

Warrumbungle Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement



Warrumbungle Shire Council, October 2019

Acknowledgement of Country

In preparation of this statement, Council acknowledges the traditional lands of the Gamilaroi, Wiraduri and Wayilwab people, and pay our respect to elders both past, present and emerging.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Foreword

Mayoral Message

The Warrumbungle Shire has released there Local Planning Strategic Statement (LSPS). This plan has been developed after extensive research and community consultation throughout the Shire area.

The plan identifies the main priorities and aspirations for future land use within the local government area and establishes objectives and strategies to achieve those objectives. These objectives address social, environmental, economic and civic leadership issues as identified by Community Strategic Plan (CPS).

While a council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the CSP on behalf of the local government area, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. The LSPS is a document that fully administers its ability to identify land use initiatives which one day will formulate policies in the Local Environmental Plan (LEP). Other partners, such as state agencies and community groups may also be engaged in the long-term objectives of the LSPS.

From this high level document, objectives, strategies and actions will flow through for the delivery in the next LEP review which will stream line the process. The Warrumbungle Shire community now has the opportunity to see how Council is planning well ahead of time enabling the future needs of the Shire.

Community consultation is an important part of any process and especially the LSPS document, will give a greater insight into the future growth and development of Warrumbungle Shire Council area.

Achieving our vision for the future is dependant on working together. The work that will go into achieving the strategies and goals in the LSPS will be extensive and require the cooperation and commitment of many sectors including government, business and the local community. This plan belongs to the people of the Warrumbungle Shire. We encourage you to help us achieve your vision.

Dennis Todd
Mayor Warrumbungle Shire Council



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DRAFT FOR COMMENT

Local Strategic Planning Statement - Policy Context

This Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets the framework for Warrumbungle Shire's economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years. It outlines clear planning priorities describing what will be needed, where these are located and when they will be delivered. The LSPS sets short, medium and long-term actions to deliver the priorities for the community's vision.

This LSPS has been prepared in accordance with clause 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). The LSPS brings together and builds on the planning work found in Council's other plans, studies and strategies, such as the Local Environmental Plan (LEP), Development Control Plan (DCP) and Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The LSPS will be used to update key components of these plans to present a consistent strategic direction for Warrumbungle.

The LSPS gives effect to the *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036*, implementing the directions and actions at a local level. As an integrative local plan, it is also informed by a number of the NSW Premiers Priorities, the Regional Development Framework and the *Destination Country and Outback NSW Management Plan 2018-2020*, amongst others.

The LSPS has also taken account of land use planning in adjacent Orana Councils, including Bogan, Coonamble, Narromine, Warren and Warrumbungle. It also works with council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP), which has a similar but broader purpose as to how Council will work to meet the community's needs. The LSPS planning priorities, directions and actions provide the rationale for decisions about how we will use our land to achieve the community's broader goals.



Consultation

The Warrumbungle LSPS has been based primarily on the Consultation that was carried out for the Integrated and Reporting framework in 2016-2017 as part of the Community Strategic Plan. The LSPS is required to be consistent with the Community Strategic Plan and any other strategic plans. Council is now seeking community feedback on this revised strategic land use document.

Council's approach to consultation will build upon and test the results of the extensive engagement undertaken in developing Warrumbungle Shire's Community Strategic Plan 2017.

The draft LSPS will be made available for community consultation for a minimum period of 28 days.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Warrumbungle Shire Connecting Regional Priorities and Plans

The *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036* sets a 20-year vision for the Central West and Orana Region, which is to be - the most diverse regional economy in NSW with a vibrant network of centres leveraging the opportunities of being at the heart of NSW.

The Central West and Orana Regional Plan outlines a number of Directions to achieve this vision and Warrumbungle has a major role to play in successfully achieving this vision.

Warrumbungle Shire Council has collaborated with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to agree which directions and actions of the Central West and Orana Regional Plan are relevant to each planning priority in this LSPS. Each strategic priority gives effect to one or more Directions in the Central West and Orana Regional Plan.

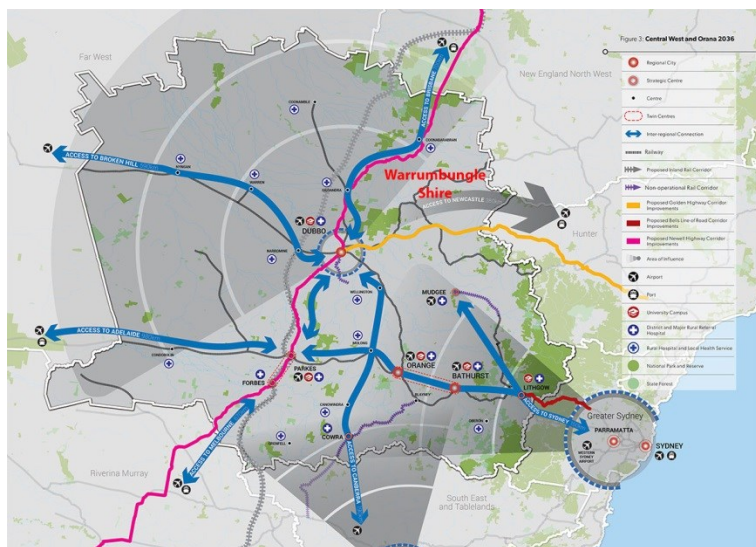


Figure 1: Central West and Orana Region

Our Unique Shire

A Snapshot

The Warrumbungle Shire is strategically positioned on the Newell Highway mid-way between Brisbane and Melbourne. A number of highways and main roads traverse the shire providing links with surrounding regional centres.

The landscape ranges from extensive plains to undulating hills, from the high basaltic plateau of the Coolah Tops in the east to the rugged mountainous peaks of extinct volcanoes in the Warrumbungle National Park, west of Coonabarabran.

The geography, flora and fauna of the Shire is where east meets west. The mountainous terrain of the Great Divide gives way to rolling hills then the inland plains. The flora and fauna of the wide open plains mix with coastal animal and vegetation progressively across the Shire. A striking example of this is on the eastern boundary of the shire we have the large grey kangaroo and on the western boundary of the shire the large red kangaroo.

The shire is also a meeting place for the nations of our traditional owners and custodian of the land. The northern part of the shire is home to the Gamilaraay people while the southern part of the shire is home to the Wiradjuri people. Also the nations of the Weilwan and Kawambarai (Werriri) come into the Shire on the western border. The history, traditions and culture are being recognised as an important part of the Shire's history.

The stunning night skies, formed by a combination of low pollution, very low humidity and limited cloud cover have drawn astronomers and researchers to Coonabarabran in their search for what lies beyond the confines of the visual night sky.

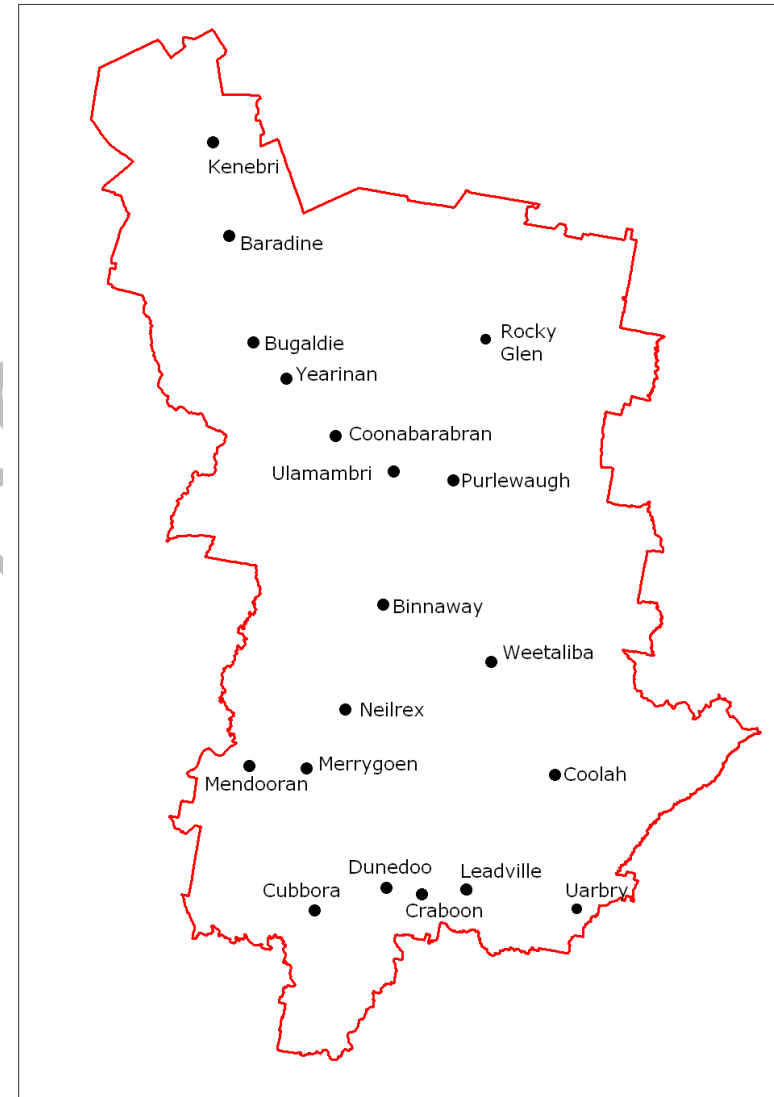


Figure 2 – Warrumbungle Shire area map

Siding Springs Observatory, located 25kms from Coonabarabran is the site of a number of internationally owned and operated optical telescopes where major research has recorded amazing truths of the universe, supporting Coonabarabran's claim to the name "Astronomy Capital of Australia".

The major towns of the shire comprise Coonabarabran, Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran with many villages in between; all provide wonderful opportunities to experience real country Australian lifestyles. Each of the communities has their own special claim to fame. Bush Poetry Festivals, rivalry over ownership of the name The Black Stump, a Steamrail Village, The Oldest town on the Castlereagh, The Gateway to the mighty Pilliga or the Astronomy Capital of Australia – each of our villages reflects the personalities of its residents and the lifestyles.

The shire was traditionally built on agricultural pursuits with the early establishment of wool growing and beef cattle production followed by cereal cropping and today a burgeoning vine growing and horticultural industry.

The communities enjoy the services of quality schools and health services. The shire boasts a broad range of cultural, sporting and recreational activities.

Retailing in each centre provides services to those communities and the provincial centres of Tamworth and Dubbo, located within 2 hours of the centre of the Shire complements local level services.

Community, Place and People

The Shire (map) covers an area of 12,380 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 9,500 people.

The towns and villages of the shire comprise Coonabarabran, Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Dunedoo and Mendooran; all provide wonderful opportunities to experience real country Australian lifestyles. Each of the communities has their own special claim to fame. Bush Poetry Festivals, rivalry over ownership of the name The Black Stump, a Steamrail Village, The Oldest town on the Castlereagh, The Gateway to the mighty Pilliga or the Astronomy Capital of Australia – each of our villages reflects the personalities of its residents and the lifestyles. The communities enjoy the services of quality schools and health services. The shire boasts a broad range of cultural, sporting and recreational activities.

Coolah



Coolah, home of the original 'Black Stump', is located one hour south east of Coonabarabran and is the gateway to Coolah Tops National Park. Coolah is situated on the picturesque Coolaburragundy River and nestled in a valley of the Liverpool Range. The town is surrounded by undulating hills and fertile river flats and is an attractive service town for the surrounding agricultural district.

Baradine



Baradine, gateway to the vast and intriguing forest of the Pilliga, is located 45 kilometres north west of Coonabarabran. Local inhabitants of The Pilliga include koalas, kangaroos, possums, emus, echidnas, goannas and a species of mouse unique to The Pilliga, the Pilliga Mouse. While in Baradine the Pilliga Forest Discovery Centre is a must see, along with the weather-worn caves, and scenic forest drives.

Coonabarabran



Coonabarabran, known as the 'Astronomy Capital of Australia', is located midway between Melbourne and Brisbane, within two hours drive of the regional cities of Dubbo and Tamworth. Coonabarabran is the gateway to Warrumbungle National Park which is Australia's only Dark Sky Park. Coonabarabran has one of the darkest skies in Australia and is the home of Australia's largest optical astronomy research facility, Siding Spring Observatory.

Dunedoo



Pronounced Dunny-doo, the town is often recognised for its unique colloquial name, Dunedoo is 61 kilometres east of Dubbo. The town is located at the junction of the Golden Highway and Castlereagh Highway, and is the southern gateway to the Warrumbungle Region.

Binnaway



Binnaway is located on the banks of the Castlereagh river and is within half an hour's drive from Coonabarabran and Coolah along the Warrumbungle's Way. The town offers a pleasant countryside detour, a quaint pub and nature trails.

Mendooran



The town resembles an open-air art gallery painted over 10 colourful murals reflecting scenes from local history and rural life.

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Our History and Settlement

The Warrumbungle Shire Council was formed in 2004 by the amalgamation of the former Coolah and Coonabarabran Shire Councils. Warrumbungle is a Gamilaroi (also written Gamilaraay) word meaning crooked mountain, and for many thousands of years it has been a spiritual place for the custodians of this land. The land known as the Warrumbungle Shire converges three Indigenous language groups, the Gamilaraay to the northeast, the Wiradjuri to the south, and the Wayilwab to the west. Indigenous tribes are said to have occupied the lands of the Warrumbungles Ranges for up 17,000 years and lands east of Coonabarabran for up to 25,000 years. The Shire is rich in Aboriginal history and the backdrop of ridgelines, ranges and plains is interwoven with the dreamtime legends of its indigenous tribes.

Shaped by an ancient volcano said to be 13-17 million years old, Warrumbungle National Park is known for its distinctive scenic beauty, rich biodiversity and geological value.

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The Shire's Economy

Warrumbungle Shire is primarily dependent on agriculture. The Shire's Gross Regional Product (GRP) is estimated at \$452.349 million, equating to 5.59% of the Orana Region GRP and 0.08% of the NSW Gross State Product. GRP per capita is \$48,118 which is lower than the Regional average of \$68,095 with GRP per worker being \$145,222n which is also lower than the Regional average of \$161,926. From 2012 to 2016 the Shire achieved year-on-year growth in the GRP, with GRP decreasing in 2017, primarily due to the drought.

The total output (gross revenue) generated by the Shire economy is estimated at \$810.638M (5.04% of the Orana Region). The sectors with the highest output are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing (\$260.235M); Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (\$92.938M); Construction (\$64.477M) and Public Administration and Safety (\$50.328M). The total value-add by the Shire's economy is estimated at \$405.496M (5.43% of value-added in the Orana Region), with the value of goods and services exported from the Shire being \$329.968M (5.6% of the value of exports from the Orana Region).

The Agricultural sector is the major employer (900 jobs), followed by Health Care and Social Assistance (412 jobs) and Education and Training (412 jobs). From 2011 to 2016, employment increased in the Construction (57 additional jobs), Agriculture (56), Education and Training (49), Public Administration and Safety (39), Health Care and Social Assistance (38), Administration and Support (31) and Transport, Postal and Warehousing (22) sectors, with employment in other sectors declining. In March 2018, the unemployment rate in the Shire was 3.7%, which was lower than the Orana Region at 4.3%. There were 160 people in the Shire seeking work.

At June 2017, there were 1003 businesses in the Shire. Small businesses dominate with 63.6% of businesses being non-employing, 27.5% employed 1 to 4 people, with 8.1% employing 5 to 19 people and 0.8% employing 20 to 199 staff.

Industries within the Shire can be broadly divided into:

- Engines – industries that bring money into the Shire and drive the local economy
- Enabling – industries that support the engines (eg transport)
- Population serving – industries that support the local population (eg retail)

To foster economic development, it is important to focus on the engine sectors that drive growth, and the enabling industries that support these. The fortunes of the population serving industries depend primarily on the success of the engine industries.

The primary engine industries in Warrumbungle Shire are agriculture and tourism. Other activities that bring money into the Shire include the Education and Training and Public Administration and Safety sectors. The Education and Training sector includes Siding Spring Observatory which is owned and operated by the Canberra-based, Australian National University.

Output
\$810.638M

GRP
\$451.349M

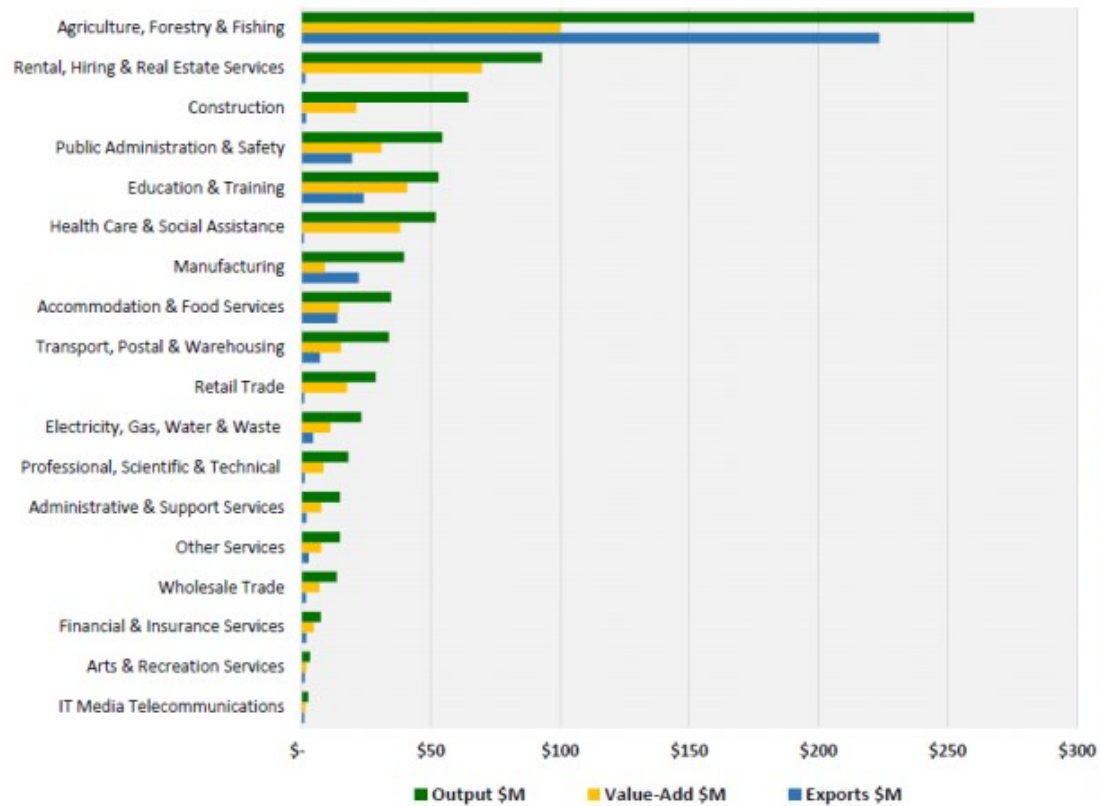
Value Added
\$405.496M

Value Exports
\$329.968M

Businesses
1,003

Jobs
3,108 people

Unemployment
3.7%
160 people seeking work



MAJOR EMPLOYERS

- Warrumbungle Shire Council
- Woolworths Supermarket
- Cooinda Coonabarabran
- Siding Spring Observatory
- Western NSW Health
- NSW Department of Education



Figure 3 - Performance (Output, Value Add, Export) by Industry Section – Warrumbungle Shire

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Dark Sky

The Dark Sky Region in NSW is centred upon the site of Australia's most important visible-light Observatory at Siding Spring, located on the edge of the Warrumbungle National Park. The Observatory has over twenty telescopes and is one of few in the world that can observe the whole southern-hemisphere sky. It is critical to our understanding of the universe and the scientific endeavours of Australian and international astronomers. Each year the Observatory attracts over 24,000 visitors and injects more than \$5 million directly into the local economy. Its continued operation is dependent on the dark night sky being free from light pollution. Light associated with development in the Dark Sky Region has the potential to reduce the ability of the optical telescopes to engage in scientific investigation and, therefore, impact on the future of the Observatory. On 4 July 2016, the park was the first within Australia to be certified as a Dark Sky Park by the [International Dark Sky Association](#).

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Agriculture

Agriculture (including Forestry) is the main economic activity and primary driver of the Shire's economy. Agriculture accounts for 32.1% (\$260.235M) of the output from the Shire, 24.7% (\$100.191M) of the value add and 67.7% (\$223.55M) of the Shire's exports. 53.7% (539) of registered businesses and 29.0% of jobs (900) are in the agricultural sector. In June 2017, 67% of agricultural businesses were non-employing, with 24.5% employing 1-4 people, 7.8% employing 5-19 people and 1.5% employing 20-199 staff.

The performance of the agricultural sector impacts directly on the performance of the transport, rental-hire-real estate, retail, wholesale, construction, financial, manufacturing and professional, scientific and technical services sectors.

In 2016, around 45.7% of the land area of the Shire was in agricultural production, with 86.8% of this land used for livestock production (primarily grazing) and 13.2% for cropping. The gross value of production was \$153.761M, with livestock production accounting for 68.1% (\$104.724M) of the value of production and cropping 31.9% of the value (\$49.037M).

Cattle production (\$78.36M) dominates, accounting for 51% of the total value of production and 74.8% of the value of livestock production. There is increasing specialisation in cattle production. Sheep generated \$23.99M (15.6% of the total value of production) with \$10.08M coming from meat and \$13.91M from wool. The Shire also has several piggeries (\$2.0M) as well as small scale goat, dairy and poultry production, horse studs and several honey producers.

Cereal crops (wheat, oats, barley, triticale and sorghum) are the primary income earner (61.6% of gross value of crop production), followed by pulses (20.0%), hay and pasture seed (8.9%), oilseeds (6.7%), dryland cotton (1.7%) and horticulture / viticulture (1.1%).

Most of the grain produced in the Shire is exported, going primarily by road to receival sites in the surrounding regions or direct to the Port of Newcastle. Some of the grain also goes to feedlots in Liverpool Plains Shire and the Dubbo area and to mills and feed-mills in the surrounding regions. Baradine is the only active grain receival site still operating in the Shire, but is limited in the grain that it can receive. Some pulses are transported to Narrabri and Narromine for containerisation for export, with oilseeds going to Newcastle, Narrabri and Manildra for crushing and processing. Bilby Blooms is the main horticultural producer, producing native plants (wholesale nursery) and cut flowers. There are also several native seed collectors and a native seed distributor. Other niche activities include Mannin Grove Olives and poppy production for medicinal purposes.

Value-adding to agricultural produce is limited and includes the Bypass stock feedmill in Baradine and the Black Gate Distillery at Mendooran. The Abattoir on Warrumbungle Way midway between Coonabarabran and Binnaway, which closed in 2016, has been sold, with plans to re-open in the future.

Several of the Shire's producers are participating in the Regional Platters program, which is a paddock to plate initiative, which is helping to raise the profile of the Region's produce.

Warrumbungle Shire has a range of services to support the agricultural sector including agronomists, rural suppliers, stock and station agents, transport / freight operators, farm contractors, earth-moving contractors, fencers, feral animal control, shearers, harvesters, wool classers and brokers, seed cleaners, and vets, as well as engineers / fabricators and financial and legal services. Many of the agricultural service providers are in the Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services sector, which in terms of output, is the second largest economic sector in the Shire.

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Transport Infrastructure

Roads – With the closure of the Gwabegar rail line to the north west of Binnaway, and most of the grain receival sites and abattoir, there has been a significant increase in the use of road transport. This has increased costs for producers and impacted on the Shire maintained and funded road network. Grains and pulses are being transported to bulk receival sites in Gilgandra, Liverpool Plains, Narrabri and Gunnedah Shires; direct to the Port of Newcastle; to intermodal terminals in Narrabri and Narromine; to mills and feedmills in Dubbo, Gunnedah and Tamworth; and to feedlots in Liverpool Plains Shire and the Dubbo area. Livestock is primarily going to saleyards in Gunnedah, Tamworth, Mudgee and Dubbo; to feedlots in the Liverpool Plains and Upper Hunter; and to processing plants in Dubbo, Tamworth and the Hunter Valley.

Key routes for agricultural freight include the Newell, Golden and Oxley Highways, Black Stump Way, and the Baradine, Purlewaugh and Mendooran Roads. These routes are accessible to 25/26 metre general mass limit (GML) trucks. The Newell, Golden and Oxley Highways and the Purlewaugh and Mendooran Roads are accessible to high mass limit vehicles (HML). Road train access to the Shire is extremely limited. There is no road train access on the Newell Highway between Tooraweenah and Coonabarabran, nor to any areas to the east of the Highway. There is road train access from Baradine west to Coonamble and north to Pilliga. The farming community identified the Black Stump Way and the Purlewaugh and Baradine Roads as priorities for upgrading.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) is forecasting that from 2011 to 2031, the volume of truck traffic on the Newell will increase between 62% and 100% depending on the location along the Highway, with truck traffic through Coonabarabran to increase by 80%. The RMS is proposing to upgrade the Newell Highway to take high productivity vehicles (up to 36.5metres) along the length of the Highway. RMS has ranked the need for a by-pass around Coonabarabran as a medium term priority (within 10 years from 2016), and the preferred route corridor has been identified. Removal of heavy vehicle traffic from Coonabarabran will increase the amenity and safety of the town centre, however, a bypass could reduce other traffic coming into town, possibly resulting in a loss of revenue for some local businesses.

Heavy vehicle traffic on the Oxley Highway to the east Coonabarabran and on the Golden Highway through Dunedoo is also forecast to increase with the freight tonnage forecast to grow by 52% on the Oxley Highway¹⁶ and 64% on the Golden Highway¹⁷.

Black Stump Way and the Baradine and Purlewaugh Roads need to be improved to cater for the increasing volume of freight and touring traffic. Gunnedah and Narrabri Shires are seeking funding to complete the seal of Grain Valley Way which will provide a fully-sealed link from the Black Stump Way to the Kamilaroi Highway, improving access from the eastern areas of Warrumbungle Shire to the cotton gins at Boggabri and Wee Waa, and to the intermodal terminals and Cargill Crush Plant (cotton and canola seed) in Narrabri. It also provides an alternative route to the Newell Highway for the drive touring market.

The feedlots in Liverpool Plains Shire are looking to expand, which will increase livestock and grain freight movements on the Purlewaugh Road. A large abattoir is proposed for Gunnedah which will result in an increase in livestock traffic along both the Black Stump Way and Oxley

Highway. To the north west, Narrabri Council is seeking funding to seal Forest Way (Baradine Road) between Pilliga and Gwabegar. This will result in increased freight and touring traffic on the route, which will have direct benefits for Baradine. If Baradine gains access to the Inland Rail, this will further increase freight traffic on the Baradine Road.

Drive touring (which includes the touring caravan and RV markets) is increasing, with both Destination NSW and the Country and Outback Destination Network looking to significantly grow this market within the Country and Outback Region. From a tourism perspective, the key roads are the highways and regional roads that feed into the Shire, the regional roads (Warrumbungle Way, Mendooran Road and Baradine-Gwabegar Road) that connect the towns (providing off-highway touring routes), and the access roads to key attractions – Warrumbungle and Coolah Tops National Parks, Siding Spring Observatory, Pilliga Forest and Pilliga Pottery.

Aerodromes – Warrumbungle Shire Council maintains aerodromes at Coonabarabran, Coolah and Baradine. The Coonabarabran aerodrome has a sealed runway and is licenced for general aviation. It is used for charter flights, recreational flying, air ambulance, rural fire service (RFS) and agricultural support services. The Coolah and Baradine strips are primarily used by the RFS and other emergency services. There is opportunity to use the Coonabarabran aerodrome for charter flights for high-yield tour groups visiting Siding Spring Observatory.

Cycle – Warrumbungle Shire Council is progressively developing cycleway networks in each of the towns. These networks will facilitate use of bicycles and enhance the lifestyle and liveability of the towns. Both cycle tourism (visiting a location specifically to ride or to participate in a cycle event) and the number of caravanners and RV's travelling with cycles is increasing, with visitors looking for attractive, safe places for people to ride. Rail trails would be ideal for these markets. A safe cycleway linking Coonabarabran with the Warrumbungle National Park would also prove popular. They may be opportunities for mountain bike trails in parts of the Pilliga Forest and the Warrumbungle and/or Coolah Tops National Parks.

Rail - The operating rail infrastructure in Warrumbungle Shire is part of the National Rail Freight Network, with this infrastructure being progressively upgraded. The Gwabegar line between Binnaway and Gwabegar and the Coolah Branch line (Coolah to Craboon) are closed and it has been suggested that sections of these corridors could be suitable for rail trails. The proposed Inland Rail Line between Melbourne and Brisbane will connect with the closed section of the Gwabegar line near Kenebri. With the grain receival site at Baradine still operational, and the potential to export logs and timber from the Pilliga Forest, there may be potential to upgrade and utilise the railway infrastructure from Baradine to Kenebri to access the Inland Rail line.

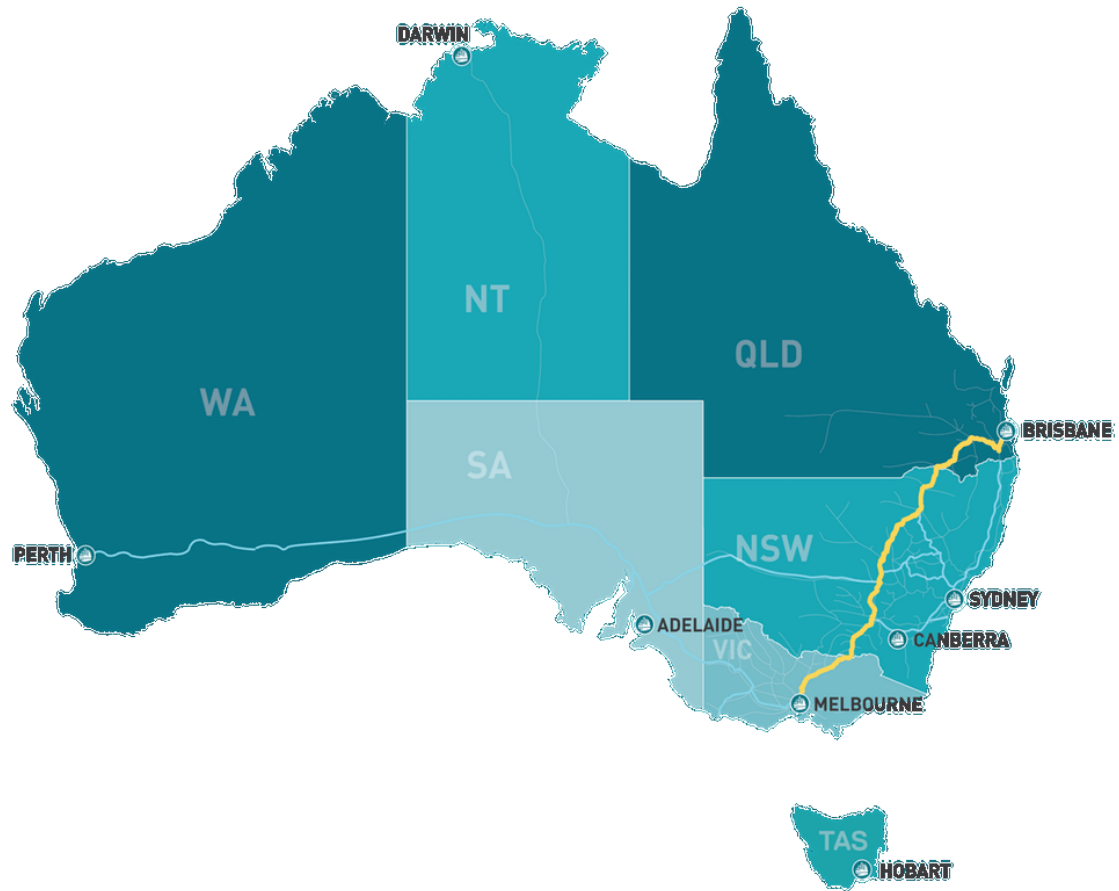


Figure 4. Inland Rail Melbourne to Brisbane

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Other Facilities and Services

Facilities and services to support the Shire community and facilitate economic growth include:

- **Education and Training** – Coonabarabran has a public High School and primary school, with the smaller towns each having a Central School (K-12). Catholic primary schools are located in Coonabarabran, Coolah, Baradine and Dunedoo. Coonabarabran High School has a very good reputation, with people moving to the town to access the school. The Coonabarabran and Dunedoo TAFEs are connected learning centres providing access to a range of TAFE courses.
- **Child Care** – Long day, pre-school, out-of-school-hours care and family day care are available in Coonabarabran, with pre-schools in each of the smaller towns, and family day care in Coolah and Dunedoo.
- **Health Services** – There is a district hospital in Coonabarabran and Multi-Purpose Health Centres in Baradine Coolah and Dunedoo. Coonabarabran also two medical centres, two dental services and several allied health practitioners. Coolah, Dunedoo and Baradine each have medical services with resident doctors, with Mendooran having a visiting doctor. Binnaway is seeking to attract a doctor. Like most rural LGAs, Warrumbungle Shire struggles to attract and retain doctors, registered nurses and other health professionals.
- **Aged Care** – Coonabarabran has a large aged-care complex with self-care units, hostel and nursing home facilities. An aged-care facility is currently under construction in Dunedoo. Nursing home beds are available as part of the Multi-purpose Health Centres in Baradine, Coolah and Dunedoo. There are facilities and services available to support aging-in-place. Baradine and Coolah have identified a need for self-care units, with Dunedoo needing additional nursing home beds.
- **Library Services** – Warrumbungle Shire is a member of the Macquarie Regional Library and operates libraries in each of the towns.
- **Business Services** – including post offices, accountants, banks and financial services, IT support and legal services. Baradine has a Rural Transaction Centre.
- **Supermarkets** – Coonabarabran has a Woolworths Supermarket, with an IGA Supermarket. Coolah has an IGA supermarket with small supermarkets in Binnaway (Friendly Grocer), Dunedoo (Spar) and Baradine (IGA).
- **Construction, engineering and automotive** services are located in each of the towns.
- **Recreation and sporting facilities and Sporting Clubs** – playing fields/ovals, netball courts, swimming pools, golf courses, showgrounds and horse sport facilities, lawn bowls, tennis, are located in each of the towns with fitness gyms in Coonabarabran and Coolah, an indoor sports centre in Coonabarabran and skateparks in most communities. The Coonabarabran community is advocating for an indoor heated pool for year-round use.

- **Creative and performing arts** – the Shire has a range of creative and performing arts groups.
- **Clubs, hotels restaurants and eateries** – registered clubs and/or hotels in each of the towns and cafes in the larger towns and at Tibuc Gardens, Siding Spring Observatory and Pilliga Pottery.
- **Visitor Centres** – a Visitor Information Centre at Coonabarabran (Level 1 accredited), and information outlet in Coolah (Pandora's Gallery) and National Park Visitor Centres at Baradine and in the Warrumbungle National Park.
- **Accommodation** – As a highway service centre, Coonabarabran is well supplied with motel, hotel and caravan park accommodation with facilities to accommodate large groups including coach tour groups. Motel, cabin and speciality accommodation is available along Timor Road, to service the Warrumbungle National Park. Coolah and Dunedoo both have a motel, caravan park, pub hotel accommodation and B&B accommodation. Baradine, Binnaway and Mendooran have pub accommodation, Camp Cypress in Baradine provides powered sites, cabins and group accommodation. Primitive camping is available on the river at Mendooran, Binnaway (where visitors can also access power), near Coolah and in the Warrumbungle and Coolah Tops National Parks and Pilliga Forest. Siding Spring Observatory has quality lodge accommodation for astronomers and pre-booked tour groups, with Barkala Farm Stay (Pilliga Pottery) providing unique farm-stay accommodation and camping sites.

Our Demography

The 2016 Census of Population and Housing provides details of the population and housing characteristics.

Population Change

The Shire had a population at the 2016 Census of 9,384 people. The population of the Shire has been decreasing and figure 1 shows the population decline from 1991 to 2016 which shows that there has been a loss of 1,830 people.

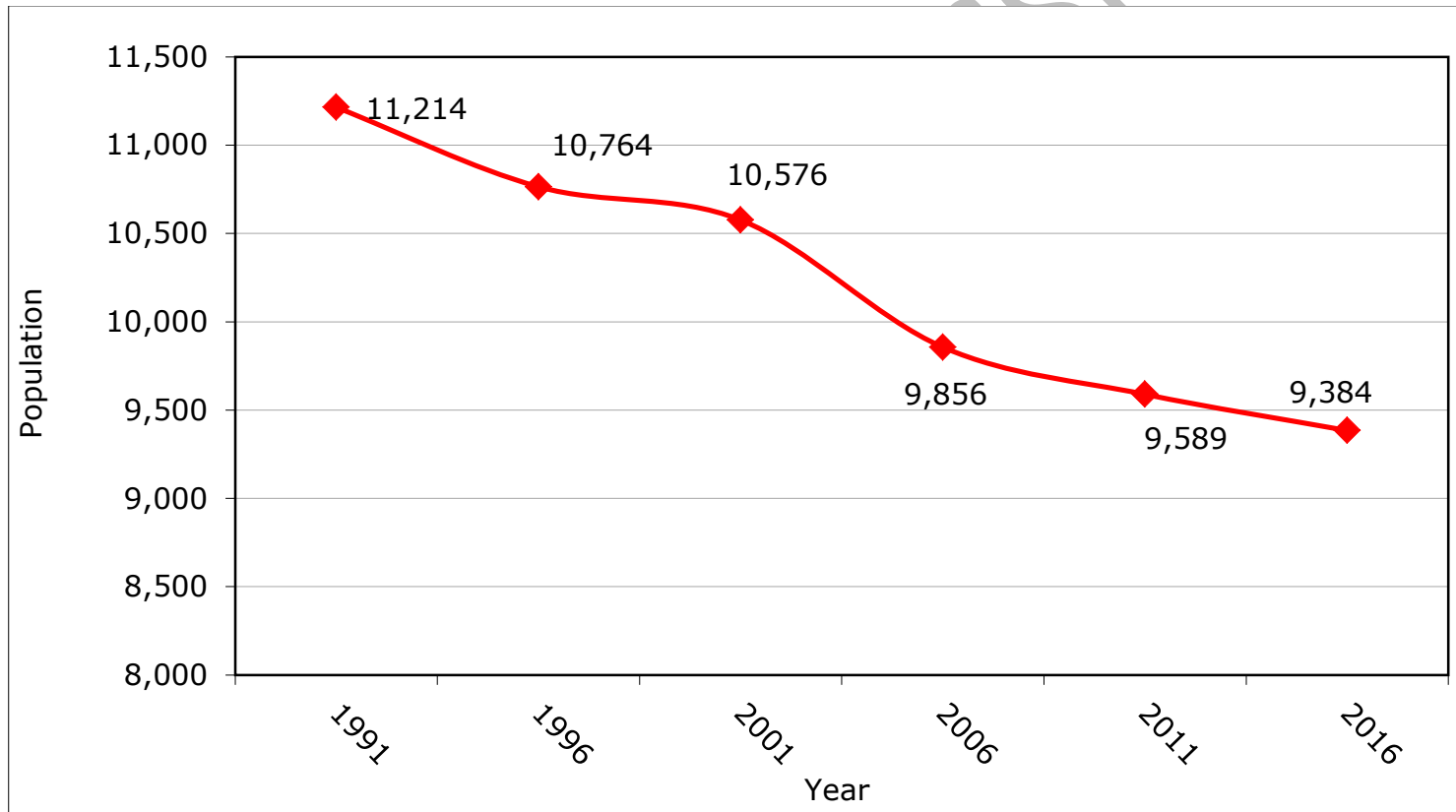


Figure 5 - Population Change 1991 to 2016

The population change between each of the census years can be seen from figure 2. This shows that the population change was a loss of 450 from 1991 to 1996 then the decline decreased between 1996 and 2001, but between 2001 and 2006 the decline was 720 people. From 2006 to 2011 the decline again decreased to 267 people and from 2011 to 2016 it was less again only losing 205 people. It is noted that the Millennium drought contributed to the major population decline from 1996 to 2010 when the drought occurred. Whilst the population is declining, it is doing so at a decreasing rate.

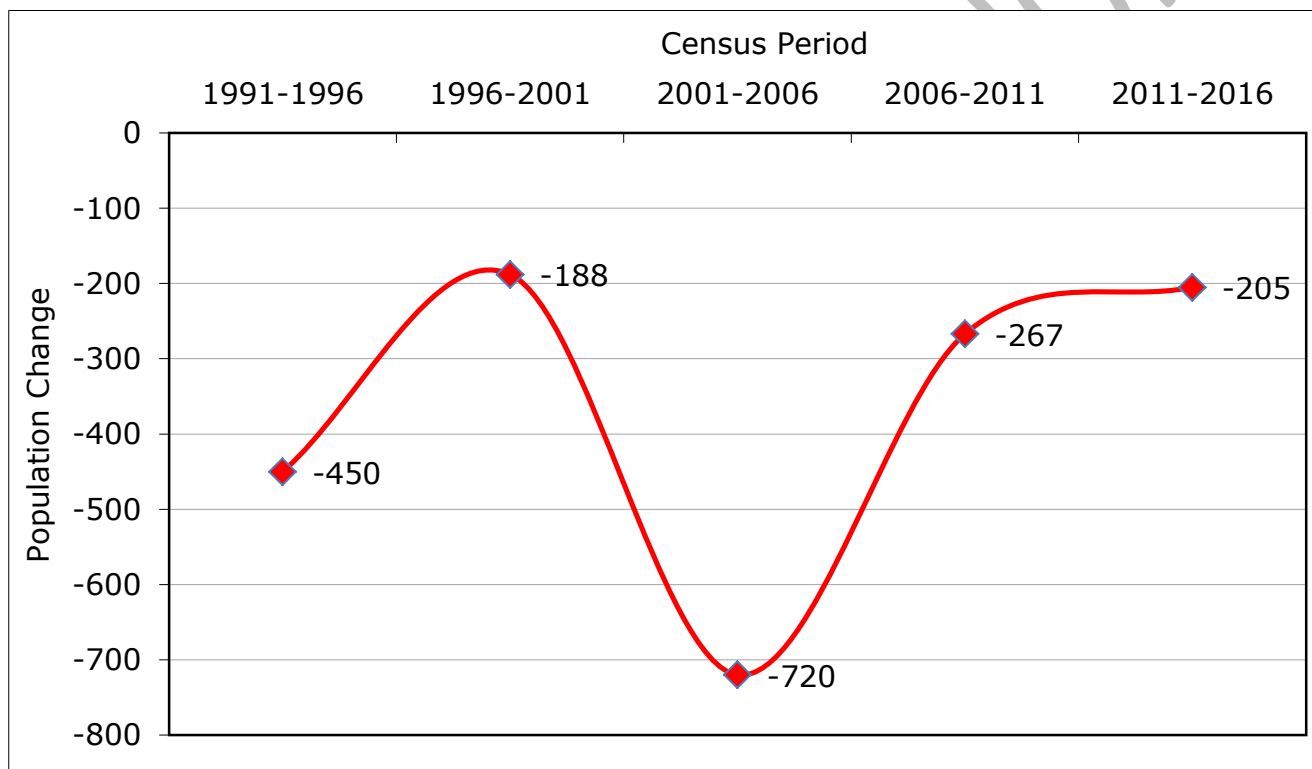


Figure 6 - Intercensal Population Change

The following are some characteristics of the population:

- The population is made up of 50.0% females and 50.0% males.
- Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islanders comprise 9.8% of the population
- The median age of the population is 49
- The median family income is \$1,103 per week
- There are 2.3 people per house hold (occupancy rate)

The population pyramid is shown as figure 3 and it is more of an anvil shape. There is a distinct drop off of young adults.

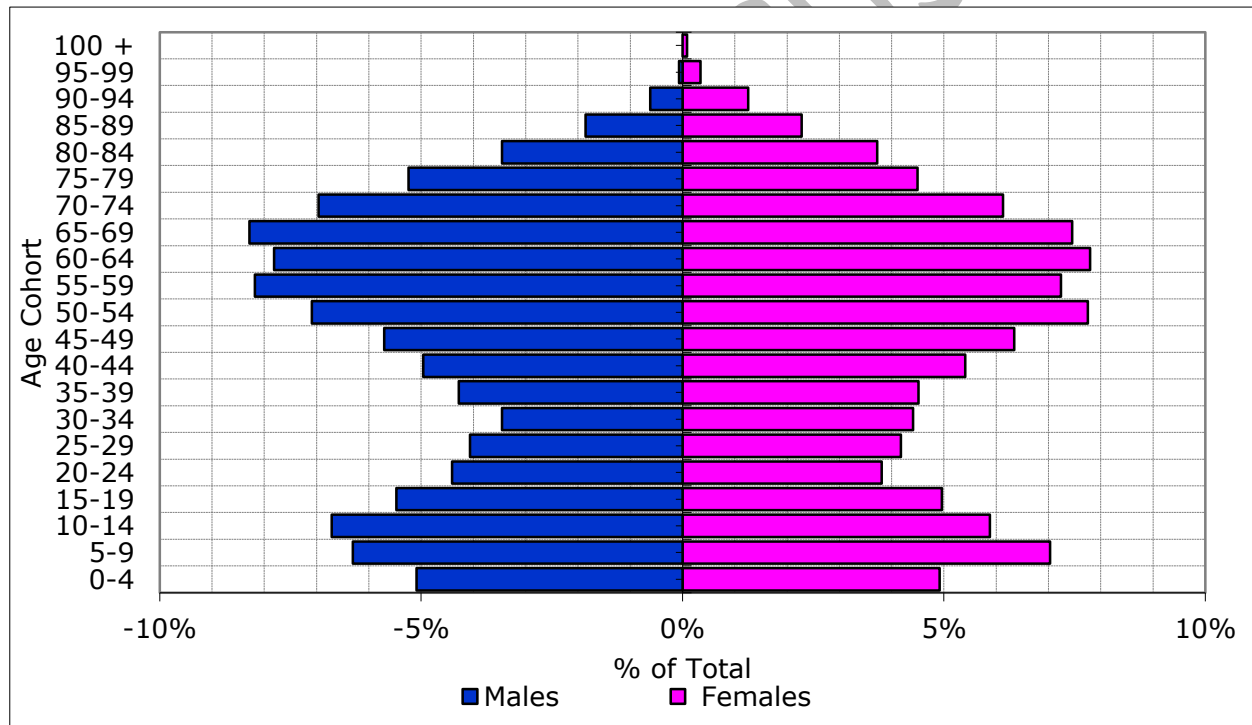


Figure 7 - Population Pyramid

Comparisons can be made to NSW for a range of age cohorts and this is shown as figure 4. This shows that there are less babies and preschools age children, but slightly more primary and secondary school aged people. There are considerably less in the 18 – 24 year olds who move away for tertiary education or for a job elsewhere. The young workforce is also considerably less than for NSW. The parents and homebuilders are also less than the NSW average but there are more people in the 50 years and over categories.

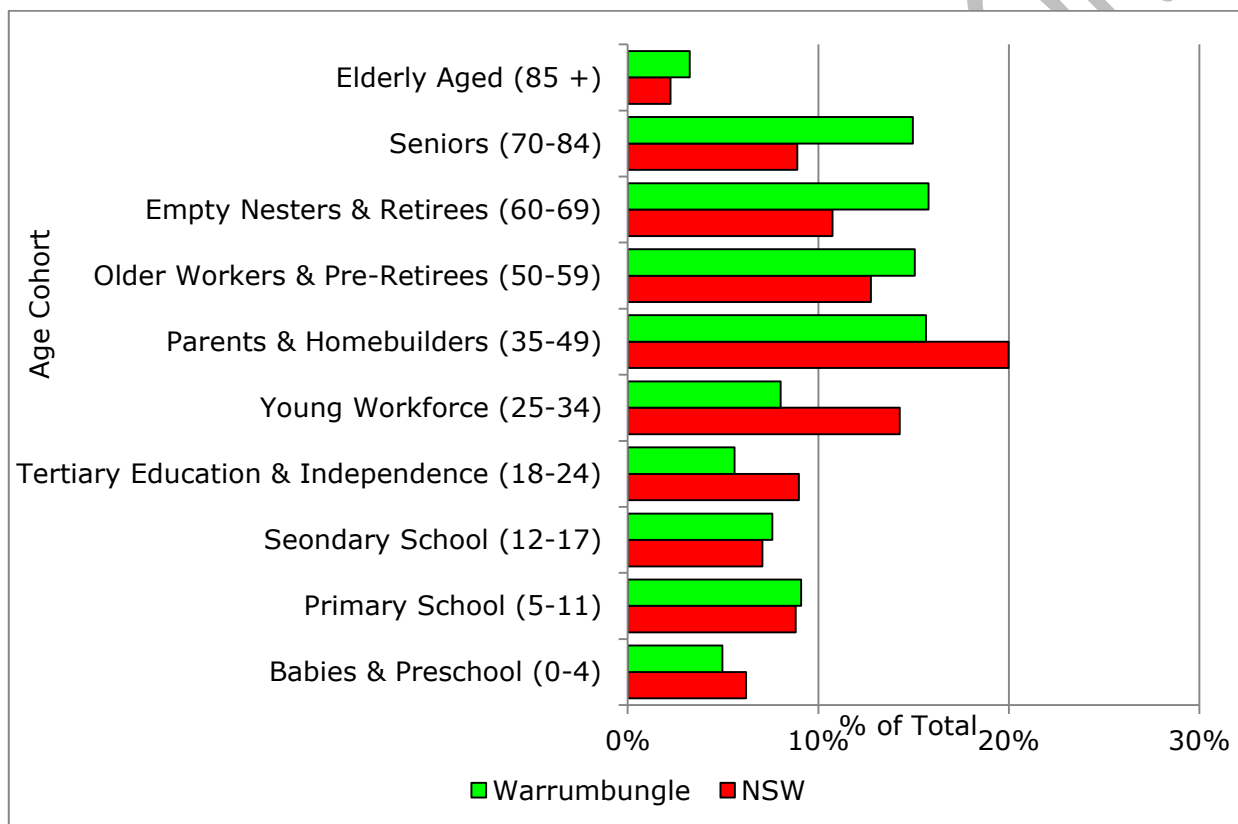


Figure 8 - Age Cohorts Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

The educational establishment attended by the residents can be seen from figure 5. This shows that there are slightly less people attending all levels of school and TAFE, however there are considerably less Shire residents attending University.

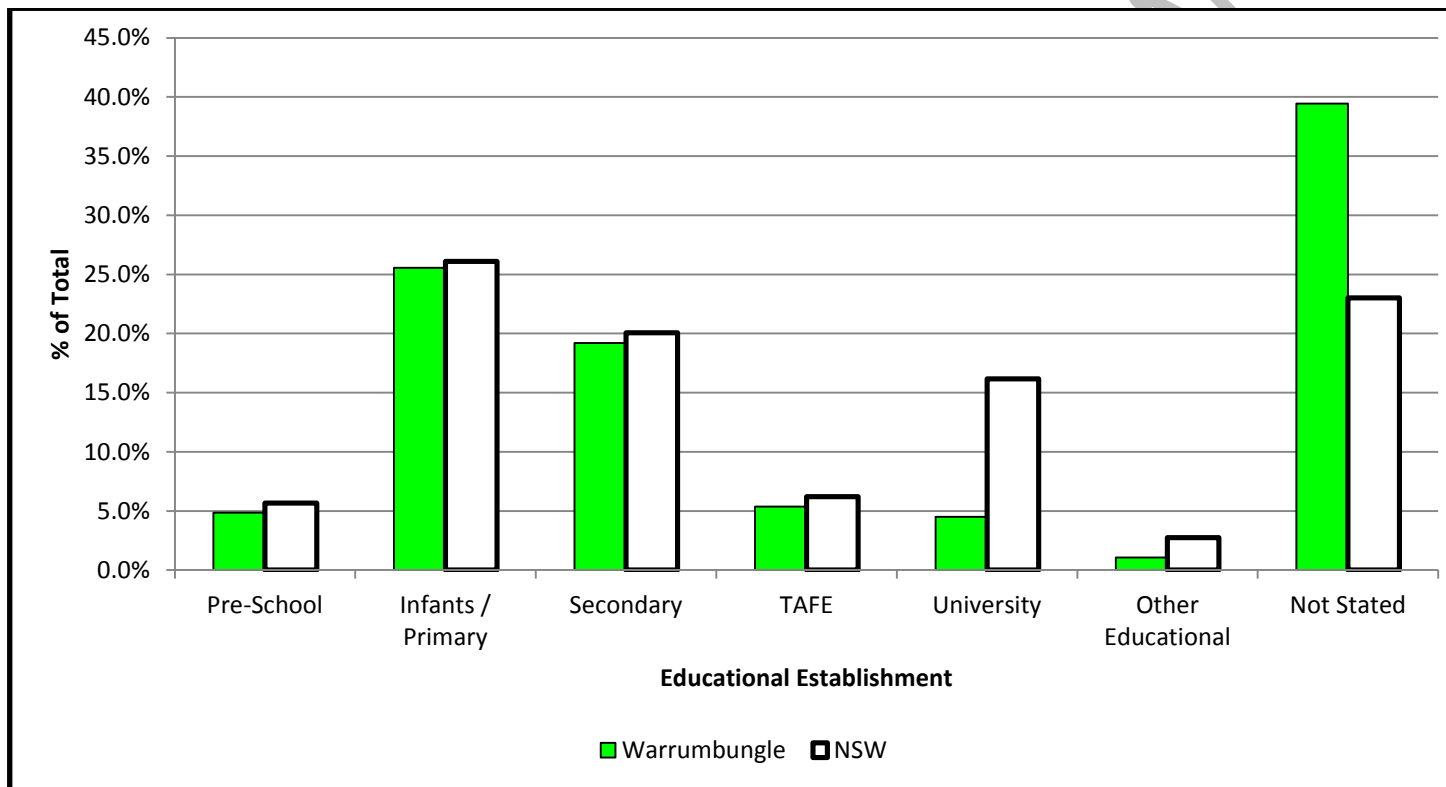


Figure 9 - Educational Establishment Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

The family composition can be seen from figure 6 which shows that nearly half of the families are comprised of couples with no children living at home, and when this is compared with the age structure they are mostly older than 50 years of age. There are less families with children under 15 years old as well as less families with children over 15.

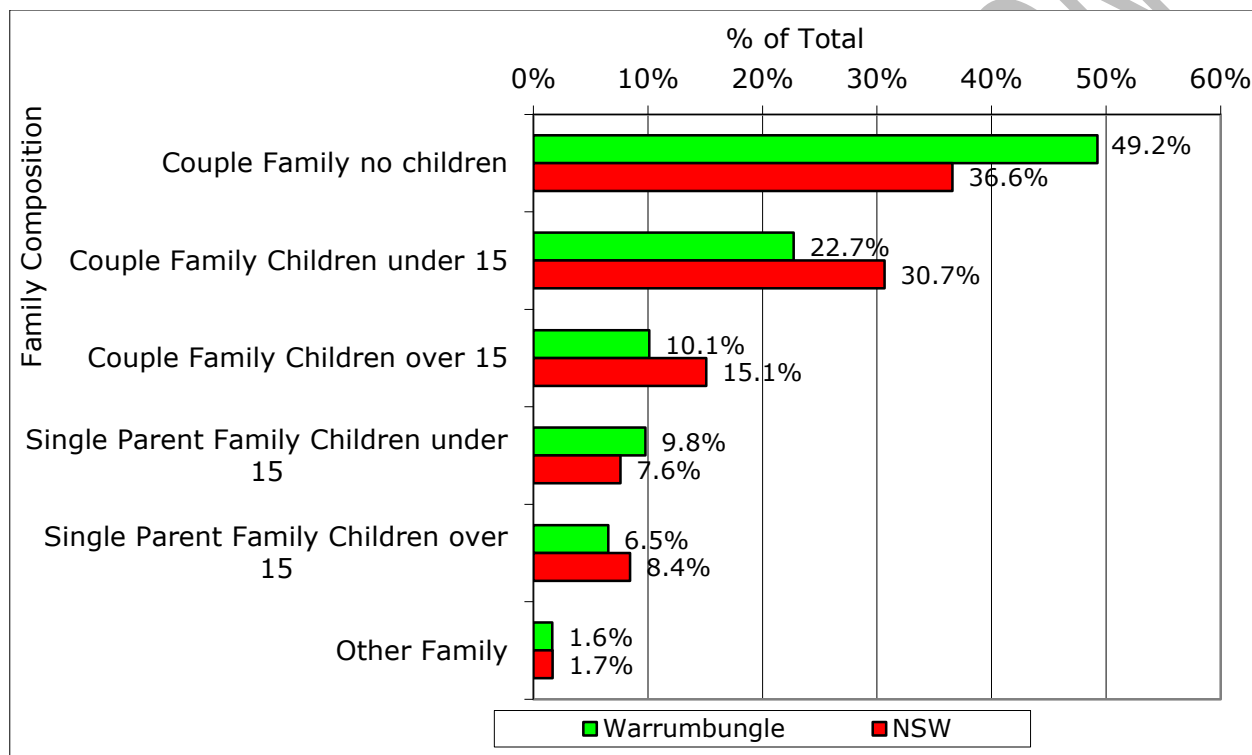


Figure 10 - Family Composition Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

The weekly family income can be seen from figure 7 which shows that the Shire has more families with incomes of up to \$1,499 than NSW less than NSW for incomes between \$1,500 to \$4,000 or more per week.

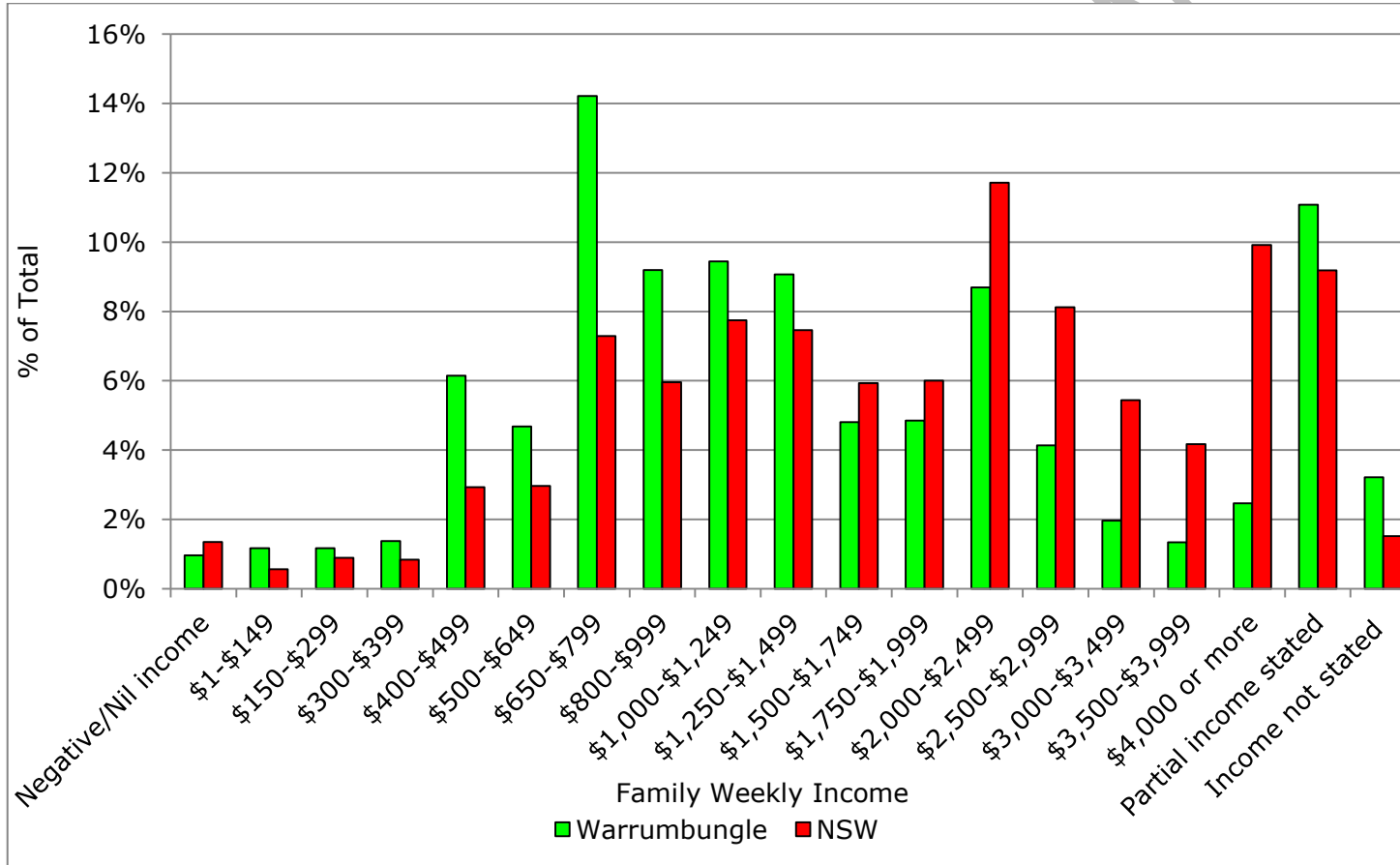


Figure 11 - Total Family Weekly Income Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

The dwelling structure of the Shire compared to NSW can be seen from figure 8 which shows that there are more separate houses than medium density dwellings. There are less occupied private dwellings and more unoccupied private dwellings.

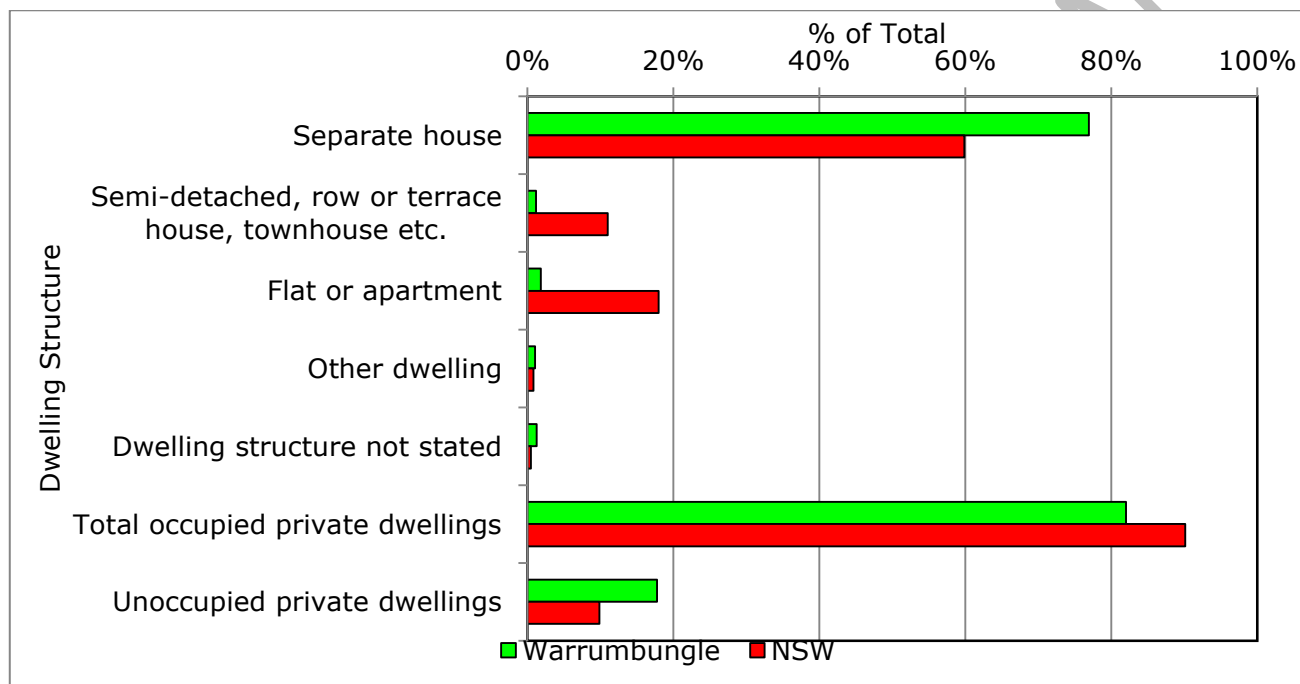


Figure 12 - Dwelling Structure Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

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The dwelling tenure can be seen from figure 9 which shows that there are more houses owned outright and less with a mortgaged in the Shire than for NSW. There are also less rented dwellings.

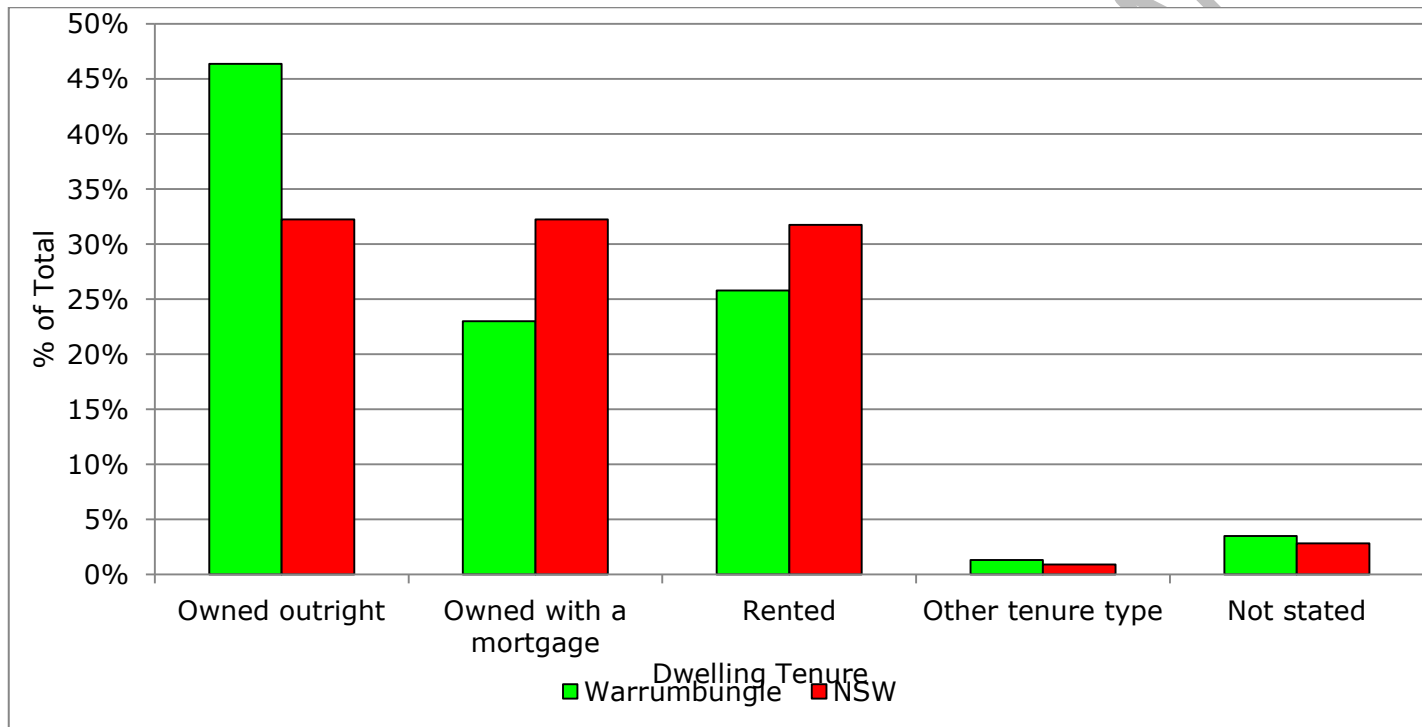


Figure 13 - Dwelling Tenure Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

The residents of the Shire area less mobile with more people living at the same address five years ago than NSW.

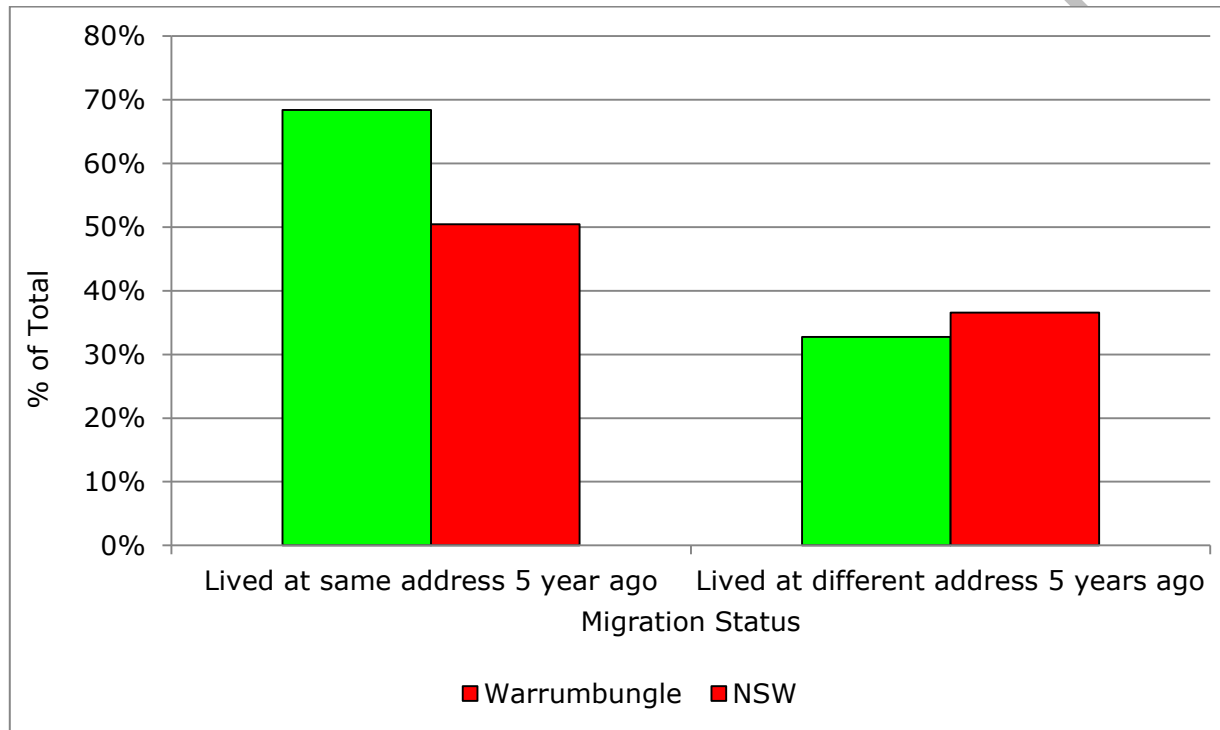


Figure 14 - Migration Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

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The labour force status of the residents of the Shire compared to NSW are shown in figure 11. This shows that there are less people employed full time, slightly more people employed full time and more people employed but are away from work and slightly more unemployed people although this data on unemployment is now dated.

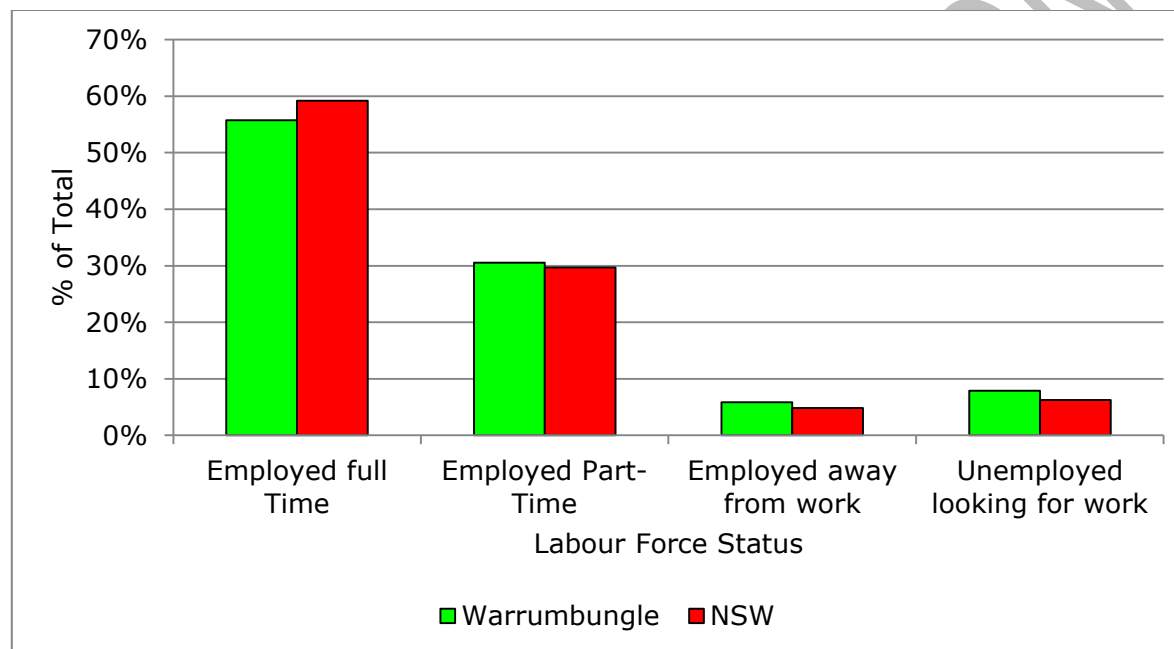


Figure 15 - Labour Force Status Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

The levels of non-school education can be seen from figure 12 which shows that there are less people with tertiary education and more with certificate level education in the Shire compared to NSW.

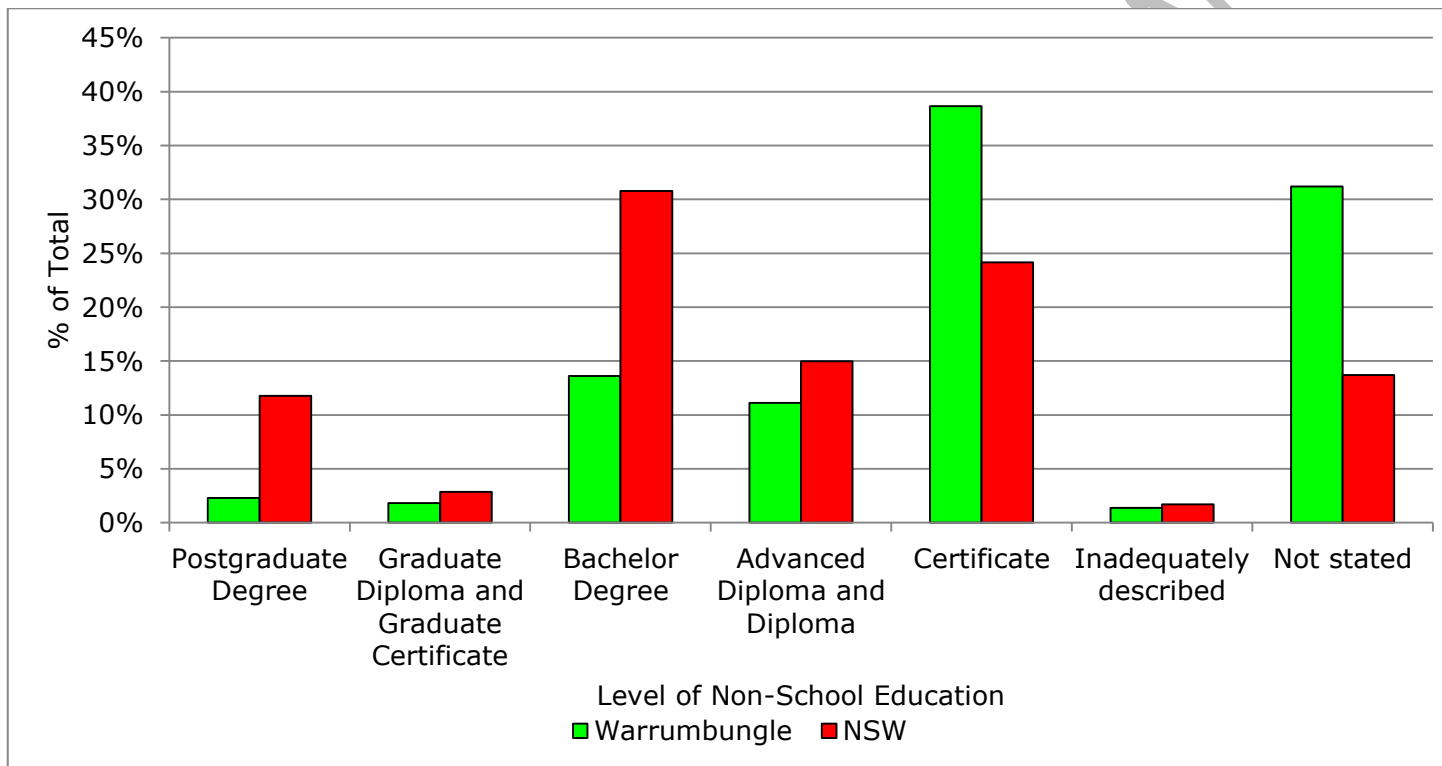


Figure 16 - Level of Non-School Education Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

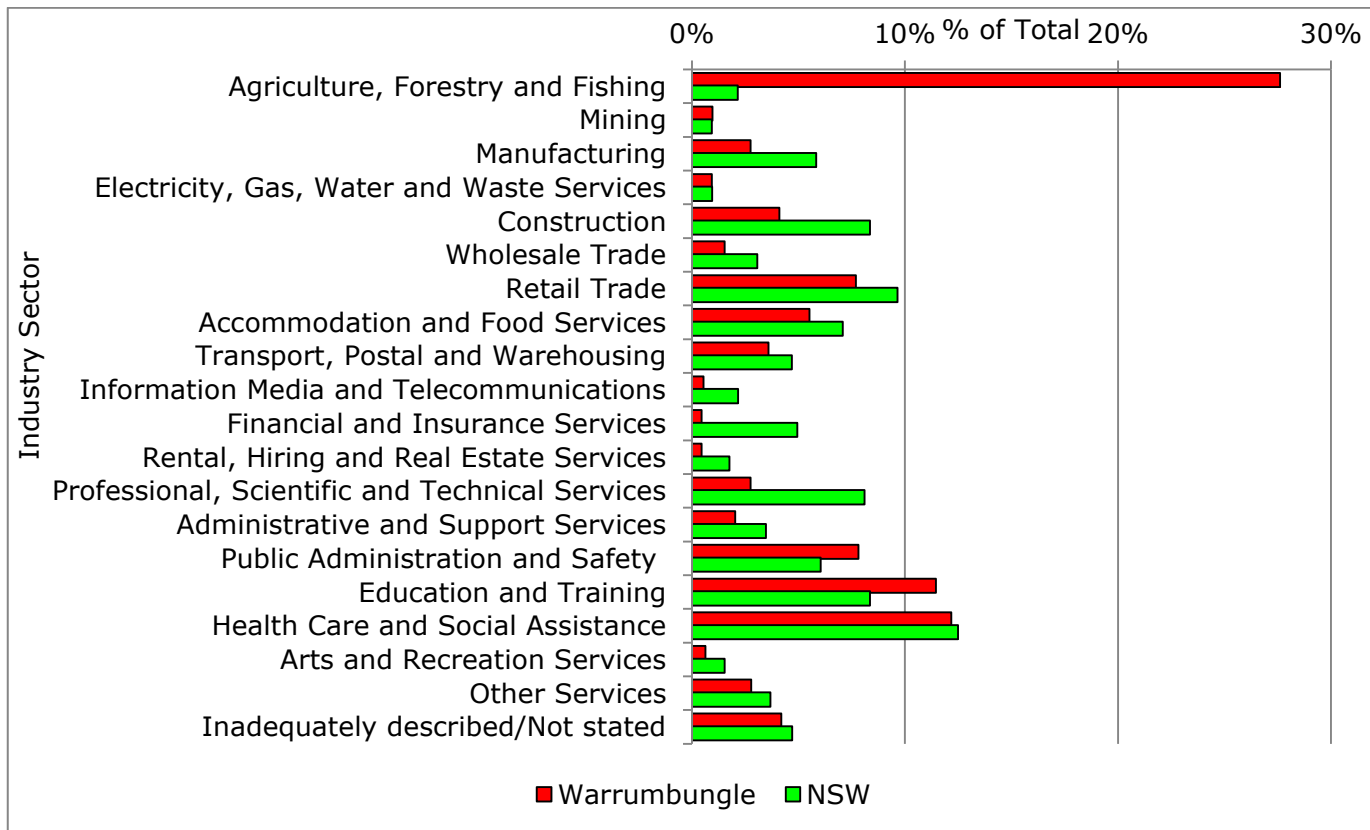


Figure 17 - Industry of Workforce Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

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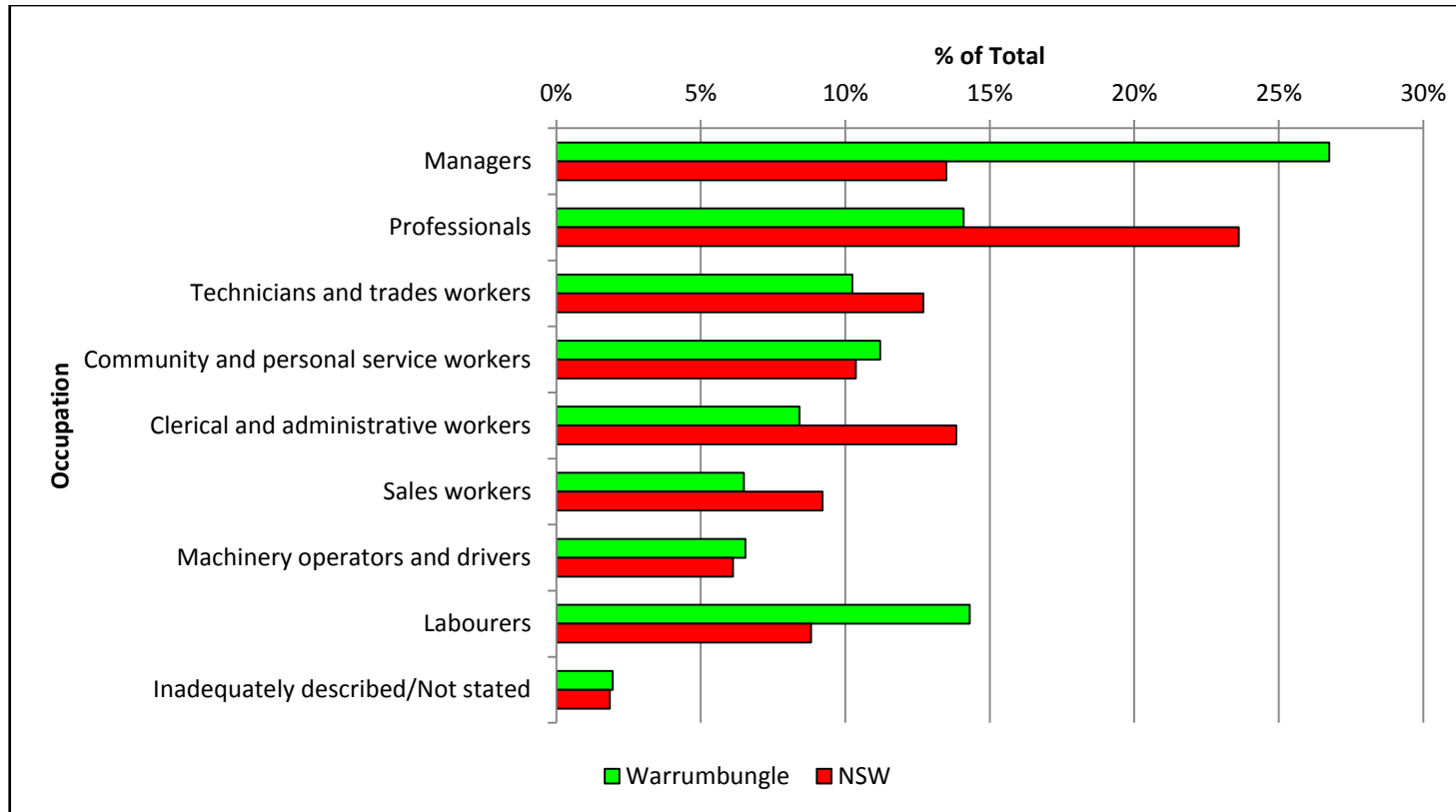


Figure 18 - Occupation of Workforce Warrumbungle Shire and NSW

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Our Environment

Water Quality

The Warrumbungle Shire has three major catchments represented within its boundaries, the Namoi, Castlereagh and Talbragar River catchments. These catchments are controlled by the Central West and Namoi Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs). The CMAs have prepared separate management plans for the area within their authority.

Water quality objectives, setting agreed environmental values and long-term goals for surface water are found in the catchment management plans.

The Namoi and Central West CMAs have identified a number of issues common to the catchments that are impacted by land and water management. With respect to water these issues are:

- Declining surface water quality
- Degradation of river and wetland ecosystems
- Improving water use efficiency

Zoning of land and fragmentation of agricultural land uses may impact on these issues.

Given that the headwaters of the Castlereagh River are in Warrumbungle Shire, any impacts on the river at this point will be felt downstream. Implementation of Catchment Action Plan (CAP) Water Targets will impact on surface and groundwater system health through a reduction in suspended solids, faecal coliforms, hazardous chemicals, Blue Green algae and maintenance of median temperatures. Catchment management targets identify the need to stabilise and manage watercourses to control sediment migration and reduce nutrient input and the impact of point source pollution.

The sustainable supply of clean water is essential for growth and development within the Shire, and it is equally important for a healthy aquatic environment. Increased extraction due to population growth and the use of basic landholder rights have the potential to severely affect downstream aquatic habitats. Proliferation of 'farm dams' within rural residential areas also has the potential to intercept a large proportion of runoff and reduce stream flows.

Climate change is recognised as an issue likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality and availability of water and should be considered when planning the location of rural residential development. Water use efficiency can be improved through the planning process by encouraging reuse of both stormwater and grey water.

Flooding

Both the former Councils provided flood maps for settlements where flooding has been recorded. Flood maps indicate that significant areas of residential land at Baradine, Coolah, Mendooran and Ulamambri are vulnerable in flood events. In these settlements, erection of buildings may not occur on flood prone or flood liable land without the consent of Council.

In NSW, the Floodplain Development Manual 2005 regulates the development of flood liable land for the purposes of section 733 of the Local Government Act 1993. The Manual indicates that responsibility for management of flood risk remains with local government. The Manual assists councils to balance the conflicting objectives of the floodplain through a risk management process.

With regards to preparation of a Local Environmental Plan, directions from state government departments (e.g. Department of Planning, Department of Water and Energy) have encouraged Councils to ensure their LEPs are consistent with the principles of the Floodplain Development Manual. Councils are encouraged to incorporate appropriate planning provisions of floodplain risk management plans into LEPs, DCPs and development control policies.

Both Coolah and Coonabarabran Shires controlled development in flood prone areas, identifying the areas via maps and requiring development consent for buildings within those areas.

To comply with the Floodplain Development Manual, Councils should have a procedure for assessment of applications for development within the mapped flood liable areas. This procedure is required as a component of Council's overall flood management strategy to limit Council's liability and loss in flood events.

Ecology and Threatened Species

Vegetation mapping has been a goal of NSW's State Government and now is a prime operational objective of the catchment management authorities. The available mapping and vegetation management plans should underpin guidelines for land use and development and assist with identifying opportunities and constraints of development.

Within the Warrumbungle LGA there are areas of national parks, state forests and reserves that require protection by the LEP zone. Apart from small areas of urban development the remainder of the LGA is zoned for agricultural purposes. The impacts of the clearing and ongoing management of that land have been identified by the CMAs as issues within the LGA.

The issues relating to Ecology and Threatened Species are:

- Retention and completion of migration corridors for vulnerable fauna,
- Decreasing biodiversity,
- Loss of native vegetation,
- Soil and land degradation, and
- Increasing dryland salinity.

The Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage lists weed invasion, inappropriate fire regimes and predation by feral animals as posing threats to native flora and fauna.

Climate

The Warrumbungle Shire has a warm temperate climate with hot summers (average temperature range 15-32oC) and cool to cold winters (0-17oC). The average annual rainfall is 746.1mm in Coonabarabran and 613.9mm in Dunedoo, with rain occurring year-round with a summer peak. Frosts are prevalent in winter and snow falls have been recorded at Coolah Tops and in the Warrumbungle Ranges. The climate is conducive to cropping and grazing year-round.

In the past the Shire has been significantly impacted by natural hazards which include bushfires, flooding, drought and heatwaves. In 2013 the Wambelong Fire swept through the Warrumbungle Nation Park to the west of Coonabarabran, threatening Australia's largest optical observatory and destroying neighboring farm land and properties. At the time it was the States most destructive bushfire in a decade with more than 55,000ha burnt. Following this in 2017 another catastrophic fire known as the Sir Ivan fire swept through the shire and burnt approximately 55,000ha.

As a result of the impact of natural hazards in the shire, all new development in areas of bushfire and flooding are either avoided or mitigated against to ensure that people, property and the environment are not at risk. Making sure future development is built to adapt and be resilient to natural hazards and climate change is Council's focus.

Other info:

The Warrumbungle Shire Local Environmental Plan (LEP) commenced on 29 November 2013. It represents the amalgamation of the former Coolah LEP 2000 and Coonabarabran LEP 1990, under the standardised LEP format.

A Vision for Our Future - 2040

Desired Future Character

Over the next 20 years the Warrumbungle Shire will be an interconnected string of settlements, each with a unique lifestyle and good connections to Dubbo and other locations.

The population decline will be arrested and there will be higher educational opportunities for young people in the Shire.

There will be more economic diversity in each of the large town with agriculture and tourism playing key roles in the economy.

There will also be improved infrastructure, health and community services.

We will have improved biodiversity and natural ecosystems and we will be more responsive to natural hazards such as bushfire and floods.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Statement Structure

To deliver the vision for 2040, Warrumbungle will prioritise rising up to take advantage of the regions opportunities and meet the challenges of the future to ensure that the local government area becomes the vibrant, connected, diversified and sustainable community and region it envisages to be.

Warrumbungle Shire’s vision for 2040, the opportunities and challengers it will meet along the way have been condensed into three strong themes:

- a spirited and connected community;
- a supportive future with growth and resilience; and
- a healthy environment and community

These three themes capture the way Warrumbungle will succeed and remain dynamic into the future. The themes will be implemented through each respective planning priorities and their supporting policy positions and actions.

Planning Priorities

Each planning priority represents an outcome of the vision and identifies the planning mechanism through which these priorities will be achieved.

Many of these delivery mechanisms already exist, such as the Warrumbungle LEP and DCP.

These include:

| <i>Planning Strategies/mechanisms</i> |
|--|
| Warrumbungle Shire LEP |
| Warrumbungle Shire DCP |
| Western Council’s Sub Regional Land Use Strategy |
| Warrumbungle Shire Community Strategic Plan |

The actions under each planning priority provide the direction required to realise the spirited, connected, resilient and environmentally healthy place Warrumbungle Shire will be.

| | | | |
|--|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <i>'Warrumbungle is supportive of community connectivity, growth and resilience, and encourages a healthy environment and community'</i> | | | VISION |
| A Spirited and Connected Community | A Supportive Future with Growth and Resilience | A Healthy Environment and Community | THEMES |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Build trust between Council and community to encourage a working partnership and ensure Council is community minded 2. Deliver infrastructure and transport networks 3. Increase connectivity for all residents to telecommunication technology | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Interconnected settlements 5. Agricultural Lands 6. Economic development | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Visitor experience 8. Identify and protect heritage, cultural and environmental values 9. Bushfires, drought and flooding in a changing climate | Strategic Priorities |
| How we will achieve our strategic priorities | | | ACTIONS/POLICY POSITIONS |
| <i>Planning Strategies/mechanisms</i> | | | ENABLERS |

Figure 19 - Delivery platform for delivering Warrumbungle's 2040 vision.

Structure Plan Map

Warrumbungle Shire is situated in the Orana Region, covering an area of 12,380 square kilometres, has a population of 9,384 people and a road network of over 2,200 kilometres. Its vastness adds to the uniqueness and attractiveness of this part of NSW.

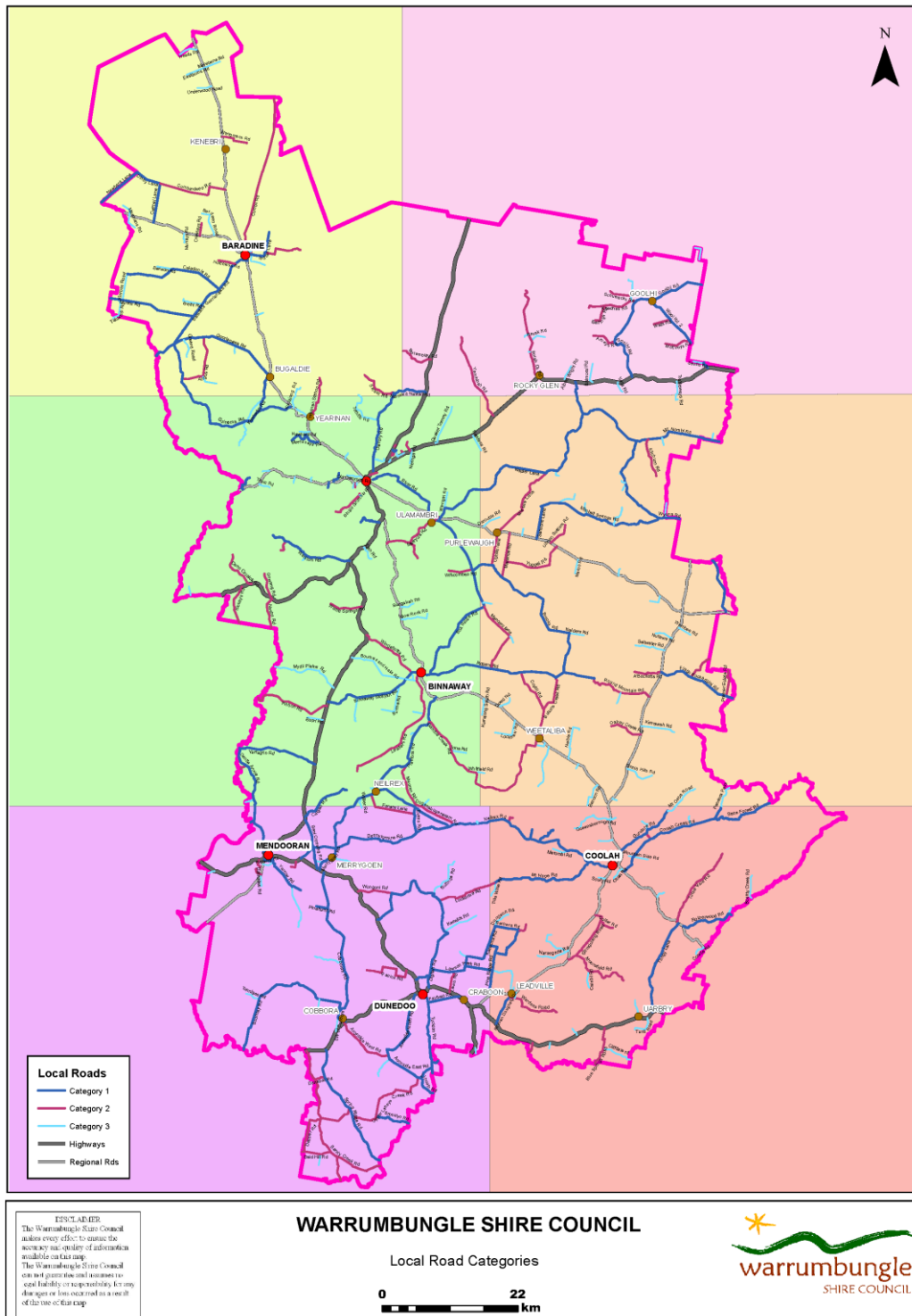


Figure 20 – Local Road Categories for the Warrumbungle Shire

A Spirited and Connected Community

Priority 1 – Build trust between Council and community to encourage a working partnership and ensure Council is community minded

Rationale

- Confusion between council and community actions
- Work together
- Community don't think council listens or works for the community
- Community minded

To deliver this planning priority Council will:

1. Work with Aboriginal communities during the preparation of local housing strategies and local environmental plans.
2. Liaise with residents and business owners of each town and village to understand their needs and priorities.
3. Actively seek opportunities and funding to upgrade and provide community facilities throughout the shire.

Actions

1. Hold discussions with the local Aboriginal community during the exhibition of the upcoming draft Local Environmental Plan.
2. To hold facilitated workshops in each town to identify priorities and needs of each of those communities.
3. Review and update Councils Section 7.12 development contributions plan to provide for opportunity to fund the upgrade of community facilities.

Priority 2 – Deliver infrastructure and transport networks

Rationale

- Roads – state regional and local
- Water – towns serviced
- Sewer – towns serviced and onsite
- Parks and Recreation – sporting facilities – parks – pools – cycle ways
- Inland rail
- Public transport
- Waste
- Management

To deliver this planning priority Council will:

1. Provide an appropriate level of service to enable residents to access each community in the shire.
2. Council will work with the Transport for NSW and RMS to ensure transport decisions promote the best outcome for the Warrumbungle Shire communities.
3. Council will work with ARTC in relation to the Inland Rail to ensure the best outcome for the Warrumbungle Shires affected communities.
4. Require all new development to align with planned infrastructure delivery.
5. Provide an adequate delivery of water supply to the settlements currently serviced by water.
6. Investigate the provision of reticulated sewerage to Binnaway and Mendooran.
7. Ensure that each of the settlements has healthy and active communities.
8. Investigate the provision of public transport.

Actions

1. Assess and upgrade where necessary the current road network.
2. Hold continue discussions concerning the planning and delivery of the Coonabarabran Bypass.
3. Talk to the affected community in the Baradine area regarding their concerns and priorities about the impact of the proposed route for the Inland Rail.
4. Hold discussions with ARTC regarding Voluntary Planning Agreements (VPA's) for Baradine.
5. Assess the current water supply to each settlement that is currently serviced.
6. Investigate supplementary water supply for each settlement.
7. Prioritise the connection of reticulated sewer to Mendooran first and then Binnaway.

8. All other settlements are to continue with the current Onsite Sewerage Management System (OSMS) disposal.
9. Develop a plan to ensure that the parks, sporting facilities, pools and cycle ways in each settlement are optimised.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Priority 3 – Increase connectivity for all residents to telecommunication technology

Rationale

- Telephone
- Mobile
- Landline
- Internet - NBN

To deliver this planning priority Council will:

1. Work with the telecommunications providers to ensure that all residents have an adequate level of mobile connectivity throughout the shire.
2. Work with NBN to ensure that there is an adequate level of internet connectivity throughout the shire.

Actions

1. Identify options to improve access to shared telecommunication and internet services, including public access to services at community centers and schools.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

A Supportive Future with Growth and Resilience

Priority 4 – Interconnected Settlements

Rationale:

- Where people live
- Work
- Play
- Shops
- Offices
- Industrial Areas
- Infrastructure
- Community facilities, parks, cycle ways
- Settlement hierarchy

To deliver this planning priority Council will:

1. Adopt and settlement hierarchy to ensure that settlement with appropriate levels of service can grow.
2. Residential development growth will only occur in the district centre and towns shown on the settlement hierarchy map.

Actions:

1. Council adopts the settlement hierarchy map.

Priority 5 – Agricultural Lands

Rationale

Warrumbungle Shire benefits from its connections to the Newell, Golden and Oxley Highways, ideal climate conditions and soils which makes this shire the ultimate location for primary production. In order to ensure the ongoing success of this industry Council will protect important agricultural land within the shire.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment are developing a regional development strategy which will identify and map the region's important agricultural land. It will identify emerging opportunities for agriculture, and guide and direct local planning for the region and NSW.

The mapping will incorporate biophysical, infrastructure and socio-economic factors. Managing potential land use conflicts surrounding the mapped important agricultural land will need to be addressed when the regional development strategy is released.

The Warrumbungle Shire Council has already taken proactive steps in managing land use conflicts and impacts on primary producers, such as including land use separation buffers from proposed dwelling houses and other residential accommodation to agricultural or rural enterprises on an adjoining property in the Warrumbungle Development Control Plan 2015.

This planning priority reflects the Warrumbungle Shires vision to support its agricultural industry and ensure that the continuation and protection of agricultural industries is secure for the future of the shire.

To deliver this planning priority Council will:

1. Protect important agricultural land in local planning controls.
2. Manage land use conflicts on agricultural land by:
 - In the case of nuisance complaints, Council will support pre-existing, lawfully operating agricultural land uses.
 - Restrict the separation of incompatible land uses surrounding agricultural land.
 - Avoid the location of incompatible land uses adjacent to agricultural production areas.

Action

On review of the Warrumbungle Local Environmental Plan investigate the appropriateness of minimum lots sizes rural zones through undertaking a strategic analysis of agricultural land and practices.

Priority 6 – Economic development

Rationale

The five larger towns have general industrial areas which provide serviced industrial land. Coonabarabran has a purpose-built general industrial estate on the northern edge of town. The estate has vacant and under-utilised sites, however these sites are privately held. There are virtually no vacant sites and no factory units available for businesses looking to establish in Coonabarabran, and the absence of the NBN to the industrial area works against development. There are no factory units or sheds available for sale or lease in the smaller towns. The Warrumbungle Shire LEP permits (with consent) rural industries (including agricultural processing facilities) in rural areas.

To deliver this planning priority Council will:

1. Investigate opportunities for the expansion of existing and new industrial precincts in our townships that do not impact on residents.
2. Protect and recognise existing industrial precincts and uses to avoid land use conflicts from future residential development.
3. Encourage the co-location of complementary industry alongside agricultural enterprises that enhance the efficiency of the agricultural land use.
4. Seek to better understand local business needs and identify challenges and opportunities.
5. Review policies that impact on local businesses.
6. Investigate opportunities for employment land.
7. Investigate management strategies for declining populations.

Actions

1. On review of the Warrumbungle Local Environmental Plan 2013 Council will investigate the practicalities of providing additional industrial zoning where appropriate. This measure will minimize the risk of land use conflict posed by non-compatible land uses.
2. Review the LEP for opportunities to encourage business across rural and residential zones where it can blend with existing character.
3. Implement a new Economic Development Strategy with focus on innovative and knowledge jobs, and leveraging the agriculture and tourism sector.

A Healthy Environment and Community

Priority 7 – Visitor Experience

Rationale:

- Tourism
- Observatory
- National Parks - Warrumbungle National Park and Coolah Tops
- Accommodation
- Cafés and restaurants
- Tourist Attractions

To delivery this planning priority council will:

1. Continue to promote the spectacular natural resources of the Warrumbungle Shire.

Actions:

1. Prepare the Economic, Tourism and Development Strategy.

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Priority 8 – Unique heritage, cultural and environmental values

Rationale

- European heritage
- Cultural heritage
- Buildings
- Structures
- Biodiversity
- Water quality
- Have undertaken a heritage study

To deliver this planning priority Council will:

1. Protect, manage and respect Aboriginal objects and places in accordance with legislative requirements.
2. Identify and protect areas of high environmental value through biodiversity offsets.
3. Manage development near heritage items to ensure it is respectful and sympathetic of surrounding items and conservations areas.

Actions

1. Review Schedule 5 of the LEP to support the appropriate labelling and protection of heritage sites and buildings.
2. Review council owned land to identify offset requirements for future development and any opportunities to use council land for Biodiversity Stewardship Agreements.
3. Review DCP controls to protect biodiversity.

Priority 9 – Bushfires, drought and flooding in a changing climate

Rationale

- Flooding
- Bushfires
- Changing climate
- Drought

To deliver this planning priority Council will:

1. Ensure that development is not permitted to be built in areas that are significantly impacted by flood waters.
2. Ensure that development is not permitted to be built in areas that are highly bushfire prone.
3. Ensure Council encourages private water supply.
4. Engage State and Federal Government to provide support to drought affected residents.

Actions

1. Develop an emergency management plan.
2. Waive development application fees for the installation of rainwater tanks until the drought declaration has ceased.
3. Liaise with the Office of Drought and Response on behalf of local residents.

Delivery Plan

INSERT ACTIONS AND TIMEFRAMES (IN CONSULTATION WITH OJO AND COUNCIL)

| A Spirited and Connected Community | A Supportive Future with Growth and Resilience | A Healthy Environment and Community |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
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DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

Background Documents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Central West and Orana Regional Plan | <p>The Central West and Orana <i>Regional Plan 2036</i> is a 20-year blueprint for the future of Western NSW. The vision for Western NSW is to create a diverse economy, supported by the right infrastructure, an exceptional natural environment and resilient communities. The vision will be delivered through three goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A diverse economy with efficient transport and infrastructure networks; • Exception semi-arid rangelands traversed by the Barwon-Darling river; and • Strong and connected communities |
| Western Sub-regional Strategy | |
| CSP | <p>The Warrumbungle Shire Community Strategic Plan 2032 articulates the vision, directions and framework for coordinating development, resource allocation and service delivery within the Shire. The Plan focuses on strengthening the Shire community and improving quality of life, protecting the environment, growing and diversifying the Shire's economy, and providing strong governance and leadership. The Plan has 7 core goals, including strengthening the Shire's economy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Environment: The good health of our natural environment and biodiversity is preserved and enhanced. • Local Economy: Our economy is strong and sustainable, providing our communities with localised employment opportunities and ease of access to markets, goods and services. • Community and Culture: The communities of our shire are safe, harmonious and supportive and are bound by vibrant social and cultural interaction and a strong local identity. • Rural and Urban Development: Our Shire is characterised by its peaceful rural landscape, its thriving towns and villages and diverse agricultural activities. • Recreation and Open Space: The communities of our Shire have abundant opportunities to participate in sporting and recreational interests of their choice. • Public Infrastructure and Services: Our communities are provided with safe, functional, and well-maintained infrastructure and a comprehensive range of services. • Local Governance and Finance: Warrumbungle Shire Council is recognised for its strong community leadership, sound financial and asset management, and ethical, accountable and responsive local government. |
| REDS | <p>The Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) identifies key industries for the region as Agriculture, Tourism, and Health Care and Social Assistance. The REDS has five core strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boost key industries' access to market and labour to reduce cost of transport, transactions, treatment and training. • Invest in water and energy utilities infrastructure to achieve a sustainable economy and improve quality of life. • Develop and enhance the regional lifestyle as attractive for work, leisure and business. • Develop and promote a broad event and destination profile to increase visitation, and diversify the economy. • Build support for local business by taking advantage of Inland Rail, integrating advantage into major projects and tenders and providing business upskilling opportunities. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Enabling Regional Adaptation Report</p> | <p>The Western Enabling Regional Adaptation (WERA) identifies how the expected impacts of climate change may affect local communities, and identify opportunities to respond.</p> <p>The Enabling Regional Adaptation (ERA) process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides a credible evidence base to inform government adaptation planning by developing regional understanding of the impacts of projected climate change and vulnerability for key systems • builds on the capacity of decision-makers to capture opportunities for regional climate change adaptation projects between sectors across local and state government. <p>Climate change adaptation pathways to transition key Central West and Orana systems to a more resilient future, have been developed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small communities • Transport • Water • Regional knowledge • Mixed farming • Horticulture • Energy • Tourism |
| <p>Destination Country and Outback NSW Management Plan 2018-2020</p> | <p>The DMP has six high level goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a positive collaborative culture to support the growth of the visitor economy. • Increase visitation and yield to Destination Country and Outback NSW. • Strengthen the perception and awareness of Country and Outback NSW. • Build the capacity and capability of the industry and local government, to deliver on the expectations of visitors to the region. • Facilitate the development or enhancement of products, experiences and events. • Enable effective and efficient communication with stakeholders and communities across the network. |
| <p>Remplan RDA Orana, 2018).</p> | |