



# Delivery Program Progress Report

July to December 2019

**Cover Page and Back Page:**

WinterFest Camden

**Copyright – Camden Council**

All information, graphics and photographs are copyright of Camden Council unless otherwise noted. The content is protected by the Australian and International Copyright and Trademark laws.

**Disclaimer**

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

# Contents

1. Council's Obligations	Page 4
2. Executive Summary	Page 6
3. Key Directions and Performance Indicator Status	Page 8
4. Overall Progress Highlights	Page 21
5. Conclusion	Page 32

## *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.*

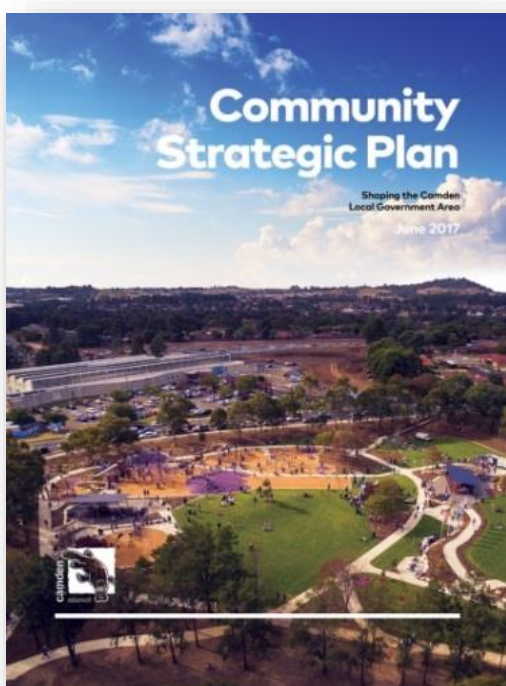
# 1. Council's Obligations

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.

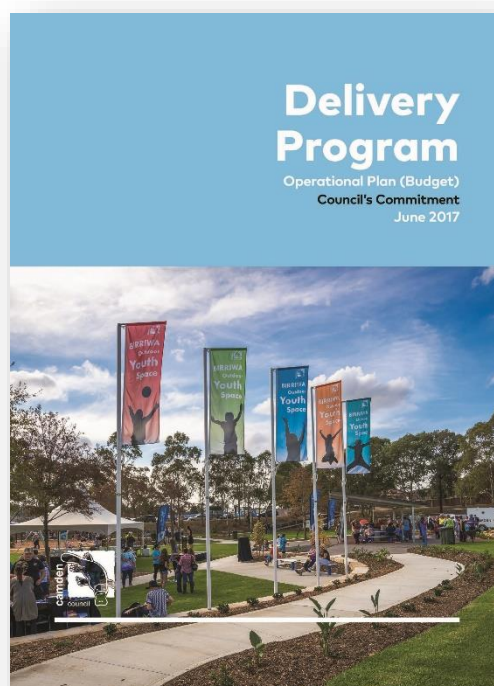
In accordance with the IPR framework, all councils are required to develop a Community Strategic Plan. The Community Strategic Plan provides a clear direction for the long-term community vision and is underpinned by the Delivery Program, Operational Plan (Budget) and Resourcing Strategy. Council reviews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





## 2. Executive Summary

This Delivery Program Progress Report July to December 2019, complies with the adopted four-year Delivery Program 2017/18 – 2020/21 for this Council term.

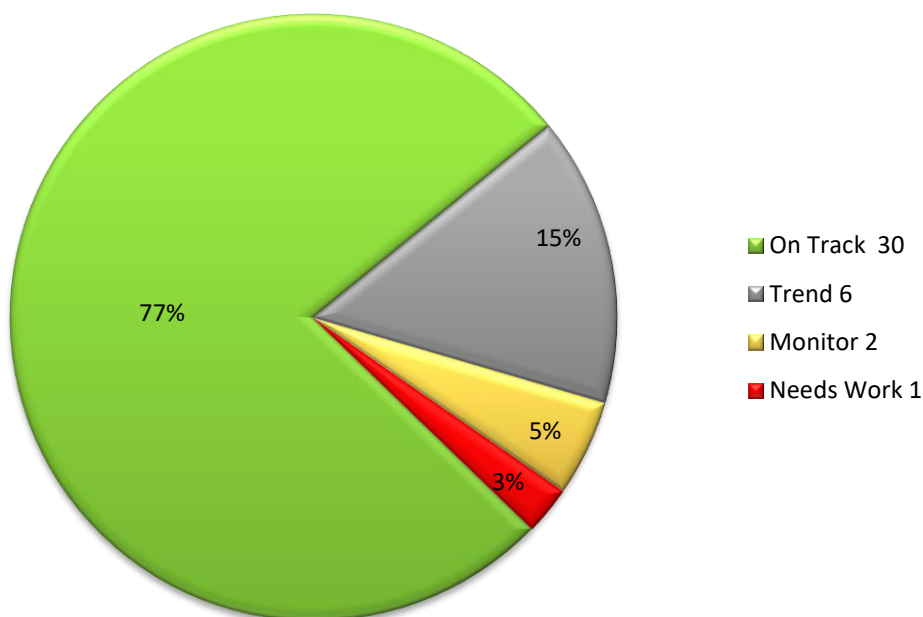
The report reflects Council’s six-month progress status against 39 performance indicators and provides information on how Council is progressing with its Delivery Program.

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 month July to December 2019 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	4	1	0	0
An Enriched and Connected Community	8	7	1	0	0
Strong Local Leadership	7	6	0	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

In brief of the 39 Performance Indicators, 30 Indicators (77%) were assessed as 'On Track'; 1 Indicator (3%) as 'Needs Work'; 6 Indicators (15%) as 'Trend' and there was 2 Indicators (5%) as 'Monitoring'. In other words, 30 of the 39 performance indicators (77%) were assessed as 'On Track'.

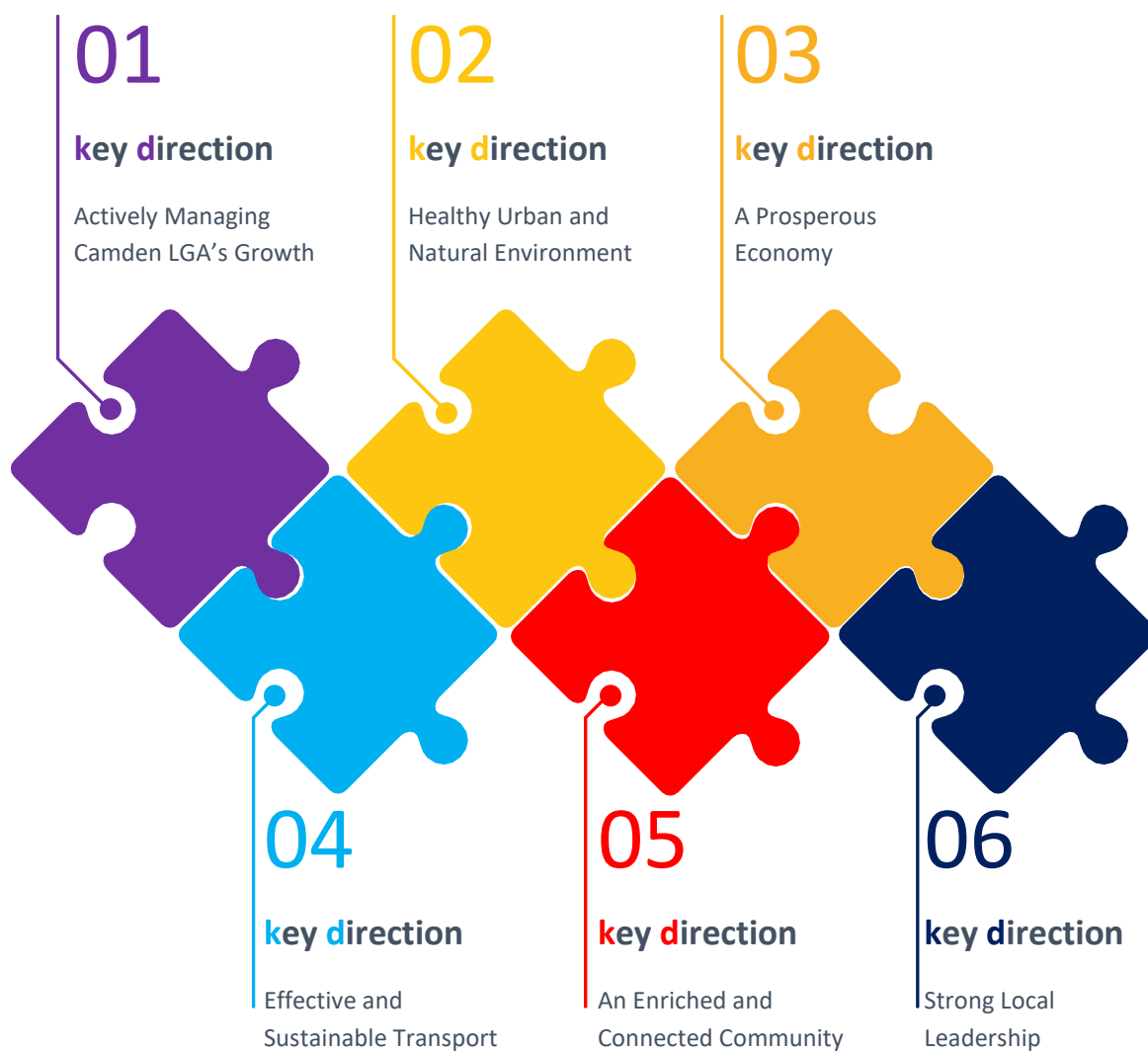
Section 3, 'Key Directions and Performance Indicator Status', provides progress comments and the status of each performance indicator along with an explanation of each Key Direction.

Section 4, 'Overall Progress Highlights' elaborates on a few of the projects Council has undertaken over the six-months (July to December 2019) 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 \$531,236,411 during this six-month period.
Construction certificates are provided in a timely fashion	✓	Building Construction Certificate processing timeframes continue to exceed target service levels.  This result reflects the strong performance in building certification services provided by Council.
Developers Contribution Plans are developed and monitored in a timely manner	✓	The review of all Council's contribution plans was completed November 2019. Amendment 1 of the Growth Areas Contribution Plan was exhibited and adopted by Council in October 2019.

## 1.2 Rural land is adequately administered

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Rural Lands Strategy and associated Action Plan are delivered		A draft Rural Land Strategy (RLS) Actions Implementation Plan has been developed to track and monitor the progress on the RLS. The initiatives undertaken to progress the actions of the RLS includes review of Camden Development Control Plan (DCP) 2019, the Stage 1 Local Environment Plan (LEP) Review Planning Proposal, and the Draft Camden Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

 <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>
---	----------	---	----------	---	----------	--	----------



## 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		Changes to local and international recycling markets along with the removal of exemptions for mixed waste organic outputs have heavily impacted the waste and recycling industry over the past 12 months. Council is continuing to work with its processor to find alternative markets for waste and recycling outputs.
Incidents of illegal dumping (observed by Council Officer)		<p>A total of 455 incidents (75 per month) of illegal dumping were identified and investigated as a result of proactive patrol services by Council Officers. This can be attributed to the growth and development within the LGA. Council proactively and reactively addresses instances of illegal dumping and takes compliance action against identified offenders.</p> <p>Council continues to undertake a number of educational initiatives around illegal dumping including Builders BBQ's, promotion of kerbside clean-ups and a presence at Council events.</p> <p>It should be noted that the results for this target now include incidents of illegal dumping on both private and public land (which is a change). The target will be reviewed in conjunction with the Delivery Program review.</p>
Incidents of illegal dumping (advice from residents)		Council investigated a total of 382 incidents of illegal dumping (63 reports per month) as a result of reports by residents.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Companion animals are appropriately identified		123 dogs impounded - 73 microchipped (59%) 18 cats impounded - 2 microchipped (11%)  Council returned 62 dogs to their owners instead of impounding. Council microchipped 51 dogs and cats for the six-month period.
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.
Number of initiatives promoted to reduce air pollution		During the winter months, Council completed 100% of its initiatives to promote better practices for wood heater operations to help reduce air pollution through local media, Council's website and educational programs.  In November and December 2019, 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 was a total of 124 customer requests received in relation to noise during the reporting period, which is a slight decrease to the 132 received for the previous period January to June 2019. These complaints include noise from barking dogs, trail bikes, music and other sources. All complaints were investigated with appropriate compliance action taken.
Increase number of public amenities, recreation facilities, open space and park		Across the Camden Local Government Area there are 298 open spaces and reserves, 22 sports fields, 93 sites with play equipment, 17 sites with exercise equipment, 17 public amenities, 38 sports amenities and 2 swimming leisure centres.
Bushland under active management – number of volunteer bush care hours		Volunteers contributed 795 hours in the reporting period, with a total of 113 days (based on a 7hr working day). This includes scheduled Bushcare, community planting days, National Tree Day and Schools Tree Day.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
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 continued to be on target and implemented. These included Threatened Species Art and Writing Competition, Macarthur Nature Photography Competition, Stormwater Education and Making a Bee Hotel.
Number of community education activities conducted to promote heritage and historical sites across the Camden LGA		<p>Council's Heritage Advisory Committee held a heritage promotion event titled 'Unlock Camden', as part of NSW History Week 2019 and at the commencement of the Camden Spring Festival. The event attracted around 200 visitors, and residents were invited to share images on social media using the hashtag <b>#mycamdenstory</b>.</p> <p>In addition, on-going advice was provided to applicants relating to works proposed to heritage items through DAs; responded to 40 DA Referrals and 9 customer enquiries; and a community workshop was held to discover themes of uniqueness and richness of place for Camden as a part of the Community Video Project titled 'Yesterday Stories'.</p>

 On Track	8	 Needs Work	1	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	3
--	---	--	---	--	---	---	---



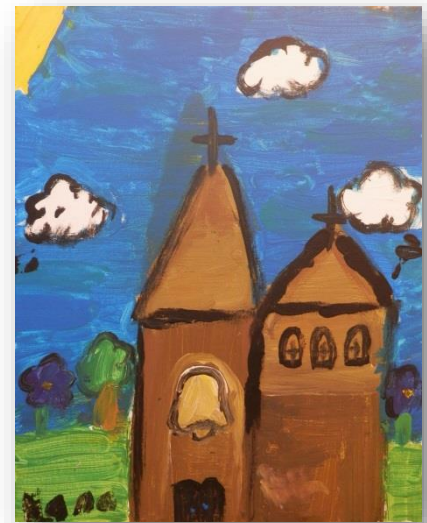
## Key Direction 3 – A Prosperous Economy

**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		Website has received 97,076 visits during this period. An increase of 15% on the previous period.
Monitor the visitation to the Tourism Information Centre		Visitor Centre has received 134 phone calls (up 35%), 59 emails (up 49%) and 988 walks ins (up 15%). Numbers increased over this period due to the high volume of events and activities happening in the area over this period.
Increase in number of registered businesses operating within the Camden LGA		There is a total of 8,752 active and registered for GST businesses in the Camden LGA, an increase of 4.1% from the previous figure of 8,407. (source - ABS)

On Track	1	Needs Work	0	Monitoring	0	Trend	2
----------	---	------------	---	------------	---	-------	---



## 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 has commenced the survey and design for Broughton Street/Barsden Street and Holdsworth Drive projects. Works are programmed for this financial year.
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/shared paths were completed in Herbert's Hill, Elyard Street, Remembrance Driveway, Southdown Road and Cashmere Drive and at Harrington Park Public School.
Number of Road Education Programs conducted	✓	Over the past six-months Council has coordinated eight road education programs working in partnership with Local Police, RMS and community groups on the following road education programs: 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, Community Safety Plan and Traffic Offenders Program.

#### 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 54 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.		The Project Management Framework continues to improve outcomes with 86% of roads and traffic projects due for delivery within the reporting period delivered on time and budget. When considering these reporting areas individually, 100% of these projects completed on time and 86% of projects completed on budget.

 On Track	4	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	1	 Trend	0
--	---	--	---	--	---	---	---





## 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	✓	A wide range of activities and events have been held. These included Camden Interagency meetings and Forum, Cohesive Communities Advisory Group meetings, Youth Council Meetings, Access Community Advisory Group meetings, NAIDOC Celebrations, Seniors events, Youth events, Children’s Week events, Youth Multicultural Festival and the establishment of wet wheelchairs program and Changing Places facility at Curry Reserve.
Number of arts/cultural events hosted across the Camden LGA	✓	Cultural development events for the period included 24 About Face Art Group workshops, two artist networking events, two events for the Creative Camden Holiday Program and two Business Week workshops for creative businesses.
Increase number of participants in active recreational activities using Camden Memorial Pool (seasonal)	✓	Camden Pool reopened for the summer season in late September 2019, with a total of 23,628 active participants using the facility. This was a minor decrease of 1,299 on the same reporting period last year. Noting that attendances were reduced in December due to a number of environmental factors.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Increase number of participants in active recreational activities using Mount Annan Leisure Centre (seasonal)		During the reporting period, 330,124 participants participated in gym, fitness and/or swimming activities within the Mount Annan Leisure Centre. This is significantly higher than the target and an increase of 72,663 on the same period last year.
Ratio of returning clients to new clients for hiring Camden Civic Centre		1:11 new to returning clients. During the reporting period 91% of clients are return business with 9% new clients to the Civic Centre.
Number of non-Council events hosted at the Camden Civic Centre		During the reporting period 319 bookings were received, this brings the yearly total to 732.

## 5.2 Opportunities for life-long learning

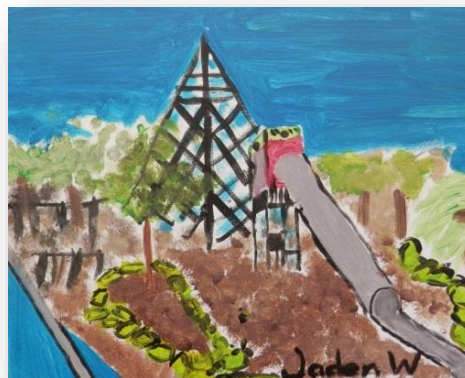
Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Number of programs conducted at local libraries		A total of 847 programs were conducted at Council libraries during this period including children's, youth, adult, community learning, local studies and exhibitions as well as HSC programs.
Camden families have access to a quality Family Day Care service – hours of care provided		Camden Family Day Care's average utilisation rate for this half of the year has been down slightly. This is attributed to the many early childhood centres that are being established in the LGA.  Despite this, Camden Family Day Care continues to provide high quality high based education and care to 300 families across the LGA.

 On Track	7	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	1	 Trend	0
--	---	--	---	--	---	---	---

## 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		A total of 38 applications received with 23 applications approved for funding (part or full funding).
Number of donations for charitable programs		A total of eight donations for Charitable Purposes were provided, six for local not-for-profit groups and two special achievers.
Number of annual subsidies extended to community organisations		All eight annual subsidies were distributed - RSL Sub Branch, Leppington Progress Association, Camden Historical Society, SWS Academy of Sport, Camden Community Band, Campbelltown Macarthur Scottish Pipes and Drums, Campbelltown Camden District Band, Camden Art Prize.
Number of community sponsorship programs supported		This round of Community Sponsorship saw 15 organisations/events approved for funding (part or full funding). A total of 24 applications were received.

## 6.2 Community and stakeholders are kept informed

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
Maintain publication of regular Council information		Council has continued to produce regular publication of Council information within deadline. These publications include: Let's Connect (two editions in the reporting period); Rates Notice brochures (two editions in the reporting period); Mayoral print and broadcast messages; Media releases; Council's website; Social media platforms expanded; and Flyers, documents and brochures designed.
Maintain Council's social media platform		Council continues to maintain seven days 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 624 Facebook posts were published with followers increasing to 21,767 and Instagram has grown to 1,701 followers within the short space of six-months. During this reporting period Council has also expanded its social media platforms to now also include Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat.
Maintain Council's community engagement and communication practices		Council continues to communicate and engage with the community through 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 recently launched the new Camden Kids website, a dedicated website for local parents and carers.

 On Track	6	 Needs Work	0	 Monitoring	0	 Trend	1
--	---	--	---	--	---	---	---

## 4. Overall Progress Highlights

This section elaborates on a few of the projects Council has undertaken over the six-months (July to December 2019), that supports Council's commitment towards the Community Strategic Plan.

### Camden Monopoly

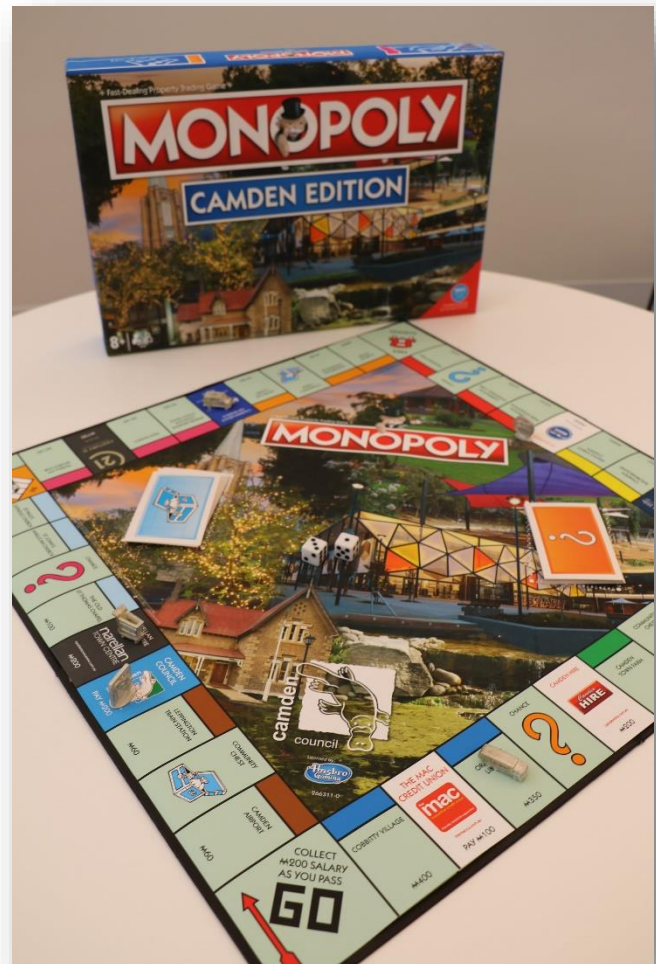
The classic board game Monopoly was localised with the Camden edition created to showcase our local landmarks.

Twelve sponsors were instrumental in bringing the game to life in support of two local charities – Camden Wollondilly Domestic Violence and Lifeline Macarthur, with 2000 copies sold.

A total of \$120,000 was raised with all funds going towards supporting the many programs that both the charities provide.

Council surveyed the local community seeking feedback on the locations they felt should be included. There were 22 featured locations from across the Camden area, with those selected by the community listed below:

- Leppington Train Station
- St Johns Anglican Church
- St Paul's Catholic Church
- Narellan Sports Hub
- Birriwa Reserve Outdoor Youth Space
- Camelot House
- Belgenny Farm
- Camden Town Farm
- Oran Park Library
- Cobbitty Village



## Historical Naming of Elderslie Parks and Reserves

As part of Council's 'Your Parks Your Voice Program', a group of Year 3 and 4 students at Elderslie Public School were approached to nominate local pioneer names for the un-named parks and reserves in Elderslie.

These students, as part of their local history study research, proposed a list of local historical identities for the six un-named parks and reserves.

The six names chosen by the students are:

- Ina Cameron Park
- Henry Oliver Park
- John Condron Park
- James Hartup Park
- William Payne Reserve
- William Parrott Park

The students also nominated the name 'Blueberry Park' after the class of Year 3 and 4 students who participated in the research and naming project.

Signage will be placed in each of the seven parks/reserves and will include information about the historical significance.

## Showcasing the Camden Region

Camden Region Economic Taskforce (CRET), in partnership with Council, have launched a video which showcases the region's investment potential, both now and in the future to support the growth and prosperity of our region.

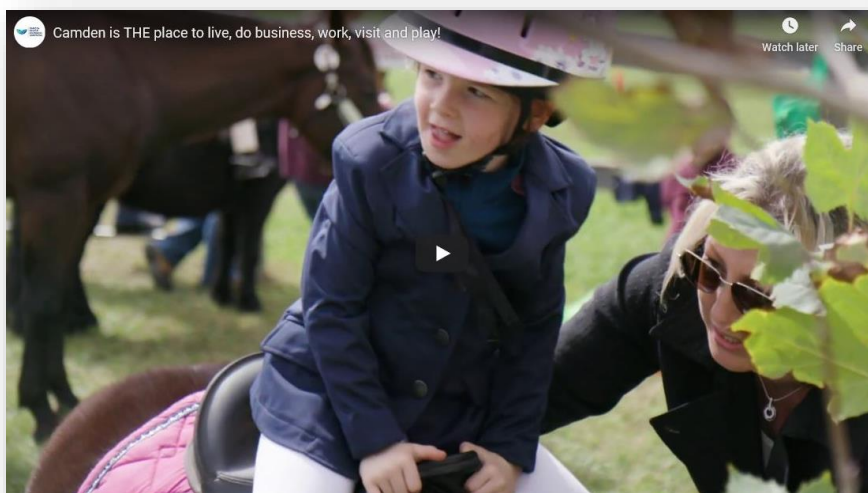
Titled 'Camden is THE place to live, do business, work, visit and play', covers the area's natural beauty, infrastructure growth and business potential in positioning Camden as an emerging economic powerhouse.

Featuring local identities, the video includes:

- Key commercial and economic precincts
- Exciting tourist attractions
- Connections with key neighbouring cities and gateways
- Natural assets.

With the Camden Local Government Area currently the fastest growing area in Australia, this video highlights the great business environment and wealth of visitor attractions available.

Visit [cret.com.au](http://cret.com.au) for more information or to view the video.



## Award Winning Pet Awareness and Safety Program

As the Camden LGA grows in population so does the number of companion animals increase significantly.

In 2014, Council launched PAWS: Pet Awareness and Safety Program, introduced to specifically concentrate on the wellbeing of companion animals.

The program had five main goals:

- Educate pet owners, and children, on being responsible pet owners
- Decrease the amount of companion animals entering our animal care facility
- Reduce the rate of euthanasia
- Increase the adoption of kittens, cats and dogs at our animal care facility
- Reduce the number of companion animals sent to rescue organisations.

Some of the initiatives Council undertook were:

- the creation of an educational book for children and parents
- education at local community events
- free Council run yearly information sessions
- free microchipping and free nametags
- working with the National Desexing Network to provide subsidised desexing, strategies to increase adoptions.

Since the establishment of the program, companion animal seizures are down 42%, euthanasia down by almost 80% and adoptions were up by 13%.

In recognition of the work undertaken the PAWS Program was named Community Education Outreach Program of the Year at the Jetpets Companion Animal Rescue Awards.



## Youth Multicultural Festival

Organised by Camden Council's Youth Council and the YMCA NSW Camden Youth Action Team, as part of the Camden Youth Empowerment Project, the inaugural Youth Multicultural Festival was held in Camden.

The festival provided young people aged 12 to 25 years with the opportunity to come together in a safe, supported and inclusive environment, where they could access information, meet peers and celebrate diversity.

The festival showcased an exciting line-up of local performers, all from diverse cultural backgrounds, several activities including Henna tattooing, Aboriginal basket weaving, Bocce as well as access to information from local community organisations, including headspace and Traxside Youth Health Service.

More than 20% of the Camden LGA population are aged 12 to 25 years and the Camden area is becoming more and more diverse.

With residents identifying with more than 110 nationalities, coming from more than 85 countries across the world and speaking more than 60 different languages at home it is important that young people know their cultures, traditions and customs are valued, respected and celebrated.





## Waste Wise Initiatives

For the second year running the food leftover from Council's TASTE Camden event has been donated to food charity, OzHarvest.

A total of 77kg of surplus food, including fresh fruit and vegetables, cooked meals, breads and pastries were collected allowing OzHarvest to deliver 230 meals to people in need from the Macarthur area, a total of 4% was diverted from landfill.

Council employed other waste-wise initiatives at the event to divert almost one third of waste in total, which included:

- The Hume Scouts collected 4,080 drink containers as part of the Return and Earn Program, accounting for 14%; and
- Council's Waste Team collected recyclable materials which were disposed of incorrectly, including paper, cardboard boxes and plastic cups, and recycled them, accounting for 12%.

Council is currently a bronze member of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Sustainability Advantage Program and will continue to look for waste-wise initiatives to achieve silver status.

## New Look for Camden Kids Website

The Camden Kids website has been re-designed making it easier for families to find all the information and services they need.

The look, function and navigation of the site have been developed to optimise the accessibility and user experience for Camden's kids, parents and teachers.

The clean, simple look of the site has been designed to meet a high standard of accessibility for people with visual impairments and responds to the technology being used to view it.

The directories are split into categories including childcare, activities, health, support and parks and playgrounds which also allow you to search via filtering.

Residents can also subscribe to the Camden Kids eNewsletter, providing up to date relevant news and events.

To view the updated Camden Kids website visit [camden.kids.com.au](http://camden.kids.com.au)



## Curry Reserve Amenities Building

Council completed a number of improvements while the Curry Reserve Water Play Space was closed over winter, to ensure it was comfortable for, and accessible to all.

Works on the new amenities building at the site was stopped for a period of time when artefacts were uncovered during excavation of footings for the new change rooms and toilets and an archaeologist examined the site and artefacts.

Now completed and built in line with Changing Places Australian specifications the improvements include:

- new wheelchair-accessible change facility, including an adult hoist and new toilet, shower and change room amenities
- Additional shade structures
- Additional seating
- Additional barbeque facilities
- Additional pathways
- Wet wheelchairs, which residents can use to play in the water elements of the space.

Council has three wet play wheelchairs available for use exclusively at Curry Reserve Water Play Space.

The child and adult size all terrain wheelchairs were designed by a team of specialist paramedics and tested and approved by people with restricted mobility.

The wet play wheelchairs will provide and improve access to the water play area for children and people living with disability.



## WinterFest

A new event for the Camden LGA, the inaugural Winterfest, saw Larkin Place car park transformed into a winter wonderland offering three days of activities and fun.

An ice-skating rink, food stalls, live entertainment, and winter menus at venues along Argyle Street were enjoyed by the thousands of people who attended.

The newly installed fairy lights in the Jacaranda trees were officially turned on at the winter-themed event.

The event also celebrated the improvements made to Argyle street and the Camden Town Centre such as upgrading and widening of footpaths and the road, installation of new energy efficient street lighting on multi-functional poles and extensive landscaping works.

## Focus on Mental Health

Council installed hundreds of posters across the Camden area to help residents connect with valuable support from Lifeline Macarthur.

The posters were installed in both the male and female toilets in every Council-owned community and administration facility.

They provide a QR code to Lifeline Macarthur's online crisis support chat and Lifeline Macarthur's phone number and web address, should a person visiting that facility need help and support.

Council has already implemented a range of strategies to assist staff suffering from mental health issues and these posters are an extension of this commitment to the greater community.



## Community Volunteers Thanked

Volunteers from the Camden LGA were acknowledged for the contribution they make to the community with over 250 people attending a Volunteer Thank You reception held by Council.

Volunteering plays a key part in developing a community's sense of pride and their contribution is invaluable.

Volunteering also builds social capital by encouraging social interaction, social networks and networking opportunities between people and strengthens personal and emotional support.

Volunteers enhance the services that Council delivers and, in some cases, provide a service that simply would not exist without them.

Some of the groups acknowledged at the reception included:

- Argyle Street Business Collective
- Bushcare Volunteers
- Camden Art Prize Committee
- Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park Committee
- Camden Chamber of Commerce Tourism and Industry
- Camden Historical Society
- Camden Rural Fire Service
- Camden SES
- Cobbitty Rural Fire Service
- Harrington Park Seniors Group
- Heritage Advisory Committee
- Macarthur Disability Service
- Narellan Lions Club
- Narellan Men's Shed



## Endorsement of Camden's First Aboriginal Protocols Policy

On the 9th of July as part of NAIDOC week celebrations Council endorsed its first Aboriginal Protocols policy.

This policy outlines inclusive protocols to acknowledge the Aboriginal community and promote greater understanding and acceptance of general cultural awareness including:

- Continuing to include a Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgment of Country at Council and civic events and meetings, as a sign of inclusion and respect;
- Continuing to permanently display the Aboriginal flag. It will also be flown at half-mast at appropriate times, to recognise periods of significance to the Aboriginal community;
- Conducting Smoking Ceremonies at major Council events, by Aboriginal people with specialised cultural knowledge;
- Continuing to acknowledge the local Aboriginal community by observing and celebrating culturally significant dates and events such as NAIDOC Week, where protocols will be incorporated; and
- Including an Acknowledgement in high-level Council documents.

Endorsement of the policy demonstrates Camden's ongoing commitment to building strong relationships and recognising the contribution of aboriginal people to Camden's past, present and future.



## Planning for the Future – Camden’s Local Strategic Planning Statement

In 2019, Council adopted its draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and sought final approval from the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) for the final LSPS to be adopted in 2020.

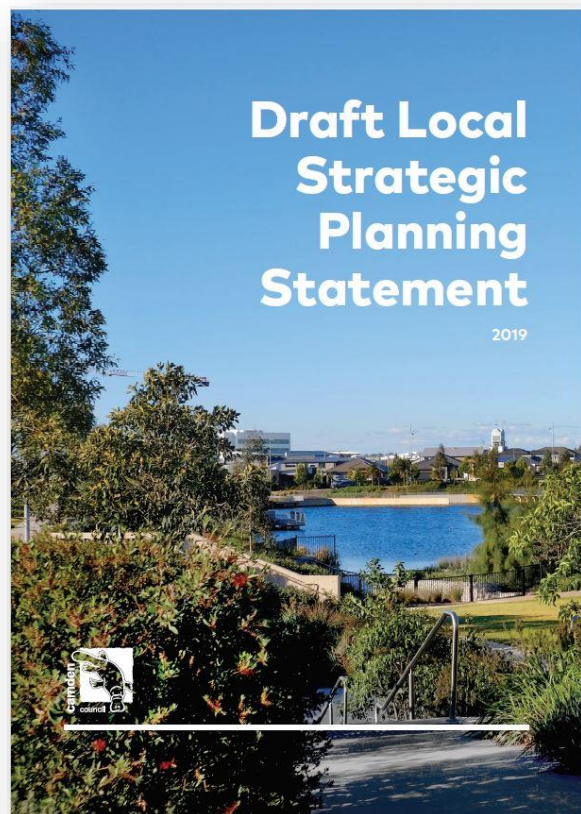
The LSPS sets the 20-year vision for land-use in the Camden LGA, the special character and values that are to be preserved, and how change and future growth will be managed into the future.

An extensive community engagement was undertaken in preparing the draft LSPS, which included:

- A 20-year vision for Camden.
- A structure plan, illustrating key infrastructure, productivity, liveability and sustainability features and place-based priorities within the Camden area;
- The local economic, social and environmental context;
- Local priorities and actions around infrastructure and collaboration, liveability, productivity and sustainability; and
- An implementation plan, identifying how Council will monitor and report on the delivery of the LSPS.

The draft LSPS was put on public exhibition for 35 days and 61 submissions were received from the community, public agencies and the three neighbouring Councils. The majority of submissions received from the community and public agencies supported the approach taken by Council.

The draft LSPS ensures Council’s local plans and policies align with the strategic direction of the GSC’s Greater Sydney Region Plan – A Metropolis of Three Cities (Region Plan) and the Western City District Plan (District Plan).



## Cancer Awareness Initiatives

Council was approached by the McGrath Foundation and Space Real Estate Oran Park to support and get involved in the Pink Up Your Town initiative. Pink Up Your Town encouraged communities to come together and plan events for the month of October and raise funds for the McGrath Foundation. A huge part of this initiative was getting local businesses and organisations to turn “pink”.

In support of this initiative Council:

- Installed a pink ribbon above the entry doors to Council’s Administration Building and lit it up for the month of October;
- Planted pink flowers in the planter boxes located in Argyle Street and around Council’s Administration Building and Library;
- Planted pink flowers in the roundabouts located on Argyle/Elizabeth Street, Camden and Welling/Waterworth Drive, Mount Annan;
- Hosted a staff morning tea to raise funds for the McGrath Foundation;
- Dedicated a waste truck to be permanently wrapped in pink with breast cancer awareness messaging;
- Encouraged local businesses to dress up their shop fronts pink for the month of October; and
- Together with Oran Park Town, installed light pole banners along Central Avenue and Dairy Street, Oran Park.

Council also supports Men’s Health initiatives such as “Movember” to raise awareness of prostate and testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention.



## 5 Conclusion

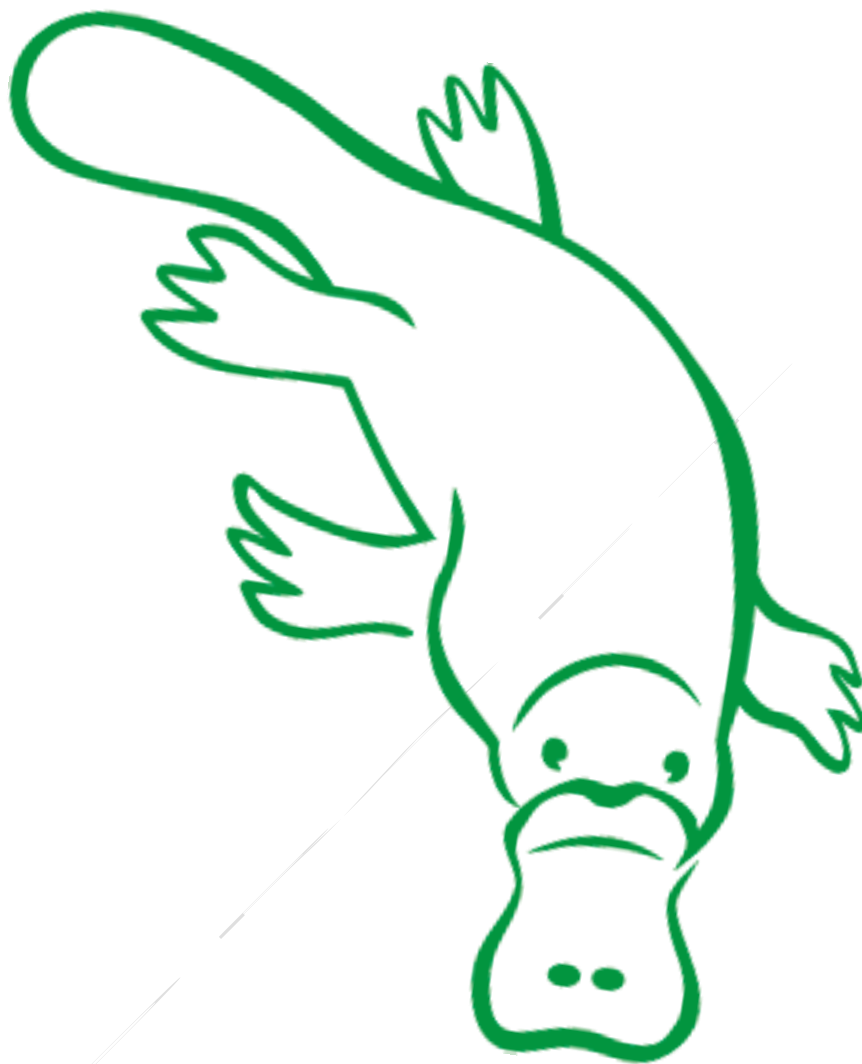
The Camden Local Government Area (LGA) is the fastest growing area in Australia, and Council continues to adapt and evolve in response to the changing expectations that come with growing communities.

The four-year Delivery Program 2017/18 to 2020/21 is Council's commitment to the community. Council, under 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 January to June 2020.



### 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.



### Next Reporting Period

The next reporting period for the Delivery Program Progress Report will be January to June 2020.

### For further information contact

Corporate Planning Team

Camden Council

Phone: 4654 7777

Email: [mail@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mail@camden.nsw.gov.au)

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