



**Lockhart Shire
Council**

**Adverse Event
Plan**

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1. Introduction

The Lockhart Shire Adverse Event Plan (the Plan) was adopted by Council after preparation of a Draft Plan in consultation with relevant stakeholders and public exhibition of the Draft Plan for a period of 28 days.

The purpose of the Plan is to meet the needs of the community of the Lockhart Shire Local Government Area (LGA) and in particular to give consideration to the following:

- natural resource management (i.e. managing water supply, ground cover, trees, erosion, biodiversity);
- economic diversification and community resilience (i.e. infrastructure planning, tourism investment, diversifying local industries, capacity building for local leadership); and
- communication and coordination (i.e. how to let people know what's available – now, and in the future and how to communicate in hard times and for recovery).

The Plan also aims to meet the requirements for an Adverse Event Plan under the guidelines (section 6.1) relating to the Drought Communities Programme – Extension pursuant to which the Council has received grant funding.

2. Definition

The following definition of an Adverse Event Plan has been adopted for the purposes of this document:

- *“A plan developed in consultation with local stakeholders which aims to build local leadership and community capacity to adapt and cope with chronic stresses and acute shocks. The plan should look to improve preparation, management and recovery from those events. Planning for drought should consider water supply and quality, projects to buoy the local economy and maintain community cohesion and drought support coordination.”*

3. Legislative and Strategic Context

Council has a critical role in dealing with adverse events. Council fulfils this role through co-operation with its residents and working collaboratively to ensure that it delivers the best possible outcomes for the Shire. Council recognises that its residents look to Council to provide leadership, to provide support and to advocate for them in times of crisis.

In this regard the preparation of an Adverse Event Plan is consistent with the guiding principles for councils set out in the Local Government Act 1993. The guiding principles contained in Section 8A of the Act include:

- *“Section 8A (1) (a) - Councils should provide strong and effective representation, leadership, planning and decision-making.”*

Section 8C of the Act sets out the integrated planning and reporting principles that apply to councils including the following:

- *“Section 8C (h) - Councils should manage risks to the local community or area or to the council effectively and proactively.”*

- *Section 8C (i) - Councils should make appropriate evidence-based adaptations to meet changing needs and circumstances.”*

The Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027 (CSP) sits above all other council plans and policies in the planning hierarchy. The CSP was developed in consultation with the community and identifies the community’s main priorities and aspirations for the future, and strategies to achieve them. The CSP has five broad themes or key directions as follows:

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

The preparation of an Adverse Event Plan aligns with the aspiration of “*a connected and resilient community*” and in particular the following strategy contained in the CSP:

- *“A2 Work with stakeholders to ensure our community is safe and well prepared to respond to adversity.”*

4. Community Profile

The Lockhart Shire is located in the Murrumbidgee region of NSW, being 535km from Sydney, 413km from Melbourne, 105km from Albury and 62km from Wagga Wagga.

The LGA covers 2,895.8km² and is bounded by Wagga Wagga City on the north and east, Narrandera Shire at the north-west, Urana Shire to the west and Greater Hume Shire to the south. The estimated resident population of the Shire is 3,295.

The main centres of the LGA are Lockhart, The Rock and Yerong Creek, with other villages being Milbrulong, Pleasant Hills, French Park and Tootool.

Lockhart Shire Council maintains a road network of over 1600 km. Council also operates three sewerage schemes located at Lockhart, The Rock and Yerong Creek, two swimming pools, a caravan park, a native bushland reserve (Galore Hill), aged persons accommodation and youth flats in Lockhart, five garbage depots and a variety of town parks and other amenities.

Riverina Water, based in Wagga Wagga is the supplier of reticulated water to villages within Lockhart Shire, via trunk mains from Wagga Wagga.

Lockhart has a 20-bed hospital with an emergency department, a General Practice and a visiting dentist each alternate Saturday. Community Health Centres operate in Lockhart and The Rock. An aged care facility is located in The Rock (Emily Gardens) and in Lockhart (Respect Aged Care).

Electricity services are provided by Essential Energy. Mobile phone coverage is available across most of the Shire, subject to phone type and service provider. Television coverage is from commercial channels (Wagga or Albury signal origin, subject to location in the LGA) & Pay TV providers.

The area's highest recorded temperature is 43.7°C. Its lowest recorded temperature is minus 4.1°C. On average, this area gets between 450-500 mm of rain each year. Information recorded by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology weather station at Wagga Wagga Research Centre (elevation 222m), with the distribution of both rainfall and temperature being as shown on the graphs below:

In Lockhart Local Government Area 90.3% of people only spoke English at home. Other languages spoken at home included Cantonese 0.3%, Vietnamese 0.2%, French 0.2%, Japanese 0.1% and German 0.1%.

A Countrylink bus service to Wagga Wagga and west to Echuca runs Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. A daily bus service transports school students to Wagga Wagga. A Community Bus provides a weekly service to Wagga Wagga. A daily courier service is available between Lockhart, The Rock and Wagga Wagga.

The Rock is on the main Sydney-Melbourne rail line and passengers can board the daily Countrylink service by prior booking. Air services are from Wagga Wagga Airport, with services by Qantas and Rex Airlines.

5. Risks and Mitigation Activities

A Local Emergency Risk Management (ERM) Study has been undertaken by the Lockhart Local Emergency Management Committee (LEOC) identifying the hazards having risk of causing loss of life, property, utilities, services and/or the community's ability to function within its normal capacity. These hazards, together with a risk description and identification of the responsible agency or combat authority is set out in Schedule 1.

In addition to the hazards listed in Schedule 1, and for the purposes of the Adverse Event Plan, the following threats and mitigations strategies have been identified with respect to natural resource management, economic diversification and community resilience, and communication and co-ordination.

a) Natural Resource Management

The following risk categories have been identified with respect to the Shire's natural resources:-

Risk Category	CSP Reference	Mitigation Strategy
Biodiversity impacts.	C2 - Increase the amount of native flora, fauna and protect threatened species. C3 - Provide nature reserves and protected areas for our community.	A biodiversity study has been undertaken for the Galore Hill Scenic Reserve and The Rock Hill Nature Reserve Management Plan has been prepared in conjunction with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and other stakeholders.

Risk Category	CSP Reference	Mitigation Strategy
Loss of native vegetation and critical habitat.	<p>C2 - Encourage native plant choices throughout the community.</p> <p>C2 - Support the increase of food and habitat sources for threatened and endangered species.</p> <p>C2 - Map local population of threatened and endangered plant species and protect where practical.</p>	<p>Council has developed a Best Management Practice of Roadside Reserve Corridors Plan.</p> <p>Council has appropriate policies in place to protect roadside vegetation including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy 2.35 Collection of Firewood from Council Road Reserves and Dead Standing Trees. ▪ Policy 2.55 Roadside Vegetation Management.
Weed control.	<p>C2 - Implement weed management practices within Council controlled land and support practices on all other land.</p>	<p>Council has a dedicated staff member responsible for weed control on Council land and roadsides.</p> <p>Regular inspections are undertaken by Council's Environment Officer and, where appropriate, relevant Notices issued.</p> <p>Inspections are carried out on residential, rural and commercial properties, which are generally selected due to a change in ownership or to assess the effectiveness of applied control methods.</p> <p>Council has appropriate policies in place to control the spread of weeds including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy 2.23 Riverina Noxious Weeds Inspection Policy ▪ Policy 2.24 Noxious Weeds Control ▪ Policy 2.41 Rapid Response Plan for Noxious Weed Incursions
Waste management	<p>C1 - Provide efficient and sustainable waste management practices</p>	<p>Council has introduced a three-bin kerbside waste collection service including food and garden organics, recycling and general waste.</p>
Effluent disposal	<p>D2 - Develop infrastructure that supports growth within our community.</p> <p>D2 - Provide and maintain efficient sewage systems that allows for current and</p>	<p>Council has recently extended the reticulated sewerage system at The Rock to the southern part of the town that was previously unserved by reticulated sewerage.</p> <p>Council is undertaking a scoping study for upgrading the Lockhart Sewerage Treatment Plant.</p>

Risk Category	CSP Reference	Mitigation Strategy
	future community needs.	An Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy is being prepared.
Soil and water quality	<p>C3 - Promote the protection of our water catchment and riparian zones.</p> <p>C3 - Protect the environment by continual monitoring to detect possible breaches of relevant legislation or standards.</p>	<p>Council has appropriate policies in place to protect soil and water quality including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy 2.47 Contaminated Land Management ▪ 2.50 Low Pressure Sewer Systems ▪ Policy 2.52 Stormwater and Drainage Policy

b) Economic Diversification and Community Resilience

Lockhart Shire has considered potential threats to economic diversification and community resilience and identified the following risk areas and strategies to mitigate the impacts.

Risk Category	CSP Reference	Mitigation Strategy
Economic development planning	B1 - Provide strong strategic direction for economic development.	<p>Council employs a full-time Tourism and Economic Development Officer.</p> <p>A Tourism and Economic Development Steering Committee with Council, business and community representation has been established to advise council on tourism and economic development matters.</p> <p>The following tourism and economic development plans and strategies have been developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lockhart Shire Tourism & Economic Development Strategy ▪ Lockhart Shire Tourism & Lifestyle Marketing Plan ▪ Lockhart Feasibility Study (Crowe Horwath) ▪ Regional Economic Development Strategy for the Coolamon, Junee, Lockhart and Wagga Wagga Functional Economic Region. <p>An annual survey of local businesses is undertaken to better understand the needs of local businesses.</p>

Risk Category	CSP Reference	Mitigation Strategy
Community resilience	<p>A1 - Build capacity, capability and partnerships to encourage sustainable community groups and clubs.</p> <p>A1 - Within financial means, support and fund Section 355 Committees to manage and maintain Council facilities</p> <p>A2 - Ensure that Lockhart Shire is well prepared to respond to adversity.</p> <p>A2 - Promote community safety initiatives within the community.</p> <p>A2 - Advocate for sufficient provision of policing, ambulance and fire services.</p>	<p>REROC of which Lockhart Shire is one of seven member councils has established a Drought Sub-Committee of which the Mayor of Lockhart Shire is the Chair and the Council's Tourism and Economic Development Officer is a Committee member.</p> <p>Council provides an annual subsidy to the volunteer-based management committees established pursuant to section 355 of the Local Government Act to manage Council facilities such as recreation grounds and public halls.</p> <p>Council convenes a Police and Community Consultation Group that meets quarterly and provides a conduit for the Council, the community and NSW Police to discuss policing matters.</p> <p>Council participates in the Local Health Advisory Committee which provides a conduit between the local community and health services provided by the Murrumbidgee Local Health District.</p>
Tourism development	<p>B2 - Improve the image of Lockhart Shire for tourists.</p> <p>B2 - Use our natural strengths and assets to build our tourism sector.</p> <p>B2 - Support and develop infrastructure for our tourism sector</p> <p>B2 - Develop partnerships that support our tourism industry.</p>	<p>Council continues to participate in Thrive Riverina (formerly Riverina Regional Tourism), Taste Riverina and other regional tourism initiatives such as Wagga partnerships and Destination Riverina Murray.</p> <p>Council is working with four neighbouring Councils to develop a joint regional tourism brochure.</p> <p>Council has signed Memorandums of Understanding with Charles Sturt University and Riverina Water regarding the proposed astronomical observatory at The Rock and the Shire's water tower murals respectively.</p>
Business development and industry attraction	<p>B1 - Work in partnership with stakeholders to grow existing and attract new businesses.</p> <p>B1 - Encourage a diverse retail mix</p>	<p>Council also participates in the NSW Government's "Easy to do Business" Program and the "Business Friendly Council" initiative.</p> <p>An online Lockhart Shire business directory has been launched.</p>

Risk Category	CSP Reference	Mitigation Strategy
	<p>within the Shire to respond to the community's and visitors needs and tastes.</p> <p>B1 - Better understand the retail and commercial sector to assist and support a response to filling service gaps.</p>	<p>Council participates in the RDA Riverina platform 'Jobs Riverina' to promote local opportunities.</p> <p>Council is facilitating grant funding and providing in kind support for a project that aims to make Lockhart township 100% self-sufficient on renewable energy thereby reducing energy costs and enhancing energy security.</p> <p>Council has appropriate policies to support existing businesses and attract new businesses including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.19 Local Preference Purchasing Policy ▪ 1.21 Investment Attraction Incentives
Capacity Building for local leadership	<p>A3 - Understand and respond to the needs of young people in the Shire through engagement and provision of a Youth Officer.</p> <p>B3 - Support young people to return to the region after completing education and training.</p> <p>E1 - Promote the increased participation of local people in local government and the community.</p>	<p>Lockhart Shire Council employs a Youth Development Officer in conjunction with Greater Hume Council.</p> <p>A Youth Advisory Committee comprising of young people from throughout the Shire has been established.</p> <p>Funding has been secured under Round 3 of the Stronger Country Communities Fund for a "Life skills for Young People" Program to be implemented in 2020/21.</p>
Emergency response and recovery	A2 - Ensure that Lockhart Shire is well prepared to respond to adversity.	<p>The Lockhart Shire Local Emergency Management Committee meets on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Local Emergency Management Plan has been prepared and endorsed at the local and regional level.</p>

c) Communication and Coordination:

Council has a diverse range and means of communication that can be utilised depending on the nature of the adverse event including the following:

- Council Newsletter posted to all premises in the Shire on a monthly basis.
- Council's corporate website www.lockhart.nsw.gov.au.
- Council's tourism website www.visitlockhartshire.com.au.

- Lockhart Shire Community Facebook Page.

The Lockhart Shire Mayor has a regular column in the Council's monthly Newsletter

He also has a monthly radio spot with local radio station Flow FM.

Other media organisations with coverage over the Shire utilised by Council for disseminating information include:

Name	Contact Details
Border Mail Newspaper	Phone: (02) 6024 0555 newsroom@bordermail.com.au
Daily Advertiser Newspaper	Phone: (02) 6938 3300 news@dailyadvertiser.com.au
Eastern Riverina Chronicle Newspaper	Phone: (02) 6938 3300 erchronicle@fairfaxmedia.com.au
Nine Television Station	ninenewsriverina@nine.com.au
Prime 7 Television Station	Phone: (02) 6933 6300 wagga.news@prime7.com.au
WIN Television Station	Phone; (02) 6937 1199 wagnews@winns.com.au
Network Ten Television Station	news@networkten.com.au
Radio Station ABC Goulburn Murray	Phone: 02 6049 2011 alburywodonga.regional@abc.net.au
Radio Station ABC Riverina	02 6923 4811 news.wagga@abc.net.au
Radio Station 2AY	Phone: (02) 6023 4111
Radio Station 2WG	(02) 6932 9730 riverinanews@sca.com.au
Radio Station Flow FM	(08) 8566 3151 news@flowfm.com.au

6. Reference Documents

This Plan should be read in conjunction with the following documents:

- Lockhart Shire Community Strategic Plan 2017-2027
- Business Continuity Plan
- Lockhart Local Emergency Management Plan

- Lockhart Local Flood Plan
- Riverina Zone Bush Fire Risk Management Plan
- Policy 2.3 Response to Incidents Involving Hazardous Materials
- Policy 2.4 Environmental Restoration – Emergency Grant Procedures
- Policy 2.25 Bush Fire Operations, Supply & Management of Equipment & Management of Equipment
- Policy 2.29 Equipment Hire for Emergency Situations
- Policy 3.21 Risk Management

7. Glossary

CSP	Community Strategic Plan
ERM	Enterprise Risk Management
FRNSW	Fire and Rescue NSW
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LEOCON	Local Emergency Operations Controller
LGA	Local Government Area
NSW RFS	NSW Rural Fire Service
NSW SES	NSW State Emergency Services
RDA	Regional Development Australia
REROC	Riverina Eastern Regional Organisation of Councils

8. Schedule 1 - Local Emergency Risk Management Study

Hazard	Risk Description	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Priority	Combat / Responsible Agency
Agricultural Disease (Animal/Plant)	An agriculture/horticulture incident that results, or has potential to result, in the spread of a communicable disease or infestation.	Possible	Major	Extreme	Department of Primary Industries
Communicable Disease (Human)	Pandemic illness that affects, or has potential to affect, large portions of the human or animal population.	Possible	Major	Extreme	Department of Health
Fire (Bush/ Grass)	Major fires in areas of bush or grasslands.	Possible	Major	Extreme	NSW RFS FRNSW
Fire (Commercial)	Serious commercial fires in shopping centres. Some commercial premises also include residential spaces.	Possible	Major	Extreme	FRNSW NSW RFS
Fire (Residential)	Fire in a residential facility could cause a small number of human fatalities, injuries, damage or destruction of the structure and the adjoining or neighbouring buildings.	Unlikely	Major	High	FRNSW NSW RFS
Flood (Riverine)	River flows exceed the capacity of normal river systems resulting in flood waters escaping and inundating river plains.	Possible	Moderate	High	NSW SES
Hazardous Release	Hazardous material released as a result of an incident or accident.	Likely	Minor	High	FRNSW

Hazard	Risk Description	Likelihood Rating	Consequence Rating	Risk Priority	Combat / Responsible Agency
Explosion	An explosion (or potential explosion) of a grain silo in an urban area could cause a significant number of human fatalities and injuries, damage and destruction of properties, evacuation and temporary relocation of up to 1000 persons.	Possible	Catastrophic	Extreme	LEOCON
Storm	Severe storm with accompanying lightning, hail, wind, and/or rain that causes severe damage and/or localised flooding (includes tornado).	Possible	Moderate	High	NSW SES
Transport Emergency (Air)	Aircraft crashes in LGA resulting in large number of fatalities, injuries and/or damage to property.	Unlikely	Moderate	Medium	LEOCON
Transport Emergency (Road)	A major vehicle accident that disrupts one or more major transport routes that can result in risk to people trapped in traffic jams, restrict supply routes and/or protracted loss of access to or from the area.	Unlikely	Major	High	LEOCON
Transport Emergency (Rail)	A major accident that results in fatalities, injuries, and or environmental damage and major recovery operation.	Unlikely	Major	High	LEOCON
Utilities Failure	Major failure of essential utility for unreasonable periods of time as a result of a natural or man-made occurrence.	Possible	Major	Extreme	LEOCON