



**Our Dungog Shire 2032**

## **Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023**



# Contents

## Acknowledgement of Country

Dungog Shire Council acknowledges the country and history of the traditional custodians of the lands upon which we work and live. We pay our respects to the Elders past, present and emerging, of our region, and of Australia.

## PART 1

### Our Council and Our Community

05

What is our Delivery Program and Operational Plan

07

Message from the Mayor

08

Message from the General Manager

09

Our Vision and Our Values

10

Our Shire

13

Our Shire at a Glance

14

Organisation Struture

16

Our Councillors

17

## PART 2

### Creating our Delivery Program and Operational Plan

19

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

20

Strategic Directions for Dungog Shire Council

22

How to read the Delivery Program and Operational Plan

28

<b>PART 3</b> <b>Delivery Program 2022-2026</b>	<b>31</b>
Our Community	33
Our Environment and Planning	45
Our Economy	61
Our Infrastructure	69
Our Leadership	81
<b>PART 4</b> <b>Operational Plan 2022-2023</b>	<b>91</b>
Council Budget Summary	93
Office of General Manager	94
Infrastructure and Assets	114
Corporate and Customer Services	132
Planning and Environment	138
Councils Revenue Strategy	158
2022-2023 Fees and Charges	171

<b>PART 5</b> <b>Budget 2022-2023</b>	<b>201</b>
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# PART 1

## Our Council and Our Community

What is our Delivery Program and Operational Plan	05
Message from the Mayor	07
Message from the General Manager	08
Our Vision and Our Values	09
Our Shire	10
Our Shire at a Glance	13
Organisation Structure	16
Our Councillors	17







# What is our Delivery Program and Operational Plan

The Dungog Shire Council Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023 are key components of our Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

The Delivery Program details the principal activities to be undertaken over the term of an elected Council. It outlines the strategies to explain what we will do to achieve the objectives and long-term goals of Council. The strategies in this Delivery Program come straight from our Community Strategic Plan and the documents are linked. The strategies are established by the Community Strategic Plan within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy.

The Operational Plan supports the Delivery Program and outlines the actions Council will undertake in 2022-2023 to achieve the Delivery Program strategies under each of the 5 key focus areas. The Operational Plan also details how Council will fund these actions.





**“I extend Council’s sincere appreciation to the many Community members who have assisted Council and share our vision”**

## A Message from the Mayor

Dungog Shire Council is responsible for delivering a wide range of services and facilities to residents, businesses, and visitors. The challenge we face, is how to prioritise those services to ensure the needs of our community are met.

The Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023 provides the Community with details on what Council plans to do to achieve the priorities of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) – Our Dungog Shire 2032 and how we plan to fund it. The Delivery Program and Operational Plan is Council’s working guide and is an important mechanism for ensuring Council’s decisions and activities are transparent to the community.

There is a substantially larger budget over the next 4 years for Capital Works, including major projects highlighted last year that are currently still in progress. This reflects the Communities priorities and Council’s efforts in securing and submitting applications for the necessary funding.

I would like to highlight a few that will be continuing, commenced or completed in the 2022/2023 financial year:

- Brig O’Johnston Bridge at Clarence Town;
- Dungog Library Upgrade;
- Gresford Sporting Complex;
- Thalaba Bridge; and
- Banfield Bridge.

I extend Council’s sincere appreciation to the many Community members who have assisted Council and share our vision to deliver the best possible future for the Dungog Shire

I look forward to working in partnership with Councillors, staff, residents, businesses, stakeholders, visitors and government partners as we deliver a bright future for Dungog Shire.

**Cr John Connors**  
**Mayor of Dungog Shire**

## A Message from the General Manager

I am pleased to present our Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023 and to welcome back both the re-elected Councillors and those who are newly elected by the community. Our Dungog Shire 2032 (Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032) has been developed through comprehensive community engagement and drives the direction of the Council for the next decade. This Delivery Program and Operational Plan is a direct response to your priorities and identifies works and services to meet them.

We are committed to making Dungog an even better place for the residents and businesses, as well as the people that visit our beautiful shire each year. If you take a look across the key focus areas that guide our Delivery Program and Operational Plan, you'll see exciting projects and initiatives planned across the shire.

The pandemic challenged Council across all services and demonstrated the organisation's capacity to adapt. I'm pleased to report that our flexibility and creativity has resulted in changes and improvements that continue to be embraced. This Delivery Program and Operational Plan is an example of one such improvement with the aim of making it easier for the community to understand how we are delivering your priorities, who is responsible and the associated budget.

The CAPEX Program outlined in the Operational Plan 2022-2023 comes to a total of \$42 million. We know that the delivery of the capital works program will be subject to variations because of grant requirement, escalating material costs and regional labour shortages. We will be reporting any variations and amendments to the program through our quarterly reporting and will ensure these are communicated through our Council Happenings newsletter, weekly Mayor's message and our social media.

You can read more on the specific projects and actions planned in our 2022-2023 Operational Plan. This is a combined Delivery Program and Operational Plan, however the Operational Plan can be read alone and is identified as Part 4.

There is much to do and I thank the Council, staff and community in working towards achieving key community outcomes and projects.

**Gareth Curtis**  
General Manager



**“We are committed to making  
Dungog an even better place for  
the residents and businesses as  
well as the people that visit  
our beautiful shire”**





## **Our Vision**

**“A vibrant, united community,  
with a sustainable economy. An area  
where rural character, community  
safety and lifestyle are preserved.”**

# Our Community Values

Our Community Values describe what is important to us and how we would like to live as a community. These are the values our community identified during consultation between 2016 and 2022.

	<b>Our Community</b>	That we all enjoy a safe, supportive community, characterised by vibrant cultural life and a strong sense of local heritage.
	<b>Our Environment and Planning</b>	That we balance the needs of the natural and built environment, by ensuring the natural environment is enhanced and that growth is achieved through a balanced mix of development which acknowledges our unique scenic qualities, rural amenity and lifestyle.
	<b>Our Economy</b>	That we ensure our economy is strong, creative, innovative and sustainable and provides us with jobs, business and creative opportunities and easy access to goods and services.
	<b>Our Infrastructure</b>	That we aim to provide safe, functional, accessible and well maintained infrastructure and transport networks and that we all have access to a range of activities and facilities that cater for our sporting and recreational needs.
	<b>Our Leadership</b>	That we aim for strong community leadership, financial sustainability and ethical, accountable and responsive governance.







# Our Shire



Dungog Shire covers an area of 2248 sq Kilometres. The Council is situated in the Barrington tops region and has a population of approximately 9,664.

The Shire consists predominantly of very rugged to hilly country which becomes less rugged from north to south.

The major towns and villages within the Shire include:

- Dungog
- Gresford
- East Gresford
- Paterson
- Vacy
- Martins Creek
- Clarence Town



# Dungog Shire at a Glance

(ABS 2016 Census)



**\$578<sup>pw</sup>**  
median total  
person income

**\$1474<sup>pw</sup>**  
median total  
family income

**5.5%**  
people are  
unemployed

**8,975**  
People in 2016  
(ABS 2016 census)

**9,784**  
People in 2021  
(ABS ERP 2021)



**45yrs**  
median age



**4,496**  
Men

**4,479**  
Women

**2,218**  
aged between  
0-19yrs

**1,796**  
aged over  
65yrs

**25%**  
are volunteers



**93%**  
travel to work via  
a private vehicle



**12%**  
people in Dungog Shire  
have a bachelor degree

**26%**  
completed Yr 12

**40%**  
of couples have  
children

**44%**  
of couples have  
no children

**14%**  
are one parent  
families



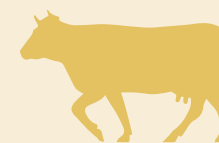




**96%**  
of housing stock  
are separate  
houses



**77%**  
have access to  
the internet from  
their dwelling



Agriculture, Forestry &  
Fishing Industry is Dungog  
Shires top Industry of  
employment with

**an annual  
output of  
\$105m**

**43%**  
own their  
own homes

**44%**  
have a  
mortgage

**14%**  
people rent  
median rent is  
\$245 pw



**6%**  
have a disability

**72%**  
identify as having  
a Christian Faith



**200,000 visitors**  
visited in 2016



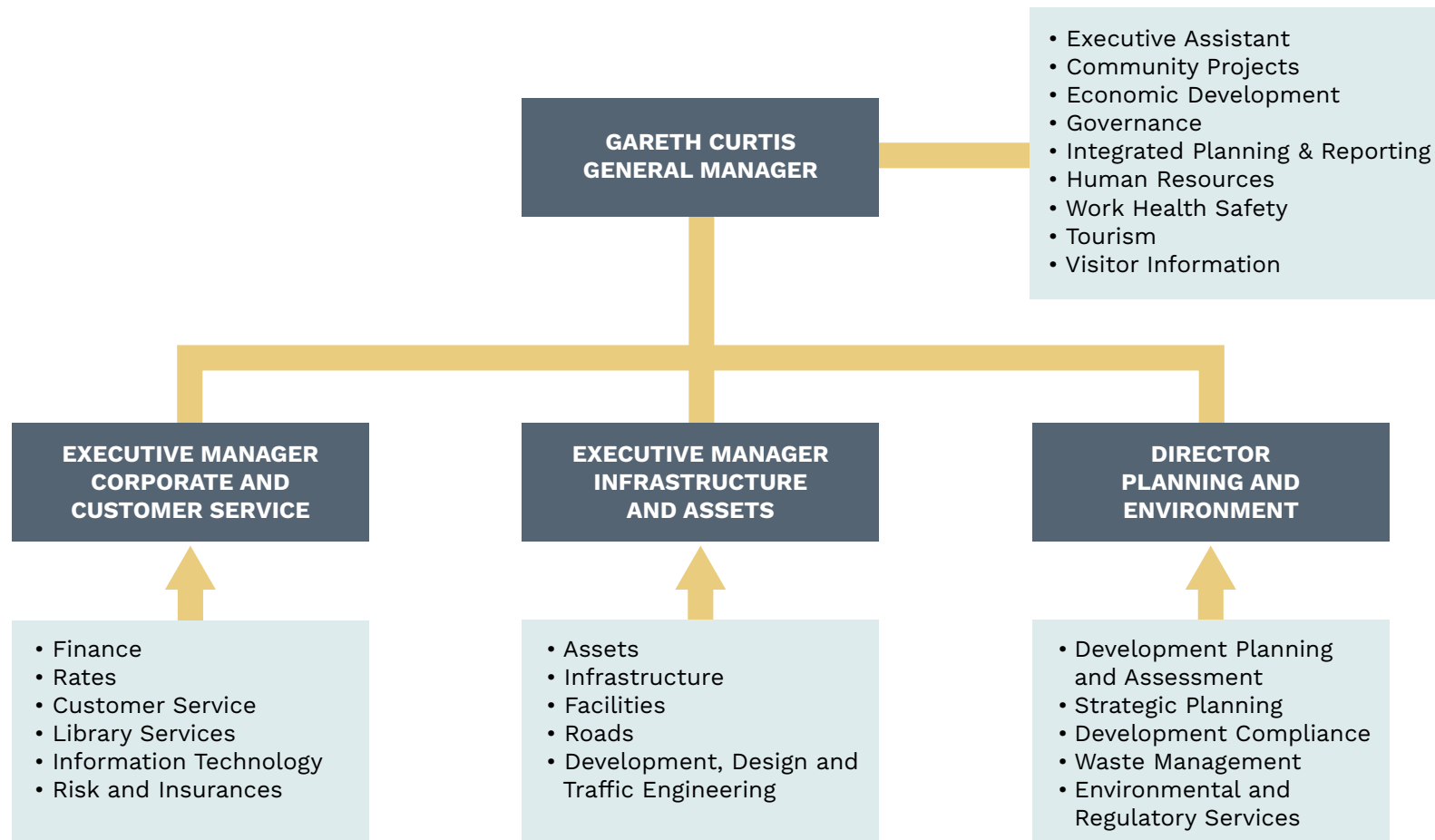
**86.7%**  
were born in  
Australia

**13.3%**  
were born  
overseas

**92%**  
only speak  
English

**5% (454)**  
identify as Aboriginal /  
Torres Strait Islander

# Organisation Structure





# Our Councillors



**Cr John Connors**  
Mayor



**Cr Stephen Low**  
Deputy Mayor



**Cr Digby Rayward**



**Cr Michael Dowling**



**Cr Michael Tobin**



**Cr Jessica Clark**



**Cr Bradley Bale**



