



Western Parkland Councils

PROGRESS REPORT OCT 2020–DEC 2021

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1. Introduction

The Western Parkland Councils is an alliance of the eight Councils who have partnered with the Commonwealth and NSW Governments to deliver the Western Sydney City Deal.

In March 2018 the Councils of the Blue Mountains, Camden, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Penrith and Wollondilly signed the 20-year Western Sydney City Deal with the Australian and New South Wales Governments to unlock opportunities in education, business and employment for Western Sydney and its people. The City Deal brings all levels of government together to plan for the new jobs, transport links, digital connectivity, liveable strategic centres, recreational and green areas, facilities and services that will make the region an even better place to live.

In late 2019, the eight Councils reconfirmed their commitment to working collaboratively for the region through the formation of the Western Parkland Councils. This agreement formalised governance arrangements as a further evolution towards sustainable relationships between the Councils and the realization of their shared objectives for the Western Parkland City and allowed for the recruitment of staff to drive and implement actions that would be for the benefit of all.

The Western Parkland Councils' shared vision for the rapidly growing communities of the Western Parkland region is to deliver a thriving, future-focused city that is highly connected, innovative and liveable. We are committed to working together to deliver long-term outcomes for the region through the Western Sydney City Deal, the Western City District Plan, and other important regional initiatives that we are driving.

In May 2020, the Western Parkland Councils Delivery Program 2020-2021 was endorsed, with the aim to direct the Western Parkland Councils' initial activities, strengthen the partnership and clarify shared ambitions. It confirmed the commitment to improving collaboration between the three levels of government, delivering the City Deal initiatives and pursuing regional priorities for better transport and jobs. This report sets out how successfully those activities were carried out as well as highlighting additional work that was not included in the original Program.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Western Parkland Councils acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands that make up this region: the Darkinjung, Dharawal, Dharug, and Gundungurra peoples, and the living culture of the traditional custodians of these lands. We also respectfully recognise that the traditional owners have occupied and cared for this Country over countless generations and celebrate their continuing contribution to the life of this region.

2. Highlights – Achievements and Challenges

Relationships with State and Federal Partners

In September 2020, the Western Parkland Councils and the Western Parkland City Authority executed a Relationship Agreement, setting out a commitment to work collaboratively with each other and in partnership with other NSW Government agencies as well as the Commonwealth to leverage the City's strengths, jointly deliver long-term outcomes and work together in a cooperative, coordinated and thoughtful way.

To execute this, two strategic planning workshops were held during February/March 2021 between the executives of the Western Parkland City Authority and the eight General Managers of the Western Parkland Councils. These were designed to help the leaders of both groups understand each other's roles, priorities and ambitions and identify practical mechanisms to ensure collaboration and joint decision-making occurred, and a mutually respectful governance framework was in place.

These workshops were followed by extensive examination of and feedback on the drafts of the Blueprint (and to a lesser extent the Economic Development Strategy) by Council staff throughout the year. These documents are being developed by the Authority to set out the vision for the Western Parkland City, identify any gaps in infrastructure and services and ensure that sufficient investment is planned for to realise the vision. These documents went on exhibition in December 2021 and will be finalised once the new Councils that were elected in December have had the chance to view, digest and comment on the content.

To strengthen the relationships between the three levels of Government further during 2021, the General Managers and Mayors also enjoyed the active participation of a number of key State and Federal representatives in their various meetings throughout the year, including:

- The Hon. Rob Stokes, Minister for Planning and Public Spaces & Minister for Transport and Roads
- The Hon. Paul Fletcher, Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts
- Kiersten Fishburn, Secretary, Department of Planning, Infrastructure & Environment
- Amy Brown, CEO, Investment NSW
- Steve Cox, CEO, Destination NSW
- Dr Sarah Hill, CEO, Western Parkland City Authority
- Geoff Roberts, Chief Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission
- Liz Dibbs, District Commissioner, Greater Sydney Commission
- Dr Elizabeth Mildwater, CEO, Greater Sydney Commission

These meetings were in addition to the regular City Deal governance meetings; namely the Implementation Board, at which the General Managers of the Western Parkland Councils discuss key City Deal issues with the Secretary of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Tim Reardon, and the Secretary of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Simon Atkinson; and the Leadership Group, at which the Mayors consult with Minister Stuart Ayres and Minister Paul Fletcher. A number of executives from various State Government Departments such as Transport, Education and Health also attend these meetings to help resolve sector specific issues.

COVID-19 Pandemic and Response

The COVID-19 Pandemic again impacted severely on the Western Parkland City's communities and economies in 2021 with the Delta variant triggering an explosion of COVID cases from March 2021. While all Greater Sydney experienced a four month long severe lock down, Campbelltown, Fairfield and Liverpool within the Western Parkland City were identified as "LGAs of concern" and faced even heavier restrictions.

For 109 days, residents of the Western Parkland City were subject to "stay at home" orders, meaning children couldn't attend schools, only essential workers were allowed to attend workplaces, small retail and service



WPCA Board Chair Dr Jennifer Westacott AO and
WPC Mayoral Forum Chair Cllr George Bricevic

providers were forced to close or had drastically reduced operations, community events were cancelled and even the construction industry was halted.

The General Managers of the Western Parkland Councils collaborated on a regular basis to share their experience of how each LGA was responding to the needs of their own communities and their staff as they returned to work.

With the Omicron variant now causing another sharp rise in numbers, the Western Parkland Councils continue to share best practice in terms of personnel management and care as well as community response, and this is likely to continue for some time into 2022.



Digital Commitments

During 2021, the NSW Government endorsed the next stage of implementation of the Smart Western City Program through pilot initiatives funded under the NSW Smart Places Acceleration Program. Three pilot projects received funding within the Western Parkland City in 2021, two with individual Councils as partners (Liverpool's Smart Kerbs and Camden's Envisioning in 3D), and one in partnership with the Western Parkland Councils (Western Parkland City Digital Inclusion and Equity Insights Program). While Liverpool City Council's and Camden Council's projects are both well underway, the Digital Inclusion and Equity Project only received confirmed funding in December 2021, so the necessary recruitment of a Program Manager, development of a schedule of activities and initial work will not begin until March 2022 once contractual arrangements have been concluded.

During this year too, the Western Parkland Councils was nominated as a finalist for the 2021 IoT Alliance



Australia Awards by Peclet Technology for our Sensors Network Project. Funded by the Federal Government, sensors were provided to each Council, who adopted different use cases. Some chose to track air quality, UV ratings and other atmospheric indicators, others to track water quality in our rivers. Some utilised the sensors to track people and vehicle movements so as to be able to manage carparks and provide information to businesses while others tracked the moisture levels of sporting fields to ensure optimal watering schedules.

We were thrilled to be announced as the joint winner (with the NSW State Government's Smart Acceleration Program) – but that is just the beginning!

As part of this project, the data generated by these various different applications was collated and then published on LGA-specific open data portals provided by Peclet Technology so that it could be easily accessed by our residents, businesses and research organisations. This led naturally to the concept and creation of a 'parent site' and a growing desire to identify, collect and publish data that could provide value to Council stakeholders. See [Open data home Page — Western Parkland Councils \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/open-data/home)



Considerable strategic thought and planning is going in to identify the best use for each individual Council's Open Data site as well as the most pertinent and useful datasets to publish on the 'parent' site for the whole of the Western Parkland Councils.

Why Open Data?

Our eight Western Sydney City Deal Councils population is expected to grow from 1,070,000 in 2016 to over 1,534,450 million by 2036. We provide vital services to our community but face the challenges of growing demand and limited resources. Therefore we have to find new ways of working and providing services to our community.

As part of the transformation process we will be using data to inform decision making such as to advocate for policy change, streamline processes, improve access to information to deliver better services and increase community participation, satisfaction, transparency and economic opportunity.

We've also partnered with the Federal and State governments to proactively assess data with the intention to open as much data as practical and share with each other to support data-driven decision making and deliver better outcomes for our communities across the Western Sydney Parklands.

Western Sydney City Deal

City Deals are a new approach in Australia, bringing together the three levels of government (local, state and federal), the community and private enterprise to create place-based partnerships. They work to align the planning, investment and governance necessary to accelerate growth and job creation, stimulate urban renewal and drive economic reforms.

The Western Sydney City Deal, is the single largest planning, investment and delivery partnership in the history of the nation. It is a 20 year agreement between the three levels of government to deliver a one-in-a-generation transformation of Sydney's outer west - creating the Western Parkland City.

Western Parkland City Sensor Network Project

This project deploys a shared, scalable sensing and data sharing network across eight local councils in the Western Parkland City.

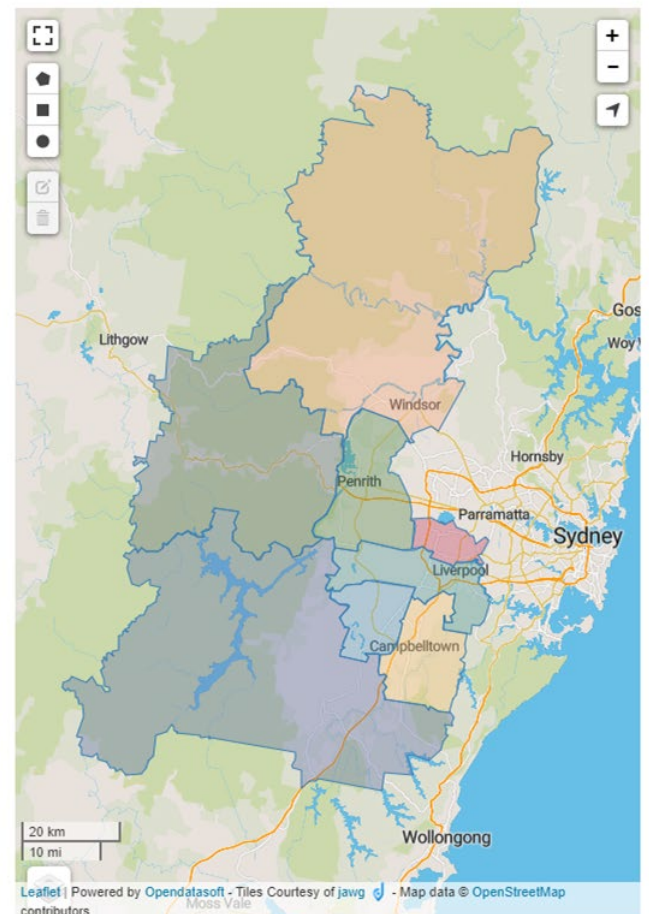
To achieve this project the eight local councils partnered with Sydney Water, UoW and UNSW to use technology to tackle and collect data on some of the big issues impacting on city living. The project has four use cases: Heat & Air Quality, Water Quality, People Sensing and Sportsground management.

Each Council has their own Open Data Portal site and the WPC site combines eight datasets to create a centralised WPC dataset view and repository.

Visit the eight local City Council Open Data sites



Western Parkland City



Western Sydney City Deal Three Year Evaluation

As per the commitment agreed to when the City Deal was originally signed, the Western Parkland City Authority, along with Western Parkland Councils and Federal Government representatives, oversaw an evaluation of the first three years of the City Deal during 2021. The University of Newcastle was successful in being commissioned to evaluate the outcomes with the objectives being: to quantify the progress and the impact of the commitments in meeting the City Deal objectives; providing qualitative and quantitative evidence to inform ongoing development of the commitments and objectives; and advise on the effectiveness of governance structures in place to manage and guide delivery of the commitments.

In October 2021, the University of Newcastle presented their summary report of evaluation findings with a workshop held to enable feedback on these findings, share lessons learned and discuss implications for the City Deal as well as begin to consider key actions for strengthening the impact and outcomes of the City Deal. Considerable feedback was gathered and will be incorporated into the draft final report, due late February, before final feedback and views are collected from the new Councils and State and Federal Government representatives, and then the work implementing its recommendations begins.

Connectivity

With an ongoing priority being to enhance connectivity within the region to ensure all our communities can benefit from the region's development, a key focus throughout 2021 was to continue to advocate strongly for the North – South rail line and South West Rail link Extension. Supported by all Western Parkland Councils as the critical piece of infrastructure that will ensure the communities of the Western Parkland City can access each other's metropolitan and strategic centres as well as the airport quickly and seamlessly, this rail line, integrated with rapid bus systems and well planned road networks will remain a high priority into 2022 and beyond.

Liveability Projects

Some fantastic projects to enrich our local communities under the Liveability Program were completed and opened this year, including Fairfield City Council's Aquatopia Wave Pool and Showgrounds, Wollondilly Shire Council's Skate Park at Appin, Camden Council's synthetic playing field at Nott Oval in Narellan and Liverpool City Council's Lurnea Community Hub. A great number of others commenced with significant work undertaken, such as Campbelltown City Council's Billabong Parklands, Blue Mountains City Council's upgrade to Katoomba Sports and Aquatic Centre, and redesign of Springwood Library, and Penrith City Council's transformation of Regatta Park. Final plans for Hawkesbury City Council's rejuvenation and beautification of Windsor, South Windsor and Richmond have been largely finalised with work to begin in the next 2 months. With the lockdowns and restrictions on use of public and community facilities impacting the Western Parkland City throughout 2021, we look forward to seeing our communities experience these wonderful improvements in 2022. Detailed information on each Council's Liveability Projects is in Section 3.



Western Sydney Health Alliance

Over 2020/2021 the Western Sydney Health Alliance, through the Steering Committee and the working groups, worked to achieve the objectives and actions of their local implementation plans. The focus of the Western Sydney Health Alliance has been to improve the health and wellbeing of the communities of the Western Parkland City, and from the beginning decided to focus on strategic and local placed-based initiatives in the identified focus areas of:



Access to Health and Well-being Services:

Improving the accessibility of health and wellbeing services.



Getting People Active:

Increasing the physical activity and access to exercise for people in the community



Liveability and Connection:

Connecting and strengthening communities through the built, natural and social environment; and



Promoting Health Food Access and Choices:

Improving the accessibility and uptake of healthy food options for the people living in the community

The Western Sydney Health Alliance has supported the member organisations' response to the 2021 COVID-19 pandemic and public health orders, and has enabled sharing of resources, information and assistance across organisations and with the local community.

The Health Alliance is currently supporting a number of initiatives such as developing the Social Determinants of Health Framework, the Access to Health Service Impact Statement 2021, and working with South Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health Districts in progressing the Healthy Streets approach.

In 2021, under the auspices of Wollondilly Shire Council, the Health Alliance's Liveability and Connection Working Group was awarded funds from LGNSW's 'Increasing Resilience to Climate Change' grant. Partnering with UNSW, WSU and the Climate and Health Alliance, the Western Sydney Health Alliance, Western Parkland Councils, Local Health Districts and Primary Health Networks worked together to co-design a guide to assist local government and health networks to implement strategies to mitigate the impact of our changing climate on health and wellbeing in the Western Parkland City. This report and tool will be published in early 2022.

More broadly, the Health Alliance continues to focus on strengthening the partnerships between local council and health organisations across the Western Parkland City, and advocating for the consideration of health and wellbeing in planning mechanisms.

Western Sydney Planning Partnership

In 2021, the Western Sydney Planning Partnership completed and presented a number of pieces of work including the Uniform Street Design Guidelines and an Engineering Design Manual. Significant time and energy was also expended in the development of plans for the Aerotropolis Precinct with the Draft Precinct Planning Package and supporting technical studies for the initial Aerotropolis precincts exhibited from 10 November 2020 to 12 March 2021.

A total of 673 submissions were received relating to common themes of: Open Space, Environment & Recreation zoning, and Land use changes.

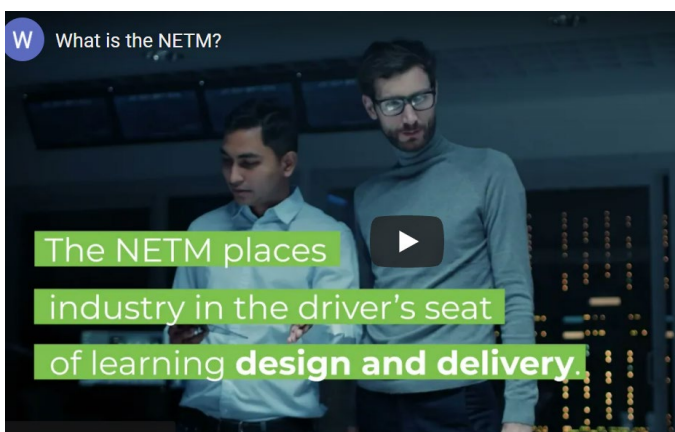
The next steps in Aerotropolis Planning were then exhibited between 8 October and 5 November 2021. A total of 288 submissions were received at this time. The Aerotropolis Precinct Planning Package was proposed to be finalised in 2021 with community engagement continuing through December 2021 and into late January 2022. With finalisation of the Aerotropolis Planning Package sometime early in 2022, responsibility for the Aerotropolis plans will move into DPE.



At the same time, as the funding that had been assigned originally to establish the Planning Partnership and fund its initial program of activities was due to conclude in June 2021, a new forward work plan of strategic activities was developed and presented to the General Managers for approval. Support was gained and, along with a change to a new Director, the Planning Partnership is now working hard on their new range of initiatives.

Work on NETM

After having spent many months discussing and determining the best way to develop and implement a Pilot Program for the New Education and Training Model, the NETM was launched in October 2021 at the *Tomorrow's City Today* Investor Forum. Over 900 businesses watched the panel discussion that included the



participation of the Executive Director of the Western Parkland Councils and significant interest was shown in the program as it clarified that the NETM is designed to offer a multiplicity of micro-credentials that will: meet the needs of employers/industry, address specific skills shortages and particularly in emerging industry growth sectors, be short and hence easy to fit in to a work day schedule, stackable so as to contribute to long-term learning, flexible and affordable as well as work-integrated with a focus on practical experience.

A number of micro-credentials are now being considered and a communications campaign will occur throughout 2022 with the collaboration and support of Councils to promote the program to businesses within

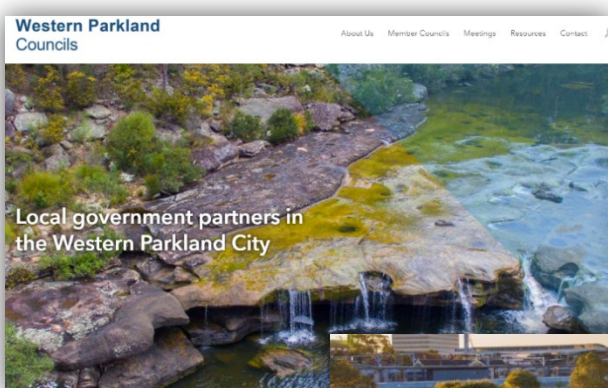
the Western Parkland City to seek their interest in existing and proposed micro-credentials as well as their input on what other courses are required.

Advocacy

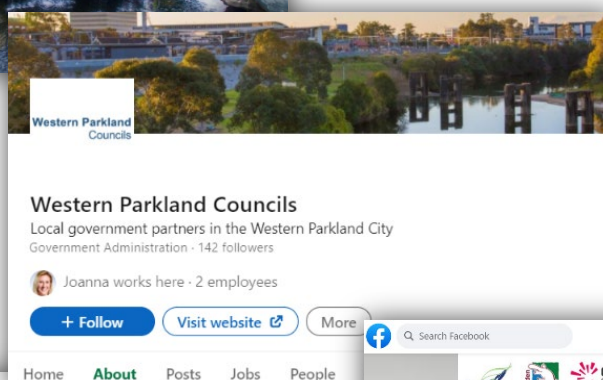
As part of our work in advocating for the needs of the communities of the Western Parkland City, we made a number of submissions including to the Inquiry for Rural, Regional and Remote Health Services and the Inquiry into the Planning and Delivery of School Infrastructure in NSW. We also advocated for our Councils' interests in relation to the review of BASIX, Review of SEPPs and also for DPIE's Review of Public Lighting.

In addition, as Executive Director of the Western Parkland Councils, proactive participation in and advocacy on behalf of the eight local Councils in the various forums, steering committees and project control groups related to the City Deal continues to be important. These include the Greenfields Executive Committee jointly chaired by DPIE's Secretary and the Authority's CEO, the Western Sydney Airport Stakeholder Planning Committee, the Utilities Collaboration Group, the Health and Education Sub-committee, and Digital City Implementation Steering Company, among others.

Websites, Social Media and Communications

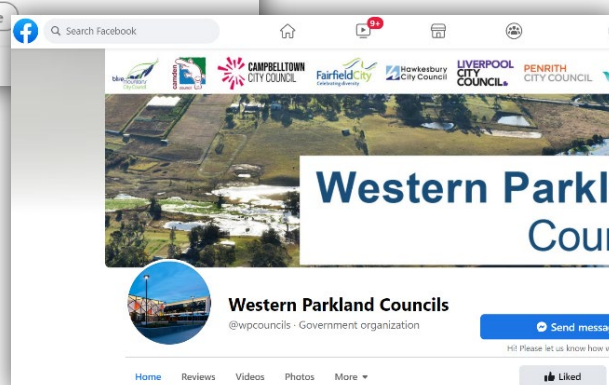


In October 2021 we launched the Western Parkland Councils LinkedIn page, which is gaining momentum with followers, mentions and shares.



In December 2020 we launched the Western Parkland Councils and Western Sydney Health Alliance websites, which are being managed entirely in-house.

Subsequently, in December 2021 a Facebook page was launched



Lastly a monthly newsletter will now be published and distributed within all Councils with the aim to keep Councillors and all Council staff informed of City Deal/Western Parkland Councils news. This will begin circulation in the first week of March 2022.

3. Liveability Program Updates

The Western Parkland City Liveability Program is providing \$190 million for projects underway in all eight local government areas. It is jointly funded by the three levels of government and will provide vital community infrastructure and public spaces across the Western Parkland City, including parks, sporting facilities, rejuvenated town centres and art and cultural event spaces. The WPCA Delivery Office is in the process of negotiating amendments to the City Deal Project Agreement to facilitate extensions for several projects across six councils, re-profiling the remaining Commonwealth and State funding across the 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years.

Program Status

Projects Completed	9
Under construction	19
Jobs created during construction	301 including 12 apprentices and 7 Indigenous workers.

Blue Mountains City Council

Project:	New amenities, upgrades to parks and recreational areas and improve access to Springwood District Library
Funding:	\$18.8m [\$3.8m (Council), \$7.5m (NSW) and \$7.5m (Cth)]
Overview:	New amenities and upgrades to parks and recreational areas across the local government area. Includes new playgrounds and play areas, pedestrian and cycle links, accessible amenities, picnic areas, upgrades to Springwood Library, and a new inclusive children's pool at Katoomba. Installation of a fully automatic door on the lower ground level of the Springwood District Library

In November 2021 work commenced on the Katoomba Sports and Aquatic Centre, which will deliver a new children's pool and play area. This includes change room and outdoor pool area upgrades.

Another project is improvements to the Blackheath Soldiers Memorial Park. Upgrades to the paths to surrounding residential areas as well as the town centre will provide equitable access for all people through improved connectivity, and an amenities building near existing play area will also be constructed.

The Springwood District Library Redevelopment and Access Project commenced in November 2021 and is over 50% complete. This will improve accessibility for all and will provide space to facilitate contemporary library services, such as a media room, group study areas, and a new library layout.



Neate Park, Blackheath (Blue Mountains City Council)



Major upgrade to outdoor pools at Katoomba Sports & Aquatic Centre (Blue Mountains City Council)

Camden Council

Project: New sporting facilities – cricket facility, Narellan Sports Hub and a synthetic playing field

Funding: \$26.1m [\$10.9m (Council), \$7.5m (NSW) and \$7.5m (Cth)]

Overview: Three projects to improve liveability and accessibility to sport and recreation facilities.

The installation of Camden's first synthetic playing field at Nott Oval was completed in 2020.

Due for delivery in March 2022, the Narellan Sports Hub Project will expand the sporting precinct by adding 14 netball courts, a dedicated athletics facility, extended rugby league field, 1.5km walking and cycling track, floodlighting, internal roadways and additional parking.

Fergusons Land Premier Cricket Facility includes a 6-turf wicket cricket oval, five cricket training nets, irrigation system, and amenities with change rooms, storage facility, and car parking for 50 vehicles. This is scheduled to be open February 2022.



Nott Oval, Narellan (Camden Council)

Campbelltown City Council

Project: Campbelltown Billabong Parklands

Funding: \$18.75m [(\$3.75m (Council), \$7.5m (NSW) and \$7.5m (Cth)]

Overview: An iconic swimming lagoon at Apex Park, Bradbury. The project will offset the urban heat island effect, integrate with adjacent areas to create a community and recreational hub and celebrate Campbelltown's Aboriginal community through the project design.

The Campbelltown Billabong Parklands will provide a community and recreational hub that incorporates a variety of water experiences, open lawns, pavilion buildings with change facilities and a café, picnic settings, meandering pathways, shade structures, tree and garden beds of with native plants which also serve to provide urban heat relief.



Visualisation of the Billabong (Campbelltown City Council)



Earthworks are finished and walls are in place – landscaping next (March 2022)

Fairfield City Council

Project: Fairfield Showgrounds Upgrades and Aquatopia Water Park

Funding: \$34.m [\$19.m (Council), \$7.5m (NSW) and \$7.5m (Cth)]

Overview: New sporting fields and amenities, grandstand upgrades, improved field lighting, new recreation areas and an additional synthetic court at the Showgrounds and construction of facilities at Aquatopia Water Park at Prairiewood.

The Fairfield Showground multipurpose amenities building features a community space, change rooms, gym/training room, office space, first aid facility and officials' rooms.

The adjoining all-abilities playground at Deerbush Park includes inclusive play equipment, water play, ropes course, flying fox, riding track, picnic tables and outdoor gym, all set in a natural and appealing bushland environment.

Aquatopia Water Park Wave Pool has now been completed and is operational. Including the delivery of the landscaping, cabanas, car parking, stage area, changing amenities and the wave pool aids in the mitigation of urban heat, and provides facilities to encourage an active community.



Fairfield Mayor Frank Carbone, together with Councillors cut the ribbon at the Deerbush Park All-abilities Playground



Aquatopia Water Park Wave Pool, Prairiewood (Fairfield City Council)

Hawkesbury City Council

Project: Rejuvenation of town centres at Windsor, Richmond and South Windsor

Funding: \$18.75m [\$3.75m (Council), \$7.5m (NSW) and \$7.5m (Cth)]

Overview: The purpose of this project is to revitalise the heart of each centre through a range of civil and public domain works including streetscapes, new trees, pedestrian crossings, improved accessibility, wayfinding, heritage storytelling and public spaces.



Town Centre Revitalisation (Hawkesbury City Council)

This project has faced a number of delays as a result of bushfire, flooding and the COVID-19 pandemic. However, both the Richmond and South Windsor projects have completed the detailed design phase and Tender EOI with the projects now proceeding to the select tender/construction phase.

The Windsor project is in the final stages of detailed design, with a Tender EOI completed and heritage approval pending.

Liverpool City Council

- Project:** Community and recreational hub in Lurnea and a playground and a sports field at Lighthorse Park, Liverpool
- Funding:** \$22.9m [\$7.9m (Council), \$7.5m (NSW) and \$7.5m (Cth)]
- Overview:** A new community and recreational hub in Phillips Park, Lurnea. The hub will provide a range of community and recreational and sporting uses, with a new community centre, play and recreation facilities, and quality open space. Lighthorse Park will also be transformed through staged upgrades and embellishment.



Phillips Park, Lurnea (Liverpool City Council)

The recreational hub in Phillips Park, Lurnea is more than 80% complete with building construction, utility installation, sports fields, fencing, landscaping, furniture installation being finalised. Opening is currently scheduled for March 2022.

The concept design of Lighthorse Park Precinct is in its final stages, expecting procurement to commence in May 2022.

Penrith City Council

- Project:** Transformation of Regatta Park
- Funding:** \$24m [\$9m (Council), \$7.5m (NSW) and \$7.5m (Cth)]
- Overview:** Park improvements include a new playground, water's edge amphitheatre, cages, public art, new paths and recreational facilities.

The transformation of Regatta Park at the Nepean River into the new focal point for nature, leisure and recreation precinct is well and truly underway.



Regatta Park (Penrith City Council)

Regatta Park design has been finalised and landscape construction commenced in August 2021. Key features of the upgrade include two new playspaces, an accessible path leading down to the river foreshore, over-water viewing platforms, a junior cricket oval, and functional carpark and plenty of green open space for a variety of activities.

An artist has been engaged to develop and install a public art piece in Regatta Park to celebrate its rich culture, which should be completed by mid-2022.

Wollondilly Shire Council

Project: District skate park and fitness facilities in Wollondilly, Community Cultural Centre and Tahmoor Sporting Complex

Funding: \$27.1m [\$12.1m (Council), \$7.5m (NSW) and \$7.5m (Cth)]

Overview: A new District Skate Park at Appin Park, outdoor fitness equipment in eight locations, a Community and Cultural Centre at Picton and Tahmoor Sporting Complex.

Appin's District Skate Park was completed and opened in December 2020.

Tahmoor Sporting Complex has reached many of its milestones despite delays due to bushfire, flooding and supply and construction impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. December 2021 saw the construction of a new two storey multi-purpose amenities block commence, with completion expected by October 2022. The Sporting Complex has already seen the delivery of a fresh athletics field and new Netball Courts in early 2021.



Community, Cultural and Civic Precinct, Picton
(Wollondilly Shire Council)



Hume MP Angus Taylor, Wollondilly MP Nathaniel Smith and Mayor Robert Khan opening the new Netball Courts in May 2021

4. Status of Delivery Program Actions

3.1 Infrastructure and Collaboration

Delivery Program Action	Current Status
Develop street design guidelines to support uniform, best-practice local government standards	Completed by the Western Sydney Planning Partnership. The guidelines include standards for different street types to maximise pedestrian access, cycle ways, tree canopy, water in the landscape and public transport, as well as better traffic flow on thoroughfares.
Develop an engineering design manual for consideration by Councils	Completed. The <i>Uniform Engineering and Design Standards</i> were published and endorsed by the Western Parkland Councils' General Managers in 2021.
Contribute to the two initial place-based infrastructure compacts for Western Sydney Aerotropolis including development of the business cases	Considerable contribution was made by Councils but in light of the Western Parkland City Authority's work on the Blueprint and completion of other planning activities in Bradfield, this activity is no longer relevant. The Authority has determined that the Blueprint will replace the PIC as the mechanism for implementation of land use and infrastructure planning across the Western Parkland City. Accordingly, the draft Initial PIC will inform the Blueprint, including consideration of feedback undertaken through the draft Initial PIC consultation process. Extensive feedback has been provided for both the initial PICs and the subsequent Blueprint. The Western Parkland City Authority Delivery Office is negotiating with the Commonwealth and Councils to prioritise the Blueprint as the tool to deliver the intent of this commitment. This decision has implications for the final milestone in the City Deal Project Agreement, which has recovery of \$3m in federal funding for the modelling. An Implementation Board paper on this refocusing of the PIC funding has been prepared and will be presented at the first meeting in March 2022 to gain agreement amongst City Deal stakeholders as to the amendment of the Project Agreement.
Advocate for the timely development of further place-based infrastructure compacts in Western Sydney	The Western Parkland Councils have been actively involved throughout 2021 in the review of the draft Blueprint document, which will now incorporate relevant elements from the Place-Based Infrastructure Compact to deliver the vision for the Western Parkland City in an integrated manner.

Advocate for the delivery of the Sydney Metro – Western Sydney Airport North/South Rail Link and South West Rail Link Extension to improve public transport links and options for Western Parkland Councils community.	The NSW Government has released a new set of critical infrastructure priorities for the Western Parkland City, which includes delivery of the Rail connection between Bradfield City Centre and Leppington, linking Bradfield City Centre to Glenfield and Liverpool by 2031. Western Parkland Councils continue to advocate for the delivery of the North - South Rail and South West Extension whenever and wherever is relevant and possible.
Contribute to the Greater Penrith to Eastern Creek Land Use and Infrastructure and Implementation Plan and endorse the strategic document to guide infrastructure planning and provision in this area	There is no update since the previous report. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is leading the preparation of a Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan (LUIIP) or Place Strategy for Greater Penrith to Eastern Creek growth area. The Place Strategy is being prepared in collaboration with State agencies and Penrith and Blacktown Councils. The Draft Western Sydney Place-based Infrastructure Compact (PIC) was released for public consultation in November 2020, which included infrastructure and staging for GPEC. The final station locations for Sydney Metro – Western Sydney Airport were also confirmed in November 2020, including the station locations at Orchard Hills and St Marys in GPEC. In consultation with councils and key stakeholders, it has been decided to not exhibit a stand-alone vision document. DPIE is progressing with the preparation and exhibition of the Draft Place Strategy, to ensure that we can provide the community with a proposed vision and some material directions and recommendations for the area. Technical studies to inform the Place Strategy, are underway, including Aboriginal engagement, urban and landscape design, infrastructure planning, traffic and transport. They are being developed through ongoing consultation with a range of stakeholders, including State agencies and Penrith and Blacktown Councils. The Draft Place Strategy is expected to be released in late 2021 and seeks to provide a clear vision and framework to support detailed precinct planning in 2022.
Review the Planning Partnership and determine future operations through consultation with Councils and other stakeholders	The review is complete and it was resolved to continue the partnership for a further three years. A Strategic Work Plan has been endorsed and funding agreements are now being discussed.
Develop social procurement policy frameworks and initiatives to help local enterprises to compete for local government business	Each Council considered this at a local level. Hawkesbury City Council included this in its Procurement Policy and Camden Council has included initiatives that support the local businesses in competing for Council business in Council's procurement policy.

Develop an evaluation framework to measure the effectiveness of the City Deal with the Australian and NSW Governments and contribute to the three[1]year review	The Evaluation Framework was completed, with the University of Newcastle subsequently appointed to undertake the evaluation. Three of the deliverables have been completed including the stakeholder engagement plan and the final draft report. The final report is scheduled to be completed by March 2022 with implementation of its recommendations to be jointly considered and overseen by the Western Parkland City Authority, Western Parkland Councils and Federal Government.
Identify evolving strategic regional priorities and opportunities that could be considered as the City Deal matures	Through participation in the various City Deal related Committees and Forums as well as work with the Lead Officers and Economic Development Officers of each Council, the Western Parkland Councils has identified a number of strategic regional priorities that will be driven as key initiatives throughout 2022 including WPC-specific tourism projects and activation of our strategic centres, a circular economy pilot project, support for our SMEs in a post COVID economy and the proactive promotion of our co-working hubs.
Promote shared strategic regional priorities and consistent responses to emerging issues beyond the scope of the City Deal, including: Response to pandemic; Flood Management; Circular Economy; and Waste Management.	As noted above, there has been significant activity in this space, particularly with reference to Waste Management and the Circular Economy. It is the ambition of the Western Parkland Councils' office in 2022 to make the Western Parkland City a best practise case study in how to transition to a circular economy.

3.2 Liveability

Delivery Program Action	Current Status
Complete preparation of new Local Environment Plans and consider incorporation of housing targets in updated LEPs of the six growth local government areas	Seven councils have submitted updated LEPs to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. Each LEP has now been determined and is in force. \$7.5 million in funding has now been received from the Commonwealth under the City Deal Project Agreement. The \$7.5 million is to deliver new LEPs for the six priority councils under City Deal commitment P2.
Document the current position across the region and identify a range of mechanisms to support affordable housing that each of the Western Parkland Councils may consider in developing their local strategies	A regional affordable housing study and draft strategy was prepared with local councils, which identified regional mechanisms and policy options. Initial discussions with the GSC and DPIE were then held regarding policy options to address identified issues in Western Sydney with a toolkit of policy options developed to assist Councils consider and/or develop their own local affordable housing plans (ongoing). The intention is to restart work on implementation as part of the 2022 work program for the WSPP.
Review policy and administrative arrangements to reform local developer contributions and provide advice to Councils on sustainable ways to fund infrastructure to support local communities	A joint submission was prepared through the WSPP in response to the Productivity Commissioner's proposals to the NSW government to review the infrastructure contributions system. A subsequent report by a technical working group coordinated by WSPP was provided into the DPIE reform proposals to improve the infrastructure contributions system in NSW. Development of a stage 1 toolkit of resources to assist local councils to implement infrastructure contributions plans was undertaken and initial scoping completed for subsequent projects to assess the financial implications of the reforms in Western Sydney as well as the business case for early acquisition of land in growth areas.
Deliver capital works projects funded thorough Western Parkland City Liveability Program	Many of the Liveability Projects have either been completed and/or significant works been commenced, however in June, councils were asked to consider obligations under funding deeds to alert the Delivery Office if a project was anticipated to be delivered beyond 30 June 2022. The funding deeds required consideration of extensions beyond that date by the Western Parkland City Authority Board. Pending consideration, the NSW and Commonwealth government will undertake a re-profiling of budgeted funding to ensure funds are available into the 2022-23 Financial Year. Assurance meetings were held by the Delivery Office with the six councils seeking project extensions. Board consideration is scheduled for October pending the receipt of final documentation from councils and one further assurance meeting.

Develop implementation plans for the four working groups under the Health Alliance and priority projects:

- Trial and evaluate the Diabetes Support Program
- local community led grower marked "hubs" in public spaces and facilities
- Promote access to council-run leisure centres
- launch the Healthy Street program
- develop and implement a social connectedness framework

Implementation plans for the four working groups were developed and work to implement the various activities identified was undertaken.

It should be noted that strategic planning was undertaken by the Health Alliance through 2021 and in-depth consultation with all partners to reaffirm the purpose, objectives and ambitions of the Health Alliance and develop a forward strategic work plan. This plan will be finalised in early 2022, along with a refresh of the Health Alliance's Steering Committee.

Advocate for the planning and provision of appropriate health facilities and services to support the region's growing population

Two submissions, *Social Determinants of Health Framework* and the *Access to Health Services Impact Statement* were developed by the Western Sydney Health Alliance in 2021, with the collaborative input and insights of all Western Parkland Councils. As noted above, consultation with all stakeholders on developing a forward strategic work plan for the Health Alliance Strategy was undertaken in 2021 and this identified a desire for the Alliance to play a larger role with regards to advocacy. This work plan will be finalised in 2022.

3.3 Productivity

Delivery Program Action	Current Status
Collaborate with the WPCA on shared actions detailed in Delivering the Western Parkland City including local industry and job attraction strategies	In addition to sharing key data and intelligence regarding investment leads, movements of businesses and industry cluster opportunities, the Western Parkland Councils put together their own Investment Prospectus and have collaborated with WSIAO by consulting monthly. In addition, WPC Executive Director has helped steer the development of the New Education and Training Model, designed to upskill and retrain residents of the Western Parkland City to ensure they have the skills for the local jobs that will come as well as provide significant input into the Economic Development Roadmap.
Clarify roles and responsibilities for investment attraction with WPCA and the Western Sydney Investment Attraction Office to ensure investment benefits the broader Western Parkland City	The Western Sydney Investment Attraction Office (WSIAO) was moved to the Authority during 2021 simplifying how investment leads would be handled moving forward. WSIAO now acts as a concierge for any incoming lead, seeking the input and advice of Council when and if necessary. At the same time, WSIAO continues to work closely with Council Economic Development Officers to do research into the industry base within the Western Parkland City so as to build a comprehensive picture of our strengths and capabilities. The Western Parkland Councils' executive office is now meeting monthly with the head of WSIAO and collaborating with WPCA on developing and securing investment leads relevant to all 8 Councils.
Contribute to decisions around future uses of the Investment Attraction Fund to support regional economic development	Management of the Western Sydney Investment Attraction Fund (WSIAF) was transferred to the Western Parkland City Authority (WPCA) in late October 2020. To operationalise the Fund, including making adjustments to its operational parameters, the WPCA is seeking Ministerial approval to transfer the remaining \$4.75 million WSIAF allocation from Investment NSW to WPCA. WSIAF is held by Investment NSW and overseen by the Jobs for NSW Board which currently lacks a quorum. The Western Parkland City Authority has developed funding and assessment guidelines, in consultation with key agencies and city deal partners, including WPC, Austrade, AusIndustry and Investment NSW and is working with Investment NSW and NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet to establish processes to administer the revised Fund. The grant program will recommence as soon as Ministerial approval is given to transfer the WSIAF allocation to WPCA.
Contribute to a regional economic development strategy to sustain and expand City Deal commitments	WPC Economic Development Specialists as well as Lead Officers have worked extensively with the WPCA to further the economic development strategy, forming part of the WPCA's Blueprint, with extensive feedback

Collaborate on initiatives to support local businesses including social procurement programs and 'buy local' campaigns

A number of Councils have initiated strategies to support local businesses. For example, Fairfield City Council includes criteria to support local businesses in its Procurement Policy and Liverpool City Council supported local businesses during this challenging year with Business Resilience Grants as part of its COVID-19 support package. Many Councils continue to encourage its residents to shop local and support local businesses, such as Liverpool's recent #LoveLivoLocal campaign in the lead up to Christmas.

Investigate opportunities to connect local people to local jobs, particularly for displaced workers

Council facilitated connections between social enterprises to create career pathways which retain locally trained hospitality workers and assist with their transition to permanent local jobs. Council also worked with major developers to develop training and skills programs for local people. New career pathways and training opportunities were developed with TAFE NSW, CSIRO and local universities including the YES Program in aviation for school students. The Executive Director has also joined the South West Sydney Regional Jobs Taskforce to ensure opportunities are recognised and promoted to relevant cohorts.

Collaborate with three levels of Government on the Draft Blueprint and Economic Development Roadmap to ensure it reflects local community needs.

All Councils provided preliminary inputs into the Draft Blueprint and Economic Development Roadmap and continue to engage with all relevant stakeholders to help finalise these documents and ensure they meet the needs of the community in the Western Parkland City.

Prepare the Aerotropolis planning package, including:

- Final Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan, SEPP and Stage 1 Development Control Plan
- Final precinct plans for initial precincts and Stage 2 Development Control Plan

The final planning package was released in September 2020 and includes:

- Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan (WSAP) Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan Finalisation Report
- Western Sydney Aerotropolis (Aerotropolis) State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP)
- Amendment to the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000
- New Minister Direction 7.8 Implementation of Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan
- Western Sydney Aerotropolis Development Control Plan (DCP) Phase 1

The Independent Community Commissioner recommended the Government amend the SEPP as a matter of priority and include the rationalisation of the Environment and Recreation Rezoning and identify the land for acquisition under the Precinct Plans. The SEPP will be amended in Q4 2021 and released alongside final Precinct Plans.

Contribute to the planning for major transport projects such as Sydney Metro Greater West (now Sydney Metro – Western Sydney Airport SMWSA)	SMWSA received planning approval in July, with determination of the project’s Environmental Impact Statement, and declaration as Critical State Significant Infrastructure. The final planning approval, a variation to the Airport Plan, is scheduled to be finalised in August. The Request for Tender (RFT) for the Station Boxes and Tunnelling (SBT) package closed in August 2021, with the RFT for the Surface and Civil Alignment Works (SCAW) package closing in September. The SBT contract award was on schedule for December 2021, to be followed by SCAW contract award in early 2022. Expressions of Interest for the Stations, Systems, Trains, Operations and Maintenance (SSTOM) package also closed in August, with a Request for Proposal scheduled for release in November 2021. Early works and property acquisitions are continuing. Expansion of St Marys car park re-commenced in early August following the construction pause (caused by the COVID lockdown), and a contract for work at Gipps St Claremont Meadows was awarded. Transport for NSW, Western Sydney Airport Co, and Western Parkland City Authority have met several times to discuss progression of planning of future stages of North South Rail including alignments through Bradfield.
Contribute to detailed co-design of rapid bus services including routes to and from Campbelltown, Liverpool and Penrith	The final business case was on track for completion in the TfNSW review in October 2021 and then TfNSW Assurance between Nov-Dec 2021, prior to INSW Assurance in Jan-Feb 2022.
Contribute to an integrated transport plan for the region that includes intraregional links and regional roads	Ongoing. There have been numerous meetings between TfNSW and Councils as well as discussions held at the Implementation Board meetings at which WPC were able to articulate their views on an integrated transport plan. Input provided to the Blueprint also covered this issue but further work remains to be done.
Implement priority initiatives identified in the Digital Action Plan: • Find ways to represent citizens far and wide • Create a register of data and ICT assets • Implement a data governance framework • Implement a framework for data sharing • Improve baseline and map digital literacy	Relevant actions from the Digital Action Plan have been included into Councils’ Operational Plans and considerable work has been undertaken in this space (as set out below).
Contribute to the Smart City Program Strategic Business Case and support pilot projects	Two pilot projects have been funded under the Smart Places Acceleration Program: Smart Kerbs (TfNSW and Liverpool City Council) and Digital Twin Augmentation (Camden Council with the NSW Department of Customer Service (Spatial Services)). In addition, two

further initiatives were awarded funding in December 2021, being Digital Equity and Inclusion Evidence Base (Digital Equity and Inclusion Working Group and DPIE), and Smart Infrastructure Planning (WSPP and DPIE), which will be implemented throughout 2022. One further initiative, Cyber Security Uplift (DPIE), is also seeking funding.

Develop further the local government open data program by expanding agreed data sets and embedding maintenance protocols

The WPC open data working group continues to meet to design and establish a WPC open data website. All 8 Council individual open data sites went live this year and a soft launch of the 'parent' WPC open data site occurred in June 2021. In August 2021, the Implementation Board was asked to endorse the continued development of the parent site and encapsulation of the eight sub-sites as meeting the key aims of this Commitment.

An initial EOI for further funding under the Smart Places Acceleration Program was successfully lodged but the Business Case struggled to establish its unique value proposition. Further investigation resulted in a new approach and 2022 will see a new EOI lodged and the open data platform utilised as a way to pilot and drive a circular economy initiative in partnership with the Authority and DPIE.

The Open Data Subgroup and the Western City Deal Communication Group will continue to work together to develop a communication plan to share the open data good news story.

Participate in the design and implementation of 5G infrastructure and application trials

A non-binding Heads of Agreement (HoA), which sets out the intention of the parties participating in Phase 1 of the 5G Trials, was signed by all parties (Optus, DPIE, Wollondilly, Campbelltown and Penrith) in July 2021. This enables the establishment of a 5G Trial Management Steering Committee, comprising of one representative from each party to the HoA, to make progression on the actual trial. The Committee is chaired by DPIE.

DPIE was not successful in its submission for funding to support the 5G Trial from round one of the Commonwealth Government's 'Australian 5G Innovation Initiative' grant program. Consequently there is an increased risk regarding the timely progression of the trial and achieving the desired outcomes as funding is not available to acquire specialist project support. Whilst Optus has, to date, been committed to the trial and supported DPIE's application, the lack of funding available from the government could be perceived in a negative light. DPIE are in conversation with the Commonwealth to explore other possible options to support the 5G Trial.

Collaborate with the Australian and NSW Governments to leverage government land holdings at Campbelltown to develop the South West Community and Justice Precinct and drive economic growth

The SBC was completed in May 2021. INSW Assurance assessed the NSW Government courts component as strong enough to proceed to a Final Business Case subject to further definition of Commonwealth needs and Campbelltown City Council's commercial objectives as landowner.

The project steering committee, has approved the WPCA to lead further planning of the Precinct, including a master plan (that includes both a State Significant Development application and Stage 1 Concept Plan), alongside development of a final business case for NSW courts by the Department of Communities and Justice. The courts-only final business case will consider the wider South West Sydney courts network as well as investment in Campbelltown.

NSW is seeking the Commonwealth's continued support for the Precinct, including contributing funding and participation in the master planning process to incorporate opportunities for future federal and family court services into the designs.

This project is subject to the agreement of funding commitments and agreement between the three levels of government. It is intended that the Steering Committee continue to play a role as the primary guidance to WPCA in leading the application for a State Significant Development and the Stage 1 Concept Plan.

Collaborate with Australian and NSW Governments to release the multi-user depot at Penrith for development to achieve jobs growth.

Progress on this commitment has been delayed due to ongoing discussions regarding the future use of the site. The Department of Defence has undertaken to work with Council to rezone the site in order to release it for sale and allow the market to suggest future uses for the site to achieve the outcomes of the City Deal. However, in order to rezone the site, more detail is required around future land use than is currently available.

Discussions across all three levels of government have considered what land uses would be permissible due to flood evacuation capacity, which would be commercially viable, and which would best meet the intent of the commitment to support jobs growth in the Penrith CBD. The Department of Defence are currently working with expert planning consultants, the Penrith City Council and the New South Wales Government to determine whether there is a sufficient level of detail available around possible future uses for the site to enable progression of a proposal.

3.4 Sustainability

Delivery Program Action	Current Status
Consider core principles for the region's green grid as a network of quality green spaces and healthy waterways	All Councils are now keenly aware of the need to maintain and indeed increase the number of quality green spaces. Initial work on developing some proposals that will increase the amenity and liveability of the Western Parkland City through the WestInvest fund has been done with ideas such as linking walking trails across the City or turning concrete stormwater drains to naturally beautiful meandering streams - these will be pursued through 2022. Funding for boosting urban tree canopy was also sought and gained by many Councils under DPIE's Greening our City grant and discussions with Sydney Water regarding how best to manage stormwater run-off through the creation of wetlands are ongoing.
Prepare a best practice guide to quality urban parks and open spaces	This was not progressed as it was superseded by work done by DPIE including the release of a NSW Public Spaces Charter developed to support the planning, design, management and activation of public spaces. They also released the Great Public Spaces Toolkit, the Evaluation Tool for Public Space and Public Life and the Great Public Spaces Guide. They continued to award grants under their Parks for People program and to create quality open space through a \$50 million investment in new and improved open spaces to swim, play, roam, ride and connect with nature through their Open Spaces Program. All these programs are being delivered in partnership with Council.
Develop strategies to reduce urban heat and advocate for more extensive tree planting programs	Councils continued to seek and win grants under the Greening our City program, funded by the NSW Government. Hawkesbury City Council received a grant for \$1.2m with the tender for tree acquisition now complete and the rollout of trees to occur in 2022. Camden Council was also successful and again, the rollout of trees will be completed in 2022. Campbelltown City Council won almost \$1 million in funding for Shade for Shared Pathways and Sports Precincts while over \$700,000 of Penrith's grant (of \$1.3 million) is destined for Industrial Estates and Corridors. Camden Council also adopted a Sustainability Strategy that raises urban heat as an issue that needs to be addressed and minimised while Campbelltown appointed a Manager to focus on issues of sustainability, urban heat and the environment and how Council can meet a Net Zero target.

Document experiences in responding to drought, bushfires, flooding and the COVID-19 Pandemic to inform improved emergency management and business continuity policies and plans

The General Managers regularly shared insights, best practise case studies and their experiences on how each Council was responding to the pandemic (particularly when many of the Councils were put into a strict lockdown as 'areas of concern') and the floods. While each Council developed their own responses, the benefit of collating these and sharing effective business recovery strategies across the City was discussed and this will be pursued in 2022.

Camden Council, for example, adopted COVID -19 Recovery Packages, providing \$130.6m investment across three stages to support Camden's local residents and local businesses suffering the shock of COVID-19.

Hawkesbury City Council adopted a Business Recovery Plan to support businesses to regroup, reactivate and rediscover the unique qualities that the Hawkesbury has to offer.

Fairfield City Council has undertaken an After Action Review of the Fairfield City LEMC and its interaction with NSW Health during the COVID Pandemic during June-November 2021. In addition, Resilience NSW undertook a Case Study on the Fairfield response to the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown in addressing food security concerns as a basis for developing a best practice guideline.

5. Financial Overview

The Western Parkland Council's operations are funded by annual contributions from the eight Councils and grants from both the Commonwealth and NSW Governments that are administered through the Western Parkland City Authority. The funds are managed through Campbelltown City Council and reported as part of the CEO's Office activities for that Councils' financial reporting purposes. This includes a quarterly review process with the Finance team to monitor performance and, if necessary, amend forecasts. Liverpool City Council administers the finances of the Western Sydney Planning Partnership, as does Wollondilly Shire Council for the Western Sydney Health Alliance.

The Council contributions were established through the Deed of Agreement as \$40k each plus CPI. The Deed of Agreement commenced on 1 January 2020 and invoices issued from Campbelltown City Council for a six months contribution early in 2020. All Councils were invoiced for their 2020/21 contribution of \$40k with all payments received. In January 2022, invoices were again issued for 2022/23.

The Deed of Agreement is for a term of 3 years and the future operation of the Western Parkland Councils, including funding arrangements, will need to be considered well in advance of the deadline to allow Councils time to consider and make appropriate provisions.

The Commonwealth and NSW Government made an initial grant of \$200k to help the Councils negotiate the City Deal and establish the alliance. In early 2020, agreement was reached to provide the Councils with a further \$200k for each of three years, meaning this funding will finish in 2023. Given that the 3 year review of the Western Sydney City Deal will set out a number of recommendations and early indications are that a number will relate to the Governance structure, it may be that working through those recommendations may resolve this situation. However, it is critical that timely consideration is given in 2022 as to how, who and for what purpose the Western Parkland Councils' executive office is to be funded from early 2023 so as to ensure a continuity of activity and maintain the momentum that has been built over recent years.