

CABONNE COUNCIL

LOCAL STRATEGIC
PLANNING
STATEMENT

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21/02/2020	1.1	C. Eldred	H. Nicholls	Send to DPIE
3/03/2020	1.2	C. Eldred	H. Nicholls	For Exhibition
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Acknowledgement of Country

Cabonne Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional custodians of this land on which we work and pay our respect to the Wiradjuri people for their care and custodianship of these lands for over 40,000 years.

Foreword



One of the most important roles of any council is to work with its community to develop a vision for the lifestyle, amenity and services the community wants in the future and to put in place a plan to achieve that vision.

With valuable community input across the Shire, this Cabonne Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) has been formulated to set out a 20-year vision for land use planning that will help to manage the change and growth Cabonne will experience in that time.

By setting land use direction for the next two decades, the LSPS will help Cabonne to maintain and grow the economies of its towns and villages, attract appropriate development, support its agricultural, mining and other industries, protect prime agricultural land, expand its transport and road networks, and develop its tourism product.

This is vital in achieving the community's vision while providing the services and infrastructure required to maintain and enhance Cabonne's highly desirable liveability.

As we embark on this journey over the next 20 years, the Cabonne Local Strategic Planning Statement will be the road map to help guide us there.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Beatty', set against the teal background.

Cr Kevin Beatty
Mayor of Cabonne

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WHAT IS A LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT?

The Cabonne Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets out the 20-year vision for land use planning across the Cabonne Shire, outlining how growth and change will be managed. The LSPS identifies the unique characteristics of Cabonne and sets the economic, social and environmental land use direction over the next 20 years.

The plan works in conjunction with council’s Local Environmental Plan and Community Strategic Plan to give effect to the NSW Government’s Central West and Orana Regional Plan at a local level. The LSPS planning priorities, strategic directions and actions provide the rationale for the decision about how we will use our land to achieve the community’s broader goals.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Section 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 requires councils to prepare and implement a LSPS and review it at least every seven years to ensure it continues to provide a vision for the future of land use planning. The LSPS must include or identify the following:

- The basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters,
- The planning priorities for the area,
- The actions required to achieve those planning priorities, and
- The basis for which council will monitor and report on the implementation of the actions.

Figure 1: The position of the Local Strategic Planning Statement within the strategic planning hierarchy.



Source: NSW Department of Planning and Environment 2018, *Local Strategic Planning Statements: Guidelines for Councils*

CENTRAL WEST AND ORANA REGION

The Central West and Orana regions comprise a significant portion of the state of NSW. The area covers 118,245 square kilometres or 14.5% of NSW across 19 local government areas (LGA). The area has a population of over 285,000 people and contributes \$138 Billion annually to the NSW economy, or 12% of the overall state economy¹.

Major population and service centres in the Central West include the cities of Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo, and the large towns of Lithgow, Cowra, Mudgee, Forbes and Parkes

The two largest industries within the region are mining (\$2.5 Billion annually and 5% of jobs) and agriculture, forestry and fishing (\$1.3 Billion annually and 11% of jobs)².

Cabonne sits centrally within the Central West and borders Orana to the north. Cabonne is centrally located within the regions.

Figure 2: The two parts of Central West and Orana



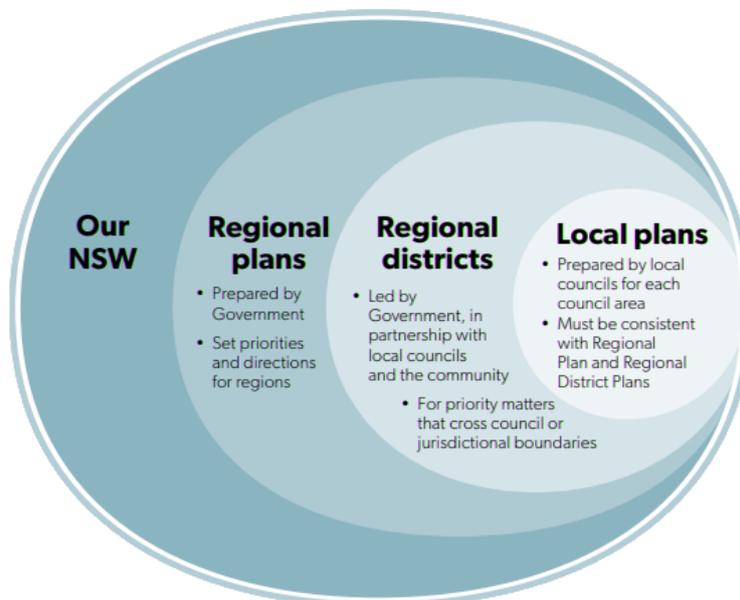
¹ Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036

² Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036

CENTRAL WEST AND ORANA REGIONAL PLAN 2036

The Central West and Orana Regional Plan was adopted in 2017 and aims to guide the NSW Government's land use planning priorities and decisions to 2036. It aims to co-ordinate local government strategic planning, and guide infrastructure agencies, investments and service delivery. More detailed district and local plans (including this Local Strategic Planning Statement and Local Environmental Plans) are developed to provide more local level planning and implementation detail. Accordingly, the Regional Plan has a significant influence over regional growth and development. Agribusiness, food production, health and education, environmental management, transport infrastructure as well as growth and resilience of town and villages are important themes in the Plan.

Figure 3: State Planning Hierarchy



The regional plan sets the below vision for the region:

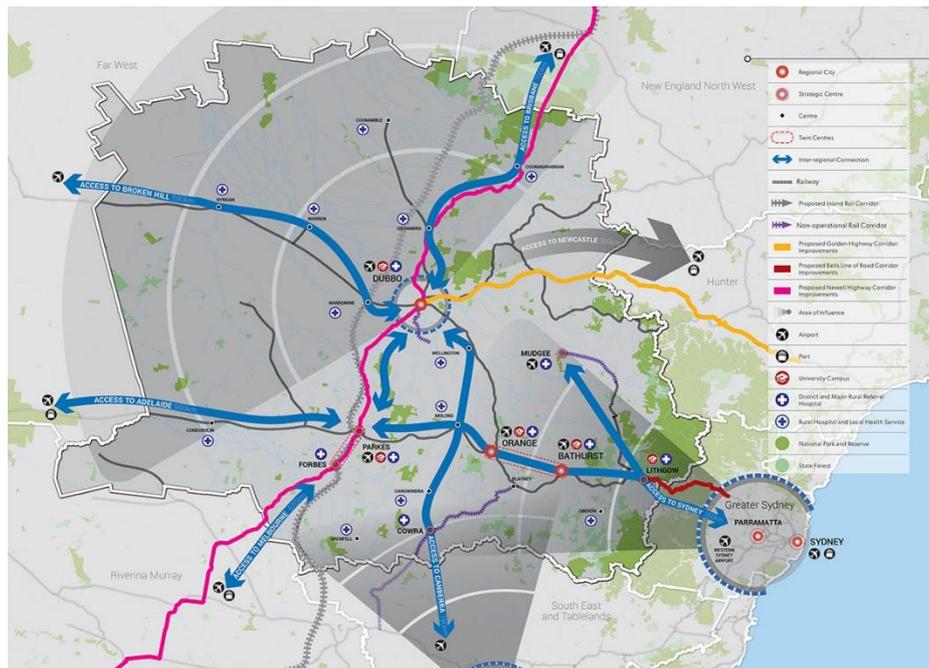
The most diverse regional economy in NSW with a vibrant network of centres leveraging the opportunities of being at the heart of NSW.

To achieve this vision the plan sets out the following four goals:

- The most diverse regional economy in NSW
- A stronger, healthier environment and diverse heritage
- Quality freight, transport and infrastructure networks
- Dynamic, vibrant and healthy communities

Each goal contains a number of directions and actions to be implemented by both state agencies and the local governments to achieve the goals, and in turn the vision for the regions.

Figure 4: Regional Plan for Central West and Orana



The plan also lists LGA specific priorities for the 19 councils within the region. The priorities build on the directions and actions set out in the plan to guide its implementation at a local level.

The priorities for the Cabonne LGA are listed as:

- Maintain and enhance the economic diversity of Cabonne’s towns, villages and commercial centres.
- Support villages to attract appropriate development.
- Support the mining and agribusiness sectors and associated businesses through land use planning policies.
- Protect agricultural land from encroachment from residential development.
- Support the connectivity of the local, regional and state transport network.
- Leverage opportunities from the Local Government Area’s rural character to diversify the economy in areas such as tourism.

CABONNE

At a glance, Cabonne Shire, "Australia's Food Basket" is a rich rural shire in the tablelands of Central New South Wales with an area of 6,026 square kilometres. Within the shire are the settlements of Canowindra, Cargo, Cudal, Cumnock, Eugowra, Manildra, Molong, Mullion Creek and Yeoval. Geographically, Cabonne is about a three hours' drive respectively between Sydney (290kms west) and Canberra (270kms north). The shire is located between the regional centres of Orange, Dubbo, Parkes and Forbes, with the shire surrounding Orange City Council. The shire has a population of 13,386 people at the 2016 Census³.

The Mitchell Highway runs south east to north west through the shire. Other major roads include The Escort Way (to Forbes), Henry Parkes Way (to Parkes), Cargo Road and Burrendong Way (to Wellington), with over 2,000km of roads within Cabonne.

The major industries within Cabonne are agriculture (beef, wool and cropping), mining (gold and copper) and tourism, with the Canowindra International Balloon Challenge, Age of Fishes Museum, and F.O.O.D and Wine Weeks all taking place within Cabonne. These all contribute towards the \$849.5 Million annual economy, being a significant contributor to the regional economy⁴.

With Cabonne being a series of small towns and villages, there is a reliance on the adjoining regional centres for the provision of larger services (shopping, health etc.). With the shire boundaries surrounding Orange City Council, a significant portion of Cabonne residents utilise Orange for these services. Cabonne contains a unique landscape from Mount Canobolas and the volcanic soils of the east of the shire to the beginning of the western plains in the west.

Figure 5: Cabonne within the region



³ ABS Statistics: Cabonne Council

⁴ Blayney, Cabonne & Orange Council's Sub-regional Rural and Industrial Land Strategy 2019-2036

HISTORY OF CABONNE

Cabonne came into existence as a shire in 1977, formed with the amalgamation of Molong, Boree and portions of Canobolas shire councils. Cabonne is a Wiradjuri word meaning large or big, and was considered an appropriate name for the new shire as it occupies an area of approximately 6,026 square kilometres.

The history of the Cabonne area begins with the Wiradjuri people, whose settlement dates back tens of thousands of years. The Wiradjuri are the traditional custodians of Cabonne with Mount Canobolas recognised as a site of cultural significance. A number of Aboriginal sites remain today including the grave site of Wiradjuri man, Yuranigh who accompanied early explorer and surveyor Sir Thomas Mitchell on an expedition into the tropical interior of Australia in 1846. The gravesite contains a unique combination of Aboriginal and European burial customs that is not known of anywhere else in Australia.

With the arrival of Europeans in the Bathurst area by 1815, nearby Cabonne was soon explored and pastoral settlement began. Many of Cabonne's well known rural properties came into existence during the 1830s and 1840s. The first settlements, notably Molong and Canowindra, also appeared in this period, together with communities such as the Cornish settlers at Byng.

Copper mining in the 1840s, north of Molong at Copper Hill, was one of the earliest mining endeavours in NSW. The discovery of gold at Ophir in 1851 and its establishment as the first payable gold field in Australia changed the history of Cabonne as well as that of Australia. The gold rush brought more settlers to the area with new settlements establishing at Cargo, Cudal and Eugowra.

Following the 1861 Selections Act, further rural settlement occurred in the area at the expense of the old large pastoral runs. This led to further establishment of settlements at Cumnock and Yeoval. In 1885 the developing railway system was extended to Molong, with the town remaining as the terminus until 1893 when the railway system was extended across Cabonne to line other inland centres. The railway network enabled cost efficient transport of local produce and industry, such as agricultural products ranging from wheat to lucerne and fruit, to new industries such as quarried marble.

Molong achieved municipal status in 1879, and Cudal in 1890. The Local Government (Shires) Act 1905 introduced local government to rural areas and resulted in the establishment of Amaroo, Boree and Canobolas shires. Molong Municipality merged with Amaroo Shire in 1951 to form Molong Shire, while Cudal Municipality became part of Boree Shire in 1912.

Today Cabonne's agriculture and mining enterprises continue to generate economic benefit, yet remain vulnerable to the effects of commodity prices, droughts and similar external forces. Industry remains steady, with the focus at Manildra being its flour mill and canola mill reaching an international market. Mining remains represented in the area with the large Cadia/Newcrest Gold Mine, as well as a number of quarries extracting limestone, sand and hard rock/gravel resources. An active tourism industry, combining heritage, vineyards, orchards, food and wine has emerged in recent decades, with cool climate wine being established as a prosperous draw card to the region.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In preparation of the Local Strategic Planning Statement, Cabonne Council undertook a series of engagement sessions around the shire where the community was asked:

“What is your vision for Cabonne over the next 20 years?”



Council staff took maps of the towns, villages and the whole shire and gave the community an opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas and vision for Cabonne. These ideas were collated and formed the basis of the Vision and Planning Priorities of this Local Strategic Planning Statement.

OUR VILLAGES AND LOCALITIES

Cabonne is made up of a number of towns, villages and localities that all contribute to the richness of the shire.



BORENORE

Home of the annual Australian National Field Days, the locality of Borenore is home to 621 people and attracts nature lovers and those in search of locally produced food and beverages.

Borenore Caves Reserve is an ideal place to enjoy a picnic lunch, wander along the well-developed walking track, and explore the many wonders, including the Tunnel Cave, Arch Cave and the unique landscape that develops when water interacts with the soluble rock, limestone.

CANOWINDRA

Nestled within historical buildings and museums, with a unique ‘bendy’ main street and surrounded by fertile rural land, Canowindra is an arts and tourism hub. Canowindra has still maintained a charmingly friendly small-town atmosphere with 1,499 people and is well known for its ballooning and fish fossils.

A scientifically significant 360 million year-old fossil find is the foundation for the Age of Fishes Museum. The Historical Museum is also worth a visit. Canowindra also has a colourful bushranger heritage to explore steeped in folklore. Visitors and locals alike enjoy Canowindra’s local produce, dining and wine experiences, cafes, country pubs, and clubs.

CARGO

Originally established as a gold rush boom town, Cargo has emerged today as a relaxed country town with 278 people. It offers a slower pace of life with the advantage of being a short commute to the large centre of Orange.

Gold mining was initially established in the area in the 1860s and the township was proclaimed a goldfield in 1869. Between that time and 1899, the town swelled to a population of around 7,000.

Cargo at its peak boasted three hotels, a bank, several business houses, three churches, two schools, a flour mill, community hall, butter factory, gold crushing plant, a racecourse and sporting grounds for tennis, cricket and football.

Today the village has a strong community spirit which prides itself on supporting the sporting groups, Primary School, Community Hall and other local organisations.

Traditional industries are still very much a part of the landscape with the town surrounded by both sheep and cattle properties sitting alongside smaller lifestyle blocks.

CUDAL

Settled along the Boree Creek, Cudal emerged via the “Free Selection” laws of the 1860s and discovery of gold at Forbes.

Cudal is a perfect point, roughly half-way between Orange and Eugowra, for a stop-off.

The area boasts fertile farming land with a strong history in wool, fat lambs, cattle, wheat and canola production. Viticulture and large-scale egg production have added to the diversity of the region.

The old EW Corden Commercial Exchange Stores is a perfect example of early 1900s architecture in the town. The building now houses the Cabonne Food, Wine and Cultural Centre.

Cudal is well appointed with facilities for a village of its size, being home to 389 people. The town boasts a town pool, a popular caravan park and an attractive sportsground. The town is also serviced by a Primary School, childcare/pre-school facility, a bowling club and accommodation.



CUMNOCK

One of the smallest settlements in Cabonne with 288 people, Cumnock is a tranquil rural village with a wide main street flanked by vibrantly painted telegraph poles – “The Happy Poles of Cumnock”.

The ‘Animals on Bikes – Paddock Sculptures’ on Banjo Paterson Way are also a drawcard for the town. Created by local farming families, community groups, and sculptors, the 120-kilometre trail features more than 100 structures and letterboxes on the back road from Molong via Cumnock, Yeoval and on to Dubbo.

A proven rugby legend breeding ground with a strong sporting ethos, Cumnock has turned out five Australian Wallaby players. There must be something in the water because they grew up on the same road.

The rural sector is the main industry of the town with wool production, sheep, cattle and grain growing.



EUGOWRA

Located in the Lachlan River Basin, Eugowra is a picturesque town nestled along the Mandagery Creek, and is home to 634 people.

Eugowra is in the heart of bushranger country and is most famous for Australia’s biggest gold robbery by Frank Gardiner’s gang at Escort Rock. Only a portion of the loot was ever recovered which resulted in many tales.

This and other local stories have been immortalised in murals throughout the town and displays at the Historical Museum and Bushranger Centre.

Eugowra is rich in community involvement with several highly successful events (including the Canola Cup, and the Murals and Car Show) hosted each year.

Eugowra is a great base for exploring the natural wonders of the area including Nangar National Park, Back Yamma State Forest, the Mandagery Creek and the Lachlan River.

The town is well known for cattle, timber, feed and hay production, and the source of the unique granite used in the construction of the new Parliament House.

MANILDRA

Situated on the banks of the Mandagery Creek, Manildra is a grain processing centre with the biggest flour mill in the southern hemisphere, the Manildra Flour Mill. The mill runs 24 hours a day and is the hub of the area. It not only plays a huge role in the activity, employment, and economic stability of Manildra, but visually dominates standing proud and tall against the rural

landscape. More recently MSM Milling has established adjacent to the flour mill, processing canola oil for international distribution.

Australia's oldest continually operating picture theatre, the Amusu Theatre, is also located in Manildra. Allan Tom started the theatre in 1923 as a travelling picture show before making it a permanent feature of the town in 1936. The theatre still screens new release films surrounded by the old-world charm of yesteryear.

The town is home to 487 people and features a friendly country style pub, takeaway cafe, a town pool and several town parks. Fishing in the Boree or Mandagery Creeks is a popular pastime of visitors and locals alike.



MOLONG

1,569 people, historic buildings, a National Trust classified Main Street, leafy streets and rolling countryside greet visitors to Molong. The name Molong is from an Aboriginal word meaning "place of many rocks".

The main street is a good example of late Victorian era and early 20th century architecture, complimenting the many historical buildings scattered throughout the town.

The town lays claim to the burial place of explorer Sir Thomas Mitchell's indigenous tracker - Yuranigh. The site is marked off the Mitchell Highway towards Orange by Aboriginal scar trees. Yuranigh was a man of special honour after accompanying Mitchell on an expedition to Queensland in 1845.

The area has a long rural history producing wheat, sheep, wool, cattle, fruit and wine. Cellar doors, the Yarn Market, recycled metal art, galleries, cafes, country pubs, and charming B&Bs draw visitors to the area in search of a relaxed country experience.

Molong also hosts many unique events including the Banjo Paterson Dinner, NSW Sheep Dog Trials, markets and the Molong Players Annual Production.

MULLION CREEK

Set amongst rugged hills that dip down into winding streams, the Mullion Creek/Ophir area is historically significant to the Australian gold movement. You can almost imagine the panners tipping over their pans on every creek turn.

The Ophir region was not only the first payable goldfield discovered in 1851, but it went on to become the oldest continually worked goldfield in Australia weaving with it a rich social and cultural history. Ophir Reserve is still known as a great place to experience fossicking, gold panning, fishing, bushwalking and relaxing with a picnic.

Mullion Range State Conservation Area combines mountain vistas with peaceful plateaus and dramatic volcanic systems. It is a magical spot for bushwalking, picnicking, swimming in crystal waters, waterfalls, fishing and animal watching (native parrots, owls, gliders, possums and platypus).

The residents are community-oriented, banding together to beautify the locality which offers unique country living within 10 minutes of the city of Orange.

NASHDALE

Experience Nashdale's rolling hills and rich volcanic soil at the foot of Mount Canobolas - an ancient volcano and the highest peak between the Blue Mountains and the Indian Ocean.

Nashdale is a small, but busy little locality with 361 people, a main through-road dividing it and intensive agriculture lining each side of the road for as far as the eye can see.

The area has developed a reputation for produce stalls, cellar doors and boutique restaurants, all meandering through winding roads set amongst the orchards.

Nashdale is a destination for afternoon drives and weekend explorations. The essence of Nashdale can be enjoyed gastronomically, or on foot if you are adventurous, through the bush of the Mount Canobolas State Conservation Area.

Nashdale boasts a picturesque and highly popular primary school, with a very active community-minded group supporting it.

YEOVAL

Yeoval is home to 292 people. Famous Australian storyteller and poet, A.B "Banjo" Paterson, spent the first seven years of his life growing up on the family property 'Buckinbah' on the edge of Yeoval.

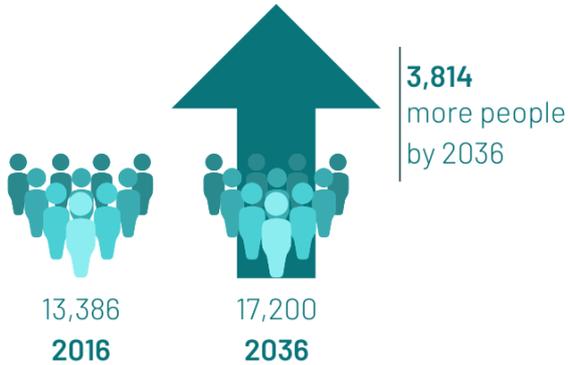
Yeoval has embraced the poet's connection to the area developing the Banjo Paterson Bush Park and a dedicated museum exhibition featuring an audio tour. Lined with works of art, the Poet's Walk features carved slate seats and clay tile walls.

The Bush Park features nine sculptures. The centrepiece is one the largest public artworks in Australia – a six-metre-high bronze abstract of English sculptor, Henry Moore, weighing in at six tonnes. Yeoval is situated on the doorstep of the Goobang National Park which is popular for camping and walking. The town has a historical museum and some nice examples of old buildings with character, including a country style pub.

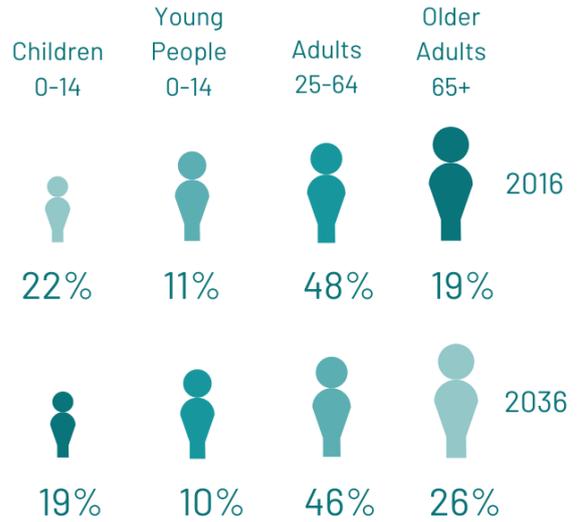


CABONNE AT A GLANCE

Population Growth Forecast 2016 - 2036

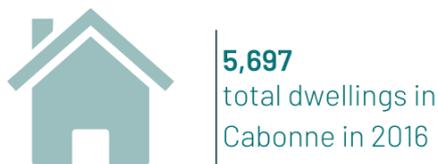


Age Breakdown 2016 - 2036



43 median age of Cabonne population in 2016

Dwellings in Cabonne 2016



Australia's Food Basket



Employment Opportunities

27%
Agriculture



11%
Manufacturing



10%
Mining



VISION STATEMENT

Located centrally within the Central West region, Cabonne Council is the Food Basket of NSW, with a thriving and diverse productive landscape. Our landscapes are supported and connected by our towns and villages that each tell a unique story through their rich history.

Cabonne's unique location, centrally within the Central West and Orana Region will enable it to maintain its identity as the food basket of NSW by supporting the diverse agricultural industry. Opportunities for value adding to agriculture can be used to further cement Cabonne as a major contributor to the regional economy. Growth and diversification within our agricultural sector allows for further growth in tourism given a significant portion of the tourism market is based around agricultural practises.

Our population is forecasted to grow by 1% a year over the next 20 years, with an estimated growth from 13,850 in 2016 to 17,200 in 2036⁵. This will be on the back of strong growth within the region expanding from Orange in the east and Parkes in the west. This will give opportunities for Cabonne to leverage off the growth within the region, and will require council to identify strategic areas within our shire for growth.

There will be a projected growth in our older population, with 36% of the population forecasted to be over the age of 55 by 2036⁶. To accommodate our aging population, council will need to ensure that there are suitable and sustainable housing typologies across the shire for our community, to allow our community to remain within the towns and villages they call home.

One of Cabonne's greatest assets is our unique rural landscape from the top of Mount Canobolas to the beginning of the western plains, including areas of high value biodiversity. Protecting and enhancing this landscape will ensure that it remains a significant asset for the community.

⁵ DPE, 2016, NSW Population, household and implied dwellings projections, DPE, Sydney

⁶ DPE, 2016, NSW Population, household and implied dwellings projections, DPE, Sydney

ACHIEVING THE CABONNE VISION

Planning Priorities

To achieve the vision statement, Cabonne Council has identified nine key priorities to achieve over the next 20 years. These priorities will provide the blueprint for council's strategic planning over the coming years and will further assist in achieving the priorities of the Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036 and Cabonne Community Strategic Plan 2025.

Actions

Each priority sets out a list of actions to be undertaken to achieve the priorities. The actions will include reviewing of strategic plans, adherence to existing plans and advocacy for our shire, and will culminate in a review of Cabonne Local Environmental Plan 2012.

Implementation, monitoring and reporting

To ensure that the planning priorities are being achieved, reviews of strategic planning documents will be undertaken including reporting to council as necessary.

PLANNING PRIORITIES

Cabonne Council is the Food Basket of NSW, with a thriving and diverse productive landscape. Our landscapes are supported and connected by our towns and villages that each tell a unique story through their rich history.		
A diverse and productive economy	Vibrant and supported Communities	A Healthy Environment
1. Support the diversification in agriculture and protect agricultural land from urban encroachment	4. Support and promote sustainable development within our villages and celebrate our history	7. Protect and enhance our landscape, biodiversity and waterways
2. Support and promote sustainable tourism across Cabonne	5. Provide opportunities to ensure a variety of housing types are available across our shire	8. Manage natural hazards to mitigate their impacts on our communities.
3. Support sustainable growth in mining and industry and leverage off opportunities within the region.	6. Ensure that infrastructure and facilities cater for the changing needs of our community	9. Mitigate and adapt to Climate Change.

A DIVERSE AND PRODUCTIVE ECONOMY

Priority 1: Support the diversification in agriculture and protect agricultural land from urban encroachment

Rationale:

Agriculture forms the second largest industry in the LGA, contributing \$178m to Cabonne's annual economy. All communities within Cabonne are supported and leverage off the agricultural sector with agricultural land making up approximately 92% or 556,500Ha of our shire⁷. Beef and sheep meat together represent \$47m annually to our economy, whilst wool production contributes \$29m. A significant amount of the region's orchard fruits (\$26m, representing 62% of the overall regional output) and wine grapes (\$4m, representing 40% of the regional output)⁸.

More than half of the businesses in the region, being 858 of 1,683, are classified as part of the agricultural industry, which emphasises the importance of agriculture to our economy and communities⁹.

Moving forward it is paramount that Council protect the quality agricultural land we have to ensure it remains a productive resource for our region. Urban encroachment represents a pressing problem, whereby the productivity of the agricultural land or the specific land uses may be adversely impacted with the Right to Farm of the landowner impinged. Managing land uses through amendments to Council's Local Environmental Plan will ensure that agricultural land can continue to be used for agricultural purposes.

Opportunities for value adding to our agricultural sector should be explored and planning instruments adapted to allow for innovation within the sector.

Strategic Direction:

- Reinforce Cabonne Council as an agriculturally based council
- Prevent the fragmentation of rural land for non-rural land uses
- Protect agricultural land for agricultural purposes

Actions:

- Implement the recommendations Blayney, Cabonne and Orange Subregional Rural and Industrial Lands Strategy Review. (Short Term)
- Support diversification of agriculture by reviewing permissible land uses within rural zones to reflect industry requirements. (Short Term)
- Review the Cabonne Development Control Plan for Rural Lands to ensure that rural land is protected from inappropriate development. (Medium Term)
- Advocate for the Right to Farm Policy. (Continual)

Monitoring and Reporting

- Report to council as necessary
- Ongoing review of strategic planning documents

Relationship to other plans

- Central West and Orana Regional Plan (Direction 1, 2, 12, 28)
- Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Future Direction 1.4, 5.4)

⁷Blayney, Cabonne & Orange Council's Sub-regional Rural and Industrial Land Strategy 2019-2036

⁸Blayney, Cabonne & Orange Council's Regional Economic Development Strategy, DPC 2018

⁹ABS Regional Profile

Priority 2: Support and promote sustainable tourism across Cabonne

Rationale:

Tourism forms an ever-increasing part of Cabonne's economy. The region's attractive rural landscape, quaint towns and existing food, wine and arts sectors all support future growth in tourism. Featuring an annual ballooning event, Australian National Field Days, the world's oldest fish fossils at the Age of Fishes Museum and A Day on the Green festival. The shire reflects a diversity in tourism opportunities.

The tourism sector provides an opportunity for agricultural enterprises to value add to their products. Opportunities for amending the land uses within the Local Environmental Plan to allow for suitable uses may further increase opportunities for tourism growth. This is on the back of growth in the boutique food and wine industry that has expanded significantly in recent years.

The growth of tourism, particularly within the rural areas, should be balanced to ensure that it does not adversely impact the prime agricultural undertakings. Further to this, management of sensitive ecological areas, particularly Mount Canobolas, should be paramount to ensure its protection as an area of high quality of remnant vegetation.

Strategic Direction:

- Promote Cabonne as a tourism destination.
- Support appropriate tourism practices in appropriate locations.

Actions:

- Implement the recommendations Blayney, Cabonne and Orange Subregional Rural and Industrial Lands Strategy Review. (Short Term)
- Review Cabonne Tourism Plan (Medium Term)
- Review Cabonne Local Environmental Plan 2012 to ensure that land uses are conducive to the continued diversification in the agricultural tourism market. (Medium Term)

Monitoring and Reporting

- Report to council as necessary
- Ongoing review of strategic documents

Relationship to other plans

- Central West and Orana Regional Plan (Direction 4)
- Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Future Direction 2.2, 4.4)

Priority 3: Support sustainable growth in mining and industry and leverage off opportunities within the region.

Rationale:

Cabonne has a strong history of mining and industry, with the first payable gold in NSW being discovered within the shire in 1851, and the largest flour mill in the southern hemisphere being in Manildra.

Mining is the largest economic contributor to the shire, contributing approximately a third of the Gross Regional Product (GRP), whilst employing approximately 15% of local residents. Industry (specifically manufacturing) contributes approximately 12% of the GRP and employs 10% of local residents¹⁰.

Cabonne is located over extensive geological formations that are known to contain gold and copper, silver and other rare commodities, with a number of exploration licenses covering the LGA. Other resources include limestone, marble and granite materials. Future areas of mining should be suitably located to protect the rural landscape and valuable agricultural land within Cabonne.

On the back of the growth of the Parkes Special Activation Precinct (SAP), there are opportunities for growth in the industry sector, with land identified under the Blayney, Cabonne and Orange Subregional Rural and Industrial Land Strategy south of the existing flour and canola mills at Manildra for potential large scale industrial development¹¹. The site, with good access to road (Henry Parkes Way) and rail (Main Western Railway) would be ideally located in relatively close proximity to the Parkes SAP. Further improvements in road and rail infrastructure and protection of important freight corridors will ensure that Cabonne remains connected to the region, the state and the world.

Strategic Direction:

- Support the growth within the mining and industrial sectors and capitalise on economic opportunities for Cabonne.

Actions:

- Implement the recommendations Blayney, Cabonne and Orange Subregional Rural and Industrial Lands Strategy Review. (Short Term)
- Identify industrial and employment land opportunities and reduce land use conflicts through local land use strategies. (Medium Term)
- Create a comprehensive Development Control Plan to guide development in employment generating industries. (Medium Term)
- Encourage the sustainable development of industrial and employment land to maximise infrastructure and connect to the existing freight network. (Continual)
- Explore opportunities for Council to capitalise on the Parkes Special Activation Precinct in regard to industry and flow on benefits. (Medium Term)

Monitoring and Reporting

- Report to council as necessary
- Ongoing review of strategic documents

Relationship to other plans

- Central West and Orana Regional Plan (Direction 8, 10)
- Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Future Direction 5.5)

¹⁰ Blayney, Cabonne & Orange Council's Regional Economic Development Strategy, DPC 2018

¹¹ Blayney, Cabonne & Orange Council's Sub-Regional Rural and Industrial Land Strategy 2019-2036

VIBRANT AND SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES

Priority 4: Support and promote sustainable development within our villages and celebrate our history.

Rationale:

The villages of Cabonne are the hearts of our community, where we shop, meet and relax. Each village has a unique history and provides varying degrees of services and opportunities for the community. The historic value of our villages is a major tourist attraction, contributing to our local economies. Protecting and enhancing our rich history, whilst encouraging economic activity will ensure that our villages can thrive and can continue to provide a high quality of life for our community.

Cabonne has 244 listed heritage items, including four items of state significance, and the heritage conservation areas of Canowindra and Molong within our Local Environmental Plan. The identified items are spread across the shire and include a wide variety of buildings and sites that have shaped our history including the Manildra Amusu theatre, Escort Rock at Eugowra and the former gold field at Ophir¹². There is also a significant amount of Aboriginal heritage across Cabonne, with 442 recorded Aboriginal sites.

Opportunities for revitalising existing commercial premises, whilst encouraging new development within the villages will allow our villages to support the community and ensure that local money is invested locally. This may include the adaptive re-use of heritage items which will ensure that they are preserved. New development within the villages should be sympathetic to the existing character of the local area in regard to the built form and landscape. Consultation with the Aboriginal community should continue about their cultural heritage and connection to Country.

The threats of larger economic centres around Cabonne drawing residents could be curbed through the provision of efficient businesses that provide for the daily needs of the community as well as leveraging on the unique village atmosphere that the Cabonne villages can offer.

Strategic Direction:

- Encourage sustainable development within the villages to support the local economies.
- Celebrate and protect key heritage assets across the shire and ensure future development within the villages is sympathetic to its surrounds.

Actions:

- Prepare a shire wide economic development strategy to foster development and economic within the villages. (Medium)
- Review the Cabonne Settlement Strategy to identify suitable areas for growth. (Short)
- Prepare a comprehensive Development Control Plan for commercial areas, including specific controls for Heritage items and heritage conservation areas. (Medium Term)
- Investigate potential for Aboriginal heritage study for Cabonne Local Government Area. (Long Term)
- Protect, manage and respect Aboriginal objects and places in accordance with legislative requirements. (Continual)

Monitoring and Reporting

- Report to council as necessary
- Ongoing review of strategic planning documents

Relationship to other plans

- Central West and Orana Regional Plan (Direction 16, 17, 23)
- Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Future Direction 2.1, 2.3, 2.4, 4.1, 4.3)

¹² Cabonne Local Environmental Plan 2012, Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage

Priority 5: Provide opportunities to ensure a variety of housing types are available across our shire

Rationale:

The housing stock across Cabonne has traditionally consisted of single dwellings in close proximity to the village centres and farm dwellings. With Cabonne projected to grow to a population of 17,100 by 2036¹³, housing supply, and diversity would need to be addressed. To ensure that additional population can be supported, reviews of critical infrastructure and strategic plans will need to be undertaken.

Major developments within the region may allow Cabonne to leverage off growth opportunities (particularly within Parkes to the west and Orange to the east) to provide a wider variety of housing choices for our community. There may be opportunities for the villages of Manildra and Eugowra to embrace growth opportunities presented by the Parkes Special Activation Precinct and Inland Rail to the west. In addition, opportunities for sustainable growth may be identified around other villages. Investigating the capacity of our infrastructure will allow council to plan for capital investments to augment existing services to accommodate for growth.

In addition, Cabonne is projected to have a significant increase in older persons, with 1 in 4 people to be over 65 by 2036¹⁴. To ensure that people can age in place and remain a part of the community, improvements and increases in aged care, and alternative housing types are needed to ensure that a significant portion of our population can age in place whilst ensuring access to facilities is maintained.

By aging in place, the economies of our towns and villages will continue to be supported. Improvements in key services including health and transport will further enhance the opportunities for older persons within Cabonne.

Strategic Direction:

- Identify strategic areas for growth opportunities around existing urban development.
- Ensure that suitable accommodation is available for older persons within Cabonne.

Actions:

- Review the Cabonne Settlement Strategy to identify suitable areas for growth and increase housing choice, including housing for older people and affordable housing options. (*Short Term*)
- Implement a comprehensive Development Control Plan for residential and urban development. (*Medium Term*)
- Advocate for improvements to health and transport services for our villages. (*Continual*)

Monitoring and Reporting

- Report to council as necessary
- Ongoing review of strategic documents

Relationship to other plans

- Central West and Orana Regional Plan (Direction 6, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27)
- Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Future Direction 3.2, 4.1)

¹³ DPE, 2016, NSW Population, household and implied dwellings projections, DPE, Sydney

¹⁴ DPE, 2016, NSW Population, household and implied dwellings projections, DPE, Sydney

Priority 6: Ensure that infrastructure and facilities cater for the changing needs of our community

Rationale:

Our villages each have facilities and infrastructure that provide for our community. Improving and expanding these facilities and infrastructure is essential to cater for the growing and changing needs of our community.

Cabonne has a number of notable open space and indoor facilities that they maintain, including Morris Park and Orana House in Canowindra, the Doctor Ross Memorial Recreation Ground and Molong HealthOne in Molong, and swimming pools and sporting grounds. Improving and maintaining these open spaces and facilities will provide areas for our communities to come together whilst promoting a healthy lifestyle for our community.

Opportunities to improve connections within as well as between the towns and villages through upgrades to footpaths, roads and cycle paths will allow better access for the community to the facilities. Augmentation to the streetlights will open up our villages after dark, ensuring that the community can safely travel around the villages.

Opportunities to further invest in Cabonne's Village Enhancement Program and capitalise on a renewed Development Contributions Plan will allow Council to improve these facilities. In recent years, the Village Enhancement Program has injected \$2m into 79 projects across the shire¹⁵.

Strategic Direction:

- Provide appropriate infrastructure for the communities of Cabonne to ensure that it meets the needs of our community.

Actions:

- Update and implement the Cabonne Pedestrian and Mobility Plan (PAMP) (*Continual*)
- Complete plans of management for Crown Land allotments that council manage (*Short Term*).
- Review and update council's Developer Contributions Plan pursuant to clause 7.11/7.12 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979. (*Short Term*)
- Support programs such as council's Village Enhancement Program to improve investment in local projects. (*Continual*)

Monitoring and Reporting:

- Report to Council as necessary
- Ongoing review of strategic documents

Relationship to other plans:

- Central West and Orana Regional Plan (Direction 6, 29)
- Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Future Direction 1.1, 3.1, 3.3, 4.2)

¹⁵ Think Orange Region: Region Prospectus 2019

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

Priority 7: Protect and enhance our landscape, biodiversity and waterways

Rationale:

The Cabonne Local Government Area is unique in that it straddles two diverse bioregions, the South Western Slopes and South Eastern Highlands, resulting in a landscape from the height of Mount Canobolas, Mullion Range, Borenore Karst reserve and the volcanic soils of the east, the rural productive landscape through the centre of the LGA to the Goobang and Nangar National Parks in the west. To the north-East of the LGA there is the Macquarie River, and to the South-West there is the Lachlan River.

The shire shares a large variety of biodiversity with at least 400 species of native fish, amphibians, reptiles and mammals, over 250 native bird species and over 1150 native plant species¹⁶. We also have 13 distinct vegetation communities, some of which are threatened and listed for protection under Commonwealth and NSW legislation. Our landscape is a major attraction for tourism within the shire, with an abundance of bushwalks, bike paths and picnic areas across the shire. Opportunities to further enhance these facilities and link to the landscape would enhance Cabonne as a tourist destination. Additionally, our unique landscape provides strong links, which should be reserved, to the Wiradjuri people who lived on this land.

Areas of high-quality biodiversity, including the Mt Canobolas State Conservation Area, should be protected to ensure that they remain a significant asset for the shire and the broader Central West. Any development within these areas should be considered for the adverse or detrimental impacts they may have to the long-term biodiversity qualities of the area. Threats to the longevity of our landscape, biodiversity and waterways includes clearing, noxious weeds, feral animals, incompatible land uses and urban encroachment. Future development should be managed to ensure that it respects and enhances the biodiversity qualities of the shire.

Strategic Direction:

- Avoid, minimise, mitigate impacts to biodiversity to ensure it is available for future generations.
- Protect areas of high quality biodiversity from inappropriate development.

Actions:

- Prepare Development Control Plan that addresses management of rural lands, biodiversity and recent changes to bring Council controls in line with the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 and the State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017. (*Medium Term*)
- Review Cabonne Local Environmental Plan 2012 mapping of Biodiversity areas. (*Medium Term*)

Monitoring and Reporting

- Report to Council as necessary
- Ongoing review of strategic documents

Relationship to other plans

- Central West and Orana Regional Plan (Direction 13, 14, 16)
- Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Future Direction 5.4, 5.5)

¹⁶ NSW Bionet Atlas – Cabonne Council

Priority 8: Manage natural hazards to mitigate their impacts on our communities.

Rationale:

Whilst Cabonne Council has a unique landscape mix of bushland, grasslands and waterways that are a major asset to the shire, they in turn represent a significant hazard in the form of flooding and bushfires. These can represent a significant economic burden to the community should they be impacted by the hazards. Further to this, parts of the shire are identified as being prone to Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) which can represent a significant hazard to development in these areas.

A number of townships are located on waterways that are prone to flooding during extreme weather events. The areas that are impacted include commercial, residential and recreational land, and can lead to significant problems for not only the immediate locality, but the broader Cabonne community.

In addition, a significant portion of the shire is identified as being bushfire prone. Managing development within these areas is paramount to ensure that the risk of human life and property is mitigated.

The Ordovician to Early Silurian geological formations within the east of the shire are identified as being at a high risk of containing Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA)¹⁷. Whilst not considered dangerous if left undisturbed, it can present a significant risk when development is proposed within these areas.

Ensuring that council's development controls are consistent with state legislative requirements and are reviewed periodically will ensure that new development will be conducive to a safe and healthy community.

Strategic Direction:

- Provide appropriate mechanisms to ensure public awareness of natural hazards.
- Ensure that new development is appropriate for the known natural hazards of the area.

Actions:

- Implement the requirements of the NSW Floodplain Development Manual by updating flood studies and floodplain risk management plans. (*Medium Term*)
- Prepare a Development Control Plan that addresses controls for development in areas of natural hazards to provide consistent controls across the shire. (*Medium Term*)
- Manage the risks of disturbance in areas affected by Naturally Occurring Asbestos by increasing public awareness and providing mapping to the community. (*Continual*)
- Assess Development in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019. (*Continual*)

Monitoring and Reporting

- Report to council as necessary
- Ongoing review of strategic documents

Relationship to other plans

- Central West and Orana Regional Plan (Direction 15)
- Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Future Direction 5.2, 5.6)

¹⁷ Safe Work NSW- Naturally Occurring Asbestos

Priority 9: Mitigate and adapt to Climate Change and support Renewable energy projects

Rationale:

Changes to the global climate are resulting in planning for a climate with more erratic weather patterns as well as an increase in temperatures. A changing climate can lead to less reliable water sources as well as a higher risk of extreme weather, leading to a potential increase in natural hazards. A move to a more efficient use of water and electricity can reduce the LGA's dependence upon these resources.

Opportunities to mitigate the impacts of increased temperature through the introduction of more green space including the planting of trees to reduce the heat build up around our villages. Making effective use of stormwater through the implementation of Water Sensitive Urban Design within the villages will result in a more efficient use of one of our most valuable resources.

Ensuring that new residential development complies with the requirements of BASIX to make dwellings more efficient in regard to thermal comfort and water saving measures. On a shire wide basis, a transition to renewable energy through the implementation of council's Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) will lead to a reduction in council's carbon footprint by installing more efficient infrastructure on council assets. Cabonne can also contribute on a larger scale by allowing for opportunities for large scale renewable energy developments within suitably located areas by way of a review of planning requirements that will contribute to a state-wide transition away from fossil fuels.

Strategic Direction:

- Council supports renewable energy developments that is suitably located and is sympathetic to the landscape whilst ensuring that agriculture and industry can continue to play a major role in Cabonne's economy.
- Mitigate the adverse impacts of increased temperatures as a result of climate change.

Actions:

- Ensuring residential development adheres to the requirements of BASIX (Continual)
- Support the implementation of council's Renewable Energy Action Plan (REAP) (Short Term)
- Support Council's urban tree planting program (Continual)

Monitoring and Reporting:

- Report to council as necessary
- Ongoing review of strategic documents

Relationship to other plans:

- Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036 (Direction 9)
- Cabonne Community Strategic Plan (Future Direction 5.7)