

Cessnock 2020 Community Plan Infrastructure Position Paper



Infrastructure Summary

Infrastructure includes such things as recreation and cultural facilities, roads, transport, emergency services, education facilities, and health care facilities. Infrastructure in Cessnock is provided by Cessnock City Council and by State and Federal Governments.

Council is responsible for 900 kilometres of roads within the LGA, of which 610 kilometres are sealed. The annual budget to maintain and reseal Council roads is approximately \$3 million. The NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) provides funding for the maintenance of the state and regional road network of 92 kilometres in Cessnock. Indications suggest that many of the rural and urban roads are not coping well with increased usage due to tourism, business and urban expansion that has taken place in the past 10-20 years.

There is heavy reliance on motor vehicles in Cessnock and studies suggest that only 4% of people travelling to Cessnock's CBD use public transport. There are currently 10 public bus routes and 34 school bus routes throughout Cessnock. City Rail train services link Newcastle to Scone which passes through Greta and Branxton and a bus service also links Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Morisset railway stations. Council's allocated budget for transport covers minor works but is insufficient for major improvements. Cessnock also has an Aerodrome which is used primarily for tourism, aircraft training schools and has an aircraft maintenance facility.

There are 52 parks located throughout the LGA and 41 of these parks contain playgrounds.

There will be increased pressure for recreation and open spaces particularly with the projected population growth. Ageing playground equipment and gaps in shared cycleways/pathways have already been identified as areas that need attention. Sporting facilities in Cessnock are ageing and are also in need of maintenance. The majority of amenity buildings adjacent to sports grounds are over 40 years old and have had minimal upgrades. There are three Council pools in the LGA, in Kurri Kurri, Branxton and also in Cessnock.

Cessnock also has a number of cultural facilities and attractions including the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre, Marthaville which is an historic homestead that that is now used as an arts and cultural centre and Cessnock's Regional Art Gallery. Events are also held in the historic Wollombi Village and in more recent times events in the vineyards have become very popular.



Local infrastructure	Current position
Roads	Council is responsible for 910km of urban and rural roads in Cessnock. The RTA is responsible for 92km of state and regional roads in the LGA.
Other transport	There is a small bus network in Cessnock with 10 public bus routes run by private operators. City rail operates a train services between Newcastle and Scone.
Emergency services	NSW Police is located at Aberdeen, Branxton, Cessnock, Kurri Kurri and Wollombi. NSW Fire Brigades are located at Abermain, Bellbird, Branxton, Cessnock, Kearsley, Kurri Kurri, Paxton and Weston. Ambulance services are stationed at Cessnock and Kurri Kurri. Rural Fire services are stationed at Benwerrin, Bucketty, Cessnock, Greta, Kearsley, Laguna, Millfield, Mulbring, Neath, North Rothbury, Pokolbin, Quorrobolong and Wollombi. State Emergency Services are located at Cessnock.
Education facilities	Two TAFE colleges in Cessnock and Kurri Kurri, 23 public schools, five Catholic schools and one independent school.
Health care facilities	There are two hospitals in the LGA in Cessnock and in Kurri Kurri and there are also community health centres in these locations.
Cultural facilities	Cessnock Performing Arts Centre has a theatre with seating for 466 people, a seniors room, program room, meeting room and two outdoor areas for entertainment. Marthaville is a homestead that is now used as an arts and cultural centre. Cessnock Regional Art Gallery is a community based facility that offers classes for all ages. Cultural events are also often held in the vineyards and in the historical Wollombi Village.
Recreational / sporting facilities	52 parks throughout the LGA of which 41 contain playgrounds. 24% of the land in the city is National Park. There are 23 sportsgrounds in Cessnock and 3 public swimming pools.

The State Infrastructure Strategy 2008-2018 has provided an allocation of funding for a new gymnasium for Kurri Kurri High School, Kurri Zone Substation Augmentation and Cessnock Feeder and a Cessnock Ambulance Station however this project is not yet approved.



As part of the Cessnock 2020 Community Plan consultation, the community will be asked to think about infrastructure in Cessnock and consider the possible constraints and the potential opportunities for the future sustainability and growth of services and facilities in the community. Some areas for consideration might be:

- What cultural and sporting facilities do you think need most attention in Cessnock and why?
- What transport infrastructure do you think will best respond to the projected population growth in Cessnock?
- What could be done to encourage greater use of public transport in Cessnock?
- Would improved cycleways/pathways encourage more people to travel by bike/foot?