



big enough to serve small enough to care

Fit For the Future

Local Government Reform

Background

- The process commenced in 2011 with Destination 2036
- Subject of Local Govt Review Panel report – Council made numerous submissions to the process
- An assessment was undertaken of all Councils by TCorp
- Fit For the Future (FFF) announced in Sept 2014
- Rural Council Model developed end of Feb 2015
- Submission required 30 June 2015
- Panel to make a determination on the submission



TCORP Assessment

2012 Financial Results	Financial Sustainability Rating (FSR)	FSR Outlook	Infrastructure Audit	Rate Base	Grant Dependency	Merger Potential
Coolamon	Sound	Negative	Very Weak	Low	Very High	Medium
Bland	Weak	Neutral	Strong		Very High	Medium
Temora	Sound	Neutral	Strong	Low	High	High
Junee	Moderate	Neutral	Weak	Low	High	Medium

In April 2014 the Independent Local Government Review Panel proposed the following options for the Coolamon Shire Council - a Local Board in Riverina County Council or **merge with Temora and/or Junee**.

In the final report (October 2014) the Panel's proposed options for the Coolamon Shire Council were - a Rural Council in Riverina Joint Organisation (JO) or merge with Bland and/or Temora.

For this reason Junee's results and financial information has been included in this presentation for comparison.



Recommendations for Coolamon Shire

Initially

- Become a 'Rural Council' in Riverina Joint Organisation (JO)
- Merge with Bland and/or Temora
- Regardless Council must prove that it has Scale and Capacity

Currently

- Also has the option of 'A Council Improvement' Proposal



What is a Joint Organisation (JO)

- A collection of Councils that come together to work collaboratively
- We currently are a member of REROC (Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils) - Have been since its inception as Treasurer.

Council believes this body performs the role of a JO and are currently in negotiation with all other member Councils and the State Government to pilot a model that sees this Organisation continue to perform this role

- Coolamon Shire Council see this as how we gain Scale and Capacity

What has Council Done

- Had to make decisions to allow operations to continue whilst information was being 'rolled out' (eg budgets, work schedules, etc)
- Based on two key points
 - Will the Coolamon Shire and its Communities be better off
 - Will the Coolamon Shire Communities Maintain Local Governance

Founded on the principle that

Strong Rural Communities make Strong Regional Centres

NOT

Strong Regional Centres surrounded by dying rural communities



What Did This Mean

- As a result of these assumptions Coolamon Shire Council has moved forward with preparing a 'Council Improvement' submission.
- Council has employed a Trainee Asset Manager
- Changes made to budget around capital and operational definition
- Council's 10 year strategic Budgets are realistically forecasted (still conservative. We have not compromised our standards)

Are We FFF?

Scale – Size

Capacity – Ability to Deliver Services

Incorrect Assumption that size means efficiencies?

Can we meet the performance Indicators that have been developed?

Broken into 3 groups

- Financial sustainability
- Infrastructure management
- Efficiency

Operating Performance

Financial sustainability

2016

2012

- Operating performance ratio
(do we make a profit)
- Own source revenue
(Are we grant dependant – 60%)
- Building and infrastructure renewal
(Are we replacing/renewing our capital assets)



Infrastructure & Service Management

2016

2012

- Infrastructure Backlog



(Do we have a large backlog of required work)

- Asset Maintenance Ratio



(Are we maintaining our assets)

- Debt Service Ratio



(Are we using debt 'wisely')



Efficiency

2016

2012

- Real operating Expenditure per Capita
(Are we operating efficiently)



Supporting Documentation

Income

Council	Residential Rate Income 2012/2013 (\$)	Average Residential Rate 2012/2013 (\$)	Total Farmland Rate Revenue 2012/2013 (\$)	Average Farmland Rate 2012/2013 (\$)	Total Operating Income 2012/2013 (\$)
Bland	931,000	423.18	3,420,000	2,451.61	27,438,000
Coolamon	496,000	289.72	1,431,000	1,642.94	12,896,000
Gundagai	386,000	268.62	1,773,000	1,898.29	10,578,000
Junee	1,040,000	521.04	1,413,000	1,889.04	13,007,000
Temora	1,093,000	458.09	1,656,000	1,581.66	17,523,000
Wagga Wagga	20,565,000	906.07	4,313,000	2,251.04	116,191,000

This is general land rate and does not include service provision. Eg Garbage Collection/sewer

Investments

	POPULATION 2011	2014 CASH EQUIVALENTS & INVESTMENTS (\$)	2014 CASH EQUIVALENTS & INVESTMENTS PER CAPITA (\$)	2014 EXTERNALLY RESTRICTED (\$)	2014 INTERNALLY RESTRICTED & UNRESTRICTED (\$)	2014 INTERNALLY RESTRICTED & UNRESTRICTED PER CAPITA (\$)
Coolamon	4,213	11,144,000	2,645.15	6,887,000	4,257,000	1,010.44
Temora	5,928	3,923,000	661.77	1,767,000	2,156,000	363.70
Bland	6,018	11,523,000	1,914.76	1,466,000	10,057,000	1,671.15
TOTAL	16,159	26,590,000	1,645.52	10,120,000	16,470,000	1,019.25
			- 999.62			8.80
June	6,091	2,050,000	336.56	2,007,000	43,000	7.06

Liabilities

	POPULATION 2011	2014 INFRASTRUCTU RE BACKLOG (\$)	2014 INFRASTRUCTU RE BACKLOG PER CAPITA (\$)	2014 BORROWINGS (\$)	2014 BORROWINGS PER CAPITA (\$)	2014 ELE PROVISIONS (\$)	2014 ELE PER CAPITA (\$)	2014 TOTAL LIABILITIES INC BACKLOG (\$)	2014 TOTAL LIABILITIES INC BACKLOG PER CAPITA (\$)
Coolamon	4,213	1,490,000	353.67	-	-	1,710,000	405.89	9,166,000	2,175.65
Temora	5,928	4,206,000	709.51	1,405,000	237.01	3,875,000	653.68	11,208,000	1,890.69
Bland	6,018	6,086,000	1,011.30	1,960,000	325.69	2,889,000	480.06	15,492,000	2,574.28
TOTAL	16,159	11,782,000	729.13	3,365,000	208.24	8,474,000	524.41	35,866,000	2,219.57
			-375.46		-208.24		-118.53		-43.92
June	6,091	5,662,000	929.57	7,187,000	1,179.94	1,725,000	283.20	16,063,000	2,637.17

- The TCorp reports for each Council, identified the following backlogs in 2012 as a percentage of assets
- Junee - \$7.8 million 9.8 % (backlog in 2014 was reported at \$5.6 million)
- Bland - \$15.3 million 8.9% (Backlog in 2014 was reported at \$6.1 million)
- Temora \$4.4 million 3.2% (backlog in 2014 was reported at \$4.2 million)
- Coolamon \$2.2 million 2.7% (backlog in 2014 was reported at \$1.5 million)

Representation

Council	Population	Number of Councillors	Councillor per Capita	Total Governance and Admin Costs	% of Governance and Admin Costs	Governance and Admin costs per capita
Coolamon	4,213	9	468	594,000	5	140.99
Temora	5,928	9	659	1,187,000	7	200.24
Bland	6,018	9	669	4,308,000	16	715.85
Total	16,159	9	1,795	6,089,000		376.82

Conclusion

- Coolamon Shire Council is a strong, viable and sustainable Local Government Area.
- We gain our Scale and Capacity from our partnerships and relationships with our Neighbours and Region (REROC & JO).
- Council provides Infrastructure and Services that meet the community needs.
- The communities within Coolamon Shire receive good representation from their Local Councillors.
- Coolamon Shire Council is a stable and progressive organisation.



We Want to Hear from You

- Councillors did make some decisions on your behalf – time frames necessitated this.
- Coolamon Shire now has all the information and is in a position to hear from the residents and rate payers.
- Yes, we may have had to make some assumptions about the direction taken to date but it was based on previous opinion (amalgamation issue in 2003, Councillor input)
- We now genuinely want to hear your thoughts on this issue

Information

- We have developed a survey that can be undertaken online

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/coolamonshirefitforthefuture>

- For those that like to use pen and paper we have provided some tonight.

Information is included on Councils Web Page

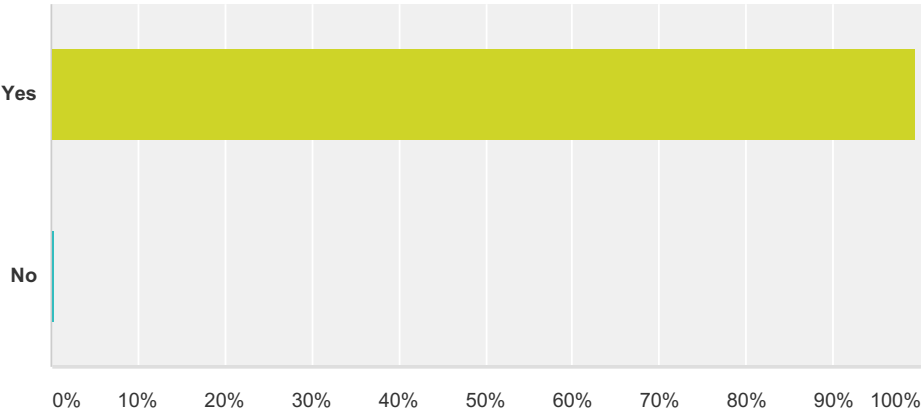
www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au

Regular updates are included in the Council Newsletter



Q1 Are you a resident of Coolamon Shire?
(Tick preference)

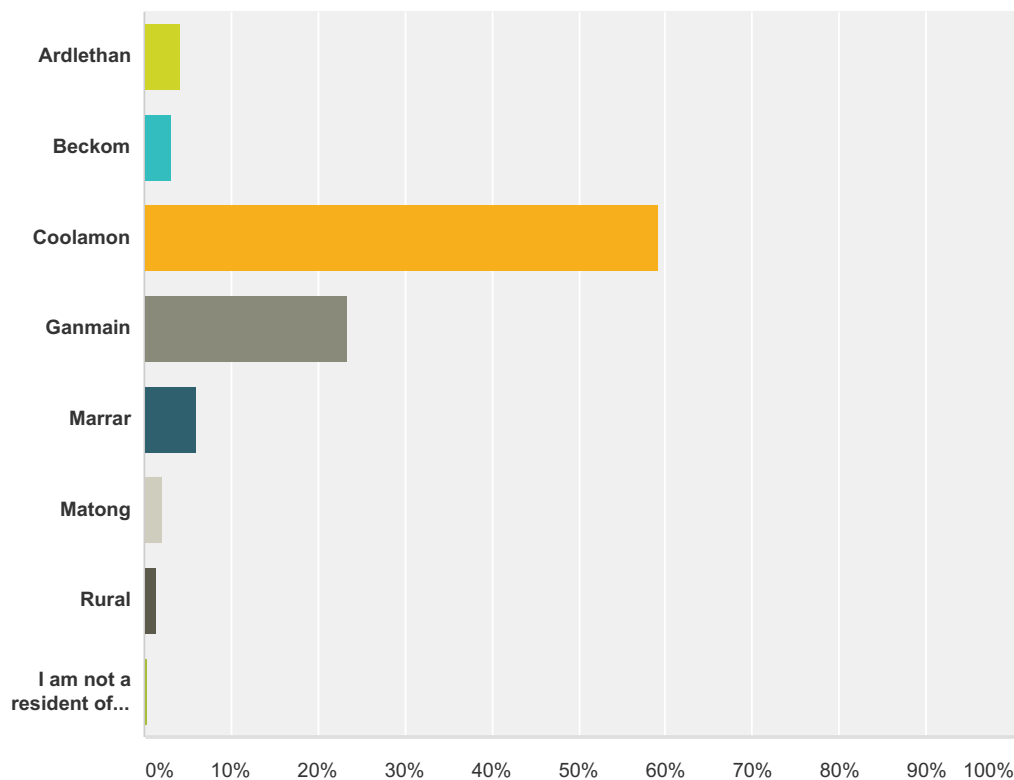
Answered: 283 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	99.65%	282
No	0.35%	1
Total		283

**Q2 If you are a resident of Coolamon Shire,
which community do you associate yourself
with? (Tick one only)**

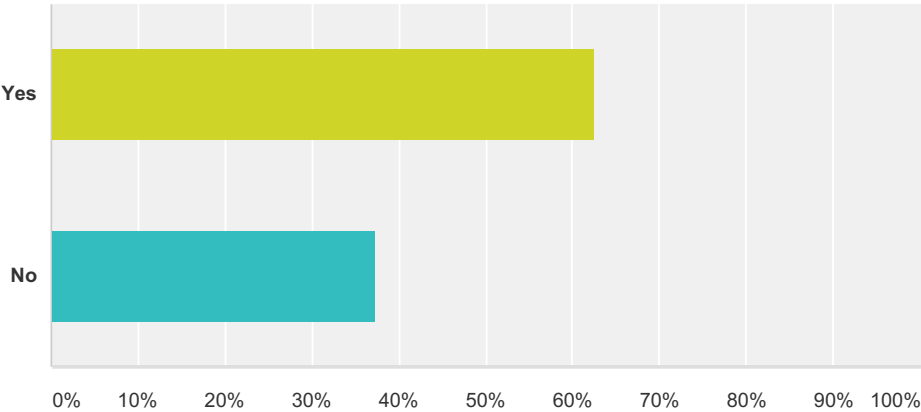
Answered: 283 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Ardlethan	4.24%	12
Beckom	3.18%	9
Coolamon	59.36%	168
Ganmain	23.32%	66
Marrar	6.01%	17
Matong	2.12%	6
Rural	1.41%	4
I am not a resident of Coolamon Shire	0.35%	1
Total		283

Q3 Were you aware of the NSW Government’s current Fit for Future Reform Packages prior to reading about this Survey? (Tick preference)

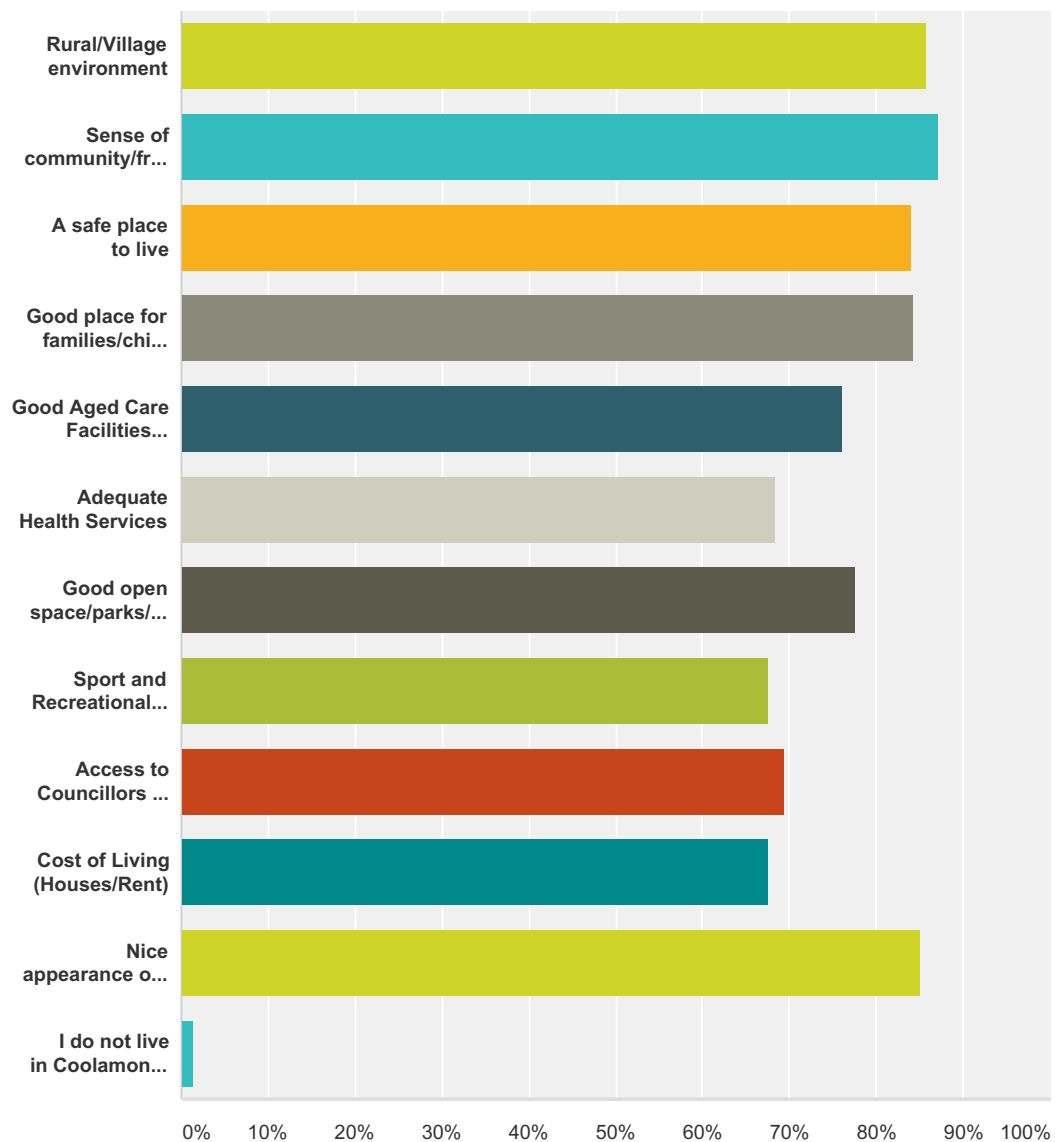
Answered: 281 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	62.63%176
No	37.37%105
Total	281

Q4 What do you like about living in the Coolamon Shire? (Can tick more than one)

Answered: 282 Skipped: 1

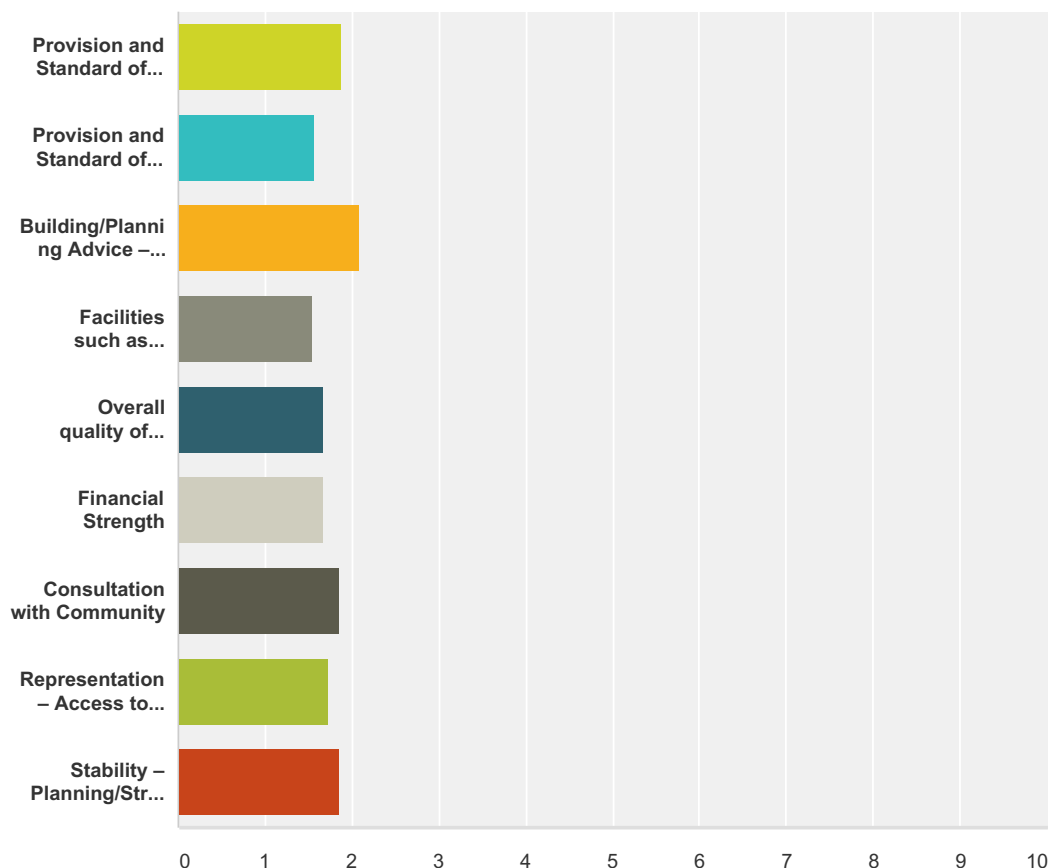


Answer Choices	Responses
Rural/Village environment	85.82% 242
Sense of community/friendly place	87.23% 246
A safe place to live	84.04% 237
Good place for families/children	84.40% 238
Good Aged Care Facilities provided	76.24% 215
Adequate Health Services	68.44% 193

Good open space/parks/pools	77.66%	219
Sport and Recreational Activities	67.73%	191
Access to Councillors and Council Staff	69.50%	196
Cost of Living (Houses/Rent)	67.73%	191
Nice appearance of Towns/Villages	85.11%	240
I do not live in Coolamon Shire	1.42%	4
Total Respondents: 282		

Q5 Identify how you rate the Coolamon Shire Council regarding the following: (Tick preference)

Answered: 282 Skipped: 1

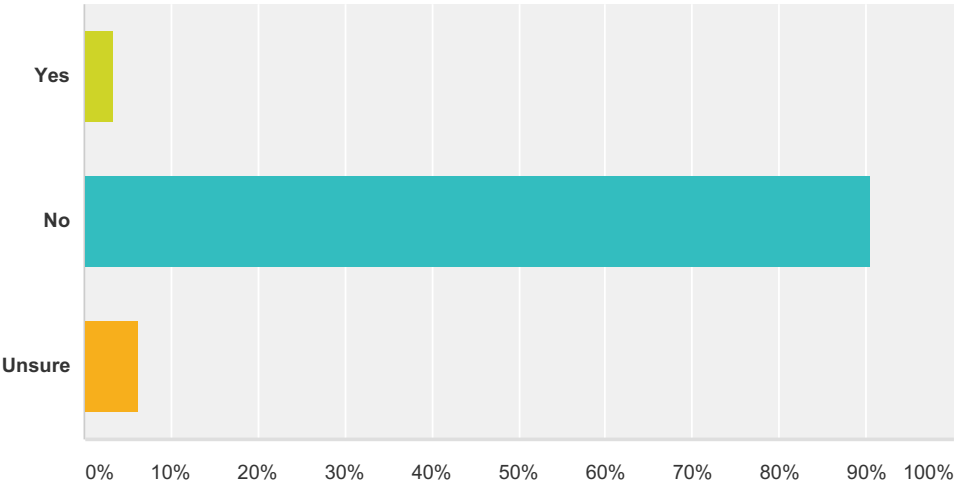


	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Not applicable	Total	Weighted Average
Provision and Standard of Roads/Paths	34.30% 95	46.57% 129	17.33% 48	1.44% 4	0.36% 1	277	1.87
Provision and Standard of Parks and Gardens	54.29% 152	35.71% 100	8.93% 25	0.71% 2	0.36% 1	280	1.57
Building/Planning Advice – Consents	43.63% 113	27.41% 71	15.06% 39	3.86% 10	10.04% 26	259	2.09
Facilities such as Pools/Library/Aged Care buildings/Medical Facilities etc	58.48% 162	30.69% 85	8.30% 23	2.17% 6	0.36% 1	277	1.55
Overall quality of Services being delivered	46.95% 131	42.29% 118	8.60% 24	1.79% 5	0.36% 1	279	1.66
Financial Strength	54.09% 139	31.52% 81	10.12% 26	0.78% 2	3.50% 9	257	1.68
Consultation with Community	42.59% 115	35.19% 95	17.04% 46	3.70% 10	1.48% 4	270	1.86

Representation – Access to Councillors/Council Staff	49.26% 133	32.59% 88	13.70% 37	3.70% 10	0.74% 2	270	1.74
Stability – Planning/Strategic Direction	45.14% 116	36.96% 95	9.73% 25	2.72% 7	5.45% 14	257	1.86

Q6 Do you think that Coolamon Shire merging with a Neighbouring shire would improve the delivery of services to your community? (Tick preference)

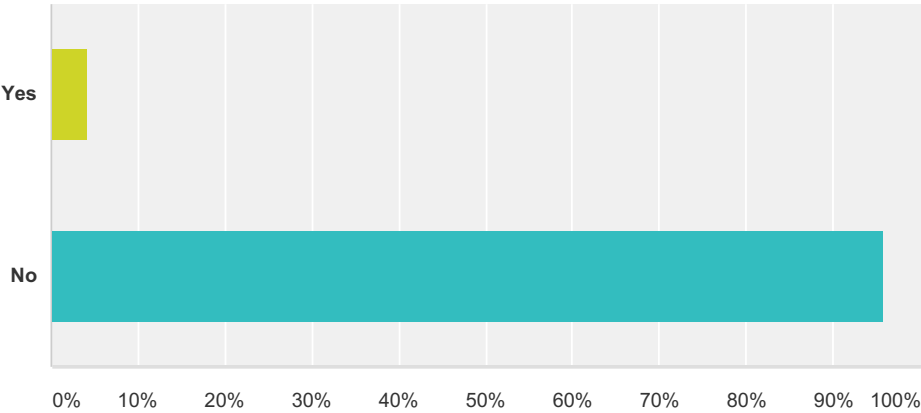
Answered: 276 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	3.26%	9
No	90.58%	250
Unsure	6.16%	17
Total		276

Q7 Would you prefer to merge with a Neighbouring Council(s)? (Tick preference)

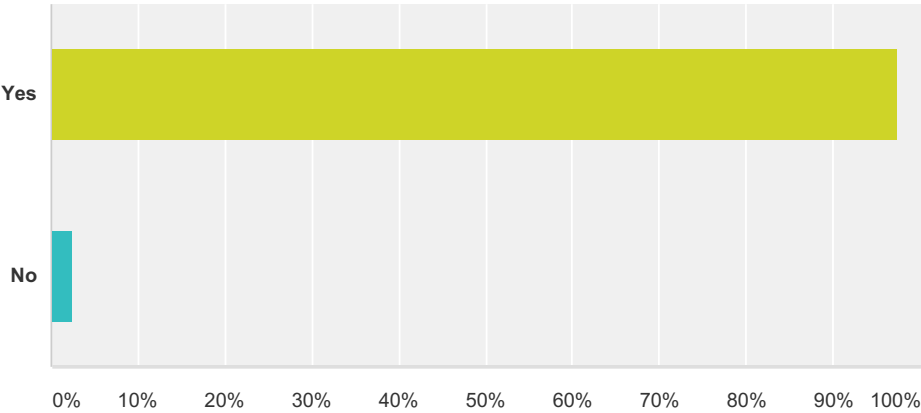
Answered: 268 Skipped: 15



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	4.10%	11
No	95.90%	257
Total		268

Q8 Would you prefer to remain independent as the Coolamon Shire? (Tick preference)

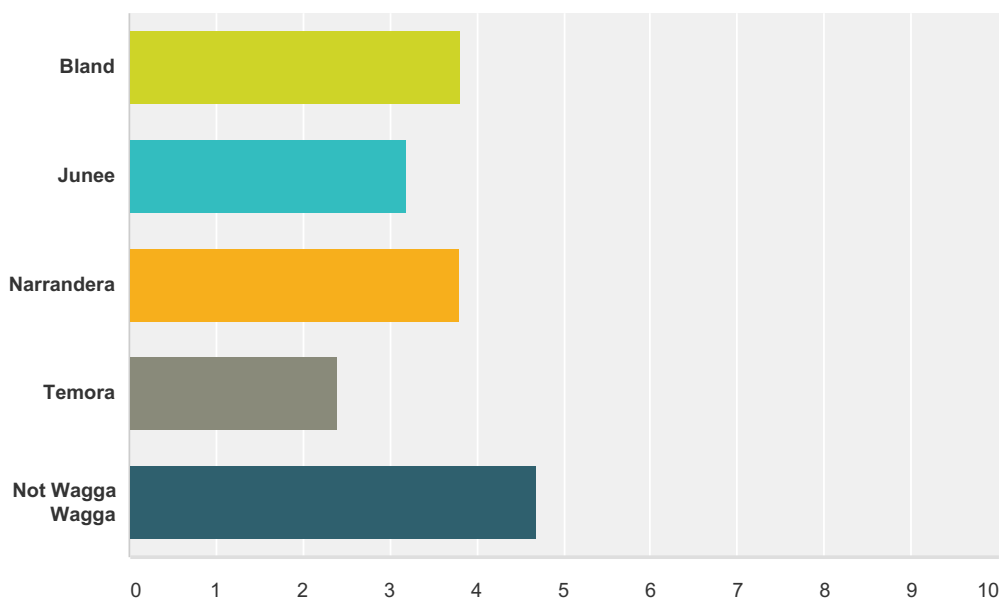
Answered: 275 Skipped: 8



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	97.45%	268
No	2.55%	7
Total		275

Q9 If Yes to a merger, who would you prefer to merge with? (Number 1 - 5 with 1 being your most favoured and 5 being your least favoured)

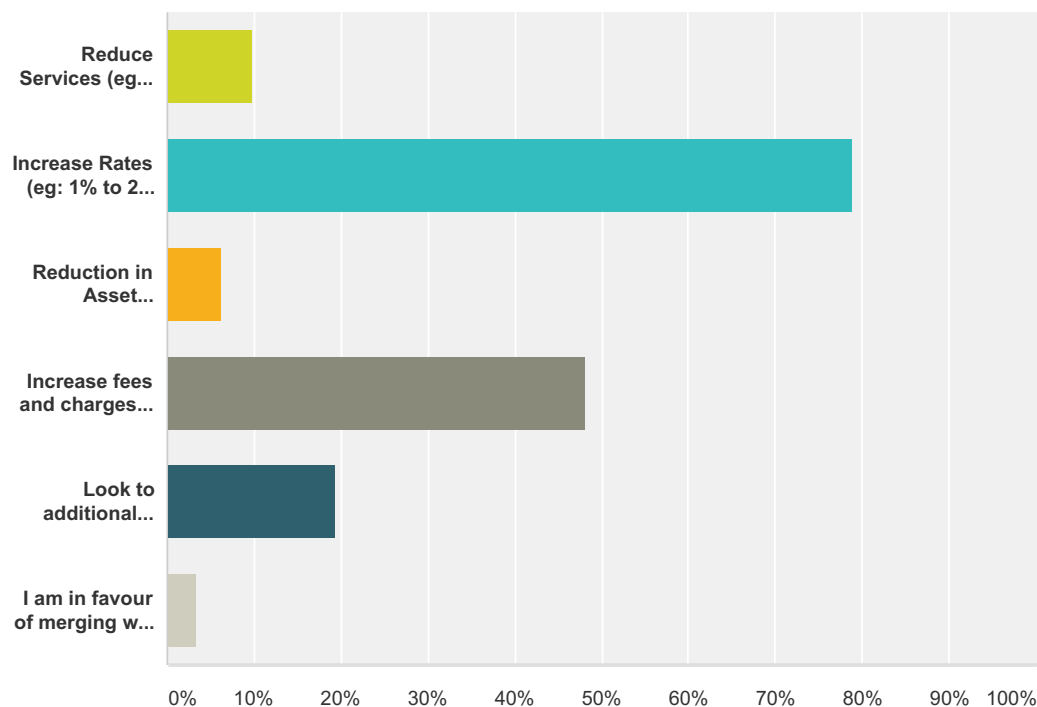
Answered: 90 Skipped: 193



	1	2	3	4	5	NA	Total	Weighted Average
Bland	6.06% 4	15.15% 10	21.21% 14	24.24% 16	13.64% 9	19.70% 13	66	3.83
Junee	16.67% 12	30.56% 22	12.50% 9	15.28% 11	6.94% 5	18.06% 13	72	3.19
Narrandera	8.82% 6	13.24% 9	19.12% 13	26.47% 18	11.76% 8	20.59% 14	68	3.81
Temora	56.79% 46	6.17% 5	12.35% 10	4.94% 4	3.70% 3	16.05% 13	81	2.41
Not Wagga Wagga	4.55% 3	3.03% 2	7.58% 5	6.06% 4	60.61% 40	18.18% 12	66	4.70

Q10 If you would prefer to retain the current Coolamon Shire identity (and not merge), would you be willing to support the implementation of the following in order to meet the new Fit for Future criteria? (Can tick more than one)

Answered: 236 Skipped: 47



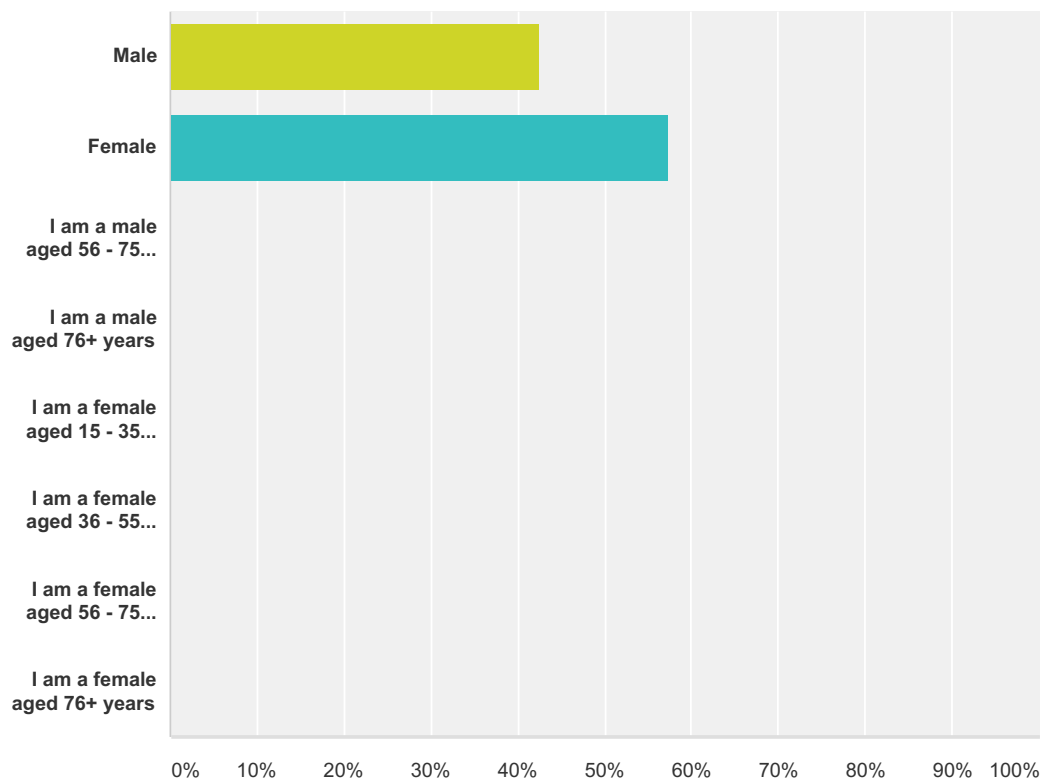
Answer Choices	Responses	
Reduce Services (eg: reduction in Pools/Library/Parks & Gardens)	9.75%	23
Increase Rates (eg: 1% to 2% above current rate pegging (2.4%) for a period of time, eg: 2 years)	78.81%	186
Reduction in Asset Maintenance Standards (eg: provide less maintenance on roads)	6.36%	15
Increase fees and charges (eg: increase user pays services where Applicable – tip charges)	48.31%	114
Look to additional revenue streams (eg: parking meters)	19.49%	46
I am in favour of merging with a Neighbouring Shire(s)	3.39%	8
Total Respondents: 236		

Q11 Please provide any comments you think are appropriate.

Answered: 94 Skipped: 189

Q12 Gender: (Tick preference)

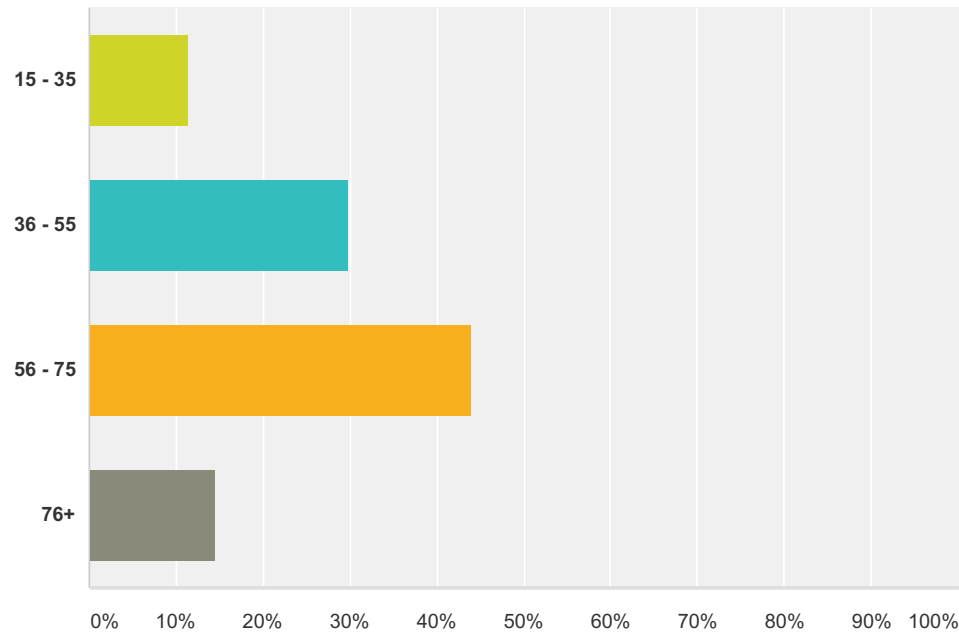
Answered: 277 Skipped: 6



Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	42.60%	118
Female	57.40%	159
I am a male aged 56 - 75 years	0.00%	0
I am a male aged 76+ years	0.00%	0
I am a female aged 15 - 35 years	0.00%	0
I am a female aged 36 - 55 years	0.00%	0
I am a female aged 56 - 75 years	0.00%	0
I am a female aged 76+ years	0.00%	0
Total		277

Q13 Age bracket: (Tick preference)

Answered: 281 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses	
15 - 35	11.39%	32
36 - 55	29.89%	84
56 - 75	44.13%	124
76+	14.59%	41
Total		281

OUR FUTURE IS IMPORTANT LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Last month Council's Senior Staff and Mayor held community information sessions in Ardlethan, Coolamon, Ganmain and Marrar.

HAVE YOUR SAY

At these meetings Council provided information explaining the current Local Government Reform entitled 'Fit for the Future'. This program requires Council to consider its future and decide on three options. These options are to:

- Merge with a neighbouring Council.
- Prove ongoing viability and remain an independent Local Government Authority.
- Become a Rural Council.

As part of this process the Community are requested to give their opinion and Council has provided the following survey that can be found on Council's website or the following link.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/coolamonshirefitforthefuture

or complete the survey forms provided at the below locations and they will be collected by Council.

- Ganmain Craft Cottage
- Commins Hendriks
- Rural Transaction Centre
- Ganmain Bakery
- Logan & Hitchens
- Council Chambers, Coolamon
- Coolamon Newsagency
- Beyond Bank
- Coolamon Post Office
- Foodworks Supermarket
- Coolamon Library
- Ardlethan Newsagency
- Ariah 62
- Marrar Post Office
- Marrar Take Away

WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR OPINION

In order to prepare reports and submissions this consultation process will finish on the 30th May 2015.

Thank you for your consideration.

JUNE COUNCIL MEETING

The June Council Meeting has been deferred for a week and will now be held on Thursday, 25th June, 2015 commencing at 2.00pm.

THE LATE CHRISTINE ATKINSON



Coolamon Shire Council was saddened by the passing of Ms Christine Atkinson, Allawah Community Care Co-ordinator on Tuesday, 5 May, 2015 following a short illness.

As a valuable and caring employee and member of the Coolamon Shire Community, Ms Atkinson will be sadly missed by her friends, colleagues and clients.

ARDLETHAN FLOOD STUDY

The draft Ardlethan Flood Study is on public exhibition for formal feedback from the public and other key stakeholders including State Government Departments.

The document can be viewed on Council's website www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au or at the below locations:

- Council Chambers, Coolamon
- Coolamon Shire Library

Hard copies have also been provided to the Advance Ardlethan Committee for distribution within the Ardlethan and Beckom communities.

Should you require any further information please contact Council on 6930 1800.

HOUSEHOLD CHEMICAL CLEANOUT

Waste matters! – clean out your household chemicals the right way.

Council and RERO are once again providing a Household Chemical CleanOut at the Coolamon Shire Council Depot (located behind the Shire offices) between 8.00am and 11.00am on Tuesday, 23rd June, 2015.

You can drop off:

Paints, Fire extinguishers, Garden chemicals, Pool chemicals, Motor oils and fuels, Hobby chemicals, Acids and alkalis, Batteries, Gas bottles, Fluorescent globes and tubes.

This is a free Service.

Only household quantities accepted.

COOLAMON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

Quality early learning environment for zero to school age with development programs run for all children. Phone 6927 3991



2015 COOLAMON NYE STREET PARTY

This year's Coolamon Nye Street Party will take place in Cowabbie Street from 6pm – 10pm on Thursday 31st December 2015.

As planning commences for the event, Council is calling for suggestions, ideas and creative input to the event program, activities and entertainment, community engagement etc.

If you would like to submit your thoughts and recommendations for consideration, please do so via events@coolamonshire.com.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE COOLAMON SHIRE LIBRARY

The Library is hosting an Author visit on the Tuesday, 30th June at 11.00am. We welcome Jacqueline Dinan to present her latest book "Between the Dances", a collection of stories about women's lives during World War 11. Come along and share Jacqueline's passion for this remarkable Australian story.

Our knitting mornings will commence in the Library every Thursday morning at 10.30am during the months of June and July. In association with the Riverina Regional Library, the Coolamon Library is proud to support "Wrap with Love" annual community event. Instructions for making the squares are available at the Library – everyone is most welcome to attend.

Our Storytime dates for the month of June are:

- Friday, 5th theme "Jungles" - 10.30am; and
- Friday, 19th June theme "Clothes" - 10.30am

We welcome new families to join us.

Join the Library today – It's FREE

The Coolamon Library is on Facebook! News, pictures, events and opportunities are regularly uploaded – join us now!

Library Opening Hours:

Closed Monday

Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

Saturday, 9am to 12pm

The Library will be closed on Saturday 25th April for Anzac Day

Phone: 6927 2492

MOBILE LIBRARY

MOBILE LIBRARY SCHEDULE FOR JUNE	
ARDLETHAN	Friday, 12 th , 26 th – 9.00am to 12.45pm
BECKOM	Friday, 12 th , 26 th – 1.30pm to 2.10pm
GANMAIN	Wednesday, 3 rd , 17 th - 10.15am to 12.00nn
MATONG	Wednesday, 3 rd , 17 th - 12.50pm-1.35pm
MARRAR	Wednesday, 3 rd , 17 th - 2.30pm-3.30pm

A reminder to residents that the Mobile Library will cease visiting Beckom, Ganmain, Matong and Marrar as from 1st July 2015.

RECYCLING COLLECTION CALENDAR

Residents who have a garbage collection service are advised that the new Collection Calendars commencing July 2015 will be mailed out by Council this week.

If you do not receive your collection calendar, please phone Council on 6930 1800.

GANMAIN ORGANICS COLLECTION

As previously advised, Council have committed to a Kerbside Organics Collection within the township of Ganmain.

In the coming weeks Council will commence the rollout of education material in order to prepare residents for commencement of the service in early July.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Council on 6930 1800.

ROAD WORKS

Council would like to advise residents and motorists that asphalt overlay work is scheduled for Arianah Street (Mithul to Yithan Street) Ardlethan commencing early June for approximately one week.

Traffic control will be in place and motorists may experience short delays . Please exercise caution, observe road signage and road condition.

Road Conditions

Council would like to advise motorists that maintenance grading is in progress on the unsealed road network throughout the Shire. Limited water access for maintenance grading is being experienced due to minimum rain and low catchment levels. Please exercise caution, observe road signage, road conditions and drive accordingly.

Please contact Council's Engineering and Technical Services Department if you wish to discuss or report any problems relating to roads within the Coolamon Shire on 02 6930 1800.

ALLAWAH COMMUNITY CARE

Phone: 6927 3521

Office Hours

Council has made some temporary changes to office hours of the Allawah Community Care office. The office will be open each day from 8.30am until 1.00pm, phone calls between 1.00pm and 5.00pm will be diverted to the Council Offices.

Community Meals

Monthly community meals are held across the Shire and older Shire residents are warmly invited to attend, particularly if you live alone. For bookings please phone 6927 3521.

June Community Meals	
Coolamon	Friday, 12 June 2015
Ganmain	Friday, 19 June 2015
Ardlethan	Friday, 26 June 2015

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Last week Council's Senior Staff and Mayor held community information sessions in Ardlethan and Marrar.

At these meetings Council provided information to the Ardlethan, Beckom and Marrar Advance Committees explaining the current Local Government Reform Fit for the Future Program. This program requires Council to consider its future and decide on three options. These options are to:

- Merge with a neighbouring council (Bland and Temora)
- Prove ongoing viability and remain an independent Local Government
- Become a Rural Council.

As part of this process the Community are requested to give their opinion and Council has provided the following survey that can be found on Council's website or the following link.

www.surveymonkey.com/s/coolamonshirefitforthefuture

In addition to this Council will be visiting Ganmain on Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm to talk to the Matong and Ganmain communities at the Ganmain Hall. Similarly a meeting will be held at the Coolamon Sports Club on Wednesday 29th April at 7pm to discuss these issues.

GRANT APPLICATION FOR HERITAGE WORKS - 2015/2016

Council in conjunction with the NSW Heritage Office has allocated funding towards grants associated with heritage conservation. This funding is directed towards assistance with minor works that will enhance or identify local heritage items. Proposed works must be completed in the financial year that the money is allocated.

The allocation of these grants will be on a dollar for dollar basis with priority being given, but not limited to heritage items. Application forms are now available at the Coolamon Shire Council, 55 Cowabbie Street Coolamon or can be downloaded from the website www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au. Closing date for submissions is **Wednesday 27th May 2015**. The successful applicants will be notified after the June Council meeting.

Grant funding is limited and therefore very competitive. Ensure that your application is correctly completed and submitted on time to give yourself the best possible opportunity of being successful.

Should you require any further information in regard to the Local Heritage Fund, contact Mr Scott Martin on 6930 1800.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Council and RERO are once again providing a Household Hazardous Waste Collection at the Coolamon Shire Council Depot (located behind the Shire offices) between 8am and 11am on Tuesday 23rd June.

The Collection provides home owners with an opportunity to safely dispose of hazardous wastes that Council cannot generally accept at its Landfill sites, including paints, pesticides, herbicides and other toxic substances.

The program is free for the first 20kg. Commercial rates may apply thereafter.

DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

Council at its April meeting resolved to place the Draft Delivery Program 2015/2019 and Draft Operational Plan 2015/2016 on public exhibition.

The Delivery Program sets the direction of Council for the next four years so that the community's needs and expectations are met in a planned, co-ordinated and cost effective manner. It includes a list of the actions and activities that are proposed to be undertaken by Council over the four year period, the proposed rating structure for the 2015/2016 year, a list of fees and charges for the 2015/2016 year and detailed estimates of income and expenditure for the four years.

Copies of the combined Draft Delivery Program and Draft Operational Plan can be inspected at the Council Chambers, Coolamon and the Coolamon Shire Library and are also available on Council's website www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au. Submissions may be made to Council at any time during the period of public exhibition.

ARDLETHAN FLOOD STUDY COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION

A community information session for the Ardlethan Flood Study will be held at the Ardlethan Hall on Thursday 30th April commencing at 7.00pm.

Ardlethan and Beckom residents are encouraged to attend and be briefed on the progress of the Study.

CALL FOR WINTER EVENTS

Event registrations are now open for the winter edition of the Seasonal Events Marketing campaign.

To ensure your event is promoted, please register online by Thursday 30 April 2015.

For more information, please visit

www.coolamonshire.com.au

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE COOLAMON SHIRE LIBRARY

In recognition of the wonderful contribution our volunteers make in our community the Library will be celebrating **National Volunteer's Week** from Tuesday 12th to Friday 16th May. All individuals currently volunteering their services are invited to enjoy a complimentary morning tea between 10.00am and 12.00 noon on those days at the Library.

Our **knitting mornings** will commence in the Library every Thursday morning at 10.30am during the months of May, June and July. In association with the Riverina Regional Library, 'Wrap with Love' is an annual community event. Instructions for making the squares are available at the Library – everyone is most welcome to attend.

Storytime dates for the month of May are:

- Friday, 8th May theme "Love and Cuddles" at 10.30am,
 - Friday, 22nd May theme "Giddy Up" at 10.30am
- New families are welcome to join us.

The Coolamon Library is on Facebook! News, pictures, events and opportunities are regularly uploaded – join us now!

Library Opening Hours:

Closed Monday

Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm

Saturday, 9am to 12pm

The Library will be closed on Saturday 25th April for Anzac Day

Phone: 6927 2492

MOBILE LIBRARY

MOBILE LIBRARY SCHEDULE FOR MAY

ARDLETHAN	Friday, 1 st , 15 th , 29 th – 9.00am to 12.45pm
BECKOM	Friday, 1 st , 15 th , 29 th – 1.30pm to 2.10pm
GANMAIN	Wednesday, 6 th , 20 th – 10.15am to 12.00nn
MATONG	Wednesday, 6 th , 20 th – 12.50pm-1.35pm
MARRAR	Wednesday, 6 th , 20 th – 2.30pm-3.30pm

A reminder to residents that the Mobile Library will cease visiting Beckom, Ganmain, Matong and Marrar as from 1st July 2015.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE – ANZAC DAY CEREMONIES

Notice is hereby given that Council proposes to temporarily close the following roads for the purposes of Council's ANZAC Day Ceremonies on Saturday, 25 April, 2015:

- **Cowabbie Street, Coolamon** between Mann Street and Loughnan Street (Fire Station) between the hours of 9.30am and 1.30pm.
- **Waterview Street, Ganmain** between Ford and Gresham Streets between the hours of 9.00am and 11.30am.

2015 COOLAMON NYE STREET PARTY

This years Coolamon NYE Street Party will take place in Cowabbie Street from 6pm – 10pm on Thursday 31st December 2015.

As planning commences for the event, Council is calling for suggestions, ideas and creative input to the event program, activities and entertainment, community engagement etc.

If you would like to submit your thoughts and recommendations for consideration, please do so via events@coolamonshire.com.au

KINDRA LODGE AGED PERSONS FLATS -VACANCY

A vacancy exists in one of Council's Aged Persons Flats at 65 Mirrool Street, Coolamon. Applications are invited from eligible persons interested in renting a single bedroom flat and will be received up until 5.00pm, Friday 1 May 2015.

An 'aged person' means a person who has attained the age of sixty years. For couples, one of the tenants must be an aged person.

Further information together with an official Application Form may be obtained from the Council Office, 55 Cowabbie Street, Coolamon during normal working hours or on Council's website www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au

ALLAWAH COMMUNITY CARE

Phone: 6927 3521

RMS Scooter Workshops

If you would like to attend a workshop aimed at people thinking of buying a scooter, as well as current scooter users, please ring the Allawah Community Care office for more information. Scooters will be available to try on the day and you will receive an update on all the road rules that are important for scooter users.

Community Meals

Monthly community meals are held across the Shire and older Shire residents are warmly invited to attend, particularly if you live alone.

May Community Meals		Caterer's
Coolamon	Friday, 8 May 2015	Coolamon Central School
Ganmain	Friday, 15 May 2015	Ganmain Craft Cottage
Ardlethan	Friday, 22 May 2015	Ardlethan Hall Committee

Senior's Technology Lounge

Shire residents who would like some assistance using their laptop, computer, mobile phone or iPad are welcome to make a booking to spend some time with a tutor at the Senior's Technology Lounge located in the Allawah Community Centre. Bookings for this free service are essential.

Community Transport

Community Transport is a service aimed at helping older people with their transport needs, especially those who may be unable to leave their homes without assistance. Volunteers can provide support for people who would like to go shopping but are anxious about having a fall as they struggle with purchases and a wheelie walker!

Home Modifications

Home assessments for minor home modifications are carried out by the Occupational Therapist who visits the Shire regularly. This service can be arranged through Allawah Community Care and a Home Assessment is done at no charge to shire residents.

Meals on Wheels

A wide range of meals are available for sale at Allawah Community Care and weekly deliveries can be arranged if required. If you would like to see a menu please ring the Allawah Community Care office and we will post one out to you.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 21st May, 2015 commencing at 2.00pm.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM FIT FOR THE FUTURE

As part of this process Council is required to consult with communities about what they think. But more than simply being required to consult, Coolamon Shire Council would like to really hear from the community on two issues:

- **Are you prepared to consider amalgamation?**
- **What services and representation do you expect?**

The timeframes in regard to this reform have been tight with Council required and expected to answer questions from the Office of Local Government quickly without always having the opportunity to talk to the community.

For this reason there has been a reliance on advice from Councillors - they are your Elected Representatives.

They have advised Management that their recommended position is that the Coolamon Shire remain independent. This recommendation has been based on the following:

- **Will our communities be better off?**
- **Will we be able to determine our own destiny?**

This has been necessary to continue operations and prepare budgets.

Now we want to hear from you. Coolamon Shire has the following options available:

- **To merge**
- **To stay as we are**
- **To become a Rural Council**

Information on all these options is available on the NSW Office of Local Government website www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au

Should we wish to remain as we are, then we must prove that we are financially viable and can provide appropriate services to our communities.

Whilst this survey is intended to be quick and easy to use, we have provided ample opportunity to provide comments, should you so desire.

The link to the Survey is: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/coolamonshirefitforthefuture> or go to Council's website www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au

In addition to providing a Survey associated with the above topic, Council's Mayor and Senior Staff will also be attending a number of Community Meetings. The following dates have been identified:

- **Ardlethan: Monday, 13th April, 2015 – Ardlethan Hall at 7.30pm.**
- **Marrar: Tuesday, 14th April, 2015 – Marrar Hall at 7.30pm.**
- **Ganmain: Wednesday, 22nd April, 2015 – Ganmain Hall at 7.00pm**
- **Coolamon: Wednesday, 29th April, 2015 - Coolamon Sport & Recreation Club at 7.00pm.**

AUSTRALIA DAY 2016

Following on from the very successful Australia Day Ceremony held in Beckom, the Advance Marrar Committee have indicated that they will be happy to host the 2016 Australia Day celebrations.

We look forward to next year's celebration in Marrar.

GANMAIN ORGANIC WASTE COLLECTION

At the March Meeting Council resolved to roll out the Kerbside Organics Collection in the township of Ganmain. The results of the survey were collated and presented to Council which indicated that approximately 75% of the respondents believing that the collection would be beneficial. It is anticipated that collections will commence on the 1st July, 2015. Council was successful in receiving funding from the NSW EPA & Environmental Trust to assist with the roll out.

WASTE DISPOSAL

The following Landfill sites will be closed over the Easter period (6th to 9th April) and ANZAC Day (Saturday, 25th April):

- Good Friday – Ardlethan, Coolamon and Marrar
- Easter Sunday – Ardlethan
- Easter Monday – Coolamon and Ganmain
- ANZAC Day - Coolamon and Ganmain

OPENING HOURS COUNCIL LANDFILL SITES		
Ardlethan	Wednesday	1pm–5pm
	Friday	1pm–5pm
	Sunday	9am–1pm
Coolamon	Monday	9am–1pm
	Wednesday	1pm–5pm
	Friday	9am–12pm
	Saturday	1pm–5pm
Ganmain	Monday	2pm–5pm
	Tuesday	2pm–5pm
	Wednesday	9am–12pm
	Saturday	9am–12pm
Marrar	Tuesday	9am–1pm
	Friday	1pm–5pm

**THERE WILL BE NO CHANGE TO THE
KERBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICE**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE COOLAMON SHIRE LIBRARY

The Coolamon Library is hosting a glamorous story of Australian fashion photography called "Flashback – 160 years of Australian Fashion Photos". The travelling panels will be in the Library from Tuesday 31st March to Thursday 9th April. Also the Library is presenting Author Rochelle Nicholls with her new book "Joe Quinn – Among The Rowdies". It retraces the life of Joe Quinn, a remarkable sportsman in American major league baseball. He was voted America's most popular player in 1893. It is to be held on Thursday, 9th April at 11.00am, come and be fascinated by Joe's story – for lovers of sport and biographies.

The School Holiday Program has a variety of activities planned to coincide with Youth Week celebrations. They include "Fashion with Friends" a clothing and accessory swapping event, a fishing trip to Narrandera, "Flying High" come and make planes with polystyrene foam and "Fairy Doors". Programs are available from the Council website or the Library.

Due to the school holidays our only Storytime session for the month of April is on Friday, 24th April at 10.30am - theme – "Babies".

The Library will be closed over the Easter period from Good Friday, 3rd April and re-opening on Tuesday, 7th April. It will also be closed on Saturday, 25th April which is Anzac Day.

The Coolamon Library is on Facebook! News, pictures, events and opportunities are regularly uploaded – join us now!

Library Opening Hours:

Closed Monday
Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm
Saturday, 9am to 12pm
Phone: 6927 2492

MOBILE LIBRARY

MOBILE LIBRARY SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

ARDLETHAN	Friday, 17th – 9.00am to 12.45pm
BECKOM	Friday, 17th – 1.30pm to 2.10pm
GANMAIN	Wednesday, 8th, 22nd - 10.15am to 12.00nn
MATONG	Wednesday, 8th, 22nd - 12.50pm-1.35pm
MARRAR	Wednesday, 8th, 22nd - 2.30pm-3.30pm

A reminder to residents that the Mobile Library will cease operating in Beckom, Ganmain, Matong and Marrar as from 1st July 2015.

SHIRE ROADS RESHEETING AND STABILISATION WORKS

The following roads have received maintenance attention over the past month:

- Chamberlains Lane (Canola Way to Coolamon Road)
- Parmenters Lane (Coolamon Road to Tooyal Road)
- Williamsons Lane (Tooyal Road to Millwood Road)
- Boundary Lane (Millwood Road to Mowers Lane)
- Bradleys Lane (Millwood Road to Lesterfield Lane)
- Lesterfield Lane (Bradleys Lane to Canola Way)
- Brushwood North Road (Canola Way to Murphys Lane)

The next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 16th April, 2015 commencing at 2.00pm.

YOUTH WEEK 2015



Friday, 10th to Sunday, 19th April, 2015

Thank you to all local youth who submitted Youth Week grant applications.

Major Youth Week events include:

COOLAMON YOUTH FEST

Saturday, 11th April, 3-9pm

Up-to-Date Store outdoor stage area

Youth performers, including band 'After Dark', free BBQ, snacks and drinks for sale, \$5.00 entry.

Please contact Bron on 0418114750 or email bhatty@coolamon.nsw.gov.au if you are interested in performing.

FASHION BETWEEN FRIENDS

Thursday 9th April, 5-7pm

Up-to-Date Store

Bring along up to 5 items of clothing or accessories to swap between attendees. Free entry, light refreshments provided.

All Youth Week events are drug & alcohol free events.

Please visit Councils website www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au or call into the Coolamon Shire Library for a full copy of the April School Holiday/Youth Week Program.

ALLAWAH COMMUNITY CARE

Phone: 6927 3521

Community Meals

Listed below are the Community Meals for April:

April Community Meals		Caterer's
Coolamon	Friday, 10 April 2015	TBC
Ganmain	Friday, 17 April 2015	St Peters Anglican Church
Ardlethan	Friday, 24 April 2015	Ardlethan Hall Committee

FIXING COUNTRY ROADS PROGRAM

Coolamon Council was successful in applying for and receiving \$1.322 million funding under Transport NSW Fixing Country Roads Program. This program was based around regional freight transport, the total project costs will be in the order of \$2.2 million.

The following projects were identified and will be undertaken over the next couple of years:

Smokey Creek Bridge – Assessment, Mary Gilmore Way	\$15,000
Crokers Grain Upgrades (Marrar South Road, Easticks Lane and Canola Way)	\$940,000
Emerald Grain (Hodges Lane) Upgrade	\$150,000
Ardlethan Grain Hub – Upgrading and Structure Assessments	\$198,000
Ardlethan/Coolamon Road Upgrades	\$897,000

ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR



Clr John Seymour was re-elected Mayor and Clr Bruce Hutcheon was re-elected Deputy Mayor at the September Council Meeting.

FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The State Government has produced a document titled "Fit for the Future", a blueprint for the Future of Local Government. This document is in response to the Review of Local Government undertaken by the Independent Review Panel.

Whilst Council agrees with the principle of Local Government being robust and capable to serve its communities, there are some issues raised by this report that are concerning to our Shire.

This document gives the magic population figure as 10,000 people for a Council to be fit for purpose. Whilst there are also other performance indicators that are relevant to services provided, infrastructure provision and financial security, it appears irrelevant how many people are within a Shire boundary if the other performance indicators can be met.

Whilst the State Government maintains that this process is not about forced amalgamations, there is an underlying tone that population is a factor in a Council's ability to serve its communities.

You can view the full report at www.fitforthefuture.nsw.gov.au. Coolamon Shire Council will continue to maintain that it is big enough to serve and small enough to care.

CAPTURE COOLAMON SHIRE

Entries are now open in Capture Coolamon Shire Photographic Competition, closing October 24. The \$1000 "Henry Aitken Prize" is to be awarded to the photo that best depicts the Coolamon Shire, as well as cash prizes for Open & Youth Sections in 5 Categories. Further information, including full terms & conditions and entry forms are available at www.coolamonshire.com.au or from the Coolamon Shire Library.

AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the Coolamon Shire **Australia Day Awards**:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Shane Till Memorial Award for Sporting Achievement
- Young Sporting Achievement Award
- Community Event of the Year

These awards recognise the valuable contributions being made by individuals in our community.

Nomination forms can be collected from the Council Offices or download one from our website www.coolamon.nsw.gov.au. Nominations close on Friday, 21 November, 2014.

ROAD CONDITIONS

Council would like to advise motorists that shoulder maintenance grading is in progress on the Regional and Local Sealed Road Network, and gravel re-sheeting on the Unsealed Road Network throughout the Shire. Limited water access for maintenance grading is being experienced due to minimum rain and low catchment levels. Please exercise caution, observe road signage, road conditions and drive accordingly.

Please contact Council's Engineering and Technical Services Department if you wish to discuss or report any problems relating to roads within the Coolamon Shire on 02 6930 1800.

ATTENTION DOG OWNERS

During the past few months Council has seen a large increase in the amount of complaints for wandering dogs. Dog owners are required by law (under the Companion Animals Act 1998) to ensure their dogs remain in their yards at all times, except for when secured by a leash under the control of a competent person.

When dogs wander, the likelihood of them becoming a nuisance or attacking people and other animals also increases significantly, as does the chance of the dogs being declared as either menacing or dangerous. Fines for wandering dogs vary from \$220 to \$1760.

Council is therefore asking that dog owners take all reasonable steps to ensure that dogs are kept in a secure yard. A simple check of your fences and gates can save not only your wallet, but also your pet.

COOLAMON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE



The Coolamon Early Childhood Centre is now on Facebook. They are also taking enrolments for 2015. For further enquires please contact Corie on 69273991.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE COOLAMON SHIRE LIBRARY

October is **Mental Health Month** and the Library is hosting a travelling Art Show. It will be held at the Library from Tuesday 7th October to Saturday 11th October. The display will feature art works that explore the issues of mental health, alcohol and other drug experiences. Call in for a browse.

The **School Holiday Program** has lots of workshops and programs for children to enjoy over the holidays. Some of the activities include:

- "Sweet Science" – science experiments involving tasty treats,
- "Scarecrow Storytime for Big Kids",
- Clowning Around, and a
- Fishing Clinic to Narrandera.

The program is available by visiting the Coolamon Shire website and at the Coolamon Library. For bookings and further information please phone the Library on 69272492.

The Library is a great place to study particularly for the upcoming HSC exams. It provides a quiet and different environment, as well as wifi access and a selection of study guides to borrow. Everyone is most welcome.

Storytime dates for the month of October are:

- Friday, 10th October - theme "Feathered Friends" and
- Friday 24th October - theme "Pets".

These sessions begin at 10.30am with lots of stories, songs and finishing up with a craft the children are able to take home. We welcome new families to join us.

Library Opening Hours:

Closed Monday
Tuesday to Friday, 10am to 5pm
Saturday, 9am to 12pm
Phone: 6927 2492

MOBILE LIBRARY SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

ARDLETHAN	Friday, 3 rd , 17 th , 31 st – 9.00am to 12.45pm
BECKOM	Friday, 3 rd , 17 th , 31 st – 1.30pm to 2.10pm
GANMAIN	Wednesday, 8 th , 22 nd - 10.15am to 12.00nn
MATONG	Wednesday, 8 th , 22 nd - 12.50pm-1.35pm
MARRAR	Wednesday, 8 th , 22 nd - 2.30pm-3.30pm

FIREBREAKS POLICY

Council shall require the owner or occupier of any land within the Shire exceeding four hectares in area to make and maintain fire breaks surrounding the entire property or as near as practicable thereto by ploughing or maintaining bare earth to a width of not less than **3 metres**, such work must be completed by the 31 October, and where land is under crop by the 30 November. Where harvesting is carried out prior to the 30 November, fire breaks must be established prior to such harvest.

Where it is intended to carry out clover harvesting and the clover paddock to be harvested is located on the boundary of a property, landholders are required to establish a fire break by ploughing to a width of not less than 10 metres (33ft) along such boundary.



HEAVY VEHICLE MECHANIC APPRENTICE

GTES, together with Coolamon Shire Council, are currently seeking applications from highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals who are interested in starting their career as a Heavy Vehicle Mechanic.

As an Apprentice Heavy Vehicle Mechanic, you will work alongside a team of skilled tradesmen to develop your skills in all aspects of the trade including servicing, repairs and diagnostics on various types of vehicles, plant equipment and machinery.

There is a career opportunity in the automotive industry for a person who has a genuine interest and is fit and healthy. If you are hard working, have excellent communication and problem solving skills, work well in a team environment and possess initiative we would like to hear from you.

A manual driver's licence is preferred however a willingness to obtain a manual driver's licence as soon as possible is essential. A white card would also be favourable. Coolamon Shire Council is active and generous in the promotion of extra training of all staff including apprentices and trainees.

2014 school leavers are encouraged to apply.

This position will commence at the completion of the HSC.

To apply for this position please visit www.gtes.com.au. You must include a cover letter and current resume to be considered.

Applications close Friday 10th of October 2014.

ALLAWAH COMMUNITY CARE

Phone: 6927 3521

A warm welcome to Jamayne Tunks who is the new Administrative Assistant at Allawah Community Care! Jamayne has worked in the aged care sector in the past and brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the position.

Community Meals

Community Meals are aimed at providing people with an opportunity to catch up with friends and enjoy a meal together. They also provide a venue for guest speakers and an opportunity to keep people up to date regarding the support available to them as they get older. Coolamon Community meals are on the second Friday of the month and everyone is welcome.

October Community Meals		Caterer's
Coolamon	Friday, 10 October, 2014	TBC
Ganmain	Friday, 17 October, 2014	Coolamon-Ganmain Hospital Support Group
Ardlethan	Friday, 24 October 2014	Ardlethan Hall Committee

ANNUAL EVENTS FUNDING PROGRAM

If your event marketing budget is looking for a boost, then we have an exciting opportunity for you!

The aim of the **ANNUAL EVENTS FUNDING PROGRAM** for Coolamon Shire Council is to provide financial assistance for projects and services that will assist Coolamon Shire to increase levels of visitation by visitors and business people. Applications are invited annually. Applications for **2014 EVENTS FUNDING PROGRAM will open in September 2014**. Please stay tuned to the Council website for further information from Monday, 22 September, 2014.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 16th October, 2014 commencing at 2.00pm.