



Local Strategic Planning Statement

Warren Shire Council

May 2020



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About the Statement

This Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets the framework for Warren 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.

This LSPS has been prepared in accordance with clause 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 Warren.

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 a number 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, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Narromine and Warrumbungle. It also works with council's Community Strategic Plan (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.



Consultation

The Warren LSPS has been based primarily on the consultation that was carried out for the Integrated and Reporting framework in 2016-2017 as part of the Community Strategic Plan. The LSPS is required to be consistent with the Community Strategic Plan and any other strategic plans.

Council's approach to consultation will build upon and test the results of the extensive engagement undertaken in developing Warren Shire's Community Strategic Plan 2017.

The draft LSPS was made available for community consultation for 60 days.

Our Vision, Our Future

Warren Shire is a location of choice for outback living with a welcoming, inclusive and resilient community, that embraces the future and respects the past.



The local community are happy and healthy, sharing success and knowledge from living in harmony with the land and with each other. Warren 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 irrigated agriculture; seizes the tourism opportunities of the Macquarie Marshes and maintains its liveable and close community with a focus on commercial and industrial development in and around the town of Warren.

The township is anchored by the resilient agricultural industry and thrives in the areas of renewable energy and nature-based tourism. Waterways, bushland and biodiversity all contribute to the identity of Warren and are protected to support healthy ecosystems and way of life within the Shire. The community lead healthy lifestyles, enjoy the natural assets and utilise the town's accessible and high-quality recreational facilities provide.

Tourism is booming, drawing bird-watchers and nature lovers from across the country and internationally, boosting the regional economy and generating jobs.

Context

Our Shire – A Snapshot

Warren Shire, situated in Western New South Wales, has an area of 10,860 square kilometres, equivalent to about 1.3% of the State's land surface. The total estimated population for the Shire as at 2018 was 2,745, this is greater than the total population identified on 2016 census night, at 2,732. Warren is located 120km from the regional centre of Dubbo and 540km from Sydney.

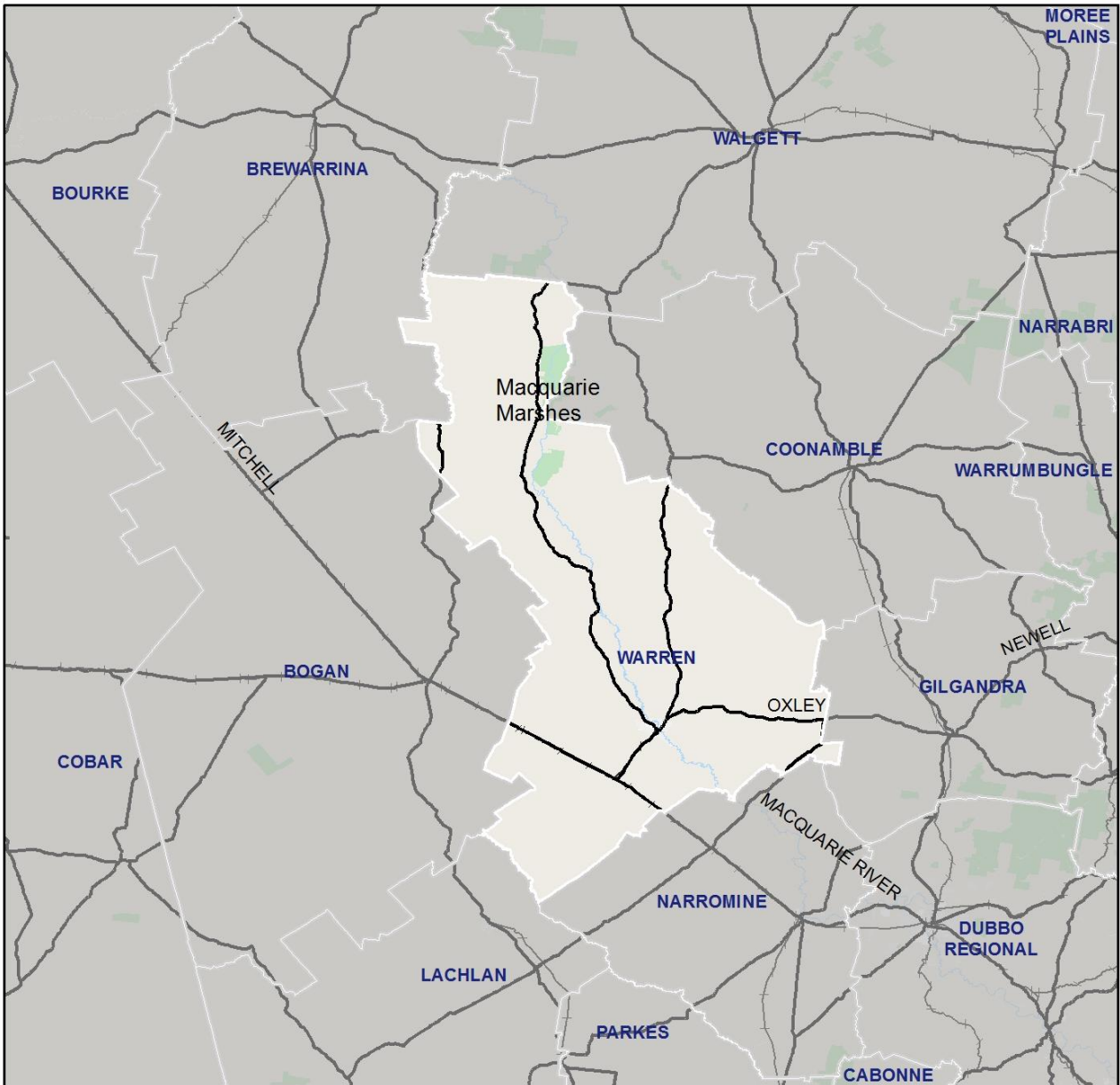
Warren Shire includes the towns of Warren and the villages of Nevertire and Collie. Nevertire was created partly in response to the construction of the railway from Dubbo to Nevertire (Main Western Line - opened in 1882) and, subsequently, rail was extended from Nevertire to Warren (Warren Branch) in 1898. This has resulted in the construction of large grain handling facilities that supported the village's growth. The passenger station is now closed but grain/cotton/freight still occurs along the line. Collie is located on the northern side of the Oxley Highway between Nevertire/Warren and Gilgandra. Collie therefore has a reasonable amount of passing traffic and heavy vehicles.




The Shire is economically dependent on agriculture, particularly sheep and cattle, grain and irrigation. Aside from those directly employed by the agricultural industry, there are also significant flow-on economic benefits from this industry to other related enterprises.

The first European settlers moved into the area in the early 1830s taking up land, or “squatting” in the surrounding district, and Warren was gazetted as a town in June 1861. Prior to this settlement the sole owners and occupants had been the traditional custodians of the country, the Wayilwan/ Weilwan people.

The area covered by the Warren Shire sits at the convergence of the territories of two Aboriginal language groups, the Wiradjuri to the southeast and the Wayilwan to the north and northwest. Prominent features within the landscape usually defined tribal boundaries and an area from within the Barwon River to the north, the Bogan River to the west and the Castlereagh River to the east is regarded as the Wayilwan territory. Smaller local groups of the Wayilwan lived within the region, including the Waiabara, who lived near the Barwon River and the Kamwabari/ Kawambarai who lived in the area south of Quambone extending towards the Castlereagh River. The name Warren is said to have been used by the Wayilwan people of the Warren region, meaning 'river'.

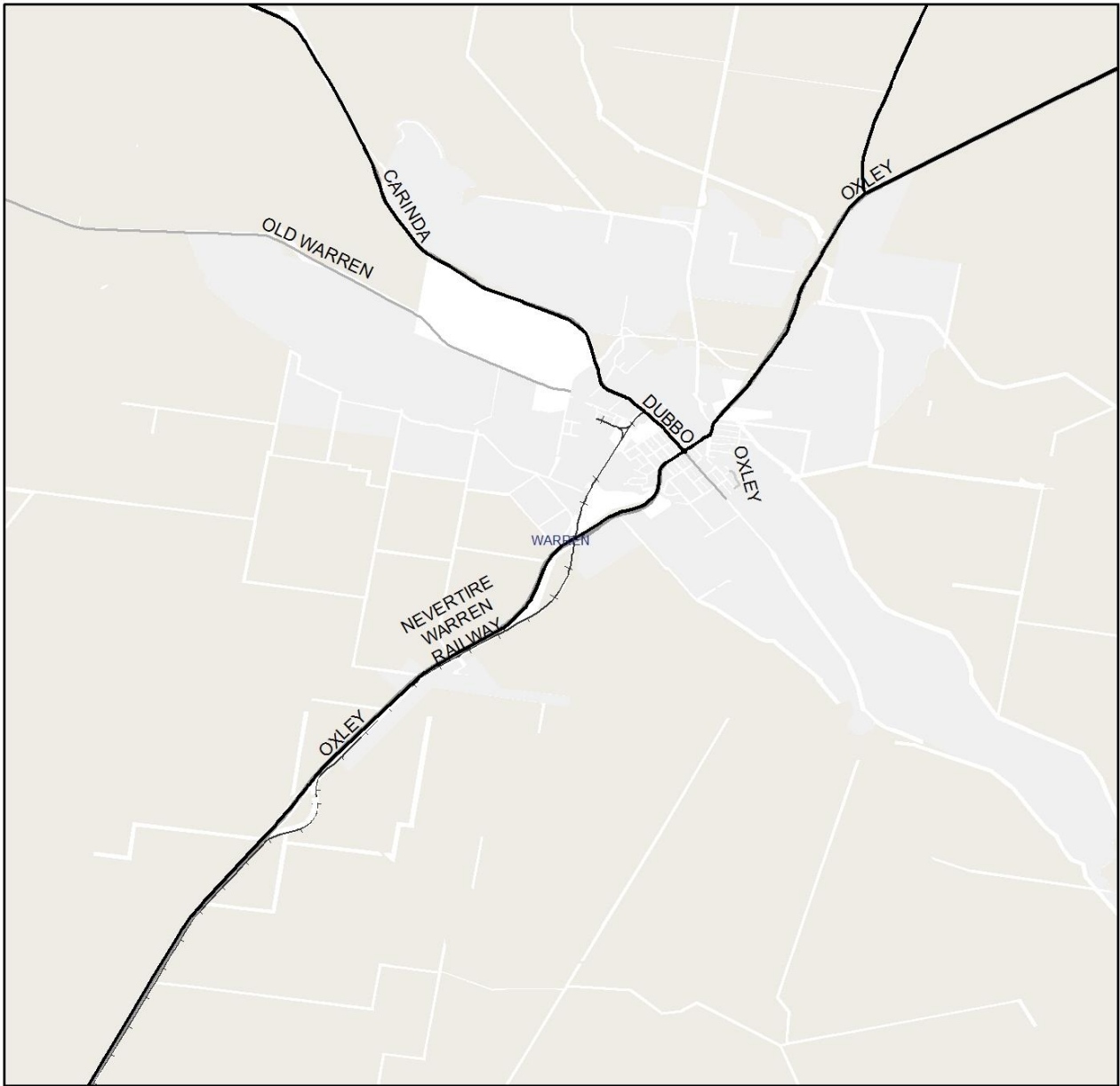


Warren Local Government Area

1:2,000,000 

Legend

-  Watercourse
-  National Park
-  Railway Rail
-  Highways



Town of Warren



Legend

- Urban Footprint
 Railway Rail
 Highways
- Rural Footprint

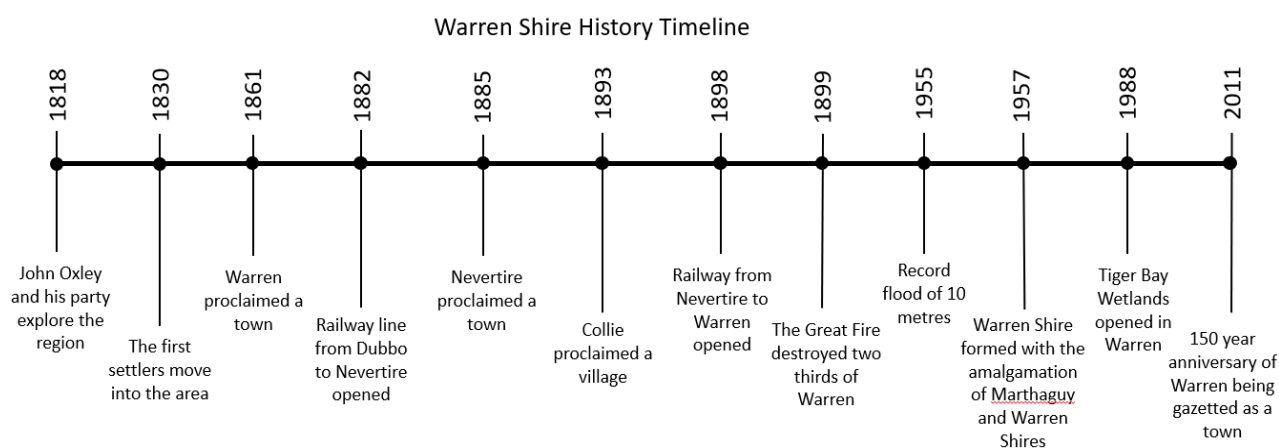
Our People, Environment and Economy

Located in the Orana Region, Warren lies on the banks of the Macquarie River, and situated along the Oxley highway, 120 kilometres west of Dubbo. The township of Warren is the major urban area for people living and working within the Shire. Educational facilities include 3 schools and a TAFE campus.

Our People

Warren Shire reported a population of 2,732 across the two towns Warren and Nevertire and the village Collie on 2016 census night. Despite the trends on declining populations in nearby towns and villages, Warren Shire has experienced an increase in population from 2016 (Census night) and 2018, now estimated at 2,745 people. Similarly, the indigenous population in Warren has increased, with 14.5 percent identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (2016 Census). This is significantly larger than the state average of 2.9 percent.

Where have we come from?



The Wayilwan people have occupied and managed this land for 60,000 years.

ECONOMY	
Employment	1,113 jobs
Gross Regional Product	\$171.22M
Major Industry	Agriculture
PEOPLE	
Population	2,732
Median Income	\$46,585
LOCATION	
Kilometres from Sydney	540km
Kilometres from Dubbo	120km
CLIMATE	
Average Max. Temp	24.7
Average Min. Temp	11.0
Mean Annual Rainfall	498.1mm

Warren LGA
Population
2,732 (2016)

Median age 43
NSW average 38

Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander 14.5%
NSW average 2.9%

Dwelling internet connection 64.1%
NSW average 82.5%

Tertiary education 3.6%
NSW average 6.2%

Unemployment rate 7.4%
NSW average 6.3%

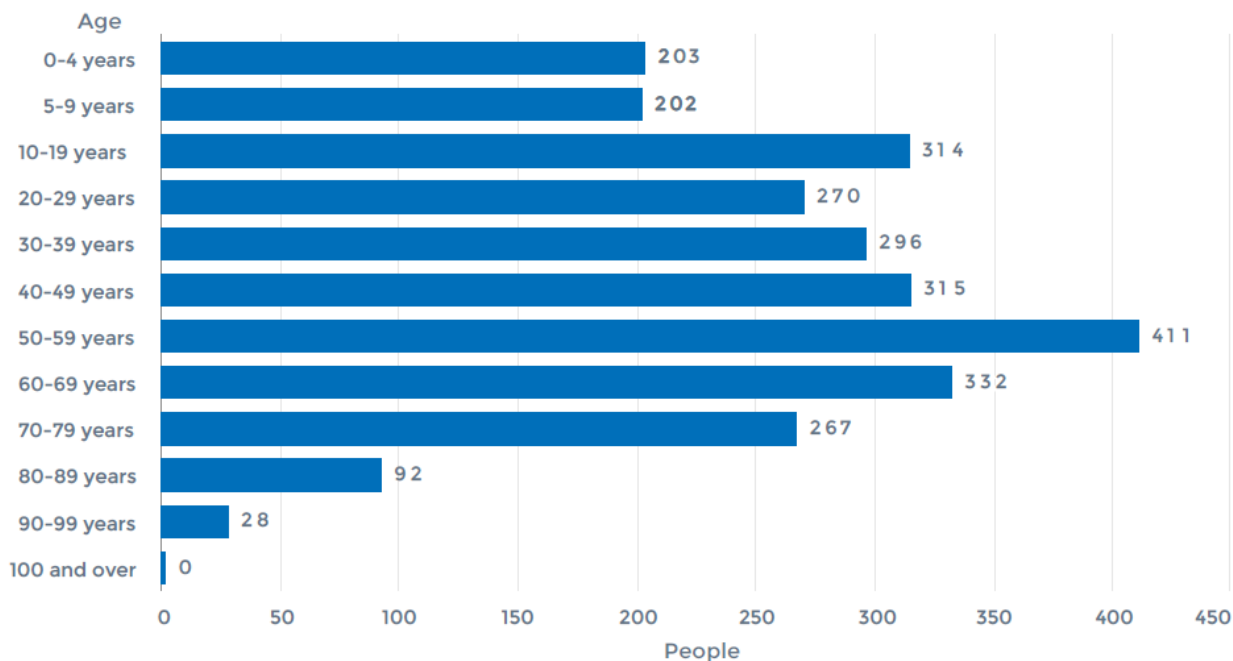
Median weekly household income \$1,104
NSW average \$1,486



ABS (2016)

Age Distribution

Analysis of population data for Warren Shire in 2016 shows that 26.3 percent of the population was aged between 0-19, and 26.3 percent was aged 60 and over, compared with 24.5 percent and 21.9 percent respectively for NSW.



Lifestyle, Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing, and physical activity is important to the local community. The town boasts excellent facilities for popular sports, with over 20 sporting groups active in the Shire. Warren's Sporting and Cultural Centre caters for indoor sports (indoor basketball, volleyball, cricket, netball as well as other recreational games), outdoor fitness equipment, and Olympic sized swimming pool,

three town ovals, ball courts, a racecourse complex, Skatepark, 18-hole golf course, bowling green, skate park and three walking tracks. Both Nevertire and Collie have an oval and tennis courts.



Image: Carter Oval Plan Site plan

Our Environment

The Shire is largely flat, except for occasional granite outcrops, the largest being Mt Foster (250m) and Mt Harris (240m). Both of these are in a close proximity and are offshoots of the Warrumbungle Ranges. The elevation of the town of Warren sits at 197m above sea level.

The Macquarie Marshes, which is one of Australia's most significant inland wetlands, is located 100 kilometres north of Warren. The wetlands are listed on the Ramsar Convention as a wetland area of international importance. The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of the wetlands and their resources.

The Macquarie Marshes are one of the largest freshwater wetlands in the Murray-Darling Basin. The ecological system contains a variety of wetland types, ranging from semi-permanent and frequently inundated marshes to ephemeral wetlands inundated by only the largest floods. The Macquarie River feeds into the Macquarie Marshes and the marsh area absorbs the water with very little water leaving the marshes to drain further towards the Barwon River system except in high flood events.



Image: Macquarie Marshes Lookout

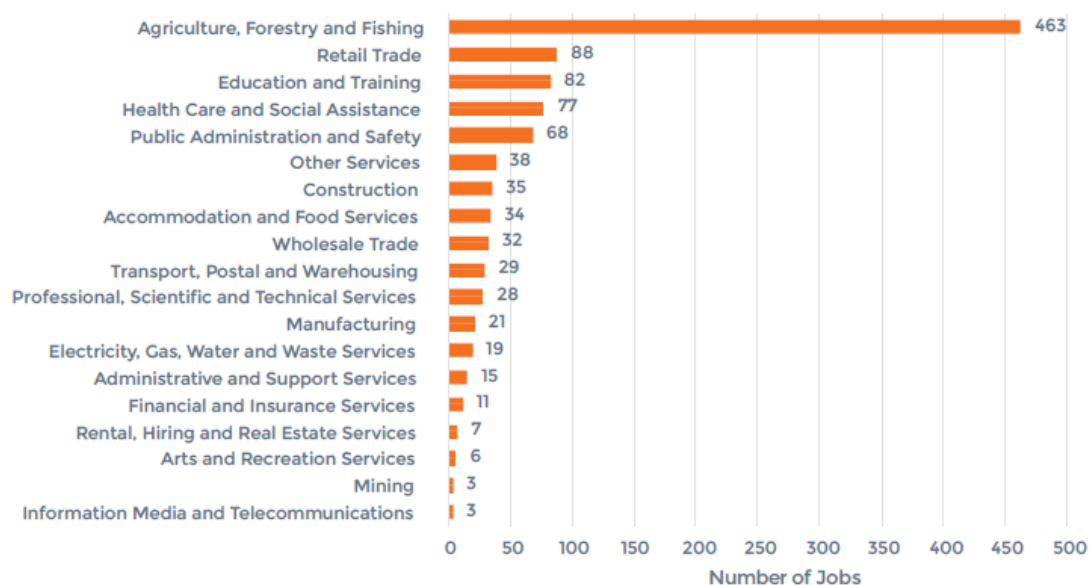
Our Economy

Warren Shire sits in the heart of the fertile Macquarie Valley in Central Western NSW. Warren is a prosperous service centre for the surrounding area, with Gross Regional Product estimated at \$171.22 Million.

The Warren region has a highly productive and diverse agricultural industry - excelling in the production of sheep, wool, cattle, grain and cotton. Irrigation for farming is sourced from the Macquarie River. Agriculture is the largest employment sector followed by retail trade, education and training, health care and social assistance and public administration and safety.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

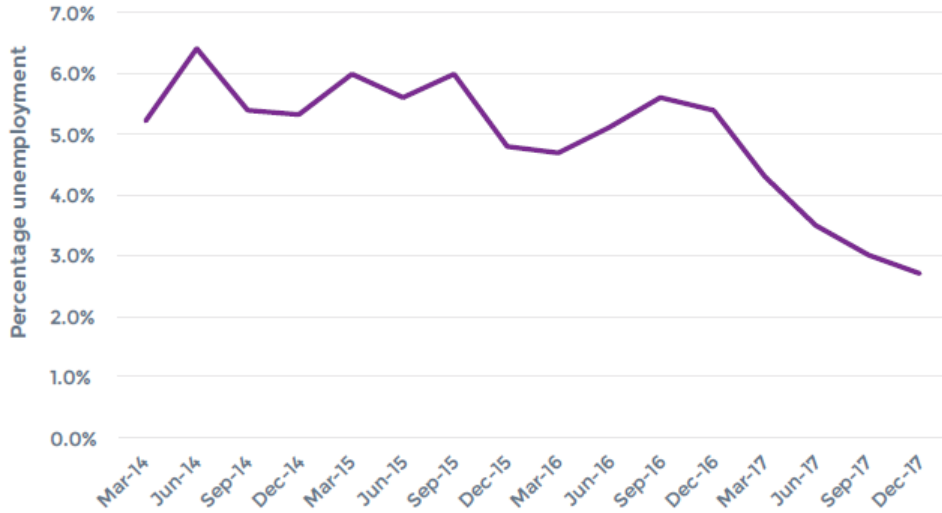
Employment (Jobs) Warren 2016



Source: Employment by Industry from Department of Premier Cabinet (DPC) Data

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE – WARREN SHIRE

December 2017 unemployment of 2.7% was below the national level of 5.2%.

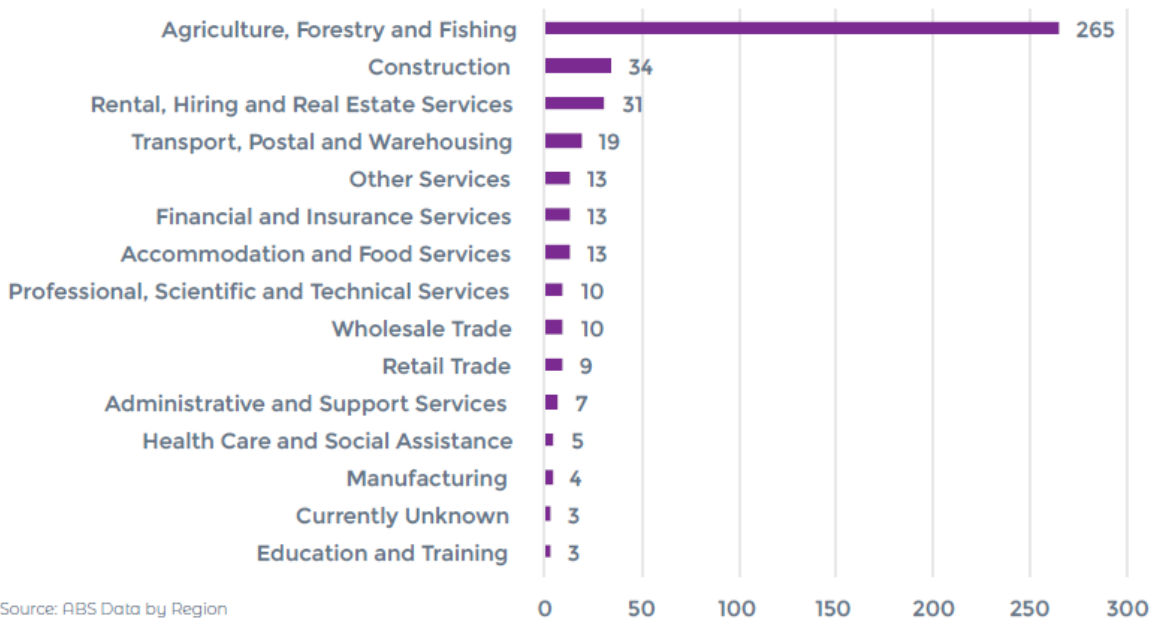


Source: ABS

BUSINESS ACTIVITY

There are 428 businesses operating in Warren Shire. The largest number of businesses are in the 'Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing' sector (265) followed by Construction (34) and Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (31).

Business Counts - June 2017



Source: ABS Data by Region

Transport and Logistics

Warren Shire is intersected by the Oxley and Mitchell highways – both major freight routes. The Oxley Highway connects the country to the coast (Nevertire to Port Macquarie) and the Mitchell Highway connects NSW to rural Queensland (from Nevertire to Central Western Queensland). The Mitchell Highway links Warren Shire to Sydney.

Rail lines service the Warren Shire – providing a transportation network for the agricultural sector. The proposed Inland Rail corridor will provide a timely boost to the region for freight movements by rail.

For those wanting to travel by air within NSW and to the ACT Warren Shire is well serviced by Dubbo Regional Airport. Three major airlines (QantasLink, Regional Express (Rex) and FlyPelican) provide more than 150 direct return flights per week from Dubbo to Sydney and Broken Hill, as well as Dubbo to Newcastle direct and Dubbo to Canberra direct.

Opportunities

Business Opportunities

There are a range of business opportunities in Warren Shire, in particular:

- Agriculture Support Service – Industries that support Agriculture should be a focus of future activities particularly in the Agricultural and Construction Machinery, Wholesaling and Equipment Repair and Maintenance sectors.
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services – This sector is projected to be the fastest growing industry in the Orana region to 2020. This industry includes agricultural biotechnical research services, survey and mapping services, and management advice and related consulting services.
- Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services – This sector is expected to grow faster than the population and employment, is a large producer of output and value add and is a potentially emerging industry due to recent employment growth in the Shire. Examples of businesses in this category include fencing contractors, agricultural machinery rental services and real estate agents.

Tourism opportunities

The Macquarie Marshes are a major drawcard for visitors to the Shire. It is one of the largest remaining inland semi-permanent wetlands in south-eastern Australia. It encompasses extensive areas of weed, swamp, water couch grasslands, river red gum woodlands and floodplains that cover an area of 200,000 hectares. Of this the Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve makes up 21,927 hectares.

The Marshes is particularly outstanding for its value as one of the important breeding sites for nesting waterbirds in Australia. A total of 77 species of waterbird can be found in the Marshes, including threatened species such as the Magpie goose, Brolga, Australian bittern, Freckled duck and Blue-billed duck. It also provides important habitat for migrating birds such as Sand pipers, Godwits and

Snipe. With the reasonable intact woodlands, the Marshes' is inhabited by 156 species of bird other than the waterbirds, including the square-tailed kite, barking owl, hooded robin, varied sittella and glossy black cockatoo.

Opportunities exist to promote and expand on nature-based tourism offered at the Macquarie Marshes. The NSW Government has funded Stage 1 of the Destination Macquarie Marshes project submitted by RiverSmart on behalf of the Warren Shire Council, Coonamble Shire Council, Walgett Shire Council, Brewarrina Shire Council, Bourke Shire Council and Bogan Shire Council, the Warren Local Aboriginal Land Council, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW OEH and the Macquarie Wetlands Association. The NSW Government has recently announced \$3,091,874 in funding for RiverSmart Australia Ltd and Warren Shire Council, to develop and expand the region's impressive Macquarie Marshes. River Smart Australia is a not-for-profit organisation supporting stakeholder-based management and restoration of Australia's river systems.



New development will include the construction of a second wildlife viewing platform, installation of a 1.8 kilometre long boardwalk, improved directional and interpretive signage, interpretative signage detailing the significance of the marshes to the Wayilwan people, plus a range of infrastructure additions to the Window on the Wetlands Centre in Warren for it to operate as the Visitor Information Centre for Macquarie Marshes.



Image: Macquarie Marshes.

Green Distillation Technologies (GDT) Tyre Recycling Plant Warren

Green Distillation Technologies is bringing its first tyre recycling plant at Warren, NSW up to full production following the recent award of an Environmental Protection Licence by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. The plant occupies approximately 4 hectares of the 21-hectare site leaving space for expansion and other projects, synergistic industries and tyre storage.

The new recycling plant will turn these old tyres into high-grade oil, steel and carbon via a process called “destructive distillation”, which involves using a chemical reaction to process tyres back into raw materials. Once the pilot plant is running at full capacity, it is expected to process around 19,000 tonnes of material each year, around 685,000 tyres.

As the first of its kind in the world the GDT Warren plant has already attracted a large number of visitors, both national and international and this flow is set to grow.



Our themes and planning priorities

To deliver the vision for 2040, Warren will prioritise to take advantage of the regions opportunities and meet the challenges of the future to ensure that the local government area becomes the welcoming, sustainable and diversified community and region it envisages to become.

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

- a welcoming and resilient community;
- a sustainable, healthy and well-managed community and environment; and
- a strong and diverse economy.

These three themes capture the way Warren will succeed and remain dynamic into the future. The themes will be implemented through each respective planning priorities and their supporting policy positions and actions.

Community and Place

A welcoming and resilient community supported by quality services and infrastructure

Priority 1 Promote and enhance the identity and unique character of the town

Priority 2 Encourage a connected, active and healthy community

Priority 3 Provide contemporary services and local infrastructure for the community and businesses to prosper

Environment

A sustainable, healthy and well-managed community for today and future needs

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

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 industry development and employment opportunities.

Priority 7 Leverage opportunities for increased tourism off the back of investment toward the Macquarie Marshes and Macquarie River.

Priority 8 Promote the Shire as 'open for business' by supporting the growth of both new and existing businesses and industry

Priority 9 Capitalise on the existing facilities at Warren Airport and promote further expansion

Community and Place

A welcoming and resilient community supported by quality services and infrastructure

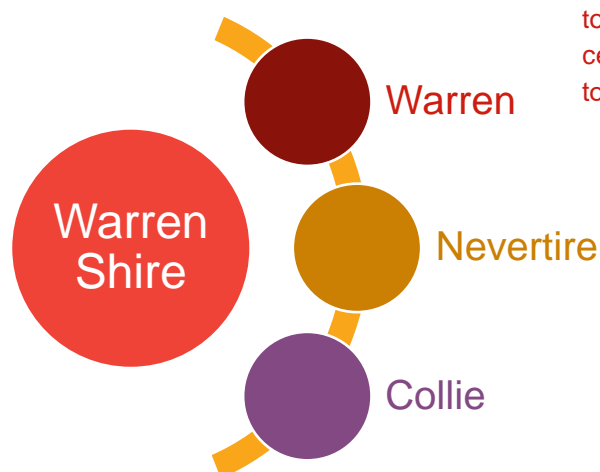
Priority 1 - Promote and enhance the identity and unique character of the town

The welcoming nature and the coming together of the community is what makes Warren the place it is today. The people have a common passion for the area they live in and the desire to retain its local identity. Residents cherish their rich community life and warmly welcome new people drawn to the area. Strengthening local identity and social cohesion will build sustainable and empowering local employment opportunities and add to the Region's tourism offerings.

Warren holds strong Aboriginal culture, history, art and links to country. There are currently no listed heritage items in Warren Shire or immediately around Warren under the Local Environmental Plan (LEP). However, there are a number of items in and around Warren recommended for protection in the *2011 Community Based Heritage Study of the Warren Shire*.

Whilst the town isn't dominated by too many old buildings, walking down Dubbo and Lawson Streets sets the scene of the 19th century, most notably the Club House Hotel, the Royal Hotel, and the terrace houses in Lawson Street.

Council has invested in developing and implementing three village enhancement plans for Warren, Nevertire and Collie, which seeks to improve the identity and character of its unique towns and villages.



Warren is a relatively quiet yet welcoming town and is located on the flat lands of the central western plains. Warren is referred to as the State's wool and cotton capital

Nevertire is home to a large grain handling facility on the railway line, local businesses include a local pub, cafe, mechanic and a rural supplies outlet, and more recently the Nevertire Solar Farm.

Proclaimed as a village in 1893, Collie is now the service centre for the surrounding rural area. Collie is known for the Collie Hotel & Pub, Anzac Memorial, Country Women's Association NSW hall, RFS Shed, Playground and the Catholic Church.

Priority 1 gives effect to the following central West and Orana Regional Plan Directions:

Direction 16: Respect and protect Aboriginal heritage assets

Direction 17: Conserve and adaptively re-use heritage assets

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

Direction 23: Build the resilience of towns and villages

Direction 24: Collaborate and partner with Aboriginal communities

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
1.1 Address the community's social infrastructure needs, such as open space, community facilities, key sites, by implementing Council's village enhancement plans for Warren, Nevertire and Collie.	Council	Short-Medium term
1.2 Prepare the Community Based Built Heritage Study and make publicly available to inform visitors of its past and items/events of significance. Ensure that adequate community consultation is undertaken with respect to identification of heritage items. This is to include discussions with affected landowners	Council, Community	Short term
1.3 Implement the recommendations of the Community Based Built Heritage Study through mapping and schedules and in consultation with local Aboriginal communities apply statutory protection measures in the new LEP to Aboriginal sacred sites, Aboriginal and non-aboriginal objects, values and landscapes, including the retention of natural processes that are part of the significance of a place	Council, WMLALC	Short-Medium term
1.4 Prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study to inform amendments to Council's LEP to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage and cultural landscapes	Council, WMLALC	Short term
1.5 Plan for investment prospectus and the improvement and integration of commercial and community facilities	Council, Chamber of Commerce	Medium-long term
1.6 Identify new opportunities to work with local business to promote the town	Council, Industry	Short term

Priority 2 - Encourage a connected, active and healthy community

Caring for health and wellbeing are fundamental elements of strong, engaged and active communities. Community facilities across the local government area include its health and medical facilities, open space, sporting facilities, schools and childcare centres and essential community facilities. These services have been built up over generations and are integral to its future. Currently, there are opportunities to investigate the locating of health facilities in Warren and the appropriateness of options to collocate complimentary services.

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.

Proactive community health initiatives are important social investments for the future of the LGA that will see improvements to well-being, as well as flow on economic benefits. To ensure public spaces are attractive and usable, areas such as the Warren CBD will need to combat urban heat with tree canopy and vegetation, creating cool areas for its residents to take respite.

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
2.1 Deliver physical and social infrastructure of vital importance for community well-being.	Council	Medium term
2.2 Improve opportunities for passive recreation around our natural and heritage assets.	Council	Medium term
2.3 Develop an urban tree strategy that will identify areas and species and encourage new developments to provide shade trees in carparks and areas of public open space and ensure appropriate controls in the DCP.	Council	Short-term
2.4 Establish partnerships with stakeholders to increase opportunity for participation in sport, recreation and community activity.	Council, Community	Short-term
2.5 Plan and provide an integrated and accessible network of open space.	Council	Medium-term

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

Unlike many rural towns and villages, Warren Shire has been, and is expected to continue growing in population. Planning for a growing Shire is a great responsibility and it's important to plan for an integrated built and natural environment that protects and enhances liveability and allows the community to thrive. It is also important that Council collaborates with the community to realise the shared vision for the Shire within the region.

Such initiatives may include active transport connections from affordable housing or aged care to key facilities in town. Warren, 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.

The attraction of new industry, workers, residents and visitors through collaborative marketing campaigns, promotions and incentives is the key to prosperity. 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 Dubbo Street to allow for upcoming business to have a presence in the main street.

The stronger the connections across the region, with centres in adjoining regions and with Sydney, Canberra and Newcastle, the greater the region's ability 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.

It is vital that the options to connect people through different transport modes (including walking and cycling) jobs, services and amenities are provided. Council will take up the opportunities identified in the three village plans to improve on both movement and place outcomes.

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	Timeframe
3.1 Identify and map the 'Flat Land Freight Route' and investigate the impact of regional freight on local road networks	Council	Short-medium term
3.2 Warren Heavy vehicle bypass – investigate and formalise the impacts on the town and local community	Council	Short-medium term

3.3 Investigate damaged rail bridge repair works required to allow (east-west) connectivity to town centre	Council, TfNSW	Medium-long term
3.4 Implement Orana Transport Strategy	Council, TfNSW, RMS	Medium-long term
3.5 Implement Warren footpath Strategy	Council	Medium term
3.6 Investigate the feasibility of developing a multipurpose space in the CBD for entrepreneurial start-up opportunities within Warren	Council	Medium term

Environment

A sustainable, healthy and well-managed community for today and future needs

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

Our community is proud of its history and achievements and takes stewardship of the unique natural and built environments. Protecting and enhancing the natural, built and aboriginal heritage will not only support existing populations but attract new residents, visitors and investment. Encouraging initiatives that increase the promotion, protection and community appreciation of Aboriginal, immigration, agricultural and river heritage is important moving forward.

Tourism has traditionally taken a back seat to agriculture in Orana Region. That being said, a potentially large tourism opportunity awaits in the Macquarie Marshes, an internationally recognised wetland that is listed for protection under the Ramsar Convention.

Increasing visitation to the Macquarie Marshes is a key priority for not only Council, but for RiverSmart Australia, the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPSW) and WaterNSW. The RiverSmart organisation took the lead with securing \$3.4 million in state funding to build a boardwalk and other tourist facilities to lure visitors to the Marshes. RiverSmart Australia, with assistance from Warren Shire Council developed the Window on the Wetlands (WoW) centre – an education, recreation and cultural centre in Warren. The centre sits beside the Tiger Bay Wetlands complete with walking trails, bird hides and interpretive signage. The WoW centre welcomed over 5,000 visitors in its first year of operation (2015). RiverSmart and Warren Shire Council now have in place a Memorandum of Agreement outlining the many ways they will work together.

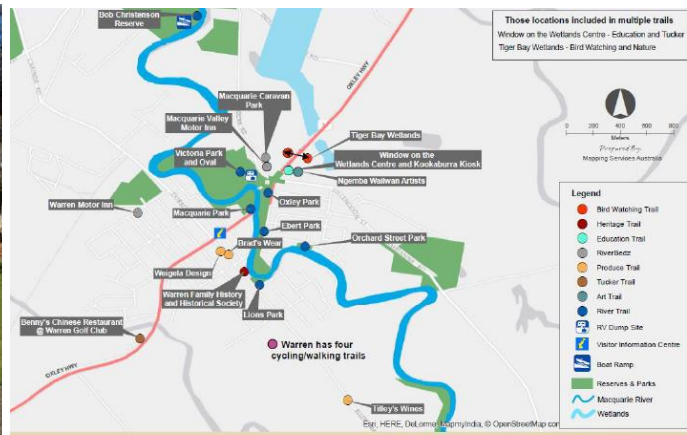
These projects represent the future tourism possibilities that the Shire can leverage into the future, which will in turn benefit the community by way of job creation and economic stimulus. The Macquarie River, together with the Marshes have great ecological value and are a potential magnet for bird enthusiasts. Nevertire is also near major regional bird watching trails from Lake Cargelligo (Lachlan Shire) through to the Macquarie Marshes and up to the Warrumbungles. 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.

Council must work collaboratively with relevant organisations and state agencies to not only protect the treasured Macquarie Marshes but provide the right regulatory framework that supports surrounding landowners to manage their land to ensure farming methods and systems are not only productive but respond to environmental risks that may impact the Macquarie Marshes Corridor.

Council has identified the need to investigate how to better connect the Macquarie River Corridor through to Warren Town Centre to encourage higher quality open spaces and capitalise on tourism opportunities.



RiverSmart's Window on the Wetlands Centre, Warren (Bill Phillips)



Map of Warren showing location of the WoW Centre (www.rivertrails.com.au)

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
4.1 Partner with key stakeholders to collaboratively manage the environmental assets of the Shire	Council, agencies, Industry	On-going (medium term)
4.2 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	Short-term
4.3 Investigate ways to better connect the Macquarie River corridor through to the Warren town centre to encourage higher quality open spaces	Council	Short-medium term
4.4 Support the development of the Aboriginal reserve site for tourism and publications.	Council, WMLALC	Medium-term
4.5 Work with private landowners of the Macquarie Marshes to improve public access and tourism opportunities.	Council, Private landowners	Medium-term

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

Warren sits on the Macquarie River along with the Gunningbar and Ewenmar Creeks either side, that drains towards the Darling River. A clean, sustainable water supply is vital for the health of our community and one of the most important issues facing the region. Along with Council, the community is also responsible for a dependable water supply by ensuring water is used wisely and effectively.

Given the current water security issues across the region, Council wishes to become more involved with other local governments who rely on local river catchments to encourage a more 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 healthy aquatic riverine ecosystems and supports endangered species such as the trout cod and silver perch found in the Macquarie River.

Water security in the region is a major enabler for 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 and the businesses that compliment agriculture.

Moving forward, water security is paramount for Warren Shire for urban water supply, the maintenance of healthy water ways and the environment, and for the growing agriculture sector. Fluctuating river water levels, equitable distribution of water allocations, increasing costs for infrastructure such as dams, pipelines and irrigation across significant geographic areas are just some of the issues facing the region that need to be strategically planned for.

All water west of Warren relies on the open channel (Albert Priest Channel) to divert water from the Macquarie River through to Bogan and Cobar LGA's. Currently, there is approximately 50 percent water loss resulting from the use of the open channel. This makes Warren a key player in the water security for western councils. The NSW Regional Water committee, including Dubbo, Narromine, Bogan, Cobar and Warren Councils, is looking at developing a Regional Water Strategy, to look at the infrastructure requirements, land reservations and suitable routes for pipelines. Early stages of discussion on piping water from Burrendong Dam (on the Macquarie River) through to Cobar via Warren are taking place amongst the Committee.

Moving from a disposable to a resource recovery mindset and way of life is a key objective for Council. The provision of quality waste management services is moving towards a circular economy where waste is treated as an asset. The community is embracing the recently approved, and first in Australia, tyre recycling plant located in Warren Shire. The recycling plant gives used tyres new life as oil, steel, and carbon. Moving towards viewing waste as a valued resource poses significant opportunities for the Shire and the region.

Warren Shire Council is committed to improving recycling and waste services for residents. In doing so, Council should investigate existing zonings to reflect both current and future land uses at the Warren Waste Depot.

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

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
5.1 Work together with neighbouring Councils to develop a Regional Water Strategy for western councils.	Council	Short-medium term
5.2 Implement the recommendations from the Regional Water Strategy and amend Warren LEP as required.	Council	Medium term
5.3 Investigate the need to amend the Warren Shire LEP to provide buffers for existing and proposed water infrastructure and water reserves to protect urban water supply and industry access.	Council	Short term
5.4 Undertake review of the Warren Shire DCP to include guidance and controls on water sensitive urban design.	Council	Medium term
5.5 Develop an infrastructure strategy for sewage, wastewater and stormwater for Warren, Nevertire and Collie.	Council	Medium term
5.6 Collect baseline data of the waste generated across the LGA and infrastructure capacity.	Council	Short-medium term

Priority 6 - Be responsive and adaptive to climate change

Looking to the future, the environment will 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 heightened risk of the frequency and severity of natural hazards and climate risks. Drought, water security and flood plain management are essential natural hazard management priorities for Warren. The impact on agricultural production, requires informed land use decision-making and an increase in sustainable agricultural practices by landowners.

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. Warren Shire Council should seek to show leadership by committing to transitioning its energy needs to renewable sources and creating healthy public spaces and resilient infrastructure. Diversifying the local economy assists in providing an alternative to a climate dependent economy.



Image: Nevertire Solar Farm

The 132MW Nevertire Solar Farm development is located approximately 1km west of Nevertire. The farm generates renewable energy which will feed into the national electricity grid.

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

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
6.1 Incorporate controls into the Warren Shire Development Control Plan for enhanced environmental outcomes such as energy efficiency, rainwater tanks and 'green star communities'.	Council	Short-medium term
6.2 Plan for the uptake of renewal energy production by identifying the right locations to minimise land use conflict	Council, State agencies (DPIE)	Short-medium term
6.3 Update Councils Operational Plan to include further enhancements to public space that better protect the community from heat, storms, drought and flooding.	Council	Medium term

Economy

A strong and diverse economy with industry development and employment opportunities.

Priority 7 – Increase industry diversification

High productivity is generally concentrated in areas of higher populations and diversified economies. Warren Shire, like so many other rural communities are faced with significant challenges in the agricultural sector. The decline of employment numbers in agriculture has made the need to diversify the economy even more of an essential action for the economy.

Shifting global demands for food, driven by the growing Asian market, provides a market opportunity, particularly niche international markets. To succeed in these markets, reliability of supply and a reputation as a supplier of quality and sustainably produced food is required.

Regional tourism is seen as an opportunity to showcase Warren's rural lifestyle and rich river 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 Warren.

The community and Council have invested heavily in medical infrastructure to ensure the community has access to essential medical and allied health services. The proposed dementia facility has essentially been funded by the community but requires commitment from NSW Health to hand back the asset for continued operation. Further, emergency air service facilities are required at Warren Hospital, to support community health in times of emergencies.

The recently approved tyre recycling plant at Warren, operated by Green Distillation Technologies (GDT) is an example of industry diversification.

The construction and commissioning phase of the Solar farm at Nevertire is a 12 months project. Approximately 20 workers were employed for the first month of construction, rising to approximately 300 workers during the peak construction period.

Warren will strive to attract new investment and a diverse range of jobs in the areas of agriculture, health, industry and tourism. Opportunities exist for future growth associated with:

- Investment in regional tourism, attracting local and international visitors
- Facilitating renewable energy projects
- Investment in health and aged care, which will support and stimulate the Shire's health services as well as provide jobs
- Strengthen access to Asian markets to support and grow the agricultural industry.

Priority 7 gives effect to the following central West and Orana Regional Plan Directions to:

Direction 1: Protect the region’s diverse and productive agricultural land

Direction 2: Grow the region’s agribusiness sector and supply chains

Direction 3: Develop advanced manufacturing and food processing sectors

Direction 4: Promote and diversify regional tourism markets

Direction 5: Improve access to health and aged care services

Direction 6: Expand education and training opportunities

Direction 20: Enhance access to air travel and public transport

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
7.1 Work with the Orana Joint Organisation to establish regional industry and business monitoring program to understand trends and future business and industry needs across the region to ensure this statement and future land use plans respond and remain relevant over time.	Council, JO	Medium term
7.2 Maintain a secure and productive resource base, including minimising the loss of productive land	Council, Industry	Medium term
7.3 Ensure LEP and DCP facilitate irrigated agriculture in sustainable locations	Council	Short-medium term
7.4 Facilitate renewable energy projects through strategic planning, potential Voluntary Planning Agreements and grant applications	Council, Community	Medium term

Priority 8 - Promote the Shire as ‘open for business’ by supporting the growth of both new and existing businesses and industry

Restructuring of the economy has occurred across Australia and regional areas are particularly impacted by this phenomenon. Warren has a strong agricultural base and this scenario is expected to continue. However, recent declines in employment numbers in agriculture are of concern to the community.

Agriculture remains the largest employer of local residents in Warren Shire (463 jobs in 2016). The community acknowledges agriculture as a primary industry of employment and the need to support this sector into the future to grow the local economy.

Hospital service for Warren is limited to a multipurpose service centre which lacks public access to emergency service. Furthermore, the rise in the demand for aged care and health services along with changing economic and social patterns provides new opportunities for careers in the field of health. Health care and social assistance is the fourth largest industry, employing 77 people in 2016. New approaches towards attracting funding for new infrastructure, increasing economic activity, and delivering services are required to attract and retain people and businesses. This can be established through investigating the collocation of health services which will encourage non-traditional business and investment to the region resulting in increased economic activity similar to projects such as the tyre recycling plant.

Sustaining population levels is a challenge and the geographic distances between communities and to larger service centres places pressures on the ability for communities to grow and sustain minimum population levels that ensure certain levels of services relating to business and industry.

Tourism is a valuable contributor to the economy of the region and could assist with bringing more people to live, work and enjoy the region. The tourism industry is a growth sector in the community, with development of assets and attractions to capitalise on the Shire’s position near the Macquarie Marshes.

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.

Priority 8 gives effect to the following central West and Orana Regional Plan Directions to:

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 19: Enhance road and rail freight links

Direction 28: Manage rural residential development



Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
8.1 Orana Transport Strategy to be implemented in Warren. Strategy to be updated if required to reflect changes from key drivers such as Inland Rail and Parkes SAP.	Council, TfNSW	Long Term
8.2 Manage business and industrial interface through development assessment framework to provide suitable setbacks, buffer zones and design requirements to separate, avoid and manage potential land use conflict from urban development on the local industry	Council	Medium Term
8.3 Facilitate the reuse and alternative uses of existing business or industry premises by providing incentives for new or existing businesses to relocate to Warren and promote land use opportunities offered by Warren	Council	Medium Term
8.4 Encourage suitable employment opportunities in the growing tourism industry.	Council, Riversmart	Short Term

Priority 9 - Capitalise on the existing facilities at Warren Airport and promote further expansion

Warren Airport is located approximately five kilometres from the township of Warren and was once used as a Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) facility. The airport is currently used by private aircrafts in either VH or RAA categories and by private charter companies or freight companies. The airport has an agricultural air operator based at it who generates employment. The gravel runways are used frequently by Royal Australian Air Force aircraft in the heavy capacity (above 40 tonnes) for flight training. The airport also has facilities that support the NSW Rural Fire Service and aerial firefighting.

The airport has the potential to expand its functions by the development of aerial agricultural facilities, recreational pilot usage and a future RPT service that is suited to small rural community needs, possibly through a regional spoke and hub centre such as Dubbo or Orange Airports.

Warren Shire Council has developed the 'Warren Airport Masterplan 2018' to create opportunities in the community for greater airport utilisation, development or residential usage suited to private pilots and to look at commercial opportunities that attract and enhance aviation in the rural sector. The Master plan also aims to secure land for future development of the airport and prevent further land use conflict with surrounding area.



Image: Structures at Warren Airport.

Priority 9 gives effect to the following central West and Orana Regional Plan Directions to:

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

Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
9.1 Implement the Warren Airport Masterplan	Council	Long-term
9.2 Secure funding from state and federal governments to implement masterplan.	Council, NSW Government, Commonwealth	Long term
9.3 Investigate Warren Airport to be rezoned to reinforce the intention to increase aeronautical related land uses and industries.	Council	Medium term
9.4 Investigate a future rezoning to permit helicopters to land at the site	Council	Medium term
9.5 Warren airport is currently used heavily by RFDS, RAFF and the US Airforce. Investigate how to develop and capitalise on this further.	Council	Medium term

Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

Council will ensure the planning priorities are achieved through regular review and monitoring of the actions progress. Monitoring of the actions will where possible align to existing review and reporting schedules including the LEP (5 years) and CSP (4 years). The entire LSPS will also be reviewed every 7 years. This approach is consistent with the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework under the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Monitoring and action plan

Theme **Community and Place**

A welcoming and resilient community supported by quality services and infrastructure

Priority	Action	Timing	Measure
1. Promote and enhance the identity and unique character of the town	1.1 Address the community’s social infrastructure needs, such as open space, community facilities, key sites and the like, by implementing Council’s village enhancement plans for Warren, Nevertire and Collie.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Community Feedback
	1.2 Prepare the Community Based Built Heritage Study and make publicly available to inform visitors of its past and items/events of significance. Ensure that adequate community consultation is undertaken with respect to identification of heritage items. This is to include discussions with affected landowners	Short Term: 0-5 years	Adopt the Community Based Built Heritage Study Include appropriate local planning controls.

	1.3 Implement the recommendations of the Community Based Built Heritage Study through mapping and schedules and in consultation with local Aboriginal communities apply statutory protection measures in the new LEP to aboriginal sacred sites, aboriginal and non-aboriginal objects, values and landscapes, including the retention of natural processes that are part of the significance of a place	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Review and amend LEP and DCP to include heritage
	1.4 Prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study to inform amendments to Council's LEP to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage and cultural landscapes	Short Term: 0-5 years	Adopt the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study Include appropriate local planning controls.
	1.5 Plan for investment prospectus and the improvement and integration of commercial and community facilities	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Network with the Chamber of Commerce
	1.6 Identify new opportunities to work with local business to promote the town	Short Term: 0-5 years	Network with the Chamber of Commerce
2. Encourage a connected, active and healthy community	2.1 Deliver physical and social infrastructure of vital importance for community well-being.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Services provisions and works undertaken, subject to budgetary constraints
	2.2 Improve opportunities for passive recreation around our natural and heritage assets.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Network with various local community groups

			and promote events
	2.3 Develop an urban tree strategy that will identify areas and species and encourage new developments to provide shade trees in carparks and areas of public open space and ensure appropriate controls in the DCP.	Short Term: 0-5 years	Community feedback. Number of complaints. Amend DCP
	2.4 Establish partnerships with stakeholders to increase opportunity for participation in sport, recreation and community activity.	Short Term: 0-5 years	Involve Council in community events. Promote events
	2.5 Plan and provide an integrated and accessible network of open space.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Community feedback
3. Provide contemporary services and local infrastructure for the community and businesses to prosper	3.1 Identify and map the 'Flat Land Freight Route' and investigate the impact of regional freight task on local road networks	Short Term: 0-5 years	Traffic counters to obtain traffic numbers and types
	3.2 Warren Heavy vehicle bypass – investigate and formalise the impacts on the town and local community	Short Term: 0-5 years	Community feedback
	3.3 Investigate bridge repair works required to allow (east-west) connectivity to town centre	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Community feedback
	3.4 Implement Orana Transport Strategy	Long Term: 11-20 years	Works undertaken, subject to budgetary constraints
	3.5 Implement Warren footpath Strategy	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Works undertaken, subject to

			budgetary constraints
	3.6 Investigate the feasibility of developing a multipurpose space in the CBD for entrepreneurial start-up opportunities within Warren	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Network with the Chamber of Commerce

Theme Environment

A sustainable, healthy and well-managed community for today and future needs

Priority	Action	Timing	Measure
4. Protect and promote the importance of the Macquarie Marshes.	4.1 Partner with key stakeholders to collaboratively manage the environmental assets of the Shire	Short Term: 0-5 years	Feedback from stakeholders
	4.2 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	Short Term: 0-5 years	Review LEP and DCP
	4.3 Investigate ways to better connect the Macquarie River through to Warren to encourage higher quality open spaces	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Community feedback

	4.4 Aboriginal reserve site – significant council funding to open this WMLALC land for public access and tourism opportunities.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Scope projects to be shovel ready to support funding applications when available
	4.5 Work with private landowners of significant RAMSAR wetlands to develop environmental components for public access and tourism opportunities	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Accessibility of tourism attractions
5. Protect and manage natural areas and natural resources, particularly water security and waste management	5.1 Work together with neighbouring Councils to develop a Regional Water Strategy for western councils.	Short Term: 0-5 years	Regional Water Strategy for western councils.
	5.2 Implement the recommendations from the Regional Water Strategy with regards to infrastructure requirements, land reservation and pipeline routes.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Works undertaken, subject to budgetary constraints
	5.3 Investigate the need to amend the Warren Shire LEP to provide buffers for existing water infrastructure and water reserves to protect urban water supply and industry access.	Short Term: 0-5 years	Review LEP

	5.4 Undertake review of the Warren Shire DCP to include guidance and controls on water sensitive urban design.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Review DCP
	5.5 Develop an infrastructure strategy for sewage, wastewater and stormwater for Warren, Nevertire and Collie.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Infrastructure Strategy
	5.6 Collect baseline data of the waste generated across the LGA and infrastructure capacity.	Short Term: 0-5 years	Data capture Statutory reporting
6. Be responsive and adaptive to climate change	6.1 Incorporate controls into the Warren Shire Development Control Plan for enhanced environmental outcomes such as energy efficiency, rainwater tanks and 'green star communities'.	Short Term: 0-5 years	Review DCP
	6.2 Plan for the uptake of renewal energy production by identifying the right locations to minimise land use conflict	Short Term: 0-5 years	Review LEP and DCP
	6.3 Update Councils Operational Plan to include further	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Review Operational Plan

	enhancements to public space that better protect the community from heat, storms, drought and flooding.		
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Theme **Economy**

A strong and diverse economy with industry development and employment opportunities.

Priority	Action	Timing	Measures
7. Leverage opportunities for increased tourism off the back of investment toward the Macquarie Marshes.	7.1 Work with the Orana Joint Organisation to establish regional industry and business monitoring program to understand trends and future business and industry needs across the region to ensure this statement and future land use plans respond and remain relevant over time.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Attendance at meetings Numbers of projects Council involved in
	7.2 Maintain a secure and productive resource base, including minimising the loss of productive land	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Update LEP Update DCP Ensure development is inline with legislation/sustainable
	7.3 Ensure LEP and DEC facilitate irrigated agriculture in sustainable locations	Short Term: 0-5 years	Update LEP Update DCP Ensure development is inline with legislation/sustainable
	7.4 Building capacity for sustained and effective leadership in local business and industry through a broad range of education and training opportunities	Medium Term: 6-10 years	In accordance with the Business support policy

8. Promote the Shire as ‘open for business’ by supporting the growth of both new and existing businesses and industry	8.1 Orana Transport Strategy to be implemented in Warren. Strategy to be updated if required to reflect changes from key drivers such as Inland Rail and Parkes SAP.	Long Term: 11-20 years	In accordance with the Business support policy
	8.2 Manage business and industrial interface through development assessment framework to provide suitable setbacks, buffer zones and design requirements to separate, avoid and manage potential land use conflict from urban development on the local industry	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Update LEP Update DCP Ensure development is inline with legislation/sustainable
	8.3 Facilitate the reuse and alternative uses of existing business or industry premises by providing incentives for new or existing businesses to relocate to Warren and promote land use opportunities offered by Warren	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Pre lodgement meetings to guide and assist interested developers
	8.4 Encourage suitable employment opportunities in the growing tourism industry.	Short Term: 0-5 years	Circulate information

9. Capitalise on the existing facilities at Warren Airport and promote further expansion	9.1 Implement the Warren Airport Masterplan	Long Term: 11-20 years	Works undertaken subject to budgetary restraints
	9.2 Secure funding from state and federal governments to implement masterplan.	Long Term: 11-20 years	Scope projects to be shovel ready to support funding applications when available
	9.3 Investigate Warren Airport to be rezoned to reinforce the intention to increase aeronautical related land uses and industries.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Review LEP
	9.4 Investigate a future rezoning to permit helicopters to land at the site	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Review LEP
	9.5 Warren airport is currently used heavily by RFDS, RAFF and the US Airforce. Investigate how to develop and capitalise on this further.	Medium Term: 6-10 years	Consult with users to obtain feedback and suggestions to be included as part of the expansion