



WALCHA COUNCIL  
**YOUTH STRATEGY**

EXPLORE. ENGAGE. EMPOWER.

Draft Strategy adopted December 2020



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# INTRODUCTION

## Walcha Council is committed to creating a place where young people can flourish.

Young people are vital to a healthy and thriving community. When supported well, young people add life, colour and energy to the whole community. Adolescence and the transition to adulthood can also be a challenging time for young people, their families and their communities, and Council understands the importance of a holistic approach to our work with young people and their supporters.

Council's Youth Strategy is designed with young people at its heart, and raising the wellbeing of Walcha's young people is its core mission. Council values our young people, and we are committed to supporting and empowering them to develop and thrive. This youth strategy provides a framework for Council to understand and prioritise needs and respond with actions, partnerships and resources to improve outcomes for local young people.

## PURPOSE

The Youth Strategy provides clear strategic direction to guide and focus Council's work with, and for, people aged 0 to 12 and 12 to 25 who live, work, study or play in the Walcha region. It is Walcha Council's key strategic document in regards to young people. The strategy builds upon the current services and policies provided by the Council that help provide programs to empower young people and encourage their leadership and participation in community life.

### This Youth Strategy seeks to:

- guide and focus Council's work with and for young people, through facilities, programs and engagement to support the growth and retention of young people in the area
- ensure that Council delivers best practice programs for young people and their families
- utilise a strong evidence base to help Council better meet the needs and aspirations of Walcha's young people
- ensure that Council is actively engaged with young people and responsive to their needs
- outline how Council will continue to encourage young people to be involved in civic life.

## SCOPE

- The Youth Strategy covers people aged 0-10 and 12 to 25 years who live, work, study or play in the Walcha Local Government area.
- To ensure appropriate facilities and activities are available for all young people in the region
- The Youth Strategy is a Council-wide strategic document.
- The Youth Strategy does not cover organisations or groups outside of Council, it does however aim to guide some of Council's work with those organisations or groups.
- The Youth Strategy will commence after adoption and does not have an end date. It will be reviewed minimum every two years, or as the needs of the community change.

## ACTION PLANS

- The Youth Strategy includes a 4-year action plan that will outline the actions Council will undertake, and is aligned with the development of Council's Delivery Program.
- These Action Plans based on current evidence and consultation, which will ensure that Council is responsive to changes in young people's needs and aspirations while maintaining a clear and consistent strategic focus.

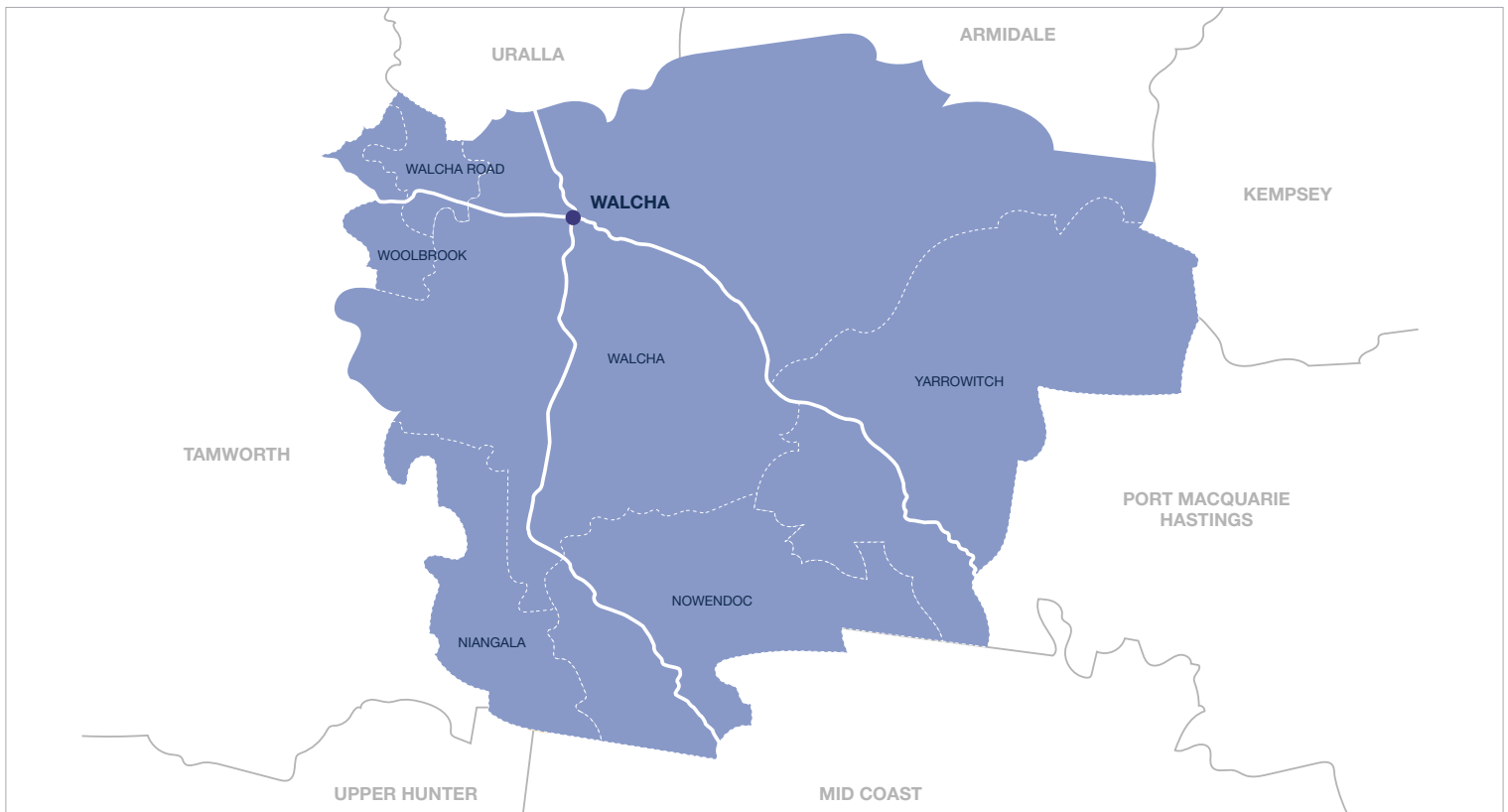
# WALCHA

Walcha is located in the beautiful and very productive New England Tablelands region of New South Wales. The Walcha Local Government Area has an area of 6,261 square kilometers and a total population of approximately 3,144 people which includes around 1,800 within the Walcha township. The town of Walcha is 1,067 metres above sea level and can be reached by road, rail and air.

The Walcha district is a significant primary producing area. It is one of the highest stock carrying areas in Australia and Walcha is renowned for some of the best fine wool in the world. Walcha has long been known as a producer of high-quality native hardwoods and the importance as a softwood producing area is increasing.

Walcha is home to National Parks, including parts of the World Heritage listed central eastern rainforest reserves, and our rivers and streams are known for their excellent trout fishing.

The Dunghutti (or Dunggadi) Tribe are believed to have lived in the region for around 6,000 years prior to European settlement. The tablelands served as a place for ceremonies – evident by traces of Bora grounds near Walcha – and a place to trade goods. In the cooler months, the tribe retreated to the eastern gorge country where it was warmer and fish and animals were plentiful.



# 1,000

Approximately 1,000 young people aged 0 to 29 live in Walcha (planning NSW projections).

## YOUNG PEOPLE IN WALCHA

Approximately 1000 young people aged 0 to 29 live in Walcha (planning NSW projections).

This represents approximately 30% of Walcha's resident population.

By 2041, this number is estimated to decrease.

Young people form a significant portion of the community, and Council is committed to investing in both their present and their future as valued members of the community.

# A FOCUS ON WELLBEING

Domain	Description	Constructs
<b>Cognitive wellbeing</b>	Young people's perception of their quality of life, competence and accomplishments and their capacity to be mindful in the present moment.	Cognitive wellbeing consists of the following constructs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mindful acceptance</li> <li>• Accomplishment</li> <li>• Life Satisfaction</li> <li>• Competency</li> <li>• Goal Striving</li> </ul>
<b>Economic wellbeing</b>	Young people's perception of economic stability in their home environment.	Economic wellbeing consists of the following constructs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial stability at home</li> <li>• Responsibilities at home</li> </ul>
<b>Emotional wellbeing and strengths</b>	Young people's perceived ability to manage their emotions and their ability to use their strengths in their daily lives.	Emotional wellbeing and strengths consists of the following constructs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilience</li> <li>• Knowledge of personal strengths</li> <li>• Use of personal strengths</li> <li>• Happiness</li> <li>• Anger</li> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Stress</li> </ul>
<b>Physical wellbeing</b>	Young people's perception of their general physical health, their physical appearance and their quality of sleep.	Physical wellbeing consists of the following constructs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General health</li> <li>• Self-concept</li> <li>• Sleep</li> <li>• Exercise</li> <li>• Sedentary activities</li> <li>• Nutrition (Healthy and Unhealthy)</li> </ul>
<b>Psychological wellbeing</b>	Young people's beliefs and attitudes about what they value, their outlook on life, and their engagement with life.	Psychological wellbeing consists of the following constructs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Autonomy</li> <li>• Engagement</li> <li>• Gratitude</li> <li>• Optimism</li> <li>• Perseverance</li> <li>• Hope</li> <li>• Self-esteem</li> <li>• Self-efficacy</li> </ul>
<b>Social wellbeing</b>	Young people's perceived quality of relationships with their parents, teachers, peers and community. This domain also taps into the presence of bullying, loneliness and pro-social behaviours.	Social wellbeing consists of the following constructs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer connectedness</li> <li>• Parent connectedness</li> <li>• Perception of significant relationships</li> <li>• Perception of school</li> <li>• Connectedness to community</li> <li>• Pro-social behaviour</li> <li>• Negative peer pressure</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Cyber-bullying</li> <li>• Loneliness</li> </ul>

# THE EVIDENCE BASE

## WHAT WE DID

The development of the Youth Strategy was informed by extensive consultation.

### This involved key components:

- Workshop with Youth Advisory Committee
- The Youth Survey through schools and the community
- Broader and more in depth youth consultation to reach those young people not able to access the survey,
- This included 7 youth focus groups, from the local schools and home-school groups
- Research, including demographics, youth needs/issues, and best practice youth service delivery.

Across the range of consultation methods, Council engaged with young people, as well as youth staff, school staff, parents/carers, and community members.

## WHAT WE FOUND

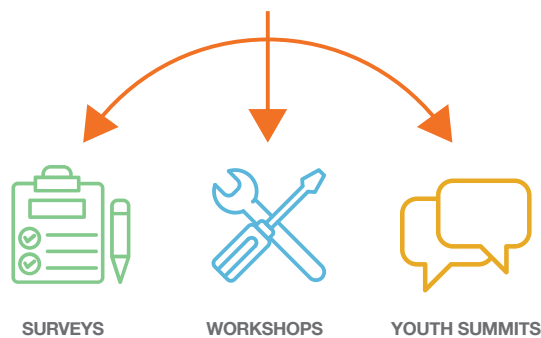
Through this work, Council obtained a wealth of information both from, and about, Walcha's young people. A summary of key findings is outlined below.

Overall, from the consultation and research undertaken to inform the Youth Strategy, three key areas stood out from the evidence base. Key findings from these areas are outlined.

*Discussions with young people took place through workshops, surveys and youth summits.*



### WALCHA YOUTH



## What do our young people like?

- Hang out with friends and family
- Playing
- Gaming
- Riding – bikes, horses, trial bikes, BMX
- Sport – hockey, touch, NRL, footy, soccer,
- Dancing
- Cooking
- Working – farm, after school, caring for animals
- Reading
- Skating
- Exploring
- Going to the park
- Shopping
- Walking/running
- Relaxing
- Spending time at the pool

COMPUTER ARCADE  
 BALL BINS JUMP FLYING-FOX  
 MCHATTAN PARK COMMUNITY BANKS ST  
 OLD HOSPITAL WAVE TRAINING COMPET  
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 N POWER BANDS LIONS PARK HEATED POOL FREE IND  
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 ANASTICS PLACE TREES BIKE TRACK TALENT SHOW LESSC  
 HANDBALL COOKING ADULTS SKATE PARK PLAYGROUND E  
 SPORTS REFURBISH LIBRARY LEVEE BANK COOKING DOG  
 S HOLIDAYS SPACES PLACES SKATE DANCE DRIVE COMP  
 CADE ADVOCATE SWING JOBS SCHOOL PAINTBALL BIL  
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## What ideas do our young people have?

- New Parks – upgrade Lions Park, McHattan Park and Apsley
- Heated pool
- Kids Club
- Flying fox
- Skate park – upgraded/new/extended
- Youth Hub – for recreation, study, access to Wi-Fi, chill space, gaming
- Use old hospital space
- New programs - Sports, craft, science, driving, dance, competitions, cooking, coding, riding,
- Movie theatre
- Annual talent show
- Kids spaces
- Running track
- BMX track
- Better communications – newsletter, online
- Pool inflatables, wave pool
- Rural programs in villages
- New sculptures
- Beautification works – flowers, plantings, more trees
- More Wi-Fi and charging stations
- Over 18 activities – bands/DJs at local venues
- Youth space in the library
- Extended holiday program
- Indoor pool
- Arcade – gaming old school and new

## What barriers to participation are our young people experiencing?

- Transport
- Out of town/distance
- Parents awareness
- Young peoples awareness of what's on
- Parents permission/trust
- Money
- Age – appropriate aged activities
- Working
- Events - appropriate aged activities
- Communication about activities
- Timing of activities

## THEMES

### Places and Connections

- When asked what is missing in Walcha, many answers from young people were about facilities and spaces, both indoor and outdoor. Transport and connections to people were also key.
- There are many of the things that our young people loved about the region; this includes the wildlife, the outdoors, its parks, its peacefulness and the tight knit community.
- Across the range of consultation methods, there were many suggestions from young people about safe places and spaces for young people, for things like social connection, culture, recreation and support. Some wanted spaces to be youth-specific, whereas some wanted spaces for everyone where young people felt welcome.
- Access to more free and/or low cost events and activities including sport, music and creative workshops and more events in rural areas.

### Programs and Activities

- When asked what is missing in Walcha, many answers from young people were about programs, access and developing themselves for the future.
- Walcha's young people want to participate in decision making that increases opportunities and improves community wellbeing

### Future and Growth

- We also asked the young people what the barriers to participation were and how could they get involved.
- Provide more information about training opportunities, courses and more leadership programs.
- Respond to young people's ideas and priority areas
- Raise young people's profile to achieve greater recognition

## PAST COMMUNITY SURVEY

Facilities and Youth Survey. This survey was well supported by our older demographic, with 93% of respondents being 30years or over. The results and priorities for our youth from this survey align well with the outcomes of the youth focus groups and consultation with the younger demographic completed as part of this strategy development. A snapshot of relevant results are below. All results from this survey are included in Council's report "Your Voice: A Summary of past Survey Results" published October 2020.

93%

of respondents considered the priority of youth access to opportunities for apprenticeships and traineeships as important or higher.

82%

of respondents considered the priority of youth access to safe driving programs as important or higher.

76%

of respondents considered the priority of youth access to leadership development training and scholarships to be important or higher

72%

of respondents considered the priority of youth access to youth counselling services to be important or higher



## A STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE

### Our Vision for Walcha's young people

Young people in the Walcha Region are heard, valued, connected and inspired, so that they make the most of life's opportunities.



# OUR PRINCIPLES

## Explore

We explore opportunities with young people that increase inclusion and connection.

## Engage

We engage with young people to ensure their needs and opinions are heard and valued.

## Empower

We empower and inspire young people to shape the world they live in.



Council is an inclusive organisation that recognises and respects the diverse backgrounds, needs and aspirations of young people in our community, and is committed to proactively supporting and building the inclusion of all young people in Walcha.

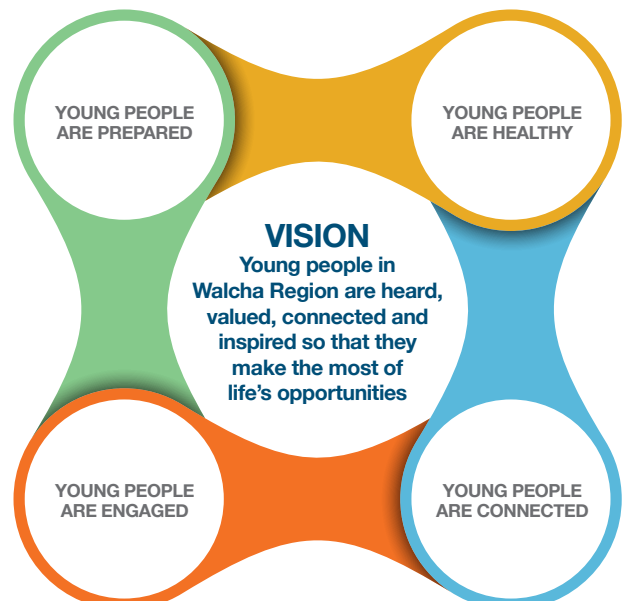
Requirements of the Children's Guardian Act (2019) NSW and the imminent regulatory framework that will support this legislation have also been considered during the development of this strategy. This Act reinforces the independent role of the children's guardian to help keep children and young people safer in communities.

### OUR AIMS:

In particular, the strategy aims to respond to the key learnings that emerged from the engagement, research and review process, these being:

- Ways to achieve young people's leadership and empowerment
- Partnerships with the State Government and local youth groups to coordinate programs and joint responses to the important issues
- Actions the Council can undertake within available resources and
- Having goals and objectives that are SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely)

We are aware that the needs, potentials and aspirations of young people in Walcha Region will continue to change and evolve. We hope that through the participation Councillors, Council staff and local community we can feel a greater connection and empathy with young people and understand the importance young people place on being listened to and having a say about important issues in their community.



# GOALS



Having a say

## GOAL 1

**We provide opportunities for young people to have their say**

Walcha's young people are empowered and actively engaged in matters that affect them and their communities. They have the skills, confidence, and opportunities to be active empowered citizens. They are able to engage in opportunities that have meaning and purpose to them, and are recognised and celebrated for their accomplishments.

### Actions include:

- Strengthen the Youth Committee and increase connections between Councillors, young people and the community to advocate on priority areas.
- Promote young people's positive contribution to the community through website.
- Ensure that young people are effectively informed and engaged on matters that affect them and their communities.
- Employ principles of youth participation and co-design to ensure young people are effectively engaged and included in making decisions about themselves and their communities.
- Support young people to develop leadership and advocacy skills that assist them to be actively involved and engaged citizens.
- Provide, promote and advocate for a wide range of meaningful opportunities that are engaging for young people.
- Recognise and celebrate young people's accomplishments to support their engagement and inclusion in the community



Creating places and spaces for young people

## GOAL 2

**We create places and spaces for young people that are inclusive, safe and welcoming for all**

Young people are supported by positive connections with their peers, families and communities. They can connect effectively with places and opportunities, both physically and online. They are well informed about the wide range of services, opportunities, and information available to them, and feel confident to connect with these.

### Actions include:

- Creating a youth hub
- Develop youth focused recreation spaces
- Build young people's sense of belonging, inclusion and connection through the strengthening of positive relationships with their communities.
- Support young people to connect with the digital world in positive and safe ways.
- Work in partnership with stakeholders to ensure that young people and their families know about, and feel confident and safe to connect with, the range of services, opportunities, and information available to them.
- Provide new library facilities that meet the needs of young people



Creating a program of activities and events

## GOAL 3

**To complete a review of all existing programs offered to youth and create a program of activities and events for our young people that align with strategy feedback**

Young people can assist in developing an annual program of activities, events and programs in their communities. They are well informed about the wide range of services, opportunities, and information available to them, and feel confident to connect with these.

### Actions include

- Develop an annual program of activities in conjunction with young people
- Promote programs, activities and workshops in rural communities.
- Provide skill development opportunities.
- Develop new library programs for young people
- Support local schools in developing an annual Town Show/ Talent quest that everyone can participate in

Access to places,  
programs and  
events

Developing our  
young people  
of the future

## GOAL 4

### Access to places, programs and events

Assist young people to access places, programs and events to ensure a full life experience.

#### Actions include

- Advocate for transport options/ opportunities for to young people
- Explore opportunities to extend the reach of free Wi-Fi in community spaces
- Identify ways to sustainably grow Council's school holiday programs including events that specifically target particular age groups
- Nurture libraries as welcoming spaces for young people

## GOAL 5

### Developing our young people of the future

Walcha's young people are well prepared to thrive in an ever-changing world, both as adolescents and as they transition into adulthood. They are resourceful and resilient, and equipped to successfully navigate change and challenges in their lives.

#### Actions include

1. Equip young people with skills and knowledge that prepare them to successfully navigate change, grow from life's challenges, and build their resilience.
2. Provide opportunities for young people to grow and learn and to prepare young people to flourish throughout their lives.
3. Assist young people to be work ready and prepared for the changing landscape of employment.



# ACTION PLAN

## SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM ACTIONS

Goal	Actions	What Success looks like	Key Partners
<b>1. Identify preferred option for a Youth Space</b>	Consider as part of a new shared community space development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A dedicated space for young people to gather and develop connections and skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State Library</li> <li>Local Schools</li> <li>Local youth groups</li> <li>Mayor and Councillors</li> </ul>
<b>2. Lions Park Redevelopment</b>	Develop a concept plan for a new new inclusive play space at Lions Park and secure funding to deliver	Funding secured and a new recreation facility designed for 0 – 10 year and families  <i>Refer to page 19 for concept draft plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lions Club</li> <li>Local Schools</li> <li>Local youth groups</li> <li>Mayor and Councillors</li> </ul>
<b>3. Skate Park – Redevelopment</b>	Create a concept plan to for a redeveloped skate park with additional facilities to cater for all age groups, additional seating, and connectivity. Secure funding for delivery	Funding secured and a new recreation facility designed for 0 – 25 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skate Park users</li> <li>Local Schools</li> <li>Local youth groups</li> <li>Mayor and Councillors</li> </ul>
<b>4. Develop Scope of Works for identified re development areas</b>	Develop Scope of Works for identified park improvements	Finalised Scope of Works completed for identified improvement projects including community consultation, complete with costings and project scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playground designers</li> <li>Youth</li> <li>Council staff</li> <li>Government departments</li> <li>Landscape/playground construction</li> </ul>
<b>5. Develop a communications and engagement approach to reach young people</b>	Develop a Youth's What's on Page  Develop a Youth Social Strategy  Engage youth on relevant Council projects  Program review of available training and link youth to offerings available.  Park Re-development concept plans are released progressively form comment/ review before being finalised.  Use the feedback from the Strategy to create a interim program of activities and events for the next 12 months and seek feedback to improve on program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people are aware of what's on and attendance increases</li> <li>Young people's voices are regularly represented in the community, and via social media.</li> <li>WE continue to hear from our youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative education providers</li> <li>Council staff</li> <li>Local schools</li> <li>Local youth groups</li> <li>Mayor and Councillors</li> </ul>
<b>6. Skills and programs</b>	Program review of available training and link youth to offerings available.  Use the feedback from the Strategy to create a interim program of activities and events for the next 12 months and seek feedback to improve on program	Young people are consulted in the design and development of programs and activities  Increased skills for young people  Increased, ongoing and varied opportunities for social connection for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Council Departments</li> <li>Library Staff and users</li> <li>Community Partners</li> <li>Local Businesses</li> <li>Service NSW</li> <li>Sporting Clubs</li> <li>Walcha Show Society</li> </ul>

# GOAL 1

We provide opportunities for young people to have their say

MEDIUM TO LONG TERM ACTIONS		
Actions	What Success looks like	Key Partners
<p><b>Strengthen the Youth Advisory Council and increase connections between Councillors, young people and the community to advocate on priority areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Advisory Committee provides an accessible platform to respond to priority issues and meet with the Mayor and Councillors.</li> <li>• A strong governance structure is in place.</li> <li>• Members meet at least four times per year.</li> <li>• Advocacy and planning in responses to priority areas.</li> <li>• Provide feedback to the to the Councillors on key issues.</li> <li>• Stronger youth voice in Council decision-making.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alternative education providers</li> <li>• Local schools</li> <li>• Local youth groups</li> <li>• Mayor and Councillors</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enable youth of Walcha to access/ attend youth summit</b></p>	<p>Attendance from multiple diverse backgrounds.</p>	
<p><b>Promote opportunities for all young people to provide feedback through social media, consultations and other online services.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people's voices are regularly represented in the community, and via social media.</li> <li>• Annual increase in social media followers.</li> <li>• Minimum of one school visit per year from Council Staff or YAC.</li> <li>• Councillors to meet with young people annually to seek input for council IP&amp;R plans</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Review the Community Engagement approach to support the active engagement of young people in all relevant engagement processes.</b></p>	<p>Innovative engagement techniques and guidelines are incorporated into the Community Engagement Strategy.</p>	

## GOAL 2

We create places and spaces for young people that are inclusive, safe and welcoming for all

### MEDIUM TO LONG TERM ACTIONS

Actions	What Success looks like	Key Partners
<p><b>Creating a youth hub, with social and recreational activities, spaces and programs</b></p>	<p>Build young people's sense of belonging, inclusion and connection through the strengthening of positive relationships with their communities. Through active use of spaces and programs</p> <p>Young people are consulted in the design for all relevant new community developments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local youth groups</li> <li>• Alternative education providers</li> <li>• Local schools</li> <li>• State Government</li> <li>• Police</li> <li>• Youth Advisory Committee</li> </ul>
<p><b>Develop youth focused recreation spaces</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement facility upgrades to be more youth friendly and accessible.</li> <li>• Promote and market the new or upgraded facility.</li> <li>• Increased access by young people to events and activities.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Support young people to connect with the digital world in positive and safe ways.</b></p> <p><b>Work in partnership with stakeholders to ensure that young people and their families know about, and feel confident and safe to connect with, the range of services, opportunities, and information available to them.</b></p>	<p>Youth communication incorporated in community engagement strategy and future engagement plans to ensure timely knowledge of activities, events or opportunities.</p> <p>Increased social connection for young people, through engagement on social media and through holiday programs</p> <p>Increased safe and youth friendly social spaces for young people</p>	
<p><b>Provide new library facilities that meet the needs of young people</b></p>	<p>Increased youth friendly spaces</p> <p>Increased access to and use of community learning/entertainment resources by young people</p>	
<p><b>Extend or Create new Skate Park for Walcha</b></p>	<p>Relevant stakeholders engaged in the design and funding necessary to extend or replace the existing skate park.</p> <p>Safe recreational facilities for young people</p>	
<p><b>Improve Lions Park Play space for all ages</b></p>	<p>Stakeholders consulted for inclusions to Lions Park facility improvement project</p> <p><i>Refer to Page 17 for concept draft plan</i></p>	
<p><b>Develop an active transport corridor for bike riding and running that is safe and accessible</b></p>	<p>Walcha's footpath and cycleways connected and extended to provide maximum community benefit</p>	
<p><b>Increase activities and infrastructure at Walcha Memorial Baths</b></p>	<p>Increased social connection for young people</p> <p>Increased safe and youth friendly social spaces for young people</p>	



# GOAL 4

## Access to places, programs and events

### MEDIUM TO LONG TERM ACTIONS

Actions	What Success looks like	Key Partners
<b>Advocate for transport options/ opportunities for young people</b>	<p>The transport needs of young people are understood</p> <p>Increased social connection – Mobility and movement between townships – for young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council Staff</li> <li>• Local Schools</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> <li>• Sporting groups</li> <li>• TfNSW</li> <li>• Local pub, clubs and venues</li> <li>• Walcha Taxi service and Bus operators</li> </ul>
<b>Explore opportunities to extend the reach of free WiFi in community spaces</b>	<p>Increased social connection and access to online entertainment, and services for young people</p>	
<b>Identify ways to sustainably grow Council's school holiday programs including events that specifically target particular age groups</b>	<p>Increased social connections for young people especially during periods of increased vulnerability for isolated young people</p>	
<b>Nurture libraries as welcoming spaces for young people</b>	<p>Support Library Staff to consult with young people about their spaces and programs</p> <p>Increased youth friendly spaces</p> <p>Increased access to and use of community learning/ resources by young people</p>	
<b>Provide (or advocate for) activities and programs for 18 – 25 year olds within existing facilities</b>	<p>Continued social connection and retention of young adults in the region</p>	



# GOAL 5

To complete a review of all existing programs offered to youth and create a program of activities and events for our young people that align with strategy feedback

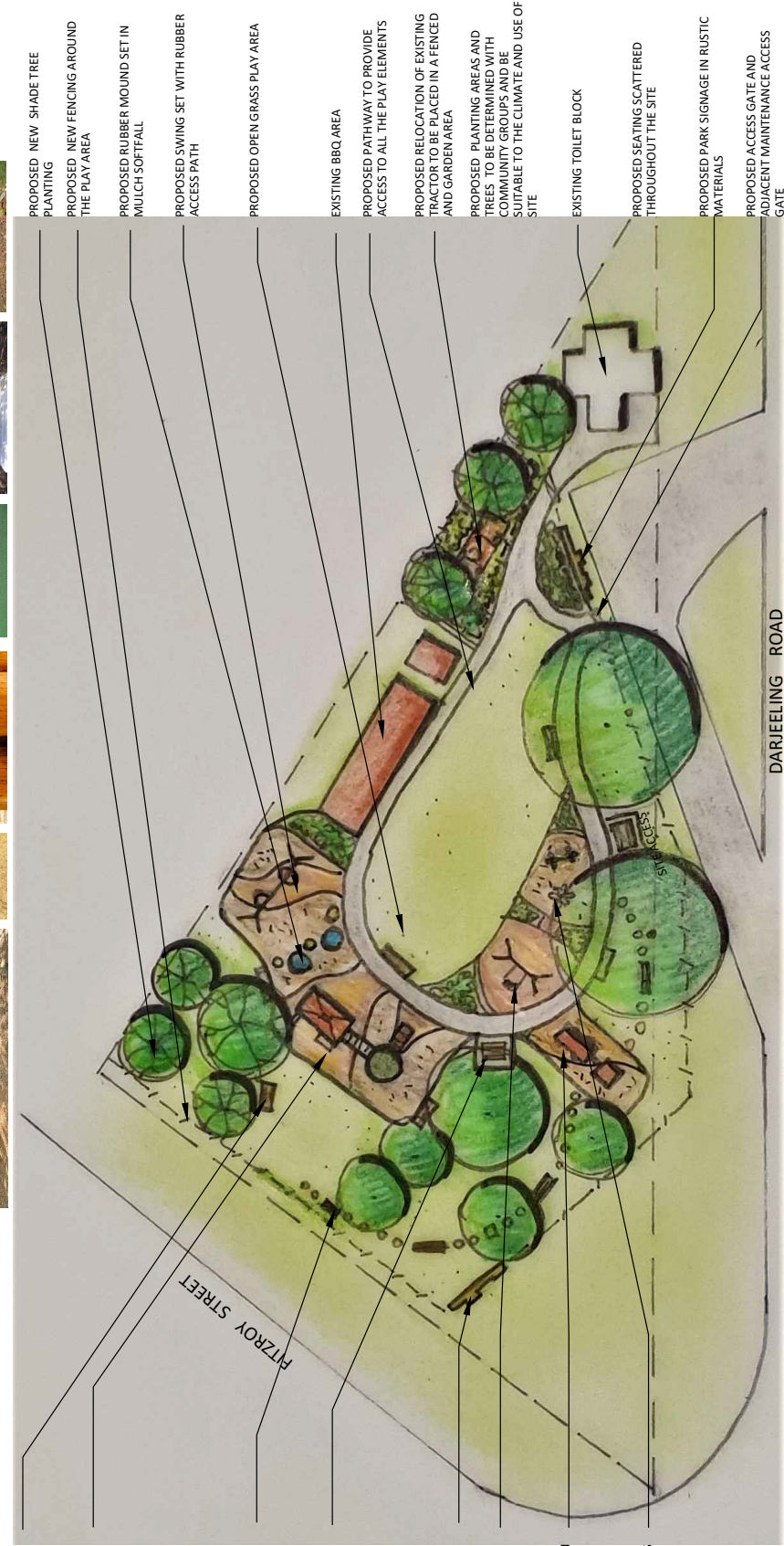
MEDIUM TO LONG TERM ACTIONS		
Actions	What Success looks like	Key Partners
<p><b>Equip young people with skills and knowledge that prepare them to successfully navigate change, grow from life's challenges, and build their resilience.</b></p> <p><b>Provide leadership workshops at secondary schools and expand to tertiary students.</b></p>	<p>Minimum of three workshops in schools per year.</p> <p>At least one workshop for 18 – 25 year olds per year</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Businesses</li> <li>• University of New England</li> <li>• Council Staff</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> <li>• Local Schools</li> <li>• Employment networks and service providers</li> </ul>
<p><b>Provide opportunities for young people to grow and learn and to prepare young people to flourish throughout their lives.</b></p>	<p>Council and local businesses advocates for apprenticeships, traineeships and employment to meet the demand of young people</p>	
<p><b>Assist young people to be work ready and prepared for the changing landscape of employment</b></p>	<p>Increased opportunities for young people to explore their interests through volunteering</p> <p>Workplace skills, confidence and opportunities for young people developed through mentoring</p> <p>Increased career pathways for young people</p>	
<p><b>Provide opportunities for 18 – 25 year olds to connect, socialise and be informed of opportunities to contribute to community (such as volunteering and other community organisations).</b></p>	<p>Higher youth volunteer participation rates, increased youth involvement in local community organisations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Business</li> <li>• Lions, Rotary, Show Society</li> </ul>

When supported well, young people add life, colour and energy to the whole community.



# DRAFT LIONS PARK CONCEPT PLAN

**DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**  
 IMAGES REPRESENTATIVE OF PROPOSAL AND  
 FOR DISCUSSION ONLY



PROPOSED BENCH SEATING SCATTERED ACROSS THE SITE

PROPOSED FARM THEMED PLAY EQUIPMENT WITH TANK AND CLIMBING AND ROLLER SLIDE WITH A COMBINATION OF RUBBER AND MULCH SOFTFALL

PROPOSED BALANCING TRAIL WITH BEAMS AND STEPPERS AND ROCKS

PROPOSED PICNIC SETTING

PROPOSED PARK SIGNAGE IN RUSTIC MATERIALS

PROPOSED ALL ACCESS SWING ON RUBBER

PROPOSED TRACTOR AND TRAILER PLAY ELEMENT IN COMBINATION OF RUBBER AND MULCH SOFTFALL

PROPOSED COW ROCKERS IN MULCH SOFTFALL

PLAY SPACE IS SET AMONGST EXISTING TREES

PROPOSED NEW SHADE TREE PLANTING

PROPOSED NEW FENCING AROUND THE PLAY AREA

PROPOSED RUBBER MOUND SET IN MULCH SOFTFALL

PROPOSED SWING SET WITH RUBBER ACCESS PATH

PROPOSED OPEN GRASS PLAY AREA

EXISTING BBQ AREA

PROPOSED PATHWAY TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO ALL THE PLAY ELEMENTS

PROPOSED RELOCATION OF EXISTING TRACTOR TO BE PLACED IN A FENCED AND GARDEN AREA

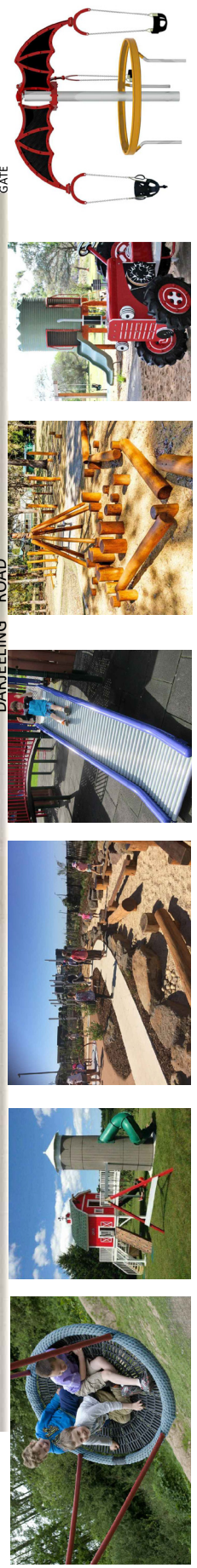
PROPOSED PLANTING AREAS AND TREES TO BE DETERMINED WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND BE SUITABLE TO THE CLIMATE AND USE OF SITE

EXISTING TOILET BLOCK

PROPOSED SEATING SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE SITE

PROPOSED PARK SIGNAGE IN RUSTIC MATERIALS

PROPOSED ACCESS GATE AND ADJACENT MAINTENANCE ACCESS GATE



# TRACKING OUR PROGRESS

The Youth Strategy will be reviewed every four years to track progress on its implementation, evaluate initiatives, support continuous improvement and innovation, and identify when further review and renewal of the Youth Strategy is required.

Following each review, a new four-year Action Plan will be developed based on current evidence and consultation.

The actions will be incorporated into Council's Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan. They will be reviewed bi-annually with results and progress reported to Council.

Council will continue to actively engage with young people and stakeholders throughout the implementation of the Youth Strategy, ensuring that young people are always at its heart.

## THANK YOU

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Council would like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of the following groups to this project:

- All Walcha Councillors and Council staff who contributed to the project
- Walcha Central School, St Patricks School, Woolbrook School, Home-School Group
- The fantastic participants of the Youth Advisory Committee.
- The young people, parents/carers, community members, school staff and youth service providers who generously shared their thoughts, feelings, and suggestions with us through the consultation for the Youth Strategy – we are grateful for your input, and we look forward to working with you to make this vision for Walcha's young people a reality.

### REFERENCES

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Lawrence, D., Johnson, S., Hafekost, J., Boterhoven, De., Haan, K., Sawyer, M., Ainley, J. and Zubrick, SR., (2015). The Mental Health of Children and Adolescents: Report on the second Australian Child and Adolescent Survey of Mental Health and Wellbeing. Canberra: Department of Health.



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