



a snapshot of the
hornsby shire in 2012

AUGUST 2012



Mystic Waterfall – Michael Reddie

contents

introduction	2	Create a strong sense of belonging	15
brief history	3	Community engagement	15
where we are now	4	Volunteering	15
ecology	5	Crime	15
protect and enhance our natural environment		Support healthy interactive communities	16
Protect and enhance biodiversity	6	Community groups	16
Land clearing	6	Recreation, open space and leisure facilities	16
Maintain healthy waterways and catchments	6	human habitat	17
Water quality	7	provide effective community infrastructure and services	
Air quality	7	Community infrastructure	18
Reduce our ecological footprint	7	Support vibrant living centres	18
Water efficiency	7	Support effective infrastructure and services	18
Council	7	Asset management	18
Community	7	Main roads	19
Waste reduction	7	Car ownership	19
economy	8	Public transport	19
encourage a resilient local economy and sustainable resource use		Support harmonious natural and built environment	20
Respond to climate change	9	Companion animals	20
Energy usage	9	governance	21
Loans of energy meters	9	guide towards a sustainable future	
Greenhouse gas reduction	10	Support accountable corporate management	22
Climate change adaptation	10	Support timely and responsive services	22
Create a vibrant and resilient economy	10	Support consistent and effective policy and plans	22
Household income	10	measuring progress	24
Business opportunities	10	Key	25
Employment	10	Ecology	25
Build capacity for local employment	10	Economy	26
Employment targets	11	Society and culture	27
society and culture	12	Human habitat	28
enhance our social and community wellbeing		Governance	29
Meet our diverse community needs	13	Key highlights – September 2008 to 2012	30
Population growth	13	Key awards – September 2008 to 2012	31
Ageing population	14	References	33
Migration trends	14		
Population profile	14		
Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital	14		
Healthcare	15		

introduction



Council would like to recognise the traditional owners of the lands of Hornsby Shire, the Darug and Guringai Aboriginal people, and pay respect to their elders and their heritage.

This report provides a snapshot of the quality of life and wellbeing of the Hornsby Shire in 2012. It contains information on what is happening in relation to the Shire's key strategic themes of Ecology, Economy, Society and culture, Human habitat and Governance and provides measurement against indicators implemented in 2010.

To determine a shared goal and future direction to our Shire, it is essential that we understand "Where we are now". Council has prepared this report so that we better understand how issues facing us now may impact us in the future.



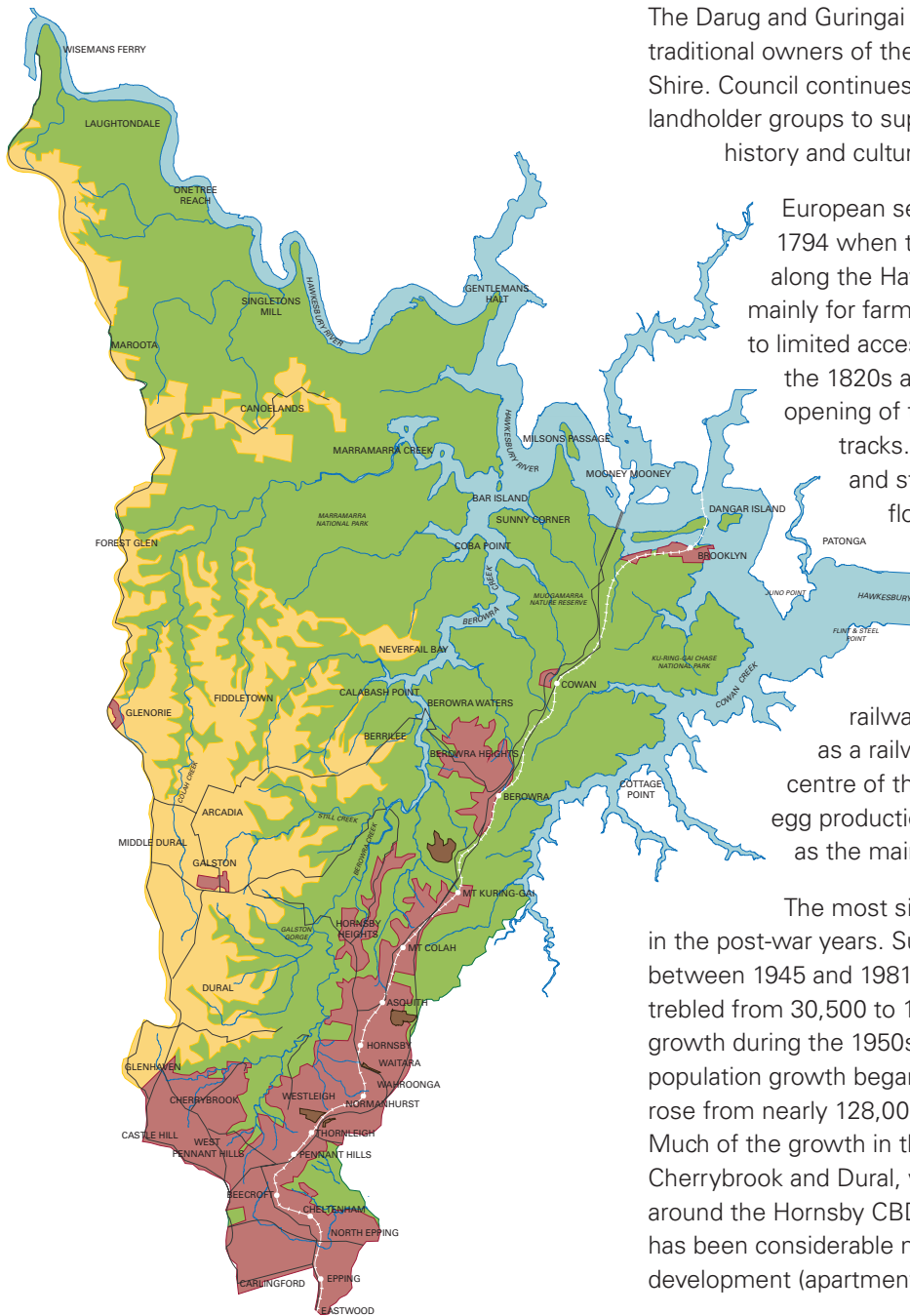
Scott Phillips
General Manager

brief history

The Darug and Guringai Aboriginal people are the traditional owners of the land we now know as Hornsby Shire. Council continues to work with these traditional landholder groups to support the celebration of Aboriginal history and culture in the Shire.

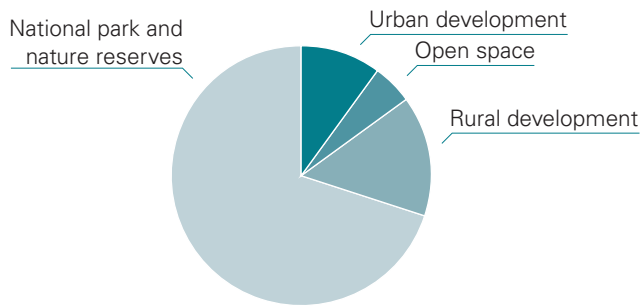
European settlement in the Shire dates from 1794 when the first land grants were made along the Hawkesbury River, with land used mainly for farming. Development was slow, due to limited access and some growth took place in the 1820s and the 1830s, following the opening of the Great North Road and other tracks. Early industries included citrus and stone fruit farming, salt production, flourmills and boat building. Growth continued in the 1880s and 1890s, especially in the south-eastern section, spurred by the opening of the Newcastle and North Shore railway lines. Hornsby CBD developed as a railway town, becoming the major centre of the Shire. In the 1920s poultry and egg production replaced citrus and stone fruits as the main industry

The most significant development took place in the post-war years. Substantial growth occurred between 1945 and 1981, when the population more than trebled from 30,500 to 111,000, with the most rapid growth during the 1950s and 1960s. From the 1970s, population growth began to slow down. The population rose from nearly 128,000 in 1991 to 149,000 in 2006. Much of the growth in the 1990s was in Castle Hill, Cherrybrook and Dural, with urban consolidation in and around the Hornsby CBD, while in the last 10 years there has been considerable medium and high-density development (apartments) in Waitara and Hornsby CBD.



where we are now

Hornsby Shire, like the rest of Sydney, has been under substantial and continual pressure to accommodate a rapidly growing population. Over the next 10 years an additional 2,600 dwellings will be built in planned precincts. At present approximately 10% of the Shire is zoned and used for urban development, 15% for rural purposes, 5% for open space, and the remainder is Environmental Protection or National Park (approximately 70%).



Division of land zones in Hornsby Shire

People living in the Hornsby Shire in 2009 described their dream for the future as a quality lifestyle in an area that is responsive to the wellbeing and needs of its residents, is well serviced, well designed, prosperous and equitable. Statistics and research indicate that members of the community choose to live in Hornsby due to an appreciation of the bushland aspect of the Shire, the village like atmosphere, transport networks, housing and school options; and have a relatively high socio-economic advantage. However, there are aspects of living in the Shire that are affecting the quality of life of residents and what could be described as impacting on work-life balance, such as safety, transport and accessibility, increase in both parents working, high density housing, and rural and remote areas.



ecology

ecology

protect and enhance our natural environment

Percentage of bushland in the Shire	67%
Percentage of cleared land	33%
Percentage of bushland managed by National Parks and Wildlife Service	52%
Percentage of bushland managed by Council	17%
Percentage of endangered ecological communities on private land	74.7%
Number of patches of endangered ecological communities	947
Area of endangered ecological communities	797.5 ha
Average size of endangered ecological community	0.84 ha
Threatened plant species	25
Threatened animal species	42

Hornsby Shire is characterised by large tracts of bushland, estimated at 67% of the Shire. Berowra Valley Regional Park and several large national parks account for a significant area of bushland, featuring vegetation growing on the infertile soils and deeply dissected Hawkesbury Sandstone terrain. The Shire lies within the Sydney Basin bioregion and the Central Coast Botanical Subdivision and thus has ecological features characteristic of both. The Hornsby Plateau and Hawkesbury Valley form the major physiographic regions of the area.

Protect and enhance biodiversity

The Hornsby Shire has a rich biodiversity with over 1,000 native plant species and 338 native vertebrate animal species. To date, there are 26 threatened plant species and 42 known species of animals listed as threatened in Hornsby Shire. The Shire also contains these Endangered Ecological Communities:

- Blue gum high forest – now Critically Endangered Ecological Community in NSW
- Duffys forest
- Shale/sandstone transition forest
- Sydney turpentine – Ironbark forest
- River-flat eucalypt forest
- Coastal saltmarsh
- Swamp oak floodplain forest
- Swamp sclerophyll forest on coastal floodplains
- Cumberland plain woodland – Critically endangered ecological community in NSW – represented by small stands of remnant trees
- Shale gravel transition forest – represented by one stand of remnant trees
- Coastal upland swamp.

Land clearing

Our biodiversity is under tremendous pressure from urbanisation, habitat destruction, weed infestation, soil erosion and stress on water catchments. In 2006, over half of the surveyed bushland reserves in the Shire had weed infestations of greater than 30%. During 2010/11, 0.775 ha of bushland was lost to development on private property offset by 1.09 ha revegetated. In 2011/12 there was no net loss of bushland.

Maintain healthy waterways and catchments

The Shire includes four catchments of Berowra Creek, Cowan Creek, Lane Cove River and Hawkesbury River. Berowra Creek Catchment is bounded on the south by Castle Hill Road, to the west by Old Northern Road, to the north by the Canoelands Ridge and to the east by the Pacific Highway. All of Berowra Creek is under the jurisdiction of Hornsby Shire Council. This catchment is a major tributary of the lower Hawkesbury River, entering the Hawkesbury River some 25 kilometres from the ocean. The estuary itself extends for over 23 kilometres in a southerly direction from the Hawkesbury River and contains significant bushland areas, which include Marramarra National Park, Muogamarra Nature Reserve and the Berowra Valley Regional Park. Land uses in this catchment include bushland, rural, developed, urban, light industrial and commercial. Most urban and industrial activities occur in the eastern and southern regions of the catchment.

The upper reaches of the Lane Cove River Catchment are within Hornsby Shire and developed urban land uses, some commercial areas and bushland areas, such as the Lane Cove National Park, dominate the catchment. Within the Cowan Creek Catchment there are four Local Government Areas. The western boundary, defined by the Pacific Highway, lies within Hornsby Shire. Land uses in the southern part of this area include extensive light industrial areas, large commercial shopping centres and developed urban areas. The Hawkesbury River Catchment within Hornsby Shire is divided into two areas, which include the Wisemans Ferry/Maroota region, as well as the Brooklyn area. These areas drain directly to the Hawkesbury River. Land uses in this area include small farming ventures, market gardening, residential, marinas, boat ramps, aquaculture and fishing (commercial and recreational).

Water quality

In 2009/10 less than half (36%) of monitored waterways within the Shire were assessed as being “good”, 8% “fair” and 56% “poor” when compared to the national ANZECC Water Quality Guidelines. Although this may seem low, it should be noted that sample sites are often located downstream from industrial areas and sewerage treatment plants. In order to address poor water quality across Hornsby Shire, Council continues to progress the Catchment Remediation Program to remediate degraded waterways and reduce stormwater pollutants. All remediation work is funded by a special environmental rate, the Catchment Remediation Rate, which is levied at 5% of Council’s Ordinary Rate.

Air quality

Air pollution measurement across the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) is not comprehensive, with only one permanent state-funded regional air quality monitoring station in the region at Lindfield.

Air quality index readings as measured by that facility have remained relatively constant over the last two years.

Reduce our ecological footprint

The ‘Ecological Footprint’ has emerged as the world’s premier measure of humanity’s demand on nature. It measures the area of land and water a human population requires to produce the resource it consumes and to absorb its waste. Australia’s Ecological Footprint in 2005 was 7.8 global hectares (gha) per person (*WWF International 2008*). This is 2.8 times the average global footprint (2.7 gha), and well beyond the level of what the planet can regenerate on an annual basis – an equivalent of about 2.1 gha per person per year (*Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities 2006*). Actions that contribute to our ecological footprint include the use of food, shelter, transport, goods, services, water and electricity.

The ecological footprint of NSW has increased from 6.35 gha per person in 1998-1999 to 7.02 gha in 2003-2004.

The ecological footprint of Sydney has increased from 6.67 gha per person in 1998-1999 to 7.21 gha in 2003-2004 (*NSROC 2010/11*).

Water efficiency

Council

Council’s water consumption significantly reduced from 182,074 kL in 1999/00 to 150,922 kL in 2010/11. This represents a saving of about \$63,000, based on current Sydney Water charges. During 2010/11 Council successfully achieved a 20% water reduction target set against our base years (1999 to 2001).

Community

On a shire-wide basis, water consumption in units/flats and houses substantially reduced over the past 10 years, despite an increase in the number of dwellings. The average per residential dwelling consumption was reduced from 266 kL (1999/00) to 198 kL (2010/11). Industrial, commercial and “other” sectors also had a reduction of 166 kL between 1999/00 to 2010/11.

Hornsby Shire community consumption (houses, units, flats and industry) per person per day is 219L, which is significantly lower than the Sydney-wide average per person per day of 304L. Even though the Hornsby population has increased, there has been a 15% decrease in total water consumption compared to 1999.

Waste reduction

In 2011/12, 54% of all materials collected were recycled from the domestic waste collection service. Over 19,800 tonnes of recycling (paper, cardboard and plastic containers) and 23,300 tonnes of green waste were diverted from landfill.



economy

encourage a resilient local economy and sustainable resource use

Percentage of high income households (those earning \$3,000 per week or more): Hornsby Shire	22.7%
Percentage of high income households (those earning \$3,000 per week or more): New South Wales	12.3%
Percentage of low income households (those earning less than \$600 per week): Hornsby Shire	15.1%
Percentage of low income households (those earning less than \$600 per week): New South Wales	24.2%
Total resources to landfill	33,500 tonnes
Total resources recycled (including greenwaste)	54% (43,100 tonnes)
e-waste recycling (computers, TVs and accessories)	130 tonnes

According to the index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (*ABS 2006*), Hornsby Shire residents have a relatively high level of socio-economic advantage in comparison to most other areas of Sydney, ranking as the ninth least disadvantaged community among Sydney Metropolitan Councils. (*2011 Census SEIFA update to be released 28 March 2013*).

This ranking indicates that there are relatively low numbers of unemployed, unskilled and low-income residents within the Shire. Hornsby Shire residents also have a high level of economic advantage in comparison to most other areas of Sydney, with 80% of households either owning or purchasing their own homes with a median monthly mortgage repayment of \$2,400 (*ABS 2011*).

Respond to climate change

The issue of climate change and its potential impact on the world are well documented in findings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Stern Report and Al Gore's documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, to name just a few. The primary cause of global climate change is related to the burning of fossil fuels.

Energy usage

- Australia's per capita greenhouse gas emissions are among the highest in the world and are more than four times the world average.

- In 2006 the per capita emissions (including emissions from land use, land use change and forestry) were 28.1 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent (*Garnaut, R*).
- NSW greenhouse gas emissions have remained relatively steady since 1990 with per capita emissions declining by 15% since then to 23.6 tonnes, which is below the national average (*Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW 2009*).
- Residential energy consumption (houses, units, flats) per person per day in 2010/11 was 22.5kWh, a 0.3kWh decrease from 2009/10. Total Residential and Non Residential energy consumption, solar connections and power generated to the grid are shown in Figures 1 and 2 below (*Ausgrid 2010/11*).

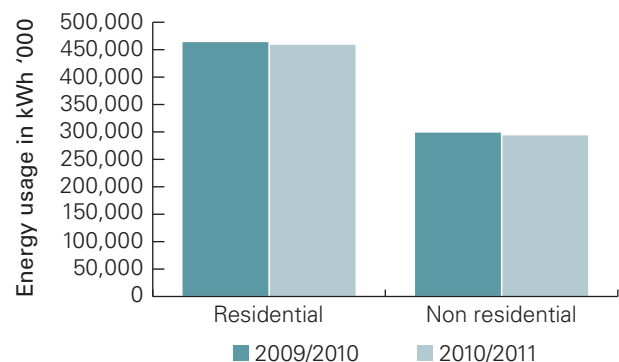


Figure 1: Energy Consumption – Hornsby Shire

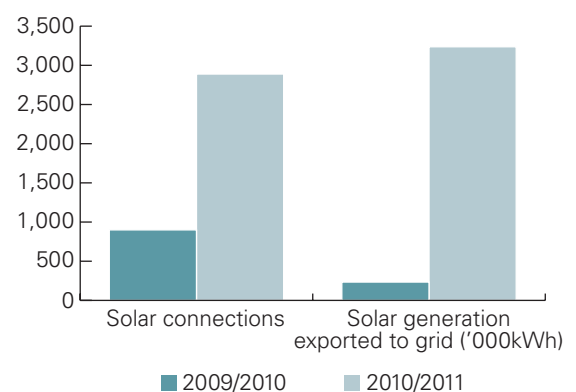


Figure 2: Solar Power – Hornsby Shire

Note: 1 MWh = 1,000 kWh, and in NSW a consumption of 1 MWh results in approximately 1 tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent

Loans of energy meters

Energy meters became available for loan from Council's libraries in January 2011.

Energy meters measure the amount of electricity consumed in kilowatt hours (kWh) and help identify the appliances which have the greatest electricity use. They can also give an estimation of how much a particular

economy (continued)

appliance costs to run and how much CO2 it produces per kWh.

The energy meters are available for loan over a two week period. In 2011/12 there were over 600 loans of energy meters.

Greenhouse gas reduction

During 2010/11 Council continued to implement actions contained within the Sustainable Energy Strategy to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% below 1995/96 levels by 2020 (*Hornsby Shire Council Business Paper – Moving Towards Carbon Neutrality 2009*).

Council has continued to assist the Hornsby community to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by providing programs such as the Fridge Buy Back, greenwaste collection and an e-waste drop off facility.

For upcoming years, Council will undertake a revision of the methodology in place since 1995/96 to calculate greenhouse gas emission reductions to bring it in line with current best practice reporting.

Climate change adaptation

Council has proceeded with the implementation of actions contained within the Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Plan developed in 2009. These actions focus on reducing the vulnerability of human life, capital assets and natural assets to impacts related to heat, bushfire, ecosystems, rainfall and sea level rise. These actions were identified as part of a vulnerability study undertaken by the CSIRO and the Sydney Coastal Councils Group.

Create a vibrant and resilient economy

Household income

Household income is one of the most important indicators of socio-economic status because, with other data sources, such as educational qualifications and occupation, household income helps to evaluate the economic opportunities and socio-economic status of an area. The median weekly family income for the Hornsby Shire (\$2,119) is higher than the New South Wales average (\$1,477). Overall, 22.7% of households earn a high income, and 15.1% are low-income households, compared with 12.3% and 24.2% respectively for New South Wales (*ABS 2011*). The size of Hornsby Shire's labour force in 2006 was 77,945 persons, of which 25,369 were employed part-time (32.5%) and 47,954 were full time workers (61.5%). (*2011 updates for this data to be released 30/10/12*).

The Hornsby Shire is considered to have a vibrant and resilient economy as a larger proportion (almost 50%) of people living in Hornsby Shire hold formal qualifications (Bachelor or higher degree; Advanced Diploma or Diploma; or Vocational qualifications) and a smaller proportion of people hold no formal qualifications than most other areas of Sydney (*ABS 2006*). (*2011 updates for this data to be released 30/10/12*).

Business opportunities

- Hornsby Shire is home to over 10,000 business establishments, which provide over 40,000 jobs (about 50% of which are primarily for the residents of the Shire). This represents about 16% of jobs in the NSROC region and 2.2% of the jobs in the Sydney metropolitan area.
- The local economy generates about \$6.275 billion in gross regional product, which is about 14% of the NSROC region.
- The property and business services sector has been the key growth sector in the Shire; growing by over 20% between 1991 and 2001.
- The Shire has some 194 hectares of land zoned for manufacturing, which supports about 6,000 jobs. The major industrial precincts are located at Mount Kuringgai, Asquith, Waitara and Thornleigh.

Employment

- Outside of health and education, most of the employment is driven by retail and services. Most businesses and employment are concentrated in the key centres of Hornsby, Pennant Hills, Thornleigh, Carlingford and Epping.
- Hornsby has one of the highest levels of home based work compared with other regions in Sydney and has shown significant growth. The highest incidence of home based work occurs in the 'Professionals' and 'Associate Professionals' category, followed by 'Clerical and Service' workers.
- Hornsby Shire has an unemployment rate of 3.9% compared to the Sydney Statistical Division, which has a rate of 5.1% (*Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, March 2012*).

Build capacity for local employment

A high number of Hornsby Shire residents work within the Shire in comparison with the Sydney Statistical Division. Of the total jobs within the Shire, 53% are taken by residents living in the area (*ABS 2006*). (*2011 updates for this data to be released November 2012*).

However, there is a 'leakage' of professional workers, meaning there are fewer local jobs in the professional categories than there are workers so resident executive workers in many professional categories travel out of the region for work. This may be attributed to the lack of local professional jobs and the disproportionate level of executive housing in the area.

Employment targets

The sub-regional employment targets for Hornsby include 9,000 new jobs by 2031. Of that figure, Hornsby Town Centre has been specifically allocated 3,000 jobs. Hornsby Shire Council, in conjunction with Ku-ring-gai Council, commissioned an Employment Study to identify opportunities to meet employment targets and to describe the potential economic growth to complement population growth. The Study concludes that there is sufficient existing capacity within Council's employment lands to meet employment targets without the need to rezone additional lands.

Childhood – Lina Hayes

A close-up photograph of two young girls with dark hair and blue eyes, smiling and hugging each other. The girl in the foreground is resting her head on the girl behind her. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting with foliage. The overall mood is warm and affectionate.

society and culture

enhance our social and community wellbeing

Shire (established 1906)	510 sq km
Census count 2011 (ABS Census)	156,847
Number of suburbs	46
Number of people volunteering	29,004
Largest population group	45-54 years of age
Smallest population group	85 years and over
Number of households	52,671
Number of rateable properties (residential, commercial and farmland)	56,800
Indigenous population	562
Life expectancy at birth for males (Northern Sydney Local Health District)	81.9
Life expectancy at birth for females (Northern Sydney Local Health District)	85.5
Households with internet connection	45,613

While the myriad of social issues that characterise the Hornsby LGA are too complex to describe and analyse here, some of the key issues and trends are noted in this chapter. Some of these issues are common to many areas of Australia, while others play out in particular or unique ways in Hornsby Shire.

Meet our diverse community needs

Hornsby Shire has a tolerant and inclusive society made up of people from many different backgrounds. The traditional inhabitants of the Shire are the Aboriginal people of the Darug and Guringai language groups. In 2011, 0.4% or 562 of Hornsby Shire's population identified as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent. The majority of Aboriginal people live in and around the Hornsby CBD and in the north of the Shire.

Population growth

The census count of people in the Hornsby Shire in August 2011 was 156,847, an increase of over 21,241 since 1996. (*NB. The census count is a raw number which has not been adjusted to account for people who were missed in the Census and those overseas on Census night.*) This number is likely to increase substantially with the State Government's population target for the NSROC region being an estimated growth of 120,000 – 150,000 over the next 25 years. Hornsby is not alone in this growth with the Australian population increasing by 8.3% from 2006 Census figures. As Figure 3 illustrates, the majority of these people are likely to reside in Hornsby, followed by Pennant Hills, Asquith, Dural and Epping.

As at the 2011 Census, the median age of people in Hornsby Shire was 39 years. Children aged 0-14 years made up 19.4% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 14.4% of the population.

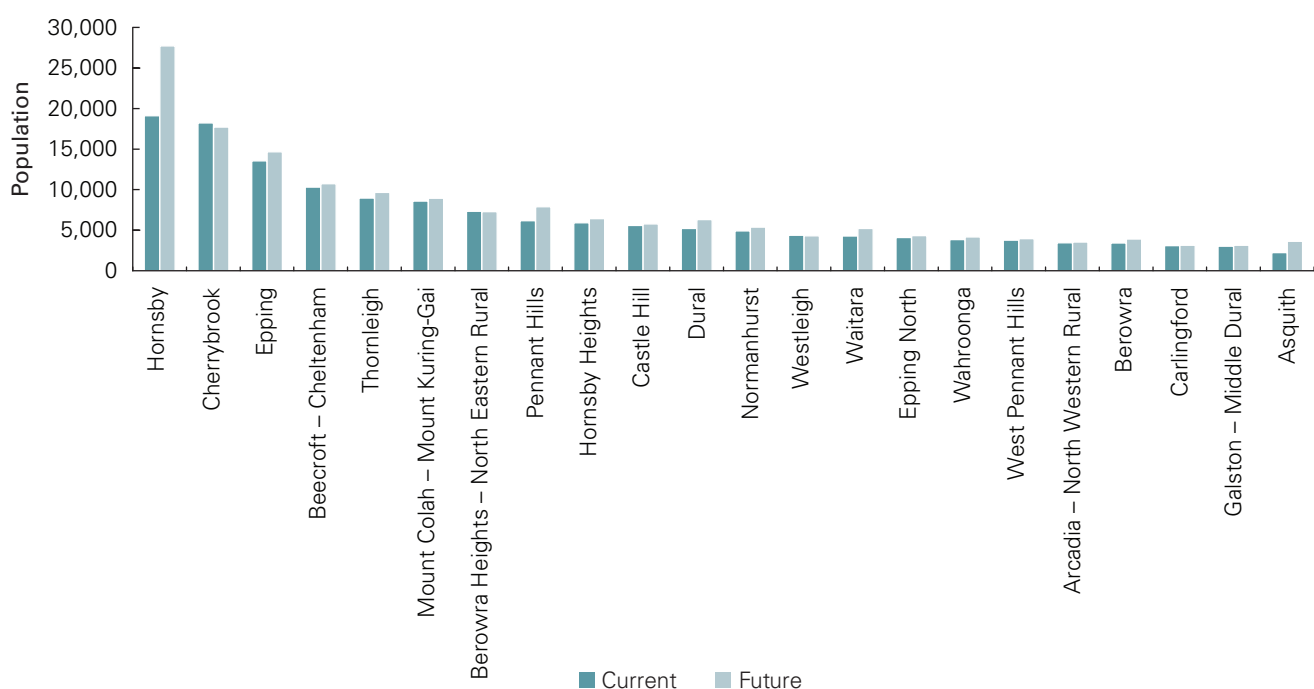


Figure 3 – Predicted population growth to 2021 for Hornsby Shire (Source: Climate Change Adaptation Strategic Plan, Aurecon, 2009)

society and culture (continued)

Ageing population

The population of Australians aged 65 years and over is projected to increase in coming decades. Ageing of the population is one of the major transformations being experienced by Australia’s population, and is a current focus for both economic and social policy. In Hornsby Shire, the proportion of the population aged 55 years and over grew from 21% in 1996 to 26% in 2011. In 2011, there were 41,082 people over 55 years. The largest increases in age structure between 2006 and 2011 occurred in the age groups of 45-54, 55-64 and 65-74 years, while the largest decrease occurred in the age group of 15-19 years.

Migration trends

In the last decade, the rate of permanent migration to Australia has grown considerably. The 2011 Census revealed that over a quarter (26%) of Australia’s population was born overseas and a further one fifth (20%) had at least one overseas-born parent.

In 2011, 82% of the overseas-born population lived in capital cities compared with 66% of all people in Australia. The impact of this increase in migration can be seen in Hornsby, where the proportion of overseas-born residents increased from 27% in 1996 to 38.5% in 2011. Of those Hornsby Shire residents born overseas, 31% came from a non English speaking background. The primary non-English language groups are Chinese speakers (10.5%), Indo-Aryan (eg. Hindi, Punjabi) (3.8%) and Korean (2.7%). Other countries of birth include UK, New Zealand, Lebanon, Iran, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the Philippines (*ABS 2011*).

Population profile

Hornsby’s population profile is changing with the majority of young families living in the southern parts of the Shire. This could be due to better transport networks and a greater number of schooling options. There has been a recent trend emerge with young families moving to the north of the Shire, possibly due to the affordability of housing.

Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital

Hornsby Shire is serviced by the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital which has undergone development in the Obstetric, Paediatric and Emergency building and the construction of an Area Mental Health Intensive Care Facility. The hospital’s \$23 million two-storey Obstetric, Paediatric and Emergency building was opened in March 2007.

A \$36 million Mental Health Unit Project involving the construction of a 35 bed acute adult ward, a 12 bed child and adolescent ward, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Community Services, therapy rooms, family meeting areas, gym facility, courtyards and onsite parking for 155 cars will commence in 2012 and is scheduled for completion in the second half of 2013. The project will enhance existing adult in-patient mental health services and create much-needed child and adolescent in-patient services. The new facility will be accessible to clients in the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Local Health Districts (*NSW Health 2012*).

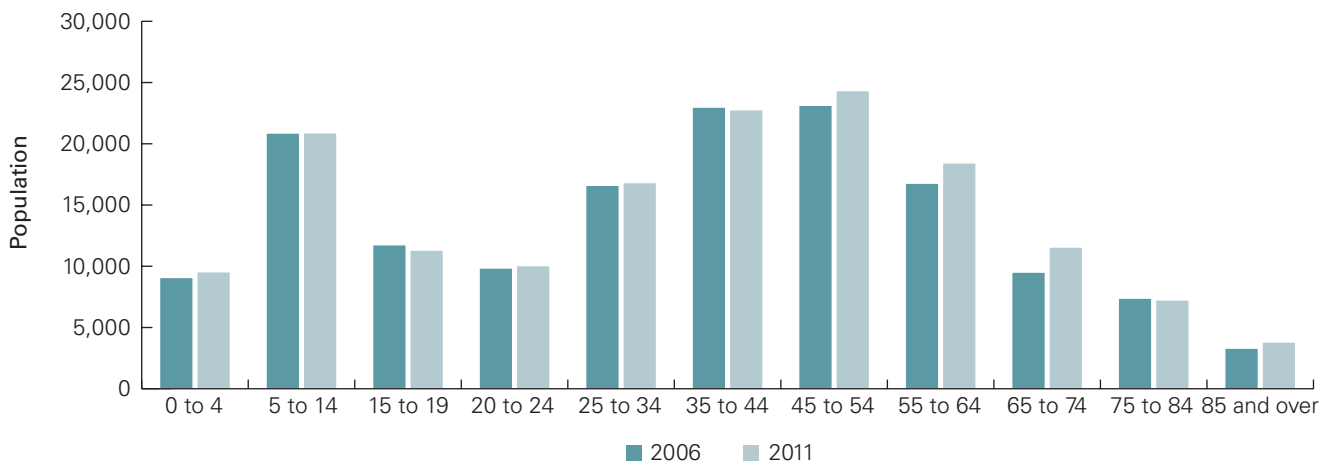


Figure 4: Age structure of Hornsby Shire

Healthcare

The 2010 Report on Adult Health: NSW Population Health Survey indicated that the Northern Sydney Local Health District (LHD)¹ performed **better** than the population of NSW as a whole for some identified health behaviours (*NSW Health 2010*). These include:

- more people undertake adequate physical activity
- less people currently smoke
- less people smoke daily
- more people visited a dental professional less than 12 months ago
- more people had private health insurance
- less people are overweight or obese
- less people have ever been told by a doctor or hospital they had diabetes or high blood glucose
- less people experienced difficulties getting health care
- less people presented to an emergency department, and more gave a positive rating to the emergency department care they received.

A significantly higher proportion of adults in Northern Sydney (83.6%) rated their health positively, compared with the overall adult population.

However, the Northern Sydney LHD performed **worse** than NSW as a whole in people who:

- drink more than two standard drinks on a day when consuming alcohol
- consume five or more serves of vegetables a day.

The Northern Sydney LHD has the second highest incidence across NSW of new cases of breast cancer for females of all ages. It has the lowest incidence for lung cancer in both males and females and the lowest incidence of cardiovascular disease deaths across NSW.

Create a strong sense of belonging

Many factors contribute to an individual and a community sense of wellbeing, including the feeling of being in a safe environment and feeling connected and part of a community.

Community engagement

Community engagement can take many forms such as volunteering, participation in programs and local activities, pro-active participation in civic behaviours (such as letter writing or contacting the media on issues) and

participating in formal community engagement processes that fed into decision making (ie. responding to draft plans and strategies, attending a public forum, being a member of a committee or responding to a resident survey). People who live, work, play, study, use services and do business within Hornsby Shire have a range of local knowledge and expertise that should be utilised to inform and influence Council decisions that impact upon them.

While enhancing Council's reputation as transparent, accountable and willing to listen, community engagement also enhances community understanding of the role of Local Government and promotes a sense of belonging within a vibrant community. In 2007, Council established a formal community consultation process, with over 1,200 residents registering an interest and over 800 registering a current email address.

Volunteering

In the 12 months prior to the 2011 Census, 29,004 (22.9%) residents of Hornsby Shire aged 15 years and over did voluntary work through an organisation or group compared to 27,444 (22.6%) in 2006. The proportion of people aged 15 years and over who volunteer in the Hornsby Shire is 6% higher than NSW and 5.1% higher than across Australia (*ABS 2011*).

Crime

Crime statistics reported by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research at March 2012 indicate that trends in recorded violent offences within Hornsby Shire showed a 3.8% decrease over the past five years, and trends in recorded property offences showed a 6.3% decrease over the same period (*NSW BOCSAR*).

In the period March 2011 to March 2012, the major offences that showed an increased incidence were:

- Sexual assault, including other sexual offences (127/141² LGAs)
- Robbery without a weapon
- Break and enter non-dwelling (126/141 LGAs)
- Steal from motor vehicle (125/141 LGAs)
- Fraud (63/141 LGAs).

In 2008/09, 37% of Australians aged 15 years or over reported feeling safe or very safe when walking alone after dark in their own neighbourhood, whilst 15% said they would never do this alone because of safety concerns. Almost three-quarters (74%) of people who felt unsafe when alone were women (*ABS 2010*).

1 Northern Sydney Local Health District = facilities at Greenwich, Hornsby, Macquarie, Manly, Mona Vale, Neringah, Royal North Shore, Royal Rehabilitation, Ryde

2 Ranking @ 2011. LGAs with populations under 3,000 are grouped.

society and culture (continued)

In 2012, a survey of Hornsby Shire residents showed that 98% feel quite safe in their local areas both walking and using public transport during the day, with 63% feeling the same way about walking/using public transport at night.

Support healthy interactive communities

Hornsby has 46 suburbs and rural localities, which include Arcadia, Asquith, Beecroft, Berowra, Berowra Creek, Berowra Heights, Berowra Waters, Berrilee, Brooklyn, Canoelands, Carlingford (part), Castle Hill (part), Cheltenham, Cherrybrook, Cowan, Dangar Island, Dural (part), Epping (part), Epping North, Fiddletown, Forest Glen, Galston, Glenhaven (part), Glenorie (part), Hornsby, Hornsby Heights, Laughtondale, Maroota (part), Middle Dural (part), Milsons Passage, Mount Colah, Mount Kuring-gai, Normanhurst, Pennant Hills, Singletons Mill, Thornleigh, Wahroonga (part), Waitara, Westleigh, West Pennant Hills (part) and Wisemans Ferry (part). Council encourages residents to be involved in their local community and supports healthy interactive communities by hosting local festivals, cultural and sporting events, fetes and managing designated parks and recreation facilities.

Community groups

Hornsby Library maintains a Community Information Directory that provides information about non profit groups and organisations in the Hornsby Shire, as well as regional and state groups of interest to the Hornsby Shire community. There are currently over 700 community groups registered on Council's Community Information Directory @ hornsby.nsw.gov.au/library.

Recreation, open space and leisure facilities

To help support healthy interactive communities Council provides and assists in the management of a wide range of leisure facilities including:

- 5,950 hectares of public bushland
- 40 sportsground complexes (with 85 summer and 102 winter marked sports fields)
- 42 netball courts
- 75 tennis courts (at 17 centres)
- two dirt jump (BMX) facilities
- five skate parks
- three aquatic centres
- one four hectare Rural Sports Facility
- one indoor recreation centre 'The Brickpit'
- 184 parks
- 137 playgrounds
- eight dog off leash areas
- 31 community centres (including five leisure and learning centres, three arts and cultural centres and one youth and family centre)
- one central and four branch libraries

Council manages the day-to-day operation of these facilities, with the exception of 13 community centres, 11 of which are managed by section 377 committees, and two through lease/licence agreements with specific community organisations. The majority of the tennis centres are also managed through lease/licence agreements.



human habitat

human habitat

provide effective community infrastructure and services

Sealed roads	636.4 km
Unsealed roads	28.7 km
Paved footpaths	417.4 km
Libraries	5
Community centres	31
Floating pontoons	8
Council childcare facilities	4
Public wharves	5
Boat launching ramps	4
Number of Development Applications approved in 2011/12:	Total = 1280
Commercial	112
Industrial	11
Residential	959
Aged person homes	4
Other	194

Hornsby Shire is one of the larger local government areas in Sydney by both population and land area. The Shire is predominantly rural, river and urban communities, each with local identities, along with some commercial and industrial land uses.

Community infrastructure

Hornsby Council provides many recreation and leisure facilities, including sportsfields, netball courts, tennis courts, bmx facilities, skate parks, dog off leash areas, parks and playgrounds. Also, there is a modern indoor recreation centre called 'The Brickpit' at Thornleigh, a four hectare rural sports facility suitable for equestrian activities at Galston, and public swimming pools at Hornsby, Galston and Epping. The Hornsby Aquatic Centre has been closed since 24 December 2010 due to deteriorating condition and construction of a new facility commenced in August 2012. There is also a pool at Cherrybrook constructed on Council land leased to the Carlisle organisation which accommodates private and public swimming.

In addition, there are 31 community centres in the Shire. This network of community centres is used by a wide cross section of community groups to meet and pursue mutual interests.

Hornsby Shire Council has libraries located at Hornsby, Epping, Pennant Hills, Galston and Berowra. The libraries have approximately 74,500 members who account for 1,250,000 loans of resources per annum. eBook and

eAudiobook services were introduced in May 2012. Council's website receives about 160,000 online visits for the library each year.

Support vibrant living centres

The Shire has three major town centres, with Hornsby Town Centre (130,000 square metres for retail trade and 6,000 employees) being the major centre, and Carlingford (31,000 square metres) and Pennant Hills (12,000 square metres) being secondary centres. The remainder of the Shire's 37 centres provide small opportunities for retail trade and are surrounded by rural and residential development.

The major town centres are located in the south of the Shire.

The last 10 years has seen strong residential growth within the Shire, especially around the Hornsby Town Centre. The major commercial development has also been around Hornsby Mall, which attracts approximately 16.3 million visitors per year.

Support effective infrastructure and services

There are over 636 km of sealed roads and 28 km of unsealed roads in the Shire, and more than 417 km of paved footpaths. Council has six sealed public car parks, a pedestrian overbridge, four minor road bridges and 51 major culverts. Council also maintains five public wharves, eight floating pontoons, four boat launching ramps and two loading docks. Hornsby Shire has an extensive drainage system comprising over 18,300 pits and 390 km of pipelines.

Asset management

Asset management in Hornsby Shire is administered within the Asset Management Framework which forms part of the Resourcing Strategy 2011, and is underpinned by plans prepared for roads, stormwater drainage, foreshore facilities, public buildings, open spaces and leisure facilities. Asset management plans formalise the process of managing the financial and physical requirements for the life of the plan (typically 20 years), and cover the level of service, future demand, life cycle management, financial forecasts and monitoring and improvement. Council currently holds assets with a carrying value of \$1.1 billion excluding land value (as at 2010). Of these assets, infrastructure that primarily consumes maintenance, upgrade, renewal and new creation expenditure are:

Roads	\$395M
Stormwater drainage	\$492M
Public Buildings	\$137.8M
Open spaces	\$51.6M
Leisure facilities	\$17.7M
Foreshore facilities	\$5M

The current estimated shortfall to bring these assets up to a satisfactory standard is \$34.3M, with stormwater drainage recording the largest shortfall of \$18.2M.

In March 2011 Council applied to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a special rate variation to address the problem of ageing infrastructure and achieve the outcomes desired by the community while optimising the capital and renewal investment and minimising the impact on the financial sustainability of the organisation and ratepayers. IPART approved Council's application in June 2011 for a special variation to general income staged over three years. The additional rates will provide Council with more than \$50M over 10 years. All of these funds will be directed to improving infrastructure.

Main roads

A network of main roads, the Sydney-Newcastle Freeway (F3) and the M2 Tollway service Hornsby Shire. These roads are currently at or near capacity in peak hours, as local and commuter traffic, as well as freight, seek to get to their destination. This has a flow on effect on Council's road network, which consists of local, collector and sub-arterial roads that provide access throughout the Shire. Pedestrian and cycle access is available on some roads along a network of paved and unpaved footpaths and cycle ways.

The F3-M2 Connector is the remaining "missing link" between Sydney's orbital motorway network and the F3 Freeway which connects Sydney to the Central Coast, Newcastle and beyond with the Pacific and New England Highways. Council, in conjunction with seven other councils, is currently lobbying the State Government for this critical project to be recognised and actioned.

Car ownership

Car ownership of households in Hornsby Shire in 2011 shows that 91% of households own at least one car. Overall, 36.1% of the households own one car; 38.7% own two cars; and 16.2% own three cars or more. The major differences between car ownership of households in Hornsby Shire compared to the Greater Sydney Capital City Statistical Area are a larger percentage of households with two vehicles (38.7% compared to 33%), and a

smaller percentage of households with no vehicles (7.2% compared to 12.1%) (ABS 2011).

The effects of increasing traffic has been identified as a major problem within the Northern Sydney region, with 49% using the car as their mode of travel to work (ABS 2006). (2011 updates for this data to be released 30/10/12).

In 2010/11 there were 367 fatalities caused by traffic accidents in NSW with four of these fatalities occurring in the Hornsby Shire.

Public transport

Public transport consists of the North Shore and Northern Rail Lines, which provide a link to Chatswood and the City, and to and from the north via Strathfield to the rest of the metropolitan area and the City. The recently opened Epping-Chatswood rail link complements the network, providing access to the Macquarie Business Park and University. A network of buses provides links across the Shire and to interchanges at Hornsby, Epping and Pennant Hills. Ferries at Brooklyn provide links to the Hawkesbury River settlements and to the north.

In December 2010, Transport for NSW indicated a commitment by the State Government to provide \$50.2 billion of funding over the next 10 years towards improving transport services. These projects will benefit Hornsby Shire:

- North West Rail Link between Epping and Rouse Hill connecting the lower part of the Shire to employment and retail opportunities in the North-West growth centre.
- Delivery of the Western Express Project in 2017 that will separate Western Sydney rail services from inner city trains increasing capacity to Northern Line services running through the Shire.
- The expansion of the Metrobus service to include a service between Hornsby and Parramatta via Baulkham Hills and Pennant Hills connecting the Shire to the key employment and retail centre of Parramatta.

In 2012, a survey of Hornsby Shire residents showed that 33% of all respondents regularly/every day use public transport, however young families rarely use public transport. 72% of respondents said the train is the most popular mode of public transport with 79% being able to get to a train station in less than 15 minutes.

In 2006, 15,020 people caught public transport to work (train, bus, tram or ferry) in Hornsby Shire, compared with

human habitat (continued)

44,043 who drove in private vehicles (car – as driver, car – as passenger, motorbike, or truck). The major differences between the method of travel to work for Hornsby Shire residents and the Sydney Statistical Division are a larger percentage of train commuters (17.9% compared to 12.3%), and a smaller percentage of bus commuters (2.1% compared to 5.4%) (*ABS 2006*). (2011 updates for this data to be released 30/10/12).

Support harmonious natural and built environment

Major features of the Shire include Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Marramarra National Park, Berowra Valley Regional Park, Muogamarra Nature Reserve, Asquith Golf Club, Pennant Hills Golf Club, Westfield Shopping Centre (Hornsby), Koala Park Sanctuary, TAFE NSW Northern Sydney Institute (Hornsby College), Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Hospital, the Hawkesbury River and the Great North Walk.

Companion animals

Almost two-thirds of Australian households currently own a pet. As at 2012, there are approximately 29,000 dogs and 12,000 cats residing in the Hornsby Shire. These figures are some of the highest in the State. Dog ownership is increasing and as private space is becoming smaller, the use of public space for dog socialisation and exercising is becoming increasingly important, as is the demand for off-leash areas. While dog owners need to exercise their dogs, this activity must be balanced against environmental considerations and the rights and safety of others.

- The Hornsby Leisure Strategic Plan found that walking and walking the dog were among the most popular leisure activities in Hornsby Shire in 2001, with 75.3% of respondents participating in the past 12 months and 51% of respondents participating more than 20 times per year (Recreation and Planning Associates, 2000).
- Based on participation rates collected for the Hornsby Leisure Strategic Plan, approximately 30% of people fished in the last year (2003). This equates to over 44,900 people.
- The Benchmark Park User Satisfaction Survey Program undertaken in 2007 indicated that 11% of respondents visited the parks surveyed to walk the dog or for “dog play.” 3.1% of respondents felt there was an unmet demand for jogging/walking for pleasure/walking the dog (this was the third highest activity mentioned as representing an unmet demand after swimming/aquatic activities and cycling/mountain biking).

Hornsby Shire has eight off-leash areas for exercising and training of dogs, six full time sites and two sites where dogs are not permitted during organised sport and games and maintenance activities.



governance

governance

guide towards a sustainable future

Local government is the most diverse of Australia’s three levels of government. It is an important player in the area of environment and heritage management in Australia, and has responsibility for protecting the environment, planning future landscapes, providing infrastructure, managing natural resources, and conserving or managing cultural heritage through a variety of mechanisms. Participation by the community in decision-making is a vital component of good governance. Many residents are willing to participate providing they are aware of the relevance of the topic, the visibility of the results and the transparency of the impacts.

Support accountable corporate management

Local government responsibilities and community expectations have increased over many years in a number of areas including childcare, aged care, social services, community safety, community facilities, quality of open space and environmental management. With these increasing expectations, Council recognises the need to have accountable corporate management. The Delivery Program is the vehicle Council uses to identify and meet these expectations. The Delivery Program is intended to guide Council’s efforts strategically and operationally in the near future.

In addition to the Delivery Program, a 10 year Long Term Financial Plan has been developed as part of Council’s ongoing financial planning. The Program forecasts Council’s future financial position based on a continuance of “normal” operations. Whilst this is difficult to define, it can be regarded as the provision of services to stakeholders at levels of service that they have come to expect on a regular basis and excludes ‘one-off’ and extraordinary items such as non-operational asset sales and acquisitions. In this regard, a key objective of financial forecasting is to project future results using financial assumptions and projections of the future. From these forward projections, the future financial position and financial health of Council can be determined.

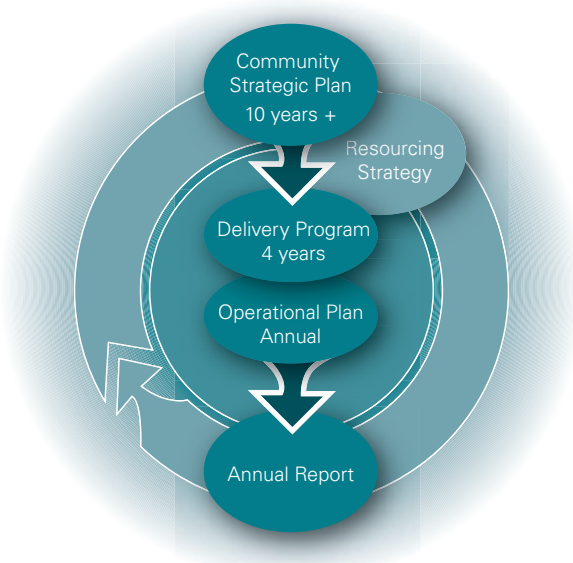
Support timely and responsive services

Council has committed to a timely and responsive service when addressing community requests and written correspondence. Council endeavours to respond to all service requests within 28 days and all written

correspondence within 14 days. Council has implemented a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to ensure quality customer service. This system allows for monitoring and reporting to ensure Council’s responsive targets are being met.

Support consistent and effective policy and plans

Council recognises that in order to plan properly for maximum long-term benefit we must understand the Shire’s attributes, its natural environment, its built areas, and the people who live and work here. We need to know what issues we face and what changes to make in order to provide the services that current and future residents expect. A perpetual monitoring and review framework legislated by the NSW State Government, known as the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, is in place.



The Hornsby Shire Community Plan 2010-2020 is the highest-level Council plan. It has been prepared by Hornsby Shire Council in partnership with local residents, the business community, other levels of government, educational institutions, non-government community and cultural organisations, neighbouring councils and individuals, and addresses a broad range of issues that are relevant to the whole community.

The Resourcing Strategy 2011 incorporates Council’s Workforce Strategy, Asset Management Framework and Long Term Financial Plan. Its purpose is to give consideration to the capacity for Council to deliver on its responsibilities within the Hornsby Shire Community Plan 2010-2020. The Workforce Strategy outlines strategies

which are focused on retaining staff, developing leaders, skilling managers and positioning Council as an employer of choice. The Asset Management Framework assumes community assets need to be maintained to a safe and functional standard and must be 'fit for purpose'. The Long Term Financial Plan provides a framework upon which Council can base its medium to long-term financial decisions. It is also a useful tool for considering the affordability of capital programs and recurrent levels of service.

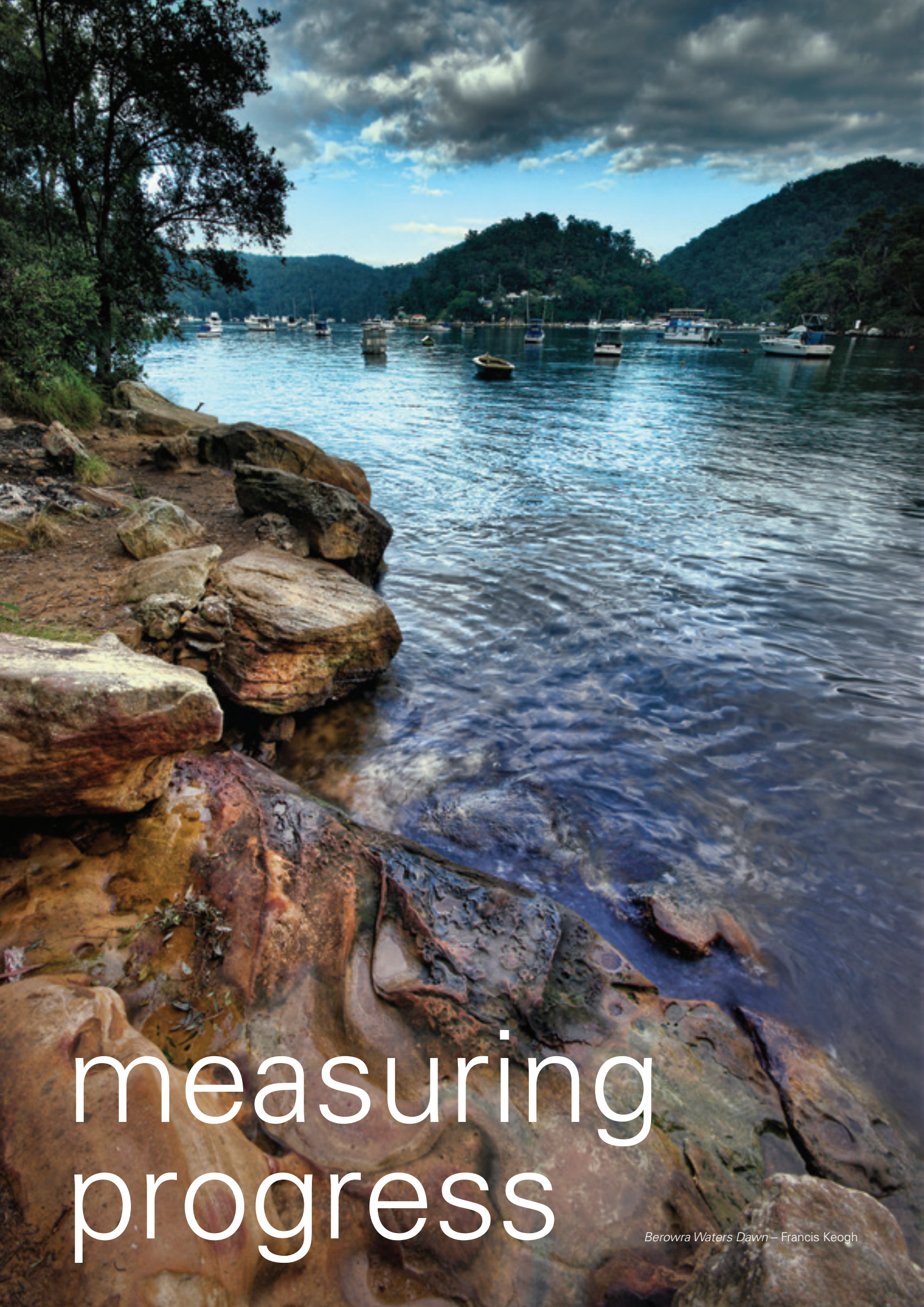
In looking forward, Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan outlines its commitment to the community and illustrates what it intends to do towards achieving the community goals. The Delivery Program 2011-2015 is closely aligned to the Hornsby Shire Community Plan 2010-2020 and is the point where the community's strategic goals in the Community Plan are systematically translated into actions and resources. It describes the principal activities Council will undertake over the coming four years. The Operational Plan flows directly from Council's Delivery Program. It defines the details and allocates responsibilities for achieving the actions and initiatives Council will undertake in the financial year to address the four year Delivery Program and also allocates the resources necessary to achieve the actions and initiatives.

Council's Annual Report is a combined report that provides a succinct synopsis of accomplishments, sustainability matters and integrated planning and reporting requirements. It also reviews accomplishments and achievements in respect of Council's operations for the year and publicly communicates internal and external economic, social and environmental performance, including State of Environment reporting which provides a summary of the physical and social condition of the Shire and the human impacts on our environment.

Council also has a number of approved statutory documents. Approved statutory documents are either required or allowed by legislation and are subject to final approval by Council.

The Local Environmental Plan guides development and planning decisions made by Council. It also ensures that new development is sustainable and compatible with the character of the Shire.

Council policies consist of objectives and a protocol. Council codes are a collection of rules, regulations and standards, determined by Council, relating to a particular subject and are designed to provide guidance to Council staff and external parties about how business is done with Council. They have the same status and authority as Council policies.



measuring progress

Berowra Waters Dawn – Francis Keogh

measuring progress

The following indicators were established as part of the Hornsby Shire Community Plan.

Key

✓ Positive trend

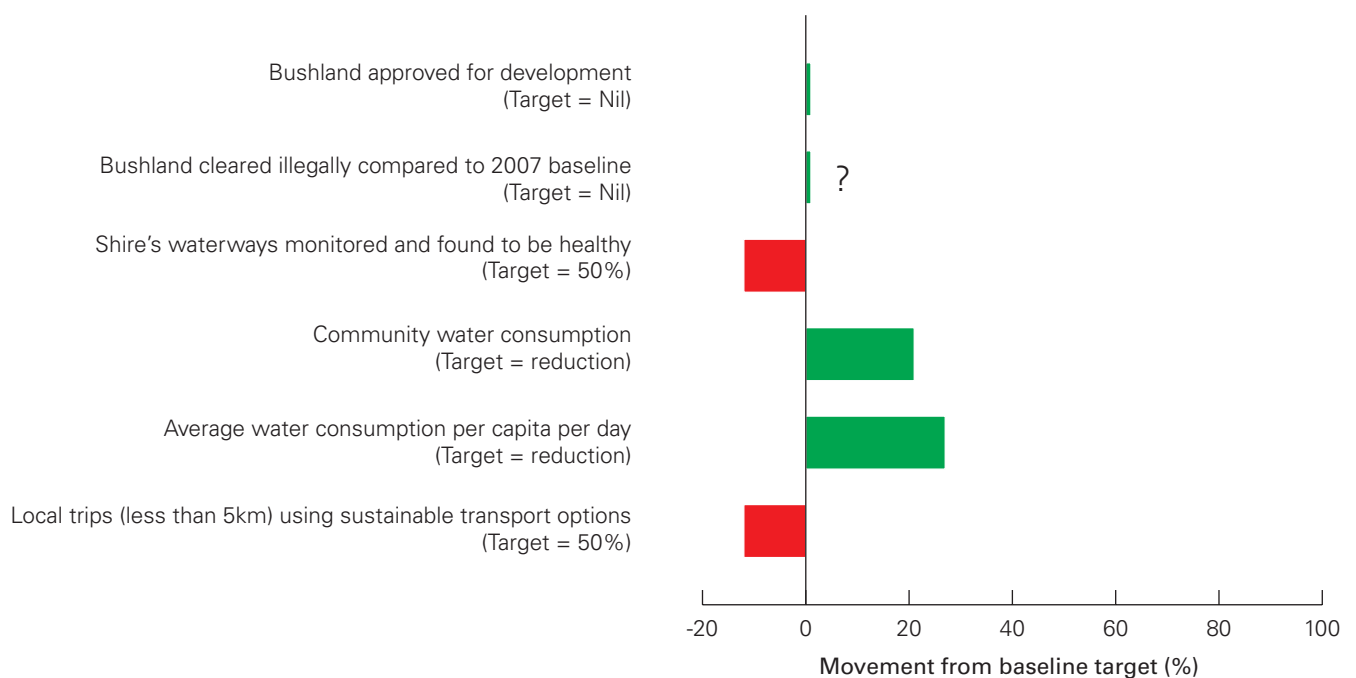
× Negative trend

? Data not yet available

Ecology

Indicator	Data source	Target	Latest Result	Trend
Area of bushland approved for development	Review of development applications	No net loss of bushland	2011/12 – No net loss of bushland (2010/11 – 0.775ha lost offset by 1.09ha revegetated)	✓
Area of bushland cleared illegally compared to 2007 baseline	Use of GIS and software to compare with 2007 Smith's Report	No illegal land clearing	No mapping available at present	?
Percentage of the Shire's waterways monitored, and proportion found to be healthy	Water monitoring probes at representative creeks across the Shire	50% of waterways classified as healthy	2009/10 – 36% of waterways classified as "good", 8% as "fair" and 56% as "poor"	×
Total water consumption and per capita consumption	Data from Sydney Water and ABS	reduction against 2000/01 community* water consumption levels by 2011 (2000/01 = 16,869,453 kL. Per capita per day = 302 L)	2010/11 = 13,186,887 kL Per capita per day = 219 L	✓
Percentage of local trips (less than 5 km) by residents using sustainable transport options (walking, riding, public transport)	Statistically valid survey of residents	50% of all trips	44% (Planning for the Future survey April 2012)	×

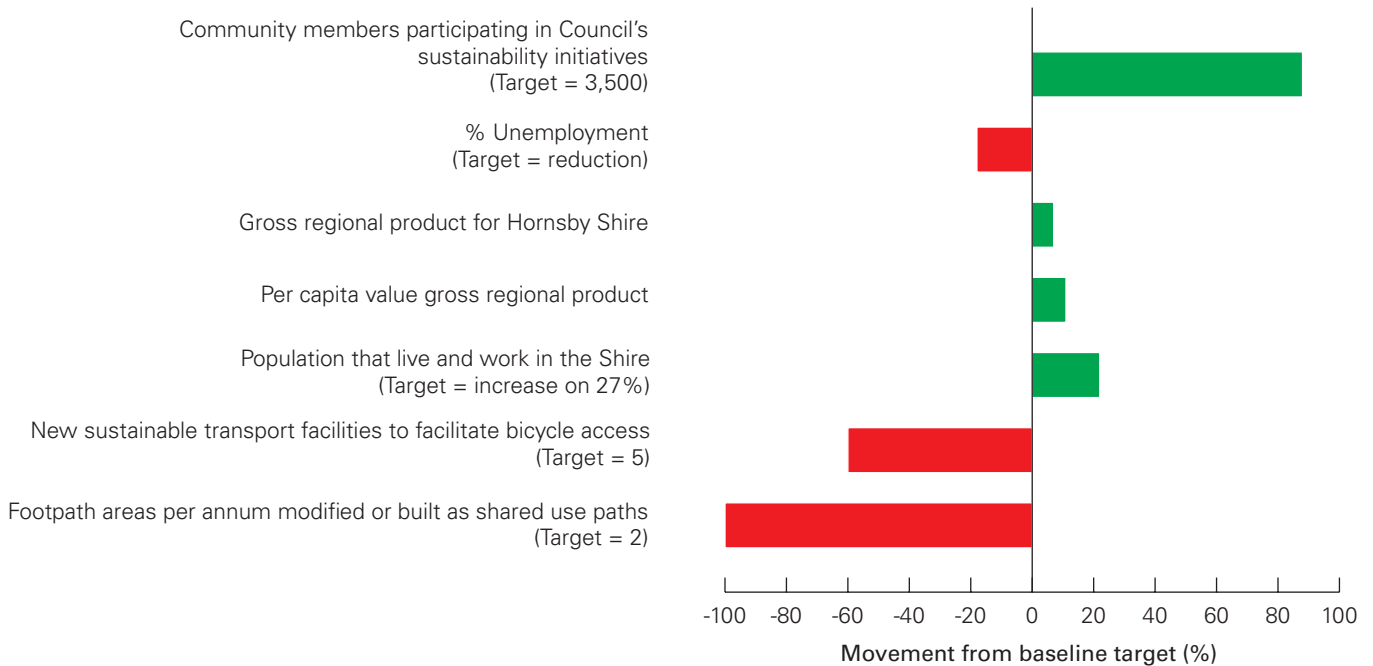
(* community water = units, houses, flats, industrial, commercial)



measuring progress (continued)

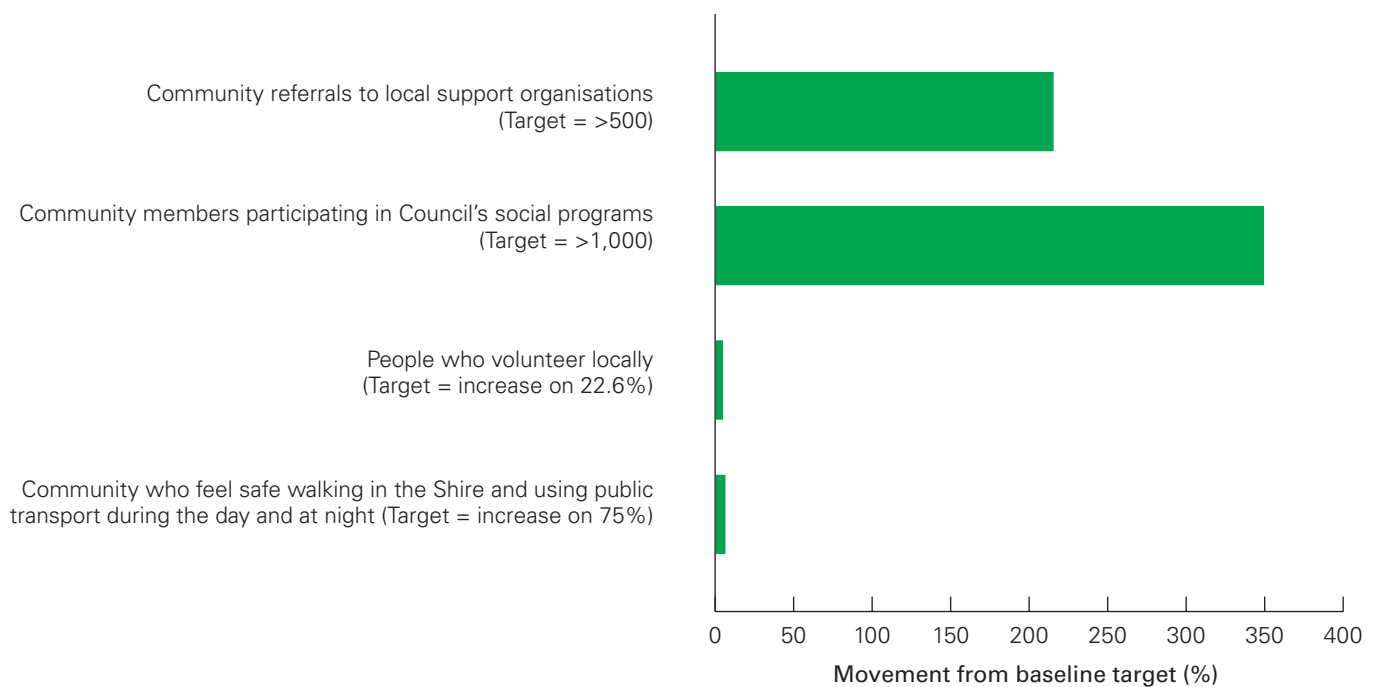
Economy

Indicator	Data source	Target	Latest Result	Trend
Number of community members participating in Council's sustainability initiatives	Data to be collected from all branches of Council's Environment Division	More than 3,500 people per year	6,382 in 2011/12	✓
Unemployment rates compared to December 2008	Australian Government workplace portal – small area labour markets	Less unemployment than 2008 (3.3%, 2,941 persons)	3.9% (3,651 people unemployed @ March 2012)	✗
Gross regional product for Hornsby Shire and per capita value	Australian Government Input Output tables	Improvement from 2010 (\$5.9 billion in January 2010. \$36,030 per capita)	\$6.275 billion \$40,167 per capita (@ 2012)	✓
Percentage of the population that live and work in the Shire	ABS census data when available. Statistically valid survey of residents at other times	More than 27% of workers	33% (Community Survey 2010) (Available from ABS 30 October 2012)	✓
Number of new sustainable transport facilities to facilitate bicycle access (on road cycleways, off road cycleways, traffic signal improvements)	Council's Traffic Branch	5	2 in 2011/12 (College Crescent and Brooklyn Road)	✗
Number of footpath areas per annum modified or built as shared use paths	Council's Traffic Branch	2 areas per year, subject to RMS funding	0 in 2011/12	✗



Society and culture

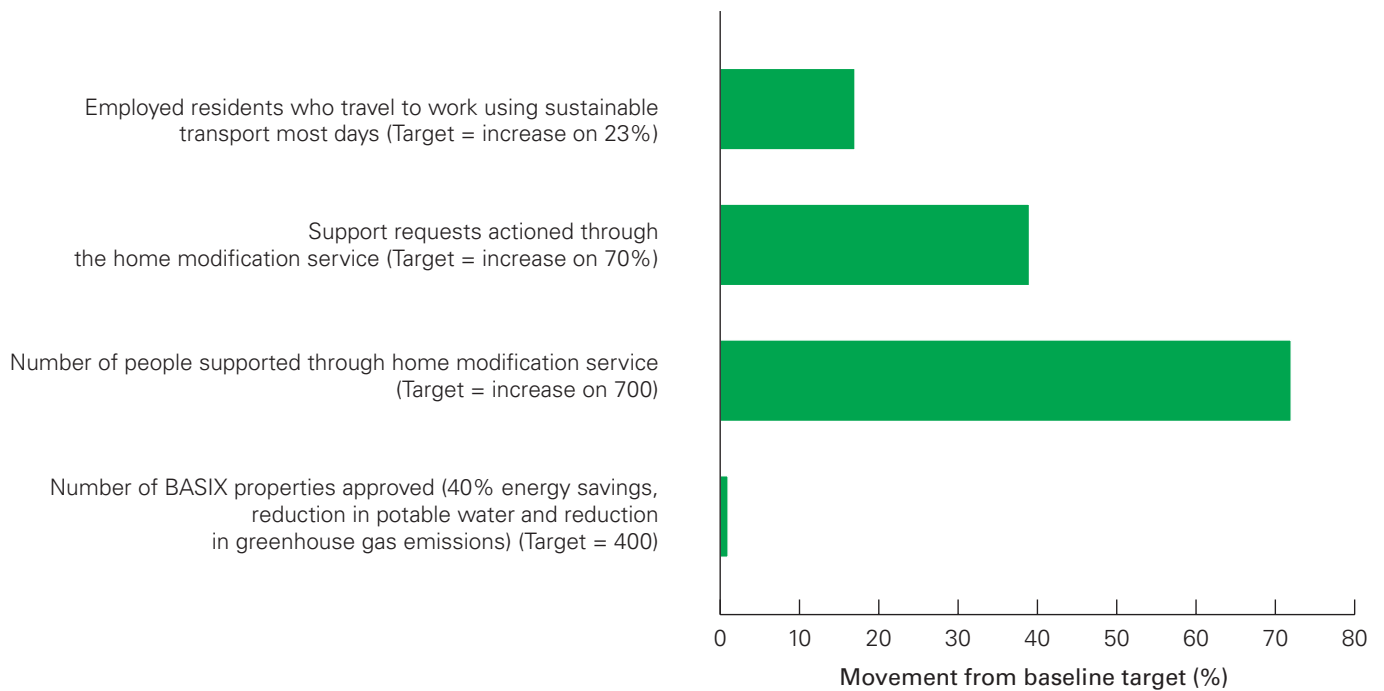
Indicator	Data source	Target	Result	Trend
Number of community referrals by Council staff to local support organisations	Data collected from Council's Community Services Branch	>500	1,580 in 2011/12	✓
Number of community members participating in Council's social programs	Data collected from Council's Community Services Branch	>1,000	4,500 in 2011/12	✓
Percentage of people who volunteer locally	ABS census data when available. Statistically valid survey of residents at other times	Improvement on 2006 ABS Census statistics of 22.6%	22.9% (ABS Census 2011)	✓
Percentage of the community who feel safe walking in the Shire and using public transport during the day and at night	Statistically valid survey of residents	75%	80% (Planning for the Future survey April 2012)	✓



measuring progress (continued)

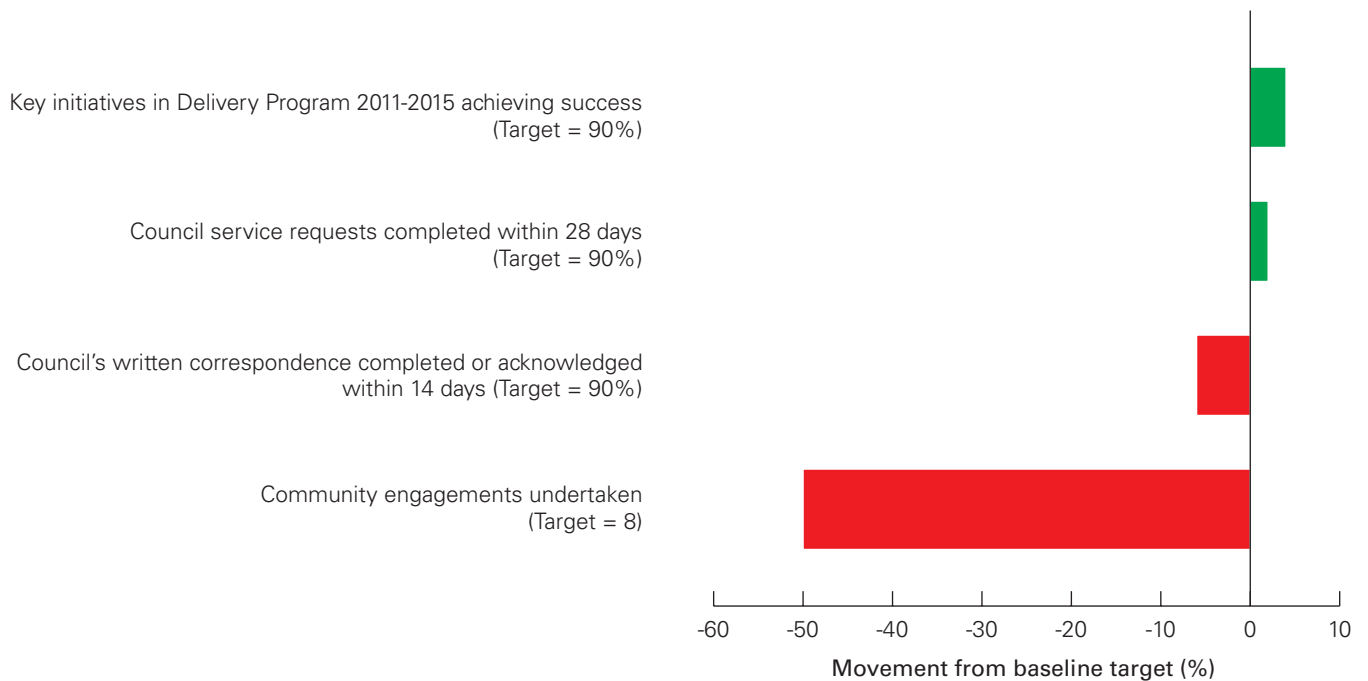
Human habitat

Indicator	Data source	Target	Result	Trend
Percentage of employed residents who travel to work using sustainable transport most days	ABS Census data when available. Statistically valid surveys of residents at other times	Improvement compared to 2006 Census data of 17,254 persons (23% of workers)	27% (Community Survey 2010) (Available from ABS 20 November 2012)	✓
Number of support requests and the number of people supported through the home modification service	Data collected from Council's Community Services Branch	70% of requests actioned. 700 or more people assisted	97.5% of requests actioned 1,203 people assisted in 2011/12	✓
Number of BASIX properties approved (energy savings 40% reduction in potable water and 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions)	Data from Council's Planning Division and State Government	400	400 in 2011/12	✓



Governance

Indicator	Data source	Target	Result	Trend
Percentage of key initiatives in Delivery Program 2011-2015 achieving success	Hornsby Shire Council's Service Planning system	90% of key initiatives completed on time and within budget	94%	✓
Number of Council service requests more than 28 days overdue	Hornsby Shire Council's Masterview resource	Less than 10% of service requests overdue	8.6% in 2011/12	✓
Percentage of correspondence completed or acknowledged within 14 days	Hornsby Shire Council's Masterview resource	90% of all written correspondence including email	84.2% in 2011/12	✗
Number of community engagements undertaken and topics discussed	Hornsby Shire Council's Strategy and Communications Branch	At least eight engagements per year	Four formal engagement processes 2011/12: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Storey Park redevelopment – drop-in sessions and online engagement x 2 ■ Epping Town Centre – drop in sessions and online engagement ■ Planning for the Future survey – online engagement 	✗



measuring progress (continued)

Key highlights – September 2008 to 2012

Governance and Policy

- Gaining approval of special rate variation providing sustainable funding
- Reducing legal expenses significantly
- New Tree Preservation Order
- Receiving \$2.4 million refund of GST payable on compensation for Hornsby Quarry
- Completing internal and external services review saving \$3.5 million
- Removing the need for an external loan of \$1 million each year to part fund recurrent capital works
- Exhibiting and Gazetting Housing Strategy
- Moving ahead with the Hornsby Aquatic Centre. Construction programmed to commence August 2012
- Establishing Outdoor dining areas in Epping and Hornsby Westside
- Making decision to fill the Quarry hole
- Moving ahead with the Epping Town Centre Study
- Establishing the Wallarobba Arts and Cultural Centre
- Adopting the Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan
- Adopting the Lower Hawkesbury Estuary Management Plan
- Adopting the new Green Offsets Code
- Adopting the Bushfire Risk Management Plan for Hornsby Kuring-gai
- Rationalising sporting grounds through shared use model
- Appointing new General Manager
- Reviewing child care centres
- Introducing website for mobile devices
- Exhibiting new Comprehensive Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan
- Establishing Wahroonga North Heritage Conservation Area

Environmental

- 2011-2016 Manual Hazard Reduction and Fire Trail Maintenance Program completed
- Bushwalking tracks opened at Terrys Creek Epping, the M2 Beecroft – Cheltenham Link Track, Bar Island, and The Great North Walk Links
- Bush and wetland restoration, bushfire mitigation and bushland access –significant increase in grant funds

- Council's Bushcare and community – 800 volunteers restoring 71 hectares at 123 different sites
- Bar Island walking track construction, midden and saltmarsh protection
- Free guided bushwalks program over 400 people attended 35 free guided bushwalks each year
- Greenstyle Program launched and delivered in home sustainability and backyard biodiversity advice to residents
- Community Nursery propagated upwards of 50,000 native plants for use in reserves and community programs
- Earthwise Cottage as a sustainable demonstration venue
- Eco Garden improvement and relaunch
- One Tree Reach wetland at Laughtondale acquisition and ongoing restoration
- Rural Lands Incentives Program restored 51,000m² of bushland including endangered ecological communities
- E-waste recycling commenced
- Streetscape bioretention tree pits: Hornsby, Waitara and Epping
- Seagrass boating maps
- Broken Bay Oysters – Memorandum of Understanding signed to monitor and improve water quality, respond to pollution incidents and support industries on the river
- Gross pollutant devices: Berowra, Mount Kuring-gai, (four channel nets) at Cherrybrook
- End-of-pipe bioretention systems: Cheltenham, Berowra, Hornsby Heights, Mount Kuring-gai and North Epping
- Leachate Harvesting and Treatment Projects: Mount Colah, Berowra
- Stormwater Harvesting Projects: Cherrybrook, Berowra, Cherrybrook, and Epping/Eastwood (\$2 million, grant funded)
- Major Catchment Remediation Works at Cheltenham, Pennant Hills, Cowan, Mount Colah, Brooklyn, Glenorie, Waitara, Epping, North Epping, Berowra, Mount Kuring-Gai, Hornsby, Hornsby Heights,
- Creek enhancement and stabilisation projects: Berowra, Thornleigh, Pennant Hills, Hornsby Heights, North Epping and Mount Colah

Recreation and Community

- Oxford Street, Epping, improvement works – \$3.5 million
- Greenway Park Community and Childcare Centre
- Storey Park redevelopment underway
- RFS Headquarters at the Tollgates, including sustainability initiatives
- Hornsby Heritage Depression era steps completed following significant restoration work
- Hornsby Mountain Bike Trail approved and construction commenced
- McKell Park Brooklyn – new sea walls and landscaping of Parsley Bay area
- Bar Island Jetty and community access
- Crosslands Reserve – new facilities
- Berowra Waters Road safety improvement works
- Thornleigh – new dog park
- Lakes of Cherrybrook improvement works
- Westleigh – major drainage upgrade
- John Purchase Primary School – new sportsground facility opened to general public
- Hayes Park – new canteen, changerooms and toilet facilities opened
- Mike Kenny Oval (Greenway Park Cherrybrook) – new floodlights
- Pennant Hills Park netball courts – replacement of old floodlights
- Cheltenham Oval – drainage completed
- Wisemans Ferry Reserve – BMX facility installed
- Fagan Park – car park sealed and pathways extended
- Berowra Waters Road – old tennis courts converted to netball
- Successful free community events calendar:
 - Rock the Block Youth Band Competition
 - Festival of the Arts
 - Healthy Living Festival
 - Returned to Glory Recycled Art Competition
 - Bushland Shire Festival
 - Christmas Spectacular
 - OneWorld
 - Movies under the Stars
 - Australia Day

Key awards – September 2008 to 2012

2008 Awards

- Northern District Times Local Business Awards – Epping Library winner
- Keep Australia Beautiful (NSW) 2008 Sustainable Cities Award for Heritage Management by a Metropolitan Council – for heritage management across the Shire, and particularly Bar Island
- NSW Coastal Conference Award 2006 for Local Government – for implementation of the Berowra Creek Estuary Management Plan
- NSW Sustainable Water Challenge 2008 (Commendation in the Community Engagement Category) for Tankscape – Schools Rainwater Tank Program
- Excellence in Stormwater Software Development by the Stormwater Industries Association – for developing a stormwater harvesting model
- Inaugural Premier's Excellence Award, Hornsby Aboriginal Corporation – for Leadership in Aboriginal Communities (Hornsby Council part of Corporation through Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Consultative Committee)
- Sustainable Business Program – Finalist in the Economic Development Australia Awards – October 2008
- 2008 Energy and Water Management Award – Country Energy December 2008
- Local Government and Shires Association, Excellence in Environment Awards, December 2008 – Highly Commended for Energy and Water Savings (Business Energy Savings Program)
- Environmental Education Award – for *earthwise* at home Low Carb Living Program, December 2008

2009 Awards

- National Trust Energy Australia Heritage Award – for Bar Island Conservation Project: repair of chimney, broken headstones and memorial lookout, archival recording, path and bushland restoration
- Milestone Five Award – for Sustainable Purchasing by International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
- Parks and Leisure Association (NSW) – for planning, design and operation of the Rural Sports Facility
- Global Restoration Network – selected Hornsby Bushcare, as part of Sydney Bushcare, as one of the 'Top 25' Australasian ecological restoration projects having outstanding attributes

measuring progress (continued)

- Keep Australia Beautiful Award for Overall Sustainability – Runner up: Hornsby Shire 2020 Our Framework for a Sustainable Future

2010 Awards

- Keep Australia Beautiful Awards:
 - NSW State Award – Most Sustainable Council
 - National Award – Resource Recovery and Waste
 - National Award – Highly Commended – Water Conservation
- Best Local Youth Week Program 2010, Local Government Week Awards – Finalist
- RH Dougherty Award, Local Government and Shires Association of NSW – Highly commended for Excellence in Communication: Hornsby Shire Council's Housing Strategy
- Australian Crime Prevention Awards, Certificate of Merit – Including and Involving Young People in Public Spaces in Hornsby
- Prime Minister's National Drug and Alcohol Awards for Most Innovative Youth Drug and Alcohol Program – Nomination for Brink DVD: Part of the Hornsby Community Drug Action Team

2011 Awards

- Planning Institute of Australia – Highly Commended Award for Urban Planning Achievement: Housing Strategy
- 'Beyond Risk' program (OHS Initiative), two awards:
 - Winner – IPWEA Engineering Excellence Award: Occupational Health and Safety
 - Highly Commended – National Safety Council of Australia, Awards of Excellence: Best Training Program
- SafeWork Awards (WorkCover NSW) – Finalist
- Keep Australia Beautiful, two awards:
 - Biodiversity Conservation Award
 - Heritage Management Award - for work in bushland reserves: Bar Island, Wisemans Ferry Cemetery and Hornsby Heritage Steps

2012 Awards

- Keep Australia Beautiful, three awards:
 - Clean Beaches Award: Bar Island
 - Friendly Beach Award: Sydney Region winner
 - Young Legends State Award: Highly commended and Sydney region winner

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