yass valley council

the country the people

Progress Reporting January – June 2022

> Delivery Program 2017/18 - 2020/21

Access to Information

You can find out information about Council by reading the meeting agenda papers, subscribing to the online newsletter, checking out our website and Facebook pages or by visiting Council's administration office in Yass.

We also produce a newsletter, 'The Valley Views' which is mailed to all residents and businesses three times per year.

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Introduction

This Delivery Program progress report forms part of Yass Valley Council's implementation of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework. Council's use of this framework complies with the *Local government Act* 1993. Specifically:

The Tablelands Regional Community Strategic Plan 2016 – 2036

- Sets out our community's goals and aspirations
- Outlines the strategies and objectives to achieve these goals and aspirations
- Contains measures to check progress
- Is used by Yass Valley, Goulburn Mulwaree, and Upper Lachlan Councils

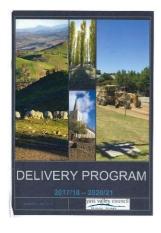
Delivery Program 2017-2021

- Details Council commitments and priorities during its four-year term
- Contains actions to achieve the objectives set out in the Community Strategic Plan for the Yass Valley community

Operational Plan 2021-2022

- Details of activities Council will undertake during the financial year to implement the Delivery Program
- It includes the annual budget adopted by Council, Statement of Revenue Policy, and the annual Fees and Charges for Council's services.







Overview

We are pleased to report progress on Yass Valley Council's four-year Delivery Program for the period January to June 2022.

The actions in Council's Delivery Program sets out what will be done to meet the objectives of our long-term Regional Community Strategic Plan (The Tablelands Regional Community Strategic Plan 2016 - 2036).

We have set out this plan along the 5 strategic pillars so that the links to the Regional CSP are easily identified and we have developed measures to demonstrate how we are progressing towards these goals.



Achievements

We are happy to report a number of completed projects and achievements for this reporting period.

Alive in the Park



This successful event was run in collaboration between YASSarts and Yass Valley Council, the event included live music, food vans, markets, roaming performers, emergency service vehicle displays, headspace Yass hangout tents, Rotary jumping castle, moonlight cinema, and more.

Getting to school has never been safer in Yass Valley

Work to install a refuge in front of Sutton Public School was completed in January, while work to improve pathways and parking at Yass Public School and Berinba Public School is well underway.

Safety improvements at Gundaroo Public School and Mount Carmel School are also nearing completion. Work is being jointly funded by Yass Valley Council and the Federal and NSW Governments' 2021/22 School Zone Infrastructure Sub-Program.



Stage 2 and Stage 3 Nanima Road

Safety improvement works including tree removal, widening and drainage works.







Stage one of the Yass Water Treatment Plant upgrade commences

Yass residents should soon see improvements to the quality of their drinking water as urgent upgrades at the Yass Water Treatment Plant and upgrades to the Raw Water Pump Station commence. This is the first stage of a three-stage project to better manage the consistency of quality drinking water and is being funded by a \$2.543 million grant from the NSW Government's Housing Acceleration Fund.

Crago Mill Precinct Yass

Members of the public were invited to have their say on plans for the new Crago Mill Precinct in Yass.

The project involves the enhancement and conversion of the former Crago's flour mill at 209 Comur Street, Yass

The development application (DA) went on public exhibition 31 January 2022 - 28 February 2022.

The DA proposes to demolish the old buildings adjoining the mill to make way for a single-storey public administration building and community library, two-storey commercial office building, public plaza, 67-space car park and additional on-street parking.

The precinct will include:

- A new library with a children's area and study centre;
- A refurbished Crago Mill with flexible space suitable for a café, gallery and museum;
- Community meeting rooms;
- A small business centre/work hub;
- Space for long-term tenants and community groups;
- Public amenities;
- A public plaza;
- On-site and on-street car parking; and
- A new Council administration building and Council chamber.

Yass River Road Seg 5B & 6 Walls Junction Road Seg 3 Cusack Place Seg 1 Good Hope Road Seg 9

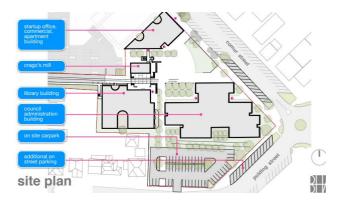
Rehabilitation works included widening, pavement rehabilitation and drainage works.



FLR Round 1 Year 2 delivery FLR Round 2 Year 1 delivery

Heavy patching, resealing and line marking throughout the Local Government Area.





Murrumbateman Road Safety works

Safety improvement works including tree removal, widening and drainage works,





First standard biodiversity certification for Yass Valley housing development

Applied for the first time in New South Wales, biodiversity certification will provide up-front protection for the environment at the Woodbury Ridge Estate housing development near Sutton.

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment said the standard certification under the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* gives everyone certainty on how biodiversity values will be protected while achieving an economically viable housing estate.

The Woodbury Ridge Estate will see the development of up to 66 residential lots, as well as the retention of 130 hectares that contain biodiversity values such as the critically endangered box-gum woodland and superb parrot habitat.

The certification is a much more streamlined way of protecting our natural environment, while at the same time providing housing for our growing community.

New Mayor and Deputy Mayor



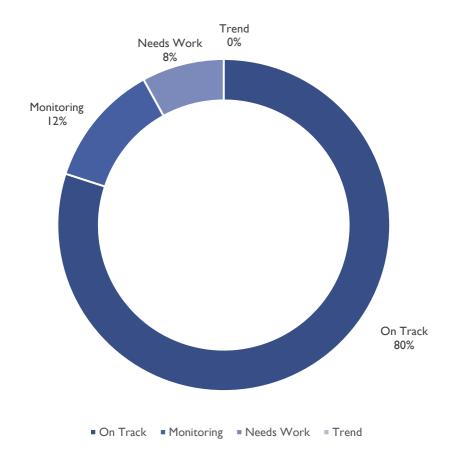
During their first meeting, the new Yass Valley Councillors elected a Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Allan McGrath was elected as Mayor and Councillor Jasmin Jones was elected as Deputy Mayor.

Progress Summary

This report reflects our six-month progress against the performance indicators in the Delivery Program. The following rating scale is used to ensure consistency and transparency when assessing the status of each indicator. Performance indicators in this document are actions prescribed in our Operational Plan as their completion furthers the Delivery Program outcomes.

Rating Scale	Symbol	Description
On Track	~	When the 'actual' is either equal or better than the set target.
Monitoring	۲	Corporate variance of ±10% applies to the set target and is considered achievable, feasible and realistic for performance improvement, with the exception of Legislative requirements
Needs Work	J.	When the 'actual' is either below or above the corporate variance
Trend	á	Shows a pattern of change data over time where setting a target is not possible





Strategic Pillar 1 Our Environment

We appreciate our range of rural landscapes and habitats, and act as custodians of the natural environment for future generations.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment	
EN1 - Protect and enhance the existing natural environment, including flora and fauna native to the region			
Protect our natural assets in line with community values.	~	Yass River water monitoring undertaken on a monthly basis. Biodiversity Assessments undertaken as required for Planning Proposals and Development Applications.	
Work with Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) to maintain a network of connected native vegetation (including reserves and council land).	~	Most recent DPE mapping is used in our Biodiversity layer to inform Development Application assessments.	
Meet obligations for weed control in the Yass Valley Local Government Area.	~	Spray contractors have completed the priority summer woody weed program focussed on blackberry and St Johns wort. An additional \$20000 was obtained through a grant for African Lovegrass control.	
		Approx. \$70 000 obtained through CRIF for weed control (to be used in spring/summer 2022).	
		Meetings with Weeds Focus Group conducted	
		Outreach activities with social media and attendance rural suppliers trade days	
		All high-risk pathways inspected.	
EN2 – Adopt environmental sustainability practices			
Implement Council's Environmental Sustainability Policy across all Council operations.	J.	Council has recently formed its new Sustainability Committee.	
	-	The committee will have a major role in reviewing and preparing a new policy.	
Improve water efficiency of Council operations.	~	Council continues to make incremental improvements to water usage through improved maintenance and upgrading of fixtures and fittings.	

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment		
EN2 – Adopt environmental sustainability practices cont'd				
Conduct engagement programs that encourage positive behaviour change in the community.	~	Sustainability Sunday posts on Facebook covering a broad range of environmental topics, and the Yass Valley Eco Champs promotional program, which has continued.		
Work with schools to increase awareness of caring for the local environment urban design principles in development.		This year's engagement of the EnviroMentors program by Yass Valley Council across Term One saw 510 students participating in the Worm Farming and Composting workshops in 4 schools over 4 days, educating students in food waste reduction, composting and waste management.		
Consider water sensitive urban design principles in development assessment.	~	Water sensitive urban design principles are considered in the assessment of all major developments.		
EN3 – Protect and	l rehabilit	ate waterways and catchments		
Engage with the community and external agencies to deliver programs which improve the health of the Yass River and tributaries.	√	Council staff spoke at the Upper Murrumbidgee Catchment Network Forum on Water Quality and Security in March. YVC is also collaborating with Yass Landcare on further riparian restoration projects along the town water supply and adjoining creeks.		
Increase community awareness of the importance of stormwater health and quality.		H2OK Community Stormwater Education project has concluded. All targets met or exceeded.		
Deliver Plan of Management for the Yass Gorge.	~	Plan of Management delivered and maintenance activities ongoing. Council staff attended AGM of Friends of Yass Gorge.		
EN4 - Maintain a balance between g	-	velopment and environmental protection through ible planning		
Ensure Council's statutory planning		Employment Zone reforms were publicly exhibited.		
instruments are up to date and reflective of community needs.		Request made to DPE to include new Agritourism definitions within rural zones in the Yass Valley LEP 2013.		
Ensure Development Application assessment is thorough and efficient.	√	The Public Spaces Legacy Program development assessment efficiency targets have been achieved This included a reduction in gross median assessment times for Development Applications and 100% usage of the NSW Planning Portal.		
EN5 - To investigate and implement approaches to reduce our carbon footprint				
Reduce rubbish to landfill through		Council has reduced 100 tonne of waste direct to		

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effective waste management and

recycling.

landfill through effective sorting processes of waste

material at the transfer stations.

Performance Indicator

Status Progress Comment

EN5 - To investigate and implement approaches to reduce our carbon footprint cont'd

Work with local businesses to encourage recycling.	ß	A number of contracts are in place to encourage local businesses to recycling.
Promote initiatives in the community such as Eat/Shop Local, Love your Leftovers and being efficient with electricity.	~	Yass Valley Eco Champs has continued with two more local businesses featured.
Investigate low carbon technologies when Council assets are developed or due for replacement.	√	PV systems have been installed at the depot and wastewater treatment plant to reduce our carbon footprint. Installation of solar panels at the Morton Pump station has also been progressed. Further investigations for future buildings will be undertaken.
Encourage efficient use of renewable energy by Yass Valley households.	\checkmark	Continues to be a theme in Sustainability Sunday items on Facebook.





We have a strong regional economy experiencing sustainable growth, which provides for a diverse range of employment opportunities.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment	
EC1 – Capitalise on the region's close proximity to Canberra and its position as a convenient hub to Southeast Australia to attract industry and investment.			
Facilitate business excellence, innovation and collaboration in the Yass Valley LGA to build stronger business networks and support structures identified through the Economic Development Committee and relevant government agencies and community organisations.		Council has continued to support industry through facilitating collaboration and identifying opportunities for future developments.	
Enhance and promote the Yass Valley brand to drive positive economic activity.	~	Working with the Yass Valley Business Chamber, we have delivered an array of activities for Small Business Month in March 2022.	
EC 2 - Jointly develop appropri		opportunities and promote the region as a tination	
Enhance and promote the Yass Valley brand to drive positive tourism outcomes.		Yass Valley Council has secured a number of travel promotions through both print magazine, videography and online articles for the advertisement of the region. Yass Valley Council has engaged with independent bloggers to draw in a more inclusive audience into the region. Due to COVID-19 Pressures, the Australian Womens Weekly filming has been pushed to the Christmas Special in December 2022.	
EC 2 - Jointly develop appropriate tourism opportunities and promote the region as a destination			
Collaborate with regional tourism stakeholders.		Yass Valley Council continues to be an active member of Destination NSW and work collectively with the Southern Tablelands members. Yass Valley Council has undertaken many joint projects with the councils of the Southern Tablelands & DSNSW to deliver a strong message of the unique region.	

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment	
EC3 - Support and foster conditions that enable local and small/home-based businesses to grow			
Identify and participate in initiatives that assist small business.	\checkmark	Staff continue to participate in the Yass Valley Business Chamber meetings and functions.	
		Staff circulate any state or national initiatives that industry can access for participation by our regional small businesses.	
EC4 - Foster and develop a di	verse, adapt	ive and innovative agricultural industry	
Protect rural lands for agricultural purposes.	√	The following are being considered in the assessment of development applications in rural zones, in accordance with the Yass Valley Local Environmental Plan 2013:	
		 relevant zone objectives prescribed minimum lot size or average lot size provisions consideration of potential land use conflict between existing and proposed development, particularly between residential and rural land uses. Potential for subdivisions to adversely affect the use of the development site and surrounding land for agricultural purposes. 	
Identify opportunities and barriers for the agricultural industry in Yass Valley.	~	Council continues to identify support available for agricultural industry and provide information on financial support .	
EC5 - Encourage collaboration between businesses, government and training providers to develop employment and training opportunities for young people in the region			
Facilitate networking and collaboration amongst stakeholders.	<	Yass Valley Council continues to support and hold strong connection to the Yass Valley Industry – working with businesses to link collaboration for packages, offers and marketing opportunities.	



Strategic Pillar 3 Our community

We are a network of vibrant, inclusive and diverse communities that value our rural lifestyle.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment			
CO1- Facilitate and encourage	CO1- Facilitate and encourage equitable access to community infrastructure and services such as health care, education and transport				
Provide an accessible library service to all of the community.	~	The Mobile Library has been serviced and had the vinyl signs replaced. Communities and schools have been notified. Van is ready to recommence service on 23 July 2022.			
Advocate to the State Government and relevant agencies to ensure that transport, health and educational services are delivered equitably to all residents.		Yass Valley Library complies with the Library Act 1939 Section 10, NSW Library Regulation 2019 and Library Council of NSW's policies and procedures to provide free Library services to the Yass Valley Community. The main Library is open to residents across the Local Government Area and to non- residents who use their reciprocal rights from an alternative Library service or who make use of the facilities and equipment such as, WiFi and public access computers. The Mobile Library Service will stop at 17 locations on a fortnightly basis offering access to outlying schools, preschools, early learning centres and communities.			
Ensure plans are in place for accessible community facilities and services in consultation with the Access Committee.	ß	Staff are developing a new DIAP Plan.			
	^f acilitate active an	d creative participation in community life			
Deliver robust and diverse community engagement opportunities.	~	Opportunities for community engagement were achieved through the development of Yass Mainstreet, Bookham and Wee Jasper Masterplans.			
Ensure the community is well informed about its projects, policies and programs.	~	Community engagement complies with Council's Community Engagement Strategy.			
Develop and implement a Public Art Strategy that includes specific actions for the development of creative pursuits.		This is continuing to be considered as part of the new Civic Centre development.			

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
CO2 - Encourage and facili	tate active and	creative participation in community life cont'd
Provide a library service that facilitates creative participation in community life.	~	Council's children, youth and adult programs at the library are well attended by community members. Staff are continually reviewing the programs and seeking input from the community on what they would like to see offered by the library.
Support the growth of a diverse range of community events.	~	Council supported and worked with community groups to ensure a diverse range of community events were undertaken such as the Australia Day celebration and 'Alive in the Park' music and art festival.
CO3 - Foster and encourag		al behaviours to maintain our safe, healthy and ected community
Encourage and support existing and new interagency groups.	~	Council participates in youth and senior interagency groups.
Connecting the community to Yass Valley Council through a	\checkmark	Advisory Committees, Focus Groups and Steering Committees established Feb 2022.
range of Advisory Committees.		Recruitment of community representatives completed May 2022.
Support the growth and development of volunteering.	~	Staff have commenced working on a volunteer program for its facilities.
Develop a Crime Prevention Plan.	٢	Council continues to work with the local police.
Foster road safety awareness.	~	Road safety events for the Heavy Transport industry with Coffee with a Cop events. Road safety and learner driver programs delivered in consultation with Yass High School.
-		cultural identities and protect and maintain our atural and built environment
Continue the Heritage Advisory Service.	~	Heritage advisory service provided on a monthly basis.
Continue the Local Heritage Grants Program.	\checkmark	Funding was provided for 8 completed projects in the 2021-22 round.
		The 2022-23 round was opened, and a total of 16 applications were received.
Implement the Yass Valley Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan in conjunction with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee.	J.	Staff continue to work on the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
CO5 - Maintain our rural lifestyle		
Ensure the community is attractive and vibrant while maintaining our village atmosphere.	S.	Council continues to work on Yass Bookham and Wee Jasper Main street masterplans.





Strategic Pillar 4

Our Infrastructure

Our community is well serviced and connected to built, social and communications infrastructure.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment
IN1 – Develop high spe	ed rail links between	the region, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne
Assess the advantages and disadvantages for Yass Valley of any high-speed rail proposal.	~	Council will assess all proposals when they are provided. No proposals received.
IN2 - Improve public tran	-	t towns within the region and increase access to
	ma	jor centres
Lobby the Federal and State Governments to upgrade the Barton Highway.		Funding for Barton Hwy duplication formed part of Council's Advocacy Paper for the upcoming Federal and State Elections. Construction of Stage 1 continuing. Design for Stage 2 commenced.
Advocate for public transport links or improved services where there is a demonstrated community need.	~	Trial of Bikes on Busses in the Bush to improve active transport links to Canberra.
Seek funding opportunities to deliver upgrade works on regional roads.	\checkmark	Upgrades completed on Murrumbateman Road and Wee Jasper Road.
IN3 - Main	tain and improve roo	ad infrastructure and connectivity
Deliver transport asset infrastructure, maintenance, renewal and enhancement programs for urban, rural and regional roads to maintain or improve overall condition.	٢	Road maintenance and delivery has been adversely impacted by the continued wet weather making road maintenance and construction more difficult.
Deliver Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW)state road maintenance and renewal programs in accordance with the Road Maintenance Council Contract. (RMCC).		Maintenance tasks completed as per the requirements of the RMCC. Now renewal works completed.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment		
IN4 - Maintain and update existing community facilities and support the development of new community infrastructure as needed.				
Develop and maintain new and existing recreational and community assets to address our communities needs in a sustainable manner.		Works to deliver new Recreational assets has been delayed due to contractor availability and wet weather.		
Ensure sufficient land is appropriately located for future Council facilities and emergency services.		Consultants were appointed, consultation with internal stakeholders and user groups undertaken. Draft strategy being prepared.		
IN5 - Ensure hi	gh quality water sup	oply options for the towns in the region		
Council supplies quality water, that addresses the community needs.	~	Council has maintained water quality and supply to the network. Water supplied was safe to consume. There were a few isolated incidents of discolouration due to lower usage and stagnation of water during cold weather period.		
Council caters for growth to ensure we meet future		Studies to prepare an Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan (water) is continuing.		
community needs.	\sim	Water Source Strategy report nearing completion		
Council makes quality enhancements that address community needs.	٢	Yass WTP Stage 1 Upgrade works commenced in February 2022 and approximately 70% of the works were completed by June. New switchboard at Raw Water Pump Station and control system were complete that enables greater control of WTP operation. Selected dosing system upgrade, on-line water quality instrumentation for monitoring and control systems were complete at WTP.		
		Consultation with funding agency and DP&E Water is in progress regarding stage 2 and 3 works.		
IN6 - Provide an efficient and sustainable waste service				
Council provides a quality sewer network that address the community needs.	~	Performance of the Yass and Murrumbateman sewerage systems were in compliance with the EPA requirements except for very minor exceedances of Yass system due to the effect of extreme wet weather.		
Council caters for growth to meet future community needs.	~	Wellington Road Pump Station is in operation and available to connect. There were nearly twenty-five new houses were under construction in Wellington Road catchment area.		

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment		
IN6 - Provide an efficient and sustainable waste service cont'd				
Council makes quality enhancements that address community needs.	~	Septage Pump Station at Yass Sewage Treatment Plant was upgraded. Program to regularly clean and assess condition of sewer mains using CCTV surveys continued. Nearly 3.9 km sewer mains were cleaned and 4.6 km sewer mains assessed to plan for any required upgrades.		
Provide an efficient and sustainable waste service.	<	Council provided waste service in accordance with service standards and the number of missed bins was within agreed range.		
IN7 - Secure improvements for and future proof telecommunications infrastructure				
Advocate for servicing of mobile blackspot areas.	٢	Council is working with CRJO councils and telecommunication providers to advocate black spot improvements.		
Advocate for a more stable communication network.	<	Council is working with CRJO councils and telecommunication providers to advocate black spot improvements.		
IN8 – Improve accessibility to and support the development of health and medical facilities in the region				
Continue to advocate on behalf of the community for health and medical facilities in the region.		Council continues discussions with NSW Health regarding local medical and health facilities		
IN9 - Improve accessibility to and support the development of education and training facilities in the region				
Continue to advocate on behalf of the community for education and training activities to serve our residents.	•	Council's continued advocacy over a number of years for a primary school in Murrumbateman has been realised, with a Development Application being approved by the NSW Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment.		



Strategic Pillar 5

Our Civic Leadership

Our leaders operate ethically and implement good governance. We empower our residents with the tools to participate actively in the development of our communities.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment		
CL1 – Effect resourceful and respectful leadership and attentive representation of the community				
Ensure activities carried out in Yass Valley are in a safe manner and meet legislative requirements.	~	Inspection activities were severely impacted by COVID-19 restrictions during the reporting period.		
		Provision of advice to business premises on COVID- 19 requirements – educative approach undertaken.		
		Food Inspections focussed on high-risk premises - (102 conducted).		
		OSSM inspections (52 conducted).		
		5 Notices/Orders issued for Food premises/residential properties (health issues).		
		Meeting with surrounding LGAs on strategies to address dumping/fill.		
		43 Protection of the Environment Notices/Orders issued (filling/dumping).		
		3 Companion Animals Orders (Dangerous/Menacing dogs).		
		29 Companion Animals Advisory letters.		
		6 Infringement notices (total of \$ 7705.00).		
Address the community's needs in a sustainable manner.	~	Council's Sustainabiliity Advisory committee commenced in June.		
Meet its objective through improving the effectiveness of risk management, controls and governance processes.	~	Council is investing in improved software to manage risk and delegations.		

CL1 – Effect resourceful and respectful leadership and attentive representation of the community

Be compliant, more efficient and effective.	J.S.	Small continuous improvement projects are being undertaken in Development Control to assist with the implementation of the NSW Planning Portal and to find efficiencies within the current processes.
		Undertaking the 10.7 certificate automation project to reduce time taken to issue 10.7 certificates.

Performance Indicator	Status	Progress Comment			
Improve Council's operating performance (operating performance ratio).	J.S	This is not possible while we continue to be awarded Grants.			
Maximise Council's ability to generate income.	~	Investments and cash management are continuously reviewed and reported on to ensure maximum returns within the outlined policy. Fees and charges are currently being reviewed.			
Ensure that Council assets are being renewed faster than they are deteriorating.	~	This has been challenging this year due to the additional damage to the road network and difficulty in conducting maintenance and renewal tasks due to the wet weather.			
	CL2 - Encourage and facilitate open and respectful communication between the community, the private sector, Council and other government agencies				
Make doing business with Council easier.	√	Council is reviewing its processes and procedures to enable small businesses to work effectively with Council.			
Inform and engage with the community on all actions of Council.	~	Council continues to improve its community engagement through is Communications and Media staff expertise now onboard.			
Undertake community engagement to ensure the community is involved in Council's decision-making process.	~	Council's Directors are actively engaging with community groups and members.			
CL3 – Collaborate and cooperate to achieve efficiencies and a greater voice in regional decision- making and encourage similar cooperation across other sectors and community groups.					
Actively participate in the Canberra region of joint Councils (CRJO).	~	Council's Mayor and Exec team are active members of the CRJO.			
CL4 - Actively investigate and communicate funding sources and collaboration opportunities that can strengthen the region					
Monitor and distribute information from government.	~	Council's communication and media team monitor and distribute appropriate information in a timely manner through our website, social media and traditional media platforms.			
CL4 - Actively investigate and communicate funding sources and collaboration opportunities that can strengthen the region					
Facilitate networking in the region to share ideas.	~	Council staff work as part of the CRJO in projects such as Blueprint Resilience, ARIC and Tourism with surrounding Councils.			