



END OF TERM REPORT

2021-2024

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council

Our Place, Our Future

Community Strategic Plan 2022-2032



Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council acknowledge the Wiradjuri People as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay respect to Elders past, present, and emerging. They are the holders of the knowledge, culture, values and hopes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who contribute to our community.



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Photo Credits

Matt Beaver photography, DeLumier Photography

About this report

This end of term report has been prepared in accordance with S428 (2) of the Local Government Act 1993 for presentation at one of the final meetings of the outgoing council; 2021-2024.

This report provides an overview of council's achievements over the last three years and is linked to the top-level objectives outlined in our Community Strategic Plan.

The Community Strategic Plan details our vision for the future, which is built around five key directions. The CPS key directions and objectives, highlights all that Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council seeks to accomplish.

2021-2024 saw the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council achieve many milestones and deliver vital services to the towns and villages within the Local Government Area. Hindered by the COVID 19 pandemic, during 2021 Council staff continued to be innovative and creative with the delivery of services. Worldwide supply chain issues and staff shortages saw 2022 continue to present challenges. Going forward the changes in the management and organisational structures, along with the continuing demerger status continued to be a test for personnel to implement aspects of the CSP.

Council staff continued with the "Business as Usual" philosophy and responded to those challenges, working hard to deliver goals and aims of the Community Strategic Plan.

These achievements reflect the Council's commitment to improving the quality of life for its residents through strategic planning and community orientated projects.



“Our Vision for the Cootamundra-Gundagai region is to be a vibrant region, attracting people, investment and business through innovation, diversity, and community spirit. As a community we value, country living, agricultural landscapes and friendly communities”.





Our Values

- As a community we value:
- Country living,
- Agricultural landscapes
- Friendly communities

Our community identified the need for further investment and encouraging new businesses to start up in the Region as key for our Future sustainability and economic resilience.

Our five key Themes and Focus areas are:

- A Vibrant, Safe, and inclusive Community
- A Region for the Future
- A protected and enhanced environment
- Collaborative and Progressive Leadership
- Integrated and Accessible Region



Our Councillors, 2021-2024



Left to right: Cr David Graham, Cr Trevor Glover, Cr Abb McAlister, Cr Penny Nickolson, Cr Logan Collins, Deputy Mayor Leigh Bowden, Mayor Charlie Sheahan, Cr Gil Kelly and Cr Les Boyd.

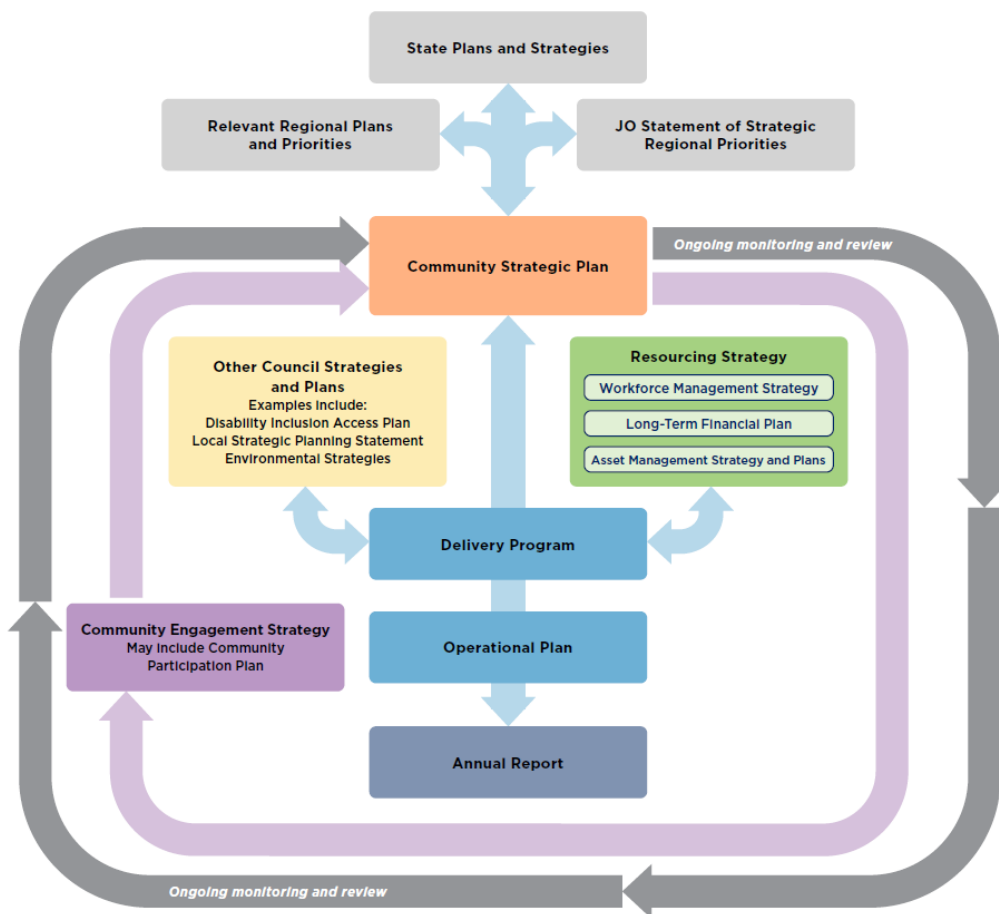
The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

All Councils in NSW are required to deliver their operations based on the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework.

The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework allows Councils to draw their various plans together, understand how they interact and get the maximum leverage from their efforts by planning and taking a big picture-view of the future.

Under the IP&R framework Council is required to prepare the following documents:

- Community Strategic Plan (CSP) (10-year plan)
- Delivery Program (4-year plan)
- Resourcing Strategy (Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Plan and Asset Management Plans)
- Operational Plan (Budget) (1 year)
- Annual Report
- End of Term Report
- Six monthly progress reports





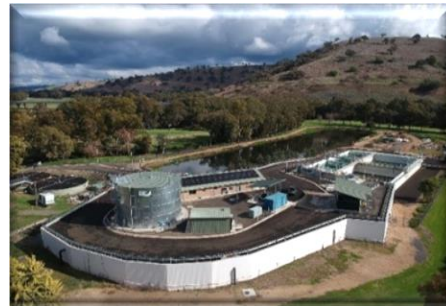
Major Projects delivered 2021-2024

Gundagai Sewerage Treatment

The new Gundagai Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) is the biggest infrastructure project undertaken by Council in decades. The \$20 million plant will meet projected load increases over the next 30 years.

Construction of the new sewage treatment plant with modern technology to replace existing aging sewage treatment plant which has been cracked and could compromise the treatment process. A modern telemetry system to control and monitor the plant was installed.

New sewage treatment plant capable of producing treated effluent complies with current regulatory requirements. The project will benefit the local community by providing superior treatment of wastewater collected at Gundagai town and due to improved treated water quality, an overall improvement of water quality on nearby sensitive waterways creeks and river systems. Commissioned in July 2022, the plant was officially opened in December 2022.



Sheridan Street upgrade

Otway and Sheridan Street's damaged kerb, guttering and pavement was replaced with new garden beds and landscaping of the kerb section taking place. Several trees were removed due to disease, pest infestation and had caused damage to the existing pavement, kerb and guttering. The trees had been categorised as a potential high risk safety hazard to pedestrians, vehicles and infrastructure. New trees that were more suitable for the surrounding environment have been planted in the new area. As part of the redevelopment of this area, staff created new garden beds, planted appropriate mature trees in accordance with the Gundagai Street tree masterplan.



West and Sheridan Street Intersection

The intersection at West and Sheridan Streets received a major upgrade with the realignment of traffic lanes, upgraded road surface and changes to signage at the intersection, which have been designed to ensure safer movement of traffic through the area.





West and Punch Street Upgrade

In early 2023 work commenced on replacing the stormwater and drainage at the West and Punch Street, Intersection and in June, continued the works, upgrading the pavement. These works were funded by TFNSW under the Regional Road Repair program.

Water Mains Rehabilitation Project – Cootamundra and Gundagai

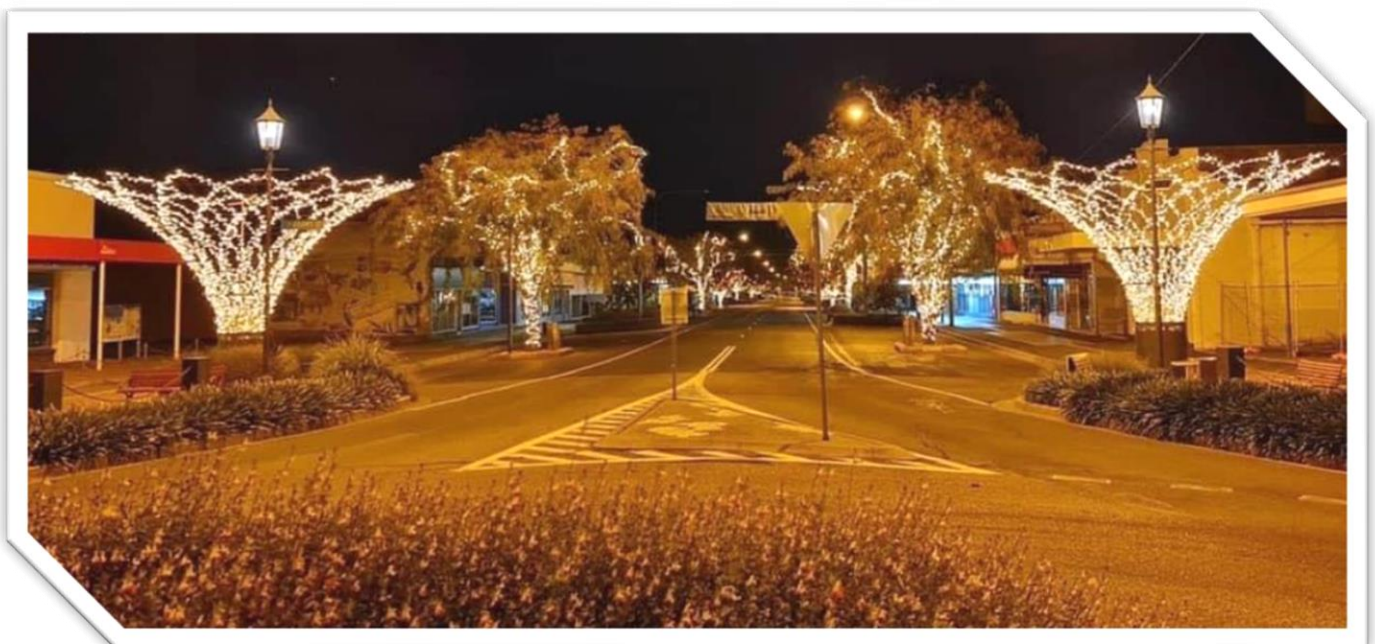
The Water mains rehabilitation project has now been complete in Ursula Street, Adams Street, Queen Street, and Hay Streets Cootamundra. This work ensures the delivery of a clean and reliable water supply to residents.

Gundagai Swimming Pool

The Gundagai Swimming Pool has undergone improvements with upgrades completed on damaged pipes that will solve leakage problems. The work included a new stainless-steel pip installed in the balance tank, replacing a galvanised pipe. A new compressor for the sand filters has been installed along with repairs to the expansion joint replacement on the pools surface. The works include the installation of an all-access ramp, BBQ facilities, with picnic tables and shades.

Beautification Cootamundra CBD

Though funding from the Drought Communities Program, Cootamundra’s CBD has been rejuvenated. The projects aim was to beautify and enhance the experience for visitors to Cootamundra, create jobs and boost local shopping. The upgrades included landscaping, Street furniture and shade structures. The installation of fairy lights in the street trees and four feature Canopies constructed by the famous Furphy Foundry has added a new dimension to the street at night.



Major upgrade Annie Pyers Drive at Gundagai

Annie Pyers drive is a key road, which links the Dog on the Tuckerbox Service Centre to the Hume Highway. The road had fallen into disrepair, with wet weather and mass heavy vehicle traffic degrading the road surface.

The minister for Regional Transport and Roads, The Hon. Sam Faraway MC, announced that the NSW Government would provide Council with \$1 Million to upgrade Annie Pyers Drive at Gundagai. The funding was part of the 2022/2023 Rural and Regional Roads fund, which was utilised towards repairing the road surface. The works were completed in March 2024.



Livi's Place – Albert Park Cootamundra

The partnership formed between Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC), the Touched by Olivia Foundation, saw the creation of an inclusive playspace, promoting play for everyone in Cootamundra's iconic Albert Park.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken in consultation with key stakeholders such as, representatives from the Elouera Association, LFE Community Supports, CGRC Access and Inclusion Committee, Lions Club, Scouts, and Men's Shed representatives. School Imagineer workshops were held with local schools where over 130 students participated and community meetings.

Opened by Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke and a group of children involved in creating the space on 28 June 2022, the playspace has been a popular and well used site.



1. A Vibrant, Safe and Inclusive Community

We have a thriving community where diversity is embraced, everyone is welcomed, valued, and we have opportunities to enhance our health, happiness, and wellbeing.



A Vibrant, Safe and Inclusive Community

We Strive for:

A diverse and inclusive Community

A happy, healthy and safe Community

Community Satisfaction with local arts, entertainment, and culture

Community Satisfaction with Parks and recreational areas

Memorandum of Understanding with the Aboriginal Working Party

Bala-Yanhi Miya (Together We're Working)

CGRC Formalised and endorsed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Aboriginal working party and Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council at its December 2023 Council meeting. The purpose of the Bala-yanhi Miya is to formalise the agreement of the parties to lay founding principles and set out specific commitments for the ongoing relationship and mutual cooperation with CAWP and Council.



NAIDOC

Council proudly celebrates NAIDOC week, starting with the traditional smoking ceremony and a member of the Aboriginal Working Party (CAWP) in Cootamundra and MAWANG Inc in Gundagai welcoming all to Country followed by a flag raising ceremony. A morning tea is held for attendees providing residents and council staff the opportunity to engage with the CAWP and MAWANG Inc.

SENIORS WEEK

Staff and Councillors enjoy a morning tea together, giving seniors an opportunity to speak to council representatives and chat about their concerns and answer queries.

COMMUNITY CONNECTS EXPO

Council held a Community Expo to showcase the variety of Activities and services available within the LGA to assist and improve the quality of life for residents.

Parks and Recreational Areas

Parks and Recreation areas across the LGA have received upgrades and redevelopments, providing beautiful and safe spaces for not only residents and their families but visitors alike. Parks and Gardens are routinely monitored and maintained to a high standard to ensure facilities and grounds are fit for purpose.

Pioneer Park - Stage 2; With funding from the NSW bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund *stage 2* commenced at Pioneer Park. The project initially commenced with Consultation with the relevant stakeholders interested in the park's future, these included; Friends of Pioneer Park Group, The Aboriginal Working Party Group, NSW Rural Fire Service, Mountain Bike Club, Bush Walking Club and Council representatives.

The \$222,700 project delivered, new toilets, shelter and barbeques facilities, picnic tables, park benches, bollard and chain fences, solar bollard lighting. The project created a bush regeneration area which includes native plantings and ground rejuvenation.

Council worked with the Aboriginal Working Party Group to add interpretative signage for the local flora and fauna. Directional signage was erected along many of the walking and bike trails, with map signage, pathway clearing, and burning barbeques/fire pits installed. Stage 2 was officially opened on 15 July 2024.

Fisher Park received upgrades to Amenities with assistance from the SCCF5 grant and the redevelopment of Fisher Park sporting precinct – Masterplan and immediate upgrades with funding from Southern phones.

Jubilee Park received major enhancements and a redesign with new pathways, giving greater accessibility. Upgraded play equipment and plantings. This was achieved with \$2 Million funding from the NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program, which was part of

ongoing work to protect the health of the community, provide economic and jobs stimulus in response to COVID-19 and deliver a legacy of safe, quality public and open spaces. Stage one of the Master plan for Jubilee Park commenced in November 2021.

Stage one consisted of native garden beds, and a decomposed granite pathway alongside the caravan park. Local landscape designer Jeremy Pearce (Arcscapes) was awarded the contract for stage one.

Stage two consisted of more native garden beds, landscaping including furniture and fixtures, exposed aggregate concrete footpaths and irrigation. Other work includes the relocation of the captains' busts to a more accessible area in Jubilee Park. The Masterplan includes a new park entrance, picnic tables and BBQ facilities along with the public toilets getting a refurbishment, sculptural interpretation area, and an area to attract local birdlife was also included.

CGRC partnered with Sala4D to create a landscape masterplan for the iconic Jubilee Park. The plan was crucial for Council and the Community, guiding development and management over a period of 5 – 10 years. Community workshops were held, and public comments taken into consideration. The ideas raised assisted with the concept for the Masterplan.

Albert Park – Livvi's Place & MLAK Facility.

The partnership formed between Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC), the Touched by Olivia Foundation, and the dream of 100's of children and adults to deliver a playspace in Cootamundra's iconic Albert Park, was realized with the opening of Livvi's Place in Albert Park Cootamundra. Opened by Member for Cootamundra Steph Cooke and a group of children involved in creating the space in June 2022, the playspace has been a popular and well used site.



Extensive community consultation was undertaken in 2020, consultation with key stakeholders such as the

mayor, representatives from the Elouera. Livvi's place provides equal access for all abilities and provides a unique environment for children of all ages and all abilities to play side by side. A Yarning Circle encourages cultural awareness and has been incorporated with the participation from the Cootamundra Aboriginal Working Party.

Association, LFE Community Supports, CGRC Access and Inclusion Committee, Lions Club, Scouts, and Men's Shed representatives. School Imagineer workshops were held with local schools where 130 students participated and community meetings. As a playspace, the feedback from the children indicated that they wanted to see a space that demonstrated Cootamundra's inclusiveness and promoted the town as a place for visitors. Their feedback also specified the space needed to make everyone feel welcome.

In addition to the new BBQ's and seating installed around the perimeter of the Cricket Oval a new 'MLAK' facility was installed that contains an adult sized change table with electronic lift and an electronic hoist, shower, toilet and hand basin.

Carberry Park

Carberry Park is utilised by a number of different demographics, it is a tourism hub for Gundagai and used not only by residents, but visitors alike. Due to the size and the impact the sails would make in the park, Council decided to conduct a small survey to allow residents the opportunity to provide feedback to the sail options. Four sets of sails were installed at Carberry Park in 2023.

Agility Equipment for Dog Park

CGRC have purchased and installed the agility equipment with NSW Companion Animals Registration funding, that CGRC receives from dog and cat registrations in the Council area.

The Dog Park has two separately fenced areas for dogs to interact and play, the quieter area is for smaller dogs or puppies as they get used to interacting with larger, busier dogs. The other area is the active area, and this is for more robust larger adult dogs to run and play. An introduction area is also part of the facility to allow dogs to safely interact with each other through fencing, before being introduced to the agility areas.

Bradman Oval – Upgrade Cricket Nets

A new concrete slab the full length of the cricket wicket was installed. New Synthetic turf laid and the runup section was raised. Junior cricket removed the old netting and installed new netting.

Gundagai Netball Clubhouse

Council constructed a new Clubhouse at the Gundagai Netball Courts. Gundagai Netballers now have a clubhouse with a large meeting room, kitchen, storage area and WC amenities including disabled toilet facilities. The clubhouse can be accessed via a ramp or stairs.

Friendship Park - Gundagai

New Shade Shelters and seating were installed in Friendship Park.

Lindley Park

Shade sales installed and car park area created.

Youth Hubs for Cootamundra and Gundagai

Youth hubs have been established in Cootamundra and Gundagai. Our Youth and Inclusion officer engages with Youth and stakeholders across the LGA to develop Youth Initiatives, programs and events.

Gundagai Pool Renovation Project

The Gundagai Memorial Swimming pool refurbishment commenced in July 2024. This project will see a new entry to the foyer with disability access, combined with a new kiosk, first aid room, new toilet and showers facilities all with disabled access.

The Arts Centre Cootamundra

Updated/refurbished, upgrade of electricals Emergency access disabled ramp and railing installed, and laneway changed to one way.

Local Emergency Management

Council continues to maintain our emergency service centres with additional funding being sought to meet modern standards. The Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) continue to meet on a regular basis with relevant actions identified and implemented. Emergency Management documentation is being reviewed and updated.

Safer Streets - CBD 30km Zone

In consultation with Transport for NSW and the Local Traffic Management Committee, investigated the shared pedestrian area classification for Cootamundra and the lowering of CBD speed limited to 30kmp. The 30kmp speed zone in the CBD was put into place in May 2024

Potable water supply to the Dog on the Tuckerbox precinct at Annie Pyers Drive

Currently assessing developer's needs.

Planning Policies to facilitate options for housing

These policies are currently on hold due to the Demerger status.

Cootamundra Library refurbishment

In February 2024, the Cootamundra War Memorial Library was refurbished. The library received new carpet, painting, lighting, new computer desks and circulation desk. New Computers for public use.

Gundagai Library Extension

The Gundagai Library extensions to create a new meeting room was completed in 2023.

CGRC continues to Support Community Groups with Funding Assistance towards projects and upgrades.

Council has traditionally supported local sporting clubs, schools, community groups and Individuals through the provision of Financial, and in-kind support. Council continues to provide that support to its communities now and into the future, through the annual Community donations program.

Close-circuit Televisions (CCTV) cameras

Staff worked with local Police to assist in determining the best location for camera installation. Grant funding has been used

Eastern Riverina Arts

CGRC is proud to provide their ongoing support and partnership with Eastern Riverina Arts. ERA provide advice and collaboration with Council staff and arts funding, cultural development, festivals and public art projects, and sector support delivered directly to local artist, creative groups and creative businesses. ERA works with the Arts Centre Cootamundra as part of their Riverina Touring network project, bringing a range of performing arts tours through Cootamundra.

2. A Region for the Future

We are a prosperous and resilient region providing opportunities for growth and learning to strengthen and grow our economy, support tourism, and adopt new technologies to ensure long-term sustainability.



A Region for the Future

We strive for:

A region recognised as a popular tourist destination

A strong, diverse, and resilient economy with business, work, and investment opportunities available

Responsible growth and development with land use opportunities identified, promoted and realised

Local unemployment is low

Increased population

Promoting the Region

Council's Tourism and Economic Development Officers continue to promote tourism throughout the region in partnerships with Destination NSW, Riverina Murray and Country change to showcase all the region has to offer.

CGRC was involved with the following campaigns between 2021-2024;

- The Driveway Tourism Campaign and the Out of Adventure Tourism Campaign with Visit Wagga Wagga
- Welcome to the 'Farmily'- Agritourism Campaign
- Country change initiatives

Gundagai Visitor Information Centre Upgrades

The Gundagai Tourist information centre has received significant upgrades. Works are well underway, and the expected completion date is September 2024. Local wines, produce and souvenirs can be purchased from the Centre.

Marketing the Region

Tourism and Economic Development staff continue to promote the LGA through tourism websites to promote Local products and events in partnership with Destination NSW Riverina Murray.

Implementation of the Agritourism Strategy

The Tilma Group delivered a series of inspiring Agritourism webinars on best practice case studies for Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council, as part of an agritourism development program run over several months.

Business Awards

CGRC's business awards celebrate and highlight the hard work, resilience and dedication of our local businesses and organisations and the individuals behind them. These businesses and organisations are the backbone of our local community, providing economic, social and cultural benefits for the community.

Starry Nights Festival

The NSW Governments' Open Streets Program Grant Funding Incorporates four events designed to inject vibrancy into our streets and help create thriving local places that support businesses, creative sector, and the community. Four events are taking place in our LGA, The Cootamundra Wattle Time Festival, the Festival of Gundagai, Christmas on Sheridan Street Party in Gundagai and Sparkling Streets Christmas Party in Cootamundra. These events provide increased visibility and exposure for local business (including Agritourism) and community Groups; provide economic stimulus and growth to local businesses; create a sense of belonging and enhance liveability within our community.

The Arts Centre Cootamundra upgrades

Upgrades were completed to the TACC building, which included installing emergency exits, upgrade of the building's electricals

Coota Beach Volleyball

After running for 22 years, the Coota Beach Volleyball went into hiatus in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and government health restrictions. In 2023 with Council's contribution of \$26,000 of in-kind support and assistance with resources the Coota beach Volleyball was back bigger and better than before. Council supplied equipment and manpower in the days prior and proceeding the event. A first for this year's event saw over 600 children participate as part of a school carnival organised by Sacred Heart Central School.

The tourism and economic benefits that flow on from the event provide the township with a huge boost with over 70 teams from Wagga, 19 from the ACT, 7 from Albury, and teams from Yass, Lockhart, West Wyalong, Young, Murrumbateman, Dalgety and Queensland entering and enjoying our towns hospitality over the two-day carnival. Local teams that supported the event contributed to the goodwill and economic benefits our businesses received.

Wallendbeen Silo Art Project

Funds have been allocated for this project, but the project has not been able to proceed due to the Silo's 'ACTIVE' status. Council's Tourism and Economic Development Officer has currently recommenced discussions into this project

Gundagai Goal

Working in conjunction with APPI Ghost hunts, Ghost Tours have been running at the Old Gundagai Goal since November 2021 and have been a popular tourist attraction in Gundagai.

Gundagai Old Mill Redevelopment

Merger funding utilised for preparation of master plan for precinct. Future funding to be sourced to carry out renovations.

Mountain bike flow trail

Research continues into this project, Investigations into land usage, access and ownership have commenced. Once the feasibility ascertained, funding can be sought.

Visitor Guides

Council released new Visitor Guides covering the whole LGA. The printed book flips and has Cootamundra information on one side and Gundagai on the other. This was the culmination of twelve months work for CGRC Tourism Administration Trainee Casey Polsen. Casey organised the photography and completed the graphic design in house.

Cootamundra and Gundagai Libraries

Our Library services continue to expand across our LGA and have become an important area of service to the Community. Our libraries also provided social activities

Both Cootamundra and Gundagai Libraries continues to host a wide range of events, which include:

- Baby Bounce
- Storytime
- School holidays Arts and Crafts Programs
- School Holiday shows
- Arts and Crafts Workshops for Adults
- Author Talks
- Tech Information days and assistance for Seniors
- Delivery service for books and DVD's

As well as books, our libraries also provide access to computers, audiobooks, DVDs, magazines, video games,

community information and Wi-Fi to members of the Public. All free of charge.

Council's Libraries also run 'Be Connected' Computer Lessons to assist isolated residents. Creative sessions for adults cater for many on the NDIS scheme.

Youth Engagement

Cootamundra and Gundagai Youth hubs provide a space for the Communities Youth aged between 12-18 to come and relax, study, and hang out. The Hub is used for School Holiday events and is open after school hours.

This initiative was funded by the Australian Government, Summer Bushfire Recovery Program to provide a space to socialise and play games at the Community space.

The Youth Hubs are equipped with a Fuse ball table, Television, Computers with Wi-Fi for gaming or homework, study area, books and boards games, kitchenette, Nintendo switch games.

Cycleways Plan

Council is currently in the process of developing a 10-year Cycleways Plan as identified in the 2022 Community Strategic Plan in achieving pathway network infrastructure and maintenance that respects community expectations and needs. The Plan will provide the framework for developing cycleway routes that are intuitive and comfortable to use, separated from motor vehicles and pedestrians where needed, and designed to connect communities with important destinations across the region.

Cootamundra Cycle Trails paths are now on Councils Website.

LED streetlight project

Work to upgrade 960 Streetlights to energy efficient technology was part of a major energy efficiency project that helped save hundreds of thousands in electricity bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the ratepayers of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council. The switch to LED technology, consuming around 17 watts each replaced the existing high energy lights consuming between 50 and 100 watts.

3. A Protected and Enhanced Environment

We have attractive towns and villages that complement our unique natural environment, where heritage is preserved and enhanced whilst balancing the needs of regional development and growth



A Protected and Enhanced Environment

We strive for:

Interesting, attractive, and welcoming towns and villages

Local History, heritage, culture, and character is valued and preserved

Environment and climate change risks and impacts are understood and managed collectively

Increase use of sustainable water and energy sources

Main Street Beautification

Though funding from the Drought Communities Program, Cootamundra's CBD has rejuvenated. The projects aim was to beautify and enhance the experience, whilst visiting Cootamundra's CBD, create jobs and boost local shopping. Landscaping, Street furniture and shade structures. The installation of fairy lights in the street trees and four feature Canopies constructed by the famous Furphy Foundry has added a new dimension to the street at night.



Floodplain Risk Management Study, Plan & Implementation

The first stage of the flood study was finalised and adopted by Council in January 2021. The study identified Flood risk to people, property, infrastructure and assets across the study area. With assistance from the NSW Government, Council prepared the Draft Cootamundra Flood Plain Risk Management Study and Plan. The project was the next step in increasing our community's resilience to flooding. The Draft Study and Plan was developed under the guidance of Council's Floodplain Risk Management Committee, which included elected members of Council, Council Staff and Community representatives. Council also engaged with the wider community and held drop-in session in April and May 2023. The Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan was finalised in June 2023 and Council are in the process of implementing the recommendations.

Gundagai Villages Flood Study

A flood study is currently being prepared for the villages around Gundagai examining flooding caused by the Murrumbidgee River and other waterways. The flood study aims to understand and determine the nature and extent of potential flooding at the villages of Coolac, Nangus, Tumblong and Darbalara as well as from the Murrumbidgee River Floodplain within the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council LGA.

Sustainability – Installation of Solar Panel & LED

Council has continued the fit out of LED lighting within its facilities. Solar panels have been fitting on the Gundagai Chambers, Depot Workshop, Stan Crowe change rooms, Anzac Park change rooms, Gundagai Sewer treatment plant, the Cootamundra Sports Stadium. The Gundagai swimming pool utilises a solar blanket on the amenities roof for water to heat the pool.

Local Heritage Assistance

The Local Heritage Grant Fund Programme, which commences in 2022-2023 aims to assist funding to maintain Heritage building in the Cootamundra-Gundagai LGA. Council also engaged a Heritage Advisor to assist with Heritage related developments and Heritage Advice. Both the Heritage Programmes are funding by grants payments and matching council Contributions

Water infrastructure Network

Network analysis is underway, and the Water Cycle Management study has been funded and is near completion.

Watermain Replacement Programmes & Reservoir Disinfection

This work has been included in the capital works programme and the Cootamundra and Gundagai replacement is underway at four locations and the reservoir disinfection works being programmed.

Water infrastructure Network

Network analysis commenced mid-year in 2023. An Asset inspection program was established for water and sewer over a 5-year period. Works commenced on the asset inspection program items for 2022/2023 financial year. Integrated Water Cycle Management study funding and completed.

Help for Farmers

Council in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries and Local Land Services called on expression of interest from Farmers in the LGA to tackle Thistle infestations. GGRC's Biosecurity Officer visited affected landowners to assist with identification and appropriate management and control skills. Chemical control assistance was available for the reduction of Scotch/Illyrian thistle infestations. The program sort to coordinate and utilise the expertise and knowledge of the CGRC Biosecurity staff, working alongside landowners to protect primary production and the general environment from the impacts and problems caused by Scotch and Illyrian thistles.

History/Heritage signage installed

Signage was installed/updated in Wallendbeen, Stockinbingal and Gundagai providing information on historical facts and Heritage Walk around the region.

New Equipment to keep our streets clean

In September 2024, Council took delivery of a new street sweeper and garbage truck.

Sustainability - Recycling Waste Product

4,950m3 of concrete, bricks and tiles have all been pulverised, crushed and processed into a gravel product that is now for sale to the public.

The product has been tested and used as part of waste projects within the Cootamundra landfill. We have gained a lot of interest from the public and contractors with over 215 tonnes sold in the first 2 weeks. The Cootamundra waste facility is receiving the concrete removed from the Hume highway project. For the month of September we have received 223 loads, bringing in 2,903.74 tonnes. It is anticipated we will be receiving more product over the coming months. Due to how clean this material is and it's high MPA value, this product is being stored separately and will be processed with no other products to avoid any contamination ensuring this product will produce a high-quality material once processed. The frames and roof for the 2 new sheds at the Waste transfer station went up. One shed is for parking plant underneath for protection and the other is for the sale of second-hand goods and materials. It is expected to have both sheds completed within the coming weeks.

LED Streetlight Project

Work to upgrade 960 streetlights to energy efficient technology began in June 2022, as part of a major energy efficiency project that will save hundreds of thousands in electricity bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions for the ratepayers of Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council (CGRC). The switch to LED technology will see a 247 MWh per year reduction in power use, delivering savings of approximately \$60,000 each year in maintenance and electricity costs.



4. Collaborative and Progressive Leadership

We have a transparent and accountable local Council with an actively engaged community and effective partnerships that foster trust, facilitates innovation and uses resources wisely to meet community needs.



Collaborative and Progressive Leadership

We strive for:

Strong Council performance and culture

A well informed and engaged Community

Community is satisfied with Council's level of engagement, accountability and transparency

On going face to face engagement with Communities

Over the Council term, our organisation has continued to increase interactions with local communities via the following means:

Community Engagement Strategy and Policy revised and adopted by council in 2023.

Council invited Community feedback for the following:

- Livvi's Playspace
- Fisher Park redevelopment
- Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plan
- Cycleways Plan Survey
- The Prince Alfred Bridge, ideas to memorialise
- Parker Street lane, Cootamundra – One Way
- Cooper Street Lane Cootamundra – One Way
- CBD change of speed limit to 30kph
- Skate Park Issues Consultation
- Flood Disaster Survey
- Gundagai Villages Flood Study – Flood study for the villages of Coolac, Nangus, Tumblong and Darbalara
- Road Safety Public Feedback
- CGRC Communications Survey
- Dog on the Tuckerbox 90th Birthday Markets feedback
- Carberry Park Sail Survey
- Gundagai Survey 2021 – have your say
- Gundagai Old Mill Project
- Disaster recovery

Council has continued to involve community members and relevant stakeholders in its projects, plans and strategies

Council Meetings

Council meetings are rotated between Cootamundra and Gundagai.

New CSP Development – Community Engagement

“Our Place...Our Future” Community Consultation sessions

The Community Strategic Plan was developed through a process of intensive community engagement. We met with our community to understand their needs and aspirations, and to identify the priorities for the future.

The CSP Community Engagement phase included



communications and marketing activities, Council pop-up stands, facilitated stakeholder workshops and focus groups, direct mail-outs and an online community survey that reached over 7,866 people across the region.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- 333 online surveys were completed
- 502 conversations at community pop-up stands
- 60 people attended facilitated stakeholder group discussions
- 25 local businesses were directly engaged
- 107 people received the Council internal email
- 8 local schools were engaged with a direct mail
- 60 emails were sent directly engaging with community groups and Section 355 committees
- 971 recipients of the postcard survey mail out

All ideas submitted were also collated to form projects and programs of works in the 4-year Delivery Program and yearly Operational Plans.

Submission to Federal Government Inquiry into the sustainability of Local Government – April 2024

Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council made an in-depth submission to a Federal Government enquiry into the sustainability of local government.

Interim General Manager Steve McGrath authored a response on behalf of Council, addressing the broken

Finance model in Local Government, cost shifting, increased service delivery pressures with no additional income, asset depreciation, issues around employment and retention, budgeting, and the inability to forward-plan.

Service Reviews

Due to the implications of the possible Demerger, CGRC Staff have proposed to establish a service and asset profile, to which levels of service, performance and resourcing may be assigned. This register of services can then be utilised for each individual Council, or CGRC, depending on the outcome of the Demerger proposal.

Customer Service

28 November 2023 Council adopted a Customer Service Charter outlining our Commitment to providing high level customer service and our service standard expectations.

Work Health and Safety

Council implements Monthly safety toolbox talks with staff and continues training in safe work practices to ensure the Safety of all employees is at the forefront of all we do.

Council continues to conduct training to ensure safe work practices such as:

First Aid, Chainsaw use, TFNSW Traffic Control and implementing Traffic control, Chemical application, Sharps Training, Fire Warden Training.

Staff Wellbeing Program

CGRC is in the process of developing a Staff Wellbeing Program, Policy and Procedure. The aim of this policy is to promote and maintain the physical and mental health and wellbeing of all employees

Councillors

Councillors attend conferences and workshops to increase their knowledge and understanding of Council and Local Government.

Cloud Based Technology

CGRC servers are hosted by Cloud based technology which reduces costs and increases service uptime. Council utilises VPN/RDS and 4G connections, which also ensures minimum interruption to services.

Income and Expenditure

CGRC's Finance Department and Executive team continue to ensure that Council is meeting its statutory responsibilities in line with Treasury Guidelines.

Risk Management & Business Continuity Plan

Council has engaged contractors to develop CGRC's Business and Continuity Plan, in conjunction with SideEffekt ICT Continuity Plan, Test and Report. Building and Development Checklists

NSW Planning Portal & Associated Legislation

Council staff developed factsheets, guidelines and templates to assist the community with the transition to ePlanning.

Community Connectedness and the 2022 Flood Event

2022-2023 saw major and minor flooding events across the region. The Murrumbidgee rose to major flooding levels leaving roads and bridges damaged in Gundagai.

Muttama creek in Cootamundra reached major levels on the night of 31 October 2022, with over 100 homes inundated with flood waters that raged down the Muttama creek after a heavy storm. Water rose quickly with residents in low lying areas around the creek being evacuated from their homes.

Staff manned evacuation centres and were involved in rescues and coordinated road closures. Staff worked closely with Health groups. CGRC's appointed a Flood Recovery Coordinator to assist residents who were impacted by the flooding event. The coordinator visited many of the residents who sustained damage due to the flash flood. He coordinated with Resilience NSW, Blaze Aid and charity organisations to ensure residents got the help they needed.

A flood Recovery Centre pop up store was established in the Civic Centre by the Red Cross to provide essentials to those effected. Representative from Resilience NSW, Service NSW and Services Australia, and support teams were on hand at the Recovery Centre to offer face-to-face assist with accommodation services, mental health & wellbeing services, support for businesses, financial assistance, insurance and legal support.

Council provided a dedicated Flood Recover page on our website, with links to services, assistance and information

in dealing with flooding. Council encouraged residents that had been affected but unable to attend the Flood Recovery Centres to contact the Flood Recovery Coordinator for information and assistance.

To assist in providing tailored support to the community (with funding from the state and Federal Government), a Flood Recovery Officer joined Council to implement initiatives with flood affected communities and support with critical planning

Policy updates and implementation

Since September 2021, CGRC have implemented or updated a number of policies. Policies underpin our day to day activities and decision-making to ensure we operate in an open, effective and transparent manner.

The following policies were adopted or updated between 2021 to 2024:

- Community Engagement Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Complaints handling Policy and Procedure
- Use of Information Technology and Communication Devices Policy
- Liquid Trade Waste Policy
- Investment Policy
- Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities for Mayor and Councillors Policy
- Community Donations Policy
- Credit Card Policy
- Managing Conflict of Interest: Council related Development Policy
- Debt Recovery Policy
- Pensioner Concession Policy
- Rates & Charges Financial Hardship Policy
- Procurement Policy
- Concealed Water Leak Policy
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Managing Unreasonable Complainant Conduct Policy and Procedure
- Risk Management Policy
- Model Asbestos Policy
- Workplace Surveillance Policy
- Workplace Bullying Policy
- Workplace Harassment Policy
- Public Interest Disclosure (Internal Reporting) Policy
- Councillor and Staff Interaction Policy
- Data Breach Policy

- Swimming Pool Inspection Policy and Program
- Contaminated Land Policy
- Keeping of Animals Policy
- Biosecurity Weeds Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Policy
- Motor Vehicle Leaseback Policy

Customer Service Charter

CGRC's is committed to providing high level customer service to meet the needs of its growing and changing community. As a result, the Customer service charter was developed to set out its service standards and to enhance relationships and partnerships with the community and customers. It also provides Council employees with standards to strive for in the provision of exceptional service and determine the standards against which Council's performance is judged. The Charter was adopted at the Council meeting held November 2023.

Citizenship Ceremonies

Council is proud to conduct citizenship ceremonies where new Citizens take the Australian Citizenship Pledge of Commitment. This is the final step in the journey to Citizenship. In 2021/2022 CGRC held 6 citizenship ceremonies, in 22/23 – 10 and in 23/24 – 6.

Road Safety Initiatives

Council promotes and encourages motorists to think road safety with initiatives that include:

Plan B – Snake Gully Cup

Driver Reviver

Double Demerit Points

Motorcycle Awareness

Heavy Vehicle Awareness

Harvest Traffic Awareness

Rural Road Safety Month

SARAH Group

Animals on the Road

Fatal Five – Speeding, seat belts, drink/Drug Driving, Fatigue, Distraction.

If it's flooded forget it

Be Bus Aware

Fatality Free Friday

Drive Safe – School Holidays

Towards Zero

Plan B

5. Integrated and Accessible Region

We have transport networks and services that are well connected and convenient and not only connect our villages and towns, but also connect us to other regions, capital cities and states, and our community has access to services and facilities that make the region 'liveable'.



Integrated and Accessible Region

We strive for:

A safe, sustainable and efficient road and pathway network

Better connectivity between towns, Villages, other regions, major cities and other states

Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP)

Together with the Roads and Maritime Services, Council has created the Cootamundra and Gundagai Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans. These plans align with Council's key principles and objectives identified in the 2022 Community Strategic Plan in achieving pathway network infrastructure and maintenance that respects community expectations and needs. It provides a framework for developing pedestrian routes or areas identified as important for walkability, safety, convenience and mobility, with a particular focus on footpaths, kerb ramps and crossing facilities at critical locations.

Annie Pyers Drive upgrade

As part of the Rural and Regional Roads fund, Council received funds from the NSW State Government for major upgrade works on Annie Pyers Drive at the Dog on the Tuckerbox precinct.

Local Roads Community Infrastructure Program

- Bridge replacement and erosion protection works on Rosehill Road, Cootamundra
- Footpath replacement along Muttama Creek
- Replacement of footbridge in Scott Ave with a wider and safer bridge
- Works at the intersection of Sheridan and west Streets, Gundagai
- Old Gundagai Road, Cootamundra; resealed.
- Footpath replacement in front of the Salvation Army Store in Hovell Street, Cootamundra.
- New Footpath along western side of Sutton Street between Hurley and Mackay Streets.
- Footpath replacement along Bourke Street between Cooper and Thompson St
- New footpath along Sutton Street, between Muttama Creek and Hurley Street.
- Replacement of footpath behind old Cootamundra Hospital
- Pioneer Park Access Road and Carpark

Bridge over Low-Level Crossing Causeway at Muttama

Council is currently awaiting further betterment funding to become available.

Pedestrian and Cycleways access plan

Surveys have been conducted and plans underway.

Fixing Country Roads Projects

- Sealing Warralong Road, Cootamundra
- Reconstruction works, Brawlin Road, Cootamundra
- Hovell Street causeway upgrade
- Sutton's Lane reconstruction
-

Footpath renewal and extension Program

As per the Asset Condition report and the Pedestrian and Mobility Plan (PAMP's) program. Council was successful in receiving LRCI around 4 funding which will allow for identified projects to be completed. Projects due for 2024-2024 financial year are Bourke Street (Cooper St to Thompson St) Copper Street (Wallendoon St to Mackay St), Parker Street/Adams St roundabout intersection, blister island and pedestrian ramp. Footpath replacement projects continuing for 2023-2024 on Hanley Street and West Street, Gundagai.

Fixing Local Roads Program

The Fixing Local Roads Program is a targeted program to address smaller road projects across NSW including pavement rehabilitation, seal extensions and resealing of unsealed roads, asphalt resurfacing, drainage rehabilitation and routine maintenance including cracks and potholes. Projects under the Fixing Local Roads Program include:

- Mackay Street Pavement rehabilitation and kerb replacement
- Old Hume Highway Gravel resheeting and drain clearing
- Stabilisation and sealing on the 4 km section to the north of the bridge over Hillas Creek
- Footpath replacement in Wallendoon Street, Parker Street and Mackay streets
- Pavement rehabilitation works on Kilrush road, Rosehill Road & Berthong Road
- Extension of seal on Milvale Road
- Widening and Rehabilitation of Edwardstown Road
- Stabilisation works on Rosehill road between Beggan Beggan intersection
- Works East of Netherleigh Lane
- Works on Adjungbilly Road with widening and realignment east of Parson's creek Road
- Upgrade Brawlin Road
- Upgrade Box Culverts on Salt Clay Lane

- Milvale Road, Stockinbingal reconstruction of 1.5km gravel road
- Upgrade, widening and improved drainage at Edwardston Road, Gundagai

State Highway Road Maintenance contract with TfNSW

Council undertakes contracted work on State Highway roads on behalf of Transport for New South Wales. Council has completed under this contract:

Annual Resealing Program

Sections of the Olympic Highway and Burley Griffin Way as prioritised by TfNSW were resealed during 2021/2022.

Pavement Rehabilitation and Asphalt Road Surface – Yass Road

Rehabilitation works on the Olympic Highway from the rail overpass bridge to the Hovell Street intersection (Yass Road) were undertaken to rectify pavement issues.

Cowcumbra Street causeway/Gundagai Road turning Lanes

The upgrades completed at Cowcumbra Street provided safer heavy vehicle movements to the Cootamundra Industrial area with the introduction of turning lanes on Gundagai Road. Traversing Muttama Creek during wet weather is now safer with the installation of box culvers replacing the low level causeway.

Pavement Rehabilitation Muttama Road

Approximately 8km of roadworks, including a pavement rehabilitation, continuing from previous drainage works at this location.

Timber Haulage Road Upgrades (Adjungbilly and Nanangroe Projects)

Significant upgrades have been made to various sections of the road pavement on Adjungbilly, Nanangroe and Redhill roads. These roads are subject to heavy vehicle traffic associated with the timber industry and this funding has allowed significant improvements to be made.

Fixing Country Bridges

Under funding from the NSW State Government's fixing Country Bridges program, Council received funding to replace two bridges on Lucerndale Road, one on Carrs Road, one on Hillas Creek, Old Hume Highway Mundarlo.

Old Hume Highway Seal Extension

4km of previously unsealed pavement was stabilised and sealed, dramatically improving the surface for road users.

Kerb and Gutter Projects

Council completed kerb and guttering projects along Mackay Street and Hurley Street (near the Country Club) Cootamundra and in Bourke and Hanley Streets, Gundagai.

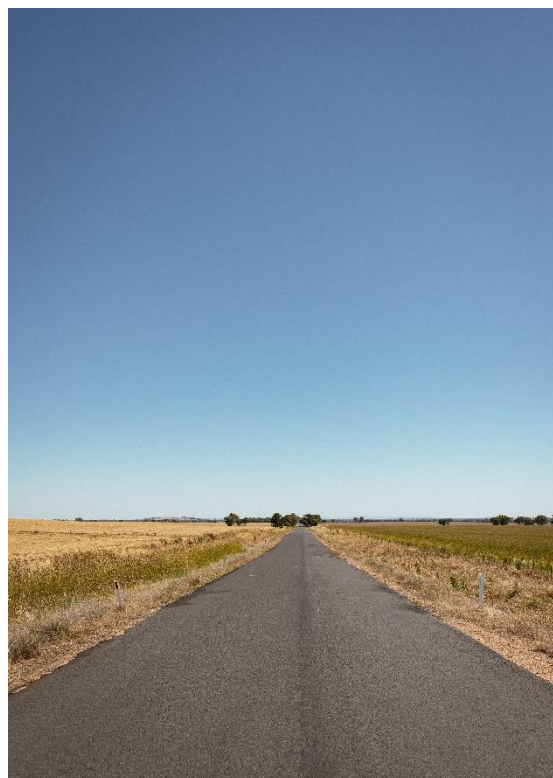
Road Maintenance

Council continues to maintain and grade roads across the LGA in the following areas:

- Stockinbingal/Yannawah -these areas include: Milvale, McCaffery's and Corbys Roads, Brawlin, Rawilla, Wavehill.
- Wallendbeen and Jindalee – West Jindalee, Fontenoy and Glenroy Lane.
- Tarrabandra Road
- Yammatree Road
- Hopewood Road (Gobarralong)
- Sandy Falls Road (Coolac area)
- Bundarbo Road (Gobarralong)
- Parsons Creek Road (Adjungbilly)
- Carrs Road (Darbalara)
- Hoares Lane (Coolac/Muttama)

EV charging Station

Council has installed two double electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, which are located in the Council carpark behind the War Memorial Library. The EV charging stations are part of the NSW Governments Drive electric NSW EV destination charging grant.





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