



**YOUTH  
STRATEGY  
2009 - 2012**

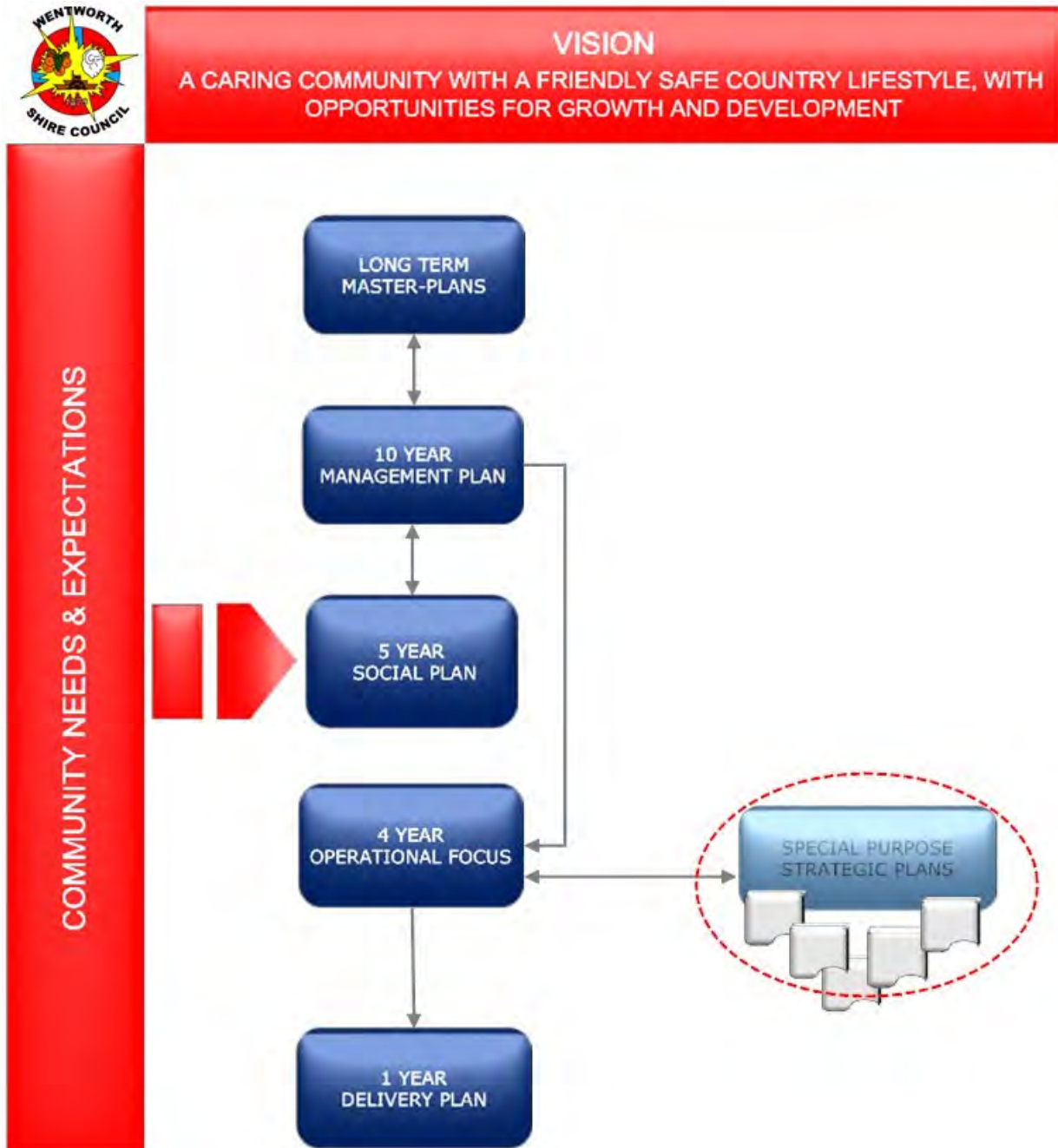
**Adopted on 24 June 2009**



# THE PLANNING FRAMEWORK

## The Planning Process

The Wentworth Shire Council has a rigorous planning process to ensure it achieves its strategic vision. This plan is considered to be one of a number of special purpose strategic plans of the Wentworth Shire Council and as such the strategies will have a four year operational focus.



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Mastrippolito, P., (2009), *Wentworth Shire Council Youth Strategy, 2009 - 2012*, prepared for Wentworth Shire Council, April, 2009.

**The Wentworth Shire Council is home to  
7079 residents of which 783  
(approx. 11%) are aged 15 to 24 and are  
considered to be in the target population  
for the development of this strategy.**



The development of the  
2009—2012  
Wentworth Shire Council  
Youth Strategy  
is underpinned by  
Council's vision:

*"A caring Community with a  
friendly safe country lifestyle  
with opportunities for  
growth and development."*

**Council's youth vision is to:**

***"Make the region a place in which young  
people will thrive and want to live."***



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# INTRODUCTION

*“Making the Wentworth Shire a great place for young people to live is a high priority for the Wentworth Shire Council”.*

*Mayor Marg. Thompson*



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Young people need support to maintain good health and well being, they need access to a full range of educational opportunities and they need to feel safe and secure, with access to strong community networks and public transport.

The Wentworth Shire Council last undertook the development of a specific Youth Strategy in 2003-04, as a result of the very comprehensive 2003 Sense of Place Report.

Six years on, and with further community consultations from which to draw from, the Wentworth Council has undertaken the development of a new Youth Strategy. In developing its new Youth Strategy, Council has taken the view that it should seek to learn from historical plans and strategies and that it should also look to the current political, economic, technological and social environments to gain an insight into what will shape and inform service provision within the community in the future.

The Wentworth Shire Council’s Youth Strategy 2009-2012 consists of two parts. Part one, which explores past and present youth activities, and part two which provides the way forward to 2012.

The **background report** consists of:

- An overview of the Federal and State policy context for young people and youth service provision.
- An overview of previous studies and plans developed by Wentworth Shire Council.
- A summary of feedback obtained from 10 years of community feedback
- A summary of services and facilities currently being provided for youth within the shire

The **way forward** details the five strategic themes that will guide decision making through to 2012. The five themes are:

-  **Access & Safety** developing well planned and safe community facilities that encourage youth to be active and healthy in their community.
-  **Citizenship & Participation** ensuring that our young citizens are given every opportunity to participate in community life, and to develop enterprising mindsets that will contribute to the social and economic development and revitalisation of our Shire.
-  **Learning and Earning** developing a range of supported initiatives aimed at facilitating successful transitions from formal education to long term employment outcomes.
-  **Programs and Events** initiating activities that motivate, support, entertain and are relevant to the needs of our young citizens.
-  **Consultation & Communications** encouraging frequent and open dialog between our youth, service providers, the community and all levels of government.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The development of a new Youth Strategy for the Wentworth Shire Council provides an opportunity to review the past and evaluate the effectiveness of the current range of programs and services being provided

to this important group of residents. Through this report we have re-visited community consultations as far back as 1998/99. The next significant consultative process was undertaken in 2003, when the N.S.W. Department of State & Regional Development partnered with Wentworth Shire Council to develop the 2003 Wentworth Sense of Place Report. This report identified the need to recognize Youth policy as part of being a bigger issue than just providing services and activities to Youth - we needed to ensure the inclusion of young people in community life.

Our latest round of community consultations, the 2009 Social Plan, has highlighted to Council that the community feels that still more needs to be done to adequately provide for the youth of our region, which is why Council have recognised the need to develop this report.



## SNAPSHOT

The Wentworth Shire Council is home to 7079 residents of which 783 are aged between 15 to 24 and are considered to be in the target population for the development of this strategy.



All council plans are underpinned by Council's vision, mission and values. This Youth strategy will be further underpinned by a guiding set of principles that have been specifically adopted for the Youth Strategy. These principles are:

*Recognition, Respect,  
Inclusion and Participation*



In order to develop our Youth Strategy Council has needed to explore the complex myriad of Federal and State Policies that underpin the multiplicity of programs and services currently being provided by various organisations within our Shire.

From our research it is clear that many of the services being provided within our community are being delivered by organisations who have the specialist skills and resources required to target specific needs of "at risk" youth and their families.

In developing the role of Council it is clear that Council does not have the resources or the expertise to provide these specialist services to this small segment of youth in our community.

Council can however demonstrate community leadership, develop partnerships, improve communications and advocate for whole of government responses to the issues that are of concern to the community and its youth. Council can also promote and facilitate a supportive community environment that encourages its youth to grow and develop into the future adult citizens and leaders of our community.

**It is intended that the Youth Strategy 2009-2012 will be the key policy document guiding the Wentworth Shire Council in its decision making, resource allocation and the on-going actions required to respond to the issues and concerns of young people within the Region over the next 4 years.**



# BACKGROUND INFORMATION

*"To develop a current Youth Strategy, Council needs to better understand the key drivers that are influencing youth policies of both the Federal and State Governments."*

*Cr. Ian Whitfield*






Wentworth Shire Council last visited the creation of a youth strategy in 2003/04. Since then the political and economic landscapes have changed considerably. Federally, the new Kevin Rudd led Australian Government is now well into its first term of office, and is battling a global economic downturn. The State political landscape has also seen a change of leadership, fortune and focus.

What has become clear through our limited research is that there are multiple departments at both levels of government who each provide some aspect of policy pertaining to Youth.

It is beyond the resources allocated to the creation of this document to provide full details of each department and their individual youth related policies. We have however endeavoured to capture the overarching strategies provided at both a Federal and State level.

An understanding of these strategies will assist the Wentworth Shire Council to formulate a Youth Strategy that is consistent with the wider view of Federal and State Governments.

**The Federal Government** commenced its term of office heralding a new era of dialogue between the youth of Australia and Government. The Office for Youth was established within the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations to lead and coordinate the Australian Government's commitment to Youth. The guiding principles of the Office of Youth are:

-  **Universality** - every young person is important.
-  **Engagement** - in order to be effective, governments must stop talking to young people, and start engaging with young people.
-  **Inclusion** - the Office for Youth acknowledges there are gaps in opportunity and achievement between young people doing well and those faced with disadvantage and social exclusion.



## NATIONAL COMPACT FRAMEWORK

The Federal Government, as part of its election platform also stated its commitment to developing a National Compact as a framework for guiding Government and Not-for-Profit sector relations. The National Compact Consultation Report (October 2008) considers the extent to which the National Compact should focus on social inclusion.

Within this process the Government identified a set of values that it considers are shared with the Sector that could underpin a compact, these are:

-  **Reduce** disadvantage
-  **Create** opportunities for social and economic participation
-  **Build** social cohesion
-  **Build** collaboration and innovation in service delivery
-  **Evidence-based** outcomes and continual improvement in service delivery.

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) is the responsible Department for social policies and support affecting Australian society and the living standards of Australian families.



## N.S.W. STATE POLICY

Adopted in 2006, the New South Wales State plan lists 34 priorities with more than half have particular relevance to young people. These are:

-  reduced rates of crime, particularly violent crime
-  reducing re-offending
-  reduced levels of anti-social behaviour
-  increased participation and integration into community activities
-  improved access to quality health care
-  improved health through reduced obesity, smoking, illicit drug use and risk drinking
-  increasing levels of attainment for all students
-  more students complete Year 12 or recognised vocational training
-  safer roads
-  increased customer satisfaction with Government services
-  improved health and education for Aboriginal people
-  improved outcomes in mental health
-  embedding the principle of prevention and early intervention into Government service delivery in NSW
-  reduced avoidable hospital admission
-  reduced rates of child abuse and neglect
-  increased business investment
-  better access to training in rural and regional NSW to support local economies
-  more people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities and participating in arts and cultural activity.



## N.S.W. YOUTH ACTION PLAN

Linked to the 34 State priorities is the 2006 NSW Youth Action Plan entitled The Way Forward: Supporting Young People in NSW.

This document sets out the NSW State Government's Youth Action Plan, and the five central themes which are:

- 👉 **Belonging** to family and community
- 👉 **Learning** and earning
- 👉 **Feeling** good and staying healthy
- 👉 **Engaging** in culture, sport and recreation
- 👉 **Feeling** and being safe



**WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL** has developed a 10 year strategic plan which identifies five strategic themes. These are:

- 👉 **Sustainable Organisation**  
Delivering Quality Services
- 👉 **Sustainable Communities (Social)**  
Our People
- 👉 **Sustainable Communities (Economy)**  
Growing our Wealth
- 👉 **Sustainable Environment**  
The Place Where We Live
- 👉 **Sustainable Infrastructure**  
Our Assets



*"Council's vision is to make the region a place in which young people will thrive and want to live."*

*Cr. Melissa Hederics*

The development of The Wentworth Shire Council Youth Strategy sits under the theme of Sustainable Communities (Social), and is developed in context of the specific strategies set out under:

- 👉 **2.1 Safe Communities** - to provide services to the community that creates a safe environment and promotes confidence that their personal safety and quality of life is assured.
- 👉 **2.3 Community Services** - to support a range of community services, build community capacity, develop partnerships and improve community well being.
- 👉 **2.5 Recreation & Culture** - to provide learning, cultural, heritage, recreational environments and facilities on an equitable basis, enabling access by local residents and visitors.



## PREVIOUS STUDIES

### Wentworth Shire Council Crime Prevention Plan

Wentworth Shire Council commenced community consultations around Crime Prevention strategies as early as 1998, but it wasn't until 2003 that Council adopted the Wentworth Shire Council Crime Prevention Plan.

The strategies adopted from this plan revolved around:

- ✎ Public safety strategies
- ✎ Family intervention and support strategies
- ✎ Youth Development Strategies

The 2003 Crime Prevention Plan and its strategies and actions has current endorsement from the NSW Attorney General's Department under the Safer Community Compact Agreement.



### Wentworth Shire Sense of Place Report

In 2003, Wentworth Shire Council, in conjunction with the N.S.W. Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) and the NSW Premier's Department, commissioned a detailed report social and economic activity within the region.

Through the extensive community consultations that were undertaken as a part of this study, the Wentworth Shire Council gained a deeper understanding of the issues facing young people of the region.

The key outcomes from this report was the development of several community action teams within the Wentworth, Dareton and Buronga / Gol Gol communities.

### The Shire of Wentworth Social Plan 2009-2014

The most significant update from the 2003 Sense of Place report has been the extensive consultative process undertaken as part of the research for the 2009 Social Plan. Under this study, four Target group profiles were established:

- ✎ Children (0-14yrs)
- ✎ Youth (15-24yrs)
- ✎ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- ✎ Older People.

The Social Plan also provides a demographic profile of each of the communities within the Shire, highlighting that the largest concentration of indigenous population (28%) is within the Dareton community.



## INDEPENDENT STUDIES

### Mildura Social Indicators Report

Commissioned by Mallee Family Care, The Mildura Social Indicators Reports (2006 & 2008) provide valuable statistical analysis addressing the health and wellbeing of communities within the greater Sunraysia Area. Vinson's report cited the following information about youth within the Wentworth Shire.

- ✎ **Incomplete Education/Training (17-24y.o.)**  
Approximately 38% of 17-24 year olds within the Wentworth Shire were neither completing VCE nor undertaking further schooling education and training.
- ✎ **Level of Schooling attained by residents over 15 (excluding those still at school)**  
Comparison of 2001 and 2006 census data would suggest that there is an increasing number of residents over 15 who have completed schooling beyond year 10.



# COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

(10 YEARS OF HISTORY)

## 1998/99

**Issues:-**

- Limited education opportunities
- Excessive alcohol and drugs use
- High unemployment
- Unstable family background
- Difficulties in recruiting Police for rural areas
- Difficulties in sustaining tenure of Police in rural areas

Source: Wentworth Shire Council 1999 Social Plan Community Consultation Process

## 2003

**Issues:-**

- Child care services, vacation care and activities for young people
- Improved community safety and security
- Improved responses to substance abuse, programs against domestic violence
- More recreational activities for young people
- Increased access to information and services
- Community education programs
- Better access to health services

Source: Wentworth Shire Council Sense of Place Project (Community Meetings and Community Surveys, 2003)



## 2008

**Issues:-**

- Child Protection
- Family intervention & support services
- Access to health services
- Access to appropriate, secure accommodation
- Pre-school education, and literacy development support
- Access to childcare and respite services
- Personal, home and community safety and security
- Access to education support outside school hours
- Access to preparatory and industry specific training and employment support and small business creation services
- Public transport options
- Crime diversionary and juvenile justice programs
- Participation in society planning and decision making
- Recreation, sport and development programs, including leadership
- Access to appropriate legal advisory and support services

Source: Wentworth Shire Council Social Plan 2009-2014 (Community Consultations)



# CURRENT INITIATIVES

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY COUNCIL

Wentworth shire Council provides a number of services for all residents including families and youth. Here are a few examples:

### Wentworth

- Sporting Ovals
- Showgrounds
- Swimming Pool
- Rowing Club
- Old Tennis Courts
- Football Pavilion rooms
- Library
- Boat ramps



### Dareton

- George Gordon Oval
- Netball Courts
- Swimming Pool
- Community Centre
- Library
- Boat ramp



### Buronga and Gol Gol

- Alcheringa Oval
- Netball Courts
- Midway Centre
- Library
- Boat ramp



### Shire-Wide

- Perry Sandhills Concert
- Movies at the Junction
- Main-street Country Music and Market
- Christmas Eve talent quest
- Sponsorship of Young Endeavour program



## SERVICES DELIVERED BY OTHERS

- Work Experience and classroom training for indigenous youth via CDEP
- Job network services
- Young Women's Indigenous Program
- Our Journey to Respect Indigenous Program
- Young Ones Youth Drop In Centre



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# CONCLUSIONS

Council has a responsibility to ensure that the needs of all young citizens within the community are adequately addressed. Council is of the opinion that the strategies and actions adopted by Council under this plan need to be both universal and targeted. That is, universally accessible programs across the Shire where and when required, and targeted responses to address specific areas of needs within individual communities.



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In developing the 2009-2012 Youth Strategy, Wentworth Shire Council has reviewed feedback received from over 10 years of community consultations. Wentworth Shire Council is committed to listening to the voice of the community and has shaped the 2009-2012 Youth Strategy on these wide-ranging consultations.

Council also needs to take into account its responsibilities under the 1996 Social Justice Directions statement which promotes a more inclusive community by ensuring that government services are responsive to community needs and diversity.

*“By providing advocacy support, lobbying for greater resources and policy change, Council can be a powerful support base.”*

*Cr Brian Wakefield.*

In determining Council's role in supporting young people it is clear that there are a number of organisations with specialist skills that are providing targeted services to address the specific needs of “at-risk” youth within our Shire.



In reviewing Federal and State Government Programs we see the emergence of some common policy themes around providing a safe community for youth, providing the opportunity for youth to have input into decision making, and providing education and employment opportunities.

*“The strategic themes that Wentworth Shire Council develops need to be consistent with those of our Federal and State Governments.”  
Cr. Don McKinnon*



The concentration of indigenous population within the Dareton community has resulted in a cluster of agencies and contractors, including the region's major health service, regional headquarters for emergency services, NSW Police and specialist indigenous and family services formed within the Dareton community.

In developing its response to the 2007 Crime Prevention Plan, research from Professor Tony Vinson (Dropping of the Edge) and Professor Fraser Mustard (The Early Years) was used. Both of these eminent authorities indicated that the earlier the intervention into anti-social education avoidance and petty crime the greater the likelihood of long term, sustainable behaviour change.



*Unlike many other Local Government Organisations, Wentworth Shire Council does not have a Youth Services officer or a youth services team, yet we are a shire that has high incident rates of domestic violence, break and enter and crimes against property.*



## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The development of a new youth strategy provides the opportunity to also include broader community development models in new strategies. An example is the research by Nobel Prize winning economist Professor Amartya Sen, who was the first to use the term 'From Patients to Agents'. Another notable source of community and youth development strategies is social entrepreneur and community enthusiast, Peter Kenyon, whose work with over 1000 communities world wide provides a valuable research platform for the development of new strategies for the Wentworth Shire Council.

*How do we make the region a place in which young people will thrive and want to live?*

**Guiding Principals** have been specifically adopted to underpin this Youth Strategy. These principles are:

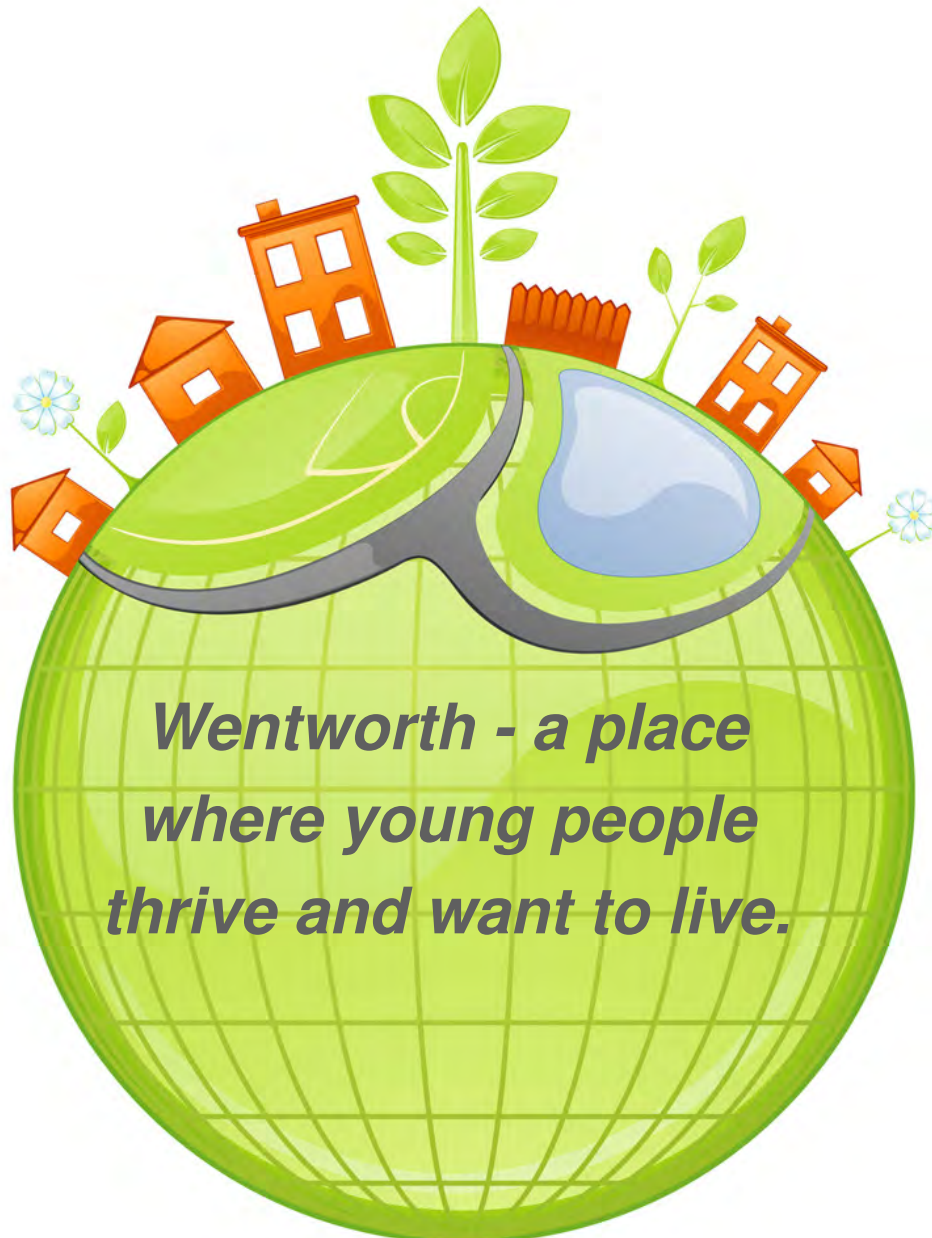
*Recognition, Respect,  
Inclusion and Participation*

**Strategic Themes** have been also been developed specifically for this strategy. The five themes are:

-  **Access & Safety** - developing well planned and safe community facilities that encourage youth to be active and healthy in their community.
-  **Citizenship & Participation** - ensuring that our young citizens are given every opportunity to participate in community life, and to develop enterprising mindsets that will contribute to the social and economic development and revitalisation of our Shire.
-  **Learning and Earning** - developing a range of supported initiatives aimed at facilitating successful transitions from formal education to long term employment outcomes.
-  **Programs and Events** - initiating activities that motivate, support, entertain and are relevant to the needs of our young citizens.
-  **Dialog & Communications** - encouraging frequent and open dialog between our youth, service providers, the community and all levels of government.



WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL  
2009-2012 YOUTH STRATEGY





# WENTWORTH SHIRE COUNCIL 2009-2012 YOUTH STRATEGY

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**Guiding Principles** have been specifically adopted to underpin this Youth Strategy. These principles are:

*Recognition, Respect,  
Inclusion and Participation*

**Strategic Themes** have been specifically developed for this strategy. The five themes are:

**Access & Safety** - developing well planned and safe community facilities that encourage youth to be active and healthy in their community.

**Citizenship & Participation** - ensuring that our young citizens are given every opportunity to participate in community life, and to develop enterprising mindsets that will contribute to the social and economic development and revitalisation of our Shire.

**Learning and Earning** - developing a range of supported initiatives aimed at facilitating successful transitions from formal education to long term employment outcomes.

**Programs and Events** - initiating activities that motivate, support, entertain and are relevant to the needs of our young citizens.

**Dialog & Communication** - encouraging frequent and open dialog between our youth, service providers, the community and all levels of government.



# STRATEGIC THEME 1 ACCESS AND SAFETY

*Developing well planned, safe community facilities that encourage youth to be active and healthy in their community.*

## What we aim to achieve

- Community facilities that are interesting, challenging, and that youth want to use.
- Functional and safe transport infrastructure that encourages greater youth participation.
- A community environment and community facilities where youth feel safe secure.
- Positive types of recreation, sporting and development programs and facilities.

Being safe is essential to young people’s wellbeing. Local government has a considerable influence over sport and recreation facilities that are provided for all members of the community. Council’s strategic plan (section 2.1) aims to provide services to the community that create a safe environment and promote confidence that personal safety and quality of life is assured.

Wentworth Shire Council has a vital role to advance the needs of “at risk” youth, by advocating across all levels of government, and promoting an understanding of the underlying causes of social disadvantage. Council will seek to develop closer linkages with agencies that specialise in working with “at risk” youth to ensure that youth issues are elevated to the highest levels of government.

## The way forward — what we will do

Actions	Timing
Ensure that all future recreational plans address safety concerns and provide access for people of all abilities.	ongoing
Investigate urban planning partnerships with research institutions to study the access and safety needs of and issues for youth across the Shire	2009/10
Liaise with Federal and State Governments and transport operators to ensure appropriate levels of public transport are provided in all areas of the Shire.	2010/11
Develop ongoing internal processes for collaborative work with strategic planners, statutory planning to develop an awareness of young people and their access and use of public spaces.	ongoing
Encourage wider variety of family friendly drug and alcohol-free events.	ongoing
Plan, develop and implement services and programs that are affordable, interesting and challenging and that build cultural pride in the community.	ongoing
Provide opportunities for disadvantaged youth to access programs and events that they might otherwise be precluded from attending, particularly in relation to the arts, cultural and sporting events.	2009/10
Consult with local, state and federal government bodies to develop a strategic approach to supporting key community events.	2009/10
Ensure that our obligations are fully met in relation to obtaining Working with Children Checks for all council employees and contractors in child-related positions involving direct, unsupervised access to children and young people.	ongoing
Seek out all available funding opportunities to underpin access and safety strategies.	ongoing



## STRATEGIC THEME 2 CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

***Ensuring that our young citizens are given every opportunity to participate in community life, and to develop enterprising mindsets that will contribute to the social and economic development and revitalisation of our Shire.***

### What we aim to achieve

- Supportive community networks and local services for young people and their families.
- Increased social capacity and enhanced community feelings of belonging.
- Opportunities for youth to participate in government, community and business decision-making.
- Stimulation of youth ideas for entrepreneurial thinking and activity within their community
- Recognition of the unique contributions that young people can make to the community and encourage their active participation within the community.

Young people who have strong connections to their community are more likely to have better school results, a greater sense of responsibility, good mental health and a longer life. It is also recognised that by doing some kind of cultural, sporting or recreational activity, young people improve their well being, become more resilient and have a stronger sense of cultural pride. Participating in sport has important health benefits, helping to maintain healthy weight levels and promoting resilience to drug-taking and alcohol consumption.

### The way forward — what we will do

Actions	Timing
Seek State Government funding to provide youth development and leadership programs within the Shire.	2009/10
Seek out sponsorship and funding opportunities to establish a mentoring program to foster relationships with caring adults in the community	2009/10
Seek out sponsorship and funding opportunities to establish a Youth Ambassadors Program, which would include the building the capacity of youth to run events within their community.	2010/11
Establish a Youth Advisory Council, with representation from Student Representative Councils of all schools across the Shire.	2010/11
Encourage and support youth to create and run local projects that also encourage their peers to get involved in the community.	2009/10
Apply NSW Government best practice youth participation principles in all dealings with young people	ongoing
Acknowledge the achievements of young people who have made a significant contribution to their community through local annual awards programs, and through nomination to awards programs run by other local, state and national bodies.	ongoing
Seek funding through the NSW Crime Prevention Grant for the establishment of a program promote re-engagement strategies and increased participation of young people in a range of sport, community and cultural activities.	2010/11
Provide opportunities for young people to be involved in design and development of communication activities.	2009/10
Develop an ongoing community partnership programme with local community groups such as Lions and Rotary Clubs to encourage greater youth participation in community activities.	2010/11
Seek funding to increase the levels of self esteem and resilience in marginalised groups eg young women , indigenous, and migrants, through challenging activities and personal development workshops.	2010/11



# STRATEGIC THEME 3

## LEARNING AND EARNING

***Developing a range of supported initiatives aimed at facilitating successful transitions from formal education to long term employment outcomes.***

### What we aim to achieve

- Improved levels of education attainment for all students across the Shire.
- Increased opportunities for young people to obtain the skills that will help them succeed at further study.
- Improved effectiveness of youth development strategies
- Increased mentoring support and development programs designed to create easier transitions from school to further education or school to work.

If young people lack literacy and numeracy skills, they are more likely to leave school early and feel less confident about their prospects. Positive learning experiences at school and TAFE and good results are linked to good health and wellbeing among young people.

Wentworth Shire Council is well serviced by public sector schools and a campus of the Riverina TAFE. In addition to the actions listed below, Council will increase its advocacy for a wider range of educational opportunities to be delivered through these vital educational institutions in order to improve the educational outcomes allowing young people to remain within their local community for longer.

### The way forward -what we will do

Actions	Timing
Seek funding to develop a Young Entrepreneurs program aimed at young entrepreneurs running their own businesses.	2009/10
Seek funding to provide Driver's license training program for disadvantaged youth.	2009/10
Liaise with NSW Department of State and Regional Development to run training and development programs that are particularly aimed at developing business skills for young people	2009/10
Work with State and Federal Governments, community and business leaders to create partnerships between government, industry, unions and the community to assist youth transitioning from school to work or from unemployment to employment.	2009/10
Develop programs and seek funding for opportunities to work more closely with employers to give students the skills that will make them productive and competitive in the modern workplace.	2010/11
Seek funding to run the C.R.E.A.T.E. Initiative (Creating Rural Enterprising Attitudes through Education). The C.R.E.A.T.E. initiative sets out to empower young people in rural communities around Australia with enterprising mindsets and skills so they can contribute to the economic and social development or revitalisation of their local communities.	2010/11
Seek funding to develop a website specifically for youth within the Wentworth Shire. The interactive Youth website would enable youth to access local information and referral services on-line and providing website linkages that offer free advice and a range of on-line tools specifically targeted at helping youth as they transition from school to employment.	2009/10



# STRATEGIC THEME 4 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

*Initiating activities that motivate, support, entertain and are relevant to the needs of our young citizens.*

## What we aim to achieve

- A co-ordinated range of age appropriate social and cultural programs across the Shire.
- Events and services that youth want to participate in.
- Increased numbers of drug and alcohol free events specifically aimed at greater youth participation, and family orientated activities
- Greater collaboration with young people to determine programs and events that are of interest to them.

Boredom is repeatedly cited as a burden for young people which if left unattended, can often manifest itself into juvenile delinquency within the community. The physical, emotional psychological and social development of youth demand a variety of circumstances and opportunities for engagement. Wentworth Shire Council will work with youth to develop a range of relevant and age appropriate social and cultural programs and events for youth and families.

## The way forward — what we will do

Actions	Timing
Seek collaborative approaches with young people and service organisations to extend the range of social and cultural programs.	2009/10
Seek funding to further develop programs and events for youth related activities	ongoing
Co-ordinate Shire wide and place based programs and events targeting youth issues and development	2009/10
Ensure that programs and events that cater for youth development are included when Council develops its events strategy and program.	2010/11
Support holiday programs and events that reduce boredom and isolation during these times.	2010/11



# STRATEGIC THEME 5 DIALOG AND COMMUNICATIONS

***Encouraging frequent and open dialogue between our youth, service providers, the community and all levels of government.***

## What we aim to achieve

- Policies and activities that are reflective of the views and needs of young people.
- A stronger community and Council profile, and increased promotion of our work throughout the Shire.
- Co-ordinated services for young people across the Shire, with council providing a central leadership role.
- Greater opportunities for the youth and the wider community to have input into the future development of youth related programs and strategies.
- Widely publicised and promoted youth activities throughout the Shire.

Improving communication between the Council, Council departments, young people, relevant organisations and the community as a whole is a key component of this strategy. Genuine dialog with young people will involve experimenting with the types of media that youth interact with on a daily basis.

## The way forward — what we will do

Actions	Timing
Seek funding to develop a Youth media page for the local papers	2010/11
Seek funding to explore and develop IT opportunities for enhanced consultation and service delivery.	2009/10
Develop a whole of council approach to issues concerning young people and incorporate the feedback and initiatives developed through the Youth Ambassadors Program, the Youth Council, and the Youth Mentoring program into the development of future strategies and events.	2010/11
Establish youth networks at the township level to develop responses to local issues.	2010/11
Ensure that we celebrate the achievements of youth and youth strategies through the publication and distribution of reports.	2010/11
Allow youth to participate in the evaluation of youth programs and events, providing the opportunity for continual improvement.	2010/11
Encourage families to settle in the region by developing a promotional/marketing strategy that promotes a positive environment where people will thrive and want to live.	2010/11
Celebrate the achievement of young people through youth awards.	2010/11