

Integrated Planning and Reporting for Local Government

Local Government Legislative Requirements

The specific aims of the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework are to:

- Integrate and streamline statutory planning and reporting
- Strengthen councils' strategic focus
- Streamline reporting processes and align withy National Sustainability Frameworks
- Ensure accountability and responsiveness to local communities

The Framework



Legislation requires Council to have:

- Community Strategic Plan (10 years or longer)
- Resourcing Strategy (10 years or longer)
- Delivery Program (4 years)
- Operational Plan (1 year)
- Annual Report

The Wollondilly Community Strategic Plan 2033 (CSP) “Growing *Your* future Together”

- Strategic 20 year plan
- Vision ~ ‘*Rural Living*’
- Focuses on five major theme areas of:
 - Community - Environment - Economy
 - Infrastructure - Governance
- Sets out the main priorities and aspirations of the Community through identified goals, outcomes & strategies.

Resourcing Strategy

Resourcing Strategy
10 Years

- Each Council must have a long-term resourcing strategy
- The Resourcing Strategy consists of three components:
 - Long Term Financial Planning
 - Workforce Management Planning
 - Asset Management Planning

The Delivery Program

Delivery Program
4 Years

- 4 year program detailing activities Council will undertake to achieve the objectives in the Community Strategic Plan
- Covers a four-year period commencing 1 July following each ordinary election

Operational Plan

Operational Plan
Annual

- Each Council must have an annual Operational Plan
- The Operational Plan must directly address the actions outlined in the Delivery Program
- The Operational Plan details Council Activities for that year to achieve the Delivery Program
- The Operational Plan is a sub-plan of the Delivery Program

The Annual Report

Annual Report
1 Year

Report to the community by 30 November each year including:

- Progress implementing Delivery Program
- Report on the requirements in the Regulation
- Audited financial statements

A separate end of term report on the achievement of the objectives in Community Strategic Plan is required in addition to the Annual Report.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why have planning and reporting requirements for local councils?

The planning and reporting framework requires Councils to identify and plan for funding priorities and service levels in consultation with their community, while preserving local identity and planning for a more sustainable future.

The key drivers for the current planning and reporting framework include: increased expectations on local government, innovation of some councils with positive effects, recent findings from reviews of council strategic performance, and the need for improved asset management and long term financial planning.

- What are the benefits of the planning and reporting framework?
 - Improved sustainability of the local community by encouraging councils, State Agencies and the community to work together on long term plans.
 - Improved connection between councils and community vision
 - A strengthened strategic focus for councils and the community
 - A more detailed understanding of the regional context within which councils operate
 - Integration of planning processes and their implementation
 - Reduced red tape and streamlined reporting

➤ How does the Community Strategic Plan translate into the Delivery Program and Operational Plan?

The four-year Delivery Program is the point where the community's strategic objectives are translated into actions that the council will be responsible for implementing.

The strategies to achieve the objectives in the Community Strategic Plan that Council can implement will be identified in the Delivery Program. The Delivery Program will set out more detailed actions to achieve the strategies in the Community Strategic Plan. The detailed actions in the Delivery Program to be implemented each year will be included in the Operational Plan which will also include budget allocation for implementing each action.

➤ How will the Local Environmental Plan fit with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework?

The Community Strategic Plan will set high level objectives that will inform land use planning. Each Council will still be required to prepare an LEP in accordance with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Legislation.

The LEP and any amendments to it must be consistent with the Council's Community Strategic Plan. The LEP will be checked against the Community Strategic Plan as part of the Department of Planning's gateway process.

➤ What are the new requirements for asset management?

Councils will be required as part of their Resourcing Strategy to prepare an Asset Management Strategy which provides a clear direction for asset management and defines key principles that underpin asset management for the council. The Strategy must include an Asset Management Policy which sets the framework for the preparation of Council's Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plan/s.

➤ What happens to the Social/Community Plan?

Councils will no longer be required to complete a separate Social/Community Plan. Social and community planning becomes an integral part of the development of the Community Strategic Plan.

Councils must ensure that their Community Strategic Plan adequately addresses social as well as environmental, economic and civic leadership issues. It must also reflect the four social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights.

➤ What happens to State of the Environment Reporting?

Environmental reporting is to be integrated into reporting on the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program.

The prescriptive requirements of the previous SoE Report have been removed, so that reports now focus on how Council has met the environmental objectives in its Community Strategic Plan through its Delivery Program.

➤ Where can I get further information?

The *Planning and Reporting Guidelines for local government in NSW* (2008) sets out the mandatory requirements for councils and is a comprehensive guide to the essential elements required in the planning process.

The *Planning and Reporting Manual for local government in NSW* provides practical examples and issues for consideration under each of the planning and reporting activity areas.

The Department of Local Government website (www.dlg.nsw.gov.au) contains these documents and other resources that may be useful. A dedicated Integrated Planning and Reporting page has been established to support its implementation