

*the city within
a World Heritage
National Park*



Blue Mountains 2040 *Living Sustainably*

Local Strategic Planning Statement

March 2020



Abbreviations

ABS – Australian Bureau of Statistics

CSP – Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan 2035

District Plan – Western City District Plan

EMP 2002 – Environmental management Plan 2002

EP&A Act – Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

GSC – Greater Sydney Commission

ILUA – Indigenous Land Use Agreement

IP&R – Integrated Planning and Reporting

LEP – Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015

LGA – Local Government Area

LHS – Local Housing Strategy

Local Planning Statement – Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably

NPWS – NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

SEPP – State Environmental Planning Policy

SREP 20 – Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No. 20 – Hawkesbury-Nepean River (No 2-1997)

SDT – Sustainable Development Threshold

STRA – Short Term Rental Accommodation

TAFE – Technical and Further Education NSW


The Local Strategic Planning Statement was formally made on 31 March 2020

Some images supplied by Daniel Neukirch

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Acknowledgement of *Ngurra* (Country)

The City of the Blue Mountains is located within the Country of the Darug and Gundungurra peoples. Blue Mountains City Council recognises that Darug and Gundungurra Traditional Owners have a continuous and deep connection to their Country and that this is of great cultural significance to Aboriginal people, both locally and in the region.

For Darug and Gundungurra Traditional Owners, *Ngurra* (Country) takes in everything within the physical, cultural and spiritual landscape - landforms, waters, air, trees, rocks, plants, animals, foods, medicines, minerals, stories and special places. It includes cultural practice, kinship, knowledge, songs, stories and art, as well as spiritual beings, and people: past, present and future.

For many thousands of years, Traditional Owners have cared for their *Ngurra* in what is now the Blue Mountains and through this, *Ngurra* has sustained and nourished them. Caring for *Ngurra* is central to Aboriginal culture, being recognised as a holistic embodiment of environmental sustainability. Locally, and as a nation, there is much to learn from the special relationship between Aboriginal people and Country.

In a land use statement such as this, it is important to recognise and address the as yet largely unresolved issue of Traditional Ownership by Aboriginal peoples, recognised in part by the *Native Title Act 1993*. The dispossession of Traditional Owners resulting from the European colonisation of Australia, the ongoing disadvantage of Aboriginal peoples, and the deep, strong, unbroken connection to *Ngurra* (Country) held by Traditional Owners, warrants specific and particular consideration in this document.

Blue Mountains City Council pays respect to Elders past and present while recognising the strength, capacity and resilience of past and present Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Blue Mountains region.

Message from the Mayor



I am proud to present *Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably* – the Local Strategic Planning Statement for City of the Blue Mountains. This Statement presents the community-shaped vision for land use across our City for the next twenty years, derived from our *Community Strategic Plan*. It reflects our spectacular World Heritage setting, our local values and the significant contribution we make to the Western Parklands City.

In many ways, we make our largest contribution to the Western Parklands City and to Greater Sydney, through our significant points of difference. Our environmental setting requires strong stewardship and the way we manage our urban settlements is central to meeting these responsibilities.

Our Local Environmental Plan responds strongly to our local values and has, time and again, been overwhelmingly supported by the community. This Statement reinforces the importance of this local focus, to protect our unique environment and also our way of life within each of our distinct towns and villages. We know the Blue Mountains is a unique place to live, work and explore.

The nine local planning priorities and associated actions within this statement reflect our future direction for a sustainable, liveable and productive City. They reflect the heart of the Blue Mountains, the things we value and what it means to be part of this resilient, vibrant community.

Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably sets the direction for the Blue Mountains as leaders in living sustainably within this highly liveable and productive City. To ensure that the land use outcomes identified in this statement are delivered, we must work together with all levels of government (Federal, state and local) to achieve its outcomes.



Mayor, Mark Greenhill OAM
Blue Mountains City Council

Message from the CEO



This Local Strategic Planning Statement sets out the community shaped vision and local planning priorities for the use of land in the Blue Mountains over the next 20 years. Importantly, it recognises that as a City within a World Heritage declared National Park, and as the Inaugural City of the Arts in NSW, the Blue Mountains has a unique role to play. We are well positioned to be a leader and centre of excellence in sustainable living and environmental management, in addressing climate change and in fostering the Blue Mountains as a centre of learning, culture, creativity and the arts. The recent bushfires remind us of the challenge we face from natural disasters that appear to be increasing in frequency and intensity. This Planning Statement positions the City in addressing and responding to future natural disasters and in supporting the resilience of our community in the face of climate change.

Frequently described as “the lungs” of Sydney, the Blue Mountains provides the majority of the green space for the Western Parklands and indeed for Greater Sydney. The Blue Mountains includes 29 unique villages, towns and settlements each with their own identity. A key focus of this Planning Statement is on protecting the unique natural and built heritage values and characteristics underpinning sense of place and the distinctive Blue Mountains lifestyle.

The Planning Statement recognises that our location within a World Heritage National Park imposes significant stewardship responsibilities that constrain how we use our land. While our environmental setting imposes natural constraints that limit population growth, increasingly international and national visitors are being attracted to come to the Blue Mountains at growing rates. While this contributes to the local economy, this growing visitation needs to be managed sustainably. Importantly, we need to plan ahead and ensure the City has the required infrastructure, facilities and services to meet the needs of both visitors and the local community into the future.

The world is changing rapidly with new emerging technologies and innovations reshaping the way we live, learn, work and play. This Planning Statement positions the Blue Mountains to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by these changes as they relate to land use.

I commend the Blue Mountains 2040 Living Sustainably Local Strategic Planning Statement as an important land use plan for the long term sustainable and successful future of the Blue Mountains.

Dr Rosemary Dillon

CEO Blue Mountains City Council

Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably About the Local Strategic Planning Statement 2019

Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably is our long term land use plan aimed at ensuring the Blue Mountains local government area (LGA) can respond in a locally appropriate way, to the challenges and opportunities for the future. This Local Strategic Planning Statement (local planning statement) is required by legislation (Clause 3.9 of the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act) to identify the basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard for social, economic and environmental matters.

Blue Mountains 2040 presents the community shaped vision and local planning priorities, for the use of land in the Blue Mountains over the next 20 years (updated approximately every five to seven years). The Local Planning Statement aligns with, and responds to, the key directions of the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2035. In many ways, it is the land use version

of the CSP and includes nine local planning priorities within three themes: Sustainability, Liveability and Productivity. Key infrastructure priorities are embedded within each of these themes.

The local planning priorities set a clear direction for how land will be used for housing, employment and sustainable tourism. The statement acknowledges the important link between land use and infrastructure planning in creating sustainable, liveable and productive cities. The priorities describe how the unique values and characteristics of the Blue Mountains will be protected, to ensure our distinctive lifestyle and sense of place is retained. The world recognised environmental setting of the Blue Mountains establishes the physical framework for these priorities and appropriately underpins our actions.



Figure 1: The Blue Mountains in the Regional Context

This local planning statement also responds to the Western City District Plan, which contributes to the vision for Greater Sydney as a metropolis of three cities – the Western Parkland City, the Central City and the Eastern Harbour City. However, planning for population growth and infrastructure in the Blue Mountains is unlike other areas within the Western City. Our unique location in a World Heritage National Park carries significant stewardship responsibilities, resulting in land use constraints and limiting population growth.

Our location on the edge of the largest metropolitan city in Australia and our role as an international visitor destination, have significant implications. The Local Planning Statement acknowledges the economic role of tourism in the future of the Blue Mountains. This statement places particular emphasis on the need for sustainable destination management and the associated infrastructure needs within the city. The approach is therefore aimed at building an infrastructure capability that will enable the creation of a sustainable, liveable and productive Blue Mountains.

Blue Mountains 2040 provides an opportunity to continue to support and acknowledge key areas of focus for the Blue Mountains, including the protection of the environmental and cultural significance of the local area. The statement will also be a critical tool in seeking support from the State Government to further develop the City of the Blue Mountains as sustainable, liveable and productive. This statement positions the Blue Mountains as a leader and centre of excellence in environmental management, responding to climate change and living sustainably within a World Heritage National Park.

Blue Mountains City Council has prepared Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably with and on behalf of the Blue Mountains community. We now have a shared responsibility for implementing it. As individuals, businesses and organisations, our investment in the Blue Mountains is through our everyday decisions and actions on the ground.



Figure 2: Aerial over Springwood

Community Consultation

Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably has been developed with and on behalf of, the community of the Blue Mountains.

Three stages of consultation have been carried out in line with the Engagement Strategy endorsed by the Council on 18 September 2018. A report on the results of stages 1 and 2 was provided with the public exhibition material for this Local Planning Statement. The public exhibition, held 30 September 2019 to 29 November 2019, was the third and final stage of community consultation.

Stage 1 Digital Engagement: November 2018

Comments were invited on a digital spatial platform to identify areas of challenge and opportunity across key themes including housing and character, environment, transport, culture and the arts, employment, education, and tourism.

Stage 2 Community and Stakeholder Engagement through Targeted workshops and Retail Surveys: March & April 2019

Community workshops focused on the areas of Sustainability, Productivity, Character and Liveability and were held in Springwood, Lawson and Katoomba. A separate Productivity workshop was held in Katoomba with the local business community to focus on the opportunities and constraints to doing business in Katoomba (as the Strategic Centre of the Blue Mountains) and across the local government area.

Stage 2 consultation also included face-to-face engagement with retail owners and operators in nine (9) town centres. The opportunity was provided to speak directly about the positive and negative aspects of doing business in each centre, and aspirations for future improvements and change. The option to complete a detailed online survey on these topics was also provided.

The Council completed a housing survey in April-May 2019 to understand community needs and perspectives on the supply and variety of housing across the Blue Mountains. Phone and online surveys were completed by members of the community in each planning area of the City and across all age groups, to ensure the results were representative of the community as a whole.

Stage 2: Aboriginal Advisory Committee and other agency consultation

Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee provided valuable input to the document, resulting in specific actions as well as broader content.

Various state agencies, including NSW Health, NSW Department of Education, Create NSW, and RMS (now Transport for NSW) provided input on future land use opportunities and collaboration opportunities. Discussion with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has also informed the draft actions in the statement at this stage.

Overall, this engagement process built upon public consultation carried out in 2016-17 in the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan, as well as other targeted engagement sessions for various Council strategic plans. The results of these various consultation processes were used to inform the preparation of the local planning statement.

Stage 3: Formal Public Exhibition of Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement was formally placed on public exhibition from 30 September 2019 to 15 November 2019. Extensions of time were requested to allow for additional community response and as a result, the exhibition was extended until 29 November 2019.

A series of supporting studies and reports were exhibited with the Draft Local Planning Statement, including the Draft Local Housing Strategy, Draft Local Character Study, Draft Local Character Statement, Blue Mountains Visitor Economy, Retail and Employment Studies (URBIS), as well as consultation reports providing a summary of each stage.

The community was provided an opportunity to attend a number of information workshops during the public exhibition, and to make submissions via Council's website.

In total, one hundred and seventy one (171) submissions were received from state agencies, community groups, businesses and individuals. The comments made and issues raised in those submissions, have informed the content of this statement.



Figure 3: Community Consultation to inform the Local Planning Statement

Policy Context

The Local Strategic Planning Statement is required by legislation (Clause 3.9 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act)*) to identify the basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard for social, economic and environmental matters. This requirement was introduced by the state government as part of broader planning reforms and changes to the *EP&A Act* in March 2018. The Local Planning Statement sits within the state and regional policy framework, as captured in Figure 4 and summarised below.

A Metropolis of Three Cities - The Greater Sydney Region Plan

The Greater Sydney Region Plan (March 2018) is the first regional plan developed by the Greater Sydney Commission and was prepared concurrently with Future Transport 2056 and the State Infrastructure Strategy, aligning land use, transport and infrastructure planning to reshape Greater Sydney as three unique but connected cities. The vision of three cities includes three main commercial and economic hubs: the CBD as the focus for the 'Eastern Harbour City', Parramatta as the focus for the 'Central River City', and the emerging Western Sydney Aerotropolis as a focus for the 'Western Parkland City'. The Blue Mountains is located within the Western Parkland City.



Figure 4: Line of sight between key strategic priorities.
Source: NSW Department of Planning

Western City District Plan

The local planning statement (Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably) has the legislative role of responding to the ten (10) key directions within the Western City

District Plan (March 2018) (the District Plan), and describing how these actions will be implemented at the local level.

The Western City District includes Blue Mountains, Penrith, Hawkesbury, Fairfield, Liverpool, Camden, Campbelltown, and Wollondilly. The District Plan has substantial focus on the infrastructure requirements of high growth areas within the Western District and the proposed Western Sydney Aerotropolis. As a City within a World Heritage Area and with highly constrained natural environments within the urban area, there is a need for containment of the established urban footprint. The District Plan acknowledges this limited growth opportunity, through classification of the Blue Mountains as wholly Metro-Rural. This classification only requires planning for local growth, rather than that of Greater Sydney.

State Environmental Planning Policies

State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) contain state-wide standard development provisions. These cover a range of planning matters from relatively minor development which may be exempt from the need for development consent, to policy on energy and water efficiency for development, housing for seniors or the design quality of apartment buildings to name a few. SEPPs override or may modify the provisions of a Local Environmental Plan.

This Local Strategic Planning Statement includes actions which respond, and in some cases advocate for change to particular state policies. Many of these relate to housing, recognising that the local context of the Blue Mountains presents particular environmental challenges where a standard policy approach may not appropriate.

Directions issued by the Minister for Planning under section 9.1(2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* (under section 9.1(2)) includes a list of directions from the Minister for Planning that must be considered whenever an amendment (Planning Proposal) to a Local Environmental Plan is proposed. These directions address key matters including employment, environment, heritage, housing and infrastructure. Any amendment to the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan resulting from this Local Planning Statement will address the relevant section 9.1(2) directions.

Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan 2035

This local planning statement aligns with and responds to, the key directions of the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan 2035 (CSP). The CSP is the highest level plan for the Council, and identifies the main priorities and aspirations for the future. The objectives and strategies to achieve the goal of a sustainable and successful Blue Mountains are captured under six interlinked key directions:



The Council has completed a comprehensive strategic program in recent years, delivering a number of strategies and plans in response to these key directions. They are incorporated here, as actions against the local planning priorities.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

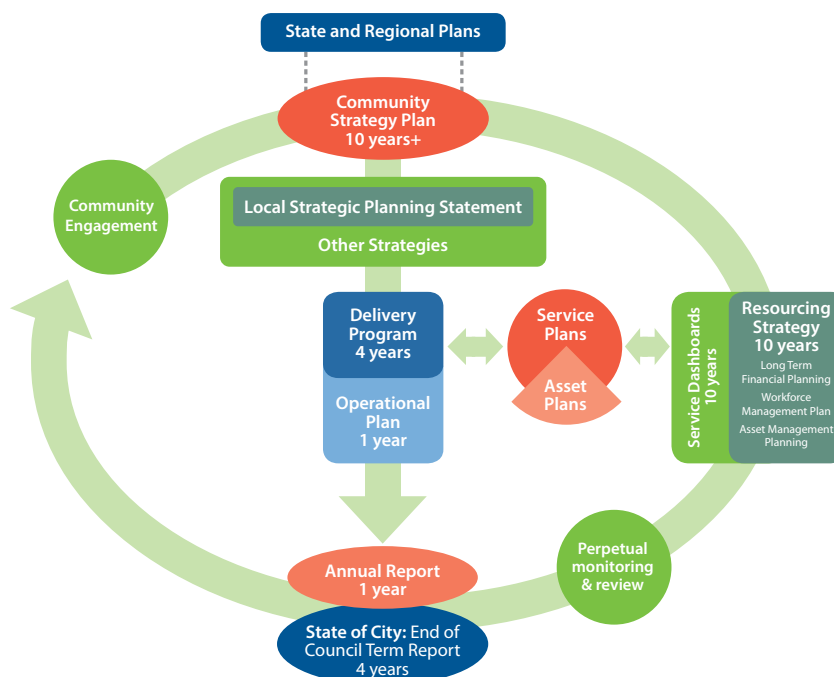


Figure 5: Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 (LEP 2015)

Specific actions in the local planning statement related to land use will at a detailed level, be implemented through the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 (LEP 2015). The LEP provides the legal land use framework to guide local development. Importantly, a core objective in preparing LEP 2015 was to translate and retain the place-based planning scheme of LEP 2005 in the mandatory, state standard LEP template.

Enduring Local Planning Principles

The Blue Mountains local policy context is supported by decades of fine-grained spatial planning. This framework has been tested and reinforced over many years and continues to hold currency against the themes and priority actions of the Western City District Plan, to which Council responds in this statement.

The 1970s Structure Plan captured this spatial framework for the first time, with early recognition of distinct towns and villages within a unique environmental setting (Figure 6). Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2015 as the principal local planning document in the Blue Mountains, built upon the long held planning framework of LEP 1991 and the place-based framework within LEP 2005. The basis of LEP 2005 was Environmental Management Plan 2002 (EMP 2002). Supported by strong underlying physical constraints mapping including vegetation, creek locations and slope, this extensive body of work established key planning principles which remain fundamental to land use planning in the Blue Mountains today.

Planning Principle: Limiting urban expansion

This is a principle to identify limits to the extent of the potential urban footprint in the Blue Mountains, using the concept of a Sustainable Development Threshold (SDT). The SDT is based on the exclusion of certain environmentally sensitive land from residential land uses.

Planning Principle: Managing the environment

This is a principle where the form and location of any development in urban areas is controlled to prevent or minimise impact on the natural environment. This has been achieved by:

- concentrating higher-density urban development around key transport and service nodes promoting efficient use of infrastructure and the use of sustainable forms of transport, and
- progressively reducing the density of urban land uses with increased distance from transport and service nodes and diminished infrastructure capacity

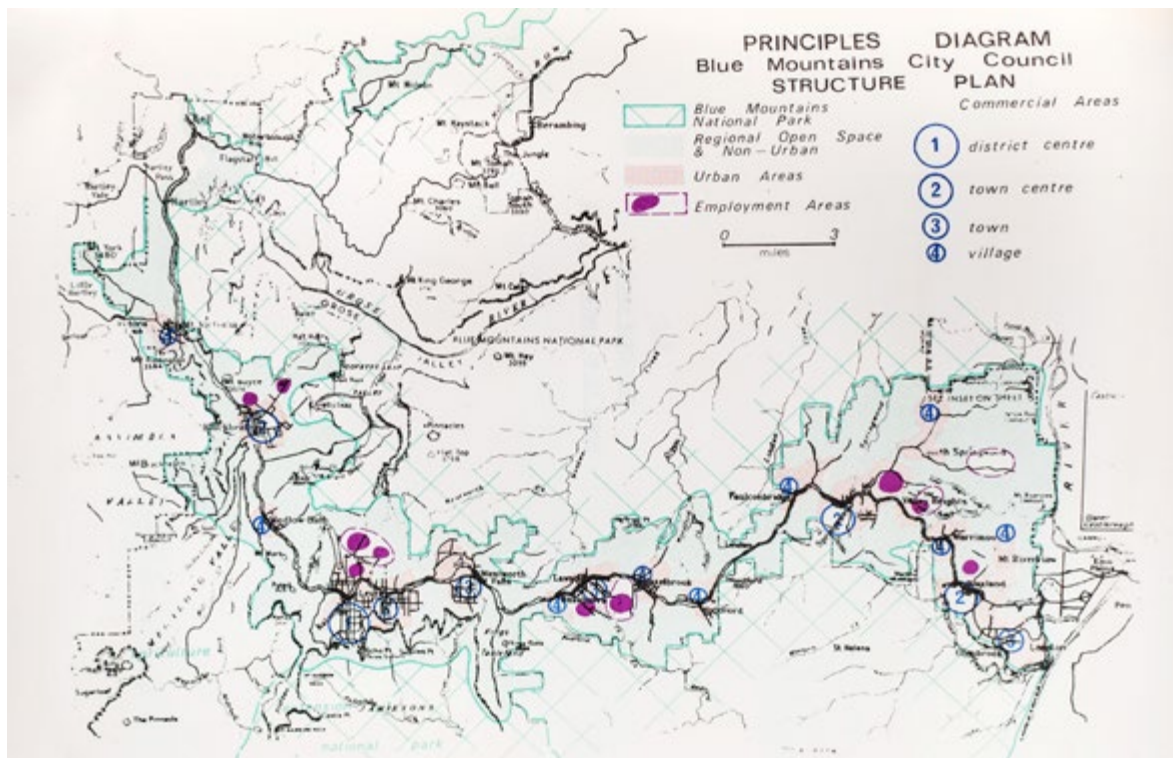


Figure 6: Blue Mountains City Council 1970s Structure Plan

Planning Principle: Meeting housing and social needs

This principle is to promote provision of greater housing choice informed by:

- allowing for targeted redevelopment of existing residential areas surrounding local and district service centres and promoting mixed-use village centres, and
- allowing flexible reuse of existing detached housing

It is to provide a range of community facilities and recreational opportunities to cater for current and likely future needs.

Planning Principle: Protecting town and residential character

This principle is for the protection of local character by the identification and conservation of locally significant character and heritage elements, and by ensuring that new development responds to recognised character and heritage values.

Planning Principle: Promoting local employment

This principle is to promote employment-generating activities that are compatible with the sensitive natural context and lifestyle preferences of the community.

Planning Principle: Providing sustainable transport and access

The first component of this principle is to promote an urban form in the Blue Mountains that:

- concentrates residential development in areas accessible to local transport nodes,
- integrates residential and non-residential land uses,
- contains the extent of urban development,
- promotes sustainable access including public transport, walking and cycling, and
- improves access to housing and public buildings for all people.

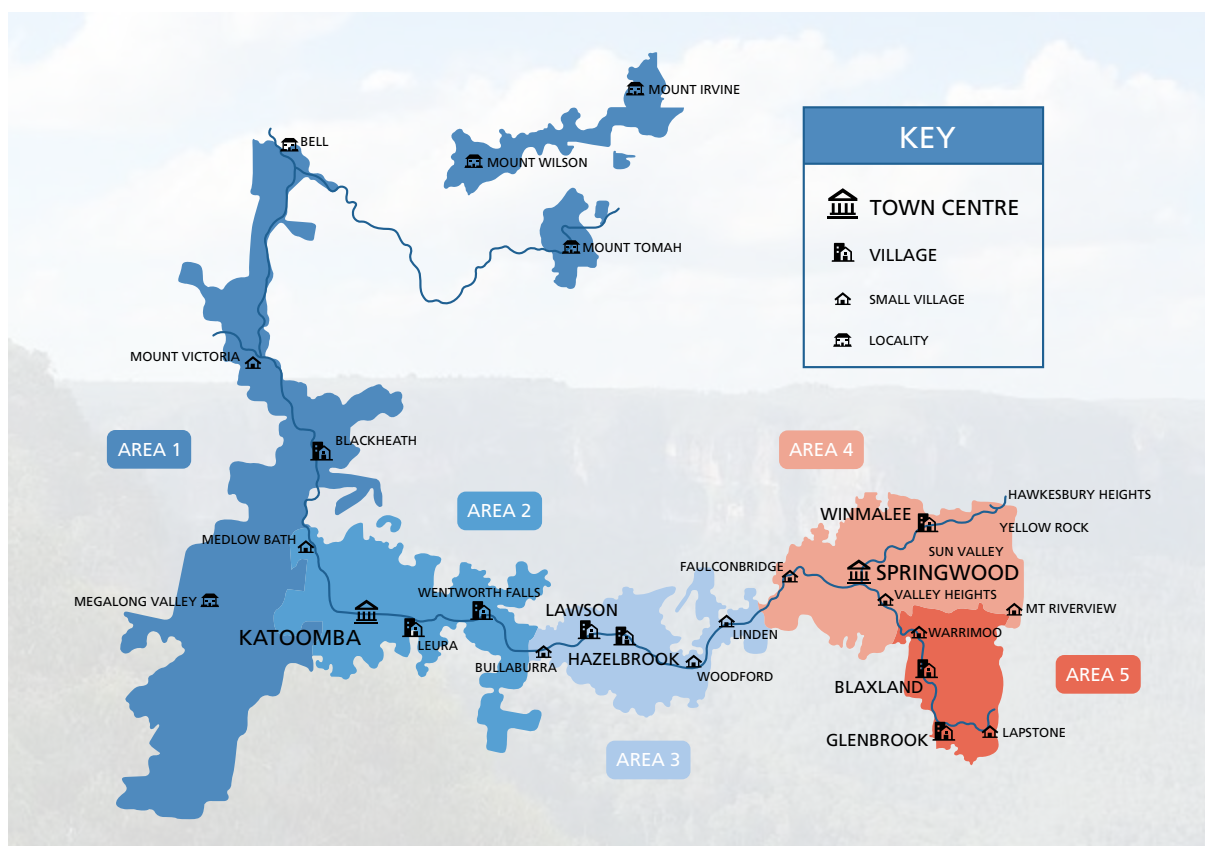


Figure 7: The current spatial hierarchy within the City.

Constraints based approach to planning

The planning framework of the Blue Mountains is based on extensive mapping of underlying constraints. This constraint mapping informs land use zoning and protected areas in Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2015. Some of the key constraints are shown below. How these constraints are overlayed to inform land use zoning is illustrated on the opposite page.



Vegetation

Mapping of native vegetation communities based on aerial imagery, data, and ground truthing. This includes significant vegetation communities listed in Local Environmental Plan 2015.



Bushfire

Statutory mapping approved by the NSW RFS. This identifies land that is considered to be a higher bush fire risk based on vegetation data. It also includes a buffer where properties may be affected by embers and radiant heat.



Riparian lands

All water from the City's urban areas runs into the surrounding creeks and waterways. Mapping their location is the first step in understanding where development can occur to minimise impact on water quality in these catchments. Buffer areas to these riparian lands are also separately mapped.



Slopes

Steep slopes can result in erosion and other environmental constraints, if cleared or disturbed by development. Slopes between 20-33% and greater than 33% are mapped.

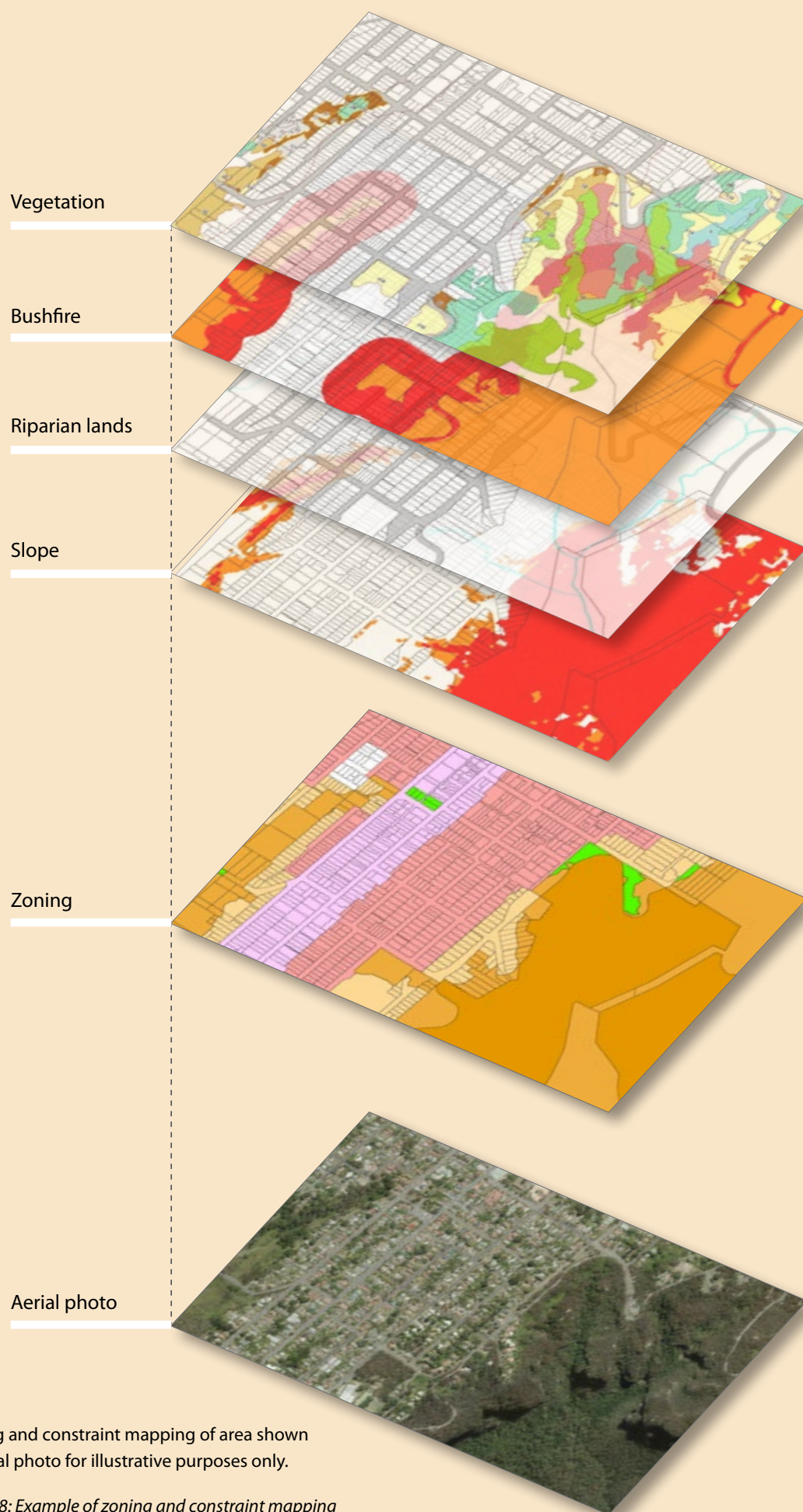
Zoning

Constraints mapping is overlaid to inform land use zoning. Based on constraints, those areas unsuitable for development are established. Suitable zoning of the remaining land can then be determined.

This is also informed by Council's land use studies and strategies, as well as historic development patterns.

The zoning of land in Council's LEP sets the objectives for the desired outcome for an area, and determines which land uses are permissible or prohibited.

The mapped protected areas also provide triggers for matters to be considered as part of the development assessment process.



Zoning and constraint mapping of area shown in aerial photo for illustrative purposes only.

Figure 8: Example of zoning and constraint mapping

The Blue Mountains Sustainability Model and Planetary Health

The **Blue Mountains Sustainability Model** was established 20 years ago. It focuses on the improvement of quality of life: both for ourselves and for the planet. This is achieved through an investment in and strengthening of our environment, our community and our infrastructure. It also emphasises fair and equitable action at all levels (from the individual to a global scale). It identifies this action should be environmentally responsible and resource efficient to enable the creation of liveable, vibrant and creative communities.

These values seamlessly align with the established planning principles described in previous pages. However the creation of the model and synthesis of these concepts in a Community Strategic Plan almost 20 years ago, was ground breaking. It set the Blue Mountains at the forefront of environmental planning, and centred our integrated planning and reporting framework on our environmental setting.

This fundamental recognition of the inherent connection between the quality of life of people and the life of the planet, also closely accords with the discipline of Planetary Health.

Planetary health is rooted in understanding the interdependencies of human and natural systems. We live longer and more prosperous lives than ever before, however many of the socio-economic processes which have led to this prosperity (including agricultural, industrial and technical advancements) have taken a heavy toll on the Earth's natural systems.

Land, culture, and health are inextricably entwined in many Indigenous societies, and the depth of spiritual connection to land is unique. The subtle interaction of the tangible and intangible aspects of *Ngurra* (Country) and the profound role it plays in the lives of Traditional Owners, can offer wider insights into how human societies could better thrive.

The Blue Mountains sits on the edge of the largest metropolis in Australia and yet is surrounded by one of the most delicately calibrated ecosystems, recognised worldwide for its ecological value. As one of only two cities in the world within a World Heritage National Park, the Blue Mountains local government area is perfectly placed to be a leader in responding to climate change and striving to be a City that models sustainability and sustainable living, as well as sustainable industries and innovations.

Against the changing state of planetary health, the importance of connections between land, culture and health is a theme throughout this statement, most particularly within local priorities 1-3. Actions within this statement also transparently call for investment in the Blue Mountains by tertiary education institutions, to develop an education facility or a centre of excellence in the Blue Mountains, drawing on our unique position to model and advance sustainable living.

blue mountains sustainability model

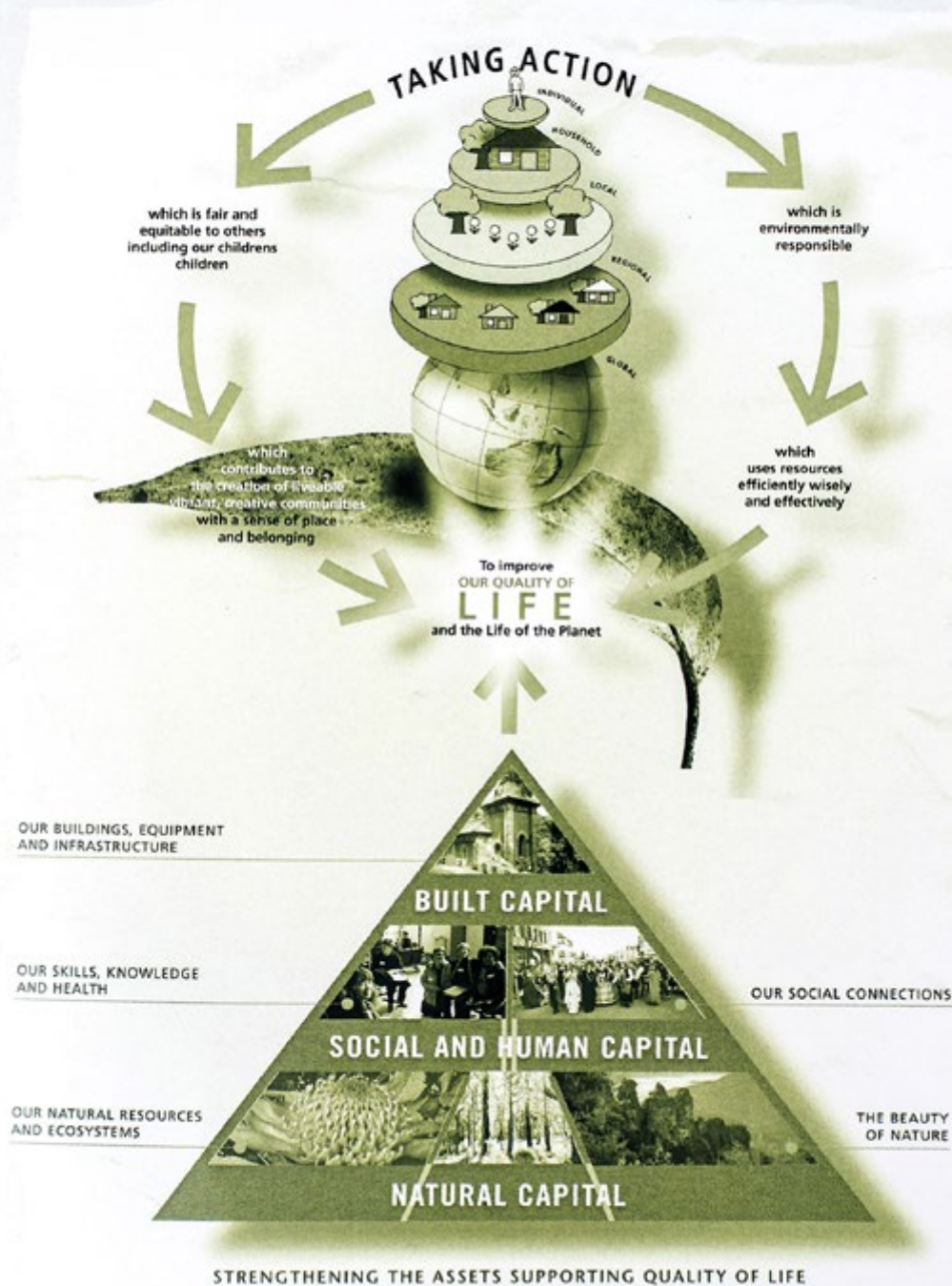


Figure 9: Blue Mountains Sustainability Model





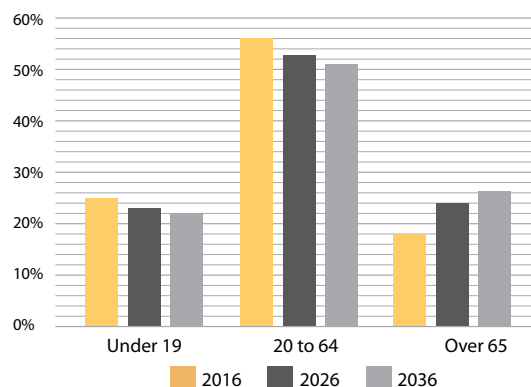
Local **Context**

Our Residents



Population 79,260 people

By 2036 approximately, 1 in 4 residents will be over 65



How we live

29,989 Households

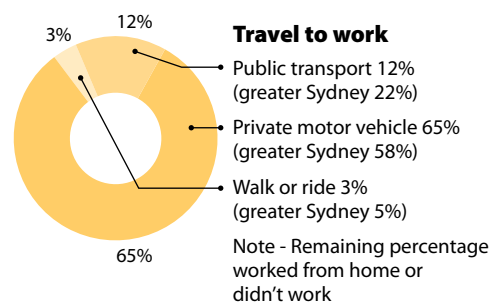
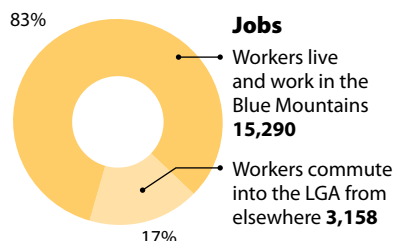
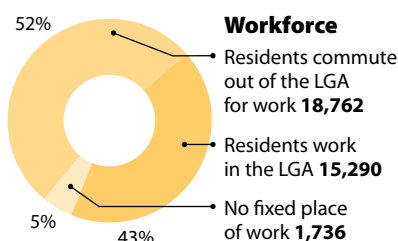
By 2036 over 60% of households will be individuals or couples living alone with no children

34,308 Dwellings

92% free standing houses

8% Medium density (townhouses and units)

How we work



Our City in our Environment

LGA
143,100 HA

106,665 HA
National Park

=

Nearly 75%
of the LGA

29

Town and Villages

1604 HA

Residential Areas

102 HA

Business zoned land

8,571 HA

Rural land

23,991 HA

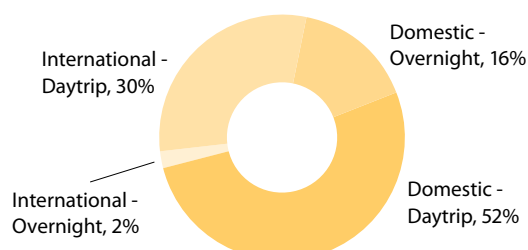
Environmental zones

Our Visitors

4.7 million
visitors annually

Estimated to
increase to over
6 Million by 2038
(33% increase)

Visitor type (5 year average)



The Blue Mountains in the Western Parklands City & Greater Sydney

The Blue Mountains Context

The Blue Mountains is a city within a UNESCO declared World Heritage National Park - One of only two in the world.

Our exceptional location requires an appropriately tailored response to the way we live in this world-renowned landscape, and hence the way we use the urban land within this environment, both now and into the future. This comes with the responsibility to protect our community from the threat of bush fire.

We are a city on the edge; situated on the western fringe of the Greater Sydney Region and the Western City

We are described as the lungs of Sydney. The World Heritage National Park provides a dense green space of protected bushland on the Western fringes of the largest Metropolitan City in Australia. It is the scenic backdrop for the Western Parkland City.

The heritage and character of our towns and villages is part of our identity

A distinct sense of place exists within each village and this is to be preserved and enhanced. Our urban areas are modest and contained. They contribute to local and international tourism, due to their unique residential character.

And a City on a ridge; with a string of twenty-nine towns and villages

The Blue Mountains is home to a community of nearly 80,000 people living in 29 towns and villages located over 100km of mountainous terrain and arranged along the Western Rail Corridor and Great Western Highway.

With an area of 1432km², only 11% is available for settlement. The receiving environment for this urban area includes seven water catchments, including Sydney's drinking water catchment. The water supply for more than half of the Blue Mountains population is supplied by catchments within the local government area.

Our history is one of tourism; both local and international

The Blue Mountains has always been a destination. Our local economy has relied on tourism and nature-based recreation for more than 100 years.

The growth of international tourism and the growth of Western Sydney has and will, see substantial increases in visitors. The impacts of this must be managed to protect our special places and our identity.

Our residents have a sense of community; and are passionate about what it means to live in the Blue Mountains.

For many, the choice to live in the Blue Mountains is conscious, and there is a sense of stewardship over this environment. Many commute by car or train to Sydney for work, but reside in the Blue Mountains for the environment, the lifestyle and the people. More than 85% of our community see themselves living in the Blue Mountains 10 years from now.

For Darug and Gundungurra Traditional Owners, *Ngurra* (Country) in the Blue Mountains represents a significant and abundant place which has nurtured and nourished countless strong and healthy generations since the creation time. *Ngurra* lives as a connected whole, present across time and space, physically, culturally and spiritually.

Some aspects are invisible and intangible, while others physically demonstrate the culture nurtured by it for millennia.

Tangible, physical aspects of *Ngurra* visible today, are likely but a small, material remnant of the diversity of cultural expression of the Traditional Owners.

Role in the Western Parklands City

The Blue Mountains has a unique role to play within the Western Parklands City. Surrounded by World Heritage listed natural areas, we provide the majority of the green space for the Western City District and indeed, for Greater Sydney as a whole. We provide a dense, green, western edge to the City that is physical, visual and psychological; functionally similar to the role of the coast for the Eastern City.

Outside the Blue Mountains, the Western City District contains areas of high growth.

The Blue Mountains, as a Metro Rural Area, has a projected population increase of approximately 5% over the next 20 years, growing from 78,707 in 2016 to 82,845 by 2036 (forecast.id, 2017).

This is in contrast to the high growth of the Western City as a whole, projected to grow by 48% by 2036.

The Blue Mountains is attractive to residents and visitors because of its liveability and high level of amenity. The retention and creation of this sense of identity and defined character is a central priority in the District Plan. There is a clear distinction between the character of the Blue Mountains and other areas: the traditional form of towns and villages, local building styles and their landscape and garden settings. All have been formed and adapted over generations. This heritage is amplified by the bushland backdrop which contributes to a Blue Mountains character quite distinct from that of Western Sydney.

In a broader environmental context, the Blue Mountains connects to large parts of the Western Parklands City via its river systems, draining into the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment (Warragamba Dam) and Hawkesbury Nepean Catchment.

Our string of villages along the Great Western Highway, the Western Railway Line and Bells Line of Road positions the Blue Mountains as a gateway to the west. The nature of the urban settlement of the Blue Mountains provides both opportunities and challenges for local access and regional movement of people and freight.

Our largest contribution to the Western Parklands City and to Greater Sydney is through our points of difference. These differences are also primary attractors for Blue Mountains visitors.

Growth in international and national tourist visitation to the Blue Mountains has been significant, with current visitation at 4.7 million people per annum and projected to increase to over 6 million by 2036. Located on the edge of the Western Parklands City, we are the key destination for this rapidly growing region. Further increases in all

tourism sectors are expected upon the opening of the Western Sydney Aerotropolis.

One of the greatest challenges for the Blue Mountains is the funding and provision of visitor infrastructure to manage this tourism growth. The Blue Mountains requires the support of all levels of government, to ensure environmental protection and visitor experience in this world recognised natural asset is maintained and enhanced, while prioritising the amenity and lifestyle of our community.

Over the next 20 years, the Council will need to work with our community to preserve our points of difference, and in this way continue to make our substantial contribution to the Western Parklands City.



A photograph of a forest scene. In the foreground, a large, moss-covered rock sits on the left. A waterfall flows over a series of rocks in the lower half of the image. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees. The text "20 year Vision" is overlaid in the center-right.

20 year *Vision*

20 year *Vision*

BLUE MOUNTAINS 2040: LIVING SUSTAINABLY

The Blue Mountains has achieved land use outcomes which are recognised nationally and internationally as the creative model for sustainable living.

All aspects of planning for the City recognise and respond to the World Heritage setting, and sustainability is the driving consideration for all new development. Through education and partnership, we will host a centre of excellence on the interwoven nature of environmental protection, sustainable living and human health.

By 2040, Blue Mountains City Council will have demonstrated true leadership in response to climate change and bush fire. We will have built a more resilient community. These outcomes have been influenced and informed by Traditional Owners. The physical and spiritual health and well-being will be enhanced for Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal peoples.

Over the next twenty years, key town centres will have been enhanced and revitalised, to provide greater housing choice, walkability and connection for our local community. Housing choice will not have come at the expense of heritage and character. We will have set a clear expectation around an evolving 'Blue Mountains style' for building design, quality and built form, which appropriately responds to our World Heritage setting. Katoomba will demonstrate its key strategic role, as an enhanced place for employment, education and visitation. We will have drawn on our competitive advantage to develop cultural precincts, anchored in our cultural facilities. These will provide improved spaces for art, performance and theatre and employment for artists and creatives.

As stewards of the World Heritage Area and as an internationally renowned tourist destination, the careful management of visitation and the building of infrastructure will be supported by state and federal governments. The City will contain world class facilities and nature based tourism experiences that achieve best practice for sustainable tourism. This will include infrastructure to move people throughout the City by sustainable modes of transport protecting the natural environment and the amenity of the people who live here.

The community has helped shape this vision and identified local planning priorities to deliver it:

1. Living sustainably in the City within a World Heritage National Park
2. Managing bushfire risk and responding to climate change in our unique environment
3. Planning for the increased well-being of our community
4. Strengthening Creativity, Culture and the Blue Mountains as a 'City of the Arts'
5. Conserving and enhancing heritage, character and liveability
6. Meeting the diverse housing needs of our community
7. Sustaining a healthy local economy, including a focus on Katoomba as our Strategic Centre
8. Leading destination management and sustainable tourism
9. Improving local transport connections and accessibility, including walking and cycling



A man wearing a light-colored hat and a dark blue shirt is standing in a field of tall grass, pointing his right arm towards a dense forest. He is holding a white folder or map in his left hand and a small bottle in his right. A group of children, mostly wearing light blue shirts and various hats, are standing to his left, looking towards him. The background is a lush green forest with many trees and ferns.

Local **Planning Priorities**



Plan on a page

SUSTAINABILITY	LIVEABILITY	PRODUCTIVITY
1. Living sustainably in the City within a World Heritage National Park	4. Strengthening Creativity, Culture and the Blue Mountains as a 'City of the Arts'	7. Sustaining a healthy local economy, including a focus on Katoomba as our Strategic Centre
2. Managing bushfire risk and responding to climate change in our unique environment	5. Conserving and enhancing heritage, character and liveability	8. Leading destination management and sustainable tourism
3. Planning for the increased well-being of our community	6. Meeting the diverse housing needs of our community	9. Improving local transport connections and accessibility, including walking and cycling

INFRASTRUCTURE & COLLABORATION

Infrastructure requirements underpin each of the above local planning priorities. Our approach is to build infrastructure capability that will enable and support the creation of a sustainable, liveable and productive Blue Mountains. This infrastructure capability will be a combination of:

- Critically evaluating the need for new infrastructure in terms of City requirements;
- Upgrading existing hard infrastructure where it adds value to a sustainable, liveable and productive city, particularly in relation to sustainable tourism and visitation;
- Developing critical resilient infrastructure for disaster and climate change responses (in particular bushfires) to prepare and future proof the City; and
- Enhancing and building soft infrastructure that enables a world class knowledge-based centre for developing sustainable industries, including environmental and climate change research, sustainable tourism and cultural initiatives.



Sustainability

1. Living sustainably in the City within a World Heritage National Park
2. Managing bushfire risk and responding to climate change in our unique environment
3. Planning for the increased well-being of our community

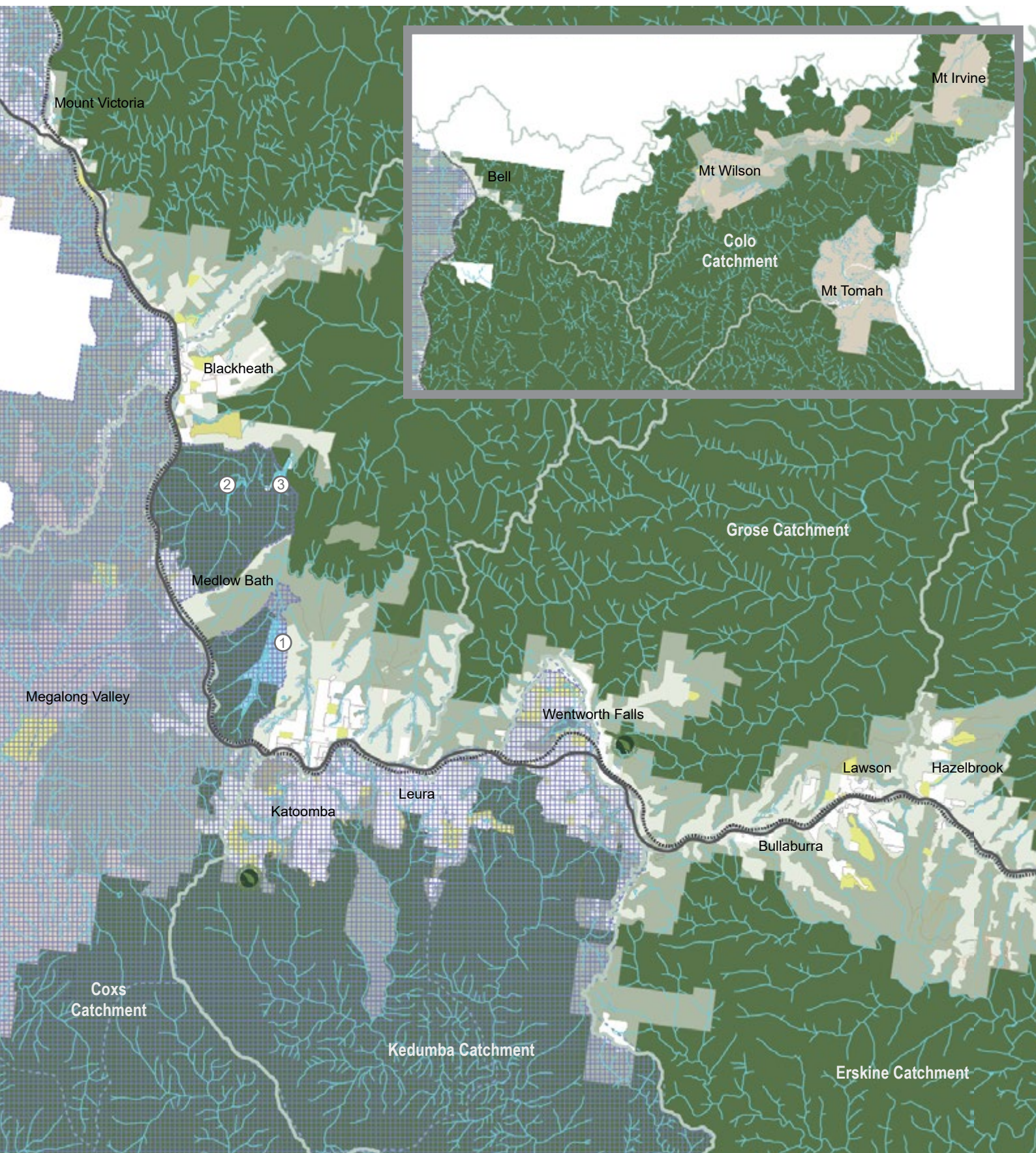
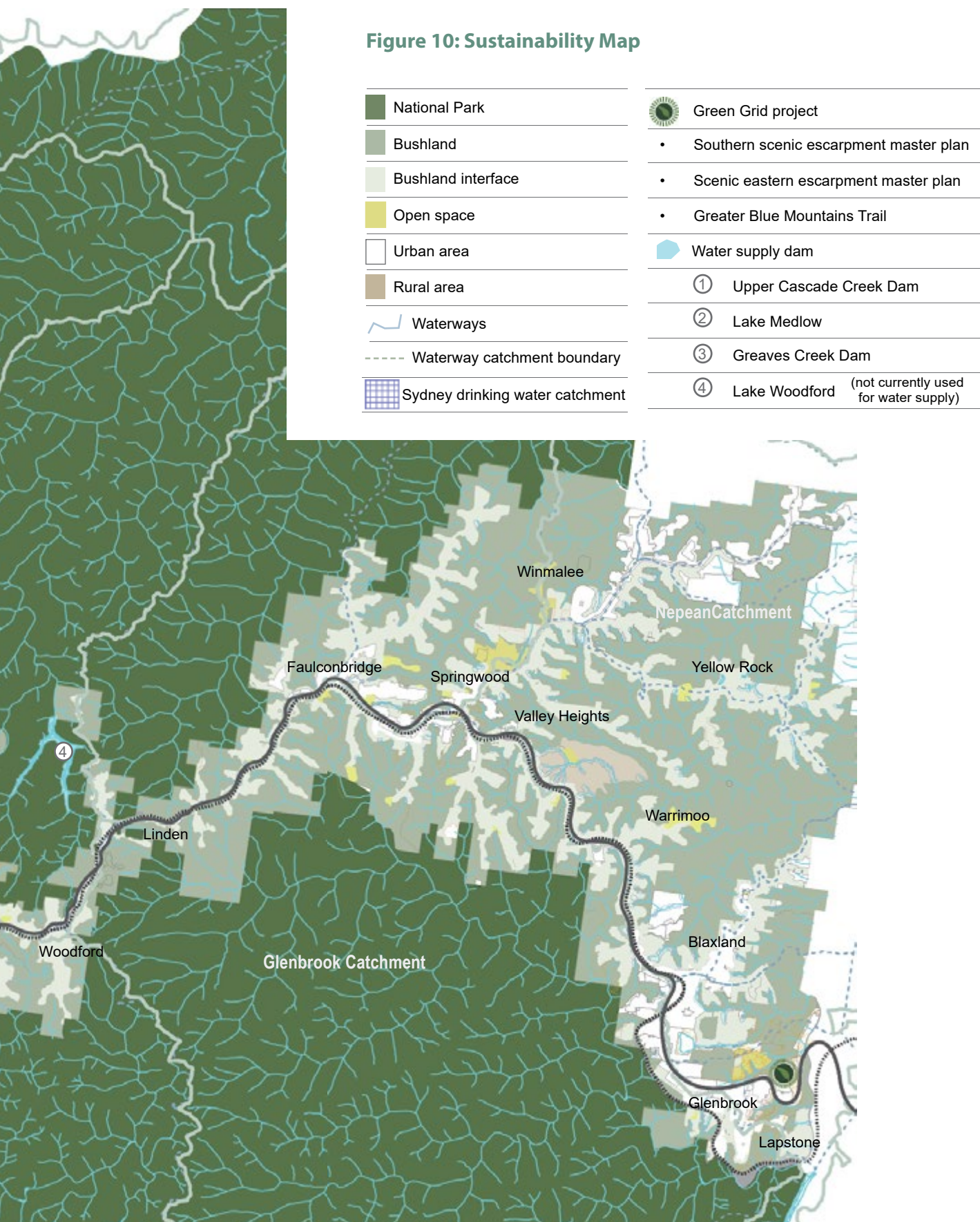


Figure 10: Sustainability Map



LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY 1:

Living sustainably in the City within a World Heritage National Park

The Blue Mountains is one of only two cities in the world within a UNESCO World Heritage National Park.

The World Heritage listing of the diverse ecosystems and biodiversity of the Blue Mountains recognises its global importance. Our location within this fragile landscape is central to the vision of our Community Strategic Plan 2035, to our quality of life and is integral to the Blue Mountains local economy.

Well before world recognition of these values, the Darug and Gundungurra Traditional Owners nurtured, cared for and protected *Ngurra* (Country). This relationship endures.

Maintaining the World Heritage Listing

Our World Heritage setting comes with a stewardship responsibility, central to which is the ongoing careful management of development within the urban corridor.

This is reflected in significant and ongoing Council investment in environmental management programs and the stringent planning controls in Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015. These local policy commitments and environmental planning approaches were fundamental to achieving the World Heritage listing.

It is in this context that the Council had a resolved position opposing the Western Sydney Airport on the basis of the potential environmental impacts on the universal values of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area. Ongoing environmental concerns related to airspace, flight path design, airspace management, noise and amenity are key issues for the Blue Mountains.

In May 2017, the NSW Government released the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy – ‘Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities’ to help manage and reduce flood risk in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. As part of this Strategy, the NSW Government outlined plans to raise Warragamba Dam wall by around

14 metres, subject to completion of an Environmental Impact Statement and a full business case.

The case has not been made in the Council’s view that the raising of the dam wall is the most effective option to reduce the risk to life and property posed by floodwaters. The proposal would result in the inundation of significant areas of the Blue Mountains National Park, and have extensive impacts on Aboriginal cultural values and the unique biodiversity of the area. Accordingly, the Council has resolved to oppose the raising of the Warragamba Dam wall. Alternative options should be investigated which address flood risk and protect the values of the World Heritage National Park.

The Council will continue to raise objection to processes and development such as these, which threaten this internationally valued landscape and its UNESCO world heritage listing, and associated articles of convention (Action1.7).

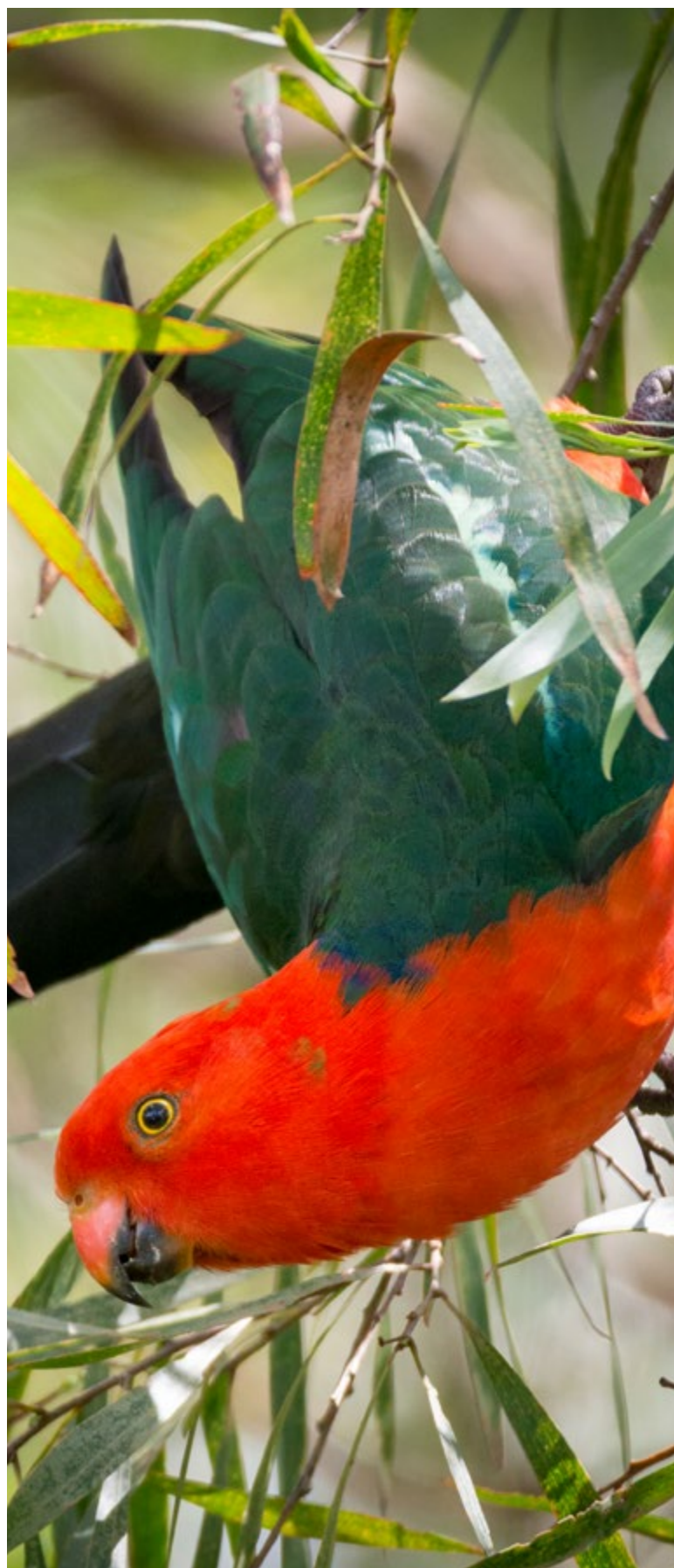
The challenge of balancing sustainable economic development with conservation, is unlike anywhere else in the Western Parklands City. The Blue Mountains community consistently identifies the protection of the natural environment as its highest priority - *“as an environmentally responsible City the management*

of natural and urban areas must support biodiversity if we are to be a model for sustainable living and maintain the World Heritage listing.” (CSP 2035).

The community and all levels of government must work together to protect the Blue Mountains World Heritage Area (Action 1.20). To achieve this, partnerships need to be forged between Council and other tiers of government and institutions to deliver land use responses which demonstrate the highest level of environmental leadership. Council will set the standard for this, by embedding sustainability principles into asset management and strategic asset planning (Action 1.2).

Education outcomes that promote understanding of the values and fragility of the local environment is also important. Council will work to achieve a high level of recognition of the World Heritage status of the Greater Blue Mountains among residents and visitors. Both formal and informal education opportunities will be explored, through partnerships with tertiary institutions and greater collaboration with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (Action 1.6 & 1.17). Due to our location, the Blue Mountains is the logical leader in sustainable living within the Greater Sydney context. We will seek to develop local education opportunities in environmental science, sustainable living and climate change through partnerships with tertiary institutions and the long term establishment of a centre of excellence (Action 1.17). Opportunities to expand Council’s local education program will also be examined (Action 1.13). These and other actions will expand knowledge and set a communal expectation for our residents and visitors, about what it means to live within and visit a natural World Heritage Area.

The complex and interrelated aspects of living sustainably within a World Heritage Area are divided into the following key themes: Biodiversity, Water, Natural Area Management and Urban Area Management. These themes are cross referenced with Local Planning Priority 2, where appropriate.



Biodiversity

The basis of the World Heritage listing of the Greater Blue Mountains Area is its significant representation of Australia's biodiversity. It contains ten percent (10%) of all vascular flora in the country, as well as significant numbers of rare or threatened species. As mentioned above, the commitments made about the way we manage the urban footprint within this landscape significantly contributed to the World Heritage listing. A key medium-term action is to prepare a Biodiversity Strategy. As a manager of significant areas of native habitat dispersed widely across the City, Council will develop a clear vision, with a focus on identifying benchmarks and critical thresholds for the management of peri-urban biodiversity. (Action 1.9). Our collaboration with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services is fundamental to enable a shared threat/shared mitigation approach across National Park boundaries and to achieving maximum benefit for effort, for the greatest number of species.

The Biodiversity Strategy will guide future programming and investment in the areas of vertebrate pest control, weed management, habitat restoration, and threatened species recovery. The importance of this strategy is accentuated by the recent 2019 bush fires. More than 80 percent of the Greater Blue Mountains National Park has been affected. The significance of this impact to the biodiversity of the Blue Mountains underscores the importance of the peri-urban biodiversity within the City, for threatened species and core habitat. Ongoing collaboration with NSW National Parks and Wildlife will be particularly important to understand the ecological impact and establish recovery processes for the area as a whole. Council will also seek to work with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service on the Plan of Management for the Greater Blue Mountains National Park.

Existing local policy in Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 (LEP 2015) focuses on the protection of the natural environment and the surrounding World Heritage Area. Planning controls set limitations to urban development based on environmental sensitivities, the ability to manage water leaving the site, and exposure of the land to natural hazards (predominantly bush fire).

LEP 2015 also includes a schedule of Significant Vegetation Communities, unique among all NSW LEPs. These controls are supported by a detailed series of statutory maps, which include three protected

areas: Vegetation Constraint Area, Riparian Lands and Watercourses, and a mapped ecological buffer area to protect significant vegetation from the edge effects of development. These provisions will be maintained and reviewed to ensure key protections remain effective (Action 1.10 and 1.11). An example of current mapping is provided at Figure 8 on pages 17.

Management of the urban forest is inherently related to the management of the urban footprint. Urban tree canopy can mitigate heat, provide shade for protection from over-exposure to UV radiation, support cleaner air and water and provide local habitat and connectivity to surrounding bushland. The local policy framework has strong controls related to retention of vegetation and landscaping. However, a new action in this statement is to develop an Urban Tree Canopy project to map and monitor change over time (Action 1.12). This project will expand on baseline data from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (currently covering Glenbrook to Falconbridge) to include the whole local government area, as well as mapping related to heat island effect. Local planning controls will also be reviewed for consideration of broader sustainability measures and climate adaptation, including energy efficiency, heat island effect and updates to existing water sensitive urban design controls. An important consideration as part of this review, will be the often vast climatic differences across the local government area due to changes in elevation, topography and therefore weather conditions within the City.

Water

Significant natural areas surround the urban settlement of the City incorporating the receiving environment of the World Heritage National Park, wild rivers and seven water catchments, among which is the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment. The living waters of the Blue Mountains have sustained countless generations of Darug and Gundungurra people, providing them with a source of spiritual inspiration, sustenance and health. More than half of the current Blue Mountains population receives its water from catchments within the Blue Mountains.

It is a strategic aim of the Council that the Blue Mountains community be a leader in sustainable water management. That as a place, it is known for being a sustainable, liveable and water sensitive city where waterways and water resources are highly valued. There



Figure 11: Snapshot of urban tree canopy and urban heat island effect mapping
Source: Sharing and Enabling Environmental Data (SEED)

is a broad responsibility for all members of the community to make this vision a reality through the way we develop and manage our individual sites. A central action included in this Local Planning Statement is to begin implementation of the Water Sensitive Blue Mountains Strategic Plan (Action 1.1). Given the extent of natural areas and hydrological catchments to be managed, the Council will seek collaboration and support from state government agencies to help implement this plan.

Since the declaration of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in 2000, the Council has implemented extensive catchment management programs to reduce the impact of urban run-off. These include the \$20 million Blue Mountains Urban Run-off Control program (1996-2002), the Blue Mountains City Council Environmental Levy (2001-2005) and a special rate variation (2015-2019). Our catchment management programs are focused on managing the effects of stormwater runoff and improving waterway health in priority catchments. Council is currently rehabilitating over 130 creek and bushland sites across the City – repairing stormwater impacts such as weed infestation, erosion and sedimentation. Priority is given to protecting rare and unique habitats such as Blue Mountains Swamps and shale-based forests.

Council has developed a catchment classification method which recognises that all waterways in the Blue Mountains are valuable but require different management approaches according to catchment characteristics, ranging from active management to protection (refer to Appendix 3 of the Blue Mountains Water Sensitive Strategic Plan). Council also regularly monitors waterway health at over 40 waterway sites and conducts summer recreational water quality monitoring at up to six popular visitor sites. This program provides vital information on waterway health and is invaluable for managing waterway health issues (refer to figure 12). In 2017, water monitoring by Council showed that 39% of our waterways are in poor to fair health. Ongoing funding for these essential programs is required.

Finely calibrated local planning controls have emphasised the careful management of the quality and quantity of stormwater leaving the urban areas of the City for nearly two decades, protecting the Sydney Drinking Water Catchment and the World Heritage Area. The retention

of the World Heritage listing relies on this fine-grained management at the local level. Consequently, state standard controls which cannot account for the unique environmental attributes of the Blue Mountains, should not override local controls which have successfully operated for almost twenty years. Such local controls include the requirement (under clause 6.9 of Blue Mountains LEP 2015) for all development to have a neutral or beneficial effect on stormwater quality and quantity.

For these reasons, an action in this statement is to seek an exemption from the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code (Action 1.3). This state policy would allow for a building footprint significantly larger and with more extensive site coverage than permitted under local controls in the Blue Mountains. Such a significant increase in impervious area, has potentially significant impacts on stormwater management (particularly the volume of water leaving the site), adversely affecting the receiving environment of the World Heritage National Park. Due to the unique environmental setting of the Blue Mountains and its policy priority of reducing impervious areas in the landscape, the state standard approach is not suitable for the Blue Mountains.

Beyond this solid planning foundation and to protect our vulnerable catchments, improved management of urban stormwater runoff is essential. This includes retrofitting old stormwater infrastructure to prevent it discharging directly into natural waterways. At a domestic scale, this is captured in Action 1.14, which seeks funding to retrofit dwellings with water sensitive measures in active catchment areas. Council will work in partnership with Water NSW to achieve this action, and to investigate future potential to expand such initiatives to commercial development. More broadly, Action 1.19 articulates the Council's long term intent in this area.





Figure 12: Waterway health ratings in the Blue Mountains

- Excellent health
- Good health
- Fair health
- Poor health

These ratings are based on the types of waterbugs found at each site. Waterbugs (such as mayflies and crayfish) are widely accepted indicators of ecological creek health. A rich variety of sensitive waterbugs indicates a healthy waterway.

Waterways Health Snapshot

61% of waterways are in good to excellent health

39% of waterways are in poor to fair health

Colo Catchment

- 1 Waterfall Creek

Coxs Catchment

- 2 Centennial Glen Creek
- 3 Fairy Dell Creek
- 4 Megalong Creek
- 5 Megalong Creek tributary
- 6 Pulpit Hill Creek
- 7 Pulpit Hill Creek tributary

Erskine Catchment

- 8 Bedford Creek
- 9 Bedford Creek tributary
- 10 Cataract Creek
- 11 Lawson Creek
- 12 Terrace Falls Creek

Glenbrook Catchment

- 13 Florabella Pass Creek
- 14 Glenbrook Creek
- 15 Glenbrook Creek
- 16 Glenbrook Creek tributary
- 17 Magdala Creek

Grose Catchment

- 18 Adams Creek
- 19 Bridal Veil Creek/
Govetts Leap Brook
- 20 Dantes Glen
- 21 Govetts Creek
- 22 Grose River tributary
- 23 Hat Hill Creek
- 24 Hazelbrook Creek
- 25 Katoomba Creek
- 26 Popes Glen Creek
- 27 Springwood Creek
- 28 Water Nymphs Dell
- 29 Wentworth Creek
- 30 Woodford Creek
- 31 Yosemite Creek
- 32 Linden Creek Tributary

Kedumba Catchment

- 33 Gordon Creek
- 34 Jamison Creek
- 35 Wentworth Falls Lake
- 36 Kedumba Creek
- 37 Kedumba River
- 38 Leura Falls Creek
- 39 Lillians Glen

Nepean Catchment

- 40 Cripple Creek
- 41 Fitzgerald Creek
- 42 Frasers Creek
- 43 Frasers Creek tributary
- 44 Knapsack Creek
- 45 Lapstone Creek
- 46 Glenbrook Lagoon
- 47 Long Angle Creek
- 48 Strathdon Creek
- 49 Blue Gum Swamp Creek



Natural Area Management

Our spectacular local environment is under external pressure. As Western Sydney grows, international tourism expands and the Aerotropolis comes online, there will be new threatening processes to this setting. The ability to cater for an ever-increasing number of visitors, without degrading the very place that attracts them, is a central focus. Tourism brings economic growth to the region, and benefits the local economy. These positive outcomes need to be balanced against the real and increasing risk to the environment.

Additionally, despite the projected economic benefits from the Western Sydney Aerotropolis, significant concern remains in relation to the potential environmental impact of the airport operation on the World Heritage Area and other uninhabited areas of the City. This includes adverse impacts to air quality, noise and broader impacts on the natural environment. Actions have been included in this statement which aim to obtain baseline data to monitor these effects (Action 1.16), as well maintaining broader advocacy for protection of the World Heritage National Park (Action 1.7).

The Council manages extensive natural areas, many of which are visitor facilities and infrastructure. These include approximately 160km of walking tracks and 102 lookouts. The beauty and world-renowned status of the region results in a number of these vantage points being state heritage listed. In the context of the state, national and international significance of the region, and with visitation projected to increase to 6.7 million visitors per year by 2036, the management and maintenance of these areas is beyond local government capacity (Action 1.15). Support from all levels of government is required to manage these internationally significant assets, to enhance the visitor experience and to support the Blue Mountains as a leader in eco-tourism.

Urban Area Management

Living sustainably goes beyond how we protect and manage our natural areas. It includes how the urban areas of our City are used, managed, and planned. This aspect of sustainability is strongly linked with Local Planning Priority 2, which articulates our response to climate change and details action to reduce our carbon footprint.



The interplay between the management of natural and urban areas is core business for Council. The increasing challenge of this interplay is the management of significant traffic volumes resulting from regional freight, as well as increased numbers of tourist vehicles as described above. Actions against Local Planning Priority 9 address the issue of regional freight. Actions related to the movement of visitors through our towns and villages via sustainable forms of transport is detailed at Local Planning Priority 8.

Urban area management concerns new development as well as how the existing built environment functions and is managed. Waste management is a key component, and is addressed against Local Planning Priority 2 in the context of climate change and carbon emissions. Community consultation regarding new development in our City, sought in preparation for this statement, identified that there is general support for higher sustainability requirements in the Blue Mountains than elsewhere in Greater Sydney. Such feedback from the community acknowledges and supports our World Heritage setting and values. This is also addressed at Local Planning Priority 2.

Rural Lands

Due to the rugged landscape, limited areas of flat land and rocky, generally unproductive soil, the majority of the Blue Mountains has proved unsuitable for most agricultural pursuits beyond small dairy, vegetable and poultry farming in early settlement. By contrast, the quite extensive rural lands of the Megalong and Kanimbla Valleys have allowed for mixed farming and the grazing of sheep and cattle. The villages of Mount Wilson, Mount Irvine, Mount Tomah and Shipley Plateau have historically been places for orchards and horticulture.

These parts of the local government area play a significant role both in terms of traditional rural functions of farming and food production, but also in the visitor economy and emerging agri-business sector. Activities such as food trails and tours, and cellar doors in the Megalong Valley, are fast becoming part of the visitor experience of the Blue Mountains. Seasonal experiences such as fruit and nut picking and tours to view autumn leaves and cherry blossom trees also draw large tourist groups. This is discussed further against Local Planning Priority 8.



Local Planning Priority 1 Actions:

Living Sustainably in the City within a World Heritage National Park

Short Term (2020-2021)

- | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.1 | Council will commence implementation of the Water Sensitive Blue Mountains Strategic Plan |
| 1.2 | Council will develop a framework to deliver sustainability and liveability measures (water sensitive urban design, creativity/art and heritage) within all new assets and asset renewal on public land (same as Action 4.8) |
| 1.3 | Council will seek an exemption from the Low-Rise Medium Density Housing Code in State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Codes) 2008, to ensure local stormwater management controls are maintained and continue to protect the receiving environment of the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park. |
| 1.4 | Council will commence implementation of the Weed Management Strategic Plan 2019 |
| 1.5 | Council will prepare and implement priority Plans of Management for urban land and public land to align with the Crown Lands Management Act and/or Local Government Act 1993 |
| 1.6 | Council will begin to work with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a framework for the coordinated delivery of infrastructure to benefit both the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park and the Blue Mountains local government area (same as Action 8.3) |
| 1.7 | Council will continue to advocate for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to minimise environmental impacts from any proposed development within or beyond the National Park |

Medium Term (2021 – 2025)

- | | |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.8 | Council will review and re-confirm the agreement with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, for the coordinated delivery of infrastructure to benefit both the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park and the Blue Mountains local government area |
| 1.9 | Council will prepare and exhibit a Biodiversity Strategy, including a Vertebrate Pest Management Plan |
| 1.10 | Council will review and implement targeted ground truthing of Blue Mountains Significant Vegetation Communities listed in Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 |
| 1.11 | Council will review and update Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 and Development Control Plan 2015 to enhance water sensitive urban design controls and the protection of native vegetation, and introduce new controls for sustainability and climate change preparedness including energy efficiency (same as Action 2.13) |
| 1.12 | Council will develop an Urban Forest Project to map the tree canopy within the urban footprint and establish baseline data to monitor change over time. |

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.13 | Council will expand the existing environmental education program to include a Sustainable Living Kit and other educative tools for residents, on the importance of sustainable living within the Blue Mountains |
| 1.14 | Council will investigate opportunities and state government support to retrofit existing properties in 'active management' catchment areas with rainwater tanks and other water sensitive urban design measures to improve water quality and support climate change adaptation. |
| 1.15 | Council will investigate alternate funding sources to manage areas affected by increased tourism, including funding for visitor infrastructure, natural area management and risk management resulting from increases in visitor numbers (same as Action 8.11) |
| 1.16 | Council will seek support from the Environmental Protection Authority to include the Blue Mountains in their air quality data program to capture baseline air quality data prior to the opening of the Western Sydney Airport |
| 1.17 | Council will collaborate with, and seek investment from tertiary institutions to develop an International Centre of Excellence in the Blue Mountains for sustainable living, environmental science or Planetary Health (including climate change and bush fire) (same as Actions 2.16, 3.15 and 7.12) |
| 1.18 | Council will work with Transport for NSW towards establishing core infrastructure throughout the City (including bus layovers and transport hubs for buses and satellite parking) to foster the movement of tourists via sustainable modes of transport through key locations (initially focused on Katoomba/Leura and Wentworth Falls) (same as Actions 2.18 and 8.12) |

Long Term (2025-2040)

- | | |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.19 | Council will enhance stormwater management throughout the City using best practice water sensitive methods, such that no stormwater system is directly connected to a natural stream or creek system by 2036 |
| 1.20 | Council will continue to pursue a whole of government response to the protection of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in the context of the opening of the Western Sydney Airport and increased tourism |
| 1.21 | Council will advocate for the World Heritage listing of the towns and villages of the Blue Mountains, as a culturally significant place |

LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY 2: Managing bushfire risk and responding to climate change in our unique environment

Climate change will affect the natural, social and economic welfare of worldwide communities. For the Blue Mountains (as one of the most bush fire prone locations in the world within a complex environmental landscape), the ability to respond and demonstrate leadership around such environmental challenges is critically important.

A core concern for the Blue Mountains (its people and its biodiversity) is the likely change in fire weather and extreme weather events generally. Research predicts weather conditions will be more extreme, with the incidence and severity likely to increase. The 2013 bush fires demonstrated the vulnerability of the Blue Mountains with the loss of more than 200 dwellings in a single afternoon. This vulnerability was again evident in 2019, with fire fronts surrounding the City. At the time of writing approximately twenty (20) houses had been lost or damaged in the upper Blue Mountains and the community was heading into recovery. The intensive impact on the emotional and practical resources of the community and Council during active emergency management is substantial. The Blue Mountains is a resilient community, however the regularity with which this resilience is tested is increasing due to changes in the climate. Immediate focus is required to establish measures in response, and to mitigate these rapidly evolving challenges. Action 2.6 requires the preparation of a Disaster Recovery Plan for the City over the short term, to explore opportunities to build community resilience in response to climate change, extreme weather events and bush fire.

Through partnership initiatives such as the Cities Power Partnership and the Resilient Sydney strategy in which the Council participates (Action 2.1), planning for a resilient City and a resilient community are significant foci in this statement. The Resilient Sydney strategy sets the direction we must take to strengthen our ability to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of increasing global

uncertainty. The Council acknowledges the resilience and generosity of Aboriginal people and Traditional Owners of the Blue Mountains who have cared, and continue to care, for *Ngurra* (Country) through intimate and complex traditional knowledge. European colonisation and associated changes in land use interrupted these practices. Working in close and respectful partnership with Traditional Owners offers an opportunity to maintain and invigorate cultural practices.

Natural Hazards

The Council takes a leadership role through advanced bush fire mapping, support of events such as the annual bush fire conference hosted by Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise, and commitment to not rezone land to increase housing density in areas mapped as bush fire prone. This reinforces the underlying planning principle of urban containment and operates to protect both people and the environment. This balancing of natural hazards with the protection of the natural environment is inherent in land use planning in the Blue Mountains.

Through locating people in and around town centres, away from the bushland interface, the need for vegetation clearing is reduced. Proximity to public transport and being within a walkable distance to shops and services, also opens the opportunity for reduced car usage and more sustainable, connected centres. The revitalisation of town centres to incorporate new housing in these locations will be the catalyst for this, and is discussed at Local Planning Priority 6.

Bush fire threat is the most extreme natural hazard affecting the Blue Mountains community. However, storms, flooding, hail as well as changes in temperature extremes (and exposure to increased UV radiation) are key natural hazards to which we must adapt over the next 20 years. Extreme weather events affect the well-being of our community, our local economy and physical infrastructure. In this context, Council will work with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to reconsider the 1 in 100 year flood level and risk profiles for new development in flood mapped areas (Action 2.23). Additionally, as part of asset maintenance and renewal, Council will build City resilience through identifying and progressively replacing fire-vulnerable materials in its infrastructure (including advocacy around underground wiring and services) (Action 2.20).

Urban Hazards

Resilience is fostered within a connected community and such communities have the added benefit of increased social cohesion. The Blue Mountains is known for its unified sense of community; a clear and confident thread within all community consultation feedback held in preparation for this statement. Notwithstanding, the environment of the local government area (topography, distance and single access points) result in substantial challenges in preparing for and managing extreme fire and weather events. The Council will review the Local Link Roads Strategy and Local Emergency Management Plan (Actions 2.2 and 2.3) to consider both emergency management and local movement within the City. The emergency management response will incorporate the use of open space areas as helicopter landing sites during these emergencies. Longer term opportunities to incorporate construction requirements for an evacuation centre into the design of any new, suitable Council or public facility will be considered (Action 2.15).

Beyond the intensification of weather events and fire threat, climate change will have broader impacts on the welfare of the community, the liveability of the local area, biodiversity and our fragile environmental setting. Our location within a World Heritage setting comes with a stewardship responsibility. Planning policies to manage





development within the urban corridor are central to this. The policy framework and key provisions related to environmental and stormwater management (as well as actions to improve and enhance these) are detailed in Local Planning Priority 1.

These policies also need to consider the often vast climatic differences throughout the local government area. From Lapstone in the east to Mount Victoria in the west, land elevation changes from 160m to 1100m. This can result in average peak summer temperatures ranging from 18-30 degrees across the City, and 5-16 degrees in winter (with towns such as Katoomba often receiving snowfall). These distinct environments need to be appropriately considered in local policy to ensure provisions related to climate preparedness (such as heat and other extreme weather events) address these differences.

The Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019, recognising the clear scientific evidence of climate change and that human activity is its cause. The Council also has a Carbon Abatement Action Plan in place, adopted in 2017 (Action 2.11).

Through a better understanding of land use patterns and energy use within the local government area we are able to hone our emissions reduction pathway. Based on 2016-17 figures (Kinesis 2019), electricity (49.1%) and transport (30%) represent the two greatest sources of greenhouse emissions for the Blue Mountains local government area. Detached residential development is the highest energy user by sector over the same period, representing 63.5% of total energy use. Hence, interventions affecting the electricity used in detached housing, followed by interventions to reduce transport emissions, represent the greatest opportunities to achieve Blue Mountains energy and greenhouse gas management objectives.

Effective waste management is also integral to an emissions reduction pathway. Council has prepared a Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to continually improve the performance of the waste service, to reduce landfill and increase waste avoidance. The local environment, topography and linear nature of the local government area represent significant challenges in the potential for any new waste management facilities and in the collection and transport





**DISASTER
RECOVERY**

of waste within and from the City. There are no new opportunities for waste management sites within the Blue Mountains. Therefore, the focus is on improving the health and longevity of the existing landfill site at Blaxland, and the effective operation of the waste transfer and recovery centre in Katoomba. Strategic approaches, including the introduction of the Green bin service in 2016, have worked to extend the life of the Blaxland facility to 2034. An action in this statement is to consider options for the collection of food waste, including food waste from the commercial sector to further reduce land fill (Action 2.12). Beyond this timeframe, the Council will need to look at alternative options, including regional partnerships, for ongoing waste management.

A medium-term action (detailed further in Local Planning Priority 6) is to investigate opportunities to strengthen sustainability requirements for new housing (Action 2.13). This is supported by the results of community consultation in preparation for this statement, where there was general support for higher sustainability requirements in the Blue Mountains than elsewhere in Greater Sydney, acknowledging our World Heritage setting. Additional actions focus on emissions reduction in all Council facilities and vehicle fleet (Actions 2.10, 2.11 and 2.19) to set an example and future direction for improved sustainability policy across the City.

Projects identified in Council's 2019-2020 delivery program (with an investment of over \$1 million) are estimated to deliver carbon savings of over 1000 tonnes of CO₂. The continued implementation of the Carbon Abatement Plan will include investigating options to use Council car parks and other Council land for car charging stations, and longer term, the conversion of Council's vehicle fleet to electric (or best practice low carbon technology). The long-term target is for all Council buildings and facilities to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2025.

The arrangement of our towns and villages along a major arterial corridor to the west, provides connectivity but also adverse environmental impacts from increasing freight and traffic volumes along the Great Western Highway. Highway upgrades often focus on improved freight movement and this provides productivity benefits for NSW. However, the impacts on the local environment (including increased emissions) are increasingly adverse. Given the planned increase in logistics and freight handling in western Sydney, particularly related to the Aerotropolis, advocacy for the Blue Mountains on these

issues will be critically important. Council will continue to advocate for alternate freight routes and more sustainable transport movement (Action 2.17).

Additional and significant traffic volumes result from tourism. This is addressed in detail at Priority 8 – Leading sustainable tourism and destination management. Long term it will be important to find ways to move visitors through our towns and villages via sustainable, emission- reduced methods. A medium-term action is to investigate options for centralised coach parking outside of village centres, and long term, develop sustainable methods of transport to move tourists between key destinations within the City (Action 2.18). Such facilities and methods are seen as important pieces of supporting infrastructure that would go towards addressing impacts on resident amenity, but also to reducing emissions within the City. Connected to this, is the need to coordinate the delivery of local transport infrastructure to support and enhance the walkability and pedestrian/ cycling connections within and between towns and villages; making them more liveable and sustainable. This is further discussed in Local Planning Priority 9.

The Blue Mountains has the opportunity because of its location, to not simply keep pace with climate research, but be a natural leader in climate change science and to look more broadly at environmental impacts, the effects of environmental degradation and the increasing importance of living sustainably within urban areas. Leadership on these issues is a central long term objective in this Local Planning Statement.

Local Planning Priority 2 Actions:

Managing bushfire risk and responding to climate change in our unique environment

Short Term (2020-2021)

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| 2.1 | Council will continue to engage and advocate on climate change initiatives such as the Cities Power Partnership and Resilient Sydney, as well as supporting community engagement in the Bushfire Expo and Conference |
| 2.2 | Council will update and appropriately implement the Local Emergency Management Plan |
| 2.3 | Council will review the Local Link Road Strategy to identify potential new routes to facilitate the mobility of residents and visitors within and to the Blue Mountains, for both emergency management and local movement (same as Action 9.9) |
| 2.4 | Council will review policy options for waste collection for denser types of residential development, including waste storage and collection points. |
| 2.5 | Council will maintain the current policy commitment of not rezoning land to increase housing density on bush fire prone land, and will review local planning controls to limit secondary dwellings on bush fire prone land (same as Action 6.4) |
| 2.6 | Council will continue to explore opportunities to build community resilience in response to climate change, extreme weather events and bush fire through the development of a City Disaster Recovery Plan |
| 2.7 | Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to advocate for improved energy efficiency standards within State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004, and the potential for Councils to set local energy efficiency targets (same as Action 6.10) |

Medium Term (2021 – 2025)

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| 2.8 | Council will investigate opportunities with Traditional Owners to integrate traditional fire management practices on <i>Ngurra</i> (Country) |
| 2.9 | Council will actively explore opportunities to support sustainability and liveability outcomes through minimising light pollution, including reduced impacts on biodiversity, enhanced appreciation of the night sky and reduction in energy consumption |
| 2.10 | Council will investigate and report on pathways to a low carbon economy, with an initial focus on Council operations and future partnerships with businesses, schools and residents |
| 2.11 | Council will implement and report on the Carbon Abatement Action Plan 2022, including requiring minimum energy standards for all new Council facilities |
| 2.12 | Council will update the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to consider options for the collection of food waste, including food waste from the commercial sector |

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| 2.13 | Council will review and update Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 and Development Control Plan 2015 to enhance water sensitive urban design controls and the protection of native vegetation, and introduce new controls for sustainability and climate change preparedness including energy efficiency (same as Action 1.11) |
| 2.14 | Council will investigate options for electric car charging stations within Council car parks and other Council owned land |
| 2.15 | Council will investigate the potential to incorporate construction requirements for an evacuation centre into the design of any new, suitable Council or other public facility |
| 2.16 | Council will collaborate with and seek investment from tertiary institutions, to develop an International Centre of Excellence in the Blue Mountains for sustainable living, environmental science or Planetary Health (including climate change and bush fire) (same as Actions 1.17, 3.15 and 7.12) |
| 2.17 | Council will work with Transport for NSW to reduce the impacts of regional freight movements along the Great Western Highway through the Blue Mountains via the diversification of transport modes, such as moving freight to the rail network (same as Action 9.7) |
| 2.18 | Council will work with Transport for NSW towards establishing core infrastructure throughout the City (including bus layovers and transport hubs for buses and satellite parking), to foster the movement of tourists via sustainable modes of transport through key locations (initially focused on Katoomba/Leura and Wentworth Falls) (same as Action 1.18 and 8.12) |
| 2.19 | Council will progressively convert fleet vehicles to best practice alternate technology, to achieve a low carbon Council fleet by 2036 |
| 2.20 | Council will, as part of asset maintenance and renewal, build City resilience through identifying and progressively replacing fire-vulnerable materials in its infrastructure. |
| 2.21 | Council will achieve net zero carbon emissions for all Council operations by 2025 |

Long Term (2025-2040)

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| 2.22 | Council will investigate initiatives to ensure all new Council assets exceed the standard required of private development in terms of water and energy reuse. |
| 2.23 | Council will in the context of climate change and increases in extreme weather, work with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to reconsider the 1 in 100 year flood level and risk profiles for new development in flood mapped areas. |

LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY 3:

Planning for the increased well-being of our community

The first three local planning priorities within this Local Planning Statement respond to the key direction of Sustainability in the Western City District Plan. They also adopt, as a foundation, the concept of Planetary Health as described above. Embedded within the environmental considerations, Planetary Health is the safeguarding of the health and well-being of current and future generations. We will seek to develop education opportunities for our community through partnerships with tertiary institutions and the long term establishment as a centre of excellence which supports and builds on this platform (Action 3.15).

Planning for well-being

Council's strategic focus is to maximise inclusion and well-being for the people of the Blue Mountains. The community development pathway focuses on children and families, older people, people with a disability, young people and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community. These focus areas are supported by a range of plans and strategies including the Disability Inclusion Plan, the Ageing Strategy and the Child, Youth and Family Strategic Plan. The ongoing implementation and delivery of these strategies is essential to the future well-being of the Blue Mountains community (Action 3.3). Council will also work with Traditional Owners to investigate opportunities for an Aboriginal cultural and education space in the Blue Mountains. A range of potential locations will be investigated in consultation with Traditional Owners, and include locations such as The Gully in Katoomba. (Action 3.13)

Access to health services

Fundamental to human well-being is health of the body and mind. Improving and maintaining physical and mental health requires health care, access to it and investment in infrastructure which responds to

the specific needs of the local community. The Blue Mountains has a population that is aging more rapidly than Greater Sydney. Therefore the need for local, best practice health care is a high priority. Additionally, focus on mental health across the broader age spectrum is required, including issues of isolation and loneliness. Council will work closely with NSW Health for the redevelopment and delivery of a District hospital and associated clinical facilities for the Blue Mountains (Action 3.5). There is also the need to consider access to health services outside the Blue Mountains. The loss of express train services to Westmead hospital from the Blue Mountains is an identified area for future advocacy, along with a continued focus on improving commuter connectivity to other health service locations, such as Nepean Hospital. (Action 3.16).

More broadly, a Western Sydney Health Alliance has been established as part of the Western Sydney City Deal where local governments will work in collaboration with NSW Health and other health partners to improve health and well-being outcomes. This will occur through the coordination and effectiveness of health services in the region, and also through social connectivity, physical activity and access to healthy food, thereby supporting healthier neighbourhoods. Council will continue to

participate in the Western Sydney Health Alliance and collaborate with the Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District as part of ongoing advocacy in the area of health services to the community. (Action 3.14).

Improving connectivity and our recreational future

The linear formation of the local government area and the need to repeat services along this relatively long corridor, has broad economic and social implications. With a limited rate base but a dispersed community, facilities need to be multi-purpose. The low density nature of residential areas means that some residents will be a greater distance from open space, particularly formal open space. The District Plan sets a 400m catchment for open space, whereas an 800m benchmark is used in the Blue Mountains.

Given the established and historic nature of the towns and villages, there is limited planned new open space. The focus for Council is maximising and enhancing the use of existing assets. This includes co-locating facilities, improving accessibility, and sustainably upgrading infrastructure. Council has secured funding under the

Western Parkland City Liveability Program, part of the Western Sydney City Deal, for a number of recreation based projects including: improvements to parks in Glenbrook, Springwood, Wentworth Falls and Blackheath; bushland restoration work and recreation area at the former Lawson Golf Course; an inclusive program pool with water play features at Katoomba Aquatic Centre (referred to as 'City Deal Liveability Program in Actions 3.8, 3.9 and 3.11).

Green Grid projects are also important to improved connectivity and recreation outcomes. The mental health benefits resulting from access to natural environments is increasingly acknowledged in national and international research. The Council will enhance and promote these significant places within the Blue Mountains, so as to provide these benefits to local residents and the wider community. The three green grid projects within the local government area are the Scenic Southern Escarpment, Eastern Escarpment and the Blue Mountains Bike Trail along the Great Western Highway. The Green Grid projects are part of a long term vision at the District level for a network of high quality green spaces that connect communities to the natural landscape (Action 3.10).





Connections to and between these places of recreation and social interaction are crucially important to achieving a connected community. The ability to walk or ride from place to place, and ensure a range of public locations and services are accessible for all members of the community, is fundamental to both physical and mental health. This is underscored within the youth age bracket of the Blue Mountains community. Greater connectivity provides opportunities to access services, socialise and engage with the community more broadly. Access to reliable, accessible transport also influences youth employment, study opportunities and potentially the opportunity to stay within the local government area rather than move away. A number of priorities in this statement address these issues, particularly in Local Planning Priority 9. Master planning of key town centres will be important to achieve positive and improved outcomes in this area (refer to Local Planning Priority 9).

Shared and joint use opportunities

Shared and joint use facilities, particularly in relation to schools and education facilities is important to providing a broad range of facilities that are accessible to the community. Partnerships with the NSW Department of Education will be important to ensure school facilities are most efficiently utilised and have multi-purpose functions to cater for the varied needs of the community. Actions are included against this local priority, particularly to liaise and partner with state government departments (including NSW Education and the Office of Sport) to achieve this outcome (Action 3.4).

Using our community facilities into the future

We need to plan carefully for the future use of our libraries and community facilities to make sure they meet the current and future needs of our community. Council is currently working to strategically plan for the provision of community facilities over the next ten years and beyond (Action 3.1). Focus will be placed on a coordinated approach to the planning, provision, management and renewal of facilities across the City to meet current and ongoing needs of the community (including services for cultural and linguistic diversity). Planning will consider the future uses of over 300 community buildings including public halls,

neighbourhood centres, and sporting amenities and clubrooms for example. This process will be informed by an assessment of current and future need as well as research into trends and best practice.

In addition to the use of hard infrastructure, opportunities to provide access to community land for a variety of purposes is also important. Community gardens are one such example, and Council's Community Garden policy provides direction on the management of community land for this purpose. Community gardens provide a space for healthy recreation and environmental education, but also provide a local source of fresh food. As we move towards a more sustainable Blue Mountains, the role of food production and access to fresh food within the local government area will be a focus. The Blue Mountains is already well placed, with the establishment of community gardens as early as 1992, current growers markets in Blackheath and Springwood (focused on supplying produce from local and regional areas) and Katoomba as a Cittaslow Community in 2007 (associated with the Slow Food Movement). The connection of local food production and tourism is also recognised and more recent events, such as an annual Edible Garden Trail in 2018, showcase local food producing gardens as a community event. This is further discussed at Local Planning Priority 8.

The changing role of our libraries

The Blue Mountains is serviced by six libraries of varying size and collections from Blackheath to Blaxland. Over 50% of our residents are library users, well above the state average of 41%, representing over 450,000 visitors in 2018-2019, equating to 540,000 loans. In the last year, over 663 programs were run across our libraries, attended by more than 21,000 people. It was this interest and energy in our library service that saw Blue Mountains representatives lead the successful 'Renew our libraries' campaign in 2019.

Our libraries will continue to diversify into broad ranging community facilities, places of social connection, and places to do business and use technology. In a local government area like the Blue Mountains (covering a distance of more than 100km) we must plan for flexibility if we are to provide these services for our community. A Library Strategic Plan will be developed to review current levels of service and adopt best practice approaches to the role our libraries will provide in the future. Additionally, funding has been secured (through the Western Parkland City Liveability program) for the redevelopment of Springwood library. (Action 3.7 and 3.12)



Local Planning Priority 3 Actions:

Planning for the increased well-being of our community

Short Term (2020-2021)

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| 3.1 | Council will complete and begin to implement the Community Facilities Strategic Plan |
| 3.2 | Council will continue to implement the Disability Inclusion Plan and Ageing Strategy, integrated with other capital works and service plans |
| 3.3 | Council will complete and begin to implement a Child, Youth and Family Strategic Plan, in partnership with the community services sector and local schools |
| 3.4 | Council will collaborate with state government departments (including NSW Education and the Office of Sport) on a priority plan for shared/joint use of education facilities |
| 3.5 | Council will collaborate with NSW Health on the redevelopment and delivery of a District hospital and associated clinical facilities, including mental health facilities, for the Blue Mountains |
| 3.6 | Council will continue to implement the Open Space and Recreation Strategy (focused on key infrastructure and enhancement of existing assets) to ensure the local community can lead physically active and social lifestyles |

Medium Term (2021 – 2025)

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|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3.7 | Council will develop a Library Strategic Plan including options for community hubs using library infrastructure |
| 3.8 | Council will deliver an inclusive program pool as part of the City Deal Liveability Program |
| 3.9 | Council will deliver upgrades to key District park infrastructure at Wentworth Falls Lake, Glenbrook Park, Buttenshaw Park and Blackheath Soldiers Memorial Park as part of the City Deal Liveability Program |
| 3.10 | Council will continue the implementation of identified Green Grid projects including Scenic Southern Escarpment, Eastern Escarpment and the Blue Mountains Bike Trail along the Great Western Highway |
| 3.11 | Council will deliver bushland restoration work and recreation area at the former Lawson Golf Course as part of the City Deal Liveability Program |
| 3.12 | Council will redevelop Springwood Library as part of the City Deal Liveability Program |
| 3.13 | Council will investigate opportunities for Aboriginal cultural and education spaces, including at The Gully in Katoomba and other locations in consultation with Traditional Owners |
| 3.14 | Council will participate in the Western Sydney Health Alliance and work in collaboration with health partners to improve coordination and effectiveness of health services in the region, supporting healthier neighbourhoods |

- 3.15 Council will collaborate with, and seek investment from tertiary institutions, to develop an International Centre of Excellence in the Blue Mountains for sustainable living, environmental science or Planetary Health (including climate change and bush fire) (same as Actions 1.17, 2.16 and 7.12)
- 3.16 Council will advocate for improved transport links to medical facilities, including services from the Blue Mountains to Westmead and Nepean Hospitals
- 3.17 Council will begin to implement the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Review (Action 6.13) to improve housing affordability and reduce housing stress within the Blue Mountains





Liveability

4. Strengthening Creativity, Culture and the Blue Mountains as a 'City of the Arts'
5. Conserving and enhancing heritage, character and liveability
6. Meeting the diverse housing needs of our community

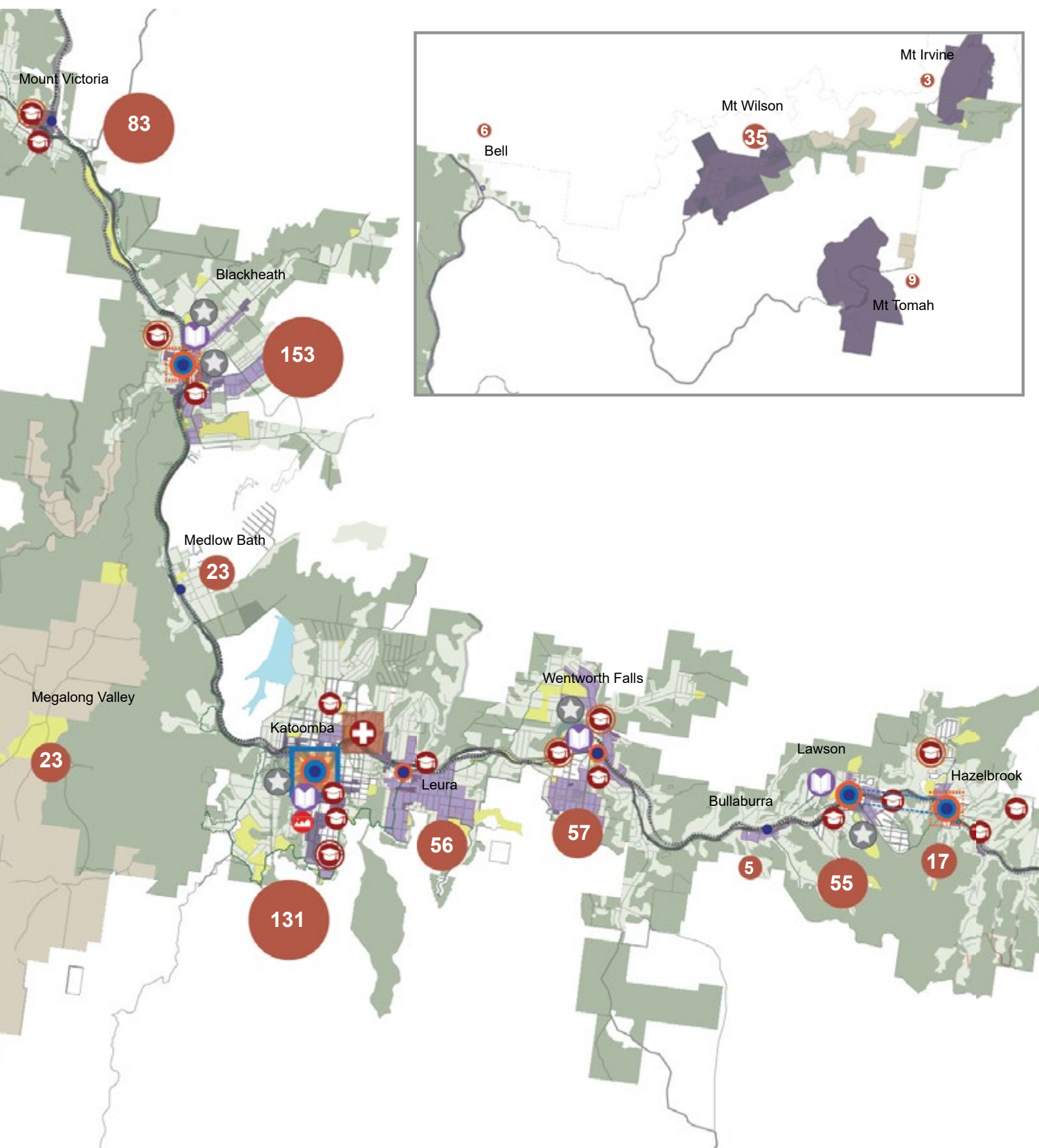
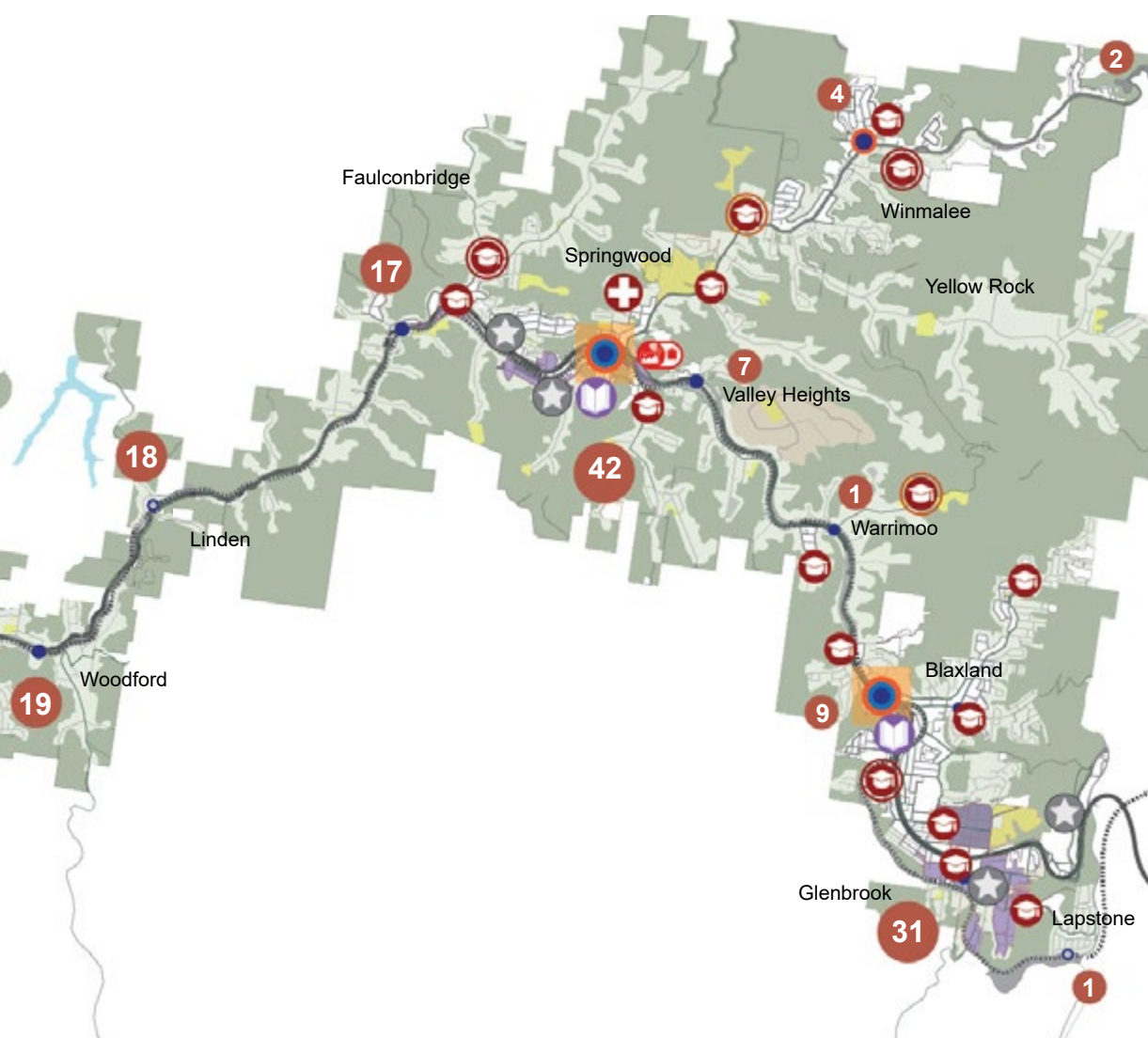
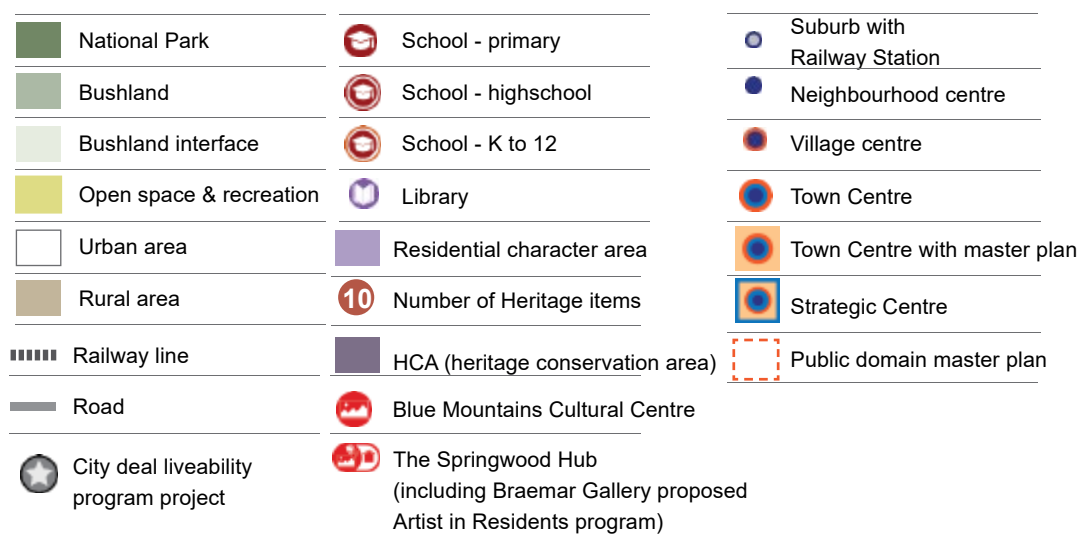


Figure 13: Liveability Map



LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY 4: Strengthening Creativity, Culture and the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts

The City of the Blue Mountains is an area of outstanding natural beauty. It provides access to vast visual landscapes, and to a lifestyle that attracts artists and the creative community. The Western City District Plan describes liveability as being about quality of life, and creating and renewing great places, which can then support the arts, creativity, cultural expression and innovation. Our Community Strategic Plan 2035 identifies creativity as one of our core values, and the Blue Mountains was named the inaugural City of the Arts in 1995. These natural and community values are a fundamental competitive advantage of the Blue Mountains, as a source of creativity, culture and innovation.

This status and focus is anchored in the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre in Katoomba and the Blue Mountains Theatre and Hub in Springwood. These facilities feature music, art (visual and dramatic), and cultural events, to foster and provide access to creative industries within the City. There are also an increasing number of local galleries, and the privately run Varuna - the National Writers' House. This Katoomba venue has hosted events

as part of the Sydney Writers Festival and for the first time in 2019, hosted the Blue Mountains Writers Festival.

To maintain this focus, it is important that these facilities are enhanced and developed over the next 20 years. Actions include looking at opportunities for smaller, more flexible performance and training spaces to complement our theatre and gallery spaces (Action 4.11). As Sydney develops and there is less available land for creative enterprises, including the film production and editing spaces to support the Australian film industry. It will be important to establish and preserve key sites for these uses within the Greater Sydney region. The Blue Mountains is a natural fit for such a specialisation.

Over the medium term our objective is to develop and expand our education and public arts programs, drawing on the talents and professional skills of our creative local community. A significant proportion of the community work in creative industries, and many of these professional artists are recognised nationally and internationally. An action in this statement is to elevate



the importance of creativity and culture in the planning framework, through recognition of cultural events in the objectives of Local Environmental Plan 2015 (Action 4.6). Actions against this priority also include an expansion to the World Heritage Artist in Residence program, to establish a permanent space for an artist in residence to live, work and interact with the local community (Action 4.9). A successful program has the potential to not only promote local artists, but to attract world class international and national talent to the Blue Mountains, resulting in economic benefit, expansion of local programs and local exposure to the creative arts.

Objective 3.4 of the Community Strategic Plan is the implementation of the Blue Mountains Cultural Strategy. An action in this statement is to update this Cultural Strategic Plan and include the development of a Public Art Policy (Action 4.10). This will consider and outline opportunities for the use of land in the public domain (both its infrastructure and access ways) to integrate and embed high quality art and creative elements into the urban fabric of the City. These elements can be functional (such as shade structures or street furniture), but can also contribute to beauty and amenity. Master planning of town centres will be a key process to highlight this new approach.

Beyond these permanent elements within the urban fabric, creative culture is also built through temporary (ephemeral) events. More than one hundred and fifty (150) events are held across the Blue Mountains each year, many of these with an arts or creative focus. The number and nature of these events support tourism and the local economy, but are also a fundamental connector within the Blue Mountains community. Council will continue to encourage and support the delivery of such events, and through the completion of the Events Strategic Plan, seek to build capacity within the sector through training and networking sessions (refer also to Priority 7).

Situated in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area, a niche market for the Blue Mountains is nature-based events and adventure tourism. Significantly, endurance (trail running) events are becoming a major contributor to the local economy. The Blue Mountains now hosts two major marathon events; the Six Foot Track Marathon and the 4 day Ironman Ultra Trail, both taking advantage of the unique natural setting. Such multi-day events provide significant local economic benefit,

drawing thousands of participants and support crew to the Blue Mountains.

The live music scene in the Blue Mountains is also a key feature of our cultural landscape. Two major music festivals are held each year: the Blue Mountains Music Festival and the Blue Mountains Ukulele Festival. Many other events such as Springwood Foundation Day and Winter Magic feature local and visiting musicians in their programs. Beyond these music events, the Blue Mountains (and Katoomba in particular) makes an important contribution to the live music scene in Greater Sydney, with multiple venues and regular gigs across the City which enliven our centres and add to the night time economy. The first 'Live and Local' event for the Blue Mountains was held in 2019, with approximately 180 performers across twelve (12) locations. Events such as this connect music with small business and provide an opportunity to develop young, local musicians.

In an area like the Blue Mountains, with physical constraints that can limit growth, there is equally, limited opportunity for new facilities and infrastructure. Flexibility of use is therefore highly beneficial. The Council will work with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, to amend the Standard Local Environmental Plan to allow greater flexibility around the temporary use of sites, for festivals and events. This directly aligns with Priority W4 of the Western City District Plan, which targets greater use of the public realm for temporary uses, and the use of vacant or under-utilised commercial spaces for arts, events and creative uses. This is also aligned with a reduction in the regulatory burden for these uses.



Council will also investigate options to allow activities of a certain type and scale to occur as exempt or complying development, including activities which may contribute to the night-time economy. Results of community consultation completed to inform this Local Planning Statement identified concern in most centres about the lack of a night time economy. Ways to enhance this sector will be considered as part of the review and update of the Blue Mountains economic strategy to be prepared in 2020 (Action 4.7).

Creativity and the arts are fundamental to the local economy. The Western City District Plan acknowledges the existence and encouragement of local art networks in the Blue Mountains, recognising “that place based approaches can develop local artistic and creative culture.” Council supports this local network through the City of the Arts Trust. An action in this statement is to identify opportunities for growth and expansion of the Trust to further support local arts projects (Action 4.1).

Council’s aim is that the Blue Mountains is not simply known as a City of the Arts and creativity, but a destination of choice for people working in creative industries due to the opportunities and infrastructure available for work and creativity. To support this, a further policy review action is to work with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to amend the Standard Local Environmental Plan, to permit makers

spaces within town centre areas. This has the potential to activate centres with creative activities and provide a focal point where artists can make and sell their work (Action 4.5).

Council will also investigate opportunities for emerging markets in the Blue Mountains, which can leverage off our unique identity as a City of the Arts in a World Heritage Area. This can build upon the ‘MTNS Made’ brand, expanding it to attract sustainable creative industries which respond to our unique setting. The Council will work with Blue Mountains Economic Enterprise to enhance and further develop this area.

The Blue Mountains Cultural Centre is an important anchor facility for our local creative arts industry, hosting world class exhibitions and attracting thousands of visitors annually. It also houses a permanent World Heritage Area exhibit, and our spectacular natural setting is a regular focus for exhibits and performances. Further exploring this interaction with our environment, an exhibition on Planetary Health will be held at the Cultural Centre in 2020. Planetary Health is an emerging field of enquiry, based on the fundamental interdependencies of human and natural systems. The human-natural relationship is one which the Blue Mountains Sustainability Model (refer to figure 9 on page 19) captured two decades ago, significantly contributing to the planning framework which underpins the City. In this context, the Blue Mountains is uniquely placed to be a regional centre of excellence for not only scientific enquiry in this field (as captured in Priorities 1-3), but also a creative centre with a synergy and focus on sustainability and ecological themes.

Our long-term focus is to be a place of artistic excellence and creative learning, attracting national and world-renowned artists to create in this unique environment. Council will provide space and prioritised locations to allow the development of the creative economy, such that people in the industry see the Blue Mountains as a desirable and viable place to live and work. Through consideration of art and sustainability as part of the urban fabric, the City will become a more beautiful place to live, aesthetically attractive, balancing heritage and eco-sensitive contemporary built fabric.





Local Planning Priority 4 Actions: Strengthening Creativity, Culture and the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts

Short Term (2020-2021)

- 4.1 Council will identify opportunities to grow the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts, including expansion of the City of the Arts Trust
- 4.2 Council will finalise and begin to implement the Events Strategic Plan, including continuing to encourage and facilitate delivery of local events and supporting event organisers in areas such as risk management, training/networking sessions and the identification of a large event space (same as Action 7.4)
- 4.3 Council will implement an exhibition on Planetary Health in 2020 at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
- 4.4 Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to provide greater flexibility and streamlined approval processes for events and temporary uses, through amendments to the Standard Local Environmental Plan and local controls
- 4.5 Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to investigate policy options to provide studios or makers spaces within town centre areas
- 4.6 Council will seek to elevate the importance of culture and creativity through an update to the objectives of the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 to recognise cultural events
- 4.7 Council will review and update the Blue Mountains economic strategy (same as Action 7.2)
- 4.8 Council will develop a framework to deliver sustainability and liveability measures (water sensitive urban design, creativity/art and heritage) within all new assets and asset renewal on public land (same as Action 1.2)

Medium Term (2021 – 2025)

- 4.9 Council will investigate opportunities to establish an artist in residence program, with a potential site at Braemar Gallery in Springwood and other locations
- 4.10 Council will update and begin to implement the Blue Mountains Cultural Strategic Plan, incorporating the NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan and a Blue Mountains Public Art Policy to transform the public domain of the City over time
- 4.11 Council will investigate opportunities and seek funding sources to incorporate smaller, multi-purpose performance and teaching spaces within Springwood Theatre and Community Hub and other locations



LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY 5: Conserving and enhancing heritage, character and liveability

As we seek to understand and preserve the built heritage of our City, it is important to acknowledge that much of this European history directly impacts on the culture of the Gundungurra and Darug Traditional Owners. We acknowledge that the heritage of European settlement does not adequately represent a complete history of the area, nor represent the views of Traditional Owners or the values they attribute to Country (Ngurra).

The scenic qualities and grandeur of the natural landscapes of the Blue Mountains have drawn both visitation and permanent settlement. A string of twenty-nine villages and towns are set along the main ridgeline across the Mountains, nestled within a vast World Heritage landscape. There are dramatic contrasts between the historic settlements and the wider natural environment. The Blue Mountains is at once a single community and also a series of communities located within each village or locality. Our residents feel that the character of each village and locality is different and that the atmosphere of the Blue Mountains is unique. In this way, previous advocacy by the community in the preparation of Local Environmental Plan 2015 made clear that “The Blue Mountains is not another suburb of Sydney”.

The preservation of the City’s overall character is consistently identified by the community as one of its highest priorities, and is a significant part of the vision of the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan 2035. Many residents decide to stay or move to the Blue Mountains because of its character – the natural bushland, village lifestyle, historic charm, and small-town character. The heritage, character and liveability of our villages are a source of local pride and identity.

There is a particularly strong relationship between heritage and character in the Blue Mountains. Areas of historic housing and long-established exotic gardens within town centres create distinctive and varied neighbourhoods and streetscapes. Many of the most

intact historic areas have recently been converted to heritage conservation areas to ensure their ongoing protection. The Blue Mountains local government area has almost 1000 locally listed heritage items and a number of these are of state significance. This Local Planning Statement identifies actions that ensure the ongoing maintenance of our heritage listings program (Actions 5.10 and 5.15).

The character of the Blue Mountains urban areas is distinct from metropolitan Sydney and the Western Parklands City. Our urban environments are mostly low-scale compared to high-density living in a large city. Both the natural bushland setting and the established exotic village gardens and streets, are of high amenity and landscape value, and are of significant importance to our community. An ongoing threat to the character of these residential areas is the potential for exempt or complying development, particularly medium density housing, through expanded opportunities under state planning policies. The Council will continue to seek an exemption from policies such as the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code to ensure our low-density living environments are preserved (Action 5.7). State government policies such as these override local planning controls, allowing a greater building footprint under a less rigorous assessment process. Over time, this will compromise the residential character of Blue Mountains villages, with larger building forms and diminished landscape setting.

Priority W6 in the Western City District Plan focuses on 'creating and renewing great places ...and respecting the District's heritage'. The heritage of our older established townscapes includes a variety of older buildings capable of being renewed and adapted to new uses. This may provide opportunities to improve housing diversity and housing supply close to shops and public transport, whilst retaining character and conserving and enhancing heritage values.

To promote and actively celebrate the values of our built environment and heritage the unique heritage nature of our towns and streetscapes must be part of ongoing place-making opportunities in local centres, through education, artwork, community involvement, wayfinding and interpretation.

Currently, a key challenge for the Blue Mountains is to resolve the incorporation of our residential character conservation zone (the Living-Conservation zone) into our Local Environmental Plan 2015. This zone (defined by densely landscaped sites, with large setbacks and modest site coverage) has provided important protections for distinctive residential character areas of the Mountains since 2005. These features are fundamental characteristics of character neighbourhoods. The Council will continue to work with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to reach a solution which retains these values (Action 5.1).

Council will also deliver an updated Heritage Strategy which provides an opportunity to include a consultative framework for broader engagement with the community on heritage matters (Action 5.4). This collaborative approach is important to ensure that the value of heritage is understood by an increased proportion of the community and so that we can work together to preserve it. An important contributor to this process is the Council's Heritage Advisory Committee, which provides local expertise on heritage matters. To further assist, additional grant funding will be sought for a local heritage fund, as well as for larger projects over public buildings which contribute to the heritage values of the City (Actions 5.5 and 5.14). A component of this will be to raise the profile of the cultural collateral held within the museums and local histories facilities across the City. This includes the need for long term storage of local collections and disaster plans for extreme weather and fire events.

The Council has successfully obtained funding to complete *Ngurra* (Country) is Everything – managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage through Traditional Owners continuing relationships to Country in the Blue Mountains (Action 5.3). This project will develop a first stage Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study which will redefine a culturally respectful approach to the management of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in the





Blue Mountains Local Government Area (LGA). The Council has also entered into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) with Gundungurra Traditional Owners. The ILUA recognises the particular importance to the Gundungurra Traditional Owners of certain land within the Blue Mountains Local Government Area, and is a 10 year, legally binding agreement under the Native Title Act 1993. Council will continue to partner with the Gundungurra and Darug Traditional Owners to protect and understand their full history (Action 5.6). The Council will work with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal people to review and update local development controls to ensure the community is aware and educated on requirements for protection of Aboriginal cultural heritage.

A Character Study, prepared and exhibited with this statement, includes recommendations about future land use and management strategies, to ensure the unique character of the Blue Mountains is retained and enhanced. This Character Study and the accompanying Character Statement help to define and understand the significant contribution of these character areas to the identity of the Blue Mountains.

To respond to the changing needs of the community we must plan for some change, balanced with respect and appropriate responses for places of distinctive character. Pressure for alternative forms of housing, housing

choice and affordable housing is a real need of the community and has the potential to impact on existing town character. New development should possess high quality design, and be respectful and responsive to the existing character. The Local Housing Strategy (LHS) was developed alongside the Local Character Study and Local Character Statement to inform this Local Strategic Planning Statement. The LHS responds to local housing needs and proposes a place based approach to address future housing for the Blue Mountains community. This is detailed further in local planning priority 6.

Articulating what housing diversity means in the Blue Mountains context is an important step in this process. For example, what 'medium density' means in the Blue Mountains compared to Greater Sydney, and what design parameters should be included to achieve a 'Mountains style' residential character must be addressed. Actions against this Local Planning Priority and the supporting Draft Blue Mountains Character Study 2019 and Draft Character Statement 2019 seek to articulate the defining characteristics of housing in the Blue Mountains (Action 5.2). Additional actions seek to address community concern over the importance of maintaining a Blue Mountains character within 'hidden density' development such as dual occupancies and secondary dwellings (Action 5.8).



Local Planning Priority 5 Actions:

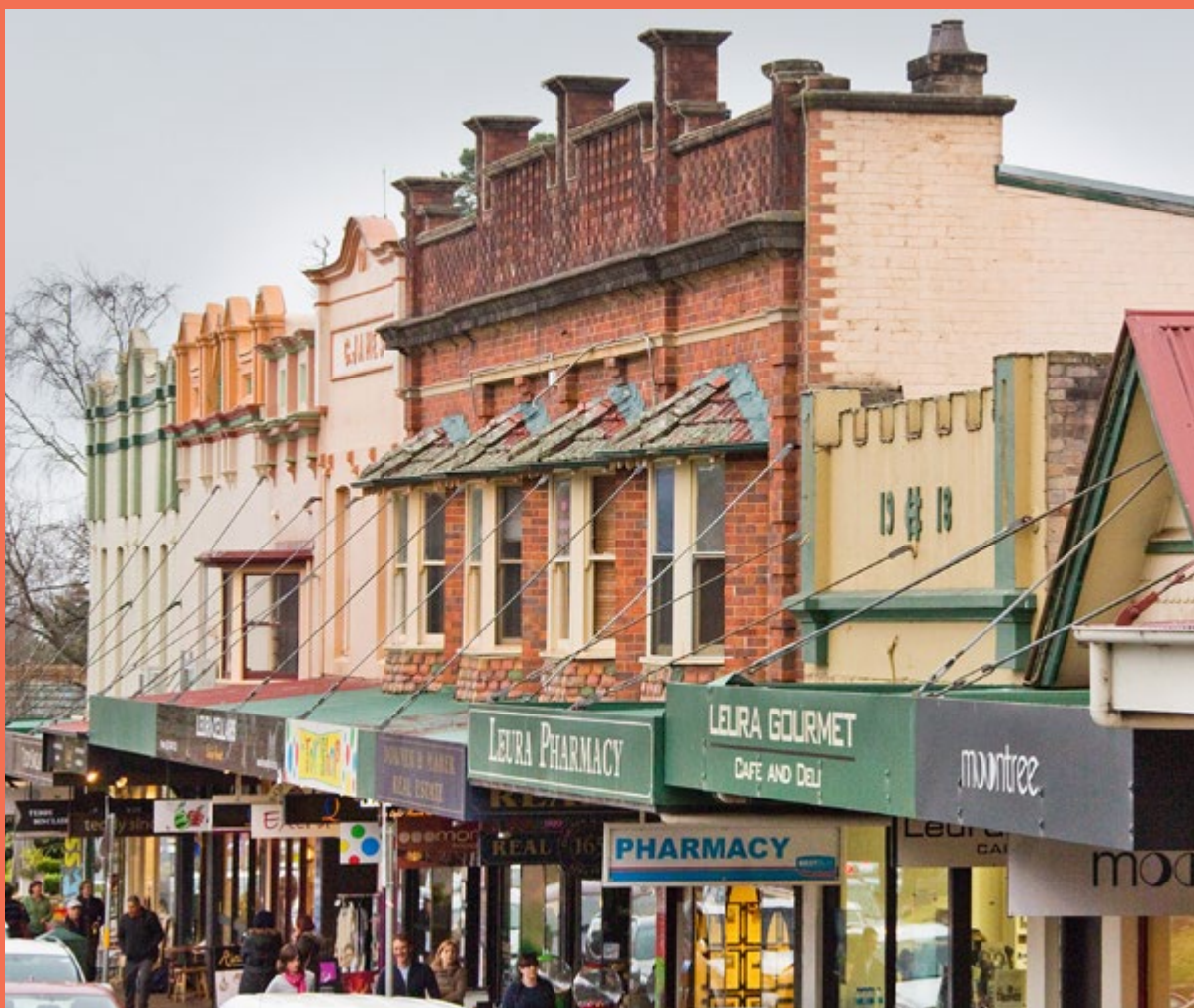
Conserving and enhancing heritage, character and liveability

Short Term (2020-2021)

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5.1 | Council will continue to pursue a Residential Character zone or alternative planning solution within the Local Environmental Plan to retain and enhance the residential character of the Blue Mountains |
| 5.2 | Council will commence implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Mountains Local Character Study 2019 |
| 5.3 | Council will prepare and begin to implement the <i>Ngurra (Country) is Everything</i> project, <i>Managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage through Traditional Owners continuing relationships to Country in the Blue Mountains</i> |
| 5.4 | Council will update and begin to implement the Blue Mountains Heritage Strategy |
| 5.5 | Council will continue work with Heritage NSW to obtain increased funding for the Local Heritage Fund and other local heritage projects (including long term storage and Disaster Plans for local collections in museums and galleries) |
| 5.6 | Council will continue to partner with the Gundungurra Traditional Owners through the Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Darug Traditional Owners through appropriate methods to protect and understand their full history |
| 5.7 | Council will seek an exemption from the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code in State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Codes) 2008 to ensure local controls are maintained to protect the character of the Blue Mountains |
| 5.8 | Council will begin to develop design controls and guidelines for medium density housing and review current controls for dual occupancy and secondary dwellings to ensure these housing forms are appropriate to the Blue Mountains context, including character, landscape qualities and sustainability (same as Action 6.9) |
| 5.9 | Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and NSW Heritage to achieve legislative change whereby local and state governments have shared power and responsibility to require owners of heritage properties to achieve minimum maintenance standards, particularly in relation to significant public buildings |

Medium Term (2021 – 2025)

- 5.10 Council will prepare a mapping series for the Blue Mountains Development Control Plan 2015 to identify contributory property values within mapped Heritage Conservation Areas
- 5.11 Council will deliver the recommendations of the updated Heritage Strategy
- 5.12 Council will investigate opportunities for grant funding for interpretive heritage signage throughout the City
- 5.13 Council will seek government grant opportunities to deliver key outcomes and projects which provide an honest and complete narrative of both Aboriginal and European histories and include a comprehensive thematic history of the Blue Mountains
- 5.14 Council will collaborate with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and NSW Heritage on innovative ways to incentivise investment in, and the adaptive reuse of built heritage
- 5.15 Council will commence a heritage review of local heritage listings within the Blue Mountains local government area, to update the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan



LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY 6: Meeting the diverse housing needs of our community

The primary role of housing is to provide shelter. As a home, housing is important for well-being and security, and is likely to be the single biggest expense in a person's life. Ensuring appropriate access to housing is essential, underpinning the collective well-being of the community.

Housing is the dominant form of development within the urban areas of our City. Therefore, the scale, design and relationship of housing to the landscape significantly contributes to the character of the Blue Mountains.

Within the context of the Western Parklands City, the Blue Mountains is not required to provide new housing for the Greater Sydney region. The classification in the Western City District Plan of the Blue Mountains local government area as Metro-Rural, acknowledges our limited growth opportunities. Our local priority is to provide housing to meet the needs of the community, both now and into the future.

Council has prepared a Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2019 which highlights opportunities and presents strategies to plan for future local housing needs. The vision for the LHS is for the Blue Mountains to have a range of environmentally responsive, affordable and well-designed local housing options to meet diverse community needs.

The housing strategy also addresses the five-year housing target nominated in the Western City District Plan and to which the Council must respond. The target for the Blue Mountains is 650 new dwellings by 2021. Based on the current rate of construction, this target is expected to be met under the current planning framework.

Council is also required to nominate a housing target for the 6-10 year period (2021-2026) and to achieve agreement with the Greater Sydney Commission on this figure. The Council's proposed target is for 550 additional

dwellings over the period (detailed further in this section and the Local Housing Strategy). The delivery of this new housing will be appropriate to the natural environmental context and serve the needs of the local community.

Housing in the context of the Blue Mountains environment – Limitation on urban expansion

The environmental constraints within the Blue Mountains area are extensive and many such constraints extend into the urban footprint. The long held planning principle of a Sustainable Development Threshold (SDT) has been utilised to identify limits to the urban footprint located within the expansive World Heritage listed landscape. The SDT is based on the exclusion of certain land from residential use based on environmental constraints such as contiguous slopes steeper than 20 per cent, significant vegetation communities, and/or a watercourse corridors.

Planning controls within Local Environmental Plan 2015 address these constraints through provisions related to environmental impact and stormwater control. The importance of these local provisions is central to Council seeking an exemption from state government standard policies such as the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code which would override local planning controls.

In this case, the Code would allow for a built footprint significantly larger than permitted under Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015. Such expansions in impervious area both reduce the ability to manage stormwater and adversely impact on the landscape setting and character of the area. With an urban footprint that drains into the World Heritage National Park and the Sydney drinking water catchment, this standardisation of housing development is not appropriate for the Blue Mountains.

The state government has deferred the application of the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code in the Blue Mountains (and many other NSW local government areas) until July 2020. The Council will continue to seek a permanent exemption from this and other Codes which compromise the environmental planning outcomes achieved through local controls. Importantly, the LEP provides the opportunity for the same housing types, thereby allowing housing targets to be met through local controls responsive to the local context.

Significant bush fire risk is commensurate with our surrounding natural environment. Planning for housing must consider the broader risks to life from concentrations of people in exposed areas, particularly vulnerable people. This includes infrastructure capacity for evacuation in an emergency. In this context, there are considerable areas of the Blue Mountains that are unsuitable for increases in housing density as they are bushfire prone, and isolated with limited access. This has been confirmed by the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Consequently, future housing opportunities are likely to be contained in and around town centres, away from the bushland interface and outside bush fire prone areas. This, by default, serves to lessen environmental impacts through reducing the need to clear bushland vegetation, and by locating housing within a walkable distance to services and public transport.

Housing for the people of the Blue Mountains – Meeting Community Need

An objective of the Blue Mountains Community Strategic Plan 2035 is to provide housing which is affordable, well-designed and of an appropriate character, while also meeting the needs of our population at different life stages.

The population of the Blue Mountains is experiencing only modest growth, particularly compared to the Western City District and Greater Sydney. As such, there is limited demand for an increase in overall housing supply. Therefore, demand analysis within the Blue Mountains Local Housing focuses on the types of housing available set against community need, rather than an assessment of overall housing supply. This has been investigated and informed by an analysis of demographic data, a housing survey completed by Council in 2019 (to support the

Local Housing Strategy) and the findings of broader community consultation.

The housing needs of the community are not static, however there are key themes which have remained largely consistent in the Blue Mountains over a number of decades. These can be summarised as an ageing population, out migration of young people, and an increasing proportion of households that are 'couples only' or 'lone person'. In response to these key themes there is a need to plan for a more diverse choice of housing than currently exists for our community.

Planning for improved housing diversity in an area like the Blue Mountains is a many faceted challenge. Neither expansion of the urban area of the City, nor wholesale change to established areas is appropriate. A nuanced, place based, and incremental approach is therefore needed to identify where and how additional housing options can be provided.

The vast majority of housing in the Blue Mountains (92%) is free standing houses on relatively large blocks of land. This defines much of the residential character of the Blue Mountains, and is important to preserve. The previous priority (Priority 5 – Conserving and enhancing heritage, character and liveability) addresses character considerations in detail.



However, this type of housing is often best suited to families with children. Given that the Blue Mountains population is ageing and certain sections of the community are experiencing housing-costs stress, the larger family home may not represent the preference of lone person and couple only households.

The Blue Mountains Local Housing Strategy (LHS) 2019 (prepared in conjunction with this statement and required under Priority W5 of the District Plan) investigates in further detail the current and future housing needs of our local community, and provides potential strategies to address them. The LHS is supported by a Housing Survey (included as Appendix 2 to the Local Housing Strategy 2019). The survey complements the demographic analysis and builds upon the findings of previous community engagement related to housing.

The vision in the LHS is for local housing in the Blue Mountains that:

- Responds to the broader environmental setting of the World Heritage area
- Celebrates and works with the strong local character of existing towns and villages
- Utilises town centres to provide diverse housing with improved accessibility
- Meets the needs of a changing population at all life stages and that is affordable, accessible and well designed
- Emphasises the integration of energy efficiency into sustainable design

The LHS also investigates current housing capacity and likely future supply of new dwellings. Based on the review of capacity and supply, the strategy must respond to the 5-year (2016 – 2021) housing target set in the Western City District Plan and propose a housing target for the following 5-year period. Detailed analysis is provided in the Local Housing Strategy and sets the proposed targets against the highly constrained natural environment of the Blue Mountains, our limited growth opportunities and singular focus on housing for the local community. The target of 650 dwellings by 2021 set by the Western City District Plan is able to be met under current planning controls, and Council is proposing a 6-10 year housing target of an additional 550 new dwellings from 2021-

2026. This is lower than the target set for the current five-year period, and what has occurred historically, but reflects the limited land capacity in the Blue Mountains and the likely decrease in the rate of development (as documented in the analysis).

Existing land capacity is limited. While the five-year housing target is considered to be achievable under current planning controls, without policy change, the majority of these new houses will be single dwellings on remaining vacant land. This does not address housing diversity. Additionally, it does not address the long term need for housing, when currently available vacant land is exhausted (which at the current rate of construction, will occur by 2043). As we draw closer to 2043, remaining vacant land will inevitably be the most marginal, constrained and costly to develop. Further investigation is required into how appropriate new housing can be provided within established urban areas of our City.

The importance of residential character and appropriate design in the Blue Mountains cannot be diminished. Articulating exactly what housing diversity means in the Blue Mountains context is an important step. For example, what 'medium density' means in the Blue Mountains compared to Greater Sydney, and what design parameters should be included to achieve a 'Mountains style' residential character must be addressed. Actions against Priority 5 and the supporting Draft Blue Mountains Character Study 2019 and Draft Character Statement 2019 seek to capture defining characteristics of housing in the Blue Mountains. Actions are included at Priority 5 which also seeks to address community concern and importance of maintaining a Blue Mountains character within 'hidden density' development such as dual occupancies and secondary dwellings.

An important contributor to character is appropriate high-quality design. A key theme within the housing survey (2019), and one which is a common thread in community consultation on local housing, is the need for design parameters to be elevated within the planning framework. In many responses, people are willing to consider a denser form of development provided the design is high quality and suitable to the Blue Mountains context. Future planning for more diverse housing will need to be supported by guidelines to help articulate what good design means in the context of the Blue Mountains. This is included as an action in this statement.

Given the Blue Mountains' setting, sustainable design is also important. It has been recognised and generally supported by the community that a higher sustainability standard should be expected than is required elsewhere in Greater Sydney. The importance of the principles of ecologically sustainable development, including increased energy efficiency, must be integrated and enhanced in housing design and development processes broadly, to respond to the changing climate. Currently, detached residential development is the highest energy using sector in the Blue Mountains (63% - Kinesis 2019) and represents the biggest opportunity in the future to reduce energy consumption. The Blue Mountains planning framework has strong controls to protect natural areas and waterways, but there is the potential to elevate the importance of energy efficiency and advocate for the strengthening of controls at a state level. An action has been included to advocate for higher standards under State Environmental Planning Policy (BASIX) (Action 6.10).

An ageing population is the general trend in Greater Sydney and Australia more broadly. However, it is more overt in the Blue Mountains and correlates with an increase in lone person and couple only households (forecast to represent 60.9% of Blue Mountains households by 2036). Consequently, there is a need to provide housing choice, which suits changing needs and allows residents to age in place, remaining within and connected to their community. An action in this statement (and detailed in the Local Housing Strategy 2019) is to work with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to review the state policy on seniors housing to consider increased opportunities for this type of housing in the Blue Mountains. Council will also investigate the opportunities on certain industrial zoned land, historically used for residential purposes and located close to town centres, to allow for seniors housing development (Actions 6.6 and 6.7).

In contrast, the Aboriginal population in the Blue Mountains (and indeed Greater Sydney) is relatively young. In the 2016 census, the median age for Aboriginal people Australia wide was 23 years, compared to 38 years for non-Aboriginal people. This raises questions about the types of housing needed by Aboriginal people, but also questions of affordability.



Housing affordability must be considered in order to meet the needs of the whole community. Housing affordability is complex and further work is needed to understand the appropriate planning mechanisms to achieve these outcomes. One key aspect is the connection between housing choice and housing stress, and an initial understanding of the community perspective on this issue was gained through the housing survey. For Gundungurra and Darug Traditional Owners in the Blue Mountains, the issue of housing affordability is much more profound. To move out of the Blue Mountains is not simply relocating to a more affordable location. It is leaving *Ngurra* (Country). Further work is required, and will be completed through a Housing Affordability Review, included as an action in this statement (Action 6.13). Housing affordability is a challenge for all Councils in the Western City District. Although affordability issues differ between Council areas, there would be value in investigating housing affordability and strategies to address it at a regional level, in partnership with other councils in the Western City District.

Housing diversity through 'hidden density' is important to housing supply in the Blue Mountains. In a contained urban footprint, with no new land release areas, housing supply through high quality infill development, defined here as 'hidden density', largely takes the form of secondary dwellings and dual occupancy development. Given the size limit on secondary dwellings, they provide an opportunity to increase housing diversity through the provision of small, predominantly one-bedroom dwellings. When such dwellings are added to the long-term rental market housing affordability may be improved. Dual occupancies are also considered a form of hidden density in the Blue Mountains and are broadly permitted in residential areas.

The Local Housing Strategy considers in detail the importance of these forms of housing to housing supply in the Blue Mountains. Council must also consider the character impacts of these types of development, particularly on the landscape settings and character neighbourhoods of our towns and villages, and natural hazards such as bush fire when planning for 'hidden density'. In this regard, Council will maintain its commitment of not increasing housing density on bush fire prone land, and will also review current policy

on secondary dwellings in the most bush fire prone parts of the City (drawing on the approach taken under State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009) (Action 6.4).

The rise of short-term rental accommodation, through online platforms like AirBnB, is another factor negatively affecting housing supply and particularly the placement of secondary dwellings on the long-term rental market. This is most noticeable in upper mountains villages, where tourism is currently focused. This loss of long term rental stock has been factored into housing supply projections in the Local Housing Strategy.

With reference to the management of this land use, an action in this statement is to advocate for a consistent approach across NSW which provides for independent registration and monitoring of short term accommodation at a state level (Action 6.5). It is important that the impacts continue to be monitored, not only due to the potential impact on the overall supply of housing, but also because of the potential impacts on social cohesion and sense of community within neighbourhoods.

The revitalisation of town centres through master planning will provide a significant opportunity to explore housing diversity, character consideration and sustainability requirements through a detailed investigative process. Planning for housing in and near town centres has the potential to provide greater housing choice close to shops, services, and public transport. Recent Masterplans developed with the community for town centres such as Blaxland and Springwood, have included consideration of these housing opportunities.

Council will proceed with place-based master planning of key town centres, including Katoomba, incorporating investigation of more diverse housing opportunities. For Katoomba, opportunities exist in the potential revitalisation of Lurline Street, specifically under-utilised guest houses. The adaptive reuse of these buildings could provide a significant injection of smaller dwellings close to the town centre. Council will work with the state government and social housing providers to investigate opportunities to incentivise investment in these buildings (Action 6.12).

The appropriate planning, and provision of well-designed diverse housing options will not only help to meet the housing needs of our community but will also contribute to living more sustainably by reducing our carbon footprint (Local Planning Priority 1); improving the well-being of individuals and the community by

helping people to be better connected (Priority 3); better mitigating risks from bushfire and the impacts of climate change (Priority 2); and, enhancing and enriching the character of our City (Local Planning Priority 5).



Local Planning Priority 6 Actions:

Meeting the diverse housing needs of our community

Short Term (2020-2021)

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|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6.1 | Council will begin to implement the recommendations of Blue Mountains Local Housing Strategy 2019 |
| 6.2 | Council will proceed with place-based master planning of key town centres, including a robust community engagement plan, to investigate diverse housing opportunities close to services and transport |
| 6.3 | Council will pursue opportunities for hidden density and in fill development, such as additional locations for secondary dwellings, with appropriate planning controls to maintain character and landscape qualities |
| 6.4 | Council will maintain the current policy commitment of not rezoning land to increase housing density on bush fire prone land, and will review local planning controls to limit secondary dwellings on bush fire prone land (same as Action 2.5) |
| 6.5 | Council will continue to advocate for state-wide policy from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on Short Term Rental Accommodation, which provides transparent registration and monitoring by the state government to ensure consistency across NSW |
| 6.6 | Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on additional opportunities under the state planning policy for the location of seniors housing |
| 6.7 | Council will investigate opportunities for seniors housing, including a review of industrial zoned land with a historical residential use, close to town centres |
| 6.8 | Council will investigate opportunities for multi-dwelling housing in appropriate locations to contribute to the 2021-2026 housing target and housing diversity within the City |
| 6.9 | Council will begin to develop design controls and guidelines for medium density housing and review current controls for dual occupancy and secondary dwellings, to ensure these housing forms are appropriate to the Blue Mountains context, including character, landscape qualities and sustainability (same as Action 5.8) |
| 6.10 | Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to advocate for improved energy efficiency standards within State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004, and the potential for Councils to set local energy efficiency targets. (same as Action 2.7) |

Medium Term (2021 – 2025)

- 6.11 Council will work to improve data quality within Council's property database to improve monitoring of housing activity and development types
- 6.12 Council will collaborate with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and NSW Heritage on innovative ways to incentivise investment in, and the adaptive reuse of, built heritage including a focus on disused guest houses within Katoomba as a potential housing source
- 6.13 Council will complete a Local Housing Affordability Review to understand local housing stress, investigate opportunities to increase affordable housing (such as potential partnerships with affordable/social housing providers) and respond to the state government targets and policies including the application of State Environmental Planning Policy 70 Affordable Housing (Revised Schemes).

Long Term (2025 – 2040)

- 6.14 Council will undertake a review and update of the Blue Mountains Local Housing Strategy 2019, incorporating strategies to assist Traditional Owners to remain living on *Ngurra* (Country).





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Productivity

7. Sustaining a healthy local economy, including a focus on Katoomba as our Strategic Centre
8. Leading destination management and sustainable tourism
9. Improving local transport connections and accessibility, including walking and cycling

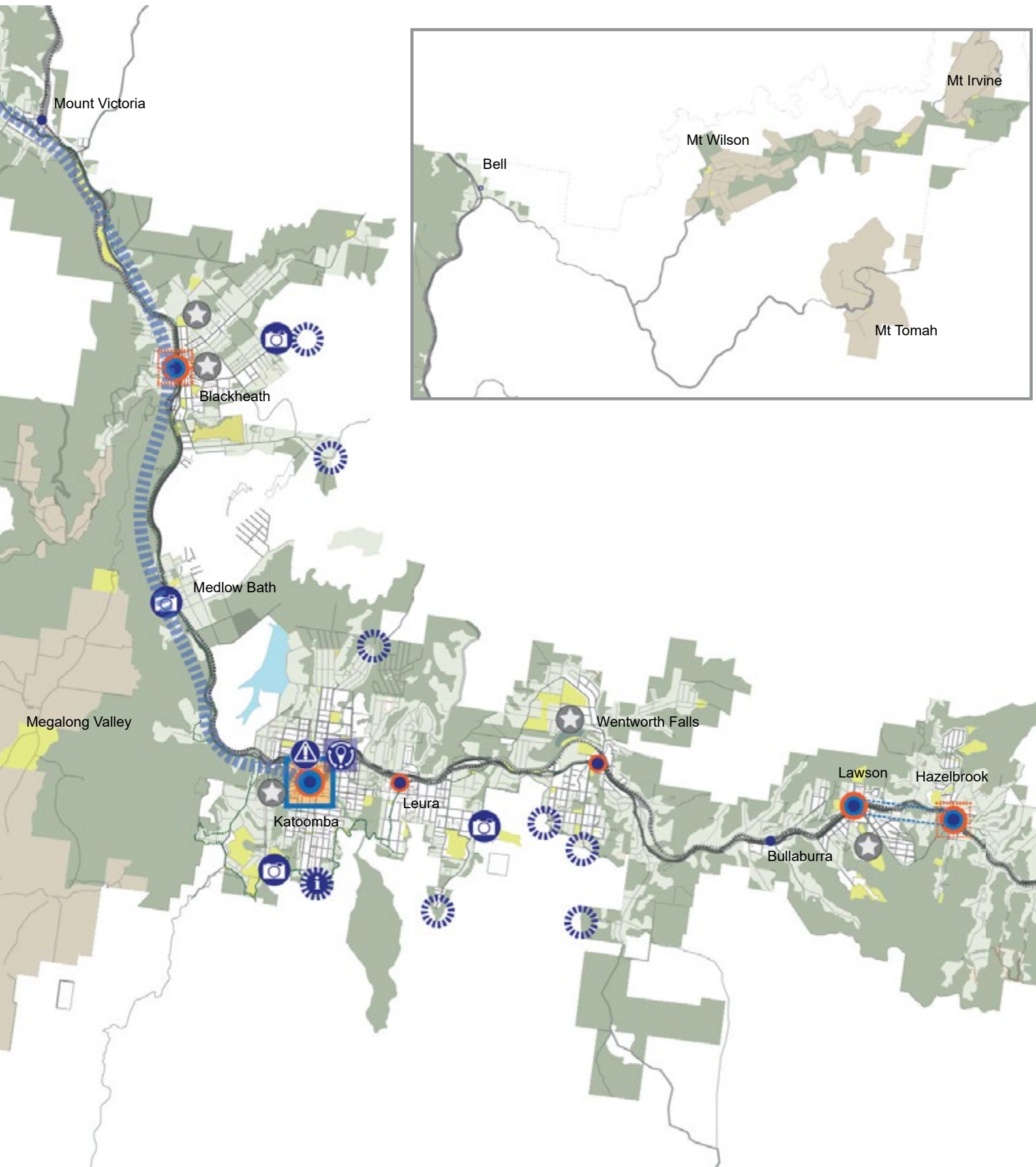
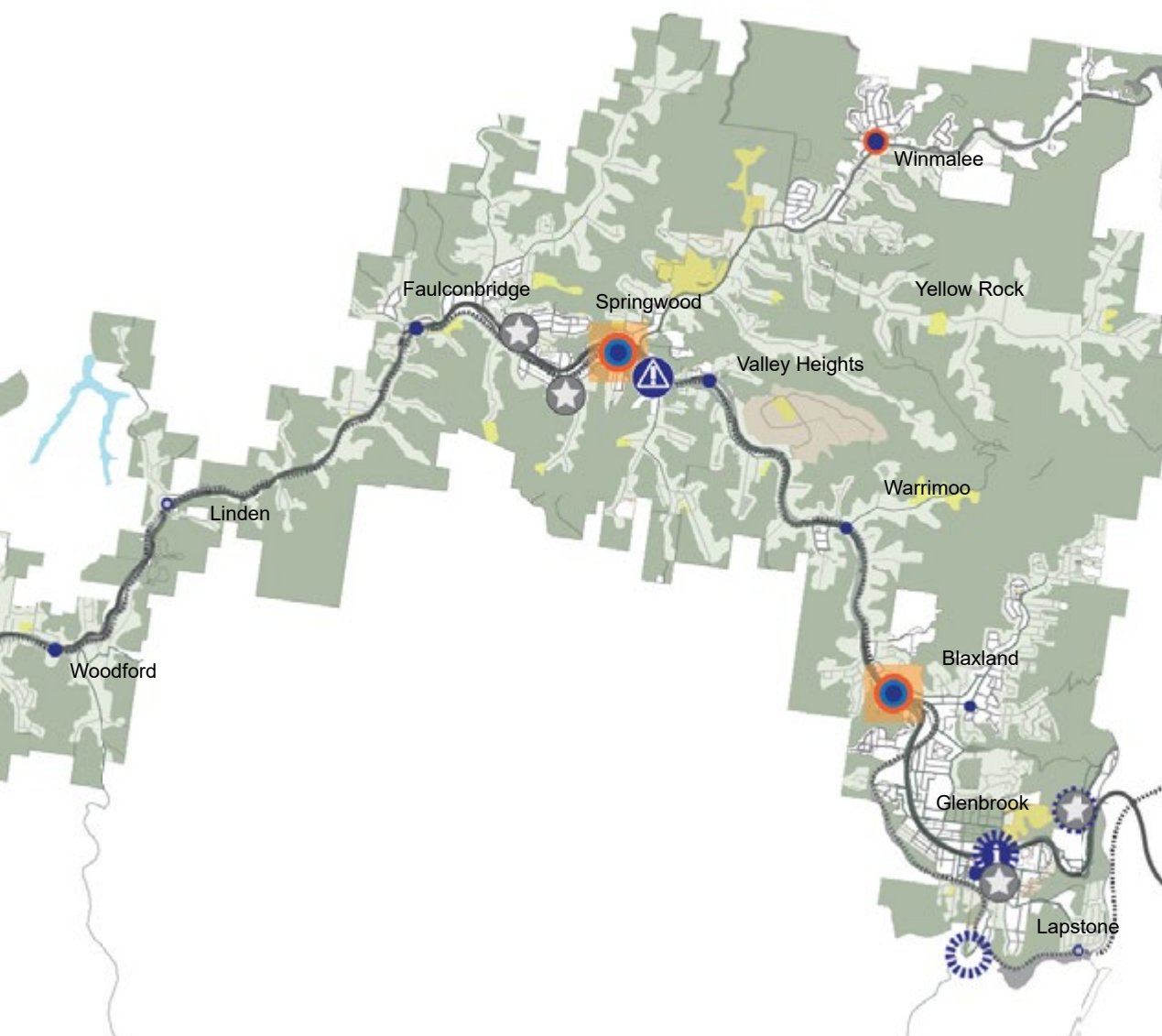
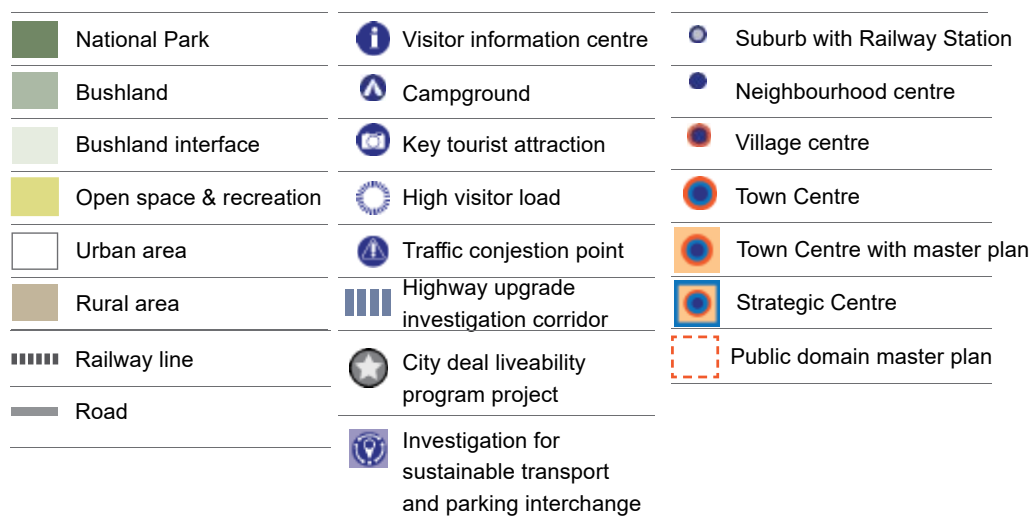


Figure 14: Productivity Map



LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY 7: Sustaining a healthy local economy, including a focus on Katoomba as our strategic centre

The Blue Mountains operates within an economic framework influenced by global, national and regional trends. However, it is our proximity to Sydney and our World Heritage surrounds which profoundly influence how the local economy operates and provides our competitive advantage. The development of the Western Parkland City and the proposed Western Sydney Aerotropolis is expected to greatly impact this existing relationship. This is due not only to the forecast supply of jobs within the Western District over the next twenty years, but also the projected increase in domestic and international visitation to the Blue Mountains by 2036.

Council will maintain a focus on sustaining a healthy local economy that is diverse, robust and inclusive, built on a variety of sustainable industries and businesses which benefit local residents and support our World Heritage location. The Blue Mountains Economic Statement (2019) was prepared as an initial component of the review and update of the Blue Mountains economic strategy to be undertaken in 2020. A key element of this statement's vision is to "strengthen and diversify our local economy, creating growth in employment and education opportunities. We will continue to build on our comparative advantage as a City within a World Heritage Area and as a 'City of the Arts'.

Local economy and comparative advantage

There are key economic opportunities also provided by the exceptional local qualities of the Blue Mountains. We possess distinct advantages as an environmentally rich location, with a strong local focus on eco-tourism and the creative arts. These points of difference provide significant and unique value to the Western Parklands City and the Sydney metropolitan area broadly. Over the medium to long term, actions in this statement focus on collaboration with education providers, including TAFE NSW, to fill local skill gaps in areas that align with our comparative

advantage (Action 7.13). This includes technical training opportunities in outdoor recreation and eco-tourism, as well as service industries and trades to support these sectors and provide local employment opportunities for young people. Another key action is to establish partnerships with tertiary institutions to host a centre of excellence in the Blue Mountains, for environmental science, sustainable living or Planetary Health (Action 7.12). The increasing function of Katoomba as a Strategic Centre and Council's involvement in the Western Parkland City (including contribution to the Western Parkland City Economic Development Strategy, Action 7.11) will strengthen our ability to leverage funding and investment opportunities to deliver these actions.

Based on 2018 figures the largest employment sectors in the Blue Mountains are health care and social assistance, followed closely by tourism and education and training. All indicators suggest these sectors will continue to experience employment growth, particularly health care and social assistance, due to an ageing population. There are significant local employment opportunities in this area and Council will continue to work with NSW Health to advocate for the redevelopment of Katoomba hospital and associated clinical services.

A fundamental element of the local economy is the highly casualised workforce, with a large number of

home-based and creative businesses. There are in excess of 6,500 local businesses (nearly 80% of which are independent, stand-alone operators) supporting over 19,000 local jobs. However, a significant proportion of the local population (57%) leaves the Blue Mountains each day, to work outside the local government area. The Western City District Plan emphasises that in a well-connected City most residents would live within 30 minutes of their jobs, education and health facilities. This is a significant challenge in the local government area and collaboration with Transport for NSW is required to better achieve the intent of this priority. An action in this statement is to advocate for improved rail services for faster commutes, within the City and beyond it (refer to Priority 9, Action 9.11).

Notwithstanding, to improve the lifestyle of our residents and to enhance the local economy, a key focus is the provision of greater jobs growth and job diversification, to retain more of our workforce within

the City. Complementary to this is facilitation of flexible work arrangements, investigating opportunities in town centres for co-working spaces and improved digital technology. This will enable greater connections within the home-based business community and remote connections to offices outside of the City.

We will also work with Traditional Owners (Action 7.3) on opportunities to generate direct social, economic and cultural benefit from *Ngurra* (Country). This focus recognises the historic and systemic disadvantage faced by the Aboriginal community, and the impact that dispossession and disconnection from *Ngurra* (Country) has had on Traditional Owners. It is important that the exploration of economic opportunities goes beyond the sale of Aboriginal art and creative initiatives.





Visitor Economy

As identified above, the tourism sector provides a significant contribution to local employment (both directly and indirectly) and the local economy. Echo Point in Katoomba alone receives more than 2 million visitors per annum, with approximately 4.7 million across the Blue Mountains as a whole. Scenario modelling indicates that visitors to the Blue Mountains will increase to more than 6 million by 2036 (a 33% increase).

A significant test for Council and the tourist industry is how to sustainably manage these tourism volumes, while protecting the environment and the amenity of the resident population. Investment in visitor infrastructure is required, as well as funding to manage extensive natural areas within the local government area, particularly those at the interface with the World Heritage National Park.

However, the variability of the visitor economy is also a substantial challenge. Extreme weather activities (such as bush fires) or other global events can result in an immediate and sustained economic downturn, fundamentally affecting the social and economic well-being of the local community. Economic recovery extends well beyond the event itself, impacting local employment and small business.

The balancing of these two, often competing, aspects of the visitor economy is essential. There is a need to respond to the community concern that visitor volume is adversely impacting the environment and residential amenity, and that rate payers are funding investment in tourism infrastructure. We must also find ways to make our local economy more resilient to external shocks.

In terms of the local economy, 80% of visitors are day-trippers, with only the remaining 20% spending extended time and money across multiple days and venues (including local hotels, guesthouses and increasingly AirBnB style accommodation). A key focus for the Council is targeting ways to extend the length of stay, with the aim of providing greater economic benefit per visitor while managing visitor volumes (Action 7.17).

The Council is also investigating a number of mechanisms and processes (detailed at Local Planning Priority 8) to manage visitor volume, including diversification strategies to spread visitation more evenly across the City. Another strategy focuses on diversifying the range of visitor experiences. This can provide more equal economic

benefit across the local government area and has the potential to improve the balance between local tourist operators and Sydney based tourism competitors. Key actions in this statement also include implementing mechanisms to generate income from tourism (including paid coach and car parking in key locations). Further volume-income generating opportunities will be explored and are detailed against Local Planning Priority 8.

The rural lands of the Blue Mountains (including the Megalong Valley, Mount Wilson, Mount Irvine and Mount Tomah) play an important economic role and provide opportunities for diversity in visitor experience. An emerging sector which supports this diversification is agri-business, including for example food trails and tours, destinations such as cellar doors, and seasonal experiences such as fruit and nut picking. These types of activities provide economic opportunity for rural areas beyond the traditional model of growing produce for wholesale.

The future of retail in the Blue Mountains

The Blue Mountains retail sector plays a dual role. It services the resident population and supports (and is supported by) tourism to the region. Both components are vital to ensuring a robust local economy.

A Retail Study for the Blue Mountains (URBIS 2019) was prepared to support this Local Planning Statement, including a retail audit for key towns and villages, analysis of key national retail trends, and the potential weaknesses and opportunities for the Blue Mountains. A survey of business owners and operators within eight (8) town centres was also completed (People, Place & Partnership 2019) to understand the level of satisfaction and ideas for improvement within each centre. The outcomes of this survey will inform the review and update of the Blue Mountains economic strategy (Action 7.2).

The study (URBIS 2019) identified different needs within the upper, mid and lower mountains. Katoomba and Leura possess no obvious gaps in retail, are economically supported by high level visitation, and Katoomba particularly is likely to draw residents from surrounding villages for shopping opportunities. Recommendations include the maintenance of retail floor space within Katoomba and Leura (rather than expansion), and diversification of offers within these centres to limit



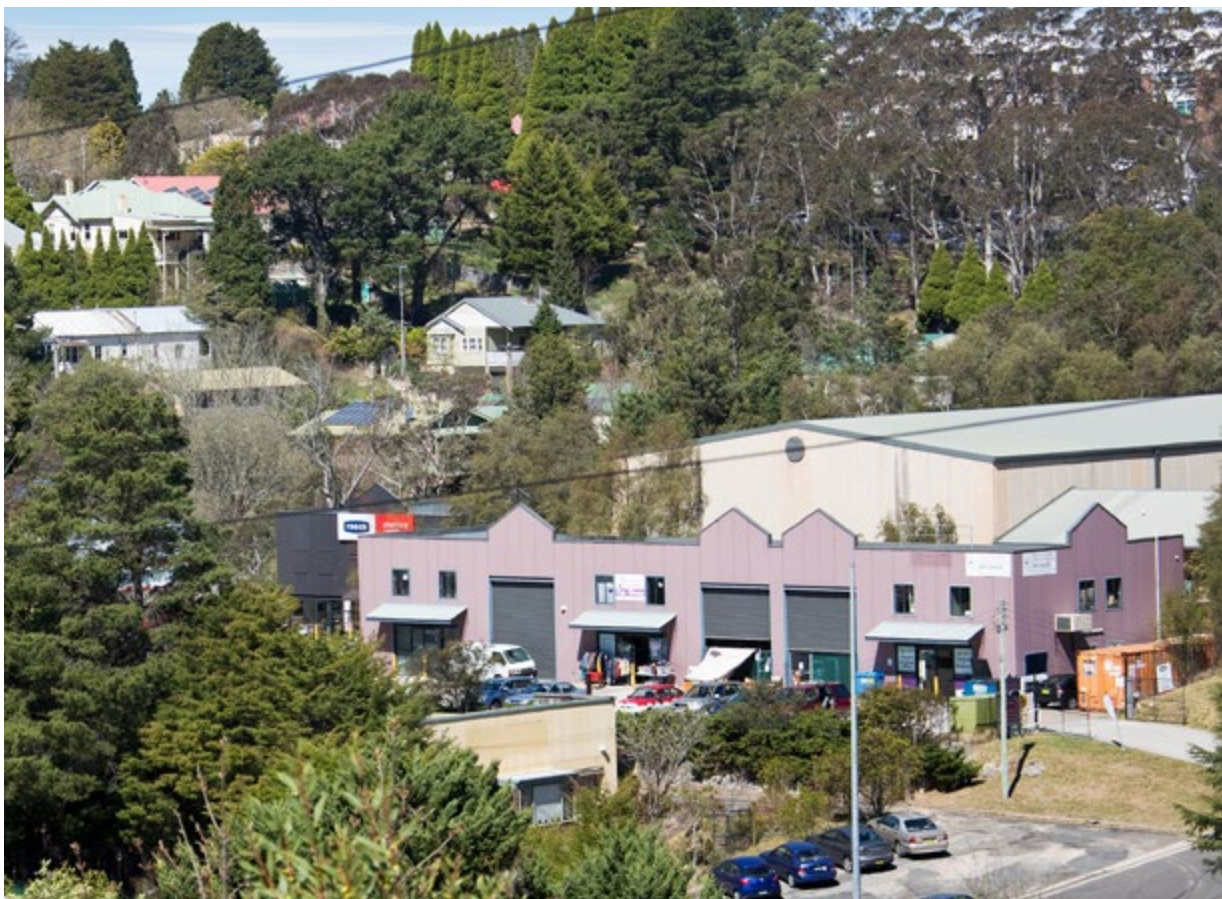
duplication. Additionally, targeted investment to increase spending retention within the local government area was highlighted. This was particularly true in the lower mountains, where the lack of full line supermarkets in both Springwood and Blaxland was identified as a factor in spending being lost to Penrith and/or nearby centres. Opportunities to capture more passing trade was identified for the mid mountains towns of Lawson and Hazelbrook.

Importantly, despite the general global trend toward online shopping and movement away from the 'main street', the study confirmed that main street shopping as an experience, remains a key economic benefit within the City and is something to be enhanced. This Local Planning Statement includes actions around the revitalisation of town centres and ways to enhance the visitor experience (as discussed below).

Managing industrial land in a changing world

Industrial (employment) land in the Blue Mountains is both varied and complex. Many sites contain areas of environmentally constrained land (including slope and proximity to watercourses), limiting suitable uses and economic viability. In some locations, industrial zoned land has historically been and continues to be used for housing. Additionally, industrial zoned land is increasingly being used for indoor recreation uses, rather than traditional industrial activities.

Industrial land in the Blue Mountains is not identified within the Western City District Plan as requiring a District level approach to management. However, in preparing the Local Planning Statement, an initial review of employment land in Katoomba (as the strategic centre of the Blue Mountains) has been undertaken (URBIS 2019). This identified that within Katoomba (and indeed beyond it) opportunities for innovation and attraction of sustainable industries which align with the Blue Mountains context, exist across this sector (Action 7.16). An action in this statement is to review and update the Planning Study for Employment Lands in the Blue Mountains (Goldberg, 2012) to investigate these opportunities and to maximise the potential of this often underutilised land (Action 7.9).







Katoomba as our Strategic Centre

The Western City District Plan identifies Katoomba as the strategic centre of the Blue Mountains, being a location of employment, key services and facilities, and with a principal economic goal of employment growth. It is the largest centre in the Blue Mountains, with more than 10% of the overall population and a quarter of all jobs.

As a strategic centre, the role of Katoomba may be distinguished from other larger centres in Western Sydney, and within Sydney more generally. Despite its comparative smaller size, Katoomba continues to provide a district level service function for the Blue Mountains. In so doing, Katoomba supports the retail, health and social support needs for a community that is located some distance from other major centres, such as Penrith and Parramatta. This is why the particular role of Katoomba has been recognised at the regional planning level, and its ongoing development and revitalisation remains a priority within this Local Planning Statement.

Strategic centres are not just places for economic exchange, but also where communities gather for recreational, cultural and education activities. These particular strengths of Katoomba are recognised in the District Plan. Katoomba is identified as both a tourist destination and unique combination of heritage, arts and cultural activities well integrated with the main street commercial core.

To recognise Katoomba as a strategic centre, Council's Spatial Hierarchy for Service and Public Domain Planning will be updated (Action 7.1). This work will also reinforce the hierarchy of the other towns and villages in the Blue Mountains, reflecting the role each plays in serving the local community.

Katoomba Employment

The District Plan sets an employment target for Katoomba of up to an additional 2,800 jobs by 2036 within established industrial and business areas (resulting in a total of 5,500 jobs). The locations identified in the District Plan as employment catchments are confined to the town centre and industrial areas south of the Great Western Highway. To provide a more accurate picture of Katoomba employment and comprehensive baseline

data, the Katoomba Employment Study (URBIS 2019) was undertaken in the preparation of this Local Planning Statement.

The area of review includes key employment areas on the northern side of the Great Western Highway (such as Blue Mountains City Council and Katoomba Hospital) and tourism businesses along the southern escarpment, business areas of Leura, as well as Katoomba town centre and industrial areas considered in the District Plan. This broader area more accurately reflects employment in and around Katoomba and currently accounts for more than a quarter (5,770) of all Blue Mountains jobs. This figure is greater than the projected 2036 estimate in the District Plan.

Setting aside this difference in baseline numbers (due to the catchment considered), the ability to achieve an additional 2,800 jobs by 2036 has been considered against both emerging trends and opportunities to boost employment growth in existing key sectors (including the role of industrial land in job delivery). The top three employment sectors in Katoomba (Bureau of Transport, 2016) are retail/tourism at 30%, health at 19%, and public sector employment at 17%. By 2036, these are forecast to shift as follows: retail/tourism 28%, health 22%, and public sector 18%, indicating the greatest growth will occur in health services. Realisation of these forecast increases will result in approximately 2,000 additional jobs by 2041 (URBIS, 2019).

Key findings suggest employment increases in retail/tourism could be achieved through targeted actions such as development of the night time economy, support for local events including the development of an Events Strategic Plan (Action 7.4) and diversification of tourist experiences into arts, food tours and other creative industries (including performing arts). The development of heritage-based activities is also identified as a possible source of jobs growth. Actions related to these two areas are contained at Local Planning Priorities 4 and 5. Such targeted actions would work towards achieving the District Plan target of 2,800 additional jobs by 2036 and update the overall employment figures for Katoomba in future revisions of the District Plan.

Employment trends were also considered against land constraints in Katoomba, and in the context of the World Heritage setting. Opportunities for clean, sustainable industries exist in areas of innovation and digital

technology. The local government area also lends itself to being a leader in small-scale agri-business and food innovation, as well as emerging markets such as craft brewing. Growth in the public sector, through successful establishment of a satellite university campus or centre of excellence for sustainable living, could provide economic and employment benefits across the local government area. Related actions are included in this statement (Actions 7.12 and 7.16) and the findings of the URBIS (2019) study will also be used to inform the development of the Katoomba Masterplan.

Blue Mountains place-based approach and Katoomba Master Planning

Place-based planning has been central to the Blue Mountains planning framework for more than two decades. In planning town centres, this approach ensures the creation of high-quality urban spaces where social and economic well-being is key, and the character of the place is celebrated. Council in collaboration with the community, has recently undertaken a program of master planning work in key towns and villages including Blackheath, Hazelbrook, Springwood and Blaxland. Upgrades to Hazelbrook, Blackheath and Springwood town centres are being progressed in keeping with these adopted Masterplans as part of the City Deal Liveability Program (Action 7.6).

This Local Planning Statement identifies a draft investigation area for the master planning of Katoomba (refer below), programmed to commence in 2020-2021. The investigation area incorporates the town centre and primary activity areas (including Echo Point and Scenic World), as well as opportunity sites (such as Katoomba golf course and Katoomba Civic Centre). The master planning approach will need to be staged and will be developed in conjunction with the community, including the establishment of a Katoomba Strategic Centre Reference Group to help guide the process.

On a staged basis, the Katoomba master plan will explore the role, function, and interrelationship between key activity areas, opportunity sites and the town centre; how these are connected, and how both residents and visitors move between these nodes. The master plan will integrate work already being undertaken on the Great Blue Mountains trail and improvements to the Southern Scenic Escarpment. It will also be the opportunity to consider other actions in this Local Planning Statement that affect the broader Katoomba area in a strategic and holistic way.

Like all master planning processes, the Katoomba master plan will include place-making initiatives that can be implemented in the short term to revitalise key locations, through to longer term strategic projects to be prioritised and planned in collaboration with the community.



Figure 15: Investigation area for Katoomba Masterplan



National Park	School - primary	Visitor information centre
Bushland	School - highschool	Key tourist attraction
Bushland interface	School - K to 12	High visitor load
Open space & recreation	Library	Traffic congestion point
Urban area	Cultural Centre	Highway upgrade investigation corridor
Rural area	HCA (heritage conservation area)	Greater Blue Mountains Trail
Railway line	Residential character area	District sporting facility
Road	Hospital (investigation into new or upgraded facility)	District Park
Master plan investigation precincts		Green Grid project
1 • Retail centre		Southern Scenic Escarpment Masterplan
2 • Historic guest house precinct		City deal liveability program project
3 • Lurline Street (town to escarpment link)		8. Katoomba Aquatic Centre
4 • Southern scenic escarpment		Southern escarpment tourism precinct sites
5 • The Gully and recreation precinct		A Echo Point and the Three Sisters
6 • Civic and health precinct		B Scenic World
7 • Adjoining employment lands precincts		C Christian accommodation and event sites
		D Katoomba Golf Course

Local Planning Priority 7 Actions:

Sustaining a healthy local economy, including a focus on Katoomba as our strategic centre

Short Term (2020-2021)

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7.1 | Council will update the Spatial Hierarchy for Service and Public Domain Planning including recognition of Katoomba as a Strategic Centre in the Western City District Plan and an integrated spatial infrastructure management plan |
| 7.2 | Council will review and update the Blue Mountains economic strategy (same as Action 4.7) |
| 7.3 | Council will, in partnership with Traditional Owners, actively explore opportunities to generate direct social, economic and cultural benefit from <i>Ngurra</i> (Country) for Traditional Owners and the broader Aboriginal community |
| 7.4 | Council will finalise and begin to implement the Events Strategic Plan, including continuing to encourage and facilitate delivery of local events and supporting event organisers in areas such as risk management, training/networking sessions and the identification of a large event space (same as Action 4.2) |
| 7.5 | Council will commence preparation of a staged Masterplan for Katoomba (refer to Structure Plan for masterplan investigation area) |

Medium Term (2021 – 2025)

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7.6 | Council will deliver upgrades to the Blackheath and Springwood town centres through the City Deal Liveability program |
| 7.7 | Council will begin to implement priority actions around key sites within the Katoomba Masterplan |
| 7.8 | Council will investigate opportunities for active transport connections and public space / streetscape enhancement between town centres and significant tourism destinations, including a focus on Lurline Street in Katoomba |
| 7.9 | Council will review and update the Planning Study for Employment Lands in the Blue Mountains (2012), investigating opportunities to potentially rationalise and review future uses for industrial zoned land |
| 7.10 | Council will contribute to the development and implementation of the Western Parkland City Digital Action Plan |
| 7.11 | Council will contribute to the Western Parkland City Economic Development Strategy |
| 7.12 | Council will collaborate with and seek investment from tertiary institutions, to develop an International Centre of Excellence in the Blue Mountains for sustainable living, environmental science or Planetary Health (including climate change and bush fire) (same as Actions 1.17, 2.16 and 3.15) |
| 7.13 | Council will work with NSW TAFE and other tertiary education providers to advocate for improvements to local course availability to address skill gaps aligning with our comparative advantage in areas of outdoor recreation and eco-tourism |
| 7.14 | Council will work with and support the Blue Mountains Aboriginal Advisory Committee in improving economic opportunities for Aboriginal people |

Long Term (2025 – 2040)

- 7.15 Council will advocate and support the development of smart city and digital technology and other infrastructure that improves connectivity and productivity
- 7.16 Council will investigate opportunities to become a centre for sustainable industries, which align with the strengths and values of living within a World Heritage Area
- 7.17 Council will work with the state government and other agencies to manage visitation to ensure the visitor experience is preserved and tourist volumes contribute to the local economy, while also preserving the amenity of local residents



LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY 8: Leading destination management and sustainable tourism

The Blue Mountains has long been a place of tourism and recreation, initially for Sydney residents and increasingly for visitors from around the world. People visit for the spectacular environmental surrounds, peaceful setting and village atmosphere. Worldwide factors, including rapid increases in both global population and disposable incomes in the developing world, have meant an exponential expansion in tourist numbers (particularly from Asia) over the last 5-10 years. Due to the proximity and accessibility from Sydney, this global trend has had a significant effect on the Blue Mountains.

A sustainable tourism future is one of the aims of the Destination Management Plan (August 2017). This plan focused on ways to expand the visitor experience and improve economic yield across the Blue Mountains. However, updated visitation figures (URBIS 2019) suggest that both the current numbers and expected growth, now exceed those identified in 2017.

Preserving and diversifying the visitor experience

The Blue Mountains is well positioned to provide world class visitor facilities and nature-based experiences exhibiting best practice in sustainable tourism. Current attractions include the Three Sisters and Scenic World in Katoomba, bushwalking, rock-climbing, historic town atmosphere, annual festivals and events, and the autumn and spring displays of colour in streets and gardens. The food, wine and the wellness industries are also major attractors in the region and craft brewing is emerging as an important local industry.

The Council has received funding as part of the City Deal Liveability Program for the Scenic Southern Escarpment (including upgrades at Echo Point) and the Eastern Escarpment. These projects will deliver an improved and more connected visitor experience within key City

locations as identified in the Blue Mountains Destination Management Plan (2017). The implementation of this Plan remains a key focus for Council into the future, with work already commencing on priority sites such as the Grand Cliff Top Walk and the investigation of potential suitable locations for large scale accommodation and a conference facility in the upper mountains.

The Destination Management Plan (2017) also identifies the need for diversification of tourism locations, to lessen the impact on places such as Echo Point. The need for this is confirmed in the recent visitor economy study (URIBS 2019), concluding that diversification is needed to manage capacity issues across key sites but also to broaden the visitor experience into areas such as arts or agribusiness to encourage longer stays. This study will inform the review and update of the Blue Mountains economic strategy in 2020.

The rural lands of the Blue Mountains, including the Megalong Valley and Mount Wilson, play an important role in the diversification of visitor experience. Activities such as wine tours and seasonal fruit and nut picking can also draw visitors and encourage spending in different towns and villages within the City. By nature, infrastructure is not available in these areas to cater for large visitor groups and a lack of facilities can have an adverse impact on the environment and residential

amenity. This will need to be addressed as part of the management of these emerging tourism markets.

The challenge facing the Blue Mountains is how to capture employment and economic benefit arising from the visitor economy in the Blue Mountains whilst preserving the environmental values and amenity of the area. Over the medium term, Council will also develop a camping strategy, which will include opportunities to leverage funding for paid camping sites within the City (Action 8.4). Nature-based licencing will also be reviewed, to ensure this is appropriately regulated (Action 8.9).

Understanding the visitor economy into the future

In light of this changing tourism environment, a targeted Visitor Economy Study (URBIS 2019) was completed in preparation for this Local Planning Statement. This study draws on the Destination Management Plan (2017) and subsequent Visitor Infrastructure Investment Strategic Plan (2018) (see below). It confirms that current overall visitor numbers are 4.7 million per year, and under scenario modelling, are expected to rise to approximately 6.3 million by 2036 (accounting for the growth of the Western City and the opening of Western Sydney Airport). This is a 33% increase in visitation over 2018 levels. This

figure includes an increase in day trip visitation from 3.8 million in 2018, to a projected 5.3 million by 2036. Recent data (Roy Morgan, 2019) also indicates that visitation to the Greater Blue Mountains National Park has increased by 60% over the last two years. An update to the Destination Management Plan is proposed, and this will include these latest figures (Action 8.10).

Over the short, medium and long term, destination management for sustainable tourism is essential, to protect the environment and the amenity of the resident population. Investment in visitor infrastructure is required, as well as funding to manage extensive natural areas within the local government area and those at the interface with the World Heritage National Park. Local rate-payers cannot fund this investment.

The Blue Mountains local government area requires the support of state and federal governments, and relevant tourism agencies like Destination NSW, to ensure the environmental protection of this world recognised natural asset, and enhancement of the visitor experience. Long term, unmanaged tourism volumes and inappropriate types of tourism activities will inevitably have an adverse effect on the local economy, as people begin to lose the experience for which they came.





Funding and providing the right visitor infrastructure

The need to fund upgrades to existing and new visitor infrastructure is identified in the Destination Management Plan 2017. The Visitor Infrastructure Investment Strategic Plan (April 2018), recognises the disproportionate burden on local residents, in subsidising visitor infrastructure and the visitor experience. High priority projects within this strategic plan are currently being implemented, including paid parking at key visitation areas (Action 8.6).

Investigations have also commenced into developing a city-wide approach to managing tourist bus and coach visitation. Specific locations such as Leura are particularly affected, and the implementation of the Leura local area traffic management plan will work to address parking and congestion issues in the short term (Action 8.2). Long term, a focus will be to investigate potential coach layover areas at key locations along the highway, coupled with sustainable modes of transport to move visitors through our towns and villages.

In addition to these large infrastructure projects, the day-to-day management of public spaces and facilities with high visitation is a significant challenge. This is in terms of resourcing as well as potential environmental impact. Natural areas with high visitation often require the provision of infrastructure such as toilet facilities and rubbish collection, for visitor experience and to address long term environmental impacts. The funding and maintenance of these facilities for the current and projected tourist visitation is beyond the capacity of local government, particularly in the Blue Mountains with limited population and resourcing options.

Promoting the sustainable movement of visitors and collaboration with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

Natural area management within the Blue Mountains local government area is extensive, and includes more than 160km of walking tracks and over 100 lookouts. At many locations, across vast areas, this management interacts with land under the control of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). Positive collaboration over many years has resulted in the delivery of many key projects. The predicted growth in visitor numbers will

place increasing pressure on both levels of government to preserve our environmental asset and the visitor experience.

Maintenance of the natural environment by managing the increasing parking demand and encouraging more sustainable forms of travel requires significant infrastructure investment. A medium to long term focus (as envisaged in the Destination Management Plan 2017) is to identify land at key visitation areas, where infrastructure can be established to centralise coach parking outside of village centres. The long term focus is to develop sustainable methods of transport to move tourists between key destinations within the City (Action 8.12). Such a facility is seen as an important piece of supporting infrastructure that would greatly improve the management of tourist movements and minimise impacts on resident amenity. Opportunities to co-locate visitor information or other facilities at these locations could also result in economic benefit.

Actions in this statement also include the establishment of a formal framework between Council and NPWS (Action 8.3). This will ensure our mutually beneficial collaboration is maintained, and the delivery of visitor infrastructure across both Council and NPWS land is coordinated. This will be important for the funding of large infrastructure projects or upgrades where, for example, state government funding is provided for significant track upgrades but not for supporting infrastructure and facilities (such as toilets or parking and their maintenance) on Council land (Action 8.13).



Local Planning Priority 8 Actions:

Leading destination management and sustainable tourism

Short Term (2020-2021)

- 8.1 Council will continue to strengthen relationships with Destination NSW, Western City Councils and other relevant tourism agencies and organisations
- 8.2 Council will complete and begin to implement the Leura local area traffic management plan, to specifically address tourist bus parking and local traffic, parking and access
- 8.3 Council will begin to work with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a framework for the coordinated delivery of infrastructure to benefit both the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park and the Blue Mountains local government area (same as Action 1.6)

Medium Term (2021 – 2025)

- 8.4 Council will develop a Camping Strategic Plan, including leveraging funding opportunities for paid camping sites within the City
- 8.5 Council will deliver the Scenic Southern Escarpment project upgrades at Echo Point, and the Scenic Eastern Escarpment as part of the City Deal Liveability Program
- 8.6 Council will implement Parking Precinct Plans and Permit Parking Policy, including paid parking at Echo Point and other tourist destinations
- 8.7 Council will continue to review and implement high priority actions as defined in the Visitor Infrastructure Investment Strategic Plan
- 8.8 Council will develop city signage that promotes the identity and location of the City within a World Heritage Area
- 8.9 Council will review the nature-based licencing scheme, including additional funding opportunities
- 8.10 Council will review and update the Blue Mountains Destination Management Plan including data on increased visitation within the local government area and surrounding National Park
- 8.11 Council will investigate alternate funding sources for management of areas affected by increased tourism, including funding for visitor infrastructure and experience, natural area management and risk management impacts flowing from increases in visitor numbers (same as Action 1.15)
- 8.12 Council will work with Transport for NSW towards establishing core infrastructure throughout the City (including bus layovers and transport hubs for buses and satellite parking), to foster the movement of tourists via sustainable modes of transport through key locations (initially focused on Katoomba/Leura and Wentworth Falls) (same as Actions 1.18 and 2.18)

Long Term (2025 – 2040)

- 8.13 Council will coordinate with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and other key landholders to deliver on a diversified range of visitor opportunities and locations to reduce visitation impacts at single points within the local government area



LOCAL PLANNING PRIORITY 9: Improving local transport connections and accessibility, including walking and cycling

Transport infrastructure and design have a fundamental impact on the health and wellbeing of people in the community. It can address social isolation, improve overall accessibility and provide opportunities for active transport and daily physical activity. The provision of sustainable transport and access requires promotion of an urban form that concentrates residential development close to local services and transport.

The enduring historic development pattern of Blue Mountains towns and villages along a railway line provides a solid transport foundation, concentrating the densest forms of development around transport and service nodes. Consequently, opportunities are increased for public transport, as well as walking and cycling around our towns. Actions in this statement seek to make more of these opportunities through providing greater pedestrian and cycling connections, and more equitable access to stations, shops and services.

The Western City District Plan includes the priority of a '30 minute City'. To be within 30 minutes of employment, education and key services by public transport creates an inter-connected City. The lineal nature of the local government area, and substantial distance between the eastern and western extents, makes this a challenging goal for residents working within the City, but particularly for the significant resident commuter population.

A proportion of the population may always choose to travel into Sydney for different employment opportunities, or be willing to travel longer distances as a trade-off for the local amenity and lifestyle available to residents of the Blue Mountains. However, work can still be done to achieve the underlying objectives of a 30 minute City. This includes improved access to local job opportunities. Fundamentally however, it requires improving public and active transport usage through enhanced transport connections within the Blue Mountains.

Central to improved connections within the local government area are three significant transport corridors: The Great Western Highway, Bells Line of Road and the Western Railway Line. In combination, these major transport links are the infrastructure framework for local transport within the Blue Mountains, as well as providing a direct connection between metropolitan Sydney and the Central West. It is this dual role which presents both challenge and opportunity at the local level. The Blue Mountains will pursue local benefit and advantage through connection to the Metropolitan Cluster (particularly Penrith) as identified in the District Plan.

Upgrades to the Great Western Highway: obtaining local benefit and protecting the World Heritage setting

As the primary route between Sydney and Western NSW, the Great Western Highway carries greater volumes of freight year on year. Highway upgrades have improved freight movement and this provides productivity benefits for NSW. However, the impacts on the local environment, local traffic movement, and the amenity, safety and character of villages within the Blue Mountains are increasingly adverse.

At the time of writing, Transport for NSW had announced a proposal to duplicate the Great Western Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow. This has the potential to compound these environmental issues by further prioritising regional freight movement through the Blue

Mountains and confirming the Great Western Highway as the dominant east-west regional freight route for NSW. The location, layout, and design of any highway upgrade or duplication can significantly impact on the safety, amenity, and connectivity of the villages it passes through. Council will continue to advocate for the best outcome for the local area in any transport decisions affecting the Blue Mountains, including advocacy for alternatives to regional road freight (Actions 9.1 and 9.7). A series of actions in this Local Planning Statement are focused on this issue.

Beyond impact within the urban areas of the City, it is essential that any upgrades are both designed and constructed to reflect the World Heritage setting and overall environmental sensitivities of the area. This includes water sensitive infrastructure to preserve the downstream environment and visual permeability to maintain and enhance existing vistas of the World Heritage National Park. Council will advocate for and work with Transport for NSW to achieve these outcomes (Action 9.3).

Congestion points on the Great Western Highway, and local linkages

Increased traffic on the Great Western Highway through the Blue Mountains (partly due to increased visitation in the region) has resulted in congestion points affecting safe and effective traffic movement.

Key among these are Yeaman's Bridge at Katoomba and Hawkesbury Road at Springwood. Both have been the subject of recent studies, and the findings demonstrate that there are operational and consequential safety concerns at both locations, with traffic queuing onto the highway at both points. With Katoomba as the strategic centre for the Blue Mountains and a central tourism destination, this issue is exacerbated during peak visitation periods. Council will continue to advocate for the upgrade of these intersections (as part of the highway upgrade program) with the stated aim of decreasing congestion and improving road function and safety (Actions 9.5 and 9.6). The Transport for NSW proposal to duplicate the Highway between Katoomba and Lithgow will further increase congestion at these choke points, and makes the upgrade of these key intersections even more significant.

The structure of the local government area as a string of villages along the Great Western Highway, provides both a major and singular connection via road and rail, but also bisects many villages into a 'north' and 'south'. To create a connected City and for the purposes of emergency evacuation, improved connection across the highway and enhancement of local linkages is essential. In any upgrade of the Great Western Highway, the Council will continue to advocate for greater connectivity across the highway, including pedestrian connectivity (Action 9.4). Council will also review and update the Local Link Road Strategy to identify potential new routes that may facilitate the mobility of residents and visitors within and to the Blue Mountains (Action 9.9). This will aid evacuation during emergencies, but also improve day-to-day local movement within the City for residents and visitors.

The Aerotropolis and connectivity to the west

Connectivity to the Western Sydney Aerotropolis is a central focus of the Western City District Plan. A focus for the Blue Mountains is to move the transport of bulk products such as coal, gravel and fuel to the rail line, rather than road routes. Council supports the location of intermodal facilities on the fringe of the Sydney Basin such as Penrith, Bathurst, Parkes and Dubbo, and the provision of dedicated rail lines to allow greater separation of passenger and freight services. In particular, a line duplication between Penrith-St Marys and Strathfield-Central is seen as integral to meeting inter-regional connectivity objectives.

Notwithstanding, the Council maintains its concern over the potential impacts from the Western Sydney Airport on the World Heritage environment of the Greater Blue Mountains, on the amenity of Blue Mountains residents and the resulting potential adverse effects on the local economy (refer also to Local Planning Priority 1).

An integrated approach to moving around

Private vehicles are the predominant mode of travel in the Blue Mountains, even for short trips. For example, 64% of Blue Mountains residents travel to work by car (higher than the Greater Sydney average of 56%) and only 12% travel to work by public transport (compared to 23% across Greater Sydney).

Private vehicles are likely to remain the principal transport mode for the foreseeable future, however, an important part of the Integrated Transport Strategic Plan 2035 is to implement measures to reduce the demand for car travel in the Blue Mountains. This Strategic Plan was prepared in accordance with a set of guiding principles including: 1) connected and vibrant communities, 2) useable bicycle riding and walking networks, 3) quality public transport and 4) efficient roads and parking.

A connected and vibrant community is one where interconnected networks enable people to come together and participate in community life, thereby enhancing physical and mental well-being. It is also where residents and visitors can meet their daily transport needs by walking, cycling and accessing public transport, as well as travelling by car.

Key to the Strategic Plan is the 'Link and Place' approach, which recognises that streets are an integral component to the liveability of urban centres, rather than just a way to facilitate the movement of vehicles. This approach has also been formally adopted by the State Government in the Future Transport 2056 Strategy as the Movement and Place Framework.

To achieve an integrated transport system and coordinate the delivery of transport infrastructure, Council will prepare a Priority Infrastructure Plan (Action 9.8). The plan will be complemented by work to update the Spatial Hierarchy for Service and Public Domain Planning (Action 7.1) which will include an integrated spatial infrastructure management plan. The purpose is to aid the coordination and prioritisation of infrastructure projects, particularly transport connections. This will assist in future decision making to improve accessibility and connectivity between town and villages, as well as to other key community facilities and open space.

Improving walking and cycling networks

Our walking and cycling networks are addressed and promoted through the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan 2025 and Blue Mountains Bike Plan 2025, which work towards prioritising pedestrians and cyclists as key users of the road space. It is vitally important that the network has the human scale to encourage social connectivity, active travel modes, and user safety (Action 9.2).

Implementation of these plans will, over the long term, create a safer and more connected pedestrian and cycleway network in the Blue Mountains. An initial review has identified that there are a number of pedestrian attractors further from major town centres of high value and in need of greater prioritisation. An increased emphasis on connections to natural attractors such as local parks, trail heads and other recreation facilities will further improve Council's commitment to facilitating active and healthy lifestyles.

Priority must be given to footpaths and cycleways with accessible links to public transport, to improve the amenity of the City's streets, particularly within town centres. Pedestrian focused strategies have been included in the master planning of town centres, including widening of footpaths, additional safe crossing points and the strategic provision of car parking. Such strategies will be included in future master planning processes, including for Katoomba. Introducing specific planning controls around Green Travel Plans being required for significant traffic generating development is a related action (Action 9.15).

A major active transport project is the Great Blue Mountains Trail, which provides a separated pedestrian and cycleway between Mount Victoria, Blackheath, Katoomba and Leura. This is part of an identified Green Grid project (refer Local Planning Priority 3) to create a safe east-west walking and cycling connection from Penrith to Blackheath. This is a high priority project for the Council and is being undertaken in stages with completion of the Trail currently programmed for 2025.

With the need to create and enhance existing connections around our numerous train stations to our towns and villages, the scale of infrastructure investment is significant. Many of these linkages would benefit not only residents, but also visitors who utilise these same access ways and services. Actions in this statement call for state government support for the construction of core active transport infrastructure at key locations.

An improved Public Transport network

The Integrated Transport Strategic Plan 2035 calls for improved bus services, including night-time public transport, with a particular focus on how trains provide a service for both local commuters and tourists. Availability of regular and reliable public transport within the City

affects not only liveability but also the local economy. It can enable people to move freely and efficiently to essential services including hospitals and employment. It can also determine the availability of local people for late shifts at restaurants or the ability to return to the City from music events or festivals.

In the context of the resident commuter population (57% leaving each day for work) improvements to both the regularity, speed and quality (digital connectivity and comfort for long commutes) of rail services, could fundamentally improve connectivity for Blue Mountains residents. This is particularly true for Blue Mountains youth, for whom public transport and the lack of reliable connectivity between villages can affect opportunities for local employment. Additionally, faster public transport to access education and employment opportunities could encourage young people to stay in the Blue Mountains longer, rather than leave for opportunities in Greater Sydney. Council will work with Transport for NSW to achieve these improvements to the rail network (Actions 9.11, 9.13 and 9.14).

Many of these changes would be highly beneficial to the visitor population travelling to the Blue Mountains and moving from destination to destination within it. A medium to long term focus (as envisaged in the Destination Management Plan 2017) is to identify land to centralise visitor parking outside of village centres and, long term, the development of sustainable methods of transport to move tourists between key destinations within the City (refer to Local Planning Priority 7).

Innovating and adopting technological improvements

Emerging technology has the capacity to fundamentally change how people travel by providing bespoke services tailored to the needs of individuals. Given our distance from Sydney and our significant visitor population, the Blue Mountains is considered a natural trial site for emerging technologies such as autonomous vehicles and electric cars, as noted in the Integrated Transport Strategic Plan 2035. An action in this statement is to investigate these opportunities as a catalyst for future investment in sustainable technology and clean transport, to move both residents and visitors throughout the City.

Providing parking where it is needed

A Citywide Parking Strategic Plan was completed in 2018 which reviewed parking supply and demand within the Blue Mountains. A reduction in parking supply can encourage a shift to more sustainable modes of travel or implementing restrictions (limited duration or paid parking) to encourage vehicle turnover. The Council is currently reviewing visitor user-pays mechanisms to implement paid parking at key visitation areas. Managing the parking impacts of tourist vehicles is also a key challenge facing the Blue Mountains. This has been addressed at Priority 8. Other key considerations are the coordination of commuter car parking with the delivery of work by Transport for NSW at priority train stations (Action 9.14).



Local Planning Priority 9 Actions:

Improving local transport connections and accessibility, including walking and cycling

Short Term (2020-2021)

- 9.1 Council will advocate for the Blue Mountains in response to the proposed duplication of the Great Western Highway from Katoomba to Lithgow, for alternatives to regional road freight and to ensure the protection of the world heritage setting and local priorities of safety, accessibility and amenity
- 9.2 Council will review and continue to implement the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans and Bike Plan to prioritise connections around town centres, and in partnership with relevant community organisations, advocate for increased state government funding for accessible pedestrian pathways



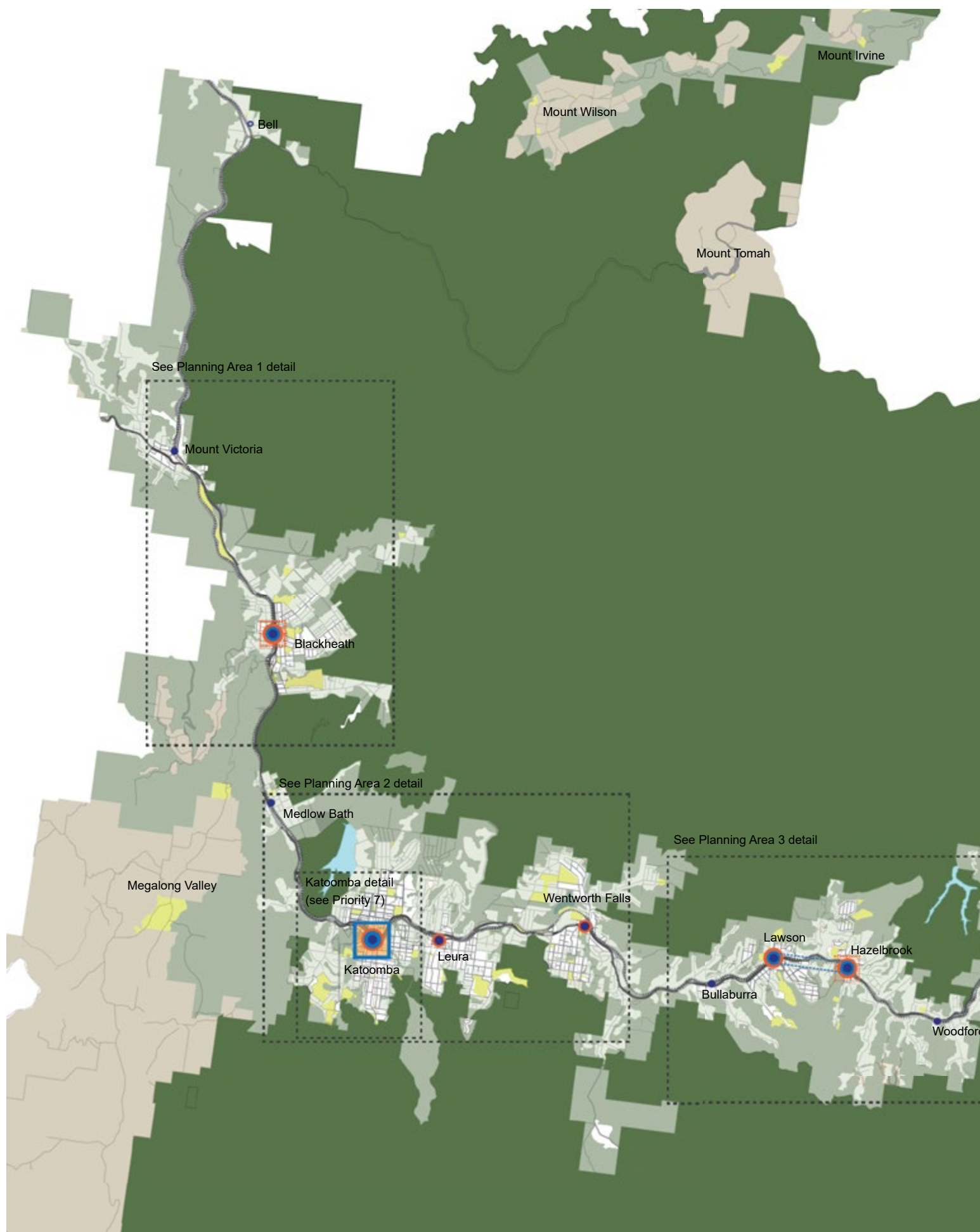
Medium Term (2021 – 2025)

- 9.3 Council will work with Transport for NSW to advocate for the Blue Mountains on any upgrade of the Great Western Highway to ensure local values and amenity are preserved, through design solutions which are suitable to the World Heritage setting and maintain views to this landscape
- 9.4 Council will continue to work with Transport for NSW on any upgrade of the Great Western Highway to ensure transport decisions promote the best outcomes for Blue Mountains towns and villages, including improved local connections (particularly pedestrian) across the highway to key community facilities such as schools, and improved safety and accessibility
- 9.5 Council will continue to work with Transport for NSW to improve the entry into Katoomba town centre from the Great Western Highway, including upgrade of the Yeaman's Bridge intersection
- 9.6 Council will continue to work with Transport for NSW to advance the proposal to improve traffic movement and safety at the intersection of Hawkesbury Road and the Great Western Highway at Springwood
- 9.7 Council will work with Transport for NSW to reduce the impacts of regional freight movements along the Great Western Highway through the Blue Mountains via the diversification of transport modes, such as moving freight to the rail network (same as Action 2.17)
- 9.8 Council will prepare the Priority Infrastructure Plan, to coordinate the delivery of transport infrastructure (for walking, cycling and road)
- 9.9 Council will review the Local Link Road Strategy, to identify potential new routes to facilitate the mobility of residents and visitors within and to the Blue Mountains, for both emergency management and local movement (same as Action 2.3)
- 9.10 Council will undertake a best practice review of latest transport technologies, their operation and potential application within the City, including promoting the Blue Mountains as a trial site.
- 9.11 Council will work with Transport for NSW to advocate for additional and improved train services for both residents and visitors including improved WiFi and dedicated carriages for visitor information
- 9.12 Council will continue to seek funding and construct the Great Blue Mountains Trail, creating shared pedestrian and cycleway linkages between Leura, Katoomba, Blackheath and Mount Victoria
- 9.13 Council will work and coordinate with Transport for NSW on train station upgrades for improved accessibility and mobility
- 9.14 Council will work and coordinate with Transport for NSW to optimise commuter car parking opportunities and bus layover areas around train stations
- 9.15 Council will update Blue Mountains Development Control Plan 2015 to consider the requirement for Green Travel Plans (such as links with public transport) for significant traffic generating developments
- 9.16 Council will include Active Transport links as part of the City Deal Liveability Program, to link town centres with District Parks within the local government area



Structure *plans*





Blue Mountains Structure Plan

The Blue Mountains Structure Plan is a spatial representation of the priorities and actions within *Blue Mountains 2040: Living Sustainably* – the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement. Given the linear nature of the Blue Mountains local government area, an overall plan has been provided followed by details for each planning area, to highlight key features.

The structure plan serves a documentary function, by capturing existing services, facilities, activities and other elements within the City. It also identifies investigation areas for future work, including master planning areas and locations for delivery of actions in this statement. Not all actions have a spatial element. Therefore, the structure plan complements the priorities and actions rather than working as a complete visual representation.

Additionally, a single plan is provided within each key theme in this Local Planning Statement, being: Sustainability, Liveability and Productivity. Future revisions of the Local Strategic Planning Statement will include an updated structure plan, particularly as projects and strategies are delivered.

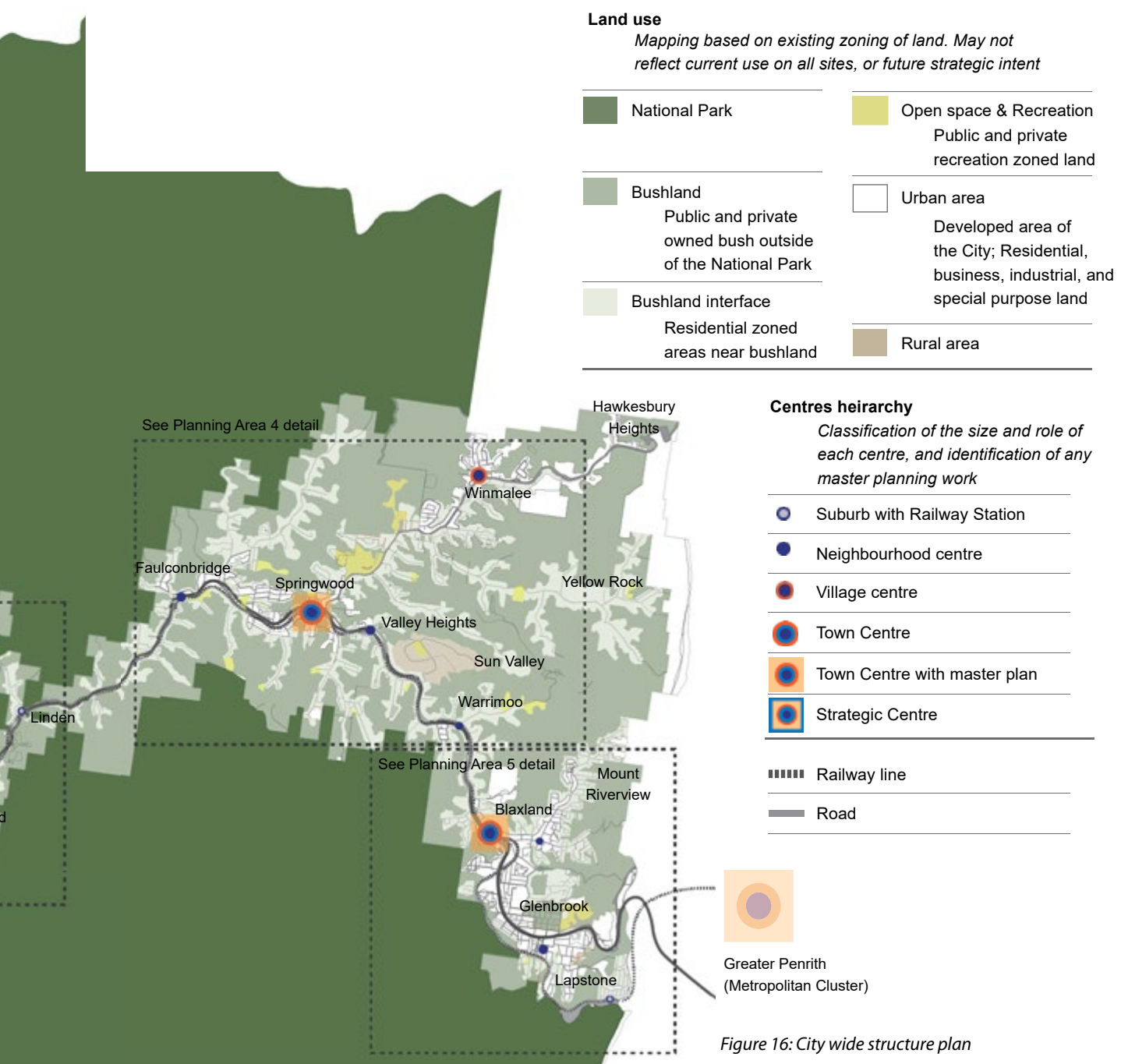


Figure 16: City wide structure plan



Figure 17: Planning Area 1 detail structure plan

Planning Area 1 detail

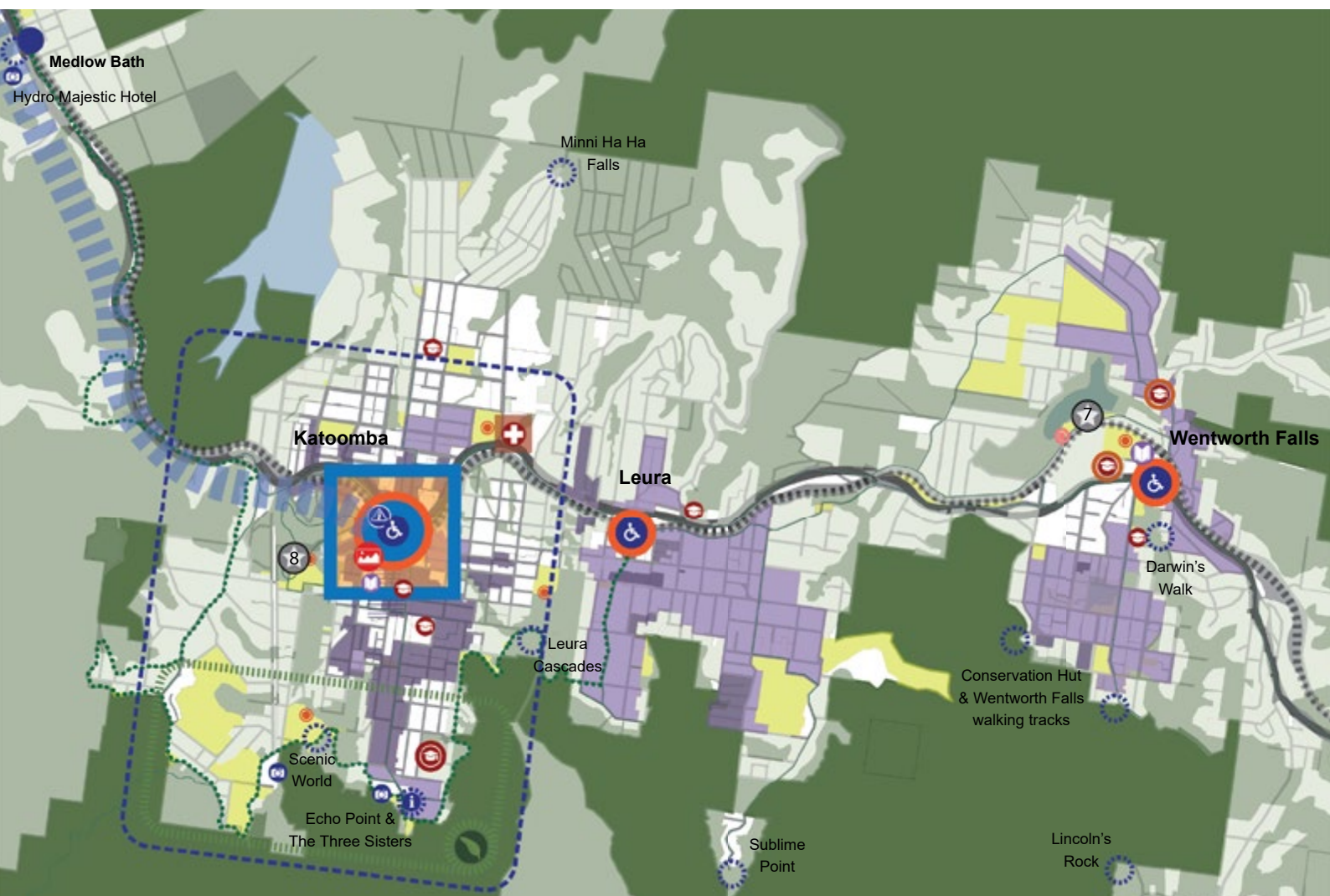
- Mount Victoria
- Blackheath



 National Park	 School - primary
 Bushland	 School - highschool
 Bushland interface	 School - K to 12
 Open space & recreation	 Library
 Urban area	 District sporting facility
 Rural area	 District Park
 Suburb with Railway Station	
 Neighbourhood centre	 Residential character area
 Village centre	 Heritage Conservation Area
 Town Centre	 Campground
 Town Centre with master plan	 Key tourist attraction
 Strategic Centre	 High visitor load
 Public domain master plan	 Highway upgrade investigation corridor
 Railway line	 Accessible Station
 Road	 Station accessibility upgrade planned
 City deal liveability program project	
9. Blackheath town centre rejuvenation	
10. Blackheath Soldiers Memorial Park	

Refer to City wide Structure Plan for description of mapped elements





National Park	School - primary	Blue Mountains Cultural Centre
Bushland	School - highschool	HCA (heritage conservation area)
Bushland interface	School - K to 12	Residential character area
Open space & recreation	Library	Hospital (investigation into new or upgraded facility)
Urban area	District sporting facility	Visitor information centre
Rural area	District Park	Key tourist attraction
Railway line	Suburb with Railway Station	Higher visitor load
Road	Neighbourhood centre	Traffic conjection point
Greater Blue Mountains Trail	Village centre	Highway upgrade investigation corridor
	Town Centre	Accessible Station
	Strategic Centre	Station accessibility upgrade planned




Refer to City wide Structure Plan for description of mapped elements

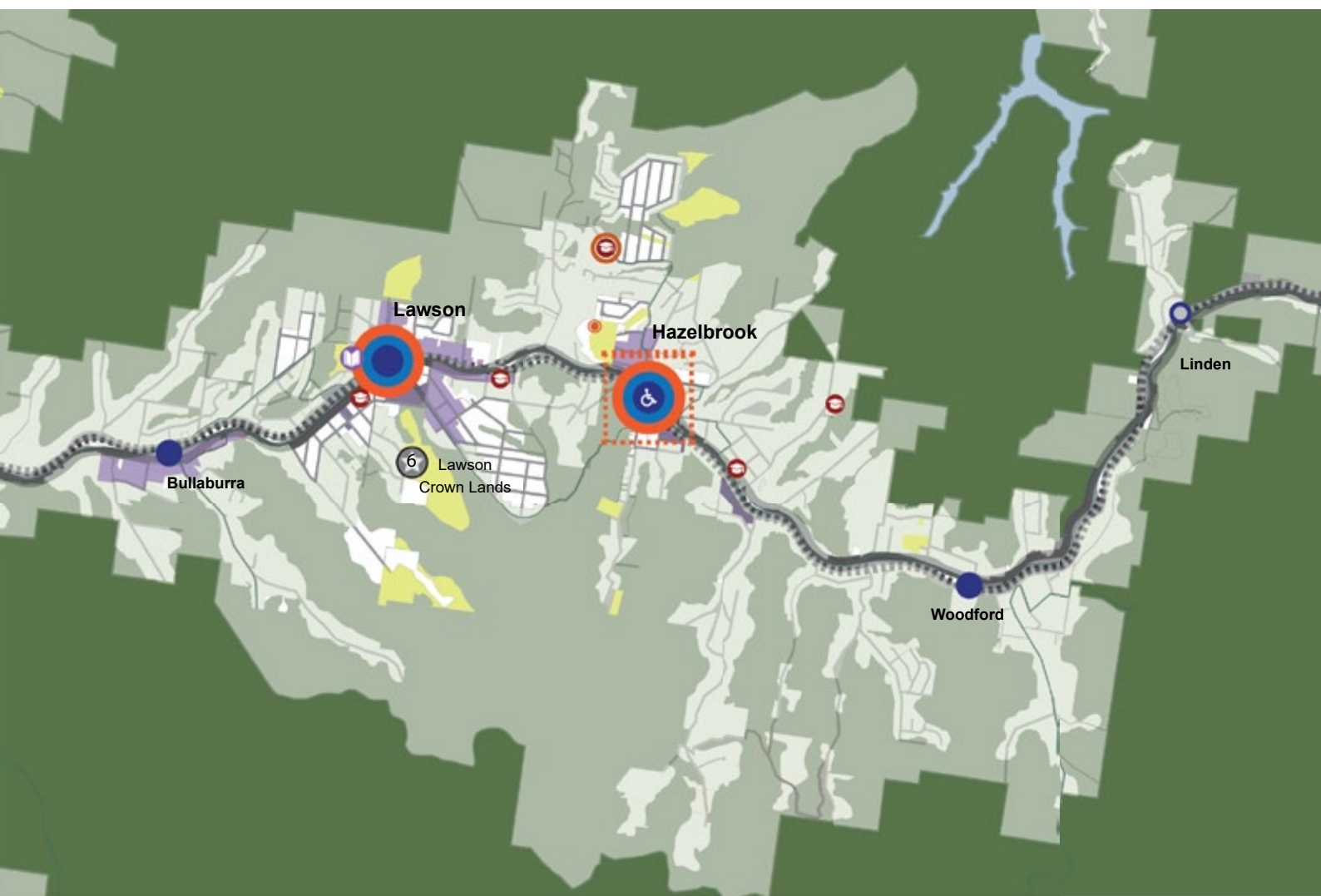
Figure 18: Planning Area 2 detail structure plan

Planning Area 2 detail

- Medlow Bath
- Katoomba
- Leura
- Wentworth Falls



	Master plan investigation area - See priority 7
	Green Grid project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southern Scenic Escarpment Masterplan
	City deal liveability program project <ul style="list-style-type: none">7. Wentworth Falls Lake8. Katoomba Acquatic Centre



National Park	School - primary	Suburb with Railway Station
Bushland	School - highschool	Neighbourhood centre
Bushland interface	School - K to 12	Village centre
Open space & recreation	Library	Town Centre
Urban area	District sporting facility	Strategic Centre
Rural area	District Park	Accessible Station
Railway line	HCA (heritage conservation area)	Station accessibility upgrade planned
Road	Residential character area	Public domain master plan

Refer to City wide Structure Plan for description of mapped elements

Figure 19: Planning Area 3 detail structure plan

Planning Area 3 detail





























- Bullaburra
- Lawson
- Hazelbrook
- Woodford
- Linden



City deal liveability program project

6. Lawson Crown Lands



 National Park	 School - primary	 Suburb with Railway Station
 Bushland	 School - highschool	 Neighbourhood centre
 Bushland interface	 School - K to 12	 Village centre
 Open space & recreation	 Library	 Town Centre
 Urban area	 The Springwood Hub	 Town Centre with master plan
 Rural area	 Hospital	 Strategic Centre
	 District sporting facility	 Railway line
 High visitor load	 District Park	 Road
 Traffic congestion point	 HCA (heritage conservation area)	 Accessible Station
	 Residential character area	 Station accessibility upgrade planned

Refer to City wide Structure Plan for description of mapped elements

Figure 20: Planning Area 4 detail structure plan

Planning Area 4 detail

- Falconbridge
- Springwood
- Winmalee
- Valley Heights
- Warrimoo



City deal liveability program project

3. Springwood library

4. Springwood town centre rejuvenation

5. Buttenshaw Park

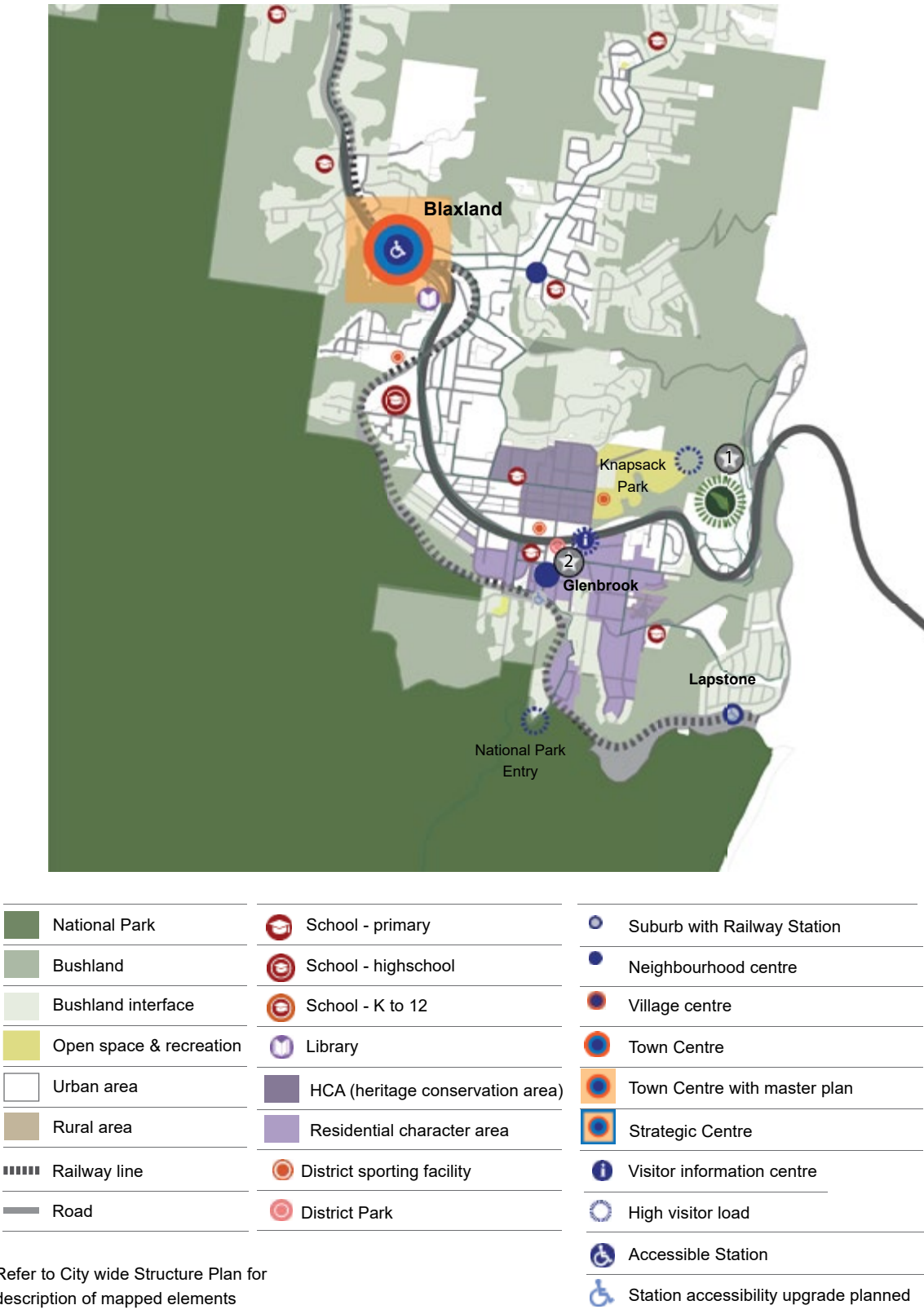




Figure 21: Planning Area 5 detail structure plan


Planning Area 5 detail

- Blaxland
- Glenbrook
- Mount Riverview
- Lapstone



	Green Grid project
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scenic Eastern Escarpment Masterplan
	City deal liveability program project
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Scenic eastern escarpment2. Glenbrook Park stage 2





Implementation, *Monitoring and Reporting*

Implementation

The Local Planning Statement communicates the long-term land use strategy for Blue Mountains local government area over a 20-year planning horizon, through the identification of local priorities and actions for implementation. This will be an ongoing program and the implementation timeframes for actions are as follows:

Short term actions (2020 to 2021)

Medium term actions (2021 to 2025)

Long term actions (2025 to 2040)

In order to realise the future land use vision for the Blue Mountains, amendments to other Council plans will be required.

Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015

Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2015 is the principal statutory planning document for the Blue Mountains. Through zoning, development standards and other local provisions, the LEP provides the legal framework to ensure development is appropriate and reflects the community's vision for land use in the local government area.

A number of actions identify planned amendments to LEP 2015. These will progress in accordance with the identified delivery timeframe. Key proposed amendments are identified below.

Blue Mountains Development Control Plan 2015

Blue Mountains Development Control Plan 2015 provides detailed planning and design guidelines, and development controls to support Blue Mountains LEP 2015. Actions identifying amendments to this plan will proceed in accordance with the identified timeframe.

Infrastructure Contributions Plan

Division 7.1 of Part 7 of the EP&A Act 1979 gives Council the power to collect contributions from developers toward public infrastructure required as a consequence of their development. A review is currently underway of Council's City-Wide Infrastructure Contribution Plan.

LEP amendments

Proposed developments which align to the strategic planning direction in the Local Planning Statement may require an amendment to LEP 2015 before a development application can be submitted. Amendments to a LEP are subject to planning proposals in accordance with section 3.4 of the EP&A Act 1979. Planning proposals to amend the LEP may either be prepared by Council or by proponents. Alignment to the strategic direction within the Local Planning Statement will be a significant factor, in considering support for any such amendment.

The following actions in this Local Strategic Planning Statement are likely to result in an LEP amendment (Planning Proposal):

Short term (2020 to 2021):

Action 4.4

Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to provide greater flexibility and streamlined approval processes for events and temporary uses, through amendments to the Standard Local Environmental Plan and local controls (same as Action 7.4)

Action 4.6

Council will seek to elevate the importance of culture and creativity through an update to the objectives of the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 to recognise cultural events

Action 5.1

Council will continue to pursue a Residential Character zone or alternative planning solution within the Local Environmental Plan to retain and enhance the residential character of the Blue Mountains

Medium term (2021 to 2025):

Action 1.10

Council will review and implement targeted ground truthing of Blue Mountains Significant Vegetation Communities listed in Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015

Action 1.11

Council will review and update Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 and Development Control Plan 2015 to enhance water sensitive urban design controls

and the protection of native vegetation, and introduce new controls for sustainability and climate change preparedness including energy efficiency (same as Action 2.13)

Action 5.15

Council will commence a heritage review of local heritage listings within the Blue Mountains local government area, to update the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan

Further to these actions, there are a number of actions in this Local Planning Statement which require further investigation or studies to be undertaken, particularly related to opportunities for improving housing diversity. It is likely that this work will result in LEP amendments in the future.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework is the central planning framework for councils, required under the Local Government Act 1993. It assists councils in making decisions, allocating resources and achieving their community's priorities. The major policy document under the framework is the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) which sets out the priorities and aspirations of the community, and the broader strategic direction of the LGA.

The CSP must have regard to economic, social, environmental and governance matters, and to identify the main priorities and aspirations of the community. These are then reflected in Council's strategic plans (land use strategies, economic development strategies and cultural plans), and delivered through actions in Council's delivery program and operational plan.

Land use priorities identified through this process are proposed to be expressed in the Local Planning Statement and implemented through the Local Environmental Plan and other mechanisms. At the same time, priorities identified through studies and research undertaken as part of the Local Planning Statement process will also inform the Community Strategic Plan.

Monitoring and Reporting

Blue Mountains City Council has a well-established, quality Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework under the Local Government Act 1993. It is proposed to use Council's existing IP&R Framework for

the purposes of monitoring and reporting on the Local Planning Statement. This will be through:

- progress status reporting on specific land use related actions in Council's four year delivery program and annual operational plan;
- monitoring of relevant performance indicators within the community strategic plan, delivery program and operational plan. Currently, monitoring and reporting for the IP&R Framework includes progress indicators - examples of which include:
 - maintain or increase in community satisfaction with the atmosphere, look and feel of towns and village
 - maintain or increase in community satisfaction with the protection of natural areas and bushland;
 - maintain or increase community satisfaction with pedestrian access around shopping centres and community facilities; and
 - monitoring the number of visitors to the Blue Mountains Theatre and Community Hub and Blue Mountains Cultural Centre.

These progress indicators are measured through regular community satisfaction research and other data sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics, National Institute of Economic and Industry Research and Council records. Reporting on overall progress of specified land use actions for the previous financial year is part of Council's Annual Report prepared under section 428 of the Local Government Act. This includes discussion of key achievements and challenges.

Review

Section 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 requires that Local Planning Statements must be reviewed at least every 7 years.

Blue Mountains City Council will commence its first full review of the Local Planning Statement in 2024 and again every four years to align the review period with Council's overarching community strategic planning and IP&R under the Local Government Act.

Regular reviews will ensure that the Local Planning Statement reflects the community's vision for the future of the Blue Mountains and is aligned with the latest information available about the environment and the community's social and economic needs.

Indicators Framework

The Greater Sydney Commission has developed the Greater Sydney Performance Indicators, The Pulse of Greater Sydney, which establish a common set of indicators that operate at a regional and district level to monitor the delivery of District Plans. Blue Mountains City Council will work with and review information in The Pulse as required.

Funding and investment

The Local Planning Statement will play an important role in Council's resourcing strategy, with preparation of strategies and studies required by this plan funded in the 4-year delivery program and annual operational plans. A number of medium and long term actions call for state and federal level funding; particularly those related to tourism and visitor infrastructure beyond the capacity of the local government area.

Future integration of the Local Planning Statement and the Community Strategy Plan, as outlined above, will result in a close alignment of actions to resourcing.

Collaboration and Partnership

The established relationship between Blue Mountains City Council, the Greater Sydney Commission, and the Department of Planning Industry and Environment, will be utilised to support effective approaches to cross boundary issues.

The need to work effectively with other councils in the region recognises the wider role that Council's strategic planning and decision-making plays in achieving the objectives of the District Plan. It also recognises the potential impact that strategically important decisions taken by Council regarding critical infrastructure, environmental issues, housing, investment and a range of other topics covered in the Local Planning Statement may have on the plans of neighbouring councils.

These valued cross boundary partnerships will also support council to realise its vision by driving efficiencies in accessing government funding, attracting inward investment and accessing a wider field of expertise.

The Local Planning Statement also provides a framework for the coordinated action of many other partners in delivery. Council will continue to work hard to establish effective partnerships with State government agencies and other organisations to support the realisation of the plan.



Local Planning Priority 1:

Living sustainably in the City within a World Heritage National Park

Measures

- Urban streams and waterways have water quality that supports aquatic biodiversity
- Amount of waste per person going to landfill
- Proportion of waste diverted from landfill
- Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage listing is retained

Relationship to other plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan

- Lead 1.4 All levels of government and the community work together to achieve a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains
- Protect 2.1 The condition, health and diversity of native flora, fauna, habitat, ecosystems, waterways, water catchments and groundwater are maintained and enhanced
- Protect 2.2 Resources are used and managed in an environmentally responsible way
- Protect 2.3 The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area
- Live 4.1 City planning drives the creation of vibrant and well designed places and spaces for people to live, work and play
- Live 4.3 The impact of development on the natural and built environment is well managed
- Move 5.1 The City has an integrated, accessible and sustainable transport network
- Thrive 6.2 The City of Blue Mountains has a strong identity that builds on its natural and built heritage and creative strengths as a City of the Arts and a City surrounded by a World Heritage Area
- Thrive 6.4 The Blue Mountains is a leader of sustainable tourism and destination management within a World Heritage Area

Western City District Plan

- W1 Planning for a City supported by Infrastructure
- W3 Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs
- W4 Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich, and socially connected communities
- W8 Leveraging industry opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis
- W9 Growing and strengthening the metropolitan cluster
- W11 Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres
- W12 Protecting and improving the health and enjoyment of the District's waterways
- W14 Protecting and enhancing bushland and biodiversity
- W15 Increasing urban tree canopy cover and delivering green grid connections
- W16 Protecting and enhancing scenic and cultural landscapes
- W17 Better managing rural areas
- W18 Delivering high quality open space
- W19 Reducing carbon emissions and managing energy, water and waste efficiently
- W20 Adapting to the impacts of urban and natural hazards and climate change

Actions

#	Local Planning Priority 1 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
	Short Term (2020-2021)		
1.1	Council will commence implementation of the Water Sensitive Blue Mountains Strategic Plan	Strategy 2.1.b (2111) Protect, maintain and enhance the city's water catchments and groundwater	Water NSW Blue Mountains City Council
1.2	Council will develop a framework to deliver sustainability and liveability measures (water sensitive urban design, creativity/art and heritage) within all new assets and asset renewal on public land (same as Action 4.8)	Strategy 3.4a (3403) Strengthen and promote the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts within a World Heritage Area and a centre of culture and creativity Strategy 4.3.d Encourage existing and new development to apply sustainable and efficient use of resources	Blue Mountains City Council
1.3	Council will seek an exemption from the Low-Rise Medium Density Housing Code in State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Codes) 2008, to ensure local stormwater management controls are maintained and continue to protect the receiving environment of the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park	Strategy 2.3.a (2301) Ensure that the city's Local Environmental Planning Instruments continue to protect the unique environmental values of the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
1.4	Council will commence implementation of the Weed Management Strategic Plan 2019	Strategy 2.1.c (2121) Minimise and Mitigate the impacts of urban development	Blue Mountains City Council
1.5	Council will prepare and implement priority Plans of Management for urban land and public land, to align with the Crown Lands Management Act and/or Local Government Act 1993	Strategy 1.4.a (1404) Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
1.6	Council will begin to work with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a framework for the coordinated delivery of infrastructure to benefit both the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park and the Blue Mountains local government area (same as Action 8.3)	Strategy 1.4.a (1404) Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

#	Local Planning Priority 1 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
1.7	Council will continue to advocate for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area to minimise environmental impacts from any proposed development within or beyond the National Park'	Strategy 2.3.b All levels of government and community work together to protect the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	Blue Mountains City Council
Medium Term (2021-2025)			
1.8	Council will review and re-confirm the agreement with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, for the coordinated delivery of infrastructure to benefit both the World Heritage National Park and the Blue Mountains local government area	Strategy 1.4.a (1404) Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
1.9	Council will prepare and exhibit a Biodiversity Strategy, including a Vertebrate Pest Management Plan	Strategy 2.1.c Minimise and Mitigate the impacts of urban development	Blue Mountains City Council
1.10	Council will review and implement targeted ground truthing of Blue Mountains Significant Vegetation Communities listed in Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015	Strategy 2.3.a (2301) Ensure that the city's Local Environmental Planning Instruments continue to protect the unique environmental values of the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council
1.11	Council will review and update Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 and Development Control Plan 2015 to enhance water sensitive urban design controls and the protection of native vegetation, and introduce new controls for sustainability and climate change preparedness including energy efficiency (same as Action 2.13)	Strategy 2.3.a (2301) Ensure that the city's Local Environmental Planning Instruments continue to protect the unique environmental values of the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council
1.12	Council will develop an Urban Forest Project to map the tree canopy within the urban footprint and establish baseline data to monitor change over time	Strategy 4.1c (4121) Develop a local spatial planning framework for the city that reinforces the development of a hierarchy of sustainable towns and villages delivering services and facilities to the community	Blue Mountains City Council
1.13	Council will expand the existing environmental education program to include a Sustainable Living Kit and other educative tools for residents, on the importance of sustainable living within the Blue Mountains	Strategy 2.1.b (2116) Protect, maintain and enhance the city's water catchments and groundwater	Blue Mountains City Council

#	Local Planning Priority 1 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
1.14	Council will investigate opportunities and state government support, to retrofit existing properties in 'active management' catchment areas with rainwater tanks and other water sensitive urban design measures, to improve water quality and support climate change adaptation	Strategy 2.1.b (2114) Protect, maintain and enhance the city's water catchments and groundwater	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment Water NSW
1.15	Council will investigate alternate funding sources to manage areas affected by increased tourism, including funding for visitor infrastructure, natural area management and risk management resulting from increases in visitor numbers (same as Action 8.11)	Strategy 6.4.a (6401) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
1.16	Council will seek support from the Environmental Protection Authority to include the Blue Mountains in their air quality data program, to capture baseline air quality data prior to the opening of the Western Sydney Airport	Strategy 1.4.a Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council Environmental Protection Authority
1.17	Council will collaborate with, and seek investment from tertiary institutions, to develop an International Centre of Excellence in the Blue Mountains for sustainable living, environmental science or Planetary Health (including climate change and bush fire) (same as Actions 2.16, 3.15 and 7.12)	Strategy 6.2.b (6211) Enhance existing, and established new networks and nodes of informal and formal learning and research, including online learning opportunities	Blue Mountains City Council Tertiary Institutions
1.18	Council will work with Transport for NSW towards establishing core infrastructure throughout the City (including bus layovers and transport hubs for buses and satellite parking), to foster the movement of tourists via sustainable modes of transport through key locations (initially focused on Katoomba/ Leura and Wentworth Falls) (same as Actions 2.18 and 8.12)	Strategy 6.4.a (6403) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers	Blue Mountains City Council Transport for NSW

#	Local Planning Priority 1 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
	Long Term (2025-2040)		
1.19	Council will enhance stormwater management throughout the City using best practice water sensitive methods, such that no stormwater system is directly connected to a natural stream or creek system by 2036	Strategy 2.1.b Protect, maintain and enhance the city's natural waterways, water catchments and groundwater	Blue Mountains City Council
1.20	Council will continue to pursue a whole of government response to the protection of the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area in the context of the opening of the Western Sydney Airport and increased tourism	Strategy 2.3.b All levels of government and community work together to protect the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	Blue Mountains City Council NSW State Government
1.21	Council will advocate for the World Heritage listing of the towns and villages of the Blue Mountains as a culturally significant place	Strategy 2.3.b All levels of government and community work together to protect the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area	Blue Mountains City Council

Local Planning Priority 2: Managing bushfire risk and responding to climate change in our unique environment

Relationship to other plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan

- Lead 1.4 All levels of government and the community work together to achieve a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains
- Care 3.3 The Blue Mountains community is resilient and prepared for natural disasters
- Live 4.3 The impact of development on the natural and built environment is well managed
- Live 4.4 The City's housing meets the diverse needs of the community
- Move 5.1 The City has an integrated, accessible and sustainable transport network
- Move 5.2 The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads
- Thrive 6.2 The City of Blue Mountains has a strong identity that builds on its natural and built heritage and creative strengths as a City of the Arts and a City surrounded by a World Heritage Area

Western City District Plan

- W1 Planning for a City supported by Infrastructure
- W3 Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs
- W4 Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich, and socially connected communities
- W6 Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage
- W7 Establishing the land use and transport structure to deliver a liveable, productive and sustainable western Parkland City
- W8 Leveraging industry opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis
- W9 Growing and strengthening the metropolitan cluster
- W11 Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres
- W12 Protecting and improving the health and enjoyment of the District's waterways
- W17 Better managing rural areas
- W19 Reducing carbon emissions and managing energy, water and waste efficiently
- W20 Adapting to the impacts of urban and natural hazards and climate change

Actions

#	Local Planning Priority 2 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
	Short Term (2020-2021)		
2.1	Council will continue to engage and advocate on climate change initiatives such as the Cities Power Partnership and Resilient Sydney, as well as supporting community engagement in the Bushfire Expo and Conference	Strategy 1.4.c (1421) The Blue Mountains is a leader in supporting and advocating for initiatives that address climate change and the achievement of globally agreed goals for limiting temperature increases	Blue Mountains City Council
2.2	Council will update and appropriately implement the Local Emergency Management Plan	Strategy 3.3.c (3323) Plan for risk and natural disasters and improve the resilience of communities and systems within the city in adapting and responding to bushfire, storms, flooding, hail and other climate related natural disasters	Blue Mountains City Council
2.3	Council will review the Local Link Road Strategy, to identify potential new routes to facilitate the mobility of residents and visitors within and to the Blue Mountains, for both emergency management and local movement (same as Action 9.9)	Strategy 5.2c (5221) Develop transport links between towns and villages for vehicles, (including emergency vehicles) cyclists and pedestrians other than the Great Western Highway	Blue Mountains City Council
2.4	Council will review policy options for waste collection for denser types of residential development, including waste storage and collection points	Strategy 2.3.a (2301) Ensure that the city's Local Environmental Planning Instruments continue to protect the unique environmental values of the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council
2.5	Council will maintain the current policy commitment of not rezoning land to increase housing density on bush fire prone land, and will review local planning controls to limit secondary dwellings on bush fire prone land (same as Action 6.4)	Strategy 3.3.c (3323) Plan for risk and natural disasters and improve the resilience of communities and systems within the city in adapting and responding to bushfire, storms, flooding, hail and other climate related natural disasters	Blue Mountains City Council
2.6	Council will continue to explore opportunities to build community resilience in response to climate change, extreme weather events and bush fire through the development of a City Disaster Recovery Plan	Strategy 3.3.c (3323) Plan for risk and natural disasters and improve the resilience of communities and systems within the city in adapting and responding to bushfire, storms, flooding, hail and other climate related natural disasters	Blue Mountains City Council
2.7	Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to advocate for improved energy efficiency standards within State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004, and the potential for Councils to set local energy efficiency targets (same as Action 6.10)	Strategy 1.4.c (1421) The Blue Mountains is a leader in supporting and advocating for initiatives that address climate change and the achievement of globally agreed goals for limiting temperature increases	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

#	Local Planning Priority 2 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
Medium Term (2021-2025)			
2.8	Council will investigate opportunities with Traditional Owners to integrate traditional fire management practices on <i>Ngurra</i> (Country)	Strategy 2.4.a Work in partnership with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal communities to care for Country, respecting, sharing and incorporating traditional Indigenous knowledge	Blue Mountains City Council Traditional Owners
2.9	Council will actively explore opportunities to support sustainability and liveability outcomes through minimising light pollution, including reduced impacts on biodiversity, enhanced appreciation of the night sky and reduction in energy consumption	Strategy 1.4.c (1421) The Blue Mountains is a leader in supporting and advocating for initiatives that address climate change and the achievement of globally agreed goals for limiting temperature increases	Blue Mountains City Council
2.10	Council will investigate and report on pathways to a low carbon economy, with an initial focus on Council operations and future partnerships with businesses, schools and residents	Strategy 1.4.c (1421) The Blue Mountains is a leader in supporting and advocating for initiatives that address climate change and the achievement of globally agreed goals for limiting temperature increases	Blue Mountains City Council
2.11	Council will implement and report on the Carbon Abatement Action Plan 2022, including requiring minimum energy standards for all new Council facilities	Strategy 1.4.c (1421) The Blue Mountains is a leader in supporting and advocating for initiatives that address climate change and the achievement of globally agreed goals for limiting temperature increases	Blue Mountains City Council
2.12	Council will update the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategic Plan 2017-2021 to consider options for the collection of food waste, including food waste from the commercial sector	Strategy 2.2.a (2201) Encourage responsible resource use and low consumption environmental aware lifestyles	Blue Mountains City Council
2.13	Council will review and update Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 and Development Control Plan 2015 to enhance water sensitive urban design controls and the protection of native vegetation, and introduce new controls for sustainability and climate change preparedness including energy efficiency (same as Action 1.11)	Strategy 2.3.a (2301) Ensure that the city's Local Environmental Planning Instruments continue to protect the unique environmental values of the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council
2.14	Council will investigate options for electric car charging stations within Council car parks and other Council owned land	Strategy 5.1a (5001) Support development of an integrated, accessible, affordable and linked public and private transport network that meets the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, emergency vehicles and freight	Blue Mountains City Council

#	Local Planning Priority 2 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
2.15	Council will investigate the potential to incorporate construction requirements for an evacuation centre into the design of any new, suitable Council or other public facility	Strategy 3.3.c (3323) Plan for risk and natural disasters and improve the resilience of communities and systems within the city in adapting and responding to bushfire, storms, flooding, hail and other climate related natural disasters	Blue Mountains City Council NSW Police
2.16	Council will collaborate with and seek investment from tertiary institutions, to develop an International Centre of Excellence in the Blue Mountains for sustainable living, environmental science or Planetary Health (including climate change and bush fire) (same as Actions 1.17, 3.15 and 7.12)	Strategy 6.2.b (6211) Enhance existing, and established new networks and nodes of informal and formal learning and research, including online learning opportunities	Blue Mountains City Council Tertiary Institutions
2.17	Council will work with Transport for NSW to reduce the impacts of regional freight movements along the Great Western Highway through the Blue Mountains via the diversification of transport modes, such as moving freight to the rail network (same as Action 9.7)	Strategy 5.1.d - Improve management of the impact of truck freight movements on the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council
2.18	Council will work with Transport for NSW towards establishing core infrastructure throughout the City (including bus layovers and transport hubs for buses and satellite parking), to foster the movement of tourists via sustainable modes of transport through key locations (initially focused on Katoomba/ Leura and Wentworth Falls) (same as Action 1.18 and 8.12)	Strategy 6.4.a (6403) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers	Blue Mountains City Council
2.19	Council will progressively convert fleet vehicles to best practice alternate technology, to achieve a low carbon Council fleet by 2036	Strategy 1.4.c (1421) The Blue Mountains is a leader in supporting and advocating for initiatives that address climate change and the achievement of globally agreed goals for limiting temperature increases	Blue Mountains City Council
2.20	Council will, as part of asset maintenance and renewal, build City resilience through identifying and progressively replacing fire-vulnerable materials in its infrastructure	Strategy 3.3.c (3323) Plan for risk and natural disasters and improve the resilience of communities and systems within the city in adapting and responding to bushfire, storms, flooding, hail and other climate related natural disasters	Blue Mountains City Council
2.21	Council will achieve net zero carbon emissions for all Council operations by 2025	Strategy 1.4.c (1421) The Blue Mountains is a leader in supporting and advocating for initiatives that address climate change and the achievement of globally agreed goals for limiting temperature increases	Blue Mountains City Council

#	Local Planning Priority 2 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
	Long Term (2025-2040)		
2.22	Council will investigate initiatives to ensure all new Council assets exceed the standard required of private development in terms of water and energy reuse	Strategy 4.3.c Encourage existing and new development to apply sustainable and efficient use of resources	Blue Mountains City Council
2.23	Council will in the context of climate change and increases in extreme weather, work with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to reconsider the 1 in 100 year flood level and risk profiles for new development in flood mapped areas	Strategy 3.3. c (3323) Plan for risk and natural disasters and improve the resilience of communities and systems within the city in adapting and responding to bushfire, storms, flooding, hail and other climate related natural disasters	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

Local Planning Priority 3: Planning for the increased well-being of our community

Measures

- Proportion of residents who feel they belong to the community in which they live
- Proportion of residents who volunteer
- Proportion of residents who feel that the quality of life and wellbeing in the Blue Mountains is improving
- Proportion of Blue Mountains residents who feel that they are in good health

Relationship to other plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan

- Lead 1.4 All levels of government and the community work together to achieve a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains
- Protect 2.4 Traditional owners and the broader Aboriginal community are supported to connect to, care for and benefit from Country
- Care 3.1 Blue Mountains communities are safe, caring, diverse and inclusive
- Care 3.4 The Blue Mountains is a centre of culture, creativity and lifelong learning
- Live 4.1 City planning drives the creation of vibrant and well designed places and spaces for people to live, work and play
- Live 4.4 The City's housing meets the diverse needs of the community
- Move 5.3 The City has an integrated, accessible public transport network with good connections within the city and to the Greater Sydney Region
- Thrive 6.2 The City of Blue Mountains has a strong identity that builds on its natural and built heritage and creative strengths as a City of the Arts and a City surrounded by a World Heritage Area

Western City District Plan

- W1 Planning for a City supported by Infrastructure
- W3 Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs
- W4 Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich, and socially connected communities
- W8 Leveraging industry opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis
- W9 Growing and strengthening the metropolitan cluster
- W17 Better managing rural areas

Actions

#	Local Planning Priority 3 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
Short Term (2020-2021)			
3.1	Council will complete and begin to implement the Community Facilities Strategy	Strategy 3.1.a (3101) Facilitate community access to community and cultural services and facilities that meet the needs and support health and well-being	Blue Mountains City Council
3.2	Council will continue to implement the Disability Inclusion Plan and Ageing Strategy, integrated with other capital works and service plans	Strategy 3.1.b (3111) Implement community development initiatives that address the needs of the vulnerable and disadvantaged	Blue Mountains City Council
3.3	Council will complete and begin to implement a Child, Youth and Family Strategic Plan, in partnership with the community services sector and local schools	Strategy 3.1.a (3101) Facilitate community access to community and cultural services and facilities that meet the needs and support health and well-being	Blue Mountains City Council NSW Education
3.4	Council will collaborate with state government agencies (including NSW Education and the Office of Sport) on a priority plan for shared/joint use of education facilities	Strategy 1.4.a Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council NSW Education Office of Sport
3.5	Council will collaborate with NSW Health on the redevelopment and delivery of a District hospital and associated clinical facilities, including mental health facilities, for the Blue Mountains	Strategy 1.4.a Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council NSW Health
3.6	Council will continue to implement the Open Space and Recreation Strategy (focused on key infrastructure and enhancement of existing assets) to ensure the local community can lead physically active and social lifestyles	Strategy 3.2.a Facilitate community access to recreational and sporting services and facilities that meet needs and support health, wellbeing and an active lifestyle	Blue Mountains City Council
Medium Term (2021-2025)			
3.7	Council will develop a Library Strategic Plan including options for community hubs using library infrastructure	Strategy 3.4.b Support and encourage partnerships to facilitate lifelong learning for people of all ages and abilities and Strategy 3.4c Provide community access to library and information services that provide enriching experiences and places for people to relax, study and come together	Blue Mountains City Council

#	Local Planning Priority 3 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
3.8	Council will deliver an inclusive program pool as part of the City Deal Liveability Program	Strategy 4.1.a (4105) Foster appropriate investment and development to support revitalisation of towns, villages and key visitor destination sites	Blue Mountains City Council
3.9	Council will deliver upgrades to key District park infrastructure at Wentworth Falls Lake, Glenbrook Park, Buttenshaw Park and Blackheath Soldiers Memorial Park as part of the City Deal Liveability Program	Strategy 4.1.a (4105) Foster appropriate investment and development to support revitalisation of towns, villages and key visitor destination sites	Blue Mountains City Council
3.10	Council will continue the implementation of identified Green Grid projects including Scenic Southern Escarpment, Eastern Escarpment and the Blue Mountains Bike Trail along the Great Western Highway	Strategy 1.4.a (1402) Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council
3.11	Council will deliver bushland restoration work and recreation area at the former Lawson Golf Course as part of the City Deal Liveability Program	Strategy 4.1.a (4105) Foster appropriate investment and development to support revitalisation of towns, villages and key visitor destination sites	Blue Mountains City Council
3.12	Council will redevelop Springwood Library as part of the City Deal Liveability Program	Strategy 4.1.a (4105) Foster appropriate investment and development to support revitalisation of towns, villages and key visitor destination sites	Blue Mountains City Council
3.13	Council will investigate opportunities for Aboriginal cultural and education spaces, including at The Gully in Katoomba and other locations in consultation with Traditional Owners	Strategy 2.4.a Work in partnership with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal communities to care for Country, respecting, sharing and incorporating traditional Indigenous	Blue Mountains City Council Traditional Owners
3.14	Council will participate in the Western Sydney Health Alliance and work in collaboration with health partners to improve coordination and effectiveness of health services in the region, supporting healthier neighbourhoods	Strategy 1.4.a Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council NSW Health
3.15	Council will collaborate with, and seek investment from tertiary institutions, to develop an International Centre of Excellence in the Blue Mountains for sustainable living, environmental science or Planetary Health (including climate change and bush fire) (same as Actions 1.17 , 2.16 and 7.12)	Strategy 6.2.b (6211) Enhance existing, and established new networks and nodes of informal and formal learning and research, including online learning opportunities	Blue Mountains City Council Tertiary Institutions

#	Local Planning Priority 3 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
3.16	Council will advocate for improved transport links to medical facilities, including services from the Blue Mountains to Westmead and Nepean Hospitals	Strategy 5.3.a (5301) Advocate for improved rail and bus services	Blue Mountains City Council
3.17	Council will begin to implement the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Review (Action 6.13) to improve housing affordability and reduce housing stress within the Blue Mountains	Strategy 4.1.b Undertake approaches to facilitate affordable housing	Blue Mountains City Council



Local Planning Priority 4: Strengthening Creativity, Culture and the Blue Mountains as a 'City of the Arts'

Relationship to other plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan

- Protect 2.3 The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area
- Care 3.4 The Blue Mountains is a centre of culture, creativity and lifelong learning
- Live 4.3 The impact of development on the natural and built environment is well managed
- Thrive 6.1 The City's economy is diverse, vibrant, strong and environmentally sustainable with increased local employment
- Thrive 6.2 The City of Blue Mountains has a strong identity that builds on its natural and built heritage and creative strengths as a City of the Arts and a City surrounded by a World Heritage Area

Western City District Plan

- W3 Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs
- W4 Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich, and socially connected communities
- W8 Leveraging industry opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis
- W9 Growing and strengthening the metropolitan cluster



Actions

#	Local Planning Priority 4 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
	Short Term (2020-2021)		
4.1	Council will identify opportunities to grow the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts, including expansion of the City of the Arts Trust	Strategy 3.4a (3403) Strengthen and promote the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts within a World Heritage Area and a centre of culture and creativity	Blue Mountains City Council
4.2	Council will finalise and begin to implement the Events Strategic Plan, including continuing to encourage and facilitate delivery of local events and supporting event organisers in areas such as risk management, training/networking sessions and the identification of a large event space (same as Action 7.4)	Strategy 6.2.a Attract and assist industry development that is aligned with the strengths and advantages of the Blue Mountains including sustainable tourism, creative arts and education	Blue Mountains City Council
4.3	Council will implement an exhibition on Planetary Health in 2020 at the Blue Mountains Cultural Centre	Strategy 3.4a (3404) Strengthen and promote the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts within a World Heritage Area and a centre of culture and creativity	Blue Mountains City Council
4.4	Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to provide greater flexibility and streamlined approval processes for events and temporary uses, through amendments to the Standard Local Environmental Plan and local controls	Strategy 6.2.a (6201) Attract and assist industry development that is aligned with the strengths and advantages of the Blue Mountains including sustainable tourism, creative industry and education	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
4.5	Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to investigate policy options to provide studios or makers spaces within town centre areas	Strategy 6.2.a (6201) Attract and assist industry development that is aligned with the strengths and advantages of the Blue Mountains including sustainable tourism, creative industry and education	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
4.6	Council will seek to elevate the importance of culture and creativity through an update to the objectives of the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015 to recognise cultural events	Strategy 6.2.a (6201) Attract and assist industry development that is aligned with the strengths and advantages of the Blue Mountains including sustainable tourism, creative industry and education	Blue Mountains City Council

#	Local Planning Priority 4 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
4.7	Council will review and update the Blue Mountains economic strategy (same as Action 7.2)	<p>Strategy 6.1.a Diversify and strengthen the range of sustainable industries and businesses and local employment opportunities in the Blue Mountains</p> <p>Strategy 6.2.a (6201) Attract and assist industry development that is aligned with the strengths and advantages of the Blue Mountains including sustainable tourism, creative industry and education</p>	Blue Mountains City Council
4.8	Council will develop a framework to deliver sustainability and liveability measures (water sensitive urban design, creativity/art and heritage) within all new assets and asset renewal on public land (same as Action 1.2)	<p>Strategy 3.4a (3403) Strengthen and promote the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts within a World Heritage Area and a centre of culture and creativity</p> <p>Strategy 4.3.d Encourage existing and new development to apply sustainable and efficient use of resources</p>	Blue Mountains City Council
Medium Term (2021-2025)			
4.9	Council will investigate opportunities to establish an artist in residence program, with a potential site at Braemar Gallery in Springwood and other locations	Strategy 3.4.a (3402) Strengthen and promote the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts within a World Heritage Area and a centre of culture and creativity	Blue Mountains City Council
4.10	Council will update and begin to implement the Blue Mountains Cultural Strategic Plan, incorporating the NSW Cultural Infrastructure Plan and a Blue Mountains Public Art Policy to transform the public domain of the City over time	Strategy 3.4.a (3402) Strengthen and promote the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts within a World Heritage Area and a centre of culture and creativity	Blue Mountains City Council Create NSW
4.11	Council will investigate opportunities and seek funding sources to incorporate smaller, multi-purpose performance and teaching spaces within Springwood Theatre and Community Hub and other locations	Strategy 3.4.a (3402) Strengthen and promote the Blue Mountains as a City of the Arts within a World Heritage Area and a centre of culture and creativity	Blue Mountains City Council

Local Planning Priority 5: Conserving and enhancing heritage, character and liveability

Measures

- Town and Village Atmosphere – Gap between resident satisfaction and importance rating
- Protection of heritage values and buildings – Gap between resident satisfaction and importance rating

Relationship to other plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan

- Protect 2.3 The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area
- Live 4.1 City planning drives the creation of vibrant and well designed places and spaces for people to live, work and play
- Live 4.2 The distinctive qualities of towns and villages are maintained and local identity and a sense of pride is strengthened
- Live 4.3 The impact of development on the natural and built environment is well managed
- Live 4.4 The City's housing meets the diverse needs of the community

Western City District Plan

- W4 Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich, and socially connected communities
- W5 Providing housing supply, choice and affordability with access to jobs, services and public transport
- W6 Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage
- W8 Leveraging industry opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis
- W11 Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres

Actions

#	Local Planning Priority 5 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
	Short Term (2020-2021)		
5.1	Council will continue to pursue a Residential Character zone or alternative planning solution within the Local Environmental Plan, to retain and enhance the residential character of the Blue Mountains	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council
5.2	Council will commence implementation of the recommendations of the Blue Mountains Local Character Study 2019	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council
5.3	Council will prepare and begin to implement the <i>Ngurra</i> (Country) is <i>Everything</i> project, <i>Managing Aboriginal Cultural Heritage through Traditional Owners continuing relationships to Country in the Blue Mountains</i>	Strategy 2.4.a Work in partnership with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal communities to care for Country, respecting, sharing and incorporating traditional Indigenous knowledge	Blue Mountains City Council Traditional Owners
5.4	Council will update and begin to implement the Blue Mountains Heritage Strategy	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council
5.5	Council will continue work with Heritage NSW to obtain increased funding for the Local Heritage Fund and other local heritage projects (including long term storage and Disaster Plans for local collections in museums and galleries)	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council NSW Heritage
5.6	Council will continue to partner with the Gundungurra Traditional Owners through the Indigenous Land Use Agreement and Darug Traditional Owners through appropriate methods, to protect and understand their full history	Strategy 2.4.a Work in partnership with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal communities to care for Country, respecting, sharing and incorporating traditional Indigenous knowledge	Blue Mountains City Council Traditional Owners
5.7	Council will seek an exemption from the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code in State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Codes) 2008, to ensure local controls are maintained to protect the character of the Blue Mountains	Strategy 2.3.a (2301) Ensure that the city's Local Environmental Planning Instruments continue to protect the unique environmental values of the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council Department Planning, Industry & Environment

#	Local Planning Priority 5 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
5.8	Council will begin to develop design controls and guidelines for medium density housing and review current controls for dual occupancy and secondary dwellings, to ensure these housing forms are appropriate to the Blue Mountains context, including character, landscape qualities and sustainability (same as Action 6.9)	Strategy 4.4.a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council
5.9	Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and NSW Heritage to achieve legislative change whereby local and state governments have shared power and responsibility to require owners of heritage properties to achieve minimum maintenance standards, particularly in relation to significant public buildings	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council Department Planning, Industry & Environment NSW Heritage
Medium Term (2021-2025)			
5.10	Council will prepare a mapping series for the Blue Mountains Development Control Plan 2015 to identify contributory property values within mapped Heritage Conservation Areas	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council
5.11	Council will deliver the recommendations of the updated Heritage Strategy	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council
5.12	Council will investigate opportunities for grant funding for interpretive heritage signage throughout the City	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council
5.13	Council will seek government grant opportunities to deliver key outcomes and projects which provide an honest and complete narrative of both Aboriginal and European histories and include a comprehensive thematic history of the Blue Mountains	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council NSW Heritage
5.14	Council will collaborate with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and NSW Heritage on innovative ways to incentivise investment in, and the adaptive reuse of built heritage	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council NSW Heritage
5.15	Council will commence a heritage review of local heritage listings within the Blue Mountains local government area, to update the Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council



Local Planning Priority 6: Meeting the diverse housing needs of our community

Measures

- Diversity in housing size and type
- Number of affordable housing units

Relationship to other plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan

- Live 4.1 City planning drives the creation of vibrant and well designed places and spaces for people to live, work and play
- Live 4.4 The City's housing meets the diverse needs of the community

Western City District Plan

- W4 Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich, and socially connected communities
- W5 Providing housing supply, choice and affordability with access to jobs, services and public transport
- W6 Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage
- W9 Growing and strengthening the metropolitan cluster
- W11 Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres

Actions

#	Local Planning Priority 6 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
	Short Term (2020-2021)		
6.1	Council will begin to implement the recommendations of Blue Mountains Local Housing Strategy 2019	Strategy 4.4a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council
6.2	Council will proceed with place-based master planning of key town centres, including a robust community engagement plan, to investigate diverse housing opportunities close to services and transport	Strategy 4.1.a (4101) Foster appropriate investment and development to support revitalisation of towns, villages and key visitor destination sites	Blue Mountains City Council
6.3	Council will pursue opportunities for hidden density and in fill development, such as additional locations for secondary dwellings, with appropriate planning controls to maintain character and landscape qualities	Strategy 4.4a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council
6.4	Council will maintain the current policy commitment of not rezoning land to increase housing density on bush fire prone land, and will review local planning controls to limit secondary dwellings on bush fire prone land (same as Action 2.5)	Strategy 3.3.c (3323) Plan for risk and natural disasters and improve the resilience of communities and systems within the city in adapting and responding to bushfire, storms, flooding, hail and other climate related natural disasters	Blue Mountains City Council
6.5	Council will continue to advocate for state-wide policy from the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on Short Term Rental Accommodation, which provides transparent registration and monitoring by the state government to ensure consistency across NSW	Strategy 1.4.a (1404) Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
6.6	Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on additional opportunities under the state planning policy, for the location of seniors housing	Strategy 4.4a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment

#	Local Planning Priority 6 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
6.7	Council will investigate opportunities for seniors housing, including a review of industrial zoned land with a historical residential use, close to town centres	Strategy 4.4a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council
6.8	Council will investigate opportunities for multi-dwelling housing in appropriate locations, to contribute to the 2021-2026 housing target and housing diversity within the City	Strategy 4.4a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council Greater Sydney Commission
6.9	Council will begin to develop design controls and guidelines for medium density housing and review current controls for dual occupancy and secondary dwellings, to ensure these housing forms are appropriate to the Blue Mountains context, including character, landscape qualities and sustainability (same as Action 5.8)	Strategy 4.4.a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council
6.10	Council will work with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to advocate for improved energy efficiency standards within State Environmental Planning Policy (Building Sustainability Index: BASIX) 2004, and the potential for Councils to set local energy efficiency targets. (same as Action 2.7)	Strategy 1.4.c (1421) The Blue Mountains is a leader in supporting and advocating for initiatives that address climate change and the achievement of globally agreed goals for limiting temperature increases	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Medium Term (2021-2025)			
6.11	Council will work to improve data quality within Council's property database to improve monitoring of housing activity and development types	Strategy 4.4a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council

#	Local Planning Priority 6 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
6.12	Council will collaborate with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and NSW Heritage on innovative ways to incentivise investment in, and the adaptive reuse of, built heritage including a focus on disused guest houses within Katoomba as a potential housing source	Strategy 4.3.d Preserve, maintain and enhance the City's unique character, and its built, natural and cultural heritage and local history	Blue Mountains City Council Department of Planning, Industry & Environment NSW Heritage Greater Sydney Commission
6.13	Council will complete a Local Housing Affordability Review to understand local housing stress, investigate opportunities to increase affordable housing (such as potential partnerships with affordable/social housing providers) and respond to the state government targets and policies including the application of State Environmental Planning Policy 70 Affordable Housing (Revised Schemes)	Strategy 4.4a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council Social Housing Providers
Long Term (2025-2040)			
6.14	Council will undertake a review and update of the Blue Mountains Local Housing Strategy 2019, incorporating strategies to assist Traditional Owners to remain living on <i>Ngurra</i> (Country)	Strategy 4.4a (4401) Support provision of a range of housing choices to meet diverse needs, including adaptable and well-designed medium density and infill development to facilitate housing affordability and ageing in place	Blue Mountains City Council Social Housing Providers



Local Planning Priority 7:

Sustaining a healthy local economy, including a focus on Katoomba as our Strategic Centre

Measures

- Number of jobs
- Jobs by industry
- Vacancy rates in Katoomba and Springwood
- Gross Regional Product
- Unemployment Rate

Relationship to other plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan

- Lead 1.4 All levels of government and the community work together to achieve a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains
- Live 4.1 City planning drives the creation of vibrant and well designed places and spaces for people to live, work and play
- Thrive 6.1 The City's economy is diverse, vibrant, strong and environmentally sustainable with increased local employment
- Thrive 6.2 The City of Blue Mountains has a strong identity that builds on its natural and built heritage and creative strengths as a City of the Arts and a City surrounded by a World Heritage Area
- Thrive 6.3 The City's infrastructure supports diverse and sustainable economic development
- Thrive 6.4 The Blue Mountains is a leader of sustainable tourism and destination management within a World Heritage Area

Western City District Plan

- W1 Planning for a City supported by Infrastructure
- W4 Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities
- W6 Providing housing supply, choice and affordability, with access to jobs, services and public transport
- W7 Establishing the land use and transport structure to deliver a liveable, productive and sustainable western Parkland City
- W8 Leveraging industry opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis
- W9 Growing and strengthening the metropolitan cluster
- W10 Maximising freight and logistics opportunities and planning and managing industrial and urban services
- W11 Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres
- W21 Preparing local strategic planning statements informed by local strategic planning

Actions

#	Local Planning Priority 7 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
	Short Term (2020-2021)		
7.1	Council will update the Spatial Hierarchy for Service and Public Domain Planning including recognition of Katoomba as a Strategic Centre in the Western City District Plan and an integrated spatial infrastructure management plan	Strategy 4.1.c (4121) Develop a local spatial planning framework for the city that reinforces the development of a hierarchy of sustainable towns and villages delivering services and facilities to the community	Blue Mountains City Council
7.2	Council will review and update the Blue Mountains economic strategy (same as Action 4.7)	<p>Strategy 6.1.a Diversify and strengthen the range of sustainable industries and businesses and local employment opportunities in the Blue Mountains</p> <p>Strategy 6.2.a (6201) Attract and assist industry development that is aligned with the strengths and advantages of the Blue Mountains including sustainable tourism, creative industry and education</p>	Blue Mountains City Council
7.3	Council will, in partnership with Traditional Owners, actively explore opportunities to generate direct social, economic and cultural benefit from <i>Ngurra</i> (Country) for Traditional Owners and the broader Aboriginal community	Strategy 6.1.d (6131) Implement economic development strategies that benefit local priority groups, including Aboriginal people, and provide local employment opportunities	<p>Blue Mountains City Council</p> <p>Traditional Owners</p>
7.4	Council will finalise and begin to implement the Events Strategic Plan, including continuing to encourage and facilitate delivery of local events and supporting event organisers in areas such as risk management, training/networking sessions and the identification of a large event space (same as Action 4.2)	Strategy 6.2.a Attract and assist industry development that is aligned with the strengths and advantages of the Blue Mountains including sustainable tourism, creative arts and education	Blue Mountains City Council
7.5	Council will commence preparation of a staged Masterplan for Katoomba (refer to Structure Plan for masterplan investigation area)	Strategy 4.1.a (4101) Foster appropriate investment and development to support revitalisation of towns, villages and key visitor destination sites	Blue Mountains City Council
	Medium Term (2021-2025)		
7.6	Council will deliver upgrades to the Blackheath and Springwood town centres through the City Deal Liveability program	Strategy 4.1.b (4111) Strengthen the liveability and vibrancy of towns and villages through well-designed place based planning	Blue Mountains City Council

#	Local Planning Priority 7 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
7.7	Council will begin to implement priority actions around key sites within the Katoomba Masterplan	Strategy 4.1.a (4101) Foster appropriate investment and development to support revitalisation of towns, villages and key visitor destination sites	Blue Mountains City Council
7.8	Council will investigate opportunities for active transport connections and public space / streetscape enhancement between town centres and significant tourism destinations, including a focus on Lurline Street in Katoomba	Strategy 4.1.a (4101) Foster appropriate investment and development to support revitalisation of towns, villages and key visitor destination sites	Blue Mountains City Council
7.9	Council will review and update the Planning Study for Employment Lands in the Blue Mountains (2012), investigating opportunities to potentially rationalise and review future uses for industrial zoned land	Strategy 6.1.a Diversify and strengthen the range of sustainable industries and businesses and local employment opportunities in the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council
7.10	Council will contribute to the development and implementation of the Western Parkland City Digital Action Plan	Strategy 4.1a (4105) The City's infrastructure supports diverse and sustainable economic development	Blue Mountains City Council Greater Sydney Commission
7.11	Council will contribute to the Western Parkland City Regional Economic Development Strategy	Strategy 1.4.a (1404) Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council City Deal Partnership
7.12	Council will collaborate with and seek investment from tertiary institutions, to develop an International Centre of Excellence in the Blue Mountains for sustainable living, environmental science or Planetary Health (including climate change and bush fire) (same as Actions 1.17, 2.16 and 3.15)	Strategy 6.2.b (6211) Enhance existing, and established new networks and nodes of informal and formal learning and research, including online learning opportunities	Blue Mountains City Council Tertiary Institutions
7.13	Council will work with NSW TAFE and other tertiary education providers to advocate for improvements to local course availability to address skill gaps aligning with our comparative advantage in areas of outdoor recreation and eco-tourism	Strategy 6.2.a (6201) Attract and assist industry development that is aligned with the strengths and advantages of the Blue Mountains including sustainable tourism, creative industry and education	Blue Mountains City Council Tertiary Institutions

#	Local Planning Priority 7 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
7.14	Council will work with and support the Blue Mountains Aboriginal Advisory Committee in improving economic opportunities for Aboriginal people	Strategy 6.1.d (6131) Implement economic development strategies that benefit local priority groups, including Aboriginal people, and provide local employment opportunities	Blue Mountains City Council Blue Mountains Aboriginal Advisory Committee
Long Term (2025-2040)			
7.15	Council will advocate and support the development of smart city and digital technology and other infrastructure that improves connectivity and productivity	Strategy 4.1a (4105) The City's infrastructure supports diverse and sustainable economic development	Blue Mountains City Council City Deal Partnership
7.16	Council will investigate opportunities to become a centre for sustainable industries, which align with the strengths and values of living within a World Heritage Area	Strategy 6.2.a (6202) Attract and assist industry development that is aligned with the strengths and advantages of the Blue Mountains including sustainable tourism, creative industry and education	Blue Mountains City Council BMEE
7.17	Council will work with the state government and other agencies to manage visitation to ensure the visitor experience is preserved and tourist volumes contribute to the local economy, while also preserving the amenity of local residents	Strategy 6.4.a (6403) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers	Blue Mountains City Council

Local Planning Priority 8:

Leading destination management and sustainable tourism

Measures

- Visitor numbers
- Total tourist expenditure
- Average length of visitor stay
- Unemployment Rate

Relationship to other plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan

- Lead 1.4 All levels of government and the community work together to achieve a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains
- Protect 2.3 The community and all levels of government work together to protect the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage Area
- Move 5.1 The City has an integrated, accessible and sustainable transport network
- Thrive 6.1 The City's economy is diverse, vibrant, strong and environmentally sustainable with increased local employment
- Thrive 6.2 The City of Blue Mountains has a strong identity that builds on its natural and built heritage and creative strengths as a City of the Arts and a City surrounded by a World Heritage Area
- Thrive 6.3 The City's infrastructure supports diverse and sustainable economic development
- Thrive 6.4 The Blue Mountains is a leader of sustainable tourism and destination management within a World Heritage Area

Western City District Plan

- W1 Planning for a City supported by Infrastructure
- W8 Leveraging industry opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis
- W9 Growing and strengthening the metropolitan cluster
- W11 Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres
- W16 Protecting and enhancing scenic and cultural landscapes

Actions

#	Local Planning Priority 8 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
Short Term (2020-2021)			
8.1	Council will continue to strengthen relationships with Destination NSW, Western City Councils and other relevant tourism agencies and organisations	Strategy 6.1.e (6142) Develop partnerships with government, peak business and tourism organisations	Blue Mountains City Council
8.2	Council will complete and begin to implement the Leura local area traffic management plan, to specifically address tourist bus parking and local traffic, parking and access	Strategy 5.1.e (5142) and (5143) Support the provision of vehicle parking that meets the needs of the city	Blue Mountains City Council
8.3	Council will begin to work with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to develop a framework for the coordinated delivery of infrastructure to benefit both the Blue Mountains World Heritage National Park and the Blue Mountains local government area (same as Action 1.6)	Strategy 1.4.a (1404) Planning and coordination between the Council and other levels of government and the community achieves a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
Medium Term (2021-2025)			
8.4	Council will develop a Camping Strategic Plan, including leveraging funding opportunities for paid camping sites within the City	Strategy 6.4.a (6403) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers	Blue Mountains City Council
8.5	Council will deliver the Scenic Southern Escarpment project upgrades at Echo Point, and the Scenic Eastern Escarpment as part of the City Deal Liveability Program	Strategy 6.3.a (6303) Provide and advocate for the infrastructure required to support sustainable economic development	Blue Mountains City Council
8.6	Council will implement Parking Precinct Plans and Permit Parking Policy, including paid parking at Echo Point and other tourist destinations	Strategy 5.1.e (5142) Support the provision of vehicle parking that meets the needs of the city	Blue Mountains City Council
8.7	Council will continue to review and implement high priority actions as defined in the Visitor Infrastructure Investment Strategic Plan	Strategy 6.4.a (6403) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers	Blue Mountains City Council

#	Local Planning Priority 8 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
8.8	Council will develop city signage that promotes the identity and location of the City within a World Heritage Area	Strategy 6.2d (6232) Create a cohesive brand and marketing for the City of Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council
8.9	Council will review the nature-based licencing scheme, including additional funding opportunities	Strategy 6.4.a (6403) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers	Blue Mountains City Council
8.10	Council will review and update the Blue Mountains Destination Management Plan including data on increased visitation within the local government area and surrounding National Park	Strategy 6.4.a (6411) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers Strategy 6.4.b Balance enhancing the tourist experience with maintaining local amenity for residents	Blue Mountains City Council
8.11	Council will investigate alternate funding sources for management of areas affected by increased tourism, including funding for visitor infrastructure and experience, natural area management and risk management impacts flowing from increases in visitor numbers (same as Action 1.15)	Strategy 6.4.a (6403) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers	Blue Mountains City Council
8.12	Council will work with Transport for NSW towards establishing core infrastructure throughout the City (including bus layovers and transport hubs for buses and satellite parking), to foster the movement of tourists via sustainable modes of transport through key locations (initially focused on Katoomba/Leura and Wentworth Falls) (same as Actions 1.18 and 2.18)	Strategy 6.4.a (6403) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers Strategy 5.1.e Support the provision of vehicle parking that meets the needs of the city	Blue Mountains City Council
Long Term (2025-2040)			
8.13	Council will coordinate with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and other key landholders to deliver on a diversified range of visitor opportunities and locations, to reduce visitation impacts at single points within the local government area	Strategy 6.4.b (6411) Ensure local infrastructure, facilities and services supporting tourist visitation have required capacity to meet projected increases in tourist numbers	Blue Mountains City Council NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service

Local Planning Priority 9: Improving local transport connections and accessibility, including walking and cycling

Measures

- Proportion of residents who travel to work on public transport
- Annual levels of train use by Blue Mountains residents
- Accessible railway stations
- Length of cycle ways in the Blue Mountains
- Heavy vehicle volumes passing through Blue Mountains
- Facilitate the active transport network to allow a doubling of the number of walking and bicycle riding trips by 2025.

Relationship to other plans and policies

Community Strategic Plan

- Lead 1.4 All levels of government and the community work together to achieve a more sustainable, successful and resilient Blue Mountains
- Protect 2.3 The community and all levels of government work together to protect
- Move 5.1 The City has an integrated, accessible and sustainable transport network
- Move 5.2 The City has a safe, well designed and maintained network of roads
- Move 5.3 The City has an integrated, accessible public transport network with good connections within the city and to the Greater Sydney Region
- Move 5.4 The City has a pedestrian and cycleway network that supports active movement and access to centres and facilities

Western City District Plan

- W1 Planning for a City supported by Infrastructure
- W4 Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich, and socially connected communities
- W6 Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage
- W7 Establishing the land use and transport structure to deliver a liveable, productive and sustainable western Parkland City
- W8 Leveraging industry opportunities from the Western Sydney Airport and Badgerys Creek Aerotropolis
- W9 Growing and strengthening the metropolitan cluster
- W11 Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres

Actions

#	Local Planning Priority 9 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
Short Term (2020-2021)			
9.1	Council will advocate for the Blue Mountains in response to the proposed duplication of the Great Western Highway from Katoomba to Lithgow, for alternatives to regional road freight and to ensure the protection of the world heritage setting and local priorities of safety, accessibility and amenity	<p>Strategy 5.2.b (5211) Complete the upgrade and widening of the Great Western Highway west of Katoomba so that it delivers improved safety, accessibility, amenity and World Heritage identity</p> <p>Strategy 5.1.d - Improve management of the impact of truck freight movements on the Blue Mountains</p>	<p>Blue Mountains City Council</p> <p>Transport for NSW</p>
9.2	Council will review and continue to implement the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans and Bike Plan to prioritise connections around town centres, and in partnership with relevant community organisations advocate for increased state government funding for accessible pedestrian pathways	<p>Strategy 5.4.a Provide safe and accessible active transport networks that will improve connectivity and encourage increased confidence in walking and cycling</p> <p>Strategy 5.1.c - Ensure developments and facilities are accessible to people with a disability, including accessible pathways of travel leading to accessible facilities</p> <p>Strategy 5.1.b - Promote transport solutions for those unable to access private and public transport options</p>	Blue Mountains City Council
Medium Term (2021-2025)			
9.3	Council will work with Transport for NSW to advocate for the Blue Mountains on any upgrade of the Great Western Highway to ensure local values and amenity are preserved, through design solutions which are suitable to the World Heritage setting and maintain views to this landscape	Strategy 5.2.b (5211) Complete the upgrade and widening of the Great Western Highway west of Katoomba so that it delivers improved safety, accessibility, amenity and World Heritage identity	<p>Blue Mountains City Council</p> <p>Transport for NSW</p>
9.4	Council will continue to work with Transport for NSW on the upgrade of any Great Western Highway to ensure transport decisions promote the best outcomes for Blue Mountains towns and villages, including improved local connections (particularly pedestrian) across the highway to key community facilities such as schools, and improved safety and accessibility	<p>Strategy 5.2.b (5211) Complete the upgrade and widening of the Great Western Highway west of Katoomba so that it delivers improved safety, accessibility, amenity and World Heritage identity</p> <p>Strategy 5.4.a Provide safe and accessible active transport networks that will improve connectivity and encourage increased confidence in walking and cycling</p>	<p>Blue Mountains City Council</p> <p>Transport for NSW</p>

#	Local Planning Priority 9 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
9.5	Council will continue to work with Transport for NSW to improve the entry into Katoomba town centre from the Great Western Highway, including upgrade of the Yeaman's Bridge intersection	Strategy 5.1.a (5001) Support development of an integrated, accessible, affordable and linked public and private transport network that meets the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, emergency vehicles and freight	Blue Mountains City Council Transport for NSW
9.6	Council will continue to work with Transport for NSW to advance the proposal to improve traffic movement and safety at the intersection of Hawkesbury Road and the Great Western Highway at Springwood	Strategy 5.1.a (5001) Support development of an integrated, accessible, affordable and linked public and private transport network that meets the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, emergency vehicles and freight	Blue Mountains City Council Transport for NSW
9.7	Council will work with Transport for NSW to reduce the impacts of regional freight movements along the Great Western Highway through the Blue Mountains via the diversification of transport modes, such as moving freight to the rail network (same as Action 2.17)	Strategy 5.1.d - Improve management of the impact of truck freight movements on the Blue Mountains	Blue Mountains City Council Transport for NSW
9.8	Council will prepare the Priority Infrastructure Plan, to coordinate the delivery of transport infrastructure (for walking, cycling and road)	Strategy 5.1.a (5001) Support development of an integrated, accessible, affordable and linked public and private transport network that meets the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, emergency vehicles and freight	Blue Mountains City Council
9.9	Council will review the Local Link Road Strategy, to identify potential new routes to facilitate the mobility of residents and visitors within and to the Blue Mountains, for both emergency management and local movement (same as Action 2.3)	Strategy 5.2c (5221) Develop transport links between towns and villages for vehicles, (including emergency vehicles) cyclists and pedestrians other than the Great Western Highway	Blue Mountains City Council
9.10	Council will undertake a best practice review of latest transport technologies, their operation and potential application within the City, including promoting the Blue Mountains as a trial site	Strategy 5.1.a (5001) Support development of an integrated, accessible, affordable and linked public and private transport network that meets the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, emergency vehicles and freight	Blue Mountains City Council
9.11	Council will work with Transport for NSW to advocate for additional and improved train services for both residents and visitors, including improved WiFi and dedicated carriages for visitor information	Strategy 5.3 a (5301) Advocate for improved rail and bus services	Blue Mountains City Council Transport for NSW

#	Local Planning Priority 9 Action	Delivery (Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan)	Responsible
9.12	Council will continue to seek funding and construct the Great Blue Mountains Trail, creating shared pedestrian and cycleway linkages between Leura, Katoomba, Blackheath and Mount Victoria	Strategy 5.1.a (5001) Support development of an integrated, accessible, affordable and linked public and private transport network that meets the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, emergency vehicles and freight	Blue Mountains City Council
9.13	Council will work and coordinate with Transport for NSW on train station upgrades for improved accessibility and mobility	Strategy 5.3 a (5301) Advocate for improved rail and bus services	Blue Mountains City Council Transport for NSW
9.14	Council will work and coordinate with Transport for NSW to optimise commuter car parking opportunities and bus layover areas around train stations	Strategy 5.3 a (5301) Advocate for improved rail and bus services	Blue Mountains City Council Transport for NSW
9.15	Council will update Blue Mountains Development Control Plan 2015 to consider the requirement for Green Travel Plans (such as links with public transport) for significant traffic generating developments	Strategy 2.3.a (2301) Ensure that the city's Local Environmental Planning Instruments continue to protect the unique environmental values	Blue Mountains City Council
9.16	Council will include Active Transport links as part of the City Deal Liveability Program, to link town centres with District Parks within the local government area	Strategy 5.1.a (5001) Support development of an integrated, accessible, affordable and linked public and private transport network that meets the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, vehicles, emergency vehicles and freight	Blue Mountains City Council

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Legislation

- Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2005
- Blue Mountains Local Environmental Plan 2015
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (1979)

Figures

Figure 1: The Blue Mountains in the Regional Context

Figure 2: Aerial over Springwood

Figure 3: Community Consultation to inform the Local Planning Statement

Figure 4: Line of sight between key strategic priorities. Source: NSW Department of Planning

Figure 5: Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Figure 6: Blue Mountains City Council 1976 Structure Plan

Figure 7: The current spatial hierarchy within the City

Figure 8: Example of zoning and constraint mapping

Figure 9: Blue Mountains Sustainability Model

Figure 10: Sustainability Map

Figure 11: Snapshot of urban tree canopy and urban heat island effect mapping

Figure 12: Waterway health ratings in the Blue Mountains

Figure 13: Liveability Map

Figure 14: Productivity Map

Figure 15: Investigation area for Katoomba Masterplan

Figure 16: City wide structure plan

Figure 17: Planning Area 1 detail structure plan

Figure 18: Planning Area 2 detail structure plan

Figure 19: Planning Area 3 detail structure plan

Figure 20: Planning Area 4 detail structure plan

Figure 21: Planning Area 5 detail structure plan

