



ANNUAL REPORT: SNAPSHOT

2023/24

This document is a snapshot of the Annual Report 2023/24. Visit our website to read the full report, which includes legislative reporting requirements and audited financial reports [www.blayney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au)

# KEY FINANCIAL RESULTS

Total Operating Income	\$36.5 MILLION
Total Operating Spend	\$22.6 MILLION
Operating Result for Continuing Operations	\$13.9 MILLION
Net Operating Result before Grants and Contributions	\$0.7 MILLION

TOTAL INCOME	2023/24	\$ ',000
Rates and annual charges		12,990
User charges and fees		1,939
Other revenues		400
Operating grants and contributions		5,930
Capital grants and contributions		13,187
Interest and investment revenue		1,468
Other income		548
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>36,462</b>

TOTAL EXPENSES	2023/24	\$ ',000
Employee costs		6,937
Materials and services		5,538
Borrowing costs		159
Depreciation and amortisation		8,539
Other expenses		1,065
Net loss from disposal of assets		350
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>		<b>22,588</b>
<b>NET OPERATING RESULT BEFORE GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS PROVIDED FOR CAPITAL PURPOSES</b>		<b>687</b>
<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAM ENCOMPASSING ASSET RENEWAL AND UPGRADES</b>		<b>13,902</b>

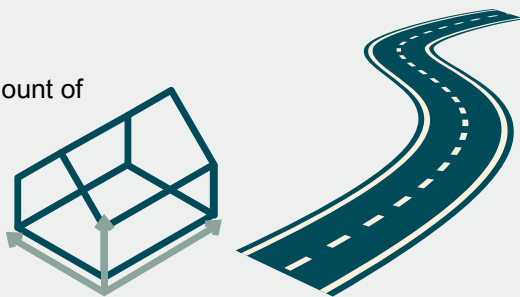
# 2023/24 SNAPSHOT

## Development Applications

Council processed the following amount of Development Applications:

- Pre DA: 497
- DA only: 49
- DA/CC: 7
- DA/CC/S68: 9
- S68: 15
- CDC: 9
- Subdivision: 11
- Modification Applications: 24
- SWC: 2

Total of value of development approved in the shire: **\$26,169,701**



## Funding for Roads and Infrastructure

Council received almost \$10 million in funding for roads, bridges and community infrastructure;

- Water & Sewer Strategic Planning \$78,916
- Community War Memorials Fund: \$8,921
- Local Roads & Community Infrastructure: \$471,783
- Stronger Country Communities: \$178,950
- Roads to Recovery: \$537,300
- Resources for Regions: \$2,637,022
- Building Better Regions: \$431,874
- Storm Damage Repair Funding: \$390,077
- Fixing Country Bridges: \$765,050
- Fixing Local Roads: \$1,075,089
- Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund: \$1,865,812
- Storm Damage Repair Funding: \$1,395,494
- Community Bus Shelters: \$24,500

## Planning Certificates

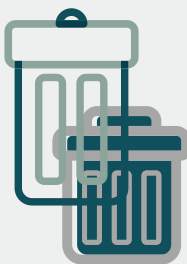
Council processed:

- 310 Planning Certificates
- 138 Drainage Diagrams
- 35 Outstanding Notices



## Waste Collection

3,196 domestic and commercial premises receive a weekly waste collection service and 3,096 receive a fortnightly recycling collection service.



## Music Scholarships

2 Music Scholarships were awarded



## Financial Assistance Program

Council contributed \$118,072, including rates & insurance to not-for-profit groups that offer a significant contribution to the social, economic and/or environmental well-being of the community.

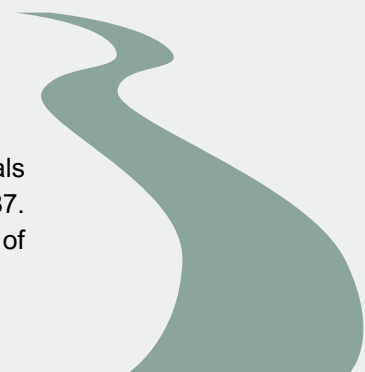


## Sewerage Services

The Blayney Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) treated an average of 1520KI of waste per day.

## Shared Pathways

Council's expenditure for renewals was \$66,151 and for new \$636,787. Council maintained 42.2km of footpath and shared paths.



## Food Inspections

Council conducted:

- 52 temporary food shop inspections.
- 43 permanent food shop inspections.
- 19 mobile food premises inspections.



## Blayney Waste Facility

Blayney Waste Facility received:

- 4,829.84 tonnes of Municipal Waste
- 1,644.78 tonnes Commercial & Industrial Waste
- 576.39 tonnes of Construction & Demolition Waste



# ONGOING COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

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## Parks/Open Spaces

### Blayney

- Heritage Park,
- Tennis Courts & Surrounds
- Netball Courts
- Carrington Park,
- CentrePoint,
- Goose Park,
- Belubula River Walk,
- Albert Cook Park,
- Innes Park,
- Gilchrist Street
- Billy Soo Memorial
- Church Hill
- Frog Hollow open space
- Medway St/Mt Errol Street Open Space,
- Presidents Walk

### Carcoar

- Kurt Fearnley Park,
- River Park,
- Pound Flat,
- RFS Fire Shed / Carcoar Park
- Carcoar Dam

### Capital Park, Lyndhurst

### Mill Green, Millthorpe

### Gelnorie Road Dog Park, Millthorpe

### Neville Memorial Park

### Barry Community Hall

### Hobbys Yards Hall

## Infrastructure

\$359m of Infrastructure Assets, including;

- 340 kms of sealed local roads
- 346 kms of unsealed local roads
- 44.2 kms of Regional Roads
- 76 bridges
- 433 Major culverts
- 39 kms of footpaths
- 157 buildings
- 163 kms of sewer pipe
- 32 kms of stormwater pipe

## Cemetery Maintenance

- Blayney
- Millthorpe
- Carcoar
- Lyndhurst
- Hobbys Yards
- Neville
- Newbridge
- Shaw Cemetery

## Sporting fields

- King George Oval, Blayney
- Napier Oval, Blayney
- Dakers Oval, Blayney
- Blayney Showground and Central West Equestrian and Livestock Centre
- Redmond Oval, Millthorpe
- Carcoar Sportsground, Carcoar
- Lyndhurst Recreation Ground
- Newbridge Showground
- Mandurama Recreation Ground





# REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

Council is involved with many different groups that have different focuses aimed at improving the Blayney Shire community. Throughout the year, Council also works with various organisations to advocate for change on important topics.

## Representation

- Central Tablelands Water Authority
- Central Tablelands Weeds Authority
- Central NSW Joint Organisation
- Orange360
- Skillset
- Community Consultative Committees;
  - Cadia Gold Mine
  - Flyers Creek Wind Farm
  - McPhillamys Gold Project
- Blayney Shire Local Emergency Management
- Canobolas Zone Bush Fire Liaison Committee
- Canobolas Zone Bush Fire Management Committee
- Arts Out West



## Committees

Committees of Council play an important role in providing a mechanism for consultation, input and community engagement with residents, stakeholders and our various Town and Progress/Village Associations, and this review seeks to support an effective and appropriate committee structure.

Committees include;

- Disability Inclusion Working Group
- Australia Day Committee
- Financial Assistance Program Advisory Committee
- Cemetery Forum
- Blayney Shire Floodplain Management Committee
- Disability Inclusion Working Group
- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

## Advocacy

- Central NSW Joint Organisation
- Local Government NSW
- Association Mining and Energy Related Councils
- NSW Country Mayors Association
- Blayney Health Council

# STRATEGIC PLANS

The following strategic plans, which Council has adopted, provide direction for specific areas of Council. These are outside of our government-legislated documents such as the Community Strategic Plan or annual Delivery Program.

These plans are generally implemented over a number of years

- Active Movement Strategy
- Blayney Showground Strategic Plan
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Orange Region Destination Management Plan
- Sport and Recreation Plan

Strategic Plans can be found on Council's Website

[www.blayney.nsw.gov.au](http://www.blayney.nsw.gov.au)



# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

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As part of our Community Strategic Plan a set of Strategic Objectives was developed so that the social, environmental, economic and civic leadership issues are considered and are adequately addressed via the Future Directions headings of;



**MAINTAIN AND  
IMPROVE PUBLIC  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND SERVICES**



**BUILD THE CAPACITY  
AND CAPABILITY OF  
LOCAL GOVERNANCE  
AND FINANCE**



**DIVERSIFY AND GROW  
THE BLAYNEY SHIRE  
LOCAL AND VISITOR  
ECONOMY**



**ENHANCE RECREATIONAL  
FACILITIES & NETWORKS  
THAT SUPPORT HEALTH &  
WELLBEING OF THE  
COMMUNITY, SPORT,  
HERITAGE & CULTURAL  
INTERESTS**



**PROTECT OUR  
NATURAL  
ENVIRONMENT**

Some projects highlights completed under each of these themes has been summarised on the following pages;





## FUTURE DIRECTION 1

# MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Neville Road



## ROADS AND BRIDGES

In 2023/24, Council received \$9.9 million for infrastructure-related grants to maintain Council's sealed and unsealed roads, bridges and culverts. This included flood recovery and emergency repair projects.

Some of these key projects completed in 2023/24 included;

- Richards Lane
- Forest Reefs Road
- Unwin and Staback St
- Forest Reefs Road and Tallwood Road Intersection
- Tallwood Road
- Neville Road
- Barry Road
- Stillingfleet Street
- Belubula Way Bridge



Staback Street, Millthorpe

## ACTIVE MOVEMENT PROJECTS

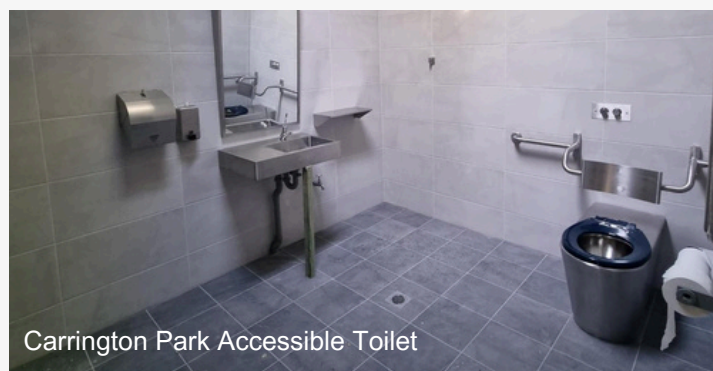
With grant funding, Council was able to bring forward a number of Active Movement Strategy projects providing important and accessible connections. These linkages have proved to be very popular walking tracks for residents and visitors.

Projects have included;

- Trunkey Street, Newbridge
- Glenorie Road, Millthorpe
- Elliott Street, Millthorpe
- Plumb Street, Blayney



Trunkey Street, Newbridge



Carrington Park Accessible Toilet

## ACCESSIBILITY UPGRADES

In the last 12 months, amenities at both Carrington Park and Heritage Park have been upgraded with a focus on improving accessibility. The existing Carrington Park accessible toilet has been modernised and a completely new toilet block has been installed at Heritage Park, which includes an ambulant and accessible toilet. Improvements were also undertaken to the building entry of Council, with tactile ground indicators and a larger kick rail on the accessible ramp. At King George Oval two accessible viewing area's have been integrated as part of the grandstand upgrade.





## FUTURE DIRECTION 2

# BUILD THE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY OF LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY: SPECIAL RATE VARIATION (SRV)

In 2023/24 Council engaged with the community regarding a Special Rate Variation. The variation is a 10% increase to the general rate for 3 consecutive years, commencing 1 July 2024.

The SRV was needed to assist in addressing the forecast deficits in Council's Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP). The SRV will ensure we have financial capacity to maintain the standard of our assets, services and community facilities, including: roads, bridges, culverts, parks, footpaths and buildings.

The rate increase follows;

- a review of Councils financial position and operations (2022-2023),
- a Community Engagement period (November – December 2023),
- review and approval from the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) (February – May 2024) and;
- public exhibition of Councils Delivery Program and Operational Plan (May 2024)

## COMMUNITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Blayney Shire Council has a Community Financial Assistance Program to assist the not-for-profit groups that significantly contribute to the community's social, economic and/or environmental well-being. In 2023/24 Council provided \$145,836 of funding to community groups in 3 different categories;

- **Recurring Annual Donations**
- **One-off Financial Assistance**
- **Flagship Funding**



Millthorpe CWA Fence



Newbridge Winter Solstice

**One-off financial assistance:** This assistance is for projects involving the construction, maintenance or repair of community facilities, purchase of equipment, or organising and conducting of local events and functions. Projects funded in 2023/24 included;

- Dog yards at Blayney Showground
- Millthorpe School of Arts kitchen upgrade
- Enhancement of the multipurpose arena at Neville Showground
- New security system at Blayney Shire Community Mens Shed
- Electrical upgrades to Carcoar Showground
- New fence at Millthorpe CWA Hall
- Outdoor seating at Hobbys Yards Hall
- BBQs at Bakers Shaft and Junction Reefs Reserve
- Canteen upgrades to Napier Oval
- Assistance to Blayney Shire students pursuing higher education through the Country Education Foundation

**Flagship Funding:** Flagship funding is set aside for major project(s) to be undertaken by community group(s). This year, \$64,384 was allocated to three major projects

- Millthorpe District and Historical Society for kitchen renovations at the Golden Memories Museum
- Blayney Golf Club for a machinery shed extension
- Newbridge Progress Association for a covered walkway at Newbridge Showground

Some projects are still in progress as recipients are provided with 12 months to complete the project.





## FUTURE DIRECTION 3

# DIVERSIFY AND GROW THE BLAYNEY SHIRE LOCAL AND VISITOR ECONOMY

## DESTINATION MARKETING: ORANGE360

In June 2023, Council approved a 2 year funding agreement with Orange360. Orange360 is a not-for-profit, destination marketing organisation funded by Orange, Blayney and Cabonne Councils, and industry memberships. Orange360 drives sustainable tourism growth and economic prosperity across the wider Orange Region through innovative destination marketing, industry development and advocacy.

A highlight for Orange360 in 2023/24 was the launch of the 'Enjoy the Now' campaign which tripled the number of page views on the website and launched new channels on TikTok, YouTube and Pinterest which reached an audience of 13.k in addition to Instagram and Facebook.



## TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

\$8,000 of funding was approved by Council to support event organisers through the Tourism Development Program which provides support to projects aimed to promote and grow the visitor economy in the Blayney Shire. Projects supported in 2023/24 included the Newbridge Medieval Dinner, Blayney Show, FOOD Week and Carcoar Show.



## SCULPTURES BY THE BUSH

Over the April School Holidays, Council coordinated the Sculptures by the Bush campaign which encourages local residents to create sculptures or scarecrows out of haybales or recycled farm materials. Prizes are awarded in 3 categories. The event is very well received with 26 entries, extensive media coverage a number of visitors travelling to the region to see the sculptures.



## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Council's Planning & Development team are responsible for leading, planning, delivering and managing development control in the Blayney Shire. The overarching legislation for planning in NSW is the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

In 2023/24, Council received, assessed and determined 188 applications with a combined value of \$26.2 million and responded to 497 preplanning enquiries. 310 Planning Certificates, 138 Drainage Diagrams and 35 Outstanding notices were also processed.





## FUTURE DIRECTION 4

# ENHANCE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND NETWORKS THAT SUPPORT HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE COMMUNITY, SPORT, HERITAGE AND CULTURAL INTERESTS



King George Oval Carpark

## KING GEORGE OVAL

This year the final projects of the \$2.37 million upgrade to King George Oval were completed.

The final stages included upgrades to the internal and external carparks, the entry and installation of an accessible viewing platform.

These projects followed a series of upgrades through multiple grant sources over the last 3 years. This included two new change rooms with male and female sections, new grandstand seating, handrail, scoreboard and lights.



Accessible Viewing Platform

## ARTS AND CULTURE

In 2023/24 Council provided two music scholarships to the Orange Regional Conservatorium.

Council sponsored a \$1,000 Council Acquisitive Prize for the annual Textures of One Exhibition coordinated by Sidetrack Arts. In 2024 the theme was 'Tin' with Ruth Durose winning the Council Acquisitive Prize for her artwork 'Three Sheets.'

*\*Exhibition was held in August 2024, but funding allocated in 2023/24*



Blayney Shire Council Acquisitive Art Prize

Council partnered with Sidetrack Arts for the use of the Platform Arts Hub space (Blayney Railway Station) with a funding agreement and sub-license. Sidetrack aims to cultivate a connected community that values, celebrates and supports local creative practitioners and engage in projects that deepen and develop creative practice within nurturing community focused spaces.

In 2023/24 Council partnered with Sidetrack on the Waste 2 Art Exhibition, Twilight Shopping and a series of Workshops in January (funded by the Reconnecting Regional NSW Community Event Program). Since opening the studios in February Sidetrack have hosted five practitioners, from painters to photographers, and writers to hat makers within the five creative studios available.



Wreath Making Workshop





FUTURE DIRECTION 5

## PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

### GARAGE SALE TRAIL

Blayney Shire Council participated again in the national Garage Sale Trail campaign which is a festival of preloved stuff encouraging residents to sell, shop and learn about the circular economy.

Residents register their garage sale and pick which dates/times they want to host a sale then Council and the Garage Sale Trail organisation assist with promotion of the sales over the weekend. Whilst there is financial benefit for sale hosts, the campaign seeks to educate Australians on the importance of reuse, and the need to take individual responsibility for the impact of our consumption habits whilst also building stronger, more connected and more resilient communities.

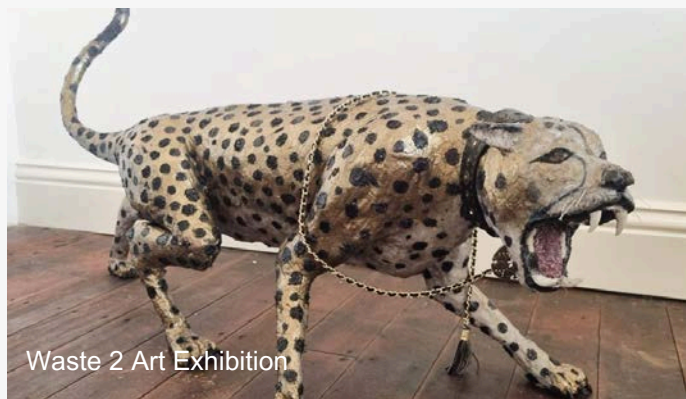
In 2023/24 Blayney Shire had 38 different sales held over the two weekends helping to reduce hundreds of items from going to landfill.



### EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

Council partakes in nation wide educational campaigns and environmental awareness messaging where possible.

National Recycling Week is one of the largest campaigns, in partnership with Net Waste, Council helps to spread the word through our platforms such as social media, local newspaper, e-newsletter and Councils website.



### WASTE 2 ART

For 6 weeks in July and August 2023, Council partnered with NetWaste and Sidetrack Arts to host the Waste 2 Art Regional Showcase. Waste 2 Art is an exhibition showcasing creative works made from reused and recyclable waste materials. Councils within the NetWaste region hosted local competitions with the winning artworks on show in Blayney for the regional showcase.

Waste 2 Art's aim is to challenge peoples' perceptions about 'rubbish' and to celebrate the reuse and recycling of waste through arts and crafts. Waste 2 Art provides an innovative approach to waste education, invites schools and community groups to take up the challenge and create a new life for materials that would otherwise have been thrown away.

### Look for the Australasian Recycling Label on packaging



Recyclable



Conditionally Recyclable



Not Recyclable