



ATTACHMENTS

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Under Separate Cover**

Tuesday, 29 November 2022

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8.3 BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Attachment 1 BSC Annual Report 2021-22 4

BALRANALD SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT



*Photo Credit: Sunset over Euston NSW courtesy
of Shane Strudwick (Zesty Shane Images)*

2021-2022

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO COUNTRY

Council acknowledges the Custodians of the lands and waters within our Shire and recognises their continuing responsibilities to caring for country and of teaching and learning.

We pay respects to Elders past and present and extend our respects to all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander First Nations Peoples.



*Beautiful artwork by local artist, Louise Murray.
The painting is located at the Balranald Council Chambers*

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ABOUT OUR ANNUAL REPORT

This annual report has been compiled to outline Council's achievements for the 2021/22 financial year, as well as providing a detailed financial analysis on Council's operations. The annual report not only reports on the work of Council during the financial year, but also takes the opportunity to acknowledge our achievements for the community.

The Annual Report highlights the diversity of services Council provides to the community and how these services were achieved with the resources available to Council.

The report also presents how Council met its statutory requirements, as required by various Acts.

Annual Report – Summary

Key focuses of the annual report are:

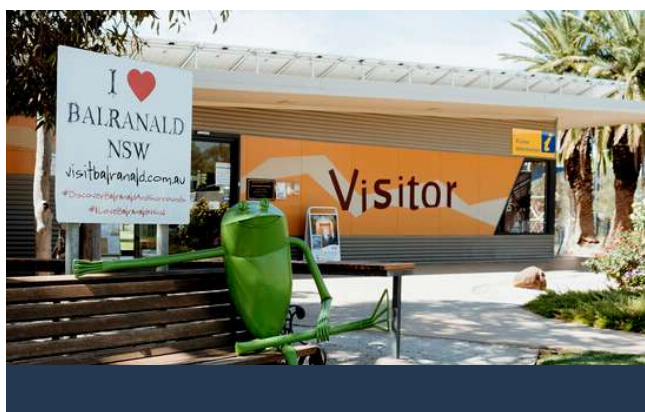
- An overview of who we are
- How the achievements occurred against Council's commitments, as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan
- Measurement against expected results
- How Council met its statutory reporting requirements and
- Council's overall financial performance

Further Information

Hard copies of this annual report are available from the Balranald Shire Council Office, 70 Market Street Balranald, during business hours.

Electronic copies are also available on our website. To request a copy, email or phone our Customer Service Centre using the details below:

Web: www.balranald.nsw.gov.au
Email: council@balranald.nsw.gov.au
Phone: (03) 5020 1300



ABOUT BALRANALD SHIRE

Balranald Shire Council (BSC) is located in the south western district of NSW, approximately 850km south west from Sydney and 450km north of Melbourne. It covers an area of 21,699 square kilometres, making it the fifth largest Shire in the State. The main townships are Balranald (population 1,382) and Euston (population 822), located on the banks of the Murrumbidgee and Murray Rivers respectively. Other localities in the Shire include Kyalite, Oxley, Penarie (Homebush), Hatfield and Clare. The total population of Balranald Shire is just under 2208 persons. Approximately 6.4 percent of the Shire's population is Indigenous.

The Balranald Shire is often described as 'a potential geographer's living classroom' (Toohey, 2010). It is the pivotal place of two great Australian landscapes: to the east the Riverine Plain and to the west the Murray Darling Depression. Their respective formation processes have created today's unique vegetation landscape.

Balranald Shire's waterscape is unique with 5 Rivers meandering and converging within and around the shire (the Murrumbidgee, Murray, Lachlan, Wakool & Edward rivers). This makes the area an ideal destination for fishing, camping, boating, canoeing, kayaking or just chilling on the banks.

Culturally, the Shire is rich in both Indigenous and non-Indigenous history. Mungo National Park, which is part of the world heritage listed Willandra Lakes region, is primarily located in the Balranald Shire and has world archaeological significance with evidence of human occupation dating back at least 50,000 years. South-western NSW was settled by Europeans from the late 1840's, and the Shire has important sites showcasing pastoral industry, inland port heritage and colonial built infrastructure.

The economy of the Balranald Shire Council is strongly connected to agriculture including grains (dryland and irrigated), sheep and cattle. However diversification has occurred to encompass horticulture, viticulture, organic agriculture, tree (fruit and nut), timber harvesting and tourism. The Sturt Highway provides the east west route for flow of goods, services and visitors to the Shire.



ABOUT BALRANALD SHIRE

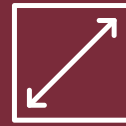
A Snapshot



Population
2,287
approx



8.8%
Indigenous



Area
21,699
square km



Agriculture
Grains
Sheep
Cattle



Industries
Horticulture & Viticulture
Renewable Energy
Trees - Fruit & Nut
Timber Harvesting
Tourism



Employment
59.4% - Full Time
29.2% - Part Time
6.1% - Away
5.3% - Unemployed



Localities
Balranald
Euston, Kyalite
Clare, Hatfield
Penarie, Oxley



5 Rivers
Murrumbidgee
Murray
Wakool
Edward
Lachlan



National Parks
MUNGO NP - World
Heritage Willandra
Lakes Region
YANGA NP

Statistics based on 2016 Census

ADMINISTRATOR'S FOREWORD

Mr Mike Colreavy

After some very difficult years, the end of the 2021-2022 financial year marks the Shire community, and our industries and businesses, emerging from the worst effects of the prolonged drought and the COVID-19 pandemic which demanded so much from us all. Having responded for so long to these challenges, ongoing La Nina weather patterns are shaping up to present the next in what seems to be a succession of disasters with floods now imminent. There has been very little time for respite and recovery.

A positive for us has been that, once again, over the past year a fortunate side-effect of the pandemic has been the unprecedented level of grant funding that Council has received in the form of economic stimulus funding from the State and Commonwealth Governments. We are grateful to both levels of Government for having provided our fair share of funding which has contributed significantly to keeping the local economy alive in tough economic times, mostly through infrastructure renewals.

As your Administrator, I would like to again acknowledge the earnest interest and support that I continually receive from many local people across the Shire who regularly provide me with their views and advice on local government matters that affect us all, and to thank you all for that, whether you hail from Kyalite, Euston, Balranald, or one of our outlying rural areas. I particularly acknowledge the valued advice of participants in Council's advisory committees, as well as the Youth Council. These Committees make a significant contribution through their thoughtful insight into Council's affairs.

Again, I want to thank Council's workforce for their tireless commitment to local service levels. They were capably led for much of this year by Interim General Manager, Mr Glenn Wilcox who introduced many reforms that will shape Council's course long into the future. The appointment of Mr Jeffrey Sowiak towards the end of the year sees Council's operations now back in experienced, capable hands for the longer term.

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Council finished the year with a healthy surplus, growing cash reserves, and in a relatively sound financial position from which to go forward. By year end, Council reached the mid-point of the period of Administration which is scheduled to conclude in September 2024. From a governance, financial and asset management perspective, I am not seeing any impediments to the restoration of an elected governing body when that time approaches.

This Annual Report is published in compliance with Section 404 of the Local Government Act 1993 and Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. The legislation envisages a report on Council's achievements in implementing its delivery programme for the year and other information that you will find throughout this document. I commend the Annual Report to you.

Mike Colreavy
ADMINISTRATOR



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr Jeff Sowiak

It is my honour as the General Manager to prepare and present a report on the Council's operations and financial position for the year ended 30th June 2022. This report includes an overview of the services delivered and achievements of the Council over the past year and concludes with the Annual Financial Statements and auditors report.

From a financial perspective the results are pleasing, Council was successful in generating around \$21m in revenue, including almost \$10m in operational grants, resulting in a net operating surplus before capital grants and contributions, of \$1.7m, with just over \$2.6m in unrestricted working capital. The reports show that Council's rates and charges contribute just over 35% of the Council's revenue and that Council now has over \$19m in reserves for future projects, the majority of which is allocated for water, sewerage and grant funded projects.

The Annual Report reflects the Council's continuing transformation over recent years to an organisation that is financially sound with effective capacity and reserve funding to address long term challenges. There are undoubtedly challenges ahead in terms of financial and operational reforms, policy changes and addressing long term backlogs in infrastructure. However, as the Annual Report indicates, there have been significant achievements over the past financial year.

I appreciate that in the current environment there are significant challenges in attracting and retaining staff and whilst there has been an impressive list of infrastructure works undertaken, the wet weather and competition for contractors has resulted in a backlog of grant funded works to be completed.

The Council's community committees and the many volunteers involved in these committees have undertaken a mammoth task in providing a sounding board for community issues and continue to provide feedback and direction for the future.

I take this opportunity to thank both the Administrator Mr Mike Colreavy and the community members for their guidance and involvement with Council over the past year and commend the staff and contractors on an outstanding effort in difficult circumstances.

Jeff Sowiak
GENERAL MANAGER



PROGRESS REPORT ON ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL

REPORT ON GOVERNANCE

The purpose of this report is to provide the community with advice as to actions undertaken to improve the role and function of Council undertaken since August 2021 as required by the Ministerial directions

Planning & Reporting

- Council has prepared and adopted the following IP&R (Integrated Planning & Reporting) documents:
 - Community Strategic Plan
 - Delivery Plan
 - Operational Plan
 - Workforce Plan and Strategy
 - 2022/23 Annual Budget
 - Annual Report 2020-21
- Review of all policies and procedures, Council considered 44 policies at its December 2021 and March 2022 meetings.
- Code of Conduct Training for all staff has been undertaken to ensure that everyone knows and understands their responsibilities.
- Council has prepared a Section 355 Committee Policy to assist in guiding future committees.
- Council approved a S355 Committee to oversee the operation of the Bidgee Haven Hostel. This was a community request.
- Council has prepared and approved the following IP&R documents:
 - Project Management
 - Policies and codes
 - Annual Financial Statements
 - Governance generally
- Changes have been made to Council's business paper to ensure that a more open and transparent reporting is occurring. This includes reporting of tenders, the inclusion of outstanding actions from the internal reviews and reporting of audit management advice.
- A works Committee has commenced to review all project and tender documents prior to reporting to Council to reduce errors and to raise questions as to costing of projects.

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- Asset Planning – A review has been undertaken and advice reviewed as to the completion of plans and links to budgets. The current review has determined that our Asset plans expire as at December 2021, that the plans are complete to allow annexure information to be developed to report any changes, and that a new budget process to be implemented in the 2022/23 financial year will link the assets to a 10 year plus financial plan. This work is now under way and should be complete in 2022.
 - Asset assessment and development of an asset register to comply with the Accounting Standards has been undertaken by APV consultants. This work is ongoing and will guide future Long Term Financial Plans. This information will be linked into Council's Practical Financial system.
 - A review has identified issues around the business units of Water, Sewer and Waste due to financial accountability for costs. Changes have been identified to improve asset management, financial management and service delivery. This will be ongoing.
 - The Bidgee Haven Aged Hostel has been considered as a business unit and a review of governance is being undertaken to look at the long term financial viability issues. This is ongoing and a review of staffing structures, and procurement have commenced.
 - Legislative Compliance Register – A register has been implemented to allow Council to report publicly any legislative non-compliances. This is an improvement process to allow staff and the community to learn from the reporting process.
 - Risk Audit – A Global risk audit has been undertaken using the Office of Local Government's Better Practice Review criteria. This report is an in-depth self assessment process and allows staff and Council to correct areas that are non compliant or deficient. This report was prepared by Council's Internal Auditor and presented to the ARIC committee and reported through to Council for the public to see that changes are being made.
 - Consideration of Shared Service Models have been undertaken and reported to Council to look at cost saving and governance support into the future. The Shared Services Model is a regional model to improve financial and governance across the JO Councils.
 - Council has tendered for ITC services (computer services) and appointed consultants to manage all aspects of storage and support. Services have moved to a Cloud based model as Council is not able to run in-house servers and backup to meet legislative needs.
 - Contract registers are being developed to record and comply with financial management requirements
 - Grant registers are being established to track grants received, reporting and acquittals
 - A full review of the Council's Records management system has been undertaken and working towards compliance with the NSW Records Act and record keeping standards. Council has adopted the record keeping regulations.
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Staff

- A review of staff positions has been undertaken and a new workforce plan has been prepared. This Plan is a Four year model to reflect work under the Delivery Plan.
- Senior staff under Contract were provided with KPI's to allow them to assess their own performance and to seek assistance in areas identified. KPI's are similar to the General Manager's to ensure performance and service delivery is at a level that meets the contract payments and Council expectations of high quality staffing.
- Senior Staff salaries and on costs have been reported in the Annual Report.
- Staff Performance reviews have been conducted as per the Local Government Award provisions and training plans are being developed and funded in the 2022-23 budget
- A review of staff positions has identified noncompliance with Award and Industrial Relations requirements as to Casual employment of staff and a need to move these to permanent positions in the Council structure.
- Staff team building and education has commenced with all staff able to attend in-house training on finance, budget preparation, fees and charges and financial direction. Staff external to the office are being consulted as to the future direction of Council, their needs and the resource needs for the organisation. This is an ongoing process.
- Council has had meetings of its consultative committee and its Work Health and Safety Committee. The Committees have not met regularly but have been renewed with the assistance of the USU representative.
- Delegations:
 - Delegations have been reviewed and issued by Council to the General Manager that comply with legislation.
 - Delegations have been provided by the General Manager to all staff requiring financial or legal delegation. Training as to when and when not to use delegation, procurement policy and procedural matters has been undertaken in house.
- Council has been required to advertise two senior staff positions, being Council's Director Infrastructure and Development and Director Corporate and Community Services. Council has also determined that the position of Finance Manager would not be replaced. A review of organisation needs has deleted the Finance Manager position due to contracting out these works and Directors have been changed to Executive Managers to reflect the organisational needs.
- Council has reviewed and developed a new staff appointment process to ensure that Council has qualified people who are able to meet all the position requirements. Council has raised the standards for staff and this is to ensure that it has the best people in every position. Council is now undertaking qualifications checks, verification of references and required Police checks for some positions.
- Future staffing of positions has been identified as a risk, as new industries are developing in the region that are paying higher wages compared to Local Councils. Issues will emerge if wages are not increased. Initial discussion has been held with Unions to discuss this trend.

Finance

- Council advised the Office of Local Government that it was unable to complete its end of year audit process in the time frames required, due to the inability to determine the 2020/21 financial structure. This was the third year that Council had not met the required deadline.
- Council completed the 2020/21 audit by using external consultants in early December and presented its audited report to the December 2021 Council meeting.
- Council has appointed external consultants to manage its finances. Consultants have taken on the role that was to be performed by the Director Corporate and Community Services and Finance Manager. Staff are assisting the consultants in the day to day management.
- In-house financial training by Consultants has been undertaken to improve process management, reporting and awareness. All staff who deal with finances have been able to attend this training.
- Changes have been made to improve the financial accounts and Senior staff KPI's have a requirement to finalise council's accounts prior to the end of the financial year. Discussion has been held with the External Auditor to commence the pre audit review early to reduce future delays.
- The present year's financial accounts have had extensive reviews undertaken to correct its structure and to ensure that the approved budget is as per the Council adopted budget. This has required external assistance to review and adjust the documents.
- The quarterly budget review was prepared for the November 2021 meeting noting that the completed audit had not been finalised. The March quarter included the adjusted budget taking into account the required carryovers. Difficulties remain due to the budget documents as prepared for 2021-22 and their unique method of development.
- Changes have been made to internal financial reporting to ensure that the movement of money is fully documented and signed off at senior levels to allow greater tracking of changes.
- Council staff have prepared and presented the 2022/23 budget. The draft budget was presented to the March 2022 meeting for public display.
- The 2022-23 Budget has identified Water, Sewer, Waste, Caravan Park and the Hostel as Business units and cross subsidising to and from the General Fund or the business unit; is transparent as to the revenue/ expenditure under each.
- Depreciation of assets in all areas remains the key financial issue for the four business units and changes are to be made to improve long term viability.
- A new Chart of Accounts has been prepared to bring the 2022-23 budget back to a recognisable format and to simplify reporting and use by staff.

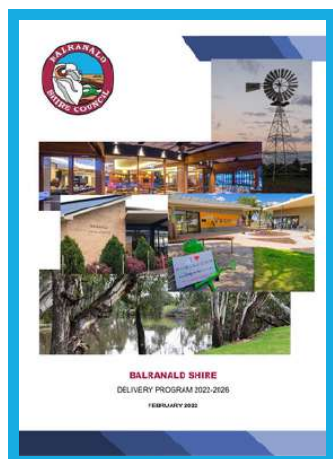
Projects

- A review has been undertaken of the major projects that have been before Council and these include the extension to the Bidgee Haven Hostel, the extension to the Discovery Centre, the Main Street upgrade project and a number of smaller projects.

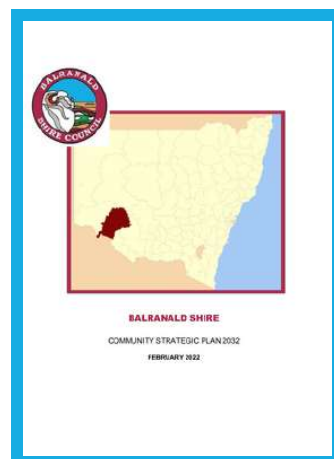
The reviews looked at the funding source, the documentation provided to Council to go to tender, the ability of staff to manage the projects and community advice.

- All major projects in the 2021/22 budget have been placed on hold to allow further review as it was evident that project preparation was incomplete and accurate funding of projects was not available. The project areas increased the financial risks to council even when grant funded. This review will continue into 2022.
- An Internal Audit Report was prepared as to the Main Street Project following advice that the contractor had asked the Court to garnish Council's bank account to return retention money. The Internal Auditor has recommended that the report be submitted to the NSW Ombudsman and to the Office of Local Government as per Council's Internal Reporting Policy. Council submitted the report in December 2021. The report was submitted to Council's ARIC for consideration and review.
- Council has commenced investigation of Grant acquittals and grant financial tracking to ensure that past projects have been completed correctly. This was also an area identified in the external audit report and will be ongoing into 2023.

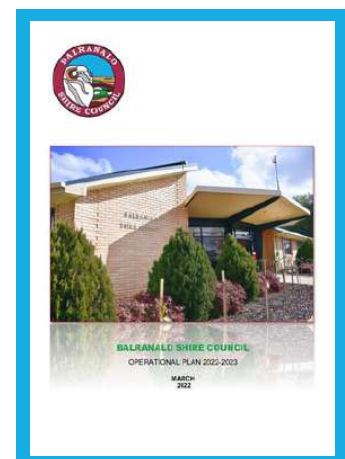
IP&R documents presented and approved by Council:



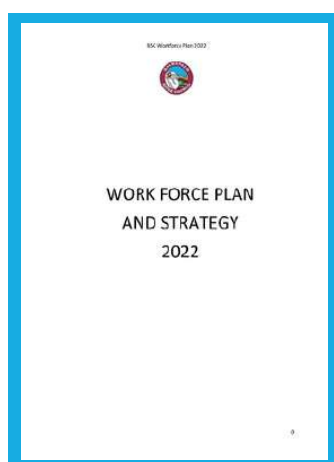
Delivery Plan 2022-2026



Community Strategic Plan 2032



Operational Plan 2022/23

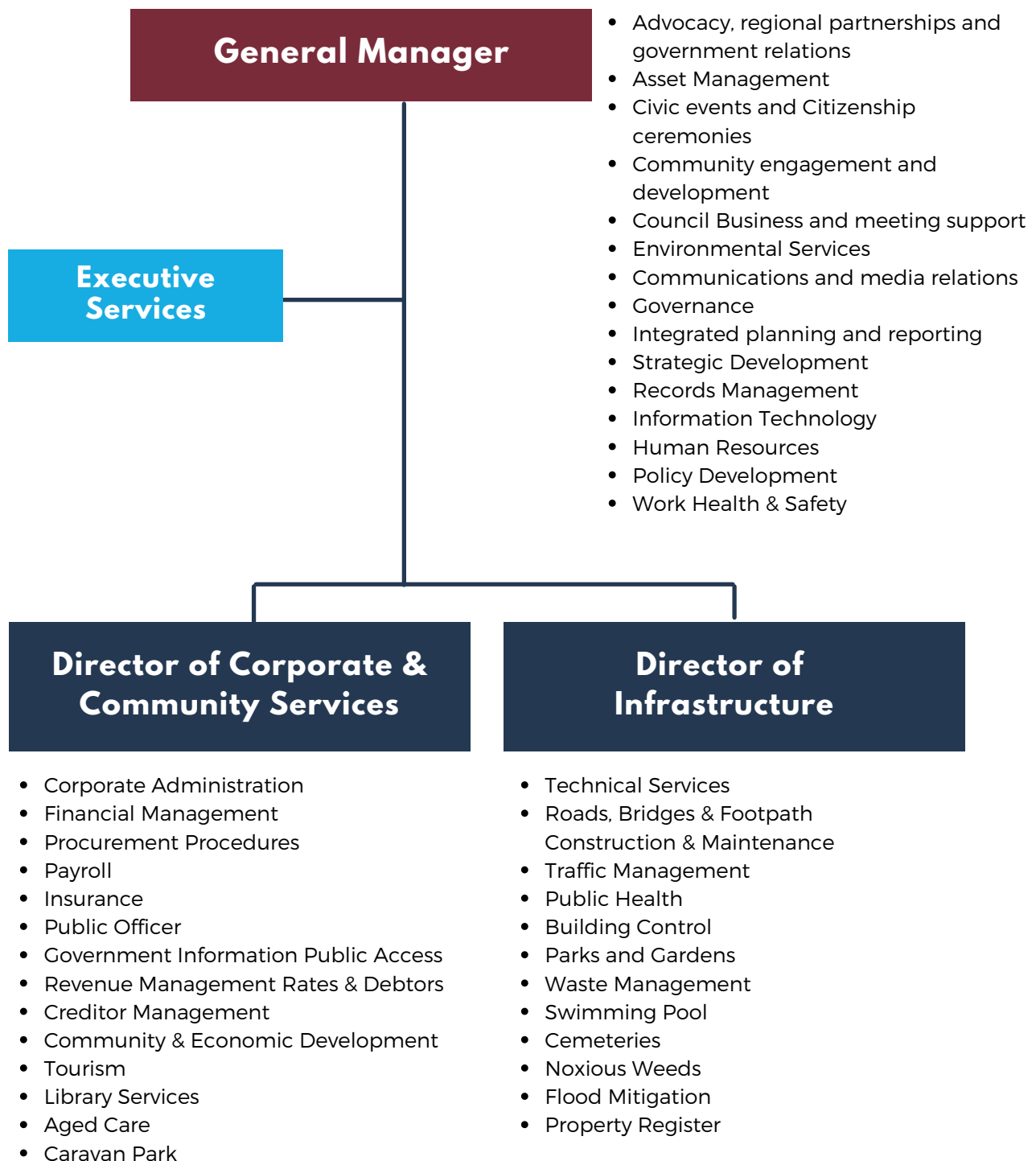


Workforce Plan 2022



Annual Report 2020/21

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



At the May 2022 Council Ordinary Meeting, Council adopted a new Workforce Plan & Strategy which will be reflected in the 2022/23 Annual Report.

ABOUT THE BALRANALD SHIRE ADMINISTRATOR

On Wednesday 29 January 2020, the Governor of New South Wales appointed Mr Michael Colreavy as the Administrator of the Balranald Shire Council. Mr Colreavy replaced the elected Mayor and Councillors whose offices were declared vacant by the NSW Governor. Mr Colreavy has been appointed for a term of more than four years, which will conclude at the next local government elections in September 2024.

Mr Colreavy's appointment provides independent leadership with priorities to:

- Restore good governance in cooperation with the Balranald Shire Council Executive Team
- Restore good relationships with the community
- Ensure that the community's voice is heard and represented

In the 2021/22 financial year, under Administration, Council held 12 Ordinary Meetings. Meetings are generally held at the Council Chambers every third Tuesday of the month.

Council meetings are open to the public, except in circumstances where matters require confidentiality due to legal or commercial-in-confidence matters. Business papers are made available on Council's website at:

<https://balranald.nsw.gov.au/business/council-documents/council-agenda/>

Payments for the Administrator were as follows:

Expense Category	Amount
Salary	\$ 129,676.54
Accommodation & Away from Home Allowance	\$ 739.91
Telephone	\$ 1,097.87
IT Licences	\$ 0
Meeting Expenses	\$ 126.36
TOTAL	\$ 131,640.68

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Youth Council Strategic Focus:

- Strengthen the capacity of our young people to participate and thrive in all facets of community life
- Identify training, education and enterprise skill development needs and connect with / advocate for relevant opportunities
- Promote Youth Mental Health awareness and create and support opportunities for the diversity of Shire youth to come together
- Youth Week event organisation
- Provide a welcoming and inclusive platform for young people to provide ideas and voice concerns to Council
- Develop a Term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



Achievements

- Staged the "Car Wash Day" event with sausage sizzle, a fundraising day on October 23rd 2021
- Staged the "Happy Halloween Party" - A Halloween Disco Night which was held on 31st Oct 2021
- Officially launched the all-new Balranald Shire Youth Council Facebook Page in November 2021
- Assisted the Australia Day Committee in planning and staging the Australia Day activities in Balranald
- Supported Council's Events Coordinator in staging Council's Easter Events
- Established relationships with agencies such as South West Arts
- Event managed and coordinated the Youth Week activities held between 4th April - 14th April 2022



PHOTOS: The Youth Council's Carwash Day and "Creepy" attendees at the "Happy Halloween Party" event

16.

Growing Business, Industry & Tourism

Strategic Focus:

- Represent the Shire community to encourage equitable access to the benefits of economic development and industry growth (includes identifying opportunities for increased local employment and local training needs to ensure improved employment options for residents)
- Maintain a Tourism Asset Portfolio to ensure the preservation and/or development of natural, heritage/cultural and built assets (sites), historic stories and narratives
- Assist with the establishment of new tourism events and the development of existing tourism events.
- Assist Council with investment attraction and tourism promotion
- Organise Business after dark events (as per Business Chamber and BEC topics/initiatives)
- Support infrastructure and event grant funding prioritisation and applications
- Actively seek and develop small business – industry synergy/ partnerships
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Establish and nurture a volunteership of members (both from committee and community) to resource on-the-ground activity for tourism development
- Actively support and collaborate with the Euston Progressive Committee for business and tourism promotion and development



Achievements

- Investigated and presented the Windlab Burrawong Windfarm development
- Developed an Annual Plan
- Supported a proposal for the design and production of plaques commemorating the Balranald Shire's early pastoral stations and their history
- Proposed the establishment of a weir able to hold usable water in Yanga Lake
- Supported the Kyalite Progressive Association and their respective projects and the Kyalite Masterplan
- Provided input and feedback on the Public Art Master Plan
- Provided input in the hiring of the Tourism, Communications & Events Coordinator
- Commenced investigation into establishing a Community Trust/Foundation
- Provided input via consultation in the development of Community Strategic Plan
- Provided input and feedback with the Discovery Centre Upgrade plans
- Special Guest Speakers during the 2021-22 year included:
 - Kristy Orr, ACRE Arts Project
 - Celeste Swain and Mel Tranter, Yanga and Millewa SDL-AM Supply Project and Balranald Weir
 - Toni Tyrer and Gay Renfrey from the Balranald Beautification Committee

Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion & Well-Being Strategic Focus:

- Map & monitor provision of health, well-being and connection/inclusion services and programs
- Plan and advocate regarding closing service gaps and increasing equitable access
- Support and promote community knowledge of, and access to, all available services
- Provide a platform for increased coordination and collaboration of health, well-being and connection services and programs (both local and visiting)
- Identify and promote inclusion of community diversity and events and programs which celebrate diversity
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



Achievements

- Developed an Action Plan
- Increased awareness of services and support available to victims of family violence.
- Active in looking for options and solutions for emergency accommodation
- Active in identifying the best ways to get universal messaging to those that are vulnerable
- Active in spreading the message that violence is not acceptable via White Ribbon events
- Coordinated White Ribbon event with white balloons being mailed out to householders
- Provided input in the development of the Community Strategic Plan
- Provided input in updating Council's Disability Inclusion and Access Plan
- Distributed the "My Health Notebook" (Western NSW PHN) - SCAIW did a promotion in the Shire newsletter
- Event managed the staging of the Local Services Networking event held in April 2022
- Worked on the Sustainable Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) model for the Shire
- Provided feedback and support on Council projects
- Provided support with Balranald Senior's Week activities
- Guest Speakers during the year included:
 - Emma Moore - Nurse Manager, Maari Ma Aboriginal Health Services
 - Inspector Darren Brand - NSW Police
 - Courtney McIntyre, MacKillop Community Services, Balranald
 - Jenene House, Transport NSW

PHOTO: Shows one of the residents that displayed white balloons which were distributed by the SCAIW Advisory Committee as part of the White Ribbon event

18.

Ageing Well, Aged Care & Facilities

Strategic Focus:

- Provide a platform to positively promote and support all community members to age well in the setting of their choice
- Identify and advocate for remedy of key service gaps to better support ageing well
- Identify and encourage opportunities which showcase the qualities, assets and skills of our ageing community and provide opportunities for the sharing of these with younger community members
- Reference group to the Hostel Dementia Ward development
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



Achievements

- Advised and supported Council with staging the Seniors Week events
- Provided ongoing advice, recommendations and input in reference to the Bidgee Haven Hostel
- 2 Committee Members volunteered to be on the Australia Day Organising Committee and were active in supporting the committee in staging the Balranald Australia Day event



Some of the residents at the Bidgee Haven Hostel at Christmas 2021



HOTO: Shows morning tea at the Euston Club as part of Senior Citizens Week activities

Balranald Beautification Strategic Focus:

- Represent Shire communities in a coordinated and considered approach to town beautification
- Collaborate in the planning of larger beautification efforts to ensure consistent focus and branding
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



PHOTO: The Beautification Committee was responsible for decorating the Christmas tree donated by Balranald Inc received via the Drought Community Grant Round 2 funding



Achievements

- Established a priority to order and plant rose bushes and other plants in the main street (Market Street).
- Recommended that dead trees in Market Street be replaced
- Recommended locations of bins along Market Street
- Recommended that the Gates at Greenham Park be upgraded and that a plaque be placed on the gate or near the gates describing the history of the gates.
- Recommended that Balranald Shire Council purchase Christmas Decorations for the Balranald township
- Supported the erection of toilets at the Cemetery
- Supported the erection of the Christmas Tree at the Balranald Discovery Centre and were responsible for decorating the tree
- Made recommendations for a Windmill feature in Balranald
- Made recommendations to assess the watering systems around the town
- Recommended that doggie bag dispensers be located at the Lions Park, court Street Entrance of the Swing Bridge and at the Discovery Centre.

Sport & Recreation Strategic Focus:

- Represent the breadth of community sporting and recreation bodies equitably to ensure the broadest possible access of all community members to all available opportunities
- Partner with Council to catalogue and promote sporting and recreation opportunities across our Shire to encourage active participation for health and wellbeing benefits
- Encourage all sporting and recreation bodies to ensure positive messaging reaches all community members and especially our children and youth (including messages which prevent violence, discourage the use of drugs and alcohol, encourage fair and inclusive participation in sports for all – messaging to reflect State and Federal guidelines)
- Assist or partner with Council in development of projects and applications for infrastructure grant funding or events grant funding
- Assist Council with decisions regarding infrastructure, service and program growth and advocacy within mandate



Achievements

- Due to the pandemic, the Sport & Recreation Advisory Committee did not meet in the 2021/22 reporting year, however, two key achievements were the completion of the tennis courts upgrade & the completion of the new changing rooms at the Greenham Park sports grounds.



PHOTOS: The 2 photos above were taken at the opening of the new Tennis Courts in February 2022 and the bottom photo was taken at the opening of the new Changing Rooms at the sports grounds

Euston Progressive Strategic Focus:

- Provide the Euston community a platform through which to connect with Council in the absence of elected representatives
- Advocate for the Euston community identified areas of interest and priority
- Develop a term and annual (or biennial) Action Plan to guide Advisory Committee priorities and actions
- Collaborate regularly with Business, Industry, Tourism Committee to ensure a whole-of-Shire approach is taken on tourism, beautification and economic development

Cont.

- Recommended grant funding for the Upgrade of the Recreation Reserve
- Recommended road calming at particular intersections
- Recommended toilets and change room amenities at the Euston Recreation Reserve



PHOTO: Shows Alex & Blake on the new footpath on Maher Street in Euston. Footpaths is one of the Priorities of the Euston Progressive Committee



Achievements

- Organised drinking fountains for walking trails
- Supported the plans in upgrading/repairing the football oval
- Developed a **Priority Listing of Works** that was reviewed at each committee meeting which looked at works across Euston. Priorities were listed as below:
 1. Entry to Euston - upgrading the roundabout, water tower, (Regent parrot mural), signage
 2. Sewerage and water
 3. Asset management planning-including explicit criteria, asset classes/adjusted for population growth
 4. Identify areas for residential growth
 5. Economic development strategy for Euston-Robinvale
 6. Netball/Basketball courts
 7. Euston Branding-river, heritage and Regent parrots
 8. Footpaths
 9. Upgrading bus route roads
 10. Euston Forest eco-trail - walking and bike riding
 11. Tourism strategy including developing new products
 12. Access to Council - scheduling a Council meeting, regular/predictable staff visits, contact details displayed at new Post office
 13. Promoting Euston - voucher booklet or pamphlet
 14. Water park - Fountains, water play equipment
 15. Upgrade the Max Willis park
 16. Identify and enhance heritage assets - eucalyptus oil factory, courthouse
 17. Revitalize iconic local events
 18. Vocational training opportunities
- Active in having a defibrillator installed at the Euston Sport & Recreation Club Rooms
- Supported the staging the Australia Day Event in Euston
- Provided input via consultation in the development of Community Strategic Plan
- Supported plans for the upkeep and maintenance of the Euston Court House

Executive of Chairs Strategic Focus:

- Opportunity to collaborate on cross-committee interests or challenges
- Guidance/feedback from General Manager and Administrator on Committees' charters and achievements, fostering the Committee-Council relationship
- Share opportunities and challenges

COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

1. Council Highlights

- In July 2021 we said farewell to **Angela Harben** after 25 years as librarian. Angela Harben began as the Balranald Shire Librarian in July 1996. Angela played a significant role in the implementation of the Bookmark System at the Library. The new system was the first of many changes to the old style 'borrow and return' library. Community computers and internet took the library into the 21st century with eBooks now available
- In August 2021 we welcomed **Janaya Gaston** as the new Librarian. With 15 years in education, many new ideas and a fresh outlook on the library experience she is set to change things up at our community library. (get picture of Janaya with library book as per newsletter)



Angela Harben (left) and Janaya Gaston (right) with a special library member!

- In August 2021 **Mr Glenn Wilcox**, was appointed to act as General Manager until a permanent replacement was recruited.
- In October 2021 we welcomed the returned of **Connie Mallet** as Council's Tourism, Communications & Events Coordinator

- In December 2021 Council held its annual Christmas Light Competition. Winners were:
1st Prize - Amber Williams
2nd Prize - Lucas and Lennie Griffiths
3rd Prize - Daniel Woolhouse



- On the 9th December Helen Dalton visited Balranald on Thursday 9th December 2021 to present Community Recognition awards to some Balranald community members for the recognition of their services within Balranald community. Recipients of the awards included:

- **Leanne Giansiracusa**
- **Emma Moore**
- **Chris Camin**
- **Jedda and Maxine Kelly**
- **Zaidyn McAlister**



- In February 2022 Balranald Shire Council's Staff member **David Unicomb** received a special award for 40 years of continuous service with the Balranald Shire Council
- In February 2022 we welcomed new Sergeant, **Luke Hayes** to Balranald
- In March 2022 we welcomed **Richard Lucas** as Balranald Shire Council's new Work Overseer
- In April 2022 we welcomed **Jeff Sowiak** as Balranald Shire Council's new General Manager
- In May 2022, staff member **Kristy Bellerby** received an award for 20 years continuous service with Balranald Shire Council

2. Events & Tourism Highlights

Events

Within the reporting period of July 2021 – June 2022 and slowly coming out of Covid restrictions, Council staged and/or funded the following events:

- “Happy Halloween Party” - A Halloween Disco Night held in October 2021
- Christmas Stop & Shop - Buy Local Market Day in December 2021
- Australia Day Events in Balranald & Euston in January 2022
- Active Pools Program in January - March 2022
- Senior Citizens Week held in March 2022
- Small Business Dinner in March 2022
- Easter Egg Hunt in April 2022
- Easter Twilight Market in April 2022
- Youth Week Activities in April 2022

Through donations and funding streams, Council was able to support the following events:

- Robinvale-Euston 80Km Ski Race in February 2022
- Homebush Rodeo in March 2022

AUSTRALIA DAY 2022 – AWARD RECIPIENTS











Tourism & Destination Marketing Activities

The first quarter (July - Sept 2021) of the reporting period saw the easing of Covid restrictions and from October to December 2021 we began planning our destination marketing and small business development marketing strategies and kick started our social media, print media and broadcasting media activities. The resurgence in our marketing activities were reflected in our statistics measured at the end of the 2021/2022 year.

Snapshot of Activities & Performance

MEDIUM/MEDIA	CONTENT/PERFORMANCE
Visitor Walk-In at the VIC	From total visitor numbers of 843 recorded for the first quarter July - September 2021 to the last quarter April - June 2022 of 4,530 visitors, visitor numbers increased by 437%
Visitor Walk-In at the Interpretive Pavilion	From total visitor numbers of 974 recorded for the first quarter July - September 2021 to the last quarter April - June 2022 of 4,898 visitors, visitor numbers increased by 403%
Merchandise Sales at the Vic	From the September - July 2021 quarter sales of \$5,191 to the April - June 2022 quarter, sales of \$23,890, merchandise sales increased by 360%
Social Media Audience Reach (with targeted audiences)	Social media promotions kick started around November 2021 with targeted audiences set up behind the Discover Balranald & Surrounds FB page. From a total audience reach of 16,767 recorded for the July - Sept 2021 quarter, to 238,069 audience reach for the last quarter April - June 2022, audience reach increased by 1,320%
Social Media Audience Engagement with the Posts (comments, likes & shares)	From a total audience engagement of 2,447 recorded for the July - Sept 2021 quarter, to 25,857 audience engagement for the last quarter April - June 2022, audience engagement increased by 957%
Video Stories on FB (organic stories)	In the last quarter of the reporting period (July - Sept 2021) we began posting organic video stories that reinforced the paid promotions on the main FB page. We received 2,500 organic views during that period
Discover Balranald & Surrounds Website traffic	Our website traffic increased from 87,000 to 111,038 an increase of 28% during the reporting period

MEDIUM/MEDIA	CONTENT/PERFORMANCE
Print Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We ran a series of print media advertisements leading up to our Christmas Market Day/Buy Local event as well as leading up the Easter in Balranald Shire events. During the 21/22 we had a pull page advertisement plus full page editorial in the Autumn and Spring editions in Caravanning Australia. All print media adverts included a QR code linked to the Discover Balranald & Surrounds website
Broadcast Media 	<p>We ran a series of radio campaigns throughout the 2021/22 year. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio campaign promoting our local small businesses leading up to our Christmas Market Day and a "Shop in Balranald Shire promotional campaign, Plus live-to-air broadcast from Market Street on Market Day including the "Shop Till You Drop" shopping promotion to drive traffic through local retail stores Radio campaign leading up to the Shire's Easter Events
Regional Destination Management Planning Workshops 	<p>During the January - March 2022 quarter, we hosted two consultation workshops for the development of two regional Destination Management Plans, being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Far West Joint Organisation Destination Management Plan Destination NSW - Riverina Murray Destination Management Plan <p>It is envisaged that once the regional plans are completed, we will begin the process of developing Balranald Shire's Destination Management Plan in alignment with the findings and objectives of the regional plans but with a local focus.</p>
Destination & Visitor Economy Conference in Orange 	<p>During May 2022 we attended the Destination & Visitor Economy Conference in Orange. It was a wonderful opportunity not only to gain the latest trends and opportunity in the tourism space but also to connect with key stakeholder agencies and with personnel from our neighbouring and regional LGAs.</p>

MEDIUM/MEDIA	CONTENT/PERFORMANCE
<p>Balranald Discovery Centre precinct part of Tourism Australia's National Experience Initiative</p> 	<p>In June 2022 we received news from Tourism Australia that the Balranald Discovery Center precinct had been selected for the National Experience Content Initiative. Videographers and photographers were engaged to take high quality footage and photos of the precinct and surrounds.</p> <p>This project will deliver for free a series of hero images (in landscape and portrait) and a selection of video footage. The images and videos will also be published on the Tourism Australia and Destination NSW image and video galleries for all to access, including media and trade.</p>
<p>Balranald Shire Visitor Services' Small Businesses - Promotional Video</p> 	<p>In June 2022 filming began across the Shire of all our small businesses who either directly or indirectly provided services to visitors and contributed to the shire's visitor economy.</p> <p>Businesses included in the filming project included all the retailers, eateries, accommodation venues, auto services etc. It is planned that the final video ready to be launched in November/December 2022 via a new Discover Balranald & Surrounds video channel that will be created on YouTube. The video will also be used across a number.</p>
<p>Discover Balranald & Surrounds new website</p> 	<p>In June 2022 we commenced the process of developing a new and refreshed "Discover Balranald & Surrounds" website. The new website will incorporate new features and content and will underpin a planned integrated marketing strategy for 2023 - 2024.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the new website will be ready for launch in late 2022.</p>
<p>Events Calendar</p> 	<p>From January 2022 we produced a monthly calendar of events which were uploaded on the current website and posted on local and regional community Facebook pages.</p> <p>We also supported the promotions of key events via our Discover Balranald & Surrounds Facebook page.</p>

MEDIUM/MEDIA

CONTENT/PERFORMANCE

Promotional Content

shop BIG
Like Santa does
in Balranald & Euston NSW!

Santa knows where it's at! Be pleasantly surprised by all we have to offer in Balranald, Euston & the Balranald Shire:

- Gifts, homeware, hardware furniture & decor
- Great range of clothing, sportswear & accessories
- Florist & Garden Supplies
- Beauty, Hairdressing & Cosmetics
- Quality meats & cuts
- Pre-loved books, clothing & other pre-loved goods
- Shop & dine at one of our eateries & stay a night or two!

Balranald Information Centre
83 Market Street, Balranald
0800 444 043 | 03 5026 1599

Euston Information Centre
Euston Club, Nixon Street,
Euston 03 5026 4244

SCAN to view all our Christmas offerings!

visitbalranald.com.au

One of the print media advert for the Shop in Balranald Shire Christmas Campaign

Between November 2021 to June 2022 our promotional content across various online and offline mediums included the following:

- Shop in the Balranald Shire Christmas campaign
- The Murrumbidgee River and river activities
- The new tennis courts in Balranald
- The Balranald Art Gallery and gallery attractions
- Sarah Storer concerts in Kyalite and Euston
- Stunning Sunrises & Sunsets - Part of the magic
- Accommodation options across the shire
- Birdlife in the shire (targeted at the "Birdies" market segment
- Lake Benanee
- Easter in Balranald Shire series of events (shire wide
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Easter Twilight Market
- Mungo National Park
- Easter Egg Hunt success story
- Easter Twilight Market success story
- The Homebush Rodeo
- ANZAC Day
- "The Art of Football" Art Exhibition
- The Southern Cross Exhibition
- "All Creatures Great & Small" - Our amazing wildlife
- The Military Commemorative Trail
- Majestic River Redgums at Yanga National Park
- Stunning Euston

NEW SOUTH WALES • AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Be charmed in Balranald Shire

Balranald Shire is a beautiful area with a rich history and a variety of attractions. From the historic Balranald Hotel to the stunning Murrumbidgee River, there's something for everyone. Discover the magic of Balranald Shire and its surrounds.

DISCOVER BALRANALD & Surrounds

Unearth all the treasures the area has to offer...

- ✓ Begin your journey of discovery at the Balranald Discovery & Information Centre
- ✓ Explore World Heritage Mungo National Park & picturesque Yanga National Park
- ✓ Take in the magic of the iconic rivers & lakes - fish, boat, kayak, camp or just chill
- ✓ Learn the area's rich history - Visit the Gall, Museum, Gallery, Military & Heritage Trails
- ✓ Experience the charm of Euston nestled on the Murray River & picnic at Lake Benanee

Balranald Visitor Information Centre
83 Market Street, Balranald NSW
0800 444 043

Euston Visitor Information Centre
41 Euston Club, Nixon Street, Euston NSW
03 5026 4244

visitbalranald.com.au

The full page advert and full page editorial in the Autumn 2022 edition of Caravanning Australia

B. Balranald Shire Library Happenings

In August 2021 we welcomed Janaya Gaston as the new Librarian. With 15 years of education, many new ideas and a fresh outlook on the library experience she is set to change things up at our community library. The Library staged and/or supported various activities between August 2021 and June 2022 including the following:



Launch of the Balranald Shire Library Facebook Page



Erection of new display boards and bookshelves



Encouraging creative artwork from the young people and rewarding them with special awards



Staged a series of after-school activity programs



Worked in conjunction with Council's Youth Council to stage a school holiday Halloween Craft workshops



Established a Library Book stand at the Euston Caravan Park Café



Established the "What on this Week" Noticeboard



Conducted school holiday programs



Supported the Active Pools Youth Program



Staged the 'Happy Halloween Party' in partnership with Council's Youth Council



Introduced "Friends of the Library" program which encouraged volunteers to support library programs such as after school activities and holiday programs



Introduced the QR Code Library which gives children access to stories being read to them by many different types of famous people



Successful in winning a grant to develop Stage 1 of the Library Refurbishment project which is to create an IT Hub space at the Library.

t's all happening at the Library! :-)



1. Bidgee Haven Happenings

- In October 2021 Bidgee Haven Hostel's Facebook page was reactivated with a fresh approach to share with the community all the wonderful activities and happenings taking place at the hostel.
- On the 17th December 2021 Council resolved to establish a Section 355 Committee under the Local Government Act 1993, to manage Bidgee Haven Hostel complex and to undertake the roles and functions by Council.
- Over the 2021/22 year Bidgee Haven staff ensured residents enjoyed life to the fullest and involved the residents in a number of events and activities including the following highlights:

Residents celebrated World Chocolate Day with delicious treats!



Residents celebrated Melbourne Cup day in style



Residents celebrated World Sandwich Day with a delicious array of sandwiches for morning tea



Residents Celebrated Remembrance Day including making the amazing decorations



Residents were a great help in making wonderful Christmas decorations which came out a treat!



The Naughty Elf got up to a lot of mischief at Christmas time!



Throughout 2021/22 residents enjoyed celebrating birthdays!



THE INTEGRATED PLANNING & REPORTING FRAMEWORK

The Local Government Act 1993 (the Local Government Act) requires all Councils in NSW to operate within the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. This allows Council to draw their various plans together, understand how they interact and get the maximum leverage from their efforts by planning holistically for the future.

Other State Planning & Strategies; State Plan NSW; Relevant Regional Plans



HOW WE DELIVER ON THE VISION

What you want / Vision



Your Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

Sitting above all other Council plans and policies in the planning hierarchy, the Community Strategic Plan identifies the main priorities and aspirations of the community and provides a clear set of strategies to achieve this vision.

While Council has a custodial role in preparing and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan, other stakeholders, including NSW Government agencies and community groups, may also be engaged in developing and delivering the long-term objectives of the Plan.

How we propose to deliver



Delivery Program

The Delivery Program translates the goals of the community, as contained in the Community Strategic Plan, into actions. The Program sets out the principal activities to be undertaken by Council in implementing the Plan within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy.

What we propose to do



Operational Plan

Spelling out the details of the Delivery Program, the Operational Plan lists the individual projects and activities that will be undertaken for the year to achieve the commitments made in the Delivery Program.

Enabling delivery of the CSP



Resourcing Strategy

The Resourcing Strategy articulates how Council intends to deliver the Community Strategic Plan. The Strategy consists of three components:

- Long Term Financial Plan
- Workforce Management Plan
- Asset Management Plan



Balranald Shire's Community Strategic Plan

Balranald Shire 2027 was adopted by Council in 2017. It maps the ways Council will achieve the 'Six Pillars of Well-Being' over a 10 year period, namely:



Each pillar has community strategic objectives that the Council aims to deliver on. The six pillars were developed after listening to the community. Values that were highly appreciated by the community are identified.

Planning for a new draft Community Strategic Plan commenced in the reporting period aimed at keeping pace with a rapidly changing local and regional economy.

The following outlines the strategic objectives from the Community Strategic Plan and a summary of what was achieved in 2021/22 under each strategic pillar.

THE SIX PILLARS - Objectives & Achievements

PILLAR 1. Our People

A community that is proactive, engaged & connected



Key Objectives

- Expand opportunities for social interaction
- Implement a Welcoming Strategy
- Encourage understanding, respect and tolerance between our diverse communities
- Improve communications & information dissemination
- Improve Council Engagement with the Community



The Australia Day events held in January 2022 provided Council the opportunity to stage events in Balranald & Euston for much needed social interaction after the impacts of the pandemic, as well as the opportunity to encourage understanding and respect for all who live in our shire.



Achievements

- Balranald Shire Council supported and staged community events for social interaction and community engagement including:
 - Senior's Week
 - Australia Day Events in Balranald & Euston
 - Easter Twilight Market & Egg Hunt events
 - The Christmas "Buy Local" Market Day Event
 - Christmas Lights Competition
 - Youth Week Events
- Continued to work closely with all community service organisations to support, promote and encourage understanding, respect and tolerance within our shire communities
- During the the 2021/22 year, Council commenced the process of developing a new corporate website to improve our online communications with the community and the public
- Council's Community Newsletter was given a fresh look and was distributed on a monthly basis and continues to offer community groups and organisations a medium to promote their events and activities for free
- Regular social media posts continued on promoting community activities and events
- In August 2021 Council announced that residents of the Balranald Shire could pay their rates directly online using their Credit Cards.
- New range of activities and funding for the Balranald Library was achieved during 2021/22 to help make our library more vibrant & engaging for the community.

PILLAR 2. Our Place

A liveable and thriving community that maintains lifestyle opportunities & addresses its disadvantages



Key Objectives

- Prepare a population retention and attraction strategy
- Promote opportunities from potential mining, horticultural and energy investments
- Towns are safe and inviting for locals and visitors
- Identify groups within our community facing hardship and disadvantage
- Plan for an ageing population
- Develop a Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- Plan, construct, operate and maintain recreational facilities
- Create and/or promote events



Achievements

- Parks, public areas and facilities were maintained to agreed standards
- Council met regularly with the Police and other agencies to ensure our towns are safe & inviting to locals and visitors
- The Local Traffic Committee met several times during the year to address road safety matters to ensure safety on our roads
- The Strengthening Access, Inclusion and Wellbeing Advisory Committee identified and advised on groups within our community facing hardship and disadvantage with minutes reported to Council
- Within the year Council's Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion & Wellbeing Advisory Committee began review of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan
- The Ageing Well, Aged Care and Facilities Advisory Committee met during the year to provide recommendations to Council on needs of the aged in our community
- On the 17th December 2021 Council resolved to establish a Section 355 Committee under the Local Government Act 1993, to manage Bidgee Haven Hostel complex.
- Council staged and supported various community events throughout the year which were promoted via the Newsletter, Council's website and social media pages



Achievements (cont.)

- Council consulted with organisations within the renewable energy industry in reference to proposed investments in the Shire and region. Council's Growing Business, Industry & Tourism Advisory Committee also advised Council of potential investments in the region and Shire
- Council was active in completing projects in constructing, upgrading and maintaining recreational facilities including:
 - Building a new football change room shed at Greenham Park Sport Grounds
 - Updating the Balranald power supply at Greenham Park grounds
 - Upgrade of the Tennis Courts
 - Upgrade of the Euston Recreation Reserve
- On the 7th April 2022 Council's Strengthening Community Access, Inclusion & Wellbeing Advisory Committee planned and staged the Health, Wellbeing & Support Services Networking Expo. 22 organisations - both local to Balranald and visiting - brought more than 47 service providers to showcase a comprehensive range of services and supports to our community.



PHOTOS: Some of the stalls that were present at the Health, Wellbeing & Support Services Networking Expo which was held at the Theatre Royal

PILLAR 3. Our Economy

A community that ensures a strong and resilient economy



Key Objectives

- Implement regular business networking and training initiatives
- Promote use of enterprise creation and expansion schemes and funding sources
- Formulate and implement a Balranald Shire Tourism and Marketing Strategy
- Improve Heritage Park (Discovery Centre Precinct)
- Improve links between Balranald communities and Mungo and Yanga National Parks
- Develop and improve Shire signage
- Implement physical improvements to Market Street
- Maximise regional development opportunities



Achievements

- The Growing Business, Industry & Tourism Advisory Committee held regular monthly meetings with recommendations and reporting to Council
- At the June 2022 Council meeting revised plans for the Balranald Visitor Information Centre were presented to proceed with fully developed architectural and structural plans for the extensions to the Balranald Visitor Information Centre and for Tenders to be invited for the construction of the proposed works
- Council consulted with organisations within the renewable energy industry in reference to proposed investments in the Shire and region.
- Council's Growing Business, Industry & Tourism Advisory Committee also advised Council of potential investments in the region including investigating and proposing the Windlab Burrawong Windfarm development
- During the January - March 2022 quarter, Council hosted two consultation workshops for the development of two regional Destination Management Plans. One was for the Far West Joint Organisation and the other for Destination NSW - Riverina Murray



Achievements (cont.)

- From October to December 2021, after the easing of Covid restrictions, the Tourism & Destination Marketing staff began planning our destination marketing and small business development marketing strategies and kick started our social media, print media and broadcasting media activities. The resurgence in our marketing activities was reflected in our statistics measured at the end of the 2021/2022 year. A summary of these performance results and marketing activities can be viewed in the "Events & Tourism Highlights" section of this report
- In December 2021 Council funded the "Shop in Balranald Shire" marketing campaign which included an integrated strategy incorporating print media, radio adverts and social media promotions. It also included a market day with the radio live broadcasting on-site on Market Street and a competition to drive traffic into the retail shops
- In March 2022, Council hosted a Small Business dinner evening titled "Growing Beyond Covid" which included a series of guest speakers providing practical advice, marketing strategies, tips and information on grant opportunities for businesses & farmers in NSW to help kick-start and grow enterprises beyond the effects of COVID.
- Council continued to work collaboratively with government agencies, regional organisations and neighbouring Councils to identify collaborative economic development and destination marketing opportunities
- Upgrade works to improve access to Mungo National Park had been scheduled and completed through Council's ongoing capital works program for roads
- Ongoing engagement with business operators to expand and strengthen business and tourism activities



PHOTOS: (left) The happy winner, Megan Purtill, of our "Shop in Balranald Shire" Christmas promotional campaign. (right) Revised preliminary plans for the redevelopment of the Visitor Information Centre presented at the June 2022 Council Meeting

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PILLAR 4. Our Culture

A community that respects and celebrates its diverse cultures, heritage & arts



Key Objectives

- Identify, protect and interpret our significant heritage sites
- Support promotions



Achievements

- Council was active in supporting and promoting a number of cultural events during the year
- Council promoted events and activities held at the Balranald Art Gallery including:
 - "I do"- Weddings through the ages" exhibition
 - The Balranald Art Gallery & gallery attractions
 - "The Art of Football Art Exhibition"
 - "Sip & Paint" events
 - "On Purpose & Happy Accidents" Exhibition
- Council completed the construction of the Balranald Community Learning Centre with the official opening taking place February 2022
- Council carried out some conservation work at the Theatre Royal as part of Council's commitment to protecting our heritage assets. Council also installed new heating at the Theatre Royal
- Council promoted heritage and cultural assets throughout the year including:
 - Southern Cross Exhibition
 - The Military Commemorative Trail
 - Mungo Heritage & Cultural sites
 - Yanga Homestead and Woolshed
 - Balranald Museum & Old Lockup/Gaol

PHOTOS: Opening of the Balranald Community Learning Centre and "The Art of Football Exhibition one of the Balranald Art Gallery exhibition that Council promoted during the year

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PILLAR 5. Our Infrastructure

A community that maintains and strengthens its natural and built environment



Key Objectives

- Continual focus on reducing our environmental footprint and being environmentally sustainable
- Extend mobile coverage especially in the Hatfield/Clare area and National Parks
- Prepare strategic plans for water and sewer supply
- Prepare and implement Plans and strategies in support of maintaining health standards in the Shire
- Identify and lobby for key transport and road infrastructure improvements
- Provide for more and improved footpaths and mobility scooter paved concrete paths
- Identify potential access to new energy technologies & infrastructure
- Provide community infrastructure



Achievements

- Our infrastructure team achieved key goals in maintaining and strengthening our natural and built environment.
- Monthly activities and achievements were highlighted in Council's monthly newsletter.
- Infrastructure updates were reported to Council on a monthly basis

Completed infrastructure and road projects included:

- Building of the new football changeroom shed at Greenham Park
- Routine maintenance works on Market Street & Yanga Way
- Main Road maintenance work
- Redevelopment of the Euston Club Riverfront
- Sealing of existing road for safety improvement – Weimby Kyalite Road Upgrade
- Development of the Balranald Creative Learning Centre
- Upgrade of the Balranald Tennis Courts
- All projects completed under the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Fund Round 2 (See Completed projects)
- Balranald Riverfront Enhancement Eco Trail
- Balranald Swing Bridge Widening
- Balranald Aerodrome Fencing
- Toilet at Balranald Cemetery
- Euston Recreation Reserve Upgrades



Achievements (cont.)

- Collection of domestic and business waste as per service agreement
- Noxious weeds procedures implemented to meet requirements of the Biosecurity Act 2015
- Implementation of the Companion Animals Act 1998 and encouragement of compliance with legislation and community education was communicated through the community newsletter and social media
- Food premise inspections conducted twice per year
- Private swimming pool inspections implemented in accordance with regulations, with Compliance Certificates and fees/charges in place
- Water sampling compliant with NSW Health allocated sample program
- Completion of allocated funding for footpath works in Euston & Balranald
- Cemeteries operated effectively and efficiently and meet acceptable community service levels
- Aerodrome operated in accordance with acceptable community service levels and within CASA guidelines
- Water and sewerage data collection done in a timely manner and reported within deadlines to State authorities and reports to Council
- Potable water quality maintained in all town water supplies
- Infrastructure renewal works completed as per approved capital works program



PHOTOS: (left) Alex & Blake on the new footpath in Maher Street, Balranald and (right) Weimby-Kyalite Bitumen Sealing

44.

PILLAR 6. Our Leadership

A community that values and fosters leadership, lifelong learning, innovation and good governance



Key Objectives

- Establish a Leadership Development Network and Strategy
- Seek approaches in both planning and delivery of community services
- Encourage community member participation in decision making
- Ensure that Council is efficiently managed to provide civic leadership and good governance to meet all future needs of the Balranald Shire area



In February 2022 long-time Council staff member David Unicomb was presented with a Certificate in recognition of his 40 years continuous service with Balranald Shire Council



Achievements

- Council's Advisory Committees met regularly throughout the 2021/22 year and remained diligent in their commitment to ensuring the community's voice is heard and consistently playing a pivotal role in informing and guiding the decisions of Council in an equitable, open and democratic manner.
- Council prepared, presented and adopted the following IP&R documents:
 - Community Strategic Plan
 - Delivery Plan
 - Workforce Plan & Strategy
 - 2022/23 Annual Budget
 - The 2020/21 Annual Report
- Council reviewed/prepared, presented and adopted 44 Council Policies
- Council tendered for ITC services and appointed consultants to manage all aspects of storage and support
- Council commenced the process of developing a Grants/Projects Register and monthly reporting of projects to effectively monitor the status of projects and their alignment with project timelines, allocated funds and reporting requirements



Achievements

- As part of long term planning, Council commenced the development of village/locality plans which will be used for grant funding of proposed development projects
- Council has openly reported all decisions and information from the Executive of Chairs in open council and via the community newsletter
- Council established a Works Committee to allow it to review project proposals to determine future tenders before advertising to ensure that correct processes are being followed that reduces the risk to the organisation
- Council established an Australia Day Committee to drive the events at Balranald and Euston in January 2022.
- A Legislative Compliance Register was implemented to allow Council to report publicly any legislative non-compliances. This is an improvement process to allow staff and the community to learn from the reporting process.
- Council approved the free entry to the swimming pool for the summer season
- Weekly discussions/interviews were held throughout the year on 3SH being the regional radio network. This has proven to be a positive way to promote Council happenings, tourism and council meeting decisions.



PHOTO: (Balranald Swimming Pool) - Council approved the free entry to the swimming pool for the summer season

PLANS & POLICIES ADOPTED

In the the 2021/22 year, the following Plans & Policies were adapted by Council:

Plans & Policies	Month Adopted
Adoption of Cemetery Management Plan	August 2021
Investment Policy	October 2021
Model Code of Meeting Practice	March 2022
Stormwater Management Plan	March 2022
Community Strategic Plan	May 2022
Delivery Plan	May 2022
Workforce Plan & Strategy	May 2022
2022/23 Operational Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Fees & Charges & Revenue Policy	May 2022
Fees & Charges	May 2022
Adoption of Council Policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Information Policy • Asbestos Policy • Asset Disposal Policy • Business Ethics Policy • Child Protection Policy • Compliance Enforcement Policy – Biosecurity Act 2015 & Biosecurity Regulation 2017 • Cyber Security Guidelines Policy • Financial Hardship Policy • Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 Agency Information Guide Policy (GIPA) • Grievance Policy • Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy • Leave for Civil Emergencies Policy • Legislative Compliance Procedure and Register (Operations) • Motor Vehicle Policy • Plant and Equipment Replacement Policy • Related Party Disclosure Policy • Debt Recovery Policy 	May 2022

SUMMARY OF GRANTS & PROJECTS

✓ Completed Projects in the 2021/22 year

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
FESTIVAL OF PLACE - SUMMER NIGHT FUND From the NSW Government of Planning Industry & Environment to improve the atmosphere of the Easter Twilight Market	\$14,345	✓	✓	✓	✓		
SMALL BUSINESS MONTH From the NSW Treasury for the delivery of one or more business focused activities held during the NSW March Small Business Month	\$2,400	✓		✓			✓
ACTIVE POOLS PROGRAM From the NSW Government Office of Sport for an Active Pools Youth Program held at the Janelle Master Swimming Pool	\$5,000	✓	✓				
YOUTH GRANT - YOUTH WEEK From the NSW Government of Planning Industry & Environment and Council Contribution to improve the atmosphere of the Easter Twilight Market	Grant: \$3,644.30 Council Contribution: \$2,513.00	✓		✓	✓		
NSW PARTNERSHIPS LOCAL COUNCIL FUNDING STAGE 2 - RESPONSE TO COVID From the Office of Local Government and Council contribution for Financial Support in lieu of lost revenues due the impact of COVID 19 lockdowns and facility closure	Grant: \$90,000 Council Contribution: \$12,242		✓				✓

✓ Completed Projects (cont.)

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
BALRANALD RETIREMENT HOSTEL - AGED CARE WORKFORCE BONUS PAYMENT 2022 From the Department of Health for Workforce Bonus Payments to Hostel workers who worked through the pandemic.	\$10,160		✓				✓
ePLANNING PROGRAMS From NSW Government's ePlanning Program to support ePlanning program support and upgrades	\$50,000					✓	✓
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM From the Department of Health for building a new football change room shed at Greenham Park Sport Grounds	\$500,000	✓	✓			✓	
ROUTINE MAINTENANCE COUNCIL CONTRACT From Transport NSW for routine maintenance works on Market Street & Yanga Way	\$133,925		✓	✓		✓	✓
BLOCK GRANT 2021/22 From Transport NSW for main road maintenance for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MR 67 - 192.9km • MR 431 - 6.5km • MR 514 - 62.9km • MR 296 - 2.2km 	\$1,178,291		✓			✓	✓

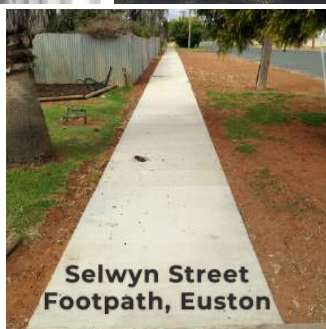
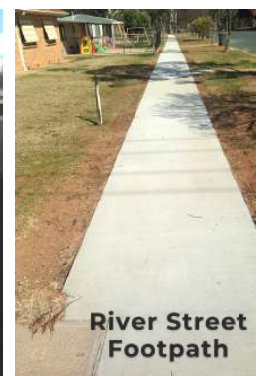
✓ Completed Projects (cont.)

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
ClubGRANT - EUSTON CLUB From ClubGrant Euston Club for the Redevelopment of the Euston Club Riverfront	\$88,000		✓	✓		✓	
RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHAGE From Local Government NSW for the change adaptive program - Private domestic water supplies on rural and remote properties	\$102,500		✓			✓	✓
STREET LIGHT SUBSIDY From Carbon Bank of Australia for energy saving street lighting	\$26,753		✓			✓	✓
CROWN RESERVE IMPROVEMENT FUND From Crown Reserve - Consultancy & Plans of Management for Greenham Park lighting project to update the power supply	\$25,850	✓	✓			✓	
FIXING LOCAL ROAD ROUND 1 From Transport NSW and Council Contribution for sealing existing road for safety improvement. - Weimby Kyalite Road Upgrade	Grant: \$1,927,500 Council Contribution: \$128,500		✓			✓	✓
STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITY FUND ROUND 3 From Local Government NSW to fund the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of Balranald Creative Learning Centre - \$284,377 Upgrade of the Tennis Courts - \$287,503 	\$284,377 for Creative Learning Centre \$287,503 for Tennis Courts Upgrade	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

✓ Completed Projects (cont.)

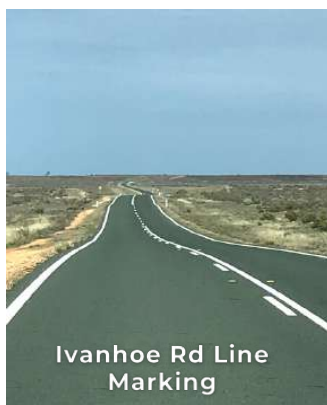
GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND ROUND 2 From the Depart of Infrastructure, Transport Regional Development & Communications for the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANZAC Park Fence • River Street/Murray Terrace/Selwyn Street • Bertram and Taylor Road Euston - Traffic Improvement • Euston Forest Eco Trail • Greenham Hall - Refurbishment Event Furniture and Storage • Murrumbidgee Bridge Approach Footpath • Purton Lane Sealing • Ivanhoe Road - Signage - Safety Improvements • Balranald Theatre Royal - Heating • Wampo intersection - Road Safety Upgrade 	\$832,921	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Below are photos of some of the completed projects under the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Fund Round 2



Photos

The following are photos representing some of the projects completed in 2021/22



SUMMARY OF GRANTS & PROJECTS



Water & Sewer

Water & Sewer works during the 2021/22 year included:

- Contracts were awarded for various switchboard upgrades and pump replacements for both water and sewer.
- Replacement of old water mains in both Balranald and Euston
- Inspection and cleaning of the Balranald water reservoirs.
- Sewer relining in Balranald
- Switchboard upgrade for Pump Station No 2
- Replacement of a failed pump at Pump Station No 1 was being investigated pending contractor availability
- Upgrades to the main Balranald raw water intake
- Upgrades to control systems for irrigation to reduce unnecessary water use on public spaces were being investigated
- Engineering staff liaise with Public Works Advisory and DPIE (Water) to finalise an Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plan, with a focus on addressing future population growth and increased demand for water in both Balranald and Euston.
- A report on water supply issues for Balranald was prepared and submitted to DPIE to support the application for potential funding for upgrading the Balranald water supply system. Representations are being made for a similar assessment of the future needs of Euston
- Replacement of old 25mm raw water meters in the older residential area of Euston
- A new sewerage pump was installed at Balranald Sewerage Pump Station before Christmas 2021
- Electrical switchboard upgrades have been carried out at Euston raw water pump station
- As part of a program to improve our service to customers and to renew and replace old assets in line with good asset management practice, Balranald Shire Council has engaged contractors to replace the raw water mains in the following areas: Balranald Moa Street East side - Turandurey to Ballandella Street and Balranald Yuranigh Street East side - Harben to Market Street

SUMMARY OF GRANTS & PROJECTS

🕒 Projects In Progress @ 30th June 2022

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
DISCOVERY CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT From the Far West Joint Organisation for the Discovery Centre Redevelopment Project	\$950,000	✓		✓	✓	✓	
CROWN RESERVE IMPROVEMENT FUND From The Crown Reserves Improvement Fund for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lions Park Upgrade \$587,991 Balranald Caravan Park Upgrade - \$771,500 	\$587,991 for Lions Park Upgrade \$771,500 for Balranald Caravan Park Upgrade	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
EVERYONE CAN PLAY From the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment which will support the Lions Park Upgrade for Play Equipment upgrade	\$200,000	✓	✓	✓		✓	
FIXING LOCAL ROADS ROUND 3 From Transport NSW for sealing existing Roads for safety improvements for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tapalin Mail Road \$412,500 / Council contribution of \$27,500 Euston Prungle Road \$300,000 / Council contribution \$20,000 Marma Box Creek Road \$600,000 / Council Contribution \$40,000 	\$412,000 + \$27,500 Tapalin Mail Road \$300,000 + \$20,000 Prungle Road \$600,000 + \$40,000 Marma Box Creek Rd		✓	✓		✓	✓

Projects In Progress (cont.)

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
ROADS TO DISCOVERY - Ongoing from 2019 -2024 From the -Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications for various works including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McCabe St Resealing • O'Conner Street Resealing • Kilpatrick Road Resealing • Reseal Multiple locations Perry St. • Reseal Multiple locations Shailer Tce • Betram Road Reseal • Tapalin Mail Road • Windomal Road • Mildura Ivanhoe Road • Hatfield The Vale Road • Weimby Kyalite Road • Marma Box Creed Road • Burke Wills Road • Freshwater Road • Wooranbara Corrong • Leslie Drive • Tapalin Mail Road As at 30th June 2022 a number of the road projects above were completed with a number still yet to be completed.	\$4,997,524		✓	✓		✓	✓
FIXING LOCAL ROADS ROUND 1 From the Department of Transport NSW for upgrades to Marma Box Creek Road	Grant: \$2,100,000 Council Contribution: \$140,000		✓	✓		✓	✓
FIXING LOCAL ROADS ROUND 2 From the Department of Transport NSW for upgrades to Leslie Drive, Euston - Currently on Hold	Grant: \$246,500 Council Contribution: \$14,500		✓	✓		✓	✓

Projects In Progress (cont.)

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
COMMUNITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS From the Department of Communities and Justice for the Kyalite Memorial Park & Foreshore Development,	\$32,572	✓	✓	✓		✓	
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE From the Office of Local Government - Department of Planning & Environment for Financial Assistance	\$3,737,513		✓				✓
TRANSPORT ACCESS REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS From the Department of Transport NSW for local projects as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beating Isolation: Providing transport to community based facilities for disadvantaged community members • Backing Balranald Youth: Transport initiative for Balranald youth • Building Resources Balranald: To provide funding for at least 12 people to obtain their medium rigid license 	\$63,000	✓	✓	✓			✓
OUR RIVERS OUR REGIONS From the Department of Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverfront Enhancement Eco Trail: \$30,007 (Completed) • Riverbend Reserve Place Making: \$444,000 (In Progress due to wet weather & flooding) • Swing Bridge Widening: \$170,000 (Completed) 	\$30,007 + \$444,000 + \$170,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Projects In Progress (cont.)

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
<p>LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ROUND 2</p> <p>From the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications for the following projects:</p> <p>In Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$100,000 Euston Town Approaches • \$66,000 Balranald Irrigation Automation -Currently sourcing quotes • \$30,0000 Kyalite Riverside Reserve Enhancements (funding in conjunction with Community Building Partnerships Grant) – Project near completion, awaiting Solar Light installation • \$26,739 Seal off Street Parking – Awaiting better weather for project to be completed • \$84,000 Theatre Royal refurbishments • \$30,000 Church and Harben Street Drainage Improvements – Excavation started • \$80,000 Balranald Riverfront Enhancements - Waiting for the river water to abate, will not be completed <p>Completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$110,000 Balranald Aerodrome Fencing • \$50,000 Toilet at Balranald Cemetery • \$40,000 Euston Recreation Reserve Upgrades 	\$616,739	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Projects In Progress (cont.)

GRANT/PROJECT	Funding Value	Alignment with our Six Pillars					
		P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
LOCAL ROADS & COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE ROUND 3 From the Department of Communities and Justice for the Kyalite Memorial Park & Foreshore Development for projects which were being assessed at 30-06-2022.	\$1,665,842	✓	✓	✓		✓	
PUBLIC LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT From the Library Council of NSW for Stage 1 of the Library Refurbishment Project which includes the development of a Technology Support Hub in the unused CWA room and other indoor refurbishment requirements.	\$67,862	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
STRONGER COUNTRY COMMUNITY FUND ROUND 4 From the Library Council of NSW for Stage 1 of the Library Refurbishment Project which includes the development of a Technology Support Hub in the unused CWA room and other indoor refurbishment requirements.	\$527,626	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



DONATIONS BY COUNCIL

One way Council supports and actively participates in the community is through its donations and contributions program. Each year, Council makes available to community groups the opportunity to apply for grants that can be used in programs that provide community benefit.

Total donations made by Council to support our local community across different funding streams is **\$13,417**. Donations and contributions can be either in the form of a cash donation, a waiver of fees or in-kind. For the 2021/22 year, Council approved the following donations and contributions:

Contract Description	Amount
Balranald Art Gallery - Bal-Archies Awards	\$ 3,000
Lodge Balranald No. 214	\$ 500
Balranald Can Assist	\$ 500
Balranald Central School	\$ 100
Balranald Combined Church's Community Carols	\$ 270
Kyalite Progress Association	\$ 500
Robinvale-Euston 80 Ski Race	\$ 2,000
Christmas Lights Decoration Competition	\$ 615
National Recovery & Resilience Agency	\$ 420
Balranald Central School - Year 12 Formal	\$ 512
Balranald Country Education Fund	\$ 5,000
TOTAL	\$13,417



Balranald Can Assist was one of the recipients of a donation from Council in the 2021/22 year.

STATUTORY INFORMATION



Contracts Awarded Greater than \$150,000

There were no contracts awarded greater than \$150,000 by Council during the 2021/22 financial year.



Disability Inclusion Act 2014

In accordance with the Disability Inclusion Act 2014, Council is in the process of updating its current Disability Inclusion Action Plan. The plan will be accessed on Council's website when finalised.

Balranald Shire Council embraces the inclusion of people with a disability in all aspects of community life. 5.6% of the Balranald Shire population identify as needing assistance because of a disability.

Council, through community consultation, has identified the following areas where improvements to disability accessibility can be done:

- Working in partnership to deliver health, wellbeing and inclusion services and programs
- Identify and close any access gaps to community services
- Facilitate and foster collaboration in delivering a program of community events
- Maintain and upgrade parks and sporting facilities



Equal Employment Opportunities

Code of Conduct training is delivered to all staff across the organisation. Council has the appropriate policies and procedures in place to govern the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) management Plan. Council actively supports the principles and practices of EEO.

The induction process and job advertisements adhere with EEO policies.



Functions Delegated to Other Organisations

Council did not delegate any functions to other organisations for the 2021/22 financial year.



Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Regulation s1 25(1)

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Regulation s1 25(1) Part 7 Section 125 (1) of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, known as the GIPA Act, states that each agency (of which Balranald Shire Council is one) must, within 4 months after the end of each reporting year, prepare an annual report on the agency's obligations under this Act for submission to the Minister responsible for the agency.

Council fulfilled its responsibilities in regard to reporting for the 2021/22 year. Council's GIPA reportable totals during the year are as follows:

- Received zero (0) access application requests
- Received zero (0) access application invalid requests
- Zero (0) applications reviewed Under Part 5 of the Act; and,
- Zero (0) applications transferred to other agencies

Council makes available to the public all relevant policies, Agendas of Council Meetings, including Advisory Committee Minutes, minutes of Council meetings, and any other documents where there is a public interest content, including the Community Strategic Plans, Operational Plans and Budget. This information is available on Council's website, and is also on display at Council's office. Documents to be adopted with a period of community consultation are displayed at Council's office, as well as at public venues, and when possible, in the other population centres within the Shire area. These locations and times are advertised in local media sources to raise awareness within the community.



Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and Regulation s31 c14

Public Interest Disclosure Act 1994 and Regulation s31 c14, similar to the reporting requirement under the GIPA Act and Regulations, Councils are required to submit a Public Interest Disclosures Annual Report to the Minister and a copy is also provided to the NSW Ombudsman. Council submitted their Public Interest Disclosure (PID) Annual Report with the required time frame, which is within 4 months after the end of the financial year. Council received zero (0) submissions for the 2021/22 year.

Council's policy conforms to its Code of Conduct, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, Workplace Harassment Policy and Workplace Grievance Procedure Policy.

The policy is accessible to all staff and the public via Council's website and is required to be reviewed every two years (the current version was adopted in February 2017).

In the 2021/22 year there were:

- Zero (0) Public Officials who made PIDs
- Zero (0) PID's Received
- Zero (0) PIDs Finalised



Legal Proceedings

A summary of legal proceedings either commenced by, or commenced against, Council are summarised as follows.

- 1 Code of Conduct Complaint in reference to a General Manager
- 1 Code of Conduct Complaint in reference to a Director

Council was advised that there were **no adverse findings** in relation to the Code of Conduct Complaints, and the allegations were found to be **not sustained**. A full evaluation of how these complaints were made was carried out.



Planning Agreements

Council did not enter into any planning agreements for the 2021/22 financial year.



Rates and Charges Written Off

The following rates were Written Off in the 2021/22 year:

General Rates:	\$ 4,837.58
Filtered Water:	\$ 117.47
Sewerage:	\$ 12.28
Garbage:	\$.89
Legal Charges:	\$ 3,087.98
Raw Water:	\$ 1.15
Storm Water:	\$ 54.75
TOTAL	\$ 8,115.45



Special Rate Variation

In 2019 Council applied for a multi-year special variation to:

- increase its general income by 10% for each year from 2019/20 to 2024/25, a cumulative
- increase of 94.87% over seven years, and retain this increase in its rate base permanently

The SRV only applies to the General rate component of the annual rates notices – the increases under this SRV do not apply to the waste, water and sewer access charges.

The IPART decision highlighted the fact that even with the SRV, Council's forecast average rate in 2024/25 of \$555 is lower than neighbouring council's current rates and significantly below the NSW state average. **The additional funding generated for 2020/21 year from the SRV was \$207,183**

The additional funding raised through the SRV was allowed to be spent for the purposes of funding operating and capital expenditure for its key assets - buildings, roads, bridges and drainage networks, and improving its financial sustainability.



General Manager's Remuneration

The total remuneration packages for the General Manager function during the 2021/22 year was **\$288,000**



Senior Staff Remuneration

The total remuneration package for Council's two senior staff for the year (excluding the General Manager position) is broken down in the following components:

Description	Total Remuneration
(i) The total of the values of the components of their packages	\$268,901
(iii) The total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor	\$ 41,251
(iii) The total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package	\$ 35,606
(v) the total amount payable by the council by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits	\$ 32,800



Work Carried Out on Private Land

Council undertakes private works. For the 2021/22 financial year, the revenue generated from private works was **\$149,003**. Council is, under Section 67 of the Local Government Act 1993, able to perform private works by agreement with the owner or occupier of any private land.

Examples of works done during 2020/21 under Section 67 included:

- Water and sewer connections
- Water and sewer maintenance
- Driveway access construction
- Supply of Materials, Plant, Equipment & Labor hire
- Water from Council's standpipe



Labour Statistics on the 25th May 2022 as per the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021

Wednesday 25th May 2022 was chosen as the "relevant day" for Councils to report on their labour statistics in their annual reports under Section 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

Description	Total Number of persons who performed paid work on Wednesday 25th May 2022	Total Number of persons directly employed by Council for 2021/22 year
Permanent Full Time	40	48
Permanent Part-time	1	7
Casual	9	37
Fixed Term Contract	1	1
The number of staff members employed by council who are senior staff for purposes of LG Act 1993	2	2
The number of persons engaged by Council under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, this is wholly or principally for the labour of the person	5	7
The number of persons supplied to the Council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee	0	0



Swimming Pool Inspections

Under the Swimming Pools Act 1992, Council is required to make provision for the inspection, at least once every 3 years, of any swimming pool situated on premises on which there is tourist and visitor accommodation or more than 2 dwellings.

For the 2021/22 financial year, Council undertook **four (4)** inspections on Swimming Pools.



Companion Animals Management, Companion Animals Act (1998)

Only dogs are kept at the Council pound. For the 2021/22 financial year, pound statistics were:

Description	Number
Placed into the Pound by seize by Council ranger or owner surrender	16
Stolen from Council Pound	0
Return to Owners	8
Euthanised Dogs	2
Sold/Re-homed	0
Released to re-homing organisations	6

There were **no dog attacks** reported to Council for the 2021/22 financial year.

Funding spent by Council in **2021/22** totaled **\$2,327.34** compared with \$11,284 for the 2020/21 year. Expenditure includes animal upkeep, repairs to the pound and ranger costs.

There are no designated off-leash areas within the Balranald Shire Council local government area.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The following is Balranald Shire Council's Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30th June 2022.