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Wentworth Shire Council would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land and pay its respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

## **Community snapshot: Wentworth Shire Council**

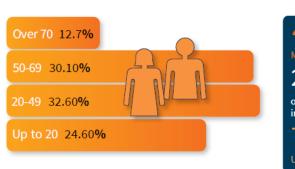
**Population** 



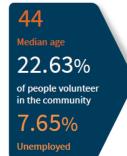
Born Overseas

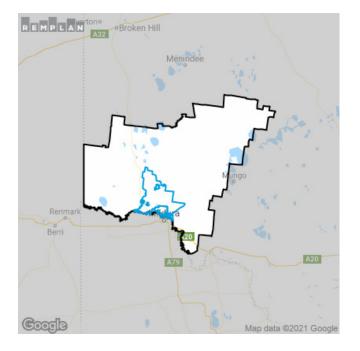
#### By locality

Wentworth 1,437 | Gol Gol 1,525 | Buronga 1,215 | Coomealla 826 | Dareton 505 | Boeill Creek 102 | Mourquong 78 | Other localities 1,111



By age





#### Top 4 Industry sectors based on economic output

Industry Sector	Wentwo (2019 Re \$M	
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	\$283.438	24.3%
Manufacturing	\$204.518	17.6%
Mining	\$189.784	16.3%
Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services	\$75.194	6.5%

#### Top 4 Industry sectors based on employment '1

Industry Sector	Wentwo (2019 Re	
	Jobs	%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	789	27.8%
Health Care & Social Assistance	220	7.8%
Manufacturing	214	7.5%
Education & Training	207	7.3%

\*1 Source www.remplan.com.au.au

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## Mayor and General Manager's foreword

It brings great pleasure as Mayor to present the Wentworth Shire Council 2021-2022 Annual Report.

Together with Councillors, our General Manager and Staff we faced the challenges the previous year brought us and have progressed forward.

We have seen a new Council elected, with Councillors Daniel Linklater, Jo Rodda, Brian Beaumont and Steve Cooper all coming in as new Councillors.

Former Victorian Member of Parliament Peter Crisp was also voted onto Council for another term after previously being on Council before his 12-year stint in Victorian Parliament. Thankyou to Bill Wheeldon, Don McKinnon and Peter Nunan for their service on Council, which ended at the election.

Cr Greg Evans was re-elected in December 2021 however his resignation in June triggered a count back which saw Councillor Jane MacAllister returned for another term.

Key projects in the last financial year included the development of the riverfronts at Wentworth and Buronga, significant works at the Wentworth Showgrounds and Pooncarie Showground toilets and shade structures.

We look forward to the upcoming financial year, with major projects such as our section of the PooncarieMenindie Road and the Willow Bend Caravan Park to be completed.

We, along with our dedicated Council management team and employees, look forward to what the future holds.

Councillor Tim Elstone Mayor

Ken Ross General Manager



## Your Council - current



Cr Tim Elstone - Mayor



Cr Daniel Linklater - Deputy Mayor



Cr Jane MacAllister\*



Cr Steve Heywood



Cr Brian Beaumont



Cr Susan Nichols



Cr Peter Crisp



Cr Jo Rodda



Cr Steve Cooper

\* Cr Greg Evans resigned from Council on 19 June 2022 and was replaced by Cr Jane MacAllister on 27 July 2022 following a count back election.

Councillors Peter Nunan and Don McKinnon did not stand for re-election at the December 2021 Local Government Elections, while Councillors Bill Wheeldon and Jane MacAllister were not re-elected after the community's vote.



## Council 2016-2021



Cr Susan Nichols - Mayor



Cr Tim Elstone - Deputy Mayor



Cr Greg Evans



Cr Steve Heywood



Cr Jane MacAllister



Cr Don McKinnon



Cr Peter Nunan



Cr Bill Wheeldon



Cr Melisa Hederics\*

\* Cr Hederics, who served as Mayor before Cr Nichols, resigned from Council on 27 October 2020.



#### **Councillor meeting attendance**

In this financial year there were 12 Ordinary Council Meetings, 3 Extraordinary Council Meetings and 3 Internal Audit and Risk Management Committee Meetings.

Councillor Greg Evans resigned from Wentworth Shire Council on 19 June 2022.

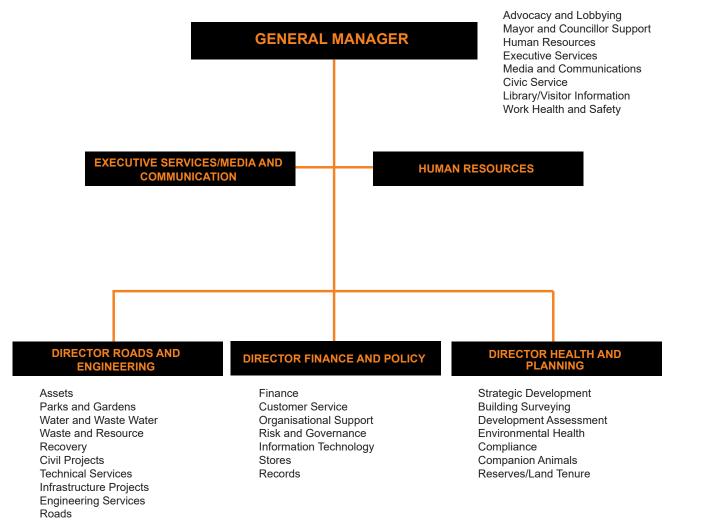
A count back election was held on 27 July 2022 with Councillor Jane MacAllister elected as Cr Evans' replacement.

Councillor	Ordinary Council Meetings	Extraordinary Council Meetings	Internal Audit and Risk Management Meetings
Cr Susan Nichols (Mayor until 4 December 2021)	12/12	3/3	3/3
Cr Tim Elstone (Mayor from 10 January 2022)	12/12	3/3	3/3
Cr Greg Evans (Resigned 19 June 2022)	11/11	2/2	1/1
Cr Steve Heywood (New term from 10 January 2022)	10/12	3/3	N/A
Cr Jane MacAllister (End term 4 December 2021)	5/5	1/1	1/1
Cr Don McKinnon (End term 4 December 2021)	4/5	0/1	N/A
Cr Peter Nunan (End term 4 December 2021)	5/5	0/1	0/1
Cr Bill Wheeldon (End term 4 December 2021)	5/5	1/1	N/A
Cr Brian Beaumont (New term from 10 January 2022)	7/7	2/2	N/A
Cr Steve Cooper (New term from 10 January 2022)	7/7	2/2	N/A
Cr Peter Crisp (New term from 10 January 2022)	7/7	2/2	N/A
Cr Daniel Linklater (New term from 10 January 2022)	7/7	2/2	N/A
Cr Jo Rodda (New term from 10 January 2022)	7/7	2/2	N/A

#### Wentworth Shire Council Values: Honesty and Integrity | Accountability and Transparency | Respect | Quality | Commitment



## **Organisation overview**



#### Executive team



Ken Ross General Manager

Commenced as General Manager 20 May 2019 (started at Wentworth Shire Council in 2002), 36 years' experience in Management, Health and Planning and Building Surveying.

Holds Associated Diploma in Applied Science and Diploma Environmental Health and Building.



Geoff Gunn Director Roads and Engineering

Commenced as Director Roads and Engineering 26 August 2019 (started at Wentworth Shire Council in 2016), 31 years' experience in Engineering and Management of municipal operation areas.

Holds a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering.



Simon Rule Director Finance and Policy

Commenced as Director Finance and Policy 26 March 2014 (started at Wentworth Shire Council in 2008), 21 years' experience in financial management in public operations.

Holds a Bachelor Degree in Arts (Information Management) and Masters of Professional Accounting.



Matthew Carlin Director Health and Planning

Commenced as Director Health and Planning 28 January 2020, 8 years' experience in leading and managing teams in Planning, Environmental and Regulatory Services.

Holds a Bachelor Degree in Applied Science, Bachelor of Laws and Masters of Environmental and Business Management.

#### Key staff demographics as of 25 May 2022 per section 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

- Full time equivalents = 109.25
- Bands as described in the Local Government (State) Award 2020
  - o Band 1 = Operational Band

- o Band 2 = Administration/Trade/ Technical
- o Band 3 = Professional/Specialist
- o Band 4 = Executive
- Number of persons engaged by Council, under a contract of other arrangement with the persons employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person = 6

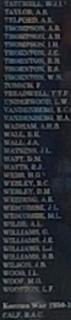
2021-2022	Band 1	Band 2	Band 3	Band 4	GM/Senior Staff	Total
Permanent full time - female	2	20	8	0	0	30
Permanent full time – male	34	25	12	2	4	77
Permanent part time – female	2 (FTE = 1.09)	5 (FTE = 3.15)	1 (FTE = 0.64)	0	0	8
Permanent part time – male	0	1 (FTE = 0.73)	0	0	0	1
Casual - female	1	2	0	0	0	3
Casual - male	2	1	1	0	0	4
Total	41	54	22	2	4	123

#### Tenure

Tenure of employment years	<1	1-3	4-6	7-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40+
Employees	22	38	28	12	11	8	3	1
Total	18%	31%	23%	10%	9%	6%	2%	1%

#### Age

Age of workforce	15-19 years	20-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65-74 years
Female	0	1	11	5	9	9	6
Male	0	5	23	13	11	24	6
Total	0%	5%	28%	14%	16%	27%	10%



ACTURE WHAT 1954-195 ALF, R.A.C. RESP, F.G. RESPYTOR, G. RERNYDOR, G.

CONTREL DR.

Container Ware (1920-) MALLEY, J.S. MILOWE, A.D. PARSON COTTE, H.C. PARSON COTTE, H.C. PARSON COTTE, M.C. PARSON COTTE, M.C. PARSON COTTE (1920) P

ALDIATION, BA. AND THE ALB. EARDED, A. BARDED, A. BARDED, A. BARDEN, B.R. BROWN, B.R. BROWN, B.R. BROWN, B.R. CANDARD, B. CHERT, B. MATCHERT, J. MATCHER, J. MAT

# 2021-2022 Financial Report

## 2021-2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

The 2021/2022 financial year concluded with Wentworth Shire Council posting a \$11,377,000 surplus, this was a decrease of \$944,000 on the the 2020/2021 result, and was \$4,176,000 less than what was originally budgeted.

Revenue for the year was \$1,549,000 up on the previous year. Notable revenue figures included user fees and charges exceeding budget expectations by \$4,314,000 as a result of increasing revenue from the Buringa Landfill operations and fee for service works for Transport for NSW on the State Highways.

Overall Grants and Contributions decreased by \$1,246,000 on last financial year, this was driven largely by an increase in operational grants of \$1,763,000 as a result of the 50% increase in the prepayment of the 2022/2023 Financial Assistance Grants. Capital Grants and Contributions reduced by \$3,009,000 due to a decrease in developer contributions and grants received for capital projects that hadn't progressed as far as anticipated.

Council's investment revenue made modest gains during the financial year, this was mainly due to the significant increase in cash reserves that provided Council additional funds to invest. Investment revenue for the year continued to be impacted by the official cash rate remaining at 0.10% for the majority of the financial year. However, it needs to be noted that the Reserve Bank did raise official interest rates by a full 1% across May and June.

Expenditure for the year increased by \$2,493,000, the main contributor to this was the increase in materials and contracts which was largely attributable to the increase in work on the State Highways for Transport for NSW. Council's interest in the Far West Joint Organisation decreased by \$195,000.

#### COVID-19 Impact

COVID 19 continued to impact Council and its operations during 2021/2022 with ongoing cleaning required for our buildings and the loss of revenue from facility hires due to event cancellations and tenants requesting reductions in licence fees due to not being able to utilise facilities for portions of the year.

The second half of the financial year saw Council have to deal with staff absences from work for periods of time due to either contacting the virus or being a close contact of an infected person.

Council continued to experience supply issues during the year, as well as labour shortages for both Council and contractors, all of which impacted Council's ability to complete capital projects in particular. The latter half of the financial year also saw a sharp increase in prices due to inflationary pressures brought on by the above mentoned issues.

#### Balance Sheet

The balance sheet details a summary of Council's total assets, liabilities and total equity as at 30 June 2022. The net assets of Council (total assets less total liabilities) have increased by \$60,847,000 during the 2021/2022 financial year.

Total current assets have increased by \$5,934,000. Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment increased by \$56,654,000 reflecting asset purchases, capital works and revaluations being greater than the increase in accumulated depreciation. Council's total infrastrucutre assets are written down to 66% of their current replacement value.

Current liabilities includes payables, borrowings, and employee leave entitlements. The overall current liabilities increased by \$24,000, contract liabilities and borrowings increased by \$374,000 while payables and employee benefits decreased by \$350,000.

Non-current liabilities increased by \$1,522,000 due mainly to a \$1,494,000 increase in borrowings.

#### Available Cash and Cash Equivalents

The available working capital of Council has increased from \$2,363,000 at 30 June 2021 to \$2,680,000 at 30 June 2022. Investments increased by \$5,315,000 to \$41,028,000. It is considered that \$2,680,000 is more than adequate to manage day to day operating requirements and provides Council with capacity to respond to unforseen events and opportunities.

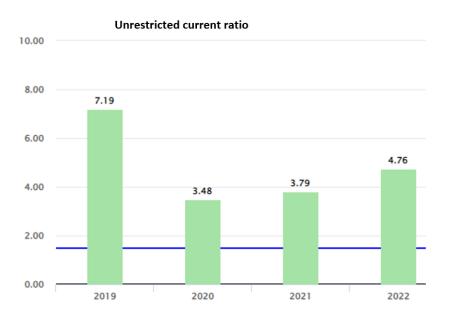
The spread of investments throughout a large number of financial institutuions allows Council to spread its risk while endeavouring to maximise its returns. It also allows for ready access to funds due to multiple maturiity dates.

Summary of the financial statements	2022	2024
Summary of the financial statements	2022 \$'000	2021 \$'000
Income Statement Total income from continuing operations	\$41,855	\$40,306
Total expenses from continuing operations	\$30,478	\$27,985
Operating result from continuing operations	\$11,377	\$12,321
Net operating result for the year	\$11,377	\$12,321
Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	\$2,662	\$597
Statement of financial position Total current assets	\$48,634	\$42,700
Total current liabilities	(\$12,009)	(\$11,985)
Total non-current assets	\$512,530	\$456,071
Total non-current liabilities	(\$9,881)	(\$8,359)
Total equity	\$539,274	\$478,427
Other financial information Unrestricted current ratio (times)	4.76	3.79
Operating performance ratio (%)	8.62%	2.39%
Debt service cover ratio (times)	12.36	14.41
Rates and annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	12.86%	12.95%
Infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	162.10%	203.92%
Own source operating revenue ratio (%)	50.06%	44.97%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	20.95	20.14

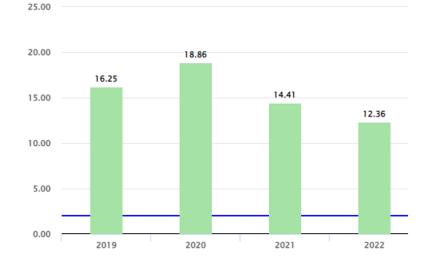
#### Reserves Transfer Schedule 2021-2022

Reserves mansier Schedule 202	-1-2022			
Reserve	Opening Balance \$'000	Transfer to Reserve \$'000	Transfer from Reserve	Closing Balance
Employee Leave Entitlements Reserve	\$2,505		\$210	\$2,295
Developer Contribution Reserve	\$663	\$34		\$700
Plant Replacement Reserve	\$1,500			\$1,500
Future Development Reserve	\$1,076			\$1,076
Unexpended Grants Reserve	\$4,458	\$844		\$5,302
Capital and Major Projects Reserve	\$1,200		\$200	\$1,000
T-Corp Loan Balance	\$1,357		\$248	\$1,109
Caravan Park Loan Balance	-	\$1,500		\$1,500
Crown Land Reserve	\$214	\$5		\$219
Bank Guarantee Reserve	\$3			\$3
Doubtful Debts	\$125		\$85	\$40
Trust Account	\$631	\$247		\$878
Cemeteries Fees Received in Advance	\$539	\$11		\$550
TOTAL	\$14,308	\$2,644	\$580	\$16,372





Debt service cover ratio



#### **Financial Indicators**

There are a number of key ratios included in the financial reports that provide an indication of liquidity and financial capacity of Council.

#### **Unrestricted Current Ratio**

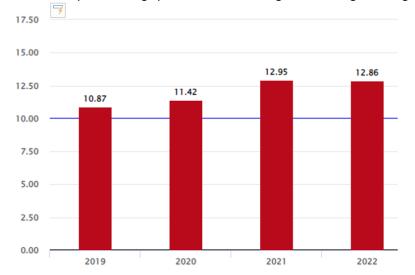
This ratio provides an assessment of the adequacy of working capital and the ability to satisfy obligations in the short term for the unrestricted activities of Council. The ratio measures current assets (less restricted assets) divided by current liabilities (less specific purpose liabilities).

The benchmark figure for this ratio is 1.50x. This ratio increased during the 2021-2022 financial year to 4.76x and continues to be well above the benchmark ratio.

#### **Debt Service Cover Ratio**

The Debt Service Cover Ratio measures the availability of operating cash to service debt including interest, principal and lease payments. The ratio is calculated by dividing the operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation by total loan payments for the year (principal and interest).

The benchmark figure for this ratio is 2x. Council continues to have sufficient operating cash to service current debt levels.



#### Rates, annual charges, interest and extra charges Outstanding Percentage

#### Rates, Annual Charges, Interest & Extra Charges Outstanding Percentage Ratio

This ratio assesses the impact of uncollected rates and annual charges on Council's liquidity and the adequacy of recovery efforts. The ratio is calculated by dividing rates, annual & extra charges outstanding by rates, annual & extra charges collectible.

The benchmark figure for this ratio is 10%. Council's ratio stayed relatively steady during the 2021-2022 year.

Wentworth Shire Council Annual Report 2021-2022

8.62

2022

#### **Operating Performance Ratio**

This ratio measures Council's ability to contain operating expenditure within operating revenue.

This ratio is calculated by dividing total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions minus operating expenditure by totalling continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants.

The benchmark figure for this rate is 0%. Council's result for 2021-2022 was 8.62%.

# 2.39

-2.25

2020

2021

Operating performance ratio

15.00

10.00

5.00

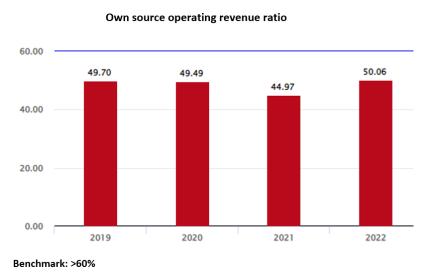
0.00

-5.00

-10.00

-6.83

2019



#### **Own Source Operating Ratio**

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. This ratio is calculated by dividing total contributing operating revenue less all grants by total continuing operating revenue.

The benchmark figure for this ratio is 60%. The ratio for 2021-2022 increased to 50.06%.



#### Cash expense cover ratio

#### **Cash Expense Cover Ratio**

This liquidity ratio indicates the number of months a Council can continue paying for its immediate expenses without additional cash inflow.

The ratio is calculated by dividing the current year's cash and cash equivalents plus deposits by payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities. The benchmark figure for this ratio is 3.0.

Wentworth Shire Council Annual Report 2021-2022

## Annual report and the Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines



#### THE INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The Local Government Act 1993 requires Councils across New South Wales to implement an Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, which serves to guide the operations of the Council according to the requirements of the local community.

The pivotal document in this

process is the Community Strategic Plan.

The Community Strategic Plan is the highest level of plan the Council prepares.

The purpose of the plan is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future, and to plan strategies to achieve those goals.

This plan covers a period of at least 10 years and is updated each Council election (generally every four years) to refect any changes in the priorites and aspirations of the community.





The four-year Delivery Program is Wentworth Shire Council's commitment to assisting the community to achieve the **Community Strategic Plan** 2017-2027. It is a high-level plan that maps out the Council's strategic business direction. This document systematically translates the strategic goals of the community into actions. These are the principal activities Council will undertake to implement the strategies established by the Community Strategic Plan, with resources identified in the Resourcing Strategy.

Council is also required to have an annual Operational Plan, adopted before the beginning of each financial year. The annual Operational Plan outlines the activities to be undertaken for the year to meet the broader requirements of the Delivery Program. The Operational Plan includes the Annual Statement of Revenue Policy.

The Integrated Planning and **Reporting Framework requires** Council to present an Annual Report to the community. This report is required to outline Council's achievements during the financial year. In line with the Local Government Act 1993 and the Office of Local Government's Annual Report Checklist (ARC), this document reports to the community on the progress against each of the strategies included in Councl's 2021-2022 Operational Plan and the 2017-2027 Delivery Program.

#### The 2027 vision

The consultation and engagement activities undertaken to inform the Wentworth Shire Community Strategic Plan resulted in the formation of the following concise and ambitious vision for the region:

"A thriving region, supported by a robust economic base, distinctive open spaces and strong local governance and leadership"

To ensure as a community Council is working towards achieving this vision, four stategic objectives (below) have been developed around the quadruple bottom line, which aims to balance the social, environmental, economic and governance aspects of the Strategic Plan.

Underpinning each objective is a range of supporting strategies that outline high-level approaches to achieving the objectives and delivering the vision.

The following pages provide details of the activities undertaken by Council during the 2021-2022 financial year to support the community in achieving the 2027 vision.

Wentworth is a vibrant, growing and thriving Shire.

Wentworth is a desirable Shire to visit, live, work and invest.

Wentworth is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural assets.

Wentworth is a caring, supportive and inclusive community that is informed and engaged in its future.



## STATUTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- denotes a requirement under the Office of Local Government's Annual Report Checklist

#### Compliance with and effect of planning agreements

For the 2021-2022 reporting period there were nil planning agreements.

## Contributions and s7.12 Levies

There are two forms of local infrastructure contributions:

#### **Section 7.11 contributions**

are charged where there is a demonstrated link between the development and the infrastructure to be funded.

Councils prepare contributions plans which specify what infrastructure will be provided and approximately how much it will cost.

This is used to calculate a contribution rate, usually charged per dwelling or per square metre. Councils that

want to charge a contributions rate above the threshold set by the Minister must submit their plans to IPART for independent review.

Section 7.11 was previously known as section 94.

#### Section 7.12 levies are

an alternative to s7.11 contributions, charged as a percentage of the estimated cost of the development.

The maximum percentage that can be charged in most areas is 1%, although there are a small number of areas that charge a higher percentage. Section 7.12 was previously known as section 94A.

Wentworth Shire Council uses Section 7.12 levies for development in our LGA.

Over the last financial year, the reportable infrastructure contributions are:

A total of 21 Development

Applications triggered the levy

- There are 11 development applications with known contribution amounts totalling \$59,643
- The remaining 10 applications are yet to have their contribution amounts determined.

Following the introduction to the legislative requirement for NSW Councils to report this information, a register is available on Councils website.



## Inspections for Building Control Operations

In the 2021-2022 financial year Council carried out inspections relating to building control that included but was not limited to building inspections, water and sewer inspections as well as compliance inspections.

456 inspections were carried out during the reporting period, 26 more than the 2020-21 financial year. These peaked in October 2021 with 57 inspections that month alone, with the quietest month being January with just 28 inspections.

#### **Health Inspections**

Wentworth Shire Council has statutory obligations under the Food Act 2003 and the Public Health Act 2010 and their subordinate regulations.

These obligations ensure continued public health protection for our residents and visitors in the health inspection space.

During the reporting period Council's Environmental Health inspector carried out 59 inspections.

#### **Sewer Connections**

During the 2021-2022 financial year Council approved 57 sewer connections or amendments. This was an increase from the 39 in the previous financial year.

#### **Septic Tank Connections**

In the reporting period Council approved 25 septic tanks connections or amendments.

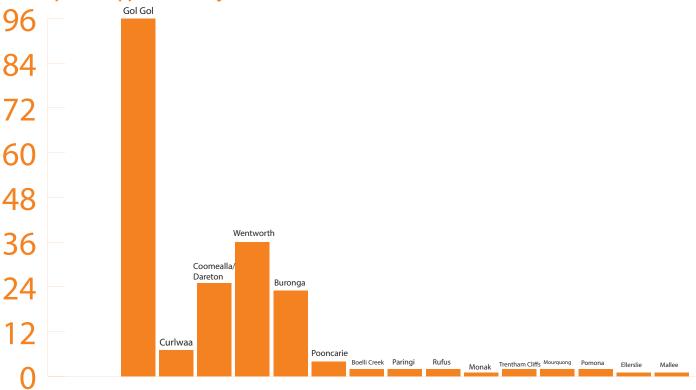
#### Water Meter Connections

In 2021-2022 Council issued 55 water meters. This is decrease from the 2020-2021 financial year when Council issued 83 water meters.

#### **Swimming Pools Information**

In 2021-2022 Council conducted 34 swimming pool inspections:

- 16 of those related to Tourist and Visitor Accommodation premises and 18 were private dwellings.
- 17 Certificates of Compliance were issued under s22D of the Swimming Pools Act 1992 (NSW)
- 2 Certifictes of Non-Compliance were issued under clause 21 of the Swimming Pools Regulations 2018



#### **Development Applications by suburb**

During the 2021-2022 reporting period 197 Development Applications (DA's) were approved. The chart above shows the majority of development occured in Gol Gol with 91 applications approved. Buronga followed this with 54 DA's and Coomealla/ Dareton had 22 DA's.

There were 38 approvals to modify Development Consents during this period.

During the 2021-2022 financial year Council saw 36 new residential lots created, compared to 44 for the 2020-2021 financial year. This was an 18% reducton during the reporting period

#### **Planning certificates**

A section 10.7 Planning Certificate was previously known as a Section 149 Certificate. The Certificate provides information regarding the development potential of a parcel of land. There are two types of Section 10.7 Planning Certificates. A Section 10.7(2) Certificate shows the zoning of the property, its relevant state, regional and local planning controls and other property constraints such as land contamination, level of flooding and bushfire prone land.

A Section 10.7(2) and 10.7(5) Certificate provides the same information as above but also includes other factors such as advice from other authorities and certain information that Council holds on a property that is relevant to the land but not disclosed in a Section 10.7(2) Certificate. During the reporting period Council issued 368 planning certificates, 44 less than 2020-2021.

#### Complying Development Certificate

A Complying Development Certificate (CDC) is a form of planning and building approval issued by an accredited building certifier - either a private certifier or a Council.

This certificate combines approval for use of the land and the building construction works.

During the 2021-2022 reporting period 38 CDCs were issued.

#### **Construction Certificates**

A Construction Certificate (CC) confirms the construction plans, development specifications and the construction are consistent with the development consent, and comply with the Building Code of Australia and any other Council requirements.

During the 2021-2022 financial year 130 CCs were issued.



## STATUTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- denotes a requirement under the Office of Local Government's Annual Report Checklist

#### Compliance with Companion Animal Regulation

The 2021-2022 Financial year was a time of so much uncertainty for many.

Although Council has continued its strong working relationship in such unprecedented time with many of its rescue groups including: Starting Over Dog Rescue and Sunraysia Animal Rehousing Group (SARG) only to mention a few.

Council's relationship with these groups is a necessary one, evidenced by the number of rescued animals.

Responsible pet ownership and community education programs within our Local Government Area are important to Wentworth Shire Council.

Such community education includes information about the importance of de-sexing, vaccinations, microchipping and registration of pets.

A Proposed Indigenous animal health day which included these factors was postponed due to COVID19 and the restrictions imposed by NSW Public Health Orders.

Wentworth Shire Council will proceed with the Indigenous Animal Health Day once restrictions are lifted.

Dogs play a key role in Australian indigenous communities and are often highly valued for companionship. Under Section 64 of the Companion Animals Act, Companion animals that are seized by Council Rangers which are not permanently identified are conveyed to the Buronga Animal Shelter where they are kept for seven days. If identified, animals are kept for 14 days where every effort is made to contact the rightful owners if the animal is registered.

Within the Local Government Area over the 2021-2022 financial year, all complaints relating to companion animal management were investigated by Council Rangers.

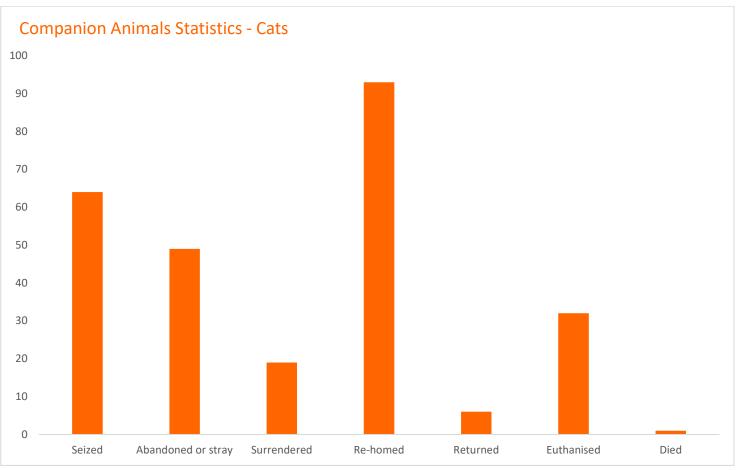
Four dog attacks were reported and investigated.

Most attacks centred on livestock in outlying areas.

All barking/nuisance animals were dealt with in an expedient manner focusing on management of the issues.

Wentworth Shire Council understands the need to provide off-leash areas for dogs to run freely, with expansions in the LGA further investigations will be undertaken to find a suitable locations.

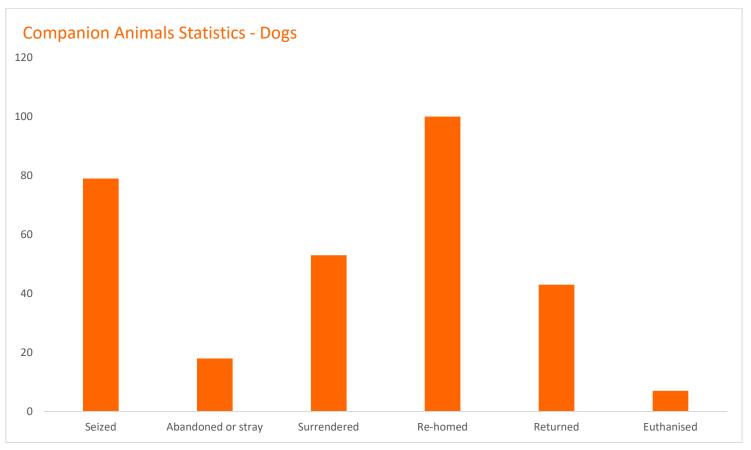
The total amount of expenses associated with Council's companion animal management and activities was \$170,803.69. The expenditure covers animal shelter maintenance, veterinary services, operating costs and salaries.



For the 2021-22 Financial year, Council had a total of 132 Cats in our facility.

The table above shows that 64 Cats were seized, 49 were abandoned or strays and 19 cats were surrendered to Councils custody.

Of the 132 cats, 93 were re-homed, 6 were returned to its owner, and 32 were euthanised as they were assessed to be feral and unsuitable for re-homing. 1 cat died at the shelter due to illness.



For the 2021-22 financial year Council had a total of 150 dogs in our facility.

The table above shows that 79 dogs were seized, 18 were abandoned or strays, 53 were surrendered to Council's custody.

Of the 150 dogs, 100 were re-homed, 43 were returned to their owners and only 7 were euthanised due to health or endangement reasons.





#### Disability Inclusion Plan

Wentworth Shire Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan guides Council in meetings its obligations under the *Disability Inclusion Act 2014* (NSW). Annual progress in achieving the outcomes of the plan for 2021-2022 to address the four focus areas include the following:

### Strategy 1 - Positive Attiudes and Behaviour

#### Actions:

In preparation for updating the existing Disability Inclusion Action Plan Council undertook extensive community consultation with targeted groups and the general community in conjunction with the Community Strategic Planning process, to gain an updated awareness and understanding of the needs of people with disabilities.

Ongoing participation in Seniors Week activities and library programs has wide ranging impact and are constantly reviewed to ensure accessibility, inclusion and participation for all.

Council's updated Community Strategic Plan has identified actions for Council to promote a welcoming and inclusive community that strengthens positive attitudes and behaviours towards people of all abilities.

#### Strategy 2 - Creating Liveable Communities

Actions: Council continues to monitor its Pedestrian Mobility Access Plan to identify future works for new and upgraded footpaths and sharedways. Council submitted a funding application for 3 projects under the NSW Active Transport funding round.

Based on community feedback Council undertook a safety assessment of footpaths in the Wentworth CBD area and an access assessment of the Dareton Library/Senior Citizens building.

Council's updated Community Strategic Plan has identified actions for Council to promote and foster an accessible community that encourages access by people of all abilities.

#### Strategy 3 - Supporting Access to Meaningful Emplyment

#### Actions:

Council is an equal opportunity employer and actively encourages applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds or those with disability.

Council's updated Workforce Management Plan includes a focus on Council's recruitment framework to ensure the Council's recruitment practices are inclusive and accessible and give people with disability every opportunity to gain meaningful employment with Council.

Council's updated Community Strategic Plan has identified actions for Council to promote the benefits to the community on employing people with disabilities.

## Strategy 4 - Improving access to mainstream services

#### Actions:

During the year Council joined the LG NSW Ageing and Disability Network.

Ongoing Social Media presence and local advertising outlining the range of information available about Council's activities and services.

Council continues to utilise social media platforms as well as more traditional media formats to promote Council information and activites in order to make as much information available as possible. Where possible this information is provided in easy to read formats.

Council's updated Community Stretegic Plan makes a committment to advocate for community and business organisations to review and change the way they do business to ensure people with disability can have equal access to information and services.



## GRANTS

#### **Stronger Country Communities Round 4**

The Stronger Country Communities Program boots the wellbeing of communities in regional New South Wales by providing new or upgraded infrastructure.

This section details grant funding Wentworth Shire Council has attained for projects through the Stronger Country Communities Round 4 during the 2021-2022 financial year.

Wentworth Female Jockey Change Rooms	
SCCF funding: \$200,000	
Other contributions: \$Nil	

Pools Electrical & Facilities Upgrades SCCF funding: \$206,522 Other contributions: \$Nil

#### Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program Phase 3

The Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) program supports local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This section details grant funding Wentworth Shire Council has attained for projects through the LRCI for the 2021-2022 financial year.

Wentworth Racecourse Track Rail Replacement LRCI funding: \$110,00 Other contributions: \$Nil

> Dareton Travellers Rest Stop Stage 2 LRCI funding: \$25,000 Other contributions: \$20,000

Wentworth Caravan Park Ablution Block LRCI funding: \$592,414 Other contributions: \$57,586



#### Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program Phase 3 - Continued

James King Park Riverfront LRCI funding: \$198,000 Other contributions: Nil

> Wentworth Civic Centre Interpretive Space LRCI funding: \$990,000 Other contributions: \$990,000

Pooncarie Aerodrome Lights LRCI funding: \$465,000 Other contributions: nil

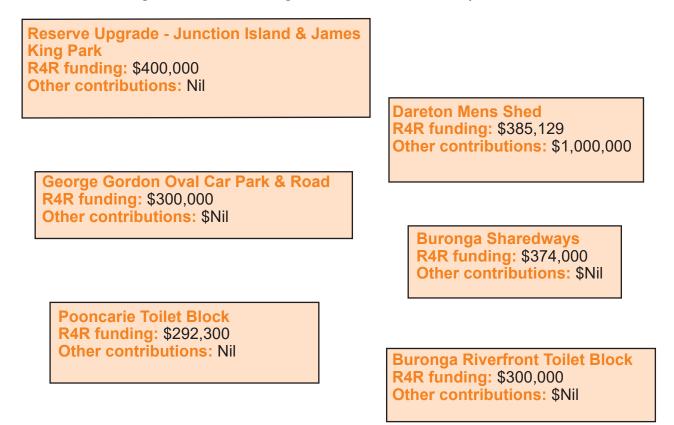
#### **Resources for Regions Round 8**

Pooncarie Telegraph Building

LRCI funding: \$176,000 Other contributions: nil

The Resources for Regions program supports communities across regional New South Wales impacted by mining.

This section details grant funding Wentworth Shire Council has attained for projects through the Resouces for Regions Round 8 during the 2021-2022 financial year.





## Wentworth Shire Libraries Grant

## New and Replacement Book Stock

During the financial year of 2021-2022, Wentworth Shire Libraries spent \$45,733 on new and replacement books, MP3s, DVDs, Magazines, eBooks, Audiobooks and Large Print Books.

Hundreds of new items in our libraries were borrowed thousands of times to over 1,500 members.

Over the years, many members have saved hundreds of dollars borrowing from the library collection.

Our most popular collections remain our children's picture books and our adult fiction.

#### **Special projects**

During the 2021-2022 financial year, the following special projects where undertaken by the library:

- Brother ScanNcut machine purchased for bulk craft packs for activities/ programs. A majority of our regular programs are paper based crafts, built crafts are now created and distributed to all library branches.
- Solus app subscription continues to provide patrons access to our catalogue and online resources.
- 4 x new PC's for public use to replace obsolete PC's.
- 2 x new PC's for use by Wentworth Historical Society to replace obsolete PC's.
- Christmas cookie decorating during Summer School Holidays.
- Seniors morning tea to

celebrate Senior's week - free event in the library courtyard with morning tea, community group information stalls and a guest speaker.

- Display shelving for all branches ordered through RAECO. Face out shelving has allowed up to showcase new items and hard to move collections.
- Replacement Library cards displaying local artist's work.

Reau	lar	arant	funding	a
		9.4	- and - a	3

General Assistance Grant -\$8,749,724

Road Safety Officer Grant - \$54,901

Bushfire Prevention Grants -\$196,200

RFS- ESL Grant - \$123,370

Youth Week Grant - \$3,313

Noxious Weeds & Pest Grants -\$40,405

Library Subsidy - \$78,256

Roads to Recovery Program - \$1,278,207

Main Road Block Grant -\$1,250,506

3x3 Program - \$137,000

Traffic Facilities - \$62,000

#### 2022 Australia Day Award Recipients

The Wentworth Shire's 2022 Australia Day award winners were:

Citizen of the year: **Jeanette Stephens** 

Young Citizen of the Year: **Jess Doidge** 

Environmental Award: **No Nominations received.** 

Young Sportsperson of the Year: **Nicholas Witte** 



Wentworth Shire Citizen of the Year 2022 Jeanette Stephens with Mayor Tim Elstone.





#### **Library Service Operation**

Wentworth Shire Libraries run three branches located in Buronga at the Midway Centre, Dareton on Millie Street and Wentworth on Murray and Short Street.

There is a serviced outpost at Pooncarie, with books available for residents to loan, as well as an eLibrary that can be accessed 24/7 by all members.

Our Libraries were fortunate enough to jump back into faceto-face programs and activities with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

During 2021-2022 we had

some wonderful programs, workshops and events. To celebrate our Seniors and mark the begining of the NSW Seniors Festival 2022 we held a morning tea in the Wentworth Library courtyard. Guests from all over the Shire were treated to barista made coffee and a light lunch from local food and drink vendors.

Regular children's and adult programming was also back with Toddler Stroy Time, Preschool visits, Book Club and Social Sewing making a return.

Home schooled students have also been welcomed at Midway Library for regular sessions with a focus on STEM/STEAM, catering to children of all ages.

## **OPERATIONS**

#### By the numbers

**Total memberships:** 2,454

Patron visits Wentworth: 3,851 Dareton: 997 Buronga: 2,112 Total: 6,960

**Items borrowed** Wentworth: 5,389 Dareton: 1,574 Buronga: 3,753 Pooncarie: 216 eLibrary: 4,366 Total: 10,932

Wi-Fi sessions: 1,665

PC sessions: 634

**In-person programs:** 485 with 2,232 attendees

New and replacement book stock: \$42,047 (Books, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, Large Print, eBooks and eAudiobooks)



This year we were also able to celebrate Children's Book Week with dress ups, school visits, and lots of activities and parades.

Special guests we had throughout the year included Little Wings for another puppet show in Wentworth and Pooncarie. EnviroEDU with a wildlife workshop featuring live native animals, and author talks from Jan Davidson and Alison Stuart. Our programs and memberships remain free to all members of our community and anyone can join onlines and begin using the eLibrary immediately.

- Wentworth Shire Libraries team

#### **Programs and services**

- •Tech Savvy
- Seniors •Book Club
- •Toddler story time
- •School holiday
- activities
- •Social sewing
- •Tai Chi
- •Contactless
- deliveries
- •Library App
- for use on Smartphones &

- **Tablet devices**
- •Free Wi-Fi and internet usage
- •Xbox One for use
- in Library
- •COVID-19 vaccination
- certificate assistance.





· June 2022: Kids and traffic Road Safety Toddler Story Time



April 2022: Seniors Fesitval Wentworth Library

Financial year visitor statistics				
Year 2021-2022			Trend	Monthly Avg
Domestic	Local	International	% +/-	445
5,319	690	27	-49%	

#### **Visitor Service Operation**

The Wentworth Visitor Information Centre saw a decline of visitors after the second COVID19 lockdown following a statewide decline when compared to previous years. Contributing factors include COVID, rising fuel costs, opening of the international travel market and vaccination status.

With visitation falling, the local tourism industry struggled with the impact of the pandemic and the uncertainty of travel restrictions.

The highest number of visitors against came from New South Wales, followed by Victorian visitors with many travelling to the region instead of just passing through as they would have in the past.

The numbers recorded in the statistics are based soley on those who came into the Visitor Information Centre, with actual visitation to the region estimated to be at least 30% higher.

#### **Events**

The start of the year saw a large number of events cancelled for a second year running, including the Wentworth Show, Flying Doctors Rowathon, Pooncarie and Wentworth Races and Local Legend Safari Rally. Some events that have been postponed were able to run in early 2022 such as the Murray Darling 110 Ski Race.

Community groups held local Australia Day events in various locations throughout the shire including the Australian Inland Botanic Gardens, Junction Park and Dareton, all deemed to be a success, with Council hostings its Australia Day & Citizenship Ceremony at the Coomealla Club on the evening of January 25th.

As restrictions eased, there were many successful events held throughout the Shire, inlcuding the Junction Junk Easter Garage Sale, ARB Pooncarie Desert Dash, Youth Week Celebrations, Art Shows and fishing Competitions.

#### **Tourism & Promotion**

Throughout the 2021-2022 period, Wentworth Shire Council Visitor Information Centre began working through a re-branding and modernisation of its logos and website. This will continue onto printed collateral and signage in the future. Print advertising continued in the Sunraysia Daily and NSW Standard papers, along with re-prints of the Wentworth Trail and Wentworth Region Maps.

Promotional and information packs were posted or emailed out to visitors, given out to various groups and events to highlight local attractions, touring routes, accommodation and upcomg events in our Wentworth region.

Staff took part in a number of virtual and face to face forums, annual general meetings, professional development opportunities and accreditation guidelines along with regional famils with staff from Mildura Visitor Information Centre and Mildura Regional Revelopment.

Hannah & Cathryn attended the Sturt Steps Famil from Broken Hill with local tourism operators, journalists and Broken Hill VIC staff, which followed Captain Sturts trail through the Far West and up to Cameron Corner, Milparinka Heritage Area, Fort Grey and Sturt National Park. In future, linking Sturt Steps Trail with the propsoed Wentworth Astronomy Park would bring a new brand of tourism to the



region.

Local Wentworth Region operators were invited to take part in the Alan Border TV Program, a series which showcases smaller regions throughout Australia on Channel 7. The Wentworth episode is due to go to air in late October 2022.

Wentworth Visitor Information Centre worked with numerous local and cross border agencies such as Murray Regional Tourism, Destination Riverina Murrray, Wentworth Regional Tourism Inc. and Mildura Regional Development to increase promotion of the Wentworth Region and the Murray Darling Region areas as a whole and build relationships between the regions.

#### **Darling River Run**

The Darling River Run attracts people from all over Australia throughout the year, with the main times of the year being April and September. Unfortunately, this year the marketing campaign has been placed on hold due to flooding of the Darling River and unexpended rain events occurring on a regular basis. These two things have caused many road closures, therefore making it diffucult for travellers to complete the whole run.

Despite the marketing campaign not being actively promoted, we are still seeing steady numbers on all our digital platforms: website, Facebook and Instagram. Through our membership base and Information Centres within the Darling River Run, we are receiving positive feedback that travellers are soley using the website to plan their trips as it is informative, accurate and knowledgeable.

The Wentworth Region is prominently represented on the website with information, images and maps on Wentworth, Pooncarie and Mungo National Park and includes directory listings of attractions throughout the region. The website attracted over 42,000 visitors in 2021 and currently averages over 3,500 views monthly. The Darling River Run is represented on social media via Facebook and Instagram and reguarly posts information and updates promoting our members regions including: paid posts, crafted content and shared information extending the reach of the existing social media platforms of our members. 8,819 Followers and 170,000+ Monthly Impressions.

The Darling River Run **Discovery Directory contains** a comprehensive list of over 150 locations to find accommodation. where to eat, attractions and activities, supplies, services and more. The directory is searchable and contains maps, contact details, descriptions and images with each listing. You can even bookmark listings for planning the locations you'd like to visit along the Darling **River Run. The Wentworth Region currently features** 47 listings from Wentworth, Pooncarie and Mundo National Park.



CPM Building Contractors Pty Ltd Senior Project Supervisor Deon Blaby, Wentworth Shire Council Mayor Tim Elstone and Wentworth Shire Council Project Officer Betty Withers and GSD Architects Architect Morgan O'Brien look over the plans for the Wentworth Shire Civic Centre Courtyard.

## STATUTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- denotes a requirement under the Office of Local Government's Annual Report Checklist

#### Environmental Upgrade Agreement

For the 2021-2022 reporting period there were nil environmental upgrade agreements in place.

#### Capital Expenditure Review Update

## Wentworth Civic Centre Redevelopment

Council allocated funding within the 2021-22 Operational Plan to continue the upgrade of the Wentworth Shire Civic Centre. The upgrade has been identified as a significant capital project.

GSD Architects have been engaged to manage various phases of the redevelopment

Wentworth Shire Council Annual Report 2021-2022

including planning, design, procurement, construction, and commissioning.

During the 2021-2022 financial year the following works have been completed or finalised towards progressing the project:

- Tender for the Wentworth Shire Civic Centre Courtyard (Wentworth Library Outdoor Riverfront Gathering Space) being Stage One of the overall redevelopment was accepted by Council from CPM Building Contractors Pty Ltd for the amount of \$647,148 GST Inc. Works are expected to start July 2022.
- GSD Architects continued to progress tender documentation for the construction and fit out the Civic Centre building,

including "For Tender Issue" drawings and specification. Drawing plans and specification includes provision of electrical, mechanical and hydraulic design.

- Tender documentation was also completed for the development of the interpretive and interactive themes proposed within the Visitor Information and Experience Centre. Given the specific nature of this part of the development these works are being run as a separate tender to the overall redevelopment tender. Council is seeking to engage a specialist firm to design and construct the interpretive and interactive exhibitions and displays.
- In May 2022 Council resolved to undertake a two-part procurement process for the main



redevelopment works. Stage one involves a call for expression of interests from potential contractors. The expression of interests are assessed and a short list of contractors is prepared with those contractors then asked to participate in a closed tender process (Stage two). At the time of approving the procurement process it was anticipated that all things going well that an approved principal contractor will be appointed by August 2022.

#### Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade - Stage 2

Aerial image of the Wentworth Aerodrome Redevelopment

Works on the second stage commenced in September 2021 and were completed in February 2022 providing fully sealed 24 hour access to both runways and apron areas.

Works included construction, drainage and sealing works for runway 17/35 giving full all weather access to both runways.

The pilot activated lighting system was also expanded to include that runway, giving full coverage to the whole complex.

Additional apron and parking areas were constructed to allow

for the installation of additonal hangers should there be a need.

Following the completion of upgrade works Council removed the existing underground Avgas tank and bowzer and replaced it with a modern dual fuel supply (Jet Fuel and Avgas) bowzer and security compound. This now completes the identified upgrades as outlined in the Wentworth Aerodrome Master Plan.



## Recovery and threat abatement plans

For the 2021-2022 reporting period there were nil Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans in place.

## ENGINEERING PROJECTS



**Now program** Upgrade of houseboat Effluent Disposal System in Buronga



### Dareton Travellers Rest Stop - Stage 1 Completion: April 2022

**Funded under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program** Supply and construction of a Traveller's Rest pergola consisting of historical interpretive panels, stencelled concrete and circular pebble crete pathway to incorporate the existing monumnet and new War Memorial.

### Wentworth Riverfront BBQ Area

Completed: April 2022 Funded under the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program

New playground being constructed at the water front adjacent to recently built BBQ facilities



### **Civic Centre Community and Convention Space**

Estimated completion: June 2023 Funded under the Murray Darling Economic Development Program with Co- Contribution from Council Coversion of the old Wentworth Services Club Bistro into a community and convention space.

### Wentworth Long Day Care Facility

Estimated completion: October 2022 Co funded by Stronger Country Communities and Building Better Regions Fund Extension to the Wentworth Pre-School to allow for extended day services

## Wentworth Showground Sewer Upgrades

Estimated completion: November 2022 Funded under the Crown Reserve Improvement Fund Showgrounds Stimilus

Replacement of existing septic sewer system with gravity mains and pumping station.

#### **Juntion Island Bridge**

Estimated completion: June 2023 Funded by Resources for Regions Fund Round 7 Replacement of Pedistrian access bridge to Junction Island.



Dareton Travellers Rest Stop - Stage 1



## ROADS PROJECTS

#### **Transport for New South Wales Projects**

Sec 40 - Stage 2 & Heavy Patching

Stage 2 consisted of pavement widening, rehabilitation and primer sealing of 1.627 km of the Sturt Highway between Gol Gol and Euston - \$1,632,316 (Completed - February 2022).

Council undertook Heavy Patching works across 6 locations on both the Sturt & Silver City Highways - \$239,882 - (Completed - Nov 2021)

### **NSW Fixing Local Roads**

Native Ridge Lane Gol Gol - formation and sealing works of the entire road - \$198,774 (Completed - May 2022)

Bridge Road Buronga - formalisation, formation and sealing - \$298,9994 (Completed - May 2022)

Fletchers Lakes Road Dareton - Stabalisation works - \$318,814 (Completed - May 2022)

#### **Roads to Recovery**

Darling St (W/W) reseal between Perry & Francis St - \$61,607 - (Completed - Nov 2021)

Beverly St (W/W) reseal between Francis & Cadell St - \$124,889 - (Completed - Nov 2021)

Murray St (W/W) reseal between Short Street & Beverley St - \$40,370 - (Completed - Nov 2021)

Mourquong Rd - reseal of 1.964km - \$56,932 - (Completed - Nov 2021)

Wilga Rd (Gol Gol) reseal of 750m - \$26,529 - (Completed - Nov 2021)

Willis Rd (Pomona) reseal of 800m - \$34,204 - (Completed - May 2022)

#### **Roads to Recovery - Continued**

Bass Lane (Pomona) - reseal of 510m - \$21,730 - (Completed - May 2022)

Mitchell Rd (Pomona) - reseal of 830m - \$34,726 - (Completed - May 2022)

Arthur St (W/W) - reseal between Beverley & Adams St - \$25,776 - (Completed - May 2022)

Wilkes St (W/W) - reseal between Helena & Arthur St - \$13,502 - (Completed - May 2022)

Box Tree Lane (Curlwaa) - reseal of 330m - \$9,137 - (Completed - May 2022)

Billabong Rd (Curlwaa) - reseal of 815m - \$27,782 - (Completed - May 2022)

Manly Rd (Curlwaa) - reseal of 1.34km - \$36,414 - (Completed - May 2022)

Creek Rd (Curlwaa) - reseal of 2.67km - \$124,099 - (Completed - May 2022)

Downham Rd (Ellerslie) - Resheeting of 3km - \$295,259 - (Completed - June 2022)

Lagoon Rd (W/W) - Resheeting of 2.62km - \$83,595 - (Completed - June 2022)

West St (W/W) - Resheeting of 840m - \$30,800 - (Completed - June 2022)

Ellerslie Nth Rd (Ellerslie) - Resheeting of 2.20km - \$143,238 - (Completed - June 2022)

Smiths Rd (Ellerslie) - Resheeting of 550m - \$39,685 - (Completed - June 2022)

#### Pooncarie - Menindee Road

Sealing of the remaining 26 km of unseald road to the Wentworth Shire Boundary with Central Darling Shire - \$9,200,000 project jointly funded by both State & Federal Governments. Preliminary works commenced in 2021-22 with the project expected to be completed during 2021-22.



#### **Transport operations**

A large part of Council's operations is the maintenance and renewal of local, rural and regional roads.

The NSW Government also contracts Council to assist in the maintenance and upgrade of the Silver City and Sturt highways.

Some key statistics relevant to the management of the local, rural and regional roads is provided below:

Road (	Conditions	Length/Number	Annual Maintenance Costs	New Assets
	Sealed	376.33km	\$654,754	\$0
Local Roads	Unsealed	1277.38km	\$737,721	\$0
	Bridges/Major Culverts	10	\$0	\$0
	Roads Ancillary (Footpaths, signs etc)	N/A	\$139,222	\$333,957
	Sealed	222.20km	\$474,362	\$0
Regional Roads	Unsealed	138.06km	\$372,766	\$0
Rodus	Bridges/Major Culverts	1	\$0	\$0
	Roads Ancillary (Footpaths, signs etc)	N/A	\$79,259.75	\$0

### Waste disposal operations

Council operates a landfill at Buronga and Transfer Stations at Pomona, Dareton and Wentworth. Pooncarie and Ellerslie also have waste disposal facilities.

The table on the next page highlights the total waste received by location and, where recorded, the number of site visits.



Location	Mixed Waste Total (tons)	Recyclables (tons)	Total Site Visits
Buronga	31,990	1698	16,841
Dareton	92.67	40.71	420
Pomona	19.5	7.95	117
Wentworth	389.45	144.07	1599
Ellerslie	181.53*	27.42	N/A
Pooncarie	116.53 *	12*	N/A

\*estimates only





Council provides a range of recreation and cultural services to the community, including parks and gardens, sporting facilities, halls and boat ramps.

### Parks and gardens

There are nine gardeners employed by Council to maintain the numerous parks, gardens, sporting ovals and open space assets across the Shire.

This equates to approximately 15,000 hours of gardener maintenance work each year.

### **Ovals**

- Alcheringa Oval (Carramar Drive Sporting Complex, Gol Gol)
- E. L. Watmuff Oval, Curlwaa (right)
- George Gordon Oval, Dareton
- McLeod Oval, Wentworth
- Pooncarie Oval, Pooncarie
- Wentworth Showgrounds

### **Public Halls**

- Anabranch Hall
- Curlwaa Hall
- Midway Community Centre
- Pomona Hall
- Pooncarie Hall
- Wilkinson Hall
- Wentworth Civic Hall

### **Boat Ramps**



- Curlwaa
- Dareton
- Fort Courage
- James King Park
- Log Bridge (two ramps)
- Pomona
- Pooncarie
- Wentworth Ski Reserve
- Wentworth Wharf

### **Public toilets**

- Pitman Avenue, Buronga
- Buronga Wetlands
- Alcheringa Oval
- Midway Centre
- Curlwaa Rest Area
- O'Donnell Park, Curlwaa
- Lions Park, Dareton
- Kuhn Square, Dareton
- George Gordon Oval, Dareton
- Coomealla Memorial Gardens Cemetary
- Gol Gol Cemetary



- James King Park, Gol Gol
- Wilkinson Park, Gol Gol
- Fruit Fly Rest Area, Silver City Highway
- Milpara Rest Area
- Bunnerungee Rest Area, Seven Trees Rest Area, Silver City Highway
- Mine Site Bin Rest Area, Silver City Highway
- Bottle Bend Rest Area
- Mallee Fowl Rest Area
- Taplin Mail Route Rest Area, Sturt Highway
- Trentham Rest Area
- White Elephant Rest Area, Sturt Highway

Wentworth Riverfront BBQ Area

- Darling Street, Wentworth
- Fotherby Park, Wentworth
- Junction Park, Wentworth
- McLeod Oval/Wentworth Skate Park
- Shire Offices
- Strother Park, Wentworth
- Wentworth Sporting
  Complex
- Wentworth Ski Reserve
- Arumpo Rest Area
- Perry Sandhills
- Pomona Hall

### **Barbecues**

Buronga Wetlands x2

- Fotherby Park, Wentworth
- James King Park, Gol Gol x2
- Junction Park, Wentworth x 2
- Lions Park, Dareton
- O'Donnell Park, Curlwaa x3
- Tapio Park, Dareton x 3
- Wentworth Skate Park x2
- Wentworth River Front x2

### **Swimming Pools**

- Dareton
- Wentworth



## STATUTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- denotes a requirement under the Office of Local Government's Annual Report Checklist

### Report on activities funded via a special rate variation

Council did not have any activities funded via a special rate variation in the 2021-2022 financial year.

### Rates and charges written off

Rates and charges	2021-2022
General rates and interest	\$433.83
Water	\$675.21
Sewage	\$52.84
Total	\$1,168.88





Amount (including GST)	Contractor	Description
\$462,935.00	Advanced Airport Lighting	Pooncarie Aerodrome - Design, Supply & Installation of Aerodrome Lighting
\$264,000.00	Mallee Earthmoving and Excavation	Truck & Dog Hire - Pooncarie Menindee Road Reconstruction
\$594,000.00	GBM	Truck & Dog Hire - Pooncarie Menindee Road Reconstruction
\$300,000.00	Botts Civil/Earthmoving	Land Planes and Scoops - Pooncarie Menindee Road Reconstruction
\$696,958.00	Johnson's Trucks	Replacement plant 519 & 902 - Diesel Powered Cab Chassis fitted with a 14,000 litre Water Tanker
\$6,831,695.00	Primal Surfacing	Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing Contract
\$579,942.00	Mallee Quarries Pty Ltd	Old Wentworth Road - Supply & Delivery of Road Base Material
\$392,421.28	All State Earthworks	Wentworth Sewerage Rationalisation Scheme - Project Variations
\$673,420.00	Mallee Earthmoving and Excavation	Pooncarie - Menindee Road Reconstruction - Supply Road Base Material
\$647,148.00	CPM Building Contractors	Wentworth Shire Civic Centre Redevelopment - Stage One - Courtyard
\$874,010.50	CPM Building Contractors	Wentworth Pre School Redevelopment
\$464,092.41	Waters Excavations	Wentworth Showgrounds Sewer Upgrade Variation
\$456,095.00	Advanced Airport Lighting	Wentworth Aerodrome Stage 2 - Runway 17/35 - Supply and Installation of Aerodrome Lighting
\$278,153.70	Waters Excavations	Wentworth Aerodrome Upgrade - Stage 2 Runway 17/35 - Supply VIC Roads Class 3 Road Base Material

## Councillor Expenses

During the 2021-2022 financial year, the following payment of expenses and provision of facilities were provided to Councillors.

Councillors Payment of Expen	ses and Provision of Facilities
Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors	\$15,558
Telephone calls made by Councillors, including internet costs	\$11,578
Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars (see table on next page)	\$11,535
Training of Councillors and provision of skill development	\$5,115
Interstate visits by Councillors including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses	\$0
Overseas visits by Councillors	\$0
Total Councillor expenses and facilities	\$43,786

Note: No other expenses or provisions were paid to Councillors or any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor in the performance of their civic functions. There was also no provision of care provided for a child of, or an immediate family member of a Councillor.

### **Administration statistics**

Administration statistics	
Incoming calls	22,646
Incoming Emails	22,179
Incoming Post	2,191
Walk-ins (Wentworth)	906
Walk-ins (Midway Centre)	453
Total Customer Requests	1,810
Property Transfers	239



Professional Development Activity	Beaumont	Cooper	Crisp	Elstone	Evans	Heywood	Linklater	Nichols	Rodda	MacAllister	McKinnon	Nunan	Wheeldon
Councillor Induction Training	√		V	-	$\checkmark$	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	V	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
River Reflections Conference June 2022	-	-	V	-	-	-	V	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MDA Annual Strategic Planning Workshop Virtual 2022	-	-	-	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LGNSW Special Conference Feb 2022	-	_	-	V	-	_	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Western Division of Councils Meeting May 2022	_	-	-		-	_	_	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
National General Assembly Virtual June 2022	-	-	-	V	-	-	-	-	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
LGNSW Professional Development Training June 2022	$\checkmark$	V	V	V	N/A	~			V	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

### Councillor Attendance at Conferences, Seminars or Training

### Information About Training and Ongoing Professional Development 2021-2022

Professional Development Activity	Beaumont	Cooper	Crisp	Elstone	Evans	Heywood	Linklater	Nichols	Rodda	MacAllister	McKinnon	Nunan	Wheeldon
Induction Training	$\checkmark$		V	-	$\checkmark$	-	$\checkmark$		$\checkmark$	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ongoing professional development	√		V	V	-	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$		V	V	Nil	Nil	Nil
Circulars	18	18	18	40	40	40	18	40	18	22	22	22	22
Other	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	3	0	0	1

### Costs of legal proceedings

Council received a range of legal services over the 2021-2022 financial year, including:

Legal Services	\$
Acquisitions	\$56,690
Planning	\$1,403
Plans of Management	\$13,750
Debt Collection	\$17,191
Crown Land/Reserve	\$6,993
Contract Advice	\$1,811
Employee Matters	\$784
Total <b>Total</b>	\$98,622



#### Resolution for works carried out on private land

Council did not undertake any works on private land during the 2021-2022 financial year.

Partnerships where Council held a controlling interest

Council did not have any partnerships where it held a controlling interest during the 2021-2022 financial year.

## Statement of all External Bodies that exercised functions delegated by Council

There were no external bodies that exercised functions delegated by Council.

## Statement of corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (incorporated or not) in which the council participated during the year

## Far West Joint Organisation of Councils

The Far West Joint Organisation of Councils (FWJO) is a separately constituted entity pursuant to Part 7 (sections 400O to 400ZH of the Local Government Act (NSW) 1993, as amended, and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2008.

The principal functions of the Far West Joint Organisation are to:

- Establish strategic regional priorities for the joint organisation area, and to develop strategies and plans for delivering these priorities;
- 2. Provide regional leadership for the joint organisation area, and to be an advocate for strategic regional priorities;
- 3. Identify and take up opportunities for intergovernmental cooperation on matters

relating to the joint organisation area;

- 4. Enhancing strategic capacity to support member councils to deliver services to their communities; and
- 5. Service delivery to provide services directly to communities in the region.

The Far West Joint Organisation comprises Broken Hill City Council and the Shires of Balranald, Central Darling and Wentworth.

The percentage ownership interest is equivalent to the percentage voting rights for all associates as follows.

The Board of the Far West Joint Organisation comprises:

 Four (4) voting members being the Mayors of Broken Hill City Council & Wentworth Shire Council and the Administrators of Balranald Shire Council and Central Darling Shire Council.

- Four (4) non-voting members being the General Managers of the member Councils
- Three (3) appointed nonvoting members from the State Government and Cabinet

Wentworth Shire Council as a member of the Far West Joint Organisation, has a quarter voting right (25%) in respect to the decisions of the Board.

Members of the Far West Joint Organisation are indemnified from liability for functions and duties carried out or omitted honestly in good faith, and with due care and diligence.

For the 2021-2022 financial year Council contributed \$15,000 to the Far West Joint Organisation.

## Council's contribution to others

Community groups seek a wide range of assistance from Council by way of fee waivers, donations, cash sponsorships, rate reductions and exemptions and in-kind support for services, events, awards and projects delivered within the community.

To support these community groups Wentworth Shire Council allocates funding each financial year under Council's Donations, Contributions and Grants program.

For the 2021-2022 financial year Council allocated \$183,930 to the following organisations:

Notes:

(1) Registered Schools (including preschools and kindergartens) operating within the Wentworth Shire are granted automatic fee waivers for the hire of any Council venue (hall, meeting room). Any preparation costs (such as line marking of ovals) will be charged at standard cost. Bookings must still be made.

(2) Public Schools operating within the Wentworth Shire end of year presentation day, up to a maximum of \$300.00 per school

Organisation/Recipient	\$ value
AFL Sunraysia	\$71
Australian Inland Botanical Gardens	\$45,900
Breast Screen NSW	\$1,189
Buronga Gol Gol Senior Citizens Club	\$2,357
Buronga Public School	\$44
Coomealla Health Aboriginal Co-Op	\$37,500
Dareton Public School	\$44
Dareton Senior Citizens Club	\$10,248
Dareton Community Creative Centre Inc.	\$3,837
Dareton Kennel Club	\$480
Darling Junction Country Women's Association	\$245
Gol Gol Hawks Football Netball Club	\$370
Gol Gol Pre-School	\$900
Gol Gol Public School	\$96
Greater Murray Darling Junction Group Inc	\$2,985
Koori Kids	\$250
Lifeline Central Victoria & Mallee	\$4,091
Murray Darling Junction Fishing Club Inc	\$254
Murray House Aged Care	\$4,768
New South Western Standard Bulletin	\$6,985
NSW Government Schools	\$2,100
NSW Rural Doctors Network	\$6,000
Pooncarie Field Day Group	\$1,844
Pooncarie Primary School P & F	\$154
Rotary Club of Wentworth Inc	\$10,564
Sunraysia Motorsports Club Inc	\$4,122
Vintage Machinery Society of Sunraysia	\$798
Wentworth Bowling Club Inc	\$2,000
Wentworth Catholic Church	\$5,000
Wentworth District Community Medical Group	\$267
Wentworth District Pre-School	\$48
Wentworth Military Collection Inc.	\$3,700
Wentworth Regional Community Project	\$3,000
Wentworth Rifle Club	\$5,000
Wentworth Rowing Club	\$4,750
Wentworth Senior Citizens Club	\$2,994
Wentworth Shire Interagency Group	\$327
Total	\$183,930



## Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan

Wentworth Shire Council embraces its obligation under the Local Government Act 1993 (section 344) and is committed to the EEO principles as outlined in the Act;

- To eliminate and ensure absence of discrimination in employment on the grounds of race, sex, martial or domestic status and disability in Councils;
- To promote equal employment opportunity for women, members of racial minorities and persons with disabilities in Council.

Some of the key activities undertaken in the last 12 months include;

- Continued to promote Council as an EEO employer;
- EEO principles conducted for all new staff (at induction stage);
- Review of Human Resources policies and procedures to ensure they are non-discriminatory, are supportive to all employment groups equally and promote a friendly work atmosphere that this free from bullying and harassment;
- Bullying and harassment training undertaken by all staff;

- Assist mature age workers who have a expressed a desire to transition to retirement;
- Training (on merit-based selection) for employees involved in the recruitment and selection process;
- External training undertaken by the senior leadership team in due diligence and bullying & harassment;
- Formed key partnerships with support organisations.

Council is committed to having a diverse and inclusive workforce with a collection of skills, experiences and perspectives that is reflective of the community we serve. We are dedicated to providing a working environment that is fair, safe, challenging and rewarding. This applies to all aspects of employment and is supported by;

- Our values
- o Honesty and Integrity
- o Accountability and Transparency
- o Respect
- o Quality
- o Commitment
- The Code of Conduct, which refers to 'respect' and the requirement to 'treat others with respect' at all times. This means not using derogatory terms towards others, observing the rights of other people

and treating people with courtesy;

 Providing those who work at Council, including Councillors, with a guide of what represents acceptable behaviours and highlighting what may constitute harassment, bullying, discrimination and victimisation at work, as well as applying fairness and equity in how we work.

## General Manager's Remuneration Package

GM'S Remuneration	\$
Salary component	\$242,195.96
Superannuation	\$24,219.60
Non-cash benefits	\$10,000
Total	\$276,415.56

### Senior Staff (combined) Remuneration Package

Senior Staff Remuneration	\$
Salary component	\$529,246.92
Superannuation	\$52,924.69
Total	\$582,171.69

#### Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act) Report 2020 -2021

GIPA Requests	7
Applications granted in full	7
Information requested not held by Council	0
Applications withdrawn	0
Applications refused	0
Contraventions by Council of an information protection or of a privacy code of practice, or disclosure of personal information kept in a public register under Part 5 of Section 33	0

### Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and Regulation 2011

Section 31 of the Public Disclosure Act 1994 requires each public authority, within four months after the end of the reporting year, to prepare an annual report on the public authority's obligation under the Act for submission to the responsible Minister.

A copy of this report is to be provided to the Ombudsman.Wentworth Shire Council has an internal reporting policy in place which staff are made aware of as part of the corporate induction process.

The Policy was reviewed and approved by Council at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 16 February 2022.

Internal training is also performed by Council.

#### **Fraud Control Measures**

During the 2021-22 Financial year Council undertook the following fraud control measures:

- Website was updated to provide details to the public how they can report suspected fraud;
- Council reviewed and updated its Fraud Control Policy and its Fraud Action Plan in Febraury 2022; and
- Undertook is biannual fraud risk assessment as outlined in the Fraud Action Plan and staff within the finance team undertook fraud assessment training.

# STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

# END OF TERM REPORT

## ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Year ending 30 June 2022



Our values: Honesty and Integrity | Accountability and Transparency | Respect | Quality | Commitment