



Image: Children on Corrimal Beach

Wollongong City Council

Annual Report Snapshot 2022 - 2023



About this report

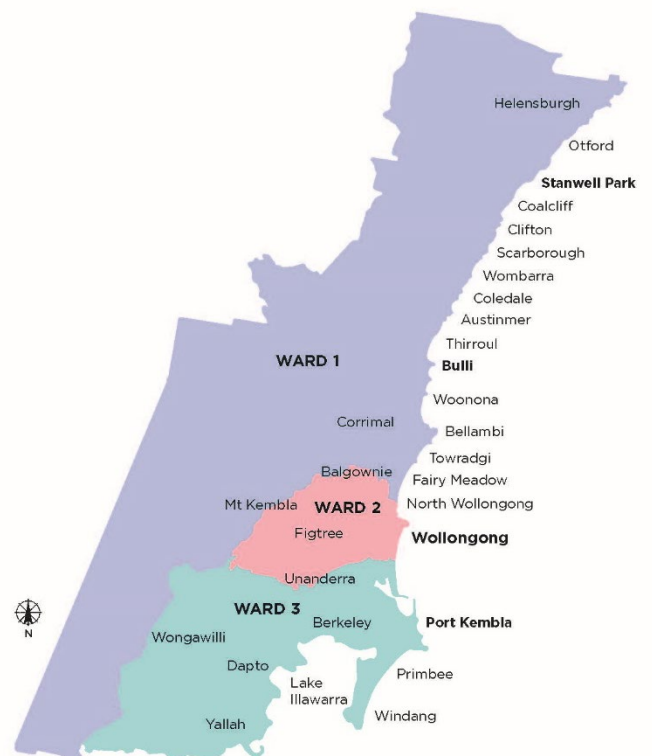
The Wollongong City Council Annual Report Snapshot shows highlights and Council achievements from the 2022-2023 financial year.

Who we are

Located 80 kilometres south of Sydney, Wollongong covers 714 square kilometres. It is a narrow area the Royal National Park is to the north, Lake Illawarra to the south, the Pacific Ocean to the east and the Illawarra escarpment to the west. The name Wollongong comes from the Aboriginal word *woolyungah* meaning five islands.

The Wollongong Local Government Area (LGA) is divided into three wards with four Councillors elected to represent each ward. The Lord Mayor is elected by all voters and represents the entire Wollongong LGA.

Wollongong is the fourth largest city in New South Wales and 11th largest city in Australia by population.



Overview

Throughout the year, we have continued delivering for our community. We focused on moving past the COVID-19 pandemic and working through difficult weather. We faced increasing prices for goods and services and had shortages of materials and labour in some areas.

Despite these challenges, the year has had many highlights where we delivered quality services and managed assets worth \$6.4 billion for our community.

This year saw Wollongong play host to the 2022 UCI Road World Championships – Wollongong in September; the largest cycling event held in NSW since the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. This was a huge event for our city and couldn't have been done without community support.

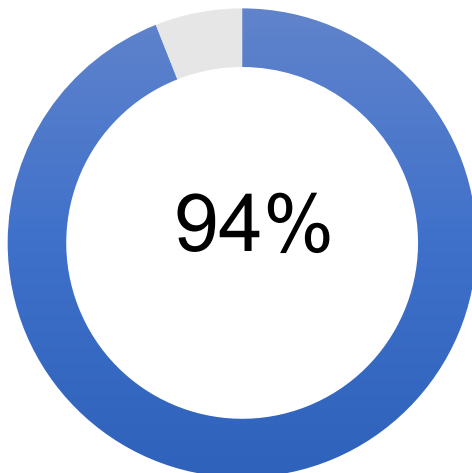


Men's Champion, Remco Evenepoel (centre), 2nd Christophe Laporte (Left) and 3rd Michael Matthews (right).

Summary of our Performance

158/169

Actions on track or complete



Financial Snapshot

Total Revenue

\$403.3M

Capital Expenditure

\$91.1M

Available Funds

\$39.4M

Net Operating Result

\$60.6M

Delivering Everyday

351 environmental program events/workshops held



42,163 people visited the Wollongong Art Gallery



Ran 44 different programs and projects for young people



Over 1,200 public bins picked up across the Local Government Area each week with more than 75% of these bins serviced 5 times a week



Manage 285 sports and playing fields and 9 turf wickets



Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) program continues to divert organic material from landfill, with a total 37,000 tonnes of food organics and garden organics material processed



Inspection of approximately 33,100 metres of stormwater pipe and 1,441 stormwater pits



Customer service answered 103,066 telephone calls, 13,273 face to face discussions, 16,988 online requests and 2,150 webchats



Expanded the Language Aide pool to basic interpreting in Arabic, Turkish, Farsi and Kurdish



1,343 development applications were determined



Supported 23 Cadets, two apprentices, 12 trainees and six school based trainees through our Cadet, Apprentice, Trainee and School-based Trainee (CATS) program



Strategic Priorities Highlights

Localised Suburbs and Places

- Connecting Neighbours Grants delivered
- Children helped create Tiny Forests
- Paint the Gong REaD mascot *Bright Spark* celebrated its birthday
- Delivered Safer Cities: Her Way project and *Artward* Artists in Residence

- Coastal Management Program (CMP) Scoping Study endorsed
- A study to map the floor of the Lake done
- Draft Urban Heat Strategy ready and for public exhibition
- Participated in the *Invest Wollongong Clean Energy Expo*
- Approved the Development Control Plan Chapter E17- this looks at trees and vegetation

Sustainable Wollongong

Active Transport and Connectivity

- Took part in National Walking and Cycling Participation Survey
- Four e-bikes bought for Council's fleet
- Got funding for the design of Grand Pacific Walk Headlands Avenue to Coledale Avenue part

- *Investment Prospectus 2023* was released
- Illawarra was declared as one of five Renewable Energy Zones
- An increase in development in Wollongong with 15 cranes
- *Invest Wollongong* helped with investment enquiries

Business and Investment

West Dapto

- 13 West Dapto projects were completed at a total of \$31M
- Draft West Dapto Development Contributions Plan 2023.
- Mullet Creek Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan 2023 was approved
- West Dapto benefitted from grant funding being received

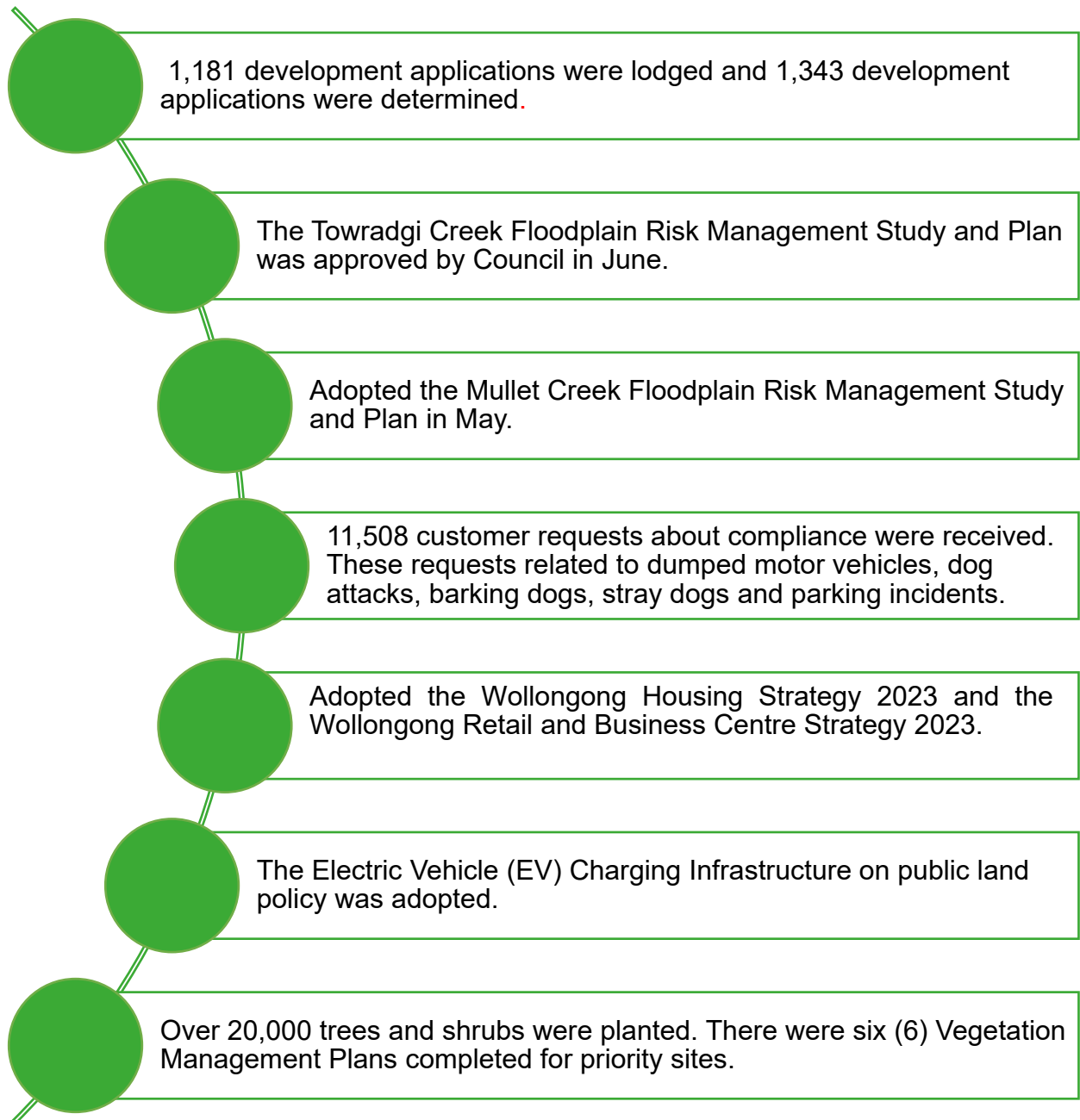
GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Objectives

We will work together to reduce emissions and the effects of a changing climate. Our natural environments are protected and our resources will be managed effectively.

Development is well planned and sustainable and we protect our heritage.

Achievements



GOAL 2 | WE HAVE AN INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Objectives

The region's industry base continues to diversify and local employment opportunities increase.

Wollongong is established as the regional capital of the Illawarra-Shoalhaven. We are leaders in innovation and sustainable research and development of new industries.

Achievements



GOAL 3 | WOLLONGONG IS A CREATIVE, VIBRANT CITY

Objectives

Creative, cultural industries are fostered and thriving.

Community have access to the arts, and participation in events and festivals is increased.

Strong diverse cultures are supported.

Achievements



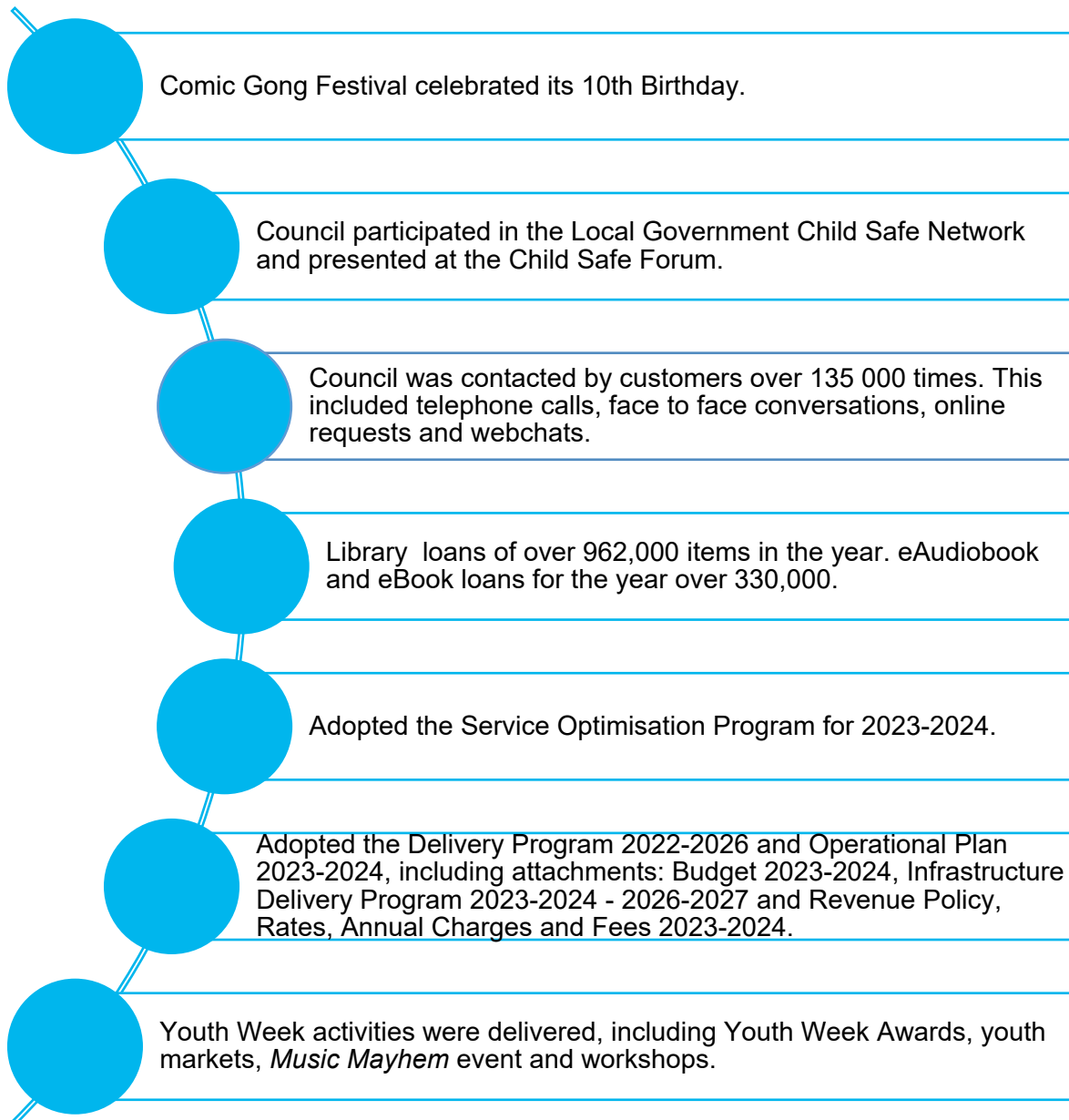
GOAL 4 | WE ARE A CONNECTED AND ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Objectives

Residents have easy and equitable access to information and play an active role in the decisions that affect our city.

There is greater awareness and understanding of Local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, heritage and histories. Our Council is accountable, financially sustainable and has the trust of the community.

Achievements



GOAL 5 | WE HAVE A HEALTHY COMMUNITY IN A LIVEABLE CITY

Objectives

There is an increase in the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our community.

Our community participation in recreation and lifestyle activities increases.

Residents have improved access to a range of affordable housing options.

Suburbs and places are liveable and safe.

Achievements

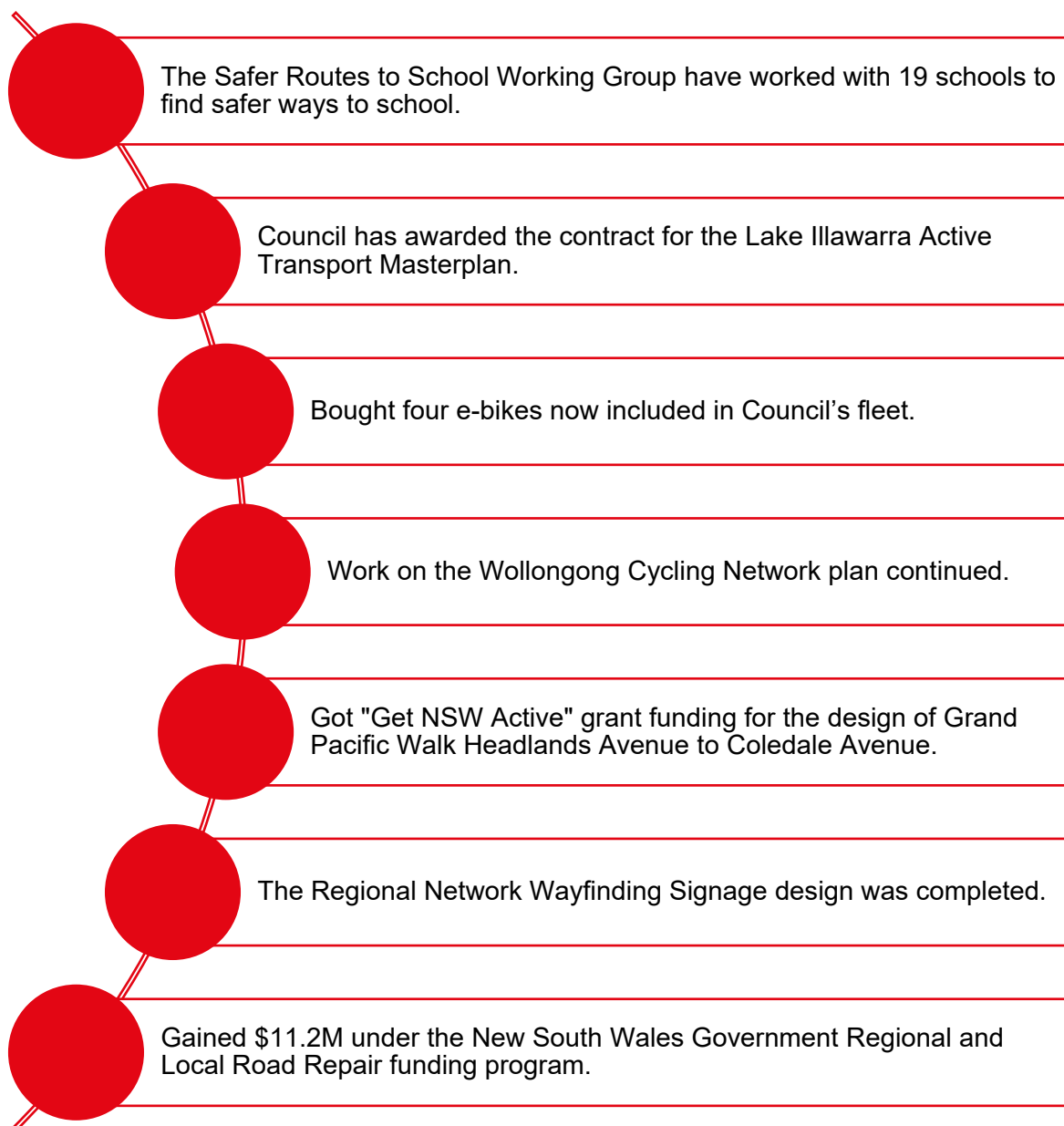


GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

Objectives

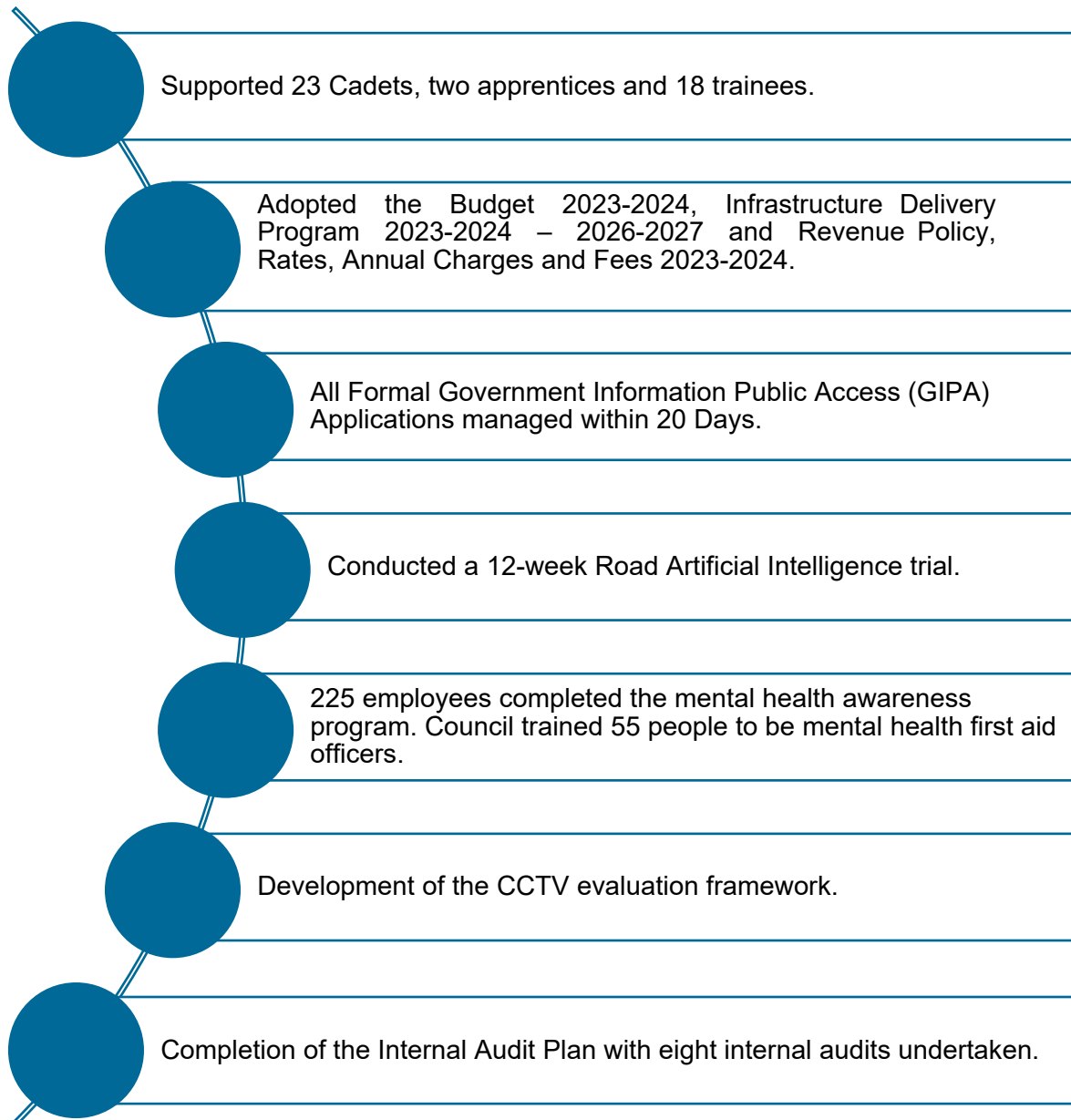
There is an increase in sustainable transport use including public transport, walking, and cycling. Transport links and connection to Sydney, the South Coast and Southern Highlands are strengthened. The community have access to a safe, affordable and reliable transport network.

Achievements



SUPPORT SERVICES

Achievements



Our Wollongong Our Future

From the mountains to the sea, we value and protect our natural environment and will be leaders in building an educated, creative, sustainable and connected community.

- We value and protect our environment
- We have an innovative and sustainable economy
- Wollongong is a creative, vibrant city
- We are a connected and engaged community
- We have a healthy community in a liveable city
- We have affordable and accessible transport



Wollongong City Council
wollongong.nsw.gov.au
Phone (02) 4227 7111

