

Brewarrina Shire

DRAFT LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

17 February 2020



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

The Brewarrina Shire Council acknowledges and pays its respect to the Traditional Owners and their Nations of the Brewarrina Local Government Area including the Ngemba, Morawari, Barkinji, Kamilaroi, Koamu, Valari, Baranbinja, Wairadjuri, Yualwarri People. The contributions of earlier generations, including the Elders, who have fought for their rights in managing the land, is valued and respected. Brewarrina Shire Council acknowledges that the Traditional Owners and their Nations of the Brewarrina Shire have a deep cultural, social, environmental, spiritual and economic connection to their land. Brewarrina Shire Council understands the need for recognition of Traditional Owner knowledge and cultural values in the development of the Brewarrina Local Strategic Planning Statement and supports the belief that by working together we can provide beneficial outcomes for Traditional Owners and all people of the Brewarrina Shire.

FOR DISCUSSION

1 FOREWARD

A vision for our Shire in the future is reflecting a clear set of aspirations formed through the community feedback.

2 WHAT DOES THIS STRATEGY DO?

This Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets the framework for the economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years. The LSPS has also taken account of land use planning in adjacent Councils. It also works with Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP). The LSPS gives effect to the Far West Regional Plan, implementing the directions and actions at a local level. The LSPS planning priorities, directions and actions provide the rationale for decisions about how we will use our land to achieve the community's broader goals.

3 THE FAR WEST REGION

The focus for the future of the Far West is to leverage its competitive advantages and unlock the potential for unique economic opportunities. With vast distances and small populations that extend across government and regional boundaries, all tiers of government and the region's service providers face significant challenges.

4 MONITORING

Council will monitor, review and report on its LSPS annually to ensure that its planning priorities are being achieved. Council will use the existing Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework under the Local Government Act 1993 for the purpose of monitoring implementation of the LSPS.

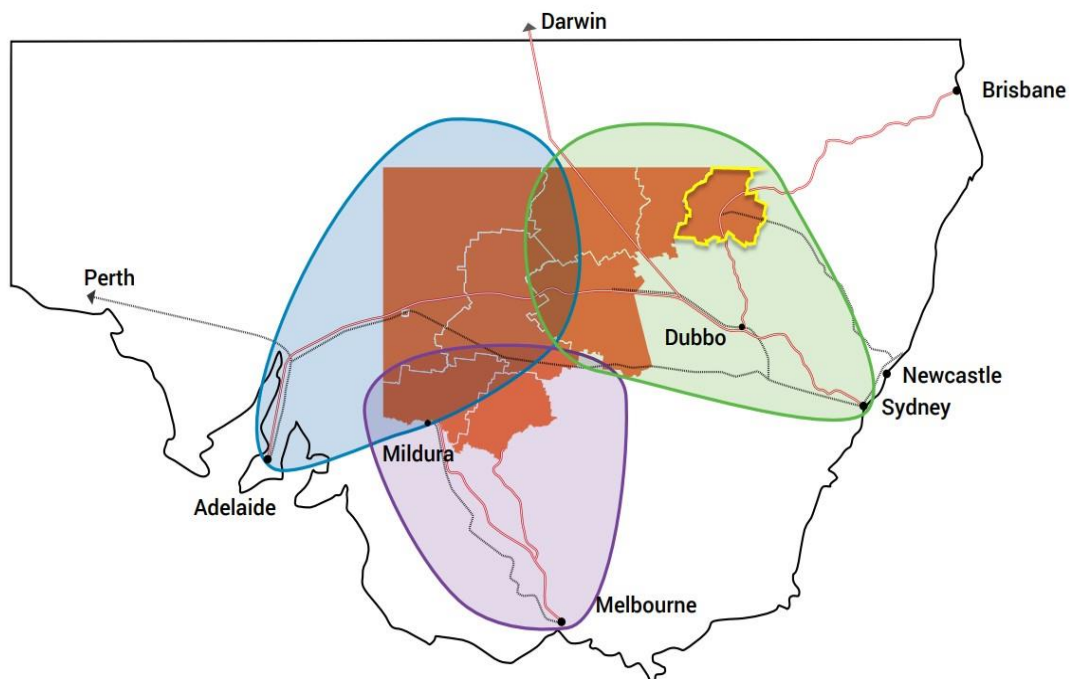


Figure 1: Far West Region

5 OUR UNIQUE SHIRE

Brewarrina Shire is located in the Outback Region of NSW. The Shire is approximately 760 kilometres northwest of Sydney, 380 kilometres north of Dubbo and is located between two high profile outback destinations – Lightning Ridge, 200 kilometres to the east, and Bourke, 98 kilometres to the west. Incorporating an area of 19,188 square kilometres, the Shire is bounded by the NSW-Queensland border in the north, Walgett and Warren Shires to the east, Bogan Shire to the south and Bourke Shire to the west.

The topography of the Shire includes extensive black soil plains along the Darling-Barwon River corridor, channel country along the ephemeral Bokhara, Birrie, Narran and Culgoa River systems, stony red-ridge country forming the drainage divides, and red sand dunes in the Culgoa National Park. The Barwon River, upstream of the Brewarrina Weir has permanent water year-round. The Shire has a semi-arid climate.

The Shire extends across the traditional lands of the Murawari, Barkinji, Weilwan, Kamilaroi, Koamu, Valarai, Baranbinja, Wiradjuri, Ngemba, and Yualwarri people. Pre-European settlement, Brewarrina was one of the great inter-tribal meeting places of Eastern Australia. Brewarrina is a deeply spiritual area, strongly linked to the Dreamtime creation stories (Baiaame's Footprint, the formation of the Fish Traps, the creation of Narran Lakes etc) which describe the formation of the inland river systems and the isolated mountain ranges (Byrock, Mt Oxley and Mt Gundabooka) in the surrounding region. Brewarrina is home to the Brewarrina Fish Traps (Baiaames Ngunnhu) which are believed to be the oldest man-made structure in the world, estimated to be 40,000+ years old. The Fish Traps are of international and national significance.

Agriculture is the primary landuse and economic activity within the Shire, producing sheep, cattle, goats, grain crops and cotton. Tourism is a small, but significant economic sector for the Shire.

At the 2016 Census, Brewarrina Shire had a resident population of 1,651, with 61.5% of the population being Aboriginal. Brewarrina (population 1,143) is the largest town and administrative centre of the Shire. Brewarrina is located on the Kamilaroi Highway at the junction of several regional roads and is a small service centre for local residents and highway and regional travellers. Brewarrina Shire has 4 small villages, Goodooga (pop. 247), Weilmoringle (pop. 77) and Angledool (pop. 58) in the north of the Shire and Gongolgon (pop. 40) in the south. Goodooga and Weilmoringle both have post office – general stores, with Goodooga also having functioning pub/hotel and a former bowling club.



Figure 2: Brewarrina

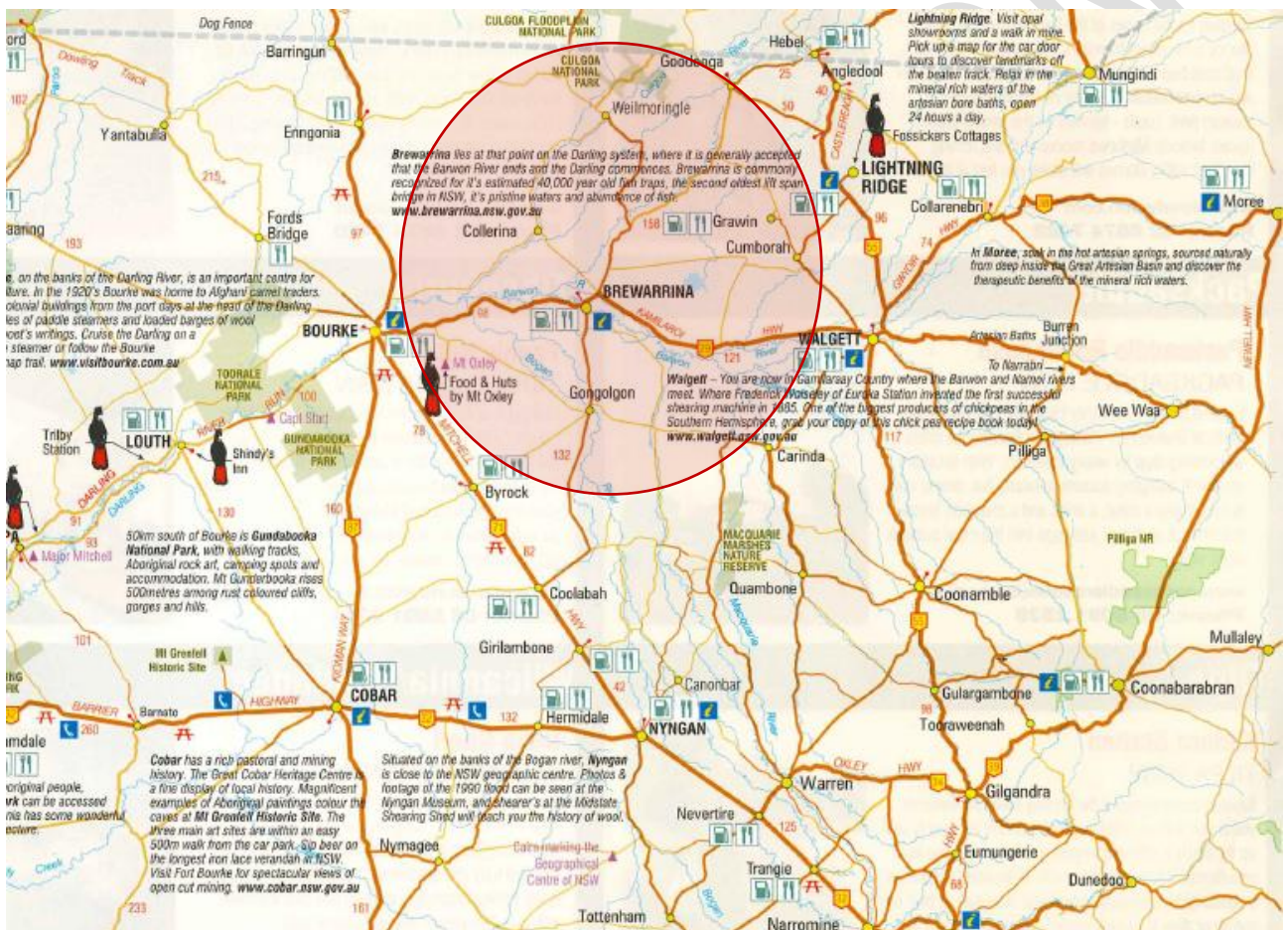


Figure 3: Brewarrina and surrounds

6 BREWARRINA SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

6.1 POPULATION

- The population of Brewarrina Town represents 52% of the total population of the Brewarrina Shire.
- Median age of residents in the Brewarrina Shire is 33 years.
- A quarter (25%) of Brewarrina Shire's population are children aged 0-14 Years
- In Brewarrina Shire 56.3% of housing is rented, 26.3% is owned outright and 11.85 is owned with a mortgage

6.2 ECONOMY

- In Brewarrina Shire 41.6% (736) of residents receive either a government pension or allowance
- People employed in the Brewarrina Shire work in the following industries
 - Agriculture 19.5%
 - School Education 13.6%
 - Local Government 9.4%
 - Hospital and Health 4.8%
 - Public Order and Safety 3.9%

6.3 EMPLOYMENT

- Brewarrina Shire has an unemployment rate of 12.4%
- 620 people are employed in the Brewarrina Shire (53.8% of labour force participation, 47% of residents are employed compared to population)
- 88 people are not employed in the Brewarrina Shire
- 525 people in the Brewarrina Shire are not in the labour force and receiving alternate assistance from government

Brewarrina Shire in 2016



Population
1,651



Median Age
33



Younger Population (0-14)
25%



Employment sector
53.8% labour force participation



Housing
56.3% of housing is rented



Median weekly household income
\$864

Brewarrina Shire in 2036



Population Projection
1,850



Most common household
36% Lone Person



Older Adults (65+)
22%

Data sources:

- ABS, 2018, *Regional Population Growth, Australia (Cat. No. 3218.0)*, ABS, Canberra
- DPE, 2016, *NSW population, household and implied dwellings projections*, DPE, Sydney

FOR DISCUSSION

VISION

“A UNITED AND INSPIRED COMMUNITY,
VALUING COUNTRY AND OUR HERITAGE,
WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE FUTURE OF
OUR PEOPLE AND LAND”



7 INDUSTRY SUSTAINABILITY

7.1 AGRIBUSINESS

Opportunities for diversification of activities within rural areas (including rural industries and tourism related uses) are encouraged. Steps will need to be taken to ensure that the productive capacity of the land is not significantly altered, conflicts with rural activities in the area are avoided, landscape and natural resource values are maintained, risks from natural hazards are minimised and development is appropriately located in one of the region's towns.

Most area of Brewarrina Shire is utilised for pastoral activities. Over 500 hectares are cultivated, with cotton being the predominant crop. This occupies less than 10% of the improved area, most of which is irrigated when water allocations are available. Irrigation has made the production of vegetables, forage sorghum, winter cereals, citrus, grapes, pumpkins and rockmelons feasible. These crops have the potential to target national and international niche markets. However, the prevailing drought has had a negative effect on the farmers who rely on high water levels to qualify for irrigation quotas. Merino sheep for wool production is the most important and enduring livestock enterprise in Brewarrina Shire. There is an opportunity to revive the old abattoir to capitalise on market demands for kangaroo. No change to the Brewarrina LEP 2012 is required in relation to agribusiness or industry.

7.2 TOURISM

Brewarrina Shire has an emerging tourism sector. Located on the Barwon River between Lightning Ridge and Bourke, Brewarrina is an ideal location for travellers to have a break from their journey. Visitors can stop to look at the internationally significant Brewarrina Fish Traps (Baiaime's Ngunnhu), tour the Aboriginal Cultural Museum, call into the Visitor Information Centre and explore the town. The Barwon River is a major attraction, the river upstream of the Brewarrina Weir is perennial and provides an opportunity for fishing, boating and water sports year-round.

Brewarrina forms the eastern end of the Darling River Run outback touring route and provides some of the best (if not the best) riverside camping sites along the Barwon-Darling River. Goodooga, in the north of the Shire is poised to see an increase in travellers. The sealing of the Goodooga Road between Brewarrina and the new hot artesian baths, the re-opening of the hotel and improvements to the Culgoa National Park will encourage travellers to explore the northern part of the Shire, with the opportunity to attract them south to Brewarrina. The on-going development of the tourism sector is a priority of Brewarrina Shire Council and the community.

Brewarrina also has several events which bring visitors into the Shire:

- Cod Cup horse racing carnival – May
- Baiaime's Ngunnhu Festival - April
- Bre-Big Fish – June Long Weekend
- Back to Mission Day – march

The Fish Traps are Brewarrina's highest profile attraction and are featured in promotional material for the Outback region. They are over 40,000 years old and the oldest known man-made structure in the world. Travellers are generally aware of the Fish Traps and stop specifically in Brewarrina to look at the traps. Most visitors have very limited knowledge of what the traps are, how they were constructed, used and their cultural significance. Unless visitors take a Museum tour, viewing the Fish Traps can be a poor experience as

their understanding is very limited, with visitors often having no idea where to look, particularly if the river levels are high and the traps are not visible.

The Brewarrina Aboriginal Cultural Museum is located on the Barwon River adjacent to the Fish Traps. The Museum offers Aboriginal-led tours of the Museum, Fish Traps and the State Heritage ochre beds with the tours bringing the Museum displays and Fish Traps 'to life'. The Museum is over 30 years old and needs a major refurbishment, including up-dating the displays and the interpretation, landscaping the grounds, and providing additional activities and facilities for visitors.

The Barwon River is a significant but under-promoted attraction for Brewarrina. The River has permanent water for a considerable distance upstream of the weir, being possibly the only location along the Darling River Run where travellers can be guaranteed access to water year-round for boating, fishing and riverbank camping. The river corridor has scenic views, a bird 'hot-spot' and is a great location for fishing. Brewarrina Shire Council has recently developed a hot artesian pool at Goodooga. This has the potential to increase visitation to Goodooga and the northern part of the Shire and draw visitors through Brewarrina, particularly when the Goodooga Road is fully sealed. NSW National Parks is looking to improve walking trails and accessibility within the Culgoa National Park (130 kilometres north of Brewarrina).

Brewarrina Shire has a very small accommodation sector with most properties located in Brewarrina and one in Goodooga. Primitive camping is available at the Four Mile and Boat Ramp riverside reserves in Brewarrina, Culgoa National Park and is adjacent to the new Goodooga Hot Artesian pool. Travellers also free camp in the rest areas along the Kamilaroi Highway and at the Narran River Reserve just off Bangate Road near Goodooga. The Brewarrina Clay Target Shooting Club and the Racecourse (for the rodeo only) permits camping on-site during their events.

Business and work-related travellers are the main market for the motel, hotel and self-contained cabin accommodation. Brewarrina often experiences capacity constraints midweek and during events due to high demand. The online presence of the accommodation sector is very poor. There is opportunity to improve this. Beds on the Barwon and the Brewarrina Caravan Park are the only accommodation properties with websites but lack online booking facilities. No Brewarrina accommodation is found through major online booking sites such as booking.com, wotif or expedia. Instead, these sites identify properties in the neighbouring towns of Walgett and Bourke.

Council have invested in the Development of a Brewarrina Destination Management Plan (adopted in October 2019) and are committed to focusing on opportunities to enhance the tourism sector including:

- Weir precinct
- Boat ramp reserve
- Old park
- Four mil reserve
- River cruise
- Canoe hire/tours
- Summer – Water sports

7.3 TRANSPORT

Brewarrina Shire is traversed by the Kamilaroi Highway, which is a fully sealed State Highway connecting the New England Highway at Willow Tree in the east to Bourke in the west. The Kamilaroi intersects with the Newell Highway at Narrabri, the Castlereagh Highway at Walgett and the Mitchell Highway and Kidman Way at Bourke. The Kamilaroi Highway, Castlereagh Highway (Great Inland Way) and Kidman Way are promoted as touring routes. The Kamilaroi is the main link between Walgett and Bourke, bringing travellers through Brewarrina.

Within the Outback Region, Brewarrina marks the eastern end of the Darling River Run which follows the Barwon-Darling River from Brewarrina through to the confluence with the Murray River at Wentworth. The Darling River Run also generates visitors for the Shire.

North-south access through the Shire is provided by several regional roads. Arthur Hall VC Way links the Mitchell Highway at Coolabah, north to Brewarrina, with this route being fully sealed. The Goodooga Road is the main route north, linking Brewarrina with Hebel in Queensland via Goodooga, and forming part of the access road to Weilmoringle. Goodooga Road is sealed from Brewarrina to Jobs Gate Road (50 kilometres), with the section from Jobs Gate Road to Hebel (about 120 kilometres) being unsealed and not ideal for 2WD vehicles nor caravans. The section from Goodooga to Hebel (approximately 40 kilometres) will be sealed within the next 12 months, with the section south of Goodooga progressively sealed over the next 5 years (funding dependent). Bangate Road provides sealed access from Goodooga east to the Castlereagh Highway, with Lightning Ridge being 72 kilometres east of Goodooga. The sealing of the road between Goodooga and Hebel will provide the opportunity to promote a triangular touring route from Lightning Ridge to Hebel via Goodooga. The completion of the seal from Hebel through to Brewarrina will significantly reduce travel times and provide a much shorter (saves more than 100 kilometres) route than the Castlereagh – Kamilaroi Highway route that travellers are currently taking rather than travelling the Goodooga Road. This will change travel dynamics in the northern part of the Shire and provide a fully sealed north-south route linking Coolabah on the Mitchell Highway through to Hebel on the Castlereagh Highway.

Weilmoringle has sealed access from Brewarrina via Goodooga Road – Jobs Gate Road. Jobs Gate Road continues onto Queensland with the section north of Weilmoringle being unsealed. Goodooga and Weilmoringle are gateways to the Culgoa (NSW) and Culgoa Floodplains (Queensland) National Park with the Park access roads being unsealed. There are also un-sealed local roads linking Brewarrina with Enngonia to the north west and to the Narran Lakes area and to Cumborah and the Grawin opals fields to the north east. The unsealed roads are generally closed following rain.

NSW Train Link provides a coach service, 4 times per week, between Dubbo and Brewarrina, via Nyngan. There is no east-west coach link between Bourke, Brewarrina and Walgett.

Brewarrina and Goodooga airports are licensed for general aviation, with each having a sealed runway and pilot activated lights, but no fuel. The airports are suitable for smaller charter flights and recreational flying including aero-club fly ins. The nearest airport to the Shire with commercial RPT services is Dubbo.

Major transport corridors and infrastructure, including the airport, the railway, highways and major roads, are protected from encroachment by development which would detract from their safety or operational efficiency.

Old bridge over Barwon River. Brewarrina, NSW.



8 HEALTHY AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY

8.1 OUR CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC

The Brewarrina LGA, like many other communities is undergoing significant demographic change. Recognising that we are a population in decline and anticipating future decline by investigating ways to mitigate change is vital for community sustainability. We are focused on ensuring continued and expanded service provision is accessible for the community to foster sustainable prosperity. We have identified that the key drivers of change are:

- Climate, particularly water availability and reoccurring drought conditions
- Access to higher order services
- Encourage continuity of industry and employment

Our community is aging and ensuring the current access to low level care remains available in town is essential to allow our community to age in place. These services include residential care and in-home care. Recognising the need for many older residents to move away for higher order services and supporting this transition is also important in our Shire.

Our remote location reduces the number of professionals willing to reside in the Shire. Coupled with the absence of sustainable industries across our Shire, these factors contribute significantly to demographic change. Stabilising our economy by adapting to climate variations as well as increasing accessibility within the Shire and to larger centres would support the retention of professionals in Brewarrina Shire.

8.2 HOUSING

Housing is predominantly in the form of dwelling houses and duplexes, but may also include small scale multiple dwellings, retirement or residential care facilities and short-term accommodation to provide for 'whole of life' accommodation choices. Growth and development will assist in consolidating Brewarrina within the designated town boundaries. This will assist in strengthening the identity of our community, maintaining the viability of infrastructure and services, avoiding natural hazards and reducing pressure on our valuable water and land resources. Council will investigate the demand to extend the rural residential zone for any additional housing development. Reviewing the Brewarrina LEP 2012 to ensure that residential land is appropriately zoned for future demand will support the future of Brewarrina.

Brewarrina Shire Council is within the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly, along with three 3 Local Aboriginal Lands Council's based at Brewarrina, Goodooga and Weilmoringle. The aboriginal land council's whom are the only legal authority within the aboriginal reserve areas. The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) is the peak Aboriginal governance body for the Murdi Paaki Region representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples throughout western NSW. The NSW Government and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (the Assembly) have entered into an Agreement (under the auspices of the Murdi Paaki Local Decision-Making Accord) to work together to improve outcomes for Aboriginal people in the Murdi Paaki Region. The NSW Government and the Assembly have further agreed, among other initiatives, to work in partnership through the Agreement to improve Aboriginal social housing outcomes in the Murdi Paaki region. This Agreement is underpinned by the Accord signed between the Assembly and the NSW Government, and the governance established under this Agreement may be considered in other aspects of Accord implementation.

The Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly (RAHLA) is tasked with devising and pursuing actions as a joint decision-making body to achieve the following objectives:

- Support joint decision making on the delivery of social housing outcomes in the Murdi Paaki region;
- Advise government and the Assembly on ways to direct social housing programs and policies to operate effectively and efficiently, to respond to the priorities of Aboriginal communities in the region and establish mutually agreed service outcomes with the NSW Government;
- Conceive, develop, plan and implement strategies and actions to give effect to the allocation of the \$15 million; and
- Commence the co-design of an Aboriginal social housing plan for the region.

Council is committed to supporting the outcomes of this initiative.

8.3 PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

8.3.1 Increase resilience to climate change and natural hazard risks

Our communities are exposed to the severity of our climate. Brewarrina located on the Barwon River has greater than 40km of river water stored behind the weir wall, which has the best water supply of any towns within the western region, due to this does not require water restrictions to be imposed. The towns of Weilmoringle, Goodooga and Angledool are all supplied using high quality artesian water piped to the village properties. The towns of Brewarrina and Goodooga has a water treatment plant to offer a potable water supply for the communities.

The Gongolgon village relies entirely on Bogan river water supply. The water supply in dry times has issues with Blue/Green Algae along within the case of severe drought has to have potable water supply shipped to the town from Brewarrina. Brewarrina has recently installed a new artesian bore with high quality water, some 60km from Brewarrina on the Goodooga Road, the council have envisaged the possibility in the future of piping the artesian water back to Brewarrina as a secondary back-up water supply.

New development or the intensification of uses in areas potentially affected by flooding or bushfire will be avoided, other than where development that can be designed or sited to minimise risk to people, property and the environment. We recognise our community is susceptible to extreme temperatures and will ensure our current and future developments are adapted to maintain our resilience to temperature variability.

Agricultural and mining activities, and aviation and emergency services (including fire and flood management) rely on accurate and real-time weather information. Regional Development Australia Orana has investigated the feasibility of installing a Doppler weather radar service in the Orana region, which would significantly improve the accuracy of weather data in the Far West and Central West and Orana.

Brewarrina airport has been identified as the locations for a Doppler. Real-time weather data will help communities to better deal with natural hazards, and enables emergency services, aviation, businesses, authorities, tourists and residents to make better decisions on immediate weather conditions. Weather information can be added to existing meteorological record-keeping to give a clearer picture of rainfall trends.

Any future development will consider the potential for extreme weather events and wherever possible is located and designed to suit the local climate, particularly by reducing reliance on non-renewable energy and water consumption, especially during times of drought.

8.3.2 Protect and manage environmental assets

The Culgoa National Park is outback colours: ochre and brown and yellow, scorched by the sun. It's also home to majestic river red gums and wide grassy floodplains, with wildflowers blooming after the wet season and the coolabah tree, a native species made famous by the bush ballad Waltzing Matilda. Culgoa has more coolabah woodland than any other national park in NSW. Culgoa National Parks the archetypical scene evoked in the popular idea of the Australian outback, filled with billabongs and buzzing rivers and croaking cicadas in dry leaves. Visitors to Culgoa will find a fascinating park filled with Aboriginal history and the legacy of colonial pastoralists who once worked the land. And there's plenty to do, too, from fishing in the river after the rains to birdwatching and spotting nocturnal animals – brushtail possums and little pied bats. Self-sufficient campers will find a quiet retreat and day-trippers will find places to picnic near Brigalow-gidgee woodland.

Narran Lake Nature Reserve was created in October 1988. It covers an area of 26,480 hectares. Narran Lake Nature Reserve is not open to members of the public. In order to protect nesting birds, access to the reserve is limited to those undertaking scientific studies. The Narran Lake Nature Reserve Ramsar site was listed under the Ramsar Convention in 1999 for its wetlands and the unique ecological communities within them.

Protecting our unique vegetation and reducing the presence of overstocked land is a concern for council. The Indigenous and European cultural heritage is also of significance to the Region and state of NSW. Any future development will avoid and be buffered from areas of environmental significance and protect the integrity and viability of habitat and biodiversity values, and biophysical and ecological processes. No change to the Brewarrina LEP 2012 is required.

8.4 CELEBRATE HERITAGE ASSETS

The Shire's rich Aboriginal cultural heritage is integral to its identity and character. Aboriginal cultural heritage includes places and items significant to Aboriginal people because of their traditions, observances, lore, customs, beliefs and history. They include important burial, battle, camping, hunting and fishing sites. Aboriginal cultural heritage also relates to the connection and sense of belonging that people have with the landscape and with each other. Ongoing data collection will identify and protect cultural heritage assets. Conserving these assets and respecting the Aboriginal community's right to determine how these assets are identified and managed, will help preserve their significant values.

Engagement and partnerships with Aboriginal communities provide opportunities for information sharing and more effective management of cultural values and cultural heritage. Harm to Aboriginal objects and places, or areas significant to Aboriginal people, must be avoided. Any proposed management or development activity must consider the potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Council will update Brewarrina Shire heritage study and LEP 2012 as required.

8.4.1 Ngunnhu and Ochre Beds

This elaborate network of rock weirs and pool, called the Ngunnhu, built to catch fish as they swam upstream, stretches from around 400 metres along the Barwon/ Darling River bed just below the weir. The Ngunnhu are still luring fish today as they did over 40,000 years ago and the area is a significant place for local Aboriginal people. Just downstream from the Ngunnhu you will find the State Heritage listed Ochre Beds nestled into the banks of the Barwon River. Ochre is traditionally mixed with water to create a paste and is used in ceremonial body painting, traditional rituals & as a paint for artefacts and message diagrams associated with their nomadic lifestyle.

Hospital Creek

Many stories surround the story of the Hospital Creek Massacre. There are accounts covering the massacre, one of the accounts suggest that a white boundary rider from 'Quantambone Station' took an Aboriginal woman and was attacked and killed by the native men. The whites, in retribution, rounded up the Aborigines, chased them over the river and eventually killing them at Hospital Creek. It is said that 400 Aboriginal people were killed on that terrible day. The Brewarrina Local Aboriginal Land Council has erected a monument near this historical site, which can be viewed at Hospital Creek, 27 kilometres out on the Goodooga Road.

8.4.2 State Heritage Listed Brewarrina Mission

The Mission at Brewarrina was opened in 1886 on a site that was 14 kilometres upstream from the township of Brewarrina. Aboriginal people from different tribes and family groups were taken from outlying stations and communities as far away as Tibooburra and Angledool relocated to the mission. The Brewarrina Mission became the home of Ngemba, Murrawarri, Weilan, Gamilarray, Wiradjuri, Yprta-Yorta, Barkindji, Wongaibon, Kaomu, Burranbinja, Wanyawalku, Kullili, Wangkamara, Bunjakli, Kurinu, Walpri and Ardnamatana tribes.

8.4.3 Barwon Bridge

The Brewarrina Barwon Bridge is one of the few remaining lift span bridges in NSW. It was used to allow traffic to move over the rivers, lifting in the centre span permitting paddle steamers to continue up and down the river. The Bridge was a technically sophisticated structure when built in 1889 and required two men to wind a pulley mechanism to lift the spans. It was later modified in 1913 so that only one person was required to operate it. The bridge contributed to the social and commercial development of North Western NSW, by helping open up the "back country" in the late 1800's.

FOR DISCUSSION

9 ACTION TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION

Focus	Alignment with Policy	Strategic Outcome	Description
Tourism	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 5	Promote and diversify local tourism market	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote local indigenous cultural opportunities in tourism, including river walks, art workshops and a cultural centre. 2. Ensure experiences are available throughout the year to accommodate seasonal fluctuations 3. Work with National Parks to expand operations into the tourism sector 4. Work with neighbouring regional councils/JO to develop a tourism strategy
Infrastructure	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 4	Diversify energy supply through renewable energy generation	5. Facilitate small-scale renewable energy projects using bioenergy, wind, small-scale hydro, geothermal or other innovative storage technologies through working with providers and ensure use is permissible in the local environment plan.
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 8	Enhance access to telecommunications	6. Identify options to improve access to shared telecommunication and internet services, including public access to services at community centres and schools.
Changing Demographic	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 20	Plan for a changing demographic	7. Prepare management strategies for declining populations
Housing	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 27	Sustainably manage residential development	8. Ensure any future residential development is located on land that is appropriately zoned and serviced.
Protect our Natural Environment	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 26	Deliver long-term water security	9. Work with Federal and State Government to deliver long term water security in a timely manner.
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 15	Manage land uses along river corridor	10. Develop a management strategy that considers and assesses the potential impacts of new development on biodiversity along the River corridor.
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 16	Increase resilience to climate change	11. Incorporate the findings of the Far West Enabling Regional Adaptation project to inform land use and planning decisions.
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 17	Manage natural hazard risks	12. Incorporate the best available hazard information in local plans consistent with current flood and bushfire studies, flood planning levels, modelling and floodplain and bushfire risk management plans.
Celebrate Heritage Assets	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 18	Respect and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage assets	13. Protect, manage and respect Aboriginal objects and places in accordance with legislative requirements.
	Far West Regional Plan – Direction 19	Conserve and adaptively re-use European heritage assets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Review and update heritage studies in consultation with the community to recognise and conserve heritage assets and items and include appropriate local planning controls. 15. Investigate opportunities to redevelop and enhance streetscapes and entrances to all towns



Ngunnhu fish traps at the Barwon River. Brewarrina. NSW