



Image: Children on Corrimal Beach

Wollongong City Council

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# Annual Report 2023 - 2024

Snapshot Summary



## About this report

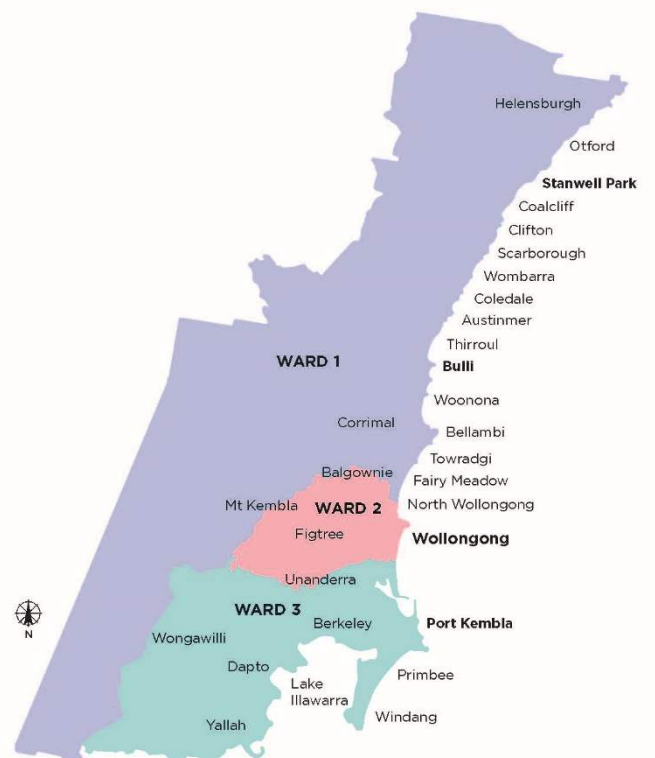
The Wollongong City Council Annual Report Snapshot shows highlights and Council achievements from the 2023-2024 financial year.

## 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. It's been one of many highlights and we are proud of the achievements and positive ways we contribute to making our city great. We opened the All Ages All Abilities Playground at Stuart Park and won a national award for best park of the year for the Cringila Hills Mountain Bike Park. We have worked on the second stage of the netball courts at Fred Finch Park in Berkeley, worked on the Beaton Park tennis hub and launched an e-scooter trial in the city last September. We focused on affordable housing and want to increase housing available in the right suburbs.

We held fun events with Culture Mix in October, we improved our roads, footpaths and cycleways and made sure we are investing in our future.

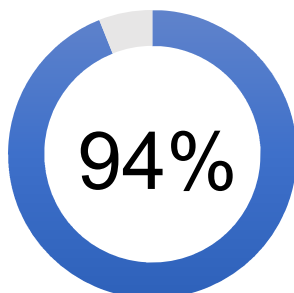


*Image: Stuart Park Wollongong All Ages All Abilities Playground*

## Summary of our Performance

116/123

Actions on track or complete



## Financial Snapshot

Total Revenue

\$430.3M

Capital Expenditure

\$97.2M

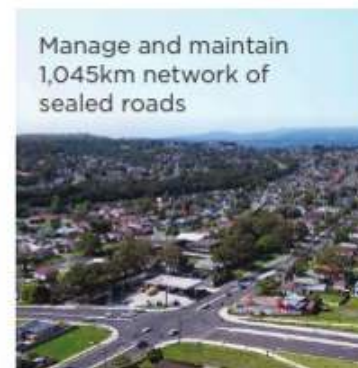
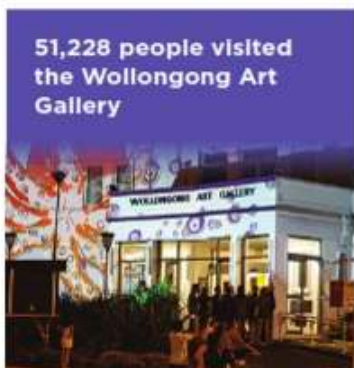
Available Funds

\$41.3M

Net Operating Result

\$41.0M

## Delivering Everyday



## Strategic Priorities Highlights

### Localised Suburbs and Places

- Youth Forum election was held in high schools
- Children helped by giving their ideas for the Stanwell Park Play Space, Creative Wollongong and skate parks
- Paint the Gong REaD reading tent was at Dapto Mall and Saltwater Festival at Bundaleer Estate
- Delivered Safer Cities: Her Way project in Wollongong, Port Kembla and Dapto

- Kerbside Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) service collected 33,387 tonnes of material that was turned into organic compost
- Reduced our corporate emissions by 19% in 2022 to 2023
- Worked on moving our corporate fleet over to Electronic Vehicles (EV)
- Exhibited the Biodiversity certification package for West Dapto
- Completed environmental assessment of about 470 planning application referrals for new development in the city

### Sustainable Wollongong

### Active Transport and Connectivity

- Non-motorised transport is at 23% in Infrastructure Delivery Program 2023-2024 which beats the United Nations target of 20%
- Worked on the Draft Integrated Transport Strategy
- Over 141,000 trips have been taken as part of the Wollongong E-scooter trial with a total distance travelled of over 277,000 kilometres

- *Investment Prospectus 2024* was released
- Ran business events including the Illawarra Aboriginal Business Expo
- Hosted an event *Celebrating Wollongong*: where business and lifestyle grow together at NSW Parliament House
- *Invest Wollongong* launched a digital marketing campaign promoting Wollongong to businesses

### Business and Investment

### West Dapto

- Secured just under \$30M in funding to deliver West Dapto projects
- Finalised the Master Plan package for the Marshall Mount Town and Fowlers Village Centres.
- Construction work to upgrade West Dapto Road
- Sold land at Stream Hill to help pay for new amenities in the area

## GOAL 1 | WE VALUE AND PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

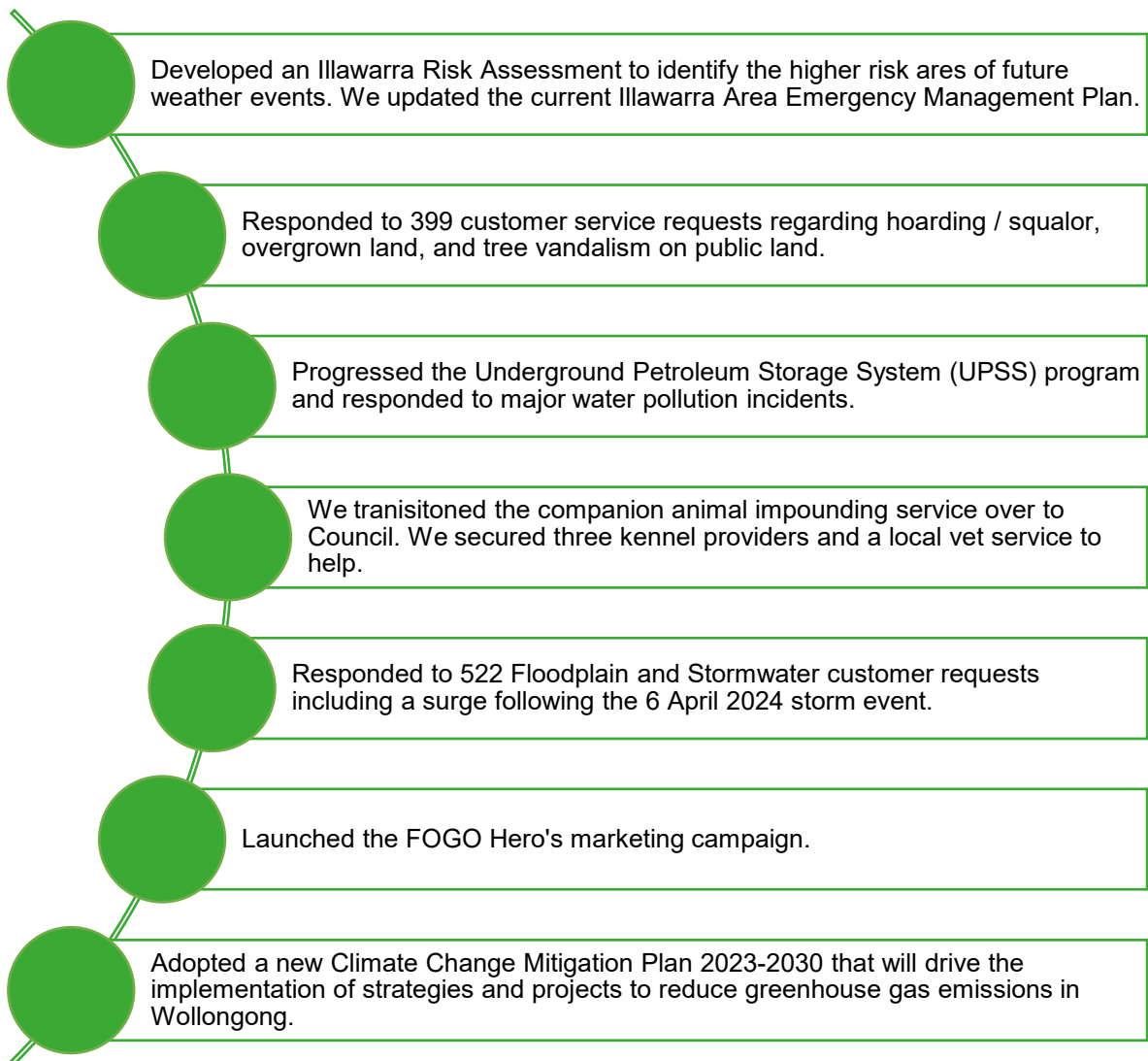
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### Objectives

**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

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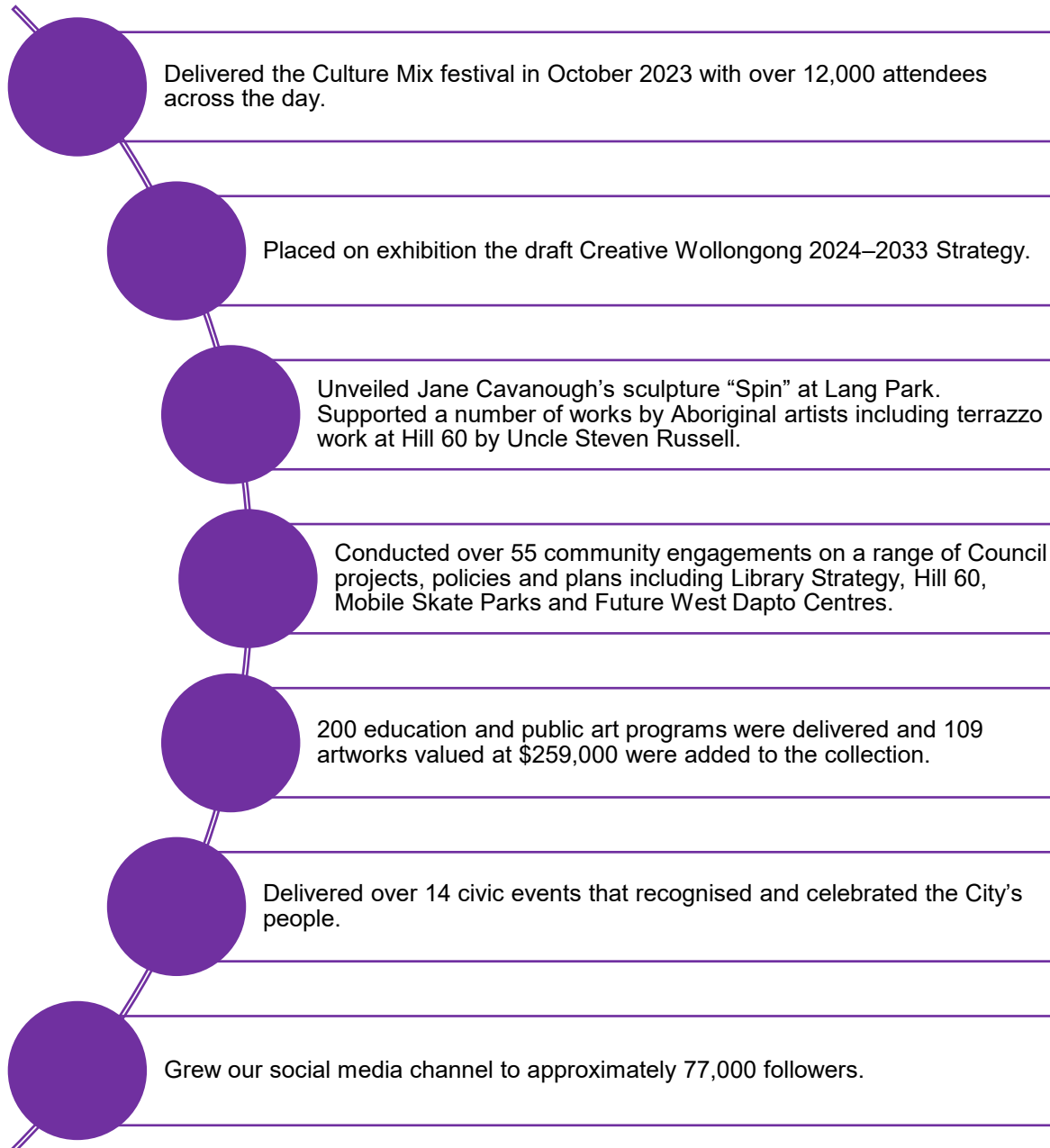
### Objectives

**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

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### 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

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### 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



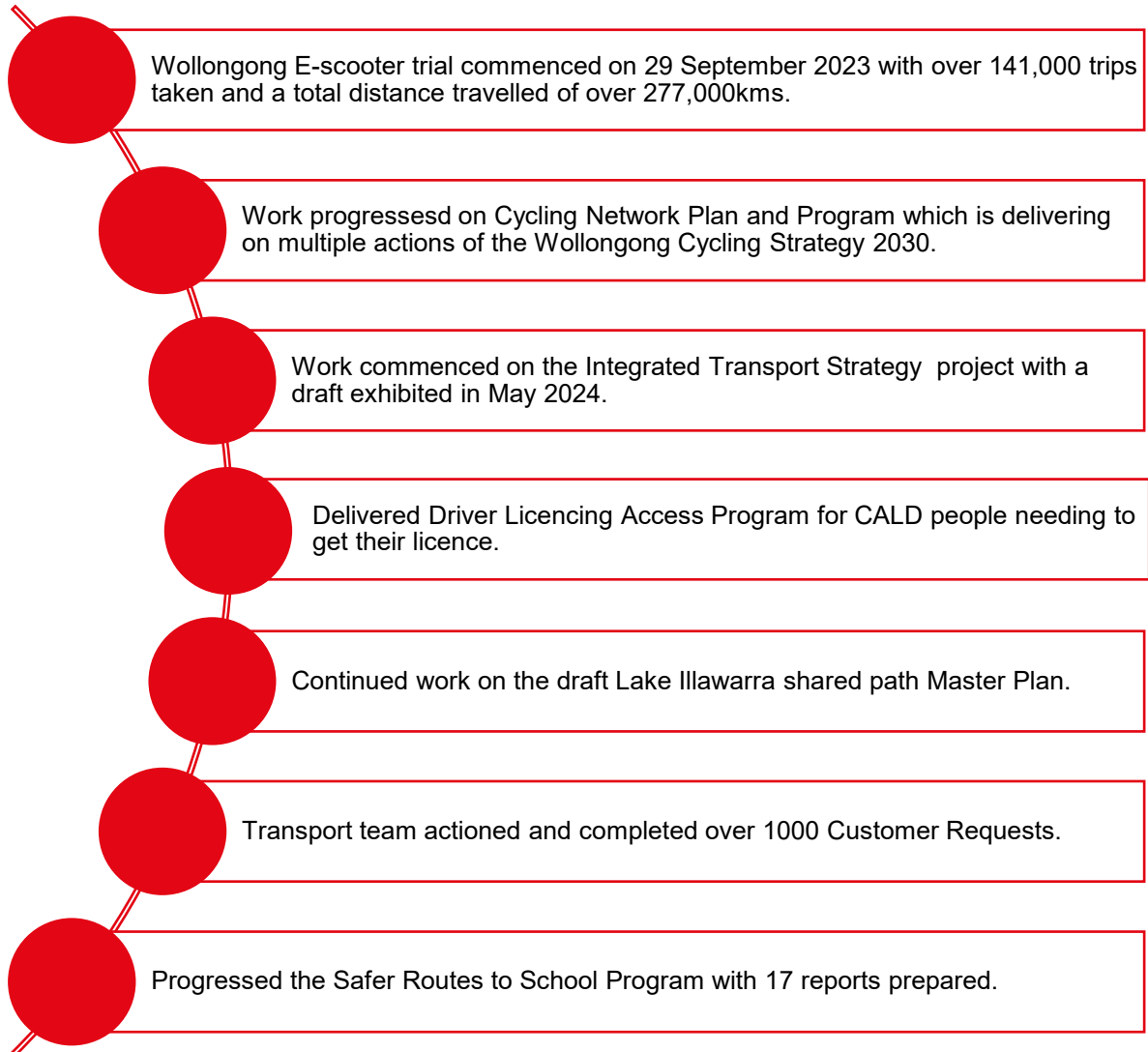
## GOAL 6 | WE HAVE AFFORDABLE AND ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

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### 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

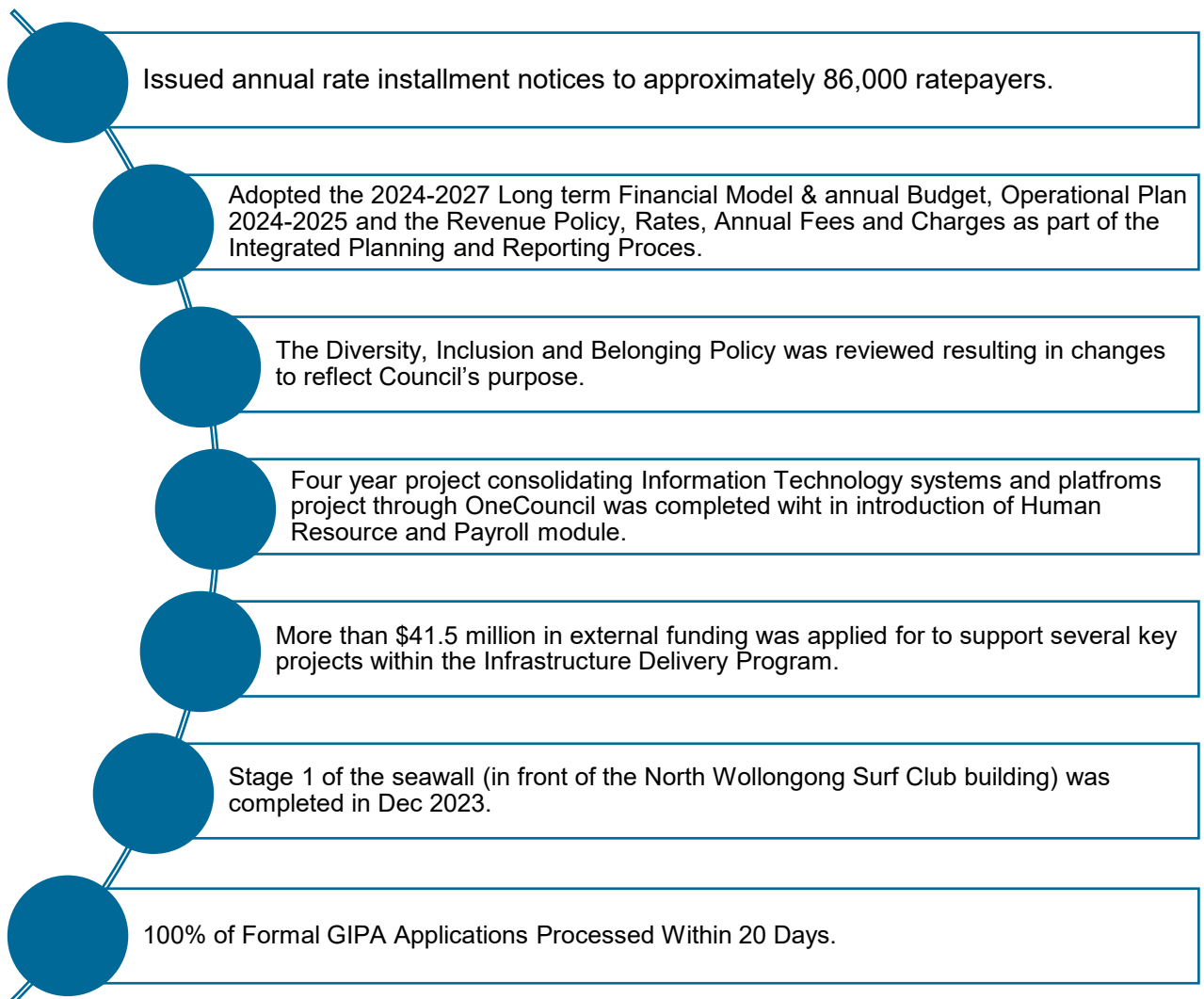




# SUPPORT SERVICES

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## Achievements





*Image: Sunrise at Lake Illawarra*

