



Warrumbungle Shire Council

2019/20 Annual Report

Released November 2020

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



It has continued to be an honour to lead Warrumbungle Shire Council as Mayor, together with Councillor Aniello Iannuzzi as Deputy Mayor. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for their constructive leadership of Warrumbungle Shire Council. I commend Councillors and Council staff on their focus on achieving the best possible outcomes for our area.

This has been a challenging year with our Shire facing a devastating drought which has continued to impact throughout 2019/20 and during the beginning of 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic hit our nation.

The impacts of drought have continued to be felt by our farmers, businesses and residents. Council has taken a leading role in engaging with the NSW Government to provide greater water security for residents. With the weather turning in our favour at the beginning of 2020 it is very pleasing to see that Timor Dam is now back to 100% capacity.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in living memory. Council has been following the directions from the Federal and State Government throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and has continued to maintain important services for the community.

Despite the ongoing challenges for our communities Council has some exciting major projects coming to our region. One of the highlights this year was the commencement of works on the Inland Rail project. The construction works for this project could have a positive impact for local businesses and looking to the future, the access to the rail line gives producers a local option for transporting grain and other goods. Another prospective opportunity will be the increased renewable energy projects which are proposed for the southern end of the Shire.

Our Warrumbungle area is well known for its stunning natural resources, from Coolah Tops in the south to the Warrumbungles in the north and our renowned night skies. We are well-placed regionally to receive the benefits of travellers between Melbourne and Brisbane and to access larger regional centres. At our heart is the communities that make the Warrumbungle area home.

We are people who come together during hard times; who value family, friends, a great chat and looking out for each other; who support the local area. Through good times and bad, our communities continue to shine.

DENIS TODD
MAYOR

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE



2019/20 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, however the year has been dominated by the impacts of drought and the COVID-19 pandemic.

A number of projects have been delivered in 2019/20. With the generous support of the NSW and Federal Governments a number of grant funding opportunities have been successful. In particular, Council received over \$3 million for road repairs under the NSW Government Fixing Local Roads Funding program; \$1.3 million for a new Robertson Oval sporting amenities building; \$1 million for various small projects across the Shire under Australian Government Drought Communities Programme; and \$590,000 under NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund for upgrades to Mendooran Park Playground facilities and shades installed at Milling Park, a Stop and Play park Coonabarabran, and a new Jump the Stump Skate Park Coolah.

The NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund Round Two projects which have been completed this year were Leadville Hall and amenities block upgrades, construction of the Baradine Skate Park, lighting upgrade for Bowen Oval, improving existing infrastructure at the Coonabarabran Skate Park, installation of a new transportable building for the Mendooran Turf Club, and installation of a new amenities block at the Mendooran Mechanics Institute.

This year has provided Council with some challenges both financially and operationally with the ongoing drought and COVID-19 pandemic. We have been extremely grateful that the COVID-19 pandemic did not affect any essential Council Services throughout the lock down period and I commend Council staff for providing such strong services during this challenging period.

It has been a privilege to work in partnership with the Mayor, Councillors, the Executive Leadership Team and staff of the Warrumbungle Shire. I am pleased to present the 2019/20 Annual Report.

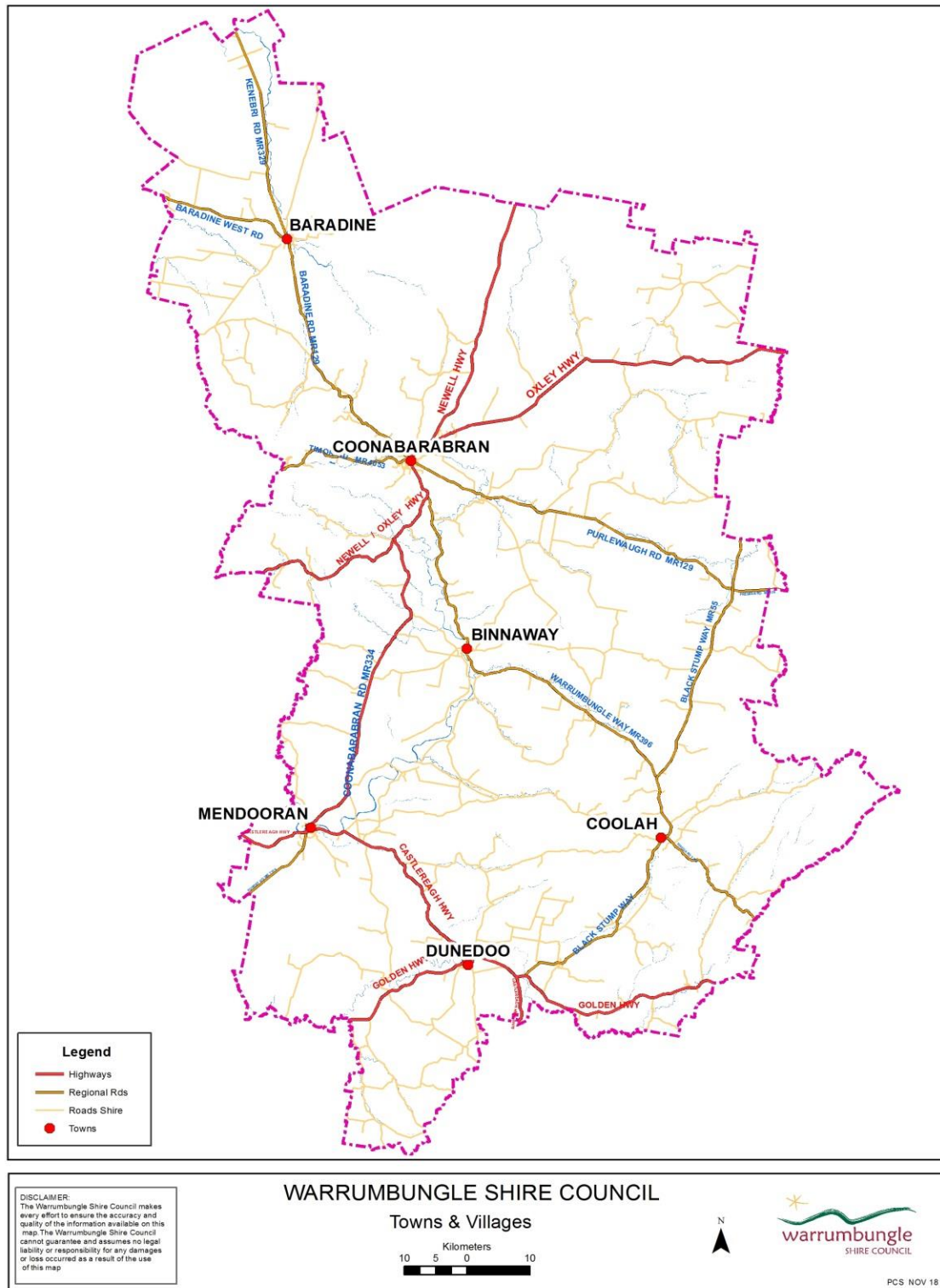
ROGER BAILEY
GENERAL MANAGER

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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**

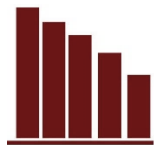


55.7%

EMPLOYED FULL TIME

30.6%

EMPLOYED PART TIME



0.43% pa

**AVERAGE
POPULATION DECLINE**



49

MEDIAN AGE
Median age NSW 38
Median age Australia 37



7.9%

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Average unemployment NSW
6.3%

Average unemployment
Australia 6.9%



\$479

MEDIAN WEEKLY INCOME
Average weekly income NSW \$664
Average weekly income Australia \$662



6,600

RATED PROPERTIES
2,627 designated farmland or rural

OUR MOST POPULAR EMPLOYMENT INDUSTRIES INCLUDE AGRICULTURE,
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, HEALTH CARE, AND EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

Population, employment and income data sourced from 2016 Census data.

COUNCILLORS



Denis Todd
Mayor



Aniello Iannuzzi
Deputy Mayor



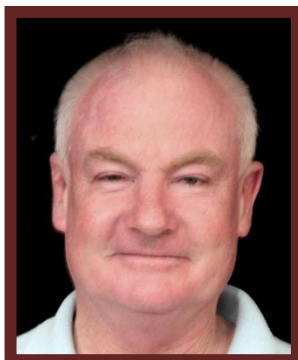
Kodi Brady



Anne-Louise Capel



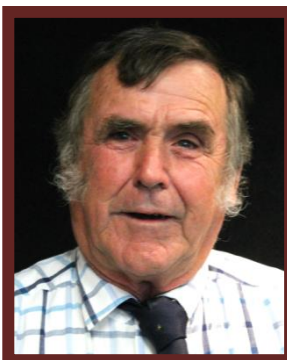
Fred Clancy



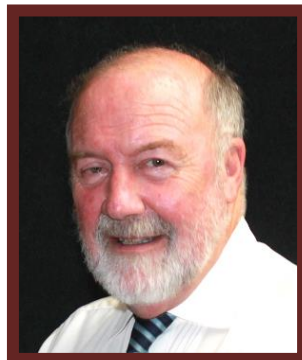
Ambrose Doolan



Wendy Hill



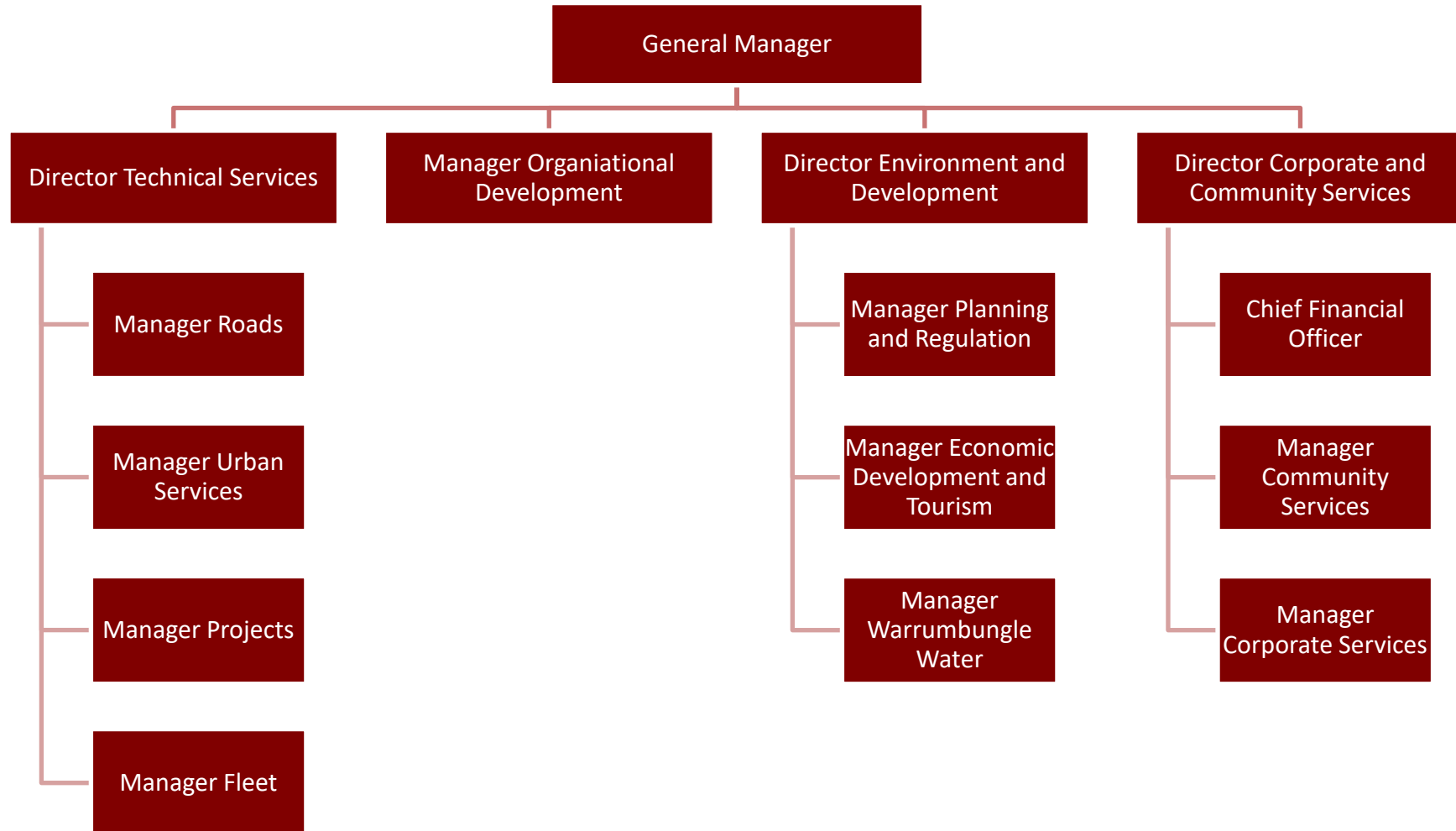
Ray Lewis



Peter Shinton

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':

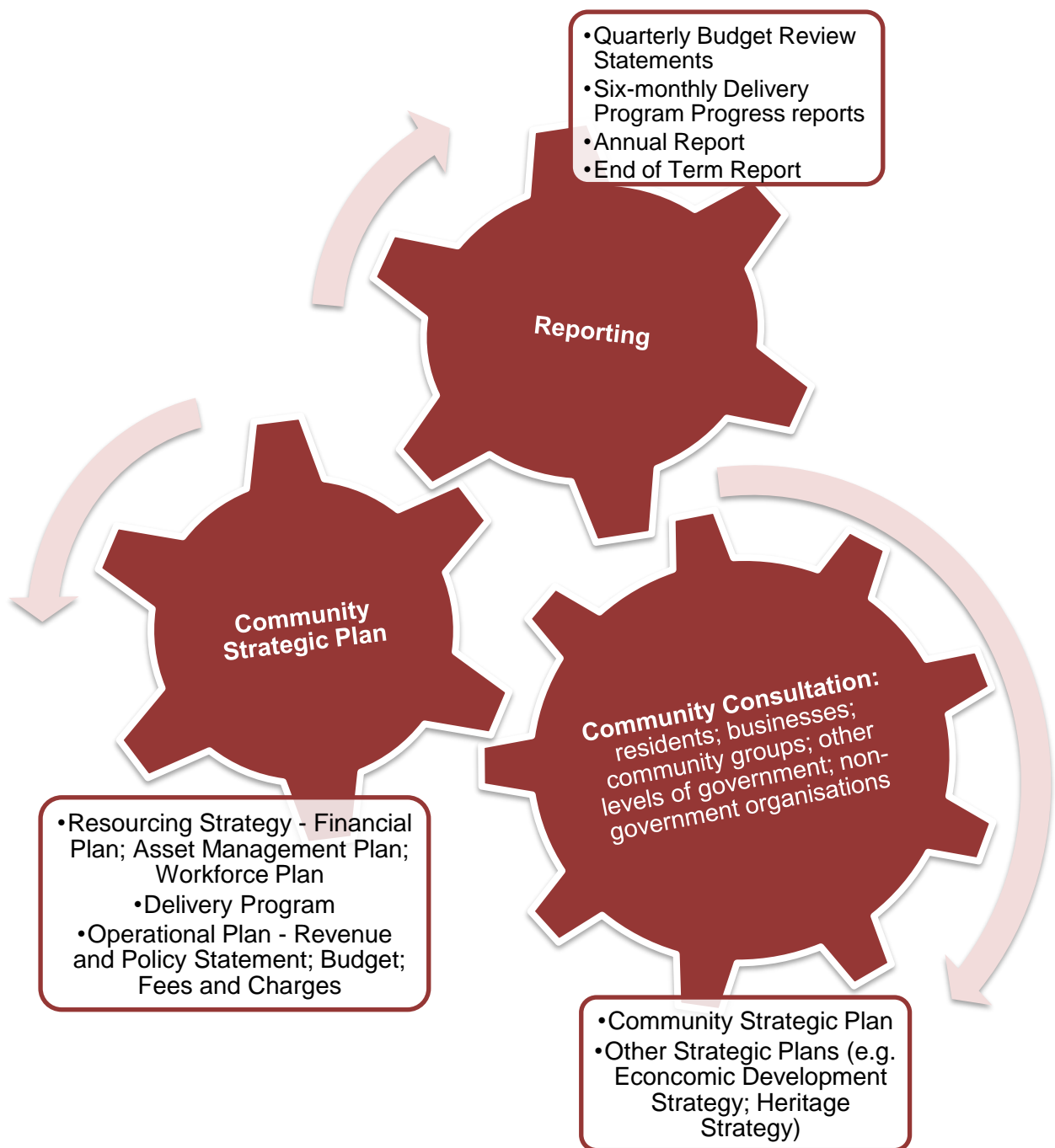
- (1) Exercise of functions generally. The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by councils:
 - (i) Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
 - (ii) Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the 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.



Wellington Street, Baradine

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.



Binnia Street, Coolah

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.



Recycling Centre, Coolah



Warrumbungles Way, Coolah

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

Council has continued to provide information for the keeping of companion animals using social media posts and media releases. Education and regulations on barking dogs is an example of a social media post during 2019/20 financial year.

Council's Compliance Officers responded to a number of nuisance complaints relating to the keeping of animals including cattle, horses and roosters in urban areas. Officers also attended to complaints received about neglected or wandering goats, horses and cattle. Correspondence and Penalty Infringement Notices are issued on an as-needed basis.

Council undertakes routine checks of overgrown properties to ensure the health and safety of all residents. Officers respond to complaints regarding overgrown private land in urban areas and issue correspondence and notices when needed. More frequent inspections are carried out after rain events and heading into fire season to ensure that grass is kept low to reduce the risk of fire.

Noxious Weeds

Council maintained membership to the Macquarie County Council which undertakes inspections and weed spraying on behalf of Council.

Environmental Health Services

Council's Environmental Compliance Officer provided information for the Regional State of the Environment Report Snapshot. This project is in conjunction with a number of regional councils in the area. Council reported on a number of items including office consumables, fuel usage, development and roadworks.

The Environmental Compliance Officer assists other branches within Council to achieve best practice environmental outcomes. Advice is given as required.

Council implements actions from the strategic plan of the Central West Councils Salinity and Water Quality Alliance. Council is a member of the Alliance and implements what it can in line with Council's projects.

LOCAL ECONOMY

Governance

Developing strategic relationships with other levels of government is a Council objective in an effort to ensure that the Shire 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 State and Federal Ministers and Members of Parliament, as well as with other councils. Although travel was impacted by COVID-19 in the second half of the reporting period, Members of Parliament have visited the area to attend events such as official openings. Council regularly cooperates with other councils and is a member of the Orana Joint Organisation of Councils.

The community has expressed 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, Council has been involved with the Inland Rail project, which will pass through the northern end of the Shire. Support is also given to small business 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.

Private Works

Council staff possesses 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

The Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee holds meetings every two months to discuss and put in place strategic regional initiatives.

Council is working with Pandora Gallery, Coolah to further strengthen and support Coolah's valuable Visitor Information Service at Pandora Gallery, and looking at Visitor Information initiatives in Dunedoo which are still in progress.

Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre (VIC) supplies and disseminates brochures and visitor's information to operators throughout the shire and to neighbouring local government areas. Coonabarabran VIC has an extensive range of retail products, some of which are sourced locally. The staff and volunteers at both the Coonabarabran and Coolah VIC's record visitors to the centres. This data is used to analyse the visitor economy to the region.

Warrumbungle Region received recognition, being named as 'best camping' and 'best place to view stars' by renowned travel organisations such as Urban List.

Tourism and Economic Promotion

In the 2019/20 financial year local tourism campaigns and economic promotion included:

- Astro tourism - Capture the Cosmos competition
- Geo-trails app development
- Installation of Shire boundary signs
- Installation of Banner pole installation – shop local promotions
- Council nominated 'small business friendly'
- Council has facilitated 'Upskilling Local Businesses' including workshops, webinars and consultation.

VIC staff also attended the Caravan and Camping shows in New South Wales to promote the Warrumbungle region and its tourist attractions.

Community economic development is supported by Council along with the members of the Economic Development and Tourism Advisory Committee, the local community coordinators, Chambers of Commerce, Local Progress Associations, and their associated sub committees.

Manager of Economic Development and Tourism has in the last twelve months established a network of government and business agencies to facilitate business development including Destination NSW, Business Connect business advisors, Regional Development Australia

(Orana) and Service NSW. Manager of Economic Development and Tourism updates the advisory committee each meeting on the Economic Development and Tourism Strategy action plan progress.

Warrumbungle Quarry

Council operated the hard rock quarry near Coonabarabran under a lease agreement with Boral during the year. The quarry produces aggregates for road sealing and local concrete production. The quarry is an important supplier of manufactured sand for the local building industry and the quarry is also a supplier of road base for road pavement construction. Due to falling demand and a significant increase in the increased cost of production, the quarry operated at a loss during 2019/20 and a decision was taken to cease operations at the quarry on the 30 June 2020. Remaining stockpiles are to be used for Council 's own internal works until the lease period expires November 2020.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Castlereagh Family Day Care

Warrumbungle Shire Ordinary Council Meeting on 20 February 2020, resolved that Council would not be re-applying to recommence the provision of Castlereagh Family Day Care Services. It was resolved that Council surrender the Service approval from 27 March 2020. All educators in the Warrumbungle Local Government Area are now administrated from Gunnedah Family Day Care Service.

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 now an Approved Home Care Package provider, and is a Registered Authorised NDIS provider.

The range of service supports 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 around 185 volunteers.

In 2019/2020 financial year Warrumbungle Community Care provided the following services:

Service	Outputs
Meals on Wheels	10,874 meals
Social Support	6, 578 hours
Respite	358 hours
Home Maintenance	1,079 hours
CHSP transport	7,616 trips
NDIS Transport	272 trips
CTP Transport	3,650 trips

Service	Outputs
HRT Transport	254 trips
DVA Transport	90 trips
Taxi Vouchers (CHSP, CTP,NDIS)	7,644 vouchers

WCC has introduced a school-based trainee position to the Coonabarabran office for one day a week to provide a community based administrative development opportunity.

Warrumbungle Community Care was the winner of the Meals on Wheels NSW Innovative Awards with their innovative “*Voucher System and Food Partnership*” during COVID 19. This initiative saw 18 food business partnerships developed across the shire with a strong focus on supporting local business. During COVID-19 over \$45,000 was spent using meal vouchers on local meals and promotion and equipment.

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 2019/2020 the Community Development Coordinators once again had a highly successful year with a large amount of funding being sourced for programs, activities and infrastructure in our local towns totalling \$2.2 million. 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. The Coordinators came together for quarterly meetings and were supported in the secretarial function by Council’s Community Connections Officer. A greater collaboration between these roles has resulted in greater local benefits with the opening of the community hubs.



School of Arts building, Coolah

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 three (3) Shires – Warrumbungle, Coonamble and Gilgandra.

In 2019/2020 Connect Five Children's Services provided 45 Play Sessions a term at nine (9) different venues. Attendances for 2019/2020 were 809. In lieu of face to face delivery, due to the impacts of COVID-19, staff developed the PADLET Remote Learning Hub and provided over 60 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 200 toys borrowed from this service.

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

In addition to the core services, Connect Five Children's Services also supports the Mobile Pre-school class run by Yuluwirri Kids. In 2019/2020 Monkey Room continued to be run under the Connect Five Children's Services Licence with attendance levels of over 80%.

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 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.

A fourth Mobile Preschool classroom operates two days a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays at Council's Robertson Street Campus in Coonabarabran. This Mobile Preschool was established in February 2010, in conjunction with Connect Five Children's Services license, to support Yuluwirri Kids waiting lists for three (3) to five (5) year old children who want to attend Preschool.

Over the course of the year these combined services offer 14,350 places per annum. This equates to 325 places a week, 49 weeks a year of Long Day Care and 40 weeks a year of Preschool. Enrolment and attendance rates fluctuated in 2019/20, with 80-85% in terms 3 and 4 of 2019, reducing to around 65% in Terms 1 and 2 of 2020. This reduction can be largely attributed to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, as enrolments generally build over the course of Term 1 (February to March).

Community Connections Solutions Australia (CCSA) has been facilitating an assessment on access to preschool services with a view of establishing a business sustainability model to be implemented by Children Services in 2021/2022 so we can focus upon providing sustainable quality services to children.

Yuluwirri Kids Aboriginal Trainee completed Certificate 3 in Early Childhood in June 2020 and was a co-winner of the Cr Pat Dixon Memorial Scholarship. This trainee was also a finalist in the NSW TAFE Trainee of the Year. Yuluwirri looks forward to this outstanding trainee mentoring future Aboriginal trainees and coordinating our Dhali Breakfast program for indigenous preschool children.

The Yuluwirri Road Safety book initiative has been worked on over many years with members of staff being a driving force for this initiative. This early childhood innovation was nominated for the National Local Government Safety Award in 2020.



Yuluwirri Kids, Coonabarabran

Libraries

Macquarie Regional Library (MRL) provides a range of services and collections to the communities across the Warrumbungle local government area. There is consistency in services and collections that are offered and a high level of support from MRL Regional Office in the programming and delivery of programs and services. 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 addition to regular borrowing and utilisation of the internet and other library facilities, local libraries offer a number of other activities in our local communities. The Library's 2019/2020 statistical results were affected by the closure of MRL branches due to COVID-19 pandemic circumstances.

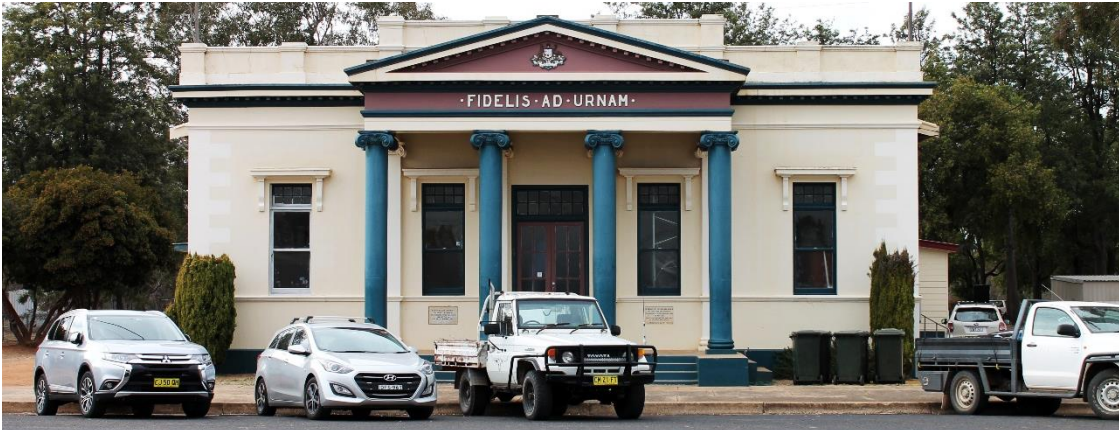
In 2019/20 MRL services once again included:

- 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 Holiday 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 the following locations: Baradine, Mendooran, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo, Goolhi, Binnaway, Coolah and Purlewaugh. The Coonabarabran Sport and Recreation building is also categorised as a hall for reporting purposes. The cost of maintaining these halls during 2019/20 totalled \$0.18m.

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



Memorial Hall, Baradine

Youth Services

The Targeted Early Intervention Youth Services activities in 2019/2020 consisted of:

- The establishment of community hubs in each of the six towns across the Shire.
- The establishment of the innovative Goose Chase as an interactive IT partnership with Dark Skies.
- Innovation in lieu of face to face National Youth Week activities due to the impact of COVID-19.
- The skatepark mural work in Coonabarabran at the Peter Crystal Park as a collaborative partnership of the Coonabarabran Interagency groups YARN (Youth Suicide Prevention), McKillop and Centacare Services and Rotary.
- The annual footy game in Mendooran between Police, Youth and teachers.
- Further development in the Youth Strategic Plan, with a number of youth consultations that informed.
- The planning for a range of youth leadership development activities to be implemented in 2020/2021 with the Leadership Academy and Civic Citizenship Initiative workshops.
- Support for other service providers and secretarial support for the Community Development Coordinators.

The Youth Development Program continued to actively engage and empower the youth of our Shire through a variety of programs, activities and initiatives under the Department of Justice and Communities Community Builders Program, (previously Department of Family and Community Services). The Targeted Earlier Intervention (TEI) Program has successfully transitioned to replace the former Youth Development Program. This TEI Program is directed at improving connections across the Shire and through a variety of service providers utilising the Community Hub structures as now established in each town on a fortnightly basis.

Strong partnerships and collaborations continued through the ongoing support of local agencies, organisations, schools and community groups ensuring 50 community events and activities were provided across the Shire for 1300 young people.

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.

Drafting of an outdoor dining policy has been underway and will be finalised in 2020/21 financial year.

RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Building Control

Building and Plumbing inspections were carried out by Council's Contract Building Certifier and Council's Building Certifier throughout the year ensuring that the current standard and legislative requirements have been met. Council's Building Certifier inspects buildings to certify that all building works meet the requirements of the National Construction Code.

Town Planning

Council is undertaking a review of the Warrumbungle Shire Local Environmental Plan which will incorporate new land zonings and the proposed bypass corridor. Council is currently undertaking a review of the Section 94A (7.12) Contribution Plan which includes the schedule of works throughout the Shire for money received from the Contribution Plan.

Compliance

Council's contractor Building Certifier along with Council's Compliance Officers have undertaken inspections on swimming pool barriers for houses that are for sale or rent. A number of pool barriers failed inspections and works were required before a compliance certificate could be issued.

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 2019/20 was \$0.28m.



Milling Park, Dunedoo

Street Cleaning

Council owns and operates a street sweeper that sweeps gutters in each of the six 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 & Mendooran. The cost of street cleaning in 2019/20 was \$0.28m.

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 2019/20 was \$0.30m.

Town Streets

There are six 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 2019/20 was \$0.80m.

Projects associated with renewal of town street assets that occurred during the year include renewal of road pavement in Crane Street and renewal of kerb and guttering in John Street Coonabarabran. There was 6km of resealing completed on town streets at a cost \$0.15m.

Projects associated with new works in town streets include construction of a concrete shared pathway in Cowper Street and Cassilis Street in Coonabarabran; construction of an underground stormwater drainage system in Dunedoo; stormwater drainage works in Cobra Street Mendooran and construction of small median island in Binnia Street, Coolah.



Renshaw Street, Binnaway

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. The cost of maintaining streets in the villages in 2019/20 was \$25,000.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

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. The predominant maintenance activities at each oval include irrigation, mowing, line marking and cleaning up after football events. The annual cost of maintenance and operations during 2019/20 was \$0.42m.

There were significant renewal and improvement projects completed during 2019/20 including:

- New oval lighting at Baradine and Binnaway
- New skate park at Baradine
- New shade shelter over Coonabarabran skate park
- Replacement of perimeter fence at Coonabarabran.



Skate Park, Coonabarabran



Skate Park, Baradine

Pools

Council owns and operates a public pool complex in each of the six towns within the Shire. The 2019/20 season was particularly challenging due to a shortage of Pool Attendants which meant that some pools were closed in February and March. There were 41,000 visits to pools across the Shire, which is a reduction in attendance numbers compared to previous years. The nett operating cost of the pools was \$0.59m.

All of the pools except for Coolah and Mendooran are over 50 years old and they are experiencing chronic maintenance issues particularly in relation to pumps, filter equipment and water leakage. Renewal works during the year included leak repair at Baradine Pool, removal of trees and Coonabarabran Pool and installation of a shade shelter. The installation of a new electronic key access system was undertaken in the off season.

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.

PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Aerodromes

There are registered aerodromes at Coolah and Coonabarabran, and there is an unregistered aerodrome at 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 2019/20 was \$100,000.

Significant renewal works were undertaken during 2019/20 at Coonabarabran aerodrome with the resurfacing of the bitumen runway and aprons at a cost of \$316,000. Resurfacing of the unsealed runway at Baradine was also completed at a cost of \$45,000. Also, the turning area on the eastern end of the Baradine Aerodrome was bitumen sealed at a cost of \$15,000.



Aerodrome, Baradine

Emergency Services Management

The Local Emergency Management Committee was not activated in response to any emergency during 2019/20, however the Committee met on four occasions throughout the year. The meetings were well attended with representatives from; NSW Police, Fire & 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.

Local Roads and Infrastructure

Council is responsible for maintaining and making improvements to 2,276km of local rural roads, of which 450km are sealed. Council is also responsible for 385km of regional main roads.

Council also undertakes roadworks under contract for Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) on 186km of state roads, including sections of the Golden Highway, Newell Highway and Castlereagh Highway. Expenditure on these roads by Council during 2019/20 was \$1.35m.

The renewal of bitumen seal on local rural roads during the period included 19km bitumen resurfacing at a cost of \$0.36m. There was 21km of bitumen resurfacing works undertaken on various regional main roads throughout the Shire at a cost of \$0.46m.

During the period 409km of maintenance grading was undertaken on unsealed roads across the Shire at a cost of \$1.3m. The length of road graded during 2019/20 is well down on the target length of 550km and this was due to the flood events that occurred in February, March and April. The cost of emergency works and some restoration works undertaken on the roads that were damaged as a result of the flood events was \$0.73m.

The expenditure on maintenance activities associated with sealed local rural roads was \$0.33m and includes activities such as pothole patching, mowing of roadside grass and repair of drainage structures.

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 2019/20 were many and varied including the following:

- Sealed pavement renewal on Coolah Creek Rd, Neilrex Rd and Black Stump Way.
- Renewal of unsealed roads were undertaken through gravel resheeting on the following roads: Berdeen Rd, Cumbil Rd, Gowang Rd, Hollymount Rd, Leaders Rd, Maranoa Rd, Uphills Rd, Coybil Rd, Wardens Rd, & Boltions Ck Rd.
- Shoulder reconstruction and pavement widening works were undertaken on the following roads: Purlewaugh Rd, Black Stump Way and Forest Rd.

Improvements to the road network were undertaken through the following roadwork projects:

- New bridges over Billy Kings Creek 1 and Billy Kings Creek 2.
- 600 metres of new bitumen seal on Munns Road.



Billy Kings Creek Bridge Project

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.

A Council owned house in Coolah that was rented for several years by a visiting Doctor was vacated during the year.

Warrumbungle Waste

Council provided and maintained the landfill site at Coonabarabran with transfer stations located in Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Dunedoo, Mendooran and Ulamambri.

Warrumbungle Waste continued the weekly general waste collection and fortnightly recycling collection for residents throughout the Shire for residents who pay for the collection.

A review of Warrumbungle Waste was undertaken with changes being implemented in the 2020/21 financial year. The changes include infrastructure being installed at Ulamambri Transfer Station for residents to dispose of rubbish and the reduction in opening hours. Commercial recycling is also being looked at to ensure the health and safety of Council staff as the current woolpacks used for commercial recycling may present WHS issues.

Coonabarabran Landfill and Dunedoo Transfer Station are both Container Deposit Stations with people travelling from other shires to deposit containers for the 10c refund. Council is currently ranked second in the State for the number of containers deposited, which means less plastic and glass is being disposed of into landfill.

A waste management strategy will be developed to establish the current use and future use of the Coonabarabran Landfill Site during the 2020/21 financial year.



Coolah Waste Transfer Station

Warrumbungle Water and Sewer

Council provides potable water services to residents in Baradine, Binnaway, Bugaldie, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo, Kenebri and Mendooran; non-potable services to residents in Merrygoen and along the raw water feed main in Timor Road, Coonabarabran. In all there are 3319 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, the reservoirs at Kenebri were replaced; Martin Street reservoir in Coolah has been refurbished; Timor Dam and Poundyard Weir in Coonabarabran were dredged; and 800 water meters were replaced Shire-wide. To improve water quality and security, the funded Coolah Water Supply Scheme and Shire-wide Water Supply Systems Automation Upgrade Scoping Studies commenced; the Mendooran Water Supply Upgrade Concept Design progressed; 1.7 km of old water mains were replaced; 1 km of new water mains were installed; and 5 dead ends in the reticulation systems were removed. To improve water safety, 3 old bores were capped; the integrity of 6 reservoirs was restored through repair works; and the filter control at the Coonabarabran Water Treatment Plant has been upgraded. The feasibility study for the raising of the Timor Dam wall, the Baradine Water Treatment Plant Upgrade, the SCADA and Telemetry Network Upgrade and the improvements to the water meter reading operation are all in progress.

Sewage services are provided to residents in Baradine, Coolah, Coonabarabran and Dunedoo. In all, there are 1418 connections. Infrastructure to support these connections includes nine (9) pumping stations, four (4) sewage treatment plants and 83 km of sewer main.

In 2019/20, 75 vacuum pots in Baradine were refurbished by replacing the internal valves and controllers; one vacuum pump at the Baradine sewage pump station was replaced; nine (9) manhole junctions were repaired and sealed in Coonabarabran; and Shire-wide pump station inspections were performed resulting in several pump removals for repair and replacement. The Dunedoo and Coonabarabran Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade Concept Designs started and progressed, and the scoping study in Mendooran to install sewage services in this currently un-sewered township is being finalised.

Environmental Health Services

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

Compliance

Council Compliance Officers responded to seven (7) reported Stock on Road complaints. Compliance Officers are quick to respond and are usually on site within one (1) hour depending on the location of the stock. Council has purchased signage to warn motorists of stock on the road to ensure the safety of both the stock and staff members who are on site.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Customer 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.
- In the report period, 13,217 documents were registered in InfoXpert, Council's Document, Records and Content Management System.

A school-based trainee was introduced into Customer Service at the Coonabarabran office, expanding on opportunities previously provided to young people in the community.

Cemetery Services

Council manages and maintains 12 cemeteries across the Shire. Activities include management of a database of interments, liaison with Funeral Directors, excavation of burial sites, and maintenance of grounds and fences at each cemetery. The nett cost of Cemetery Services in 2019/20 was \$94,000.

Communications and IT

Communications released to keep the community informed of Council activities increased by around 25% over the previous 12-month period. The Community e-Newsletter was launched in September 2019 and currently has a monthly reach of around 500 people. A variety of communications methods are used, including traditional print media, website, social media, posters and letter box drops. Council's social media presence increased during the reporting period, with an audience increase of 33%.

Council relies on a robust IT network to allow staff access across a large geographical area. IT capital projects have been in line with the Delivery Program and include installation of free

wi-fi to towns throughout the local government area and software licensing. A new computer operating environment, the Remote Desktop Server, was built during the reporting period ahead of rollout to the organisation.

Design Services Management

There is a small team in Technical Services that provide technical support across the Council organisation. In particular 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 also active in preparing funding submissions for road projects, particularly projects under the State Government's Fixing Country Roads program, Safer Roads Program and Active Transport Program.



John Street, Coonabarabran

Environment and Development Management

Council is undertaking a review of its Local Environmental Plan to ensure that zoning is correct and reflects the needs of the community and surrounding agricultural land to ensure fragmentation of agricultural planning does not occur. Council received a total of 59 Development Applications which were assessed within the legislative requirements. Council processed 388 planning certificates throughout the 2019/20 year, with all certificates checked for accuracy by the Town Planner and sent within required timeframes.

Building Certificates were assessed and inspected accurately and processed in a timely manner. Council's Certifiers assessed a total of four (4) Complying Development Certificates throughout the 2019/2020 financial year. As not all applications can be complying development the number is down from previous years.

Council's Environmental Compliance Officer commenced inspections on food shops to ensure that all businesses within the Shire were meeting the requirements of the NSW Public Health order in relation to the number of people, hygiene and social distancing rules. However, inspections ceased with the COVID-19 pandemic and will recommence in the 2020/21 financial year.

Financial Services

The 2019/20 financial year was a busy year for Council's Finance branch working through changes in structure, process and taking on new responsibilities. As well as this, Finance provided extended support for the interim and external audits.

Council's result is higher than last year mainly due to sale proceeds of Council's share in Southern Phone Company Limited in 2019/20 and impairment of Three Rivers Regional Retirement Community (TRRRC) works in 2018/19. Council is set to record a good result in 2019/20, due to the efforts of our good people in Technical Services, Environment and Development, and other staff who secured excellent grant funding for the Warrumbungle community and completed over \$14m in capital works. The result was further boosted by the pre-payment of the first two quarters of the 2020/21 Financial Assistance Grant being made in 2019/20.

Whilst the Fit for the Future assessment by the Office of Local Government is officially over, it does not mean that Council is not being monitored and measured against these benchmarks. So, although Council received \$4.2m in capital grants it is wise to recognise that these types of funds cannot be relied upon year on year and that Council needs to review robustly its way forward financially.

The ability of Council to adjust for the possibility of falling grant income is limited to increasing revenue from user charges and other services, coupled with a preparedness of expenditure reductions through a combination of efficiencies and service reductions.

There were some significant achievements made by Council's Finance branch in the financial year, including: completion of Council's 2019/20 financial statements and lodgement by the statutory deadlines; continued improvement in reporting for RMS contracted works; and completion of all other Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements, including the re-casting of Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Delivery Program Plan. Furthermore, there were no WHS incidents or lost time to injuries in Financial Services during the 2019/20 financial year.

Organisation Development

Council's turnover remained steady at 11.32% in 2019/2020, comparable to the 11.5% average for all NSW councils in 2018/2019. In 2019/2020 Council staff had an average tenure of 10.19 years, which is on par with the 9.82 years average for all NSW councils the previous year.

COVID-19 impacted a range of Council operations in the last quarter, with a number of new procedures and processes introduced to assist in managing the risks associated with the pandemic. The uncertainties surrounding the impacts of COVID-19 also affected Council's recruitment in the latter half of the financial year, delaying the recruitment of some positions.

Council's sick leave decreased by 11.7% in 2019/2020, a cumulative improvement of 26.3% over the last two financial years. Council delivered flu vaccinations in early May 2020, with a higher uptake by staff than in previous years.

There was a 30.75% increase on the previous year's lost time injury hours due to workplace injuries that resulted in significant time away from work for a small number of staff. Council continued to focus attention on getting injured workers back to the workplace as part of its Recover at Work program, as staff recover more quickly at work. Council is working to reinvigorate safety in the workplace, with Due Diligence training delivered to management and supervisory staff and the WHS committee undertaking WHS consultation and inspections.

The first stage of implementing of Council's new online WHS incident and management reporting system (Vault) was brought forward as part of the COVID-19 measures, to allow staff to report incidents and observations online in a timely manner and also eliminating the paper handling that was previously required.

Council commenced a three-year Employee Engagement Program in early 2019/2020. The program includes an annual staff survey, followed by quarterly action plans being prepared and actioned by each department based on feedback from staff. Some early actions included purchasing equipment that allowed staff to achieve better outcomes, and a direction for more time in the field by management to improve internal communication. COVID-19 prevented planned staff events during April however these were rescheduled for later in 2020.

Council continues to support local youth through its apprentice and traineeship programs, appointing two School-Based trainees (SBTs) in Community Services and Corporate Services at Coonabarabran in early 2020, in addition to the remaining three SBTs who commenced in 2019. Council also employs two trainees in Children's Services and one trainee in Warrumbungle Water, and has Apprentice Plumber positions at Coonabarabran and Coolah.

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.

The cost of maintaining and operating these properties in 2019/20 was \$0.56m. Council has management responsibility for 71 Crown Reserves. Expenditure on these Reserves in 2019/20 was minimal. The development of a formal Plan of Management for each Crown Reserve that commenced in the previous year, continued as a project in 2019/20.

Fleet Services

To support its wide range of services, Council operates workshops 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. The total cost associated with operations and maintenance of these vehicles for the year was \$2.7m.

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 was extensive with the following items being replaced: 18 vehicles in the light vehicle fleet, backhoe, 4-tonne excavator, grader, two (2) rollers, front end loader, 5-tonne truck, four (4) x 10-tonne trucks, two (2) dog trailers, street sweeper, tractor and out-front mower. The nett cost of replacing these vehicles and plant items in 2019/20 was \$1.9m.

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 Enterprise Risk Management workshops. Regionally, Council participates in the Orana Risk and Safety Management Group. The organisation's Business Continuity Plan was enacted in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	2020	2019
	\$ '000	\$ '000
Income Statement		
Total income from continuing operations	43,046	43,515
Total expenses from continuing operations	40,786	42,877
Operating result from continuing operations	2,260	638
Net operating result for the year	2,260	638
Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	(1,515)	(5,248)
Statement of Financial Position		
Total current assets	24,690	22,086
Total current liabilities	(8,948)	(7,279)
Total non-current assets	551,335	499,831
Total non-current liabilities	(6,256)	(7,045)
Total equity	560,821	507,593
Other financial information		
Unrestricted current ratio (times)	2.95	4.37
Operating performance ratio (%)	(5.59)%	(17.10)%
Debt service cover ratio (times)	10.30	5.05
Rates and annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	10.93%	10.07%
Infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	48.80%	53.48%
Own source operating revenue ratio (%)	53.08%	47.51%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	7.74	6.97

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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 2019/20:

Description	Amount (\$)
Rates	0
Water charges	0

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	0
Mayor	26,530
Councillors (8)	106,740

Councillor Allowances

Description	Amount (\$)
Travel and accommodation	16,720
Meal allowance	1,829
Provision of dedicated office equipment	34
Telephone calls made by Councillors	2,900
Attendance at conferences and seminars	20,311
Training and provision of skill development	0
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	13,496

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.

Contractor	Goods/Services	Amount (\$)
BMR Quarries	Screening and crushing at Warrumbungle Quarry	784,500 (incl GST)
BMR Quarries Pty Ltd	Design and construction of bitumen reseal at Coonabarabran Airport	330,114.00 (incl GST)
Cadia Group Pty Ltd	Plumbing and sewer parts	218,730.74
Colas NSW Pty Ltd	Supply of bitumen sealing services to Council	573,527.99
Department of Planning Industry and Environment	Valuation fees and compulsory acquisition of land – Coonabarabran Visitor Information Centre	260,317.41
Flovac Vacuum Sewerage Systems	Refurbishment of vacuum pots in Baradine	253,495
Guy Andrews Electrical	Binnaway Oval and Baradine Oval lighting upgrade	599,971 (incl GST)
Guy Andrews Electrical	Miscellaneous electrical works	218,496
Holcim (Australia) Pty Ltd t/a Humes	Supply and delivery of concrete pipes	241,654.93
Hollis Agricultural Welding	Casual Plant Hire	252,071.00
Hunter H2O	Dunedoo and Coonabarabran sewer treatment plant upgrades concept designs	287,890.90 (incl GST)
Liberty Rural T/as West 'n' Owens	Fuel supply	916,579.46
M & I Plant	Casual plant hire	243,944.34
Macquarie Regional Library	Regional Library Services	658,780.56
Origin Energy	Electricity supply	441,954.37
Roads and Maritime Services	Line marking	333,113.73
Saunders Civilbuild Pty Ltd	Design and construct Billy Kings Creek bridges	1,105,260.53 (incl GST)
State Cover Mutual Ltd	Insurance – Workers Compensation	668,691.58
Statewide Mutual Ltd	Insurance	825,920.62
Tamworth Regional Council	Provision of information technology (IT) services to Warrumbungle Shire Council (Agreement for Support and Maintenance – IT End User Support)	234,440.30
Taylor Automotive Group	Plant purchases and parts	613,373.25
Tracserv Pty Ltd	Plant purchases and parts	808,534.77
Vincent Young	Legal fees	649,064.56
WesTrac Pty Ltd	Purchase one (1) Caterpillar 140 Articulated Motor Grader with Sitech Trimble CB450 control box, and that Council sell plant item number 107 to WesTrac Pty Ltd	435,997.50 (incl GST)

Contractor	Goods/Services	Amount (\$)
WesTrac Pty Ltd	Purchase one (1) Caterpillar 432F Backhoe Loader with hydraulic side shift, and that Council sell plant item number 83 to WesTrac Pty Ltd	199,913.75 (incl GST)
WesTrac Pty Ltd	Purchase one (1) Caterpillar CS68B Smooth Drum Roller with compaction meter, and that Council sell plant item number 111 to WesTrac Pty Ltd	170,500.00 (incl GST)
WesTrac Pty Ltd	Purchase one (1) Caterpillar CS68B Smooth Drum Roller with compaction meter, and that Council sell plant item number 112 to WesTrac Pty Ltd	170,500.00 (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 2019/20 (\$)	Status – Progress or Outcome
WSC v Ou Land & Environment Court (Proceedings No. 2017/286656)	Land & Environment Court (Proceedings No. 2017/286656)	2,749.00	Debt recovery proceedings for amount awarded by Court
Monkton v WSC	Local Court (Case No. 2018/00359830)	5,671.12	Ongoing
Boulus Constructions P/L v WSC Supreme Court of NSW (Proceedings No. 2018/00340246)	Supreme Court of NSW (Proceedings No. 2018/00340246)	649,064.56	Ongoing

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 2019/20.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Organisation Name	Total Value (\$)
Baradine Central School	200.00
Coonabarabran Golf Club	2,948.00
Orana Arts Inc	2,000.00
Binnaway Tennis Club Inc	400.00
Coolah Historical Arts Tour	500.00
Coolah Youth & Community Centre	500.00
Mendooran Bowling Club Ltd	500.00
Dunedoo Preschool Kindergarden	500.00
Dunedoo & District Historical Society & Museum Inc	500.00
Dunedoo & District Development Group	500.00
Warrumbungle Domestic Violence Committee	500.00
Dunedoo Amateur Swimming Club	500.00
Coonabarabran Junior Rugby League and Netball Club	1,374.49
Mendooran Merrygoen Amateur Swimming Club	500.00
Coolah Sacred Heart Primary School	70.00
Coolah Central School	500.00
2357 Partnerships Incorporated	500.00
Mendooran Youth Group	500.00
Coonabarabran Soccer Club	300.00
Creatives Collective ARI Inc.	500.00
Coonabarabran Military & Civilian Rifle Club	500.00
Coonabarabran Volunteer Rescue Association	500.00
Baradine PA & H Association	50.00
St Michaels Dunedoo	70.00
Binnaway Central School	70.00
Mendooran Central School	70.00
St Lawrence's Primary School	70.00
Dunedoo Central School P&C	500.00
Leadville Community Association	500.00
Dunedoo Central School	500.00
Country Women's Association Coonabarabran	1,420.27

Coonabarabran Girl Guides	500.00
St Andrews Anglican Church Coolah	596.45
Coolah Youth & Community Centre	596.45
Coonabarabran PAI & H Association	473.00
St Vincent De Paul Coonabarabran	1,793.00
Baradine Central School	500.00
Ulamambri Memorial Hall Trust	500.00
St James Presbyterian Church Coolah	480.30
Dunedoo Central School	70.00
Baradine Central School	70.00
Coolah Central School	70.00
Organisation Name	Total Value (\$)
Binnaway Jockey Club	1,000.00
Coolah Historical Arts Tour	2,000.00
Dunedoo Area Community Group	271.00
Trustees of the Bugaldie War Memorial Hall	1,000.00
Coolah Junior Sports Club	672.00
Dunedoo PAH & I Association	604.50
Coolah Lions Club	500.00
Warrumbungle Arts And Craft Inc.	1,762.73
Dunedoo Area Community Group	271.00
Warrumbungle Eventing Inc	500.00
Warrumbungle Wildlife Shelter	552.33
Coonabarabran Pony Club	2,500.00
Bullinda Bikebusters Inc	500.00
Warrumbungle Arts and Craft Inc.	1,000.00
Caring for Coolah (C4C) Inc	210.00
Dunedoo Polocrosse Club Inc	500.00
Coolah Men's Shed Inc	1,000.00
Commonwealth Bank - Fuel for Healthy Sam	110.61
Coonabarabran Junior Rugby	500.00
Mendooran Volunteer Rescue Association	500.00
Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal Lands Council	100.00
Dunedoo Rugby League Football Club	342.00
Dunedoo Rugby League Football Club	348.00
Dunedoo & District Development Group	25,000.00
Coolah District Development Group Inc	25,000.00
2357 Partnerships Incorporated	25,000.00
Baradine Progress Association	25,000.00
Mendooran District Development Group	25,000.00
Binnaway Progress Association	25,000.00
Total	190,436.13

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

During the report period Council also had a number of Committees that advised Council on specific issues. The advice from these Committees is used to assist in the decision making process of Council.

There are four (4) Committees formed as a requirement of statutory obligations or with delegations to perform functions of Council. Those Committees report to Council although have no formal link to Council. A Councillor representing on these Committees is appointed for the term of the Council.

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 2019/20 Council was a joint venture member of the Macquarie Regional Library Service with Dubbo City Council, Wellington Shire Council and Narromine Shire Council. During this period Council was also a joint venture member of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council.

Council coordinated the Connect Five Children's Services which service Warrumbungle, Coonamble and Gilgandra Local Government Areas.

Council is also part of Statewide and State Cover 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	249,958.68
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	26,248.52
Non-cash benefits	0
Fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	7,599.93

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 2019/20 and the funds were utilised on the drainage works in Cobra Street Mendooran.

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	\$4000 received from Office of Local Government (OLG) as part of the Council Pound Grant Program during COVID-19 pandemic
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
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	Entire \$4000 of OLG grant was used for upgrades to the Coonabarabran dog pound to reduce stress of animals and improve hygiene

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 three (3) access applications during the reporting period. Details are provided in the table on the following page.

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										
Applications other than personal information	2			1					3	100
Applications partly personal and partly other										
Total	2			1						
% of total	67			33						

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.

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 with TILT Renewables for the Liverpool Range Wind Farm during 2019/20 financial year.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

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

Personal Interest Disclosures (PID) submitted to the Ombudsman in 2019/20 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	1	0	0
Access applications other than personal information	0	3	0
PID received, primarily about:			
Corrupt conduct	1	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
Total	1	3	0

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments 1-3: 2019/20 Audited Financial Statements