

# End of Term Report 2016



## Walcha – 2025

**Community Strategic Plan**

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## Introduction

In 2009 the NSW State Parliament introduced Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) reforms within the Local Government Act. These reforms have made it compulsory for councils to adopt long term Community Strategic Plans (CSPs) on behalf of the community.

The plans are meant to express the entirety of their community's aspirations for the future, not just those that a Council may be able to satisfy.

In May 2011, after extensive community engagement, Walcha Council adopted on behalf of the community their first fully compliant Community Strategic Plan, *Walcha 2025*. This plan was reviewed and amended after public consultation with the current version being adopted by the current Council on 26 June 2013.

Each elected Council is required, under the legislation, to adopt its own 4 year Delivery Program which ideally should remain fixed for the length of its term of office. The intent of this is to ensure that each elected council works out the strategies most likely to make a positive contribution towards the achievement of the community's vision for what life should be like by the end of the long term planning period (2025). In its commitment to the Delivery Program each elected council is generally required to take on neither more nor less than its fair share of burden for achieving the long term aims of the CSP.

Walcha 2025 has been developed by the community and has been maintained and implemented by Walcha Council on behalf of the community. It is a plan for the future of the Local Government Area and will be a guide for other levels of government, private businesses and non-government agencies.

The end-of-term report is a report on Council's progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan during its term (Section 428(2) Local Government Act). This report should be presented at the final meeting of an outgoing council and should be incorporated or appended to the Annual Report.

## Major Achievements

- ◆ Completion of Hi-Cub Project along the river banks.
- ◆ Green Gully Track winning a State Tourism Award.
- ◆ Completion of Walcha Local Environment Plan.
- ◆ Waste Management Service Review.
- ◆ Introduction to flexible working conditions for indoor staff.
- ◆ Rural Addressing implemented.
- ◆ Tax Deductibility Status achieved for Walcha Open Air Gallery.
- ◆ Regional Development Australia Fund for Thunderbolts Way - \$5.12million being spent on the road by Gloucester, Uralla and Walcha Councils – combined effort.
- ◆ Police numbers, vehicles and Walcha Road Station maintained – Assistant Police Commissioner.
- ◆ Completion of Woolbrook Bridge in collaboration with Tamworth Regional Council.
- ◆ Office of Local Government conducted a ‘Better Practice Review’.
- ◆ Walcha Preschool National Quality Standard Assessment Rating of “Exceeding National Quality Standards”.
- ◆ Purchase of Linda Lockyer portrait of “Shirley Davidson”.
- ◆ Upgrade of McHattan Park Toilets.
- ◆ Continued progress on Streetscape Upgrade.
- ◆ Upgrade of Aboriginal Section of Cemetery – construction of Reflection area.
- ◆ Supporting the beginning of Walcha Farmers Markets through sponsorship.
- ◆ Council became a member of Country Mayors Association.
- ◆ \$600,000 for improvements to local water infrastructure.
- ◆ Successful Community Efficient Program (CEEP) Grant from Regional Development Australia to install LED Street Lights.
- ◆ \$1.1m for widening of Bergen Bridge and testing of all bridges in the Council area.
- ◆ Purchase and installation of Peter Lundberg sculpture *Laindjung*.
- ◆ Won the Arts NSW Regional Acquisition Program prize of \$20,000 worth of Art from Sculptures by the Sea exhibition and subsequent installation of *Goulburn River* by Paul Bacon and *The Figure in the Landscape* by John Petrie.
- ◆ Assistance of ‘*Opera at Langford*’.
- ◆ Organisational Restructure
- ◆ Sponsorship of Brian Locker to attend the International Deaf Lawn Bowls Championship.
- ◆ Installation of exercise equipment on river levee banks – partners with Rotary.
- ◆ Funding to improve Nowendoc and Woolbrook landfill sites.
- ◆ Review of Ward Boundaries
- ◆ \$100,000 from Member of NE to conduct a water security feasibility study on building a dam on the Oxley River.
- ◆ Implementation of Replacement and Rehabilitation Bridge Program
- ◆ Sponsorship of Jack Feltham to represent Australia at the World Mountain Bike Championship on the Czech Republic.
- ◆ Successful Environmental Protection Authority Grant to construct a Community Recycling Centre at the Wast Depot.
- ◆ Successful Restart NSW Grant to widen Bergen Bridge.
- ◆ Relocation of Visitor Information Centre.
- ◆ Completion of the four year ‘Fit for the Future’ Local Government reform process and the successfully fight to remain autonomous.
- ◆ The adoption of the Village improvement Grant Program.

## **Apsley River Corridor and Walcha Woodlands (HiCUB Project)**

The HiCUB project is an urban biodiversity and sustainability project in the Walcha, Armidale Dumaresq, Uralla and Guyra local government areas and has been funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. The vision is to “Resilient connected communities that are collaborative, skilled, well-resourced and that expand on existing knowledge, practice and networks, resulting in enhanced biodiversity values of our urban areas and the adoption of sustainable use of resources over the long term”.

In 2009 working groups were established in each of the four areas to put forward ideas for projects that would meet the HiCUB objectives. Environmental rehabilitation of the riparian zone of the Apsley River from the Mill Pond downstream to the Middle Street Bridge was put forward as the number one priority by the Walcha Working Group. Rehabilitation works such as river bed modifications and the establishment of “levee bank friendly” vegetation were proposed in accordance with the recommendations from the Walcha Floodplain Risk Management Plan final report 2009.

The Apsley River Corridor and Walcha Woodlands Plan is part of a broader effort to maintain and enhance biodiversity in and around Walcha. Local Landcare Groups continue to contribute to the creation of a sustainable landscape through improvements to water quality, corridor connectivity and active improvements in numerous natural resources management initiatives.

The project proposed works to maintain and improve the biodiversity values of the significant native vegetation remnants within Walcha township and to increase their connections with the Apsley River. These areas include the lookout, the Travelling Stock Route on the Uralla Road, the town common, Blairs Gully and areas near the racecourse.

The plan aimed to improve water quality and riparian habitat along a section of the Apsley River between the Mill Pond and the Middle Street Bridge. Re-modelling of the channel and associated landscaping works within this area will also serve to beautify the River and provide a welcoming place for visitors and locals to enjoy.

The Plan was broken down into three parts. These include:

- ❖ River Bed Modification
- ❖ Levee Bank Vegetation Plantings
- ❖ Bush Regeneration and Corridor Connectivity.

The project was initially designed to be completed in stages, however Council received Riparian Funding from the Namoi – Towards a Sustainable Future program that enable the completion of the project.

Council has received many favourable comments on the project and coupled with the work undertaken as required by the Floodplain Risk Management Plan has resulted in restoration works that can be also enjoyed by visitors and locals. The use of the area has improved dramatically and Council expects this trend to continue. It has resulted in the River uniting the community rather than dividing it as it did previously.



## Regional Development Grant to upgrade Thunderbolts Way

Walcha Council in collaboration with Uralla and Gloucester Shire Councils has been successful in securing over \$4million of Regional Development Australia funding (RDAF) to upgrade sections of Thunderbolts Way. Thunderbolts Way is a Regional road that provides main access for high volume tourist and freight moving from the New England Northern West areas of NSW to Newcastle. The increasing movement of NSW Forests' logging product and livestock coupled with inadequate maintenance funding from the NSW Government has resulted in sections of the road deteriorating to the point where it is now discouraging the tourists and regional businesses using the road impacting on the economic activity of towns along the route.

Walcha Council took the lead in obtaining the RDAF, convening a meeting and obtaining agreement from Gloucester Shire Council, Uralla Shire Council, Guyra Shire Council and Inverell Shire Council to be party to the funding submission. Walcha Council also arranged for the preparation of the economic analysis of the impact the road has on the business activity in the New England North West as well as a full road condition survey of the road from Gloucester to Inverell. This work, together with the in-house preparation of RDAF documentation was instrumental in this project being successful.



## Walcha Preschool

In October 2014 the Walcha Preschool underwent an assessment and rating of the service under the National Quality Framework in accordance with the Educational and Care Services National Law Act 2010.

In determining the final ratings for our service the NSW Department of Education & Communities undertook a rigorous assessment of the quality of the service against the National Quality Standard for Early Childhood Education and Care. The service received an overall rating of “Exceeding National Quality Standard” the highest rating possible.







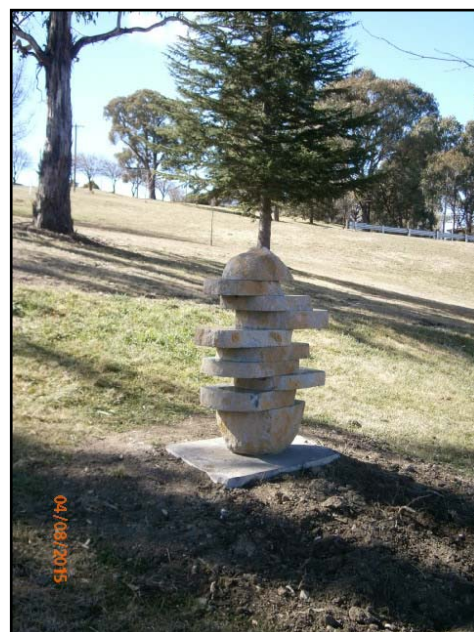
**NSW Regional Acquisition Program prize of \$20,000 worth of Art from Sculptures by the Sea exhibition**

Walcha Council was the recipient of the *Sculpture by the Sea* 2014 Regional NSW Sculpture Acquisition Program, funded by Arts NSW. The Program allowed Council to purchase a sculpture by a New South Wales Artist from Sculpture by the Sea Bondi 2014, for permanent public placement in a suitable location within Walcha Council. Arts NSW were pleased to provide up to \$20,000 for the acquisition. Walcha Council were lucky enough to receive two (2) sculptures for this amount and they were installed on the Apsley River levee bank within the heart of Walcha for all to enjoy.

The Sculptures are:

*Goulburn River Landscape* by Paul Bacon

*The Figure in the Landscape* by John Petrie.



## **Upgrade of Aboriginal Cemetery**

Council received a grant through the Community Building Partnership Program to improve the Aboriginal Section of the cemetery. That project involved forming a partnership with the local Aboriginal community and surveying the area using non-destructive radar to identify burial sites that had not been marked with headstones and the construction of a reflection area. The aim of the project was:

**“Aboriginal people will gain a culturally significant memorial at the Walcha cemetery; creating a remembering place that will bring comfort through recognition, respect and acknowledgement of loved ones”.**

This project was another example of the enormous benefit that is being gained through the many partnerships Council has developed. This project involved Walcha Council, Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council, Walcha Aboriginal community, Jobs Australia Enterprises, Walcha Arts Council and Arts North West.

### **Aboriginal Reflection Centre Walcha Cemetery**



## **Completion of New Bridge for Woolbrook**

In 2013 Walcha Council and Tamworth Regional Council collaborated and shared the cost of building a new bridge and associated roadworks, which totalled \$1.2 million. Council borrowed the \$600,000 for their half share through the NSW Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (State Government Scheme). Council receive a 4% interest rate subsidy through this Scheme, reducing the effective interest rate to 1.84% which will result in an interest saving of \$133,899 over the life of the loan.

The bridge, which straddles the boundaries of two local government areas, replaced a timber, iron and steel structure which serviced the small town of Woolbrook since 1914. The bridge's condition had deteriorated in recent years and weight load limits were applied to the bridge limiting access to locals.

The new bridge work commenced in November 2013 and it was opened to traffic on 1 May 2014. A great achievement for both Councils and their ratepayers.



## **Apsley River – Levee Upgrade and Shared Pathway**

Following the completion of extensive flood studies for the Apsley River, the need to remove low spots along the levee and the reinforcement of the top of the levee were identified as two high priority projects. A successful grant application realised \$360,000 from State and Federal governments which, together with \$180,000 from Council, funded these projects. An indirect benefit of the levee top reinforcement project was the construction of 3 kilometres of concrete topping which could be used as a shared pathway along the top of the levee.



## Installation of Exercise Equipment on Levee Banks of Walcha

Council was approached by Walcha Rotary Club, who contributed \$10,000, for exercise equipment to be installed on the levee banks of the Apsley River. Council, after unsuccessfully applying for grant funding, proceeded with the Project and it was finished in May 2016 with the total cost of the Project being \$52,806. This has been a major achievement for the town of Walcha and another successful joint collaboration with Walcha Rotary Club.



# Themes & Outcomes

The Community Strategic Plan was broken into the following Themes

**Better Transport and Liveable Towns and Villages**

**Supporting Business and Jobs**

**Clever Community**

**Healthy Community**

**Green Community**

**Stronger Community**

**Keeping People Safe**

**Better Government**

Under these themes a number of Strategic Goals and Outcomes were developed with corresponding strategies to achieve these aims. The following is a list of these, together with the progress achieved to date.

# Report on Goals, Strategies and Progress

## Better Transport & Liveable Towns & Villages

CSP 1.1	Walcha will be serviced by an integrated and efficient transport network.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2016
1.1.1	Develop and maintain a safe and efficient local road and bridge network.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	Transport NSW, Aust Govt	Ongoing. Overall condition of the road has been maintained. Plans are in place to reduce the infrastructure backlog. Major investment in replacing and rehabilitating Timber Bridges commenced.
1.1.2	Maintain safe and efficient regional and state road links to, from and through the Walcha Local Government Area.	Leader Advocate	Transport NSW, Aust Govt	Regional road funding provided by the NSW Government continues to be inadequate to meet the cost of maintaining regional roads. Council was successful in gaining a Regional Development grant to carry out major upgrades of the worst sections of the road.
1.1.3	Maintain and increase the rail passenger service and the use of rail for freight.	Advocate	Transport NSW	Council in conjunction with the Namoi Joint Organisations of Council has commenced lobbying the State Government to introduce a daily return service from Sydney to Armidale.
1.1.4	Maintain and improve the standard and competitiveness of our regional air services.	Advocate	Aust Govt	
1.1.5	Improve community and public transport.	Facilitator Advocate	Transport NSW	
1.1.6	Provide and maintain facilities for the safe movement of pedestrian and cycle traffic.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	NSW Govt	Shared pathways to the John Oxley Sportsground and along the Apsley River levee banks provide over 5 kms of new pathways.
1.1.7	Provide adequate and appropriate parking.	Leader Facilitator	Transport NSW	

CSP 1.2	The character of Walcha, Woolbrook, Yarrowitch, Nowendoc, Tia and Walcha Road will be maintained while protecting the productivity of our rural land.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2016
1.2.1	Maintain the character of the Walcha Local Government Area through the orderly development of the natural and built environment.	Leader Facilitator	DOPI	<p>The Walcha LEP 2012 specifies the types of development that can and cannot occur throughout the entire Walcha LGA in a full range of land use zones to (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• protect, manage and restore areas of high ecological, scientific, cultural or aesthetic values,</li> <li>• to prevent development that could destroy, damage or otherwise have an adverse effect on those values,</li> <li>• to provide for a range of land uses, services, facilities, housing needs, and a variety of housing types,</li> <li>• to minimise conflict between land uses within a zone,</li> <li>• to encourage and promote diversity, businesses, neighbourhood activities and employment opportunities.</li> </ul>
1.2.2	Ensure that sufficient land is available to meet the demand for appropriate land uses.	Leader Advocate	DOPI	The Walcha LEP 2012 implements the New England Development Strategy 2010 which outlined key land use policies and principles and provided the planning context for the preparation of the LEP.
1.2.3	Prevent agricultural land from being developed in ways that reduce its productivity.	Leader Facilitator	DOPI, DTIRIS, NCMA, NRCMA, HCRCMA	The Walcha LEP 2012 acts to encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resources base, encouraging diversity, minimising land use conflicts and minimising fragmentation of lands.



## Supporting Business and Jobs

CSP 2.1	Commercial and tourist development will be promoted and encouraged to grow in harmony with the natural environment, to take maximum advantage of commercial opportunities and to increase local employment.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2016
2.1.1	Maintain and improve the appearance of the Walcha Local Government Area to help attract tourist and commercial activity.	Leader	Community Groups, Council Committees	New toilet facility installed in Woolbrook and a major upgrade of McHattan Park Toilets. Public toilets are maintained daily and Council regularly receives positive feedback from visitors to the town.
2.1.2	Develop and market tourism products targeting the “Touring by Road” market and other markets.	Leader	Destination NSW	Walcha, Uralla, Armidale & Guyra were the initial partners of development of New England High Country (NEHC) with Glen Innes, Tenterfield and Inverell joining the group. The success of this group is due to the partners selling the same product, enabling campaigns to be easily agreed upon and activated with efficiency and effectiveness. Focus has mainly been on road traffic particularly motorcycles and RV travellers. A new Walcha brochure, NEHC branded, utilising great imagery, information and layout; presenting Walcha in a more attractive light. A new Walcha website has been developed which is tablet friendly, fun, sophisticated, informative and user friendly, again with great imagery and NEHC branding. Both of these products showcase Walcha in a more worthy manner, championing both natural and man-made assets synonymous to Walcha. The southern section of NEHC, Armidale, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha, have revamped and reprinted their collaborative visitor guide.
2.1.3	Develop activities that encourage increased visitation frequency and stay length.	Leader Facilitator	Tourism NSW	The Northern Tablelands has several of the best motorcycling routes in Australia. NEHC is actively promoting the area as a motorcycling mecca with plans to focus further on this market. Campaigns to

				<p>date are: Winter Moments, winter 2014, My Favourite Corner, Spring 2015, Choose Your Own Adventure, Spring 2016, My Favourite Corner Phase 2, Spring 2016. Motorcyclists are the perfect visitor as they little carrying capacity and have to buy everything along the way, research shows that the majority of motorcyclists are from a demographic of high income earners. Tourism is responsible for the Walcha Mountain Festival, attracting both visitors and locals. All Walcha events are welcomed and supported by tourism, with a designated slot on our events website page allocated if details are given. Tourism also supported Opera at Langford, in 2016 more extensively with staff assisting in the promotional organisation.</p>
2.1.4	Assist, support and encourage the establishment and/or expansion of local businesses.	Advocate	DTIRIS	
2.1.5	Promote Walcha's suitability for the aged care community and associated industries.	Leaser Facilitator Advocate	ADHC	Walcha Council Community Care actively advertises to the community the services and support it provides to enable frail aged, and people with a disability and their carers to continue living comfortably within their homes.
2.1.6	Develop an environment that will attract technology or internet based industry to come to Walcha.	Facilitator	DTIRIS, NBN	
2.1.7	Provide the services that appeal to "young" workers eg: Childcare, medical, housing, sporting facilities and parks.	Leader Advocate		Council continues to run the preschool and support youth activities. Sporting fields are maintained to a high standard and provided to the many sporting groups free of charge Council has been active in supporting School Based Trainees
2.1.8	Promote job sharing for the young members of the rural sector.	Advocate	,	

## Education and Training

CSP 3.1	Education and training opportunities will be provided that deliver the skills and knowledge needed to advance the community.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2016
3.1.1	Provide quality and accessible preschool facilities for 3 to 6 year old children in a safe and supportive environment.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	DFCS	Walcha Preschool National Quality Standard Assessment rating of "Exceeding National Quality Standards".
3.1.2	Ensure staffing numbers and transport subsidies are maintained so that outlying schools can continue to operate and provide effective K-6 education.	Advocate	Transport NSW DEC, Schools	Ongoing.
3.1.3	Support education, training and employment programs for trainees and apprentices	Leader Facilitator Advocate	DEC	Council has been active in supporting School Based Trainees and currently has two.
3.1.4	Maintain local early intervention services that enable disabled children to enter mainstream education.	Leader Advocate	DFCS	Walcha Early Intervention currently have 7 children receiving support and has been preparing for the introduction of the NDIS, to continue to support these children and families into the future. Not commenced.
3.1.5	Support universities and technical colleges to develop or maintain courses that allow local residents to attend part time.	Facilitator Advocate	DEC, TAFE Universities	
3.1.6	Provide financial incentives for local children who study and work locally in an area of identified skill shortage for an agreed number of years.	Leader Facilitator Advocate		Not yet identified.

## Health

CSP 4.1	Health services and facilities will be provided and where appropriate managed locally to meet the needs of the community.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2016
4.1.1	Maintain a viable, state-of-the-art Multi Purpose Service in Walcha.	Advocate	HLHD, DOH	Council has representation on the Walcha Health Committee and continues to work closely with the Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) in the delivery of health services Council has unsuccessfully lobbied for the reintroduction of this service.
4.1.2	Reinstate and maintain the blood donor collection facility in Walcha.	Advocate	HLHD, Red Cross	
4.1.3	Ensure that all residents can access the health information and health services that are available.	Advocate	Riverview, HLHD	The HNELHD and Council through Walcha Community Care continue to publicise the health services and programs that are available in Walcha.
4.1.4	Maintain and strengthen the role of the Local Health Committee.	Advocate	HLHD	Council currently have two active members on the Committee which includes the Chairperson. Regular meetings of the Committee occur. The Committee is always represented when regional forums are organised.
4.1.5	Provide general practitioners and allied health workers commensurate with the community's need.	Advocate	HLHD	Council, the Walcha Health Committee and General Practitioners are working together to ensure adequate GP numbers are maintained. Council provides housing for Registrars.
4.1.6	Ensure adequate transport is provided for community members to access local, regional and State services.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	HLHD, DOH, NSW Transport	Council currently receives funding to provide Community Transport in Walcha.

CSP 4.2	The public health and wellbeing of the community will be protected and enhanced.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2016
4.2.1	Foster preventative health systems and activities that promote physical, mental and social health.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	HLHD, DOH	Council assist with the transport of the Life Education Van and also pays for every child in the shire to visit the van. Council in conjunction with HNELHD regularly run activities and information sessions that promote physical, mental and social health.
4.2.2	Promote the benefits of and provide opportunities for, all children to be immunized.	Facilitator	HLHD, DOH	Council works with the HNELHD to provide this service and expand on the benefits of immunisation.
4.2.3	Maintain the availability and quality of water for use in rural areas.	Leader Facilitator	HLHD, DOH	Council ensure through the development application process that activities conducted in the rural area do not have a negative impact on water quality.
4.2.4	Ensure that the disposal of liquid waste in rural areas is carried out in a healthy manner without negative environmental impact.	Leader	OEH, NOW	Council ensure that all new and upgrades on-site waste disposal systems are inspected by Council.
4.2.5	Maintain cemeteries in accordance with the community's needs and expectations.	Leader		Cemeteries are maintained in accordance with Community expectations. Council has recently completed an upgrade of the Aboriginal section of the cemetery.

## Local Environment

CSP 5.1	Walcha's distinct and diverse natural environment will be protected and enhanced.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2016
5.1.1	Maintain and strengthen partnerships with organisations responsible for natural resource management.	Leader	NPWS, NCMA, NRCMA, HCRCMA, Landcare Groups, SNELC	Council regularly attends and participates in meetings of other organisations such as SNELC to maintain working partnerships to assist in common goals of achieving appropriate natural resources management initiatives.
5.1.2	Promote sustainable development and protection of our natural resources through the planning system.	Leader	DOPI	Council has included natural resource management requirements and has worked with relevant government departments in the preparation of the LEP
5.1.3	Promote activities that reduce the volume of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.	Leader	OEH	Not commenced
5.1.4	Develop policies that address the impact of climate change on the community.	Leader	DOPI, OEH	
5.1.5	Protect and enhance biodiversity, native vegetation, river and soil health.	Leader	OEH, NCMA, NRCMA, HCRCMA	Council has been successful with funding applications that enable on-ground works that directly improve biodiversity, native vegetation, improve water and soil health. These programs include the Apsley River and Walcha Woodlands Project, Koala & Bird connectivity on Road Reserves and funding to reduce aquatic weeds in the Apsley River.
5.1.6	Engage and support the community to undertake sustainable natural resource management and protect Walcha's natural environment.	Leader	DOPI, OEH, NCMA, NRCMA, HCRCMA	Council work with Southern New England Landcare and local Landcare groups on individual projects.
5.1.7	Reduce the impact of invasive species	Leader Facilitator Advocate	DPI, NCMA, NRCMA, HCRCMA, NPWS	Council is directly involved in the management and direction of controlling invasive species in the Walcha local government area through representation on the New England Weeds Authority, which council financially contribute to.

<b>CSP 5.2</b>	<b>Solid waste will be managed in a sustainable manner with a continuing reduction in waste generation and disposal to landfill.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
5.2.1	Develop and promote programs that increase the participation of the community in recycling and reducing waste going to landfill.	Leader	OEH, NIRW	New kerbside collection bins have been provided with a consequent increase in the amount of recycling collected.
5.2.2	Implement alternate and affordable processes that reduce waste going to landfill.	Leader	OEH	New kerbside collection bins have resulted in more recycling with less going into landfill.
5.2.3	Monitor and appose any move to apply the Waste and Environment Levy on the Walcha Local Government Area.	Advocate	OEH	
5.2.4	Manage solid waste in an efficient, affordable and sustainable manner.	Leader	OEH	Council has reduced additional bin collections with the waste being transported to more efficient processing sites in Uralla and Tamworth.
<b>CSP 5.3</b>	<b>Water supply and sewerage services will be physically and environmentally sensitive.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
5.3.1	Implement the recommendations of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy and other Water and Sewer Management Plans.	Leader	NOW, NRCMA, NCMA	
5.3.2	Provide additional off creek storage capacity to drought proof Walcha while minimising the impact of water extraction from the McDonald River.	Leader	NOW, NRCMA, NCMA,	Council has completed the Yield Study for the MacDonald River and has entered a MOU with three landholders to further explore opportunity to supplement Councils Off Creek Storage capacity.
5.3.3	Identify possible new water sources.	Leader	NOW, NRCMA, NCMA	Council has proposed to conduct a feasibility study of a dam in Apsley River (Apsley dam). Council is waiting to receive a deed agreement from Office of Water for \$100,000 to carry out the feasibility study.
5.3.4	Promote water use efficiency and water saving.	Leader	NOW, NRCMA, NCMA	Regular articles in local media.

<b>CSP 5.4</b>	<b>Walcha will increase the use and production of renewable energy.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
<b>5.4.1</b>	Establish (with partners) alternate renewable energy supplies that will exceed the energy needs of our community.	Facilitator	Aust Govt	Not commenced.
<b>CSP 5.5</b>	<b>Agricultural activities will be environmentally sustainable.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
<b>5.5.1</b>	Protect and promote farming practices that are environmentally friendly.	Facilitator	DPI, Landcare Groups, NCMA, NRCMA, HCRCMA	



## **Stronger Community**

<b>CSP 6.1</b>	<b>Social services will be planned, maintained and coordinated so that they meet the current and future needs of all groups in the community.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
6.1.1	Provide and support Home and Community Care and Meals on Wheels programs so that they reach the appropriate clientele.	Leader Facilitator	ADHC	Demand for Walcha Community Care Services continue to increase.
6.1.2	Support activities that provide meaningful engagement and social interaction.	Leader Facilitator	Community Groups	Regular social functions including morning teas and group outings are provided for the Groups. Currently joint outings are being discussed with the Groups.
6.1.3	Support current volunteer efforts and increase volunteer participation.	Leader Advocate	Community Groups	The Walcha Community Care depends on the support of the volunteers. Council recognise the importance of them and regularly acknowledge them and thank them for their input and dedication to the service.
6.1.4	Employ and support local social and youth workers to assist the community.	Leader Facilitator Advocator	DFCS	Council works with the Youth Workers from the Anglican Church that provide non denominational programs for the youth of Walcha.
6.1.5	Educate and advise the community about available Government services	Leader Facilitator		Ongoing through other providers. Council continues to monitor.
<b>CSP 6.2</b>	<b>The existing strong community spirit and pride will be protected and promoted.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
6.2.1	Support and promote participation in community events.	Leader Facilitator	Community Groups	Council strongly supports many community organisations and events to operate through financial support and promotion; this includes maintaining facilities in an operational presentable manner, provision of rent free parks and sporting grounds, providing letters of support in grant funding applications, additional financial support on a case by case basis, and promotion on Council websites of local community events

**6.2.2** Encourage and support outlying communities to have their own identity through the development of community infrastructure.

Leader  
Facilitator

The adoption of Village Improvement Grants will assist in this area into the future.

<b>CSP 6.3</b>	<b>Walcha's cultural identity will be enhanced.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
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**6.3.1** Promote the history and current strength of Walcha as the premier agricultural area of the New England.

Leader  
Facilitator  
Advocate

**6.3.2** Make the “Open Air Gallery” theme an integral part of the development of the Walcha Local Government Area.

Leader

Arts NSW

During the term Council has continued to expand its Open Air Gallery with the installation of *Goulburn River* by Paul Bacon and *The Figure in the Landscape* by John Petrie and *Laindjung* by Peter Lundberg.

**6.3.3** Support the activities of cultural organisations.

Leader  
Facilitator

Council provides rates relief for the local History Society. A Councillor is a member of the Historical Society Committee and a Local History centre is co-located with Councils library

**6.3.4** Preserve the significant historical assets of the Walcha Local Government Area.

Leader

Council completed a heritage study of the local government area to identify potential sites of historical significance; Council also has a schedule of heritage items specified in the Walcha LEP 2012 that have additional development control requirements in accordance with the Heritage Act 1977.

<b>CSP 6.4</b>	<b>Walcha's Aboriginal communities will be supported and strengthened.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
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**6.4.1** Increase effective partnerships with, and develop the capacity of Aboriginal communities.

Leader  
Facilitator

Amaroo LALC

Council has regular contact with the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council particularly through the provision of Walcha Community Care Services. Council employ an Aboriginal Access Worker that also works with the wider Aboriginal community. Council also work with the HNELHD workers in providing services and programs to the Aboriginal community.

6.4.2	Support improvements in the quality, availability and suitability of Aboriginal housing.	Advocate	Northern Tablelands RALC, Amaroo LALC	There has been major renovation to the majority of aboriginal houses within the shire
6.4.3	Manage the water and sewerage systems at Summervale.	Leader	NOW, DAA	Systems managed by Council in accordance with agreements with NOW. The bore at Summervale remains an unresolved issue.
6.4.4	Ensure that Aboriginal children have access to early childhood education and early intervention services.	Facilitator	DFCS	All attempts are made to ensure that Early Intervention and Preschool services are available to Aboriginal children.
6.4.5	Improve access to country for the Aboriginal community.	Facilitator Advocate	Amaroo LALC, NCMA, NPWS, NRCMA	
6.4.6	Increase and support meaningful, long term and equal opportunities for Aboriginal employment.	Leader Facilitator		
<b>CSP 6.5</b>	<b>Young people will be retained and supported to live in Walcha.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
6.5.1	Seek, monitor and respond to requests from the youth population.	Leader Facilitator Advocate		Council has recently passed a resolution to establish a Youth Advisory Committee.
<b>CSP 6.6</b>	<b>People of all ages will be encouraged to participate in cultural, recreational and sporting activities.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
6.6.1	Maintain and improve library, sporting and recreational facilities.	Leader	CNRL	Ongoing. Council in conjunction with the Walcha Rugby League secured a grant to install a bore at Walcha Oval which allowed the surface of the oval to be renewed by the Walcha Rugby Club.
6.6.2	Strengthen organisations and groups providing cultural, recreational and sporting activities.	Leader Facilitator	DSR	

<b>CSP 6.7</b>	<b>Community members will be given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills so that they can better participate in the leadership of the community.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
6.7.1	Encourage and support community members to develop leadership skills.	Leader Advocate	Community Groups	Ongoing.
6.7.2	Identify and support community members and activities that have the capacity to improve people's quality of life.	Leader	Community Groups	Ongoing.
6.7.3	Provide opportunities for community members to become involved in the management of the community.	Leader	Community Groups	During Fit for The Future process Council held Public Meetings and a Survey to ensure that the community were involved in the future of the Council of Walcha.
<b>CSP 6.8</b>	<b>The impact of the rising cost of living on vulnerable members of the community will be reduced.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
6.8.1	Support measures that reduce the cost of essential service for community members who are financially disadvantaged.	Leader Advocate		

## Keeping People Safe

CSP 7.1	Police stations and staff numbers will be provided to effectively control and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and to keep our community safe.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2016
7.1.1	Ensure that the existing number of police stations is maintained and that they are staffed with fully active officers.	Advocate	NSW Police	Council has been successful in lobbying the State Government to maintain the Walcha Road Station.
7.1.2	Minimise crime and antisocial behaviour.	Advocate	Liquor Accord, Walcha CCC	Council maintain its membership with the Liquor Accord Committee.
CSP 7.2	Emergency services will be provided to ensure the safety of our community and visitors.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2016
7.2.1	Maintain viable and state-of-the-art emergency services in Walcha capable of adequately dealing with local needs.	Facilitator Advocate	NSW Police, SES, RFS, FRNSW, Ambulance, Westpac Rescue, Angel Flight, CareFlight	Rural addressing underway and has been actively used by the landholders, purchasing the signs, and acknowledged by the Emergency Services in identifying addresses in the outer lying areas. Special thanks to ratepayer Colleen Stackman in being a dynamic force behind this initiative.
7.2.2	Ensure that local knowledge and rural-based skills play an integral part in the delivery and planning of emergency services by recognising their importance and protecting the right of staff to be trained in and make use of local knowledge and skills.	Facilitator Advocate	NSW Police, SES, RFS, FRNSW, Ambulance	
7.2.3	Develop and promote responsible ownership of animals.	Leader Facilitator	DLG	Council administers the Companion Animals Act 1998 and: responds to complaints relating to animal behaviour; provides information on animal ownership responsibility and management of the animals. Council were successful in receiving grant funding from the OLG in partnership with Uralla Shire Council. The Grant offered companion animal owners the opportunity to have their pets

desexed, microchipped and registered at a discounted rate, and the program promoted and encouraged responsible pet ownership.

## **Better Government**

<b>CSP 8.1</b>	<b>Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
<b>8.1.1</b>	Councillors will exhibit leadership on Council and regional committees as well as in community organisation.	Leader	DLG	A number of Councillors and Staff are involved in community organisations as well as regional committees.
<b>8.1.2</b>	Ensure that all local organisations are accessible by the community.	Advocate		Council continually update the Executive of Committees on their list of Organisations within the community.
<b>8.1.3</b>	Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.	Leader	DLG	Council has completed all Statutory Plans required under the NSW Governments Integrated Planning and Reporting Regime
<b>CSP 8.2</b>	<b>Council rate funding for local government projects will be supplemented by income generated from other sources.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
<b>8.2.1</b>	Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council.	Leader		Council is Financially secure with all Financial Indicators being positive
<b>8.2.2</b>	Encourage and support entrepreneurial activities.	Leader Facilitator		Council continually support all entrepreneurial activities that it can with low risk to rate payer funds.
<b>8.2.3</b>	Identify surplus Council owned assets for possible sale to be invested in infrastructure reserve.	Leader		Evaluated regularly.

8.2.4	Maintain and improve Council owned building and land assets.	Leader		In line with our Asset Management Planning these are reviewed regularly.
8.2.5	Involve the community in the identification of infrastructure projects.	Leader		Council continually encourage the community to identify these projects.
8.2.6	Support actions that will give local government the right to determine their own rates and a fixed share of taxation.	Advocate	LGSA, COAG, Aust Govt	
8.2.7	Seek grant funding wherever possible.	Leader		Ongoing. Council is always actively searching possible funding for projects.
<b>CSP 8.3</b>	<b>The boundaries of the Walcha Local Government Area will be modified to reflect existing and developing communities of interest.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
8.3.1	Modify the boundaries of the Walcha Local Government Area to reflect existing and developing communities of interest.	Leader	TRC, USC, DLG	Due to Fit for the Future processes this has not commenced.
<b>CSP 8.4</b>	<b>Local government will be recognised in the Australian Constitution.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2016</b>
8.4.1	Work towards the constitutional recognition of Local Government.	Leader Advocate	ALGA, LGSA, Aust Govt	Council has passed resolutions supporting the Local Government NSW and The Australian Local Government Association campaign for Constitution recognition.