

2021/24

STATE OF OUR REGION REPORT





GILGANDRA
SHIRE COUNCIL

2021/24

**STATE OF OUR REGION
REPORT**

Live > Enjoy > Grow



**LIVE
ENJOY
GROW**
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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR *Mayor and Councillors*



CR DOUG BATTEN
Mayor



CR ASH WALKER
Deputy Mayor



CR GAIL BABBAGE



CR AMBER BUNTER



CR IAN FREETH



CR PAUL MANN



CR BRIAN MOCKLER



CR NOEL MUDFORD



CR GREG PEART



It is with pleasure that I present my Mayoral Message which forms part of the Gilgandra Shire Council (Council) State of Our Region Report 2021/24. This report highlights the achievement of the Council over this term of Council, which concludes on the 14 September 2024. I am proud of the achievements that our Council has made during the past three years and the strategic vision which will enable the ongoing success for the incoming Council.

The weather this year has been somewhat more conducive to road repairs which was welcomed to enable Council to significantly progress restoration works associated with the seven Natural Disaster Declarations that we were required to address since 2020. The restoration works have given an overall improved standard of travel across our rural road network.

Council's exposure to Aged Care and Disability Services has resulted in our requirement to come to terms with the varying Royal Commissions within Aged Care and Disability Services. One requirement that has a physical impact on our community was the recruitment of qualified Filipino staff, which enables us to meet a minimum care requirement of 200 minutes a day of which 30 are delivered by a Registered Nurse. Other requirements, as they impact upon several of the Aged Care Quality Standards, were also brought under a spotlight regarding service delivery. It is interesting to note that whilst some councils have a responsibility for the delivery of Aged Care services, others have the responsibility of the delivery of disability services or National Disability Insurance Scheme. As I understand it, Gilgandra is the only council that delivers both together with the Indigenous Specific Aged Care as it related to the Jack Towney Hostel.

The decision by the Federal Government to reset the works schedule on the Narromine to Brisbane section of Inland Rail has reduced the momentum that had been generated. However, work to secure land associated with the rail corridor does continue, as does Council's strategic planning to optimise the opportunities that Inland Rail, and for that matter, Renewable Energy projects have for our community. That said, Council's staff worked hard to progress an ambitious Capital Works Program. Whilst not fully completed, I commend the staff and contractors for their efforts.

As I complete my fourteenth year as Mayor, it would be remiss of me not to offer my thanks to our General Manager, Mr David Neeves, who after eight years in the role is well respected by his staff and other councils and continues to provide effective leadership.

I offer my sincere thanks to the Elected Members for their hard work and the fact that without their commitment and productivity, Gilgandra Shire Council would not retain their reputation for providing a community that is a wonderful place in which to *Live > Enjoy > Grow*.

Cr Doug Batten

Cr Doug Batten

INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Act 1993 and the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework requires Council to prepare a State of our City (formerly known as the End of Term) Report. Acknowledging the Gilgandra Region is not classified as a City and such term is misleading, this report has been re-titled "State of our Region". The report outlines Council's progress on implementing the Gilgandra Region Community Strategic Plan (CSP) over the previous four years. The Report outlines the achievements of Council, identifies challenges and aids in the review of the CSP.

Gilgandra Shire Council (Council) adopted the CSP on 28 June 2022 following a community survey in 2021 and community consultation in March 2022. The plan represents an opportunity to create and foster community based goals and aspirations to drive a sustainable community that reconciles itself with current and future challenges.

The CSP is organised into the following decision-making strategies:

Live, Enjoy, Grow & Lead.

The basis for the CSP decision making principles were considered in conjunction with State and Regional Plans, relevant Council plans and strategies, priorities, challenges, and opportunities identified by Council with feedback from the community via multiple consultation opportunities.

While Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing, and maintaining the CSP on behalf of the community, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. The plan acknowledges that some initiatives and actions cannot be delivered solely by Council and identifies where it may have an advocacy role on behalf of the community.



COMMUNITY SURVEY

In 2021, Gilgandra Shire residents were asked to share their views on Council's future direction, with a community survey taking place across the region. The survey was designed to provide important insight into the local community's priorities and satisfaction levels when it comes to Council activities, its service delivery, available facilities, and future planning. A total of 314 residents participated in the survey.

Key Findings

- Most used facilities and services included town water supply, rural roads and bridges, sewerage services, town streets and footpaths, waste collection and services, Gilgandra Fitness Centre and the Library.
- Most important facilities and services included local medical centre/dentists, rural roads and bridges, town water supply, sewerage service, public toilets, aged care facilities, disability services and waste collection and service.

Things the community thought Council did well



- Public toilets
- Playgrounds and sports grounds
- Disability services
- Parks and gardens
- Library
- Waste collection
- Town water
- Sewerage
- Medical Centres
- Community events

Things the community thought Council needed to improve on

- Rural roads and bridges
- Development Applications



82%

of respondents would be likely or very likely to recommend Gilgandra Shire as a place to live.

81%

of respondents would be likely or very likely to recommend Gilgandra Shire as a place to visit.



54%

of respondents would be likely or very likely to recommend Gilgandra Shire as a place to start/grow a business.

25%

of respondents felt like Council dealt with their concerns poorly.



22%

of respondents felt like their customer request was handled well.

64%

of residents rated Council's overall performance last term as 5/10 or above.



OUR VISION AND VALUES

OUR VISION

A vibrant region to

Live > Enjoy > Grow

that is inclusive, resilient
and progressive.

OUR VALUES



INTEGRITY

- accountable
- open
- honest



LEADERSHIP

- proactive
- professional
- inclusive



VISION

- innovative
- strategic
- progressive

Our Themes...

Live

A community with improved roads and transport network.

A community with inter-generational infrastructure and facilities.

A community where services enhance liveability.

Enjoy

An active and thriving community.

A community that celebrates its culture and heritage.

A region that offers a vibrant tourist destination experience.

Grow

A region with resilient and innovative businesses.

A region growing towards 5000 population.

A region that capitalises on opportunities for economic growth.

Lead

An innovative Council that is an employer of choice within the community.

A progressive Council, engaged with the community.

A Council valued by our community.



Live

A community with improved roads
and transport network.

A community with inter-generational
infrastructure and facilities.

A community where services enhance liveability.

INFRASTRUCTURE

NATURAL DISASTERS

Council was still recovering from natural disaster events at the time of the Local Government elections in December 2021 when more were encountered. One occurred immediately before the term in November 2021, with a further two experienced in August and September of 2022. During the period between January 2022 and June 2024, Council carried out flood damage works totaling \$3.39M.



GRAVEL RE-SHEETING

Gravel re-sheeting completed during this term of Council included:

- 6km Gular Rail Road
- 17km Hillside Road
- 6km Balladoran Railway Road
- 22km Milpulling Road

Re-sheeting has been completed using funding from the Australian Government Roads to Recovery Program, NSW Fixing Local Roads Program and Council co-contribution through the Additional Roads Allocation, where necessary. The re-sheeting program either completed segments that were not gravelled, or sheeted the road in its entirety. These roads will not need any additional material for approximately ten years.



JACKS CREEK BRIDGE

Jacks Creek Bridge on the Biddon-Bearbong Road was extensively damaged from the natural disasters. The old timber bridge was replaced with a new single span 12.1m by 4.8m InQuik concrete bridge.

Date	March 2022
Cost	\$269,955 excl. GST
Funding	Federal/State



RESEALS

Reseals completed during this term of Council included:

- 6km National Park Road
- 4km Yarrandale Road
- 6km John Renshaw Drive

Both National Park and Yarrandale Roads were carried out with Roads to Recovery funding, while John Renshaw Drive was completed under the NSW Block Grant.



ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING

BERIDA BULLAGREEN

During this term of Council, the overall rehabilitation and widening of Berida Bullagreen Road was finished. This work commenced in the previous term with the final 6.13km completed in March 2023. The work was co-funded between the NSW Fixing Local Roads Program, and Australian Government Roads to Recovery and Council.

Date	March 2023
Cost	\$800,000
Funding	Federal/State



LEECHES CREEK

The first 2km of Leeches Creek Road (from the Newell Highway) were shoulder widened. This project was fully funded by the Australian Government under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Date	2023
Cost	\$192,000
Funding	Federal



BERIDA INNISFAIL/LEECHES CREEK FLOODWAYS

Following a meeting with landholders, the creek at the intersection of Berida Innisfail and Leeches Creek Roads was cleaned out and two concrete causeways were newly constructed. The causeway on Leeches Creek Road was 72m, while on Berida Innisfail Road measured 27m. These works were funded by the Commonwealth's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.

Date	June 2024
Cost	\$227,000
Funding	Federal



FUNDING FOR NATIONAL PARK ROAD UPGRADES

Council secured funding for sealing of the unsealed sections of National Park Road and construction of an all weather floodway at Baronne Creek. 12.5kms of unsealed road will be sealed, including new pavement, at a total cost of \$4,878,374. This comprised \$3M from the NSW Fixing Local Roads Program, \$878,444 from the Commonwealth's Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and the balance from Council.

Council also secured funding to address the problematic floodway at Baronne Creek. A new 200m concrete structure will be installed at this crossing at a total cost of \$2M. The funding was \$900,000 from the Federal and State co-funded Infrastructure Betterment Fund, \$1,000,000 from the NSW Local Government Recovery Grant and \$100,000 from Council.



REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROAD REPAIR PROGRAM

Council achieved 73,000m² of heavy patching across the sealed regional and local road network under this NSW State Government program. This work required a dedicated crew working solely on this program for around 18 months at a total cost of \$2.22M.



BORE 6

Bore 6 installation was finished in August 2023, complete with all headworks and controller units. The total expenditure for all three bores and associated pipework was \$1,497,945 with \$1,110,000 funded from Restart NSW and \$387,945 co-contributed from Council. This equates to three new bores at a total cost to Council of around \$130,000 each while achieving the overall objective of improved water security for Gilgandra.



BIDDON CREEK EROSION

The long-standing erosion problem at Biddon Creek was addressed by this Council. Despite the issue being on Crown Land, it had been referred to multiple agencies over time, but no funding seemed to be available to address the matter and no State Government Agency accepted responsibility. Council undertook the remediation using funds from the Commonwealth's Local Roads and Infrastructure Program.

Date	June 2024
Cost	\$260,000
Funding	Federal



ROAD MAINTENANCE COUNCIL CONTRACT

Council has a dedicated crew and equipment that performs contract work for Transport for NSW on the highways. Each year the standard works include heavy patching, reseals and routine maintenance. In 2023/24 Council undertook major construction work in Warren Shire on the Oxley Highway. This project was known as the Dick's Camp project (due to its proximity to the road of the same name) and involved a mix of heavy patching, shoulder widening, culvert replacements and reconstruction of two major causeways using 'deep lift' stabilising techniques. The work was 4.5km long, took three months to complete and involved six staff at a total cost of \$2.73M.



WATER AND SEWER

The replacement of water mains was focused on those in Tooraweenah Village. During this term, Council replaced 1,685m of water mains in Murray, Bridge and Newton Streets.

Council also relined 3,687m of sewer mains in Gilgandra. This work was concentrated on mains that lead into Sewer Pump Station 2 located behind the Gilgandra Services Club. This area was identified as an area where a substantial amount of stormwater ingress occurs and includes a large portion of the older sections of town, such as the CBD.

Council also progressed the replacement of the Sewer Treatment Plant. Council received funding under the NSW Safe and Secure Water Program following a successful business case to replace the town's treatment plant, a sewer pump station and upgrade another. To date, the detailed designs have now reached near completion in readiness for construction. The next stage will be construction, once funding and approval is gained.



LUCAS BRIDGE OPENING

On 27 April 2022 Federal Member for Parkes Hon. Mark Coulton MP joined Mayor Doug Batten for the official opening of Lucas Bridge.

The name 'Lucas Bridge' acknowledges the work of Mr Lance Lucas, who monitored the flood levels at this site from the mid-1950's until 1978. It was great to have members of Mr Lucas' family in attendance - Graham and Bev Lewis, Ken and Jill Lucas, Wayne and Janelle Lewis to celebrate.



AGED CARE AND DISABILITIES



Gilgandra Shire Council Aged Care and Disabilities encompasses:

GILGANDRA LIFESTYLES:

- Community Care (Transport, Meals on Wheels, Group Support and Individual Support)
- Jack Towney Hostel
- Cooee Lodge Hostel
- Home Care
- Cooee Lodge Retirement Village

ORANA LIVING:

- Supported Disability Accommodation
- Supported Individual Living and Life Skills Centre
- Carlginda, Social Enterprise Employment

UPGRADES AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS COUNCIL TERM INCLUDE:

- Special Care Wing upgrades at Cooee Lodge Hostel; the project included new flooring, painting and curtains.
- Jack Towney Hostel room upgrades and renovations; 15 rooms being renovated with paint, new kitchens, and bathrooms, along with new fittings and finishes.
- Five Cooee Lodge Villa upgrades.
- Over 10,500 meals delivered through Meals on Wheels, with the help of over 40 volunteers.
- Over 3,500 community service trips, with the help of over 40 volunteers.
- 19 supported employment positions at Carlginda Enterprises, and undertaking of recycling program for Gilgandra and Bogan Shire Councils.
- Purchase of new industrial shredding machine in 2022, resulting in a commercial shredding operation and opportunity for a diversified work solution for Carlginda enterprises workforce.
- Opening of the Buunji Activities Centre at Jack Towney Hostel.



GROWORX PROGRAM

Council, in collaboration with the international immigration organisation Groworx, addressed workforce shortages by welcoming 16 Filipino workers to Gilgandra in October 2023. The new workforce, included overseas-trained Registered Nurses and care workers who have completed an Australian Certificate III in Aged Care, to join Gilgandra Lifestyles, with six nurses obtaining Australian Registered Nurse qualifications.

All 16 Filipino workers were housed in the community by the generous support of locals, with a large community welcoming event well attended. This initiative aims to meet staffing requirements and enhance care services in the region.



GILGANDRA LIFESTYLES BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT FUND

Expenditure through the Business Improvement Fund resulted in improvements of governance, occupancy, systems and processes across the Gilgandra Lifestyle service. The Business Improvement Fund also contributed to the capital improvements in the Special Care Wing at Cooee Lodge Hostel.

Date	2022-2024
Cost	\$375,0000
Funding	Federal



FEDERAL COMPLIANCE & NEW AGED CARE REFORMS

In 2023 the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission assessed and found compliant both Cooee Lodge and Jack Towney Hostels along with the Commonwealth Home Support programs and the Home Care program. Three year (maximum) accreditation was achieved.

Additionally, in 2023 the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety extensively highlighted the importance of staffing levels and ensuring high-quality residential care. As a result, Cooee Lodge employed five Registered Nurses across a range of experiences and skills, ensuring all residents receive comprehensive care and support 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. These standards and reforms have guided practices within Gilgandra Lifestyles and are embedded within the day-to-day operations of the service.



MANAGING A COVID-19 ENVIRONMENT

In February 2023, two years after the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Australia, Cooee Lodge announced its first confirmed cases of the virus. Cooee Lodge remained committed to comprehensive safety protocols, including strict visitor restrictions, enhanced hygiene practices, and health monitoring for residents and staff. The lodge ensured compliance with government guidelines, provided vaccinations, and maintained transparent communication with families and the public. Cooee Lodge's diligent approach effectively safeguarded residents' health and wellbeing, demonstrating a strong commitment to safety and care during the pandemic, and today.



Some of the highlights over this Council term include:

- Orana Living underwent an Executive Service Review. The review was done in consultation with Lakes Advisory and the findings have resulted in an action plan being developed to improve the service and ensure financial sustainability for the future.
- During the 2023/24 budget cycle Orana Living accepted delivery of a new bus. The bus was well received by staff and clients and has the capacity for eight passengers and two wheel-chaired passengers. The bus has been on order for three years due to COVID.
- Strategic Directions were engaged to business map the processes of Orana Living to be able to develop a gap analysis of current processes and systems. An action plan was developed to implement new technology to better manage processes within Orana Living.
- Orana Living was featured in the Regional Lifestyle Magazine. The feature highlighted the inclusive nature of Orana Living and the Gilgandra community and the diversity in service offerings for the clients of Orana Living.
- Director Aged Care and Disabilities, Orana Living Manager and a specialised consultant completed a review of the current Life Skills Centre and the programs which are offered. This review resulted in improvements in programming, more person-centred choices for the clients and improved compliance to NDIS indicators and clients personal choices.
- The Orana Living Advisory Board was established to enhance governance of the Orana Living and Disability Services.
- A review of current policies and procedures was conducted and resulted in the service refining policies to better reflect the current NDIS quality principles and the needs of the client cohort.
- Continued work with NDIS quality personnel to maintain compliance for registration.
- During the management of COVID outbreaks, infection control principles and policies were strengthened. This enhanced staff practices and resulted in low impacts of COVID on the Orana Living clients.





GILGANDRA WASTE FACILITY & CARLGINDA ENTERPRISES

Upgrades to the Waste Facility will support Carlginda Enterprises in providing recycling services to the local community and improving quality of the recycled product for market. One recycling shed and separate awning was constructed to store recycled product bales away from the weather, while enough material is accumulated for market. A new baler and shredder were purchased to improve processing operations.

Date	2023
Cost	\$280,000
Funding	GSC/Environmental Trust



ARLGINDA ENTERPRISES

A division of:

GSC GILGANDRA
SHIRE COUNCIL
Live > Enjoy > Grow

Recycling in Gilgandra

An Australian Disability Enterprise



WARRUMBUNGLE TONDERBRINE RURAL FIRE SERVICE (RFS) SHED

Council's project team managed the design and construction of a renewal shed for the Warrumbungle and Tonderbrine brigades.

Date	2023
Cost	\$296,000
Funding	GSC/RFS



UPGRADES TO GILGANDRA POUND

The animal shelter is an important facility to assist Council achieve its companion animal responsibilities. Installation of solar power along with powerpoints, internal and external sensor lighting fixtures, hot water system and internal fans improved site security, hygiene and infection control, and comfort for impounded animals particularly in warmer months.



Date	2024
Cost	\$40,000
Funding	GSC





Enjoy

An active and thriving community.
A community that celebrates its culture and heritage.
A region that offers a vibrant tourist
destination experience.

SHADE SAILS AT HUNTER PARK

Installation of new shade sails at Hunter Park provided adequate shade and UV protection during summer months while ensuring sufficient solar gain during winter, increasing the usability across all seasons. Shade sails were successfully installed over the play equipment area, Peter Veness Skate Park, and within the swimming pool grounds. This initiative enhances the comfort and safety of these outdoor spaces, providing greater accessibility and enjoyment throughout the year.

Date	2022
Cost	\$73,000
Funding	State/GSC



GILGANDRA SWIMMING POOL AMENITIES UPGRADES

The Gilgandra Swimming Pool Amenities Refresh project enhanced the overall facility, particularly benefiting female patrons and improving accessibility and inclusion. The upgrades modernised the showers, toilets, change rooms, and flooring, transforming outdated and unusable amenities into a refreshed and contemporary space, encouraging user satisfaction for the community and its visitors.

Date	2023
Cost	\$150,000
Funding	State



FITNESS CENTRE AND YOUTH CLUB - AMENITIES REFRESH

The amenities refresh for the Gilgandra Fitness Centre and Youth Club included upgrading the toilets, showers, and accessible bathroom, significantly enhancing the services at each of these facilities. This project aimed to improve the amenities for all users, with a particular focus on female patrons, and to enhance accessibility and inclusion. The upgraded amenities elevated the facility's standard, ensuring greater satisfaction and comfort for the community members who utilise both the Youth Club and the Fitness Centre.

Date	2022 - 2023
Cost	\$96,400
Funding	State



GILGANDRA YOUTH SERVICES

Gilgandra Youth Services (GYS) offers family and individualised support for youth, up to 18 years old, featuring programs including Breakfast Club, after-school drop-in, Youth Week, and holiday activities. The Breakfast Club currently has 57 registered youth, with approximately 30 youth attending each morning to prepare breakfast before school.

Each school holidays and Youth Week, GYS offer an exciting array of events designed to foster social cohesion and provide interactive, engaging, and inclusive experiences. A few highlight events have included:

- Aerospace Academy
- Get Your Graffiti On Gilgandra
- UP&UP Inspirations
- KYUP!
- NSW Rugby Skills Workshop
- Visit to Pilliga Pottery
- Sydney Puppet Theatre & Make Your Own Puppet
- Texture Painting Workshop
- Summer Family Days @ Gilgandra Swimming Pool
- Aussie FMX Dirt Bike Presentation and Show
- Flower Crown Workshop with Pinto Posy
- SP Netball Skills Clinic, Leather Belt Workshop
- Windmill Walk Colour Run
- Make Your Own with Bush Craft Cafe, and much more!

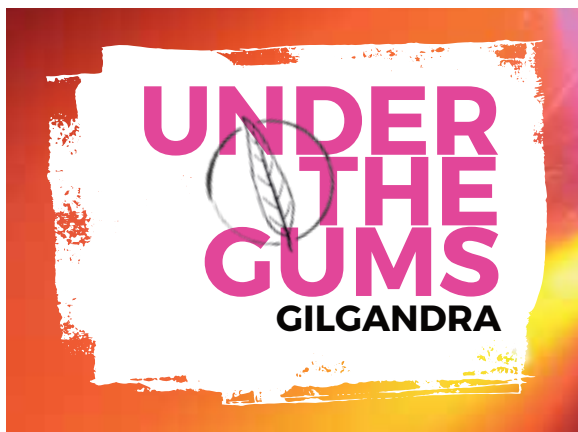
These activities provided fun and learning opportunities for youth in the region, ensuring everyone has a chance to participate and enjoy!



Date	Cost
2021-2022	\$10,000
2022-2023	\$14,450
2023-2024	\$23,450
Funding	State/GSC







Date	Cost	Funding
2022	\$48,000	State/GSC
2023	\$145,000	State/GSC

In 2022, A Night Under the Gums returned for its second year on Saturday, 9 April, as a community activation event held on the banks of the Castlereagh River. Over 2,000 attendees enjoyed markets, food, beverages, lights, and live music by Hayley Jensen, Mickey Pye, Phat Brass, and more. While most attendees were from the Gilgandra Region, many came from neighboring regions and further afield, including Queensland. Despite the rain, the event was a success, generating positive outcomes for the community and local businesses.

In 2023, the event was re-branded as Under the Gums and took place on Saturday, 23 September, a little further downstream to the newly upgraded Gilgandra Cultural Precinct. Over its three years (2021-2023), the event has consistently brought the community together to enjoy live music, local and regional produce, and the riverside ambiance. The new venue increased crowd capacity and event visibility, attracting over 3,000 attendees. The 2023 event featured internationally recognised headliners Kaylee Bell and Casey Barnes, and saw over 44% of ticket holders coming from outside the region. Under the Gums has evolved from a community gathering to a regionally significant live music event.







GILGANDRA ACTIVATION BLUEPRINT

Seats, Beats and Eats

Linking to the adjacent Mill on Miller Street Plaza and the GIL Library Hub, and aligning with the Gilgandra Activation Blueprint, Seats, Beats and Eats aims to activate and transform the Gilgandra Community Plaza to create a connected, activated space piquing community and visitor interest!

Date	2022
Cost	\$365,000
Funding	State



Mill on Miller Street (GIL Library Hub Plaza)

The Mill on Miller Street Plaza will be a gathering space for the community, partnering with neighbouring business and community groups and provide a green, shady place for the main street. It will support existing social events and activities, new ideas and provide safer pedestrian access. The provision of a pleasing place to be in Miller Street will encourage longer visits to the heart of Gilgandra, activating and increasing local business trade.

Date	2023-2024
Cost	\$927,455
Funding	Federal/State



GILGANDRA LIBRARY

Across this term of Council, the Library has continued to grow and flourish, providing high quality, current collections, information services, programs, technology and space for community connection.

Through the Library and its activities, Council supports early literacy development, with a strong focus on reading to children right from birth. Activities range from Baby Book Bags, given to new babies in Gilgandra, to the regular Storytime and Baby Rhymetime programs, and the annual "Gilgandra's Christmas Book" event, where the whole community is encouraged to read a chosen picture book to their little ones. In 2021, Gilgandra was one of 25 LGAs chosen to receive the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DPIL) as a State Government fully funded project.

In the three years from July 2021-June 2024, there have been:



COLLECTIONS

- 37,962 loans of books, audiobooks, magazines, toys and DVDs.
- 7,448 loans of e-books.
- 5,088 new items added, including 1,881 donations.

INFORMATION SERVICES

- 1,860 information, technology and local history enquiries answered.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES

- 75 sessions of the early literacy-focused programs, Storytime and Baby Rhymetime, attended by 623 children and 318 parents or carers.
- 254 sessions of after-school and holiday programs for children, including LEGO® Club, Tech Club and newly developed programs such as Crafty Storytime and Engineering and Science at the Library. These were attended by 1,760 children and 776 parents or carers.
- 107 sessions of programs for adults, including monthly Writers' Group, Book Club, occasional author talks and guest speakers and Tech Savvy Seniors. These sessions were attended by 794 adults.

TECHNOLOGY

Public computers, internet and wifi available to the whole community.

- 9,018 internet users, including wifi.

COMMUNITY SPACE

- 34,010 visitors
- 2,378 members, including 390 new members from 2021/22- 2023/23



Senior's Week Celebrations

Senior's Week is a week-long community program coordinated by Council. It sees visits to the local schools and early childhood centers, along with events at local clubs. The highlight of Senior's Week each year is the Senior's Week Luncheon, where each of the nominees for Senior Citizen of the Year are recognised, and the winner is announced. The celebration is a whole community event; Gilgandra High School hospitality students provide and serve a delicious luncheon, as part of their school assessment tasks; entertainment is provided by the local schools and Gilgandra Preschool, and by talented local residents; and community members, community organisations and local businesses donate many lucky door prizes, ensuring a large number of guests will take a gift home with them! The popularity of the event is reflected in the numbers of senior guests who have attended each year; between 105 and 110 guests each year.



CBD ACTIVATION



The new GIL Library Hub will deliver on Council's core action to drive the Gilgandra Activation Blueprint. This commitment is about delivering community assets, enhancing and complementing existing services to further drive community and visitors to the CBD, with a vibrant, attractive and socially connected space.

In 2020, Council determined the following vision, goals and outcomes for the project.

OUR VISION

'The Library and community hub will be a dynamic community living room, creating a strong, modern centrepiece in the heart of the Gilgandra that attracts passers-by and celebrates our local identity'.

OUR GOAL

The goal of the new GIL Library Hub is to:

- Attract locals and visitors to the CBD invigorating Miller Street



- Expand the library to meet current and future demand for its services and offer additional services to more people
- Extend access to new technology and information services
- To support new and existing local businesses
- Expand access to services and facilities for locals and visitors

Construction of the building by North Construction and Building commenced on 17 February 2022. The completion of construction was delayed by a number of factors, including difficulty obtaining subcontractors and materials, unforeseen construction issues, and general economic conditions. The project will be completed in the latter half of 2024.

Date	2022-2024
Cost	\$5,967,042
Funding	Federal/State/GSC



GILGANDRA CULTURAL PRECINCT (GCP)

Gilgandra Cultural Precinct Strategic Plan (GCP) focuses on three key themes including local history:

- Military heritage, including Cooee March
- Landscape, including the natural environment and farming
- Aboriginal heritage

*Opening of The Cooee
Heritage Centre and
Galleries*



In an exciting milestone for the GCP, the doors of the Coo-ee Heritage Centre (CHC) re-opened on 26 September 2022. The Visitor Information, Coo-ee March Gallery and Gilgandra Art Gallery opened initially, with the Joy Trudgett, Allan Wise and Collison Gallery opening in 2023.

The opening of the CHC also saw the first of many exhibitions in the Gilgandra Art Gallery. The inaugural ‘This is Gilgandra’ exhibition featured works from local artists, showcasing what the region has to offer.

Extensive community consultation sessions and feedback from Gilgandra Region residents, the Aboriginal Stakeholder Group, Volunteers, Artists and Suppliers throughout the CHC renovations helped shape a project to be proud of.

Date	2021 – 2022
Cost	\$3,300,000
Funding	Federal/State/GSC



The Meeting Place: Joy Trudgett Gallery

Gilgandra is known as a “meeting place” between three Aboriginal nations - Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi and Wailwan. This has been the driving idea behind this project. This has been developed in consultation with the Gilgandra Aboriginal Stakeholder Group as well as Museum and Galleries NSW Advisor Program.

The Joy Trudgett Gallery is a space to showcase and share the stories, history and culture of our local Aboriginal community. This project aligns with the GCP Strategic Plan, has followed extensive community consultation with the Aboriginal Stakeholder Group since late 2018, and has received funding support from the NSW Government Regional Tourism Activation Fund and Aboriginal Partnerships Program.

An integral part of the GCP, the Meeting Place is an Aboriginal experience providing a place of connection. In 2022 we saw the addition of a ‘yarn circle’ with the three Aboriginal nations of this region represented.

In collaboration with Arterial Design, community and stakeholder groups and local trades, an accessible, interactive and educational space, that fosters a sense of connection to story and place was created.



Date	2022-2023
Cost	\$500,000
Funding	State/GSC



Gilgandra Cultural Precinct & Coovee Heritage Centre Landscaping

Landscaping works at the CHC, Sound Shell and Community Gardens focused on utilising the Castlereagh River flowing through Gilgandra, enhanced though art with recognition of culture and history of our region. Connecting the GCP to Miller Street (Gilgandra’s CBD) and creating an inviting space for locals and tourists alike.



Sound Shell Murals

Following Council planning and community survey, with over 100 responses from the public, and consultation with Council’s Economic Development Committee, artist Locky Naef, with assisting local artist Gail Naden brought the community’s ideas to life! The community survey saw recurring themes favouring natural landscape, agriculture, local industry, and Aboriginal heritage.

Date	2024
Cost	\$20,700
Funding	State



Windmill Walk

The Windmill Walk is an enchanting walking trail along the banks of the Castlereagh River.

Linking the Gilgandra CBD and the GCP, the two kilometre (one-way) walk showcases native fauna and flora as well as a number of windmills that once operated within Gilgandra.

These windmills are decorated with artworks designed by our local NDIS clients from Orana Living and bring colour to the walk.



Gilgandra Museum

Upgrades and works to the Gilgandra Museum include new sky lights, new signage, upgraded footpath and site fencing, and feature mural on the northern wall of the museum representing years of history, culture, and community!



Overnight Parking Trial

In May 2023 Council implemented the GCP Overnight Parking Trial. The Trial caters for up to ten fully self-contained RV's or caravans, offering overnight drive-through parking for up to 48 hours. While there are no fees to park, permits are essential via the Gilgandra Region website or the CHC. The Trial aims to boost local economic impact and enhance the Gilgandra Region to travellers as a great place to visit, explore and stay, with all camping options in the Gilgandra Region showcased in the newly developed Camping Guide.



BUSINESS NIGHT OUT SHOP LOCAL LAUNCH

On Thursday, 22 March 2022 conversations filled Curban Hall as members of the community enjoyed an evening of light drinks and canapés at a Business Night Out, with guest speakers taking to the floor to discuss their own stories and experiences starting up and managing their own businesses in regional NSW.

Following on from the success of the Business Night Out, Gilgandra Region businesses and community were invited to join us as we kick-started the festive season and celebrated the launch of the 2022 and 2023 Shop Local, #LocalLegends and Styled by Gilgandra Region programs.



AUSTRALIA DAY



The annual Australia Day Gilgandra celebrations provided the opportunity to recognise the achievements and contributions of local groups and individuals in various categories. With support from the Gilgandra Country Womens Association, Lions Club, State Emergency Services and the Australia Day Ambassador Program, Australia Day has been an inclusive event and a great opportunity for the community to interact in the relaxed atmosphere of Hunter Park.





Following the success of Christmas Twilight Markets in 2020 and Bendigo Bank Gilgandra Bonanza Day in 2021, A Christmas Wonderland brings the community together and provided the opportunity for local businesses to showcase their products, while activating Miller Street. A Christmas Wonderland consists of late night shopping, in store specials, cafes and local food vendors, over forty market stalls organised in conjunction with CWA Gilgandra Evening Branch, live music, Santa visit - thanks to Gilgandra Fire and Rescue, Shop Local Major Prize Draw, business window decoration competition, and Christmas street decorations. An event for the community which supports our local businesses.

Date	Cost
2022	\$35,000
2023	\$14,000
Funding	State/GSC





COMMUNITY FUNDED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Community Infrastructure	Project Description
Gilgandra Community Garden	Installation of new garden beds in the Gilgandra Cultural Precinct (GCP)
Gilgandra Museum	New sky lights, new signage, upgraded footpath and site fencing, and feature mural
St Ambrose Church Memorial Anglican Church	Conservation and repair works
Gilgandra Basketball Association	New grandstand seating
Gilgandra Little Athletics	Triple Jump Pit
Arthur Butler Aviation Museum	Water supply to Tooraweenah Aerodrome
Gilgandra Speedway	Replacement of cement trackwall
Gilgandra District Cricket Association	New synthetic wicket at Ernie Knight oval
Gilgandra District Junior Cricket Association	
Gilgandra Showground Trust	Removal and replacement of the existing cattle yards
Tooraweenah PA & H Association	Tooraweenah Showground Amenities Block

COMMUNITY FUNDED EVENTS

Event	Committee
Come Home to Gilgandra Festival 2022	Come Home to Gilgandra Festival Committee
Gilgandra Film Festival 2022 and 2023	Gilgandra Film Festival Committee
Christmas Bonanza Day 2021	Bendigo Bank Gilgandra
Windmill Triples Bowls 2022	Gilgandra Sporties







Grow

A region with resilient and innovative businesses.
A region growing towards 5000 population.
A region that capitalises on opportunities
for economic growth.

GROW GILGANDRA

Shop Local

Shop Local & #LocalLegends is an important part of Council's Grow Gilgandra program and is a great way to recognise and celebrate the value of supporting local. The program continues to grow and adapt to suit changing needs and environmental challenges, with the Economic Development Committee reviewing the success of each year and addressing any challenges to deliver a strong program for the following year.

During this term, Mother's Day and Father's Day promotions were added to the Shop Local suite of promotions, complementing the existing Christmas Shop Local and #LocalLegends promotion, showcasing local gift ideas to encourage spending throughout the year.

Date	Cost	Impact
2021-2022	\$16,000	The Shop Local program was well supported by the community with an estimated 66,000 entries, equating to \$4.8M to the Gilgandra economy over the term.
2022-2023	\$22,000	
2023-2024	\$35,000	
Funding	GSC	



Evolution of Shop Local Promotion:

2021

\$10,000 in Coo-ee cash cards; \$1000 per prize, with additional Bonanza Draw. Introduction of the digital and \$20 entries per envelope saw almost 50% increase in the number of businesses supported through this program. 2021 also saw Bendigo Bank host the Bendigo Bank Gilgandra Bonanza Day with festivities. 2021 saw the addition of the 'Local Legends' promotion, where we showcased local faces doing their part in the community.

2022

Increase in total prize money to \$12,000 in Coo-ee Cash cards; two draws of \$1000 for individuals and one draw of \$500 for businesses. Increase of the entry to a \$50 spend. Shop Local packs provided to stores with entry envelopes and QR codes to scan for online entries. The addition of Christmas Wonderland community event with Major draws of \$2,000 with the event encouraging Miller street visitation and late night shopping.

2023

As per 2022, \$12,000 in Coo-ee cash cards with Major draws at the Christmas Wonderland Event.

SHOP LOCAL

\$12,000 in Cooee Cash Cards to be won!

Head to gilgandra.nsw.gov.au for more information and to enter!

#LocalLegend

**MAKE A MUM A
#LocalLegend THIS YEAR**

ENTER NOW!

GILGANDRA REGION

**Happy Fathers Day!
Give a gift from Gil**

GILGANDRA REGION

GSC
GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL
Live. Enjoy. Grow.

#GilgandraGiftGuide
with lots more available in stores!

GILGANDRA REGION

**MAKE A DAD A
#LocalLegend THIS YEAR**

ENTER NOW!



Council recognises that local events contribute to the vibrancy and energy of our town and region. The ability to deliver events is critical to drive our region's competitive advantage and economic growth. The It's GREAT Program has been established in order to assist with investment into events in the Gilgandra Region Events Activation Tourism program. Funding through the It's GREAT Program will see the support of eight events in the Gilgandra Region.

Date	GSC Funding	Estimated Business Co-Contribution
2024	\$50,000	\$47,119





The Business Improvement Grant (BIG Ideas) Program has been established in order to assist with economic development opportunities and investment in businesses in the Gilgandra Region. These projects encouraged new business investment, and support the activation and revitalisation for Gilgandra and our Region.

	Date	GSC Funding	Estimated Business Co-Contribution
Round 1	2021-2023	\$101,887	\$180,572
Round 2	2023-2024	\$50,000	\$108,866

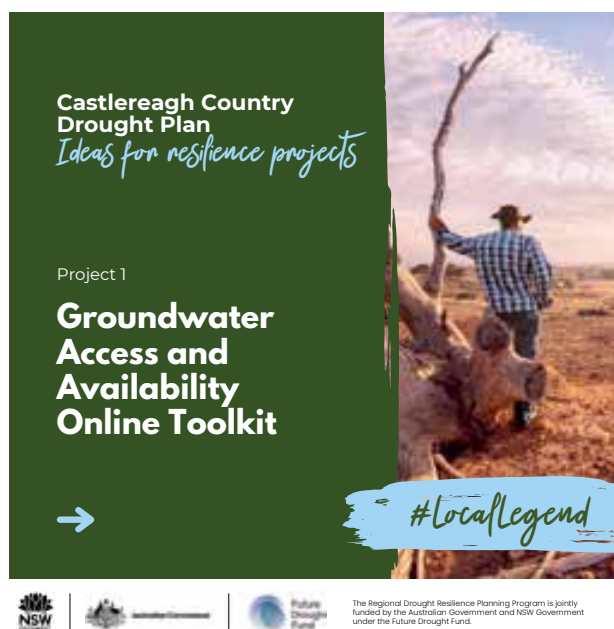
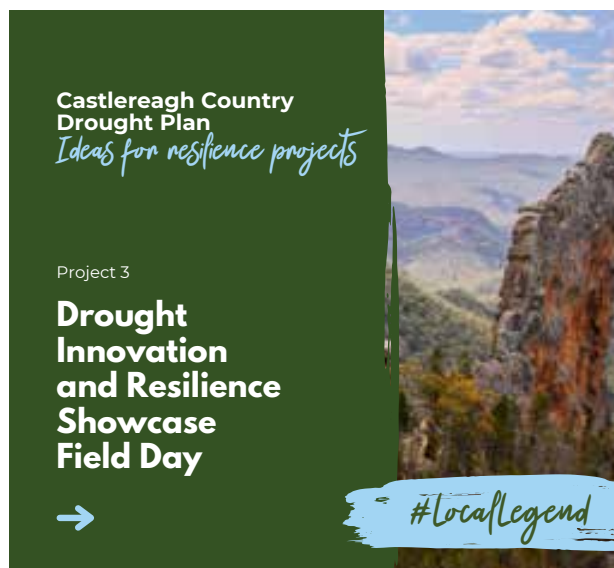


STRATEGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Castlereagh Country Regional Drought Resilience Plan

The Castlereagh Country Regional Drought Resilience Plan Project developed a sustainable, diverse, and resilient economy in the Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shire Functional Economic Regions. Aligned with the Castlereagh Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS), this community-driven plan focuses on five key areas: Farm Gate, Wellbeing, Vitality and Service, Investment and Sustainment, and Ecology and System Health. By coordinating a proactive community response to drought, addressing multiple objectives in local and state strategies, ensuring comprehensive engagement and resilience building, the project created a Priority Action Plan to guide future investment and implementation of transformational projects.

Date	2023 - 2024
Cost	\$250,000
Funding	State



Real Country Destination Strategic Plan

The Real Country Destination Strategic Plan is a visionary blueprint designed to transform the Gilgandra, Coonamble, and Warrumbungle Local Government Areas into a leading destination for travellers seeking authentic Australian Real Country experiences. At the heart of this strategy is a commitment to increased accessibility to sustainable tourism initiatives that celebrates the region's natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and the enduring spirit of its communities.

Date	2023 – 2024
Cost	\$489,312
Funding	State

FOCUS AREA ONE

Strengthen the synergy between the main street businesses and the riverfront, enhancing public engagement by capitalising on the dual frontages of businesses towards the river, the strategy involves integrating key community assets - the GIL Library Hub, its adjoining Mill on Miller plaza, and the Windmill Walk - to improve river accessibility and engagement

FOCUS AREA TWO

Showcase Gilgandra's rich cultural and historical narrative by utilising the CHC and Gilgandra Museum as focal points, the project aims to create a high-quality cultural precinct that highlights the region's heritage.



Real Country Marketing Campaign

The Real Country Marketing Campaign is a collaborative effort by the Coonamble, Gilgandra, and Warrumbungle Shire Councils to promote regional tourism by showcasing the natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and unique spirit of their communities. Highlighting the Castlereagh River, the Warrumbungle ranges, and #LocalLegends, the multifaceted campaign included the development of a website, TV commercial, feature in the Regional Lifestyle magazine, and broader social media promotion of Gilgandra and the surrounding Regions, to attract Real Country seekers from back roads to beach tracks!



Real Country.





BLUE TREE PROJECT

Located on the Castlereagh Highway, 1km from the Newell Highway turn off, the Blue Tree project is part of a wider social movement that creates a space to engage in mental health discussions. This project was a partnership with Community Bank Gilgandra (Bendigo Bank) with painting completed by local painters Paint'n'Plus.



AERO PARK - RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION



A marquee project for the region, Council launched Stage One of the Aero Park Estate, a residential housing subdivision on the northwestern boundary of Gilgandra township. This initial phase includes 22 lots ranging from 1242m² to 1897m², with prices starting at \$82,500. Aero Park Estate is a crucial component of the Gilgandra Housing Strategy and represents a significant step towards alleviating the housing shortage in the Gilgandra Region.

Date	2023 – 2024
Cost	\$3,266,000
Funding	Federal/GSC



LOCAL HERITAGE FUND

The Gilgandra Shire Local Heritage Fund has been established to assist owners of places with heritage significance undertake conservation and restoration works. Items of heritage significance include buildings/structures/sites identified as contributing to the character of the Gilgandra Heritage Conservation Area and items included on the Gilgandra Community Based Heritage Study. The Local Heritage Fund is open for applications annually with 11 applications supported across 2022-2023, with \$21,000 in funding provided and \$45,000 in contribution from the applicants.

Date	2022-2023
Cost	\$21,000
Funding	GSC/Heritage NSW

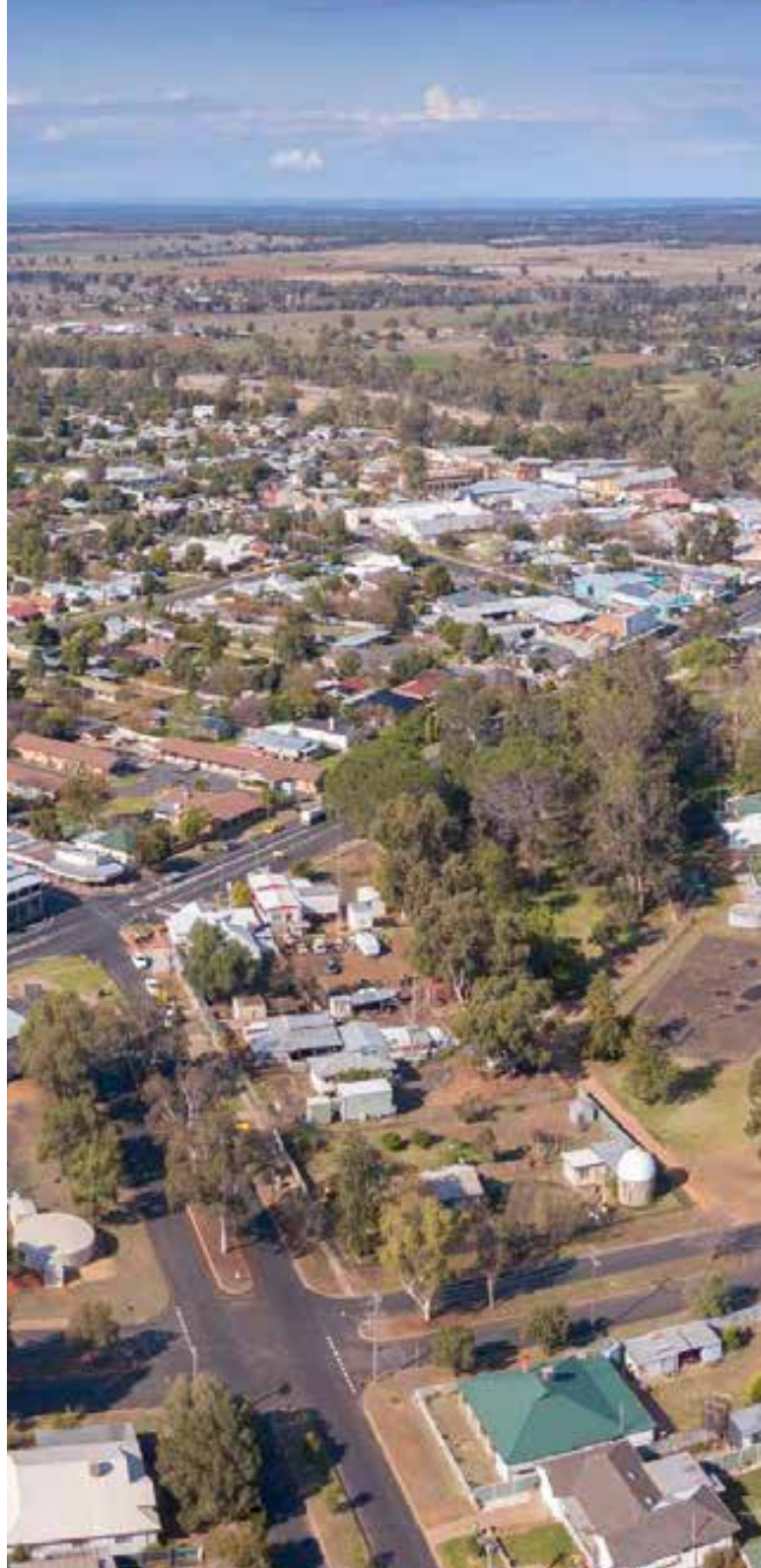
PLANNING PROPOSAL (INDUSTRIAL LAND)

Council has been progressing re-zoning of primary production zoned land on the western fringe of Gilgandra for Industrial purposes to ensure Gilgandra is well positioned to capitalise on future growth opportunities associated with major projects such as Inland Rail and the Renewable Energy Zone. The Planning Proposal process is currently underway with State Government agencies and is expected to be finalised in 2025, with early stage planning being undertaken for development of approximately 21 hectare Stage One industrial subdivision fronting Oxley Highway following the rezoning process.

Date	2022-2023
Cost	\$180,000 (to date, planning related)
Funding	GSC

GILGANDRA HOUSING STRATEGY

Council developed a Local Housing Strategy to guide future residential development in and around our urban area. The Strategy was developed in response to the unprecedented housing demand attributed to external interest from those wanting to experience Gilgandra first hand or invest for the future, as well as people staying in the community for longer to make Gilgandra their home.



HUNTER PARK SPORTS PRECINCT

Council has developed a final concept design for a new multipurpose sports facility and public swimming pool to be located within Hunter Park, Gilgandra.

The goal of the new multipurpose sports facility is to:

- Provide a modern youth centre and gymnasium
- Provide for multipurpose indoor sports
- Provide a new public swimming pool
- Provide a central access and egress point and shared amenities for the indoor sports facility and pool
- Expand access to services and facilities for locals
- Create a facility which builds on the success of current sporting carnivals whilst attracting new events and visitors to town

Components include:

An indoor sports centre:

- Two full size timbered multipurpose basketball courts and spectator area
- A modern gymnasium capable of being isolated and secured for after-hours access
- A youth centre including a "chill out" youth space
- A reception area
- Office and administration areas
- Shared amenities capable of servicing the pool, gymnasium and sports centre
- Kiosk/canteen area
- PA and sound systems
- Adequate car parking facilities
- CCTV
- Linkage and alternate access to the Tennis Court facilities

A new swimming pool:

- Construction of a new six lane solar heated 50m pool (with optional enclosure)
- All abilities access and egress
- Toddler swim area and splash park
- New pump house and chemical store
- Viewing area
- Storage space for Gilgandra Swimming Club
- Outdoor open space around the pool for recreational activities and supervision
- Suitable shade to meet the Gilgandra climate
- External lighting
- PA and sound systems
- CCTV

Outdoor basketball area:

- Creation of a half-court basketball area within Hunter Park

Tennis courts:

- Retention of the four existing outdoor artificial grass tennis courts, club house and amenities





INLAND RAIL WATER BORE LEGACY PROJECT

The availability of water for the Inland Rail project and the community in general is a common interest point and an area that Council identified it could play an important role. With financial support from Inland Rail, Council investigated the availability of water from deep aquifers that limits competition with existing stock and domestic bores.

In March 2022, works on this project commenced with contract drillers to establish one of four test bore locations, with the first location, adjacent to Curban Community Hall.

Date	2021
Cost	\$875,000
Funding	Inland Rail







Lead

An innovative Council that is an employer
of choice within the community.

A progressive Council, engaged with the community.

A Council valued by our community.

TOWARDS 5000 STRATEGIES

Village Management Plans

The Village Management Plan project saw the completion of Village Management Plans for both Armatree and Tooraweenah. A collaborative internal project team worked together to develop the plans which included extensive consultation with the Armatree and Tooraweenah communities to identify the key priorities of the villages. Endorsed by Council in July 2024, the plans are community led, and focus on the future of the Armatree and Tooraweenah villages and how Council and community can work together to achieve the shared visions.



Gilgandra Region Child Care (0-12) Strategy

The Gilgandra Region Childcare Strategy aims to improve access to high quality early childhood education and care for children aged 0-12 years, now and into the future, by means of high-level planning in line with the broader Gilgandra Region CSP. Council's ambition, as outlined in the Strategy, is to partner with childcare providers, schools and others, and to advocate to government, to:

- Establish an Outside School Hours Care service in Gilgandra
- Expand the supply of Long Day Care and/or Preschool places in Gilgandra, including by actively supporting the two existing providers to expand their operations
- Promoting the region to prospective new providers through information and active support
- Encourage new providers of Family Day Care to establish for families outside of Gilgandra township
- Facilitate a functioning childcare workforce pipeline



Community Health Vision

The Gilgandra Region Community Health Vision project, including a cross-departmental collaborative project team, employed a comprehensive approach to ensure a holistic view of the community's health needs and alignment with both broader strategic drivers and local aspirations. Extensive community consultation was undertaken in the process and culminated in a Community Health Vision with strategic health and wellbeing focus areas of:

- Integrated Health Services and Equity
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Active Living and Physical Health
- Community Connectivity and Social Inclusion
- Resilient Communities

Towards 5000: Community Health Vision

Have Your Say

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Thursday, 11 April 2024

- 3.00pm @ the Cooee Lodge Hall
- 5.00pm @ the Coo-ee Heritage Centre





AWARDS

Gilgandra Shire Council won the RH Dougherty Award 2022 for Excellence in Communications for populations less than 30,000. The award was received for the Gilgandra Region Shop Local and #Local Legend Campaign in 2021.

Council were also Finalists and awarded Winner of the Best Small Council with the Most Outstanding Youth Week Program in 2022.



TRAINEESHIPS

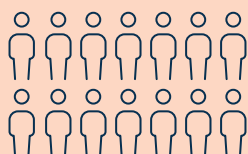
Throughout this term of Council a conscious effort has been made to offer and promote traineeships and apprenticeships across all sectors.

The majority of care staff employed by Orana Living and Gilgandra Lifestyles are either required or encouraged to complete a Certificate III in Individual Support.

TRAINEESHIPS

Additionally, 51 staff commenced or completed the following certification:

**Cert III Civil
Constructions
Plant**



Cert III Parks & Gardens



Cert III Business Administration



Cert III General Construction



Cert III Water



**Cert III Heavy Commercial
Mechanical Technology**



Cert III Events



Cert IV Civil Construction Plant



**School Based Trainee Cert III
Parks & Gardens**



**School Based Trainee Care
Service Employee**



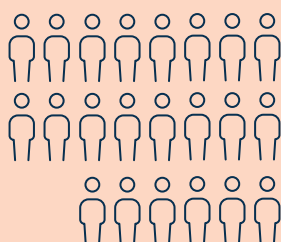
**Cert III Individual Support -
Disabilities**



**Cert IV Individual Support -
Disabilities**



**Cert III Individual
Support - Aging**



COMMUNITY LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE RECOVERY PACKAGE (CLIRP)

Council is an organisation that utilises and relies upon Information and Communications Technology (ICT). At the heart of the Council's operations is the core network infrastructure, providing the critical devices and endpoints that allow the flow of information, data and phone calls across the whole of Council's decentralised locations. This network of devices is required to be operating at peak levels of efficiency to effectively leverage Information and Computing Technology for staff, visitors to the region, hostels and disability services managed by Council.

THE CORE NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE COMPRISES THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS:

1. Wireless links,
2. Optical fibre links and
3. The network switches and cabling to interconnect them.

Councils existing core network links are all wireless and have been in-place for at least ten years with significant weather and storm damage and known faulty core switches.

In addition, Council is installing an "Internet of Things" (IoT), LoRaWAN network. This comprises Gateways at Gilgandra, Curban and Tooraweenah with a weather station at each site. These Gateways enable IoT devices such as tracking devices, people counters, water level meters, water usage meters, soil moisture and automated sprinkler systems etc to be utilised. The IoT network is an emerging technology and can be further utilised and expanded for Council to provide enhanced services to the community.

PROJECT FUNDING

In 2022/2023 Council applied for and was successful in obtaining a grant of \$934,843 from the NSW Government to upgrade and repair the core network and provide a foundation to enhance the provision of community services across Council's portfolio of operations.

The implementation of this grant commenced in June 2023 and is currently 95% complete and is projected to be completed by August 2024.

The Gil Library Hub is a major communication and Hub point for Councils CBD operations and a carrier grade licensed spectrum 10GB/s wireless/fibre link from the Green Water Tower will link each CBD office into the Council network and enable the provision of Public Wi-Fi (for the Community and Visitors) through the Council network at each location.

PROJECT OUTCOMES/BENEFITS

1. A core network capable of running a modern ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning System) and CRM (Customer Relationship Management System) at each of Councils sites.
2. Improved and effective Business Continuity and Disaster Management and Recovery capability.
3. Enhanced Community services through public Wi-Fi and access at all of Councils locations and public spaces leading to a digitally connected community.
4. Enhance public security and monitoring.
5. Provision of advanced high quality IoT systems:
 - Weather Stations accessible through Councils web site at Tooraweenah, Gilgandra and Curban,
 - Tracking information on key Council and Community assets,
 - People counting at key community events,
 - Water level locations at key locations and
 - Water Usage metering.



Locating services and Boring-Laying Underground Cable.



Installed Pits with Fibre.



- Red – Fibre Network – 10 Giga bits per second
- Blue – Wireless network – 2-5 Giga bits per second
- Green – Licensed Wireless links – 10 Giga bits per second
- Black – External TelAir Internet Links at Depot and Admin – 1 Giga bit per second – expandable to 10 Giga bits per second. Also existing NBN link at CHC.

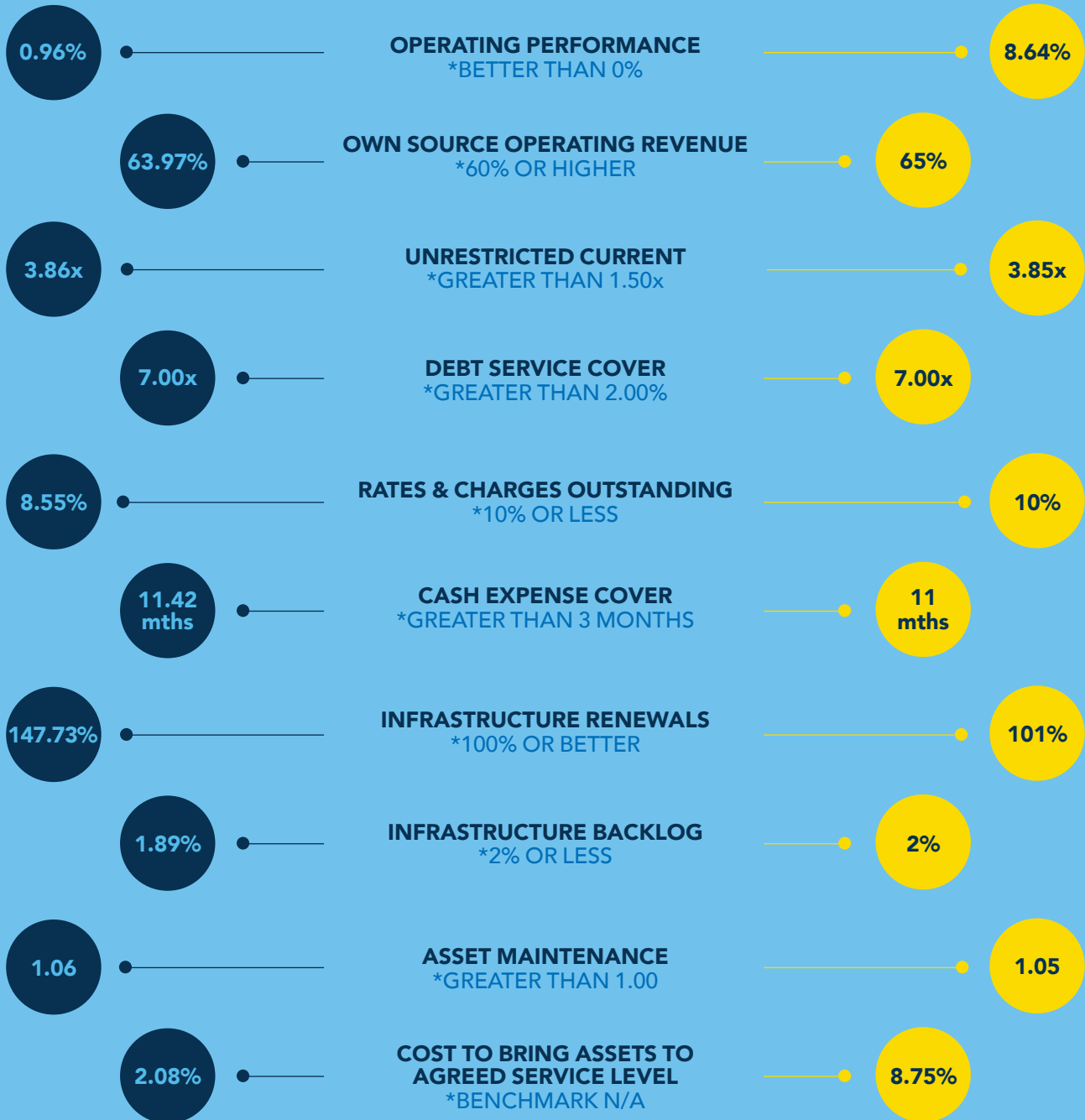
These are not separate networks but integrated through high speed fibre switches.



FINANCIAL *Information*

Year
2020/21

Year
2023/24



*BENCHMARKS

Total Cash and Investments as at 30/06/2024 (increased by \$10.773M from 01/07/2024).



\$40.164M

Accumulated surplus financial results over term.



\$21,232M

COMMITTEES

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES WERE MANAGED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

- Gilgandra Lifestyles Advisory Board
- Disability Services Advisory Board
- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee
- Economic Development Committee
- COUNCIL WAS ALSO ADVISED BY:
- Consultative Committee
- Interagency Committee
- Health & Safety Committee
- Traffic Committee
- Local Emergency Management Committee
- Tooraweenah Community Technology Centre Management Committee
- Curban Community Hall & Tennis Management Committee
- Tooraweenah Memorial Hall Committee
- Shire Hall User Group
- Sports User Groups
- Bushfire Management Committee
- Alliance of Western Councils
- Orana Water Utilities Alliance

COUNCIL WAS REPRESENTED ON THE FOLLOWING EXTERNAL BODIES AND REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE TERM WERE:

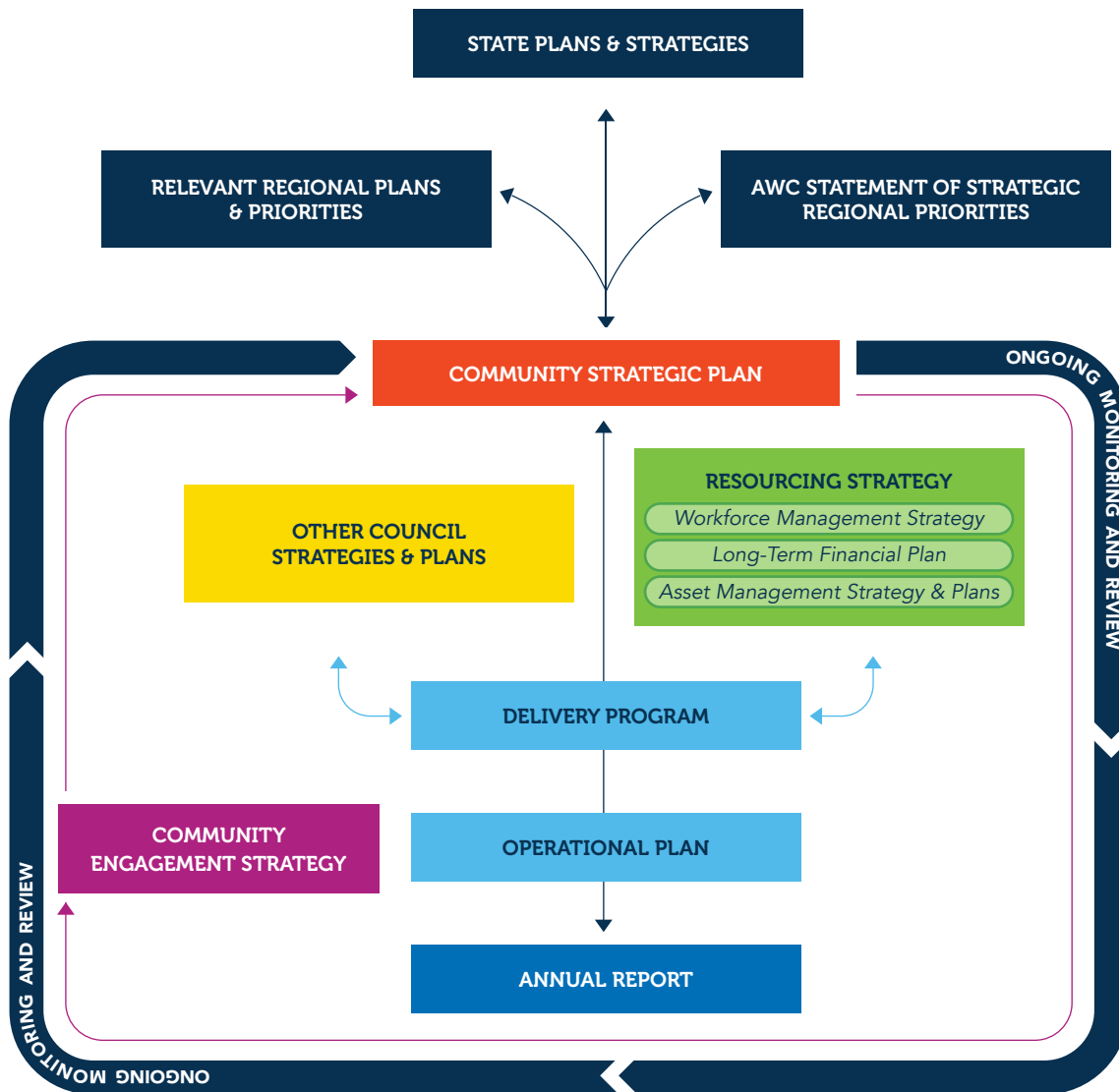
COUNCILLOR/STAFF	COMMITTEE
Cr Batten, Cr Peart	Castlereagh Macquarie County Council
Cr Mann	Audit Risk Improvement
Cr Babbage, Cr Batten, Cr Bunter, Cr Mann, Cr Mudford and Cr Peart	Gilgandra Lifestyles Advisory Board
Cr Batten, Cr Mann, Cr Bunter	Disability Services Advisory Board
Cr Babbage, Cr Bunter, Cr Freeth, Cr Batten	Economic Development
Cr Batten	Local Emergency Management
Cr Batten	Interagency
Cr Batten	Traffic
Cr Babbage	North West Library
Cr Peart, Cr Mockler	Joint Regional Planning Panel
Cr Batten	Alliance of Western Councils
Urban Services Manager	Orana Water Utilities Alliance



ABOUT THIS REPORT

The report showcases the achievements made by Gilgandra Shire Council during its term of office from July 2021 to 30 June 2024 in line with the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, which came into practice in 2009.

This IP&R Framework details the community's aspirations for a period of at least ten years. It includes a suite of integrated plans that set out a vision and goals and strategic actions to achieve them. It involves a reporting structure to communicate progress to Council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review to ensure the goals and actions are still relevant.



With the election of Councillors in 2021, Gilgandra Shire Council adopted a Delivery Program that identified where the Gilgandra community wanted to be at the end of the Councillors' term. This Delivery Program identified the community's priorities and aspirations and how these will be achieved.

The planning process assists in shaping the future by providing the direction for the provision of key projects and services which enable Council to meet the needs of the community and deliver good quality services and facilities.

COUNCIL'S SENIOR LEADERSHIP



DAVID NEEVES
General Manager



NEIL ALCHIN
Director Growth
& Liveability



DARYL COLWELL
Director Infrastructure



DONNA DOBSON
Director Aged Care
& Disabilities



MELISSA WELSH
Executive Leader
Transformational Change

GOALS FOR THE NEXT TERM

Looking forward into the next term of Council, the planned major projects are;

\$5,430,400	Upgrades to information, technology and communications systems (over four years)
\$8,000,000	Hunter Park Sporting & Recreational Precinct (Pending External Funding)
\$5,000,000	Miller Street CBD Re-Development
\$7,205,000	Employment Generating - Industrial Land subdivisions
\$3,000,000	Real Country Tourism Infrastructure – Windmill Walk Extension
\$1,000,000	Warren Road Medical Precinct Upgrades
\$3,923,076	Renewals of Council's Plant, Vehicles and Equipment (over four Years)
\$15,836,680	Construction of a new Sewerage Treatment Plant
\$1,000,000	Special Disability Accommodation Housing Renewals
\$1,100,000	Relocation of Orana Living and Community Care Offices
\$2,000,000	Baronne Creek Culvert Re-Construction
\$4,900,000	Construct 12.5km of new seal section to National Park Road
\$5,000,000	New Residential Accommodation for Aged Care Workers







LIVE
ENJOY
GROW

gilgandra.nsw.gov.au