

AWC Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting of:	Alliance of Western Councils (AWC)
Date:	9 December 2022
Time:	9.00am
Venue:	Narromine Aero Club

ATTENDEES:

Derek Francis	General Manager Bogan Shire Council
Clr Glen Neill	Mayor Bogan Shire Council
Clr Barry Holman	Mayor Bourke Shire Council
David Kirby	General Manager Brewarrina Shire Council
Clr Vivian Slack-Smith	Mayor Brewarrina Shire Council
Ross Earl	General Manager Coonamble Shire Council
Jane Bassingthwaighte	Director of Community Culture and Places, Dubbo Regional Council
Clr Mathew Dickerson	Mayor Dubbo Regional Council
David Neeves	General Manager Gilgandra Shire Council
Clr Doug Batten	Mayor Gilgandra Shire Council
Brad Cam	General Manager Mid-Western Regional Council
Jane Redden	General Manager Narromine Shire Council
Clr Craig Davies	Mayor Narromine Shire Council
Gary Woodman	General Manager Warren Shire Council
Clr Milton Quigley	Mayor Warren Shire Council
Clr Ambrose Doolan	Mayor Warrumbungle Shire Council

GUESTS

Holly Davies	Director Regional Community Partnering Transport for NSW
Rebecca Fox	Secretary, Department of Regional NSW
Gerry Collins	Director Central West and Far West, Regional Development
Shagofta Ali	Director Regional Water Strategies, Department of Planning and Environment
Michael Scotland	Department of Planning and Environment
The Hon Dugald Saunders MP	Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Western NSW
Ben Walker	Western NSW Advisor, Office of the Hon. Dugald Saunders MP
Rod Crowfoot	Macquarie Home Stay, Dubbo

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed those present and declared the meeting open at 9.13am.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Acknowledgement of Country was made by the Mayor.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for:

Leonie Brown	General Manager Bourke Shire Council
Bob Stewart	Administrator, Central Darling Shire Council
Greg Hill	General Manager, Central Darling Shire Council
Peter Vlatko	General Manager Cobar Shire Council
Clr Peter Abbott	Mayor Cobar Shire Council
Clr Tim Horan	Mayor Coonamble Shire Council
Murray Wood	CEO, Dubbo Regional Council
Clr Des Kennedy	Mayor Mid-Western Regional Council
Michael Urquhart	General Manager Walgett Shire Council
Clr Jane Keir	Mayor Walgett Shire Council
Roger Bailey	General Manager Warrumbungle Shire Council

RESOLVED Clr Holman/Ross Earl, that the apologies received be accepted.

2022/19

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF AWC BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1 JULY 2022

RESOLVED Clr Milton Quigley/Clr Doug Batten that the minutes of the AWC Board Meeting held on 12 October 2022 be adopted.

2022/20

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF GMAC MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2022

RESOLVED Dave Neeves/Ross Earl that the minutes of the GMAC Meeting held on 25 November 2022 be adopted.

2022/21

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 Future of AWC GMAC and Board Meetings

RESOLVED Clr Barry Holman/Clr Ambrose Doolan

1. Narromine Shire Council to provide the Secretariat for both GMAC and Board meetings.
2. Catering costs for GMAC meetings to come out of the Board budget.
3. All future GMAC and Board meetings to be held in Dubbo
4. That the following meeting dates for GMAC and Board be adopted:

Meeting	Date
GMAC	10 February 2023 (Chair – Warren)
BOARD	10 March 2023
GMAC	12 May 2023 (Chair – Walgett)
BOARD	16 June 2023
GMAC	11 August 2023 (Chair – Narromine)
BOARD	15 September 2023
GMAC	10 November 2023 (Chair – Mid-Western)
BOARD	8 December 2023

2022/22

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Chairs Report

RESOLVED Clr Craig Davies/Clr Glen Neill that the information be noted.

2022/23

8.2 Formalising the Alliance of Western Councils as an Incorporated Body

The matter was raised around the future of the Alliance of Western Councils and to consider registering as an incorporated body to allow the capability of applying for grant funding in the future.

Discussion was held regarding the status of the Orana Joint Organisation.

- ❖ It was noted that there is still \$300k from grant funding still in the Orana Joint Organisation account.
- ❖ Correspondence was sent to the Minister of Local Government by Brad Cam 18 months ago to advise that all members had resigned.
- ❖ Cr Davies also wrote the Minister earlier this year requesting details on where the funds should be returned, to allow for a formal windup. No Response.
- ❖ Rebecca Fox offered to look into the matter, through the Office of Local Government.

Clr Vivian Slack-Smith and David Kirby joined the meeting at 9.30am

RESOLVED Clr Mathew Dickerson/Clr Milton Quigley;

1. That it be investigated, with the assistance from Rebecca Fox, if becoming a registered body will allow the group to apply for grant funding and if so;
2. That we correlate as an association of the appropriate form and update the constitution accordingly.

2022/24

8.3 Alliance of Western Councils Logo

RESOLVED Clr Mathew Dickerson/Clr Vivian Slack-Smith that the two logos below be adopted and used to represent the Alliance of Western Councils as required.



2022/25

8.4 Update from Housing Plus

Brad Cam, as Chair of Housing Plus, informed the meeting that they had been unsuccessful with an Unsolicited Proposal to redevelop over 600 sites, after bidding for over 12 months.

It was noted that Paul Toole, Deputy Premier of NSW and Dugald Saunders, Minister for Western NSW were not informed of the decision.

The team is now back to lobbying for Politicians, and nothing can really happen now until after the election.

RESOLVED Clr Barry Holman/Clr Glen Neill that;

1. The Board write to Michael Cassel, Secretary of Planning and Environment and invite him to the next meeting in March 2023.
2. Write to the appropriate people to express our disappointment of the unsuccessful Unsolicited Proposal.

2022/26

8.5 Immigration and Health Crisis

Clr Glen Neill raised the issues in regard to immigration and how it is affecting the health industry and staff shortages across the region. In particular, the shortages of nurses, impacted by immigration, along with a Doctor from Nyngan, on contract, whose wife from Sri Lanka, is experiencing delays, of up to 3 years, to obtain a spouse visa. This has led to the Doctor relocating back to Sri Lanka with his wife until the visa is approved.

It was noted that Rebecca Fox and Gerry Collins will be able to assist Nyngan in this matter.

9 PRESENTATION

9.1 Transport for NSW

Holly Davies, Director Regional Community Partnering

Presented an update to the meeting on behalf of Transport for NSW, in relation to major projects underway, along with natural disasters, fixing local roads and fixing country bridges (**Attachment No. 1**).

Discussion was held in regard to challenges currently being faced with the onerous and resource heavy assessment process for disaster funding.

RESOLVED David Neeves/Clr Barry Holman that Alliance of Western Councils Board write to the State and Federal Ministers responsible for transport, emergency services and the regions seeking support to move to a risk-based assessment including standard unit rates when applying for natural disaster funding for our road networks as opposed to the current onerous and resource heavy assessment process.

2022/27

9.2 Department of Regional NSW

Rebecca Fox, Secretary

Provided an update to the meeting on behalf of the Department of Regional NSW.

Discussions included the following

- Gary Barnes, retired in August, sends his regards to everyone.
- Biodiversity Offset Scheme –
 - ❖ Feedback is that the system doesn't work. Everyone is encouraged to continue providing specific and clear examples to the Department Planning and Environment to assist with their continuous improvement program.
 - ❖ The new calculator is available however very difficult to use and will be reviewed.
 - ❖ A help desk is being established for Councils.
 - ❖ Statutory Review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 will take place next year.
 - ❖ Rebecca encouraged everyone to make a submission to the Statutory Review and suggested inviting Ken Henry to the next Board Meeting.
- The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Programs, co-funded by the Commonwealth Government's future Drought Fund is happening now to provide support to identified regions in NSW and to develop plans that can be implemented by councils to manage future drought risks. Councils have been asked for feedback and are encouraged to engage with the community. For those currently affected by flooding please advise and the program can be adjusted.

9.3 Department of Planning and Environment

Shagofta Ali, Director Regional Water Strategies

Presented to the meeting on behalf of the Department of Planning and Environment, outlining the long-term strategic plans for our regions, along with challenges and the actions that have been identified to respond to these challenges and ensure all water needs are met across the state. **(Attachment No. 2).**

Shagofta explained how the department is investing in new climate data to provide an insight on what the future climate looks like. Data shows extreme wet or dry periods could happen more frequently and be more extreme.

Discussion was held regarding Burrendong Dam Full Supply level. The full supply level is likely to be increased to between 113%-115% and not the proposed 120%. Although it was noted that the active management has worked well for the past 12 months at 115%-150%, Minister Saunders informed the group that the diversion limit's that are set is what makes 120% non-compliant and suggested lobbying the Federal Government.

9.4 Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Western New South Wales

The Hon. Dugald Saunders MP

General discussion was held with the opportunity for the attendees to ask questions of the Minister. Items raised and discussed included the following:

- The Housing Plus Unsolicited Proposal that was rejected, was confirmed to be back in the system with a taskforce working on key solutions.
- There are programs in the works to be delivered in relation to the Weeds problems across the region, which have been exacerbated by the recent flooding.

9.4 Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Western New South Wales (Cont'd)

- Clr Barry Holman raised the immigration issues and the impact it is having on the health system. Minister Saunders briefly explained the visa system and the complexities they are working through to achieve the best outcome for each applicant. At times there is confusion around the types of Visa people should be applying for, along with different requirements in different States.

9.5 Macquarie Homestay Dubbo

Rod Crowfoot

Presented to the meeting an overview of what the Macquarie Homestay objectives are, the importance and benefits of the facilities they offer and the need for expansion **(Attachment No. 3)**.

Rod thanked everyone for their ongoing support and asked the group to continue being advocates in their communities to seek opportunities for fundraising, grants or donations.

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.08 pm.

The Minutes (pages 1 to 6) were confirmed at a meeting held on the day of _____ 2022, and are a full and accurate record of proceedings of the meeting held on 14 December 2022.

Chair

TRANSPORT

Transport for NSW

Holly Davies – Director, Regional Community Partner



Topics

1 West Projects

2 Natural Disasters

3 Fixing Local Roads

4 Fixing Country Bridges

5 Questions



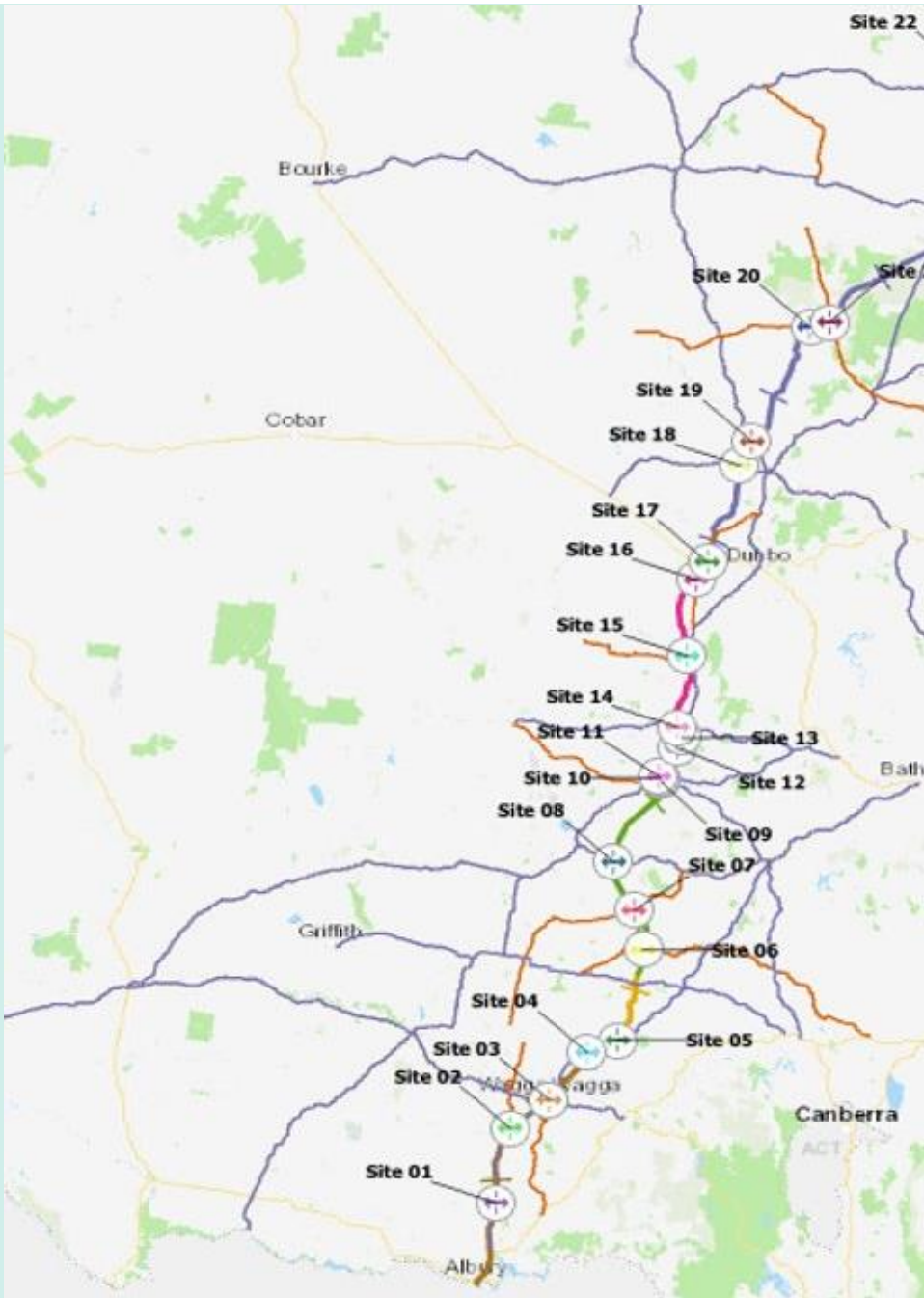
Major Projects

West Region



- **Inland Rail Grade Separation**
- **Newell Highway Upgrade at Coonabarabran**
- **Parkes Bypass**
- **Newell Highway Program Alliance**
- **New Dubbo Bridge**
- **Newell Highway Heavy Duty Pavement Upgrades**

Inland Rail Grade Separation Program



- 22 sites in NSW have been identified for investigation into grade separating rail interfaces where the state road network crosses the Inland Rail route.
- The Federal and State Governments have now committed an extra \$375m to the Inland Rail Grade Separation program (\$562.5m total) allowing for the planning and delivery of as many sites as possible.

The first 4 sites for development are:

- Harris Gates (Olympic Hwy near Illabo)
- Tichborne (Newell Hwy near Parkes)
- Castlereagh Hwy near Curban
- Tomingley Road (near Narromine)

Newell Highway Upgrade at Coonabarabran

- A proposed eight-kilometre bypass to the east of Coonabarabran, will improve connectivity and safety for road users and increase freight efficiency by allowing for high-productivity vehicles such as 36.5-metre B-triples and Type 2 Road Trains.
- The concept design has been finalised.
- The detailed design for the Newell Highway Oxley Highway Intersection upgrade has commenced with construction expected to start in 2024.
- Construction of the full bypass is not currently funded for delivery



Hargraves Lane and Federation Street upgrade, Gilgandra

Funding: \$40 million – Australian and NSW Governments



Planning is underway to upgrade Hargraves Lane and Federation Street to facilitate a heavy vehicle bypass of Gilgandra.

The upgrade will include intersection upgrades, pavement strengthening and widening.

Parkes Bypass

- Construction is well underway on the Newell Highway upgrade for the Parkes Bypass
- Once completed, the 10.5-kilometre Parkes bypass will provide a two-lane road corridor with five key intersections and two new bridges to improve connectivity, road transport efficiency and safety for local and interstate motorists.
- It will take an estimated 1200 heavy vehicles and other traffic out of the Parkes town centre every day, improving safety and making the CBD more accessible.
- Work started in November 2021 and the bypass project is supporting up to 350 jobs.
- Earthworks are currently underway at the northern and southern ends of the project.
- Naturally occurring Asbestos has been identified at multiple locations on site at Parkes Bypass. Work has stopped at these locations and an Asbestos Management Plan is being finalised in consultation with EPA and Safework NSW.



Mitchell Highway upgrade - Dubbo to Narromine

Funding: \$32 million - NSW Government

Expected Completion: mid 2024

The project will improve efficiency and safety along this stretch of the Mitchell Highway including three new overtaking lanes and safety improvement work.

Construction on the first two overtaking lanes is underway.



Newell Highway Program Alliance

The joint NSW and Australian Government funded program will result in about 60kilometres of new overtaking lanes with a time saving of 33 minutes from the Victorian border to the Queensland border.

As the alliance comes into its final year, with 44 designed, 27 completed, 10 in construction and 3 to commence.



New Dubbo Bridge

- The main construction contract was awarded to Abergeldie at the end of October.
- Early works have commenced on the corner of River and Darling Street with test pilling to begin in the coming weeks.
- Construction will begin in early 2023.



Natural Disasters

2022 Flood Events

13 councils listed below have been declared under recent Flood/Storm event AGRN1034 with current rough estimates of \$43.5M and 6,500km of damaged roads.



All 13 Declared Councils for multiple events;

Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Central Darling, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Mid-Western, Narromine, Walgett, Warren, Warrumbungle

Currently there are 54 claim components (EW/IRW/EPA) for these councils awaiting submission for reimbursement of estimated expenditure \$65M.

Claims Paid to date 42 claims totalling \$23,686,330 across 12 of the above councils since March 2019.

Fixing Local Roads

Local Roads is a \$500 million NSW Government program enabling councils to accelerate upgrades and maintenance on their local road network.

Tranche 1 to 4

- FLR 1 - \$1.7M remaining to be spent over 6 projects still to be completed.
- FLR 2 - \$7M remaining to be spent over 10 projects still to be completed.
- FLR 3 - \$7.1M remaining to be spent over 14 projects still to be completed.
- FLR 4 – Applications have closed successful projects yet to be announced.



Pothole Repairs

Fixing Local Roads Pothole Repair Round.

Regional councils will soon start receiving funds for urgent pothole repairs, under the NSW Government's \$50 million Fixing Local Roads Pothole Repair Round.

From December, councils across regional NSW will receive their share of \$50 million to repair pothole-ravaged local and regional roads.



Fixing Country Bridges

Subheading goes here



Fixing Country Bridges 1

- Dubbo – 3 projects, 2 open to traffic
- Walgett – 1 project – open to traffic
- Mid Western – 1 project – open to traffic
- Warrumbungle – 1 project

Fixing Country Bridges 2A

- Dubbo - 1 Project
- Warrumbungle – 1 project

Fixing Country Bridges 2B

- Application for 1 project, yet to be announced.

Regional Water Strategies

Alliance of Western Councils
December 2022



Shagofta Ali
Director – RWS

Regional Water Strategies

Support the delivery of healthy, reliable and resilient water resources for liveable and prosperous regions

- Long-term strategic plans for the region
- Challenges and actions
- Support water needs of:
 - Towns
 - Industry
 - Aboriginal people
 - Environment



Deliver and manage water for local communities

Improve water security, water quality and flood management for regional towns and communities.



Enable economic prosperity

Improve water access reliability for regional industries.



Recognise and protect Aboriginal water rights, interests and access to water

Including Aboriginal heritage assets.



Protect and enhance the environment

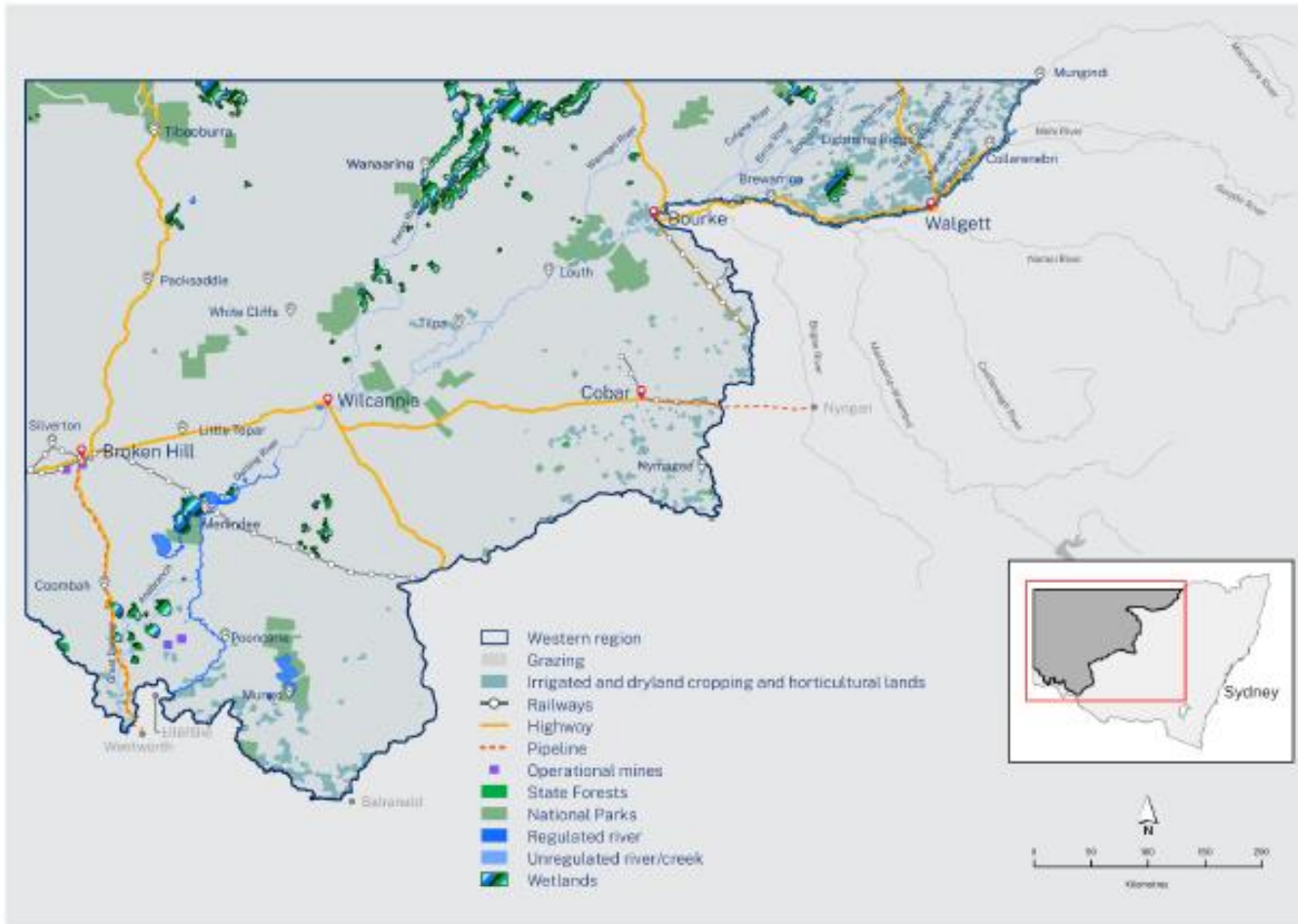
Improve the health and integrity of environmental systems and assets, including by improving water quality.



Affordability

Identify least cost policy and infrastructure options.

The Western Region



Includes local government areas:

- Cobar
- Walgett
- Brewarrina
- Bourke
- Central Darling

Challenges and actions

Attachment No. 2



Challenges



Declining water security for towns and small communities



Insecure water supplies affect the viability of businesses



Addressing barriers to Aboriginal water rights



Declining health of natural systems



Reduced connectivity impacts critical needs



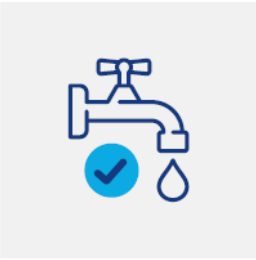
Poor water quality

Responding to the challenges

Priority 1: Improving water security for towns, industries and communities (Actions 1.1 -1.11)

Priority 2: Improving the resilience of natural systems (Actions 2.1 – 2.5)

Priority 3: Improving connectivity across the Northern Basin (Actions 3.1 – 3.4)



Declining water security for towns and small communities

Attachment No. 2



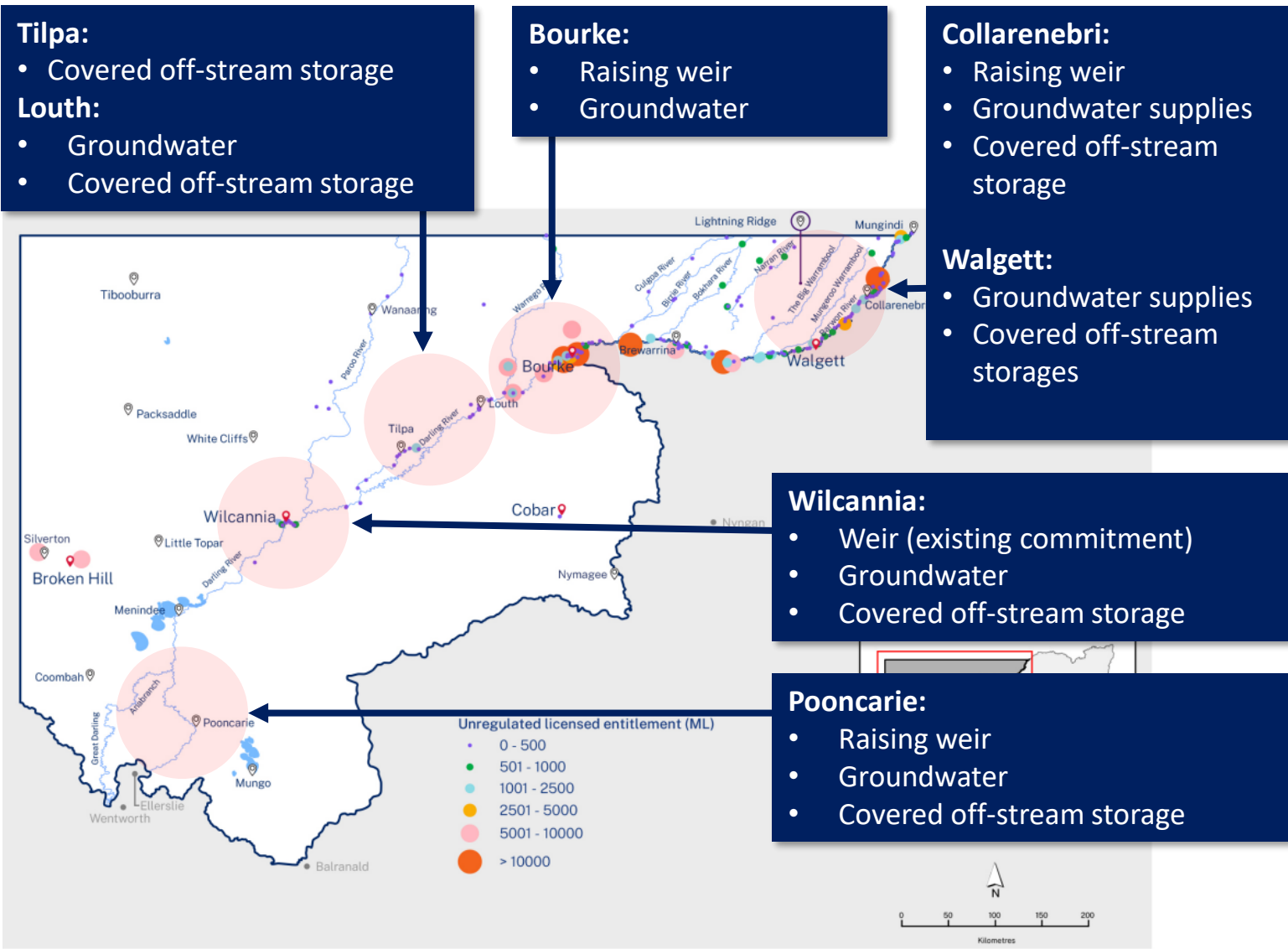
Most towns do not have secure water supplies. Driven by:

- Irregular inflows
- High evaporation rates

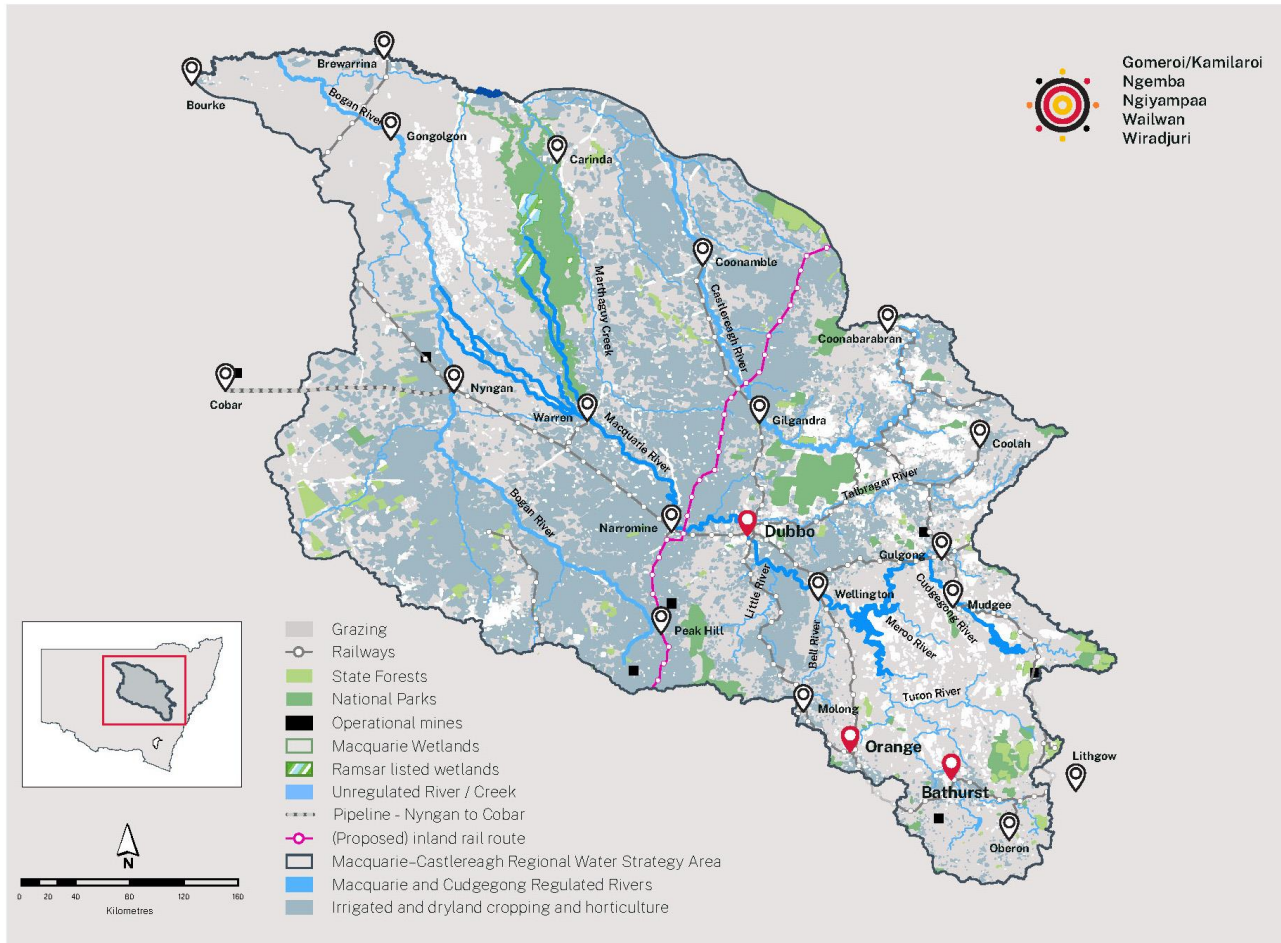
Bourke weir pool dropped 60% in a 6 month period during the last drought

Actions to improve town water security:

- Augment town water supplies
- Water efficiency
- Addressing skills shortages and funding challenges



The Macquarie Castlereagh region



Includes local government areas:

- Cobar
- Warren
- Coonamble
- Warrumbungle
- Dubbo Regional
- Mid-Western
- Gilgandra
- Narromine

Challenges and actions



Reducing water supply risks for regional cities, towns and villages



Supplying water to high priority needs in the west of the catchment and connected valleys



Supporting a growing regional economy in a future of potentially reduced water availability



Addressing barriers to Aboriginal water rights



Maintaining and improving river and floodplain health

Responding to the challenges

Priority 1: Secure water supplies for growing regional cities and towns (Actions 1.1 -1.8)

Priority 2: Reduce water security risks in the region's west (Actions 2.1 – 2.5)

Priority 3: Support industry and community climate adaptation (Actions 3.1 – 3.10)

Priority 4: Improve the resilience of natural systems (4.1 – 4.8)

Reducing water supply risks for regional cities, towns and villages

Attachment No. 2



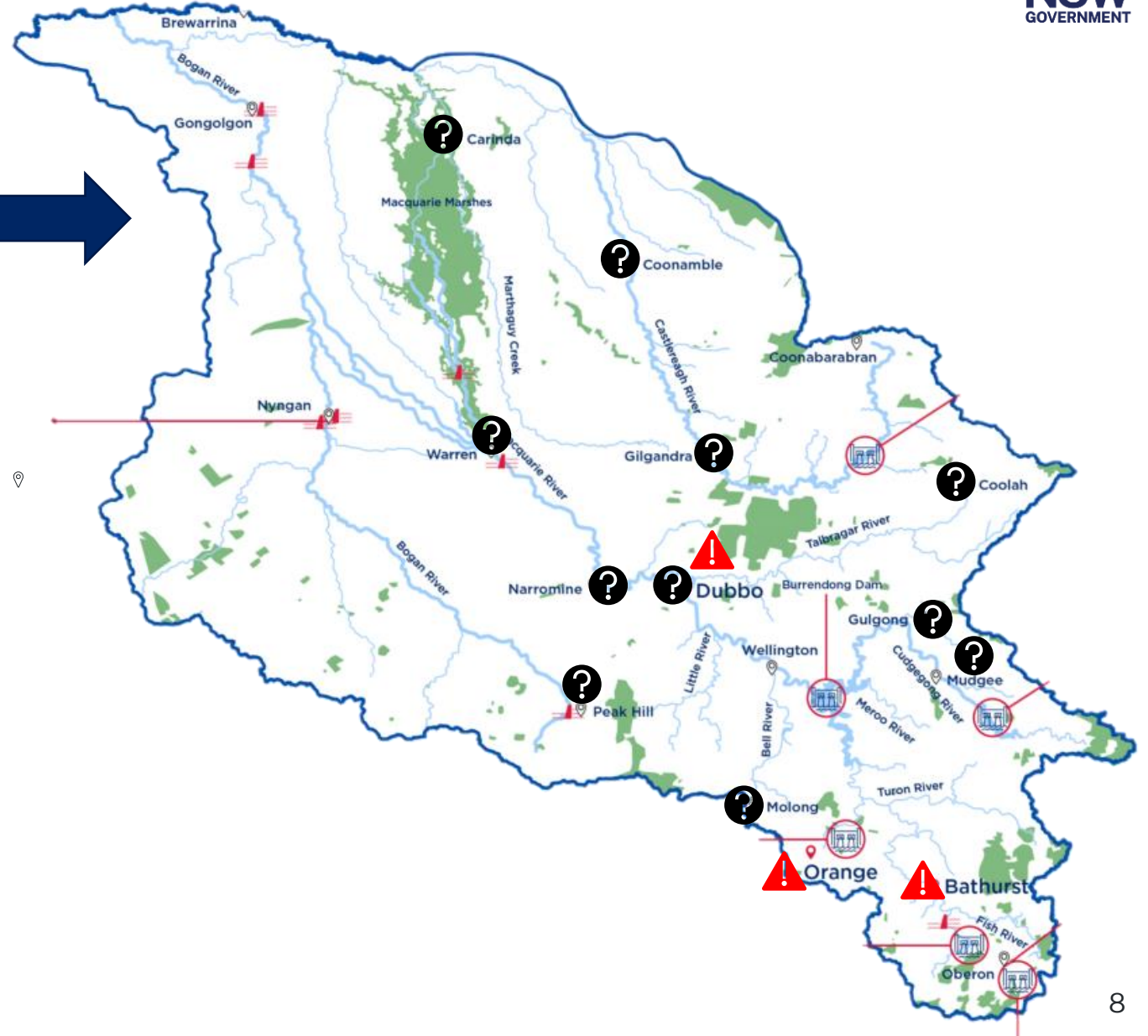
Challenges in delivering water efficiently to high priority needs at the end of the system



Water security risks remain for growing regional cities despite recent investments



Towns that rely on groundwater can experience supply uncertainty during drought



There are high priority water needs in the region's west

Burrendong Dam: minimum inflow sequence	When did it occur in the historical record?	Probability in the long-term climate scenario	Probability in the long-term dry climate scenario
3-year	2017-2020	~0.1% (1 in 1,000 years)	~2-3% (1 in 30 - 50 years)

Focus is on actions that:

- efficiently deliver water to high priority needs
- reduce town water security risks
- build industry and economic drought resilience
- do not significantly reduce flows into the Macquarie Marshes

Action 2.4

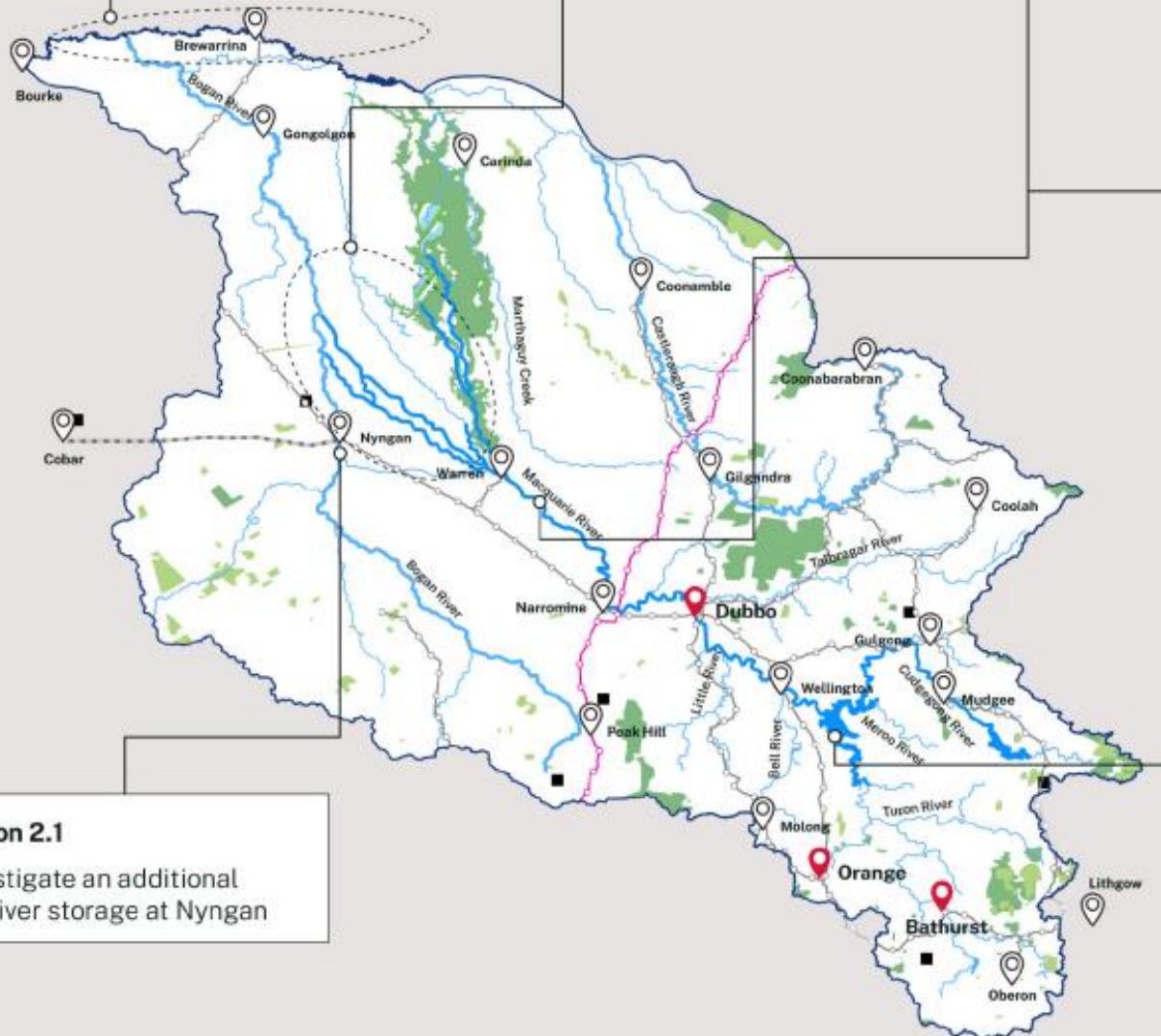
Investigate ways to improve connectivity with the Barwon-Darling on a multi-valley scale

Action 2.2

Create water savings through changed operation of regulated effluent creeks

Action 2.3

Continue to investigate regional water security solutions for the lower Macquarie

**Action 2.1**

Investigate an additional off-river storage at Nyngan

Priority 2: Reduce water security risks in the region's west



Action 2.1: End of system off-river storage

Action 2.2: Changing the operation of regulated effluent creeks during dry periods

Action 2.3:

- Increasing the full supply level in Burrendong Dam
- New mid-system 6GL re-regulating weir (existing Government commitment)
- Pipeline from Dubbo to Nyngan

Additional action: upgrade the Nyngan to Cobar pipeline

Increasing the full supply level of Burrendong Dam

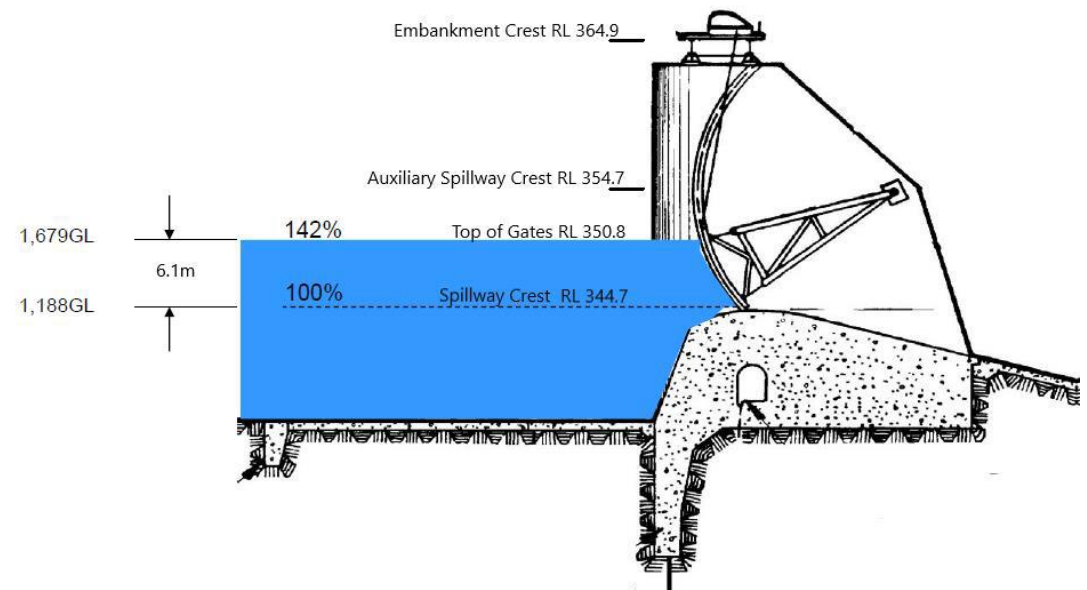


Why is a 113% increase of Burrendong Dam's Full Supply level being proposed instead of 120%?

113% - 115% increase in full supply level ensures:

- compliance with the diversion limit
- maintain average flows into the Macquarie Marshes.
- maintain average flows to the end of the system
- more likely to address planned environmental concerns

Increases significantly above 113% of full supply level may not meet these requirements.





Thank you



Macquarie *Dubbo*
HomeStay REGIONAL PATIENT & FAMILY ACCOMMODATION

99%

The majority of customers who have stayed at Macquarie Home Stay would stay again should they return to Dubbo for medical appointments or go to hospital



"Thank you for the vision to create a wonderful oasis in very uncomfortable times in our lives. We knew there was nothing to worry about when staying with Macquarie Home Stay."

— GUEST —
MACQUARIE HOME STAY



How did we arrive at our satisfaction ratings?

With over 340 responses to our survey received, let's break it down for you!

84%

84.46% of customers surveyed said they were extremely satisfied with their stay at Macquarie Home Stay.

98%

97.95% of customers surveyed said that having access to accommodation at Macquarie Home Stay made it easier to access their medical needs in Dubbo.

77%

76.66% of customers surveyed said that if they didn't have access to IPTAAS subsidies, their decision to come to Dubbo for medical treatments may have been impacted due to the financial burden.

93%

93.26% of customers surveyed said that they were highly likely to recommend Macquarie Home Stay to their family and friends.

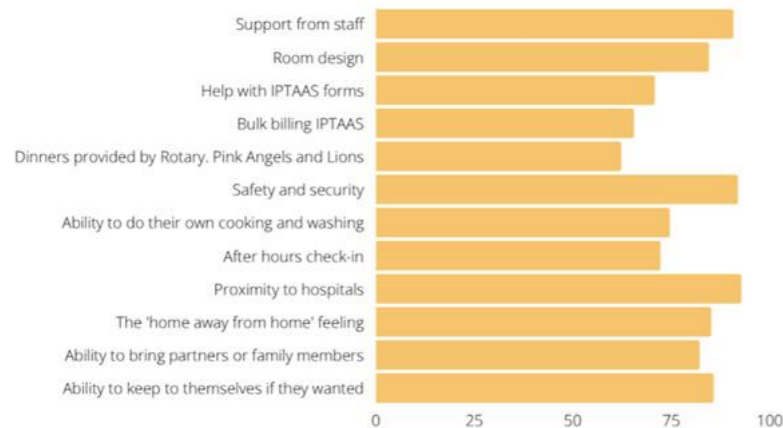
89%

89.15% of customers surveyed said that accessing IPTAAS subsidies made a difference to the costs of accessing treatment.

"What an outstanding service to have in our region!"

— GUEST —
MACQUARIE HOME STAY

Response from customers when asked what Macquarie Home Stay offered that made their stay comfortable, helped during their stay or would make them return again:



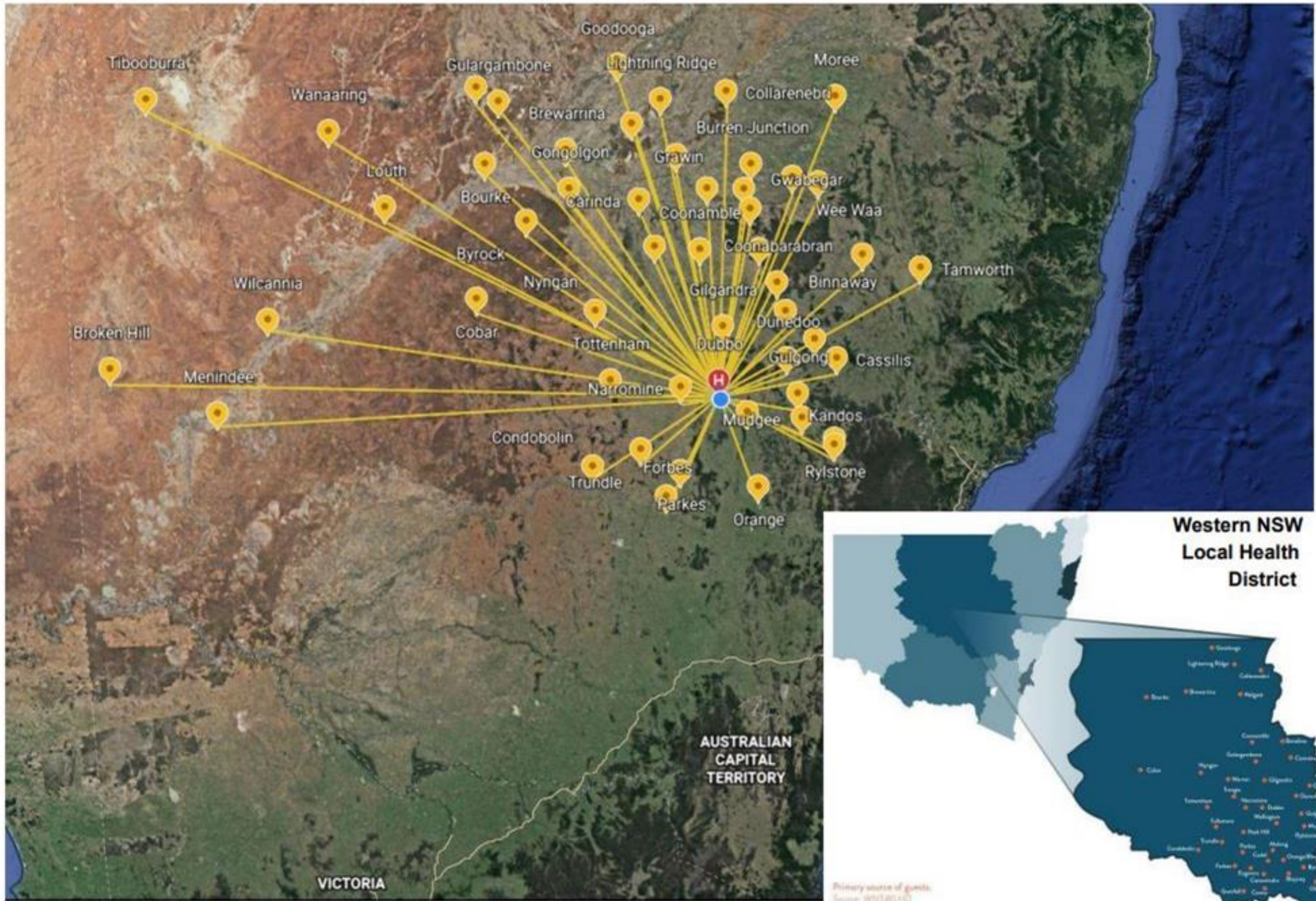
Why stay with us?

- Our objectives are to support the patients and their partner/carer during their treatment journey - we are sympathetic to their individual circumstances
- Facilitate access to IPTAAS for all patients. Bulk bill IPTAAS where possible = massive cash flow savings = reduces the reasons to delay or not seek timely treatment
- Feeling of safety, comfort, support & independent living. Self catering kitchen & laundry helps maintain routine
- Secure accommodation precinct gives peace of mind
- 800m to the Hospital, transport options

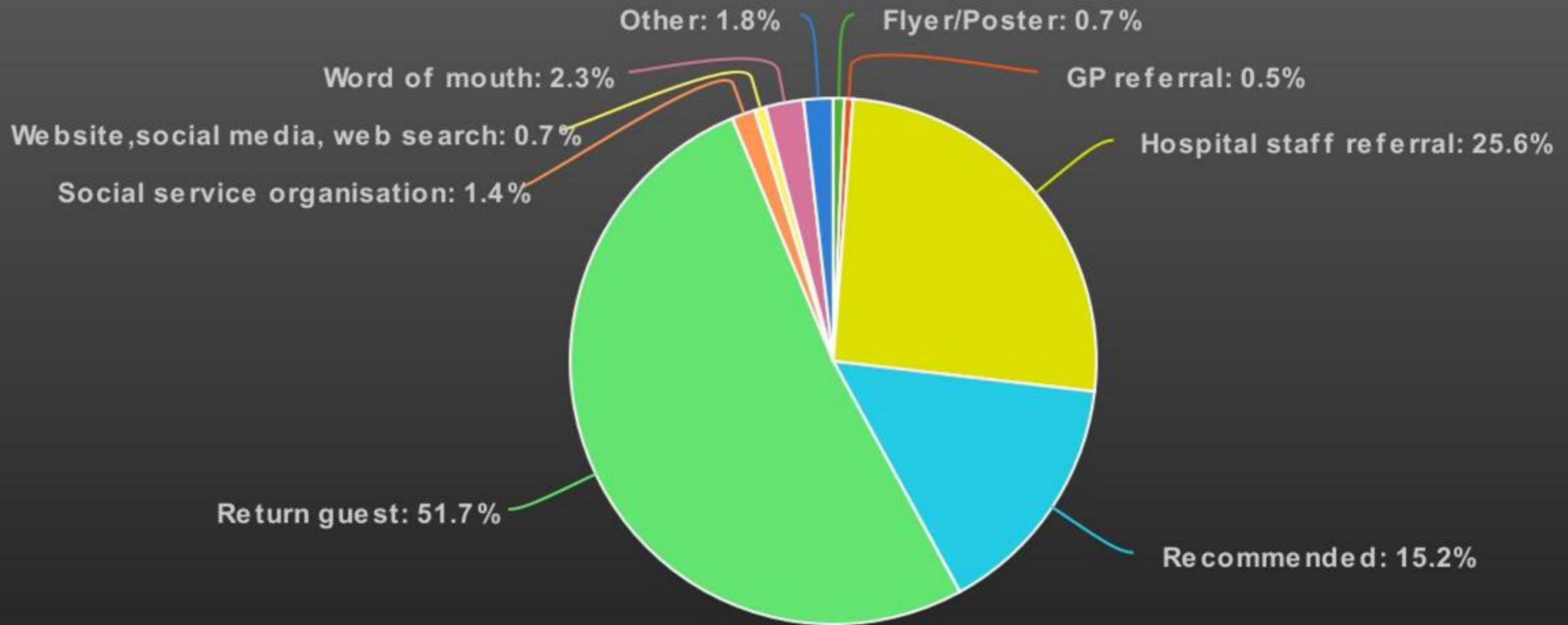


Where do patients travel from?

Attachment No. 3

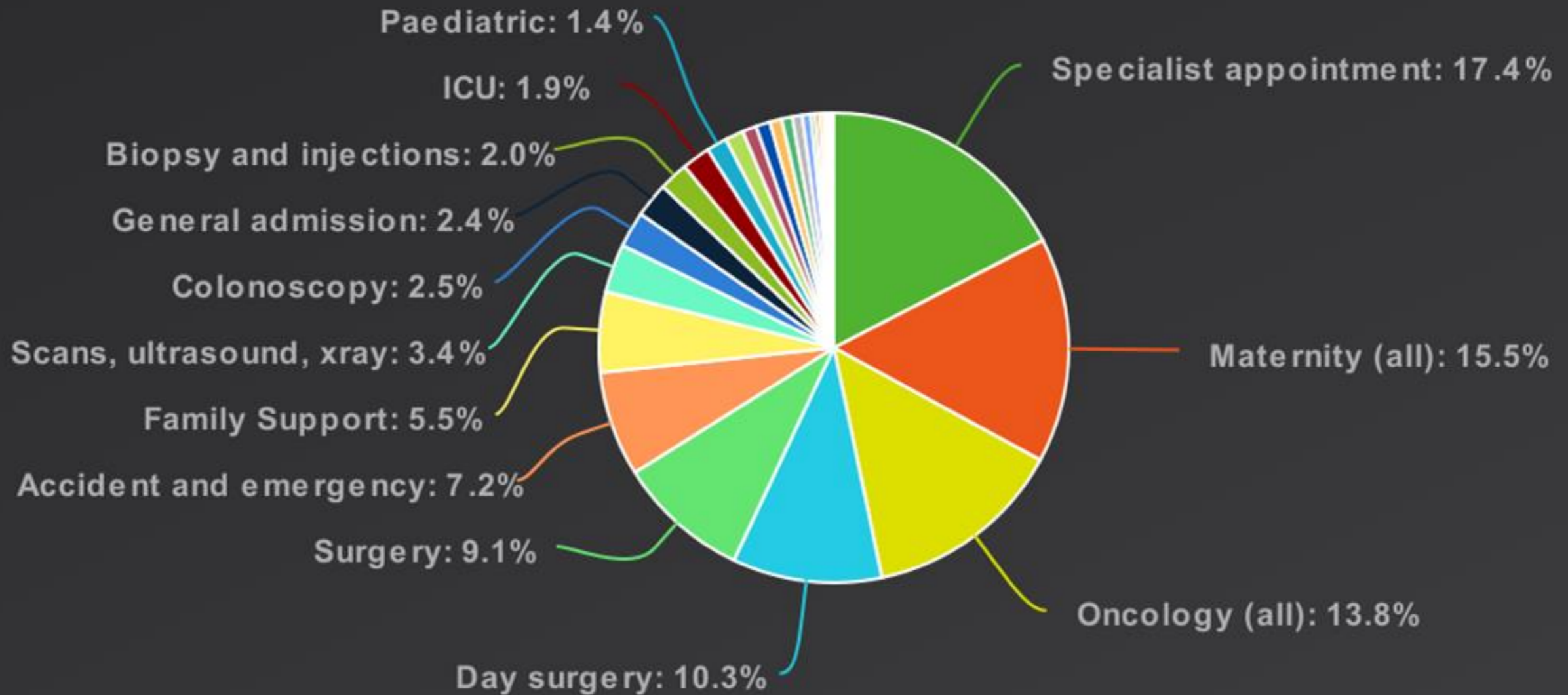


Booking source 2021/2022

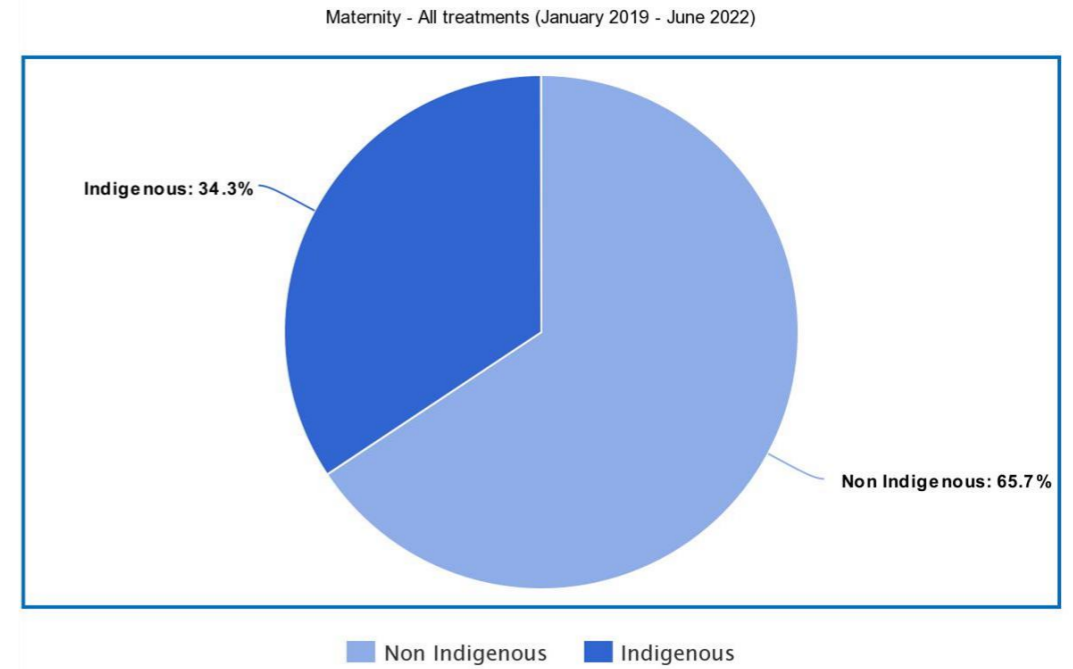
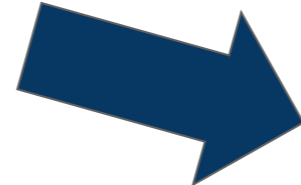
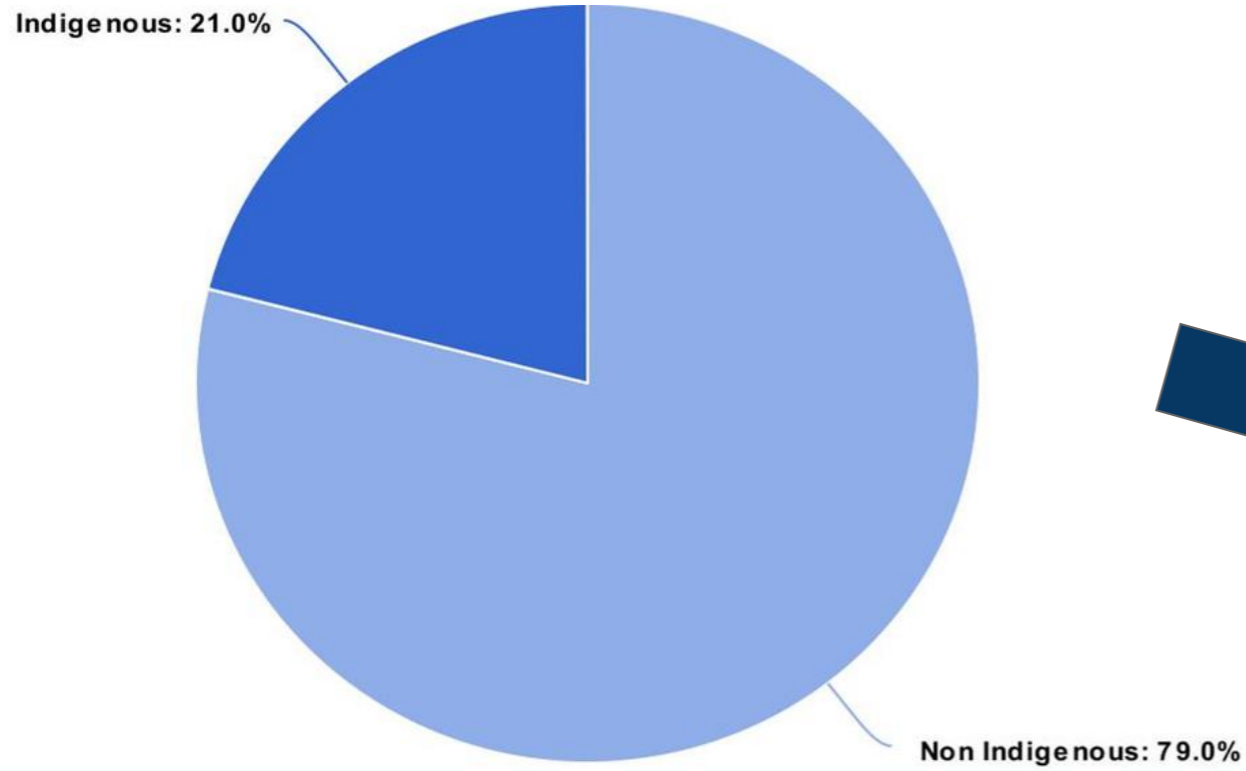


- Flyer/Poster
- Return guest
- Word of mouth
- GP referral
- Social service organisation
- Other
- Hospital staff referral
- Website, social media, web search
- Recommended

TREATMENT TYPE 2021/2022



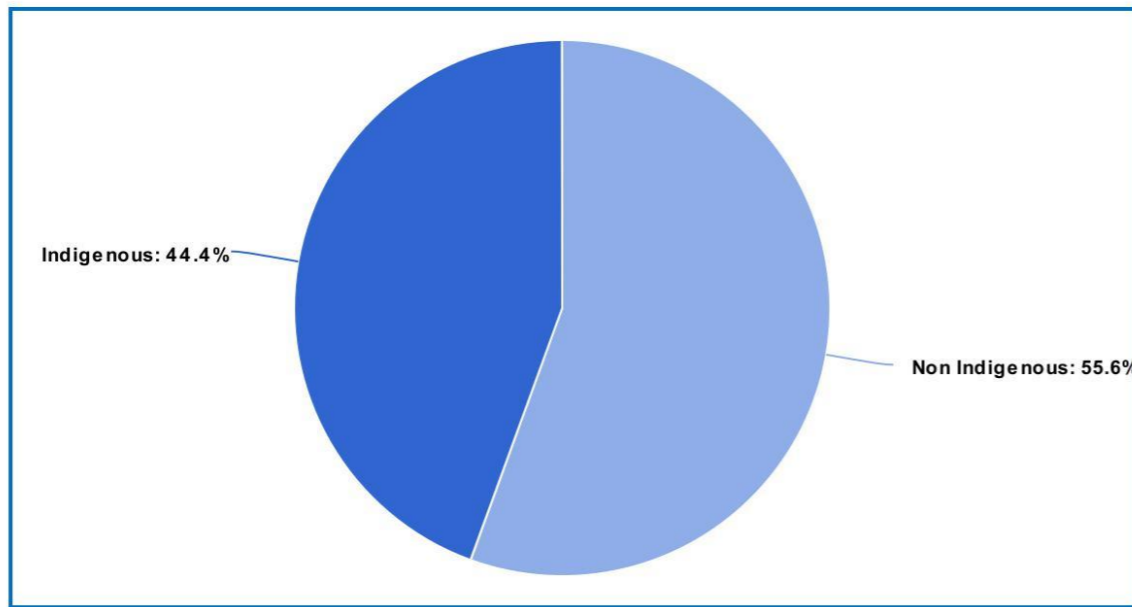
Reducing the gap for First Nations peoples



meta-chart.com

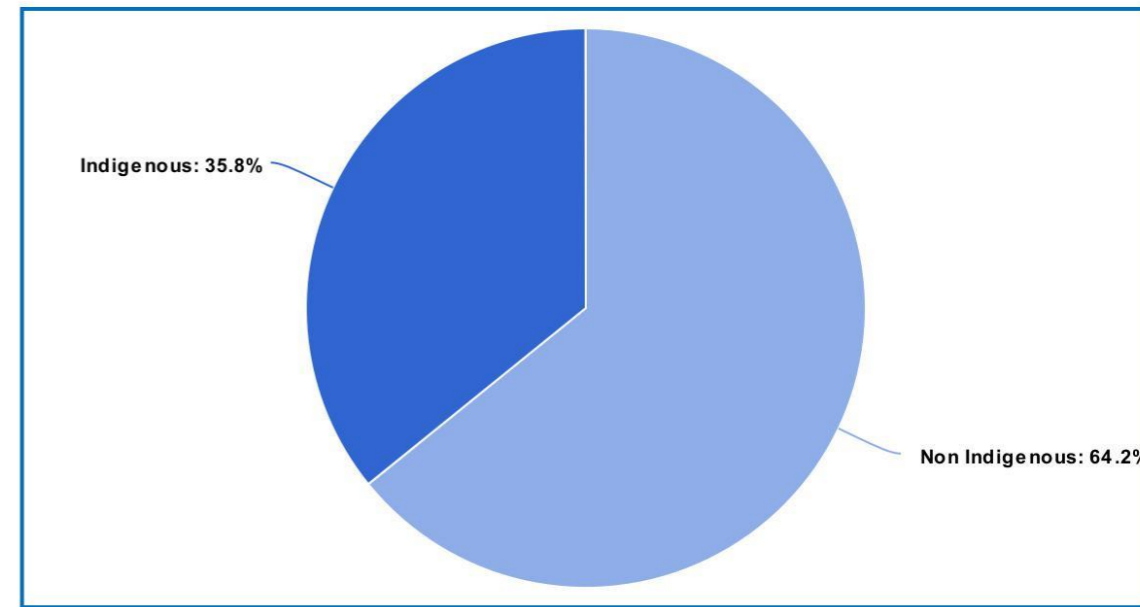


Maternity - NICU (January 2019 - June 2022)



■ Non Indigenous ■ Indigenous

Maternity - Obstetrics (January 2019 - June 2022)



■ Non Indigenous ■ Indigenous



294

The Why



1,176

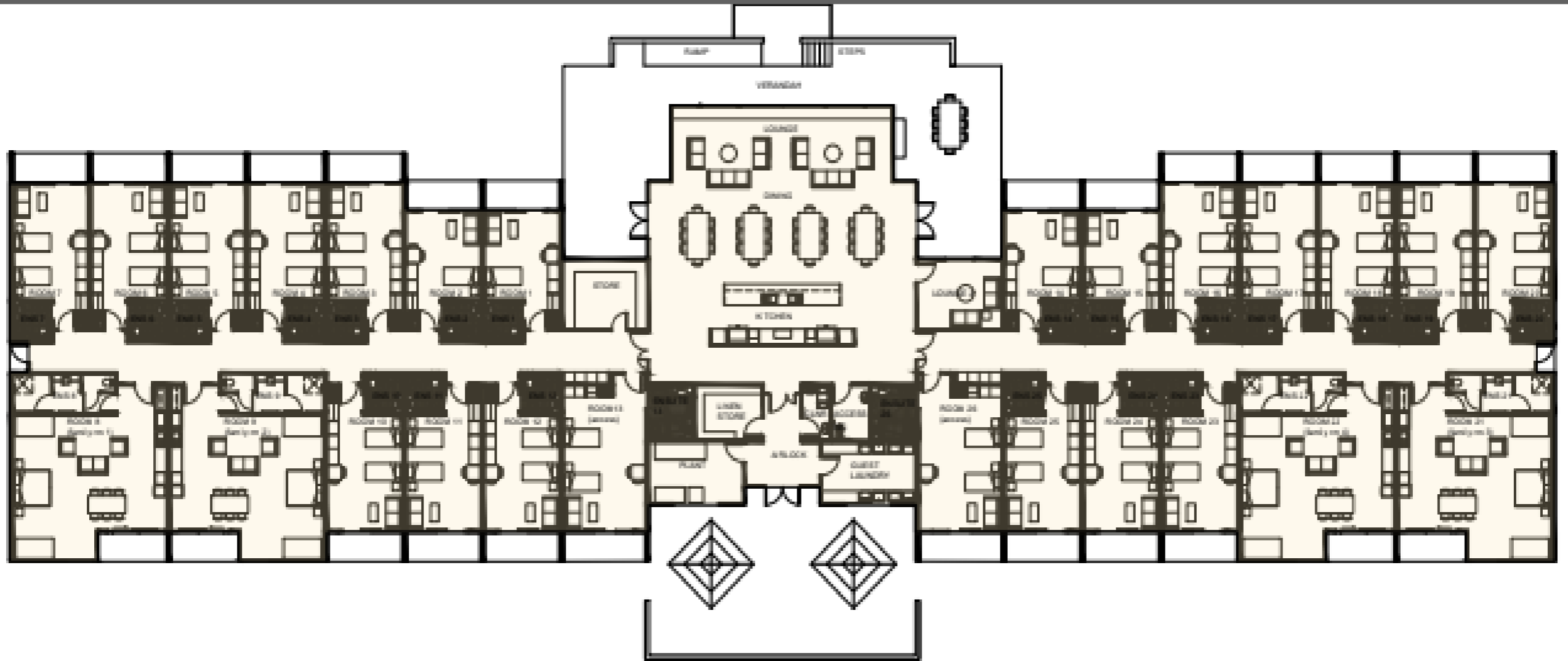


22.6

**DO
NOT
DISTURB**

x x x





Dubbo
Macquarie
HomeStay
REGIONAL PATIENT & FAMILY ACCOMMODATION





‘It’s all good and well to have the best and newest cancer treatment facility in Australia, but if patients and their family don’t have an appropriate and affordable place to stay, they won’t come for treatment’. Dr Florian Honeyball



OVER 215,000 RESIDENTS FROM BEYOND THE DUBBO LGA PLUS VISITORS AND TRAVELERS WITHIN THE HEALTH DISTRICT RECEIVE TREATMENT IN DUBBO.

Your outback inspired home away from home...

MACQUARIEHOMESTAY.COM.AU





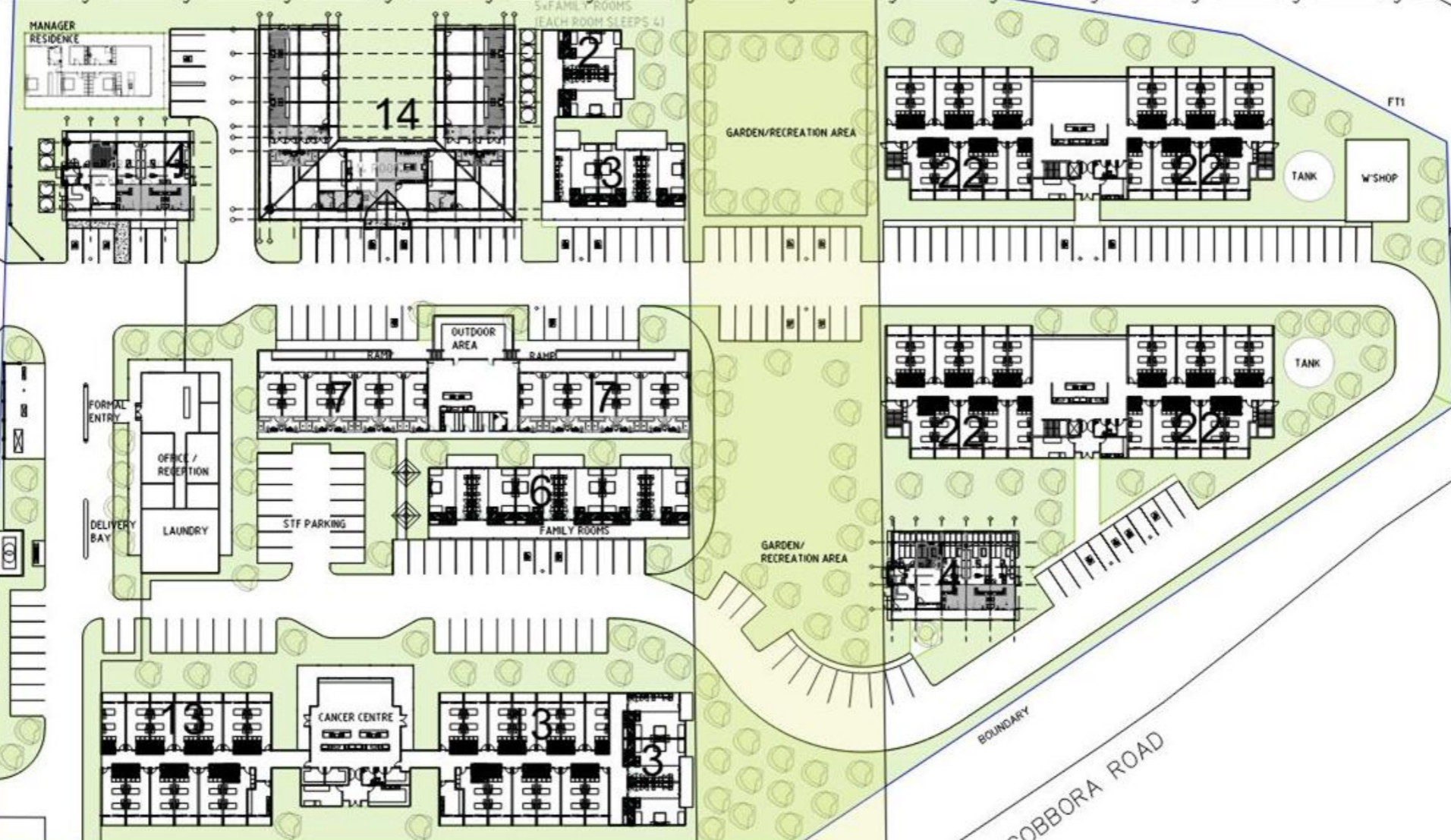
Dubbo
Macquarie
HomeStay REGIONAL PATIENT & FAMILY ACCOMMODATION

NOTE: ALL PROPOSED SERVICES WITHIN 15M OF TRANSMISSION LINE POLES ARE TO BE OF NON-CONDUCTIVE MATERIALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESSENTIAL ENERGY'S "GUIDELINE FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRICITY EASEMENTS) SECTION 7.2.4

30480 POWER EASEMENT

TONY MCGRANE PLACE

COBBORA ROAD



COMMERCIAL AREA APPROX 4500 SQM

Where to from here?



Spread the word

Be our advocates - seek opportunities for fundraising, grants or donations

Follow us on



macquariehomestay.com.au



OVER 215,000 RESIDENTS FROM BEYOND THE DUBBO LGA PLUS VISITORS AND TRAVELERS WITHIN THE HEALTH DISTRICT RECEIVE TREATMENT IN DUBBO.

Your outback inspired home away from home...



MACQUARIEHOMESTAY.COM.AU

