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## FEDERATION COUNCIL INTRODUCTION

Federation Council is proud to present our Annual Report for 2019/20 which is prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Regulations.

Our Annual Report provides an overview of Council's financial position, operations and capital works within the 2019/20 financial year, and enables the community to see how we have progressed against the goals of the Operational Plan.

Council continues to strive to deliver the many local services valued by our communities, whilst considering ways to provide improvements where possible.

A diverse range of services are provided to local residents, business and industry, developers and investors as well as people visiting the region. Council's key objectives are:

- **1. Administration:** To employ effective management and income generating systems for the benefit of the Community.
- **2. Community Development:** To provide a safe and healthy living, working and recreational environment.
- **3. Environment:** To protect and preserve the sensitive environment of the Federation Council area.
- **4. Roads and Transport:** To develop and maintain a safe and efficient road and transport network throughout the Federation Council area.
- **5. Tourism:** To promote the development of tourism and tourist facilities, whilst preserving the Tourism features of the Federation Council area.
- **6. Economic Development:** To promote economic development in a way that balances development with environmental issues

We value your feedback and encourage you to provide any comments on this report. If you would like more information about any item in this report, please contact Council.

Via email: council@federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au

Via post: Federation Council, PO Box 77, Corowa NSW 2646

Via phone: (02) 6033 8999





It is with great pleasure that Council presents the Federation Council 2019/20 Annual Report. This report outlines Council's performance and achievements over a very rewarding and dynamic year.

Over the last 12 months, Council delivered a significant capital works program full of exciting new community centres, playgrounds, recreation facilities and important road upgrades to help make the Federation Council an even better place to live and raise a family. Many of these were as a result of the merger funding, and also from some other State and Federal Government grants. Highlights included the completion of:

Bangerang Park new playground \$900k and construction of new toilet amenities \$180k, refurbishment of John Foord Oval Building \$220k, completion of the Corowa Skate Park Extension \$350k, construction of new Tennis Pavilion at Lowe Sqaure, Howlong \$225k, construction of new Corowa Cricket Club Pavillion \$330k, construction of new football change rooms at Oaklands Recreation Ground \$450k, construction of Oaklands Medical Centre \$400k, and completion of the Mulwala Business Park.

Some of the advanced work that we will see in the 2020/21 year will be the delivery of the new Corowa Aquatic Centre, with the facility set to open to the public in March 2021 and the official opening of the \$2.2M Adventure Playground at Purtle Park in Mulwala. In addition, many other projects, some long held priorities, and some already underway, will also be delivered, making it a very exciting time for Council and our communities.

Our Councillors are active in our communities with representation on various statutory committees and delegates to external organisations and associations Council also has representatives on Advisory and Section 355 committees of Council.

Our Council places a great focus on communication, consultation, and listening to our community on matters that are most important to them.

Council also values greatly the support we get from our many valued volunteers and Section 355 Committees, who perform many hours of unpaid work for Council and their communities, including partnering with Council on some of our projects, and also in maintaining many of our Community facilities. We could not do this without you all.

Of course, the last few months of the 2019/20 financial year proved very challenging, as we navigated our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. The wellbeing of our community is paramount for Council, and I would like to acknowledge the way in which the organisation worked

diligently to reimagine programs and services, so residents could continue to access the programs and services they need to lead healthy and happy lives. On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our residents for their support over the past 12 months, and our Executive Team and staff for the delivery of the quality services they provide to our community.

As Councillors we look forward to our final term of office, as we focus with the Executive team, across the many communities to continue to develop the area consistent with the Council and our communities' vision of Creating Opportunities and Celebrating Communities.

I hope you enjoy the 2019/20 Annual Report.

Kind Regards, Cr Patrick Bourke Mayor Federation Council

# ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY Quick Stats

## **POPULATION**

Males

49.7%

**Females** 

50.3%

**Indigenous Population** 

1.7%

Speaks a language other than English at home

1.9%

**Employed** 

59% full time

**Employed** 

39% part time

Reference: ABS census of data. Population and housing 2016



On behalf of Federation Council, I am pleased to present this Annual Report which outlines our organisational performance in 2019/20.

Throughout the year we continued to deliver an impressive range of community services despite the challenges presented by coronavirus. Forced closures of a number of facilities and programs meant that Council focused on the delivery of essential services and pivoted to online programming, wherever possible. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to deliver on our commitment to complete several major projects.

Improvements to our Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning has resulted in an integrated financial model for 2020/21 and provides a path forward for further improvements. This strategically critical project enables Council to better understand key financial and asset management risks and assist with more informed decision making.

The coming year will remain an important time for Federation as Council continues to deliver on the many major projects that will define the future growth of our region. These are not only external projects, but also internal projects, such as embarking on a new rate system for the entire Federation Council area, a new Local Environmental Plan (Land Use), and further strategy work in respect to our new Long Term Financial Plan. This plan will consider the financial challenges on Council with delivering a vast range of services to our communities, managing a large and growing asset base, and will allow Council to consider strategies to ensure we are financially sustainable into the future.

In closing, I extend my sincere appreciation to all staff and Councillors for their commitment to the Federation Council community, and for their significant contribution to enhancing the lives of our residents, particularly in light of the challenges that the pandemic presented us with.

Kind regards, Adrian Butler General Manager Federation Council

## OUR COUNCILLORS

Federation Council is governed by nine elected Councillors. The last Council Election was held in September 2017. The election cyle which is normally every 4 years was reduced to 3 years newly algamated Councils. This was to bring them into line with the normal election cycle and the next election which was to be held in September 2020. As a result of COVID-19 the Minister of Local Government announced early this year that the September 2020 local Government elections were to be postponed to 2021.



Mayor Cr Patrick Bourke



Deputy Mayor
Cr Shaun Whitechurch



Cr David Longley



Cr Paul Miegel



Cr Fred Longmire



Cr Bronwyn Thomas



Cr Gail Law



Cr Norman W Wales APM



Cr Andrew Kennedy

The postponement of the next election will not impact on the future four year schedule and therefore the subsequent election in 2024 will still proceed.

Mayors elected in September 2019 continue to hold office until September 2021, once the election date is determined



# ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY QUICK STATS

**Population** 

12,437

**Land Area** 

5,685km2

**Population density** 

# 2 persons per square km

**LAND USE** 

**Primary Production** 

92.6%

**Parkland** 

5.4%

Residential

0.4%

**Industrial** 

0.2%

Water

1.3%

**Other** 

0.1%

# COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES

The following Councillor delegates were adopted by Council in September 2019.

Committee Delegates Councillor

#### STATUTORY COMMITTEES - required by legislation

| ·  | . 0           | Cr Miegel<br>Cr Wales       |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|
|  | : = 0.0 90.10 | Cr Wales<br>Cr Longmire     |
| Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee (Delegate is Mayor and Alternative Deputy Mayor)  |               | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Whitechurch |
| Rural Fire Service Advisory Committee (Delegate is Mayor and Alternative Deputy Mayor) | :             | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Whitechurch |
| ·  |               | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Wales       |

## DELEGATES TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS - (Council represented in lobbying/advocacy capacity)

| Riverina Water County Council (4 year term)    | Delegate<br>Alternative  | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Whitechurch        |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Murray Darling Association                     | Delegate<br>Alternative  | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Whitechurch        |
| Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) | Delegate<br>Alternative  | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Whitechurch        |
| Riverina Regional Library                      | Delegate<br>Alternative  | Cr Law & Cr Thomas<br>Cr Miegel    |
| NSW Public Libraries Association               | Delegate<br>Alternative  | Cr Thomas<br>Cr Law                |
| Yarrawonga-Mulwala Tourism Inc                 | Delegates<br>Alternative | Cr Kennedy & Cr Thomas<br>Cr Wales |
| Murray Regional Tourism                        | Delegate<br>Alternative  | Cr Law<br>Cr Thomas                |
| ClubGrants Committee – Mulwala                 | Delegate                 | Cr Thomas & Cr Kennedy             |
| ClubGrants Committee – Corowa/Howlong          | Delegates                | Cr Miegel &<br>Cr Whitechurch      |
| Federation Arts and Culture Advisory Committee | Delegate                 | Cr Law                             |
| Liquor Accord Committee (Corowa)               | Delegate<br>Alternative  | Cr Wales<br>Cr Law                 |
| Liquor Accord Committee (Mulwala)              | Delegate<br>Alternative  | Cr Kennedy<br>Cr Thomas            |

| Murray Arts  | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Law<br>Cr Longley        |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Murray Arts - Strategic Advisory Council (Federation Council Representative) | Delegate                | Cr Law                      |
| Lake Mulwala Land and On-Water Management Plan<br>Community Reference Group  | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Kennedy<br>Cr Thomas     |
| Sanger Back Berrigan Creek Advisory Group                                    | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Longmire<br>Cr Kennedy   |
| Urana Local Health Advisory Committee  | Delegate                | Cr Bourke                   |
| Advisory Group on Hume to Yarrawonga Waterway Management (AGHYWM)            | Delegate                | Cr Whitechurch              |
| YANCO SDLAM Community Advisory Group   | Delegate                | Cr Bourke                   |
| West Corurgan Private Irrigation District                                    | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Thomas<br>Cr Longmire    |
| Country Mayors Association   | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Whitechurch |

#### COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - (to provide guidance/recommendations to Council)

| Corowa Saleyards Consultative Committee                                     | Delegates<br>Alternative | Cr Bourke & Cr Longmire<br>Cr Miegel  |
|---|--------------------------|---|
| Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Project Reference Group            | Delegates                | Cr Law & Cr Longmire  |
| Federation Council Floodplain Management Committee (Nthn Towns/Villages)    | Delegates                | Cr Bourke & Cr Longmire   |
| Corowa, Howlong, Mulwala Floodplain Risk Management<br>Committee            | Delegates                | Cr Miegel, Cr Thomas,<br>Cr Kennedy & Cr Longley  |
| Community Grants and Sponsorship Committee                                  | Delegates                | Cr Kennedy, Cr Longley<br>& Cr Wales  |
| Corowa Aerodrome Advisory Committee   | Delegate                 | Cr Longmire   |
| Corowa Skate Park Upgrade Committee   | Delegates                | Cr Longley, Cr White-<br>church & Cr Kennedy  |
| Waste Management Committee  | Delegates                | Cr Longmire, Cr Wales &<br>Cr Law   |
| Asset Management Committee  | Delegates                | Cr Bourke, Cr Kennedy,<br>Cr Law, Cr Longley, Cr<br>Longmire, Cr Miegel, Cr<br>Thomas, Cr Wales & Cr<br>Whitechurch |
| Corowa Swimming Pool Committee  | Delegates                | Cr Whitechurch, Cr<br>Longley & Cr Law  |
| Ageing Well Advisory Committee  | Delegate                 | Cr Law  |
| Federation Council Access Committee (Disability Inclusion Access Committee) | Delegate<br>Alternative  | Cr Longley<br>Cr Kennedy  |

| Joint Regional Planning Panel                          | Delegate      | Cr Longley          |
|--|---------------|---------------------|
| ·  | ; = 0.0 90.00 | Cr Law<br>Cr Miegel |
| Community Safety Committee and Corowa Drug Action Team | : •           | Cr Miegel<br>Cr Law |

## S355 COMMITTEES - (Council delegates certain functions to Committees to provide these on behalf of the Council.)

| Boree Creek Community Facilities Committee                                     | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Longley<br>Cr Bourke      |
|--|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Colombo Creek Recreation Reserve Management Committee                          | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Longley      |
| Daysdale Water Trust   | Delegate                | Cr Longmire                  |
| Federation Arts Committee, Corowa  | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Law<br>Cr Miegel          |
| Lonsdale Reserve Management Committee  | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Kennedy<br>Cr Thomas      |
| Lowe Square Management Committee   | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Longley<br>Cr Longmire    |
| Morundah Community Committee   | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Thomas<br>Cr Longley      |
| Oaklands Memorial Hall Committee   | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Wales<br>Cr Bourke        |
| Oaklands Recreation Ground Management Committee                                | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Kennedy<br>Cr Whitechurch |
| Oaklands Town Improvement Committee  | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Thomas<br>Cr Wales        |
| Oaklands War Memorial Baths & Gardens Committee                                | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Thomas<br>Cr Law          |
| Rand Recreation Ground Management Committee (Sportsground)                     | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Longmire<br>Cr Miegel     |
| Rand School of Arts Committee  | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Thomas<br>Cr Longmire     |
| Rand Town Improvement Committee  | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Longmire<br>Cr Miegel     |
| Urana Progress Association incorporating the Courthouse & Historical Committee | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Wales        |
| Urana Ski & Aquatic Centre Committee   | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Whitechurch  |
| Urana Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee   | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Bourke<br>Cr Wales        |
| Urana Victoria Park Recreation Ground Management<br>Committee                  | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Longley<br>Cr Kennedy     |
| Urana War Memorial Swimming Pool Committee                                     | Delegate<br>Alternative | Cr Whitechurch<br>Cr Wales   |

## THIS ANNUAL REPORT



This is Council's second Annual Report for the priorities and actions as per Council's Community Strategic Plan "Our Community - Our Opportunity" adopted in June 2018 for the period 2018-2028.

The community strategic plan is a ten year plan, and is our long term vision and strategy for the Federation Council area. It represents what you told us in extensive consultation across the first half of 2018, about the community's visions and aspirations for the future.

"Our Community - Our Opportunity" sets the way forward for the community as determined by the community and includes participation from a range of stakeholders and other agencies with responsibilities for the delivery of the agreed priorities.

There are three levels of involvement that may impact on Council and these include:

Community Concern Where Council does not have direct control or influence but could play an educative, advocacy or lobbying role on behalf of the local community. For example, Council does not have direct control or influence over the area's schools or telecommunications - but as they are important to the local community, Council is committed to advocating and lobbying for improving them.

Council Influence Where Council has partial or shared responsibility for the outcome with the community and other groups, and is distinguished from the traditional sphere of local government. This is Council's role in the majority of strategies set out in this CSP. For example, in relation to economic development Council cannot control the outcome; increased economic activity is also dependent on businesses that

operate in this area. Council can and does work with partners to support the economy in a number of ways.

**Council Control** which relates to Council's areas of core service provision and other statutory responsibilities. This includes roads, rates and waste management, as well as a range of governance and planning activities.

Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan are the guiding documents developed for an incoming Council and reflect Council's responsibilities to achieve the priorities for the community as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan.

The Delivery Program is a four year plan which outlines actions to be carried out in each year of the Council term.

Council is required to prepare an Annual Report to the community against the progress of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, in accordance with the Local Government Act.

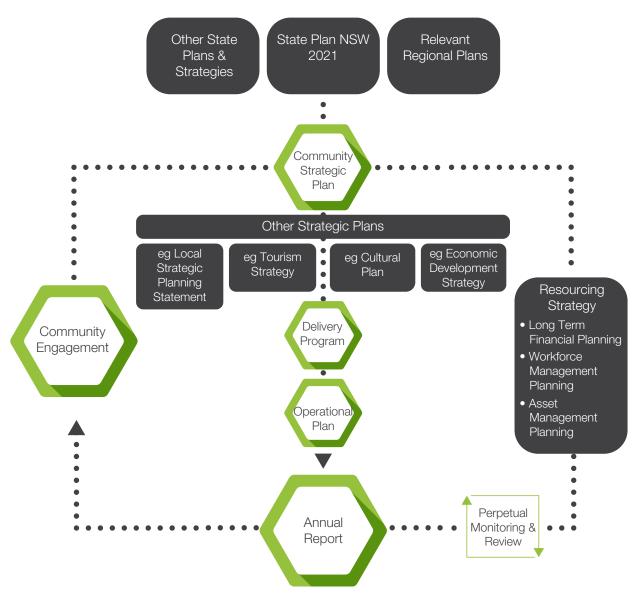
Council is also required to report against the progress of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan at least twice yearly and these reports as well as previous Annual Reports can be found on Council's website at: www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au/Council/ Corporate-Planning/Reporting

The following diagram (on page 19) shows the perpetual cycle that is referred to as the integrated planning and reporting process. Monitoring and review of the budget and the plans occurs early in the year and this was undertaken with the community in p reparation for the new delivery program 2018-2021 and Operational Plan 2019-2020, which will now drive Council's priorities for the next 12 months.

The postponement of elections will have implications for the activities Councils may be required to undertake in the current and next integrated planning and reporting (IP&R) cycles. It is expected that the Office of Local Government will seek to extend the current IP&R cycle for 12 months, with a next cycle to be truncated to 3 years.

This Annual Report includes information about Federation Council, statutory as well as progress reports

tabling our advancement for each section of the Delivery Program 2018-2022 and Operational Plan 2019-2020 as shown by the themes (Built, Economic, Natural, Social and Well-Governed). The report identifies our achievements for key projects and strategies that represent our commitments in relation to the Community Strategic Plan.

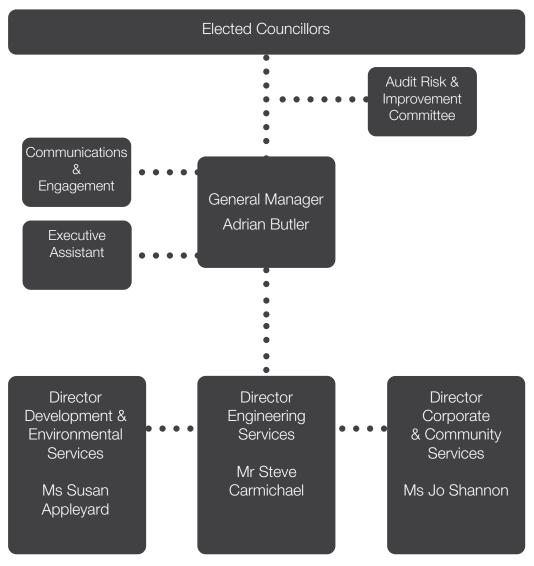




### 2019/20

## **ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

Federation Council comprises of four departments, led by our executive management team, being the General Manager unit, along with the three departments led by each Director.





Pictured above: Adrian Butler, Ms Susan Appleyard, Mr Steve Carmichael and Ms Jo Shannon.



# PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

These guiding documents were developed following extensive consultation with our community and include five key themes, each with a series of goals for Council to measure its performance against.

The following describes our strategic outcomes and status of the Council's Annual Operational Plan and implementation of its 4-year Delivery Program.

#### Key to progress:









Completed

Not Progressing

Progressing/Ongoing

Not Due to Start



Built Federation: Maintained and improved infrastructure that meets the needs of residents and industry.



Economic Federation: Growing, progressive and prosperous communities that build on sustainable manufacturing, agriculture and tourism, close proximity to other centres on both sides of the Murray River and affordability.



Natural Federation: Sustainable rural landscapes and waterways offering tranquility and attractive recreational spaces.



Social Federation: Close-knit and welcoming communities where people come together and support each other.



Well-Governed Federation: Strong civic leadership and governance supporting equity across communities and effective communication with residents.

## Performance Summary:









| Built Federation         | 15 | 2 | 25 | 0 |
|--------------------------|----|---|----|---|
| Economic Federation      | 15 | 1 | 28 | 1 |
| Natural Federation       | 10 | 0 | 6  | 1 |
| Social Federation        | 35 | 0 | 31 | 1 |
| Well Governed Federation | 35 | 1 | 29 | 0 |

## **BUILT FEDERATION**

This encompasses Council's significant infrastructure base and includes capital works and maintenance and upgrades of roads, footpaths, bridges and storm water drainage systems. Waste collection and recycling, building inspections, building control and planning services as well as environmental health services are also integral services provided under the Built priority.

#### **COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

#### **Bangerang Park Corowa**

- New playground \$900k
- Demolition of existing toilet and construction of new toilet \$180k

#### John Foord Oval Corowa

• Refurbishment of building \$220k

#### Corowa Skatepark Extension

• \$350k

#### **Lowe Square Howlong**

- Demolition of existing building and construction of new tennis pavilion. \$225k
- Contracts awarded for construction of Howlong Community Hall and Gymnasium. \$1.6m

#### Corowa Aquatic Centre

 Demolition of existing facility and commencement of construction of 50m outdoor pool and 25m indoor pool. \$9.0m

#### **Ball Park Corowa**

Construction of cricket club pavilion. \$330k

#### Oaklands Recreaction Ground

Construction of a football changerooms \$450k

#### **Oaklands Medical Centre**

• \$400k

#### Oaklands RV Park

• \$160

#### **Hume St Cycle path Corowa**

• Fencing and landscape works. \$15k

#### Corowa to Mulwala Cycle path

Investigation and design \$100k

#### Purtle Park Mulwala

- Demolition of existing toilet and construction of new toilet \$280k
- Commencement of construction of all Abilities Playground. \$2.15m

#### **DRAINAGE PROJECTS**

- Lucan St Corowa improvements
- Holbeach St Howlong construction.

#### **INDUSTRIAL ESTATES**

- Completion of Mulwala industrial Estate Construction
- Commencement of Howlong Industrial Estate Construction.

#### **BRIDGES**

- Investigation design and tendering of Doctors Rd Bridge.
- Investigation design and tendering of Urana Aquatic Centre bridge.

#### TRAFFIC FACILITIES

Construction of Sturt St Pedestrian Refuge.





# BUILT FEDERATION OPERATIONS REPORT

**ON ROADS** 

Council successfully secured funding under the Fixing Local Roads Program, targeting priority areas.

These applications were successful in securing funding for the following projects:

Heavy Patching \$748,350

Traffic Facilities \$1,209,171;

Seal Unsealed Roads \$500,968;

Drainage \$106,557;

Vegetation on Safety \$255,158;

Shoulder Rehabilitation \$147,691.



## **OSMS**

The Onsite Sewage Management Strategy was adopted in 2018. The purpose of the strategy is to protect the environment and health of our communities from risks associated with wastewater (septic) systems. The strategy includes an inspection program focusing on villages that have a high density of wastewater systems; Balldale, Boree Creek, Buraja, Coreen, Corowa, Daysdale, Howlong, Morundah, Mulwala, Rand and Urana.

Inspections of 356 properties have been undertaken so far.

The inspection program will continue and improvement made to high risk systems, to ensure the environment and community health is protected.

## BUILT FEDERATION COROWA AERODROME

# Runway 14-32 Pavement Defects Rectification

Works were undertaken in April 2020 to rectify pavement defects on runway 14-32.

Excavation to a depth of 200-250mm was required before spreading lime on sub base of excavated patches once dry, to absorb any further moisture present. Backfilling then occurred with leftover material from previous lime stabilisation works and compaction with padfoot roller, grade and roll.

A final trim of pavement for sealing works took place with three passes by the grader then again rolled with the multi tyre roller to ensure a premium surface finish for sealing. Once the contractor had completed the design and laying of a 2 coat seal treatment, North East Road Marking were able to mark a new 300mm wide centreline, "piano keys" on runway 32, the number 32, set out new "piano keys" and end of runway 14.

In late April the removal of NOTAM crosses, unserviceability cones, temporary displacement threshold markers and opening of both runways to air traffic occurred. The remainder of the line marking was carried out which included 300mm edge lines, set out and painting 150mm wide yellow taxiway lines, "piano keys" at end of runway 14.



## **BUILT FEDERATION**

Maintained and improved infrastructure that meets the needs of residents and industry.

| Actio | n Code Action Name  | Status |
|-------|---|--------|
| 1.1.1 | Implement Road Management Services (including road, footpath and stormwater drainage construction and maintenance).   |        |
| 1.1.2 | Implement Capital Works Program for Regional Roads, Rural Sealed Roads, Rural Unsealed Roads, Urban Sealed Roads, footpaths and bridges.  |        |
| 1.1.3 | Scope effective location based text messaging services for works program and update website.  |        |
| 1.1.4 | Review scope and plans for revitalisation of Corowa main street (Sanger Street) project.  |        |
| 1.1.5 | Conduct and monitor asset inspections - road, bridges, stormwater drainage and footpaths.   |        |
| 1.2.1 | Implement Capital Works Program to address priority facility needs.   |        |
| 1.2.4 | Construct new Corowa Swimming Pool complex.   |        |
| 1.2.5 | Develop a Recreation Strategy for the Federation Council area with a prioritised set of actions.  | X      |
| 1.2.6 | Commence construction of Corowa Skate Park.   |        |
| 1.2.7 | Ensure Swimming Pool Management Services are delivered.   |        |
| 1.3.1 | Implement Capital Works Program for sewerage, water and flood protection services.  |        |
| 1.3.2 | Develop a Stormwater Drainage Strategy for urban areas.   |        |
| 1.3.3 | Implement a Water & Sewerage maintenance program  |        |
| 1.3.4 | Implement Urana and surrounding villages Floodplain Management Plan   |        |
| 1.3.5 | Implement, conduct, monitor and review asset inspections water and sewer.   |        |
| 1.3.6 | Ensure funding strategy and long term planning includes construction of a Howlong Water Treatment Plant, Mulwala Water Treatment Plant and a new Corowa Sewerage Treatment Plant. |        |
| 1.3.7 | Develop Systems Capacity Review (Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala).  |        |
| 1.3.8 | Conduct compliance/ process upgrades of water and sewer infrastructure.   |        |
| 1.4.1 | Development of a reduced utility cost projects strategy.  |        |
| 1.4.2 | Ensure a funding strategy and long term planning considers development of local solar renewable energy products.  |        |
| 1.4.3 | Investigate opportunities to become electiricity neutral by 2025.   |        |

| 1.5.1 | Advocate for a more comprehensive and expeditious rollout of Communication Networks locally.  |  |
|-------|---|--|
| 1.5.2 | Continue to investigate opportunities to partner with mobile phone and data service providers to increase coverage locally.                                 |  |
| 1.6.1 | Advocate and work to support improved access to community transport throughout the Council area.  |  |
| 1.6.2 | Implementation of Corowa to Mulwala Cycleway project.   |  |
| 1.6.3 | Implement Aerodrome Management Plan and Strategy.   |  |
| 1.6.4 | Implement Aerodrome Management Services.  |  |
| 1.6.5 | Develop a funding strategy and long term planning to include strategies to address improvements to heavy vehicle transport needs of residents and industry. |  |
| 1.7.1 | Provide Building Control and Planning Services.   |  |
| 1.7.2 | Provide Environmental Health Services.  |  |
| 1.7.3 | Provide Development Assessment Services.  |  |
| 1.7.4 | Provide Strategic Land Use Planning Services.   |  |
| 1.7.5 | Implement Federation Council Local Environmental Plan including supporting strategies, studies and plans.   |  |
| 1.7.6 | Make planning information including key land use maps, planning instruments and planning processes easily accessible to the community.                      |  |
| 1.7.7 | Implement Development Contributions Plan.   |  |
| 1.7.8 | Undertake Building Inspection Services.   |  |
| 1.8.1 | Develop a Waste Management Strategy and ensure alignment of service levels to residents and industry needs.   |  |
| 1.8.2 | Identify and implement opportunities to discourage dumping.   |  |
| 1.8.3 | Investigate and implement opportunities to increase recycling.  |  |
| 1.8.4 | Implement Waste Collection and Recycling Services.  |  |
| 1.8.5 | Effective management of Council's Landfill Operation Services.  |  |
| 1.8.6 | Particpate in Waste Education Program in conjunction with local provider.   |  |

## **ECONOMIC FEDERATION**

Council's Economic services relate to our strategies to achieve population growth and employment growth as well as creation of opportunities for major industry and small business operators.

A key aspect of Economic strategies is Council's partnerships and collaborative projects. Council's growing events program and sponsorship program provide strong support for tourism and welcoming visitor experiences.

## **GRANTS**

The year has been a busy year for the grants unit. During the year Council has developed a draft grant management policy and procedure, which is now awaiting endorsement from the management executive and Council.

Council also established a LGA focussed grant website which enables both the business and community sectors gain a greater understanding of the grant opportunities available to them.

The team have been successful in attracting \$3.16 million in grant funding across 6 applications. These have included:

\$2 million
Drought Funding

\$559,867
All Abilities Playground

\$225,000 Urana Sport Ground

\$178,418
Regional Cultural Fund

\$98,700
Streets as shared spaces

\$90,000 NSW Boating Now

\$14,000 Heritage Grant In addition applications for a further \$8,000,000 are awaiting an outcome

The team has also developed high level relationships with appropriate organisations, agencies and departments, highlighted by work around drought impacts with the National Drought and Flood Agency via Corowa Landcare's Drought Support Officer and contributed to COVID-19 business support strategies

| Program  | Grant Amount   | Project Title   |  |  |
|--|----------------|---|--|--|
| New South Wa                                     | les Government | Grant Program   |  |  |
| Stronger Coun-<br>try Communities<br>Fund (SCCF) | \$559,867      | Round 3   |  |  |
| Regional Cultural<br>Fund                        | \$178,418      | Dexter Horizontal<br>Windmill Recon-<br>struction                                       |  |  |
| Streets as Shared<br>Spaces                      | \$98,700       | Sanger Street<br>Plaza Upgrade  |  |  |
| Office of Sport – 2019 Election Commitments      | \$225,000      | Urana Sports<br>Ground  |  |  |
| Office of Environ-<br>ment and Heritage          | \$14,000       | NSW Heritage<br>Grants – Com-<br>munity Heritage<br>(Local Heritage<br>Advisor Service) |  |  |
| Australian Federal Government Grant Programs     |                |   |  |  |
| Drought Commu-<br>nities Programme<br>– Round 1  | \$1,000,000    | Round 1   |  |  |
| Drought Commu-<br>nities Programme<br>- Round 2  | \$1,000,000    | Round 2   |  |  |

# ECONOMIC FEDERATION TOURISM UPDATE

# **Tourism Branding Project - North of the Murray**

Following amalgamation of the Corowa Shire and the Urana Shire, the newly established Federation Council has expanded its boundaries to incorporate the tourism offering from Corowa, Howlong, Mulwala, Urana, Oaklands and surrounding villages including Balldale, Buraja-Lowesdale, Coreen, Hopfield, Rennie Savernake, Rand, Morundah, Hopefield and Boree Creek.

Council was presented with the opportunity to create a tourism brand which brings together a number of separate destinations, townships and experiences. A brand which is unifying and unique, designed to differentiate the region, engage communities and attract visitation.

As a result Council's Tourism Branding Project commenced in July 2019 and North of the Murray was endorsed by Council as the new Tourism Brand on the 17th December 2020.

The North of the Murray brand clearly defines where the Federation Council area is geographically located, underpins its identity, and relates closely to the regional key experiences.

The project has been broken into three stages to ensure that the best possible outcome is achieved for the destinations.

Stage 1- Research and Engagement is now complete. Further stages, the development of the Brand Strategy and the development of the creative tools are underway and will be finalised during the 2020/21 financial year.



## **ECONOMIC FEDERATION**

Growing, progressive and prosperous communities that build on sustainable manufacturing, agriculture and tourism, close proximity to other centres, on both sides of the Murray River, and affordability.

| Action | Code                     | Action Name  | Status |
|--------|--------------------------|--|--------|
| 2.1.1  |                          | tiatives to support higher rates of population and employment growth, especially<br>I young family segments.   |        |
| 2.1.2  |                          | tegy and long term planning includes development of projects to achieve higher bulation and employment growth, especially in youth and young family segments.              |        |
| 2.1.3  |                          | tegy and long term planning considers the development of new residential land<br>ligher rates of population and employment growth, especially in youth and young<br>lents. |        |
| 2.2.2  | Facilitate trai          | nining opportunities to support industry development.  |        |
| 2.2.3  | Assist in the            | e implementation of the workforce gap annual training schedule.  |        |
| 2.3.1  | Implement F              | Rural Residential Land Use Strategy outcomes.  |        |
| 2.3.2  | Investigate o            | opportunities to incentivise the rental of unoccupied properties.  |        |
| 2.4.1  | Market an in             | nvestment prospectus for the entire Council area.  |        |
| 2.4.2  | Lobby other              | levels of government for increased investment across the entire Council area.  |        |
| 2.5.1  | Develop and applications | d implement a streamlined approval process for new and expanded business   |        |
| 2.5.2  | Continue bu              | uilding and engaging with networks by industry sector.   |        |
| 2.5.3  | Develop a re             | enewable energy strategy.  |        |
| 2.5.4  | Continue to              | investigate opportunities to support the expansion of industrial precincts.  |        |
| 2.5.5  | Continue to Estates.     | support the development of the Mulwala, Howlong and Corowa Industrial  |        |
| 2.6.1  | Facilitate loc           | cal business support services.   |        |
| 2.6.2  | Continue to              | convene industry meetings and attract supporting business and infrastructure.  |        |
| 2.6.3  | Support ope              | eration of business chambers.  |        |
| 2.6.4  | Support and              | d encourage innovative industry trials and projects.   |        |
| 2.6.5  | Provide supp             | port for incoming business/ investment enquiries.  |        |
| 2.6.6  | Investigate s            | support for and attraction of microbusinesses to the area.   |        |
| 2.6.7  |                          | nships with government, education and industry peak bodies including NSW agencies, Murray Regional Development Australia, and joint organisations.                         |        |

| 2.6.8  | Consider opportunities to work collaboratively with neighbouring Councils, tourism and business associations.                 |   |
|--------|---|---|
| 2.6.9  | Progress opportunities from the Regional Economic Development Strategy.   |   |
| 2.6.10 | Maintain membership with Murray Regional Tourism and actively participate in regional initiatives.                            |   |
| 2.6.11 | Participate in relevant joint organisations.  |   |
| 2.7.1  | Actively participate in agribusiness forums.  |   |
| 2.7.2  | Participate in the Murray Regional Tourism programs.  |   |
| 2.7.3  | Implement findings and recommendations of agricultural industry gap analysis and feasibility study.                           |   |
| 2.7.4  | Provide effective and efficient Saleyard Management and Maintenance Services.   |   |
| 2.7.5  | Implement the Saleyards Business Plan.  |   |
| 2.8.1  | Maintain a destination website that promotes the products and experiences available in the region.                            |   |
| 2.8.2  | Deliver quality information services that meets the needs of visitors.  |   |
| 2.8.3  | Continue to develop and market the electronic newsletter as a means for communicating with tourism stakeholders.              |   |
| 2.8.4  | Continue to implement a marketing plan to promote the Federation Region as a holiday destination choice.                      |   |
| 2.8.5  | Participate in opportunities for regional collaboration that drives visitation to the Murray Region.                          |   |
| 2.8.6  | Identify opportunities for product development that will drive visitation to the Federation Region.                           |   |
| 2.8.7  | Advocate for investment in key tourism products, as per the Murray Region Destination Management Plan.                        |   |
| 2.8.8  | Actively seek opportunities for external funding to support the development of key tourism product.                           |   |
| 2.8.9  | Implement the Tourism Branding Strategy.  |   |
| 2.8.10 | Attract events to the region through the Event Sponsorship program.   |   |
| 2.8.11 | Develop Recreational Vehicle Strategy.  | X |
| 2.9.1  | Streetscape improvements to make towns and villages more attractive for visitors.   |   |
| 2.9.2  | Support industry to address lost retail expenditure from the local area to nearby centres.                                    |   |
| 2.10.1 | Support grants program for business development.  |   |
| 2.10.2 | Collaborate with local and regional business chambers and other business development organisations to achieve shared outcomes |   |
|        |   |   |

## **NATURAL FEDERATION**

Council aims to ensure that we can provide high quality recreational spaces for the community. Our team work hard to control weeds and maintain our parks and gardens as well as recreational reserves and sporting grounds to the highest levels. Our playgrounds and walking tracks are a significant component of these services in addition to pest and animal management activities.



Approximately 1200kmS of high risk local and RMS (Roads and Maritime Services) roadsides were inspected and sprayed for Biosecurity Weeds.

In excess of 40 private property inspections were completed.

Over **250kms** of waterways inclusive of all creeks, lagoons and Lake Mulwala were inspected by Biosecurity Weeds.

### **NATURAL FEDERATION**

## **Landcare Environmental**

We continue to work alongside Landcare, this year's projects were Morris Park understory plantings and Whitehead Wetlands plantings. The collaboration of plant identification and management of native plantings with Council and Landcare continues to grow.

## **Weed Management**

Mowing frequencies have been reduced by 15% with the application of selective herbicide to all parks, ovals and reserves across 130 hectares of Council managed open space. Frog friendly Glyphosate has been used in drains, edges of dams, etc, with an aquatic approved surfactant which will not harm the healthy population of the Sloane's froglet within our Council.

## **Bushland Reserves**

An independent report of the environmental condition of Bushland reserves has been completed and some reserves have a high conservation value. Staff involvement will continue to manage vehicular movement, re vegetation, implementing cool season burns and controlled grazing.

## Parks & Gardens

Parks and Gardens have continued to improve with projects such as - the landscaping at Freddie Fox Park Urana, Irrigation installs at Boree Creek, Morundah and Bangerang Park Corowa and Lions Park South Corowa. Sanger Street garden beds have been modernised with a drought tolerant plant selection.

Lonsdale Reserve landscaping has been completed with positive feedback from the public.



Credit to the North and South Presentation teams for processing 493 customer requests with canopy lifts for nature strip trees being the most common request.

230 trees have been planted in the last twelve months to nature strips and reserves.

The advanced trees are grown with the air pruning method for vigorous fibrous roots.

## **NATURAL FEDERATION**

Sustainable rural landscapes and waterways offering tranquillity and attractive recreational spaces.

| Actio | Code Action Name  | Status |
|-------|---|--------|
| 3.1.1 | Implement Parks and Reserves Maintenance program (Including Building Management, Caravan Parks, Parks & Presentation, and Cemeteries).                        |        |
| 3.1.2 | Maintain Corowa Bangerang Park Renewal project.   |        |
| 3.1.3 | Maintain Mulwala Purtle Park All Abilities Playground   | X      |
| 3.1.4 | Implement Urana Victoria Park Redevelopment   |        |
| 3.1.5 | Implement targeted weed management program across the LGA.  |        |
| 3.1.6 | Continue to implement new Biosecurity Act changes   |        |
| 3.1.7 | Work with Landcare and Local Land Services for weed management and bush regeneration.   |        |
| 3.2.1 | Update and implement masterplans for Lonsdale Reserve and Lowe Square.  |        |
| 3.2.2 | Implement Street Cleaning Services.   |        |
| 3.2.3 | Implement road side vegetation management, verge slashing and reserve mowing.   |        |
| 3.2.4 | Implement and monitor local litter laws.  |        |
| 3.2.5 | Develop a Tree Management Strategy to respond to a changing climate. Provide Tree Management Services. Development of a Tree Register.                        |        |
| 3.2.6 | Provide pest control and animal management / compliance services.   |        |
| 3.3.1 | Update and implement Mulwala Foreshore upgrades. Ensure long term planning includes strategies to conserve and utilise waterways and develop their frontages. |        |
| 3.3.2 | Assist Office of Water to maintain and repair river banks under Council control.  |        |
| 3.4.1 | Support initiatives to manage flora and fauna conservation  |        |
| 3.5.1 | Partner with the Corowa and District Landcare to provide education and awareness opportunities for local land holders   |        |



## **SOCIAL FEDERATION**

Social Federation is about embracing our differences and supporting opportunities for residents to come together through sport, education, arts and cultural activities and libraries. Pivotal to this is our ability to continue to strive for greater health and education services that meet the needs of our growing community as well as attracting successful grant applications and sponsorship money. Inclusiveness is a key driver and Council continues to support this through its Disability Action Plan. The Youth Council provides greater links to our young people and generates many valuable strategies and activities targeted to this cohort. Council continues to deliver on the Ageing Well Strategy ensuring that our senior residents remain a priority as we continue to advocate for them.

Annually Council delivers a number of community and civic events across the Federation Council. In 2019/2020 it should also be considered there were a number of events from March 2020 to June 2020 that were planned and scheduled to take place, however have had to be postponed or cancelled due to Covid-19.



In the 2019/2020 financial year, Council delivered a number of community and civic events across the Federation Council including:

- Local Government Week 2019 School's Competition and BBQ at Victoria Park in Urana.
- NADIOC Week 2019 Cultural Workshops for school children held at the Corowa, Howlong, Mulwala and Urana libraries.
- Bald Archy Prize held in the Corowa Art Space in October.
- Mulwala Industrial Park opening, Mulwala
- Bangerang Park and public toilet official opening, Corowa.
- Australia Day awards ceremony & celebration in Howlong.
- Festival of Fun for Seniors to celebrate the 2020 Seniors Festival with events in Balldale, Corowa, Howlong, Mulwala, and Urana.
- Volunteer Week Community Champions, online event.
- Local Government Week, online event.



# SOCIAL FEDERATION FEDERATION YOUTH COUNCIL

The 2019/2020 Federation Youth Councillors were Dylan Forge (Youth Mayor), Maxim Blockley (Youth Deputy Mayor), Tyler Martin, Noah Little, Caitlin Moore, Olivia Hughes, Ellen Lavis, Jacob Read, and Molly Pearce.

## Unleash the Future MMXIX

In September, 2019 six Federation Youth Councillors travelled to the West HQ Novotel in Rooty Hill for an amazing three days at the Unleash the Future Conference in Sydney.

Unleash the Future MMXIX, Tomorrows change starts with you...Conference involved young people from across NSW who all came together to learn, share experiences and participate in the conference activities and sessions.

### **Memorial Mural**

The Federation Youth Council engaged Albury artist, Kade Fielder to work with students from the Master Street Art class at Corowa High School to create a mural on the wall in the Memorial Plaza in Corowa. The Street Art Masterclass joined Kade on site to assist with the mark up and paint the mural. The result is a mural that is a reflection of the Federation area featuring the Golden Whistler and the Red Capped Robin two woodland birds of the Central Riverina area, next to an echidna foraging on the banks of the Murray River flanked by a cheeky bush tail possum peaking over a native.

### I am Federation

The Federation Youth Council launched the "I am Federation" Facebook page in April 2020, as part of the 2020 Youth Week Celebrations. The page aims to engage and support young people aged 9 to 24 years, and their families and friends. It provides information about upcoming youth focused events and activities, information relating to youth issues and concerns, local service providers, Youth Council initiatives, as well as other youth related information and opportunities as they arise. The 'I am Federation' socials was an initiative of the Federation Youth Council.

# Youth Councillor / Councillor Mentoring Program

In June 2020, the Federation Youth Council began the Youth Councillor / Councillor Mentoring Program which is a one-on-one relationship between the Federation Youth Councillors and the Federation Councillors. Each of the Youth Councillors are matched with a Councillor who they can meet with and talk.







## **SOCIAL FEDERATION**

# KINDER BAGS & FAMILIES & CHILDREN SERVICES DIRECTORY

Ninety of Council's youngest residents started school in 2020 and were very excited to receive a Kinder Library Bag from the Federation Council. The reusable library bags were provided by the Federation Council in partnership with the Federation Libraries and included information for families on healthy eating and habits, local services, libraries, as well as a special book by an Australian author for each child.

This year Council used the Kinder Library Bags as an opportunity to launch its Families and Children Services Directory. A pocket size fold out booklet that includes information on childcare services, kindergartens, local schools, parenting and disability services, maternal and health services, and much more.

The idea was to create a handy resource to support families and children within the community from babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers to primary aged children. It slips into a purse or wallet and then folds out to display the names and phone numbers of local services primarily in Federation Council, but also specialist services from across the region.

The directory aims to support families and their children to access the help they need through its comprehensive listing of services. It is hoped the directory will facilitate an increase in families' participation across the many and varied services available in Federation, thereby supporting a greater feeling in families of belonging in the community.

The Families and Children Service Directory is available to download from Council's website. Hard copies are also available through schools / preschools and Council offices.





# SOCIAL FEDERATION AGEING WELL RESOURCE



Under the guidance of the Ageing Well Advisory Committee Council has created a dedicated resource to help older people and their carers to live happy, active and fulfilling lives in our community.

The Ageing Well Resource serves a variety of purposes. It is a directory to medical, health and social services within the Council area, but also visiting services or those available nearby. It provides a comprehensive list of allied health care services, specialist, financial and legal services along with housing and accommodation options to help assist seniors stay independent, at home and with support as they reach new milestones in later life. For anyone looking to become actively involved and participate in their local community through volunteering and recreation the resource includes details of social, leisure, sports, arts, cultural activities, along with community organisations.

It provides general information on public transport, Council services and facilities, emergency and retail and entertainment options that cater for seniors.

It really is a one-stop shop for new and existing residents to find what is on offer for seniors living in the Federation Council area.

The Ageing Well Resource is available as an eBook from Council's website. Hard copies can be picked up from any Council office.



# SOCIAL FEDERATION LIBRARY SERVICES

Federation Council Libraries like many other services had to contend with the COVID lockdown which came into effect at the end of March 2020. With the closure of the libraries, there was a need to provide library services particularly to older members of the community, who were no longer able to participate in social activities as a result of the lockdown.

There was a huge uptake in the use of eResources including eBooks and eAudiobooks, but many people do not have the equipment or technical knowledge to use these resources. Advertising via posters, local media and in answer to many phone queries, we were able to set up and provide a Home Delivery Service for Howlong, Mulwala and Corowa. This was also extended to areas usually serviced by the Mobile library, so that people in Urana, Oaklands and Rand, could also be provided with book deliveries on a regular basis.





## **SOCIAL FEDERATION**

Close-knit and welcoming communities where people come together and support each other.

| Action | Code                      | Action Name  | Status     |
|--------|---------------------------|--|------------|
| 4.1.1  | Continue to care service  | consult with key stakeholders to identify needs in relation to residential agedes.                         |            |
| 4.1.2  | Update and                | I implement the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP).  |            |
| 4.1.3  | Review and                | update the Ageing Well Guide.  |            |
| 4.1.4  | Implement t               | the actions within the Ageing Well Strategy.   |            |
| 4.1.5  | Celebrate the initiative. | he contribution of senior residents through the delivery of a Seniors Weel                                 |            |
| 4.2.1  |                           | etworking meetings of key health stakeholders and practitioners to identify and the care provision.        | y <b>C</b> |
| 4.2.2  | Advocate fo               | or health services that meet the needs of the community.   |            |
| 4.2.3  | Identify pos              | sible locations to supply health services - identify sites and cost estimates.                             |            |
| 4.2.4  | Support Inte              | eragency meetings.   | <b>7</b>   |
| 4.2.5  | Work with C               | Community Transport Services to improve access to health care.   |            |
| 4.2.6  | Facilitate op             | portunities to attract and retain General Practitioners to rural towns.                                    |            |
| 4.3.1  | Facilitate the            | e Federation Youth Council to ensure young people are well represented.                                    |            |
| 4.3.2  | Support the               | Youth Council to deliver a youth led initiative during Youth Week.   |            |
| 4.3.3  |                           | support the development, maintenance and roll out of a directory with youth mental health services listed. |            |
| 4.4.1  | Implement (               | Community Arts Projects in schools.  |            |
| 4.4.2  | Advocate ar               | nd support the sustainability of our schools.  |            |
| 4.4.3  |                           | tnership with local schools to provide opportunities for students to participate in livered by council.    |            |
| 4.5.1  | Support the               | Community Drug Action Team.  |            |
| 4.5.2  | Support age               | encies to provide Drug and Alcohol information and education.  |            |
| 4.5.3  |                           | oportunities to partner with health providers to educate the community and build of available services.    |            |
| 4.6.1  | Provide Cor               | mmunity Facilities Services.   |            |
| 4.6.2  | Finalise the              | Community Facilities Strategy.   | X          |

| 4.6.3  | Circulate relevant information to sporting clubs to ensure they remain informed and updated.  |          |
|--------|---|----------|
| 4.6.4  | Support sporting clubs to access external funding by facilitating grant writing workshops.  |          |
| 4.7.1  | Support the communication and distribution of the Family and Childrens Services Directory.  |          |
| 4.7.2  | Engage with relevant stakeholders to assess need for more preschool services and support a proposal for investment where appropriate. |          |
| 4.7.3  | Deliver the mobile preschool service in four LGA locations.   |          |
| 4.7.4  | Undertake playground upgrades included in the Capital Works Program.  |          |
| 4.7.5  | Bangerang Playground and Parks works.   |          |
| 4.8.1  | Support community events and initiatives through the delivery of the Community Grant program.   |          |
| 4.8.2  | Deliver events or activities that bring families and community together.  |          |
| 4.8.3  | Establish strong community partnerships that builds capacity and delivers positive outcomes for the community.                        |          |
| 4.8.4  | Update the new residents pack, circulate and make available online.   |          |
| 4.8.5  | Continue to promote and encourage use of the free online community directory.   |          |
| 4.8.6  | Recognise Volunteers in the Federation Council area during Volunteers Week.   |          |
| 4.8.7  | Facilitate volunteer coordination and support.  |          |
| 4.8.8  | Attract and facilitate new events to the area.  |          |
| 4.8.9  | Commencement of Ball Park Foreshore Removable Cafe Project. Completion of Corowa to Mulwala Cycleway.                                 |          |
| 4.8.10 | Deliver Cemetery Management Services.   |          |
| 4.9.1  | Work with key stakeholders to facilitate forums that focus on community safety.   |          |
| 4.9.2  | Implement the Road Safety Program.  |          |
| 4.9.3  | Manage the Service NSW Agency in accordance with business plan and all guidelines.  |          |
| 4.10.1 | Continue to facilitate an "arts alliance" network through meetings and partnerships.  | <b>✓</b> |
| 4.10.2 | Develop a program of Arts & Culture initiatives that provides an opportunity for all sectors of the community to participate.         |          |
| 4.10.3 | Consider opportunities for the installation of public art, in accordance with the Public Art Strategy.                                |          |
| 4.10.4 | Celebrate National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observation Committee (NAIDOC) Week.  |          |
| 4.10.5 | Support local artists and galleries to foster a creative community.   |          |

| 4.10.6  | Explore opportunities to develop Arts Trails in collaboration with key stakeholders.   |               |
|---------|--|---------------|
| 4.10.7  | Develop an annual program of exhibitions and events in the ArtSpace at the Corowa Civic Centre.  |               |
| 4.10.8  | Continue to implement Sister City Exchange Program.  |               |
| 4.10.9  | Develop a strategy to assist development of the Federation Museum.   |               |
| 4.10.10 | Continue to explore online opportunities to support the recording and promotion of the history of the LGA.   |               |
| 4.10.11 | Support historical groups to actively collect and record the stories and experiences of our LGA.   |               |
| 4.11.1  | Continue to implement, monitor, evaluate and review the Disability Inclusion Action Plan.  |               |
| 4.11.2  | Facilitate and support the Disability Access Committee.  |               |
| 4.11.3  | Ensure Community Action Plans are represented in long term planning for rural communities.   |               |
| 4.11.4  | Identify Community Access needs and ensure these are included in the long term planning for community access projects.                                       |               |
| 4.12.1  | Maintain libraries in Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala that are vibrant community spaces and provide opportunities for all members of the community.              |               |
| 4.12.2  | Through its membership with Riverina Regional Library, deliver a mobile library service that ensures library services are accessible to smaller communities. |               |
| 4.12.3  | Deliver school holiday programs across the council area.   |               |
| 4.12.4  | Provide opportunities for residents to participate in lifelong learning.   |               |
| 4.12.5  | Provide a free delivery service to housebound library patrons.   |               |
| 4.12.6  | Deliver children's programs that lay the foundation for a lifelong love of books.  | <b>~</b>      |
| 4.12.7  | Provide free access to public computers and Wi-Fi through Federation Council libraries.  |               |
| 4.12.8  | Encourage library membership by promoting the range of services available.   |               |
| 4.12.9  | Facilitate some interactive programs for young people.   |               |
| 4.12.10 | Facilitate the provision of online cemetery records.   |               |
|         | <u>:</u> :   | <del></del> : |



# WELL-GOVERNED FEDERATION

Whilst many of the activities performed by Council relates to direct service delivery and building or maintaining assets, a significant amount of work needs to be carried out to ensure Council meets legislative and administrative requirements of local government bodies.

Well-governed Federation provides support for our Councillors and provides strategic (external) governance support and training as well as the development of strategic planning and reporting requirements.

Corporate or internal governance requirements such as employee management, asset management, communications, records management, procurement, information technology, work health and safety, risk and audit help to support the provision of all our external services to the community. This area also responds to significant government programs and initiatives as required, such as the Stronger Communities Program.



## WELL-GOVERNED FEDERATION PROCUREMENT UPDATE

In its November 2019 Council Meeting, Council approved significant community specific changes its Procurement Policy to take an increased and more specific acknowledgement in its support of local businesses within the Federation Council, whether it be above or below any legislated Public Tender figure

In providing the required leadership and indirectly referencing Council's Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program 2018-2021 ('Economic Federation, Social Federation, Well Governed Federation') Council believes that considerations should be assessed more than just value for money.

Community benefit, sustainability, social outcomes, local sub-contractor usage and growth of the local market need to be considered in all tenders or considerable procurement to ascertain best value.

 To manage this process, an inclusion to the Procurement Policy is proposed, in the presented Procurement Policy, which now directs the following: 1. Section 4.3.1.1 (page 4) -Local Preference Tier System:

- Procurement Up to \$5,000.00 (GST Inclusive): Local suppliers used will be used where possible and where 'best value' principles can be demonstrated;
- For Procurement From \$5,000.00 to \$25,000.00 (GST Inclusive): Local suppliers given 5% price concession and;
- For Procurement From \$25,000.00 \$150,000.00 (GST Inclusive): local suppliers given 2.5% price concession. 2. Section 4.3.1.2 (page 4) Local and Community Evaluation Weighting Criteria for purchases over \$150,000.

For Procurement of Goods, Services or Works for over \$150,000.00 (GST Inclusive), or lesser amounts at the discretion of Council, Local and Community criteria will for part of the assessment to the value 10% in the tender evaluation. This is not a price concession, rather a selection criteria assessment.



## **COMMUNICATION UPDATES**

### Corporate Website www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au

Council's Corporate website is our digital front door for our community to use whenever they need to get in touch, find out information or when our physical offices are closed. The website is core to our external communication efforts as nearly all the information that is communicated externally is linked back in some way to the Corporate website.

The importance of online information and transactions is no more important than it is now with the Covid situation evolving each day.

## KEY PERFORMANCE STATISTICS



### **CORPORATE WEBSITE**

**Visits** 

102,683 (281.32 per day).

**Users** 

67,137 (183.93 per day).

Page Views

238,098 (652 per day).

## WHEN COMPARED TO 2018/19 THIS IS A:

27.58% increase on Visits (raw number 80,484).

46.74% increase on Users (raw number 45,753).

11.56% increase on Page Views (raw number 213,434).

### PRINT

**Urana Newsletter, Howlong Grapevine & Council Snippets:** 

## 9,446 copies annually.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Federation Council manages and maintains eight social media pages to support in the promotion of it's services and facilities to the community and visitors.

Corporate Facebook Page @FederationCouncil

Community/Followers: 2640
Organic Page Likes: 2414
Post Engagement: 93,504
Post Reach: 3,669,066 people

Tourism Facebook Page @VisitCorowaRegion Community/Followers: 3537 Page Likes: 3320

Urana Caravan Park Facebook Page @UranaCaravan-

Park

Community/Followers: 916
Page Likes: 901

Festival of Fun for Kids Page @FoFFK

Community/Followers: **381**Page Likes: **369** 

Australian Billy Cart Championships Page @australian-

billycartchampionships

Community/Followers: 471
Page Likes: 450

Tourism Instagram Page #visitcorowaregion Community/Followers: 1301

The following social channels were created in the last 12 months;

Youth Council Facebook Page @IAmFederation Community/Followers: 274
Page Likes: 268

Ball Park Caravan Park Facebook Page @BallParkCaravanPark

Community/Followers: 336
Page Likes: 307

## WELL-GOVERNED FEDERATION IT UPDATE

The following provides a high level summary of initiatives that have been implemented in IT and Customer Service areas through the 2019/20 year:

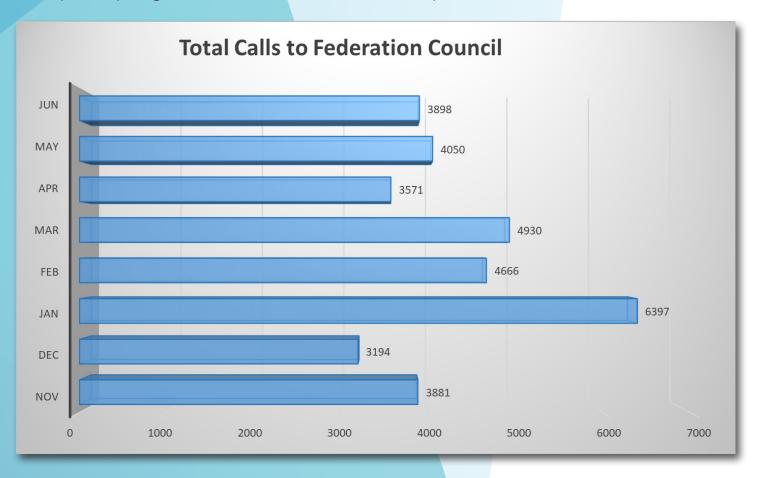
- In March 2020 when the Coronavirus pandemic hit the IT department implemented a Work From Home Plan. Council has been able to maintain operations and provide continuous service to the community during the COVID-19 crisis by moving nearly 50% of office staff to full time Work From Home, to help maintain social distancing measures in the office.
- An IT Disaster Recovery Plan has been developed. There are 11 actions to be implemented to improve our Disaster Recovery capability. Nine of those have been fully implemented, two are in progress.
- Our annual Cyber Security training was expanded this year to include Councillors, and focused on "Cyber Hygiene" – the 10 simplest steps to improve your online security habits to prevent incidents for Council and staff personally. This presentation is currently being reworked to become part of the standard IT induction process for new staff.
- The Live Stream was reconfigured to be able to continue Council meetings through the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been able to continue to hold Council Meetings with all Councillors and staff joining from their homes, with Live Streaming and Offline recording of meetings made available to the public to maintain community engagement.
- Realising we can do a lot more things remotely, the IT Team has been able to adapt systems to allow for 90% of their work to be completed remotely. This has been of great benefit during the COVID-19 crisis, and will continue to benefit Council in future incidents.

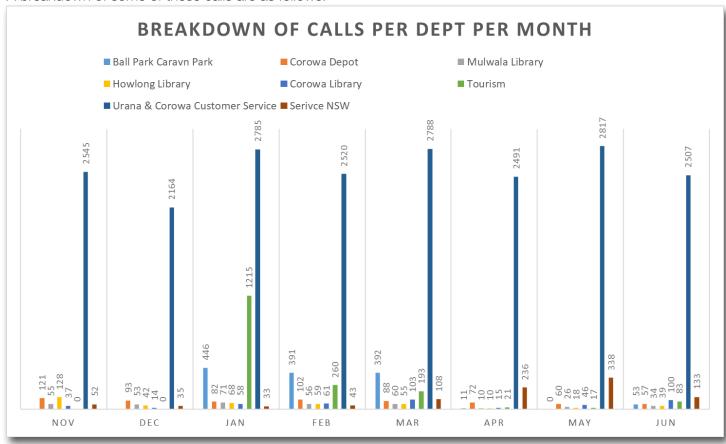
- Council's Anti-Virus software provider was changed. We migrated from Malwarebytes to CrowdStrike. Crowdstrike's Falcon platform offers a more advanced Endpoint Protection than Malwarebytes more traditional anti-malware solution. We've also opted for Overwatch which is CrowdStrike's virtual SOC platform where real security experts monitor system logs and activities for unusual and malicious activities.
- We migrated phones to Bendigo Telco VOIP, moving the council on from obsolete ISDN systems. Upgraded the PABX units at Urana and Corowa offices to allow them to act as a single unified system, and deployed IP phones to all remote offices and sites over our Microwave network. We were able to terminate over a dozen separate traditional phone services, saving their monthly costs, and allow any and all council facilities to call each other internally, also saving considerable call costs. The move from Telstra ISDN to Bendigo Telco VOIP has saved council \$25,205.80 in the past 12 months.
- Our NBN was upgraded to 1000/400Mbps to fully support WFH and all live streaming and video conferencing requirements, leveraging the fibre upgrade that was paid for in previous years.
- Improved front desk security Duress alarms have been installed on all customer facing desks and also Security screens.
   The IT department also implemented guest passes with numbered access cards to better control contractor and visitor access.
- This year has seen the completion of upgrading our Customer Request system. The new CRM system provides more in depth information and allows the user to record many more types of requests from customers, this has enabled Council to provide a better service to the community. In the past, we had a separate system and some requests were double handled, this has freed up time to act more quickly on some requests.

1983 Customer Request were submitted from 1st July 2019 – 30th June 2020. These requests come into Council in a variety of different ways, including via email, letters, online through our website and over the phone. Please find a breakdown of categories below:



A new phone reporting software was installed in November 2019, please see the call volumes below:





### **WELL-GOVERNED**

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Council recognises that an organisation without a robust system for managing risks is vulnerable to uncertainties and lost opportunities and is unlikely to be resilient in the face of change or adversity.

We continue to develop a comprehensive system of risk management practices designed to ensure practical solutions facing our people in managing risks across our diverse workforce.

During 2019-20 progress was made in the development, adopted, tested and implementation of Council's Business Continuity Program, including 14 Critical Sub plans (6 – Engineering Services, 5 Corporate Services, 3 Development and Environment Services). Considerable progress was made during this time in the ongoing development, update and improvement of our Safety Management System.

- 32 documents were developed, consulted, and adopted in this period
- The review and adoption of Councils WHS Committee Constitution
- Newly elected WHS Committee
- WHS Committee training conducted in partnership with StateCover Mutual covering Legal obligations,

roles and responsibilities, WHS reporting requirements, WHS consultation, communication methods, Functions of a HSC, Committee working together, Risk Management activities.

Council activated its Continuity Management Team when COVID -19 hit in March of this year. Many resources were applied ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our staff including the development of a COVID -19 safety management system.

- 25 documents developed, consulted and adopted in a very short period.
- This system has provided a robust framework for managers to make necessary decisions from managing staff to providing the necessary services to its community whilst ensuring compliance with all levels of government including Safe Work NSW/ Australia.

Council has been recognized by its peers in the Riverina East Risk Group for sharing its COVID-19 Safety Management System.

### **WELL-GOVERNED FEDERATION**

Strong civic leadership and governance supporting equity across communities and effective communication with residents.

| Actio  | n Code                   | Action Name   | Status |
|--------|--------------------------|---|--------|
| 5.1.1  | •                        | review of rates to establish a common rates system across the LGA. Implement review findings and recommendations.     |        |
| 5.1.2  | Consider on reviews.     | ngoing roll out of service delivery reviews and implement findings of previous  |        |
| 5.2.1  | Work with reborder issue | regional and state organisations to ensure consideration of cross Council and es.                                     |        |
| 5.2.2  | Ensure Stratissues.      | tegies, and Service Reviews include assessment of adjoining Council areas and   |        |
| 5.2.3  | Continue to              | actively seek grant funding for a range of projects across the Council area.  |        |
| 5.2.4  | Deliver major            | or projects as funded by the Stronger Communities Program   |        |
| 5.2.5  | Deliver proje            | ects as funded by the Stronger Country Communities Program  |        |
| 5.2.6  | Deliver proje            | ects funded by the Regional Growth Fund   |        |
| 5.2.7  | Report on or             | ngoing service provision and expenditure by area.   |        |
| 5.3.1  | Implement L              | Long Term Financial Plan.   |        |
| 5.3.2  | Review and               | re-develop Delivery and Operating Plan budgets.   |        |
| 5.3.3  | Demonstrate              | e appropriate, effective and efficient financial services.  |        |
| 5.3.4  | Demonstrate agement pro  | e appropriate, effective and efficient delivery of purchasing and contract manocesses.                                |        |
| 5.3.5  | Ensure Fede ness plans.  | eration Council's key objectives and strategies link to service reviews and busi-                                     |        |
| 5.3.6  | Provide Cou              | uncillor Support Services.  |        |
| 5.3.7  | 1                        | tion of new system/software for the management of reports, actions and distri-<br>ouncil meeting agendas and minutes. |        |
| 5.3.8  | Policy frame             | ework implemented   |        |
| 5.3.9  | Ensure a pro             | pactive approach to the release of information where possible.  |        |
| 5.3.10 | Implement C              | Council's internal audit program.   |        |
| 5.3.11 | Review and               | implement Council's Privacy Management Plan.  |        |
| 5.3.12 |                          | ouncil's insurance claims in a cost effective manner and in accordance with er Service Charter.                       |        |

| 5.3.13 | Complete review of delegations in line with organisational changes and ensure delegations process is integrated with existing recruitment and training policies and guidelines. |  |
|--------|---|--|
| 5.3.14 | Staff and Councillors are provided with training on Conflict of Interest.   |  |
| 5.3.15 | Finalise documentation to support Council committees.   |  |
| 5.3.16 | Provide information to Councillors on training and development opportunities. Councillor Professional Development Plans in place.   |  |
| 5.3.17 | Provide Council Records Services.   |  |
| 5.3.18 | Implement long-term strategy for creating, registering and disposing of hardcopy and electronic records.  |  |
| 5.3.19 | Ensure appropriate records are created and registered in Content Manager by providing induction and yearly training of all relevant staff.                                      |  |
| 5.3.20 | Continue implementation of Record Management Review and IT Services Review actions.   |  |
| 5.3.21 | Develop Crowns Land Management Framework.   |  |
| 5.4.1  | Ongoing rollout of new functionalities for Council's digital channels.  |  |
| 5.4.2  | Review and maintain Council's Customer Service Charter.   |  |
| 5.4.3  | Implement Council's Community Engagement Strategy.  |  |
| 5.4.4  | Implement Council's Corporate Communications Strategy.  |  |
| 5.4.5  | Implement internal communications and engagement policy.  |  |
| 5.4.6  | Use Council's visual identity consistently in all public facing communications.   |  |
| 5.4.7  | Encourage media opportunities to showcase the natural assets and tourism offer of the Federation LGA.   |  |
| 5.5.1  | Respond to all customers in accordance with the Customer Service Charter.   |  |
| 5.5.2  | Implement a customer satisfaction program to understand strengths and areas for improvement.  |  |
| 5.5.3  | Promote and maintain a user-friendly customer request system.   |  |
| 5.5.4  | Continue to monitor functionality of Council's website.   |  |
| 5.5.5  | Implement actions to improve access to customer service centres.  |  |
| 5.5.6  | Provide public access to cemetery information and process transactions through Authority.   |  |
| 5.5.7  | Assess key service areas of Council and develop schedule of service reviews.  |  |
| 5.6.1  | Undertake actions to improve efficiencies and compliance across the organisation in risk and Work Health Safety   |  |
| 5.6.2  | Provide Financial Management Services.  |  |

| 5.6.3                         | Maintain efficient payroll services.   |  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| 5.6.4                         | Implement the Workforce Strategic Plan 2018-2021.  |  |
| 5.6.5                         | Continue to implement staff performance reporting.   |  |
| 5.6.6                         | Maintain IT and technical support for Council.   |  |
| 5.6.7                         | Ensure staff have required IT skills and an organisational awareness of IT functionality.  |  |
| 5.6.8                         | Review security of Council assets, people and property.  |  |
| 5.6.9                         | Ensure staff are engaged with and update staff intranet.   |  |
| 5.6.10                        | Communicate Council job opportunities through various platforms and liaise with schools and training organisations with regards to employment and trainee opportunities. |  |
| 5.6.11                        | Conduct careers days and volunteer's days in collaboration with school and local institutions.   |  |
| 5.6.12                        | Implement projects within Federation Risk Management Action Plans and Improvement Plans.   |  |
| 5.6.13                        | Provide Risk and Compliance Services.  |  |
| 5.6.14                        | Support Council Mapping Systems across the organisation.   |  |
| 5.7.1                         | Implement Asset Management Plan.   |  |
| 5.7.2                         | Review all assets and condition and compile register.  |  |
| 5.7.3                         | Allocate resources to inspect new assets and report on condition.  |  |
| 5.7.4                         | Complete external asset audits.  |  |
| 5.7.5                         | Complete asset, regulatory and works related financial reporting on time.  |  |
| 5.8.1                         | Support the Local Emergency Management Committee.  |  |
| 5.8.2                         | Support After Hours Emergency Response.  |  |
| • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • | •••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••  |  |





## STATUTORY REPORTING DISABILITY ACTION PLAN

Council recently relaunched the Federation Disability Advisory Committee calling for members who have a lived experience of disability. The committee will continue to help Council identify and remove barriers preventing the participation of people with disability in programs, services and facilities. Five new members have joined the committee.

Council's supported initiatives that are inclusive, accessible and welcoming to people of all abilities through the 2019/2020 Community Grant Program.

Federation Council continued to partner with Intereach – Community Links to deliver the Access at a Glance Program across the Federation Council to engage and educate communities and businesses on the value of the inclusion for both societal and commercial reasons.

Council consulted and engaged with the community to develop a draft Pedestrian Mobility Access Plan (PAMP) as well as implemented road safety initiatives throughout the Council area including 65 plus mobility scooter workshops and pedestrian safety.

Completion of major projects such as Bangerang Park and Corowa Skate Park have created new play facilities that are accessible for all.

Council's upgrade of sporting facilities such as the Howlong Tennis Pavilion, Lonsdale Reserve Bay13, Urana Victoria Park, Rand Sports Ground and public toilets such as Bangerang Park, Colombo Creek Ski Park, and replacement of change rooms and toilets at Oaklands Recreation Ground have allowed for all abilities access and increased the useability and functionality of these community facilities.

Council continues to be an equal opportunity employer and welcomes diversity within our Organisation. Pre-employment Functional Assessments are carried out as part of the recruitment process, this helps us to be proactive in identifying any reasonable adjustments that we may have to make to the workplace to support an employee with disability to perform their job.



## **SPONSORSHIP**

Federation Council hosts a sponsorship program that provides the opportunity to develop sponsorship arrangements with organisations delivering events in the local government area.

This program has encouraged and fostered innovation, creativity and promotion of the region as a vibrant and diverse place to live and visit. There were five initiatives sponsored by Council with a total spending of \$15,000 for the 2019/20 year.

Federation Council sponsored the following initiatives:

- Corowa Festival of Dance Event Support: \$2,000.
- 2020 Annual Corowa Swim-In & Military Vehicle Gathering: \$2,000.
- Marcus Fraser Ambrose Tournament: \$1,000.
- 2020 Show Ski Championships: \$7,000.
- Yarrawonga Mulwala Multisport Festival 2019/2020: \$3,000.

## ANNUAL REPORT GIPA

Information included on government information public access activity under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 s125(1) cl 7 Schedule 2 GIPA Regulation 2018.

Council's GIPA Annual Report for the 2019-2020 reporting year, prepared in accordance with Section 125(1) of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 and Section 8 of the Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, was submitted to the Information and Privacy Commission and to the Office of Local Government on 7 October 2020.

Federation Council has reviewed its Agency Information Guide and access to information via proactive release. This has resulted in the following changes.

- 1. Addition of 14 new Open Access records and website links to new policies.
- 2. Further improvements to the Agency Information Guide included:
- The addition of images.
- Added role of Mayor and Senior Executive in section
- Added more ways to contact Council in section 12.
- Clarification of privacy considerations and exchange of information between public agencies in Section
- Updated contact details for Information and Privacy Commissioner NSW

The majority of applications were received directly from members of the public



(71.4%)

The remaining originated from private sector business



(14.3%)

and from a legal representative



(14.3%)



Access was granted in full for three applications and in part for the remaining 3 applications.

No invalid applications were received.

Matters which were identified as public interest considerations against disclosure included the following:

- 1. Individual rights, judicial processes and natural justice
- 2. Business interests of agencies and other persons All applications were decided within the statutory timeframe.

### REPORTING ON

## **COMPANION ANIMALS**

In accordance with the Companion
Animals Act 1998 and Regulation 2008
Council reports annually on the statistics of impounded animals in the Federation Council area."

Ranger Services are delivered as part of the Development and Environmental Services Directorate. Reporting of pound collection and dog attack data to the Office of Local Government is undertaken in accordance with the Companion Animals Act 1998.

It is estimated that 62% of Australian households own a pet, with the impact of Covid-19 reportedly contributing to an increase in pet ownership. ABS Census data from 2016 identifies Federation Council as having 5283 households. Based on national pet ownership rates, this places an estimated 3275 pets owned within the Council area.

During the 12 month period ending 30 June 2020, 207 animals were registered within the Council area generating \$13,263 in income. Council issued six notices and 50 warning letters. Seven dog attacks incidents were reported.

A total of 28 animals were impounded with twelve of these being released to their owners, five were rehomed and one was sold. Sadly eight animals needed to be euthanised due to being unsuitable for rehoming.

Re-homing of impounded or surrendered animals is a high priority for Council. Maintaining a strong partnership with Wodonga Dog Rescue supports the re-homing of any surrendered companion animals that are fit to re-home. Council will not re home any aggressive animals that have not been properly assessed as being fit to re-home.

Federation Council has designated leash free areas in Corowa, Howlong and Mulwala allowing dogs to exercise off lead, to run freely in a safe environment and to enjoy off lead activities without interfering with the general public and to provide the opportunity for socialising with other dogs.

#### Corowa

Intersection of Federation Avenue and River Street, Eastern end of Edward Street.

#### Howlong

Section of Lowe Square, Memorial Park section.

#### Mulwala

Kyffins Reserve; 4.1 km east of Mulwala on Spring Drive.

Council has a close relationship with the local RSPCA which provides reduced rate desexing. A total of \$70,000 was spent on Companion Animal management and related activities: Community education activities including multiple newspaper articles and registration letters being sent to households as well as Ranger intervention and education. Some of the planned activities were unable to be undertaken due to Covid-19 which prevented access to the office and restrictions on events and social gathering. These activities were resumed in August and will be reported in Councils 2020-2021 Annual Report accordingly.



## 2019/2020 EVENT SPONSORSHIP & COMMUNITY GRANTS

Each year Federation Council hosts a Community Grants program which is designed to empower groups to develop ideas, projects and events that contribute to the vibrancy and well-being of the community. There are two rounds of Community Grants open per year with a total of \$60,000 allocated for the 2019/2020 budget to support the two funding rounds. For the 2019/2020 year there has been a spending of \$58,979 on 28 community initiatives successfully funded in total through the community grants program.

The aim of the community grant program is to support initiatives that:

- Promote a sense of community identity and pride
- Stimulate economic growth within the community

- Encourage wide participation in events and community projects
- Encourage and stimulate the growth of effective community development and cultural programs within the Federation Council
- Foster community partnerships

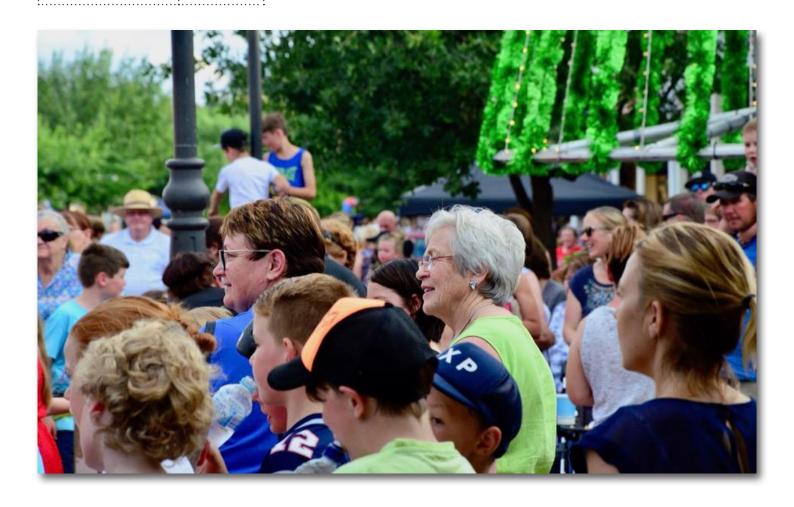
An assessment panel has been established to review the applications against the criteria and allocate funding accordingly.

Recommendations were presented to the November Ordinary Council Meeting, resulting in the following grants being allocated.

### **COMMUNITY GRANTS**

| GROUP                                      | APPROVED<br>AMOUNT | PROJECT/ NOTES   |
|--|--------------------|--|
| Mulwala Public School P&C                  | \$950              | Entertainment at the Easter Market Extravaganza              |
| CDHBU Football Netball<br>Club Inc         | \$3,000            | Revitalise the public presentation of the CDHBUFNC           |
| Mulwala Tennis Club                        | \$3,000            | Lonsdale Recreation Reserve rotunda and BBQ                  |
| Rotary Club of Corowa                      | \$3,000            | Federation Festival event support                            |
| Corowa Rutherglen Football<br>Netball Club | \$3,000            | John Foord playground safety fencing                         |
| Corowa RSL Sub Branch                      | \$2,000            | Corowa RSL Cenotaph Plinth replacement                       |
| Corowa Baptist Church                      | \$3,000            | Carols in the Park event support                             |
| Corowa & District Car Club                 | \$1,500            | Car & Bike Show n Shine event support                        |
| Corowa District Historical<br>Society      | \$1,569            | Gerry Brown Collection - wedding photo and catalogue project |
| Savernake School of the Arts               | \$3,000            | Acoustic improvements at the School of the Arts Hall         |
| Sing Australia                             | \$295              | Sing Australia Corowa replacement banner and rebranding      |
| Urana Vintage Machinery                    | \$1,500            | Urana Vintage Rally event support                            |
| Three Rivers Orchid Show                   | \$2,000            | Three Rivers Orchid Show event support                       |

| Khaki Vehicle | \$1,200  | 2020 Annual Corowa Swim-In & Military Vehicle Gathering |
|---------------|----------|---|
| Enthusiasts   |          |   |
| TOTAL:        | \$29,014 |   |



## **EVENT SPONSORSHIPS**

| GROUP                                     | APPROVED<br>AMOUNT | PROJECT/ NOTES  |
|---|--------------------|---|
| Corowa Festival of Dance                  | \$2,000            | Corowa Festival of Dance event support                  |
| Khaki Vehicle Enthusiasts                 | \$2,000            | 2020 Annual Corowa Swim-In & Military Vehicle Gathering |
| Corowa Golf Club                          | \$1,000            | Marcus Fraser Ambrose Tournament                        |
| Yarrawonga Mulwala Water<br>Ski Show Team | \$7,000            | 2020 Show Ski World Championships                       |
| Yarrawonga Mulwala Splash<br>& Dash       | \$3,000            | Yarrawonga Mulwala Multisport Festival 2019             |
| TOTAL:                                    | \$15,000           |   |

### **OUR PEOPLE**

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The total amount payable in 2019 - 2020 with regard to the employment of Senior Staff at Federation Council is identified below. This includes amounts payable for salary, superannuation, vehicles, fringe benefits tax and all other costs directly associated with employment.

#### Position:

General Manager

#### Total Amount:

\$304,681.27

#### Senior Staff:

(Other than General Manager)

#### **Total Amount:**

\$640,000.00

### EEO Management Plan Activities

Federation Council has committed to creating a positive and collaborative work environment which focuses on maintaining a strong commitment to ensure that Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) and diversity are incorporated into everything we do.

Over the last 12 months, Federation Council has:

- Promoted our Employee Assistance Program, which has been accessed by our employees to help provide support to them both with workplace and personal issues.
- Provided Flexible Work Arrangements to our employees with reference to specific legislative provisions.
- Continued implementation of all EEO aspects in our Recruitment and Induction processes.

#### Recruitment

Federation Council Human Resource Team has facilitated 52 recruitments in 2019/2020, this includes permanent, part time and casuals. After filling Council's Executive Team in April 2019, this financial year Council focused on filling its new structure which was adopted on the 23 September 2019. The new structure has aligned Council's services and functions, ensuring that Council had the resources to support its Delivery Programs and Operational Plans into the future.

Recruitment during COVID 19 has been a challenge but through innovation and change management strategies, Council has been able to fill most of it's

vacancies. As with all Councils we have a small amount of applicants in some areas that have a shortage of skilled and experienced people across the country. Council's strategy for this is to provide Traineeships and Apprenticeships in these positions within our critical service areas, which also provides employment opportunities to our local youth and community.

Council also had several employees complete their traineeships and be successful in obtaining ongoing permanent employment within Federation Council using their newly acquired skills.

### **Training**

Federation Council continues to support, deliver and offer training opportunities to all its employees.

Annually there is always a large amount of compliance training that is mandatory and legislated, which is a priority for Council. Council also supports a number of career development training opportunities throughout its large workforce to provide a career path within Federation Council.

Council also works collaboratively with the schools in the area to provide work experience where ever possible and are looking to facilitate school based traineeships in the future.

This year due to COVID 19, most training providers where not facilitating any training in the beginning. Most providers are now either providing an online service or a restricted numbers training in accordance with the COVID 19 guidelines.

### Workplace Injury Management

Federation Council embraces the benefits and positive impact it has on encouraging workers to recover at work whilst injured. Our claims are relatively small compared to other Councils and we attempt to find suitable duties where practical for both injuries at work and injuries outside of work.

Federation Council's net incurred wages and expenses has halved this year which is a significant reduction. Our claims frequency is on par with other Regional Councils and is approximately 50% less than the average of all the NSW Councils. Federation Council has achieved an

outcome that aligns with its strategic approach to Workplace Injury Management. Council's proactive approach to work, health and safety together with our Recover at Work Program has had a major impact on these figures.

Table 1:

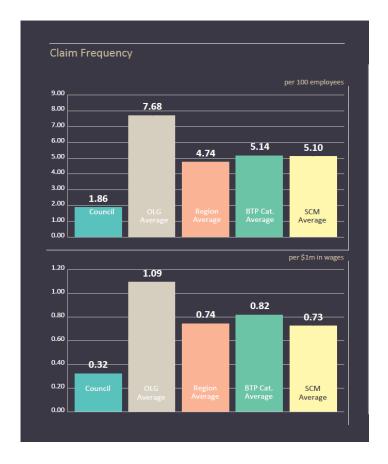
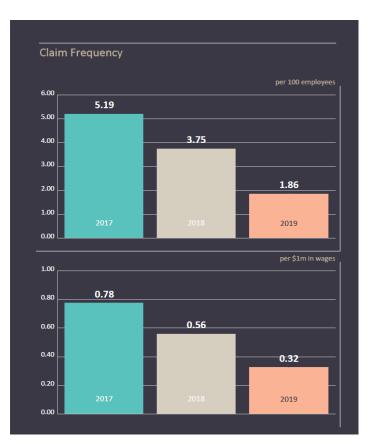


Table 2:





## **COUNCILLOR EXPENSES**

Statutory Report Item 8 – Details of overseas visits by councillors, council staff or other persons representing council (including visits sponsored by other organisations). cl 217(1)(a) LGGR 2005:

• Sister City Exchange - Miki City Japan (Mayor and General Manager; Students and Chaperons) 28 Sep - 8 Oct 2019.

Council's Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities Policy allows for the payment of expenses incurred by, and the provision of facilities to, Councillors in relation to their roles as elected representatives and members of the governing body of Council.

During the reporting period, the governing body of Council comprised of nine elected Councillors. The total amount of allowances received by the elected Councillors was \$143,849.36.



| ITEM FOR ANN  | IUAL REPORT  |
|---|--------------|
| Total cost during the year of the payment of expenses of, and the provision of facilities to, Councillors in relation to their civic functions. | \$152,061.52 |
| Provision of dedicated office equipment allocated to Councillors.   | Nil          |
| Telephone calls made by Councillors.  | Nil          |
| Attendance of Councillors at conferences and seminars.  | \$6,554.42   |
| Training of Councillors and provision of skill development.   | \$540.00     |
| Interstate visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out-<br>of-pocket travelling expenses.                           | Nil          |
| Overseas visits by Councillors, including transport, accommodation and other out-<br>of-pocket travelling expenses.                             | \$4,447.79   |
| Expenses of any spouse, partner or other person who accompanied a Councillor, being expenses payable in accordance with the Guidelines.         | \$301.00     |
| Expenses involved in the provision of care for a child or an immediate family member of a councillor.   | Nil          |

## **COUNCIL PARTICIPATION**

Cl 217(1)(a6) Please refer to page XXX (Section 355 Committees)

Cl 217(1)(a7) Council held NO controlling interests in the corporation, partnership, trust, joint venture, syndicate or other body.

Cl 217(1)(a8) The following table outlines the cooperatives, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which Council participated.

| ORGANISATIONS   | INCORPORATION<br>STATUS                   | MEMBERSHIP           |
|---|---|----------------------|
| Country Mayors Association                                | Other Incorporated Entity                 | Financial Member     |
| Local Government NSW (Advocacy and Service Coordination)  | Other Incorporated Entity                 | Non-Financial Member |
| Local Government Superannuation Scheme (LG Super)         | Private Company                           | Non-Financial Member |
| Murray Arts   | Other Incorporated Entity                 | Financial Member     |
| Murray Darling Association                                | Other Incorporated Entity                 | Financial Member     |
| Murray Regional Tourism Board                             | Public Company                            | Financial Member     |
| Riverina Regional Library                                 | Local Government Entity                   | Financial Member     |
| Riverina Water County Council                             | Local Government Entity                   | Non-Financial Member |
| Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO)            | Local Government Statu-<br>tory Authority | Financial Member     |
| StateCover Mutual (Workers Compensation Insurance pool)   | Public Company                            | Financial Member     |
| Statewide Mutual (Marsh Pty Ltd) (General Insurance pool) | Private Company                           | Financial Member     |
| Southern Phone Company                                    | Public Company                            | Shareholder          |



# CONTRACTS AWARDED GREATER THAN \$150,000

| NAME & ADDRESS OF<br>CONTRACTOR                              | CONTRACT TITLE / DESCRIPTION  | AWARDED/ ESTIMATED AMOUNT Payable Under Contract (GST Inclusive) |
|--|---|--|
| Focus Engineering Pty Itd                                    | Design and Construction of Doctors Road Bridge<br>Replacement   | \$417,417.00   |
| Bluey's Plumbin' & Diggin' Pty.<br>Ltd                       | Supply and installation of 2.3 Kilometres of Water Line to Urana Aquatic Centre lake. RFQ 2020-132                        | \$242,075.90   |
| Kennedy Builders   | Urana Aquatic Centre - Leisure Centre and Jetty<br>Contract 2019/108  | \$1,080,380.40   |
| Focus Engineering Pty Ltd                                    | Design and Construction of Urana Pedestrian Bridge<br>RFQ 2019-123  | \$228,835.20   |
| Kennedy Builders   | Construction of New Change rooms at Oakland<br>Recreation Ground Contract 2020-115  | \$453,830.30   |
| Stabilised Pavements of Australia Pty Ltd                    | Federation Way Daysdale S Bends reconstrution project stabilisation component - Estimated Qty: 16,000m2;                  | \$761,464.00   |
|  | Federation Way at Widgiewa reconstruction project stabilisation component - Estimated Qty: 24,000m                        | \$1,123,496.00   |
| Naubro Kerb Pty Ltd  | Boree Creek Culvert Extension RFQ 2020-124  | \$177,761.10   |
| Kennedy Builders   | Construction of new Toilet block at Purtle Park -<br>Mulwala Contract 2019/117  | \$217,470.00   |
| Enviro Culture Services                                      | All Abilities Playground Purtle Park - Mulwala Contract 2019/094  | \$2,008,510.56   |
| Haley Construction Pty Ltd                                   | Construction of Corowa Skate Park Extension<br>Contract 2019/101  | \$327,560.00   |
| Focus Engineering Pty Ltd                                    | Corowa Saleyards Upgrade Contract 2019/107  | \$431,926.00   |
| A.P. Delaney & Co Pty Ltd                                    | Civil Construction of the Howlong Industrial Estate -<br>Contract 2019-093  | \$2,268,502.50   |
| G & P Connelly - Trading as<br>Connelly Construction Service | Construction of Howlong Multupurpose Hall and<br>Gymnasium Contract 2019/090  | \$1,521,830.00   |
| David Lane Builder (Corowa)                                  | Construction of Ball Park Multipurpose Pavilion<br>Contract 2019/091  | \$314,600.00   |
| Enviro Culture Services                                      | Bangerange Park Playground Contract 2019/24   | \$651,284.15   |
| Mitchell Constructions NSW<br>Pty Ltd                        | Design and Construction of Multi-line and<br>Multupurpose Netball and Tennis Courts at Coreen<br>Contract 2019/07         | \$313,900.00   |
| Kennedy Builders   | Extension works Bay 13 to Sport Pavilion Change<br>room and Multi-Purpose at Lonsdale Reserve<br>Mulwala Contract 2019/45 | \$220,379.50   |
| Hines Constructions Pty Ltd                                  | Design and Construction of Corowa Swimming Pool<br>Contract 2019/083  | \$8,820,534.39   |
| CT Management Group Pty<br>Ltd                               | Asset Management and Long Term Financial Planning<br>RFG 2019-41  | \$313,071.00   |
| JK Homes;  | Howlong Tennis Club Refurbishment of Clubrooms<br>RFQ 2019/92   | \$222,500.00   |

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Council did not incur any costs in relation to legal proceedings for the year 2019-2020

## **FINANCE**

Council did not fund any special projects via a special rate variation of general income.

## **DEBT WRITE OFF**

Council resolved at its Ordinary meeting held on 28 January 2020 to write off \$10,891.14 in unpaid rates in accordance with Section 719 of the Local Government Act 1993. This was determined by Council following the sale of properties with outstanding rates owing. A total of \$364,867 in outstanding rates and charges was recovered.

The amounts written off was due to insufficient proceeds from the sale of 10 properties to cover outstanding amounts owing.

Resolution 16/20FC - The full Council report can be found on Council's website.

www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au

