



Warrumbungle Shire Council

2020/21 Annual Report

Released November 2021



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



For much of the 2020/21 financial year change and adaptation was prominent for the Warrumbungle Shire Local Government Area.

At times it has seemed that we have faced battle after battle with natural disasters, plagues and pandemic, none of which have been things Council can control. From a once in a life time drought and a mouse plague to the unprecedented lock downs, restrictions and changes due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the Warrumbungle Region has faced it all.

Nonetheless, Warrumbungle Shire has pulled together as a community and progresses forward with some incredible achievements that have been accomplished this term.

New water infrastructure across the Shire providing towns with secure and sustainable water supplies, upgrades to sporting facilities, playgrounds and skateparks, bridges being built and road ways constantly being improved. But it's not always the big million-dollar project. It's also about the everyday business of running the region and creating and supporting communities, which has happened while these big projects are happening.

Funding has been coming into the region at an extraordinary pace this financial year, with both federal and state government supporting us while we have navigated through these unprecedented events. This funding has allowed our region to grow, develop and sustain infrastructure and increase our projects to support the community.

All of this incredible work, while navigating change and embracing challenges, is a credit to the committed staff at Warrumbungle Shire Council.

Big projects such as the commencement of Robertson Oval new amenities building in Dunedoo to the completion of two new bridges at Billy Kings Creek, Coonabarabran there has been a lot of work put into our region to benefit the community and help our towns grow.

While this Annual Report details the year we have had, the exciting prospect is that we have more to come. The future is bright.

AMBROSE DOOLAN
MAYOR

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE



2020/21 has been a year of both achievements and challenges for Warrumbungle Shire Council. Major investments have been made in the Warrumbungle communities through Council's capital works program and funded projects, however the year has been dominated by the impacts of COVID-19 on top of ongoing impact from the drought.

A number of major projects have been delivered in 2020/21. With the generous support of the Australian Government, over \$1 million has been invested into infrastructure and events in each town across the Warrumbungle Shire through the Drought Communities Project funding. Council was to demonstrate benefits to drought affected communities, for example by using local suppliers and contractors or by providing long lasting community infrastructure. This funding has allowed for such projects as community hall upgrades, installation and upgrades to multiple sport and recreation facilities, event support for local town events and empowerment events for our community members, to have been made possible.

The Australian Government has also provided funding through the Building Better Regions Grant to replace the amenities block at Robertson Oval. This project will see a million-dollar sporting facility taking shape over the coming year, creating a space for regional sporting games to be hosted not only for Warrumbungle Shire but for surrounding regions.

The NSW Government has also made a number of grant funding opportunities available. In particular, Council was successful in obtaining over \$1.5 million in 2020/21 for projects across the local government area through the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round Three and the NSW Drought Stimulus Package.

The NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund projects completed has seen the expansion of the existing Mendooran playground equipment and the installation of shade over the skatepark and playground at Milling Park, Dunedoo. Works have been progressing and will continue to progress into the new financial year on the new Stop and Play Project in Coonabarabran and Jump the Stump Park, Coolah.

Under the NSW Drought Stimulus Package Project Council was able to secure funding and deliver the following projects to benefit the community members across the Shire. The roof replacement at the Baradine Hall, Coolah Shared Pathway extension and enhancement, improvements at the Coonabarabran Sports Complex, amenities for the Mullaley Recreation Ground, and improvements to all six pools across the Shire. Some of these projects are in the final stages going into the new financial year 2021/22 but we look forward to seeing the positive impacts these significant projects have throughout the Shire.

It has been a privilege to work in partnership with the Mayor, councillors, the Executive Leadership Team and staff of the Warrumbungle Shire Council. I am pleased to present the 2020/21 Annual Report.

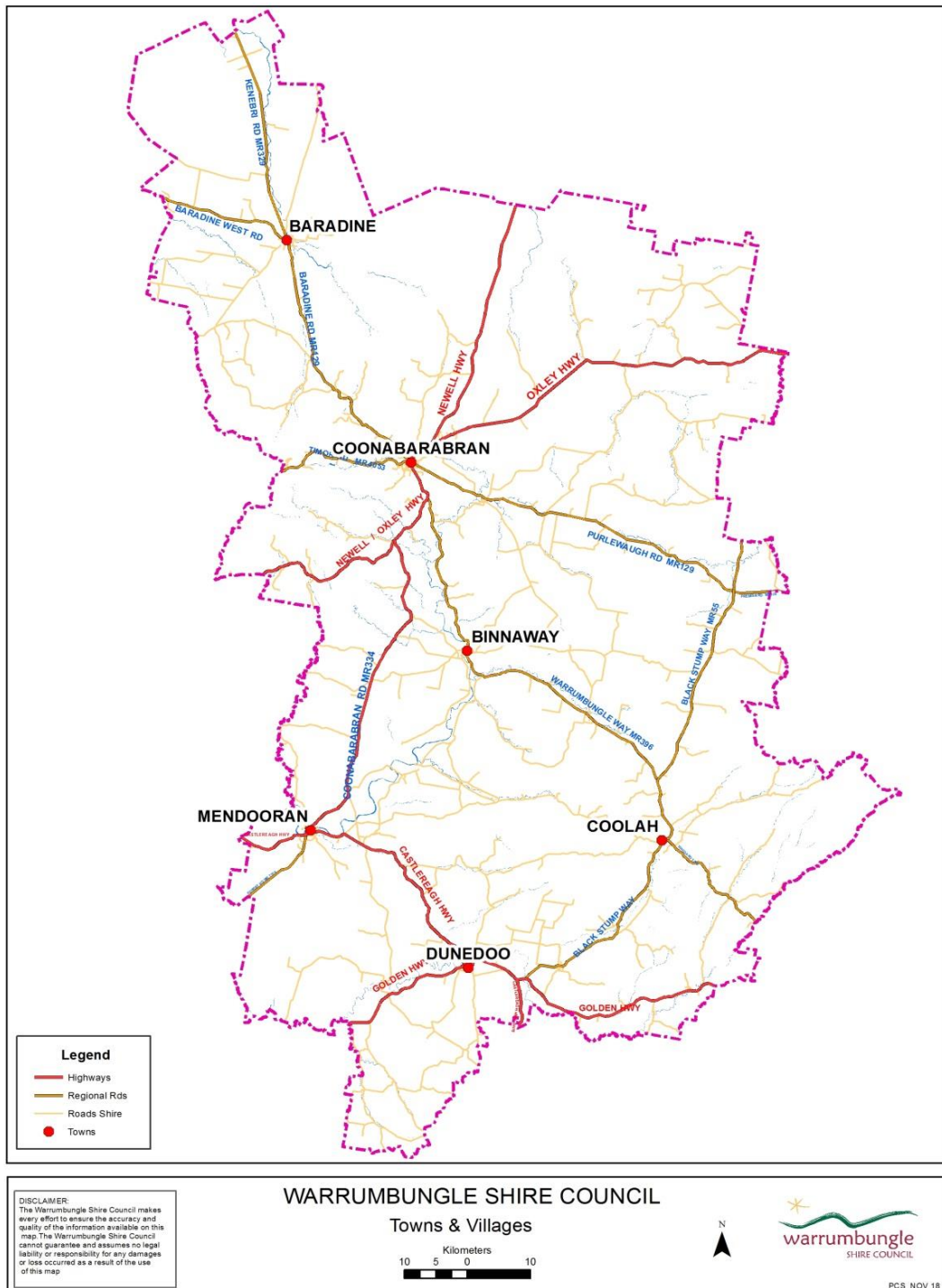
ROGER BAILEY
GENERAL MANAGER

CONTENTS

.....	1
MAYOR'S MESSAGE	2
GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE.....	3
OUR COMMUNITY.....	5
COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT.....	6
COUNCILLORS.....	7
ORGANISATION.....	8
VISION, MISSION AND VALUES.....	9
GUIDING PRINCIPLES.....	10
INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK	11
COMMUNITY PRIORITIES.....	12
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS.....	15
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT.....	34
STATUTORY REPORTING	35
DELIVERY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION	36
AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS.....	36
RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF	36
OVERSEAS VISITS.....	36
PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS.....	37
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	38
CONTRACTS AWARDED	39
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.....	40
INSPECTIONS OF PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS	41
PRIVATE WORKS	41
CONTRIBUTIONS	42
EXTERNAL BODIES.....	43
CONTROLLING INTERESTS	44
JOINT VENTURES.....	44
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.....	44
REMUNERATION – SENIOR STAFF.....	45
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES.....	46
SPECIAL VARIATIONS	46
COMPANION ANIMALS ACT AND REGULATION.....	46
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS).....	48
PLANNING AGREEMENTS.....	50
PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES.....	50
DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN	51
ATTACHMENTS.....	52

OUR COMMUNITY

The Warrumbungle Shire local government area is positioned mid-way between Brisbane and Melbourne on the Newell Highway. Taking in the towns of Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo and Mendooran, our local government area is shown below.



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



9,348

TOTAL POPULATION

Baradine 593
Binnaway 425
Coolah 798
Coonabarabran 2,537
Dunedoo 1,215
Mendooran 302



917

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION



55.7%

EMPLOYED FULL TIME

30.6%

EMPLOYED PART TIME



49

MEDIAN AGE



6,600

RATED PROPERTIES

2,627 designated farmland or rural

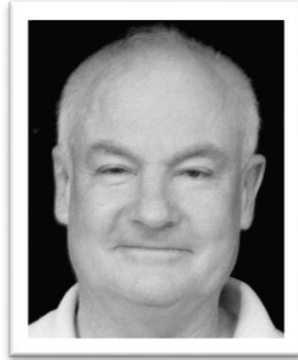


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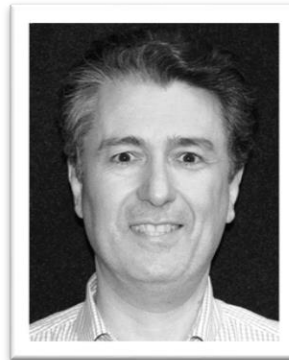
MEDIAN WEEKLY INCOME

*** Sourced from 2016 Census data.*

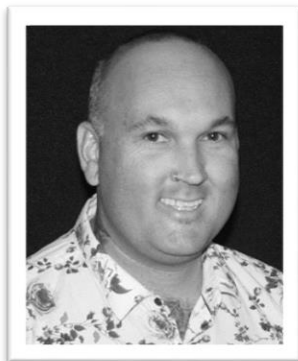
COUNCILLORS



**Mayor
Ambrose Doolan**



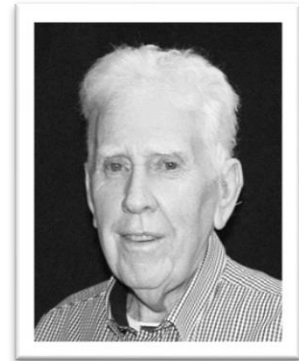
**Deputy Mayor
Aniello Iannuzzi**



Kodi Brady



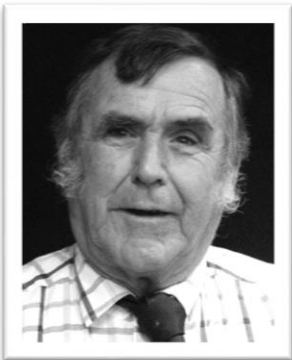
Anne-Louise Capel



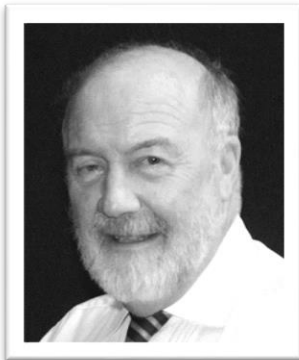
Fred Clancy



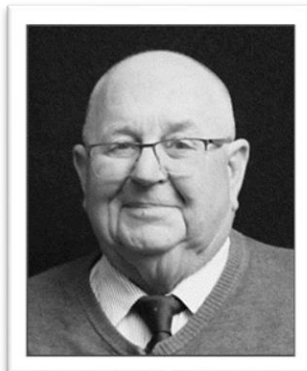
Wendy Hill



Ray Lewis



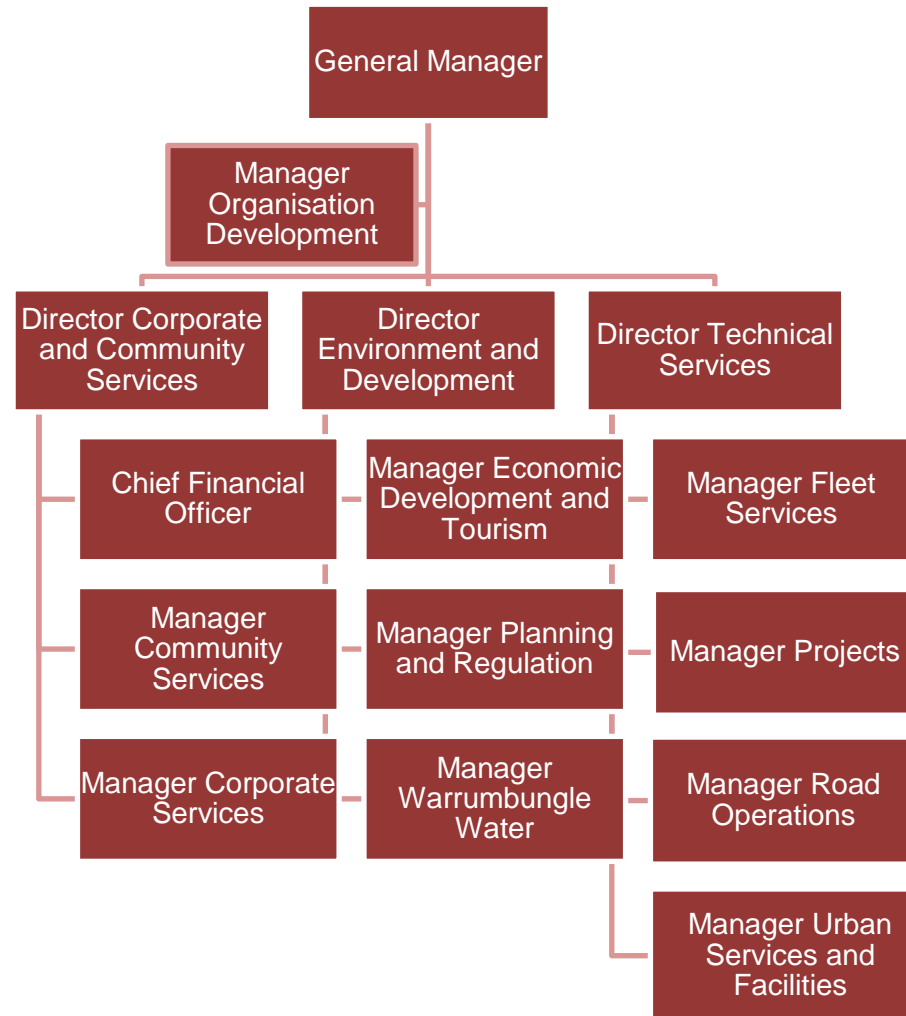
Peter Shinton



Denis Todd

ORGANISATION

Warrumbungle Shire Council is managed by a General Manager with three Directorates. Council's organisation structure is shown below.



VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

VISION

Excellence in Local Government

MISSION

Council will provide

- Quality, cost effective services that will enhance our community's lifestyle, environment, opportunity and prosperity;
- Infrastructure and services which meet the social and economic needs and aspirations of the community now and in the future;
- Effective leadership and good governance, by encouraging teamwork, through a dedicated responsible well-trained workforce.

VALUES

✓ Honesty

Frank and open discussion, taking responsibility for our actions

✓ Integrity

Behaving in accordance with our values

✓ Fairness

Consideration of the facts and a commitment to two-way communication

✓ Compassion

Working for the benefit and care of our community and the natural environment

✓ Respect

To ourselves, colleagues, the organisation and the community listening actively and responding truthfully

✓ Transparency

Open and honest interactions with each other and our community

✓ Passion

Achievement of activities with energy, enthusiasm and pride

✓ Trust

Striving to be dependable, reliable and delivering outcomes in a spirit of goodwill

✓ Opportunity

To be an enviable workplace creating pathways for staff development

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Council is guided by section 8 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), which contains a set of principles to provide guidance to enable councils to carry out their functions in a way that facilitates local communities that are strong, healthy and prosperous.

Local Government Act 1993, section 8A 'Guiding principles for councils':

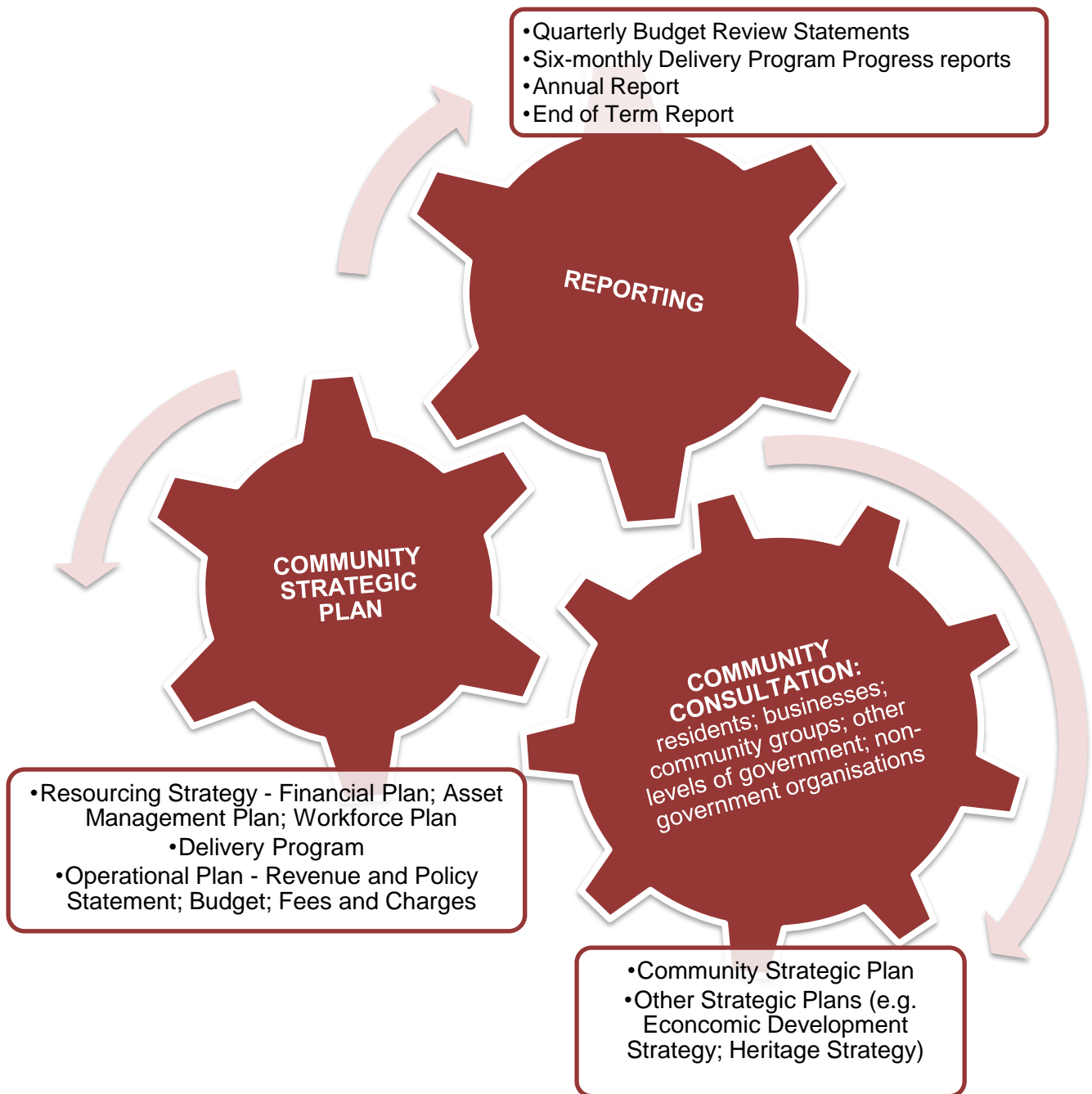
- (1) Exercise of functions generally. The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by councils:
 - (i) Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
 - (ii) Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
 - (iii) Councils should plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
 - (iv) Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.
 - (v) Councils should work cooperatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
 - (vi) Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
 - (vii) Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
 - (viii) Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
 - (ix) Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supporting working environment for staff.

- (2) Decision-making. The following principles apply to decision-making by councils (subject to any other applicable law):
 - (a) Councils should recognise diverse local community needs and interests.
 - (b) Councils should consider social justice principles.
 - (c) Councils should consider the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations.
 - (d) Councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
 - (e) Council decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.

- (3) Community participation. Councils should actively engage with their local communities through the use of the integrated planning and reporting framework and other measures.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

All councils in NSW are required to operate within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework. This framework aims to facilitate a strong and sustainable local government system by ensuring all councils have in place strategic plans, underpinned by community priorities and supported by appropriate resources. Warrumbungle Shire Council's IP&R is illustrated below.



COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

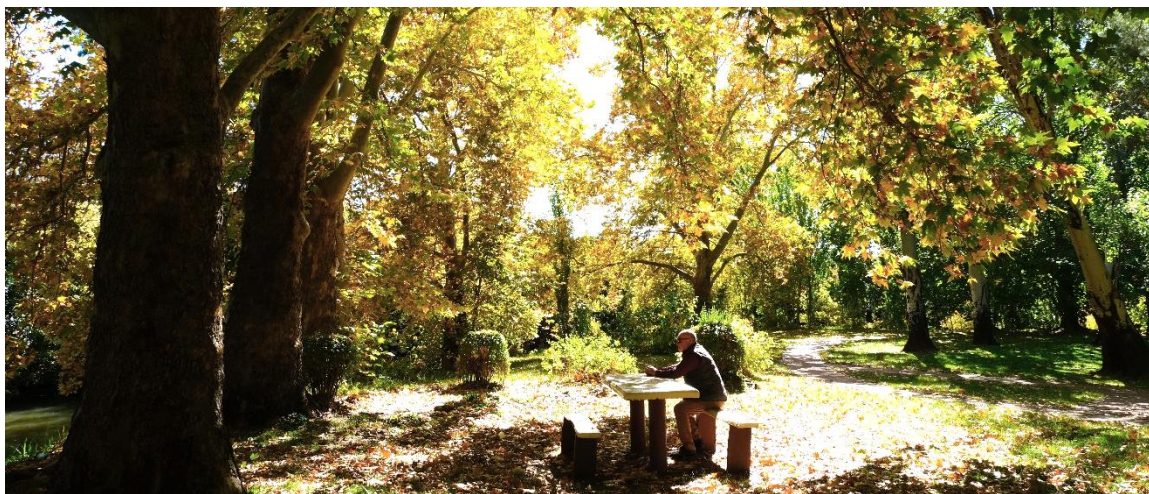
The Warrumbungle Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017-2032 (the Plan) was developed following community engagement. The Plan's vision describes the importance of our sense of community spirit, our children and our homes. The community's plan for the future will support the growth, resilience and health of our people, our neighbourhoods, the environment and local economy.

The Plan identifies seven key areas of interest to the community's needs and aspirations:

1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We value our pristine, healthy, natural environment with clean water resources and diverse flora and fauna. We enjoy the close proximity to National Parks and large areas of forest and bushland. We love that we are surrounded by wide open spaces and spectacular mountain landscapes. We enjoy the peace and quiet, our temperate climate with four distinct seasons, the fresh, unpolluted air and clear night skies.

GOAL: the good health of our natural environment and biodiversity is preserved and enhanced.



2 LOCAL ECONOMY

Our solid local tourism industry is based on local attractions including three National Parks, Siding Spring Observatory and a range of tailored facilities and amenities. The contribution of our diverse agricultural industry is highly valued, made possible by good climate and rainfall, productive soils, clean water supplies and ready access to markets.

We benefit from good transport links within the Shire and to external markets and customers and from an abundance of natural resources which provide our Shire with opportunities for local economic growth. We have diverse local employment and business opportunities and we have access to a wide range of trades, services and businesses that are locally owned and operated, providing personalised customer service.

GOAL: our economy is strong and sustainable, providing our communities with localised employment opportunities and ease of access to markets, goods and services.

3 COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Our communities are strong, resilient and inclusive and provide support and assistance to those in need. Local volunteers contribute greatly to our community wellbeing and we enjoy the freedoms that are afforded through our safe, friendly and caring community. Our Shire is a great place to raise a family and we value the contributions and participation of our younger people who are provided opportunities to support their development. Relationships between our indigenous and non-indigenous communities are harmonious and respectful and our diverse community is reflected through a wide range of arts and cultural activities, festivals and events.

GOAL: the communities of our Shire are safe, harmonious and supportive and are bound by vibrant social and cultural interaction and a strong local identity.



4 RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Our Shire is centrally located in NSW, within close proximity to regional centres and cities and we offer a range of affordable housing options. We enjoy a relaxed pace of life with low traffic volumes, no overcrowding and our urban centres are enhanced by the surrounding rural landscape and atmosphere. Our local history and heritage is visible in our towns and villages which are clean, tidy and well-presented.

GOAL: our Shire is characterised by its peaceful rural landscape, its thriving towns and villages and diverse agricultural activities.

5 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

People within the Shire have opportunities to participate in a diverse range of locally based sports catering for people of all ages, activity levels and interests. Our rural setting provides children with opportunities to play in and explore their natural environment and our communities have easy access to a wide range of active and passive recreational pursuits through close proximity to National Parks and other open spaces. Organised sporting and recreational activities within the Shire are coordinated by an array of active clubs and volunteer organisations and Council provides communities across the Shire with well-maintained sporting facilities, parks and gardens.

GOAL: the communities of our Shire have abundant opportunities to participate in sporting and recreational interests of their choice.

6 PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

We have a range of essential local services and facilities supporting the health, medical and aged care needs of our communities and we benefit from the local presence of State and Federal agencies and non-government organisations that provide a range of essential services. Local children and young people benefit from provision of high quality educational services and facilities. We have an array of public infrastructure, such as parks, libraries, community halls, swimming pools, sporting facilities and tourism amenities that are important for the prosperity and well-being of our communities.

Our towns benefit from the secure supply of potable water and our villages and rural areas have access to water from rainfall, rivers and artesian systems. Our Shire accommodates major road transport links that are of national importance for the movement of people and freight and Council maintains three aerodromes and an extensive network of roads and bridges that provide connections within the Shire and to other regional centres. We are also supported by volunteer emergency services that are critical in providing immediate accident and disaster response.

GOAL: our communities are provided with safe, functional, and well-maintained infrastructure and a comprehensive range of services.



7 LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Our councillors represent the communities of the Shire well and work effectively together, taking their responsibilities as elected officials seriously. Council provides an appropriate range of services and facilities that are responsive to community needs and Council bases its activities and decision-making on principles of openness, transparency and accountability. Council maintains a visible presence across the Shire through decentralised offices, services and depot facilities.

Council is the major employer within the Shire, providing a wide range of local training and employment opportunities and Council's staff members are friendly and approachable and are an integral part of the communities of the Shire. Council is proactive in providing financial, staff and other resources to develop programs and services that support the well-being of its communities.

GOAL: Warrumbungle Shire Council is recognised for its strong community leadership, sound financial and asset management, and ethical, accountable and responsive local government.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Warrumbungle Shire Council's implementation of its Delivery Program through the 2019/20 Operational Plan included the following highlights.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Compliance Services

Within the last financial year, Council has noticed a significant reduction in actual complaints being raised with compliance officers. There are several factors contributing to this reduction. Council has increased both its social media and media releases in an attempt to both educate and inform members of the public of compliance. Council has made a strong effort to increase actual patrolling of all towns and villages within our shire. Our being-seen strategy is being well received in the community as a deterrent to those members who would seek to do the wrong thing. In relation to stock on roads within the last twelve months, there has been a noticeable reduction in this area as well. The end of the worst drought since the millennium is obviously seen as a major contributor to this reduction. Stock are no longer looking over the fence to see if it is greener. There are copious amounts of feed available in stock holders' paddocks, eliminating the need for stock to try and get to the roadside in attempt to eat available fodder. An excellent winter and promise of a good spring will no doubt assist in keeping these numbers down. Council's compliance team, from management down to compliance rangers is a strong and willing outfit. This contributes to a happy and successful workplace, with a high expectation of excellent results.

Noxious Weeds

Council continues to maintain its membership with Castlereagh Macquarie County Council with all weed control matters being handled on Council's behalf by this agency.

Environmental Health Services

Annual inspections were carried out on food premises to ensure food is safe to be consumed. Microbiological water sampling is undertaken weekly or fortnightly (depending on frequency required by Department of Health) for towns on potable water supply to ensure water is safe to use. Chemistry sampling is also undertaken for potable water every six months.

LOCAL ECONOMY

Private Works

Council staff possess a range of skills and are able to offer services to customers on a commercial basis. These services or private works are undertaken on an agreed fee for service basis and in accordance with rates published in the Fees and Charges section of the operational plan. The types of private works undertaken by staff include roadworks, slashing, mowing and minor concrete works.

Tourism and Economic Development

Effective distribution of tourism information and support for outlying communities, visitor information service and well-presented grounds are demonstrated through the below.

Examples are divided into renewal and improvements, and support for the local economy. Renewal and improvement projects:

- Installation of digital sign at Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre to promote attractions, regional events and important community messages.
- New banners for street banner poles located throughout the region to promote events and community pride.

- Maintain level 1 accreditation with Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre.
- Large outdoor notice board displaying new attractions and travel itineraries throughout the region.
- Collaborative Project 'Building our Warrumbungle Communities' where community leaders, business owners, primary producers, councillors and community organisations came together over a series of sessions to exchange ideas and information, provide proactive solutions and inspiration for the people to accomplish community goals.

Initiatives to support local economy include:

- Successful grant application for Small Business Month for mentoring scholarships for local businesses to develop skills and foster growth and/or recovery from disaster.
- Through identifying skill gaps and current trends, organisation and promotion of workshops and webinars throughout the region, including agritourism, digital content, and cyber security.
- Advocate and negotiate for local businesses to become suppliers, and maximise economic and community benefits from large state-wide projects coming to the region such as Inland Rail and Transport for NSW.
- Memorandum of Understanding and worked directly with Service NSW Council Relationship Manager for Western NSW to develop strategies to best support local businesses to recover from disaster and disseminate information effectively for rebates, grants and support.
- Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre now have 20 local business suppliers for retail merchandise. January – July 2021 were highest sales on record for this time of year at Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre.



Tourism and Economic Promotion

A number of successful cost-effective marketing campaigns were implemented through Warrumbungle Region and surrounds to improve visitor economy. Tourism campaigns and initiatives include:

- Design and production of a new region tourism brochure for the Warrumbungle region.
- Warrumbungle Region 2-page feature spread in Dubbo's tourism brochure.
- Worked with Department of Planning and National Parks on a highly collaborative project to produce and promote Geo Trails in Warrumbungle National Park – phone app and brochure.
- Collaborative tourism campaign with Gilgandra, Coonamble and Warrumbungle Shire for themed experiences throughout the 3 amazing regions such as Nature, Art, and Aboriginal Heritage.
- Advocated and worked with Destination NSW for Warrumbungle region to be a part of their campaigns, which include #LoveNSW Recovery Campaign and NSW Road

Trip, along with being a part of the Destination NSW's recent photography and videography shoot and digital content.

- Support and promote new and local businesses and local tourism ventures such as CWC Bike trail, and local markets.
- Designed and developed new residents' promotional folders featuring local organisations, relevant contact details and regional attractions and events.

Improved effective visitor and tourism information strategies to support the visitor economy were implemented. These include:

- Fresh new local guides for the region for Accommodation/Eating Out/Attractions.
- Monthly brochure orders to information hubs and businesses across the region, and organise brochure distribution.
- Current displays and traveller information in Visitor Centre Outdoor notice board and within the information centre.
- Maintain on Warrumbungle Shire's calendar of events webpage by supporting community groups uploading events, and keeping information up to date.
- Continual promotion of regional events and attractions through council's network such media releases and Facebook posts.

Warrumbungle Quarry

Council's commercial operations at the Quarry near Coonabarabran ceased on 30 June 2020. Council accessed product remaining stockpiles until 30 November 2020, when the lease period with Boral expired.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Community Care

Warrumbungle Community Care (WCC) provides a range of services across the Shire to assist the frail aged, people with a disability, and carers. Services include Community Transport, Meals on Wheels, Respite, Social Support and Home Maintenance. Service delivery is informed by the Quality Standards. Domain One: Dignity, respect, choice and complaints; Domain Two: Care planning and personal and clinical care; Domain Three: Lifestyle and service environment; and, Domain Four: Governance and Human Resources. WCC is an Approved Home Care Package provider, and is a Registered Authorised NDIS provider.

The range of services support people to continue to live independently in their own homes. WCC provides services to almost 800 clients across the Shire. These services are provided by our dedicated team of six (6) permanent staff, eight (8) part time/casual staff and a team of around 185 volunteers.

In 2021/2022 financial year Warrumbungle Community Care provided the following services:

Service	Outputs
Meals on Wheels	12,103 meals
Social Support	4,874.5 hours
Respite	138 hours
Home Maintenance	1,762.5 hours
CHSP transport	3,164 trips
NDIS Transport	109 trips
CTP Transport	1,447 trips
HRT Transport	162 trips
DVA Transport	64 trips
Taxi Vouchers (CHSP, CTP, NDIS)	3,153 vouchers

The WCC offices and services have remained open and functional as an essential service throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and have abided by all regulations, allowing clients to have some sort of normal service. Lockdowns and stay at home orders have impacted WCC trip statistics greatly. The taxi service was closed for an extended period of time and social support was cancelled.

WCC Food Vouchers introduced in 2019/20 are expanding with 30 local vendors participating across the local government area, giving eligible clients independence and the choice of meals while helping out the local economy.



Community Development

The role of Community Development Coordinator(s) includes seeking funding on behalf of their Community Development Group and/or Progress Association, and other Community Groups, providing support to locally based community groups and organisations to coordinate and promote local events, and to provide a point of contact for Council in local towns.

In 2020/2021 the Community Development Coordinators once again had a successful year with a large amount of funding being sourced for programs, activities and infrastructure in our local towns. A highlight of the Community Development program is the value-added support provided to other groups in each of their local communities to help them to also source funding to implement a range of activities, infrastructure or service delivery.

Connect Five Children's Service

Connect Five Children's Services is externally funded by the NSW Department of Education and Communities. Connect Five Children's Services provides play sessions to families with children not yet attending school in nine (9) communities across four (4) Shires – Warrumbungle, Coonamble, Walgett and Gilgandra.

In 2020/2021 Connect Five Children's Services planned 45 Play Sessions a term at nine (9) different venues. 135 of these sessions were held. Attendances for 2020/2021 were 477. In lieu of face to face delivery, due to the impacts of COVID-19, staff continued with the PADLET Remote Learning Hub and provided Family Activity Packs sent out by mail during COVID-19.

As well as providing Play Sessions, Connect Five Children's Services is also a Licensed Service and that provides Occasional Care for those who wish to attend an appointment, school, shopping or something else. Some parents also wish to give their child the opportunity to experience a childcare setting on their own for a short period in preparation for

starting pre-school. Although this is a very small part of the Service it is greatly valued by those who use it, particularly in places where there is no childcare service.

The other, very popular, part of the Service is the Mobile Toy Library. The Mobile Toy Library provides toys and equipment for enhancing children's learning and development and may be borrowed at a Play Session or from the Office in Coonabarabran. Other agencies working with young children may also borrow from the Connect Five Children's Services Toy Library. This is an essential service for isolated and disadvantaged families. We have had over 125 toys borrowed from this service this year.

Connect Five works with other agencies to support families with visits to play sessions from professionals such as nurses and occupational therapists.

Coonabarabran After School and Vacation Care

The service which began in 2012 operates at the Warrumbungle Shire Council Robertson St campus, at 14 Robertson Street, Coonabarabran.

Coonabarabran After School Care provides After School care during school terms and Vacation care during School Holidays.

Coonabarabran After School Care operates five days a week from 3.00pm to 5.30pm during school terms. Children who are attending school in years K - 6 are cared for in a fun, safe environment by educators who implement a play-based program on "My time, Our place" a national framework for school age care in Australia.

Children catch a school bus to the Centre. After school Care had 1,510 bookings during the year.

Vacation care provides kindergarten and primary school children with fun, varied and engaging recreation-based activities during school holidays that contribute to their ongoing development and wellbeing. Vacation care operates for 35 days a year and has had 325 bookings.

Yuluwirri Kids/Connect Five – Monkey Room

This Mobile Preschool, in conjunction with Connect Five Children's Services license, supports Yuluwirri Kids waiting lists for three (3) to five (5) year old children who want to attend Preschool. This is funded by a opt in fixed term contract for Mobile Preschools. Opt in fixed term contracts for mobile preschools aim to support the provision of sustainable and improved service delivery and recognise the additional costs and unique challenges associated with achieving universal access in rural and remote parts of NSW.

Monkey Room operates from the Robertson St venue at Coonabarabran. During this period services having been working with the children services unit to further align Monkey Room with Connect Five. In 2020/2021 Monkey Room continued to operate on Wednesdays and Thursdays with attendance levels of over 95%.

Yuluwirri Kids Preschool and Long Day Care

Yuluwirri Kids is a 57 licensed Preschool and Long Day Care Centre that opened on 2 February 2009. The Centre is funded by NSW Education and Communities for a maximum of 57 children a day. The Centre operates three (3) classrooms:

- Panda Room for 0-2 years of age. This room can accommodate up to 11 long day care students a day.
- Possum Room for 2-4 years of age. This room can accommodate up to 13 long day care students and seven (7) preschool students a day.

- Giraffe Room for 3 – 5 years of age the year before children commence school. This room can accommodate up to six (6) long day care students and 20 preschool students each day.

During Term 2 the service changed our indoor/outdoor pedagogy to age group programming and learning spaces involving a STEM and Music space; a Literacy and Drama space; Outdoor; and a Cultural and Arts space.

Over the course of the year Preschool utilisation was 2,764 sessions and Long Day Care utilisation was 6,302 sessions. This equates to 53% utilisation for Preschool and 81% for Long Day Care.



Libraries

Macquarie Regional Library (MRL) provides a range of services and collections to the communities across the Warrumbungle local government area. The library provides services and collections at each of the three (3) libraries of Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo, and limited services to Baradine, Binnaway and Mendooran. In 2020/21 MRL services once again included:

- Maintenance of a service for housebound members and members in aged care
- Involvement in celebration weeks such as Simultaneous Storytime, National Youth Week, Law Week, Library and Information Week
- Promotion of events and activities in local towns.
- School Holidays Programs and activities.
- Engagement with local schools, childcare, story time and homework sessions.
- Regular reading and craft sessions.
- Hosting meetings of local groups including local book clubs, craft groups and gardening groups.
- Hosting information sessions and other activities for people of all ages.

Public Halls

Council owns public halls in Baradine, Mendooran, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo, Goolhi, Binnaway, Coolah and Purllewaugh. The Coonabarabran Sport and Recreation building is also categorised as a hall for reporting purposes. The cost of maintaining these halls during 2020/21 totalled \$0.15m.

Funding was made available to renovate the Purllewaugh Hall, which included installation of a new ceiling, flooring, lighting and fans. Total cost \$93,000.

The halls are available for hire and activities at halls in Coolah, Baradine, and Purlewaugh are managed by volunteer groups.



Youth Services

Throughout 2020/21 the Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) Community Connections Program administered by the Community Services Connections Officer (CSCO) continued to collaborate and co-ordinate with stakeholders across the Shire to develop and deliver opportunities for young people. The TEI program comprises of Community Sector planning and coordination, community outreach, social participation and community support and advocacy.

Ongoing support and information sharing were coordinated by the CSCO through the Warrumbungle Interagency Committee providing opportunities for new and current service providers and community groups to collaborate and connect to implement community campaigns, events and activities such as NAIDOC Week, Little People Task Force Fun Day, Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness campaign and the White Ribbon and Celebrating Youth of the Warrumbungles Banner Flags across the Shire.

The CSCO collaborates with local services organisations through the Warrumbungle Domestic Violence Committee, School Holiday Planning Groups and Coona Yarn, Support, Connect Suicide Prevention Network to organise community awareness activities and events to improve connectivity across the Shire.

Funding was secured for the Warrumbungle Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) to develop and implement a Community Action Plan (CAP) to support health, wellbeing and harm minimisation strategies for young people, parents and carers. Members were also provided with the opportunity to undertake Save a Mate facilitator training.

Festival of Place – Summer Fund funding was utilised during Youth Week for Drive-In Movie nights in Coolah and Coonabarabran, bringing together young people, community and community groups which provided support with catering and logistics.

In collaboration with Coonabarabran Rotary, local schools and emergency services the CSCO facilitated the 'I in Drive' session of the driver safety RYDA program.

The CSCO also co-facilitated the Love Bites Healthy Relationship Program to young people at Coonabarabran High School an initiative of the Warrumbungle Domestic Violence

Committee, and assisted in the development of a community awareness campaign with students' artworks.



The Building Local Pathways for Youth funding continued to provide opportunities for young people across the Shire to engage in relevant resilience, leadership, community and skills-based workshops. Regional Youth Leaderships Program (RYLP) Summits were held in Dunedoo and Coonabarabran for 15 to 18-year old across the Shire along with a virtual RYLP which linked in students from across the Shire to facilitators in Western Australia and Germany. PCYC Safer Driver workshops were also provided at no cost to young people along with the opportunity to develop Active Citizenship skills at a two-day workshop. The inaugural Christmas Elf on the Shelf community activity also provided an opportunity for young people and community to discover and support local businesses.

School Holiday activities continued in collaboration with other service providers including Centacare, MacKillop, Barnardos and Mission Australia. Primary and High School craft and game activities were offered at the Coonabarabran Sport & Recreation Centre. Coona Drop In after school program also continued twice a week for primary and high school students. Pool Movie Nights in Coolah, Mendooran, Dunedoo and Coonabarabran and support for the Exmouth Dual Racer Pool float at Binnaway were also coordinated in the Summer holidays.

Due to COVID 19 restrictions 2020 Youth Week activities were held in September, October and November with the annual Mendooran Youth vs Police and Teachers Touch football, Dunedoo Youth Landcare Murals, Coonabarabran Skate and Basketball Competitions and Baradine Movie Night. The 2021 Youth Week during April introduced the inaugural Coolah Central School Eats and Beat Event, Mendooran Youth vs Police and Teachers Touch Football, Intergenerational Comedy Workshop and Coonabarabran High School week long activities.



Compliance Services

Council maintains Alcohol Free Zones throughout the urban areas of the Shire. Compliance Officers undertake regular inspections to ensure the Alcohol-Free Zone signage is current and in the correct position. Signs are replaced if they are old or unreadable.

RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Building Control

Throughout the year Council's Building Certifiers have undertaken building and plumbing inspections to ensure that all building and plumbing works meet the current requirements of the National Construction Code and various Australian Standards. Council Building Certification staff issued 20 Construction Certificates and undertook 69 critical stage inspections. Council issued 22 Occupation Certificates for various buildings.

Town Planning

Council is reviewing the Warrumbungle Local Environmental Plan to incorporate changes to land zoning to reflect the current needs of the Shire and to amend minor alignment issues with zoning of properties throughout the Shire. The review of the LEP will ensure that the current land uses are reflected in the zoning of the land.

Horticulture

Council owns and maintains 19 park areas throughout the Shire and there are eight (8) sets of playground equipment. Some of the maintenance activities in these areas include: grass cutting, watering, weeding, tree pruning, amenities cleaning and maintenance, monitoring and maintenance of playground equipment, and general horticultural tasks associated with numerous garden beds. The annual cost of parks and gardens maintenance activities in 2020/21 was \$0.25m.

Funding was available for improvement works during the year and the following projects were completed; Shade shelter Mendooran Park; Playground equipment Mendooran Park and Shade shelter Milling Park Dunedoo



Street Cleaning

Council owns and operates a street sweeper that sweeps gutters in each of the six (6) towns within the Shire. Working on a three-week schedule, gutters are swept in accordance with the following schedule: Coonabarabran 3 days a week; 0.5 days per week in Coolah and Dunedoo; and 0.3 days per week in Baradine, Binnaway and Mendooran. The cost of street cleaning in 2020/21 was \$0.29m.

Public Amenities

There are 12 public toilets throughout the Shire that are owned and maintained by Council. The toilets generally opened at dawn and closed at dusk, however there are some toilets that are opened 24 hours 7 days a week. The toilets are cleaned at various times during the week, a total of 70 times each week. The cost to clean and maintain these toilets in 2020/21 was \$0.30m.

Town Streets

There are six (6) urban areas in the Warrumbungle Shire Local Government Area: Baradine, Coonabarabran, Binnaway, Coolah, Dunedoo, and Mendooran. Within these areas there is a total of 139km of roads. Some of the maintenance activities carried out by Council for these roads include emptying of street bins, street garden and tree maintenance, stormwater infrastructure maintenance and cleaning, and road and footpath maintenance. The total cost of these maintenance activities in 2020/21 was \$0.71m.

There were many street trees in each town that did not survive the drought and extraordinary budget allocation was made available in 2020/21. Across all towns \$0.11m was spent on removing dead trees.

Projects associated with renewal of town street assets that occurred during the year include renewal of road pavement in Crane Street and in Goddard Street. A 300-metre section of narrow and deteriorated section of concrete footpath in Cassilis Street was replaced with concrete shared pathway. There was 8km of resealing completed on town streets at a cost \$0.17m.

There was significant new funding made available for improvement projects and during the year the following projects were completed: new bitumen seal in Bandulla Street Mendooran; new bitumen seal in Ironbark Street Binnaway; extension of concrete shared pathway in Binnia Street Coolah; completion of concrete shared pathway in Cowper Street Coonabarabran; and completion of stormwater drainage project in Wallaroo Street Dunedoo.



Village Streets

Mowing, maintenance grading and tree maintenance was undertaken in the streets of villages across the Shire including; Kenebri, Bugaldie, Ulamambri, Merrygoen, Neilrex, Uarbry and Leadville.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Compliance Services

Compliance Officers undertake inspections to ensure private pools meet the requirements of pool safety legislation. Inspections are carried out upon request and compliance certificates are issued for complying barrier fences.

Ovals and other Sporting Facilities

Across the Shire there is an oval complex in each town and there are tennis courts in Coonabarabran, Binnaway, Baradine, Mendooran and Coolah.

Funding was made available for several renewal and improvement projects including commencement of a project to install a bike pump track in Coonabarabran; shade shelter over the skate park in Binnaway; new picket fence at Mendooran sportsground; painting of the Sport and Recreation building in Coonabarabran; and commencement of an irrigation system at Binnaway oval.



Pools

Council owns and operates a public pool complex in each of the towns within the LGA. The 2020/21 season was challenging due to a shortage of Pool Attendants which meant that some pools were closed in February and March. There were 29,600 visits to pools in the year, which is a reduction in attendance numbers compared to previous years. However, the attendance figures did not include visits by students during school time, as entry fee for schools was waived. The introduction of electronic key access cards was well received.

Four of the six pools are over 50 years old and they are experiencing maintenance issues, particularly in relation to pumps, filter equipment and water leakage. Significant grant funding was made available and the following works were undertaken: renovation of the filtration tank and installation of backwash water connection to sewer at Baradine; replacement of valves in the Binnaway pump room; replacement and upgrade of chlorination systems at Coonabarabran, Baradine and Binnaway; new chemical tanks at Mendooran, Dunedoo and Coolah; painting of Mendooran pool; and backwash connection to sewer at Dunedoo.



PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Aerodromes

There is a registered aerodrome at Coolah and in Coonabarabran, and there is an unregistered aerodrome in Baradine. Maintenance tasks undertaken by Council include grass slashing, weekly inspections and maintenance of the bitumen surface on the runway at Coonabarabran. The annual cost of aerodrome maintenance in 2020/21 was \$0.11m

Emergency Services Management

The Local Emergency Management Committee was not activated in response to any emergency during 2020/21, however the Committee met on four occasions throughout the year. The meetings were well attended with representatives from: NSW Police; Fire and Rescue NSW; Rural Fire Service; Ambulance; State Emergency Service; Volunteer Rescue Authority and from the Regional Emergency Management Committee.

Council participates in the Bush Fire Management Committee which prepares plans for managing bush fire risks. The Committee also documents fire-trails within the shire, which assists agencies in applying for funding to maintain fire-trails within the National Parks and also State Forest areas.

Council constructed a new Rural Fire Brigade Station at Weetaliba at the cost of \$230,000 and handed over the building to Rural Fire Services in July 2021.

Local Roads and Infrastructure

The local rural road network runs to 2,276km, of which 450km are sealed. Council is also responsible for 385km of regional main roads, and undertakes roadworks under contract for TfNSW on 186 km of state roads, including sections of the Golden Highway, Newell Highway and Castlereagh Highway.

The renewal of bitumen seal on local rural roads during the period included 10km bitumen resurfacing. There was a further 18km of bitumen resurfacing works undertaken on various regional main roads.

During the period 510km of maintenance grading was undertaken on unsealed roads. The cost of emergency works and restoration works undertaken on the roads that were damaged as a result of the flood events was \$0.65m. Repair and restoration of flood damage on Moorefield Road was completed during the year.

Council is committed to renewing road assets to maximise remaining life and provide acceptable standard of service for road users. Renewal projects on road assets in 2020/21 were many and varied including the following:

- Sealed road pavement renewal on: Coolah Creek Rd; Neilrex Rd; Booloola Rd; Piambra Rd; Tongy Ln; Bugaldie Goorianawa Rd; Lawson Park Rd; Merrygoen Rd; Napier Ln; and Black Stump Way.
- Renewal of unsealed roads were undertaken through gravel resheeting on: State Forest Rd; Fairfield Rd; Pine Ridge Rd; Yaminbah Rd; Yarrigan Rd; Baradine Cemetery Rd; McEvoy's Rd; Nashs Rd; Sleightholmes Rd; Hotchkiss Rd; Bugaldie Guinema Rd; Walls Rd; Wangmans Rd; North Pine Ridge Rd; Lawson Park Rd; Lynwood Rd; Mount Oeba Rd; Oakey Ck Rd; and Oban Rd. Total expenditure on gravel resheeting - \$0.92m.

- A program of renewing concrete causeways was introduced and causeways on the following roads were replaced: Bugaldie Goorianawa Rd; Baradine Goorianawa Rd.



Improvements to the road network were delivered with new bridges over Billy Kings Creek 1 and Billy Kings Creek 2, and a new concrete causeway on Munns Road.

Medical Facilities

Council owns buildings in Coonabarabran, Mendooran and Dunedoo that are leased for provision of medical services. These premises were maintained and met the professional service level expected by the medical practitioners operating in each of the buildings.

Warrumbungle Waste

A landfill site at Coonabarabran and transfer stations located in Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Dunedoo, Mendooran and Ulamambri are owned and maintained by Council. Warrumbungle Waste continue the weekly general waste collection and fortnightly recycling collection for residents who pay for the collection service. Commercial recycling has been changed from manual handling of woolpacks to kerbside collection of 240L recycling bins with an option for businesses to purchase additional 240L or 360L bins.

The Container Deposit Scheme is proving very popular, with 2,286,747 cashed over the counter collections points at Coonabarabran and Dunedoo for the financial year 2020-21.

This year, Council took the opportunity to sell its stockpiles of scrap metal due to rising prices. In total 2,853.37 tonnes were sold from Council's waste facilities across the Shire.



Warrumbungle Water and Sewer

Potable water is supplied to residents in Baradine, Binnaway, Bugaldie, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo, Kenebri and Mendooran; non-potable services are supplied to residents in Merrygoen and along the raw water feed main on Timor Road, Coonabarabran. In all there are around 3300 service connections. To provide these services, there are 23 groundwater bores, four (4) river wells, one (1) dam, one (1) weir, four (4) water treatment plants, 23 reservoirs including treatment plant clear water tanks and 169 km of water mains including head works, transfer and reticulation mains.

To improve water security, a new settled water pump was purchased for the Coonabarabran Water Treatment Plant (WTP); one of two filter gullets refurbished at the Coonabarabran WTP with the second one budgeted for FY 21/22; the Mendooran Connect Old River Pump Station project was completed by installing a new electrical switchboard including Variable Speed Drive (VSD) control for the pumps; tasks 1 and 2 of the funded Shire wide Bore Condition Assessment project was completed; 961 customer water meters were replaced Shire-wide; the contract was awarded for the 8.7km Coonabarabran Groundwater Pipeline and the 100% design report was completed. To improve water quality and security, the reservoirs at Bugaldie were replaced; reservoir refurbishments at Dunedoo have been further progressed including network modelling; the funded Shire-wide Water Supply Systems Automation Upgrade Scoping Study was completed; the funded Mendooran Water Supply Upgrade Concept Design was completed with the Business Case being finalised; the funded Coolah Water Supply Scheme is being finalised; the tender was awarded for the funded Shire wide Water and Sewer SCADA and Telemetry Network Upgrade; 1.1 km of old water mains were replaced; 100 m of new water mains were installed; and one (1) dead end in the reticulation systems was removed. To improve water safety and water quality, six (6) reservoirs were inspected and two (2) cleaned; new chlorine disinfection room internals were installed at the Baradine, Binnaway and Coonabarabran WTPs; new Programmable Logical Controllers (PLCs) were installed at the Binnaway and Coonabarabran WTPs; new inline turbidity meters were installed at the Baradine and Binnaway WTPs; filter media was topped up at Baradine WTP; and microbiological analysing equipment purchased for example for the detection of algae in the WTP sedimentation lagoons. The funded feasibility study for the raising of the Timor Dam wall was finalised; a Dam Safety Operations and Maintenance Plan was developed in line with the new Dam Safety Regulations; and the funded Baradine WTP Upgrade progressed towards scoping of an Options Study to address all Water Quality risks in line the regulator's risk prioritisation.



Sewage services are provided to residents in Baradine, Coolah, Coonabarabran and Dunedoo. In all, there are 2,357 connections. Infrastructure to support these connections includes nine (9) pumping stations, four (4) sewage treatment plants and 83 km of sewer main.

In 2020/21, the effluent irrigator at the Baradine Sewerage Treatment Plant was replaced; 30 vacuum pots in Baradine were refurbished by replacing the internal valves and controllers; a new odour bed was installed at the Baradine sewage pump station; 40 manhole lids and surrounds were replaced in Coolah and 25 in Dunedoo; 9.2 km of sewer mains were cleaned and inspected in Coolah, Coonabarabran and Dunedoo in preparation of relining works in FY 21/22; sewerage pump station number 5 and number 6 in Coonabarabran received a comprehensive overhaul and a portable gantry was purchased to service the pump stations across Coonabarabran. The funded Dunedoo and Coonabarabran Sewerage Treatment Plant Upgrade Concept Designs progressed; the funded Scoping Study in Baradine is being finalised; the Mendooran Sewerage Scheme Scoping Study was finalised; the Binnaway Sewerage investigation has slowed after finalisation of the updated Options Study due to a current lack in future funding for the installation of a sewerage scheme in Binnaway.

Environmental Health Services

Assessment and inspections are carried out on all new applications for OSSMS. Staff have undergone training to ensure that the assessment and inspections are carried out in accordance with the current standards. Existing on-site sewage management systems are inspected as required on an ad-hoc basis.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Governance

Developing strategic relationships with other levels of government is a community objective for Council in an effort to ensure that the Warrumbungle local government area receives an equitable allocation of resources. Relationships with all levels of government have continued to be developed and maintained. Council is proactive in communication with various Federal and State Ministers and Members of Parliament, as well as with other councils. Membership and participation in State and regional bodies such as Local Government NSW, the Australian Local Government Association and Mining and Energy Related Councils is maintained, reinforcing strong connections and networking opportunities.

The community has identified that an important function of Council is to encourage and support local business and industry in creating local employment, and to advocate for long-term creation and retention of high-quality services. Council is active in advocacy of local business and industry. In particular during the reporting period, Council has continued to be involved with the Inland Rail project, which will pass through the northern end of the local government area. Support is also given to small businesses through engagement with the NSW Government Small Business Commissioner, hosting small business workshops and other events like the touring Small Business Bus, and meeting with various industry representatives.

Community involvement in the decision-making process is promoted through Community Consultation Meetings, advisory committees and public forums. Combined, these represented at least 65 opportunities for community participation in the reporting period.

Customer Service

This year a new Customer Service Charter was adopted that makes a commitment to the community that Council customers will receive efficient, responsive and friendly service.

During the reporting period, Customer Service staff met the following targets:

- Annual Report, Agency Information Guide and statutory documentation prepared as required.
- Correspondence and reports prepared as required.



Cemetery Services

Council manages and maintains 12 cemeteries. Activities include management of a database of interments, liaison with Funeral Directors, excavation of burial sites, maintenance of grounds and fences at each cemetery.

Communications and IT

Communications released to inform people of Council activities increased by around 15% over last year. The Community e-Newsletter has a monthly reach of around 500 people. A variety of communications methods are used and Council's social media presence continues to increase, up around 12% on last year.

A robust IT network is crucial to allow staff access across a large geographical area. A workstation replacement program was rolled out during the reporting period, placing the organisation in a new, highly secure operating environment.

Design Services Management

The design team investigates, designs and prepares drawings for roadworks, drainage works, kerbing and guttering and footpath works. The team also provides rural road addressing services across the Shire and GIS services to the organisation. The design team is active in preparing funding submissions for road projects.



Environment and Development Management

Council Certifiers issued 20 Construction Certificates and six (6) Complying Development Certificates throughout the 2020/21 financial year. Certifiers undertook a number of inspections in response to requests from the public.

Council received a total of 73 Development Applications in the 2020/21 financial year. There was an increase in the lodgement of Development Applications before October due to the dwelling entitlement clause 4.2A sunsetting and finishing on 2 October 2020. Council staff processed 703 Planning Certificates with all certificates being completed and dispatched within the required timeframes.

Organisation Development

Turnover remained level at 11.76% in 2020/2021, compared to 11.32% in 2019/2020 and slightly below the average turnover of 12.46% over the last nine years. In 2020/2021 Council staff had an average tenure of 10.74 years, compared to the average tenure of 10.19 years in the previous year and on a par with the 9.82 years average for all Councils in 2019/2020.

Council's sick leave days decreased by 5.77% in 2020/2021, a cumulative improvement of 12.3% since 2018/2019. Council's combined sick leave and carer's leave has reduced 23.8% since 2017/2018. Flu vaccinations were offered in April 2021 with a good uptake.

There was a 15.4% decrease in the number of lost time injuries (LTI) in 2020/2021 and the LTI days are currently the lowest in five years. Claims from 2019/2020 had the most LTI days of recent years (calculated as all LTI days for each claim including in the 2020/2021 financial year) and will continue to impact Council's workers compensation premium until the end of 2022-23.

Council moved into the second year of its three-year Employee Engagement Program, with the annual staff survey being conducted in late 2020. Results improved across all areas of the survey. Internal communication and consultation remains a focal area, as does concern around resourcing. Staff were generally happy with Council's COVID-19 response, although there were areas where communication was less satisfactory.

Council's first Health and Wellbeing Days were held in Coonabarabran and Coolah in June 2021 to provide staff with a range of information and support during what has been an exceptionally challenging time. Council partnered with its workers compensation insurer StateCover, and incorporated its scheduled health monitoring of designated staff who undertook their regular hearing tests and lung tests. Many staff also took the opportunity to have skin cancer checks, with eight staff being referred for follow up or treatment.



Council continues to support local youth through its apprentice and traineeship programs, appointing three School-Based Trainees in early 2021, two in automotive based at Council's Coonabarabran and Coolah Workshops and one in Urban Services at Coonabarabran. This was in addition to the two SBTs who commenced in 2020. Council also hosts:

- two trainees in Children's Services
- one trainee in Warrumbungle Water
- an Apprentice Plumber at Coonabarabran
- a Civil Construction Apprentice at Coolah.

There is also an Apprentice Plumber position at Coolah which is being recruited. In addition to this Council provides work experience placements when possible for local students.

Property Management

Council's property portfolio, excluding public halls and medical centres, includes two (2) administration offices, nine (9) residential houses, three (3) preschools and a range of community buildings. A contract was awarded and works completed on replacing the roof structure on the old section of the Coonabarabran Administration Office at a cost of \$469,000. Also, a contract was awarded and works completed on a new disability access ramp at the front of the Coolah Office for a cost of \$137,000.

Council has management responsibility for 71 Crown Reserves. The development of a formal Plan of Management for each Crown Reserve continued throughout 2020/21. Funding was received from Crown Lands to replace the onsite effluent disposal system at the Mendooran Campground and this was completed during the year.

Fleet Services

To support Council's wide range of services, workshops are operated in Coolah and Coonabarabran. The mechanics in these workshops provide maintenance and support services for a large fleet of vehicles including 86 sedans and utilities, eight (8) graders, three (3) loaders, three (3) excavators, four (4) backhoes, seven (7) rollers, seven (7) tractors, five (5) large tippers, 23 medium sized trucks, two (2) garbage trucks, and one (1) street sweeper. Council workshops and mechanics also provide maintenance and registration services to 81 trucks and vehicles used by the Rural Fire Service. The fleet replacement program in 2020/21 was extensive and included: 20 tonne excavator; 15 tonne roller; three (3) small trucks; one (1) medium size truck; one (1) large tipper truck; bitumen patching truck; water truck; garbage truck; and two (2) tractors. 15 light vehicles were replaced, however a nation-wide shortage of vehicles meant that many vehicles are still on order.



Risk Management

Risk mitigation throughout the year includes membership of Statewide Mutual, providing access to regional insurance and risk management support. Programs undertaken were the Continuous Improvement Pathways workbooks and Contractor Management workshop. Regionally, Council participates in the Orana Risk and Safety Management Group. The organisation's Business Continuity Plan (BCP) was enacted in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the BCP management team continued to meet regularly to discuss developments.

Workshops

There is a workshop in Coonabarabran depot and the Coolah depot that provides mechanical repair services to Council's vehicle fleet. The total cost of operating the workshops in 2020/21 was \$54,000.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The Financial Snapshot will be published with the 2020/21 Financial Statements when they are available.

STATUTORY REPORTING

CONTENTS

STATUTORY REPORTING	35
DELIVERY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION	36
AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS.....	36
RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF	36
OVERSEAS VISITS.....	36
PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS.....	37
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	38
CONTRACTS AWARDED	39
LEGAL PROCEEDINGS	40
INSPECTIONS OF PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS	41
PRIVATE WORKS	41
CONTRIBUTIONS	42
EXTERNAL BODIES	43
CONTROLLING INTERESTS	44
JOINT VENTURES	44
EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY	44
REMUNERATION – SENIOR STAFF.....	45
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES.....	46
SPECIAL VARIATIONS	46
COMPANION ANIMALS ACT AND REGULATION.....	46
GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS)	48
PLANNING AGREEMENTS	50
PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES.....	50
DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN	51
ATTACHMENTS.....	52

ATTACHMENTS 1-3: 2020/21 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DELIVERY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Within 5 months after the end of each year, a council must prepare a report (its “**annual report**”) for that year reporting as to its achievements in implementing its delivery program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives at which those principal activities are directed.

Council’s achievements in implementing its *Delivery Program 2019/20* are detailed above at ‘Council Highlights’.

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS

A copy of the council’s audited financial reports prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting* published by the Department, as in force from time to time.

Copies of Council’s financial statements are provided as attachments to this Annual Report (Attachments 1-3).

RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

The Council’s Annual Report must include the amount of rates and charges written off during the year.

Rates and charges written off by Warrumbungle Shire Council in 2020/21:

Description	Amount (\$)
Rates	\$82,223.79
Interest	\$2,804

OVERSEAS VISITS

Details (including the purpose) of overseas visits undertaken during the year by councillors, council staff or other persons while representing the council (including visits sponsored by other organisations).

Councillors and Staff were not involved in any overseas travel during the year.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS

Details of the total cost during the year of the payment of the expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, councillors in relation to their civic functions (as paid by the council, reimbursed to the councillor or reconciled with the councillor), including separate details on the total cost of each of the following:

- (i) the provision during the year of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors on a personal basis, such as laptop computers, mobile telephones and landline telephones and facsimile machines installed in councillors' homes (including equipment and line rental costs and internet access costs but not including call costs);
- (ii) telephone calls made by councillors, including calls made from mobile telephones provided by the council and from landline telephones and facsimile services installed in councillors' homes;
- (iii) the attendance of councillors at conferences and seminars;
 - a. the provision of induction training for councillors, supplementary induction training for mayors and professional development programs for mayors and other councillors;
- (iv) other training of mayors and councillors and the provision of skill development for mayors and councillors;
- (v) interstate visits undertaken during the year by councillors while representing the council, including the cost of transport, the cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses;
- (vi) overseas visits undertaken during the year by councillors while representing the council, including the cost of transport, the cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses;
- (vii) the expenses of any spouse, partner (whether of the same or opposite sex) or other person who accompanied a councillor in the performance of his or her civic functions, being expenses payable in accordance with the *Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors for Local Councils in NSW* prepared by the Director-General from time to time;
- (viii) expenses involved in the provision of care for a child of, or an immediate family member of, a councillor, to allow the councillor to undertake his or her civic functions.

Councillor Fees

Description	Amount (\$)
Election expenses	4,754
Mayor	26,603
Councillors (8)	108,839

Councillor Allowances

Description	Amount (\$)
Travel and accommodation	13,027
Meal allowance	1,509
Provision of dedicated office equipment	2,649
Telephone calls made by Councillors	709
Attendance at conferences and seminars	9,158
Training and provision of skill development	3,644
Interstate visits, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses	0
Overseas visits, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses	0
Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor	0
Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member	0
Other allowances – subscriptions and publications	43,356

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For the purposes of section 428(4)(b) of the Act, an annual report of a council must include the following information--

- (a) the names of any mayors or councillors who completed any induction training course, induction refresher course or supplementary induction course under this Part during the year,
- (b) the names of any mayors or councillors who participated in any ongoing professional development program under this Part during the year,
- (c) the number of seminars, circulars and other activities delivered as part of the ongoing professional development program in accordance with this Part during the year.

Throughout the year 2020/21 there were no induction courses run or completed by the Mayor or councillors of Warrumbungle Shire.

Warrumbungle Shire Council Mayor Ambrose Doolan participated in a LGNSW Mayoral Mentoring Program and the following councillors attended the LG Procurement workshop:

- Mayor Ambrose Doolan
- Councillor Anne-Louise Capel
- Councillor Wendy Hill
- Councillor Ray Lewis
- Councillor Denis Todd

Throughout the 2020/21 financial year 29 circulars were delivered to councillors as part of their ongoing professional development.

CONTRACTS AWARDED

Details of each contract awarded by the council during that year (whether as a result of tender or otherwise) other than:

- (i) employment contracts (that is, contracts of service but not contracts for services), and
- (ii) contracts for less than \$150,000 or such other amount as may be prescribed by the regulations,

including the name of the contractor, the nature of the goods or services supplied by the contractor and the total amount payable to the contractor under the contract.

Council awarded 12 contracts exceeding \$150,000 during 2020/21 totalling \$6,753,865.59.

Contract ID	Name of contractor	Nature of goods or services supplied	Value (\$)
41/2021	Tracserv Pty Ltd	Purchase one (1) Isuzu CXY240-460 truck with obieco body and trade in plant item 152 to Tracserv Dubbo	199,920.00 (ex GST)
41/2021	Tracserv Pty Ltd	Purchase one (1) Isuzu FXZ240-350 auto bitumen patching truck with ausroad body and sell plant item 167 to Tracserv Dubbo	382,497.10 (ex GST)
41/2021	Tracserv Pty Ltd	Purchase one (1) Isuzu FXY240-350 MWB auto water truck with Barry Burrow's steel tank	257,963.82 (ex GST)
41/2021	Tracserv Pty Ltd	Purchase one (1) Isuzu 4x2 FVD165-300 auto DC fitted with superior pak – 18 cubic metre garbage compactor and alloy bull bar	327,321.82 (ex GST)
106/2021	Warrumbungle Steel Buildings	Construction of Rural Fire Service Brigade Station at Weetaliba	227,743.00 (incl GST)
141/2021	Murphys Construction Group	Replacement of part of the roof on the Coonabarabran Administration Building	439,558.54 (incl GST)
176/2021	Apex Mining and Civil Construction	Concrete culvert and extension works on Black Stump Way between 6.5km and 10.8km north of Coolah	\$356,200 (incl GST)

Contract ID	Name of contractor	Nature of goods or services supplied	Value (\$)
191/2021	Komatsu Pty Ltd	Purchase one (1) Komatsu PC210LC-11 Tier 4 Excavator with dual locking hydraulic tilting hitch, hydraulic 5 finger grab, vandal guards, front window protection and 60 months/6,000 hrs warranty and trade in Plant Item No 90	269,015.00 (ex GST)
281/2021	Chiverton Estates P/L t/as Thompson Irrifab	Design and construct Coonabarabran Groundwater Pipeline	1,775,742.10 (incl GST)
282/2021	HACCP International Property Services Pty Ltd	Cleaning of Council buildings	164,010.66 pa Three (3) year term, with option to extend for two (2) years
311/2021	R&D Technology Pty Ltd	SCADA and Telemetry Network upgrade design and construct	833,543.55 (incl GST)
352/2021	Maas Constructions	Construction of Robertson Oval Amenities Building, Dunedoo	1,520,350.00 (incl GST)

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

A summary of the amounts incurred by the council during the year in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against the council (including amounts, costs and expenses paid or received by way of out of court settlements, other than those the terms of which are not to be disclosed) and a summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and (if it has been finalised) the result.

Matter and Court	Court	Amount incurred 20/21 (\$)	Status – Progress or Outcome
Boulus Constructions P/L v WSC Supreme Court of NSW (Proceedings No. 2018/00340246)	Supreme Court of NSW (Proceedings No. 2018/00340246)	565,337.89	Ongoing

INSPECTIONS OF PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

For the purposes of section 22F (2) of the Act, a local authority that is a council must include in its annual report under section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 the number of inspections that it carried out under Division 5 of Part 2 of the Act that--

- (a) were of tourist and visitor accommodation, or
- (b) were of premises on which there were more than 2 dwellings, or
- (c) resulted in the council issuing the following--
 - (i) a certificate of compliance under section 22D of the Act,
 - (ii) a certificate of non-compliance under clause 21 of this Regulation.

Inspections of private swimming pools throughout Warrumbungle LGA	
(a) were of tourist and visitor accommodation, or	2
(b) were of premises on which there are more than two dwellings, or	0
(c) resulted in the council issuing the following	
(i) a certificate of compliance under section 22D of the act,	5
(ii) a certificate of non-compliance under 21 of this Regulation.	14

PRIVATE WORKS

Details or a summary (as required by section 67(3) of the Act) of resolutions made during that year under section 67 of the Act concerning work carried out on private land and details or a summary of such work if the cost of the work has been fully or partly subsidised by the council, together with a statement of the total amount by which the council has subsidised any such work during that year.

There were no resolutions made in relation to Private Works, as required under Section 67 and there no private works fully or partly subsidised by Council during 2020/21.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The total amount contributed or otherwise granted under section 356 of the Act.

Organisations Name	Total Value
2WCR FM 99.5	400
Active Farmers	500
Art Unlimited Dunedoo Lions Club	1,500
Baradine Rusty Club Inc	500
Binnaway Jockey Club	1,000
Binnaway Lions Club	1,500
Binnaway PAH & I Association	450
Binnaway Tennis Club Inc	400
Black Stump Rodeo Committee Inc	2,500
Centacare Bathurst	280
Coolah & District Historical Society	1,000
Coolah Central School P&CAs	500
Coolah District Development Group	500
Coolah Historical Arts Tourism	280
Coolah Men's Shed Inc	1,000
Coolah Pre School Kindergarten	500
Coolah Touch Association Inc	500
Coolah Valley Cricket Club	500
Coolah Youth & Community Centre	280
Coonabarabran Amateur Boxing Gym	400
Coonabarabran Amateur Swimming	500
Coonabarabran Chamber of Commerce	500
Coonabarabran Jockey Club	1,000
Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal	500
Creatives Collective	500
Dunedoo & District Dev Group-P	280
Dunedoo & District Development	500
Dunedoo & District Historical	1,450
Dunedoo Amateur Swimming Club	800
Dunedoo Area Community Group Inc	780
Dunedoo Polocrosse Club Inc	1,280
Dunedoo Sports Club	500
Goolhi Hall & Reserve Committee	1,000
Leadville Community Association	500
Mendooran & District Development	500
Mendooran Arts & Craft	500
Mendooran CWA	280
Mendooran Men's Shed Inc	280
Mendooran Preschool Inc	280
Mendooran Tennis Club	280
Mendooran Turf Club	1,000

NSW Department of Education & Training	500
NSW Government Public Schools	274
Three Rivers Little Athletics	500
Ulamambri Memorial Hall Trust	500
Warrumbungle Arts and Crafts Inc	1,000
Warrumbungle Eventing Inc	1,000
Yearinan Bushfire Brigade	500
CWA Coonabarabran	1,125
CWA Coonabarabran	342
Baradine Rusty Club	594
Baradine Rusty Club	342
CWA Baradine	545
CWA Baradine	342
Warrumbungle Wildlife Shelter	417
Dunedoo Area Community Group	285
Presbyterian Church Dunedoo	285
Binnaway Showground	285
St James Presbyterian Church	285
St James Presbyterian Church	342
St James Presbyterian Manse	627
Coonabarabran Uniting Church	285
Coonabarabran Uniting Church	342
Total	38,414

EXTERNAL BODIES

A statement of all external bodies that during the year exercised functions delegated by the council.

External Body	Function
Castlereagh Macquarie County Council	Control noxious weeds on public land and waterways
Macquarie Regional Library	Library services
Committee	Function
Castlereagh Bushfire Management	Fire mitigation
Local Emergency Management	Emergency co-ordination
Traffic Advisory	Traffic management
North West Weight of Loads Group	Heavy vehicle regulation

CONTROLLING INTERESTS

A statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the council (whether alone or in conjunction with other councils) held a controlling interest during that year.

Warrumbungle Shire Council did not hold a controlling interest in any company during the reporting period.

JOINT VENTURES

A statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the council participated that year.

During 2020/21 Council was a joint venture member of the Macquarie Regional Library service with Dubbo Regional Council and Narromine Shire Council. During the period Council was also a joint venture member of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council. Council coordinated the Connect Five Children's Services which serviced Warrumbungle, Coonamble and Gilgandra local government areas.

Council is also part of Statewide and StateCover, which are Mutuals for the provision of public liability, property insurance, fidelity guarantee and workers compensation insurances.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A statement of the activities undertaken by the council during that year to implement its equal employment opportunity management plan.

In relation to Council's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan:

- Council's Recruitment and Selection Policy ensures ongoing compliance with EEO and merit selection principles and practices.
- Council utilises online recruitment software which provides increased transparency of decision making.
- Council's statement of being an EEO employer is included in all job advertisements.
- Council conducts ongoing reviews of Council's policies, procedures and practice to ensure they are compliant with EEO principles and practices.

REMUNERATION – SENIOR STAFF

A statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of the general manager during the year that is to include the following:

- (i) the total value of the salary component of the package;
- (ii) the total amount of any bonus payments, performance payments or other payments made to the general manager that do not form part of the salary component of the general manager;
- (iii) the total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the general manager may be a contributor;
- (iv) the total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package;
- (v) the total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.

A statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration packages of all senior staff members (other than the general manager) employed during the year, expressed as the total remuneration of all the senior staff members concerned (not of the individual senior staff members) and including total of each of the following:

- (i) the total values of the salary component of their packages;
- (ii) the total amount of any bonus payments, performance payments or other payments made to them that do not form part of the salary components of their packages;
- (iii) the total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor;
- (iv) the total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package;
- (v) the total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.

The General Manager is Council's only designated Senior Staff member as prescribed by section 332 of the Act. The General Manager's total remuneration package was:

Component	Amount (\$)
Salary	250,085.88
Bonus payments, performance payments or other payments not forming part of salary component	0
Employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the General Manager is a contributor	26,213.54
Non-cash benefits	0
Fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	11,831.33

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES

If the council has levied an annual charge for stormwater management services - a statement detailing the stormwater management services provided by the council during that year.

Council implemented a stormwater levy in 2017/18 to fund stormwater projects that Council is currently unable to fund, due to funding limitations, from General Fund. This stormwater levy was introduced and is made under section 496A of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Land within an urban area rated as either residential or business for rating purposes (except vacant land) will be charged an annual levy for Council to provide a stormwater management service.

Within the local government area there are a total of 3,828 assessments rated as residential and 379 assessments rated as business. In accordance with section 125AA of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, the maximum annual charge for stormwater management services levied in respect of a parcel of rateable land is for land categorised as urban residential land at \$25 and for businesses up to \$25 per 350m².

The stormwater levy helps councils improve the management of the quality and quantity of stormwater that flows off a parcel of a privately-owned land and also includes a service to manage the re-use of stormwater for any purpose. Council will accrue additional revenue of \$105,175 per annum for expenditure for stormwater management, assuming each business and residential assessment is charged a flat \$25 per assessment.

Council levied a stormwater charge in 2020/21 and the funds were allocated to the Cowper Street drainage project in Coonabarabran, where works are expected to commence on this project in November 2021.

SPECIAL VARIATIONS

A report on special variation expenditure if required to do so by the instrument made by the Minister.

As no special variation was received by Council, there are no outcomes or expenditures to report.

COMPANION ANIMALS ACT AND REGULATION

A detailed statement, prepared in accordance with such guidelines as may be issued by the Director-General from time to time, of the council's activities during the year in relation to enforcing, and ensuring compliance with, the provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and the regulations under that Act.

Statement of enforcement and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1988* (CA Act) and the *Companion Animal Regulation 2018*, including:

Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the Office of Local Government (survey of Council seizures of cats and dogs)	Survey has been submitted to OLG to be included in their annual report regarding seizures of cats and dogs
Lodgement of data about dog attacks with the Office of Local Government	Yes – data lodged through Companion Animals register
Amount of funding spent on companion animal management and activities	No funding received during the reporting period
Community education programs carried out and strategies the Council has in place to promote and assist the de-sexing of dogs and cats	No programs currently in place. This program is carried out locally by veterinarians.
Strategies in place for complying with the requirements under s64 of the CA Act to seek alternatives to euthanasia of unclaimed animals	Re-homing program in place with rescue organisation
Off leash areas provided in the Council area	One (1) area is available in each town in the Shire. Information is provided on Council's website
Detailed information on fund money used for managing and controlling companion animals in its area	No funding received during the reporting period.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS)

Each agency (other than a Minister) must, within 4 months after the end of each reporting year, prepare an annual report on the agency's obligations under this Act for submission to the Minister responsible for the agency. A copy of the report is to be provided to the Information Commissioner.

The annual report of an agency (other than a Minister) required to be prepared under section 125 of the Act must include the following:

(Note: An agency's report under section 125 of the Act can be included in the agency's annual report required to be prepared under the annual reporting legislation – see section 6 of the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985* or section 5A of the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* [as the case requires].)

- (a) details of the review carried out by the agency under section 7(3) of the Act during the reporting year and the details of any information made publicly available by the agency as a result of that review;
- (b) the total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year (including withdrawn applications but not including invalid applications);
- (c) the total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year that the agency refused, either wholly or partly, because the application was for the disclosure of information referred to in Schedule 1 to the Act (Information for which there is conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure).

(Note: Table D in Schedule 2 also requires information relating to access applications in respect of which there is a conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure.)

- (d) information, as set out in the form required by the tables in Schedule 2, relating to the access applications (if any) made to the agency during the reporting year.

Council received 11 access applications during the reporting period. Details are provided in the table over.

Number of Applications by Type of Application Outcome

	Full Access Granted	Part Access Granted	Refused Access in Full	Information not Held	Information Already Available	Refuse to Deal with Application	Refuse to Confirm/ Deny Information Held	Application Withdrawn	Total	% of Total
Personal Information Applications	2									18
Applications other than personal information	6			2						73
Applications partly personal and partly other		1								9
Total										
% of total	73	9		18						

Note: A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of schedule 4 to the Act) about the application (the applicant being an individual).

PLANNING AGREEMENTS

A planning authority that has entered into one or more planning agreements must, while any such planning agreements remain in force, include in its annual report particulars of compliance with and the effect of the planning agreements during the year to which the report relates.

Council entered into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with TILT Renewables for the Liverpool Range Wind Farm during 2019/20 financial year. This VPA remains in force.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

Information required to be provided in accordance with s2 of the *Public Disclosures Regulation 2011* is included herewith:

Public Interest Disclosures (PID) submitted to the Ombudsman in 2020/21 are outlined in the table below.

	By public officials performing their daily functions	Under a statutory or other legal obligation	All other interest disclosures
PID applications by public officials	0	0	0
Access applications other than personal information	0	3	0
PID received, primarily about:			
Corrupt conduct	0	0	0
Maladministration	0	0	0
Serious and substantial waste	0	0	0
Government information convention	0	0	0
Local government pecuniary interest convention	0	0	0

DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

According to the *Disability Inclusion Act 2013* section 13(1), a public authority that is a government department or local council must, as soon as practicable after preparing its annual report, give the Minister a copy of the part of the annual report relating to the department's or council's report on the implementation of its disability inclusion action plan.

During 2020/21 Council was focused on completing the actions outlined in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 and included in Delivery Program adopted in 2017. The Pedestrian and Access Mobility Plan is central to Council's plan to make our communities easier to get around and during the year shared paths were extended in Coonabarabran and Coolah; a new access ramp to the Coolah Council administration building was commenced; and works commenced to widen key pedestrian areas at Coonabarabran while also lowering guttering.

Council regularly hosts events that promote inclusion and seek to build positive attitudes towards diverse abilities in the community, such as the Community Care Expo, 'Celebration of Togetherness' event and Oz Tag Knockout Day. Unfortunately, these events were cancelled or postponed in 2020/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic; however, regular communications were released promoting available support services.

Council adheres to equal employment opportunity, and all employment and volunteer opportunities with Council are inclusive. Council buildings are accessible for staff and visitors. Further, during 2020/21 Council staff, including those with disabilities, were involved with the review of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.

Community consultation also commenced to review the Disability Inclusion Action Plan ahead of drafting a new plan for adoption after the 2021 local government election. Community members have expressed that greater consultation directly with people living with disabilities needs to be reflected in Council's plans. Feedback from community members will be incorporated into the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2021-2025 and community consultation on the draft plan will incorporate direct contact with individuals and disability groups to seek their feedback on the plan.

Future planning includes options to meet accessibility accreditation for Council's website to provide a fuller range of options for people of all abilities to contact and interact with Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments 1-3: 2020/21 Audited Financial Statements will be published when they become available.