DUNGOG SHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY/SOCIAL PLAN 2004 - 2009
DUNGOG SHIRE’S VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

The VISION for Dungog Shire is:

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

The MISSION STATEMENT for Council is:

“To manage, enhance, and protect, the resources of the Shire, in consultation with the community.”
COUNCIL’S DESIRED COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

In 2001 Council went through a Corporate Strategic Planning process in order to establish a long term (15-20 year) strategic direction for the organisation. This process established four main areas of endeavour, and six key Community Outcomes to be achieved.

Leadership - To have an effective and responsive Council organisation.

Infrastructure - To provide well resourced and maintained, services and amenities.

Economic - Promote sustainable economic development within the Dungog Shire.

Lifestyle - To assist with the enhancement of the natural environment.
- To maintain our safe and healthy social environment.
- To promote the maintenance of our harmonious, vibrant, and diverse community.
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PART 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE SHIRE

Dungog Shire is located in the Hunter Valley and shares local government boundaries with Gloucester Shire (north), Upper Hunter (north-west), Singleton (west), Maitland City (south), Port Stephens Shire (south) and Great Lakes Shire (east).

The Dungog Local Government area covers an area of 2248 square kilometres. Dungog township is approximately one hour drive from Newcastle, and two and a half hours drive to the Sydney CBD. The Shire’s population was 7360 in 1991 and has grown to 8033 (ERP) with approximately 3000 in the Dungog township, giving a population growth of 9% over ten years. The area is developing as a tourist destination, and becoming attractive to urban retirees looking for a rural setting, close to both city services and the coast.

The World Heritage Listed Barrington Tops Plateau borders the northern Shire boundary. The Shire’s topography includes very rugged to hilly country in the northern area, which becomes less rugged heading south. The Allyn, Paterson and Williams rivers divide the Shire from northwest to southeast.

The Shire’s economy has traditionally been based on agriculture and timber, with the alluvial river flats suitable for agricultural production. The balance of the rural land has been traditionally used for grazing. Tourism is also a focus of Dungog Shire’s economy with the National Parks, State Forests, river systems as well as the historic and scenic character of the area providing the major focus for attracting visitors.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dungog Shire Local Government Area is an area of population growth, growth in rural dwellings in particular along the South and South Eastern border and also a high proportion of families with dependent children. A greater proportion of Dungog Shire’s households receive a weekly income of less than $500.00 which in comparison to the NSW average income is considerably lower.

Dungog Shire’s age profile reflects a population with significant growth in the 40 years plus age group but there has also been an increase in primary school aged children highlighting younger families in the Shire. The 15-19 years age group has remained stable over the last ten year period while there has been a noticeable decline in the 20 to 39 years indicating the need for that age group to leave the shire for further education and employment opportunities.

This Dungog Community Plan was developed through an extensive process of stakeholders and community consultations. Through those processes a number of common characteristics appeared regarding service shortfalls and areas of future planning requirements to provide infrastructure to meet the needs of a Dungog resident population, which is currently undergoing change.

The major change in demographics as part of the steady population growth is the significant increase in population in the Clarence Town and Paterson areas and the rapid growth in numbers of over forty age group. These changes are placing pressures on Council’s traditional infrastructure, as the demand for some services falls and demand for other services are rising sharply. This growth has been measured with the Census 2001 and the projected growth as a consequence of the HVRF research results.

This 2004 Community Plan attempts to create a framework of achievable strategies within which some measure of improvement to the social amenity of the Shire should be able to be achieved over the next five years.

The plan also recognises the introduction of growing affluence in the population in general, but recognises there is still a significant sector of the population on very low income levels who are finding it increasingly difficult to
maintain a reasonable lifestyle or livelihood in the changing financial circumstances driven by increasing real estate prices, limited work opportunities and the pressures of the rising cost of living. These trends are leading an increased demand for culturally-based activity at one end of the scale and an increased demand for social support services at the other.

The Plan recommends that the Dungog Shire Council commit the resources to developing a Cultural Plan to map and facilitate an organised and supported structure to the imposition of cultural infrastructure.

Many of the strategies in the plan are already performed by Council, however the extent to which Council can be aggressive and non-traditional in its approach to implementing the strategies outlined in the Social Plan is unfortunately limited by available resources.

The Community Plan is closely aligned with the following Principal Activities which form part of Council’s Management Plan:

Public Order and Safety
Health
Community Amenities
Recreation and Culture
Transport and Communication
Economic Affairs

The Community Plan is also linked to other plans of Council which are related to the social well-being of the community, including Plans of Management for Council facilities, the Local Environment Plan and the Road Safety Action Plan. Of particular relevance is Council’s Section 94 Contributions Plan which levies developers for the social and other impacts of their developments. Development and social infrastructure need to proceed together.

The Community Plan does not seek to duplicate the strategies in Council’s Management or associated plans, but rather to outline new strategies which the Council may decide to adopt in addition to its current activities.
There are many and varied stakeholders who in partnership with Council will be responsible for the actioning of specific recommendations and in the same way this Plan was developed through the action of the community and community groups, the delivery of outcomes in the plan is proposed in the same way, by unified community action.

The plan is designed as a five year blueprint with annual reviews planned for February/March each year ahead of Council’s budgetary processes.

Council offers special thanks to all of those community members who contributed to the development of this plan through their roles in committees, the consultative processes and community surveys.
Mandatory Target Groups

In line with NSW Government’s Social Justice Directions Statement, the four key principles of Equity, Access, Participation and Rights under-pin the development and implementation of the Dungog Shire’s Community Social Plan:

Equity - Council should ensure fairness in the distribution of resources, particularly for those in need;

Access - all people should have fair access to economic resources, services and rights essential to improving their quality of life;

Participation - all people should have the maximum opportunity to genuinely participate in the decisions which affect their lives;

Rights - equality of rights should be promoted and opportunities provided for positive participation to accommodate linguistic, cultural and religious diversity in Dungog Shire’s local government area.

To ensure Councils’ Community Social Plan is based on the principles of Social Justice, the plan must include a needs assessment and action plan of the following seven (7) mandatory target groups as determined by the State Government:

- Children
- Youth
- Older People
- Women
- People with disabilities
- Indigenous people
- People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds.
Demographic Data Collection

This section gives a Demographic profile for the Dungog Shire Council area. The following information has been collated from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Hunter Valley Research Foundation.

It should be noted that Australian Bureau of Statistic population data for Collector Districts are based on where people resided on the night of the census, not where they usually reside. The Australian Bureau of Statistics released information based on the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing which suggested that the estimated resident population of Dungog as of June 2001 was 8364 persons. This is 463 more people than the Australian Bureau of Statistics identified as being in Dungog on Census night 2001.

Dungog Shire has been divided into five main areas, based on the four urban centres of Dungog, Clarence Town, Paterson and Gresford. These five Catchment Areas incorporate the collector districts from the Census. The catchments are useful in determining the area of growth in the Shire and the different population structures according to location (see figure 1).

**Dungog Catchment** includes localities of Salisbury, Chichester, Bandon Grove, Underbank, Wallaringa, Wirragulla, Munni, Main Creek, Fosterton, Bendolba, Sugarloaf, Stroud Hill, Hanleys Creek, Tabbil Creek, Alison, Marshdale, Flat Tops, Cambra and Dungog.

**Paterson/Martins Creek Catchment** includes localities of Hilldale, Martins Creek, Webbers Creek and Paterson.

**Vacy Catchment** includes localities of Fishers Hill and Vacy

**Clarence Town Catchment** includes localities of Wallarobba, Brookfield, Glen William, Glen Martin, Glen Oak and Clarence Town

**Gresford Catchment** includes localities of Upper Allyn, Carrabolla, Eccleston, Halton, Lostock, Mt Rivers, Allynbrook, Bingleburra, Lewinsbrook, Torryburn, Summerhill, East Gresford and Gresford.
**Population**
The population of Dungog Shire was 7360 in 1991 this number increased to 7901 by 2001. This amounts to a growth of 6.7% between 1991 and 2001.

Population change is determined by natural increase (the difference between births and deaths) and migration (the movement of people in and out of an area). Projections of the Local Government area are more difficult to determine as they are influenced by factors such as development in the area, land availability and employment. The Hunter Valley Research Foundation 2002 provides population projections based on the 1996 and 2001 Censuses as well as assumptions relating to:

- Birth rates for each age group
- Death rates for each age group
- The number of deaths in an area before a house becomes vacant and therefore available for new residents
- The proportion of occupied private dwellings in the area
- The number of new houses built in the Local Government Area

The projected population with a medium growth for Dungog Shire over the twenty-year period between 2006 and 2026 is detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1 - Hunter Valley Research Foundation projected population 2006 - 2026**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2026</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dungog</td>
<td>7 994</td>
<td>8 083</td>
<td>8 184</td>
<td>8 308</td>
<td>8 443</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Hunter Valley Research Foundation, 2002)
Table 2 shows the distribution of population within the catchment areas and the change in population between 1991 and 2001. The population catchment areas for the Shire are shown in Figure 1.

**Table 2 - Rural and urban population changes within collector districts.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dungog</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>2180</td>
<td>2239</td>
<td>2139</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>-4.47</td>
<td>-1.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1037</td>
<td>984</td>
<td>959</td>
<td>-5.11</td>
<td>-2.54</td>
<td>-7.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3217</td>
<td>3223</td>
<td>3098</td>
<td>0.19</td>
<td>-3.88</td>
<td>-3.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paterson</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>14.66</td>
<td>-5.40</td>
<td>8.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>792</td>
<td>1286</td>
<td>1401</td>
<td>62.37</td>
<td>8.94</td>
<td>76.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1099</td>
<td>1638</td>
<td>1734</td>
<td>49.04</td>
<td>5.86</td>
<td>57.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clarence Town</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>817</td>
<td>15.90</td>
<td>8.79</td>
<td>26.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>1028</td>
<td>1220</td>
<td>21.66</td>
<td>18.68</td>
<td>44.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1633</td>
<td>1779</td>
<td>2037</td>
<td>8.94</td>
<td>14.50</td>
<td>24.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gresford</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>-4.55</td>
<td>-12.93</td>
<td>-16.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>702</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>-36.18</td>
<td>11.54</td>
<td>-28.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1408</td>
<td>996</td>
<td>1039</td>
<td>-29.26</td>
<td>4.32</td>
<td>-26.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total LGA</strong></td>
<td>7357</td>
<td>7636</td>
<td>7908</td>
<td>3.79</td>
<td>3.56</td>
<td>7.49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001)

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Figure 1: Catchments
Dungog and Gresford had overall population decreases from 1991 to 2001, however that decrease occurred over the 1996 to 2001 period. Clarence Town and Paterson have had significant increases in population over the ten year period.

Growth has been extremely limited over the past several years by Councils inability to rezone lands in the absence of an agreed strategy with the Department of Planning, Infrastructure & Natural Resources for growth. Suitable land for development has been extremely restricted given Councils inability to meet demand and provide development opportunities through the rezoning process. On this basis it is considered that the projections by HVRF do not accurately reflect the potential for increased population.

The growth projections provided by the HVRF do not take into consideration current local indicators. Once the new Local Environmental Plan is introduced which has had strong developer enquiry throughout its developmental stages coupled with the current development of local area plans the growth factor as estimated by Council’s Section 94 Planning Consultants is detailed in Tables 3 & 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Source</th>
<th>Clarence Town</th>
<th>Dungog East</th>
<th>Gresford, Martins Creek, Paterson &amp; Vacy</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing population (2001 Census)</td>
<td>2,070</td>
<td>3,147</td>
<td>5,217</td>
<td>2,816</td>
<td>8,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential New Lots - Re-zonings within Investigation 9(a) Zone</td>
<td>1,380</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>1,437</td>
<td>985</td>
<td>2,422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential New Lots - subdivision within existing towns 2(a) / villages 2(v)</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>595</td>
<td>1,258</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>1,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Potential New Population</td>
<td>5,902</td>
<td>1,520</td>
<td>7,422</td>
<td>3,035</td>
<td>10,457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Potential Population (existing plus new)</td>
<td>7,972</td>
<td>4,667</td>
<td>12,639</td>
<td>5,851</td>
<td>18,490</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is page no 13 of Dungog Shire Council’s Community Plan 2004-2009
The age structure of the Shire’s population as recorded in the 2001 census is shown in Table 5 and Figure 2.

**Table 5 Dungog Shire – Age structure, 1996 and 2001**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1996</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>% Total</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-14</td>
<td>1845</td>
<td>1791</td>
<td>22.7</td>
<td>-2.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>824</td>
<td>807</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>-2.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-39</td>
<td>1617</td>
<td>1445</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>-10.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-54</td>
<td>1550</td>
<td>1820</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>17.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55+</td>
<td>1800</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>11.78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o/s</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>7659</td>
<td>7901</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>3.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Hunter Valley Research Foundation, 2002)

In the Dungog Local Government Area, the largest group of people by age are aged 55+ years (25.5% of total population). The proportion of 15 to 24 year olds in Dungog LGA is relatively low, only 10.2% of the population, suggesting that young adults are choosing not to live in the Shire; which is typical of many rural areas that offer only limited employment opportunities.
Within Dungog Shire there was a decrease in the age groups 0-39 years, and an increase in population within the age groups 40-55+ years. While there was a decrease in population in the 0-14 years age group it still consists of 22.7 percent of the total Dungog population.

Figure 2 - Age Structure for Dungog LGA, 2001

(Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2001)
Household and Family Structure

The 2001 census recorded 2170 individual families in the Dungog Shire, with most of the families being couples with children (47%) or couples without children (40.5%). These results for family structure in Dungog LGA are representative of State figures. There are proportionally fewer one-parent families in Dungog (11.7%) than in NSW (15.5%). Around half of the two-parent families in Dungog LGA have dependent children (53.6%). Of all the families in the shire, 41.4% have no dependent children.

As a general trend, the households within the Dungog LGA have lower weekly incomes than the NSW average. 64.3% of households were in receipt of incomes of less than $500 compared to the State average of 54.1%. Only 12.5% of the households in the Dungog LGA earn more than $800 per week, compared to 18.7% of NSW households.

Figure 3 - Change in dwellings & occupancy rate, Dungog Shire, 1991-2001
Demand Analysis

Dungog Shire is a diverse area with lower population levels in the more rugged northern sections of the Shire, and a higher population density along the south and south-eastern borders. Demand for additional lots is the highest, at the boundary of the Maitland and Port Stephens Local Government Areas, as these Local Government Areas are major employment generating areas, with large population bases.

In the series of workshops and in discussions with real estate agents and Government authorities, it became clear that major demands for rural lifestyle lots are located in the proximity of Paterson and Clarence Town.

**Paterson** is located on the border with Maitland LGA and it is orientated towards Maitland services and facilities. A large majority of the residents commute to Newcastle and Maitland for work and use the facilities of Maitland for their shopping and service needs.
Clarence Town on the other hand, is orientated towards Raymond Terrace and Newcastle. It is within commuting distance of Newcastle and again a high proportion of the residents work in Raymond Terrace or the Newcastle area and rely on Raymond Terrace for their service needs. It would therefore be reasonable to identify the Paterson and Clarence Town areas as dormitory suburbs for the Lower Hunter.

Gresford is situated in the north–western section of the Shire. The forces acting upon this area and the demand for rural lifestyle lots are different to that at Paterson and Clarence Town. Whilst there is a number of residential lots still available within the town there are physical constraints associated with the servicing of such properties however the general demand seems to be for larger lots that afford a rural lifestyle. There is a degree of absentee ownership within this area, with properties having been purchased as weekend retreats or hobby farms.

Vacy has some rural lifestyle development however there is some remaining un-subdivided land in the area. Vacy also has a history of 25 acre subdivisions within the locality along the Horns Crossing Road. The majority of these owners still travel by vehicle to work outside of the area.

Dungog is the major service centre for the Shire. While there may be a demand for rural lifestyle blocks within the Dungog rural hinterland, it is not evidenced that this demand is as great as it is in Paterson or Clarence Town areas. Rural lifestyle lots within the Dungog area would provide a choice for future residents. Dungog Urban area has experienced considerable growth in the availability of town lots due to subdivision activity. On average, in Dungog Shire, 50 rural dwellings were approved annually from 1992 – 2001. New development within the Dungog LGA will be influenced by a combination of supply and demand factors. A determining factor on the supply side will be the amount of land available for development. General economic factors will influence the demand for development.

The rate of development will be influenced by market conditions which are difficult to predict with certainty. A further complicating factor is the mixed nature of land development economics. Decisions regarding developments are made by land owners, land developers and other stakeholders in the private sector influenced to varying degrees, by policies and actions at all levels of government.
In Figure 3 (page 16) Council has witnessed in the past 10 years steady growth in housing construction activity of some 17%, the most noticeable indicator is 560 vacant dwellings on Census night which is a 36% increase, which highlights the increasing non-resident population of the Shire.
**Key Community Issues**

Through community consultations, community surveys, agency and service consultations and target groups the following areas have been identified and form the basis of this plan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Consultation</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Information</th>
<th>Transport</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Tourism</th>
<th>Access</th>
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<td>Children</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth</td>
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<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Consultations and Awareness

Strategic Aim:

The Dungog Shire Community is consulted and informed on issues affecting their way of life within their community.

Objectives:

For Council to develop and implement a Communications Protocol.

To continue to involve community members in advisory and steering committees relating to Council activities.

Council uses the local newspaper, community newsletters, school and church bulletins and community contacts but the issue still highlighted was that people did not know the consultation was happening.

During the consultations it became apparent that the residents valued Council staff taking the time to consult and bring the local community together to discuss common concerns, issues and strengths. It was recommended that Council continue to hold consultations and involve committees as much as possible.

The low attendance at the general community consultations, although held at four different locations on different days and times, highlighted that Council needs to review its consultation methods and develop a community consultation protocol to address how Council engage and involve the wider community.

Discussions and consultations with Dungog Shire’s Indigenous communities is an ongoing process and the challenge for Council is to develop a strategy that will gain the approval of all the various indigenous groups.
Health

Strategic Aim:

Ensure the continuation of current health services and lobby to develop new services to meet areas of need.

Objectives:

To improve access to specialist services by informing the community of the availability of such services in the Shire.

The issues that were raised during consultations were:

- More doctors needed
- Provision for Pharmacy services outside of Dungog township
- The need to travel for specialised services
- Lack of awareness of services available

Dungog Health Forum has established sub committees, consultation processes and direct links with Hunter Health to establish and maintain existing services within our Shire. This Forum’s membership consist of community representatives from each planning district, health services in the Shire (Community nurses, Mental Health, Early Childhood, Doctors, Ambulance), Council Staff, Service Agencies and Lower Hunter Health.

Dungog Shire has the following health Services – Dungog and District Hospital providing a range of services including Visiting Specialist Services and Clinics; Early Childhood Clinics, Audiologist, Optometrist, Audiometry, Drug & Alcohol Counselling, Dietitian, Speech Therapist, Podiatrist, X- Ray Services, Physiotherapist, Mental health worker, geriatric services, special care beds, Palliative care, post natal care, health promotion, Women’s Health Clinic, Social Worker, Needle/Syringe Exchange and emergency department. The Shire has three established Medical Practices, Dentist, Pharmacist and Community Nurses.
The Dungog & District Neighbourcare provides Food Services (Meal on Wheels), Neighbour Aid, Respite, Social support, Community Aged Care Packages and Community Transport. Also working out of the Community Service Centre is Home Care, Palliative Care and Linen Service.

Council through the Health Forum will endeavour to assist the community in informing them of Services available in the Shire, with the hope that these services will be retained and well utilised. The need to travel to see some specialists will continue because of the location of our Shire. Council will encourage the Community to use the Health Forum as a vehicle to investigate areas of need;

- more GP’s including out of hours
- allied health services
- services for children with disabilities
- pharmacy
**Education**

**Strategic Aim:**

School Leavers and mature aged people having access and information to further education.

**Objectives:**

To further identify the areas in need of training.
To encourage young adults to stay in Dungog and further their education locally.

To encourage business to take on trainees.

To encourage existing education providers to offer courses suited to younger people as well as the older people and women.

Dungog High School through consultation with staff highlighted that there were areas of education and training opportunities not available which is a major issue with the young people in Dungog Shire and particularly young males. Most students leaving Dungog High who pursue further education attend either Newcastle University or one of the regional TAFEs such as Maitland, Kurri Kurri, Singleton or Newcastle. This highlights another issue of training, the lack of transport. Young people must first be prepared to travel to further their studies and secondly contend with a limited public transport system.

It is encouraging that the local adult education facility is utilised by our ageing population and Council will continue their support of such a vital local resource.
Services Information

Strategic Aim:

That the community is informed of what services are provided in Dungog Shire.

Objective:

To develop, in partnership with the community, a comprehensive community directory and its distribution to relevant groups and organisations.

Dungog Shire has a range of services available to meet a variety of needs and interests. However it was an issue with all target groups that there was a lack of awareness of what is on offer. Council will investigate a community directory that is both comprehensive and easily updated.
Transport

Strategic Aim:

Improve and expand access to transport for all people living in Dungog Shire.

Objectives:

To identify and advocate for increases in availability of public transport within the Shire and Hunter Region. To fully utilise the existing transport resources within the Shire.

To promote and further develop footpaths and cycle ways for the community to use.

The transport issues identified through consultations and the community survey are:

- lack of services to Maitland and Newcastle
- insufficient or non existent cycle ways and footpaths
- no local public transport within the Shire excluding school buses
- lack of services restricts Youth activities and entertainment
- access to train stations for people with disabilities or age.

Community transport is available for older people, people with disabilities and their carers co-ordinated by Dungog & District Neighbourcare Community Transport.

There are five (5) trains between Dungog and Newcastle, in both directions, during weekdays and three (3) trains in each direction during weekends.
Weekdays
Dungog to Newcastle
  6.38am – 8.00am
  10.14am
  3.05pm -  5.07pm
  4.59pm
  7.14pm

  Newcastle to Dungog
  5.25am – 6.22am
  8.58am
  1.35pm -  2.53pm
  3.54pm
  5.40pm – 6.32pm

Week – Ends

  7.50am – 9.15am
  3.15pm
  7.58pm

Unfortunately this limited timetable does not always suit students or workers wishing to commute to Maitland, Newcastle or commute from Newcastle to Dungog. This creates a viability problem as State Rail has completed surveys to justify the number of services but the users cannot utilise services available as the timetable does not always coincide with peak user periods.

Sheltons, Sextons, Millers and Blue Ribbon operate school bus runs and/or charter services.


**Housing**

**Strategic Aim:**

That there is a range of housing options available to meet the needs of all groups in the community.

**Objectives:**

To encourage developers to facilitate modified housing for people with disabilities and aged.

To continue to lobby government agencies for crisis accommodation

To work in partnership with Department of Housing, real estate agents and other community organisations in addressing the issues of housing affordability and lack of available rentals.

The lack of local crisis accommodation for families, young people and women at risk was highlighted by service providers in the Shire.

The ageing population could be greatly assisted by encouraging new developers to build village type housing near services to encourage independence.
Arts/Culture and Heritage

Strategic Goal:

Include arts and cultural planning in making Dungog Shire a special place to live.

Arts, Culture and Heritage was not seen as a major issue for the majority of people but the community highlighted the need to maintain our heritage buildings, history and indigenous culture.

Dungog Shire has active Historical Societies and three well patronised established museums. The need for a local art gallery is the highest priority with the opportunity to develop a cultural centre itself. Various craft groups exist throughout the Shire and a strong Arts Society is always promoting and holding a variety of art median workshops.

Council’s main strategy is to, in conjunction with the community, incorporate cultural planning into new projects, new sub-division developments and signage.
Community Facilities

Council’s Section 94 plan has been recently adopted enabling Council to collect contributions to improve, enhance and develop much needed facilities within the shire as highlighted through community consultation.

Such facilities proposed include:

- Youth centres
- Cultural centres
- Aged facilities
## PART 2

**KEY COMMUNITY ISSUE:** Community Consultation Awareness

Action Plan General Community

### Strategic Aim:
The Dungog Shire Community is consulted and informed on issues affecting their way of life within their community.

### Objectives:
For Council to develop and implement a Communications Protocol.
To continue to involve community members in advisory and steering committees relating to Council activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of consultation with the community</td>
<td>Council to develop and implement a Communications Protocol</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>Community Consultation Protocol is developed and implemented</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Including people from Indigenous and cultural backgrounds and men.</td>
<td>Investigate the need for a Cultural Strategy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Development of a Cultural strategy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Build on existing cooperation with Indigenous groups</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cooperation with existing groups is enhanced</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continue to involve the community in advisory and steering committees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Community has increased participation in advisory and steering committees.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**KEY COMMUNITY ISSUE: Health**

**Strategic Aim:**
Ensure the continuation of current health services and lobby to develop new services to meet areas of need.

**Objectives:**
To improve access to specialist services by informing the community of the availability of these services in our Shire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need for more General Practitioners</td>
<td>Re establish General Practitioners Sub committee</td>
<td>Health Forum</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Responses to advertisements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of available services</td>
<td>Assist to inform the community of existing services and promote their use</td>
<td>Health Forum</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>Existing services are well used</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Need to travel to see specialists  | Promote and inform the community of the range of visiting specialists and clinics at Dungog Hospital
Encourage GP’s and agencies to refer to visiting specialists | Hunter Health Forum NGO’s
Health Forum NGO’s | 2005-09       | Existing specialist clinics are well utilised            |          |
| Need for health related transport | Lobby Health and Transport departments for adequate funding for provision of health related transport | Health Forum Neighbourcare | 2005-09       | Provision of increased funding             |          |

This is page no 32 of Dungog Shire Council’s Community Plan 2004-2009
KEY COMMUNITY ISSUE: Education

Strategic Aim:
School Leavers and mature aged people having access and information to further education.

Objectives:
To further identify the areas in need for training
To encourage young adults to stay in Dungog and further their education locally.
To encourage businesses to take on trainees.
To encourage existing education providers to offer courses suited to younger people as well as the older people and women.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate transport to access TAFE and university</td>
<td>Continue to lobby for improved public transport</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>Transport links improved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of traineeships</td>
<td>Council to encourage the Chamber of Commerce to take an active role in promoting local traineeship opportunities</td>
<td>Council Economic Development Officer Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>Young people have access to local traineeships</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficulties for local industries and businesses to recruit appropriately trained people locally</td>
<td>Engage businesses and industry to engage training providers and investigate other ways of addressing the issue</td>
<td>Council Economic Development Officer Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>More training opportunities can be accessed locally</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY COMMUNITY ISSUE: Services Information

**Strategic Aim:**
A more informed community as regards what services are available within Dungog Shire.

**Objective:**
To develop, in partnership with the community a comprehensive community directory and supply relevant groups and organisations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of what services are available and how to access them</td>
<td>Identify current services Investigate a community directory Development of internet access protocols to enable local groups to maintain information on Council’s website</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>Development of community directory in hardcopy Provision of community directory on Council’s website Training of users on website operation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**KEY COMMUNITY ISSUE: Transport**

**Strategic Aim:**
Improve and expand access to transport for all people living in Dungog Shire.

**Objectives:**
To identify and advocate for increases in availability of public transport within the Shire and Hunter Region. To promote and further develop footpaths and cycle ways for the community to use.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of public transport to Maitland and Newcastle</td>
<td>Continue to raise the issue of improved timetabling of trains</td>
<td>Council Community</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>People have a choice to commute by train to Newcastle and on route.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promotion and development of footpaths and cycle ways</td>
<td>Investigate the recommendations of Dungog Shire Bicycle plan</td>
<td>Roads Traffic Committee</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>Funding secured to undertake cycleway development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continue developing strategies for footpaths and cycle ways in Council’s Local Area plans</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td></td>
<td>Priority listing as regards cycleways development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S94 development uses the recommendations &amp; strategies as a basis for prioritization</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### KEY COMMUNITY ISSUE: Housing

**Strategic Aim:**
There is a range of housing options available to meet the needs of all groups in the community.

**Objectives:**
To encourage developers to facilitate modified housing for people with disabilities and aged.
To continue to lobby government agencies for crisis accommodation and affordable housing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Insufficient supply rental accommodation</td>
<td>Continue to raise awareness of this issue with relevant agencies</td>
<td>Council – Economic Development Community</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>Supply of affordable rental accommodation is increased</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of locally available crisis accommodation options for: Domestic violence Transient people</td>
<td>Continue to support Dungog Domestic Violence Committee to address this issue and Dungog Information Neighbourhood Centre</td>
<td>Council RAVNET &amp; DINS</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>Provision of locally available crisis accommodation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of modified housing for people with disabilities and frail aged</td>
<td>Liaise with potential developers, government agencies and Community</td>
<td>Council Community agencies</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>Availability of accommodation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## KEY COMMUNITY ISSUE: Arts/Culture and Heritage

**Strategic Goal:**
Include arts and cultural planning in making Dungog Shire a special place to live.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art Gallery</td>
<td>Investigate the possibility of developing an Art Galley</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Development of an options paper as regards to the establishment of Dungog Shire Art gallery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dungog Arts Society</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performing Arts &amp; Events</td>
<td>Investigate the opportunities to expand and promote performing arts</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Increased awareness of events</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enhance existing community committees in preparations of community events</td>
<td>Film Society</td>
<td></td>
<td>Opportunities identified</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arts Society Schools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**KEY COMMUNITY ISSUE: Community Facilities**

Ensure Community Facilities are meeting the needs of the Community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Need for Youth Centres throughout Shire</td>
<td>Include in Sec 94 plan</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Youth Centres established</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care places in demand</td>
<td>Encourage child care operators to provide more child care facilities</td>
<td>Council Private Developers</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Child care needs are met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate Sporting and Recreational Facilities</td>
<td>Include in Sec 94 plan</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Investigate the opportunities for improved or new facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of sporting diversity opportunities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target Groups and Action Plans

Target Group: CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Overview:
Children and families are an important part of the Dungog Local Government Area. There are 2170 individual families with 47% of these with children. Most families in our LGA are two-parent families with 64.3% of these households receiving a weekly income of less than $500. There are 1791 children aged between 0-14 years in our LGA. The provision of services for children and families is reasonable however the gaps in service provision for these target groups are addressed in the Action Plan.

Community Information:
The need for an up to date, accessible directory about community services was an issue for all target groups. In light of this it is proposed to develop a community directory and improve the existing mechanisms for distributing information to the wider community.

Domestic Violence:
Domestic Violence is a major cause of family dysfunction and breakdown. Dungog LGA has established an action group to address this issue in our community. Domestic Violence does not always occur in the form of physical violence, it can also be emotional, financial and sexual violence. This impacts directly and indirectly on children and their development, self-esteem, behaviour and educational outcomes. Currently our LGA has no refuge or emergency accommodation which is a significant issue for this target group and is a focus of the local Domestic Violence Committee.

Affordable Entertainment and Recreation Options:
Families with children aged between 8 to 14 indicated that there is not enough entertainment or recreation facilities available for this age. Dungog LGA has well utilised sporting grounds and sport options but it was felt that the children who do not participate actively in sport are not catered for. Our LGA has two public pools, cinema, a skatepark and 3 community/church youth groups. The youth groups overlap in ages to cater both for
children and youth. The location of these facilities also presents a disadvantage for children who live in outlying areas.

**Transport**
This is an issue in all target groups in the Dungog LGA. For children and families this issue impacts on families living outside of town in the rural villages and villages with no train access. Children are totally dependent on their parents on weekends to access activities and to visit friends.

**Education and Child Care**
Within our LGA we have 4 preschools, 8 playgroups, family day care, vacation care and after school care. Some of these groups operate in Council owned facilities, community owned buildings and registered homes. These services are well used and in high demand as places are limited. There are waiting lists for Preschools, family day care and after school care with funding being sought to establish out of hours school care in some of our rural areas. The playgroups are both formal and informal in the towns and rural areas organised by parents and church groups. We still have a mobile Pre-school service at Gresford which is well supported. The preschools are constantly upgrading and improving their buildings to meet the standards imposed by Department of Community Services and address the needs of the children and community, with limited funding this restricts the rate of their progress. Family Day care is in constant need of carers and currently are unable to provide sufficient places.

There are seven (7) public primary schools, one (1) Catholic primary school and a public high school. Most of our schools cater for children with disabilities with special education units or teachers aide specials allowing children with special needs to attend school in their local area. A Shire Disability Group has been established for parents and carers which has been a great support to the families involved. All schools have access to a School Counsellor on a part time basis with our local family counsellor, neighbourhood centre and Family First Worker providing ongoing support when required. All schools will commence a Healthy Canteen Policy in 2005 as part of a government strategy to reduce obesity in children which will be in partnership with the new physical development, health, physical education curriculum. School screening is still available in schools and vaccinations are available from our local GP’s.
Target Group: Children & Families

**Action Plan:**

**Objectives:**
- Provide and maintain safe play areas in all catchment areas
- To promote and assist in the expansion of educational facilities for pre-school aged children
- To ensure that provision is made for socially economically disadvantaged children
- Support the development of Family Day Care, Vacation Care and Out of Hours Child Care

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of what services are available and how to access them</td>
<td>Identify current services. Investigate a community directory</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>Community directory developed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child care places in demand</td>
<td>Encourage child care operators to provide more child care facilities</td>
<td>Council Private Developers Government Departments</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Child care needs are met</td>
<td>Improved facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool expansion with emphasis on disabilities</td>
<td>Support &amp; encourage funding opportunities</td>
<td>Council Government Departments</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Expanded services in the LGA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacation care, Out of hours care</td>
<td>Support and encourage funding opportunities</td>
<td>Government Departments &amp; agencies</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of entertainment and recreational options</td>
<td>Encourage funding opportunities with community organisations</td>
<td>Council Chamber of Commerce Community</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Increased range of entertainment and recreation options</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target Group: YOUTH

Overview:
Young people in the Dungog Shire are diverse, interesting and multi-talented from different backgrounds. Like most youth, they are prone to being misunderstood and misrepresented. This is partly due to the fact that young people in many communities have a low public profile and to the lack of spaces specifically designed for and by young people. Dungog Shire provides a wide range of sporting choices and opportunities but does not have sufficient youth specific services, recreation choices and age appropriate entertainment. Young people take an active role in their environment with participation in various activities including our local community garden, they participate in community work such as our volunteer emergency services, service clubs like young Apex, community organisations and the local church groups. Throughout our LGA we have talented young people in School bands, choirs, dance groups, scouts, guides and art groups.

Key Issues:
- Entertainment and recreation options
- Purpose built facilities for young people
- Local employment opportunities
- Transport

Entertainment and Recreation Options
Unfortunately entertainment and recreation options are restricted in our LGA, particularly for those under 18. For those over 18 their options are limited to the local hotels and cinema. For those under 18, youth groups, cinema and self organised activities are in most cases their only options creating an opportunity for boredom and anti-social behaviour. Dungog has a skatepark which is well patronised while Clarence Town and Paterson are in the planning stages of constructing a park. In attempting to address this issue we will conduct discussions with local and external businesses to encourage the establishment of new options in the towns and rural areas.
Purpose built facilities
There is no purpose built facility for young people in our LGA. This issue will be addressed by progressing plans to build a new youth centre and involve young people in the design of the building and planning for facilities and services that it will provide. This in itself highlights an issue of location, where would the facility be built, how could it be accessed by young people throughout the entire LGA and how would its main focus be determined.

Local employment opportunities
The lack of local employment is the key to keeping young people in our community. Currently, many are forced to leave the area to pursue employment and as our employment base has been heavily oriented to male dominated trades this has made it especially difficult for young women.

Transport
This is an issue in all target groups in the Dungog LGA. This issue impacts on young people and their families living in the rural villages. These villages, with no train access, make young people totally dependent on their parents on weekends to access activities or to visit friends. For employment and further studies they rely on train timetables that do not always coincide with peak user periods.

Education
There is one high school in our LGA with an enrolment of over 800 students. Dungog High School has students travelling from outside of our Shire boundaries including Seaham, Stroud, Bucketts Way, Monkerai and the far fringes of our LGA and its boarding Shires. There is approximately 7% of our youth population that attend various boarding schools, private schools or specialised high schools outside of our LGA. Our high school provides education from year 7-12 on one site and offers vocational courses in areas of hospitality, nursing, building, travel and hairdressing with others on demand. They have a highly successful work experience programme, careers advisor and school counsellor. Dungog High provides an excellent sports programme, a music department with great opportunities both within the school and community, their creative arts and drama departments have many gifted and talented students.
### Table 6 – 2001 Census of Population and Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-school</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Infants/Primary:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non Government</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>463</td>
<td>401</td>
<td>864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Non Government</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>305</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technical or Further Educational Institution:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated(a)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>85</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>University or other Tertiary Institution:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated(a)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated(a)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not attending</td>
<td>2,826</td>
<td>2,790</td>
<td>5,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated(b)</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas visitors</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,977</td>
<td>3,925</td>
<td>7,902</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sport and Recreation
Sports plays an important part in the lives of many young people in the towns and rural villages. Our LGA provides a large variety of organised sports for youth including netball, soccer, rugby league, cricket, swimming, golf, tennis, touch football, squash and tae kwon do. The sporting organisations in our LGA provide a great opportunity for the youth to participate in physical activity, social interaction and support in the development in their chosen sport. Unfortunately we do not have the facilities for basketball, BMX tracks, Aussie rules, Little Athletics or gym. Young people wishing to be involved or participate in these sports must travel outside of the LGA.

There are two swimming pools in our LGA (Dungog 33m and Clarence Town 25m) and they are a very popular recreational option for young people in the summer, providing them with a place to meet and socialise.
Target Group: Youth

Action Plan:
Objectives:
• Develop an improved strategy for consulting with the young people
• Support and work in partnership with the various Departments to maintain the youth counselling services available in our LGA
• To increase locally available training and work opportunities for young people
• To support and develop a range of recreational and entertainment opportunities based on the interests of young people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of what services are available and how to access them</td>
<td>Identify current services and investigate a community directory</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>The need and usage of directory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of a Youth Strategy /Policy</td>
<td>Develop a Strategy or policy</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2005-2009</td>
<td>Youth Policy/strategy developed and incorporated in the Management Plan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate entertainment and leisure opportunities in the town and rural areas • Bike tracks • Skateparks • Creative arts/drama opportunities</td>
<td>Ensure passive recreation options are considered in planning of public spaces and new developments. Ensure entertainment options are equally available to youth with a disability Seek funding opportunities to establish skateparks etc</td>
<td>Council Private Developers Government Departments Youth Forum Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>2004-09 2004-09</td>
<td>Increased range of entertainment and recreation options Improved facilities with access for youth with disabilities Draft grant submissions for opportunities as they become available</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transport in towns and rural areas</td>
<td>Consult with young people to determine their precise public transport needs</td>
<td>Government Departments &amp; agencies, Council</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Precise transport needs of young people are determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the work of the adolescent family counsellor</td>
<td>Encourage new initiatives for services in all areas of LGA Lobby government agencies for increased funding</td>
<td>Council Family youth Counsellor</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Increases services Partnerships established Ongoing support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target Group: Older People

Overview:
The older people of Dungog LGA are an important aspect of our communities and contribute to the community spirit of the towns and rural areas. They are actively involved in service clubs, voluntary organisations, church groups, local art and craft groups, garden clubs and Senior Citizens/Day Care Centres.

Older people have a range of opportunities to socialise and this occurs through the clubs and associations to which they belong and through informal opportunities. Dungog LGA provides a large network of aged care and health services addressing a range of needs.

The older people of our LGA are 25% of the population highlighting the need for increasing community support for these people to stay at home or accessing appropriate hostel and nursing home. There is already an identified shortage of nursing home beds for older people with high needs. There is an increasing number of older people seeking retirement village accommodation raising issues of availability and opportunities for development.

Key Issues
- Information about available services
- Availability of hostel, nursing home & self care accommodation
- Transport

Information about available services:
The need for an up to date, accessible directory about community services was an issue for all target groups. In light of this it is proposed to develop a community directory and improve the existing mechanisms for distributing information to the wider community.
Availability of hostel, nursing home & self care accommodation:
Accommodation for older people is provided in Dungog township in two ways:

1. Dungog Council maintains 20 single self care units located within walking distance of the shopping centre. Dungog Community has built a Retirement Living facility with 52 beds – 20 nursing home (high care), 21 hostel (low care), 10 dementia, 1 respite and 13 two bedroom self care cottages (located near the shopping centre. Dungog & District Retirement Living Inc are currently building an additional 10 nursing home beds and 1 respite. Investigations have taken place to provide self care accommodation outside of Dungog township with no further development as yet. Priority is given to residents within the LGA with the greatness of need basis.

2. There are eight Department of Housing dwellings in the Dungog Shire. These are all located in Dungog urban centre with a range of single, married, families and older people renting these dwellings.

Transport:
Dungog & District Neighbourcare Community Transport provides an important service throughout the LGA. This service uses private vehicles with volunteers and a small bus so people can travel to medical appointments, shopping and social outings. Although our LGA has a train service it has a limited timetable and for towns not on the train line people must rely on family and friends, as there is a criteria to access community transport.

Services:
The Dungog & District Neighbourcare provides Food Services (Meal on Wheels), Neighbour Aid, Respite, Social support, Community Aged Care Packages and Community Transport. Also working out of the Community Service Centre is Home Care, Palliative Care and Linen Service.

The Dungog LGA has the following Health Services – Dungog and District Hospital providing a range of services including Visiting Specialist Services and Clinics; Early Childhood Clinics, Audiologist, Optometrist, Audiometry, Drug & Alcohol Counselling, Dietitian, Speech Therapist, Podiatrist, X-Ray Services, Physiotherapist, Mental health worker, geriatric services, special care beds, Palliative care, post natal care, health promotion, Women’s
Health Clinic, Social Worker, Needle/Syringe Exchange and emergency department. The Shire has three established Medical Practices, Dentist, Pharmacist and Community Nurses.

**Education:**
Barrington Adult and Community Education is located in Dungog township but provides courses Shire wide at various locations. They conduct courses in a variety of fields including Computers for Seniors, cooking, first aid, walking and relaxation. They encourage the older people of the community to participate by providing a concession cost, accessible locations and courses applicable to their needs.

Dungog Shire Council to investigate opportunities to coordinate programmes of relevance for older people. Such programmes already coordinated included a Scooter safe programme which due to its success is being investigated to be held on an annual basis.
**Target Group: Older People**

**Action Plan:**

**Objectives:**
- Provide existing and develop options for additional affordable housing for older people
- To provide readily available information on services for older people
- Support and work in partnership with the various Departments to maintain the services available in our LGA for the Ageing and Disabled.
- To investigate and encourage other providers to implement educational programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of what services are available and how to access them</td>
<td>Identify current services</td>
<td>Council Service Providers</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>The need and usage of directory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investigate a community directory</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate funding opportunities and encourage other education providers</td>
<td>Support &amp; encourage funding opportunities</td>
<td>Council Education Providers</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Courses attended and supported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Encourage education providers to offer applicable courses</td>
<td>Government Departments</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the potential land for establishment of self-care accommodation in</td>
<td>Investigate land availability and the potential</td>
<td>Council Real Estate agents</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Land availability Additional funding for expanding existing provision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarence Town, Paterson and Gresford</td>
<td>Develop partnership with existing provider for ongoing stages</td>
<td>DADHC Community Organisation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encourage and support existing age care facilities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transport in towns and rural areas</td>
<td>Consult with older people to determine their precise public transport</td>
<td>Government Departments &amp; agencies,</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Precise transport needs of older people are determined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>needs</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the work of the existing service providers</td>
<td>Encourage new initiatives for services in all areas of LGA</td>
<td>Council Dungog &amp; District Neighbourcare</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Increases services Partnerships established Ongoing support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lobby government agencies for increased funding</td>
<td>DADHC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Target Group: Women**

**Overview:**
Women in Dungog LGA chose a range of roles, including participating in the full-time or part-time paid employment, remaining out of paid employment to raise children or combining both roles. They contribute enormously to voluntary organisations, school communities, church groups and playgroups. They participate in and fill key volunteer roles in sport and engage in a wide range of interest, craft and culture groups.

The demographics in this Plan indicate that women and men are within equal proportions in most age groups of the LGA. However women still need to leave the area in search of work, further education and some services.

**Key Issues**
- Information about available services
- Domestic Violence
- Lack of services
- Lack of locally available education and employment opportunities for women
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 7 – Occupation by Age by Sex</th>
<th>Employed persons (excluding overseas visitors)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers and Administrators</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professionals</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tradespersons and Related Workers</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Clerical and Service</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Clerical, Sales and</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Workers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Production and</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport Workers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Clerical, Sales and</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Workers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourers and Related Workers</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequately described</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEMALES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managers and Administrators</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tradespersons and Related Workers</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Clerical and Service</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Clerical, Sales and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Workers</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intermediate Production and Transport Workers</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labourers and Related Workers</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inadequately described</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not stated</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This is page no 52 of Dungog Shire Council’s Community Plan 2004-2009
Information about available services:
The need for an up to date, accessible directory about community services was an issue for all target groups. In light of this it is proposed to develop a community directory and improve the existing mechanisms for distributing information to the wider community.

Domestic Violence
Domestic Violence is a major cause of family dysfunction and breakdown. Dungog LGA has established an action group to address this issue in our community. Domestic Violence does not always occur in the form of physical violence, it can also be emotional, financial and sexual violence. This impacts directly and indirectly on children and their development, self-esteem, behaviour and educational outcomes. Currently our LGA has no refuge or emergency accommodation which is a significant issue for this target group and is a focus of the local Domestic Violence Committee.

Local employment opportunities
The lack of local employment is the key to keeping young women in our community. Currently, many are forced to leave the area to pursue employment and as our employment base has been heavily oriented to male dominated trades this has made it especially difficult for young women. This also impacts on women who gain employment outside the LGA and then wish to start a family. In most cases they would maintain their employment therefore they have to travel outside the area relying on family or alternative child care arrangements. The lack of employment opportunities within our LGA highlights the need for childcare places.

Services:
There are a few specific services for women in Dungog LGA. Those that are available are provided through the Dungog Information Neighbourhood Service and the Youth and Family Counsellor. Lower Hunter Health provide general services through Dungog Hospital but unfortunately the women’s clinic is no longer available. Local church groups provide emergency assistance but there is no emergency accommodation or women’s refuge available our LGA.
**Target Group: WOMEN**

**Action Plan:**

**Objectives:**
- To provide readily available information on services for women
- To investigate and encourage other providers to implement educational programs
- Support and work in partnership with the various Departments to maintain the women and family services available in our LGA
- To increase locally available training and work opportunities for women
- To increase locally available childcare

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of what services are available and how to access them</td>
<td>Identify current services Investigate a community directory</td>
<td>Council Service Providers</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>The need and usage of directory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve awareness of and access to services in – Drugs and alcohol Sexual assault Domestic Violence Emotion health and Parenting</td>
<td>Effective awareness campaigns conducted by service providers Support existing committees Appropriate courses offered locally</td>
<td>RAVNET Lower Hunter Health DINS Council</td>
<td>2005-09</td>
<td>More women access appropriate services General public is informed Courses supported</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of available employment opportunities that are appropriate for women</td>
<td>Employers in the LGA be made aware of the need</td>
<td>Council Economic Development Officer Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Available employment opportunities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the work of the adolescent family counsellor</td>
<td>Encourage new initiatives for services in all areas of LGA Lobby government agencies for increased funding</td>
<td>Council Family youth Counsellor DINS</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Increases services Partnerships established Ongoing support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support the work of the existing service providers</td>
<td>Encourage new initiatives for services in all areas of LGA Lobby government agencies for increased funding</td>
<td>Council Dungog Information &amp; Neighbourhood Centre, DOCS</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Increases services Partnerships established Ongoing support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target Group: INDIGENOUS

Overview:
The people identifying themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders within the Dungog LGA are not well represented within the community at large, as a consequence there are no apparent issues within the Dungog Shire community. As the indigenous population represents only 1.9% of the Shire’s population and with no specific concentration of indigenous people residing in one particular locality within the Shire Council does not provide any specific services to the Indigenous population.

There is a lack of specific services for Indigenous people based in the LGA however most service providers will organise alternative arrangements of services on request. Most Schools throughout the LGA have an established ASSPA (Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness Programme) committee whereby indigenous parents can have an active role within the school. These committees organise special days that all children in the school can participate in, provide on going support and develop partnerships to increase the awareness of traditions and culture with the school community.

There is also work to be done in building partnerships and co-operation in planning for services, both across the Indigenous community and between the Indigenous and non-Indigenous community.

The Indigenous community is not one group of people, but rather it is a diverse and fascinating mix of people from different tribal backgrounds with equally diverse and rich cultures, traditions and histories.

Key issues
- Co-operation and partnerships across Indigenous community and between non-Indigenous and Indigenous communities
- Lack of awareness of the cultures and traditions of Indigenous people
- Lack of access to services within the LGA
Co-operation and partnerships across the Indigenous community and between non-indigenous and indigenous communities
Communication and cooperation across groups in their community provides the opportunity to achieve new and improved services and better sharing of existing resources. Currently this is not happening to the extent that it could between the Indigenous community and the non-Indigenous groups. During the consultation process it was suggested that Council could investigate the need for an Advisory Committee on Indigenous issues.

Lack of awareness of the cultures and traditions of Indigenous people
In Dungog LGA the understanding and valuing of cultural differences is influenced by the fact that the majority of people are of Anglo background and the Indigenous people represent a very small number within our population. The benefits to the whole community of being aware of, valuing and integrating aspects of alternative cultures into our own are substantial. To improve this Council will investigate a civic protocol for including Indigenous groups in civic functions and community events and assist to organise regular events celebrating Indigenous cultures.

Lack of services
There are a wide range of Aboriginal organisations in the Hunter Valley, but few service providers. Most Aboriginal specific services provided in Dungog LGA are provided as outreach services from Newcastle or Maitland.

Aboriginal specific health services are provided on a referral outreach basis by Lower Hunter Community Health. The Aboriginal Liaison Officer based at East Maitland Community Health can be accessed through Dungog Hospital or self referral.

There is a lack of Aboriginal specific housing services in the Hunter Valley and Dungog LGA has no specific service with the closest women’s and children’s refuge being located at Wallsend.

Like many other LGA's access to mainstream services and facilities by Indigenous people is low compared to the general community.
Target Group: INDIGENOUS

Action Plan:

Objectives:
- To progress reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous groups
- To assist local Indigenous groups to improve and maintain an awareness of their culture and traditions.
- To assist local Indigenous groups in accessing appropriate services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of what services are available and how to access them</td>
<td>Identify current services Investigate a community directory</td>
<td>Council Service Providers</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>The need and usage of directory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise public awareness of Indigenous issues</td>
<td>Develop a protocol for involving indigenous people in civic functions</td>
<td>Council Indigenous groups Relevant organizing committees</td>
<td>2004-2009</td>
<td>Protocol developed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase awareness within Indigenous community of services available to them</td>
<td>akc Indising people in civic functions and community events</td>
<td>Council Indigenous groups Relevant organizing committees</td>
<td>2004-2009</td>
<td>Indigenous community involved in events and ceremonies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate the establishment of an Aboriginal Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Local indigenous groups invited to become members of a committee</td>
<td>Council</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Level of support for Advisory committee to be established</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding for services</td>
<td>Encourage providers to seek further funding to expand their services</td>
<td>Council Local organisations Indigenous Community</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Effective communication and partnerships achieved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve communication and cooperation between groups</td>
<td>Assist local organisations to resolve issues and encourage understanding of indigenous issues in the wider community</td>
<td>Council Local organisations Indigenous Community</td>
<td>2004-09</td>
<td>Additional provision of services</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Table 8 – 2001 Census of Population and Housing

**AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  2001 Census of Population and Housing**  
New South Wales, Local Government Area: 12700

**B01 SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS (FIRST RELEASE PROCESSING)**

**Persons**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
<th>Persons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Persons</strong>(a)</td>
<td>3,978</td>
<td>3,923</td>
<td>7,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 15 years and over**(a)**</td>
<td>3,047</td>
<td>3,057</td>
<td>6,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aged 65 years and over**(a)**</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>1,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torres Strait Islander</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander**(b)**</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Indigenous Persons</strong></td>
<td>77</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born in Australia</td>
<td>3,575</td>
<td>3,521</td>
<td>7,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born overseas©</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaks English only</td>
<td>3,754</td>
<td>3,684</td>
<td>7,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaks other language**(d)**</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Persons aged 18 years and over</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian citizen</td>
<td>3,750</td>
<td>3,670</td>
<td>7,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian citizen aged 18 years and over</td>
<td>2,670</td>
<td>2,722</td>
<td>5,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enumerated in private dwelling**(a)**</td>
<td>3,911</td>
<td>3,839</td>
<td>7,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enumerated elsewhere**(a)**(e)</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas visitors</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a)  Includes Overseas visitors.  
(b)  Applicable to persons who are of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin.  
©  Includes 'Inadequately described', 'At sea', and 'Not elsewhere classified'.  
(d)  Includes 'Non-verbal so described' and 'Inadequately described'.  
(e)  Includes 'Non-Private dwellings, Migratory and Off-shore.'
Target Group: People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (CALD)

Overview:
Like Indigenous people in our community, the CALD communities in Dungog LGA experience a lack of understanding and recognition of their culture, languages and traditions. In our LGA we have a small number of CALD and there is no ethno-specific services based in the Shire. As with all other groups in the community, people from the CALD community participate in volunteer roles in sport and engage in a wide range of interest, craft and culture groups.

Birthplace:
The demographics in this plan show that 89% of Dungog LGA’s people were born in Australia, with another 2.8% born in another English speaking country. With 0.3% were born in non-English speaking countries. The most common country where people were born was United Kingdom followed by Germany and New Zealand.

Services:
There are no services based in Dungog LGA specifically for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds however there are a wide range of specialist outreach services within the Shire. The nearest Migrant Resource Centre is in Newcastle and offers a settlement service for new arrivals, advocates on behalf of the CALD community to a range of Government and non-Government agencies, pursues humanitarian issues and has a Migration Agent on staff. Children’s Services are run from the Ethnic Communities Council in Newcastle and include the Multicultural Children’s Resource Unit and Children’s Services Workers.
The Telephone Translating and Interpreter Service operate via a 1300 number and local doctors can access telephone interpreters through a separate 1300 number that has been established for this purpose.

Key issues:
- Awareness and recognition of the different cultures and traditions of CALD communities
- Community events and ceremonies-low level participation by CALD communities, lack of ethno-specific community events celebrating particular cultural groups and their traditions.
Target Group: People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds (CALD)

Action Plan:
Objectives:
- Actively include cultural diversity in all policy and planning processes
- To assist local CALD groups to improve and maintain an awareness of their culture and traditions.
- To promote economic and cultural opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of what services are available and how to access them. Lack of information available in appropriate languages</td>
<td>Identify current services</td>
<td>Council Service Providers</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>The need and usage of directory</td>
<td>The need and usage of directory has appropriate icons included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investigate a community directory</td>
<td>MRC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Directory has appropriate icons included</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Investigate appropriate translations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise public awareness of CALD issues</td>
<td>Develop a protocol for involving CALD people in civic functions and community events</td>
<td>Council CALD groups</td>
<td>2004-2009</td>
<td>Protocol developed and wider community is better informed about CALD residents</td>
<td>Protocol developed and wider community involved in events and ceremonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase awareness within CALD community of services available to them</td>
<td></td>
<td>Relevant organizing committees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Target Group: People with a disability

Overview:
There are a significant number of people (9.1% ABS Census) within our LGA who have some form of disability, with a growing number of children within this group. People with disabilities are not always considered when public buildings and office spaces are designed, new residential areas are developed and shopping centres built. These issues are important because they contribute significantly to the extent to which people with disabilities and their families feel included in the communities in which they live and determine their access to work, services and facilities. People with disabilities and their families require a range of specialist services and support mechanisms that people without a disability will probably never have to utilise. As a community we should endeavour to ensure that appropriate support services are in place for this group in order to minimise the impacts of a disability on their lives.

Services:
The government planning and coordination body is the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care who oversee the Disability Services Program and the Home and Community Care program. The Disability Advocacy Service Hunter (Inc) advocates on behalf of people with a disability and produces a comprehensive directory of services in the Hunter Valley.

Dungog and District Neighbourcare provide a wide range of programs to support people with a disability to live independently. These include meals on wheels, community transport and home respite. They also provide transport to access services and recreational or social activities.

A Local Disability Support Officer has an office in Dungog and visits monthly. The LDSO can work in very broad ways and for an indefinite period with people with a disability and their family. They coordinate and assist people to achieve personal or work goals, gain access to appropriate services and build their independence.

The Mai-Wel Group offers a range of support services including social activities locally based.
Dungog & District Community Care Forum is held bimonthly in the LGA and Dungog Shire Disability Support group meets monthly. Dungog Shire Access Committee is held bi monthly.

**Key issues:**

- Awareness of services available within LGA
- Recreational choices for children and young people
- Access to community facilities
- Future employment opportunities for young people with disabilities
**Target Group: People with a disability**

**Action Plan:**

**Objectives:**
- Develop a Disability Action plan
- Continue to address disability issues through Dungog Shire Access Committee
- To inform the general community of disability issues
- To promote recognition and acceptance of people with a disability within the community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Identified</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Year Frame</th>
<th>Outcomes Indicators</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of awareness of what services are available and how to access them.</td>
<td>Identify current services Investigate a community directory</td>
<td>Council Service Providers</td>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>The need and usage of directory Directory has appropriate icons included</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of opportunities for people with a disability to be involved in planning community events and development.</td>
<td>Increase the avenues for participation by people with disabilities in community events. More active role in planning and development</td>
<td>Council Access Committee Service Providers Community organisations</td>
<td>2004-2009</td>
<td>People with a disability are regularly involved in planning community events Pro active Access committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of support to carers, family members of people with a disability Eg Respite</td>
<td>Encourage existing providers to expand and establish effective services</td>
<td>Council Access Committee D S D S G</td>
<td>2004-2009</td>
<td>Appropriate provision or availability to families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PART 3

Attachment

*Dungog Shire Council Community Satisfaction Survey Results*

In May 2004, Council conducted a Community Satisfaction survey to find out the Community’s perception of a number of the issues facing Council, and also to gauge their "Satisfaction" with Council’s performance of these services.

Approximately 3,050 survey forms were distributed using Australia Post and they were also available for collection from the Council Administration office. Residents and ratepayers were asked to return the surveys to the Council offices or one of the nominated businesses around the shire. A total of 415 (13%) surveys were returned.

The results from the survey are shown below:-

**Question 1. Please rate how important the following issues are on a scale of 1 to 5.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Safety</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving local roads</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving sporting &amp; recreational facilities</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving/providing public transport</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improving local halls</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Promoting community activities         9%   18%   32%   26%   15%
Managing development                   7%    9%    20%   23%   41%
Protecting heritage values and buildings 9%   12%   26%   23%   30%
Town Centre & village maintenance      4%    6%    21%   31%   38%
Roadside mowing                        5%    10%   26%   23%   36%

Question 2. 46% of people would be prepared to pay more in general rates for improved roads?

Question 3. Only 23% would be prepared to pay more for improved services.

Question 4. 50% of people used rail services with 62% of those were satisfied with the timetable. 19% would like more frequent weekend services and 21% would like more services through the week.

Question 5. 51% would use other public transport if it were available.

Question 6. Only 8% of those surveyed used Neighbour Care transport services.

Question 7. The top five additional Government or private services were:

Bus Services
Recycling
Better facilities for the elderly
More police
Medicare and Centrelink Services
Question 8. 92% would separate recycling if asked.

Question 9. 39% would be willing to pay more for kerbside recycling.

Question 10. 79% of people surveyed knew that the Chronicle is Council’s official newspaper.

Question 12. 57% of people surveyed had internet access. Only 18% of those had visited Council’s website but 70% of those who had thought it was informative.

Question 13. Only 37% would be interested in using the internet in dealings with Council.

Question 14. No useful result came from this area as it was quite often answered with ticks or crosses.

Question 16. 60% of those surveyed thought Council responded to their letters in a reasonable time.

Question 17. 33% had contacted a Councillor about matters affecting them and 66% of those thought that it was helpful.

Question 18. 14% of those surveyed had contacted the General Manager and 40% thought it was helpful.


Lifestyle
Nice area to live
Peace and quiet and clean air
Employment
Born here

Question 20. Top Five issues facing Council in next three years:
Roads
Managing new development
Amalgamations
Financial viability
Sewerage

57% of our respondents have lived in Dungog Shire for more than 10 years.

While a 13% return rate is a little disappointing, it is an improvement on a previous survey in 2002 which had a return rate of only 4.3%.

This information provides us with a valuable insight into the views of the community, and allows Council to target improvement strategies at those areas which are seen as being of high importance.
References

Dungog Shire Council Management Plan
Dungog Shire Council S94 Draft Plan
NSW Department of Sport and Recreation Corporate Plan 2003-07
Office of Young People (2002)
NSW Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care (2004) Positive Aging Strategy
Dungog Shire Access Committee
Better Futures Hunter Region Youth Plan (2003-2006)
Hunter Health (2002) Better Rural Health Plan
Hunter Valley Research Foundation
Australian Bureau Statistics Census 2001
Dungog Shire Community Organisations
Dungog Shire Service Providers

Acknowledgments

Bandon Grove Hall Committee
Clarence Town & District Progress Association
Clarence Town Amateur Swimming Club
Clarence Town Day Care Centre
Clarence Town Historical Society
Clarence Town Junior & Senior Cricket Club
Clarence Town Community Centre Management Committee
Clarence Town Preschool
Clarence Town Playgroup
Clarence Town Youth meeting/Skatepark Committee
Clarence Town Public School
Dungog & District Out of School Hours
Dungog & District Cricket Association
Dungog & District Ministers Association
Dungog & District Golf Club
Dungog & District Neighbourcare Inc
Dungog & District Netball Association
Dungog & District Retirement Living Inc
Dungog Skatepark Committee
Dungog & District Soccer Club Inc
Dungog & District Squash Association
Dungog & District Youth Service
Dungog Amateur Swimming Club Inc
Dungog Arts Society
Dungog Care & Share Inc
Dungog CWA
Dungog Food Service
Dungog Garden Club
Dungog High School
Dungog Historical Society
Dungog Hospital Therapy
Dungog Information & Neighbourhood Service
Dungog Lioness Club
Dungog Memorial RSL
Dungog Memorial Bowling Club
Dungog Preschool
Dungog Pony Club
Dungog Public School
Dungog Public School P&C
Dungog School Boys Rugby League
Dungog Scout Group
Dungog Guides
Dungog Shire Community Transport
Dungog Shire Palliative Care
Dungog State Emergency Service
Glen William Public School P&C
Gresford Community Group
Gresford Consultative Committee
Gresford Youth Group
Gresford CWA
Gresford Public School
Gresford Senior Cricket
Gresford Sporting Complex
Gresford Tennis Club
James Theatre Community Centre
Live Youth Services
Martins Creek P&C
Martins Creek School of Arts Hall Committee
Paterson Historical Society
Paterson Preschool
Paterson Netball Club
Paterson Golf Club
Rotary Club of Paterson
Paterson Progress Association
Vacy School of Arts
Vacy Playgroup
Vacy School
Vacy Sportsground
Wallerobba Cricket Club