



2011/2012 ANNUAL REPORT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report provides a full commentary on Council's achievements during 2011/2012. It allows Council to be measured against the objectives in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Those two documents were developed out of the Community Strategic Plan which was the result of an extensive consultation period.

The Delivery Plan was broken down four key themes;

- 1) Sustaining our close-knit Shire communities.
- 2) Sustaining the environmental qualities of the Shire.
- 3) Sustaining our strong rural based economy.
- 4) Working together to achieve our Communities 2030 vision.

Extracted from within those themes were the desired outcomes and strategies for individual communities.

It must be realised that the Strategic Plan encompasses a twenty year period, and a number of projects are put in train that are seen as having a long term payback. Furthermore it is a twenty year program and accordingly all programs and their implementation do not have to commence in the first, second, third or even fourth year.

The resources of Council and the Community were placed under considerable stress during the flood events that occurred in March of this year. All towns within the Shire were affected and the Rural Road Network in its entirety suffered considerable damage. Apart from this public infrastructure Council's thoughts were also with our farming community where considerable damage occurred right across the region. It was a great relief when after a number of submissions were made, Coolamon Shire was declared a Natural Disaster Area which allowed the farming community to gain some form of recompense. Council were able to achieve recognition for road damage and grant funds were made available to rectify the road damage. Restoration works are progressing and whilst these are moving well it will take considerable time before the entire network is back in an acceptable format.

This Annual Report will detail the achievements that Council has made over the past year in endeavouring to work towards encompassing the goals that were established under the twenty year Community Strategic Plan.

Council recognises the value of childcare services within its communities on the basis that if young people are to remain or come into our communities on a permanent basis then they will require childcare services. Council continues to support these throughout the towns of the Shire. Youth services were again well supported with the school holiday program, and Youth Week being well patronised.

The planned upgrade of our swimming pools is slowly but surely becoming a reality. The Coolamon pool had substantial works completed during this year and this will continue into the coming year. The Ardlethan pool upgrade has commenced and will be completed over the next two to three years. A new attraction at the swimming pools has been the purchase of inflatables which are transported around the Shire and are in constant demand at each of the swimming pools.

The Up-To-Date Store continues to provide a cultural centre for the Shire with the well-renowned Reg Godde collection being relocated and becoming part of the complex. The Coolamon Lions Club has taken over the management of this collection and has worked closely with Council to ensure its relocation and its establishment within the centre.

During the past year Council has taken a new direction in terms of tourism and business development. Council has engaged Linda Tillman of Tilma Management to undertake the role of management of this activity. Linda will work with all businesses and communities throughout the Shire in an attempt to boost commercial activity and Shire visitation.

Council has had a long term commitment to aged care services through the Allawah Complex and the Community Centre located within that complex. During the past year Council has extended its aged services into Ganmain, with the construction of the aged persons units in Ganmain. Council was well assisted in funding for these units by the Ganmain community who raised considerable funds that were directed towards their construction. Council congratulates the Aged Care Committee in Ganmain for their efforts over many years in raising these funds.

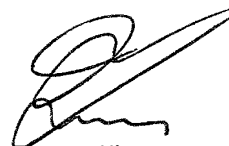
For a number of years Council has been working towards main street upgrades. The past year works were carried out in Aria Street, Ardlethan with the realignment of the kerb and gutter and park enhancement works on those parks adjacent to Aria Street.

The Annual Report in its totality provides more detailed information concerning the above programs as well as other information on Council's achievements against its Operational and Delivery Program.

Council commends the report to the Residents of the Shire



John Seymour
MAYOR



Terrey Kiss
GENERAL MANAGER

GENERAL INFORMATION

Council Headquarters:

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

Office Hours:

General Business	8.30am to 5.00pm
Cashier	8.30am to 4.00pm

Elected Members:

Mayor:	Clr. John Seymour	0427 275 144
Deputy Mayor:	Clr Bruce Hutcheon	0427 273 439
Councillors:	Clr Grant Beard	0458 782 190
	Clr Dennis Brill	0427 278 266
	Clr Bec Huxtable	0428 267 353
	Clr Kerrilee Logan	0427 276 377
	Clr Kathy Maslin	0427 783 810
	Clr Dave McCann	0427 273 044
	Clr Alan White	0428 698 204

Senior Staff:

General Manager:	Mr Terrey Kiss	0428 273 197
Deputy General Manager, Planning & Environmental Services:	Mr Tony Donoghue	0427 273 694
Executive Manager, Corporate & Community Services:	Mr Courtney Armstrong	0428 314 787
Executive Manager, Engineering & Technical Services:	Mr Tony Kelly	0428 266 104

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 1.30pm and generally conclude around 6.00pm. Ratepayers are welcome to attend.

Agenda's 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.

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 2011/2012 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:

During the 2011/2012 year, Council actively supported local community organisations. This support was provided to the all of Council's Section 355 Committees as well as to a number of other community committees/organisations including Matong Bush Picnic, Up-2-Date Art Exhibition, Canola Adventurers, Coolamon and Ganmain Senior Citizens Groups, Coolamon Lions Club and Coolamon Rotary Club. Additionally donations have been made to all of the schools throughout the Shire towards their prize-giving evenings.

In order to support the many community organisations such as Halls, CWA's etc, rate relief has been provided to these organisations as per Council's policies.

Council re-appointed all its Section 355 committees but in assessing its Community Consultation Strategy and the Shire's Community Strategic Plan, plans are underway to redefine Council's various Section 355 committees in order to ensure that the community and Council have an established consultation mechanism and to give communities ownership and responsibility of projects that Council is not responsible for.

Council continues to administer the Coolamon Shire Community Benefit Fund that provides financial assistance to Shire residents in accordance with the rules and regulations of the fund.

Council provided support the Ganmain Guardian, Ardlethan Kelpie Bark and Coolamon Lions Club in the production of their monthly newsletters.

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:

Council has continued to encourage volunteerism in its monthly newsletter and has been actively involved in providing training to its volunteers.

Council has not received any requests for administrative support from any volunteer organisations.

Coolamon Lions Club continued to receive support from Council in the transportation of their recyclable materials to Wagga Wagga. Council also provided equipment to the Lions Club to enable them to complete their recycling activities in a cost efficient and effective manner.

Coolamon Rotary Club instigated a “Buy Local Campaign” that Council supported through the purchase of banners and approval for their erection throughout the Shire.

Council has been able to maintain its volunteer level to continue to provide Meals on Wheels and Community Transport together with Home Maintenance and Modification to various sectors of the community.

1.1.3 Develop and implement initiatives to welcome new residents and make them aware of the Shire’s opportunities.

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

Progress Report:

Council has continued to review and update its Residents Guide and Information Booklet for distribution to new residents. Further work is continuing on updating tourist maps of the towns and villages of the Shire.

Council has developed two websites during the 2011/2012 financial year with dedicated sections for Residents, Businesses and Visitors.

Council has continued to advertise the Allawah Retirement Village on the internet and Council’s newsletter over the past twelve months encouraging people to consider this as an alternate place to reside.

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 continued to operate Coolamon Early Childhood Centre and the Ardlethan Pre-School along with Before and After School Care at the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre with all three centres meeting Departmental licensing requirements as required by the State and Federal departments.

The Coolamon and Ganmain Pre Schools are housed in premises which are owned by Council with established lease arrangements between the committees and Council.

The provision of services to the frail aged and disabled persons within the community continues to be part of Council's operational area through its administration of the Community Transport scheme, the provision of monthly community meals, the delivery of meals on wheel and also home maintenance and modification program with all of these programs continuing over the past reporting period.

In addition the above programs, Council also administers the Community Aged Care Package programs which provides meals and home assistance to resident's within the Shire to enable them to reside within their own homes with dignity and extend their length of time of residing within their local communities.

Council has been able to provide accommodation in the past twelve months for a resident of the Shire from a different cultural background under its principles of Access and Equity.

Council's Youth and Development Community Officer has implemented successful holiday programmes throughout the year.

Youth Week activities were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Youth Week Grant which was received by Council. These activities were well supported and provided an outlet for the youth of the Shire to experience many social interactions between various groups.

Council commenced construction of the Ganmain Aged Persons Units with completion expected during the first six months of 2012/2013.

Council continues to provide accommodation for the aged with its 33 bed Aged Person Hostel and 24 unit Retirement Village. In addition to the Retirement Village and Allawah Lodge Aged Persons Hostel, Council also provides self contained units in Coolamon, Ganmain and Ardlethan. In total Council have 22 of these units throughout these towns of the Shire which continue to provide

suitable accommodation for aged residents within their local communities. All of the accommodation above is meeting the needs of the community with the ongoing maintenance of the various buildings and gardens being part of Councils operational aspect in relation to the provision of these services.

Under the Community Housing Programme, Council continues to provide accommodation to four families that are suitable for their needs.

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 Brigades

Progress Report:

In order to minimise the risk of bush fires, Council carried out a program of roadside spraying of various roads within the Shire. Meetings have been held with the Rural Fire Service to formulate the service level and fire plans. With the adoption of Council's new Local Environmental Plan further discussions have been held with the Rural Fire Service with a view to identifying bush fire prone land for inclusion within the document.

Council continued to provide premises for the local State Emergency Services has supported State Emergency Services in the maintenance of the response vehicle to ensure they can adequately respond to any emergency situation.

Straying stock and animals have been minimal throughout this reporting period, with Council's ranger having taken the necessary action to ensure the risk is minimised within Council's service standard when reports were received.

Council continued to review and follow up on companion animal registrations and take the necessary action in relation to noise complaints and dangerous dogs. During the reporting period there have been 66 dog complaints.

Council's Road Safety Officer has completed the Road Safety Plan and has been visiting schools within the Shire in order to promote the message of road safety within this area. The Road Safety Officer has made available learner driver instructions to residents of the Shire.

Council has continued to be represented 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.

Annual Food Shop Inspections have been carried out with the follow-up procedures being enforced.

Meetings were held with the various licensees within Coolamon and the agreement addressing the issues of alcohol abuse continues to be implemented in an effort to reduce the issue of alcohol abuse and vandalism.

The retention of NSW Fire Brigades in the township of Coolamon as seen as an important issue. Council paid its annual levy contribution to NSW Fire Brigades and held meetings with the service regarding the possible relocation of the station.

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:

The ongoing inspection and maintenance of Council's land and buildings continued throughout the year with a report being presented to the **March** meeting of Council highlighting the main areas of required maintenance for the various buildings owned and controlled by Council.

The maintenance of buildings has been carried out subject to financial constraints. The annual fire inspections on Council's designated buildings were completed with the appropriate report being provided.

Following extreme rainfall and flooding events experienced across the Shire in March 2012, Council staff worked extremely hard in both the emergency situations at the time of the event as well as during the restorative phases in identifying and addressing the damage sustained across the sealed and unsealed road networks and the various urban areas.

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. However, due to vandalism to the public conveniences in Lions Park, Coolamon, these conveniences continue to be closed to the public after daylight hours.

Council continued its support of the local community hall committees in their operations of control and maintenance of their halls.

The maintenance of Council's sealed and un-sealed roads continued over the past twelve months. The main thrust of Council's maintenance program has been the completion of the maintenance which was caused by the heavy storms in March 2012.

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.

The upgrading of Ariah Street, Ardlethan commenced in this reporting period with kerb and gutter, parking provision, street lighting and landscaping works to be completed as part of this stage.

There has been no extension of Council's kerb and gutter network during the reporting period, however, regular cleaning of the kerb and gutter in the commercial areas of the towns and villages has been carried out. The construction of further kerb and gutter network is something which will need to be considered in future budgets as towns develop and expand.

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.

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 storage areas were upgraded in previous reporting periods for the Coolamon sewerage system have provided increased storage facilities which have been almost fully utilised.

A review of the current sewerage charges has been carried out. Council will need to address its Asset Management of the Sewerage Network and Best Practice pricing in future budgets.

Extension of Council's Effluent Reuse scheme during the reporting period, will see additional parks, gardens and reserve areas watered using treated waste water, thereby reducing Council's reliance on potable water.

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

To continue to investigate the most appropriate means of constructing and financing a sewerage scheme in the township of Ardlethan.

Progress Report:

Council has not been successful in receiving funding from either the Federal or State Governments with respect to the construction of a sewerage scheme for Ardlethan. The situation in relation to construction of a Sewerage Scheme in Ardlethan will continue to be monitored with applications made to various funding opportunities when they become available.

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:

Council has attempted to encourage people to use the community bus through the Community Transport Organisation. To date its attempts in this area have met with limited success.

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.

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.

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. No action has been taken by Council to contact education providers with regards to the development and/or implementation of an education strategy.

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. Discussions with the contractors responsible for the National Broadband Network have continued regarding the introduction of this network within the Coolamon Shire local government area.

1.2.11 Continue to explore opportunities to provide a reliable water supply for our sporting fields.

Provide effluent reuse water to the benefit of sporting organisations.

Progress Report:

Storage dams in Coolamon almost at 100% capacity. Recycled water being delivered to users when required.

The water supplies in all other Towns and Villages of the Shire are provided by Goldenfields Water County Council that implement the necessary upgrades to ensure a reliable and constant supply of water.

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.

Continued upgrading of pool filtration plants is has continued, these upgrades will be continued in future budgets.

Council Staff have continued to monitor the use of the Coolamon Skate Park with a number of directions being issued during the reporting period in relation to the wearing of safety gear.

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.

Care Service Staff provides healthy lifestyle activities at Allawah Lodge and provide assistance to the Canola Adventurers Men's Group.

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 towns and villages within the Shire whilst the static library provided in Coolamon has helped increase membership and usage levels.

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

Council has also sponsored the broadband for Seniors Programme in order to teach seniors how to use computers and the Internet service

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

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.

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.

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

Displays of aboriginal culture are implemented when materials are provided, during the reporting period no materials or displays have been held.

Council is a member of the Eastern Riverina Arts Programme. A number of changes to this organisation has occurred with the name being changed to Eastern Riverina Arts and Council has a new representative, Clr D McCann as its delegate to this Committee.

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.

Training has been provided to the pool licensees.

Council has received no complaints about the standard of its parks and gardens.

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:

Funding has continued for the employment of a heritage consultant.

The local heritage program allocations have been made.

The linking of the RSL museum with the Coolamon Up-To-Date Store has occurred.

Installation of the "Godde Collection" within the Up-to-Date Cultural Centre within the reporting year, with ongoing discussion regarding additional collection items from Garth Jones ensure that local history is preserved for future generations.

1.3.6 Encourage activities that promote community spirit.

*To promote the celebration & awareness of Australia Day
Support local community activities*

Progress Report:

The Ganmain Community hosted the 2012 Australia Day Celebrations with many positive comments being received on the successful celebrations held.

The inaugural "Coolamon New Year Eve Party" was successfully held on 31 December 2011 with plans for it be held annually.

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

1.3.7 Provide appropriate guidance for sports clubs in writing grant applications

Provide appropriate guidance for sports clubs in identifying funding sources.

Progress Report:

Letters of support have been provided to sporting clubs when seeking grant funding.

1.3.8 Encourage cycling and walking, through developing tracks and paths

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

Progress Report:

Council has adopted the PAMPS and Cycleways program in conjunction with Roads and Maritime Services, with ongoing works undertaken as prioritized by Council.

1.3.9 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 has supported a number of community events in this reporting period such as the Ardlethan German Beer Festival, the Matong Bush Picnic, the Up-2-Date Art Exhibition, the Australia Day Celebrations and Skate Park Clinics.

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.
Adapt to climate variability through development of a climate variability strategy

Progress Report:

Council completed a Climate Change Strategy in conjunction with Statewide Mutual during previous reporting periods.

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:

Solar energy panels installed at the Coolamon Shire Council Chambers continue to produce electricity offsetting Council's use of grid power. Investigations continue into the use of panels at other Council owned sites.

Effluent re-use water is currently being distributed to sporting organizations and parks, gardens and reserves in the township of Coolamon.

Mapping of the underground water supplies in conjunction with REROC Strengthening the Basins Communities Project has been completed.

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 has also advertised in the monthly Newsletter the information about Government assistance available in relation to sustainable practices.

Instigation of a trial Organics Collection in partnership with a number of other REROC Council's has proved successful with 200 households within the township of Coolamon participating.

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.

Staff continue to follow up the connection of premises within Ganmain to the sewerage system.

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

Council continues to maintain its appropriate licenses for its mining operations.

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

Tree planting of road corridors in conjunction with the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority have been carried out.

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:

The ongoing preparation of a comprehensive Development Control Plan to supplement the new Local Environmental Plan is proceeding.

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.

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:

Council continues to allocate funding under the local heritage program for restoration and improvements to heritage assets in the towns and villages of the Shire.

Grant funding has been received for the continued employment of a heritage advisor.

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

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

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

Progress Report:

Council continues to collect household garbage from within all defined areas of the towns and villages of the Shire. No complaints of a substantial nature in respect of this service have been received.

Licensing conditions are being complied with at Council's landfill sites. Recycling at the landfill sites has been extended with waste being deposited in the designated areas. Landfill sites are manned when operating.

Instigation of a trial Organics Collection in partnership with a number of other REROC Council's has proved successful with 200 households within the township of Coolamon participating.

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:

The ongoing preparation of a comprehensive Development Control Plan is proceeding.

Infrastructure is in place to service the establishment of business within the Shire. No complaints have been received about the adequacy of Council's infrastructure.

Council has a land bank available for development of subdivisions to encourage people to relocate to the area.

Council staff are actively involved in the Regional Development Australia Riverina who provide direction for industrial development.

Engagement of Linda Tillman from Tilma Management as Council's Tourism and Business Development Manager has seen the development of a dedicated Tourism and Business website as well as introduction of a Business Newsletter and meetings has re-invigorated the business community .

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:

Training brochures are available at Shire offices and training opportunities are advised in the monthly Newsletter where appropriate.

Council makes available facilities to training providers when requested.

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

Refer Strategy 3.1.1

Progress Report:

Refer to Progress Report 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:

Maintain 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.

Council has continued to work on preparations of a master plan for the expansion of the township of Coolamon on the northern side of the township.

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

3.2.1 Develop a Coolamon Shire image focusing 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 has advertised in regional newspapers and radio circulating in the area its retirement village and subdivision blocks available for sale, this together with the promotion of the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre and the Before and After School Service has also been advertised throughout the area.

Continued contact with media outlets such as newspapers, radio and television has been maintained during this reporting period.

The introduction of a dedicated Tourism and Business website has aided in the promotion of the Shire as a place to work, live and visit.

3.2.2 Develop and implement 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:

Contact with the Riverina Tourism Association has been continued, however reduced staff numbers have prevented attendance at tourism meetings during this period. The production and update of the Coolamon Shire Residents Guide has been completed.

Investigations into the upgrading of the Coolamon Caravan Park and the relocation of the Ardlethan Caravan Park have continued. Meetings have been held and reports presented to Council. Appropriate signage is in place and being maintained.

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 for the Rural Transaction Centre in Ganmain . Council has provided administration support for the North Eastern Riverina Rural Counselling Service which also operates from the Ganmain Rural Transaction Centre.

Contact has not been made with the Department of Industry and Investment to investigate alternate farming initiatives suitable to the area and climate.

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 has not undertaken any action with regards to this action during the reporting period.

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:

All Section 355 Committees have been provided with Code of Conduct, Statement of Business Ethics and Constitution for their information and adoption.

Council’s Youth and Development Community Officer has implemented successful holiday programmes throughout the year.

Youth Week activities were conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Youth Week Grant which was received by Council. These activities were well supported and provided an outlet for the youth of the Shire to experience many social interactions between various groups.

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.

A Bus Tour of Councillors was held in February 2012.

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

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.*

Progress Report:

Long term Financial Plan produced, Work-force Plan produced, Asset Management Plans currently under consideration. Work Staff Performance Reviews are carried out in August/September each year. The appraisals were completed within the designated timeframe.

Training programs implemented and training provided as required.

Senior Staff Assessments were completed within the required timeframe.

Staff appraisals have been carried out in the various operational areas including Administration, Allawah Lodge Aged Persons Hostel and the Coolamon Early Childhood Centre together with the Multi Service Outlet.

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 retain its membership of REROC, ERAP, Noxious Weeds Authority, NSW Rural Fire Service Riverina Zone, Riverina Regional Tourism and the membership of these organisations will continue to be monitored.

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:

Investments are reviewed on a weekly basis.

Various Financial Reports have been completed within the statutory time-frame and submitted to respective Government Departments.

The completion of Financial Reports is ongoing and monitoring will be continued. Key financial indicators are presently being developed for analysis by Council.

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 are complying 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 OH&S 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:

The Risk Management System is subject to ongoing review and reporting to the General Manager.

Internal audit procedures and processes are currently being undertaken and managed by an external Consultant.

Council's Work, Health & Safety documentation has been reviewed and finalised.

Council's Safety Committee meets 3 monthly with copies of these minutes being presented to Council.

All staff are provided with Council's Induction Booklet upon appointment and regular tool-box meetings have been scheduled for the next reporting period.

The review of Work Activity Statements is ongoing annually with the Work Activity Statements to be discussed at tool-box meetings.

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

Council has in place an incident reporting system which is operating satisfactorily.

Council staff continue to carry out roads, footpaths and kerb and gutter inspections with the necessary remedial action being performed where risks are identified.

Records management systems including general records are controlled by Council's Executive Assistants.

Property records are controlled by Health and Building Staff and are meeting Council's requirements.

4.2.7 Continuously monitor, review and publicly evaluate progress, including periodic community satisfaction surveys, of the Community Strategic Plan to ensure priority areas are being acted upon.

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:

This annual report includes a report on Council's achievements in relation to the Community Strategic Plan as required in the year of an ordinary election.

Council did undertake a Community Satisfaction Survey at the end of the reporting period with pleasing results.

4.2.8 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:

The ongoing production of Development Control Plans has been implemented.

Continued representations will be made to State Government on providing increased policing activities to rural areas.

Council will continue to lobby both State and Federal Politicians on issues that affect the local community.

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:

Upgrade of Aria Street, Ardlethan was underway at the end of the reporting period with ongoing consultation regarding future development of the area proceeding in conjunction with the Ardlethan Community..

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.

REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

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

1. INTRODUCTION

The Community Strategic Plan was prepared during 2009/2010 and adopted by Council in May 2010. It was the result of a significant Community Consultation Programme that was conducted on a formalized basis. All ages and various community groups were consulted.

The Plan identified the direction that Council would endeavour to pursue over the next 20 years.

Council's responsibilities outlined in the Community Strategic Plan were dissected into a four year Delivery Plan and then into a twelve months Operational Plan. Reports have been provided to Council on the detail of the Plan and achievements that have been made on a year to year basis.

The Plan was broken down into four key themes:

- 1) Sustaining our close knit Shire Communities.
- 2) Sustaining the environmental qualities of the Shire.
- 3) Sustaining our strong rural based economy.
- 4) Working together to achieve our Community's 2030 vision.

In addition, extracted from within those themes was the outcome and strategies for the individual communities. This allowed those persons interested in a particular community to focus on that area.

This report proposes to outline on a broader basis as to whether Council achieved the objectives of the plan, it also intends to review whether the various partners in the process were able to work with Council to achieve objectives and then to summarise as to the effectiveness of the overall process.

In terms of the preparation of the Strategic Plan, the Division of Local Government supervised the process and gave all New South Wales Councils three years in which to become involved. Coolamon Shire Council chose to be involved in the first year and in a sense it became a "trial and error" process. In preparing the Plan, Council noted that it would form a number of partnerships with the community (read various community organisations) the State Government and Council itself.

As mentioned earlier the Plan encompasses a 20 year activity period. It must be accepted that a number of projects are put in train that are seen as having a long term payback. Furthermore, it is a 20 year programme and accordingly all programmes and their implementation do not have to commence in the first, second, third or fourth year. Having made those comments however, it also becomes obvious whether the existing structures that are in place are going to meet the needs of the Council and as such, achieve the objects of the Plan in their current format. Changes may be necessary.

2. PLAN - ANALYSIS

THEME 1 – SUSTAINING OUR CLOSE KNIT SHIRE COMMUNITIES

The three objectives unpinning this strategy are:

- 1.1 A maintenance of community values with any growth in population.
- 1.2 A high standard of services, facilities and infrastructure for all age groups.
- 1.3 A lifestyle with diverse entertainment, recreation and culture opportunities.

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

Generally the population of the Coolamon Shire Council since the introduction of the plan has remained reasonably static. There has been a significant shift over the past four years and earlier years in terms of a reduction in the rural area with a significant increase in the Coolamon Township and perhaps static to nil growth or even a reduction in other towns.

There is a change however, in community involvement. Over the past few years Council has become more involved in different aspects of the community. The Youth and Community Development Officer, the Tourism and Business Development Officer have all undertaken significant work and interrelated with members of the community. There are many people out there wishing to become involved and to work with Council in particular activities and it remains with Council to get the right Committee structure in place that allows those persons to do their own particular work within their own particular area of interest.

Volunteerism will become an issue if it isn't already one. The age of the volunteers is increasing and there are difficulties in getting the right numbers.

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

There are a number of partners with Council in the delivery of this objective. These generally relate to State Government Departments which is in itself a worry. A review of the Strategic Plan indicates that a number of Government Departments outlined have since changed their role and their title. It must be said that dealing with State Government Departments in respect of services at the local level is an extremely frustrating exercise. The main area under this outcome where that has occurred is in respect of the provision of policing services in country towns. It has been an impossible exercise to convince the local Police hierarchy that their current system of policing does not work. Questions have been raised with the Minister who seems supportive of Council's points of view, but nevertheless the Inquiry into policing service in rural towns still remains on the shelf waiting for adoption.

Generally, however, Council does have a high standard of facilities to assist all age groups and genders. I refer specifically to Childcare Services, Allawah Lodge Aged Care Services, Preschools, etc. In some instances Council may not be the direct provider but where it is not, does provide some assistance to community groups.

The provision of an increased community transport system throughout the Shire is a matter that needs some further investigation. This matter (1.2.6) was placed in the Strategic Plan, however, I am

not completely convinced there is a problem to be addressed, nor am I convinced that there is a solution there that can be forthcoming from Transport NSW.

School numbers at our Schools are generally static or in some instances slightly increasing which indicates a degree of satisfaction in our education system. Families will for their own choices elect to utilize higher education facilities in Wagga and where these are of a personal choice nature, there is normally an overriding factor that dictates that choice.

Council's budget regularly provides for Capital and Maintenance Expenditure in respect of roads, footpaths, drainage. The sewerage system is constantly being monitored and expansion provided where necessary.

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

All initiatives in this outcome are generally proceeding well. In recent times there has been an increase in artistic and cultural development and this reflects on the closer links being formed with the community. I also note some of the functions being arranged by Council including New Year's Eve activities, Photographic Competitions, the Opening of the Up-to-Date Store Precinct. There was no reason to assume that the continuing progress in this outcome will not continue.

THEME 2 – SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITIES OF THE SHIRE

There were two outcomes to be sought here, these are:

2.1 Adaption to climate variability.

2.2 Our rich heritage and natural environment character conserved.

Objective 2.1: Adaption to climate Variability

Council in conjunction with Statewide Mutual has completed an Adaptation Report on Climate Change Variability that is relevant to Council activities. In addition, Council and the community have fully embraced the kerbside recycling service and are about to further utilize the organic waste service.

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

Council programmes in this area appear to be working as well as the community are embracing the Council programmes and understanding the value of our heritage and the natural environment. The issue of government departments being involved is again an area where the constant changing nature of government departments and their inability to work with local communities at the grass roots is frustrating exercise.

Council continues to support heritage activities with funds being provided each year in its budget for the Heritage Fund Programme as well as inclusions in the LEP, of biodiversity, water and land sensitivity mapping.

THEME 3 – SUSTAINING OUR STRONG RURAL BASED ECONOMY

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

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

Objective 3.3: Sustained viability of our farming land.

Generally, the initiatives being undertaken here are long term and do not show an immediate effect. Many of these are regional based initiatives such as the development of the Regional Transport Plan being done by REROC. It is further noted that the Intermodal Transport Hub at Wagga Wagga and the continuing development of the Bomen Industrial Estate will provide significant regional benefits. Council has responded to these demands by being an active participant in REROC's Transport Plan, however, the new Local Environmental Plan for the Coolamon Shire Council has provided for the opportunity for residential estates to be developed in rural towns.

The appointment of a Tourism and Business Development Manager has had a significant affect within the Coolamon Shire Council. Marketing plans, web site developments and new initiatives such as business groups, cultural committees are starting to have a significant impact on the way of life in Coolamon Shire. All these add to the appeal of the Shire as a residential alternative to the City of Wagga Wagga. In addition, they all again assist in making the Coolamon Shire the number one day trip for Wagga Wagga residents.

THEME 4 – WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMUNITIES 2030 VISION

4.1 Opportunities identified for Diversified Community Leadership, Inter-generation Leadership and transition of youth into leadership roles

4.2 Council as an organisation is consultative, participatory, encouraging and well managed.

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

Objective 4.1: Opportunities identified for Diversified Community Leadership, Inter-generation Leadership and transition of youth into leadership roles

There is a slow changing of the guard that is becoming evident in this objective. The most obvious being the number of people and the age of a number of those persons who have nominated for the current Coolamon Shire Council Elections. A number of other Committees and Organisations, however, need to be re-invented and to give the opportunity for younger persons to become involved. It is believed there is a growing keenness for a new generation to come through and it remains with Council to perhaps work with these organisations to ensure that this can occur. Service Clubs for instance are suffering from a lack of numbers and perhaps an aging membership. Service Clubs are vital in any community and it behoves Council to work with them to ensure there is a transition of members and that there are new leaders coming through. Similarly with Council Committees, a complete review of Council's Committee system is warranted to ensure that young people have the opportunity to be involved and that the issues under consideration are relevant to young people's interests.

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

Council does maintain a good relationship with its communities. Recent developments have upgraded and enhanced access to Council and Community information via the Internet as well as providing avenues on social media for the new generation. These need to be continued with Council's Youth & Community Development Officer and Tourism & Business Manager taking prominent roles.

Council continues to provide its Australia Day Awards, Honoured Citizens Awards and on an annual basis meets with the School Leaders and keeps those younger people informed of Council activities.

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

Local Government and their communities work best when Local Government gives their communities something to be proud of. Council has recently undertaken a streetscape programme and planning in all of its towns and this in turn assists in generating community pride in the towns in which people live. These programmes need to continue and Council needs to continue to work with the community to develop appropriate civic facilities.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS – 2008 TO 2012

- **ARDLETHAN**

- Ardlethan Swimming Pool heating
- Ariah Street Upgrade
- Hall Upgrade
- Sewer Extensions
- Flood Study

- **COOLAMON**

- Cenotaph Stage Area
- Swimming Pool and Caravan Park Amenities
- Showground Effluent Storage Area
- Solar Panel installation at Council Depot
- Cowabbie Street Plaza
- Up-to-Date Store Cultural Centre – stage, air-conditioning, disabled access, toilets, storage area, sound system, deck, cladding and solar panels
- Skate Park
- Pool Filtration
- Hornby/Doughty Subdivision Water Provision
- Mirrool Street land for Allawah Village expansion
- Sewer Extensions
- Allawah Community Centre Upgrade
- Allawah Lodge Emergency Power Supply
- Effluent Reuse to Golf Course, Kindra Park, Touch Fields with extensions to Town Parks and Gardens
- Saleyards Redevelopment for Jim Thompson Sporting Fields
- National Bike Path Programme – Parks and path upgrades across all Towns and Villages
- Purchase of Mangelsdorf's Gravel Pit
- Early Childhood Centre Carpark
- Organics Household Trial and Collection

- **GANMAIN**

- Rear Main Street CBD Development – Subdivision, laneway, toilets, Retirement Village Units
- Construction of Retirement Village Units
- Town Square Development
- Doctors Surgery
- Hall Upgrade
- Purchase of 10 Wright Street for Retirement Units

Major projects completed were:

- LEP Gazettal
- Rural Addressing implementation

The above projects are significant. A number of these projects are dependent on government grants and the policy directions of Federal or State Government, however, Council was in a position where it was able to take advantage of those opportunities and worked accordingly with higher levels of government or alternatively through REROC.

4. COMMUNITY SATISFACTION

The Strategic Plan outlined that a community satisfaction survey would be undertaken every four years to gauge whether the Shire community is happy or not with the progress and where priorities should be assigned to particular areas in the future.

The survey has now been completed and is appended to this report.

Analysis of Community Survey

The results displayed in the Community Survey, whilst not directly linked to the objectives of the Strategic Plan, can be traced back to them quite simply.

As an initial comment the survey noted that 4 in 5 Coolamon Shire residents (81.8%) were satisfied with Council's overall performance in the delivery of service and facilities. This ranks highly in Local Government terms and as far as IRIS's database, Coolamon Shire is the best performing Council in New South Wales.

Key Service Areas

The Survey reviewed 19 Council services and facilities. Those where Council was seen to be performing exceptionally well was:

- appearance of public areas,
- services and facilities for older people,
- garbage collection,
- management of waste depot and recycling,
- provision of aged care services.

Those areas that were seen to have room for improvement were:

- maintaining town roads,
- maintaining sealed rural local roads,
- promotion of business and tourism,
- environmental activities,
- services and facilities for young people,
- maintaining unsealed rural roads.

These are areas where Council needs to examine what it is doing and perhaps implement improvements. In terms of a couple of these it should be noted that work is already in place. Council's appointments for a Tourism and Business Officer as well as the ongoing work of Council's Youth & Community Development Officer are all bringing new initiatives to the table. The survey indicated that Council needs to do more in respect of services for younger people. It is difficult to recognize what younger people are actually after, given that all aspects of sporting, recreation and individual's recreation are catered for. Council also notes that it was recently nominated for an award for the provision of services and facilities to young people.

Whilst it is easy to adopt a defensive position in respect of areas that are needed for improvement, it should be noted that the recent floods did decimate Council's roads and the survey was taken at a time when this had occurred.

LOCAL ASPECTS

The issue that Council was endeavouring to achieve in its Community Strategic Plan was to ensure that Coolamon Shire was a pleasant place to live and that future development did not deter from this benchmark. The survey indicates that this is continuing to occur and that people were finding the towns within the Shire to be quite pleasant places to reside.

It is also noted that Council's monthly newsletter was generally well accepted and Council look forward to it as a means of maintaining communication with Council.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Community Engagement Strategy that was done back in 2009 was effective. All sections of the community were consulted.

The experience that has been gained over the past couple of years in terms of the implementation are an indication that perhaps a different approach may mean a better relationship with the community and a greater strike rate in terms of achievement.

It is suggested that it become essential to make Community Progress Groups and other associated 355 Committee more effective and then more closely aligned to the Community Strategic Plan. This closer alignment will then dovetail into the direction the Strategic Plan is endeavouring to take, and hopefully more closely align Council with the Community. The idea is to make the Progress Committees more accountable for the Community Plan and encourage them to be project based rather than just "meeting" based.

This approach may well be the impetus that encourages broader based membership of the community groups. Some of the Progress Groups as they currently exist, which in themselves are steeped in a historical approach, may not wish to change direction. If that be the case then Council should accept that that is their particular wish and perhaps move on and restructure another Committee. In summary, the concept for this new Committee structure is as follows:

- An amalgam of Committees into one with Sub-Committees taking on various projects. The main Committee could be named something relevant, i.e. Community Development Committee.
- Each Committee would have a structure, roles and responsibilities.
- Each Committee would be clearly linked to the Community Plan and know in advance what their responsibilities are.
- Each Committee would have a reporting system in place where they meet with Council Staff to provide a progress report on their achievements or to liaise with Council concerning any impediments to achieving their projects. This will create a closer communication and greater accountability. In essence it becomes a partnership arrangement.
- The new Committee model will attract newer (younger) Committee members.

This approach will provide a greater link between Council and the Community and provide a greater link between the Community Strategic Plan, the Community and Council.

FINANCIAL 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 2012.

See [Coolamon Shire Council 2011/2012 General Purpose Financial Reports](#)

[Coolamon Shire Council 2011/2012 Special Purpose Financial Reports](#)

[Coolamon Shire Council 2011/2012 Special Schedules](#)

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT

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

As a result of the changes to legislation surrounding the integrated planning of Council services, in particular Section 406 and 428A of the Local Government Act 1993, the State of the Environment Report is now required to be produced once every 4 years. This cycle now meets the Council election process and the community's strategic plan.

As part of the roll-out of the integrated planning reports Councils were grouped together according to the time frame that the community plans were developed and rolled out. Coolamon Shire Council was included as a Group 1 Council.

As a result of these changes the new reporting requirements for the State of Environment Report have now focused on monitoring and reporting of environmental issues that are of concern to their community and therefore the report should be integrated with the Community Strategic Plan.

As a Group 1 Council, this State of the Environment Report has a mixture of responsibilities juggling between responding to the community themes developed from the Strategic Plan and addressing the issues raised in the previous comprehensive SOE completed in 2008/2009.

REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Under the Planning and Reporting Manual Councils are strongly encouraged to develop their State of the Environment Report (SOE) in partnerships with other Councils in their region together with the Catchment Management Authorities. Coolamon Shire Council is located in the Riverina and discussions within the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) have been held in regard to regional reporting. Due to Councils within REROC being grouped differently in accordance to the integrated planning model, problems have arisen as to how this report should be developed.

As a result of these difficulties and due to the time frame required by Group 1 Councils to comply with the new planning and reporting model, individual Councils have proceeded to undertake their own reporting in the initial year.

Future reporting will see Council attempting to facilitate a regional SOE report that addresses the pressures on the environment that cross local government boundaries, whilst specific local environmental concerns will be included in the Coolamon comprehensive SOE that are identified in the Strategic Plan.

The last comprehensive SOE was produced in 2008/2009 with this document required to address the 8 environmental sectors of land, air, water, biodiversity, waste, noise, Aboriginal heritage and non Aboriginal heritage.

The pressure-state-response model effectively identified and discussed the impact of human habitation on the region. Whilst there have been some political changes to this landscape, such as local, state and federal elections, which have included minor adjustments to policy, the majority of pressures on the environment have remained consistent.

There have been no major changes to population growth and the towns and villages continue to support and rely on an agricultural base. The historical context of community development and the impacts on the landscape and natural resources have not varied since the last comprehensive SOE.

Council has however undertaken several significant reports since the last comprehensive SOE that considered how the community can respond to the challenges of improving the impact of society on the environment.

In conjunction with the Coolamon Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2011, both a Local Environmental Study and Planning Strategy (2010) and the Strategic Plan (2010) were produced.

A Community Strategic Plan for the Coolamon Shire (May 2010) was developed with significant community input, together with a Climate Change Risk Management Adaptation Report – Coolamon Council (May 2011).

In addition to reports produced by Coolamon Shire Council, regional reports were also undertaken to address such issues as 'Land Use and Strategic Development Action Plan – Coolamon Shire Council' and 'Infrastructure and Asset Management Action Plan – Coolamon Shire Council'. These were part of the REROC 'Strengthening Basin Communities Project' and addressed regional issues whilst drilling down to local impacts and considerations.

This short summary of these reports to meet the requirements of the SOE does not appropriately address the breadth and depth of the issues raised and the strategic issues that are considered. These documents are all available at Council offices or on the internet at www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Community Strategic Plan titled 'Our Communities 2030' was developed by the communities with the help of Blackadder Associates Pty Ltd in 2010 and is based on an extensive community consultation phase that identified issues and themes that the communities themselves saw as important to their future.

These themes were then broken down into objectives with strategies developed to achieve these goals. Each of these strategies was then given a responsible body to co-ordinate the support network and it also included a time frame to undertake the work.

This State of the Environment Report must now identify all themes that were identified that related to the environment and must report on the progress of these objectives. In regard to environmental issues two objectives were determined with a total of four strategies being developed. These have been identified below with Council's response to the outcomes included.

Objective 2.1: Adaptation to climate variability.

Strategy 2.1.1 Monitor and strategically manage environmental risks and impacts of climate variability.

Outcomes:

In May 2011 Council undertook a study titled 'Climate Change Risk Assessment – Adaptation Report'. In conjunction with Statewide Mutual, Coolamon Shire identified areas of Council's operation that may be affected by climate variability. The risk assessments were based on the CSIRO Climate Change scenarios and included issues associated with temperature, hot days, average rainfall, wind, fire weather and rainfall intensity. The risks with the most impact to Coolamon Shire Council were determined to be a result of rain intensity and from hot days.

This has allowed Council to identify strategies that can be used for strategic and integrated planning purposes across all of Council's businesses.

Strategy 2.1.2 Develop community leadership on becoming leaders in resource use, reuse and recycling.

Outcomes:

This strategy was developed by the community who identified themselves as the body responsible for reaching this objective with the support of Landcare and DECCW.

Coolamon Shire Council saw an opportunity to lead the community in resource use and alternative energy sources by being an example. In this regard Council has identified and implemented several water and energy programs that reduce the reliance on existing potable water and energy supply. These have been identified and reported on in other sections of the annual report.

Council is not only seeing advantages in reducing its reliance on traditional sources of water and energy but has seen benefits from a financial perspective. The use of solar power to offset daytime use has seen a reduction in power bills, similarly the cost of providing reuse water to the parks and gardens of the Shire can be delivered at a lesser cost than potable water supplies.

Therefore this is not only an example of Council developing leadership in the community but it is also fiscally responsible management.

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

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

Outcomes:

As part of the Local Environmental Plan that was gazetted in 2011, Coolamon Shire Council identified environmentally sensitive areas and mapped them. These included areas of significance in relation to biodiversity, water and natural habitat. These have now been included into the legislative process around land use planning. Prior to any development occurring in these areas Coolamon Shire Council is required to undertake further assessment prior to granting any consent.

Council continues to implement the roadside vegetation plan and has continued its partnership with the Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (MCMA) to extend and protect wildlife corridors within the Shire

The ongoing management of Council's work practices ensures that the protection of the natural landscape is considered as an integral part of the work Council does as well as the regulatory role it performs.

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

Outcomes:

With the gazettal of the Coolamon Local Environmental Plan 2011, Council now has an updated statutory document that controls the development process throughout the Shire.

The next step in this process is for Council to review the existing Development Control Plan (DCP) and ensure that the new document highlights the local policies and interpretations on how Coolamon Shire Council would like their communities to grow. This will support the LEP and provide guidelines for development.

In developing this DCP Council will be relying on the work previously undertaken in the 'Community Strategic Plan,' the 'Local Environmental Study' and the 'Local Strategic Plan' all developed in 2010. These documents are based on community input and talk about specific targets relating to quality urban design.

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

Outcomes:

Coolamon Shire Council undertook a community based heritage study in 2009 that identified and detailed the significant items of heritage significance within the Shire.

This document was used as the basis for the identified items within the Local Environmental Plan 2011 that as a result have obtained statutory protection.

In conjunction with this legal process Council, with help from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, have also been running a local Heritage Committee that oversees the annual allocation of \$17,000.00 per annum towards work of heritage significance. This program has now been running for 10 years with significant improvements being made to all heritage streetscapes with the help of the local communities.

In all other respects Council has continued to implement the Local Heritage Strategy developed with the Office of Environment and Heritage together with the employment of a designated heritage advisor.

To date Council is yet to undertake an Aboriginal Study to identify, protect and preserve areas of Aboriginal importance. This will be included in upcoming programs and budgets.

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

Outcomes:

Coolamon Shire Council has developed and regularly reviewed a waste management strategy. The last time this review was considered by Council was in April 2009.

Since the last SOE report Council continues to collect a weekly 140 litre garbage collection together with a fortnightly 240 litre recycling collection. The waste is disposed of at four landfill sites being Ardlethan, Coolamon, Ganmain and Marrar. The recycling is deposited at Elouera at Cootamundra. Council has ceased taking waste at the Matong and Beckom landfill sites. All operational landfill sites are fenced and maned whilst in operation.

In accordance with the landfill strategy Council has a finite capacity within its landfill sites. This varies over the four sites and with the setup of transfer stations it may extend the overall capacity of landfill within the Coolamon Shire.

In order to extend the life of these landfill sites and maximise Council's resources, Council will need to improve access to recycling and remove other waste streams that can be converted to reuse.

As a result of this all landfill sites now have additional capacity to take normal recycling similar to the fortnightly kerb collection as well as the following programs:

- Drummuster
- Black metal collection
- Waste oil
- Greenwaste

In addition to these above services Council was a member of the REROC cluster composting trial undertaken in conjunction with Gundagai, Junee and Cootamundra Shire Councils.

This trial of 200 houses within the township of Coolamon proved quite successful and was included in the Hyder Consulting Report 'Food and Garden Organics – Best Practice Manual' developed for the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

As a result of the success of this trial Council is considering the roll out of this service within the township of Coolamon which would consist of approximately 750 collections fortnightly in a 240 litre bin. Early estimates of this program could produce an annual saving of 260 tons from landfill.

The product from this program will be either resold as an asset or used by Council in its work practices.

All the statistical analysis from the annual reporting of waste is provided to both the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Environmental Protection Authority.

E Waste was identified in the Waste Management Strategy as the fastest growing waste stream. Since this time all levels of Government have been addressing this issue. In conjunction with REROC and the regional waste forum, Coolamon Shire Council are in negotiations ANZRP for a regional trial to set up collection facilities and transport them for recycling.

CONCLUSION

As a transition report between the previous comprehensive SOE and the new Integrated Planning Reporting requirements, this SOE report is no longer a stand alone document and is included as part of the integrated report. In some cases this has resulted in information being provided in duplicate and in order to remain concise this report is cross referenced to that information.

Improvements have been made since the last State of the Environment Report and outcomes have delivered improvements and savings to both Council's impact on the environment and financial situation. Certain areas have been highlighted that will continue to command Council's attention.

ADDITIONAL STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

OVERSEAS VISITS

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

During the 2011/2012 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 2011/2012 Financial year, Council paid Councillor fees, inclusive of the Mayoral fee, totalling \$79,274.12

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 \$13,102.30 and can be summarized as follows:

i.	Office Equipment	Nil
ii.	Telephone	Nil
iii.	Attendance at conferences and seminars	Conference/Delegates: \$10,064.15 Travel: \$3,038.15
iv.	Training	Nil
v.	Interstate visits	Nil
vi.	Overseas visits	Nil
vii.	Spouse, Partner or Other Person in the Accompaniment of a Councillor	Nil
viii.	Provision of Care for a Child or Other Immediate Family Member	Nil

CONTRACTS

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

During 2011/2012 Council awarded the following contracts:

CONTRACTOR	CONTRACT	CONTRACT AMOUNT
Downer EDI	2011/02 – Supply & Spraying of Bituminous Products	\$506,060.57
CamKew Waste Services	2011/03 – Waste & Recycling Collection	Unit rate contract
GH & LJ Tokley	2012/01 – Construction of Ganmain Aged Persons Units	\$333,308.24

LEGAL EXPENSES

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

In 2011/2012 Council incurred legal expenses totalling \$34,125.31. These expenses were incurred in the following areas:

Description	Amount
Rates & Debt Recovery (inc. court fees)	23,867.74
Lease Agreement	2,016.17
Employment Contracts & Issues	2,475.00
Property Sales & Acquisitions	3,746.85
Title/Property & Company Searches	238.50
Road Resumptions/Closures	1,521.96
Discharge of Mortgage	259.09

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 \$18,355 which included contributions to:

- Eastern Riverina Arts Programme
- Coolamon Shire Art Acquisition Prize
- Riverina Academy of Sport
- Senior Citizens Dinners
- Australia Day functions
- Ganmain Out of School Hours Care
- Prize donations to the various Schools throughout the Shire
- Assistance to the various Committees and Historical Societies within 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:

- Allawah Lodge Aged Persons Management Committee
- Ardlethan Community Progress
- Ardlethan Cultural Development Committee
- Ardlethan Memorial Hall Committee
- Ardlethan - Mullins Community Centre Committee
- Ardlethan Preschool Committee
- Ardlethan Showground Management Committee
- Beckom Hall Committee
- Coolamon RSL Hall Committee
- Coolamon Shire Community Benefit Fund Committee
- Coolamon Showground Management Committee
- Coolamon Up-to-Date Store Management Committee
- Ganmain Hall Committee
- Ganmain Haystack Committee
- Ganmain Progress Association
- Ganmain Retirement Units Fund Committee
- Kindra Lodge and Centenary Lodge Selection Committee
- Local Heritage Fund Committee
- Marrar Memorial Hall Committee
- Marrar Progress Association
- Marrar Recreation Reserve Committee
- Matong Park Management Committee
- Mavis Furner Collection Committee
- Rannock Community Centre - Reserve No. 89397
- Rural Transaction Advisory Committee
- Voluntary Workers
- Coolamon Railway Station Management Committee
- Coolamon Shire Events Committee

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 throughout 2011/2012::

- 1) Statewide - New South Wales Local Government
- 2) Riverina Regional Library Service
- 3) Riverina Eastern Region 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) Geospatial Alliance Project between Coolamon Shire, Junee Shire, Temora Shire, Bland Shire and Goldenfields Water County Councils
- 6) Noxious Weeds Agreement between Coolamon Shire, Junee Shire and Temora Shire Councils
- 7) Road Safety Project in conjunction with Wagga Wagga City Council and Junee Council

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 2011/2012 period, 23 new employees (casual and permanent) were appointed to Council's Staff. 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 \$205,007 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 2011/2012 and therefore no other amounts are required to be reported.

STORMWATER CHARGES

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

Council did not levy an annual charge for stormwater management services during the year.

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 2011/2012 Council seized a total of 20 dogs. Of this total 4 were returned to the owner and 16 were transferred to Council's pound facility. Of these 16 animals, 1 was euthanized at the owners request and 14 were euthanized because they were unable to be rehoused. 3 Cats were taken by a Rescue Group. This information has been provided to the Department on Council's Return of Seizures of Cats and Dogs for the 2011/2012 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 2011/2012 Financial Year Council received \$60.00 in impounding fees and \$2,200.00 in fines and costs. The expenditure that Council incurred amounted to \$8,670.77 which comprised of \$861.13 for Ranger training, \$7,809.64 which included wages, plant hire and the provision of miscellaneous supplies and activities.

During the past financial year there were 3 dog attacks in the Coolamon Shire which was reported to the Chief Executive of the Division of Local Government, Department of Premier & Cabinet.

RATES AND CHARGES ABANDONED

Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 - Clause 132

During the 2011/2012 Financial Year rates and charges (exclusive of Pensioner) amounting to \$3,012.59 were written off.

Council provided rate relief to Pensioners during the Financial Year in the sum of \$126,561.78. Council did however, receive \$71,584.73 pensioner's concession subsidy from the NSW State Government.

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION (PUBLIC ACCESS)

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 - Clause 7a and Schedule 2

Council in the last reporting period has received 4 applications under the Government Information Public Access Act.

Statistical Information regarding access applications

Table A: Number of applications by type of application and outcome

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Media								
Members of Parliament								
Private sector business								
Not for profit organisations or community groups								
Members of the public (application by legal representative)	3							
Members of the public (other)	1							

Table B: Number of applications by type of application and outcome

	Access granted in full	Access granted in part	Access refused in full	Information not held	Information already available	Refuse to deal with application	Refuse to confirm/deny whether information is held	Application withdrawn
Personal information applications*								
Access applications (other than personal information applications)	3							
Access applications that are partly personal information applications and partly other	1							

Table C: Invalid applications

Reason for invalidity	No. of applications
Application does not comply with formal requirements (section 41 of the Act)	
Application is for excluded information of the agency (section 43 of the Act)	
Application contravenes restraint order (section 110 of the Act)	
Total number of invalid applications received	
Invalid applications that subsequently became valid applications	

Table D: Conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure: matters listed in Schedule 1 to Act

	Number of times consideration used
Overriding secrecy laws	
Cabinet information	
Executive Council Information	
Contempt	
Legal professional privilege	
Excluded information	
Documents affection law enforcement and public safety	
Transport safety	
Adoption	
Care and protection of children	
Ministerial code of conduct	
Aboriginal and environmental heritage	

Table E: Other public interest considerations against disclosure: matters listed in table to section 41 of Act

	Number of occasions when application not successful
Responsible and effective government	
Law enforcement and security	
Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice	
Business interests of agencies and other persons	
Environment, culture, economy and general matters	
Secrecy provisions	
Exempt documents under interstate Freedom of Information legislation	

Table F: Timeliness

	Number of applications
Decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus any extensions)	4
Decided after 35 days (by agreement with applicant)	
Note decided within time (deemed refusal)	
Total	4

Table G: Number of applications reviewed under Part 5 of the Act (by type of review and outcome)

	Decision varied	Decision upheld	Total
Internal review			
Review by Information Commissioner *		1	1
Internal review following recommendation under section 93 of Act			
Review by ADT			
Total	0	1	1

* The Information Commission does not have the authority to vary decisions, but can make recommendations to the original decision-maker. The data in this case indicates that a recommendation to vary or uphold the original decision has been made by the Information Commissioner.

Table H: Applications for review under Part 5 of the Act (by type of applicant)

	Number of applications for review
Applications by access applicants	1
Applications by persons to whom information the subject of access application relates (see section 54 of the Act)	