



LEETON ON THE GO

OUR COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN - TOWARDS 2030



The Leeton Community Strategic Plan
has been developed by the residents of Leeton Shire
with support from the Leeton Shire Council.

The plan has a long term focus - 2016 to 2030.
It was endorsed in December 2016.

Progress will be reported in 2020 in an “End of Term Report”.
The Community Strategic Plan will be reviewed again in 2020/21.

It is acknowledged that the majority of photographs in this document have been contributed by Shire residents.

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WE ARE LEETON SHIRE



OUR VISION IS

To enjoy outstanding lifestyles and prosperous livelihoods within a caring and inclusive community and a healthy environment.

To be inspirational leaders leaving a legacy in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area of which we are enormously proud.

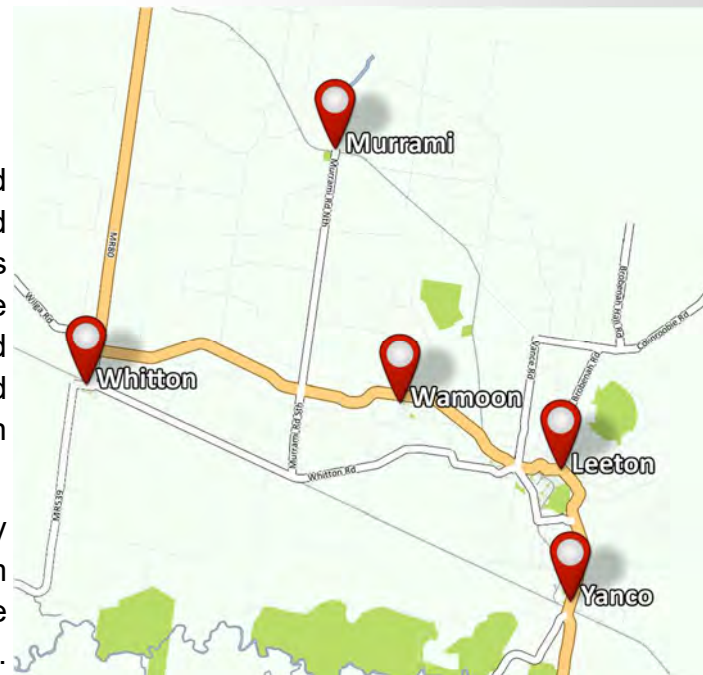


SNAPSHOT OF LEETON SHIRE



Leeton Shire is one of the most innovative, inclusive and progressive places in inland Australia.

Located in the Riverina 584km from Sydney, 470km from Melbourne and 371km from Canberra, Leeton is the birth place of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and was purposely built as part of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme.



Leeton is 1,167 square kilometres in size and includes the towns of Yanco and Whitton and the villages of Murrumbidgee and Wamboon. Leeton is the second largest regional centre in the Western Riverina region outside of Griffith and plays an integral role in value-added agricultural processing, agriculture, education and research, transport and logistics.

Leeton has a semi-arid climate with hot dry summers and cool winters. The maximum average summer temperature is 32°C and the maximum average winter temperature is 15°C. The average annual rainfall is 457mm.

Leeton's population in 2016 is 11,602 and is forecast to reach 12,528 by 2036. The age structure in Leeton Shire up until 2026 indicates that there will be a 11.7% increase in population under the working age, there will be a 26.3% increase in population retirement age and the greatest increase in Shire residents will be between the ages of 0-4 years.

Water is central to Leeton Shire. The Murrumbidgee River and the Ramsar-listed Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands play an important part in the local ecology. Up to 174 bird species have been recorded at the Wetlands during the warmer months, many of those being migratory birds from the northern hemisphere.



The Shire enjoys a strong economy with the Gross Regional Product valued at \$527 million in 2016. There were 5,456 local jobs and 972 registered businesses in 2015, with the largest employment sectors being manufacturing (20%), agriculture and retail trade (10% each) and construction (5.2%). The rest is in education, health care and social services.

Leeton is renowned as the Heart of SunRice Country and is home to the SunRice Headquarters. In 2014 rice contributed \$148 million to the regional economy. In 2015, there were 4,000 tonnes of walnuts processed in Leeton and 400 head of cattle per day processed at JBS Riverina Feedlot. During the 2015/16 year 200,000 tonnes of cotton was processed by Southern Cotton and there was 180,000 tonnes of citrus processed through the likes of Pacific Fresh and the juice manufacturing site of the Lion Dairy and Drinks business. Other well established industries include Freedom Foods, Lillypilly Estate Wines and Toorak Wines.

With a proud history in education services, Leeton boasts a TAFE and three major high schools, two of which are boarding schools, which attract students from across south-west NSW and even other states. There are six primary schools, a support school, two long day care centres, one pre-school and a number of family day care providers.

Facilities and services that support a wide cross section of the community include a range of quality sporting facilities, two aged care providers, a hospital, general practices and allied health services, and a range of clubs and service groups.





ABOUT THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

“Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.”

As a community we believe that Leeton Shire has a bright future. We know that achieving this takes a clear vision, strong leadership and dedicated commitment to see our aspirations delivered in full.

This Community Strategic Plan - Leeton on the Go - will protect and strengthen what we value about Leeton Shire such as our spirit of community, our lifestyle and our diversity of opportunity. It will also enhance our future socially, economically, culturally and environmentally.

The Plan sends a series of important messages to Council, Government, Non-Government Organisations and Community Groups about where the community would like to see valuable resources such as time, energy and money directed over the coming years in order to ensure our long-term wellbeing.

The Plan builds on previous community plans and has been developed with significant community engagement. We have asked ourselves the following questions:

- **Where are we at today?**
- **Where do we want to be in 10 years time?**
- **How can we do this?**
- **Who may be available to help?**
- **How will we know we are being successful?**

“ A GOAL WITHOUT A PLAN IS JUST A WISH ”

The Community Strategic Plan is made up of six themes each with a series of associated strategies. This document captures the essence of each of those themes and strategies so that we have a road map with a destination, ideas for getting there and signposts about how well we are doing.

The challenge for us all now lies in continuing to work together to ensure that these goals are met and we are reaching our aspirations as a community.

“A good plan is like a road map: it shows the final destination and usually the best way to get there.”

“To accomplish great things, we must not only act but also dream. Not only plan but also believe.”

Leeton Shire Council has helped to steward the collation of this Plan on behalf of the community. The Council is one agency that will consider what the community has said when it develops its Four Year Delivery Program (2016-2020).



OVERVIEW OF THEMES

The Community Strategic Plan outlines six themes which are supported by a total of 20 strategies.

Each strategy has signposts that will be measured over time to indicate what progress is being made.

THEME 1 - A Healthy and Caring Community

- A community that focuses on being healthy
- A community that embraces lifelong learning
- A community that is friendly and inclusive
- A community that is safe to live in and move about
- A community that enjoys good housing

THEME 4 - A Thriving Economy with Good Jobs

- A community that thrives with irrigated agriculture
- A community that is strong in business and employment
- A community that has great attractions and events
- A community that enjoys a vibrant town centre

THEME 2 - An Active and Enriched Community

- A community that participates in sports and active leisure
- A community that enjoys arts and culture
- A community that values its heritage

THEME 5 - A Quality Built Environment

- A community that has reliable water and wastewater services in towns
- A community that has good road, rail and air transport
- A community that enjoys attractive towns and parks

THEME 3 - A Healthy Natural Environment

- A community that respects the natural environment
- A community that enjoys our natural environment

THEME 6 - Strong Leadership

- A community that has politicians who listen and act
- A community that speaks up and gets involved
- A community that is always on the front foot



THEME 1

A HEALTHY AND CARING COMMUNITY

We love living in Leeton because we enjoy an excellent quality of life from childhood through to our senior years. Healthy lifestyles are enjoyed by all in a caring, safe and friendly community. Learning is a constant with access to quality education opportunities for all ages.

STRATEGIES

- A community that focuses on being healthy
- A community that embraces lifelong learning
- A community that is friendly and inclusive
- A community that is safe to live in and move about
- A community that enjoys good housing

A COMMUNITY THAT FOCUSES ON BEING HEALTHY

Leeton Shire today



As a community we know that our health (physical, mental, emotional and spiritual) is closely linked to the conditions into which we are born, grow, live, work and age. Having access to appropriate housing, a secure early life, good education, nutritional food, job certainty, social support and healthcare systems all help to keep us healthy.

Statistics from the Murrumbidgee Local Health District show that for Leeton Shire our four biggest issues are alcohol abuse, smoking, being overweight and diabetes. Aboriginal people generally have poorer health outcomes in the Western Riverina.

“For the sake of our children let’s make drinking sugary fizz and eating junk food NOT normal”

We are living in times where unhealthy activity and eating has become the norm. Many of us know it is time that we ‘make healthy normal’ again, which is consistent with the NSW Make Healthy Normal campaign.

As a community we appreciate having a range of good health services both in our Shire and regionally, including base hospitals in both Griffith and Wagga Wagga. Compared to many rural communities we have a good number and

selection of GP’s, dentists and allied health services. We value our Leeton Hospital service and are pleased that there is a commitment to retain our birthing unit through a midwife led model of care. We are eager for this to get up and running as quickly as possible.

From time to time we hear about people struggling to find appropriate mental health services, a situation that is often made more difficult for people from non-English speaking backgrounds.

Some of us think that we are fortunate to be able to access specialist services within an hour to an hour and a half, while others would like to see more specialist services offered in Leeton.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Our bodies and minds are happy and healthy from the lifestyle changes all sectors of our community have made. We enjoy regular exercise, including walking to school and work and keeping a close eye on what we eat and drink.

Being out and about in our communities knowing we don’t have to breathe in secondhand smoke makes us feel good. We are proud to show our children that our public spaces are smoke free.

It is reassuring that older residents can move about in our communities safely and easily.

As a community we are enjoying lots of fruit and vegetables that we have grown ourselves.

We have peace of mind knowing our health is being looked after locally by health clinicians, health services, government agencies and Council - all working together to provide the medical services we require to meet our physical, mental and emotional needs, including those with disabilities and non-English speaking backgrounds.

One hundred percent of our children are fully immunised.

The NSW Premier’s State Priorities – Improving Service Levels in Hospitals aims to have 81% of patients through emergency departments within four hours. Also Tackling Childhood Obesity aims to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by 5% over 10 years.

How we can do this

By taking more care of ourselves including eating healthily and exercising more.

By getting on board with the Murrumbidgee Local Health District Health Promotions Programs, including Make Healthy Normal, Healthy Built Environment, Live Life Well at School, Munch and Move and Food Security.

By banning sugary drinks and junk food in schools and hospitals and educating the community on the benefits of fueling our bodies with healthy options.

By actively following up missed immunisation appointments.

By advocating strongly when service closure is threatened and by ensuring different organisations are aligned and not unnecessarily duplicating services.

By allowing private providers to provide services where the public system doesn’t have the capacity.

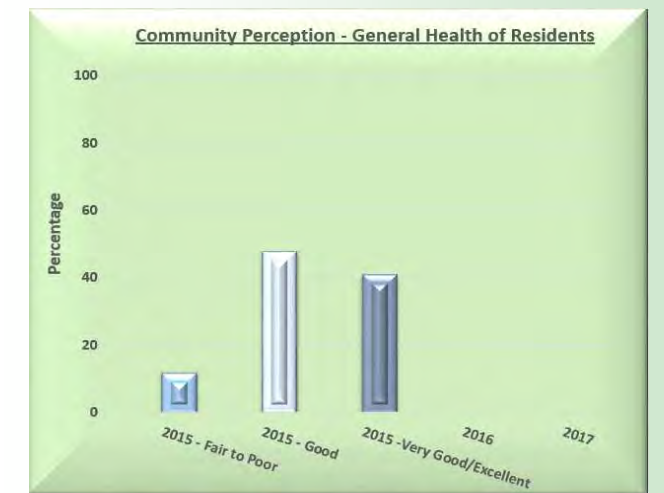
Who may be available to help?

- Murrumbidgee Local Health District
- Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network
- Local health services
- Leeton Shire Council
- Local schools and P&C committees
- Early childhood service providers
- Local gyms
- Health food outlets
- Community groups

WISH LIST

- More drug and alcohol services
- More mental health professionals, services and workshops
- Access to specialists rather than travelling
- Integrated local health system with other agencies
- Educational programs for prevention strategies

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for the general health of residents to improve



Source: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Health Atlas of Australia

We aim for the number of fully immunised 5 year old Aboriginal children in the community to increase



Source: Murrumbidgee Local Health District—Health Atlas

We aim for diabetes attributable hospitalisations to decrease

A COMMUNITY THAT EMBRACES LIFELONG LEARNING

Leeton Shire today



Leeton Shire has a strong education network. This includes three major high schools, two of which are boarding schools where students come from across southwest NSW and other states, six primary schools, an independent school, a support school, two long day care centres, one pre-school and a number of family day care providers. We value highly that our education facilities provide extra support so that all children can reach their full potential.

“The excellent education choices we have make Leeton a wonderfully liveable Shire”

The ABS Census data is broken down into postcodes with the 2011 data indicating in Yanco (population 948) 53.3% of the people are studying, made up of:

Primary School	12.5%
High School (Boarding)	73.6%
Tech/Uni/Other students	4.8%

In the rest of the Shire (population 10,014) 33% are studying, made up of:

Primary School	28.5%
High School	26.9%
Tech/Uni/Other students	11.3%

We can compare this to NSW which has 29.5% of people studying, made up of:

Primary School	27.8%
High School	22.7%
Tech/Uni/Other students	18.3%

Having a local TAFE and registered training organisations that can offer many different

courses and programmes is important in our Shire, especially as our industries need skilled workers. TAFE provides a highly valued service in Leeton and we are committed to ensuring its ongoing availability across a broad range of courses.

Of the people living in Leeton Shire, 45% have qualifications over high school level:

- Certificate 20%
- Diploma 4%
- Degree 7%
- Graduate or Post Graduate Degrees 2%

We wish more Aboriginal children would be engaged in early education services sooner as well as primary and secondary schooling.

Our community enjoys and values our local library service that caters for all ages and nationalities, including Aboriginal and culturally and linguistically diverse communities, as well as people with disabilities. Library programs cover children’s story times, materials for the home-bound, migrant and refugee resources and online options. There is also opportunity for computer access so that everyone can benefit from modern technology, including disability access through adaptive technologies.

Older residents in the community are endeavouring to set up U3A (University of the Third Age) which offers an opportunity for re-skilling and to remain an active part of the community through employment or volunteering.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Our young adults have every opportunity to undertake training to help obtain meaningful jobs or self employment opportunities within our communities.

We value the opportunities we have to study online or by distance education at our leisure and at an affordable cost.

The strong presence of NSW TAFE Riverina and other relevant education providers in the community has given us many choices to study areas we are truly interested in, including trades.

School leavers are enjoying the many different options they have for further study for their professional development.

The NSW Premier’s State Priorities -Improving Education Results aim to increase the proportion of NSW students in the top two NAPLAN bands by 8%.



How we can do this

By having NBN faster broadband to help improve access to flexible online learning.

By continuing to offer free Wi-Fi so that nobody in the community is disadvantaged by not being able to access the internet.

By schools continuing to get creative and progress in their delivery of education to young people.

By developing a truancy program for school children.

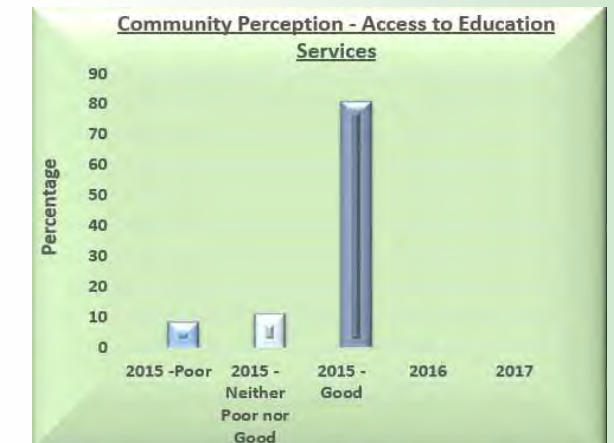
By local businesses providing apprenticeship opportunities.

Who may be available to help?

- NSW Department of Education
- TAFE and Registered Training Organisations
- Universities—such as Deakin/Charles Sturt
- Local schools and Early Childhood Service Providers
- Local Apprenticeship Centre
- University of the Third Age (U3A)
- Western Riverina Community College



Signposts to measure our success over time



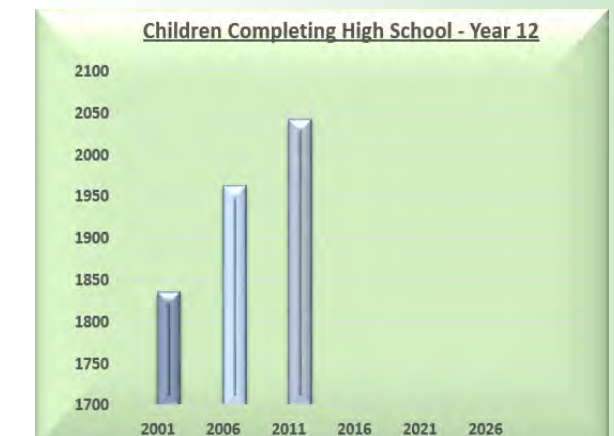
Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for “good” to trend upwards



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for membership numbers to remain constant



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for high school completion rates to increase

WISH LIST

- Engineering to be continued to be offered locally through TAFE or another provider
- Develop a truancy program
- Low levels of unemployment
- Businesses to provide scholarships and study grants

A COMMUNITY THAT IS FRIENDLY AND INCLUSIVE

Leeton Shire today



One of the best things about living in Leeton Shire is being part of a community that is friendly, caring and inclusive. Many people who move here for a short-term job decide to stay. Others who leave return because they appreciate everything the Shire has to offer.

We have a new residents' kit aimed at helping people to quickly settle in and become familiar with how our community works.

“We absolutely love Leeton. It is genuinely the best welcome we have ever had!”

Many of us volunteer in community groups whether they be for sport and recreation, welcoming newcomers from different cultures or to help people facing disadvantage, ill health or difficult times.

At last count there were approximately:

- 84 sporting and activity groups;
- 58 support groups or organisations;
- 16 churches; and
- 92 service groups of varying kinds.

This represents a range of opportunities for people to get involved in community life, make friends and have a sense of belonging. Leeton has a Multi Purpose Community Service Centre which houses a range of services that promote wellbeing in a friendly environment.

Leeton has a remarkable degree of social

cohesion given its diversity. This is indicated by the 2011 Census data which gives a break up of Leeton's population at that time. The countries of birth other than Australia included Italy (1.8%), England (1.0%), New Zealand (0.8%), India (0.5%) and Scotland (0.2%).

Many of us are actively working to promote mutual trust and understanding so that everyone has the opportunity to love living in Leeton. We find sharing food and cultural experiences helps to bring about togetherness and respect.

We have further shown our commitment to social cohesion by becoming a Welcome Refugee Council.

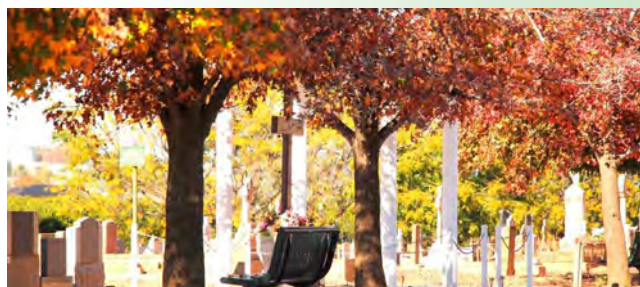
We value both our outdoor and indoor community facilities such as our local halls as these provide us with opportunities to meet, discuss, celebrate, play and hold events.

We appreciate farewelling our loved ones in a dignified and respectful manner and we like our cemeteries in Leeton and Whitton to be attractive places to visit and reflect.

Some of us face various disabilities and while our facilities and services cater well for some, there is some way yet to go with achieving a full sense of inclusiveness. For example, people who are ageing or with physical disabilities often comment on access issues such as footpaths, kerb heights and ramps, etc.

Older people and those with a disability in our community in need of support can access Meals on Wheels, Home Modification and Maintenance Services and social support via a service that has operated for over 50 years.

We have inspiring youth and mentoring programs for our young people which provide opportunities for them to socialise and grow in confidence while celebrating their success.



Where we want to be in 10 years time

We are a community that is continuing to care about each other and enjoy great relationships.

Our volunteers in service clubs and community groups are highly valued for the help they continue to provide to others. They come from all age groups and bring diverse skills.

People with a disability, different cultural backgrounds, the indigenous and refugees feel fully involved and able to participate meaningfully in our community.

How we can do this

By strengthening our network of service groups, support groups and volunteers of all ages.

By supporting youth services

By providing homelessness services and programs.

By supporting aged services and programs.

By supporting disability and elderly services and programs and ensuring there is adequate street and parking access to all areas within the Shire.

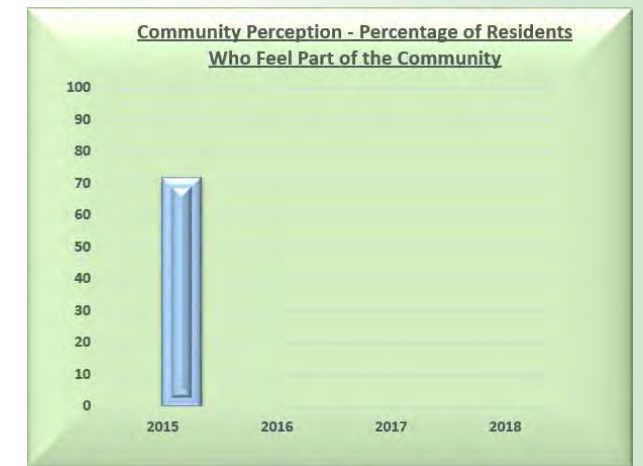
By supporting refugee and migrant services and programs.

By maintaining a central list of community groups and contacts and making this readily available to the public.

Who may be available to help?

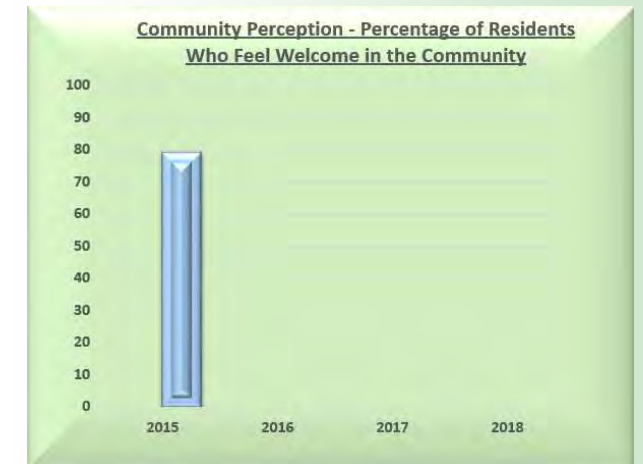
- Multicultural NSW
- Leeton Shire Council
- Family and Community Services
- Dept. of Social Services, Federal Gov.
- Youth NSW
- Local organisations and inter-agencies
- Disability organisations
- Local service clubs
- Early Childhood Service providers
- Local schools
- Outside School Hours Care service provider

Signposts to measure our success over time



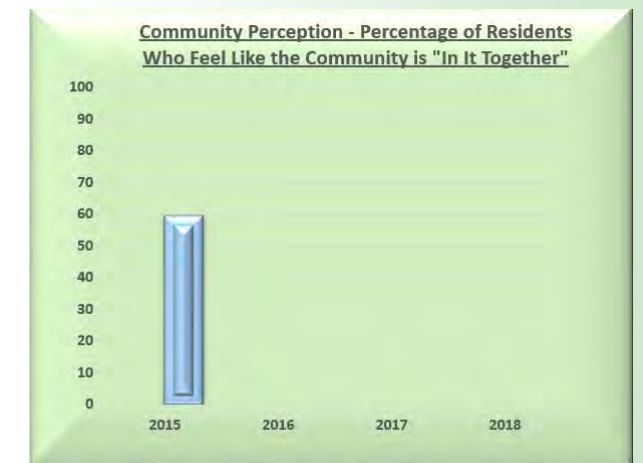
Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for all residents to feel part of the community



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for all residents to feel welcome in the community



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for community perception to increase

WISH LIST

Establish programs to get everyone working together, regardless of age

A COMMUNITY THAT IS SAFE TO LIVE IN AND MOVE ABOUT

Leeton Shire today



As residents of Leeton Shire we like to feel safe in our homes and on our streets. Generally our communities are safe places to live and move and raise a family.

Our police station falls under the Griffith Local Area Command. Most of the time we feel our policing service is good but sometimes the time it takes to respond is not satisfactory.

Growing drug (especially Ice) and alcohol abuse is a worry. Crime here is a bit different than in other places. Vehicle and house break-ins, stealing, vandalism and assaults other than family assaults are all down but other crime remains at about the same level.

“Leeton is relatively safe, but there seems to have been an increase in break-ins and this worries me. Police presence is limited from what I see and there needs to be more for younger people to do”

Leeton is getting more CCTV coverage in busy public areas and businesses and homes are also putting in more video systems. Well-lit streets are important. It is important to give young people things to do so that they aren't bored.

We do have a Neighbourhood Watch program which encourages people to limit the opportunities for crime and builds a safer community.

We also want to be safe on the roads and that includes making sure people aren't speeding or hooning, that the roads and streets are in good condition and that vehicles are safe. This is especially important around schools.

We enjoy our walkways and bike paths as they keep us separate from traffic so that we can enjoy getting around. The shared path from Yanco to South Leeton is a wonderful asset for active

transport. However in some areas paths are of a low standard or don't connect well enough and in other areas there are no footpaths at all. This can be a big challenge for people who use disability aides and for older residents and parents and carers with prams and trollies.

We have zero tolerance for dogs running loose and attacking people or animals. In 2015 we had twice as many reported attacks per person compared to Griffith and almost three-and-a-half times as many compared to Narrandera.

In 2012 we suffered major flooding and we want to be sure that everything that can be done will be done to prevent this happening again.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Parents feel at ease letting their children play outside in the fresh air knowing our crime level and drug and alcohol issues are very low.

Youth are active members of our communities and participate in a wide variety of activities.

We love feeling as safe as the older generation did in the past at home and on our streets.

Mums and dads are comfortable with their children aged over 10 years crossing busy streets to school as flashing lights outside every school help slow motorists down.

Parents pushing prams, children and the elderly head safely to the shops or schools or doctors on foot or in their mobility scooters or other mobility needs on wide, well linked footpaths.

People needing to use disabled car spots enjoy knowing one will be available to them.

We can rest easy knowing we are well prepared for natural disasters.

We enjoy being able to walk about in our communities without being threatened by animals on the loose or anti-social behaviour.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities – Reducing Domestic Violence aims to reduce the proportion of domestic violence re-offending by 5% within 12 months. Also Protecting our Kids aims to decrease the percentage of children and young people re-reported at risk of significant harm by 15%.

How we can do this

By taking part in “Project Eye Watch”, an online community policing program to fight crime.

By encouraging people to take actions that prevent them from becoming victims of crime.

By tackling domestic violence including promoting White Ribbon Day and the establishment of a women's refuge.

By setting up a Rural Watch system.

By continuing to promote campaigns on designated driving and looking after your mates.

By making sure there are lots of activities for young people to do when they aren't at school or work.

By increasing natural surveillance through good environmental design.

By increasing lighting and CCTV.

By ensuring land in the Shire is zoned appropriately, including more mixed zones, to encourage safe, healthy living and good business.

By implementing measures to cater for a range of potential natural disasters.

By developing footpaths, disability car parks and cycleways that meet priority needs.

By ensuring public facilities, services and playgrounds cater for everyone in the community are universally accessible.

By providing community education on Police services and the use of 000.

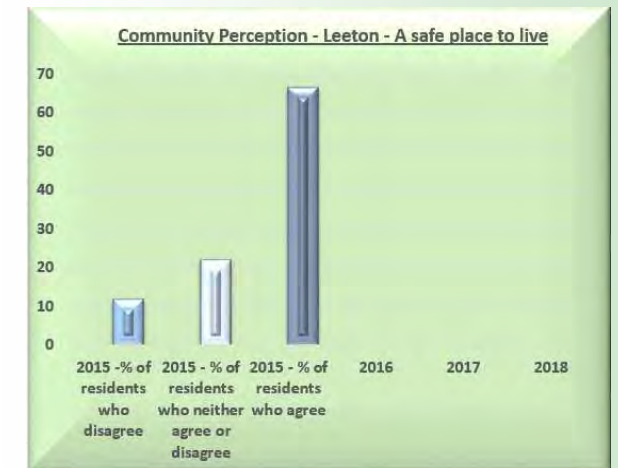
Who may be available to help?

- NSW Police
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Leeton Shire Council
- Local churches and community services
- Disability Interagency Group
- Domestic Violence Support Group
- Healthy Built Environment Consortium

WISH LIST

- More street lighting
- A 24 hour Police presence
- More youth activities
- Construct footpath in main street of Murrumbidgee
- More CCTV
- Extend bike track to include Boronia Road
- Improved footpath network

Signposts to measure our success over time



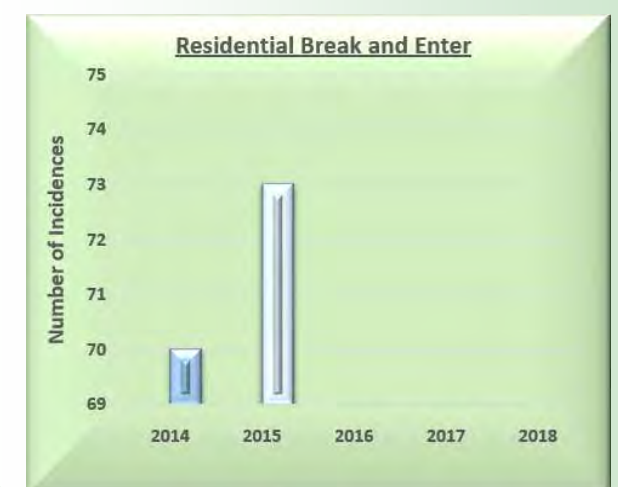
Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for an increase in residents feeling safe



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

We aim for incidences to decrease



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research

We aim for incidences to decrease

A COMMUNITY THAT ENJOYS GOOD HOUSING

Leeton Shire today



As a community we believe that housing is one of the most basic needs for everyone. Through their lives most people spend more on housing than on anything else.

All families need to be able to live in an affordable home of a decent quality so that they can still pay for food, clothing, education and medicine. In Leeton Shire most people live in separate houses as opposed to flats and units.

In Leeton, 36.3% or just over a third of houses are owned mortgage-free and 32.7% of houses were owned with a home loan. This is slightly above the rest of the state. 27.5% of homes are rented. 7% of households spend over a third of their income on housing costs which often means they struggle to make ends meet.

“Rentals are difficult to find and sometimes we see families having to share accommodation.”

Generally there are as few as 6 to 20 rentals available at any one time on the internet ranging from \$180-\$320 a week and often this does not meet demand. Most people feel that there are too few rentals and rents are high because of that shortage.

Argyle Housing provides housing for some older people which is good but there is a growing need for more elderly housing and single person housing.

Some residents have expressed concern about the standard of social housing in some areas and feel that there is scope for better

collaboration with local support agencies.

Residents feel that it is important that any new subdivisions meet the standards we expect for residential areas in Leeton. Some that haven't need attention to make them more liveable.

The lack of temporary or emergency housing is also a worry from time to time, as well as youth homelessness.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

We are fortunate to have many well planned and positioned housing areas to choose from around the Shire which suit our needs and price range and allow us to “age in place”. The range of housing options is also a means of attracting new residents.

Our communities welcome itinerant farm, factory workers and business travellers. We are pleased to offer them sufficient housing options that are suitably priced.

Knowing we are safe, regardless of our age or background, in our towns and villages makes us feel happy and content.

We are pleased to see that there has been an increase in the availability of social housing.

In times of need, it is reassuring to know that short term emergency housing is readily available in our communities.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities – Reducing Youth Homelessness aims to increase the proportion of young people who successfully move from Specialist Homelessness Services to long-term accommodation by 10%. Also Faster Housing Approvals aims to have 90% of housing approvals determined within 40 days.



How we can do this

By having different organisations involved in social housing working together to find the best ways (holistic) to meet identified housing needs.

By identifying land that might be good for building more houses, including special housing types like elderly, youth, lower income and backpacker places and making sure there is enough transport available for their needs.

By promoting house builds that foster health and wellbeing and long term affordability.

By promoting Leeton as an attractive location for housing development.

By investigating the option of increasing residential accommodation in and near the CBD.

By establishing a women's refuge and other emergency housing.



Who may be available to help?

- Housing NSW
- Leeton Shire Council
- Argyle Housing
- Salvation Army
- Leeton Community Op Shop
- Property developers
- Healthy Built Environment Consortium

WISH LIST

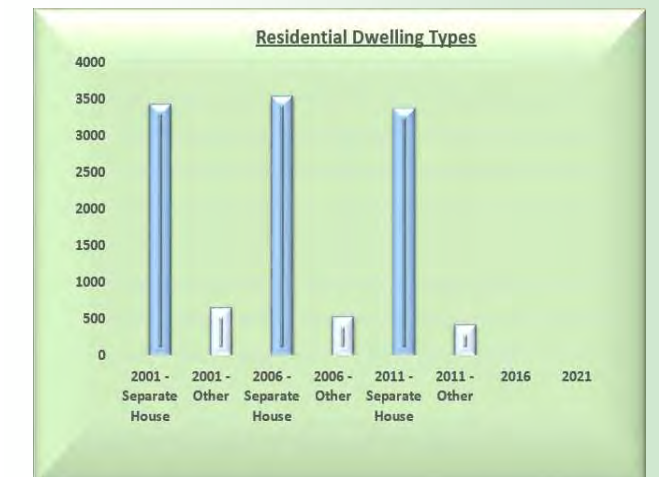
More backpacker places that are nice

More apartments that are attractive

More transport for outer areas such as Wattle Hill and Golf Course Estate

More supported housing units

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for an increase in the other varieties of dwelling options



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for social housing availability to remain stable



Source: Housing NSW

We aim for Housing NSW waiting lists to decline



THEME 2

AN ACTIVE AND ENRICHED COMMUNITY

We love living in Leeton because we can join in with a variety of sports and leisure activities at any age. Our community has a diverse arts and culture following and supports a wide array of artistic events. We come together regularly to celebrate our history with pride and what makes our community great. We enjoy sharing our heritage with younger generations.

STRATEGIES

- A community that participates in sports and active leisure
- A community that enjoys arts and culture
- A community that values its heritage

A COMMUNITY THAT PARTICIPATES IN SPORTS AND ACTIVE LEISURE

Leeton Shire today



Sport has been a big part of Leeton Shire for a long time and we are very proud of that. The Shire has been home to many great athletes over the years and we enjoy celebrating their success!

Some people play sport to stay fit or have fun with family and friends. Playing organised or social sport helps us to be physically and emotionally healthy and more connected as a community.

Some of our sports venues are really good but others need to be improved. Our Shire sporting ovals are generally at capacity. Several sporting codes operate from grounds not managed by Council.

“We want to encourage sport in the community to look after our younger generation as they are our future”

Many of the clubs and organisations are run by wonderful volunteers and we need to help them to keep doing that. Our local schools are also important places for introducing children to organised sport.

Our Council spends almost thirty percent more money each year on leisure activities than other areas our size and this is great because it helps make Leeton Shire a healthier and happier place to live.

At the moment there are 84 registered clubs across a range of sports.



We have some great areas for recreation such as the Leeton and Whitton pools, sports stadium, golf course, ovals, bike trails, bowling greens, showgrounds, pony club grounds, Murrumbidgee River, Gogeldrie Weir, Fivebough Wetlands, parks, netball courts and gyms. These support both organised and spontaneous sporting activity.

All early childhood education services in Leeton participate in the “Munch and Move program and all schools in the “Live Life Well at School” program. We want these to continue.



Where we want to be in 10 years time

We have worked hard to grow our sport and recreation activities, including attracting larger regional sporting events. Showcasing them to locals and visitors alike makes us proud.

Great pride is taken to ensure our sporting venues are kept to a good standard and they meet our needs.

Our sporting clubs are supported by lots of volunteers to help keep them running well.

Our swimming pools are popular for having fun in the warmer months with our friends and families. Swimming training clubs are thriving.

The NSW Premier’s State Priorities - Tackling Childhood Obesity aims to reduce overweight and obesity rates of children by 5% over 10 years.

How we can do this

By making more people aware that sport is good for our health and happiness.

By making sport and leisure facilities and clubs as affordable as possible and welcoming for people of all ages and all walks of life.

By implementing programs that encourage health promoting behaviour across all sporting clubs, including healthy eating, responsible drinking and universal accessibility.

By working together strategically and helping each other operationally by sharing facilities, equipment or people where possible.

By making sure we take proper care of what we already have.

By helping clubs remain strong and viable.

Who may be available to help?

- Local sports clubs
- Local service clubs
- Local businesses
- Local schools
- Murrumbidgee Local Health District Physical Activity Leader Network
- NSW Department of Sport and Recreation
- Leeton Shire Council

WISH LIST

- Upstairs club rooms and function area at the ovals
- Resurfaced netball courts
- Covered Pool
- Junior sports amenities block
- Improved lights at the ovals
- Clubhouse facility for all sporting codes to share
- Sporting facilities for older children in all villages
- All year round heated swimming pool
- Increased facilities and seating for families at the skatepark, including a BMX track

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for sporting events to remain constant (noting the ovals are at full capacity already)



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for numbers to grow steadily



Source: Leeton and Yanco Swimming Clubs

We aim for numbers to grow steadily

A COMMUNITY THAT ENJOYS ARTS AND CULTURE

Leeton Shire today



We love our art in Leeton Shire. The general community is supportive of artistic events and is becoming more active and connected. There is still room, however, for many more people to attend and support the artistic programs to keep them running.

Leeton is fortunate to have a magnificent Roxy Community Theatre that offers lots of opportunities for performing art and film which run consistently over weekends and through the week for special events. Local talent is developed and showcased on an annual basis at the Leeton Eisteddfod including speech and drama, music and instrumental, ballet and revue and line dancing.

“Our art is a window to our community soul”

Leeton has a number of independently run dance studios with a focus on traditional ballet and tap lessons which is especially good for our young people.

The Wiradjuri community has a strong history of art in the region and a growing contemporary presence which has the opportunity to be further developed.

Our heritage is also displayed in public art forms including statues of the Letona lady at

the Leeton Visitor's Centre and Sir Samuel McCaughey in Yanco.

The Leeton Town Band, which caters for all ages, has grown from strength to strength in recent years and its Outback Band Spectacular has genuine potential to be a significant event for Leeton to draw visitors from within the region.

Each year the Penny Paniz Memorial Award is hosted in the Shire, attracting painting entries from across the region. The winning work of art takes pride of place as part of the community collection held by Council.

With Henry Lawson having been a famous historical resident in the Shire we celebrate the literary arts in association with the Henry Lawson Cottage.

Leeton has many existing partnerships celebrated within the community, such as the Local Aboriginal Land Council and Western Riverina Arts. Both are dedicated to increasing and improving arts and culture within the Leeton Shire. The Leeton Art Society is also active in promoting art appreciation and participation in the area.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Being a leader in arts and culture across the Riverina is something we are very proud of in Leeton. Our artists enjoy established networks and training pathways to enhance the local arts community.

The community enjoys many different forms of art through participating in development programs. We are willing to expand our experiences by growing our appreciation of art forms we don't traditionally follow.

With the strong partnerships and working relationships with regional, national and international arts communities we have the opportunity and assistance for our love for art to grow.

We celebrate our Wiradjuri heritage, art deco themes and our stories through public art prominently featured in the Leeton CBD.



How we can do this

By continuing to support a range of creative programs and activities in the community.

By bringing professionals to the region to develop our own artists.

By improving cooperation between different art organisations to get more done.

By better linking arts and cultural activities with tourism development.

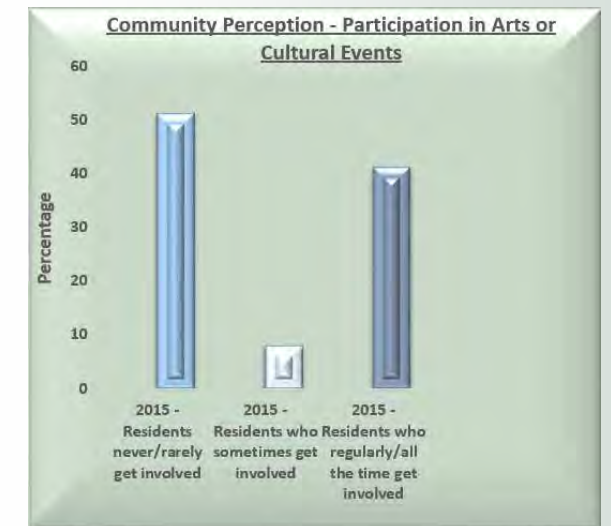
By providing business skills to local artists to help them run viable businesses.

Who may be available to help?

- Western Riverina Arts
- Leeton Art Society
- Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Leeton Shire Council
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Arts NSW
- Country Arts NSW

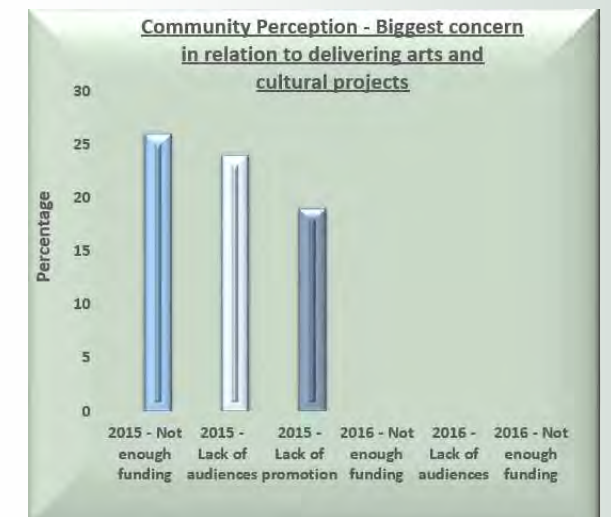


Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for participation numbers to increase



Source: Western Riverina Arts Strategic Plan

We aim for concerns to decrease

WISH LIST

- Recognition of the Aboriginal people through a story line
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal Arts
- Imagery of our pioneers displayed throughout the Shire
- A dedicated Art Centre
- Street art displayed on bus shelters
- Increase the awareness of local culture and art with the support of Council

A COMMUNITY THAT VALUES ITS HERITAGE

Leeton Shire today



Many different cultures and events have helped shape our rich history as a Shire and as a community we feel it is important that these be recognised and celebrated.

Our traditional owners of the land, the Wiradjuri people, have lived in the area for thousands of years and continue to influence our identity as a community. Aboriginal heritage, cultural values and assets need to be better understood, communicated and celebrated with pride as shared history between all community members.

“My generation is ageing, and heritage knowledge must be entrusted to up and coming generations to preserve our past, for enjoyment in the future”

Some of the more noteworthy historic influences in Leeton included people such as Henry Lawson, Walter Burley Griffin and a strong influx of Italian immigrants as well as the development of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area from 1906 and the renowned Letona Cannery.

The story of how we turned the area from an arid landscape into a lush and profitable agricultural area is a fascinating one of which we are very proud. Disappointingly there is no one place to visit to showcase that important history.

Also we are losing our pioneers so it is more critical than ever to capture those oral histories as soon as possible. Our oral history capability is at a formative stage only and needs to be developed.

We have a small but highly motivated Leeton Family and Local History Society that plays a critical role with archival storage and responding to family history enquiries. Their collection is needing to be secured, consolidated, expanded and catalogued otherwise there is a risk of losing some important artefacts and early records related to the Shire.

Our main street features a glorious selection of art deco buildings, many of which have been lovingly restored and maintained. Others need attention. The most well-known of these is the Roxy Community Theatre, one of only two in NSW. As a community we love our “grand old lady” and look forward to the refurbishment project that is being undertaken by Leeton Shire Council.

There are plans afoot to develop a self-guided heritage walk which should be popular with locals and visitors alike. There is strong interest from the community to re-commence a bi-annual Art Deco Festival.

Leeton Shire has a number of cultural treasures that need to be displayed and celebrated. Museums such as the Yanco Powerhouse Museum and the Whitton Museum display some of our history and heritage well. However, there is still significant opportunity to tell our important stories in more interesting and accessible ways, including that of our founding town, Hulong (now Whitton).

Leeton Shire Council partners each year with the Office of Environment and Heritage to provide heritage grant funding for the refurbishment of heritage buildings in the Shire.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Our tourism initiatives that showcase the history of our Shire are world class.

Visitors and locals alike enjoy the stories of our past and present which are told in fun ways. You can find car loads enjoying self-guided heritage tours to interesting places with interesting stories.

The restored historical horse trough takes pride of place in Yanco much to everyone’s delight.

Volunteers from young to old put their expertise and knowledge to good use in heritage based organisations across the Shire.

As a community we have worked hard to ensure our historical items are safely archived, stored and digitised for many generations to enjoy in a building such as the old Water and Irrigation Commission building.

How excited we are that the Roxy Community Theatre is known right across Australia. Our hard work at promoting and enhancing our “grand old lady” has done us proud.

The education, promotion and shared celebration of our Aboriginal heritage is part of everyday living for our communities.

How we can do this

By the whole community ensuring our main street and central areas preserve and showcase our heritage.

By showcasing our written local history.

By establishing a dedicated space in Leeton to tell the region’s most important stories.

By collaborating with our local Aboriginal people to celebrate our Wiradjuri history.

By increasing the capacity of volunteers as local curators.

By improving and expanding our local museums with both Yanco and Whitton Museums working more closely where relevant.

By building awareness of our Local and National Heritage Trust lists.

By sourcing grant funding to complete the Roxy Community Theatre refurbishment project.

Who may be available to help?

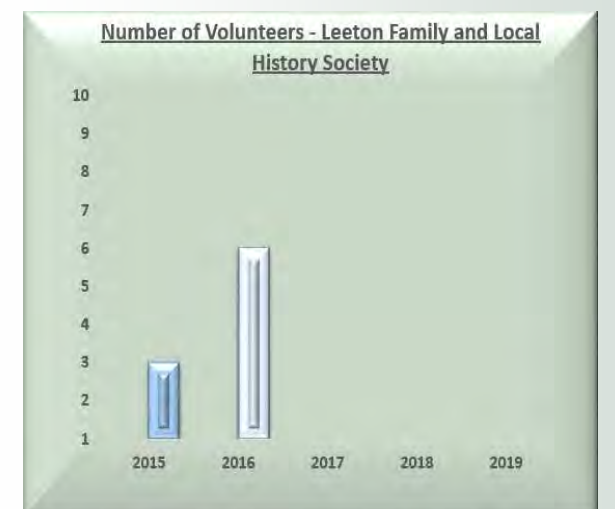
- Museums and Galleries NSW
- Aboriginal Lands Council
- Leeton Family and Local History Society
- Leeton Italian Group
- Leeton Shire Council Heritage Committee
- Leeton Shire Heritage Advisor
- Yanco and Whitton Museums
- Office of Environment and Heritage

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Local Heritage Places Grant

We aim to see regular investment in built heritage



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for volunteers of the Leeton Family and Local History Society to increase



Source: Leeton Family and Local History Society

We aim to increase the digitising of the Leeton Family and Local History Society’s collection



THEME 3

A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We love living in Leeton because we have beautiful natural attractions that we can appreciate and enjoy. As a community we come together to preserve and enhance our Wetlands and River system to ensure their beauty will be able to be maintained and enjoyed by residents and visitors for many years to come. We love participating in outdoor activities and playing in our natural environment.

STRATEGIES

- A community that respects the natural environment
- A community that enjoys our natural environment

A COMMUNITY THAT RESPECTS THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Leeton Shire today



We know that a healthy environment is important for our social, cultural and economic wellbeing. Rich soil, fresh water and clean air are the foundations for a healthy quality of life today and for our children. As a community we are committed to leaving a positive legacy for future generations.

Some of the ways we do this is by dealing with our waste responsibly (reduce, reuse, recycle) and using energy more efficiently including increasing our use of renewable energy such as solar energy and hydro electricity. The Council treats wastewater to a level that can be safely released into the Fivebough Wetlands.

“By protecting our soil, air and water we will be assuring our children of a positive future.”

We live in a region with highly variable climate which in the last decade has been steadily warmer on average. As a community we recognise that we need to face up to climate change by preparing ourselves for its effects.

Being an irrigated area we tend to have a greater weeds problem than the rest of NSW. Left unchecked, weeds can reduce our productivity on our farms and block our waterways. The species of weeds we have the most problem with are Silver Leaf Nightshade, Spiny Burr Grass, African Box Thorn, Prickly Pear and Indian Fig (cactus).

Farming is the backbone of our economy. Many research projects are underway aimed at finding new ways to manage pests in an

environmentally responsible ways and to farm in a water wise manner. Rice growers are participating in a project to save the Bittern (an endangered species).

Carp continue to be a problem in the Murrumbidgee River, but the CSIRO are working on introducing a virulent strain of herpes virus into the Murray-Darling river system to reduce those numbers so that our natural fish species can once again thrive.

The Department of Industry - Lands manages both the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands. Programs include sustainable grazing, bushfire management and weed control. A well supported community day has seen over 1,000 trees planted at the Fivebough Wetlands. The Riverina Local Lands Service provides strategic pest management control measures at these important sites. The impacts of feral cats on the Wetlands remains a concern.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

We are a strong community living in a clean and green environment.

Business success is being routinely measured using the quadruple bottom line (financial, social, environmental and cultural outcomes).

Our landholders are actively managing weeds on their properties.

We are contributing to reducing the impacts of climate change and have significantly improved our resilience by successfully dealing with more extreme weather conditions.

Our Shire is widely recognised for being one of the most water conserving farming areas.

Our new homes are being built with rainwater tanks, solar panels, battery banks and high energy conservation ratings.

Community solar farms are up and running around the Shire, in our local businesses and industries.

Fivebough Wetlands is a thriving natural area that holds regular events aimed at educating visitors and local students.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities – Keeping Our Environment Clean aims to reduce the volume of litter by 40% by 2020.

How we can do this

By keeping up with “reduce, re-use, recycle” programs.

By always using the waste facilities and not dumping illegally.

By tackling climate change and adapting to it.

By active, innovative and environmentally responsible weed and pest control.

By promoting alternate energy and increasing renewable energy projects.

By including responsible and sensitive use of water in future urban and landscape planning.

By keeping our rivers, wetlands and forests healthy and planting more native vegetation.



Who may be available to help?

- Green Building Council of Australia and Australian Green Infrastructure Council
- Department of Industry - Lands
- Riverina Local Land Services
- Leeton Shire Council
- Office of Environment and Heritage
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited
- Local Aboriginal Lands Council
- Murrumbidgee Landcare Inc.
- Riverina Regional Weeds Committee
- Environmental Water Advisory Group (EWAG)
- Local businesses and industries

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim to improve and increase the Landfill diversion rate (to be at least commensurate with the State Average)



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for solar panel installations to increase over time

WISH LIST

- Community gardens
- Composting of green waste
- Move towards electric vehicles
- Hoey Lookout revamped
- Install dog poo bags and bins around the town
- Third bin for organics recycling

A COMMUNITY THAT ENJOYS OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Leeton Shire today



100 years. It has created habitat for many birds, animals and fish, making the water ways a valued natural feature for residents and visitors alike.

The Murrumbidgee Valley River Parks protect part of the longest continuous tract of river red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) forest in the world. Leeton boasts excellent examples of River Red Gum forests which provide enjoyable opportunities for recreation such as walking, bicycle riding and birding. A scientific program is being considered to actively manage the forests along the Murrumbidgee River.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

We are proud that our Shire is one of the top destinations in Australia for bird watchers and naturalists to visit.

Fivebough Wetlands is accessible to all and is well maintained with good parking, trails and interpretive signs.

Residents are enjoying the River all year round thanks to good access roads and improved visitor infrastructure including seating and interpretive signage.

People are enjoying boating and picnicking on the Murrumbidgee River in a safe and responsible way.

Families and user groups are enjoying the improved facilities at the Gogeldrie Weir Caravan Park including a splash park and additional power sites for caravans.



Leeton Shire has many natural features that are unique to our area such as the Murrumbidgee River, the Red Gum forests and the Ramsar listed Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands. Other natural places to visit include the Brobenah Hills, Whitton Common, Murrami Hill and Corbie Hill.

We are proud of our wonderful wetlands and acknowledge the collaborative efforts of several organisations led by the Department of Industry - Lands to improve their management so that they are attractive for locals and tourists to visit. Efforts to date include new bird shelters, track upgrades and the installation of interpretive signage that make for an improved experience.

“Create better access with lovely walkways and bird hides in both Ramsar listed wetlands. Turn them into an amazing tourism product. Teach the locals why they are so important and valuable.”

A brand new website has been developed for Fivebough Wetlands providing users with a greater range of information to enhance their enjoyment of the site.

The Murrumbidgee River also runs through our Shire and is somewhere many of us go to swim, fish, kayak, camp, water ski and nature walk.

Irrigation in our area has been here for over

How we can do this

By promoting greater use of our natural areas on our doorstep, including bush walking trails.

By promoting responsible recreational fishing.

By continuing to develop the wetlands into a world class tourism attraction.

By providing high quality, safe and clean recreation areas such as Gogeldrie Weir, Ski Beach and the River in general.

Who may be available to help?

- Riverina Local Land Services
- Leeton Shire Council
- Office of Environment and Heritage - NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Department of Industry - Lands
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited
- Fivebough Tuckerbil Wetlands Advisory Committee
- DPI Fisheries
- Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists
- Environmental Water Advisory Group (EWAG)



WISH LIST

Bike tracks around the rivers and wetlands

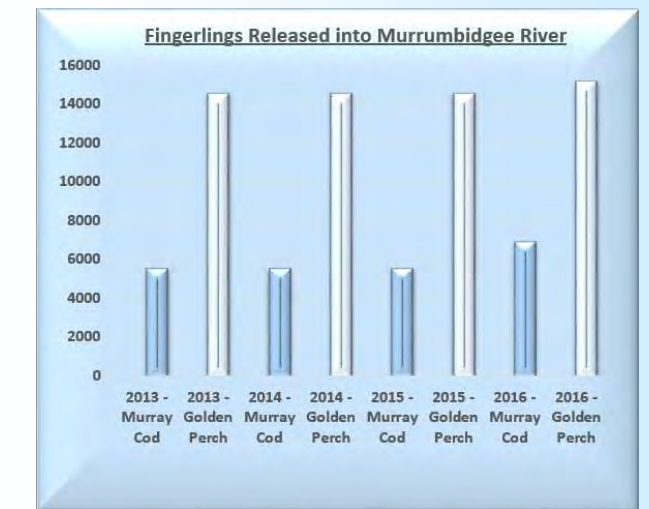
Accessible wetlands and river areas for all

Better signs to the various river accesses

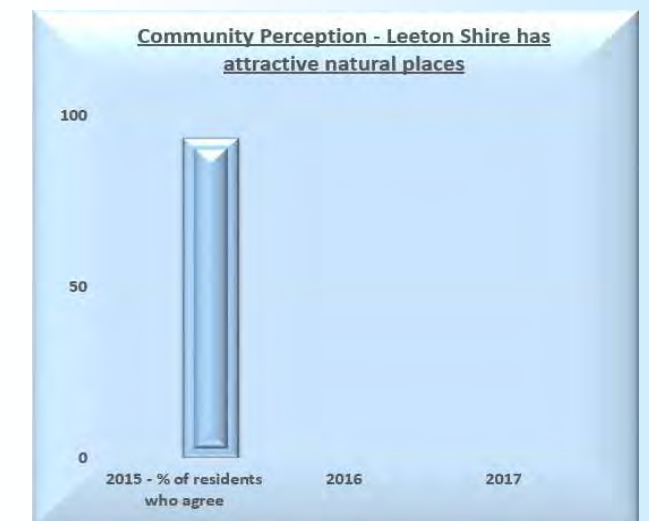
Eco-tours that show our great natural and irrigation features

Well maintained and improved visitor areas in the wetlands

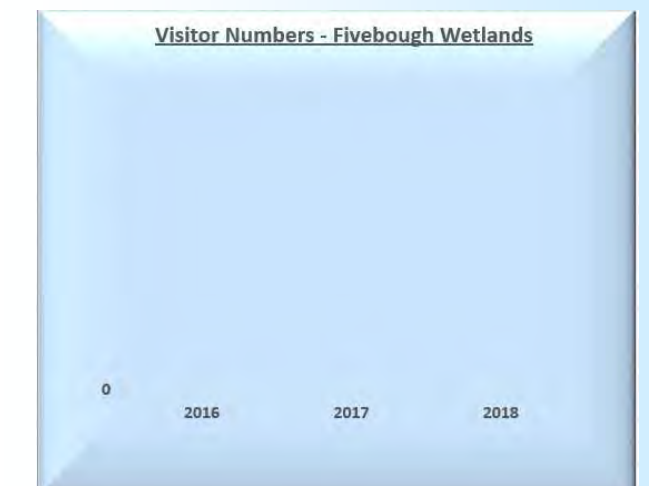
Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Bidgee Fishing Classic Committee
We aim for fingerling releases to remain constant



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015
We aim for community perception to remain constant



Source: Department Industry - Lands
No data is available for 2016, however Lands has advised visitor numbers will be collected in future years



THEME 4

A THRIVING ECONOMY WITH GOOD JOBS

We love living in Leeton because we have a wide range of employment choices available to us. The community loves to celebrate together at festivals and events and share this fun and excitement with visitors to our town. Water is our lifeblood and we continue to innovate to ensure our ongoing success.

STRATEGIES

- A community that thrives with irrigated agriculture
- A community that is strong in business and employment
- A community that has great attractions and events
- A community that enjoys a vibrant town centre

A COMMUNITY THAT THRIVES WITH IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE

Leeton Shire today



Leeton Shire was founded on irrigation and water remains the lifeblood for our region. The Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area (MIA) - which gets its water from the Burrinjuck and Blowing Dams - is a progressive and changing landscape with a range of innovative farming enterprises, a diversity of crop types and a dynamic processing sector. Our water together with our soils and climate and responsible innovative farmers makes us Australia's premier irrigation area.

Reforms in recent decades have seen water become a tradeable commodity. The water sharing plan was introduced in 2004 for the Murrumbidgee River (that supplies the MIA). The Water Act was implemented in 2007.

“We need to make sure that the Murray Darling Basin Plan is driven by proper science and not political ideology.”

The Act set the framework for the Murray Darling Basin Plan which came into effect in 2012 and enjoys bipartisan support.

As a community we remain constantly vigilant about the impacts of water reform and we do not yet have full confidence that the roll out of the Plan is achieving this balance fairly. We want to be sure that environmental results are not being achieved at the expense of economic and social wellbeing.

Our general water allocation in the MIA varies annually depending on the weather (100% in 2012, 52% in 2013, 40% in 2014, 32% in 2015 and 100% in 2016). Town supply allocations are very secure.

Water is also required for important natural habitats such as the heritage listed Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands, Murrumbidgee River and River Red Gum Forests.

We are trying to find a way forward that is fair and sustainable but we find the policy environment complex and fragmented and the changed nature of what is being grown locally contributing to some uncertainty for the more traditional farms. This does not give us full confidence however we are pleased that our Council leaders are working hard to try and make sense of it all in order to work constructively with relevant agencies.

Despite our concerns we believe that the MIA has a bright future. Our Shire is represented on the Murray Darling Association (MDA) which has advocated strongly for the 1,500 gegalitre cap on water buybacks so that we do not lose too much productive water. The MDA is instead advocating for greater investment in both on and off farm water efficiency infrastructure.

We are very proud of the industries in our Shire who contribute enormously to our regional economy, exports and jobs and are heavily reliant on irrigable water. Our gross regional product has increased by 11% in the last two years alone to \$527 million and further growth is anticipated in containerised and bulk freight volumes driven by irrigation.

It is important to note that the Snowy Hydro Scheme was developed to assist with water management and plays a significant role in providing security of water flows to the Murrumbidgee and Murray rivers. The Scheme provides approximately 2,360 gegalitres of water a year.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited manages the delivery of water to its customers. It has a new corporate plan with a vision of “growing our future together - customers, company, community”. They intend to achieve this growth through partnerships and efficiency measures.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited has actively pursued funding under the Australian Government's Private Irrigation Infrastructure Operators Program (PIIOP 1, 2, 3) in NSW to the tune of \$309.5 million, with over \$100 million of that secured in 2016. This funding has allowed greater efficiencies in water delivery and decreased water losses. We are starting to hear stories of local farmers that are increasing production and profits while using less water.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Common sense has prevailed with the Murray Darling Basin Plan, giving us access to a reliable water supply which sees our productive area thriving.

Our water management practices are progressive and we've found the sweet spot that sees environmental water targets being achieved without compromising productive water.

Our farmers are leaders in Australia on water conservation and are highly skilled in trading water to optimise crop yields and on-farm profits.

How we can do this

By providing development opportunities that support the growth plans of existing MI customers.

By attracting new customers and water to the MIA.

By continuing to research ways to reduce the amount of water required both through crop trials and new water delivery infrastructure techniques.

By improving MIA system knowledge thereby overcoming constraints and maximising network utilisation.

By remaining politically active to ensure that State and Federal water policy decisions are in the best interests of our community.

By providing opportunities for farmers to better understand water policy and how to trade water in order to maximise their profits.

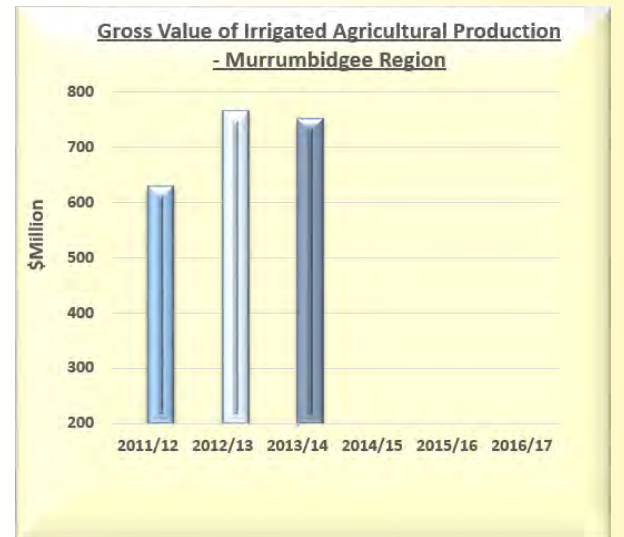
By sharing stories about how local farms are having great success in using water in the most efficient ways possible.

Who may be available to help?

- Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited
- Murray Darling Association
- Murray Darling Basin Authority
- NSW Irrigators Council

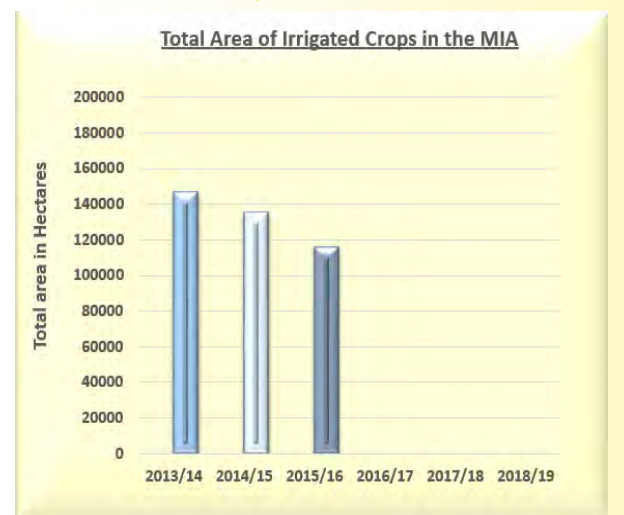
- Ricegrowers Association
- Key commodity groups
- Murrumbidgee Valley Food and Fibre Assoc.
- Centre for Rural and Regional Futures
- Irrigation Research and Extension Committee
- Leeton Shire Council

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for an increase in irrigated agricultural production



Source: Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited

We aim for the total area of irrigated crops in the MIA to increase

Wish List

- Lobby government for extra water storage capacity
- Erection of an interpretive centre celebrating the Shires irrigated agriculture and rich farming history
- To have a more transparent register of who owns water in Australia

A COMMUNITY THAT IS STRONG IN BUSINESS AND EMPLOYMENT

Leeton Shire today



Leeton punches above its weight economically. Recent figures shows that our Gross Regional Product is worth \$527 million.

Leeton's local economy is highly dependent on irrigation.

There are 5,796 jobs in Leeton with 20% manufacturing, 10% agriculture, 10% retail, 5.2% construction, and the rest in education, healthcare and social services. The workforce is made up of 18.5% labourers, 16.1% managers, 14.5% trades and 13.4% professionals.

“Seasonal industries get a lot of focus but the services sector is equally important.”

Of Leeton's 959 businesses, 345 are related to agriculture, 79 are retail stores and 142 relate to the construction industry.

Most of Leeton's businesses employ less than 5 staff but 132 have more than 5 and 15 have over 50.

Some businesses report that they struggle to recruit staff with suitable skills and that some staff struggle to find rental accommodation easily.

As a community we contribute significantly to Australia's export earnings. Every year over 18,000 containers leave Leeton. Currently JBS Riverina Feedlot processes 400 head of cattle a day, Walnuts Australia processes 4,000 tonnes of walnuts annually and SunRice

contributes \$148 million to the regional economy.

Over 25,000 visitors come to Leeton each year.

Unemployment, like the rest of the Riverina, is the lowest in NSW at 3.7%. An ageing workforce and a lack of skilled workers in some areas are problems for businesses who want to expand or relocate to the area.

During harvest many farmers rely on backpackers to help. The “Backpacker Tax” is a concern to local businesses.

To remain competitive, access to fast speed broadband is important to businesses in the Shire. NBN fixed wireless is already available to all areas in the Shire other than the town of Leeton where fixed line services (fibre to the node) are under development. Two years after the NBN roll out everyone in the town will have to join NBN to have internet services.

Some businesses in the Shire report that they struggle to fill certain positions as people with the appropriate skills are not readily available. One strategy we are keen to support is encouraging school leavers to seriously consider Leeton Shire businesses as exciting options to develop their careers.

Leeton businesses are the fourth largest users of power in the Riverina and with electricity prices being so high we need to find less expensive options like natural energy.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Our townspeople are confident about the improved results of our local economy. Business is booming as a result of strong business leadership.

We have a strong economy that has continued to stand up through tough times and at the same time it is attracting more businesses that have created more jobs for people across all sectors of the community.

The job market in Leeton is very competitive with professionals, managers and skilled workers eager to secure employment across a range of successful businesses and industries.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities – Creating Jobs aims to create 150,000 jobs by 2019.



How we can do this

By harnessing the ideas of local business leaders on a regular basis.

By helping existing businesses to grow, including increasing our export potential.

By attracting new businesses to the Shire.

By expanding the range of industries in the Shire.

By Building and Development Approvals being processed by Council in a timely manner.

By growing our own workforce.

By making sure the NBN meets our needs.

By using different kinds of renewable energy.

By promoting “Buy Local Stay Local”

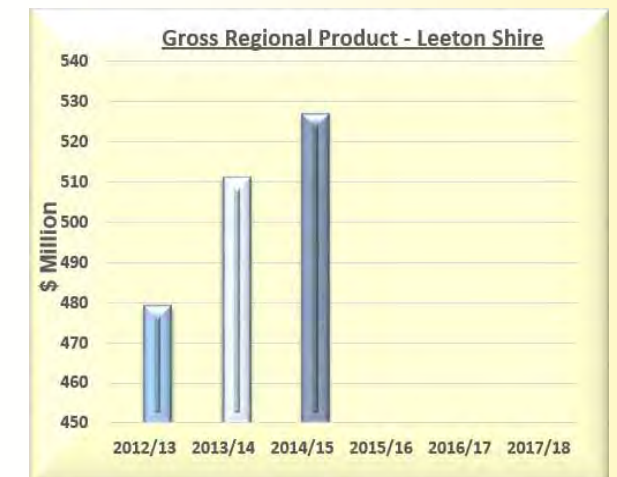
Who may be available to help?

- Leeton Shire Council
- NSW Regional and State Development
- Local employment agencies
- NSW TAFE and RTOs
- Leeton Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Regional Development Australia-Riverina
- NSW Department of Planning
- Roads and Maritime Services
- Infrastructure NSW
- Riverina Business Enterprise Centre
- State Training Services
- Developers

WISH LIST

- Promote Leeton as an innovation hub
- Develop a business attraction prospectus
- Advocate for traineeships and apprenticeships
- Future proof industrial land expansion
- Support and promote sustainable energy programs

Signposts to measure our success over time



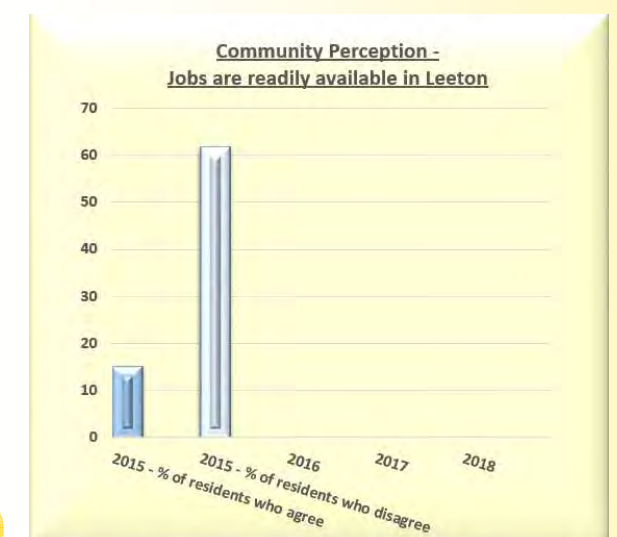
Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for GDP to increase



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for unemployment figures to decrease



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for more residents to agree than disagree with this perception statement

A COMMUNITY THAT HAS GREAT ATTRACTIONS AND EVENTS

Leeton Shire today



We have a range of destination attractions and events, both public and private, that help bring 25,000 visitors to Leeton each year. This injects around \$11 million into our communities economy.

Some of our more popular destination events include the SunRice Festival (held bi-annually), the Bidgee Classic, the Leeton Show, SunRice Golf Pro Am, the Riverina Taste Festival, Leeton Country Roundup Festival, Leeton Band Spectacular and the Hot Air Balloon Festival.

“Events are one of our strengths, but we need to be more targeted with what we do.”

Regular community events that are enjoyed locally include Light Up Leeton, Australia Day, Henry Lawson Open Day and a variety of youth based events.

The value of sporting events to our economy is becoming more appreciated, particularly rugby league, AFL, rugby union, basketball, swimming, lawn bowls, golf, aero sports and motor sports.

Most visitors stay for three nights and spend an average of \$143 per day. People who visit for sport spend an additional \$100 more than that

each day.

There is a lot of scope for Leeton Shire to grow our visitor income. Every dollar spent here by a visitor goes around the area seven times.

Most visitors to Leeton are family and friends or tourists who come to experience our agriculture or our Ramsar listed Wetlands, Fivebough and Tuckerbil. We also attract visitors who are interested in our significant Art Deco heritage.

We can make vast improvements to the types of tourism experiences that we have on offer so that Leeton becomes more well-known for its tourism and so that visitors stay longer and spend more.

Leeton’s Visitor Information Centre gets about 7,000 visitors per year. Narrandera, which is where the Newell and Sturt Highways meet, gets about 24,000 visitors a year. We would like to leverage this opportunity to encourage more visitors to detour to Leeton.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Our thriving and diverse visitor economy is catering for a wide range of visitors.

Our community is offering a diverse range of top quality places to stay that is servicing the needs of all visitors.

Fivebough Wetlands is enjoying high visitation levels from all visitors.

We have one nationally renowned destination event that everyone associates with Leeton putting us on their annual travel map.

The NSW Premier’s State Priorities – Creating Jobs aims to create 150,000 jobs by 2019.

How we can do this

By improving the range and quality of accommodation in town.

By increasing the number and quality of experiences and attractions for tourists.

By promoting what we have to offer in Leeton Shire.

By setting up a local forum to drive tourism.

By working with neighbouring councils to attract more visitors.

By encouraging business sponsorship for and involvement in events.



Who may be available to help?

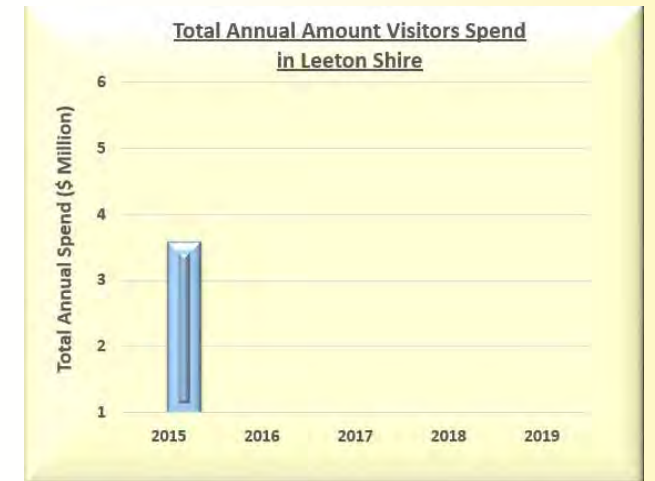
- Leeton Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Local tourism operators
- Leeton Shire Council
- Narrandera Shire Council
- Griffith City Council
- Riverina Regional Tourism (Riverina Murray)
- Destination NSW
- NSW Sport and Recreation
- Regional Sporting Organisations and local clubs
- A range of community groups

WISH LIST

- Develop more tourism product
- New Christmas decorations for the main street
- Bring back our art deco festival and run it regularly
- Re-establishment of farm tours
- A heritage trail
- Multicultural Festival
- Use the Roxy Theatre more for events that showcase Leeton
- Town band event becomes super big



Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Destination NSW

We aim for visitors to spend more in the Shire



Source: Destination NSW

We aim for the demand in visitor accommodation to increase



Source: SunRice Festival Committee

From 2018 the SunRice Festival Committee will be tracking the number of people who attend the Festival

A COMMUNITY THAT ENJOYS A VIBRANT TOWN CENTRE

Leeton Shire today



Having an attractive and fresh Central Business District (CBD), especially the main street, is important because it makes us feel proud of our towns. It sends a strong signal that we are doing well as communities. Also, visitors are more likely to stop and spend money and locals will spend more time there.

In our towns and villages services such as the local Post Office, corner shop, pub or club are considered key to community wellbeing.

“Don’t just copy other places - be distinctly Leeton”

Our visitors comment on our beautiful flowered garden beds at the entrance to Leeton. They give a bright and cheery welcome to the CBD. Leeton’s business area is fortunate to have a magnificent legacy of Art Deco architecture which, together with the trees and plantings that soften the main street, make for a pleasant shopping and working atmosphere.

Yanco and Whitton main streets are looking a little tired and would benefit from revitalisation.

Having a clean, neat and tidy CBD is important and most people play their part to keep it that way. Sometimes litter like chewing gum, cigarette butts and graffiti spoil the look and feel of our main street. It is great to see shop owners who take extra pride in their shopfronts by washing down their windows and

pavements on a regular basis.

The charm of our CBD and our sense of safety in the CBD is sometimes compromised when large trucks drive through.

Recently the Farmer’s Markets have moved to Mountford Park. This new location is much preferred by shoppers, stall holders and businesses in the CBD.

A working group has been formed to further enhance Leeton’s CBD so that it is a great place for people of all ages to safely enjoy both day and night. We are excited that plans are being made to activate every corner of our CBD.

Like many other towns, empty shops are a problem and this is made worse when they are not properly maintained. We really appreciate those who make the effort to keep them looking nice and used by displaying art and keeping them tidy. Pop up shops creates interest in our community and help fill a void.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Every shop in the Leeton CBD is now occupied with great retail diversity for our residents to enjoy and keep them shopping in town.

Residents are proud that Leeton’s entrance roundabouts always have flowers in full bloom during special community events and key holiday periods throughout the year.

Families love to shop and relax in our revitalised CBD that has a pleasing look and feel and is a comfortable social and business hub.

Our local artists have produced street art that is exciting, interesting and tells Leeton’s stories.

Regular street performances and thriving local markets are taking place making our CBD a vibrant precinct with people spending more time and money within the area.

The NSW Premier’s State Priorities – Creating Jobs aims to create 150,000 jobs by 2019. Also Building Infrastructure aims for key projects to be delivered on time and on budget.

How we can do this

By finalising and implementing the CBD Enhancement program.

By having a deliberate focus on Leeton’s Art Deco heritage, including re-establishing the Heritage Trail.

By encouraging empty shops to have window displays.

By planting more trees and shade plants.

By growing our monthly markets.

By putting pressure on absentee landlords in the CBD to keep up the maintenance of their buildings.

By ensuring our planning rules strengthen and do not compromise our CBD.

By having our main street being controlled locally instead of by State Government.



Who may be available to help?

- Local businesses
- Leeton Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Leeton Shire Council
- Leeton Historical Society
- Leeton Tidy Towns
- Local Aboriginal Lands Council
- Western Riverina Arts

WISH LIST

Art deco pedestal street lights in CBD

Town clock in Yanco

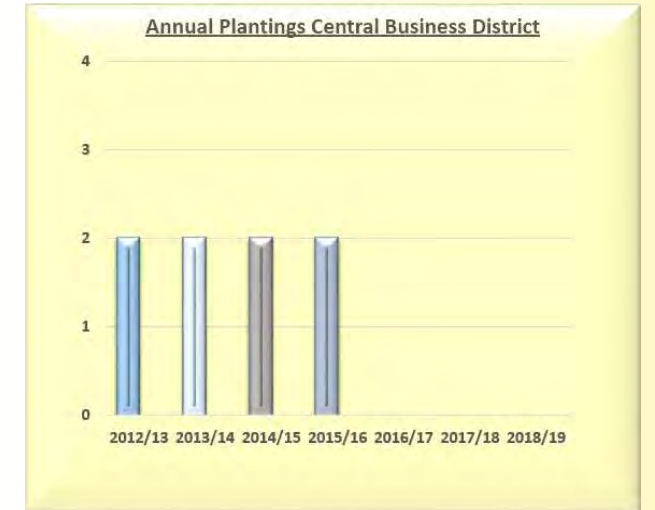
Refreshed building fronts in main areas

Trellised vines over seating areas in CBD

Redo the footpaths with new surfacing altogether

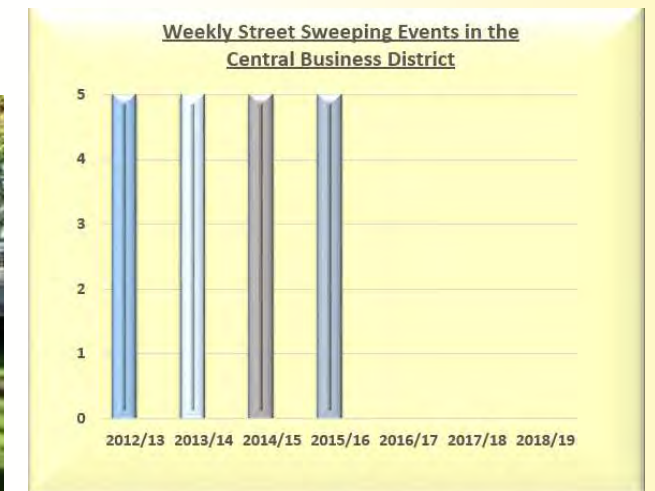
Bypass of CBD for heavy vehicles

Signposts to measure our success over time



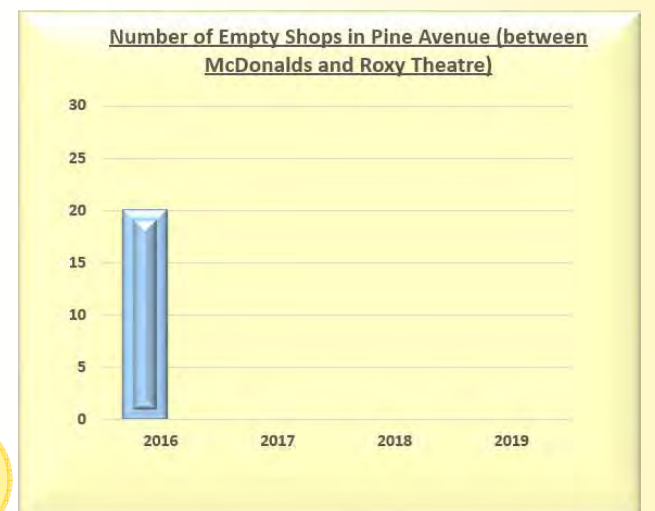
Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for annual plantings to remain constant



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for street sweeping to remain constant



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for the number of empty shops to decrease



THEME 5

A QUALITY BUILT ENVIRONMENT

We love living in Leeton because we have reliable infrastructure such as water, sewer and roads. We take great pride in our lovely towns and villages and enjoy the abundance of open space and park areas around our Shire. The community is well serviced with regular public transport options available to us when we need to travel.

STRATEGIES

- A community that has reliable water and wastewater services in towns
- A community that has access to good road, rail and air transport
- A community that enjoys attractive towns and parks

A COMMUNITY THAT HAS RELIABLE WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES IN TOWNS

Leeton Shire today



Having access to clean, safe drinking water to keep us healthy is one of our community's highest priorities. Having a modern and well maintained sewerage system to keep us safe from disease is very important too.

We get town water for Leeton, Yanco, Whitton, Wamoon and Murrami from Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited, which is treated by the Leeton Shire Council so that it is safe to drink. There are water treatment plants in Leeton, Murrami and Whitton with 3910 properties connected to 173km of public water mains.

Having reliable water is also a huge incentive for new businesses.

“Why are we still watering lawns in new subdivisions with treated drinking water? Surely we should be putting in place systems that use raw or grey water!”

As a community we love the environment and think that it is excellent that our sewerage is treated so well that it can be released into the Fivebough Wetlands. Our sewerage system is also used for some industrial waste which is important in attracting new manufacturing businesses to our town.

There are sewer treatment plants in Leeton, Yanco and Whitton. There are 3270 properties connected to the 102km of public sewer mains.

To run the sewer treatment plants as cost effectively as possible, a solar power plant has been installed at the Leeton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

There are residential areas across the Shire that are still serviced by septic systems. In some cases these do pose a risk to public health and can be unpleasant if they fail or are not operating properly. Wamoon residents will be benefiting from a \$3m investment into reticulated sewer over the next few years.

Whether it is commercial or private home users, it is important that we use our water and sewerage systems responsibly.

Leeton is the biggest town in the Shire and if it keeps growing at the rate it is now, we will have enough water to supply it for another 15-20 years. There is also some room for growth for trade waste in the sewerage treatment system if we get the right licenses.

The average annual residential water usage in Leeton is 431 kL per property. This is very high compared to the rest of NSW at 225 kL per property. This is because of the climate, where we are located, the fact that our properties are bigger and that we use evaporative cooling in summer. That said, there is probably scope to become more water wise.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Water conservation efforts that have led to better efficiency results have been successfully achieved which is reassuring for residents.

As a community we feel comfortable knowing that we have a back-up water supply.

We feel confident that our world renown Wetlands has been supplied with high quality effluent discharge that supports the habitat and the wildlife within this habitat.

Our residents are delighted that areas in need of sewer now have the latest modern systems.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities – Building Infrastructure aims to ensure key infrastructure projects are delivered on time and on budget.

How we can do this

By Council regularly maintaining and improving water supply and sewerage systems.

By Council expanding these systems to meet future growth in a way that is of high quality and can continue.

By improving our water saving programs and actions.

By using water and wastewater systems responsibly.

By seeking opportunities to sewer residential areas where there is identified need.



Who may be available to help?

- NSW Government Health
- NSW Government Department of Primary Industries - Water
- NSW Environmental Protection Agency
- NSW Office of Environment and Heritage
- Murray Darling Basin Authority
- State Water
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd.
- Leeton Shire Council

WISH LIST

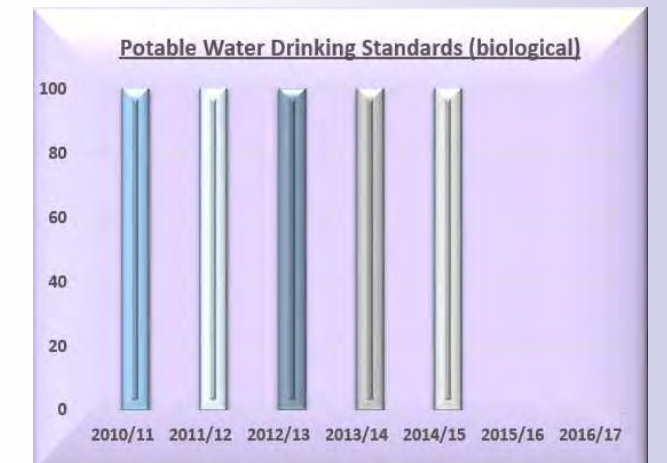
- Solar power plant of sewerage plant to reduce power consumption
- Reticulated water service to Corbie Hill Road
- Complete reticulated sewerage extensions to Washington Drive and surrounds
- Reticulated sewerage system in Wamoon and Murrami
- Reticulated water service to Yanco Agricultural High School
- Kerb and guttering in main street of Murrami

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for water consumption to show a reducing trend



Source: Water NSW

We aim for our town water supply to always meet safe drinking standards



Source: Water NSW

We aim for Treatment Plant effluent to be of a safe standard to discharge into the Wetlands

A COMMUNITY THAT HAS GOOD ROAD, RAIL AND AIR TRANSPORT

Leeton Shire today



Roads are very important links in our Shire. While we have bitumen sealed roads in most suburban and residential areas and on our State roads (407km), many of our rural roads are gravel (225km). Some are “natural earth dry weather only” roads (266km) which can be very challenging when during periods of heavy rainfall.

We like that every residential property in the Shire can be reached by at least an all-weather gravel road.

“I am amazed at how small the roads budget actually is. Roads are vitally important and as a ratepayer I would be happy to pay more for better roads based on usage.”

Just over 90% of our road network is “satisfactory” according to industry standards. Generally speaking we think our roads are acceptable, but we do get frustrated when they become potholed or get soft edges, and become corrugated or rutted. However, some of us think that our roads should be of a better standard to be safe and improve freight transport, and would be willing to pay more to make this happen.

Being an irrigated agricultural area, our roads have to cope with trucks carrying heavy loads. There are designated road train routes that give access to Whitton, Leeton, Murrami and

Gogeldrie through to Darlington Point and Griffith. Currently heavy vehicles are not able to travel through to Narrandera from the Leeton Shire which is a limitation that needs to be addressed.

Freight is predicted to double by 2031 and local businesses feel that it is important to upgrade the road network if the Shire wants to make the most of this opportunity.

There are currently two road and rail meeting points for general and mixed freight in the Shire. Wumbulgal deals with 13,000 containers a year and Leeton handles 5,000 containers every year. There are three more road to rail loading facilities at Yanco, Murrami and Whitton.

We have adequate passenger transport options, including a daily train passenger service that runs to Sydney and Melbourne from Wagga Wagga with direct access to Leeton on Sundays and a Countrylink bus service that runs daily between Leeton and Wagga. Elderly people struggle to book train trips as there is no local booking agent and only online options.

The greatly appreciated Leeton/Narrandera Airport is a shared service between the two Shires and is located 25km to the east of Leeton. The airport has daily passenger services to Sydney. From time to time we prefer to fly from Griffith or Wagga because it can be cheaper or provide more options for our travel plans. Sometimes it is frustrating that we can't fly directly to Melbourne, a place where many of us do a lot of business.

We are fortunate to have a community aerodrome at Brobenah that provides a range of flights for recreational and agricultural purposes.

A community transport service operates to support the aged and disability sector with a door to door transport service for groups and individuals both locally and to regional centres such as Wagga Wagga, Griffith and Albury. This service is highly valued and we want to be sure it is available to us for many years to come.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Motorists feel comfortable that our roads are better equipped to handle various weather conditions and maintained to a higher standard.

Farmers, heavy vehicle operators and our rural residents are pleased that upgrades to gravel roads have significantly improved their daily transport needs.

Truck drivers can now easily offload onto rail and safer rail crossings have also been implemented to improve transport efficiency.

We now enjoy daily passenger flight services from Narrandera/Leeton Airport to Melbourne and daily passenger train services from Leeton to Sydney and Melbourne.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities – Building Infrastructure aims to ensure key infrastructure projects are delivered on time and on budget.



How we can do this

By asking State and Federal Government to better support Council with road funding.

By using Leeton based passenger services regularly.

By speaking out early about anything unsafe in the transport network, including rail crossings.

Who may be available to help?

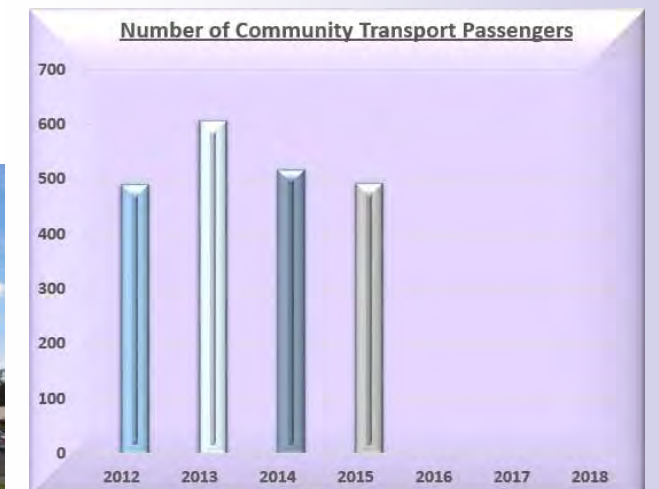
- Transport for NSW
- Leeton and Narrandera Shire Councils
- Roads and Maritime Services
- NSW Department of Infrastructure
- John Holland Group

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Transport for NSW Bureau of Transport Statistics

We aim for passenger numbers to increase



Source: Narrandera/Leeton Community Transport

We aim for passenger numbers to remain constant



Source: POM

We aim for the number of containers leaving Leeton to increase

A COMMUNITY THAT ENJOYS ATTRACTIVE TOWNS AND PARKS

Leeton Shire today



We enjoy time with our families and friends in the many parks and gardens in Leeton, Yanco, Whitton, Wamoon, Wattle Hill and Murrarni. Being outdoors in the fresh air, enjoying the play equipment and having social times around the barbeques are times we love.

We are proud that the design of the town of Leeton was enhanced by Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney Griffin and is based on public access to green spaces. We have started to build on that vision.

“I love our parks and gardens.
They make the Shire
wonderfully liveable”

Having parks and pretty streets lined with beautiful trees makes us feel good. It allows for spontaneous and planned physical activity, gives us a better sense of mental wellbeing and helps make the towns and villages lovely to live in. We want to be sure that new areas of development keep up this standard.

Sometimes overgrown blocks are an eyesore and can harbour vermin and we appreciate owners who take care of their land.

In times of heavy rain water can be left standing too long which is not ideal.

Our street gardens often receive positive comments which is why it is important to keep them updated and looking nice—we love it when they are in full show during important events or significant times of the year.

It is important to have really attractive

surroundings in the places where visitors come into our towns and villages to give a good first impression. Having beautiful and well-maintained signs that are up-to-date gives us a sense of pride and belonging and is welcoming for visitors. We prefer roadways that are neat and tidy too.

Having vibrant and lively town centres is extremely important, not only for residents to enjoy but also for business and the economy. As well as landscaping, shopfronts and buildings that are clean, renovated and interesting shops help to keep our business areas looking attractive and inviting.

Every community across our Shire has access to a park and playground. The Shire’s premier park is Mountford Park. We believe that every community within our Shire should have access to quality, safe play parks with exciting play equipment, access to drinking water, good seating and surfaces to improve access for prams, bikes and mobility aides. While we generally appreciate our parks some of us feel that there is inconsistency in the quality and range of what is being provided. In general, instead of building more parks we would rather the existing parks be upgraded and pedestrian access be improved.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

Our cheerful, beautiful, well designed and landscaped streets make us feel good about where we live.

We feel delighted that our public spaces are well-designed and maintained to showcase our rich heritage.

Unused channels have been closed over and made to look beautiful to enhance our natural assets.

Our residents enjoy accessible, attractive and open space which is safe for all users.

Children, along with their mums, dads and grandparents enjoy a fair distribution of well equipped playgrounds across the Shire that are always in a good working condition.

How we can do this

By upgrading Mountford Park and promoting its opportunities to locals and visitors alike.

By ensuring equipment in local parks is kept current and in good working order.

By using plants that don’t need a lot of water in landscaping.

By improving and increasing litter control programs.

By regularly keeping on top of weeds on roadways and in urban areas using a variety of environmentally responsible methods including chemical, cultural, biological and mechanical.

By introducing landscaping, greenspace and open space standards for new developments.

By improving and maintaining our town entrance signs.

By investing in interesting features like works of art.

Who may be available to help?

- Planning Institute of Australia
- Leeton Shire Council
- Leeton Tidy Towns
- Service Clubs
- Community Groups

WISH LIST

A fully fenced, secured playground for younger children

Celebrate Sister City relationships through art works in the parks

An indoor play area at one of the parks

BBQ, picnic table, bench and closed drains at Waipukurau Park

Planting of trees in Teramo Street Water bubbler at Yanco Park

Playground at Golf Club Estate Exercise park in Yanco
More baby swings at playgrounds

Indigenous storyboards / art works More shade at parks
Planting of trees in Whitton main street

More creative play equipment Murals / street art in parks

Art sculpture that is also a functioning water bubbler

Community area near Leeton Pre-School to be maintained

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for tree plantings to remain constant



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for parks maintenance expenditure to remain constant



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for the number of parks with playgrounds to remain constant

THEME 6

STRONG LEADERSHIP

We love living in Leeton because we are confident that our leaders will listen to what we have to say, make decisions that are good and strongly advocate with peak bodies for the betterment of the entire community. There are many opportunities available for our residents and visitors to speak up and engage with each other to make a difference towards our future. We are resilient as a community as we anticipate change, plan for it and deal with it well.

STRATEGIES

- A community that has politicians who listen and act
- A community that speaks up and gets involved
- A community that is always on the front foot



A COMMUNITY THAT HAS POLITICIANS WHO LISTEN AND ACT

Leeton Shire today



Australia is a democracy and an important part of that is that we get to have our say in how we want our community and our nation to be run.

Generally speaking we feel that we have a strong and effective Council and State and Federal politicians who can be approached when needed.

We feel that being well governed at the Local, State and Federal level is our right.

“We are so proud that we have been able to maintain our own identity as Leeton Shire”

We believe open, honest and responsible decision making will benefit the Shire and is one of the highest needs for our future success.

It is very important that the voice of the community is heard and considered before important decisions are made or new laws are passed. We expect our leaders to give serious consideration to how their decisions will affect us before making any moves. This means that they need to work from the facts and keep the long term future in mind.

Locally, the Leeton community is governed by nine Councillors including the Mayor. We are

fortunate to have a Council that has a wide breadth of skills and, relative to NSW, we have enjoyed a good diversity of age and gender. But we could still do better, especially as we become more culturally diverse.

We are pleased that our Council is considered Fit for the Future and has been allowed to ‘stand alone’. Having our own identity and being able to determine our own future is important to us as residents.

We used to vote in Wards, but more recently we are required to vote as one whole community. This brings certain strengths but sometimes we worry that the smaller towns and villages do not get the same attention as Leeton.

Our Council is actively doing long term planning to keep us in a sustainable place and is responsive to emerging issues and needs. We like it when our Council asks for our opinions before making difficult decisions about our future.

Leeton Shire has recently moved from the Riverina Federal electorate into the Farrer electorate and it is beginning to develop these new working relationships.

In State Government, Leeton is part of the NSW electorate of Murray.

State Government has said that it will be working more and more with groups of local councils to do smart planning across the board through Joint Organisations.

It will be important for Leeton to be part of a highly functional Joint Organisation so that it is well placed to do successful strategic planning alongside State Government.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

We want Federal, State and Local elected representatives to maintain a strong connection and trust with the community.

Advocating strongly with Local, State and Federal representatives who support the needs of the community.

Celebrating regional success through cooperative ventures, including a new Joint Organisation (a group of councils with common interests).

We will keep putting forward our opinions in a way that makes a genuinely positive difference for our community.

The NSW Premier’s State Priorities – Improving Government Services aims to improve customer satisfaction with key government services. Also Driving Public Sector Diversity includes increasing the number of women and Aboriginal people in senior leadership roles.



How we can do this

By Local, State and Federal Government organisations working together regularly.

By continuously strengthening and improving working relationships with key stakeholders and neighbouring Councils.

By lobbying State and Federal Governments to make sure resources and money keep coming for projects that are good for our Shire.

By identifying and nurturing emerging leaders in our community.

By providing current Councillors with opportunities to grow and develop in the role.

Who may be available to help?

- Office of Local Government
- Get Set Inc.
- Leeton Shire Council
- NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Murray Electorate
- Farrer Electorate
- NSW Electoral Commission

Signposts to measure our success over time



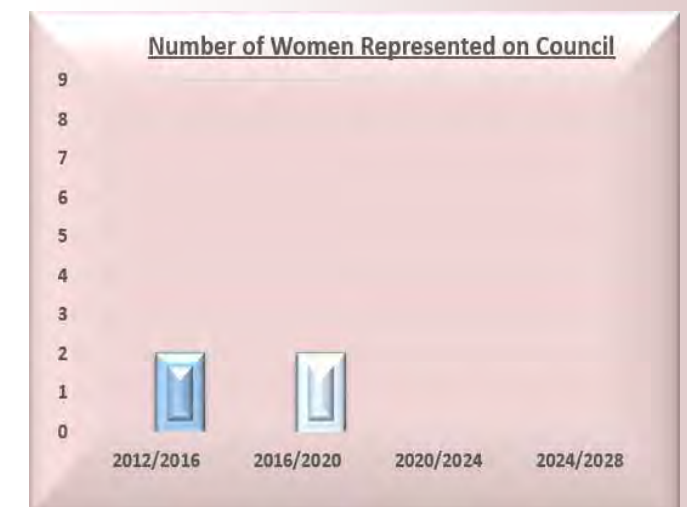
Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for the number of residents agreeing to increase



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for Council candidates to increase



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for the number of women represented on Council to increase

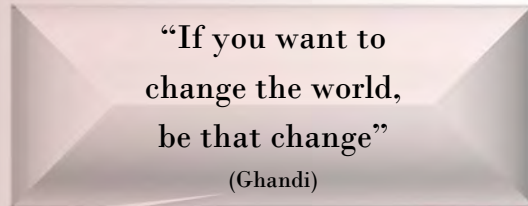
A COMMUNITY THAT SPEAKS UP AND GETS INVOLVED

Leeton Shire today



We do so well in Leeton because we have leaders of every kind making a difference across all areas of activity in our community. They are our everyday heroes. Our aim is to be effective, sustainable, self reliant and resilient and to work from our strengths.

Whether it is local sports, local schools, local businesses or local charities our community leaders are successful in creating a vision, taking action through mobilising people and getting everyone to collaborate for a shared outcome.



We have a wide variety of associations, organisations, informal networks and social movements where people come together, by choice, to work on common goals. At last count there were around 84 sporting and activity groups, 58 support groups or organisations, 16 churches and 92 service groups of varying kinds.

Our community based organisations have great scope for making a difference because they are not constrained by many rules and regulations and are able to explore and implement new ideas quickly.

Volunteers play a fundamental role in keeping our community strong and inclusive. We are concerned that our volunteer base is ageing and reducing in size mainly because of the fast paced lives we lead. We often find that

the same people volunteer for several organisations and while this is good, it is always nice to have new volunteers help.

As active citizens we do many things to improve the lives of others such as voicing our concerns, building effective networks and taking action in ways that promote fairness and social justice.

We don't have an over supply of resources so it is important to keep talking to each other so we don't overlap unknowingly and we pool our ideas and energy.

In Leeton, we have the opportunity to hear about issues and receive information about the many things that are going on in the Shire.

Leeton Shire Council is making a real effort to hear the voice of its residents and ratepayers before making big decisions. The "Have Your Say Leeton" website is a place where community members can give feedback on important projects or hot topics if they choose. Using the internet in this way means we can be more involved, regardless of our health, work or family needs. Council also relies on a range of advisory committees and action groups made up of community leaders who are passionate about the future of Leeton Shire and are well placed to give good advice on local priorities.

It is harder to stay up to date about big decisions being considered by State and Federal Governments so that is why we rely on Council to keep us informed and, if necessary, to speak up for us or get us involved.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

We love seeing emerging leaders learning from their mentors and making a difference within our community.

The variety of volunteering opportunities is diverse, making it accessible and enjoyable for everyone to make a positive difference in the community.

Feeling comfortable to speak up without fear on issues that are affecting us makes us happy to be part of the community.

Being part of a community where your voice is truly listened to on major decisions makes living in the Shire wonderful.

The NSW Premier's State Priorities – Improving Government Services aims to improve customer satisfaction with key government services.



How we can do this

By encouraging people to have their say.

By making sure that volunteer opportunities are suited to people's lifestyles, accessible, easy to join and supported for all ages and abilities, including school students.

By supporting and coordinating volunteers.

By celebrating and recognising our volunteers and community leaders.

By providing opportunities for local leaders to develop, including youth leaders.

Who may be available to help?

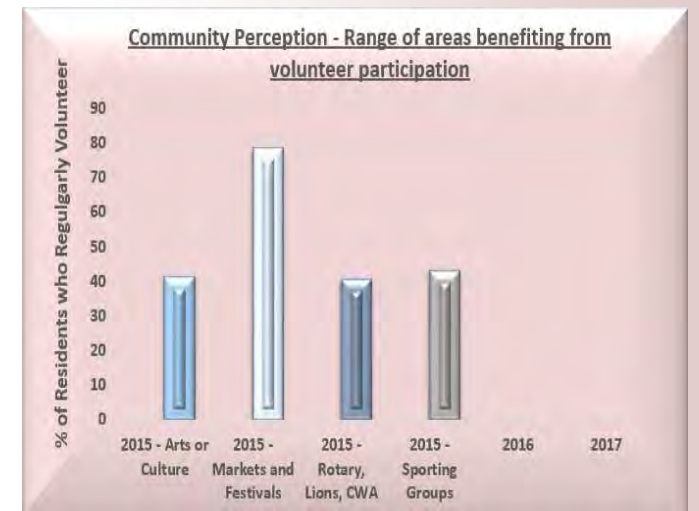
- Local businesses
- Local community groups
- Local schools
- Leeton Shire Council
- Service clubs
- Volunteers Australia
- Leeton Youth Committee
- Steppin Out 4 Youth
- Social Justice Group

WISH LIST

Establishment of a Youth Council Set up a "time bank"

A designated person to provide information and coordinate volunteering opportunities throughout the Shire

Signposts to measure our success over time



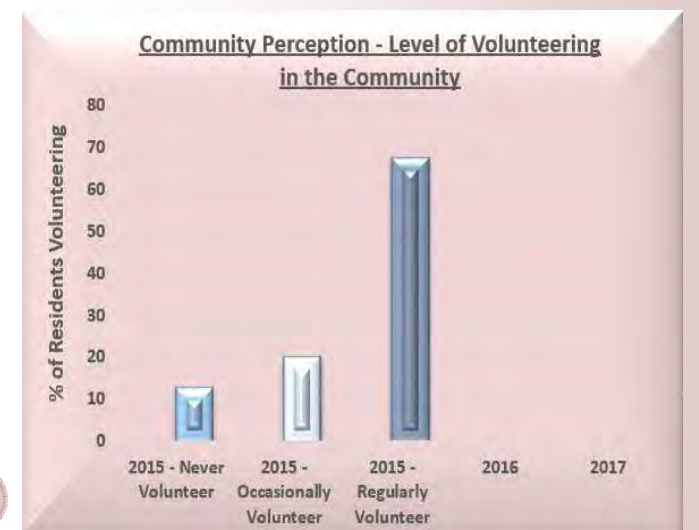
Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for volunteer participation to increase



Source: Leeton Shire Council

We aim for community engagement numbers to increase



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey 2015

We aim for volunteering numbers to increase

A COMMUNITY THAT IS ALWAYS ON THE FRONT FOOT

Leeton Shire today



Our future is not entirely of our own making - we live in a world where events and decisions in some other part of the world can and will influence our lives in the Western Riverina. Sometimes this will lead to exciting new opportunities and, at other times, the change will create new and significant challenges.

We are determined to be resilient and stay both profitable and competitive and we know that to do that we need to actively consider what is coming and be well placed and ready to respond. While we have to some extent begun this journey we need to ramp up our efforts as the pace of change is accelerating.

“Future strategic decision making will need to take into consideration the rapid pace of change, market disruption, and future uncertainty and volatility”
CSIRO 2016

There are mega trends that we shouldn't ignore. For an agriculturally led centre like ours, these have been summarised nicely by the likes of Rural Industries and Development Corporation (RIRDC) (2015):

A hungrier world (where population growth will drive global demand for food and fibre).

A wealthier world (where new middle class income will diversify diets and increase food consumption).

Choosy customers (where health, environmental drivers and ethics will drive purchasing preferences).

Transformative technologies (where the

way food and fibre products are made and transported could change).

A bumpier ride (where globalisation could patterns and partnerships, and climate change and environmental change is reshaping the risk profile for agriculture).

While not all trends will play out to the same degree, for those of us in the Western Riverina, NSW, Australia or even the Asia Pacific, their impact on our industry and society can be cumulative and significant. To continue to succeed we cannot bury our heads in the sand.

Technology continues to disrupt our assumptions and there is an explosion of new information and data around the world. Beside agriculture they will also continue to bring changes to areas such as transport, engineering and medicine. We know that robotics is developing at a phenomenal pace. While we are in awe of the innovation, we are at the same time uncertain about what this means for jobs as we know them today, including jobs on farms and in our food processing industries.

Local leadership across all levels of the community will be required to keep us ahead of the game and thriving. Fortunately we are positive 'can do' people who are proud of our innovative past. Thinking outside the square is in our DNA and our local community culture is built on a history of being forward thinking and adaptable.

Where we want to be in 10 years time

We have mastered adjusting to change by keeping abreast of global mega trends that influence our lives economically, socially and environmentally.

We generally take a holistic approach to assessing the implications of change and how best to harness the opportunities presented or manage the challenges.

Being agile and adaptable is proving key to our ability to stay on the front foot, along with our philosophy of 'we are all in this together'.

We are a close knit community and we support each other to adjust quickly where required.

Scenario planning is an important tool as it helps us to anticipate change and adapt before the change takes place.

Being well networked not only at the local level, but regionally, nationally and internationally too is key to mobilising the necessary knowledge, capital and resources we need to remain ahead of the game.

We stay calm and work constructively to embrace change - this combination helps us stay resilient as a community.

We are innovators. We never panic when we try new things that fail, instead we 'fail fast', learn our lessons, regroup and move on.

We are known as a centre of excellence for innovation and collaboration across a wide range of endeavours and many people visit us to learn how we do that so well.

How we can do this

By exercising proactive leadership at the local and regional levels, typically taking a multidisciplinary approach to harnessing opportunities or tackling problems early.

By taking a more deliberate approach to being more internationally aware.

By embracing systems, thinking more and taking a more integrated / holistic approach.

By being disciplined about doing scenario planning while understanding fully our core business advantages, our skills and capabilities and our resourcing options.

By cultivating effective and multi-disciplinary partnerships at the local, regional, state, national and international levels.

By valuing and supporting research and innovation across all sectors.

By entertaining new ways of doing things, from technology through to financial systems.

By supporting each other.

Who may be available to help?

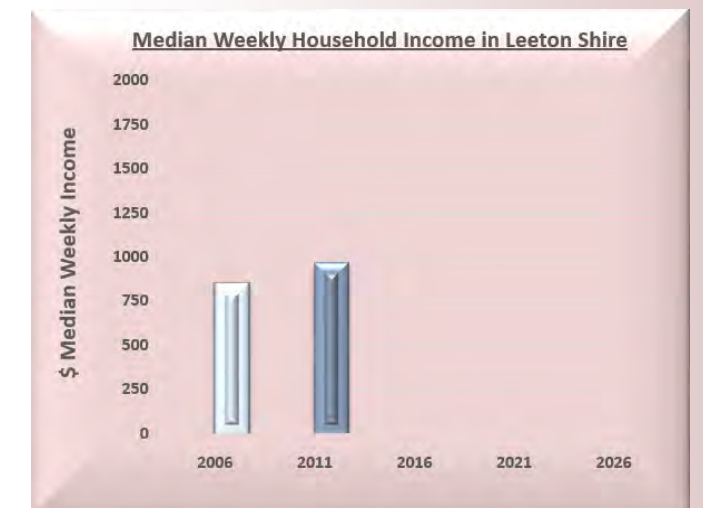
- Business Leaders
- Leeton Shire Council
- Joint Organisation of Councils
- Yanco Agricultural Institute
- TAFE
- Registered Training Organisations
- Universities—such as Deakin/Charles Sturt
- CSIRO
- RIRDC

Signposts to measure our success over time



Source: NSW Department of Planning & Environment

We aim for the population of the Shire to increase steadily



Source: ABS Statistics

We aim for the median weekly household income to increase steadily



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

We aim for the rate of youths fully engaged in work/study to increase steadily

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The Leeton Shire Community Strategic Plan (CSP) would not have been possible without significant input from the numerous key stakeholders on what they feel are the needs and wants of Leeton Shire residents moving into the future.

Over the past twelve months in particular, Council has significantly increased its communications through print media and online platforms. In April 2016, Council launched its new engagement website “Have Your Say Leeton” for the convenience of residents wishing to provide important feedback on projects and initiatives where Council are leaders facilitating on behalf of the community.

“Have Your Say Leeton” is an online community engagement hub where residents can provide real input and direction.

Since establishing the “Have Your Say Leeton” website Council has had an excellent registration uptake with 502 registered users who now receive the full experience of our online engagement hub and the range of feedback tools offered. Registered users also receive updates informing them of activities related to their areas of interest. Most importantly, this new community engagement platform allows Council to respond to individual questions and comments directly as all contact details are obtained and kept confidential in the signup process.

A big thank you must go to everyone who contributed in some way, shape or form to this high priority community document.

The following outlines the extensive consultation that was undertaken in preparing the revised Community Strategic Plan - Leeton Living Towards 2030 (Working title at the time):

THEME 1 - A HEALTHY AND CARING COMMUNITY:

A community that focuses on being healthy

- Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network – (monthly face-to-face meetings), 12 May 2016 to 16 May 2016 (email correspondence)
- Murrumbidgee Local Health District—(monthly face-to-face meetings), 12 May 2016 to 16 May 2016 (email correspondence)
- Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) - 21 September 2016 (telephone)

A community that embraces lifelong learning

- Get Set Inc—August 2015 (face-to-face meeting)
- Tocal College, Yanco Campus – August 2015 (face-to-face meeting), 21 September 2016 (telephone and email correspondence)
- Yanco Agricultural High School—September 2015 (face-to-face meeting)
- Freedom Foods—October 2015 (face-to-face meeting)
- TAFE NSW Riverina Institute—October 2015 (face-to-face meeting), 22 September 2016 (telephone and email correspondence)
- Grow Our Own—13-14 September 2016 (face-to-face meetings)
- Leeton High School—15 September 2016 (telephone)
- Chamber of Commerce—19 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Western Riverina Community College - 22 September 2016 (telephone and email correspondence)

A community that is friendly and inclusive

- Home and Community Care—15 May 2016 to 17 June 2016 (face-to-face meetings)
- Community Transport—15 May 2016 to 20 September 2016 (face-to-face meetings)
- Leeton Shire Library—May 2016 to June 2016 (face-to-face meetings)

- Leeton Police—11 May 2016—(face-to-face meeting)
- St Vincent de Paul Society—June 2016 (face-to-face meetings)
- Salvation Army, Leeton—June 2016 (face-to-face meetings)
- Local Volunteer—20 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Leeton Youth Committee—20 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)

A community that is safe to live in and move about

- Liveability in Leeton Survey— 27 May 2016 to 17 June 2016 (survey via Have Your Say Leeton website completed by 48 registered users)
- Youth Committee—20 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Disability Interagency Group—29 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)

A community that enjoys good housing

- Liveability in Leeton Survey— 27 May 2016 to 17 June 2016 (survey via Have Your Say Leeton website completed by 48 registered users)
- Baiada—6 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Chief Executive Officer of Argyle Housing—27 September 2016 (email correspondence)

THEME 2 - AN ACTIVE AND ENRICHED COMMUNITY:

A community that participates in a range of sports and leisure activities

- Sporting Facilities Review— 17 May 2016 to 17 June 2016- (protected survey via Have Your Say Leeton website with Leeton Shire sporting groups which was completed by 10 sporting clubs)
- Leeton Swimming Pool Renovation Survey— 31 May 2016 to ongoing (survey via Have Your Say Leeton website completed by 146 registered users)

A community that enjoys arts and culture

- Recently completed Western Riverina Arts Strategic Plan— monthly meetings for past twelve months (face-to-face meetings)
- Leeton Art Society—May 2016 to June 2016 (face-to-face meetings)
- Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council—monthly meetings for past twelve months (face-to-face meetings)
- Leeton Art Society—22 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)

A community that values its heritage

- Celebrating our Heritage and Environment Survey— 27 May 2016 to 17 June 2016- (survey via Have Your Say Leeton website completed by 39 registered users)
- Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council—22 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Leeton Family and Local History Society —14 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting), 10 October 2016 (telephone)

THEME 3 - A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:

A community that respects the natural environment

- Murrumbidgee Irrigation—15 September 2016 (email correspondence)
- Department of Industry - Lands—21 September 2016 (email correspondence)

A community that enjoys our natural environment

- Celebrating our Heritage and Environment Survey— 27 May 2016 to 17 June 2016- (survey via Have Your Say Leeton website completed by 39 registered users)
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation—15 September 2016 (email correspondence)
- Department of Industry - Lands—21 September 2016 (email correspondence)

THEME 3 - A THRIVING ECONOMY AND GOOD JOBS:

A community that thrives with irrigated agriculture:

- Ricegrowers Association– September 2015 (face-to-face meeting)
- RDA Riverina– October 2015 (face-to-face meeting)
- Industry visits with Mayor– July 2015 to September 2015 (face-to-face meetings)
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation—15 September 2016 (email correspondence), 26 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Murrumbidgee Valley Food and Fibre Association—26 September 2016 (email correspondence)

A community that is strong in business and employment

- Industry Economic Tours to large industries in Leeton Shire with Mayor Cr Paul Maytom– July to September 2015
- Tocal College, Yanco Campus – 22 August 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Grow Our Own Group– monthly meetings (face-to-face meeting)
- TAFE NSW Riverina Institute– October 2015 (face-to-face meeting)
- State Training Services– April 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Local Restaurateur—17 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Chamber of Commerce and Industry—19 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)

A community that invites visitors to enjoy a variety of attractions:

- Leeton Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting and Council Meeting– February 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Leeton SunRice Festival Committee– March 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Taste Riverina Committee—7 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Bidgee Fishing Classic—19 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Office of Environment and Heritage—19 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Riverina Ag Tours—27 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)

A community that enjoys a vibrant town centre:

- Meeting with Urban Designer re CBD Enhancement Project– March 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Leeton CBD Walk with Councillors and Leeton Chamber of Commerce– April 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Revitalising the Leeton CBD– 16 June 2016 to ongoing (Brainstormer tool where registered users can submit their ideas. 30 ideas have been contributed thus far in the early stages of this project.)
- Red Belly Landscape Architecture and Urban Design—1 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- CBD Committee—12 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)
- Local artist—26 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)

THEME 4 - A QUALITY BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

A community that expects reliable water and sewerage services in town

- Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan Consultation Group

A community that has access to good road, rail and air transport

- Freight Forum—22 October 2015
- Roads Management Survey– 2nd May 2016 to 24th June 2016 (participatory budget allocator software where users get to identify how they would spend money on maintenance of various Shire roads. Completed by 50 users)
- Australian Rail Track Corporation—8 September 2016 (face-to-face meeting)

A community that enjoys attractive towns and parks

- Parks and Playgrounds Service Review– 12 May 2016 to 17 June 2016 (interactive mapper tool via Have Your Say Leeton website. 62 registered users have plotted new infrastructure they would like to see in various Leeton Shire parks and playgrounds)
- Liveability in Leeton Survey– 27 May 2016 to 17 June 2016- (survey via Have Your Say Leeton website completed by 48 registered users)
- Leeton Swimming Pool Renovation Survey– 31 May 2016 to ongoing (survey via Have Your Say Leeton website completed by 146 registered users)

THEME 5 - STRONG LEADERSHIP:

A community that has politicians who listen and act

- Liveability in Leeton Survey– 27 May 2016 to 17 June 2016- (survey via Have Your Say Leeton website completed by 48 registered users)
- Celebrating our Heritage and Environment Survey– 27 May 2016 to 17 June 2016- (survey via Have Your Say Leeton website completed by 39 registered users)

A community that speaks up and gets involved

- Brainstormer engagement tool used via Have Your Say Leeton website where 16 ideas were contributed – 10 May 2016 to 24 May 2016
- Local Volunteer—22 September 2016 (face-to-face)
- Leeton Youth Committee—22 September 2016 (face-to-face)

TOWN ENGAGEMENT:

Whitton Community—4 October 2016 (face-to-face) - 20 participants

Yanco Hall Committee—10 October 2016 (face-to-face) - 9 participants

Murrami Hall Committee—3 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 10 participants

Community Event Participation—5 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 10 participants

Leeton Farmer's Market and Music and Marching in Mountford Participation—6 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 42 participants

Pine Avenue Street Stall exhibition stand—10 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 5 participants

Stakeholder meeting for Themes 4, 5 and 6 (A thriving economy with good jobs, A quality built environment and Strong leadership) - 11 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 18 participants

Stakeholder meeting for Themes 1, 2 and 6 (A healthy and caring community, An active and enriched community and Strong leadership) - 14 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 12 participants

Stakeholder meeting for Themes 3, 4 and 6 (A healthy natural environment, A thriving economy with good jobs and Strong leadership) - 15 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 12 participants

Pine Avenue Street Stall exhibition stand—18 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 4 participants

Stakeholder meeting for Themes 1 and 6 (A healthy and caring community and Strong leadership) - 21 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 13 participants

Stakeholder meeting for Themes 1 and 6 (A healthy and caring community and Strong leadership) - 22 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 8 participants

Stakeholder meeting for Themes 2 and 6 (An active and enriched community and Strong leadership) - 22 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 10 participants

Stakeholder meeting for Themes 2, 5 and 6 (An active and enriched community, A quality built environment and Strong leadership) - 23 November 2016 (face-to-face) - 12 participants

Have Your Say Leeton Survey - 62 participants

Submissions received during public exhibition period (20 October—30 November 2016) - 323