercise, which simulated a multi-vehicle highway crash escalating into a bushfire and the evacuation of over 500 residents, challenged the EOC’s ability to:

- ✓ **Activate efficiently:** Ensuring the EOC can be quickly set up during an emergency to support operations and the community
- ✓ **Coordinate resources:** Testing the allocation of emergency personnel and equipment to a multi-agency incident
- ✓ **Refine response:** Assessing the coordination across multiple participating agencies and the ability to work together effectively
- ✓ **Engage the community:** Testing and refining the public messaging and advice in relation to the incident

These ongoing exercises demonstrate Council's commitment to protecting and supporting the community during times of crisis.

There are plans for Emergency Management and Resilience Meetings to be facilitated by Council throughout the 2024/25 financial year so that community members understand how the Wingecarribee Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) is working together with the State Emergency Service (SES), NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS), Local Land Services, and Council, to plan for the Shire's disaster preparedness and emergency management.

The opening of the EOC in 2024 represents a significant step forward towards building a stronger, more resilient community prepared to face any challenge.



# Environment



## Environment Vision for Wingecarribee 2041

Our natural world is healthy and flourishing.

Our unique native species, biodiversity and natural environment continues to be protected, enriched and enhanced.

The community is educated about, and actively involved in caring for and protecting our native flora, fauna, and eco systems. We also actively manage and support important wildlife areas, corridors and flyways.

Our air, and waterways, and land are clean and uncontaminated, supporting a healthier community and natural environment. We are a low waste community that reduces, reuses and recycles where we can. We also use renewable energies - like solar energy and wind power - that are kinder to the planet.

We are leaders in sustainable living, acting on climate change and building resilience in the face of natural disasters.

## ENVIRONMENT SERVICES

Development Services	Regulatory Compliance
Economic Development	Strategic Land Use Compliance
Environment Services	Waste Management
Bush Care and Biodiversity	Water and Sewer
Sustainability Services	

## GOALS



**4.1**  
A protected, healthy and diverse natural environment



**4.2**  
A community that lives sustainably for the betterment of the planet

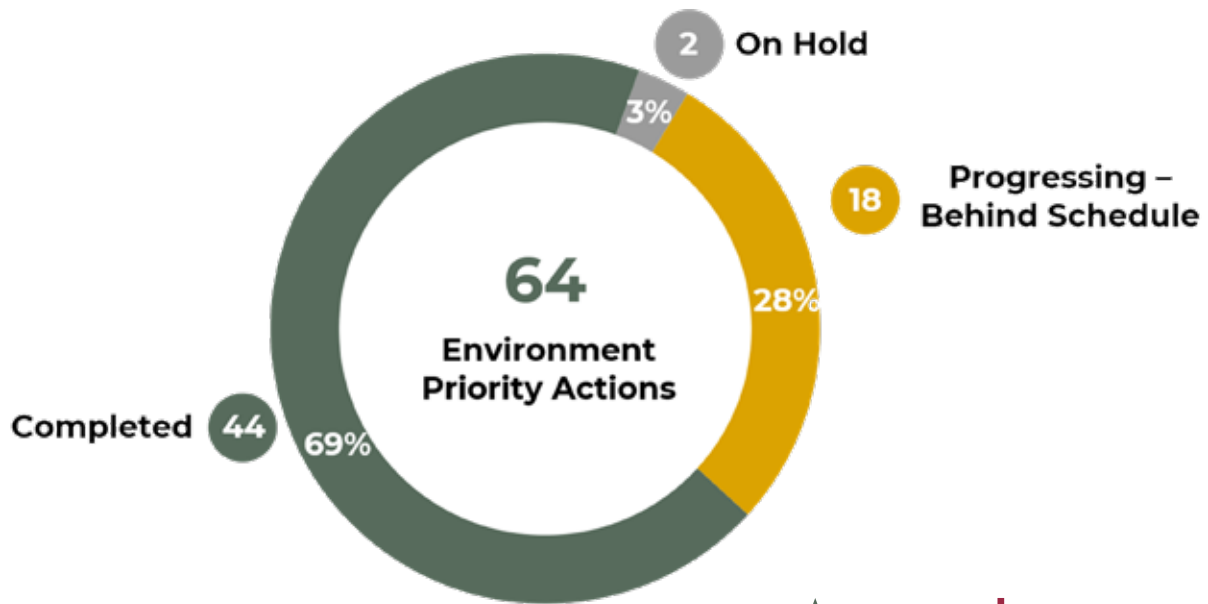


**4.3**  
A low-waste community



**4.4**  
A resilient Shire that takes action on climate change

## REPORTING OUR PROGRESS: ENVIRONMENT



↑ Increasing 
 ↓ Decreasing 
  Stable

Environment Indicators	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Community volunteers environmental work (hours)	934	638	↓
Native trees and shrubs planted on public land and established native plant species	2254	3471	↑
Domestic recycling diverted from landfill (tonnes)	4,294	4,999	↑
Putrescible Total (tonnes)	11,363	10,809	↓
Green waste (tonnes)	12,260	10,217	↓
Onsite sewerage management system inspections	64	183	↑
Notices/infringements issued	208	1,248	↑
Food shops inspections #	242	271	↑

#This figure includes both routine inspections and subsequent reinspection.

Councils Greenhouse Gas Emissions Over Time								
Emissions from Council Operations (excluding wastewater treatment) TCO <sub>2</sub> -e								
Emission Scope	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Scope 1	2,771	2,834	2,836	2,624	2,629	2,446	2,408	2,530
Scope 2	8,705	8,518	8,394	8,556	8,992	8,641	4,209	692
Scope 3	3,451	3,077	2,519	2,422	2,474	2,463	1,442	759
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>14,927</b>	<b>14,429</b>	<b>13,749</b>	<b>13,602</b>	<b>14,095</b>	<b>13,551</b>	<b>8,059</b>	<b>3,982</b>
Wastewater Treatment Fugitive Emissions (TCO <sub>2</sub> -e)*								
Emission Scope	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Scope 1	10,033	6,685	6,465	7,399	10,644	14,517	5,969	8,244
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>24,960</b>	<b>21,114</b>	<b>20,214</b>	<b>21,001</b>	<b>24,740</b>	<b>28,068</b>	<b>14,028</b>	<b>8,244</b>

Scope 1 – Direct combustion e.g., fuel, gas, waste, fugitive emissions.

Scope 2 – Grid Electricity

Scope 3 – Street lighting, upstream/downstream sources e.g., waste and paper.

## **Koala-ty Koala Conservation Initiatives**

The Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project continues to deliver successful outcomes in Wingecarribee Shire including koala monitoring, roadkill mitigation actions, habitat restoration projects and extensive community engagement and education.

Engagement activities included guest presentations, podcasts, drone surveys, information kiosks in reserves and parks, Koala Karaoke event at the Empire Cinema and the Wild West Koala Quest in Canyonleigh.

Over the past two years, 85 hectares of koala habitat has been restored or reconstructed on private property and the community has been actively engaged to raise awareness about this iconic species and the threats to its survival.

The two (2) tree giveaways for Land for Wildlife properties continue to increase in popularity, with the Helping Hands Southern Highlands Landcare assisting landholders to plant and care for the trees and shrubs received.

The roadkill mitigation project commenced with the installation of Variable Message Signs, Vehicle Activated and static wildlife signs along key roads.

## **Community-led Cultural Burns**

In collaboration with Gundungurra elders, Illawarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and the local Aboriginal community, Council was able to facilitate, plan and deliver cultural burns within Council-managed bushland reserves.

Three (3) Aboriginal Cultural burns were completed within Gibbergunyah Reserve in 2024, led by cultural burning practitioners and supported by the Aboriginal community, NSW Rural Fire Service and Council staff.

This community-led approach is improving biodiversity and hazard reduction objectives while re-introducing cultural practices in local bushland.

A short film celebrating the journey so far was produced to engage and inform the community.

## **Plans of Management Finalised for Natural Areas**

The Plan of Management (PoM) for Natural Areas (Bushland and Watercourse) was finalised this year following a public hearing and public exhibition period.

This PoM will guide management actions in Council owned or managed bushland reserves for the next ten (10) years.

## **Earth Flix: Cinema 4 Change Program**

Council partnered with Empire Cinema Bowral to implement free monthly community screenings of environmental themed movies, combined with Question and Answer / panel discussions with environmental experts and advocates.

In December 2023, Council screened an episode of War on Waste from ABC about food waste and fashion, with 159 people in attendance.

The event's special guest was Craig Reucassel who motivated and inspired participants to take action reducing their food waste and fashion consumption. Craig is an ABC Radio host, an environment advocate, comedian and grew up in the Southern Highlands.

One of the major messages was to buy local to reduce the emissions associated with transport. The episode also explored the impact of fast fashion, especially from a resource standpoint, with people encouraged to buy products locally, consider the impacts of the item, where it was made and if they really needed to buy it.

This screening was the soft launch of the Earth Flix film series Council has hosted throughout 2024. This community engagement program commenced in December 2023 and participation reached over 1,000 people for the year.



## **Winning the war on waste diversion**

The waste percentage diverted from land fill has increased by 3% to 57%. The act of redirecting waste from landfills by recycling, reuse or repurposing has significant environmental benefits over landfilling.

Diverting waste means less garbage in landfills, and this brings the associated benefits of fewer greenhouse gas emissions and less contribution to soil and water pollution.

In addition, recycling or repurposing existing materials means that there is less needed to extract and produce new materials, meaning less industrial pollution.

The ongoing promotion of the Community Recycling centre and the acceptance of problem wastes such as polystyrene and textiles has seen the recycling of 4,250 washing baskets of textiles and 500 tonnes of timber being diverted from landfill and recycled.

## **Soft Plastics collection**

Established a partnership with Recycle Smart for a soft plastics collection and recycling trial to be implemented within the shire. The trial is currently collecting on average 15kg of soft plastic per day.

## **Community Chemical Cleanout**

The chemical clean out day was a huge success with over 21 tonnes of waste chemicals removed from the community in a single day with 525 residents taking up this opportunity to safely dispose of household chemicals.



## IN FOCUS

### MOBILE COMMUNITY RECYCLING CENTRE (MCRC)

Council introduced a Mobile Community Recycling Centre (MCRC) in March 2024, which visits localities and villages across the shire to make recycling easier for Wingecarribee Shire residents.

The mobile service is proving to be a great asset for local Wingecarribee communities.

It collects a variety of problem waste and provides a way to dispose various problem waste items in a safe and sustainable way and promotes environmental sustainability and responsible waste management practices.

Targeted items for collection include:

- ✓ Small household and automotive batteries
- ✓ Waste oils
- ✓ Smoke alarms
- ✓ Cardboard
- ✓ Styrofoam
- ✓ Fluorescent lights
- ✓ X-rays
- ✓ Mobile phones
- ✓ Writing instruments
- ✓ Empty gas bottles
- ✓ Fire extinguishers
- ✓ Ink cartridges

From Welby to Bundanoon, Colo Vale to Exeter, Penrose to Burrawang – the service is available across the Shire to help dispose of recyclable rubbish and is free of charge to utilise so residents can dispose of problem waste without hassle.

The service follows strict protocol guidelines from EPA NSW, and hazards and risks associated with the activities undertaken for the project are being fully risk assessed, monitored and managed.

The MCRC has been receiving great community support with an average weekly participation of 20 residents and weekly collection 250kg of problem waste.





# Economy



## Economy Vision for Wingecarribee 2041

Our local economy is thriving, and people want to live and work here.

We have built on the unique strengths of the Shire, such as our close proximity to major centres like Sydney and Canberra and our rich agricultural lands.

We are home to leading primary industries that work in harmony with the local environment.

There are local jobs available, allowing people to work within a variety of fields and sectors.

We have plenty of education, training and development opportunities. This helps us to build our local skills and knowledge and create workforces suitable for both current and future employers.

Local business, industry and other organisations have embraced new technologies allowing them to grow and prosper while also supporting the health of the planet.

We have become known for our variety of creative industries and are home to many artists, writers, performers, filmmakers, designers, musicians and makers.

## ECONOMY SERVICES

Economic Development

Development Control

Tourism and Events

Southern Regional Livestock Exchange

Strategic Land Use Planning

## GOALS



5.1 People want to visit, work and invest in the Shire



5.2 Sustainable business and industry work in harmony with local community and environment

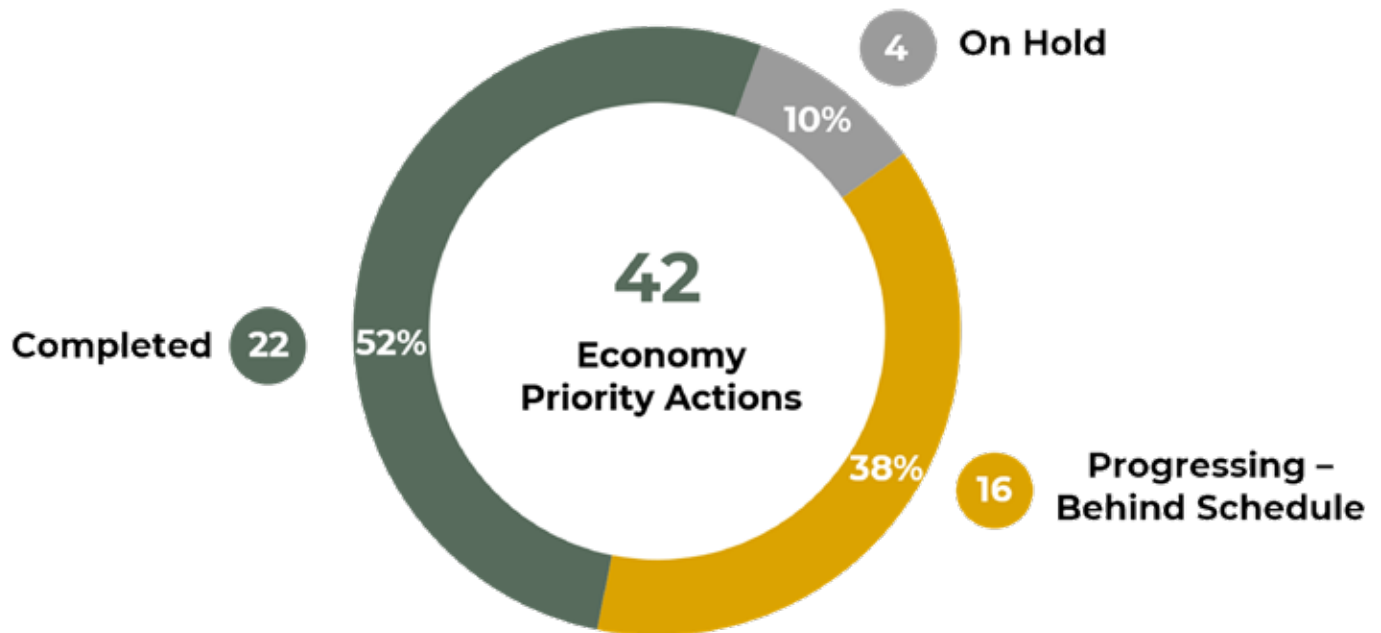


5.3 A thriving and diverse agricultural industry



5.4 A supported and connected local business community

## REPORTING OUR PROGRESS: ECONOMY



↑ Increasing   
 ↓ Decreasing   
 █ Stable

Economy Indicators	2022/23	2023/24	Trend
Accommodation bookings/ commission through the Southern Highlands Visitor Information Centre (\$)	60,419	79,015	↑
Visitation to the Southern Highlands Visitor Information Centre	29,664	27,752	↓
Tourism website visits www.visitsouthernhighlands.com.au	630,675	424,009	↓
Sales and consignment commissions through the Southern Highlands Visitor Information Centre (\$)	145,960	134,591	↓

## **Southern Regional Livestock Exchange (SRLX)**

The Southern Regional Livestock Exchange (SRLX) is a vital contributor to the local community and economy, handling between 50,000 and 60,000 cattle annually.

In 2023/24, the SRLX continued to deliver weekly cattle sales and specialty sales.

The SRLX had a significant increase of 30% in cattle sold through the facility compared to 2022/23 reporting period.

Beyond its economic value, the SLRX plays a crucial role in fostering social connections within the community. Sale days attract crowds, serve as multi-generational events, and provide a gathering place for people who may otherwise feel isolated.

The SRLX is a fascinating and educational destination. In 2023/24, local schools attended sale days as part of a school program to assist students to understand the process from paddock to plate.

## **Floral Festivities and Fun for Tulip Time**

Wingecarribee's signature event is Tulip Time, a Festival held every year in Spring to pay homage to the enigmatic tulip – its range, shape, colour and allure.

The focus of Tulip Time is the spectacular floral display of 75,000 mass planted tulips and continues to be a popular event for locals and visitors alike.

In FY2023/24, the event attracted 62,500 attendees, surpassing the 2022 festival's visitation numbers and generating \$2.63 million in visitor spending, marking a significant 68.4% increase compared to the previous year.

The post-event survey conducted among attendees included both residents and out-of-region visitors, indicated that 62% were first-time participants, with 78% from the greater Sydney region.

Notably, the demographic composition shifted from the previous year; while couples were the largest segment in FY2022/23, the FY2023/24 event saw the 'group of friends with no children' category become the most significant attendee group.

Additionally, 46% of visitors explored other towns in the region beyond Bowral, and 48% indicated their intention to return to the Southern Highlands within the next 12 months.

The Festival featured 34 stalls, with 38% (13 stalls) representing local businesses and 62% (21 stalls) from outside the region. All surveyed stallholders (19 respondents) reported that the event was financially successful for their businesses.

Council collaborated closely with Rotary to staff the festival gates, with proceeds supporting community initiatives. The post-event public bulb dispersal was well-received.

## **Winter's Wonderful in Wingecarribee**

Council delivered the "Winters Wonderful" digital and television campaign between June and August 2023.

The primary objectives were to enhance brand awareness and increase traffic to the Visit Southern Highlands website.

The campaign yielded significant results, with visitor spending increasing by \$9 million compared to winter 2022. The digital campaign achieved a reach of 388,131, contributing to a 10% growth in Facebook followers and an 8% increase in Instagram followers.

The television campaign, broadcast on Channel 10, reached an audience of more than half a million viewers, showcasing the Southern Highlands unique brand identity.



## **Destination Southern Highlands amps up Australia Day and Arts Trail Events**

In FY2023/24, the annual event portfolio was expanded by acquiring two (2) new events: the annual Arts Trail and Australia Day celebrations.

The 2023 Arts Trail featured 61 artists across 47 studios. This event provided substantial economic benefits to local artists, offering increased exposure to potential buyers.

The 2024 Australia Day event drew approximately 5,000 visitors to Berrima township, marking the return of the Grande Parade down the main street of Berrima.

The event also featured a Citizenship Ceremony, Citizens of the Year awards, market stalls, food vendors, family-friendly amusement rides, and the public opening of the Berrima Gaol for viewing.

## **Netflix brings Bridgerton to Bowral**

In April 2024, a collaboration with Netflix resulted in the weeklong “Bridgerton in Bowral” activation, showcasing the region as its backdrop.

This international campaign achieved a global reach of over half a billion, leading to a significant influx of influencers and visitors.

The event prominently highlighted the region on social media, attracting a younger demographic interested in aspirational experiences within the Southern Highlands.

As a result, visitor spending in Bowral increased by \$2.4 million, with additional economic benefits observed across the broader region.

## **Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP) progress**

The Southern Highlands Innovation Park (SHIP), located between Moss Vale and New Berrima, covers 1,053 hectares of industrial zoned land and is a key economic asset for the region.

Originally identified as a ‘Future Industrial Corridor’ in 1979 and later as an employment precinct under the 1989 Wingecarribee Local Environment Plan (LEP), the SHIP presents a unique opportunity to attract sustainable, innovative industries and generate significant economic growth and employment.

Council secured grant funding from the Department of Regional NSW (now Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) to complete the second phase of the Master Planning process for the SHIP, which involved the development of a Strategic Positioning Study, Master Plan and a detailed Governance Strategy for the precinct.

Targeted engagement with the community, landowners, tenants, industry representatives and key agencies was conducted in early 2024 and facilitated the identification of strengths, constraints and long-term opportunities for the precinct.

Valuable feedback was gained through this collaborative engagement process and has directly informed the development of this body of work.

The Draft Master Plan and Governance Strategy was later considered by the Wingecarribee Local Planning Panel on 28 June 2024 for advice regarding the recommendation for the project to proceed to public exhibition.

## **Bowral Town Centre Master Plan Adopted**

The development of a holistic Master Plan for the Bowral town centre supports Council's transition to a better place-based planning framework for our towns and villages.

A Draft Master Plan was developed through a collaborative engagement process with the community to ensure that the vision celebrates and enhances the unique identity, character and function of Bowral.

The Draft Master Plan was placed on public exhibition for a period of eight (8) weeks from 22 January to 17 March 2024. During this time, a number of face-to-face and online engagement opportunities were made available to encourage further collaboration with the community.

All submissions received directly informed the subsequent post-exhibition review of the Draft Master Plan.

## **A new Place Plan for Robertson**

The Robertson Village Place Plan was developed in partnership with the community to address the housing, economic, environmental, social and cultural needs of the Robertson community, both now and into the future.

Valuable community feedback was received during the public exhibition period and all submissions made during this time directly informed the review of the Draft.

The revised community-led strategic plan was later presented to the Local Planning Panel on 27 March 2024 for advice and at the Ordinary Meeting of Council 17 April 2024, Council adopted the Shire's very first Place Plan for Robertson.

The adopted Place Plan recognises Robertson's strong sense of community that is deeply embedded within the culture of the village and further identifies opportunities for Council, the community and other key stakeholders to continue to work together to guide the successful delivery of both short and long-term Place Interventions.

## **Protecting the Community's Heritage**

Draft Community Heritage Study and independent peer review outcomes reported. The Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study 2021-23 was undertaken as a partnership between Council and members of the Wingecarribee community to identify new heritage items and heritage conservation areas.

Initially reported to Council in June 2023, the community-based heritage study identified and assessed 609 heritage items and 16 new and extended heritage conservation areas and underwent community engagement in the latter part of 2023.

The study was then independently Peer Reviewed, the results of which were publicly exhibited in June 2024.

The Study and Peer Review process resulted in over 400 heritage items and over a dozen new and extended heritage conservation areas being recommended.

Final recommendations and a Planning Proposal to give statutory effect to the final recommendations will be made in July 2024 by the Local Planning Panel which will provide advice to Council who will make final decisions in August 2024.

## **Bowral Memorial Hall continued to deliver**

Bowral Memorial Hall is now the Southern Highlands' premier, multi-purpose cultural and events venue and in the 2023/24 financial year, the venue continued to support a diverse range of community-based performing arts groups.

Additionally, the introduction of professional, nationally touring entertainers led to several sell-out performances, including shows by Ross Noble, Anh Do, and The Umbilical Brothers.

## **Ongoing success of Animal Shelter activities**

The construction of the new Southern Highlands Animal Shelter and State Emergency Services (SES) facility continued in 2023/24 with a target date for completion of early 2025.

In the meantime, the Wingecarribee Animal Shelter (WAS) continued to provide rehoming facilities for the shire.

The Animal Shelter maintained strong numbers for adopting and rehoming animals in line with the minimal euthanasia approach and management of the facility.

In 2023/24 financial year, over 87% of dogs were adopted or rehomed in accordance with Council policy and the Companions Animal Act 1998.

## **Children's Services continue to grow**

The Wingecarribee Outside of School Hours (WOOSH) service continued to provide before and after school care as well as WOOSH vacation care services throughout the reporting period and attendance in the service continued to grow throughout the year.

The vacation program provides care in an informal setting and the program is developed to allow opportunities for a variety of experiences including art, craft and sporting activities as well as outings and incursions.

The program proved to be popular amongst local families in 2023/24 with over 75% of vacation care bookings being booked within 48 hours of the program opening



## GRANTS RECEIVED

During the 2023/24 financial year, Council received \$40,382,131 in grant funds.

A significant grant of \$10.8M was awarded by Transport for NSW to provide enabling infrastructure for the proposed Moss Vale Bypass and \$3.1M was awarded from the NSW Government's Regional Road Repair Fund for emergency roadwork repairs throughout the Shire.

Other notable grant funding secured included:

- ✓ \$1.5 million for the construction of a detention basin at the Bowral Golf Course to protect homes and businesses downstream from flooding
- ✓ \$200,000 for the fit-out of the Moss Vale Emergency Operations Centre
- ✓ \$250,000 for the installation of a bridge on Priestley Street Culvert that will provide resilient infrastructure to better withstand future natural disasters

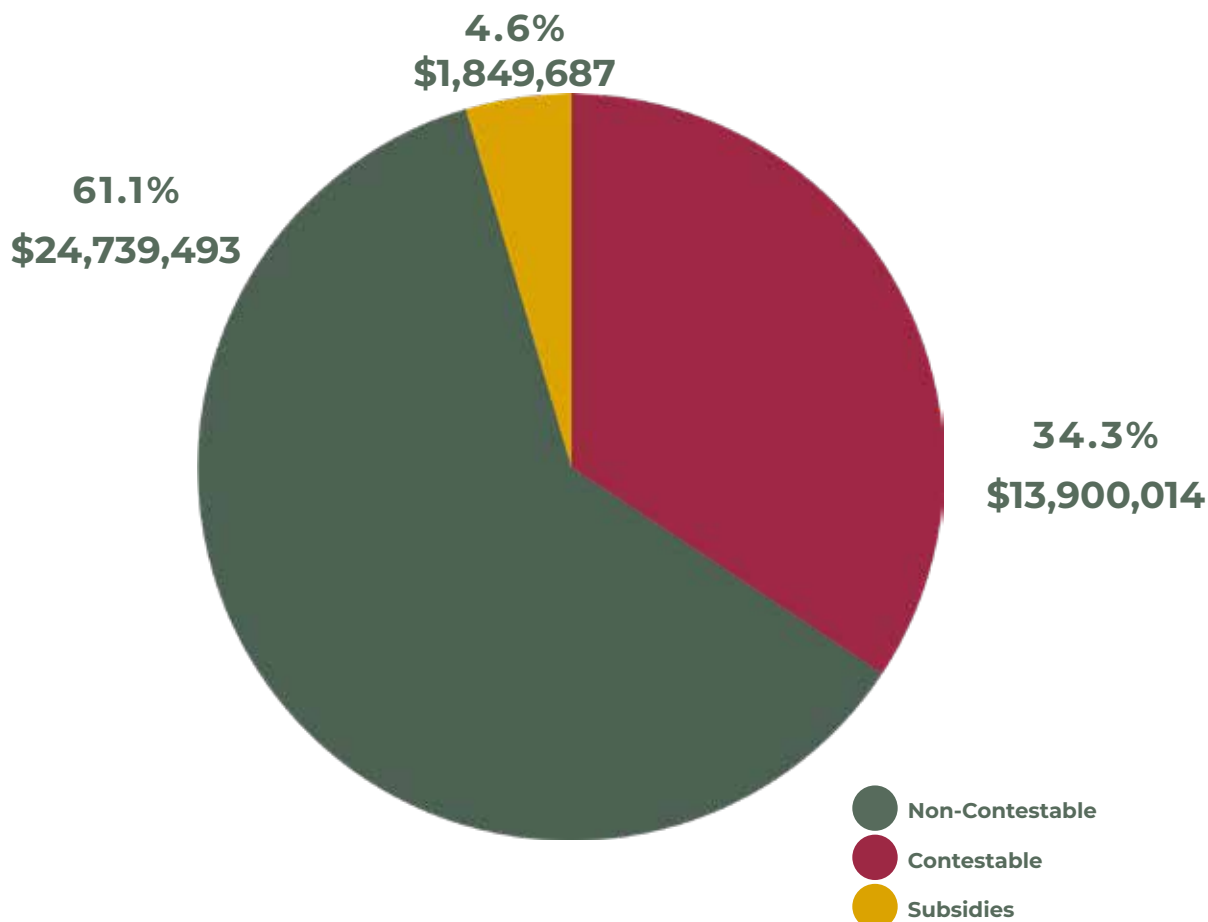
Contestable Grants include funding received that underwent competitive, merit-based assessment. However, it is important to note that these figures do not indicate the completion of the application and funding agreement within this fiscal year.

Non-Contestable Grants include funding received that was targeted, a reimbursement, a partnership or otherwise not subject to open competition.

Subsidies include non-competitive subsidies received on an annual basis.

Operating and capital grants account for approximately 20 per cent of Council's annual revenue.

Details are provided on the next pages.



Project/Program	Funding Body	Funding
<b>Contestable Grants</b>		
Aboriginal Project Worker - Project 1958661536	Dept of Communities & Justice NSW	\$108,563
Animal Shelter & SES Headquarters	NSW State Emergency Service	\$1,500,000
Australia Day Messaging & Branding Grant	National Australia Day Council Limited	\$10,000
Bowral Memorial Hall fit-out	Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade (Create NSW)	\$69,689
Breaking Barriers; Fostering Inclusivity and Collaboration in Sports	Australian Sports Commission	\$40,000
BSBR - Community Resilience Officer - Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Community Program	Dept of Industry, Science, Energy & Resource	\$85,579
Casburn Park Wingello Resilience Project	Regional NSW	\$2,424,715
Community Education Workshops for a Circular Economy	Environment Protection Authority	\$105,000
DAISY Early Adopter AI Programs	Department of Planning, Land Use, Housing & Strategy	\$200,000
Disaster Adaptation Plan Development	NSW Reconstruction Authority	\$41,667
Emergency Operations Centre Fit Out	Department of Enterprise, Investment and Trade (Office of Responsible Gambling)	\$200,000
FCB - Diamond Fields Rd Bridge Mittagong	Transport for NSW	\$190,089
FCB - Ritters Creek Bridge Meryla Rd Meryla	Transport for NSW	\$4,442
Ferguson Crescent Bridge Replacement (Nattai Creek Bridge)	Transport for NSW	\$123,575
GNAP - Eridge Park Road Walking	Transport for NSW	\$336,384
GNAP - Robertson Road, Moss Vale Walking Footpath	Transport for NSW	\$207,444
Graffiti Management Boronia Park, Hill Top (split opex/capex)	Department of Communities and Justice	\$30,000
Integrated Library Management System (Local Priority Grant)	State Library of NSW	\$104,000
Kaleidoscope Street Festival	Department of Transport	\$120,000
Mobile Library Fit Out	Library Council of NSW	\$207,104
Moss Vale Sewer Treatment Plant (STP) Upgrade	Department of Planning & Environment	\$2,619,540
NAIDOC Week	Dept of Prime Minister & Cabinet	\$5,273
Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plans (PAMP)	Transport for NSW	\$38,100

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Project/Program	Funding Body	Funding
Retford Park Detention Basin Construction	Department of Planning & Environment (now Department of Climate Change, Energy, The Environment and Water)	\$3,852,597
RSO - Heavy Vehicles Awareness x 3	Transport for NSW	\$5,146
RSO - Motor Cycle Awareness Month - Bike Week	Transport for NSW	\$2,125
RSO - Pedestrian Safety Grant	Transport for NSW	\$857
SCCF 4 - Berrima District Pony Club Clubhouse	Regional NSW	\$113,238
SCCF 4 - Loseby Park - Bowral Tennis Courts and Fencing Upgrade	Regional NSW	\$361,280
SCCF 4 - Ritchie Park Moss Vale Play Space Upgrade	Regional NSW	\$107,737
SCCF 5 Bong Bong Common - Eastern Precinct Playground	Regional NSW	\$200,000
SCCF 5 Bowral Streetscape Beautification	Regional NSW	\$19,141
SCCF 5 David Wood Inclusive Adventure Playground	Regional NSW	\$110,289
Seniors Festival \$7k	Dept of Communities & Justice NSW	\$7,000
Small Business Month Grant	Dept of Customer Service	\$2,509
Stormwater Quality Improvement Devices Audit	Water NSW	\$80,000
Tulip Time Flagship Triennial Grant	Destination NSW	\$27,500
Tulip Time's Tulips After Dark (TAD)	Regional NSW	\$6,182
Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Exhibition	Dept of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)	\$10,000
Weeds Control FY22-23 (SEWAP) (23/24) grant PO 4100044294	Local Land Services NSW	\$98,587
Wingello Adventure Park	Dept of Planning, Industry & Environment NSW	\$2,000
Wombat Crossing - Operational Street Lighting	Transport for NSW	\$46,894
Youth Opportunities	Dept of Communities & Justice NSW	\$49,580
Youth Week Holiday Program	Regional NSW	\$26,190
<b>Non-Contestable Grants</b>		
Financial Assistance Grant	Office of Local Government	\$5,797,136
BLOCK - M & I Programme- Regional Roads	Transport for NSW	\$1,069,000
Road Safety Officer (RSO) Subsidy	Transport for NSW	\$61,378
BLOCK - Traffic Facilities - Regional Roads	Transport for NSW	\$216,000
RSO - Speed Busters in Wingecarribee	Transport for NSW	\$6,138



Project/Program	Funding Body	Funding
RSO - GLS Parent Workshops	Transport for NSW	\$937
RSO - Log Book Run	Transport for NSW	\$1,646
RSO - Safe Senior Drivers	Transport for NSW	\$400
RSO - Children Boosting Restraint Use	Transport for NSW	\$2,727
Betterment of the Priestley Street Culvert-Mittagong	Regional NSW	\$174,450
RID Regional Illegal Dumping Program	Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation	\$28,619
RID Keep Your Load Off the Road	Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation	\$4,368
SH Koala Conservation Project - Koala Habitat Mapping	Dept of Planning and Environment	\$150,000
Koala Partnership - Habitat Conservation	Department of Planning & Environment	\$62,500
Koala Partnership - Supporting Communities to Conserve	Department of Planning & Environment	\$35,000
Koala Partnership - Improving Safety & Health	Department of Planning & Environment	\$27,500
Koala Partnership - Building our knowledge	Department of Planning & Environment	\$25,000
DRFA Storm Event Oct 2022 Emergency Works AGRN 1034	Transport for NSW	\$62,534
DRFA Storm Event 04 June 2024 AGRN1129 Emergency Works	Transport for NSW	\$115,187
DRFA Storm Event 04 June 2024 AGRN1129 Immediate Reconstruction Works	Transport for NSW	\$3,740
BLOCK - 3 X 3 RTA Grant (Supplementary)	Transport for NSW	\$107,000
Bowral Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade	Infrastructure NSW	\$4,000,000
LCRI 3 - Bong Bong Common Masterplan Stage 1B, 2 & 3	Dept of Infrastructure & Regional Development	\$1,100,000
FLR - Old South Rd Rehabilitation	Transport for NSW	\$1,788,907
Roads to Recovery (R2R)	Dept of Infrastructure & Regional Development	\$1,184,230
FLR 2 - Kirkham Street Rehabilitation	Transport for NSW	\$382,500
LRCI 4 - Range Road Renewal & Upgrade	Dept of Infrastructure & Regional Development	\$1,000,000
LRCI 4 - Bong Bong Common Intersection Upgrade Part A & B	Dept of Infrastructure & Regional Development	\$54,330
Moss Vale Bypass	Transport for NSW	\$1,529,045
RFS Fitzroy Falls Rural Fire Service Shed	Rural Fire Service NSW	\$59,820
Bong Bong Common Masterplan Stage 1B, 2 & 3	Dept of Planning, Industry & Environment NSW	\$1,171,599
BSBR - Jordans Crossing Off Leash Dog Park	Dept of Industry, Science, Energy & Resource	\$124,413
BSBR - Water Storage Tanks Bullio, Canyonleigh, High Range, Penrose	Dept of Industry, Science, Energy & Resource	\$252,917

# YEAR IN REVIEW

Project/Program	Funding Body	Funding
Regional RERRF Taylor Ave	Transport for NSW	\$1,199,328
Local Roads Repair Program	Transport for NSW	\$61,419
Local Bowral Lookout Access Road	Transport for NSW	\$181,658
Local Ashphalt Road Renewal	Transport for NSW	\$542,040
FLR Phase 4 Sally's Corner Road Exeter Rehabilitation Maintenance	Transport for NSW	\$1,106,986
DRFA Storm Event Oct 2022 EPRAW AGRN 1034	Transport for NSW	\$294,164
DRFA Disaster recovery Road Slip Repairs	Transport for NSW	\$3,191
DRFA Oxley Drive Retaining Wall Renewal	Transport for NSW	\$22,858
DRFA Robinson St Culvert Renewal	Transport for NSW	\$20,330
DRFA Storm Flood Feb 2022 Works AGRN1012 EPARW	Transport for NSW	\$71,620
DRFA July 2022 Storms Event EPARW AGRN1025	Transport for NSW	\$78,640
SES contribution to SES Moss Vale/Animal Shelter facility - additional contribution from bequest	NSW State Emergency Service	\$310,000
Storage Sheld Welby Oval- Highlands Theatre Group	Highlands Theatre Group	\$100,000
Hill top Community Play Space Contribution	Hill Top Community Association	\$148,237
<b>Subsidies</b>		
RFFF Bushfire Services Annual Subsidy	Rural Fire Service NSW	\$293,228
RFFF Bush Fire Grant Hazard Reduction	Rural Fire Service NSW	\$45,576
Special Needs Children Services Salary Subsidy	Department of Education & Training	\$20,445
Library Per Capita Subsidy	State Library of NSW	\$208,958
Traffic Route Lighting Subsidy	Transport for NSW	\$116,000
Child Care Subsidy - OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE	Department of Education & Training	\$248,461
Mittagong Pool - LIRS from OLG	Office of Local Government NSW	\$8,180
Apprentice Subsidy - Training	Department of Education & Training	\$29,747
Local Roads Construction - LIRS from OLG	Office of Local Government NSW	\$26,752

## SERVICE REVIEWS

Under changes to the Local Government Act and IP&R Legislation, all NSW councils are required to develop a program of service plans and reviews to be included in future Delivery Programs and annual Operational Plans.

In response to these requirements, Council developed “Delivering Better Services: A framework for providing best-value services to the community” which was adopted at the December 2023 Council meeting.

The Framework outlines a new approach to both service planning and review that considers the costs, quality and efficiency of a Council service and assessing the appropriateness of how the service is currently being delivered.

Council developed a program of Service Reviews with prioritisation of service area reviews determined by applying the Framework criteria and considering organisational context at the time of assessment.

It is proposed that Service Reviews for a number of principal activities be undertaken together, where there is clear alignment and interdependencies in how the principal activity is delivered and the resulting outcomes for the community.

During the 2023/24 financial year, the Financial Services review was completed under the new Framework.

During FY2023/24, the Animal Shelter and Water Services Reviews had commenced using the new Framework and were in progress as at 30 June 2024.





## **PART 2 :** **STATUTORY INFORMATION**

The following section provides additional detailed supporting information and addresses statutory requirements under Chapter 13, Parts 2 and 4 of the Local Government Act 1993, Part 9, Division 7 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and any other legislation which requires information to be included in this report.

## Anti-Slavery Statements

*The Annual Report must contain a statement detailing the action taken by the council in relation to any issue raised by the Anti-slavery Commissioner during the year concerning the operations of the council and identified by the Commissioner as being a significant issue. Act s 428(4)(c)*

No issues have been raised by the Anti-Slavery Commissioner during the year.

*The Annual Report must contain a statement of steps taken to ensure that goods and services procured by and for the council during the year were not the product of modern slavery within the meaning of the Modern Slavery Act 2018. Act s 428(4)(d)*

Council's Procurement Policy excludes dealings with any parties who engage in or maintain identified elements of Modern Slavery within the definitions of the Act, within their total supply chains. Additionally, all high-value procurement documentation contains mandatory criteria which stipulates that all suppliers and service providers must abide by all legislated Modern Slavery requirements as set out in the Modern Slavery Act..

## Environmental Upgrade Agreements Entered Into

*Section 54P(1) of the Local Government Act 1993.*

Council did not enter into any environmental upgrade agreements under the Local Government Act 1993 during 2023/24 financial year.

## Rates and Charges Written Off

*Clause 132 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*

Amount of Rates and Charges written off	2022/23	2023/24
Postponed Rates under Section 595(1) LGA (1993)	\$2,133.92	\$2,320.53
Pensioners under Section 575 LGA (1993)	\$1,559,473.80	\$1,549,708.42
Water Determinations	\$132,122.63	\$122,354.44
Sewer Charges – non rateable properties	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$36,400.06	\$28,993.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,730,130.41</b>	<b>\$1,703,377.09</b>

# PART 2

## Special Rate Variation

Sections 508(2) and 508A of the Local Government Act 1993 and Special Rate Variation Guidelines. The following 2023/24 maintenance works, and capital projects were funded by the Special Rate Variation.

Description of Works	Expenditure
<b>Maintenance Works</b>	
Roads Maintenance	\$939,871
Building Maintenance	\$941,724
Parks Maintenance	\$508,306
Drainage Maintenance	\$157,267
<b>Total Maintenance Expenditure</b>	<b>\$2,547,168</b>
<b>Capital Works</b>	
Old South Road Renewal	\$5,204,446
Local Roads Resealing Program	\$1,316,123
Design Ella Street Drainage	\$1,031,000
Design Range Rd Renewal	\$928,663
Heavy Patching	\$350,000
Garrett St Moss Vale Drainage Renewal D	\$271,879
Construct Hood Cook St Drainage	\$268,878
Construct Drainage Argyle Howard Sts Ne	\$249,069
Bundanoon Soldiers Memorial Hall Roof R	\$147,967
Design Upgrade Drainage Hood Cook St Op	\$110,344
Stormwater Renewal Winfred Cres	\$107,393
Drapers Rd Stormwater Upgrade (Design)	\$91,898
Bong Bong Common Stage 1A 22871 - E/O	\$91,238
Emergency Operations Centre	\$90,000
Design Bessemer St Drainage	\$86,296
Stormwater Pit & Pipe Renewal	\$73,616
Kirkham Rd Renewal South Wingecarribee	\$61,525
Land Acquisition Retford Park Basin Bow	\$59,927
Moss Vale Senior Citizens Retaining Wal	\$51,438
Diamond Fields Rd Bridge Mittagong	\$50,000
Design Culvert 5A Burradoo Rd	\$46,701
Bridge Refurbishment Program	\$46,414
Culvert Upgrade Lytton/Gibbons Rd Mv De	\$32,780
Ritchie Park Moss Vale Play space Upgrade	\$28,321
Design Sunninghill Ave Drainage	\$26,996
Design Priestly St Culvert	\$26,119
Design Gascoigne St (Carlton Orient) Dr	\$22,201
Wilson Dr Balmoral Pathway Construction	\$21,479
Minor Capital Project <\$20,000	\$134,054
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>\$11,026,766</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,573,933</b>



# Statutory Information

## IPART Reporting Requirements: Long Term Financial Plan Comparison

This reconciliation compares Council's General Fund operating result for the year ended 30 June 2024 with the financial forecasts contained within Council's Special Rate Variation application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in February 2016.

General Fund	LTFP Projection \$'000	Actual 2023/24 \$'000	Variation \$'000
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>			
Rates and annual charges	63,452	69,914	6,462
User charges and fees	8,445	11,731	3,286
Other revenues	3,697	2,877	(820)
Grants and contributions - operating	9,197	9,893	696
Grants and contributions – capital	2,666	31,052	28,386
Interest and investment income	2,003	3,657	1,654
Other income	-	138	138
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>89,640</b>	<b>129,262</b>	<b>39,802</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>			
Employee benefits and on-costs	35,917	38,922	3005
Materials and services	17,301	37,413	20112
Borrowing costs	284	447	163
Depreciation and amortisation	18,007	26,489	8482
Other expenses	13,095	3,256	(9,839)
Net loss from the disposal of assets	-289	3,997	4,286
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>84,315</b>	<b>110,524</b>	<b>26,209</b>
<b>Net operating result</b>	<b>5,145</b>	<b>18,738</b>	<b>13,593</b>
<b>Net operating result excluding capital grants and contributions</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>(12,314)</b>	<b>(14,793)</b>

# PART 2

## Major Variations Compared to Long Term Financial Plan (General Fund)

Comments and explanations for the major variations between Council's adopted Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) from February 2016 compared to the actual results for the period ending 30 June 2024 are provided below.

Movement	Reporting Line	Description of Variations	\$ '000
Increase	Rates and annual charges	The rate peg applied for years 5 to 10 in the LTFP was 2.5%. The rate peg varied slightly from this each year resulting in additional rate income.	6,462
Increase	User charges and fees	Additional income from development activity, waste disposal at the Resource Recovery Centre and, swimming pool entry fees	3,286
Decrease	Other revenues	Decrease due to reclassification of rental income to 'other income' below.	(820)
Increase	Grants and contributions - operating	Additional income from the financial assistance grant, disaster recovery grants and environmental programs.	696
Increase	Grants and contributions - capital	Additional income from grants relating to the Sewer Treatment plants and other Capital projects	27,214
Increase	Interest and investment income	Council held more cash (approximately \$163M) to invest in 2023/24 than forecasted in the LTFP which meant Council earned more interest.	1654
Increase	Other income	Rental income was classified as 'other revenue' in the LTFP however, the Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting has subsequently been updated to report as 'other income'.	138
<b>Total income variations</b>			<b>39,802</b>
Increase	Employee benefits and on-costs	Employee Cost increases include an increase in staff numbers and industry award increases.	3005
Increase	Materials and services	Increased costs for materials and services above anticipated increases in 2016.	20,112
Increase	Borrowing costs	Interest expense on additional borrowings of \$6.31M in 2020/21 for Civic Centre extensions, Kirkham Road, Bowral renewal, Bowral Cemetery works and strategic land acquisitions plus associated increase in interest rates.	163
Increase	Depreciation and amortisation	The impact of the increased value of Council's asset base has resulted in higher than anticipated depreciation.	8,482
Decrease	Other expenses	This relates to the reclassification of expenses as 'materials and contracts', rather than 'other expenses'. This is to ensure compliance with accounting standards and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice.	(9,839)
Increase	Net loss from the disposal of assets	Council does not estimate the net gain/loss from the disposal of assets in preparing the budget, instead estimates are based on the expected sale proceeds.	4,286
<b>Total expense variations</b>			<b>26,209</b>
<b>Net reportable variations</b>			<b>13,593</b>

# Statutory Information

The table below sets out the expenditure consistent with Council's Special rate Variation application up to 30 June 2024.

Category	Proposed expenditure	Actual expenditure	(Under)/over spent
<b>Maintenance</b>			
Buildings	\$5,511,551	\$4,854,903	(\$656,648)
Drainage	\$1,411,603	\$1,820,804	\$409,201
Parks	\$907,553	\$2,641,617	\$1,734,064
Roads	\$8,341,947	\$9,872,073	\$1,530,126
<b>Total maintenance</b>	<b>\$16,172,654</b>	<b>\$19,189,397</b>	<b>\$3,016,743</b>
<b>Capital</b>			
Buildings	\$8,206,540	\$7,904,473	(\$302,067)
Drainage	\$18,102,314	\$10,441,554	(\$7,660,759)
Parks	\$2,070,846	\$2,665,281	\$594,435
Roads	\$27,592,474	\$27,632,390	\$39,915
<b>Total capital</b>	<b>\$55,972,174</b>	<b>\$48,643,697</b>	<b>(\$7,328,477)</b>
<b>Total SRV</b>	<b>\$72,144,828</b>	<b>\$67,833,095</b>	<b>(\$4,311,733)</b>

# PART 2

## Environment Levy

The following 2023/24 projects and programs were funded by the Environment Levy.

Program	Total
<b>Biodiversity Conservation</b>	
Bushland Restoration and Weed Management	\$605,000.00
Revegetation	-
Vegetation Conservation	\$6,719.00
Mt Gibraltar Plan of Management	\$10,635.00
Biodiversity Conservation - Vertebrate Pest Mgt/Mg	\$33,183.00
Green Web Action	\$76,100.00
Interpretative Material – Natural Assets	\$12,092.00
	<b>\$743,729.00</b>
<b>Community Capacity &amp; Commitment</b>	
Awareness Campaigns	\$21,254.00
Community Education	\$51,312.00
Community Support	\$62,513.00
Landcare & Bushcare	\$63,257.00
Env & Sustainability Committee Support	-
Environment Levy Awareness	\$3,435.00
Rural Partner Program	\$4,609.00
Urban Sustainability Partner Program	\$67,345.00
	<b>\$273,725.00</b>
<b>Environment Levy Management</b>	
Env Levy Program Coordination	
Grant Applications	\$43,049.00
Env Levy Corporate Support	\$143,740.00
	<b>\$186,789.00</b>
<b>Environmental Systems</b>	
Data Collection Biodiversity	\$13,699.00
	<b>\$13,699.00</b>
<b>River Health &amp; Wetlands</b>	
Riparian Management Plans Delivery	\$66,107.00
	<b>\$66,107.00</b>
<b>Sustainable Living</b>	
Community Sustainability	\$64,838.00
Fleet EV Transition Project	\$37,608.00
	<b>\$102,446.00</b>
<b>Town Planning</b>	
Town Planning	\$47,000.00
	<b>\$47,000.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>\$1,433,495.00</b>



## Interim Heritage Orders

In accordance with Ministerial Order for Authorisations for local councils to make Interim Heritage Orders under Section 25 of the Heritage Act 1977, Council is required to publish in its Annual Report a summary of all decisions regarding Interim Heritage Orders for that year.

On 23 February 2024, Interim Heritage Orders issued by Council in accordance with the Ministerial Authorisation were published in the NSW Government Gazette. Interim Heritage Order No. 14 applied to Lot 4 DP 876468, known as 48-50 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong, and Interim Heritage Order No. 15 applied to Part Lot 222 Sec U DP 20, known as 2 Pioneer Street, Mittagong. Both properties were included and recommended for heritage listing in the Draft Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study 2021-23 that underwent public exhibition in late 2023. Both properties at the time of the issuing of the Interim Heritage Orders were at imminent risk of demolition and in the case of 48-50 Old Hume Highway, Mittagong, the property was substantially demolished in accordance with a complying development certificate before the Interim Heritage Order could be published.

The Community Heritage Study 2021-23 was the subject of an independent Peer Review in the first half of 2024, the results of which were publicly exhibited in June 2024. A final decision on the Community Heritage Study and the Interim Heritage Orders was due to be made in late 2024.

## Councillor professional development

*Information about induction training and ongoing professional development undertaken by councillors. Regulation cl 186.*

The Council was in administration for the 2023/24 reporting period. No professional development activities were undertaken by the Administrator.

## Overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing the Council.

No overseas visits were undertaken in the 2023/24 financial year.

## Mayor and Councillor Expenses

*Clauses 217(1)(a) and (a1) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Part E of the Councillor Induction and Professional Development Guidelines.*

Note: Council was in administration for the 2023/24 financial year. Expenses below relate to the Administrator only.

Expense	Administrator 2022/23	Administrator 2023/24
General travel	\$8,843	\$1,525
Interstate, overseas travel	-	-
Accommodation and meals	\$42,588	\$43,437
Induction Training/ Professional Development	-	-
Conferences and seminars	\$3,395	\$4,026
Community meetings and non-council functions/events	-	\$1,014
ICT and office equipment	\$772	-
Carer for child or family member	-	-
Administrator fees	277,891	\$277,891
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$333,489</b>	<b>\$327,894</b>

## PART 2

### CONTRACTS AWARDED

*Clause 217(1)(a2) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 The following is a list of contracts for amounts greater than \$150,000 awarded during the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.*

In accordance with sections 6 and 18 and Division 5 of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, Council keeps and publishes a register of government contracts valued at \$150,000 or more. This register is available at Register of Council Contracts with Private Sector.

Description of Works	Contractor	Contract Value
Bulk Water Treatment Chemicals	Panel of 6 Contractors	in excess of \$2,000,000
Hilltop Playspace	Moduplay Group Pty Ltd	\$ 245,619.00
Culvert Renewals - Robinson Street, Mittagong	Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd	\$ 429,214.50
Review of the Bowral Flood Risk Management Study & Plan	Haskoning Australia Pty Limited	\$ 212,685.00
Culvert Upgrade Works - Priestley Street, Mittagong	Western Earthmoving Pty Ltd	\$ 750,097.81
Water Main Upsizing – Lytton Road, Moss Vale	Killard Infrastructure Pty Ltd	\$ 240,053.00
Moss Vale STP - Construction	Haslin Constructions Pty Ltd	\$ 64,696,264.04
Water Meter Reading	Skilltech Consulting Services Pty Ltd	in excess of \$1,000,000.00
Animal Shelter Veterinary Services	Southern Highlands Veterinary Centre Pty Ltd	in excess of \$200,000.00
Microsoft Licensing	Data#3 Limited	\$ 1,131,275.77
Eridge Park Transfer Pump Station - Design & Construct	Qmax Pumping Systems Pty Ltd	\$ 1,469,380.00
Sewer Main CCTV and Manhole Inspections	Aqua-Assets Pty Limited	\$ 196,260.55
Culvert Replacement Bridge - Priestly Street, Mittagong	InQuik Pty Ltd	\$ 255,860.00
Wastewater Trunk Main Upsizing – Ebury Street, Bundanoon	Killard Infrastructure Pty Ltd	\$ 340,940.00
Asphalt Concrete Works – Berrima NSW	Avijohn Contracting Pty Limited	\$ 1,057,310.75
Asphalt Concrete Works – Bowral NSW	Asphalt Laying Services Pty Ltd	\$ 271,970.00
Networking Infrastructure	Datacom Systems (AU) Pty Ltd	\$ 471,492.44
Erection of Elevated Walkway - Burradoo	Basco Projects Pty Ltd	\$ 248,020.00

# Statutory Information

Description of Works	Contractor	Contract Value
Water Main Renewal – Station Street, Bowral	Killard Infrastructure Pty Ltd	\$ 173,755.00
Receival Processing and Haulage Services for Municipal Waste and Resource Streams	Veolia Pty Ltd	\$ 12,000,000.00
Construction of Elevated Path – Burradoo	MAK Construction (Aust) Pty Ltd	\$ 368,498.45
Bowral Tennis Club Court Replacement [Direct Negotiation]	Dynamic Sports Facilities Australia Pty Ltd	\$ 391,315.00
Tree Maintenance Services - Ad Hoc and Storm Response	Panel of 6 Contractors	in excess of \$1,000,000
Water Main Renewal - Gladstone Road, Bowral	Killard Infrastructure Pty Ltd	\$ 469,926.00
Facility Cleaning Services	Panel of 7 Contractors	in excess of \$250,000
Casburn Park Upgrade – Construction	Lamond Contracting Pty Ltd	\$ 2,022,449.20
Traffic Management Services	Panel of 8 Contractors	in excess of \$4,000,000
Upgrade of Balmoral Reserve	McGoo Civil Pty Ltd	\$ 151,041.00
SPS-MT6 Sewer Rising Main Upgrade	Killard Infrastructure Pty Ltd	\$ 333,420.00
Dam Safety Documentation for Medway and Bundanoon Dams	GHD Pty Ltd	\$ 183,348.00
Integrated Library Management System	Civica Pty Ltd	\$ 335,326.20
Manufacture of 3000x1800 and 3300x1500 Culverts and Slabs for Old South Road Upgrade due to Endangered Bat Species	Moss Vale Concrete Products	\$ 256,267.00
Carbon Dioxide (CO2) Bulk Chemical Purchases for Wingecarribee & Bundanoon WTP for 2023-2024	Coregas Pty Ltd	\$ 175,450.00
Annual Raw Water Supply from Wingecarribee Dam	Water NSW	\$ 1,500,000.00
Backup Hardware Infrastructure	Datacom Systems (AU) Pty Ltd	\$ 233,080.30
Backup Software Solution	Datacom Systems (AU) Pty Ltd	\$ 219,421.13
Moss Vale Senior Citizen Centre Retaining Wall Replacement	Growth Civil Landscapes Pty Ltd	\$ 246,756.19
Southern Highlands Innovation Park Master Plan	Architectus Australia Pty Ltd	\$ 236,819.00
Private Cloud (IaaS) and Connectivity	TPG Network Pty Ltd	\$ 1,450,878.00

# PART 2

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

### Clause 217(1) (a3) Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

The following is a summary of the amount incurred by Council in relation to legal proceedings in 2023/24 as well as the result (if the matter is concluded)

Note: A “No Order as to Costs” means that each party has to pay their own legal fees while “costs thrown away” are costs that may need to be paid for the other side’s time.

Legal Matter	Amounts, costs and expenses paid or received		Summary of the state of progress	Result
	Paid	Received		
<b>4 Myrtle Street, Bowral</b> Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 23/1247	\$71,635.20		Finalised.	Section 34 agreement reached and judgment issued 7 March 2024.
<b>10-12 Oxley Drive, Mittagong</b> Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 23/1046	\$21,666.87		Progressing to a contested hearing.	Parties are liaising on a without prejudice basis to resolve the matter, however, is listed for hearing on 15 and 16 January 2024.
KT v Wingecarribee Shire Council	\$2,244.00		Finalised.	Applicant discontinued proceedings 16 May 2024.
KT v General Manager, Wingecarribee Shire Council & Ors	\$35,701.00		Finalised.	Matter dismissed. Judgment handed down 2 July 2024 in favour of Council.
Stefanutti Construction Dispute – Old South Road Rehabilitation	\$9,690.80		Ongoing.	Not applicable.
<b>100 Bowral Road, Mittagong</b> Mecone Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings – Land and Environment Court DA 22/1193	\$9,799.60		Finalised	Both parties reached a s34 Agreement which was filed with the Land and Environment Court 13 September 2023. Terms of decision as agreed by both parties were that:  The appeal is upheld.  The Applicant is to pay the Respondent's costs thrown away as agreed in the sum of \$5,632.00 pursuant to s8.15(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
<b>27 Kimberley Drive, Bowral</b> Wingecarribee Shire Council v Lake House Bowral Pty Limited – Class 4 Proceedings – Land and Environment Court	\$80,789.02	\$70,000.00	Lake House Bowral Pty Limited agreed to pay \$120,000 (in 5 instalments) in accordance with the costs order.	Matter completed.
<b>267 Bundanoon Road, Exeter</b> Lee v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 Proceedings – Land and Environment Court DA	\$133,286.24		Finalised.	Matter completed.



# Statutory Information

Legal Matter	Amounts, costs and expenses paid or received		Summary of the state of progress	Result
	Paid	Received		
<b>27 Kimberley Drive, Bowral</b> Wingecarribee Shire Council v Lake House Bowral Pty Limited Class 5 proceedings – Land and Environment Court	\$86,296.32		Class 5 proceedings have commenced.	Matter ongoing.
<b>14-16 Henderson Avenue, Mittagong</b> Storehouse Projects Pty Limited – Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment DA 24/0137	\$16,958.90		Ongoing.	Matter is listed for hearing 25 September 2024.
<b>23 Merrigang Street, Bowral</b> Solomon v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court Proceedings DA 24/0371	\$22,850.50		Ongoing.	Matter is listed for hearing 23 and 24 September 2024.
<b>11 Oxley Street, Berrima</b> Poppelwell v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 23/0891	\$53,966.66		Judgement handed down.	Matter is now finalised.
<b>51 Range Road, Mittagong</b> Winifred West Schools Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council – Class 1 proceedings - Land & Environment Court DA20/0747	\$6,362.00		Judgment handed down.	Costs order outstanding.
<b>3A Holly Road, Burradoo</b> Nicholas Tang Holdings Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 4 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 22/1717	\$35,527.86		Ongoing.	Awaiting judgement.
<b>511 Moss Vale Road, Bowral</b> Captain Developments Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 22/0335	\$68,057.42	\$10,000 (costs awarded)	Matter is finalised.	Matter is now finalised.
<b>58 Greasons Road, Bundanoon</b> James Walter Douglas Pty Limited (The Trustees for the Bundanoon Property Trust) v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court 18/0077.14	\$37,595.50		Ongoing.	Currently engaged in conciliation conferencing.
<b>277 and 279-293 Bong Bong Street, Bowral</b> Sharjag Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 23/0017	\$25,186.37		Ongoing.	On 4 June 2024 an order was made under s8.15(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act in Council's favour for costs thrown away.
<b>4-6 Valetta Street, Moss Vale</b> TGO Pty Limited atf Onisforou v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 23/1113	\$22,084.12		Ongoing.	The Applicant's motion for leave to amend the application is listed for determination.

Legal Matter	Amounts, costs and expenses paid or received		Summary of the state of progress	Result
	Paid	Received		
<b>54-56 &amp; 58 Robertson Road, Moss Vale</b>  Powerex Group Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 22/1318	\$877.20		Finalised.	Judgement handed down – matter resolved by s 34 agreement.
<b>Lots 33 &amp; 34 Station Street, Bowral</b>  Sibin Djuric v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 22/1263	\$40,613.63		Finalised.	Judgement handed down – matter resolved by s 34 agreement.
<b>Ferguson Crescent and Belmore Road, Mittagong</b>  Rebecca White v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 22/0792	\$1,083.70		Finalised.	Judgement handed down – matter resolved by s 34 agreement.
<b>4-6 Etheridge Street, Mittagong</b>  Eisenschmitt Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 22/0884	\$821.60		Finalised.	Judgement handed down – matter resolved by s 34 agreement.
<b>64 Farnborough Drive, Moss Vale</b>  Baron Corporation Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings - Land and Environment Court DA 23/0169	\$82,294.89		Finalised.	Judgement handed down – matter resolved by s 34 agreement.
<b>603 Argyle Street, Moss Vale</b>  Moss Vale Highlands Pty Limited as trustee for the Moss Vale Highlands Unit Trust v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings – Land and Environment Court DA 23/0517	\$98,153.85		Finalised.	Judgement handed down – matter resolved by s 34 agreement.
<b>6-8 Wiseman Road, Bowral</b>  Pepperfield 6 Wiseman Road Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings – Land and Environment Court DA 22/0214	\$152,228.04		Finalised	Judgement handed down – appeal upheld following amendment of development application on the first day of the hearing
<b>1-7 Reg Grundy Drive, Bundanoon</b>  RG Capital (Australia) Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings – Land and Environment Court DA 21/1043	\$49,623.58		Ongoing	Set down for hearing.
<b>13 Regent Street, Mittagong</b>  Greg Boyce v Wingecarribee Shire Council Class 1 proceedings – Land and Environment Court DA	\$15,722.36		Ongoing.	Set down for hearing.

# Statutory Information

Legal Matter	Amounts, costs and expenses paid or received		Summary of the state of progress	Result
	Paid	Received		
<b>9a Henderson Avenue, Mittagong</b>  Trio Enterprises Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council – Land and Environment Court Proceedings 2022/00386173	\$34,942.04	\$54,595 (costs awarded)	Finalised.	Judgement delivered on 25 September 2023.  Costs awarded to Council.
<b>2500 Canyonleigh Road, Canyonleigh</b>  Edwards Pension Fund Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council – Land and Environment Court Proceedings 2023/103591	\$75,665.50		Finalised.	Judgement delivered 15 April 2024. Appeal dismissed and DA 22/0800 determined by way of refusal.
<b>2500 Canyonleigh Road, Canyonleigh</b>  Edwards Pension Fund Pty Limited v Wingecarribee Shire Council – Land and Environment Court Proceedings 2024/00172454	\$1,749.01		Ongoing	Judgement reserved, awaiting outcome

## PRIVATE WORKS

### *Section 67(3) of the Local Government Act 1993 and clause 217(1)(a4) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.*

Private works will be undertaken by Council's Infrastructure Services branch if sufficient resources are available, and the undertaking of the private works does not impact on Council's works program or core business activities. Any private works undertaken will ensure that Council does not incur a loss and that the work is to an acceptable standard.

During the reporting period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, Council did not complete any works on private land that meet the criteria under Section 67 of the Local Government Act 1993.

For the same period, private works for sewer totalled \$128,835.82, and private works for water amounted to \$84,891.60. These works were not subsidised by Council and did not require a resolution.

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

### *Clause 217(1)(a5) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Contributions made by Council under section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 in 2023/24 comprised.*

Category	Donations/ Contributions	Community Assistance Scheme	Rate Subsidies	Total
Arts & Culture Bodies	\$501,176.91	\$28,610.00	\$500.00	\$530,286.91
Charity/Welfare Groups	\$39,757.27	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	\$43,257.27
Community Groups	\$163,966.65	\$38,471.27	\$23,750.09	\$226,188.01
Environmental Groups	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Local Schools	\$704.00	\$600.00	\$0.00	\$1,304.00
Sporting and Recreation Groups	\$71,925.64	\$9,689.00	\$3,826.68	\$85,441.32
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,733.75	\$10,733.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$777,530.47</b>	<b>\$77,370.27</b>	<b>\$42,310.52</b>	<b>\$897,211.26</b>

## External Bodies Exercising Power

### *Clause 217(1)(a6) and (a7) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.*

There are no external bodies which carry out functions delegated by Council, apart from the Wingecarribee Shire Council Local Planning Panel. WSC Local Planning Panel is mandated by legislation. It comprises appropriately qualified people independent of Council as well as community representatives. The WSC Local Planning Panel is charged with determining a range of development applications on behalf of Council and reviewing and making recommendations to the Council about planning proposals. Panel determinations are made as independent assessments consistent with the Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plans, adopted by Council.



## Bodies Council Participated In

*Clause 217(1)(a8) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Council participated in the following bodies during 2023/24:*

- √ Canberra Region Joint Organisation
- √ Illawarra Academy of Sport
- √ Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (for its Regional Illegal Dumping program)
- √ Regional Development Australia Southern Inland
- √ Southern Tablelands Arts
- √ South West Sydney Primary Health Network
- √ Statewide Mutual
- √ Sydney Peri Urban Network

## Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

*Statement of activities undertaken to implement its EEO Management Plan. Reg cl 217(1)(a9).*

Council is committed to attracting and retaining a diverse workforce and is developing a diversity management plan to ensure all staff have access to opportunities including training and career development.

## Remuneration Package for the General Manager and Senior Staff

Clauses 217(1)(b) and (c) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 Statement of the total remuneration comprised in remuneration packages of all senior staff members, expressed as the total (not of the individual members). Includes:

- √ Total value of salary components of their packages.
- √ Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary components of their packages.
- √ Total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor.
- √ Total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package.
- √ Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.

Position	Remuneration Package as at 30 June 2023	Remuneration Package as at 30 June 2024
General Manager	\$368,750	\$379,813
Directors	\$869,400	\$882,504
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,238,150</b>	<b>\$1,262,317</b>

## LABOUR STATISTICS ON 14 FEBRUARY 2024

*In their 2023/24 annual reports, councils must publish a statement of the total number of persons who performed paid work for them on Wednesday 14 February 2024 including, in separate statements, the total number of the following:*

- √ the number of persons directly employed by the council:
  - on a permanent full-time basis - 345
  - on a permanent part-time basis - 36
  - on a casual basis – 62
  - under a fixed-term contract - 23
- √ the number of persons employed by the council who are 'senior staff' for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1993 = 4 being 1 General Manager (GM) and 3 Directors
- √ the number of persons engaged by the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person = 23
- √ the number of persons supplied to the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee - 9 (All Apprentices, trainees and cadets are employed by Council)

## STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

*Clause 217(1)(e) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*

Project	Expenditure
Sunninghill Avenue Burradoo Stormwater Upgrade	\$76,548
Stormwater Minor Maintenance Works Upgrade	\$62,630
Stormwater Drainage Maintenance	\$97,110
Wetland Maintenance	\$9,688
Creek Clearing	\$21,420
Asset Inspection & Data Collection	\$72,800
Floodplain Management Program match grant	\$69,622
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$409,817</b>

## COMPANION ANIMALS MANAGEMENT

### *Clause 217(1)(f) of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and Part 16 of the Guideline on the Exercise of Functions under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (Companion Animals Guidelines).*

Council has undertaken a strategic education program in a staged process to ensure companion animal owners register their animals. This is predominately achieved through a system of issuing notices requiring companion animals to be registered under the Companion Animals Act 1998. Council has found this is an effective way to ensure owners accept responsibility when owning a companion animal and comply with the statutory provisions.

Council regularly advises customers to update the details of their companion animals as part of maintaining the Companion Animal Register. Council updates and maintains information with respect to the Wingecarribee Animal Shelter and advertises all aspects of the Animal Shelter through external social media platforms such as Facebook.

### *Clause 16.1.2(a) of the Companion Animals Guidelines: Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the Office of Local Government.*

Animal Shelter Information	2022/23 Cats	2022/23 Dogs	2023/24 Cats	2023/24 Dogs
Impounded (seized and stray)	156	158	98	142
Surrendered	24	29	16	47
Released to owner	14	94	8	74
Sold	108	59	68	91
Transferred to rescue organisation	1	3	0	0

A summary of the animals euthanised during 2023/24 is provided in the table below.

Companion animals subject to euthanasia	2022/23 Cats	2022/23 Dogs	2023/24 Cats	2023/24 Dogs
Dangerous dogs/ <b>Restricted Breed dogs*</b>	N/A	0	0	3
Illness/Injury	1	1	5	3
Unsuitable for rehoming	2	20	9	22
Unable to be rehomed	0	0	0	0
Feral/Infant animal	55	1	19	0
<b>Total subject to euthanasia</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>

Note : \*Animal Shelter Suggested wording adjustment to align with State Government Reporting

## ***Lodgement of data about dog attacks with the OLG. Companion Animals Guidelines 16.1.2(b)***

Council has submitted data on dog attacks to the Office of Local Government, logging all occurrences in the NSW Companion Animals Register. The table below offers a snapshot of reported incidents.

Status	Incidents Reported	Attacking Dogs	Animal Victims	Human Victims	Total
Reported (investigation not commenced as of 30 June 2024)	39	39	23	16	39
Finalised	39	39	23	16	39
Under Investigations	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>39</b>

## ***Clause 16.1.2(c) of the Companion Animals Guidelines Amount of funding spent on companion animal management and activities and Clause 16.1.4 of the Companion Animals Guidelines.***

Outlined below is the expenditure for companion animal management and activities in 2023/24, as well as compliance with Clause 16.1.4 of the Companion Animals Guidelines. Notably, no disbursements from the Companion Animals Fund were allocated for Shire-based companion animal management and control during the year.

Activity	Expenditure 2022/23	Expenditure 2023/24
Animal Shelter	\$425,684	\$513,682
Rangers	\$244,703	\$275,154
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$670,387</b>	<b>\$788,837</b>

## ***Companion animal community education programs carried out. Companion Animals Guidelines: cl 16.1.2(d)***

Multiple community education programs aimed at promoting responsible pet ownership were initially scheduled. Regrettably, unforeseen circumstances necessitated their postponement. As we look ahead, we are actively planning to execute these valuable programs in the upcoming fiscal year.

## ***Strategies council has in place to promote and assist the de-sexing of cats and dogs. Companion Animals Guidelines: cl 16.1.2(d)***

The Council implements community education programs and strategies aimed at promoting and supporting the spaying/neutering of cats and dogs. All animals rehomed through the Animal Shelter are automatically desexed upon release, reflecting a standard policy. The Council will actively broaden its educational efforts to include dedicated awareness days in 2024-2025.



**Clause 16.1.2(e) of the Companion Animals Guidelines: Strategies for complying with the requirement under section 64 of the Act to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed animals.**

The Wingecarribee Animal Shelter employs various strategies to align with the mandate of seeking alternatives to euthanasia. These approaches encompass training dogs to enhance their adoptability, engaging dog trainers and behaviorists, and collaborating with other rescue groups and specialised organisations. Notably, the shelter has successfully rehomed dogs to roles in law enforcement, corrective services, and the military following training. Furthermore, shelter staff often foster young animals, preparing them for eventual adoption. Euthanasia is a last resort, undertaken only when no other viable option remains, aligning with the shelter's commitment to minimal euthanasia practices.

**Clause 16.1.2(f) of the Companion Animals Guidelines: Off leash areas provided in the Wingecarribee Shire local government area.**

The Wingecarribee Shire has four (4) off leash parks:

- Centennial Park, Centennial Road, Bowral (fenced)
- Jordan's Crossing, Bindar Crescent, Bundanoon (unfenced)
- Alexandra Square off leash area, Edward Street, Mittagong (fenced), and
- Seymour Park, Spencer Street, Moss Vale (fenced).

Further information about off leash areas in the Wingecarribee Shire is available on Council's Webpage under Leash-Free Areas in the Wingecarribee Shire

**Detailed information about how money paid from the Companion Animals Fund for managing and controlling companion animals in the area has been used Companion Animals Act 1998: s 85(1A) / Companion Animals Guidelines: cl 16.1.4**

The Companion Animals Fund for managing and controlling companion animals in the area was not used in 2023/24 financial year. The remaining funds will be used to deliver cat specific management programs in 2024/25 financial year.

## CAPITAL EXPENDITURE REVIEW

In accordance with the Office of Local Government's Capital Expenditure Guidelines issued under section 23A of the Local Government Act 1993, Council undertook a Capital Expenditure Review of the new animal shelter and Moss Vales SES building prior to the commencement of works.

The Guidelines aim to ensure that a council's evaluation of the proposed capital expenditure is consistent and transparent, that the merits of projects can be compared, and that resource allocation can be made on an informed basis.

After reviewing the information provided by Council, the Office of Local Government determined that Council had satisfactorily addressed the criteria required in the Guidelines..

## CAPITAL WORKS

### 2023/24 Capital Works Projects Expenditure.

Works	Expenditure
Community and operational buildings	\$2,497,000
Roads and related assets	\$8,132,000
Footpaths and cycleways	\$1,566,000
Stormwater drainage	\$2,345,000
Water network	\$2,494,000
Sewer network	\$2,906,000
Parks, reserves, and sports fields	\$8,140,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,260,000</b>

Source: Note C1-8 General Purpose Financial Statements

Note: this list includes capital projects dedicated to Council relating to new development. The list does not include capital expenses relating to plant replacement, library books, furniture and fittings and land.

## DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

### Section 13(1) of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014

#### **This financial year marked the second implementation period for Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 (DIAP).**

A variety of DIAP actions and initiatives were taken over this financial year to achieve better access and inclusion for people with disability in the Wingecarribee Shire.

The 2023/24 financial year saw the continued use of Council's implementation framework to measure progress against our DIAP. This framework has been supported by regular meetings of the Council DIAP Steering Group to guide and monitor the implementation of the DIAP and to oversee reporting.

Selected highlights of the initiatives undertaken by Council in the 2023/24 financial year are provided below for each of the four (4) key DIAP focus areas.

## **Positive Attitudes and Behaviours – Council supports and encourages positive and inclusive attitudes and behaviours**

- ✓ In celebration of International Day of People with Disability, the Creating and Thriving Art Exhibition was again displayed in the Civic Centre Atrium Gallery over the month of December 2023. This art exhibition recognises and celebrates the creativity and diversity of local makers and artists with disability
- ✓ Inclusive photoshoots have been undertaken to improve Council's visual representation of people with disability, promoting active participation in various locations across our Shire
- ✓ Regular meetings are held with community service organisations supporting people with disability in the Wingecarribee Shire. In 2023/24, Council collaborated with these organisations in relation to community engagement opportunities and projects involving neurodiverse young people
- ✓ A number of accessible and inclusive initiatives were again funded as part of the Wingecarribee Community Assistance Scheme, including Challenge Southern Highlands - Empowering People living with Disabilities in the workforce and improved access to Robertson CTC
- ✓ Work has commenced in making QR Codes more accessible for people who are blind or have low vision, with braille indicators for QR Codes now used on select local signs
- ✓ An events checklist incorporating access and inclusion considerations has been drafted. Over the coming months this checklist will be finalised before being implemented across Council.
- ✓ Disability Awareness Training was organised and delivered to all Council staff in the 2023/24 financial year
- ✓ Interchange Australia continue to visit the Moss Vale and Bowral Branch libraries in 2023/24 to encourage and promote independent use of these facilities. Participants borrow and read in the library's safe and responsive environment with many returning to use the services and collections by themselves

## **Employment Opportunities – Council is committed to equal employment and workplace opportunities for current and future employees.**

- ✓ All job advertisements acknowledge Wingecarribee Shire Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer that provides an inclusive work environment and embraces the diverse talent of its people
- ✓ All position descriptions have recently been updated including updated physical demand checklists detailing the physical, sensory, psychological, and environmental demands that form part of every role across Council
- ✓ Staff receiving fire warden training in December 2023 and February 2024 were provided information about supporting people with accessibility requirements to evacuate Council sites
- ✓ Plans to refurbish the back-of-house offices in the Council's Civic Centre ensure improved accessibility for staff with disability, with these plans meeting building codes and accessibility standards
- ✓ Relationships with disability employment services have been strengthened through their attendance at bi-monthly interagency meetings attended by Council staff. Meetings have also occurred to discuss work placement opportunities at Council for neurodiverse young people. These will continue into the 2024/25 financial year
- ✓ Council works with social enterprises to support employment of people with disability, including employing people with disability to digitise files

## **Systems and Processes – Improving Council's systems and practices that are easy to use and information is accessible.**

- ✓ Council continues to make Master Locksmith Access Keys available, to support eligible residents with disability 24/7 access to a network of public facilities including wheelchair accessible toilets
- ✓ Council offers free computer access to members of our community via our customer service kiosk

- ✓ Council currently has a 100% accessibility rating on our website and works hard to ensure we maintain this rating
- ✓ Council promotes accessible improvements to our Shire and inclusive events via our media and communications channels
- ✓ The 2024 Seniors Directory was made available online and in hard copy

**Liveable Communities – Council supports the community to promote access and inclusion for everyone and reduce barriers to liveability factors such as transport, recreation, and social inclusiveness. Our aim is to create a Shire where everyone has equal opportunities to live, work and play.**

- ✓ The update to the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP) for Moss Vale, Bowral and Mittagong has continued this financial year. Final updates are underway to ensure the PAMP contributes to the best possible outcomes for community
- ✓ Council is continuing to rollout a Place Based Planning System that identifies the allocation of strategic infrastructure at a local level. Robertson Village Place Plan is the first holistic place-based plan that has been developed in partnership with the community, as a part of Council's Village Place Plan Program. The Place Plan addresses the housing, environmental, economic, social and cultural needs of Robertson both now and into the future
- ✓ Audio loops are available in the Council Chambers, Emergency Operations Centre, Theatrette and Customer experience counter area. Signage has been installed to ensure people who have hearing impairment are aware of the facilities available to them in these areas
- ✓ An interpretive signage checklist has been drafted to enhance the accessibility of signage (and the use of QR codes) at key Council destination and recreational areas
- ✓ Further to the accessibility improvements reported last financial year, additional improvements have been made to local swimming pools, with the installation of aqua steps at Bundanoon Pool
- ✓ Casburn Park in Wingello has been upgraded to include two (2) new playgrounds, a pump track and accessible toilet facilities. Upgrades also improved accessibility and parking
- ✓ The Visitor Information Centre in Mittagong had their line marking redone to make accessible parking easier to identify
- ✓ Construction work was completed on Bong Bong Common, including an accessible amenity building, upgrades to open spaces, a fully accessible pathway, and carpark with accessible parking. This project will continue into the next financial year with the addition of raised boardwalks in some flood-prone areas
- ✓ The Liberty Swing at Lake Alexandra continues to be used by people with disability and disability service providers
- ✓ The new Integrated Library Management System has been implemented to allow greater accessibility to informational and recreational material



## STATUS OF VOLUNTARY PLANNING AGREEMENTS

### Section 7.5(5) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.

If Council has entered into one or more voluntary planning agreements (VPAs) and while any such agreement remains in force, Council must include in its annual report particulars of compliance with and the effect of the VPAs during the reporting period to which the report relates. The below table provides this information.

Description of VPA	Description of Works	Address	Party to Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)	Status	Agreement Date
Renwick VPA	Monetary Contribution, detailed design of open space to be dedicated under VPA	Renwick Drive, Renwick	Landcom / Wingecarribee Shire Council	Active	11 September 2008
Douglas Road VPA (Lot 24)	Infrastructure provision	Lot 24 Douglas Road, Moss Vale	Maloney Nominees Pty Ltd	Active	23 March 2010
Douglas Road VPA (Lot 21)	Infrastructure provision	Lot 21 Douglas Road, Moss Vale	Ronald James Arkoll Ross Gordon Hales Kevin N. Dunlop K.N.D. Nominees Pty	Active	23 March 2010
Frensham Pool VPA	Public access to pool	Range Road, Mittagong	Winifred West School	Active	07 December 2012
Nattai Ponds VPA	Dedicating land Community Facilities and road works	Isedale Road, Mittagong	Feldkirchen Pty Ltd	Active	11 April 2013
Gibraltar Park Planning Agreement	Monetary Contribution, detailed design of open space to be dedicated under VPA	Old Bowral Road, Bowral	Old Bowral Estate Pty Ltd	Active	17 July 2014
Retford Park	Monetary Contribution, detailed design of open space to be dedicated under VPA	Old Bowral Road, Bowral	James Oswald Fairfax	Active	18 August 2015
Dirty Janes	Infrastructure provision	Bong Bong Street, Bowral	Goldfish Black Pty Ltd, Tara Elias, Craig Elias, Sammy Criniti	Active	14 October 2015
Darraby Sewer	Infrastructure provision	Boughton Street, Moss Vale	Darraby Pty Ltd and Boughton Street Moss Vale Pty Ltd	Active	23 December 2015

Comment: There are no local VPAs in place in relation to Ashbourne. However, a State VPA is active, which was entered into by the NSW Minister for Planning and the developer, in relation to road infrastructure.

 <https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/development/other-development-information/developer-contributions-servicing-plans>

## DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

*Disclosure of how development contributions and development levies have been used or expended under each contributions plan. Environment Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 cl 218A(1), (2) and (3)*

Project \$'000	Amounts expended	Percentage of project cost funded by contributions	Project completed (Yes/No)
Resource Recovery Centre operations	54	3%	Yes
Executive Manager Strategic Outcomes	62	10%	Yes
Integrated Transport Strategy	76	50%	No
Balmoral Bushland Park Establishment	86	54%	No
Berrima Rd Bridge Overpass	212	20%	No
Retford Park detention basin design	526	12%	No
Garrett Street, Moss Vale drainage design	35	89%	No
Design Sunninghill Ave drainage	184	9%	No
Casburn Park Upgrade	150	7%	Yes
Wingecarribee and Bundanoon Water Treatment Plants	27	100%	Yes
Sewer pump replacements	159	100%	Yes
Sewer pump stations renewals	146	100%	Yes
Sewer main renewals	294	100%	Yes
Sewer man-hole renewals	131	100%	Yes
Sewer treatment plant asset renewals	262	100%	Yes
Sewer vent pipe replacements	37	100%	Yes
Bowral Sewer Treatment Plant upgrade	760	3%	No
Sewer Scada and Telemetry System Upgrade	8	100%	No
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>3209</b>		

## Total value of all contributions and levies received and expended during the year.

Statement of developer contributions					
Category \$'000	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year	Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Held as restricted assets at 30 June 2024
Roads	7,800	818	433	-	9,051
Community facilities	554	30	30	-	614
Open space & community facilities	8,005	522	421	(361)	8,587
Administration	989	124	53	(107)	1,059
Resource Recovery Centre	-	65	-	(54)	11
Community facilities library	927	110	52	-	1,089
Administration (MVEC)	2	-	-	-	2
Future works (MVEC)	219	23	12	-	254
Land acquisition (MVEC)	(1)	2	-	-	1
s7.12 levies under a plan	990	165	59	-	1,214
S7.11 not under a plan (VPA)	3,712	-	193	-	3,905
S7.11 not under plans Parking	323	-	17	-	340
S64 contributions water	17,141	2,145	969	(26)	20,229
S64 contributions sewer	13,417	1,890	721	(1,798)	14,230
S64 contributions stormwater	640	307	-	(869)	78
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>54,718</b>	<b>6,201</b>	<b>2,960</b>	<b>(3,215)</b>	<b>60,664</b>

## SWIMMING POOL INSPECTIONS PROGRAM

### Section 22F of the Swimming Pools Act 1992 and clause 23 of the Swimming Pools Regulation 2018

During 2023/24 the following inspections of private swimming pools were undertaken under Division 5 of Part 2 of the Swimming Pools Act 1992:

Inspections Private Swimming Pools	2022/23	2023/24
Number of inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation	7	16
Number of inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings	2	4
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of compliance under s 22D of the Act	39	41
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of non-compliance under cl 21 of the Regulation	14	23
<b>Total Inspections</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>84</b>

**GOVERNMENT INFORMATION PUBLIC ACCESS ACTIVITY**

*A total of 19 valid access applications were received by Council under Part 4 of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act). The below table summarises the decisions made with respect to the access applications decided by Council during the reporting period.*

The below table summarises the decisions made with respect to the access applications decided by Council during the reporting period.

Decision on formal GIPA application	No. of Decisions	Percentage of Total
Access to information granted in full	2	9.52%
Access to information granted in part	15	71.43%
Access to information refused in full	0	0%
Information not held	2	9.52%
Information already available to applicant	0	0%
Refuse to deal with application	0	0%
Refuse to confirm or deny whether information is held	0	0%
Application withdrawn by applicant	2	9.52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	

*\* More than one decision may be made in respect of a particular access application, as provided by section 58(2) of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. Statistics do not include three access applications which remained in progress as at 30 June 2023. Statistics include access applications which were received prior to 1 July 2022 but decided within the 2023/24 reporting period.*

Further information regarding how Council decided access applications under the GIPA Act during 2023/24 is available at Council's Proactive Release of Information Register webpage.

In accordance with section 21 of the GIPA Act, Council conducted its annual review of its agency information guide. The NSW Information and Privacy Commission (IPC) was consulted during this process who confirmed that no changes were required to Council's draft agency information guide, which incorporated recommended practices pursuant to the IPC's guidelines.

**Public Interest Disclosures**

***Section 31(1) of the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 and clause 4 of the Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011.***

During 2023/24, Council received 0 Public Interest Disclosures.

Council has adopted a Public Interest Disclosures Policy which is available on the Council's Policies webpage. This document is also available to staff through Council's Intranet.

**Privacy Statement**

***Section 33 of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 requires Council to have a Privacy Management Plan.***

Section 33 of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 requires Council to have a Privacy Management Plan. Council's Privacy Management Plan, available at Council's Privacy Guidelines webpage, includes a commitment by Council to include a statement concerning privacy in its Annual Report.

Council continues to collect personal information for lawful purposes as part of its proper functions under the Local Government Act 1993 and other relevant legislation. This includes, for example, personal information concerning rates records and development applications. People have the right to access their personal information, which is held by Council, and to request that their own personal information be appropriately amended.

Council's Privacy Management Plan provides more detail about the collection, use and disclosure of personal information by Council





# PART 3 :

## FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Council's Audited Financial Statements

 [https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/2/council/progress-reports/wingecarribee-annual\\_financial\\_statements-2024.pdf](https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/2/council/progress-reports/wingecarribee-annual_financial_statements-2024.pdf)

This Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and includes the information prescribed in the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data; however Council makes no representation or warranties that the information is without error.



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