



Desired outcome

This Key Direction identifies the local, state and federal infrastructure, services and facilities needed to serve the current and future community of Cessnock while ensuring there is adequate access to these facilities and services.

What the community has said

The consultations expressed a number of significant concerns and aspirations for future service provision across the Cessnock area. They include:

- Improved access to public transport with more transport routes with greater frequency including community transport services
- Maintaining and improving road networks
- Developing bicycle path networks

- Provision of more health services particularly aged care services
- Integrating medical facilities that are accessible to families and visiting specialists
- Encouraging local doctor's facility in villages across the LGA e.g. work from a community hall one day a week
- More rehabilitation services for injury recovery and drug and alcohol abuse
- Clustering 'like' services together e.g. health services, homeware shopping, general shopping, entertainment and restaurants
- Developing a partnership between a local hospital and the University of Newcastle
- Accessibility of a diverse range of tertiary education opportunities
- Increasing funding to educational facilities
- Telecommunications improvements

Proposed objectives and strategies

In order to address these challenges the tables below contain a number of objectives for the future and the strategies which will assist in achieving those objectives.

Objective 4.1 - Better transport links

	Strategies	Responsibility	Support	Timing
4.1.1	Develop a Hunter Regional Transport Strategy which encompasses Cessnock's needs	NSW Government	Council, Community	2010-2012
4.1.2	Increase public awareness of current public transport and community transport services	Council	NSW Government, Community groups, Service providers	2010-2012
4.1.3	Improve public and community transport opportunities between towns and key community hubs in and outside the LGA	NSW Government	Council, Community groups	2010-2016
4.1.4	Work with the state and federal governments to seek increased transport funding for Cessnock	Council	Local Members of Parliament, Community	2010-2020
4.1.5	Investigate the potential to re-instate train services to Cessnock and have buses linked out from that terminal	NSW Government	Council, Community	2010-2020



Objective 4.2 - Improving the road network

	Strategies	Responsibility	Support	Timing
4.2.1	Establish and implement best practice asset management strategies for Council's roads	Council	NSW/Federal Government	2010-2012
4.2.2	Determine and manage the impacts of the Hunter Expressway on Council's road network and associated infrastructure	Council	NSW/Federal Government	2010-2016
4.2.3	Work with the state and federal governments for increased road funding for Cessnock	Council	Local Members of Parliament, Community	2010-2020
4.2.4	Investigate a contribution plan or a visitor levy to fund road improvements in the vineyards area	Council	NSW Government	2010-2012

Objective 4.3 - Improving access to health services locally

	Strategies	Responsibility	Support	Timing
4.3.1	Advocate to protect the area's hospitals and associated health services	Council	Community, Local Members of Parliament	2010-2012
4.3.2	Maintain and improve access to health services locally without having to go elsewhere for treatment	NSW Government	Council, Community	2010-2016
4.3.3	Increase provision of health support services for aged care – home help, community support and aged facilities	NSW/Federal Government	Council, Service groups, Community	2010-2016
4.3.4	Attract more general practitioners and dentists through incentives	Federal Government	Council	2010-2016