

# Annual Report 2015-2016

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# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of Strathfield Council's Annual Report 2015-2016 is to outline achievements during the year based on the actions identified in the Community Strategic Plan 'Strathfield 2025' and Delivery Program 2014-2018 and to comply with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and clause 217 of *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. This includes presentation of the 2015-2016 audited financial report, which is presented in a separate attachment to this report.

# COUNCIL VISION

The community vision describes the community's long-term aspirations for the future of the Strathfield Local Government Area:

*"Strathfield is a well connected urban centre in Sydney's inner west with rich cultural diversity and a strong sense of community cohesion. The community is engaged with Council in guiding a sustainable future and opportunities for education, recreation, employment and overall wellbeing in Strathfield."*

# COUNCIL VALUES

Strathfield Council has adopted a statement of values which expresses the commitment to serving the community.

*Integrity* - We will maintain our reputation for honesty and integrity and our ability to fulfil our promises. It is this concept by which all our actions are based and by which we are happy for our actions to be judged.

*Respect* - We show respect to those we deal with both inside and outside of the Council

*Teamwork* - We approach all our work as a team, sharing our skills and resources for our client's benefit. We value the health and safety of our people.

*Professionalism* - We value our clients and are accountable for the work we do with them.

# CONTACTING COUNCIL

- In person - Strathfield Council Customer Service Centre, 65 Homebush Road, Strathfield. Opening hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm or Library and Information Centre, Customer Service Desk, 65-67 Rochester Street, Homebush. Opening hours: Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 8pm, Friday 9.30am to 6pm, Saturday 8.30am to 12noon
- In writing - The General Manager, Strathfield Municipal Council, PO Box 120 Strathfield NSW 2135
- Telephone - Council can be contacted on (02) 9748 9999, 24 hours a day, seven days a week
- Fax - (02) 9764 1034
- Email - [council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@strathfield.nsw.gov.au)

- Website - [www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au](http://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au)
- Assistance - If your first language is not English and you would like to contact Council, call the Translators and Interpreter Service (TIS) on 131 450 for assistance. A translator will then contact us to help you liaise with Council. Use of this service is free. This publication can be made available in alternative format on request to assist persons with disabilities.

## ABOUT STRATHFIELD COUNCIL

### **Strathfield Local Government Area**

The Local Government Area (LGA) of Strathfield has a total area of approximately 14.1 square kilometres. Strathfield Council is located in Sydney's Inner West about 10.5 kilometres from the city centre and half way between Parramatta and the city. Homebush Bay Drive bounds the Local Government Area to the north, Powells Creek, The Boulevard and Coronation Parade to the east, Punchbowl Road and Juno Parade in the south and Roberts Road, Chullora rail yards, Rookwood Cemetery and the Sydney Olympic Park rail line to the west.

Strathfield Council includes the suburbs of Strathfield (postcode 2135), Strathfield South (2136), Homebush (2140), Homebush West (2140), part of Belfield (2191) and part of Greenacre (2190). Sydney Markets is also located within the Strathfield Local Government Area and has its own postcode, 2129.

Strathfield is predominantly residential but has significant commercial and industrial areas. The major commercial centre is the Strathfield Town Centre adjacent to Strathfield Station, with commercial areas also located at Homebush, Homebush West, Sydney Markets, Strathfield South and Cave Road. Strathfield Station, one of the largest and busiest railway stations in NSW, lies in the heart of the Local Government Area and services an average of 10,000 commuters per day.

The traditional owners of the area are the Wangal clan of the Darug Aboriginal people. The first European land grants to free settlers commenced in 1793 in the District of Liberty Plains, partly located within the current Strathfield LGA. Residential growth commenced in the late 1800s and early 1900s promoted by access to rail transports at Homebush, Strathfield and Flemington.

Significant population growth occurred after WWI and with the addition of the former Homebush Council in 1947 and part of Enfield Council in 1949, the population stabilised around 27,000 to 29,000 until the 2000s, when population increased due to redevelopment of land for multi-unit dwellings particularly in town centres and transport hubs. The current residential population of Strathfield Council (as at June 2015) is estimated at 40,125.

### **Strathfield Council**

Strathfield Council was incorporated on 2 June 1885, which included the suburbs of Redmyre (renamed Strathfield), Homebush and Druitt Town (renamed Strathfield South). The unincorporated area of Flemington (now Homebush West) was added to the Strathfield Council area on 19 February 1892. From 1892, the Council area was divided into three wards: Strathfield, Flemington and Homebush Wards. In 1916, wards were abolished and all Aldermen were elected by those eligible to vote.

On 19 August 1930, parts of Homebush West were transferred from the Lidcombe Municipality to Strathfield Council. The former Municipality of Homebush was added to Strathfield Council on 25 May 1947. The west ward of the former Municipality of Enfield was added to Strathfield Council on 1 January 1949.

There have been two minor boundary adjustments. In 1953, Strathfield Council's south western boundary at Roberts Road Greenacre was altered when the site of the former Bankstown Sanitary Depot came under Bankstown Council control. In 1992, the western boundary of the Strathfield Municipality was adjusted involving land exchanges between Strathfield and Auburn Councils.

The term 'Alderman' was changed to 'Councillor' and 'Town Clerk' was changed to 'General Manager' with the implementation of the Local Government Act 1993.

## MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

Strathfield Council is incorporated under the Local Government Act 1993 and is comprised of seven councillors, who are elected by the residents and ratepayers of Strathfield Local Government Area. The role of the Councillors is to direct and control the affairs of the Council in accordance with the Local Government Act and other applicable legislation.

Each year, the Councillors elect a Mayor who presides at meetings of the Council, carries out the civic and ceremonial functions of the civic office, exercises, in cases of necessity, the policy making functions of the governing body of the Council between its meetings and exercises other functions that the Council determines.

Generally NSW local government elections are held every four years. However, with Council mergers proposed, the next election for Strathfield Council, or a new Council resulting from a merger with Burwood and Canada Bay Councils, is currently scheduled to be held in September 2017.

Strathfield Council elects its Mayor and Deputy Mayor on an annual basis. As at 1 July 2015, Cr Gulian Vaccari and Cr Andrew Soulos held the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. In September 2015, Cr Sang Ok and Cr Andrew Soulos were elected as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively for the period of September 2015 to September 2016.

The Councillors of Strathfield Council (2012- )

- Councillor Daniel Bott
- Councillor Raj Datta
- Councillor Stephanie Kokkolis
- Councillor Helen McLucas
- Councillor Sang Ok
- Councillor Andrew Soulos
- Councillor Gulian Vaccari

# FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT 2015-2016

For the 2015-2016 financial year, Council's independent auditor has determined that Council is in a sound and stable financial position. The net operating result was a \$6,631 million surplus which was \$4,916 million improvement over the original estimated budget of \$1,715 million.

Council's Annual Financial Statements are presented as separate attachments to this report and published on Council's website.

## Income

Rates and Annual Charges	\$22,763 million
User charges and fees	\$4,387 million
Interest and investment income	\$1,497 million
Other revenues	\$1,406 million
Grants and contributions for operating purposes	\$3,805 million
Grants and contributions for capital purposes	\$6,774 million
Net gains from disposal of assets	\$59,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$40,691 million</b>

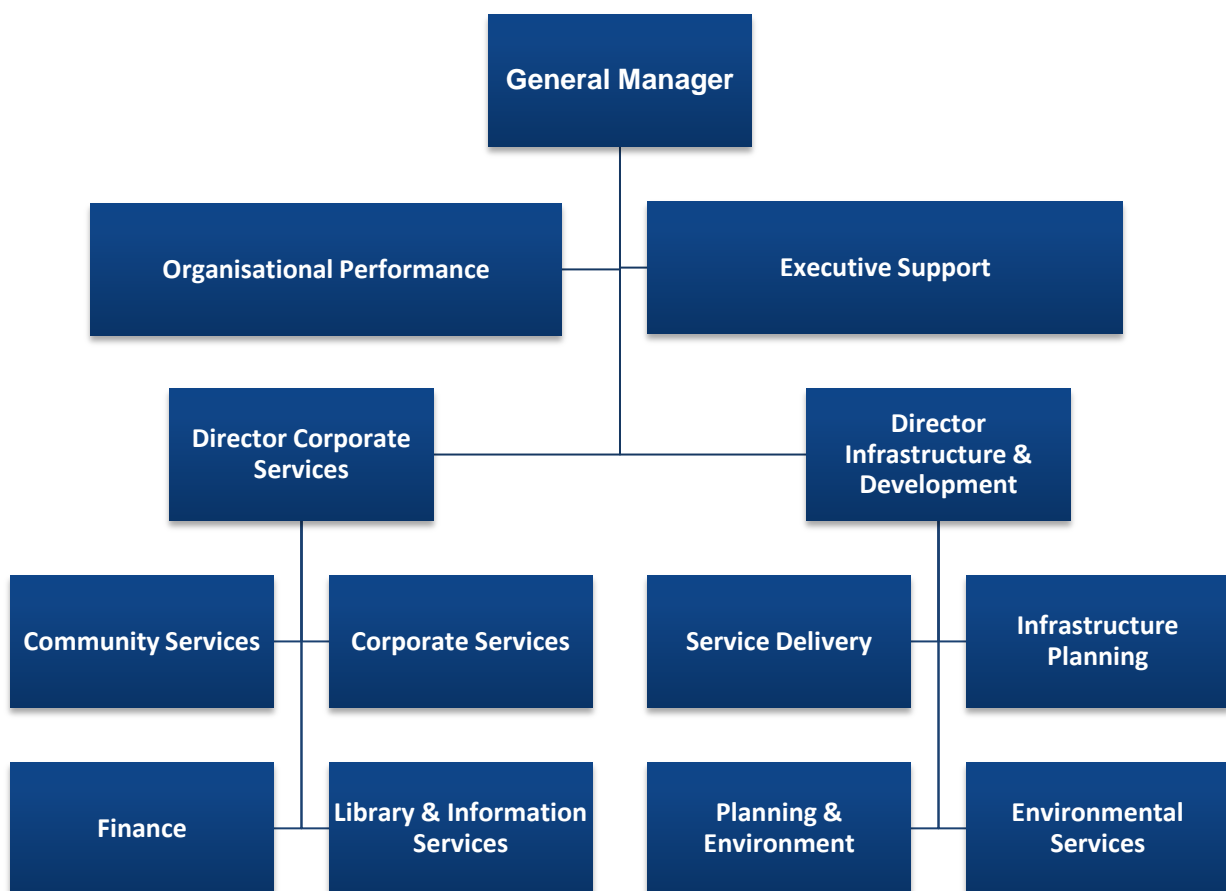
## Expenses

Employee benefits and on-costs	\$12,480 million
Borrowing costs	-
Materials and contracts	\$8,125 million
Depreciation and Amortisation	\$5,081 million
Other expenses	\$7,735 million
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$33,421 million</b>

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The General Manager is responsible for the operation of the Council's organisation and for implementing decisions of the Council. The General Manager is also responsible for the day to day management of the Council, the exercise of any functions delegated to him by the Council, the appointment of staff, the direction and dismissal of staff and the implementation of Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan.

To assist the General Manager in the exercise of these functions, there are two departments of Council. These departments are Infrastructure & Development and Corporate Services. A Director heads each of these departments. Each of the departments is divided into a number of sections, which are run by a Manager.



# STATUTORY REPORTING 2015-2016

## Applications to Access Information

*(Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009)*

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* Annual Report for 2015-2016 was lodged in October 2016 with the Information and Privacy Commissioner. In summary, the number of formal applications by type of applicant and outcome:

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Info. not held	Info. already available	Application withdrawn
Media	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of Parliament	0	0	0	0	0	1
Private sector business	2	0	0	0	0	1
Not for profit organisations or community groups	0	0	0	0	0	0
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	1	0	0	0	0	1
Members of the public (other)	0	1	0	0	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

Note that the 7 withdrawn formal applications were processed as informal requests.

Timeliness of processing applications:

Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	3
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	1
Not decided within timeframe (deemed refusal)	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>

## Code of Conduct Breaches

*(Model Code of Conduct Procedures cl. 12.1)*

In accordance with Council Resolution Minute No.CW17/97 and clause 12.1 of the Model Code of Conduct Procedures, the following actions were taken in regard breaches of Council's Code of Conduct.

There was a total of 7 code of conduct complaints made about councillors and the General Manager under the Code of Conduct in 2015-2016. 7 complaints were referred to a conduct reviewer. 6 complaints were investigated by a conduct reviewer. No complaints were reviewed by the Office of Local Government.

## Community Access Plan

*(Item 1.05 Community Access Plan – Statement of Compliance)*



Following the adoption of the Community Access Plan 2015-2019, Council completed access audits of the three town centres and identified the works necessary to improve access. These are being scheduled by priority and a works plan was approved by Council.

Council policies are being reviewed and updated with a view to aligning them more closely with Council's Community Access Plans. Once reviews are completed, the necessary changes to operations and procedures will be implemented as practice.

### **Companies in which Council held a controlling interest**

*(Local Government Act 1993 s428(2)(p))*

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during 2015-2016.

### **Contracts**

*(Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 cl.217(1)(a2))*

Contracts awarded during 2015-2016 for \$150,000 and over:

<b>Name of contractor</b>	<b>Nature of Service</b>	<b>Value (excl GST)</b>
Theiss Services Pty Ltd	Stage 2 Remediation Works at 15 Parramatta Road, Homebush (Tender 01/2015).	\$354,215

### **Councillors Fees, Expenses and Facilities**

*(Local Government Act 1993 s.428 (f), Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 cl.217 (a) (a1) (I-viii) and Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy)*

To support Councillors in performing their role, Councillors receive fees, facilities and reimbursement of expenses. Fees for Councillors and the Mayor are determined by the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal annually and an increase of 2.5% was approved.

Councillor's facilities and expenses including monetary limits are set out in the Councillors Facilities and Expenses Policy, which was reviewed and adopted in November 2015.

A total of \$168,796 was paid in fees to elected members. This is made up of:

Mayor	\$40,090
Councillors	\$128,706

The following costs were incurred during 2015-2016 for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors (excluding fees):

<b>Type of expense</b>	<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
Dedicated office equipment including laptop computers, mobile devices and any installation costs	cl.217(1)(a1)(i) LG Regulation	\$14,219
Telephone calls (including landline and mobile calls)	cl.217(1)(a1)(ii) LG Regulation	\$6,522
Councillors Conference and Seminar Expenses	cl.217(1)(a1)(iii) LG Regulation	\$10,525
Mayoral vehicle and accessories*	Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy	\$24,620
Councillor Training and Skill Development	cl.217(1)(a1)(iv) LG Regulation	\$4,997
Total costs of interstate visits including cost of transport,	cl.217(1)(a1)(v) LG Regulation	\$1,154

Type of expense	Requirement	Total Cost
cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket expenses		
Total cost of overseas visits including cost of transport, cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses	cl.217(1)(a1)(vi) LG Regulation	\$1,498
Spouse or partner expenses	cl.217(1)(a1)(vii) LG Regulation	-
Childcare expenses	cl.217(1)(a1)(viii) LG Regulation	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$63,535</b>

### **Councillor Interstate Visits**

*(Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 cl.217 (1)(a1)(v))*

Cr Daniel Bott attended the National General Assembly of Local Government Conference in Canberra, Act in June 2016. Expenditure for accommodation and registration totalled \$1,154.

### **Overseas Visits**

*(Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 cl.217 (1)(a))*

The following overseas trip was attended by councillors and a member of staff representing Council.

Date	Person(s)	Destination and Purpose	Funding
7-11 October 2015	Cr Sang Ok	Gapyeong Sister City Delegation	Flights & Accommodation self-funded
7-11 October 2015	Cr Stephanie Kokkolis	Gapyeong Sister City Delegation	Flights & Accommodation self-funded
7-11 October 2015	Group Manager Organisation & Performance	Gapyeong Sister City Delegation	Council funded

### **Companion Animals Act and Regulation Activities**

*(Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 cl.217(1)(f))*

All pound data returns and data concerning dog attacks were lodged with the Office of Local Government in accordance with the Guidelines on the Exercise of Function under the Companion Animals Act. A total of \$49,000 was expended on Council's companion animal management programs and activities.

Strathfield Council's pound is funded by Council and operated through the Enfield Veterinary Hospital, which supports a rehoming strategy for stray and lost animals as an alternative to euthanasia. The cost of supporting this rehoming strategy is included in the pounding fees expenditure.

Council supports education about responsibilities for companion animals through information available at Council's Customer Service and website. Information on responsibilities for companion animals was translated into frequently used community languages: Korean and Chinese. This information is available on Council's website and Customer Service Centre.

Council provides off-leash areas for dogs at Elliott Reserve, Belfield and Allen Street Reserve Homebush. Allen Street Reserve is fully gated and gated entrances have been installed at Elliott Reserve at the Punchbowl Road boundary of the Reserve.

### **Equal Employment Opportunity**

*(Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 cl.217(1)(a9))*

Strathfield Council is committed to providing a workplace that is free from discrimination and harassment and provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) for current and prospective employees. Treating people equitably and recognising that each employee makes valuable contributions to the organisation assists Council's staff in realising their full potential and enhances efficiency and service delivery of the organisation.

Council's EEO Management Plan 2013-2017 sets out Council's commitment to Equal Employment through the review and implementation of principles and strategies.

Council supports removing barriers to participation in employment. Council's selection and recruitment processes ensure that no employee or job applicant receives less favourable treatment on the grounds of race (including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin), gender, marital status, pregnancy, age, physical and intellectual impairment or sexual preference.

### **External Bodies Exercising Council Functions**

*(cl.217(1)(a6) Local Government (General) Regulation 2005)*

Council did not delegate functions to any external bodies in 2015-2016.

### **Financial Contributions and grants**

*(cl.217(1)(a5) Local Government (General) Regulation 2005)*

Total amount contributed or granted under s.356 *Local Government Act* (financially assist others) by Council was \$39,697 which comprised of:

<b>Name of program</b>	<b>Amount \$</b>
Community Grants	\$10,000
Miscellaneous-Financial Assistance	\$2,909
Heritage Local Financial Assistance Grants	\$14,105
Community Events Grants	\$12,683
Other contributions and donations	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$39,697</b>

### **Community Grants Policy**

Council's Community Grants Policy are advertised on an annual basis and are open for local community, recreation, sporting and environment groups to submit projects to Council for consideration for grant funding assistance.

<b>Community Grants Recipients</b>	<b>Grant Amount Awarded</b>
Strathfield Croquet Club Inc	\$400.00
Differently Abled People Association	\$500.00
Homebush West PSCH P/C	\$600.00

<b>Community Grants Recipients</b>	<b>Grant Amount Awarded</b>
Chinese PA-Children Disability	\$600.00
Enfield Public School P&C Association	\$615.00
Chalmers Road School	\$700.00
Olivetree Women's' Network	\$700.00
Empowered Sports Inc	\$700.00
Family Planning NSW	\$700.00
St Anne's Playgroup	\$735.00
Strathfield Girls High School	\$750.00
Strathfield West Seniors Inc	\$750.00
Australian Korean Welfare Association	\$750.00
ANTAR	\$750.00
Volunteer Network	\$750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>

### **Miscellaneous Financial Assistance Recipients**

Miscellaneous Financial Assistance Grants are awarded in accordance with Council's Policy, which sets out criteria for dealing with unsolicited requests for financial assistance.

<b>Miscellaneous Financial Assistance Recipients</b>	<b>Grant Amount Awarded</b>
Zonta Club of Sydney West Inc	\$200
Ronald McDonald House	\$200
Strathfield South High School	\$500
Rotary Club of Strathfield	\$250
Marie Bashir Public School	\$350
Inner West Eisteddfod Inc	\$500
Cancer Council of Australia	\$455
Rotary Club of Strathfield	\$455
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,909</b>

### **Heritage Local Financial Grants**

Heritage Local Financial Assistance Grants are offered on an annual basis. The objective of the grant program is to assist owners of statutory listed heritage properties with conservation works. The grants are awarded after assessment on the value of the works to the property.

<b>Heritage Local Financial Assistance Grants</b>	<b>Grant Awarded</b>
22 Albyn Rd, Strathfield	\$2,000
102 Abbotsford Rd, Strathfield	\$1,260
81 Homebush Rd, Strathfield	\$1,980
24 Llandilo Ave, Strathfield	\$1,730
71 Albert Rd, Strathfield	\$1,950
74-80 Beresford Rd, Strathfield	\$2,150
49 Broughton Rd, Strathfield	\$850
108 Arthur St, Strathfield	\$2,185
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,105</b>

### **Other contributions and donations**

Under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993, Council made contributions to the following groups and organisations during the 2015-2016 reporting period:

<b>Name of organisation</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Strathfield Chamber of Commerce	Traffic Management "Olde Fashioned May Fun Fair" Strathfield Town Square 7-8/05/2016	\$4,599.00
Strathfield Chamber of Commerce	Waive Hire Fees Strathfield Square 7-8/05/2016 "Olde Fashioned May Fun Fair"	\$2,371.60
SAISH	Deepavali Festival Contribution to Running Costs Associated with holding Deepavali Festival 15/11/2015	\$1,582.00
SAISH	Waive Hire Fees Strathfield Square Deepavali Festival 15/11/2015	\$199.00
SAISH	Waive Hire Fees Town Hall 7/11/2015 Deepavali Festival Gala Dinner	\$2,261.00
Salvation Army	Waive Hire Fees Town Hall 28/05/2016 for Red Shield Appeal	\$1,670.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$12,682.60</b>

## **Financial Reports**

*(Local Government Act s428 (2) (a))*

Each year Council is required to report to the community on its financial performance and position for the year, in accordance with the Local Government Act.

The financial reports contain information about Council's income, expenditure, operating budgets, the condition of Council assets and infrastructure, and notes about the financial performance of the organisation. The firm of Hill Steer and Spencer has been appointed as Council's independent financial auditor.

For the 2015-2016 financial year, Council's independent auditor has determined that Council is in a sound and stable financial position. The net operating result was a \$7,270 million surplus which was \$5,555 improvement over the original estimated budget of \$1,715 million.

Council's audited financial reports are published as with this report and are available on Council's website.

## **Legal Proceedings**

*(cl.217(1)(a3) Local Government (General) Regulation 2005)*

During 2015-16, Council incurred legal costs in relation to legal proceedings as follows:

## **Actions against Council**

<b>Matter</b>	<b>Costs Incurred (\$)</b>	<b>Costs Received (\$)</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
51-55 Homebush Road, Strathfield <i>C&amp;C Investment Trading v Strathfield Council</i>	\$7,774.49	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
36 Noble Avenue, Strathfield <i>Baraz Constructions v Strathfield Council</i>	\$11,103.95	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
84-86 Park Road, Homebush <i>Abdul-Rahman v Strathfield Council</i>	\$9,557.00	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.

<b>Matter</b>	<b>Costs Incurred (\$)</b>	<b>Costs Received (\$)</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
4 Exeter Road, Homebush West <i>Lam v Strathfield Council</i>	\$1,638.00	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
19-23 Short Street, Homebush <i>Optimal Enterprises v Strathfield Council</i>	\$4,837.24	\$8,000.00	Settled through s34 conciliation.
50 Noble Avenue, Strathfield <i>Baraz Constructions v Strathfield Council</i>	\$8,466.50	\$5,500.00	Settled through s34 conciliation.
2-4 Barker Road, Strathfield <i>Nader v Strathfield Council</i>	\$39,700.18	-	Appeal dismissed (in Council's favour).
42-46 Parramatta Road, Homebush <i>AJ Bush &amp; Sons v Strathfield Council</i>	\$9,168.00	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
153 Parramatta Rd, Homebush <i>GM Architects v Strathfield Council</i>	\$136,588.72	-	Appeal upheld (in Applicant's favour)
2-6 Bede St, Strathfield South <i>Abdul-Rahman v Strathfield Council</i>	\$13,185.10	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
559 Liverpool Rd, Strathfield South <i>Abdul-Rahman v Strathfield Council</i>	\$26,782.66	-	Appeal upheld (in Applicant's favour)
251-253 Homebush Rd, Strathfield South <i>Abdul-Rahman v Strathfield Council</i>	\$23,853.29	\$1,100.00	Appeal dismissed (in Council's favour).
24 Homebush Rd, Strathfield <i>Abdul-Rahman v Strathfield Council</i>	\$11,947.12	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
474A-476 Liverpool Rd <i>1 Baker Street v Strathfield Council</i>	\$8,315.30	-	Applicant discontinued proceedings.
25 - 29 Anselm Street, Strathfield South <i>Abdul-Rahman v Strathfield Council</i>	\$6,103.34	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
37 Powell Street, Homebush <i>FPG Powell v Strathfield Council</i>	\$9,397.82	-	First appeal withdrawn by Applicant. Second appeal still ongoing.
13 The Crescent, Homebush <i>MHT Equities v Strathfield Council</i>	\$15,881.46	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
29 - 35 Burlington Road, Homebush <i>Abdul-Rahman v Strathfield Council</i>	\$4,936.16	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
25 - 29 Smallwood Avenue, Homebush <i>Optimal Enterprises v Strathfield Council</i>	\$12,619.00	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
10 - 14 Hillcrest Street, Homebush <i>James W Homes v Strathfield Council</i>	\$3,034.40	-	Applicant discontinued proceedings.
<b>Expenses paid in 2015-2016 for proceedings in the previous financial years.</b>			
43 McKenzie Street, Strathfield <i>Doolan v Strathfield Council</i>	\$3,498.60	-	Appeal upheld (in Applicant's favour)
102 Burlington Road, Homebush <i>Queik v Strathfield Council</i>	\$15,874.90	-	Appeal dismissed (in Council's favour).
21 Beresford Rd, Strathfield <i>Abdul-Rahman v Strathfield Council</i>	\$3,788.00	-	Settled through s34 conciliation.
Australian Catholic University Proceedings	\$8,719.00	-	Settled.

## Actions commenced by Council:

Matter	Costs Incurred (\$)	Costs Received (\$)	Outcome
Legal Fight Against Amalgamation <i>Strathfield Council v Minister for Local Government &amp; Anor</i>	\$141,591.33	-	Justice Moore declared that the report furnished by the Delegate to the Boundaries Commission was not a valid report under the Local Government Act.

Council carries out enforcement including legal action where required. During 2015-2016, there were a total of 10 Local Court matters involving Council where the offender elected to have the matter heard in Court, and 21 proceedings in the Land & Environment Court.

## Public Interest Disclosures

(S.31 Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and cl. 4(2) Public Interest Disclosure Regulation 2011)

Council is required to report annually on their obligations under the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* and the *Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011*. Council satisfies these obligations with inclusion of this information in its Council's Annual Report.

The reporting period under the Regulation is July 2015 to June 2016.

Requirement	Number
Number of public officials who made Public Interest Disclosures	1
Number of Public Interest Disclosures	1
Of Public Interest Disclosures received, number primarily about:	
• Corrupt conduct	1
• Maladministration	0
• Serious and substantial waste	0
• Government information contravention	0
• Local government pecuniary interest contravention	0
Number of Public Interest Disclosures finalised	0

In accordance with the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994*, Council has adopted the Public Disclosures and Internal Reporting Policy, which is published on Council's website.

Actions have been taken to ensure that Councillors and Council staff are aware of their obligations under the Act. Public Interest Disclosure awareness is included in induction training for new staff and councillors and information is provided on the Council website and internal intranets.

## Rates and Charges Written Off

(Cl.132 Local Government (General) Regulation 2005)

Pensioner rebates totalling \$323,219 were written off during 2015-2016. Rates and annual charges totalling \$381.20 were abandoned during 2015-16.

## Senior Staff Remuneration

(Cl.217 (1) (b) &(c) Local Government (General) Regulation 2005)

Council has classified the following positions as Senior Staff, as defined by the Local Government Act 1993.

- General Manager
- Director Corporate Services
- Director Infrastructure and Development

In 2015-2016, these positions were held by the following members of staff:

General Manager:	David Backhouse, Viv May, Robert Ball, Barry Husking and Peter Jackson
Director Corporate Services:	Neale Redman, Peter Brown, Barry Husking and Peter Jackson
Director Infrastructure and Development:	David Hazeldine and Silvio Falato

The remuneration packages for Senior staff for the financial year ending 30 June 2016 comprise of the salary component, employers contribution and employees salary sacrifice to superannuation, non-cash benefits, and Fringe Benefits Tax. Termination pay, which includes accrued leave, is itemised separately.

The total remuneration package for the position of General Manager was \$763,155.57. This amount is made up of:

Salary component	\$258,520.55
Salary sacrifice/employer contribution to superannuation/basic benefit	\$87,335.78
Non-cash benefit (includes vehicle)	\$12,500
FBT	\$19,637
Termination pay (includes payout of leave accruals)	\$385,162.24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$763,155.57</b>

The total remuneration package for the position of Director Development and Infrastructure was \$332,396.82. This amount is made up of:

Salary component	\$150,818.23
Salary sacrifice/employer contribution to superannuation/basic benefit	\$14,327.73
Non-cash benefit (includes vehicle)	\$25,000
FBT	\$23,381
Termination pay (includes payout of leave accruals)	\$118,869.86
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$332,396.82</b>

The total remuneration package for the position of Director Corporate Services was \$459,540.06. This amount is made up of:

Salary	\$201,013.70
Salary sacrifice/employer contribution to	\$36,145.33



superannuation/basic benefit	
Non-cash benefit (includes vehicle)	\$24,500
FBT	\$0
Termination pay (includes payout of leave accruals)	\$197,881.03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$459,540.06</b>

### **Sponsorships**

*(Strathfield Council Sponsorship Policy)*

The following sponsorship agreements were made in 2015-2016:

<b>Name of sponsor</b>	<b>Value of sponsorship</b>	<b>Description of sponsorship</b>	<b>Date of agreement</b>
Strathfield Plaza	\$15,000	Spring Festival/ Food Festival	August 2016

### **Planning agreements compliance and effects**

*(Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 s.93G (5))*

No planning agreements were made in 2015-2016.

### **Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act (PPIPA) 1998**

*(Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998)*

Strathfield Council manages Privacy and Personal Information in accordance with relevant legislation and Council's Privacy Management Plan. Council's website contains information on privacy management including copies of policies and forms to access or amend personal information held by Council. There have been no privacy applications or requests for review lodged during 2015-16.

### **Swimming Pools Act 1992**

*(Swimming Pools Regulation 2008 Clause 22F (2))*

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Number</b>
No. of inspections of tourist or visitor accommodation	1
No. of inspections of premises on which there more than 2 dwellings	7
No. of certificates of compliance issued under section 22D of the Swimming Pool Act 1992	13
No. of certificates of non-compliance under 18BA of the Swimming Pool Regulation 2008	9

### **Controlling interest in a Corporation, Partnership, Trust, Joint Ventures, Syndicates of other bodies**

*(Local Government Regulation Clause 217(1a7))*

Council has no controlling interests Corporation, Partnership, Trust, Joint Ventures, and Syndicates of other bodies.

### **Partnerships, co-operatives or joint ventures**

*(Local Government Regulation Clause 217(1a8))*

Regional Recycling Materials Contract – Strathfield Council entered into agreement with Burwood, Ashfield, Canada Bay, Leichhardt and Auburn Councils in 2013 for a seven year period for regional recycling materials contract for receiving, sorting and marketing of dry recyclables.

Joint Burwood/Strathfield Recycling Collection Contract – Strathfield Council shares a contract with Burwood Council for Recycling Collection. The current contract was agreed in 2009 for a seven year period which expires in 2016.

### **Stormwater Charge**

*(Local Government Regulation clause 217 (1) (e))*

The Stormwater Management Service Charge is made in accordance with the *Local Government Amendment (Stormwater) Act 2005* and amendments to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. A “stormwater management service” is defined as a service to manage the quantity or quality, or both, of stormwater that flows off land, and includes a service to manage the re-use of stormwater for any purpose.

Council has established a Stormwater Management Service Charge and in 2015-2016 levied the charge at:

- \$25.00 for land categorised as residential
- \$12.50 per residential strata lot, including residential flats, community title, tenants-in-common residential units.
- \$25 for land categorised as business, plus an additional \$25 for each 350 square metres or part of 350 square metres by which the area of the parcel of land exceeds 350 square metres.
- \$12.50 for business strata lots.
- No charge for persons eligible for pensioner rate rebates.

All funds raised through the stormwater charge must be used for stormwater management projects. The annual income from the charge in 2015-2016 was \$274,000 and will be applied to works scoped for implementation in the 2016-2017 financial years.

### **Work on Private Land**

*(Section 67 Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 clause (1) (a4))*

*Council’s Dividing Fences Policy states that Council will contribute 25% of total costs of fence repairs or replacement for fences which border Council properties including parks. Council contributed 25% of costs to the following fence repairs or replacements:*

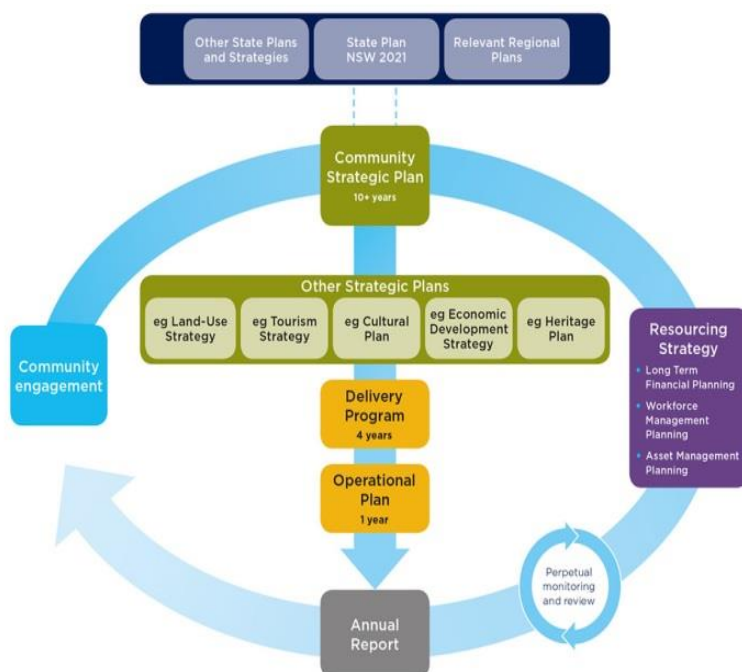
<b>Address</b>	<b>Value (+GST)</b>
59 Pemberton Rd, Strathfield	\$222.75
27 Augusta St, Strathfield	\$416.77
57 Pemberton Rd, Strathfield	\$786.50
10 Chiswick St, South Strathfield	\$257.30
60 Shortland St, Strathfield	\$482.50

# INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING FRAMEWORK

Council is required under the Local Government Act to adopt an Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework which takes into account social, economic, environmental and civic leadership considerations. The process and strategic and operational plans are set out below.

## Community Strategic Plan ‘Strathfield 2025’

‘Strathfield 2025’ represents the shared vision for Strathfield – both Council and the community - and sets clear goals and strategies to meet this vision. Strathfield 2025 is based on the five broad inter-related themes of Connectivity, Community Wellbeing, Prosperity and Opportunities, Liveable Neighbourhoods and Responsible Leadership. These themes are derived from an extensive community engagement process, which identified priorities for the community’s future



## Delivery Program and Operational Plan

Strathfield 2025 is supported by the Council’s Delivery Program (4 year plan) and Operational Plan (annual) which include a series of targets under each of the goals and strategies to measure the delivery of Strathfield 2025.

## Resourcing Strategy

The Resourcing Strategy supports the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plans. It consists of three components long-term financial plan, asset management plan and workforce management plan.

## Measuring and Reporting

The Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan are monitored through half yearly, annual and End of Term reports and quarterly and annual financial reports to Council.

# REPORTING ON PROGRESS

The Annual Report provides a report on Council's progress towards implementation of the Delivery Program and actions outlined in the annual Operational Plan. These plans were developed to support the themes set out in the Community Strategic Plan 'Strathfield 2025'.

The five themes are:

- Connectivity
- Community Wellbeing
- Prosperity and Opportunities
- Liveable Neighbourhoods
- Responsible Leadership

This report highlights achievements against these plans in 2015-2016.

# CONNECTIVITY THEME

*The Connectivity Theme concerns understanding how Strathfield connects and integrates with the broader Inner West and Sydney region is critical to providing transport that is easy and safe to use, planning infrastructure that is adequate for growth and improving information and communication technologies to connect to local community to the world.*

## **Achievements in 2015-2016 include:**

### **Addressing transport management**

Council made representations to Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) and State MPs in relation to public transport issues including Arthur Street/Centenary Drive and Marlborough Road Public Safety matters, M4 and WestConnex proposals. Council lodged submissions on the WestConnex Construction and Management Plan in January 2016.

Council attended meetings with Transport for NSW regarding the Parramatta Light Rail proposal in March, May and June 2016.

Council continued consultations with Urban Growth and Greater Sydney Commission concerning the Parramatta Road Transformation Strategy and District Planning strategies.

Council attended quarterly Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre and lodged objections to the Department of Planning and Environment in May 2016.

Council's Active Transport Plan commenced preparation with completion due in late 2016.

The Strathfield Town Centre Working Group was initiated inviting key government agencies including Department of Planning and Environment, Transport for NSW and neighbouring Councils.

### **Roads and footpath works**

Council implemented road works programs at the following locations: Two sections of Albert Road totalling 1374m<sup>2</sup>, Albyn Road (1925m<sup>2</sup>), Barker Road (612m<sup>2</sup>), Underwood Road (1968m<sup>2</sup>) and Wallis Avenue (1400m<sup>2</sup>).

Footpath works completed include: Pomeroy Street (528 m<sup>2</sup>), Redmyre Road (1036 m<sup>2</sup>), The Crescent (530m<sup>2</sup>) and Knight Street (417 m<sup>2</sup>). Additional work completed includes Amarina Ave (210m<sup>2</sup>), Chisholm Street (301.5m<sup>2</sup>), Bridge Road (346m<sup>2</sup>), Birnam Grove (712m<sup>2</sup>) and Drew Street (74m<sup>2</sup>).

Federal funding was received for the following projects: Intersection of Coronation Parade & Hill Street, Strathfield South - Upgrade intersection from Give Way to Stop signage and install raised island - \$50,000, Hedges Avenue and Hume Highway intersection, Strathfield – close the gap in the median island in Hume Highway and prohibit right turn movements at the intersection - \$100,000, Arthur Street and Hampstead Road, Strathfield - Install raised islands and upgrade to Stop sign - \$50,000, Intersection of Homebush Road and Burlington Road, Homebush – implement intersection safety measures, associated signage and line marking - \$125,000. Arthur Street and

Francis Street, Strathfield - construct raised islands with associated signage and line marking - \$75,000.

### **Enforcement and maintenance**

Council's parking officers regularly patrol the CBD areas, school areas and areas which are identified with parking and enforcement issues.

All requests for repair of roads and footpaths are investigated and prioritised according to their severity within Council's Condition Rating System. Repair is then undertaken according to priority rating. Urgent cases are "made safe" within three working days of inspection. In 2015-2016, a total of 1002 potholes, 244 footpath trippers repaired and 557 signs maintained under the above response regime.

### **Ensure regional development effectively integrates and supports healthy urban ecosystems**

Strathfield Council plays a strong role in protecting and improving the health of its local river catchments. 53% of the Strathfield Council is located in the Cooks River catchment and 47% in the Parramatta River catchment. Catchment management involves regional planning and as such, Council participates in multi-council catchment management groups such as the Cooks River Alliance (CRA) and Parramatta River Catchment Group (PRCG).

Cooks River Alliance is focused on range of activities to improve the health of the river. In particular, projects involving Strathfield include developing plans for construction of a rainwater garden in Madeline Street Strathfield South for completion in 2016-2017, preparation of an Aboriginal history of the Cooks River and development of systems for management of information on the Cooks River.

The Parramatta River Catchment Group launched the Living River program, which aims to reintroduce swimming in the Parramatta River by 2025. In 2016, the Parramatta River Coastal Management Zone Plan was gazetted and features a number of projects in the Strathfield Council area to improve the health of the river system.

### **Library and Information Services**

Strathfield Council provides a seven day a week library service and operates two libraries at Strathfield Library and High Street.

Strathfield's Library and Information Services had a total membership of 18,687 and received 319,632 visits to the end of 2015-2016. A total of 215,978 loans of library resources were made. Strathfield has reciprocal arrangements with other Councils which enable collections to be shared to meet patron demands. A total of 11,713 items were placed on hold.

The Library service has large and diverse print and digital collections with access to online databases, meeting and study rooms, photocopiers, computers and Wi-Fi during opening hours. Council also maintains a specialist local studies collection which collects, preserves and organises information concerning the Strathfield Local Government Area. Library resources and programs are designed to meet the information, recreation and cultural needs of the Strathfield community.

The Library service is continually expanding its online presence through an active Facebook page and provision of online services which enables the community to directly access databases and e-Resources such as eBooks, e-Audiobooks and electronic magazines subscriptions. Public access to the library electronic collections involved 91,682 searches of EBSCO, 3,148 queries of Britannica online resource, 3393 loans of e-magazines and 1,633 loans of eBooks and eAudiobooks.

Public internet access is available at both the Main and Branch libraries via public computers and Wi-Fi on own devices. In 2015-2016, there were 30,301 computer sessions totalling 17,963 hours and 86,964 Wi-Fi log-ins.

## **Communications**

Council's website received 750,273 visits in 2015-2016 with increasing numbers of views from mobile devices. The website is regularly monitored to ensure that information is available and up-to-date. Council supports a range of social media including a Council and Library Facebook Page, Twitter and Instagram.

Regular communications were issued to the public on decisions, activities and events such as flyers to households to promote events (Spring Festival, Food Festival, etc.), inform the community about services (Waste calendar) and to communicate important messages from Council such as the Mayor's letter with each quarterly rates notice. A new Council newsletter was launched in April 2016

The Council Column appears in the Inner West Courier. Complementing the Council Column was a range of other advertisements and public notices that not only appeared in the Inner West Courier, but also publications in various languages.

Council maintains relationships with the local and metropolitan media by providing media briefings on a regular basis and issue of information on Council initiatives and programs. In 2015-2016, a total of 50 media releases were issued.

Council also issues translated information to non-English language media including Chinese, Korean, Arabic and Indian language publications. The main publications used are Tamil Australian, Hoju Donga (Korean), Daily Chinese Herald (Chinese), Epoch Times (Chinese and English), El Telegraph and Al Anwar (Arabic), Weekly Korea Town, Sydney Korean Herald and Top News (Korean)

Council provides community noticeboards at Town Centres to promote upcoming activities and programs to the local community. Information is regularly reviewed and updated with current information.

## **Access to Council Information**

Council provides timely access to Council information to meet community needs and legislative requirements.

- Council determined 11 formal and 324 informal access requests in 2015-2016. The majority of requests related to access and retrieval of development approvals and associated documentation from Council's records.

- A large range of Council documents are published on the Council website to ensure the public has ease of access to information that may affect them. The website is regularly reviewed to identify information that may be proactively published.
- Council's Agency Information Guide provides information to the public about information held by Council and how to access information. The guide is reviewed annually and is available on Council's website.



# COMMUNITY WELLBEING THEME

*The Community Wellbeing theme concerns the wellbeing of the local community is supported and enhanced by providing safe, clean, healthy and attractive environments, access to public spaces and community facilities, and opportunities to participate in programs and activities.*

## **Achievements in 2015-2016 include:**

### **Community Safety**

While law enforcement is a State Government responsibility, Council monitors community safety trends and works in co-operation with Flemington Police Local Area Command and other authorities to initiate and deliver a range of community safety and crime prevention initiatives. In 2015-2016, this included:

- The Community Safety Strategy was reviewed and updated. The draft strategy was placed on public exhibition in June 2016. Investigations were completed and planned to rollout CCTV.
- Improvement of lighting in key Council areas (streets, parks, car parks) and in liaison with Ausgrid for installation of new lights at these locations.
- Representations to improve police services in Strathfield and raise the visibility and awareness through attendance at various community events and activities.
- White Ribbon Day program was delivered at 4 local high schools including St Patricks College. Over 3000 young people were engaged in this activity to stop domestic violence.
- Stop Domestic Violence forum was held in May 2016.
- Community Safety BBQ's were held in six locations across the Strathfield Council area.

Council ran a number of road safety campaigns including:

- "Slowdown in Strathfield" education campaign, pedestrian safety advertising in major town centres, "Stop, Listen and Think" bookmarks and brochures, VMS trailer with slowdown messages at various locations.
- Issue of child restraint vouchers as part of 'Choose Right Buckle Right' program.

### **Public Health and Safety**

Council investigates complaints relating to pollution and public safety. In 2015-2016, a total of 132 air, water, and noise pollution complaints were inspected and investigated. The majority of these were noise complaints.

Reports of abandoned vehicles were attended to within 24 hours and processed according to legislation. Generally the vehicles are removed from the street within 10 days. In 2015-2016, a total of 256 vehicles were identified as potentially abandoned. Council Rangers regularly patrol and monitor known abandoned vehicle sites in attempting to reduce the incidents of abandoned vehicles. Council removed over 300 abandoned trolleys from public streets, nature strips or waterways in Strathfield Council area.

### **Graffiti Vandalism**

Council is committed to minimising graffiti vandalism in public places in Strathfield. In 2015-2016, Council removed 51 incidents of graffiti from public areas eg parks, council utilities, furniture and buildings within 24 hours of the report and reported 33 incidents of graffiti on State Government property. Council and Strathfield Rotary organised Graffiti Removal Day encouraging locals to volunteer their time and get involved in the removal and prevention of graffiti.

### **Community Facilities**

Upgrades to Tavistock Reserve and Bressington Park including design work for the Bressington Park car park was completed.

The Homebush War Memorial in Davey Square Memorial was upgraded and refurbished in September 2015. The new Memorial Wall in Davey Square was completed in October 2015.

Works commenced on upgrading the Council facility at 69 Redmyre Road Strathfield.

The upgrade of the playground and park embellishment of Henley Reserve at Homebush West was completed in December 2015.

Council continued with the facilitation and design of the Korean Memorial Garden proposal at Bressington Park

Council provided access to community facilities including parks, sportsgrounds and venues, by members of the public and sporting, recreational and community organisations and clubs under regular, seasonal or casual use arrangements.

Strathfield's parks and sportsgrounds were hired primarily for sports and recreational purposes including football, soccer, Oztag, touch football, cricket, netball, basketball, physical fitness (personal training) and volleyball by community and sporting clubs, schools and individuals.

### **Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities**

Strathfield is a highly culturally and linguistically diverse area which includes residents born in China, Korea, India, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. To meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups, the following services and events were provided:

- Harmony Day was held at Airey Park in March 2016 with 2800 participants attending.
- English language classes and ESOL classes to support residents improving English language skills.
- Provision of Library collections of materials for children and adults in languages other than English including books, newspapers, magazines, music CDs and DVDs in Chinese, Korean and Tamil languages.
- Road to IELTS (International English Language Testing System) both General and Advanced Training that provide users with interactive exercises to prepare for exams.
- To ensure access and equity for CALD people to Council's services and to encourage participation, Council provides translation services and language assistance through Language Aides as well as utilising the national Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS). Council has also developed Community Language Guides in Chinese and Korean for Council's website and in print form for Council's Customer Service Centre.

## **Older residents, carers and people with a disability**

Council supported older people, people with disability and carers living in the community by:

- Operation of a centre-based day care three days per week for the frail and elderly at Strathfield Community Centre supported by HACC.
- Council's Community Access Plan was endorsed by Council on 5 May, 2015 and lodged with the HREOC Disability Discrimination Commissioner.
- Seniors Week activities and programs for positive ageing and wellbeing including Gentle Exercise and Line Dancing.
- Information sessions delivered covering 'Controlling Your Life', NSN, Vital Call alerts and visitations to the Independent Living Centre,
- Twilight Tours were run in partnership with the Inner West Community Transport.
- The Liberty Wheels program was developed with volunteers trained and sessions delivered. Bocce for People with a disability.
- Autism Spectrum outreach sessions were provided to local residents.
- The International Day of Disability celebrations held at the Dutton Centre and supported activities at Chalmers Road School.
- 128 Home Library visits to housebound residents with 684 loans of large print, audiobooks, DVDs, Music CDs and magazines.

## **Children and youth**

Council promotes and facilitates services and programs in partnership with family service providers to meet the needs of children, youth and families in Strathfield. This includes support for local playgroups, children's week programmes and childcare facilities. Council also networks with other councils and community providers and disseminates information on available children's services and programs in the local and inner west areas.

- Council runs programs and activities for children and young people during school holidays, including programs delivered for children with a disability. Council held Movies in the Park over the summer season.
- Council provides childcare services in the Strathfield Local Government Area at the Strathfield Children's Centre in Homebush, Strathfield Sessional Preschool in Homebush, Kurrallee Long Day Childcare Centre in Homebush West and 25 Broughton Road Homebush (HOOSH). These services are provided under licence agreement.
- Plans for a safe outdoor play area at Bates Street Community Centre were approved with completion in late 2016.
- Walk Safely to School Day program was held in May 2016.
- Council delivered Youth Week programs in conjunction with Mad Friday's partnership with Auburn Youth Centre. A Youth Film Workshop was run in September 2015 with participants from 4 local high schools. .
- The HSC Art Exhibition was held in December 2015 and featured both HSC and Year 11 artworks from eight local schools. As part of Council's Sister City Gapyeong County Council, Seorak High School also provided artworks to exhibit.
- All Library activities and events have an educational focus and include baby bounce, preschool story times, after school hours and school holiday activities and HSC Seminars. Support is provided to local high school students undertaking the community services component of the

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and work experience programs for local students in year 10 are also facilitated.

- The Council Library Service provided after school and school holiday programs as well as Baby Bounce and Preschool Storytime sessions during school semesters. In 2015-2016, a total of 120 children's programs were held.

### **Community participation programs**

- Council partners with many local organisations to delivery programs including The Tax Help program and School for Seniors monthly Book Club. Council's Library service provides work placements from TAFE & University as requested, exam supervision for external and distance education students, Justice of the Peace services and promotion of Cancer Council activities.
- In 2015-2016, the Library hosted the Tax Help program, with 36 people benefiting from the program. 36 book club sessions were delivered with 276 participants and books were provided to the 12 book club sessions comprising of 60 participants at the Strathfield School for Seniors.

# PROSPERITY AND OPPORTUNITIES THEME

*The Prosperity and Opportunities theme concerns providing opportunities for prosperity through innovative business development, improving regulatory systems and promoting a sense of civic pride and economic benefits.*

## **Achievements in 2015-2016 include:**

### **Business support**

Council had ongoing liaison with local businesses, potential new business operators and the local business chambers, through various workshops and other forums continues to assist Council in understanding business needs and barriers. Council facilitated a number of programs for local businesses which included Small Biz Connect Business Advisory workshops, ATO Workshops, BizBus, Business Planning workshop and Business Strategy Masterclass.

Data and decision making tools to assist local or prospective businesses in the Strathfield area such as demographic, economic and planning were updated on the Council website. Availability of accurate and up-to-date information provides prospective and existing businesses with information to assist in making decisions.

Council's Outdoor Dining Policy and Footpath Trading Policy were substantially reviewed and updated to include disability requirements. These policies were adopted in June 2016.

### **Regulatory inspections**

In order that local businesses meet health and safety standards, Council carried out a comprehensive program of public health inspections.

- A total of 461 inspections of food handling premises were carried out with business assessed as 'high risk' inspected twice each year. Most non-compliances related to temperature control and poor hygiene practices. A total of 37 penalty notices and 6 improvement notices were issued and 27 complaints in relation to food premises were received and investigated.
- Information was provided to operators of local foods shops on food handling, hygiene and safety. A number of informal food handling, hygiene and safety information sessions were undertaken in conjunction with food shop inspection, where food shops were found to have poor food safety standards.
- Council conducted 39 inspections of water cooling towers and all inspections of premises, which may pose a risk to public health such as hairdressing, beauty therapy, acupuncture, ear piercing, cosmetic tattoo, manicure/pedicure and waxing, were completed.

### **Improving Town Centres and Streetscapes**

To improve Strathfield's Town Centres and streetscapes, initiatives and maintenance has been regularly undertaken.

- Christmas Festive Decoration program was expanded to include decoration of town centres over the Christmas/New Year period, LED lighting and Strathfield Town Centre and decorative coverage of selected residential streets decoration coverage.

- Daily cleaning and waste removal from Town Centre and more intensive cleaning scheduled where required.
- Regular sweeping of all streets in Strathfield with increased services after storms with increased leaf litter.
- Regular inspections of drainage and clearing of pits based on inspections, heavy rainfall, identification of hot spots and reports of major blockages.

### **Celebrate and acknowledge civic and community achievements**

The Strathfield Citizen of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year awards were presented on Australia Day 2016. The 2016 awards were presented to Ivana Morris and Jafer Naim respectively. Both received their awards in recognition for their extensive community service work, which has not only made a valuable contribution to Strathfield, but also to the wider community.

Citizenship ceremonies were held each quarter and on Australia Day 2016. A total of 305 citizens were conferred citizenship at ceremonies officiated by the Mayor.

### **Events to promote Strathfield**

In 2015-2016, Council organised and promoted a range of community events, which included:

- National Tree Day
- Strathfield Spring Festival
- Strathfield Food Festival including food tours
- Carols by Candlelight
- Movies in the Park program
- Australia Day activities
- HSC Art Exhibition
- Clean Up Australia Day activities
- Harmony Day celebrations
- Cooks River Fun Run.

Council also provided financial support for events organised by community organisations such as the Deepavali Festival and the 'Old Fashioned May Fun Fair' at Strathfield Square.

Council continued to commit to informing the community of events and workshops. All households in Strathfield were issued with an events calendar on a quarterly basis. In addition, specific website and social media strategies have been developed for Council's major events, including the Strathfield Spring Festival, Food Festival, Movies in the Park and Cooks River Fun Run, which includes websites, Facebook and Instagram. Community participation and social media presence continues to increase on an annual basis.

# LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS THEME

*The Liveable Neighbourhoods theme concerns supporting high quality, well planned and sustainable urban and natural environments that balance well designed and innovative development with existing local character whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environments.*

## **Achievements in 2015-2016 include:**

### **Building and Development**

The majority of building and development determinations in the Strathfield Council area concerned multi-storey residential developments particularly along Parramatta Road and to a lesser extent Liverpool Road.

The processing of development, modification and a variety of other building related applications involved a total of 167 development applications (DA's). The estimated construction cost for all Development Applications received during the 2015-2016 period exceeded \$376 million.

A total of 102 s.96 applications, 129 Complying Development Certificates (CDC's), 109 Construction Certificates (CC's) and 168 Occupation Certificates (OCs) were issued.

The draft Powells Creek Flood Risk Management Plan was prepared and placed on public exhibition for adoption in 2016.

### **Heritage**

Strathfield Council contains a number of recognisable architectural styles for each period of Strathfield's residential development and provides proactive programs for the protection and conservation of important historic and heritage listed properties. These included:

- Free heritage advisory services to owners of heritage properties. Professional advice assists owners of heritage properties with conservation and maintenance work.
- Access to the Strathfield Heritage Financial Assistance Fund. The fund distributes annual grants to assist with the funding of heritage conservation and restoration works for privately owned heritage listed properties. Conservation works included brickwork restoration, timber restoration, leadlight windows, slate roof repair, front facade painting and front fencing.
- Heritage Conservation Awards were presented in August 2015. The three winners were owners of 41 Broughton Road Homebush in the category of Residential Building, St Anne's Church, 38-42 Homebush Road Strathfield in the category of Public Building and 102 Homebush Road Strathfield as the Overall Winner.

### **Improving medium to high density liveability**

As Strathfield's population continues to diversify and increase, more residents will be living in medium to high density units, a trend that will continue in the future based on population and density targets. It is important to ensure that these populations are serviced by supportive infrastructure.

Council reviewed its open space and facilities in vicinity of medium to high density units to ascertain impacts and future community needs. Council reviewed and revised the Development Contributions Plan which sets out the local infrastructure required to meet needs of future populations. The draft Direct Contributions Plan was prepared and exhibited over July/August 2016.

Council reviewed and investigated waste collection solutions aimed at reducing illegal dumping and waste contamination particularly in relation to medium to high density units. In 2015-2016, Council implemented waste strategies aimed at improving waste practices in multi-unit dwellings areas. Council distributed multi-language information and made visitations to units to educate unit occupants of waste services, contamination and illegal dumping.

The Strathfield Community Garden at Laker Reserve, Elva Street Strathfield is located close to medium to high density units, where residents have access to outdoor gardening areas. Community gardens enable community members, especially those without access to gardening space, to be actively involved in growing vegetables, fruit and herbs. A number of sustainability workshops were held at the Community Garden.

### **Streets, trees and public spaces**

The urban tree landscape is important to the Strathfield area and contributes to the desirability of living, working and visiting Strathfield. There are an estimated 12,000 street trees and 45,000 trees in Council's parks and reserves. Maintaining tree canopy coverage has a range of benefits to the local community such as improving amenity and visual streetscape appearance, provision of habitat for birds and native animals, improvement of air quality, provision of shade on street and footpaths and reduction of UV radiation and heat energy absorption. During 2015-2016, a total of 97 application for tree pruning or removal and 14 service requests were processed. A number of incidents of tree vandalism were reported and investigated.

### **Waste services**

Council's domestic waste collection service provides weekly garbage, on-call collections, fortnightly recycling and green waste collection to households. For the last two years, Council has trialled a Food and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection to 1557 Single Unit Dwellings (SUD's), which collected 1,093.18 tonnes of food and organic matter.

Over the 2015-2016 year, Council serviced approximately 469,248 domestic waste bins, 362,960 recycling bins and 339,196 green waste bins. Domestic waste constituted 62% of total waste. 38% was diverted from landfill.

Households in Strathfield LGA are provided with three on-call clean up services per year to remove household items. In 2015-2016, there was a total of 6353 clean up services collecting 889.42 tonnes of waste. Clean ups are source separated on the kerbside to divert recyclable materials from landfill. Car batteries, metal and mattresses collected from clean ups are taken back to the depot where they are recycled by the appropriate recycling companies.



To promote community awareness and reduce the incidence of illegal dumping, Council has introduced programs including: Mobile Muster, Community recycling stations for recycling of problem wastes such as household batteries, globes, CD's and DVD's, Bin Inspection Programs, Garage Trail Sale, Safe Sharps Disposal from participating chemists, Bin Reconciliation Audits and Waste education programs designed for primary schools in the Strathfield LGA.

The Bin Inspection Program is aimed at reducing the level of contamination in recycling bins. A total of 1,405 SUD recycling bins and 1,146 MUD recycling bins were inspected. Over the course of the program the SUDs inspection area demonstrated a 20% increase in the amount of bins with no notable contamination. The combined MUDs inspection areas showed a 10% increase in bins with no notable contamination at the end of the program

### **Safety of the built environment**

Council provides effective and timely compliance management to ensure that building and associated works comply with legal and safety standards. Effective compliance is also supported by education and community awareness.

In 2015-2016, Council inspected building worksites on an ongoing basis in response to consents, permits and complaints by Council Rangers and Development Compliance Officers or in response to complaints from the community where situations are likely to affect health or safety or create nuisance. Council generally responds to requests within ten working days or complaints of a more serious nature within 48 hours. Where necessary Orders to Comply and fines are issued.

Council inspects boarding houses and brothels and investigates complaints in accordance with Council's Service Standards.

A total of 178 complaints were investigated concerning unauthorised uses of land eg brothels, unauthorised works, boarding houses etc.

Commercial and medium to high density properties are required to comply with fire safety regulations. Council issues reminders to strata managers prior to due date of annual fire safety statements. Council issues infringements to all non-compliant properties. Council maintains a Fire Safety Register and the certification process is undertaken annually. In 2015-2016, 372 Fire Safety Certificates were received by Council and no fines were issued.

### **Natural Environment**

Urbanisation and land clearing have significantly reduced Strathfield's natural bushland areas. The remaining bushland areas are fragmented thereby reducing the viability of habitat to support populations of native fauna (animals and birds). A updated Fauna review and study was commenced in 2016 to ascertain the state of Strathfield's biodiversity and involves seasonal fieldwork. This will be completed in 2017 and be used to review and Council's biodiversity programs.

The main greenspace types in Strathfield are confined largely to urban parks and reserves which include bush remnants, revegetated parkland, open parkland, urban neighbourhood parks and wetlands. Cox's Creek Bushland Reserve contains the threatened ecological community of Cooks

River/Castlereagh Ironbark Forest, which formerly existed across most of the non-tidal areas prior to clearing for rural and urban development.

Revegetated parkland sites consist of mostly native tree, shrub and ground cover species planted in blocks or strips along the upper Cooks River and at Mason Park. Open parkland sites are dominated by open grassed and paved surfaces with some areas of indigenous and exotic vegetation. These are located within residential and industrial areas of the Strathfield LGA.

A remnant wetland complex of she-oaks, mangroves and saltmarsh fringe the mudflats, debris islands, and shallow open water at the Mason Park Wetlands. Ecological restoration work continued in Council's natural areas and wetlands which includes Coxs Creek Reserve, Mason Park Wetlands, Yarrowee Wetland, Davidson Street Bushland and Maria Reserve.

Council has implemented bush regeneration programs to improve habitat at Council's two bushland reserves, Coxs Creek Reserve and Mason Park Wetlands. Bush regeneration reduces the risk of fire by minimising the occurrence of fire prone weeds, planting fire resistant native plants and generally reduces conditions favourable to fire. Grassed fire breaks at both reserves are maintained on a regular basis by mowing.

Council's volunteer Bushcare program and National Tree Day in July 2015 brought together Council and the community to work towards enhancing natural areas and parks, through bush regeneration, planting and enhancement of wildlife habitat. In 2015-2016, National Tree Day and bushcare activities were held at sites including Bressington Park, Cooke Park, South End Reserve, Palmer Reserve and Maria Reserve.

Council's Nursery has been raising local native plant species at the Weeroona Road Works Depot since 1996. Since this time over 150,000 plants, comprising more than 160 species, from the Cooks River Castlereagh Ironbark Forest, Cumberland Woodland, Turpentine - Ironbark Forest and Saltmarsh vegetation communities have been propagated. Species propagated range from minute groundcovers, such as *Laxmannia gracilis* (Slender Wire-Lily), to large trees such as *Eucalyptus longifolia* (Woollybutt). The nursery has contributed extensively to local revegetation projects by providing locally indigenous plants. Plants are also used for restoration projects, frog pond habitat, garden restoration and general plantings.

In 2015-16, a total of 18,502 plants were produced by Council's nursery and the majority used in Council parks and projects.

### **Community Education**

Sustainability education and information was delivered at events such as Strathfield Spring Festival, Cooks River Big Day Out and to local kindergartens and schools. Education covered such as topics as worm farming, composting, biodiversity, waste and recycling which promoted good environmental and sustainability practices.

Council participated in the Treading Lightly program, which is collaboration between Burwood, City of Canada Bay, Inner West and Strathfield Councils. The program involves developing, managing and promoting sustainability themed workshops and events, which members of the public can register to attend. Workshops were held in Strathfield on composting and worm farming, cooking with fresh garden vegies, indoor plants and healthy indoor homes and organic gardening pest and disease management were held, many located at the Strathfield Community Garden.

# RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP THEME

*The Responsible Leadership theme concerns achieving the goals of the plan by making improvements to infrastructure and delivering and facilitating better services by responsible management of community assets and consistent delivery of efficient and effective services.*

## Achievements in 2015-2016 include:

### Councillors

Councillors are the governing body of the Council and are directly elected by the community. Councillors are responsible for setting and monitoring the strategic direction of the Council and making policy decisions on behalf of and for the benefit of the Strathfield community.

Cr Sang Ok and Cr Andrew Soulos were elected in September 2015 as the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Strathfield for 2015-2016.

A total of 14 ordinary meetings were held from July 2015 to June 2016 and 16 Extraordinary Council Meetings were held from July 2015 to June 2016. The recorded meeting attendance is:

Councillor	Ordinary Meetings Attended	Extraordinary Meetings Attended
Councillor Daniel Bott	13	16
Councillor Raj Datta	14	13
Councillor Stephanie Kokkolis	12	14
Councillor Helen McLucas	12	15
Councillor Sang Ok	11	14
Councillor Andrew Soulos	14	16
Councillor Gulian Vaccari	14	15

The following councillors were appointed to represent Strathfield Council on the following statutory, regional bodies or committees involving members of public in the 2015-2016 year:

Committee	Delegate	Alternative Delegate
Cooks River Alliance	Cr Andrew Soulos	Cr Gulian Vaccari
Parramatta River Catchment Group	Cr Andrew Soulos	Cr Gulian Vaccari
Sydney Metro Mayors	Cr Sang Ok	Cr Andrew Soulos
Flemington LAC Community Safety	Cr Stephanie Kokkolis	Cr Helen McLucas
Traffic Committee	Cr Gulian Vaccari	Cr Andrew Soulos
Audit Committee	Cr Stephanie Kokkolis	Cr Daniel Bott

The following Chair and Deputy Chairs were appointed to Council Advisory Committees, Taskforces and Steering Committees for the 2015-2016 year:

Committee	Chairperson	Deputy Chairperson
Youth Engagement Advisory Committee	Cr Stephanie Kokkolis	Cr Daniel Bott
Civic Events Committee	Cr Raj Datta	Cr Stephanie Kokkolis
Community Development	Cr Helen McLucas	Cr Raj Datta

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Chairperson</b>	<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>
Committee		
Local Government Reforms Taskforce	Cr Gulian Vaccari	Cr Daniel Bott
Homebush Centre Taskforce	Cr Stephanie Kokkolis	Cr Andrew Soulos
Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre	Cr Gulian Vaccari	Cr Sang Ok
Anti-Graffiti	Cr Gulian Vaccari	Cr Stephanie Kokkolis
Bike Track	Cr Daniel Bott	Cr Andrew Soulos
Australian Korean Memorial Gardens Steering Committee	Cr Sang Ok	Cr Gulian Vaccari
Strathfield Town Centre Master Plan	Cr Sang Ok	Cr Gulian Vaccari

### **Fit for the Future and Local Government Reform**

In September 2014, the NSW Government released its 'Fit for the Future' program and proposed that Strathfield Council be merged with Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils. Council submitted its preferred positions to stand alone.

As required by the NSW Government, Strathfield Council considered the terms of the proposed merger of six Inner West Councils as recommended by the Panel and consulted with the Strathfield community. Consultation with the Strathfield community indicated that over 80% supported Strathfield remaining a stand-alone council. On the basis of the views of the community and the ability of Council to meet all financial benchmarks, Council submitted a proposal to stand alone.

In December 2015, the NSW Government announced their proposal to merge Strathfield with Burwood and Canada Bay Councils and in January 2016, a Delegate was appointed to review the proposal and make recommendations to NSW Government for decision. Council presented its submission to the Delegate strongly arguing against forced amalgamation.

In May 2016, Strathfield Council submitted a court challenge against the merger. In September 2016, Justice Moore of the Land & Environment Court upheld the Council's case and ruled that the Delegate failed to address two mandatory requirements in his report and as such did not comply with the requirements under the Local Government Act.

At the time of writing, this matter is still outstanding and not resolved.

### **Community engagement and participation in decision making**

Significant decisions affecting the community are made at Council and Committee meetings. Council promotes and facilitates participation by members of the public in Council and Committee meetings. In 2015-2016, Council held 8 open forums which entitled members of the public to raise issues directly to the Council. Members are also entitled to request to speak to matters tabled at Council meetings. A total of 96 requests to speak at meetings were received by Council in 2015-2016.

Council and Committee meeting agendas and business papers were published three days prior to scheduled meeting on Council's website, libraries and Customer Service Centre. Council published

the minutes of Council and Committee meetings within five working days of the meeting on Council's website. This ensured the community as well as those with specific interest in Council decisions are quickly notified of Council decisions.

Council's meetings were conducted in accordance with the Council's Code of Meeting Practice which governs the processes and procedures of Council meetings. The Code is consistent with requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*. The Code of Meeting Practice is published on Council's website.

In 2015-2016, Council organised three Area Community Updates servicing different geographical areas of the Strathfield Council area including Strathfield and Homebush, Homebush (North) and Homebush West and Strathfield South. Area updates provided an opportunity for residents and interested parties to direct questions to Councillors and senior staff and also hear up to date news on Council initiatives and projects.

Council notified the community on a wide range of proposals via Council's website, newspapers and where required through direct correspondence. Examples of public notification include tenders, planning proposals or controls, statutory reports such as Operational Plan, Fees and Charges, Financial Statements, policies, licences and leases on community land etc. Tenders and Expressions of Interest (EOI) are notified on Council's online tendering system at [www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/tenderlink](http://www.strathfield.nsw.gov.au/tenderlink).

## **Workforce Management**

Council's Workforce Management Plan, Delivery Program and annual Operational Plans set out Council's services and activities and performance measurements. All staff are required to develop an annual workplan which aligns with the Delivery Program and Operational Plan to ensure that adopted plans are implemented within their resource allocations. Council's Performance Management system involves bi-annual assessment of individual staff performance. In 2015-2016, Council implemented new detailed guidelines for goal setting and performance review processes and establishment of Performance Improvement Plans in the Performance Management Policy. Training in new processes was implemented across all council operations.

All new staff are required to attend the Corporate Induction program. This program guides the development of Council's knowledge and ensures all staff have a full understanding of the Council's operations, service standards, ethical conduct and their performance expectations. Council's Induction and Onboarding processes were reviewed in 2015-2016, incorporating involvement from stakeholders throughout Council's various sections

A number of workshops and training courses were provided to staff across different functional areas of Council.

Council is responsible for the provision of a safe working environment to its staff and community. Council's Work Health and Safety (WH&S) Systems Plan was reviewed to include changes to legislation and Codes of Practices. Council carries out scheduled site safety audits on all its premises and work sites.

Accidents and injuries are monitored by the Health and Safety Committee. By understanding the type, frequency and severity of injury, Council is able to modify current practices to minimise risk to work health and safety.

### **Internal Audit**

Council's Internal Audit Committee plays an important role in Council's governance framework by providing Council with an independent oversight and monitoring of Council's audit processes, including internal control activities. This oversight includes internal and external reporting, risk management activities, internal and external audit and compliance. The Committee comprises independent community members, an independent Chairperson and councillor representation.

In 2015-2016, an internal audit of Council's agreement with Roads and Maritime Services was undertaken.

### **Customer Service and Complaint Management**

Council's commitment to customer service is outlined in its Customer Service Charter. The Charter is underpinned by a range of policies and standards including its Complaints Management Policy and Service Standards, which outlines performance measurements across a wide range of Council's functions and services. Council's customer services are delivered through a number of mediums including in-person counter enquiries at Council or libraries, via the call centre or from Council's website and on-line services. In 2015-2016, a total of 13,829 counter inquiries calls were received.

Customer services are also delivered via Council's website, which includes interactive on-call household waste management system and mapping tools which enable customers to identify relevant zoning and land uses of properties in the Strathfield Local Government Area are available online.

Council's Complaints Handling Policy established a three tier system for management of complaints regarding Council's services. In 2015-2016, a total of 10 complaints were received and investigated. This Policy also addresses requirements for competitive neutrality and the application of National Competition Policy to Council's activities. One of the major components of the National Competition Policy are the competition principles aimed at encouraging efficient public sector service provision by exposing public business functions to competition where appropriate.

The policy requires that Council determine which of those activities it conducts are to be classified as business activities. In 2015-2016, the only business activity of Strathfield Council is Hudson Park Golf Course, a category 2 business. No complaints were received regarding competition policy.

### **Records Management**

Council implemented a number of records management reviews and projects in 2015-2016, this included:

- Review of Council's record keeping policies and guidelines to support record keeping best practice. Staff training and development has been an ongoing focus ensuring staff are up to date with their responsibilities under the *State Records Act*.

- Appraisal and digitisation of Council's historic records, particularly those pre-1920 including Strathfield, former Homebush and Enfield Council Minutes and Valuation Records. The original print based records are being transferred to State Records for permanent storage.
- Council is participating in the NSW OpenGov program at <https://www.opengov.nsw.gov.au>, which publishes archived open access state and local government records in an online records repository. A number of Council documents such as archived plans of management and annual reports have been published.

## **Information Technology**

During 2015-2016, Council initiated a number of projects, which included:

- Enhancement of asset systems through rollout of data collection devices which facilitate on-site collection and maintenance of data. A Development Application (DA) tracking system was developed and implementation is pending the finalisation of user testing. An automated system for production of S.149 certificate was finalised.
- Council's core application systems have been maintained to supported standards.
- A Wide Area Management (WAN) link was finalised in October 2015, which enabled Council to implement IP phone system, with improved functionality and recoverability. Over 2015-2016, Council's communication networks were substantially upgraded.
- Infrastructure required to meet Commonwealth Government NBN migration initiative was upgraded.

## **Sustainability**

Council has adopted a range of sustainability plans, policies and actions to reduce usage of energy, water, gas and fuel and to reduce Council's greenhouse emissions, across all areas of Council's operations. In 2015-2016, there was a general decline in usage, and a reduction in service costs and charges.

Council monitors energy and water use via services provided by Planet Footprint which reports on energy and water usage and identifies anomalies. Council participates in quarterly reviews, which are focused on identification of changes in use or billing and anomaly reporting as well as its performance in comparison to similar sized organisations. As a result of anomaly reporting, Council investigates unexplained increases in energy and water use, which may indicate broken pipes or leaks.

# ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

A snapshot of key environmental indicators affecting the Strathfield Council area.

## **Air**

Air Quality is monitored by Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and is reported on a daily basis on their website. Council has a limited sphere of influence over air quality in the local area. However, as managers of the local area, Council is aware of local air quality and works with other sectors of government, industry and the community to improve air quality.

According to Regional Air Quality Index, air quality in the Strathfield area in 2015-2016 was Very Good for 87 days (23.77%), Good for 218 days (59.56%), Fair for 44 days (12.02%), Poor for 11 days (3.01%) and Hazardous for 5 days (1.37%). The index indicates that air quality was very good, good or fair for 95.36% of the year.

## **Biodiversity**

Strathfield has pockets of ecological significance such as Mason Park Wetland that supports many species of international migratory birds. Ironbark/Turpentine forest remnants are also to be found in the Cox's Creek Reserve. Wherever possible, corridors of vegetation linking isolated pockets are to be maintained or established.

The protection of protected and threatened species including the Green and Golden Bell Frog (*Litoria aurea*), Tadgell's Bluebell (*Wahlenbergia multicaulis*) and Downy Wattle (*Acacia pubescens*) continue to be the focus of ecological restoration works through programs such as Bushcare.

Weeds and feral animals continue to threaten natural areas by competing with local species for space, light and food. Various invasive species such as foxes, feral cats and weeds, recognised under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* as key threatening processes are known to inhabit Strathfield. Action has been initiated to monitor and address feral populations threatening to the natural environment.

In 2015-2016, an updated Fauna Study was commissioned for completion in 2017, which will inform and guide Council's biodiversity programs. Mapping of all street trees in Strathfield Council was finalised which will aid in location, maintenance and plantings to help connect wildlife corridors as well as keeping the appearance of Strathfield.

## **Heritage (including Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Heritage)**

Council supports the protection of non-Aboriginal Heritage through land-use planning, incentives and professional advice. There are no known Aboriginal Heritage sites in the Strathfield Local Government Area. Heritage items and conservation areas of local heritage significance are listed in the Strathfield Local Environmental Plan, which is statutory planning instrument. There are a



number of items on the State Heritage Register. In 2015-2016, the Mount St Marys Campus of Australian Catholic University was added to the State Heritage Register.

Council's programs include:

- Access to professional heritage advice to owners of heritage property through a free heritage advisory service to owners of heritage properties in the Strathfield Local Government Area.
- Annual financial assistance grants for heritage conservation of heritage listed properties.
- Heritage conservation awards

## **Land**

Council manages public land in accordance with generic or site specific plans of management, legislative provisions and the integrated planning and reporting framework. The largest public land holdings are located in the open space networks along the Cooks River corridor in Strathfield and Strathfield South and Powells Creek Corridor, Homebush.

Council's Plans of Management for Neighbourhood Parks and Community Facilities were reviewed, exhibited and adopted in 2015-2016. The Plan of Management for Neighbourhood Parks includes local parks, ornamental parks, pocket parks, minor or junior sportsgrounds and the small parks or open spaces that form the Cooks River and Powells Creek corridors. The Plan of Management for Community Facilities covers Council facilities such as community centres located on community land.

## **Noise**

During the 2015-2016 year, Council received and investigated 132 air, water and noise pollution complaints. The majority of these were noise complaints. Reports of noise pollution are received from general residential, industrial or commercial sources. Of these, most complaints concern swimming pools & pumps, air conditioning and amplified music.

## **Waste**

Strathfield Council is experiencing significant increases in building activity and population, which in turn has increased the amount of waste generated in the Council area. Council offers diverse waste services which aims to divert waste from landfill through services such as clean-ups, recycling, food and garden organics (FOGO) and green waste. In 2015-2016, domestic waste constituted 64% of total waste with 36% diverted from landfill.

Council's domestic waste collection service includes weekly garbage and on-call Collections and fortnightly recycling and green waste collection.

## **Water**

Strathfield LGA is located in the Cooks River catchment (53% of Strathfield LGA) and Parramatta River catchment (48%). Water quality in the Strathfield Local Government Area does not meet standards that support the Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems or Secondary Contact Recreation.

Whilst water quality generally meets the targets for visual amenity during dry weather, following heavy rainfall events, Strathfield's waterways carry high volumes of suspended solids (reducing water clarity) and debris in the form of litter.

Water monitoring of the Cooks River was undertaken in 2015-2016 at Yarrowee Wetlands/Cooks River and Cox's Creek Reserve. Sampling included water quality, macro-invertebrates (small aquatic animals) and riparian (river bank) vegetation. Both sites have poor River health grades.

Most recent monitoring of Parramatta River ascertained that this system did not meet standards for Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems or Secondary Contact Recreation.

### **Significant spills**

Spills of chemicals, oils, and fuels can have significant negative impacts on the surrounding environment, potentially affecting soil, water, air, biodiversity, and human health. A systematic approach to environmental management reduces risks (financial, remediation costs, loss of reputation) from non-compliance with regulations. There were no spills originating from Strathfield Council operations in 2015-2016.