



## JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL

### NOTICE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING – 19 MARCH 2024 COMMENCING AT 4:30PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

#### OUR VISION

*“Junee will be a great place to live, with a healthy civic pride. That will come about because the amenity of the Shire – social, recreational, cultural, environmental and visual – is the best quality possible given our circumstances. There will be an increase in population because of this, with the increase made up of people who are net contributors to the community.*

*“Junee will be prosperous and existing services and businesses will have been preserved and grown. The Shire will have economic development strategies recognising the different circumstances of urban and rural areas.*

*“Junee will be a place where innovative, responsive leadership and management occurs in all facets of community life.*

*“It will be an independent Local Government area with a strong sense of identity.”*

#### OUR MISSION

The community and Junee Shire Council are to **Make Tracks** systematically and with determination towards the Shire **Vision.**”

#### OUR COMMUNITY VALUES

Proud and welcoming – we are proud of our Shire and as a friendly community we encourage and support new residents and business owners.

Innovative and progressive – we welcome new ideas and we seek to make changes that will improve the lifestyle of our community.

Inclusive – we have a perspective broader than the Shire boundary; our regional focus means we are tuned to the opportunities available through co-operation and partnerships.

Leadership and wisdom – we listen and act; we are prepared to take tough decisions in the best interests of the future of our people, our place and our economy.

#### HOW CAN A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SPEAK AT A COUNCIL MEETING?

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings and address the Council. Registration to speak must be made by making application by 10:00am on the day of the meeting by filling out the Public Address Application Form found on the following link: [Public-Address-Application-Form-Council-Meetings](#)

# **AGENDA – 19 MARCH 2024**

## **COUNCIL MEETING OPENS**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

**APOLOGIES** – Cr M Knight

**PRESENTATIONS** – Andy Findlay, Findlay Management Consulting Pty Ltd

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES** – 20 February 2024

## **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

### **MAYORAL MINUTE**

1. MAYORAL MINUTE

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

2. REGIONAL RESILIENCE PLAN
3. COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AND BANK BALANCES
4. LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS 2024
5. COURSING PARK TENNIS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE (CPT&CC)
6. PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR BETHUNGRA DAM RESERVE

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Nil

### **COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Junee Shire Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee – 7 March 2024

### **DELEGATES REPORTS**

- Draft REROC Board Meeting – 23 February 2024

### **NOTICES OF MOTIONS**

**LATE BUSINESS (MATTERS OF URGENCY)** - Nil

### **QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS WITH NOTICE**

### **INFORMATION BOOKLET**

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S CONFIDENTIAL REPORT – RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE OF A WHOLE MEETING**

7. RFT2024/03 - ATHENIUM THEATRE

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY** *(Mayor)*

I would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of this land. I would also like to pay respect to Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other community members present.

## **COUNCIL MEETING AUDIO RECORDINGS** *(Mayor)*

In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice, this Council meeting is being recorded and will be placed on Council's webpage for public information.

All present at the meeting are reminded that by speaking you are agreeing to your view and comments being recorded and published.

I would also like to remind Councillors and staff that during all our discussions and deliberations, we should be respectful and mindful of others present. We should at all times listen without interrupting and use words that do not personalise an individual, nor should they be offensive in any way. Whilst discussion, debate and an open mind is encouraged, please let us all keep our discussions productive, civil and inclusive.

Junee Shire Council accepts no liability for any defamatory or offensive remarks or gestures during this Council Meeting.

## **OATH**

I swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of Junee and the Junee Shire Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.

## **DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

**Pecuniary** – An interest that a person has in a matter because of a reasonable likelihood or expectation of appreciable financial gain or loss to the person or another person with whom the person is associated.

*(Local Government Act, 1993 section 442 and 443)*

A Councillor or other member of a Council Committee who is present at a meeting and has a pecuniary interest in any matter which is being considered must disclose the nature of that interest to the meeting as soon as practicable.

The Councillor or other member must not take part in the consideration or discussion on the matter and must not vote on any question relating to that matter. *(Section 451)*.

**Non-pecuniary** – A private or personal interest the council official has that does not amount to a pecuniary interest as defined in the Act. These commonly arise out of family or personal relationships, or out of involvement in sporting, social, religious or other cultural groups and associations, and may include an interest of a financial nature.

A non-pecuniary conflict of interest exists where a reasonable and informed person would perceive that you could be influenced by a private interest when carrying out your official functions in relation to a matter.

If you have declared a non-pecuniary conflict of interest, you have a broad range of options for managing the conflict. The option you choose will depend on an assessment of the circumstances of the matter, the nature of your interest and the significance of the issue being dealt with. You must deal with a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in at least one of these ways.

- It may be appropriate that no action is taken where the potential for conflict is minimal. However, council officials should consider providing an explanation of why they consider a conflict does not exist.
- Limit involvement if practical (for example, participate in discussion but not in decision making or visa-versa). Care needs to be taken when exercising this option.
- Remove the source of the conflict (for example, relinquishing or divesting the personal interest that creates the conflict or reallocating the conflicting duties to another officer).
- Have no involvement by absenting yourself from and not taking part in any debate or voting on the issue as if the provisions in section 451(2) of the Act apply (particularly if you have a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest).





# JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL

## DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

Name of Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Item/Report Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Item/Report Title: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ declare the following interest:  
(name)

**Pecuniary** – Must leave Chamber, take no part in discussion and voting.

**Non-Pecuniary – Significant Conflict** – Recommended that Councillor/Member leaves Chamber, takes no part in discussion or voting.

**Non-Pecuniary – Less than Significant Conflict** – Councillor/Member may choose to remain in Chamber and participate in discussion and voting.

For the reason that:

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Council's Email Address – [jsc@junees.nsw.gov.au](mailto:jsc@junees.nsw.gov.au)



# **JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES ORDINARY MEETING**



# MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELMORE STREET, JUNEE ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024.

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## **PRESENT**

Councillors R Asmus, M Austin, R Callow, A Clinton, M Cook, D Carter, P Halliburton and N Smith.

## **STAFF**

General Manager, Chief Financial Advisor, Director Engineering Services, Director Corporate and Community Development and Executive Assistant.

The meeting opened at 4.34pm.

## **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Councillor Marie Knight has previously been granted a leave of absence from the 20 February 2024 Ordinary Council meeting.

## **ADDRESS BY MELANIE FENNEL – MURRUMBIDGEE LHD**

Ms Melanie Fennell from Murrumbidgee LHD addressed the Council via Zoom and gave an overview of future health service planning for Junee.

**01.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr D Carter seconded Cr M Cook that the Council note the address by Ms Melanie Fennell from Murrumbidgee LHD.

## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – ORDINARY MEETING HELD 19 DECEMBER 2023**

**02.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr P Halliburton seconded Cr M Cook that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 December 2023, copies of which had been supplied to each Councillor, be confirmed.

## **BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors were invited to disclose any Declarations of Interest related to the items of business in the report.

The General Manager, Mr James Davis, declared a non-pecuniary - significant conflict interest in Item 11 of the General Managers report as his residential property where he lives, located at 13 Anzac Parade, Junee, is adjacent to one of the proposed unformed laneways that Council is considering to publicly exhibit for closing.

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CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_

# MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELMORE STREET, JUNEE ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024.

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The Director Corporate and Community Development declared a non-pecuniary – significant conflict interest in Item 12 of the General Managers report as he resides in a neighbouring property.

Councillor P Halliburton declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12 of the General Managers report as she owns, along with her husband, the land immediately to the east of the eastern boundary of 192 Waterworks Road, Junee.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

Nil

## **1(MAYOR) MAYORAL MINUTE**

**03.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr R Callow that the Mayoral Minute, as tabled at the meeting, be noted.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

The General Manager presented a report which dealt with Items 2 to 15.

## **2[ESO] DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN HALF YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**04.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr M Austin seconded Cr R Asmus that Council receive the Delivery Program and Operational Plan Half Year Progress Report and endorse its publication to the community.

Councillor D Carter voted against the Motion and asked that this be recorded.

## **3[CFO] SECOND QUARTERLY BUDGET REVIEW**

**05.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr R Asmus seconded Cr M Cook that:

1. The Quarterly Budget Review Report, as at 31 December 2023, be received and noted.
2. Council approve the variations in the capital and operating budgets as detailed in the attached Second Quarterly Budget Review Report for the 2024 financial year.

## **4[CFO] SALE OF LAND FOR UNPAID RATES**

**06.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr P Halliburton seconded Cr M Austin that Council note the report on the Sale of Land for Unpaid Rates.

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CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELMORE STREET, JUNEE ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024.**

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**5[CFO] ADOPTION OF INTERNAL AUDIT CHARTER AND AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE (ARIC) TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**07.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr P Halliburton seconded Cr D Carter that:

1. Council revoke the current Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Charter from 30 June 2024.
2. Adopt the Draft Internal Audit Charter attached to this report effective 1 July 2024.
3. Adopt the Draft Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) Terms of Reference attached to this report effective 1 July 2024.
4. Councillor A Clinton to be a non-voting member of the Junee Shire Council Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) from 1 July 2024.
5. Council support the Internal Audit Alliance seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons to act as Chair of the ARIC.
6. Council seeks expressions of interest from suitably qualified persons to act as independent members of the Junee Shire Council ARIC.

**6[DCCD] COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AND BANK BALANCES – DECEMBER 2023**

**08.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr M Austin seconded Cr R Asmus that Council notes the Investment Report as of 31 December 2023, including the certification by the Responsible Accounting Officer.

**7[DCCD] COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AND BANK BALANCES – JANUARY 2024**

**09.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr D Carter seconded Cr M Austin that Council notes the Investment Report as of 31 January 2024, including the certification by the Responsible Accounting Officer.

**8[DCCD] LEASE OF BROADWAY HOTEL**

**10.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr M Cook seconded Cr M Austin that:

1. Council endorses the General Manager to negotiate a new draft lease agreement on behalf of Council, which includes an option to sublease part for the Broadway Hotel.
2. Receive a further report on the new draft lease agreement following negotiations with the Broadway Museum.

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CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELMORE STREET, JUNEE ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024.**

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**9[DCCD] AMENDED JUNEE LOCAL COMPANION ANIMALS MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**11.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr M Cook seconded Cr M Austin that:

1. Council endorse placing the amended Junee Local Companion Animals Management Plan on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days for comment and feedback.
2. Receive a further report on the Junee Local Companion Animals Management Plan following public exhibition.

**10[DCCD] MODEL CONTAMINATED LAND POLICY**

**12.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr M Austin seconded Cr R Asmus that Council adopts the Model Contaminated Land Policy, following a 28-day period of public exhibition during which no comments or feedback were received.

**11[GIS] PROPOSED CLOSURE OF UNFORMED ROADS**

The General Manager left the meeting at 5.21pm.

**13.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr P Halliburton seconded Cr M Cook that:

1. Council receive this report for closure of unformed roads.
2. Endorse commencement of the road closure process in accordance with the Roads Act 1993, Part 4, for the roads identified in the report.
3. Enter into discussions with adjoining landholders, to establish any interest in boundary modification, with final boundary and sale considerations to be returned to Council in line with the Local Government Act 1993.
4. Resolves to undertake the public consultation process as detailed in the Roads Act 1993, Section 38B.

The General Manager returned to the meeting at 5.29pm.

Councillor N Smith arrived at the meeting at 5.29pm.

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CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELMORE STREET, JUNEE ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024.**

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**12[TP] PLANNING PROPOSAL 2024.01 – 192 WATERWORKS ROAD (AMENDMENT TO LEP – ZONING AND MINIMUM LOT SIZE)**

The Director Corporate and Community Development and Councillor P Halliburton left the meeting at 5.30pm.

**14.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr D Carter seconded Cr A Clinton that the Council suspend Standing Orders; the time being 5.30pm.

**15.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr D Carter seconded Cr A Clinton that Standing Orders be resumed; the time being 5.48pm.

**16.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr M Austin seconded Cr N Smith that:

1. Council resolve to provide in-principle support for the Draft Planning Proposal.
2. Refer the Planning Proposal to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for Gateway Determination.
3. Seek that Council be appointed the Local Plan-Making Authority by the Department.

As required under Section 375A of the Local Government Act, the following is the record of voting for this planning matter.

FOR: Councillors R Asmus, M Austin, R Callow D Carter, A Clinton, M Cook and N Smith.

AGAINST: Nil

The Director Corporate and Community Development and Councillor P Halliburton returned to the meeting at 5.50pm.

**13[DES] CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY POLICY**

**17.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr D Carter seconded Cr P Halliburton that:

1. Council receives the report regarding a Draft Chain of Responsibility Policy.
2. Council adopts the attached Draft Chain of Responsibility Policy, addressing Councils legislative requirements under Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL).

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nil

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CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELMORE STREET, JUNEE ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024.**

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**DELEGATES REPORTS**

**18.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr N Smith seconded Cr M Cook that the minutes of the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) Board meeting held 8 December 2023, be noted.

**19.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr D Carter seconded Cr R Asmus that the minutes of the Junee Sports Committee meeting held 8 February 2024, be noted.

**20.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr D Carter seconded Cr P Halliburton that the minutes of the Riverina Zone Service Level Agreement Committee meeting be noted.

Bethungra on the Up Committee – Cr D Carter – verbal.

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**21.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr D Carter seconded Cr A Clinton that Council install a donations/suggestions box at Bethungra Dam and Sandy Beach.

**LATE BUSINESS**

Nil

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Councillor D Carter asked the following questions:

1. Lisgar Street Kerb and Gutter

When are the dirt patches, created because of the kerb and gutter work, in Lisgar Street going to be tared?

Response:

*The patches are a concern for Council staff, given the location. Boral have been booked in to seal this before the end of March, the job would have been early if not for an aggregate supply issue.*

*The areas will be re-prepped and compacted prior to sealing.*

2. Weed Control at Bethungra Dam

What measures are being considered for the eradication of thistles, blackberries and other weeds within the Bethungra Dam Reserve?

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CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_



**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELMORE STREET, JUNEE ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024.**

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Response:

Council has not run a weed spraying program at Bethungra Dam for some time, other than ad hoc spraying. As a result of the weeds service review, the need for additional weed management on the Bethungra Dam reserve has been identified. Staff have been liaising with the weeds contractor from RENWA intended to activate a controlled weeds management program.

3. Electric Charging Stations

Where is Council up to in deciding where to erect new Electric Power Charging Stations?

Response:

As outlined in the report dated 18 October 2022, REROC, in collaboration with the NSW Sustainable Councils program, engaged ChargeWorks Pty Ltd to support Councils in implementing destination charging across the region. ChargeWorks was tasked with assisting Junee Shire Council in conducting a feasibility study on leveraging grant opportunities for the installation of destination chargers in Junee. The recommendation stemming from the study was to proceed with the installation of two destination chargers in Junee.

Given that co-funding was a requirement under the grants program, the report sought Council's endorsement to apply for the first round of Drive Electric NSW EV Destination Charging.

Although the motion to endorse the submission of an application under the first round of the Drive Electric NSW EV Destination Charging grants was moved by Cr R Asmus and seconded by Cr M Austin, the motion was put to a vote and did not carry.

An Update

Following the 2023 State Election, the NSW Government initiated the Local Small Commitments Allocation (LSCA) Program. This program allocated funds to 93 NSW electorates with the objective of supporting small local projects aimed at enhancing community wellbeing and delivering benefits to communities across the state.

Junee Shire Council has been provisionally allocated approximately \$43,000 specifically designated for EV Charging Stations under this program. As of the date of this response, the council has not yet received a funding deed. At present, the program requirements and associated timeframes remain unclear.

We will continue to monitor developments regarding the LSCA Program and its implications for the implementation of EV Charging Stations in Junee. Should there be any updates or further information forthcoming, we will advise Council of any outcomes.

**INFORMATION BOOKLET**

The information booklet was received and noted.

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CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, BELMORE STREET, JUNEE ON TUESDAY, 20 FEBRUARY 2024.**

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**CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

**22.02.24** At 6.06pm, Council **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr N Smith seconded Cr P Halliburton to go into Closed Committee of the Whole under Section 10A (2):

- (c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business, and
- (g) advice concerning litigation or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

**14[GM] RIVERINA REGIONAL LIBRARY**

**23.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr P Halliburton seconded Cr N Smith that Council receive and note the report on the Riverina Regional Library.

**15[DES] PLANT REPLACEMENT MOTOR GRADER TENDER**

**24.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr R Asmus seconded Cr N Smith that:

1. Council acknowledges that tenders have been invited for a proposed Motor Grader in accordance with the Local Government Act 193, Section 55 through Vendor panel and three successful tenders were presented.
2. Council accepts the tender from RDO Equipment Pty Ltd for the John Deere Grader 670GP Motor Grader, in accordance with the Local Government Act, Section 55 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Part 7, for \$599,500 (Incl. GST).
3. Council recommends that the existing Motor Grader, Plant 62 is traded in to RDO Equipment Pty Ltd for \$181,500, in accordance with the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, Part 7.

**REVERSION TO OPEN COUNCIL**

**25.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr N Smith seconded Cr P Halliburton that Council move out of Committee and revert to an open meeting of the Council, the time being 6.13pm.

**26.02.24** **RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr N Smith seconded Cr P Halliburton that Council adopt the resolutions made in Closed Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.18pm.

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CHAIRPERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL MANAGER: \_\_\_\_\_



# **JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **MAYORAL MINUTE**



**Item I                    MAYORAL MINUTE**

Author                    Mayor

Attachments            No

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That the Mayoral Minute, as presented to the 19 March 2024 Ordinary Council meeting, be noted.***

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A short minute this month. I had an unfortunate accident and have been a little quiet, having to keep off my leg for as much time as possible.

As such, I missed the Weeds Meeting on the 5 March, however Mason attended on our behalf, and will report separately.

I also missed the Police and Community meeting on the 6 March, however Luke attended in both mine and James' absence.

The ongoing abuse of our amenities at the Athenium Theatre was highlighted again and unfortunately another incident occurred last week. We have had to close the toilet until repairs and cleaning can take place and thought it appropriate that a temporary structure be put in place. Unfortunately, it is not very accessible to wheelchair or handicapped people.

I am trying to get a meeting with the Local Police, and / or the Local Inspector to see where we are up to with previous investigations and what tactics we can employ to prevent further occurrences. We have good CCTV footage of the offenders; however, their age seems to be an impediment to prosecution. I spoke with shop owners in the vicinity and informed them of our situation, some of whom have their own CCTV systems and they will check to see what they have. Some already seem to know the who of it and may spread the word. Every bit helps.

On the 19 February, I attended a Citizenship gathering and welcomed three new Australians. They are local ladies and girls and it was very pleasing to see them embracing citizenship and the benefits thereof.

On 27 February, General Managers and Mayors met with Minister Ron Hoenig and MP Joe McGirr in Wagga Wagga. The Minister was attending other functions in the area and gave us an hour or so of his time. Once again the ESL and the Red Fleet were high on the agenda of Local Government representatives. The Minister once again gave no promises but did indicate his dislike of the accounting system. He is progressing his inquiry and asked for tangible input from Councils.

The Code of Conduct and the weak penalties applied was also raised, with the Minister indicating this was another issue being looked into. REROC is to write to the Minister outlining all of our concerns as a collective.

**MAYORAL MINUTE REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEES SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024.**

On 14 March, Inland Rail representatives attended Junee and introduced their new CEO Nick Miller who comes from an impressive background in engineering and logistics. He gave us a run down on where we are up to and accepted a number of questions. I don't think the wall is going to happen; too much community concern and they seemed amenable to that. It is likely they will explore other methods of noise reduction before considering "The Wall".

The footbridge over the line near Kemp Street bridge is unlikely to be built prior to the bridge demolition. Whilst this is not "locked in" it is highly unlikely that it has priority over the new bridge reconstruction. They are looking at other strategies. They are promising a new 3D rendition of what it will look like in the next three months and will probably be back to speak with Council as a whole then. Watch this space.

Attached for your information is a letter regarding Junee now being at 4G equivalency, ahead of the closure of the Telstra 3G network.

Regards'

Cr Bob Callow  
Mayor



13/3/2024

Cr Bob Callow  
Mayor  
Junee Shire Council  
Junee, NSW 2663

Dear Bob,

On 30th June 2024 Telstra will be closing our 3G network. In the lead up to this, we are upgrading our mobile network in areas that only have Telstra 3G coverage to ensure the same or better 4G coverage is available.

### **Your area is now Telstra 4G ready.**

I'm pleased to let you know that our program of work to deliver this in the Junee local government area is now complete, meaning the area is 4G ready. Simply put, if residents could only get 3G on the Telstra network before, they should now be able to enjoy the extra speed and capacity that 4G brings and will continue to have Telstra mobile coverage after the 30<sup>th</sup> of June.

### **What you need to do**

We know that most of our customers' mobile devices in Junee can access the 4G network. However, locally there are still a small number of 3G-only mobile devices accessing our network that will need to be replaced or upgraded before this time if they wish to remain connected.

It is important to note such devices may not be limited to phones and may also include 3G only Telstra Cel-Fi GO Repeaters, 3G only Telstra Mobile Smart Antennas (TMSA), and Internet-of-Things (IoT) or Machine-to-Machine (M2M) devices such as eftpos, telemetry & medical devices.

Customers can visit our website at <https://www.telstra.com.au/support/mobiles-devices/3g-closure> for more information & support on device compatibility.

There will be no loss of 3G coverage prior to 30th June 2024. Once we have closed the 3G network, we will repurpose the spectrum so that we can use it to expand our 5G network. We are committed to continuing our long tradition of investment in rural and regional Australia by providing more state-of-the-art services and this is an important step to transition to 5G.



If you or members of your community have any questions about the closure of our 3G network or the steps to take before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024, please visit our website.

<https://www.telstra.com.au/exchange/our-3g-closure-in-2024--your-questions-answered>

Kind Regards

Chris Taylor  
Telstra Regional General Manager  
ACT & Southern NSW



**JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

**GENERAL MANAGER'S**

**REPORT**





**Item 2            REGIONAL RESILIENCE PLAN**

Author            Acting General Manger

Attachments      Regional Drought Resilience Plan

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council endorse the Regional Drought Resilience Plan for Junee and Coolamon.***

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**SUMMARY**

Junee and Coolamon Shires have been jointly funded to produce a Regional Drought Resilience Plan for the two shires.

The plan provides a framework for drought resilience along with suggested actions and outcomes that will make the region better prepared for future drought events.

**BACKGROUND**

Drought has an effect on all aspects of the community, resulting in major social, economic and environmental impacts. The Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) Program is part of the Future Drought Fund (FDF) and is co-funded by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW), supporting local governments to work together to proactively plan for drought resilience.

The RDRP's aim to:

- Identify ways for Councils to support their region's resilience to future droughts.
- Devise actions communities can undertake to build their drought resilience across regions.

The purpose of this Plan is:

- Creating stronger connectedness and greater social capital within the communities of Coolamon and Junee, contributing to wellbeing and security.
- Increase self-reliance and improve risk mitigation by building on the local and regional resilience initiative already been undertaken.
- Supporting leadership and community networks to thrive.
- Improve timely and evidence-based decision making that meets the needs of Coolamon and Junee.
- Empowering communities to implement transformative activities that improve their resilience to drought.
- Supporting more primary producers to adopt whole-of-system approaches to Natural Resource Management to improve the natural resource base, for long-term productivity and landscape health.

Junee and Coolamon Councils recognise the importance of preparing for and developing a robust community in good times to lessen the impact of drought and accelerate the recovery period.

This Plan looks at how the whole of the community can benefit from working together to strengthen resilience.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

The FDF is intended to deliver against three interconnected strategic priorities:

- Economic resilience for an innovative and profitable agricultural sector.
- Environmental resilience for sustainable and improved functioning of farming landscapes.
- Social resilience for resourceful and adaptable communities.

This Plan focuses on the community as a system where economic, environmental and social capacity to endure, respond and evolve through drought are enhanced.

The plan addresses five themes and suggests related actions. The themes and actions are as follows:

### Theme 1: A sustainable region and a healthy and protected environment

#### Actions:

- Increase the use of wastewater to maintain greenspaces such as parks, gardens and recreational areas.
- Increase water education within the community including showcasing some of the local businesses such as the Junee Prime Lamb Abattoirs which have adopted water efficiency measures.
- Investigate the formation of a Landcare network that brings together the smaller Landcare groups in the region and provides an opportunity to learn from, work together, and progress common challenges. This creates an opportunity to collaborate on projects that focus on improving the local environment (such as restoring wetlands) that create a sense of place and attract local and regional visitors.
- Consider options to incorporate more drought tolerant parks and gardens in future Council planning.
- Collaborate with local environmental groups such as Landcare, DPI and LLS to promote the natural environment, biodiversity and flora and fauna in with region.
- Increase biodiversity by focusing on targeted and consistent pest management and considering non-traditional methods eg. biocontrol.

### Theme 2: Agriculture

#### Actions:

- Support and promote innovation and research, development and extension activities that are being conducted that improve drought resilience/ understanding and provide practical production solutions to adopt new agricultural technology and modernise farming systems eg. drought tolerant crop varieties and more efficient animal husbandry practices. Working with regional agricultural service providers to translate agricultural information and knowledge that addresses local needs. Better sharing of information between primary producers regarding management practices eg. weed and soil management.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEESHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024

- Investigate opportunities for local agricultural enterprises to collaborate with industry to develop more relevant region-specific research and development.
  - Collaborating with the GRDC to bring more regional-specific research and development projects to the region.
- Early and improved messaging around drought that monitors early drought indicators (work being done by University of Canberra) and that translate information into plain English that can be understood by the broader community.
- Create opportunities for primary producers within the region to form networks to discuss common challenges. This also includes supporting youth in agriculture and providing leadership and networking opportunities.
  - Referral to external resources such as DPI Young Farmer Program, Local Land Services Drought Adoption Officers, Rural Financial Counselling Service.
- Building local food networks between producers and local consumers that focus on fair pricing, value-adding and further opportunities to sell direct to the consumer.
- Support local agricultural businesses to discuss options with the regional water supply authority to improve water equity.
- Investigate alternate workforce models for sharing of labour amongst farm businesses.
- Continue to build quality fodder reserves to support livestock businesses within the region that support pre-planning and increased storage capacity.
- Consider options to support early adopters of new technologies and innovations e.g. new/emerging crops that require separate or new storage.
- Promote the success stories of resilient agricultural practices within the region to increase investor confidence

### Theme 3: Diverse and prosperous economy

#### Action:

- Develop a business plan to attract the desired businesses and industry to the Coolamon and Junee Shires. This will allow a greater diversity in the community's industries and services.
- Formation and expansion of business networks:
  - Form a business network for the Coolamon Shire that creates opportunities for local businesses to meet and learn from each other along with a forum to share and connect with other like-minded business owners to develop networks and support the establishment and growth of their enterprise.
  - Coolamon Shire should seek to collaborate with Junee Business and Trades so they can learn from their experience as an established business network.
  - Support the expansion of the Junee business community (via Junee Business and Trades).
- Investigate opportunities to enhance grant writing assistance in both Coolamon and Junee Shires. In Junee Shire this would consist of additional support to Junee Business and Trades. In Coolamon, this may be targeted to Council grant writing workshops (prior to formalisation of a Coolamon business network).
- Promotion of the region's tourism attractions:
  - Support and promote buy and shop local programs.
  - Ensure local events are supported by local producers.
  - Create a calendar of community events that promotes the regions sport, shopping, arts, cultural and historical events e.g. Barellan draught horse festival (which brings 7,000 visitors).

- Investigate opportunities for Coolamon and Junee to work together to promote their shires as a destination to visit. This provides opportunities to align tourism events.
- Create a fund that can provide financial assistance for community led events.
- Investigate grant opportunities through the Junee Business and Trades and Coolamon business networks to support regional events.

#### Theme 4: A strong and collaborative community

- Develop a mental health services plan that reflects the community need. This should be completed in partnership, through the formation of a collective of health care providers in the region and that builds on existing services.
  - Advocate for mental health services that meet the needs of the community and are accessible in a range of mediums and formats (delivered both formally and informally).
  - Provide specific mental health training for those community members and service providers who are connected to agriculture or are likely to be involved with various sections of the community e.g. volunteers, service industries to agriculture.
  - Develop partnerships with program providers such as headspace to bring leadership and mental health skills to schools.
- Support for community events and local gathering points eg. She Shed, soup kitchen, local shows and races. Extend the events page to include community group events eg. "Welcoming Australia" 'making yourself @ home' in the community for new people to town, Gallery in Ganmain hosting nights for women to gather, talk and paint.
- Specific drought events supported by local community groups such as Country Women's Association, Rotary, Junee Community Centre that encourage people to come together and connect.
- Increase and formalise partnerships with local and state providers regarding opportunities for building leadership skills within local schools, apprenticeships, work experience and unpaid support roles. Examples would be: expansion of Junee Youth Employment partnership program, use of the Regional Youth and Community Development Network (YouthROC via REROC) to support local youth issues. Support for youth in the region to attend Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum (REROC Initiative) to build leadership skills.
- Investigate and create opportunities for youth to gain skills and education. Encourage youth to stay and study in the region via the education hub being established in nearby Wagga Wagga.
- Promote the benefits of living in a smaller regional community and working with local providers such as RDA Riverina to encourage and assist the overseas community in Wagga Wagga to move to the Shires of Coolamon and Junee.
- Explore alternate labour sharing options between businesses and industry to retain skilled workers in the region.
- Increasing community cohesion:
  - Investigate repurposing of council area for shared community facilities eg. community garden hub.
  - Establish connections between smaller villages and larger towns.
  - Community hubs for people to share knowledge and solve problems.
- Increase the frequency of the Junee Volunteers Summit to provide support and capacity building for volunteers within the community. The Summit should incorporate a focus on how to encourage more volunteers and those across different demographics, especially youth, to become volunteers. Coolamon Shire should collaborate with Junee Shire as to how to develop its own summit.

Theme 5: Strong infrastructure and transport services

- Investigate options on how to maximise the benefit of the existing wastewater facilities that either allows for surplus water to be sold to a suitable buyer or to expand wastewater facilities to incorporate additional storage and networks to increase use capacity.
- Investigate options in partnership with Goldenfields Water and DCCEEW on replacement and upgrade options for the water and wastewater infrastructure to provide greater security through enhanced storage capability and distribution systems.
- Enhance existing regional assets (eg. improve facilities) such as Bethungra Dam and Rocky Hill to make them more attractive for tourists and better used by the local community.
- Connecting local businesses, individuals and primary producers with grants and funding to upgrade their own water infrastructure.
- Continue to advocate for better telecommunication infrastructure to improve phone and internet service for the region.

Outcomes, and resilience framework items corresponding to these actions, are detailed in the report. They are well worth reading.

The report will be a valuable tool to be used for applying for funding when drought occurs.

**Risk Assessment**

Drought is a risk for the region. This plan will help to mitigate the consequences of future droughts when they occur.

**CONCLUSION**

This Plan has been developed by and for the communities of Junee and Coolamon. The Plan is an important step in voicing the areas of focus and the actions the community seeks to undertake in order to move them towards improved drought resilience.

The Plan contains a series of actions, some of which can be funded through the FDF implementation funding and some that will require alternate funding channels to be identified and obtained.

A copy of the plan is attached for the information of Councillors.



# **JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **ATTACHMENT TO ITEM 2**

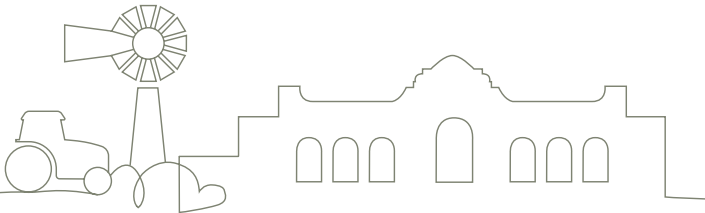
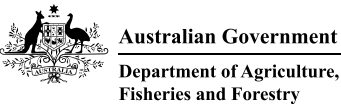
**19 MARCH 2024**



# Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Coolamon and Junee

February 2024





## Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology
CDI	Combined Drought Indicator
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DAFF	Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DPI	Department Primary Industries
DDI	Drought Direction Index
DCCEEW (NSW)	Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy & Water New South Wales; formerly Department of Planning and Environment
DRNSW	Department of Regional New South Wales
EDIS	Enhanced Drought Information System
FDF	Future Drought Fund
FRRR	Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal
GRDC	Grains Research and Development Corporation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LLS	Local Land Services
LGA	Local Government Area
NSW	New South Wales
PCG	Project Control Group
REROC	Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RFCS	Rural Financial Counselling Service
RDRP	Regional Drought Resilience Plan
RCP	Representative Concentration Pathway
SPI	Standardised Precipitation Index
SRG	Stakeholder Reference Group
SSMI	Standardised Soil Moisture Index

## Key Terms

<b>Absorptive capacity</b>	The ability of individuals and groups to continue without adapting or changing their behaviour in response to environmental and socioeconomic changes (Béné et. al., 2012).
<b>Adaptation</b>	Adjustment or modification in natural and/or human systems in response to actual or expected shocks and stresses to moderate harm, reduce vulnerability and/or exploit beneficial opportunities.
<b>Adaptive capacity</b>	The ability of individuals and groups to adjust and respond to environmental and socioeconomic changes.
<b>Adaptive governance</b>	Co-ordinating iterative, flexible and responsive interactions between systems when designing interventions and for their implementation and evaluation.
<b>Co-design</b>	The process of partnership to develop and formulate project delivery and agreed objectives and needs, using participatory methods. A process of working together utilising generative and explorative processes.
<b>Climate Change</b>	Global, long-term shifts in average weather conditions, such as becoming warmer, wetter, or drier over several decades or longer.
<b>Drought</b>	Drought in general means acute water shortage. Drought is a prolonged, abnormally dry period when the amount of available water is insufficient to meet our normal use (BoM, 2024).
<b>Drought declaration</b>	A drought declaration is the responsibility of State and Federal Governments which must consider other factors apart from rainfall, however the Bureau of Meteorology's Drought Statement assists by providing rainfall information. In NSW, drought declarations are supported by data confirmed through the Enhanced Drought Information System.
<b>Economic resilience</b>	The ability of the economy to absorb the economic impact of shocks and stressors without changing the economic status or outcomes.
<b>Environmental resilience</b>	The ability of the natural environment to cope with a diverse range of shocks and stressors while maintaining natural processes and ecosystem services.
<b>Governance</b>	Governance is the structures and processes by which individuals, groups and agencies in a society share power and make decisions. It can be formally institutionalised, or informal.





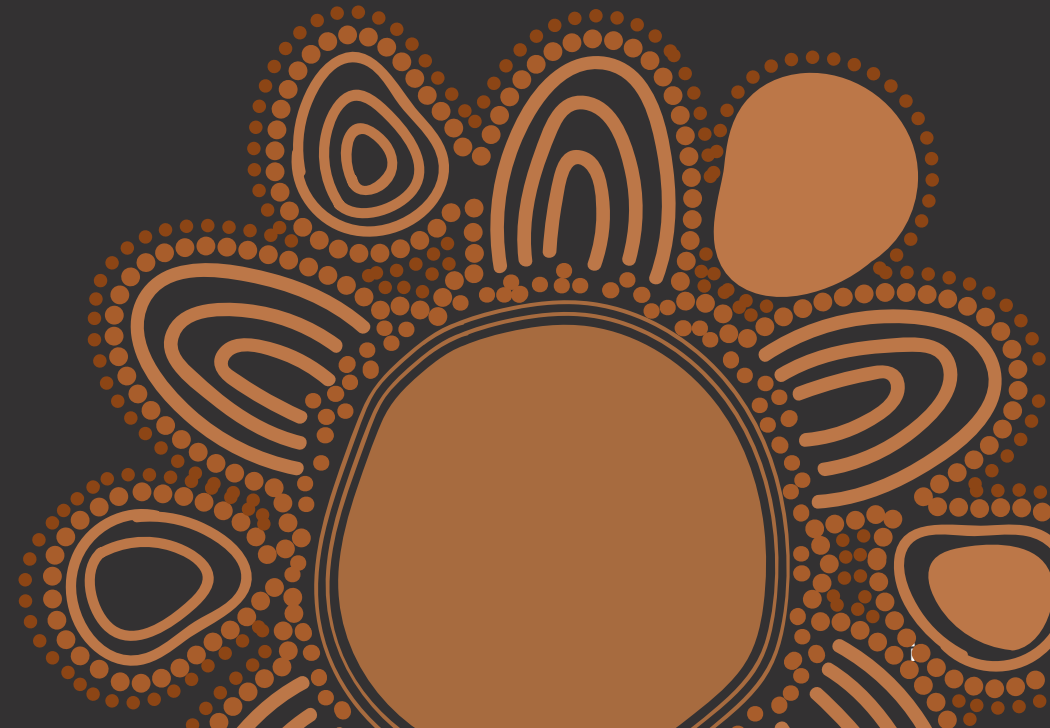
<b>Intervention options</b>	Alternative or complementary actions, projects, programs, policies, initiatives and investments that are planned to bring about change in the system (Maru et. al., 2018).
<b>Local knowledge</b>	Local knowledge and First Nations knowledge incorporates elements of lived experience within a landscape, bearing witness to the operation of systems. It includes aspects of people, landscape, culture – how people interact with surroundings and as part of communities and processes.
<b>Preparation</b>	Action taken to reduce the impact of an event that occurs and accelerate the recovery period.
<b>Recovery</b>	A return to longer term viability.
<b>Resilience</b>	The ability of a system to absorb a disturbance and reorganise so as to maintain the existing functions, structure and feedbacks (Walker et. al., 2004). Also see general resilience, specified resilience, economic resilience, environmental resilience and social resilience.
<b>Risk</b>	The potential for adverse consequences for human or ecological systems, recognising the diversity of values and objectives associated with such systems (Reisinger et. al., 2020).
<b>Shock</b>	Sudden, short-term events that threaten a city (or region). Examples include: major storms, floods, bush fires, heatwaves, disease outbreaks, terrorism and cyber-attacks' (City of Sydney, 2018).
<b>Social resilience</b>	The ability of the human society to cope with a diverse range of shocks and stressors while maintaining existing social and community functions.
<b>Stressor</b>	An event that occurs gradually over a timeframe that causes an adverse effect, e.g. drought.
<b>Systems</b>	The interaction of processes, networks and inter-dependencies across a complex 'whole'.
<b>Theory of change</b>	Refers to theories, causal mechanisms and assumptions that explain how and why outcomes and impacts will be achieved through use, implementation and production of proposed inputs, activities and outputs (Maru et. al., 2018).

<b>Trends</b>	Major global or regional influences that have driven change in the past and are expected to shape change into the future.
<b>Threshold</b>	The point at which a change in a level or amount a controlling variable causes a system to shift to a qualitatively different regime. Also referred to as a tipping point (Folke et. al., 2010).
<b>Transform</b>	The process of radically changing or building a new system with different structure, functions, feedbacks and identity (Folke et al., 2010).
<b>Trigger point</b>	A pre-agreed situation or event, that when met, activates a management intervention. Trigger points are usually defined in the planning phase (Wise et. al., 2014).



# Acknowledgements and Appreciations

Our Consortium representing Coolamon and Junee Shires acknowledges the traditional owners of the land where we live, work and meet – the Wiradjuri. We pay our respect to Wiradjuri Elders both past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are part of Coolamon and Junee Shires

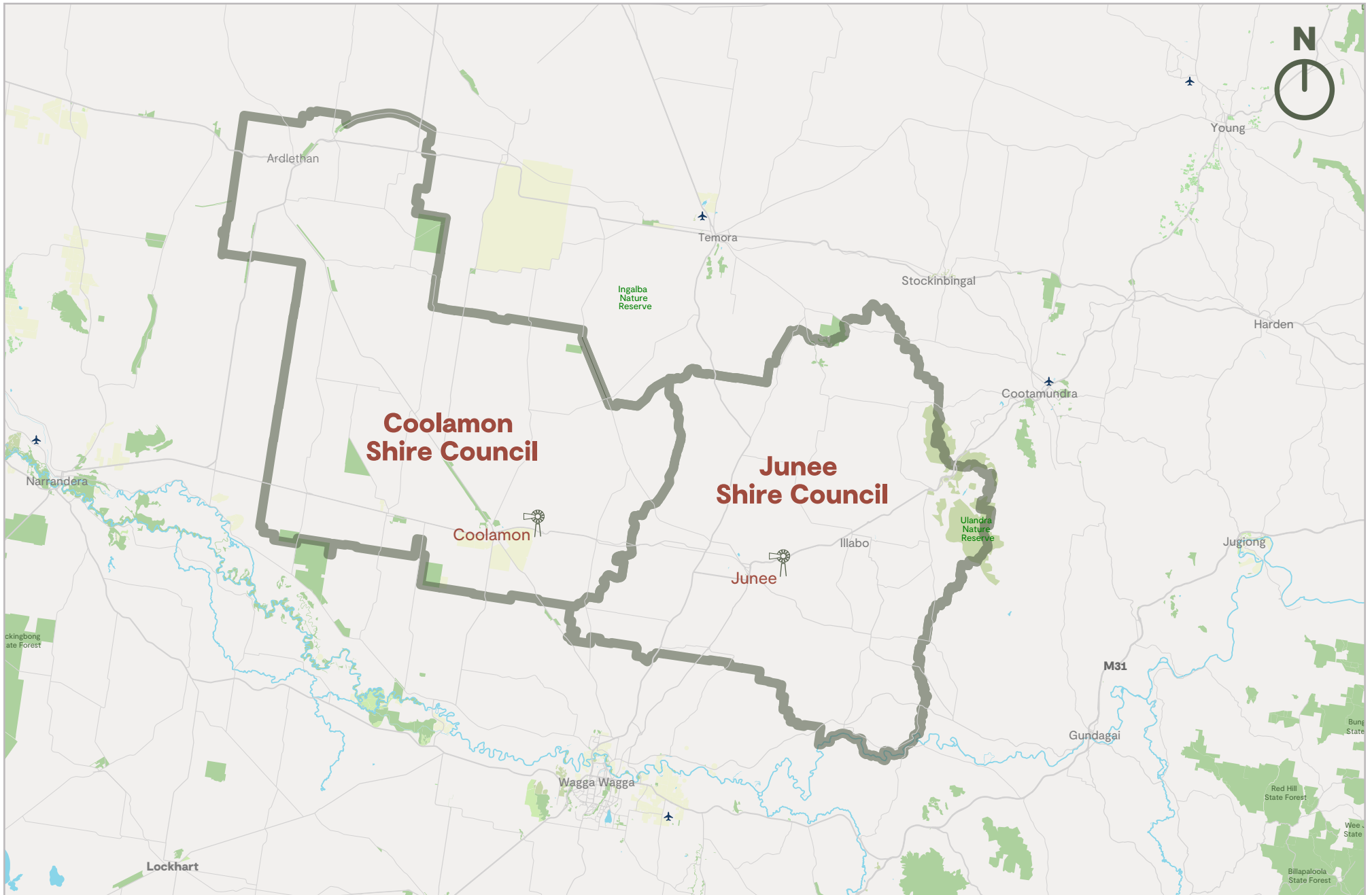


# A note from the Mayors

We are excited to present the Regional Drought Resilience Plan for the Coolamon and Junee Shire Consortium Group 10. Droughts and floods are part of our Australian way of life. The damage that they can cause to our environment, communities and economy are extensive and we need to plan for how to manage our responses to these devastating natural events.

This report focuses on drought and how our communities can be aware of and prepare for the impacts that droughts have, in the hope of building resilience in our communities. We look forward to working in partnership with our residents, community groups, local businesses, and other levels of government and their agencies, to deliver this project. We know that by working together we can achieve great outcomes for our communities and encourage every member of the Coolamon and Junee Shires to read this plan and to identify how you can be involved to support this important initiative.





# Quick Guide

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Drought Resilience



2

Coolamon and Junee Region and Communities



3

History of drought impacts



4

Resilience in the local region



5

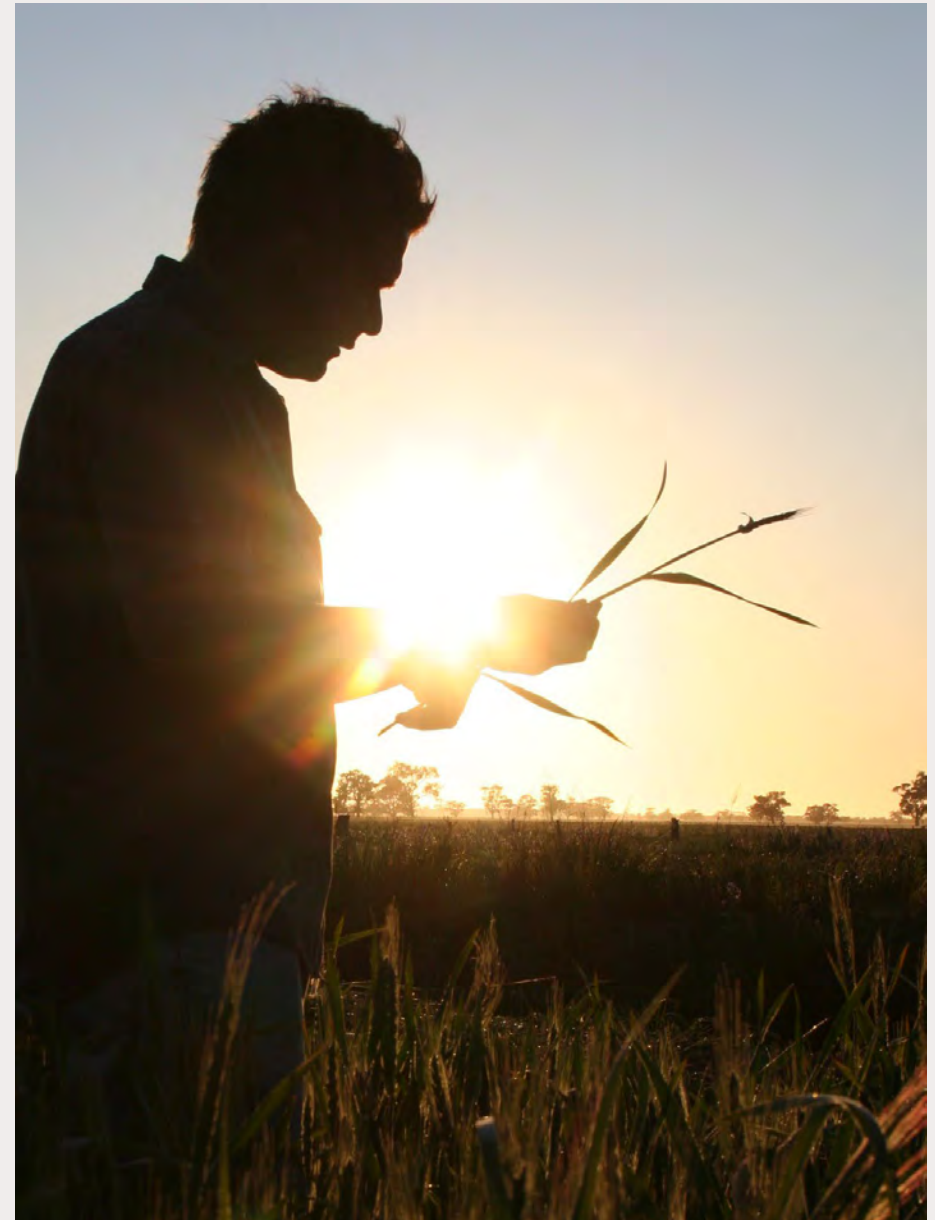
Drought Resilience Actions





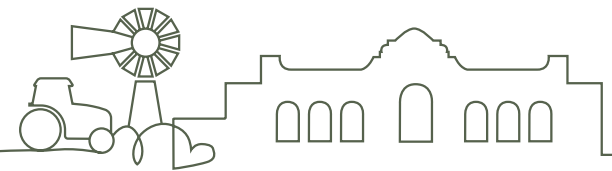
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01

**Drought Resilience**





# Vision for the region

"Coolamon and Junee's vision is for a robust and diverse economy, a progressive and productive agricultural sector, with opportunities for youth and considered forward planning that bolsters the region. The community aspires to be acknowledged for its adaptability, resourcefulness and perseverance"

## Background

Drought has an effect on all aspects of the community, resulting in major social, economic and environmental impacts. The Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) Program is part of the Future Drought Fund (FDF) and is co-funded by the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the Department of Regional NSW (DRNSW), supporting local governments to work together to proactively plan for drought resilience.

The RDRP's aim to:

- Identify ways for Councils to support their region's resilience to future droughts.
- Devise actions communities can undertake to build their drought resilience across regions.

Our regional Councils recognise the importance of preparing for and developing a robust community in good times to lessen the impact of drought and accelerate the recovery period. This Plan looks at how the whole of the community can benefit from working together to strengthen resilience. Resilience is important in rural and regional communities. It reinforces the connectedness of its members, their ability to manage through seasonal conditions (that create uncertainty and present a challenge to their businesses and way of life).

This Plan provides an opportunity to identify actions that will directly assist the region to strengthen social, economic and environmental resilience, supporting communities in future droughts. It builds on the wealth of effort, research and planning, that has been, and continues to be delivered in drought.

The FDF seeks to enhance the public good by building drought resilience in Australia's agricultural sector, the agricultural landscape and communities. The intent of its eight interrelated foundational programs is to have an innovative and profitable farming sector, a sustainable natural environment and adaptable rural, regional and remote communities, all with increased resilience to the impacts of drought and climate change (DAFF, 2023). The eight programs include Climate Services for Agriculture Platform, Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool, Farm Business Resilience, Regional Drought Resilience Planning, Drought Resilience Innovation and Adoption Hubs, Four grant programs, Drought Resilience Leaders and Networks to Build Drought Resilience.

The FDF is intended to deliver against three inter-connected strategic priorities:

- economic resilience for an innovative and profitable agricultural sector
- environmental resilience for sustainable and improved functioning of farming landscapes
- social resilience for resourceful and adaptable communities.

This Plan focuses on the community as a system where economic, environmental and social capacity to endure, respond and evolve through drought are enhanced.

The *20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW* (DRNSW, 2023) sets out the NSW Government's priorities and plans to achieve long-term social and economic success for regional communities across the state.

Implementation funding will be available across Australia under the Commonwealth Government's FDF.

## Purpose of this Plan

The Coolamon and Junee RDRP provides support to help our region better plan for and become more resilient to the impacts of drought over time. It has been developed in a collaborative, partnership approach, drawing on locally-led inputs from those who live and work in the region.

The purpose of this Plan is:

- creating stronger connectedness and greater social capital within the communities of Coolamon and Junee, contributing to wellbeing and security
- increase self-reliance and improve risk mitigation by building on the local and regional resilience initiative already been undertaken.
- supporting leadership and community networks to thrive.
- improve timely and evidence-based decision making that meets the needs of Coolamon and Junee.
- empowering communities to implement transformative activities that improve their resilience to drought
- supporting more primary producers to adopt whole-of-system approaches to Natural Resource Management to improve the natural resource base, for long-term productivity and landscape health.





This Plan has been developed between the two Councils and their respective communities in a collaborative approach that has drawn on the experience and input of those who live and work in our region.

## A Plan for drought resilience

Of all climate and weather-related conditions affecting Australia, drought is often the most challenging. Periods of persistent drought with downward trends in rainfall and streamflow are well documented. Coolamon and Junee Shire's contribute significantly to the nation's grain, wool, and livestock production. As such, it is important that these communities are well-prepared and resilient in the face of climate change and drought.

Drought is a defining feature of the climatic cycle of the Australian landscape. In a large part this owes to our geography. Our continent spans the latitudes of the subtropical high-pressure belt. This is an area of sinking, dry, stable air and usually clear skies. The far north and south of the country come under the influence of reasonably regular rain-bearing systems for at least part of the year. The east coast is normally well watered by moisture from weather driven by the Tasman and Coral Seas. However, over most of the country rainfall is low and erratic. Even in the wetter areas, very dry years can disrupt normal activities and lead to water shortages (BoM, 2024).

As such, droughts will come again, and they are anticipated to get worse in parts of the country as a result of a changing climate. Droughts are challenging times, not just for each farm, but beyond the farm gate for entire communities and regions.

The costs of drought are spread across economic, social and environmental factors. The toll taken on regions and their communities has been enormous and the impacts often linger for decades.

The most effective response to rising uncertainty is to plan for greater drought resilience. This can be achieved by building sustainable and diverse regional economies, reducing the vulnerability of communities to changing economic conditions and accelerating recovery, as well as enhancing thriving natural environments.

## Drought Resilience at a glance

When it comes to drought, “our best defence against the shocks of drought is to prepare. Planning for greater drought resilience across all aspects of regional and remote communities, not just for primary producers, will have the greatest impact. Resilience can be achieved by building sustainable and diverse regional economies, reducing the vulnerability of communities to changing economic conditions, accelerating recovery, and enhancing the natural environment” (DRNSW, 2022).

The impact of multiple events such as the Black Summer bushfires, floods of 2021 and 2022, mice plagues, and COVID-19 related supply chain and labour force disruptions, are likely to compound any near-future drought recovery in the short term (DRNSW, 2022). Drought resilience goes beyond water management; it's a holistic approach aimed at safeguarding the fabric of our communities. The lasting effects of past droughts, including the Millennium Drought, serve as reminders for the need of forward-thinking and strategic planning.

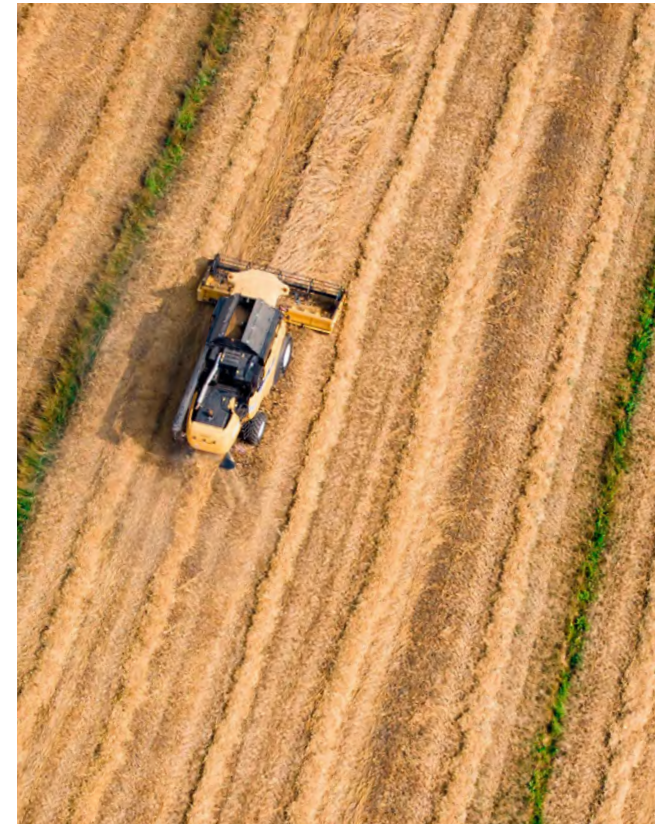
The impacts of drought are also dependent on the timing, duration and the area over which the drought occurs. These factors can affect how the community is able to respond. No two droughts are the same and this in itself presents a challenge to communities.

The journey for developing this Plan for Coolamon Junee is illustrated on Page 4. The process recognises communities in the region have been consulted about drought previously, with this Plan aiming to build on

this work. Figure 1 provides a graphical representation that represents the insights previously gathered on the topics of drought and enhancing resilience in the region. It captures the voices, ideas, and aspirations expressed by the residents and stakeholders who live, work, and form these communities.

## Plan development

The development of this Plan has been guided by a Project Control Group (PCG) comprising representatives from Coolamon Shire Council, Junee Council, Department of Regional NSW and GHD through a three phased approach.



# The Drought resilience journey



## Project Inception

- Project Control Group
- Engage stakeholders

## Literature Review and data collection

- Demographics
- Historical droughts
- Weather patterns
- Future droughts
- Climate change

## Community and Stakeholder engagement

- Survey
- In person
- Interviews
- Stakeholder reference group

## Reporting

- Action Plan
- Regional Drought Resilience Plan





# What was previously heard – at a glance



## Secure water supply

- Water management and infrastructure
- Water efficiency - water restrictions
- Priority of drinking water versus other uses



## Governance

- Clear leadership e.g. understanding drought response and being prepared
- Clear messaging around drought signal e.g. translating climate change/weather
- Tracking of effectiveness of drought measures



## Agriculture

- Resilient farm and agriculture businesses i.e. production flexibility
- Mental resilience to stressors of drought e.g. decision making, deteriorating landscape
- Are financial drought measures and grants effect? i.e. farm household allowance



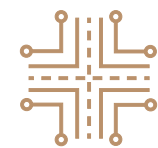
## Prosperous economy

- Diversity of income outside of agriculture
- Industry within LGA that is less reliant on agriculture e.g. manufacturing
- Maintaining diverse skills within the community



## Connected and resilient community

- Communities that pull together in times of hardship e.g. festivals
- Fatigue from living through disasters e.g. bush fires to drought to flood



## Reliable assets and infrastructure

- Reliable and available facilities when required e.g. emergency water supplies
- Assets are fit for purpose when they're needed
- Maintenance of roads from increased traffic (stock, fodder, water, freight)

Figure 1 Previous engagement outcomes



## Phase 1: Understanding the community profile, what is known about drought in the region, the lessons learnt and the region's greatest risks

Phase 1 involved the formation of a Project Control Group which consisted of members of the two Councils, Department of Regional NSW, and consultants. The PCG guided the development of the Plan and assisted with arrangements for community and stakeholder engagement activities. This phase of the project also included a review of literature to better understand the community profile, what we currently know about drought in the region, the lessons learnt from previous droughts and where the greatest risks lie. The literature review informed future phases of the project including identification of plan themes and means the plan is built on past work and programs.





## Phase 2: Community and stakeholder engagement to identify, test and understand the regional opportunities

Phase 2 comprised the delivery of the engagement approach. It comprised five key themes:

1. A sustainable region and a healthy and protected environment that efficiently utilises its natural resources.
2. A resilient and innovative agricultural sector.
3. Diverse and prosperous economy.
4. A strong and collaborative community.
5. Strong infrastructure and transport networks.

These themes were used for categorising and analysing the community feedback, providing a summary of the region's strengths and needs. The outputs from the community engagement and Phase 1 were utilised to conduct a series of resilience workshops (SRG) meetings with identified regional stakeholders to test the findings and identify strategic opportunities.

Community engagement was designed with the communities' diverse needs and perspectives in mind. This combined the use of in-person and digital methods, ensured inclusivity and transparency throughout the process.

The engagement activities were designed to encourage meaningful conversations and insights from the community. These activities are summarised in Figure 2.



### Community Engagement Sessions

Consulted over 60 community members at seven in-person drop-in sessions between Saturday 14 October 2023 and Wednesday 18 October 2023, at different locations. Factsheets informing the community about the program and the plan were also posted in multiple locations in both the Coolamon and Junee LGAs to promote the engagement sessions and survey. Through undertaking relaxed and informal drop-in style information sessions, attendees were asked a series of questions which were developed through integrating the key themes of this project.



### Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) meetings

Four SRG sessions were held between Thursday 23 November 2023 and Thursday 1 February 2024. They comprised of representatives from the local government areas, community subject matter experts, project team members, and other stakeholders. Over 80 stakeholders were invited to participate in the SRG's. Twenty-nine members were invited to provide ideas, insights and feedback.



### Targeted interviews with stakeholders

Targeted interviews with seven industry and community members to obtain more detailed input on the drought work already undertaken in the region.



### Online survey

Using digital tools and publishing a survey enabled engagement of a broader audience and made participation more convenient for community members. Eleven survey responses were received and formed part of the feedback that informed the recommendations included within this Plan



### Online meetings and phone calls

Phone calls and hosting online meetings provided the opportunity to bridge geographical gaps, ensuring a wider array of stakeholders could provide insights without the constraints of location. This method enabled in-depth discussions, capturing the communities' perspectives, and concerns. A total of 7 PCG meetings were held



### Email communication

Employing email outreach provided an additional channel for engaging with stakeholders. It enabled targeted stakeholders, in remote areas, to share their insights in a convenient manner. This approach not only facilitated the collection of valuable data but also allowed for a thoughtful, well-documented exchange of ideas and feedback.

Figure 2 Summary of engagement activities



### Phase 3: Prioritise and develop the Plan

Phase 3 consisted of prioritising the opportunities (through the SRG and PCG) and documenting each in this Plan. These opportunities are organised using the thematic framework shown in Figure 4. The themes highlight the public sentiment that improving drought resilience in the broader community and region, along with diversifying and value adding to the agricultural industry will benefit the region’s response to drought. The Plan identifies actions that can be progressed now that align with the consortia of Councils’ ability to influence and will improve outcomes for the community.

The communities of Coolamon Junee have initiated several actions within their communities developed through successive droughts. Those actions have been built on in this Plan in an effort to improve the region’s drought resilience. These actions include improving the health and well-being of the community, improving the region’s wastewater infrastructure, diversifying the region’s economy through business attraction and promotion and protecting landscape health and natural resource management.

## Key Themes of the Plan



### A sustainable region and a healthy and protected environment

In creating a sustainable region and a healthy environment, this Plan seeks to ensure that local resources are used efficiently, climate change impacts are understood, and adaptations put in place. Planning and management practices assist in reducing community impact on the natural environment and protect biodiversity.



### Agriculture

A resilient and innovative agricultural sector that is supported by a skilled workforce.



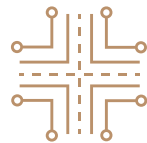
### Diverse and prosperous economy

A robust local industry that is supported, heritage assets that are protected, and tourism that is promoted, to encourage local employment opportunities.



### A strong and collaborative community

Services and housing support a healthy, active, inclusive and liveable community with good governance and strong sense of shared responsibility.



### Strong infrastructure and transport services

Infrastructure and transport that supports and links the region, and provides connectivity.

Figure 3 Five key themes of the plan



## Resilience framework

Resilience is a broad concept that encompasses a range of interconnected factors and conditions. For a system to be resilient it must have the ability to absorb a disturbance and reorganise to maintain the existing functions structure and feedbacks (Walker et al., 2004). Resilience is developed across the system by developing components across three broad dimensions: economic resilience, environmental resilience, and social resilience. Each of these dimensions is relevant in its own way and they are all strongly interconnected, reflecting the capacity of individuals, organisations, and systems to withstand and recover from shocks.

Resilience thinking incorporates the notions of absorption, adaptation, and transformation into a unified approach. It offers a structured framework for developing strategies aimed at enhancing resilience (Folke et al., 2010). These different capacities are vital components of building resilience, and this holistic perspective acknowledges resilience is not a one-size-fits-all concept and tailored approaches are necessary to address the diverse and dynamic challenges communities, ecosystems, and organisations face.

Droughts are a defining feature of the climatic cycle of the Australian landscape and are expected to increase in frequency under a changing climate. The costs of drought are far-reaching, impacting not just at the farm gate but across the entire community and natural landscapes. The most effective response to rising uncertainty is to plan for greater drought resilience. This can be achieved by building sustainable and diverse regional economies, reducing the vulnerability of communities to changing economic conditions and accelerating recovery, as well as enhancing thriving natural environments.

A resilient region is one where our people, communities, and systems are able to withstand and bounce back from drought but also prosper afterwards. Resilient communities have the ability to resist, absorb, accommodate, recover, transform and thrive in a timely, effective manner in response to the effects of shocks and stresses to enable positive economic, social, environmental and governance outcomes (Infrastructure Australia, 2022).

Planning is a key aspect of improving resilience. Trigger points for actions to be taken are usually defined in the planning phase.

Shocks and stresses in the context of this Plan refers to the following:

- Episodic shocks are sudden, large-scale disasters that disrupt and threaten communities. In the context of drought, some significant shocks may include:
  - Sudden water shortages
  - Extreme weather events (storms, bushfires, landslides, earthquakes, heatwaves)
  - Infrastructure failure
- Chronic stressors can be thought of as slow-moving disasters that affect the community. In the context of drought, stressors may include:
  - Food and water shortages
  - Climate change
  - Drought
  - Aging infrastructure

Understanding how to improve the resilience of a system requires an appreciation of the characteristics that make a system resilient. The following 11 principles (detailed in Figure 4) form the framework to measure how this Plans' actions improve resilience. These resilience principles have been adapted from those identified by Infrastructure Australia and the Stockholm Resilience Centre (Simonsen et al, n.d). To provide a framework of 11 principles to by which to measure resilience.





### Diversity and redundancy

More diverse communities, ecosystems, economies, and systems are better able to respond to interruptions or change, making them inherently more resilient. Redundancy provides assurance within a system by allowing certain components to compensate for the loss or failure of others.

Investment in diversity and redundancy can enhance the resilience of people's livelihoods because it enables people to adjust in response to changes in the market or the environment.



### Resist: Identify supports and actions to withstand the effects of drought

Systems that withstand or endure shocks and stresses to prevent an impact on infrastructure services, assets, networks, injury and loss of life. Failure should not be disproportionate to the cause. Systems should be safe-to-fail, anticipate failures and designed strategically to ensure failure is contained and minimised.



### Transform: accept and adapt to changing climatic conditions

Systems that change, evolve, adapt and learn in response to current and future trends and uncertainty. The ability to continually assess, build knowledge, learn and improve to inform future decisions. Returning to normal does not strengthen resilience but consolidates it. Transformation involves community behavioural change and an understanding of how to act before, during and after a disaster.



### Effective: ensure place-based planning and development

Systems are managed and perform as intended. Systems that achieve productivity, in line with community expectations and willingness to pay. Effective engagement promotes transparency, inclusivity and place-based approaches.



### Inclusivity and connectivity

Resilient systems prioritise broad and well-functioning participation, including vulnerable and marginalised groups. This fosters a sense of shared ownership, vision, and enables high levels of connectivity between different social groups. This can increase information sharing and help build trust and reciprocity. This can enable a region to overcome and recover from disturbances more quickly.



### Absorb: Ensure our communities are prepared for drought and ready to respond

Well-constructed and well-managed systems that lessen the impact of all hazards on communities and infrastructure services. Systems should:

- anticipate and proactively plan for future shocks and stresses (this may include trigger points for activation of resources), and provide services and infrastructure tailored to community needs and preferences, at reasonable cost.
- identify low regrets pathways that consider long-term planning horizons and multiple scenarios.



### Accommodate: ensure projects and responses meet the needs of our community

Systems with the capacity to deal with disruption, pressure and surges in demand. A core trait is the redundancy of a system, which is the ability to maintain operations without significant deterioration in quality or value through additional capacity or substitution.



### Timely: responses to drought are well considered, consistent, accountable, transparent and prompt

Decisions about the system are prompt, transparent and made in a reasonable timeframe, using various communication channels, data platforms and engagement techniques.



### Learning and adapting

Resilient systems adapt to uncertainty and a changing environment by embracing learning. They continually assess management plans and standards against emerging types and sources of knowledge. This allows learning from previous mistakes to be captured and inform future decision making.



### Recover: be equipped to respond to drought and its impacts

A resilient system can actively recover from harm after an adverse event is over. A region's ability to recover can determine its ability to evolve and or adapt to avoid or minimise future occurrences.



### Thrive: grow integrated, flexible, innovative and inclusive communities

Where possible, systems that allow communities to meet their needs and maintain their livelihoods before, during and after a shock or stress by safeguarding and minimising impact to economic, social, environmental and governance outcomes.

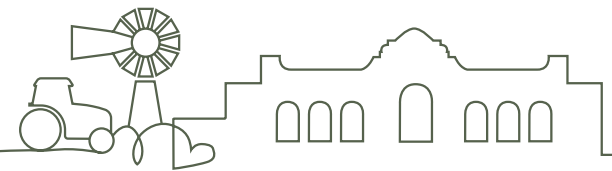
Figure 4 The Resilience Framework





# 02

## Coolamon and Junee Region and communities





# Introduction to the region

The Coolamon Shire covers an area of approximately 2,494 square kilometres and has a population of 4,385 (ABS, 2022a), comprising the three larger towns of Coolamon, Ganmain and Ardlethan and the smaller villages of Marrar, Matong and Beckom. The Coolamon Shire is known for its tourist attractions including The Coolamon Cheese Company, the Fire Museum and the home of the Kelpie at Ardlethan. The Up-To-Date Store Cultural Precinct serves as a reminder of the historical community; at one time you could purchase grocery, ironmongery, crockery, drapery, mercery, millinery, haberdashery, clothing and footwear (Visit Coolamon Shire, n.d.).

There are many heritage buildings and items which are protected and being maintained under Council's Local Environmental Plan. Chief amongst these is the Up-to-Date Store – incorporating the Mavis Furner Collection and Garth Jones Agricultural Collection- which are of State Heritage value. The Art festival on Ford is another attraction held at Ganmain.

The Junee Shire is considered part of the Riverina and is surrounded by the Shires of Coolamon, Wagga Wagga, Temora and Cootamundra-Gundagai. The Junee Local Government Area (LGA) covers 2,030 square kilometres and has a population of 6,415 (ABS, 2022a). This includes the villages of Illabo, Bethungra, Old Junee and Wantabadgery.

Junee is known for its agricultural sector, rail history, government services, and tourism (Junee Shire Council, 2017). Some of the main attractions in the Shire include the region's premier tourist attraction the Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory (>120,000 visitors per year), the Junee Roundhouse Railway Museum (12,000 visitors per year) which houses a variety of railway memorabilia, the

Victorian-era Monte Cristo Homestead which is said to be Australia's most haunted house (Visit NSW, n.d.) and Athenium Theatre which has been magnificently restored and boast State Heritage status. The Illabo vintage speedway also meets several times a year attracts race enthusiasts from all across the country.

Founded in the glory days of the New South Wales Government Railways in the 1880's and now home to some of the states most fitting tributes to those grand old locos, Junee Shire happily combines old world charm with its modern lifestyle and culture. The Junee township is centrally located within the Shire making it relatively accessible to the surrounding four village communities of Old Junee, Illabo, Bethungra and Wantabadgery. While each village has its own identity, what is common to each is the sense of community pride and support they extend to their surrounding rural residences that has made a lasting contribution to the Shire's growth and prosperity. This has facilitated significant investment to community facilities over the past two decades such as: the Junee Junction Recreation and Aquatic Centre, Athenium Theatre, Library, Parks, Garden and sporting amenities that all residents can access and enjoy. Each village has an improvement plan that focuses on its unique character and circumstance that intends to build upon the natural and built assets in each community.

Accessibility and mobility are a high priority for the community and is ably supported by a volunteer driver community transport program. Each year it provides around 5,000 one-way trips to support young and old alike who may lack access to personal or public transport. The quality of this service enables members of our community to enjoy access to health, community and social services.



The Coolamon and Junee Shires are some of the richest agricultural and pastoral districts in the Riverina. They are surrounded by Bland, Narrandera, and Temora Shires and the City of Wagga Wagga. The district is renowned for its production of wheat, canola, barley, oats and other cereal crops, as well as hay and chaff. Wool, lamb and beef are also important products from the area. Being located within easy driving distance from Wagga Wagga which provides greater employment opportunities, many residents choose to live here as a lifestyle choice, and many retiring into Coolamon and Junee from the farm. There are employment opportunities in the service areas of health, aged care, Local Government and in rural based small business.

Coolamon and Junee Shire's proximity to Wagga Wagga and advances in information technology, broadband and satellite communication systems have established positive opportunities for home-based business, business support and consultancies. Coolamon and Junee provide most of the essential services of a regional city with greater housing affordability, especially for first home buyers. Goldenfields Water is the water supply authority for the majority of the region's communities.

Table 1 provides a summary of the socio-economic information for the two LGA's which are statistically similar in a number of areas.

**Table 1** Socio-economic summary(ABS, 2022a), (ABS, 2023)

	Coolamon	Junee
<b>Total population</b>	4,385	6,415
<b>Population change (2016-2021)</b>	1.6%	1.9%
<b>Indigenous population</b>	244 (5.6%)	587 (9.2%)
<b>Median age</b>	44	41
<b>Median household income (per week)</b>	\$1,310	\$1,398
<b>Top industries of employment</b>	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (19.4%)	Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (16.1%)
	Health Care and Social Assistance (11.2%)	Health Care and Social Assistance (12.6%)
	Education and Training (10.4%)	Public Administration and Safety (11.0%)
<b>Labour force participation</b>	58.4%	49.0%
<b>Unemployment (March 2023)</b>	1.6%	2.6%
<b>Socio-economic disadvantage (SEIFA decile score)</b>	5	2

## First nations people

The Coolamon and Junee Shire LGA's are steeped in the history of the Wiradjuri people, who are the Traditional Custodians of this land, water and sky. Spanning from the Kalare (the Lachlan River) to the Dhungala (Murray River) and from Burbong (Goulburn) to Melninni (Hillston), Wiradjuri Country holds stories and connections that transcend time. Wiradjuri people continue to care for Country in this area, now known as Coolamon Shire and Junee Shire.

Despite social and cultural challenges prevalent in today's society, Wiradjuri culture has continued to thrive. The resilience of these First Nations people is evident in their ongoing connection to the lands, waters and sky. Over the years, much knowledge about Wiradjuri heritage has been passed down, researched and recorded, providing a glimpse into their enduring culture.

Today, several places around Wagga Wagga, such as the Bundyi Aboriginal Cultural and Knowledge, Brucedale Cultural Centre and Wiradjuri Reserve along the Murrumbidgee River, offer insights into Wiradjuri heritage, culture, and Country. These spaces serve as windows into the deep-rooted history and cultural significance of the Wiradjuri people, embodying their continued presence and contributions to the region.

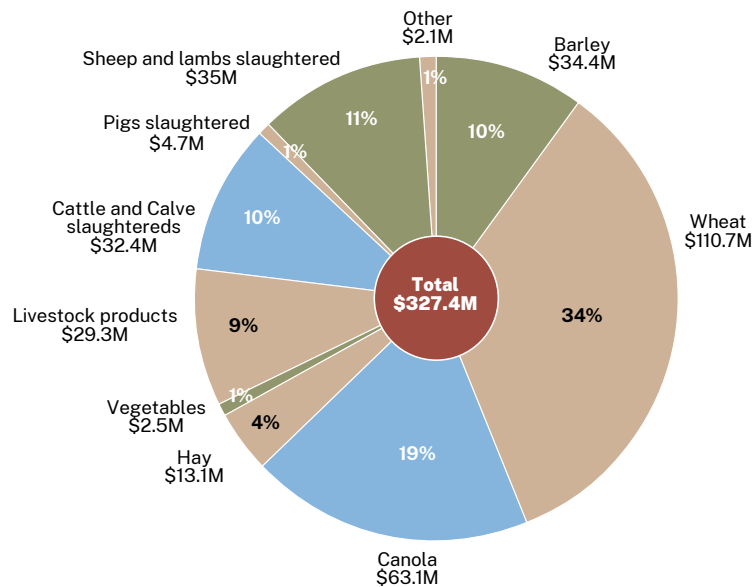
"Coolamon" is an Aboriginal name meaning "dish or vessel for holding food or water". A plan showing the northern boundary of Coolemon (Coolamon) Holes Run in 1870 shows a cluster of numerous water holes which he referred to as Coolamon Holes. This was the Indigenous name given to the holes and the origin of the name as applied today (Coolamon Shire Council , n.d.).

Junee started as a pastoral lease called the 'Jewnee Run'. The name originates from the Aboriginal word meaning 'speak to me' (Junee Shire Council, 2017).



## Land use

Coolamon and Junee are both predominantly agricultural areas with the majority of land in the LGAs utilised for agricultural purposes (93%) (ABS, 2022b). The land use is reflective of dryland agriculture, which in the 2020-21 census was a relatively even split between cropping and grazing. Grazing consisted of 140,000 hectares of improved pastures and 85,000 hectares of other grazing, reflecting the strong production potential of the area's soils. The majority of cropping was split across wheat (93,000ha), Canola (55,000ha) and barley (37,000ha). The increase of larger corporate farms in the region has reduced diversity as many of these businesses are solely focused on cropping. Non-agricultural land use takes up a minimal 7% of overall land use (ABS, 2022b).



**Figure 5** Coolamon and Junee combined Agricultural Production Gross Value.

The Kindra State Forest in Coolamon is a 52 hectare area of remnant bushland. The forest contains a range of leisurely bike and walking trails that will lead you on a journey of discovery, taking in the flora and fauna of the forest, seating, viewing areas and picnic spots (NSW Government, n.d.) Other such native areas within the region include Ganmain's Murumbung Interpretive Walk and Lester State a 2000 acre area of native forest located some 8km from Coolamon. In Junee there is the 4000ha Ulandra Nature Reserve consisting of a preserved creek catchment which is home to a range of flora and fauna and the Bethungra Dam and Reserve, which has become home to many species of water and migratory birds. (Junee Shire Council, 2017).

Junee Shire boasts two recreation reserves with contemporary amenities for locals and visitors offering free caravan and camping. Sandy Beach is located along the bank of the Murrumbidgee River near Wantabadgery. Bethungra Dam Reserve was built in the 1890's as a potable water source for residents of Junee and to support steam locomotives. The Bethungra Dam is supported by a native fish restocking program and walking trails that lead to fine examples of industrial heritage.

## Agriculture

Coolamon and Junee are located in the Murrumbidgee catchment and are situated in a moderate to low rainfall area with Junee experiencing an average annual rainfall of 527mm and Coolamon expecting 573mm (BoM, 2023). The two Shires are mapped in moderately high soil fertility areas and have a diverse soil profile which is favourable to agricultural production. Cereal crops including barley, wheat and canola are the dominant crops produced in the region followed by other grazing crops for cattle and sheep. The combined gross value of agricultural production Coolamon and Junee is over \$327 million (ABS, 2022c).

Coolamon and Junee are predominantly dryland farming and livestock production. Water use in the region is mostly from groundwater supplies and nearby creeks. Water use across the two LGA's is mostly for grazing pastures, followed by pastures cut for hay and silage and growing of cereal crops.

Table 2 shows the variability of the value of agriculture in region due to differing climatic and market conditions. The period between 2017-2022 demonstrates the change in overall agricultural value for the Junee LGA throughout the last drought (2019-20) before returning to above average seasonal conditions.

**Table 2** Output by Agriculture sector 2017-2022 in Junee

Year	Value (\$M)	Change (%)
2017-18	157	-10%
2018-19	140.9	-11%
2019-20	129.7	-9%
2020-21	159.4	19%
2021-22	191.4	17%

\*Economic output data was not available for Coolamon Local Government Area at the time of writing this. Source: (Economy.id, 2023)





## The regions industry

Across Junee, the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry is the largest output generating sector with an estimated total annual output of \$210.3 million in 2021/22 representing approximately 33.2% of the regions total economic output.

**Table 3** Output by industry sector 2021/22\*

	Junee	
	\$m	%
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	210.3 <sup>1</sup>	33.2
Manufacturing	105.0	16.6
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	76.1	12.0
<b>Total industries</b>	<b>633.0</b>	-

\*Economic output data was not available for Coolamon Local Government Area at the time of writing this. Source: (id Community, n.d.)

<sup>1</sup>Table 3 reflects the output for Junee shire only. The agricultural data in this table also includes forestry and fishing. Whilst Figure 6 is the combined value of the gross value agricultural production for both Coolamon and Junee.

Other industries within the Junee region include grain storage, logistics and export, and rail. Large employers include Junee Correctional Facility (which employs approximately 350 staff), Junee Prime Lamb (which employs approximately 300 staff), ARTC and Qube logistics.

Coolamon Shire industry is predominantly agricultural services businesses such as Delta Ag, Graincorp, Emerald Grain, and Logan and Hitchens. Coolamon Steelworks manufacture and design chaser bins which are sold in both the domestic and international markets.

Coolamon Shire's agricultural sector contributed an estimated \$173 million to the region's gross regional product in 2021-2022 (ABS, 2022c).





# 03

## History of Drought Impacts



# Drought impacts

Australia is the driest inhabited continent on Earth with one of the world's most variable rainfall climates (BoM, 2024.). This makes drought a defining feature of our history, with Australia experiencing severe drought on average once every 18 years (NSW Government, 2023). Drought is set to have an increasing effect on the country as a result of climate change, with the frequency, intensity and duration of severe droughts expected to increase, particularly in inland areas of NSW.

## What is drought

Drought is defined as “a prolonged, abnormally dry period when the amount of available water is insufficient to meet our normal use” (BoM 2024). Droughts can differ in the seasonality, location, geographic extent, and duration of the associated rainfall deficiencies. Drought is typically defined in terms of meteorological, agricultural, hydrological, or socioeconomic.

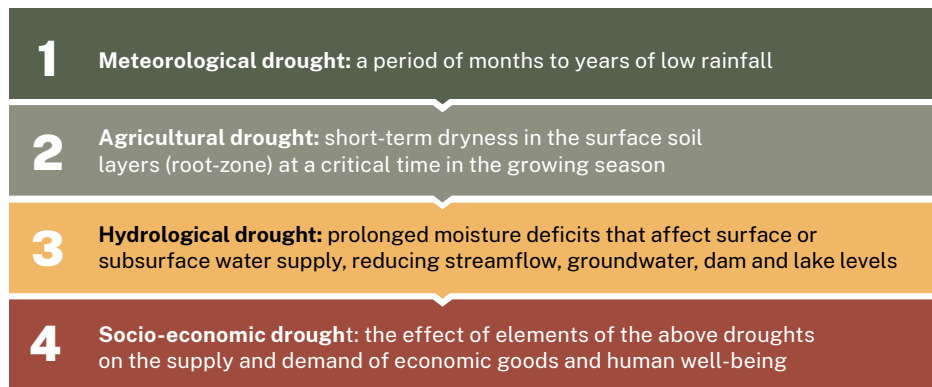


Figure 6 Types of drought (BoM, 2024)

Drought affects all parts of the community; from agricultural producers and suppliers, to industry, First Nations people, and the broader community. Droughts are challenging times, with water intensive industries affected by a reduction in output and increased costs. The economic, social, and environmental impacts are not limited to these industries but extend to entire communities and regions. Local loss of production has flow on effects to the regional economy. Drought can also impact human and environmental health including impacts on nutrition, exacerbation of mental health issues, and ecological decline for flora and fauna (Steffen, 2015).

## Drought monitoring in NSW

Drought monitoring over the years has become increasingly complex. The most common means of currently monitoring drought is through the Enhanced Drought Information System (EDIS) which is a publicly available drought monitoring tool that monitors seasonal conditions across NSW. The EDIS was launched in March 2018 and is used across government and farming stakeholders to build drought risk awareness, emphasise drought preparedness and improve confidence in drought monitoring and early warning. A key feature of EDIS is the development of the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Combined Drought Indicator (CDI).

The CDI combines meteorological, hydrological and agronomic definitions of drought (above) using indexes for rainfall, soil and water, and plant growth. From these, a fourth index, drought direction index (DDI), is developed. EDIS is undergoing redevelopment to provide farmers with world-leading weather and climate data to enable better business decisions.





## Stages of drought

Used together, the indexes of the EDIS indicate the stage of drought. The six stages progress from a non drought category where all indicators suggest good conditions for production to recovery, through to a Drought Affected (weakening or intensifying) category, a Drought category and into Intense Drought. The six stages are shown in Figure 7 below.

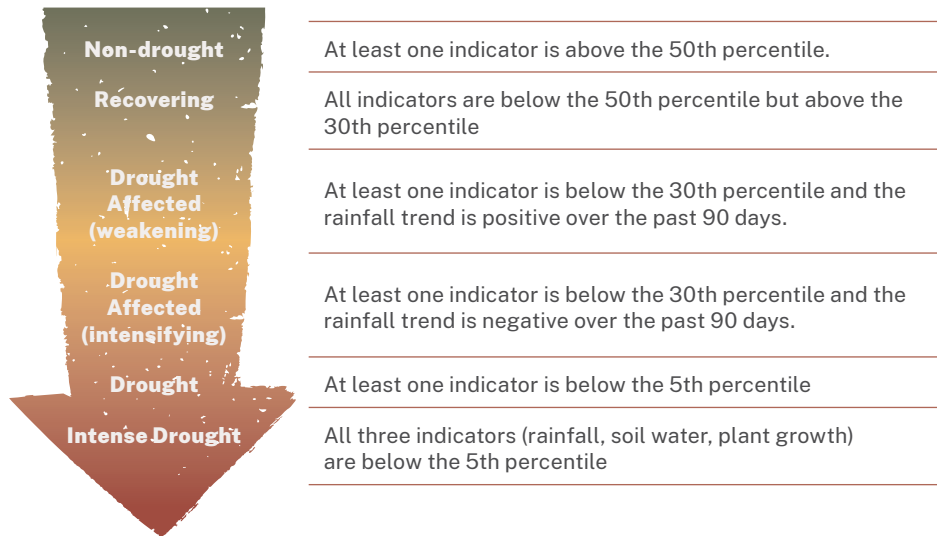


Figure 7 Stages of drought in NSW (NSW Government, 2023)

Complementing the stages is detailed information on:

- the technical and on-the-ground description of typical field conditions.
- a suggested on-farm response and
- a suggested advisory or policy response.

## Historical drought in Coolamon and Junee

Climate anomalies, such as drought, are regularly observed occurrences in southern and inland Australia and Coolamon and Junee are no exception. Throughout the years, Australia has experienced a range of droughts with differing durations and intensities, as outlined in Table 4.

Table 4 Historical droughts which effected Coolamon and Junee (BoM, 2024)

Drought Period	Duration	Characteristics
<b>The Federation Drought</b>	1895-1902	One of Australia's worst droughts. It had far-reaching implications for agriculture, water availability, and the economy.
<b>World War I Drought</b>	1914-1915	Although relatively short, it had a significant impact because the severe drought conditions were occurring simultaneously in both southeastern and southwestern Australia.
<b>World War II Drought</b>	1937-1945	Occurred frequently over eastern Australia, characterised by intense dry spells and breaks, similar to the Federation drought, but with more intermittent dryness. Major driver of the Black Friday bushfires in January 1939.
<b>1965-1968 Drought</b>	1965-1968	Generally dry conditions for Australia, especially severe in NSW.
<b>1982-1983 Drought</b>	1982-1983	One of Australia's most severe droughts in the 20th century, associated with a strong El Nino event.
<b>The Millennium Drought</b>	1997-2009	The region experienced a prolonged dry period which led to water scarcity and agricultural challenges in the Murray-Darling Basin. This drought event was particularly significant because of the contrast with a wet period in northern Australia and its absence of major wet episodes. Figure 3 displays this contrast.
<b>The 2017-2020 Drought</b>	2017-2020	This may have been the first major Australian drought that was impacted by the changing climate, with temperatures higher than ever seen before. The Millennium drought ended with two of the wettest years on record for Australia in 2010-11 (Beard et al., 2011, National Climate Centre and Bureau of Meteorology, 2012).  Following a wet period in 2016, this drought impacted the Murray-Darling Basin, with substantially below-average rainfall in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Soil moisture levels in different regions hit unprecedented lows during this time. It saw the lowest rainfall on record in the Murray-Darling Basin, reduced agricultural output, led to increased food prices, and created tinder dry conditions before the Black Summer fires.







Since the mid-1990s, southeast Australia has experienced a 15% decline in late autumn and early winter rainfall and a 25% decline in average rainfall in April and May (Whetton et al. 2015). The region has also experienced significant warming during the last 50 years (Timbal et al. 2015). This has led to the area experiencing a range of droughts throughout years, with differing durations and intensities. The last two droughts have had a significant impact to Coolamon and Junee LGA's due to both the duration of the Millennium Drought (rainfall deciles shown in Figure 5) and the significant period of below average rainfall to the area in the 2017-2020 drought (shown in Figure 6) which placed the region in the very much below average rainfall range.

The "Millennium Drought" period between 2001-2009 was the worst drought on record for southeast Australia (van Dijk et al., 2013). The region experienced a prolonged dry period which led to water scarcity and agricultural challenges in the Murray Darling basin. This drought event was particularly significant because of the contrast with a wet period in northern Australia and its absence of major wet episodes. The regional GDP of the southern Murray-Darling Basin fell 5.7% between 2007-2008 following the drought, with an expected 6,000 job losses. In southern NSW, job losses in irrigated agriculture varied between 22% and 84%. Tourism to the Murray River region dropped severely. This caused an estimated \$70 million loss to the region's tourism industry. The expected recovery in jobs after the Millennium Drought did not occur, with job losses continuing to occur in many areas according to MDBA analysis.

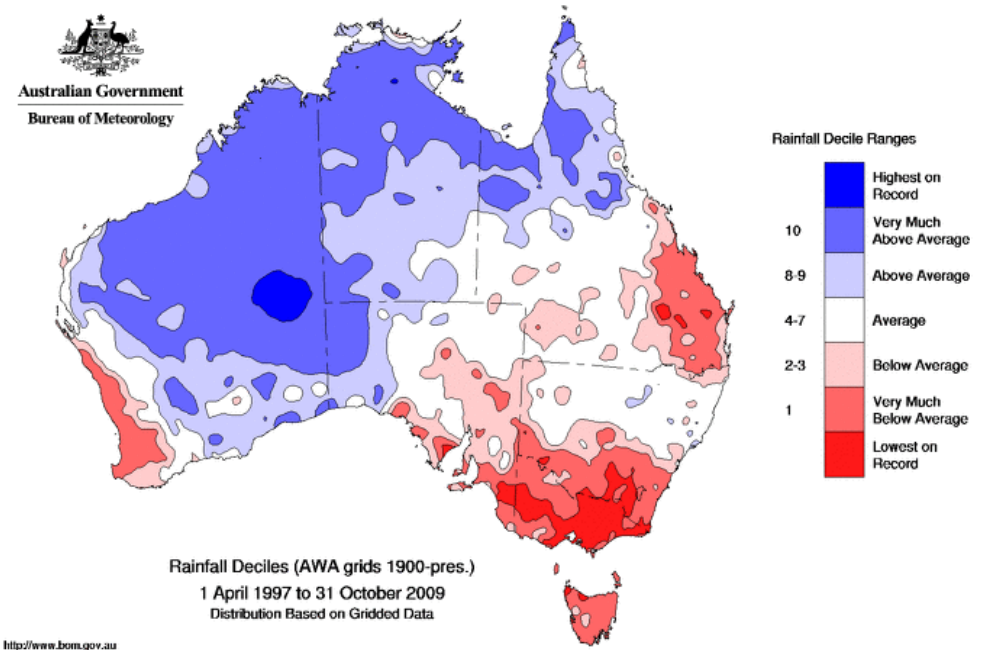


Figure 8 Rainfall deciles in Australia during the Drought (2017 – 2019) (BoM, 2024)

Drought also affects the mental health of people in drought-affected regions. It is linked to increased suicide rates across rural Australia. As drought becomes more severe, the risk of suicide can increase by up to 15% for rural males aged 30 to 49 years (Adapt NSW, n.d.).

The lasting effects of past droughts, including the Millennium Drought, serve as reminders for the need of forward-thinking and strategic planning. Coolamon and Junee hold a pivotal position in Australia's agricultural landscape, contributing significantly to the nation's grain, and livestock production. As such, it is important that these communities are well-prepared and resilient in the face of climate change and drought.

Figure 8 and Figure 9 illustrate the rainfall received during both the millennium drought and the most recent 2017-2020 drought. For Coolamon and Junee this placed their LGA's very much below average rainfall and in some parts the lowest on record.



## Future drought projections

Climate change is making drought conditions in southwest and southeast Australia worse. Climate change has contributed to a southward shift in weather systems that typically bring cool season rainfall to southern Australia. In addition to decreasing rainfall, climate change is driving an increase in the average temperature and in the intensity and frequency of hot days and heatwaves, leading to increased water losses and thus exacerbating drought conditions (Whetton et al. 2015).

There is high confidence that global temperatures will continue to rise for many decades, mainly due to greenhouse gases produced by human activities. This will exacerbate climate extremes already experienced and worsen the duration and effects of drought in Australia.

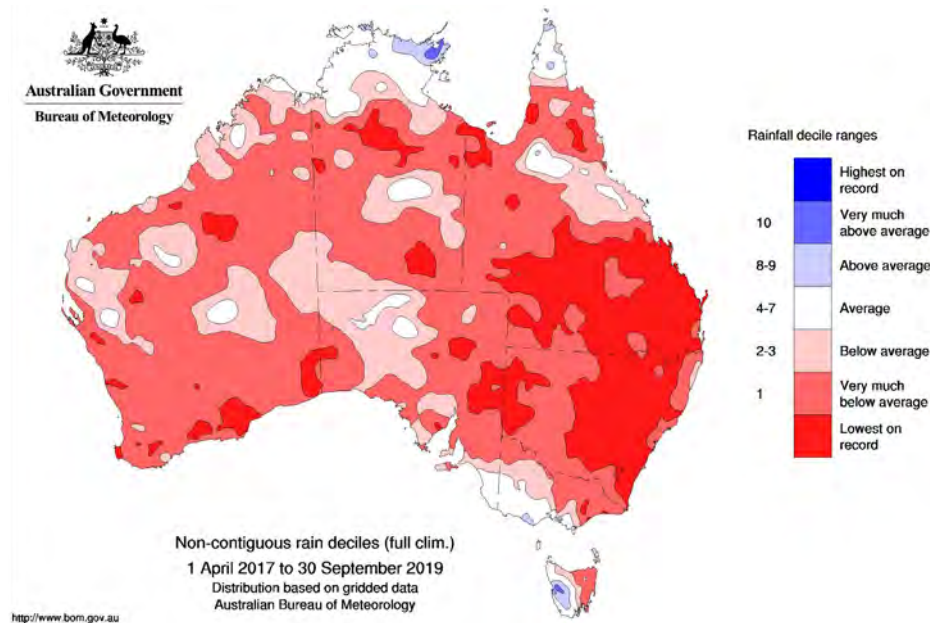


Figure 9 Rainfall deciles in Australia during drought (2017 - 2019) (BoM, 2024)

The CSIRO's My Climate View tool was used to analyse the impact of worsening climate change on temperature and rainfall for the Coolamon and Junee region. Through this tool, we can see how the region's climate is predicted to evolve over time using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) representative concentration pathway (RCP) 8.5. Under this climate change scenario, Coolamon and Junee Shire Council's LGA is predicted to have, on average, a 31% increase in the number of heat damage days above 35°C by 2030 and 70% increase by 2050 illustrated in Figure 9 and Figure 10 (My Climate View, 2023). These figures also present two historical 30-year periods (in purple) to allow comparison across time.

Warmer temperatures are contributing to longer droughts and harsher fire weather. This can make land unsuitable for agriculture, lead to crop stress and attract new pests (that thrive in warmer temperatures) which can impact the yield and quality of key agricultural commodities grown in the region, such as barley and grain. In addition to impacting grain yield, it adversely affects physical grain quality (weight and plumpness) and market value. The incidence of heat stress during grain filling is rising with global warming (Shirdelmoghanloo et al. 2022).

Warmer temperatures and drought are also contributing to animal stress, decreasing production and increasing animal welfare issues. A reduction in winter rainfall leads to a proportionately greater (1.5 to 4 times) reduction in surface water runoff and groundwater recharge (Walker et al. 2021).

Time spent in drought is projected to increase in the future across southern Australia. An analysis of future temperature and rainfall Future climate change projections suggest that the Coolamon and Junee region will experience more time in drought, longer duration of drought and more intense drought (Kirono et al 2020). There is high confidence in decreasing soil moisture in the southern regions (particularly in winter and spring) driven by the projected decrease in rainfall and higher evaporative demand (Timbal et al. 2015). Additionally, the projected increase in Standardised Soil Moisture Index (SSMI) drought metrics is consistent with these projected decreases in seasonal mean of soil moisture, across the region.



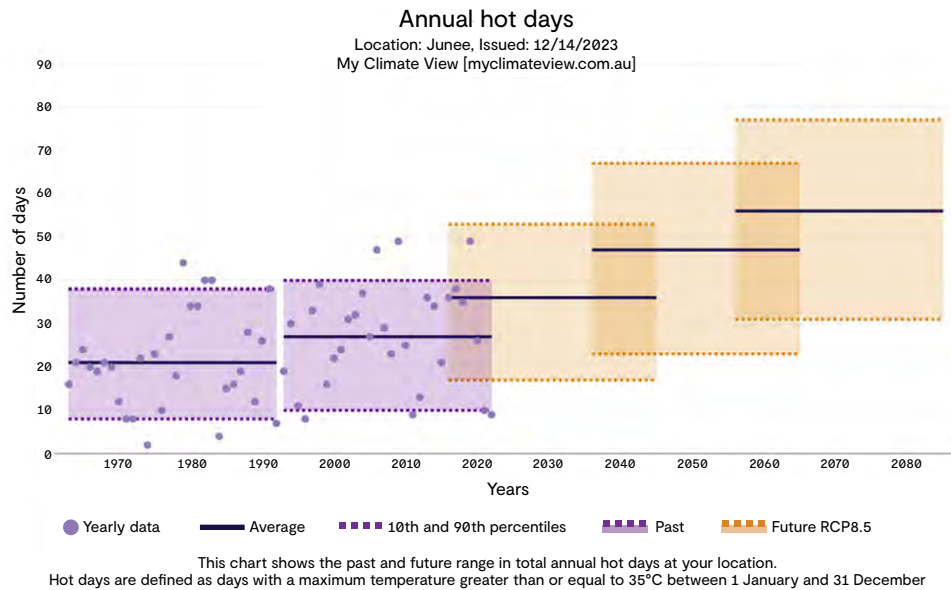


Figure 10 Change in number of hot days across the Junee Shire (My Climate View, 2023)

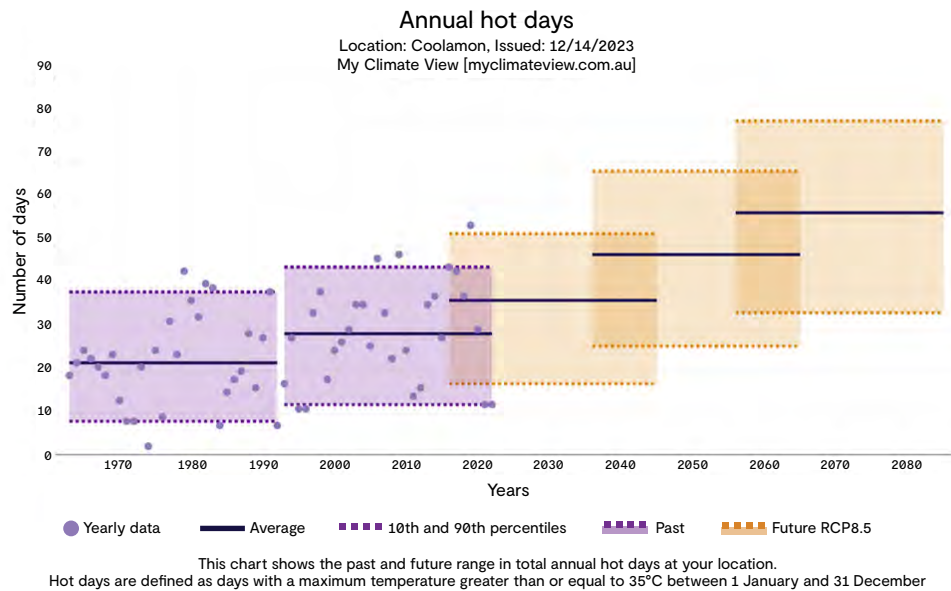
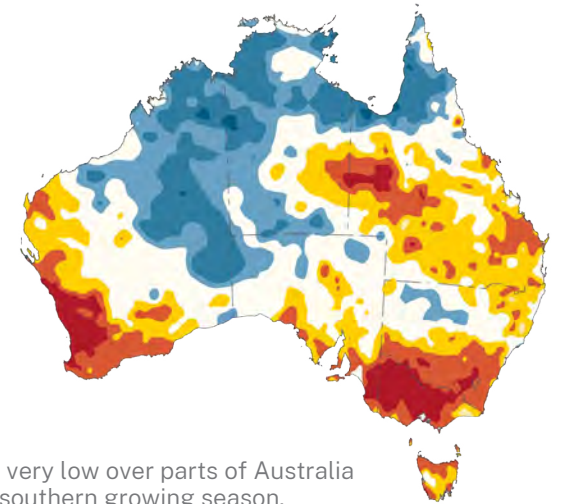
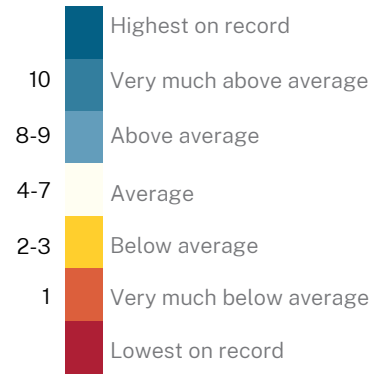


Figure 11 Change in number of hot days across the Coolamon Shire (My Climate View, 2023)



Rainfall has been very low over parts of Australia during the southern growing season.

Figure 12 Southern Australia has experienced a drying trend during the growing season from 1996-2015 (Steffen et al., 2018).

## Regional weather and climate

Australia's natural climate is highly variable and experiences lower average rainfall and higher rainfall variability than most other nations (ABARES, n.d.). Climate change refers to global, long-term shifts in average weather conditions, such as becoming warmer, wetter, or drier over several decades or longer. There is a growing body of evidence that shows Australia's climate has changed and continues to change significantly, particularly driven by the work of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), and NSW Department of Climate Change, the Environment, Energy and Water (DCCEEW) formerly Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). Temperatures in Australia have risen by about 0.9°C since 1910 and there is a high level of scientific confidence that anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are a major driver of this increase in temperature (CSIRO and BoM, 2018).

The Coolamon and Junee LGA's are characterised as a region of "grassland warm" climate. This classification speaks to the prevailing conditions of consistent warmth and aridity. The distribution of rainfall throughout the year is relatively consistent. The lowest temperatures are experienced in July with an average minimum temperature of 3°C. The highest temperatures are experienced in January with an average maximum temperature of 32°C.



The Coolamon and Junee Shires are inherently highly sensitive to the impacts of a changing climate. Climate change and drought are predicted to have the greatest effect due to the regions agricultural dependence. Climate variability effects the Australian agricultural industries through variations in commodity prices, with trends of lower rainfall and drought related to lower farm profits (Hughes et al. 2019).

Recent decades have seen trends towards lower average winter season rainfall in the southwest and southeast of Australia (Hughes et al. 2019). This reduced rainfall in the winter will have a direct impact on winter variety crop yields including Coolamon and Junee’s wheat, barley and canola crops which form the three largest gross value commodity products.

Utilising projections from Murray Basin Cluster report (Whetton et al, 2015), the My Climate View Tool (My Climate View, 2023), and Kirono et. al. 2020, the following findings relating to critical drought indices are presented:

Critical variables	Details
<b>Average temperature</b>	Average temperatures will continue to increase in all seasons (very high confidence) By late in the century (2090), for a high emission scenario (RCP8.5) the projected range of warming is 2.7 to 4.5 °C.
<b>Extreme temperature</b>	More hot days and warm spells are projected with very high confidence. Frost risk days (minimum temperatures under 2 °C) are projected to decrease across the cluster (high confidence), and could halve by late in the century.
<b>Average rainfall</b>	<p>Less rainfall is projected during the cool season, with high confidence in 2090.</p> <p>There is medium confidence that rainfall will remain unchanged in the warm season. For the near future natural variability is projected to dominate any projected changes.</p> <p>The magnitude of projected changes for late in the century (2090) span approximately -40 to +5 percent in winter and -15 to +25 percent in summer for a high emissions case (RCP8.5).</p>
<b>Intense rainfall events</b>	High confidence that the intensity of heavy rainfall events will increase

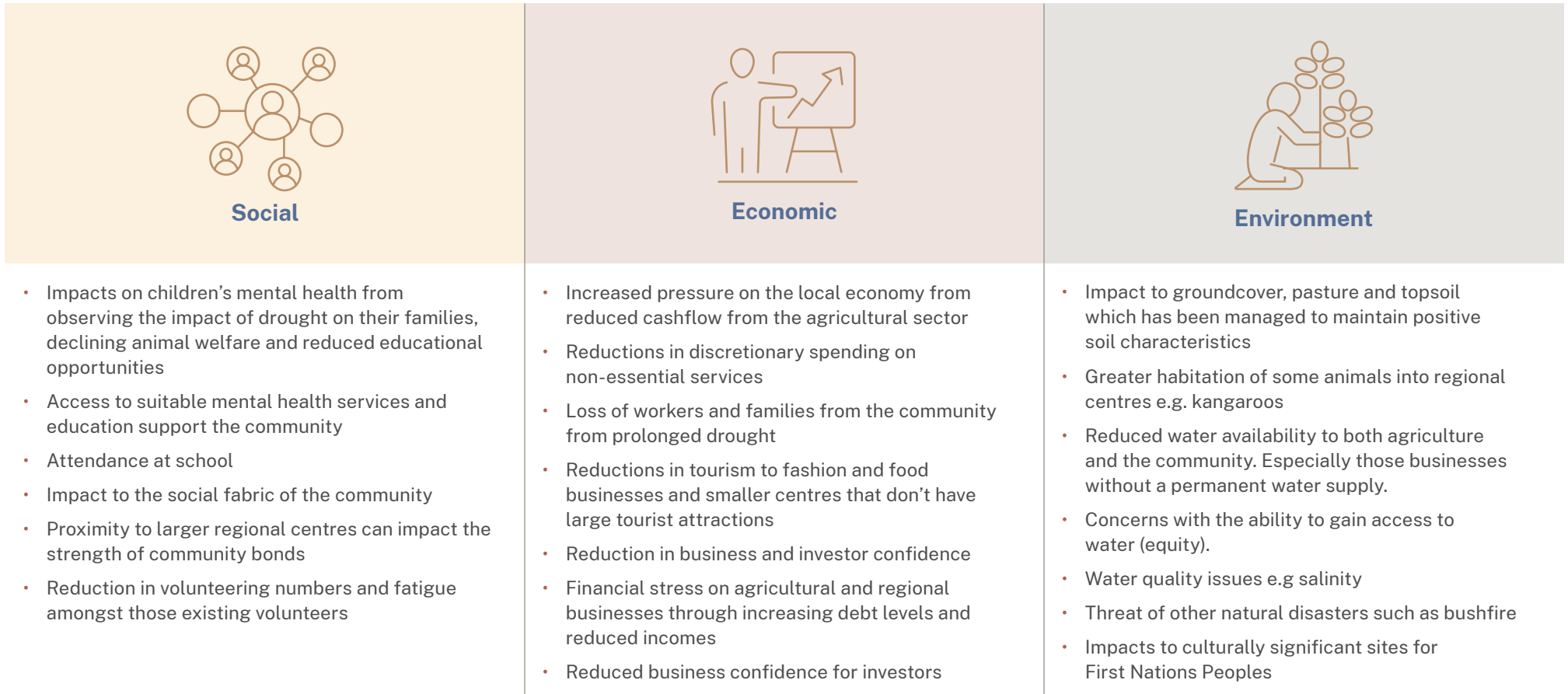
<b>Evapotranspiration</b>	Projections for potential evapotranspiration indicate increases in all seasons, with largest absolute rates projected with high confidence in summer by 2090.
<b>Standardised Soil Moisture Index (SSMI)</b>	There is high confidence in decreasing soil moisture in the southern regions (particularly in winter and spring) driven by the projected decrease in rainfall and higher evaporative demand (tech report). Changes are larger in 2090, with simulated decreases of up to 15 % in winter in Southern Australia.
<b>Percent time spent in drought and extreme drought (Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI) is less than -1) (calculated as the fraction of the time in drought over a given period)</b>	There is medium confidence that the time spent in meteorological drought will increase.
<b>Drought and extreme drought duration (defined as the number of events in a given period)</b>	For drought duration, little change is projected in moderate and severe drought but an increase for duration in extreme drought.
<b>Drought and extreme drought frequency (measures the average length (in months) of drought events in a given period)</b>	There is medium confidence that the frequency of extreme drought, will increase over the course of century under RCP8.5.
<b>Drought and extreme drought intensity (reflects the average of cumulative SPI or SSMI from all events. The more negative the value the more intense the event.)</b>	The multi-model median indicated that under climate change, Australia will spend more intense drought, particularly across southern and eastern Australia.





## Summary of drought related impacts

Throughout the consultation and the broader community engagement a range of drought related impacts were identified that specifically detail those impacts that have been felt most acutely in the Shires of Coolamon and Junee. The following Figure 13 details these impacts.

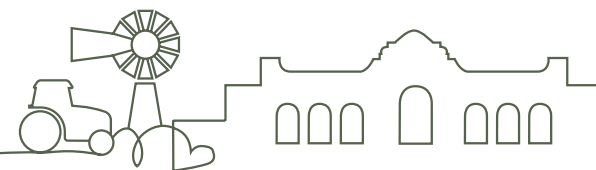


**Figure 13** Summary of the key social, economic and environmental impacts experienced in the Coolamon and Junee region during the past drought- infographic to be updated



# 04

## Resilience in the local region



# Local stories of resilience

The communities of Coolamon and Junee have forged their own pathways to improve their resilience. The following case studies have been developed to showcase the activities and initiatives across the LGA's.

## Case Study – Active Farmers



Source: Goulburn Post, 2020

Active farmers are a not-for-profit that deploy a personal training network across rural Australia to involve farmers and other rural residents in fitness programs. The vision of the organisation is to 'build stronger and more resilient farming communities,' through captivating attendees with a 'team sport effect.' Illabo, Eurongilly and Ganmain all have recurring active farmers classes.

The fitness sessions have been running in the region for over five years showing it to be sustainably successful. Both farmers and other community members attend the sessions although it varies across the year, reflecting different seasonal requirements for farming.

The provision of this non-for-profit service was possible through the support of sponsors and grants, along with fees for classes by participants. The classes have received feedback from the Coolamon and Junee region that they provide a fantastic opportunity to interact with others and overcome the isolation that becomes prevalent in rural communities in times of hardship. A notable example of building resilience through increased community interaction.

The programs operating in the Coolamon and Junee region aim to create greater awareness to reach more parts of the community in coming years.

## Case study – Junee Business and Trades



Source: Southern Cross newspaper, 2019

In Junee Shire, partnerships are regarded as a key to future prosperity. These can take the shape of long-term partnerships such as working with Junee Business and Trades across areas of promotion, project specific, strengthening business to business relationships or advocating for work experience and educational opportunities made available.

Junee Business and Trade initiated networks opportunities in the form of Tradie's Breakfasts when large scale construction projects and planned within the Shire. One such example involved 55 local business and tradespeople taking up the opportunity to meet the principal contractor of the Junee Correction Centre expansion project (\$150M) to gain first-hand understanding of how local business could engage with project.





## Case study - Junee Volunteer Summit



Source: stephcooke.com.au, 2021

Prior to the COVID pandemic, 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. Feedback from the day praised the organiser,

**"It was wonderful to see so many local faces young and old."**

This summit provides opportunities for community capacity building and highlights how regular attention to volunteer networks is necessary.

The pandemic dramatically effected community volunteers and sporting groups. However, one initiative initiated during the pandemic was regular round table meets online to provide support and assistance. This initiative continued after the pandemic to provide ongoing support for respective members.

In addition, during the pandemic free online fitness classes were organised and offered by staff at the Junee Recreation and Aquatic Centre.

## Case Study – Blokes in the Kitchen (Ganmain)



The Ganmain local community took initiative-taking measures to launch the '**Blokes in the Kitchen**' initiative. With the support of a \$3,000 grant, the community orchestrated an 8-week program to address both social isolation and nutritional challenges faced by farmers, particularly during peak agricultural working seasons where farmers are time-poor.

Sessions were facilitated by guest nutritionists and chefs, aiming to address nutritional concerns and also foster culinary skills and an awareness of eating fresh produce.

Upon the conclusion of the grant, participants expressed a collective commitment to sustaining the momentum. Monthly gatherings continued, and a collaborative effort emerged, with individuals contributing to shared meals. Additionally, the decision by the Advance Ganmain Committee to waive access fees to the hall provided a supportive environment for the initiative's longevity.





The enduring success of '**Blokes in the Kitchen**' serves as a testament to the impact of modest initial funding and the intrinsic leadership within the community. This initiative not only alleviated immediate challenges but also cultivated a sense of collective responsibility, showing the powerful role of grassroots efforts in addressing the multifaceted needs of rural communities.





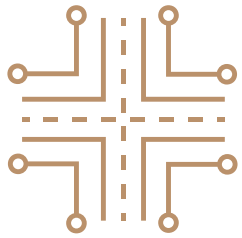
## What we heard

Consultation was undertaken in the LGA's of Coolamon and Junee which provided clear insights into how previous droughts have impacted the community and the issues faced. Some key themes emerged; these are presented below with an overview of the main comments heard.

Key themes	Responses	Key themes	Responses
<p><b>A sustainable region and a healthy and protected environment that efficiently utilises its natural resources</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Promote natural assets:</b> The regions natural assets should be promoted to help enhance tourism prospects and attract people to live and stay. These assets need to be maintained and protected.</li> <li>- <b>Resource efficiency:</b> continued education on water efficiency measures and sustainable resource use is required to ensure the health of the environment.</li> <li>- <b>Governance systems:</b> Sustainability thinking to be embedded in all actions to help improve health and wellbeing of the community and the environment.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Diverse and prosperous economy</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Economic Diversification:</b> Investment in industries and businesses beyond agriculture that support the local community is a priority. This will assist with building resilience into the local economy.</li> <li>- <b>Supporting local:</b> Community festivals, agricultural shows and markets are seen as pivotal in bolstering resilience beyond the farm gate and into the community.</li> <li>- <b>Collaborative Efforts:</b> Partnerships which encourage businesses from within the region to share, learn and mentor and provides a network to discuss common challenges.</li> </ul>
<p><b>A resilient and innovative agricultural sector</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Secure Agricultural Water:</b> Having guaranteed access to water and maintaining water security during times of drought is a critical concern and is essential for continued agricultural and industry success.</li> <li>- <b>Streamlined Funding and Forward Planning:</b> The Coolamon and Junee Communities expressed a strong need for local and State Governments to provide clear funding processes and long-term planning assistance/ guidance and see this as critical for ensuring the longevity of agriculture in the area. State Government relief mechanisms such as tax relief, low-interest loans for infrastructure, and containment areas were seen as important supports.</li> </ul>	<p><b>A strong and collaborative community</b></p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Community Clubs and Social Projects:</b> Local clubs and social initiatives play a pivotal role in fostering community wellbeing and cultural cohesion. Maintaining sporting areas is vitally important as these places provide reprieve from drought and bring Youth and other facets of the community together.</li> <li>- <b>Mental Health Services:</b> Accessible mental health services are seen as a high priority. However, mental health advice is not always given from professionals and therefore more mental first aid training is needed for adjacent industries. As noted in the case studies, a number of initiatives have been founded with the aim of improving community cohesion and mental health overall.</li> </ul>



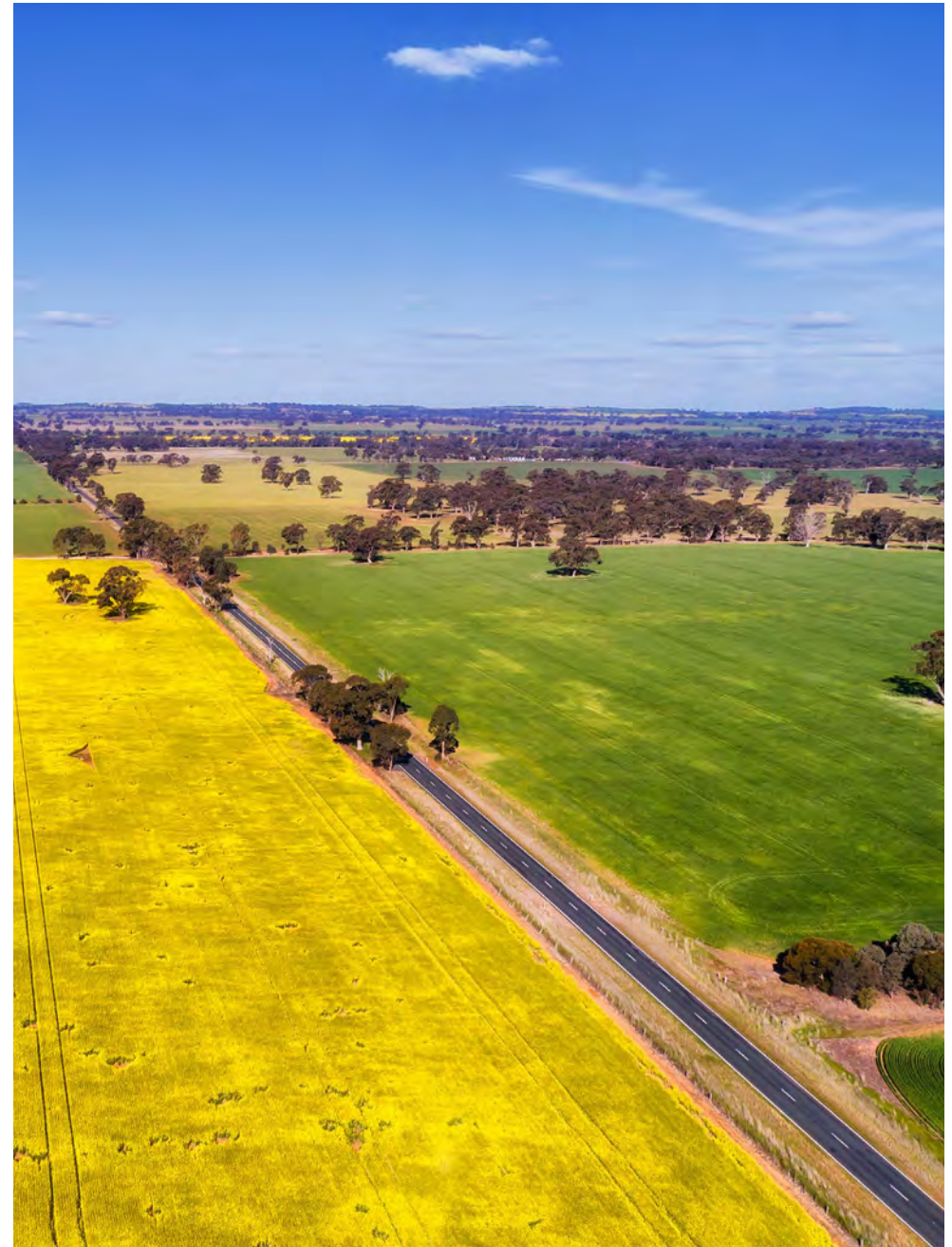
## Strong infrastructure and transport networks



- **Rail and transport networks:** The desire to maximise the use of the regions rail networks and roads to benefit the economy and provide suitable transport solutions that meet the community needs.
- **Business Estate:** Attracting new businesses to the recently built Coolamon Business Park will create employment opportunities and encourage new families to live and work in the region.
- **Water Infrastructure:** Enhancements to water capture and storage were advocated for. Some improvements to the distribution system were noted as required. Use of wastewater water has extended the longevity of sporting precincts and parks.

Based on the valuable insights gathered from extensive community engagement, it is evident that the communities' future vision revolves around effective water management, fostering a diversified and resilient economy, and strengthening community bonds and overall wellbeing. The expressed concerns about water allocation and security emphasise the importance of this resource for a prosperous agricultural industry in this region.

Diversification strategies were emphasised as essential for economic resilience during drought. To achieve these goals, simplifying funding application processes, boosting educational initiatives, and promoting cross-community collaboration are crucial steps. By addressing these key areas, the region can work toward securing its agricultural prosperity, nurturing community wellbeing, and fostering economic resilience, ultimately creating a more sustainable and vibrant future for all residents.



## Initiatives refinement

Following community consultation, the ideas and initiatives from both the regional literature and consultation were collated.

The investment logic from the QLD Business Case Development Framework was used as a means to refine the options for inclusion in the plan. This process included:

1. **Development of a problem statement**
2. **A series of key questions as summarised below**
3. **Assessment**
4. **Validation**

### 1: Problem Statement

Regional economies will continue to be impacted by droughts, which are predicted to become more frequent and severe into the future. Drought Resilience Plans are required to identify the steps which communities should take to mitigate these impacts.

Drought Resilience Plans should be developed by small consortia of local government working together so that they are actionable and relevant to individual communities.

### 2: Key Questions

- **Impact:**  
How are Coolamon and Junee impacted by Drought? Which impacts are most acute?
- **Actions:**  
What actions or initiatives could local government support to build the region's drought resilience?
- **Concept:**  
What is the anticipated scope of the identified action?
- **Benefit:**  
How will the action benefit the region?
- **Prioritise:**  
How feasible is the action and is there a level of shovel-readiness? Do Councils' have the capacity and influence to undertake the action?

### 3: Assessment

Through the SRG, the top impacts under each theme were confirmed and rated as low, medium, or high impact to their respective LGAs. Each idea and initiative (potential actions) were coded with this information. A score relating to the relative level of Council influence and the feasibility of implementation (how shovel-ready the idea was) was given. In this way, each initiative had a score which enabled the prioritisation of ideas.

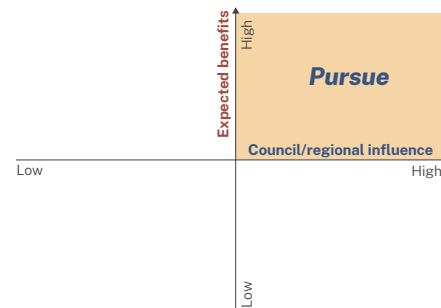


Figure 14 Assessment matrix

Initiatives were considered best suited to the plan where the benefit of the action was high and Councils have the greatest level of influence (Figure 14).

### 4: Validation

Following initial assessment, several questions were considered to further refine the initiatives and prioritise them.

- Does the identified action/initiative align with Councils' general strategic direction?
- Does the action align with the resilience pillars and framework?
- **Beneficiaries**  
what are and who receives the expected benefits of the action?
- **Ease of implementation**  
is there a need for significant regulatory, political or legal changes?
- **Timeliness**  
How long will the action take to complete?
- **Financial**  
Is there funding available and what is the cost? What is the source of funding and who will pay?

The SRG was involved in validating the assessment and prioritised actions.





## Case Study – Brill Ag (Ganmain)



**Brill Ag** is a farming and agronomy business at Ganmain that focuses on research and development coupled with direct farm consultancy. Much of the research has been undertaken in conjunction with the Grains Research Development Corporation and is focused on developing practical outcomes for the region and includes advances in pulse agronomy, canola establishment and cereal and canola disease management.

An open field day is run annually to demonstrate the cropping research being conducted and its practical outcomes. With insights from his own business, Rohan leads the field day with the assistance of expert speaks. This day brings together many from around the Ganmain area with close to 100 attendees.

## Case Study – Partnerships for sustainable agricultural practices (Junee)



Source: [groundcover.grdc.com.au](http://groundcover.grdc.com.au), 2022

**The Lord family** manage a 2,200-hectare mixed operations farm near Junee. A key component of their operations is farming faba beans; however, its crop productivity took a significant hit because of a shift in their long-standing lime incorporation practice. This resulted in moderate to severe sub-surface acidity at 20cm thus affecting the faba bean crop. The limitations of the faba bean were revealed in an investigation by the NSW Department of Primary Industries. They identified poor root growth and that susceptibility to root disease worsened when reaching the acidic layers 5-10cm in depth.

The limited root growth and poor nodulation observed in faba beans not only constrains nitrogen fixation but also compromises the crop's ability to withstand drought conditions. Addressing this issue is crucial for drought resilience and this is exactly what the Lord's did. By rectifying sub-surface acidity through revised lime incorporation tactics, the Lords enhanced the farm's resilience to drought. Improving the faba bean's ability to withstand extended periods of water scarcity, supports sustainable crop growth. This family's adaptive approach not only ensures the health of their crops but also underscores the interconnected relationship between soil management practices and the broader goal of building agricultural resilience in the face of variable climate conditions.



## Case Study - Drought funding uplifts community (Junee)

## Case Study: Agricultural diversification (Ardlethan)



Source: [www.weedsmart.org.au](http://www.weedsmart.org.au), 2017

In 2020, Junee Council received \$1 million from the Federal Drought Communities Program, an initiative aimed at alleviating economic strain in drought-affected regions. Allocated to stimulate local spending, the funds provided extensive public benefit. With seventy-four percent of the allocation spent within a 50km radius, there is a clear commitment to local resources. Engaging local contractors and suppliers not only boosted the economy but also uplifted the agricultural community's spirits, previously burdened by prolonged drought conditions.

To ensure rural communities reaped the benefits of completed projects, respective locations spread across the rural areas of the Junee Local Government Area. With key successes including establishing all-ability access in various villages, reflecting a commitment to inclusivity. In this respective project forty individuals were employed by contractors, providing a substantial economic stimulus.

**Lou and Charlie Clemson** are 6th generation farmers who run mixed farming enterprises with two of their properties located in Ardlethan in the Coolamon Shire. They have seen it through tough years in their last 30 years of farming. It was in the 2013 droughts, which saw the Clemson's adopt more effective methods in the use their property.

By using government drought assistance and their own resources the Clemson's sought to create a laneway through the middle of their 200ha property. This laneway allows the movement of their stock through the cropping area and allowed the Clemson's to better sell their cropping country. Thus, creating confinement areas with troughed water and feeders to aid the breeding of cattle.

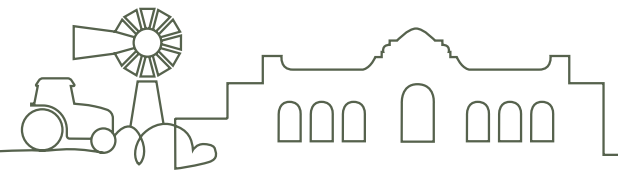
Teaming up with Coolamon butcher, Wag Snag sausages are made free from antibiotics and pesticides. This new channel of Clemson's farming enterprise, stemming from the struggles of the 2013 droughts has added profitable value to the business.





# 05

## Drought Resilience Actions



# Drought Resilience Actions

The themes, actions and initiatives detailed in this plan have been captured from conversations with the community, local knowledge of the region and policy, planning documents and programs that have been developed through various organisations both Commonwealth, State and local level.

Resilience actions are usually targeted across three areas. These include:

1. The individual decisions made on how to respond to drought.
2. Options within the existing regulations and policies.
3. Changing the existing regulation and policies to enable larger more impactful change.

The actions identified within this plan are aimed at working within the first two areas.

## What has already been done to build drought resilience

Throughout the years extreme weather events, including droughts, have driven the communities of Coolamon and Junee to take action to improve their resilience to these events. The actions implemented within the community have supported improvements in social, economic, and environmental resilience to drought.

Some of the initiatives led by the community include:

- Active Farmers in Ganmain and Illabo, which has been established with the aim of “building stronger and more resilient farming communities” through regular fitness classes that are run in a fun and interactive manner and create a sense of community and belonging. See the case study in Section 4.2 for more details of the Illabo active farmers group.
- Junee Shire Council’s construction of concrete ‘v’ drains in the Junee urban area has improved water quality by 12% since their installation by eliminating the ability of the high salinity runoff/stormwater to infiltrate the groundwater.
- Coolamon Shire Council increased their wastewater storage facilities through an upgrade to the Kindra Park Sporting Complex and an additional storage at the Showground which has saved 34ML of water per year.
- Agricultural enterprises have adopted innovative production techniques within their cropping and livestock businesses to great effect in terms of weed management and reducing reliance on herbicides.

Throughout the development of this plan, resilience building actions and initiatives the community have identified as positive are listed below:

- Illabo Showground Combined User Group were able to develop a strategy for the future sustainability of the grounds.
- Junee Business and Trades were able to employ a part-time grants officer to provide support.
- Junee Community Centre were able to continue to support the community by subsidising the centre manager role to support organisational governance, partnerships, and strategy development.
- Junee Business and Trades have been building community resilience and supporting the development of local community networks by conducting a series of workshops and/or presentations in the Junee Shire, and employing a part-time Community Liaison Officer.
- Coolamon Shire Council provided a series of Big Dreams, Small Business training for local community members to discover new sources of income through the facilitation of free micro-business and events management workshops.
- It was noted that tax relief / farm management deposits/ water and freight subsidies for agricultural businesses are helpful however effectiveness is dependent on the timeliness and accessibility.
- Use of agricultural by-products for sustainable housing.
- Upgrade of road networks to support high-capacity vehicles. This will support product distribution (economic resilience).

The actions to be progressed from this Plan can be found in the following sections.





## Theme 1

# A sustainable region and a healthy and protected environment



In creating a sustainable region and a healthy environment, this Plan seeks to ensure that local resources are used efficiently, climate change impacts are understood, and adaptations put in place. Planning and management practices assist in reducing community impact on the natural environment and protect biodiversity.

## Sub-theme: Water

The importance of maintaining a healthy and protected environment was identified throughout the consultation, especially when it relates to the protection of the natural environment. This includes:

- Addressing water issues, especially around security and equity.
- Promoting sustainable use of water within the community.
- Maintaining and protecting the region's groundcover.
- Promoting biodiversity and focusing on targeted and consistent pest management.

There are competing uses of the region's environmental resources. These range from agriculture, tourism, recreation, and cultural activities, all of which encompass a great range of stakeholders with varying needs and priorities and are greatly impacted by drought.

## Actions

- Increase the use of wastewater to maintain greenspaces such as parks, gardens and recreational areas.
- Increase water education within the community including showcasing some of the local businesses such as the Junee Prime Lamb Abattoirs which have adopted water efficiency measures.

## Key outcomes

- The use of wastewater reduces the reliance on potable water.
- Increased community awareness of the efficient use of water.
- Education to the region's industries to plan and adapt their businesses for reduced water availability.

## Pillars of Resilience



### Social

Provides spaces for the community to gather and increases education and knowledge of efficient water use.



### Economic

Use of wastewater reduces Council and community costs.



### Environmental

Allows green spaces to be maintained without increasing pressure on natural waterways.

## Resilience Framework

Resilience Framework principles that apply:

<b>Resist</b>	System is better able to withstand drought impacts.
<b>Transform</b>	Encourages the community to adapt their behaviour following greater awareness of water use.
<b>Adapt</b>	Greater education and awareness of water restrictions and the triggers around this can help business within the region better plan for reductions in water availability.
<b>Absorb</b>	Increased knowledge provides greater opportunities to anticipate and plan for suitable water infrastructure.



## Implementation




1. The Shires of Coolamon and Junee should collaborate with Goldenfields Water to promote and expand the existing water saving and efficiency education.
2. A Water Education and Awareness Plan should be developed to expand the promotion and awareness of the existing water efficiency messaging for the community including education on drought management plans.
3. The Water Education and Awareness Plan should consist of community, school and business information sessions. The aim would be to demonstrate water efficiency, improved use of greywater and deliver an understanding of the triggers in Goldenfields Water Drought Management Plan and how this practically aligns with potential water restrictions for businesses in times of drought.

Promotional information can be developed to support schools to deliver the messaging on a class-by-class or more personalised level.

This education can be extended to include increased information on water sharing plans, compliance requirements and water entitlement and allocation to support those with licensed water entitlements.

As a part of these information sessions for the community and business. DPI, DCCEEWS and Local Land Services (LLS) could attend to attendance to provide information on opportunities for the regions industry to improve water security through infrastructure upgrades e.g. National Water Grid.

## Delivery

Lead Agency	Partners
Coolamon and Junee Shire Councils with Goldenfields Water	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEWS); Local Land Services; DPI; WaterNSW; Education providers in the communities; Local business community and the regions industry e.g. Junee Correctional Facility; water licence holders.
Finance 	Supported by existing Council and Goldenfields Water staff to develop a Water Education and Awareness Plan (WEAP) - approximately \$20K for plan development.
Timeframe 	In the short-term the WEAP can be developed and implemented along with educational material that supports the delivery of the water messaging. The information sessions would need to be run annually to bi-annually to encourage behaviours change and continued awareness of the messaging.
Measure of Success 	Declining instances of non-compliance with water licences as reported by the Natural Resources Access Regulator.  Green spaces maintained year-round (report on number of complaints).  Water use per person remains constant or reduces.



## Sub-theme: The Environment

Maintaining a well-protected environment has many benefits for the community. It helps to maintain biodiversity and attract wildlife, along with maintaining groundcover and reducing erosion. The region hosts several Landcare groups who work to improve the environment for their communities. The Kindra State Forest is a key environmental attraction in the region and protection of the environment is a priority for both Councils.

### Actions

- Investigate the formation of a Landcare network that brings together the smaller Landcare groups in the region and provides an opportunity to learn from, work together, and progress common challenges. This creates an opportunity to collaborate on projects that focus on improving the local environment (such as restoring wetlands) that create a sense of place and attract local and regional visitors.
- Consider options to incorporate more drought tolerant parks and gardens in future council planning.
- Collaborate with local environmental groups such as Landcare, DPI and LLS to promote the natural environment, biodiversity and flora and fauna in with region.
- Increase biodiversity by focusing on targeted and consistent pest management and considering non-traditional methods e.g. bio-control.

### Key outcomes

- Bring together a collective of like-minded people to deliver enhancements to the natural environment that support the needs of the Coolamon and Junee communities.
- Develop regional capacity to be able to deliver projects of mutual benefit.
- Improve the region’s biodiversity and environmental resilience.

### Pillars of Resilience



#### Social

Building community and regional connection through sharing of environmental knowledge and working together.



#### Economic

An enhanced natural environment contributes to the attractiveness of the region as a tourist destination.



#### Environmental

Increased capacity of local Landcare to support regional environmental initiatives.

### Resilience Framework

The following table identifies the key Resilience Framework principles that are relevant to this theme and the actions.



<b>Learning and adapting</b>	Allows sharing of knowledge and experience across communities.
<b>Diversity</b>	Provides for a variety of differing experience and skills to solve mutual problems.
<b>Inclusivity</b>	Creates shared ownership, vision, and enables high levels of connectivity between different communities.
<b>Effective</b>	Effective engagement across communities that promotes transparency, inclusivity and place-based approaches.



## Implementation

1. Coolamon Landcare supported by Local Land Services and the National Landcare Network is to approach the other regional Landcare organisations to gauge interest in regional networking and collaboration on joint opportunities and projects.
2. Upon obtaining consensus, LLS is to facilitate a workshop to assist the group in identifying joint priorities and a schedule/calendar of networking opportunities.
3. To progress joint actions, the newly formed group should look to collaborate with LLS and the National Landcare Network to support project planning and identifying funding opportunities.
4. This newly formed group should connect with local Councils and the business community on grant writing assistance and opportunities.

## Delivery

Lead Agency	Partners
Coolamon Landcare Group; Local Land Services; National Landcare Network Australia	June Regenerative Landcare Inc; June Area Landcare Group; Mid-Billabong Landcare Group; Ganmain Urban Landcare Group; Local Landcare Services along with other associated groups in the broader region.
Finance 	NSW Landcare Enabling Program 2023-2027, NSW Government has committed \$59 million to Landcare and Landcare activities in NSW.
Timeframe 	Short-term to make an approach across the 5 local Landcare networks. Medium term to deliver projects/collaborations for the region.
Measure of Success 	Deliver one collaboration between the newly formed Landcare network that demonstrates benefit from an agreed Monitoring Evaluation and Reporting Framework perspective.





## Theme 2 Agriculture



A resilient and innovative agricultural sector that is supported by a skilled workforce.

For many years, primary producers have sought to prepare and adapt to the varying climatic conditions faced within their business. Agricultural businesses are largely self-empowered to find ways in which to improve their own circumstances and build their resilience. This has occurred through a range of activities mostly focused on innovative changes to agricultural production systems and has been driven by a focus on research, development and extension activities.

Adoption of new practices is a key challenge and is limited by a range of factors including finances, risk perceptions and understanding what options are available for producers to consider. Greater knowledge sharing and connection between the innovative resilience work being conducted by research organisations and farming communities would assist in improving resilience in the sector. Many of the primary producers in the Coolamon and Junee Shire's are mixed farmers, which is a natural way to diversify and therefore improves overall resilience to shocks and stresses.

### Actions

- Support and promote innovation and research, development and extension activities that are being conducted that improve drought resilience/ understanding and provide practical production solutions to adopt new agricultural technology and modernise farming systems e.g. drought tolerant crop varieties and more efficient animal husbandry practices. Working with regional agricultural service providers to translate agricultural information and knowledge that addresses local needs. Better sharing of information between primary producers regarding management practices e.g. weed and soil management.
- Investigate opportunities for local agricultural enterprises to collaborate with industry to develop more relevant region-specific research and development.
  - Collaborating with the GRDC to bring more regional-specific research and development projects to the region.
- Early and improved messaging around drought that monitors early drought indicators (work being done by University of Canberra) and that translate information into plain English that can be understood by the broader community.

- Create opportunities for primary producers within the region to form networks to discuss common challenges. This also includes supporting youth in agriculture, and providing leadership and networking opportunities.
  - Referral to external resources such as DPI Young Farmer Program, Local Land Services Drought Adoption Officers, Rural Financial Counselling Service.
- Building local food networks between producers and local consumers that focus on fair pricing, value-adding, and further opportunities to sell direct to the consumer.
- Support local agricultural businesses to discuss options with the regional water supply authority to improve water equity.
- Investigate alternate workforce models for sharing of labour amongst farm businesses.
- Continue to build quality fodder reserves to support livestock businesses within the region that support pre-planning and increased storage capacity.
- Consider options to support early adopters of new technologies and innovations e.g. new/ emerging crops that require separate or new storage.
- Promote the success stories of resilient agricultural practices within the region to increase investor confidence.

### Key outcomes

- Brings together like-minded people to solve similar challenges and builds leadership in young farmers.
- Increased uptake of innovative/ new agricultural practices helps to deliver better outcomes for the environment.
- Increases overall business resilience by planning and adapting to climatic conditions.



## Pillars of Resilience



### Social

Improved networking fosters social connection.



### Economic

Improves business continuity through pre-planning and adoption of innovative practices.



### Environmental

Reduces the impact on the environment, through maintaining groundcover, good soils and improved pest management, and at times enhancing biodiversity.

## Resilience Framework

The following table identifies the key Resilience Framework principles that are relevant to this theme and the actions.

<b>Learning</b>	Creates an opportunity to share knowledge and build networks to tackle problems together.
<b>Resist</b>	Changing systems as a result of better knowledge allows agricultural businesses to better withstand drought.
<b>Recover</b>	Farming systems that adapt and continually improve (based on research outcomes) will be able to recover from drought more quickly.
<b>Transform</b>	Many of these options seek to transform the way production occurs through adopting drought tolerant varieties and making on-farm improvements.

## Implementation

To be determined by lead agency and partners.

## Delivery

### Partners

Department of Primary Industries, Local Land Services; Grains and Research Development Corporation and other research agencies; NSW Farmers Federation; Local Agricultural Service Providers; Goldenfields Water; Southern Innovation Hub.



## Theme 3

# Diverse and prosperous economy



A robust local industry that is supported, heritage assets that are protected, and tourism that is promoted, to encourage local employment opportunities.

### Sub-theme: Business attraction

The communities of Coolamon and Junee are predominantly agricultural-based centres but they also rely on agricultural service suppliers, tourism, logistics and export, rail, and public administration and safety.

The recent development of the Coolamon Business Park is one action taken to attract new business to the community and diversify the regions industry and economic base.

Community engagement highlighted the importance of supporting both agriculture and industry within the region. It was also noted that at times the proximity to a larger regional centre (Wagga Wagga) can serve to be a detriment to smaller communities and make it more difficult to attract opportunities.

### Actions

- Develop a business plan to attract the desired businesses and industry to the Coolamon and Junee Shires. This will allow a greater diversity in the community's industries and services.

### Key outcomes

- Builds diversity in the community and local economy by attracting new industries and businesses.

## Pillars of Resilience



### Social

Enhances the relationship between community and local government and increases diversity within local communities.



### Economic

Provides stimulation for the local economy, supports tourism and attracts new forms of income to the region.



### Environmental

N/A

## Resilience Framework

The following table identifies the key Resilience Framework principles that apply:

<b>Diversity</b>	Attracting new businesses and industry to the region provides more diverse communities and economies that are then more likely to be able to respond to changing circumstances.
<b>Resist</b>	A more diverse economic base provides greater resilience and ability to withstand shocks and stressors.
<b>Thrive</b>	Broadening the industry within the region will allow the community to maintain their livelihoods during drought periods.
<b>Effective</b>	Providing a bespoke plan to meet the community need and help develop the region.

## Implementation

1. The Councils, with the assistance of their Economic Development Officers or a consultant, should consider designing and documenting a Business Attraction Plan to attract new businesses to the Coolamon Business Park and to the Junee Shire. This plan will focus on industry that creates diversity within the community along with meeting the needs of the community. The plan will build on the existing work that has been completed to attract new industry to the region and seek to identify potential target businesses/industries to approach.
2. The Councils should engage with DRNSW to understand what opportunities are available to them given their proximity to the Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct and how DRNSW might be able to use this plan to support attracting industry to the region.



- Additional marketing information that showcases the housing and education facilities available should be created to assist in attracting new investors to the region. This component of the plan could be supported by local real estate agents who will be able to articulate the buying power associated with Coolamon and Junee versus other locations.

## Delivery

Lead Agency	Partners
Coolamon and Junee Shire Councils	DRNSW; Local Real Estate Agents; Destination NSW; Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina; Local industry and businesses, REROC
Finance 	\$50K - \$150K to develop the Business Attraction Plan The Business Plan could be funded from FDF, however implementation of the plan including development and marketing costs would need to be met by Council funds or other investment.
Timeframe 	Short-term to develop the Business Attraction Plan. Medium to long-term to transition new businesses to build and establish in Coolamon and Junee.
Measure of Success 	Conversion of sales from the business attraction plan to new businesses to the community.

## Sub-theme: Business Economy and Networks

The communities of Coolamon and Junee have identified the need to build, maintain and expand their business and industry networks within each community as well as collaborate with and learn from each other. This is important to retain and attract people to the region.

## Actions

- Formation and expansion of business networks:
  - Form a business network for the Coolamon Shire that creates opportunities for local businesses to meet and learn from each other along with a forum to share and connect with other like-minded business owners to develop networks and support the establishment and growth of their enterprise.
  - Coolamon Shire should seek to collaborate with Junee Business and Trades so they can learn from their experience as an established business network.
  - Support the expansion of the Junee business community (via Junee Business and Trades).
- Investigate opportunities to enhance grant writing assistance in both Coolamon and Junee Shires. In Junee Shire this would consist of additional support to Junee Business and Trades. In Coolamon, this may be targeted to Council grant writing workshops (prior to formalisation of a Coolamon business network).

## Key outcomes

- To improve business relationships and foster a sense of belonging amongst the business community.
- Provide opportunities to problem solve and build the business community's capacity.
- The strengthening of business networks in both Shires will allow for renewed focus on supporting the business and tourism sectors within the region.
- Provides education and upskilling opportunities.

## Pillars of Resilience



### Social

Brings together like-minded people to solve business problems and increase leadership skills.



### Economic

Community leaders and businesspeople seeking to improve their own businesses and build income.



### Environmental

NA





## Resilience Framework

The following table identifies the key Resilience Framework principles that are relevant to this theme and the actions.:

<b>Inclusivity</b>	Includes community, businesses and leaders across all sectors and age groups and enables sharing of information.
<b>Learning</b>	Creates a forum for people to learn from each other.
<b>Transform</b>	Provides an opportunity to build knowledge, learn and improve to inform future business decisions.
<b>Thrive</b>	Allow communities to meet their needs and maintain their livelihoods.

## Implementation

1. Identify people within the community who are interested to form a business network or Chamber of Commerce.
2. Nominate a representative to lead the formation of the network/ group.
3. The nominated representative will be responsible for recruitment, establishing operating procedures and organisation of events.
4. Business Network/ Chamber of Commerce will be focused on:
  - Provide opportunities for individuals within the region to mentor/ learn and connect with other businesspeople.
  - Holding community forums to discuss challenges and share knowledge on running a business.
  - Encouraging businesses to cross-promote each other and collaborate to maximise tourism opportunities.
  - Collaboration with other local business chambers to learn from their experience.

## Delivery

Lead Agency	Partners
Coolamon and Junee Shire Councils	Junee Business and Trades; Business Chamber of Commerce; Local Businesses within the region including agricultural services; REROC; RDA Riverina.

Finance



FDF / FRRR Funding

Timeframe



Short-term to initiate the formation of a business network between the two regions.

Medium-term to establish an on-going collaboration.

Measure of Success



Attracting sufficient members to the group/ network to be self-sustaining.

Identification of agreed number of events each year.

## Sub-theme: Tourism

Tourism is a key attractor of visitors to the region. In Junee, the Licorice and Chocolate Factory, Roundhouse Railway Museum, Monte Cristo Homestead, Athenium Theatre, and Broadway Museum, as well as the Junee Urban Wetland are all places to see. In Coolamon, the Coolamon Cheese, Fire Museum and Up-To-Date Store, as well as the Kindra State Forest are local attractions. The smaller towns in both Shires also offer both historical and natural attractions. Tourism is an important contributor to the local economy and provides diverse opportunities for employment.

## Actions

- Promotion of the region's tourism attractions:
  - Support and promote buy and shop local programs.
  - Ensure local events are supported by local producers.
  - Create a calendar of community events that promotes the regions sport, shopping, arts, cultural and historical events e.g. Barellan draught horse festival (which brings 7,000 visitors).
  - Investigate opportunities for Coolamon and Junee to work together to promote their shires as a destination to visit. This provides opportunities to align tourism events.
  - Create a fund that can provide financial assistance for community led events.
  - Investigate grant opportunities through the Junee Business and Trades and Coolamon business networks to support regional events.



- Greater diversity within tourism in the region through adding complementary events such as farm and produce tours that support existing tourism attractions such as the Canola Trail.

## Key outcomes

- Build a sense of belonging and increase connections amongst the community.
- Expand and increase economic base.

## Pillars of Resilience



### Social

Improved social connection by bringing the community together in good times and in bad.



### Economic

Provides stimulation to the local economy and attracts visitors to the region.



### Environmental

Promotes the region's natural areas which increases stewardship.

## Resilience Framework

The following table identifies the key Resilience Framework principles that apply.

<b>Diversity</b>	A diverse local economy helps provide resilience. Diversity in the tourist attractions helps to draw a wider variety of visitors.
<b>Inclusivity</b>	Supports a sense of shared ownership, vision, and enables high levels of connectivity between different social groups.
<b>Thrive</b>	A diverse tourism base within the region will allow the community to maintain their livelihoods during drought periods.
<b>Thrive</b>	Allow communities to meet their needs and maintain their livelihoods.

## Implementation

1. Utilising existing service providers such as Junee Business and Trades and the Tilma Group, build a calendar of events that are published and promoted within the community and on the Council's websites.
2. A call out should be made to the community to notify the service provider of their proposed events.
3. In parallel, a promotion of buy and shop local and the regions tourism attractions should also be identified and promoted.
4. A series of Council funded social events should occur during drought.
5. Opportunities to engage local producers and suppliers should be identified, where businesses can work together to ensure that they are able to service the tourism demands.
6. Prior to the annual update of the events calendar, both Councils should assess what opportunities exist for the alignment of tourist events for the region.

## Delivery

Lead Agency	Partners
Junee Business and Trades; Coolamon Business Community	Coolamon and Junee Shire Councils
Finance 	FDF / FRRR Funding
Timeframe 	In the short term develop a calendar of events. This calendar of events will need to be updated on an on-going basis.
Measure of Success 	Measuring attendance at community hosted events. Reporting on visits to the Council's web pages to access event information. Tourist numbers and profitability of tourist attractions.



## Theme 4

# A strong and collaborative community



Services and housing support a healthy, active, inclusive and liveable community with good governance and strong sense of shared responsibility.

Coolamon and Junee seek access to services and housing to support a healthy, active, inclusive and liveable community with good governance and a strong sense of shared responsibility.

## Sub-theme: Mental health

Well supported community members are better placed to endure the shocks of drought. By supporting mental health services and volunteers to reduce burnout and fatigue, the community will be better placed to endure adverse events and recover from hardship. Focussing on inclusivity and providing a voice for youth, women and First Nations People in the region are also important facets of building community strength.

### Actions

- Develop a mental health services plan that reflects the community need. This should be completed in partnership, through the formation of a collective of health care providers in the region and that builds on existing services.
  - Advocate for mental health services that meet the needs of the community and are accessible in a range of mediums and formats (delivered both formally and informally).
  - Provide specific mental health training for those community members and service providers who are connected to agriculture or are likely to be involved with various sections of the community e.g. volunteers, service industries to agriculture.
  - Develop partnerships with program providers such as headspace to bring leadership and mental health skills to schools.

- Support for community events and local gathering points e.g. She Shed, soup kitchen, local shows and races. Extend the events page to include community group events e.g. "Welcoming Australia" 'making yourself @ home' in the community for new people to town, Gallery in Ganmain hosting nights for women to gather, talk and paint.
- Specific drought events supported by local community groups such as Country Women's Association, Rotary, Junee Community Centre that encourage people to come together and connect.

### Key outcomes

- Builds capacity within the region to be prepared, deal with, manage and recover from the mental health impacts of drought.
- A mental health service that meets the community need.
- Encourages and promotes a localised level of support that is accessible and adaptable

### Pillars of Resilience



#### Social

Improves health and well-being for the community as a whole. A strong and healthy community will be more resilient to shocks and stresses.



#### Economic

Reduces loss of productivity through lower days of absence.



#### Environmental

N/A



## Resilience Framework

The following table identifies the key Resilience Framework principles that apply.

<b>Inclusive</b>	Provides a tailored service for all community members.
<b>Resist</b>	Ensures that community members are prepared and ready to respond and cope with adverse events.
<b>Absorb</b>	A robust system that assists to lessen the impact of adverse events on communities.
<b>Accommodate</b>	System has the capacity to deal with disruption, pressure and surges in demand.
<b>Transform</b>	Allows for the development of services that recognise the changing needs and service requirements of the community.
<b>Thrive</b>	Mental health services meet the needs of the communities allowing them to maintain their livelihoods before, during and after drought events.

## Implementation

1. Create an expression of interest to local and state health providers to form a collective to discuss mental health services for the region.
2. Use a facilitator to conduct a series of workshops to discuss the regions requirements amongst these providers.
3. Develop a plan that defines the mental services required for the region.
4. Investigate options to deliver these services and any funding options to assist with the implementation of the plan.

## Delivery

Lead Agency	Partners
Coolamon and Junee Shire Councils	Junee Community Centre; Murrumbidgee Local Health District; Local health providers e.g. Coolamon Regional Medical Centre; Program providers e.g. headspace etc; CSU Southern Innovation Hub.

### Finance



FDF implementation funding. Additional funding required for delivery/implementation of the plan. This may be from State Government programs such as the rural adversity mental health program.

### Timeframe



Short to Medium term to develop and agree the plan.

### Measure of Success



Report on:

- The numbers of people accessing existing mental health services.
- The number of new services brought to the region.
- The number of people accessing these new services.
- Reduction in number of complaints regarding access to mental health services.

## Sub-theme: Youth, Volunteers and a skilled workforce

Engagement with the communities of Coolamon and Junee highlighted the importance of focusing resilience efforts on supporting youth to stay, study and/or return to the region. Youth help to keep communities alive and engaged and attract education, health and business opportunities.

Creating opportunities and fostering partnerships that provide leadership and support skills to volunteers are vital. Encouraging a broader subset of the community to volunteer helps with community cohesiveness and reduces volunteer burnout. The volunteers in the region are drawn on more so during drought and there is a need to provide greater support for these people.

Attracting people to the region enhances diversity in the community. This growth in population which often includes families, increases participation at schools, sports and other community activities.

The community identified frustration with red tape, especially in regard to bureaucratic processes that hinder development, create inflexible rules around transport, and immigration challenges. It was noted that it is exceptionally difficult to navigate these systems and encourage new residents to move to the region.





## Actions

- Increase and formalise partnerships with local and state providers regarding opportunities for building leadership skills within local schools, apprenticeships, work experience and unpaid support roles. Examples would be; expansion of Junee Youth Employment partnership program, use of the Regional Youth and Community Development Network (YouthROC via REROC) to support local youth issues, Support for youth in the region to attend Take Charge Riverina Youth Leadership Forum (REROC Initiative) to build leadership skills.
- Investigate and create opportunities for youth to gain skills and education. Encourage youth to stay and study in the region via the education hub being established in nearby Wagga Wagga.
- Promote the benefits of living in a smaller regional community and working with local providers such as RDA Riverina to encourage and assist the overseas community in Wagga Wagga to move to the Shires of Coolamon and Junee.
- Explore alternate labour sharing options between businesses and industry to retain skilled workers in the region.
- Increasing community cohesion:
  - Investigate repurposing of council area for shared community facilities e.g. community garden hub.
  - Establish connections between smaller villages and larger towns.
  - Community hubs for people to share knowledge and solve problems.
- Increase the frequency of the Junee Volunteers Summit to provide support and capacity building for volunteers within the community. The Summit should incorporate a focus on how to encourage more volunteers and those across different demographics, especially youth, to become volunteers. Coolamon Shire should collaborate with Junee Shire as to how to develop its own summit.

## Key outcomes

- Provides support and skills to the regions volunteers to alleviate the strain of fatigue felt amongst this group.
- Increased opportunities for youth to stay, obtain an education and contribute to the local community and economy.
- Encourages people of more diverse backgrounds and skills to relocate to the region.

## Pillars of Resilience



### Social

Improves social cohesiveness and diversity within the community. Supports youth to stay in the region to take advantage of opportunities and contribute to their community. Provides support to volunteers and community leaders.



### Economic

Attracting additional skilled workers stimulates economic growth and business expansion.



### Environmental

NA

## Resilience Framework

The following table identifies the key Resilience Framework principles that apply.




<b>Diversity</b>	The actions create diversity in the economy and community as they support new residents moving to the community who bring new skills.
<b>Inclusivity and connectivity</b>	Community events and volunteering help bridge cultural divides and connect people from different social circles.
<b>Absorb</b>	Provides skills and support to volunteers to enable them to be better prepared to respond to the demands of drought.
<b>Thrive</b>	These actions meet the needs of youth, volunteers and new residents allowing them to flourish.



## Implementation

1. Engage with the community to understand what community facilities are required.
2. Identify suitable facilities and sites available for potential repurposing.
3. Support formation/ expansion of community networks.
4. Identify and obtain funding required for development of facility/ area.

## Delivery

Lead Agency	Partners
Coolamon and Junee Shire Councils	REROC; RDA Riverina; community groups; business communities; community centres; recruitment agencies; educational facilities e.g. local high schools; NSW Department of Education (Training Services NSW).
Finance 	FDF implementation funding. Alternate funding sources would need to be secured for ongoing support.
Timeframe 	Medium term.
Measure of Success 	Report on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involvement in REROC programs.</li> <li>• Number of apprenticeships in the region.</li> <li>• Skilled worker population.</li> <li>• Attendance at Volunteer Summits (and number of summits).</li> </ul>

## Sub-theme: Drought

Throughout the community engagement and SRGs, several key areas relating to drought were identified that could be improved to provide better outcomes for the region. Many respondents were aware that there is a lot of drought work being undertaken across a range of organisations. However, there is still uncertainty as to where to go to find out more information and to connect with the individuals and organisations involved in this work; the information was not always tailored to the region and it was not always available in a timely manner.

## Actions

- Grow the region's capacity to build resilience through improved co-ordination of drought actions and responses e.g. through the assistance of a Resilience Officer.
- Build awareness of drought preparedness within the community so that the community as a collective is better prepared for future droughts.
- Advocate for improved timeliness and accuracy of drought declarations and ensure the messaging around drought is available to all sections of the community and trigger points for decision making are clearly understood.
- Identify and develop leaders within the community who can help co-ordinate networks to solve local challenges and transmit information across the community.
- Improve connections and assistance:
  - Connecting primary producers with farm advisors who can assist with production and financial advice outside of drought times (preparedness)
  - Improved connection of drought resources and funding with the community. This could be through a dedicated resource that facilitates this connection and provides grant assistance/info.
  - Connecting small business with Rural Financial Counselling Service and other resources that can provide support.

## Key outcomes

- Improve local capacity to respond to drought.
- Better informed community able to make timely decisions.
- Increased coordination of drought resilience activities and responses.



## Pillars of Resilience



### Social

Grows the community knowledge and ability to respond to drought.



### Economic

Provides timely connection to information and financial resources that can support the region's agriculture and industry.



### Environmental

Improved access and understanding of resilience research has the potential to deliver improved environmental outcomes.

## Resilience Framework

The following table identifies the key Resilience Framework principles that apply.




<b>Inclusivity and connectivity</b>	Provides better connectivity and provides more opportunities for knowledge sharing across the region regarding resilience.
<b>Consideration / learning / adapting</b>	Multiple avenues for learning through connecting community and producers with new research and allowing them to better prepare and adapt practices.
<b>Transform</b>	Increased knowledge enables community behavioural change and an understanding of how to act before, during and after drought.
<b>Effective</b>	Providing a local resource allows for a place-based approach to resilience that meets the community need.
<b>Timely</b>	Having access to drought information and resources prior to, or in a timely manner, provides greater opportunity to plan and respond to drought.
<b>Recover</b>	Improved understanding of the drought interventions that are able to be accessed and when may reduce time taken to recover.

## Implementation

1. The Shires of Coolamon and Junee should seek to engage a Resilience Officer to co-ordinate resilience activities and responses within the region that benefit the community. The Resilience Officer working across local Councils would:
  - Act as coordinator to lead the resilience actions for both Councils. This resource could support the response to other natural disasters.
  - Promote the formation of business networks and coordinate local leaders so that they can help disseminate information.
  - Promote the inclusion of resilience messaging across the Councils website that helps refer and inform the community of resources and information available e.g. drought indicators and messaging, water restrictions.
  - Form connections with LLS and DPI to support access to the Drought Hub and Drought Adoption Officers for the community.
  - Making connections between community and other Commonwealth, State and local agencies e.g. Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) for small business.
  - Connect the community to opportunities within the Southern Innovation Hub.



## Delivery

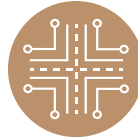
Lead Agency	Partners
Coolamon and Junee Shire Councils	LLS; DPI; RFCS; CSU Southern Innovation Hub; Local industry and business
<p>Finance</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FDF Implementation funding could be allocated to support the initial 1st year funding.</li><li>• \$60K - \$130K depending on status of part-time to full-time employee.</li><li>• Extension of the role would need funding from other state and Commonwealth sources including the larger FDF.</li></ul>
<p>Timeframe</p> 	<p>Short-term identify and engage a suitable local resource with clear role expectations.</p> <p>Over the mid-term the Resilience Officer is to be actively engaging with resilience partners and coordinating the region's resilience response.</p>
<p>Measure of Success</p> 	<p>Metrics can be incorporated into the position description to measure the roles effectiveness.</p>





## Theme 5

# Strong infrastructure and transport services



Infrastructure and transport that supports and links the region and provides connectivity.

### Sub-theme: Infrastructure

The region's rail brings vital infrastructure, opportunities and tourism to the region. The need for appropriate infrastructure to support the regions has been highlighted across both LGAs. These infrastructure needs are being supplied by Council and advocated for through REROC and RDA Riverina. Councils have a vital role in ensuring the supporting services and infrastructure such as water, housing, waste and transport support town growth. The infrastructure identified as being most important for the Coolamon and Junee Shires was roads, rail and water.

### Actions

- Investigate options on how to maximise the benefit of the existing wastewater facilities that either allows for surplus water to be sold to a suitable buyer or to expand wastewater facilities to incorporate additional storage and networks to increase use capacity.
- Investigate options in partnership with Goldenfields Water and DCCEEW on replacement and upgrade options for the water and wastewater infrastructure to provide greater security through enhanced storage capability and distribution systems.
- Enhance existing regional assets (e.g. improve facilities) such as Bethungra Dam and Rocky Hill to make them more attractive for tourists and better utilised by the local community.
- Connecting local businesses, individuals and primary producers with grants and funding to upgrade their own water infrastructure.
- Council continues to advocate for better telecommunication infrastructure to improve phone and internet service for the region.

### Key outcomes

- Provides more robust infrastructure for the benefit of the community.
- Enhances environmental resilience for community assets.

### Pillars of Resilience



#### Social

Maintenance of green spaces throughout drought periods improve mental health and provide locations for the community to gather in times of drought.



#### Economic

Commercialisation of wastewater has the potential to reduce the cost of other associated water projects. Enhanced use of wastewater will also reduce the cost associated with watering community assets.



#### Environmental

Increased water security as the region increases water reuse and relies less on potable water to meet some of its needs.

### Resilience Framework

The following table identifies the key Resilience Framework for this action.

<b>Diversity</b>	Increasing the potential sources of water to support the community need.
<b>Absorb</b>	Extends water security to the community, proactively planning for future drought stress.
<b>Transform</b>	Increasing use of wastewater and extending the use of the regions water supply supports adaptation to climatic conditions.






## Implementation

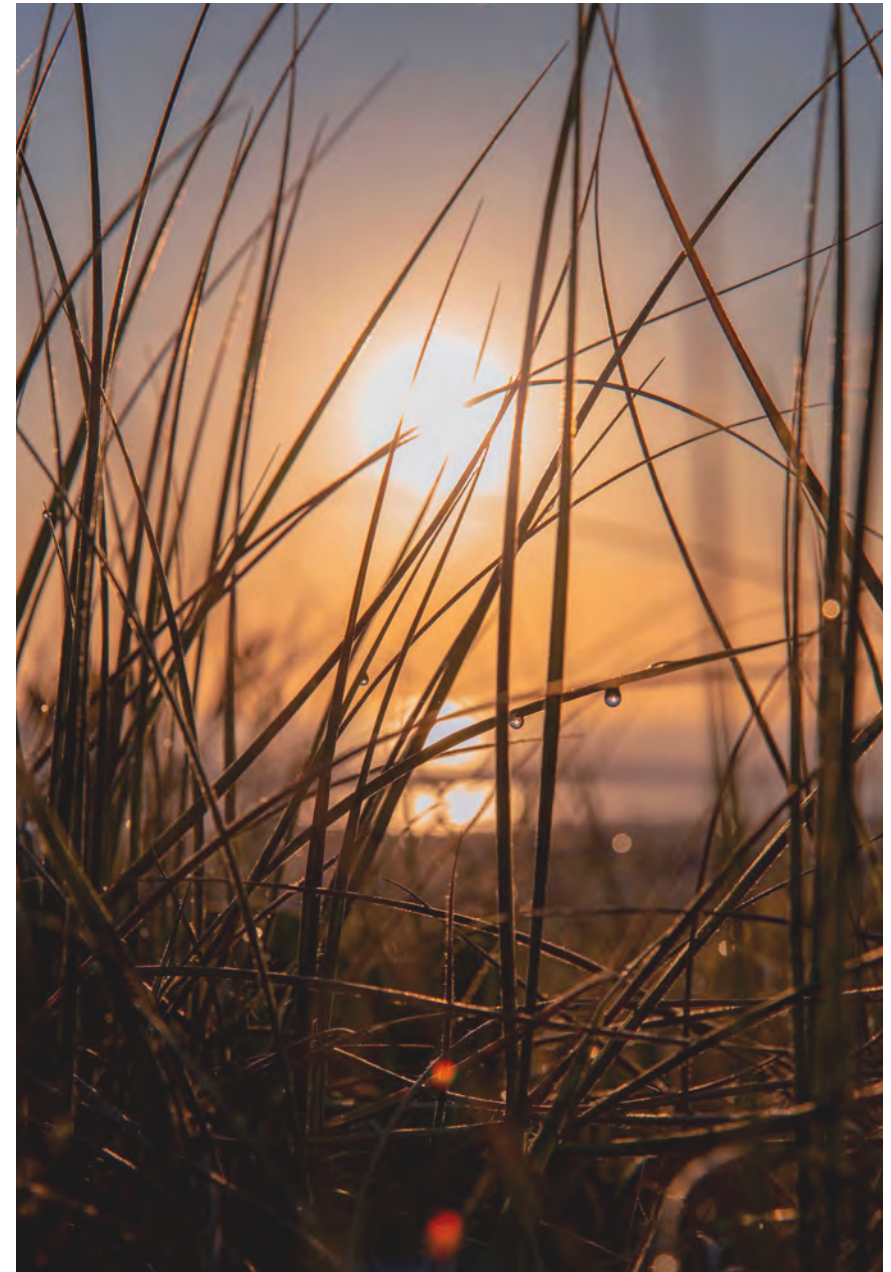
1. In the short-term, Councils may seek to run an expression of interest to understand potential industries which may be interested in entering into an agreement to purchase their surplus wastewater.

If there is suitable interest Council can enter into individual agreements for industry to purchase the wastewater.

2. To renew and expand the existing wastewater networks, both Councils should work in collaboration with Goldenfields Water and DCCEEW (NSW) to investigate options to extend the wastewater distribution network, and potential funding options.
3. Further technical studies may be required to inform the options to extend and upgrade the wastewater network.

## Delivery

Lead Agency	Partners
Coolamon and Junee Shire Councils	Goldenfields Water; DCCEEW; industry; telecommunication providers.
<b>Finance</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian Government's Off-farm Efficiency Program initiative to upgrade water infrastructure to reduce water losses.</li> <li>• Town Water Risk Reduction Scheme</li> <li>• National Water Grid Fund</li> </ul>	
<b>Timeframe</b> 	Medium term to investigate options including conducting additional studies to inform the concept.
<b>Measure of Success</b> 	<p>Councils commercialise any surplus wastewater for sale to suitable industries.</p> <p>Councils are able to agree a pathway forward to renew and extend their existing wastewater services without significant financial impost to the community.</p>



# Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

To ensure this Plan delivers on the actions identified, a Monitoring, Evaluation Learning (MEL) Framework should be adopted to ensure transparency, adaptive management, and long-term implementation. The FDF MEL Framework will be used to assess the effectiveness of implementing this Plan (DAWE, 2020).

The two Councils working together with delivery partners including NSW State Government, not-for profit organisations, industry and community organisations will need to collaborate on the implementation of this Plan.

The MEL framework outline in Figure 15 links to four major activities of impact, rationale, outputs and outcomes.

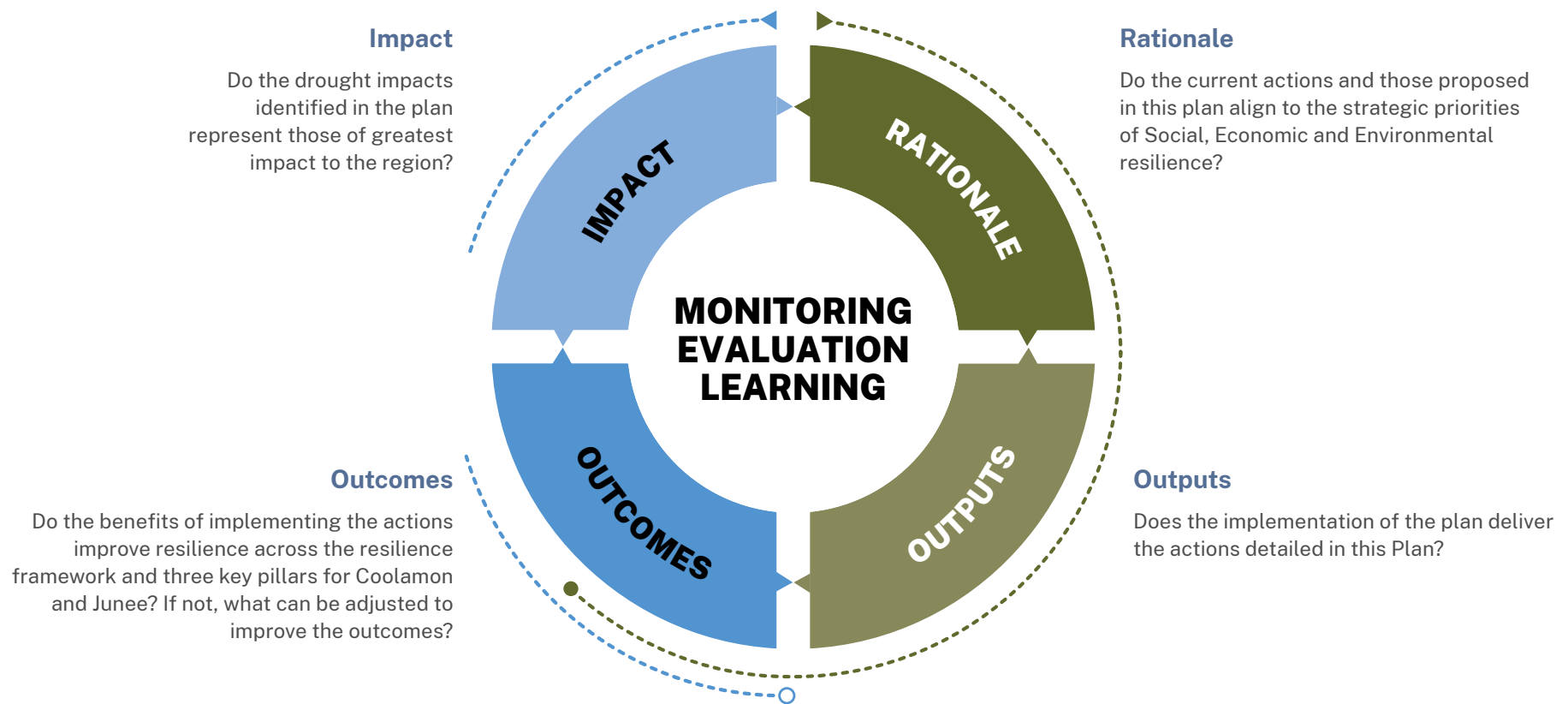


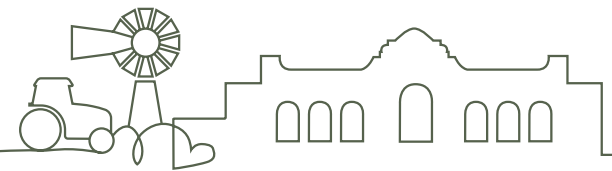
Figure 15 FDF Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework





06

Conclusion





# Conclusion

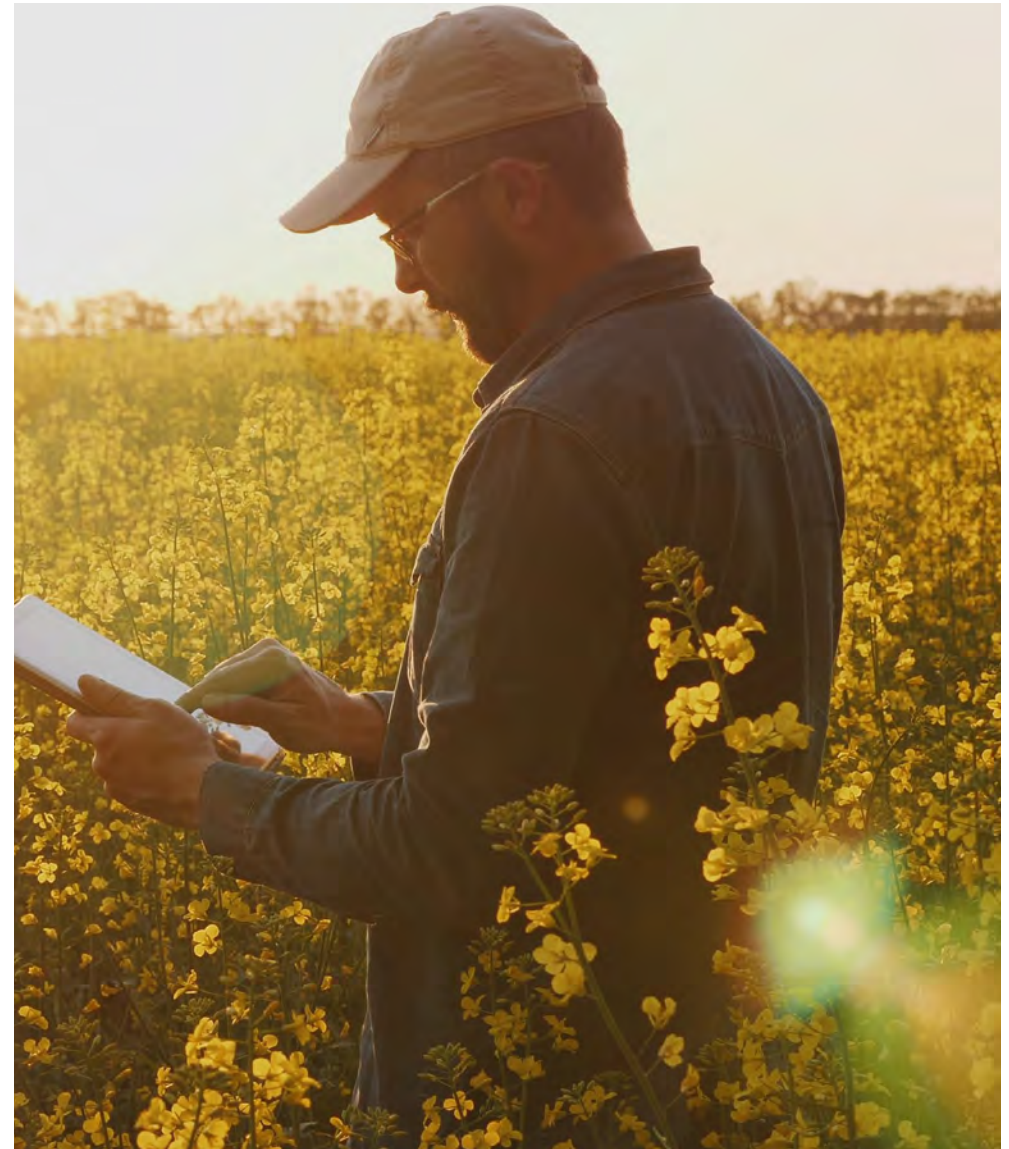
This Plan has been developed by and for the communities of Coolamon and Junee. The Plan is an important step in voicing the areas of focus and the actions the community seeks to undertake in order to move them towards improved drought resilience.

This Plan is a snapshot in time and reflects the key areas of importance to the community. These areas of focus are not static and will require regular review and update.

The Plan contains a series of actions, some of which can be funded through the FDF implementation funding and some that will require alternate funding channels to be identified and obtained.

To implement the Plan, Coolamon and Junee Shires will require both a collaborative effort with all levels of government, the regions industry, not-for-profit organisations, and the community, to be partners in the delivery of the actions.

The Coolamon and Junee RDRP provides a pathway to develop and build drought resilience into regional NSW.



## References

**Note:** all case studies were developed in conjunction with information provided by members of Coolamon and June Shire's and some publicly available information.

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Produced by GHD

# Regional Drought Resilience Planning

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program is being delivered with joint funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the NSW Government.

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program provides support to identified Local Government Areas in NSW to develop drought resilience plans that can be implemented by councils and their communities.



February 2024



**Australian Government**  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



Future  
Drought  
Fund

Supported by





**Item 3                    COUNCIL INVESTMENTS AND BANK BALANCES**

Author                    Director Corporate and Community Development

Attachments            Nil

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

***That Council notes the Investment Report as of 29 February 2024, including the certification by the Responsible Accounting Officer.***

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**PURPOSE**

To provide a report setting out all money that the Council has invested under Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In accordance with Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, a report stating the details of money invested must be presented to the Council monthly.

The report must include certification as to whether the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, Regulations, and Council's Investment Policy.

The Investment Report shows that Council has total cash and investments of \$11,348,072 comprising:

Trading Accounts -	\$848,072
At Call Accounts -	\$1,000,000
Investments -	\$9,500,000

**Certification – Responsible Accounting Officer**

I, Lloyd Hart, hereby certify that the investments listed in the attached reports have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, and existing Investment Policies.

**BACKGROUND**

In accordance with Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, a report stating the details of money invested must be presented to the Council monthly.

The report must also include certification as to whether the investments have been made in accordance with the Act, the Regulations, and Council's Investment Policy.

**LINK TO STRATEGY**

The report relates to the Community Strategic Plan Outcome of:

- Sustainable – Strategy 6.1 – Council is accountable and financially sustainable.
-

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Actual investment income for the period from 1 July 2023 to date was \$261,335.45.

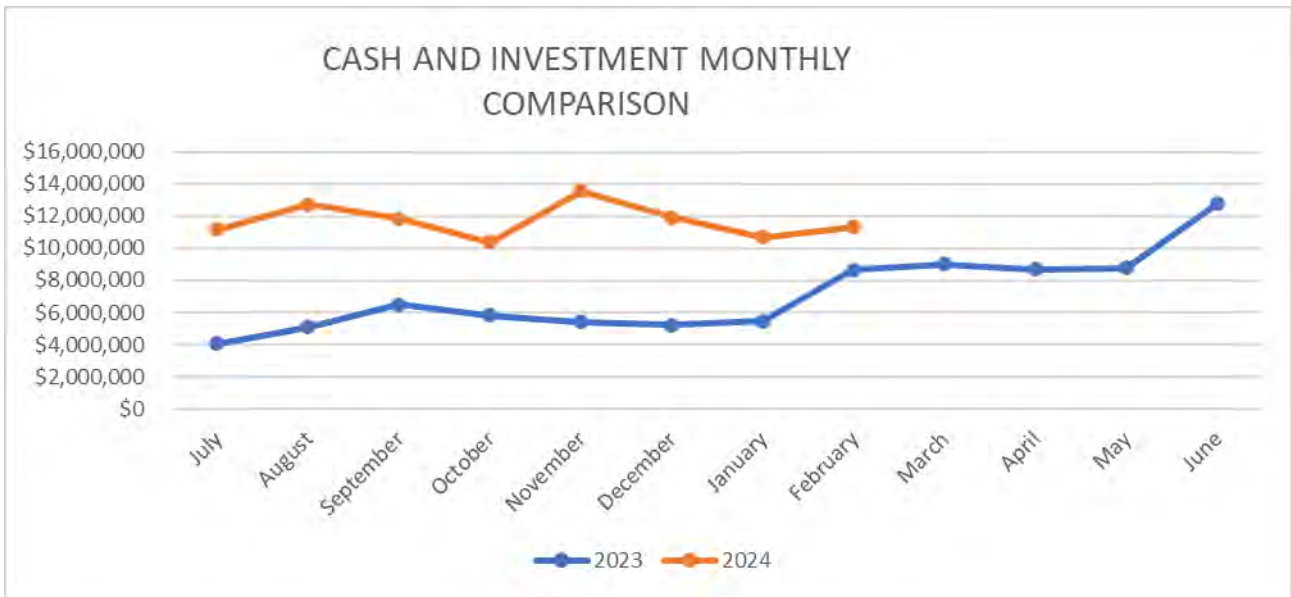
## SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Council's investments are managed in accordance with Council's Investment Policy. Council's Investment Policy requires consideration of social responsibility when making investment decisions.

## INVESTMENT BALANCES

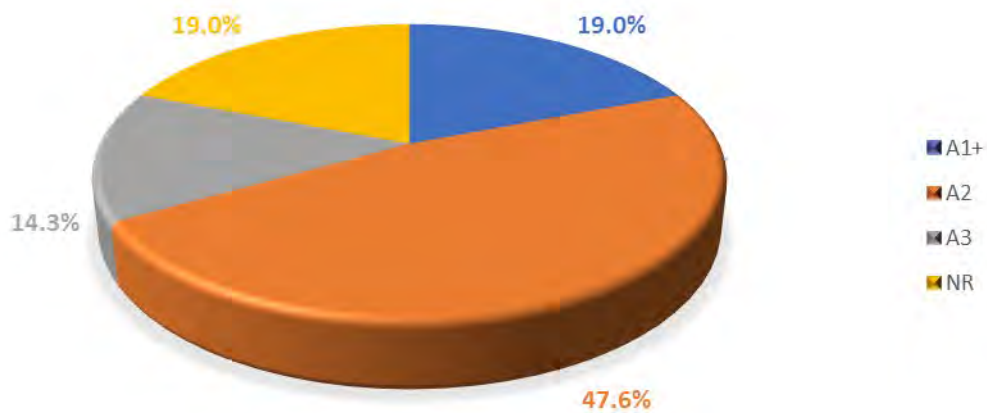
INVESTMENT BALANCES						
As of 29 February 2024						
INSTITUTION	RATING	AMOUNT (\$)	MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	INTEREST AT MATURITY (\$)	BENCHMARK - AusBond
<b>Trading Accounts</b>						
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	A1+	848,072	-	-	-	-
		<b>848,072</b>				
<b>At Call Accounts</b>						
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	A1+	1,000,000	At Call	4.35%	37,495.04	4.10%
		<b>1,000,000</b>			<b>37,495.04</b>	
<b>Term Deposits</b>						
National Australia Bank	A1+	-	Matured	-	18,000.00	-
National Australia Bank	A1+	-	Matured	-	15,904.11	-
National Australia Bank	A1+	-	Matured	-	10,969.86	-
AMP Bank	A2	-	Matured	-	23,058.90	-
Judo Bank	A3	-	Matured	-	6,669.18	-
AMP Bank	A2	-	Matured	-	11,842.47	-
AMP Bank	A2	-	Matured	-	12,397.26	-
MyState Bank	A2	-	Matured	-	12,328.77	-
AMP Bank	A2	-	Matured	-	11,376.71	-
AMP Bank	A2	-	Matured	-	12,821.92	-
AMP Bank	A2	-	Matured	-	3,773.97	-
Judo Bank	A3	-	Matured	-	13,068.49	-
Judo Bank	A3	-	Matured	-	27,484.93	-
National Australia bank	A1+	-	Matured	-	26,136.99	-
Bank of Queensland	A2	-	Matured	-	18,006.85	-
Bank of Queensland	A2	500,000	26-Mar-24	5.10%	12,575.34	4.32%
National Australia Bank	A1+	1,000,000	08-Apr-24	5.05%	29,054.79	4.33%
Mystate Bank	A2	750,000	09-Apr-24	5.10%	22,740.41	4.33%
AMP Bank	A2	500,000	01-May-24	5.15%	12,910.27	4.33%
Mystate Bank	A2	500,000	06-May-24	5.25%	12,945.21	4.33%
AMP Bank	A2	500,000	24-May-24	5.70%	25,767.12	4.33%
AMP Bank	A2	500,000	27-May-24	5.20%	12,964.38	4.33%
Australian Unity Bank	A2	500,000	27-May-24	5.40%	13,315.07	4.33%
Judo Bank	A3	1,000,000	19-Jun-24	5.20%	25,643.84	4.26%
Australian Unity Bank	A2	500,000	19-Jun-24	5.55%	27,750.00	4.26%
Heritage and People's Choice	A2	750,000	04-Jul-24	5.30%	35,938.36	4.26%
Judo Bank	A3	500,000	07-Aug-24	5.33%	17,523.29	4.26%
Arab Bank Australia	NR	2,000,000	03-Sep-24	5.50%	82,273.97	4.09%
		<b>9,500,000</b>			<b>555,242.46</b>	
<b>Total Cash and Investment</b>		<b>11,348,072</b>				

### Cash Comparative Analysis



### Portfolio Analysis

COUNCIL INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO BY INSTITUTION RATING



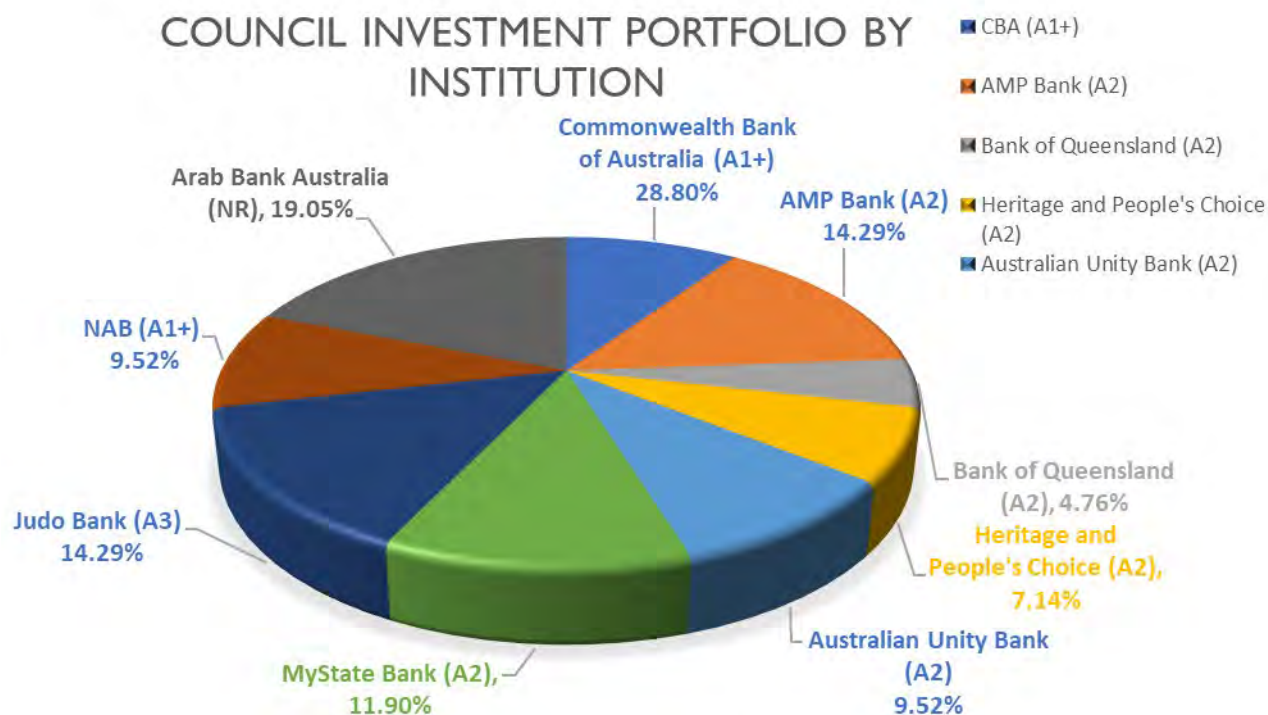
### Portfolio Credit Framework – Compliance with Investment Policy Requirements

Clause 9a of the Council’s Investment Policy requires that the total percentage exposure within the market to any particular credit rating category be limited, as detailed in the table below:

S&P Long Term Rating	S&P Short Term Rating	Maximum %	Portfolio Complies with Policy?
AAA	A1+	100%	Yes
AA+	A1	100%	Yes
AA			
AA-			
A+	A2	75%	Yes
A			
A-			

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEES SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024.

S&P Long Term Rating	S&P Short Term Rating	Maximum %	Portfolio Complies with Policy?
BBB+	A3	40%	Yes
BBB			
BBB-			
Unrated	Unrated	25%	Yes



**Overall Portfolio Credit Framework – Compliance with Investment Policy Requirements**

Clause 9b of the Council’s Investment Policy requires that exposure to an individual institution be restricted by their credit rating so that single entity exposure is limited, as detailed in the table below:

S&P Long Term Rating	S&P Short Term Rating	Maximum %	Portfolio Complies with Policy?
AAA	A1+	50%	Yes
AA+	A1	50%	Yes
AA			
AA-			
A+	A2	35%	Yes
A			
A-			
BBB+	A3	20%	Yes
BBB			
BBB-			
Unrated	Unrated	20%	Yes (\$Nil)



**Term to Maturity Framework – Compliance with Investment Policy Requirements**

Clause 9c of the Council’s Investment Policy requires Council’s investment portfolio is to be invested within the following maturity constraints:

Overall Portfolio Term to Maturity Limited			Portfolio Complies with Policy?
Portfolio % < 1 year	Min 65%	Max 100%	Yes
Portfolio % > 1 year < 3 years	Min 0%	Max 20%	Yes
Portfolio % > 3 years < 5 years	Min 0%	Max 15%	Yes
Portfolio % > 5 years	Min 0%	Max 0%	Yes

**COUNCIL CASH AND INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO BY TYPE OF INVESTMENT**



**Statement of Investment Policy Compliance**

Legislative Requirements		Compliant
Institutional Exposure Limits	Yes	Fully compliant
Portfolio Credit Rating Limits	Yes	Fully compliant
Term to Maturity Limits	Yes	Fully compliant

**Item 4            LOCAL ROADS CONGRESS 2024**

Author            Director Engineering Services

Attachment       Yes - 2024 Local Roads Congress Invitation

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1.     *That Council endorse the nomination of the Director Engineering Services and Council's Traffic Committee Delegate, Cr Mark Cook to represent Council at the NSW Local Roads Congress on Monday, 3 June 2024.***
  
  - 2.     *Council endorse expenditure on registration, travel and accommodation for the 2024 NSW Local Roads Congress.***
- 

**SUMMARY**

The NSW Local Roads Congress is an annual meeting of engineering managers and directors, Mayors and road and traffic delegates statewide to undertake strategic planning for infrastructure improvements. It is facilitated by the NSW Roads and Transport Directorate along with LGNSW Local Government New South Wales (LG NSW) and IPWEA. The NSW State ministers and shadow ministers for Roads, Transport and Regional Transport and Roads attend. It is an important networking and advocating pathway for Councillors in the transport and infrastructure space.

The 2024 NSW Local Roads Congress will be held on Monday, 3 June 2024 at NSW Parliament House in Sydney NSW and runs from 9.00am to 5.00pm.

**BACKGROUND**

The NSW Local Roads Congress 2024 has the theme on "Planning for the Future" and the Congress Communique is used annually to inform NSW government policy and support funding releases in the Transport and Infrastructure space.

Some key topics that will be worked through at the congress:

- Future Freight
- Streets as Shared Spaces
- Disaster Recovery Funding
- Electric Vehicles
- Integrated Network Planning
- AI and Asset Management

## CONGRESS PURPOSE

Key tasks the congress will review for local, state and federal government from the 2023 congress included.

### 1. Local Government:

- Continue to partner with the NSW and Australian Governments to address current and future challenges to deliver fit-for-purpose local transport infrastructure.
- Develop and implement road network safety plans based on a safe systems approach with specific actions to lower road-related trauma.
- Develop and implement critical infrastructure and resilience plans, including reducing the adverse impacts of natural disasters on local roads and associated infrastructure.
- Integrate the outcomes of road network safety and critical infrastructure resilience plans into local transport network plans, asset and risk management plans, community strategic plans, delivery programs, and operational plans, by reporting to the community via annual reports.
- Develop and implement improved workforce plans to address the current and future skills shortages in the professional engineering and skilled infrastructure worker disciplines.
- Work with IPWEA NSW & ACT, LGNSW, the NSW Roads and Transport Directorate, tertiary education, and other providers to ensure the development of suitable training programs focussed on managing overall local road networks as well as efficient delivery of maintenance, renewal, and construction activities to local communities.
- Local government continue to report annually on the State of their Assets as per the ALGA agreed performance measures and verify the accuracy of the data included in the reporting.
- Collaborate with NSW Government to formulate a program dedicated to the replacement of causeways, with the primary objective of enhancing natural disaster resilience through betterment.

### 2. NSW Government:

- Continue the Fixing Country Bridges Program with a priority on replacing timber bridges. Expand the program to allow for flexibility to improve the resilience of the local road network by including other structures, such as the replacement of major culverts, as well as aging concrete and steel structures.
- Collaborate with Local Government to formulate a program dedicated to the improvement and upgrading of causeways, with the primary objective of enhancing natural disaster resilience through betterment.
- Continue the Fixing Local Roads Program with an annual allocation aligned to the Roads to Recovery distribution formula to provide greater certainty and allow improved short-medium term infrastructure planning by NSW Local Government.
- Continue to provide competitive grants for the improvement of freight outcomes by addressing first and last-mile challenges on the local and regional road network.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEES SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024.

- Work with LGNSW to negotiate the removal of emergency services levy charges from NSW Councils for the NSW Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service, and NSW Fire and Rescue to assist councils to maintain and improve the resilience of Councils roads infrastructure.
  - As a matter of urgency, finalise the Regional Roads Transfer and Reclassification Review to provide certainty to Local Government.
  - Facilitate an audit of the long-term financial plan of each local government to ensure alignment with the asset management plan lifecycle forecasts that communicate the trade-offs on performance, cost, and risk.
  - Work with Local Government to develop a program to strengthen the maintenance, safety, and resilience of the State highway network, giving particular attention to sections that are prone to flooding or experience access limitations during fire incidents.
  - Commit to ongoing support for Road Safety initiatives across the entire road network. In particular, to support the development and implementation of Road Safety Strategic Plans at all NSW councils.
3. Federal Government:
- Increase the Roads to Recovery Program to \$1B per annum from 2024-25 onwards, as this funding program is regarded by Local Government as the most efficient mechanism and source of funding for local roads.
  - Increase the annual Roads to Recovery Program allocations to align with the construction cost index and the growth in the road asset base, ensuring maintenance of funding levels in real terms.
  - Revise the Roads to Recovery Statement of Intent to include the development of local road safety and resilience plans, as well as the integration of natural disaster adaptation strategies into council transport, asset management, long-term financial plans, delivery programs, and annual budgets.
  - Allow councils to utilise Roads to Recovery funding to assist in the development of Road Resilience, Road Safety Strategic, and Road Network Management Plans. Funds would be allocated as a one-off 50/50 funding model with a maximum limit of \$50,000 per Council (subject to increasing the overall Roads to Recovery funding).
  - As a minimum, double the Australian Government's Bridge Renewal Program from \$85m per annum to \$170m per annum to target improving the resilience of local road routes. Prioritise funding for the replacement of timber and hybrid bridges, and other vulnerable structures.
  - Provide a financial incentive program to assist Local Government to employ, train and develop new Cadet Engineers.
  - Work with professional bodies such as IPWEA Australasia to increase the capacity and skills of public works personnel, with a specific focus on road network planning, road drainage, road pavements, road surfacing, and asset management.
  - Work with universities to increase the focus on the whole of road network planning, road drainage, road pavements, road surfacing, and asset management in future Engineering degree course curriculum.



## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEESHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024.

- Continue to support apprenticeship programs to develop new and existing workers in the operational skills required to build and maintain roads.
- Support ongoing research into cost-effective, resilient road materials and independent product reviews by specialist organisations such as the National Transport Research Organisation (NTRO). Provide appropriate guidelines and training programs to put this research into practice.
- Promote circular economy principles in road infrastructure by incorporating sustainable and innovative technologies that prioritise environmental sustainability. This includes using renewable resources, adopting advanced construction methods, and promoting the use of recycled materials while setting specific targets for reducing carbon emissions and other environmental impacts.
- Provide direct financial assistance to local governments to enable them to adapt their asset management systems to the requirements of HVRR. Specific targets should be established for integrating HVRR into Local Government operations to ensure the efficient use of these resources.
- Develop robust capacity-building programs and training sessions for Local Government staff engaged in asset management. These programs should focus on improving the understanding of HVRR and its implications for asset management. Measurable outcomes, such as the number of staff trained or improvements in asset management efficiency, can help gauge the success of these programs.
- Proactively engage with NSW Local Government and the Roads and Transport Directorate in developing the NSLS and HVRR. By setting clear channels for communication and consultation, the needs and experiences of local communities can be better represented in these standards and reforms.

### **CONSIDERATIONS**

#### **Policy**

Attending the Congress will assist to inform Junee Shire Councils Asset Management Policy and associated Asset Management Plans.

#### **Risk Assessment**

No enterprise risks are anticipated through this report. Engaging in statewide organisational planning can assist to ensure Council is aware of roads related enterprise risks and they are managed adequately or consistently with the rest of the state.

**Financial**

The congress costs \$480.00 per person or \$960 for two attendees. Additional costs anticipated would include accommodation and parking.

**CONCLUSION**

The NSW Local Roads Congress 2024 is an excellent opportunity for engineering staff, Mayors and Councillors. Attendance is not compulsory, however, IPWEA has directed correspondence to Mayors and Councillors. Congress Communique is used annually to inform NSW Government policy and support funding releases in the Transport and Infrastructure space.



# **JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **ATTACHMENT TO ITEM 4**

**19 MARCH 2024**

A decorative graphic on the right side of the page, consisting of a blue curved shape with a white outline and a gold curved line, extending from the bottom towards the top.

6 March 2024

**Subject: Save the Date - Local Roads Congress June 2024**

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

The Roads and Transport Directorate of the Institute of Public Works Engineering Australasia – NSW and ACT Division (IPWEA NSW & ACT), in collaboration with Local Government NSW (LGNSW), is honoured to host the NSW Local Roads Congress 2024. The congress provides a forum for NSW council executive staff and elected officials to discuss policy issues with NSW State Ministers in order to optimise road and transport outcomes across the state.

This event is scheduled for **Monday, 3 June 2024**, at the distinguished NSW Parliament House, Sydney. The Congress will commence at 9:00 am and conclude at 5:00 pm.

The Congress primarily targets Mayors, Councillors, General Managers and Directors of Engineering within local governments with a focus on policy-oriented discussions under the theme 'Planning for the Future'. This theme underscores our commitment to addressing the evolving challenges and opportunities in local road and transport infrastructure, and to ensure the local road network is prepared for the challenges ahead.

An outcome of the congress discussion is to produce a Communiqué outlining key actions for change, as well as helping shape the advocacy framework of the Roads and Transport Directorate. The 2023 Congress Communiqué is provided for your reference.

Some of the topics this year are:

- Future Freight
- Streets as Shared Spaces
- Disaster Recovery Funding
- Electric Vehicles
- Integrated Network Planning
- AI and Asset Management

By attending the congress, you can engage directly with NSW State Ministers, who will provide insights on current issues impacting local roads. Additionally, you will benefit from presentations by a range of technical experts, each offering specialised knowledge and perspectives on various aspects of road and infrastructure management. These sessions are designed to give you an understanding of the political and practical dimensions of local road challenges and advancements in New South Wales.

Please save the date Monday, 3 June 2024. Early bird registrations are now open and can be accessed from the following link: <https://www.ipweansw.org/events/2024-local-roads-congress---planning-for-the-future-03-06-2024>. We look forward to seeing you at the Congress.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Devitt  
Chief Engineer  
IPWEA Roads and Transport Directorate



David Elliott  
Chief Executive Officer  
IPWEA NSW & ACT



**Item 5 COURSING PARK TENNIS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE (CPT&CC)**

Author Stephen Targett, Director Engineering Services

Attachment 1 – CPT&CC Letter regarding Asbestos

2 – CPT&CC Letter regarding Increased Level of Service

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. ***That Council receive and note the two attached letters from Coursing Park Tennis Club and Community Centre.***
  2. ***Council endorses immediate budget expenditure of \$25,000 from the Special Rate Variation for Building Renewal to remove asbestos from the Coursing Park Tennis and Community Centre building, as detailed in the report, in line with Councils Environmental Fact Sheet for Asbestos Removal.***
  3. ***Council endorses the actions proposed by the Coursing Park Tennis and Community Centre, under the Grant Funding, for lights in the clubhouse and toilet block along with the installation of a kitchen facility, provided they are completed in compliance with the Native Title Act 1993 and the Crown Land Management Act 2016, at completion of the Asbestos removal.***
  4. ***Council endorses the Director Engineering Services enter into negotiations to establish a maintenance agreement between Coursing Park Tennis and Community Centre and Council, with the agreement to be returned for consideration at a future meeting.***
- 

**SUMMARY**

The Coursing Park Tennis and Community Centre (CPT&CC) have had recent correspondence with Council regarding the level of service Council provides at the Coursing Park Tennis Club. The Coursing Park Tennis Club is situated on a Council managed Crown Reserve and is becoming significantly more active in recent years with 30-40 people playing on a weekly basis which results in the request for an increased level of service by Council. CPT&CC intend to undertake upgrades to the community centre themselves in the near future but have requested Council support to remove Non-friable Asbestos in the building, prior to disturbing the building, through renovations.

**BACKGROUND**

Council currently provides limited support for the CPT&CC facility, other than waste removal. Given the land is Crown Land and Council is the manager, Council assisted to clean up the facility when the CPT&CC was established (From 2017 onwards). CPT&CC are now requesting ongoing maintenance to the facility, to support the increasing use including mowing weekly/fortnightly,

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**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024.**

additional bins and building maintenance. The CPT&CC facility is located on Council managed Crown Land to the west of Coursing Park Lane as shown in Figures 1 & 2.



Figure 1 - Infrastructure at CPT&CC Facility

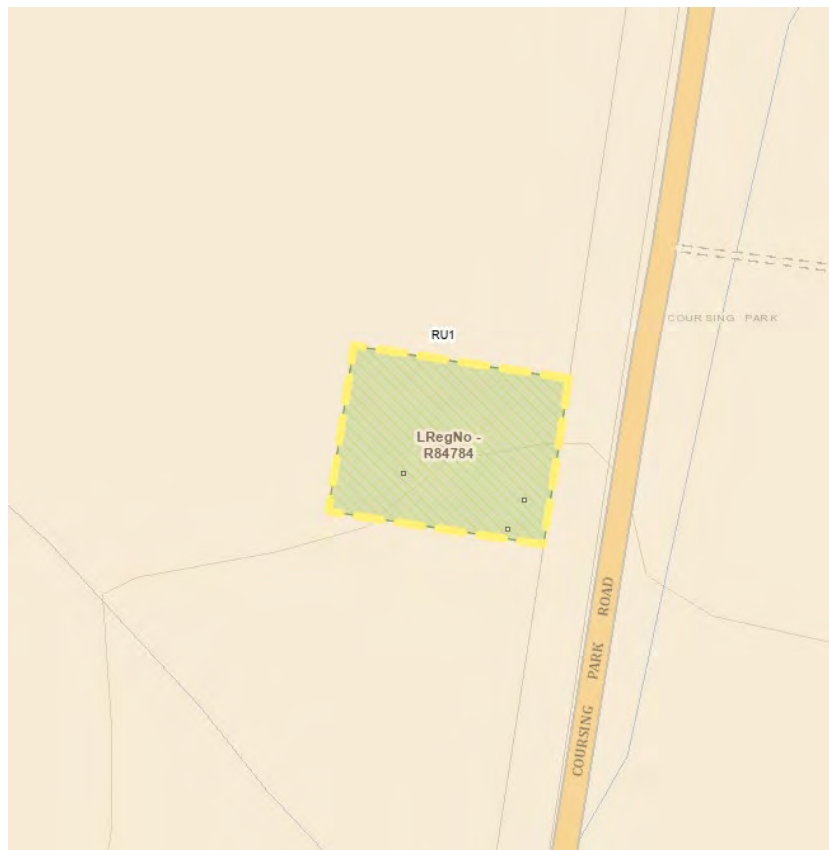


Figure 2 - Crown Reserve at CPT&CC Facility

CPT&CC are registered as a business under the category of Other Incorporated Entity. They are not registered with the Australian Charity and Non For-Profit Commission so may be a for profit or non-for profit entity.

CPT&CC have obtained grants totalling \$15,000 which they consider significant for their organisation. The first grant, amounting to \$5000 from TransGrid, was intended to be used for the installation of lights in the clubhouse and externally, as well as within the toilet block. The second grant of \$10,000 from Foundation for *Rural and Regional Renewal*, was intended to fund the installation of a kitchen facility within the clubhouse.

On investigation to commence works associated with the above grant, the CPT&CC have identified non-friable asbestos.

## **ASBESTOS**

The asbestos identified is non-friable asbestos and is low risk if left intact, but high risk if disturbed ie. through renovations. Safework NSW indicate there is no known safe minimum level of exposure. EPA classify Asbestos as Special Waste can be received by any landfill licensed to accept asbestos waste.

### Friable asbestos

Friable asbestos is asbestos in a powder form or that can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure when dry.

### Non-friable asbestos or bonded asbestos

Non-friable asbestos is material containing asbestos fibres reinforced with a bonding compound. It is also known as bonded asbestos and can be found in products such as asbestos cement sheeting commonly used in building materials between 1940's to the late 1980's.

Asbestos is common in all buildings built before the late 1980s. Asbestos materials were commonly used in flooring, kitchens, bathrooms, as well as roofs, ceilings, walls and more. As indicated above, Safework NSW indicate there is no known safe minimum level of exposure.

A licensed asbestos professional must be engaged to assess and remove greater than 10 square metres of asbestos.

## **TESTING**

The only way to be certain that something contains asbestos is to have a sample tested in a laboratory and treat all suspected asbestos as asbestos until test results confirm otherwise.

All asbestos testing should be done by a *National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)* accredited facility. NATA accreditation is formal recognition that the facility produces reliable technical results.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

**Policy**

Council has minimal policy around Asbestos management, however, has an Asbestos Management Plan incorporated in our Environmental Management Plan. This plan is supported by an Environmental Fact Sheet identifying the disposal process for Asbestos in line with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Safe work NSW requirements.

**Risk Assessment**

Enterprise risks such as litigation or public health risk of an extreme nature with low likelihood could occur if measures aren't undertaken to manage the work proposed and the asbestos was not removed. The mitigations in the report will result in a low likelihood and very low likelihood and the asbestos will be disposed of by an accredited professional.

Consequence					
5	M	H	H	E	E
4	M	M	H	H	E
3	M	M	M	H	H
2	L	L	M	M	M
1	L	L	L	M	M
<b>Likelihood</b>	1	2	3	4	5

Figure 3 - Risk Register

**Financial**

The anticipated costs to engage an accredited professional to remove and dispose of the asbestos are \$25,000. It is proposed Council engage the contractor and undertake these works prior to allowing CPT&CC to undertake grant expenditure.

Additional level of service would need to be undertaken under agreement with the CPT&CC.

**CONCLUSION**

The Coursing Park Tennis Club is situated on a Council managed Crown Reserve and is becoming significantly more active in recent years with 30-40 people playing on a weekly basis which results in works needing to be completed. Council should support the community, where they show initiative in obtaining grant funding and contributing to maintaining facilities. Council needs to be considerate of other reserves and buildings which need to be managed. Non-friable Asbestos at the site, should be removed, prior to disturbing the building or undertaking any renovations to eliminate any risk to Council.





# **JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **ATTACHMENT TO ITEM 5**

**19 MARCH 2024**



**Coursing Park Tennis**  
And Community Centre

ABN: 47 800 921 551

29/02/2024

Mr James Davis  
General Manager, Junee Shire Council  
29 Belmore St  
Junee NSW 2663

Att: General Manager; James Davis, GIS Officer; Narelle Hobson, Risk  
Manager; Jonty Bruce

Dear James,

I write to you in my capacity as President of the Coursing Park Tennis and Community Centre (CPT&CC) to urgently request assistance regarding the removal of asbestos from the tennis clubhouse, the toilet roof and the outdoor area roof. Additionally, we seek your support in covering the associated costs for replacing all affected areas.

The land on which our clubhouse and tennis courts reside was graciously donated to the crown in 1964 by a farming family who continue to farm adjacent to the property. Since then, it has served as a public recreational space. The land, identified as Lot 1 in DP 517274 and designated as Crown Land Reserve 84784, has the Junee Council appointed as the Crown land manager.

Our recent success in securing two grants, totaling \$15,000, has been a significant for our nonprofit organization. The first grant, amounting to \$5000 from Transgrid, was earmarked for the installation of lights in the clubhouse and externally, as well as within the toilet block. The second grant, a generous \$10,000 from FRRR, was intended to fund the installation of a much needed kitchen facility within the clubhouse. To this end, we had engaged the services of George Carroll from Kitchen & Cabinetry to finalize draft plans for the kitchen's implementation, and the electrician was poised to commence work.

However, our plans were abruptly halted upon the discovery that the clubhouse walls and other areas contain asbestos. This revelation has brought to light the urgent and pressing need for its removal, as it poses a severe health risk to our members and patrons. Asbestos, as I'm sure you're aware, is a highly hazardous material that, when disturbed, releases

microscopic fibers into the air, which, if inhaled, can lead to serious health complications, including lung diseases.

The presence of asbestos in our facility places our community at immediate risk, particularly as we currently host 34 children for tennis lessons every Friday night. One wall near the fridge is already compromised, heightening the urgency of the situation. I implore the Junee Council to prioritise the swift removal of asbestos from our premises to ensure the safety and well-being of all those who utilize our facilities.

Furthermore, we kindly request the Junee council's assistance in covering the costs associated with the replacement of affected walls and roofs, as well as subsequent painting to restore the facilities to a safe and usable condition. This support is crucial in ensuring that our community can continue to benefit from the amenities provided by our centre.

We are acutely aware of the time-sensitive nature of this matter and earnestly seek your assistance in expediting the process. Your support in this endeavor would not only safeguard the health of our community members but also enable us to proceed with our planned renovations and improvements with peace of mind.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I eagerly await your response and assistance. Attached is a quote that I recently obtained for the removal of asbestos. I will also obtain quotes for the replacement walls and roofs as soon as possible.

Please feel free to suggest any edits or provide further guidance.

Sincerely,

Alice Gwozdecky  
President - Coursing Park Tennis & Community Centre  
555 Coursing Park road, Yathella  
Email: [alicewettenhall@hotmail.com](mailto:alicewettenhall@hotmail.com)  
Contact: 0403 557 333

21/2/2024

Mr Stephen Targett  
Junee Shire Council  
29 Belmore St  
Junee NSW 2663

Dear Stephen,

We are the Coursing Park Tennis & Community Centre Incorporated (INC1700834), situated just 20 minutes South-West of Junee and forming part of the Junee Shire.

Our not-for-profit organisation is a dedicated team supporting a clubhouse and tennis courts to the community in the Coursing Park, Yathella, and surrounding areas.

The land which houses the clubhouse and tennis courts was donated to the Crown in 1964 by a farming family which is still farming next door, and has been used as a public recreational facility ever since.

The land is Lot 1 in DP 517274 (title search attached), it is designated Crown Land Reserve 84784, and the Junee Shire Council is the appointed Crown Land Manager.

We are immensely proud of our Community Centre, and the team has been working hard to provide the community with a functioning recreational facility and we have even recently been successful in obtaining a \$10,000 FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities Grant which we intend to use to install a kitchen in the clubhouse.

In 2023 we commenced the provision of kids tennis lessons at the courts and we have 35 children enrolled who now attend tennis lessons every Friday afternoon. The plan is to hold these lessons in Term 4 and Term 1 each year from now on. In addition, we are looking at starting an adults tennis competition, and numerous community events are scheduled for the remainder of the year including intensive

school holiday tennis lessons, community bbq nights, NRL State of Origin nights and winter bonfires during the cooler months.

We are writing to seek the support of the Junee Shire Council in maintaining the grounds area. Given the excellent ongoing use of the facility we kindly request that the Junee Shire Council mow the grass once a month, and spot spray any weeds in the facility area and on the tennis courts, as needed, on an ongoing basis.

We do greatly appreciate the assistance the Junee Shire Council has provided to date in helping to mow the area and the monthly rubbish collection service provided.

Our vision is to transform the club into a vibrant community hub, just as it was in the past. Our goal is to create a space where individuals can connect, engage in recreational activities, exercise, learn new skills, exchange insights to improve agricultural practices, and foster a resilient and healthy community spirit.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me directly on 0438 738 401. Your consideration of our request is greatly appreciated, and we are thankful for your time.

Warm regards,

Narelle Robilliard

*Vice President* – Coursing Park Tennis & Community Centre

Contact: 0438 738 401

Email: [narelle@robilliardag.com](mailto:narelle@robilliardag.com)





FOLIO: 1/517274

SEARCH DATE	TIME	EDITION NO	DATE
18/8/2023	2:49 PM	-	-

LAND

LOT 1 IN DEPOSITED PLAN 517274  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA JUNEE  
PARISH OF MALEBO COUNTY OF CLARENDON  
TITLE DIAGRAM DP517274

FIRST SCHEDULE

THE MINISTER FOR LANDS

SECOND SCHEDULE (3 NOTIFICATIONS)

- \* 1 LAND EXCLUDES MINERALS - SEE CROWN GRANT
- \* 2 K149221 LAND EXCLUDES MINERALS - (SEC.141 OF THE PUBLIC WORKS ACT, 1912)
- \* 3 THE LAND IS A RESERVE WITHIN THE MEANING OF PART 5 OF THE CROWN LANDS ACT 1989 AND THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFER AND OTHER DEALINGS IN THE LAND UNDER THAT ACT, WHICH MAY REQUIRE CONSENT OF THE MINISTER.

NOTATIONS

UNREGISTERED DEALINGS: NIL

\*\*\* END OF SEARCH \*\*\*

NJH7

PRINTED ON 18/8/2023

\* Any entries preceded by an asterisk do not appear on the current edition of the Certificate of Title. Warning: the information appearing under notations has not been formally recorded in the Register. InfoTrack an approved NSW Information Broker hereby certifies that the information contained in this document has been provided electronically by the Registrar General in accordance with Section 96B(2) of the Real Property Act 1900.

**Item 6            PLAN OF MANAGEMENT (PoM) FOR BETHUNGRA DAM RESERVE**

Author            Director Engineering Services

Attachments     Plan of Management for Bethungra Dam Reserve (Site Specific)

---

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. ***That Council note the report titled Plan of Management for Bethungra Dam Reserve.***
  2. ***Council resolve to adopt the Plan of Management with updates detailed in the report pursuant to Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1993 in accordance with 3.23(6) of the Crown Land Management Act 2016.***
- 

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides an updated Plan of Management (PoM) for Bethungra Dam Reserve to Council. The PoM has been approved for public exhibition and comment by Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands. A number of submissions have been provided on the Plan of Management summarised in the body of the report.

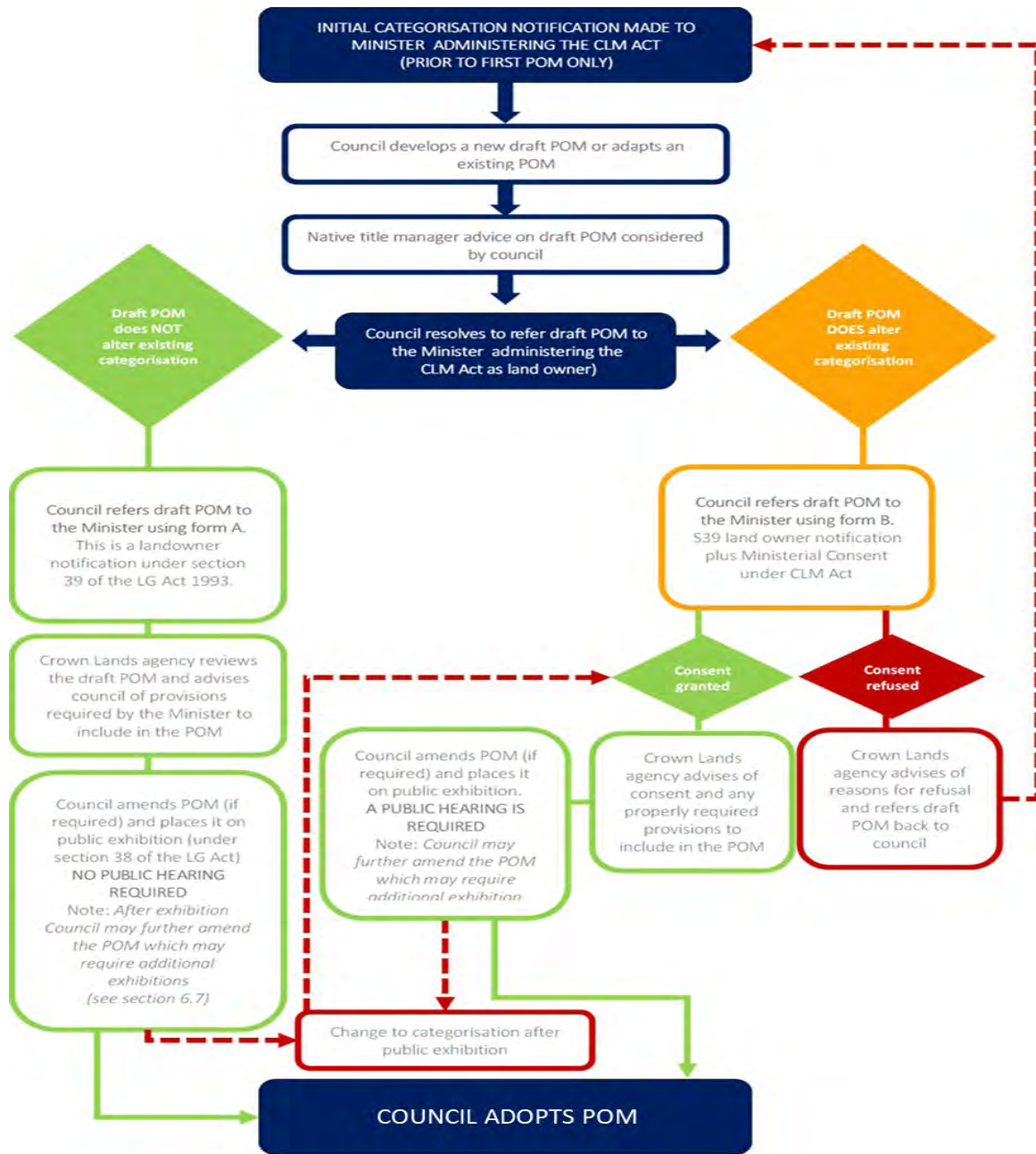
**BACKGROUND**

A report was provided to Council in December detailing the legislative changes that have resulted in the need for a Plan of Management for all reserves, including Bethungra Dam Reserve. This is summarised below:

- The Crown Land Management Act 2016 came into force on 1 July 2018 and changed the way in which Councils manage and operate Crown Land.
- The Crown Land Management Act 2016 (the CLM Act) authorises local councils that are appointed to manage dedicated or reserved Crown land (Council Managers) to manage that land as if it were public land under the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act).
- Council manages this land as if it were community land. Under the LG Act, a 'plan of management' must be adopted for all community land. The plan categorises the land and governs its use and management.

The community consultation process results in a number of additional steps involved with preparing a Plan of Management. The following flowchart details the process councils are required to follow. The purpose of this report is that we are now entering is the Council adoption of the Plan of Management.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024.



**COMMUNITY CONSULTATION**

Council staff have attended the Advisory Committee meeting and a public meeting at Bethungra Dam to present the PoM. A copy of the plan has been exhibited on Councils website and paper copies have been made available to residents in the Bethungra area.

The public exhibition period of 42 days under Section 38 of the LG Act 1993 has been completed. The PoM has used the category assigned under the Act without change and thus there is no requirement for a public hearing.

The changes based on the community consultation include:

1. Weeds - Specific weeds references have been removed and the Riverina Regional Strategic Management Plan along with the Biosecurity and Weeds Policy, have been referenced. With this, Council has included a commitment to manage weeds within the reserve in line with our policies.
2. Community Consultation - In regard to the ongoing development of the reserve, the report elaborates on the extent community consultation including specific methods for community consultation.
3. First Nations History – Further information on the movements of first nation people through the development have been provided.
4. European History – Further information on the European settlement of the area has been provided.
5. Emergency Use – Further provisions for emergency use have been provided.
6. Petrol Motors - Small petrol motors have been okayed on the dam.
7. Access - Access path areas have been expanded and a commitment to provide DDA compliant paths has been incorporated.
8. Minor corrections have been made to improve the reporting quality.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

Under the Local Government Act, a 'plan of management' (PoM) must be adopted by Council for all community land.

The draft Plan of Management for Bethungra Dam Reserve was submitted to Department of Planning and Environment – Crown Lands for comment in May this year. The Minister has now gone ahead and approved the PoM in its current form and Council may proceed to adoption if there are no major amendments to the PoM following exhibition for public comment. None of the above items are considered major amendments to the PoM.

If there are no changes following public exhibition, the delegate for the Minister for Lands and Property has consented to Council adopting the PoM under clause 70B of the Crown Land Management Regulation 2018.

If the PoM is amended after public exhibition (except for minor editorial and formatting changes), council must resubmit the draft PoM for Minister's consent to adopt.

## **Native Title Assessment**

The PoM provides strict guidelines for activities that require a Native Title Assessment and validation under the Native Title Act 1993 to be carried out by Council's Native Title Manager prior to the commencement of any of those activities outlined in the PoM.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO THE ORDINARY MEETING OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024.

The PoM is clear that the management of those activities that could be considered to be future acts, must take into account the reserve purpose for the land.

Council's Native Title Manager has undertaken an assessment in accordance with the Crown Land Management Act and the Native Title Act. That Assessment Summary is an attachment to this report. The assessment confirms Council's obligation satisfactorily.

### **Financial**

There are no adverse financial implications resulting from this report. All further work at Bethungra Dam is approved through the budget process independent of this report.

### **Connection with IPR**

5.3.1 Review Crown Reserve Plans of Management.

### **CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council adopt the PoM under Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1993 in accordance with 3.23(6) of the Crown Land Management Act 2016.

If the PoM is amended after public exhibition (except for minor editorial and formatting changes), Council must then resubmit the draft PoM for the Minister's consent to adopt and a further report would be provided to Council.





# **JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **ATTACHMENT TO ITEM 6**

**19 MARCH 2024**



**DRAFT**  
**Junee Shire Council**  
**Plan of Management for**  
**Bethungra Dam Reserve**  
**(Site Specific)**

**PoM**

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## Acknowledgement of Country

Junee Shire Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people who are the traditional custodians of this land. The Council pays respect to the Elders both past and present of the Wiradjuri Nation and extends that respect to other community members.

## Document Details

**Name:** Plan of Management for Bethungra Dam Reserve (Site Specific)

**Council:** Junee Shire Council

**Adoption Date:** 19 March 2024

## Table of Versions

Version	Description	Date
1	Initial Draft (for Council Comment)	
2	Draft Submitted to Crown Land	
3	Version for Public Exhibition	
4	Version including Public Comments	



# 1. Introduction

The Crown Land Management Act 2016 (CLM Act) commenced on 1 July 2018, introducing legislation to govern the management of Crown land in NSW. Councils now manage Crown reserve land as if it were “community land” under the Local Government Act 1993 (LG Act).

Under the LG Act, Council is required to have Plans of Management in place for all land that it manages, in accordance with Section 3.23 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 and Section 36 of the Local Government Act 1993.

This Plan of Management (PoM) specifically addresses the management of Bethungra Dam Reserve which is classified as “community land” under the LG Act. It outlines the way in which the land will be used. It also provides the framework to guide Council in relation to the authorisation of leases and licences over the land.

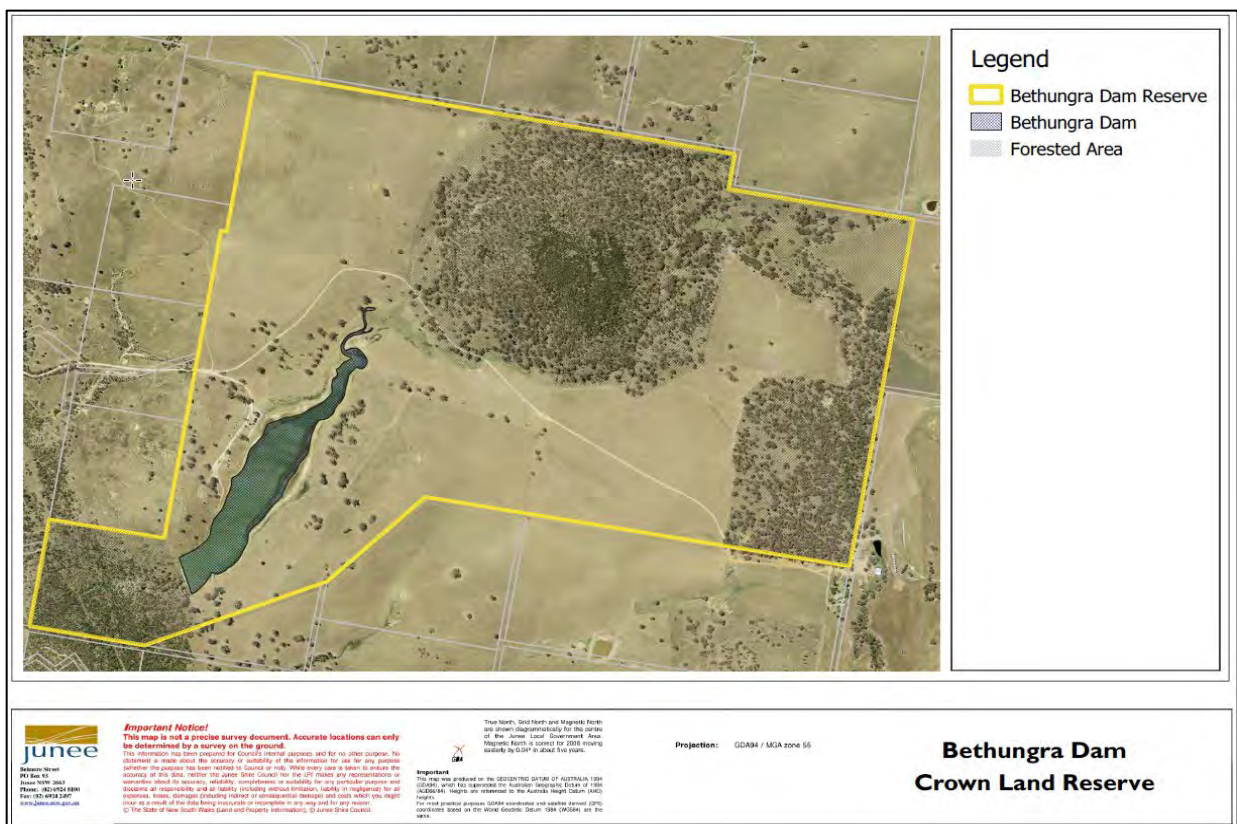


Figure 1: Bethungra Dam Reserve location and features

# 2. Purpose of this Plan of Management

The Purpose of this Plan of Management is to:

- Contribute to Junee Shire Council’s broader strategic goals and vision set out in the Junee Community Strategic Plan, adopted in 2017.
- Ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 1993.
- Ensure compliance with the Crown Land Management Act 2016.
- Provide clarity for future development, land use and management of the reserve.



### 3. Process of Preparing this Plan of Management

Division 2 of Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act sets out the process for the preparation of a PoM. Figure 2 illustrates the process undertaken by Council in preparing this PoM.

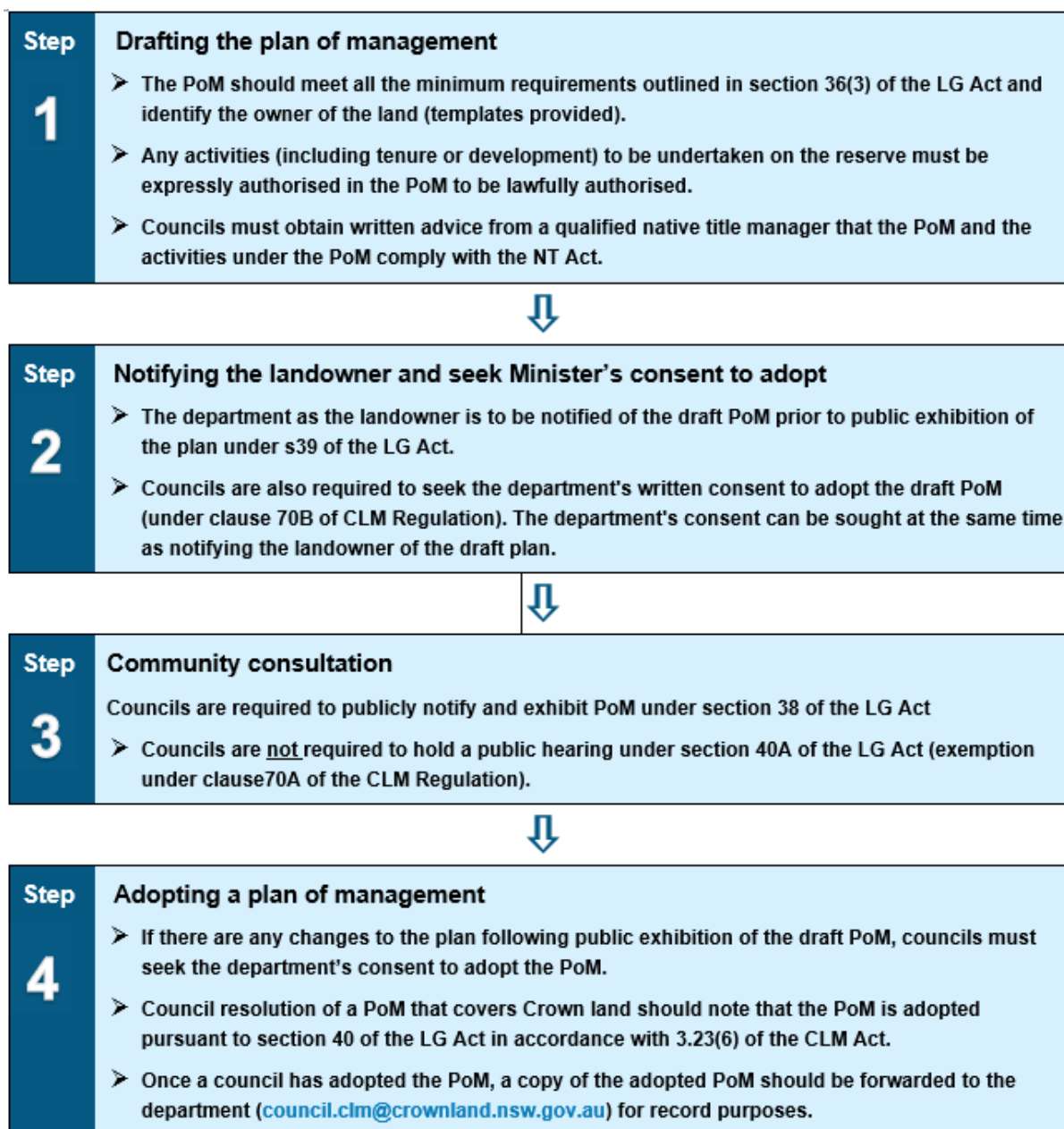


Figure 2: Process of Preparing a Plan of Management for Council managed Crown Reserves

## 4. Review of this Plan of Management

### 4.1 Methodology

This PoM will require regular review to ensure that it aligns with community values and changing community needs, and to reflect changes in Council's priorities. Council has determined that it will review the PoM at five-year intervals. However, the performance of this PoM will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the Reserve is being managed in accordance with the PoM, is well maintained and provides a safe environment for public enjoyment.

The appendices to this PoM may be updated from time to time, reflecting significant changes to the condition of the land.

A Concept Plan for future improvement of the reserve is being developed (Appendix A). The community will have opportunity to comment on the draft Concept Plan and to participate in reviews of this PoM.

### 4.2 Legislative Framework

Legislative framework and requirements regarding Crown land plans of management are provided in Appendix B.

### 4.3 Community Consultation

Before Council can adopt this PoM it must be placed on public exhibition for at least 28 days in accordance with the LG Act. The period in which written submissions can be received is not less than 42 days from the first day of public exhibition.

Council has a sound understanding of local issues developed through consultation with all stakeholders including a number of people who are familiar with and use the Bethungra Dam Reserve. Council will undertake on-going community consultation to assist the in providing facilities that are relevant to the needs of the community.

Significantly, the future development of the reserve is based on the views expressed by users. Public consultation guides and informs Council's land management aims. The co-operation of the users of the Bethungra Dam Reserve in the development of this PoM assists in achieving the management goals and objectives and ensures that the needs of the community and environment are met.

On-going community consultation will be undertaken to inform any works which occur under this plan of management. This will undertaken through presentations at community meetings, and letter drops regarding the works being undertaken.

On-going community consultation will result in the opportunity to review the document components on a 12 monthly basis and for the plan to be readopted with any changes on a 12 monthly basis.

## 5. Reserve Background and Context

### 5.1 Land Description

This PoM applies to the whole of the Bethungra Dam Reserve, 567 Bethungra Waterworks Road, Bethungra.

Table 1: Information about the reserve covered by this plan of management.

<b>Reserve Number</b>	<b>220036</b>
<b>Gazettal Date</b>	17/1/1992
<b>Reserve Purpose</b>	Public Recreation
<b>Land Parcel</b>	Lot 84 DP 726196 Parish of Ulandra County Clarendon
<b>Area (Hectares)</b>	386.615
<b>LEP Zoning</b>	RUI Primary Production
<b>Assigned Category</b>	Park
<b>Native Title Claim/ Determination</b>	Not applicable

### 5.2 Vegetation Context

Approximately 40% of the reserve remains uncleared with remnant vegetation comprised of low to open woodland, with a highly disturbed understory in the sections which have been actively grazed in the past.

The unnamed granite hill located near the northern boundary of the reserve is well covered with native low-open woodland. This vegetation is predominately comprised of White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*), Red Ironbark (*E. sideroxylon*), Native pine (*Callitris columellaris*), Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*) and Dropping She Oak (*Allocasuarina verticillate*), covering the hill to its lower slopes. Grazing and resampling by cattle and sheep have moderately disturbed the understory of this community.

A stand of White Box savannah woodland is situated on the gently undulating lower slopes of the eastern corner of the parcel. This community is in good condition, but less regeneration is evident. A narrow partially cleared corridor of trees along Billabong Creek in the north-eastern part of the parcel links this remnant vegetation with that on the hill. This corridor is a vital link for dispersion and the movement of fauna. A few other White Box are sparsely scattered along the slopes adjoining the Bethungra Dam.

Below the dam wall, in the far south-western corner is the only other substantial patch of remnant vegetation. This combines with the Ulandra Nature Reserve, adjoining the area to the south, to form part of the corridor along Wandalybingle Creek.

### 5.3 Geology

Geologically the area is an underlying large, localised granite intrusion. This is quite close to the surface. Soils are derived by weathering of the parent rock to form a shallow mantle. Coarse grains of quartz and a high percentage of the sand fraction dominates soil composition near the crests. These are progressively replaced downslope and in gullies by an increasing percentage of finer soil fractions. An increase in soil depth is also

evident downhill.

Granite soils are typically erodible, being prone to most forms of wind and water activated erosion. It is therefore essential to maintain a ground cover on the Bethungra Dam soils. At its current level for grazing and light recreational activities this is being achieved, however elevated levels of grazing can cause land degradation to occur over time.

## 6. Threatened Habitat and Ecological Communities

### 6.1 Fauna

The Bethungra Dam Reserve provides habitat for threatened species in its vicinity. Some of these species include:

- Black-breasted Buzzard
- Blue-billed Duck
- Speckled Warbler
- Flame Robin

The recorded locations of these and other species are displayed in Figures 3 to 7.

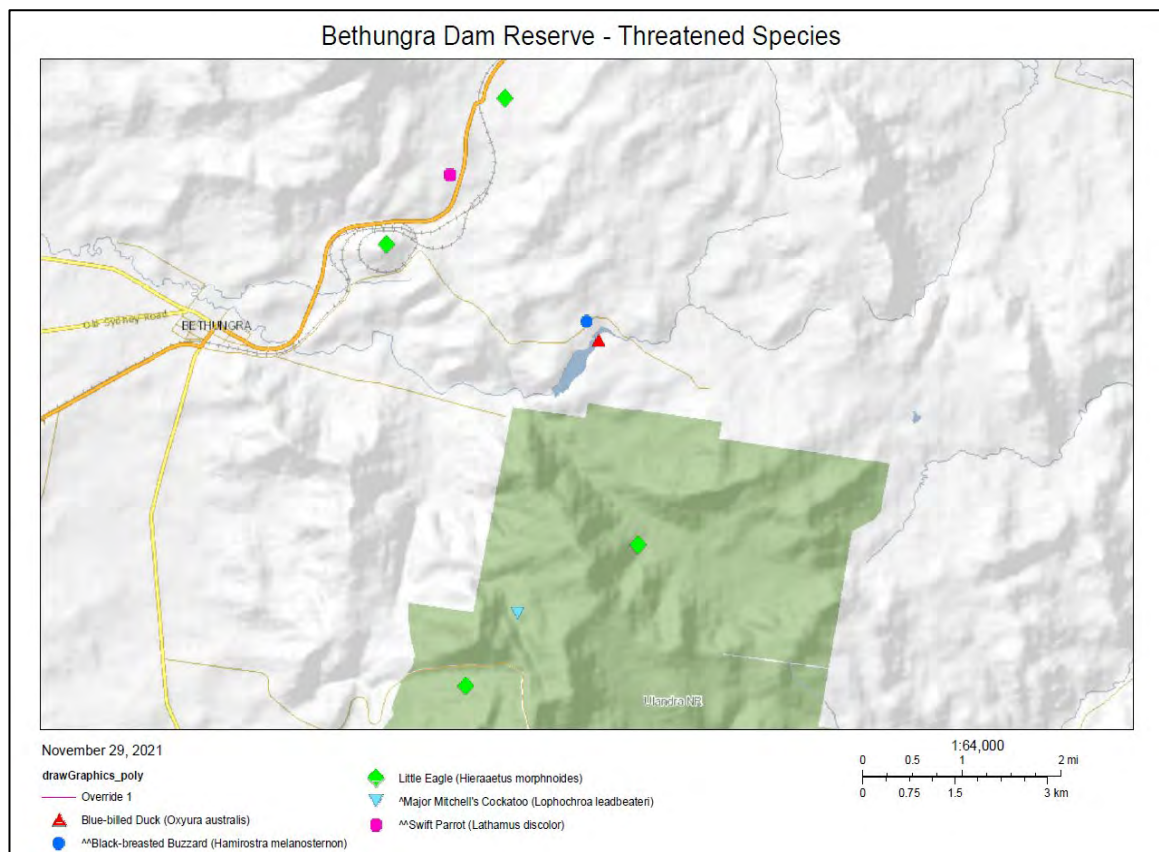


Figure 2: Bethungra dam reserve threatened species; map one



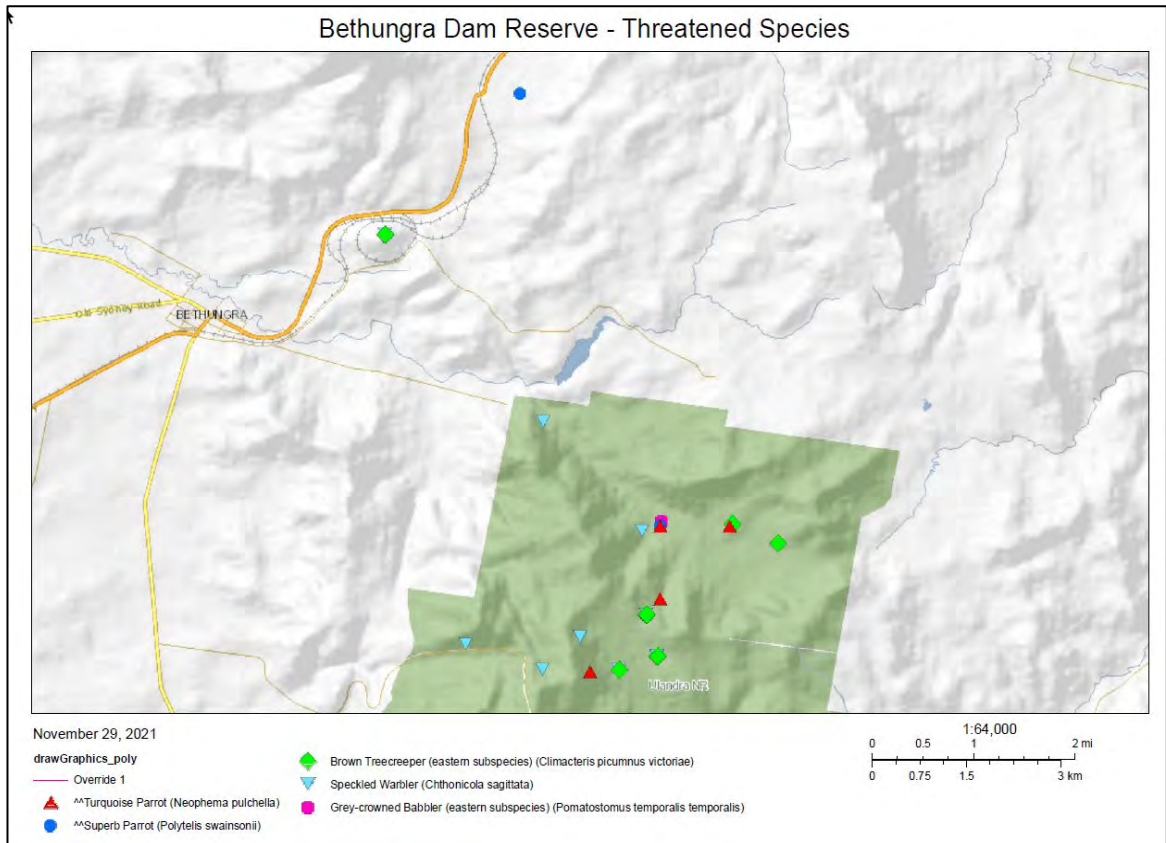


Figure 3: Bethungra dam reserve threatened species; map two

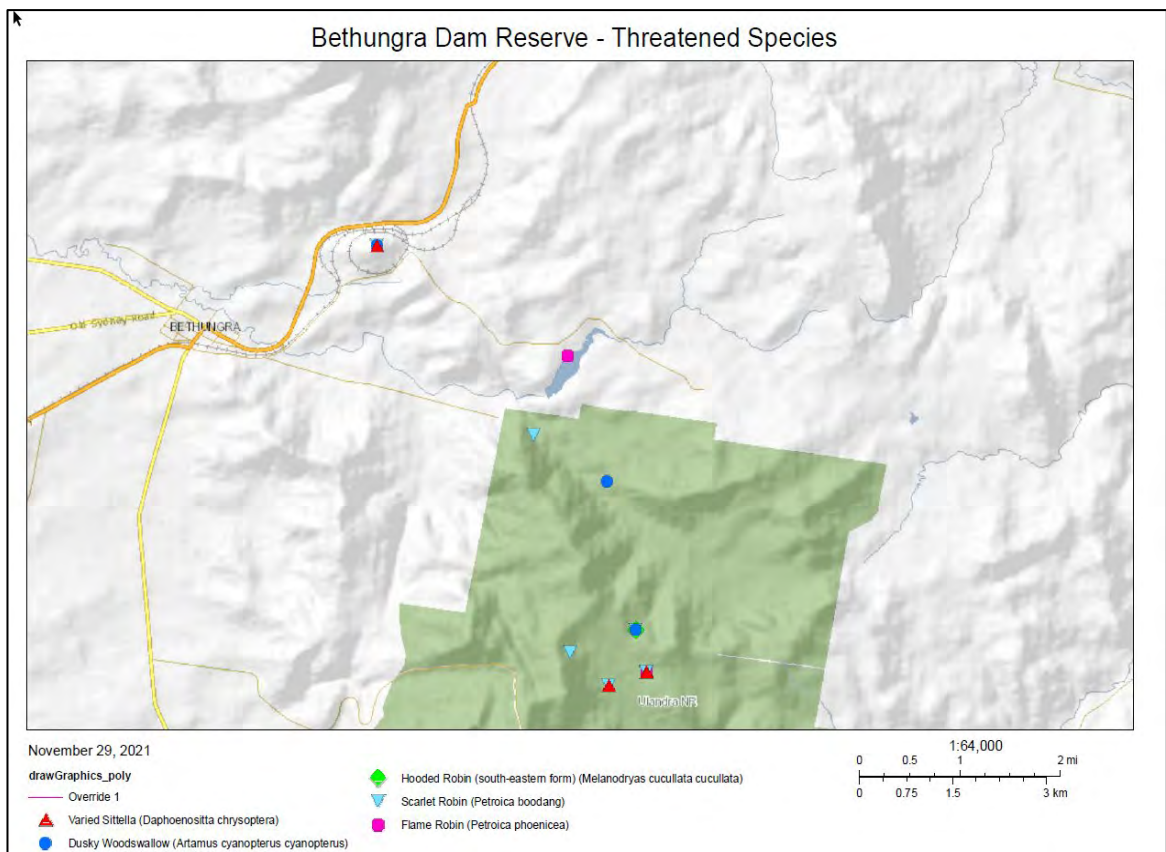


Figure 4: Bethungra dam reserve threatened species; map three



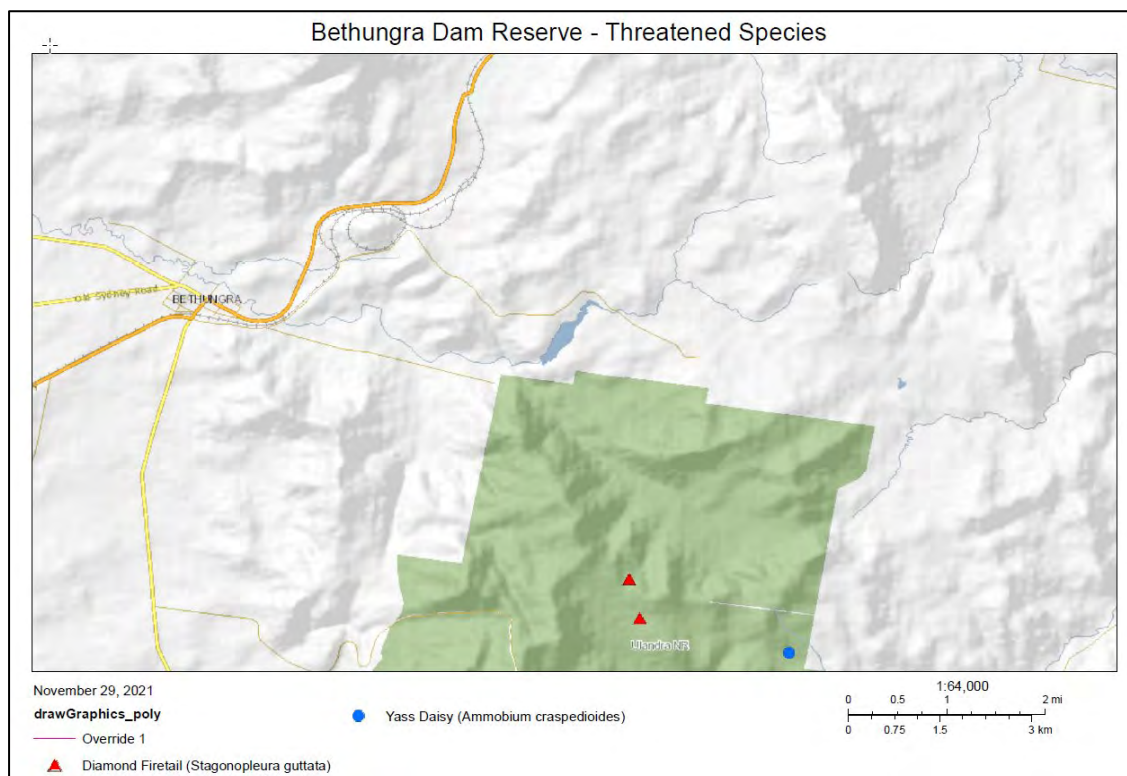


Figure 5: Bethungra dam reserve threatened species; map four

Although there are other threatened species recorded in the surrounding area but not specifically in the Bethungra Dam Reserve, it is not to say that it does not provide habitat and is still used by them. This therefore can indicate that the habitat that this reserve does provide is highly significant to the area and its surrounds.

In relation to Figures 3 and 4, the dam area has recorded sightings of three threatened species, providing an indication that the dam provides good habitat for some bird species. Outside of the reserve itself, in the adjacent Ulandra Nature Reserve, there is a higher concentration of recorded threatened species however these species, if the habitat is suitable, may still use the Bethungra Dam Reserve.

The dam itself also provides habitat for a number of aquatic species. Prior to adoption of this PoM, 2,000 Golden Perch (Yellow belly) and 2,000 Murray Cod were released into the dam over a two-year period. These species have the potential to help increase the biodiversity of the dam and to mitigate the breeding and effects of European Perch (Redfin) which are prevalent in large schools.

## 6.2 Flora

Flora in the Reserve consists of Inland Rocky Hill Woodlands, Western Slopes Dry Sclerophyll Forests, and Western Slopes Grassy Woodlands (Figure 6). All those vegetation classes are considered Critically Endangered (Figure 7) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. The preservation of the species residing in this reserve needs to be considered in relation to all development that may occur. Some of the significant native species that are present on the reserve include:

- White Box (*Eucalyptus albens*)
- Red Ironbark (*E. sideroxylon*)
- Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus melliodora*)
- Blakely's Red Gum (*Eucalyptus blakelyi*)

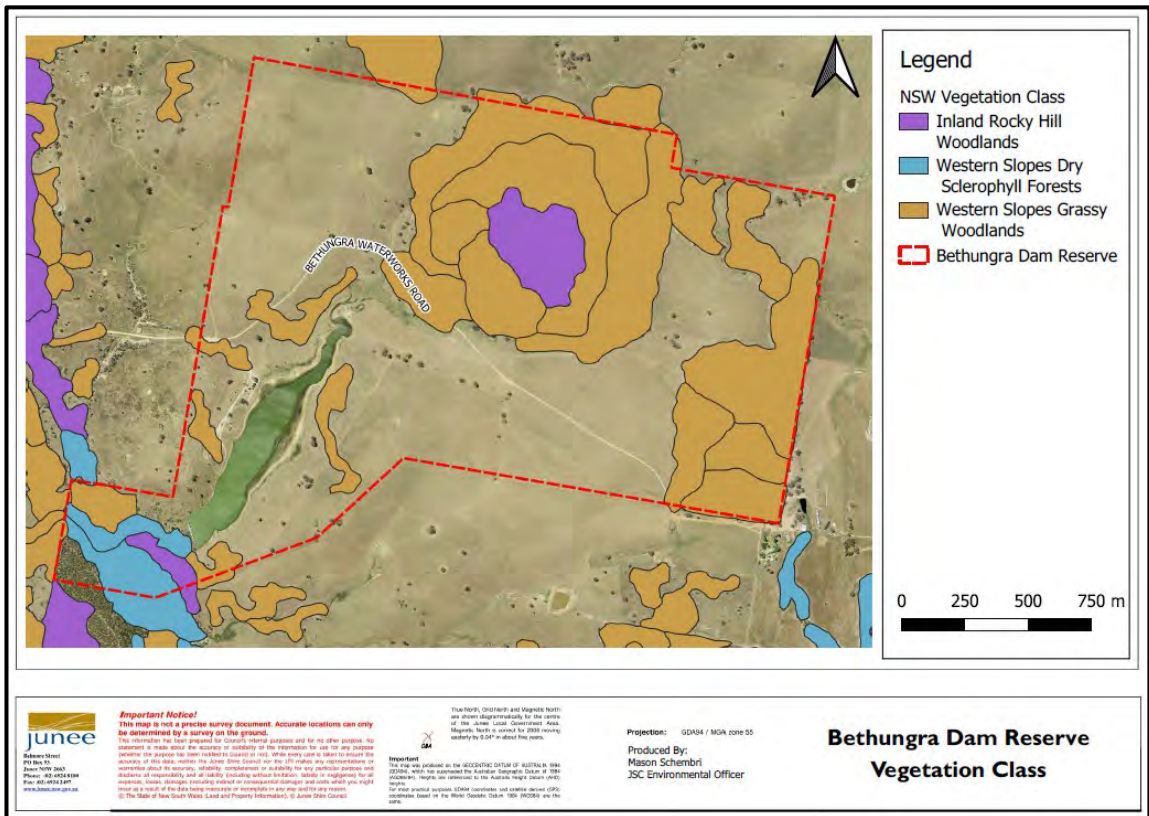


Figure 6: Bethungra dam NSW vegetation class

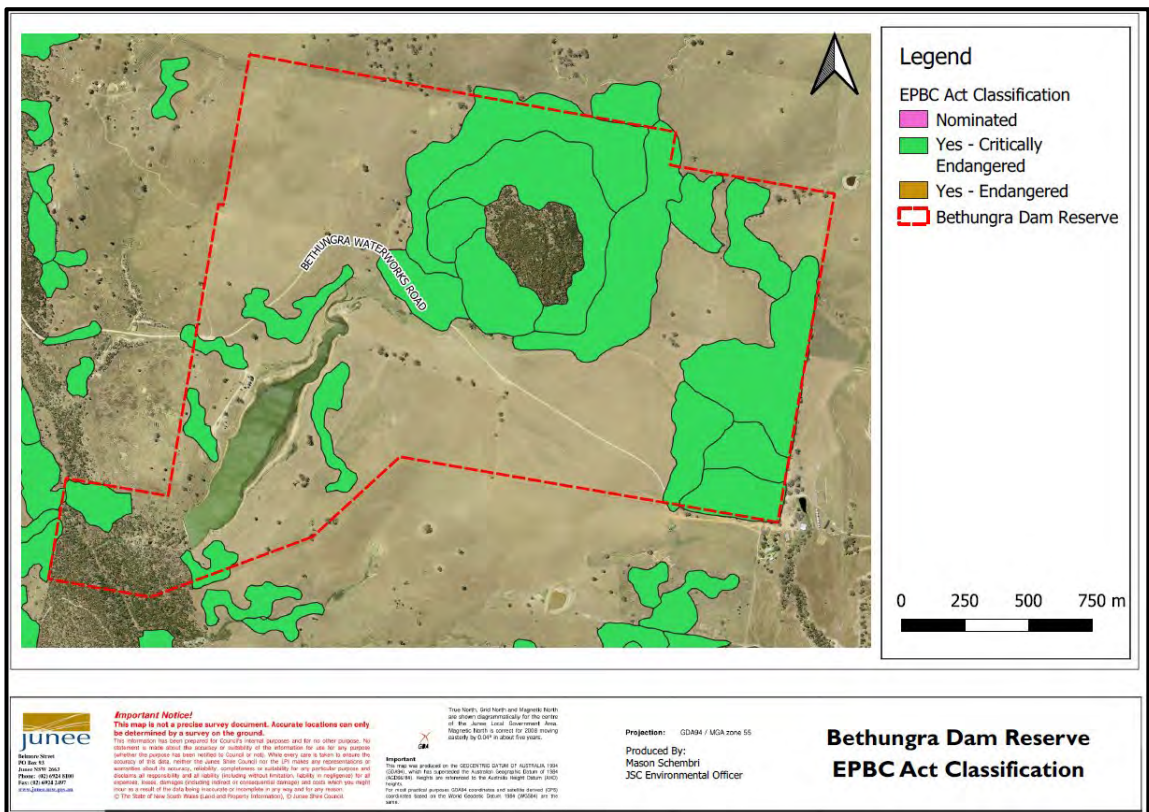


Figure 7: Bethungra dam EPBC Act vegetation classification

Noxious Weeds are also prevalent on the reserve, though not at unmanageable levels. All Noxious Weeds on the reserve are managed in accordance with the Riverina Regional Strategic Management Plan along with the Council's Bio-security and Weeds Policy, including relevant legislation referenced in these plans and policies.

A variety of native grasses are present on the reserve spanning to all sections. The

restriction of grazing to the Licensed area (Appendix C) and the incorporation of slashing/cultural burn instead in times when the grasses have seed heads will help regenerate the area and increase the quantity and cover of native grasses and reduce competition from weeds.

## 6.3 Weed Management

Junee Shire Council will control and manage all pests and priority weeds on the section of reserve identified in Appendix C as “Public Recreation”. With regard to the licensed area also shown in Appendix C, pests and priority weeds will be controlled and managed by the Licensee/Lessee.

Herbicides and manual removal will be used for weeds management according to the management treatment required for the specific weeds in the area.

## 7. Cultural Heritage

### 7.1 First Nations Heritage

Prior to European occupation, the area was part of the extensive tribal lands of the Wiradjuri First Nations peoples. A shield tree was identified (in a previous draft plan of management) on the site, indicating First Nations occupation or movement on or through the area.

Through further investigation using an AHIMS search, heritage items are recorded around the reserve (Appendix E) which also indicates use and movement of First Nations peoples through the reserve.

Among other movements, this included Wiradjuri First Nations people traveling from the present Murrumbidgee River in the cooler months, to the higher country spend time in the vicinity of Bethungra Dam Reserve. Then as the weather got hotter, and water scarce, returning to the Murrumbidgee River.

### 7.2 European Heritage

European activity in the area commenced in the 1860s with grazing and agriculture providing the catalyst for the establishment of Bethungra Village. Steam locomotion at the time needed frequent refilling with water and therefore required a reliable source of water.

The Bethungra Dam Reserve site located 1 km east of the village was chosen as a suitable location to hold one such body of water required for the operation of the nearby railway.

Construction of Bethungra Dam commenced in August 1894 under contract by Messrs Love, McCormick, and Dwyer. It was completed in December 1895 by Mr H A Bloomfield after the original contractors abandoned work in July of 1895 due to bankruptcy.

Due to its construction prior to 1900, the dam is automatically classified under the Heritage Act, 1977 and is a valuable and significant heritage item in the region.



## 8. Current Land Use and Condition

### 8.1 Land Use

Bethungra Dam Reserve is primarily used for recreation purposes with camping facilities readily available to the public. Water sports, bushwalking and fishing are popular in and around the dam itself making it a significant tourist attraction.

The larger part of the reserve is under licence for the purposes of grazing. The maximum carrying capacity on this section of reserve is 2.5dse which should not negatively impact the environment. All fences on the part of the reserve under licence are to be maintained by the Licensee.

### 8.2 Current Assets

The reserve contains a number of walkways leading from the camping and caravanning area. The Bethungra Dam walking track leads to a viewpoint, and a small seat with shading has been placed at the head of the dam. Following this walking path, a series of metal scaffolding walkways/bridges have been constructed to provide a safe walking path for tourists which also assists minimisation of erosion and land degradation.

Other infrastructure assets scattered on the reserve are:

- Toilet amenities (self-composting)
- 3 covered picnic tables
- A compacted hard stand area for caravan and car parking.
- 2-3 designated campfire areas.
- Shade structure with 2 gas barbeques.

## 9. Condition of Land on Adoption of the Plan

Grass cover is good with a variety of native and exotic grasses present. Invasive weeds are also present and identified throughout the reserve and are competing with the native grass species. There is regrowth of Eucalypts in some areas of the reserve, mainly along rock placements that define the carparks. Stock are restricted to the licensed area of the reserve, which will assist with tree re-growth.

There is a lack of understorey vegetation, the large Eucalypts and other trees are spread out in some areas and concentrated/densely populated in others. Planting in the areas lacking understorey may help promote wildlife corridors. Land degradation is present around the dam due to the grazing of cattle in the past.

## 10. Land Management

### 10.1 Overview of Future Development and Management

The whole of Bethungra Dam Reserve has been grazed by stock in the past to maintain the levels of grass and assist in the control of some weeds.

On adoption of this PoM, the grazing licence area will be restricted to allow for development of the recreational area and increased biodiversity. The Recreational Area (no grazing) and Licence area (grazing) are shown in Appendix C.

A Concept Master Plan (Appendix A) is currently being prepared which will identify areas within the Recreational Area for improvement, revegetation and development in terms of increasing the native species in the area and reducing the quantity of exotic species.

Management and development of the reserve in the future will also include increased biodiversity of the aquatic species in the dam to mitigate the effects of pest species such as European Perch (Redfin). This will include increasing fish habitat within the dam.

## 10.2 Land Classification

Bethungra Dam Reserve is classified as ‘community land’ under the Local Government Act and its initial categorisation of “Park” will not be altered by this PoM.

## 10.3 Land Categorisation

A “Park” is defined in clause 104 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 as land which is improved by landscaping, gardens or the provision of non-sporting equipment and facilities, and for uses which are mainly passive or active recreational, social, educational, and cultural pursuits that do not intrude on the peaceful enjoyment of the land by others.

The core objectives for parks, as outlined in Section 36G of the Local Government Act, are to:

- Encourage, promote, and facilitate recreational, cultural, social, and educational pastimes and activities;
- Provide for passive recreational activities or pastimes and for the casual playing of games;
- Improve the land in such a way as to promote and facilitate its use to achieve the other core objectives for its management.

## 10.4 Permissible Uses

- Active and passive recreation including children’s play.
- Recreational fishing.
- Swimming.
- Eating and drinking in a relaxed setting.
- Short term camping and caravanning.
- Use of established fire pits.
- Group recreational use, such as picnics and private celebrations.
- Filming and photographic projects.
- Publicly accessible ancillary areas, such as toilet facilities.
- Restricted access ancillary areas (eg. storage areas associated with functions,



gardening equipment).

- Service areas ancillary to the use of land (eg. loading areas, carparking spaces, bicycle racks).
- Low intensity commercial activities (eg. recreational equipment hire).
- Public address (speeches).

Some of the uses listed above require the prior approval of Council.

## 10.5 Permissible/Future Development

- Development for the purposes of improving access, amenity, and the visual character of the Reserve.
- Development or activity that promotes the restoration and regeneration of the land.
- Amenities to facilitate the safety, use and enjoyment of the park and natural environment (eg. children's play equipment).
- Heritage and cultural interpretation signage.
- Location, direction and regulatory signage.
- Lighting, seating, toilet facilities, shade structures and marked areas (eg. access paths and activity trails) that will not adversely affect the environment or setting of the area.
- Hard and soft landscaped areas that will not adversely affect the natural state or setting of the area.
- Designated fire pits, BBQ facilities and sheltered seating areas that will not adversely affect the natural state or setting of the area.
- Ancillary service, transport or loading areas that will not adversely affect the natural state or setting of the area.
- Commercial development which is sympathetic to and supports use in the area, and which will not adversely affect the natural state or setting of the area (eg. cafe, kiosk, recreation hire and equipment areas).

## 10.6 Express Authorisation of Leases, Licences and Other Estates

This PoM expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land covered by the PoM, provided that:

- The purpose is consistent with the purpose for which it was reserved.
- The purpose is consistent with the core objectives for the category of the land.
- The lease or licence is for a permitted purpose listed in the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*.
- The issue of the lease, licence or other estate and the provisions of the lease, licence or other estates can be validated by the provisions of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*.
- Where the land is subject to a claim under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* the issue of any lease, licence or other estate will not prevent the land from being transferred in the event the claim is granted.

- The lease, licence or other estate is granted and notified in accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* or the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*.
- The issue of a lease, licence or other estate will not materially harm the use of the land for the purpose for which it was dedicated or reserved.
- This PoM expressly authorises the issue of leases, licences and other estates over the land categorised as “Park” listed in Table 1.
- Any lease or licence for grazing will be limited to the “Licence Area” shown in Appendix C, having an area of approximately 246.05 hectares.
- The “Licence Area” will be licensed or leased for the grazing of stock only and will be maintained by the Licensee/Lessee in relation to grazing activities. All access roads and facilities used in the “Licence Area” will be maintained by the Licensee and this requirement will be incorporated into any licence or lease issued.
- Revenue from any occupancy of the reserve in terms of a licence or lease will be expended for the development, maintenance and management of the Bethungra Dam Reserve.
- Any licence proposal within the “Recreation Area” shown in Appendix C will be individually assessed and considered, including the community benefit, compatibility with this PoM and the capacity of the area to support the activity.

Table 2: Leases and licences, and purposes for which they may be granted for community land categorised as Park.

<b>Type of tenure arrangement</b>	<b>Maximum term</b>	<b>Purpose for which tenure may be granted</b>
Lease	20 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grazing of stock.</li> </ul>
Licence	5 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Café/kiosk area, including seating and tables.</li> <li>• Mobile food trucks.</li> <li>• Hire or sale of recreational equipment.</li> <li>• Educational sessions/workshops.</li> <li>• Agistment of stock.</li> </ul>
Other Estates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This PoM allows Council to grant ‘an estate’ over community land for the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities in accordance with the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>.</li> <li>• Estates may also be granted across community land for the provision of pipes, conduits, or other connections under the surface of the ground for the connection of premises adjoining the community land to a facility of the Council or other public utility provider that is situated on community land.</li> </ul>

## 11. Objectives and Performance Targets

### 11.1 Recreational Opportunities

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Provide opportunities for recreation, scientific and educational use of the natural and historical features on the reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation of Concept Master Plan (Annexure C).</li> <li>• Installation of appropriate facilities for day use and camping.</li> <li>• Encourage scientific and educational use of the dam and surrounds, and other resources on the reserve by schools and other user groups.</li> </ul>	Survey of reserve users/user groups, Monitoring of complaints/suggestions. community and authority consultation.

### 11.2 Public Safety and Recreation

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Promotion of public safety and responsible on-water recreational use of the dam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electric motors are preferred but small petrol motors are okay.</li> <li>• Zone an area in the lake for swimming. Standard nautical navigation rules will apply to the use of watercraft on the dam.</li> <li>• Discourage access to the dam wall.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, recorded complaints and community and authority consultation.
Avoidance of user conflict and congestion within the recreation area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategically locate facilities and installations to separate groups of users.</li> <li>• Ensure that all facilities and parking availability cater for the maximum recreational carrying capacity of the reserve.</li> </ul>	Observation, user survey, complaints monitoring.
Minimising the danger to users of the recreational area from venomous fauna, particularly snakes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the height of the grass during the spring and summer periods in the recreational area by management of slashing.</li> <li>• The removal or relocation of vital habitat for venomous fauna from the recreation area.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation and monitoring by Council staff and of complaints from users.

### 11.3 Public Access Beyond the Recreational Area

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Discourage public access beyond the recreation area boundaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signpost at strategic positions along the boundary of the recreation area.</li> <li>• Maintain periodic authoritative presence during appropriate seasons.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, records, and community consultation.

### 11.4 Licence Conditions

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Ensure that the terms of the licence are being met in relation to the maintenance and management of the area of the reserve identified in this PoM as the “Licence Area”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all licence conditions are being met.</li> </ul>	Observation and monitoring by Council staff, monitoring of complaints.
Restriction of grazing in areas of the Bethungra Dam Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of a “recreational use” area to the reserve that restricts all grazing in those areas.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation on the performance of the set-out objectives and targets of the Bethungra Dam Reserve management and development.
Management of firebreaks in licence area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Firebreaks will be created and observed during fire seasons within the licence area.</li> </ul>	Observation and monitoring by Council maintenance staff, consultation with the Licensee.
Management of weeds in licence area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weeds will be controlled and managed by the Licensee in the “Licence Area”.</li> </ul>	Number of weed species observed during inspection.

## 11.5 Natural Resource Protection

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Reduce land degradation in the reserve, particularly around the dam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategically locate facilities and installations to minimise the concentration of user impacts.</li> <li>• Minimise user activity on the reserve during peak periods by imposing an entrance toll to the reserve. Revenue collected from this will accrue to the management of the park. (This strategy may only be implemented if user congestion is causing degradation of the physical and natural environment or danger to reserve users).</li> <li>• If necessary, close the reserve to the public for a notified period of time and carry out rehabilitation works. This will be notified to the public in local papers, social media and announced over district radio.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation and community and authority consultation.
Prevent wilful damage to natural features and facilities. This may include recreation structures, facilities or vegetation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain periodic authoritative presence during appropriate seasons.</li> <li>• Signpost penalties for lighting of fires outside of designated areas and wilful damage to the physical and biological resources of the reserve.</li> <li>• Implement penalties for wilful damage to physical and biological resources and features.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation.
Maintain and increase the ecological diversity of aquatic life in Dam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase aquatic habitat in the dam to provide cover for native fish.</li> <li>• Increase in native fish stocking to increase the native fish biodiversity in the dam.</li> <li>• Provide and develop areas of more fish habitat in terms of logs (snags).</li> <li>• Monitor chemical and bacterial concentrations in the dam. If these exceed tolerable levels, investigate, and control the cause of excess influx.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation.



s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain a trophic structure in the dam capable of supporting low order carnivores.</li> </ul>	
Minimise negative user Impacts on Biological Resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all fishing laws are being enforced in the dam in relation to breeding periods of native fish.</li> <li>• Install a string of floating buoys across the dam near the reedbeds to protect the habitat and provide sanctuary to avifauna from on-water recreational users.</li> <li>• Provide adequate supplies of firewood to prevent 'wood stripping' from trees on the reserve.</li> <li>• Implement penalties for unlawful removal of timber resources from the reserve.</li> <li>• Prohibit shooting and trapping of native fauna.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation.
Protect wetland and reedbed areas from degradation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discourage access to the northern part of the dam by recreational users by the use of appropriate signage and a floating barricade.</li> <li>• Prevent stock access to the dam.</li> <li>• Minimise the influx of undesirable chemicals and sediments to Bethungra Dam.</li> <li>• Prevent the dumping of agricultural or household chemicals or chemical containers in drainage liners.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation.
Rehabilitate degraded areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erect temporary fencing around degraded areas to prevent further damage by stock or the public.</li> <li>• Grade batter slopes into steep, unstable creek banks and lake foreshore areas.</li> <li>• Plant appropriate vegetation on degraded land and encourage natural regeneration.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation.
Encourage natural regeneration of native tree species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Erect temporary and/or permanent fencing to exclude the public, stock, and noxious herbivores from specified areas on the reserve.</li> <li>• Manage stock types, stocking rates and stock rotations such</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation.

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
	that natural regeneration can occur.	
Prevent resource degradation by rural use beyond the land's capability of supporting such use in perpetuity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carry out periodic assessment of the area's stock carrying capacity and prescribe maximum stocking rates in licence conditions.</li> <li>• No cropping is to occur on the reserve.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation.
Safety of fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With the increase of vegetation and other revegetation activities in the reserve, may influence the increased use of the reserve by native fauna. The implementation of hollows and offset schemes to Bethungra Dam may also increase levels of habitat for fauna in the area.</li> <li>• Continue stocking of fish in the dam.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation on the performance of the set-out objectives and targets of the Bethungra Dam Reserve management and development.

## 11.6 Cultural Heritage Resource Protection

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Protect and maintain the integrity of aboriginal heritage resources on the reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide educational material detailing the history of Aboriginal occupation of the area, incorporating the use of artifacts on the reserve. This may be in the form of an information board or part of a brochure.</li> <li>• Clear flammable materials from the vicinity of any identified shield trees or other artifacts.</li> </ul>	Observation/monitoring by Council maintenance staff. Recorded complaints.

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Prevent wilful damage to cultural or historical features. These include the dam wall and all other structures and installations associated with the dam, fences, and items of Aboriginal heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discourage access to the dam wall where vandalism may deface or damage the structure.</li> <li>• Maintain periodic authoritative presence during appropriate seasons.</li> <li>• Penalties will apply for vandalism.</li> </ul>	Observation/monitoring by Council maintenance staff. Recorded complaints. Penalty Notices issued.

## 11.7 Control of Noxious Plants and Animals

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Prevent the spread of noxious plants and animals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eradicate pest plants by chemical and/or physical means, having regard to other organisms and environmentally sensitive areas.</li> <li>• Eradicate vertebrate pests by means of trapping and gassing.</li> <li>• Exclude external pests from the reserve using the appropriate fencing.</li> <li>• Monitor the area for reinfestations and act accordingly.</li> </ul>	Presence of weeds and pests and community and authority consultation on the performance of the set-out objectives and targets.

## 11.8 Water Quality

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Minimise the runoff of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilisers from surrounding agricultural land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with the Licensee and adjoining properties in the catchment and promote the use of natural and/or non-persistent pesticides and herbicides.</li> <li>• Construct runoff interception structures along drainage lines to</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation on the performance of the set-out objectives and targets of the Bethungra Dam Reserve management and development.

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
	dam runoff water and encourage settling of any undesirable chemicals prior to their reaching the dam. Plant vegetation around these structures which absorb and process undesirable chemicals.	
Minimise catchment erosion and influx of sediments into the Bethungra Dam.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant trees and encourage natural regeneration of vegetation along drainage lines and foreshores of the dam.</li> <li>• Restrict stock away from the dam to the “Licence area.”</li> <li>• Prohibit the use of power boats on the Bethungra Dam, electric motors only.</li> <li>• Carry out rehabilitation of eroded or other degraded areas.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation on the performance of the set-out objectives and targets of the Bethungra Dam Reserve management and development.
Prevent dry-land salting and salinisation of water bodies on the Bethungra Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage tree regeneration to maintain low groundwater levels.</li> <li>• Monitor the distribution of salt-tolerant indicator species.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation on the performance of the objectives and targets of the Bethungra Dam Reserve management and development.

## 11.9 Emergency and Fire Management

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
Minimise the hazard of uncontrolled fires on and around the Reserve.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confine public use of fire to the designated recreation area by the strategic placement of suitable non-removeable fireplaces/pits.</li> <li>• Clear all combustible fuel (except wood provided) from around fireplaces.</li> </ul>	Survey, observation, record, and community and authority consultation on the performance of the set-out objectives and targets of the Bethungra Dam Reserve management

s.36(3)(b) Objectives and Performance Targets	s.36(3)(c) Means of achievement of objectives	s.36(3)(d) Manner of assessment of performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrict fire use by the public during hot “fire hazard” days and implement fire restrictions.</li> <li>• Slash the reserve in required areas to reduce the grass fuel load.</li> <li>• Liaise with local fire organizations.</li> <li>• Create firebreaks around the perimeter of the reserve.</li> <li>• Maintain periodic authoritative presence during appropriate seasons.</li> <li>• Signpost penalties for the lighting of fires outside of designated areas.</li> <li>• Implement penalties for the lighting of fires outside of designated areas and the breach of fire regulations.</li> <li>• Allow access to water for refueling of vehicles for emergency response.</li> <li>• Allow use as a refuge from fire.</li> </ul>	and development.



# 12. Appendices

## Appendix A – Bethungra Dam Reserve Concept Master Plan

### Schematic Plan

L05

**AIMS**

**Celebrate** the unique natural beauty and industrial heritage at Bethungra Dam

**Welcome** visitors to Bethungra Dam

**Explore** the area through walking trails, boardwalks, picnic places and congregation spaces and **connect** to a larger bike trail network

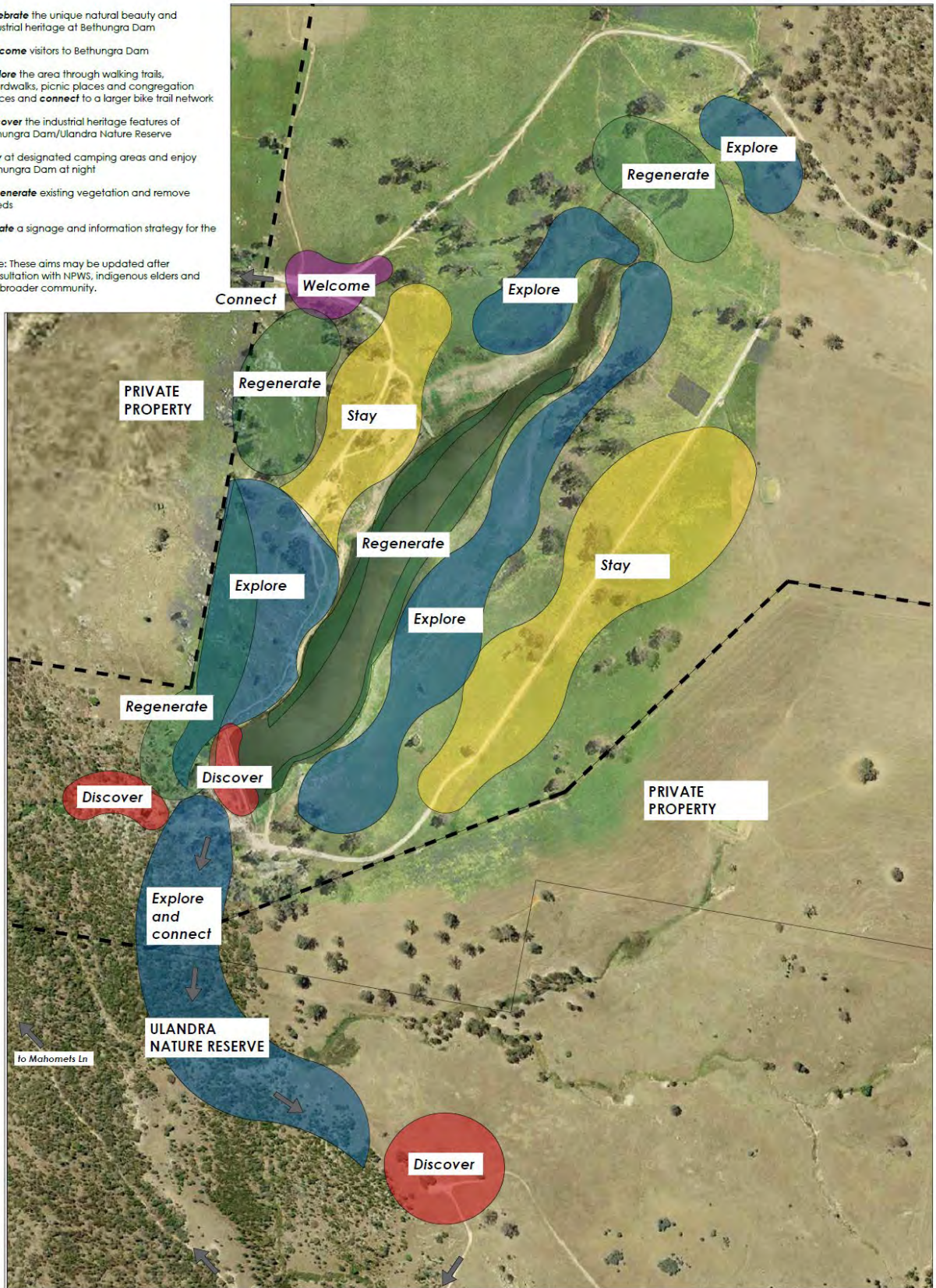
**Discover** the industrial heritage features of Bethungra Dam/Ulandra Nature Reserve

**Stay** at designated camping areas and enjoy Bethungra Dam at night

**Regenerate** existing vegetation and remove weeds

**Create** a signage and information strategy for the site

Note: These aims may be updated after consultation with NPWS, indigenous elders and the broader community.



## Appendix B - Plan of Management Legislative Framework

### Local Government Act 1993

Section 35 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (LG Act) provides that community land can only be used in accordance with:

- the plan of management applying to that area of community land, and
- any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land, and
- the provisions of Division 2 of Chapter 6 of the Act.

Section 36 of the Act provides that a plan of management for community land must identify the following:

- a) the category of the land,
- b) the objectives and performance **targets** of the plan with respect to the land,
- c) the means by which the council proposes to **achieve** the plan's objectives and performance targets,
- d) the manner in which the council proposes **to assess its performance** with respect to the plan's objectives and performance targets and may require the prior approval of the council to the carrying out of any specified activity on the land.

A plan of management that applies to just one area of community land:

- a) must include a description of:
  - (i) the condition of the land, and of any buildings or other improvements on the land, as at the date of adoption of the plan of management, and
  - (ii) the use of the land and any such buildings or improvements as at that date, and
- b) must:
  - (i) specify the purposes for which the land, and any such buildings or improvements, will be permitted to be used, and
  - (ii) specify the purposes for which any further development of the land will be permitted, whether under lease or licence or otherwise, and
  - (iii) describe the scale and intensity of any such permitted use or development.

Land is to be categorised as one or more of the following:

- a) a natural area
- b) a sportsground
- c) a park
- d) an area of cultural significance
- e) general community use.

Land that is categorised as a natural area is to be further categorised as one or more of the following:

- a) bushland
- b) wetland
- c) escarpment

- d) watercourse
- e) foreshore
- f) a category prescribed by the regulations.

Additionally, under section 36 of the LG Act, a site-specific PoM must be made for land declared:

- as critical habitat, or directly affected by a threat abatement plan or a recovery plan under threatened species laws (sections 36A (2) and 36B (3))
- by council to contain significant natural features (section 36C (2))
- by council to be of cultural significance (section 36D (2)).

### **Classification of public land**

The LG Act requires classification of public land into either ‘community’ or ‘operational’ land (Section 26). The classification is generally made for council-owned public land by the council’s Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or in some circumstances by a resolution of the council (Section 27).

Crown reserves managed by council as Crown land manager have been classified as community land upon commencement of the *Crown Land Management Act 2016* (CLM Act). Councils may manage these Crown reserves as operational land if written consent is obtained from the Minister administering the CLM Act.

Classification of land has a direct effect on the council’s ability to dispose of or alienate land by sale, leasing, licensing, or some other means. Under the LG Act, community land must not be sold (except for scheduled purposes), exchanged or otherwise disposed of by the council, and the land must be used and managed in accordance with an adopted PoM. In addition, community land is subject to strict controls relating to leases and licences (sections 45 and 46) of the LG Act.

By comparison, no such restrictions apply to operational land that is owned by councils. For example, operational land can be sold, disposed, exchanged, or leased including exclusive use over the land, unencumbered by the requirements which control the use and management of community land.

Crown reserves managed by council as operational land may generally be dealt with as other operational land but may not be sold or otherwise disposed of without the written consent of the Minister administering the CLM Act.

Operational land would usually include land held as a temporary asset or an investment, land which facilitates the council carrying out its functions or land which may not be open to the general public (for example, a works depot).

The classification or reclassification of council-owned public land will generally be achieved by a Local Environmental Plan (LEP) or by a resolution of council in accordance with sections 31, 32 and 33 of the LG Act. If land is not classified by resolution within a three-month period from acquisition it automatically becomes community land, regardless of whether it satisfies the objectives for community land as outlined in the LG Act.

For Crown land, Council cannot reclassify community land as operational land without consent of the Minister administering the CLM Act.

## **Crown Land Management Act 2016**

Crown reserves are land set aside on behalf of the community for a wide range of public purposes, including environmental and heritage protection, recreation and sport, open space, community halls, special events and government services.

Crown land is governed by the CLM Act, which provides a framework for the state government, local councils, and members of the community to work together to provide care, control, and management of Crown reserves.

Under the CLM Act, as Council Crown land managers, councils manage Crown land as if it were public land under the LG Act. However, it must still be managed in accordance with the purpose of the land and cannot be used for an activity incompatible with its purpose – for example, Crown land assigned the purpose of ‘environmental protection’ cannot be used in a way that compromises its environmental integrity.

Councils must also manage Crown land in accordance with the objects and principles of Crown land management outlined in the CLM Act. The objects and principles are the key values that guide Crown land management to benefit the community and to ensure that Crown land is managed for sustainable, multiple uses.

### ***Principles of Crown land management***

- Environmental protection principles are to be observed in the management and administration of Crown land.
- The natural resources of Crown land (including water, soil, flora, fauna, and scenic quality) will be conserved wherever possible.
- Public use and enjoyment of appropriate Crown land are to be encouraged.
- Where appropriate, multiple uses of Crown land should be encouraged.
- Where appropriate, Crown land should be used and managed in such a way that both the land and its resources are sustained.
- Crown land is to be occupied, used, sold, leased, licenced, or otherwise dealt with in the best interests of the state of NSW, consistent with the above principles.

### ***Crown land management compliance***

In addition to management and use of Crown reserves which is aligned with the reserve purpose(s), there are other influences over council management of Crown reserves. For example, Crown land managers may have conditions attached to any appointment instruments, or councils may have to comply with specific or general Crown land management rules that may be published in the NSW Government Gazette. Councils must also comply with any Crown land regulations that may be made.

## **Native Title Act 1993**

The Commonwealth *Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act) recognises and protects native title rights and interests. The objects of the NT Act are to:

- provide for the recognition and protection of native title.
- establish ways in which future dealings affecting native title may proceed and to set standards for those dealings.
- establish a mechanism for determining claims to native title.



- provide for, or permit, the validation of past acts invalidated because of the existence of native title.

The NT Act may affect use of Crown land, particularly development and granting of tenure.

Specifically, the CLM Act makes it mandatory for council to engage or employ a Native Title Manager. This role provides advice to council as to how the council's dealings and activities on Crown land can be valid or not valid in accordance with the NT Act.

Council must obtain the written advice from an accredited native title manager that Council complies with any applicable provisions of the native title legislation when:

- a) granting leases, licences, permits, forestry rights, easements, or rights of way over the land.
- b) mortgaging the land or allowing it to be mortgaged.
- c) imposing, requiring, or agreeing to covenants, conditions or other restrictions on use (or removing or releasing, or agreeing to remove or release, covenants, conditions, or other restrictions on use) in connection with dealings involving the land.
- d) approving (or submitting for approval) a plan of management for the land that authorises or permits any of the kinds of dealings referred to in (a), (b) or (c).

### **Council Plans and Policies Relating to this PoM**

- Junee Local Environmental Plan 2012
- Junee Development Control Plan 2015
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021
- Walking and Cycling Accessibility Plan
- Local Companion Animals Management Plan
- Junee Shire Council Community Strategic Plan 2017

### **NSW State Legislation**

#### ***Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979***

The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) provides the framework for planning and development across NSW and guides environmental planning instruments which provide a basis for development control.

The EP&A Act ensures that effects on the natural environment, along with social and economic factors, are considered by the council when granting approval for or undertaking works, developments, or activities.

This Act is also the enabling legislation for planning policies which may have a direct influence on open space management. On a state-wide level there are State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs). On a regional level there are Regional Environmental Plans (REPs). On a local level there are Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) as well as Development Control Plans (DCPs).

#### ***Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983***

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) is important legislation that recognises the rights of Aboriginal peoples in NSW. It recognises the need of Aboriginal peoples for land and acknowledges that land for Aboriginal people in the past was progressively reduced



without compensation. Crown land meeting certain criteria may be granted to an Aboriginal Land Council. This Act may affect dealings with Crown land that is potentially claimable.

### ***National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974***

Statutory responsibilities on the council arising from this Act specifically relate to the protection of sites of pre- and post-European contact archaeological significance. This Act may affect community land categorised as cultural significance, natural area, or park.

### ***Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016***

**Note:** The Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 repealed several pieces of legislation including the Native Vegetation Act 2003, Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995, the Nature Conservation Trust Act 2001, and the animal and plant provisions of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

This Act covers conservation of threatened species, populations and ecological communities, the protection of native flora and fauna. This Act primarily relates to community land categorised as natural area. However, other categories may also be affected.

The *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* has been repealed and superseded by the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. However, references to the former legislation remain in the LG Act and are therefore retained in this guideline.

DPIE's Energy, Environment and Science division advises that recovery plans and threat abatement plans made under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* were repealed on the commencement of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* in 2017. These plans have not been preserved by any savings and transitional arrangement under the Biodiversity Conservation Act or LG Act, meaning pre-existing plans have no legal effect.

For this reason, requirements relating to recovery plans and threat abatement plans for local councils preparing plans of management under section 36B of the LG Act are now redundant. Councils will be advised if future amendments are made to the LG Act to enable these mechanisms.

Certain weeds are also declared noxious under this Act, which prescribes categories to which the weeds are assigned, and these control categories identify the course of action which needs to be carried out on the weeds. A weed may be declared noxious in part or all of the state.

### ***Fisheries Management Act 1994***

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (FM Act) includes provisions for the management of state fisheries, including the conservation of fish habitats, threatened species, populations and ecological communities of fish and marine vegetation and management of the riparian zone, waterways and threatened marine/freshwater aquatic species. This relates to community land categorised as natural area (foreshore, watercourse, or wetland).

Where an area of community land is declared to be critical habitat, or if that area is affected by a recovery plan or threat abatement plan under Part 7A of the FM Act, a site-specific plan of management will need to be undertaken.

### ***Rural Fires Act 1997***

This Act contains provisions for bushfire risk management and the establishment of a Bushfire Management Committee. It also includes direction on development in bushfire prone lands.

### ***Water Management Act 2000***

This Act is based on the concept of ecologically sustainable development, and its objective is to provide for the sustainable and integrated management of the water sources of the state for the benefit of both present and future generations. The Act recognises that:

- The fundamental health of our rivers and groundwater systems and associated wetlands, floodplains and estuaries is to be protected,
- The management of water must be integrated with other natural resources such as vegetation, native fauna, soils and land,
- To be properly effective, water management must be a shared responsibility between the government and the community,
- Water management decisions must involve consideration of environmental, social, economic, cultural and heritage aspects,
- social and economic benefits to the state will result from the sustainable and efficient use of water.

### ***Heritage Act 1977***

This Act contains provisions for the conservation of items of heritage and may relate to community land categorised as culturally significant or natural area.

## **Commonwealth Legislation**

### ***Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Management Act 1999***

This Act enables the Australian Government to join with the states and territories in providing a national scheme of environment and heritage protection and biodiversity conservation. It incorporates threatened species on a national level and with relevance to Matters of National Environmental Significance.

### ***Telecommunications Act 1997***

This Act provides for telecommunication facilities being permitted on community land without authorisation in a PoM.

### ***State Environmental Planning Policies***

State Environmental Planning Policy no. 19 – Bushland in urban areas

This planning policy deals with bushland in urban areas, so is applicable to PoMs for community land categorised as Natural Area – Bushland.

### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007**

This planning policy lists development allowed with consent or without consent on community land.

### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011**

This aims to protect quality of surface water and the ecosystems that depend on it and requires that any development would have a neutral or beneficial effect on water quality.

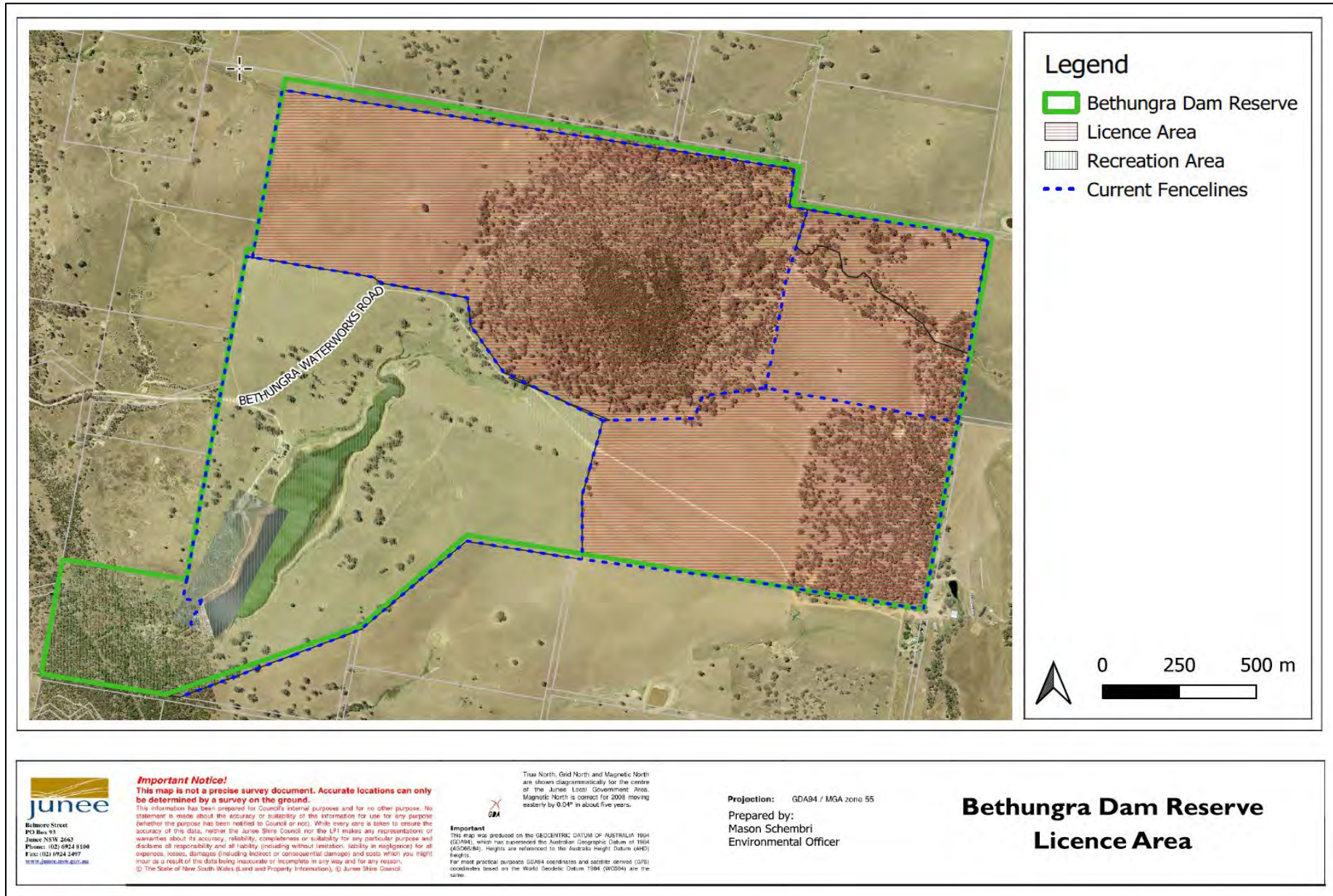
### **State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017**

This policy deals with clearing of native vegetation in urban areas and land zoned for environmental protection.

### **Other Relevant Legislation, Policies and Plans**

- Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Biosecurity Act 2015
- Companion Animals Act 1998
- Disability Inclusion Act 2014
- Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
- Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Management Act 1999 (Cth)
- Fisheries Management Act 1994
- Heritage Act 1977
- Local Land Services Act 2013
- Pesticides Amendment Act 2015
- Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997
- Retail Leases Act 1994
- Rural Fires Act 1997
- Soil Conservation Act 1938
- Water Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2001
- NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015
- National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy
- NSW Biodiversity Strategy
- A Vegetation Management Plan for the Sydney Region (Green Web Sydney)
- Australian Natural Heritage Charter

# Appendix C – Bethungra Dam Reserve Licence/Recreation Area



## Appendix D – Aboriginal Interests in Crown land

Crown land has significant spiritual, social, cultural and economic importance to the Aboriginal peoples of NSW. The CLM Act recognises and supports Aboriginal rights, interests and involvement in Crown land.

The management of Crown land can be impacted by the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW).

### **Native Title**

Native title describes the rights and interests that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have in land and waters according to their traditional law and customs. Native Title is governed by the *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993* (NT Act).

Native title does not transfer the land to the native title holder, but recognises the right to land and water, by providing access to the land and if applicable, compensation for any loss, diminution, impairment or other effect of the act on their native title rights and interests.

All Crown land in NSW can be subject to a native title claim under the NT Act. A native title claim does not generally affect Crown land where native title has been extinguished or it is considered excluded land.

When preparing a PoM, Council is required to employ or engage a qualified native title manager to provide advice and validate acts (developments and tenures) over the reserve, in line with the NT Act. The most effective way to validate acts under the NT Act is to ensure all activities align with the reserve purpose.

If native title rights are found to exist on Crown land, council Crown land managers may be liable to pay compensation for acts that impact on native title rights and interests. This compensation liability arises for local councils whether or not the act was validated under the NT Act.

For further information about native title and the future acts framework see the [Crown lands website](#).

### **Aboriginal Land Rights**

The *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (ALR Act) seeks to compensate Aboriginal peoples for past dispossession, dislocation and removal of land in NSW (who may or may not also be native title holders).

Aboriginal land claims may be placed on any Crown land in NSW. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is responsible for investigating claims as defined in the ALR Act. If a claim is established, the land is transferred to the Aboriginal Land Council as freehold land.

At the time of preparing this plan of management, the Bethungra Dam Reserve is not affected by an undetermined Aboriginal land claim. Council has considered the possibility of an Aboriginal Land Claim being lodged in the development of this PoM.



## Appendix E – AHIMS Search Results



### AHIMS Web Services (AWS)

Search Result

Your Ref/PO Number : Bethungra Dam 1

Client Service ID : 649054

Mason Schembri

Date: 23 December 2021

29 Belmore Street

Junee New South Wales 2663

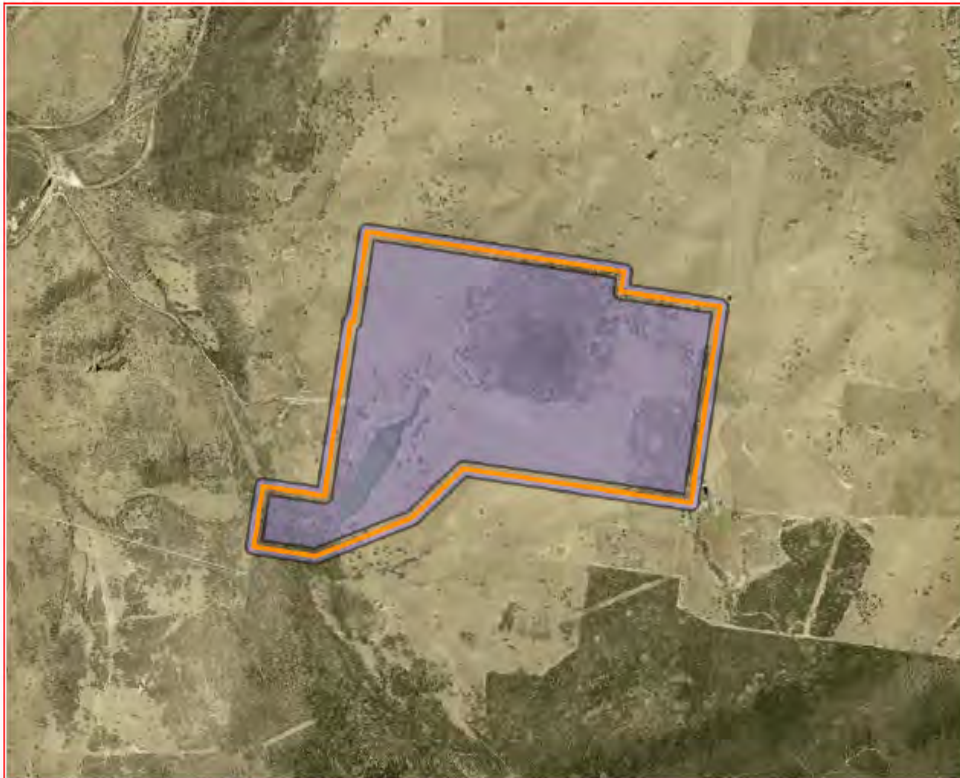
Attention: Mason Schembri

Email: mason.schembri@junee.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir or Madam:

**AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lot : 84, DP:DP726196, Section : - with a Buffer of 50 meters, conducted by Mason Schembri on 23 December 2021.**

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

0	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *



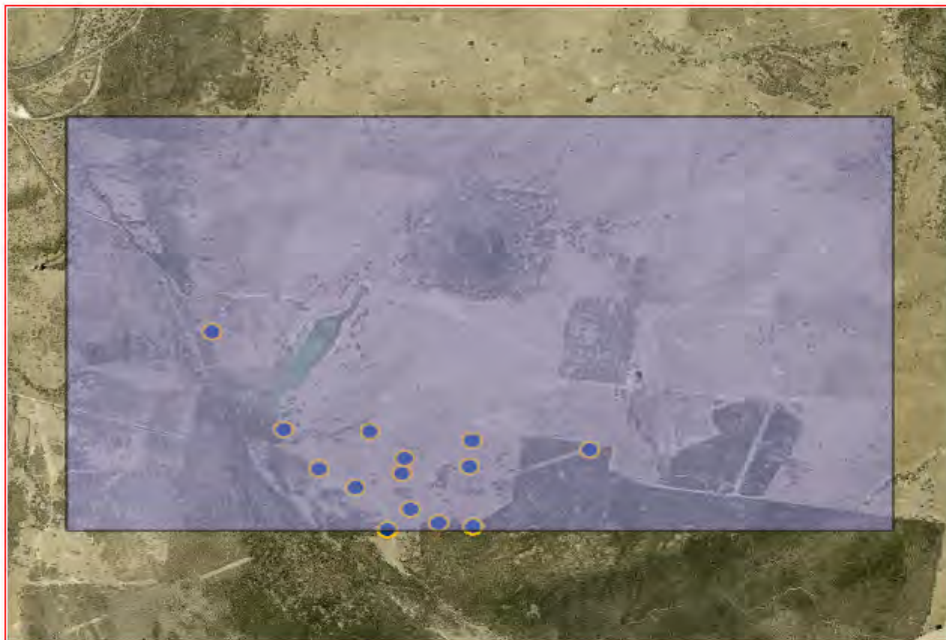
Mason Schembri  
29 Belmore Street  
Junee New South Wales 2663  
Attention: Mason Schembri  
Email: mason.schembri@junee.nsw.gov.au

Date: 23 December 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

**AHIMS Web Service search for the following area at Lat, Long From : -34.78, 147.89 - Lat, Long To : -34.75, 147.95, conducted by Mason Schembri on 23 December 2021.**

The context area of your search is shown in the map below. Please note that the map does not accurately display the exact boundaries of the search as defined in the paragraph above. The map is to be used for general reference purposes only.



A search of Heritage NSW AHIMS Web Services (Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System) has shown that:

15	Aboriginal sites are recorded in or near the above location.
0	Aboriginal places have been declared in or near the above location. *

#### If your search shows Aboriginal sites or places what should you do?

- You must do an extensive search if AHIMS has shown that there are Aboriginal sites or places recorded in the search area.
- If you are checking AHIMS as a part of your due diligence, refer to the next steps of the Due Diligence Code of practice.
- You can get further information about Aboriginal places by looking at the gazettal notice that declared it. Aboriginal places gazetted after 2001 are available on the [NSW Government Gazette \(https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette\)](https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/gazette) website. Gazettal notices published prior to 2001 can be obtained from Heritage NSW upon request

#### Important information about your AHIMS search

- The information derived from the AHIMS search is only to be used for the purpose for which it was requested. It is not to be made available to the public.
- AHIMS records information about Aboriginal sites that have been provided to Heritage NSW and Aboriginal places that have been declared by the Minister;
- Information recorded on AHIMS may vary in its accuracy and may not be up to date. Location details are recorded as grid references and it is important to note that there may be errors or omissions in these recordings.
- Some parts of New South Wales have not been investigated in detail and there may be fewer records of Aboriginal sites in those areas. These areas may contain Aboriginal sites which are not recorded on AHIMS.
- Aboriginal objects are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 even if they are not recorded as a site on AHIMS.
- This search can form part of your due diligence and remains valid for 12 months.



# **JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

# **COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINUTES**



# **MINUTES OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 2.00pm THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

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The meeting opened at 2.00pm.

## **PRESENT:**

Mr Steve McGrath (Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council), Ms Linda Wiles (Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council) and Cr Andrew Clinton

## **STAFF:**

Mr Luke Taberner, Mr Jonty Bruce and Mrs Sharryn Sweeney (Junee Shire Council)

## **OTHERS:**

Mr Stephen Prowse (National Audits Group), Mr Hugh Wilson (Audit NSW) and Ms Danielle McKenzie (Crowe Audit Australia)

## **APOLOGIES:**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr A Clinton seconded Linda Wiles that Mr James Davis and Cr Marie Knight be received as apologies for the 7 March 2024 meeting.

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## **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Linda Wiles seconded Cr Andrew Clinton that the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee note and receive the Minutes of the meeting held 9 November 2023.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

Nil

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were received.

## **AGENDA ITEMS:**

Due to external presenters attending this meeting via Zoom, the Committee decided to deal with Items 3 and 2 prior to dealing with Item 1.

### **3. RISK MANAGEMENT AUDIT REPORT AND JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL'S RESPONSES**

Stephen Prowse addressed the Committee regarding the Risk Management Audit Report. It was advised that while there are some shortcomings regarding risk management, Council has a solid



# MINUTES OF JUNE SHIRE COUNCIL AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 2.00pm THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

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foundation to develop Council's framework. The next step is to update its processes and embed them into Council's day-to-day operations.

The report to the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee outlined Council's response to the audit findings and recommendations, detailing the steps Council plans to undertake to address the recommendations made by the National Audit Group.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr Andrew Clinton seconded Linda Wiles that the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee note the Confidential Internal Audit Report on Risk Management provided by the National Audit Group.

## 2. AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

The Audit Office of NSW have re-tendered the responsibility for conducting the audit of Council's statutory accounts for the next three years. The successful tenderer is again Crowe Audit Australia (Crowe) who will conduct audits for the 2024 through to the 2026 financial years.

Danielle McKenzie from Crowe Australia addressed the Committee explaining key areas of the new audit arrangements and different aspects of the letter.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Linda Wiles seconded Cr Andrew Clinton that the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee note the report relating to Audit Arrangements for the year ending 30 June 2024 and beyond and the Audit Engagement Plan as tabled at this meeting.

## 1. AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE CHARTER AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chief Financial Officer advised that there are new requirements under the Local Government Act which require the creation of a separate Internal Audit Function and the operation and composition of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee. By adopting the new Charter and Terms of Reference, this will facilitate this happening.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr A Clinton seconded Linda Wiles that the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC):

1. Receive and note the Charter and Terms of Reference as attached to this report.
2. Note the new structure of the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee from 1 July 2024, being an independent Chairman, two independent members and a non-voting Council member.
3. Note that Cr Clinton has been appointed to the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee as a non-voting member from 1 July 2024.



**MINUTES OF JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL AUDIT RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 2.00pm THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS.**

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**4. JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

There were no major concerns raised in the Internal Audit Recommendations but Council was asked to add a risk rating to the recommendations.

**RESOLVED** *on the motion of Linda Wiles seconded Cr Andrew Clinton that the Audit Risk and Improvement Committee note and endorse the status of the updated Internal Audit Recommendations List.*

**5. REPORTABLE INCIDENTS**

The Risk Manager advised the Committee that there have been two minor incidents that involved WorkCover claims since the last meeting.

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

As this was the last Audit Risk and Improvement Committee meeting before the new structure of ARICs begin in July 2024, Cr Andrew Clinton thanked our Chair, Steve McGrath for his leadership and advice and also thanked Steve and Linda Wiles for their efforts and support in attending Council's Audit Committee meetings.

**7. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the Internal Audit Committee to be advised.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.43pm.

Steve McGrath  
Chairperson



**JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

# **DELEGATES REPORTS**



**RIVERINA EASTERN REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING**  
**held at The Rules Club, Fernleigh Rd Wagga Wagga**  
**Friday 23 February 2024**

Meeting opened at 9.10a.m.

**PRESENT**

Alison Balind	Bland Shire Council	ALTERNATE
Cr Charlie Sheahan	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Stephen McGrath	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	
Cr Tony Quinn	Greater Hume Shire Council	
Dean Hart	Greater Hume Shire Council	ALTERNATE
Cr Bob Callow	Junee Shire Council	
James Davis	Junee Shire Council	
Cr Gail Driscoll	Lockhart Shire Council	ALTERNATE
Austin Morris	Lockhart Shire Council	ALTERNATE
Cr Rick Firman <i>OAM</i>	Temora Shire Council	CHAIRMAN
Melissa Boxall	Temora Shire Council	
Aaron Drenovski	Goldenfields Water	
Matt Stadtmiller	Goldenfields Water	
Julie Briggs	REROC	
Leah Gain	REROC	
William Adlong	REROC	
Peter Dale	REROC	

**APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. T. Quinn seconded Cr. B. Callow that apologies be received from Cr Greg Verdon, Cr Brian Monaghan, Cr David McCann *OAM*, Peter Veneris, Grant Baker, Evelyn Arnold, Tony Donoghue, Jenny Pideski, Andrew Trenaman, Giles Butler and Rachel Whiting.

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. C. Sheahan, seconded Cr. T. Quinn that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2023 be confirmed.

**BUSINESS ARISING**

**Invitation to Simon Draper to attend REROC Meeting** – remains outstanding.

**Write to the Minister for Housing about REROC's Regional Community Housing Project** – letter has been sent to the Minister.

**Write to the Minister for Regional Roads to ask the RERRF to become permanent** – letter has been sent to Minister.

**Thank you Letter to Paul Worsfold** – letter sent.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Letter from Minister Dib re RFS Assets and Service Level Agreements**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. C. Sheahan, seconded Cr. T. Quinn REROC write to the Minister for Emergency Services to express concern about the lack of consultation in relation to the

development of the new Draft Service Level Agreement and that the lack of consultation be included in REROC's response to the PAC Inquiry.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. C. Sheahan, seconded Cr. T. Quinn REROC write to the Minister for Local Government to follow-up our correspondence to the previous Minister seeking clarification as to where liability arises should a RFS worker of volunteer be killed or injured while using firefighting equipment that is owned by council.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of S. McGrath, seconded Cr. B. Callow that the correspondence be received.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

#### **CEO Recruitment**

Cr Matt Stadtmiller declared a conflict of interest and left the room at 9.20a.m.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr T. Quinn, seconded J. Davis that Local Government Services Group (LGSG) be engaged to undertake the recruitment of the new REROC CEO.

Cr Matt Stadtmiller returned to the meeting at 9.30A.M.

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

The report was tabled. J Briggs raised the following issues with Members:

**Visit by Minister for Local Government, Hon Ron Hoenig** – venue for the meeting is The Lawson, in Tarcutta Street. REROC to provide an agenda for the meeting, Members to discuss agenda items at the end of the meeting.

#### **Public Accounts Committee: Inquiry into the assets. Premises and funding of the NSW Rural Fire Service**

Members agreed to participate in an afternoon workshop to discuss REROC's response to the Inquiry. J. Briggs to make arrangements for the workshop.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of M Boxall, seconded S. McGrath that REROC makes a submission to the Inquiry and provides support for submissions by LGNSW and CMA.

#### **Review of the Operation of Emergency Services**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. M Stadtmiller, seconded Cr. C. Sheahan that REROC includes in its response to the PAC Inquiry other matters of concern relating to the operation of the RFS such as volunteer numbers, management and training.

#### **Final NSW Code of Accounting Practice & financial Reporting: RFS Assets**

Noted

#### **IPART Draft Terms of Reference for NSW Councils Financial Model Review**

Members to provide comments to J. Briggs prior to 15 March.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of S. McGrath, seconded by M. Boxall that REROC makes a submission to the Draft Terms of Reference for the Inquiry into NSW Councils' Financial Model Review.

### **Amendments made to the Local Government General Regulation: Waste Service Contracts**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of S. McGrath, seconded by Cr. T Quinn that REROC writes to the Premier, the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Environment to raise Members concerns about the amendments to the Regulation and ask that they be revoked. Copies of the correspondence to local members, LGNSW and CMA.

### **Joint Committee Review of LWU**

It was agreed that REROC should explore the Queensland model for managing disaster claims. NEMA have advised that it works well, REROC will look at the process to determine whether it can be applied in NSW. J. Briggs to meet with NEMA to discuss betterment issues.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. M. Stadtmiller, seconded by Cr. B. Callow that REROC adopts the response to the Local Water Utilities Review Inquiry Supplementary Questions response.

### **Productivity Commission Review of LWU Funding Models**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. M. Stadtmiller, seconded by J. Davis that REROC makes a submission to the Review and provides support for submissions by LGNSW and CMA.

### **Draft NSW Energy Framework Policy**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of J. Davis, seconded by S. McGrath that REROC adopts the response to the NSW Energy Framework Policy and provides copies of same to local members, LGNSW and CMA.

### **Regional Development Act Review**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of A. Balind, seconded by Cr B. Callow that REROC adopts the response to the Regional Development Act 2004(NSW) and provides copies of same to local members, LGNSW and CMA.

### **Response to the Manufactured Homes Regulation Amendments**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of A. Balind, seconded by Cr B. Callow that REROC adopts the response to the manufactured Homes Regulation and provides copies of same to local members, LGNSW and CMA.

### **De-merger/Financial Viability**

Cr Firman declared a conflict of interest.

S. McGrath advised that the legislative amendments will not change the situation in relation to the Cootamundra-Gundagai de-merger because decisions were made prior to the amendments being tabled. The Boundaries Commission will still be required to undertake another review.

### **Disaster Adaptation Plans**

Noted.

### **FOGO Collection Grants**

Noted.

### **Meeting with DCCEEW about NTCRS**

Noted.

### **Health and Knowledge Precinct**

Noted.



**Southern Lights**

Noted.

**Application for Regional Housing Fund Round 2**

Noted.

**DRRF Second Round Funding**

Noted.

**Skills Shortage Project**

Noted.

**Build a Bridge**

Noted.

**60 Day Dispensing**

Noted.

**Extension of JONZA**

Noted.

**30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

Noted.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of M. Boxall, seconded J. Davis that the CEO Report be received.

**RESOURCE SHARING REPORT**

The report was tabled. J Briggs spoke to the report.

**Regional ARIC Project**

Noted.

**Planning Technical Group**

Noted.

**Workforce Development Group**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr M. Stadtmiller, seconded M. Boxall that REROC approach Ms Sam Tout to determine if she would be interested in continuing her role as REROC's Student Ambassador at Wollongong University.

**Water and Wastewater Technical Group**

Noted.

**Infrastructure/Engineers Group**

Noted.

**Build a Bridge**

J. Briggs to provide materials to Members to promote the event on social media and in council newsletters.

**Youth and Community Network**

Noted.

### **Riverina Spatial Information Group (RIVSIG)**

Noted.

### **Aggregated Procurements**

Noted.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. M. Stadtmiller, seconded Cr. T. Quinn that the Resource Sharing Report be received.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

J. Briggs spoke to the report.

### **REROC 24-25 Proposed Budget**

J. Briggs to provide clarification on the budget amounts for CEO wages, CEO Contractor and on-costs.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of A. Balind, seconded S. McGrath that subject to clarification that the proposed budget and Membership fees for the Financial Year 24-25 be approved.

### **Year-to-Date Financial Reports**

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr T Quinn, seconded Cr. B. Callow that the Treasurer's Report be received.

## **WASTE FORUM REPORT**

The report was tabled. L. Gain spoke to the report.

### **Bin Trim Grant**

Noted.

### **FOGO Audits**

The audit should not be released publicly until the final amendments have been made and the EPA has signed-off on it.

### **E-Waste Collections**

Noted

### **Charging for Solar Panels**

Noted.

### **Recycle Night? Recycle Right!**

Noted.

### **Regional Contracts**

Noted.

### **No Time to Waste Conference**

Noted.

### **No Time to Waste Conference**

The 2024 Conference will be held on 30 & 31 October with the aim of avoiding clashes with council meeting and increasing attendance from elected members and senior staff.

**School Projects**

Noted.

**Community Recycling Centres**

Noted.

**Landfill Gas Capture Project**

Noted.

***Food and Green Keep it Clean!***

The Board was shown the four new television/cinema advertisements.

**RENEW Meeting February 2023**

Noted.

**REROC Waste Forum Meeting Dates**

Noted.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. B. Callow, seconded Cr. T. Quinn that the Waste Forum report be received.

**ENERGY AND NET ZERO PROJECT REPORT**

The Report was tabled. W. Adlong spoke to the report.

**Community Energy Upgrade Fund (CEUF)**

Councils were reminded of the value of bundling projects because the funding structure only allows for councils to receive one grant during the life of the program.

**LED Upgrades Site Visits**

Noted.

**REROC Regional Energy Efficiency and Net Zero Plan**

The Plan was distributed, however J. Briggs advised that W. Adlong had found some errors in the work, Members were asked to delay the review of the final version until the errors were addressed.

**Energy Management Technical Group**

Noted.

**Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises**

The grants contributed are for up to 100% of the equipment and close on 8 April. REROC to work with EDOs to promote the grant.

**NSW Energy Savings Certificates in Rural Towns**

Noted.

**Net Zero Accelerator Program**

Noted.

**Net Zero Community Emissions Guide and Strategy Template**

Noted.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of A. Balind, seconded Cr. C. Sheahan that the Energy and Net Zero Project report be received.

## **DISASTER RISK RECOVERY PROJECT REPORT**

The Report was tabled, J. Briggs spoke to the report.

### **DRR Project Steering Committee**

Noted.

### **GAP Analysis**

J. Briggs advised that GHD had followed-up with their request for a variation to the contract, to enable them to charge more for the work undertaken to meet with councils via Zoom. She advised that she has asked that they rethink the request given that the work is now over 3 months late and what was to have taken 3 months to complete now appears will take 6 months.

### **Spatial NSW Involvement**

Noted.

### **Mapping Transport**

Noted.

### **Community Education Platform**

Noted.

### **RRPAC Meetings**

Noted.

### **Reporting**

Noted.

**RESOLVED** on the motion of Cr. T. Quinn seconded Cr M. Stadtmiller that the Disaster Risk Recovery Project Report be received.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

**Donna Argus, Director of the Reconstruction Authority (RA) Regional Delivery Team** – addressed the Members about RA's role in preparing for recovery, partnering with councils to deliver on-ground outcomes and opportunities for the local RA office to work with REROC on recovery and preparedness projects.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Agenda items for the meeting with Minister Ron Hoenig MP on 27 February** - The Members agreed that the following issues should be included as topics for discussion at the meeting:

- Exposure to liability that councils face in relation to owning but not controlling rural firefighting equipment.
- Rising cost of external audits – they have risen by around 40%.
- The duplication of tasks between external auditors and ARIC.
- Legislation to wind-up JOs.
- Recent amendments to the Local Government General Regulation in relation to tendering for waste services.

**Councillor Training** – Members identified the need/opportunity to provide training for councillors. It was agreed that with the elections REROC should review its councillor training package.

New Banking Enquiry – J. Davis advised that he had heard that there was another inquiry being launched into banking. J. Davis and J. Briggs to investigate and advise Members.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Friday 19 April 2024 at The Rules Club, Fernleigh Rd, Wagga Wagga.

#### **CLOSURE**

Meeting closed at 12:45pm.

DRAFT





# **JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

## **INFORMATION BOOKLET**





**JUNEE SHIRE COUNCIL**

**INFORMATION BOOKLET**

**ORDINARY MEETING TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024**

- 1[GM]      COUNCILLOR DELEGATE MEETINGS**
- 2[HR]      WORKERS' COMPENSATION/REHABILITATION**
- 3[DPCD]   LIBRARY**
- 4[DES]      WORKS PROGRAM**
- 5[RSO]      ROAD SAFETY OFFICER**
- 6[DES]      SEWERAGE SYSTEM**
- 7[DPCD]   RANGER REPORT**
- 8[DES]      SOLID WASTE REPORT**
- 9[EO]       WEEDS**
- 10[DPCD]   10.7 CERTIFICATES**
- 11[DPCD]   DEVELOPMENT/COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT DETERMINATIONS**
- 12[DPCD]   HEALTH, BUILDING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS**
- 13[DPCD]   COMMUNITY AND RECREATION**
- 14[GM]      CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS SUMMARY**

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## **1[GM] COUNCILLOR DELEGATE MEETINGS**

Notification of Council committee meetings or community meetings for which Councillors may be attending.

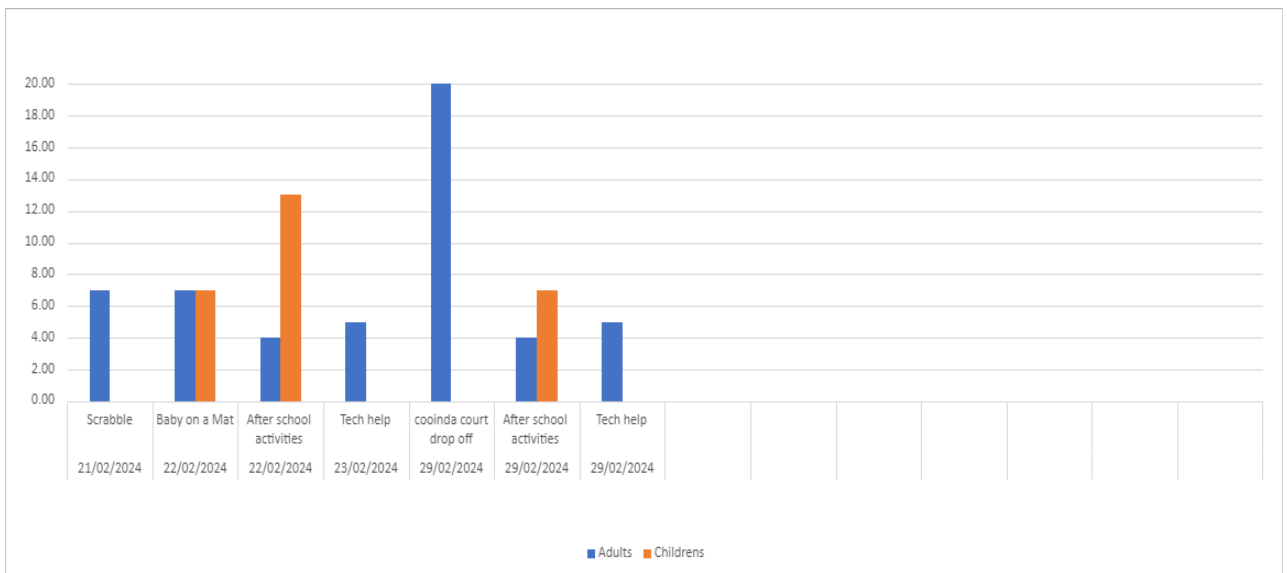
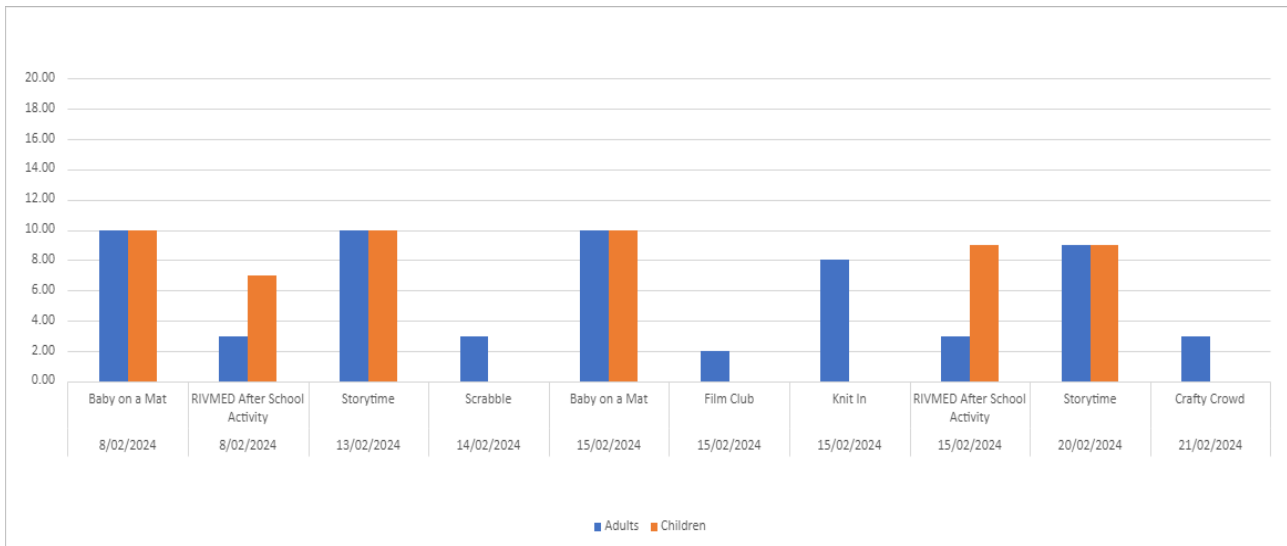
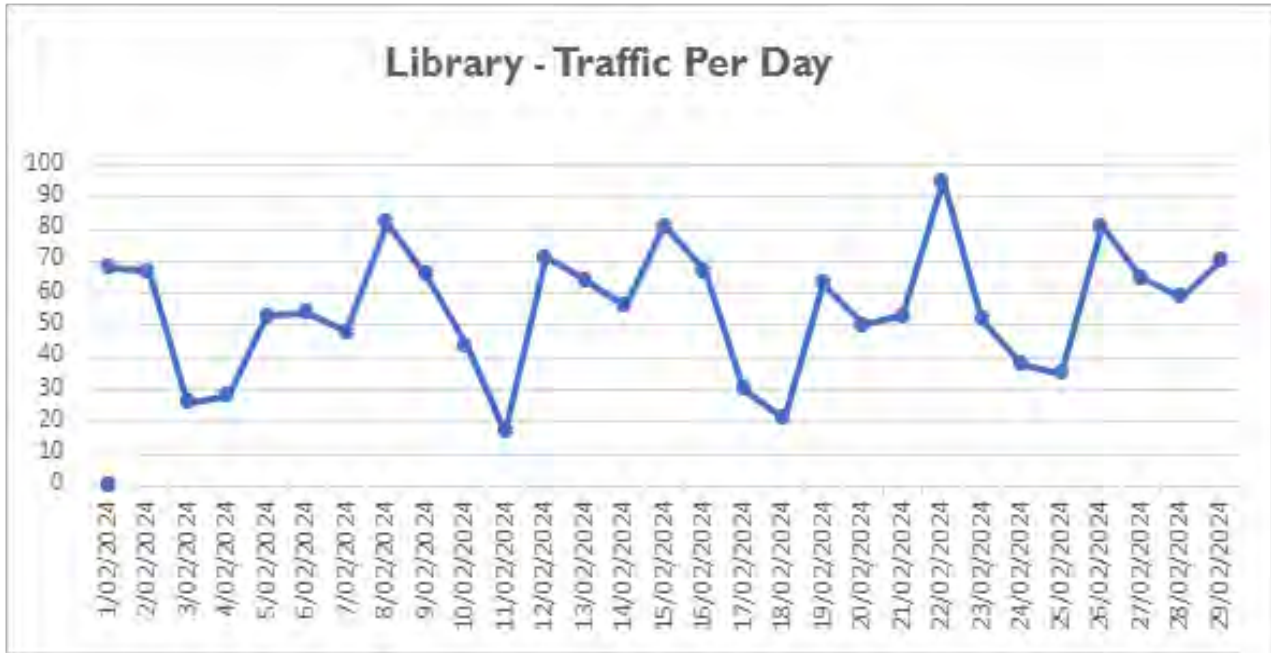
### Council Committee and Delegate Meetings

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Delegate Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
Councillor Halliburton	Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee	27 March 2024
Councillor Knight	June Sports Committee	11 April 2024
Mayor/General Manager	REROC Board Meeting	19 April 2024
FYI	June Advisory 355 Committee	24 April 2024
General Manager	Coolamon June Local Emergency Management Committee	24 April 2024
Councillor Callow	Weeds Committee	4 June 2024
Mayor/General Manager	Coolamon-June Community Safety Precinct Committee	5 June 2024
Councillor Carter	Riverina Zone, Rural Fire Service Bushfire Management Committee	July 2024
Councillor Clinton and Councillor Knight	Audit Risk & Improvement Committee	TBA
Councillor Cook	June Traffic Committee	TBA
Councillor Halliburton Councillor Halliburton	Inland Rail Community Consultative Committees: A2I I2S	TBA TBA
Councillor Carter	Riverina Zone Service Level Agreement Committee	TBA
Councillor Clinton and Councillor Halliburton	Senior Citizens Festival Committee	TBA
General Manager	Riverina Murray Regional Emergency Management Committee	As required

## **2[HR] WORKERS' COMPENSATION/REHABILITATION**

There were no recordable incidents for the month of February 2024.

**3[DPCD] LIBRARY**



## **4[DES] WORKS PROGRAM**

### MR78 (Olympic Highway)

- Heavy patching completed totalling 4700m<sup>2</sup>.
- Potholes patched.
- Rest areas and toilets have been maintained.
- Weekly safety inspections have been undertaken.
- Signs and guideposts have been maintained and replaced.

### MR 57 (Goldfields Way)

- Heavy patching across the whole network has been completed totalling 1350m<sup>2</sup>.
- Potholes patched, repaired wearing surfaces.
- Signs and guideposts maintained and replaced.
- Fortnightly safety inspections have been conducted.

### MR243 (Regional Roads - Canola Way, Old Junee Road and Gundagai Road, Byrnes Road)

- Signs and guideposts maintained.
- Potholes patched, repaired wearing surfaces.
- Fortnightly safety inspections completed.
- Slashing.
- Canola Way – resealing.
- Gundagai Road – geotechnical investigation for upcoming works.

### Rural Sealed Roads

- Retreat Road Rehabilitation – completed and sealed.
- Oura Road resealing
- McGledes Hill Road resealing
- Signs and guideposts maintained.
- Potholes patched, repaired wearing surfaces.
- Pikedale Road – shoulder grading.
- Brabins Road – shoulder grading.
- Snapes Lane – shoulder grading.

### Rural Unsealed Roads

- Signs and guideposts maintained.
- Goods Lane – maintenance grading.
- Mottishaws Lane – maintenance grading.
- Old Sydney Road – maintenance grading.
- Alstonville Lane – maintenance grading.
- Oivi Lane – maintenance grading.
- Wantabadgery west Lane – maintenance grading.
- Moss Lane – maintenance grading.
- Hillside Lane – maintenance grading.

### Urban Sealed Roads

- Albert Street - resealed
- Joffre Street - resealed
- Arnold Street - resealed
- Boundary Street - resealed
- James Street - resealed
- Lillian Street - resealed
- Lisgar Street - resealed
- Jet patched various town streets.



- Further reseal preparation for various town streets.
- Stormwater issues rectified and managed.
- Fallen trees removed.
- Tar patching.
- Drainage works.

#### Junee

- General maintenance.
- Gutters/drains cleaned.
- Various merits completed.
- Footpath inspections.

#### Villages

- Rest area maintenance.
- Wantabadgery village – hand vegetation control, pothole patching.
- Illabo Village – hand vegetation control, pothole patching.
- Bethungra Village - hand vegetation control, pothole patching.

#### Parks And Gardens

- Mowed and whipper snipped the parks, ovals and cemeteries.
- Sprayed cemeteries.
- Weeded the gardens.
- Carried out other routine gardening works.

### **5[RSO] ROAD SAFETY OFFICER (RSO)**

- Confirmed VMS Board location with Engineers for Easter Long Weekend. The board will be positioned approximately 300 metres east of Ballengoarrah Lane on Gundagai Road from 26 March to 2 April 2024.
- Created social media messaging for March.
- Cycling Safety editorial created for Coolamon Newsletter.
- Bus Safety Week editorial and social media posts created for social media and Junee Independent.
- Chaired Program Delivery Meeting on 5 February 2024.
- Took photos of each 40kmh thermos and dragon's teeth school zone line marking within Shire. This was sent to TfNSW for possible repainting to those that have faded significantly.
- Sent through promotional information for “*Help Learner Drivers Become Safer Drivers*” program to be held on 27 March 2024 at Junee Ex-Services Memorial Club.
- Met with Recreation Centre Co-ordinator to discuss Adulting 101 program and Seniors Weeks schedule.
- Booked in to attend “*Stepping On*” program next term for 9 May 2024 at Junee Hospital.

### **6[DES] SEWERAGE SYSTEM**

- Over the month of February there were no chokes in the mains and no chokes in the services.
- Manholes were refurbished following sewer mains relining below the GHA site.
- Total inflow to the treatment plant for the month was 56ML.
- There was 37ML of effluent reused.
- The site underwent inspection from Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. (DCCEEW).
- Site tests indicate the process is producing good effluent.
- Power generation for January 15MWh.

## **7[DPCD] RANGER REPORT**

### Abandoned/Impounded Vehicle

	Notices attached – impoundment process commenced	Vehicles impounded
July 2023	4	0
August 2023	4	0
September 2023	3	0
October 2023	3	0
November 2023	5	0
December 2023	6	0
January 2024	5	0
February 2024	4	0

### Impounded Dog Activity

During February 2024, there were six dogs impounded. Two dogs were returned to their owners, one was re-homed and three are still at the pound.

## **8[DES] SOLID WASTE REPORT**

### June Landfill Waste Facility (JLWF)

The June Transfer Station is functioning well with no issues or incidents at the site.

### Rural Transfer Stations

All rural transfer stations were inspected on the 8 March 2024. Old Junee, Wantabadgery and Bethungra had excess rubbish.

## **9[EO] WEEDS**

- Inspections continue across the Shire, mostly focussed around the Silverleaf Nightshade areas.
- Completed roadside inspections of high risk pathways.
- Staff attended Riverina Regional Weeds Committee meeting.
- Prickly Pear treated across the Shire.
- Coolatai Grass inspected and treated.
- Silverleaf Nightshade inspected and treated.
- Blue Heliotrope inspected and treated.
- Bathurst Burrs treated.
- Drone day organised but later cancelled by rail authority, will re-schedule.

## **10[DPCD] S.10.7 CERTIFICATES**

Average Processing time (Working Days) for last 10 Certificates	Two days
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## 11 [DPCD] DEVELOPMENT/COMPLYING DEVELOPMENT DETERMINATIONS

DA/CDC No.	Development Type	Address	Determination Date	Determination
CDC 2024/01	Alterations/Addition to Existing Swimming Pool	112 Chamberlains Lane, Yathella	1/02/2024	Approved By Delegation
CDC 2024/03	New Swimming Pool	11 Cuttle Court, Junee	15/02/2024	Approved By Private Certifier
DA 2024/03	Alterations/Addition to Existing Shed	10 Gwynne Place, Junee	20/02/2024	Approved By Delegation
DA 2024/05	New Shed	8 Elizabeth Street, Junee	20/02/2024	Approved By Delegation

## 12(DPCD) HEALTH, BUILDING, PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS

There were 43 health, building and planning inspections carried out during the month of February 2024.

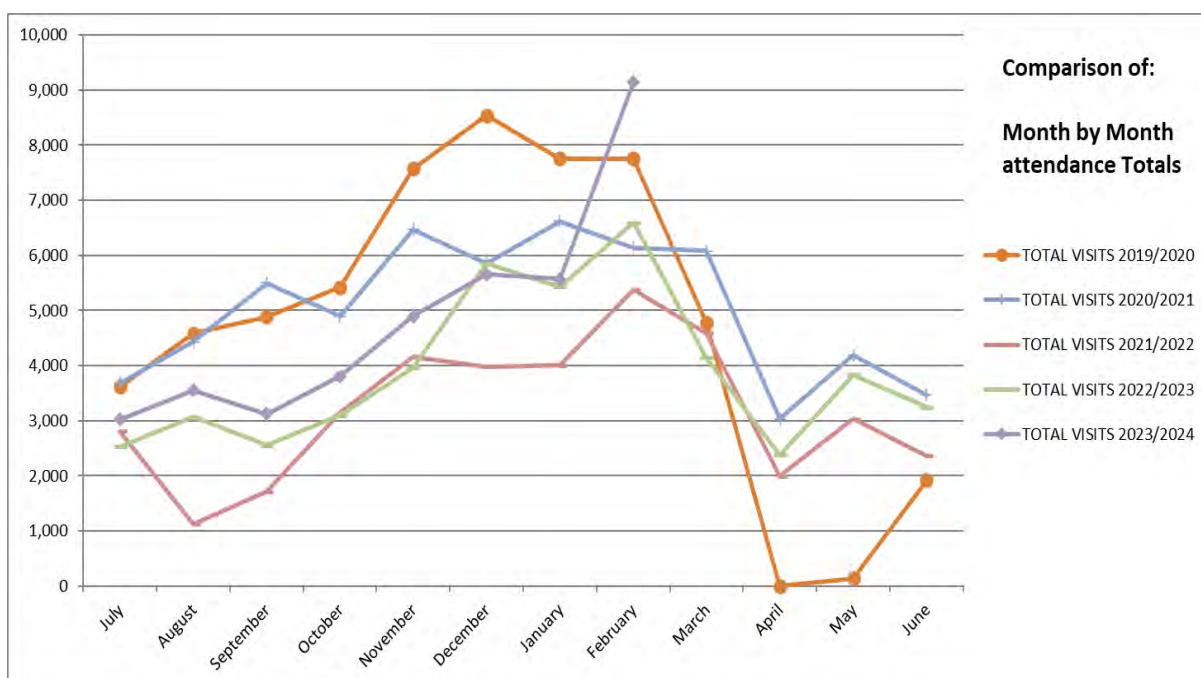
## 13[DPCD] COMMUNITY AND RECREATION

### Junee Junction Recreation and Aquatic Centre - Statistics for February 2024

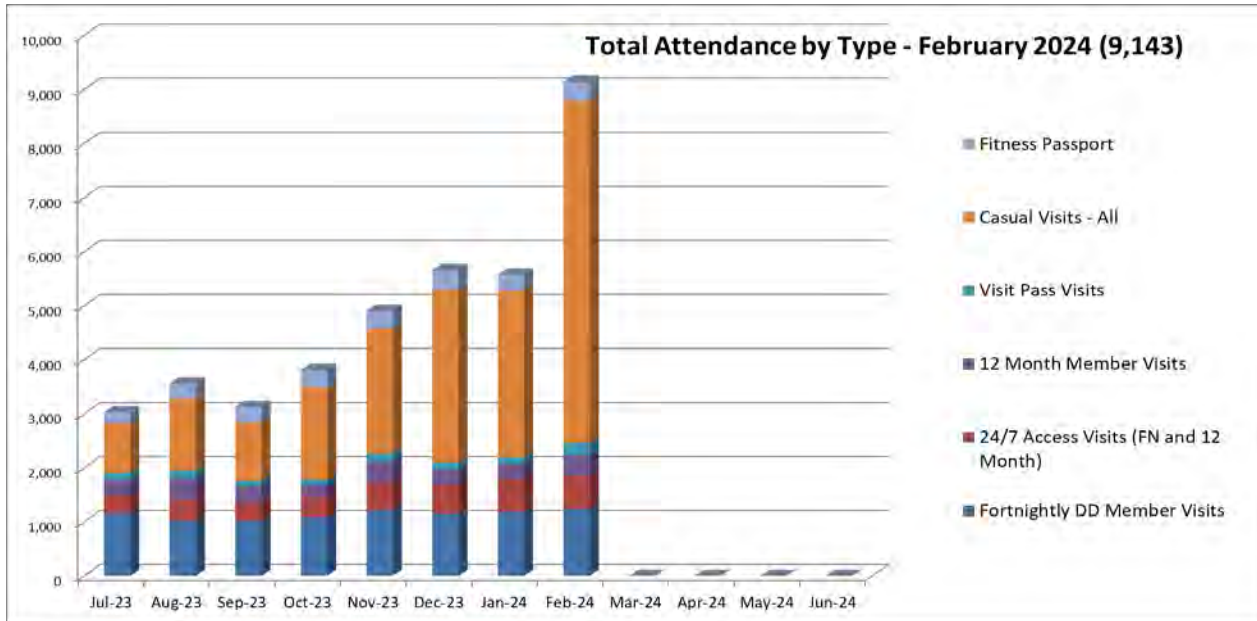
The following tables summarise the attendance and membership statistics at JJRAC for February 2024.

- Membership remained steady throughout this period.
- Pool patrons increased greatly with JJRAC hosting 15 swimming carnivals.
- Stadium usage has picked back up with basketball and JJRAC programs recommencing.

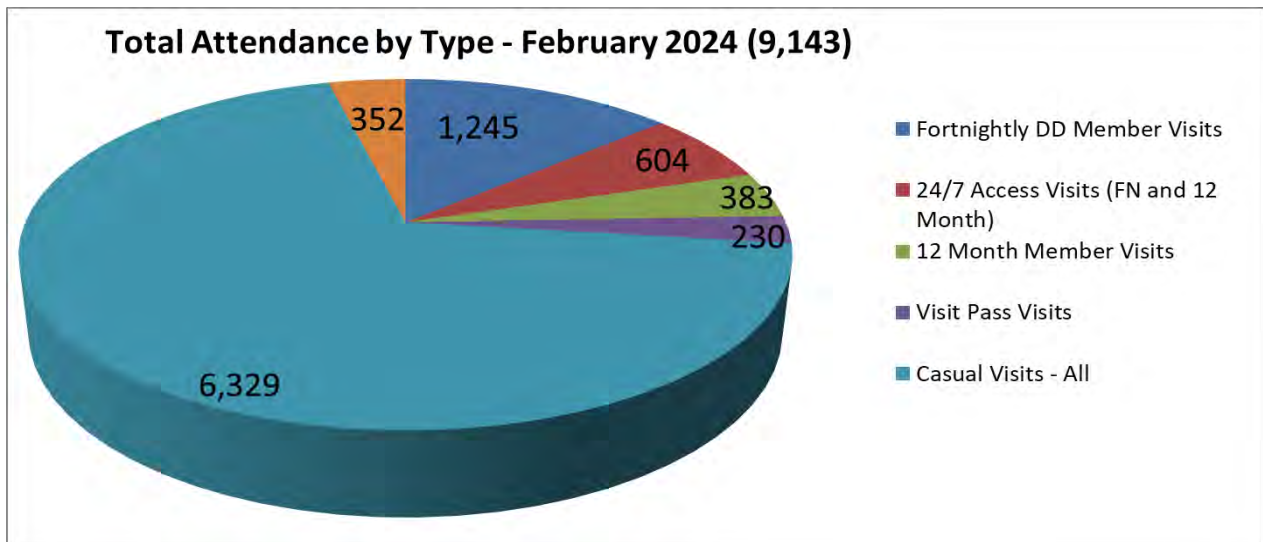
Graph 1: Total Attendances by Month



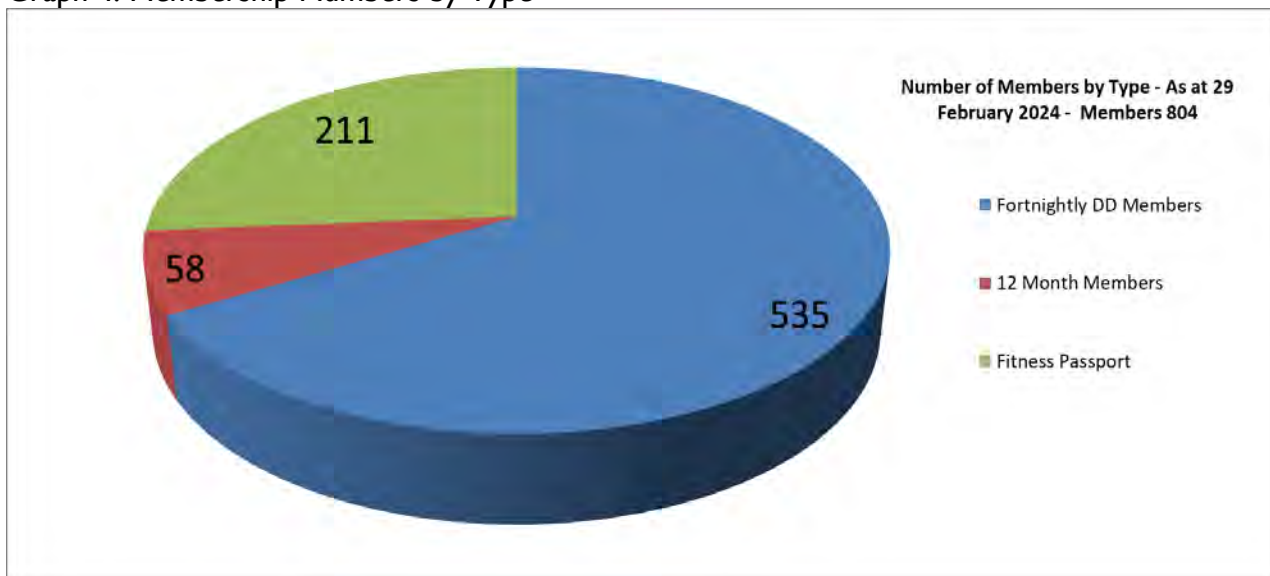
Graph 2: Total Attendances by Month by Type of Visit



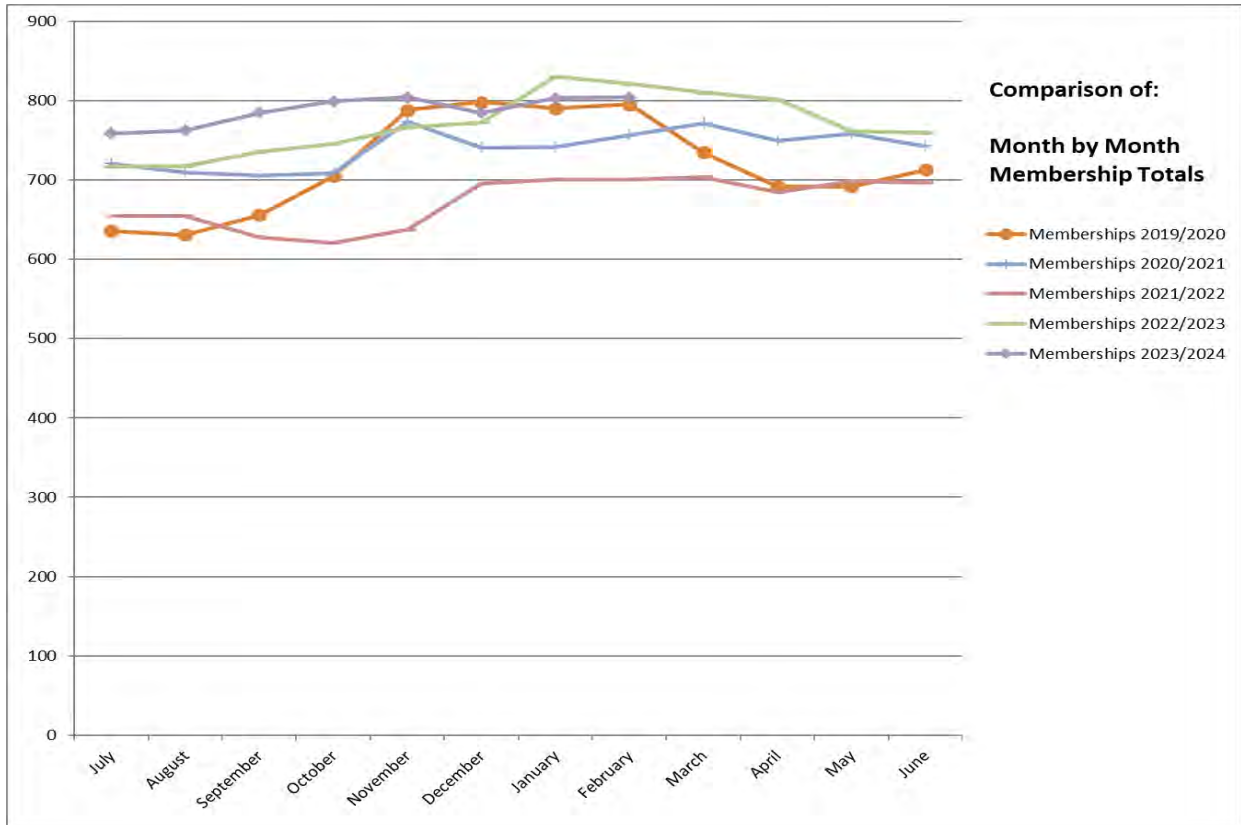
Graph 3: Centre Attendance by Type



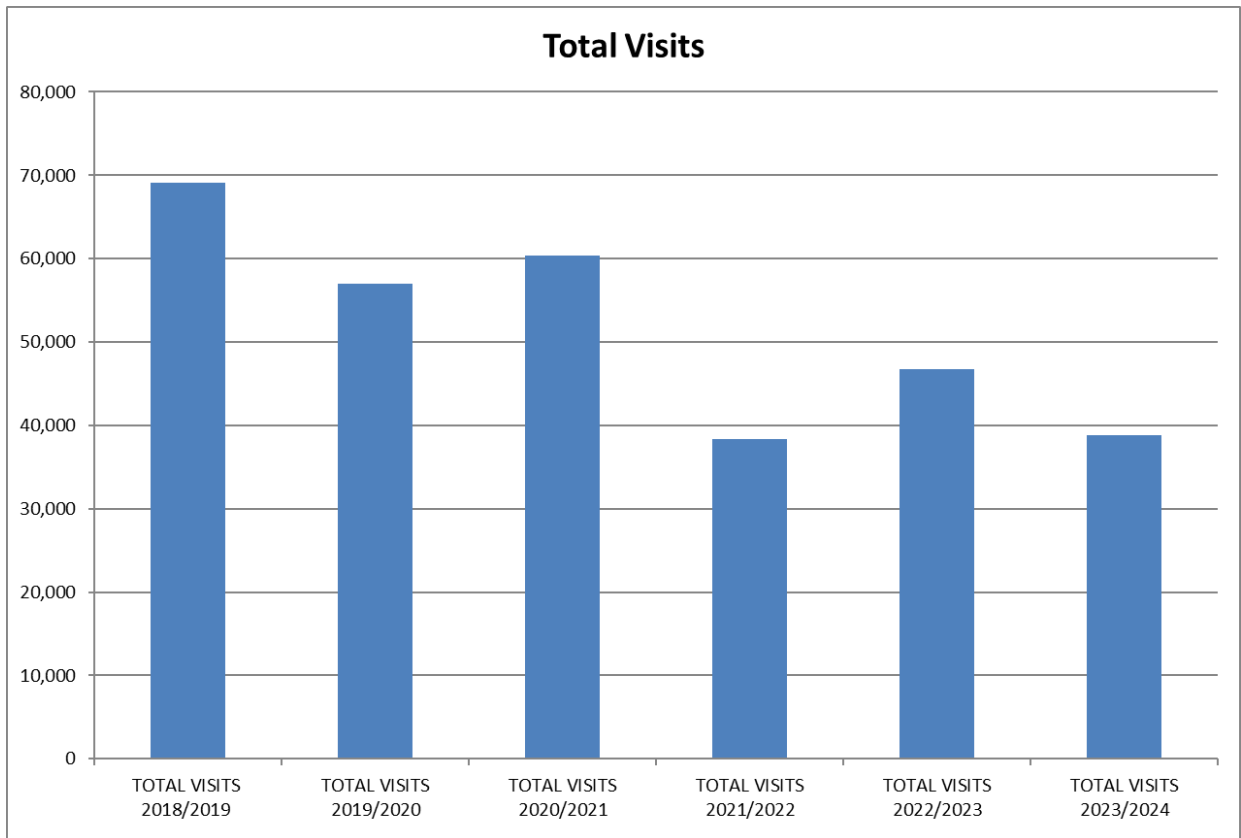
Graph 4: Membership Numbers by Type



Graph 5: Yearly Comparison of Month by Month Membership Numbers



Graph 6: Comparison of Visits by Year





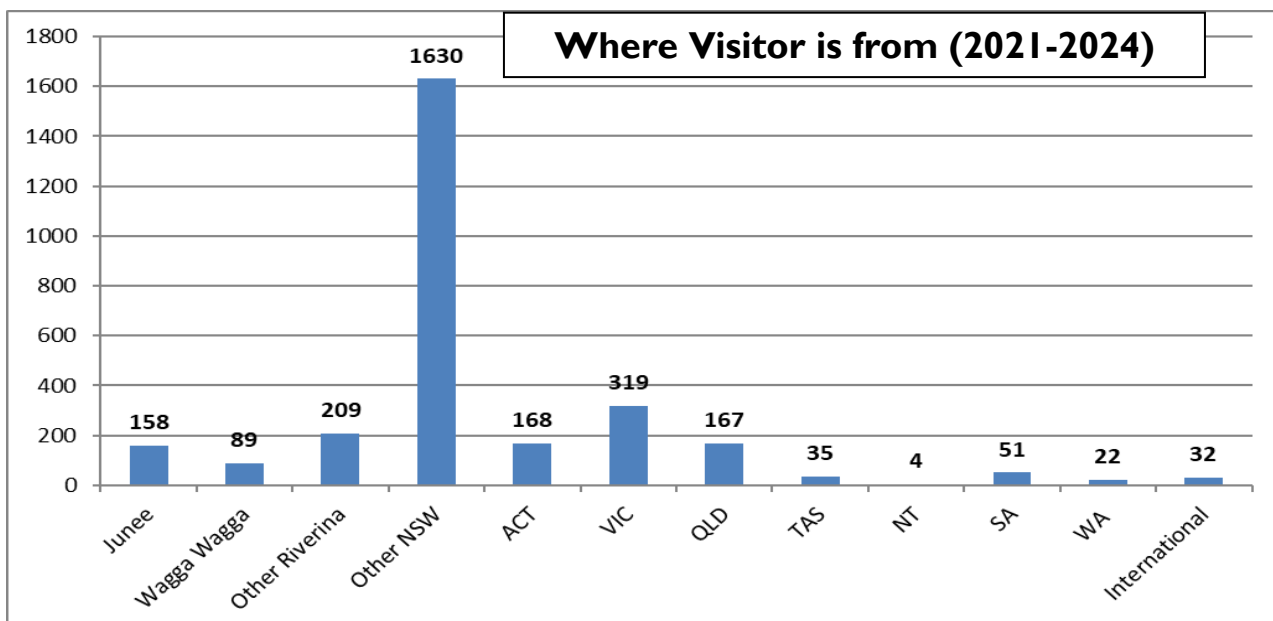
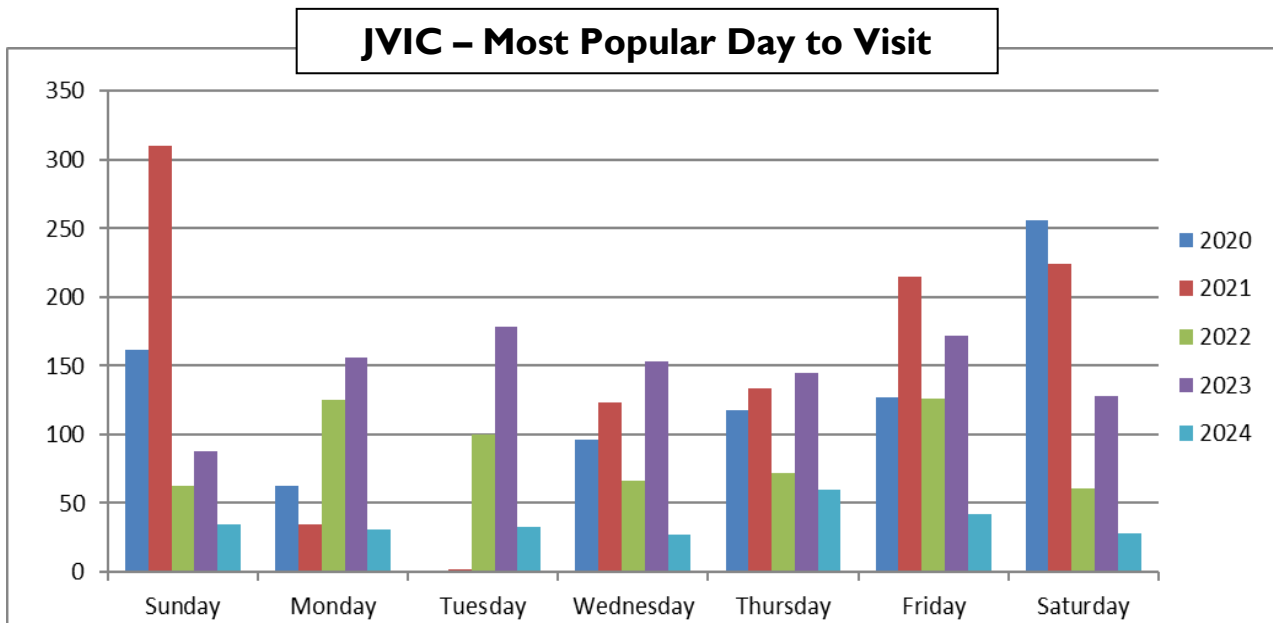
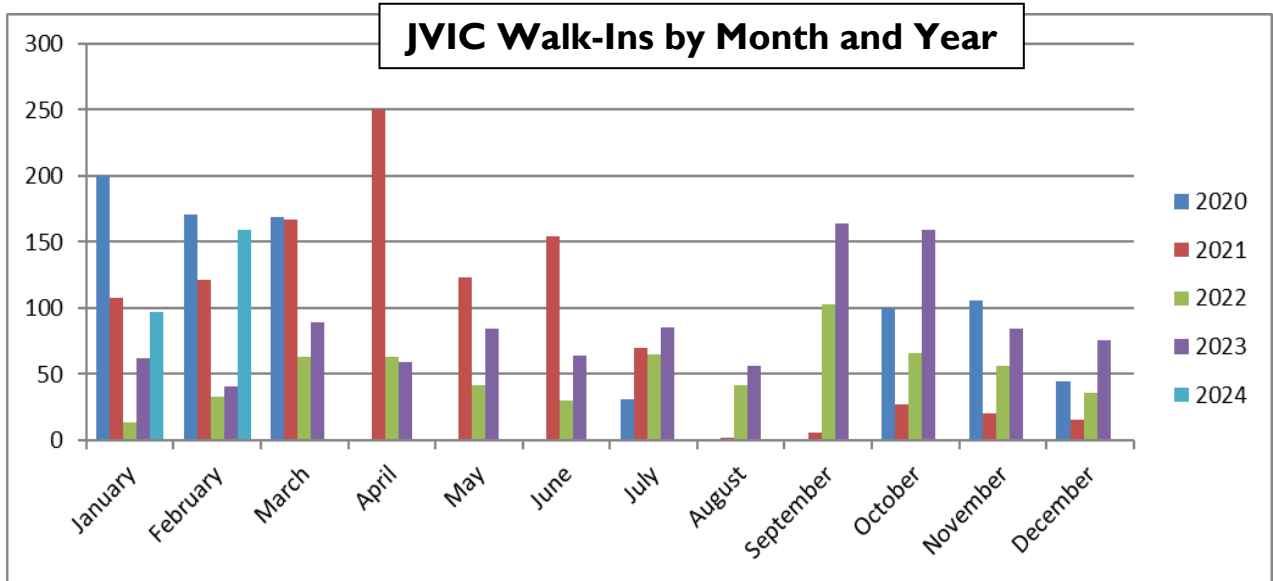
Social Media Statistics - JJRAC social media data. The following statistics were recorded:

MONTH	Facebook Page Likes	Facebook Page Reach	Instagram Page Followers
February 2023	1,850	3,976	776
March 2023	1,853	1,905	777
April 2023	1,861	1,476	780
May 2023	1,883	2,976	784
June 2023	1,890	8,989	785
July 2023	1,899	3,085	785
August 2023	1,916	1,626	785
September 2023	1,947	6,049	785
October 2023	1,969	3,607	786
November 2023	1,978	6,835	778
December 2024	1,981	3800	779
January 2024	2,001	6,500	778
February 2024	2,028	2,172	781

Junee Athenium Theatre

The Athenium Theatre remained consistent throughout February. With the refurbishment originally planned for February, we missed out on a few extra bookings.





**I4[GM] CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS SUMMARY**

<b>FEBRUARY MERIT</b>	<b>Count of Function Name</b>
<b>Engineering Services Administration</b>	<b>36</b>
Damaged Bin	13
General Enquiry	6
Maintenance	1
Maintenance Request	4
Missed Bin	2
Mowing	2
Roadside Slashing	2
Service Request	4
Stolen Bin	2
<b>Finance</b>	<b>13</b>
Complaint	1
Dog Barking	1
Excess Vegetation Unsightly	8
Nuisance Animal	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>49</b>