



GLEN INNES SEVERN CULTURAL PLAN

2022 - 2025



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1. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Glen Innes Severn Council acknowledges the contribution of Arts North West in the development of the Cultural Plan.

Council would also like to thank the community for their input into the development of this plan through community consultations and an online survey.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Glen Innes Severn Council acknowledges and pays respect to the Ngoorabul people as the traditional custodians of this land, their elders past, present and emerging and to Torres Strait Islander people and all First Nations people.



3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Glen Innes Cultural Plan 2022-2025 outlines the Council's arts and culture priorities for the next four years. The document has been developed through community consultation and reflects the aspirations of the community and recognition that arts and culture is part of who we are as a regional community.

The Plan celebrates the strong community involvement with creativity and culture. It responds to the:

- Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032;
- New England North West Regional Plan 2041;
- Glen Innes Destination Management Plan; and
- Glen Innes Highlands Economic Development Strategy 2020-2040.

The Glen Innes Cultural Plan highlights initiatives aligned with Council Goals across four (4) specific themes:

1. Inclusive community engagement with arts and culture (An Attractive Quality of Life)
2. Sustainable investment in arts and culture (A Prosperous Local Economy)
3. Optimal use of public assets for the arts (Fit for Purpose Public Infrastructure)
4. Development of public art to contribute to place-making and identity (An Appealing Sense of Place)



4. OVERVIEW OF GLEN INNES SEVERN

Glen Innes Severn was created in 2004 following the amalgamation of the Severn Shire and Glen Innes Municipal Council, with a population of around 8,965 people. Approximately 60% live in the historic highland town of Glen Innes. There are four (4) highland villages - Emmaville, Deepwater, Red Range and Glencoe, and four (4) hamlets - Glen Elgin, Wellingrove, Wyaliba and Dundee.

The Glen Innes area is home of the Ngorabul people, extending beyond the Glen Innes Severn Council Local Government Area to Ashford in the West and Tenterfield in the North. Straddling the Great Dividing Range, Glen Innes Severn has a stunning physical environment. The landscapes are varied, with dissected gorge country, waterfalls and rainforest gullies along its eastern edge. The remainder of the district is elevated plateau, dominated by 'granite country' with spectacular granite outcrops, tors and balancing rocks.

Glen Innes Severn has a rich pastoral and mining heritage with a strong Celtic connection. Many of the early pastoralists were Scottish, while the miners were Irish, Welsh and Cornish. The Celtic connections are recognised by the Australian Standing Stones in Glen Innes and celebrated annually by the Australian Celtic Festival in May.

Glen Innes has a diversity of artists with a strong community arts practice. Most of the arts organisations are run by volunteers including The Chapel Theatre, Glen Innes Art Gallery and the Glen Innes Pottery Club. The Maker's Shed and Gawura Gallery are both small commercial galleries located in Glen Innes and the regional arts development organisation, Arts North West is based here also. Significant achievements under the previous plans include public art works "Balancing Rock" (artist Carl Cree) located in the Wentworth / Grey Streets roundabout, "Blue Hills" (artist James Rogers) located at the Church / Meade Streets roundabout, "Heart of our Community" joint collaboration mural on the Mackenzie Building, Deepwater Mural on the Food Wox Building, "Our Country - The Highlands" (artists Lloyd Hornsby and Sarah Fletcher), successful delivery of Australian Celtic Festivals.



5. COMMUNITY PROFILE

Fig 1. Population at a Glance

Our community in 2016

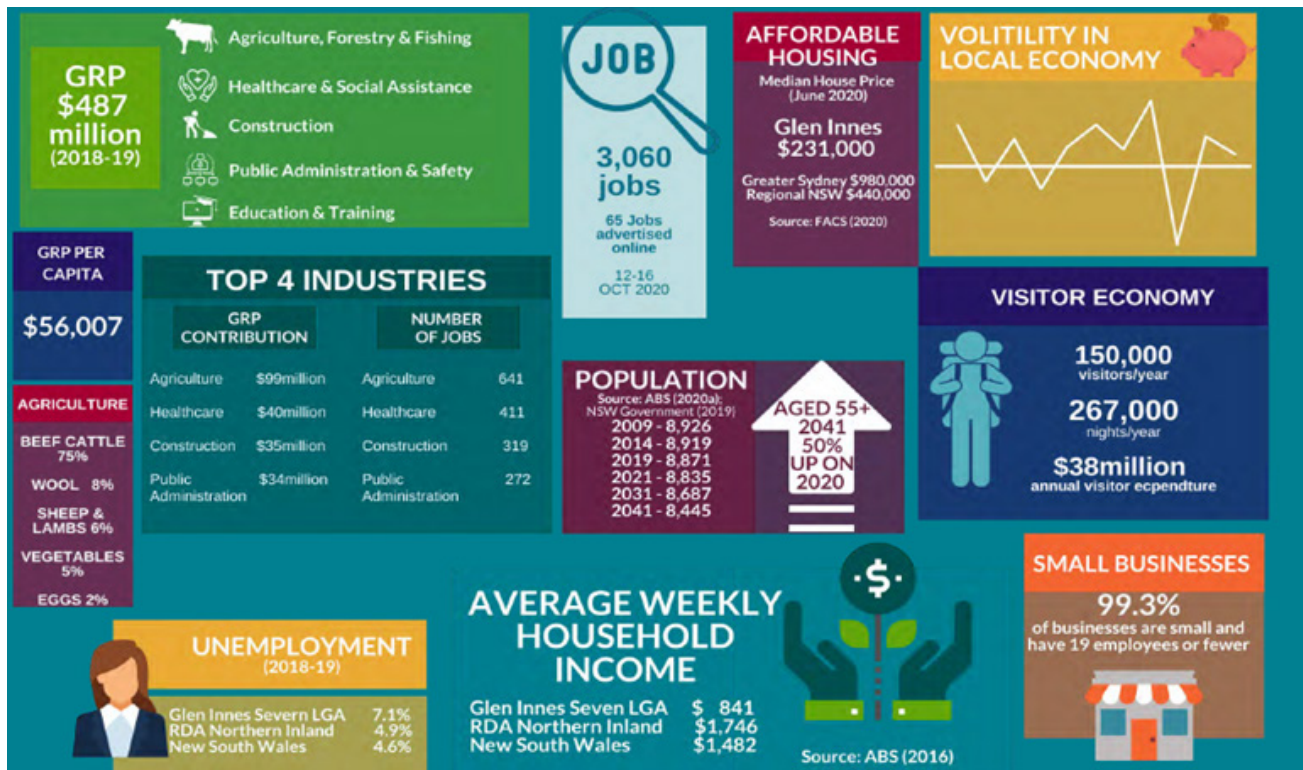
- 8,836 people live in the Glen Innes Severn LGA;
Female 50.4%
Male 49.6%
- 17.1% of residents are under 15 Years of age;
- 25.9% of residents are aged 65 and over;
- 81.8% of residents were born in Australia;
- 6% of residents identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander;
- 4,348 private dwellings;
42.8% owned outright;
26.0% owned with a mortgage;
26.0% rented;
5.2% other and not stated;
- Average 3 bedrooms per dwelling;
- 3,427 households;
63.8% family households;
33.5% single person households;
2.7% group households;
- 2,206 families;
49.1% couple families without children;
32.5% couple families with children;
17.0% one parent families;
1.4% other family ;
- Highest post school education achieved by people aged 15 and over;
17.1% had completed a Certificate III or IV;
9.0% had completed bachelor's degree level and above; and
7.1% had completed Diploma or an Advanced Diploma.

Source

2016 data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Note 2020-21 data is expected to be available later in 2022

Fig 2. Economic Profile



Source: Glen Innes Highlands Economic Development Strategy

In 2018-19, the Gross Regional Product of the LGA was \$487 million, which was an increase of 1.9% from the previous year. However, during the previous 10 years, its economic growth was more volatile than the NSW average. In 2018-19, the largest industries by industry value-add were:

- Agriculture, forestry and fishing;
- Health care and social assistance;
- Construction;
- Public administration and safety; and
- Education and training.

6. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

This Plan has been developed following community consultation with key stakeholders, interviews with key Council staff, and with independent creative practitioners. An online survey was also distributed to the community.

Key findings and cultural priorities identified by respondents from the consultation process included:

General

- The most frequently reported activities that people participate in are visual arts and cinema; and
- There is a strong volunteer culture that supports arts and cultural activities.

Value of arts

- Public art plays a significant role of place-making in Glen Innes Severn;
- Variety of creative practitioners – creative art, writing, poetry, gallery, jewellery;
- Strong volunteer-based arts sector providing important social interaction; and
- Community engaged in a wide range of arts and activities with a variety of creative practitioners – visual arts, writing, jewellery, ceramics, photography, music.

Gaps and needs

- Better communication and coordination for arts activities;
- Coordinate or bring together dispersed cultural infrastructure; and
- Support succession planning for volunteer arts organisations;

Role of Council

- Support or enhance existing infrastructure for arts and cultural purposes;
- Continue to support funding for public art;
- Strategic partnership with White Rock Wind Farm;
- Establish an arts and cultural committee to advise Council on arts and cultural matters;
- Investigate support for insurance/legislation to reduce barriers for arts and cultural activities in public spaces; and
- Build cultural tourism.



7. ARTS AND CULTURE PRIORITIES

Glen Innes Severn Council acknowledges that it works in partnership with its community to enrich and foster an inclusive and creative place to live.

The following themes have been developed to provide direction for arts and culture in the region:

1. Inclusive community engagement with arts and culture (An Attractive Quality of Life);
2. Sustainable investment in arts and culture (A Prosperous Local Economy);
3. Optimal use of public assets for the arts (Fit for Purpose Public Infrastructure); and
4. Public Art development to enhance place-making and identity (An Appealing Sense of Place).

GOAL 1: Inclusive community engagement with arts and culture (An Attractive Quality of Life)

Action	Outcome	Timeline
Develop welcoming, safe and flexible community spaces, with real and virtual services, open to all members of the community. [CS 1.2.1]	Enhance the equity of access to information, education and recreation for all members of the community.	2022 - 2025
Continue to maintain high levels of library service in the village libraries; along with cultural and community services programs for families and children. [CS 1.2.3]	Ensuring Cultural programs in the villages.	2022 - 2025
Provide a stimulating cultural program that is creative, inclusive, informative and fun. While also seek grant opportunities for additional cultural projects. [CS 1.3.2]	Increased opportunities for cultural expression.	2022 - 2025
Mark Harmony Day with an event that promotes understanding, appreciation and celebrates the cultural diversity within the LGA. [CS 1.3.3]	Cultural diversity celebrated.	2022 - 2025
Support NAIDOC celebrations	Cultural diversity celebrated.	2022 - 2025
Investigate grant funding to increase art and cultural opportunities for youth.	Increased opportunities particularly for youth cultural expression.	2022 - 2025
Maintain support for local volunteers and consider new and proactive ways to encourage an increase of volunteering within the community. [CS 1.5.2]	Support the Voluntary and Not-For-Profit Sector to strengthen its capability.	2022 - 2025

GOAL 2: Sustainable investment in arts and culture (A Prosperous Local Economy)

Action	Outcome	Timeline
Continue membership and support of Arts North West.	Keep Arts North West office based in Glen Innes.	2022 - 2025
Continue to provide support to the White Rock Wind Farm Community Fund.	White Rock Wind Farm Community Fund committees full allocation goes to local community events and committees.	2022 - 2025
Act as the key gateway contact to facilitate community event requirements and requests of Council. [ED 2.2.5]	Event support service provided to the community.	2022 - 2025
Provide promotional support for community events at the Visitor Information Centre. [ED 2.2.5]	Event support service provided to the community.	2022 - 2025
Support Arts North West to deliver local professional development workshops.	Supporting retention of creative industry professionals in LGA.	2022 - 2025
Provide marketing support for community events through Glen Innes Highlands channels. [ED 2.2.5]	Event support service provided to the community.	2022 - 2025



GOAL 4: Public Art development to enhance place-making and identity (An Appealing Sense of Place)

Action	Outcome	Timeline
Support the Glen Innes Art Gallery committee to investigate strategies for the acquisition of a larger space.	Glen Innes Art Gallery relocates to a larger space.	2022 - 2025
Work to asset management plans for all cultural facilities to ensure sustainability.	Sense of positive future for community inspired.	2022 - 2025

GOAL 4: Public Art development to enhance place-making and identity (An Appealing Sense of Place)

Action	Outcome	Timeline
Provide an annual Public Art allocation in the Operational Plan to promote public art in the LGA and encourage participation by local artists. [CS 1.3.1]	One additional Public Art allocation within the LGA.	2022 - 2025
Continue to support and have a Council representative on the Public Art Reference Group – Community Committee of Council.	Better communication and coordination for art activities and cultural matters.	2022 - 2025
Support the Aboriginal community to tell its stories and celebrate its history and culture.	Bonding, bridging and linking social capital increased.	2022 - 2025
Improve cultural signage. [EH 4.3.1]	Increase sense of belonging and shared heritage.	2022 - 2025



8. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

Glen Innes Severn Community Strategic Plan

OBJECTIVE 1: An Attractive Quality of Life - that is enhanced by cultural expression, an active inclusive community, with accessibility to the best possible services and facilities in a high country climate.

1.2 Encourage Community Connectivity and Cohesion;

1.3 Encourage Opportunities for Cultural Expression; and

1.5 Support the Voluntary Sector to strengthen its capability.

OBJECTIVE 2: A Prosperous Local Economy - that is encouraged and supported by sustainable investment opportunities, in a diversified business environment with accessibility to a trained and willing labour market.

2.2 Support the Growth of the Visitor Economy; and

2.5 Support Workforce Attraction and Retention.

OBJECTIVE 3: Fit for Purpose Public Infrastructure - that is designed, constructed and appropriately maintained, to keep our community and visitors, connected, safe and able to access the amenities and services they require.

3.6 Optimise Underutilised Assets.

OBJECTIVE 4: An Appealing Sense of Place - that is protected and preserved, so that our authentic natural and built assets are showcased and enhanced for the enjoyment of all and enriched by new developments.

4.2 Support the protection, conservation, enhancement, accessibility and interpretation of the cultural heritage of habitation sites.



Glen Innes Highlands Destination Management Plan 2021-2026

- 3.1 Develop priority projects maximising the potential of key attractions, events, and assets;
- 4.2 Facilitate the development of new attractions, activities and events that leverage under-utilised assets that are supported by local community interest groups;
- 4.5 Embrace Geotourism as a holistic approach to featuring natural and cultural heritage into the relevant customer experiences;
- 4.5.2 Support the Emmaville Mining Museum to ensure the Museum's future, through strategic planning and enhanced displays and storytelling;
- 4.5.3 Support the History House Museum and Research Centre to enhance storytelling, activities, and interactive displays to strengthen their point of difference; and
- 4.5.4 Support arts and cultural experiences to develop and encourage place-making and diversification of the main retail precinct.

New England North West Regional Plan 2036 (RP) (NSW Planning & Environment)

- Objective 7: Support a diverse visitor economy;
- Objective 15: Understand, respect and integrate Aboriginal culture and heritage;
- Objective 17: Celebrate local character;
- Objective 18: Public spaces and green infrastructure support connected, healthy communities; and
- Objective 19: Leverage new and upgraded infrastructure.



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