

LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

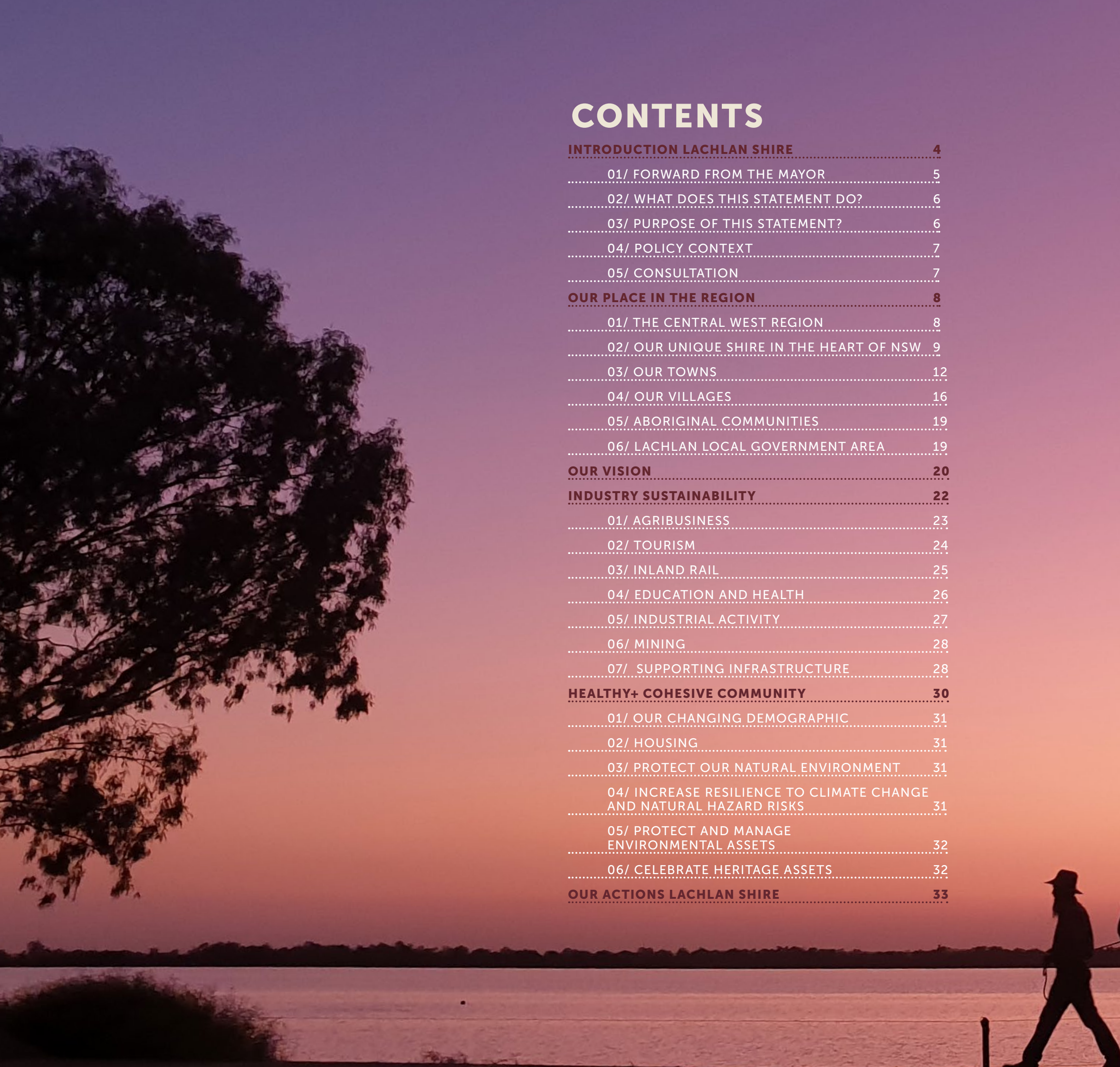


LOCAL STRATEGIC
PLANNING STATEMENT
2020-2040

LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL
ACKNOWLEDGES THE
WIRADJURI PEOPLE AS THE
TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS
ON THIS LAND. WE
RECOGNISE THEIR STRENGTH
AND RESILIENCE AND PAY
RESPECT TO ELDERS PAST,
PRESENT, AND EMERGING
AND TO ALL ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER PEOPLE WHO
ARE PART OF THE LACHLAN
SHIRE COMMUNITY.

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INTRODUCTION

LACHLAN

SHIRE

TO ACHIEVE OUR VISION IN RELATION TO LAND USE PLANNING, WE MUST OVERCOME A NUMBER OF COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES AND CHALLENGES.

01/ FORWARD FROM THE MAYOR

The Lachlan Shire Council Local Strategic Planning Statement sketches a 20 year vision for land use planning at Lachlan, outlining how growth and change will be managed to maintain the high levels of environmental amenity, liveability and landscape quality that characterises the Lachlan Shire.

The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) identifies the special characteristics that contribute to the local identity of the towns and villages within the LGA and recognises the shared community values to be maintained and enhanced. This LSPS identifies Council's long term future for the Lachlan Shire, along with actions and the means for monitoring and reporting on the delivery of these actions.

To achieve our vision in relation to land use planning, we must overcome a number of complex environmental, social, cultural and economic issues and challenges. As a community our challenge is to actively address issues identified during the consultation in the development of this statement and other strategic documents prepared by Council, to ensure that the future of our towns and villages is solid.

Councillor John Medcalf OAM - Mayor



02/ WHAT DOES THIS STATEMENT DO?

This Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets the framework for Lachlan Shire’s economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years. It works with council’s Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP). The Statement gives effect to the Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036, implementing the directions and actions at a local level.

The LSPS planning priorities, directions and actions provide the rationale for decisions about how we will use our land to achieve the community’s broader goals. It identifies the special characteristics that contribute to the local identity of the towns, villages and communities within the Shire and recognises the shared community values to be maintained and enhanced.

03/ PURPOSE OF THIS STATEMENT?

The Lachlan Shire Local Government area is expected to undertake many changes over the next 20 years. To manage this, the Central West and Orana Plan establishes a vision and 20 year plan integrating land use, environment, transport and infrastructure planning.

Councils within NSW are required to prepare a LSPS to act as a link between the strategic priorities identified at a regional or district level, and the specific planning at a local level expressed in Council’s Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan, to ensure consistency in strategic planning approaches. See figure 1 below.

The link or line-of-sight between Council’s actions and the Central West and Orana Plan directions is illustrated in Our Actions - Table 1.

04/ POLICY CONTEXT

This Statement has been prepared in accordance with Section 3.9 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the Act) which requires that it include or identify the following:

- a. the basis for strategic planning in the area, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters,
- b. the planning priorities for the area that are consistent with any strategic plan applying to the area and (subject to any such strategic plan) any applicable community strategic plan under section 402 of the Local Government Act 1993,
- c. the actions required for achieving those planning priorities,
- d. the basis on which the council is to monitor and report on the implementation of those actions.

05/ CONSULTATION

Council prepared this Statement by building upon the results of engagement undertaken in developing the Community Strategic Plan, during 2017-2018, the Lachlan Shire Urban Settlement Strategy and Village Enhancement Plans including community sessions and surveys on what residents were satisfied with about the Lachlan Shire Local Government Area or what they thought needed improvement or maintenance.

The Draft LSPS was presented to Council in April 2020 to confirm the values and planning direction for the Lachlan Shire Local Government Area, as articulated in Council’s current strategic plans. The final LSPS has been shaped from the community feedback received during the exhibition of the LSPS. The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and other relevant State Government agencies were also consulted as part of the preparation of the LSPS through a series of technical working group meetings and other workshops held throughout 2018 and 2019.



figure 1

OUR PLACE IN THE REGION

THE TOWNS AND VILLAGES IN THE LACHLAN SHIRE CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF LIFE IN THE BUSH. ALL OUR TOWNS AND VILLAGES HAVE DISTINCTLY UNIQUE FEATURES AND MANY ATTRACTIONS TO SEE.

01/ THE CENTRAL WEST REGION

The Central West and Orana Regional Plan 2036 sets a 20-year vision for the Central West and Orana Region, which is to be the most diverse regional economy in NSW with a vibrant network of centres leveraging the opportunities of being at the heart of NSW. The Central West and Orana Regional Plan outlines a number of Directions to achieve this vision and Lachlan Shire has a major role to play in successfully achieving this vision.

Lachlan Shire Council has collaborated with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to agree which directions and actions from the Central West and Orana Regional Plan are relevant to each planning priority for Lachlan Shire in this LSPS. Each strategic priority gives effect to one or more Directions in the Central West and Orana Regional Plan.

02/ OUR UNIQUE SHIRE IN THE HEART OF NSW

Lachlan Shire Council is geographically, the Heart of NSW with the Lachlan River running through it. The Shire covers an area of 14,970 square kilometres and has a population of 6,200 with the main towns and villages being: Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo, Tottenham, Tullibigeal, Burcher, Derriwong, Albert and Fifield. Aboriginal Community Murrin Bridge is a recent addition to the LGA.

The Shire is the home to many traditional farming cultures and is one to the largest grain and wool producing areas within the Central West Orana Plan area and NSW. It is a rich agricultural area and in addition to grain and wool is a significant producer of beef, lamb and cotton being located

within an irrigation area. The agricultural sector accounts for nearly a third of economic activity within the Shire.

A successful light-manufacturing sector is now well established in both Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo. Council has also established industrial estates in order to promote further growth, away from expanding rural residential housing.

The area is rich in Aboriginal history, with sites of significance featured around the Lachlan River, alongside creeks and lake areas as well as Manna Mountain.

European Heritage is preserved in the towns and villages in buildings such as banks, court houses and hotels. In the rural area, farming stations with homesteads have been well maintained.

Tourism plays an important part in generating revenue for local businesses in the region.

A major tourist precinct is being created at Condobolin adjacent to the 'Utes in the Paddock' and 'Jockeys Memorial' exhibitions.

The shire includes well serviced caravan parks in Condobolin, Lake Cargelligo and Tottenham as well as other camping grounds in other villages that take advantage of natural landscapes.

Our main streets are well defined and contain buildings of significance, typical of those found in rural centres.



CENTRAL WEST AND ORANA

- REGIONAL CITY
- STRATEGIC CENTRE
- TOWN CENTRE
- INTER-REGIONAL CONNECTION
- PROPOSED NEWELL HIGHWAY CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS
- PROPOSED GOLDEN HIGHWAY CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS

LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL IS GEOGRAPHICALLY, THE HEART OF NSW, WITH THE LACHLAN RIVER RUNNING THROUGH IT.

TOP THREE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN THE LACHLAN SHIRE



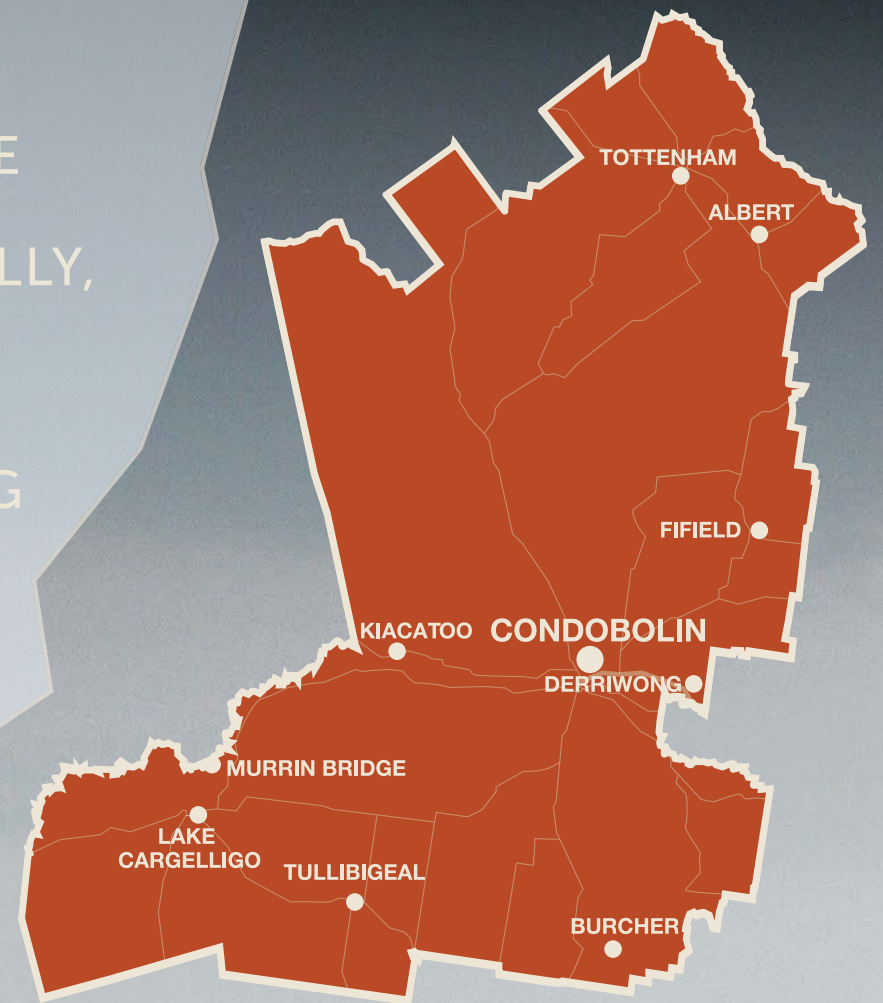
AGRIBUSINESS



TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS



TOURISM





03/ OUR TOWNS

CONDOBOLIN



CONDOBOLIN IS THE LARGEST CENTRE IN THE HEART OF NSW AND IS HOME TO AROUND

3,500 PEOPLE. CONDOBOLIN LIES ON THE BANKS OF THE LACHLAN RIVER, IDEALLY LOCATED AN HOUR FROM PARKES, FORBES, WEST WYALONG AND LAKE CARGELLIGO.

The town was gazetted in 1859 but for over 20 years it was essentially a stopover and river-crossing for drovers moving stock from the north and west of New South Wales to Victoria, hence

there were a few permanent residents in what remained a pastoral area characterised by large holdings. Since the early settlers the Condobolin district has become a prime cropping and sheep and beef producing area.

A major copper discovery was made north at Melrose in 1885 and the town benefited from the subsequent traffic. A municipality was declared in 1890. Gold was found north-west at Overflow station, immortalised in Banjo Paterson's poem 'Clancy of the Overflow' in 1896 and a major copper and gold mine was in operation at Condobolin from 1898 until around 1910.

The railway arrived in 1898 and Condobolin was the railhead for the Central West until the line to Broken Hill was completed in 1927. Agricultural production was further expanded when the Wyangala Dam was established on the Lachlan in 1935.

Condobolin continues to be a busy country town, with both large and small industrial services and business, excellent medical services, hospital and retirement village, banking services along with a variety of sporting and recreation facilities and the life blood of the town, the Lachlan River with all its natural beauty, fishing and wildlife.

Desired Future Character

- Condobolin is to remain a focal point for the surrounding community. Main street upgrades will enhance visual aesthetics and give further definition.
- Further identification and an increase of Aboriginal and European listed heritage sites will assist in greater preservation of culture.
- Tourism potential is to be realised through the framework laid out in the Destination Management Plan and with the completion

of the tourism precinct on The Gipps Way and identification of further projects and initiatives in areas such as Gum Bend Lake and the riverside, with art, cultural and walking trails and the unique characters of our towns and villages.

- Urban fringe completion through the implementation of actions from the Urban Settlement Strategy. Industrial growth through identification of suitable land. Agricultural growth including increased irrigation through greater technologies and resources. Flood and bushfire protection policy is to assist in the hazard reduction. Transport and logistical connections with a focus on the Parkes inland rail hub.
- Community and sporting facilities are to be further improved and maintained to a high level.



LAKE CARGELLIGO



LAKE CARGELLIGO IS AN UNEXPECTED OASIS IN CENTRAL NSW AND IS HOME TO AROUND 1,500 PEOPLE. LAKE

CARGELLIGO IS IDEALLY SITUATED NOT FAR FROM THE NEWELL HIGHWAY, MID-WESTERN HIGHWAY AND THE KIDMAN WAY.

The area is rich in Aboriginal history as the Wiradjuri people gathered on the banks of Lake Cargelligo for many thousands of years. An Aboriginal quarry containing rich yellow and red ochres can still be found at an area on the lake's edge known as Frog Hollow. Deadmans Point at Lake Cargelligo is the location of several Aboriginal freshwater shell middens. Shell middens were formed by accumulations of shell by Aboriginal people collecting, cooking and eating fresh water mussels over a long period of time.

There is also a strong European history in Lake Cargelligo particularly the history of Wooyeo Station as well as the discovery of gold which established Foster's Reef Gold Mining Company.

Lake Cargelligo continues to be a busy country town, with small industrial services and businesses, serviceable medical facilities, along with a variety of sporting and recreation facilities and the life blood of the town, the "Lake" with all its natural beauty, fishing and wildlife.

Desired Future Character

- Lake Cargelligo is to remain a prominent town. Town streetscape beatification improvements are to be identified and centred on focal points.
- Further identification of Aboriginal and European heritage through detailed studies will also enhance tourism collateral.
- Tourism is also to be increased and centred on natural lake system, birding, fishing, history and culture of the region.
- Industrial growth within the footprint of existing areas. Suitable lands for long term expansion are to be identified.
- Agriculture improvement including links to market and sustainable irrigation. Transport and logistic connection to inland centres such as Griffith and Parkes.
- Community and sporting facilities maintained to high level.
- Housing is to remain within existing RU5 Village Zoned land.



TOTTENHAM



THE TOWNSHIP OF TOTTENHAM ORIGINATED THROUGH THE DISCOVERY OF COPPER IN 1903

AND IS SITUATED IN THE CENTRE OF NEW SOUTH WALES. IN FACT, THE EXACT GEOGRAPHICAL CENTRE OF NSW IS MARKED BY A CAIRN CONSTRUCTED FROM LOCAL MINE SLAG FROM OLD MOUNT ROYAL AND THE BOGAN RIVER COPPER MINES AND IS LOCATED JUST 34KM WEST OF TOWN.

The town services a large and diverse agricultural industry with a population of approximately 350 and a district of approximately 1000. Situated on the sealed Bogan Way which links the Newell Highway at Forbes or Parkes to the Mitchell Highway at Nyngan, this provides an alternate journey for travellers wanting to get off the highways for a relaxed scenic experience.

The town is well serviced with local facilities including; a medical centre, supermarket, hotel, rural supplies and town hall. It has a strong community core with sporting and horse racing clubs being focal social points.

Desired Future Character

- Main street aesthetics to be improved and are to compliment historic buildings.
- Further identification of Aboriginal and European heritage through detailed studies.
- Mining potential to be explored in appropriate areas and to support the local community.
- Agriculture is to remain key with transport and logistic connection to centres such as Parkes, Dubbo and Nyngan strengthened.
- Tourism is also to be increased and centred on the heart of NSW location and outback beauty.
- Community and sporting facilities to be maintained to a high level.
- Housing is to remain within existing RU5 Village and R5 Large Lot Residential zoned land.

04/ OUR VILLAGES

ALBERT



Much of the country around Albert has provided inspiration for Australia's poets, authors and artists with the Albert Rabbit Trap Hotel being the inspiration for Eric Jolliffe of Saltbush Bill fame. Since first featuring on Sunrise weather in winter 2011, Australian travellers country wide have been visiting the Big Rabbit Trap which was built to encourage tourists to explore the hidden gems off the main highways. The village also features a parks, vehicle services, amenities and plenty of camping spots in the western themed caravan park.

Desired Future Character

- Albert is to remain a rural village that supports the local community and attracts tourists from far and wide.
- Agriculture and mining opportunities will remain.
- Telecommunication services are to be improved and tourism is to be driven around the iconic Rabbit Trap Hotel
- Housing to remain within existing village zoned land.

BURCHER



Burcher is located about 45 minutes from Condobolin and West Wyalong. The village is well serviced with local facilities including, post office, hotel and town hall.

It has a strong community core with sporting clubs being focal social points.

Manna Mountain is located just to the north of Burcher. The grooves left in the rocks from generations of Aboriginal people sharpening their axes indicate Manna Mountain has been a popular location with special significance for thousands of years.

Nearby is Lake Cowal (within neighbouring Bland Shire) which is home to one of Australia's largest open cut gold mines. The mine provides a boost to Burcher and its community with many residents of the locality employed by the mine.

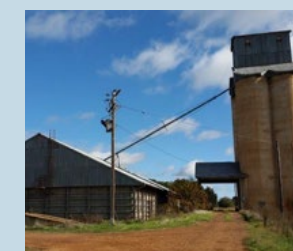
There is a Bush Chapel on the western outskirts of the village. It, Manna Mountain, the bush Chapel and the quintessential country village lend themselves to tourism.

Desired Future Character

- Burcher is to remain a village and community focal point. Main street improvements are to be made, with a focus on entry points.
- Telecommunication services are to be improved through advocacy work by Council.
- Community services and recreation facilities are to be well supported.
- Housing to remain within existing village zoned land.



DERRIWONG



Derriwong is a small village located about 15 minutes north east of Condobolin, towards Parkes and forms a gateway to the Lachlan Shire. It is located on

the main rail line to Parkes and is predominately a farming district.

Desired Future Character

- Derriwong is to remain a village. Visual appeal as a gateway to the Lachlan Shire is to be considered including well defining entry signage and silo mural for tourists (if permitted).
- Housing to remain within existing village zoned land.

FIFIELD



The small village of Fifiel is a mining town. Fifiel was renowned for its deep lead alluvial platinum mining. Visitors are able to drive around

Fifiel to view the white platinum mounds.

The village is well serviced with local facilities including hotel, park and town hall.

Today, Fifiel’s main industry is agriculture with many sheep, cattle and cropping properties surrounding the area.

Desired Future Character

- Fifiel is to remain a village and community focal point. Main street improvements are to be made, including community infrastructure attractiveness, with a focus on entry points.
- Mining in Fifiel should further progress in coming years with the discovery of gold, nickel and platinum and more recently cobalt and scandium which are now able to be mined due to technological advances in the mining sector. Much of this will be focus around the commencement of the state significant Clean TeQ mine.
- Telecommunications and essential services are to be improved through advocacy work by Council.
- Housing to remain within existing village zoned land.

TULLIBIGEAL



Tullibigeal is a rural village situated between Lake Cargelligo and Condobolin. Nestled in hills and fertile farmlands, the small town began as a Cobb and Co stagecoach

change station. It has a typical village subdivision layout, intersected by an active railway line used predominately for freight.

Tullibigeal has a strong primary production output including a well-established cattle industry with a prominent feedlot as well as sheep and prime cropping production.

The village is well serviced with local facilities including, co-op, hotel and town hall. It has a strong community core with sporting and horse racing clubs being focal social points.

Desired Future Character

- Tullibigeal is to remain a village and community focal point. Main street improvements are to be made, with a focus on entry points.
- Agriculture is expected to remain the main industry and Council will advocate for improvements to transport and logistic connections to centres such as Griffith and Parkes.
- Increase in Bush tourism to social events such as picnic races and gymkhanas.
- Essential and community services as well as recreation facilities are to be well supported.
- Housing to remain within existing village zoned land.

05/ ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

MURRIN BRIDGE



Murrin Bridge is an Aboriginal community located only 12 kilometers to the north east of Lake Cargelligo, on the northern side of the Lachlan River. Murrin

Bridge has approximately 80 residents who mostly access services from Lake Cargelligo.

Desired Future Character

Aboriginal Heritage identification and protection. Tourism opportunities for the local community are to be identified and well supported.

06/ LACHLAN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA



16% of people are aboriginal with 36% under 15 years



90% of the Lachlan population live in our largest three towns



1 in 5 people are over 65 years old



59% of businesses in the region are agricultural



2.4 people per household. 73% of people live in single dwellings



20% of people are under 15 years old.



30% of people over 15 years old volunteer



Median age of people is 40



31% of households are renting

OUR VISION

WE ARE PROUD TO DELIVER THE AUTHENTIC BUSH EXPERIENCE HERE IN THE HEART OF NSW.



01/ VISION

LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE IS TO BE A PROGRESSIVE, VIBRANT AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITY WHERE FAMILIES COME TO STAY AND ENJOY A RELAXED, HEALTHY WAY OF LIFE AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT. OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF LAKES, MEANDERING WATERWAYS AND RED SOIL PLAINS IS RICH IN CULTURAL HERITAGE, ABUNDANT WILDLIFE AND UNPARALLELED BEAUTY.

The Heart of NSW encompasses the local government area of the Lachlan Shire and is well known for its natural beauty, friendly and welcoming locals and relaxed bush lifestyle.

The towns and villages in the Lachlan Shire capture the essence of life in the bush. All our towns and villages have distinctly unique features and many attractions to see.

We are proud to deliver the authentic bush experience here in the Heart of NSW and are committed to the development of key infrastructure that will encourage people to stay/move to our LGA.

The Shire's town centres add a vibrancy and add to the appeal of the region, support the industrial hubs and the agricultural sector and provide a range of business opportunities. The economy is characterised through its strong agricultural backbone, a growing tourism

sector and diverse manufacturing base whilst supported by a robust transport sector.

The Lachlan Shire Local Government Area's local economy offers a diverse, sustainable and vibrant local economy. Local enterprises are supported by a collaborative and inclusive environment having access to education and training opportunities, sound infrastructure and a range of community services for employees. Entrepreneurial spirit and innovation are fostered, and technology are harnessed for existing and emerging industries. We will facilitate skills development to build community capacity and increase industry diversification, by supporting the delivery of tertiary programs that will support local economic sectors

The Shires youth are an integral part of the future of the Region and are educated, motivated and skilled through the provision and access to a range of quality training and development programs.

We strive to build community capacity to take ownership of local projects, by focusing on engagement and unity we aim to foster a sustainable community. We will continue to support community events that foster unity, seek to upskill locals, and promote the take-up of new opportunities.

We are an aging community and we hope through the provision of key services we will be able to ensure our elderly can age in place.

INDUSTRY SUSTAINABILITY

THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTES ALMOST \$83 MILLION TO THE REGIONAL ECONOMY WITH CEREAL CROP (WHEAT, BARLEY AND CANOLA) AND SMALL LIVESTOCK BEING THE MAJOR SECTORS.

THE SHIRE'S ECONOMIC BASE INCLUDES SECTORS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING AND HEALTH SERVICES PROVISION. LACHLAN SHIRE IS A STRONG AGRICULTURAL REGION IN NSW.

IN TYPICAL HARVEST THE SHIRE PRODUCES AROUND 17% OF THE STATE'S ANNUAL WHEAT CROP AND OAT CROP GENERATED AROUND 16% OF THE TOTAL AGRICULTURAL INCOME FOR NSW. A SUCCESSFUL AND GROWING MANUFACTURING SECTOR HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN CONDOBOLIN AND LAKE CARGELLIGO. THIS INCLUDES AN EMERGING LIGHT INDUSTRY AND MANUFACTURING SECTOR IN THE REGION PRODUCING PRODUCTS FOR A GLOBAL MARKET.

TOURISM IS A GROWING INDUSTRY WITH THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE LACHLAN RIVER, GUM BEND LAKE AND PICTURESQUE LAKE CARGELLIGO APPEALING TO VISITORS AND RESIDENTS ALIKE.

NEW OUTDOOR ART EXHIBITS SUCH AS UTES IN THE Paddock AND THE FUTURE ART TRAIL ALONG THE LACHLAN VALLEY WAY ARE LINKING IN WITH THE SURROUNDING REGIONS.

01/ AGRIBUSINESS



Agriculture is the largest contributor to both Gross Regional Product (GRP) at 29.9% and employment (32.1%) in the Lachlan Shire. The Agriculture industry contributes almost \$83 million to the regional economy with cereal crop (wheat, barley and canola) and small livestock being the major sectors.

The contribution of the agricultural sector is felt outside of the Shire boundaries with Lachlan producing approximately 17% of the NSW wheat crop, 36% of NSW oats and 14% of NSW total broad acre crops such as oilseeds and safflower.

The agricultural sector has experienced significant challenges over the last decade due to a severe and extended period of drought and at times flooding. However, the resilience of the sector is unquestioned. The sector accounts for more than 60% of all businesses in the Shire supporting significant flow-ons to the transport, retail and manufacturing sectors and is vital to the long-term future of the region.

Ensuring the protection of our primary production zoned land from encroachment and incompatible land uses will be essential to the sustainability of the industry. In addition, the manufacturing or transport and warehousing industries could add value to the rich array of agricultural produce in the region. The application of biotechnology, the engineering of food from raw products to the consumers and the restructuring of the distribution system to and from the producer all provide opportunities for adding value. Carbon Farming is also an emerging industry which Council will support.

02/ TOURISM



Tourism is an ever growing industry in Lachlan Shire. Visitor numbers have increased year on end with a greater amount of visitors. Three-quarters of the visitors to the Lachlan originate from within NSW and just over half travel to visit friends and

relatives. The sector contributes more than \$31 million annually to the local economy.

Tourism in the Lachlan Shire is centred on the natural landscape and the bush environment. The large expanse of water at Lake Cargelligo as well as Gum Bend Lake and the Lachlan River provide the pristine setting for bushwalking, birdwatching, fishing and water based recreational activities.

The Utes in the Paddock Art Exhibition has been established attracting tourists from far and wide and has now been joined by the Jockeys Memorial. TThe bush experience is unmistakable with visitors able to participate in gymkhanas, sports days, rodeos, show competitions and picnic race meetings whilst staying in numerous picturesque locations throughout the Shire and being able to lay back at night and view the night sky uninhibited by the light pollution of the cities. The outdoor activity is supported by the RV friendly main urban centres that encourage travellers with a motor home, camper van or caravan to stop and stay in the community. Camping areas are abundant throughout the region and are well resourced.

Tourism is viewed and supported as an important potential growth area for the region and opportunities exist for the local community to take advantage of this in the coming years. Through the Destination Management Plan a structured implementation of experiences have been identified and branding and marketing of the

region and potential identified to capitalise on the region’s natural assets and scenic beauty.

With the main towns of Lake Cargelligo, Condobolin and Tottenham all being geographically dispersed (100km) there is opportunity to build on the RV market and potential associated experience development.

There is opportunities for landmark infrastructure such as grain silos and water towers to be painted by artists to depict cultural, historical or significant events. Establishment of such a trail would create a shire wide art track. This creativity would also link with other existing trails in surrounding areas and NSW wide. This may include further sculpture trails, such as the one under consideration between Forbes to Condobolin.

Paddock to plate and niche producer opportunities exist throughout the shire, with adequate support and assistance required for those to realise and reach full potential.

Adaptive re-use of redundant buildings of value to the area should be explored and will be encouraged to promote local identity.

Ensuring our Lachlan Local Environmental Plan adequately permits farm stay accommodation, temporary events, u-camping and functions centres will support the demand for current and expected future farm stay and other types of accommodation.

03/ INLAND RAIL



The Lachlan region is ideally located to benefit from economic and supply chain opportunities arising upon completion of the Inland Rail project. Linkages between our significant agriculture sector and the Inland Rail will increase the competitiveness and productivity of the local industry in the Lachlan region.

Opportunities exist to use existing infrastructure to connect the Parkes Rail Hub through establishing a formal spur line and freight hub at Condobolin. This will bring more markets and opportunities to the doorstep of the Lachlan Shire and outlying region thus creating significant opportunism and growth potential for the community.

04/ EDUCATION AND HEALTH



The Education and Health sectors have a dual role in economic development within the Lachlan community. Firstly, these sectors provide employment within the region, generating income which flows on to other sectors. Secondly, an educated and healthy workforce is essential to drive growth and productivity in the local economy.

The Education and Training sector in Lachlan employs 7.5% of our people, with the largest proportion being employed in school education. Access to post-school education is available via Western TAFE, however, often school leavers are required to leave the region to seek further education and training. Existing educational

infrastructure should be utilised to grow the skills base in the region with a particular focus on outcomes of Aboriginal/youth in the region.

A stronger focus on increasing access to and participation in secondary, vocational education and higher levels of education will assist in retaining local young people and attracting new people into the area.

Health Care and Social Assistance is the second largest employer in Lachlan, after Agriculture, employing more than 300 people across the Shire. Additionally, health care is a quality of life factor impacting the retention and attraction of employment in other industries. The need to travel long distances to access health services is an issue across the region.

The Community Strategic Plan for Lachlan identified “Health, wellbeing and culture” as one of the key themes to achieve the vision of the community. Access to health care services is vital in retaining and attracting a workforce to support industry growth. With an ageing population, investment in health care will create new business and employment opportunities in the region.

05/ INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY



Manufacturing in the Lachlan is a relatively small sector currently contributing over 150 full time equivalent jobs. However, the sector has grown significantly, increasing by approximately 25% between the 2006 and 2011 Census period, with continued growth over the last 5 years.

The manufacturing industry contributes more than \$19 million to the local economy with fabricated metal products. Manufacturing in the Lachlan has significant links to the broader Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing Industry with Paper Manufacturing and Food and Beverage Manufacturing providing important industry value-add at a local level.

As one of the comparative advantages, manufacturing is a high growth sector that can drive economic outcomes such as employment. This advantage can be further developed through the combination of enhancing factors such as knowledge, resources, skills and the ability to innovate within the industry.

A very successful light-industry manufacturing sector has emerged in Condobolin and Lake Cargelligo and Council has established industrial estates to promote further growth. The establishment of mining and mining related industry and renewable energy are seen as emerging industries for the Shire.

There are opportunities to harness existing knowledge and improve efficiencies through collaboration of the region’s business base. Knowledge sharing, procurement strategies, enhancing supply chains between industry can result in cost effectiveness and the expansion into new market opportunities. Our industrial zoned land is in demand, with additional area to be created to support sustained growth. Ensuring there is industrial land available for future industry development will ensure industry growth in the future.

06/ MINING



The Mining industry in the area is expanding with ongoing exploration and on the ground opportunities. Infrastructure in the direct area of mining operations should reflect the everyday impacts that the industry has on them. Mineral resource extraction can benefit and affect our community in different ways during the mining lifecycle. The sustainable management of mineral resources must consider and balance varying impacts to produce long-term economic, social and environmental outcomes.

While mining activities have specific operational needs that can compete with other land uses, they are also temporary and depend on the productive life of the facility or resource. Once extraction sites have been identified, there may be opportunities to identify interim activities that will enable productive use of the land without sterilising the potential of the underlying resource.

Local land use strategies must respond to the lifecycle of mining to give all stakeholders, including investors, certainty around the long-term productive value of land.

Employment and growth as a result of investment in the area will be critical to maintaining all localities.

07/ SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE



Hard infrastructure is critical to the ongoing sustainability of the region in retaining and growing existing industries and in the attraction of new investment and residents. Focus areas include access to a reliable and adequate electricity supply, water infrastructure, effective telecommunications and road, rail and air transportation networks. Ensuring adequate resources to fund existing and future upgrades in the provision of hard infrastructure is critical




to the ongoing sustainability of the region. There are opportunities for solar developments on land that is suitably located.

Soft infrastructure is the delivery of specialised services to the community in Lachlan. This includes governance infrastructure by way of legislation and regulation from local, state and federal governments. Social infrastructure includes the provision of health, education and social welfare systems. The provision of economic infrastructure such as communication, transportation, and distribution networks, financial institutions and

markets, and energy supply systems facilitate business activity in the region. The provision of programs and services in the region is essential to enhancing the skills and knowledge base of the workforce, improving business activity and providing a lifestyle for current and future residents.

Effective transport networks are essential to the Lachlan region due its location centrally located in NSW. The Shire is located 460kms by road to Sydney, 670 kms to Melbourne, 1070 kms to Brisbane and 980 kms by road to Adelaide.



HEALTHY+ COHESIVE COMMUNITY

LACHLAN SHIRE
IS WIRADJURI
COUNTRY AND
IS VALUED FOR
ITS UNIQUE
SETTING
NEXT TO THE
LACHLAN RIVER.

01/ OUR CHANGING DEMOGRAPHIC

We recognise that our population has fluctuations due to changes in demographics, but generally the population is in overall decline (last 20 years). This can be attributed to the change in agricultural practices, opportunities in larger towns and ancillary industries significantly reducing staff numbers due to efficiencies in technology.

A large proportion of our aging population, who have the means to move away, do so to access higher order services.

02/ HOUSING

Housing is predominantly in the form of detached dwelling houses. New growth and development will be predominately be located in the existing urban footprint to assist in consolidating communities. This will help strengthen the identity of the community, enhance heritage, maintaining the viability of infrastructure and services, avoiding natural hazards and reducing pressure on water and land resources.

We recognise that there is a shortage of temporary accommodation for contractors and visitors. We will work with local industry to determine the best options to manage shortages.

It is expected that the onus will be on Council to support new subdivisions on appropriate lands and implement actions from outlined in the Urban Settlement Strategy and encourage developments such as motels, serviced apartments and mixed use.

03/ PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Lachlan Shire is Wiradjuri Country and is valued for its unique setting next to the Lachlan River, its vast natural lake system, its wide-open spaces and strong connections with bush culture and traditional Aboriginal knowledge. Council will complete a Lachlan Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study to identify and better protect sites of significance. Council will also need to update the European Heritage Study.

04/ INCREASE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATURAL HAZARD RISKS

Our communities are exposed to the severity of our climate. Improving water security, managing our risk to flooding and better equipping our communities to manage extended drought periods will continue to be a focus area for Council.

New development or the intensification of uses in areas potentially affected by flooding or bushfire will be avoided, other than where development can be designed or sited to minimise risk to people, property and the environment. We recognise our community is susceptible to extreme temperatures and will ensure our current and future developments are adapted to maintain our resilience to temperature variability.

Any future development will consider the potential for extreme weather events and wherever possible is located and designed to suit the local climate, particularly by reducing reliance on non-renewable energy and water consumption, especially during times of drought.

05/ PROTECT AND MANAGE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

Any future development will avoid and be buffered from areas of environmental significance and protect the integrity and viability of habitat and biodiversity values, and biophysical and ecological processes.

Council will closely manage development along the river corridor. The Lachlan River and Lake Cargelligo are fundamental to our community and will continue to be protected and enhanced as a key assets and focal points. Protecting our unique vegetation and reducing the presence of overstocked land is a concern for Council.

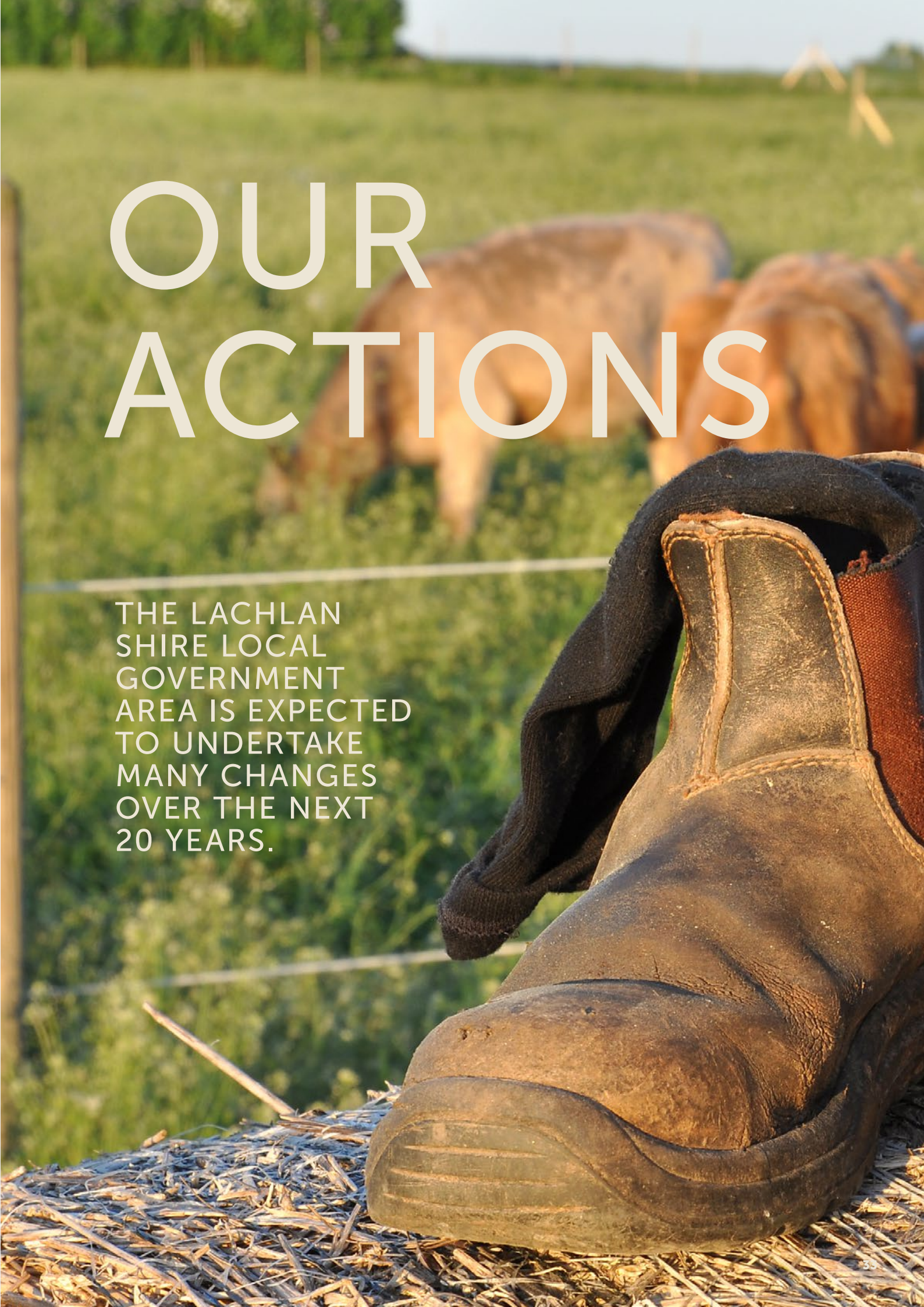


06/ CELEBRATE HERITAGE ASSETS

Lachlan Shire Council has 1 item of State significance and 31 items of local significance listed in the Lachlan Local Environmental Plan 2013. Properties that possess a unique historical, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic value are recognised through heritage listing as being worthy of conservation and retention. A comprehensive study on the Aboriginal and other heritage values in our Shire is underway and will be highly beneficial for Council and the community. Council and the community are limited to the number of items included in Schedule 5 of the Lachlan Environmental Plan 2013, without adopting the recommendations of the heritage study it is difficult to ascertain the heritage value of sites. Council will work towards completing the comprehensive heritage review of the Shire, including the Lachlan Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study in the short term.

OUR ACTIONS

THE LACHLAN SHIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA IS EXPECTED TO UNDERTAKE MANY CHANGES OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS.



01/ OUR ACTIONS

<div><div><div>S</div><div>SHORT TERM</div></div><div><div>M</div><div>MEDIUM TERM</div></div><div><div>L</div><div>LONG TERM</div></div></div>				
FOCUS (PLANNING PRIORITY)	ALIGNMENT WITH POLICY	STRATEGIC OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY (TERM)
Tourism	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 4	Promote and diversify regional tourism markets	Establish grow and promote the tourism economy in line with the framework set out in the Destination Management Plan	<div>S</div>
			Complete development of the tourism precinct near Utes in the Paddock art exhibition and establish a Lachlan art trial through villages and towns on prominent infrastructure.	<div>M</div>
			Ensure experiences are available throughout the year to accommodate seasonal fluctuations	<div>M</div>
			Work collaboratively with neighbouring regional councils, Central West Joining Organisation and stakeholders to promote Lachlan Shire as a tourist destination.	<div>S</div>
Infrastructure	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 9	Increase renewable energy generation	Promote & facilitate small-scale renewable energy projects using solar, wind, geothermal or other innovative storage technologies through local environmental plans.	<div>M</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 18	Improve freight connections to markets and global gateway	Explore opportunities for connection with inland rail at Parkes through a branch line and local logistics hub at Condobolin for local producers and industries.	<div>M</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 19	Enhance road and rail freight links	Continue to develop the Lachlan Valley Way, The Gipps Way and local road links to support regional transport from Griffith and Hillston to Tottenham and Narromine to link with the Newell Highway at Gilgandra.	<div>M</div>
			Develop a regional road transport support node at Condobolin.	<div>L</div>
Agriculture	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 1	Protect the regions diverse and productive agricultural land	Protect important agricultural land use resources whenever possible, by discouraging land use unrelated to agriculture from locating on agricultural land and minimise any unnecessary fragmentation of rural land.	<div>M</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 2	Grow the agribusiness sector and supply chains	Promote and facilitate the development of intensive agricultural opportunities.	<div>M</div>
Housing	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 25	Increase housing diversity and choice	Ensure future residential development is located on land that is currently zoned and serviced or identified for rezoning within the Lachlan Shire Urban Settlement Strategy.	<div>M</div>
			Ensure housing in villages is within existing zoned land and that the villages are appealing through enhancing/maintaining areas in accordance with Village Enhancement Plans.	<div>M</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 28	Manage Rural Residential Development	Ensure appropriate interface between residential, rural and the renewable energy industry sector.	<div>M</div>

FOCUS (PLANNING PRIORITY)	ALIGNMENT WITH POLICY	STRATEGIC OUTCOME	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY (TERM)
Protect our Natural Environment	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 13	Protect and manage environmental assets	Maintain the consistency of the water supply to the community and investigate and improve the network infrastructure where possible.	<div>M</div>
			Protect high environmental value assets through local environmental plans.	<div>S</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 14	Manage and conserve water resources for the environment	Promote and preserve our natural environment in sensitive areas.	<div>M</div>
			Undertake studies and implement recommendations to ensure water and the environment are sustainable.	<div>M</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 15	Increase resilience to natural hazards and climate change	Incorporate the best available hazard information into the Lachlan LEP and DCP consistent with current flood studies, flood planning levels, modelling and floodplain risk management plans.	<div>S</div>
			Review Councils Bushfire hazard mapping with NSW Rural Fire Service and update policy to ensure land use is well informed and development is appropriately protected.	<div>S</div>
Heritage	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 16	Respect and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage assets	Protect, manage and respect Aboriginal objects and places in accordance with legislative requirements.	<div>M</div>
			Complete heritage studies in consultation with the Aboriginal community to ensure preservation of sacred sites and connection to country.	<div>S</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 17	Conserve and adaptively re-use European heritage assets	Prepare, review and update heritage studies in consultation with the community to recognise and conserve heritage assets and items and include appropriate local planning controls.	<div>M</div>
			Investigate opportunities to redevelop and enhance streetscapes and entrances to towns and villages.	<div>L</div>
Mining and Mineral Resources	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 4	Sustainably manage mining resources	Ensure that mining is sustainable and provides for additional employment opportunities in Lachlan Shire.	<div>M</div>
			Assist in developing Lachlan Shire’s mining potential and protect resources while planning for long-term social and utility growth.	<div>L</div>
Development Planning and Promotion	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 10	Promote business and industrial activities on employment lands	Investigate opportunities for land use growth to ensure business and industrial uses have solid foundations.	<div>M</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 12	Plan for greater land use compatibility	Implement the recommendations of the Lachlan Shire Urban Settlement Strategy in policy including LEP and DCP.	<div>S</div>
			Investigate opportunities for land use growth	<div>L</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 23	Build the resilience of towns and villages	Prepare, review and update relevant policy in consultation with the community to recognise and conserve heritage assets and items and include appropriate local planning controls.	<div>M</div>
	Central West and Orana Regional Plan – Direction 29	Deliver healthy built environments and better urban design	Support the provision and continued development of major regional sports, recreation and cultura facilities.	<div>S</div>

Reference and acknowledgments

ABS., 2016, 2016 Census QuickStats, viewed June 2020, at https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA14600?opendocument

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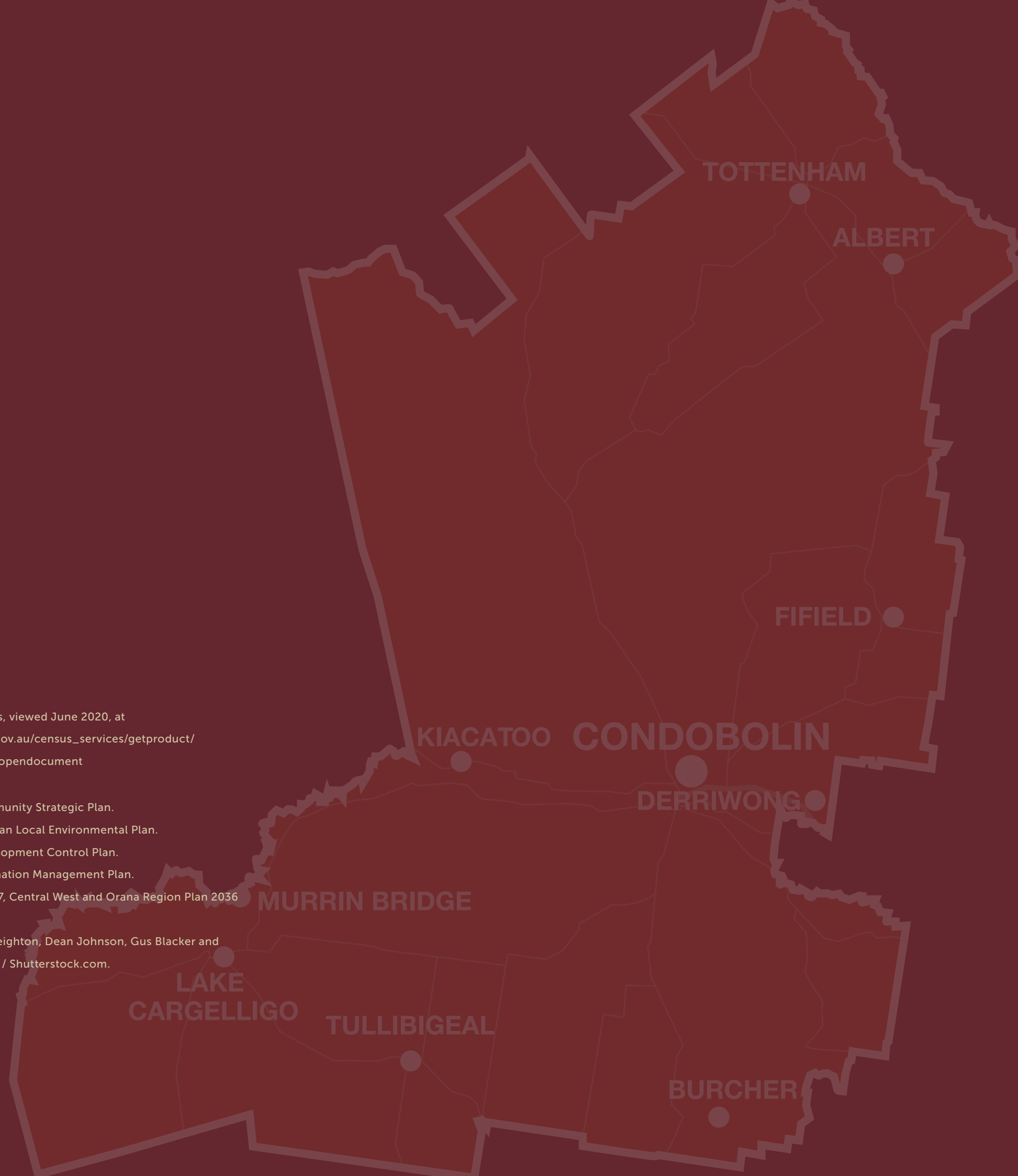
Lachlan Shire Council., 2013, Lachlan Local Environmental Plan.

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Images: Stephen Graham, Nicole Leighton, Dean Johnson, Gus Blacker and Leanne Budworth, ChameleonsEye / Shutterstock.com.





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