

9.5.2 POSITIVE AGEING STRATEGY 2021 – 2026 STATUS REPORT

File No: 09.00057

RECOMMENDATION:

That the information be noted.

REPORT:

The Positive Ageing Strategy 2021 – 2026 was adopted on 18 August 2021 to enable Council to cater for an ageing population.

The Strategy encompasses four key areas;

- Living in an age friendly environment
- Participating in inclusive communities
- Staying safe, active and healthy
- Being resilient and informed

The following report provides an update on activities and initiatives delivered by Bathurst Regional Council from March 2023 – March 2024.

PRIORITY 1: LIVING IN AN AGE FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

Strategy 1.1 Ageing in Place

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Continue to support community service organisations who assist older people including Meals on Wheels, The Neighborhood Centre, Bathurst Seymour Centre and Senior Citizens Centre.	Seniors Festival 2024 included promotion of events hosted by Bathurst Seymour Centre, The Neighborhood Centre Bathurst and the Senior Citizens Centre.

Strategy 1.2 Housing

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Identify opportunities to integrate affordable, accessible and adaptable housing principals into Council’s future planning.	New development control plan provisions for Laffing Waters adopted by Council.
Review and inform access and infrastructure requirements to facilitate connected communities (eg access to transport and shops)	Consultation underway with community groups to complete audit of the 2011 Community Access and Cycling Plan to guide a future Active Transport Strategy.

	Discussions underway with Transport for NSW for Integrated Transport Planning for City of Bathurst. New development control plan provisions for Laffing Waters adopted by Council.
Deliver information and resources about local options for retirement villages and residential aged care including the financial implications of downsizing.	Information provided and updated on Council's website.
Advocate for planning systems that encourage accessible housing.	Regional NSW developed a Regional Housing Delivery Plan for Bathurst/Oberon Region. Council has provided input into the development of the plan.
Continue to implement strategies in the Bathurst 2036 Housing Strategy with a focus on older people.	New development control plan provisions for Laffing Waters adopted by Council.

Strategy 1.3 Parking

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Review and improve, where possible, accessible parking.	Streets as Shared Spaces two projects completed and has improved access and parking through the Bathurst Town Square, across George St and into Machattie Lane.

Strategy 1.4 Pedestrian friendly and shaded CBD

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Investigate opportunities to create a pedestrian friendly CBD.	Streets as Shared Spaces two projects completed and has improved access through the Bathurst Town Square, across George St and into Machattie Lane. Project under 12 month trial period inclusive of the new raised crossing in George St.
Investigate opportunities to provide more shade and seating within the Bathurst CBD.	Investigation of Council's tree policies underway as result of Councillor Notice of Motion.

Strategy 1.5 Footpaths and cycleways

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Continue to implement strategies in the Bathurst Regional Community Access and Cycling Plan 2011.	New footpath: Marsden Ln from No 21 to Willow Dr. William St, Charlotte St, to Stanley St. Bonnor St Bannerman to Bannerman. New footpath constructed in Osborne Avenue between Suttor and Edgell Sts - approx. 265m

	<p>long. New cycleway constructed in Dean street between Suttor and Mitchell Hwy. approx 200m long. New footpath construction in Morrisett Street between Peel and Commonwealth sts.</p> <p>Consultation continuing on the future development of an Active Transport Strategy.</p>
<p>Review the 2011 Access and Cycling Plan to develop a new Bathurst Region Active Transport Strategy that reviews the current standards with a focus on improving accessibility of existing footpaths and cycleways.</p>	<p>Consultation underway with community groups to complete audit of the 2011 Community Access and Cycling Plan to guide a future Active Transport Strategy. Discussions underway with Transport for NSW for Integrated Transport Planning for City of Bathurst.</p>
<p>Plan all new subdivisions with contemporary public and private transport and active community transport connections to open spaces and community services and facilities.</p>	<p>Review of BRDCP 2014 and Engineering Guidelines published and community consultation undertaken. Includes standards in relation to open space and connectivity.</p>
<p>Advocate for accessible footpaths and cycleways in new developer owned subdivisions.</p>	<p>Consultation underway with community groups to complete audit of the 2011 Community Access and Cycling Plan to guide a future Active Transport Strategy.</p>

Strategy 1.7 Road Safety

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
<p>Promote the safe use of roads with an emphasis on older pedestrians, older drivers and users of mobility aids.</p>	<p>Road Safety for Seniors information session held at Library with Police, transport NSW and Service NSW in attendance.</p> <p>Seniors Festival 24 - Road Safety information table at library with Transport NSW.</p>
<p>Provide information and awareness around the safe use of mobility aids.</p>	<p>Road Safety for Seniors information session held at Library with Police, transport NSW and Service NSW in attendance. Included information about mobility scooters.</p>

Strategy 1.8 Accessibility

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
<p>Annually report improvements to and promote accessibility of Council owned assets.</p>	<p>New footpath from Howick Street to AFMM.</p> <p>Marveloo accessible toilet in AFMM carpark over the Winter Festival.</p> <p>Re-marking of the disabled car parking and new signage at AFMM and NMRM.</p>

	<p>Peace Park Changing Places amenities construction commenced.</p> <p>BRAG increasing website accessibility and online presence as first point of contact for visitors. Conflated exhibition opening with remote Auslan interpretation.</p> <p>Tiles replaced at entrance to Civic Centre to prevent slips.</p>
Review availability and accessibility of public seating and make recommendations for improvements including arm rests and height considerations.	Review of seating at Council's Civic Center undertaken. Inclusive seating options being investigated.

PRIORITY 2: PARTICIPATING IN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Strategy 2.1 Inclusive neighborhoods

Actions	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Raise awareness of and continue to support the provision of intergenerational experiences.	<p>Selfie Day held by 17 January 2024 with free admission to all museums including a large percentage of intergenerational family groups.</p> <p>Four Out of School Holiday Care groups visited AFMM and BRM during January 2024 school holidays.</p>
Identify and support ways in which Bathurst LGA can work towards becoming a dementia-friendly region.	<p>Dementia Awareness Week 2023 included Dementia Australia presentation, morning tea and stakeholder meeting.</p> <p>Bathurst Dementia Alliance formed with Council involvement.</p>
Identify and action opportunities to promote the Bathurst LGA as an age-friendly option for retirees and travel.	<p>Marketing in Autumn Colours Festival publication, Bathurst Tourism publication, online event listings incl. Destination NSW</p> <p>Railway Adventures tour group visited AFMM, Chifley Home, NMRM and BRM.</p> <p>Palmers Senior tour group visited Chifley Home on 23 December.</p>

Strategy 2.2 Inclusive events

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Continue to support Senior's Festival to ensure events are accessible and age	97 events supported in the 2024 NSW Seniors Festival program of events.

appropriate.	
Ensure Council events are age-friendly and accessible.	<p>Winter festival 2023 had day time events which made it easier for this age group to attend, rides like the ferris wheel or carousel that are all ages, and the inclusion of multiple events around town to support the festival as a whole; as part of the winter festival's Whats on, events were included events for all ages. Some events aimed at the older demographic included; bell tower tours, Sunday sketch sessions, Sunday afternoon High tea, Art exhibitions, Mountain Tales at Tremains Mill.</p> <p>Events such as Bathurst International - Free concert and NYE Party in the Park are for all ages. relaxed casual settings, during the day and evening, shaded spaces to sit, different food options available</p> <p>Summer Beats, Australia Day, the Wanderers game and SuperFest were planned and promoted for all age groups to attend. All events included accessible elements and features including accessible parking, additional ramps, and information on accessibility on the events page on the BRC website.</p> <p>The Wanderers game had accessible seating in the grandstand and an accessible viewing area in the general admission section.</p> <p>An accessible fenced off viewing area with shade was installed at the free Wiggles concert.</p>

Strategy 2.3 Planning

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Provide annual evidence that the ageing population is considered in Council planning and projects.	<p>Consultation underway with community groups to complete audit of the 2011 Community Access and Cycling Plan to guide a future Active Transport Strategy</p> <p>Seniors Festival Organising Committee used to determine appropriate events for 2024 Seniors Festival.</p>

PRIORITY 3: STAYING SAFE, ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

Strategy 3.1 Health outside the hospital

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Review accessibility of parks, gardens and recreational spaces. Use information to plan, source funding and implement accessibility improvements.	Council is soon to commence with the construction of Stage 2 of the Centennial Park Landscape Upgrade. Works will include additional seating, picnic shelters and tables, access paths and all abilities playground equipment. Construction commenced in December 2023.
Identify opportunities and provide information regarding accessible, inclusive health and wellbeing activities, groups and supports with a focus on older people.	Active Ageing Week initiative developed. Included free exercise classes, directory and active ageing in Bathurst booklet. Booklet included information about staying active and healthy as we age as well as exercises and an exercise tracker. Free exercise videos from local businesses also provided on Council's website. Library community directory developed which includes information on free and low cost exercise options.
Research, develop and deliver a campaign promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of keeping active, with a focus on older people.	Active Ageing Week initiative developed. Included free exercise classes, directory and active ageing in Bathurst booklet. Booklet included information about staying active and healthy as we age as well as exercises and an exercise tracker. Free exercise videos from local businesses also provided on Council's website.
Contribute to collaborative local community health initiatives in conjunction with Western NSW Local Health District as they are developed.	Dialogue continuing with health agencies including in relation to upgrades to Bathurst Base Hospital, the proposed Bathurst Integrated Medical Centre and with University training schemes. Consultation continuing with community groups on audit of the 2011 Community Access and Cycling Plan. Discussions commenced with Transport for NSW on integrated transport planning process for City of Bathurst.

Strategy 3.2 Improved access to medical services

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Advocate for the improved access to adorable medical care, with a focus on older people.	LEP gazetted to facilitate the development of the Bathurst Integrated Medical Centre in the CBD.

	Ongoing reporting on progress of Bathurst Integrated Medical Centre and ongoing consultation with developers.
Advocate for additional floor space and infrastructure for medical services.	LEP gazetted to facilitate the development of the Bathurst Integrated Medical Centre in the CBD. BIMC medical centre PP gazetted which enables increased floor space in CBD for medical facilities.

Strategy 3.3 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Advocate for programs that respond to the health needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents.	Bathurst Local Aboriginal Land Council involved in promoting Active Ageing Week and hosted a walk around the river as part of the program of events. Close the Gap provided free health checks at Kelso Community Hub.

Strategy 3.4 Community Safety

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Continue to work with Chifley Police District and the Bathurst Regional Community Safety Committee to implement projects that improve community safety, with a focus on older people.	Elder Abuse awareness flyer distributed to all households as part of Elder Abuse Awareness Week. Scams Awareness presentation at Library. Road Safety for Seniors session at Library. Emergency Services Information Session as part of Seniors Festival.

Strategy 3.5 Continuing education

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Advocate for and support education opportunities for older people.	U3A supported through Seniors Festival program.

Strategy 3.6 Volunteering

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Provide information about volunteering opportunities	Friends of AFMM held a talk on 6 December at AFMM.
Provide volunteer opportunities through Council run facilities and initiatives as the	BRAG Volunteer Guides: Development and delivering key projects for Volunteer Guides

need arises.	<p>to undertake: Talks & Tea + Guides collection research digitization project. BRAGS: fundraising at exhibition openings, catering for special events, management of memberships</p> <p>BRAG Volunteer Guides: Development and delivering key projects for Volunteers Friends of AFMM held a talk on 6 December at AFMM.</p>
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Strategy 3.8 Transition to retirement

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Provide flexibility, where possible, for Council employees transitioning to retirement.	A number of Council staff have been offered term contracts to assist them in transitioning to retirement.

PRIORITY 4: BEING RESILIENT AND INFORMED

Strategy 4.1 Information and resources

Action	March 2023 – March 2024 Progress
Investigate opportunities to ensure Council communication is available in a range of accessible formats.	<p>Community Services videos include captions.</p> <p>Community Safety Plan survey available in easy read.</p> <p>New Council corporate webpage launched with accessibility widget installed.</p>
Advocate for the investigation and development of a central point of communication.	Community Directory launched by Library
Promote programs and workshops that assist older people with technology and navigation of popular online services eg bus timetables, MyGov.	<p>BRC FB post promoting home library service for those unable to physically access the library</p> <p>Computer Coffee Club held monthly</p> <p>Intergenerational Youngster sessions started weekly</p>
Identify opportunities to reach older people who have relocated to Bathurst and ensure they are connected to resources.	<p>Welcome Lunch held for new residents.</p> <p>Information pack includes resources on Councils services as well as community groups</p>

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Funding for this item is contained within existing budgets.

BATHURST COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN – OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

Objective 2: A smart and vibrant economy.

Strategy 2.4 Promote our City and Villages as an attractive place to live.

Objective 4: Sustainable and balanced growth.

Strategy 4.1 Facilitate development in the region that considers the current and future needs of our community.

Strategy 4.2 Provide safe and efficient road, cycleway and pathway networks to improve accessibility.

Strategy 4.3 Ensure services, facilities and infrastructure meet the changing needs of our region.

Strategy 4.4 Provide parking to meet the needs of the City.

Strategy 4.5 Work with partners to improve public transport, and passenger and freight transport connections to and from the region.

Objective 5: Community health, safety and well being.

Strategy 5.1 Provide opportunities for our community to be healthy and active.

Strategy 5.2 Help make the Bathurst CBD, neighbourhoods and the region's villages attractive and full of life.

Strategy 5.3 Help build resilient, inclusive communities.

Strategy 5.4 Make our public places safe and welcoming.

Strategy 5.5 Plan and respond to demographic changes in the community.

Objective 6: Community leadership and collaboration.

Strategy 6.3 Advocate for our community.

Strategy 6.7 Invest in our people.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

01 **Inform** - to provide the public with balanced and objective information to help them understand the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

MINUTE

RESOLUTION NUMBER: ORD2024-98

MOVED: Cr M Hogan SECONDED: Cr W Aubin

RESOLVED:

That the information be noted.

