



Goulburn Mulwaree Council

2023 State Government Election

Advocacy Plan

JANUARY 2023

Goulburn Mulwaree Council Advocacy Plan



Goulburn Mulwaree
LGA



Introduction

OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Goulburn Mulwaree Council is a local government area located in the Southern Tablelands of New South Wales, about 200 kilometres south-west of the Sydney CBD, and 95 kilometres north-east of the Canberra CBD. Goulburn Mulwaree Council encompasses the city of Goulburn and the villages of Marulan, Tarago, Towrang, Tallong, Parkesbourne, Windellama, Bungonia, Lake Bathurst and Middle Arm. The Council area resident population for 2021 was 32,138, with a population density of 9.97 persons per square km.

An analysis of the jobs held by the resident population in the Goulburn Mulwaree Council area in 2021 shows the three most popular industry sectors were:

Health Care and Social Assistance
(2,246 people or 15.7%)

Public Administration and Safety
(1,533 people or 10.7%)

Construction
(1,507 people or 10.5%)



Being so close to Sydney and Canberra – yet proudly independent of these major centres – the Region is ideally situated for businesses and individuals from diverse fields such as IT, communications, retail, distribution and logistics, engineering, mining, renewable energy and construction.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council Advocacy Plan

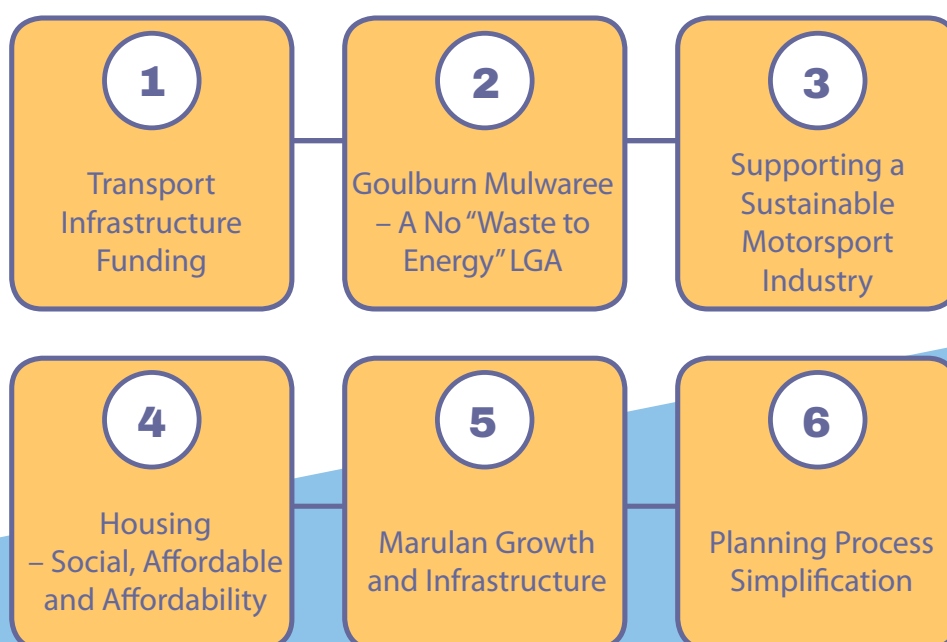
The Objective

The past year has been a challenging year for local government in NSW with Goulburn Mulwaree Council experiencing extreme financial pressure. Compounding factors include: Rate pegging determination by IPART; inflation reaching 7%; an increase in operating expenses; delivery of infrastructure and maintenance projects; energy price increases and shortage of skilled employees particularly in the industries of quarrying, health and hospitality.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council is an organisation that strives for continuous improvement in our service delivery to the community. Council has adopted a Community Strategic Plan, Towards 2042 that reflects where we as a community would like to be in 2042. Council also has in place both a four year Delivery Plan and our annual Operation Plan.

Our mission is to advocate and lobby on relevant State Government issues by working with the State Government to further the priorities of our community. People should have the same rights and opportunities, regardless of where they live within the state and country.

This document articulates the six highest priority areas requiring action from the State Government. Within this document, Goulburn Mulwaree Council have listed real positive solutions that will, if actioned, make meaningful generational change. These priority areas are:



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Advocacy Plan

Goulburn Mulwaree Council is responsible for a road network comprising 802km of sealed and 435km of unsealed roads.

1 Transport Infrastructure Funding

ISSUE

Due to the ongoing impacts of climatic conditions over the past several years, the road network within the Goulburn region has experienced significant degradation and deterioration.

Deterioration has been accelerated on key routes such as Windellama Road, Bungendore Road and Cullulla Road by a number of factors, including increased traffic between the ACT and Nowra, and the transportation of bushfire-affected waste and timber resources.

Council local roads are also used by at least four State significant-scale quarrying operations that supply key construction materials for the Sydney basin, including the north-west and south-west growth centres, and the Western Sydney International Airport.

Locally controlled roads are also used for the transport of waste to privately owned waste facilities within the Goulburn Mulwaree region which is causing significant degradation to the regions road network.

A significant proportion of Goulburn's population transit between the cities of Sydney and Canberra. This has long term impacts on to road infrastructure networks.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- That the State Government commit to a significant and regular funding of both the State controlled and Council controlled road network within the region.
- The State Government consider the reclassification of local roads that have evolved into regional transport routes for both freight and passenger users.
- The State Government in conjunction with their ACT counterparts plan, develop and fund a fast rail solution between Sydney and Canberra.

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Goulburn Mulwaree Council opposes Energy-from-Waste in our Local Government Area.

2 Goulburn Mulwaree: A No “Waste to Energy” LGA

ISSUE

The Goulburn Mulwaree LGA has seemingly become a focal point for Energy-from-Waste (EfW) proposals. The location of such facilities in the LGA is strongly opposed by Council and its residents. This has been clearly evident during both the Jerrara Power proposal at Bungonia and Veolia’s Woodlawn ARC proposal at Tarago.

With EfW now banned in Sydney, Regional NSW appears destined to carry the burden of delivering at least four such facilities by 2030. Additional and unwanted responsibilities have now been placed on the Southern Goulburn Mulwaree Precinct due to the gazetted removal of the West Lithgow Precinct from the NSW Government Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan in late October 2022.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- If EfW is not good enough for Sydney, it shouldn’t be good enough for regional areas of NSW. The ban on EfW facilities should extend to all of NSW, and investment diverted to true resource recovery and waste management practices.
- Advocate for the removal of Southern Goulburn Mulwaree from the NSW Government Energy from Waste Infrastructure Plan.
- In the unwanted circumstance of Veolia’s Woodlawn ARC proposal gaining approval, Council will push for a cap of one EfW facility in each precinct.
- The State Government impose a moratorium on all EfW proposals in NSW until a Government-funded plebiscite can be held. The plebiscite would be used to determine the true community sentiment in relation to EfW in NSW and guide future policy.

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Goulburn has a long and proud history of motorsport.

3 Supporting a Sustainable Motorsport Industry

ISSUE

Goulburn has a long and proud history of motorsport, and is home to one of only two permanent facilities approved for motor racing in NSW. Of these, Wakefield Park is the only facility of this kind in Regional NSW. In addition to Wakefield Park, the Goulburn Mulwaree LGA contains numerous other high-profile venues including the Pheasant Wood Circuit driver training facility, Goulburn Motorcycle Club's High View Motocross track, Goulburn Speedway and the Toyota Land Cruiser Club of Australia's Willowglen 4x4 training facility.

Current Planning and Environmental frameworks fail to adequately support Motorsport as an industry that brings economic, social and recreational benefits to the region. As a result, the potential to grow the industry (including supporting industries and trades) is extremely limited, and therefore stymieing further investment and employment.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Legislative recognition is required for permanent motorsport and motor racing facilities in NSW.
- Clear guidance from relevant State agencies, such as the EPA and Office of Sport is required for Council's, applicants, residents and existing facility owners/managers.
- A long-term framework, from which legislative reform can take direction, should be facilitated by the State Government by way of a Motorsports Future Forum (or similar) to plan the long-term vision and objectives for motorsport in Regional NSW. The Forum should include representatives from State Government and Opposition, DPE, EPA, Motorsport Australia, Australian Auto Sport Alliance, Motorcycling Australia and any other relevant stakeholders.



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Social, affordable and affordability housing boost required for Goulburn Mulwaree.

4 Housing: Social, Affordable and Affordability

ISSUE

There is a significant deficiency of rental properties within the Region which is limiting the ability for the region to meet the needs of not only those intending to move to the area, but also those already residing here. In the Goulburn Mulwaree Region, this issue is being exacerbated by the construction phases of large-scale State Significant Development projects (eg. wind farms, solar farms and quarries) and short-term rental accommodation providers absorbing the majority of affordable housing stock.

Goulburn is also seeing a steady increase in homelessness, due in part to a combination of housing affordability and lack of appropriate social housing stock. Existing social housing stock is no longer fit for purpose and does not match Goulburn's social housing demographic. For example, approximately half of Goulburn's social housing tenants are single occupants, whereas at least 80% of housing stock contains 2+ bedrooms. Additionally, over one-third of social housing tenants require their home to be accessible.

Covid restrictions and adaptations, coupled with lifestyle opportunities and affordability relative to the Sydney and Canberra markets has seen residential growth outpacing infrastructure development, such as in Marulan, which is currently awaiting the development of a new wastewater treatment facility. This has flow-on effects in reducing capacity for new commercial and industrial developments.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- State Significant Development proposals must be required to better demonstrate how their proposals will minimise impacts on the local housing market prior to gaining consent.
- Agencies such as NSW Land and Housing Corporation require additional State and Federal investment to deliver fit for purpose and the efficient distribution of tenancies.
- Social support services require improved resourcing and additional infrastructure to provide alternatives to homelessness.
- A reduction in red-tape from State Government agencies is required to enable Council's to fast-track the delivery of core infrastructure that is critical to supporting sustained growth.

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Marulan's population more than doubled between 2016 and 2021.

5 Marulan Growth and Infrastructure

ISSUE

The village of Marulan has experienced a significant increase in population and development. For the period between 2016 to 2021 the population has more than doubled from 685 to 1,428 and projections indicate that the population will continue to increase significantly. In Council's Urban & Fringe Housing Strategy an additional 694 dwellings have been projected to be built by 2036 and this could increase to approximately 1,000 dwellings. As the village grows there is a need for services to be made available to meet the requirements of residents.

Marulan is currently serviced by one entrance and exit point from the Hume Highway. With the expansion in both the population of the village coupled with the increase in traffic along this important domestic route a second entry and exit point for Marulan is imperative.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- The State Government commit to planning and developing the necessary services to meet the needs of the Marulan community. This planning is to include the provision for new Emergency Services facilities such as the Police and Ambulance and an education facility that caters for high school students. The establishment of medical services is also imperative for positive health outcomes for the residents of Marulan. With close proximity to the Hume Highway, these new Emergency Services facilities will accommodate not only the growth in Marulan itself but will also assist to provide positive road safety outcomes for the motoring public of NSW.
- The State Government commit to establishing a second entry and exit from the Hume Highway for the village of Marulan.



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Planning
Portal

The planning process in NSW isn't user friendly.

6 Planning Process Simplification

ISSUE

The planning process in NSW has become increasingly complex and less user friendly for all stakeholders. Despite the presence of Complying Development opportunities and the ability for applicants to utilise private certifiers, the majority of developers still opt for traditional Development Applications as the process is better understood. This slows down approvals and places additional pressure on Council's to sufficiently resource its planning departments, as well as adding unnecessary cost to the developer due to the need to engage consultant planners for simple projects.

The complexity of the NSW Planning System is compounded by the lack of front-end and back-end user friendliness of the NSW Planning Portal. Applicants and Council officers are frequently encountering technical issues, whilst the absence of a State-led integration platform has led to many processes requiring duplication, and therefore increasing costs to Council and reducing overall efficiency within Council Planning departments.

Finally, the ability for Council to deliver timely development approvals is being compromised by a lack of resourcing within a number of State Government Agencies, such as the NSW RFS and Water NSW, among others. This is leading to delays of up to several months and is a major impediment to increasing housing supply.

PROPOSED SOLUTION

- Planning processes in NSW need to be simplified. Complying Development must be made less complex and attractive to developers. This will have immediate benefits to creating efficient Council Planning departments, leading to faster approvals and the unlocking of much-needed housing supply.
- The NSW Government must provide ongoing resourcing (including funding) to Councils to manage the additional workload associated with the Planning Portal. This can be partially achieved by facilitating common implementation systems for Councils rather than all Councils having to individually source and fund the stages of implementation, API's, etc.
- When providing training on Planning Portal functionality a DPE Planner should also be available for questions and feedback, as opposed to IT specialists who don't seem to appreciate the intricacies of the planning system.
- The State Government invest the necessary resources within referral agencies to ensure that Councils can meet the needs and timeframes of developers within our region.