



OLD JUNEE

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Adopted: 22 June 2021

Minute No: 06.06.21

Village Improvement Plan

The Junee Local Government Area includes several 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 several 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 Old Junee 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 this plan, engagement with community members 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 Old Junee Village Improvement Plan is 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 Old Junee

Old Junee is in the Central East of the Riverina, just eight kilometers from Junee. With an estimated population of 263 (2016 Census) the village is rich with farming families and those with an appreciation for its beauty. The farming fields of Old Junee grace residents and travelers, the original establishment of 'Junee' never losing its charm.

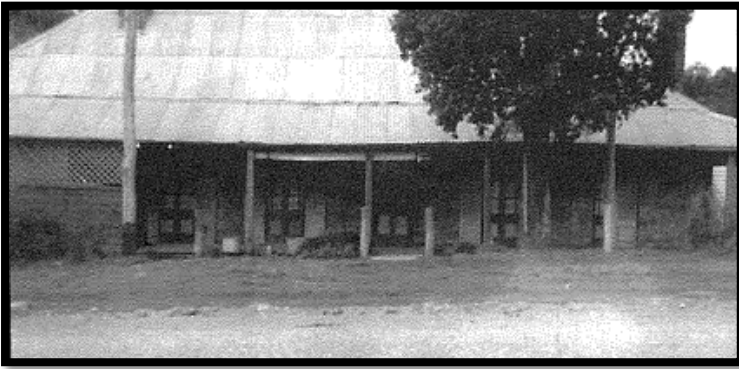
The Wiradjuri people are acknowledged as the traditional custodians of the land where Old Junee is situated. Wiradjuri people are of the goanna totem and are the people of the three rivers - the Wambool (Macquarie), the Kalari (Lachlan) and the Murrumbidgee. They have lived on these lands for more than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



Map showing the township of Junee and surrounding villages within the Junee Shire.

Brief History of Old Junee

Old Junee was initially established as a stagecoach stop called "Jewnee" between Temora, Wagga and Cootamundra. The Jewnee Hotel was founded in 1861 by James Harris; a Post office established in the Hotel in 1862. At this time, only 12 people lived in the village, rising to 20 by 1876. Over 200 people lived in the surrounding district. By the 1880's the village proudly had a hotel, a store, a provisional school boasting over thirty pupils, a private school, two churches and a post office. By 1890 there was a butcher and a blacksmith in the area, with Captain Moonlite and other well-known bushrangers stopping in at the Jewnee Hotel. When the branch railway line to Hay was commenced from 1876, the village moved to the south and congregated to the north of the Railway Station. In October 1885, the village was renamed Old Junee.



The Jewnee Hotel was licensed by Owen Cooney from the 1870s until 1905. The front verandah was originally made of wood but was later replaced with slate. The bar was front left and there was a cellar underneath the window next to it. The dining room and sitting room were at the front of the house and the bedrooms at the back of the house. There were stables and a blacksmith shop at the rear (by courtesy of the Longmore family).



Bullock team and wagon outside Storey's General Store. Notice the sign advertising grass paddocks, corn, and chaff (by courtesy of the Storey family).



The Longmores' residence, formerly the Jewnee Hotel, Old Junee (by courtesy of the Longmore family).

***Information and photographs from 'JUNEE; speaking of the past: Volume 3. Towns and Social Activities. Edited by Shirley Morris, for the Junee Shire Arts Council.'*

Present Day

The Old Junee district is home to approximately 263 people, many of those residing within the village, with others occupying farmhouses. The village is rich with beauty, a mix of rustic and natural elements adding to its charm. Old Junee's strong relationship to farming, as seen by the presence of silos, is of key importance to the town. The village's strong relationship to mixed agriculture, sheep farming and the raising of chooks and eggs, is of key importance to the village. Not only does the village provide beautiful photography opportunities, but it also brings a sense of comfort. The Villagers are very proud of their Hall, which they have recently enhanced into a popular facility, and, with the attached playground area, engages people of all ages.

Key Community Assets, Facilities and Infrastructure include:

- Old Junee Recreation reserve
- Old Junee Hall
- Old Junee Train Station
- Public Toilets at Old Junee Hall
- Picnic facilities, public tables, and chairs
- Old Junee Grain Silo
- Children's Playground
- Local and Tourist signage
- Two Cemeteries (one Historical)
- Old Junee Rural Fire Brigade



Old Junee village signs.



Old Junee grain silos.



Old Junee childrens playground.



Old Junee Community Hall.



Old Junee Fire Brigade.

Old Junee 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 March 2021, together with ongoing dialogue with village groups and individuals. There was also input from the 355 Village and Rural Improvement Committee members to help guide the consultation process.

The Draft Plan was placed on public exhibition to enable further comment and suggestions.

What people love about Old Junee

Evident during the consultation process was the pride the residents of Old Junee have in the presentation and exhibition of their village. The residents spoke of the beauty of a small village, with privacy a key attraction to living there and being close to larger towns and cities providing access to most all required consumables and medical facilities.

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 location and accessibility of the village, in between Junee, Wagga, Temora and Coolamon. The village affords country living and a natural environment without being remote due to the proximity of larger communities.
- The amount of space, both on land and around the village, highlights the peace and quiet within the village and its surrounds.
- The children's playground, having somewhere in such a small village for children to play, highlights a family-oriented village.
- Diversity in residents, from young families to older people.
- The location of the reserve offers exercise opportunities, as well as a shared activity and family space.
- School buses ensure the town is connected.
- The Old Junee Hall recognises the importance of a shared community area.
- House and building affordability, the difference in price from surrounding towns.



Golden canola fields.

Our People

The people of Old Junee are community driven and committed to ensuring their village is considered and taken care of. The residents took pride in their village and aimed to make it as pleasing and comfortable as possible. The aesthetics and upkeep of the town are important to the village community. The community wishes the village to grow in a rural, organic way, aiming to make moving to the village easier for anyone interested in doing so. The community sees Old Junee as a desirable place to raise a family, yet they do not support excessively high-volume migration to the village as it would take away from what the community values.

Our Environment

The natural and manmade environments within and surrounding Old Junee were strongly acknowledged as an important element to the community's quality of life. The peace and tranquility, the landscapes, hills, and open spaces were highlighted as reasons why people choose to reside in this community. Old Junee possesses an historical charm, something residents want to ensure is preserved and maintained.



Cackleberries by Lashbrook Farm (Photo credit: Lashbrooks Farm).



Old Junee Recreation Reserve (Photo credit: Grumpy Grey Nomads).

Our Community Groups and Services

The existence of community groups and services was also identified as important to the Old Junee community. The school bus service picking up children is crucial to the village; however other citizens did feel a review of a regular (perhaps weekly) bus service to Wagga Wagga to include Old Junee was worth investigating. The upkeep and maintenance of local streets and reserves was of utmost importance to the citizens, both taking the aesthetic of the village into account, as well as safety, durability, and attraction to the village.

Our Facilities

The community identified a range of community facilities important to their quality of life. The Old Junee Community Hall was highlighted as a very important asset for the Old Junee community, together with the adjoining toilet blocks. The residents cherished events and social activities that took place in the hall, however, did raise concerns on the accessibility of the toilet block. The open reserve was also important to the residents of Old Junee and further upkeep of this area was a key request from the community.

The importance of the upkeep of Junee's facilities was important to Old Junee as community members regularly make use of facilities including the Junee Recreation and Aquatic Centre and Library.

Our Economy

The residents identified the importance of retaining a vibrant local economy. The residents of Old Junee detailed the personal importance of having visitors, and how they would like to make anyone visiting welcome and comfortable. Maintaining public amenities such as ensuring the public toilets were open and available to be used by those visiting was very important to the citizens, as well as ensuring local camping grounds and public reserves were maintained and kept tidy.

The Preferred Future for Old Junee

Residents saw the future of Old Junee in ten years including rural and residential areas, with people choosing to live in the village who appreciate its beauty, with a maintained aesthetic and care of its surroundings. Other important elements to the community included:

- Safe roads in the village, lowering speed limits, ensuring quality roads, and making sure signage is adequately placed throughout the village. The residents want a reduced speed limit in all streets, with adequate signage. The residents also clarified their fears of the 80km/h speed limit on Canola Way past the playground, as children and families often are close to the road.
- Maintaining the local reserve was important to community members. The residents also suggested signage for the reserve. The residents would like to ensure visitors to the area are aware of camping grounds and local amenities. They also would like further amenities like public toilets in the reserve area.
- Maintaining an aesthetic of the village is also extremely important to its citizens, highlighting a common idea of planting trees on the nature strips and in yards, as well as upgrading the streetscape and ensuring roads continue to be durable and safe.
- A shade sail over the children's playground was seen as a valuable addition to the playground area given the climate.
- Inclusion of community members in events, establishing a social environment by reintroducing hall events, such as children's movie nights and activities, and interactions between all residents is desirable. Covid-19 had reduced community events in recent times.
- Maintaining the condition of tennis courts and other sporting grounds is important to the community.
- A regular bus service to and from Wagga was desirable.
- Drainage maintenance within the village is important to the community.
- Opportunity to offer affordable and available land for residential real estate for new residents, making moving to Old Junee more desirable.
- Ensuring appropriate street lighting throughout the village and its surrounds.

Council's Commitment to Old Junee

Junee Shire Council has committed a range of resources to enhancing the amenities of Old Junee over recent years. These have included support for community celebrations, through to developing and maintaining infrastructure in roads and community facilities.

The following outlines some of Council's recent undertakings within Old Junee. The Old Junee Hall upgrade was funded through the Stronger Country Community Fund and was granted this upgrade from an application put forward by the Old Junee Hall and Progress Association. Council works with the local community to assist with projects such as this and will continue to encourage collaboration. In addition, Council has identified other projects it will commence in the next financial year.

Project	Timeframe
Assisted with new children's playground equipment	Completed
Assisted with the Old Junee Hall upgrade	Completed
Installed Tourism signs	Completed
Completion of drainage upgrade in Williams Street to assist with resealing taking place in 2021/2022 financial year.	2021/22
Road reseals in Mimosa, Park and George Streets	Completed
Sealing of unsealed car park around the Old Junee Hall carpark/playground and RFS shed	Completed
New fencing surrounding the cemeteries	Completed

Junee Shire Council values all members of the broader community. Council has made an ongoing commitment to continue to support Old Junee 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 Old Junee Village Improvement Plan, as well as the 'Making Tracks' initiative

Attachments:

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



Important Notice!
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Important
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Drawn By: Stacy Moses
Projection: GDA84 / MGA zone 55
Date: 13/04/2021 4:58 PM

Belmore Street
 PO Box 93
 Junee NSW 2663
 Phone: (02) 6924 8100
 Fax: (02) 6924 2497
www.juneeshire.nsw.gov.au

Old Junee

Map Scale: 1:10000 at A4

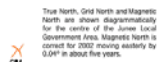


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True North, Grid North and Magnetic North are shown diagrammatically for the centre of the Junee Local Government Area. Magnetic North is correct for 2002 moving westerly by 0.04° in about five years.

Important

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Drawn By: Stacy Moses

Projection: GDA84 / MGA zone 55

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Old Junee

Map Scale: 1:10000 at A4



Old Junee Capital Works and Projects 30 June 2019 to 31 March 2021 Including Planned Works

