



PIP and PAWS

looking after cats and dogs



Delivery Program Progress Report

January to June 2021

Cover Page and Back Page:

2021 Paws in the Park event.

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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Disclaimer

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.

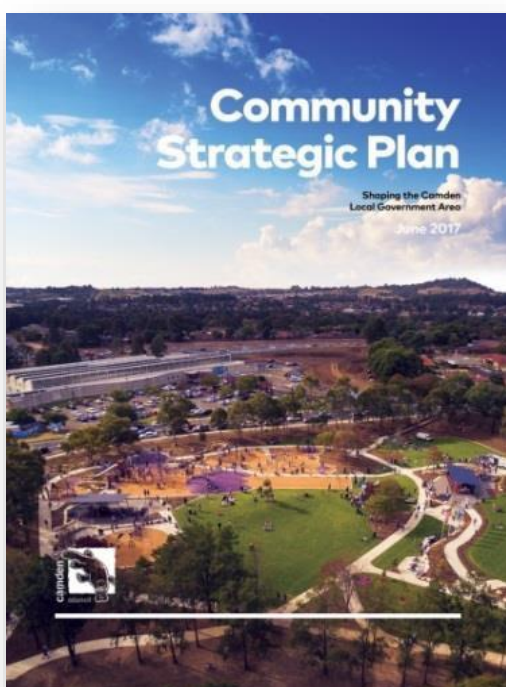
1. Council's Obligations

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.

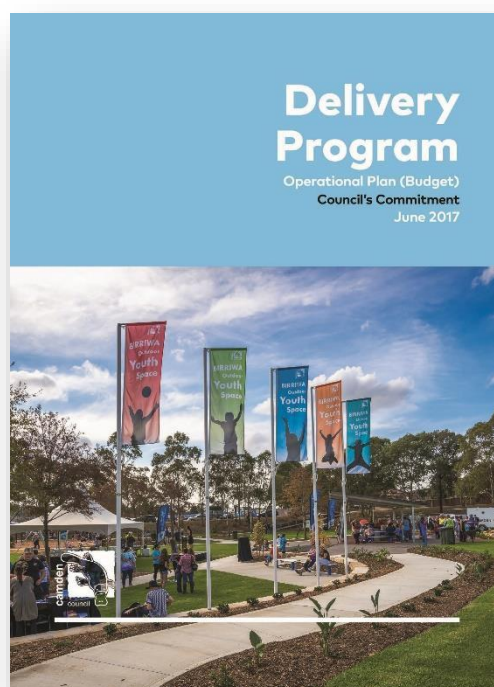
In accordance with the IPR framework, all councils are required to develop a Community Strategic Plan. The Community Strategic Plan provides a clear direction for the long-term community vision and is underpinned by the Delivery Program, Operational Plan (Budget) and Resourcing Strategy. Council reviews 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:



[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

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 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 under Key Direction 5 – *An Enriched and Connected Community*, in relation to the usage of the Camden Civic Centre and Family Day Care and the overall performance status for this reporting period – January to June 2021.






2. Executive Summary

This Delivery Program Progress Report January to June 2021, complies with the adopted 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.

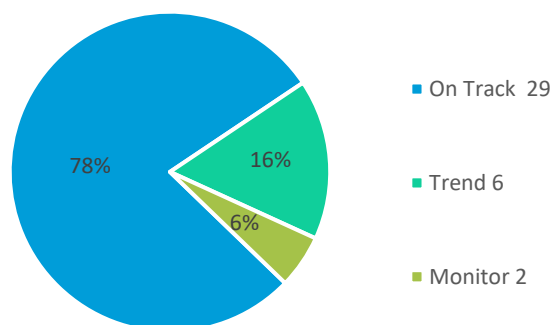
Each Key Direction has a set of individual performance indicators. Council utilises a rating scale to ensure consistency, accountability, and transparency, when assessing the status of each performance indicator under the six Key Directions and associated symbol descriptors. The rating scale is:

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
“COVID Impact”		Deliverables impacted by COVID-19 NSW Public Health guidelines and restrictions

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a challenging impact 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, with two performance indicators noted as impacted by the pandemic.

In brief, of the 39 Performance Indicators that were able to be delivered during the reporting period, 29 Indicators (78%) were assessed as ‘On Track’; 0 Indicators (0%) as ‘Needs Work’; 6 Indicators (16%) as ‘Trend’; 2 Indicators (6%) as ‘Monitoring’.



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

Key Direction	No. of Performance Indicators	Status				COVID Impact
		On Track 	Monitoring 	Needs Work 	Trend 	
Actively Managing Camden LGA's Growth	4	4	0	0	0	0
Healthy Urban and Natural Environment	12	8	1	0	3	0
A Prosperous Economy	3	1	0	0	2	0
Effective and Sustainable Transport	5	4	1	0	0	0
An Enriched and Connected Community	8	6	0	0	0	2
Strong Local Leadership	7	6	0	0	1	0
TOTALS	39	29	2	0	6	2

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 2021) 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 (22 days) was within the target service level of 40 days. Council determined Development Applications to the value of \$702,743,941 during this six-month period.
Construction certificates are provided in a timely fashion	✓	Building Construction Certificate processing timeframes (5 days) continued to exceed target service levels of 28 days. 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 has continued and been reported to Council’s Development Contributions Management Committee monthly and Executive Leadership Group bi-annually. Data used for the live tracking of Developer Contribution Plans will inform the Contributions Planning software project, the planning for which has just commenced with Council’s Information Technology branch.

1.2 Rural land is adequately administered

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Rural Lands Strategy and associated Action Plan are delivered		<p>The Stage 1 Local Environment Plan (LEP) Review Planning Proposal seeks to enable non-agricultural land uses (including tourism-related uses) where they are compatible with the agricultural, environmental and conservation values of the land. The Planning Proposal was finalised in February 2021.</p> <p>Council continues to participate in the Sydney Peri Urban Network of Councils (SPUN). SPUN aims to deliver on the goals outlined in the Greater Sydney Region Plan and Western City District Plans to protect and enhance rural land and to be a leader and advocate for a solution-focused approach to peri-urban issues.</p> <p>In March 2021, Council endorsed a submission to the NSW Agriculture Commissioner on an Agricultural Land Use Planning Strategy Options Paper. The submission identified where there is consistency between the Options Paper and Council's Rural Lands Strategy. Council's submission supports the scope of the options to be expanded to support and enhance agricultural production and rural economies.</p>

 On Track	4	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	0	 COVID Impacted	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		Waste Diversion from landfill has continued to fall as opportunities to recycle or divert waste from being sent to landfill are currently limited. Council's waste processing contractor is investigating new markets for recycled products, however there are limited onshore options. With the Federal ban on waste exports now in effect, new local markets are emerging.
Incidents of illegal dumping (observed by Council Officer)		A total of 194 incidents (32 per month) of illegal dumping were identified and investigated as a result of proactive patrol services by Council Officers. This is a decrease of incidents from the previous period. With Council joining the Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad it will further strengthen its strategic approach to combating illegal dumping within the region.
Incidents of illegal dumping (advice from residents)		Council investigated a total of 404 incidents of illegal dumping (67 per month) as a result of resident reports. This result reflects community awareness to report incidents of illegal dumping and being proactive within their community.
Companion animals are appropriately identified		<p>77 dogs were impounded at Council's Animal Care Facility with 48 microchipped. Rangers returned 85 dogs to their owner instead of transferring to the facility.</p> <p>Five cats were impounded at Council's Animal Care Facility with nil microchipped. Rangers returned one cat to their owner instead of transferring to the Animal Care Facility.</p> <p>Council continues to work with the community to promote and encourage responsible pet ownership, including a free desexing program, education and promotional activity.</p>

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
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 the summer months were also indicating a high growth of algae in the lakes, in particular Harrington Park Lake and Lake Yandel'ora.
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 were a total 222 of customer requests received in relation to noise during the reporting period, which is an increase to the 147 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 322 open spaces and reserves, 27 sports fields, 109 sites with play equipment, 30 sites with exercise equipment, 25 public amenities, 47 sports amenities and 2 swimming leisure centres.
Bushland under active management – number of volunteer bush care hours		With the relaunch of Bushcare following COVID-19, volunteers contributed 644 hours in the reporting period, with a total of 92 days.
Maintain biodiversity across Camden LGA		During the reporting period, Council actively maintained 54ha of natural areas including regenerating Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest in Spring Farm.
Number of Sustainability community education programs conducted		During the reporting period, Council's scheduled sustainability education programs continued to be on target. Due to COVID-19, initiatives were delivered online including the Connect with Nature, Harrington Forest Nest Box Trail and Waterway Walks.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of community education activities conducted to promote heritage and historical sites across the Camden LGA		<p>Council's Heritage Advisory Committee ran a 'My Camden Story' social media campaign over the 2020/21 festive season, asking residents to uncover their untold stories behind Camden's rich and diverse history. The initial video about the project received three comments, 20 shares and 2,300 views. Five submissions have been received, with work underway to publish the stories on the Camden Library website.</p> <p>In addition, on-going advice was provided to applicants relating to works proposed to heritage items through DA's and DA exemption requests for minor works to a heritage item. Council officers responded to 53 DA Referrals, 9 DA exemption requests for minor works, and 60 customer enquiries.</p>

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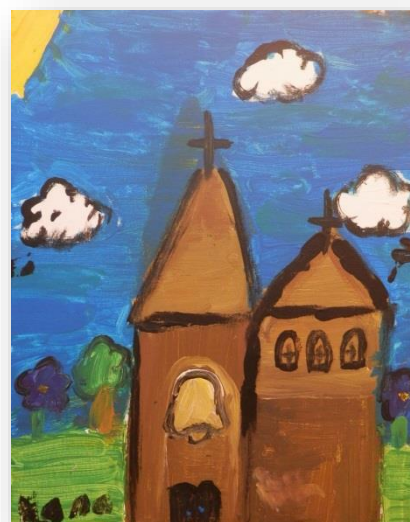
Key Direction 3 – A Prosperous Economy

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 20,240 visits during this period and remained stable. The Macarthur tourism website received 58,815 visits during this period, an increase of 23.9% on the previous period.
Monitor the visitation to the Tourism Information Centre		<p>Visitation to the Visitor Information Centre has been adversely impacted by COVID-19 and closure of the Centre from 20 March 2020 to 21 September 2020. However, the reopening of the Centre has seen an increase in calls and walk in traffic when compared to the period July – December 2020.</p> <p>For the period January – June 2021, the Visitor Information Centre received 93 phone calls (up 5.7%), 43 emails (up 26.5%) and 672 walk ins (up 62.9%). The Centre closed on 27 June 2021 due to NSW Public Health Orders.</p>

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Increase in number of registered businesses operating within the Camden LGA		There is a total of 10,295 active and registered for GST businesses in the Camden LGA, an increase of 6.25% from the previous figure of 9,689 (<i>Source - ABR</i>).

 On Track	1	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	2	 COVID Impacted	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	✓	Council successfully secured funding for Cut Hill Road shoulder improvements for implementation in 2021/22.
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, four programmed new paths were completed in Boronia Avenue, Mount Annan; Frances Street, Narellan; Dan Cleary Drive, Oran Park and Newmarket Street, Currans Hill (shared path facility).

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of Road Education Programs conducted		Over the past six-months, Council has coordinated nine road education programs working in partnership with Local Police, RMS and community groups following a COVID-safe format. Programs undertaken are as follows: 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, Traffic Offenders Program, National Families week and Community Safety Plan.

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, 43 Traffic Committee recommendations were approved. These were all actioned within two months of approval.
Road and traffic facility construction projects completed on-time and within budget.		In accordance with Council's Project Management Framework, 84% of road and traffic facility construction projects were completed on time and on budget. A number of additional projects such as the Leppington commuter carpark and traffic facilities impacted the delivery program.

 On Track	4	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	1	 Trend	0	 COVID Impacted	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, programs and events have been held. Many of these were moved from face to face provision to online due to COVID-19.</p> <p>These included Camden Interagency meetings, Cohesive Communities Advisory Group meetings, Camden Community Access Advisory Group, Camden Youth Council meetings, Camden Youth Network meetings, Youth Week, National Families Week, Seniors Festival, International Women’s Day, Café Connect, establishment of programs at the Julia Reserve Youth Precinct and Community Centre, and Child Safe Training development roll out.</p> <p>Cancelled or postponed activities included Seniors Program Committee meetings and activities and Refugee Week.</p>

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of arts/cultural events hosted across the Camden LGA		<p>The number of Cultural Activations has increased significantly with 153 activations programmed in the six-month period. Some programs, initiatives and events included the Camden Live Kerbside Exhibition, Spotlight - Camden Youth Opportunities Program and Art and Mental Health Workshops as well as Make Music Australia.</p> <p>The Alan Baker Art Gallery hosted and delivered the Face to Face Exhibition, Multicultural March and Harmony Day, the ABAG Public Program engaged 75 community members in arts education programs with six weekly classes, additional monthly pop up portraiture masterclass, Youth Participation Public Art Program, two Seniors art programs and family portrait workshops.</p> <p>The Camden Civic Centre has hosted significant live performances, including Camden Shorts, Effie, Sydney Comedy Festival Showcase, Fishers Ghost, Bee Gees Tribute Band, Irish Dance and Physi Dance, attracting in excess of 4,000 people back into the venue post-COVID and back in to the Camden Town Centre.</p>
Increase number of participants in active recreational activities using Camden Memorial Pool (seasonal)		<p>Whilst the Camden Memorial Pool was operational, restrictions were in place due to COVID-19 limiting capacity and usage during this period, particularly with changes in school use. This has resulted in a reduced usage of the facility from community including organised and casual use.</p>
Increase number of participants in active recreational activities using Mount Annan Leisure Centre (seasonal)		<p>The Mount Annan Leisure Centre was impacted due to COVID-19 restrictions resulting in a reduction of patrons being able to fully utilise the facility. This has resulted in a lower rate than projected for full operation.</p>

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Ratio of returning clients to new clients for hiring Camden Civic Centre		Of the 207 community events, 24 were hosted by new clients, indicating a 1:9 ratio of new clients to the Centre. This result has been impacted by COVID-19.
Number of non-Council events hosted at the Camden Civic Centre		<p>The impact of COVID-19 and cancellations on the number of events held within the venue was significant. 347 bookings were held in the January to June period compared to 589 in the 2018/2019 pre-COVID period. Of the 347, a total of 207 were small community non-Council events, equating to 60% of bookings during that period.</p> <p>COVID-19 has reduced the number of bookings generally held within this period by an estimated 41% based on 2018/2019 pre-COVID statistics.</p>

5.2 Opportunities for life-long learning

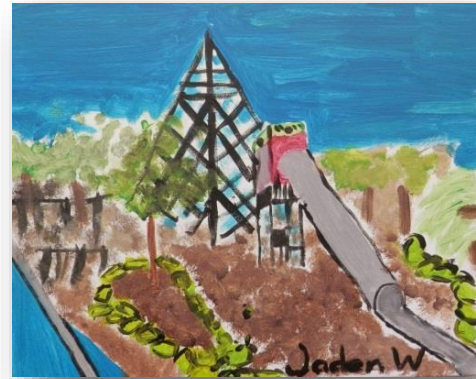
Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of programs conducted at local libraries		A total of 873 programs were conducted at Council libraries during this period including children's, youth, adult, community learning, local studies, and exhibitions as well as HSC programs and online activities.
Camden families have access to a quality Family Day Care service – hours of care provided		With the reduction in COVID-19 restrictions, over the past three months our Employment Full Time (EFT) numbers are increasing, with a higher rate of enquiries and enrolments. There is a current waiting list, identifying the need for more Educators to meet demand.

 On Track	6	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	0	 COVID Impacted	2
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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		Stage Three of COVID -19 Response Grants incorporated Small Grants, 24 applications were received of which 17 programs were recommended for funding.
Number of donations for charitable programs		One Donation for Charitable Purposes was provided.
Number of annual subsidies extended to community organisations		This funding round is annual and did not fall within this reporting period. All subsidies were distributed during the previous reporting period.
Number of community sponsorship programs supported		A total of seven Community Sponsorship programs were supported during this period. Support was also provided through Council’s Stage Three COVID-19 Response Grants.

6.2 Community and stakeholders are kept informed

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Maintain publication of regular Council information		Council continues to produce and promote regular publication of Council information and initiatives within deadline. These publications include: Let's Connect (two editions in the reporting period); rates notice brochures (two editions in the reporting period); Mayoral broadcast messages; media releases; Council's website; social media platforms; flyers, documents and brochures.
Maintain Council's social media platform		<p>Council continues to maintain a seven day a week social media coverage to report on weekend initiatives, improve community engagement, cover events and ensure that online customer enquiries are answered promptly.</p> <p>Over the past six-months, 517 Facebook posts, 222 Instagram posts and 85 LinkedIn posts were published, with followers increasing to 37,000 for Facebook, 4,910 followers for Instagram and 5,649 followers on LinkedIn.</p>
Maintain Council's community engagement and communication practices		Council continues to communicate and engage with the community through print media and its digital media platforms. Council continues to offer a seven day a week social media service and uses these platforms/channels to promote Council services, initiatives, projects and events. Additionally, Council continues to regularly review and update the corporate website and is regularly looking at innovative ways to promote our services and engage with our community.

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

This section elaborates on a few of the projects, programs and services Council has undertaken over the six-month period (January to June 2021) that supports Council's commitment towards the Community Strategic Plan.



COVID-19 Support Package – Stage Three

To support and assist residents and local businesses during COVID-19, Council developed a support package for residents and local businesses.

The package was implemented in three stages and rolled out over a six-month period. Stage Three, or the Recovery Phase, has \$113.8M worth of projects and programs to be delivered across the next four years.

Stage Three, as a whole, includes 65 projects and initiatives that will:

- improve the physical amenity of the area through upgrades, new projects, and city beautification programs;
- boost local employment opportunities;
- offer grants and financial assistance;
- boost community morale through events.

Most significant are the estimated impacts of Stage Three on the Camden LGA. Economic modelling has determined Stage Three will raise output in Camden by between \$174M and \$195M over 2020-21 to 2024-25. Further, 355 to 437 new Full Time Employment (FTE) jobs will be supported by Stage Three, and it will contribute between \$76.1M and \$89.4M to Camden's Gross Regional Product (GRP).

Works to four playgrounds has already commenced:

- Macquarie Grove Reserve fencing - A wire rope fencing with two gates for maintenance access installed around the perimeter of Macquarie Grove Reserve.
- McCrae Drive Playground upgrade – Installation of new playground equipment and park furniture, replacement of soft-fall rubber and landscaping works.
- Royal George Drive playground upgrade - Installation of new playground equipment and park furniture, replacement of soft-fall rubber and landscaping works.
- Yandel'ora Reserve equipment upgrade – Installation of new contemporary fitness equipment as well as park furniture and a bubbler, replacement of soft-fall rubber and landscaping works.

Over the next 12 months the following projects and initiatives will be implemented:

- upgrades to, and replacement of, play equipment at Ron Dine Reserve; Macarthur Park; and Tredinnick Park in Harrington Park;
- external cleaning of the Camden Senior Citizens Community Centre building;
- building and roof repairs and internal finishes at Camden Sports Club and Ron Dine Reserve Clubhouse;

- building repairs and internal finishes to the amenities building at Jack Nash Reserve;
- general playground upgrade and renewal works at Pomaderris Reserve in Mount Annan, Glenlee Reserve in Narellan Vale and Parkside Reserve in Currans Hill;
- the installation of shade sails to improve existing parks and playgrounds, with locations to be confirmed;
- the extension of the walking track at Camden's Bicentennial Equestrian Park;
- renewal works, painting and improved access at Nugget Beams Reserve, Narellan Vale;
- general renewal works at Birriwa Reserve in Mount Annan, Liquidamber Reserve in Narellan Vale and Fairfax Oval in Harrington Park;
- carparking upgrades and renewal works to the amenities building at Rotary Cowpasture Reserve in Camden;
- improvements to the grandstand, amenities and seating at Onslow Oval, Camden;
- kitchen renewal and upgrades to the amenities building at Wandarra Reserve, Mount Annan;
- the installation of informal parking by sealing along Thow Place, Nash Place and Kitching Way at Jack Nash Reserve, Currans Hill;
- upgrades to the spa, sauna and steam area at Mount Annan Leisure Centre;
- caravan effluent dump point and associated works, with location to be confirmed;
- building and roof repairs, internal finishes and car park improvements at Camden RSL Youth Club;
- a virtual employment and education expo;

- a post-COVID Event Program, to get people out and about, use the area's exciting spaces, connect friends and enjoy Council's signature events;
- a Program of Activations to bring the Camden Town Centre, Oran Park Town Park and Birriwa Reserve to life with activities and events;
- grants and financial assistance for the community, including Cultural Activation Grants, Sports Grants and Expanded Community Grants;
- the continued expansion of online library programs to increase accessibility;
- Outdoor Dining Acceleration in Camden Town Centre, where Council will undertake designs and pre-approval for all outdoor dining which will expedite the application and approval process;
- Camden Businesses Recovery marketing campaign, which will support local business; and
- Economic Review implementation, where recommendations from the Economic Development Review and Strategy will be implemented to improve the Camden LGA's economy.

(This information relates to activities undertaken during the period January to June 2021 - correct at time of writing)

Recycling Made Easier



Camden residents can now recycle smarter with a number of initiatives introduced by Council.

To make it easier to recycle Council has entered a 12-month trial partnership with RecycleSmart. Residents can download the Recylopedia App which provides access to an educational tool and an Uber-style recycling collection service.

RecycleSmart provides residents with a simple way to conveniently recycle those tricky to recycle items such as:

- E-waste – small electronic items e.g. laptops, tablets charging cords, play-stations, kettles, toaster, iron, etc.
- soft plastics – plastics that can be scrunched up into a ball e.g. plastic bags, bread bags, bubble wrap;
- clothing – wearable clothing and accessories e.g. shoes, belts, handbags;
- problem waste – e.g. household batteries, polystyrene, fluorescent light globes, printer cartridges, x-ray films, smoke alarms.

Residents can sign up to RecycleSmart to receive their free Recycling Starter Kit and book a Power Pickup for free with the code FIRSTFREE at recyclesmart.com or via the app.

In addition, Council is trialing solar compactor bins at Julia Reserve Youth Precinct in Oran Park, Birriwa Outdoor Youth Space in Mount Annan and at the start of the Camden Bike Track, Camden.

Bins are fitted with sensors that when triggered compact the waste, allowing the bin to fit up to two and a half times more waste than a standard bin.

These solar compactor bins are also fitted with smart sensors which provide real-time updates on the status of the bin including when it is full and needs to be emptied. Collection schedules can then be designed around real-time data.

If the trial is successful, Council will consider rolling out solar bins and smart sensors to high volume areas across the Camden area.



Paws in the Park

Council continued to create a program of safe events with a combination of live and online activities for the ever-popular Paws in the Park event.

A mix of both market and online events gave pet owners the chance to still come out and participate in the 2km walk at the Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park while also taking part in the usual pet competitions from the comfort of their homes.

The event included:

- Paws 2km Walk throughout the park;
- information/market stalls;
- demonstration screen displaying doggy demos;
- Responsible Pet Ownership with Camden Council Rangers;
- free vet checks by The University of Sydney Camden;
- veterinary Services by Macarthur Veterinary Group;
- food and drink stalls as well as roaming entertainment; and
- online activities included Pet Photo Competition and Paws Colouring in Competition.



Support and Enhance Social Inclusion

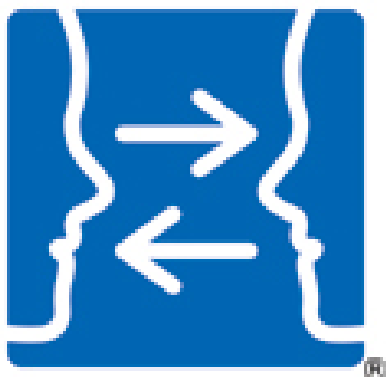
Camden Council is the first council in NSW to receive Communication Access Accreditation from the Northcott Society.

Council staff in key customer service areas completed communication access training and assessment. This training assists staff to support customers with hearing, visual or speech difficulties.

The Communication Access symbol enables people to know that staff are able to communicate successfully with people with communication difficulties and that communication tools are available to help.

Accredited sites include:

- Oran Park Administration Building;
- Camden Library;
- Narellan Library; and
- Oran Park Library.



Camden Council was also the first in NSW to join the Bins4Blokes men's health campaign.

BINS4Blokes is an Australia-wide awareness and advocacy campaign promoting the installation of sanitary disposal bins in male public toilet facilities.

More than one million men across Australia experience incontinence issues. However, there are very few public toilets that offer men a safe and environmentally friendly place to dispose of incontinence products unlike sanitary bins for girls and women which have long been a fixture in public toilets.

Council is set to change this by installing approximately 70 bin units across the Camden LGA to assist boys and men living with incontinence.



Nest Box Trail in Harrington Forest

Council successfully secured funding of \$20,000 from the Australian Government’s Communities Environment Program, to restore the bushland through woody weed removal and the installation of 10 nest boxes for native species.

Children from a variety of local childcare centres and primary schools decorated the nest boxes which have been installed for native birds and mammals to use.

A Nest Box Trail Map has been created and residents can download it from Council’s website.

The Nest Box Trail Map will encourage the students and community to be citizen scientists for Council and monitor the wildlife that moves into the nest boxes within Harrington Forest.

The installation of the nest boxes marks the competition of the Harrington Forest Restoration Project.

EXPLORE HARRINGTON FOREST'S NEST BOX TRAIL

Like us, animals need a home for shelter and to raise a family. Tree hollows are popular homes for many native animals including mammals, birds, reptiles and even frogs.

Tree hollows are openings found in mature and dead trees either in the trunk or branch. Unfortunately, these hollows are rare and can take up to 100 years to develop naturally.

We can help support our native wildlife by providing safe nest boxes in trees.

Camden Council has installed 10 nest boxes within mature Eucalypt trees found in Harrington Forest as part of a restoration project.

These nest boxes have been decorated by students from a local primary school and local preschools.

These students have decorated the nest boxes to create a cosy home for our wildlife.

See if you can find all 10 nest boxes while enjoying a bushwalk through Harrington Forest!

Here's a tip!
While you're out exploring take a copy of Council's [Nature Quest](#) activity guide and play Bird Bingo or go on a Mini Beast Discovery and Scavenger Hunt, available on Council's website.



Road Safety Improvements Around Schools

Local road safety around schools will be improved with almost \$1.5M in grant funding from Transport for NSW under the Federal Government's Road Safety Program.

The program prioritises the development and delivery of road safety infrastructure projects across NSW to support jobs and stimulate local economies.

Projects to be completed include:

- Spring Farm Public School – children's crossing with kerb extensions and footpath (\$50,000);
- Gledswood Hills Public School – children's crossing with kerb extensions (\$35,000);
- St Justin's Catholic Parish Primary School – children crossing (\$20,000);
- Camden Public School – indented bus bay on Mitchell Street, Camden and indented drop off/pick up bay at Exeter Street, Camden (\$110,000);
- Cobbitty Public School – indented bus bay (\$100,000);
- The Hermitage Way – three pedestrian refuges (\$180,000);
- Gledswood Hills Drive – three pedestrian refuges (\$180,000);
- Harrington Park Public School – raise existing pedestrian crossing, upgrade lighting and extend the 40-kilometre per hour zone (\$200,000);
- Elderslie Public School – raise existing pedestrian crossing (\$200,000); and
- Camden Public School – raise existing pedestrian crossing and upgrade lighting on Mitchell and John Streets, Camden (\$400,000).

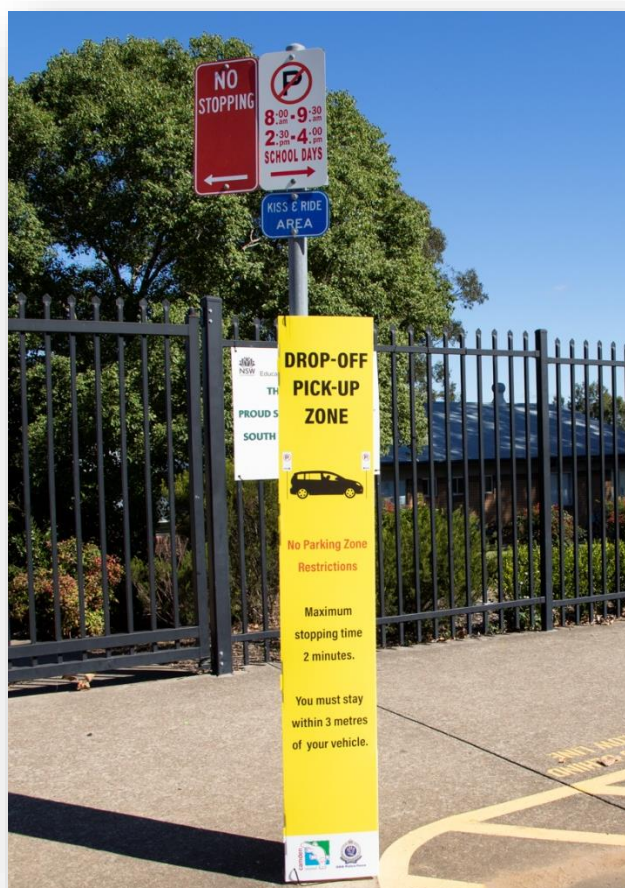
Safety Signage to Assist School Pick Up

Road safety around local primary schools is set to improve with Council installing yellow bollard signage to assist in identifying No Parking - Pickup/Drop-off zones.

The signs are designed to better indicate the beginning and end of No Parking - Pickup/Drop-off zones, as well as provide information around road rules when using the zones.

The yellow bollard signage is a way to alert drivers to not only follow school drop off and pick up time limits, but also follow all other road rules, and remain safe.

This includes not parking across or in driveways, being patient and considerate to other parents, children, teachers and complying with all bus zone and No Stopping restrictions.



Online Australia Day Celebrations

Australia Day 2021 was celebrated a little differently from previous years with Council's festivities going online to adhere to COVID-19 restrictions.

Residents were encouraged to show their pride and put their flags out and share with the community by using #camdenausday.

Online activities included a look at the Macarthur Lions Street Parade throughout the years, cork hat making workshop, musical performance and a special address by Camden's Australia Day Ambassador and Paralympian, George Tonna.

The opportunity to recognise local citizens who have contributed to the Camden LGA through the Australia Day Civic Awards ceremony and a small COVID-safe citizenship ceremony was also held.

The Civic Awards acknowledges those individuals and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to our community in areas such as education, health, fundraising, voluntary services, business, sport, arts, the environment and community events.

The winners in each of the categories were:

Citizen of the Year

Silvana Lofaro

Young Citizen of the Year

Madison Sillett

Arts and Cultural Award

Heather Bieman

Community Group of the Year

Shining Starts Foundation



Silvana Lofaro



Madison Sillett



Camden White Gum Project Assists the Environment

Council is working with the CSIRO Australian Seed Centre on the Connecting White Gum Project.

Funded under the Greening our City Program, 500 genetically diverse Camden White Gum trees will be planted along the Nepean River at Elizabeth Macarthur Reserve in Camden South.

This is a great opportunity to help to cool the suburb of Camden South and reduce the urban heat island effect by increasing the tree canopy and reducing the risk of the Camden White Gum of becoming extinct without intervention.

Two hundred Camden White Gums have already been planted along the Nepean River to promote gene flow with wild stands to ensure the long-term survival of the species.

Residents can play their part in this program by helping out at a tree planting day to be held in September.

For more information or to register your interest go to www.camden.nsw.gov.au or email sustainability@camden.nsw.

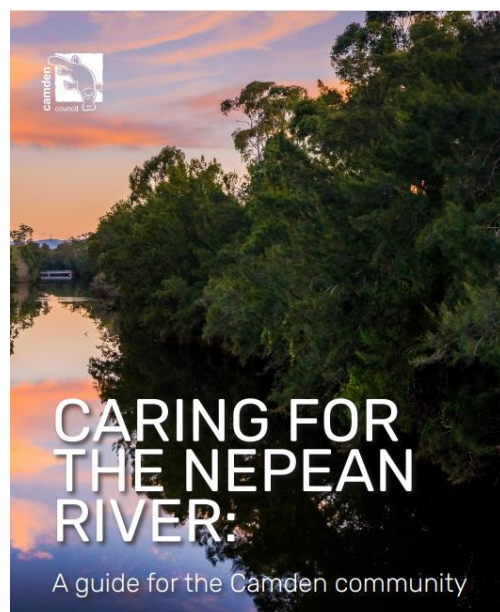
Landholder Guide – Caring for the Nepean River

Council is responsible for managing remnant vegetation within public land, however, the majority of vegetation along the Nepean River corridor is on private land.

Council has developed the Caring for the Nepean River: A Guide for Landholders to summarise the management actions Council will implement to deliver long-term protection and management of the biodiversity values of the Nepean River Corridor.

The guide provides landholders with important information about the bushland found on their property and what key actions can be undertaken to protect the environmental values of this land. It also provides an opportunity for residents to become involved in the conservation of native plants and animals.

A copy of the Guide can be downloaded from Council's website www.camden.nsw.gov.au or hard copies are available from Council's Oran Park Administration Building.



New Off-Leash Park at Emerald Hills

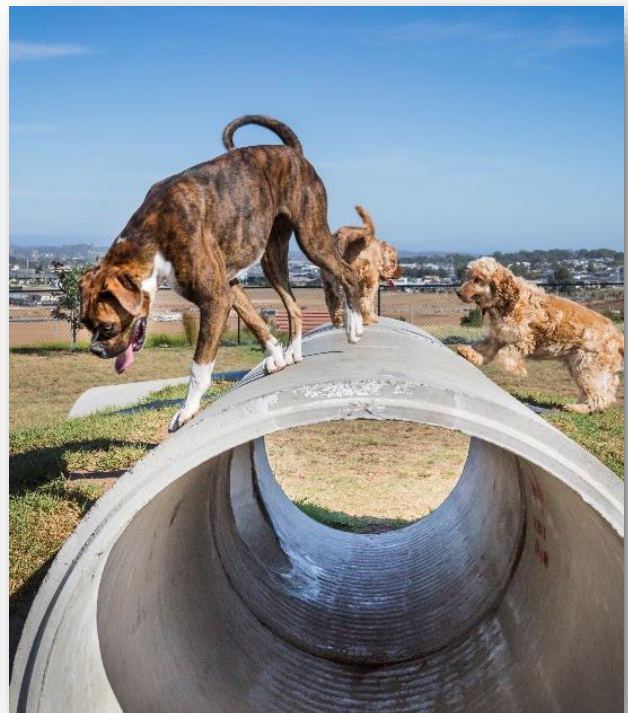
The growing population has led to a surge in local pet ownership in the Camden LGA. Council recognises this fact and is continuing to provide a safe community setting for dogs and their owners.

The newest off-leash dog park is open at Emerald Hills and was constructed as part of the Emerald Hills Voluntary Planning Agreement.

The park includes two separate sections for large and small dogs designed for off-leash play.

Council is committed to promoting responsible pet ownership within the community including providing opportunities for dogs to exercise and socialise.

Not only off-leash parks benefit dogs but offers many benefits to their owners through exercise with their dogs, socialising with other dog lovers, bonding and playing with their animals, practicing their off-leash training skills, and enjoying the frolics of their four-legged friends.



Narellan Sports Hub Stage Two

Stage Two construction work at Narellan Sports Hub is on track to be completed by the end of the year with earthworks and construction commenced.

The cost of Stage Two works is \$17.6M and is funded through a \$5M grant from the Greater Sydney Sports Facility Fund, \$11.3M under the Western Parkland City Liveability Program with the Australian and NSW governments jointly contributing, and Council providing \$1.3M.

New and improved access to the site from Millwood Avenue and Porrende Street as well as new car parking for the hockey and rugby league facilities are now completed, along with a pedestrian bridge and 2km shared path.

Facilities to be completed as part of the project include:

- additional 14 netball courts with floodlighting;
- synthetic athletics track, including field and jump facilities, floodlighting, drainage and irrigation;
- additional full-size rugby league field, including floodlighting and drainage;
- athletics administration/club building;
- additional 1,150 car parking spaces in four new areas;
- internal access roads; and
- criterium cycling track.

Leppington Town Centre

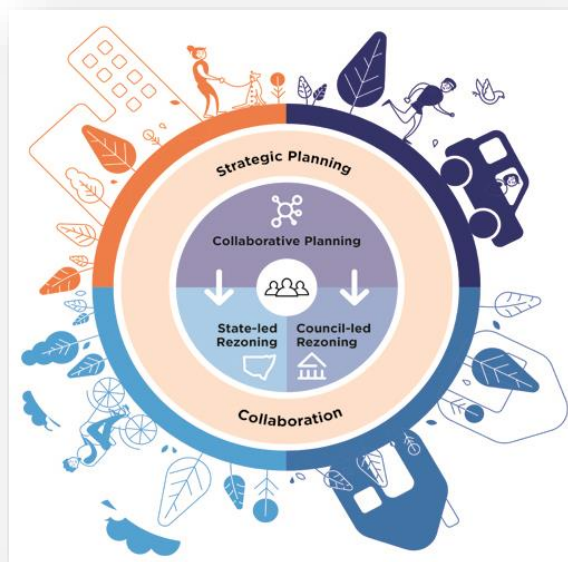
Council accepted the offer of \$700,000 from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to progress the review of the planning controls for Leppington Town Centre.

This includes technical reports to inform the project, consultant/contractor costs to review the draft planning proposal and to help prepare the place strategy consultation with the community.

Leppington Town Centre is identified as a 'priority precinct' because of its social, economic and environmental impacts on surrounding areas.

Camden will work in partnership with Liverpool City Council in this new approach to precinct planning which gives councils and communities a greater say in shaping the vision and delivery of projects.

Better coordination across all levels of government will ensure infrastructure such as schools, parks, community facilities, public transport and road upgrades are delivered to



support community needs.

Festival of Place - #camdenlive

Camden celebrated #camdenlive as part of the Festival of Place, re-engaging community through an activated and enlivened town centre and encouraging the community and visitors to engage and safely return to public spaces.

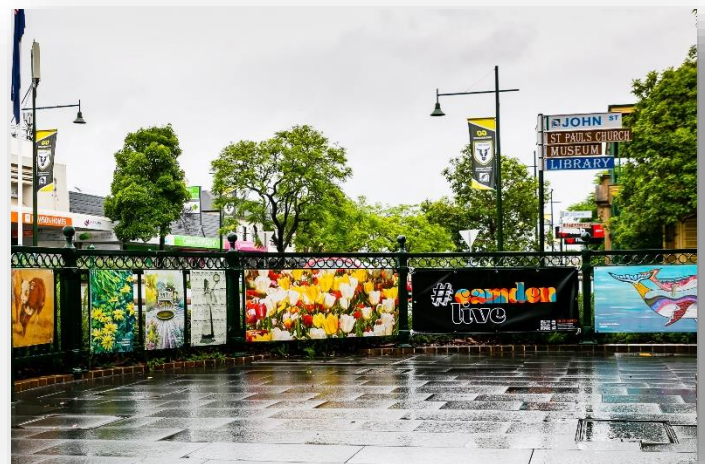
Collaborating with local artists, #camdenlive provided visual artists, street performers, buskers, musicians and creatives with an opportunity to participate and showcase their talent to the community.

The Curated Kerbside Exhibition featured work by 17 local artists as well as 11 students from TAFE NSW and 28 buskers as well as 11 multicultural artists and a dance group were involved in the Multicultural Monday program.

These artworks were displayed in various locations throughout the Camden Town Centre in a variety of locations such as guardrails, planter boxes, Camden Civic Centre, Alan Baker Art Gallery courtyard as well as selected bus shelters throughout the Camden LGA.

Council secured more than \$9000 in funding from the NSW Government's Summer Fund - Festival of Place program, to activate places and engage local creatives.

The #camdenlive hashtag built on the existing #camdenbought and #camdenlove hashtags introduced as part of Council's support for local businesses during COVID-19.



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 2021.



I am an
AGILITY STAR



Next Reporting Period

The next reporting period for the Delivery Program Progress Report will be July to December 2021.

For further information contact

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paws