

Community Strategic Plan 2017 to 2027



#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE KAMILAROI ABORIGINAL NATION AS THE TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS OF THE LAND ON WHICH WE LIVE AND WORK AND PAY OUR RESPECT TO ALL ELDERS PAST AND PRESENT AND TO THE YOUNG INDIGENOUS LEADERS OF TOMORROW.

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## Message from the Mayor

The Community Strategic Plan was first written in 2017. A lot has happened since then and it is important to review the plan, so it stays up to date and relevant. Over the past two years, there has been a lot of community engagement around plans for economic development, tourism, open space, medical services, housing and the 2040 Local Strategic Planning Statement. This has provided a clear view of current community priorities and has helped with the review. Overall, the plan is much the same but there has been some fine-tuning of strategies.

It needs to be understood that this is a community document, and everyone needs to take responsibility for the parts they can influence.

Throughout the plan there are suggestions about what individuals can do to help achieve our desired future. Council will play its part, where it has a role, but cannot do everything. Similarly, not everything can be done at once as some of the challenges in the plan will require us all to adapt and change the way things have been done in the past. This will take time. So please re-read the document and let us know if something is missing. This is our road map for the future and by working together we can achieve great things.

Thank you.

Councillor **Jamie Chaffey** Mayor



#### Plan structure

The Gunnedah Shire community strategic plan covers the period 2017 to 2027.

It is a long-term document with the following parts:

**A vision statement for the Shire** – What we want Gunnedah Shire to be in the future.

**The values** that will shape our behaviour and guide future choices.

**Four overall themes** that group similar desired future outcomes.

Within each theme there is:

- A summary of the issues
- Suggestions about what individuals can do to help achieve desired future outcomes
- The desired future strategic outcomes and associated strategies.
- Council's role
- Who needs to work together to achieve the desired outcomes
- Indicators to measure progress



### Council's role in delivering the plan

The achievement of the Community Strategic Plan requires everyone to play their part.

There are three roles that Council can play in delivering the Community Strategic Plan:



### **PROVIDER**

Council provides a service where it is legally obliged to do so or where it chooses to provide a service due to market failure and community demand. This includes Council's role as a regulatory authority. Examples include street maintenance, swimming pools, development approvals, local laws.



## FACILITATOR

service directly but helps other groups achieve their aims. This could be through in-kind assistance, a grant, bringing groups together, providing introduction or facilities.



Council speaks up and lobbies on behalf of the community.

# Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (IP&R)

The IP&R Framework begins with the community's, not council's, aspirations for a period of at least 10 years. It includes a suite of integrated plans and a reporting structure to communicate progress to the community and council. The Plans are regularly reviewed to ensure the goals and strategies are still relevant. The components of the IP&R framework are set out in the following table:

#### **Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework**

#### **The Community Strategic Plan**

A long-term plan that sets out the community's aspiration for their Local Government Area.

#### **The Council Delivery Program**

A four-year program that sets out the actions that Council will do to work on the parts of the Community Strategic Plan where it has a role. It is aligned to Council's four-year term of office. The program is supported by a range of Council policies and plans.

#### **The Council Operational Plan**

An annual document that sets out Council's budget and work for the year.

#### **The Council Annual Report**

Reports on the financial performance of Council and the programs and projects completed during the year.



### **Community Engagement**

Reviewing the Community Strategic Plan requires an understanding of any changes to community priorities since 2017 when it was first written. Over the past 2 years, Council has undertaken seven separate strategic community engagement processes that have generated over 1,500 individual responses from the community about their priorities.







**Community Engagement** (Continued)





DOCTORS
ORK SURVEY (2021)

direct respondents
and potentially
an additional
918
family and
network
members

FUTURE 2040
LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING
STATEMENT CONSULTATION (2020)
60 people involved through worshops,
30 people responded through surveys,

1308 visits to social pinpoint site with 141 comments



GUNNEDAH
OPEN SPACE
STRATEGY (2021)
270
respondents
to a survey



responses were received from an online survey conducted in March 2002 that asked the question:

"What is the most important thing Council should focus on in the next four years?"



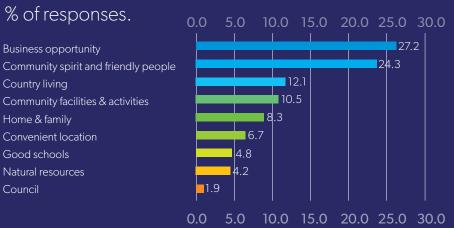
## **Community Engagement**

(Continued)

## **GUNNEDAH SHIRE** KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES.

% of responses. 0.0 5.0 10.0 15.0 20.0 25.0 30.0 28.5 Local business and shopping Education and vocational skills training 19.9 16.3 Managing Climate Change **1**6.3 Medical services & doctors 10.6 Diversification - coal and agriculture 10.2 Cost of living and housing 6.5 Infrasructure services 6.5 Services for families and young people Concerns about Council 6.1 Effects of Covid Crime and lack of police 10.0 15.0 20.0 25.0 30.0

## WHAT MAKES **GUNNEDAH** A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND INVEST?





## **Community Engagement**

(Continued)

### WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT THE **GUNNEDAH** REGION?

% of responses.

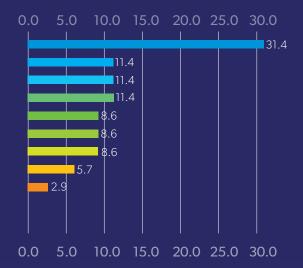


### WHAT SHOULD COUNCIL FOCUS ON IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

% of responses.

Community facilities Local business Community engagement Decrease crime Skills development Future without coal Road maintenance Housing

Save Koalas





## **OUR VISION:**

a prosperous, caring and proud community reflected in the achievements of the people.

### **OUR VALUES:**

**COMMUNITY SPIRIT:** we have welcoming towns, villages and rural areas working in partnership to share the good times and bad, looking out for and supporting one another. We genuinely care.

ENVIRONMENTAL CARE: we embrace preservation of our heritage, our natural resources and our social fabric to achieve sustainability.

LIFESTYLE ACCESS: we enjoy access to services and facilities in

Gunnedah yet benefit from the peace, tranquillity, safety, security, beauty and friendliness of our rural community.





## Theme 1: Engaging and Supporting the Community

This theme includes community leadership and engagement in decision-making, Council's role as an organisation and the need to fund and manage infrastructure.

Volunteers are the life blood of the community, giving their time to help run a wide range of community groups and activities. However, many volunteers are ageing and there is a need to involve younger people in this essential work. Communities that work together are successful and the many committees and community groups all contribute to the daily running of the Shire. They need support and encouragement to continue performing this valuable role. Individual community members need to take the opportunity to be involved in planning and decision-making on future policies that influence the future of the Shire.

Council plays a key role in planning and providing the infrastructure and services needed for a healthy and prosperous community. It aims to be an open, sustainable and efficient organisation. Funding the infrastructure that supports our daily life requires long-term financial planning and the attraction of external revenues from the State and Australian governments. This is an area that Council can help facilitate.

# What you can do to help achieve the desired future outcomes:

- Become a volunteer
- Get involved with a community group, a hall committee or progress association
- Provide feedback to Council on services
- Regularly visit the Council website and social media to keep abreast of activities
- Participate in community engagement activities and give your opinion
- Stand for Council
- Work on a Council committee



# **1.1** Community leadership is strengthened, and volunteers are engaged

| Theme (1) Engaging and Supporting the Community -Strategies   | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together  |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 1.1.1 Increase volunteer opportunities especially for young people and people with disability.  | Facilitator<br>Provider | Council  Aboriginal and   |
| 1.1.2 Support and celebrate volunteers as positive role models.   | Facilitator<br>Provider | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities  Hall Committees and Progress Associations  Community groups  Churches  Clubs  State Government |
| 1.1.3 Build the capacity of community organisations and sporting groups to remain sustainable in the long term.   | Facilitator             |   |
| 1.1.4 Encourage and support village hall committees and progress associations, service groups, action groups and other community organisations involved in delivering activities and programs that benefit the local community. | Facilitator             |   |
| 1.1.5 Work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on activities and programs.   | Facilitator             |   |
| 1.1.6 Work with multicultural communities on activities and programs.   | Facilitator             |   |

# **1.2** Council is a sustainable, ethical and efficient organisation

| Theme (1) Engaging and Supporting the Community -Strategies   | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together                              |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 1.2.1 Foster a strong organisational culture which strives for best practice and continued improvement in all operations. | Provider                | Council  Naomi Joint Organisation  Office of Local Government |
| 1.2.2 Position Council as an employer of choice, promoting a safe, healthy, inclusive and innovative working environment. | Provider                |   |
| 1.2.3 Share resources and undertake collaborative projects with others where there is a net community benefit to do so.   | Provider<br>Facilitator |   |
| 1.2.4 Improve Council's financially sustainable position, delivering value for money services to the community.           | Provider                |   |
| 1.2.5 Continue to work so that Council has good governance and transparent decision making.                               | Provider                |   |



# **1.3** Increased local investment from other sources including the State and Commonwealth Governments as well as developers

| Theme (1) Engaging and Supporting the Community -Strategies  | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together   |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| 1.3.1 Identify and secure grant funding and explore opportunities for partnerships to provide new and upgraded assets, infrastructure, and services. | Facilitator             | Australian<br>Government   |
| 1.3.2 Build relationships with all levels of government, seek to contribute to decision-making and strongly advocate our local interests.            | Facilitator<br>Advocate | State Government Developers Mining companies Community Organisations Council |
| 1.3.3 Advocate for local facilities and services to receive funding from mining and other major developments.  | Facilitator<br>Advocate |  |

# **1.4** An engaged community that is involved in the decision-making process

| Theme (1) Engaging and Supporting the Community -Strategies  | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1.4.1 Build relationships with all levels of government and strongly advocate our local interests. | Facilitator<br>Advocate | Australian<br>Government         |
| 1.4.2 Provide meaningful opportunities for the community to have a say in decision-making.         | Provider                | State<br>Government              |
| 1.4.3 Communicate information proactively through a range of mediums to reach target audiences.    | Provider                | Council                          |
|  |                         | Community<br>Organisations       |
|  |                         | Community<br>Members             |
|  |                         | Business and<br>Industry         |



## **1.5** Strategically managed infrastructure

| Theme (1) Engaging and Supporting the Community -Strategies  | Council<br>role | Who<br>needs to work<br>together                             |
|--|-----------------|--|
| 1.5.1 Provide and maintain safe, serviceable, and accessible public facilities, parks and infrastructure including roads, footpaths and stormwater drains.               | Provider        | Council  Australian Government  State Government  Developers |
| 1.5.2 Provide and maintain efficient water and sewerage systems that support a growing community.  | Provider        |  |
| 1.5.3 Develop best practice asset management practices for sustainable development.  | Provider        |  |
| 1.5.4 Implement and maintain strategies and developer contribution plans which require appropriate contributions to not unfairly burden ratepayers or future developers. | Provider        |  |



Engaging and supporting the community

## **Indicators of progress**

- ABS statistics on volunteering
- Community participation in events and activities
- Council's annual report
- Council financial results
- Council capital works completion
- Council staff retention rates
- Council Code of Conduct complaints
- Grant funding secured
- $\bullet \ \ {\hbox{Community participation in engagement activities}}$
- Council website usage statistics



## THEME 2

# Building our Shire's Economy



## Theme 2: Building our Shire's Economy

## This theme covers the need to increase population and investment and to diversify the economic base of the Shire.

Agriculture and mining are the economic mainstays but recent trends in coal usage and renewable energy are increasing the focus on future industry diversification. Marketing the shire as a visitor destination and event location is a potential future direction that would benefit local businesses. Generally, there is a level of optimism about the current economic climate but there is a concern about building the long-term sustainability of the CBD and local business. A skilled workforce is essential to service existing business and industry and to attract investment. There is a need for education and training providers to tailor their courses to the meet commercial needs. Securing supply chains in and out of the Shire is important and there are potential opportunities with the Inland Rail project and the future role of the airport. Access to telecommunication, broadband and electrical services is essential for the modern economy and can enable people to work remotely whilst living in the Shire.

# What you can do to help achieve the desired future outcomes:

- Shop locally
- Help with events
- Welcome visitors
- Get to know the Shire better
- Engage a trainee or apprentice
- Open a business
- Undertake training in a new skill.
- Visit a local attraction
- Have a "staycation"



# **2.1** A growing population and diversified economy

| Theme (2) Building Our Shire's Economy - Strategies                                    | Council<br>role                     | Who<br>needs to work<br>together                  |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2.1.1 Develop a diversified and resilient economy.                                     | Facilitator<br>Advocate             | Australian<br>Government                          |
| 2.1.2 Support local business including small businesses across the Gunnedah Shire.     | Facilitator<br>Advocate             | State<br>Government                               |
| 2.1.3 Actively encourage new industry to set up in the area.                           | Provider<br>Facilitator<br>Advocate | Community   |
| 2.1.4 Support an affordable and available stock of industrial and commercial property. | Facilitator<br>Advocate             | Organisations Industry groups Chamber of Commerce |
|  |                                     | Developers  |

## **2.2** Access to our goods, services, and markets

| Theme (2) Building Our Shire's Economy - Strategies   | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together  |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 2.2.1 Maintain adequate parking availability in business and industrial areas.                      | Provider<br>Facilitator | Australian<br>Government  |
| 2.2.2 Secure supply chains.   | Advocate                | State Government  Developers  Chamber of Commerce  Transport operators  Council |
| 2.2.3 Assess opportunities to sustainably maximise use of the airport to improve economic outcomes. | Provider<br>Advocate    |   |



# **2.3** Increased tourism and promotion of the Gunnedah Shire

| В | heme (2)<br>Building Our Shire's Economy<br>Strategies                                       | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together |
|---|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
|   | 3.1 Actively seek to bring business, sporting and cultur-<br>I events to the Gunnedah Shire. | Facilitator             | Council<br>State                 |
| 2 | 3.2 Market Gunnedah Shire as a tourist destination.  | Provider<br>Facilitator | Government Chamber of Commerce   |
| 2 | 3.3 Develop and support local tourist attractions.   | Provider<br>Facilitator |                                  |

# **2.4** The Gunnedah Shire is an attractive place to invest

| Theme (2) Building Our Shire's Economy - Strategies  | Council<br>role                     | Who<br>needs to work<br>together  |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2.4.1 Improve access to telecommunication, broadband and electrical services.                    | Facilitator<br>Advocate             | Council   |
| 2.4.2 Work together so that businesses, shops, the CBD, and industrial areas are well presented. | Provider<br>Facilitator<br>Advocate | Government  Australian Government  Tele- communication providers  Chamber of Commerce  Local Businesses |



## **2.5** Skilled workforce and quality local educational opportunities

| Theme (2) Building Our Shire's Economy - Strategies  | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together  |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| 2.5.1 Encourage new residents with skills to the area to supplement our skilled workforce.   | Facilitator<br>Advocate | State<br>Government   |
| 2.5.2 Advocate for quality educational services and seek opportunities in the tertiary sectors for facilities and courses that meet our regional training needs. | Advocate                | Australian Government  Education and training providers  Council  Chamber of Commerce  Local Businesses |



Building our Shire's Economy

## **Indicators of progress**

- ABS population statistics
- Gross Regional Product
- Local business closures
- New business start-ups
- ABS Industry sector statistics
- Stock of zoned commercial land
- Number of sporting and cultural events and attendance data
- Number and value of development approvals
- Number and value of building approvals
- ABS employment data
- ABS qualifications data
- Enrolment in tertiary courses
- Visitor statistics





## Theme 3: Retaining Our Quality of Life

Overall people are very positive about the benefits of country living, in a supportive and friendly community. It is a great place to bring up a family. Parklands, open space, sporting and cultural facilities offer a wide range of recreational opportunities. "There is always something to do if you are interested."

However, there are several challenges that need to be addressed. Access to medical services and the shortage of doctors is a major community concern that has the potential to cause people to leave the Shire or decide not to move here. Housing affordability, availability and diversity is a problem particularly for renters and short-term accommodation seekers.

There is an underlying worry about feeling safe due to crime and anti-social behaviour and there is collaboration between the police and community members to work on this difficult issue. A key part of a community's future lies with developing, retaining and attracting young people and families. Education and skills training is an important part of this. Health, education, housing, law and policing are primarily State Government services, so it is important that our community priorities are clearly communicated to elected members and agencies. Covid and the recent Ukrainian war have also had an impact on the cost of living and the price of materials needed for daily living.

# What you can do to help achieve the desired future outcomes:

- Help an elderly person
- Take your children to school holiday activities, the park or to an event
- Ride a bike or take a walk
- Read a book from the library
- Make use of local facilities and services
- Welcome and involve new residents
- Report crimes to the police
- Report truancy
- Support the PCYC
- Get to know your neighbours
- Obey local laws
- Go to a community event
- Help someone who is not as well off as yourself



# **3.1** Quality lifestyles and support for our older residents

| Theme (3) Retaining Our Quality of Life -Strategies  | Council<br>role      | Who<br>needs to work<br>together                                     |
|--|----------------------|--|
| 3.2.1 Encourage a mix of housing types that is affordable, adaptable, accessible, and suited to community needs.           | Advocate             | Australian<br>Government   |
| 3.2.2 Lobby State and Federal government for measures to improve housing affordability and access to public housing stock. | Advocate<br>Provider | State Government  Council  Community Organisations  Local Businesses |

## **3.2** Improved housing affordability

| Theme (3) Retaining Our Quality of Life -Strategies  | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3.2.1 Encourage a mix of housing types that is affordable, adaptable, accessible, and suited to community needs.           | Advocate<br>Facilitator | State<br>Government              |
| 3.2.2 Lobby State and Federal government for measures to improve housing affordability and access to public housing stock. | Advocate                | Council  Developers              |



## **3.3** Villages are vibrant and sustainable

| Theme (3) Retaining Our Quality of Life<br>-Strategies   | Council<br>role                     | Who<br>needs to work<br>together                                  |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 3.3.1 Support village hall committees and progress associations; build their capacity to deliver village improvement programs.     | Facilitator<br>Provider             | Council, Village Residents Progress Associations State Government |
| 3.3.2 Advocate for quality transport links between Gunnedah and Villages.  | Advocate<br>Facilitator<br>Provider |   |
| 3.3.3 Implement initiatives that deliver attractive, well-serviced villages whilst retaining the unique identity of each location. | Provider<br>Facilitator             |   |

## **3.4** Reduced crime and anti-social behaviour

| Theme (3) Retaining Our Quality of Life<br>-Strategies  | Council<br>role      | Who<br>needs to work<br>together                               |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 3.4.1 Foster crime prevention and community safety through partnership with police and other community organisations.   | Facilitator          | NSW Police Force  Council  Community Members  Community Groups |
| 3.4.2 Lobby for continued increase in local police presence so that our town remains a safe and pleasant place to live.   | Advocate             |  |
| 3.4.3 Encourage community safety by incorporating crime prevention through environmental design principles in new development.  | Provider<br>Advocate |  |
| 3.4.4 Strengthen partnership between Government and community organisations to identify and develop solutions to address anti-social and at-risk behaviour, including substance abuse and domestic violence.      | Facilitator          |  |
| 3.4.5 Compliance and enforcement of compliance with acts, regulations, building codes and standards such as those related to planning, building, health, parking, animal control, illegal dumping and vegetation. | Provider             |  |



# **3.5** Our younger people are attracted, retained and developed

| Theme (3) Retaining Our Quality of Life<br>-Strategies  | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3.5.1 Work together to provide creative activities for young people after school and during school holidays.                                  | Provider<br>Facilitator | Australian<br>Government         |
| 3.5.2 Attract and retain young people and families to our area.   | Advocate<br>Facilitator | State<br>Government              |
| 3.5.3 Council and local business provide traineeships and apprenticeship opportunities for young people across a variety of industry sectors. | Provider<br>Facilitator | Local<br>Businesses              |
|   |                         | Chamber of<br>Commerce           |
|   |                         | Council                          |
|   |                         | Community<br>Organisations       |

# **3.6** A healthy and active community participating in a diverse range of recreational and cultural activities

| Theme (3) Retaining Our Quality of Life<br>-Strategies  | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together                     |
|---|-------------------------|--|
| 3.6.1 Provide the right places, spaces and services to encourage healthy activity.  | Provider<br>Facilitator | Community organisations                              |
| 3.6.2 Educate the community about healthy lifestyles and disease prevention.  | Advocate<br>Facilitator | Council  - Australian Government  - State Government |
| 3.6.3 Council supports and facilitates arts and cultural programs in partnership with the community.  | Provider<br>Facilitator |  |
| 3.6.4 Maximise opportunities for better use, functionality and accessibility of cultural facilities and spaces.                             | Provider<br>Facilitator |  |
| 3.6.5 Encourage use of open spaces, villages, and facilities with a broad range of arts and cultural, sporting and recreational activities. | Provider<br>Advocate    |  |
| 3.6.6 Encourage safe cycling and walking through development of tracks, parks and cycle ways.   | Provider<br>Advocate    |  |
| 3.6.7 Warmly welcome new residents and families, offering assistance to help them integrate into the community.                             | Provider<br>Facilitator |  |



## **3.7** Improved access to essential services

| Theme (3) Retaining Our Quality of Life<br>-Strategies  | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together |
|---|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3.7.1 Advocate for access to quality medical and mental health services and facilities.   | Advocate                | Australian<br>Government         |
| 3.7.2 Regularly review medical facilities and services so that they are adequate to meet the changing needs of a growing community and gaps are identified and addressed. | Advocate                | State<br>Government<br>Council   |
| 3.7.3 Maintain services that support people with a disability, the socially disadvantaged and persons at risk.  | Advocate<br>Provider    | Community<br>Organisations       |
| 3.7.4 Work to continuously improve accessibility, inclusivity and liveability within Gunnedah Shire.  | Advocate<br>Provider    |                                  |
| 3.7.5 Support initiatives which foster connectedness, resilience and opportunity within the early childhood community.  | Advocate<br>Facilitator |                                  |



Retaining our quality of life

## **Indicators of progress**

- Aged care vacancy rates
- Number of home care packages
- SEIFA index of disadvantage
- Median house prices
- New dwellings
- Real estate sales
- ABS housing and home-ownership statistics
- BOSCAR Crime Statistics NSW Police
- Availability of rental properties
- ABS sport and recreation statistics
- Civic Precinct usage data
- ABS age population age profiles

- Community Satisfaction survey results
- GP workforce statistics NSW Department of Health
- NSW Rural Doctors Network data
- ABS Early Development census data
- Number of traineeships and apprentices enrolled





## Theme 4: Protecting and Enjoying Our Beautiful Surrounds

Our beautiful surrounds include the open plains, landscapes, waterways, native flora and fauna as well as our built environment, heritage, parks and urban streetscapes. Agriculture benefits from productive soils and mining from high quality coal deposits. While development and industry are valued, it is important to get the balance right to maintain biodiversity. Our precious koalas need to be protected and nurtured.

When the community Strategic Plan was written in 2017 the Shire was gripped by severe drought. Since then, there have been bush fires in NSW, a mouse plague and extensive flooding. These natural events and the move towards renewable energy raise the need for a coordinated community-wide response to the challenges of climate change. "Climate change needs to be addressed as a real issue."

Without water life cannot exist, so we need to manage our water usage at sustainable levels. We also need to care for our waterways and take measures to minimise the impact of flooding. The sustainable management of waste is an ongoing challenge. We need to reduce the waste generated by households and industry and increase recycling. As a community, we should work on the principles of the Circular Economy: "design out waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use, and regenerate natural systems."

# What you can do to help achieve the desired future outcomes:

- Join a local Landcare group
- Take an interest in development applications
- Use water wisely
- Recycle waste materials
- Use a compost bin
- Pick up litter
- Pull out weeds
- Plant a tree or native shrubs
- Install energy efficient appliances in your home
- Consider alternative transport options for short trips.



# **4.1** Balance between development and environmental protection

| Theme (4) Protecting and Enjoying<br>Our Beautiful Surrounds<br>- Strategies   | Council<br>role      | Who<br>needs to work<br>together                 |
|--|----------------------|--|
| 4.1.1 Lobby for planning controls that balance the need for mining, agriculture and the long-term future of the environment. | Advocate             | Council<br>State                                 |
| 4.1.2 Ensure development does not negatively impact on flooding.   | Advocate<br>Provider | Government  Community Groups  Farmers and miners |

# **4.2** Native fauna is secured, biodiversity protected, and native vegetation thrives

| Theme (4) Protecting and Enjoying Our Beautiful Surrounds - Strategies  | Council<br>role                     | Who<br>needs to work<br>together   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 4.2.1 Control of noxious weeds and invasive species.  | Provider<br>Facilitator             | Australian<br>Government   |
| 4.2.2 Protect wildlife habitat, corridors, stands of remnant vegetation and significant natural landscape and soil types. | Provider<br>Facilitator             | State<br>Government  |
| 4.2.3 Maintain systems for effective management of bushfires and the potential threats to residential areas.              | Advocate<br>Facilitator             | Council<br>Farmers   |
| 4.2.4 Identify, protect and nurture local populations of threatened species, especially the koala population.             | Advocate<br>Provider<br>Facilitator | Farmers  Miners  Land care groups  Fire service  Local Business  Community Organisations |



## **4.3** A secure and high-quality water supply

| Theme (4) Protecting and Enjoying<br>Our Beautiful Surrounds<br>- Strategies  | Council<br>role                     | Who<br>needs to work<br>together   |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 4.3.1 Support the protection of waterways.  | Advocate<br>Provider<br>Facilitator | Australian Government State Government Council                               |
| 4.3.2 Investigate opportunities to reduce water consumption.  | Advocate<br>Facilitator             |  |
| 4.3.3 Secure water supplies to a level that will enable our community to remain sustainable and allows for future growth. | Advocate                            | Community Organisations  Land Care groups  Community Members  Local Business |

## **4.4** Our heritage is valued and protected

| Theme (4) Protecting and Enjoying<br>Our Beautiful Surrounds<br>- Strategies  | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together  |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 4.4.1 Protect and maintain the appeal of our older buildings, recognising their value to our community.                                     | Advocate<br>Facilitator | State<br>Government   |
| 4.4.2 Promote our heritage in partnership with the community, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities in the Shire. | Advocate                | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities Community Organisations |



# **4.5** Manage exposure and reduced contribution to climate change

| Theme (4) Protecting and Enjoying<br>Our Beautiful Surrounds<br>- Strategies   | Council<br>role                     | Who<br>needs to work<br>together               |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 4.5.1 Develop strategies to assess risk and address the local impacts of climate change.   | Advocate<br>Provider<br>Facilitator | Australian Government State Government Council |
| 4.5.2 Encourage investment in efficient energy consumption.  | Advocate<br>Facilitator             |  |
| 4.5.3 Develop and implement a comprehensive community education program to promote sustainable environmental practices for homes, workplaces and public open spaces. | Provider<br>Advocate                | Chamber of<br>Commerce                         |

# **4.6** Our waste is sustainably managed and reduced

| Theme (4) Protecting and Enjoying<br>Our Beautiful Surrounds<br>- Strategies                   | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together               |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| 4.6.1 Review and implement a waste management strategy.  | Provider                | Community<br>Members                           |
| 4.6.2 Identify opportunities for increasing community recycling both volume and type of waste. | Provider<br>Facilitator | Council  State Government Local Business Waste |
| 4.6.3 Pursue opportunities to reduce the amount of waste produced by households and industry.  | Provider<br>Advocate    |  |
|  |                         | collection<br>contractors                      |



# **4.7** Enhanced streetscapes and open spaces in Gunnedah and villages

| Theme (4) Protecting and Enjoying<br>Our Beautiful Surrounds<br>- Strategies   | Council<br>role         | Who<br>needs to work<br>together  |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| 4.7.1 Beautify the main street and improve the attractiveness of our urban street scapes.                                  | Provider<br>Advocate    | Council Local Business  Village committees  Recreational Groups  State Government |
| 4.7.2 Beautify and improve the facilities available in our parks and gardens, open space, sporting and recreational areas. | Provider<br>Facilitator |   |
| 4.7.3 Provide attractive town entrances to Gunnedah and villages.  | Provider<br>Facilitator |   |



Protecting and enjoying our beautiful surrounds

## **Indicators of progress**

- Koala and native animal population surveys
- Water quality and usage data
- Community satisfaction survey data
- Noxious weed data
- Waste to landfill data
- Recycling volumes



**Gunnedah** Shire