



2020/2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This last financial year has been dominated by the COVID Pandemic and Council's response. Whilst physically the pandemic has not yet reached our communities, how we have been operating and the actions we have taken reflect the impact and consequences that it has had on all aspects of our operations.

Whilst it has changed how we interact with our communities, the reality is that as a Local Government Area we have continued to roll out grant funded programmes in order to stimulate our local economies.

From a financial prospective we had an operating profit of \$3.804 Million with the net operating result before grants and contributions being \$1.408 Million.

All of the performance ratios used by the State Government to measure Council's operations have been exceeded with the one exception of own source income. This is a difficult measure to reach, particularly for rural and regional Councils that are currently rolling out the government grants.

The postponement of Elections to December 2021 has impacted the Council term and pushed out normal reporting requirements, in particular the End of Term Report and the new Community Strategic Plan. These will now be undertaken and provided in the next Annual Report.

In order to ensure Coolamon Shire maintains its local governance, we will continue to operate a physically responsible budget that provides adequate and appropriate infrastructure and resources to the community.

As the last year for this term of Council, there will be some changes to Council representation and a handover to the next elected body. As Councillors we have all been proud to represent our Shire and thank the people for their confidence and support in the work we do.



John Seymour
MAYOR



Tony Donoghue
GENERAL MANAGER

GENERAL INFORMATION

Council Headquarters:

Physical Address:	Shire Hall, 55 Cowabbie Street, Coolamon, 2701
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Telephone:	(02) 6930 1800
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Office Hours:

General Business	8.30am to 5.00pm
Cashier	8.30am to 4.30pm

Elected Members:

Mayor:	Clr. John Seymour	0427 275 144
Deputy Mayor:	Clr Bruce Hutcheon	0427 273 439
Councillors:	Clr Jeremy Crocker	0428 273 361
	Clr Steve Jones	0487 782 269
	Clr Kerrilee Logan	0427 276 377
	Clr Kathy Maslin	0427 783 810
	Clr Dave McCann	0427 273 044
	Clr Colin McKinnon	0427 279 123
	Clr Alan White	0428 698 204

Senior Staff:

General Manager:	Mr Tony Donoghue	0427 273 694
Executive Manager, Corporate & Community Services:	Mrs Courtney Armstrong	0428 314 787
Executive Manager, Engineering & Technical Services:	Mr Tony Kelly	0428 266 104
Executive Manager, Development & Environmental Services:	Mr Colby Farmer	0437 663 673

Meetings:

Council conducts the majority of its business in an open forum, with the only exceptions being those matters pertaining to staff, litigation, and the private business of individuals where confidentiality has been requested. However, all such decisions are ratified in Open Council.

Ordinary Meetings of Council are held on the third Thursday of every month commencing at 3.00pm and generally conclude around 6.00pm. The general public are welcome to attend.

Should there be any need to change the meeting date or call for a meeting due to special circumstances, then Council will comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act in this regard. This will include notification in the Council Newsletter where possible.

Agendas are available at the office during business hours and in addition will be provided during the meeting. The Business Agenda for each meeting is prepared on the second Wednesday of each month, and any person wishing to bring a matter before Council should lodge it with the General Manager by that day.

Minutes of Council meetings are published in the week following the Council meeting and are available to the public at the Council Chambers or online on Council's website www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DELIVERY PROGRAM & OPERATIONAL PLAN

Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that Council's prepare an 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 performance during the 2020/2021 year with respect to the Delivery Program Actions are detailed below

THEME 1 SUSTAINING "OUR CLOSE-KNIT SHIRE COMMUNITIES"

Objective 1.1: A maintenance of community values with any growth in population.

1.1.1 Foster and build community partnerships and networks

Support local community organisations.

Progress Report:

Council continued to actively support local community organisations, including Council's Section 355 Committees during the 2020/2021 year.

Donations were made to all Schools throughout the Shire towards their annual prize giving celebrations.

Council continued to administer the Coolamon Shire Community Benefit fund providing financial assistance to Shire residents affected by emergency situations.

Council supported the Coolamon Chronicle, Ardlethan Kelpie Bark and the Ganmain Guardian in the production of their monthly newsletters.

Council continued to administer the bookings of Raffles and Street Stalls on behalf of the communities of Coolamon and Ganmain.

1.1.2 Encourage volunteerism within all age groups for social support, recreational pursuits and community services and activities.

Volunteer base to be maintained and expanded.

Progress Report:

Volunteerism has continued to be encouraged by Council in its monthly newsletter.

Council continues to provide training to its volunteers to ensure that they are adequately equipped to pursue their passion of serving their communities.

Council continued to support the Coolamon Lions Club with their recycling program with provision of premises and by subsidising the transportation of the recyclable materials.

1.1.3 Promote awareness of the Shire's opportunities to new and existing residents.

Provide information and resources to shire communities so that new residents can be welcomed and informed.

Progress Report:

Council's websites, Resident's Guide and monthly newsletters continue to inform old and new residents of the various services available, both Council and Community.

Council has continued to market Allawah Retirement Village, Allawah Community Care, Allawah Lodge and the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre so that prospective residents can consider the Coolamon Shire as an alternate place to reside with the employment and service possibilities that these assets bring to the Shire.

Council continued to participate in the marketing campaigns to encourage people to consider the Coolamon Shire as an alternative place to live and work.

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

1.2.1 Provide access to facilities, services and information to support families, youth and seniors including the provision of child care facilities and respite services.

To provide childcare services that meets the needs of the Community.

To provide a full range of Community Services to the frail, aged and disabled persons within the community within the constraints of Grants provided by State and Federal Governments.

To promote services and access to services for people with diverse cultural, socially isolated and linguistic backgrounds where a need has been identified.

To ensure that the needs of young people in the Coolamon Shire are identified and met within financial constraints.

That Council continue to provide accommodation for those persons with particular needs which will ensure that they continue to reside within those communities.

To assist frail aged and disabled persons to continue to reside with dignity in their local Communities.

Progress Report:

Council continues to meet department licensing requirements relating to the operations of the Ardlethan Preschool and Coolamon Early Childhood Centre.

Extension & alterations to Coolamon Early Childhood Centre funded by Drought Communities Program were completed during the reporting period.

Provision of premises for the operation of the Coolamon and Ganmain Preschools continued in accordance with the established lease arrangements between the individual committees and Council.

Council continued to provide services to frail aged persons from Allawah Community Care including meals, transport, home maintenance & modifications and home care packages. Council's aged services are being further enhanced to support a holistic approach to the delivery of services by linking home care services through to Council's residential aged care services.

Council continues to address the needs of young people within the Shire by the ongoing employment of Council's Community Development Officer.

Council's operation of its residential aged care facility, Allawah Lodge, 24 Unit Retirement Village, together with the provision of an additional 22 units for aged people across the shire ensures that people of varying financial and health capacity have residential options within their own communities as they age.

1.2.2 Provide protection from crime, fire, anti-social activities and other threats to community safety.

To provide professional, effective and cost efficient responses to all emergency incidents within the Shire in accordance with Service Level Agreement between Council and RFS.

To provide efficient and effective measures for the prevention and mitigation of fire impact on the local Community through effective planning initiatives, fuel management strategies, fire trail maintenance, and the continual assessment of bushfire risk across the District.

To provide support to the Local State Emergency Services Group and ensuring they are capable of responding in an adequate manner to all emergency situations.

To minimise and control the public nuisance effect of straying stock and animals.

To develop and implement projects that address local road safety issues.

Lobby for adequate local police working presence.

The preservation and enhancement of public health by regulating and inspecting all premises and vehicles used for the preparation, storage, delivery and sale of food and refreshments.

Address social standards and values in particular growing issues of alcohol abuse and vandalism

Provide support for NSW Fire & Rescue.

Progress Report:

Council continued to support emergency services through the payment of levies to support the State Emergency Service, Fire & Rescue NSW and the NSW Rural Fire Service. Council continued to provide premises for the local State Emergency Services and NSW Rural Fire Service.

Council remained a member of the Riverina Zone of the Rural Fire Service over the past year. Ongoing monitoring of service level and fire plans ensures that Council is happy with the service that is provided by the Zone to the communities of the Coolamon Shire. Council provides administrative services to the Riverina Zone of the Rural Fire Service at a fee. Council continued to make representations to the State Government regarding the engagement of Local Government in the financial management of the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Council's ranger has continued to take the necessary action in relation to straying stock and animals to ensure the risk is minimised within Council's service standard when reports were received.

Council continues to ensure that the Companion Animals Act is followed in regard to registration and take any necessary action in relation to noise complaints and dangerous dogs.

Council maintained representation at meetings with the NSW Police Force and the lines of communication between local police and Council have been retained. Council continues to make representations to have an increased permanent and operating policing presence in the rural areas of the Shire.

Council staff continue to monitor and enforce where necessary all public health regulations including annual Food Shop inspections.

Council's established Alcohol Free Zones are due for renewal in November 2023. Council continues to monitor incidence of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Council continued to support the Coolamon Shire Community Drug Action Team.

Coolamon Shire Council together with the owners of the licensed premises have commenced a Liquor Accord that discusses and implements proactive programmes to curb anti-social behaviour.

Coolamon Shire Council together with the Councils of Temora Shire, Junee Shire and Bland Shire engage a Road Safety Officer in conjunction with Transport for NSW to implement road safety initiatives. Council staff continue to play a lead role in REROC's Regional Infrastructure Plan that identifies transport barriers including those related to safety.

1.2.3 Provide and maintain safe and serviceable public facilities and infrastructure including roads, footpaths, and stormwater drains.

To ensure that all land and buildings owned and controlled by Council are maintained in an appropriate manner and utilised for their designated and appropriate community purpose.

Ensure that all aspects of Council's Cemetery operations are carried out in an appropriate and dignified manner with due respect and accuracy.

To continue to maintain the existing public conveniences in a clean and tidy manner.

To provide an overall system of management that allows Community Committees to control their own Halls in accordance with their needs and requirements.

To ensure all urban roads within all communities are sealed or where unsealed are maintained via a system of programmed management.

To ensure that a quality sealed rural road system is in existence throughout the Shire.

To provide a quality unsealed rural road network throughout the Shire.

The provision and maintenance of a safe and adequate footpath system in close proximity to the commercial areas and public facilities of all communities.

To provision and maintenance of a suitable stormwater system inclusive of an adequate kerb and gutter network.

The provision of an adequate system of Street Lighting to all developed commercial and residential areas of the towns and villages.

Progress Report:

Council's Asset and Risk Inspections of assets has continued during the reporting year. Maintenance has been carried out subject to financial constraints. Annual fire inspections of Council's designated buildings were undertaken with the appropriate report and certification provided by the contractor.

Council's maintenance staff continued the program of maintenance at the various cemeteries and all burials and plaque requests were completed within the designated time frames.

Council's existing public conveniences were cleaned in accordance with the cleaning schedule as agreed to with Council contractors. Public conveniences located in Lions Park, Coolamon, continue to be closed to the public after daylight hours.

Council continued its support of the various Section 355 Committees in their operations of control and maintenance of their halls. Construction of the Ardlethan Museum was completed during the

reporting period utilising funding from Stronger Country Communities Fund and Drought Communities Program.

The maintenance of Council's sealed and un-sealed roads continued over the past twelve months.

Road inspections continue to be carried out on a regular basis. This together with Council's road hierarchical plan which has been considered by Council during this reporting period provides Council with direction for the maintenance upkeep of its road infrastructure.

Regular inspections of Council's stormwater network are being undertaken. Income raised via Stormwater Management Annual Charges will be utilized to support maintenance and asset management of the stormwater management network.

Council continues to liaise with Essential Energy to ensure that the street lighting system is adequately maintained throughout the villages and towns of the Shire. Council through RERO is participating in the Southern Lights Project relating to street lighting in an effort to attain financial gains, environmental improvements and smart technology installations.

1.2.4 Provide and maintain efficient sewerage systems that allow for required expansion.

To provide, maintain and operate a sewage disposal system and treatment works that meets the needs of the Coolamon and Ganmain Communities and to continue monitoring the developing areas in respect of the need for sewerage extensions.

Progress Report:

Council has continued to meet all of its licensing requirements in relation to the Coolamon and Ganmain sewerage systems.

The a business case relating to the upgrade of the Coolamon Sewerage Treatment Works was adopted during the reporting period.

1.2.5 Investigate implementation of new cost effective sewerage systems where required by environmental pressures and/or by community desire.

Construct sewerage scheme in the township of Ardlethan

Progress Report:

Construction of the Ardlethan Sewerage Scheme including reticulation, sewerage treatment plant and pump station was completed during the reporting period.

1.2.6 Investigate provision of improved, more integrated public and community transport within the Shire.

Support the provision of improved public transport within the Shire.

Progress Report:

The majority of public transport is administered and controlled by State Government Agencies. The tyranny of distance and cost means limited access to the communities of the Coolamon Shire. Council will continue to lobby State Government to gain greater access in rural areas.

Council continues to run the Community Transport Programme providing assistance to the frail, aged and disadvantaged.

1.2.7 Support appropriate healthcare providers within the Shire and greater region.

Support the provision of adequate health services to the whole Shire.

Progress Report:

Council continued to provide professional accommodation in Coolamon and Ganmain for the local Medical Practitioner together with accommodation for other health related practitioners.

Council will continue to lobby to ensure that both the Coolamon Ambulance and Ardlethan Ambulance stations are adequately resourced to meet the needs of the Shire.

1.2.8 Improve physical access to shops and other buildings for the elderly and disabled.

Support local businesses with improvements to the access to their premises.

Progress Report:

Council provides appropriate advice to businesses on access requirements to their premises when so requested.

Council continues to work through access issues identified in the Active Transport Study that has ongoing works completed.

1.2.9 Develop and implement an education strategy.

Ensure the maintenance and enhancement of existing educational facilities within the Shire.

Progress Report:

Residents of the Shire have secondary education to Higher School Certificate level in Ardlethan and Coolamon and there is easy access to the Wagga Campus of TAFE and Charles Sturt University via Council's Road Network.

Council has successfully engaged a school based trainee at the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre and at the Coolamon Library in tourism.

1.2.10 Extend improved access to telecommunication and broadband services.

Support the provision of equitable telecommunication and broadband services for all residents of the Shire.

Progress Report:

Council has continued to pursue opportunities for increasing the mobile coverage for all areas within the Shire.

Council continued to be in negotiation with the National Broadband Network (NBN) as part of their roll out across the nation. Several towers have been built within the Shire to increase access to the Network, as well as the location of infrastructure on the existing tower in Coolamon owned by Council.

Objective 1.3: A lifestyle with diverse entertainment, recreation and cultural opportunities.

1.3.1 Create opportunities to participate in active and healthy recreational activities.

Support sporting organisations with the retention of their assets.

Progress Report:

Council continued to manage a number of facilities as trustee including showgrounds, community reserves and walking tracks.

Council Staff have continued to monitor the use of the Coolamon Skate Park and the Mobile Skate Park and the mobile pump track have been rotated around the Shire.

The use of recycled water on the sporting fields of Kindra Park, the Coolamon Touch fields and the Coolamon Golf Course is continuing, allowing residents to participate in the various sporting activities, with extension to the scheme to various parks, gardens and reserves within the township of Coolamon.

Council's Section 355 Committee to manage the multi-purpose trail which has grown to be an extensive network of bike and walking trails around Coolamon and Ganmain.

1.3.2 Provide innovative and enhanced library services that encourage lifelong learning.

To continue to provide a Mobile Library Service, in order to satisfy the information, cultural, educational and recreational needs of residents.

Continued operation of static library in Coolamon.

Progress Report:

The Riverina Regional Library's Mobile Library continues to service the north of the Shire whilst the static library provided in Coolamon, services the southern region ensuring that Library services can be accessible to all residents. In addition to this, Council in conjunction with local primary schools offers bulk borrowing system on a term-by-term basis.

Council has received no complaints about the operations of either its mobile library or static library services.

School Holiday Programmes together with fortnightly Story Time sessions are also held at the Library.

1.3.3 Support and promote arts, artists and cultural development within the local community.

Implement initiatives that will develop and maintain a vibrant and creative community, involved in cultural activities

Provide appropriate guidance for community organisations in identifying funding sources for cultural events.

To promote the celebration & awareness of Australia Day.

Support local community activities.

Council acknowledge Aboriginal Culture.

Progress Report:

The Up-to-Date Cultural Centre has been used for art exhibitions, antique auctions and continues to be utilised for library operations.

Council continues to sponsor the Up-2-Date Art Exhibition with awarding of the “Coolamon Shire Council Acquisition Prize”. This is awarded to eligible local Artists who reside in the Coolamon Shire Council Local Government Area. Council also supports the Coolamon Shire Photographic Competition – “Capture Coolamon”.

Letters of support have been provided to community organisations when seeking grant funding.

Council continued its membership of the Eastern Riverina Arts Programme, with Council’s Community Development Officer establishing a working relationship with the organisation.

Successful Australia Day 2021 event was held in Coolamon with Marrar nominated to hold the 2022 event.

Council’s Tourism and Business Development Manager supported a number of local community organisations/individuals in preparing for and conducting events including the production of seasonal marketing campaigns and the management of the events marketing fund.

Due to COVID pandemic the “Coolamon New Year Eve Party” was not held, Council instead providing a “fireworks at home” event and “Christmas Lights Competition & Tour” for residents to enjoy.

The community has access to Council venues for arranged community activities.

1.3.4 Provide attractive, accessible and safe parks, recreational and other public places.

To provide a safe and secure swimming pool facility in the towns of Ardlethan, Coolamon and Ganmain.

To provide parks and gardens that are aesthetically attractive and are available for passive recreational pursuits.

To implement an Urban Tree Management Plan and Tree Removal Programme that is both aesthetically attractive and ensures that Council’s civil infrastructure is not damaged by such plantings. Furthermore, that the assets of Essential Energy are given consideration during the implementation of the programme.

Progress Report:

Throughout the swimming season all pools operated satisfactorily with water standards being adhered to. Pool lessees were trained in Pool Supervisors Course prior to the commencement of the swimming season.

Council has received no complaints about the standard of its parks and gardens with ongoing maintenance and management undertaken in accordance with Council’s Parks, Gardens & Reserves Management Plan

Inspections have been carried out on the playground equipment.

Staff have continued with tree planting throughout the urban areas of the Shire. Incorporated in with this tree planting has been a tree lopping/maintenance program.

1.3.5 Preserve and promote local history and heritage.

To enhance & promote local cultural heritage within the Shire to create benefit for the community

Progress Report:

Council continued to receive funding for the engagement of a Heritage Advisor and for the Local Heritage Fund.

Funding was allocated under the 2020/2021 Local Heritage Places Funding program.

Council continues to check funding opportunities to ensure that the local history and heritage can be promoted and preserved in the most appropriate manner.

1.3.6 Provide appropriate guidance for sports clubs in writing grant applications

Provide appropriate guidance for sports clubs in identifying funding sources.

Progress Report:

Council provided letters of support to sporting and community groups when requested and provided information relating to various grant opportunities as the arose.

1.3.7 Encourage cycling and walking, through developing tracks and paths

Establish "need-based" tracks and paths within the Shire

Progress Report:

Application under the "Active Transport" funding program were made for future projects as detailed in Council's adopted Active Transport Plan (PAMPS & Cycleways).

Council through the Section 355 Committee maintain the Kindra Park walking and mountain bike trail.

1.3.8 Identify an appropriate annual or periodic event that could attract visitors to the Shire and encourage community leaders to plan and deliver the event.

Support local communities with endeavours to hold events that attract visitors.

Progress Report:

Council Events Management Strategy and event manual are available as a reference guide for event co-ordinators. Council has also provided support where necessary in relation to Risk Management.

Council allocated funds under the Event Funding Program during the reporting period.

Council participated in the various marketing campaigns and the Canola Trail partnership to increase the profile of the Coolamon Shire as a place to visit.

THEME 2 SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITIES OF THE SHIRE

Objective 2.1: Adaptation to climate variability.

2.1.1 Monitor and strategically manage environmental risks and impacts of climate variability. *Prepare the Coolamon Shire community for a changing climate*

Progress Report:

Council has previously completed a Climate Change Strategy in conjunction with Statewide Mutual and considers these outcomes in its strategic planning.

2.1.2 Develop community leadership on becoming leaders in resource use, reuse and recycling. *Develop leadership on becoming energy efficient including carbon capture, water recycling and solar efficiency* *Secure sustainable, affordable supplies of water and use our water even more wisely.* *Encourage efficient water usage by Shire communities.* *Encourage solar energy usage by Shire communities.*

Progress Report:

Council now has solar panels installed at a number facilities with the onsite production of electricity helping to offset Council's use of grid power. Investigations continue to determine the use of panels at other Council sites.

Effluent re-use water continued to be distributed to sporting organizations and parks, gardens and reserves in the township of Coolamon. This distribution is after adequate and appropriate dosing of the water to meet Public Health guidelines.

Council has power saving kits available at the Coolamon Library to enable residents to identify potential energy savings within their homes, thus helping the environment.

Council staff continued to source and investigate energy saving technologies and make changes to energy use practices.

Objective 2.2: Our rich heritage and natural environment character conserved.

2.2.1 Protect natural landscapes and systems in particular our native vegetation, biodiversity and Murrumbidgee River catchment through sharing regional responsibilities. *To protect the local environment or assist in maximising productivity of prime agricultural land by the removal of infestation of noxious plants.* *To ensure all septic tanks throughout the Shire are operating in accordance with the minimum requirements of the Local Government Regulations, Public Health guidelines and industry standards.* *To develop an environment that is sustainable for future generations in terms of visual attractiveness and pollution free.* *To operate the quarrying service to Council's programmes in an environmentally sensitive manner.* *To ensure the protection of natural vegetation on Council controlled land.*

Progress Report:

Council continues to maintain the service agreement in conjunction with the Temora and Junee Shire for the control of noxious weeds.

The ongoing spraying of noxious weeds has been carried out on the various areas identified with infestations.

There has been no environmental damage reported from construction sites in the area.

Council has in place two voluntary conservation agreements for the preservation of native vegetation. Council continues to comply with these agreements.

Council continues to monitor the tree corridors that were planted in conjunction with the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority.

Council maintains the appropriate approvals to undertake quarrying activities. Council staff continue to investigate potential sites for future quarrying activities. Council staff have determined the potential rehabilitation requirements of quarries and continue to work on recommendations relating to the closure, rehabilitation and ongoing operation of quarries across the shire.

2.2.2 Encourage and ensure high quality planning and urban design outcomes.

To provide a Planning Instrument that ensures all land within the Shire is developed in an appropriate manner and reflects the rural nature of the communities.

Ensure that all building activity within the Coolamon Shire meets the requirements of the EP&A Act and the Local Government Act 1993.

Progress Report:

Council has in place a comprehensive Development Control Plan and Contributions Plan to supplement its Local Environmental Plan. Council staff continue to review the plans to ensure that the documents continue to promote good quality development outcomes within the Shire.

Council has received no complaints in relation to building activity carried out within the area.

Inspections are carried out and the assessment and approval time is meeting expectations, with all building inspection staff maintaining accreditation with the Building Professional Board.

2.2.3 Protect local heritage and residential amenity, including protection of significant architecture, Indigenous heritage and the natural environment.

Identify, protect, enhance and celebrate all significant Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage sites

Maintain our heritage through ensuring that development and restoration of shops and buildings is compatible with the heritage value of the surrounding area(s)

Progress Report:

Funding was allocated under the Local Heritage Places for the restoration and improvement of heritage assets within the Shire. This together with the engagement of a Heritage Advisor ensures that the heritage value of the Shire is maintained and enhanced.

Part of the assessment process of all Development Applications within identified areas of heritage significance ensures compliance with any heritage issues.

Grant funding has been received for the continued employment of a Heritage Advisor.

2.2.4 Reduce our waste to landfill through effective waste management & recycling.

The effective collection of all household garbage from within the defined scavenging areas in a regular and clean manner.

Minimise landfill disposal methods whilst still maintaining effective garbage depots within the Shire that are safe, environmentally friendly and effectively managed.

Progress Report:

Council continues to collect household garbage and recyclables from defined areas within the Shire. Recycling is transferred to a recycling operation in Cootamundra and continues to ensure that the landfill sites have extended useful lives.

Council continues to collect organics recycling for residences within the townships of Coolamon and Ganmain with the organic materials being composted at one of Council's landfill sites into a reusable product.

Council staff have developed a Coolamon Landfill Site Masterplan that will inform discussions and investigations on the future of the Landfill site and transfer station options.

Environmental Protection Licence is maintained with NSW EPA for the organics processing at the Coolamon Landfill Site to ensure that Council meets its legislative licencing requirements.

THEME 3 SUSTAINING OUR STRONG RURAL BASED ECONOMY

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

3.1.1 Promote and support existing and new business investment within the Shire to take advantage of the Shire's access to Wagga Wagga, the Bomen Industrial Estate, Junee, and Temora.

Council support the promotion of businesses within the Shire.

Provide high quality infrastructure to support the investment by businesses within the Shire

Encourage the development or relocation of employment generating industries within the Shire.

Progress Report:

Council has continued with the provision of a dedicated Tourism and Business website for the Shire. Council continues to partnership with the Junee Shire and Temora Shire Councils as part of the Canola Trail. Council continues close ties with Department of Premier & Cabinet and Regional Development Australia Riverina for the benefit of businesses within the Shire.

Council continues strong relationships with the Wagga Business Enterprise Centre to offer services, workshops and events to Businesses within the Shire.

Council made an application under the Regional Growth fund to capitalize on the location of Coolamon and the need for light industrial areas within the Shire and was advised of funding under the NSW Government's Grant Stimulus Package to undertake these works. Council purchased land from Transport for NSW and planning works continued during the reporting period.

Council participates in various marketing campaigns which promotes the Riverina has a place to relocate to, this encourages new businesses and employment opportunities.

Council has a 'Visit Coolamon Shire' Instagram, Facebook and Website which showcases businesses and business initiatives/programs. Regular email communication is distributed to businesses to update them on Council information and programs.

3.1.2 Foster and build partnerships with tertiary institutions (TAFE and CSU) to increase access to knowledge and skills within the Shire and the region to benefit shire businesses.

To advertise training available throughout the Shire.

Progress Report:

Council makes available facilities to training providers when requested.

Traineeships have been offered in various positions within Council's workforce including aged care and child care.

Council continued liaison with local central schools regarding opportunities for school based traineeships and as a result engaged a school based trainee at the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre and at the Coolamon Shire Library in tourism.

3.1.3 Develop and implement initiatives to promote the local and regional economy.

Refer Strategy 3.1.1

3.1.4 Focus development within the Shire to avoid unnecessary duplication of public services and facilities.

Emphasise the importance of consolidating Council's resources to defined focal points

To provide fully serviced residential land at a reasonable purchase price from Council's land bank.

Progress Report:

Council continues to focus on maintaining Coolamon as the Shire headquarters and Ardlethan as the northern entry point to the Shire. Council's long-term strategy is to provide residential subdivisions on the northern side of Coolamon Township. Council staff continue to develop "strategic plans" for the towns and villages detailing infrastructure requirements.

Council maintains investment in an additional landbank in Coolamon that will be available for development in the future.

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

3.2.1 Promote the "Visit Coolamon Shire" branding to focus on the unique identity of the Shire and its towns and villages.

Promote the Coolamon Shire as a place to work and live.

Proactively communicate the community and council's achievements and events to the wider community

Progress Report:

Council continues to advertise the benefits of the Allawah Community Care, Allawah Retirement Village, Allawah Lodge and the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre together with other promotions of the Coolamon Shire.

Continued contact with media outlets such as newspapers, radio and television has been maintained and used its website and Facebook to communicate events and achievements.

The "Capture Coolamon" Photographic competition once again focused on capturing photographic images that were taken in the Coolamon Shire. These photographs will form a database from which Council can choose images to help promote and advertise the Coolamon Shire as an alternative place to live and a great place to visit.

Photographers are engaged at local events to capture events and the community atmosphere which are then used through print and online marketing.

3.2.2 Maintain and update initiatives to attract tourists.

To encourage visitation and generally promote the area.

To provide a Caravan Park in Ardlethan and Coolamon that constitutes a basic level of service/short term accommodation to the travelling community.

Improve the signage throughout our towns and villages

Progress Report:

The ongoing update of the Coolamon Shire Residents Guide continues.

Council staff have maintained a working relationship with Destination Riverina Murray during the reporting period and was a member of the Wagga Tourism group.

Council continues to support the operators of the Visitor Information Centre in Coolamon.

Council staff has continued to source funding opportunities for the further stages at the Coolamon Caravan Park. Council finalised an extension to the overnight stay area in Ardlethan.

Council's seasonal events brochures and Council's involvement in the "Canola Trail" and other marketing programs help to encourage day and longer term visitation to the Shire as well as promoting the area generally.

Council continues to promote and grow our social media presence – Visit Coolamon Shire. Events, attractions and things to see and do are showcased throughout the year.

Council continues to monitor signage needs and appropriateness. Following a thorough review of signage for remote supervision was undertaken with new signage was installed during the reporting period.

Objective 3.3: Sustained viability of our farming land.

3.3.1 Identify opportunities, programs and funding to maintain and or enhance farming productivity and support the retention of farming population.

Identify opportunities, programs and funding available for maintaining farming productivity.

Investigate alternative farming initiatives suitable to the area and climate.

Progress Report:

The Rural Financial Counselling Service has been servicing the Coolamon Shire Local Government Area from the Rural Transaction Centre in Ganmain.

Council staff represented the Shire on the REROC's Adverse Events Working Party.

3.3.2 Determine the green economic opportunities available for farms to enter carbon offsets market.

Encourage farmers to investigate and undertake "green" economic opportunities.

Progress Report:

Council, as part of REROC, has been investigating various biodiversity opportunities.

THEME 4 WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE “OUR COMMUNITIES 2030” VISION

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

4.1.1 Encourage community leadership

*Provide development programs to grow capability in our current and prospective leaders.
Encourage involvement of respected community representatives in providing mentoring to youth.*

Progress Report:

Council’s Community Development Officer has implemented various youth and community programmes throughout the year.

Objective 4.2: Council as an organisation be consultative, participatory, encouraging and well managed.

4.2.1 Maintain two-way communication with the community and increase awareness of Council’s activities

*Involve the community in Council’s planning processes
Continue communication between Council and the Community.*

Progress Report:

Council continues to produce a monthly newsletter which is distributed to all residents of the Shire.

Community consultation with Council’s Advance Committees and a Communities tour was undertaken in February 2021 to aid in the preparation of the 2021/2022 Operational Plan and other forward planning documents.

Council’s website is updated on a regular basis, it provides information to all members of the public on Council activities and events.

Council Community Section 355 Committees continue to act as a conduit between Council and the communities that they represent in relation to the strategic direction of those communities and Council.

4.2.2 Work in partnership with the Shire’s community in planning the future of the Shire.

Development of long-term resourcing strategy, including long-term financial planning, workforce planning and asset planning to achieve the objectives of the Community Strategic Plan

To provide an effective staffing structure that is capable of carrying out Council’s objectives in an efficient manner.

The continued maintenance of a realistic Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Report to the community on the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan

Undertake community satisfaction surveys to gauge the community’s response to the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan.

Progress Report:

During the reporting period Council's Long Term Financial Plan was updated.

Council's operational procedures in relation to staff appraisals/assessments have been in place for a number of years and were completed within the required timeframes. Training programs for staff have been implemented in accordance with training requirements

Council staff continually assess the actions and activities detailed in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan to ensure that they are realistic and community focused. Ongoing reporting on both the Delivery Program (this report) and Quarterly Budget Review Statements inform Councillors on Council's capacity to deliver facilities and services.

Council's last Community Satisfaction Survey was completed in May 2021. The results of the survey will inform the development of a new Community Strategic Plan. Council will also utilise the results when developing the Delivery Program and Operational Plan each year.

4.2.3 Build and foster relationships and strategic networks to the benefit of the Coolamon Shire. *Participate with other councils in resource sharing projects to reduce operational costs*

Progress Report:

Council continues to participate in resource sharing projects with other Councils including projects managed by REROC, membership of Eastern Riverina Arts, Internal Audit Alliance, Noxious Weeds Authority, Riverina Zone of NSW Rural Fire Service and Canola Trail.

4.2.4 Maintain Council's strong financial position. *To ensure that Council's finances are managed in an effective and timely manner.*

Progress Report:

To continue to maintain sound finances, Council staff review investments and investment returns on a timely basis. Staff present monthly abridged financial reports along with Quarterly Budget Review Statements to assess performance against budgets. Various Financial Reports have been completed within the statutory time-frame and submitted to respective Government Departments.

4.2.5 Deliver high quality services that meet customer expectations. *Develop and implement Customer Service policies and procedures that are customer focused.*

Progress Report:

Council staff continue to comply with its Customer Service policy and the statement of business ethics is being adhered to.

No complaints have been received about the service Council has been providing.

4.2.6 Minimise risk for Council and the community.

Develop and implement a Risk Management System suitable for Council operations.

Develop and implement suitable internal audit process for Council operations.

To ensure consultation with respect to Work Health & Safety is carried out on a systematic basis.

To ensure that training, instruction and performance evaluation of relevant parties is carried out.

To ensure that Council's Accident/Injury/Public Liability Claims Management are administered in a competent manner.

To ensure that documentation & records management provide a framework for easy retrieval and reference.

Progress Report:

Council staff continually review and report in relation to the adopted Risk Management System. Senior Management receive a report regarding Risk Management activities at Executive Management Meetings. Council's Risk Management Committee continued to meet during the reporting period encompassing membership from Council's Works Staff, Allawah Lodge, Allawah Community Care and Coolamon Early Childhood Centre.

Council's involvement in the Internal Audit Alliance with the Junee Shire, Temora Shire, Bland Shire, Lockhart Shire and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Councils has continued during the reporting period. Council staff continue to keep abreast of the upcoming requirements in relation to the establishment of a mandated Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee.

Council staff continue to review all WHS documentation and processes. Council's Health & Safety Committee meets quarterly with recommendations presented to Council. Monthly reports regarding Council's Risk Management System are presented to Council's Senior Staff.

Council's Risk Management Committee encompassing all of Council's operations continues to meet to ensure there is a clear and identifiable link between staff and Senior Management decisions with respect to Council's overall Risk Management System.

Staff receive initial training and instruction on commencement, together with a copy of Council's induction booklet and policy familiarisation. Evaluation of performance is undertaken on an annual basis.

Training in the various areas is provided for work staff and staff within the other spheres of Council operations on a needs basis.

The review of Work Activity Statements is ongoing annually with the Work Activity Statements to be discussed at tool-box meetings. Council has in place an incident reporting system which is operating satisfactorily. Council staff continue to carry out risk assessment inspections with the necessary remedial action being performed where risks are identified.

Council staff comply with its Records Management Policy and Procedures and utilize CM9 as its Electronic Document Management System.

4.2.7 Strongly advocate our local interests with the State and Federal Government on issues such as planning and development, and the provision of services and facilities.
Strongly advocate our local interests with the State and Federal Governments.

Progress Report:

Council delegates have continued to lobby both State and Federal Politicians on issues that affect the local community during the reporting period, including participation in Round Table discussion with the Local State Member and Local Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Council's participation in RivJO has enabled ongoing representation to the State Government.

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

4.3.1 Encourage vibrant and vital towns and villages displaying our civic pride.
To provide and maintain a clean and pleasant streetscape.

Progress Report:

Streets in the central business district of the various towns have been cleaned in accordance with contract requirements. Rubbish has been collected and disposed of in accordance with designated practices and frequency. All the three major towns have well developed and planned central business districts.

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that the annual report in the year in which an ordinary election of councillors is held, must also report as to the council's achievements in implementing the community strategic plan over the previous 4 years.

Council's End of Term Report detail Council's achievements in implementing the "Our Communities 2030" Coolamon Shire Community Strategic Plan over the 2016-2021 period.

See [End of Term Report](#)

FINANCIAL & AUDIT REPORTS

Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that the annual report must contain a copy of the council's audited financial reports prepared in accordance with the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

Councils Financial Reports detail Council's financial performance and position for the year ended 30 June 2021.

A summary of the financial statements is provided below:

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Income Statement		
Total income from continuing operations	19,979	22,401
Total expenses from continuing operations	16,175	15,674
Operating result from continuing operations	3,804	6,727
Net operating result for the year	3,804	6,727
Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	1,408	790
Statement of Financial Position		
Total current assets	25,577	24,418
Total current liabilities	(12,874)	(11,776)
Total non-current assets	192,069	181,974
Total non-current liabilities	(529)	(564)
Total equity	204,243	193,872
Other financial information		
Unrestricted current ratio (times)	10.16x	10.19x
Operating performance ratio (%)	8.72%	3.63%
Debt service cover ratio (times)	217.46x	85.98%
Rates & annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	4.99%	4.90%
Building and infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	135.92%	91.30%
Own source operating revenue ration (%)	51.34%	42.18%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	24.89 months	25.54 months

A full copy of Council's 2020/2021 Financial Reports, including Independent Auditor's Reports on both the Financial Statements and on the Conduct of the Audit can be found on Council's website.

See: [Coolamon Shire Council 2020/2021 Financial Reports](#)

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Section 428A of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that the Annual Report of a Council in the year in which an ordinary election of councillors is to be held must include a report as to the State of the Environment in the local government area in relation to such environmental issues as may be relevant to the objectives for the environment established by the community strategic plan.

A local State of the Environment Report (SOE) is a document that provides a summary of the attributes of the local government environment and human impacts on the environment. It also provides a public record of the activities of the government (all levels), industry and the community in protecting and restoring the environment.

Local SOEs do not stand alone, and when integrated into Council planning and management cycles can:

- Provide the public, government and other decision makers with regular, scientifically sound information about the condition of the environment;
- Report on the effectiveness of policies and programs developed in response to environmental change, including highlighting the cumulative effects of individual projects and environmental pressures across catchments or the local areas;
- Assess progress towards achieving environmental standards and targets and ecological sustainability;
- Provide input into the development of long term, ecologically sustainable economic and social policies by all levels of government through integrating environmental information with social and economic information;
- Identify current and emerging environmental issues and important gaps in knowledge and data collection, and;
- Raise community awareness and understanding of their local environment and the contribution individuals make to environmental problems through their use of resources such as energy, water and production of waste. (State of Environment Guidelines 1999)

Through different tiers of Government there are currently a myriad of Environmental Reports that relate to this region. The Federal Government produce the National State of the Environment (SOE) Report, with the latest document being the 2011 SOE <https://www.environment.gov.au/science/soe> It should be noted that the upcoming 2021 report is currently being prepared and is due to be released in early 2022.

In addition, the NSW SOE Report is prepared every 3 years by the EPA under Section 10 of the Protection of the Environment Administration Act 1991. The most recent iteration of this report is 2018 and can be found at <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/media-releases/2019/epamedia190509-state-of-the-environment-2018>

Underneath this sit the State of the Catchments (SOC) Reports. The Murrumbidgee Region report was compiled in 2010 and it can be found at <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/soc/Murrumbidgee.htm>

As can be seen the overarching environmental factors relating to Biodiversity, water, land and community from a macro perspective have been considered and reported on. Since the last SOE Reporting period the NSW State Government has also developed and adopted the Riverina-Murray Regional Plan which identifies future strategies for the sustainability of natural resources within the Riverina-Murray Region. The four key goals for the region are:

- Goal 1: A growing and diverse economy
- Goal 2: A healthy environment with pristine waterways
- Goal 3: Efficient transport and infrastructure networks
- Goal 4: Strong, connected and healthy communities

The plan be accessed from <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/Riverina-Murray>

At a local government level, the Coolamon Shire Council is required to provide a report on the Environmental factors identified in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) to be included with the Annual Council Report. A more comprehensive report must be produced every four years to coincide with the start of a new Council period.

The first State of the Environment Report prepared by Council, identified the significant impacts the process of settlement and pioneering in this region had on the environment. This process created the rich and productive agricultural district that exists today.

The process also resulted in the displacement of indigenous cultures and the removal of native vegetation. As the farming districts grew and prospered, infrastructure followed that supported this. This road and rail infrastructure provided the opportunities for communities to develop throughout the region that supported the rural based economy.

As mentioned, this current base layer associated with the biological environment was laid down by the 1930's and 40's. Whilst there has been numerous improvements in technology, farming practices, attitudes etc., the land use has remained predominately the same.

The main impacts on this land use now are associated with Political, Technological, and Social changes.

- Political

Policy decisions by government authorities impact on how individual landowners or managers and therefore farming communities manage their land. For example, a move to free trade has required large scale machinery and production techniques to compete on a world market against other markets with lower labour costs. The result means aggregation of not only individual farms, but larger paddocks focussed on monocultural productivity.

This sees the removal of vegetated fence lines, individual paddock trees and a resulting lowering of biodiversity.

- Technology

Technological advancements together with the requirement to meet political policy, has seen huge increases and changes in how farmland is managed. Larger, faster machinery with the ability to reduce farm labour lead to a reduction in the rural population base and placed pressure on the communities that support agricultural production.

- Social

Whilst the population of Coolamon Shire is growing marginally, there is a shift from living on the family farm to moving into the towns and villages. This creates a localised impact on the environment through the expansion of these towns in both footprint and infrastructure needs.

The increasing access to information and social awareness around environmental issues and biodiversity, has bought an awareness within communities about how the environment is managed and impacts associated with man's interaction with the environment they live in.

As a result, the changes to the State of the Environment since the last comprehensive report in 2016 have been incremental.

Responsibility for oversight on this matter is shared between the three sectors of government, depending on the status of land, licensing requirements for activities, consent to operate and breaches of environmental responsibility.

2016-21 Highlights

- Council implemented a Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service and compost program for the towns of Coolamon and Ganmain. Compost that is produced is used at Council facilities and parks and gardens.
- Council replaced traditional street lighting with LED's within towns and villages located within the LGA.
- Council increased the use of 'recycled / reclaimed water' for irrigation use on parks, sporting fields and gardens within the LGA.
- Council replaced traditional lighting with LED lighting at various Council owned building assets within LGA.
- The number of Erosion & Sediment Control complaints received by Council decreased during the reporting period.
- There was a significant decrease in the amount of waste entombed at landfills in comparison with past reporting period. This is attributed to recycling education initiatives and actions.
- The volume of material recycled in the Coolamon Local Government Area increased during reporting period.
- Council's has initiated a movement away from traditional paper based record keeping.
- Council installed solar systems at number of Council owned premises.
- Council has incorporated hybrid vehicles into the Council fleet.
- Council continues to operate and promote the Community Recycling Centre.
- Council has initiated a power audit of energy usage at all Council owned assets to identify further energy reduction initiatives.

- Council continues to participate and contribute to energy related programs auspiced by the Riverina Eastern Organisation of Councils (REROC).

Looking Forward

- Council will disseminate and implement the findings of the Power Audit for Council Assets with the aim of further reducing energy consumption and carbon footprint.
- Council will continue to investigate and trial energy efficient power options for use on Council owned assets.
- Council will consider increasing the use of hybrid vehicles within its fleet.
- Council will investigate options for the increased use of recycled/reclaimed water within the LGA.

The Coolamon Community Strategy Plan

The Environmental factors identified in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) to be included with the Annual Council Report are outlined and reported on below:

Sustaining the Environmental Qualities of the Shire

Outcome 2.1 Reduce the ecological footprint of Coolamon Shire				
Strategies		Responsibility	Support	Performance Measures
2.1.1	Monitor and strategically manage environmental risks	Council	Landcare, DPI, Statewide Mutual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Implement Coolamon Shire Council Waste and resource recovery strategy
2.1.2	Develop community leadership in resource use, reuse and recycling.	Council / Community	Landcare; OEH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Reduce waste contamination through audits and communication. ✓ Submit State of the Environment report

Outcome 2.2 Our rich heritage and natural environment character conserved				
Strategies		Responsibility	Support	Performance Measures
2.2.1	Protect natural landscapes and systems in particular our native vegetation, biodiversity and Murrumbidgee River catchment through sharing regional responsibilities	OEH	Council, RLLS, Landcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Maintain level of information to protect our local heritage
2.2.2	Encourage and ensure high quality planning and urban design outcomes.	Council	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Heritage funding expenditure
2.2.3	Protect local heritage and residential amenity, including protection of significant architecture, Indigenous heritage and the natural environment.	Community	Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increase native vegetation across Council managed lands
2.2.4	Reduce our waste to landfill through effective waste management & recycling	Council	OEH	

Council has continued to implement the strategies identified in the Community Strategic Plan and have achieved nominated performance measures.

ADDITIONAL STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

OVERSEAS VISITS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a)

During the 2020/2021 Financial Year no overseas visits were undertaken during the year by Councillors, Council Staff or other persons while representing Council.

COUNCILLORS EXPENSES & PROVISION OF FACILITIES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a1)

During the 2020/2021 financial year, Council paid Councillor fees, inclusive of the Mayoral fee, totalling \$95,318.55.

The total cost incurred by Council during the year relating to the payment of expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, Councillors in relation to their civic functions was \$6,678.04 and can be summarized as follows:

i.	Office Equipment	0.00
ii.	Telephone	0.00
iii.	Attendance at conferences, meetings and seminars	Delegates: \$1,392.13 Travel Allowance: \$5,285.91
iv.	Training	0.00
v.	Interstate visits	0.00
vi.	Overseas visits	0.00
vii.	Spouse, Partner or Other Person in the Accompaniment of a Councillor	0.00
viii.	Provision of Care for a Child or Other Immediate Family Member	0.00

CONTRACTS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a2)

During 2020/2021 Council awarded the following contracts:

CONTRACT NO.	CONTRACTOR	CONTRACT	CONTRACT AMOUNT (inc GST)
2020/03	Coolamon Carpentry	Construction of Pound	166,658.00
2020/04	Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd	Winning & Crushing of Ridge Gravel	212,432.00
2020/06	Boral Asphalt	Sprayed Bituminous Surfacing Coolamon	Unit contract
2020/07	Stabilised Pavements Australia	Insitu Pavement Stabilisation Coolamon	Unit contract
2021/01	Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd	Winning & Crushing of Ridge Gravel	243,650.00

LEGAL EXPENSES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a3)

In 2020/2021 Council incurred legal expenses totalling \$84,623.73. These expenses were incurred in the following areas:

Description	Amount
Rates & Debt Recovery (inc. court fees)	47,704.28
Planning	6,146.10
Employment Contracts & Issues	1,620.00
Other inc. Leases, Property Sales & Acquisitions/Contract development	29,153.35

Below please find a summary of the state of the progress of each legal proceeding and (if finalised) the result.

No legal proceedings were underway or finalised during the reporting period.

SUBSIDIZED WORK

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a4)

Council did not pass any resolutions under 67 of the Local Government Act 1993 concerning work carried out on private land which was fully or partly subsidized by Council during this financial year.

COUNCIL CONTRIBUTIONS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a5)

The total amount contributed or otherwise granted by Council under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 was \$7,011.00 which included contributions to:

- Eastern Riverina Arts
- Coolamon Shire Art Acquisition Prize & Ardlethan Art Show Prize
- Prize donations to the various Schools throughout the Shire

EXTERNAL BODIES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a6)

During the year the following external bodies exercised functions delegated by Council:

- Advance Ardlethan Committee
- Advance Ganmain Committee
- Advance Marrar Committee
- Advance Matong Committee
- Ardlethan Sewerage Community Committee
- Ardlethan Showground Management Committee
- Beckom Hall & Community Committee
- Coolamon Shire Community Drug Action Team
- Coolamon Shire Community Benefit Fund Committee
- Coolamon Shire Photographic Competition Committee
- Coolamon Showground Management Committee
- Friends of the Up to Date Cultural Precinct
- Kindra Bike & Walking Trail Management Committee
- Local Heritage Fund Committee
- Rannock Community Centre - Reserve No. 89397
- Volunteer Workers

CONTROLLING INTERESTS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a7)

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated during the year).

JOINT VENTURES/PARTNERSHIPS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a8)

Council was a party to the following joint ventures 2020/2021

- 1) Statewide - New South Wales Local Government
- 2) Riverina Regional Library Service
- 3) Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils
- 4) NSW Rural Fire Service-Riverina Zone (Fire Control Agreement between the Councils of Wagga Wagga City, Coolamon, Junee, Lockhart and Urana Shires.
- 5) Noxious Weeds Agreement between Coolamon Shire, Junee Shire and Temora Shire Councils
- 6) Internal Audit Alliance between Bland Shire, Coolamon Shire, Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional, Junee Shire, Lockhart Shire and Temora Shire Councils
- 7) Riverina Joint Organisation of Councils

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(a9)

Council continues to place great emphasis on its Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan to ascertain its relevance in relation to Council's operations.

The strategies under the Management Plan are listed below:

STRATEGY 1:	Communication and Awareness Raising
STRATEGY 2:	Consultation
STRATEGY 3:	Recruitment and Selection
STRATEGY 3.1:	Preparation and Questioning in Interviews
STRATEGY 4:	Appointment, Promotion and Transfer
STRATEGY 4.1:	Appointment, Promotion and Transfer – Higher Grades
STRATEGY 4.2:	Appointment, Promotion and Transfer - Disabilities
STRATEGY 4.3:	Appointment, Promotion and Transfer - Career Paths
STRATEGY 4.4:	Appointment, Promotion and Transfer – Part Time
STRATEGY 4.5:	Appointment, Promotion and Transfer – Under 21 years
STRATEGY 5:	Training and Development
STRATEGY 6:	Conditions of Service
STRATEGY 7:	Grievance Procedures
STRATEGY 8:	Evaluation and Review of EEO Management Plan

Throughout the year Council continued to monitor its EEO Policies. In the 2020/2021 period, 34 new employees were appointed to Council's Staff. Of these employees, 28 were female and 6 were male; 15 were casual, 13 were engaged as permanent part time employees and 6 as a full time employees. All employees in their induction procedures were provided with a copy of Council's EEO Management Plan to enable them to be fully aware of the principles and guidelines that Council has adopted.

REMUNERATION PACKAGES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(b) & Clause 217 (1)(c)

The total value of the General Manager's Remuneration Package was \$226,010.16 which included the employer's superannuation contribution, the amount payable by Council by way of fringe benefits tax, there were no bonus payments for performance or any other payments made to the General Manager that did not form part of the salary component. There were no non cash benefits paid under the package.

As there were no other designated Senior Staff Managers employed by Council throughout 2020/2021 and therefore no other amounts are required to be reported.

STORMWATER CHARGES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(e)

Coolamon Shire Council once again adopted Stormwater Management Charges in 2020/2021. For residential properties the charge is \$25.00 and for business properties it was set at \$25.00 for each 350 square metres (or part) thereafter, subject to a maximum of \$300.00 per assessment.

This charging structure generated revenue of \$45,625.00.

An ongoing program of drainage improvement has been developed and the income raised from the Stormwater Management Charges will be applied to this program.

COASTAL PROTECTION CHARGES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(e1)

Council did not levy any charge for coastal protection services during the year.

COMPANION ANIMALS ACT AND REGULATIONS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 217 (1)(f)

In 2020/2021 Council seized a total of 23 companion animals. Of this total 16 were returned to the owner and 7 were transferred to Council's pound facility. Of these 7 animals, 4 were euthanized as they were unable to be rehoused, 2 was sold and 1 died at the facility. This information has been provided to the Office on Council's Return of Seizures of Cats and Dogs for the 2020/2021 financial year.

During its normal twelve months operation Council produces and distributes a monthly Newsletter. At various times throughout the year information is provided on the Companions Animals Legislation and the owners responsibilities for the control and care of their dogs. This Newsletter is distributed to every property within the Shire, published online and is available upon request.

Various brochures and pamphlets are available at Council's offices and various publications on Council's website outline the responsibilities of owners of companion animals.

In order to assist the public with de-sexing of either their cat or dog, Council has procedures in place where these people are referred to various veterinary services. In an attempt to reduce the amount of euthanasia for unclaimed animals, Council in the past has made contact with local pet shops in Wagga Wagga to ascertain whether they would be willing to accept unclaimed animals from this area and with local Rescue Groups who then rehouse the animals. On occasions this contact has proved successful.

Council provides an off leash area for the exercising of animals in the township of Coolamon. Further investigation is continuing about the possibility of extending this off lease area into other communities and villages of the Shire.

Financial Information – Companion Animals

During the 2020/2021 Financial Year Council received \$580.00 in impounding fees and \$8,910 in fines and costs. The expenditure that Council incurred amounted to \$14,229.43 which comprised of wages, plant hire and the provision of miscellaneous supplies and activities.

During the past financial year there was 1 dog attack in the Coolamon Shire which was reported to the Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government, Department of Premier & Cabinet.

RATES AND CHARGES ABANDONED

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 - Clause 132

During the 2020/2021 Financial Year rates and charges (exclusive of Pensioner) amounting to \$167,680.93 were written off.

Council provided rate relief to Pensioners during the Financial Year in the sum of \$124,765.68 Council did however, receive \$68,621.13 pensioner's concession subsidy from the NSW State Government.

CARERS RECOGNITION

Carers Recognition Act 2010 – Section 8 (2)

Council has met its obligations under the Carers Recognition Act 2010 by ensuring that:

- Council employees and agents have an awareness and understanding of the Statement for Australia's Carers,
- Council's human resources policies are developed having a regard to the Statement for Australia's Carers.
- Council employees and agents have taken action to reflect the principles of the Statement for Australia's Carers in the development, implementation, provision of and evaluation of policies, programs and services direct to carers or the persons for whom they care.
- Council consults with carers when developing or evaluating policies, programs and services directed to carers or the persons for whom they care.

DISABILITY INCLUSION PLAN

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 – Section 13 (1)

This is the third year of reporting relating to the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 (DIAP) for the Coolamon Shire Council. The plan was adopted by Council in June 2017 and listed 4 focus areas with strategies and actions to achieve those areas.

Focus Area 1: Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours

Improve awareness of access issues for people with a disability to Councillors, staff and community members.

Improve staff and Community understanding and attitudes towards people with disability and frequently promote where possible.

Raise awareness of Council's DIAP and accessibility issues with contractors and facilitators.

Progress Report

Council has undertaken ongoing actions to ensure that positive community attitudes and behaviours are being developed and maintained relating to people with a disability. These actions have included the provision of information to Councillors, staff and the general community regarding the Disability Inclusion Action Plan via Council's website and newsletters and Council's employee and volunteer induction programs.

Focus Area 2: Creating liveable communities

Council services, facilities and activities are accessible.

Events and Council activities are accessible.

Provide Community access to Council facilities, infrastructure and buildings, and raising awareness to local businesses.

Develop and maintain the Coolamon Shire Council's website and intranet to meet best practice and improve information access for people with disabilities.

Maintain staff awareness of accessible information needs and how people with disability can obtain information in other formats.

Progress Report

Council has undertaken and maintained a number of activities to ensure that the Coolamon Shire is a liveable community during the reporting period including:

- Council's websites having zoom enabled and font resizing
- The ongoing provision of disability amenities at the Council Chambers, Coolamon Visitor Information Centre, Redgrave Park, Coolamon, Beckom Hall & Marrar Memorial Hall
- Ongoing implementation of Council's Active Transport Plan
- Council continues to undertake assessments of its public facilities to ensure that accessibility issues are considered as part of future upgrades.
- Council awarded funding under the Local Heritage Places program to contribute to improved access to the Coolamon Post Office.
- Designated disabled parking available in Cowabbie Street, Coolamon

Focus Area 3: Supporting access to meaningful employment

People with disability have the same opportunities as other people to be employed by Coolamon Shire Council.

Support staff with disability within the workplace.

Progress Report

Council's Equal Employment Opportunity Plan and related recruitment process ensure that everyone has access to meaningful employment and that all staff are supported within the workplace with appropriate adjustments.

Focus Area 4: Improving access to services through better systems and processes

Ensure accessible and inclusive community engagement.

Progress Report

Council's policies and procedures relating to community engagement allow everyone the same rights to participate in the decision making of Council, regardless of disability.

PLANNING AGREEMENTS

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 – Section 7.5 (5)

Planning Agreement	Description of Works	Status
Ardlethan Tin Mine Rehabilitation & Tailing Reprocessing Project EOE (No 75) Pty Ltd	Provision of funding for: i. Community enhancement initiatives in the locality; ii. Ongoing road maintenance for the development; and iii. The road upgrades required for the development	Development Consent has been granted 2016/67. Development has not commenced to stage where Voluntary Planning Agreement becomes operative.

RECOVERY & THREAT ABATEMENT PLANS

Fisheries Management Act 1994 – Section 220ZT (2)

Council has not been identified in any Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans as responsible for any implementation measures.

SWIMMING POOLS ACT

Swimming Pools Act 1992 – Section 22F (2)

Swimming Pools Regulation 2008 – (SP Reg) Clause 18BC

Number of Inspection of tourist and visitor accommodation	0
Number of inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings	0
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of certificate of compliance under Section 22D of the Act	8
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate on non-compliance under Clause 18BA of the Regulation	5

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS) ACT

Government Information (Public Access) Act – Section 125 (1)

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 – Clause 8 & Schedule 2

Council lodged its Government Information (Public Access) Act Annual Report online. A copy of the report can be accessed from Council's website.

See: [2020/2021 Government Information \(Public Access\) Act Annual Report](#)

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES ACT

Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 – Section 31

Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011 – Clause 4

Council Public Interest Disclosures Annual Report has been published separately online and can be accessed from Council's website.

See: [2020/2021 Public Interest Disclosures Annual Report](#)