



ANABRANCH

BURONGA

COOMEALLA

CURLWAA

DARETON

ELLERSLIE

GOL GOL

MONAK

POMONA

POONCARIE

RUFUS RIVER

TRENTAM CLIFFS

WENTWORTH

Delivery Program

2022-2026

Our Objectives



Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving region

ECONOMIC



Wentworth Shire is a great place to live

SOCIAL



Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

ENVIRONMENTAL



Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civil leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

CIVIC LEADERSHIP



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Our Values

HONESTY & INTEGRITY

ACCOUNTABILITY &
TRANSPARENCY

RESPECT

QUALITY & COMMITMENT

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we live and work, and pay our respects to their elders past, present, and emerging.

Images in this document were sourced from Council's Image Library unless otherwise stated. Cover image: Darling Street, Wentworth.

This document was compiled by Wentworth Shire Council.
Copies of this program can be viewed online at wentworth.nsw.gov.au

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Mayor's foreword

“

On behalf of Councillors and staff I am pleased to present our Delivery Program and Operational Plan for the period 2022/2023 to 2025/2026.

- Cr Tim Elstone
Mayor of Wentworth Shire Council

”



The Program and Plan outline our vision and priorities for the future aligned to the four strategies identified in the Community Strategic Plan.

It demonstrates Council's responsibility towards achieving the community's vision. Each CSP strategy has a number of principal objectives and actions assigned to them in the Delivery Program.

It enables the community to see exactly how Council spends its funds and the kinds of

services and activities that they can expect to be provided in the coming years. It provides a clear framework around Council's performance and enables us to be open and accountable to the public.

As we emerge on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic, Council's aim is to focus on what matters most – our community.

Council continues to work hard to deliver the services you need and advocate for the best outcomes for the Wentworth Shire.

Council is committed to creating opportunities for inclusion where all people feel welcome, valued and safe and can participate in all aspects of community life.

Many of the services we provide such as water, waste collection, parks, roads, footpaths and drainage are all critical components of our day to day life.

This means it is essential that we provide the services that our community needs in the most efficient way possible.

Wentworth Shire Council is experiencing rapid growth and it is Council's responsibility to ensure the services and infrastructure needed by our community are available and continue to evolve as we continue planning for our future.

During this version of the Program and Plan Council is planning on undertaking the following exciting projects:

- Civic Centre Redevelopment
- Pooncarie – Menindee Road Upgrade
- Willow Bend Caravan Park Redevelopment
- Buronga Landfill expansion
- Road Upgrades
- Water, Sewerage and Stormwater upgrades

Many of these projects will be completed by Council partnering with both the Federal and State governments and will we continue to work cooperatively with all levels of government, local business and our community as so much more can be accomplished when we work together.

This will be the first Delivery Program and Operational Plan for this term of Council, following the recent local government elections in December 2021 and provides a good overview of our priorities for the next four years.

As an organisation, we continue to be in a strong financial position to deliver the actions outlined in this document and meet our ongoing commitment to the community.

This document is the product of teamwork by Councillors, staff and valuable community input. It is a vital document that keeps the community informed of Council's direction.

Throughout the duration of the Delivery Program, Council will continue to report and update the community on the progress of these objectives and actions through our quarterly progress reports and the annual report.

The Delivery Program is intended to be a living document, designed to be responsive from year to year, and to provide a guide to the overarching program of work being undertaken by Council.

Cr Tim Elstone
Mayor of Wentworth Shire Council

Wentworth at a glance



8.04% of our population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (State average is 3.44%)



Proclaimed a Shire on 23 January **1879**

Area (sq. km)
26,256



7,487
Estimated Residential Population (2021)

Largest industry of Employment is Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing with **23.5%** of the population



27.9%
Mining is the largest industry sector with (\$363,285,000) gross revenue



29.51%
of homes are owned outright



3 Libraries

1 Hospital

8 Schools

1 TAFE Campus

2 Aerodromes

45.48%

Working age Residents (30-64 yrs old) : **2,860**
(state average is 45.46%) : Employed Residents

4.5% Unemployment Rate (2022)

Year 12 education as the highest form of education

Wentworth Shire residents
28.7%

vs.

Other areas of NSW
52.13%

\$75,544
per capita Gross Regional Product



The Median Wage for Households:
Wentworth
\$1,066/wk



State (excl. Greater Sydney)
\$1,434/wk



Greater Sydney
\$2,077/wk

The individual median wage is **\$716** per week with **28.1%** of people earning over **\$1,500** per week.

43 years old

is the Median Resident age (State median is 39)

28.54% of Residents are aged under 25 (State average is 30.05%)

20.42% of Residents are aged over 65 (State average is 17.59%)



29.99% of families earn over \$130,000 vs. state average of 43.86%

WORTH SEEING WORTH DOING!
WENTWORTH and surrounds



422km
ADELAIDE

583km
MELBOURNE

1,044km
SYDNEY

599km of sealed road

1,429km of unsealed road

Based on data from the 2021 Census data. *Data collected from Remplan and ABS

Councillors

Wentworth Shire is represented by nine Councillors who are elected every four years.

The Councillors elect the Mayor every two years.



Cr Tim Elstone
Mayor



Cr Daniel Linklater
Deputy Mayor



Cr Jane MacAllister
Councillor



Cr Steve Heywood
Councillor



Cr Susan Nichols
Councillor



Cr Jo Rodda
Councillor



Cr Brian Beaumont
Councillor



Cr Peter Crisp
Councillor



Cr Steve Cooper
Councillor

As the community's representative the role of a Councillor is to:

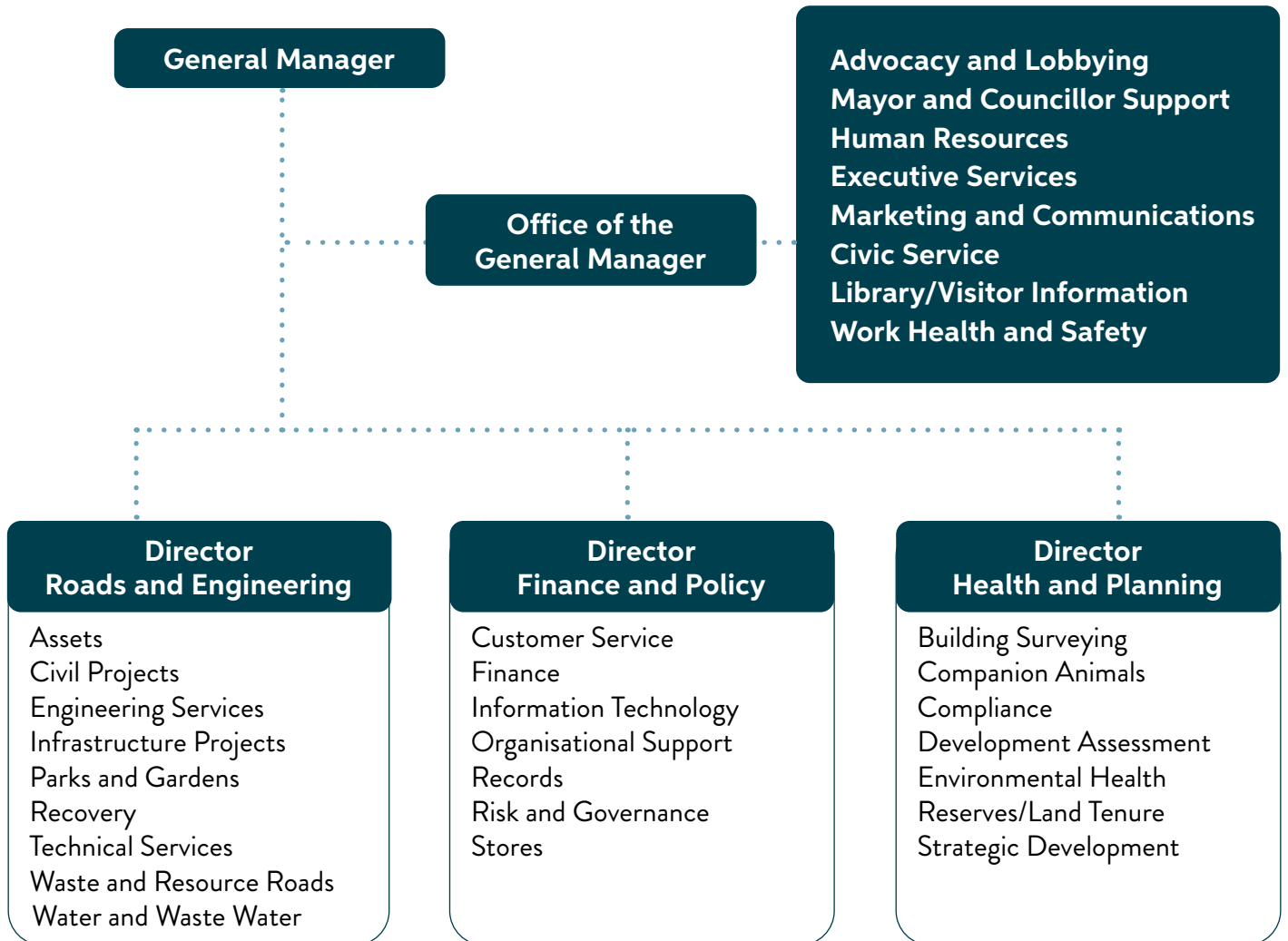
- Be an active and contributing member of the governing body;
- Make considered and well-informed decisions as a member of the governing body;
- Participate in the development of the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework;
- Represent the collective interests of residents, ratepayers and the local community;
- Facilitate communication between the local community and the governing body;
- Uphold and represent accurately the policies and decisions of the governing body;
- Make all reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a Councillor

Services

In order to deliver on its responsibilities in the Community Strategic Plan, the many separate activities that Council provides for residents, ratepayers, workers and visitors are broken into the following key services:



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.

Achieving the vision for 2032

The consultation and engagement activities undertaken to inform the Wentworth Shire: Our Future in Focus - Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032 resulted in the formation of the following concise and ambitious vision for the region:

Wentworth Shire will work together to create a thriving, attractive and welcoming community.

Community strategies



Quadruple Bottom Line

The quadruple bottom line underpins the Community Strategic Plan, helping to categorise the priorities that have been identified by the community.

Our strategies link directly to the quadruple bottom line, which are as follows:



Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving region

ECONOMIC



Wentworth Shire is a great place to live

SOCIAL



Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

ENVIRONMENTAL



Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civil leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Council's guiding principles

The aim of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework is to improve the way the Council's planning meets community's needs.

The Framework recognises that most communities share similar aspirations; however, each Local Government Area has a uniqueness to their geographical location, demographics and culture.

The implementation of the framework is conducted differently by all councils across NSW.

The Local Government Act requires Council to carry out its functions in a way to support local communities to be strong, healthy and prosperous.

The following general principles apply to the core functions of Council to:

- Provide strong effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making;
- Carry out functions that provide the best possible value for residents and ratepayers;
- Plan strategically, using the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community;
- Apply the IP&R Framework in carrying out functions to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements;
- Work co-operatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community;
- Manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way;
- Work with others to secure appropriate service for local community needs;
- Act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interest of the local community; and
- Be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supportive working environment for staff.

The following principles apply to decision-making. Council will:

- Recognise diverse local community needs and interests;
- Consider social justice principles;
- Consider the long-term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations;
- Consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development;
- Be transparent and accountable for decisions; and
- Promote community participation by actively engaging with the local community.

The following principles of sound financial management apply to Council:

- Spend in a responsible and sustainable manner, aligning general revenue and expenses.
- Invest in responsible and sustainable infrastructure for the benefit of the local community.
- Have effective financial and asset management, including sound policies and processes for the following:
 - Performance management and reporting;
 - Asset maintenance and enhancement;
 - Funding decisions; and
 - Risk management practices.
- Have regard to achieving intergenerational equity, including ensuring policy decisions are made after considering their financial effects on future generation and that the current generation funds the cost of its services.

Council continuously advocates on behalf of our community and has on-going conversations with State and Federal Governments, as well as the private sector, to ensure we protect, enhance and improve:

- The services and facilities that our community require today and into the future;
- Our natural environment; and
- The promotion of business opportunities that can generate local jobs.



2022/2023 flooding

Above average rainfall across the Murray Darling Basin catchments during 2022 resulted in the Wentworth Local Government Area experience its first flood event since 2016.

The main impacts were felt through late spring and into mid-summer, parts of the Shire were still experiencing inundation into early Autumn of 2023.

The extent of the flood waters saw both the Murray and Darling-Baaka Rivers in flood at the same time in nearly 30 years.

The Murray River eventually peaked in late December 2022 with the Darling-Baaka River peaking about three weeks later. With the Darling-Baaka River returning to normal river levels, this allowed flood water to start draining out of the lower lakes and into the Great Darling Anabranche leading to property and road inundation through late Summer and into early Autumn of 2023.

The slow moving nature of the flood as it moved downstream provided Council and local residents ample time to prepare for the coming flood water.

Flood preparation works undertaken by Council to protect Council and Community assets include the following:

- Old Wentworth Road - section of road opened over the Fletchers Lake Creek to relieve flood water pressure
- Renmark Road - emergency works undertaken on a 500m section of road fronting the Wentworth Aerodrome to prevent floodwaters back flowing into the Aerodrome. This work involved raising the road surface level by approx. 400mm and blocking the existing under road major culverts.
- Wentworth Showgrounds Sewer - power to the showground complex shut off and

removal of switch board undertaken due to flood water inundation. Construction of protection bund surrounding the sewer pump station and fire service infrastructure.

- Willow Bend Caravan Park - relocation of office block building to Darling Street prior to flood period. Additional stockpiles and civil materials relocated.

The total direct cost incurred by Council for flood preparation work has been \$1,625,352. Fortunately works undertaken following previous floods including the building of levee banks around low lying areas of Wentworth and Buronga resulted in the townships escaping relatively unscathed.

Council estimates that more than 1,000 properties have suffered some form of flood inundation, fortunately it appears that the inundation of houses was minimal however damage to other buildings, crops and other property infrastructure was wide spread with more than a dozen properties in the Boeill Creek area having to evacuate, resulting in them being displaced for more than two months.

Fortunately, the majority of Council assets were spared, with the worst affected areas being parks and open spaces along riverfront areas and some sixty-three (63) roads being impacted resulting in road closures and Council having to undertake flood diversion measures to protect local properties.

The overall impact of the flood is still being assessed. While some businesses suffered direct impacts due to being inundated, significant losses have been incurred by businesses due to the indirect inputs of the flood.

Businesses who rely on the river to generate income (houseboat operators for example) were unable to use/access the river for many months.

Other businesses such as accommodation providers were significantly impacted due to the reduction in visitors who travel to the Region to enjoy what the rivers have to offer. The Christmas period of 2022/2023 was one of the quietest in recent memory.

As the clean up commences the recovery process is expected to take some time with the true cost not known for a couple of years. The flood has also impacted on Council's ability to achieve the actions outlined in the 2022/2023 Delivery Plan and Operational Plan with Council staff being redirected to flood preparation works.

At one stage, 19 projects had either been stalled or deferred. While the majority of these have since been recommenced it is anticipated that a number of these actions that were expected to be completed in the 2022/2023 financial year will be carried over into the 2023/2024 financial year.



2022 - 2026 Delivery Program Objectives

- Promote the Shire as an ideal location for investment and the establishment of innovative, sustainable and diversified industries
- Encourage and support initiatives that improve local employment opportunities
- Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained
- A well informed, supported and engaged community
- High quality connectivity across the region
- Ensure our planning decisions and controls enable the community to benefit from development
- Minimise the impact on the natural environment
- Adopt practices of prudent asset, financial and human resource management across Council to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency
- A strong, responsible and representative government
- Provide strong leadership and work in partnership to strategically plan for the future
- To have a strong sense of place
- Infrastructure meets the needs of our growing Shire
- Encourage lifelong learning opportunities
- Work together to solve a range of social and health issues that impact community wellbeing and vulnerable people
- Consistently engage and consult the whole community to ensure feedback is captured and considered as part of decision-making and advocating processes
- Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination
- An effective and efficient organisation
- Use and manage our resources wisely
- Continue to create opportunities for inclusion where all people feel welcome and participate in community life
- To have a safe community

The four-year Delivery Program is reviewed annually to determine which objectives set out in the Community Strategic Plan can be achieved within Council's available resources, and an Operational Plan of actions for the coming financial year is created.

As part of the ongoing monitoring and review of the Delivery Program, Council considers key external issues and influences that may affect what is required to be delivered for the community over the next four years.

The issues and influences identified and any others that arise over the next four years will be required to be monitored and any impacts from there will be included in future Operational Plans.

This ensures Council's long-term planning is consistent with current and future needs of the community.

The Operational Plan 2023-2024 is the second year of the Delivery Program 2022-2026. It outlines the actions that will be undertaken for each objective and determines who has primary responsibility for each action.

Throughout the duration of our four-year Delivery Program, we will continue to report and update the community on the progress of these initiatives and more, through our quarterly progress reports and the annual report.

Our Capital Works investment will continue to be significant with more than \$39 million to be spent on building, renewing and maintaining our assets.

As an organisation we continue to be in a strong financial position to deliver the programs outlined in this plan and meet our ongoing commitment to our community.

Council continues to work hard to ensure that all of its services and infrastructure will contribute to achieving the aspirations and priorities of the community and, in doing so, this will contribute to the health and wellbeing of our community.

We do this in collaboration with you and our major partners and stakeholders.

As well as Council's objectives and actions, this document contains a thorough breakdown of Council's operational and capital works budget, aligning to the Long-Term Financial Plan.

Sustainability and resilience are key themes underpinning Council's direction and have also been embedded in Council's planning and budgeting process.

This plan is another step towards a more effective, efficient and inclusive organisation that is committed to listening to key stakeholders, planning effectively and making the best decisions for the future of our Shire.



Community engagement is how we reach out and encourage our community to talk with us about the plans, projects and policies we develop on their behalf.

Community engagement helps us make decisions; it builds relationships and trust; builds a sense of belonging; and keeps the community informed.

The feedback we receive from the community is considered along with legislation, policies, technical assessments, financial, environmental and social impacts.

We are committed to providing opportunities for everyone in our community to help us make informed decisions.

We look forward to finding new ways to connect and work with you.

Council is mindful that the Community Strategic Plan is the community's document and not a Council document, with the Wentworth Shire community being the most important external stakeholder to be considered by Council in its planning for the future.



“The Delivery Program is a statement of Council’s commitment to the community and is the single point of reference for all principal activities undertaken by the elected council during its term of office”

Three levels of government

Australia has three levels of government that work together to provide residents with the services that they need.

Each level of government is responsible for providing services and each level collect money through taxes, rates or charges to pay for those services.

Each level may be fully responsible for providing certain services, but often two or three levels of government share responsibility.

The three levels of government are demonstrated below.

FEDERAL Has broad national powers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defence• Bankruptcy & Insolvency• Trade & Commerce• Census & Statistics• Postal & Telecommunication Services• Quarantine• Foreign Policy• Taxation• Copyright• Immigration
STATE Has its own government and its own constitution, and has power to look after laws not covered by the federal government.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education• Health• Transport (Railways, Registrations, Highways & Public Transport)• Emergency Services• Public Housing• Utilities• Mining & Agriculture• Consumer Affairs• Prisons• Forests• Maritime
LOCAL Is responsible for providing services and infrastructure within its local area. Council responds to federal and state legislation and makes decisions based on identified community needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulatory Services• Urban & Regional Planning• Community Services & Facilities• Transport (Local & Regional Roads, Footpaths, Car Parking)• Recreation Facilities• Environment & Waste Management• Tourism (Promotion, Visitor Information Services)• Economic Development• Stormwater Drainage• Water & Waste Water

An aerial photograph of a wide river flowing through a landscape. The river is light brown and occupies the lower half of the image. The upper half shows a mix of green fields, dense forests, and some industrial or agricultural structures. The text is overlaid on the upper half.

Delivery Program 2022-2026

Strategies

How to read this plan

This diagram explains the key headings and terminology used in the following pages of this Plan.

STRATEGIES

These are the community's long-term priorities and aspirations for the Shire. They contribute to achieving the Shire's vision. Council has a custodial role in working towards realising these outcomes, however, is not wholly responsible for achieving them. Other partners, such as state agencies and community groups have an important role to play in achieving these strategies.



ECONOMIC

Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving region

OBJECTIVES

Provides specific focus points to achieve the community strategies.

ACTIONS

These are how we plan to achieve each objective. The Delivery Program & Operational Plan outline how the actions can be achieved.

ANNUAL ACTIONS

Actions that Council will undertake across each year of the Delivery Program that contribute to achieving the long-term objectives.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS

Actions that Council will undertake in a specific year(s) over the four (4) years of the Delivery Program. These are reviewed and updated annually.

OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

1.1- Promote the Shire as an ideal location for investment and the establishment of innovative, sustainable and diversified industries.

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for the local businesses on issues which further business and career opportunities for allSupport economic growth and expansion across the Shire through improvement of local infrastructure and the identification of land for commercial and/or industrial use
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Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Progress Actions from the Sustainable Wentworth StrategyProgress Actions from the Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020Progress Actions from the Buronga/Gol Gol Structure PlanProgress Actions from the Dareton Revitalised Strategy
------------------	--

1.2- Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination.

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide Visitor Information Centre ServicesPS Ruby OperationsContribute to the promotion of tourism in the Wentworth Region through the management of Willowbend Caravan ParkContinue to engage with and support the activities of Murray Regional Tourism, Destination NSW Riverina-Murray and Mildura Regional Development
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Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop promotional material to market the Shire as a conference and events destinationDevelop a Destination Management Plan/Tourism StrategyWillowbend Caravan Park RedevelopmentPromote investment in a variety of accommodation optionsFinalise development of a Shire Events Manual
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1.3 - High quality connectivity across the region.

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for the ongoing provision of quality transport and freight links
----------------	---

Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for improved region-wide internet and mobile phone connectivity
------------------	--

1.4 - Encourage lifelong learning opportunities.

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Undertake a program of activities and services that facilitate learning opportunities at Council's library servicesAdvocate for the development and provision of local education, training and lifelong learning opportunities
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Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Advocate for improved school services across the Wentworth Shire
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Our economy



ECONOMIC

Wentworth Shire is a vibrant, growing and thriving region

Community Outcome

We are a growing region with an expanding sense of opportunity, and we want to capitalise on those possibilities for the benefit of all.

Economic opportunities and partnerships facilitate growth of our local and regional economy, attracting investment to the region and fostering local business and employment.

You told us what you wanted

“

Major employment opportunities for businesses

Build other infrastructure and services to attract visitors to enhance the tourist experience

Make our riverfront a feature

Promote the natural attractions within the Shire

More riverfront attractions and improved wetlands and national parks

Completion of the Willow Bend Caravan Park as it's vital for tourism in the region

”

“

Bring tourist dollars to the town and the local community and business

Continuing to grow as it has over the last three years

Bigger and more developed with additional services

We need money spent here and not in Victoria

Larger population, more tourists

The vision must be for economic change to the community

”

OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS	
1.1– Promote the Shire as an ideal location for investment and the establishment of innovative, sustainable and diversified industries	
Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the local businesses on issues which further business and career opportunities for all • Ensure that land is suitably zoned, sized and located to facilitate a variety of development that is supported by strategic and affordable infrastructure
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, review and update Strategic Planning documents as required • Drought Resilience Plan
1.2– Promote the Wentworth Region as a desirable visitor and tourism destination	
Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Visitor Information Centre Services • PS Ruby Operations • Continue to engage with and support the activities of Murray Regional Tourism, Destination NSW Riverina-Murray, Mildura Regional Development and Wentworth Regional Tourism
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willowbend Caravan Park Redevelopment • Promote investment in a variety of accommodation options • Deliver a program of Community Events • Review PS Ruby Operational Model
1.3 – High quality connectivity across the region	
Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the ongoing provision of quality transport and freight links • Advocate for improved region-wide internet and mobile phone connectivity
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
1.4 – Encourage lifelong learning opportunities	
Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a program of activities and services that facilitate learning opportunities at Council's library services • Advocate for the development and provision of local education, training and lifelong learning opportunities • Advocate for improved school services across the Wentworth Shire
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

1.5 – Encourage and support initiatives that improve local employment opportunities	
Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote Wentworth Council as an employer of choice including offering apprenticeships and traineeships Identify opportunities to promote the benefits of employing people of all abilities and backgrounds
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

Council Services that will contribute to this Strategy

- Urban & Regional Planning
- Tourism & Economic Development
- Community
- Civic Governance
- Corporate Services



Our community



SOCIAL

Wentworth Shire is a great place to live

Community Outcome

We are committed to strengthening our diverse population by creating new opportunities for connection, creativity and inclusion by encouraging initiatives that strengthen our collective sense of self.

Social connectedness is a very strong indicator of perceived quality of life and happiness in a community. Council hopes, through the Delivery Program, to contribute to community connectedness in the Shire.

This will be reflected in the pride that residents have in telling people where they live, their good relationships with their neighbours, their participation in community life, how safe they feel, how much they volunteer, and of their sense of history and identity.

You told us what you wanted

“

Better access to healthcare services and facilities

Another school in Buronga or Gol Gol to accommodate growth in the area

More aged care facilities to accommodate our aging population

Stronger police presence

An enhanced events calendar so residents have more to do

”

“

Childcare facilities for families

Better communication and engagement with the community

Continued improvement of the Shire's presentation

More public artwork that improves Wentworth's presentation

”

OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS	
2.1 – Celebrate and continue to create opportunities for inclusion where all people feel welcome and participate in community life	
Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge and celebrate Seniors Week and International Day of People with Disabilities • Support the community to develop a range of community activities that focus on diversity, access, inclusion and capacity building • Actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of the local indigenous community • Identify opportunities to promote and celebrate Wentworth Shire as a welcoming and inclusive community
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
2.2 – Work together to solve a range of social and health issues that may impact community wellbeing and vulnerable people	
Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a program of activities and services that facilitate opportunities for vulnerable members of the community at Council's library services • Continue to collaborate with Government Agencies and other organisations to support the provision of health services across the Region • Advocate for the provision of social services that meet the needs of all our community including families, children, youth, people with disability and the aged • Promote and foster an accessible community that encourages access by people of all abilities. • Promote the benefits of healthy eating and an active lifestyle • Our buildings and spaces are designed to be inclusive and accessible to all community members
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement recommendations of the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan
2.3 – To have a safe community	
Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Public Health Function • Companion Animals & Buronga Pound Operations • Provide Building Compliance Function • In partnership with the RFS undertake hazard reduction works • Continue to engage with the Local Area Command on key community safety issues • Facilitate the Local Emergency Management Committee to ensure a co-ordinated approach by all agencies having responsibilities and functions in emergencies • In partnership with Transport for NSW continue to identify and resolve road and pedestrian safety issues
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement strategies to embed NSW Child Safe Standards across the organisation

2.4 – A well informed, supported and engaged community

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consistently communicate the role of Council to the community• Provide regular updates of Council's achievements, strategic objectives and actions utilising a variety of platforms and communication channels• Communicate funding opportunities available for the community
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A

2.5 – We have a strong sense of place

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain and update the amenity of the Shire to meet community expectations for clean and well-presented public spaces and townships
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake specific public spaces capital works projects

Council Services that will contribute to this Strategy

- Public Order
- Recreation
- Community
- Regulatory
- Corporate Services
- Civic Governance



Our environment



ENVIRONMENTAL

Wentworth Shire is a community that works to enhance and protect its physical and natural environment

Community Outcome

Creating liveable communities means striking a balance between activities that support infrastructure development and others that enhance our quality of life.

As custodians of this land for future generations, we have an obligation to treat the natural environment with care and to minimise human impact on the surrounding environment to ensure a sustainable and healthy community.

You told us what you wanted

“

Better planning for infrastructure to support growth

An environmentally sustainable Shire

Proper monitoring and management of projects to ensure timely progression and reporting

A better waste management system that incorporates recycling and green waste bins

”

“

More green spaces included in new developments

Better maintenance of Council assets and infrastructure

Stronger effort to protect our natural environment and waterways

Better water pressure and quality

”

OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

3.1 – Our planning decisions and controls ensure the community benefits from development

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver timely services for the assessment of Development Applications and planning proposals
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop, review and update Strategic Planning documents as required

3.2 – Ensure that community assets and public infrastructure are well maintained

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Tenure Program• Maintain transport network including Roads, Bridges and Footpaths• Maintain community facilities including halls, ovals, pools and other sporting facilities.
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritise and implement recommendations of Asset Management Plans

3.3 – Minimise the impact on the natural environment

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake actions identified in the Western Weeds Action Plan• Monitor and investigate Illegal Dumping Activities as required• Support the activities of the Murray Darling Association• Advocate for the sustainable management of the Darling-Baaka River and the Menindee Lakes
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote environmental activities for the community to participate in• Flood Plain Management Study

3.4 – Use and manage our resources wisely

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide best practice water, waste water and stormwater management infrastructure• Provide and promote resource recovery and recycling initiatives• Encourage businesses and the community to be socially and environmentally responsible
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify strategic partnerships in order to introduce cost-effective recycling and green waste collection services• Undertake a review of energy efficiency and the use of renewable resources across Council facilities and assets• Prioritise and implement recommendations of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan

3.5 – Infrastructure meets the needs of our growing Shire

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate to the Federal and State governments for adequate funding for the delivery of key projects and the provision of essential infrastructure for the Region• Plan for appropriate infrastructure and services that support current and future needs
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalise Civic Centre Redevelopment• Progress actions from the Buronga/Gol Gol Structure Plan• Undertake a review of current and future sporting needs within the Shire

Council Services that will contribute to this Strategy

- Water & Sewer
- Environment
- Public Order
- Urban & Regional Planning
- Transport
- Civic Governance
- Corporate Services
- Recreation
- Tourism/Economic Development



Our leadership



CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Wentworth Shire is supported by strong and ethical civil leadership with all activities conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Community Outcome

We are a responsible Council, committed to building strong relationships.

We value transparent and meaningful communication and use community feedback to drive strategic decision-making.

In order to operate a large organisation with a diverse range of services, a large portfolio of assets and a multitude of statutory requirements, Council must have a robust and well-managed governance framework and administration functions.

Council is committed to creating a well-managed and operated organisation that is equipped with the resources required to deliver effective services.

You told us what you wanted

“

A council that's in tune with the needs of the community

Transparency, honesty, integrity in the Council and its staff

A council that looks after all its constituents in a similar manner

A more diverse council to reflect the current Shire demographics

Good decision-making by all who are in charge of our future

”

“

More community boards to support local businesses

Inform the community and get community input

Staff who are capable and passionate about the area

Proactive councillors, those who can make a vision reality, and be willing to influence change

Broader community consultation

”

OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS

4.1 – Consistently engage and consult the whole community to ensure that feedback is captured and considered in an open, transparent and inclusive manner

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Undertake community engagement activities and provide opportunities for participation in decision making where appropriate, in-line with Council's adopted Community Engagement StrategyImplement actions outlined in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A

4.2 – A strong, responsible and representative government

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure that Council is accountable to the community, meets legislative requirements and supports the Councillors to undertake their civic responsibilitiesSupport Councillors to undertake ongoing professional development
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A

4.3 – An effective and efficient organisation

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engage the community on a regular basis to ensure that Council is providing services that deliver value for money and are relevant in meeting the changing needs of the communityStaff are supported to deliver high quality services to the communityEnsure the organisation is well led and managed through the implementation of Good Governance, Risk Management and Compliance Frameworks
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to monitor compliance with NSW Modern Slavery obligations

4.4 – Provide strong leadership and work in partnership to strategically plan for the future

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to support the work of the Wentworth Interagency GroupFoster strong partnerships with all levels of government, peak bodies, agencies and the communitySupport cultural, recreational and community interaction opportunities through the Financial Assistance Program
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A

4.5 – Adopt practices of prudent asset, financial and human resource management across Council to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency

Annual Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintain a strong financial position that supports the delivery of services and strategies and ensures long term financial sustainability• Provide accurate and timely financial reports, monthly, quarterly and annually• Be the best employer that we can be by attracting, developing and retaining skilled staff to ensure a capable and effective workforce• Implement actions outlined in the Workforce Management Plan• Implement sound asset management practices to ensure adequate provision is made for the maintenance and long-term replacement of Council's infrastructure assets
Specific Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review attraction and retention strategies

Council Services that will contribute to this Strategy

- All Council Services





Wentworth Shire Council

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