

Draft Woodville Road Corridor Strategy

Cumberland City Council

March 2025



Acknowledgement of Country

Cumberland City Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which Cumberland stands, the Darug People, and pays respects to elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Peoples of Australia.

Cumberland City Council also acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples living in the Cumberland Local Government Area and reaffirms the important work with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities to advance reconciliation.



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Introduction

Woodville Road Corridor lies at the heart of Cumberland and serves as an important link for the proud and diverse communities who live, work and play there.

Woodville Road faces challenges in implementing appropriate land uses, transport links and built form that can co-exist with the heavy vehicular traffic along the corridor.

As Cumberland's population continues to grow, it is important to ensure that the Woodville Road Corridor continues to serve and provide for the communities who live by and use the corridor.

The strategy aims to outline the vision for the corridor and guide future development to ensure that vision is realised.



How to Use this Document

The Woodville Road Corridor Strategy is a local land use policy that sets out Council's vision and priorities for future development along the Corridor. It is intended to guide future Planning Proposals and Development Applications for sites in the Corridor in understanding the context, priorities and built form to design to and achieve.

This document should be referenced as a local strategy and matter for consideration in accordance with the diagram below.



Who We Are

The Woodville Road Corridor is home to a diverse population with 49.7% of residents living in the Corridor born overseas. The Corridor's population is ageing and generally has poorer health outcomes compared to the rest of the Cumberland population.







What We Heard

Early engagement on the Woodville Road Corridor planning framework was undertaken from November to December 2020. Common themes expressed amongst the community were:

There are limited facilities for the culturally diverse community





Corridor Constraints

There are many challenges that Woodville Road Corridor faces which prohibits it from functioning as an important link and vital artery for the community.



Figure 3: Woodville Road, CM+ 2023

Some of these challenges include:

- Acts as a barrier, disconnecting communities and limiting interaction.
- Lack of east-west signalised crossings reduces pedestrian activity and connectedness.
- High traffic volume, noise, and air quality issues hinder recreational and social opportunities.
- Lack of identity and a sense of place, reducing community pride and investment.
- Long blocks and limited walkability increase car dependency and decrease physical activity.
- A shortage of affordable housing.
- A shortage of public and active transport.
- Insufficient green spaces and community facilities.



Figure 4: Woodville Road, Cred Consulting, 2023



Figure 5: Woodville Road, CM+ 2023



Corridor Opportunities

Whilst there are challenges, the corridor presents a number of opportunities to improve and build on existing amenities and features.

The opportunities in the corridor include:

- Create unique precincts with new places for people to live, work and play.
- Include more community facilities for recreation, education and cultural activity.
- Create a green network with more publicly accessible open space, tree planting and green links.

- Transform the corridor into a safer pedestrian and cycle friendly place with better active transportation options.
- Advocate for improvements in the delivery of public transport.
- More street level pedestrian activity by improving east-west and north-south connections.
- Ensure development matches and respects important places like heritage sites, schools, and parks in size and design.
- Promote building and public space design that is good for the environment
- Advocate for a variety of housing options that are affordable.







Strategic Context

The following strategies and policies help to shape the vision for the corridor

The Greater Sydney Regional Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities

This Plan by the Greater Cities Commission envisions a 30-minute city, where residents live within 30 minutes travel of their jobs, education and health facilities, services and great places. Reimaging the Woodville Road Corridor presents an opportunity to transform the area into vibrant and livable neighbourhoods that fulfill this 30-minute city vision.

The Central City District Plan

This Plan prioritises transport infrastructure to support population and jobs growth. It focuses on sustainability, diverse housing, and easy access to public transport, schools, hospitals, and community facilities. Woodville Road's location on the door step of Parramatta will allow for transformative change as the plan aims to enhance connectivity within and between districts, promoting active transport like walking and cycling for better livability.

Cumberland 2030: Our Local Strategic Planning Statement

The Woodville Road Corridor is identified as a strategic corridor and key north-south connection within the LGA. The Local Strategic Planning Statement emphasises the importance of the Woodville Road Corridor to facilitate jobs and housing growth.



Cumberland 2030: Our Local Strategic Planning Statem FEBRUARY 2020





The Cumberland Local Housing Strategy (LHS)

This Strategy plans for the housing needs of Cumberland for the next 20 years.

By 2036, the population in Cumberland is expected to grow by 30%, to over 300,000 residents. To accommodate this growth, over 28,000 more homes are needed with most of the new housing located in strategic centres and local centres like Merrylands East and the areas around them.



Cumberland Local Housing Strategy

The Cumberland Affordable Housing Strategy

This Strategy outlines priorities for affordable housing over the next 20 years. It is estimated that by 2036, around 10,700 new affordable housing dwellings are needed. With 6,000 to 7,000 already in development, this leaves a gap of 3,700 to 4,700 units.

The Cumberland Affordable Housing Policy sets targets to dedicate additional residential floor space to very-low, low-, and moderateincome households in strategic urban renewal areas. With careful planning, the development of Woodville Road Corridor presents an opportunity to deliver much needed affordable housing for the community.



Cumberland Affordable Housing Strategy 2020

The Cumberland Employment and Innovation Lands Strategy

This Strategy is a 10-year framework for managing employment and innovation lands in Cumberland. It aims to help new and creative businesses grow by using fresh ways of planning and policies. It also ensures that the rules for how land is used support innovation and specific industries. Woodville Road will provide new retail, business and employment opportunities along the corridor aligning with the objectives of the Strategy.



Cumberland Employment and Innovation Lands Strategy 2019

Cumberland Community Wellbeing Report

This report highlights the strengths, opportunities and needs of the growing community, including the importance of improving active transport, the need for more bus services connecting residents to neighbouring centres, and the need to provide open space and recreation facilities to promote physical activity and community well being.

These initiatives will support Woodville Road's revisioning and ensure the corridor provides benefits for the community into the future.



Cumberland Community Wellbeing Report 2021

Cumberland City Council Open Space and Recreation Strategy

This Strategy identifies the open space gaps present in the LGA and sets the benchmark of high density development to be within 200m of a park at least 0.1ha in area.

The revitilisation of Woodville Road will ensure Cumberland can achieve the goals set out in the strategy, with a strong focus on providing new open spaces and pocket parks for the community.



Cumberland City Council Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2019 - 2029

Cumberland Community Facilities Strategy

This Strategy directs Council's provision of facilities by prioritising key areas. It ensures that Cumberland's community facilities evolve to meet changing needs thorough assessment and community engagement. Woodville Road will require renewed focus and investment in community facilities to ensure the Corridor's growth is catered for in line with the Strategy.



Cumberland Community Facilities Strategy 2019-2029

The Corridor Vision

Woodville Road Corridor is to be transformed into a thriving tree lined-boulevard, supporting housing diversity and affordability, jobs and economic growth.

Active transport options including improved walking and cycling links will create opportunities to reduce car dependency, while street planting and the creation of new publicly accessible open space will revitalise the corridor, creating vibrant, safe and livable spaces for residents and visitors alike.

The corridor's transformation will be focused around the growth of three precincts along

the corridor, being Woodville North, Merrylands East and Woodville South, each with their unique identity, creating new destination hubs for jobs, housing, recreation, retail, dining, culture and community events.

By enhancing accessibility and connectivity, better active and public transport options and increased greenery, we aim to improve activity and overall mobility along the corridor fostering a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle for residents and visitors.

Diverse and affordable housing along with new community facilities and public spaces will ensure that the area remains dynamic and inclusive, catering to the needs of its diverse population.



Figure 10: Connect Built Form Elements through Design, CM+ 2023

Structure Plan



Master Plan

The Woodville Road Corridor Master Plan demonstrates the desired outcome when the Strategy vision and priorities are considered and implemented.

The Master Plan shows the initial 31 Planning Proposal sites that implement the vision and priorities of the strategy and act as catalysts for the renewal of the corridor. Any future Planning Proposals and Development Applications should seek to be consistent with the 31 sites shown in the Master Plan.







The study area proposed yield (PP sites o	only)
Site area (m²)	229,094
Residential GFA (m²)	362,035
Non-residential GFA (m²)	20,102
Total GFA (m²)	382,136
Proposed dwellings	3,617
Population projection (proposed)	10,187



The Precincts

Woodville North Precinct

Woodville North will be transformed into a diverse and vibrant neighbourhood providing urban living on the doorstep of Parramatta CBD, with a mix of uses. The new affordable housing offerings will be further strengthened by the density uplift. Precinct amenity will be improved by the creation of a new publicly accessible park and complementing existing regional open spaces, local parks and providing easy access to public transport and the Parramatta CBD. Existing heritage items will be respected and complemented.



Figure 13: Heritage Item interface with new buildings, example built form for Woodville North, Woods Bagot

Merrylands East Precinct

Merrylands East will be transformed into a new neighbourhood catalysed by the redevelopment of the John Cootes site, which will include affordable housing and a new publicly accessible park. The precinct will provide a variety of housing types integrated with local open spaces and green and pedestrian friendly streets. It will provide a mix of retail, social and business activities that will define its social life, and support community wellbeing.



Figure 14: Existing Approved Landscape Plans for DA2020/0493 on Site 17

Woodville South Precinct

Woodville South Precinct will be an area offering living and working opportunities that leverage its close proximity to the general industrial area. A mix of ground floor uses will improve the area's activities. New publicly accessible parks will improve the precinct's living amenity.



Figure 15: Residential facade to the street, example built form for Woodville South, Binah



The Vision in Practice

Woodville North

The Woodville North Precinct will be a gateway to Parramatta with easy access to the Parramatta CBD via frequent bus services or active transport along the Corridor's tree lined pedestrian and cyclist paths.

Residents will live closer to places of work and education with affordable housing options provided for residents needs.

Mixed use zoning around Granville Park will create a vibrant and exciting centre providing dining and retail option closer to home, and new community facilities will provide places for residents and visitors to come together for learning and cultural activities.

Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy new public parks and playgrounds within walking distance of home. More active transport options including pedestrian and cycle paths will allow for easier movement along the corridor, getting people where they need to go quickly and safely. New crossings will allow for easier and safer access across Woodville Road.

Increased tree canopy along the corridor will provide greening and shade for a better walking and cycling experience.

High frequency bus services will better connect the Woodville Road Corridor for easy travel between hubs along the corridor and between Parramatta and Bankstown.





Figure 18: Artist impression of Woodville North Community Park, CM+ 2023



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Merrylands East

The Merrylands East Precinct will be the new central community hub of Woodville Road and a new local centre in Cumberland City offering an exciting urban lifestyle with retail, dining and thoughtfully designed living and community spaces on the residents doorstep. High density apartment living will be centred around an urban plaza creating a 'village' for residents and visitors to shop, dine, and use the centre's open spaces for recreation.

Mixed use zoning along Woodville Road and Lansdowne Street will provide opportunities for retail and businesses offering a range of services to residents and visitors creating employment opportunities closer to home. Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy new open space areas as part of the John Cootes redevelopment, creating a new sense of place and identity bringing the community together.

More active transport options including pedestrian and cycle paths will allow for easier movement along the corridor and increased tree canopy will provide greening and shade for a better walking and cycling experience.

High frequency bus services will better connect the precinct to Parramatta and Bankstown.







Figure 22: Example of street facade in Merrylands East, PTW

Woodville South

The Woodville South Precinct will undergo a transformative change with higher density urban living providing increased housing options.

Mixed use zoning on the four corners of the intersection of Guildford Road and Woodville Road will provide opportunities for retail and businesses offering a range of services to residents and visitors, in turn creating more employment opportunities closer to home.

Residents and visitors will be able to enjoy new open space areas with the addition of a new public park and playgrounds within walking distance of home. More active transport options, including pedestrian and cycle paths, will allow for easier movement along the corridor and to Guildford Station. Increased tree canopy will provide greening and shade for a better walking and cycling experience.

High frequency bus services will better connect this precinct to other hubs along the corridor and to Parramatta and Bankstown.

The potential widening of Chamberlain Road will be investigated to balance urban design outcocmes and efficient traffic movements.







Figure 25: Example of street facade in Woodville South, Binah

The Corridor Priorities

Affordable and diverse housing

Accessible living in the Woodville North and Merrylands East Precincts with a range of housing options close to schools, shops and work will be provided. Affordable and diverse housing options will be provided in the Woodville North and Merrylands East Precincts providing much needed housing solutions for singles and families, which contribute to achieving the objectives of Cumberland's Local Housing Strategy and Affordable Housing Strategy.

Strategy	Action	Timeframe			
		0-2 years	3-7 years	7+ years	
Deliver housing diversity and affordable housing to suit changing needs	Implement Affordable Housing Incentive Provisions in Cumberland Local Environmental Plan 2021 to improve the likelihood of provision of affordable housing in the corridor	•			
	Implement an affordable housing contribution scheme which will be applicable to selected sites in the corridor	Ongoing			
	Provide a range of high and medium density housing options with diverse built forms which demonstrate design excellence	n Ongoing			





Open space and recreation

Urban living will intertwine with nature through expansive parks, intimate green spaces, and thoughtfully designed high-density developments, providing residents a vibrant, healthy lifestyle with community connections, improved wellbeing, and ample recreational opportunities.

Woodville Road will enjoy access to a new publicly accessible Key Local Park in each precinct through dedication to Council as part of future development, as well as access to future potential supporting pocket parks. These may be provided through repurposing small sections of local roads, which will be subject to future community consultation and investigation by Council. All high density development will have access to parks which aligns with Cumberland's Open Space and Recreation Strategy.

The open spaces will provide green linkages for residents and visitors to enjoy and connect and will lead to better health outcomes for the



growing community.

The community along the corridor will also benefit from exciting open space and recreational areas, such as Granville Park.





			Timeframe			
Strategy	Action	0-2 years	3-7 years	7+ years		
Deliver new open space and new recreation facilities that meet the needs of the Community	Implement Public Open Space Incentive Provisions in the Cumberland Local Environmental Plan to improve the likelihood of new public parks in the corridor	•				
	Progress the investigation of potential supporting pocket parks		•	•		
	Implement new and enhanced recreational facilities to meet the needs of a growing community		•	•		
	Dedication to Council through redevelopment and embellishment of a new larger sized publicly accessible park in each precinct to meet the needs of a growing community.		Merrylands East	Other Precincts		
Increase the quality and	Work with local schools to explore shared community use of open space	•				
quality and capacity of existing open space and recreation facilities	Progress the acquisition of the Mountford Avenue properties that are currently identified in the Cumberland Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan for the provision of a new local park		•			

Community facilities

New and enhanced community facilities within the Woodville Road Corridor area will foster social connections and providing spaces where families and individuals can play, learn, and create lasting memories. Woodville Road will enjoy proximity to new and/ or updated community facilities as the corridor grows. Community facilities will offer library access, computer access, meeting rooms, art, multi-purpose and cultural spaces.

These spaces play a crucial role in fostering a sense of community in the corridor, encouraging interaction among people of different ages and diverse backgrounds.



Community Facilities – Cred Consulting 2023

Strategy	A	Timeframe			
	Action	0-2 years	3-7 years	7+ years	
Investigate opportunities for the provision of new community hubs in the corridor	Investigate the provision of a new community venue for hire with multi- purpose, flexible rooms and indoor/ outdoor areas		•		
Investigate opportunities for expansion and repurposing of existing community facilities within the corridor or in close proximity to the corridor	Investigate the upgrade of the existing Guildford Library into a multi purpose library and meeting space to meet demand		•		





Cool streets



Youth and children playspaces near pipeline



Active and safe transport connections

Greening of the corridor

New tree planting will create a refreshing canopy along the corridor.

Woodville Road will be enhanced into a tree lined boulevard providing shade and greenery along the corridor.

A 10m setback will be introduced for most of the corridor to allow for increased landscaping and

street tree planting which will create screening and softening of the busy corridor from traffic.

The increased greening will create a pleasant and attractive environment encouraging pedestrian activity along the corridor, and attracting customers to businesses, which will create more lively places.

Increased shading and tree canopy will contribute to a reduction in urban heat island effects, which is an important area of attention for Cumberland.

C1 1	A	٦	Timeframe			
Strategy	Action	0-2 years	3-7 years	7+ years		
Develop and create opportunities and initiatives for tree planting on public and	Implement via developer works or Council works and maintain a 10m setback along most of the corridor for planting and tree canopy opportunities			•		
private land to help mitigate the heat island effect and promote resilient livable environments	Implement DCP and LEP controls related to urban heat mitigation and advocate for increases to tree canopy, planting, open space and green walls along the Corridor	•				
Maintain, protect and increase tree canopy cover	Protect existing tree canopy through strong DCP controls and strategy priorities	Ongoing				
Improve connectivity of green corridors	Prioritise connections to the Green Grid including Duck River and Prospect Creek Pipeline		•			



Active transport

An active lifestyle will be encouraged through seamless connectivity, family-friendly walking and cycling paths, and vibrant green links, all with enhanced safety and convenience.

Woodville Road will be turned into a safe and efficient active transport corridor with improved walking paths and dedicated cycling paths improving access for residents and families. Walking and cycling between the precincts will be quick and easy to access work, shops, schools and parks.

Green links will be utilised across the corridor with access to Duck River and Granville Park providing enjoyable riding and walking experiences.

Improved east-west signalised crossings along Woodville Road will create safer movements.

Strategy	Action	Timeframe			
		0-2 years	3-7 years	7+ years	
Improve walking and cycling facilities for safe and comfortable use to support increased participation	Increase pedestrian and cycling crossing facilities at signalised intersections and provide new crossings		Ongoing		
	Provide footpath and public domain improvements along with cycling infrastructure along most of the corridor		Ongoing		
	Provide new signage and wayfinding for cycling and walking	•			



Figure 31: Cycleway, CM+ 2023

Public transport

Improved bus services effortlessly connecting Parramatta to Bankstown, linking communities to work, shops, schools, and recreation will be provided.

Woodville Road will benefit from increased frequency bus services throughout the day, providing service between Parramatta and Bankstown and servicing the community hubs and precincts along the way.

Better bus services will increase community connection with quick and easy access to places of work, shops, schools and places of recreation.

The Central City District Plan and Cumberland 2030: Our Local Strategic Planning Statement identifies a long term opportunity for a Parramatta-Bankstown-Hurstville/Kogarah Transit Corridor, with the potential for access at Woodville Road to provide more transport options and promoting the 30 minute city.

Church a sure	A	Timeframe			
Strategy	Action	0-2 years	3-7 years	7+ years	
Advocate for a range of transport options that connect Woodville Road Corridor to Cumberland's Centres and employment hubs both locally and beyond to greater Sydney	Explore new east-west bus route options to support travel facilites along the corridor	•			
	Increase peak hour, off-peak and weekend bus service frequencies along the corridor to reduce wait times	•			
	Advocate for a mass transit link Parramatta- Bankstown-Hurstville-Kogarah with connection to Woodville Road Corridor	Ongoing			
Deliver better public transport infrastructure	Improve traffic performance at key intersections, to decrease bus travel times		•		
	Ensure that bus stops are accessible and support easy access for the community		•		
	Facilitate delivery of a 10m setback along most of the corridor to allow for the development of active and public transport infrastructure		•		



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Achieving the Vision

Evaluation and monitoring of the identified actions

To achieve the vision and properly shape Woodville Road Corridor for the future, the right strategy and actions need to be created, implemented, and reviewed for applicability. The Strategy will be reviewed every 5 years to ensure objectives are being met, the actions are being implemented and the changing needs of the Corridor's community are being addressed.

		Timeframe		
Strategy	Action	0-2 years	3-7 years	7+ years
	Affordable and diverse housing			
Deliver housing diversity and affordable housing to suit changing needs	Implement Affordable Housing Incentive Provisions in Cumberland Local Environmental Plan 2021 to improve the likelihood of provision of affordable housing in the corridor	•		
	Implement an affordable housing contribution scheme which will be applicable to selected sites in the corridor	(Ongoing	
	Provide a range of high and medium density housing options with diverse built forms which demonstrate design excellence	Ongoing		9
	Open space and recreation			
Deliver new open space and new recreation facilities that meet the needs of the	Implement Public Open Space Incentive Provisions in the Cumberland Local Environmental Plan to improve the likelihood of new public parks in the corridor	•		
Community	Progress work for pocket parks in future development and/ or targeted road closures		•	•
	Implement new and enhanced recreational facilities to meet the needs of a growing community		•	•
	Dedicate to Council through redevelopment, and embellishment of a new publicly accessible local park in each precinct to meet the needs of a growing community.		Merrylands East	Other Precincts
Increase the quality and capacity of existing open space	Work with local schools to explore shared community use of open space	•		
and recreation facilities	Enact the acquisition of the Mountford Avenue properties that are currently identified in the Cumberland Local Environmental Plan for the provision of a new local park		٠	

		Ti	mefrar	ne
Strategy	Action	0-2 years		
	Community facilities			
Investigate opportunities for the provision of new community hubs in the corridor	Investigate the provision of a new community venue for hire with multi-purpose, flexible rooms and indoor/ outdoor areas		•	
Investigate opportunities for expansion and repurposing of existing community facilities within the corridor or in close proximity to the corridor	Investigate the upgrade of the existing Guildford Library into a multi purpose library and meeting space to meet demand		•	
	Greening of the corridor			
Develop and create opportunities and initiatives for tree planting on public	Implement via developer works or Council works and maintain a 10m setback along most of the corridor for planting and tree canopy opportunities			•
and private land to help mitigate the heat island effect and promote resilient livable environments	Implement DCP and LEP controls related to urban heat mitigation and advocate for increases to tree canopy, planting, open space and green walls along the Corridor	•		
Maintain, protect and increase tree canopy cover	Protect existing tree canopy through strong DCP controls and strategy priorities	Ongoing		9
Improve connectivity of green corridors	Prioritise connections to the Green Grid including Duck River and Prospect Creek Pipeline		•	
	Active transport			
Improve walking and cycling facilities for safe and	Increase pedestrian and cycling crossing facilities at signalised intersections and provide new crossings	(Ongoing	
comfortable use to support increased participation	Provide footpath and public domain improvements along with cycling infrastructure along most of the corridor	(Ongoin	g
	Provide new signage and wayfinding for cycling and walking	•		
	Public transport			
Advocate for a range of transport options that connect	Explore new east-west bus route options to support travel facilites along the corridor	•		
Woodville Road Corridor to Cumberland's Centres and employment hubs both locally	Increase peak hour, off-peak and weekend bus service frequencies along the corridor to reduce wait times	•		
and beyond to greater Sydney	Advocate for a mass transit link Parramatta-Bankstown- Hurstville-Kogarah with connection to Woodville Road Corridor	(Ongoin	g
Deliver better public transport infrastructure	Improve traffic performance at key intersections, to decrease bus travel times		•	
	Ensure that bus stops are accessible and support easy access for the community		•	
	Facilitate delivery of a 10m setback along most of the corridor to allow for the development of active and public transport infrastructure		•	



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