



Coolamon shire
council

big enough to serve small enough to care

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 FINANCIAL YEAR

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council commenced this financial year in the grip of drought, only for the country to then experience several significant disasters through major widespread bush fires.

The second half of the 2020 financial year was dominated by Council's response to the COVID Pandemic.

The Global response to this Pandemic required changes to the way we lived and worked. Council took the position that we would continue to provide the services and maintain the employment of staff to ensure money turned over in the community. All in all, this strategy worked quite well and our communities managed through the crisis and stayed relatively operational, compared to the impact in other regions around the world.

This unusual situation also meant that Council was busy managing disaster recovery and economic stimulus packages from both the Federal and State Governments. These were designed to financially invigorate communities through infrastructure projects that could be rolled out quickly. This boosted local employment but required some changes to our programmed work schedules to ensure funding could be acquitted.

The timing of these funds meant that Council received the income in this financial year but the majority of work will be required to be completed in the next.

Our financial position was underpinned by an Operating Profit of \$6.727 Million. The Net Operating Result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes was \$790,000 which reflects the large Capital Works Funding that is improving or adding to Council's infrastructure.

Coolamon Shire continues to meet the State Government's performance ratios that measure Council's ability to pay for its operational expenses and cover any cash expenses. The only failed measure is own source income, however, this is difficult to manage when numerous stimulus packages are being run through Grants, for Local Government to deliver.

Although this year has been difficult in terms of environmental conditions and a worldwide pandemic, Coolamon Shire Council has maintained its service provisions and a healthy financial position. This will be leveraged to ensure we continue to ensure our communities are healthy and vibrant.



John Seymour
MAYOR



Tony Donoghue
GENERAL MANAGER

GENERAL INFORMATION

Council Headquarters:

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

Senior Staff:

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

Meetings:

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

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

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

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

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

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF DELIVERY PROGRAM & OPERATIONAL PLAN

Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that Council's prepare an annual report for that year reporting as to its achievements in implementing its delivery program and the effectiveness of the principal activities undertaken in achieving the objectives at which those principal activities are directed.

Council's performance during the 2019/2020 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 2019/2020 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

Council's Event Funding Program provided financial assistance to the Ardlethan Art Prize, Ardlethan Show, Coolamon Fire Muster and Ganmain Triathlon for marketing of their events.

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 and as part of Council's Local Government Week Celebrations, where Council volunteers were personally thanked for their efforts by Councillors at an afternoon tea.

Council continues to provide training to its volunteers to ensure that they are adequately equipped to pursue their passion of serving their communities. Various events were held throughout the year to thank volunteers for their service in addition to Volunteers Week.

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

Council has continued to market Allawah Lodge, Allawah Retirement Village 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 participated in the Country Change Campaign to encourage people to consider the Coolamon Shire as an alternative place to live and work.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

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

The Coolamon Early Childhood Centre did experience reduced attendance numbers and some enrolment reductions as a result of COVID-19. Council was eligible for funding from the NSW Government to support the retention of staff. Ardlethan Preschool also received funding from the NSW Government to provide “fee free preschool”.

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. Various activities have been organised as part of the School Holiday Program and Council staff have participated in youth forums arranged by REROC.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Lobby for adequate local police working presence.

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

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

Provide support for NSW Fire & Rescue.

Progress Report:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

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

Council's existing public conveniences were cleaned in accordance with the cleaning schedule as agreed to with Council contractors. Public conveniences located in Lions Park, Coolamon, continue to be closed to the public after daylight hours. Construction of new amenities, funded under the Drought Communities Program at Bicentennial Park Marrar commenced during the reporting period.

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 commenced 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. Council completed works funded under the Fixing Country Roads program on a section of Marrar South Road in the Junee Shire.

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 Coolamon and Ganmain sewerage systems.

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

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

Construct sewerage scheme in the township of Ardlethan

Progress Report:

Construction of the Ardlethan Sewerage Scheme including reticulation, sewerage treatment plant and pump station were reaching completion at the end of the reporting period.

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

Support the provision of improved public transport within the Shire.

Progress Report:

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

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

Council advocated for improvements to the Ardlethan Medical Centre for access by visiting medical professionals.

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

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

Council completed construction of a footpath around Allawah Village in Coolamon utilising funding under the Stronger County Communities Fund Round 2.

Works at the Coolamon Post Office funded under the Local Heritage Places to improve physical access to the post office were completed in the reporting period.

1.2.9 Develop and implement an education strategy.

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

Progress Report:

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

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

1.2.10 Extend improved access to telecommunication and broadband services.

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

Progress Report:

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

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

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

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

Support sporting organisations with the retention of their assets.

Progress Report:

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

Council Staff have continued to monitor the use of the Coolamon Skate Park and the Mobile Skate Park and the mobile pump track have been rotated around the Shire. Rotation of the mobile assets ceased for a period of time as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

Council together with various supporting organisations completed the Ganmain Sports Ground Multipurpose Facilities Upgrade, Ardlethan Recreation Reserve Facility Upgrade, Coolamon Sport & Recreation Club Bowling Green Refurbishment and Marrar Langtry Oval Amenities Upgrade with funding from the Stronger Country Communities Fund.

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

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

Continued operation of static library in Coolamon.

Progress Report:

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

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

Council was required to restrict physical access to the Coolamon Shire Library as a result of COVID restrictions but implemented an order and delivery service to users across the Shire and online "Storytime".

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

With additional State Government funding, Council extended the opening hours of the library and employed additional staff during the reporting period.

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. Upgrading works with funding from Rounds 1 and 2 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund were finalised during the financial year at the Up to Date Store for the roof “replacement” and outdoor courtyard improvements.

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 2020 event was held in Coolamon with Beckom nominated to hold the 2021 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 again successfully held. Unfortunately due to fire conditions, the fireworks display was cancelled.

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 2019/2020 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.

Council presented the "Our Shire, Our Stories" project with funding from NSW Heritage which will result in a permanent oral history archive celebrating stories from across the entire Shire.

Council completed the "Gullaman Collection" Care Agreement with Office of Environment and Heritage and interpretative signage for the display. The display is now open to the public

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 completed improvement works under the Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 2 local sporting grounds in Ganmain, Marrar and Ardlethan.

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 have been 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.

Council's completed the construction of a multi-use track between the communities of Coolamon and Ganmain.

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 Country Change, with Coolamon Shire being the feature in December 2019 and Canola Trail to increase the profile of the Coolamon Shire as a place to visit.

THEME 2 SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITIES OF THE SHIRE

Objective 2.1: Adaptation to climate variability.

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

Progress Report:

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

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

Progress Report:

Council now has solar panels installed at 12 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. Funding allocations under Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program for the solar at the Ardlethan Museum and Ardlethan Preschool were adopted during the reporting period.

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 continued to source funding to further enhance its domestic waste management services and was successful in being granted funding toward the organics program run at the Coolamon landfill.

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

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

2.2.1 Protect natural landscapes and systems in particular our native vegetation, biodiversity and Murrumbidgee River catchment through sharing regional responsibilities.

To protect the local environment or assist in maximising productivity of prime agricultural land by the removal of infestation of noxious plants.

To ensure all septic tanks throughout the Shire are operating in accordance with the minimum requirements of the Local Government Regulations, Public Health guidelines and industry standards.

To develop an environment that is sustainable for future generations in terms of visual attractiveness and pollution free.

To operate the quarrying service to Council's programmes in an environmentally sensitive manner.

To ensure the protection of natural vegetation on Council controlled land.

Progress Report:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

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

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

Council finalised the Care Agreement with the Office of Environment and Heritage for the ongoing display of aboriginal artefacts from the Gullamen Collection.

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

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

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

Council converted 2 FTE contract positions to non-contract positions to manage its Landfill Sites to move from a supervisory focus to a more proactive management of waste facilities in the LGA.

Council staff continue to plan for when the Coolamon Landfill will move from a landfill site to a transfer station.

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

THEME 3 SUSTAINING OUR STRONG RURAL BASED ECONOMY

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

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

Council support the promotion of businesses within the Shire.

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

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

Progress Report:

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

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

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

Council participates in the 'Country Change' program 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.

Council participated in the "Small Business Month" in October 2019 which included the presentation of a "Taking Your Business to the Next Level" for small business owners in the Coolamon Shire.

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

Progress Report:

Council makes available facilities to training providers when requested.

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

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

3.1.3 Develop and implement initiatives to promote the local and regional economy.
Refer Strategy 3.1.1

3.1.4 Focus development within the Shire to avoid unnecessary duplication of public services and facilities.
*Emphasise the importance of consolidating Council's resources to defined focal points
To provide fully serviced residential land at a reasonable purchase price from Council's land bank.*

Progress Report:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

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

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

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

3.2.2 Maintain and update initiatives to attract tourists.

To encourage visitation and generally promote the area.

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

Improve the signage throughout our towns and villages

Progress Report:

The ongoing update of the Coolamon Shire Residents Guide continues.

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

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

Council staff has continued to source funding opportunities for the further stages at the Coolamon Caravan Park. Council finalised the purchase of additional land at the overnight stay area in Ardlethan to allow for expansion.

Council’s seasonal events brochures and Council’s involvement in the “Canola Trail” and “Country Change” 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 successful holiday programmes throughout the year.

As part of Local Government Week, School Leaders were invited to a morning tea with the Mayor and Senior Staff. The Mayor also held an afternoon tea for community volunteers to thank them for their continued work for their respective communities.

Youth Week was postponed due to COVID restrictions, with Council planning a “Youth Fest at Home” for the September 2020 school holidays.

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 2020 to aid in the preparation of the 2020/2021 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.

Council continued to develop FAQ for the Ardlethan Sewerage over the reporting period with regular mailouts to Ardlethan residents.

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 staff continued with the implementation of AssetFinda (Asset Management system) during the reporting period including implementation of additional modules including defect/inspection reporting.

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.

Two Councillor workshops were held during the year to discuss Council's ongoing asset management requirements.

Council's last Community Satisfaction Survey was completed in August 2016. The results of the survey informed the review of the Community Strategic Plan adopted by Council in June 2017. Council also utilised the results when developing the Delivery Program and Operational Plan each year. Council had planned a community survey in March 2020 but it was deferred for 12 months as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

4.2.3 Build and foster relationships and strategic networks to the benefit of the Coolamon Shire.

Participate with other councils in resource sharing projects to reduce operational costs

Progress Report:

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

4.2.4 Maintain Council's strong financial position.

To ensure that Council's finances are managed in an effective and timely manner.

Progress Report:

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

4.2.5 Deliver high quality services that meet customer expectations.

Develop and implement Customer Service policies and procedures that are customer focused.

Progress Report:

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

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

4.2.6 Minimise risk for Council and the community.

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

Develop and implement suitable internal audit process for Council operations.

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

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

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

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

Progress Report:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Strongly advocate our local interests with the State and Federal Governments.

Progress Report:

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

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

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

4.3.1 Encourage vibrant and vital towns and villages displaying our civic pride.

To provide and maintain a clean and pleasant streetscape.

Progress Report:

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

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 2020.

A summary of the financial statements is provided below:

	2020 \$'000	2019 \$'000
Income Statement		
Total income from continuing operations	22,401	17,961
Total expenses from continuing operations	15,674	15,081
Operating result from continuing operations	6,727	2,880
Net operating result for the year	6,727	2,880
Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	790	586
Statement of Financial Position		
Total current assets	24,418	22,086
Total current liabilities	(11,776)	(9,978)
Total non-current assets	181,794	176,360
Total non-current liabilities	(564)	(483)
Total equity	193,872	187,985
Other financial information		
Unrestricted current ratio (times)	10.19x	8.30x
Operating performance ratio (%)	3.63%	4.44%
Debt service cover ratio (times)	85.40x	283.63x
Rates & annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	4.90%	6.12%
Building and infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	91.30%	116.72%
Own source operating revenue ration (%)	42.18%	47.81%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	25.54 months	21.09 months

A full copy of Council's 2019/2020 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 2019/2020 Financial Reports](#)

ADDITIONAL STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

OVERSEAS VISITS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a)

During the 2019/2020 Financial Year no overseas visits were undertaken during the year by Councillors, Council Staff or other persons while representing Council.

COUNCILLORS EXPENSES & PROVISION OF FACILITIES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a1)

During the 2019/2020 financial year, Council paid Councillor fees, inclusive of the Mayoral fee, totalling \$96,244.83.

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 \$7,515.97 and can be summarized as follows:

i.	Office Equipment	\$278.11
ii.	Telephone	\$0.00
iii.	Attendance at conferences, meetings and seminars	Delegates: \$1,575.76 Travel Allowance: \$5,662.10
iv.	Training	\$0.00
v.	Interstate visits	\$0.00
vi.	Overseas visits	\$0.00
vii.	Spouse, Partner or Other Person in the Accompaniment of a Councillor	\$0.00
viii.	Provision of Care for a Child or Other Immediate Family Member	\$0.00

CONTRACTS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a2)

During 2019/2020 Council awarded the following contracts:

CONTRACT NO.	CONTRACTOR	CONTRACT	CONTRACT AMOUNT (inc GST)
2019/05	Paul Tokley New Homes & Renos	Construction of residence (155 Wallace Street North, Coolamon)	\$ 512,698.00
2019/06	Coolamon Carpentry	Construction of Ardlethan Museum	\$ 372,683.71
2019/07	Westrac	Supply of one self-propelled smooth drum vibrating roller	\$ 169,316.25
2019/08	Coolamon Carpentry	Alterations & extensions to Coolamon Early Childhood Centre	\$ 442,370.00
2019/09	Westrac	Supply of one motor grader	\$ 412,500.00
2020/01	Adaptive Interiors	Allawah Lodge Building Works Stages 2 & 3	\$ 1,158,366.00

LEGAL EXPENSES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a3)

In 2019/2020 Council incurred legal expenses totalling \$63,754.58. These expenses were incurred in the following areas:

Description	Amount
Rates & Debt Recovery (inc. court fees)	\$42,558.03
Planning	\$3,321.79
Employment Contracts & Issues	\$1,080.00
Other inc. Leases, Property Sales & Acquisitions/Contract development	\$16,794.76

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

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

SUBSIDIZED WORK

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – 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 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a5)

The total amount contributed or otherwise granted by Council under Section 356 of the Local Government Act 1993 was \$7,994.71 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 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a6)

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

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

CONTROLLING INTERESTS

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – 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 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(a8)

Council was a party to the following joint ventures 2019/2020

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

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – 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 2019/2020 period, 26 new employees were appointed to Council's Staff. Of these employees, 20 were female and 6 were male; 12 were casual, 10 were engaged as permanent part time employees and 4 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 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(b) & Clause 217 (1)(c)

The total value of the General Manager's Remuneration Package was \$230,149.90 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 2019/2020 and therefore no other amounts are required to be reported.

STORMWATER CHARGES

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(e)

Coolamon Shire Council once again adopted Stormwater Management Charges in 2019/2020. 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 \$45,186.31.

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 2005 – 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 2005 – Clause 217 (1)(f)

In 2019/2020 Council seized a total of 17 companion animals. Of this total 2 were returned to the owner and 15 were transferred to Council's pound facility. Of these 15 animals, 6 were euthanized as they were unable to be rehoused, 1 was sold, 1 was stolen and 7 were rehomed via a third party organisation. This information has been provided to the Office on Council's Return of Seizures of Cats and Dogs for the 2019/2020 financial year.

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

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

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

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

Financial Information – Companion Animals

During the 2019/2020 Financial Year Council received \$511.36 in impounding fees and \$3,894.00 in fines and costs. The expenditure that Council incurred amounted to \$16,643.52 which comprised of wages, plant hire and the provision of miscellaneous supplies and activities.

During the past financial year there was 2 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 2005 - Clause 132

During the 2019/2020 Financial Year rates and charges (exclusive of Pensioner) amounting to \$82.38 were written off.

Council provided rate relief to Pensioners during the Financial Year in the sum of \$117,560.40 Council did however, receive \$65,377.13 pensioner's concession subsidy from the NSW State Government.

CARERS RECOGNITION

Carers Recognition Act 2010 – Section 8 (2)

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

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

DISABILITY INCLUSION PLAN

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 – Section 13 (1)

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

Focus Area 1: Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours

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

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

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

Progress Report

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

Focus Area 2: Creating liveable communities

Council services, facilities and activities are accessible.

Events and Council activities are accessible.

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

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

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

Progress Report

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

- Council's websites having zoom enabled and font resizing
- The construction of disability amenities at the Council Chambers, Coolamon Visitor Information Centre, Redgrave Park, Coolamon, Beckom Hall & Marrar Memorial Hall
- Ongoing implementation of Council's Active Transport Plan including the construction of a path in Beckom linking the park to the hall and kerb blisters and ramps in Ganmain
- Council continues to undertake assessments of its public facilities to ensure that accessibility issues are considered as part of future upgrades.
- Council awarded funding under the Local Heritage Places program to contribute to improved access to the Coolamon Post Office.
- Designated disabled parking was established in Cowabbie Street, Coolamon
- Flyers have been distributed to business in Cowabbie Street, Coolamon for promoting location of disabled parking spots.

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	9
Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate on non-compliance under Clause 18BA of the Regulation	3

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: [2019/2020 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: [2019/2020 Public Interest Disclosures Annual Report](#)