



COOLAMON SHIRE COUNCIL

END OF TERM REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2021



END OF TERM REPORT

As the Council body, elected to represent the community, we are conscious of the need to understand what the concerns and aspirations of our residents are. We do this by continually reviewing the Community Strategic Plan and realigning our strategic objectives.

We strive to create and support strong vibrant communities that reflect our friendly and innovative nature. We understand the need to focus on our strengths of agriculture, heritage and proximity to a regional centre.

This report will provide the incoming elected representatives with a point on the timeline of what is being achieved and where we are heading. This is about ensuring continuity and reflecting on Council's actions in response to the Community Strategic Plan.

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) was developed in 2010 and has been reviewed in 2013 and 2017. This CSP is a whole of Community Plan that outlines the expectations and priorities of our residents. As such, it touches on all issues that the community indicate are important to them. Some of which are outside Council's control and are therefore the responsibility of State or Federal Governments, Community Organisations, business or individual members. In these cases it is Council's role to advocate and support the relevant stakeholders responsible.

This report is presented to you, the community, to highlight the areas of achievement and detail our actions over the past Council term, whilst indicating our goals and objectives for the future.



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

OUR COMMUNITIES 2030

VISION STATEMENT

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

SUSTAINING OUR
CLOSE KNIT SHIRE
COMMUNITIES

SUSTAINING THE
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITIES OF THE SHIRE

SUSTAINING OUR
STRONG RURAL
BASED ECONOMY

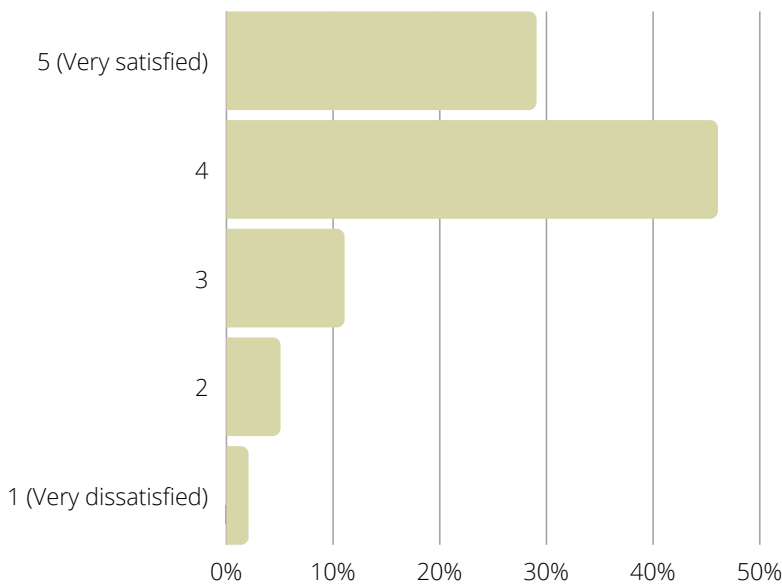
WORKING TOGETHER TO
ACHIEVE THE OUR
COMMUNITIES 2030
VISION

WHAT OUR COMMUNITY THINKS NOW

IRIS Research was commissioned by Council to conduct a comprehensive survey of residents, seeking a range of attitudes, opinions and input to Council's ongoing strategic planning and quality improvement process.

The data collected will be referenced throughout this report in relation to each strategic goal and outcome identified within the plan.

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH COUNCIL



OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH COUNCIL IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER COUNCILS



**RESIDENTS WERE HIGHLY SATISFIED
OVERALL WITH COOLAMON SHIRE
COUNCIL AS AN ORGANISATION. IN
TOTAL, 75% OF RESIDENTS
WERE SATISFIED (RATING OF 4 OR 5)
WHILE ONLY SEVEN PERCENT (7%) OF
RESIDENTS WERE DISSATISFIED
(IRIS RESEARCH 2021)**





THIS TERM HAS PRESENTED MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNCIL TO LEVERAGE SIGNIFICANT FUNDING FROM BOTH THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS DESIGNED TO STIMULATE LOCAL ECONOMIES. COUNCIL TOOK A STRATEGIC AND CONSULTATIVE APPROACH TO THESE OPPORTUNITIES, WORKING WITH VARIOUS GROUPS AND CLUBS TOGETHER WITH THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE TO ENSURE THAT FUNDED PROJECTS MET THE NEEDS OF OUR GROWING TOWNS AND VILLAGES. WHERE APPROPRIATE, COUNCIL OPTED TO INVEST IN EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS TO ENSURE THEIR LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY. ALONGSIDE THE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNCIL ASSETS, COUNCIL WERE ABLE TO ALLOCATE FUNDING TO EXTERNAL GROUPS AND CLUBS TO SUPPORT THEIR IMPROVEMENTS. THIS TERM HAS SEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH FUND AND SUBSEQUENT STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITIES GRANTS, A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF \$3 MILLION FROM THE STATE GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS AND THE DROUGHT STIMULUS PACKAGE OF \$1.97M. IN THE SAME PERIOD, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RELEASED THE DROUGHT COMMUNITIES PROGRAM TOTTALLING \$2M INVESTMENT INTO OUR COMMUNITY IN RESPONSE TO THE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT IN RURAL AUSTRALIA.

THE LOCAL ROADS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM HAS ALSO SEEN A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF \$1.4M FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTO BOTH ROAD NETWORK AND COMMUNITY BASED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. ALL PROJECTS WERE DESIGNED TO ENSURE LOCAL JOBS WOULD BENEFIT FROM THIS STIMULUS. WHERE POSSIBLE LOCAL TRADESPEOPLE AND BUSINESSES WERE ENGAGED TO UNDERTAKE WORK AND ENSURE THAT THE BENEFITS REMAINED AS LOCAL AS POSSIBLE.

THIS SIGNIFICANT ALLOCATION OF FUNDING INTO THE COOLAMON SHIRE HAS SEEN THE COMPLETION OF MANY MAJOR PROJECTS IN THIS TERM. COUNCIL HAS STRIVED TO HARNESS THESE OPPORTUNITIES AND WORK TOGETHER WITH ALL SPHERES OF THE COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL, SUSTAINABLE AND FAR REACHING OUTCOMES FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

ACHIEVEMENTS

2017

- Completion of the Hornby Subdivision
- Matong basketball half-court and launch pad for mobile skate park
- Purchase of the mobile skate park
- Significant upgrades to interactive displays and technical components at the Coolamon Up-to-Date Store
- Opening of the Coolamon Ambulance Station

2018

- Swimming pool upgrades in Ardlethan and Ganmain
- Coolamon Caravan Park upgrades
- "Our Shire, Our Stories: A celebration of heritage in the Coolamon Shire" oral history project
- Visit Coolamon Shire rebrand and website development
- Purchase of mobile pump-track

2019

- Public park upgrades to playgrounds in Ganmain, Marrar, Matong, Ardlethan, Beckom and Coolamon
- Coolamon Shire Library upgrades
- Up-to-Date Store improvements, including; completion of stage area, landscaping and re-roofing
- New disabled toilet at the Coolamon Visitor Information Centre/Fire Museum
- Upgrades and official opening of Ardlethan Ambulance Station
- CRC Shed at the Coolamon landfill site
- Basketball courts/pump track launch pads completed in Ganmain, Ardlethan, Marrar and Beckom

2020

- Commenced Coolamon Business Park
- Improvements to Coolamon Shire Council Chambers
- Completion of bike trails, including Kindra Forest, Urban Trail and the Gilgai Track between Coolamon and Ganmain
- Ganmain Hall improvements
- Beckom Hall and toilet improvements
- Replacement of Coolamon RSL Hall roof
- Ardlethan fast fill water facility to improve rural access during drought
- Matong Park upgrade
- Completion of Ardlethan sewer

Allocated funding towards the following community group projects;

- Kindra Park Upgrades to grounds and irrigation
- Ganmain Sportsground upgrade including new undercover netball courts
- Ardlethan Sportsground upgrades including new netball courts and cricket nets
- Upgrades to flooring and foundation at the Ganmain Historical Society
- New amenities block at the Redgrave Park Tennis Club
- Upgrades to the Ganmain Showground including new dog yards
- Upgrades to the Marrar Gymkhana grounds including fencing and water works

2021

- Extension to Lewis Quarry securing road base material for the next 60 years
- Allawah lodge upgrades including both internal and external works
- Coolamon Early Childhood Centre additions, to increase centre capacity and improve both working and learning environment
- New pound facilities to service the Coolamon Shire
- Completion of Ardlethan and Beyond Museum
- Improvements to Ganmain. Coolamon and Ardlethan pools
- Ardlethan Hall improvements including new bar area, floor sanding and painting
- Addition of solar at the Mullins Centre and the Ardlethan and Beyond Museum
- Re:Store Heritage Sign and Mural Trail; Two signage restorations complete in both Coolamon and Ganmain
- Marrar Hall improvements, including installation of operable wall and air conditioning
- Skill Up! workshops hosted in Coolamon to provide employment skills for young people



COOLAMON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



COMPLETED WORKS ON ROAD NETWORK

	Unit	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
REGIONAL RD - 146KM							
Reconstruction	km	8.9	6.33	5.63	5.16	3.41	6.49
Reseal	km	0	0.26	4.31	6.56	8.74	8.99
LOCAL SEALED ROAD – 251km							
Reconstruction	km	7.22	3.59	2.48	9.15	13.77	3.2
Reseal	km	22.76	17.55	11.9	10.7	13.23	10.21
Seal/Construct	m2	0	0	0	15600	8010	0
Patch Rehabilitation	m2	0	0	3280	0	1950	80
UNSEALED – 842km							
Resheets	km	43.6	43.6	34.4	36.48	41.67	45.05
Stabilisation	km	6.4	6.4	2	0	2	0
URBAN - 98KM, 748,175M2							
Reconstruction	m2	1980	1980	2519	1267	0	2457
Reseal	m2	42505	38669	12161	25447	28235	23915
Seal/Construct	m2	1150	230	7000	3660	5725	3550
Path	Lm	375	0	760	16026	4271	414
Kerb & Gutter	Lm	141	0	0	0	1210	1890
Sewer	Lm	0	0	0	0	8712	0
Stormwater	Lm	0	215	140	240	150	4.75
2016 NATURAL DISASTER REPAIRS		\$310,416	\$969,768	\$448,638			
		\$5,278,357	\$5,278,357	\$4,795,152	\$5,770,450	\$5,896,391	\$6,631,439
Total		\$5,588,773	\$6,248,125	\$5,243,790	\$5,770,450	\$5,896,391	\$6,631,439

FUTURE WORKS BUDGET

SUSTAINING OUR CLOSE KNIT SHIRE COMMUNITIES

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

THE COMMUNITY SAID....

MAINTAIN COMMUNITY VALUES WITH ANY GROWTH IN POPULATION

SO COUNCIL ...

As an organisation, Council understands the importance of upholding all the values that make our community what it is. We believe that as with any change, the heart and soul of our community is what makes us unique, and as such, we strive to maintain our inherent values as our communities continue to grow and thrive.

Council supports various local service organisations and community groups like Coolamon Lions, Rotary, the Community Chronicle and various sporting groups and clubs. This has enabled the fostering of community partnerships and networks and encouraged volunteerism across all aspects of the Coolamon Shire community.

This term has also seen an overhaul of the "Visit Coolamon Shire" brand, a new website and further collaborative networking with neighbouring councils to promote the Coolamon Shire as a great place to live, work and visit.

WHICH HAS RESULTED IN...

Coolamon Shire is bucking the trend in relation to population decline in rural areas. Council's population from the 2016 ABS Census was recorded as 4,315 .

The most commonly cited aspect that is liked about living in the Coolamon Shire is that there is a friendly sense of community (39%) followed by rural atmosphere and country lifestyle (29%) A further 28% felt the area was quiet and peaceful

SUSTAINING OUR CLOSE KNIT SHIRE COMMUNITIES

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

THE COMMUNITY SAID....

MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OF SERVICES, FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ALL AGE GROUPS.

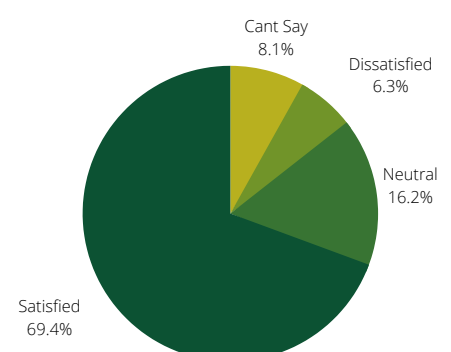
SO COUNCIL...

Coolamon Shire Council believe that all members of our community deserve and should have access to the services and infrastructure to make their lives in the shire as happy and healthy as possible. Council has taken a very active role in the provision of services and facilities that support families, youth and seniors within the Shire. This term has seen significant improvements to both the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre and to Allawah Lodge. The coming together of Federal, State and Local government funding has seen building extensions to both facilities to allow for greater capacity and usability.

Council also facilitates the provision of premises for the Ganmain and Coolamon Preschools, as well as the running of the Ardlethan Preschool, to ensure accessible childcare options are available locally. Council's delivery of Federal and State Government funded services through Allawah Community Care have ensured that aged vulnerable residents are able to stay longer in their own homes and community. This term has seen a significant increase in the services provided through Allawah Community Care from two homecare packages in 2017 to 64 packages in 2021. 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, "Skill UP!" program and participation in REROC youth forums aim at engaging the youth of the Shire.

WHICH HAS RESULTED IN...

Community overall satisfaction with provision of services and facilities for older people



SUSTAINING OUR CLOSE KNIT SHIRE COMMUNITIES

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

THE COMMUNITY SAID....

**MAINTAIN A
HIGH STANDARD
OF SERVICES,
FACILITIES AND
INFRASTRUCTURE
FOR ALL AGE
GROUPS.**

Coolamon Shire Council is comprised of six communities, each with their own distinct character. Council continues to protect and enhance these towns and villages by providing the services appropriate to the needs of those communities.

Council has continued to provide and maintain safe and serviceable public facilities and infrastructure. Council prides itself on being consultative and participatory with annual tours of the various Advance Committees 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 Committees 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.

Council is always mindful of the ongoing impact new assets can have on Council's ability to maintain existing and future services. We understand the need for improvement, but must maintain what we have already, before we stretch our resources and ability to serve.

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 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.

Level of Policing
Importance Rating - 4.5 out of 5 people (90%)
Satisfaction Rating - 3.45 out of 5 people (69%)
(IRIS Research 2021)

SUSTAINING OUR CLOSE KNIT SHIRE COMMUNITIES

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

THE COMMUNITY SAID....

LIFESTYLE WITH
DIVERSE
ENTERTAIN-
MENT,
RECREATION
AND CULTURAL
OPPORTUNITIES

SO COUNCIL....

Like many rural communities, sport, recreation, the arts and cultural opportunities are essential to the social fabric of our towns and villages. These activities are the lifeblood of our Shire, and contribute to the health and well-being of our residents.

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.

This term has seen the completion of basketball courts in Ganmain, Ardlethan, Beckom, Marrar and Matong. As well as being utilised as courts, these spaces host both the mobile skate park and pump track which are shared between towns and villages on a rotating roster. Council's Parks and gardens have seen significant upgrades this term, with the upgrade of play equipment in all towns and villages, as well as BBQ area upgrades in Lions, Redgrave and Ganmain Victory Gardens. Council's establishment of a multi purpose trail in Kindra Forest, as well as the additional Gilgai Track and Urban Track 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.

"A GREAT LITTLE TRAIL. HERO DIRT FOR MILES. REAL AWESOME WORK TO THE TRAIL CREW FOR WHAT'S GOING ON HERE. THIS WAS AN AWESOME LITTLE SURPRISE TO FIND AND WAS REALLY IMPRESSED AT HOW WELL THE SPACE HAS BEEN USED. A COUPLE OF FUN LITTLE FEATURES"

- TRAILFORKS REVIEW, COOLAMON SHIRE BIKE AND WALKING PATHS

SUSTAINING OUR CLOSE KNIT SHIRE COMMUNITIES

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

THE COMMUNITY SAID....

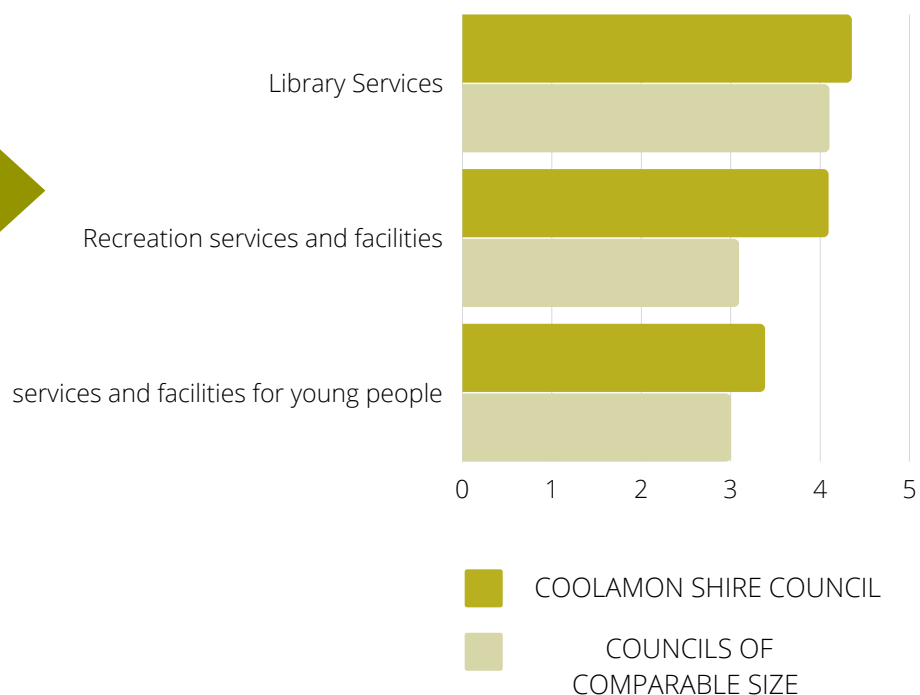
LIFESTYLE WITH DIVERSE ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

SO COUNCIL....

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. Council has continued to implement "Art Acquisition Prize" with the purchase of an entry at the "Up-2-Date Art Exhibition" and the "Ardlethan Art Show" 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 staging events celebrating arts, artists and cultural development and promote community spirit.

WHICH HAS RESULTED IN...

In the 2021 IRIS community satisfaction survey, Coolamon Shire Residents were most satisfied with Library services (93%).



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.

THE COMMUNITY SAID...

REDUCE THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT OF THE COOLAMON SHIRE

SO COUNCIL...

Council sees climate adaptability as paramount to all that we do as an organisation. We aim to employ strategies to protect the natural environment, our rich heritage and to manage the impact of land use within our communities. Council are acutely aware that the agricultural base of our economy and communities require appropriate management and protection. This, and the need to ensure our resources are adaptable to climate variability see Council employ strategies to protect the natural environment.

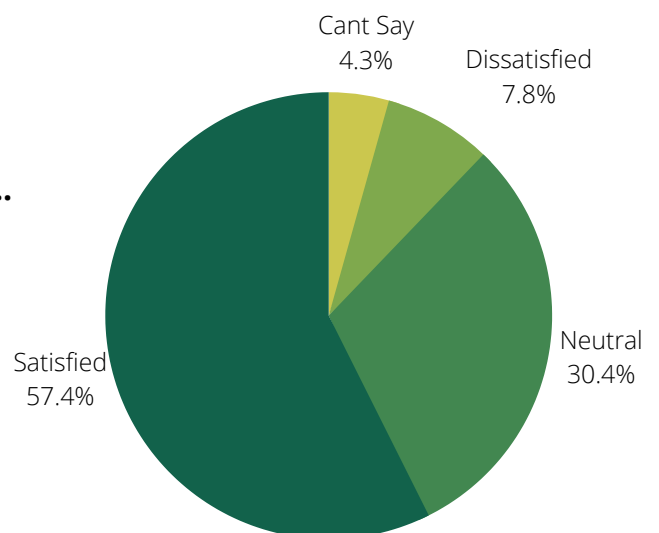
Council has provided community leadership in resource use, reuse and recycling over the past term in a number of ways.

To add to a number of facilities that Council had previously installed solar panels on, installations at the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre, Allawah Lodge, Council admin building, Ardlethan and Beyond Museum and the Coolamon and Ardlethan Pools.

Council also extended the recycled water 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.

WHICH HAS RESULTED IN...

Community satisfaction with Council environmental activities.



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.

THE COMMUNITY SAID...

OUR RICH HERITAGE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARACTER CONSERVED

SO COUNCIL...

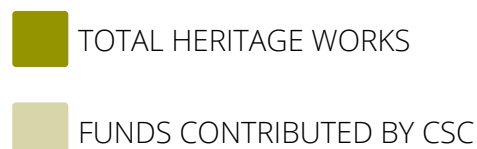
Coolamon Shire Council appreciates that our natural heritage is part of our identity and needs to be preserved through careful and quality urban planning. As an organisation we aim to provide leadership to the community to ensure that our built and natural heritage is protected and celebrated for generations to come.

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. Council also maintains membership to Landcare. 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 to protect native vegetation that has been identified as important.

Council's ongoing engagement of a Local Heritage Adviser 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.

WHICH HAS RESULTED IN...

Coolamon Shire Council Heritage Fund

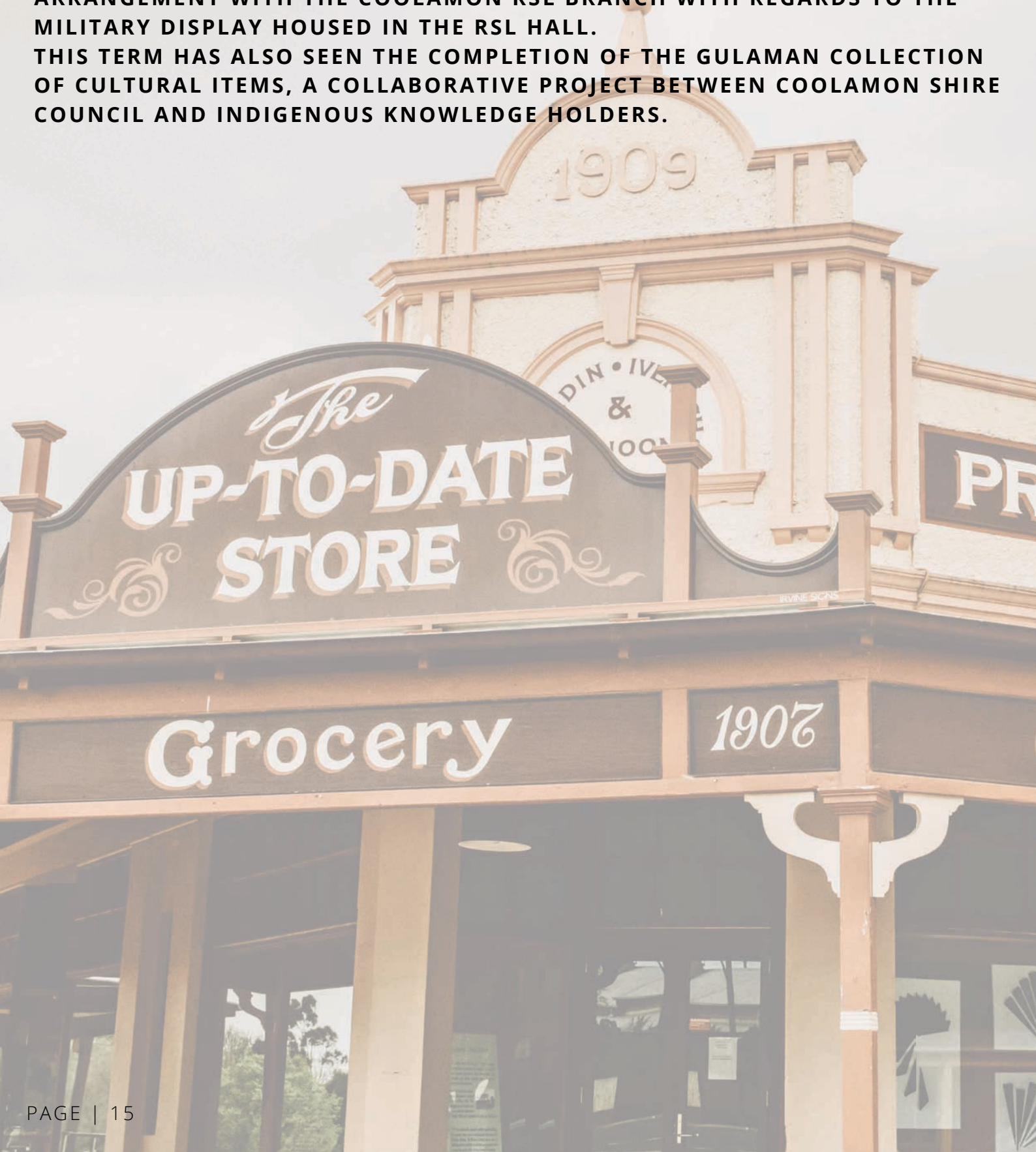


COUNCIL HAS BEEN VERY ACTIVE IN IT'S EFFORTS TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE LOCAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE.

THIS TERM HAS SEEN THE LONG AWAITED COMPLETION OF THE ARDLETHAN AND BEYOND MUSEUM, A CULMINATION OF MANY YEARS PLANNING AND WORK BY THE ARDLETHAN COMMUNITY AND THE COOLAMON SHIRE COUNCIL.

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.

THIS TERM HAS ALSO SEEN THE COMPLETION OF THE GULAMAN COLLECTION OF CULTURAL ITEMS, A COLLABORATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN COOLAMON SHIRE COUNCIL AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS.



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.

THE COMMUNITY SAID...

OUR RICH HERITAGE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT CHARACTER CONSERVED

SO COUNCIL...

Council understands that managing our resources needs to reflect a wider national or global outcome, but also needs to reflect both the needs and capacity of our organisation and our communities. 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.

WHICH HAS RESULTED IN...

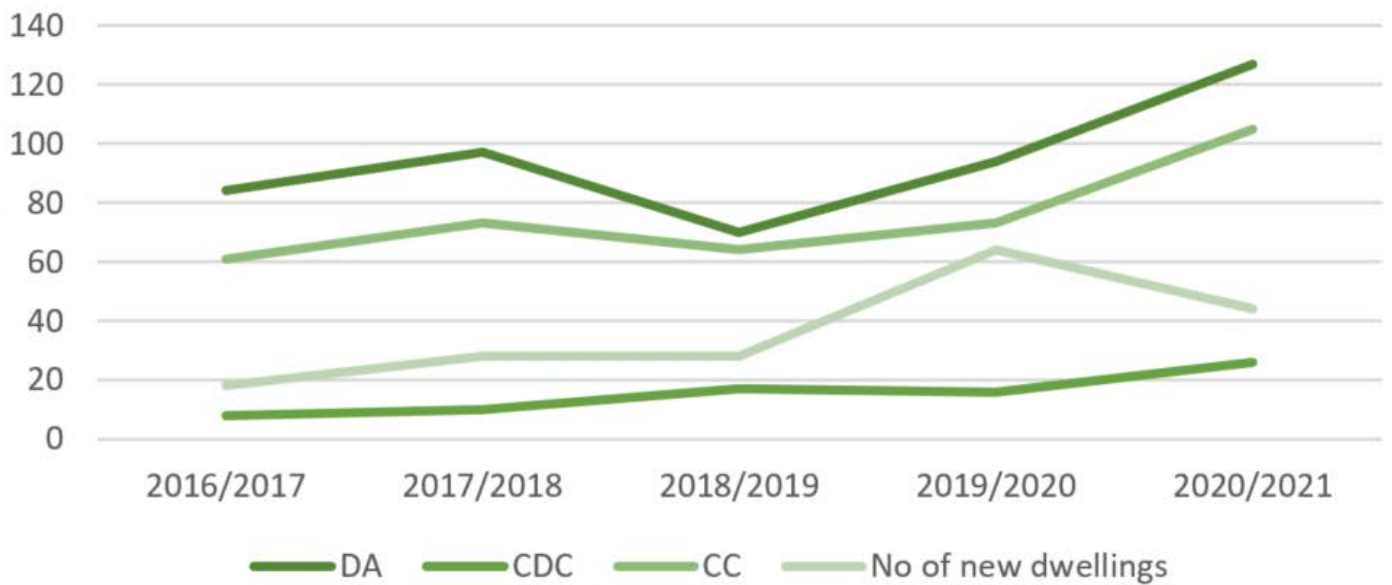
MANAGEMENT OF WASTE DEPOT & RECYCLING
IMPORTANCE RATING - 4.46 OUT OF 5 PEOPLE
(90%)
SATISFACTION RATING - 3.98 OUT OF 5 PEOPLE
(78%)
(IRIS RESEARCH 2021)

GARBAGE COLLECTION
IMPORTANCE RATING - 4.48 OUT OF 5 PEOPLE
(90%)
SATISFACTION RATING - 4.13 OUT OF 5 PEOPLE
(83%)
(IRIS RESEARCH 2021)

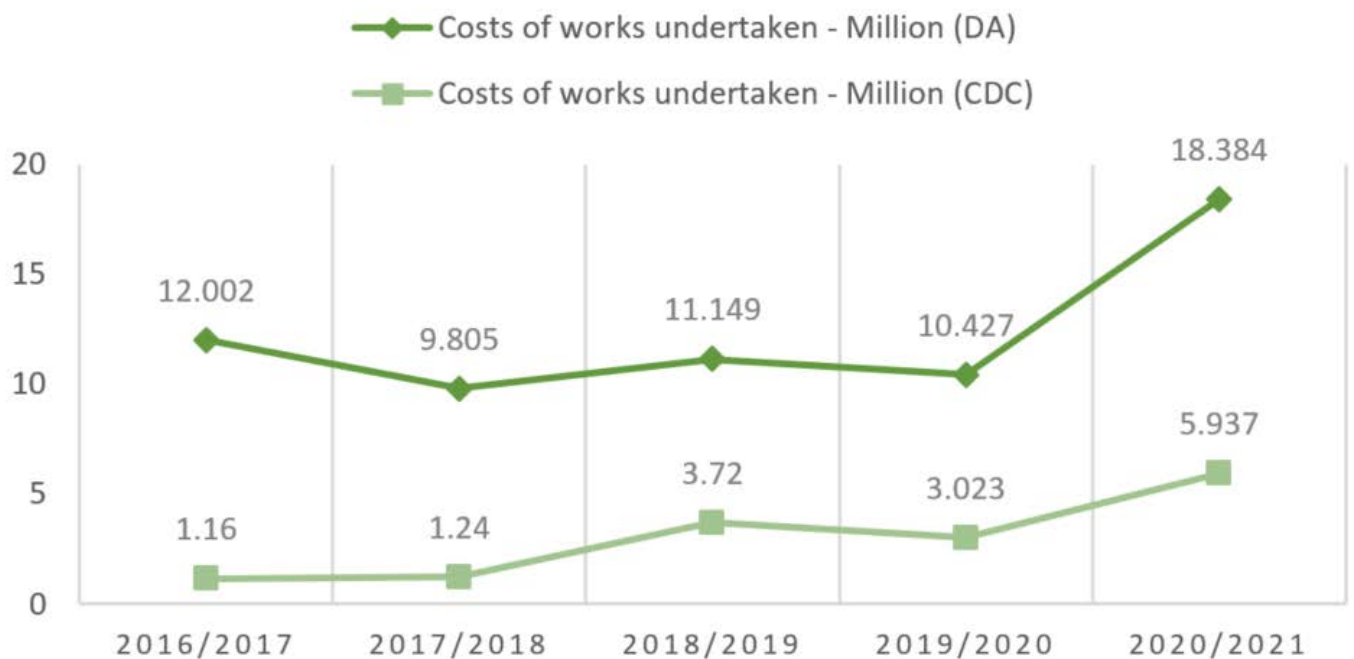
SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITIES OF THE SHIRE

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.

DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL STATISTICS



COSTS OF WORKS UNDERTAKEN



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

THE COMMUNITY SAID...

A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY AMID A CHANGING REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT

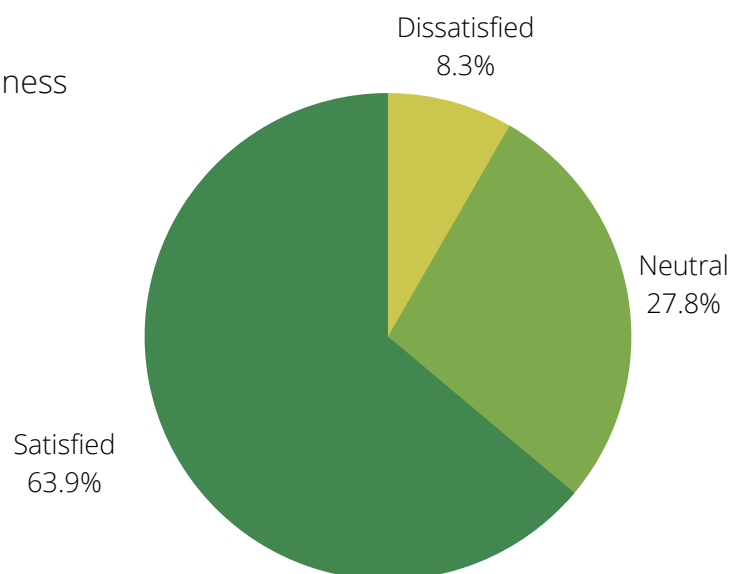
SO COUNCIL...

As a result of our decisions and policies for creating well presented and maintained commercial precincts, together with the emphasis on offering affordable lifestyle choices for families, the Coolamon Shire has seen a growth in population, and with it, business opportunities.

Council have continued to promote and support existing and new business investment within the shire over the past five years through the ongoing employment of the Business and Tourism Development Officer. Council continues liaising with both the Federal and State Government agencies in relation to industrial development and promotion. Council continues to develop and implement initiatives to promote the local and regional economy. 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 Ardlethan in relation to the Short Stay Caravan Area and the 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

WHICH HAS RESULTED IN...

Satisfaction with business and tourism services



SUSTAINING OUR STRONG RURAL BASED ECONOMY

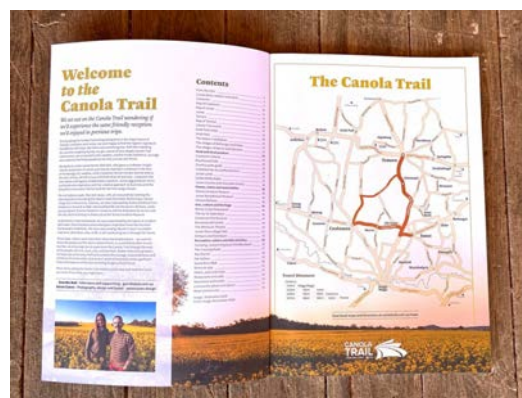
Grow and diversify the economy as national and global socio-economical and environmental changes exert a significant influence on our local and regional communities. Sustaining our community as well as adapting to changing climate will reinforce our efforts to sustain our economy

THE COMMUNITY SAID...

INCREASED AWARENESS WITHIN PROSPECTIVE BUSINESSES, TOURISTS AND RESIDENTS OF THE APPEAL OF THE COOLAMON SHIRE.

SO COUNCIL...

We are ever mindful of the opportunities that exist due to our location and characteristics that provide great opportunities for day visitation. Whilst the last term has been challenging, drought, fire and a pandemic, we have still managed to retain partnerships to to promote what we have. Council's activities in focusing on the unique identity of the Shire include continuing membership of the Visit Riverina, Country Change and Wagga Tourism Partnership programs. 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. The development of the Canola Trail is a strategic joint venture between Coolamon, Temora and Junee Shires. This term has also seen the completion of the new Coolamon Shire Visitors Guide and Visit Coolamon Shire website.



L-R: QANTAS Spirit inflight magazine, new Coolamon Shire Visitor Guide, Coolamon Shire feature in Country Style Magazine, Canola Trail Heart of Gold, Outback magazine Coolamon feature, Country Change Expo, Canola Trail infographic



"THE COOLAMON CARAVAN PARK IS A WELL APPOINTED AND CLEAN CARAVAN PARK IN A LOVELY SMALL COUNTRY TOWN. CLUBS ARE IN WALKING DISTANCE FOR A GREAT MEAL. BATHROOMS WERE LOVELY AND CLEAN AND STAFF WERE GREAT TO DEAL WITH. EASY ACCESS IN AND OUT OF THE PARK"

**MARLINE
BATEMANS BAY
(TRIP ADVISOR)**

"MY BROTHER AND I STAYED HERE FOR ONE NIGHT, IT WOULD BE THE CLEANEST BEST RUN CARAVAN PARKS I HAVE EVER STAYED IN. THE LAWNS WERE MANICURED THE SHOWER AND THE TOILET BLOCK WERE SPOTLESS. THE CAMP KITCHEN WAS THE SAME THANK YOU TO THE MANAGEMENT FOR SUCH A LOVELY STAY. VERY REASONABLE PRICE TO STAY"

**ROSS
GREATER SYDNEY
(TRIP ADVISOR)**

"A GEM. A QUIET BEAUTIFUL TOWN. THE PARK IS METICULOUSLY MAINTAINED BY LOCAL VOLUNTEERS. THE LOCAL BOWLING CLUB, IGA, PUB AND COFFEE SHOP ARE ALL NEIGHBOURS. A PLAYGROUND, FREE BBQ AND SHELTERED PICNIC TABLES KEEPS THE KIDS AMUSED"

**ARDLETHAN CARAVAN PARK
TRISH
(GOOGLE REVIEWS)**

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

THE COMMUNITY SAID...

SUSTAINED VIABILITY OF OUR FARMING LAND

SO COUNCIL...

Council understands that the productivity of our region is based on our rural economy.

Council has readily supported the retention of the farming population and the maintenance and enhancement of farming productivity.

Applications under the NSW State Government's Fixing Country Road Program has 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 and freight pinch points.

Council also supported the Rural Financial Counselling Service and the Riverina Joint Organisation's Drought Committee during the past term.

Our participation in REROC and the development of the Regional Freight Transport Plan have provided a strategic approach to the movement of freight and Councils response to maintenance of capital work to support this. It has also lead to the advocacy and support to implement improvements to some of the identified pinch points.

Council also participated in the farm gate access trial that aims to support the improved movement of agricultural produce and remove the last mile issues.



WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE OUR COMMUNITIES 2030 VISION

To ensure that leadership is sustained
within the community

THE COMMUNITY SAID...

OPPORTUNITIES
IDENTIFIED FOR
DIVERSIFIED
COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP,
INTER-
GENERATIONAL
LEADERSHIP AND
TRANSITION OF
YOUTH INTO
LEADERSHIP
ROLES

COUNCIL AS AN
ORGANISATION IS
CONSULTATIVE,
PARTICIPATORY,
ENCOURAGING
AND WELL
MANAGED.

SO COUNCIL..

Our most important resource is our people and we aim to facilitate and encourage all members of our community to participate and be heard. Whilst we understand that consensus cannot be achieved on all issues, everyone's voice adds to the discussion process.

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.

Council now broadcast the monthly Council meeting online, allowing members of the community to listen to meeting proceedings.

SO COUNCIL...

Encourages two-way communication with the community regarding Council's activities, including the ongoing establishment of Advance Committees, annual tour with community members, regular social media posts and interactions 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.

Council sees participation in regional relationships and strategic networks as not only beneficial but necessary for the Coolamon Shire. Membership of REROC, Riverina Joint Organisation, 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.

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THE COMMUNITY SAID...

COUNCIL AS AN
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MANAGED.

Council understands that local governance is critical to protect our communities and resources. This is best maintained by ensuring we remain financially viable and sustainable.

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.

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

The large majority of residents (82%) receive their information about Council activities through the Council monthly newsletters.

Many residents now also engage with Council online via Facebook (31%) and website (29%)

COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Most residents (57%) were satisfied with Council's consultation with the local community.

The most common forms of consultation undertaken by Coolamon residents were contacting Council directly (65%) and speaking to Councillors (42%)



**RESIDENTS WERE
ASKED TO RATE
WHETHER THE
SERVICES AND
FACILITIES PROVIDED
BY COUNCIL WERE
VALUE FOR
MONEY IN TERMS OF
WHAT THEIR
HOUSEHOLD PAYS IN
RATES AND OTHER
COUNCIL CHARGES
IN TOTAL, 61% RATED
THE SERVICES AND
FACILITIES PROVIDED
BY COUNCIL AS VERY
GOOD VALUE FOR
MONEY**

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To ensure that leadership is sustained
within the community

THE COMMUNITY SAID...

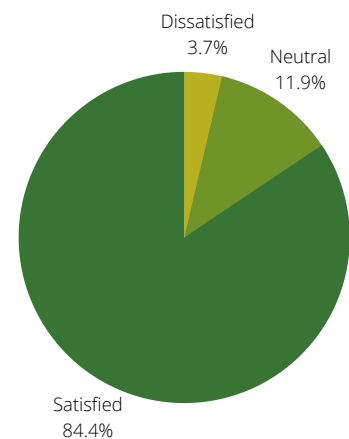
WORKING
TOGETHER TO
SUSTAIN CIVIC
PRIDE IN OUR
TOWNS AND
VILLAGES.

We understand that the appearance of our main entries, streets and parks are important in providing both civic pride and visitor enjoyment. Council supports this through a number of means, heritage grants, parks and gardens maintenance and supporting initiatives like Clean Up Australia Day.

Council has actively encouraged vibrant and vital communities displaying civic pride. Council respects the work done by past Councils in making the Coolamon Shire a place people love to live. Ongoing investment in Council's Parks and Gardens, alongside support for community events demonstrate in a tangible way that the Coolamon Shire is a proud community. Council believes that supporting and facilitating community events, fosters an important sense of community and civic pride.

WHICH HAS RESULTED IN...

Community satisfaction with
appearance of public areas



"MY WIFE AND I VISITED YOUR TOWN FOR THE FIRST TIME, WHILST STAYING IN WAGGA WAGGA. FROM THE TIME WE DROVE INTO COOLAMON, UNTIL WE LEFT, A NUMBER OF HOURS LATER, WE WERE BOTH AMAZED AND DELIGHTED TO OBSERVE THE EXCEPTIONAL STANDAR OF TIDINESS AND CIVIC PRIDE THAT WAS EVIDENT EVERYWHERE"

- BARRY (CANBERRA)

THIS TERM HAS SEEN CHALLENGING AND DEMANDING TIMES, THAT HAVE IMPACTED OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY IN MANY WAYS.

WE HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY BOTH DROUGHT AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. UNDER THIS BACKDROP, COUNCIL HAS WORKED HARD TO MAINTAIN ITS SERVICE PROVISION AND TO ACT RESPONSIBLY TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE ONGOING RAMIFICATIONS OF THESE EVENTS.

THE NEXT TERM WILL SEE OUR COMMUNITY EMERGE FROM THE UNPRECEDENTED IMPACTS ON SOCIETY THAT NEED TO BE MANAGED RESPONSIBLY. THE RESTRICTIONS PUT IN PLACE FOR OUR SAFETY DURING THE PANDEMIC HAVE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE, AN IMPACT ON OUR LOCAL ECONOMY. COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE TO ROLL OUT WORKS PROGRAMS THAT STIMULATE AND PROTECT OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES. COUNCIL INTENDS TO MAINTAIN A FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE APPROACH TO OUR EXISTING SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE, WHILST CONTINUALLY SEEKING TO UNDERTAKE CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS TO IMPROVE ON SERVICES PROVIDED AND TO ENSURE THEIR ONGOING SUSTAINABILITY INTO THE FUTURE.



WHAT'S NEXT

COOLAMON SHIRE COUNCIL IS EXCITED FOR THE NEXT TERM OF COUNCIL AND TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MAJOR PROJECTS

COMPLETION OF THE COOLAMON BUSINESS PARK

MATONG HALL REDEVELOPMENT

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN REVIEW

SHIRE WIDE TOWN ENTRY SIGN REDEVELOPMENT

FUTURE RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISIONS

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN REVIEW

ADVOCATE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE COOLAMON GANMAIN MEDICAL SERVICE

LED STREET LIGHTING UPGRADE

COMPLETION OF RE:STORE HERITAGE SIGNAGE PROJECT





CLR JOHN SEYMOUR OAM
MAYOR



CLR BRUCE HUTCHEON
DEPUTY MAYOR



CLR KERRILEE LOGAN



CLR DAVID MCCANN OAM



CLR KATHY MASLIN



CLR ALAN WHITE



CLR JEREMY CROCKER



CLR COLIN MCKINNON



CLR STEVEN JONES

ENDORSEMENT

As Councillors, we are proud of the positive changes we have been a part of for our communities.

The last term of Council has spanned five (5) years and included many challenges. Some of these were outside our control and involved droughts, fire and COVID-19, whilst others were dealing with new approaches to governance such as Fit for the Future and Joint Organisations.

Throughout this term Coolamon Shire has remained focused on being financially viable and sustainable. We believe that local governance is important and in order to achieve this we must be able to service our community whilst still seeking to prosper and grow.

This means a commitment to ensuring we can manage our assets and provide the services that the communities need.

Our term has been both challenging and rewarding. We thank the community for the confidence, trust and support they have provided, allowing us to undertake the reported achievements.