

HOW COOMA-MONARO SHIRE MEETS SCALE AND CAPACITY

Robust revenue base and increased discretionary spending	<p>Cooma Monaro Shire already meets the OLG “Own Source Revenue” metric and is forecast to continue this into the future.</p> <p>The Shire is about to adopt and implement a new marketing strategy for the town of Cooma with the view to increasing visitation in the short term and increasing investment and population in the medium to long term. This will broaden our rate base over time further enhancing our revenue stream.</p>
Scope to undertake new functions and major projects	<p>Council is part way through a major beautification project of the Cooma CBD. This has included works to the main street, Centennial Park and entrance signs on the approach from Canberra. Further works will be scheduled in the coming financial year. Other recent projects include an upgrade to the Library, extensions at Yallambee Lodge Residential Aged Care facility, upgrades to the swimming pool, Bolaro Bridge replacement, establishment of an RV dump point and construction of a water storage facility for the town of Nimmitabel.</p> <p>A new three bin system has been rolled out in Cooma increasing the service to residents to ensure collection of green waste which is utilised in our composting process. This generates a saleable material and reducing the amount of waste going into landfill. Cooma is a leader in waste and composting for smaller rural Council's.</p>

Ability to employ wider range of skilled staff	<p>Council employs a well skilled multi-disciplinary work force and draws on expert skills and advice locally when required. There is generally strong competition for vacant positions and positions rarely have to be re-advertised to attract better applicants. As a town Cooma is well serviced by health, education and transport and is within easy reach of Canberra. All of which make it an attractive place to live and work.</p>
Knowledge, creativity and innovation	<p>Council has been working to resolve the issue of water security for the village of Nimmitabel over the last five years. This has culminated in the decision to build a dam which is due for completion late 2015. Staff have been involved in all aspects of the feasibility studies, designs, community consultation and environmental issues since the commencement. Council was successful in obtaining a \$5.3M grant from Infrastructure NSW to complete the works.</p> <p>In 2012 Council assisted Snowy Hydro in the establishment of a University Centre in Cooma reducing the need for local students to travel long distances to attend university. Development of the centre is ongoing and Council has a member on the Board of Directors.</p>

<p>Advanced skills in strategic planning and policy development</p>	<p>In response to tougher economic conditions for businesses and retailers Council set up and ran an Economic Development Taskforce drawing on internal and external expertise. The resulting report sets out a number of key tasks with the view to increasing the number of businesses in town and in turn our population base. As mentioned in the first point we are about to launch our marketing strategy as a next step in this process.</p> <p>Council has strategic plans across many of its functions as well as the Integrated Planning and Reporting Plans for the overall organisation and Shire. Cooma-Monaro Shire introduced 10 year strategic and financial plans in the 1990's, well before the introduction of the Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation was enacted.</p>
<p>Effective regional collaboration</p>	<p>Cooma-Monaro Shire is an active member of a number of regional groups including; South East Region of Councils (SERO), Cross Border, ACT and Region Catchment Management Coordination Group, Regional Interagency, Tourism Snowy Mountains (TSM), Regional Development Australia South East, Local Emergency Management Committee and ACT & NSW Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Collaboration – Landuse Planning and Infrastructure Priority (C+1 Steering Committee).</p> <p>Cooma partnered with Bombala Council when needing to procure its new corporate software platform and jointly implemented the project which was completed in late 2014. Council is currently working with both Bombala and Snowy River Shires to implement new web sites for all three shires which will be completed later this year.</p> <p>A regional Library service has been in existence since the 1960's providing services across all three Shire Councils. The service is run by Cooma-Monaro Shire.</p> <p>Monaro Rural Health was run across all three shires until the funding for the service was diverted to Medicare Local in 2013. The service was successfully operated over a 10 year period and won an award for its health screening project.</p>

<p>Credibility for more effective advocacy</p>	<p>As a result of advocacy Cooma Monaro Shire has been successful in gaining funding for a number of projects and services. Some examples include: Monaro Rural Health, Wirri Nina day care facility, construction of Lake Wallace dam, extensions to Yallambee Lodged Aged Care facility, installation of solar panels on the swimming pool and many others.</p> <p>Council meets regularly with its local members and ensures the concerns of Council and residents are raised with them. Local members visit the Shire regularly to discuss issues and solutions directly.</p> <p>Staff and Councillors are well represented on various committees and working parties as listed in the previous table.</p>
<p>Capable partner for State and federal agencies</p>	<p>Council partners with many of State and Federal agencies in delivering services and projects such as Monaro Rural Health, Community Service Programs, Lake Wallace Dam construction, catchment management projects, Regional Development Australia and the Local Environmental Plan.</p>
<p>Resources to cope with complex and unexpected change</p>	<p>Council maintains cash reserves which give it the ability to draw on these funds if something unexpected occurs. Increasing the transfer to these reserves is a priority over the coming years, further boosting the ability to cope with the unexpected.</p> <p>A skilled pool of talent within the community exists that can be drawn on as needed to compliment the skills of staff. This gives Council the ability to tackle complex issues and emergencies with the skill levels needed.</p>

High quality political and managerial leadership	<p>Over the years Council has been successful in winning a number of awards including; 2012 National Local Government Award Winner – Rural and remote Health (small Council under 15,000 rateable properties) – Cooma-Monaro Shire Council Check it Out Program and Highly commended and commended Regional Council sections for the Asbestos Awareness Week campaigns 2013 & 2014</p> <p>As a small rural Council we are seen as a leader and held up as an example in areas such as asbestos management, composting and landfill management and asset management.</p>
Other information relevant to strategic capacity in local community	<p>Cooma-Monaro Council is an active participant in regional and local committees and working parties which have resulted in benefits to the residents as can be seen from the examples above. Council works in partnership with organisations such as Lions and Rotary to deliver projects to the community.</p>