



Junee Shire Council
End of Year Report
July 2017- June 2018

From the Mayor

This report provides an overview of the year to July 2018. It is a commentary on the tasks and goals set out in the Community Strategic Plan, which tracks the progress that has been made thus far and sets the direction for our shire until 2035. You will find an analysis of Council performance against agreed targets. These targets all link back to actions in Council's Delivery Program and Strategic Plan.



This report is organised according to the agreed themes / aspirations that have been developed by all of us – those being “That together we will build a Junee Shire that is;

- **Liveable**
- **Prosperous**
- **Sustainable**
- **Collaborative”**

The 2017 – 2018 year was an incredibly busy year with, amongst other things:

- The commencement of works at the Waste Water Treatment plant and a tender offered
- The commencement of construction on John Potts Drive Stage 7

It is rewarding to see the results of the work done by both Council and Community to put Junee in a ready position for sustainable growth and prosperity.

I have met retirees, downsizers and young professional families who have moved here in the last eighteen months. Many of these new residents are choosing to invest in Junee, buying land and building or purchasing new homes.

In addition, I see new jobs that are being created both here and in our immediate neighbourhood. The quick uptake of newly released residential land parcels is a strong indicator of the increasing popularity of Junee as a place to live, love and thrive.

For Council, this kind of growth has to be managed while retaining the liveability of our Shire. This is where we look to the professionalism of our Councillors and staff in continuing the open dialogue with our community to ensure we stay on track.

Please take the time to read this update. If you'd like to comment or have a question you can either email us on jsc@junee.nsw.gov.au, or contact myself or any of the councillors via the council offices on 69248100.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Neil Smith'.

Neil Smith

General Manager's Forward Note

This annual summary provides commentary on how we are tracking against the goals and objectives set out for the year in support of the Community Strategic Plan.

Areas of significance for council and community in 2017-2018 were;

- The safety upgrade of the Bethungra Dam wall, and the enhancement of the wider precinct with caravan and camping pads, and boat launch. This is a truly serene, secret pocket for all to enjoy, and it is hoped that the businesses of Bethungra benefit as use of the facility increases.
- The Round 1 announcements of the Stronger Country Communities fund with funding success for the Illabo tennis courts and clubhouse, and the upgrade of the amenities block and playing surface at Laurie Daley Oval.
- The opening of Round 2 of Stronger Country Communities saw Council staff working with community to place fifteen funding applications for sporting and community improvements. We look forward to hearing the status of these applications.
- As a result of ongoing negotiation we will have much improved outcomes for mobile telephone reception in the Dirnaseer and Wantabadgery localities.
- The development of our Rural Crime Initiative in partnership with Junee Police has been well-received as positive, preventative action.
- The inclusion of 98kW of solar panels in the Waste Water Treatment upgrade – displacing some 350kW of energy from the national electricity grid each day.

- Along with that, our agreement with the Southern Lights Project through REROC will see Junee street lamps replaced with highly efficient LED lights.

If you require greater detail on the year's activities, please see the comprehensive Full Year Report on our Community Strategic Plan, which is available in PDF at www.junee.nsw.gov.au.

Enjoy the read, and please feel free to contact us by phone or email if you have any comments or questions.

James Davis
General Manager



2017-2018 Snapshot of progress on Community Strategic Plan

Theme I: Liveable

‘...a liveable community is an inclusive place which provides for everyone – a place where we can be involved, healthy and active. A place we are proud of. A place where others want to be. A great place to live.’

Access for All.

Accessibility and mobility has been high on the agenda throughout this year. Our community transport team operates very smoothly, and in the 2017-18 year conducted 4075 one way trips – the team averages around 80 trips a week. This quality service enables many members of our community to remain in their homes but still enjoy access to health, community and social services. The Community Transport Team is also growing with a pool of seven volunteer drivers taking to the road. The contribution of this team to the liveability of our community was acknowledged in the Junee Australia Day Awards when they received the ‘Volunteer Team of the Year Award’.

During the reporting period Council adopted a pedestrian Access Mobility Plan and established a community based Access Advisory Committee. We look forward to working with this committee

over the long term to assist us in delivering our liveability goals. Accessibility has been greatly improved at the Junee Junction Recreation and Aquatic Centre with the installation of the automatic doors to the pool deck now completed and wheel chair access to the program pool available and promoted.

Improvements to mobility access have been progressed during the year for Junee Post Office and Junee Newsagency. Actual works are expected to be completed in 2018-19.

Junee Shire’s shared path network links our residential areas to our schools, sporting facilities and town centre, and provides interest loops for exercise and recreation. The pathway maps are published online at www.junee.nsw.gov.au along with information regarding road safety workshops and information sessions.



Community Programs

The Community Development team delivered three large scale events throughout the year. The first was the community based Junee Ultimate Ninja which involved dozens of people in a knockout day of fun and fierce competition.



The other two events were regional in their focus, bringing many visitors from neighbouring shires to our town and also showcasing the Athenium Theatre as a stand out venue for large conferences and exhibitions. The Junee Careers Expo - part of the youth development program Up Skillin' It provided a rich showcase for young

people on the threshold of careers or further study. Eighteen exhibitors attended the day at the Athenium, with speakers from Charles Sturt University, HeadSpace, Defence Force Training and Junee Business and Trades. It was great to have over 160 young people from here and neighbouring shires attend the day and gain so much from it.

The Up Skillin' It Program was conducted over 12 months and provided local young people with an opportunity to gain new skills and certified qualifications in different areas of hospitality. All up, over 200 young people took part in the program.

In May, Junee's Community Development Team hosted some 100 local and regional volunteers to the Junee Volunteer Summit. This was a full day of conferencing, workshops and expert speakers on the issues, barriers and benefits that

volunteers and volunteer organisations face. It was wonderful to see so many local faces young and old. There have been some direct outcomes from the day with;

- ongoing networking amongst the groups,
- the development of a comprehensive database of our volunteer organisations,
- a database of skills available in the community.

The development of a volunteer attraction and connect platform is underway, providing a central intersection for groups to share available skills, knowledge and opportunities in the community.



Junee Junction Recreation & Aquatic Centre

The Junee Recreation Centre has a large program of weekly group fitness classes and activities available suited to all ages and ability. The Junee Rec Centre team has hosted a busy program



of events throughout the year including Junee Ultimate Ninja, Bubble Soccer, Mobility Scooter Workshop and stadium sports, and a substantially increased use of the stadium as a result of the Aussie Hoops program, basketball and netball comps.

Data on usage of the centre helps Council focus on and maintain its relevance to the community, and gives insight into community needs. For every quarter of 2017-18 the Junee Rec

Centre recorded an increase in attendees using the centre. During 2017-18 total attendances at the centre were 60,583 – around a 9% increase on the previous year.

Membership numbers also grew by 10%. While these increases improve the bottom line for the Rec Centre and its financial capacity to add in more services or programs, they are also proof that members of the community greatly appreciate the benefits of a high quality and convenient local fitness centre and pool.

A number of actions suggested in the March 2018 membership survey have been completed at the Rec Centre with an upgrade of the poolside change rooms completed and the dividing wall in the gym erected.

Junee Library

The Junee Library is providing an extraordinary service in ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to develop their tech confidence with the regular technology workshops, free WiFi and access to public computers. 2,384 library users accessed the pc's through the year, and there were 8,530 WiFi connections. Library membership increased by 11% during the year.

As a highly regarded and valued community space the Junee Library is worth far more than book borrowings; hosting craft gatherings, the Junee Poppy Project, author readings, and the incredibly popular school holiday programs.

Mobile Phone Reception

Two submissions to the Government Mobile Black Spots program have been made for Wantabadgery and Dirnaseer. The Mayor and General Manager briefed Senator Hon. Fiona Nash and the member for the Riverina Hon. Michael McCormack on this issue in July. Both projects have now been funded and Telstra is indicating a completion date of March 2019.

The Athenium Theatre

The Athenium Theatre continues to mature as a primary cultural space with a solid 6.5% increase in bookings for the year. The space has adequately and easily hosted all types of events, and Council has managed to attract some strong funding support for the theatre including the successful *Junee Athenium Theatre – Lights, Sound, Action*, along with the Junee Athenium Theatre – Conservation Management Plan update and Masterplan project. There is always more to do with air conditioning and a kitchen upgrade as primary goals for the space.

Villages

The Liveable Villages strategy kicked off to a great start with the Eurongilly Movie night – showing 'Moana', with an audience of families enjoying the free community event, popcorn and BBQ. Council also committed to hosting one council meeting per year in one of the Shire villages. This commenced with a well-attended meeting at Old Junee, with the next one set for early 2019. Work to improve village entry signage is underway but was not completed in the 2017/18 year.

Council's partnership with Junee Police in the Rural Crime Initiative has been welcomed by village and farming communities as a pro-active step in preventative action.

The new Village and Rural Improvement committee will be a key stakeholder to the development and implementation of village improvement plans in the new year.



Independent Living

Enabling our residents to plan a long, safe and happy retirement near friends and family is one of our key goals. With more than sixty people attending a community meeting on this topic, this is a clear priority in the community, and one that stimulated local investment in the Junee lifestyle village. Land has been purchased and local investors have provided the seed capital to start the project, which has progressed during the year with a concept being readied for Development Application.

Theme 2: Prosperous

‘...a prosperous community provides choices and opportunities for investment, employment and learning. We focus on the things that will attract visitors and new residents which in turn generate wealth and vibrancy. We do more with what we have. We are mindful of change and quick to adapt...’

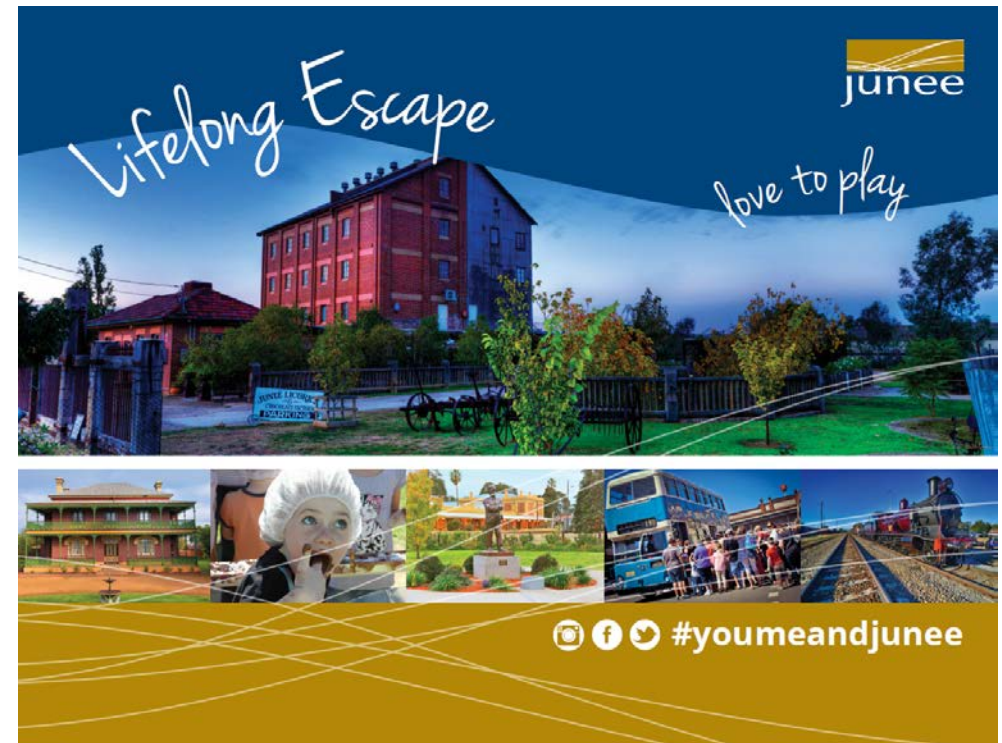
In Junee, partnerships are the key to prosperity. These might be long term partnerships such as working with Junee Business and Trades across areas of promotion and pride, project specific partnerships, strengthening business to business relationships and advocating for any work or educational opportunities that may be available.

A great example of how these networks are built was the Tradie's Breakfast. 55 local trades-people took up the opportunity to meet the principal contractor on the Correction Centre expansion project and gain first hand understanding of the scale and requirements of the project.

Country Change

Junee's participation at the Country Change Expo held in Temora was an outcome of strong community partnerships with eight local businesses preparing and attending the exhibition space. We had long discussions with more than 50 families (mostly from Sydney) about life, work and opportunities in Junee, under our themes of *Love to work, love to play, love to live*. Back here during the year Junee Business and Trades hosted about 40 new Junee families at their Meet and Greet

event. This event was very well received and we hope to see it as a regular feature on the Junee calendar.



Capital Works Program

Delivery of the road network capital and renewal program will always be an ongoing project, but through this year major areas of work on the Eurongilly area rehabilitation and shoulder have been completed. All state road and local road heavy patching is completed, along with the completion of various intersection and guttering projects.

Inland Rail Project

Project delivery of the Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail continues with Council attending bimonthly updates, and integral to the community consultation and planning of the project. Under the Transport for NSW Fixing Country Fund two rail feasibility projects were completed this year, the northern access route (Griffith Branch to Main Line) and the extension of the Harefield railway siding. The outcomes of these studies will inform the Round 3 project funding opportunities. We aimed to host a facilitated forum exploring local issues with the Rail sector, but this will be considered in 2018-19.

Development Control

Developing guidelines that keep pace with infrastructure development is an ongoing process in-house, and one that requires greater resourcing than is currently available. Council resolved to defer the Review of the Junee Development Control Plan to 2019-20 due to resourcing limitations. Our target of a 12 business day turn around on Complying Development Certificates was also met; with an average 9.6

business day turn around, apart from one more complicated development. DA turn arounds for the period averaged 34.7 days, well within the <40 day target.

In this area in particular council has steadily improved the ease of access to information for the public, via instruments such as the application tracker, and our mapping data. The addition of



a full time Assistant Building Surveyor has improved response times and service capabilities.

Residential Land Sales

Council sales of residential land have increased, as there is quite a market appetite for new homes. Progress on the sub division and construction of the John Potts Drive Stage 7 development was delayed as we awaited final design approval from Essential Energy for the electrical network. The review and update of the Residential Land Strategy was deferred until 2019-20.

Town Entrances

The town entry point signs for Junee were updated with fresh images of our high school students. The vibrancy and colour of the signs celebrate our youth and Junee shire as a place for family.



Tourism

Under our regional tourism strategy and as part of our partnerships program is the work that has been carried out with our neighbouring shires and REROC to maintain and build on regional tourism initiatives. The aim of these programs is to extend and increase the depth of the visitor experience, keeping travellers in the region for longer stays and more extensive discovery programs. Initiatives included the launch of the Canola Trail, Council's attendance at the Country Change Expo,

attendance at the newly established Riverina Murray Tourism Network Meetings, and an opportunity for local businesses to meet with the Executive Officer of the Riverina Murray Tourism Network.

The team at the Junee Visitor Information Centre help a steady stream of visitors with requests about the town, history, and general touring. This volunteer team deserves our acknowledgement for the professional and reliable service they provide.

Family Day Care

In Council's role of enabling our community we set a target of maintaining 30 Family Day Care services. The service has attracted four new educators, but lost nine, mostly through retirement, so this target was not met. This is a critical support service that gives our working families greater flexibility and more opportunities to pursue career and educational aspirations, and Council is actively recruiting to make up this gap in service through the region.

Broadband

In our goal of ensuring our community has access to the best communications technology that is available regionally, the Shire has been advocating for access to high speed broadband. There are now several fixed wireless service providers in the shire, with NBN fibre to the node now also available.

We also set out to provide opportunities for engagement and new knowledge in the areas of new technologies, environment and change. The Junee Library runs a fantastic regular technology program providing open access learning.

Strong Partnerships

Our partnership with the June Community Power project and the Volunteers Summit, and the work of June High Schools Empower team in the community are the highlights of this year's program of engagement.

Creating Opportunities for Youth

Eight School Based Apprenticeship / Traineeships were offered by businesses in June and surrounds. These opportunities are not offered lightly, and provide an exceptional opportunity for local young people to commence their working life right here in our community. Congratulations to all of the participating businesses and trainees, and our best wishes to all of the senior high school students as they complete their year and set their sights on exams, working life or higher education.

Theme 3: Sustainable

A sustainable community lives in harmony with the built and natural environment, through responsible planning and management practices and using our resources wisely.

This is a wide ranging theme as it covers not only our responsibility in maintaining and preserving the natural environment, but also to ensure that Council is financially and environmentally sustainable, and that when and where we can we are actively reducing our environmental footprint.

Waste Services

Two major changes to waste services took place during the year. A new kerbside collection contract was awarded in Jan 2018, and council replaced the contract to manage the Junee Waste Landfill Facility with day labour staff.

We welcome the NSW Government's container deposit scheme. The local site where you can take advantage of this scheme is the IGA Supermarket, Junee.

Just at the closure of the year Junee High School commenced planning their school based War on Waste with support from Council. Their intention is to pilot the program at the school



and to develop aspects of it that can be taken to the community and run with our primary schools. It is exciting and encouraging to see what this team can do, and Council strongly supports these efforts.

Finances

Under the banner of financial sustainability council has implemented a Business Intelligence System (BIS), by which Managers/Directors are able to track expenditure and revenue and compare to budget. Council has been a strong advocate for a more sustainable infrastructure funding model leveraging our membership of REROC and lobbying government. Council received \$5m in funding towards the Sewerage Treatment Plant upgrade during the year. And though the commencement of construction was delayed this project is back on track.

In the aim of reducing Council's greenhouse footprint we have identified areas of highest energy consumption; and have commenced a review of each of these sites that will deliver a

report on the best mix of energy efficiency and renewable energy measures with the aim of identifying potential cost savings and greenhouse emissions savings.

Junee Community Power

Junee Community Power Inc. set up as a not for profit group during the year with support from Council. They have completed a number of projects and have created powerful partnerships with CSIRO, Junee High School and Charles Sturt University in their aim to address energy poverty in Junee and assisting households in understanding and managing the energy efficiency of their homes.

We look forward to seeing this group grow and educate all of us on a better way to do power.

Street Lighting

At an advocacy level Council continues to work with Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils' technical committee on the subject of renewable energy and greater energy efficiency across all of our services. Our partnership in the street lighting program Southern Lights Project which takes in 42 local government areas across southern NSW is one of these initiatives. The broader project aims to replace about 75,000 street lights across most of southern NSW with highly efficient LED lights.

Sewage Treatment Plant

The inclusion of 98kW of solar panels in the Waste Water Treatment upgrade – displacing some 350kW of energy from the national electricity grid each day – is very good news and

another key step in our sustainability goals. The commencement of the upgrade was due to start in 2017-2018 but was delayed until September 2018. Though the current works have been well-maintained this upgrade is a timely and welcome component in our large scale works program. The upgrade will take the plant capacity from a residential population of 4,500 to 7,000.

Theme 4: Collaborative

“A collaborative community is one where we are socially, physically and culturally engaged and connected. We will have an informed and involved community, build strong relationships and share responsibilities.

This theme is underpinned by good information and strong collaborative networks –effectively building what we know and who we know.

Junee Meet & Greet

Many of you attended the new resident Meet and Greet in September. This was a great opportunity to say hello and learn more about some of our new residents and why they moved here; the top reasons were work, lifestyle, opportunities, and business.

Community

In building our networks and knowledge we have committed to a seasonal community newsletter. The feedback each quarter from this newsletter tells us that this is very welcome and useful in most households. You may have noticed the Council’s increased presence across social media platforms – particularly Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We’d love to see members of the community and visitors adding to the vibrancy of these by using the public Junee hashtags #junee and #youmeandjunee. A quick count shows that businesses and organisations are leading the way in social media with 62 businesses, sport, community, education and charity groups each hosting a public Facebook

page; each with hundreds of members. This count does not include any closed groups, but is a great reflection of the amount of community and networking activity that is going on in Junee.

Volunteers

Council is aware of the hundreds of volunteers that each does their part to keep all types of things ticking along from Pony Clubs to P&C’s, to canteens and garden clubs. While it is impractical for Council to be involved at ground level in everything we provide support and assistance in a number of ways.

The new Section 355 Committees have each been established.

- Art and Culture Committee
- Village and Rural Improvement Committee
- Events and Tourism Committee
- Access Advisory Committee

With the exception of the Village and Rural Improvement Committee each of these committees conducted its inaugural meeting in 2017-18.

Council staff and councillors attend a variety of village meetings throughout the year; dropping in on regular ‘progress’ meetings and attending meetings for a specific purpose.

The Junee Volunteer Summit held in May 2018 welcomed over 100 local and regional volunteers in a participatory day of expert speakers, workshop sessions and panel discussions. The Athenium Theatre proved the perfect conference venue, and

Illabo Public School catered for the day with fresh and delicious home cooking. Thank you to all.

One in six members of the Junee community carries out volunteer work. This is a very high proportion of the population and reflects on the community strength and spirit that is here.

Take Charge Forum

Through this half council officers took part in the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) Take Charge Forum which focused on youth volunteering. The response to this forum was very gratifying with students from Coolamon and Ardlethan Central Schools, Koorungal and Mount Austin High Schools and Riverina Anglican College, along with Junee High School all in attendance. Congratulations to the REROC and Junee Community Development Team on this focused and productive forum.



The planning and redesign of Council's customer service area in the administration building is complete. The new design will improve the provision of services offered from both Council and from Service NSW, improves staff security and comfort, and makes provision for wheelchair access to the service counter. It also incorporates a separate private meeting space for customer consultation.



Advocacy

As mentioned earlier, strong relationships are essential for a thriving community and shire. This includes interrelationships with government agencies, both state and federal, and ensuring that we have a deep relationship with our local members. Council ensures that both the Member for Riverina the Hon. Michael McCormack and the Hon. Steph Cooke MP, member for Cootamundra are well informed across Junee issues and are invited to attend as many functions as possible in order to meet with their own constituents in the town and district.

During this half, the Deputy Premier visited Junee on three occasions, and the Mayor and General Manager met with Federal and State Ministers regarding funding of Sewerage Treatment Works and Mobile Phone reception.

During June the REROC board travelled to Canberra to spend the day meeting with federal Members of Parliament to discuss with them issues that are common across the Eastern Riverina Region.