



Warrumbungle Shire Council

2021/22 Annual Report

Released November 2022



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The 2021/22 financial year saw the local government elections, twice postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, held in December 2021. I would again like to thank the outgoing councillors that served from 2016-2021. The election resulted in a new make-up of the Council and I am honoured to have been selected to serve as Mayor.

The road to recovery has been a prominent theme for the Warrumbungle Shire Local Government Area. Over the past few years it has seemed that we have faced battle after battle with natural disasters, plagues and pandemic, none of which have been things Council can control.

With high motivation to move forward, Council has been on the road to recovery, in particular bringing back visitors to our region, boosting the local economy and recovering from such extraordinary events. Then another unprecedented event hit our Shire with the La Nina weather pattern sweeping across New South Wales causing extensive damage to roads and infrastructure right across the Warrumbungle Shire. Nonetheless, while still facing the recovery after these weather systems, Council has pulled together and progressed forward with some incredible achievements this term.

New water infrastructure across the Shire providing towns with secure and sustainable water supplies, upgrades to sporting facilities, playgrounds and skateparks, new bridges and major roadworks were all delivered this year. But it is not always the big million-dollar project. It is also about the everyday business of running the region and creating and supporting communities, which has happened while these big projects are rolling out. This year there has been a major increase in events right across the region bring communities together and supporting our local economy, which has been wonderful to see.

Funding has been coming into the region at an extraordinary pace this financial year, with both federal and state government supporting us while we have navigated through these unprecedented events, with the most recent funding claim for damage to the road infrastructure being the largest funding claim Council has ever made. All of this incredible work, while embracing challenges, is a credit to the committed staff at Warrumbungle Shire Council.

Within this year Council also joined other councils in defying a State Government direction to record Rural Fire Service vehicles and equipment as Council assets, which would mean having to absorb all depreciation costs, around \$640,000 per annum.

It was with a heavy heart that we farewelled former councillor Fred Clancy this year. Fred served as a councillor of the Coonabarabran Shire Council from 1995-2004, and as Mayor from 1998-2004. Later, Fred was elected to the Warrumbungle Shire Council in 2012, serving as a councillor until his retirement at the 2021 election.

While this Annual Report details the year we have had, the exciting prospect is that we have more to come. The future is bright.

AMBROSE DOOLAN
MAYOR

GENERAL MANAGER'S MESSAGE



2021/22 has been a year of both achievements and challenges for Warrumbungle Shire Council. Major investments have been made in the Warrumbungle communities through Council's capital works program and funded projects, however the year has been dominated by the impacts damaging major weather events on top of the ongoing impact from COVID-19.

A number of major projects have been delivered in 2021/22. With the generous support of the Australian Government, over \$3 million has been invested into various local roads and community infrastructure projects through the Australian Government's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3. This funding has allowed various projects across multiple towns across the Shire to

commence, improving road networks and community infrastructure, benefiting our community members.

The Australian Government has also provided funding through nationwide Roads of Strategic Importance (ROSI) initiative to upgrade Purlewaugh Road. This project will see millions of dollars put towards critical upgrades including road widening and sealing, as well as the rehabilitation of two curves, providing a safer connection for motorists travelling.

The NSW Government has also made a number of grant funding opportunities available. In particular, Council was successful in obtaining over \$2.4 million in 2021/22 to secure improve the security of water supplies for Coonabarabran, under NSW Government's Emergency Relief for Regional Town Water Supplies Program.

One of the largest Natural Disaster claims has been submitted to the NSW Government for funding assistance with the repair of roads and infrastructure damage across the Shire, after a major natural disaster flooding event in November 2021. This claim for assistance is one of the largest funding claims Council has ever submitted with the estimated costs of repairs have resulted in massive claims for assistance with the claim for road restoration approaching \$14M. The claim packages have been put together in geographical order, so as the claims are approved the works will be tackled in priority order. Works on these repairs are expected to be completed by 2024.

In 2021/22 Council completed over \$16m worth of capital works, including new assets and improving existing assets for the benefit of the community. This is slightly less than the previous financial year due mainly to weather events and impacts from Covid.

With a very motivated Council newly elected this year it has been a privilege to get to know the newly elected councillors, with a very seamless change over and to work in partnership with the Mayor, councillors, the Executive Leadership Team and staff of the Warrumbungle Shire Council. I am pleased to present the 2021/22 Annual Report.

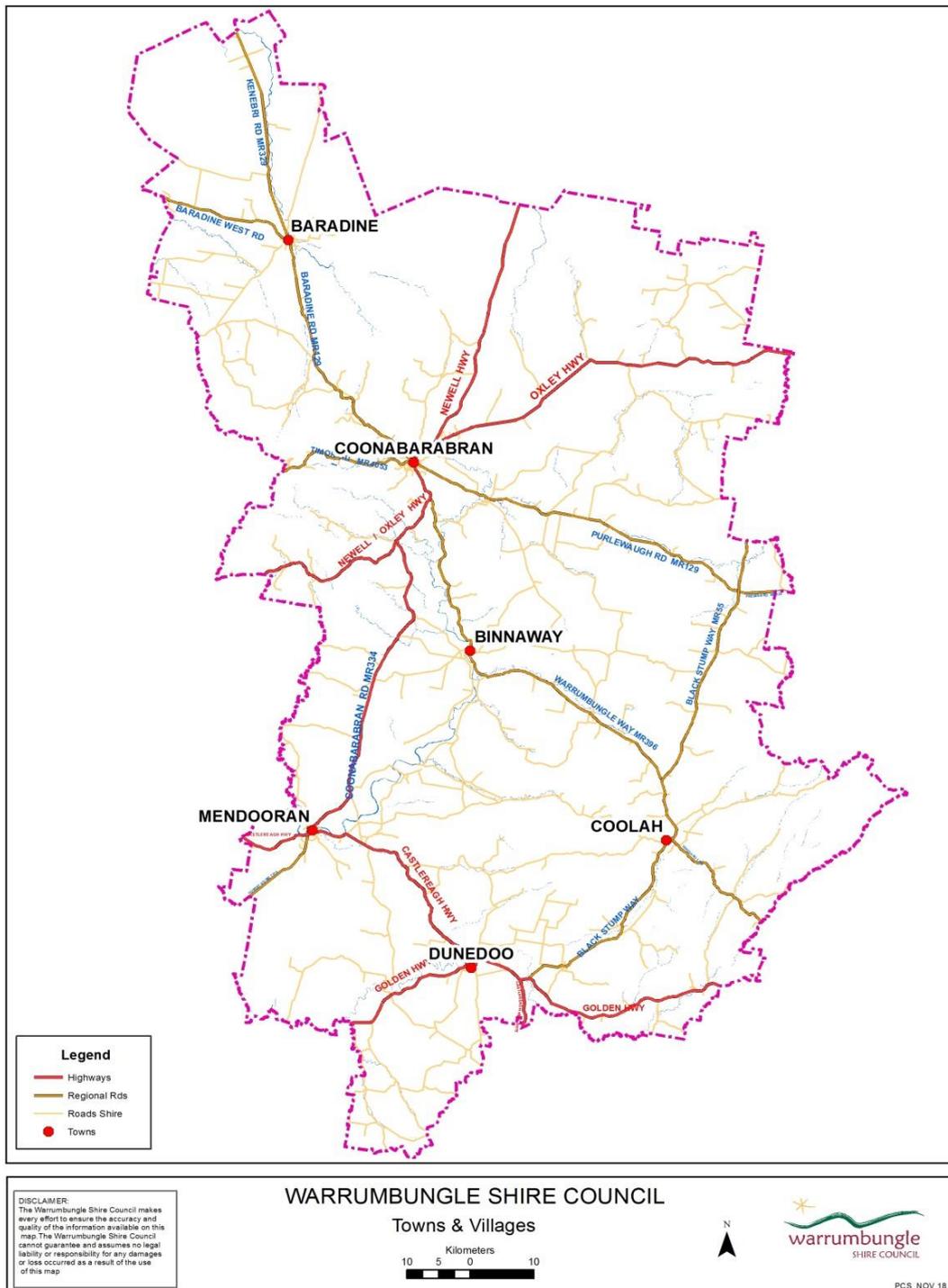
ROGER BAILEY
GENERAL MANAGER

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OUR COMMUNITY

The Warrumbungle Shire local government area is positioned mid-way between Brisbane and Melbourne on the Newell Highway. Taking in the towns of Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo and Mendooran, our local government area is shown below.



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



9,225

TOTAL POPULATION

Baradine 586
Binnaway 399
Coolah 722
Coonabarabran 2,387
Dunedoo 725
Mendooran 275



985

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POPULATION



55.9%

EMPLOYED FULL TIME

31.7%

EMPLOYED PART TIME



50

MEDIAN AGE



5,920

RATED PROPERTIES

2,601 designated farmland or rural

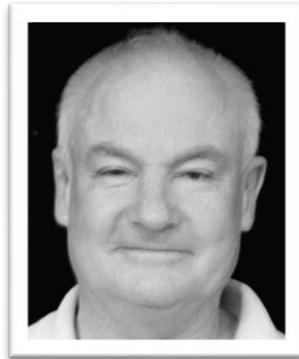


\$559

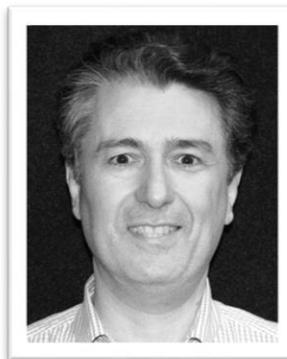
MEDIAN WEEKLY INCOME

** Sourced from 2021 Census data.

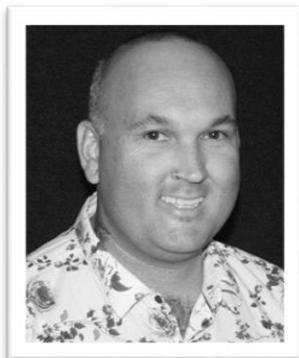
COUNCILLORS



**Mayor
Ambrose Doolan**



**Deputy Mayor
Aniello Iannuzzi**



Kodi Brady



Dale Hogden



Zoe Holcombe



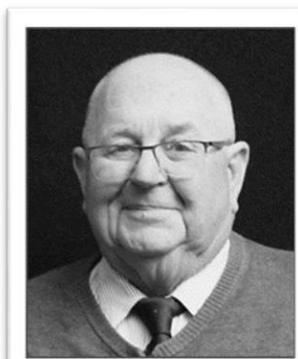
Carlton Kopke



Jason Newton



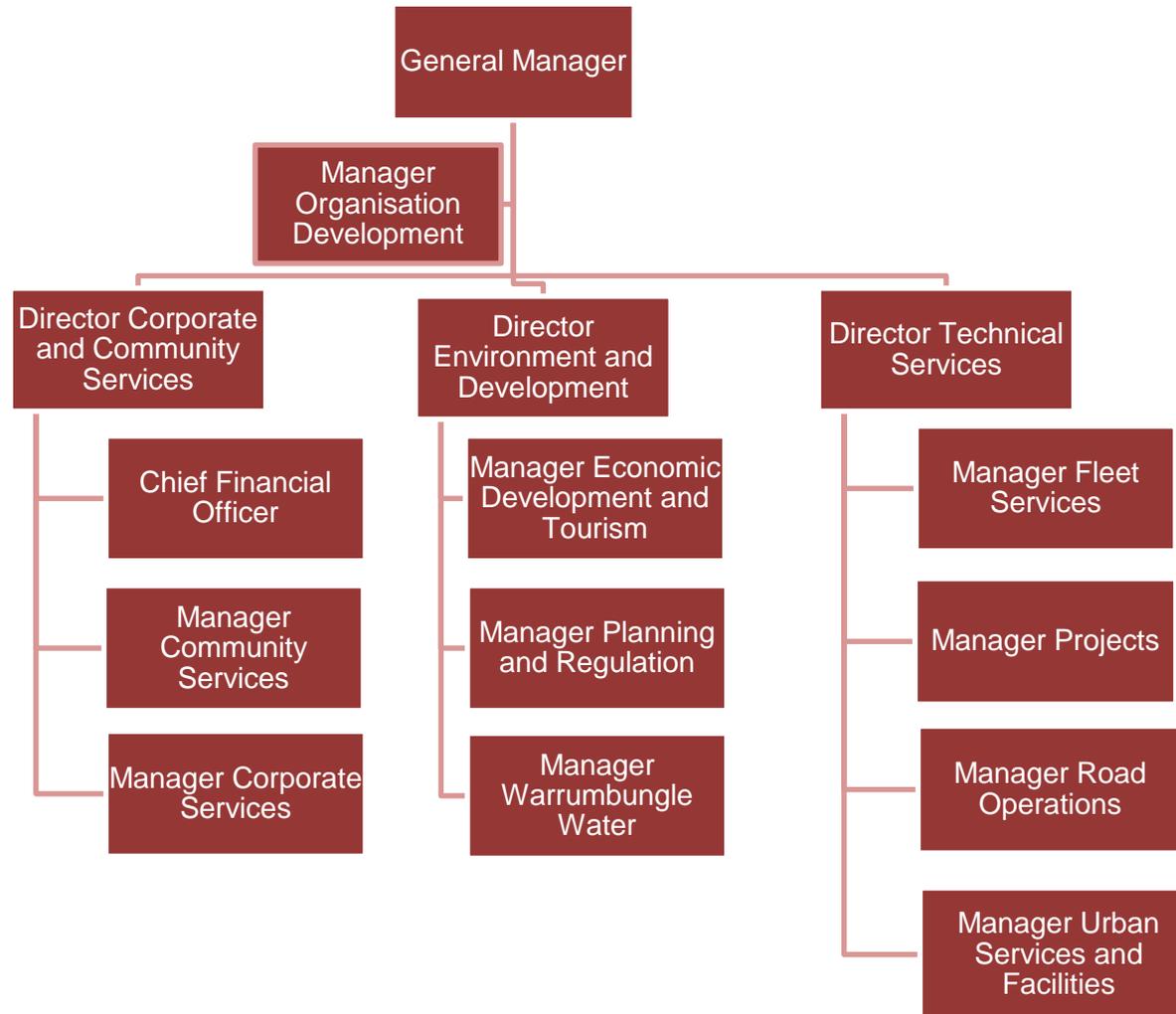
Kathryn Rindfleish



Denis Todd

ORGANISATION

Warrumbungle Shire Council is managed by a General Manager with three Directorates. Council's organisation structure is shown below.



VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

VISION

Excellence in Local Government

MISSION

Council will provide

- Quality, cost effective services that will enhance our community's lifestyle, environment, opportunity and prosperity;
- Infrastructure and services which meet the social and economic needs and aspirations of the community now and in the future;
- Effective leadership and good governance, by encouraging teamwork, through a dedicated responsible well-trained workforce.

VALUES

✓ **Honesty**

Frank and open discussion, taking responsibility for our actions

✓ **Integrity**

Behaving in accordance with our values

✓ **Fairness**

Consideration of the facts and a commitment to two-way communication

✓ **Compassion**

Working for the benefit and care of our community and the natural environment

✓ **Respect**

To ourselves, colleagues, the organisation and the community listening actively and responding truthfully

✓ **Transparency**

Open and honest interactions with each other and our community

✓ **Passion**

Achievement of activities with energy, enthusiasm and pride

✓ **Trust**

Striving to be dependable, reliable and delivering outcomes in a spirit of goodwill

✓ **Opportunity**

To be an enviable workplace creating pathways for staff development

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Council is guided by section 8 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW), which contains a set of principles to provide guidance to enable councils to carry out their functions in a way that facilitates local communities that are strong, healthy and prosperous.

Local Government Act 1993, section 8A 'Guiding principles for councils':

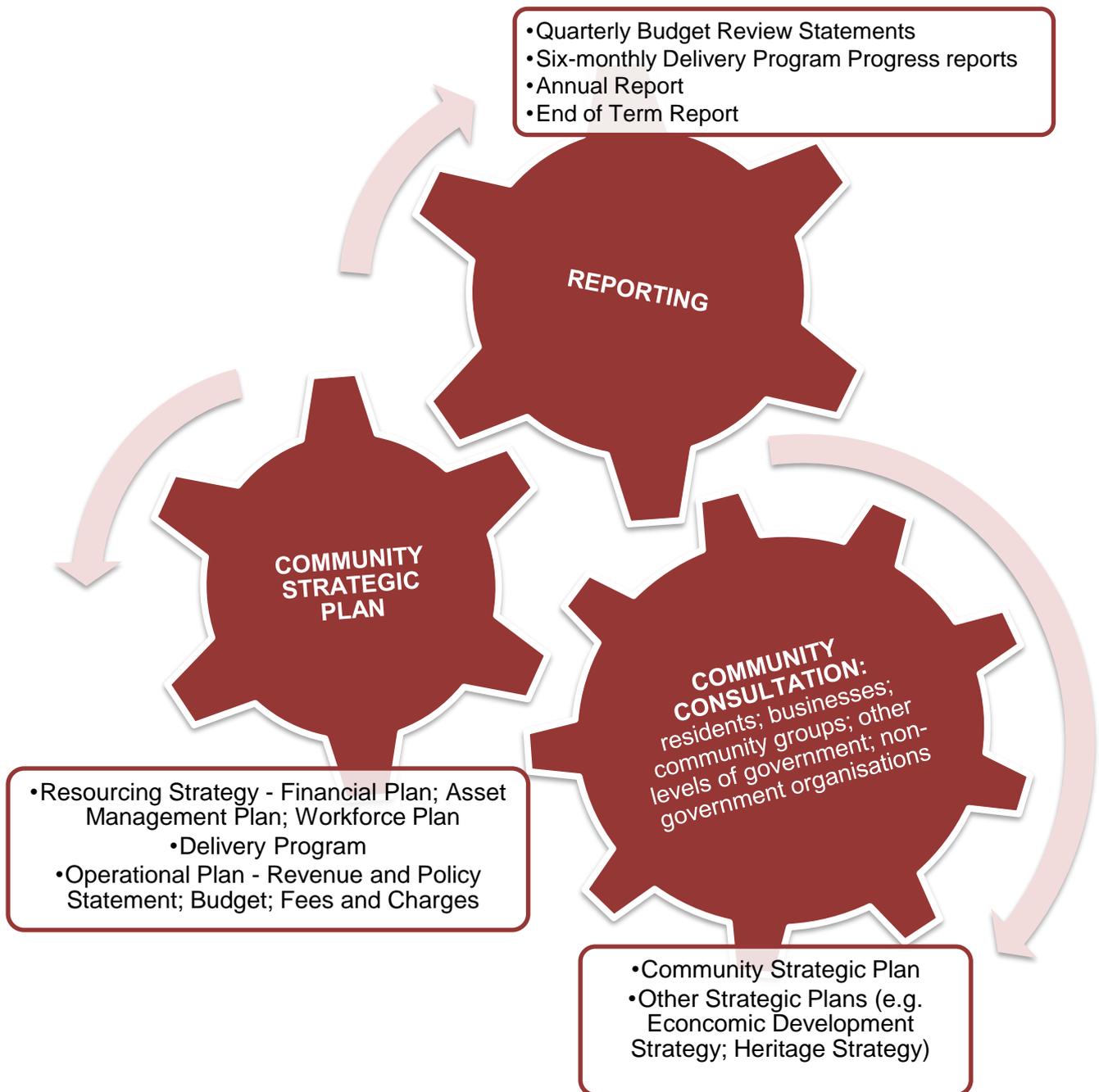
- (1) Exercise of functions generally. The following general principles apply to the exercise of functions by councils:
 - (i) Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.
 - (ii) Councils should carry out functions in a way that provides the best possible value for residents and ratepayers.
 - (iii) Councils should plan strategically, using the integrated planning and reporting framework, for the provision of effective and efficient services and regulation to meet the diverse needs of the local community.
 - (iv) Councils should apply the integrated planning and reporting framework in carrying out functions so as to achieve desired outcomes and continuous improvements.
 - (v) Councils should work cooperatively with other councils and the State government to achieve desired outcomes for the local community.
 - (vi) Councils should manage lands and other assets so that current and future local community needs can be met in an affordable way.
 - (vii) Councils should work with others to secure appropriate services for local community needs.
 - (viii) Councils should act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community.
 - (ix) Councils should be responsible employers and provide a consultative and supporting working environment for staff.

- (2) Decision-making. The following principles apply to decision-making by councils (subject to any other applicable law):
 - (a) Councils should recognise diverse local community needs and interests.
 - (b) Councils should consider social justice principles.
 - (c) Councils should consider the long term and cumulative effects of actions on future generations.
 - (d) Councils should consider the principles of ecologically sustainable development.
 - (e) Council decision-making should be transparent and decision-makers are to be accountable for decisions and omissions.

- (3) Community participation. Councils should actively engage with their local communities through the use of the integrated planning and reporting framework and other measures.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

All councils in NSW are required to operate within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework. This framework aims to facilitate a strong and sustainable local government system by ensuring all councils have in place strategic plans, underpinned by community priorities and supported by appropriate resources. Warrumbungle Shire Council's IP&R is illustrated below.



COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The Warrumbungle Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017-2032 (the Plan) was developed following community engagement. The Plan's vision describes the importance of our sense of community spirit, our children and our homes. The community's plan for the future will support the growth, resilience and health of our people, our neighbourhoods, the environment and local economy.

The Plan identifies seven key areas of interest to the community's needs and aspirations:

1 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We value our pristine, healthy, natural environment with clean water resources and diverse flora and fauna. We enjoy the close proximity to National Parks and large areas of forest and bushland. We love that we are surrounded by wide open spaces and spectacular mountain landscapes. We enjoy the peace and quiet, our temperate climate with four distinct seasons, the fresh, unpolluted air and clear night skies.

GOAL: the good health of our natural environment and biodiversity is preserved and enhanced.



2 LOCAL ECONOMY

Our solid local tourism industry is based on local attractions including three National Parks, Siding Spring Observatory and a range of tailored facilities and amenities. The contribution of our diverse agricultural industry is highly valued, made possible by good climate and rainfall, productive soils, clean water supplies and ready access to markets.

We benefit from good transport links within the Shire and to external markets and customers and from an abundance of natural resources which provide our Shire with opportunities for local economic growth. We have diverse local employment and business opportunities and we have access to a wide range of trades, services and businesses that are locally owned and operated, providing personalised customer service.

GOAL: our economy is strong and sustainable, providing our communities with localised employment opportunities and ease of access to markets, goods and services.

3 COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Our communities are strong, resilient and inclusive and provide support and assistance to those in need. Local volunteers contribute greatly to our community wellbeing and we enjoy the freedoms that are afforded through our safe, friendly and caring community. Our Shire is a great place to raise a family and we value the contributions and participation of our younger people who are provided opportunities to support their development. Relationships between our indigenous and non-indigenous communities are harmonious and respectful and our diverse community is reflected through a wide range of arts and cultural activities, festivals and events.

GOAL: the communities of our Shire are safe, harmonious and supportive and are bound by vibrant social and cultural interaction and a strong local identity.



4 RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Our Shire is centrally located in NSW, within close proximity to regional centres and cities and we offer a range of affordable housing options. We enjoy a relaxed pace of life with low traffic volumes, no overcrowding and our urban centres are enhanced by the surrounding rural landscape and atmosphere. Our local history and heritage is visible in our towns and villages which are clean, tidy and well-presented.

GOAL: our Shire is characterised by its peaceful rural landscape, its thriving towns and villages and diverse agricultural activities.

5 RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

People within the Shire have opportunities to participate in a diverse range of locally based sports catering for people of all ages, activity levels and interests. Our rural setting provides children with opportunities to play in and explore their natural environment and our communities have easy access to a wide range of active and passive recreational pursuits through close proximity to National Parks and other open spaces. Organised sporting and recreational activities within the Shire are coordinated by an array of active clubs and volunteer organisations and Council provides communities across the Shire with well-maintained sporting facilities, parks and gardens.

GOAL: the communities of our Shire have abundant opportunities to participate in sporting and recreational interests of their choice.

6 PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

We have a range of essential local services and facilities supporting the health, medical and aged care needs of our communities and we benefit from the local presence of State and Federal agencies and non-government organisations that provide a range of essential services. Local children and young people benefit from provision of high quality educational services and facilities. We have an array of public infrastructure, such as parks, libraries, community halls, swimming pools, sporting facilities and tourism amenities that are important for the prosperity and well-being of our communities.

Our towns benefit from the secure supply of potable water and our villages and rural areas have access to water from rainfall, rivers and artesian systems. Our Shire accommodates major road transport links that are of national importance for the movement of people and freight and Council maintains three aerodromes and an extensive network of roads and bridges that provide connections within the Shire and to other regional centres. We are also supported by volunteer emergency services that are critical in providing immediate accident and disaster response.

GOAL: our communities are provided with safe, functional, and well-maintained infrastructure and a comprehensive range of services.



7 LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Our councillors represent the communities of the Shire well and work effectively together, taking their responsibilities as elected officials seriously. Council provides an appropriate range of services and facilities that are responsive to community needs and Council bases its activities and decision-making on principles of openness, transparency and accountability. Council maintains a visible presence across the Shire through decentralised offices, services and depot facilities.

Council is the major employer within the Shire, providing a wide range of local training and employment opportunities and Council's staff members are friendly and approachable and are an integral part of the communities of the Shire. Council is proactive in providing financial, staff and other resources to develop programs and services that support the well-being of its communities.

GOAL: Warrumbungle Shire Council is recognised for its strong community leadership, sound financial and asset management, and ethical, accountable and responsive local government.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Warrumbungle Shire Council's implementation of its Delivery Program through the 2021/22 Operational Plan included the following highlights.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Compliance Services

Warrumbungle Shire Council's Compliance Officers received an exciting addition to their fleet with the installation of new animal management canopies from AWL Canopies. The canopies are designed to support better occupational health and safety for staff and ensure animal wellbeing for animals impounded in Warrumbungle Shire.

Compliance Officers hosted free microchipping days across the Shire in October and November 2021 to give pet owners opportunity to microchip their animals.

Council was lucky to receive a donation from the Rescue Resource Winter Warmers Appeal. Council received a large donation of blankets, toys, treats and handmade dog coats and beds to assist in keeping the animals in the pound warm for the winter.

Council Compliance Officers received a number of reports of dog attacks on livestock and other animals.

Council's Compliance Officers are on call for any dog attacks or stock on road calls throughout the year. Council Officers attended 8 dog attacks and 15 stock on road after hours call outs last year.

Noxious Weeds

Council continues to maintain its membership with Castlereagh Macquarie County Council with all weed control matters being handled on Council's behalf by the County Council.

Environmental Health Services

Annual inspections were carried out on food premises throughout the Shire to ensure food safety requirements are in place and food is safe to consume. Microbiological water sampling was undertaken on a weekly or fortnightly basis for towns on potable water supply to ensure water is safe to use. Chemistry sampling was also undertaken for potable water every six months.

The Statement of the Environment Snapshot for 2021/2022 was completed and is draft form for release in late 2022. Highlights from the snapshot are: Council's greenhouse gas emissions, Council's use of office paper, annual town water consumption and number of mining and exploration titles all declined from previous years. Timor Dam Access Track was used as the environmental case study. This is to enable safe access to the downstream area of the dam wall to restore the dams scour valve which will facilitate water environmental releases which will enhance fish and riparian habitats.

LOCAL ECONOMY

Private Works

Council staff possess a range of skills and are able to offer services to customers on a commercial basis. These services or private works are undertaken on an agreed fee for service basis and in accordance with rates published in the Fees and Charges section of the operational plan. The types of private works undertaken by staff include roadworks, slashing, mowing and minor concrete works.

Tourism and Economic Development

94 messages created and uploaded to displayed on digital sign to regional promote events, visitor attractions and important messages.

Effective provision of support and distribution of visitor information services through a combined total of 894 mail outs, monthly brochure orders to business operators, and promotion packs disseminated at events and conferences promoting the region's attractions and visitor information.

Bathroom usage at 49,796 for last financial year.

Buildings, grounds, and facilities presented well, including and modernised retail area in Visitor Information Centre, using local contractors wherever feasibility possible, and installation of automatic doors at Visitor Information Centre to enable easier entry and more welcoming to visitors. Additional security camera installed to ensure safety and WH&S standards for travellers, residents and staff.

Visitor Information Centre now showcases local produce from 19 local businesses, which is a total of 125 products from the region at Visitor Information Centre.

Approximately 13,000 recorded through the visitor information centre, with lockdowns and border closures in July, August, September and October 2021.



Tourism and Economic Promotion

Collaborative tourism campaign 'Real Country' across Warrumbungle, Gilgandra and Coonamble LGAs.

Building Our Warrumbungle Communities action plans developed by each town's key stakeholders and community organisations, from Peter Kenyon – Building Our Warrumbungle Communities Project, distributed throughout the region.

\$239,651 successful application for Community Events Program funding.

Shop Local social media campaigns at various key times throughout the year to promote local businesses and services. Local produced showcased at Visitor Information Centre for sale, and new businesses promoted within Shire through various mediums such as social media, campaigns and e-newsletters, and internal communications.

Collaboration and strengthened relationships with community organisations through funding applications and common goals, such as Driver Reviver Upgrade with Girl Guides, National Parks and Pandora Gallery Visitor Information Centres.



COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Community Care

Warrumbungle Community Care (WCC) provides a range of programs across the Shire to assist the frail aged, people with a disability and their carers. Programs include: Community Transport (vehicles and wheelchair accessible bus), Meals on Wheels, In-home Respite, Social Support and Home Maintenance. WCC is also an Approved Home Care Package provider (HCP), allowing WCC staff to provide in-home domestic and personal care individually tailored to their needs.

The range of services support people to continue to live independently in their own homes. WCC provides services to over 800 clients across the Shire. These services are provided by a dedicated and passionate team of six permanent staff, five part-time/casual staff and a team of approximately 190 volunteers.

In 2021/22 financial year Warrumbungle Community Care provided the following services:

Service	Outputs
Meals on Wheels	14,409 meals
Social Support	6,797 hours
Respite	166 hours
Home Maintenance	1,827 hours
CHSP transport	3,144 trips
NDIS transport	29 trips
CTP transport	2,370 trips
HRT (Health Related Transport)	85 trips
DVA Transport	43 trips
Taxi Vouchers (Coonabarabran)	3,887 vouchers

The WCC Food Voucher Program has grown with over 7000 vouchers given to eligible clients, and 30+ food vendors involved. In 2022 WCC was awarded the NSW Meals on Wheels “Innovation Award” for the Food Voucher Program. WCC see this as “Future

Proofing” the Meals on Wheels service, allowing clients more independence and choice while also supporting the local economy.

WCC celebrated 50 years of Meals on Wheels across the Shire (1972-2022). WCC have demonstrated that they are here for the long haul and will be a strong and supportive service for our communities for another 50 years.



Community Development

Community Development Coordinators (CDCs) provide a point of contact for Council in the local towns, seek funding on behalf of their District Development Group or Progress Association, and help coordinate and promote local events.

In 2021/2022, the Community Development Coordinators had a successful year with funding being sourced for programs, activities and infrastructure in our local towns. A highlight of 2022 was The Festival of Place “Light the Night” events utilising the NSW Government’s Summer Night Fund for free, COVID-Safe events in public spaces to re-energise local centres in the evening and at night. Council worked closely with the CDCs who were instrumental in organising these events in their local towns.

Connect Five Children’s Service

Connect Five Children’s Services is externally funded by the NSW Department of Education under Start Strong Pathways. The Start Strong Pathways program helps provide educational support for young children prior to preschool enrolment and helps promote the importance of early childhood education to parents. Connect Five Children’s Services delivers this program through play sessions and licensed care to families with children not yet attending preschool and long day care in nine communities across four Shires – Warrumbungle, Coonamble, Walgett and Gilgandra.

In 2021/2022 Connect Five Children’s planned 45 Play Sessions a term at nine different venues. 181 of these sessions were held. Attendances for 2021/2022 were 311 children. In lieu of face to face delivery, due to the impacts of COVID and weather events, staff continued with the PADLET Remote Learning Hub and provided Family Activity Packs sent out by mail.

During 2022, Connect Five increased play sessions from 2 hours to 3 hours and implemented an afternoon session in Coonabarabran. Connect Five is also a Licensed Service that provides Occasional Care for families who wish to attend an appointment and/or give their child the opportunity to experience a childcare setting on their own for a short period. This service is greatly valued in areas where there is no other childcare service.

Another very popular part of the Service is the Mobile Toy Library. The Mobile Toy Library provides toys and equipment for enhancing children's learning and is an essential service for isolated and disadvantaged families. Other agencies working with young children, such as nurses and occupational therapists may also borrow from the Toy Library. Over 60 toys were borrowed from this service this year with borrowing down due to service operation impacted by COVID and weather events.

Connect Five participated for the first time in the Assessment and Rating process where education and care services are assessed by the state regulatory authority. Connect Five achieved the rating of *Meeting the National Quality Standard* which means the service is providing quality education and care in all 7 areas of the National Quality Standard.

Coonabarabran After School and Vacation Care

The service which began in 2012 operates at the Warrumbungle Shire Council Robertson St campus, at 14 Robertson Street, Coonabarabran. The service provides After School Care during school terms and Vacation Care during School Holidays.

Coonabarabran After School Care operates five days a week from 3.00pm to 5.30pm during school terms Children who are attending school in years K - 6 are cared for in a fun, safe environment by educators who implement a play-based program in line with the "My Time, Our Place" (the National Framework for school age care in Australia). After School Care had 1146 bookings during the year.

Vacation Care provides kindergarten and primary school children with fun, varied and engaging recreation-based activities during school holidays Vacation Care operates for at least 35 days a year and had had 274 bookings.

Coonabarabran After School and Vacation Care went through Assessment and Rating in Term 2, 2022 and achieved the rating of *Meeting the National Quality Standard* in all areas.

Yuluwirri Kids/Connect Five – Monkey Room

This Mobile Preschool, in conjunction with Connect Five Children's Services license, supports Yuluwirri Kids waiting lists for 3- to 5-year-old children who want to attend Preschool. This is funded by NSW Government Mobile Preschool Funding for children enrolled in mobile preschools in regional and remote NSW.

Monkey Room operates from the Robertson St venue at Coonabarabran. In 2021 Monkey Room operated on Wednesday and Thursday and in 2022 Monkey Room changed its operating days to Monday and Friday for community demand with attendance levels of over 93%.

Yuluwirri Kids Preschool and Long Day Care

Yuluwirri Kids is a 57-place licensed Preschool and Long Day Care Centre that opened on 2 February 2009. The Centre offers 27 preschool places and 30 Long Day Care places a day. This year we received Start Strong Free Preschool funding supports families with the delivery of free preschool for 600 hours in the two years before school.

Yuluwirri operates an indoor/outdoor pedagogy with age group programming and learning spaces involving a STEM and Music space; a Literacy and Drama space; Outdoor; and a Cultural and Arts space.

Age grouping consists of:

- *Explore & Discover with 0-24 months* - This is a place where our discoveries begin, for developing trust and emotional security and for exploring through play and

learning through social interactions. Discovering independent skills and exploring autonomy

- *Investigate with 2 years* -This is a place for finding autonomy for promoting independence and self-help skills, developing friendships and relationships, a space to discover, investigate & explore.
- *Experiment & Evaluate with 3 years* -This is a place for investigating and exploring their world, developing friendships and relationships, they make discoveries, conduct research, make connections and challenge their mind and bodies.
- *Collaborate & Research with 4 years+*. - This is a place to learn about the world, and our place within it. Making discoveries, researching, hypothesising, building relationships, making connections and challenging our minds and bodies.

The age group programming allows us to meet the changing age numbers each year. This year Preschool utilisation was 3,544 sessions and Long Day Care utilisation was 6,207 sessions. This equates to 66% utilisation for Preschool and 85% for Long Day Care.



Libraries

Macquarie Regional Library (MRL) provides a range of services and collections to the communities across the Warrumbungle local government area. The library provides services and collections at each of the three libraries of Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo, and limited services to Baradine, Binnaway and Mendooran.

In 2021/2022 MRL services once again included:

- Maintenance of a service for housebound members and members in aged care
- Involvement in celebration weeks such as Simultaneous Storytime, National Youth Week, Law Week, Library and Information Week
- Promotion of events and activities in local towns.
- School Holidays Programs and activities.
- Engagement with local schools, childcare, story time and homework sessions.
- Regular reading and craft sessions.
- Hosting meetings of local groups including local book clubs, craft groups and gardening groups.
- Hosting information sessions and other activities for people of all ages.

Highlights included author visits and book signings throughout the year, the launch of the *Dolly Parton Imagination Library*, the inaugural *Star Wars Festival*, State Library of NSW paintings exhibition and the introduction of new collections and formats including the digitisation of Coonabarabran newspapers.

Public Halls

Council owns public halls in Baradine, Mendooran, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo, Goolhi, Binnaway, Coolah and Purllewaugh. The Coonabarabran Sport and Recreation building is also categorised as a hall for reporting purposes. The cost of maintaining these halls during 2021/22 totalled \$0.18m.

Funding was made available to upgrade the Goolhi Hall in the amount of \$19,789. The Baradine Hall was painted and had air conditioning and acoustic treatments installed in the amount of \$68,621.



Youth Services

Throughout 2021/22 the Targeted Earlier Invention (TEI) Community Connections Program administered by the Community Services Connections Officer (CSCO) continued to collaborate and co-ordinate with stakeholders across the Shire to develop and deliver opportunities for young people. The TEI program comprises of Community Sector planning and coordination, community outreach, social participation and community support and advocacy.

Ongoing support and information sharing were coordinated by the CSCO through the Warrumbungle Interagency Committee providing opportunities for new and current service providers and community groups to collaborate and connect to implement community



campaigns, events and activities such as the NAIDOC Week, Little People Task Force Fun Day and Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness campaigns.

The CSCO collaborates with local services organisation through the Warrumbungle Domestic Violence Committee, School Holiday Planning Groups and Coona Yarn, Support, Connect Suicide Prevention Network to organise community awareness activities and events to improve connectivity across the Shire.

The Warrumbungle Local Drug Action Team (LDAT) from the Alcohol and Drug Foundation (ADF) continued to implement a Community Action Plan (CAP) including participating in the Baker Pilot Program to assist parents communicating harm minimisation strategies for teenagers. A Family Fun Day in Coonabarabran with multiple games, sports and inflatables brought together 170 community members.

Festival of Place – Summer Fund grant was utilised during April 2021 to organise Light the Night Markets in Baradine, Dunedoo and Coonabarabran which included professional ‘light up’ of the iconic Baradine Memorial Hall during the market and for the Debutante Ball. In addition, a Light Up Movie Night was organised in Mendooran.



School Holiday activities continued in collaboration with other service providers including Centacare, MacKillop, Barnardos and Mission Australia. Primary and High School craft and game activities were offered at the Coonabarabran Sport & Recreation Centre. Coona Drop In after school program also continued twice a week for primary and high school students.

Funding from Department of Regional NSW Summer and Autumn Holiday Break Program allowed Base Zero Mobile Rock Climbing to provide activities in Mendooran, Dunedoo, Coolah and Baradine and the return of Totem Skate to Coolah.

2021 Youth Week activities were held in April with the annual Mendooran Youth vs Police and Teachers Touch football, Dunedoo Youth Landcare Spray painting workshop, Coonabarabran Skate Night, Colour Runs in Coolah, Binnaway and Coonabarabran, Baradine SRC Inclusive Sports Day and Coonabarabran High School week long activities. Warrumbungle Shire Council was again a finalist for the NSW Youth Week Best Small Council with Most Outstanding Youth Week Program.



Compliance Services

Council maintains Alcohol Free Zones throughout the urban areas of the Shire. Compliance Officers undertake regular inspections to ensure the Alcohol-Free Zone signage is current and in the correct position. Signs are replaced if they are old or unreadable.

RURAL AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Building Control

Councils Building Certifier issued 26 Construction Certificates in the 2021/2022 financial year and 3 Complying Development Certificates. Council also undertook a number of Critical Stage Inspections that are mandatory for building works to ensure that all building and plumbing works meet the current requirements of the National Construction Code and Australian Standards.

Council issued a number of Building Information Certificates for illegal building works once a Development Application had been approved for the use of the land.

Councils Building Certifier also undertakes the assessment and inspections on all On-Site Sewerage Management System applications for new dwellings and condition reports requested by owners for sale of land.

Councils Building Certifier is the Authorised Officer to undertake Swimming Pools Inspections that are undertaken on a yearly basis for tourist and visitor accommodation and for any property being sold. Council issued 3 Non-Compliance Certificates on the first inspection with works to be undertaken by the owners and subsequent inspections being undertaken resulting in a Compliance Certificate being issued.

Town Planning

Councils Town Planner assessed 62 Development Applications worth \$7,968,210 throughout the Shire in the 2021/2022 financial year. Council Staff processed 687 Planning Certificates which are a requirement for sale of property and other legal matters, the Certificates were all dispatched within the required timeframes.

The Town Planner commenced the review of the Development Control Plan to ensure that the plan is up to date with the current legislative requirements and any Guidelines that have been released. This plan is a guide to be used when applying for development approval and gives the applicant information on what is required when applying for a Development Consent.

Council is reviewing the Warrumbungle Local Environmental Plan 2013 to incorporate changes to land zoning to reflect the current needs of the Shire and to amend minor alignment issues with zoning of properties throughout the Shire. The review of the LEP will ensure that the current land uses are reflected in the zoning of the land and the future expansion of the communities can continue.

The NSW Planning Portal commenced on the 1 July 2021, all applications for development are now lodged via this online portal. Through funding from the Department of Planning Council purchased two computers and set up stations at the Coolah and Coonabarabran Offices for those people who do not have a computer at home to help with the lodgement of applications online.

Horticulture

Council owns and maintains 19 park areas throughout the Shire and there are eight sets of playground equipment. Some of the maintenance activities in these areas include: grass cutting, watering, weeding, tree pruning, amenities cleaning and maintenance, monitoring and maintenance of playground equipment, and general horticultural tasks associated with numerous garden beds. The annual cost of parks and gardens maintenance activities in 2021/22 was \$0.60m.

Funding was available for improvement works during the year and the Coonabarabran skate park pump track was completed.



Street Cleaning

Council owns and operates a street sweeper that sweeps gutters in each of the six towns within the Shire. Working on a three-week schedule, gutters are swept in accordance with the following schedule: Coonabarabran 3 days a week; 0.5 days per week in Coolah and Dunedoo; and 0.3 days per week in Baradine, Binnaway and Mendooran. The cost of street cleaning in 2021/22 was \$0.29m.

Public Amenities

There are 12 public toilets throughout the Shire that are owned and maintained by Council. The toilets generally opened at dawn and closed at dusk, however there are some toilets that are opened 24 hours 7 days a week. The toilets are cleaned at various times during the week, a total of 70 times each week. The cost to clean and maintain these toilets in 2021/22 was \$0.31m.

Funding was available for improvement works during the year the upgrading of the Milling Park toilets in Dunedoo was completed.

Town Streets

There are six urban areas in the Warrumbungle Shire Local Government Area: Baradine, Coonabarabran, Binnaway, Coolah, Dunedoo, and Mendooran. Within these areas there is a total of 139km of roads. Some of the maintenance activities carried out by Council for these roads include emptying of street bins, street garden and tree maintenance, stormwater infrastructure maintenance and cleaning, and road and footpath maintenance. The total cost of these maintenance activities in 2021/22 was \$0.68m.

Council received funding from the NSW Streets as Shared Spaces Program to transform Little Timor Street into a plaza and provide the community and the travellers with a place to engage in socialising, community interaction and children's play.

Resealing of a number of town streets did not occur this year owing to COVID-19 related delays.



Village Streets

Mowing, maintenance grading and tree maintenance was undertaken in the streets of villages across the Shire including; Kenebri, Bugaldie, Ulamambri, Merrygoen, Neilrex, Uarbry and Leadville.

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

Compliance Services

Building Certifiers undertake inspections to ensure private pools meet the requirements of pool safety legislation. Inspections are carried out upon request and compliance certificates are issued for complying barrier fences.

Ovals and other Sporting Facilities

Across the Shire there is an oval complex in each town and there are tennis courts in Coonabarabran, Binnaway, Baradine, Mendooran and Coolah.

Funding was made available for several renewal and improvement projects including shade sails over the skate park in Baradine; new oval fence at Mendooran sportsground; painting of the Sport and Recreation building in Coonabarabran; upgrading of the amenities at number 3 oval Coonabarabran, improvements to the changing facilities at the Baradine Oval and completion of an irrigation system at Binnaway oval.

A major \$1.7m project to upgrade the facilities at Robertson Oval in Dunedoo was completed. This project was funded by the Building Better Regions, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure funding programs and \$124,596 from council.



Pools

Council operates outdoor seasonal swimming pools at Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo and Mendooran. All six pools opened in October 2021 and closed in April 2022 except Binnaway Pool which opened in November 2021 and closed in March 2022.

Operational hours at some pools were affected by COVID 19 and staff shortages. Dunedoo Pool was closed for several days over the Christmas/New Year period when staff could not attend work due to COVID 19 and replacement staff could not be sourced. Mendooran Pool hours were also disrupted with no staff available the last week in November, the first week in December and the majority of the following week.

The operating costs for swimming pools was \$0.67m.

Pool attendances were down on previous years with 27,533 patrons in 2021/22 compared to 29,635 in 2020/21 and 41,019 in 2019/20.

Maintenance and renewal works carried out in 2020/21 included tree trimming in Binnaway, crack sealing in Coolah and underwater lights repair in Coonabarabran.



PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Aerodromes

There are aerodromes at Baradine, Coolah and Coonabarabran. In 2021, the Civil Aviation and Safety Authority (CASA), introduction new certification rules for aerodromes and

airports. In September 2021, Council resolved to carry out certification under the new roles for the Coonabarabran aerodrome only. This meant that from 4 January 2022, the Coolah aerodrome was no longer certified. This reduces the administration burden placed on Council for an aerodrome that receives only occasional use.

Maintenance tasks undertaken by Council include grass slashing, weekly inspections and maintenance of the bitumen surface on the runway at Coonabarabran. The annual cost of aerodrome maintenance in 2021/22 was \$0.14m.

Emergency Services Management

The Local Emergency Management Committee was activated in response to the COVID-19 situation during 2021/22.

In addition, the Committee met on four occasions throughout the year with meetings well attended by representatives from: NSW Police; Fire and Rescue NSW; Rural Fire Service; Ambulance; State Emergency Service; Volunteer Rescue Authority and from the Regional Emergency Management Committee.

Council participates in the Bush Fire Management Committee which prepares plans for managing bush fire risks.

Local Roads and Infrastructure

Council has an extensive road network of 2,518km of which 1,543km is unsealed. Council also undertakes roadworks under contract for TfNSW on 186 km of state roads, including sections of the Golden Highway, Newell Highway (urban areas only) and Castlereagh Highway.

In November and December 2021, storms and significant rainfall caused extensive damage to the shire road network and a natural disaster was declared. Over 1,770 defects were identified with the value of the restoration work estimated to be over \$12 million. Restoration works include grading 440km of unsealed roads, pavement and surface repair of 500km of sealed roads, bulk filling of gravel and rock at 43 locations, reshaping of 6.5km of table drains and repair of 12 major causeways, culverts and bridges. Council submitted nine works packages to the value of \$12,767,871.13 for the restoration works. Subject to Council's funding approval being successful, these restoration works will be carried out over two financial years.



Despite this event and subsequent rain events, Council was still able to achieve a number of works. Over \$2.5m was spent on rehabilitation works on the following roads:

- Indians Lane
- Tucklan Lane

- Booloola Road
- Bugaldie Goorianawa Rd
- Merrygoen Rd
- Napier Lane

A seal extension on Neilrex Rd was carried out in the amount of \$1.2m.

Pavement rehabilitation was carried out on Black Stump Way (MR55) in the amount of \$1.9m and curve widening was carried out on Purlewaugh Rd.

Over \$0.5m was spent on gravel re-sheeting on the following roads:

- Dennykymine Rd
- Avonside Rd
- Indian Lane
- Wongoni Rd
- Lockerbie Rd
- Mt Hope Rd
- Cobbora Rd

Medical Facilities

Council owns buildings in Coonabarabran, Mendooran and Dunedoo that are leased for provision of medical services. These premises were maintained and met the professional service level expected by the medical practitioners operating in each of the buildings.

Warrumbungle Waste

Councils Landfill site at Coonabarabran and the Transfer Stations located at Baradine, Binnaway, Coolah Dunedoo, Mendooran and Ulamambri are maintained by Council. The transfer stations are opened over various days throughout the week to ensure that residents have access for the disposal of household waste and recycling.

Council undertakes a weekly general waste collection and a fortnightly recycling collection for residents who pay for the collection service.

The Container Deposit Scheme over the counter collection points at Coonabarabran and Dunedoo provide residents the opportunity to cash in their used containers through the Return and Earn program with 2,253,723 containers cashed in over the 2021/2022 financial year.



Warrumbungle Water and Sewer

Potable water is supplied to residents in Baradine, Binnaway, Bugaldie, Coolah, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo, Kenebri and Mendooran; non-potable services are supplied to residents in Merrygoen and along the raw water feed main on Timor Road, Coonabarabran. In all there are around 3,300 service connections. To provide these services, there are 23 groundwater bores, four river wells, one dam, one weir, four water treatment plants, 23 reservoirs including treatment plant clear water tanks and 169 km of water mains including head works, transfer and reticulation mains.



To improve water security major upgrades were carried out on both filter gulleys at the Coonabarabran Water Treatment Plant (WTP); Timor Road Pipeline Project linking bores 8,10,11 to the Coonabarabran Water Treatment Plant was successfully completed. A new chlorine room was installed at Coolah replacing the old and non-complaint system; a full filter media replacement took place at Coonabarabran WTP as the old media was no-longer performing at an optimal and satisfactory level.

To improve water quality a continuing reservoir cleaning program saw another eight reservoirs cleaned and inspected to ensure all were up to standard; 1.4km of water mains replacements occurred throughout the Shire in an ongoing attempt to address water quality issues. Shire wide Telemetry Project commenced and is now fully functional. To improve water quality and safety the last remaining abandoned bore was capped at Coolah Bore fields increasing water safety for the residents of Coolah and the water supply.

Sewage services are provided to residents in Baradine, Coolah, Coonabarabran and Dunedoo. In all, there are 2,357 connections. Infrastructure to support these connections includes nine pumping stations, four sewage treatment plants and 83 km of sewer main.

In 2021/22, 9.3km of sewer mains were cleaned and inspected whilst 600m was relined to help reduce infiltration and to prolong pipeline longevity. The Vacuum Pots Replacement Project at Baradine saw the completion of all remaining pots being refurbished; a replacement vacuum pump was installed meaning that both pumps have now been updated. All funded plant upgrades have continued to progress. Pump Station 4 in Coonabarabran had a major overall mechanically and structurally to further ensure it runs at an optimal standard.

Environmental Health Services

Assessment and inspections are carried out on all new applications for OSSMS. Council's Building Certifier has undergone training to ensure that the assessment and inspections are carried out in accordance with the current standards. Existing on-site sewage management systems are inspected as required on an ad-hoc basis.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

Financial Services

The 2021/22 financial year was extremely busy, with many challenges, including staff shortages in key areas, especially around statutory reporting. Having said this, the 2021/22 Annual Financial Statements were prepared by 30th September 2022, an improvement on 2020/21 year.

Council's result is pleasing with a \$3.046m net operating surplus before grants and contributions. This compares favourably to the 2020/21 result of \$1.981m surplus. Whilst the result is pleasing, it includes \$2.026m of Financial Assistance Grant paid in advance, and a projected saving of \$0.624m saving on depreciation from derecognition of Rural Fire Services Assets, that in Council's view, are not under its control. The 2020/21 result has been adjusted from a \$0.456m surplus to a \$1.981m surplus, due to the derecognition of Rural Fire Services assets and a prior year error in the expense for Insurance costs being overstated by \$0.971m.

There were some significant achievements made by Council's Finance team in the 2021/22 financial year, including:

- Completion of Council's 2021/22 financial statements by 30 September 2022;
- No lost time injuries or WHS incidents within the Finance team in 2021/22;
- Completion of IP & R requirements.

Governance

Developing strategic relationships with other levels of government is a community objective for Council in an effort to ensure that the Warrumbungle local government area receives an equitable allocation of resources. Relationships with all levels of government have continued to be developed and maintained. Council is proactive in communication with various Federal and State Ministers and Members of Parliament, as well as with other councils. Membership and participation in State and regional bodies such as Local Government NSW, the Australian Local Government Association and Mining and Energy Related Councils is maintained, reinforcing strong connections and networking opportunities.

The community has identified that an important function of Council is to encourage and support local business and industry in creating local employment, and to advocate for long-term creation and retention of high-quality services. Council is active in advocacy of local business and industry. In particular during the reporting period, Council has continued to be involved with the Inland Rail project, which will pass through the northern end of the local government area. Support is also given to small businesses through engagement with the NSW Government Small Business Commissioner, hosting small business workshops and other events like the touring Small Business Bus, and meeting with various industry representatives.

Community involvement in the decision-making process is promoted through Community Consultation Meetings, advisory committees and public forums. Combined, these represented at least 65 opportunities for community participation in the reporting period.

Customer Service

The Customer Service team continued to deliver on their commitment that Council customers will receive efficient and responsive service. The front counter teams are regularly recognised for their professional and friendly service.



Cemetery Services

Council manages and maintains 12 cemeteries. Activities include management of a database of interments, liaison with Funeral Directors, excavation of burial sites, maintenance of grounds and fences at each cemetery.

During the year, a columbarium wall was constructed at the Dunedoo cemetery.

Communications and IT

Communications released to inform people of Council activities increased by around 14% over last year. The Community e-Newsletter had a monthly reach of around 934 people, an increase of about 35% on the previous year. A variety of communications methods are used and Council's social media presence continues to increase, up around 18% on last year.

A robust IT network is crucial to allow staff access across a large geographical area. Planning commenced this year on a telecommunications upgrade that will significantly improve Council connectivity across the LGA.

Design Services Management

The design team investigates, designs and prepares drawings for roadworks, drainage works, kerbing and guttering and footpath works. The team also provides rural road addressing services across the Shire and GIS services to the organisation. The design team also provides project management services for grant funded projects.



Environment and Development Management

During 2021/2022, Council completed a review of its 7.12 Developer Contributions Plan (formerly known as s94A Contributions Plan), with the new plan being adopted. Further work

on the LEP Amendment was achieved, along with preparation of a planning proposal for Reclassification of Land, with the process continuing into the next financial year.

Council was actively involved in meetings with developers associated with the Central West Orana Renewable Energy Zone, and has prepared a number of submissions in response to draft SEAR's and Environmental Impact Statements for a variety of wind farms and solar farms.

Discussions with Inland Rail representatives has occurred during the reporting period, with regular update meetings being held between ARTC/Inland Rail and Council representatives. Council continues to advocate for local benefits, seeking a construction camp for Baradine and legacy infrastructure as a result of the rail line.

Council continue to run a local heritage program, with funding received from NSW Heritage Office to undertake a heritage adviser service, and provide a local heritage fund. Both services have proven to be beneficial for owners of heritage items, with heritage advice being regularly sought, as well as five successful small heritage grants being allocated during the reporting period. Unfortunately, due to COVID and delays with tradespersons, some heritage work was unable to be fulfilled within the required timeframes.

Organisation Development

Council's turnover increased slightly to 13.30% in 2021/2022 compared to 11.76% in 2020/2021, and is marginally above the average turnover of 12.28% for the previous five years. Council staff had an average tenure of 10.35 years (calculated at 30 June 2022), compared to the average tenure of 10.74 years in the previous year.

There was a 41.6% decrease in the number of lost time injuries (LTI) in 2021/2022 compared to the previous year and the LTI days are currently the lowest in five years. Claims from 2019/2020 had the most LTI days of recent years and will continue to impact Council's workers compensation premium until the end of 2022/23.

Council moved into the third and final year of its Employee Engagement Program, with the annual staff survey being conducted in late 2021. Feedback received continues to indicate internal communication, consultation and resourcing remain the focal areas.



Learning and development continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021/2022 as some training was indefinitely deferred and others moved to a virtual delivery model. Despite these challenges, organisation-wide code of conduct and large-scale customer service training was able to be delivered face to face. Council also participated in the Regional and Rural Management Challenge for the first time in early 2022.

In continuing Council's commitment to support local youth through apprenticeship and traineeship programs, two School-Based Trainees were appointed in early 2022, one in Business Administration and one in Financial Administration. This was in addition to the three School-Based Traineeships that commenced in early 2021, one in Horticulture and two in Automotive Services. Council also hosts:

- two trainees in Children's Services
- one trainee in Warrumbungle Water
- two Apprentice Plumbers
- one Civil Construction Apprentice

Council also continues to provide work experience placements for local students when possible.

Property Management

Council's property portfolio, excluding public halls and medical centres, includes two administration offices, nine residential houses, three preschools and a range of community buildings.

Council has management responsibility for 71 Crown Reserves. The development of a formal Plan of Management for each Crown Reserve continued throughout 2021/22.

Fleet Services

To support Council's wide range of services, workshops are operated in Coolah and Coonabarabran. The mechanics in these workshops provide maintenance and support services for a large fleet of vehicles including 79 light vehicles, and 90 heavy vehicles comprising eight graders, three loaders, four excavators, four backhoes, eight rollers, seven tractors, five large tippers, 23 medium sized trucks, two garbage trucks, and one street sweeper. Council workshops and mechanics also provide maintenance and registration services to 81 trucks and vehicles used by the Rural Fire Service. The fleet replacement program in 2021/22 was \$2,205,000 and included: a backhoe, grader, six trucks, three outfront mowers and 22 light vehicles.

A global shortage of vehicles and supply chain issues resulted in extensive delays in delivery. Some vehicles ordered in 2021/22 have not arrived.



Risk Management

Risk mitigation throughout the year includes membership of Statewide Mutual, providing access to regional insurance and risk management support. Regionally, Council participates in the Orana Risk and Safety Management Group.

Workshops

There is a workshop in Coonabarabran depot and the Coolah depot that provides mechanical repair services to Council's vehicle fleet. The total cost of operating the workshops in 2021/22 was \$55,232.

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The Financial Snapshot will be published with the 2021/22 Financial Statements when they are available.

	2022	2021
	\$'000	\$'000
Income Statement		
Total Income from continuing operations	52,332	48,494
Total Expenses from continuing operations	39,787	38,256
Net operating result from continuing operations	12,545	10,238
Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	3,046	1,981
Statement of Financial Position		
Total current assets	36,552	29,678
Total current liabilities	(10,324)	(10,164)
Total non-current assets	599,880	552,388
Total non-current liabilities	(6,191)	(4,776)
Total Equity	619,917	567,127
Other financial information		
Operating performance ratio (%)	6.11%	3.03%
Own source operating revenue ratio (%)	46.83%	44.46%
Unrestricted current ratio (times)	5.95	4.88
Debt service cover ratio (times)	11.59	10.76
Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage (%)	9.99%	12.33%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	10.61	9.71
Buildings and infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	89.00%	160.14%

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DELIVERY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Within 5 months after the end of each year, a council must prepare a report (its “**annual report**”) for that year reporting as to its achievements in implementing its delivery program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives at which those principal activities are directed.

Council’s achievements in implementing its *Delivery Program 2021/22* are detailed above at ‘Council Highlights’.

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS

A copy of the council’s audited financial reports prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting* published by the Department, as in force from time to time.

Copies of Council’s financial statements are provided as attachments to this Annual Report (Attachments 1-3).

RATES AND CHARGES WRITTEN OFF

The Council’s Annual Report must include the amount of rates and charges written off during the year.

Rates and charges written off by Warrumbungle Shire Council in 2021/22:

Description	Amount (\$)
Rates	\$5,165.31
Interest	\$269.69

OVERSEAS VISITS

Details (including the purpose) of overseas visits undertaken during the year by councillors, council staff or other persons while representing the council (including visits sponsored by other organisations).

Councillors and Staff were not involved in any overseas travel during the year.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES AND PROVISION OF FACILITIES TO COUNCILLORS

Details of the total cost during the year of the payment of the expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, councillors in relation to their civic functions (as paid by the council, reimbursed to the councillor or reconciled with the councillor), including separate details on the total cost of each of the following:

- (i) the provision during the year of dedicated office equipment allocated to councillors on a personal basis, such as laptop computers, mobile telephones and landline telephones and facsimile machines installed in councillors' homes (including equipment and line rental costs and internet access costs but not including call costs);
- (ii) telephone calls made by councillors, including calls made from mobile telephones provided by the council and from landline telephones and facsimile services installed in councillors' homes;
- (iii) the attendance of councillors at conferences and seminars;
 - a. the provision of induction training for councillors, supplementary induction training for mayors and professional development programs for mayors and other councillors;
- (iv) other training of mayors and councillors and the provision of skill development for mayors and councillors;
- (v) interstate visits undertaken during the year by councillors while representing the council, including the cost of transport, the cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses;
- (vi) overseas visits undertaken during the year by councillors while representing the council, including the cost of transport, the cost of accommodation and other out-of-pocket travelling expenses;
- (vii) the expenses of any spouse, partner (whether of the same or opposite sex) or other person who accompanied a councillor in the performance of his or her civic functions, being expenses payable in accordance with the *Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors for Local Councils in NSW* prepared by the Director-General from time to time;
- (viii) expenses involved in the provision of care for a child of, or an immediate family member of, a councillor, to allow the councillor to undertake his or her civic functions.

Councillor Fees

Description	Amount (\$)
Election expenses	\$101,587
Mayor	\$24,319
Councillors (8)	\$100,320

Councillor Allowances

Description	Amount (\$)
Travel and accommodation	\$12,579
Meal allowance	\$2,837
Provision of dedicated office equipment	\$0
Telephone calls made by Councillors	\$2,592
Attendance at conferences and seminars	\$12,550
Training and provision of skill development	\$7,553
Interstate visits, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses	\$0
Overseas visits, including transport, accommodation and other out of pocket travelling expenses	\$0
Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor	\$0
Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member	\$0
Other allowances – subscriptions and publications	\$49,445

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

For the purposes of section 428(4)(b) of the Act, an annual report of a council must include the following information--

- (a) the names of any mayors or councillors who completed any induction training course, induction refresher course or supplementary induction course under this Part during the year,
- (b) the names of any mayors or councillors who participated in any ongoing professional development program under this Part during the year,
- (c) the number of seminars, circulars and other activities delivered as part of the ongoing professional development program in accordance with this Part during the year.

Throughout the year 2021/22 Councillors participated in the Councillor Induction Session on 24 January 2022 and Councillor Code of Conduct Training on 7 March 2022.

Councillor Rindfleish also attended Hit the Ground Running Training and Understanding LG Finances for Councillors.

Throughout the 2021/22 financial year 38 circulars were delivered to councillors as part of their ongoing professional development.

CONTRACTS AWARDED

Details of each contract awarded by the council during that year (whether as a result of tender or otherwise) other than:

- (i) employment contracts (that is, contracts of service but not contracts for services), and
- (ii) contracts for less than \$150,000 or such other amount as may be prescribed by the regulations,

including the name of the contractor, the nature of the goods or services supplied by the contractor and the total amount payable to the contractor under the contract.

Council engaged in six contracts exceeding \$150,000 during 2021/22 totalling \$4,439,696.41 (ex GST).

Contract ID	Name of contractor	Nature of goods or services supplied	Value (\$)
64/2122	Westrac Pty Ltd	Purchase one Caterpillar 950M Wheel Loader at a price of \$392,000 and trade in Plant No 96 for a price of \$180,000.	212,000.00 (ex GST)
64/2122	Westrac Pty Ltd	Purchase one Caterpillar 140M Motor Grader at a price of \$420,509 and trade in Plant No 104 for a price of \$185,000.	235,509.00 (ex GST)
64/2122	Westrac Pty Ltd	Purchase one Caterpillar 140M Motor Grader at a price of \$420,509 and trade in Plant No 105 for a price of \$175,000.	245,509.00 (ex GST)
148250	D&M Built Pty Ltd	Medium Works Commercial Contract – various locations within Warrumbungle LGA to repair storm damage sustained to multiple properties at Coolah and Dunedoo.	1,483,647.70 (incl GST)
215/2122	Aitken Civil Engineering Pty Ltd	Roadworks on Purlewaugh Road between 8km to 24km east of Coonabarabran.	2,128,698.68 (ex GST)
344/2122	Tamworth Regional Council	Managed Services – support and maintenance, IT end user support	369,209.09 (ex GST)

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

A summary of the amounts incurred by the council during the year in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against the council (including amounts, costs and expenses paid or received by way of out of court settlements, other than those the terms of which are not to be disclosed) and a summary of the state of progress of each legal proceeding and (if it has been finalised) the result.

Matter and Court	Court	Amount incurred 21/22 (\$)	Status – Progress or Outcome
Boulus Constructions P/L v WSC Supreme Court of NSW (Proceedings No. 2018/00340246)	Supreme Court of NSW (Proceedings No. 2018/00340246)	409,041.33	Ongoing

LABOUR STATISTICS REPORTING

Section 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation) has been amended to require councils to report on their employment practices in their annual reports.

Councils will be required to publish information in their annual reports, starting with the 2021/22 annual report, on the total number of persons who performed paid work for them on a "relevant day" to be fixed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Secretary DPIE) each year.

On 25 May 2022 there were:

196	persons directly employed by Council
156	on a permanent full-time basis
17	on a permanent part-time basis
15	on a casual basis
8	on a fixed-term contract (including 6 PT school-based trainees)
1	person employed by the Council who is "senior staff" for the purposes of the LG Act 1993
1	persons engaged by council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, that is wholly or principally for the labour of the person
4	persons supplied to council, under a contract or other arrangement as an apprentice or trainee.

INSPECTIONS OF PRIVATE SWIMMING POOLS

For the purposes of section 22F (2) of the Act, a local authority that is a council must include in its annual report under section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 the number of inspections that it carried out under Division 5 of Part 2 of the Act that--

- (a) were of tourist and visitor accommodation, or
- (b) were of premises on which there were more than 2 dwellings, or
- (c) resulted in the council issuing the following--
 - (i) a certificate of compliance under section 22D of the Act,
 - (ii) a certificate of non-compliance under clause 21 of this Regulation.

Inspections of private swimming pools throughout Warrumbungle LGA	
(a) were of tourist and visitor accommodation, or	16
(b) were of premises on which there are more than two dwellings, or	0
(c) resulted in the council issuing the following;	
(i) a certificate of compliance under section 22D of the act,	13
(ii) a certificate of non-compliance under 21 of this Regulation.	3

PRIVATE WORKS

Details or a summary (as required by section 67(3) of the Act) of resolutions made during that year under section 67 of the Act concerning work carried out on private land and details or a summary of such work if the cost of the work has been fully or partly subsidised by the council, together with a statement of the total amount by which the council has subsidised any such work during that year.

There were no resolutions made in relation to Private Works, as required under Section 67 and there no private works fully or partly subsidised by Council during 2021/22.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

Organisation Name	Total Value (\$)
Coonabarabran Local Aboriginal	500.00
Samaritans Foundation	500.00
Coonabarabran Pipes and Drums	500.00
Dunedoo Rugby League Football	500.00
The Black Stump Craft Shop Inc	500.00
Coolah Lions Club	500.00
Dunedoo & District Development	500.00
Dunedoo Polocrosse Club Inc	500.00
Mendooran & District Development	500.00
Baradine Golf Club Incorporate	500.00
Yarn Support Connect - Coonabarabran	500.00
Baradine PA & H Association	500.00
Riding for The Disabled (NSW)	480.00
Art Unlimited Dunedoo Lions Club	1,000.00
Coonabarabran Jockey Club	1,000.00
Dunedoo Polocrosse Club Inc	500.00
Coonabarabran Chamber of Commerce	500.00
Binnaway Jockey Club	1,000.00
Baradine Amateur Swimming Club	500.00
Flying Mice Aboriginal Elders	500.00
Binnaway Central School P & C	70.00
St Johns School	70.00
St Lawrences Primary School	70.00
Baradine Central School	70.00
Coolah Central School P & C As	70.00
Dunedoo Central School	70.00
Baradine Rusty Club Inc	500.00
CWA Coonabarabran	1,184.00
CWA Coonabarabran	359.00
CWA Baradine	593.00
CWA Baradine	359.00
Coolah Youth and Community	970.00
Coolah Youth and Community	359.00
Dunedoo Area Community	327.00
Presbyterian Church Dunedoo	327.00
Catholic Parish Coonabarabran	327.00
Catholic Parish Coonabarabran	359.00
St James Presbyterian Coolah	327.00
St James Presbyterian Coolah	359.00

Anglican Parish Coonabarabran	327.00
Anglican Parish Coonabarabran	359.00
Uarbry Hall Association	393.55
Coolah & District Historical Society	500.00
Binnaway Tennis Club Inc	400.00
Creatives Collective	500.00
Dunedoo Lions Club	500.00
Leadville Community Association	500.00
Dunedoo Amateur Swimming Club	500.00
Riding for The Disabled (NSW)	500.00
Orana Arts Inc	2,000.00
Coolah Sacred Heart Primary School	70.00
St Micheal's Primary School	70.00
Binnaway Bombshell Rugby League	300.00
Coolah Men's Shed Inc	500.00
Presbyterian Church (NSW) Prop	267.00
Mendooran & District Development	500.00
Mendooran Arts & Craft	400.00
Dunedoo & District Historical	500.00
CWA Baradine	500.00
Coolah & District Historical Society	500.00
Trustees of the Bugaldie War Memorial	500.00
Dunedoo Area Community Group Inc	327.00
Coolah Historical Arts Tourism	500.00
Coolah Swimming Club	500.00
Coonabarabran Club Co Op Ltd	500.00
Coonabarabran High School	70.00
Coonabarabran Orbital Swing Band	500.00
TOTAL	31,233.55

EXTERNAL BODIES

A statement of all external bodies that during the year exercised functions delegated by the council.

External Body	Function
Castlereagh Macquarie County Council	Control noxious weeds on public land and waterways
Macquarie Regional Library	Library services
Committee	Function
Castlereagh Bushfire Management	Fire mitigation
Local Emergency Management	Emergency co-ordination
Traffic Advisory	Traffic management
North West Weight of Loads Group	Heavy vehicle regulation

CONTROLLING INTERESTS

A statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the council (whether alone or in conjunction with other councils) held a controlling interest during that year.

Warrumbungle Shire Council did not hold a controlling interest in any company during the reporting period.

JOINT VENTURES

A statement of all corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies (whether or not incorporated) in which the council participated that year.

During 2021/22 Council was a joint venture member of the Macquarie Regional Library service with Dubbo Regional Council and Narromine Shire Council. During the period Council was also a joint member of the Castlereagh Macquarie County Council. Council coordinated the Connect Five Children's Services which serviced Warrumbungle, Coonamble and Gilgandra local government areas.

Council is also a part of Statewide and StateCover, which are Mutuals for the provision of public liability, property insurance, fidelity guarantee and workers compensation insurances.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

A statement of the activities undertaken by the council during that year to implement its equal employment opportunity management plan.

In relation to Council's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan:

- All employees and management have access to Council's Management Plan
- Council's Recruitment and Selection Policy ensures ongoing compliance with EEO and merit selection principles and practices and Council utilises online recruitment software which provides increased transparency of decision making.
- Council's statement of being an EEO employer is included in all job advertisements.
- Council conducts ongoing reviews of Council's policies, procedures and practice to ensure they are compliant with EEO principles and practices.
- Diversity metrics included in Council's Workforce Plan

REMUNERATION – SENIOR STAFF

A statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration package of the general manager during the year that is to include the following:

- (i) the total value of the salary component of the package;
- (ii) the total amount of any bonus payments, performance payments or other payments made to the general manager that do not form part of the salary component of the general manager;
- (iii) the total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the general manager may be a contributor;
- (iv) the total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package;
- (v) the total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.

A statement of the total remuneration comprised in the remuneration packages of all senior staff members (other than the general manager) employed during the year, expressed as the total remuneration of all the senior staff members concerned (not of the individual senior staff members) and including total of each of the following:

- (i) the total values of the salary component of their packages;
- (ii) the total amount of any bonus payments, performance payments or other payments made to them that do not form part of the salary components of their packages;
- (iii) the total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor;
- (iv) the total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package;
- (v) the total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits.

The General Manager is Council's only designated Senior Staff member as prescribed by section 332 of the Act. The General Manager's total remuneration package was:

Component	Amount (\$)
Salary	257,549.13
Bonus payments, performance payments or other payments not forming part of salary component	0
Employer's contribution to salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the General Manager is a contributor	24,922.70
Non-cash benefits	0
Fringe Benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	6,301.74

STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES

If the council has levied an annual charge for stormwater management services - a statement detailing the stormwater management services provided by the council during that year.

Council implemented a stormwater levy in 2017/18 to fund stormwater projects that Council is currently unable to fund, due to funding limitations, from General Fund. This stormwater levy was introduced and is made under section 496A of the Local Government Act 1993. Land within an urban area rated as either residential or business for rating purposes (except vacant land) will be charged an annual levy for Council to provide a stormwater management service.

Within the local government area there are a total of 3,828 assessments rated as residential and 379 assessments rated as business. In accordance with section 125AA of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, the maximum annual charge for stormwater management services levied in respect of a parcel of rateable land is for land categorised as urban residential land at \$25 and for businesses up to \$25 per 350m².

The stormwater levy helps councils improve the management of the quality and quantity of stormwater that flows off a parcel of a privately-owned land and also includes a service to manage the re-use of stormwater for any purpose. Council will accrue additional revenue of \$105,175 per annum for expenditure for stormwater management, assuming each business and residential assessment is charged a flat \$25 per assessment.

Council levied a stormwater charge in 2021/22 and the funds were allocated to the Cowper Street drainage project in Coonabarabran. This project was not able to commence owing to access issues and weather-related delays.

SPECIAL VARIATIONS

A report on special variation expenditure if required to do so by the instrument made by the Minister.

As no special variation was received by Council, there are no outcomes or expenditures to report.

COMPANION ANIMALS ACT AND REGULATION

A detailed statement, prepared in accordance with such guidelines as may be issued by the Director-General from time to time, of the council's activities during the year in relation to enforcing, and ensuring compliance with, the provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1998* and the regulations under that Act.

Statement of enforcement and ensuring compliance with the provisions of the *Companion Animals Act 1988* (CA Act) and the *Companion Animal Regulation 2018*, including:

Lodgement of pound data collection returns with the Office of Local Government (survey of Council seizures of cats and dogs)	Survey completed and submitted.
Lodgement of data about dog attacks with the Office of Local Government	Yes – data lodged through the NSW Companion Animals Register.
Amount of funding spent on companion animal management and activities	No funding received during the reporting period.
Community education programs carried out and strategies the Council has in place to promote and assist the de-sexing of dogs and cats	No programs currently in place. This program is carried out locally by veterinarians.
Strategies in place for complying with the requirements under s64 of the CA Act to seek alternatives to euthanasia of unclaimed animals	Re-homing program in place as per OLG requirements.
Off leash areas provided in the Council area	Off leash areas provided is all towns.
Detailed information on fund money used for managing and controlling companion animals in its area	No funding received during the reporting period.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS)

Each agency (other than a Minister) must, within 4 months after the end of each reporting year, prepare an annual report on the agency's obligations under this Act for submission to the Minister responsible for the agency. A copy of the report is to be provided to the Information Commissioner.

The annual report of an agency (other than a Minister) required to be prepared under section 125 of the Act must include the following:

(Note: An agency's report under section 125 of the Act can be included in the agency's annual report required to be prepared under the annual reporting legislation – see section 6 of the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985* or section 5A of the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* [as the case requires].)

- (a) details of the review carried out by the agency under section 7(3) of the Act during the reporting year and the details of any information made publicly available by the agency as a result of that review;
- (b) the total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year (including withdrawn applications but not including invalid applications);
- (c) the total number of access applications received by the agency during the reporting year that the agency refused, either wholly or partly, because the application was for the disclosure of information referred to in Schedule 1 to the Act (Information for which there is conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure).

(Note: Table D in Schedule 2 also requires information relating to access applications in respect of which there is a conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure.)

- (d) information, as set out in the form required by the tables in Schedule 2, relating to the access applications (if any) made to the agency during the reporting year.

Council has received 48 requests for information during the reporting period. Details are provided on the table over.

Number of Applications by Type of Application Outcome

	Full Access Granted	Part Access Granted	Refused Access in Full	Information not Held	Information Already Available	Refuse to Deal with Application	Refuse to Confirm/ Deny Information Held	Application Withdrawn	Total	% of Total
Personal Information Applications	18	3			4		1		26	54.17
Applications other than personal information	13			3	4			1	21	43.75
Applications partly personal and partly other					1				1	2.08
Total	31	3	0	3	9	0	1	1		
% of total	64.59	6.25	0	6.25	18.75	0	2.08	2.08		

Note: A personal information application is an access application for personal information (as defined in clause 4 of schedule 4 to the Act) about the application (the applicant being an individual).

PLANNING AGREEMENTS

A planning authority that has entered into one or more planning agreements must, while any such planning agreements remain in force, include in its annual report particulars of compliance with and the effect of the planning agreements during the year to which the report relates.

Council entered into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with TILT Renewables for the Liverpool Range Wind Farm during 2019/20 financial year. This VPA remains in force.

PUBLIC INTEREST DISCLOSURES

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

Public Interest Disclosures (PID) submitted to the Ombudsman in 2022/21 are outlined in the table below.

	By public officials performing their daily functions	Under a statutory or other legal obligation	All other interest disclosures
PID applications by public officials	0	0	0
Access applications other than personal information	0	0	0
PID received, primarily about:			
Corrupt conduct	0	0	0
Maladministration	0	0	0
Serious and substantial waste	0	0	0
Government information convention	0	0	0
Local government pecuniary interest convention	0	0	0

DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

According to the *Disability Inclusion Act 2013* section 13(1), a public authority that is a government department or local council must, as soon as practicable after preparing its annual report, give the Minister a copy of the part of the annual report relating to the department's or council's report on the implementation of its disability inclusion action plan.

During 2021/2022 Council was focused on completing the actions outlined in the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-2021 (DIAP) and included in Delivery Program adopted in 2017. The DIAP has been extended until June 2023 and another plan will be developed for 2023-2027. Feedback from community members will be incorporated into the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2023-2027 and community consultation on the draft plan will incorporate direct contact with individuals and disability groups to seek their feedback on the plan.

The DIAP outlines Council's commitment to uphold and promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Council strategy is to support and improve the inclusion of people with a disability as part of its core business and to remove barriers to access and participation. Council adheres to equal employment opportunity, and all employment and volunteer opportunities with Council are inclusive. Council buildings are accessible for staff and visitors

Council regularly hosts events that promote inclusion and seek to build positive attitudes towards diverse abilities in the community, such as the Community Care Expos held in Coonabarabran and Mendooran, an Inclusive Sports Day held during Youth Week in Baradine and "Colour Runs" held in Coolah and Binnaway.

The libraries progressed a range of projects, including processing new resources for inclusion in the collection, developing online content and sessions, and processing items relating to oral and local history photographs. Assistive technology was purchased for customers, including special contrast keyboards and mouse balls.

Council continues to work on options to meet accessibility accreditation for Council's website to provide a fuller range of options for people of all abilities to contact and interact with Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachments 1-3: 2021/22 Audited Financial Statements will be published when they become available.