

State of the Shire Report 2022-2024



Comfortable Country Living

Social

Goal - An inclusive community that works together and is able to access services and opportunities to support our comfortable country living.

1.1 Social and Cultural

Outcome: Our community enjoys and actively participates in our rich culture, social environment and communal vibe.

Council has continued to host, support and create opportunities for community festivals, events and cultural activities through planning, marketing, direct involvement and various forms of assistance.

Australia Day: Every year Council has planned and implemented an Australia Day celebration. This has involved organising and conducting the celebration which includes community awards for citizenship, sporting achievement and successful local events, hosting an Australia Day ambassador, providing a venue and refreshments for the community and other associated community activities such as cooking and colouring in competitions and providing free entry and activities at the Nyngan Swimming Pool.

Recent Australia Day Ceremonies have been held in Davidson Park in response to community feedback for an outdoor event. The day would not be complete without a G'DAY sign photo opportunity with the Big Bogan himself with his furry best mate rusty. Rusty joined the Big Bogan family in 2022, with the community providing name options for the new addition.



Big Bogan Festival: In 2022, Council hosted the inaugural Big Bogan Festival, funded by a NSW Government grant. The festival aimed to foster community engagement post COVID-19, support local businesses, and provide opportunities for families and community members to connect. Spanning several locations, including the Big Bogan Statue, Pangee) Street, Tabratong Street, and Larkin Oval, the event featured a wide range of activities such as live entertainment, a best dressed Bogan Competition, kids' activities, sports coaching lessons, local markets, food vendors, the Dash for Cash race, and a show-and-shine competition.

Citizenship Ceremonies. Council conducts citizenship ceremonies as required.

Holiday Break Programs: Council has been successful in obtaining the NSW Government’s Holiday Break Program grant funding each term to support youth activities based on youth feedback and interest.

Activities have included laser tag, paint and sip sessions, resin, aerial dance leather making and silversmithing workshops, youth discos, photobooth, totem skateboarding and inflatable fun days. In addition, Council collaborates with other Youth Service providers to organise youth events, such as youth BBQs, bubble soccer, Youth mental health awareness, cyberbullying preventions, and various sporting activities.



Christmas Lights and Rural Mailbox competitions: Council has conducted an annual Christmas Lights and Rural Mailbox competition whereby community members, businesses and rural property owners are judged on

their festive lighting and decorating efforts, with prize money donated by sponsors is awarded.

Community Events at Nyngan Showgrounds: Improved facilities at the Nyngan Showground have been used for community events including the Duck Creek Races, the Nyngan Show, the Nyngan Anzac Day Races, the Nyngan Ag Expo and the Big Boar Bonanza.

Local community organisations and events: Council has continued to support local community organisations and events in the Shire. These events include:

- Anzac Day: Council supports and contributes to the annual Anzac Day ceremonies conducted by the Nyngan sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League.



- **NAIDOC Week:** Council supports NAIDOC week every year providing facilities and equipment for activities. In 2023 and 2024, Council participated in the Community Day event at the end of the NAIDOC Week festivities.



- **Annual Christmas Community Event:** Council provides a venue, support and equipment to the Nyngan Christmas Committee, which was established in 2023. The committee organises a Christmas street party consisting of markets, food vendors, lighting the tree and family Christmas fun. Council purchased a community Christmas tree in 2022, which remains decorated and lit throughout the month of December, along with new street banners for Pangee Street.
- **Community events co-ordinated by the Nyngan Community Hub:** Council provides a venue (Larkin Oval, O'Reilly Park, Davidson Park, or Rotary Park) and equipment for the events which have included events for White Ribbon Day, Easter, Christmas and Harmony Day.

- **StormCo Youth Activities:** Council has provided the StormCo group with use of the Bogan Shire Youth and Community Centre for activities and accommodation. It has also provided venues and equipment for StormCo activities around Nyngan's parks and recreation spaces.

Nyngan Fire Station and Garford Engine: Works continued towards establishment of a Fire and Rescue Museum in the former NSW Fire Brigade building in Nyngan. The building was painted and renovated including new bathrooms and a kitchenette.

Council arranged for the restoration of Nyngan's 1924 Garford Fire Engine by the Tamworth Classic Fire Engine Club, and it is now a running addition to the Museum's display.



1.2 Community Facilities

Outcome: Our community uses and values the educational, recreational and social opportunities provided by our community centres.

Nyngan War Memorial Swimming Pool. Council's progressive renovations of the Nyngan War Memorial Pool have continued over the last term of Council including new accessible amenities block which includes unisex change rooms with hot showers, an accessible toilet and change areas.

Significant works were also carried out to reline pipework to limit water losses from leaks and a new automatic chlorine and acid dosing system has been installed to help ensure that the water is treated correctly.



To support the Centre's launch, grant-funded Youth Officer roles were created to provide after school and holiday Youth Drop-in Sessions. Grant funding has also been used to engage locally contracted youth services to operate and support these youth programs and activities.

The BSYCC offers a range of activities during drop-in sessions, including a mixture of sports such as volleyball, basketball and cricket as well as cooking, baking, mentoring programs, seasonal decorating of the centre, gaming competition, movies, trivia and boxing lessons. Council also installed major pieces of playground equipment including a giant swing and climbing pyramid.

The BSYCC has also become a valued hub for the wider community. Offering a versatile space for various groups and activities, it is available for local social groups, such as the Nyngan Craft Group and the Bushfellas group, fostering connection and engagement within the community.

In addition, the Centre is available for private hire and corporate use (on a fee-based structure), including training sessions and workshops making it a multifunctional venue for both social, community and professional events.



Bogan Shire Youth and Community Centre (BSYCC): Constructed in response to consistent community feedback that such a facility was needed, the BSYCC was constructed and commenced operations in September 2022. The Centre features a full-size indoor sports hall, community meeting rooms, a recreation room, study areas, gaming room, kitchen and an outdoor recreation area.

Parks and Playgrounds. Council has created a dedicated parks and community facilities team to look after the maintenance and upgrades to parks, other open spaces and playgrounds across the Shire.

O'Reilly Park: Major new playground equipment was installed with an adventure playground and flying fox answering long-standing community requests for these facilities in an upgraded playground precinct.

The existing children's play equipment in O'Reilly Park has also been upgraded with softfall to replace the bark chips.



Davidson Park: Improvements to Davidson Park, based on a Master Plan, commenced in the previous term of Council and continued throughout this term. New footpaths were created linking contemporary focal points, seating was installed, and the toilet block underwent an external make-over to modernise its appearance.



Rotary Park, Jack Hargreaves Park and the lower weir. Extensive works have been done to this riverside area including the removal of weed vegetation. An upgrade was carried out to the boat ramp which included work on the car park and approach to the ramp.



Nyngan CWA Hall: The Nyngan CWA Hall, which was handed over to the Bogan Shire Council during this term, was extensively renovated and upgraded for public use. The ceiling was replaced, a new kitchenette and accessible bathroom installed, and the interior was repainted and carpeted with new air-conditioning installed.

Flood Memorial Park: Flood Memorial Park has had further upgrades and is still serving as an attractive stop over for travellers. New toilet facilities were installed and more seating with shelters have been installed. The driveway was also widened to allow easier access for caravanners.



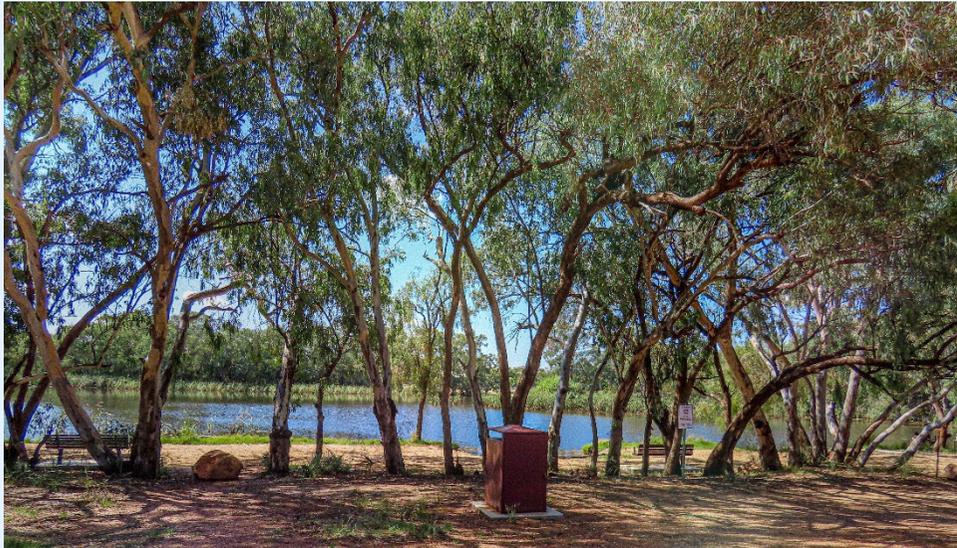
Hermidale Park: Upgrades to Hermidale Park have included a toilet block, new perimeter fencing and repairs to the War Memorial.

Girilambone Railway Station: Works were completed on the historic Girilambone Railway Station to bring it back from a ruined building facing demolition to a fit for purpose community space. Community consultation will take place to help Council determine future use of the building which could include a local history museum, an artist's workshop and community function space. As an added attraction for visiting railway enthusiasts Council installed historic rail motors on the tracks at the station platform.



Sportsgrounds and active recreational facilities: Council has carried out a regular maintenance program on the sports grounds and active recreational facilities to ensure they can be well utilised.

Upper Weir: Council has developed the upper weir area. This area suffered damage from flooding in June 2022 and with the assistance of grant funding Council undertook works to help to prevent future damage.



Larkin Oval: The improvements at Larkin Oval continued with the installation of a new toilet block on the eastern end of the Oval and the construction of a purpose-built female change room and toilet block.

Two of the four netball courts were also resurfaced with a safe all-weather playing surface.

Further improvement to the canteen facilities were also made with security shutters added, an industrial exhaust fan installed in the kitchen and a sink and hot water installed in the bar/BBQ area.



Nyngan Tennis Courts: Tennis was given a new lease on life in Nyngan with the renovation of the tennis club building which was re-clad. Interior works included a new kitchenette, painting and sanding of the timber floors. On the outside a new covered deck was constructed overlooking the courts. Tennis Courts were also refurbished with a new playing surface installed to all courts.



Nyngan Showgrounds. Council has made significant improvements to the Nyngan Showground and Racecourse for the purpose of community events. This included new racecourse entry gates designed and installed by Council staff and a new amenities block and BBQ with shelter for the Pony Club.



Hermidale Village: Council has installed portable grandstands with shade awnings and a wash down bay for horses at the Hermidale Showgrounds and has resurfaced the two of the tennis courts at the Community Centre in response to community requests to revive the sport.

Coolabah Village: A fence has been installed along the Highway to improve safety for people using the rest area. Significant works have been undertaken at the Coolabah Hall including re-cladding and repositioning the access ramp.



Girilambone Village: The purchase of a BBQ and installation of a shelter and new amenities block has added to the appeal of the free camping area at Girilambone.

Nyngan Cemetery. Council staff have continued to maintain and make improvements to the Nyngan Cemetery. A new lawn cemetery area was constructed to allow expansion to the east of the existing area and trees have been planted to provide shade for this new area. Council regularly waters and mows the lawn areas.

Nyngan Library: Council's strategy has been to focus on community needs to provide quality facilities and access to printed and online information and other sources.

Council secured a NSW Government grant which funded the internal renovation and removal of walls to increase the children's reading area and flexibility of use of the space. The grant also supported the creation of an enclosed outdoor space with a kitchenette for school holiday craft, community group gatherings, and adult craft sessions, all while minimising disruptions to library users.



The Nyngan Library established a Dolly Parton Imagination Library in partnership with Uniting Way which uses a free book gifting program to inspire a love of reading in young children across the globe. Each month, children who are between the ages of birth and five years can enrol and receive a high-quality, age-appropriate book in the mail, free of charge. The Program has been highly successful with 65 children currently enrolled.

Library staff have a regular program for young library users such as special craft sessions in the holidays, and a regular story time session. Staff visit the Bogan Shire ELC and the Preschool around twice per term to hold Story Time sessions.

The Library has continued to participate in events such as national Simultaneous Story Time, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, and Library Lover's Day. Other events have included morning teas for seniors, and workshops for young people on 3D printing and belt making.

Each year, a number of eResources, children's toys, and other resources are purchased under the Local Priority Grant each year ensuring the collection stays up to date and activities and events can continue to be held at the Library, supporting the community and their needs,

The Library continues to be an active member of the North Western Regional Library Service Partnership.

1.3 Inclusive Communities

Outcome: Children, older people and people with disabilities are supported, feel secure, valued and are engaged in our community.

Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre: The Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre provides a centre-based day care and educational service for children aged 0-5 in the Bogan Shire. It is licensed for 43 children in two rooms and open for 50 weeks a year from 7.30am-6pm. Since opening in 2016 the ELC has grown to the extent that there has been a waiting list for some time which has prompted plans for an extension to the Centre.

Bogan Shire Council successfully applied for grant funding to increase the size of the Centre and construction commenced during this term. An additional room and outdoor play area extensions were completed in 2024 and Council was notified that it had met requirements for an increase in licensing capacity to 59 children across the three rooms.



Bogan Bush Mobile: Bogan Bush Mobile transferred its headquarters to the new ELC when the centre was opened in 2016. This service has undergone significant changes to bring it into scope.

Where previously the service travelled to small centres across the region to provide two hourly playgroup sessions, it now offers longer childcare sessions in two locations across the region.



Youth: Council has continued to provide opportunities for young people to be actively engaged in the development, design and planning of educational and other programs, services and infrastructure in which they are a stakeholder or user group.

When seeking options for grant funding, Council has carried out extensive community engagement with schools and the school community. As an example, it was decided to build a Youth and Community Centre, on a location and to a design nominated by the youth.

Council also engages with youth to plan and implement programs for Youth Week and holiday break activities.



Bogan Shire Seniors Week: Council co-ordinates five days of community Seniors Week activities including the official morning tea and presentation of the Senior Citizen of the Year at community venue. Other activities have included arranging visits from local preschool to social with the seniors, concerts, paint and sip sessions, community rotated church services, bingo, Shopping trips to Dubbo, free entry to the Nyngan Museum, exercise sessions, wellness brunch with community health.



Community: Council has continued to work with the community and Government agencies to understand issues and lobby Government to address them. Examples include:

- Before and After School Care
- Train Speeds through Nyngan
- Water Security
- Nursing shortages affecting the Mick Glennie Hostel

Bogan Shire Youth Week: Council has received Youth Week grant funding each year to support a variety of activities, coordinated by staff from the Youth and Community Centre. These staff gather feedback from youth and conduct an annual Youth Week survey with Nyngan High School to help determine the activities. Over the years, Council has organised events such as outdoor movie nights, pizza-making sessions, inflatable fun, volleyball and other sports competitions, photobooths, Glow Roller Disco, and a colour fun run obstacle course.

GAMES DAY
NYNGAN

YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE
Mon July 8th
10.30 AM - 1 PM

- Archery Tag
- Laser Tag
- League Tag

and
MORE

EVENT FOR 12 - 24 YRS OF AGE
FREE BBQ PROVIDED
FREE EVENT - REGISTER ON THE DAY

Disability Inclusion Action Plan: Council engaged with the community in 2017 to develop and adopt a Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP). There has been additional disabled car parking in the main street and other public areas and improvements made to toilet blocks for disabled access. In 2021 Council installed a new disabled access chair into the Nyngan War Memorial Swimming Pool. The DIAP was updated in line with regulation requirements in 2023.

Bogan Shire Seniors Living. In 2020 Council completed and opened the Bogan Shire Seniors Living Project. This project used NSW Government grant funding to build four accessible units on the corner of Dandaloo and Cobar streets, comprising a three two-bedroom units and one single bedroom unit. Community members eligible to receive the Australian Age Pension, and who had resided in the Bogan Shire for 10 years or more were eligible to apply for residency.

The units are currently fully tenanted and are maintained by Council.



1.4 EDUCATION

Outcome: Access to opportunities for education at all levels.

Council has continued to support all schools in our Shire through various initiatives, awards and scholarships. Council representatives attend all end-of-year presentation days.

School Careers Day: Bogan Shire Council attends the annual Nyngan High School Careers Day to promote career opportunities and traineeships available through Council.

Traineeships: Council continued to support young people through offering apprenticeships in trades including Metal Fabrication, Automotive Engineering, Water Treatment Operations and Horticulture as well as traineeships in Early Childhood Education and Care, Building Surveying, and Business Administration. These are advertised within the local community and marketed towards those about to finish secondary school or to young people wanting to gain a trade certification or commence a career path into these fields.

In addition, Council has also employed people in Graduate roles in Human Resources and Health and Building Surveying.

Gap Year Program: Council initiated a Gap Year employment program to help recently graduated Year 12 students to transition to the workplace by providing them with meaningful contract employment with the Bogan Shire Council for up to 12 months on finishing school. In 2024, eight students were placed in the Program in roles which varied from civil construction to youth work to business services.



Earn while you learn at Bogan Shire Council!

- ▶ learn valuable workplace skills
- ▶ get hands-on experience in multiple industries
- ▶ figure out what career paths interest you
- ▶ work full or part time
- ▶ **get paid!**

Bogan Shire Council is providing an exciting opportunity for local Year 12 leavers to gain experience in roles that interest them.

This opportunity could help you discover what you want your career to look like, and may lead to further study and ongoing employment opportunities supported by us.

1.5 Public Health

Outcome: Our community has access to the medical services, facilities and programs to enhance and protect our health.

Bogan Shire Medical Centre (BSMC): The BSMC was constructed and opened in 2017 and is operated by Council staff. The original BSMC was partially funded by a Federal Government grant, and included four consult rooms, a procedure room, reception, waiting room and amenities.

Due to increasing demand and expansion of services an extension to the building was completed in 2022 which includes two additional consult rooms, a dedicated pathology space and additional waiting area.

The Practice currently includes two GPs, nursing staff and an Aboriginal Health Worker, as well as a number of visiting allied and specialist health care providers. A pathology service, podiatry, physiotherapy and ultrasound services are also based at the Centre.



A new ultrasound machine equipped with the latest digital imaging technology was installed during the term. The new machine's higher quality imaging means patients are less likely to have to travel out of town for MRI's for further evaluation.

The Bogan Shire Medical Centre is the only practise west of Dubbo to offer an ultrasound service and attracts patients from across the region.



Bush Bursary Program: Council supports the annual Bush Bursary Program by hosting two university students with an insight into both country living and rural medicine.

The Program which is administered by Rural Doctors Network aims to encourage medical, nursing and midwifery students to consider a career in regional NSW and is part funded by the Country Women's Association of NSW with additional bursary funded by Council.

Bogan Shire Council funded the placement of students in Nyngan and facilitated work experience at the Bogan Shire Medical Centre and at the Nyngan Multipurpose Health Service.

Doctor housing and surgeries: Council continues to provide accommodation to general practitioners in Nyngan. Two new units were completed at 70 Bogan Street and 28 Tabratong Street which can be used to house clinical staff.

Dental Service: Council has continued to support the Nyngan Dental service with the provision of a premises.

1.6 Emergency Services

Outcome: Our fire, police and ambulance services provide effective, efficient services to the community to protect property and the safety of our community

Fire services: Council's strategy is to ensure people within Nyngan and the surrounding villages are protected from fire-related incidents. Covering rural areas, the Mayor and council staff liaise with the Rural Fire Service (RFS) through participation in the local service level agreement meetings to ensure local input into their decision making.

In 2023 the Nyngan Showground was used as a temporary base for up to 80 RFS firefighters following an emergency declaration as a result of the Glenariff Station fire near Coolabah which burned over 5,500 hectares.

Ambulance Service: Council continues to advocate to ensure provision of a 24 hour Ambulance Service for the Shire.

Hazard reduction program: Council has continued with its hazard reduction program. This includes removing fire risk around areas such as the Villages and the Nyngan Waste and Recycling Facility as well as maintaining the flood levee bank.

Community Safety: Council continues to lobby the NSW Government for adequate police numbers in the Bogan Local Government Area. It has also continued its commitment with NSW Police to contribute to the provision of housing (where possible) for police officers. Council works closely with Nyngan police to ensure our community remains safe.

Infrastructure

Goal - construct and manage reliable and efficient community assets that provide access to quality services.

2.1 Transport networks

Outcome: our well constructed and maintained transport network enables safe and efficient movement of people and freight through the Shire.

Road networks. Maintaining and improving the road network throughout the Bogan Shire is an ongoing commitment which accounts for approximately 35 per cent of Council's budget. Council is responsible for the maintenance of over 1,200 km of local roads, over 1,000 km of which are unsealed; 238 km of regional roads (138 km sealed and 100 km unsealed) and 261 km of State highway.

Council employs 23 staff for roadworks, including four grader teams for construction and maintenance and highway work undertaken on behalf of the NSW Government.

In 2021 Council engaged an additional three grader teams under contract to carry out works funded by the NSW Government's Flood and Storm Damage Restoration Program.



During the last term, road work projects included the re-sheeting of approximately 76 km of unsealed roads, such as Colane, Pangee, Benah, Warrah, and Paynes Roads, as well as the resealing of 9 km of Yarrandale Road under the Fixing Local Roads Program. These upgrades improved road formation, drainage, and vegetation management, enhancing resilience against increased traffic and adverse weather.

The second round of the Fixing Local Roads Program also facilitated the rehabilitation of Pangee Street in the CBD, featuring a 16,710 m² asphalt overlay, new line markings, pedestrian crossings, and nose-in parking.



Additionally, the 2020-2024 Roads to Recovery Program, with funding of \$5.4m has enabled the Council to re-sheet 136 km of gravel roads and perform various maintenance tasks over the past four years.

Under this block grant, rehabilitation works have widened and sealed a total of 8 km of regional roads, including Tottenham Road and Cockies Road, while also supporting annual re-sheeting and maintenance efforts.

The Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund has provided resources for maintenance and gravel re-sheeting on rural roads, including 2.4 km of rehabilitation and widening on Buckiinguy Road.

To date Council has completed over \$2.3 Million in repairs to address flood damage from the 2022 event.

Contract works on the state highways included continued rehabilitation work on sections of the Mitchell Highway East and West of Nyngan.



Footpaths, kerb and gutter: Grant funding has allowed a major increase in the amount of priority footpath replacement and new construction with around 4,000 metres laid. Significant lengths of kerb and gutter were also replaced throughout Nyngan. Pedestrian bridges were constructed around the Nyngan golf club to link up with existing pathways and access routes.

2.2 Rail Services

Outcome: Our Rail Connection remains a cost effective and reliable alternative for freight transport.

Freight rail. Council has continued to lobby State Government and UGL to maintain and improve reliable freight transport network.

Rail Crossing and rail safety: Council lobbied for safety improvements to be made at the Moonagee and Hoskins Street Rail crossings. Council has also campaigned extensively to the NSW Government reduce train speeds through the Nyngan township.

Railway Infrastructure: Council has successfully lobbied the NSW Government and UGL to upgrade the fencing along the rail corridor in the town precinct to restrict unauthorised access onto the track.

2.3 Water

Outcome: we have access to a secure water supply that is well managed to provide us with a reliable, safe and cost effective service as well as a raw water supply to villages.

Council ensures it remains compliant with strategic business plans for water through a program of continual capital improvements. It has continued to provide a financially viable, efficient, permanent potable water supply that meets the requirements of the community. Council reports quarterly to the NSW Department of Health and submits an annual report on the Drinking Water Management Plan.

The Water Asset Management Plan is used to develop the annual water budget and make improvements to water supplies. Annual works include maintenance and de-silting of the Albert Priest Channel, vital infrastructure to provide Nyngan and Cobar towns with a secure water supply.

Council has been working with the NSW Government to undertake significant upgrades to local water infrastructure over recent years.

Emergency Off-River Storages: During this term of Council, contractors completed the lining of the first of two emergency off-river water storages. The 650 Megalitre storage will help drought proof water supplies for Nyngan and Cobar with works done to line the bottom with a synthetic clay liner to prevent leakage.



A second water storage alongside the first was completed and will provide another 535 Megalitres bringing the total cost for this project to over \$16 Million.

When full the storages contain enough water to supply the essential needs of Cobar and Nyngan towns for 18 months on strict water restrictions.

Belaringar Creek Syphon: Many years in the planning, funding became available for the replacement of the Belaringar Creek syphon, which is effectively a pipe which takes the Albert Priest Channel underneath the Belaringar Creek. Costing around \$1.8 million the works will see a reduction in leakage from the Channel which transports water for Nyngan and Cobar.



2.4 Sewerage

Outcome: We have a reliable, safe and cost-effective sewerage network.

In accordance with the Sewerage Asset Management Plan, Council has undertaken ongoing replacement and improvements to the Nyngan sewerage system.

During this term a new aeration system was installed to the Primary Pond at the Nyngan Sewer Treatment Works and extensive relining was carried out on Nyngan's sewerage pipe network at a cost of \$700,000.

There has been routine ongoing testing and reporting of this system to ensure compliance with the sewer Treatment Plant license conditions.

2.5 Communications Networks

Outcome: The community has access to the latest communication infrastructure and technology to facilitate communications for learning, business and providing services to our community.

Council continued to work with telecommunications providers and lobby government for improvements to communications throughout the Shire.

Environmental

Goal - To support the current and long-term liveability of our Shire by enhancing and protecting our environment through sound urban planning, managing our waste stream and sewerage services, and providing potable water supplies that are economically sustainable, reliable and environmentally

3.1 Built Environment

Outcome: Our Shire is enhanced through respectful planning processes and facilitation of development in accordance with statutory requirements.

Long term sustainability: Council has conducted periodic reviews of its planning instruments to ensure land use planning supports the long-term sustainability of the local community and economy.

Local Housing Strategy: Council has started work on a housing strategy using funding provided by the NSW Government. Community workshops were held to better understand the needs of the local population. The Strategy will reflect these needs and will guide future decision making on planning matters.

Affordable range of housing: Council has undertaken consultation with significant employers including the local mining industry regarding the future demand for housing in the community.

Safe, healthy and well-maintained buildings: In accordance with relevant health and safety legislations, Council conducts regular inspections on the community's buildings to ensure they comply with the NSW Building Certification Scheme. Council investigated concerns and complaints in relation to overgrown allotments and buildings in a state of disrepair.

In 2018 Council used grant funding to engage an engineer to inspect the awnings of buildings in the Nyngan CBD. A report was made available to the owners of these buildings.

Planning Portal: As of 1 July 2021, throughout NSW, Development Applications (DA's), Complying Development Certificates (CDC's) and Post Consent Certificates such as Construction Certificates along with Occupation Certificates are now required to be lodged electronically through the Online Service provided by the NSW Planning Portal.

Council has assisted community members with the new online portal by setting up a computer set up in the front foyer of Council's Development and Environmental Services office for the community to lodge the relevant applications via the online portal with staff available to assist where necessary.

Flood Management Plan: Council has developed and implemented flood management plans into the LEP and DCP for all urban flood areas. Council continues to carry out regular inspections and maintenance on its stormwater infrastructure and levee bank.

3.2 Waste and Recycling

Outcome: Our waste stream is effectively managed, reducing waste to landfill and maximising resource recovery through recycling.

Council has continued with its kerbside household waste and recycling collection. The recyclables picked are taken each fortnight to Gilgandra for sorting and then sent for processing into recycled products.

Works at the Nyngan Waste and Resource Recovery Centre include:

- A new fence with a screen of trees planted around the perimeter to improve aesthetics and meet licensing requirements.
- A new leachate system to remove water from the waste cells.
- The construction of large new cells for general waste and asbestos

In addition, a Resource Recovery Shop was constructed and opened to allow for repurposing of reusable / recoverable / recyclable materials rather than see them go to landfill. “Buyers” are encouraged to make a contribution to Nyngan Can Assist charity via a QR Code at the Shop.



This term saw the installation of recycle bins in the main street to encourage the public to be aware of appropriately disposing of their waste. These bins are in prime locations near shops and cafes.

The three village landfills in the LGA continue to operate as uncontrolled facilities during this term maintained by Council with areas also provided for the separation of scrap metals. All three facilities are now reaching capacity.

Council continues to be an active member of NetWaste, the regional waste management group of 26 western councils, including supporting innovative recycling ventures such as the annual Waste to Art competition, as well as participating in regional contracts for the collection, processing and recycling or reuse of scrap metals, mattresses, tyres, greenwaste, concrete and masonry, drumMuster and the collection and safe disposal of hazardous household chemical

3.3 Natural Environment

Outcome: Our open space areas are protected and appropriately managed to preserve their valued use and biodiversity whilst minimising the impact of pollution and weeds on the environment.

Provision of safe, high-quality playgrounds and parks. Council departments carry out routine maintenance on local reserves and recreational areas to ensure they are well used by the community.

Over the past five years Council has embarked on an ambitious program to capitalise on the Bogan River by cleaning away weeds and vegetation around the upper and lower weir areas and developing recreational spaces for the community. The upper weir now has walking paths, a bird hide, a toilet block, fire pits, seating and a garbage bin. This area is a popular free camping site.

Council has continued to maintain and improve its existing parks, with new playground equipment at Moonagee, Rotary, O'Reilly, Lions, Davidson, and Hermidale Parks. Shade sails have been added to playgrounds at O'Reilly, Lions and Moonagee Parks. There are also new toilet blocks at Hermidale, Girilambone and Coolabah.



Bogan River Bushcare: The Bogan River Bushcare Program has been grant funded by the NSW Government and included the construction and establishment of a native plant nursery, or Community Hub, on Council land on Pangee Street. This Hub is intended for interested community members to participate in the propagation and raising of seedlings to plant around the Shire.

The Bogan River Bushcare Program employs a part time Bushcare Coordinator and Assistant to propagate and grow plant species endemic to the Bogan Shire region. The Program aims to use these plants to assist in the rehabilitation and regeneration of degraded riverbank along the Bogan River at Nyngan.

In preparation for engaging with Youth through the local schools, an outdoor classroom was established on the banks of the lower weir.



Preservation of the natural environment: Council has continued to maintain and improve reserves in the Shire. Council has continued to implement a dedicated noxious weeds eradication program in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2015. This includes participation on the Central West Regional Weeds Committee and on the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Council. Council regularly inspects for listed noxious weeds on public and private property and undertakes action to eradicate them.

Litter Reduction: There are new garbage bins along the main street CBD area and along its new pathways and recreation areas to prevent littering. Council was successful in a RID grant which involves signage and reporting to increase public awareness of illegal dumping.



Levee Bank Walking Path: In 2022, Council completed works on improving access to the Levee Bank for recreational access. This project was funded by a NSW Government grant and included gravel access ramps, solar lighting, widening of gravel pathways and informational/directional signage.



Fish Stocking: Council has been involved in a NSW Government initiative that regularly sees fingerling released in the weir pools at Nyngan.



3.4 Health, Safety and Regulation.

Outcome: Council meets its compliance and regulatory obligations concerning public health.

Local Liquor Accord: Council has continued to provide information regarding new liquor license applications, and make submissions to the State Government as required.

Safe Food Standards: Council undertakes annual inspections of food premises in Nyngan and villages to ensure food handlers comply with standards.

NSW Companion Animals Act: Council has an ongoing management and control of companion animals as per the Companion Animals Act 1998, including a pound at the Nyngan Airport.

Council has improved public awareness of companion animal control including lifetime registration. Council rangers carry out enforcement activities relating to dog control measures.

Pangee Street Revitalisation: Council continued work to revitalise Nyngan’s main street included a complete resurfacing of the main CBD section of roadway as well as extensive new concrete footpaths to modernise the look of the footpaths and eliminate trip hazards caused by the old footpath pavers. To compliment the new footpath, new kerb and guttering was also installed. Together with works done over several years and improvements to Davidson Park, the revitalisation of Pangee Street will make a more attractive destination to bring more people into Nyngan’s CBD.



Mining Businesses: Council has continued to maintain relationships with mining companies to explore opportunities for mutual benefit and lobby on behalf of local issues. Council is working with the local mining industry to alleviate the current housing shortage which is viewed as a growth constraint.

Agricultural Businesses: Council has continued to maintain relationships with local agricultural businesses and lobby on behalf of issues.



Relocation Marketing Campaign: In 2021, Council provided a budget for a relocation marketing campaign to promote the Bogan Shire as an attractive place to live and work, with the campaign being tied to the establishment of the new residential subdivision to stimulate interest in moving to Nyngan.

The campaign included an initial production of a short promotional video which was distributed throughout social media. The short promotional video was also made available for distribution to local businesses and government agencies to assist with their recruitment efforts.



Nyngan, NSW

Unlisted

Bogan Shire Council

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The video centred on Council’s vision of “Comfortable Country Living” and the various themes that contribute to this including:

- Families, housing, a sense of community, friendliness, safe community,
- Recreational and sporting opportunities, natural amenity, Nyngan’s facilities,
- Healthcare, childcare, education,
- Various job opportunities across a range of industries including agriculture and mining, and
- “Working and living” in Nyngan.

4.2 Tourism

Outcome: Bogan Shire is regarded as a welcoming and attractive place for people to live and visit, producing services, cultural experiences and recreational opportunities.

Tourism strategy: Council has developed a business plan and tourism strategy for the Nyngan Visitor Information Centre and achieved accreditation through Destination NSW and the Tourism Group.



The VIC is open 7 days a week for a minimum of 38 hours a week, including 4 hours on each weekend day. Accreditation has enabled the VIC to utilise the yellow I signage. A flagpole was erected, and a yellow flag raised.

Nyngan Railway Station: Extensive works were carried out at the 140-year-old Nyngan Railway Station which houses the Nyngan VIC and the Nyngan Museum. New front doors, in keeping with the original design, were added to the entry vestibule as part of a grant funded heritage tourism project which included replacement of flooring, internal renovations to reposition the customer service counter and a new kitchen. Airconditioning was also installed throughout.

Teamsters Rest: As the focal point for people visiting the Big Bogan and his friend Rusty, Teamsters Rest Park was extended, including a new parking area designed to allow better access for people travelling in caravans and mobile homes. The new park area includes picnic shelters, garden beds to match the originals and a new public toilet. For railway enthusiasts a raised viewing platform was constructed to allow visual access to the historic railway turntable – a part of Nyngan’s railway heritage.



4.3 Public Transport and Air Services.

Outcome: we have reliable, cost-effective and regular public transport and air services linking the Shire to Dubbo and beyond.

Public Transport: Council has an ongoing relationship with Transport for NSW to provide an ongoing and relevant public transport service to Dubbo and beyond. Council has continued to maintain and upgrade local bus stops in Nyngan, Coolabah and Girilambone for the inter-town buses which pass through. Local service clubs continue to operate courtesy bus services for patrons as needed.



Nyngan Airport. Council has continued to upgrade airport facilities to meet the required standards. Council has resealed the main runway and apron, re-fenced the airport and in 2021 installed refuelling facilities.



Responsible Local Government

Goal - Strong, transparent and effective governance with an actively engaged community to ensure we remain Fit For The Future.

5.1. Leadership Advocacy and Governance.

Outcome: Open transparent and effective government.

Community Engagement: Council has continued to maintain a community consultation database and undertake community engagement regarding major Council plans and projects.

Council has engaged with the community specifically on grant funded projects, for example the Bogan Shire Youth and Community Centre, the Nyngan War Memorial Swimming Pool, the Hermidale Park, Nyngan Skate Park, and the shared recreational pathway.



Council has also engaged with community to gauge opinion on matters including the changes to speed limits in town, train speeds, and the future of the Palais Theatre.

Council meetings. Council has held regular Council meetings over the past term. All Councillors have been encouraged to make reasonable efforts to acquire and maintain the skills necessary to perform the role of a councillor.

Partnerships through regional and industry bodies. Council has maintained effective partnerships through regional and industry bodies to collaborate on matters of mutual interest and lobby collectively on behalf of the community. Council participated in the new Orana Joint Organisation of Council until 2021 when a joint decision was taken by all member councils to resign from the organisation. Council has resolved to be a member of a new voluntary regional organisation of councils.

Council reporting: Council provides accountability to the community by regularly reporting on its activities through the publication of statutory reports, business papers, meeting minutes and general information. Council has ensured these reports are accurate and timely, and proactively released to the public via its website and in hard copy at the Nyngan Library. Council also completes an Annual Report, statutory financial accounts, quarterly reports, a delivery program, budget and operational plans.

Code of Conduct and Council’s Values: Councillors are encouraged to take pride in our community and be inclusive, respectful, and work together to get things done and contribute positively to our culture. Councillors are provided with Code of Conduct training upon election, and made aware of Council’s values.



5.2 Managing Our Business

Outcome: Effective and responsive management of Council's services and activities to deliver on our goals and strategies.

Financial planning: Council undertakes sound financial planning, management and reporting to fulfil its stewardship, responsibilities and ensure it remains financially viable. Council has continued to develop and implement a long term financial strategy. It has prepared and presented operation plans and budgets to council for approval within set timeframes. Quarterly budget reviews are prepared and presented to Council for approval.

Council has been striving to meet the new Risk Management and Internal Audit Guidelines issued in November 2023. The Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 and these Guidelines require each council in NSW to have an audit, risk and improvement committee, a robust risk management framework, and an effective internal audit function.

Council has setup an Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee that had its inaugural meeting in December 2021 and has an internal audit function that has operated since this time and provides Council with independent audit advice.

Council has also adopted an Enterprise Risk Management Policy and Strategy on their way to providing a robust risk management framework.

Council also has external auditors that give an independent examination and opinion of Council's financial statements and whether Council is compliant with accounting standards, laws and regulations. Council has lodged on time each year with unqualified audit opinions.

All Council's financial transactions are recorded, and periodic financial reports are presented to Council to assist with monitoring budget performance.

Council actively works to maximise recovery of revenue due to Council in accordance with policy and conducted a sale of land for unpaid rates in February 2024.

Workforce: Council aims to manage its people effectively to ensure it meets its goals and can implement its mission and deliver its vision. Council has developed and implemented a Workforce Plan and a Workplace Health and Safety Improvement Plan during the past term.

Council continues to manage its staff recruitment and induction processes as well as its organisational structure, salary system and related processes to ensure that we have the right people at the right time for the right task.

Asset Management: Council is continuing to implement and improve asset management practices to ensure adequate provision is made for the maintenance and long term replacement of infrastructure to be able to help Council make informed budget decisions around Council's assets.

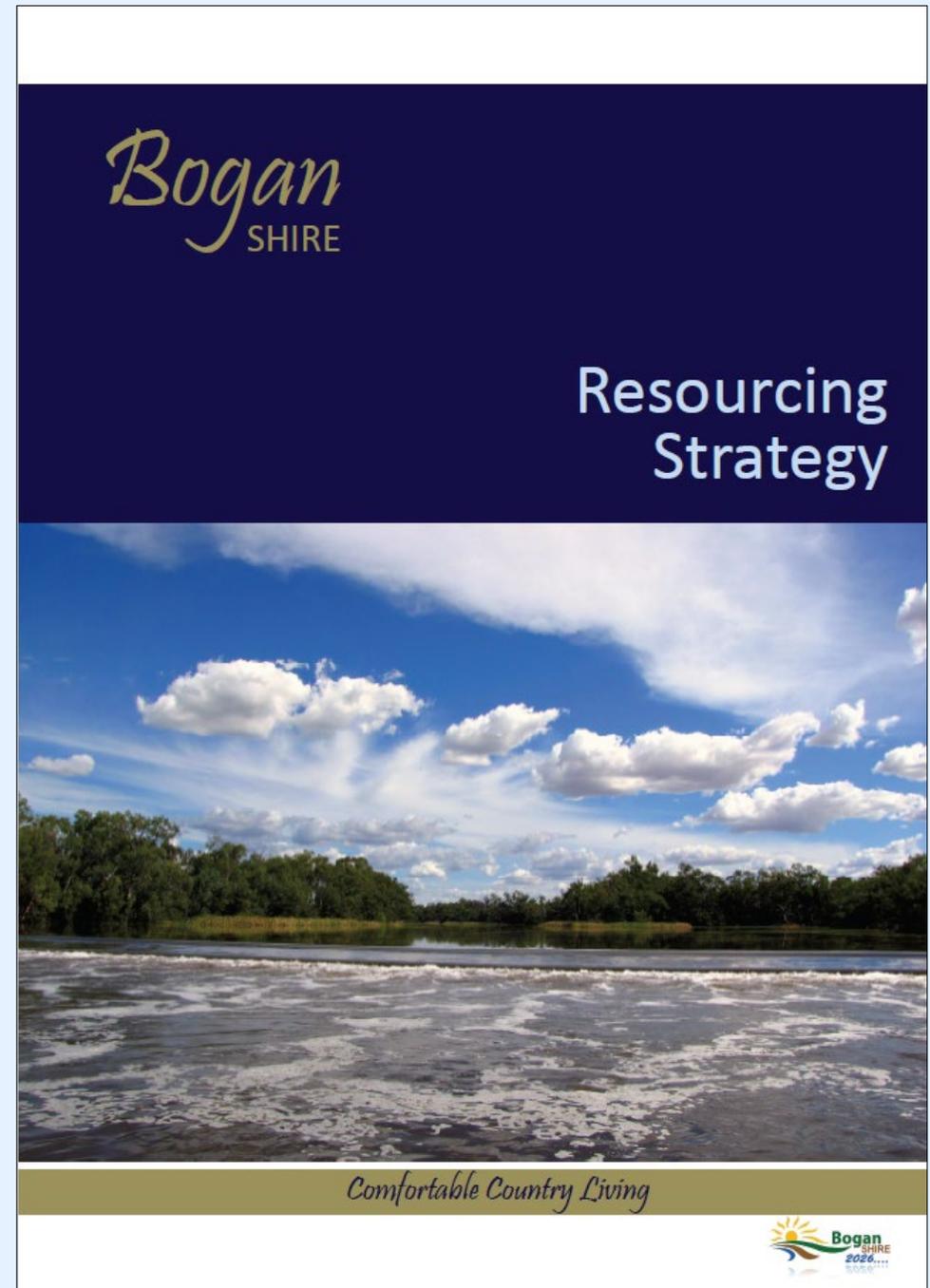
Council is the process of re-developing their Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Policy for the next term of Council to ensure that they are current and accurately reflect Council assets. This will again include plans for the major categories of Council's assets: Transport and Stormwater, Water Supply and Sewerage; and Buildings and other structures.

Council has, over the past few years implemented an Asset Management System that will be the one source of truth for all of Councils assets. A grant was used to purchase asset management software shared across three Councils as a collaborative project, managed by Bogan Shire Council, which helped reduce costs. This system will not only help with Councils revaluations required by the Audit Office NSW but will facilitate reporting to Council to help them make informed decisions for future renewals and maintenance of all Councils assets.

Council Operations Management: Council aims to manage its operations effectively and on business-like principals to maximise service delivery for the community. This includes the development of a customer service charter to assist employees and customers know their responsibilities. Council uses a Customer Request Management system (CRM) internal program to monitor complaints to identify and rectify issues by delegating requests to the correct work areas.

Council works to actively identify its risks including adequate insurance cover. Policies have been developed and updated including the Community Event Policy that will assist both Council and Event Holders manage their risks when holding events on Council land.

- Council has maintained a record management system.
- Council's policies and procedures are reviewed and updated.
- Council has managed its communication with the community through a variety of media.
- Council's ICT resources have been managed including disaster recovery to support our business.
- Council's procurement system has been designed to ensure probity and best value for money.



5.3 Disaster Management.

Outcome: We have the capability to plan, arrange and implement measures for the prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies.

Local Emergency Management Committee: Council is a member of the Local Emergency Management Committee which has an Emergency Management Plan in place. The Local Emergency Management Committee meets quarterly to ensure it is equipped, prepared and trained for disasters and incidents. In 2020/21 the Local Emergency Management Committee met frequently to devise strategies to manage the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Levee: Council regularly maintains pumps and the levee bank surrounding Nyngan to ensure the township remains safe and secure during adverse weather conditions and the potential influx of floodwaters.

Levee Pump Access: Following the 2022 floods, Council purchased five electric pumps to be put into new pump stations strategically placed around the township of Nyngan to extend our network and assist with pumping storm water from the town side of the bank during flooding. The pumps will activate automatically when storm water enters the flood well.



