

# Cootamundra

## **A R BLUETT AWARD 2014 SUBMISSION COOTAMUNDRA SHIRE COUNCIL**





# CONTENTS

1.	COUNCIL DETAILS	3
2.	BRIEF STATISTICS FOR 2013/2014	4
3.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	5
4.	LOCATION	7
5.	COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	8
	Our Community Vision	9
	Our Strategic Priorities	9
6.	PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES	
	<u>SOCIAL (SP1) - To promote thriving social networks that create and nurture a strong, modern and vibrant community.</u>	10
	Cootamundra Swimming Pool Complex – 25 Metre Indoor Heated Pool (SP1 – CP1.8 & DPP1(10))	10
	Fenced Dog Off-Leash and Training Area (SP1 – CP1.8,9 & DPP1(9))	14
	Muttama Creek Improvements (SP1 – CP1.8,9 & DPP1(9))	15
	Former Second World War – Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot (SP1 – CP1.8 & DPP1(9))	18
	New LEP, Section 94 and DCP (SP1 – DPP1(30))	19
	<u>ENVIRONMENTAL (SP2) - To foster a sound local economy, promote responsible development and regular tourism.</u>	21
	Replacement of Public Toilet Amenities (SP2 – CP2.8 & DDP2(11))	21
	Companion Animal Audit (SP2 – DPP2(13))	23
	Greenwaste Introduction (SP2 – CP2.10 & DDP2(20))	24
	<u>ECONOMY (SP3) - To foster a sound local economy, promote responsible development and regular tourism.</u>	26
	Former Cootamundra Gasworks Rehabilitation	26
	Effluent Reuse Scheme – New Filtration System - (SP3 – DPP3(18))	28
	EESI Pty Ltd Soil Rehabilitation Partnership- (SP3 – CP3.9 & DPP3(31))	31
	Claron Park Estate (SP3 – DPP3(31))	33
	Sustainable Workforce Planning (SP3 – CP3.4, 9 & DPP3(26))	34
	<u>CIVIL LEADERSHIP (SP4) – To provide responsible and prudent leadership so that the community will prosper</u>	35
	Cootamundra Creative Arts and Cultural Centre (SP4 – CP4. 8, 9 & DPP3(33))	35
	Asset Management (SP4 – CP4.1 & DPP4(34))	37
	Valuing Volunteers (SP4 – SP4.8, 10 & DPP4(4))	39
	Collaboration and Advocacy (SP4 – SP4.8, 10 & DPP4(4))	41
7.	LIST OF PROJECTS COMPLETED @ 30 JUNE 2014	42
8.	LIST OF PROJECTS IN PROGRESS @ 30 JUNE 2014	44
9.	AWARDS & CITATIONS	45
10.	SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	46



# 1. COUNCIL DETAILS

<b>Council Name</b>	Cootamundra Shire Council
<b>Council Address</b>	PO Box 420, Cootamundra NSW 2590
<b>Contact Person</b>	Kate Monaghan
<b>Email</b>	mail@cootamundra.nsw.gov.au
<b>Telephone</b>	02 6940 2100
<b>Fax</b>	02 6940 2127
<b>Mayor</b>	Cr Jim Slattery
<b>General Manager</b>	Ken Trethewey



## 2. BRIEF STATISTICS FOR 2013/2014



<b>Total Population – Council Area:</b>	7,620
<b>Population – Urban</b>	5,317
<b>Population – Rural</b>	2,303
<b>Council Area (sq. km)</b>	1,524
<b>No. of Staff</b> <i>(Full-time equivalent staff at the end of the reporting period)</i>	87.6
<b>Date of the most recent organisation structure review</b> <i>(Sec 333 LG Act)</i>	March 2013
<b>Previous Integrated Planning &amp; Reporting Category</b>	Group 1
<b>Remuneration Tribunal Category</b>	Rural



### 3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In many ways Cootamundra Shire Council has adopted its own version of the 1980's oil company motto, 'CSC, the Quiet Achiever', to fulfil its stated mission – '*To work with today's community to leave a more cohesive civil society, an improved environment, a stronger local economy and a well governed Council to the future generations of this community*'.

Whilst rarely seeking accolades the 2013/14 financial year has seen such a drive towards this mission that Council feels it should share the successes of the year with the greater local government community, and offer its experience to any who may wish to replicate any of Council's successes for the advancement of their communities.

The year has seen the culmination of many years of planning and activity in so many areas of Council that it is difficult to limit this summary to a single page. It has been an exhilarating, and perhaps a little exhausting, year for Councillors and staff alike.

In the physical sphere; the finalisation of the community's 20 plus year dream for a heated swimming pool, the finalisation of a 10 year project to create a regional Arts Centre and Theatre, and the rebuilding of the 10<sup>th</sup> public toilet as part of a 10 year plan to rebuild 12 of Council's 14 sets of public toilets.

In the more esoteric sphere of planning for the future; the finalisation of a 15 plus year marathon to achieve a modern LEP and DCP, the design and commencement of a new 142 lot family friendly residential area, and the recognition and saving of an important but previously neglected WWII heritage site.

In the wider sphere of government; an active involvement in all issues affecting local government witnessed by multiple considered and positive submissions to the plethora of State government enquiries, continued sharing and cost savings through the ROC system, and an ongoing commitment to training of young people in all aspects of local government.





In the environmental sphere; the introduction of a green waste collection system, the rehabilitation of the old Cootamundra Gasworks, and the completion of a five year program to reduce electrical power usage with the installation of new pumping and filtration equipment to Council's effluent reuse system.

In the economic sphere; the installation of new loading ramps and other facilities at what has become one of the busiest sheep sale yards in NSW, and the commencement of a joint enterprise in contaminated soil rehabilitation which has already injected serious funds into Council's coffers whilst providing a truly environmentally sustainable solution to massive pollution issues worldwide.

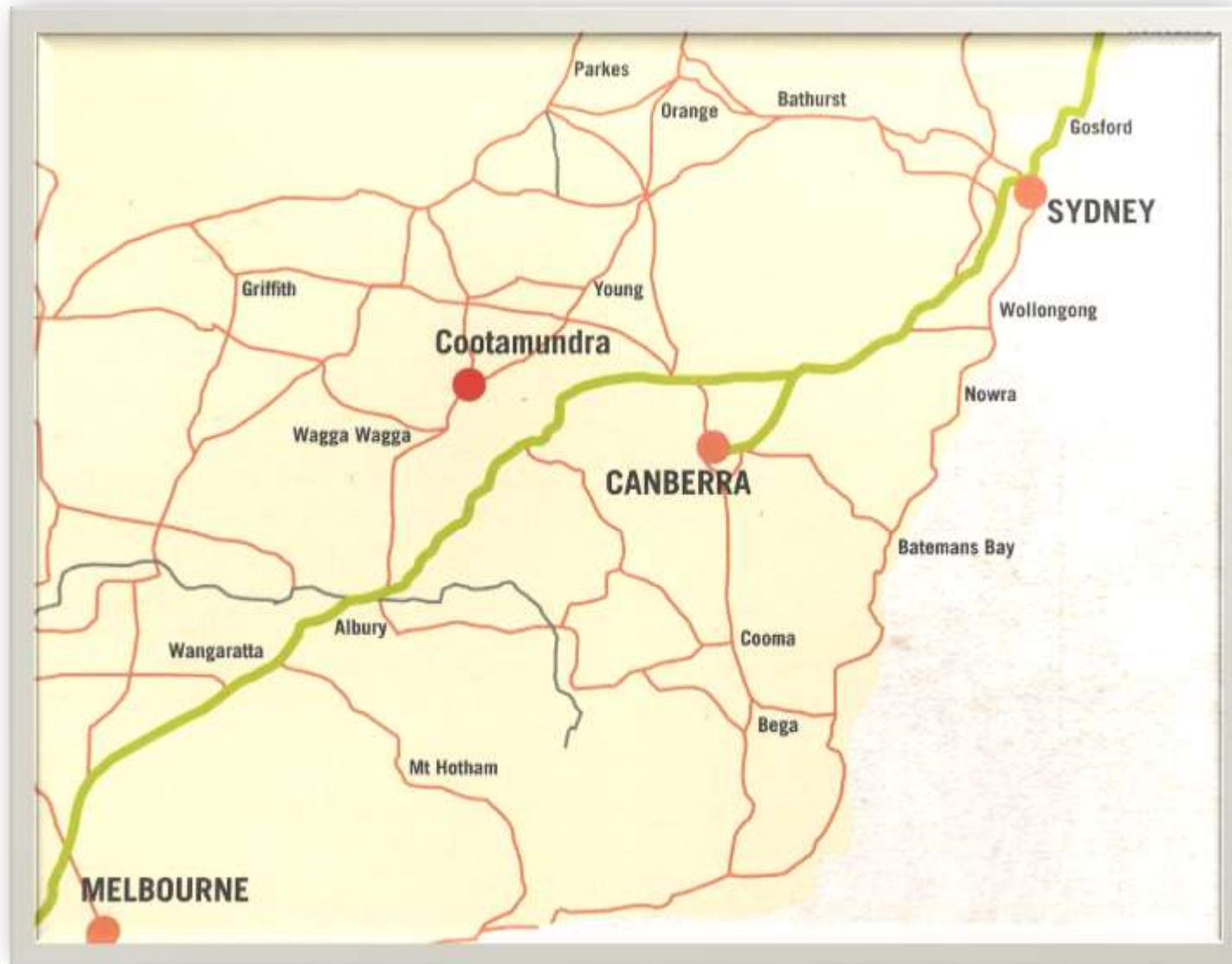
Many of these activities overlap in their influence on Council achieving real progress towards its mission and providing a better and more secure future for its citizens, but collectively they mean that this year our Council really has been, 'the Quiet Achiever.'





## 4. LOCATION

Cootamundra Shire, consisting of Cootamundra and the villages of Stockinbingal and Wallendbeen, has a combined population of around 7,600 people who have chosen to live here because of the community spirit, the affordable lifestyle, the natural setting, the different choices of rural, residential, village or town living, the retail, health, education and cultural services, the prosperous economy and easy access to Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, the mountains, the outback and the coast.



## 5. COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Council adopted its second iteration Community Strategic Plan in June 2013 to set the long term direction for the Shire and build on the aspirations and achievements of the original Community Strategic Plan 2010-2020. This continued the modern approach to seeking community input to the Council's decision making process and ensuring that Council is better reflecting the aspirations of the community in determining the activities and projects it undertakes.

We are very fortunate in Cootamundra that a great deal of community consultation has been undertaken to identify community aspirations which has helped us to understand our resident's priorities in the Shire and Region over the coming years. This includes the community consultation workshops and meetings that informed the 2010 and 2013 Community Strategic Plans, as well as community consultation that is undertaken on an ongoing basis as input into Council's operational planning, and includes; the Public Toilet Study, the Community Satisfaction Survey and 20 Year Infrastructure Plan, the Swimming Pool Upgrade Consultation and Provision of Future Infrastructure Consultation, the LEP consultation, various ongoing and issue specific surveys, regular monthly Mayoral Consultations, and Open Forum Council meetings.

All of this interaction with the community has provided Council with a very clear picture of what residents want to see happen for the future of the Shire, and the Region. It is pleasing to know that some of these aspirations have been realised since being included in the first Community Strategic Plan, some are being realised at present and some are planned for and resourced through Council's long term financial plan and will be undertaken progressively over the next ten years.

The Community Strategic Plan outlines Council's four Strategic Priorities – Social, Environmental, Economic and Civic Leadership, and the Community's Vision for the future. All of Council's IPR documentation is available at <http://www.cootamundra.nsw.gov.au/council/integrated-planning-and-reporting.aspx>





## Our Community Vision

*'It is 2023...Cootamundra is a thriving, lively Shire of around 8,000 set within a picturesque rural environment. Its people have chosen to live here because of the community spirit, the prosperous economy, the affordable lifestyle, the rural setting, the different choices of lifestyle, the health, education, cultural and retail services, and the easy access to Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, the mountains, the outback and the coast.'*

## Our Strategic Priorities

**SOCIAL (SP1) - To promote thriving social networks that create and nurture a strong, modern and vibrant community.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL (SP2) - To protect the natural environment and maintain the rural character of the Shire.**

**ECONOMY (SP3) - To foster a sound local economy, promote responsible development and regular tourism.**

**CIVIC LEADERSHIP (SP4) – To provide responsible and prudent leadership so that the community will prosper.**

## 6. PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

**SOCIAL (SP1) - To promote thriving social networks that create and nurture a strong, modern and vibrant community.**

Cootamundra Pool Complex – 25 Metre Indoor Heated Pool (SP1 – CP1.8 & DDP1(10))





Council undertook two years of extensive consultation leading to Council's first Community Strategic Plan in 2010 with the replacement of the existing pool change rooms and construction of a heated pool being the highest priority identified during every consultation held over that period. This result was not surprising to Council as Council had attempted to achieve the same result twice in the previous 20 years, both times being beaten by cost.

But not this time! Being the third time the issue had risen to the highest community priority Council charged its staff with finding a way of replacing the 75 year old pool change rooms and in that process, if possible, constructing a 25 metre heated indoor pool, all within a single term of Council. With that challenge having been issued Council staff began a serious in-house design and investigation process, leading to a two stage construction schedule using Council staff as the principle builders and using the most cost effective and innovative systems available. A design and construct proposal was presented to Council with a total estimated cost of \$2.6 million, being \$1.1 million for the Stage 1 change rooms and \$1.5 million for the Stage 2 heated pool. Council again went back to the community and sought their views on the proposal and following another positive response Council resolved to commence with Stage 1 using reserve funds, but with an absolute demand on staff that the Stage 1 project be completed under budget.





The on-site works involved in Stage 1 commenced in April 2012 and included the demolition of the existing entrance and amenities building and the construction a new pool entrance and amenities building which provided modern male, female and disabled toilet and change rooms, a fully functioning commercial grade kiosk and a pool manager's observation room and office. The Stage 1 component of the project was completed in October 2012 with the official opening of Stage 1 held on the 26 October 2012 in conjunction with opening of the pool for the 2012/2013 swimming season. Stage 1 was completed for just under \$1.05 million.

During the Stage 1 construction process staff continued to investigate and prepare for the implementation of Stage 2 of the project, being the construction of a 25 metre heated indoor pool and pool hall that would adjoin the Stage 1 building. Following comprehensive research on pool design, filtration and treatment processes and the latest energy efficiency systems and resources required to maintain the building and pool water to the desired temperature, the proposal for Stage 2 was presented to Council for consideration in March 2012. A large part of this consideration hinged on the estimated ongoing operating costs associated with a heated pool over and above the capital cost. Council was persuaded that the increase in operating costs could be kept to below a 20% increase on the existing pool operating cost by simple changes to some of the operating parameters of the remaining 50 metre open air pool.

Further costings were undertaken and the initial estimate of \$1.5 million was lowered to \$1.4 million, with Council having confidence in its staff to achieve this saving on the basis of the Stage 1 result. Council considered all funding options available and it was decided to apply for the recently announced NSW Government's Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme (LIRS) interest rate subsidy and use external borrowings to complete Stage 2.

Council received notification it had been successful with its application for the LIRS assistance and in November 2013 Council resolved to proceed with Stage 2 of the project, this time with staff taking an even greater role as Project Managers.



The construction of Stage 2 commenced in August 2013; with foundations, structural steel, pre-cast concrete panel walls and roofing installed by the end of November 2013. This allowed the indoor pool construction to begin within the partially constructed building which eliminated weather conditions affecting the pool construction process.

The pool and associated hydraulics, filtration and heating systems, and the pool building itself incorporates numerous innovative and energy efficient technologies. Since 2010 Council has been experimenting with and using innovative and energy efficient components in Council's facilities, including evacuated tube water heating systems, large scale PV solar systems to Council's sport stadium and halls, and improvements in incorporating energy efficient plant and equipment into other Council facilities to reduce ongoing cost. The experience gained from the use of evacuated tube water heating and energy efficient water handling equipment led to these technologies being used in the new pool and has already seen the ongoing operational cost of the new pool and building well within Council's forecast budget for the facility and continuing to be reduced as staff master the systems.

Stage 2 of the Cootamundra pool upgrade was completed in May 2014 for a total cost of \$1.3 million and was officially opened on the 20 May 2014. To date, the increase in operating costs over the previous cost has been well under the 20% budgeted. The Pool complex has received positive reviews from local community members and visitors from neighbouring towns and has been mentioned in the 2014 Pool Industry Awards.

This project is a fine example of the ability of Council staff to rise to a challenge and provide high quality affordable facilities to a community with minimum impact on other services provided by Council.



### **Fenced Dog Off-leash and Training Area (SP1 – CP1.8, 9 & DDP1(9))**

Council, in conjunction with the Cootamundra Kennel Club, has recently completed the construction of a fully fenced off-leash dog area within one of Council's larger designated off-leash areas on the banks of the Muttama Creek.

This project came about after consultation with the Cootamundra Kennel Club where it was suggested that a fenced off-leash area would be beneficial to all residents as it would provide all dog owners an opportunity for dog socialisation in a safe and controlled environment. The design and location was also chosen to provide a social opportunity for single and elderly people who have dogs as companions in the same safe and controlled environment. The off-leash area is sited close to the Olympic Highway to provide an area where people travelling through the town can stop and exercise their animals.

The project was a joint initiative of the Kennel Club and Council with the Kennel Club securing part of the funding from the NSW State Government Community Building Partnership Program and part from the proceeds of their very successful annual dog show, along with the financial and in-kind assistance of Council. The off-leash area is due to be officially opened on 8 August 2014.





## **Muttama Creek Improvements (SP1 – CP1.8,9 & DDP1(9))**

The Muttama Creek is a focal point within the town of Cootamundra and is a central spine to the location of the town's parks and sporting fields, dog off-leash area, swimming pool complex and the extensive cross overs in walking paths and cycle ways, all of which make use of the creek environs.

Approximately 10 years ago the Muttama Creek Regeneration Group (MCRG) was formed as a community committee working with Council to try and return the creek and its environs to health by recreating as close to the original vegetation as possible. Over the years this has involved the removal of non-native species such as willows, the construction of a linear pond system to replicate the original wet and dry cyclic nature of the creek, and extensive native plantings.

During the past twelve months a number of additional projects including tree planting along the creek edges adjacent to the O'Connor Park soccer fields, the completion of a walking / cycle track along the creek edge linking the sporting fields, exercise equipment area, pool complex and Muttama Creek bird walk have been undertaken. In addition to these projects the MCRG have continued to maintain and increase plantings along the full length of the creek through Cootamundra.



**Outdoor Exercise Equipment**

The completed walking / bike track also complements Cootamundra's annual beach volleyball competition, where Murray Street adjacent to the pool complex is closed off and the street is transformed into five beach volleyball courts where over 100 teams from all over NSW and interstate battle for the coveted title of Coota Beach Volleyball champions. The ongoing improvements to the Muttama Creek are illustrative of the strengthening bond between Council and its community in the joint enterprise that is needed to achieve benefits for the good of all citizens.



**Muttama Creek Bird Walk**







Annual Coota Beach Volleyball Festival



## **Former Second World War - Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot (SP1 – CP1.8 & DDP1(9))**

This project involves the establishment of a community open space on the site of the former No. 3 Inland Aircraft Fuel Depot (IAFD) located at 219 Sutton Street Cootamundra and the preservation of a long neglected WWII historic site.

Historical records indicate that of the 31 IAFD sites established throughout Australia, the Cootamundra IAFD was the first in NSW. Today it remains largely in original condition. The Cootamundra IAFD provides an excellent example of how and why these sites were established as part of the defence of Australia, and gives a snap shot of three separate types of storage tank construction methods and associated infrastructure used throughout a number of other sites in the state and nationally.

Council is committed to protecting the historical significance of this site, having recently identified it as an item on our Local Heritage Register. Council has submitted an application for State Heritage listing to create opportunities to partner with the NSW Heritage Council to develop this site and make it available with interpretive signage to the public.

As part of the application, Council staff conducted extensive research, collaborated with the current owners to ensure heritage items are preserved, and worked with local community stakeholders to gain their support and joint commitment to the project. Council's application is currently before the NSW Heritage Council.

During 2013/14, Council successfully negotiated a transfer of ownership with the current owners, Caltex. Under the 'deed of transfer' Caltex is remediating the site, and once soil contamination works have been finalised, ownership will be transferred to Council.



Once under Council ownership, it is Council's intention to open the site up to the public as a WWII historical attraction. It is envisaged that Pathways will be established throughout the site leading people around the existing infrastructure with the strategic positioning of interpretive signage explaining the nature, origin and purpose of the historical structures.

Council sees the site as a wonderful opportunity to tell an unknown story of a specific WWII defence infrastructure while providing a beautiful and interesting public open space with a historical theme. The heritage values will be protected and the site will become an important tourist destination.



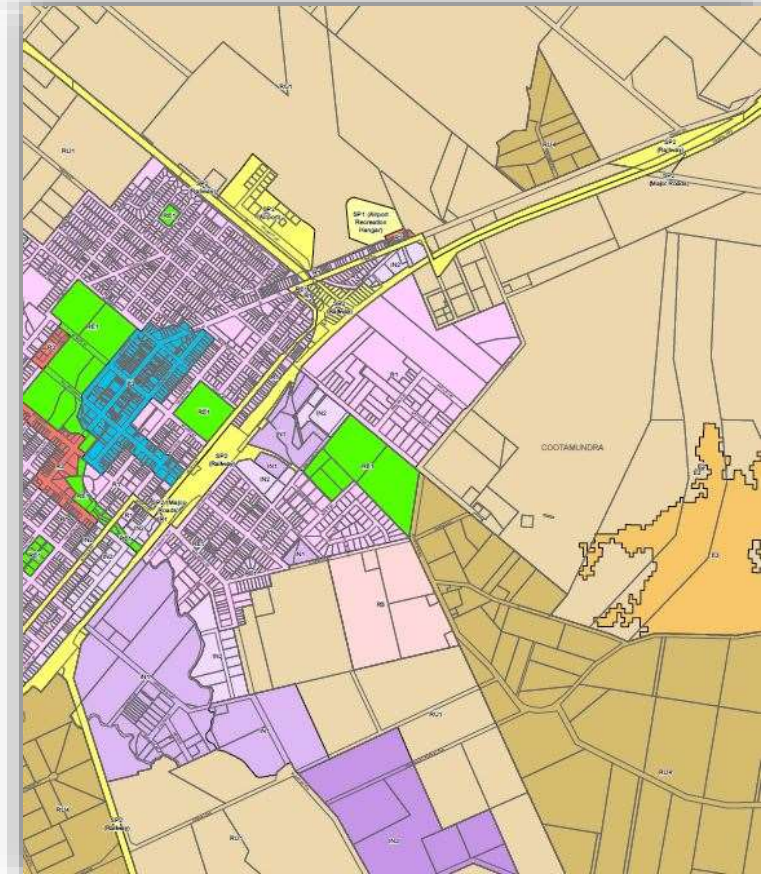
## **New LEP, Section 94 and DCP (SP1 –DPP1(30))**

The Cootamundra Local Environmental Plan (LEP) was adopted in July 2013, after a tortuous 16 year process involving Council in multiple consultations with landholders and Government agencies and many battles to achieve the planning scheme which Council believed was appropriate for the Shire.

The LEP 2014 replaced an outdated planning instrument that had been in use since 1976 and which no longer provided for the continued growth and development of the Shire in an orderly or appropriate manner. One of the main shortcomings of the former planning instrument was that it did not differentiate areas for various land uses resulting in Council regularly being forced to make decisions without the backing of a simple and understandable planning philosophy spelled out in a public document.

The unfortunate cause of the elongated process to achieve the LEP 2014 came about because of Council's primary objective to ensure the continued importance of the agricultural sector to the local economy and the State, by protecting agricultural land from encroachment by non-farming land uses. This involved a protracted discussion around what was a viable farm as defined by State policy compared to what was the reality of farming enterprises in this district.

Once these issues were settled, and with its original objective in mind, Council undertook strategic plans covering residential and industrial expansion which protected the principal farming areas of the Shire. The strategy recommendations were incorporated into the LEP, providing opportunities for the continued growth of residential, business and industrial development and ensuring the protection of the principle farming areas from fragmented subdivision.



One of the main shortcomings of the former planning instrument was that it did not differentiate areas for various land uses resulting in challenging planning circumstances and loss of residential amenity. An integral feature of the new LEP is that it recognises the importance of separating incompatible land uses, such as industrial and residential, by clearly defining areas where new and different types of development can occur.

In conjunction with the new LEP, Council identified a need to provide developers, builders and residents with a new and up to date single reference document on Council's guidelines and requirements for new development. This resulted in the preparation and adoption of the Cootamundra Development Control Plan 2013.

With the commencement of the LEP and the rezoning of several areas for rural residential lifestyle properties, Council was also aware of the need to improve road access to these areas. As a result Council has adopted a new Section 94 Development Contributions Plan to enable contributions to be used by Council to directly fund improvements to the road network in these areas.

Throughout the entire process of developing, workshopping and drafting the planning instruments, Council utilised the talents of its own professional staff, rather than engaging consulting services. By taking this approach, Council not only saved significant costs, but also adopted planning instruments that were specifically developed for the needs of Cootamundra Shire by the people who have the best understanding of the local strategic land requirements. It also provided a mutual benefit to Council's planning team, who had the opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge throughout the process, provided them with exciting and challenging work, and became a source of motivation.

Council remains strong in its resolve to protect the agricultural productivity of the Shire and remains constantly vigilant to the long term importance of productive agriculture to this Shire, Australia and the ever growing world.





# ENVIRONMENTAL (SP2) – To protect the natural environment and maintain the rural character of the Shire.

## **Replacement of Public Toilet Amenities (SP2 – CP2.8 & DDP2(11))**

This project saw the continuation of Council's commitment to replacing outdated public amenities throughout the Shire in line with Council's 10 year public toilet replacement strategy, first adopted in 2006 and then incorporated into the first iteration of Council's Community Strategic Plan in 2010.

The latest stage of this ongoing project involves Council rebuilding the 10<sup>th</sup> public toilet as part of a 10 year plan to rebuild 12 of Council's 14 sets of public toilets. In 2013/14 this involved the original 1950's showgrounds amenities building being demolished in readiness for a replacement building which is currently under construction. The new building will contain male and female toilet facilities, a disabled toilet and baby change room, and an additional two separate shower rooms. These new amenities will be better equipped to cater for the wide diversity of showground users; from the patrons of the Local B&S Ball, regular campers, participants of the Father's Day swap meet, to the annual show.



In total this will bring Council's expenditure on this renewal program to around \$800,000 and whilst some may consider this level of expenditure on such mundane infrastructure as questionable, Council sees it as an important part of its larger strategy to make Cootamundra the most liveable town in the Riverina.

As with the pool, and most other construction projects undertaken by Council, this amenities block has been designed and detailed by Council staff and is based on Council's standard amenities block design. The simplicity of the design, along with Council staff controlling the work, allows Council to achieve substantial savings in both the capital cost and the ongoing maintenance costs associated with these types of facilities.



## **Companion Animal Audit (SP2 –DDP2(13))**

In response to the Companion Animals Amendment Act 2013, Council took a proactive decision to identify all the dogs and cats housed in the Shire that were not yet registered. Council determined to allocate sufficient resources to rectify this problem over a two year period.

Prior to commencing the Companion Animals audit in the beginning of 2014 an extensive education campaign was carried out to ensure that animal owners were aware of their obligations in regard to responsible animal ownership. An audit has commenced and is now well underway in the Shire where every house is visited by Council's Ranger and information is collected in regard to pet ownership. This information is then processed utilising the Companion Animals register and where residents are not complying with the Companion Animals Act every effort is made by Council staff to work with owners to resolve any outstanding ownership issues prior to any enforcement taking place.

As a result Companion Animal registrations in the Shire have increased significantly and the Companion Animals register is being constantly updated ensuring a more accurate picture of animal ownership within the Shire. At this time a large number of residences have been audited and it is pleasing to note that to date there has been no requirement to issue infringement notices and the public have been appreciative of the manner in which Council has explained and informed Companion Animal owners of not only their responsibilities but also the benefits of being fully covered by the legislation.

Added to this, and as a direct result of information gleaned from the audit, Council has begun a consultation process in order to arrive at a standard Policy on Keeping of Animals in towns which is agreed by and acceptable to the community.





## **Greenwaste Introduction (SP2 – CP2.10 & DDP2(20))**

Council commenced a new fortnightly kerbside greenwaste collection for all of its domestic waste service customers in the 2013/2014 financial year. The new greenwaste service required 3,300 new 240 litre greenwaste bins to be procured and delivered to residents and this process was finalised in December 2013 with the greenwaste kerbside pick-up service commencing in January 2014.

The change in the kerbside domestic waste service from a domestic and recycling two bin service to a three bin service with the addition of the greenwaste bin service required Council to provide an additional 1,675 weekly kerbside bin pickups. Council was due to replace its garbage compactor truck in 2013/14 so determined to retain its existing truck to allow for this extra workload and to safeguard against breakdowns and regular maintenance requirements.

The impetus to introduce the greenwaste service came after Council was involved in a regionally based organics and greenwaste to compost trial with three adjoining councils in the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils (REROC) area. The trial, initially implemented for six months, was funded by the Office of Environment & Heritage, REROC and the participating councils and involved 800 residents, 200 each in Coolamon, Cootamundra, Gundagai and Junee, receiving kerbside green bins for a fortnightly collection of their household organics and greenwaste.



The waste collected from the four towns was then delivered to Cootamundra waste depot for processing using a 12 week composting process. The trial was widely promoted, advertised and reported on by REROC and the four participating councils, and due to the positive participant and general community response and the need for further information on the composting process, the Cootamundra trial was extended to twelve months.

The information on organics and green waste collection gained through the trial has been provided to REROC and supplied to other LGA's throughout the State and it was this information that led to the decision by Council to introduce a green waste kerbside service in 2013/2014. With that initial decision Council has allowed for the option to expand the service to a full organics and green waste composting service when external market influences mean that the composting process is financially viable. In the interim Council is mulching and partially composting it's green waste which is then being used by EESI Pty Ltd as an organic source material for the bio-remediation process being undertaken at the Contaminated Soil Recycling Facility adjacent to the waste depot.





## **ECONOMY (SP3) - To foster a sound local economy, promote responsible development and regular tourism.**

### **Former Cootamundra Gasworks Rehabilitation (SP3 –DDP3(5))**

In 2011, Council received funding from the NSW Environment Trust for the rehabilitation of the former gasworks site in Cootamundra.

The rehabilitation process involved the excavation of the gross tar impacted soils and the use of on-site bioremediation technology. The aim of the process was to reduce the mass of contaminated material within the soil which was considered to pose an unacceptable environmental risk. This in turn would reduce any offsite migration of the contaminants to surrounding areas and also reduce the migration of contaminants into the underground aquifers.

The removal of the contaminated material included removing the primary sources of contamination; being, the free tar and impacted soils within the underground gasholder, former tar well and pit structures, free tar and impacted soils in the tar pit areas, as well as the old pipework and associated free tar. Once the areas were excavated, all the material was stockpiled onsite for treatment and remediation.

The material was initially treated using a specialist machine called a 'Mobil Unit for Soil Treatment' (MUST) which thoroughly mixes organic soil additives into the soil in a controlled manner to promote microbial breakdown of the contaminants. After the initial mixing the stockpile was left for several weeks so that the microbiological process could commence. Further monthly onsite mixing was undertaken using an excavator to mix in additional ameliorants including straw and other mulch as required. This process was carried out until testing of the contaminants reached acceptable levels to allow the material to be back filled into the excavated areas.

Remediation works were undertaken onsite to minimise costs and the work was completed in January 2014 following final site back filling.





**The MUST Unit in operation**



**Free tar and tar impacted soils in the tar pit excavation areas**



**Evidence of free tar in underground gasholder**



**Site after backfilling the tar pit areas**



## **Effluent Reuse Scheme – New Filtration System - (SP3 – DPP3(18))**

The need for Council to strive for continual improvements in its processes is well recognised throughout the organisation and staff are encouraged to investigate and have input into workplace performance and efficiency improvements. This led to two projects at the Cootamundra sewerage treatment works and the effluent pumping system being identified as areas where upgrades and use of new technologies would see improvement in both workplace and energy efficiency.

The effluent pumping and filtration upgrade project involved the upgrading of Council's effluent pumping facilities located adjacent to Council's 80 mega litre effluent lagoon. The original shed and pumping and filtration equipment was installed in 2002 to give Council the ability to supply treated effluent water for irrigation of its major parks and gardens in Cootamundra. Over the years since 2002 there have been additional areas connected to the system including the Cootamundra Country Club, an 18 hole golf course, three of the town's schools and one additional sporting oval which was connected in 2013.

The additional demands on the system along with changes in regulations in regards to monitoring and use of effluent water has led to increases in energy and monitoring costs and prompted staff to investigate ways to increase both the water quality and efficiency.



The investigation found that to increase both the units efficiency and water quality the upgrading of the pumping control unit and the replacement of the old disc filtration unit was required. To accommodate these changes the original shed had to be extended with the eastern end now housing the new bank of three media filtration unit pods and associated equipment and the western end containing a sealed control room where all monitoring, injection and pumping control systems are located. A new liquid chlorine storage tank and chlorine injection pump was also installed during the upgrade.

The infrastructure installation was completed by November 2013 with the final change over of the new pump control unit, electronics and the automation of the injection pumps completed in April 2014, following the high water demand summer period.



At about the same time the Cootamundra treatment works was identified as an area in which energy efficiency gains could be made. The treatment works are high electricity consumers and with the price of electricity increasing substantially over the past few years the use of alternative technologies and processes that reduce dependency on electricity was seen as a potential cost saving. It was identified that the three mechanical surface aerators on the primary lagoon contributed a high proportion of the electricity consumption and alternative aeration technologies were researched.

This resulted in Council staff identifying a low energy aeration system that utilises air pumps to inject air into delivery pipes to introduce air directly into the dam below the water surface. This type of system was further investigated in April 2013 and then installations of similar designs were inspected to confirm the system suitability in Council's application.





Once the technology was determined to be suitable for installation and operation at the Cootamundra treatment works Council purchased the Probiotic, Lowenergy Aeration System – PLEA system for installation into the extended aeration pond. The installation of the system commenced in May 2013 with the system being adapted to further suit the site requirements and fully commissioned in late in 2013.

The system requires the operation of four 4kw air blowing pumps to aerate the pond, which previously required three surface mechanical aerators of a combined 80kw rating to be used for a minimum of 15 hours per day. The new system has dramatically reduced the need to operate the surface mechanical aerators, resulting in only the two smaller units being used for a total of 6 hours per day.

The new system has also provided safety benefits for Council and its staff members as all components of the system can be maintained from the banks of the pond. The mechanical aerators previously had monthly services which require staff to boat out to the units for access however with the units running for fewer hours the service intervals have been extended which has in turn decreased the risk to staff.



## **EESI Pty Ltd Soil Rehabilitation Partnership- (SP3 – CP3.9 & DPP3(31))**

Following the appointment of EESI Contracting Pty Ltd (EESI) to undertake the rehabilitation of the Ex-Cootamundra Gasworks in 2011, and based on Council's enthusiasm for the bio-remediation technology being used, Council began negotiating with EESI around the possibility of setting up a permanent regional contaminated soil rehabilitation and recycling facility in Cootamundra to service the southern part of NSW.

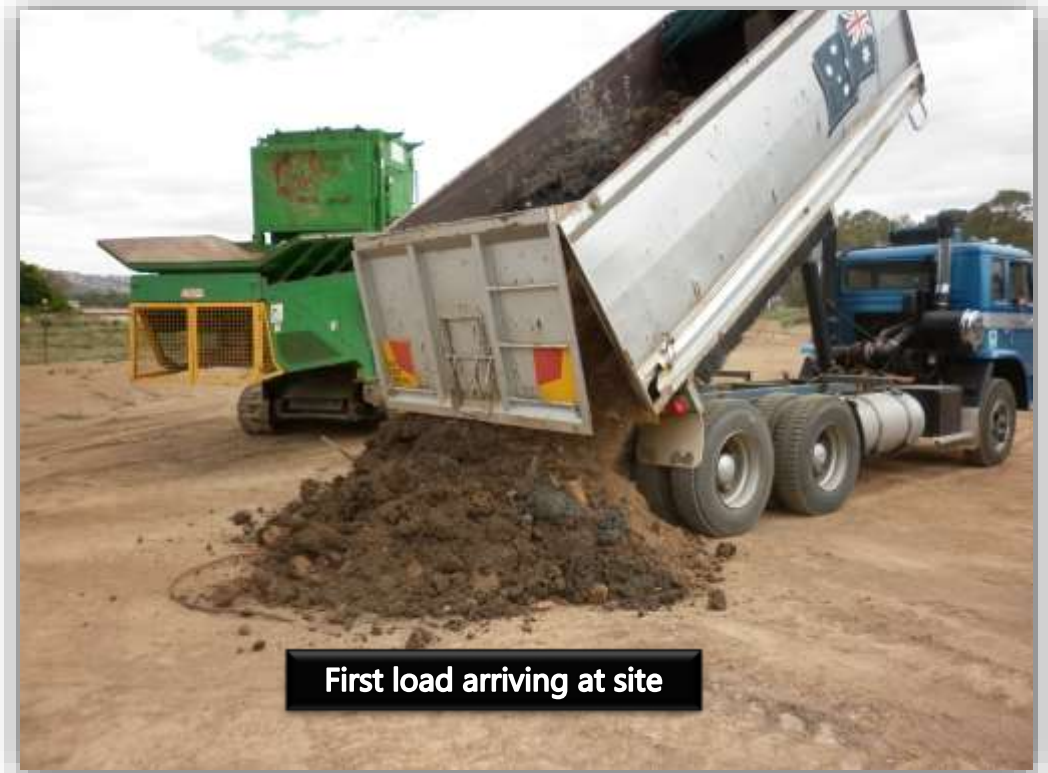
This led to Council entering into an agreement with EESI to lease Council's old Sewerage Treatment Works (STW) and an adjoining area of industrial land adjacent to the present STW in July 2012 to be set up as a Soil Recycling Facility (SRF) once appropriate EPA licences and development consents were obtained.

The culmination of this negotiation was the commencement of the SRF with the first material being delivered to the SRF for treatment in July 2013.

The SRF processes contaminated soil originating from sites such as former gasworks and service stations. The SRF treats soil with elevated concentrations of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in particular, and other contamination as the need arises. The SRF uses a proven enhanced bioremediation method called Dynamic Biopiles for soil contaminated with hydrocarbons (fuels, oils, tars, solvents, etc.) in conjunction with physical and chemical degradation processes for other types of contamination. The SRF allows for contaminated soil to be treated and managed in a sustainable manner and allows for reuse of the remediated soil.

The contractual arrangement between EESI and Council provides a lease period of up to 20 years at an annual lease fee of \$1,000 plus \$20/tonne of contaminated material received at the site, indexed to CPI. This has injected \$295,481.45 into Council's income stream in the 2013/14 financial year and should continue to inject substantial funds into the future.

Council considers this as more than just a commercial venture and sees itself as intimately involved in developing and facilitating the environmentally sustainable technologies of the future. Council considers itself to be in a joint enterprise in the SRF in the sense that Council provides the site, provides the necessary weighbridge services, provides treated recycled effluent water to the process, provides organic material in the form of mulch to the process, and actively promotes the SRF as being one of the most environmentally friendly rehabilitation options available.





Added to this, and leading on from the initial success of the SRF, Council is presently researching with EESI the potential for beneficial re-use of the decontaminated soils as road base, clean fill for development sites and fill for use in rehabilitation of unused Council gravel pits. This has the potential to provide a source of clean fill at nil cost to Council to deal with the previously underfunded problem of rehabilitation of gravel pits and quarries in the region. If this can be achieved it will be of benefit to all councils in the region over time.



Turning soil

## **Claron Park Estate (SP3 – DPP3(31))**

Given the physical constraints on the town of Cootamundra created by the surrounding flood plains and hills and the main Sydney to Melbourne rail corridor, Council has long recognised that there are decreasing opportunities for new residential areas and a shortage of available residential land in Cootamundra. This situation will become critical if the migration to Cootamundra evidenced by Cootamundra receiving 20% of the Riverina's State Regional Relocation Grants continues.

In 2011 the opportunity arose for the purchase of 21 hectares of vacant land on the northern edge of town. The land was un-serviced and Council felt that the cost of servicing against the average annual sales rate would make it very difficult for local developers to justify the holding costs involved in developing the land for residential use. Council undertook a feasibility analysis and determined that it would be in the long term interest of the community if Council were to purchase the land for future growth.

With the commencement of the new LEP and rezoning of the land from agriculture to residential Council has developed a master plan for the 'Claron Park Estate'. This planning involves creating a family friendly development where open space, northerly aspects and mixed development types place people before cars and playgrounds before hard stand.

Stage 1 has been fully designed and costed and will be completed in the next 12 months. Council has also completed significant infrastructure planning and will be installing major infrastructure such as sewerage and water immediately following Stage 1 which will provide opportunities for private developers to be involved in future stages without the full burden of these major costs.





## **Sustainable Workforce Planning (SP3 – CP3.4, 9 & DPP3(26))**

Council is a regional leader in establishing a sustainable skilled workforce for the future, not only for its own needs but also to contribute to the long term skills needs of the local government sector. At a recent Workforce Development Group workshop, Council's HR Officer presented Cootamundra Shire Council's Workforce Management Plan to the Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Council's (REROC), highlighting Council's strategy to maintain apprenticeship and traineeship positions at just over 9% of Council's FTE workforce. The Members were impressed by Cootamundra Council's ability to maintain such a strategy as a small employer, and by its employment demographics.

As at 30 June 2014, Council was in the enviable position of boasting a permanent workforce consisting of 22% staff aged 35 years and under, matching the 22% of staff aged over 55 years. Council attributes this result to its commitment to integrating a traineeship program to address broader ageing workforce and succession planning concerns. Traineeship positions in engineering, building surveying, accounting, information technology and administration and apprenticeships in heavy vehicle mechanics and horticulture are enabling the transfer of valuable knowledge within the organisation and are providing career start opportunities for the younger people of our community.

Through taking a "grow your own" approach, by promoting local government as an employer of choice with professional and geographic career diversity, and taking the position to be a nursery of prospective talent for the sector, Council is strategically addressing known local government and industry skills shortages.

And we have been celebrating our successes!! Our burgeoning 'talents' have been recognised in the previous 12 months with two of our 9 trainees being awarded for their outstanding achievement. Outstanding academic performance has led to Council's Trainee Accountant being acknowledged by Charles Sturt University and selected for the Executive Dean's List for the past two consecutive years. Council's Trainee Building Surveyor has been acknowledged locally at the Cootamundra Business Awards winning the 2014 ATEL Apprentice/Trainee of the Year. All of our trainees and apprentices however are equally encouraged and are very much valued for their contribution to the services provided by Cootamundra Shire.



COOTAMUNDRA SHIRE COUNCIL AR BLUETT AWARD SUBMISSION 2014

## CIVIC LEADERSHIP (SP4) – To provide responsible and prudent leadership so that the community will prosper.

### **Cootamundra Creative Arts and Cultural Centre (SP4 – CP4. 8, 9 & DPP3(33))**

The Cootamundra Creative Arts and Cultural Centre (Arts Centre) was completed in October 2013, and officially opened on 14 March 2014. The Arts Centre is an across-the-board multi-disciplinary arts facility, constructed in partnership with community volunteers and utilising funding from all three levels of Government. The finalisation of the project is the culmination of ten years of project planning, fundraising, and staged works to transform a derelict, 100 year old building in the centre of town into a unique facility with endless possibilities.

Council purchased the site in 2004 and the development and management of the building was handled by a specially formed Section 355 Committee of Council, to be known as the Cootamundra Creative Arts and Cultural Centre Committee. The centre has been designed as a local function venue to attract local and regional events. A meeting place, a community space for creative activities such as visual arts, dance, music tuition and recitals, dramatic performance and film. It is equipped with state-of-the-art technical features including a Royal Ballet accredited sprung dance floor, professional theatre lighting and audio-visual equipment and a full size cinema screen. Equipped to exacting standards, the Arts Centre includes an exhibition room, The Tin Shed Theatre, visual arts studio, guest artist suite, green room, scenery / props construction area, and a semi-commercial kitchen space equipped for catering.

The vision and commitment of the Cootamundra Creative Arts and Cultural Centre Committee ensured that what is now a \$2 million plus facility was able to be completed within a limited budget of under \$500,000. The budget efficiency was able to be achieved through sourcing of second-hand, quality materials (theatre seats, air conditioners, etc.), discounted trades and over 5,000 hours of volunteer labour.

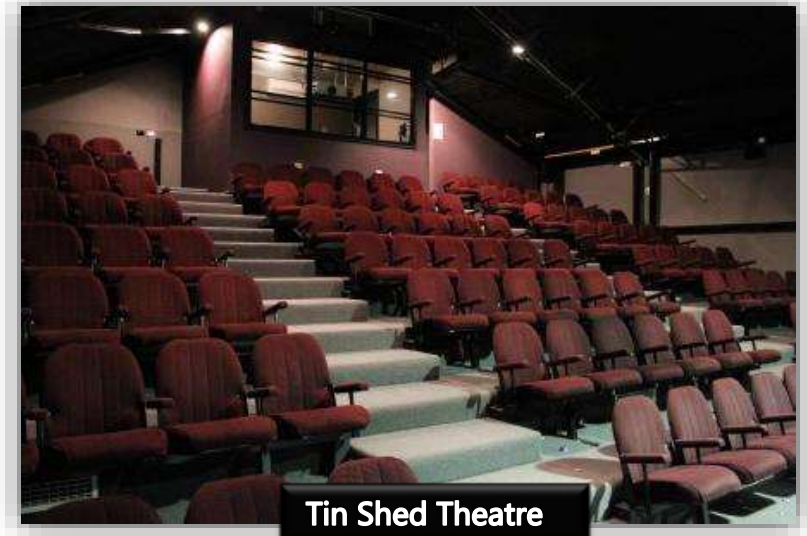




The Arts Centre is an amazing achievement by a community that accepted the challenge to provide for itself and that effort will continue to benefit our community for years and years to come.

The quality of the theatre complex, combined with the unique character and heritage of the building, beautiful regional location and energetic community of volunteers makes the Arts Centre a regional attraction for tourism and business, with the capacity to capitalise on business and artistic opportunities as they arise.

The Arts Centre has become a hub of community activity with the complex used for all manner of arts and cultural productions, exhibitions and educational activities as well as a resource used for school performances, musical concerts and as a Friday night cinema. The Arts Centre has the facilities to house large productions and attract visiting companies. It attracts professional artists who can exhibit and sell their work, as well as non-professionals seeking to pursue their hobby in retirement or increase skill levels for personal development. It offers local and regional students opportunities to attend workshops and classes conducted by professional artists.



**Tin Shed Theatre**

From 1 July 2013, Council relocated its Visitor Information Centre in to the Art Centre's foyer and reception space. The area provides a large, welcoming space for tourists, and the agreement allows the Art Centre Committee to turn its assets – volunteer time, and energy, into a source of income for future viability. The quality of the Arts Centre facilities has become a tourist attraction in its own right, and the co-location of Council's tourism operation and The Art Centre Committee has resulted in the practical benefits of shared reception and administration costs, and strategic cross promotional benefits.

The community volunteers who contributed to the Arts Centre by donating their time and labour toward building the renovations continue to be involved by carrying out administrative work, research, programming and consultancy. The Arts Centre has truly become a place of social interaction where all are welcome and all can find a place.



**Exhibition Room**



**Visual Arts Studio**



**Drawing Room**

## **Asset Management (SP4 – CP4. 1 & DPP4(34))**

The upgrading of Council's asset management procedures began in 2012 prior to Council undertaking a thorough asset revaluation. Staff members were heavily involved in the planning for the revaluation process during which they identified numerous measures that if implemented could be used to improve efficiency in the capturing and recording of asset information as well as improving the accuracy of asset data recorded.

The majority of Council's assets were captured electronically over the 2012/13 and 2013/14 financial years with the new updated information used for the revaluation of Council's assets in turn giving Council a more accurate account of its current asset base and liabilities. During the same time frame staff also began the process of using the information gathered in the asset capture to develop a mapping system for each individual asset class.

The maps were to have all the assets displayed, and the background information on any asset displayed or pin pointed on the maps would be available either on-site or from the Council offices at the touch of a button. This would enable staff to see or update information on individual assets as part of their normal work practices, with any changes recorded against assets by staff being automatically uploaded into Council's system.

The work involved in the preparation of the maps for this system is now nearing completion and once fully implemented it will further improve the ease for staff to gather, record and update all damage, maintenance works and removal/renewal information to individual assets. The mapping will also improve the use of the currently used REFLECT system which records details of defects and accomplishment works.

The system developed uses a combination of Intramaps mapping and REFLECT recording systems to allow Council to maintain a full inventory of it's assets and their condition.

REFLECT enables Council to capture inspections, defects and accomplishments by electronic means and to transfer that information into Council's mapping system. Council staff are issued with computer tablets or Android devices, dependent upon the task, and record all incidents via these devices, thereby creating an electronic trail from inspection to accomplishment, eliminating paper running sheets and saving thousands of hours of data input time in administration.





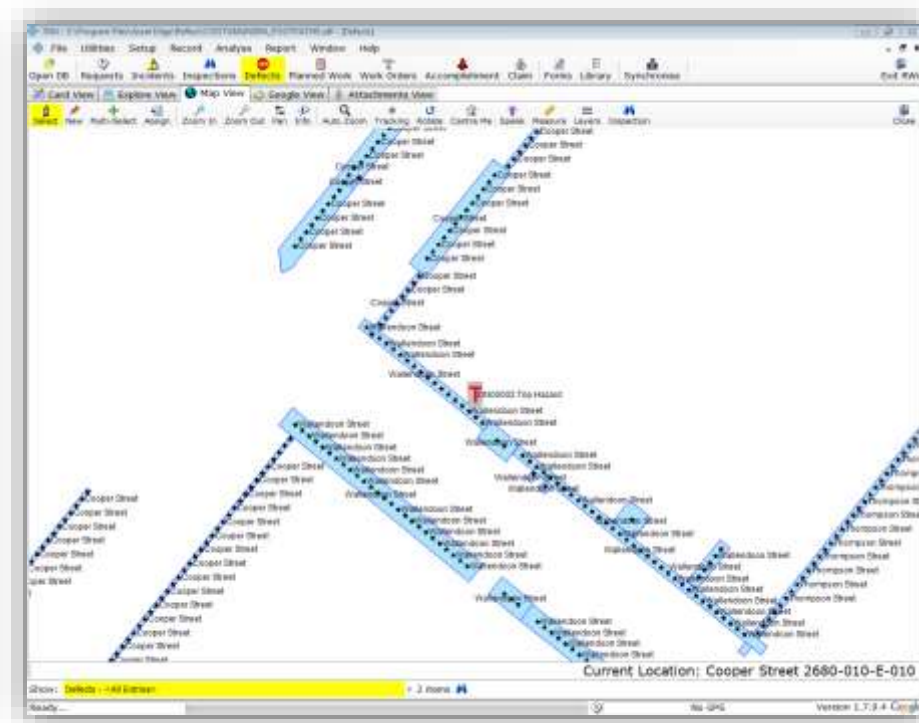
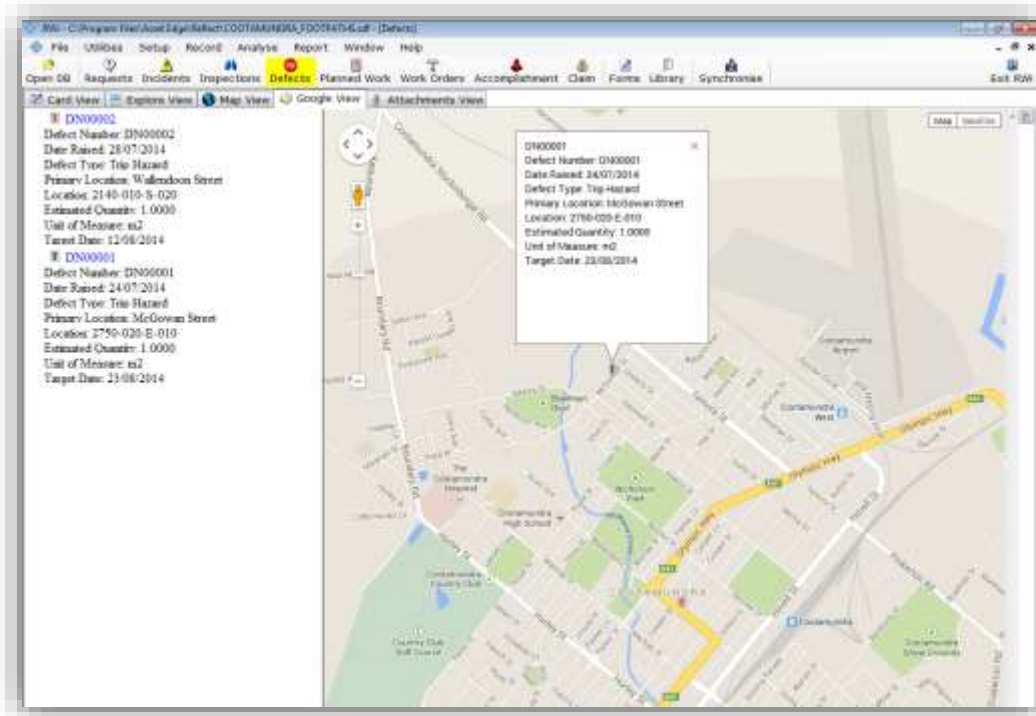
Council utilises the following data bases in REFLECT to control assets in the Shire:

- RMCC (used for State roads in the Shire)
- Local Roads (used for regional and local roads)
- Sewer (used to record all accomplishments and defects in the sewer system in the Shire)
- Footpaths (used to record all defects from a Risk Management perspective)
- Toilets (utilised to record when toilets are cleaned, identify defects and accomplishment of defects and to record the replacement of toilet rolls)

An Open Space database (90% complete) is about to be introduced for asset inspections, the identification and accomplishment of defects on all facilities in parks, sportsgrounds, playgrounds and other open spaces assets. An aerodrome data base is nearly complete and will be introduced for the inspection of the Shire's aerodrome.

Once water asset mapping is completed a water data base will also be introduced to record all accomplishments on Council's water assets.

Staff have put in a massive effort over the past two years to not only develop the mapping and capture systems but also to actually capture 75% of all Council assets. This project has been shared through both the IPWEA Riverina branch and REROC and the resultant interest in replication of the system amongst other councils has been encouraging.



## **Collaborative Leadership (SP4 – SP4.8, 10 & DPP4(4))**

Council believes in collaborative leadership as a joint approach to decision making about the direction that we as a community would like to take. Cootamundra Shire has over 130 volunteer and local community groups and many community leaders who champion numerous community projects, and who make things happen.

In February 2014 Council resolved to donate \$160,000 to the Cootamundra Nursing Home, a community owned and operated 61 bed facility, to be used for the installation of a fire safety sprinkler system. The Nursing Home Board lead a huge community fundraising effort, and, together with Council's contribution, raised \$460,000 to see the work completed.

Council celebrates its volunteers, and at a time when other communities are experiencing reduced volunteer participation, Council has large numbers of active volunteers providing services and fundraising for community infrastructure. Council actively supports local community groups and individuals to harness their skills, passion, time and commitment.

Council maximises opportunities for leveraging volunteer involvement by correlating volunteer work with volunteers' particular interests, motives, levels of commitment, and time availability. Volunteers have a strong sense of connection to the work they perform and the groups they work with. They are committed to the cause or mission they represent; and they have built up knowledge and skills through years of dedication and personal interest.

Council operates two visitors' attractions in Cootamundra that are entirely staffed by two dedicated groups of volunteers. Bradman's Birthplace Museum and The Cootamundra Heritage Centre are opened seven days a week from 9am to 5pm. At each of the museums, a volunteer gives a tour to the visitor, sharing their knowledge of the collections and telling stories of the history behind the displays.



**Bradman Birthplace Volunteers**



Volunteers are great advocates and representatives of Cootamundra to visitors as they are friendly and happy, they have time to spend and most of all, they are proud of their community and it shows. Council works with numerous volunteer committees to maintain community assets.

Council's library utilises a group of 7 regular volunteers every week for general maintenance and tidying of the book collection, and for the provision of a free internet tutoring service for seniors. In addition, the library makes use of volunteers for short-term episodic activities that add value to service provision such as school holiday program assistance, and recently for architectural advice about library interior design.

Council's Companion Animals Service attracts valuable volunteer time. Through the use of a volunteer program, Council is able to provide a care and wellbeing program to enhance the quality of life for impounded animals, and to assist with re-homing. In 2013/14 Council nominated one of its pound volunteers for a local service award for her work in helping Council since 2010 to re-home 123 animals, and reduced euthanasia rates by 24%.

Council partners with CanAssist (Cancer Assistance Network) who provide volunteers to cook breakfast at our weekly sheep and cattle sales. This partnership provides a great service (bacon and egg roll) to grateful agents and farmers using the Council facility, and through a gold coin donation, has earned CanAssist \$14,000 in the 2013/14 financial year.

The Cootamundra Showground Users Committee is a group of volunteers who manage and maintain the showground. In December 2013, with the involvement of Council staff, the Committee was successful in applying for \$100,000 to construct new toilet and shower amenities at the Cootamundra Showground.



## **Collaboration and Advocacy (SP4 – DPP4(4))**

Council prides itself on being an active participant in the local government arena and a constant advocate for the local community it serves. Council is never shy in making its views known in an effort to improve the local government sector overall and to improve the relationship of local government to all other levels of government. Council actively advocates community needs to other levels of government and during 2013/14 Council made submissions to the following:

- Independent Local Government Review
- A New Planning System for NSW
- A New Local Government Act for NSW
- T Corp Financial Assessment and Benchmarking Report
- NSW Draft Long Term Transport Master Plan
- Murray Murrumbidgee Regional Transport Plan
- Local Government Infrastructure Audit
- Local Land Services development
- Draft NSW Freight and Ports Strategy
- Review of Swimming Pools Act and adoption of Swimming Pools Register
- Model Asbestos Policy for NSW Council
- Companion Animals Taskforce
- Review of Weed Management in NSW
- Draft Work Health And Safety (Mines) Regulation 2014 Discussion Paper
- 2014 Federal Government Budget

Council believes that whilst its primary responsibility is the good of its citizens, there is a wider responsibility towards the future which requires Council to be involved in and try to influence every area that may impinge on its long term ability to care for and service its community.



Councillors also actively participate through holding leadership and decision making positions in many State and Regional organisations. An example of this during 2013/14 was Councillors holding executive roles in the following organisations: Local Government NSW, Local Government Procurement, StateCover, Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils; Goldenfields Water County Council.



## 7. LIST OF PROJECTS COMPLETED AT 30 JUNE 2014

References are used to link each project to Council's Delivery Program Priorities.

Ref	Nature of Project	Date Completed	Total Cost	% Council Funds	Source of Council Funds
DPP1 (10)	<b>Pool and Heating System – Stage 2</b> Construction of a 25 metre heated indoor pool complex	May 2014	\$1,300,000	100%	Loan - LIRS
DPP3 (33)	<b>Cootamundra Creative Arts Centre</b> Finalisation of Tin Shed Theatre dressing rooms	Mar 2014	\$256,400	59%	Revenue
DPP3 (31)	<b>Former Cootamundra Gasworks Rehabilitation</b> Removal and treatment of contaminated material	Jan 2014	\$555,600	10%	Revenue
DPP3 (6)	<b>Plant and Equipment Purchases</b> Plant and equipment purchases	June 2014	\$805,100	100%	Reserves
DPP3 (7)	<b>Cootamundra Saleyards</b> Construction of new sheep loading ramps	January 2014	\$76,000	20%	Reserves
DPP3 (7)	<b>Cootamundra Saleyards</b> Improvements to drafting area, pens and truckwash	June 2014	\$14,000	100%	Reserves
DPP1 (9)	<b>Albert Park</b> Remodelling of old dressing shed	Dec 2013	\$21,000	100%	Revenue
DPP1 (9)	<b>Captains Walk</b> Concrete path through the Captains Walk	Nov 2013	\$25,000	100%	Revenue
DPP1 (12)	<b>Stadium</b> Building upgrade	Nov 2013	\$10,000	100%	Revenue
DPP1 (9)	<b>Muttama Creek Parklands</b> Isometric Exercise Equipment, lighting	Sept 2013	\$50,000	80%	Revenue
DPP1 (9)	<b>Cootamundra Showground</b> Upgrades to buildings	Nov 2013	\$13,000	100%	Revenue
DPP3 (17)	<b>Water Mains Renewals</b> Renewals under the renewal program	Jun 2014	\$38,000	100%	Revenue

Ref	Nature of Project	Date Completed	Total Cost	% Council Funds	Source of Council Funds
DPP3 (18)	<b>Effluent Reuse Scheme</b> New Filtration System	Apr 2014	\$91,000	100%	Sewer Fund Reserve
DPP3 (18)	<b>Sewerage Treatment Works</b> Upgrade to aeration system	Feb 2014	\$16,000	72%	Sewer Fund Reserve
DPP2 (20)	<b>Waste Management</b> Purchase of green waste bins	Nov 2013	\$130,000	100%	Waste Reserve
DPP2 (20)	<b>Waste Depot</b> Improvements to Waste Transfer Station	Jun 2014	\$51,000	100%	Waste Reserve
DPP3 (21)	<b>State Roads</b> Storm damage restoration	June 2014	\$61,000	-	NA
DPP3 (21)	<b>State Roads</b> RMCC Contract, including heavy patching and resealing program	June 2014	\$944,000	-	NA
DPP3 (21)	<b>State Roads</b> Tanyinna Railway level crossing safety works	Jun 2014	\$126,000	-	NA
DPP3 (21)	<b>State Roads</b> Hovell St rehabilitation	Sep 2013	\$791,000	-	NA
DPP3 (22)	<b>Regional Roads</b> Capital works under the Repair program	Apr 2014	\$135,000	-	NA
DPP3 (25)	<b>R2R – Hovell Street Laneway</b> Reconstruct Laneway	Sep 2013	\$105,000	6%	Revenue
DPP1(9)	<b>Fisher Park</b> Bike Rack and Bike Safety Initiative	Sep 2013	\$5930	41%	Revenue
DPP3 (23)	<b>R2R – Old Cootamundra Road</b> Reconstruct intersection, correcting road dip	Mar 2014	\$175,650	-	NA

Ref	Nature of Project	Date Completed	Total Cost	% Council Funds	Source of Council Funds
DPP3 (23)	<b>R2R - Carool Road</b> Reconstruct and initial seal,	Jun 2014	\$181,000	-	NA
DPP3 (23)	<b>Bitumen Shire Roads</b> Sealing works and pavement reconstruction	Jun 2014	\$201,000	100%	Revenue
DPP3 (24)	<b>Gravel Shire Roads</b> Gravel re-sheeting	Jun 2014	\$117,000	100%	Revenue
DPP3 (23)	<b>March 2012 Flood Damage</b> Local and Regional renewal works	June 2014	\$1,446,000	2%	Revenue
DPP3 (25)	<b>Muttama Creek Cycleway and Pedestrian Path</b> Footpath construction and renewal	June 2014	\$94,000	50%	Revenue
DPP3 (25)	<b>Town &amp; Village Footpaths</b> Footpath construction and renewal	June 2014	\$28,000	100%	Revenue
DPP3 (25)	<b>Tree planting and street beautification</b>	June 2014	\$41,000	100%	Revenue
DPP1 (28)	<b>Library</b> Community programs and events	Jun 2014	\$5,800	-	NA
DPP1 (28)	<b>Library</b> New Computers and library furniture	February 2014	\$14,900	67%	Revenue
DPP3 (33)	<b>Tourism</b> Printing and distribution of Cootamundra Brochures	Jan 14	\$31,000	100%	Revenue
DPP3 (35)	<b>Caravan Park</b> Onsite storage shed	April 2014	\$14,700	100%	Reserves
DPP1 (37)	<b>Nursing Home</b> Council contribution for fire sprinkler system	Jun 2014	\$160,000	100%	Revenue



Police providing bike engraving and safe riding demonstrations at Council's Bike Safety Event, Sept 2013



Cootamundra Library runs weekly 'story time' for pre-schoolers



## 8. LIST OF PROJECTS IN PROGRESS AT 30 JUNE 2014

Ref	Nature of Project	% Completed 30 June 2014	Total Cost	% Council Funds	Source of Council Funds
DPP1 (9)	<b>Centenary of Anzac Memorial Gardens</b> Recognition of the centenary of WW1	55%	\$20,000	85%	Income
DPP1 (9)	<b>Fenced Dog Off-leash and Training Area</b> The provision of a safe and controlled environment for companion animals	94%	\$35,000	40%	Revenue
DPP2 (11)	<b>Showground Amenities</b> Replace existing 1960's toilet block with a new multipurpose amenities building containing male and female toilets, disabled toilet and two shower rooms.	60%	\$130,000	23%	Revenue
DPP3 (22)	<b>Regional Roads</b> Turners Lane upgrade	5%	\$48,000	50%	Revenue
DPP3 (23)	<b>R2R - Rosehill Road</b> Road widening.	40%	\$200,000	-	NA
DPP1 (29)	<b>Emergency Services</b> Construction of fire station at Cootamundra Airport	80%	\$103,000	11.7%	Revenue
DPP3 (27)	<b>Information Technology / Records</b> Replacement of the corporate business software system	85%	\$410,000	100%	Revenue



## 9. AWARDS & CITATIONS

- August 2011 – Cootamundra Shire Council – Winner A Division - Small Town - Big Solar at the Local Government & Shires Associations' Excellence in the Environment Awards – Energy Saving & Climate Change Adaptation / Mitigation
- June 2012 – Council's Public Relations Officer – Linda Wiles received the Award for Tourism and Promotion at the 2012 Cootamundra Business Awards.
- June 2013 – Council's Trainee Accountant – Matilda Cowan received the ATEL Trainee of the Year Award at the 2013 Cootamundra Business Awards.
- June 2014 – Council's Trainee Building Surveyor – Luke Izzard received the ATEL Trainee of the Year Award at the 2014 Cootamundra Business Awards.
- May 2014 – Cootamundra Library was nominated as one of Australia's Favourite Libraries with the Australian Library and Information Association.
- March 2014 – Council's Revenue Officer – Susan Parry was nominated for the Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government.
- May 2014 – Cootamundra Public Library, was nominated by the Australian Public for the Australia's Favourite Library Campaign.

