

# Delivery Program Progress Report

January to June 2020

**Cover Page and Back Page:**

Julia Reserve Youth Precinct, Oran Park

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*Please note the information contained within this Report relates to activities undertaken during the period January to June 2020*

## ***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.*



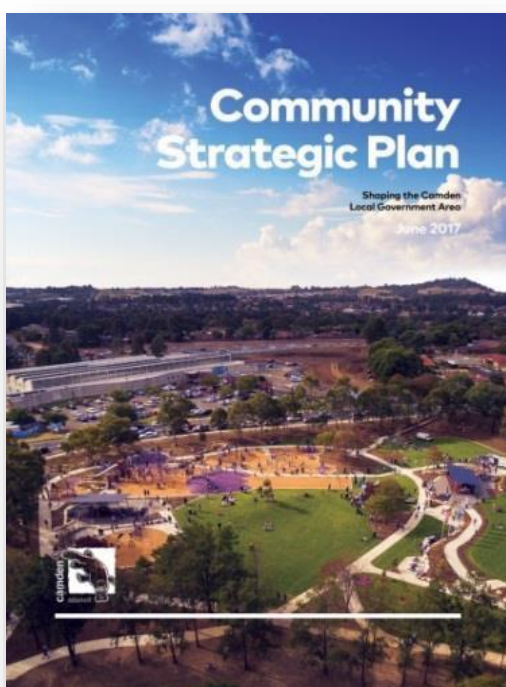
## 1. Council's Obligations

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.

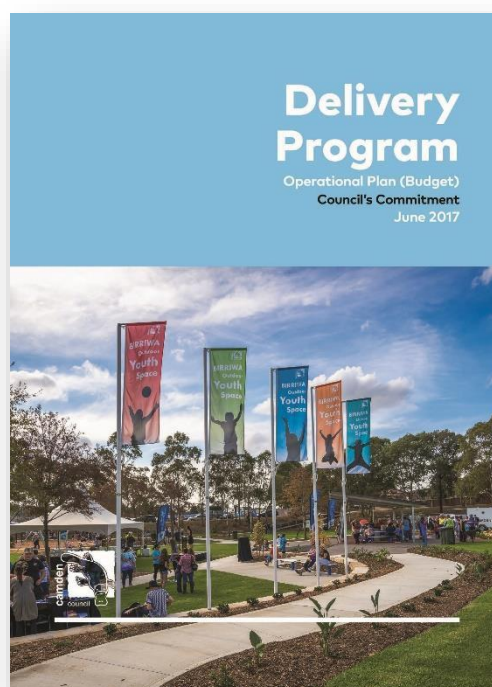
In accordance with the IPR framework, all councils are required to develop a Community Strategic Plan. The Community Strategic Plan provides a clear direction for the long-term community vision and is underpinned by the Delivery Program, Operational Plan (Budget) and Resourcing Strategy. Council reviews 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 four-year Delivery Program. In accordance with the [IPR framework](#), Camden Council has prepared, and adopted in June 2017, the following documents:



[Community Strategic Plan](#)



[Delivery Program and Operational Plan \(Budget\)](#)

A suite of documents relating to the [IPR framework](#), are available on Council's website

[www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)

**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 has had a dramatic impact on activities and services Council would ordinarily provide to the community under normal circumstances.**

**Impacts can be seen in the progress status under Key Direction 2, 4 and 5, and the overall performance status for this reporting period - January to June 2020.**





## 2. Executive Summary

This Delivery Program Progress Report January to June 2020, complies with the adopted four-year Delivery Program 2017/18 – 2020/21 for this Council term.

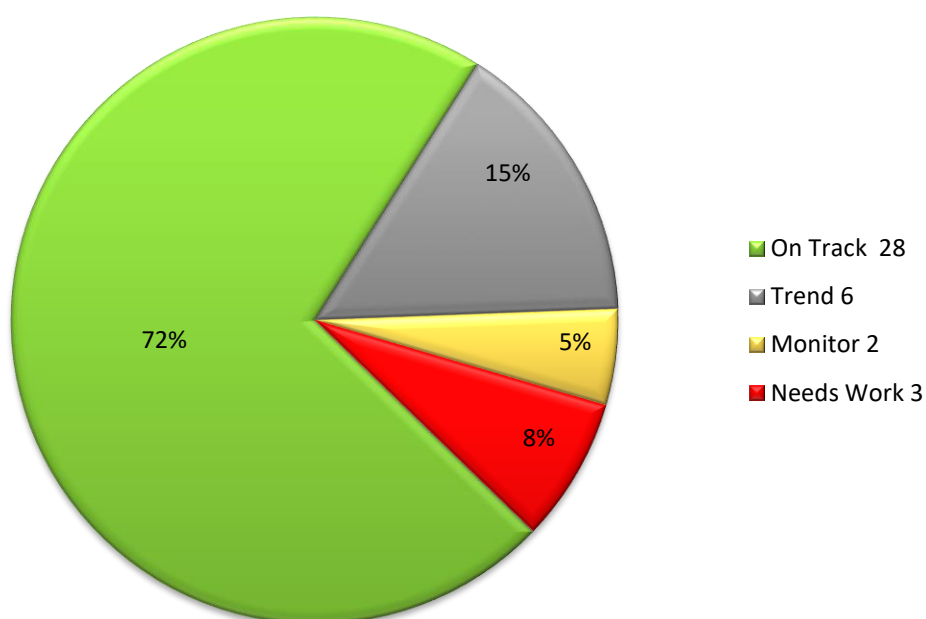
The report reflects Council’s six-month progress status against 39 performance indicators and provides information on how Council is progressing with its Delivery Program.

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:





**Table 1**

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

Below is the six-monthly progress summary of Council’s overall performance for the months January to June 2020 reporting period against 39 Performance Indicators.



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

Key Direction	No. of Performance Indicators	Status			
		On Track 	Monitoring 	Needs Work 	Trend 
Actively Managing Camden LGA's Growth	4	4	0	0	0
Healthy Urban and Natural Environment	12	8	0	1	3
A Prosperous Economy	3	1	0	0	2
Effective and Sustainable Transport	5	3	1	1	0
An Enriched and Connected Community	8	6	1	1	0
Strong Local Leadership	7	6	0	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>

In brief of the 39 Performance Indicators, 28 Indicators (72%) were assessed as 'On Track'; 3 Indicator (8%) as 'Needs Work'; 6 Indicators (15%) as 'Trend' and there were 2 Indicators (5%) as 'Monitoring'. In other words, 28 + 6 = 34 of the 39 performance indicators (87%) were assessed as 'On Track' or 'Trend' and are meeting the objectives set.

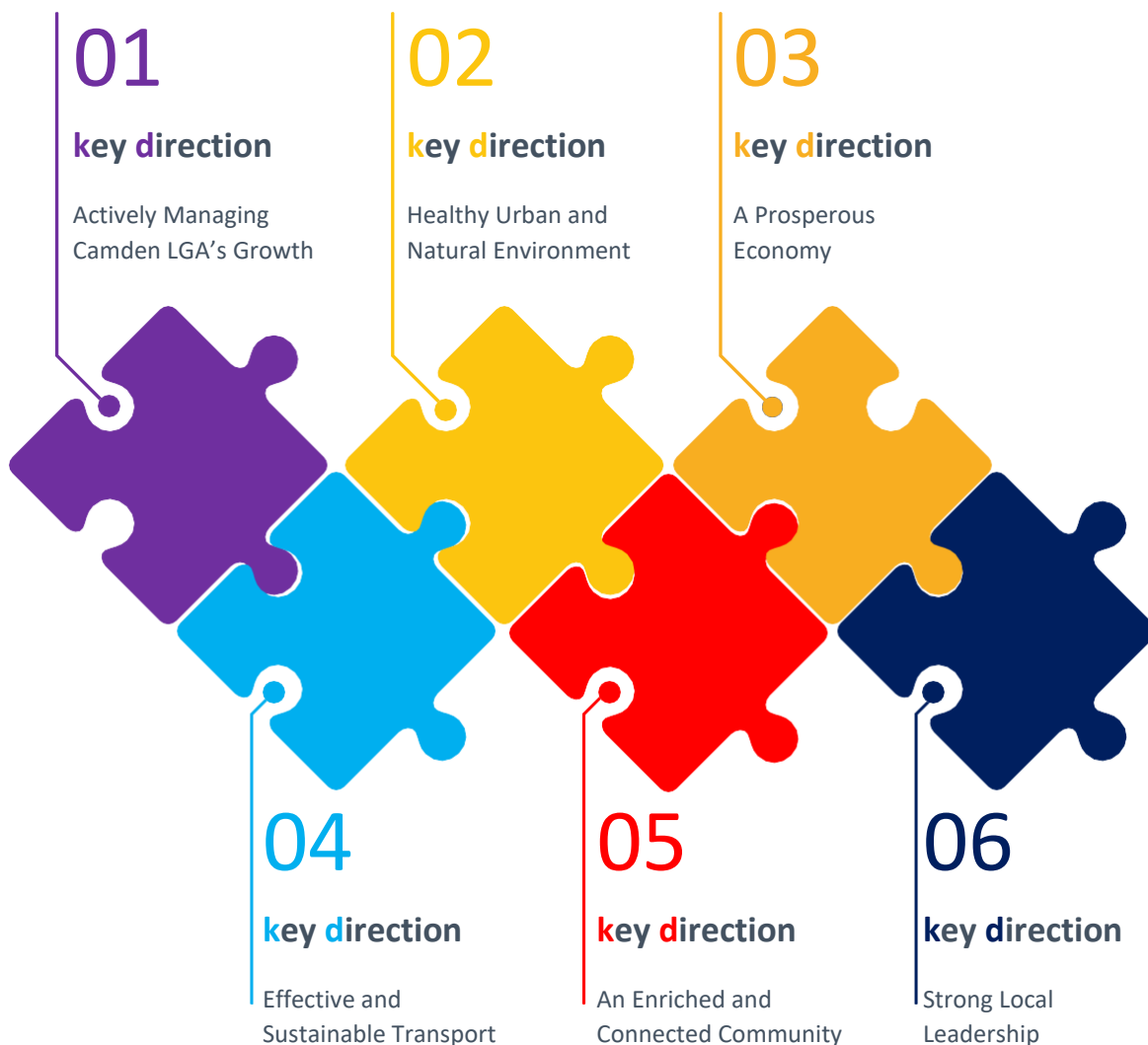
Section 3, 'Key Directions and Performance Indicator Status', provides progress comments and the status of each performance indicator along with an explanation of each Key Direction.

Section 4, 'Overall Progress Highlights' elaborates on a few of the projects Council has undertaken over the six-months (January to June 2020) 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 (29 days) was within the target service level of 40 days. Council determined Development Applications to the value of \$478,714,168 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.
Developers Contribution Plans are developed and monitored in a timely manner	✓	The first six-monthly review on the performance of Council's Contribution Plans has been completed and shows a satisfactory performance both financially and from a delivery perspective.  A new policy to inform the administration of Council's Contributions Plans is currently being developed and will be in force first half of the 20/21 Financial Year.

## 1.2 Rural land is adequately administered

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Rural Lands Strategy and associated Action Plan are delivered		Initiatives undertaken to progress actions of the RLS include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adoption of the Camden Local Strategic Planning Statement in March 2020 that includes a priority to protect Camden’s rural land (Local Priority S3);</li> <li>• the placement of Stage 1 Local Environment Plan (LEP) Review Planning Proposal on public exhibition that enables non-agricultural land uses (including tourism-related uses) only where they are compatible with the agricultural, environmental and conservation values of the land;</li> <li>• the commencement of the Camden Visual and Scenic Landscapes Study that may inform future amendments to the Camden LEP 2010 and Camden Development Control Plan 2019.</li> </ul>

 <b>On Track</b>	<b>4</b>	 <b>Needs Work</b>	<b>0</b>	 <b>Monitoring</b>	<b>0</b>	 <b>Trend</b>	<b>0</b>
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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		With limited local end markets for the receipt of processed recyclables and the impending ban on exporting waste and recycling, it is becoming more difficult for processors to increase diversion rates. This is further impacted by limited options for the processing of red bin waste, resulting in the overall diversion rate remaining low now and into the foreseeable future.
Incidents of illegal dumping (observed by Council Officer)		A total of 172 incidents (29 per month) of illegal dumping were identified and investigated as a result of proactive patrol services by Council Officers.
Incidents of illegal dumping (advice from residents)		Council investigated a total of 316 incidents of illegal dumping (53 per month) as a result of resident reports.
Companion animals are appropriately identified		Data unavailable at the time of reporting. Councils are advised that the Companion Animals Register is continuing to undergo urgent maintenance and upgrading work and this website remains unavailable to councils. The OLG is planning a staged return of Register functionality and will continue to work with councils to minimise the impacts of the temporary shutdown of the Register.
Monitor water quality in rivers and waterways		During the reporting period, lakes and waterways monitoring was undertaken across all sites on a monthly basis. While seasonal changes influenced results, high nutrients, in particular nitrogen, were consistently high. Blue-green algae testing during

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
		the summer months were also indicating a high growth of algae in the lakes, in particular Harrington Park Lake.
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.  In January, air quality was significantly impacted by bushfire smoke. Information regarding the bushfires was shared on Council's social media.
Number of complaints received regarding noise concerns		There were a total 127 of customer requests received in relation to noise during the reporting period, which is a slight increase to the 124 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.
Increase number of public amenities, recreation facilities, open space and park		Across the Camden Local Government Area there are 301 open spaces and reserves, 22 sports fields, 94 sites with play equipment, 18 sites with exercise equipment, 18 public amenities, 39 sports amenities and 2 swimming leisure centres.
Bushland under active management – number of volunteer bush care hours		Volunteers contributed 114 hours in the reporting period, with a total of 16 days. Due to COVID-19, Bushcare activities have not been held since March.
Maintain biodiversity across Camden LGA		During the reporting period, Council actively maintained 54ha of natural areas. This includes an additional area within the Camden Town Farm to restore native vegetation along the Nepean River.
Number of Sustainability community education programs conducted		During the reporting period, Council's scheduled sustainability education programs were moved to an online delivery mode due to COVID-19. This included Solar Webinars and Biodiversity Education materials and the Creature Features competition.
Number of community education		Council's Heritage Advisory Committee and Council officers continue to explore initiatives to promote heritage across the LGA.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
activities conducted to promote heritage and historical sites across the Camden LGA		In addition, on-going advice was provided to applicants relating to works proposed to heritage items through Development Applications and Development Application exemption requests for minor works to a heritage item; responded to 30 Development Application Referrals, 6 Development Application exemption requests for minor works, and 16 customer enquiries

 On Track	8	 Needs Work	1	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	3
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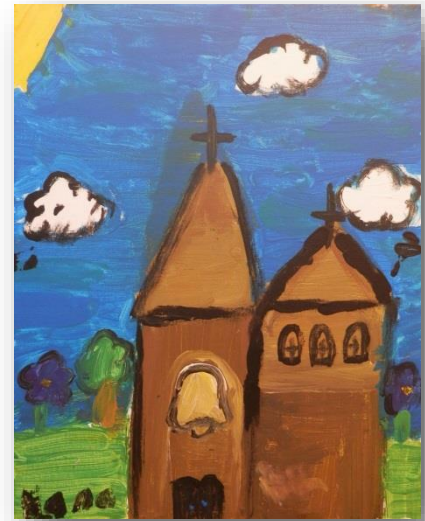
## Key Direction 3 – A Prosperous Economy

**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, as well as through the Camden Regional Economic Taskforce (CRET) and the Macarthur Regional Organisation of Councils (MACROC), 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 Visit Camden website has received 17,160 visits during this period.  The Macarthur tourism website received 48,397 visits during this period.
Monitor the visitation to the Tourism Information Centre		The Visitor Information Centre received 22 phone calls (down 83%), 35 emails (down 40%) and 298 walk ins (down 69%). Numbers have decreased significantly due to the closure of the Centre in response to the COVID-19 pandemic from 20 March 2020 and is ongoing.  There has been a significant decrease in visitation due to NSW Health Order restrictions and social distancing measures in place. Many popular events, including the Camden Show, that encourage visitation to the area have been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Increase in number of registered businesses operating within the Camden LGA		There is a total of 9,210 active and registered for GST businesses in the Camden LGA, an increase of 5.2% from the previous figure of 8,752. (Source - ABR)

 <b>On Track</b>	<b>1</b>	 <b>Needs Work</b>	<b>0</b>	 <b>Monitoring</b>	<b>0</b>	 <b>Trend</b>	<b>2</b>
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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		Works are completed at Barsden Street / Broughton Street. Work has been delayed at Holdsworth Drive due to a large adjacent development which impacted on Council's construction activities and would have required reworks if the infrastructure as planned were installed. An important "slow down" flashing warning sign was installed nonetheless which was a significant component of this project.
Number of transport options delivered through Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP) and Bike Plan		During the six-month reporting period, under the PAMP and Bike Plan programs, footpaths were completed in Queen Street, Somerset Avenue, Camden Valley Way, Alisma Road, Munday Place, Adriana Street, Doncaster Avenue, Clinton Drive, Gardiner Street and Camden View Drive. Refuge islands have been completed on Richardson Road.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of Road Education Programs conducted		Over the past six-months Council has coordinated four road education programs working in partnership with local Police, RMS and community groups on the following road education programs: School Safety Program, Slow Down, Community Safety Plan and Traffic Offenders Program. Due to COVID-19 it has not been possible to run other programs.

#### 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 42 Traffic Committee recommendations were approved. These were all actioned within the set timeframes.
Road and traffic facility construction projects completed on-time and within budget.		<p>The Project Management Framework continues to improve outcomes with 90% of roads and traffic projects due for delivery within the reporting period delivered on time and budget.</p> <p>When considering these reporting areas individually, 91% of these projects were completed on time and 95% of projects completed on budget.</p>

 On Track	3	 Needs Work	1	 Monitoring	1	 Trend	0
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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 and events have been held. Many of these were moved from face to face provision to online due to COVID-19. These included Camden Interagency meetings, Cohesive Communities Advisory Group meetings, Youth Council Meetings, Youth Week program, Youth Survey, National Families Week program, Skateboarding Titles, Call Connect Program, MATEY Project and Julia Reserve opening.</p> <p>Cancelled or postponed activities included Seniors Program Committee meetings, Seniors Bus Trip, Seniors Autumn lunch and Access Community Advisory Group meetings.</p>
Number of arts/cultural events hosted across the Camden LGA		<p>Cultural development for the period included 27 About Face Art Group workshops, Holiday workshops x 3, National Production x 1, Writers Programs x 2, Artist Networks x 1, Yesterday Stories Program and Business Week Program.</p> <p>Within the Alan Baker Art Gallery an additional 40 programs were delivered including children's workshops, history walks, life drawing classes and adult programs.</p>



Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Increase number of participants in active recreational activities using Camden Memorial Pool (seasonal)		A number of factors including bushfires, air quality and COVID-19, contributed to a lower total of 25,384 participants attending Camden Memorial compared to the same time last year. However, this total still exceeded the target of 20,000 participants attending for seasonal fitness and/or swimming activities.
Increase number of participants in active recreational activities using Mount Annan Leisure Centre (seasonal)		<p>During the reporting period, 164,696 participants participated in gym, fitness and/or swimming activities within the Mount Annan Leisure Centre.</p> <p>This is significantly less than the target the same time last year (approx. 107,225) due to a number of factors including bushfires, air quality, significant rainfall and COVID-19. It is noted that the Centre was closed from mid-March until the end of the reporting period due to COVID-19 restrictions.</p>
Ratio of returning clients to new clients for hiring Camden Civic Centre		1:10 ratio new to returning clients. 93% of clients returning to the venue.
Number of non-Council events hosted at the Camden Civic Centre		During the reporting period 203 bookings were received, this brings the yearly total to 935.

## 5.2 Opportunities for life-long learning

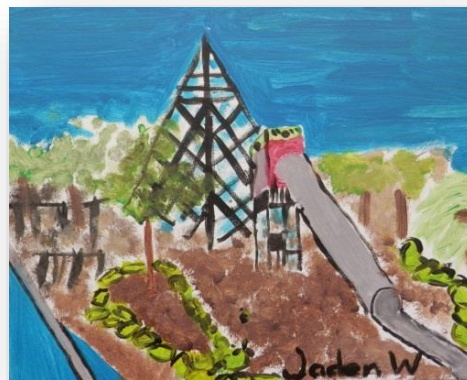
Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of programs conducted at local libraries		A total of 1,164 programs were conducted at Council libraries during this period including children's, youth, adult, community learning, local studies and exhibitions as well as HSC programs
Camden families have access to a quality Family Day Care service – hours of care provided		Utilisation rate has been slightly lower due to COVID-19. This impacted family's utilisation of care and the hours of care available in February to June 2020.

 <b>On Track</b>	<b>6</b>	 <b>Needs Work</b>	<b>1</b>	 <b>Monitoring</b>	<b>1</b>	 <b>Trend</b>	<b>0</b>
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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		This Grant round is annual and held in the first quarter each financial year. Grant round did not fall within the current time period.
Number of donations for charitable programs		A total of eight donations for Charitable Purposes were provided, five for local not-for-profit groups and three special achievers.
Number of annual subsidies extended to community organisations		This Grant round is annual, and all subsidies were distributed. Grant round did not fall within this time period.
Number of community sponsorship programs supported		This round of Community Sponsorship saw 13 organisations/events approved for funding (part or full funding). Six approved events were cancelled due to COVID-19. A total of 27 applications were received.

## 6.2 Community and stakeholders are kept informed

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Maintain publication of regular Council information		Due to COVID-19 a higher volume of publications were produced during this period to ensure residents stayed informed to changes to Council services or delays. Additional brochures and documents were also distributed to ensure all necessary information was provided to the community. Regular publications including Let's Connect and Rates Notice were still delivered during this period, with the team disseminating to our residents through a number of channels and platforms.
Maintain Council's social media platform		Council continues to maintain a seven day a week social media coverage to report on weekend events, improve community engagement and ensure that customer enquiries are answered promptly. Over the past six-months, 499 Facebook posts were published with a total reach of more than 4.5 million, and with followers increasing to 26,421. Instagram has grown to 3,103 followers, 237 posts published during this reporting period.
Maintain Council's community engagement and communication practices		Council's community engagement increased drastically during this period due to the impact that COVID-19 has had on the organisations service delivery. While many services weren't able to operate or had to change how they were delivered it required a higher level of communication with the community. Social media posting and engagement increased, and the branch had to produce and distribute a high volume of signage across the LGA to support residents with the challenges of COVID-19 and isolation. Additionally, the Public Affairs team also continued to promote other Council services, projects and initiatives during this time through social media, website, local media, radio and metropolitan media.

 On Track	6	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	1
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## 4. Overall Progress Highlights

This section elaborates on a few of the projects Council has undertaken over the six-months (January to June 2020), that supports Council's commitment towards the Community Strategic Plan.

### **Bushfire Support**

Earlier this year many communities were ravaged by bushfires, during one of our country's most horrific natural disasters.

During the fire crisis, Council offered support to affected neighbouring Council areas by:

- providing Local Emergency Management support through the Green Wattle Creek Bushfire emergency
- setting up the Bicentennial Equestrian Park as an animal and people evacuation centre
- setting up Narellan Family, Children and Community Centre as an interim evacuation centre for affected people
- Council staff and equipment on standby to assist if required

As a result, Council was awarded the 2020 Supportive Employer Special Commendation Award from NSWRFSA.

To further support those affected by the bushfires, Council donated:

- \$2,000 to each of the six local NSW Rural Fire Service brigades being Camden West, Catherine Field, Cobbitty, Menangle, Leppington and Narellan
- \$5,000 to the Sydney University Bushfire Emergency Veterinary Appeal to assist with injured animals from the fire
- \$5,000 to the Balmoral Recovery Centre through the Picton District Country Women's Association

Council also offered ongoing support and assistance through the recovery process to Wollondilly Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council.





## Julia Reserve Youth Precinct, Oran Park

Oran Park's Julia Reserve Youth Precinct has been awarded for its architectural excellence at the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects Awards.

The youth facility is home to Camden's second skate park and the 5.2-hectare park is a much-needed sport and recreation hub for young people in the area.

The new state-of-the-art youth facility and Community Centre, Julia Reserve Youth Precinct, includes:

- a multi-dimensional skate park
- parkour zone
- multi-purpose courts
- multi-purpose activity rooms
- community office spaces

In addition to the unique central artwork and parkour zone, the precinct also contains a community centre, basketball court, ping pong tables and a kick-about space.





## **BMX Facility**

The \$1.6M first stage of the BMX Facility is now complete and will provide a venue and training facility for all levels of BMX racing.

Stage 1 consisted of:

- a five-metre start hill
- access ramps
- main racetrack
- timing and scoring system
- landscaping

Council has now secured an additional \$2.79M from the NSW Government's 2019/20 Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund to cover Stage 2 construction.

Stage 2 will include:

- an eight-metre start hill,
- off-road spring area
- recreation jump park and pump park, shared car-parking
- additional landscaping



### Floating Wetlands – Harrington Park Lake

Water quality is set to improve at Harrington Park Lake Wetlands after Council successfully secured funding of \$20,000 from the Australian Government's Communities Environment Program to install a floating wetland in an upstream water body.

The program supports small scale, community led environmental projects that address local priorities.

Harrington Park Lake unfortunately experiences blue-green algal blooms as a result of nutrients in the water from local run off.



Installing a floating wetland in a waterbody upstream of the Lake will help improve water quality by removing nutrients and sediments from stormwater entering Harrington Park Lake and ensure its long-term viability.

### Harrington Forest – Cumberland Plain Woodland to be Restored

Harrington Forest's Cumberland Plain Woodland is set to be restored after Council successfully secured funding of \$20,000 from the Australian Government's Communities Environment Program 2019/2020.

The aim of the project is to restore, enhance and protect the critically endangered ecological community, Cumberland Plain Woodland within Harrington Forest.

This project will deliver both positive environmental and social outcomes with plans in place to host citizen science activities at Harrington Forest.

The works include:

- removal of woody weeds throughout the five-hectare project site
- citizen science activities with the Bushcare group to install ten nest boxes for native birds and mammals within the restored site

Restoration of the site will be completed through primary and secondary weed treatment throughout the site.





## Spring Farm Community Centre

The construction of the new Spring Farm Community Centre is now complete and open for use.

This modern, functional community space is ideal for use by residents and a wide range of organisations and can be used to host meetings, playgroups, community activities, dance, fitness, art classes, birthdays, engagements, weddings and christenings.

The facility offers a large hall with a mirrored wall, seated capacity for 130 people, a PA system and large kitchen. A second smaller hall offers a generous capacity for 80 people seated, a kitchenette, access to a furniture storage area and projector.



## MATEY Project Increasing Community Interaction

Council introduced the Matching Aged To Engaging Youngsters (MATEY) project as a pilot program over an eight-week period.

The MATEY pilot project connected aged care facilities and seniors group residents with local children from pre-schools and childcare centres through craft, stories, pictures, mail and online technology.

The program aimed to:

- reduce social isolation
- create connections across generations
- establish ongoing relationships between aged care and seniors' groups and childcare centres into the future

Eleven childcare centres and eleven seniors' groups from four aged care facilities signed on to take part in the initiative, which included introducing themselves through drawing a picture through to organising a face to face conversation via Zoom.

Council continues to promote inclusion and wellbeing that supports children and older people to remain engaged and active and build sustainable partnerships and initiatives throughout and beyond the MATEY pilot project.

## Australia Day Celebrations

Australia Day provided an opportunity for the local community to get together.

A wide range of community and civic activities were held throughout the day, including a Citizenship Ceremony where 50 people became Australian citizens.

The event was also celebrated with thousands of people enjoying the Macarthur Lions street parade.

Taking pride of place at the front of the parade were Rural Fire Service volunteers and Fire and Rescue NSW personnel who were greeted with loud cheers and a round of applause.



Council also unveiled a new waste truck adorned with images of local firefighters, staff and volunteers to thank them for their service.



## Australia Day Civic Awards

The Camden LGA's top volunteers, organisations and athletes were celebrated during this year's Australia Day Civic Awards and Citizenship Ceremony.

The Australia Day Civic Awards Ceremony recognised individuals and organisations that had made outstanding contributions to our community.

This year's Citizen of the Year was renowned local photographer Brett Atkins. Mr Atkins was honoured for his work within the community and for his volunteer work with Camden West and Menangle Park RFS brigades.

The full list of winners are:

- **Citizen of the Year**  
Brett Atkins
- **Young Citizen of the Year**  
Rebecca Halcomb
- **Arts and Cultural Award**  
Gaylene Feld
- **Sports Achievement Award**  
Lily Hreszczuk
- **Community Group of the Year**  
Macarthur Lions Club  
Turning Point



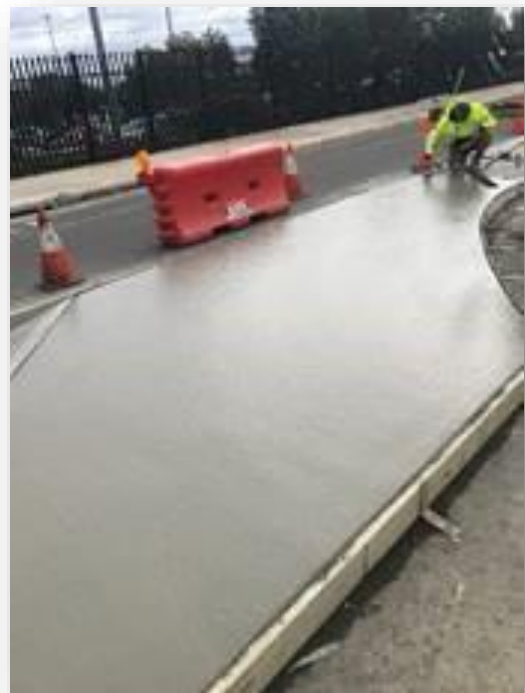
## Community Infrastructure Linked

Work on completing missing infrastructure links across the Camden area is underway, with construction at one location and designs completed at another five.

The projects involve the construction of footpaths in missing sections as well as crossings and shared paths to further enhance community facilities.

They include:

- **Bates Reserve, Elderslie**  
construction of a shared path including tree planting and turfing
- **Springs Road, Spring Farm**  
construction of footpaths in missing sections, crossings, construction of bus shelters, street planting, turfing and roundabout landscaping
- **Lodges Road, Elderslie**  
construction of a shared path, crossings in median islands, construction on bus shelters, street planting, turfing and footpaths in missing sections
- **Liz Kernohan Drive, Elderslie**  
construction of footpath, shared path, street planting and turfing
- **Downes Reserve, Currans Hill**  
construction of a shared path, tree planting, turfing and bollard placement
- **Throsby Reserve, Currans Hill**  
construction of a footpath



## Accessibility for All

Curry Reserve Water Play Space is the first fully accessible and accredited public toilet and adult change facility in the Macarthur region.

Camden is the fifth council in the State to receive a Changing Places Australia accreditation in a public space.

Its accreditation means the facility is certified to cater for users with high support needs and their carers, where additional space, assistance and specialised equipment are required to allow them to use amenities safely and comfortably.

The facility is wheelchair-accessible and includes a tracking adult hoist system, full-sized adjustable change table, new toilet and shower and change room amenities.

Camden is the only council in the Sydney region to offer free Master Lock Access Keys (MLAK) for this public facility to eligible residents. The MLAK system is an innovative one that enables people with disability to have 24/7 access to accessible public facilities. Council is also the only council in Australia to offer an innovative pin pad code system for its facility.



## Narellan Urban Forest

Residents are now able to enjoy Narellan Urban Forest at all hours with Council completing upgrade works to the area.

The playground, located next to Narellan Library, had become a popular location for local youth leading to Council and local police working together to improve the environment.



Improvements works recently completed include:

- increased lighting
- channel works
- vegetation improvements
- installation of a footpath from Narellan Library carpark to the Library forecourt
- associated lighting and vegetation improvements around footpaths

The \$235,000 project was funded through the Australian Government's Safer Communities Fund.

## **Planning for Future Sport and Recreation**

Council is committed to providing residents with the highest quality sport and recreation facilities that will cater for the growing needs of the community.

Residents will benefit from joint funding of \$15M from the Australian and NSW Government to go towards three sport and recreation facilities in the area.

The funding, coupled with more than an \$11M contribution from Council, will provide the Camden LGA with three state of the art sporting facilities.

The funding will be utilised towards the development for Stage 2 of the Narellan Sports Hub, Stage 1 of the Fergusons Land Premier Cricket Facility and Camden's first synthetic football field at Nott Oval, Narellan.

The three projects will include:

### **Stage 2 - Narellan Sports Hub**

- construction of 14 additional netball courts
- a dedicated athletics facility (with an eight lane 400m synthetic track, two ten lane 100m sprint tracks, shot put circle, three high jumps, javelin, a hammer/discus cage and four long jump/triple jump pits)
- extended rugby league field
- 1.5km walking and cycling track floodlighting
- internal roadways and additional parking

### **Stage 1 - Fergusons Land Premier Cricket Facility**

- a 6-turf wicket cricket oval
- five cricket training nets
- irrigation system
- amenities with changerooms
- storage facility
- car parking for 50 vehicles

### **Nott Oval Synthetic Football Field**

- new synthetic football pitch
- upgrade to the existing parking facilities
- field marking to accommodate winter and summer competitions
- reserve bench booths
- landscaping
- fencing and footpath works

The funding is part of the Western Parkland City Liveability program and is a key commitment of the Western Sydney City Deal.

## Resilience and Adaptability Demonstrated in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

### \$16.8 Million COVID-19 Community Support Package

In March 2020, all Australians were asked to quickly adapt the way they live and work on a scale not previously imagined.



Like other towns and cities around the world, our community has felt the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The wellbeing of the community and staff were the highest priority.

To support and assist residents and local businesses in these unprecedented times, Council developed a support package, totaling \$16.8M. Council implemented this package to help as many people as possible.

#### **Community Support Package (COVID-19)**

The package has three stages to be rolled out over a six-month period. Stage One, commenced in April and included:

- The reimbursement of payments to Council and relaxation of cancellation policies for community groups and individuals using Council's facilities, spaces and services.
- A digital portal for support information and services for community and businesses adversely effected by COVID-19;
- Digital media campaigns to support local businesses and to boost positivity in the community;
- Council staff members volunteering at Lifeline;
- Digital and contactless home delivery of library programs and services for Camden residents who used to attend regular programming and vulnerable groups needing social engagement.

Stage Two commenced from 30 April 2020 and included:

- Rate relief for all rateable properties, with \$4M committed.
  - Provide a one-off \$100 rate rebate for the 2020/21 rating year for all rateable properties within the Camden area;
  - Waive the interest due on overdue rate notices for residents experiencing hardship for a period of up to 12 months;
  - Remove red tape and requirement for a hardship application.
- A \$350,000 commitment to freeze increases to domestic waste charges;
- Business grants, with \$350,000 committed thus far. These grants include:
  - Quick Response Grants of up to \$2,000 for businesses struggling to meet their short-term operational commitments;
  - Digital Adaptation and Innovation Grants of up to \$15,000 for small businesses who are trying to pivot their operations in response to COVID-19;
  - Community Response Grants of up to \$15,000 for organisations and not for profit organisations providing on-the-ground services to Camden residents;

- A \$320,000 commitment to a six-month waiver of some non-statutory fees for business and residents using Council services;
- Businesses, currently leasing Council facilities, with an annual income of up to \$50M, will receive a 50 per cent reduction in rent, with \$180,000 committed thus far;
- A commitment of an additional \$11.4M to accelerate the delivery of a number of infrastructure projects from the 2020/21 Capital Works Program, to be completed by 31 December 2020;
- Altering Council's procurement process to introduce a Local Preference Policy and a Local Vendor Panel;
- The digital delivery of Alan Baker Art Gallery programs and exhibition.

Stage Three, or the recovery phase of the package, will be tailored, as the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on the Camden community becomes clearer. It will include a mix of major projects, events, grants and financial support for business and community groups.

*(This information relates to activities undertaken during the period January to June 2020 - correct at time of writing)*

### **Local Business Support Expanded**

Local businesses and suppliers will now receive preference under Council's revised purchasing and procurement policy.

**Business Support**

The introduction of both the Local Supplier Marketplace in Vendor Panel and a local supplier initiative in Council's Purchasing and Procurement Policy will serve to support local business during and after the current economic climate created by COVID-19.

The policy includes:

- Vendor Panel (Local Supplier Marketplace) and Request for Quotes – A system capable of geo-locating local suppliers and their service/product categories;
- Tenders and Local Preference initiatives - providing preference to local suppliers by including a weighting benefit towards suppliers within the Camden LGA. The weighting would be included as part of the assessment criteria for all tenders and request for quotes over \$100,000; and
- Small Business Friendly Program (On Time Payment Policy) - applies to businesses with a turnover of less than \$2M. The business must be registered as a small business with Council, with the payment of invoices for small business within 20 days.

### **Council's COVID-19 Management and Recovery Plan**

Work, health and safety will always be of the highest priority and Council incorporated new ways of working safely, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and remain COVIDsafe.

With change comes opportunity and for many Council services and functions a rethink was necessary in response to COVID-19.



The availability of council's services to the community was daily updated via its website and social media platforms. Also included was a range of information from Federal and State Government authorities and associated websites such as NSW Health.

Council established a Crisis Management Team and Incident Response Group to ensure that the wellbeing of all customers, community and staff was maintained, from both operational and administrative services.

**Crisis Management Team  
COVID-19 and Incident  
Response Group**

Despite changes to Council's service delivery, the successful implementation of the business continuity plans meant that essential services such as waste, customer relations, construction and maintenance services continued to run.

Council closely monitored information from NSW Health and the State Emergency Operations Centre and implemented measures to ensure that the essential services provided by Council continued to be provided while minimising risks associated with COVID-19.

**Recovery Working Group**

Council established a Recovery Working Group, with a strong focus on how Council will Re-think, Re-Cover, Re-Set as an organisation.

Council plans to build on what has been learnt to enhance the way Council operates and delivers services into the future by incorporating new ways of working safely to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and remain COVIDsafe.

Given Council's strong financial position going into COVID-19 the organisation remains committed to delivering its services as part of the broader range of community support and will continue to advocate and provide direct support where it is most needed.





## 5 Conclusion

The Camden Local Government Area (LGA) is the 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 2020/21 is Council's commitment to the community. Council, via 30 local services, will continue to implement, innovate, collaborate and work hard to achieve in delivering the best outcomes and services for our community.

The next reporting period is July to December 2020.



### Images

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



### Next Reporting Period

The next reporting period for the Delivery Program Progress Report will be July to December 2020.

### For further information contact

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