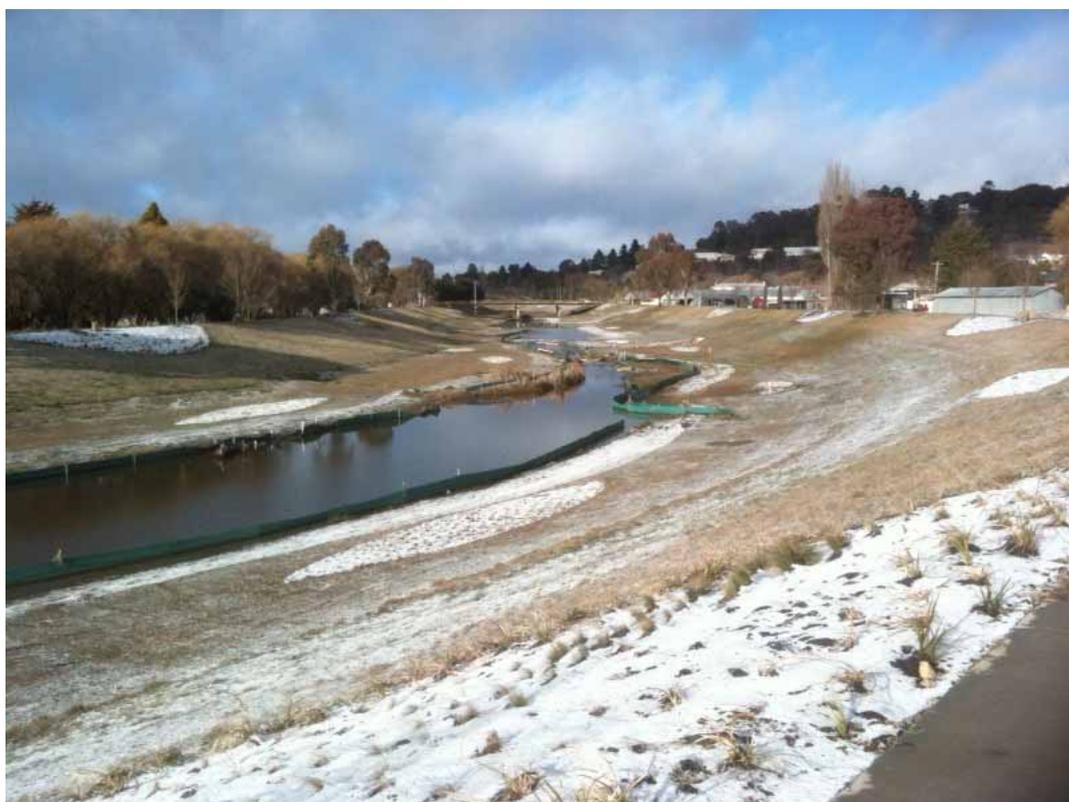


## End of Term Report 2012



# Walcha – 2025

## Community Strategic Plan

## Introduction

In 2009 the NSW State Parliament introduced Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) reforms within the Local Government Act. These reforms have made it compulsory for councils to adopt long term Community Strategic Plans (CSPs) on behalf of the community.

The plans are meant to express the entirety of their community's aspirations for the future, not just those that a Council may be able to satisfy.

In May 2011, after extensive community engagement, Walcha Council adopted on behalf of the community their first fully compliant Community Strategic Plan, *Walcha 2025*. This plan has a 14 year term and will exist through four terms of office for an elected Council.

Each elected Council is required, under the legislation, to adopt its own 4 year Delivery Program which ideally should remain fixed for the length of its term of office. The intent of this is to ensure that each elected council works out the strategies most likely to make a positive contribution towards the achievement of the community's vision for what life should be like by the end of the long term planning period (2025). In its commitment to the Delivery Program each elected council is generally required to take on neither more nor less than its fair share of burden for achieving the long term aims of the CSP.

*Walcha 2025* has been developed by the community and will be maintained and implemented by Walcha Council on behalf of the community. It is a plan for the future of the Local Government Area and will be a guide for other levels of government, private businesses and non-government agencies.

The end-of-term report is a report on Council's progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan during its term (Section 428(2) Local Government Act). This report should be presented at the final meeting of an outgoing council and should be incorporated or appended to the Annual Report.

Integrated Planning and Reporting is in its infancy and The Walcha Community Strategic Plan is only twelve months old. Theoretically this end of term report should only illustrate progress achieved during the last year of elected term of the Council. However a number of projects that contributed to achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan commenced prior to its adoption and will be mentioned accordingly.

## Major Achievements

### Apsley River Corridor and Walcha Woodlands (HiCUB Project)

The HiCUB project is an urban biodiversity and sustainability project in the Walcha, Armidale Dumaresq, Uralla and Guyra local government areas and has been funded by the NSW Environmental Trust. The vision is to “Resilient connected communities that are collaborative, skilled, well-resourced and that expand on existing knowledge, practice and networks, resulting in enhanced biodiversity values of our urban areas and the adoption of sustainable use of resources over the long term”.

In 2009 working groups were established in each of the four areas to put forward ideas for projects that would meet the HiCUB objectives. Environmental rehabilitation of the riparian zone of the Apsley River from the Mill Pond downstream to the Middle Street Bridge was put forward as the number one priority by the Walcha Working Group. Rehabilitation works such as river bed modifications and the establishment of “levee bank friendly” vegetation were proposed in accordance with the recommendations from the Walcha Floodplain Risk Management Plan final report 2009.

The Apsley River Corridor and Walcha Woodlands Plan is part of a broader effort to maintain and enhance biodiversity in and around Walcha. Local Landcare Groups continue to contribute to the creation of a sustainable landscape through improvements to water quality, corridor connectivity and active improvements in numerous natural resources management initiatives.

The project proposed works to maintain and improve the biodiversity values of the significant native vegetation remnants within Walcha township and to increase their connections with the Apsley River. These areas include the lookout, the Travelling Stock Route on the Uralla Road, the town common, Blairs Gully and areas near the racecourse.

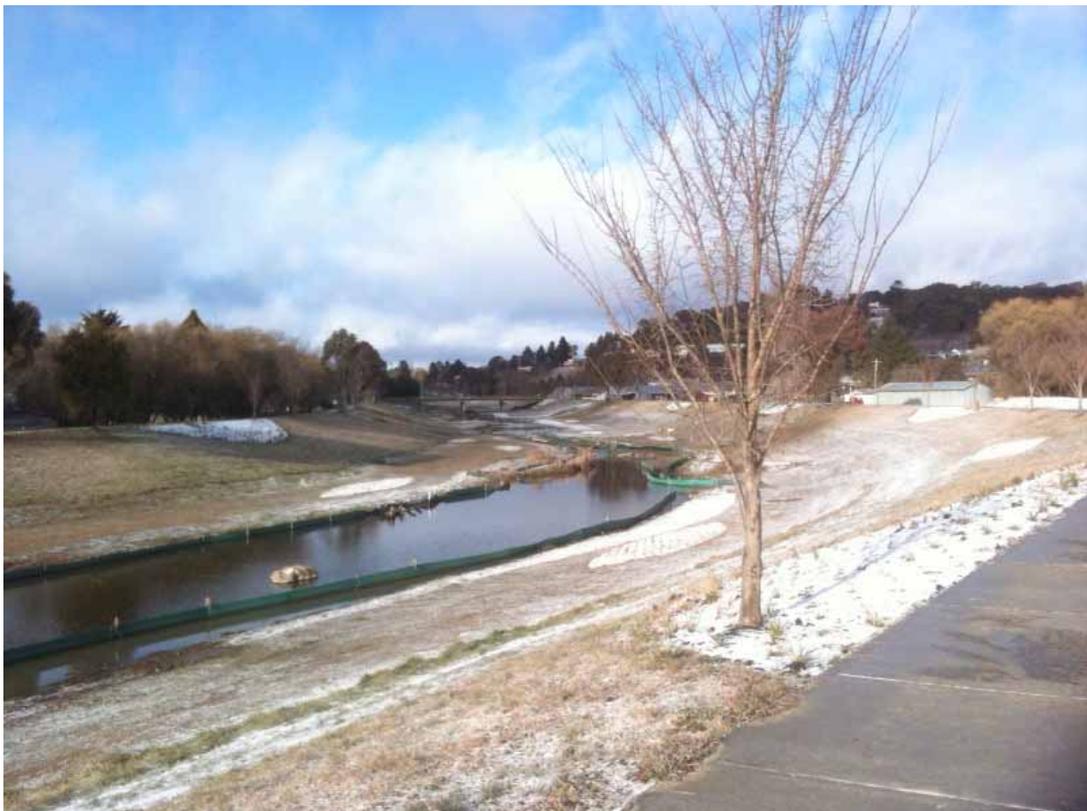
The plan aimed to improve water quality and riparian habitat along a section of the Apsley River between the Mill Pond and the Middle Street Bridge. Re-modelling of the channel and associated landscaping works within this area will also serve to beautify the River and provide a welcoming place for visitors and locals to enjoy.

The Plan was broken down into three parts. These include:

- ❖ River Bed Modification
- ❖ Levee Bank Vegetation Plantings
- ❖ Bush Regeneration and Corridor Connectivity.

The project was initially designed to be completed in stages, however Council received Riparian Funding from the Namoi – Towards a Sustainable Future program that enable the completion of the project.

Council has received many favourable comments on the project and coupled with the work undertaken as required by the Floodplain Risk Management Plan has resulted in restoration works that can be also enjoyed by visitors and local. The use of the area has improved dramatically and Council expects this trend to continue. It has resulted in the River uniting the community rather than dividing it as it did previously.





## **Walcha Local Environmental Plan (LEP)**

The Walcha LEP has been developed over the past few years. The process requires a Situation Analysis to be undertaken, a Development Strategy to be prepared which forms the basis for the LEP to be created. At this stage Council has completed these stages and the Draft LEP has been exhibited and submissions considered by Council and referred to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure under Section 68 Environmental Planning and Assessment Act for approval.

The Plan is currently with Parliamentary Counsel, when approved it will be forwarded to the Minister for adoption. This is expected prior to the end of September.

The assistance from the Department of Planning and Infrastructure especially with the mapping is acknowledged.

## **Walcha Neighbourhood Hub**

Council has received recurrent funding from the Department of Family and Community Services for the establishment of a Walcha Neighbourhood Hub. This position is a permanent part time position with the office to be located within the central business district. The position will assist residents who have dealings with government departments by providing direction and contacts and helping them through the process.

The co-ordinator will identify service delivery gaps for residents especially for those that are socially or financially disadvantaged and, as much as possible, lobby for these services to be available in Walcha. It is envisaged that the Coordinator will be working with the youth of Walcha and organising events/services for the section of the community.

## **Partnership with Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD)**

Council continues to work closely with the Hunter New England Local Health District specifically in the following areas:

- ❖ Development of a refurbished Medical Centre and disabled car park. This building was a section of the Old Primary School and was not included in the demolition of the building to make way for the new hospital. This Medical Centre is located within the grounds of the MPS and having the surgery located there enables a better service to be provided to our community.
- ❖ Recruitment of General practitioners – Council continues to work with the HNELHD in recruiting general practitioners for our community. This has involved:
  - Developing a “package” that includes information on the positions, how the Walcha MPS operates (including a DVD on the triage model), general information on Walcha and contacts names and telephone numbers of all stakeholders.
  - Purchasing and staffing (with HNELHD staff) a booth at the General Practitioners Conference and Exhibition at Olympic Park Sydney for a three days conference. Over 1300 general practitioners attended this conference.
  - Providing and distributing information packages at the Rural Doctors Conference in Coffs Harbour.



Kristine Smith, Health Service Manager & Councillor Janelle Archdale at the General Practitioners Conference and Exhibition in Sydney

### **Working with Catchment Management Authorities (CMA'S) in developing Catchment Action Plans (CAP)**

The Walcha local government area is located within three Catchment Management Authorities areas. These include Namoi, Northern Rivers and Hunter Central Rivers CMA's. Namoi CMA have completed their Catchment Action Plan however both Northern Rivers and Hunter Central Rivers are still developing their CAP's. These CAPs are to be completed by January 2012.

Council is involved in working with these Authorities and developing a CAP that is appropriate for our local government area, does not conflict with neighbouring CAPs and provides opportunities for landowners to access funds for on ground works through their investment strategies.

Council will continue to work with these Authorities to assist and facilitate appropriate natural resource management practices in the Walcha local government area.

### **Recent Grants**

The following grants have been received by Council recently:

- ❖ HiCUB (High Country Urban Biodiversity) – the Councils of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha received \$2M funding to confront the degradation of riparian and urban bushland and the fragmented network of responses by institutional and community players. The objectives of the project was to

- Improve the ecological health of urban riparian and bushlands, reduce weeds, increase the area and quality of native vegetation, erosion remediation and improved linkages at the landscape scale.
- Improve the effectiveness of councils and community effort towards environmental rehabilitation through improved integration, collaboration and greater knowledge transfer between Council and stakeholders.
- Monitor, evaluate and implement improvements in approaches to rehabilitation of urban areas
- Increase long term participation in urban ecosystem rehabilitation targeting community volunteerism and investment from private and government sources

It is also noted that Council has received funding from the Namoi Catchment Management Authority to control weeds in this corridor.

- ❖ **Namoi – Towards a Sustainable Future:** the Namoi Group of Councils secured in excess of \$1.9M for this Urban Sustainability Program. The project objectives include
  - Improve the sustainability of Namoi ROC member councils through inclusion of sustainability objectives in whole of council operations
  - Improve the sustainability of urban communities across the Namoi region through the implementation of a range of project activities for industry, businesses and households.
  - Reduce the water and energy use and improve waste management across the Namoi catchment and beyond.
  - Namoi ROC and CMA members working in partnership and through partnerships to achieve whole of region sustainability outcomes.
  
- ❖ **Koala and Bird Connectivity on Road Reserves -** Council received \$50,000 for this project. The Apsley River divides the town of Walcha in half. On both sides of the river are bushlands remnants, which are habitat for koalas, other arboreal mammals, woodland birds and plants. This project will use existing roadsides and road reserves to create a corridor to link these urban remnants, and to link the river corridor with these bushland remnants. The project will enable easy movements for fauna across the eastern boundary of the town and protect areas of Endangered Ecological communities.
  
- ❖ **Community Building Partnership Scheme –** Council has received \$50,000 to refurbish the McHattan Park toilets. This funding is dollar for dollar with Council providing a matching \$50,000.

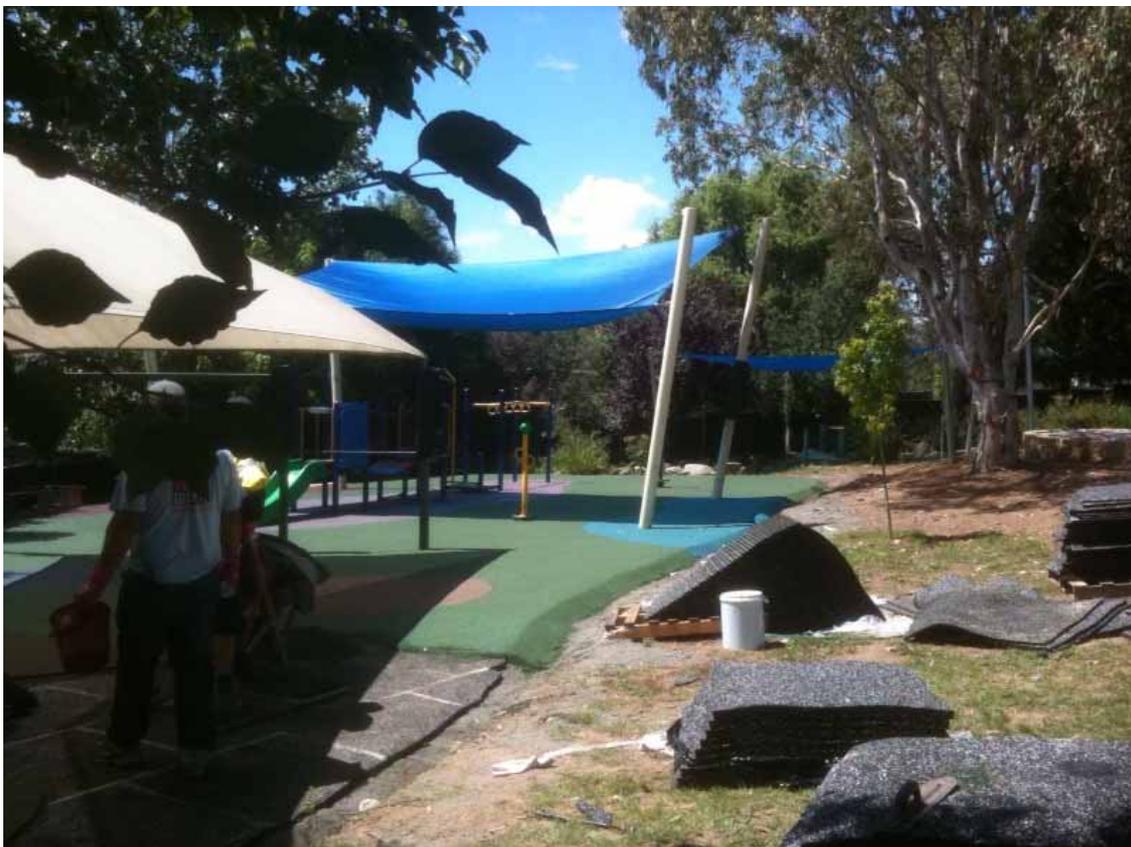
## **Walcha Preschool**

There have been many changes at the Walcha Preschool recently. With a change in direction both the Preschool building and the Early Intervention building are used to deliver Preschool services without disrupting Early Intervention services. Recurrent funding to deliver preschool services has increased by more than 230% due to the increase in children/days and the opportunity for parents to have extended hours.

Capital works at the preschool has resulted in:

- ❖ An additional room being constructed.
- ❖ Additional storage areas provided beneath the building
- ❖ Major ground work completed include
  - the construction of a large new play centre including retaining walls and soft fall installed on the floor area

- soft fall installed on the concrete paths
- two new sand pits constructed
- additional shade covering installed.
- Resurfacing of lawn area



### **Establishment of the Men's Shed**

Walcha Home and Community Services (HACC) assisted a group of men in the establishment of a Men's Shed for Walcha. An initial Public Meeting was called by HACC which resulted in overwhelming support for the concept. A Steering Committee was established and the facility has been growing ever since. There exists a special bond between the Men's Shed and the Men's Group from HACC and each ensure that functions complement each group.



## **Walcha Home & Community Services**

Recently Council have been advised by the Department of Family and Community Services and Department of Transport of increased funding to provide HACC Services to our community. The funding included an increase in recurrent funding of \$32,000 pa and a one-off funding of \$23,342. These increases in funding reflect the greater demands on services provided by HACC.

The increased services provided include:

- ❖ Get Active New England – this included a Falls Prevention forum and now a weekly exercise program. This included the villages of Nowendoc and Niangala.
- ❖ International Men's Health week – this forum included guest speakers on men's health as well as the Pitt Stop program conducted by Hunter New England Local Health District.
- ❖ Establishment of a Dementia Support Group
- ❖ Seniors Week program – the following activities were undertaken
  - Agequip – a display of equipment to assist people living at home
  - Senior Tech Awareness forum – aimed at reducing the mystic of technology to our clients.
  - Health Lifestyle forum – aimed at highlighting the benefits of fitness and nutrition.



**Men's Health Forum**



**Men's Shed Opening**

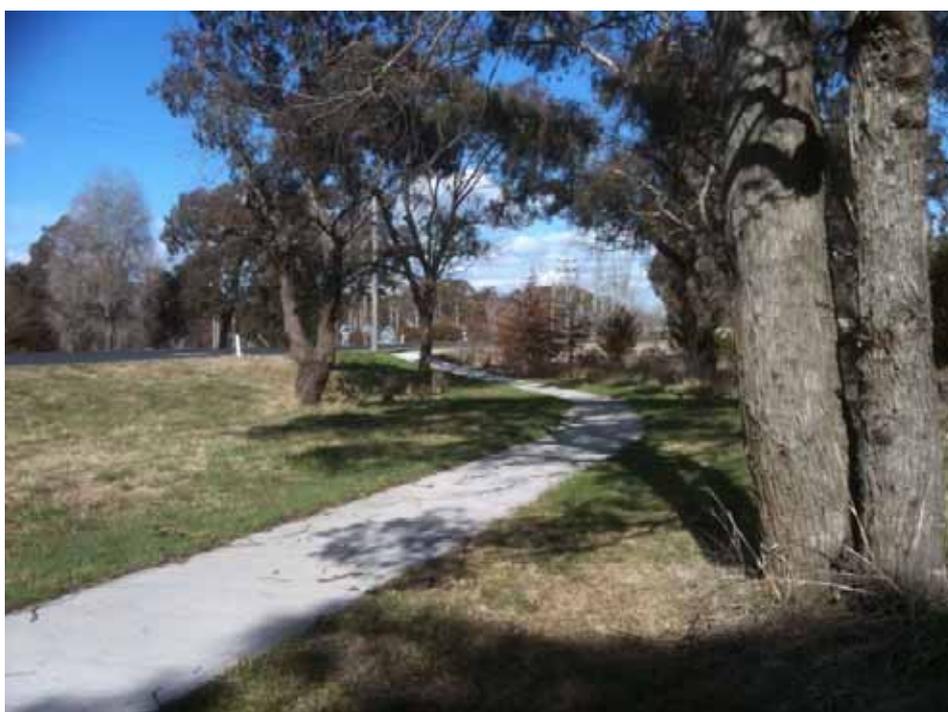
### Topdale Road – Reconstruction and Sealing

Council completed the reconstruction and sealing of Topdale Road. A special grant of \$1.2 million from the NSW State Government together with \$400,000 from Council funded the reconstruction and sealing of the remaining 4.3 kilometres of this important regional road.



## John Oxley Sportsground – Shared Pathway

Work was completed on the construction of a pedestrian / cycleway along the western side of Thunderbolts Way from Jameson Street to John Oxley Sportsground. The pathway was built using funds provided by Council and the Federal Government's Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program. The path provides a safe off road route for pedestrians and cyclists travelling from the residential area of Walcha to the John Oxley Sportsground two kilometres north of Walcha.



## **Apsley River – Levee Upgrade and Shared Pathway**

Following the completion of extensive flood studies for the Apsley River, the need to remove low spots along the levee and the reinforcement of the top of the levee were identified as two high priority projects. A successful grant application realised \$360,000 from State and Federal governments which, together with \$180,000 from Council, funded these projects. An indirect benefit of the levee top reinforcement project was the construction of 3 kilometres of concrete topping which could be used as a shared pathway along the top of the levee.

In 2011, Council successfully applied for an RMS grant to assist with the completion of a 500 metre long section of path that joined the levee banks on the northern side of the river through Sempill Park. Council provided a further \$49,000 to complete the work.



## **Skate Park – Alcohol Free Zone**

At the request of the local Community Consultative Committee, Council created an Alcohol Free Zone at Skate Park. Working in collaboration with the local police the zone was established to improve the social behaviour of the youth using the skate park.

## Walcha Landfill & Recycling Service

Major changes have been made to the way solid waste is collected and processed in Walcha. A new collection service using “best practice” bins was introduced with minimal fuss. Walcha has also taken advantage of making use of resources provided by adjoining Councils. Solid waste as well as building waste is transported to the Tamworth Regional Council landfill site in Tamworth. Recycling is collected and transported to Uralla where Uralla Shire Council sort the waste thus improving the viability of the Uralla Shire Council’s facility. The roadside collection of domestic waste is also carried out by Uralla Shire Council, again improving the utilisation of their plant fleet.



## Themes & Outcomes

The Community Strategic Plan was broken into the following Themes

**Better Transport and Liveable Towns and Villages**

**Supporting Business and Jobs**

**Clever Community**

**Healthy Community**

**Green Community**

**Stronger Community**

**Keeping People Safe**

**Better Government**

Under these themes a number of Strategic Goals and Outcomes were developed with corresponding strategies to achieve these aims. The following is a list of these, together with the progress achieved to date.

## Report on Goals, Strategies and Progress

### Better Transport & Liveable Towns & Villages

CSP 1.1	Walcha will be serviced by an integrated and efficient transport network.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
1.1.1	Develop and maintain a safe and efficient local road and bridge network.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	RTA, Aust Govt	Ongoing. Overall condition of the road network has worsened due to wetter weather conditions and underfunding of road and bridge maintenance.
1.1.2	Maintain safe and efficient regional and state road links to, from and through the Walcha Local Government Area.	Leader Advocate	RTA, Aust Govt	Regional road funding provided by the NSW Government continues to be inadequate to meet the cost of maintaining regional roads. Council completed the sealing of Topdale Road with significant grants from the NSW Government. Service is currently adequate but requires constant monitoring
1.1.3	Maintain a daily rail passenger service.	Advocate	Transport NSW	
1.1.4	Maintain and improve the standard and competitiveness of our regional air services.	Advocate	Aust Govt	Council attended a meeting of Regional Mayors with the State and federal Members which resolved to call on the State and Federal Government to Establish a second Airport within the Sydney basin in the interests of maintaining Regional access to Kingsford Smith Airport..
1.1.5	Improve community and public transport.	Facilitator Advocate	Transport NSW	
1.1.6	Provide a freight rail service to Walcha Road continuing on to Armidale.	Advocate	Transport NSW	
1.1.7	Provide and maintain facilities for the safe movement of pedestrian and cycle traffic.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	NSW Govt	Shared pathways to the John Oxley Sportsground and along the Apsley River levee banks were completed providing over 5 kilometres of new pathways.
1.1.8	Provide adequate and appropriate parking.	Leader Facilitator	Transport NSW	

CSP 1.2	The character of Walcha, Woolbrook, Yarrowitch, Nowendoc, Tia and Walcha Road will be maintained while protecting the productivity of our rural land.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
1.2.1	Maintain the character of the Walcha Local Government Area through the orderly development of the natural and built environment.	Leader Facilitator	DOPI	The Draft Walcha Local Environmental Plan 2012 is currently with the Department of Planning & Infrastructure and Parliamentary Counsel waiting for approval (Section 68 Environmental Planning & Assessment Act). It is expected to be gazetted in September 2012. Council also assists residents with building advice.
1.2.2	Ensure that sufficient land is available to meet the demand for appropriate land uses.	Leader Advocate	DOPI	The Development Strategy approved by Council and the Department of Planning & Infrastructure identified land for specific land uses and this document formed the basis for the LEP.
1.2.3	Prevent agricultural land from being developed in ways that reduce its productivity.	Leader Facilitator	DOPI, DTIRIS, NCMA, NRCMA, HRCMA	The LEP is completed and is cross-referenced with Catchment Action Plans developed by the Catchment Management Authorities.
1.2.4	Enhance the Walcha Local Government Area to make it an attractive place to live, work and visit.	Leader Advocate		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parks and gardens are maintained in accordance with community expectations</li> <li>- Streetscape program is continuing</li> <li>- Continually adding to the outdoor art collection</li> <li>- major works undertaken on the Apsley River between the Mill Pond and the Middle Street Bridge which has added a new dimension to our community</li> <li>- Funding has been received to improve the urban remnant vegetation and to create linkages to the Apsley River.</li> </ul>

## Supporting Business and Jobs

CSP 2.1	Commercial and tourist development will be promoted and encouraged to grow in harmony with the natural environment, to take maximum advantage of commercial opportunities and to increase local employment.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
2.1.1	Maintain and improve the appearance of the Walcha Local Government Area to help attract tourist and commercial activity.	Leader	Community Groups, Council Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* New toilet facility planned for Walcha &amp; Woolbrook.</li> <li>* Public toilets are maintained daily</li> </ul>
2.1.2	Develop and market tourism products targeting the "Touring by Road" market and other markets.	Leader	Tourism NSW	<p>Participation at consumer shows in conjunction with the New England North West Regional Tourism Organisation. The RTO group is involved in ten consumer shows per year with personal representation from Walcha at three of them. Involvement in the NENW RTO "Drives" campaign with Paul Mercurio, Campaign Ambassador. The campaign consisted of a printed regional map with suggested drives outlined and the online version on the NENWRTO website. Involvement in the Experience the Highs marketing campaign with one of the key marketing objectives being to promote the various drives available in the New England High Country. Campaign consisting glossy Visitor Information Guide, website, app with 360degree digital photography, social media applications and soon to be released ipad application. The second stage of the campaign is a PR program bringing travel writers from different niche markets to the New England High Country to experience first hand the regions tourism assets.</p>
2.1.3	Develop activities that encourage increased visitation frequency and stay length.	Leader Facilitator	Tourism NSW	<p>Two of the main aims of the 2011/2012 RTO marketing campaign was to increase the "self drive" market to the region and to increase length of stay by providing information in the various mediums to visitors. Information including where to stay, what to see, history and heritage and events specific to each area. Council has established a Tourism Advisory Committee</p>

<b>2.1.4</b>	Host industry workshops to identify new and developing products and commercial opportunities.	Advocate	DTIRIS
<b>2.1.5</b>	Market existing and new products through advertising.	Advocate	DTIRIS
<b>2.1.6</b>	Value-add to existing businesses.	Advocate	DTIRIS
<b>2.1.7</b>	Assist, support and encourage the establishment or expansion of local businesses.	Leader Facilitator	DTIRIS
<b>2.1.8</b>	Promote Walcha's suitability for the aged care community and associated industries.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	ADHC
<b>2.1.9</b>	Develop an environment that will attract technology or internet based industry to come to Walcha.	Facilitator	DTIRIS, NBN
<b>2.1.10</b>	Provide the services that appeal to "young" workers e.g. childcare, medical, housing, sporting facilities and parks.	Leader, Advocate	
<b>2.1.11</b>	Promote job sharing for the young members of the rural sector.	Advocate	
<b>2.1.12</b>	Develop part time work initiatives with local tradesman and Council that provide rural children with the opportunity to stay within the community.	Leader Facilitator	
<b>2.1.13</b>	Support the employment of migrants that possess skills that are needed in the community.	Leader Facilitator	IMMI

**Clever Community**

CSP 3.1	Education and training opportunities will be provided that deliver the skills and knowledge needed to advance the community.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
3.1.1	Provide quality and accessible preschool facilities for 3 to 6 year old children in a safe and supportive environment.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	DFCS	Major expansion of the Walcha Preschool has occurred with attendance levels increased significantly. Major building and ground improvements have been undertaken to service the needs of the Preschool community and comply with recently adopted national Standards.
3.1.2	Ensure staffing numbers and transport subsidies are maintained so that outlying schools can continue to operate and provide effective K-6 education.	Advocate	Transport NSW DEC, Schools	
3.1.3	Participate in and contribute to the activities of local schools.	Leader	Schools	Council through the involvement of the Walcha Mental Health Committee have worked closely with the Walcha Central School to deliver Mental Health Programs.
3.1.4	Develop accredited vocational training in Walcha.	Facilitator Advocate	WCS, DEC	
3.1.5	Support education, training and employment programs for trainees and apprentices.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	DEC	Council currently has two school based trainees
3.1.6	Facilitate programs that help employers manage the non-traditional administration requirements of employing trainees and apprentices.	Facilitator Advocate		
3.1.7	Maintain local early intervention services that enable disabled children to enter mainstream education.	Leader Advocate	DFCS	Council continue to provide these services and has recently received increased funding
3.1.8	Encourage universities and technical colleges to develop or maintain courses that allow local residents to attend part time.	Facilitator Advocate	DEC, TAFE, Universities	

<b>3.1.9</b>	Provide financial incentives for local children who study and work locally in an area of identified skill shortage for an agreed number of years.	Leader Facilitator Advocate
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## Healthy Community

CSP 4.1	Health services and facilities will be provided and where appropriate managed locally to meet the needs of the community.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
<b>4.1.1</b>	Maintain a viable, state-of-the-art Multi Purpose Service in Walcha.	Advocate	HNELHD, DOH	Council has representation on the Walcha Health Committee and continues to work closely with the Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD) in the delivery of health services Not yet commenced
<b>4.1.2</b>	Reinstate and maintain the blood donor collection facility in Walcha.	Advocate	HNEHD, Red Cross	
<b>4.1.3</b>	Ensure that all residents can access the health information and health services that are available.	Advocate	Riverview, HNELHD	The HNELHD and Council through HACC continue to publicise the health services and programs that are available in Walcha.
<b>4.1.4</b>	Maintain and strengthen the role of the Local Health Committee.	Advocate	HNELHD	Council currently have two active members on the Committee which includes the Chairperson. Regular meetings of the Committee occur. The Committee is always represented when regional forums are organised.
<b>4.1.5</b>	Provide general practitioners and allied health workers commensurate with the need.	Advocate	HNELHD	Council, The Walcha Health Committee and General Practitioners are working together to attract at least another GP to Walcha – see notes on achievements.
<b>4.1.6</b>	Ensure adequate transport is provided for community members to access local, regional and state services.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	HNELHD, DOH, NSW Transport	Council currently receives funding to provide Community Transport in Walcha. Recently Council received additional funding to cater for the increased need for transport in Walcha.
<b>4.1.7</b>	Provide appropriate care for all dementia sufferers.	Advocate	DOH	Council with assistance from The Apsley River Hostel have started a Dementia Support Group with limited success. An awareness day is planned for the 23 September 2012

CSP 4.2	The public health and wellbeing of the community will be protected and enhanced.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
4.2.1	Foster preventative health systems and activities that promote physical, mental and social health.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	HNELHD, DOH	Council assist with the transport of the Life Education Van. Council in conjunction with HNELHD regularly run activities and information sessions that promote physical, mental and social health. These include, Get Active New England, falls prevention forums, exercise programs, Pitt stop program for men, conduct an ageQuip for the display of equipment to assist people living at home and healthy life style forums aimed at highlighting the benefits of fitness and nutrition.
4.2.2	Promote the benefits of and provide opportunities for all children to be immunized.	Facilitator	HNELHD, DOH	Council works the HNELHD to provide this service and expand on the benefits of immunisation.
4.2.3	Maintain the availability and quality of water for use in rural areas.	Leader Facilitator	HNELHD, DOH	Council ensure through the development application process that activities conducted in the rural area do not have a negative impact on water quality.
4.2.4	Ensure that the disposal of liquid waste in rural areas is carried out in a healthy manner without negative environmental impact.	Leader	OEH, NOW	Council ensure that all new and upgrades on-site waste disposal systems are inspected by Council.
4.2.5	Maintain cemeteries in accordance with the community's needs and expectations.	Leader		Cemeteries are maintained in accordance with Community expectations. Council is currently discussion with the Aboriginal Community proposed improvements to the general cemetery to develop an appropriate area for the Aboriginal section of the cemetery.

**Green Community**

CSP 5.1	Walcha's distinct and diverse natural environment will be protected and enhanced.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
5.1.1	Maintain and strengthen partnerships with organisations responsible for natural resource management.	Leader	NPWS, NCMA, NRCMA, HCRCMA, Landcare Groups, SNELC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council have been or are currently working with the Catchment Management Authorities in developing their Catchment Action Plans (CAP).</li> <li>- Council have been successful in securing funding to undertake on-ground works – see achievements section</li> </ul>
5.1.2	Promote sustainable development and protection of our natural resources through the planning system.	Leader	DOPI	Council has included natural resource management requirements and has worked with relevant government departments in the preparation of the draft LEP
5.1.3	Promote activities that reduce the volume of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.	Leader	OEH	Not commenced
5.1.4	Develop policies that address the impact of climate change on the community.	Leader	DOPI, OEH	Council through the Namoi Councils Group have secured funding to investigate the impact of Council's operation on the environment. This program specifically relates to efficiencies that can be gained through improvements in the use of energy, water and waste. This program was extended to other business organisation in Walcha.
5.1.5	Protect and enhance biodiversity, native vegetation, river and soil health.	Leader	OEH, NCMA, NRCMA, HCRCMA	Council has been successful with funding applications that enable on-ground works that directly improve biodiversity, native vegetation, improve water and soil health. These programs include the Apsley River and Walcha Woodlands project, Koala & Bird connectivity on Road Reserves and funding to reduce aquatic weeds in the Apsley River.
5.1.6	Engage and support the community to undertake sustainable natural resource management and protect Walcha's natural environment.	Leader	DOPI, OEH, NCMA, NRCMA, HCRCMA	Council work with Southern New England Landcare and local landcare groups on individual projects like the development on Mayor's corner. Council make available office accommodation for organisations like NRCMA to conduct interviews and hold educational programs for residents of the shire.

5.1.7	Reduce the impact of invasive species	Leader Facilitator Advocate	DPI, NCMA, NRCMA, HRCRMA, NPWS	Council is directly involved in the management and direction of controlling invasive species in the Walcha local government area through representation on the New England Weeds Authority, which council financially contribute to.
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<b>CSP 5.2</b>	<b>Solid waste will be managed in a sustainable manner with a continuing reduction in waste generation and disposal to landfill.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
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5.2.1	Develop and promote programs that increase the participation of the community in recycling and reducing waste going to landfill.	Leader	OEH, NIRW	New kerbside collection bins have been provided with a consequent increase in the amount of recycling collected.
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5.2.2	Implement alternate and affordable processes that reduce waste going to landfill.	Leader	OEH	New kerbside collection bins have resulted in more recycling with less going into landfill.
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5.2.3	Identify possible new solid waste disposal sites.	Leader	NOW	Studies found that it was more cost effective to transport waste to more efficient waste processing sites in Uralla and Tamworth. No further work to be done on looking for new disposal sites at this time.
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5.2.4	Monitor and oppose any move to apply the Waste and Environment Levy on the Walcha Local Government Area.	Advocate	OEH	
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5.2.5	Manage solid waste in an efficient, affordable and sustainable manner.	Leader	OEH	Council has introduced additional bin collections with the waste being transported to more efficient processing sites in Uralla and Tamworth.
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<b>CSP 5.3</b>	<b>Water supply and sewerage services will be physically and environmentally sensitive.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
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5.3.1	Implement the recommendations of the Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy and other water and sewer management plans.	Leader	NOW, NRCMA, NCMA	Progress limited by lack of funds. Special project by NOW and DOH will result in Drinking Water Management System.
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5.3.2	Provide additional off creek storage capacity to drought proof Walcha while minimising the impact of water extraction from the McDonald River.	Leader	NOW, NRCMA, NCMA,	
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5.3.3	Identify possible new water sources.	Leader	NOW, NRCMA, NCMA	
5.3.4	Promote water use efficiency and water saving.	Leader	NOW, NRCMA, NCMA	
<b>CSP 5.4</b>	<b>Walcha will increase the use and production of renewable energy.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
5.4.1	Establish (with partners) alternate renewable energy supplies that will exceed the energy needs of our community.	Facilitator	Aust Govt	
<b>CSP 5.5</b>	<b>Agricultural activities will be environmentally sustainable.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
5.5.1	Protect and promote farming practices that are environmentally friendly.	Facilitator	DPI, Landcare Groups, NCMA, NRCMA, HRCMA	

**Stronger Community**

CSP 6.1	Social services will be planned, maintained and coordinated so that they meet the current and future needs of all groups in the community.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
6.1.1	Provide and support Home and Community Care and Meals on Wheels programs so that they reach the appropriate clientele.	Leader Facilitator	ADHC	Demand for HACC services continue to increase. As at July 2012 there were thirty people receiving Meals on Wheels and both the Men's and Women's Groups were increasing in numbers.
6.1.2	Support activities that provide meaningful engagement and social interaction.	Leader Facilitator	Community Groups	Regular social functions including morning teas and group outings are provided for the Groups. Currently joint outings are being discussed with the groups.
6.1.3	Support current volunteer efforts and increase volunteer participation.	Leader Advocate	Community Groups	The HACC service depends on the support of the volunteers. Council recognise the importance of them and regularly acknowledge them and thank them for there input and dedication to the service.
6.1.4	Employ and support local social and youth workers to assist the community.	Leader Facilitator Advocator	DFCS	Council works with the Youth Workers from the Angelical Church that provide non denominational programs for the youth of Walcha. Council has not employed a Youth Worker.
6.1.5	Provide access to Government services e.g. Centrelink	Advocate		Council has recently received funding for the development of a Neighbourhood Hub. This involves the employment of a coordinator who will provide a referral service for government departments.
CSP 6.2	The existing strong community spirit and pride will be fostered, promoted and encouraged.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
6.2.1	Support and promote participation in community events.	Leader Facilitator	Community Groups	
6.2.2	Encourage and support outlying communities to have their own identity through the development of community infrastructure.	Leader Facilitator		

CSP 6.3	Walcha's cultural identity will be enhanced.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
6.3.1	Promote the history and current strength of Walcha as the premier agricultural area of the New England.	Leader Facilitator Advocate		
6.3.2	Make the "Open Air Gallery" theme an integral part of the development of the Walcha Local Government Area.	Leader	Arts NSW	Provision has been made in the current streetscape worth for the inclusion of a mosaic.
6.3.3	Support the activities of cultural organisations.	Leader Facilitator		Council provides rates relief for the local History Society. A Councillor is a member of the Historical Society Committee and a Local History centre is co-located with Councils library
6.3.4	Preserve the significant historical assets of the Walcha Local Government Area.	Leader		Council are currently undertaking a cultural heritage study of the local government area and when completed items (with the owners consent) will be incorporated in the Walcha LEP.
CSP 6.4	Walcha's Aboriginal communities will be supported and strengthened.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
6.4.1	Increase effective partnerships with Aboriginal communities.	Leader Facilitator	Amaroo LALC	Council has regular contact with the Amaroo Local Aboriginal Land Council particularly through the provision of HACC Services. Council employ an Aboriginal Access Worker that also works with the wider Aboriginal community. Council also work with the HNELHD workers in providing services and programs to the Aboriginal community.
6.4.2	Support improvements in the quality, availability and suitability of Aboriginal housing.	Advocate	Northern Tablelands RALC, Amaroo LALC	There has been major renovation to the majority of aboriginal houses within the shire
6.4.3	Manage the water and sewerage systems at Summervale.	Leader	NOW, DAA	Systems managed by Council in accordance with agreements with NOW. The bore at Summervale remains an unresolved issue.

<b>6.4.4</b>	Ensure that Aboriginal children have access to early childhood education and early intervention services.	Facilitator	DFCS	All attempts are made to ensure that Early Intervention and Preschool services are available to Aboriginal children.
<b>6.4.5</b>	Improve access to country for the Aboriginal community.	Facilitator Advocate	Amaroo LALC, NCMA, NPWS, NRCMA	
<b>6.4.6</b>	Increase and support meaningful, long term and equal opportunities for Aboriginal employment.	Leader Facilitator		
<b>CSP 6.5</b>	<b>Young people will be retained and supported to live in Walcha.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
<b>6.5.1</b>	Seek, monitor and respond to requests from the youth population.	Leader Facilitator Advocate		The development of a Neighbourhood Hub and the employment of a coordinator who will work closely with the schools will provide this service into the future.
<b>6.5.2</b>	Provide youth friendly services.	Leader Facilitator Advocate	NSW Govt	
<b>CSP 6.6</b>	<b>People of all ages will be encouraged to participate in cultural, recreational and sporting activities.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
<b>6.6.1</b>	Maintain and improve library, sporting and recreational facilities.	Leader	CNRL	
<b>6.6.2</b>	Strengthen organisations and groups providing cultural, recreational and sporting activities.	Leader Facilitator	DSR	
<b>6.6.3</b>	Provide a common secretariat for community organisations.	Advocate	Community Groups	

<b>CSP 6.7</b>	<b>Community members will be given the opportunity to develop their leadership skills so that they can better participate in the leadership of the community.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
6.7.1	Encourage and support community members to develop leadership skills.	Leader Advocate	Community Groups	
6.7.2	Identify and support community members and activities that have the capacity to improve people's quality of life.	Leader	Community Groups	
6.7.3	Provide opportunities for community members to become involved in the management of the community.	Leader	Community Groups	
<b>CSP 6.8</b>	<b>The impact of the rising cost of living on vulnerable members of the community will be reduced.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
6.8.1	Support measures that reduce the cost of essential service for community members who are financially disadvantaged.	Leader Advocate		

**Keeping People Safe**

CSP 7.1	Police stations and staff numbers will be provided to effectively control and reduce crime and antisocial behaviour and to keep our community safe.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
7.1.1	Ensure that the existing number of police stations is maintained and that they are staffed with fully active officers.	Advocate	NSW Police	Council has written to the Police Minister through the Local Member requesting the vacancy at Walcha Road Station be filled as a matter of urgency.
7.1.2	Minimise crime and antisocial behaviour.	Advocate	Liquor Accord, Walcha CCC	
CSP 7.2	Emergency services will be provided to ensure the safety of our community and visitors.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
7.2.1	Maintain viable and state-of-the-art emergency services in Walcha capable of adequately dealing with local needs.	Facilitator Advocate	NSW Police, SES, RFS, FRNSW, Ambulance, Westpac Rescue, Angel Flight, CareFlight	Rural addressing underway.
7.2.2	Ensure that local knowledge and rural-based skills play an integral part in the delivery and planning of emergency services by recognising their importance and protecting the right of staff to be trained in and make use of local knowledge and skills.	Facilitator Advocate	NSW Police, SES, RFS, FRNSW, Ambulance	
7.2.3	Develop and promote responsible ownership of animals.	Leader Facilitator	DLG	Council administer the Companion Animals Act and responds to complaints relating to animal behaviour. Council provide information to animal owners on their responsibility in relation to domestic animal ownership and management of the animals.

**Better Government**

CSP 8.1	Walcha Council will exemplify good leadership, mutual respect and trust by being inclusive, ensuring open information and communication and encouraging active participation at all levels.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
8.1.1	Councillors will exhibit leadership on Council and regional committees as well as in community organisation.	Leader	DLG	
8.1.2	Ensure that all local organisations are accessible by the community.	Advocate		
8.1.3	Provide a framework for the efficient and effective administration of Council.	Leader	DLG	Council has completed all Statutory Plans required un the NSW Governments Integrated Planning and Reporting Regime
CSP 8.2	Council rate funding for local government projects will be supplemented by income generated from other sources.	Council's Role	Other Stakeholders	Progress at the end of term – August 2012
8.2.1	Maintain a stable and secure financial structure for Council.	Leader		Council is Financially secure with all Financial Indicators being positive
8.2.2	Encourage and support entrepreneurial activities.	Leader Facilitator		
8.2.3	Identify surplus Council owned assets for possible sale to be invested in infrastructure reserve.	Leader		
8.2.4	Maintain and improve Council owned assets.	Leader		

<b>8.2.5</b>	Involve the community in the identification of infrastructure projects.	Leader		
<b>8.2.6</b>	Support actions that will give local government the right to determine their own rates and a fixed share of taxation.	Advocate	LGSA, COAG, Aust Govt	
<b>8.2.7</b>	Seek grant funding wherever possible.	Leader		
<b>CSP 8.3</b>	<b>The boundaries of the Walcha Local Government Area will be modified to reflect existing and developing communities of interest.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
<b>8.3.1</b>	Modify the boundaries of the Walcha Local Government Area to reflect existing and developing communities of interest.	Leader	TRC, USC, DLG	
<b>CSP 8.4</b>	<b>Local government will be recognised in the Australian Constitution.</b>	<b>Council's Role</b>	<b>Other Stakeholders</b>	<b>Progress at the end of term – August 2012</b>
<b>8.4.1</b>	Work towards the constitutional recognition of local government.	Leader Advocate	ALGA, LGSA, Aust Govt	Council has passed resolutions supporting the Local Government & Shires Association and The Australian Local Government Association campaign for Constitution recognition. Council has also provided for a financial contribution for publicising this campaign