

WHAT IS THIS DOCUMENT?

This document is our Community Strategic Plan and integrated Disability Inclusion Action Plan. It is a document outlining the ten-year aspirations and priorities of our community, and the strategies to achieve the community's desires.

The following figure demonstrates the connection between the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan addresses strategies and actions across four key focus areas to improve the opportunity for people with disability to live fulfilling and meaningful lives in Lockhart Shire.

More detail on our planning framework and how to read the plan is contained further in this document.





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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



CR. GREG VERDON MAYOR

I am pleased to be able to present this reviewed Community Strategic Plan (CSP) for the Lockhart Shire.

This plan builds on the original plan developed in 2012 which set out the community aspirations current at the time and follows a review of the 2017-2027 plan, which was developed by engaging and listening to our community. This plan endorses the objectives contained in the previous plan based on the five key themes of:

- A connected and resilient community
- A dynamic and prosperous economy
- An environment that is respected and protected
- Infrastructure for the long-term needs of the community
- Strong leadership and governance

The review of the CSP was undertaken bearing in mind that the term of office of the current council will be shorter i.e. two years and nine months instead of the normal four year term as a result of the postponement of the last elections. A more comprehensive review of the CSP is foreshadowed for the beginning of the next full four-year term in 2024.

Much of the investment in our assets and infrastructure and improvements to community amenity that were identified in the previous Council's Delivery Plan have been realised. During the previous term of office Council was able to secure significant grant funding as well as access low-cost infrastructure loans from the NSW Treasury Corporation due to Council being declared financially fit for the future. This enabled Council to achieve key actions identified in the previous CSP and Delivery Plan including the refurbishment of the Lockhart and The Rock Swimming Pools, investment in flood mitigation measures and road renewal.

Whilst the objectives and key themes reflected in previous iterations of the CSP and retained in this plan continue to remain relevant, new initiatives and principal activities are required to be developed to achieve the community's aspirations. These initiatives and activities are contained in the 2022-2024 Delivery Plan.

The Delivery Plan is a statement of commitment to the community from our newly elected council. This is the point where the community's strategic objectives are systematically translated into actions. The 2022-2024 Delivery Plan should be read in conjunction with this plan and includes, amongst other things:

- A review of the effectiveness of the Council's flood mitigation schemes
- Restoration of the Shire's road network following recent significant weather events
- Re-development of 109 Green Street Lockhart (former GrainCorp building) into a community space
- The establishment of a business/ community centre at The Rock
- A review of the Lockhart Shire Local Environmental Plan to guide land use planning and development into the future.
- Continued improvements to our sporting and recreational facilities and community infrastructure.

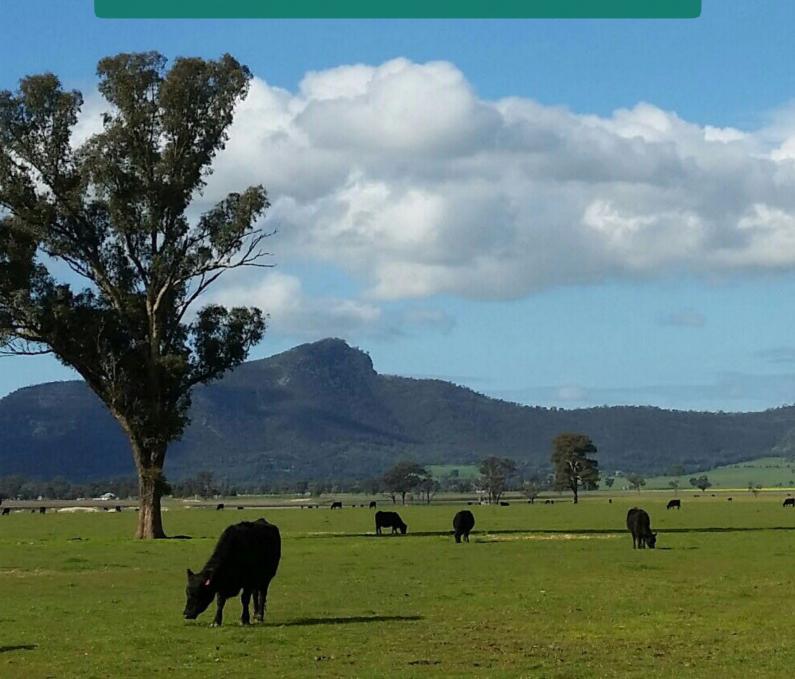
This document represents the aspirations of the residents of our Shire for the next 10 years and Council looks forward to working with the community and the partners of this plan to ensure we achieve our priorities together.

CR. GREG VERDON

COMMUNITY VISION

IN 2032, WE ARE:

Deeply connected to the land and proud of our independence;
Dynamic, resilient, and have a strong sense of community;
Passionate for innovation and diverse opportunities; and,
Welcoming, vibrant, inclusive, accessible and value the rights of
people equally.



OUR COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Lockhart Shire covers an area of 2,942 km² and is located in the Southern Riverina area of New South Wales. With a population of 3,259 the Shire includes the major townships of Lockhart and The Rock and the smaller villages of Milbrulong, Osborne, Urangeline, Yerong Creek and Pleasant Hills.

The Shire, which is traditionally Wiradjuri land, has a vibrant and varied history and has been an area that has long captured the interest of both Indigenous and European cultures. Renowned for the majestic land form, Galore Hill and The Rock Hill have influenced the development of townships over many years. The Lockhart Shire area was known for bushranger activity in the 1860s.

The Shire, which offers the full range of lifestyle options, has grown in popularity, both as a place to live and as a place of business. With close proximity to the major regional centres of Wagga Wagga and Albury, the Shire still relies on a strong primary industry supported by a number of secondary and service industries. Tourism, especially heritage and ecotourism, have seen good positive growth over recent years.

Lockhart Shire is the centre of farming excellence. Fertile soils led to agriculture flourishing, firstly as a grazing district and, with the advent of cropping, became a prosperous mixed farming area. Today, its proud history is reflected in the agricultural initiatives and distinction for which the Shire has become renowned. The Shire's agriculture continues to produce quality grain, prime lamb and beef, with the wool industry still an integral part of its agricultural diversity.

Lockhart Shire Council embraces the inclusion of people with a disability in all aspects of community life and is committed to meeting the principles and requirements of the Disability Inclusion Act 2014 to create a more inclusive and welcoming community for people with disabilities.

Council has a key role in promoting and supporting access and inclusion by ensuring it is a key consideration in all areas of Council business. This includes how we develop the built environment, provide information and services, support employment opportunities and promote positive community attitudes and behaviour toward people with disability.

Community facilities and sporting activities are an important part of the community, with numerous facilities, parks and reserves catering for the community. These places create a strong sense of community connection and strengthen the relationships held within the community.

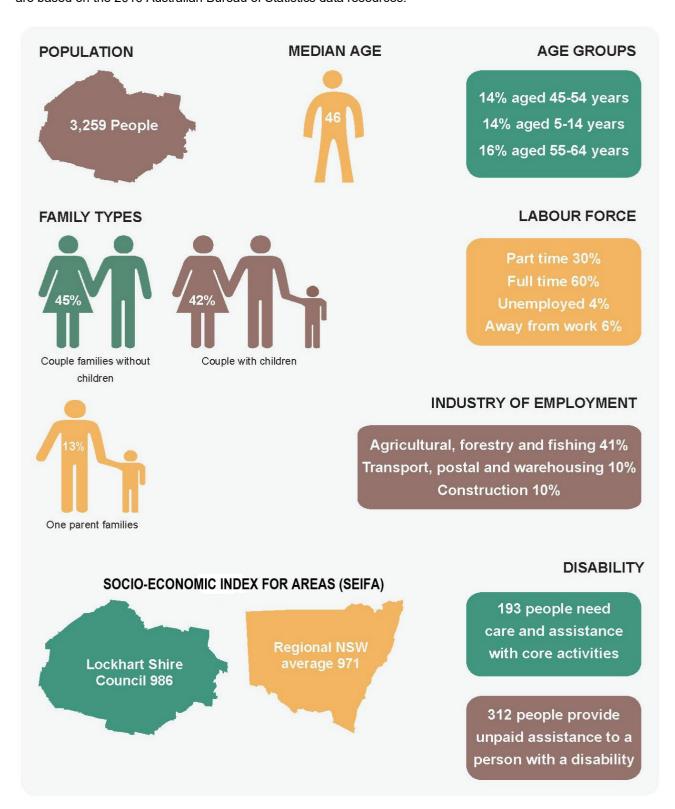


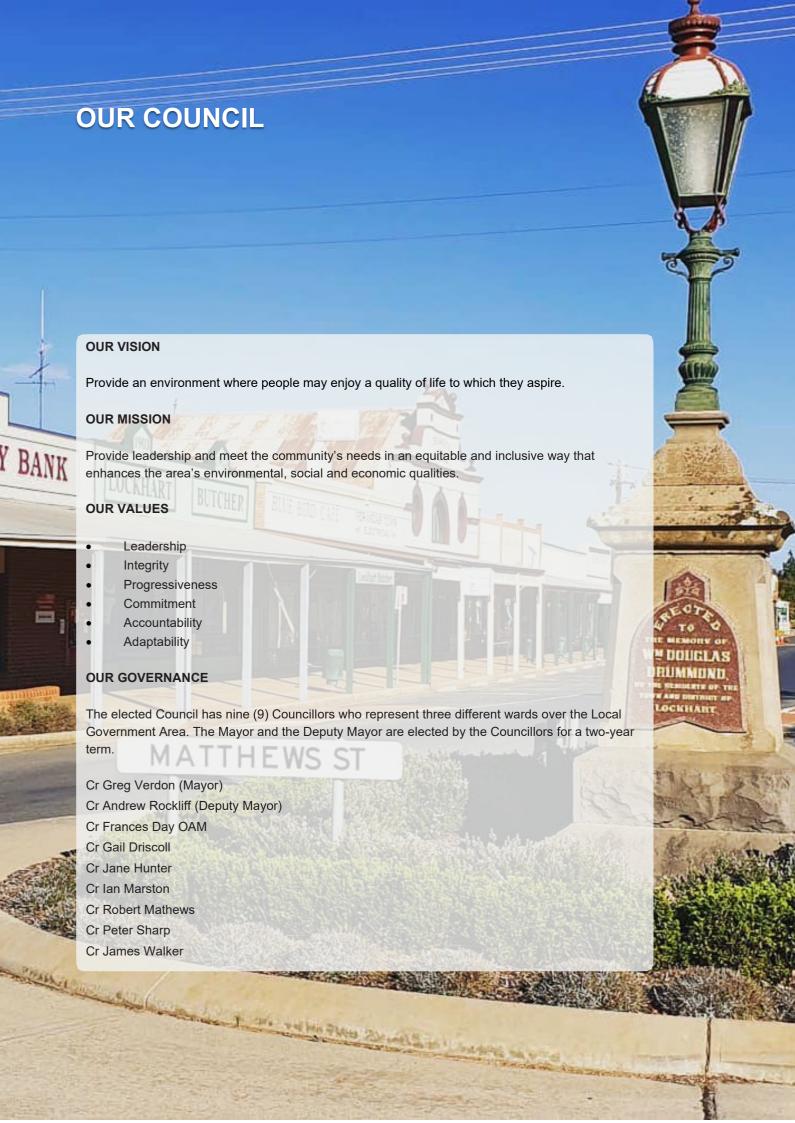


Pleasant Hills - Matt Beaver Photography 2022

OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

The main demographics of our community are summarised here in a snapshot of Lockhart Shire. These figures are based on the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics data resources.





OUR OPERATIONS

Lockhart Shire Council is responsible for the delivery of a diverse range of services throughout the community. Council employs approximately 55 people covering a range of professionals and expertise. The two directorates of Council are Corporate and Community Services, and Engineering and Environmental Services.



ROADS AND BRIDGES

121km Regional roads
425km Sealed local roads
793km Unsealed roads
12km Footpaths
7 Concrete bridges

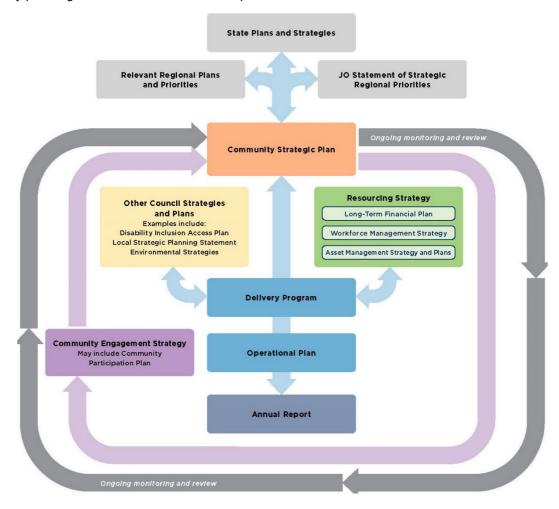
ACCESSIBILITY

8 accessible public toilets
9 accessible public buildings
1 designated accessible car park



OUR PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Our planning framework is guided by the NSW Government Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) legislation and framework. In undertaking long-term planning, we recognise that people across our community share similar aspirations and our people hold the key to how we should best respond to these aspirations. Our planning framework allows us to draw various plans together, understand how they relate and get the maximum benefit by collectively planning for the future. The main components are summarised below.



COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Community Strategic Plan sits above all other council plans and policies in the planning hierarchy. The purpose of the Plan is to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future, and plan strategies to achieve them. Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan on behalf of the local government area, but it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. Other partners, such as state agencies and community groups may also be engaged in delivering the long-term objectives of the Plan.

RESOURCING STRATEGY

The Resourcing Strategy is the point where the council assists the community by sorting out who is responsible for what, in terms of the issues identified in the Community Strategic Plan. Some issues will clearly be the responsibility of the council, some will be the responsibility of other levels of government, and some will rely on input from community groups or individuals.

DELIVERY PROGRAM

The Delivery Program is a statement of commitment to the community from our newly elected council about what it will deliver during its term of office. This is the point where the community's strategic objectives are systematically translated into actions. These are the principal activities to be undertaken by the current council to implement the strategies established by the Community Strategic Plan within the resources available under the Resourcing Strategy.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

The annual Operational Plan outlines the individual projects and activities the Council will undertake in a specific year and includes the Council's budget and revenue policy.

INTEGRATED DISABILITY INCLUSION ACTION PLAN

The Disability Inclusion Action Plan is integrated into the planning framework and addresses strategies and actions to improve the opportunity for people with disability to live fulfilling and meaningful lives in Lockhart Shire. The strategies and actions were considered across the four key focus areas of:

- Developing positive community attitudes and behaviours
- Creating liveable communities
- Supporting access to meaningful employment
- Improving access to services through better systems and processes.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Lockhart Shire acknowledges and reflects the NSW Governments social justice principles in its planning process.

- Equity there should be fairness in decision making, and prioritising and allocation of resources, particularly
 for those in need. Everyone should have a fair opportunity to participate in the future of the community. The
 planning process should take particular care to involve and protect the interests of people in vulnerable
 circumstances
- Access all people should have fair access to services, resources and opportunities to improve their quality
 of life
- Participation everyone should have the maximum opportunity to genuinely participate in decisions which affect their lives
- Rights equal rights should be established and promoted, with opportunities provided for people from diverse linguistic, cultural and religious backgrounds to participate in community life.

Further to the NSW Governments social justice principles, Lockhart Shire Council uses the following principles throughout the Community Strategic Plan to guide planning and implementation activities.

We, the Lockhart Shire community:

- understand and build on the community's strengths and assets
- are a supportive community who care for each other in times of need and provide good access to services
- equally value the rights and contributions of all our people
- recognise the potential of human diversity as a source of vibrancy, creativity and growth; and
- collaborate to create shared vision, ownership, responsibility and action.

HOW WAS OUR PLAN DEVELOPED?

The Local Government Act provides the legislative context for the preparation of the Community Strategic Plan and is supported by guidelines issued by the Office of Local Government.

Following is a summary of the requirements of section 402 of the Act relating to the Community Strategic Plan:

- a) Each local government area is to have a Community Strategic Plan that has been developed and endorsed by the council on behalf of its community.
- b) The Community Strategic Plan is to identify the main priorities and aspirations for the future of the local government area.
- c) The Community Strategic Plan must cover a minimum timeframe of 10 years.
- d) The Community Strategic Plan must establish strategic objectives together with strategies to achieve those objectives.
- e) The council must review the Community Strategic Plan before 30 June in the year following an ordinary election of council.
- f) The council may endorse the existing plan, or develop and endorse a new Community Strategic Plan, as appropriate, to ensure that the area has a Community Strategic Plan covering at least the next 10 years.

With respect to e) and f) above, this Plan has been prepared following a review of the pre-existing 2017-2027 Community Strategic Plan by the new Council elected following the local government elections held on 4 December 2021.

As a result of the review information and statistical data has been updated where necessary. However, the overall objectives of the previous Plan based on five key themes have been retained and endorsed by the new Council as they remain relevant to the community's aspirations. This approach was also taken bearing in mind that the current term of office will be shorter i.e., two years and nine months instead of the normal four-year term because of the postponement of the last elections. A more comprehensive review of the Community Strategic Plan is foreshadowed for the beginning of the next full four-year term in 2024.

This 2022-2032 Community Strategic Plan therefore represents a continuation of the objectives of the 2017-2027 Community Strategic Plan which was developed by engaging and listening to our community. The goal was to gain input from as many of our residents as possible, and to uncover aspirations and priorities for the future.

The community engagement process for the 2017-2027 Plan invited residents to participate using several medians of communication including advertisements in the Lockhart Community Newsletter, media releases, distribution of over 200 posters throughout the community, direct mail and email (invitations), and social media posts. The consultation process also included five community meetings, two sessions with people with disability, their families, carers and service providers, five sessions with school children at three schools, and one community-wide survey.



Image: Matt Beaver Photography 2022 Australia Day Ambassador, Ange Clarke, with Mayor, Cr Greg Verdon.

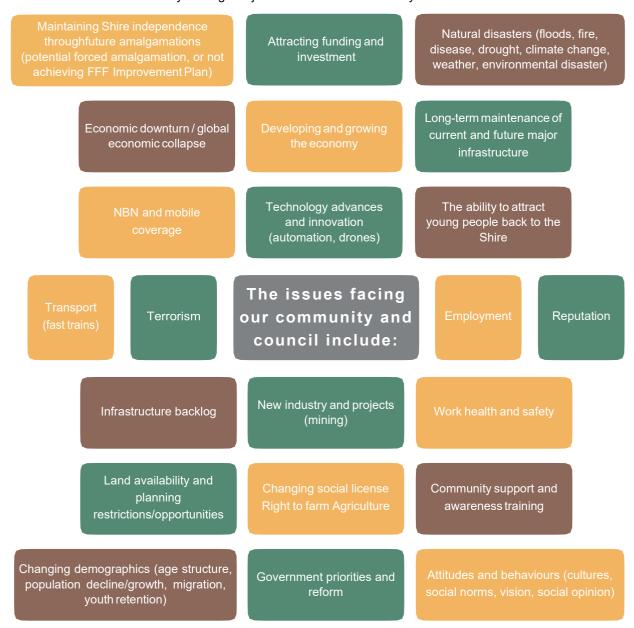
WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE

Our Shire's liveability, sense of community, major events, and tourism sector are highly valued and must be retained and protected. Our people aspire to have a strong economy with great roads and remain as an independent Shire. In achieving these aspirations, the priorities of the community are roads, community services and retail, economic growth, and community facilities.

OUR CHALLENGES

The community collectively considered and identified a number of challenges, threats, opportunities and innovations that may affect the long-term ability to achieve the Lockhart Shire Community Vision. These were identified to ensure that the planning process considered and mitigated any potential risk that could affect the achievement of the community strategic objectives across the next ten years.



HOW TO READ THIS PLAN

Our key directions are the broad themes that represent the community with reference to the IP&R requirement to address triple bottom line objectives. The Community Strategic Plan is presented in five key directions.

- A connected and resilient community
- A dynamic and prosperous economy
- An environment that is respected and protected
- Infrastructure for the long-term needs of the community
- Strong leadership and governance

There are 14 objectives sitting under the five key directions. Our objectives have been worded in 'outcome-driven language' in response to what the community told us they would like. We have called the objectives 'What our community would like". The objectives have a long-term focus and represent the highest-level achievements over the ten-year Community Strategic Plan.

Strategies have been developed to understand how we, as a community, will achieve our objectives. The strategies also have a long-term focus across the ten-year Community Strategic Plan. We have titled the strategies 'How will we get there?'

There are items in the Community Strategic Plan in which Council has a lead or supporting role. The Delivery Program takes the ten-year objectives and strategies, highlights Council's role, and outlines what Council will do under each strategy over the four-year Council term. The actions will drive the activity of council over the next four years.

To achieve these objectives and strategies a resourcing strategy is developed that focuses on Council's 10-year financial plan, 10-year asset management strategy and 4 year workforce management plan.

Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Strategies and actions for the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) are highlighted with a blue asterisk. A note will feature in the strategy, relating to the relevant DIAP key focus area.

OBJECTIVES AT A GLANCE

A: A CONNECTED & RESILIENT COMMUNITY

- A1. We value spending time with each other and want more opportunities to come together.
- A2. Our community services and facilities meet the needs of our communities.
- A3. People of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds participate in community life.

B: A DYNAMIC & PROSPEROUS ECONOMY

- B1. Our Shire is attractive and welcoming to businesses, industry, residents and visitors.
- B2. Our community has a robust retail offering, strong tourism sectors, and a range of job opportunities.
- B3. We develop, attract and retain skilled individuals in our community.

C: AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS RESPECTED AND PROTECTED

- C1. Our environmental practices are sustainable.
- C2. Flora and fauna are protected across the Shire.
- C3. Our open space and natural environment are protected for future generations.

D: INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE LONG TERM NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

- D1. Our assets and infrastructure are well planned and managed to meet the needs of the community now and in the future.
- D2. Our planning and development controls work to attract new residents and investment.

E: STRONG LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

- E1. Council is strong, sustainable, and able to stand-alone.
- E2. Council actively engages with its residents to support and facilitate decision making.
- E3. Council responds collectively and responsibly to community needs.



WHAT OUR COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE	HOW WILL WE GET THERE?	WHO CAN HELP?
A1. We value spending time together with each other and want more opportunities to come together.	 Facilitate and support our community to deliver vibrant and dynamic community events. Build capacity, capability and partnerships to encourage sustainable community groups and clubs. *DIAP – Attitudes and behaviours Provide or partner to provide cultural and sporting participation opportunities. 	Lockhart Shire Council Community groups and organisation Community Lockhart Shire
A2. Our community services and facilities meet the needs of the community.	 Work with stakeholders to ensure our community is safe and well prepared to respond to adversity. *DIAP – Liveable communities Support, or partner to provide, welcoming and well maintained community spaces and facilities. *DIAP – Liveable communities Provide and advocate for services that respond to the needs of our community. *DIAP – Attitudes and behaviours 	Council State Government Federal Government Community organisations Service providers Community Business community Service providers Education providers
A3. People of all ages, abilities and backgrounds participate in community life.	 Support our children and young people. Provide support and opportunities to celebrate our older residents. Provide support for people with a disability and their families and carers. *DIAP – Liveable Communities, Attitudes and Behaviours, Systems and Processes and Employment 	Lockhart Shire Council State Government Education Providers Community and community organisations Service providers

- We will volunteer and participate in community groups and clubs.
- We will have a range of services for all age and population groups.
- We will regularly gather to celebrate at events, festivals and a range of cultural opportunities.
- We will enjoy and use our local sporting, recreation and community facilities.
- We will feel supported by each other in times of need.

HOW MIGHT WE MEASURE THIS?

Measures we will use include the number of events delivered and attendance numbers, Council's community satisfaction survey, and ABS population and community statistics.



WHAT OUR COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE	HOW WE WILL GET THERE?	WHO CAN HELP?
B1. Our Shire is attractive and welcoming to businesses, industry, residents and visitors. B2. Our community has a	 Manage and improve the appearance of our towns, in line with their desired identities. Improve the convenience of our towns. *DIAP – Liveable communities Improve services and infrastructure that supports our rural business. Provide business support to our community. Work in partnerships with stakeholders to grow existing and attract new businesses. Exercise leadership by championing the value of access and inclusion across Lockhart's business and tourism community. *DIAP - Attitudes and behaviours Create a thriving tourism economy in Lockhart Shire. 	Lockhart Shire Council State Government Federal Government Agricultural groups Farming community Community organisations Business community Service providers Community Lockhart Shire
strong tourism sector.	*DIAP – Liveable communities	Council Destination NSW (State Government) Local businesses Community
B3. We develop, attract and retain skilled individuals in our community.	 Develop the skills and employment opportunities for our residents. *DIAP – Employment Attract and retain skilled people to the region. 	Lockhart Shire Council Business community Education providers Service providers

- We are happy with where we live.
- We will diverse opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and innovation.
- We will often hear that our towns are attractive and welcoming places.
- We will enjoy and celebrate our tourism opportunities.

HOW MIGHT WE MEASURE THIS?

Measures we will use include the number of new businesses and employment opportunities, Council's community satisfaction survey, and ABS population and community statistics.



WHAT OUR COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE	HOW WE WILL GET THERE	WHO CAN HELP?
C1. Our environmental practices are sustainable.	 Ensure that Council buildings and facilities are environmentally sensitive. Explore opportunities to utilise renewable energy and water saving practices. Utilise effective waste management practices. Ensure responsible development practices are exercised. 	Lockhart Shire Council State Government Federal Government
C2. Flora and fauna are protected across the Shire.	 Increase the amount of native flora, fauna and protect threatened species. Decrease occurrence, spread and impact of weeds and pests throughout our Shire. 	Lockhart Shire Council State Government National Parks and Wildlife Services Community Land owners
C3. Our open space and natural environment are protected for future generations.	Provide nature reserves and protected areas for our community.	Lockhart Shire Council State Government National Parks and Wildlife Services Community

- We will cherish and use our nature reserves and open space.
- We will reduce energy and water use at community facilities.
- We will engage in environmental protection programs and activities.
- We will respect and value our open spaces and natural environment.

HOW MIGHT WE MEASURE THIS?

Measures we will use include the reduction or smarter use of energy and water at community facilities, community satisfaction survey, and Council data.



WHAT OUR COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE	HOW WE WILL GET THERE	WHO CAN HELP?
D1. Our assets and infrastructure are well planned and managed to meet the needs of the community now and into the future.	 Plan sustainable transport strategies. *DIAP – Liveable communities Strategically plan for our sports and recreation infrastructure, as well as cemeteries. Improve the safety of people on our roads. Reduce the effects of flooding in our towns and villages. Advocate for diverse and affordable housing options within Lockhart Shire. *DIAP – Liveable communities 	Lockhart Shire Council State Government Federal Government Water Authorities Community groups and clubs Community
D2. Our planning and development controls work to attract new residents and investments.	 Develop infrastructure that supports growth within our community. *DIAP – Liveable communities Land use that supports the development of our community. Our built heritage and our public art are enhanced to support our strong town and village identities. 	Lockhart Shire Council State Government Community Community groups and organisations Riverina Water Community Heritage builder owners

- We will have suitable and quality roads for the community
- We will have appropriate assets and infrastructure that meet the needs of the community.
- We will be proud that Council assets are maintained and renewed to meet our service level expectations.

HOW MIGHT WE MEASURE THIS?

Measures we will use include the number of road accidents/incident numbers, community satisfaction survey, and Council data.



WHAT OUR COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE	HOW WE WILL GET THERE	WHO CAN HELP?
E1. Council is strong, sustainable and able to stand alone.	Plan for the long-term sustainability of the Shire.	Lockhart Shire Council (lead) State Government
E2. Council actively engages with its residents to support and facilitate decision making.	 Use effective community engagement processes. Ensure the community is informed by improving access to information. *DIAP – Systems and processes 	Lockhart Shire Council Community
E3. Council responds collectively and responsible to community needs.	 Actively seek strong involvement in state and regional planning for the region. Represent and acknowledge the needs, challenges and characteristics of our communities. *DIAP – Systems and Processes and Attitudes and behaviours Provide opportunities for relationship building and development. 	Lockhart Shire Council (lead) State Government Federal Government Community organisations Community Service providers

- We will actively participate in community engagement and decisions about services and plans.
- We will be satisfied with the performance of Council.
- We will regularly engage with our elected leaders and find it an easy and enjoyable process.

HOW MIGHT WE MEASURE THIS?

There are a range of measures that we can use to see how we are progressing towards our objectives in this key direction. Measures we will use include the number people participating in community engagement activities, community satisfaction survey, and Council data.

RELATED POLICY AND LEGISLATION

In the development of the Community Strategic Plan, the policy and legislative landscape has been researched to ensure a comprehensive plan is developed for the Lockhart Shire Council and the community. The following documents were considered as part of the planning process:

GLOBAL

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

NATIONAL

- National Disability Strategy 2010-2020 (NDS); sets out a national plan for improving life for Australians with disability, their families, and carers.
- National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).
- Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992.
- Commonwealth Disability (Access to Premises-Buildings) Standards 2010.

STATE

- NSW State Plan 2021; a plan to guide policy and budget decision making to rebuild the economy, provide
 quality services, renovate infrastructure, restore government accountability and strengthen our local environment
 and communities.
- **NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (DIA)**; provides a legislative framework to guide state and local government disability inclusion and access planning.
- Economic Development Strategy for Regional NSW 2015; a plan to promote key regional sectors, drive
 regional employment and business growth, invest in infrastructure, maximise government efficiency and improve
 information sharing.
- Towards 2030; Planning for our changing population; addressing demographic changes leading up to 2030, planning for change, improving prevention and early intervention, a productive, skilled and adaptable workforce and facilitating participation in all areas of society.
- NSW Ageing Strategy 2016-2020; a plan to respond to the opportunities and challenges of the States ageing population.
- **NSW Transport Strategy 2012**; a plan to guide transport funding priorities over the next 20 years by providing the overall framework of how the transport system develops.
- NSW Anti-Discrimination Act 1977.
- NSW Local Government Act 1993.

REGIONAL

- **Draft Riverina-Murray Regional Plan 2016;** a plan to support productive agriculture, improve regional transport networks, strong regional cities and protecting the environment.
- **RDA Riverina Regional Action Plan;** a road map for the future development of the Riverina region and describes the region, its attributes, industry and employment base and key advantages.
- REROC Regional Transport Plan; identifying issues and opportunities to better support the delivery of freight solutions in regional areas.

LOCKHART SHIRE COUNCIL PLANS

- Lockhart Shire Council, Delivery Program; a plan with a four-year focus outlining the principal activities of Council over the Council term.
- Lockhart Shire Council, Resourcing Strategy; a strategy which outlines the resources required for Council to deliver its part of the Community Strategic Plan. Includes the Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Management Strategy and Asset Management Plan.
- Lockhart Shire Council, Tourism and Economic Development Strategy; a plan to develop a strong and resilient economic community, attracting and retaining businesses and residents, planning for the future, a great place to live, work and visit and infrastructure that supports our economy and community.
- Lockhart Shire Council, Development Control Plans.
- Lockhart Shire Council, Pedestrian and Mobility Plan.



We wish to acknowledge:

- Wiradjuri people as the Traditional Owners of the country within the council's boundaries. Today they
 remain the custodians of the cultural heritage of this land. Our community acknowledges that many
 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have lived, worked and contributed to the cultural heritage of
 Lockhart Shire.
- The people of Lockhart Shire who contributed their time, thoughts and ideas to the creation of the Community Vision.

