

Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 21 November 2016

CO1 – Draft Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy

COMMUNITY

CO1

Draft Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy

234992

TRIM 7870

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for the Draft Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy.
- The Draft Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy has been developed as a partnership project of the Wollondilly Health Alliance and Council and has been prepared by GHD consultants with support from Council's Community Outcomes Team.
- This report summarises the outcomes of the public exhibition period from 24 August - 16 September 2016.
- It is recommended that the Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy be adopted by Council.

REPORT

Social planning strategies are planning documents which outline how Council, government agencies, non-government agencies, the private sector and communities can work together to address community needs and build stronger, healthier and socially sustainable communities.

Social sustainability is a key requirement for sustainable development. The wellbeing of our communities is dependent on achieving high quality environmental, economic and social outcomes for both now and in the future. Social Planning Strategies can provide a framework to identify and assess social issues and opportunities and prioritise strategies to deliver social and wellbeing outcomes.

One of the key themes in the Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033 is *"Looking after the Community"*. The Community Strategic Plan acknowledges that the *"Wollondilly community faces a specific set of challenges that arise from its relatively low population, its location on the fringe of a city and is dispersed and varied towns and villages"*.

Also, adopting and pursuing a Social Planning Strategy (SPS) is consistent with the following *'guiding principles'* outlined in the recent amendments to the Local Government Act.

Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 21 November 2016

CO1 – Draft Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy

Council:

- *Council's should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.*
- *Council's should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.*

Mayor:

- *To advance community cohesion and promote civic leadership*

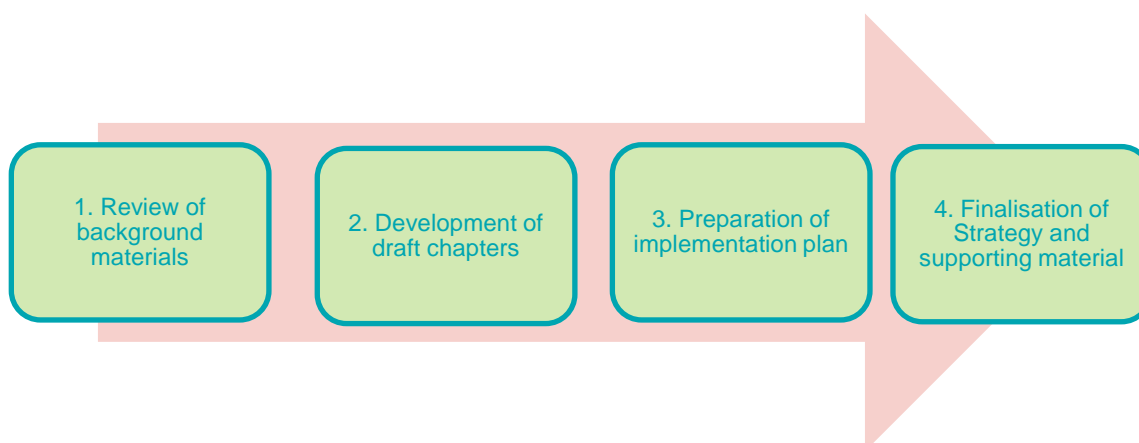
Wollondilly Shire is set to experience significant population growth in the future and planning for positive social and wellbeing outcomes is therefore equally as important as planning for the physical design and infrastructure needs of our future communities.

This SPS has been a partnership project of the Wollondilly Health Alliance and Council and has been framed around the overarching objectives of:

- Fostering social inclusion and cohesion;
- Facilitating accessibility and connectivity;
- Providing diverse and affordable living;
- Supporting education, lifelong learning and economic wellbeing; and
- Creating healthy, safe and secure communities.

The Draft SPS has been developed by GHD Consultants on behalf of the Wollondilly Health Alliance and Council. The GHD consultancy team worked closely with Council's Community Outcomes Team to facilitate input from both internal and external stakeholders.

The SPS has been developed over four distinct phases as shown below. Details of these phases are provided in Volume 2 of the SPS.



Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 21 November 2016

CO1 – Draft Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy

Given the amount of data reviewed in the preparation of the Wollondilly SPS, the report has been divided into three volumes:

Volume 1 - provides a summary of the challenges within each of the five themes and contains the implementation plan.

Volume 2 - provides the detailed analysis including a review of the services and facilities that operate within the Wollondilly LGA.

Volume 3 - provides the background and supporting data.

CONSULTATION

Following the Social Planning Strategy Stakeholder Workshops held in February 2016, the Draft SPS was finalised and the document placed on public exhibition from 24 August - 16 September 2016.

The engagement strategy for the public exhibition of the Draft SPS included the following:

- Uploading of document to Engage.Wollondilly (community engagement portal)
- Development of themed summary sheets (2 page summary of challenges/strategies under each theme)
- Notification of public exhibition to all participants/contributors involved in the development of the plan
- Promotion through main communication channels (Council website, Facebook, media contacts etc.)
- Special feature - Bush Telegraph
- Hard copies available in library, mobile libraries, Council foyer.

Following the public exhibition period, the SPS was updated and further refinement of the implementation plan was undertaken with internal Council stakeholders to ensure that the strategies and actions within the implementation plan were realistic and achievable.

Eight (8) external submissions were received throughout the exhibition period as detailed in the attached table (attachment 1). Each submission has been considered and the recommended course of action is also provided in the table.

The draft SPS was endorsed by the Wollondilly Health Alliance at its meeting of 19 October 2016.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOCIAL PLANNING STRATEGY

Following adoption of the SPS by Council, a Social Planning Strategy Implementation Group will be established to provide guidance, facilitate partnerships and report on achievements. It is envisaged that this group would include representatives from the Wollondilly Health Alliance, Council Officers, Government representatives and the Community Sector.

Report of Community to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Monday 21 November 2016

CO1 – Draft Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy

The membership of this group would change as required depending on the topics to be discussed, projects underway etc.

KEY INITIATIVES

The following is a list of some of the key actions/initiatives identified in the SPS Implementation Plan. They have been developed in response to evidence, feedback provided and consultation with stakeholders. The actions vary in their implementation timeframe from short 0-2yrs, medium 3-4yrs and long term 5-7yrs.

- *Prepare a Strategic Social and Health Plan for the Wilton Priority Precinct.*
- *Develop a Social Impact Assessment Policy that can be considered where there is potential for land use conflict.*
- *Develop a series of Place Profiles that capture unique features and identified valued assets of Wollondilly's towns and villages from the community's perspective.*
- *Development of Council policy/established benchmarks for the provision of community and recreation facilities for towns and villages experiencing residential growth focusing on quality more than quantity.*
- *Prepare a Local Housing Strategy for the LGA which considers local affordable housing and appropriate housing locations for people with high social needs.*
- *Develop active community spaces that promote interaction between all sections of the community.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of the SPS by Council has no immediate direct impact on the Council's adopted budget or forward estimates. Nevertheless some of the longer term actions contained in the document may have a financial/resourcing impact. These costs cannot be quantified at this time and will be defined on a case by case basis as we move forward with the implementation of the SPS.

ATTACHMENTS IN A SEPARATE BOOKLET

1. Summary of External Submissions
2. Draft Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy Volume 1-3 (Due to the size of the document the Draft Social Planning Strategy is not included in the attachment document but can be accessed on Council's website <http://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/council/council-forms/?fid=1326>. Hard copies can be obtained by calling Council on 4677 1100)

RECOMMENDATION

That the Wollondilly Social Planning Strategy be adopted by Council.