

*Coolamon Shire Council*

*End Of Term Report 2016*

*Coolamon*





# Endorsement



*The last four years have been both challenging and rewarding for the Coolamon Shire Council.*

*We as Councillors are charged with the responsibility to ensure that the Coolamon Shire is a great place to live and work, visit and enjoy life. We have used the Coolamon Shire Community Strategic Plan, "Our Communities 2030", as the guide in both delivering services and facilities that the Council has responsibility for and lobbying and working with state agencies and community groups to deliver those for which Council is not responsible.*

*During this term, the NSW State Government's Local Government reform agenda culminated in the introduction of the "Fit for the Future" and "Stronger Councils | Stronger Communities" packages. Whilst this remains an ongoing program of reform, Coolamon Shire Council was assessed as "Fit as a Rural Council" and will continue into the future to meet financial, economical and sustainability benchmarks*

*We as a team are proud of what we have achieved and present this end of term report for your consideration.*

# Why do we have the end of term report?

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## *Executive Summary*

- “Our Communities 2030” was endorsed by Council in February 2013 following a review of the first Community Strategic Plan written in 2010. “Our Communities 2030” addresses the key issues of social, environmental and economic sustainability and civic leadership for the Coolamon Shire, outlining the community’s aspirations and priorities and how these may be achieved.
- The Community Strategic Plan is a “whole of community plan” that encompasses responsibilities not only of Council but of state agencies, community organisations, business and individual community members.
- The aim of this report is to provide the community with a status of how the Council is progressing toward achieving the objectives set out in the Coolamon Shire Community Strategic Plan “Our Communities 2030”.



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# Community Strategic Plan Goals

**VISION STATEMENT:**  
*A resilient rural community,  
with innovative and  
sustainable enterprises, taking  
advantage of our strategic  
location and respecting our  
town and village heritage.*

- **A resilient rural community** - we can adapt to and take advantage of the future conditions, including climate and local and world economic trends.
- **Innovative and sustainable enterprises** - we can ensure a diversity in the local economy to maintain and grow employment for our youth
- **Our strategic locational advantage** - we recognise the significant advantages our proximity to the regional city of Wagga Wagga bring, ensuring ready access to services and facilities
- **Respecting our town and village heritage** - our built and social heritage makes a point of difference within the region, drawing residents and visitors to our towns and villages.

# Our Community Values

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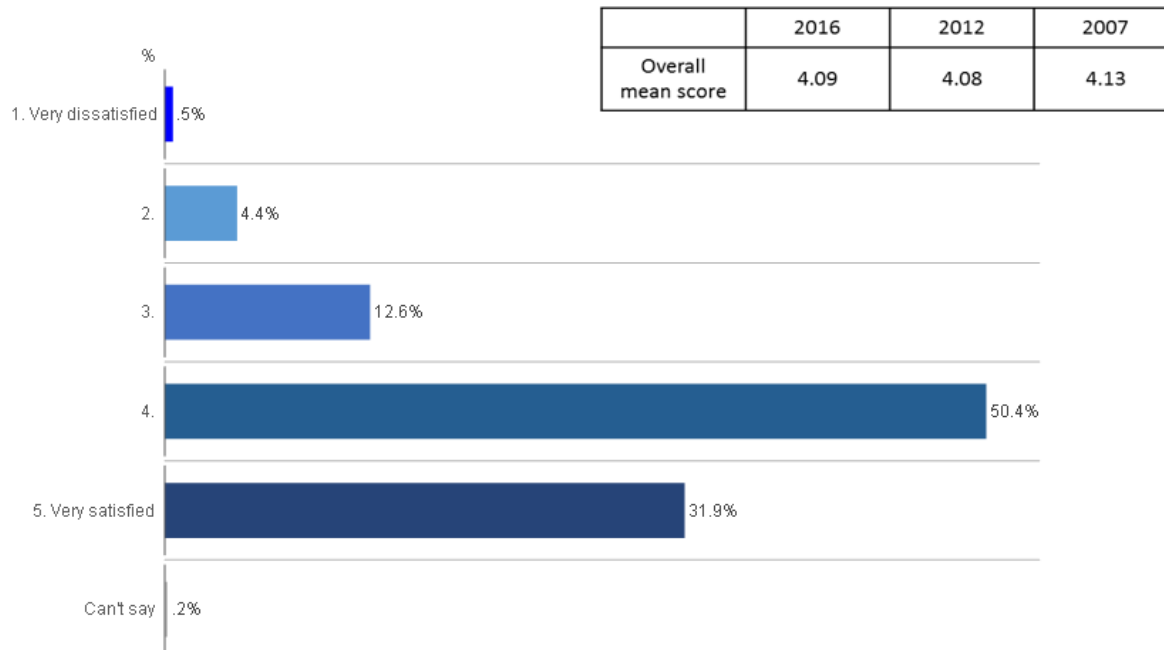




# What our Community Thinks Now

IRIS Research was commissioned by Council to conduct a comprehensive telephone-based survey among the area's residents. The survey sought a range of resident attitudes and opinions as input to Council's ongoing strategic planning and quality improvement process

## Overall Satisfaction



*"Four in five Coolamon Shire residents (82.3%) were satisfied with Council's overall performance in the delivery of services and facilities"*

Iris Research 2016





© Vicki Whyman

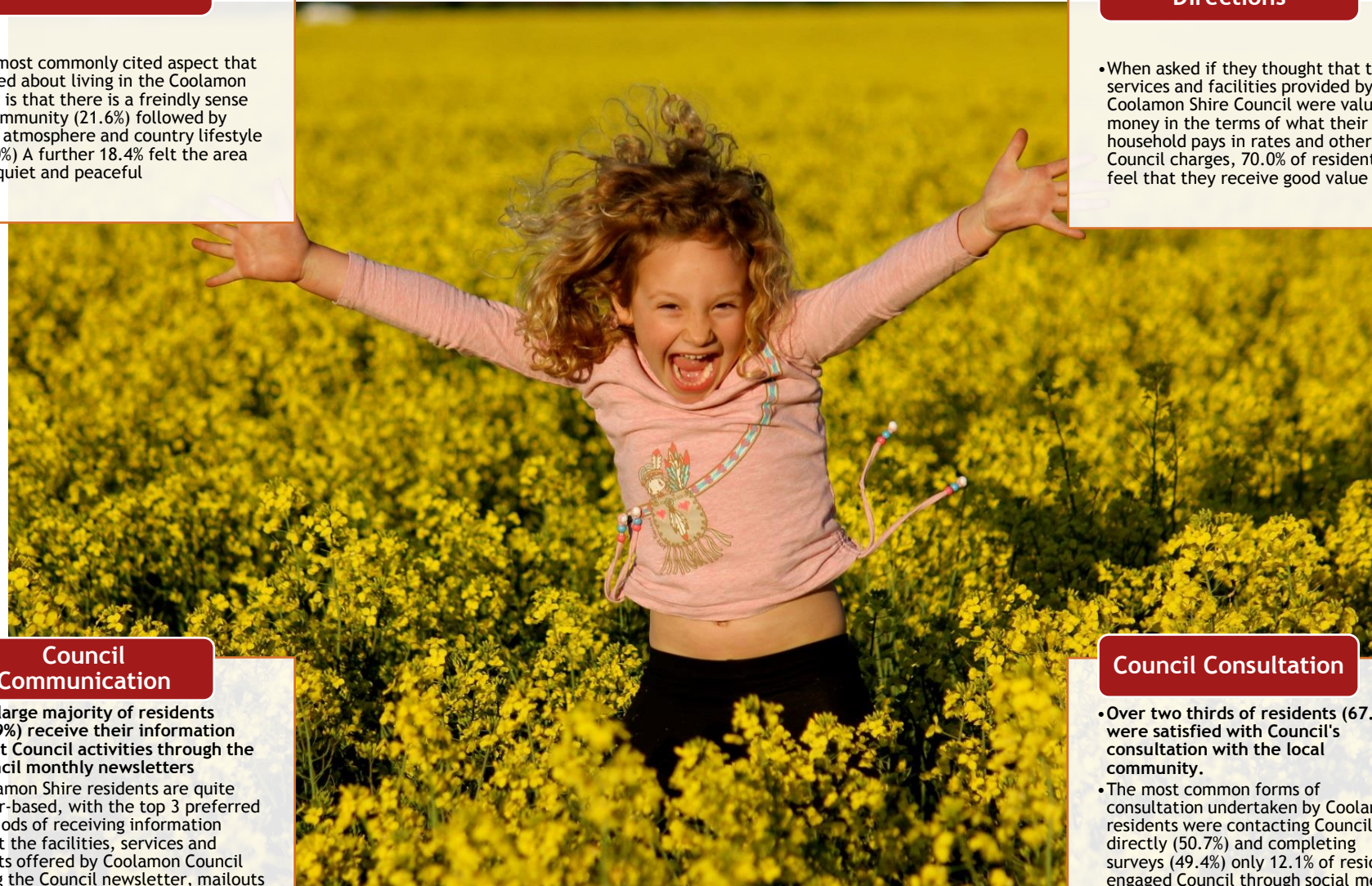


## Local Aspects

- The most commonly cited aspect that is liked about living in the Coolamon Shire is that there is a freindly sense of community (21.6%) followed by rural atmosphere and country lifestyle (21.0%) A further 18.4% felt the area was quiet and peaceful

## Council Financing Directions

- When asked if they thought that the services and facilities provided by Coolamon Shire Council were value for money in the terms of what their household pays in rates and other Council charges, 70.0% of residents feel that they receive good value



## Council Communication

- The large majority of residents (90.9%) receive their information about Council activities through the Council monthly newsletters
- Coolamon Shire residents are quite paper-based, with the top 3 preferred methods of receiving information about the facilities, services and events offered by Coolamon Council being the Council newsletter, mailouts and local newspaper

## Council Consultation

- Over two thirds of residents (67.1%) were satisfied with Council's consultation with the local community.
- The most common forms of consultation undertaken by Coolamon residents were contacting Council directly (50.7%) and completing surveys (49.4%) only 12.1% of residents engaged Council through social media channels



# Achievements

	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	Proposed 2016/2017
<b>REGIONAL ROADS - total length 146km</b>					
Reconstructions (km)	2.7	6.27	5.3	4.94	6.36
Reseals (km)	12.02	10.35	12.3	7.22	0
<b>LOCAL SEALED ROADS - total length 251km</b>					
Reconstructions (km)	4.12	3.03	2.1	10.16	7.22
Reseals (km)	10	10.87	20.27	18.95	22.91
<b>LOCAL UNSEALED ROADS - total length 721km</b>					
Gravel Re-sheets		Flood Repairs + 35.18	44.83	46.3	43.6
Stabilisation	10.2	9.65	5.36	5.3	6.4
<b>URBAN ROADS - total length 98km (748,175m2)</b>					
Reconstructions (km)	0	0	0	0.3	0.39
Reseals (m2)	21,863	40,669	21,349	46,120	42,114
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 5,171,400</b>	<b>\$ 5,204,277</b>	<b>\$ 4,603,871</b>	<b>\$ 6,489,027</b>	<b>\$ 4,933,263</b>





# Achievements

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## 2012 / 2013

- Finalised beautification upgrade of Ariah Street, Ardlethan
- Ardlethan Overnight Stay Area
- Commenced Ardlethan Pool Filtration upgrade
- Coolamon Pool Plant & Equipment Cover
- Upgrade to Septic at Ardlethan Lions Park Toilets
- Construction of Retirement Village Units in Ganmain
- Additions to Allawah Community Centre
- Solar power at the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre
- Extension of Effluent Reuse system to service Coolamon Parks & Gardens
- Allawah Lodge Solar Panels

## 2013 / 2014

- Alterations at Coolamon Early Childhood Centre
- Disabled Toilets and Storage at Ganmain Hall
- Coolamon Shire Library Solar Panels
- Ardlethan Pool Filtration replacement
- Ganmain Sewerage Treatments Works Evaporation Pond
- York Street, Marrar beautification

## 2014 / 2015

- Ardlethan Swimming Pool Solar Panels
- Coolamon Swimming Pool Solar Panels
- Coolamon Treatment Works Upgrade
- Commencement of 28 Lot subdivision in Coolamon
- Purchase of 87 Cowabbie Street, Coolamon
- Commenced work for additional aged persons units to be constructed in Ganmain
- Coolamon Tennis Court Construction
- Completed Ariah Street, Ardlethan Upgrade with asphalt seal
- Predestrian blisters at Ford and Langham St Ganmain
- New beam and niche wall at Ganmain cemetery

## 2015 / 2016

- Sprinkler installation in Aitken Logan Wing of Allawah Lodge
- Coolamon Caravan Park Upgrade including Managers residence
- Replacement of roof at Coolamon Early Childhood Centre
- Shade Structure at Coolamon Swimming Pool
- CRC Shed Construction at Coolamon Waste Depot
- Ongoing subdivision works, Coolamon
- Upgrade to 87 Cowabbie Street, Coolamon
- Purchase of additional land for future subdivision
- Pipe relining of sections of Coolamon Sewerage Scheme
- Victory Gardens, Ganmain Toilet Refurbishment
- Commenced Lions Park, Ardlethan Toilet Refurbishment
- See street footpath Marrar
- New Beam and extention of lawn cemetery in Marrar and Ardlethan cemeteries

# Sustaining Our Close Knit Shire Communities

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Grow the population, whilst maintaining our values, thereby mitigating the challenges of changing demographics

## **Objective 1.1 A maintenance of community values with any growth in population**

Coolamon Shire is bucking the trend in relation to population decline in rural areas. Council's population from the 2011 ABS Census was recorded as 4,099 whilst the latest forecast population compiled by forecast.id is 4,353.



*“The 2016 population forecast for Coolamon Council area is 4,353, and is forecast to grow to 4,744 by 2036.”*

Forecast.id Riverina Murray  
Regional population forecasts

Council's support of local service organisations and community groups like Coolamon Lions, Coolamon Rotary, the Ganmain Guardian and Kelpie Bark et al. has enabled the **fostering of community partnerships** and networks and **encouraged volunteerism** across all aspects of the Coolamon Shire community. An appreciation of Council's Volunteers, they are provided an annual afternoon tea with the Mayor.

Council's websites, social media outlets, “Resident Guide” provide information to visitors and residents - new, old and prospective, that **promote the Shire** as a great place to live and work, visit and enjoy life



# Sustaining Our Close Knit Shire Communities

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## *Objective 1.2 A high standard of services, facilities and infrastructure for all age groups.*

Council maintains and operated the standard local government infrastructure such as roads, waste and community assets as well as services that are many and varied across the entire Coolamon Shire.

Council has taken a very active role in the provision of services and facilities that support **families, youth and seniors** within the Shire. The operation of the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre and Ardlethan Preschool and provision of premises for the Ganmain and Coolamon Preschools ensure accessible childcare options are available locally. Council's delivery of Federal and State Government funded services through Allawah Community Care have ensured that frail, aged and disabled persons are able to stay longer in their own homes and community. Provision of aged housing, residential aged care and retirement village accommodation across the shire has also enabled people to remain in the Coolamon Shire and in contact with their communities and loved ones. Various community development activities including Youth Week, "Links to Learning" program and participation in REROC youth forums aim at engaging the youth of the Shire.

Council continues to support the NSW Government to protect the Shire's community from **crime, fire, anti-social activities** and threats to community safety. Council has been an active member of the Rural Fire Service Riverina Zone and supports the Emergency Services of NSW Fire & Rescue, State Emergency Service and RFS through the payment of annual levies. Council has continued to make representations to the NSW Police forum and local members to ensure that adequate policing is provided to the Shire. The implementation of Alcohol Free Zones has helped to address social standards together with Council's support of the Coolamon Drug Action Team consultation with the community regarding drug use and abuse.

*People rated the **Level of Policing** an Important issue - 94.4% or 4.72 out of 5  
People rated their level of satisfaction – 68.2% or 3.41 out of 5*

Iris Research 2016

Council has continued to **provide and maintain safe and serviceable public facilities and infrastructure**. Council prides itself of being consultative and participatory and has yearly tours with the various Advance Communities to continue to gather issues of importance at a local level. This of course then has to be balanced with the management requirements of Council's entire asset portfolio. Council has also delegated the Advance Communities with the care, control and management of local assets. Council has developed a Hierarchy of roads and supported this with ongoing operational, maintenance and capital replacement programs.

# Sustaining Our Close Knit Shire Communities

Council has continued to **provide efficient sewerage systems** to the Coolamon and Ganmain communities over its term. Council has been shortlisted for funding under the NSW Government's Water Security for Regions program for the construction of a sewerage scheme in Ardlethan. As part of this shortlisting, Council has advocated for additional funding to ensure the **affordability** of the scheme.

Council has provided **support to healthcare providers** across the Shire including the provision of professional rooms in Coolamon and Ganmain, partnership with Murrumbidgee Medicare Local in the implementation of the Healthy Shires Projects and the management of funds bequeathed for the benefit of the Coolamon-Ganmain Hospital. The last four years has also seen a determined campaign by Council for the establishment of an Ambulance Station in the town of Coolamon and the retention of the Ardlethan ambulatory services. Council can report that plans are underway to construct a station in Coolamon and upgrade the Ardlethan station.

*People rated **Availability of medical services** an important issue -96.4% or 4.82 out of 5  
People rated their level of satisfaction – 75.4% or 3.77 out of 5*  
Iris Research 2016



Council has supported the Coolamon Central School in offering the “Links to Learning” program over the past two year. Targeted at disengaged students, the program has been implemented across Years 6 to 11 teaching the students work skills relating to hospitality and metal work.



*People rated the **Access to Education** an important issue - 93.8% or 4.69 out of 5  
People rated their level of satisfaction – 85.6% or 4.28 out of 5*

Iris Research 2016

Council has lobbied on behalf of its residents for **improved access to telecommunication services**. Negotiations were undertaken with the National Broadband Network to locate equipment on Council's Communications Tower.

Council has continued to provide subsidised treated effluent water as an alternative **reliable water supply for sporting fields** in Coolamon

Council is an advocate for State Government issues that affect our communities across the board.



# Sustaining Our Close Knit Shire Communities



## **Objective 1.3 A lifestyle with diverse entertainment, recreation and cultural opportunities**

Council has created opportunities for residents to participate in

**active and healthy recreational activities** through the ongoing trusteeship of a number of recreational reserves within the Shire including Redgrave Park, Coolamon Golf Course and Jim Thompson Touch Fields, Coolamon Showground, Ardlethan Showground and the Ganmain Swimming Pool. Council's endeavours to **provide attractive, accessible and safe parks and recreational facilities** has seen a major plant and equipment upgrade at the Ardlethan Swimming Pool and the allocation of funds for the upgrade of the plant and equipment at the Ganmain Swimming Pool. Additional funding from the Federal Government will be utilised for the upgrades of the amenities at both the Ardlethan & Ganmain Pools. Funding from FRRR and the Federal Government will be paired with Council funds to purchase a mobile skate park in the current financial year and locate it at Matong with plans to provide pads in other communities so that it can be rotated and shared.

Council's Parks, Gardens & Reserves are subject to a management plan and upgrades of play equipment at Victory Park are budgeted for in the current financial year. Council's establishment of a multi purpose trail in Kindra Forest for use of residents and visitors, together with the ongoing implementation of Council's Active Transport Plan for paths continue to **encourage cycling and walking** across the entire shire.

Council in conjunction with the Riverina Regional Library provides **innovative library services** across the Shire through the Coolamon Shire Library and the visiting Mobile Library.

Council **support and promotion of the arts and cultural development** has seen the "Capture Coolamon Shire" photographic competition, NYE Fest and Australia Day Celebrations being held annually throughout the term of Council. Council has continued to implement "Art Acquisition Prize" with the purchase of an entry at the "Up-2-Date Art Exhibition" by a person who resides in the Coolamon Shire. Council has continued to implement the Event Management Strategy and the Annual Event Funding program that support local communities in developing and

People rated the **Appearance of Public areas including provision and up keep of town centres, local parks and gardens** - 88.0% or 4.40 out of 5

Iris Research 2016

"The new bike trail in Kindra Forest is a great asset for the community. It's great to see people of all ages enjoying the sights and sounds of the bush. Great place for getting some much needed exercise"

Andre de Haan





- Council has been very active in its efforts to **preserve and promote local history and heritage**. Ongoing engagement of a Local Heritage Advisor and the annual allocation of funding under the Local Heritage Fund have ensured that Council is supporting the community with their preservation of items with historical significance. Council has also continued to develop the Up to Date Cultural Centre that currently houses the Garth Jones Collection, Mavis Furner Collection and Reg Goode display and has a co-operative arrangement with the Coolamon RSL branch with regards to the military display housed in the RSL hall.





# Sustaining the Environmental Qualities of the Shire

Protect the natural environment and our heritage, and actions to proactively adapt to changing climate and manage the impact of land-use on the environment.

## **Objective 2.1 Adaptation to climate variability.**

Council has provided community leadership in resource use, reuse and recycling over the past 4 years in a number of ways. To add to a number of facilities that Council had previously

installed solar panels on, installations at the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre, Allawah Lodge and the Coolamon and Ardlethan Pools. Council also extended the effluent reuse scheme in Coolamon to service various parks and gardens areas and the recycling of Organics in the townships of Coolamon and Ganmain reflect Council's commitment to resources use, reuse and recycling.



## **Objective 2.2 Our rich heritage and natural environment character conserved**

Council's activities towards protecting natural landscapes and systems has seen the ongoing membership of the Riverina Easter Noxious Weeds Authority to manage and provide education in the control of weeds on both private and public land. The implementation of Council's On-site Sewerage Management Policy has ensured that, based on risk, systems are not harming the environment. Council continues to have in place Voluntary Conservation Agreements at Marrar and North Berry Jerry cemeteries to protect native vegetation that has been identified as important.

Council's ongoing engagement of a Local Heritage Advisor and support to property owners in the restoration of heritage assets through the Local Heritage Fund have aided in the protection of local heritage and residential amenity. Council is currently in the process of consultation with the Office of Environment and Heritage to establish a display of aboriginal artefacts at the Up-to-Date Cultural Centre

	total value of heritage works	funds contributed by Coolamon Shire council
2012/2013	\$32,645.35	\$12,400.00
2013/2014	\$30,298.15	\$14,975.00
2014/2015	\$27,822.20	\$14,700.00
2015/2016	\$59,207.05	\$14,700.00

# Sustaining the Environmental Qualities of the Shire

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	Total
Total Development Approvals	85	101	99	73	358
Total Cost of Works undertaken	\$5,747,631.00	\$10,037,100.00	\$11,680,162.00	\$6,138,667.00	\$33,603,560.00
Number of New Dwellings	20	25	22	18	85



•Following the adoption of the Local Environmental Plan by the previous Council, the current Council has continued to **encourage and ensure high quality planning and urban design**. Council's Development Control plan was adopted by Council in 2011 and the Development Control plan in 2014.



# Sustaining the Environmental Qualities of the Shire

Council continues to be a leader in relation to the **reduction of waste to landfill** through effective management and recycling. Council has continued with offering recycling collections within the defined scavenging areas and has increased its recycling activities by the introduction of organic collections for the towns of Coolamon and Ganmain. The construction of a Community Recycling Shed at the Coolamon Waste Depot in conjunction with REROC and the Environmental Protection Agency will ensure that specific hazardous waste that would have normally been deposited in landfill will also be recycled. Coolamon Council also conduct an annual collection of bigger domestic waste items. Council continues to look at opportunities regarding the construction of waste transfer stations as part of a consolidation of Council's waste management activities.

People rated **Garbage collection** an important issue – 88.2% or 4.41 out of 5 people

People rated their Satisfaction of Council services 86.2% or 4.31 out of 5 people  
Iris Survey 2016



People rated **Management of waste depot & recycling** an important issue - 91.0% or 4.55 out of 5

People rated their satisfaction with council services - 84.0% or 4.20 out of 5  
Iris Survey 2016

# Sustaining Our Strong Rural Based Economy

## Objective 3.1 A sustainable economy amid a changing regional, national and global environment

**Enquiries  
Contact  
Coolamon Shire  
02 6930 1800**

20 Minutes to Charles Sturt University

25 Minutes to Wagga Wagga

25 Minutes to Junee

40 Minutes to Temora

5 Minute walk to Shops

### Hornby Subdivision Coolamon

28 Lot Subdivision

Electricity, Water, Gas, Telecommunications, Town Sewerage, Drainage

Council has continued to promote and support existing and new business investment within the shire over the past four years through the ongoing engagement of dedicated business and tourism consultants. Council continues liaising with both the Federal and State Government agencies in relation to industrial development and promotion. Council has been supporting new Business opportunities and encouraging developments that enhance and promote the local regional economy. An example is the Coolamon Cheese Factory which has entered into a commercial arrangement to set up and operate in a building owned by Coolamon Shire Council.

*“What they (Council) could see was that if you had a tourist destination in the centre of the main street, everyone else in the town is going to benefit from it”*

Mr Lillywhite  
Coolamon Cheese Factory

Council has focused development within the Shire by ensuring that public services and facilities are not unnecessarily duplicated. Consolidation of

Council’s resources to defined focal points has resulted in the works undertaken at Ardlathan in relation to the Short Stay Caravan Area and the current expansion to the Coolamon Caravan Park. Council has continued with the development of residential land in Coolamon and has other land banks available for future development.



# Sustaining Our Strong Rural Based Economy

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**Objective 3.2 Increased awareness within prospective businesses, tourists and residents of the appeal of the Coolamon Shire.**

Council's activities in focusing on the unique identity of the Shire include continuing membership of Riverina Regional Tourism and the development of new relationships with Wagga Wagga City Council and Junee Shire Council in developing the see Riverina App with other Councils in the area. Council continues to maintain a dedicated Tourism and Business Website and offers funding to successful applicants to fund promotion of local events through the Events Funding Program. Council's development of the Short Stay Caravan Area in Ardlethan and the expansion to the Coolamon Caravan Park have increased visitation to the Shire

*"Thanks for the Short Term Caravan Park at Ardlethan, absolutely brilliant facility"*

Barry Coad

*"Thank you for providing such an outstanding and forward thinking freestay in the township of Ardlethan"*

Kerry & Joy Harper  
Goulburn



# Sustaining Our Strong Rural Based Economy

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## *Objective 3.3 Sustained viability of our farming land*

Council has readily supported the **retention of the farming population and the maintenance and enhancement of farming productivity.** Coolamon Shire chaired the REROC infrastructure planning Sub-Committee that developed the regional freight transport plan. This developed a holistic strategic view that identified freight constraints and improvement opportunities. This document was used successfully to seek applications under the NSW State Government's Fixing Country Road Program and resulted in the allocation of \$1,844,300 towards total project costs of \$2,838,249 to be spent on Council's road network to support agricultural product receivable points. Council also supported the Rural Financial Counselling Service and the North East Riverina Rural Counselling Service during the past four years



**Sustaining Our Strong Rural Based Economy**

*Grow and diversify the economy as national and global socio-economical and environmental changes exert a significant influence on our local and regional communities. Sustaining our community as well as adapting to changing climate will reinforce our efforts to sustain our economy*





# Working Together to Achieve the Our Communities 2030 Vision

*To ensure that leadership is sustained within the community*

**Objective 4.1 Opportunities identified for diversified community leadership, inter-generational leadership and transition of youth into leadership roles**

Council has encouraged community leadership with the support provided to the various Section 355 Committee's, close ties and sponsorship with the local schools. Council's Annual "Morning Tea with the Mayor" brings together school leaders from across the Shire with Councillors and Staff to learn more about Local Government and opens the lines of communication for those younger people to voice their views.





# Working Together to Achieve the Our Communities 2030 Vision

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*Objective 4.2 Council as an organisation is consultative, participatory, encouraging and well managed.*

Council's activities to **encourage two-way communication** with the community regarding Council's activities have included the ongoing establishment of Advance Committees, annual tour with community members, forums held as part of Council's "Fit for the Future" consultation and the production of Council's monthly newsletter. Staff and Councillors have been present at a number of Advance Committee meetings to hear first-hand the issues that locals have regarding their community. Council sees these actions as necessary to see that the **Shire's community is partnered in planning the future** of the shire.

*When asked if they thought that the services and facilities provided by Coolamon Shire Council were value for money in terms of what their household pays in rates and other Council charges, 70.0% of residents feel that they receive good value*

Iris Research 2016

Council sees participation in regional **relationships and strategic networks** as not only beneficial but necessary for the Coolamon Shire. Membership of REROC, Eastern Riverina Arts, Riverina Eastern Noxious Weeds Authority, NSW Rural Fire Service - Riverina Zone, Riverina Regional Tourism and Riverina Regional Library as a way of ensuring that the services and facilities that Council provides are both cost effective and what our residents deserve in today's day and age.

Council continues to demonstrate a **strong financial position** and has implemented a Risk Management System across Council's operations to **minimise risk for Council and the community**. Ongoing review of Council's progress including Community Satisfaction Surveys and Delivery Plan reports **ensure priority areas continue to be acted upon**.

Council's ongoing relationships with State and Federal Members and various Government Departments ensure that **the interests of the Coolamon Shire are strongly advocated**. Examples of this include the Coolamon and Ardlethan Ambulance Stations, additional funding opportunities for the construction of the Ardlethan Sewerage Scheme and funding for the amenities upgrades at the Ganmain and Ardlethan Pools.





## VICTORY GARDENS 1946

***Objective 4.3 Working together to sustain civic pride in our towns and villages***

Council has actively encouraged vibrant and vital communities displaying civic pride. Council takes seriously the work done by past Councils in making the Coolamon Shire a place people love to live. Ongoing investment in Council's Parks & Gardens and support for community events demonstrate in a tangible way that the Coolamon Shire is a proud community.



# What is next?

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