



Local Strategic Planning Statement

Coonamble Shire Council

April 2020

Adopted by Council: 13/05/2020



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Foreword

I am pleased to present the Coonamble Local Strategic Planning Statement.

Coonamble Shire is excited to be developing with the community a vision for land use for the next 20 years. The statement is an important and significant step in planning for Coonamble's future economic, social and environmental needs.

This strategic planning process helps us to give direction and certainty for the Shire and in making the necessary decisions on how to best protect our valued limited resources while seeing the Shire continue to progress and grow into the future.

The statement recognises that Coonamble is a great place to live and work. With our population forecast slowly declining to 2041, we will face new opportunities and challenges in the coming 20 years. There will be opportunities to diversify our economy and take advantage of mega trends within a changing world, such as a growing demand for food and experiential tourism destinations.

The challenge is to plan for change and progression in our community over the next two decades in a way that enhances the character of our local area, retains the character that is special and unique to us and protects those elements what make Coonamble a positive progressive place.

Councillor Ahmad Karanouh

Mayor

About the Statement

This Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets the framework for Coonamble Shire’s economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years. It outlines clear planning priorities describing what will be needed, where these are located and when they will be delivered. The LSPS sets short, medium and long-term actions to deliver the priorities for the community’s vision. These timeframes will be developed by Council in conjunction with the community.

This LSPS has been prepared in accordance with section 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act). The LSPS brings together and builds on the planning work found in Council’s other plans, studies and strategies, such as the Local Environmental Plan (LEP), Development Control Plan (DCP) and Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The LSPS will be used to update key components of these plans to present a consistent strategic direction for Coonamble.

The LSPS gives effect to the *Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036*, implementing the directions and actions at a local level. As an integrative local plan, it is also informed by several of the NSW Premiers Priorities, the Regional Development Framework and the *Destination Country and Outback NSW Management Plan 2018-2020*, amongst others.

The LSPS has also taken account of land use planning in adjacent Orana Councils, including Bogan, Warren, Gilgandra, Narromine and Warrumbungle as identified in the Western Councils Sub-Regional Strategy dated 2010. It focuses on land uses currently within the Council’s CSP, which has a similar but broader purpose as to how Council will work to meet the community’s needs. 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.



Figure 1 LSPS integration with other strategies

Consultation

The Coonamble LSPS has been based primarily on the consultation that was carried out for the Integrated and Reporting framework in 2017 as part of the CSP. The LSPS is required to be consistent with the CSP and any other strategic plans. Council has sought community and State Agency feedback on this strategic land use document.

Council's approach to consultation was build upon and tested the results of the extensive engagement undertaken in developing Coonamble Shire's Community Strategic Plan 2017.

The draft LSPS was made available for community consultation for a period of 28 days.

Our Vision, Our Future

Coonamble Shire is a connected, respectful and diverse community, working together in a healthy natural environment that supports our vibrant local economy



Figure 2 Street character on Castlereagh Street

Stretching from the Warrumbungle Mountain Range to the Macquarie Marshes, Coonamble bridges the east-west divide where the eastern hills meet the western plains. Coonamble strategically sits on the Castlereagh Highway and is nestled alongside the sandy Castlereagh River and continues to support the nearby town and village of Gulargambone and Quambone.

Coonamble's connected centres allow for the successful rural communities to access high quality health, aged care and community services and facilities. Local service centres continue to benefit from increased economic activity in the agribusiness, tourism and service sectors.

People from metropolitan areas are attracted to its internationally significant environmental areas, such as the Macquarie Marshes, the rich historic towns and villages and its diverse lifestyle

opportunities. Coonamble is an ideal waypoint for freight and tourists moving between southern Australia and Queensland.

The landscape and ecology of Coonamble is enhanced and preserved through clear and simple planning frameworks and management practices establishing communities that are known for their climate change resilience, secure water for the environment, industry and growing urban demands.

The local community is active in supporting progressive and healthy environments, such as waste-resource initiatives and community driven environmental stewardship arrangements. Coonamble Shire is vibrant and strong, providing diverse housing and employment in a friendly rural atmosphere. The Shire retains its productive agricultural landscape; protects and embraces broad acre agriculture; seizes the tourism opportunities of the Macquarie Marshes and Warrumbungle's National Park and maintains its liveable and close community.

Coonamble is anchored by the resilient agricultural industry and thrives in the areas of nature-based tourism. Our rich environment and unique urban settlements all contribute to our identity and need to be protected to support healthy ecosystems and our way of life.

Tourism is booming, drawing bird-watchers and nature lovers from across the country and internationally, strong regional economy and generating jobs. Connection to Country is pivotal to all land use decisions made with strong connections built with local Aboriginals.

Context

Our Shire – A Snapshot

Coonamble Shire is a rural local government area of some 4,000 people located on the Castlereagh Highway nestled on the sandy Castlereagh River. Located less than two hours' drive north of Dubbo and six hours north-west of Sydney, Coonamble covers the western slopes of the Warrumbungle Range and the Castlereagh alluvial plains.

Coonamble was proclaimed a town in 1861 and a municipality in 1880. The former shire of Coonamble was merged with the former shire of Wingadee in 1957 and is now the Coonamble Shire Council. Its name is derived from an Aboriginal word meaning “bullock dung” and “amazing sight” which is reflective of the rich agricultural Castlereagh alluvial plain and the internationally recognised natural landscaped in the Coonamble hinterland.

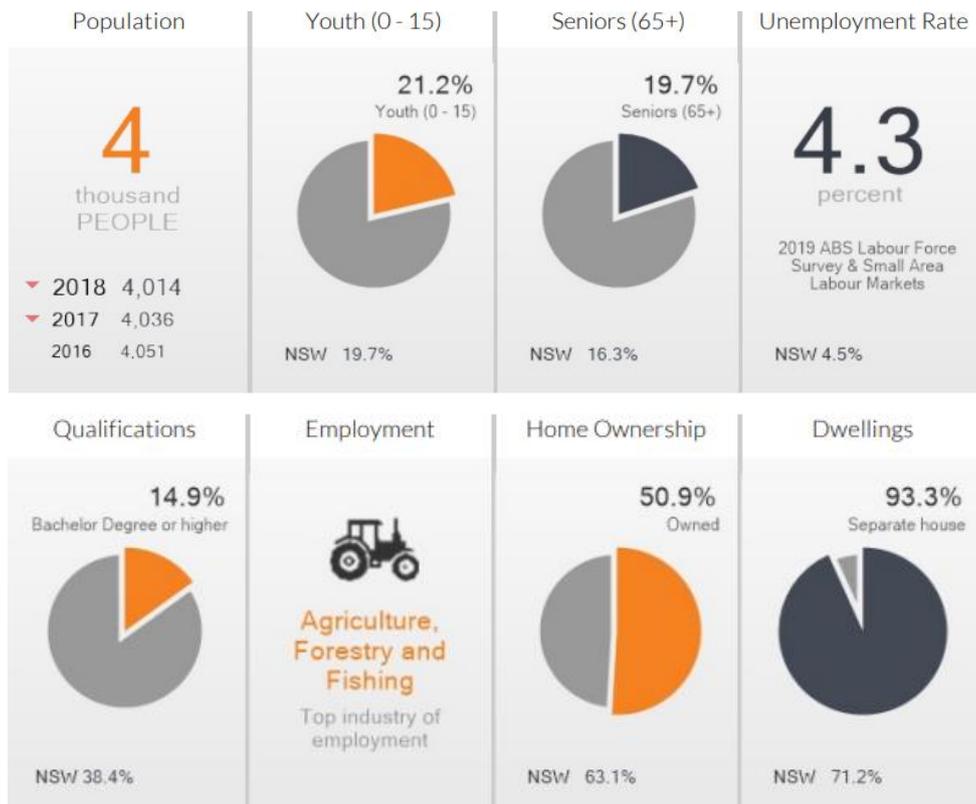


Figure 3 Coonamble demographic snapshot

Part of the Orana region, Coonamble includes the town of Coonamble and the villages of Quambone and Gulargambone. The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 9,900 square kilometres. Rural land is used primarily for agriculture, particularly sheep and cattle grazing, and wheat growing. Coonamble relies heavily on its agricultural income and rural industries, with agriculture being the top employer.

Traditionally home to the Weilwan and Gamilaraay people, Coonamble Shire is now inclusive and progressive, keen to retain its rich historic past while embracing the opportunities that lie ahead. The first Europeans in the area were the 1818 exploration party of John Oxley. A member of the team, George Evans, encountered the Castlereagh River near the future town site, naming it after Lord Castlereagh, the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

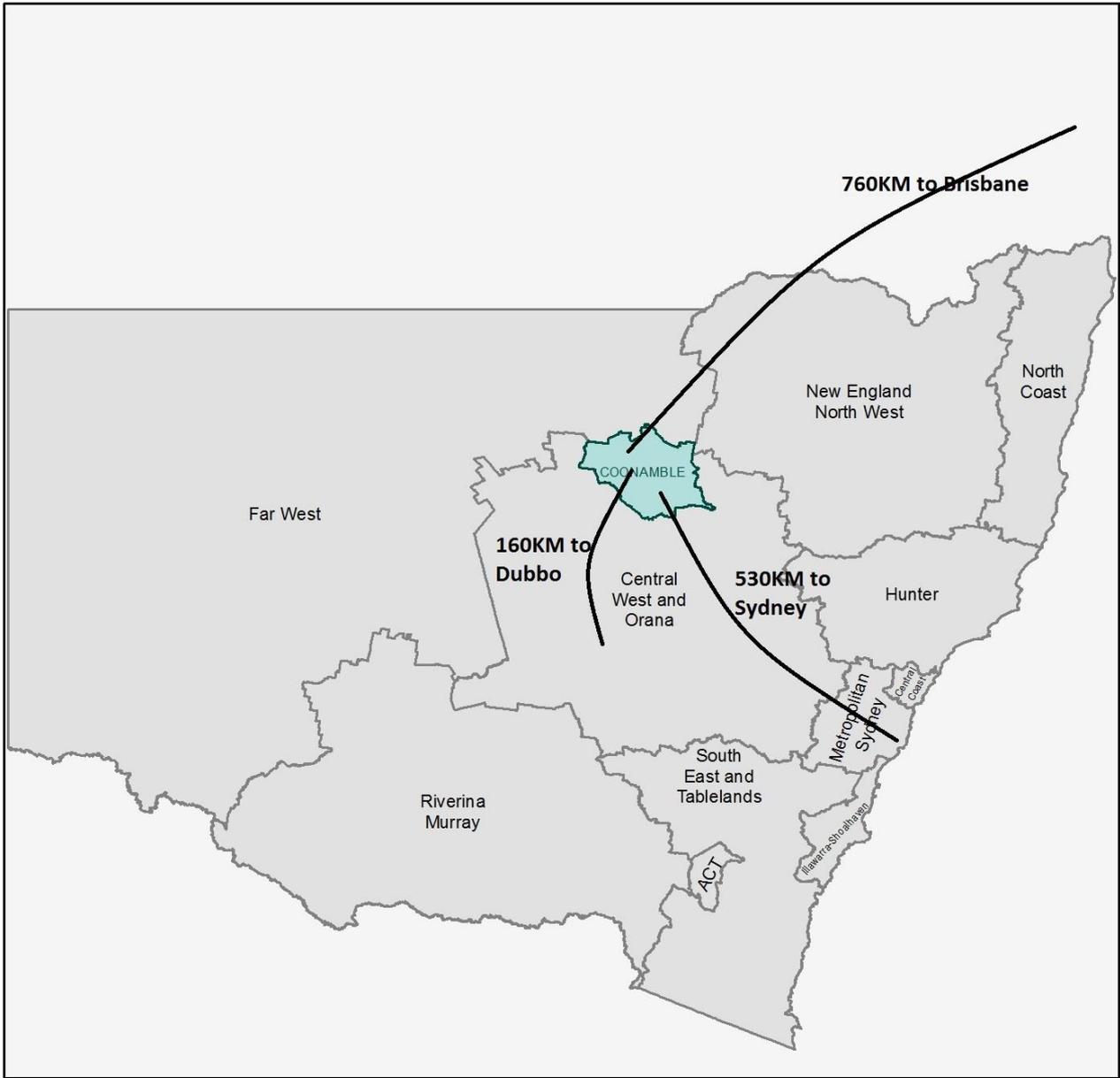


Figure 4 Coonamble Context Map



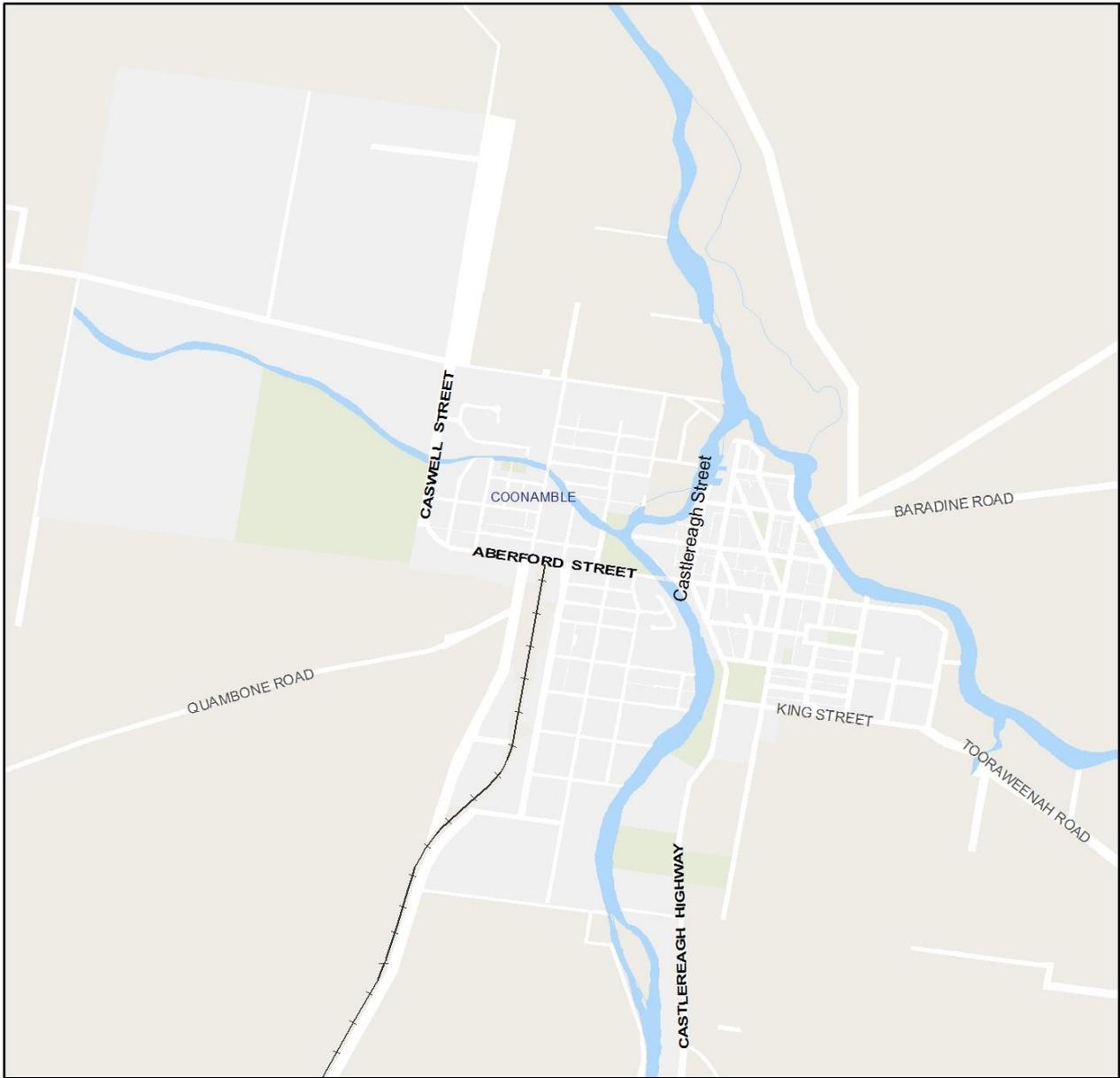
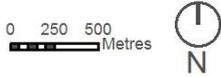


Figure 5 Town of Coonamble



Legend

- Watercourse
- +— Railway Rail
- Urban Footprint
- Rural Footprint

Our themes and planning priorities

To deliver the vision for 2040, Coonamble will prioritise rising to take advantage of the region's opportunities and meet the challenges of the future to ensure that the local government area becomes the welcoming, sustainable and diversified community and region this vision envisages it to be.

Coonamble's vision for 2040, including the opportunities and challenges it will meet along the way, have been condensed into three strong themes:

- **Enhance community wellbeing and quality of life within safe neighbourhoods;**
- **Promote a sustainable balance between development and commercial interests while protecting the environment; and**
- **A strong and diverse economy with development and employment opportunity, supporting a diverse population.**

These three themes capture the way Coonamble will succeed and remain dynamic into the future. The themes will be implemented through planning priorities, policy and actions. The planning priorities are as follows:

Community and Place

Enhance community wellbeing and quality of life within safe neighbourhoods

Priority 1 Promote and enhance the identity and unique character of Coonamble and the villages of Gulargambone and Quambone.

Priority 2 Encourage a connected, active and healthy community.

Priority 3 Provide contemporary services and local infrastructure for the community to thrive.

Environment

Promote a sustainable balance between development and commercial interests while protecting the environment.

Priority 4 Protect and promote the importance of the Macquarie Marshes.

Priority 5 Protect and manage natural areas and natural resources, particularly water security and waste management.

Priority 6 Be responsive and adaptive to climate change.

Economy

A strong and diverse economy with development and employment opportunity, supporting a diverse population.

Priority 7 Leverage opportunities for increased tourism from surrounding natural landscapes.

Priority 8 Promote business and development opportunities.

Priority 9 Capitalise on the Coonamble Airport infrastructure and future land uses.

Community and Place

Enhance community wellbeing and quality of life within safe neighbourhoods





Priority 1 - Promote and enhance the identity and unique character of Coonamble and the villages of Gulargambone and Quambone

The welcoming nature and the coming together of the community is what makes the town of Coonamble the villages of Quambone and Gulargambone, as well as the localities of Combara, Gilgooma and Wingadee the unique places they are today. The people have a common passion for the area they live in and the desire to retain and enhance its local identity. Large scale nature-based artworks on the entry to Coonamble and Gulargambone all provide a sense of place and ownership. Strengthening local identity and social cohesion will build sustainable and empowering local employment opportunities and add to the Region's tourism offerings.

There is a significant Aboriginal population in Coonamble. Consultation for the Coonamble CSP recognised the strong desire in the Aboriginal community to take on a greater role in leadership and enhancing the way Coonamble expresses its cultural character. There is opportunity to engrain Aboriginal culture into place-based planning, particularly in the development of the Coonamble Shire Masterplan.

Home to the Gamilaraay and Weilwan Aboriginal communities, Coonamble holds strong Aboriginal culture, history, art and links to country. There is currently limited recognition of Coonamble's unique Aboriginal history in the planning system. Often too sensitive to promote or identify specifically in local plans, landscape assessment methodologies can be used to develop predictive mapping to recognise the likelihood of areas containing items of cultural significance. Undertaking such work elevates the Aboriginal culture and character in the area.

The Castlereagh River is known as an 'upside down river', given it flows beneath the sand for most of the year. The river runs through the towns of Gulargambone and Coonamble. The distinctive wide yellow sand beds add unique natural character to the towns. There is opportunity to better embrace this ephemeral river system and better integrate it into the town's evolving character. The Castlereagh River begins its journey 20 km west of Coonabarabran in the heart of the Warrumbungle mountains, from which it meanders west through Coonamble and on into the Macquarie River.

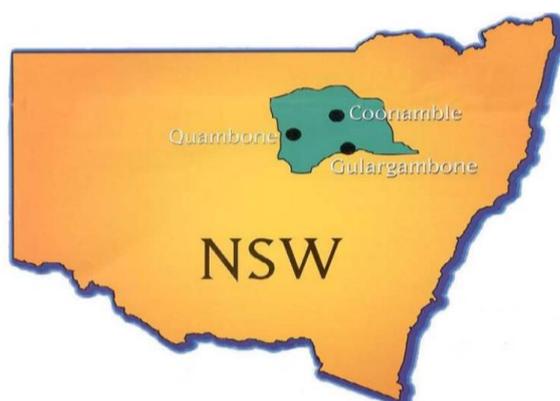


Figure 6 Location of Coonamble Shire's 3 key urban settlements

Coonamble

Coonamble is located on the 'Great Inland Way', (Sydney to Cooktown via inland NSW and QLD) and is situated on the 'upside down' Castlereagh River with a myriad of locational advantages to capitalise on. Yet Coonamble has been struggling against the common inland regional battle of population decline and a decade of intermittent drought. Castlereagh Street, the gently sloping northerly orientated main-street, has provided the foundation of a town centre. The historic buildings on the main street such as the Coonamble Post Office and the Commercial Hotel are strong anchor points with the town character revolving around such historical buildings. Past street-scaping has provided for wide footpaths, which could be capitalised on with the development of a new CBD Masterplan to create an attractive social space conducive to the establishment of e.g. boutique and speciality shops.

The implementation of the new CBD Masterplan should assist with capturing passing tourists; creating an inviting entryway to Castlereagh Street and encouraging traffic to enter the established and historical business district.

Vacant buildings within the main street offer opportunity for adaptive reuse. For example, the Plaza Theatre is a landmark in Castlereagh Street. Investigation into the main street must consider the use of such buildings and the role they play in Coonamble's main street character.

The Coonamble CBD Revitalisation Project undertaken in 2008 provided strategic direction and support to reinvigorate this precinct. The project also identified the need to prevent retail leakage from the main CBD area which would lead to increased shop vacancies. Given the Coonamble CBD Revitalisation Project is now over 10 years old and had never been fully implemented, it is timely to undertake the development of a revised strategy, i.e. the Coonamble Shire Masterplan – which incorporates a particular focus on the Coonamble CBD.

The state listed heritage item of Coonamble Railway Station and Yards located on the south western fringe of Coonamble provides a strong basis to reinvigorate this precinct back into the mainstream character of Coonamble. Adaptive reuse of this recognised, yet somewhat forgotten heritage should be encouraged and incentivised to allow for this important history to be celebrated and protected.



Figure 7 Coonamble historic railway precinct

Gulargambone

Gulargambone is a small rural community 48 kilometres south of Coonamble on the Castlereagh Highway and the Castlereagh River. It was declared a village in 1883. It has a population of 500 and approximately 1,000 in the postcode 2828. Community spirit and passion for the village has put ‘Gular’ on the tourist map. The progressive community has led projects such as the first community-owned Post Office in Australia, and installed local art and sculpture pieces. These initiatives have enhanced the town charm and local character. The village’s vibrantly painted buildings and adaptively reused heritage buildings are complimented by the daily hustling of people along Bourbah Street, the main street through ‘Gular’. Recognising and preserving the village’s identity is vital; not only for the locals, but to ensure its recognition as a tourist destination is not unduly impacted by future out-of-character developments.

Aboriginal inhabitants of Gulargambone prior to European settlement were the Weilwan people, whose tribal territory extended to Quambone, near the Macquarie Marshes. The tapestry of early life included intricate ceremonies – ‘Boras’ – often involving the neighbouring tribes, the Wiradjuri and Gamilaraay. ‘Scarred’ trees, middens, and other artefacts can be found around Gulargambone and bear testament to this era.



Figure 8 Colourful Gulargambone main street

Quambone

Quambone is a small village situated 55 kilometres west of Coonamble and 18 kilometres from the Ramsar Convention (Convention on **Wetlands** of International Importance) recognised Macquarie Marshes. With a population of around 150, Quambone's geometric grid street network supports a small two teacher school, Australia's smallest library, two churches, a Hotel/Motel, a public pool and a General Store/Post Office. With the potential to be the spring board into the internationally significant Macquarie Marshes, it is important to develop a village master plan – setting out the long term vision for how the village should evolve over the next decades. Master planning for the village will provide the community opportunity to reflect on the unique character of the village and to balance the village's existing character with any future development opportunities that may influence the unique local character.

Rural Land

The predominant character of surrounding rural lands of Coonamble is productive agriculture, particularly sheep, cattle grazing and cereal crops. Coonamble relies heavily on its agricultural income and rural industries for its gross domestic product, but also provides locals a strong sense of place supporting approximately a third of Coonamble's population. Ensuring that planning controls are in place to prevent fragmentation of these productive rural lands, and importantly, reducing land use conflict by identifying suitable locations for future rural residential housing development that will assist

in retaining Coonamble’s important rural character, whilst also providing the necessary means for population and economic development growth within the local government area.

Planning Policy.

1. Prioritise and deliver physical and social infrastructure to improve community cohesion.
2. Encourage and support community driven festivals and events, including in the main street areas of Coonamble, Gulargambone and Quambone.
3. Engage local Aboriginal communities during the preparation of local housing strategies, local environmental plans and master plans.
4. Support the Western Region Sub-Regional Land Use Strategy 2010.

Priority 1 gives effect to the following Central West and Orana Regional Plan directions:

Direction 22: Manage growth and change in regional cities and strategic and local centres.

Direction 23: Build the resilience of towns and villages.

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Investigate the need to prepare a heritage inventory and reflect any significant items in the Coonamble LEP 2011.	Council	June 2021
2. Scope the need to undertake a dry-river-bed tourism and access strategy.	Council	June 2021
3. Develop master plans for Quambone and Gulargambone.	Council, LALC	June 2020
4. Collaborate with DPIE to develop predictive mapping to recognise the likelihood of areas containing items of cultural significance.	Council/ /LALC	December 2021
5. Undertake a review of the Coonamble CBD Revitalisation Project undertaken in 2008 and produce a new Coonamble Shire Masterplan incorporating the Coonamble CBD.	Council	June 2020

6. Engage with surrounding LGAs in discussions on reviewing the Western Subregional Land Use Strategy.	Council	December 2021
7. Identify suitable locations for future rural residential housing development.	Council/DPIE	December 2021

Priority 2 - Encourage a connected, active and healthy community

The health and wellbeing of the people are fundamental to maintain a strong, engaged and active community. This priority focusses on planning for the health of communities, access to quality health services and facilities and preparing for an aging population. A vibrant and progressive community is at the core of the Coonamble Shire's population. The residents may be diverse in nature, but they all have a common passion for the community they live in; with a strong desire to have healthy, prosperous, and liveable communities that are sustainable and relevant.

Liveable communities that are safe and have the amenities to meet the physical, social and cultural needs of the residents will be attractive to potential new residents and be more likely to retain intergeneration family structures.

By delivering healthy built environments through better urban design and revitalisation of the town centre, the community will be encouraged to be more active and involved in their built environment and natural surrounds. New approaches to planning are required to create environments that support community and economic development. The Regional Urban Design Guidelines provide advice and best practice design which can be incorporated into Coonamble's future development. To ensure urban public spaces are attractive and usable, areas such as the Coonamble main street precinct will need to combat urban heat with tree canopy and vegetation, creating a social space that supports all-seasons usage.

Cultural connections are also key to understanding the regions rich history and creating strong and healthy relationships. Such cultural connections may be achieved through the adaptive reuse of heritage items. Indigenous connections may be encouraged through the development of a cultural hub. Further investigation into the need and a suitable location for an Aboriginal cultural centre should be considered.

Proactive community health initiatives are important social investments for the future of the LGA. Such initiatives may include active transport connections from affordable housing or aged care to key facilities in Coonamble or the villages. Maintaining and implementing new active transport connections to areas and open space will also provide community health benefits. Gulargambone has recognised the need for better access and connections to passive open space such as the Castlereagh River with river trails providing connectivity. There are significant opportunities in the

town of Coonamble to also capitalise on the river corridor. Embellishment of the river corridor should be investigated to encourage better utilisation. Its connectivity to the town centre should be investigated, including pedestrian links and interpretive signage.

There are also potential benefits in encouraging the co-location of health facilities. While this may be a significant shift from current investment and infrastructure, the opportunities arising from progressing towards a health and well-being hub may possibly provide for greater efficiencies and health benefits for Coonamble and enhance the CBD in the longer term.

NSW's population is ageing. By 2050 the number of people aged 65 and over will more than double. Coonamble Shire's population, like the rest of Australia, is ageing. Over the next 10 years and beyond, it is expected that the older population in the Coonamble Shire will increase both in numbers and as a proportion of the population. While Coonamble is predicted for population decline, the number of people aged 55 and over has increased over 50 percent over the last 10 years.

Coonamble has proactively developed a Positive Aging Strategy. Coonamble Shire Council recognises the invaluable contributions that seniors make to our community. Council's Positive Ageing Strategy provides an approach to enhancing the opportunities and addressing the challenges of Coonamble Shire's older population. The Positive Ageing Strategy promotes the health and wellbeing of the Shire's residents and provides opportunities for older residents to maintain social connectedness and remain active in their local communities.

The growth of our ageing population will bring a number of impacts for the Coonamble Shire community, and the responsibility for addressing these impacts needs to be shared between all key agencies in the region. Council is already working collaboratively with its partners to address the needs of our current and future older residents, and will continue to identify new opportunities for partnerships over the life of the strategy. As an example, the strategy recommends that improvements to signage, improved physical access through the CBD to facilities and services, as well as access to relevant information on topics such as health care and social events are all important elements to foster more community involvement.



Figure 9 Open space and art installations in Gulargambone

Planning Policy.

1. Continue to provide health, aged care and housing diversity across the Shire to assist in aging in place and support a diverse community.
2. Aged care development should have ready access to transport opportunities and other community and human services.
3. Encourage a range of housing options, including affordable housing, housing for older people and family housing.
4. Council will also encourage new developments to provide shade trees in carparks and areas of public open space by ensuring appropriate controls in the DCP.

Priority 2 gives effect to the following Central West and Orana Regional Plan directions:

Direction 5: Improve access to health and aged care services.

Direction 29: Deliver healthy built environments and better urban design.

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
8. Improve walking and cycling connectivity along the Castlereagh River areas and into Coonamble through connected open space corridors.	Council	December 2021
9. Investigate a business case to operate or expand an integrated holistic age care service in Coonamble to improve aging in place options.	Council	June 2021
10. Develop an urban tree strategy that will identify areas and species.	Council	June 2021
11. Investigate the need for an Aboriginal Cultural Centre and interpretive signage and heritage trails.	Council	June 2021



Figure 10 Coonamble silo art

Priority 3 - Provide contemporary services and local infrastructure for the community to thrive

Like many rural towns and villages, the Coonamble Shire population trend indicates population decline. It is important for a stabilised population and encouraging people to migrate to Coonamble to plan for an integrated built and natural environment that protects and enhances liveability and allows the community to thrive.

This planning priority sets out Council's approach to managing an efficient transport network to support key sectors of the local economy (agriculture, value-added manufacturing and tourism), connect people through different transport modes (including walking and cycling) to jobs, services and amenities, and to take up the opportunities that new transport projects and infrastructure can have on both movement and place outcomes.

Providing the right infrastructure and services to connect both people and freight is essential to the survival and growth of Coonamble. Safe and reliable road networks to access health and essential services and access to road, rail and air services are economic enablers for regional centres and beyond.

The township of Coonamble, being located 1 hour 45 minutes north of Dubbo, means residents have access to daily air services. Dubbo Airport provides direct return services from Dubbo to Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne (Essendon), Newcastle and Broken Hill, and is serviced by Regional Express (Rex), QANTAS and Fly Corporate. The airport provides safe, efficient transport links between Dubbo and other major centres with capacity for future expansion. Coonamble airport, as a regular passenger transport rated facility, and located just south of the town of Coonamble, potentially provides for another transport link to surrounding cities and interregional connections through chartered flights or a similar entrepreneurial initiative.

Active transport connections from affordable housing or aged care to key facilities in town is important. Coonamble, like many other communities, is undergoing significant demographic change. As such, increasing housing diversity

and choice, particularly for its senior residents, is important moving forward.

Best indications are that the Inland Rail will be located approximately 60km in the south east of Coonamble Shire; providing the region with significant opportunity to capitalise on this substantial federal investment. While the Inland Rail corridor does not pass directly through key existing employment areas in Coonamble, there is need to better understand the potential reorganisation and distribution of freight and logistics through the Shire. Coonamble is a significant regional grain hub with large scale silo storage depots. While the Inland Rail may change the nature of how freight is moved through the region, there may be increases in road-based freight movements at a local level. Exactly how Coonamble will be interlinked with the Inland Rail at Curban needs to be further investigated and explored. Understanding where the freight network is provides more certainty in allocating funding and improved freight corridor protection.

The stronger the regional connections, as well as with centres in adjoining regions and with Sydney, Canberra and Newcastle, the greater the region's ability will be to capitalise on tourism opportunities. Council will plan, design and operate the road network to deliver movement and place outcomes in line with *Future Transport 2056*, the *NSW Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2022* and the future outcomes of the Connecting Central West and Orana Transport Plan Program.

Planning Policy

1. Protect the region's key freight and passenger infrastructure in the Coonamble Shire including road, rail and associated facilities to enhance connectivity by:
 - ensuring appropriate buffers and zoning of adjacent land-uses to transport related infrastructure and facilities;
 - zoning and reserving new transport corridors;
 - prioritise funding and upgrades to key regional freight network corridors (National, State, regional and local links);
 - Planning and assessments of future development should prioritise the design around road and access safety.
2. Locate new development for industry and related transport facilities on or near land with access to the key regional freight routes.
3. Encourage active transport by supporting pedestrian and cycle networks between Coonamble and key destinations such as the Castlereagh River, Warrena Weir, and key community facilities.

Priority 3 gives effect to the following Central West and Orana Regional Plan directions:

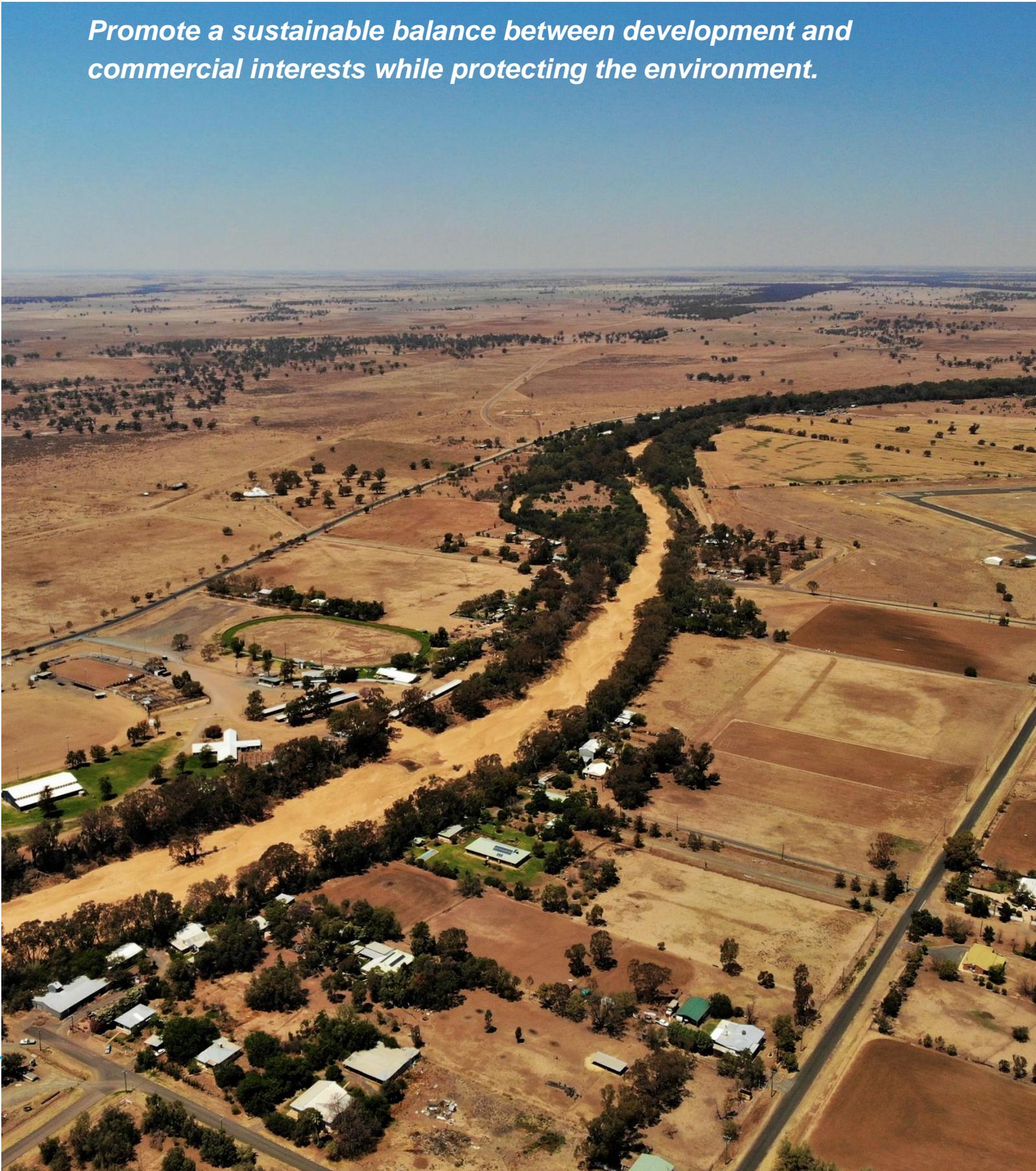
Direction 18: Improve freight connections to markets and global gateways.

Direction 19: Enhance road and rail freight links.

Action	Responsibility	Timing
12. Identify opportunities for delivery of complimentary investments and infrastructure to leverage off the Inland Rail Project development.	Council/Community	2020-2025
13. Work with Transport for NSW to promote active transport, including undertaking a revised pedestrian, access and mobility plan (PAMP) to identify active transport opportunities and identify and protect active transport corridors.	Council/Transport NSW	Ongoing

Environment

Promote a sustainable balance between development and commercial interests while protecting the environment.



Priority 4 - Protect and promote the importance of the Macquarie Marshes

The Macquarie Marshes is an internationally recognised wetland that is listed for protection under the Ramsar Convention. This natural wonderland is located 80km north-west of Coonamble and 18km west of the village of Quambone. The Macquarie Marshes is one of the largest remaining inland semi-permanent wetlands in south-eastern Australia. It includes extensive areas of Phragmites reeds, River Red Gum woodlands and mixed marsh floodplains. The Marshes is particularly outstanding for its value as one of the most important nesting sites for water birds in Australia. A total of 77 water bird species can be found in the Macquarie Marshes, including the threatened brolga, magpie goose, Australasian bittern and painted snipe.

Often referred to as the kidneys of the environment, wetlands play an important role in maintaining the health of nearby aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems by trapping sediment, recycling nutrients and filtering water. Another layer of the Marshes is the 89 per cent of mainly freehold land which is managed for agricultural purposes. The management of water flow through the marshes is vital. Given the complex relationships at play across the Marshes with agriculture, environmental values, and water usage for irrigation purposes further up-stream, the proper and holistic management of water within this larger system is absolutely essential in order to retain this finely balanced eco system for future generations and further develop accessible eco-tourism opportunities.

Increasing visitation to the Macquarie Marshes is a key priority for not only Council, but for the wider region and internationally. Funding has been secured to build a boardwalk and other tourist facilities to promote tourism in the Marshes. These projects represent the future tourism possibilities that the Shire can leverage into the future, which will in turn benefit the community by way of job creation and economic stimulus. The Macquarie River, together with the Marshes, have great ecological value and are a potential magnet for bird enthusiasts. Promoting the wetlands and encouraging people to visit them is important, but this must be balanced with protecting the significant biodiversity value of the area.

Quambone is Coonambles closest village to the Macquarie Marshes. With the potential to be the spring board into the internationally significant Marshes, it will become important to develop a village structure plan to capitalise on its proximity to the Marshes.

Planning Policy

1. Advocate for cross regional collaboration to develop consistent best practice management of the Macquarie Marshes for environmental outcomes as well as for tourism.
2. Partner with key stakeholders to collaboratively manage and provide suitable access to the Macquarie Marshes.

Priority 4 gives effect to the following Central West and Orana Regional Plan directions:

Direction 4: Promote and diversify regional tourism markets.

Direction 13: Protect and manage environmental assets.

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Investigate current land use zoning of lands surrounding the Macquarie Marshes to manage environmental risks and to support adjoining and nearby landowners to manage their lands.	Council/Community	December 2021
2. Investigate ways to better connect the Macquarie Marshes through to Coonamble and Quambone.	Council	June 2021
3. Work with private landowners of the Macquarie Marshes to develop environmental components for public access and tourism opportunities.	Council/Community	June 2021
4. Develop a Quambone village master plan to capitalise on the Macquarie Marshes tourism potential.	Council	June 2020

Priority 5 - Protect and manage natural areas and natural resources, particularly water security and waste management

Coonamble is centred in the heart of some of Australia's most unique and significant natural landscapes as discussed below. Protecting and enhancing the natural assets of Coonamble is vital for the successful continuation of crucial natural ecological process and to provide intergeneration equity to some of the most precious natural commodities, i.e. access to secure water.

Water Security

Water security is a national issue and Council wishes to become more involved with other local governments who rely on local river catchments to encourage a strategic approach to land use and reach a consistent recognition of water ways and water infrastructure in the planning system. These may include the sustainable management of water resources, investment in infrastructure, water sharing, environmental projects as well as land use initiatives that provide the highest returns from water usage. These investments are also vital in maintaining the health of the Macquarie Marshes and the aquatic riverine ecosystems of the Castlereagh and Macquarie rivers.

Water security is paramount for Coonamble Shire for urban water supply, the maintenance of healthy water ways and the environment, and for the growing agriculture and tourism sectors. Fluctuating river water in the Castlereagh and Macquarie Rivers, equitable distribution of water allocations, increasing costs for infrastructure such as bore fields, dams, pipelines and irrigation across significant geographic areas are just some of the issues facing the region that need to be strategically planned for.

Water security is a major challenge for the sustainable growth and resilience of the Coonamble Shire. The Shire is heavily dependent on water from bores which provides the urban area with a stable water supply. Better understanding Coonamble's water supply and demand and protecting its key water supply assets will assist in providing greater land use certainty. Once this is known, promoting Council as being water secure destination can attract employment opportunities.

Projects that provide greater water security, additional water security and water recycling facility are strongly supported by Council.

Water security in the region is a major contributor to the establishment of new industry opportunities, as it is a critical input that creates surety for investment – not only for agriculture, but also for people who and the businesses that compliment agriculture.

Warrumbungle National Park

The Warrumbungle National Park is situated at the south-eastern boundary of Coonamble Shire. The Warrumbungle National Park is home to Australia's only Dark Sky Park. The Dark Sky Park is designed to protect the Siding Spring Observatory from obtrusive night sky light pollution. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Dark Sky Planning Guidelines provide for best practise lighting design to not only minimise impact on the significant Siding Spring Observatory, but also to more generally minimise energy wastage from poor lightning design. Warrumbungle National Park was added to the Australian National Heritage List in 2006. Volcanically shaped, the National

Park has a distinctively rugged landscape and its rich biodiversity provides for an important habitat for a range of native Australian flora and fauna. The Warrumbungles is often described as a place where east meets west, where the moist, vibrantly green landscape gradually merges into the dry plains of western NSW. This combination of the arid western plains, moist eastern slopes and elevation above the surrounding plains means the Warrumbungles provide a haven for a large number of native species. It is vital that the protection and recognition of these important natural landscapes is maintained and consistent management discussions are had between the surrounding local government areas and State agencies.

Waste

The provision of quality waste management services is moving towards a circular economy where waste is treated as an asset. Moving towards viewing waste as a valued resource poses significant opportunities and challenges for the region.

The planning and design of new developments in Coonamble should also support the sustainable and effective collection and management of waste and resources.

Appropriately zoned land should be identified to allow for a range of waste and resource recovery facilities to help the transition to a circular economy. These could include, but is not necessarily limited to materials recovery facilities, plastic pelletising facilities, composting facilities, re-use and repair facilities and other waste processing facilities including waste transfer stations. However, it is important that any such activities are appropriately located and carefully planned to avoid land use conflicts.

Council Land

There is opportunity to better understand and utilise Council owned land particularly for biodiversity offset opportunities. Carrying out this work can provide Council with an income source through the credit system and management funding, but can also achieve better environmental outcomes for Council owned land.

Priority 5 gives effect to the following Central West and Orana Regional Plan directions:

Direction 11: Sustainably manage water resources for economic opportunities.

Direction 21: Coordinate utility infrastructure investment.

Planning Policy

1. Support retaining larger rural LEP minimum lot sizes to support farming enterprises that target new economies of large scale and improved on-farm water efficiency to compete in international markets and manage water security.
2. Encourage ecologically sustainable development by becoming a leader in the development of subdivisions that incorporate water sensitive urban design.

3. Support access to waterways for tourism activities, particularly the Warrena Weir Reserve and Castlereagh River.
4. Strategically locate new industry and waste generating development to maximise existing waste management infrastructure.
5. Estimate total waste, recycling and organics arising from a proposed development, and the final destination of waste, must be considered upfront in the planning process.
6. Support regional investigations into adopting alternative waste to resource initiatives.
7. Encourage industries to co-locate to improve usage of the by-products and waste materials of other industries to create new products and services.

Action	Responsibility	Timing
5. Investigate the need to amend the Coonamble LEP to provide buffers for existing and proposed water infrastructure and water reservoirs to protect urban water supply and industry access.	Council	December 2021
6. Undertake a review of the Coonamble DCP to include guidance and controls on water sensitive urban design.	Council	December 2021
7. Investigate the need to review the Coonamble DCP to incorporate best practice waste management practices at all stages of a development process; construction, operation, and demolition/reuse.	Council	December 2021
8. Investigate the potential for biodiversity stewardship sites on Council owned land.	Council/DPIE	June 2021

Priority 6 - Be responsive and adaptive to climate change

Looking to the future, the environment will in all probability be subjected to a changing climate which will result in warmer and drier conditions causing reduced stream flows, more severe droughts, extreme weather events and increased bushfire risk.

Due to the impacts of climate change, regional temperatures are expected to increase greatly throughout the Orana Region, resulting in a heightened risk of the frequency and severity of natural hazards and climate threats. Drought, water security and flood plain management are essential natural hazard management priorities for the Coonamble Shire. The impact on agricultural production requires informed land use decision-making and an increase in sustainable agricultural practices by land owners. Bushfire risk also increases with increased temperatures and a dryer climate.

Council and the community must be well informed, resilient and able to adapt and plan for future climate risks and land use planning plays an important role in this. Coonamble Shire Council will show leadership by committing to transitioning its energy needs to affordable renewable sources and creating healthy public spaces and resilient infrastructure.

Diversifying the local economy assists in providing an alternative to a climate dependent economy. Coonamble is well located to capitalise on the surrounding natural assets. The Macquarie Marshes, Warrumbungle National Park and the Pilliga State Forest all give Coonamble options to be a spring board for opportunistic tourism ventures. Investigating the opportunities within Coonamble township should include e.g. investigating the creation of a 'dry river tourism plan' and providing alternative uses for climate impacted assets and infrastructure.



Figure 11 Warrena Creek in Coonamble

Priority 6 gives effect to the following Central West and Orana Regional Plan directions:

Direction 8: Sustainably manage mineral resources.

Direction 9: Increase renewable energy generation.

Direction 15: Increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change.

Direction 23: Build the resilience of towns and villages.

Planning Policy

1. Avoid development in areas subject to natural hazards or, where natural hazards cannot be avoided, mitigation or adaptation measures are adopted.
2. Support innovative building materials and design which maximise energy efficiency and improve health and resilience outcomes for households and businesses to cope with extreme events and climate change. Advocate for updates to BASIX which recognise changing climate conditions for regional NSW.

Action	Responsibility	Timing
9. Incorporate controls into the Coonamble DCP for enhanced environmental outcomes such as energy efficiency, rain water tanks and 'green star communities'.	Council	December 2021
10. Update the Delivery Program and Operational Plan to include further enhancements to public space that better protect the community from heat, storms and flooding.	Council	June 2022

Economy

A strong and diverse economy with development and employment opportunity, supporting a diverse population



Priority 7 - Leverage opportunities for increased tourism from surrounding natural landscapes

Regional tourism is seen as an opportunity to showcase the Coonamble area and its rural lifestyle, not just for visitors but tree/sea changers wanting to embrace a rural lifestyle. Valuable input to the local economy from visitors provides employment opportunities, innovation and ideas, and assists with the region's resilience to changes. Increasing connections into the international rural tourism experience market is a key tourism economic opportunity for Coonamble.

Coonamble is home to the largest rodeo and camp draft carnival in the southern hemisphere. Attracting such large-scale events provides opportunities for Coonamble to be recognised for the range of tourism options. They also provide significant economic flow-on benefits for the region.

Coonamble Shire is part of the NSW Outback touring region, within the Country and Outback Destination Region. In the year ending March 2018, the Outback region had 490,000 domestic overnight visitors and 13,3000 international overnight visitors, who spent \$253 million in the region. Coonamble forms an integral part of this Tourism Region.

Although difficult to adequately measure, tourism is an opportunity area for Coonamble, being located on the key Castlereagh Highway and centrally located between some of Australia's most unique and striking landforms. The Warrena Weir Reserve, 2km east of Coonamble is a popular spot for water-skiing by locals and tourists from out of town. Given its proximity to Coonamble, there is opportunity to exploit the tourism potential of this valuable asset.



Figure 12 The Warrena Weir Reserve

Both Coonamble and Gulargambone are located on the Castlereagh Highway, part of the Great Inland Way which is emerging as an alternate route to north Queensland due to its reputation as a 'flat track' for caravans, heavy vehicles and those seeking an easier route than the Newell Highway.

Eco-tourism has traditionally taken a back seat to agriculture across the Orana Region. The Coonamble Shire has a rich natural landscape located in its hinterland. The Macquarie Marshes is a significant environmental asset that requires regional collaboration to ensure that this strength is protected and celebrated. There is opportunity to leverage off the tourism potential of these important wetlands. There is value in Council, the community and tourism industry collaborating to develop a sustainable yet economically valuable approach.

The Warrumbungle National Park is located to the south-east of Coonamble. Access to the National Park from Coonamble is via the Tooraweenah Road, of which approximately 22km is currently unsealed. Improving access through to the Warrumbungle National Park, will provide Coonamble with an accessible direct tourism link. Approximately \$23 million has been allocated by the Federal Government for this section of Tooraweenah Road to be sealed. This Park attracts approximately 35,000 visitors each year and the potential impact of providing this tourism market safe and direct access to Coonamble offers a significant economic development opportunity for the local government area.

The 'upside down' Castlereagh River presents an opportunity to create a 'dry river tourism plan'. Drought impacted infrastructure and assets such as the river can be taken advantage of by recognising the potential alternative tourism uses.

Priority 7 gives effect to the following Central West and Orana Regional Plan directions:

Direction 4: Promote and diversify regional tourism markets.

Direction 13: Protect and manage environmental assets.

Planning Policy

1. Promote the strategic location of tourist access and facilities to provide both safe road usage and increase the tourism opportunities in Coonamble.
2. Improve and promote tourist access to the Castlereagh River by supporting tourist accommodation options and facilities along the River.
3. Prioritise access to and use of the Castlereagh River and embellish public land along the river with walking and cycling pathways, playgrounds and other amenities to create a green grid for residents and visitors.
4. Align investments and future strategic planning work with the Country and Outback Destination management plan.

5. Support the adaptive reuse of heritage buildings for tourist related developments such as the Coonamble railway station.

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Undertake the development of a local tourism strategy to incorporate the strategic directions of this planning priority.	Council	June 2021
2. Augment the pedestrian, access and mobility plan (PAMP) to investigate appropriate access for tourists to move between key tourist destinations.	Council/NSW Transport	June 2021
3. Investigate further improvements required to better connect Coonamble to the Warrumbungles via the Tooraweenah Road as well as access through to the Macquarie Marshes.	Council	December 2021 Complete Grant Funding secured

Priority 8 - Promote business and development opportunities

In order to achieve sustainable population and economic stabilisation, and best support the local communities of Coonamble, future strategic planning should maximise development within existing zoned land and protect local businesses and industry from land use conflicts to provide greater operational certainty. Providing housing choice and sufficient suitably located residential land, particularly rural residential, is a key to attracting and retaining a diverse population. A case study into the “two eight two eight” business success in Gulargambone is provided on page 40.

Road Transport

Locational advantages need to be leveraged to capitalise on opportunities. Coonamble has a unique advantage in that there are no restrictions on road train and B-double access on roads throughout the Shire. This freight access provides a strong competitive advantage to attract freight and logistic dependant industry to the area.



Figure 13 Coonamble Saleyards and railway-side grain storage

Inland Rail

The proposed Inland Rail corridor (approximately 60km southeast of Coonamble) will provide a timely boost to the region for freight movements by rail. This opportunity needs to be further investigated to understand how the Inland Rail may redistribute freight movements in Coonamble and how to best capitalise off the back of this once-in-a-generation regional investment. Freight facilities such as bulk grain handling facilities in Coonamble provide opportunity to leverage off its strategic position. There is potential to further capitalise off regional freight movements with facilities such as truck washes, fuel depots and truck service centres. Understanding how the freight industry is evolving, especially in response to the Inland Rail, is crucial in identifying suitable locations in the local government area for these facilities.

Education/Training

Ensuring that education and ongoing training is current and future-ready to match emerging industries and business opportunities, is an essential building block for a strong economy and growth. Ensuring that the infrastructure and services needed to support economic development are available is essential in attracting start-up businesses. The attraction of new industry, workers, residents and visitors through collaborative marketing campaigns, promotions and incentives is to be emphasised. This will foster generational change, with younger people bringing new ideas, skills and business practices.

Tourism

While significant population increase is not currently envisaged, a diversified economy has the ability to create a comparative advantage for Coonamble. Regional tourism is seen as an opportunity to showcase Coonamble's rural lifestyle and rich cultural history, not just for visitors but tree/sea changers wanting to embrace a rural lifestyle. Valuable input to the local economy from visitors provides employment opportunities, innovation and ideas and assists with the region's resilience to change. Increasing connections into the international rural tourism experience market is a key tourism economic opportunity for Coonamble.

Housing

The supply of residential zoned land in Coonamble needs to be better understood to ensure that availability of land is not restricting development potential. Rural residential housing is a popular lifestyle housing option driven by the desire of city and urban dwellers for a rural lifestyle. Advancements in technology make it possible for entrepreneurs to remotely manage businesses and business ventures. It is crucial to ensure that Coonamble has a diverse range of housing choices. A consistent planning approach can avoid fragmentation of productive agricultural land and identify suitable locations for new rural residential development. This approach will also limit potential impacts on areas of high environmental value, cultural and heritage assets and areas with rural landscape value. Rural residential development can potentially conflict with productive agricultural, industrial or resource lands. It may also increase pressure for new services outside existing settlements, with costs borne by councils and the broader community. Managing this type of development and its

cumulative impacts will be essential as the regional economy diversifies and development pressure increases.



Figure 14 Encroachment of residential development into agricultural land

Attracting New Business

The attraction of new industry, workers, residents and visitors through collaborative marketing campaigns, promotions and incentives is to be emphasised. This will foster generational change, with younger people bringing new ideas, skills and business practices. Ensuring that the infrastructure and services needed to support economic development are available is essential in attracting start-up businesses. There is opportunity to introduce multipurpose spaces within Castlereagh Street to allow for upcoming developments to have a presence in the main street – assisting in the rejuvenation of this precinct.

There is an opportunity to better understand Aboriginal land ownership and initiate discussions with the Aboriginal community around land use opportunities.

Priority 8 gives effect to the following Central West and Orana Regional Plan directions:

Direction 4: Promote and diversify regional tourism markets.

Direction 6: Expand education and training opportunities.

Direction 10: Promote business and industrial activities in employment lands.

Direction 28: Manage rural residential development.

Planning Policy

1. Locate new rural residential areas:
 - a) close to existing urban settlements to maximise the efficient use of existing infrastructure and services, including roads, water, sewer and waste services, and social and community infrastructure;
 - b) to avoid and minimise the potential for land use conflicts with productive, zoned agricultural land and natural resources; and
 - c) to avoid areas of high environmental, cultural or heritage significance, regionally important agricultural land or areas affected by natural hazards.
2. Utilise existing zoned and serviced land for a range of urban development outcomes, particularly the provision of housing for older people and affordable housing near existing services and amenities.
3. Encourage the adaptive reuse of building space or appropriate community facilities in the CBD for business hot desking or entrepreneurial startup businesses.
4. Promoting education, training and employment pathways in the region that focus on careers in growth industries.

Action	Responsibility	Timing
4. Investigate opportunities to increase CBD employment through the adaptive reuse of vacant building space or appropriate community facilities for business hot desking or entrepreneurial startup businesses – also in association with existing businesses.	Council/DPC Heritage	December 2020 – ongoing

<p>5. Work with Government agencies and key stakeholders to develop actions and to oversee and coordinate activities relating to employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Council/DPI Regional</p>	<p>December 2020 – ongoing</p>
<p>6. Work with key stakeholders to support investment in targeted skills-based training to meet the needs of major infrastructure projects and local communities.</p>	<p>Council/DPI Regional</p>	<p>June 2021</p>
<p>7. Undertake a housing strategy to locate new rural residential areas close to existing urban settlements to maximise the efficient use of existing physical, social and community infrastructure and services, avoiding the unnecessary fragmentation of productive agricultural land.</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>December 2021</p>
<p>8. Undertake investigations into Aboriginal and Council land ownership and the potential land use opportunities.</p>	<p>Council/LALC/DPIE</p>	<p>December 2021</p>

CASE STUDY TWO EIGHT TWO EIGHT

Two eight two eight is a community initiative that started in 2002 with the community purchasing a dilapidated building down the main street of Gulargambone.

Starting as a tourist information centre it now boasts a multi-faceted facility including a cafe, gift store, community event centre and catering service.



The community precinct 17 years on has been a tourist business success in Gulargambone which has supported a diversified local economy. Two eight two eight recently was awarded the Specialised Tourism Services category award recognising its success in providing the village and wider region with a strong economic business and catalyst for revitalising the town.



Priority 9 - Capitalise on the Coonamble Airport infrastructure and future land uses

Coonamble Shire Council owns a fully licensed aerodrome which it maintains to maximum Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) standards. The airport is located approximately three kilometres south-west from Coonamble town centre. The main strip is sealed and as such is usable in all weather conditions and about 1500m long. It is permanently lit for night landings/take-offs and refuelling facilities are available.

The airport design and facilities provide significant opportunities for airport related industry to be supported. The airport is rated for regular passenger transport functions and investigations into the feasibility of such services are required to understand the demand and the land use requirements.

The Airport Management Plan 2017-2027 identifies current and future objectives and opportunities for the airport. Council is primarily focused on providing users with a functional airport facility that complies with CASA standards. The management plan also identifies the long-term objective to encourage development to relocate to Coonamble to take advantage of its airport facility.

The protection of this important transport infrastructure is key to ensuring that land use conflicts are minimised, and future airport potential is not jeopardised.

Priority 9 gives effect to the following Central West and Orana Regional Plan directions:

Direction 12: Plan for greater land use compatibility.

Direction 18: Improve freight connections to markets and global gateways.

Direction 20: Enhance access to air travel and public transport.

Planning Policy

1. Strengthen the protection of Coonamble's Airport to avoid land use conflicts and future aviation related businesses and services.
2. Encourage suitable employment opportunities around the Coonamble Airport.

Action	Responsibility	Timing
9. Prepare a Coonamble Airport Masterplan to investigate	Council	December 2021

<p>improvements and employment opportunities.</p>		
<p>10. Update the <i>Coonamble LEP 2011</i> to protect the Coonamble Airport and implement any recommendations made from an Airport Master Plan.</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>June 2022</p>

Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

Implementation of the Local Strategic Planning Statement will be monitored and reported through the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework. The Local Strategic Planning Statement will support the Community Strategic Plan and will be reviewed concurrently with the Community Strategic Plan every 10 years, or earlier if a new Community Strategic Plan is developed.

Actions are provided under each Planning Priority and will align with, and inform, Council's four-year Delivery Program and one-year Operational Plan.

The time frames for delivering the actions are subject to some unknown factors. More certainty will occur over time, which will inform future revisions and nomination of timeframes for actions in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

This approach is consistent with the Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) framework under the Local Government Act 1993, which recognises that Council plans and policies are interconnected. This Statement will be reviewed at least every 7 years pursuant to Section 3.9(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

LSPS Action Summary Table

Planning Priority 1

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Investigate the need to prepare a heritage inventory and reflect any significant items in the Coonamble LEP 2011.	Council	June 2021
2. Scope the need to undertake a dry-river-bed tourism and access strategy.	Council	June 2021
3. Develop village master plans for Quambone and Gulargambone.	Council, LALC	June 2020
4. Collaborate with DPIE to develop predictive mapping to recognise the likelihood of areas containing items of cultural significance.	Council/Heritage NSW/ LALC	December 2021
5. Undertake a review of the Coonamble CBD Revitalisation Project undertaken in 2008 and produce a new Coonamble Shire Masterplan incorporating the Coonamble CBD.	Council	June 2020
6. Engage with surrounding LGAs in discussions on reviewing the Western Subregional Land Use Strategy.	Council	December 2021
7. Identify suitable locations for future rural residential housing development.	Council/DPIE	December 2021

Planning Priority 2

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
8. Improve walking and cycling connectivity along the Castlereagh River areas and into Coonamble through connected open space corridors.	Council	December 2021
9. Investigate a business case to operate or expand an integrated holistic age care service in Coonamble to improve aging in place options.	Council	June 2021
10. Develop an urban tree strategy that will identify areas and species.	Council	June 2021
11. Investigate the need for an Aboriginal Cultural Centre and interpretive signage and heritage trails.	Council	June 2021

Planning Priority 3

Action	Responsibility	Timing
12. Identify opportunities for delivery of complimentary investments and infrastructure to leverage off the Inland Rail Project development.	Council/Community	2020-2025
13. Work with Transport for NSW to promote active transport, including undertaking a revised pedestrian, access and mobility plan (PAMP) to identify active transport opportunities and identify and protect active transport corridors.	Council/Transport NSW	Ongoing

Planning Priority 4

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Investigate current land use zoning of lands surrounding the Macquarie Marshes to manage environmental risks and to support adjoining and nearby landowners to manage their lands.	Council/Community	December 2021
2. Investigate ways to better connect the Macquarie Marshes through to Coonamble and Quambone.	Council	June 2021
3. Work with private landowners of Macquarie Marshes to develop environmental components for public access and tourism opportunities.	Council/Community	June 2021
4. Develop a Quambone village master plan to capitalise on the Macquarie Marshes' tourism potential.	Council	June 2020

Planning Priority 5

Action	Responsibility	Timing
5. Investigate the need to amend the Coonamble LEP to provide buffers for existing and proposed water infrastructure and water reservoirs to protect urban water supply and industry access.	Council	December 2021
6. Undertake a review of the Coonamble DCP to include guidance and controls on water sensitive urban design.	Council	December 2021
7. Investigate the need to review the Coonamble DCP to incorporate best practice waste management practices at all stages of a development process;	Council	December 2021

construction, operation, and demolition/reuse.		
8. Investigate the potential for biodiversity stewardship sites on Council owned land.	Council/DPIE	June 2021

Planning Priority 6

Action	Responsibility	Timing
11. Incorporate controls into the Coonamble DCP for enhanced environmental outcomes such as energy efficiency, rain water tanks and 'green star communities'.	Council	December 2021
12. Update the Delivery Program and Operational Plan to include further enhancements to public space that better protect the community from heat, storms and flooding.	Council	June 2022

Planning Priority 7

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1. Undertake the development of a local tourism strategy to incorporate the strategic directions of this planning priority.	Council	June 2021
2. Augment the pedestrian, access and mobility plan (PAMP) to investigate appropriate access for tourists to move between key tourist destinations.	Council/NSW Transport	June 2021
3. Investigate further improvements required to better connect Coonamble to the Warrumbungles via the Tooraweenah	Council	December 2021 Complete Grant Funding Secured

Road as well as access through to the Macquarie Marshes.		
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Planning Priority 8

Action	Responsibility	Timing
4. Investigate opportunities to increase CBD employment through the adaptive reuse of vacant building space or appropriate community facilities for business hot desking or entrepreneurial startup businesses – also in association with existing businesses.	Council/DPC Heritage	December 2020 – ongoing
5. Work with Government agencies and key stakeholders to develop actions and to oversee and coordinate activities relating to employment opportunities.	Council/DPI Regional	December 2020 – ongoing
6. Work with key stakeholder to support investment in targeted skills-based training to meet the needs of major infrastructure projects and local communities.	Council/DPI Regional	June 2021
7. Undertake a housing strategy to locate new rural residential areas close to existing urban settlements to maximise the efficient use of existing physical, social and community infrastructure and services, avoiding the unnecessary fragmentation of productive agricultural land.	Council	December 2021
8. Undertake investigations into Aboriginal and Council land ownership	Council/LALC/DPIE	December 2021

and the potential land use opportunities.		
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Planning Priority 9

Action	Responsibility	Timing
9. Prepare a Coonamble Airport Masterplan to investigate improvements and employment opportunities.	Council	December 2021
10. Update the <i>Coonamble LEP 2011</i> to protect the Coonamble Airport and implement any recommendations made from an Airport Master Plan.	Council	June 2022

Document Status

Rev No.	Author	Date	Doc stage
1	DPIE/Coonamble Shire	November 2019	Pre exhibition draft
2	DPIE/Coonamble Shire	May 2020	Final LSPS