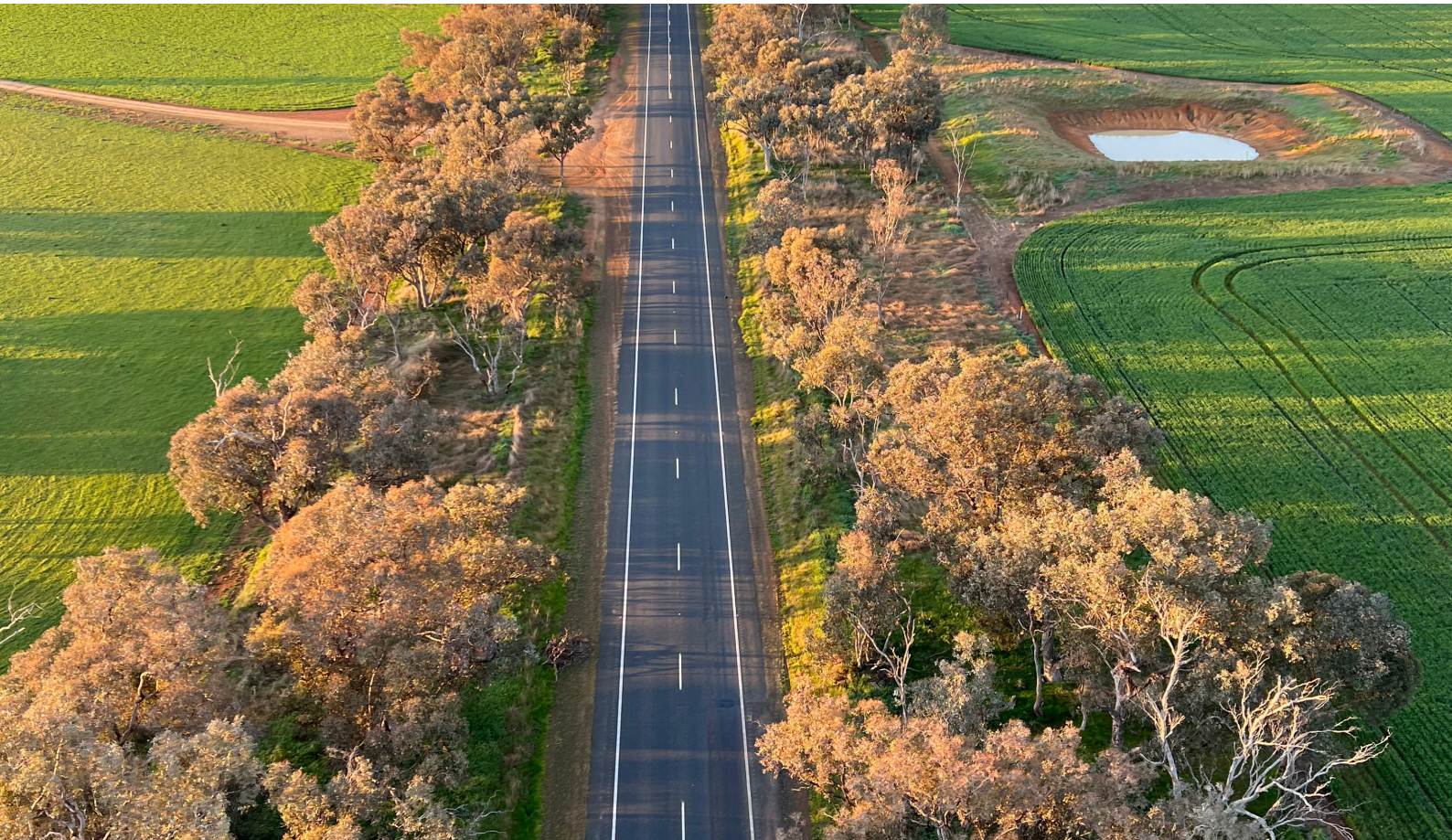


2021/2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Coolamon Shire Council

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are conscious that the last several Annual Reports have commenced with an explanation as to the unusual and trying conditions that Council operated in over the past year. Unfortunately this year is no different to the previous and the environmental impacts have continued to affect Council's operations.

Financially we have continued to manage a positive result, however, the environmental impact on our operations and projects has caused delays that will impact future decisions around work schedules and priorities.

In pure financial terms, Council's net Operating Result for the 21/22 year was \$5.675 Million. The net Operating Result for the year before Capital Grants and Contributions was \$1.417 Million and Council's Capital Expenditure amounted to \$8.016 Million.

Of this Capital Expenditure the main items in addition to roadworks, were a new unit in the Allawah Village Complex, upgrades to the Coolamon Showground, improvements to the Telecommunications Tower, a land subdivision in Ganmain and the ongoing construction of the Coolamon Business Park.

It is expected that the Business Park will be completed in the next financial year and the benefits of additional businesses locating and commencing in the Coolamon Shire will filter through the local economy.

The ongoing wet weather has significantly impacted our roads and we will spend a considerable amount of time and money in repairing this damage. The State Government has acknowledged this wide spread wet weather and will be financially supporting Councils to undertake this work.

This year Council received its first qualified Audit in living memory, and we think it is appropriate that we spend some time discussing this issue. The qualified Audit relates specifically to the issue of the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Assets and on whose Financial Statements they should be included.

Coolamon Shire Council believes that in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards, Councils have no control over these assets as we do not purchase, operate or benefit from the sale. Council do not have access to the Assets use, nor determine what is purchased or when.

Contrary to this opinion the NSW Audit Office believe that as the Rural Fire Service Act indicates the assets are to be vested in Council, that this means ownership is with the Council. This Act is outdated with the reality of the management of the RFS.

Coolamon Shire Council and Staff are required to sign off on the Financial Statements in order to ensure they comply with the Australian Accounting Standards. These Standards are designed and interpreted to ensure that the reality of how assets and finances are being undertaken is reflected regardless of external factors.

The position Coolamon Shire Council has taken is indicative of the majority of the Local Government Sector and this matter continues to be a contentious and disputed issue. A full statement regarding this matter is explained further in the financial section of this report.

Coolamon Shire Council believe that the assets of an organisation should be included on that organisation's Financial Statements. It is very important that our emergency services are managed both financially and operationally in a responsible manner and that the true cost to the community of providing the service is established to ensure its sustainability.

From a financial perspective, Coolamon Shire Council continues to operate in a sound financial position and continues to provide the services and assets that our communities need. We have continued to meet all of the State Government Performance Indicators with the exception of one, being the Own Source Revenue. Again this is extremely difficult for a Rural Council that has limited access to external funding opportunities and is reliant on the Financial Assistance Grants to continue operations that would meet this indicator.



David McCann
MAYOR



Tony Donoghue
GENERAL MANAGER

GENERAL INFORMATION

Council Headquarters:

Physical Address:	Shire Hall, 55 Cowabbie Street, Coolamon, 2701
Postal Address:	PO Box 101, Coolamon, 2701
Telephone:	(02) 6930 1800
Fax:	(02) 6927 3168
Email:	council@coolamon.nsw.gov.au
Website:	www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au

Office Hours:

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

Elected Members:

Mayor:	Clr Dave McCann	0427 273 044
Deputy Mayor:	Clr Alan White	0428 698 204
Councillors:	Clr Jeremy Crocker	0428 273 361
	Clr Bronwyn Hatty	0418 114 750
	Clr Bruce Hutcheon	0427 273 439
	Clr Wayne Lewis	0427 311 174
	Clr Kathy Maslin	0427 783 810
	Clr Garth Perkin	0428 695 117
	Clr Colin McKinnon	0427 279 123

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 2021/2022 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 2021/2022 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 and the Ardlethan Mens Shed being engaged to undertake the cleaning of the amenities for the Ardlethan Short Stay area.

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.

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, 25 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 REROC 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 Ardlethan, Coolamon and Ganmain sewerage systems.

Council continues to explore grant opportunities for the upgrade of the Coolamon Treatment Works

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 was completed in prior reporting periods.

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 transport 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.

Council actively participated in the development of the Clinical Servicing Plan for the future of the Coolamon-Ganmain Multi Purpose Service.

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 trainees at the Ardlethan Preschool and Allawah Lodge.

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 and maintaining 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 has appointed a 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 nominated to take over the role of Executive Council for the Riverina Regional Library effective 1 July 2022 and Council staff have been actively involved in the development of a new working model for RRL with the exit of Wagga Wagga City Council from 30 June 2022.

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 2022 event was held in Marrar with Ardlethan nominated to hold the 2022 event.

Councils 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.

The “Coolamon New Year Eve Party” was held and a “Christmas Lights Competition & Tour” was organised 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 2021/2022 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 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 Juneee 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.

The 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's development of a light industrial area in Coolamon, funded under the NSW Government's Grant Stimulus Package 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 trainees at the Ardlethan Preschool and Allawah Lodge.

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, as part of the "Yield Festival", 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'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 2022 to aid in the preparation of the 2022/2023 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 together with specific community consultation undertaken by consultants were used to develop a new Community Strategic Plan for the Shire.

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 Council's including projects managed by Country Mayors Association, REROC, Riverina Joint Organisation, Riverina Regional Library, membership of Eastern Riverina Arts, 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, Ardlethan Preschool and Coolamon Early Childhood Centre.

Council's involvement in the 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 [2016-2021 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 2022.

A summary of the financial statements is provided below:

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Income Statement		
Total income from continuing operations	23,050	19,979
Total expenses from continuing operations	17,375	16,175
Operating result from continuing operations	5,675	3,804
Net operating result for the year	5,675	3,804
Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	1,417	1,408
Statement of Financial Position		
Total current assets	30,324	25,577
Total current liabilities	(12,495)	(12,874)
Total non-current assets	204,136	192,069
Total non-current liabilities	(1,211)	(529)
Total equity	220,754	204,243
Other financial information		
Unrestricted current ratio (times)	14.97x	10.16x
Operating performance ratio (%)	8.53%	8.72%
Debt service cover ratio (times)	252.83x	217.46x
Rates & annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	4.74%	4.99%
Building and infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	104.77%	135.92%
Own source operating revenue ration (%)	46.41%	51.34%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	25.29 months	24.89 months

A full copy of Council's 2021/2022 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 2021/2022 Financial Reports](#)

ACCOUNTING TREATMENT OF RURAL FIRE SERVICE ASSETS

Background

The Rural Fires Act 1997 established the Rural Fire Service (RFS) to co-ordinate bush firefighting and prevention throughout the state and to provide rural fire services for New South Wales. The NSW Rural Fire Fighting Fund holds all contributions required to meet the costs of the service and is maintained by the NSW Treasury. Contributions are made to fund by the Insurance Industry, NSW State Government and Local Government. Local Government's share of the contributions amounts to 11.7%. Rural Fire Districts and Rural Fire Brigades are established generally in line with local council areas. Coolamon Shire is part of the Riverina Zone of the NSW Rural Fire Service along with Wagga Wagga City, Lockhart Shire & Junee Shire Councils. Coolamon Shire Council provides the majority of administrative support required under the zone service agreement.

Council received a **Qualified** Audit Opinion from the NSW Audit Office in respect to the 2021/2022 General Purpose Financial Statements. The following extract is from NSW Audit Office Independent Auditor's Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022 issued to Council on 31 October 2022.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

Non recognition of rural fire-fighting equipment

As disclosed in Note C-6 to the financial statements, the Council has not recognised rural fire-fighting equipment as assets within 'Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment' in the Statement of Financial Position at 30 June 2022. In my opinion, these assets are controlled by the Council and should be recognised as assets in accordance with AASB 116 'Property, Plant and Equipment'."

Council's Position

Coolamon Shire Council accounts for land and buildings used by the Rural Fire Service situated within the shire boundary on Council owned or controlled land, however does not account for Rural Fire Service plant or other fire fighting equipment or buildings located on land not owned or controlled by Council.

Reason's for Council's Position

Asset Recognition Criteria

The criteria for asset recognition are contained in various sections of the Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements and AASB116 of the Australian Accounting Standards.

The Framework provides the following relevant information;

- An asset is defined as a resource that is controlled by the entity as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits are expected to flow to the entity (49)
- Attention needs to be given to its underlying substance and economic reality and not merely its legal form (51).

- In respect of not-for-profit entities, economic benefit is synonymous with service provision or enabling them to meet their objectives to beneficiaries (54).
- The right of ownership is not essential to the determination of control (57).

AASB 116 requires that an asset can only be recognised if it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the entity.

It is considered therefore that the two main issues are;

- where does effective control lie; and
- where does responsibility for the function lie

Control of Assets

The AASB Conceptual framework defines control in clause 4.20 as follows;

“An entity controls an economic resource if it has present ability to direct the use of the economic resource and obtain the economic benefits that may flow from it. Control includes the present ability to prevent other parties from directing the use of the economic resource and from obtaining the economic benefits that may flow from it. It follows that, if one party controls an economic resource, no other party controls that resource.”

The AASB conceptual framework provides the clearest definition of control of an economic resource, however, it applies only to “for-profit” entities and as such would not apply to Local Government Authorities. The definition however is consistent with those outlined in AASB15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, AASB16 Leases and AASB116 Property, Plant & Equipment.

AASB15 (33) states “Control of an asset refers to the ability to direct the use of, and obtain substantially all of the remaining benefits from, the asset. Control includes the ability to prevent other entities from directing the use of, and obtaining the benefits from, an asset.”

AASB16 (B9) states that “To assess whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset (see paragraphs B13,B20) for a period of time, an entity shall assess whether, throughout the period of use, the customer has both of the following:

- a. the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the identified asset (as described in paragraphs B21–B23); and
- b. the right to direct the use of the identified asset (as described in paragraphs B24–B30).”

AASB116 Property, Plant & Equipment states “The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment shall be recognised as an asset if, and only if:

- c. it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the entity; and
- d. the cost of the item can be measured reliably.”

Future Economic Benefits

The RFS is funded directly by the State; both operating and capital acquisitions are made directly by RFS Officers. Council has no input into the operations or capital acquisitions of the RFS.

The Fire Services Act provides that;

“The NSW Rural Fire Service has the function to provide rural fire services for New South Wales [9 (1) (a)].

It is considered therefore that it is the Rural Fire Service and not Councils that receive future economic benefit from firefighting equipment assets in terms of both net cash flows and service provision.

Land and Buildings

The Rural Fire Service Agreement clearly identifies that Council retains full legal right to possession and control over premises occupied by the RFS. Councils are required to maintain buildings, pay all utility costs associated with the building and pay all insurances on the buildings and public risk associated with the use of the building. This is similar to a lease agreement, and as such Council retains control of the building and is required to hold the land and associated building as an asset.

Equipment

Section 119 (3) of the Rural Fires Act 1997 (NSW) stipulates that Council must not sell or otherwise dispose of any firefighting equipment ... without the consent of the Commissioner. Section 119 (4) requires any funds received from sale must be credited to the RFS fund.

The RFS Regional Manager makes all decisions about capital improvements and new assets, while Council may be consulted in these decisions it takes no part in the final decision. The RFS insures all plant and equipment. In practice the RFS makes all decisions to switch fleet and equipment to other fire districts as it feels necessary. Council has no access to and is not permitted to use of any plant and equipment held by the RFS. Council has taken the view that it has no control over the purchase, use or sale of any RFS equipment. As such the requirements of the relevant Accounting Standards outlined above have not been met and RFS equipment should not be included as assets in Council's accounts.

Independent Expert Opinion – ‘The Parker Report’

In 2018, the Office of Local Government commissioned an independent accounting opinion on the issue of who controls RFS assets. The review was undertaken by Mr Colin Parker from GAAP Consulting.

The subsequent report, titled “Review of Accounting for “red truck” assets and other fire-fighting equipment”, an independent expert's report by Colin Parker, principal GAAP Consulting (herein referred to as “The Parker Report”) was completed in April 2018.

In his report, Mr Parker made the following recommendations:

“31. Fire-fighting equipment recognised by some councils should be derecognised. If the error is considered material, it should be disclosed as such under AASB 108 Accounting Policies Changes in Estimates and Errors.”

“32. Fire-fighting equipment vested in councils whether recognised or unrecognised under options in the code should be recognised at cost in the RFS’s financial statements.”

Specific issues addressed and answered in the Parker Report include:

“90. Legal vs operational control: Accounting issues need to be considered in the context of control over the asset’s service potential to contribute to the objectives of the entity. Legal ownership (vesting) is not the critical determinant for control as explained in my review of the accounting standards and framework.”

“91. Future economic benefits of the asset: The service potential of an asset is specific to the entity and its objectives. An asset cannot be controlled by two entities. The fire-fighting equipment benefits both the councils and the RFS in helping them to comply with their legislative requirements.

The RFS has the substantive responsibilities for the prevention, mitigation and suppression of bush and other fires in local government areas and other parts of the State, and controls fire-fighting equipment to meet its statutory objectives.”

“92. Control (of movement) of assets: The RFS has decision- making authority over fire-fighting equipment under the Act and rural fire district service agreements. The RFS exercises this authority through them, including the functions of zone managers and rural fire brigades.”

“93. Control of fire-fighting equipment is evident by procurement (and replacement and retirement) decisions, service standards for their care and maintenance, access restrictions, and deployment within the district and elsewhere in the state. These are substantive rights of the RFS. The RFS also has a protective right in that councils are prevented from selling or disposing of the assets without written consent from the RFS commissioner (s.119(3)). Councils have no substantive rights for the control of fire-fighting equipment - vesting does not confer control.”

“97. The current accounting for fire-fighting equipment fails the information needs of the RFS’s and councils’ financial-statement users as the equipment has failed to be recognised by the entity that controls its potential to meet its objectives.”

“98. In my opinion, fire-fighting equipment is controlled by the RFS as determined by application of accounting standards and the framework according to the facts and circumstances described.”

“99. Recognition of fire-fighting equipment by the RFS in its financial statements, and derecognition by the councils from theirs, also satisfies the definition of an asset and qualitative characteristics of financial statements, including faithful representation and substance over form.”

“100. Fire-fighting equipment recognised by some councils should be derecognised and this should be accounted and disclosed as an error under AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Estimates and Errors.”

“101. Fire-fighting equipment vested in councils, whether recognised or unrecognised, under options in the code should be recognised in the RFS’s financial statements. This should be accounted and disclosed as an error under AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Estimates and Errors.”

Conclusion

It is clear that the AASB Accounting Standards require a standard higher than ownership when accounting for assets. Entities may own an asset, but unless they have control of that asset and can clearly identify future economic benefits flowing to the entity from that asset, then it cannot be included in the entity’s assets schedule.

The recommendations detailed in the Office of Local Government’s independent accounting position as presented in “The Parker Report” are unequivocal

1. Fire-fighting equipment is controlled by the RFS as determined by application of accounting standards and the framework according to the facts and circumstances described.
2. Fire-fighting equipment recognised by some councils should be derecognised. If the error is considered material, it should be disclosed as such under AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Estimates and Errors
3. Fire-fighting equipment vested in councils, whether recognised or unrecognised, under options in the code should be recognised in the RFS’s financial statements. This should be accounted and disclosed as an error under AASB 108 Accounting Policies, Changes in Estimates and Errors.

In line with this, Coolamon Shire Council’s position is to not recognise fire-fighting equipment controlled by the NSW Rural Fire Service. Further, in response to recommendations made in “The Parker Report” Council will be considering the appropriate accounting treatment of RFS Land and Buildings.

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 2021 SOE <https://www.environment.gov.au/science/soe>

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 2021 and can be found at <https://soe.epa.nsw.gov.au/>

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.

2016-22 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 2021/2022 Financial Year no overseas visits were undertaken during the year by Councillors, Council Staff or other persons while representing Council.

COUNCILLORS TRAINING & ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – Clause 186 (a), (b) & (c)

Induction Training – presented by Mr Stephen Blackadder, Blackadder & Associates (7 January 2022)
Clr J Crocker, Clr B Hatty, Clr B Hutcheon, Clr K Maslin, Clr D McCann, Clr C McKinnon, Clr W Lewis, Clr G Perkin and Clr A White

Ongoing Professional Development

Office of Local Government - Hit the Ground Running Councillor Webinars

Seminars/Circulars & Other Activities

Local Government NSW Weekly Circular provided to Councillors

Membership of Riverina Regional Organisation of Councils

Membership of Riverina Joint Organisation

Local Government NSW President Visit

COUNCILLORS EXPENSES & PROVISION OF FACILITIES

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

During the 2021/2022 financial year, Council paid Councillor fees, inclusive of the Mayoral fee, totalling \$91,360.36.

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 \$7,755.37 and can be summarized as follows:

i.	Office Equipment	0.00
ii.	Telephone	0.00
iii.	Attendance at conferences, meetings and seminars	Delegates: \$0 Travel Allowance: \$3,895.79
iv.	Training	\$3,859.58
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 2021/2022 Council awarded the following contracts:

CONTRACT NO.	CONTRACTOR	CONTRACT	CONTRACT AMOUNT (inc GST)
2021/02	Paul Tokley New Homes & Renos	Allawah Village Self Care Unit	\$292,000.00
2021/05	Inland Power Solutions	Business Park – Electricity Supply	\$360,133.11
2022/01	Elliotts Concreting	Business Park – Concrete Works	\$598,001.69
2022/02	JR Richards & Sons	Waste Collection Contract	Rate contract
2022/03	Q Max	Business Park – Sewer & Stormwater Pump Stations	\$480,410.00
2022/04	Keane Civil & Construction Pty Ltd	Business Park – Sewer & Stormwater Drainage	\$782,406.22

LEGAL EXPENSES

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

In 2021/2022 Council incurred legal expenses totalling \$36,125.70. These expenses were incurred in the following areas:

Description	Amount
Rates & Debt Recovery (inc. court fees)	\$ 4,433.89
Planning	\$ 20,041.81
Employment Contracts & Issues	\$ 6,808.50
Other inc. Leases, Property Sales & Acquisitions/Contract development	\$ 4,841.50

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

- *Ongoing legal negotiation with landholder regarding hoarding.*

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 \$7,101 which included contributions to:

- Eastern Riverina Arts
- Coolamon Shire Art Acquisition Prize
- Southern Sports Academy
- 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 Showground Management Committee
- Beckom Hall & Community Committee
- Coolamon Flood Risk Management 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
- Matong Hall 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 2021/2022

- 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
- 8) Country Mayors Association

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 2021/2022 period, 37 new employees were appointed to Council's Staff. Of these employees, 26 were female and 11 were male; 13 were casual, 12 were engaged as permanent part time employees and 12 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 \$244,718.31 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 2021/2022 and therefore no other amounts are required to be reported.

LABOUR STATISTICS

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

The total number of persons who performed paid work for the Council on **25 May 2022** were as follows:

- 57 permanent full time
- 45 permanent part time
- 7 casual

As there were no other designated Senior Staff Managers employed by Council throughout 2021/2022.

Of those who performed paid work on 25 May 2022 none were engaged by the Council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, wholly or principally for the labour of the person.

Of those who performed paid work on 25 May 2022, two were supplied to the Council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee.

STORMWATER CHARGES

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

Coolamon Shire Council once again adopted Stormwater Management Charges in 2021/2022. 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 \$45,875.

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 2021/2022 Council seized a total of 26 companion animals. Of this total 16 were returned to the owner/s and 10 were transferred to Council's pound facility. Of these 10 animals, 7 were euthanized as they were unable to be rehomed, 2 were 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 2021/2022 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 leash area into other communities and villages of the Shire.

Financial Information – Companion Animals

During the 2021/2022 Financial Year Council received \$366.91 in impounding fees and \$6,655.00 in fines and costs. The expenditure that Council incurred amounted to \$23,085.50 which comprised of wages, plant hire and the provision of miscellaneous supplies and activities.

During the past financial year there was 4 dog attacks 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 2021/2022 Financial Year rates and charges (exclusive of Pensioner) amounting to \$23,265.10 were written off.

Council provided rate relief to Pensioners during the Financial Year in the sum of \$123,674.91 Council did however, receive \$68,021.20 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 fourth 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. Council also commenced a review of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan by engaging consultants to undertake community consultation during the 2022 financial year.

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 accessibility menus
- The ongoing provision of disability amenities at the Council Chambers, Coolamon Visitor Information Centre, Redgrave Park, Coolamon, Beckom Hall & Marrar Memorial Halls
- 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.
- 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	7
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate on non-compliance under Clause 18BA of the Regulation	4

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: [2021/2022 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: [2021/2022 Public Interest Disclosures Annual Report](#)