



ILLABO

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Adopted: 22 June 2021

Minute No: 06.06.21

Village Improvement Plan

The Junee Local Government Area includes a number of villages. Village Improvement Plans have been prepared for Bethungra, Illabo, Old Junee and Wantabadgery. Each village has its own unique history, community, and assets.

There are a number of items within the *Community Strategic Plan* (CSP) for our localities and villages including an entire strategy focused on enabling viable localities and villages. Council's delivery of outcomes against the Community's Strategic Plan is identified in the *Delivery Program and Operational Plan* (DPOP). Within the Council's DPOP at Strategy 2.1.1.4 the Delivery Program Activity is to facilitate growth in our localities and villages outside of Junee township through the development and implementation of village improvement plans.



There are very active and cohesive communities who have delivered great projects and programs that serve the interest of their community. The purpose of the plan is to encourage a shared spirit for the past, present, and future of each village.

The Illabo Village Improvement Plan will act as a guide for future planning and development for the community. This plan identifies the preferred future to align with the *Community Strategic Plan* through its strategies and objectives which have been developed in consultation with the local community.

In preparation of these plans, engagement with community members in each of the villages has been undertaken in the form of village meetings. In addition, the period of public exhibition and comments/feedback from the 355 Village and Rural Improvement Committee ensured the Village Improvement Plans are an accurate reflection of the priorities of each of the Villages into the future to ensure Council has a framework to work together with each community to build a brighter future.

Introducing Illabo

Illabo is a village comprising approximately 144 residents (according to the 2016 census) and is an extremely lively community. For over 100 years, the community has shown loyalty and pride in their village with their strong dedication to the annual Illabo Show. The Illabo show is an important event for such a small village, with a strong showing of sheep and lambs, including The Young Auctioneer's competition. The horse-riding section is also strongly contested, along with the many pavilion entries. The Illabo Showground has modern facilities and is constantly used for a variety of events, as well as a meeting place for Illabo residents. The Illabo Hotel and Post Office/Store is a popular local diner and social setting, as well as an accessible and resourceful stop for visitors, with an open bistro and accommodation.

The Wiradjuri people are acknowledged as the traditional custodians of the land where Illabo is situated. Wiradjuri people are of the goanna totem and are the people of the three rivers - the Wambool (Macquarie), the Kalari (Lachlan) and the Murrumbidgee. They have lived on these lands for more than 40,000 years.



Brief History of Illabo

The Illabo area was settled from the 1850's. Illabo was established as a Railway Siding in 1878 for the expanding rural community, with the current site being preferred from the settlement situated near the cemetery. The school came in 1888, followed by the Hotel and other shops. The siding was originally called Billabong, but the name was changed in 1881 to Illabo to prevent confusion from the six pastoral holdings in the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee area. Illabo is rich in agriculture, firstly establishing a vibrant livestock industry, followed in the last eighty years by a successful cropping program. The grain silo was constructed in 1922, however has since been decommissioned.



Illabo Train Station.

Present Day Illabo

Illabo is a lively small community, with infrastructure and assets to provide for both residents and visitors. Illabo's population reside both in the village and on surrounding farmland. The residents of Illabo are invested in ensuring the village is proactive in engaging residents within and surrounding the village, with events constantly occurring within Illabo. The residents highly value the cohesive mindset, with community events well attended and regarded. The Annual Show, held on the second Saturday in October, is the premier event in the community. The bi-yearly melodrama is a vital event for the community, uniting residents of all ages. Illabo has a high level of community integration, with members willing to help one another and put together impressive events. Illabo features a local primary school, with approximately 30 students, a local pub, amenities precinct and post office along with a local CWA, NSW farmers Branch and NSW Rural Fire Brigade.

Key Community Assets, Facilities and Infrastructure includes:

- Illabo Showground Precinct
- Illabo Public Primary School
- Local public amenities, such as tables and chairs, public toilets
- Visitors Rest Area
- Illabo Sporting Bodies Hall and Tennis Courts
- Children's Playground
- Illabo Motorsport Park
- Illabo War Memorial



ABOVE: Illabo Showground Pavillion.
BELOW: Illabo Motorsports Park.



ABOVE: Illabo Public School.
BELOW: Illabo Tennis Courts and Clubhouse.



The Illabo Community Engagement

Information for this plan has been gathered using a variety of methods. This has included consultation with community members during the community meeting held in April 2021. Submissions and comments made during the public exhibition period and the input of the 355 Village and Rural Improvement Committee prior to formal adoption of the Plan also formed an important part in development.

What people love about Illabo

Throughout consultation, it was clear residents have a cohesive sense of pride in Illabo. The people of Illabo were pleased with their town, appreciative of all its assets and infrastructure. The peace, quiet and relaxed lifestyle of the village are desirable traits together with the proximity to larger towns and cities - such as Junee, Cootamundra and Wagga. The residents can enjoy rural, country living without having to travel any extended period for necessities.

Community members identified the following as important elements making their community strong and engaging. These elements were also identified as essential to maintain and enhance into the future.

- The residents of Illabo appreciate the shared community spirit and the collective effort everyone puts into community events. The Illabo Show and the Melodrama were notable events held by the community, which would not be possible without a cohesive community. This also includes (but not limited to) the Country Women's Association which has recently been re-established in the village, the Active Farmers fitness classes and the recently refurbished Sporting Bodies Hall and Tennis Courts.
- The rest stop facility accommodates visitors; an asset highly valued by the people of Illabo. The cleanliness of this area is also highly regarded, as well as its accessibility.
- The abundance of amenities available for the citizens of Illabo is valued by the community, especially for being such a small village. The people of Illabo appreciate the Tennis Court facilities, including the Clubhouse and children's playground. Along with this, the Showground facilities ensured community events are possible. The community values local businesses and services, such as the Post Office, the Rural Fire Service, the Garbage service, the Illabo Primary School, the Mechanics, and the local Illabo Hotel.



ABOVE: Illabo Melodrama.

TOP RIGHT: Illabo Hotel.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Golden canola along the Canola Trail.



Our People

Through consultation, it was evident the Illabo community is very actively engaged with several groups, meetings and events operating in the village. Regardless of the small size of the village, it boasts excellent tourist and local facilities, the Illabo Show that has run for over a hundred years, a successful Melodrama and the recent establishment of a Motor Sports Facility. The people of Illabo are extremely proud of their village and all its assets. The community aims to create even more opportunities for integration within the community, such as increasing sporting groups and events, as well as enhancing the village aesthetic through murals and maintenance.



Illabo Melodrama.

Our Environment

The residents of Illabo highly value their village's environment and the appearance of their facilities. Regular upkeep and maintenance of public areas - such as the rest area precinct in constant excellent condition was highly appreciated. Continual and regular maintenance of vegetation next to the roads leading into the village was a priority for the village. Residents wish to see all residents take pride in their blocks and the condition of them. Excessive discarded cars and shipping containers are seen by many residents as affecting the local image, environment and aesthetic of the village.

Our Community Groups and Services

Illabo is a very community focused village with many citizens displaying a high level of community spirit, evident through the long history of community events and integration. The Illabo Show, the Illabo Melodrama, CWA and Illabo P&C are evidence of this, with the local and broader community coming together to create memorable events.



Illabo Show.

Our Facilities

Illabo possesses a variety of facilities and assets which are highly regarded by tourists and locals. The consistent maintenance of all these areas is appreciated. Illabo features a rest area precinct, with accessible and clean public toilets and the regular maintenance of this area is valued. The residents would like continual maintenance of the children's playground and the tennis courts. Illabo boasts many facilities and has had recent refurbishments to further enhance these areas.

Our Economy

Due to Illabo's lively social environment, the community is successful in fundraising and providing engagement opportunities. The Illabo community value the existence of community engagements, as they give a small locality a chance to be unified through successful and engaging events. Illabo businesses within the village also rely on the social environment. Residents expressed the local economy would benefit from increased focus on the aesthetics of the village as abandoned cars, blocks uncared for and unkept areas around shipping containers do not promote further economic development within the village.

The Preferred Future for Illabo

The Illabo community is extremely proud of their village and all its facilities, events, and infrastructure. Enhancing the beauty of the village is a high priority. Important elements to the community included:

- The aesthetics of the village to be improved. Currently the number of abandoned cars and shipping containers kept in an untidy and environmentally unfriendly state is of concern to residents. Residents would also like to ensure that high grass areas close to roads are maintained, particularly on entranceways to the village, the cemetery and nature strips.
- The residents expressed an interest in enhancing tourism to the village. Residents expressed painting of the silos would assist the village to further promote tourism.
- The community also raised ideas on enhancing the beauty of the village using gardens and new plantations in public areas.
- Ensuring communication within the village is enhanced. Regular and reliable communication is currently seen as an issue for residents of Illabo. Residents suggested a communal noticeboard, which specifies meeting dates, events and local news. Residents felt a large community noticeboard would assist both locals and visitors to engage with local events and keep both local members of the community and visitors updated with what is occurring within the Shire.
- The community also suggested raising the profile of local events to engage the broader community and hence tourism. Expanding and enhancing marketing platforms is desirable for the village.
- The drainage throughout the Village is a concern.
- Keeping the youth in the village engaged with age-appropriate outdoor activities within Illabo.
- Facilitating the growth of Illabo by enabling more home developments.

Council's Commitment to Illabo

June Shire Council has committed a range of resources to enhancing the amenities of Illabo over recent years. These have included constructing and maintaining new and old infrastructure, as well as providing support for community organisations and events.

The following outlines some of Council's recent undertakings within Illabo. The Illabo Tennis Courts and Clubhouse refurbishment was funded through the *Stronger Country Community Fund*. Council works with the local community to assist with projects such as this and will continue to encourage collaboration. In addition, the Council has identified other projects it will commence in the next financial year.

| PROJECT | TIMEFRAME |
|---|-----------|
| Illabo Tennis Courts and Clubhouse refurbishment and enhancement - <i>Stronger Country Community Fund</i> | Completed |
| New Playground - contribution of \$5,000 | Completed |
| New shed at Tennis Courts | Completed |
| Illabo Showground Enhancement - <i>Stronger Country Community Fund</i> | Completed |
| New Entrance Sign | Completed |

| PROJECT | TIMEFRAME |
|---|-----------|
| War Memorial upgrade | Completed |
| Irrigation installed at rest area and memorial site | Completed |
| Sealing upgrade and repairs within Illabo | Completed |
| New fencing at Cemetery | 2020/21 |
| Footpath within the village | 2020/21 |

June Council values all members of the broader community. Council has made an ongoing commitment to continue to support Illabo through ongoing consultation and investment into the infrastructure and amenities of the village. A strategic and advocacy approach will be maintained reflected in the strategies, objectives, and outcomes identified in the Illabo Improvement Plan, as well as the 'Making Tracks' initiative.

Attachments:

1. Aerial Map of Illabo
2. Village Map
3. Recent and Planned Capital works mapped.



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Important Notice!

This map is not a precise survey document. Accurate locations can only be determined by a survey on the ground.

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True North, Grid North and Magnetic North are shown diagrammatically for the centre of the June Local Government Area. Magnetic North is correct for 2008 moving easterly by 0.04° in about five years.

Important

This map was produced on the GEOCENTRIC DATUM OF AUSTRALIA 1994 (GDA94), which has superseded the Australian Geodetic Datum of 1984 (AGD66/84). Heights are referenced to the Australia Height Datum (AHD) heights. For most practical purposes GDA94 coordinates and satellite derived (GPS) coordinates based on the World Geodetic Datum 1984 (WGS84) are the same.

Projection: GDA94 / MGA zone 55

Date: 10/05/2021

Drawn By: Braiden Phillipse

Illabo

Map Scale: 1:7500 at A4



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Illabo **Capital Works and Projects** **30 June 2019 to 31 March 2021** **Including Planned Works**

