

Delivery Program Progress Report

January to June 2022



Cover Page and Back Page:

Boots n' Beats – Camden Council's Inaugural Country Music Festival

Images

The photographs featured have been obtained from many sources including professional photographers and Council officers. The illustrations used in this document were provided by children from the Camden LGA as part of Council's Children's Week Art Project.

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Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of publishing.

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Acknowledgement to Country

Council acknowledges the Dharawal people as the traditional custodians of this land and pays our respect to their Elders both past and present and the Aboriginal Community.

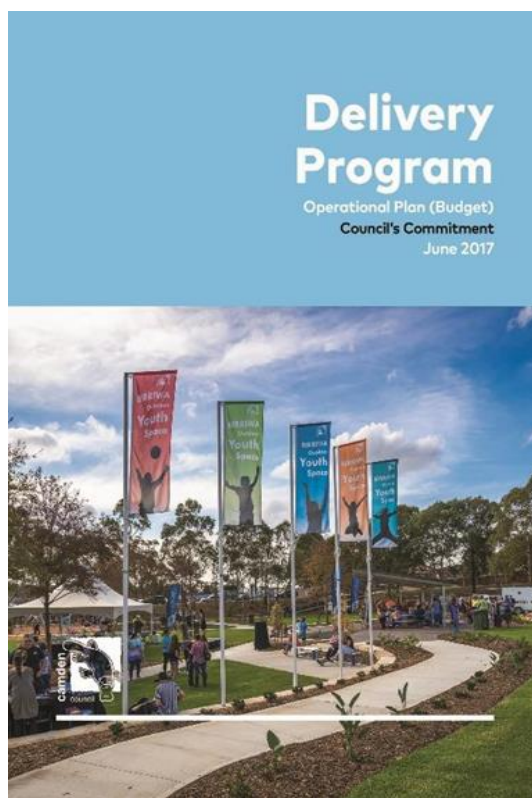
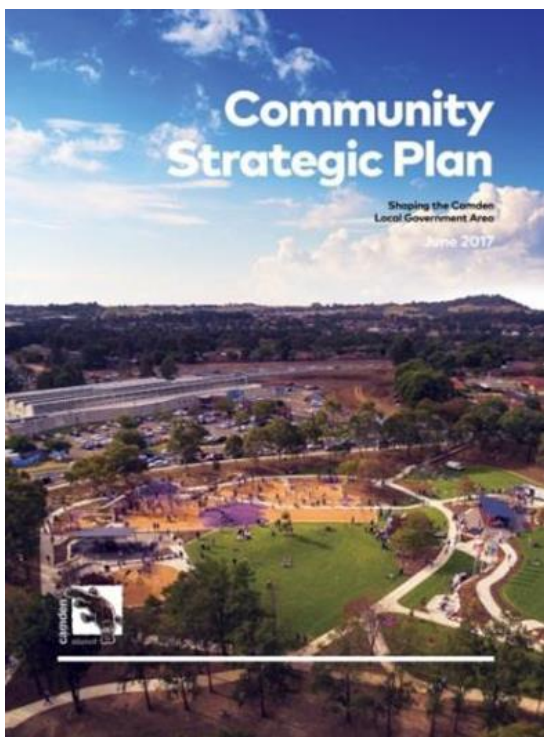
1. Council's Obligations

All councils across NSW commenced implementing the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) framework from 2013. This framework allows councils to draw various plans together and plan holistically for the future.

In accordance with the IPR framework, all councils are required to develop a Community Strategic Plan. The Community Strategic Plan provides a clear direction for the long-term community vision and is underpinned by the Delivery Program, Operational Plan (Budget) and Resourcing Strategy. Council reviews and develops the Community Strategic Plan, followed by preparation of Council's four-year Delivery Program, and determines appropriate methods to measure its progress.

The Delivery Program turns the strategies and objectives of the Community Strategic Plan into principal activities and identifies actions that Council commits to undertake over the next four years.

To help maintain focus for Council and provide feedback to the community, Council is required to prepare a six-monthly progress status on the adopted Delivery Program. In accordance with the [IPR framework](#), Camden Council has prepared, and adopted in June 2017, the following documents:



Camden Council actively monitors its progress in achieving the objectives stated in the Community Strategic Plan through the implementation of the Delivery Program under six Key Directions.

These six Key Directions are aligned with the four elements of the quadruple bottom line - Social, Environmental, Economic and Civic Leadership. These six Key Directions are:

1. Actively Managing Camden LGA's Growth
2. Healthy Urban and Natural Environment
3. A Prosperous Economy
4. Effective and Sustainable Transport
5. An Enriched and Connected Community
6. Strong Local Leadership

Council has 30 Local Services to assist in addressing the Key Directions with specific principal activities against the Community Strategic Plan's strategies.

The COVID-19 pandemic along with extreme weather events such as flooding has had a challenging impact on projects, programs, activities and services that Council would ordinarily provide to the community under normal circumstances.

Impacts can be seen in the progress status for the overall performance this reporting period – January to June 2022 under:






Key Direction 2 - Healthy Urban and Natural Environments;
Key Direction 4 - A Effective and Sustainable Transport;
Key Direction 5 – An Enriched and Connected Community; and
Key Direction 6 – Strong Local Leadership.

2. Executive Summary

The Delivery Program Progress Report January to June 2022, complies with the Delivery Program 2017/18 – 2020/22.

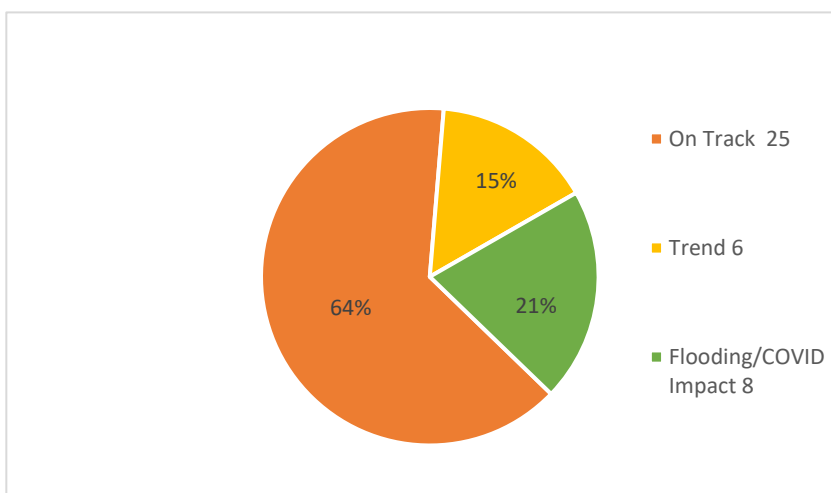
The report reflects Council’s six-month progress status against 39 performance indicators and provides information on how Council is progressing with its Delivery Program.

Each Key Direction has a set of individual performance indicators. Council utilises a rating scale to ensure consistency, accountability, and transparency, when assessing the status of each performance indicator under the six Key Directions and associated symbol descriptors. The rating scale is:




Rating Scale	Symbol	Description
“On Track”		When the ‘actual’ is either equal, less, or greater than the set target.
“Monitoring”		Corporate variance of $\pm 10\%$ applies to the set target and is considered achievable, feasible and realistic for performance improvement, with the exception of Legislative requirements.
“Needs Work”		When the ‘actual’ is either below or above the corporate variance
“Trend”		Shows a pattern of change data over time where setting a target is not possible
“Flooding/COVID Impact”		Deliverables impacted by a range of incidents including COVID-19 NSW Public Health guidelines and restrictions along with extreme weather events

A range of incidents has had a challenging influence on projects, programs, activities and services that Council would ordinarily provide to the community under normal circumstances. In recognition of this, an additional rating scale has been added for the reporting period, Flooding/COVID Impact.

Of the 39 Performance Indicators that were able to be delivered during the reporting period, 25 Indicators (64%) were assessed as ‘On Track’; 0 Indicators (0%) as ‘Needs Work’; 6 Indicators (15%) as ‘Trend’; 0 Indicator (0%) as ‘Monitoring’ and 8 indicators (21%) as Flooding/COVID Impact. In other words, $25 + 6 = 31$ of the performance indicators (79%) were assessed as “On Track” or “Trend” and are meeting the objectives set.



The table below provides a status update on the performance indicators under each Key Direction.

Key Direction	No. of Performance Indicators	Status				Trend	Flooding /COVID Impact
		On Track 	Monitor 	Needs Work 			
Actively Managing Camden LGA's Growth	4	4	0	0	0	0	
Healthy Urban and Natural Environment	12	7	0	0	3	2	
A Prosperous Economy	3	1	0	0	2	0	
Effective and Sustainable Transport	5	3	0	0	0	2	
An Enriched and Connected Community	8	5	0	0	0	3	
Strong Local Leadership	7	5	0	0	1	1	
TOTALS	39	25	0	0	6	8	

Section 3, 'Key Directions and Performance Indicator Status', provides progress comments and the status of each performance indicator along with an explanation of each Key Direction.

Section 4, 'Overall Progress Highlights' elaborates on a few of the projects Council has undertaken over the six-months (January to June 2022) that supports Council's commitment towards the Community Strategic Plan.

3. Key Directions and Performance Indicator Status

This section provides a narrative on outcomes that supports the Community Strategic Plan under each Key Direction and associated objectives. It provides progress comments and the status of each performance indicator along with an explanation of each Key Direction.

The diagram below shows the six Key Directions.





Key Direction 1 – Actively Managing Camden LGA’s Growth

Effectively managing growth, determined under the State Government’s Metropolitan Strategy and Western City District Plan (former South West District Plan), will be an important focus area for Council and its various partners.

The community of the Camden LGA does not want to lose the character that they so highly value - its rural setting, country town feel, and the lifestyle associated with these attributes; at the same time, it must cater for well-managed development. Achieving a balance between large population increases and keeping the valued heritage/rural characteristics of the Camden LGA will be an ongoing challenge with significant new opportunities in terms of infrastructure, services, employment, housing choices and economic benefit.




The community would like to see public transport, roads, infrastructure, parks and recreational facilities, and the effective management of development as major priorities for the Camden LGA.

1.1 Urban development is managed effectively

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Development assessments are completed in a timely fashion	✓	The median processing time (32 days) was within the target service level of 40 days. Council determined Development Applications to the value of \$421,757,925 during this six month period.
Construction certificates are provided in a timely fashion	✓	Building Construction Certificate processing timeframes continue to exceed target service levels. This result reflects the strong performance in building certification services provided by Council.
Developers Contribution Plans are developed and monitored in a timely manner	✓	Live tracking of Council's portfolio of Contribution Plans, including the Contributions Plan Restructure project and the Growth Areas Contribution Plan Amendment 3, has continued through this period. Formal reporting updates have been undertaken in accordance with agreed standards.

1.2 Rural land is adequately administered

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Rural Lands Strategy and associated Action Plan are delivered		<p>The actions of the Rural Lands Strategy continue to be monitored and implemented as opportunities arise. To support diversification of rural land uses and support rural tourism, Council has 'opted' to insert provisions into the Camden LEP for 'farm stay accommodation' and 'farm gate' premises. In addition, zones where 'agritourism' can be undertaken have also been identified.</p> <p>Council continues to assess Planning Proposals against the Rural Land Strategy rezoning criteria and continues to advocate for the protection of Camden's rural land outside of the South West Growth Area.</p> <p>It is noted that the Sydney Western City Planning Panel determined that the Tidapa Planning Proposal should not proceed for a Gateway Determination because the proposal has not demonstrated strategic merit. The Panels' decision is consistent with Council's decision to refuse the proposal.</p>

 On Track	4	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	0	 Flooding/COVID Impact	0
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Key Direction 2 – Healthy Urban and Natural Environments






The Camden LGA’s natural and built environment are the “setting” for all aspects of life and are essential for sustaining the health, well-being and prosperity of people who live here.




The natural environment encompasses all living and non- living things, occurring both naturally, and as a result of human activities. The built or urban environment is the human-made surroundings that provide the physical setting for human activity and enables private, economic and community life to function effectively and healthy.





2.1 Caring for urban and natural environment including heritage sites

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Waste diverted from landfill		<p>40.1% of all domestic waste collected during the reporting period has been diverted from landfill. Council is continuing to work with its waste processing contractor on new opportunities for diverting waste streams from landfill such as crushed glass and mattresses.</p> <p>Additionally, initiatives such as Recycle Smart, focuses on the harder to recycle waste streams such as soft plastics, clothes and e-waste.</p> <p>Council is now investigating the opportunity of implementing a Food Organics and Garden Organics service as part of its future waste processing contract in 2024 to increase waste diversion.</p>
Incidents of illegal dumping (observed by Council Officer)		<p>A total of 39 incidents of illegal dumping were identified and investigated as a result of proactive patrol services by Council officers. This was lower than the previous period due to continued COVID-19 restrictions at the start of the year.</p>

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Incidents of illegal dumping (advice from residents)		Council investigated a total of 410 incidents of illegal dumping (68 per month) due to resident reports. In an alliance with the Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad, Council is committed to continuing its strategic approach to combating illegal dumping within the region.
Companion animals are appropriately identified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs impounded at Councils Animal Care facility – 68 • Dogs seized by Council Rangers – 107 • Dogs returned to owners by Council Rangers – 62 • Dogs that were microchipped when entering Councils Animal Care Facility – 57 • Cats impounded at Councils Animal Care facility – 23 • Cats returned to their owner by Council Rangers – 0 • Cats that were microchipped when entering Councils Animal Care Facility – 4 <p>Council continues to work with the community to promote responsible pet ownership, including a subsidised desexing program, social media posts and a free microchipping and pet tag program.</p>
Monitor water quality in rivers and waterways		During the reporting period, lakes and waterways monitoring was undertaken across all sites on a monthly basis.
Number of initiatives promoted to reduce air pollution		Council continues to promote better practices for wood heater operations to help reduce air pollution through local media, Council's website and educational programs.
Number of complaints received regarding noise concerns		There was a total of 126 customer requests received in relation to noise during the reporting period, which is a decrease from the 176 received for the previous period. These complaints include noise from barking dogs, trail bikes, music and other sources. All complaints were investigated with appropriate compliance action taken where required.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Increase number of public amenities, recreation facilities, open space and parks		<p>Across the Camden Local Government Area there are 333 open spaces and reserves, 29 sports fields, 124 sites with play equipment, 37 sites with exercise equipment, 26 public amenities, 47 sports amenities and two swimming leisure centres. Additional facilities continue to be delivered via various mechanisms in line with population growth.</p>
Number of Sustainability community education programs conducted		<p>During the reporting period Council's scheduled sustainability education programs continued to be on target and implemented including the Bushcare workshop series and relaunch of the Macarthur SEED network.</p>
Number of community education activities conducted to promote heritage and historical sites across the Camden LGA		<p>Council continues to work with the Heritage Advisory Committee to progress initiatives that celebrate and promote heritage in the Camden LGA.</p> <p>Council, in conjunction with the Heritage Advisory Committee, have produced the draft Camden Material and Colour Guide. The purpose of the guide is to provide information on the built heritage of the region and to assist property owners of heritage buildings with practical tips on working with the specific materials and colour schemes traditionally used for heritage housing. The guide also provides information on Argyle and John Streets, Camden including advice for property owners to consider when proposing works to a heritage building.</p> <p>Another initiative of the Committee, the My Camden Stories, has now been embedded within the Heritage Items Map on the Camden Data Portal. This online map now allows the community to search and view existing heritage listed properties and locations across the Camden area in addition to historical stories submitted through the My Camden Stories campaign.</p> <p>Council continues to provide advice to landowners and applicants in responding to general enquires, pre-lodgement advice and the assessment of Development Applications and Planning Proposals.</p>

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Bushland under active management – number of volunteer bush care hours		Bushcare activities have been impacted by COVID-19 and adverse weather and flooding in this reporting period. However, volunteers contributed 180 hours, equivalent to 25.7 days.
Maintain biodiversity across Camden LGA		During the reporting period, Council actively maintained 54ha of natural areas including Kings Bush, Elizabeth Throsby Reserve, Harrington Forest and Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest in Spring Farm.

 On Track	7	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	3	 Flooding/COVID Impact	2
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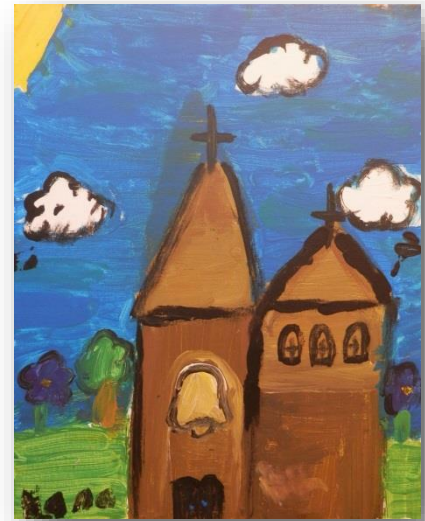
Key Direction 3 – A Prosperous Economy

Prosperity means that people have enough – that they are satisfied with their standard of living and have a balance between their financial and social well-being. Financial well-being relies on access to education, employment, housing, and a strong and diverse local economy.

A strong local economy for the Camden LGA is characterised by vibrant towns and commercial centres, thriving local businesses, stable and diverse employment opportunities, skilled local residents, infrastructure that supports economic growth, and a thriving tourist/visitor market.


The development of a strong local economy is essentially about developing an environment that supports a diversity of business and industry to invest, establish, grow and be sustainable over time.

The economic development and prosperity of the Camden LGA is linked with the broader South West Sydney region and much of the focus for the Camden LGA into the future will continue to be working with relevant partners on the development of a strong regional economy.



3.1 Tourism and economic development is supported

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Utilisation of the regional tourism website is increasing		The Macarthur website received 61,163 visits over the six months and Camden website 20,169, a total of page visits 81,332, an increase over the previous reporting period.
Monitor the visitation to the Tourism Information Centre		229 Visitors to the Visitor Information Centre in the January to June period. The visitor numbers continue to be low due to reduced travel in response to COVID-19 and flooding.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Increase in number of registered businesses operating within the Camden LGA		There is a total of 11,550 active and registered for GST businesses in the Camden LGA, an increase of 6.15% from the previous figure of 10,881 (source ABR), 669 new business registrations in the reporting period.

 On Track	1	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	2	 Flooding/COVID Impact	0
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Key Direction 4 – Effective and Sustainable Transport

Effective and sustainable transport underpins all aspects of an accessible and functioning place.

Transport impacts on the health of the natural environment as well as the health and well-being of people able to connect with their community and services. It impacts on the effectiveness and amenity of the urban environment, and on the viability and growth of the local and regional economy.

An accessible Camden LGA means that people are able to travel easily within their own local area and are well connected to the wider Macarthur and metropolitan regions.




Effective and sustainable transport for the Camden LGA would include:



- affordable, convenient and integrated public transport that is a viable choice over private vehicles;
- infrastructure that enables and encourages healthy forms of transport such as walking and cycling;
- safe and uncongested roads;
- support structures that enable public and private transport systems to operate effectively, including interchanges, traffic management and parking.

4.1 Integrated and safe transport system

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Successful completion of Black Spot funded projects		Cut Hill Road Shoulder Upgrade at Cobbitty is complete. The Narellan High Pedestrian Activity Area is underway (multi-year project). Federal Stimulus Road Safety Program substantially complete.
Number of transport options delivered through Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) and Bike Plan		Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) footpath program complete. PAMP program not fully complete due to storm events and remaining projects allocated to the next financial year 2022/2023 program.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of Road Education Programs conducted		<p>Over the past six months Council has coordinated seven road education programs working in partnership with local Police, TfNSW and community groups following a COVID-safe format.</p> <p>Programs undertaken are RBT Plan B Campaign, Drive 2 Stay Alive, School Safety Program, Slow Down, Choose Right Buckle Right, Graduated Licensing Scheme Workshops, Drives for Learners In Macarthur and Community Safety Plan. Council participation in Traffic Offenders programs has not recommenced since COVID-19.</p>

4.2 Road infrastructure and transport connections are effectively established

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Traffic Committee recommendations are actioned within the timeframe		During the reporting period 53 Traffic Committee recommendations were approved. 51 were actioned within two months of approval.
Road and traffic facility construction projects completed on-time and within budget.		The Road and Transport Renewal Program saw an average of 92% of programmed works completed (roads, bridges, carparks, footpaths). This included some items still in progress such as footpath renewals which were delayed due to flood recovery efforts.

 On Track	3	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	0	 Flooding/COVID Impact	2
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Key Direction 5 – An Enriched and Connected Community

An enriched and connected community involves arts and culture, community safety, healthy lifestyles and community health. In addition, the community is further enriched through learning, access to information, recreation and leisure to build social capital and cohesion.





These are all elements that lead to a community with high levels of well-being. This is usually characterised by connection, networks and support within the community; participation and ownership; equity and access; and democratic governance. Equity and access means that all people are able to access a variety of opportunities within a community, both social and economic, regardless of background, ability or circumstance.




Community well-being describes the state of satisfaction, contentment and fulfilment of needs experienced within a particular group of people.



5.1 Celebrating social diversity and cultural expression

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of programs delivered to various community groups including identified target groups		<p>A wide range of activities, programs and events have been held. Programs have been delivered online or in person. Online programs have been delivered where COVID-19 has impacted service delivery.</p> <p>Program delivery includes: Camden Interagency meetings, Cohesive Communities Reference Group meetings, Camden Community Access Reference Group, Camden Youth Council meetings, Camden Youth Network meetings, Youth Week, Camden Youth Joblink program, Julia Reserve programs, National Families Week, Paint the Town REaD, Camden Kids Support Portal, School Holiday Program delivery, Seniors Festival, Senior’s Reference Group meetings and programs, International Women’s Day, Café Connect, Refugee Week, Multicultural March, Harmony Week and the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.</p> <p>More recently, Flood Support Recovery coordination has been delivered in partnership with ResilienceNSW and other key agencies, responding to the flood emergency in the Camden LGA.</p>

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of arts/cultural events hosted across the Camden LGA		52 cultural activation events were conducted including street activation, live performance, art exhibitions, cultural celebrations and workshops were included in Council's programming for the period.
Increase number of participants in active recreational activities using Camden Memorial Pool (seasonal)		COVID-19 and flood events impacted operations severely with the attendances restricted due to public health order compliance and safety for the community.
Increase number of participants in active recreational activities using Mount Annan Leisure Centre (seasonal)		COVID-19 impacted operations with the facility managing patronage and attendances restricted due to NSW Public Health Order compliance and safety for the community. Rebuilding of the key area of 'Learn to Swim' was a focus during the reporting period.
Ratio of returning clients to new clients for hiring Camden Civic Centre		<p>5% of clientele are new to the venue, 95% having utilised the venue pre-COVID in either the same or similar capacity.</p> <p>As we move further out of COVID-19, and with many local venues impacted by floods, it is anticipated that a larger portion of clientele will be new to the venue.</p>

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of non- Council events hosted at the Camden Civic Centre		A total of 183 non-Council related community events were held during the reporting period. The venue remains at a lower usage level than prior to COVID-19 however it has increased since the previous period.

5.2 Opportunities for life-long learning

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of programs conducted at local libraries		100% of all scheduled library programs completed, with a total of 2,126 conducted. Libraries have continued to provide a diverse array of opportunities for the community including online and face to face programming.
Camden families have access to a quality Family Day Care service – hours of care provided		<p>There are currently 35 Educators affiliated with the service. Each week 133 hours of care are provided across the service to families in the area.</p> <p>The service has been impacted by COVID with lower numbers of educators providing care than pre-COVID. This trend is in keeping with the wider early education and care sector nationwide.</p>

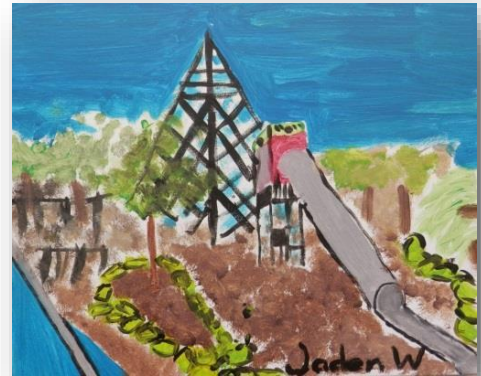
 On Track	5	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	0	 Flooding/COVID Impact	3
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Key Direction 6 – Strong Local Leadership

Strong local leadership means that the Camden LGA has strong organisations and individuals representing its interests, who are responsive to the community, and who are working together to achieve the community’s vision for the future.

Strong local leadership will be needed from all levels of government, as well as the private sector, non-government organisations, business, industry groups, and community organisations. Developing leaders within the community will place the Camden LGA in good stead for the years to come.




Camden Council, as the level of government in closest contact with the local community, has a particular role in the planning, advocacy, and delivery of good outcomes on behalf of the Camden community. This role is important as the Camden LGA faces massive urban and population growth, particularly in advocating for the delivery of major infrastructure provision, and in balancing the needs and desires of the current population with the pressures of growth.




Importantly, strong local leadership can influence the way that government engages with, and responds to, the local community needs and aspirations in decision making and planning process as well as delivering services.

6.1 Maintain strong partnerships and shared responsibilities with stakeholders

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of Community Small Grant Agreements		The total Grants program showcases Council's ability to make grants available within an equitable, accessible and transparent framework to a diverse group of new and emerging organisations. A total of 20 Community Small Grant Agreements were endorsed during this period.
Number of donations for charitable programs		A total of three donations for charitable purposes were provided during this period. The program focuses on the provision of one-off support to individuals and organisations outside of Council’s regular grants program, with applications accepted anytime throughout the year.
Number of annual subsidies extended to community organisations		This grant round is annual, and all eight subsidies were distributed. Grant round did not fall within this time period.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of community sponsorship programs supported		A total of six Community Sponsorship programs were supported during this reporting period.

6.2 Community and stakeholders are kept informed

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Maintain publication of regular Council information		Council continued to produce and disseminate regular publications and promotional material within set deadlines. These publications included: Let's Connect (two editions in the reporting period); Rates Notice brochures (two editions in the reporting period); Mayoral print and broadcast messages; media releases; Council's website; social media platforms; and flyers, documents and brochures designed.
Maintain Council's social media platform		Council continued to maintain a seven days a week social media coverage to report on weekend initiatives, improve community engagement, cover community events and ensure that online customer enquiries are answered promptly. Over the past six-months 717 Facebook posts were published, with followers increasing to 41,760 and Instagram has grown to 6,130.
Maintain Council's community engagement and communication practices		Council continued to communicate and engage with the community through a range of print media and its digital media platforms. Council continued to offer a seven day a week digital and social media service and uses these platforms/channels to provide updates to the community and promote Council services, initiatives, projects and events.

 On Track	5	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	1	 Flooding/COVID Impact	1
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4. Overall Progress Highlights

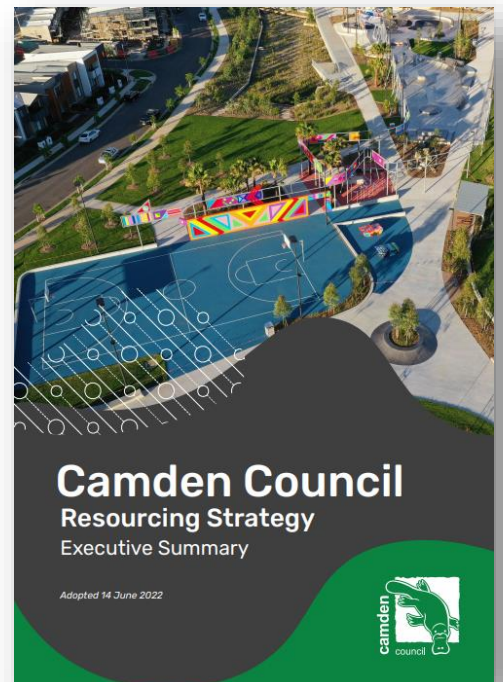
This section highlights a few of the projects, programs and services, Council has undertaken over the reporting period (January to June 2022) that supports Council's commitment towards the Community Strategic Plan.

Connecting Camden - Community Strategic Plan 2022-2036

Council adopted the *Connecting Camden – Community Strategic Plan 2022 – 2036* which will guide decision making by the elected Council, Council staff, the community and other partners and stakeholders.

It sets a vision to 2036 that draws from the community's priorities and aspirations. The Delivery Program, Operational Plan (Budget) and Resourcing Strategy helps Council to deliver the community outcomes - priorities and aspirations.

The Plan is part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework that all NSW councils use to plan for their Local Government area based on the expectations of their local community.



Camden Rebuilds - #CamdenStrong

Days of heavy rain and flooding impacted residents and businesses across the Camden LGA.

Council, with support from the community, SES, RFS, Police and Resilience NSW worked around the clock to assist and evacuate residents, manage road and bridge closures, clear debris, make emergency road repairs and keep the public informed of what was happening across the area.

Council hosted a flood relief information pop-up in Camden working alongside various agencies to help residents find support.

Council offered extra waste collections to those affected and set up a Flood Recovery Working Group to review and rectify assets such as facilities, playgrounds and sportsgrounds as well as provide communication to businesses, sporting clubs and community groups to ensure the safe return to these sites.



Your Voice Camden

Residents can engage and help to shape the Camden LGA with the launch of a new online portal – Your Voice Camden.

This online portal allows residents to share their thoughts on matters on exhibition and other topics, helping Council to make informed decisions on behalf of the community.

Some of the features of the new portal include:

- 24/7 access to ensure convenience of participation for more community members;
- privacy is protected and the discussion forums are moderated externally, independent of Council;
- ability to search matters by topic and suburb;
- online engagement activities such as surveys, polls, submission forms interactive maps, forums and storytelling; and
- the option to receive email alerts on topics of interest.

By signing up for a free account, residents can keep up to date with what's happening in the area and quickly participate in future consultations.

This is one method that Council is using to connect with the community.

For more information and to register go to [Home | Your Voice Camden \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)



Live Chat with Council

Council has taken customer service to a new level with a live chat function added to its website.

Residents are now able to speak to one of Council's Customer Relation team members while on its website, expanding a residents' option to ask a question from just over the phone, via email, Council app or via social media.



Council prides itself on providing an exceptional customer experience to residents and visitors on a daily basis and offering a live chat option gives residents another avenue to receive help from Council.

Live chat will be manned by Council's Customer Experience team during business hours between 8.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

For more information and to use the live chat option, go to www.camden.nsw.gov.au

Narellan Sports Hub Stage 2

Work on Stage 2 of the Narellan Sports Hub is now complete, providing further high quality sporting facilities to cater for the continued growth in the Camden LGA.

Stage 2 works included:

- 14 additional netball courts with floodlighting;
- synthetic athletics track including field and jump facilities, floodlighting, irrigation and drainage;
- an additional international size rugby league field including lighting, irrigation and drainage;
- an athletics administration/club building;
- additional 1550 car spaces in seven new carpark areas;
- internal road access;
- a criterion cycling track utilising the main circulation access road;
- road bridge and pedestrian bridge over the existing drainage corridor;
- large turfed multi-purpose sportsfield area;
- landscaping with a pedestrian and cycle path network; and
- major upgrade of the Porrende Street roundabout.



Oran Park Leisure Centre

A \$55M leisure centre will be constructed at Oran Park by Council, in partnership with Greenfields Development Company, and will be located on Central Avenue, next to the Oran Park Library and Council's administration building.

This development will be a significant addition to the precinct and is set to include:

- an indoor 50m swimming pool;
- leisure pool;
- learn to swim pool;
- spa and sauna;
- indoor basketball courts;
- gymnasium;
- café and creche facilities; and
- a basement carpark.

Construction has commenced with groundwork undertaken and will add to the range of state of the art sporting facilities for Oran Park and the wider Camden community.



Playground Shade Sails

Shade sails have been installed at playgrounds across the Camden area as part of Council's COVID-19 Community Support Package.

The playgrounds, which cater for a range of ages, will not only keep the equipment at a comfortable and safe temperature to play on, but will also reduce children's exposure to blistering heat and harmful UV rays.

Shade sails have been installed at:

1. Harrington Park Reserve, Harrington Park;
2. Manna Gum Reserve, Narellan Vale;
3. Caulfield Reserve, Currans Hill;
4. Bagnall Street Park, Gregory Hills;
5. Starke Street Park, Spring Farm;
6. Ancona Avenue Park, Spring Farm;
7. Blueberry Park, Elderslie;
8. Curry Reserve, Elderslie;
9. Greenfields Reserve, Narellan;
10. Merino Reserve, Elderslie;
11. Little Reserve, Camden;
12. Pindari Reserve, Camden;
13. Kings Bush, Camden;
14. Price Park, Emerald Hills;
15. Madden Street Park, Oran Park;
16. Olive Hill Park, Cobbitty;
17. Clifton Park, Cobbitty;
18. Grand Prix Park, Oran Park;
19. Hollywood Park, Oran Park;
20. Thomas Donovan Park, Gregory Hills;
21. Macarthur Park, Camden; and
22. Yandelora Reserve, Mount Annan.

The program of works was funded by Council and the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Eyes on the Road

In a joint initiative between Camden and Campbelltown Councils as well as the NSW Police Force – Macarthur Highway Patrol, a monthly road safety campaign was launched to highlight local road safety issues, increase road safety awareness and reduce road trauma.

Eyes on the Road, published the second Monday of the month on Camden's Facebook page and website, highlights local, timely and relevant road safety issues.

Past monthly Eyes on the Road topics can be viewed on Council's website.

Council has a long and proud working history with Macarthur Highway Patrol and Camden Police Area Command addressing community and road safety issues and facilitating a number of community programs including Logbook Runs for Learners, Drive to Stay Alive and graffiti education.



For more information visit Council's Facebook page or Council's website - [Eyes on the Road » Camden Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Installation of Electric Charging Stations

As part of Council's commitment to creating sustainable urban environments, electric vehicle charging stations are installed at four locations across the Camden LGA.

Dual 22 kilowatt three phase chargers have been installed at Oran Park Library, Narellan Library and the Oxley Street Camden carpark for use by the community.

These chargers provide 120km of driving range per hour of charge and have dedicated electric vehicle charging bays.



Council Introduces Electric Lawn Mower to its Fleet

Camden is one of the first local government organisations in Greater Sydney to introduce an electric commercial lawn mower to its fleet.

Quieter and cleaner, the electric mower is a better alternative to the traditional petrol-powered version and has seven to eight hours of continuous run time.

In addition to introducing an electric lawn mower to the fleet, Council is also undertaking a range of projects to help achieve Gold Partner recognition in the Sustainability Advantage Program and show our commitment to the NSW Governments 'Net Zero' plan including:

- installation of solar panels on suitable Council facilities;
- roll out of energy efficient street lighting in partnership with Endeavour Energy;
- undertaking an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and developing a Net Zero Strategy; and
- sourcing renewable energy for Council sites.



Boots n' Beats – Camden Country Music Festival

Council introduced a new free event with the Boots n' Beats – Camden Country Music Festival.

This event, at Camden Town Farm, was designed to boost spirits in the wake of Camden's devastating floods and was Council's way of saying thank you to the community for staying strong and supporting each other and local businesses and organisations through the COVID-19 pandemic.

The sale of hats and the Macarthur Lions sausage sizzle raised almost \$12,000 in funds towards the Camden flood relief effort and were distributed to three local charities Big Yellow Umbrella, Turning Point and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

Supporting local homegrown artists as well as featuring Shannon Noll and country superstar Adam Brand, attendees enjoyed a variety of food stalls, line dancing, pony rides, craft activities for kids, animal nursery, product stalls and roving entertainment.



Multicultural March

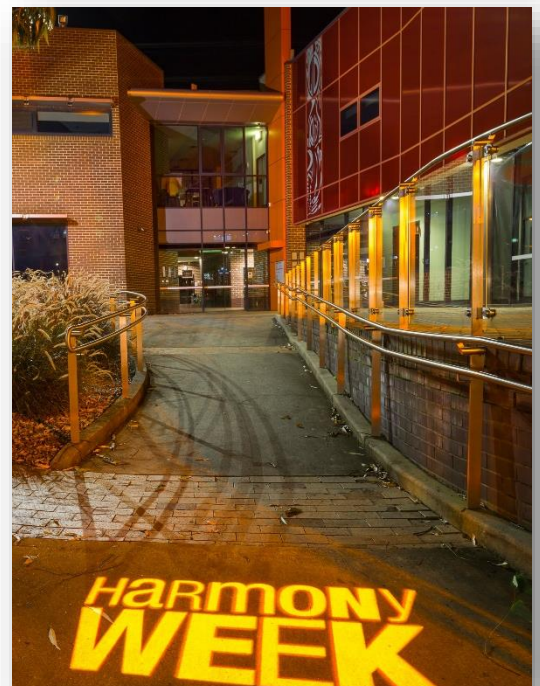
Camden residents identify with 113 different nationalities and come from 85 different countries.

Council acknowledges, promotes and supports cultural diversity in our local community and celebrated Multicultural March, including Harmony Week, with a program of events and activities recognising this year's theme 'Everyone Belongs'.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week with Camden Libraries lit in soft orange to represent social communication, meaningful conversations, freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

Council's Cohesive Communities Advisory Group supported activities and performances to showcase unique cultural demonstrations including art, music and dance through the Camden Culture Club.

The program included Multicultural Movie Night, Cultural Fashion Parade Online Photo Competition, Lights of Harmony Week, Camden Culture Club at Alan Baker Art Gallery, Citizenship Ceremony and Storytime sessions at the libraries.



Faces of Camden – Kerbside Exhibition

Following on from the success of Council's #camdenlive:Kerbside Exhibition last year, the Faces of Camden returned to provide a colourful streetscape through the Camden Town Centre.

This activation provides the opportunity for creatives to enliven public spaces to celebrate and engage with the community.

Artworks were featured on guard rails, planter boxes, bus shelters and various locations along Argyle, Mitchell, Murray and Oxley Streets.

This exhibition provided an opportunity for visitors and locals to admire the talents of the Camden community.



Camden Seniors Week

Council focusses on providing people over the age of 60 with the best opportunities to participate and engage in a range of activities.

As part of its ongoing commitment to seniors, Council, in partnership with Meals on Wheels, YMCA, The PIT (Professional Instructional Tuition) Martial Arts Defence and Fitness Centre and the Camden Seniors Program Committee offered a week of activities in health, wellbeing, art, reading and music.

The Seniors Charm Festival, with the theme 'Reconnect', promotes building inclusive communities and provided an opportunity for seniors to try new things, contribute and remain active and engaged in their local communities.

Council offered free events and low cost activities including:

- a virtual senior's concert featuring four acts;
- nine fitness and relaxation classes including Chair Yoga, 50+ Active Senior classes and Pryme Movers classes;
- Three art classes at Alan Baker Art Gallery;
- Two book author talks from bestselling authors, Sue Williams and Nicole Alexander;
- Free pool entry at Mount Annan Leisure Centre;
- Camden Women's Coffee Club;
- Tech Savvy Seniors Program; and
- Navigating the My Aged Care System.

Council Hosts Camden Career Expo

Council hosted its first ever Careers Expo to connect high school students and job seekers with information, and employment and service providers in the Camden LGA.

The Careers Expo presented a program of information, workshops and training by various exhibitors.

Delivered in partnership with the Regional Industry Education Partnerships, the event allowed attendees to engage and enhance their knowledge moving into the workforce, explore upskilling and professional development opportunities, along with those who were looking for a career change.

The Careers Expo supports Council's recently adopted Economic Development Strategy 2022 – 2026 which identifies four strategic directions to support and enhance the Camden economy such as strengthening education, training and career pathways, with priorities that include working with stakeholders to deliver education, training and career pathway programs.



Council Actively Seeks Funding for the Community

Council actively seeks grant funding to help deliver projects and initiatives to the community.

Camden is receiving a \$700,000 injection to help deliver two projects.

Council officially received \$500,000 in the second round of the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces grant, administered by the Department of Planning and Environment.

This funding will help deliver the Larkin Place Activation Pilot, which will see the location become a more flexible, safe and shared public space with increased commercial and social activity.

The pilot program, identified through the third stage of Council's COVID-19 Community Support Package, will also help accommodate small-to-medium scale events, while remaining a parking space.

A further \$200,000 was also accepted from Sydney Water, to complete hydrological and vegetation surveys on the Narellan Creek Water Quality Management System.

Larkin Place was already used as an event space for the very first Winterfest in 2019, and this funding will help Council further establish the site for multi-use.

The hydrological and vegetation surveys on Narellan Creek will allow Council to identify how we can improve water quality.

Council accepted \$180,000 in funding to support three local programs to assist the Camden community.

The funding and grants will assist Council in setting up programs, including:

- \$120,000 in funding from the Department of Planning and Environment to assist with precinct planning for the South West Growth Area;
- \$50,000 under the NSW Government's Greener Neighbourhoods Grant program to develop the Camden Urban Forest Strategy 2023-33; and
- \$10,000 under the NSW Weeds Action Program 2020-25 to control Kidney Leaf Mud Plantain (*Heteranthera reniformis*) in Ellis Lane.

Council was successful in receiving funding to benefit local young people and pet owners including:

- \$50,000 to set up the Camden Youth Joblink Program, as part of the NSW Government's Local Youth Opportunities Program; and
- \$18,000 to install solar powered lighting at dog off-leash areas in Arcadian Hills, Oran Park, Emerald Hills and from the Federal Government's Stronger Communities Program.

5 Conclusion

The Camden Local Government Area (LGA) is one of fastest growing area in Australia, and Council continues to adapt and evolve in response to the changing expectations that come with growing communities.

The four-year Delivery Program 2017/18 to 2020/22 is Council's commitment to the community as part of the Community Strategic Plan suite of documents. Council, via 30 local services, will continue to deliver, innovate and collaborate in achieving the best outcomes and services for our community.

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) legislation, the Community Strategic Plan is reviewed and updated by each new Council following its election.

Council at its meeting dated 14 June 2022 adopted the Connecting Camden - Community Strategic Plan 2022-2036 along with a new Delivery Program 2022-2026, Operational Plan (Budget) 2022-2023 and Resourcing Strategy.

The next reporting period for the new Delivery Program 2022 - 2026 is July to December 2022.

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