



Attachment 1 to Item 10.2.2.

Submissions received during the exhibition of the Draft 2024/2025 Operational Plan, Draft 2024-2034 Long Term Financial Plan, Draft 2024-2034 Asset Management Strategy

Date of meeting: 11 June 2024

Location: Council Chambers

Time: 6:30pm

Your Hawkesbury Your Say Submissions

#	Submission
1	<p>I can't see any information in the draft about options to reduce the cost of sullage pump outs to residents who live in the villages yet to be connected to the sewer. These are generally in lower socioeconomic areas where residents have been able to purchase houses that are generally more affordable. I feel that the cost of pump out collections is crippling for these families and should be subsidised in some way. Other areas like Freemans reach and Wilberforce received significant State funding to have the sewer installed, but the smaller villages like Kurmond and Kurrajong seem to have been forgotten. I know that other councils have chosen to subsidise these costs for reasons such as health, social and environmental benefits. Families are struggling to pay this cost, let alone any additional pump outs like during wet weather if required. So, the effluent just runs down the street. These residents are then further penalised by council staff insisting on further costs for licensing and inspections. Why can't these costs be waived at a minimum? I know people who are being told they are high risk and being inspected annually further exacerbating the cost of the systems which should be low risk if collected regularly. if other Councils can do this why can't Hawkesbury.</p>
2	<p>Parks need to be done in Hobartville.</p>
3	<p>A fenced dog park in Bligh Park would be great.</p> <p>I do walk my dogs every morning and try to take them to Richmond dog park 1-2 afternoons per week at the moment, which is ok, but at times is too time consuming, now it's not daylight savings I won't be able to go to the dog park in the afternoons at all.</p> <p>After commuting home from work at ~5-530 it isn't practical drive again to Richmond or South Windsor dog park. It would be great to be able to walk 10-15 minutes to a dog park somewhere in the centre of Bligh Park (near Tiningi Hall, or Colonial reserve) to let the dogs run off leash.</p> <p>It would also be a good place to meet other locals from the suburb as I moved here as an adult and don't know anyone besides from my neighbours.</p>

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Mr Miles Carter
Corporate Planning and Performance Strategist
Hawkesbury City Council

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2 May 2024

Western Sydney Health Alliance (WSHA) Submission

Re: Hawkesbury City Council Public exhibition – Draft 2024-25 Operational Plan

Dear Mr Carter

The Western Sydney Health Alliance (WSHA) values its partnership with Hawkesbury City Council and the opportunity to collaborate on creating healthy communities across the Western Parkland City. We define "healthy communities" as encompassing social and environmental factors that promote well-being, fostering inclusivity and ensuring equitable access to resources necessary for optimal health.

Councils play a pivotal role in shaping places and leading initiatives. The WSHA recognises Hawkesbury City Council's influence in policy decisions, planning, development, and service provision, all of which significantly contribute to resident health and well-being.

We commend Council for the detailed draft 2024-25 Operational Plan, which clearly aligns with community aspirations and Council's vision and long-term strategy. The actions outlined in the Operational Plan emphasise increasing resilience and sustainability outcomes.

Hawkesbury City Council demonstrates its commitment to health and well-being through various initiatives, including flood recovery, community resilience initiatives, health frameworks, community programs, and promoting active lifestyles through parks, cycle ways, and the Oasis Aquatic and Fitness centre. This work is praiseworthy.

In this year's draft operational plan, we've noticed the omission of our partnership commitment and its planned implementation. As deeply invested stakeholders, we see an opportunity to enhance the plan's effectiveness by including our collaborative efforts.

To further enhance the 2024-25 Operational Plan and resident well-being, the WSHA proposes the following additions for Council to consider and address:

- **Inclusion of the Western Sydney Health Alliance Partnership in either Outcome 1.2 action 1.2.1; Outcome 1.6 action 1.6.1 or Outcome 4.4 action 4.4.1.** The inclusion of our Health Alliance partnership would enrich the operational plan by leveraging expertise, resources, and collaborative networks to address community health needs comprehensively.
- **Application of a health lens checklist to activities in the Operational Plan.** This tool can help assess the potential health impacts of Council initiatives.
- **Measurement tools and indicators in the operational plan for social health and well-being.** Incorporating measurement tools and indicators into the operational plan for

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social health and well-being is crucial. This data not only offers valuable insights into community health needs but also serves as evidence that the Council's initiatives are effective in addressing these needs.

- **Advocating for access to healthy foods through the development of a Healthy Food and Drink Policy.** By implementing a Healthy Food and Drink Policy, the aim is to improve access to nutritious foods. This initiative is aligned with the agreed Western Sydney Health Alliance workplan and offers a significant opportunity to enhance the health and well-being of both the Hawkesbury community and Council employees.
- **Incorporate the active involvement in the development of the Western Parkland City Walking and Cycling Strategy.** This action not only aligns with the agreed Western Sydney Health Alliance workplan but also underscores commitment to promoting healthy, active living for all residents.
- **Implementation of the Increasing Resilience to a Changing Climate Guidance document for the Western Sydney Councils.** This will ensure preparedness for future weather events and climate challenges.

We believe these additions will strengthen the Operational Plan and support Hawkesbury City Council in its ongoing commitment to creating a healthy and thriving community.

Please find following further detail regarding the requested additions for Councils consideration.

Inclusion of the Western Sydney Health Alliance Partnership in either Outcome 1.2 action 1.2.1; Outcome 1.6 action 1.6.1 or Outcome 4.4 action 4.4.1

Our partnership directly aligns with the operational plan's outcomes, *1.2 Encourage and enable our community to participate in a healthy lifestyle; 1.6 Build on a sense of community and wellbeing* and *4.4 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities*. Furthermore, our engagement can fulfill essential sub-actions 1.2.1, 1.6.1 and 4.4.1, fostering stronger communities and transparent governance at no extra burden to the organisation.

We respectfully suggest the inclusion of our partnership commitments to ensure alignment with the plan's objectives. This step not only enhances the plan's efficacy but also showcases our collective dedication to collaborative governance. We look forward to working closely with you to integrate our partnership's contributions seamlessly into the planning process, reinforcing our shared commitment to community success.

The application of a Health Lens checklist to activities in the Operational Plan.

The Western Parkland City faces elevated rates of unhealthy behaviours and chronic diseases, impacting residents across the community. These challenges extend beyond healthcare, as social determinants of health are influenced by decisions across government sectors. Hawkesbury City Council can play a significant role in addressing these challenges by integrating a Health Lens checklist into its activities.

A Health Lens checklist is a tool that helps decision-makers consider the potential health impacts of Council initiatives. The Western Sydney Health Alliance (WSHA) has developed a Health Lens checklist specifically tailored to the needs of our region, and we are here to help with its implementation. By casting a health lens over Council's priorities and functional areas, from project inception to implementation and review, officers gain a deeper understanding of the intersection between health and wellbeing and Council's work. This ensures greater inclusion of

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health considerations in work programs, targets, and milestones across various areas.

Specific projects, like The Hawkesbury Wayfinding and Signage project, Tamplin Field Hobartville redevelopment, North Richmond Community Precinct, the Oasis aquatic and fitness centre improvements and recreation spaces and cycleway improvements provide great opportunities to apply this approach. Additionally, programs celebrating events and reviews of local plans all benefit from considering health impacts.

To effectively address these health challenges, it's crucial to identify and overcome structural barriers hindering individuals from adopting healthy behaviours. This includes creating walkable suburbs, enhancing active transport options, ensuring access to healthy food, and affordable medical support, particularly for inclusive or disadvantaged communities.

Additionally, social connectedness plays a vital role in well-being. Encouraging safe and healthy social interactions within neighbourhoods and communities can also yield positive health outcomes for Hawkesbury residents.

Hawkesbury City Council plays a pivotal role in shaping community well-being, with decisions impacting various aspects of residents' lives. By prioritising health outcomes and integrating healthy frameworks into planning strategies, Council can contribute significantly to creating healthier, more liveable neighbourhoods. Integrating a Health Lens checklist is an activity outlined in the agreed Western Sydney Health Alliance (WSHA) workplan and presents a valuable opportunity to enhance the operations of Council. Through our partnership, we can equip staff with practical information and evaluation tools, enabling Council to promote healthier lifestyles, reduce health inequities, and work towards a sustainable, thriving community.

Measurement tools in the operational plan for social health and well-being.

The Operational Plan must identify suitable targets and measures to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the projects, programs, actions, and activities undertaken¹². The draft Operational plan is not clear on what these targets and measures are and there is not a link to where these can be located.

To prioritise resident well-being, Hawkesbury City Council should incorporate health measures and indicators into the Operational Plan. Currently, the plan lacks performance metrics and qualitative measurement tools that focus on social health and well-being.

By including a wider range of measures like satisfaction rates, the Social Infrastructure Index (a measure of community resources), Walkability Index (ease of getting around by foot), Heat Vulnerability Index (areas susceptible to extreme heat), Air Quality, Urban Vegetation Cover (percentage of green space), and Digital Inclusion Index (access to technology), Council can gain a more holistic understanding of community wellbeing. These additions will not only deepen Council's insight but also empower more effective responses to community needs and environmental challenges.

We understand that monitoring and evaluating the social determinants of health can be complex, but qualitative measures offer significant potential. They serve as invaluable tools for amplifying the voices of the most vulnerable residents, placing people at the forefront of

¹ <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Integrated-Planning-and-Reporting-Handbook.pdf> - page 60

² <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/IPR-Guidelines-2021.pdf> - 4.18 page 21

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decision-making processes.

By adopting these measurement tools and indicators, Hawkesbury City Council can demonstrate a steadfast commitment to creating a community where the well-being of every individual is not only recognised but actively prioritised and supported.

Advocating for access to healthy foods through the development of a Healthy Food and Drink Policy, an activity in the agreed Western Sydney Health Alliance workplan.

The implementation of a healthy Food and Drink Policy aligns with outcome 1.2 *Encourage and enable our community to participate in a healthy lifestyle.*

As NSW statistics reveal only a small percentage of adults and children consume enough vegetables daily. Only 4 out of every 100 adults and 6 out of every 100 children meet their daily needs, with 2% consuming none at all. This highlights the urgency of addressing nutrition-related issues within our communities.

Limited access to healthy food due to availability, price, and unhealthy options creates barriers for many residents. A Healthy Food and Drink Policy can help address these barriers and create an environment conducive to healthy eating habits for all residents and Council employees alike.

We would encourage Hawkesbury City Council to include the development and implementation of a Healthy Food and Drink Policy in its 2024-25 Operational Plan. This initiative aligns perfectly with an activity outlined in the agreed Western Sydney Health Alliance (WSHA) workplan and presents a valuable opportunity to enhance the health and well-being of the Hawkesbury community and Council employees alike.

Existing food initiatives in local councils, such as emergency food relief, community gardens, and nutrition education programs, underscore the importance of prioritising healthy food access.

The proposed policy could encompass measures such as promoting the availability and affordability of fresh fruits and vegetables locally, implementing nutrition standards for food and beverages served in Council-run facilities and events, and conducting community education and awareness campaigns on the benefits of healthy eating.

As a community leader, Council holds significant influence over staff, catering, tenders, and wider community practices. Through our partnership, the Western Sydney Health Alliance stands ready to assist Council in introducing and implementing the policy, offering toolkits, frameworks, and a network of resources to facilitate the process.

Prioritising the development of a Healthy Food and Drink Policy not only improves community health but also aligns with Council's commitment to sustainability and well-being. We urge Hawkesbury City Council to seize this opportunity and lead the way towards positive food change in the community.

Incorporate the active involvement in the development of the Western Parkland City Walking and Cycling Strategy.

The development of the Western Parkland City Walking and Cycling Strategy is a collaborative commitment through the Western Sydney Health Alliance, aimed at fostering healthier lifestyles,

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promoting sustainable transportation options, and assisting councils in implementing their walking and cycling strategies.

This strategy serves as a catalyst for change and aligns well with The Parks Councils integrated transport frameworks, strategies and action plans and will assist at the local level with connections and collaboration across the eight Councils.

Embedded in the Western Sydney Health Alliance's Strategic Plan 2022-2025 as commitment 2.4, this strategy highlights our firm commitment to practical approaches for walking and cycling. Walking and cycling serve multiple purposes in the region, including commuting, local trips, fitness, and recreation. Enhancing connections within and between towns is a key consideration.

Hawkesbury City Council's support for the Kurrajong Cycleway and a cycleway over Rickaby's Creek is commendable.

Our aim is to develop and localise the strategy, ensuring interconnected pathways, street design guidelines in Councils' Development Control Plans, and enhanced WestInvest projects. Including Hawkesbury City Councils involvement in the development of the Western Sydney Health Alliance Walking and Cycling Strategy will provide support to Councils place-based initiatives and actions and also demonstrate a commitment to implement the agreed workplan and the commitment to the promotion of healthy, active living for all residents.

Piloting actions from the Western Sydney Health Alliance Increasing Resilience to the Health Impacts of a Changing Climate – A Local Government Resource for The Parks Councils

Viewing climate change through a health lens prioritises people's well-being in decision-making and actions. This approach aligns perfectly with Hawkesbury City Council's ongoing efforts in actions 2.4.1 and 2.6.1 to strengthen community resilience. The *Increasing Resilience to the Health Impacts of a Changing Climate – A Local Government Resource for The Parks Councils* (IRCC Resource) offers a valuable toolkit specifically designed for The Parks Councils.

Hawkesbury City Council has already demonstrated leadership in climate resilience through the response and support provided to their communities after the recent weather events and through initiatives like the Climate Change Risk Assessment and the Adaptation Action Plan and Implementation.

The IRCC Resource builds upon these existing efforts by providing a framework and actionable recommendations for local governments. It aligns with Hawkesbury City Council's Delivery Program and the NSW Western City District Plan, ensuring a comprehensive local government perspective. The IRCC initiative within the Western Parkland City focuses on climate's impacts on human health and well-being, providing mitigation and adaptation provisions for incorporation into local council strategic planning cycles.

Using the Framework in Councils strategic documents and piloting actions from the IRCC Resource within Hawkesbury City Council's local strategic planning offers several benefits. These actions can help build community resilience, preparedness for events such as floods and bushfires, reduce heat stress in urban areas, improve air quality, and create a more comfortable and healthier environments for residents, particularly vulnerable populations like children and the elderly.

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We strongly encourage Hawkesbury City Council to pilot actions from the IRCC Resource within its local strategic planning. This will build upon existing efforts and ensure a comprehensive approach to safeguarding community health from the impacts of the changing climate. The Western Sydney Health Alliance stands ready to assist Hawkesbury City Council in this endeavour by providing technical expertise and support throughout the piloting process

The Western Sydney Health Alliance thank you for your consideration of this submission and look forward to the outcomes of this review.

For further information on the Western Sydney Health Alliance or this submission, please contact me on 0418 976 973 or email ally.dench@wshealthalliance.nsw.gov.au

Kind regards,



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Hawkesbury City Council

To Whom this may concern,

Re: Submission re: Draft Operational Plan (OP) 2024/2025

As the leading body in the Hawkesbury representing the interests of the Environment, we would like to make the following comments regarding the Draft OP. All comments are made with regard to the accepted pressures on the budget.

1. We note that although the 'Protected Environment' is one of the four key Community Outcomes, there is no expenditure and allocation of the budget beyond maintaining existing programs towards this outcome in the OP.
2. Council's current **Community Strategic Plan (CSP)** (2022 - 2042) indicates that the natural Environment scores very highly by residents in terms of importance, compared to other cultural, sport and social functions. This is not reflected in the OP.
 - *'Healthy and sustainable river and waterways'* scores between 85 and 95% importance,
 - *'Protecting Bushland, Open spaces and natural habitats'* scores just below 85% in importance,
 - Meanwhile, *'Cultural'* items such as Galley, Community events and festivals, and Library all score under 65% in importance and score high in satisfaction.Therefore, the OP should reflect the above shared vision of the community and appropriately allocate funding towards higher importance items.
3. We note that no environmental project is listed under 'Major Works' or 'Other' in the OP, yet Library resources are receiving .3M, the Sporting Council is receiving \$1.3M, and holding and sponsorship of events receives 1.0M (all of which score lower in importance in the CSP)
4. In the summarised budget, 'Community and Culture' will expect to receive 45.6M in funding, yet there is no budget allocated for environmental projects. Indeed all environmental works appear to be considered under 'Strategic Planning' which is inappropriate in our view.
5. Outcomes:
 - 'Healthy lifestyle' has reference to sport but not engagement with the local and natural environment.
 - 'Support and expand active volunteering' takes no account of the significant volunteer network within Bushcare and the Nursery.
 - Under 'Providing the right places and spaces', all capital works appear to go to Sporting and Gallery/ Library facilities and playgrounds.
 - Under Protected Environment (Outcome 2), there is **no expenditure apart from maintenance of existing services**. The Koala *'vegetation mapping'* is using money allocated from the 2022-2023 budget.
The current vegetation mapping should be concluded by December 2024, therefore a further allocation of funds should be included in the OP to continue progress towards a KPOM throughout the rest of the financial year.

- There is an absence of any (specified) allocated funds towards the 'Urban Greening' strategy and implementation.
- 'Working with business and tourism operators on sustainable practices' refers to adopting 'fire safety'. This 'outcome' and 'action' are inconsistent.

6. Under employment, there is no mention of utilising 'traineeship' and 'apprenticeship' opportunities.

In summary, HEN suggests that the Operational Plan does not adhere to the Community Strategic Plan, and therefore should be amended by reallocating funding from lower priority to higher priority projects and areas.

For example, event sponsorship and Sports Council funding could be partially reallocated to progressing the **Koala Plan of Management**, and developing Bushland areas and Reserves to increase their attraction for healthy living and recreational purposes.

We appreciate the time taken to consider this submission, and would like an opportunity to address Council with regard to the Draft OP at the relevant Council meeting.

Warm regards,

Matilda Julian, Hawkesbury Environmental Network (HEN) Chair person