



End of Term Report 2012-2016



The AGL Nyngan Solar Plant
was officially opened in 2016.

Comfortable Country Living

Executive Summary

As the current term of the Bogan Shire Council draws to a close in September 2016, there is a requirement to report on its progress in implementing its 2026 Community Strategic Plan. This plan will then be reviewed by the new council to ensure it continues to be relevant and effective.

The 2026 Community Strategic Plan (CSP) was adopted by Council in April 2012 under the NSW State Government's NSW 2021 strategy, which was a 10 year plan to rebuild the economy, return quality services, renovate infrastructure, strengthen our local environment and restore accountability to the Government.

The purpose of the CSP was to identify the community's main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies for achieving these goals. In doing this, the planning process considered issues and pressures that affect the community and the level of resources that will realistically be available to achieve the outcomes.

While Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining the CSP on behalf of the Bogan local government area, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. Other partners, such as State agencies, and community groups have also been engaged in delivering the long term objectives of the plan.

The BSC 2026 Community Strategic Plan has six objectives with desired community focussed outcomes for each of these objectives. These objectives and desired outcomes are as follows:

1. Building our Community.

To provide a connected and cohesive community with opportunities for all residents and visitors to fully participate in the social, cultural, recreational and educational activities which build a community.

2. Connecting Our Community.

To provide a transport network which enables efficient movement of people and freight ensuring the Shire's accessibility is maintained and all have access to a quality road network and public transport.

3. Managing our Environment.

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 responsible.

4. Our Health and Safety.

To enhance the health and safety of our community through provision of effective essential services, programs and ensuring equitable access for all to these services.

5. Developing our Economy.

To stimulate and maintain economic growth to build a strong local economy, supporting the development of local businesses and attracting people to the Shire.

6. Responsible Local Government.

Local Government which is open and transparent in delivering responsive services to the community in an efficient, effective and ethical way using sound business practices.

This end of term report investigates what has been achieved from 2012-2016, the term of the current Council.

Building Our Community



The Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre for children aged 0-5 was officially opened in April 2016. It was purpose-built by Council and currently employs 20 staff.

Goal - A connected and cohesive community with opportunities for all residents and visitors to fully participate in the social, cultural, recreational and educational activities which build a community.

1.1 Culture and Social

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

Cultural Festivals and Cultural activities: Council has continued to actively support and create opportunities for community festivals, events and cultural activities.

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 also other associated activities (cooking competitions, costume competitions, children's colouring in etc.).



Father Graham McLeod receiving his award for Bogan Shire Citizen of the Year 2016.

Christmas Lights: Council conducts an annual Christmas lights competition whereby the community residents, businesses and rural property owners are judged on their efforts and awarded prizes donated by Council.

The competition has been expanded in recent years to include a rural mailbox section.

The Arts: Council designates \$10,000 annually to the Bogan Shire Council Arts Fund. Community groups are encouraged to apply for this funding. If not granted, the fund rolls over. Successful applicants have included Nyngan High School (for musicals and MAAD night), Western Studio of Performing Arts, and organisers of a recital by American Concert pianist Roman Rudnytsky who performed in 2015 in the Nyngan Public School hall.

International Women's Day: Council held morning teas in 2012 and 2014 to celebrate International Women's Day. In 2014 guests were shown a video presentation and informed about the Nyngan Day for Girls project.

Bogan Day Out Festival and Bogan River Ball: Council provided administrative support and facilities to both these events.

NAIDOC week: Council supports NAIDOC week every year. It hosts a ceremony each year to which the schools and community members are invited. Council also provides facilities, equipment and venues (e.g. Rotary Park and Larkin Oval) for the remainder of the festivities.

Heritage and Culture: Council has continued to support the Nyngan Museum and the Mid State Shearing Shed Museum. Council also promotes the Museum and the Shearing Shed Museum on its website and newspaper column. Council has been proactive in the development of Heritage Park in Nyngan, with the installation of the Heritage railway crossing gates as a feature, and the construction of the sandstone circle commemorating those from the Nyngan district who served in the major battles of the first World War. Plans are now underway to extend Heritage Park to incorporate a specific Indigenous heritage area.



Yamagarra (the Emu sculpture) being decorated in the NAIDOC colours by children of the Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre.

Citizenship Ceremonies: Council conducts citizenship ceremonies as required.

Council promotes annual events such as **the Western Studio of Performing Arts** end of year concert, debutante balls, **Duck Creek and Anzac Day Races**, **the Nyngan Show** and **the Nyngan Ag Expo** on its website and in its newspaper column. Council also ensures all facilities, buildings and recreation areas are well maintained and appropriately set up for each event.

Volunteer groups: Council has worked with volunteer groups to support their activities, by providing venues, administrative support and assistance with writing grant applications. This includes the recognition of National Volunteer Week and National Tree Day. Council produces and updates the Community Directory, both in hard copy and on the Council website. There is also a New Residents Guide. Council also provides a range of information to families on children's services and childcare.

Indigenous Flag and Welcome to Country: Council has resolved to fly the Aboriginal Flag outside its chambers, and also to include a traditional “Welcome to Country” at official events where visitors to the Shire are understood to be present.

Centenary of ANZAC: Anzac Day in 2015, as the official centenary of the landings at Gallipoli in 1915, was commemorated by a special event held at Heritage Park which was organised by Council in collaboration with the Nyngan RSL Sub-branch. Representatives from each of the schools in the Shire unveiled plaques at trees planted around the sandstone circle to commemorate those from the Nyngan District who served in major battles of the First World War. Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair AC, AO KStJ, former NSW Governor and 1990 Nyngan Flood Recovery Coordinator unveiled the Anzac Centenary plaque and local resident Betty Jackson, daughter of Sydney Wye who served with the AEIF at Gallipoli planted a Lone Pine grown from the seed of the original tree.



Betty Jackson paying tribute to her father Sydney Wye before planting the Lone Pine at the Anzac Centenary ceremony in April 2015.

1.2 Community Facilities

Outcome: We have attractive and well managed community facilities that are regularly used and provide for valued recreational, sporting and cultural programs for our community and visitors.

Nyngan Swimming Pool: Council has undertaken extensive renovations of the Nyngan Swimming pool over the past four years. This has included the installation of a new water filtration plant, new diving blocks, the construction of a clubhouse, new BBQ facilities and the erection of new shade cover. There has also been ongoing routine maintenance such as retiling areas of the pools, and a repair to the diving board spring mechanism. Council has reviewed the operating contract for the pool to suit seasonal conditions.



The Nyngan Swimming Pool has a new filtration plant, shade shelters and a club house.

Parks, gardens and playgrounds: Council has continued to maintain and upgrade parks, gardens and playgrounds across the Shire.

At **O'Reilly Park** new playground equipment has been installed, and the skate park has been remodelled. New shade covers have been built over both areas. A **Liberty Swing** for wheelchair users and an accessible toilet have been added to make the area more accessible.

The **Davidson Park** children's playground has been relocated and new equipment installed.

The **Girilambone Park** has new playground equipment.

Rotary Park has been upgraded with new bollards to prevent vehicles accessing grassed areas, upgraded toilets, and the addition of a recreational pontoon on the Bogan River.

Teamsters Rest. Council has also developed the Teamsters Rest area in the main street of Nyngan. This has included building of a shed to display the replica **Cobb and Co Coach** and a horse drawn wool wagon, and the installation of the **Big Bogan** structure.

Council has liaised with the **Nyngan Garden Club** to gather suggestions for garden improvements and to implement them.

Sportsgrounds and active recreational facilities: Council has carried out a regular maintenance program on the sports grounds and active recreational facilities to ensure they are well utilised. Raw water systems have been installed at Frank Smith Number 3 oval (operational) and Larkin Oval (in the process of being connected) to improve the playing surfaces in an environmentally sustainable manner. Fixed fitness equipment has been installed at Larkin Oval.



The fixed exercise equipment in Larkin Oval grounds.

Showground and equestrian facilities: There has been ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Nyngan Showground and equestrian facilities including a replacement of the watering system in the main ring and an extension of the watered area around the pavilions. With the assistance of showground users, Council has repainted the Wye Pavilion, the racecourse bar and the racecourse grandstand.



New playground equipment and shade shelters at O'Reilly Park.

Community halls and facilities: Council has continued to maintain community halls for public use. An audit of all Shire halls and community facilities for the maintenance and repair and capital works program has been carried out. There was also a review of user groups of these facilities to ascertain the number and types of users and the levels of use. The **Nyngan Town Hall** has been repainted and new exit signage has been fitted. Council is yet to develop a plan of management for the **Palais Theatre** to support community activities although continual consideration is given in the annual budgets including provision for capital improvement.

Youth Centre: The CSP identified a need for a dedicated youth centre. Council supports community groups including the Nyngan Baptist Fellowship through the provision of financial assistance to pay rates and service charges on the former Scout Hall.



The shed at Teamsters Rest housing the Cobb and Co Coach and a wool wagon.

1.3 Ageing and Disability Support

Outcome: older people and people with disabilities feel safe, secure, valued, included and are able to actively participate in community life.

Council's strategy was to promote a range of residential, sporting and other community opportunities for personal development, interaction of healthy lifestyle for older people and people with disabilities through education, support networks and facilities.

Aware of the need to establish more accommodation in Nyngan for people of retirement age, Council held a public meeting in January 2013 to discuss options and select a committee to work with council and address this need. Based on the recommendations of this committee, Council resolved in August 2013 to establish a retirement village, consisting of two and three bedroom units on the former "Pound Paddock" site, opposite Nyngan Showground. This was subject to firm commitments from prospective occupiers. Site layout plans, detailed floor plans and the design of the sewer infrastructure were completed for the project. Council did not however receive sufficient interest in the project

to justify the extensive capital development cost. The project remains alive and is expected to be revisited in the future.

Seniors Week: Council has actively supported Seniors Week every year by organising and sponsoring a week of activities. This includes co-ordinating the Senior Citizen of the Year Awards, hosting a morning tea and a concert/movie, and many other activities in conjunction with other community organisations such as free health checks, exercise in the park, a church service and bingo.

Council has also adopted and implemented a **Pedestrian Access Mobility Program (PAMP)** to improve access to community facilities.

Council has installed a **Liberty Swing** and accessible toilet in O'Reilly Park for wheelchair users.

Additional disabled parking has been included in the CBD as part of the Main Street Beautification program.



With support from various community organisations, a Liberty Swing and disabled toilet was installed in O'Reilly Park in 2016 for wheelchair users.

1.4 Children and Young People Support

Outcome: Children and young people are cared for, safe and are actively engaged with support and development opportunities to encourage them to reach their potential.

Council's strategy was to provide childcare facilities, preschools, after hours care and playgroups to meet the needs of the community.

Early Learning Centre: In 2015 Council applied for and received a \$50,000 Federal Government grant to investigate the feasibility of centre-based day care for children aged 0-5 in the Bogan Shire. This study identified a need, and Council received a \$450,000 grant to build a centre. Council contributed \$1.2 million of its own funds to build the Bogan Shire Early Learning Centre (ELC) which opened in April 2016. The facility was built on council-owned land and project managed by Council staff. The ELC is licensed for 43 children aged 0-5 in two rooms. It is open for 50 weeks a year from 7.30am - 6pm. The ELC also houses and oversees the Bogan Bush Mobile Service.



The specially fitted out Bogan Bush Mobile ute that transports all the equipment to the numerous rural and remote locations for play sessions.

Bogan Bush Mobile: Council also undertook substantial renovation to the former Bogan Bush Mobile premises at 20 Dandaloo Street. This included repainting the interior, new flooring, and a renovation to the office and kitchen area. Bogan Bush Mobile has continued to provide a regular visiting educational playgroup service for children aged 0-5 across rural and remote communities throughout the region. In 2015 the Shire employed a trainee educator to work with the existing two permanent staff. The service operates on a fortnightly cycle visiting a total of around 130 children at Hermitdale, Girilambone, Collierina, Marra, Duck Creek, Tottenham, Trangie, Warren, Collie, Quambone, Marthaguy, and Mungery. The fortnightly Nyngan playgroup was disbanded when the ELC opened due to changes in the funding agreement. Sessions run for two hours and focuses on educational play.

Other children's groups: Council provides information on children's services in the Shire on its website and Facebook page and fortnightly in its newspaper column. The Library provides a venue for the Bogan Early Parenting Support Group.

Youth: Council has provided facilities, equipment and administrative support to the StormCo group of volunteers which comes to Nyngan each year in the school holidays between term one and term two. Council also supports Youth Week annually by sourcing grant funding and working with local community groups such as the Red Cross Community Hub and Barnardos. Council promotes youth week events on its website, Facebook page and through its newspaper column.

1.5 Library

Outcome: our library is used by all as a centre for information, learning and recreational reading.

Council's strategy was to focus on community needs in providing and promoting quality facilities and access to

printed and online information and other resources. In 2013 The Bogan Library received a Library Development Grant from the NSW State Library for \$143,000. This was used for renovations to improve the accessibility of the building. Improvements included a disabled toilet, new flooring and paintwork, new moveable shelving to allow the interior to be easily reconfigured to accommodate for different functions, new furniture and a new accessible circulation desk.

A small meeting room was also included and this is a popular space for the community. Services offered by the library include free computer facilities, free Wi-Fi, and meeting areas. The traditional services such as book, DVD, and toy lending have been augmented by online facilities such as BorrowBox, eAudio and eBooks.

The free Wi-Fi service has helped increase the number of children and young adults to the Library in school holidays and after school. It has also been popular with those studying by distance education.

The Library regularly hosts events including the Cancer Council's Biggest Morning Tea. It has also become a regular venue for groups such as The Bogan Early Parent Support Group, and the Red Cross Community Hub "IT for Senior's" course.

The Library also participates in the BookLink and Summer reading programs to encourage young people to read and borrow books and National Simultaneous Story Time whereby schools are invited to a reading of a particular book which is also read at other libraries across Australia at the same time.

The Library continues to be an active member of the North Western Regional Library Service partnership. The librarian attends quarterly meetings of this group whereby the Spydus Library System is addressed. The system has been upgraded but there are still some issues which the group is working through together.

1.6 Education

Outcome: our Community has access to quality education and learning opportunities at all levels to increase their skills especially in the areas we have a local skills deficit, to support the development of our community and increase their capacity to prosper and contribute to the community.

Council has continued to support all schools in the Shire through various initiatives, awards and scholarships. Council representatives attend all end-of-year presentation days. Significant initiatives continue to include the relationship between Nyngan High School and the **Tongling Middle School in China**. Each year Council allocates \$8,500 to this project and assists with administrative support. This enables Nyngan High School students to visit Tongling every two years, and on the alternative year, Tongling students to visit Nyngan.

Council is responsible for all liaison with Tongling and for co-ordinating the visits and travel arrangements. The Chinese students are hosted for a week in the Bogan Shire, and Council provides accommodation and activities, including a formal dinner with the Councillors, farm visits, and a tour of the region including the mines and the solar plant.

Council has lobbied on behalf of local schools for students to be allowed to make up the time during the year so they can have the morning off school to attend and contribute to the **Nyngan Show** in May each year.

Traineeships: Council has introduced three specific Council-funded traineeships in the Corporate Services, Engineering and Development & Environmental Services departments. An additional six apprenticeships and traineeships are funded by Council, and 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.



Council helps co-ordinate Seniors Week activities every year.



Council helps co-ordinate the Anzac Day service each year.



The Christmas Lights Competition 2015 winners.



The Cobb and Co Coach has been housed in a purpose built shed at Teamsters Rest.



Heritage Park has been developed to include a war memorial and will include an indigenous area.



Council celebrates NAIDOC week each year. The Aboriginal flag is flown alongside the Australian flag outside Council chambers throughout the year.



The Visitor Information Centre is fully accredited. Volunteer and Museum Patron, Glad Eldridge with Visitor Information Centre Officer Stewart McKenzie.



Youth week is celebrated in Nyngan each year.



The Nyngan Town Hall was recently repainted.



The Bogan Shire Library - a hub of activity in Nyngan.

Connecting Our Community



Council is responsible for the maintenance of 1,245km of local roads (166km sealed and 1,079km unsealed), 238km of regional roads (120km sealed and 118km unsealed) and 261km of State highway (all sealed). Over the past four years Council has re-sheeted 120km of gravel road and built 20km of new road. Road maintenance accounts for 40% of the annual budget.

Pictured: Colane Rd, bitumen sealed in stages over the past four years.

Goal - A transport network which enables efficient movement of people and freight ensuring the Shire's accessibility is maintained and all have access to a quality road network and public transport.

2.1 Road Networks. Outcome

Our well-constructed and maintained road network enables safe and efficient movement of people and freight throughout the Shire.

Maintaining and improving the road network throughout the Bogan Shire is an ongoing commitment which accounts for 40% of the budget (approximately \$5 million a year). Council is responsible for the maintenance of 1245km of local roads (166km sealed and 1079km unsealed); 238km of regional roads (120km sealed and 118km unsealed) and 261km of State highway (all sealed).

Council employs 21 staff in six gangs for road works including four grader gangs for construction and maintenance and a highway maintenance gang. There is also a two-man gang from gravel haulage.

Over the past four years Council has constructed 20km of new road, and has re-sheeted 120km of gravel road.

Community feedback is obtained annually at the Council's village meetings as well as through council road tours and routine inspections. Council utilises its Asset Management Plan and has a contract with Roads and Maritime Services to continually carry out maintenance, rehabilitation and improvements to local and State roads throughout the shire. Notable improvement works include the continual bitumen sealing of the Colane road, the Hermidale-Nymagee Road, the Pangee Road and the Mulla Road.

Streetscape: In Nyngan there has been significant renovation to the CBD streetscape under the Main Street Beautification Plan. This has included the replacement of 45 reverse parking with nose-to-kerb parking, extra disability parking, tree planting for summer shade and the construction of garden beds for visual amenity. aesthetics. Council liaises with Essential Energy to ensure street lighting meets requirements.

2.2 Public Road Transport

Outcome: we have reliable, cost-effective and regular public road transport linking the Shire to Dubbo and beyond as well as in Nyngan itself, increasing mobility for people without their own transport and providing a more sustainable alternative.

The CSP included outcomes for an establishment of a town bus service and a taxi/transport service. Whilst there are still no such services operating on a fulltime regular basis in the Shire, local service clubs (i.e. the Nyngan RSL Club and the Nyngan Golf Club) currently operate their own bus service for patrons as needed. The Shire has upgraded the local bus stops in Nyngan, Coolabah and Girilambone for the inter-town buses which pass through. There has also been continual liaison with the school bus providers to open up new routes and to also provide safe bus stops.

2.3 Active Transport

Outcome: Our network supports and encourages people to take up active travel such as walking and cycling to enhance their social and physical wellbeing.

Bikeways and footpaths: A network of bikeways marked on roads was established in Nyngan before the CSP was introduced and Council has continued to monitor and maintain this. There have been meetings with local schools to gauge the interest in keeping the marked pathways on the streets. It is worth noting there has been a change to the law to enable young people (12 years and younger) and their adult carers to ride bikes on the footpath. Council has recently extended its paved cycleway/footpath network in Nyngan which will soon take in Rotary Park and the Bogan River recreational areas.

Council Traffic Committee has liaised with the local NSW Police liaison officer to educate the community about the safe use of the cycle ways.

2.4 Air Services

Outcome: Our valuable airport assets are used to their full potential providing residents, workers and visitors with cost-effective, reliable, safe air services.

Council has an ongoing maintenance program at the Nyngan Airport to ensure it complies with CASA regulations and meets the needs of users. The apron and taxi way have been re-sealed and a second Illuminated Wind Direction Indicator has been installed to meet changes in regulations.

The local mining industry operates a weekly charter service to and from Brisbane for its employees (as required). There isn't currently a regular commercial service operating although there has been occasional interest from providers.

2.5. Rail Services

Outcome: Our rail connection provides a cost-effective and reliable alternative to other forms of transport for people and freight.

Freight rail services: The State Government through its Resources to Regions project has continued to invest in upgrades to the rail track between Dubbo and Cobar. The track is currently used by the mining industry and by the local grain storage facilities to export product from the region. Council has commenced investigations on behalf of a mining interest into the feasibility of a regular freight service to deliver goods into the Shire.

Passenger rail services: Passenger trains do not come to Nyngan but there is a daily bus service linking Nyngan to the Dubbo-Sydney XPT service.



Bicycle safety workshop held at Larkin Oval



Council re-sheeted 120km of gravel road and constructed 20km of new road between 2012 and 2016.



Freight rail remains a key way to export mining and agricultural produce from the Shire. Council is advocating for this to be increased.



The footpath and bikeway network was extended in 2015 to connect the Bogan River precinct.



The Main Street Beautification scheme introduced nose-to-kerb parking, with additional spaces for disabled parking. Garden beds will provide extra shade in the summer months as well as visual appeal.



The apron and taxi way at Nyngan Airport were resealed and a second Illuminated Windsock was installed to meet CASA regulations

Managing Our Environment



The floating pontoon on the Bogan River at Rotary Park was constructed in 2015.

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 responsible.

3.1 Built Environment

Outcome: The character, liveability and prosperity of our Shire are enhanced through sound urban planning processes and facilitation of developments in accordance with the Bogan Local Environmental Plan.

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

Affordable range of housing: Council is currently re-zoning land for residential purposes.

Council investigated the community interest in providing land for affordable aged care. A public meeting was held in January 2013 and a committee was formed to make recommendations to council. Council resolved in August 2013 to establish a retirement village on the former 'Pound Paddock' site opposite the Nyngan Showground. Site plans and a design of the sewer infrastructure were completed for the project but Council did not receive sufficient interest to justify the capital development cost. The project remains alive and is expected to be revisited in the future.

Compliance with Local Environmental Plan legislation formed through the Regional Land Use Study Project: Council continues to develop its Local Environment Plan in keeping with State Government legislation. Once completed it will be adopted by Council. Heritage controls have been incorporated into the Local Environment Plan and the DCP, and sustainability controls have been incorporated into the LEP.

Safe, healthy and well maintained buildings: In accordance with relevant health and safety legislation, Council conducts regular inspections of 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.

Flood management plans: Council has developed and implemented flood management plans into the LEP and DCP for all urban flood plain areas. Council continues to maintain stormwater management infrastructure.

3.2 Waste Management

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

Council implemented waste recycling in Nyngan in 2011 and since then has increased awareness of recycling through an educational campaign. Kerbside waste and commercial waste collection services have increased.

In 2015/16, 983 tonnes of waste was deposited at the Nyngan Waste Management and Resource Recovery Facility. In addition, 165 tonnes of recyclable waste was collected and taken to Gilgandra for sorting.

Council has undertaken to upgrade the Nyngan Waste Management and Resource Recovery Facility to ensure it complies with the Landfill Environmental Management Plan which is near to completion. A \$43,000 grant was obtained to fence the site and install CCTV Cameras and new signage. Council has allocated \$357,859 in its budget for capital expenses including the purchase of new plant and \$526,859 to set up a recycling drop off zone for all Shire residents.

Council worked on advice from the Rural Fire Service and established fire breaks to all waste facilities.

3.3 Natural Environment

Outcome: Our reserves and other public places are clean, litter-free and appropriately managed, preserving their valued use, biodiversity and visual amenity whilst protecting our environment from waste and litter pollution.

Provision of high quality, well serviced and maintained reserves and recreational areas: Council departments carry out routine maintenance on the local reserves and recreational areas to ensure they are well used by the community. This has included the provision of litter and recycling bins and BBQ areas in council parks. A pontoon with access pathway has been built on the Bogan River at Rotary Park to allow for increased recreational use of the area for fishing, swimming and boating.

Litter reduction: Council continues to implement programs and facilities which foster responsible and protective behaviour towards reducing waste and litter pollution. Street rubbish bins have been upgraded to include lidded tops to prevent litter spilling, and the number of bins has increased. An educational mail out on which waste suitable for recycling has also been undertaken.

The streets in Nyngan's CBD are swept twice a week and the gutters right around town are swept monthly.

Preservation of the natural environment: Council has also continued to support initiatives to protect and preserve Bogan Shire's natural environments, waterways, flora and fauna through responsible development and management. It assists each year with the annual Carp Muster fishing competition and supports Government Agencies and other organisations with projects such the release of native fingerlings into the river. Council staff undertake regular water way inspections and control noxious weeds.



The Shire's natural environment is preserved and protected via responsible development and management initiatives.

3.4 Noxious Weeds.

Outcome: Our local environment is protected from noxious weeds through inspection and control measures in compliance with the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*.

The *Noxious Weeds Act 1993* has been replaced by the *Biosecurity Act 2015* to which Council has an ongoing commitment to comply. This includes participation on the Central West Regional Weeds Committee and the Macquarie Valley Weeds Advisory Council. Council regularly inspects for listed noxious weeds on public and private property and undertakes to eradicate them.

3.5 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.

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 also submits an annual report on the Drinking Water Management Plan.

The Water Asset Management Plan is used to develop the annual water budget and to make improvements to water supplies.

Council has taken measures to enhance the security of the water supply to ensure long term drought management plans are developed and water losses are minimised through involvement in the Lower Macquarie Water Utilities Alliance. In conjunction with Cobar Shire Council it has received a \$100,000 grant to investigate the feasibility of piping the Albert Priest Channel between Warren and Nyngan. This is in addition to the current Nyngan Cobar Water Security Project to store 700 ML off river in a storage near Nyngan. This project has been awarded a \$10 million grant and will be a significant development.

Council has provided the Shire a reliable and safe water supply and has achieved 100 percent water compliance over the past four years of the current term.

3.6 Sewerage.

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

In accordance with the Sewer Asset Management Plan, Council has undertaken ongoing replacement and improvements to the Nyngan sewerage system. There has been routine ongoing testing and reporting of this system to ensure compliance with Sewer Treatment Plant License Conditions.

Council has a Liquid Trade Waste Policy and relevant businesses are monitored regularly for compliance.

Council has had no issues with sewerage management over the past four years of the current term.



In 2015/16, 983 tonnes of waste was deposited at the Nyngan Waste Management and Resource Recovery Facility.

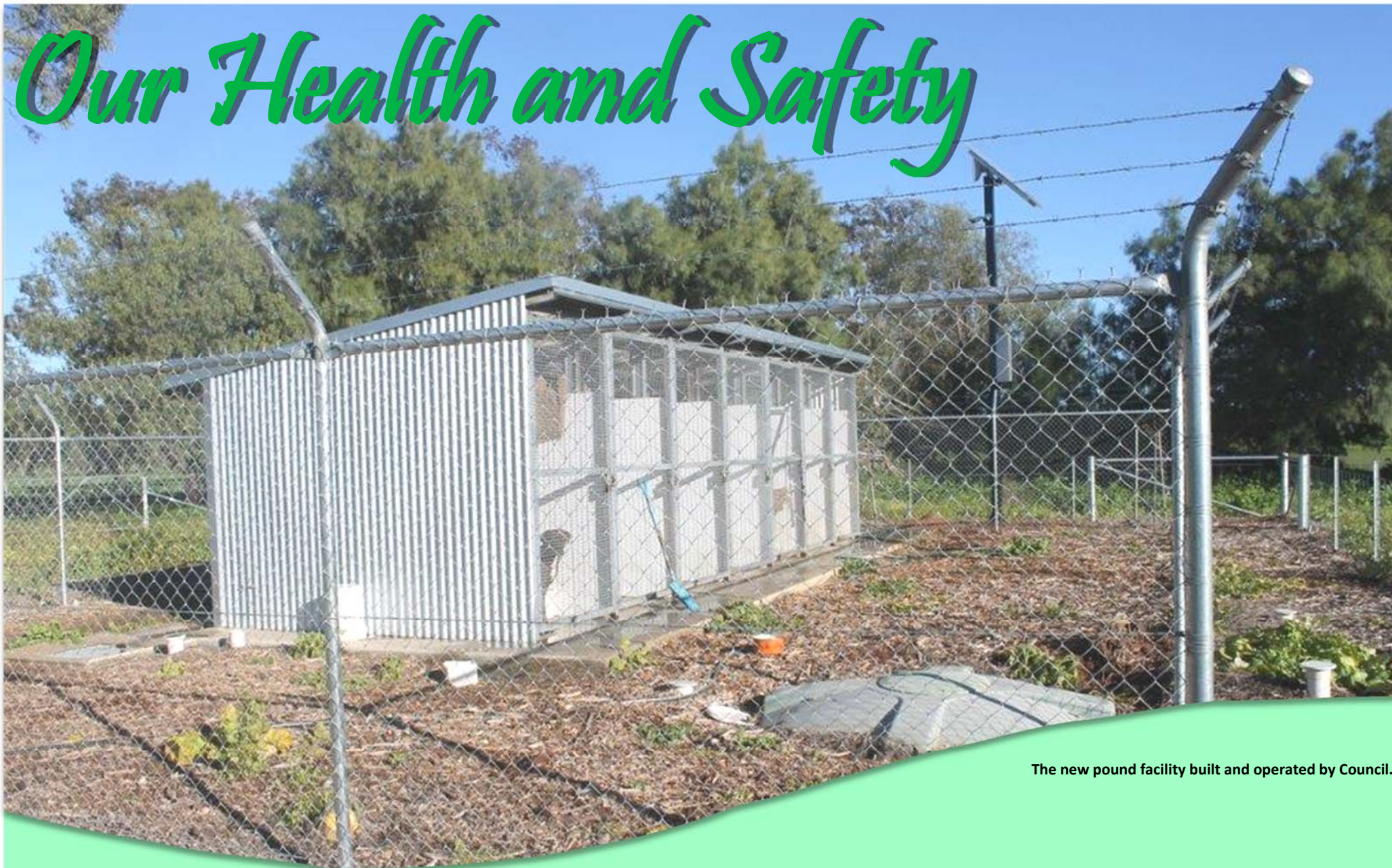


The sewerage works have achieved 100% compliance.



Council participates in National Tree Planting day annually. Mark Jenkins, Parks & Gardens Supervisor with Nyngan High School students Melanie Bodycott and Moisha Lord in 2016.

Our Health and Safety



The new pound facility built and operated by Council.

Goal - Enhance the health and safety of our community through the provision of effective essential services, programs and ensuring equitable access for all to these services .

4.1 Environmental Health.

Outcome: The health, safety and well-being of residents, workers and visitors is protected by providing effective licensing and regulatory services for commercial premises, essential services and animal management.

Local Liquor Accord: Council is a member of the Local liquor Accord liaises with local police to ensure continued compliance. It has provided information regarding new Liquor License applications and made submissions to the State Government as required.

Food safety: Council conducts bi-annual inspections of food preparation businesses to ensure compliance with Safe Food Standards. A food premises register has been compiled and is updated regularly.

Building Code of Australia: conducts annual inspections of commercial premises to ensure compliance with the Building Code of Australia.

Companion Animals: There has been an ongoing management and control of companion animals and work to ensure owner compliance with the NSW *Companion Animals Act 1998*. Council has built a new pound facility, and undertaken a letter drop to provide information on microchipping, and also the penalties for wandering dogs.

4.2 Disaster Management.

Outcome: We have the capability in place to plan, organise and implement measures to respond to and recover from disasters.

Council is a member of the Local Emergency Management Committee which has an Emergency Management Plan in place. This committee is in the process of developing a new plan in accordance with State Government requirements that plans been made more accessible. The State Emergency Service has developed a Flood Plan for Nyngan.

The Local Emergency Management Committee meets quarterly to ensure it is equipped, prepared and trained for disasters and incidents. Simulated disasters have been conducted as part of this process.

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.

4.3 Public Health.

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

Medical Centre: Council successfully applied for grant funding of \$611,000 from the Federal Government's National Stronger Regions Fund to assist with the construction of the Bogan Shire Medical Centre. Construction has started on the \$1.4 million centre which has been purpose built to accommodate primary, allied and specialised health care services. The Centre will address a critical lack of accessibility to local health care services and consequential social and economic impacts and will offer a bulk billing service. The Council will also deliver the Closing the Gap program for Aboriginal people, and there will be a requirement for the GP's to hold an on-call VMO contract at the Nyngan Multipurpose Health Service (hospital) which will resolve the current and future risks to this position.

Medical surgeries: Council has continued to provide surgeries and housing to the two General Practitioners

Ambulance Service: Council has lobbied the State Government to ensure Nyngan has access to a 24 hour ambulance service. The use of ambulances for non-urgent patient transport resulted in occasions where there wasn't staffed vehicle available to residents of the Shire. Council successfully advocated on behalf of the community and local health services to ensure the ambulance service is adequate.



Council commenced work on the Medical Centre in 2016. The facility will cost \$1.4 million to complete, and will house two GP's and provide rooms for allied health.

Community health and wellbeing: Council has worked with community groups and government agencies to support programs which promote health and wellbeing. Examples include various CanAssist initiatives including the Relay For Life event at Larkin Oval, the annual Biggest Morning Tea and the Library, and the High Tea at the Town Hall. The Bogan Bush Mobile Service also regularly actively supports health initiatives for young children on healthy eating, food preservatives and also hosted a Tresillian nurse for a week.

4.4 Fire services.

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

Town and villages: Council's strategy is to ensure people within Nyngan and the surrounding villages are protected from fire-related incidents. In Nyngan this has included the recent donation of council land (approximately valued at \$47,000 based on the sale of a neighbouring similar block) to Fire and Rescue NSW to build a new fire station at a cost of around \$800,000.

Rural areas: The Mayor and council staff liaise with the RFS through participation in the local Service Level Agreement meetings to ensure local input into the RFS's decision making. The RFS has built new stations in the Bogan Shire including one at Girilambone and also received updated equipment.

Property-based Emergency Services Levy: Council, along with other Councils of our industry body, Local Government NSW, successfully lobbied for the introduction of a new, fairer system for collecting the levy that helps fund our community's fire and emergency services. In 2017 the NSW Government will introduce a new Emergency services Property Levy (ESPL) which will be paid by all property owners alongside council rates, and collected by local councils. The ESPL will replace the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) that is currently collected as part of all property-based insurance policies. The NSW Government has announced that from this date, insurance companies will no longer collect the levy as part of the property insurance premiums, and therefore, they believe, insurance premiums will be lower, allowing more people to afford to insure their homes and businesses. The reform will mean the burden of funding these services will no longer fall only on those with property insurance, but all landowners.



Council lobbied for the introduction of a Emergency Services Property Levy, which will be introduced by the NSW Government in 2017

4.5 Policing.

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

Council has continued to lobby the State Government for police numbers to be maintained in the Bogan Local Government area. It has also undertaken a commitment with NSW Police to contribute to the provision of housing (where possible) for police officers. Council has made available the flat behind the old ambulance station for police housing. Council attends regular Community Safety Precinct Meetings where there is an opportunity to discuss community safety concerns with senior members of NSW Police.



Council has lobbied to ensure adequate numbers of police and ambulance officers are stationed in the Shire.

Developing Our Economy



In conjunction with the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the NSW Government, AGL constructed a large scale solar photovoltaic power plant with a total capacity of 102MW at Nyngan. Construction by First Solar started in January 2014 and was completed mid 2015.

Goal - Stimulate and maintain economic growth to build a strong local economy, supporting the development of local businesses and attracting people to the Shire.

5.1 Local Industries and Business.

Outcome: Local industries, including tourism and the businesses that support them continue to grow and prosper.

Council's strategy was to undertake an assessment of the local business and industry, in particular the retail industry, to identify and develop initiatives to actively encourage the establishment of sustainable economic growth and local employment opportunities. Council has developed and maintained a relationship with Regional Development Australia Orana for this purpose. Council has also undertaken a main Street Beautification Scheme to improve parking, increase the disability access and to provide more shade and visual appeal to the Nyngan CBD.

Council also worked with the Bogan Community Tourism and Business Group and Regional Development Australia

Community directory: Council produces a Community Directory which is available on its website and in hard copy.

Supporting local business: Council continues to shop locally for services and products where appropriate. For example recent large projects undertaken by Council including the ELC and the medical centre have used local contractors and materials where possible.

Business opportunities: Council also has a strategy to investigate opportunities to support the township of Nyngan and villages of Girilambone, Coolabah and Hermidale. It has produced and continually updates the Bogan Shire Prospectus.

An Industrial Area has been developed near the Council depot and this now includes several new businesses including AGnVET Services, and the Western Rivers Veterinary surgery.

Significant developments within Shire have included the **AGL Nyngan Solar Plant**, one of the largest of its type in the Southern Hemisphere. The plant occupies approximately 250 hectares, 10km west of Nyngan and has a capacity of 102MW. Construction by First Solar began in January 2014 and finished mid 2015.

Council continues to liaise with and support where possible existing significant developments including the **Aeris Tritton Mine**.

5.2 Tourism.

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

Tourism strategy: Council has engaged the services of a professional economic development specialist to help develop a visitor strategy which will include the identification of potential opportunities for growth and new tourism products.

Tourism guide: It has continued to update, produce and distribute the Official Tourist Guide to local businesses and visitor information centres in neighbouring shires, and has also conducted photographic shoots for marketing and promotional material.

Council has actively promoted Nyngan and Bogan Shire in print media and on appropriate websites.

Council was a member of Inland NSW Tourism for the past two years however that organisation has ceased operations and will be replaced .

New tourism opportunities and initiatives: The Big Bogan statue was built by Council and installed at the Teamsters Rest area in the main street. This created intense nationwide media interest and continues to be a point of interest for visitors to the Shire. Teamsters Rest also includes a new council-built shed to display the replica Cobb and Co. Coach.

The Bogan River recreational area has also been developed with paved pathways, a pontoon and improved BBQ and toilet facilities at Rotary Park. The town weir has become a popular water skiing venue in the hotter months.

Visitor Information Centre: The Bogan Shire Visitor Information Centre is located in the Museum. It has recently become an accredited VIC and as a result is open seven days a week. Two Council staff members are employed to work in the centre as well as volunteers. Council has also recently begun work on two tourist information bays in Nyngan which include off road parking, a Shire map and a list of key attractions.

The Council continues to develop and improve its website and social media profile to encourage tourism.

5.3 Communications.

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

Despite efforts by Council, the Bogan Shire surrounding regions remain disadvantaged in regard to Mobile telecommunications. Western NSW has not received Federal Government "black spot" funding. The Shire was not an early entry to the National Broadband Network roll out, but Council has been advised it will become part of that network in 2017.

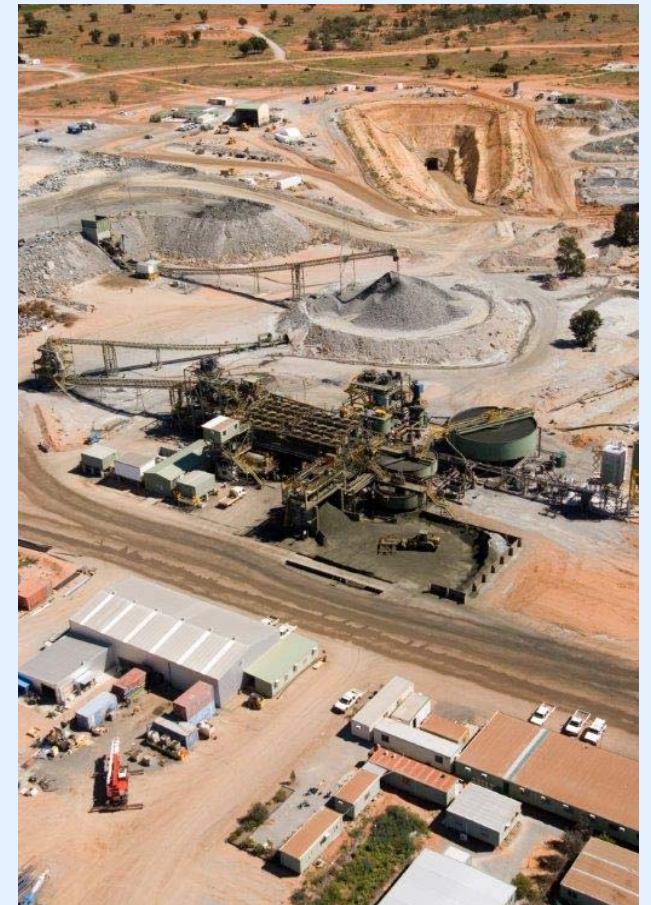


The Big Bogan Structure was the brainchild of Anglican Church minister Father Graham McLeod. Council built and installed it in the main street near Teamsters Rest. It attracted national publicity in 2015.

Visitor Information



The Nyngan Visitor Information Centre is accredited and is open 7 days per week.



The Aeris Tritton mining operation near Hermidale continues to be a significant employer in the Bogan Shire.

Responsible Local Government



COUNCIL AND SENIOR STAFF

Back: Cr Greg Deacon, Cr Glen Neill, Cr Danny Dutton, Graeme Bourke (Mgr Engineering Services).

Middle: Cathy Ellison (Executive Assistant), Tim Riley (Mgr Development & Environmental Services), Michael Ryan (Consultant to Council), Cr Jodi Douglas, Cr Hazel Griffiths, Cr Kevin Ryan.

Front: Derek Francis (General Manager), Cr Ray Donald OAM (Mayor), Cr Jim Hampstead OAM (Deputy Mayor), Cr Elaine McLaughlin.

Goal - Local Government which is open and transparent in delivering responsive services to the community in an efficient and ethical way using sound business practices.

6.1. Leadership Advocacy and Governance.

Outcome: Bogan Shire Council will deliver open, transparent and effective local government, lobbying on behalf of the community and working in partnership with regional bodies.

Fit for the Future: As part of the ongoing NSW Government's process known as 'Fit for the Future', Bogan Shire Council prepared a comprehensive business plan which was submitted to the Government demonstrating that we are able to retain our autonomy, maintain our independence and meet the challenges ahead with strong community support. We are confident we can "stand alone" and be viable and financially sustainable into the future .

The submission stated Bogan Shire has a sound, transparent accountable Council, well aware of the community needs and aspirations, supported by a well-led conscientious staff of around 95 people. It emphasised Council has a sound financial record of credit cash budgets, low debt levels and considerable savings and that our annual budgets retained consistent service delivery with ongoing road maintenance and improvement.

One of the options for this Council presented in the Revitalising Local Government report was a merger with Warren Shire Council. This option was canvassed with the community which overwhelmingly rejected it. This was consistent with Council's view this merger would weaken local representation, service provision and identity.

The NSW Government declared Bogan Shire Council to be Fit for the Future, meaning it demonstrated it is able to retain its autonomy, maintain its independence and meet the challenges ahead with strong community support, confident it can continue to "stand alone" into the future representing ratepayers with honesty, integrity and sound financial management.

Community Service Plan: Council has adhered to its Community Service Plan adopted in 2012, referencing the strategies and outcomes it in its annual Operational Plans and conducting an end of term report. It has continued to provide accountability to the community by regularly reporting on Council activities through the publication of business papers, meeting minutes and general information. It has also ensured accountability to the community by timely completion and publication of statutory reports.

Councillor liaison: Council conducts annual Village Tours whereby the communities of Coolabah, Hermidale and Girilambone have the opportunity to present concerns and meet with Councillors and senior staff. Council also conducts road tours and speak with outlying residents to hear concerns.

Public meetings have been held to discuss matters of importance, for example the Main Street Beautification Project and the Fit for the Future submission.

6.2 Managing Our Business.

Outcome: Our business is resourced with a competent and motivated workforce and is effectively managed through sound procedures and financial practices to enable us to build and deliver community services and infrastructure both now and into the future.

Each year Council develops and implements an Operation Plan and Budget so as to manage its financial resources responsibly. It aims to maximise revenue opportunities and has continually received grants for projects.

Council continues to manage the recovery of revenues raised by Council and the Long Term Outstanding Debt has progressively declined.

Senior Council staff are responsible for conducting regular reviews of policies, reporting systems and plans including asset management, and risk management plans to confirm they are fit for purpose and to report to Council.

Organisational review and restructure: Between March and December 2015 Council undertook an organisational review of its Engineering and Corporate Services Departments. This review was conducted to identify potential inefficiencies, changes in processes and technology and analysis of structural and capacity issues. The scope of the review was to enhance productivity and performance within these departments and to improve of facilitate achievement of Operational Plan activities. The outcome of the review was an organisational change to address duplication, cost, skills shortages and changes in services and operations. Council retained the number of positions across these departments.

Decision making: Council has continued to support a culture of customer service, including supporting processes to deliver high quality services to the community. Council ran a number of workshops with councillors, Department Managers, Supervisors and the Consultative Committee to produce the seven council values that guide our thinking, actions and decision making.

Workplace Health and Safety: Council continues to identify, characterise and assess all areas of potential risks to Workplace health and safety and public liability.

Information technology: Council is working to adequately resource its IT and communications systems to be consistent with industry standards and technological development. There is now a designated Business Systems Analyst on the staff as well as an IT Trainee. At the end of 2016 Council will replace its telephone system with a VOIP system, considered to be more efficient and cost effective.



The Bogan Shire Council Chambers building at 81 Cobar Street, Nyngan.

