



# Annual Report 2022



LEETON  
SHIRE COUNCIL

Leeton Shire Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri People and their continued impact on our Community. We acknowledge their connection to the land, water and sky. We acknowledge all Aboriginal people who have made the Leeton Shire their home. As such we pay our respects to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and emerging of our Shire.



It was a privilege to receive from our Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council a magnificent artwork made from the leaves painted by community members during our Australia Day 2022 celebrations. The artwork, which now hangs proudly in Council's reception area, celebrates our diverse community and the Wiradjuri people on whose land our Shire is located. Inscribed in the design is a Leeton-specific Acknowledgement of Country which is now used at the commencement of all our Council meetings and special occasions

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Leeton Shire is located in southwest New South Wales, 584km from Sydney, 470km from Melbourne and 371km from Canberra. It covers 1,167km<sup>2</sup> and includes the towns of Leeton, Yanco and Whitton and the villages of Murrami and Wamoon.

With a population of 11,452 (ABS 2021), Leeton is the second largest regional centre in the Western Riverina region and plays an integral role in value-added agricultural processing, agriculture, education and research, transport and logistics.

Leeton Shire has a proud history as the birthplace of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. It celebrates its multicultural diversity and welcomes new settlers, migrants and refugees.



**11,452**  
Population (ABS 2018)



Average number of children per family for families with children  
**1.9**



**2,819**  
families



**49.3%**  
males



**50.7%**  
females



The median age is  
**38**



Number of nationalities living in Leeton Shire  
**30+**



**5,346**  
Rateable properties as at June 2022

Source: Leeton Shire Council

Top five languages spoken at home (other than English)



**Italian**  
**Punjabi**  
**Mandarin**  
**Filipino**  
**Tagalog**

**5,073**

Employed residents



**2.7%**

Unemployment rate.  
NSW average is 3.3%



Median weekly income per household

**\$1,417**

Source: .id (informed decisions)

Gross Regional Product valued at

**\$588M**

Source: .id (informed decisions)

More than

**957**

local businesses

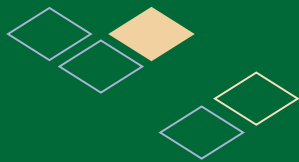


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), unless otherwise indicated



**411km**  
of local sealed road  
**362km**  
of local unsealed road

Source: Leeton Shire Council



# Welcome



As they are every year, the hot air balloon flights were a popular attraction at the SunRice Festival 2022

## Welcome to the Leeton Shire Council Annual Report 2022.

The Annual Report is a key point of accountability between Leeton Shire Council and the Leeton Shire community. It provides the community with an update on Council's progress in implementing the Delivery Program 2017–2022 through the actions and activities set out in the Operational Plan 2021/22.

The *Delivery Program 2017–2022 and Operational Plan 2021/22* (the DPOP) formalised Council's commitment to the community. It documented the actions and activities Council said it would undertake in order to progress the objectives set out in the Community Strategic Plan (CSP): *Leeton on the Go – Towards 2030*.

*Leeton on the Go – Towards 2030* has steered the Leeton Shire community's journey towards the future. It documents the community's vision and lists 20 goals which are grouped into six key themes:

**Theme 1. A healthy and caring community** – good health, lifelong learning, friendliness and inclusivity, safety, and access to a range of quality affordable housing

**Theme 2. An active and enriched community** – participation in sports and leisure, enjoyment in arts and culture, and valuing heritage

**Theme 3. A healthy natural environment** – respect and enjoyment of the natural environment

**Theme 4. A thriving economy with good jobs** – a thriving irrigated agricultural sector, strong business and employment, great attractions and events, and a vibrant town centre

**Theme 5. A quality built environment** – reliable water and sewerage services, good transport infrastructure and services, and attractive towns and parks

**Theme 6. Strong leadership** – politicians who act and listen, a community that speaks up and gets involved, and a community that is always on the front foot.

The activities detailed in Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan were organised according to the same themes and goals, as are the 'Highlights for 2021/22 by Theme' and 'Our Performance by Theme' sections of this Annual Report. This is so the community and other readers can clearly see the links between Council's actions and the goals set out in *Leeton on the Go – Towards 2030*.

In addition to information on Council's performance in delivering on its Delivery Program and Operational Plan commitments, the Annual Report includes information prescribed in the Local Government Regulation that councils must report on annually, as well as a snapshot of Council's finances. More detailed financial information can be found in the *Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2022*.

The Annual Report is also an opportunity to acknowledge the great things that have happened across the Shire and note the challenges that have marked the year.

We hope you enjoy reading about our activities during the 2021/22 financial year and we thank our community for the continued support and direction.

For an overview of the progress made during the 2016–2021 term of Council towards achieving the vision and outcomes of *Leeton on the Go – Towards 2030*, please see the *State of the Shire Report 2016–2021*.

Note: All the documents mentioned throughout this report can be found in the 'About Council' section of Council's website at [www.leeton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.leeton.nsw.gov.au).



Leeton Shire's Community Strategic Plan: Leeton on the Go – Towards 2030



## Message from Our Mayor



I hope you find this report on our activities during 2021/22 informative. I look forward to continuing our efforts to make Leeton Shire an even more wonderful place to live, work, play and stay.

I am pleased to present the Leeton Shire Council Annual Report 2022, my first as Mayor for this new term of Council.

On behalf of Council and the community, acknowledge the work of the previous Council, especially outgoing Emeritus Mayor Cr Paul Maytom and Cr Peter Davidson, both of whom chose not to stand again. We thank them for their years of dedicated service to Council and the community.

The first half of the 2021/22 year was strongly impacted by COVID-19. Thankfully, the situation gradually improved and we were able to kick off 2022 with a fabulous Australia Day celebration and citizenship ceremony. For the 12 month period of this Annual Report, Leeton has welcomed 52 new Australian citizens.

Other highlights for the 2021/22 financial year included the launch of Leeton's Sporting Walk of Fame and the SunRice Festival. The festivities had a wonderful vibe and were incredibly well supported by community and sponsors. Sincere thanks to everyone involved.

The success of our efforts to advocate on various matters of importance to the Leeton Shire community has also been very pleasing. We submitted nine motions on a variety of issues to the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference 2021 and two motions to the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) National General Assembly 2022. All 11 motions were adopted, which means that LGNSW, the ALGA and other member Councils will add their voices to ours and strengthen our advocacy on behalf of the Leeton community.

Along with 68 other councils, Leeton Shire refused to account for Rural Fire Service (RFS) red fleet assets in our 2020/21 financial statements. We have done the same for 2021/22. We greatly value and appreciate the work of the RFS and their amazing volunteers but we do not agree with the NSW government who continue to insist that we own and control these assets. The reality is that we have no say in the planning or procurement of RFS assets, no say in their deployment and no say in their disposal. How anyone can suggest we should account for them on our books is unfathomable.

As a Council, strongly encouraged by our Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and backed up by two independent expert opinions, we have remained resolute and refused to bow to NSW Audit Office pressure to treat the RFS assets as our own. The disappointing but expected consequence of this action is that our auditors – under instruction from the Audit Office of NSW and NSW Treasury – have given a qualified audit opinion on our 2021/22 financial statements, meaning that in their opinion our financials are fairly presented, except that we did not account for the RFS assets.

It is our hope that continued collective action by NSW councils will force some common sense into the debate and see the RFS assets rightly accounted for in NSW government financials. As Leeton ratepayers well know, we are already facing financial sustainability challenges and expecting Council to account for the depreciation of RFS assets will serve only to exacerbate our general fund deficits.

I hope you find this report on our activities during 2021/22 informative. I look forward to continuing our efforts to make Leeton Shire an even more wonderful place to live, work, play and stay. If you have the time and would like to help, please become one of the many active community members who perform important volunteer roles across all manner of organisations. We especially ask all our residents to be actively engaged with Leeton Have Your Say, an important platform for providing Council with constructive feedback and ideas.

Cr Tony Reneker  
Mayor

## Message from Our General Manager

Our Annual Report 2022 informs the Leeton Shire community of the progress Council has made towards delivering the final year of the commitments in the *Delivery Program 2017–2022 and Operational Plan 2021/22*.

The year 2021/22 has been one of change. In December 2021 we said thank you and goodbye to our previous Council and ushered in a new Council made up of seven members of the previous Council and two new members: Cr Krystal Maytom and Cr Matt Holt. We also welcomed in a new Mayor, Cr Tony Reneker, and a new Deputy Mayor, Cr Michael Kidd.

One of the first tasks of the new Council was to set the strategic direction for its term of office. That required a full review of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and the preparation of new documents that detail the activities Council has committed to undertake to deliver on identified community aspirations in the CSP.

Sincere thanks to all community members, organisations, departments and agencies who participated in the development of the new CSP *Liveable Leeton 2035*. Your input meant that *Liveable Leeton 2035* is a true reflection of our community's vision for the future, including ensuring the Shire remains progressive and attractive.

Thanks also to those who provided feedback on Council's *Long Term Financial Plan 2022–2032, Delivery Program 2022–2025, Operational Plan 2022/23, Revenue Policy 2022/23 and Budget 2022/23*. These documents set out how the community's CSP aspirations will be achieved.

Along with settling in the new Council and workshopping their new priorities, Council continued to deliver the final year of the *Delivery Program 2017–2022 and Operational Plan 2021/22*.

During the year, Council staff processed 134 development applications, made 28 successful grant applications to the value of \$3.03 million, loaned more than 34,082 items from the library, rehabilitated 7.2km of sealed road, resealed 20km of sealed road, resheeted 8.3km of gravel road, planted 152 new street trees and hosted 32 gallery exhibitions. We commenced the process of expanding Vance Estate and the Leeton Early Learning Centre, and embarked on the challenging task of redeveloping our beloved Roxy Community Theatre. We also issued 93 media releases and ran 13 Have Your Say consultation initiatives. My thanks to the Council staff who, despite the difficulties posed by COVID-19, have achieved so much.

Council posted a net operating result of \$3.9 million but capital grants and contributions accounted for \$13.3 million of our income. If we take capital grants and contributions out of the equation, we are left with a net operating deficit of \$1.2 million. Going forwards Council is going to have to work hard to address the issue of costs outpacing income for the General Fund and catch up with our infrastructure backlog. We need to be proactive, not wait until we have used up all our General Fund cash reserves, so in early 2022/23 we will be consulting our community about a proposal for a Special Rate Variation to secure our financial future.

Despite all the changes that have taken place in 2021/22, it is reassuring that some things remain the same. Our new Council, like the previous ones, has committed to being cohesive in vision, respectful in their debate and responsive to the community. They have also committed to being courageous about dealing with financial sustainability challenges Leeton Shire is facing, an issue facing most NSW councils.

Jackie Kruger  
General Manager



Going forwards Council is going to have to work hard to address the issue of costs outpacing income for the General Fund and catch up with our infrastructure backlog.



## Highlights for 2021/22 by Quarter



### Quarter One: July–September 2021

- Brobenah Road pedestrian bridge completed
- Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears Exhibition
- Gogeldrie Weir Recreation Reserve Master Plan adopted
- Stormwater drainage network extensions at Telopea Street and McKay Avenue completed
- New car park and bathroom renovations at the Leeton Early Learning Centre completed
- Leeton Shire Community Strategic Plan face-to-face consultation undertaken
- Submission made to the Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW

### Quarter Two: October–December 2021

- Mayor and General Manager addressed the Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW
- Shared pathway extension along Acacia Avenue completed
- Lands Office Cafe launched as a social enterprise cafe
- Leeton Shire Council Energy Master Plan adopted
- Seven heritage grants with a value of \$24,500 awarded
- 'Water by Design: The Leeton Water Story' exhibition received a Highly Commended Award at the LGNSW Excellence Awards for Arts and Cultural Projects
- Emeritus Mayor Cr Paul Maytom awarded two significant Local Government NSW awards and the title Emeritus Mayor, and Cr Peter Davidson awarded the Local Government NSW Merit Award
- Local Government elections conducted and the new Council sworn in
- Cr Tony Reneker elected as Mayor and Michael Kidd as Deputy Mayor

### Quarter Three: January–March 2022

- Gogeldrie Riverside Park opened under new caretaker management
- First Nations themed Australia Day celebrations held
- Reconstruction of the Fifteenth green at the Leeton Golf Course completed
- Demolition works commenced at the Roxy Community Theatre
- Leeton NSW Small Business Month Networking Dinner held at the Whitton Malt House

### Quarter Four: April–June 2022

- Leeton Shire's Sporting Walk of Fame launched with an unveiling of plaques of the inaugural inductees
- Charging Station for electric vehicles installed at the Sycamore Street car park
- Leeton CBD Façade Painting Project was named as a finalist in the 2022 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards in the 'Supporting Local Enterprise Category'
- 15m tall soldier by artist Carla Gottgens installed on the Whitton Water Tower
- Leeton SunRice Festival held over the Easter weekend with approximately 10,000 people attending
- Art Deco Way touring route launched
- Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library joined the Riverina Regional Libraries network
- New suite of Integrated Planning and Reporting documents, including the Community Strategic Plan *Liveable Leeton 2035*, adopted

For more information on Council's achievements please go to 'Highlights for 2021/22 by Theme' overleaf, 'Our Performance by Theme' on page 47, 'Our Performance by Community Satisfaction Rating' on page 94 and 'Our Performance by Status of Actions' on page 95.

#### Highlights (previous page)

Top images, clockwise from top left: Sporting Walk of Fame inductee Krishna Wood; Australia Day Ambassador Andrew Paschalidis (left) with Young Sportsperson of the Year 2022 Solomon Liu and Mayor Cr Tony Reneker (right); members of the new Council elected on 4 December 2022; Emeritus Mayor Cr Paul Maytom (left) with Deputy Mayor George Weston and General Manager Jackie Kruger (right)

Bottom images, from left to right: Councillors attending the launch of the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre; Young people enjoying the climbing wall at the Light Up Leeton event in Mountford Park; A contestant in the Riggz Cup Riverina Skate Championships



A Healthy and Caring Community	An Active and Enriched Community	A Healthy Natural Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commenced development of an Integrated Health Services Strategy aimed at achieving better quality health services for Leeton Shire</li> <li>Submitted to the Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW</li> <li>Launched the Lands Office Café as a social enterprise café focused on delivering employment readiness for disadvantaged youth</li> <li>Continued with plans to establish a Leeton Youth Council</li> <li>Conducted 55 food safety inspections of food premises, eight inspections of skin penetration premises and 50 inspections of swimming pools</li> <li>Approved the expansion of the Leeton Early Learning Centre</li> <li>Participated in the Regional Resettlement Pilot Program (NSW GROW)</li> <li>Installed eight new CCTV cameras</li> <li>Erected 10 solar streetlights along the Daalbata Road shared pathway</li> <li>Conducted a domestic and family violence awareness campaign</li> <li>Obtained \$95,000 in funding for a feasibility assessment of flood mitigation options</li> <li>Adopted a Housing Strategy for the Shire</li> <li>Approved 29 Development Applications for dwellings/residential development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remediated leaks at the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre and progressed procurement of a replacement slide and splash pool toys</li> <li>Hosted the 19th Annual Riggz Cup Riverina Skate Championships</li> <li>Reconstructed the Fifteenth green at the Leeton Golf Course</li> <li>Launched Leeton's new Sporting Walk of Fame</li> <li>Commenced physical works on the redevelopment of the Roxy Community Theatre</li> <li>Attracted 3,608 visitors to a total of 22 exhibitions and events at the Leeton Museum and Art Gallery</li> <li>Received a Highly Commended Award for the 'Water by Design: The Leeton Water Story' exhibition</li> <li>Secured \$100,000 in funding to plan a new permanent exhibition called 'By Virtue of Water: A Leeton Wiradjuri Story'</li> <li>Completed the Art Deco-themed Whitton Town Mural project</li> <li>Installed a 15m soldier on the Whitton Water Tower</li> <li>Trialled 'Movies at the Museum: After School Movies' in the Little Roxy Theatre</li> <li>Benchmarked all the museums in the Shire against the National Standards</li> <li>Installed the iconic Letona Co-operative Cannery Ltd sign in the Lands Office Café</li> <li>Invested \$175,000 in updating 12 facades in the Leeton CBD as part of the Leeton CBD Façade Painting Project Stage 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>With the help of the Leeton community, recycled 45% of the waste that would have gone to landfill</li> <li>Through a variety of recycling and waste recovery programs, diverted from landfill 28% of the material entering the Landfill and Recycling Centre as waste</li> <li>Entered into a partnership to collect, process and recycle expired solar panels</li> <li>Generated approximately 200,000kWh of solar power, which equates to an estimated 34 tonnes of reduction in Leeton Shire Council's carbon footprint</li> <li>Finalised and adopted an Energy Masterplan</li> <li>Installed a new electric vehicle charging station in the Sycamore Street car park</li> <li>Commenced solar installation projects at the Yanco Sewer Treatment Plant, the Whitton and Murrumbidgee Water Treatment Plants and the Works Depot</li> <li>Adopted a Gogeldrie Weir Recreation Reserve Master Plan</li> <li>Reopened the rebranded Gogeldrie Riverside Park under new caretaker management</li> </ul>

## Progress of Actions as at 30 June 2022



For more information Pages 49–61

Pages 63–67

Pages 69–71

Legend: On track Completed Needs Attention Critical Concerns

A Thriving Economy with Good Jobs	A Quality Built Environment	Strong Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued to advocate for sensible water policy including a range of mid-Murrumbidgee on river storage options</li> <li>Progressed plans to expand Vance Industrial Estate to the north (Vance Estate Stage 3)</li> <li>Participated in the Western Riverina 'Grow Our Own' initiative, a network coordinated by Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina to encourage people to build a career locally</li> <li>Provided support to local businesses during COVID-19</li> <li>Renewed a partnership agreement with Service NSW for the provision of free, personalised support to small business owners</li> <li>Drafted AMBITION 2030 – an Economic, Tourism and Events Strategy for Leeton Shire</li> <li>Hosted Light Up Leeton and the Leeton SunRice Festival 2022 and supported the Sara Storer Concert in Whitton</li> <li>Commenced establishing the Art Deco Way touring route aimed at drawing travellers off highways to explore the region</li> <li>Launched the Australian Art Deco Festival Leeton 2022 program of 29 events</li> <li>Progressed work on the Leeton CBD Enhancement Project Phase 3 – Chelmsford Place Town Square</li> <li>Commenced plans for the Leeton Water Tower large-scale public art project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replaced the aging water mains in Sycamore and Cedar Streets, Leeton</li> <li>Installed and implemented a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system at the Whitton Water Treatment Plant</li> <li>Installed 110m of new sewer main in Grevillia Street</li> <li>Continued to progress a business case for the upgrade of the WRConnect intermodal freight facility at Wumbulgal</li> <li>Rehabilitated 7.2km of sealed road, resealed 20km of sealed road, linemarked 36km of road and resheeted 8.3km of gravel road</li> <li>Maintained or replaced 609 road signs</li> <li>Completed an urban drainage extension along Palm Avenue and infilled 790m of drainage channel along Almond Road</li> <li>Installed new playground equipment in Waring and Ramponi Parks</li> <li>Upgraded toilet facilities at Whitton, designed new toilet facilities for the Sycamore Street car park, lodged a DA for toilet facilities in Wamoon and awarded a contract for the construction of new toilets in Gossamer Park</li> <li>Approved 134 Development Applications with a total value of more than \$43 million</li> <li>Endorsed a new Development Control Plan (DCP) for public exhibition</li> <li>Completed the circuit of shared pathway around Leeton and, with the completion of the Brobenah Road pedestrian bridge, linked the shared pathways along Palm Avenue and Brobenah Road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocated for the local community on a range of issues including health, water security and additional funding</li> <li>Engaged with the Leeton Health Services Crisis Committee (LHSCC), the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD), the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN), the NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN) and NSW Ambulance for the purpose of collaboratively developing an Integrated Health Services Strategy for Leeton Shire</li> <li>Awarded \$25,525 in Community Strengthening Grants to 18 recipients, \$2,750 in Youth Development Grants to 11 young people and donated an additional \$12,506 to 19 groups and organisations</li> <li>Commenced implementation of a new Customer Relationship Management platform that will help Council to improve the service it provides to customers</li> <li>Developed a new website that will provide customers with better access to information and services</li> <li>Established a single-number after-hours emergency contact point</li> <li>Made 28 successful grant applications to the value of \$3.03 million</li> <li>Achieved a rating of 83.3% in the annual audit of our WHS management</li> <li>Issued 93 media releases, posted 456 social media posts and undertook 13 Have Your Say surveys</li> </ul>

## Progress of Actions as at 30 June 2022



For more information Pages 73–81

Pages 83–87

Pages 89–92

The net operating result, before capital grants and contributions, for the year ended 30 June 2022 is a deficit of \$1.12 million compared to a deficit of \$4.43 million for the year ended 30 June 2021.

## Our Status as at 30 June 2022

The net operating result, before capital grants and contributions, for the year ended 30 June 2022 is a deficit of \$1.12 million compared to a deficit of \$4.43 million for the year ended 30 June 2021.

While the ongoing operating deficit is largely due to costs outpacing revenue in the General Fund (including a rate peg that is out of sync with award, materials and depreciation increases), the relative improvement in the deficit for the year was largely due to the advanced payment of the Financial Assistance Grant by the Commonwealth and an increase in income from contracted works. These have contributed to a better operating result than expected, despite low interest rates on investments and low income from water sales.

## Cash and Investments

Council's total cash and investments as at 30 June 2022 were \$50.27 million. Not all of these funds are available for discretionary use, as the amount includes items that are externally (by Statute) or internally (by Council policy) restricted in their use:

- Council is holding \$36.28 million of externally restricted funds. This amount includes unexpended loans, deposits/bonds, unexpended grants, and water, sewerage, and domestic waste cash and investments
- Council is also holding a further \$9.63 million in internally restricted funds. These are amounts set aside for purposes such as future asset replacement and accrued employee leave entitlements. Some of the key internal restrictions as at 30 June 2022 were as follows:
  - Plant and vehicle replacement – \$1.27 million
  - Infrastructure replacement – \$1.68 million
  - Roads general – \$1.69 million
  - Employee leave entitlements – \$1.37 million.

Assets and Liabilities	2021/22	2020/21 for comparison
<b>Assets</b>		
Total current assets	\$41,392,000	\$43,183,000
Total non-current assets	\$340,056,000	\$315,951,000
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$381,448,000</b>	<b>\$359,134,000</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Total current liabilities	\$9,350,000	\$8,232,000
Total non-current liabilities	\$6,926,000	\$6,464,000
Total liabilities	\$16,276,000	\$14,696,000
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>\$365,172,000</b>	<b>\$344,438,000</b>

## Our 2021/22 Income and Expenditure

For the financial year ended 30 June 2022, Leeton Shire Council's total income from continuing operations, including grant income, was \$38.13 million. Our expenditure was \$34.26 million.

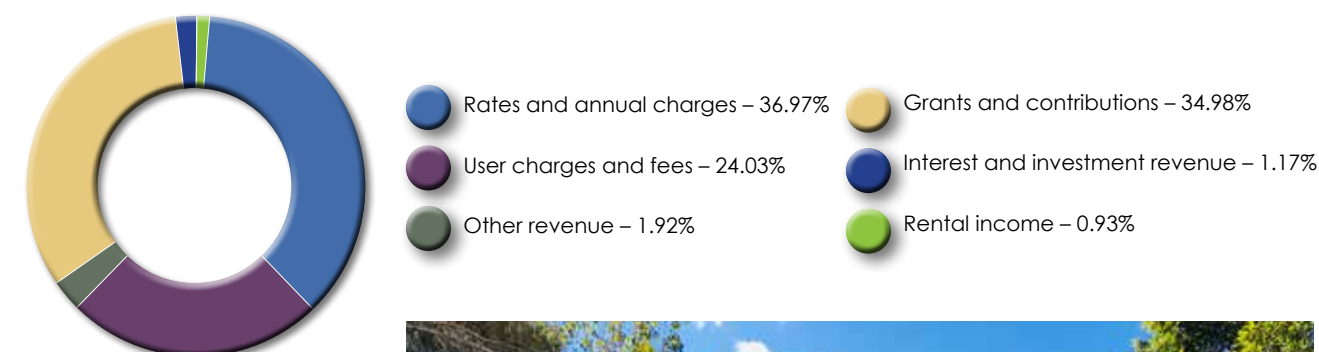
Income and Expenditure	2021/22	2020/21 for comparison
<b>Income</b>		
Total income from continuing operations	\$38,126,000	\$38,502,000
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Total expenses from continuing operations	\$34,260,000	\$36,001,000
<b>Operating Result</b>		
<b>Net operating result (counting grants and contributions)</b>	<b>\$3,866,000</b>	<b>\$2,501,000</b>
<b>Net operating result (not counting capital grants and contributions)</b>	<b>(\$1,116,000)</b>	<b>(\$4,425,000)</b>

## Our 2021/22 Income

Leeton Shire Council receives the bulk of its operating income from three main sources:

- Rates and annual charges – \$14.10 million (Rates – \$7.87 million, annual charges – \$6.23 million)
- User charges and fees – \$9.16 million
- Grants and non-developer contributions – \$13.12 million.

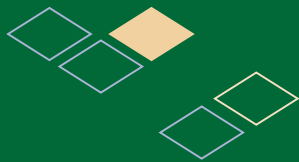
A percentage breakdown of the sources of our income is shown in the graph below.



Council's administration building at 23-25 Chelmsford Place, Leeton







Council's Roxy Redevelopment Project Manager Gideon Vos (left) hands the keys of the Roxy Community Theatre to Lloyd Group Project Manager Phillip Miles and Site Manager Luke Hughes (right). Lloyd Group is undertaking the redevelopment of the Roxy

### Grants and Contributions Income

In 2021/22 Leeton Shire Council received grants and contributions of \$13.34 million. The Federal Government provided \$8.15 million of this amount (\$6.30 million in Federal Assistance Grants), the State Government provided \$4.78 million, and \$188,000 was received from other sources. Developer contributions provided a further \$217,000.

2021/22 Grants and Contributions Income	Operating Grants	Capital Grants
<b>General purpose grants (untied)</b>		
<b>Current year allocation</b>		
Financial assistance – general component	\$1,950,000	0
Financial assistance – local roads component	\$653,000	0
<b>Payments in advance – future year allocations</b>		
Financial assistance – general component	\$2,841,000	0
Financial assistance – local roads component	\$860,000	0
<b>Total general purpose grants recognised as income in 2021/22</b>	<b>\$6,304,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)</b>		
<b>Previously specific grants</b>		
Sewerage services	0	\$98,000
Childcare	\$106,000	0
Economic development	\$211,000	0
Employment and training programs	\$113,000	0
Environmental programs	\$3,000	0
Heritage and cultural	\$12,000	\$224,000
Library	\$1,000	\$3,000
Library per capita	\$72,000	0
LIRS subsidy	\$28,000	0
Noxious weeds	\$80,000	0
NSW Rural Fire Services	\$75,000	(\$9,000)
Recreation and culture	\$92,000	\$1,897,000
Storm/Flood damage	\$17,000	0
Youth services	\$17,000	0
Street lighting	\$189,000	0
Transport (Roads to Recovery)	\$656,000	0
Transport (other roads and bridges funding)	\$112,000	\$203,000
Other specific grants	\$15,000	\$189,000
<b>Previously contributions</b>		
Roads and bridges	0	\$2,004,000
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)	\$251,000	\$106,000
Water supplies (excl. section 64 contributions)	0	\$50,000
<b>Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)</b>	<b>\$2,050,000</b>	<b>\$4,765,000</b>
<b>Total grants and non-developer contributions – operating and capital</b>	<b>\$8,354,000</b>	<b>\$4,765,000</b>
<b>Developer contributions (levies/water, sewer and stormwater contributions)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>\$217,000</b>
<b>TOTAL GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$13,336,000</b>	

Some grant funding is allocated to local councils according to the size and population of their Local Government Area. Other grant funding is provided only after a council has submitted a successful application showing how a project, event or service meets the funding criteria. This year, Leeton Shire Council made 28 successful grant applications to the value of \$3.03 million.

Some of that grant funding was received this year and is included in the table above. In other cases, Council has received notification that its application has been successful but the actual funding won't be received until a future financial year. On behalf of the Leeton Shire, Leeton Shire Council extends its thanks to all funding providers.



Our 2021/22 Expenditure

Council spends its funds on behalf of the community in a variety of ways. The following table provides a breakdown of our allocation of expenditure by function. The function categories used in the table are based on the categories defined by the NSW Office of Local Government's Code of Accounting Practice.

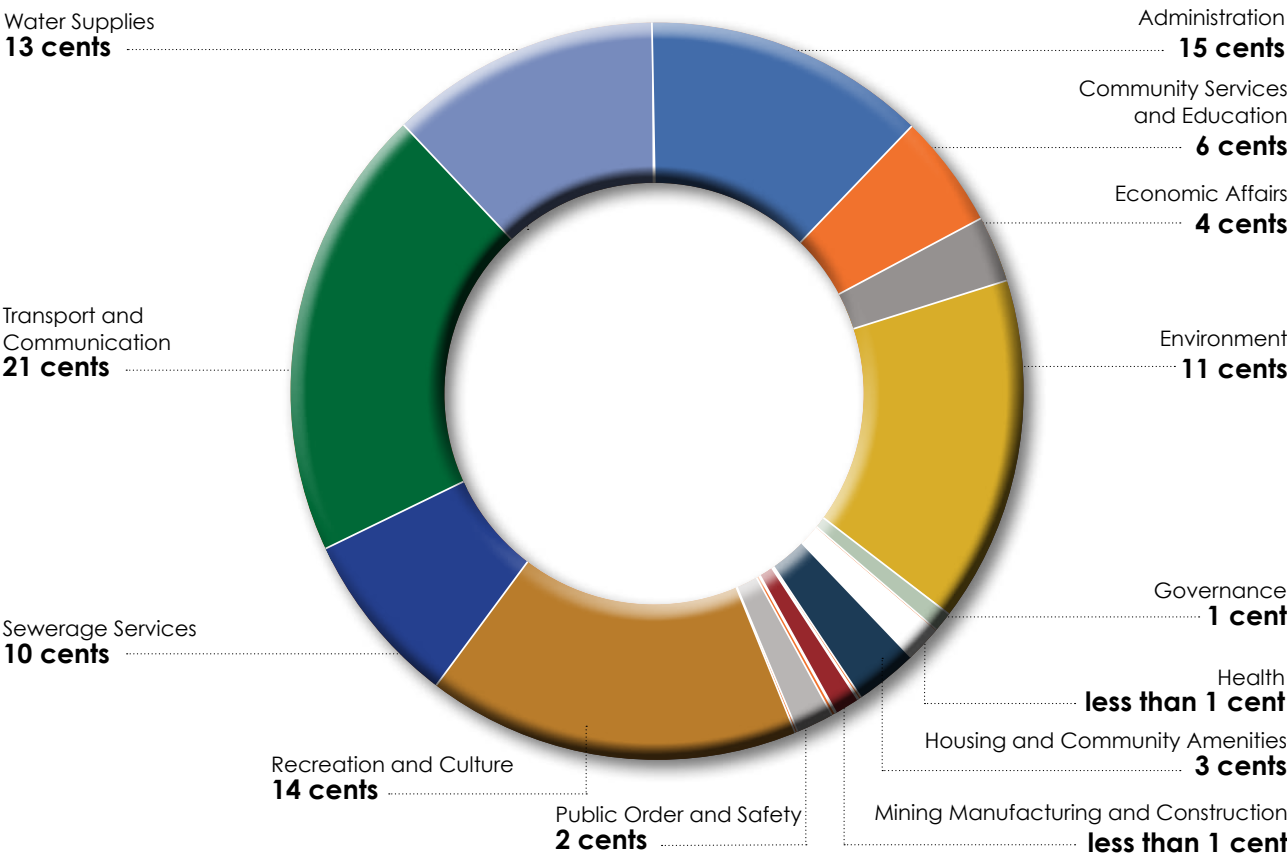
Expenditure by Council Function



Where Does Every Dollar Go?

The graph below shows how each dollar (or every cent in each dollar) Council spends is allocated according to function. The function categories are based on those defined by the NSW Office of Local Government's Code of Accounting Practice.

Expenditure by Council function – expressed as cents in the dollar (rounded to the nearest cent)



Please note that this graph shows cents in the dollar spent. It does not show the income offsetting these expenses. What you don't see here, for instance, is the fact that the 15 cents in the dollar spent on Administration is offset by 36 cents of income and the 22 cents in each dollar spent on Transport and Communication is offset by 20 cents in income.

For further information on Council's finances, please see the [Annual Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2022](#).

Rod McKellar (white suit), Shayne Roden, Frank Nardi and Reece Gadd (in backhoe) at work on a mains replacement in Sycamore Street. In 2021/22 Council invested \$9.78 million in capital works





## How Council Operates

Local Government is the third level of government and is directly accountable to the local community. Council is the governing body at a local level and its powers and responsibilities are conferred upon it by the New South Wales Government. It generates its revenue from local rates, charges and fees along with grant funds from the State and Commonwealth Governments. While the *Local Government Act 1993* provides Council with the framework and powers to provide community services and facilities, there are many other pieces of legislation which direct how Council carries out its functions within the community.

## Council Elections

Local Government elections are generally held in NSW on the second Saturday in September every four years. At Local Government elections voters in each Local Government Area elect Councillors to their local council.

Due to COVID-19, the NSW Council elections were postponed from 2020 to 2021 and the term of the sitting Council was extended for an additional 15 months. Local Government elections were held on 4 December 2021 and a new Council took office. The next Local Government elections will take place in September 2024.

Two of the sitting Councillors, Cr Peter Davidson and Emeritus Mayor Cr Paul Maytom, chose not to stand for Council at the December 2021 elections. They were replaced by two new Councillors, Cr Krystal Maytom and Cr Matthew Holt. The remaining Councillors were re-elected.



Left: Our thanks to Emeritus Mayor Cr Paul Maytom (left), who served 35 years on Council – 16 of them as Mayor, and Cr Peter Davidson (right), who served 11 years on Council. Both Councillors chose to step down from Council in 2021












The newly elected Council, from left to right: Cr Paul Smith, Cr George Weston, Cr Tracey Morris, Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Kidd, Mayor Cr Tony Reneker, Cr Krystal Maytom, Cr Sandra Nardi and Cr Tony Ciccio. Cr Matthew Holt was absent

## Our Councillors

### Councillor Portfolios

As a lead voice for the community, this term of Council has allocated portfolios across the team of elected representatives. This spreads the workload across the team and enables nominated Councillors to become the elected Council's subject experts, champions and go-to people on the specific topic(s) in their portfolios.

 <p><b>Cr Tony Reneker</b> Mayor Elected to Council 2016</p> <p><b>Portfolios:</b> Police Liaison, Aboriginal Liaison, WRConnect Intermodal</p> <p>tonyr@leeton.nsw.gov.au</p>	 <p><b>Cr Michael Kidd</b> Deputy Mayor Elected to Council 2004–2008 Elected to Council 2012</p> <p><b>Portfolios:</b> Housing, Arts and Culture</p> <p>michaelk@leeton.nsw.gov.au</p>
 <p><b>Cr Tony Ciccio</b> Elected to Council 2016</p> <p><b>Portfolio:</b> Health</p> <p>tonyc@leeton.nsw.gov.au</p>	 <p><b>Cr Matt Holt</b> Elected to Council 2021</p> <p><b>Portfolio:</b> Education</p> <p>matth@leeton.nsw.gov.au</p>
 <p><b>Cr Krystal Maytom</b> Elected to Council 2021</p> <p><b>Portfolios:</b> Business, Tourism</p> <p>krystalm@leeton.nsw.gov.au</p>	 <p><b>Cr Tracey Morris</b> Elected to Council 2012</p> <p><b>Portfolios:</b> Financial Sustainability, Yanco Agricultural Institute</p> <p>traceym@leeton.nsw.gov.au</p>
 <p><b>Cr Sandra Nardi</b> Elected to Council 2016</p> <p><b>Portfolio:</b> Youth</p> <p>sandran@leeton.nsw.gov.au</p>	 <p><b>Cr Paul Smith</b> Elected to Council 2016</p> <p><b>Portfolios:</b> Water Security</p> <p>pauls@leeton.nsw.gov.au</p>
 <p><b>Cr George Weston</b> Elected to Council 1995</p> <p><b>Portfolios:</b> Heritage, CBD Enhancement Strategy, Environment and Climate Change</p> <p>georgew@leeton.nsw.gov.au</p>	

Councillor Representation on Committees

Councillors each take a role in representing Council on a number of committees, organisations and working groups and in liaising with external groups. The full list of Council's committees and working groups, as well as the shared and/or external committees with which it is involved is provided on page 23.

Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor

Section 355 Committees

- Leeton Shire Men's Shed
- Murrumbidgee Community Hall Committee
- Whitton Community Hall Committee
- Yanco Community Hall and Markets Committee

Advisory Committees/Working Groups

- General Manager Review Committee
- Leeton Flood Plain Management Committee
- Leeton Weeds Committee
- Leeton Youth Council

Action Committees

- Leeton Australia Day Committee
- Sporting Walk of Fame Committee
- Whitton Town Improvement Committee
- Yanco Town Improvement Committee
- Health Advisory Committee (Internal)

External Committees/Organisations

- Country Mayors Association
- Bushfire Management Committee
- Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands Advisory Committee

Shared Services Committees/Organisations

- Narrandera-Leeton Airport Management Committee
- Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation

Liaisons

- Aboriginal Strategic Liaison
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation Strategic Liaison
- Police Strategic Liaison

Cr George Weston

Section 355 Committees

- Light Up Leeton Committee
- SunRice Festival Committee

Advisory Committees/Working Groups

- CBD Enhancement Advisory Committee
- Gogeldrie Weir Recreational Facilities Committee
- Leeton Shire Heritage Committee

Action Committees

- Leeton Australia Day Committee
- Henry Lawson Cottage Committee

External Committees/Organisations

- Leeton Business Chamber
- Murray Darling Association – Non-voting

Cr Michael Kidd, Deputy Mayor

Section 355 Committees

- Whitton Court House and Historical Museum Committee
- Yanco Community Hall and Markets Committee

Advisory Committees/Working Groups

- CBD Enhancement Advisory Committee
- General Manager Review Committee
- Gogeldrie Weir Recreational Facilities Committee
- Infrastructure Working Group
- Leeton Tree Advisory Committee
- Roxy Redevelopment Committee (Build and Operations)

Shared Services Committees/Organisations

- Riverina Regional Library Advisory Committee

External Committees/Organisations

- Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands Advisory Committee

Cr Tony Ciccio

Section 355 Committees

- Leeton Shire Men's Shed
- Murrumbidgee Community Hall Committee

Advisory Committees/Working Groups

- Gogeldrie Weir Recreational Facilities Committee
- Infrastructure Working Group
- Leeton Local Traffic Committee
- Leeton Shire Heritage Committee
- Leeton Weeds Committee

Action Committees

- Henry Lawson Cottage Committee
- Health Advisory Committee (Internal)

Cr Matthew Holt

Advisory Committees/Working Groups

- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) – Non-voting
- CBD Enhancement Advisory Committee
- Community Grant Funding Working Group
- General Manager Review Committee
- Leeton Local Traffic Committee
- Leeton Tree Advisory Committee
- Roxy Redevelopment Committee (Build and Operations)

External Committees/Organisations

- Murray Darling Association – Non-voting

Cr Krystal Maytom

Section 355 Committees

- Light Up Leeton Committee
- Whitton Court House and Historical Museum Committee

Advisory Committees/Working Groups

- Leeton Youth Council

Action Committees

- Health Advisory Committee (Internal)

Liaisons

- Aboriginal Strategic Liaison

Cr Tracey Morris

Advisory Committees/Working Groups

- Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) – Voting
- CBD Enhancement Advisory Committee
- Roxy Redevelopment Committee (Build and Operations)

External Committees/Organisations

- Leeton Business Chamber

Cr Sandra Nardi

Section 355 Committees

- SunRice Festival Committee

Advisory Committees/Working Groups

- CBD Enhancement Advisory Committee
- Community Grant Funding Working Group
- Leeton Youth Council
- Roxy Redevelopment Committee (Build and Operations)

Cr Paul Smith

Section 355 Committees

- Whitton Community Hall Committee

Advisory Committees/Working Groups

- Community Grant Funding Working Group
- Infrastructure Working Group
- Leeton Flood Plain Management Committee

Action Committees

- Whitton Town Improvement Committee
- Yanco Town Improvement Committee

External Committees/Organisations

- Murray Darling Association – Voting

Shared Services Committees/Organisations

- Narrandera-Leeton Airport Management Committee

- Murrumbidgee Irrigation Strategic Liaison

Council Meetings

Ordinary Council Meetings are generally held on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Meeting agendas are available on the Council website, as are minutes of meetings. Hard copies are available at the Council office reception in Chelmsford Place. Residents wishing to address the Councillors on an agenda item can do so by registering their request by midday on the working day before the scheduled meeting by contacting Council on (02) 6953 0911 or council@leeton.nsw.gov.au. Meetings can be viewed online the day after the meeting.

During 2021/22, eleven Ordinary Council Meetings and three Extraordinary Meetings were held.

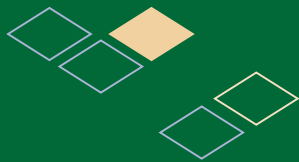
Council Meetings attended

Councillors	Period of Office	Ordinary Meetings Attended	Extraordinary Meetings Attended
Cr Tony Ciccio	July 2021–July 2022	11/11	3/3
Cr Peter Davidson	July–December 2021	5/5	2/2
Cr Matthew Holt	December 2021–July 2022	5/6	1/1
Cr Michael Kidd, Deputy Mayor from December 2021	July 2021–July 2022	11/11	3/3
Cr Krystal Maytom	December 2021–July 2022	6/6	1/1
Cr Paul Maytom, Mayor until December 2021	July 2021–December 2021	5/5	2/2
Cr Tracey Morris	July 2021–July 2022	10/11	3/3
Cr Sandra Nardi	July 2021– July 2022	11/11	3/3
Cr Tony Reneker, Mayor from December 2021	July 2021–July 2022	11/11	2/3
Cr Paul Smith	July 2021–July 2022	11/11	3/3
Cr George Weston, Deputy Mayor until December 2021	July 2021–July 2022	9/11	3/3

Council's Committees and Working Groups

Section 355 Committees	Advisory Committees and Working Groups	Action Committees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leeton Shire Men's Shed</li><li>• Light Up Leeton Committee</li><li>• SunRice Festival Committee</li><li>• Whitton Court House and Historical Museum Committee</li><li>• Whitton Community Hall Committee</li><li>• Murrumbidgee Community Hall Committee</li><li>• Yanco Community Hall and Markets Committee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC)</li><li>• CBD Enhancement Advisory Committee</li><li>• Gogeldrie Weir Recreational Facilities Committee</li><li>• Infrastructure Working Group</li><li>• Leeton Flood Plain Management Committee</li><li>• Community Grant Funding Working Group</li><li>• Henry Lawson Cottage Committee</li><li>• Leeton Local Traffic Committee</li><li>• Leeton Shire Heritage Committee</li><li>• Leeton Tree Advisory Committee</li><li>• Leeton Weeds Committee</li><li>• Leeton Youth Council – in set-up phase</li><li>• Roxy Community Theatre Advisory Committee – in hiatus</li><li>• Roxy Redevelopment Committee</li><li>• Whitton Town Improvement Committee</li><li>• Yanco Town Improvement Committee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leeton Australia Day Committee</li><li>• Sporting Walk of Fame Committee</li></ul>
External Committees and Associations	<div>Shared Service Committees</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Narrandera-Leeton Airport Management Committee</li><li>• Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO)</li></ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Country Mayors Association</li><li>• Leeton Business Chamber</li><li>• Leeton Local Emergency Management Committee</li><li>• Local Government New South Wales Local Government Professionals NSW – for staff</li><li>• MIA Zone Liaison Committee (Rural Fire Service)</li><li>• Murray Darling Association</li><li>• Western Riverina Arts</li></ul>		





Left: Community members enjoying the Light Up Leeton event in Mountford Park  
Below: Mayor Cr Tony Reneker (third from left) with Leeton Shire's Australia Day Award 2022 recipients or their representatives, from left to right: Anna Nardi, Solomon Liu, Brian Troy, Bruce Staines accepting on behalf of Tess Staines, Emily Wright, Glenn Newman representing the Leeton Rescue Squad, Andrew Watson and Tracey Morris representing the Leeton Sport and Recreation Precinct Parkrun, and Paul Smith accepting on behalf of Peta Sinclair

Our Community's Vision

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.

Our Community's Goals

The community's goals and the strategies to achieve them are documented in the Community Strategic Plan Leeton on the Go – Towards 2030.

Australia Day Awards

The 2022 Leeton Australia Day Awards recognised, celebrated and acknowledged the achievements and positive contribution community groups and individuals make to our community. Awards were presented at the Australia Day Ceremony on 26 January 2022 to:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Peta Sinclair<br><b>Citizen of the Year</b>                                | Emily Wright<br><b>Young Citizen of the Year</b>                           |
| Anna Nardi<br><b>Achiever of the Year</b>                                  | Noah Sands<br><b>Young Achiever of the Year</b>                            |
| Leeton Sport and Recreation<br>Precinct Parkrun<br><b>Event of the Yea</b> | Leeton Rescue Squad –<br>VRA Rescue NSW<br><b>Organisation of the Year</b> |
| Tess Staines<br><b>Sportsperson of the Year</b>                            | Solomon Liu<br><b>Young Sportsperson of the Year</b>                       |
| Brian Troy<br><b>Lifelong Citizen of the Shire</b>                         |  |







Congratulations to the Leeton Shire residents who became Australian Citizens in 2021/22

Above: New Australian citizen Durga Karre and family

Right: Mr Reza Ghulam Ali receives his Australian citizenship certificate from Mayor Cr Tony Reneker

Far right: Lynda Boardman receives her Australian citizenship certificate from Emeritus Mayor Cr Paul Maytom

Below: Mayor Cr Tony Reneker presided over the Citizenship Ceremony held in the Council Chambers in June to mark Refugee Week

Citizenships

Australian Citizenship Ceremonies are hosted by Council for Shire residents who have applied to become Australian citizens through the Department of Home Affairs. Ceremonies are held throughout the year with one major ceremony on Australia Day.

During the 2021/22 year, Council hosted four citizenship ceremonies, one on Australian Citizenship Day (17 September 2021), one on Australia Day (26 January 2022), one on Harmony Day (21 March 2022) and one on 24 June 2022 to mark Refugee Week.

Leeton Shire welcomed a total of 52 new citizens at these ceremonies: 39 adults and 13 children.

The new citizens originated from various countries including Afghanistan, China, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and Zimbabwe.



Community Grants Program

Contributions and Donations

Local Government Act 1993 s 356; Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a5)

Community Strengthening Grants

Council's Community Strengthening Grants Program is made available bi-annually for community projects. Community groups and organisations can apply for financial assistance, resources and/or covering the costs of hiring Council facilities under Council's Grants Policy. In 2021/22, funding was provided to the following groups.

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
1st Leeton Scout Group	Records books for the updated Scouts Australia Youth Programme	\$500
Creative Connection Riverina	Production of the 'Bloodshed at the Banquet' performance for the Art Deco Festival 2022	\$1,600
Gralee School	Soft fall and artificial turf for playground safety	\$1,000
Leeton Art Society	A two-day free youth art workshop	\$1,000
Leeton Athletic Club Inc	Installing CCTV cameras at the Leeton High School Oval	\$2,000
Leeton Aviators Club	Repairing and repainting the toilet facilities and change rooms	\$1,000
Leeton CanAssist	Promotional signs, banners and equipment including a marquee	\$1,500
Leeton Connect Inc	A projector for use at meetings, training and events	\$2,000
Leeton Family and Local History Society Inc	Printing books on the history of community facilities in Leeton Shire	\$1,000
Leeton Jumpstart Fund	A new printer to assist with day-to-day office requirements	\$1,925
Leeton Showground Land Managarees	Restoring the front showground gates	\$1,500
Leeton Show Society	Lining the pelmet/atrium on top of the Arts and Crafts Hall	\$2,000
Leeton Yanco Swimming Club	A learn-to-swim program for 24 vulnerable children	\$2,000
Parkview Public School P and C	Upgrading the drinks van, including power	\$500
Rapid Relief Team Ltd	Food boxes and delivery to vulnerable Leeton residents	\$2,000
Riverina Writing House Inc	Collating, designing and printing "COVID Poetry and Memoirs"	\$500
Water Wheel Garden Club/ Pieces N Patches Group	Purchasing a storage container for storing equipment for both groups	\$2,000
Yanco Wamoon Rugby League Football Club	A laptop to operate the scoreboard and assist with general business	\$1,500
TOTAL		\$25,525

Quick Response Grants

Council's Community Strengthening Grants includes a 'Quick Response' Grant Category which aims to support activities that arise unexpectedly, with limited notice, outside the window of the twice-yearly Community Grants Scheme. Applications within this category are capped at a maximum of \$2,000. Council provided funding in the form of Quick Response Grants to the following organisations in 2021/22.

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
Leeton JumpStart Fund Inc	A laptop and an accounting software program	\$1,923
Leeton Rainbow Pride Collective Inc	A teardrop flag for promotion of World AIDS Day 2021	\$176
Leeton Rainbow Pride Collective Inc	A teardrop flag in celebration of NAIDOC Week 2022	\$253
Riverina Riding Club	Yards in which to secure horses during events	\$2,000
Labour Solutions Australia	Samoa/Pacific Islands Independence Day Celebrations/ activities	\$1,595
TOTAL		\$5,947



Youth Development Grants

The Community Strengthening Grants program includes a 'Youth Development' Grant Category which is offered at a set amount of \$250 per applicant and is available to support high achievement in a cultural, academic or sporting activity that requires attendance at a State, National or International level event. Council awarded the following Youth Development Grants during 2021/22.

Recipient	Event	Amount
Brooke Buckley	Netball NSW State Titles in Sydney – 11–13 June 2022	\$250
Kian Henman	NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association (CHSSA)	
	Swimming State Championships – 30 March to 1 April 2022	\$250
Raith Henman	NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association (CHSSA)	
	Swimming State Championships – 30 March to 1 April 2022	\$250
Jett Liu	Rugby League School Sport Australian Championships – 3–8 July 2022	\$250
Ruby Miller	NSWCHS Netball State Championships, as an umpire – 31 May to 2 June 2022	\$250
Ava Robertson	NSW Public School Sports Association (PSSA)	
	Swimming State Championships – 4–5 April 2022	\$250
Rutalina Smith	Under 16 Rugby Union 'NSW Country V ACT' competition – 25 July 2021	\$250
Jett Teerman	Little Athletics New South Wales State Championships – 19–20 March 2022	\$250
Vula Wate	NSW Combined High Schools (NSWCHS) Rugby League Under 15 competition – 3 May 2022	\$250
Wesley Wate	NSWPSSA Boys Open Rugby League State Championships – 21–23 June 2022	\$250
Emily Wright	Under 18 Rugby Union 'NSW Country V ACT' competition – 25 July 2021	\$250
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,750</b>



Youth Development Grant recipient Jett Liu (centre) with his parents Christy and Derek Liu

Other Contributions, Donations and Sponsorship

Recipient	Purpose	Amount
MIA Cruisers Inc	Support for 'Show and Shine' event	\$2,667
Leeton High School, MET School (Leeton Campus), St Francis De Sales Regional College, Yanco Agricultural High School	Annual donation towards end-of-year awards – \$100 per school	\$400
Leeton Public School, Parkview Public School, St Joseph's Primary School, Wamoon Public School, Whitton Murrumbidgee Public School, Yanco Public School, Gralene School	Annual donation towards end-of-year awards – \$75 per school	\$525
Leeton Business Chamber	Sponsorship of Christmas campaign encouraging residents to buy locally	\$1,000
Leeton Town Band	Insurance premium payment	\$1,967
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6,559</b>

Celebrating Our Volunteers

Leeton Shire Council would like to thank the 202 people who volunteered their time, skills and expertise to assist at various Council facilities and on Council Committees such as the Whitton Courthouse and Historical Museum Committee, Yanco Town Improvement Committee and various hall committees. Council would also like to thank those who assisted with Council programs, events and festivals in 2021/22.

The table below shows the number of volunteers who assist at Council facilities and/or on committees.

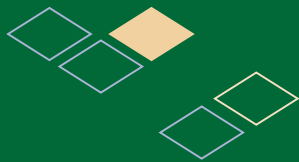
Below: Members of the SunRice Festival Committee dressed to impress at the Shades of Green Cocktail Party with Cr George Weston (second from left)

Below right: Staff and volunteers working on the reconstruction of the Fifteenth green at the Leeton Golf Course

Council Facility	Number of Volunteers
Leeton Golf Course	24
Leeton Museum and Art Gallery	10
Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library	5
Visitor Information Centre	13
Committee participation	150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>202</b>







# Our Organisation



Human Resources Officer Debbie Evans (seated) with Manager People and Organisation Development Gary Taylor

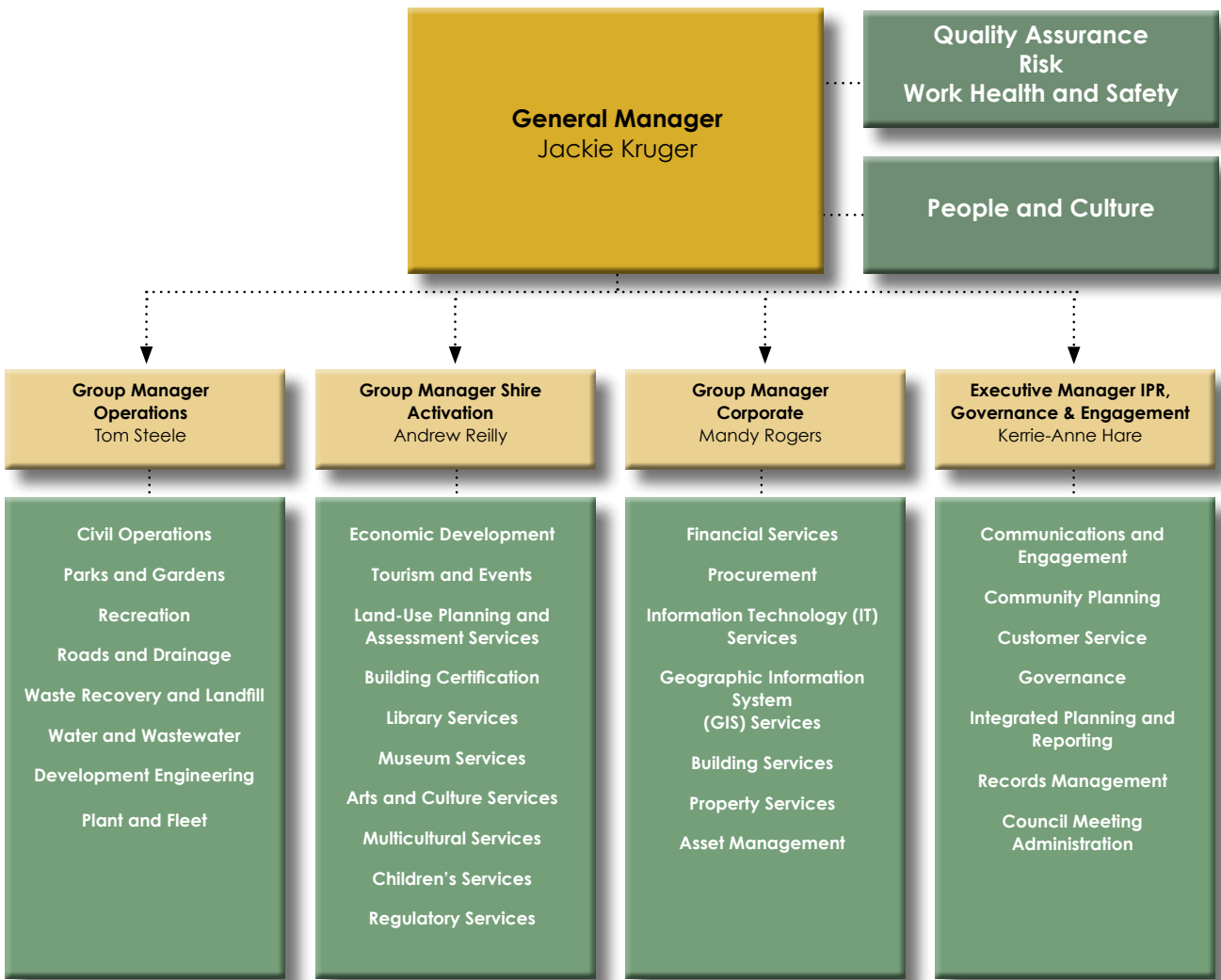
## Our Staff Mission

To be proudly trusted by the Councillors and the Community to deliver for them the very best outcomes in the most effective manner while enjoying a harmonious workplace that values and rewards its workforce for service excellence.

## Our Staff Values



## Our Staff Structure





## Our Senior Management Team

### General Manager

**Jackie Kruger**

Jackie commenced as General Manager of Leeton Shire Council in August 2015. Jackie came to the Riverina from Tamworth, where she held the position of Director Planning and Community Services.

Her formal qualifications are in natural resource management (BSc Forestry/Conservation) and a Masters in Environmental Education.

Jackie was elected to the Board of LG Professionals in 2018 and also serves on the Board of the Country Universities Centre, Western Riverina. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a member of the Murray Riverina Regional Advisory Council for Business NSW, and a member of the Planning Institute of Australia (PIA).

Leeton has been home to Jackie and her husband for the past seven years. They both enjoy giving back to the community through being members of community organisations.



### Group Manager Operations

**Tom Steele**

Tom started with Leeton Shire Council as a Cadet Engineer in 2008 and commenced as Group Manager Operations in June 2021. In the intervening years, Tom held several design, geospatial and asset management focused roles with Leeton Shire Council and other local government organisations throughout the Riverina. Tom has worked as a roads and operations manager within local government and brings this knowledge and experience to his role as Group Manager Operations.

Tom graduated with a Diploma in Civil Engineering Design after completing his cadetship and has recently graduated with a Masters in GIS and Remote Sensing.



### Group Manager Shire Activation

**Andrew Reilly**

Andrew commenced as Group Manager Shire Activation in April 2021.

After commencing his early career in local government with Carrathool Shire and Tumbarumba Shire Councils, Andrew held several senior roles in agribusiness and mining both in the Riverina and overseas.

Andrew's qualifications include a Master of Commercial Law and a Bachelor of Business (Accounting and Local Government). He is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Andrew and his family are long-time Leeton residents.



## Our Senior Management Team cont.

### Group Manager Corporate

**Mandy Rogers**

Mandy first joined Council in August 2020 in the role of Procurement and Service Improvement Manager before being appointed to the role of Group Manager Corporate in March 2021.

Prior to Council, Mandy held senior positions at SunRice and in the NSW rice industry and worked in the commercial and chartered accounting fields for international firms.

Mandy holds a qualification in accounting and has over 20 years business experience that spans senior roles in external and internal audit, finance and information systems, administration, human resources, governance, statutory reporting and procurement.

In addition to her Commerce degree, Mandy has a Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance, a Diploma in Procurement and Contracting, is a Member of CPA Australia (CPA), a Member of the Governance Institute of Australia (AGIA ACIS), a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and a Member of Local Government Professionals NSW.

Mandy grew up in the Riverina and is a long-term resident of Leeton.



### Executive Manager IPR, Governance and Engagement

**Kerrie-Anne Hare**

Kerrie-Anne joined Council in July 2020, after spending 5 years at Gannawarra Shire Council in Kerang, Victoria, and 4.5 years at Moree Plains Shire Council.

During her years in local government she has undertaken various roles and been responsible for managing internal and external communications, customer service, records management, organisational and community strategic planning, information technology and human resources.

Prior to entering local government, Kerrie worked in education and the publishing industry. She has taught students aged 5 to 85 in a range of subjects at primary, TAFE and university level. She has also had more than 20 years' experience in writing, editing, journalism, publishing and management, and has owned and managed her own agricultural publishing company, Bolwarrah Press.

Kerrie holds a Bachelor of Education, a Graduate Diploma of Management (Innovation and Enterprise) and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Kerrie grew up in the southern Riverina.







**Our staff (from left to right)**  
Top row: Zoey Lucas, Bianca Smith, Monica Armanini, Tony Aloisi and Shayne Roden  
Second row: Justin Davidson, Todd Prest, Matt Boots and Bryce O'Garey with Jackie Kruger; Kabe Stockton and Scott Manuel  
Third row: Francois Van der Berg; Anita Fitzgerald, Marni Elliot and Sarah Graham; Angela Stevens; Gerard Simms  
Bottom row: Josh Eurell, James Hedditch and Rob Freer; Rachel Cody, Peter Butler and Will Bevan

Our Staff

As at 25 May 2022\*, Leeton Shire Council provided employment to 184 people in various capacities across the organisation. Of the 184 staff:

- 129 were employed on a full-time basis
- 30 were employed on a part-time basis
- 23 were employed on a casual basis
- 2 were employed on a fixed-term contract basis.

Organisational Development

COVID-19

COVID-19 took its toll on the workforce during 2021/22, particularly in view of the need to comply with multiple Public Health Orders and a vaccine mandate in Childcare. When regulations required absence from work of household members as well as those who tested positive for COVID-19, some workers were off work for three 1-week periods. Some staff were able to work from home but others could not carry out their normal duties remotely. This meant other staff had to take over their roles. Not only was this taxing for staff, it also required Council to spend more on overtime in order to maintain essential services.

Staff Turnover

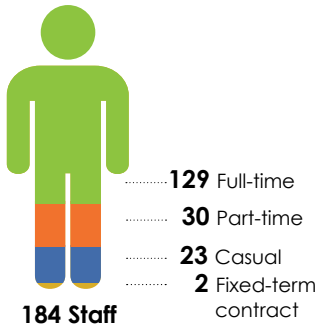
While staff turnover can be influenced by several factors, it is a common barometer of an employer's ability to attract and retain staff. At 9.6% for the past year, Council remains better than several other local government employers who ranged from 11–18%. This level of turnover provides promotional opportunities for internal staff and the ability to bring in fresh ideas, while not being so high that new staff are always still trying to learn the job.

Equal Employment Opportunity

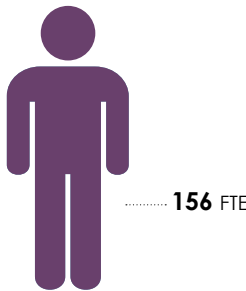
- Council has endeavoured to translate intent into action in the following ways:
- Continuing to promote Council's employment opportunities to workplace diversity in our recruitment practices by working with agencies who can source quality candidates from diverse backgrounds
  - Partnering with community organisations to provide development and engagement opportunities for First Nations peoples
  - Enhanced support mechanisms for (particularly vulnerable) staff through the Employee Assistance Program, and assistance from the People and Organisation Development team
  - Continuing staff engagement through the Consultative and Safety Committees, including the planning and preparation of Wellbeing and Resilience Programs.

\* 25 May 2022 is the day fixed by the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment as the 'relevant day' for the purpose of reporting labour statistics under section 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021.

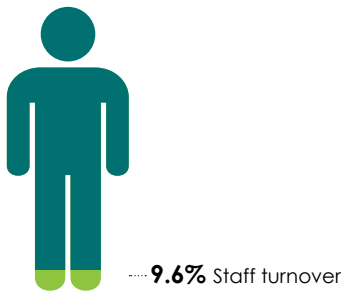
Total number of staff



Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Staff

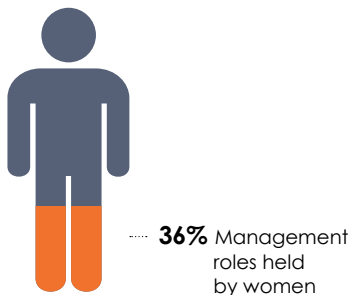


Staff Turnover Rate

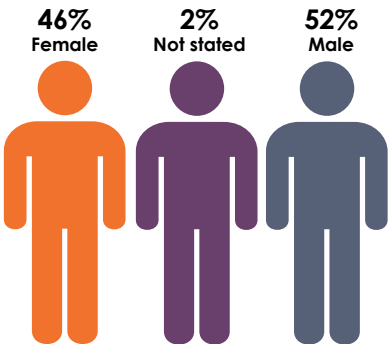


\*Average Turnover Rate for NSW Rural Councils is 13.1%

Percentage of management roles held by women



Gender split



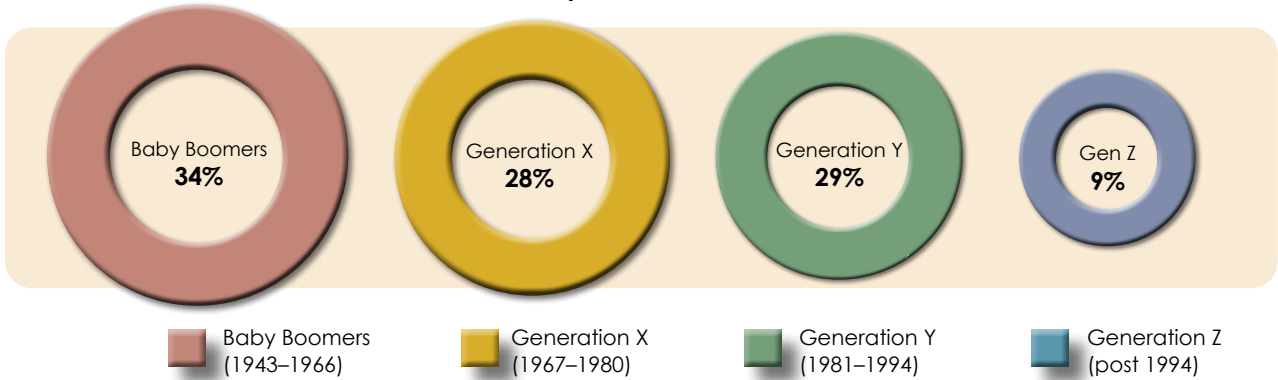


Ageing Workforce and Succession

The ageing workforce in local government is more acute than in some other sectors, and more so in rural areas than cities. Council is aware that a number of skilled staff are approaching retirement, and has embarked on a strategy to address the risk by ensuring that the next generation is trained and mentored with the skills to ensure continuity.

This strategy also addresses the health and safety component of the ageing workforce, as 72% of our Workers Compensation claims are incurred by staff aged 55 and over, hence the desire for Council to discharge its Duty of Care under the Act by ensuring that all staff are fit for duties. Consultation has already commenced to ensure that solutions are implemented fairly and sensitively. Some staff have already commenced transition-to-retirement plans as provided for in our Award.

Generational split of Council's staff



Performance Management

Council has simplified its annual performance review process for 2022 and will continue to do so. The Pulse system provides an important opportunity for staff and their supervisors to agree what is expected over the year ahead, and then to review actual performance against expectations, and have a conversation about what is working well and what can be developed.

This helps to guard against 'staleness' in a role and provides a process for evaluating staff progress along the 4 salary steps within their grade. Just as the community evaluates the performance of Council, so Council cascades this process through the staff levels, to align delivery against expectations.

Training and Development

Leeton Shire Council is committed to ensuring each employee has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential through the development of skills and knowledge acquired in training.

All employees of Leeton Shire Council are required to participate in training and development activities that are deemed mandatory, and in training and development activities that have been identified as being integral to their role.

Annual performance appraisals of Leeton Shire Council staff also result in identification of gaps in training requirements, with the Organisation and People Development team identifying the most cost-effective means of meeting those requirements.

The training requirements that are identified are directly linked to the objectives of the Leeton Shire Council Operational/Delivery Plan and reference Performance Reviews, Pay Bands and Position Descriptions.



Maddy Clyne completed a Diploma of Sport and Recreation Management in 2021

Training is delivered through four main avenues:

- Internal training, with line managers and peers providing on-the-job training
- Accredited training, using Registered Training Organisations
- Non-accredited training, using industry-appropriate providers
- Training delivered through tertiary institutions such as universities and TAFEs.

There are two distinct categories of training within Leeton Shire Council – essential/compulsory training and professional development training. This training is divided into seven sub-categories. The sub-categories, along with examples of training undertaken in 2021/22, are as follows:

- Mandatory/Safe Work/Legislative – Confined Spaces, Manual Handling, White Card
- Technical Skills – Plant Competency, Test and Tag, Tree Felling, Advanced Wastewater Operations
- Governance – Code of Conduct, Councillor Induction, Mayoral Induction, Finance for Councillors
- Office Support – Employment Law, Events Management, Records Management
- Building, Health and Environment – Dog Handling for Dangerous Dogs, Firearms Safety, Microchip Implantation and Building Certifier Skillset – for Class 1 and 10 Buildings to Three Storeys
- Leadership – Leadership Success, Dare to Lead and Rural Management Challenge
- Community Services – Childcare, Identify and Respond to Children and Young People at Risk, Planning with Purpose and Dealing with Difficult People.

A total amount of \$157,337 was spent on training across the whole organisation during the 2021/22 reporting year.

Training Category	No. of Participants	Cost
Mandatory/Safe Work/Legislative	87	\$26,349
Technical Skills	20	\$15,521
Governance	69	\$15,000
Office Support	8	\$15,323
Building, Health and Environment	25	\$20,984
Leadership	36	\$54,342
Community Services	8	\$9,818
TOTAL	253	\$157,337



Service Awards

10 year awards

- Tony Franco – Operations – Workshop
- Tiree Beaumont – Children's Services – Leeton Early Learning Centre
- Roslyn Burke – Corporate
- Simon Stanton – Waste Recovery and Landfill
- Stephen Young – Waste Recovery and Landfill

15 year awards

- Bill Trembath – Roads and Drainage
- Kevin Waters – Roads and Drainage
- Angela Stevens – Records Management
- Timothy Legge – Parks and Gardens
- Tom Elwin – Roads and Drainage
- Steve Purfill – Parks and Gardens
- Garry Wilesmith – Roads and Drainage
- Brett Hedditch – Roads and Drainage
- Chris Lashbrook – Roads and Drainage
- Ian Pitt – Waste Recovery and Landfill

20 year awards

- Steve Bolesta – Roads and Drainage

25 year awards

- Greg Best – Water and Wastewater

35 year awards

- Peter Butler – Roads and Drainage

40 year awards

- William Ingram – Parks and Gardens

Just as we honour and recognise our long-service employees, we are delighted to have a new generation of skilled and qualified staff to contribute their energies and talents to the emerging needs of our Shire.

Work Health and Safety

At Leeton Shire Council we believe that the well-being of people employed at work, or people affected by our work, is a priority and must be considered during all work performed by Council or on behalf of Council.

Leeton Shire Council is committed to:

- Promoting and protecting the physical and psychological health and safety of workers
- Providing safe and healthy workplaces
- Establishing and monitoring management systems that prevent work-related injury and illness to workers and others who can be affected by Council activities
- Establishing measurable objectives and targets for health and safety to ensure continuous improvement aimed at elimination of work-related illness and injury or safety risks
- Continually improving Work Health and Safety (WHS) performance and management systems
- Demonstrating compliance with Council's WHS obligations outlined in legislation.

Council has continued to implement all elements of the WHS Management Plan that actively promotes continual improvement to health, safety, wellbeing and prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses of all staff.

Key safety and risk initiatives undertaken during the 2021/22 year included:

- Maintaining the mandatory/Safe Work and Legislative training program
- Ongoing COVID-19 Safety Plan updates and guideline implementation
- Publishing regular health and safety communications in the 'Council Connect' staff newsletter and safety alerts
- Undertaking operational site noise level evaluation
- Conducting regular workplace inspections and observations
- Developing and updating WHS Policies, Procedures, Plans and Safe Work Method Statements.

Council continues to improve its management of Work Health and Safety (WHS), as the results of the annual StateCover-facilitated WHS self-audits attest. These audits help councils evaluate and monitor their WHS management systems and management of key hazards. Leeton Shire Council's 2021 overall performance rating was 84.7%, which was above the average rating for councils in the Riverina. The 2022 audit included additional compliance requirements but Council's rating, at 83.3%, was once again above the average rating for Riverina councils.



All Council activities require a focus on WHS

Top: Parks and Gardens staff installing a swing while a safety observation is being carried out by a senior staff member (off camera)

Middle: Andrew Valenta and Phil Camm inspecting an electrical switchboard

Bottom: Andrew Valenta checks that the improvements identified during an earlier safety inspection have been implemented

Injury Management Statistics

Our injury statistics have improved considerably on the previous year's statistics (61 injuries in 2021/22, compared to 103 in 2020/21) but opportunities remain for ongoing improvement.

**Incidents without injury:** 53 (including near misses) with 5 of these incidents involving the public

**Total number of injuries:** 61, with a breakdown as follows:

- Injuries to members of the public: 3
- General workplace injuries: 14 (including illness – asthma attack)
- Out of School Care, Vacation Care, Indoor Stadium, Pool and Library – 47 (all third-party minor injuries)

**Lost time injuries (injuries resulting in the loss of a full day or more of work):** 8

**Workers compensation claims:** 10 (10 physical, 0 psychological) – 70% sprains and strains, 30% cuts and abrasions

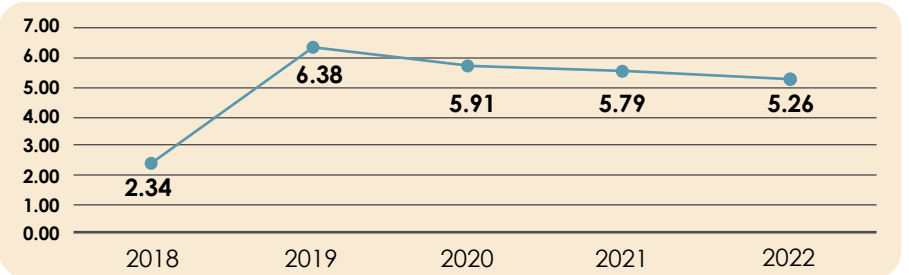
**Hours lost (for open workers compensation claims):** 2,948, with 2,720 of those hours lost to 3 claims

**Average incurred claims cost for the open workers compensation claims:** \$12,742

**Employees returned to work:** 10

In terms of the frequency of workers compensation claims, Leeton Shire Council is faring better than other similar councils. Not only has Leeton Shire Council's frequency of claims dropped in recent years, our 2022 claims frequency (5.26) compares favourably with the average claims frequency for similar councils (6.08).

Monitoring claims frequency using employee numbers



Council anticipates continued improvement in injury statistics in 2022/23 as the WHS initiatives being implemented bear fruit.

Employee Health and Wellbeing

Council once again successfully implemented its annual health program for all employees. The program consists of:

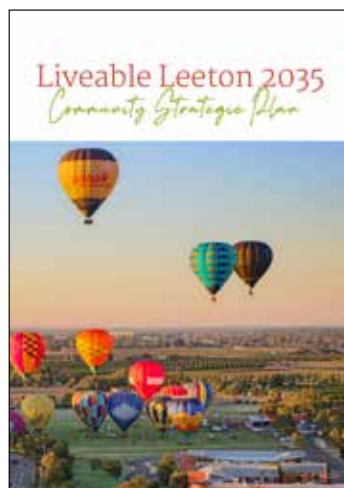
- Skin checks – predominantly aimed at Council's outdoor staff, skin checks are performed face-to-face by a registered nurse (melanographer) with experience and specific training in skin cancer screening
- Health checks – utilising a bio-metric scanner and blood tests
- Flu vaccinations – the annual vaccination protects staff against diseases caused by the highly variable influenza virus. With COVID-19 having a strong presence in 2021/22, we saw a rise in participants receiving the flu vaccination with a total of 93 employees taking part.

The health program has proven to be a great investment for Council by contributing to the health and wellbeing of its biggest asset – its people.

Leeton Shire Council's frequency of workers compensation claims has dropped in recent years. Our 2021/22 claims frequency (5.26) compares favourably with the average claims frequency of similar councils (6.08).



Good governance stems from accountability, close and accurate monitoring of performance and a framework that facilitates the achievement of strategic goals.



This year, on behalf of the Leeton Shire community, Council facilitated the development of a new Community Strategic Plan: *Liveable Leeton 2035*. While the Annual Report 2022 reports on activities undertaken in support of the Leeton on the Go – Towards 2030 Community Strategic Plan, the Annual Report 2023 will focus on activities undertaken in support of the new Community Strategic Plan

## Corporate Governance

Good governance stems from accountability, close and accurate monitoring of performance and a framework that facilitates the achievement of strategic goals.

Leeton Shire Council is committed to ensuring that:

- its policies and practices reflect good governance
- the manner in which the Council conducts its daily operations complies with the broad principles contained in the *Local Government Act 1993*.

## Our Community Strategic Plan

The Community Strategic Plan outlines the strategic directions set by and for the Leeton community. Council reports on the activities it undertakes in support of the Community Strategic Plan on a quarterly basis. It tracks progress towards achieving the overall outcomes of the Community Strategic Plan in a State of the Shire report at the end of each Council term.

## Code of Conduct and Code of Meeting Practice

Council's Code of Conduct applies to Councillors, the General Manager, the Senior Management Team and all other employees of Leeton Shire Council. All are expected to act in accordance with the Code and to do everything possible to influence those with whom they are working to ensure that they also maintain similar standards of integrity and ethical behaviour.

No Code of Conduct complaints were made during the 2021/22 financial year.

Council's Code of Meeting Practice applies to all meetings of Council and Committees of Council of which all members are Councillors.

Both Codes were updated and adopted in 2022 and can be viewed under the heading of Policies on Council's website at [www.leeton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.leeton.nsw.gov.au).

## Child Safe Organisation

Council is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children. That commitment led Council to advance the process of becoming a Child Safe Organisation by implementing the Child Safe Policy adopted in June 2020.

In 2021/22, Council continued the process of entrenching Child Safe practices across the organisation by embedding Child Safety in all relevant policies, procurement processes, contracts and project management.

## Procurement Activities

Each year Council spends millions of dollars on purchases. We have developed a suite of policies, procedures, guidelines and templates for use when purchases are made. These ensure that our procurement activities are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and associated regulations, and in accordance with the principles of good governance.

During the course of the 2021/22 financial year, Leeton Shire Council strengthened its control over its procurement activities including:

- Continuing to implement the Procurement Process Improvement Action Plan
- Using the VendorPanel and Tenderlink platforms to procure goods and services
- Ensuring Council's pool of potential local suppliers is maximised by encouraging and supporting those suppliers to register with VendorPanel.

## Risk Management

All councils operate in a changing and uncertain environment. The Office of Local Government defines risk as 'the effect of this uncertainty on a council's ability to achieve its goals and objectives'. In this instance, effect is 'the potential for an outcome that is different to what was expected or planned for'.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires all councils to appropriately manage its risks. The NSW Government's Internal Audit Guidelines encourage all councils in NSW to have a structured risk management framework in place to identify any known and emerging risks they face and implement controls to manage these risks. Internal controls are the actions taken by a council to manage both the positive and negative impact of risk on its community.

Risk management activities undertaken during the 2021/22 financial year included:

- Actively participating in and contributing to the Project Management Office and the formal framework for Project Control Groups
- Completing the StateCover Mutual Limited self-assessment audit with regard to WHS
- Completing the Statewide Continuous Improvement Pathway audit which covered risk management compliance for tree management, stormwater and claims management
- Ongoing training in, reference to and exposure to the Pulse Enterprise Risk Management module to improve visibility of organisational risk, completion of mitigation actions and support risk management for projects
- Maintaining Council's compliance with updated COVID-19 rules and guidelines
- Reviewing Council's Incident Reporting and Alcohol and Other Drugs policies
- Introducing a Return to Work module in Vault, Council's risk reporting and recording system
- Commencing Health and Wellbeing Program initiatives, including conducting a staff survey covering aspects of individual staff member's physical and mental health position
- Developing an Ageing Workforce Strategy – commenced consultation, pre-employment check improvements and the development of a physical fit-for-duties plan
- Purchasing OdaLog Gas Loggers to better gauge gas omission levels at the Leeton Sewerage Treatment Plant
- Conducting noise level monitoring, with testing completed at the Leeton Water Treatment Plant, Leeton Sewerage Treatment Plant and Depot Workshop
- Conducting regular site inspections and observations
- Updating relevant property and vehicle asset registers and cybersecurity information to support effective Statewide Mutual insurance renewals.

Leeton Shire Council has a structured risk management framework in place to identify risks and implement controls to manage those risks.



The ARIC is charged with providing assurance, oversight and advice to Council and the General Manager in relation to the governance, risk and internal control functions of Council.

Audit Management

The Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee

Leeton Shire Council's Audit Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) was established in 2018.

It is charged with providing assurance, oversight and advice to Council and the General Manager in relation to the governance, risk and internal control functions of Council. Their charter covers risk management, control, governance and external accountability responsibilities.

The ARIC promotes good corporate governance by the provision of independent objective assurance and assistance to the Council on:

- Governance and compliance
- Risk management
- Fraud control
- Financial management
- Implementation of Council plans and strategies
- Service reviews
- Collection of performance measurement data by the Council
- Integrated Planning and Reporting
- Any other matters prescribed by regulations.

Membership of the ARIC was renewed to coincide with the new term of Council. Council called for Expressions of Interest in December/January, and members were appointed in February 2022.

The ARIC membership is now comprised of:

- Two Councillors – one voting and one non-voting (to act as alternate if required)
- Three independent external members (voting), one of whom is the independent chair of the committee
- One non-voting independent member.

Meetings are also attended by members of the Senior Management Team and staff who are subject matter experts, as required, including the Manager Finance. Staff attendees are not eligible to vote.



COVID-19 meant that it was necessary to conduct many meetings via videolink, including the ARIC Meeting of 9 September 2021

The ARIC met three times in 2021/22. Under its guidance, Leeton Shire Council:

- reviewed its draft 2021/22 budget and annual financial statements
- oversaw the integrated Planning and Reporting process
- conducted its internal audit program and the implementation of audit improvement plans
- reviewed its Cybersecurity Framework
- advocated for the removal of the Audit Office requirement to include Rural Fire Service (RFS) equipment and assets in Council's annual financial statements.

Internal Audits

Internal audits are a mechanism used by councils to obtain independent assurance that it is performing its functions legally, effectively and efficiently and to advise on how it can improve its performance.

In 2021/22, Council:

- Presented a report on the findings of an audit into Council's Fraud Prevention and Control Framework to Council and the ARIC, and entered the improvement actions identified into the Pulse Enterprise Risk Management to enable easy tracking of progress in implementation
- Continued to implement the Records Management System Improvement Action Plan. Most of the actions have been completed or have been addressed and are ongoing
- Continued to implement the Procurement Improvement Process Action Plan
- Conducted audits of Council's Sale of Investment Water and Sale of Real Estate. The reports on both audits will be presented to the ARIC in August 2022
- Commenced an audit of Council's Contract and Project Management. This audit is expected to be completed in August 2022.

External Audits

An external audit, or financial audit, is an independent examination and opinion of a council's financial statements, and whether the council is complying with accounting standards, laws and regulations.

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires each council to have their annual financial reports externally audited by the NSW Auditor-General so that the community and councillors have access to an independent opinion on its validity. The NSW Audit Office conducts these audits on behalf of the NSW Auditor-General.

Since 2017, the NSW Auditor-General has also reported to the NSW Parliament each year on Local Government sector-wide matters arising from the examination of financial statements of councils and any other issues that the Auditor-General has identified.

The external auditors primarily provide an assurance that Council's financial statements reflect the financial position of Council at the conclusion of the financial year. The work conducted by the external auditors to enable them to provide this assurance includes:

- Testing a sample of Council's internal controls
- Observation of processes or procedures being performed
- Enquiries of individuals within Council
- Examining financial and accounting records, other documents and tangible assets
- Obtaining written confirmations of certain items.

Council uses internal audits to check that it is performing its functions legally, effectively and efficiently, and to obtain information on how it can improve its performance.



The report on the findings of an audit into Council's Fraud Prevention and Control Framework was presented to Council and the ARIC in the first quarter of 2021/22 and implementation of the recommended improvement actions commenced



The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* (PID Act) sets in place a system for encouraging public officials to report serious wrongdoing.

### Public Interest Disclosures

The *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994* (PID Act) sets in place a system for encouraging public officials to report serious wrongdoing. The conditions around this reporting are set out in Council's Internal Reporting Policy.

Leeton Shire Council has a Public Interest Disclosures Policy under section 6D of the PID Act. The policy has procedures for receiving, assessing and dealing with public interest disclosures. It conforms to Council's Code of Conduct, Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, Workplace Harassment Policy and Workplace Grievance Procedure Policy.

Public authorities such as Leeton Shire Council are required to report annually to Parliament on their obligations under the PID Act (section 31). This information is provided in the Statutory Information section of this report on page 110.

### Public Access to Government Information

In compliance with the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA Act) Leeton Shire Council provides access to the information it holds in the following ways:

- Mandatory release via Council's website (open access)
- Authorised proactive release via Council's website
- Informal release via an informal access application
- Formal release via a formal access application.

A number of open access documents are available. These include Council plans and policies, Council's Code of Conduct, an Access to Information Policy and Guide, a Register of Government Contracts, the Integrated Planning and Reporting document suite and the Agendas and Minutes of Council meetings.

Where information is released to an applicant under a formal access application and Council considers that it will be of interest to other members of the public, Council may provide details of the information in its disclosure log on Council's website for inspection by the public.

Council is required to produce an Annual Report under section 125 of the GIPA Act. A summary of the information provided in this report has been included in the Statutory Information section of this report on page 110.

### Conflicts of Interest and Pecuniary Interest

Councillors and senior staff are required to declare any conflict of interest in any matter, and the nature of that interest, before a matter is discussed in a Council or Committee meeting.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, all Councillors and senior staff are required to complete returns of Interest forms on election/appointment, and annually thereafter.

Completed Returns of Interest forms for the past two years can be viewed on Council's website. Returns for the years prior to this date are contained in the Pecuniary Interest Register, which is available for viewing at Leeton Shire Council's main office.

Right: Cr Tony Reneker (left) and Corporate and Community Planning Officer Sarah Collis (right) with community member Ron Demamiel at a community consultation session in Whitton. During the development of the new Liveable Leeton 2035 Community Strategic Plan (CSP), consultation was conducted at various locations across the Shire to obtain community input into the development of the CSP

Page 46: A float taking part in The Irrigator Street Parade. The Street Parade is one of the highlights of the SunRice Festival

### Community Engagement

Leeton Shire Council is committed to engaging with residents, businesses, stakeholders and Council officers as it develops strategies, and plans services and facilities.

Involvement in the development of strategies and in planning the delivery of services has a number of benefits for the community, stakeholders and Council because it:

- ensures that priorities are appropriate for current and future needs
- provides valuable information and increases understanding for planning
- adds value to projects and the outcomes they seek to achieve.

Community consultation is an ongoing commitment. Our activities and achievements are promoted to the community through our website, media releases, Facebook, LinkedIn and the weekly half-page 'Leeton Shire Council Noticeboard' published in *The Irrigator*.

Extensive consultation also takes place in relation to Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan, annual budget and Council policies.

Residents are invited to attend, ask questions and make submissions to Council meetings. They are also invited to participate in forums on various issues.

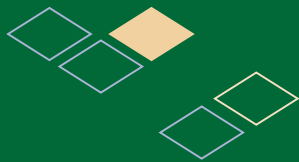
Our Councillors and senior management hold positions on many associations, urban infrastructure groups, regional committees and other groups.

For more information on Council's 2021/22 Community Engagement Program, please see page 91.

Leeton Shire Council is committed to engaging with residents, businesses and other stakeholders as it develops strategies, and plans services and facilities.







Details of the key actions Council has undertaken during the 2021/22 financial year in order to progress the goals set by the Leeton Shire community are outlined in the following pages.

The information is organised according to the themes and goals set out in the *Leeton on the Go – Towards 2030 Community Strategic Plan*.

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## GOAL 1

**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that focuses on being healthy:**

- 1a. Provide exercise opportunities to increase fitness and wellbeing**
- 1b. Advocate for the availability of appropriate health and social services.**

### **A Healthy and Caring Community (previous page)**

Top images, clockwise from left: Mrs Mandeep Kaur, Mr Talvir Singh and their children Gursahib (12) and Gurtaj (7) Singh with Emeritus Mayor Cr Paul Maytom (centre) Young Wiradjuri dancers performing during the official ceremony marking Australia Day 2022

Ranger Grant Bridge (left) with Elaine Meekin and her dog Beau at a free microchipping day held in August 2021

Bottom images, from left to right: Kerb and guttering being installed in Wilga and Myrtle Streets

The Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library

Rob Freer (left) and Josh Eurell install a driveway layback

## Theme 1: A Healthy and Caring Community

### A community that focuses on being healthy

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Made a submission to the Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW and spoke in support of the submission at a hearing conducted as part of the Inquiry
- Commenced a review of health services in Leeton Shire, the results of which will feed into an Integrated Health Services Strategy aimed at achieving better quality health and emergency health services for residents of Leeton Shire. In collaboration with the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD) and the Leeton Health Service Crisis Committee (LHSCC) Council is developing a survey that will feed into the MLHD's Health Service Plan and the LHSCC/LSC Integrated Health Services Strategy Plan
- Met with NSW Regional Health Minister, the Hon Bronnie Taylor, to brief her on Leeton's Integrated Health Services Strategy Plan
- Sponsored two students (one medical student and one nursing student) as part of the NSW Rural Doctors Network's Bush Bursary Country Women's Association (NSW) Scholarship Program. Under this program, Council provides funding to assist selected healthcare students with costs associated with their studies. In return, the students complete a two-week placement in and around Leeton Shire. This year the students' rotation included placements at Leeton District Hospital, Murrumbidgee Medical and Primary Care Centre, Narrandera District Hospital and Marathon Health
- Provided accommodation and support to two University of Wollongong student doctors undertaking a ten-month placement in Leeton. This year is the twelfth year Leeton Shire has supported the Wollongong University of Medicine Student Doctor Program
- Submitted the following motion for inclusion in the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) annual advocacy program: That LGNSW calls on the Australian Government to dedicate funds to increase drug and alcohol treatment and rehabilitation options in rural and regional areas as a matter of priority. The motion was adopted
- Submitted the following motion for inclusion in the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) annual advocacy program: This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to partner with State and Territory Governments to drive improvements in health access and outcomes in rural, regional and remote Australia, including exploring innovative models of care and more flexible allocation of funding. The motion was adopted
- Completed the final stages of the Leeton Skate Park Extension Project – the lighting and signage. This project was funded under the Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 3
- Conducted 55 food safety inspections of food premises, eight inspections of skin penetration premises and 50 inspections of swimming pools
- Issued Food Safety Calendars and NSW Health Food Safety Awareness Information Packs to all food premises in the Shire



- Conducted the annual mosquito monitoring program and chicken sentinel flock monitoring during the period December 21 to April 2022 and promoted arbovirus awareness during the peak risk period
- Along with members of the Leeton Health Services Crisis Committee (LHSCC), represented Council at a Rural Health Forum organised by Member for Murray Helen Dalton MP
- Received regular briefings on COVID-19 relevant to the Riverina from MLHD and Emergency Services and extensively shared COVID-19 health regulation updates with the community
- Supported COVID-19 vaccination by providing the venues for three pop-up vaccination clinics. Two hundred people attended a vaccination clinic at the Leeton Indoor Stadium in October 2021 and 200 attended a second clinic at the Stadium in November 2021. A third clinic was held in the Leeton Multipurpose Centre in March 2022.



Leeton Health Services Crisis Committee member Maryann Iannelli with Shadow Minister for Health Mr Ryan Park MP at a Rural Health Forum held in Griffith. Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Kidd and Health Portfolio lead Cr Tony Ciccio also attended the event  
Opposite page, from left to right: Bush Bursary students Madeline Greentree and Tamara Best with Marathon Health's Karen Ingram and Leeton Shire Council's Corporate and Community Planning Officer Kate Weston





## GOAL 2

Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that embraces lifelong learning:

- 2a. Provide a range of quality and affordable education opportunities from early childhood to adult learning
- 2b. Provide access to information technology networks.

### Theme 1: A Healthy and Caring Community

#### A community that embraces lifelong learning

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Offered quality, age-appropriate early childhood education for up to 68 children per day through the Leeton Early Learning Centre (LELC), with an average scheduled attendance of 90% and a waiting list of 135 children
- Through the Leeton Out of School Care (LOOSC) Program, provided a total of 40 weeks of After School Care (ASC) and 10 weeks and 3 days of Vacation Care (VAC) for primary school aged children. The average scheduled attendance was 43.5% for ASC and 44% for VAC, which is lower than it was in pre-COVID years
- Offered work experience and work placements to a total of 16 students from Leeton High School, St Francis De Sales Regional College, TAFE NSW Leeton, Charles Sturt University and the University of New England. The students completed placements in Childcare and Open Space and Recreation
- As a member of the Grow Our Own network, sponsored and attended the Riverina Careers Day at Leeton High School. Grow Our Own is an alliance of business, industry, education, employment providers and government agencies who seek to inform and inspire young people, on-the-job trainees and graduates with the opportunities to live, work and learn in the Riverina
- Provided school-based traineeships to three students, two in childcare and one in horticulture. These students worked one day a week at Council, two of them at the Leeton Early Learning Centre and one in Open Space and Recreation
- Provided full-time traineeships to four new trainees. Two of the new trainees commenced childcare educator traineeships at the Leeton Early Learning Centre, one commenced a library traineeship at the Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library, and one commenced a business and administration traineeship with a focus on customer service at Council's administration office. The new traineeships were in addition to the five traineeships and one apprenticeship already in place

Opposite page, top to bottom:  
Hannah Anderson enjoys one of the many activities for young people at the library  
Library Technician Susie Rowe holds examples of the library's multicultural resources  
One of the students of the Country Universities Centre makes good use of the available facilities Source: Kurrajong

Life at the Leeton Early Learning Centre: Harvey Morris (left) is engrossed in his task while Rylie Clowes (right) gets creative with pink



- Completed extensive bathroom renovations and constructed a new car park at the Leeton Early Learning Centre. These improvements were achieved with a grant of \$167,000 from the Federal Government's Community Childcare Fund (CCCF)
- With the aim of addressing the undersupply of childcare places in Leeton Shire, approved additional funding for the expansion of the Leeton Early Learning Centre to enable it to provide an additional 20 places. The expansion, which involves extending the boundary of the Leeton Early Learning Centre into Waipukarau Park and construction of an additional classroom, is expected to be completed by 2023
- Hosted a variety of activities and programs – including Baby Rhyme Time, Lego, Dungeons and Dragons, Tai Chi, Bridge, Knitters (Wrapped with Love), Brain Games and StoryTime – at the Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library. More than 12,850 visits were made to the library and 5,101 people participated in events, activities and programs throughout the year
- Loaned 34,082 books and other items to more than 5,200 library members, with 4,616 of those loans being made via the Home Library Service the library provides to those who find it difficult to attend the library
- Became a member of the Riverina Regional Library network of 19 libraries. Membership of the Riverina Regional Library will benefit the Leeton Shire community by providing the Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library with access to 240,000 items – including an additional 3,000 eBooks and eAudiobooks, an upgraded online catalogue and a broad range of online programs and support kits for all ages
- Supported between 21 and 53 (numbers varied throughout the year) registered students through the Country Universities Centre (CUC) – Leeton Campus, which is located at the Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library. These students accessed the facility on more than 236 occasions
- Provided free public WiFi, a service utilised by 2,141 community members and visitors.





## GOAL 3

Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that is friendly and inclusive:

- 3a. Help the community to access community services
- 3b. Provide opportunities and support for young people in Leeton Shire
- 3c. Advance the wellbeing of Leeton Shire's elderly residents and residents living with a disability
- 3d. Foster a cohesive community that welcomes new residents and values cultural diversity
- 3e. Acknowledge the Wiradjuri people and strengthen relationships with the Indigenous community of Leeton Shire
- 3f. Provide cemetery services at Leeton and Whitton
- 3g. Provide a Multipurpose Community Hub to support local community groups and the residents they serve.

### Theme 1: A Healthy and Caring Community

#### A community that is friendly and inclusive

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- In partnership with My Plan Connect, launched the Lands Office Café, which is housed in the Leeton Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG), as a social enterprise café focused on delivering employment readiness for disadvantaged youth. Initially, young people with disabilities and an interest in working in hospitality were trained in cafe operation. The training was completed on 8 November 2021 and the Lands Office Cafe opened to the public on a regular basis from 9 November 2021
- In collaboration with the University of Western Sydney, HOST International and Multicultural NSW, sourced \$15,000 in funding from Multicultural NSW for training (\$3,000) and to put towards employing a Peace Project Coordinator whose role is to deliver employment readiness for disadvantaged youth through projects such as the Lands Office Cafe
- Secured funding for the development of a new and improved online community directory, the Leeton Connect – Community Hub. This project, which is jointly managed by Council and Leeton Connect, officially commenced in January 2022
- Coordinated a Youth Week 2022 program for children and youth aged 8+ that included a mental health awareness presentation by Headspace Griffith, Youth iPads, treasure hunts, craft activities and Rubik's cube tryouts
- Supported the Leeton Uniting Church in hosting Carols in the Park, which was attended by approximately 200 people. Council helped make the event COVID safe by supplying bollards for temporary fencing of the area
- Supported community events in Gossamer Park organised by the Leeton Community Care Development Inc. Community Op Shop. Events included a Family Lunch and Get Together in August 2021, a family BBQ and Get Together in September 2021 and a One Leeton Christmas Get Together in December 2021, with lunch provided by the Rapid Relief Team, a waterslide, jumping castle and face painting
- Continued with plans to establish a Leeton Youth Council to provide an avenue for young people to engage with Council. The Youth Council will be an advisory committee made up of members aged 14 to 18. Council will call for Expressions of Interest in serving on the Committee in August 2022
- Submitted the annual Disability Improvement Action Plan (DIAP) implementation report to the Disability Council NSW and consulted with disability providers and community members in preparation for the development of a new DIAP
- Promoted community awareness of the importance of disability parking spaces and the restrictions surrounding their use via Council's Facebook page, and followed up by conducting 48 patrols and issuing six infringement notices for misuse of disability parking spaces by people without a permit
- Continued to work with the Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council and Parkview Public School in supporting the Leeton Association of Community-Builders (LAC-B), a peak body for delivering key outcomes for Wattle Hill

- Hosted four citizenship ceremonies, one on Australian Citizenship Day (17 September 2021), one on Australia Day (26 January 2022), one on Harmony Day (21 March 2022) and one on 24 June 2022 to mark Refugee Week. Leeton Shire welcomed a total of 52 new citizens at these ceremonies: 39 adults and 13 children. The new citizens originated from various countries including the Philippines, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, China, Taiwan and the United Kingdom
- Supported Multicultural NSW in implementing its Regional Resettlement Pilot Program, NSW Growing Regions of Welcome (NSW GROW). NSW GROW has the dual aims of supporting regional communities and employers in attracting and retaining newcomers, and connecting migrants and refugees in Western Sydney with employment and lifestyle opportunities in regional NSW
- As one of NSW GROW's earmarked settlement sites, Leeton Shire hosted the Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina's launch of the NSW GROW on 29 June 2022. The launch was officiated by the Minister for Multiculturalism, the Coordinator General for Settlement and the Chief Executive Officer of Multicultural NSW
- In partnership with Settlement Services International (SSI), BEC Business Advice, the Leeton Business Chamber and Leeton Connect, commenced the development of a new Leeton Settlement Online Hub. The Leeton Work+Stay application, the first stage of the project, has been successfully deployed. The next step will be to merge the Work+Stay application with a bespoke Leeton Jobs portal. The Leeton Business Chamber has recruited a grant-funded Coordinator who has responsibility for operational oversight of the hub
- Participated in quarterly Multicultural Interagency Network meetings. The Multicultural Interagency Network is a network of services, agencies and organisations which provide support and action for local culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities.



Council's Town Planner Ali Mehdi presents at the Regional Development Australia Riverina's launch of NSW GROW





Tom and Remma Moonnumackal, and their daughter Lauren, are relative newcomers to Leeton Shire. Tom commenced as Council's Roads and Project Coordinator in 2021. Opposite page, from top to bottom: Leeton's 2022 Australia Day celebrations had a strong First Nations theme.

The Leeton Multicultural Support Group participated in the SunRice Festival's Irrigator Street Parade.

Council supported the celebrations marking Samoan/Pacific Islands Independence Day.

- Supported and participated in the filming of an episode of the ABC television program *Back Roads*, which focussed on the Leeton Shire community's warm welcome of immigrants, including refugees. The episode is to air in July 2022.
- Supported the preparation of the report *Learning from Leeton: A case study of refugee settlement in rural Australia*, an 84-page report prepared by researchers from the University of South Australia, Charles Sturt University and Charles Darwin University. The report, which was launched in Leeton on 27 June 2022, explores the reasons why Hazara Afghans have moved to Leeton, their experience, and how the town has successfully integrated the newcomers.
- Completed the construction of additional plinths in the Leeton Lawn Cemetery and a general tidy up of Whitton Cemetery. Ongoing maintenance of both cemeteries continued.
- Contracted the services of a landscape architect to develop a Masterplan for the expansion of the Leeton Cemetery. Consultation and design work will commence early in the new financial year.
- Continued to auspice staff (grant funded) for Leeton Connect and the Leeton Multicultural Support Group (LMSG).
- Completed the refurbishment of the Multipurpose Community Centre Hall, which included installation of a skylight and an additional access door, and the provision of 50 new chairs for the hire space.
- Managed the Leeton Multipurpose Centre, leasing office space to five tenants and hiring out rooms on a casual basis to 36 hirers on 194 occasions.
- With the assistance of a National Australia Day Council grant of \$22,000, hosted a very successful First Nations themed Australia Day celebration on 26 January 2022. The program of activities included an official ceremony – which incorporated a Smoking Ceremony, Welcome to Country and a didgeridoo player – in Mountford Park, a bush tucker lunch, and a free Pool Party at the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre with music by DJ Ken and a live performance by Wiradjuri musician Dookie. The celebrations were complemented by Wiradjuri language street banners, the projection of Indigenous artwork onto the main water tower in Chelmsford Place during the week of Australia Day, and artefact displays and leaf drawing activities at both Mountford Park and the Pool Party. The results of the leaf drawing activity were later combined as a wreath around an Acknowledgement of Country, framed and presented to Council.
- The Library and LMAG collaborated to celebrate the Seniors Festival 2022. The library organised a range of speakers from various community, aged care and health organisations, and the LMAG organised a special senior's price at the Lands Office Cafe.
- Supported Harmony Week celebrations which included lunch at the Leeton Uniting Church and presentations by the Solomon Islander, Fijian, Afghani and Zimbabwean communities. More than 150 community members participated in the celebrations, including a number of newcomers who, having entered Australia under the Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Programmes, have secured agricultural jobs locally.





## GOAL 4

Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that is safe to live in and move about:

- 4a. Advocate for and support initiatives to reduce crime
- 4b. Advocate for and support road safety initiatives
- 4c. Monitor and maintain Leeton Shire's street lighting and CCTV networks
- 4d. Reduce Leeton Shire's risk from natural disasters
- 4e. Provide animal control services across Leeton Shire
- 4f. Public health is maintained across Leeton Shire
- 4g. Facilitate pedestrians and cyclists to get around safely.

### Theme 1: A Healthy and Caring Community

#### A community that is safe to live in and move about

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Conducted a domestic and family violence awareness campaign in May to coincide with Domestic and Family Violence Awareness and Prevention Month to raise community awareness of the social and personal impacts of domestic and family violence, and the support available to those affected
- Extended the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) network by installing 8 new CCTV cameras at various locations in the Leeton CBD including the Leeton Indoor Stadium and in front of the Leeton and Wade Hotels. Two new CCTV cameras were also installed Whitton Park to monitor the park and skate park
- Updated CCTV signage to better inform residents and visitors of the presence of CCTV cameras in the vicinity
- Erected 10 solar streetlights along the Daalbata Road shared pathway from Grevillia Street to Almond Road
- Installed Vehicle Activated Signage on Research Road at Yanco
- With the support of funding from Transport for NSW (TfNSW), organised a variety of road safety activities including a 'Slow Down Around Town' campaign; a 'Drink Drive' campaign, with four local pubs and clubs participating in the 'Win a Swag' campaign over the Christmas/New Year period and three local bottle shops participating over the Easter period; a Free Child Restraint Checking Day; a Mobility Scooter and 65+ Driving Workshop; a Graduate Licensing Scheme Workshop and a Survive the Ride – Free Rider Safety Workshop. These activities were supported by social media posts, advertising and monthly road safety editorials in *The Irrigator*
- Supported the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA) Program event, which was held over 3 days at the Yanco Agricultural Institute in May 2022. More than 300 students from across the region attended the event. The RYDA event has been an annual event since 2008. This year a significant milestone was reached with the 5000th student taking part
- As part of the Floodplain Management Program, sought and obtained funding of \$95,000 from the Preparing Australian Communities – Local Stream Fund for a feasibility assessment of flooding mitigation options
- Responded to 27 reports of dog attacks (on animals and/or humans) in the Leeton Shire, issuing warnings, infringement notices/fines, dangerous dog declarations and/or menacing dog orders as required
- Impounded 260 dogs throughout the year. Of this number, 146 were returned to their owners and 103 were transferred to rehoming organisations. This represents a 95% return to owner/rehoming rate
- Carried out the annual Mosquito Trapping and Sentinel Chicken Surveillance Programs aimed at early detection of mosquito-borne viruses such as Ross River Fever. No arboviruses were detected
- In response to Japanese encephalitis being detected in Western NSW and a surge in cases of Ross River fever in the region, conducted Ross River fever and Japanese encephalitis education campaigns in the Leeton Shire community



Vehicle Activated Signage being installed at Research Road, Yanco

Below: Road Safety Officer Stephanie Puntoriero with the signage used during the 'Slow Down Around Town' road safety campaign

Below right: The Brobenah Road pedestrian bridge under construction. The bridge links the shared pathways along Palm Avenue and Brobenah Road



- Completed and commissioned the new Brobenah Road pedestrian bridge linking the shared pathways along Palm Avenue and Brobenah Road
- Repaired footpath defects identified via Council's inspection program and/or in response to notifications by members of the community
- Constructed a new section of shared pathway along Acacia Avenue from Irrigation Way (Toyota building) to the end of the existing shared pathway
- Commenced work on constructing a new section of shared path/cycleway along Maiden Avenue from Acacia Avenue to Saint Francis de Sales Regional College to complete the link of shared path/cycleway around the Leeton CBD. The site has been surveyed and the design is underway
- Replaced a section of kerb and guttering along Myrtle-Wilga Streets, from Sycamore Street to Yarran Street
- Inspected all bus shelters in the Shire as part of the annual inspection program. A bus shelter on Peyton Road was removed because it was no longer in use and was deemed to be unsafe. Three shelters, one in Whitton, one on Merungle Hill Road and one on Browns Road, Leeton, were identified as being in need of replacement, and it was recommended that one shelter be installed on Kathryn Drive, Leeton
- Successfully applied for Country Passenger Terminal Infrastructure Grants Scheme funding to replace the bus shelter in Whitton and to install a new bus shelter on Kathryn Drive.
- Was successful in obtaining funds under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Fund – Round 3 for the construction of a shared pathway along Corbie Hill Road from Irrigation Way to Petersham Road. Stakeholder meetings have taken place and preliminary works for the new pathway are underway
- Commenced development of a new Active Transport Plan to replace the existing Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP). The Active Transport Plan will guide the development of practical transport solutions that support the active transport needs of pedestrians and cyclists, including older people and pedestrians with mobility and vision impairments.



GOAL 5

Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that enjoys good housing:

- 5a. Support the community to access a range of quality and affordable housing
- 5b. Expand the range of residential opportunities across the Shire
- 5c. Safeguard housing standards to promote healthy living and a healthy environment.

Opposite page, clockwise from top: Cr George Weston (left), Cr Krystal Maytom (second from left) and Cr Tony Reneker (right) outside one of the Eventide Homes units. Council hosted a BBQ for Eventide Homes residents in April 2022

Town Planner Ali Mehdi (left) with Manager Planning, Building and Health Francois Van der Berg Group Manger Activation Andrew Reilly presents information on the new Leeton Development Control Plan to Council

Theme 1: A Healthy and Caring Community

A community that enjoys good housing

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Developed a Housing Strategy for the Shire. The Housing Strategy, which was adopted in November 2021, considers local issues in relation to housing and identifies where Council can guide facilities and infrastructure development by either facilitating, planning or land use zoning to fill identified gaps
- Monitored the provision of accommodation at the Leeton and District Eventide Homes with the aim of providing self-care units to eligible pensioners. At 30 June 2022, all 14 Eventide Homes units were occupied
- Drafted a new Leeton Development Control Plan (DCP). The aim of the DCP is to reflect community acceptable development standards in relation to residential accommodation design, energy efficiency, accommodation suitable for aging population, affordable housing and short-term accommodation such as backpackers, and to preserve and enhance heritage buildings in the CBD
- Approved 29 Development Applications for dwellings/residential development including:
  - 3 for the erection of units – dual occupancies
  - 15 for the erection of a dwelling house
  - 1 for the installation of a transportable dwelling
  - 2 for the demolition of a dwelling house
  - 2 for shed for use as a temporary dwelling
  - 1 for multi-dwelling housing – 3 or more units
  - 1 for a granny flat
  - 1 for a relocated dwelling house
  - 1 for secondary dwellings
  - 2 that include the demolition and construction of new dwelling
- Issued 22 Construction Certificates for dwellings including:
  - 3 for the erection of dual occupancy – 2 units (2 of them issued by a private certifier)
  - 15 for the construction of a dwelling house (8 of them issued by private certifiers)
  - 1 for a secondary dwelling
  - 2 for use of shed as a temporary dwelling
  - 1 Section 68 Approvals for transportable buildings (issued for portable buildings in lieu of a Construction Certificate)
- Approved 15 new dwellings in accordance with Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) requirements. Houses approved for a BASIX Certificate are energy and water efficient.







## GOAL 6

**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that participates in sports and active leisure:**

- 6a. Offer access to a range of quality sporting facilities**
- 6b. Support local sport and recreation clubs to remain viable.**

## Theme 2: An Active and Enriched Community

### A community that participates in sports and active leisure

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Maintained the Leeton Town Ovals Complex which includes No. 1 Oval – home of the Leeton Greenies Rugby League Football Club, Leeton United Football Club and the Leeton Phantoms Rugby Union Club – the Yanco Sports Ground, and the Mark Taylor Oval – the main cricketing facility in Leeton Shire
- Successfully sourced funding under the Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 4 to upgrade the lighting at No. 1 Oval to LED. Contactors have been engaged and all components for the upgrade have been ordered
- Installed five CCTV cameras on the dressing sheds at No. 1 Oval to mitigate a spate of vandalism
- Completed the remediation of pool leaks at the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre and progressed procurement of a replacement slide and replacement splash pool toys. A solution for concourse treatment was also investigated. Grant funding was secured to procure a new pool blanket to improve heating efficiencies
- Partnered with The Totem Collective and community groups to host the 19th Annual Riggz Cup Riverina Skate Championships at the Leeton Skate Park. Twenty-five competitors aged 5 to Open competed in the event
- Continued to manage and operate the Leeton Golf Course with the help of 24 active volunteers. A total of 18,258 rounds of golf were played (a 2.8% increase on 2020/21 figures). Golf Club membership numbers remained strong at 261 members
- With the help of the Golf Course volunteers, undertook a reconstruction of the Fifteenth green. The new green is around 20 per cent larger, has a more consistent soil profile and will deliver a much better playing experience
- Maintained and operated the Leeton Indoor Stadium. Despite COVID-19 participant numbers – at 18,499 – remained quite strong. Sports played included basketball, netball, croquet, futsal, volleyball and gymnastics
- Unveiled the plaques for the inaugural inductees of Leeton's new Sporting Walk of Fame: Mark Taylor, Matthew Dunn, Krishna Stanton, Patricia Thompson and Brian Waters. The Sporting Walk of Fame celebrates the achievements of Leeton local sporting legends by cementing their legacies in the pavement outside Leeton's No. 1 Oval. The unveiling was celebrated with a free lunchtime sausage sizzle and a dinner at the Leeton Soldiers Club
- Installed a new air-conditioner in the tennis clubroom in preparation for the clubrooms being reopened to the public
- Continued to work with Golf Club Committee to advance plans to develop a new club house.

### **An Active and Enriched Community (previous page)**

Top images, clockwise from top left: A section of the Whitton town mural

Angus and Bec Simms at the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre  
Cr George Weston addressing attendees at the Shades of Green Cocktail Party

Riggz Cup Winner Felicity Turner (left), from Wollongong, with Nixen Osborne of Totem Skateboarding

Enjoying the How Cities Work Exhibition at the LMAG

Entertainment at the SunRice Festival

Bottom images, left to right: Leeton Town Band Member Ruth Tate

The Whitton Court House





## GOAL 7

Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that enjoys arts and culture:

- 7a. Provide a local theatre for performing arts and cinematic arts and events
- 7b. Enhance artistic and cultural activity across Leeton Shire.

### Theme 2: An Active and Enriched Community

#### A community that enjoys arts and culture

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Commenced physical works on the redevelopment of the Roxy Community Theatre. By 30 June 2022, 80% of the demolition work had been completed, footings in the old Crate Café had been excavated, slab inspections had been conducted and the flooring in the auditorium had been removed. The redevelopment, when complete, will result in a Roxy that complies with building, accessibility and theatre industry standards. The redeveloped Roxy will also possess improved dressing rooms, a larger stage, a new heating and cooling system, a second auditorium and an improved foyer/lounge/servery
- Collaborated with Western Riverina Arts on a number of key projects including the Penny Paniz Acquisitive Arts Competition and Exhibition, Jammin' in the Park (in Mountford Park), the Roslyn Lockhart: Her Story exhibition, the Dorothy Roddy residency, a callout to artists from the Murray and Riverina regions to create artworks for the Rescue of Riverina Birds Project, and Riverina Writing House readings and meetings
- Attracted 3,608 visitors to a total of 22 exhibitions and events at the Leeton Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG) including:
  - Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears
  - Sharon De Valentin: Flourish and Decay
  - How Cities Work
  - Andrew Whitehead: Making It
  - Dorothy Roddy and Leonie Napier: Moments in Time
  - Lee Blacker-Noble: Past Glories
  - Natalie Power, Robyn Hutchinson and Edie Rudd: Places and Space(s),
  - Anne Morshead and Jan Thompson: Two Points of View
  - The Penny Paniz Acquisitive Arts Competition (132 entries) and Exhibition
  - Roslyn Lockhart: Her Story
  - Yanco Public School, Gralee School and Whitton Murrumbidgee Public School Exhibitions
- Secured \$100,000 in Local Government Authorities (LGA) Arts and Cultural Projects Funding to start to plan the development of a new permanent exhibition called 'By Virtue of Water: A Leeton Wiradjuri Story' aimed at reconciling the history of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme and the cultural impact it had on the Wiradjuri people
- Completed the Art Deco-themed Whitton Town Mural project and installed a 15m soldier on the Whitton Water Tower. These large-scale public artwork projects were funded through the Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 3
- Commenced working with Illuminart to develop plans and conduct community engagement in preparation for the Leeton Water Tower large-scale public art project. This project, which is being supported by \$30,000 in funding from Create NSW, is a community collaboration project celebrating and showcasing historical Leeton stories and engaging audiences through bold and innovative light projections
- Trialled 'Movies at the Museum: After School Movies' in the Little Roxy Theatre at the LMAG, two days per week. Tickets were free during the trial period. Fifteen movies were shown and 87 tickets were redeemed.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Gralee School student Harry Mallinder with the school's mosaic exhibit

A display by Whitton Murrumbidgee Public School

Artists Jan Thomson (left) and Anne Morshead at their exhibition Two Points of View

Andrew Whitehead: Making it





## GOAL 8

Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that values its heritage:

### 8a. Support and showcase the history of our Shire.

#### Theme 2: An Active and Enriched Community

#### A community that values its heritage

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Achieved a Highly Commended Award in the LGNSW Excellence Awards for Arts and Cultural Projects for the Leeton Museum and Gallery's (LMAG's) permanent museum exhibition 'Water by Design: The Leeton Water Story'
- With funding secured through the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal employed a part-time Museum Development Officer (MDO) who, as part of the process of developing sustainability plans for each of the museums in the Shire – LMAG, Yanco Powerhouse Museum, Whitton Courthouse and Historical Museum, Yanco Agricultural Institute Museum, Rocking Horse Restoration Museum, Antiques with Oil Leaks Museum – has benchmarked all the museums against the National Standards
- Carried out works on the Whitton Courthouse. The footings to the rear of the building were chemically underpinned to prevent further cracking of the walls, the tongue and groove flooring was replaced from the ground up in the area leading to the kitchen and bathroom, and new rafter supports were installed to stabilise the roof structure.
- Applied for a Community Heritage Grant for \$4,000 for a significance assessment of Whitton Courthouse and Museum (outcome pending)
- Awarded \$24,500 from the Local Heritage Places Grants Scheme to seven successful applicants to assist them in conducting works on their heritage buildings
- Invested \$175,000 in updating 12 facades in the Leeton CBD area as part of the Leeton CBD Façade Painting Project Stage 2, aimed at celebrating Leeton's Art Deco heritage

The Roxy Community Theatre Redevelopment Project is well underway



Below images, clockwise from the smallest image:

Councillors being briefed on the progress of the Roxy Community Theatre Redevelopment Project

From left to right: Tim Coulter, Tom Senti, Sues Vos, Emeritus Mayor Cr Paul Maytom, Wendy Senti and Jackie Kruger at the unveiling of the Letona Sign in the Lands Office Cafe

From left to right: Lloyds Group representatives, Minister for the Arts the Hon (Ben) Benjamin Franklin MLC, Roxy Redevelopment Project Manager Gideon Vos, Katherine Hermann and Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Kidd



- Installed the iconic Letona Co-operative Cannery Ltd sign in the Lands Office Café in the LMAG and hosted a small unveiling. Built in 1914 and initially managed by the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission (WCIC), the cannery was taken over by the Leeton, Griffith and Yenda Fruitgrowers Co-operatives in 1935. The Leeton Co-operative Cannery was one of the largest employers in Leeton Shire until it ceased operation in 1994
- Maintained and operated Henry Lawson Cottage on behalf of the Leeton Shire community. In 2021/22 repairs were made to the window frames and sills, external trims were painted, new stairs were constructed at the rear of the cottage and a new air conditioning system was installed. To improve mobile telephone reception at the cottage, a 'cellfi' system was also fitted.







## GOAL 9

**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that respects the natural environment:**

- 9a. Provide waste management services**
- 9b. Minimise the economic, environmental and social impact of weeds across Leeton Shire**
- 9c. Advance environmental sustainability by leading at the local level**
- 9d. Promote town water conservation.**

### **A Healthy Natural Environment (previous page):**

Top images, clockwise from top left: The newly installed electric vehicle charging station

The solar installation at the Whitton Water Treatment Plant

There are birds aplenty at the Fivebough and Tuckerbil Wetlands

Litter fencing helps prevent waste material being blown onto the land surrounding the Leeton Landfill and Recycling Centre

Bottom images, left to right: Gogeldrie Weir is a popular camping spot for locals and visitors to the Shire

The secondhand goods shop at the Landfill and Recycling Centre helps to reduce the tonnage of waste going to landfill

## **Theme 3: A Healthy Natural Environment**

### **A community that respects the natural environment**

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Provided waste management services to the Shire. A total of 15,185 tonnes of waste entered the Leeton Landfill and Recycling Centre during 2021/22. Council's kerbside collection service (red bins) accounted for 2,293 tonnes of the waste and Whitton Transfer Station accounted for 150 tonnes. Around 28% of the material entering the Landfill and Recycling Centre as waste was diverted from landfill through a variety of recycling and waste recovery programs
- In conjunction with the Leeton Shire community, recycled 45% of the waste that would have gone to landfill. Council's kerbside collection service (yellow bins) accounted for 442 tonnes of recyclable materials, 75 tonnes of recyclable resource recovered material was collected at the Whitton Transfer Station and 4,186 tonnes was diverted at the Landfill and Recycling Centre. The State Government's Return and Earn Scheme also saved a considerable amount of waste from landfill by processing 3,296,994 eligible containers through Leeton's reverse vending machine
- Entered into a partnership with Albury City Council, RAMJO and Solar Professionals to collect, process and recycle expired solar panels. Used solar panels from NSW businesses can now be disposed at the Leeton Landfill and Recycling Centre free of charge. This project is supported by a grant from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority
- In response to the new NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041, which introduced a mandate for councils to provide Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) collections to all NSW households, commenced planning the introduction of FOGO
- Completed an audit of the domestic kerbside waste and recycling streams. The audit revealed a kerbside recycling contamination rate equal to the NSW average contamination rate of 10%. The data collected by the audit will help Council tailor its waste and recycling education programs and with efforts to obtain grant funding to implement FOGO
- Purchased and applied a mobile Landfill Trench Thermal camera that will enable Council to prevent fires by detecting and eliminating hot spots before they ignite
- Promoted a ChemClear collection in January inviting locals to dispose of their unwanted or obsolete AgVet chemicals and drumMuster collections in February and May. These promotions resulted in a total of 7,312 chemical containers and drums being collected
- Completed capping and fencing works at the site of the Brobenah Closed Landfill and finalised the draft Yanco Landfill Management Closure Plan for the Yanco Closed Landfill site
- Generated approximately 200,000kWh of solar power through its solar arrays. This equates to an estimated 34 tonnes of reduction in Leeton Shire Council's carbon footprint





Top: The mandated implementation of FOGO will also help to reduce the amount of waste material being disposed of in red bins  
Bottom: This year Council staff slashed 628 hectares of roadside reserve to control weeds and maintain road safety

- Finalised and adopted an Energy Masterplan that will guide Council in the delivery of energy efficiency projects. The Energy Master Plan outlines an approach to increasing energy efficiency and increasing Council's generation and use of renewable energy. The Plan will be implemented progressively over several years and will not only reduce Council's carbon footprint but also result in annual cost savings of around \$180,000
- Installed a new electric vehicle charging station at Sycamore Street car park. This project and the consolidation of Council's energy accounts and meters were the first two Energy Masterplan projects to be completed
- Commenced solar installation projects at the Yanco Sewer Treatment Plant, the Whitton and Murrumbidgee Water Treatment Plants and the Works Depot. The completion of these installations will mean a 70kW increase in solar capacity, so Council's generation of solar power is expected to increase significantly
- Achieved Council's Weed Action Program targets by conducting a total of 123 inspections and effectively contained three new weed incursions
- Secured an additional \$30,000 in weeds grant funding from Riverina Local Lands Services and a further \$15,000 in funding for weed control on Crown Lands at Corbie Hill and Cudgel from Crown Lands
- Distributed Weeds Awareness materials via Yenda Producers, AGnVET Services, the Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library and Council's Customer Service Centre
- Slashed 628 hectares and sprayed 22 hectares (at 70 locations) of roadside reserve to control weeds and maintain road safety
- Inspected 175km of roads and pathways and 123 properties to identify and manage high-risk weeds. The inspections enabled Council to respond to and effectively contain or suppress three new weed incursions
- Promoted sustainable water use by encouraging town water recipients to use the Council's MyH2O online service to track their daily water usage, compare it with average water usages and detect possible leaks.



There's a section set aside at the Leeton Landfill and Recycling Centre for problem waste materials such as paints, oils and fluorescent globes



**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that enjoys our natural environment:**

- 10a. Provide recreational facilities along the Murrumbidgee River within Leeton Shire**
- 10b. Attract more people to enjoy key natural areas such as Fivebough Wetlands and the Murrumbidgee River.**

**Theme 3: A Healthy Natural Environment**  
**A community that enjoys our natural environment**

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Continued to work with Crown Lands and the Fivebough Committee on the management of the RAMSAR-listed Fivebough Wetlands
- Counted 7,572 visitors to Fivebough Wetlands, a slight decrease on visitor numbers for the previous year
- Took over the management of the Gogeldrie Weir Holiday Park in December 2021 and employed caretakers to operate the park. Gogeldrie Weir is on the Murrumbidgee River and gives recreational access to the river and surrounding national park. The rebranded Gogeldrie Riverside Park opened under new management on 10 January 2022. Since reopening, the Park has welcomed 2,246 day visitors and 3,500 campers
- Established a dedicated Gogeldrie Riverside Park Facebook page to promote the Park. The page has already attracted 2,987 followers
- Developed a Gogeldrie Weir Recreation Reserve Master Plan which outlines plans for the redevelopment of the Park. The Master Plan was adopted in September after extensive community consultation. The Master Plan will be implemented in stages as funding is made available
- Submitted a funding application to the NSW Government Regional Tourism Activation Fund for \$2.06 million for the redevelopment of the entire Gogeldrie Weir recreation area as outlined in the Master Plan. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful
- Liaised with National Parks, who have commenced a program of improving access to reserves in the Murrumbidgee Valley National Parks. Unfortunately, access in the Leeton area has been very limited because large parts of the reserve are still not accessible due to flooding and/or retained water.

Gogeldrie Weir and the rebranded Gogeldrie Riverside Park







## GOAL 11

**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that thrives with irrigated agriculture:**

**11a. Advocate for continued access to irrigation supply for our agricultural industries.**

### **A Thriving Economy with Good Jobs (previous page)**

Top images, clockwise from top left: A coach delivers visitors to the Leeton Museum and Art Gallery; From left to right: Craig Tyrrell, Andrew Pellow, Michelle Evans and Andrew Reilly at the entrance to the Vance Industrial Estate; The Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears Exhibition was hugely popular with locals and visitors alike; The Visitor Information Centre, fondly known as the VIC, assisted 3,168 visitors in 2021/22

Bottom images, from left to right: Water is the lifeblood of our region; Council assisted the Whitton Malt House in its efforts to obtain the signage needed to direct visitors to the venue

This page: Irrigated agriculture is the mainstay of Leeton Shire's economy

## **Theme 4: A Thriving Economy with Good Jobs**

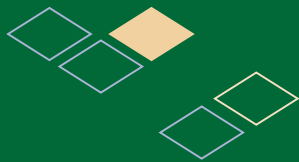
### **A community that thrives on irrigated agriculture**

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Actively participated in the Murray Darling Association. On his retirement from Council, Emeritus Mayor Paul Maytom stepped down as Chairman of Region 9 but received a life membership from the MDA for his years of service. The General Manager was elected onto the Murray Darling Association Region 9 Executive
- Continued to advocate for sensible water policy that supports the needs of the region. In 2021/22 advocacy efforts focussed on advocating for a range of mid-Murrumbidgee on river storage options, as recommended by Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited (MI), and on urging the Office of Water and MI to reconsider the Lake Coolah/Lake Mejum Water Storage Proposal, a proposal that could deliver 450ML of off-river storage
- Submitted a motion to the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) Annual Conference on behalf of irrigators. The motion called for Federal and State Governments to protect national food security and the sustainability of regional irrigation communities by undertaking a list of items, one being to provide enhanced water access for general security water holders in regional communities who depend on the availability of this water for their livelihoods and employment
- Liaised with MI on a number of issues including MI's 'winter works' program, supply channel decommissioning, town drainage arrangements and the proposed Vance Industrial Estate Expansion Project drainage into MI channels
- Collaborated with MI on the road reserve closures required by MI's channel decommissioning project
- Participated in the Riverina Environmental Water Advisory Group which provided a forum for Council to monitor local and regional environmental water outcomes
- Continued collaboration and advocacy with RAMJO. In concert with RAMJO, Council provided feedback on WaterNSW's draft Murray and Murrumbidgee Regional Water Strategies and advocated for a Lake Coolah/Lake Mejum Water Storage feasibility study. On behalf of RAMJO, the Mayor also attended the WaterNSW Customer Advisory Group Meeting.







## GOAL 12

**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that is strong in business and employment:**

- 12a. Seek, promote and facilitate business opportunities**
- 12b. Grow a skilled workforce for Leeton Shire's future.**

### Theme 4: A Thriving Economy with Good Jobs

#### A community that is strong in business and employment

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Progressed plans to expand Vance Industrial Estate to the north (Vance Estate Stage 3). Detailed infrastructure planning is nearing completion, and marketing and pre-sales of the 20 available allotments has commenced. To help businesses quickly establish themselves, development rebates of up to 5% of the purchase price to a maximum of \$20,000 (excluding GST) is available on allotments purchased and finalised prior to 31 January 2024, where construction has commenced within 24 months of the purchase date of the allotment (conditions apply). Council acknowledges and thanks the Australian Government for its \$1.24 Million in funding contribution towards the Vance Estate expansion under the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program.
- Actively participated in the Western Riverina 'Grow Our Own' initiative, a network coordinated by Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina to encourage people to build a career locally, and encourage local business to invest in local people through employment, training, mentoring and motivation
- As a member of the Grow Our Own network, sponsored and attended the Riverina Careers Day at Leeton High School and participated in the production of a new careers video to be presented to schools within the Riverina. The video is aimed at young people aged 14–18 who may be looking at a career outside of university
- Engaged with local businesses to provide support during COVID-19 including support to access government support initiatives
- Facilitated the set-up of a new precast concrete business, assisted a local business with expansion plans, sold land to a new childcare provider looking to establish childcare facilities in Leeton and held talks with a meat producer wanting to set up a shop front and processing facility in Leeton
- To assist business owners and support the local economy, renewed a partnership agreement with Service NSW. Under the agreement, Service NSW promotes and provides access to NSW Government information and services such as those provided by Service NSW for Business – free, personalised support to small business owners to help them understand

Previous page: Australian Art Deco Festival Leeton street banners herald the upcoming Australian Art Deco Festival Leeton 2022

Right: From left to right: Andrew Pellow and Craig Tyrrell with Council staff Michelle Evans and Andrew Reilly at the site of Vance Industrial Estate – Stage 3







Above: Manager Visitor Services and Local Activation Brent Lawrence presents at the Local Government NSW Destination and Visitor Economy Conference

Right: Visitor Services Officer Kathy McMahon stands in front of one of the new Art Deco Way touring route billboards aimed at drawing travellers off highways and into our region

Opposite page: The 15m tall metal soldier by artist Carla Gottgens, which was installed on the Whitton Water Tower in April 2022, is sure to attract devotees of large-scale public artwork

industry regulations, guide them through transactions and access support. Council's role is to help local individuals and businesses access these services. In the past this service has been very useful, particularly during the challenging times faced due to COVID-19

- Supported Multicultural NSW in implementing its Regional Resettlement Pilot Program, NSW Growing Regions of Welcome (NSW GROW). NSW GROW has the dual aims of supporting regional communities and employers in attracting and retaining newcomers, and connecting migrants and refugees in Western Sydney with employment and lifestyle opportunities in regional NSW
- In partnership with Settlement Services International (SSI), BEC Business Advice, the Leeton Business Chamber and Leeton Connect, commenced the development of a new Leeton Settlement Online Hub. The Leeton Work+Stay application, the first stage of the project, has been successfully deployed. The next step will be to merge the Work+Stay application with a bespoke Leeton Jobs portal. The Leeton Business Chamber has recruited a grant-funded Coordinator who has responsibility for operational oversight of the hub. On completion, the hub will be a one stop website for anyone looking to do anything in Leeton. It will list businesses, jobs, schools medical facilities, sporting groups, not-for-profit organisations, accommodation, things to do and tourism information, and will link to Council websites and external websites that are associated with businesses
- Provided \$1,000 in sponsorship towards the Leeton Business Chamber 'shop local' Christmas campaign
- Partnered with the Leeton Business Chamber to host the Leeton NSW Small Business Month Networking Dinner at the Whitton Malt House. Approximately 50 local business owners, Council staff, and Councillors attended the event
- Drafted AMBITION 2030 – an Economic, Tourism and Events Strategy for Leeton Shire. Consultation with local businesses and the community was conducted throughout 2021/22. It is expected that the draft document will be presented to Council for adoption in September 2022.





## GOAL 13

Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that has great attractions and events:

- 13a. Encourage a range of exciting and interesting events for the residents and visitors of Leeton Shire
- 13b. Attract visitors to Leeton Shire region.

### Theme 4: A Thriving Economy with Good Jobs

#### A community that has great attractions and events

*Unfortunately, many scheduled events which were organised had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The cancelled events included the Australian Art Deco Festival 2021, the Outback Band Spectacular 2021 and the Leeton Bidgee Classic Fishing Competition 2021.*

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Planned, programmed, promoted the Australian Art Deco Festival Leeton 2021 and, when COVID-19 restrictions across parts of prevented many of the key performers from attending, planned a revised Riverina Regional Art Deco Revelry event. Unfortunately, further outbreaks of COVID-19 and extended restrictions forced the cancellation of the regional event just days prior to the event opening
- Hosted a successful Light Up Leeton event on 5 December 2021. As a consequence of COVID-19, the 2021 event was slightly different in format, with light entertainment replacing the usual concert on stage. Approximately 2,000 people attended and the majority of the 20 community groups and not-for-profit stallholders sold out of food and product. Council would like to thank the Light Up Leeton Committee for organising the event
- Supported the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA) in staging the Community Recovery Outreach Tour, bringing Sara Storer to perform at Whitton Memorial Park on 16 March 2022. Approximately 350 Whitton and Leeton locals, and visitors from Narrandera, Grong Grong and Griffith attended
- Operated the Leeton Visitor Information Centre (VIC). The VIC, which is housed in one of the first buildings built in Leeton and staffed by Council officers and volunteers, provides visitors with detailed information regarding attractions and events, stocks a diverse range of local produce and artwork, and offers a 'Tastes of Leeton' presentation. Despite the impact of COVID-19, there were 3,186 visitors to the VIC in 2021/22 and the VIC sold \$11,695 worth of local product and souvenirs
- Distributed more than 7,390 Leeton Visitor Guides
- Hosted the Leeton SunRice Festival 2022 over the Easter long weekend. Events included the Shades of Green Cocktail Party and the Opening night and Awards Presentation for the Penny Paniz Acquisitive Arts Competition and Exhibition on 14 April 2022, *The Irrigator Street Parade* and Festival at Mountford Park on 16 April 2022 from midday to 4pm, the QPL Biggest Pink Picnic and MicrotechDPS Balloon Glow on 17 April 2022, and the Leeton Open Gardens Pop Up Event and Riggz Cup Riverina Skate Championships on 18 April 2022. Balloon flights took place all weekend when weather permitted. The successful Festival attracted an estimated 10,000 people and SunRice Festival Ambassador entrants fundraised \$59,290.79, 50% of which was distributed to 30 local not-for-profit community organisations. Council would like to thank the SunRice Festival Committee for organising this event
- Commenced establishing the Art Deco Way touring route by strategically placing billboards on the Newell and Sturt Highways and on Kidman Way, near Griffith. The billboards are part of a new campaign to encourage travellers to leave the highways and explore the region. The eye-catching billboards feature local landmarks such as the Roxy Community Theatre

Sarah Storer performing in Whitton Memorial Park as part of the Community Recovery Outreach Tour staged by the National Recovery and Resilience Agency



Below: *The Miss Fisher and the Crypt of Tears Exhibition* was open to the public for 50 days. During that time, ticket and catalogue sales generated \$7,425 in income

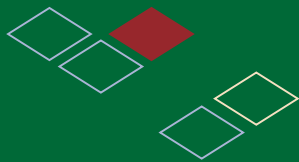
Below right: *Dance Academy students participating in the SunRice Festival's Irrigator Street Parade*



and are supported by a social media campaign and a bi-monthly blog to highlight visitor attractions and experiences in Leeton and surrounding areas. The billboards are funded by the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 4.

- Sourced \$20,000 in Flagship funding from Destination NSW to put towards marketing costs for the Australian Art Deco Festival Leeton 2022 event and \$10,000 in funding through the Cultural Tourism Accelerator Program to put towards bring an Art Deco era bus to the event and to contract local bus companies to ferry visitors from Narrandera and Griffith. This funding was in addition to the \$25,000 in funding received from the Stronger Country Communities Fund SCCF) for infrastructure, marketing, programming and performance
- Launched the Australian Art Deco Festival Leeton 2022 program of 29 events, some with multiple timeslots, in March 2022. The launch was backed up by the distribution of promotional material throughout the region and television, radio and newsprint advertising campaigns. By 24 June 2022, 629 tickets had been sold to a value of \$30,000.





# GOAL 14

Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that enjoys a vibrant town centre:

- 14a. Maintain and improve the overall appearance and functionality of the main streets
- 14b. Promote activity and vibrancy in Leeton's CBDs.

## Theme 4: A Thriving Economy with Good Jobs

### A community that enjoys a vibrant town centre

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Planted 152 trees at various locations across the Shire including along Irrigation Way in Yanco and along Palm and Currawong Avenue in Leeton
- Progressed work on the Leeton CBD Enhancement Project Phase 3 – Chelmsford Place Town Square, which focuses on the refurbishment of the Chelmsford Place Town Square and seeks to realise Walter Burley Griffin's original design intention of a central town square based on symmetrical lines with a bold land axis, ornamental pools and shaded walkways. The landscape design for the project has been completed and the Grevillia Street civil design is nearing completion. The electrical, communications and tree soakage pits are also nearing completion, and a Development Application for the park area has been lodged
- Commenced working with Illuminart to develop plans and conduct community engagement in preparation for the Leeton Water Tower large-scale public art project. Supported by \$30,000 in funding from Create NSW, the project is a community collaboration project celebrating and showcasing historical Leeton stories and engaging audiences through bold and innovative light projections. The project dovetails in with the CBD Enhancement Project – Phase 3
- Completed the Art Deco-themed Whitton Town Mural project and installed a 15m soldier on the Whitton Water Tower. These large-scale public artwork projects have a focus on bringing art into the street and making art accessible to everyone and were funded through the Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 3
- Invested \$175,000 in updating 12 facades in the Leeton CBD area as part of the Leeton CBD Façade Painting Project Stage 2, aimed at refreshing the main street and celebrating Leeton's Art Deco heritage. The Leeton CBD Façade Painting Project was named as a finalist in the 2022 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards in the 'Supporting Local Enterprise Category'
- Supported the Leeton Farmers and Makers Market and Yanco Village Markets, which continue to be well attended by the community.

Left and right: A vibrant town centre







## GOAL 15

**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that has reliable water and sewerage services in towns:**

**15a. Supply treated water to urban areas**

**15b. Supply sewage treatment services to urban centres.**



Andrew Valenta and Paul Goodrum at the Leeton Water Treatment Plant

### **A Quality Built Environment (previous page)**

Top images, clockwise from top left: Jackie Kruger (second from left) with roads crew members (from left to right) Brett Hedditch, Brett O'Connell and Caleb Millar; Roadworks underway in Yarran Street; Reece Maguire working on replacing the mains in Sycamore Street, Leeton; The war memorial in Mountford Park; The newly completed mural brightens up the main street of Whitton; One of the shop fronts that received a new coat of paint as part of the CBD Facade Painting Project

Bottom images, from left to right: The new playground in Ramponi Park; A crew working on replacing the kerb and guttering in Wilga and Myrtle Streets, Leeton

## Theme 5: A Quality Built Environment

### **A community that has reliable water and sewerage services in towns**

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Supplied potable water of high quality, with minimal taste and odour issues and minimal disruption to service, to the towns and villages in Leeton Shire. This year:
  - Leeton Water Treatment Plant supplied 1,730ML of water (a 19.2% decrease on the previous year)
  - Murrumbidgee Water Treatment Plant supplied 13ML of water (a 18.8% decrease on the previous year)
  - Whitton Water Treatment Plant supplied 55ML of water (a 17.9% decrease on the previous year)
- Replaced the aging water mains in Sycamore Street and Cedar Street, Leeton
- Replaced the ageing back wash pump at Leeton Water Treatment Plant. The old pump has been sent away for refurbishment and will be used for back-up purposes
- Installed and implemented a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system at the Whitton Water Treatment Plant. This will improve efficiency by enabling remote control and monitoring of the facility
- Progressed development of an Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plan that will identify – on the basis of social, environmental and economic considerations – the best value-for-money scenario for the integration of urban water supply, sewerage and stormwater systems. A strategic review of service areas is being undertaken as part of the development of the IWCM
- Progressed finalisation of the Automated Meter Reading (Taggle) project, which involves the installation of smart water meters at properties serviced by reticulated water networks. Automated meter reading enables Council to gather information that can be used for leak detection, demand management, load balancing and network planning and optimisation. The data will provide large-scale insights for better water network management, resulting in significant savings for Council and customers
- Operated sewage treatment and effluent discharge plants and reticulation services at Leeton, Yanco and Whitton
- Revised plans to construct a sewage treatment plant to service Wamoon residents when tenders came in well above budget and/or were non-compliant. The new plan involves the construction of a low-pressure sewerage scheme that will service Wamoon by transporting effluent to the Wattle Hill sewage pumping station and then to the Leeton Sewage Treatment Plant. The scheme will be completed by the end of the 2022/23 financial year
- Engaged specialists to help develop an improved disinfection system at the Leeton Sewage Treatment Plant to better control bacteria levels
- Desludged the sludge pond at the Leeton Sewage Treatment Plant. This process involves removing the treated sludge to provide room for more sewage
- Installed 110m of sewer main in Grevillia Street, implemented odour control measures at a number of pump stations and commenced safety improvements at the pump station in Market Plaza.



## GOAL 16

**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that has good road, rail and air transport:**

- 16a. Provide access to regional passenger air services**
- 16b. Facilitate improved freight transport productivity**
- 16c. Provide an efficient road network for the movement of people and freight**
- 16d. Support the aged and people with disabilities to shop and attend appointments**

### Theme 5: A Quality Built Environment

#### A community that has good road, rail and air transport

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- In partnership with Narrandera Shire Council, operated the Narrandera-Leeton Airport. This year, a total of 5,019 passengers utilised the Regional Express Airlines (REX) daily airline service. Numbers were still down on pre-COVID-19 figures but increased strongly in the last quarter of 2021/22 and were the highest they'd been since the pandemic commenced
- In partnership with Griffith City Council, continued to progress a business case for the upgrade of the WRConnect intermodal freight facility at Wumbulgal. The project has proceeded through Gateways 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Inland Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program. The Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) has adopted WRConnect as one of six strategic infrastructure priorities for the region
- Rehabilitated 7.25km of the sealed road network. Rehabilitation works were carried out on:
  - a section of Back Whitton Road (West of Rombola Road to Garner Road)
  - Cedar Street (Wilga Street to Pine Avenue)
  - Dooley Lane (Cedar Street to Sycamore Street)
  - Progress Street (Binya Street to Gogeldrie Street)
  - Sycamore Street (Cedar Street to Chelmsford Place)
  - Yarran Street (Irrigation Way to Wilga Street)
  - the Kirkup Road/Houghton Road intersection



The multiwheel compactor being used on Wagrahm Road



Above: Rehabilitating Yarran Street, Leeton

Below: Spray sealing the new car park north of the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre



- Completed the annual resealing program by resealing 19.99km of sealed road. The sections of resealing works were carried out on:
  - Anderson Lane (Sycamore Street to Kurrajong Avenue)
  - Boronia Road (Teramo Street to Vance Road)
  - Boundary Road (Wattle Road to Malcolm Road)
  - Brigalow Street (Various segments)
  - Canal Road (Stringer Road to Regulator Road)
  - Coolibah Street
  - Cypress Street (Kurrajong Avenue to Sycamore Street)
  - Daalbata Road (Grevillia Street to Fig Street)
  - Darlington Point/Whitton Road – Boundary towards Forest Road)
  - Elm Street
  - Errey Road
  - Gidgee Street (Currawang Avenue to Maiden Avenue)
  - Grevillia Street (Willow Street to Wade Avenue North)
  - Jade Lane (Sycamore Street to Cypress Street)
  - Mahogany Road
  - Mallee Street
  - Park Avenue (Railway Avenue to Jacaranda Avenue)
  - Qualitary Road
  - Stanbridge Road (full length)
  - Sycamore Street (Cypress Street to Chelmsford Place)
- Carried out heavy patching works on 8,250m<sup>2</sup> of sealed road on Brobenah Hall Road, Corbie Hill Road, Regulator Road, Stoney Point Road, Vance Road and Whitton Road as well as other sections of the rural road network
- Resheeted 8.3km of the gravel road network. Resheeting was carried out on George Road, Kiln Road, Millane Road and River Road
- Completed the scheduled shoulder widening works along Whitton-Darlington Point Road (MR539), Wattle Road and Kirkup Road North
- Linemarked 36km of road along Back Yanco Road/Binyah Street, McQuillan Road, Murrarn Road North, Toorak Road, Vance Road, Wattle Avenue and Stringer Road (between Corbie Hill and Kirke Road)
- Maintained or replaced 609 signs – including road/street name blades; bridge markers; Hazard, Give Way and Stop signs; and Speed Zone signs – in 433 locations
- Under contract for Transport for NSW, carried out works on two projects: Stage 6 Shoulder Widening (Walsh Road to Davidson Road) and the Whitton Road Intersection Upgrade. The contracted works have a value of \$2.6 million and are 80% complete, with some of the works needing to be scheduled to align with other projects currently underway
- Completed an urban drainage extension along Palm Avenue (Myall Street to Grevillia Street)
- Infilled 790m of drainage channel along Almond Road
- Supported Leeton-Narrandera Community Transport in delivering community transport services. Across both Shires, Community Transport provided service to 344 clients and undertook 2,027 trips with the help of 11 volunteer drivers.



## GOAL 17

**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that enjoys attractive towns and parks:**

- 17a. Provide open spaces for active and passive leisure**
- 17b. Provide attractive streetscapes and town entrances**
- 17c. Provide public toilets across Leeton Shire**
- 17d. Deliver development planning services that signal Leeton is 'open for business'**
- 17e. Provide drainage networks in urban areas.**



The upgraded public toilets at Whitton are now fully accessible for the aged and people with disabilities

Gossamer Park, Wattle Hill, is well kept and well utilised by the community

### Theme 5: A Quality Built Environment

#### A community that enjoys attractive towns and parks

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Installed new playground equipment in Waring and Ramponi Parks
- Carried out improvement works in Yanco, planting trees along Irrigation Way near Yanco Public School and along the new fence line at the Yanco Sports Ground, and landscaping works next to the Yanco Shop
- Planted 152 new street trees throughout the Shire. Some of these trees were replacements for trees along Palm and Currawong Avenues that had to be removed
- Upgraded the toilet facilities at Whitton, making the facilities fully accessible for the aged and people with disabilities. The facility will be painted once the render has cured
- Completed the design for a new fully accessible toilet facility in the Sycamore Street car park in Leeton. The plans incorporate an accessible adult change facility for users with high support needs and their carers who require additional space, assistance and specialised equipment to allow them to use toilets safely and comfortably
- Lodged a Development Application for a toilet facility in Wamoon and contracted the construction of new toilets in Gossamer Park. Both toilet facilities will be fully accessible
- Approved 134 Development Applications (23% decrease compared to the previous year), 10 of which were subdivision applications, with a total value of \$43,175,125 (5.4% decrease compared to the previous year)



- Issued:
  - 365 s10.7(2) Planning Certificates (a 32% decrease compared to the previous year)
  - 85 s10.7(5) Planning Certificates (an 18% increase compared to the previous year)
  - 82 Construction Certificates (a 39% increase compared to the previous year)
  - 11 Subdivision Certificate (an increase of 10 times that of the previous year)
  - 56 Occupation Certificates (a 30% decrease compared to the previous year)
  - 1 Complying Development Certificate (same as the previous year)
- Drafted a Development Control Plan (DCP). The draft DCP provides detailed planning and design guidelines to support the planning controls in our Local Environmental Plan. It contains information on such matters as development standards, heritage controls, housing suitability of all types, subdivision requirements and vegetation clearing requirements. The aim of the DCP to facilitate quality development, protect neighbourhood amenity and maintain environmental quality
- Completed the circuit of shared pathway around Leeton by constructing a new section of shared pathway along Acacia Avenue from Irrigation Way (Pine Avenue) to join the existing section of shared pathway, and completed the new Brobenah Road pedestrian bridge linking the shared pathways along Palm Avenue and Brobenah Road, which completes the access into the town circuit from the north
- Replaced a section of kerb and guttering along Myrtle and Wilga Streets, from Sycamore Street to Yarran Street, and repaired footpath defects identified through staff inspections and public reporting
- Extended the urban stormwater drainage network along Telopea Street and McKay Avenue to resolve long-term drainage issues in the area
- Completed a pipeline extension and drainage rectification works from along Palm Avenue from Myall Street to Grevillia Street. This resolved the long term-issue of stormwater being discharged above ground during periods of heavy rain.

New playground equipment in Waring Park, Yanco







## GOAL 18

**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that has politicians who act and listen:**

- 18a. Forge and maintain strong regional relationships**
- 18b. Strengthen Leeton Shire Council's governance capabilities**
- 18c. Develop and maintain strong working relationships at a Federal and State level.**

### **Strong Leadership (previous page)**

Top images, clockwise from top left: The Hon Sussan Ley MP speaking to the crowd at the official ceremony marking Australia Day 2022;

From left to right: Council representatives attending the Australian Local Government Association Conference General Manager Jackie Kruger, Mayor Cr Tony Reneker and Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Kidd with the Hon Linda Burney MP, Minister for Indigenous Australians; Senator Deborah O'Neill (centre) with, from left to right, Manager of Environmental Sustainability Luke Tedesco, Cr Tony Ciccio, Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Kidd and Mayor Cr Tony Reneker; Tonetta Nardi gives her input into the development of the Community Strategic Plan: Liveable Leeton 2035

Bottom images: The newly elected Council being inducted into their role; Leeton SunRice Ambassador entrant Sophie Litchfield addresses attendees at the Shades of Green Cocktail Party

## Theme 6: Strong Leadership

### A community that has politicians who act and listen

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Continued to participate in the RAMJO, which brings together councils from across the region and provides an important forum for escalating local and regional issues for broader consideration. This year, RAMJO focussed on water policy, health, waste management, energy savings, and financial sustainability
- Engaged with the Leeton Health Services Crisis Committee (LHSCC), The Murrumbidgee Local Health District, (MLHD), the Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN), the NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN) and NSW Ambulance for the purpose of collaboratively developing an integrated health services plan for Leeton Shire
- Engaged with Murrumbidgee Irrigation Limited (MI) on a number of matters including the Lake Coolah/Lake Mejum Water Storage proposal, MI's 'winter works' program, supply channel decommissioning and town drainage arrangements
- Continued its engagement with the NSW Government, the Federal Government and industry agencies to seek funding for major projects and to address challenges such as healthcare, water, housing, and workforce. Meetings took place with:
  - The Hon Kevin Anderson MP – Minister for Lands and Water, Minister for Hospitality and Racing
  - Mrs Helen Dalton, MP – Member for Murray
  - Senator Perin Davey – Minister for NSW
  - The Hon Sussan Ley MP – then Minister for the Environment
  - The Hon (Bronnie) Bronwyn Taylor MLC – Minister for Regional Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Women
  - The Hon Paul Toole MP – Deputy Premier, Minister for Regional NSW, Minister for Police
  - The Hon Wendy Tuckerman MP – Minister for Local Government
  - Mr Ryan Park MP – Shadow Minister for Health
- Took part in:
  - LGNSW Annual Conference 2021
  - LGNSW Special Conference 2021/22 – put forward nine motions, all of which were adopted
  - ALGA National General Assembly 2022 – put forward two motions, both of which were adopted
  - Country Mayors Association of NSW (CMA) meetings x 3
  - Inquiry into Health Outcomes and Hospital Services in Rural, Regional and Remote NSW Hearing
  - CMA Rural Health Forum
  - Regional Health Care Forum
  - WaterNSW Customer Advisory Group Meeting
  - Murrumbidgee and Murray Regional Water Strategies Briefing
  - A meeting with LGNSW President Cr Darriea Turley and Chief Executive Scott Phillips
  - Meetings with the local police and Narrandera Shire Council x 4





Cr George Weston (left) with Cr Peter Davidson, who retired from Council in December 2021

- Submitted nine motions on issues of high importance to the Leeton Shire community to the 2021/22 LGNSW Conference (all of which were adopted) and two motions to the ALGA National General Assembly of Local Government 2022 (both of which were adopted). Once adopted, the motions become part of the LGNSW/ALGA advocacy platforms, which adds weight to our own advocacy efforts. One of the motions called on the Australian government to increase levels of funding to NSW councils to help them deliver services to their local communities
- Congratulated the then Mayor, Cr Paul Maytom, on being awarded the title of Emeritus Mayor by LGNSW. The Emeritus Mayor also received a Certificate of Appreciation for his exceptional service to the people and to local government
- Congratulated Cr Peter Davidson, who was awarded a Local Government NSW Merit Award in appreciation of his work in local government commitment and dedication to the pursuit of achievement for the Leeton Shire Community
- Supported the NSW Electoral Commission in holding the 2021 Local Government Elections, which were conducted on 4 December 2021. The new Council was sworn in on 22 December and elected Cr Tony Reneker and Cr Michael Kidd as Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively
- Purchased and commenced implementation of a new Customer Relationship Management platform to automate and digitise Council's customerservice processes, forms and workflows. The staged implementation of elementORG will gradually improve the quality of Council's customer service
- Contracted the services of an Australian Call Centre to provide residents with a single number after-hours emergency contact point
- Developed a new website based on the OpenCities platform. The OpenCities platform has greater functionality than Council's existing platform, which has enabled Council to develop a site that is much more tailored to the needs of those accessing the site. The new website is to be launched in July 2022.

From left to right: General Manager Jackie Kruger, Mayor Cr Tony Reneker, Minister for Regional Health the Hon (Bronnie) Bronwyn Taylor MLC, Deputy Premier the Hon Paul Toole MP and Minister for Agriculture the Hon Dugald Saunders MP



**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that speaks up and gets involved:**

- 19a. Encourage volunteering throughout the Shire**
- 19b. Seek input from our community on Council projects and programs**
- 19c. Provide a framework for inclusive decision-making.**

**Theme 6: Strong Leadership**

**A community that speaks up and gets involved**

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Issued 93 media releases, posted 456 social media posts, undertook 13 Have Your Say Surveys and grew the number Council's Registered Have Your Say users to 803 (up from 766 in 2021/22)
- Sought community input into a new Community Strategic Plan, conducted a 'Community Strategic Plan Roadshow'. Staff and Councillors facilitated seven face-to-face engagement sessions at various times and locations across the Shire. Approximately 30 community members braved the then winter weather to attend. Their much-appreciated input was invaluable in the development of the new Plan
- Sought community feedback on a number of Council initiatives through the 'Have Your Say' community engagement hub, social media channels and the local newspaper The Irrigator
  - Draft Gogeldrie Weir Recreation Reserve Master Plan — 67 submissions received
  - Draft Volunteering Policy and Draft Volunteering Handbook — 4 submissions received
  - Draft Grants Policy and Draft Grants Programs Guidelines — 1 submission received
  - Draft Community Strategic Plan Liveable Leeton 2035 — 25 submissions received
  - Draft Delivery Program 2022–2025 and Draft Long Term Financial Plan 2022–2032 — 6 submissions received
  - Draft 2022/23 Operational Plan, Budget and Revenue Policy — 19 submissions received
  - Draft Housing Strategy — 20 submissions received
  - Leeton Development Control Plan Issues Paper — 2 submissions received
  - Annual Financial Statements — No submissions received
  - Disability Inclusion Action Plan — 24 submissions received
  - Draft Council Policies — 8 submissions received
  - Voluntary Planning Agreement for Yanco Solar Farm — 1 submission received
  - Economic Development and Tourism Strategic Plan — 11 submissions received
- Coordinated and supported seven Section 355 Committees, 15 Advisory Committees/Working Groups (one in hiatus) and two Action Groups. Another Advisory Committee, the Leeton Youth Council, is being set up. Council also participated in two Shared Service Committees and seven External Committees. For more information on Committees, please see pages 22–23
- Utilised the much-appreciated services of 202 volunteers. Our volunteers contribute to activities undertaken by the Leeton Museum and Art Gallery, Leeton Major Dooley Library (Home Library Service), the Visitor Information Centre and the Golf Course. Additional volunteers serve on our Section 355, Action Groups and Advisory Committees



- Coordinated volunteer recognition activities including an LMAG monthly volunteer newsletter, a volunteer Christmas party for the Visitor Information Centre volunteers and the promotion of National Volunteer Week (16–22 May 2022)
- Developed a new Volunteer Handbook and Volunteer Policy. The Handbook has been developed to make volunteer roles, rights and responsibilities clearer for volunteers and their supervisors
- Established an electronic volunteer management system. Work on populating the system with registered volunteers has commenced and will be completed in 2022/23
- Supported and collaborated with Leeton Connect Inc, including by auspicing two staff funded by the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR). Leeton Connect is a not-for-profit organisation set up to act as a central hub for not-for-profit groups in Leeton Shire
- Supported and collaborated with the Leeton Multicultural Support Group, including by auspicing a staff member funded by FRRR. The Leeton Multicultural Support Group provides a safe place of belonging for refugee and migrant families, and a space to connect with Leeton locals who offer support in the form of language lessons, home visiting, and organic social networks.

*Leeton Shire Council acknowledges the work of their wonderful volunteers. Council also acknowledges those who participate in the many voluntary organisations across the Shire. The Rotary Club of Leeton is one such group*



**Leeton Shire Council has made the following Delivery Program commitments to support the achievement of a community that is always on the front foot:**

**20a. Strive to deliver the aspirations of the community through community leadership.**

**Theme 6: Strong Leadership**  
**A community that is always on the front foot**

In 2021/22 Council took the following key actions to deliver on its commitments:

- Worked closely with a wide range of organisations and government agencies to respond to community needs and progress community objectives
- Responded to the COVID-19 pandemic to keep the Leeton community safe, support local businesses, enable essential service delivery and support vulnerable community members
- Submitted 48 grant applications. Twenty-eight of these applications were successful and resulted in \$3.03 million in funding for a range of programs and projects. Eight applications were still pending an outcome at the end of the financial year
- Awarded 18 Community Strengthening Grants to a total value of \$25,525, five Quick Response Grants to a total value of \$5,947 and 11 Youth Development Grants to a total value of \$2,750. For more information on Council's Community Grants Program, please see pages 27–29
- Supported several community organisations in the process of submitting grant applications and/or setting up new constitutions
- Re-established the Yanco Town Improvement Committee with 11 committee members. The committee's key inaugural project involved organising a special twilight street market event in the service lane area just up from the Yanco General Store. The event is to take place on Saturday 26 November 2022
- Liaised with the Whitton Town Improvement Committee on a proposal to establish a Recreational Vehicle (RV) friendly overnight stop at a suitable location reasonably central to the Whitton township. The committee was thrilled to see their new 15m tall soldier, a tribute to the Anzacs, installed on the Whitton Water Tower in April this year
- Endorsed the Yanco Community Hall and Markets Committee's recommendation to make donations to the Leeton Rescue Squad – VRA NSW (\$1,800), Yanco Miniature Railway Inc (\$3,500) and the Yanco Town Improvement Committee (\$500) to support initiatives that will benefit the residents of Yanco and the wider Leeton Shire community
- Backed the Whitton Community Hall Committee in playing an active role in supporting the Community Recovery Outreach Tour concert featuring well-known country music artist Sara Storer, which was held in Whitton Memorial Park in March 2022.



Jumpstart's Lisa Harrison and Gary Walker make good use of the new laptop purchased with the assistance of a Quick Response Grant

Right: Representatives of local not-for-profit organisations attending a Forum and Networking Breakfast hosted by Leeton Connect





# Our Performance by Community Satisfaction Rating

Ninety-seven percent of those surveyed rated their quality of life in Leeton Shire as Good (26%), Very Good (44%) or Excellent (27%)



A rating of 4.20 indicates a high level of satisfaction with Council's provision of parks and playgrounds

Independent contractor Micromex Research and Consulting conducted a Community Satisfaction Survey on behalf of Leeton Shire Council in June 2021. The survey measured residents' satisfaction with various aspects of Council and their perceptions of their quality of life. A total of 403 residents participated in the survey. This number is a statistically valid representation of the Leeton Shire community.

A similar survey was conducted in September 2019, which meant that Council could compare the data from both surveys and track changes in the community's quality of life and satisfaction ratings over time.

The results of the survey were presented to Council and the community in July 2021.

- **Quality of life:** Ninety-seven percent (97%, up from 91% in 2019) of those surveyed rated their quality of life in Leeton Shire as Good (26%), Very Good (44%) or Excellent (27%).
- **Satisfaction with Council's performance:** Ninety-four percent (94%, up from 93% in 2019) were at least somewhat satisfied with the performance of Council administration. The overall satisfaction rating of 3.81 is the highest rating Micromex has measured for a regional council in the past 9 years.
- **Satisfaction with the elected body:** The vast majority of residents (92%, the same percentage as in 2019) were at least somewhat satisfied with the performance of elected Councillors.
- **Highest satisfaction ratings:** As demonstrated by a high rating out of 5, residents were most satisfied with Council's provision of: library services (4.36); ovals, sportsgrounds and sporting facilities (4.26); tourism/the Visitor Information Centre (4.20); playgrounds and parks (4.20); cemeteries (4.16); waste management (4.11); swimming pools (4.11); community and heritage buildings (4.04); and cultural opportunities such as the Roxy Community Theatre, museums and public art (4.00).
- **Lowest satisfaction ratings:** As demonstrated by a lower rating out of 5, residents were least satisfied with: local roads (2.97); building certification and development approvals (3.21); recreational areas along the river (3.26); Council considering community opinion when making decisions (3.26); storm water drainage in rural areas (3.28).
- **Levels of importance:** When asked to rate levels of importance, respondents rated water supply services (4.74) as being of most importance, followed by public safety (4.71), local sealed town roads (4.70), waste management (4.67), street lighting (4.58), Council keeping the community informed (4.57), sound financial management (4.54) and Council engaging the community when planning for the future (4.54).
- **High levels of agreement:** When asked whether they agreed with a number of statements, the majority of respondents agreed that they feel safe during the day (94%), that Leeton Shire gives you a sense of living in community (85%), that people in Leeton Shire have fair opportunity to participate in community life (84%), that sporting facilities in the area meet their needs (81%) and that we are preserving an attractive urban landscape and protecting our heritage (80%).
- **Low levels of agreement:** There were much lower levels of agreement with the statements: we have access to a good range of health services (25%), police services in Leeton Shire are responsive and effective (26%) and public transport is adequate for needs (38%).

For more information, please see the [Leeton Shire Council Community Satisfaction Survey Results](#) on Council's website.

# Our Performance by Status of Actions

The year 2021/22 was a very busy year with staff across the organisation undertaking 204 discreet types of actions.

COVID-19 has, of course, had an impact on Council's activities. Although in most cases staff have been able to overcome or work around the impact, the pandemic has resulted in unavoidable delays in the delivery of some of our scheduled activities.

Each of the actions Council committed to undertaking, as outlined in our Delivery Program and Operational Plan, have been allocated a status:

- 👍 Completed – the project has been completed
- 👉 On Track – the activity or project is progressing as expected
- 🔧 Needs Attention – the activity or project needs additional input or focus to get back on track
- 🚨 Critical Concerns – there are major issues associated with this activity or project

The status of activities and projects at 30 June 2022 is shown in the following table:





Status of activity or project	👍	👉	🔧	🚨	Total No. of Actions
Number of activities or projects	10	164	30	0	204



A total of 174 of the 204 actions/activities Council committed to undertaking are either On Track 👉 or have been Completed 👍.

No actions were considered to be of Critical Concern 🚨. However, 30 actions were assigned the status of Needs Attention 🔧. The table below provides details on each of the actions that are considered to be in need of attention, including corrective actions being taken to address specific issues.







Theme/Operational Plan Activity	Status	Reason for Status	Corrective Actions
<b>Theme 1: 3b.02</b> Establish and coordinate a Youth Advisory Council	🔧	COVID-19 caused the cancellation of the first meeting of the new Leeton Youth Council, which was scheduled for August 2021. Following Council elections a revised Youth Council format was agreed which required a revision of the Terms of Reference, development of an Information Pack, Expressions of Interest forms and advertising copy. These tasks were not completed by 30 June 2022.	The Terms of Reference, Information Pack, advertising copy and Expressions of Interest forms will be completed prior to year end with a view to launching the new Youth Council at the start of 2023.
<b>Theme 1: 4f.03</b> Undertake on-site sewer management (OSSM) inspection programs	🔧	No inspections of existing on-site sewerage management systems were conducted in 2021/22 as staff efforts were focussed on the development of an on-line sewer inspection process with electronic forms, customer database and automatically generated notification letters. The use of the platform will make the inspection process more efficient and much more customer focussed. This project is around 50% complete. Note: All new septic installations were inspected during critical stage inspections.	Once the new platform is operational, inspections of existing on-site sewerage management systems will recommence. Plans are afoot for an extensive inspection campaign in 2023 which will also assist with ground truthing Council's OSSM register.




Theme/Operational Plan Activity	Status	Reason for Status	Corrective Actions
<b>Theme 1: 4g.01</b> Extend Council's footpath and cycleway network through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementing the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP)</li> <li>• constructing cycleway along Maiden Avenue from Acacia Avenue to Saint Francis de Sales Regional College to complete the link of shared path/ cycleway around Leeton CBD</li> <li>• constructing a new section of footpath along Acacia Avenue from the golf club to St Francis Street</li> <li>• replacing a section of kerb and guttering along Myrtle/Wilga Streets, from Sycamore Street to Yarran Street</li> </ul>		Replacement of the kerb and guttering along Myrtle and Wilga Streets and construction of the new section of shared path/ cycleway have been completed but physical works on the new section of shared pathway along Maiden Avenue have not commenced, although the site has been surveyed and detailed design is underway.	Drawings, specifications and procurement documentation will be completed by the end of November 2022. Works will commence in early 2023.
<b>Theme 1: 4g.03</b> Provide for the comfort and safety of commuters through the provision of strategically placed bus shelters and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reviewing bus shelter locations in consultation with bus operators</li> <li>• renewing older bus shelters</li> </ul>		Bus shelter locations and conditions were assessed. Three shelters, one in Whitton, one on Merungle Hill Road and one on Browns Road, Leeton, were identified as being in need of replacement. The 2021/22 budget allowed for the replacement of two bus shelters. Initial quotes for the two shelters came in above budget. Lower quotes were sought but were not received until late May, leaving insufficient time to complete the replacements prior to the end of the financial year.	The budgeted amount will be put to Councillors at the Quarterly Budget Review to be revoted into the 2022/23 financial year budget. If the revote is approved, the two bus shelters will be ordered and installed prior to 30 June 2023.
<b>Theme 2: 6a.05</b> Enhance and upgrade facilities at the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• completing the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre Redevelopment, including the installation of the waterslide</li> <li>• replacing the pool covers on the 50m pool at the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre</li> </ul>		Remediation works to address leaks at the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre were completed in readiness for the season opening. Stainless steel splash pool toys are on order and procurement for the replacement slide has commenced. Neither the slide nor the pool toys were installed by 30 June 2022 and the ordered pool covers had not yet arrived.	The pool blankets will be delivered before the opening of the Aquatic Centre for the next swimming season. The pool toys will be installed in time for the swim season opening. The slide tender will be finalised before Christmas with installation expected to commence early in 2023.
<b>Theme 2: 6a.09</b> Support development of a new golf clubhouse by providing project management services		Council's role is as support only, with the Golf Club Committee opting to take carriage of the build themselves. Council holds grant funds towards to cost of the new car park.	Council will continue to provide support on an as-needed basis. Confirmation will be sought from the funder about the possibility of revising completion dates.

Theme/Operational Plan Activity	Status	Reason for Status	Corrective Actions
<b>Theme: 2 6a.11</b> Carry out preliminary works on an extension of the indoor stadium to enable the provision of additional basketball and netball courts		A concept design has not been completed by 30 June. Responses to an Expression of Interest for preliminary extension design plans have been received and shortlisted.	Shortlisted businesses will be requested to provide quotes for the development of design plans prior to Christmas.
<b>Theme: 2 7a.01</b> Complete the refurbishment of the Roxy Theatre both internally and externally		The build project has been delayed due to latent conditions (the presence of asbestos and structural issues) as well as difficulties securing labour and materials.	Funding providers have agreed to an extension of the project timeframe into 2023. The project is expected to be completed by May 2023.
<b>Theme: 2 8a.01</b> Support and enable public access to local history: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and catalogue Leeton Library's local studies collection (including monographs, pamphlets and photographs)</li> </ul>		It was identified that cataloguing the Leeton Library's local studies collection would require significantly more staff and volunteer time than had been allowed. The option of applying for a grant to pay for the services of a qualified contractor was discussed but the library's planned transition to a new delivery model (joining Riverina Library Services) took precedence. This also includes a transition to a new software system (from Libero to Spydus) which needs to be bedded in from 1 July 2022.	From January 2023, Library team member resourcing will periodically be allocated to cataloguing the local studies collection as time allows, using the new system. This project will be ongoing.
<b>Theme: 2 8a.02</b> Support Whitton and Yanco Museums by building the skills capability of volunteers and by undertaking a significance assessment of Yanco Powerhouse Museum (dependent on external funding)		The planned significance assessment of the Yanco Powerhouse Museum has not commenced because the project is to be grant funded and no funding has been sourced. At the request of the Yanco Powerhouse Museum Association, support efforts have been directed towards application of the Creative Capital Funding Grant funding instead.	Staff will endeavour to source funding in 2022/23 for the significance assessment.
<b>Theme: 2 8a.04</b> Investigate the requirements for stabilising the exterior brick walls of the Whitton Courthouse		The Courthouse floor has been replaced (piers, joints, bearers and tongue and groove) and additional support to the rafters completed. Works required to the exterior wall have not commenced as further structural advice is required – a chemical underpinning solution is being explored.	Stabilising of the exterior wall will be completed by October 2022.



Theme/Operational Plan Activity	Status	Reason for Status	Corrective Actions
<b>Theme 4: 12a.02</b> Facilitate the growth of local industry by developing Vance Industrial Estate (north)		Detailed design is underway but the planned completion by October 2022 is unlikely to be achieved. Funding of \$1.1M has been secured for roadworks. Preparation is underway to sell lots off the plans.	Development approval is expected prior to Christmas, with works to commence in early 2023.
<b>Theme 4: 13b.02</b> Develop the Art Deco Way signed touring route running from Darlington Point through Whitton along Back Whitton Road to Leeton and Yanco		Six highway billboard signs have been installed at targeted locations outside the Shire on the Newell Highway, Sturt Highway and Kidman Way. However, signs that were to be erected inside the Shire have not yet been installed.	Locations will be reviewed to ensure signage is efficient, effective and within budget, with installation to be complete by June 2023.
<b>Theme 4: 13b.03</b> Operate an attractive Visitor Information Service and complete a review of the effectiveness of current service model		The planned review of the service model did not commence with available time directed at securing bus tours and other events (car clubs especially) which have started up again post pandemic.	The review will be conducted in the second half of 2022/23.
<b>Theme 4: 14a.02</b> Continue to implement key recommendations of the Leeton CBD Enhancement Plan – Chelmsford Place Town Square		This Chelmsford Place project has been delayed because no suppliers responded to Council's first Request for Tender. The current environment is very challenging as construction companies are in high demand and have full programs.	The Request for Tender timeframe will be extended. Council staff will follow-up with suppliers who engaged with the Request for Tender but did not submit a Tender.
<b>Theme 5: 15a.01</b> Operate and supply water treatment services at Leeton, Whitton and Murrumbidgee including: • implementing SCADA at the Murrumbidgee Treatment Plant • replacing the backwash pump at the Leeton Filtration Plant • desilting the raw water dam at the Leeton Water Treatment Plant		The SCADA implementation at the Murrumbidgee Water Treatment Plant and the replacement of the backwash pump at the Leeton Water Treatment Plant have both been completed. However, the desilting of the raw water dam at the Leeton Water Treatment Plant has not commenced.	The desilting of the raw water dam will be completed by 30 June 2023.
<b>Theme 5: 15a.03</b> Complete an Integrated Water Cycle Management (WCM) Strategy that complies with new regulations and requirements		An issues paper has been developed and reviewed but the IWCM Strategy has not yet been prepared.	Public Works Advisory has been contracted to write the IWCM Strategy. It is expected that a draft will be available by March 2023.

Theme/Operational Plan Activity	Status	Reason for Status	Corrective Actions
<b>Theme 5: 15b.02</b> Design and construct a sewer network for the Wamoon sewage		The tenders received for this project were either non-compliant or well above budget. All tenders were rejected and Council opted to enter into direct negotiations with H2H Plumbing.	Subject to funder approval of the final design, the project will commence in November 2022.
<b>Theme 5: 16b.02</b> Develop an action plan for the road linkages study for WRConnect		Significant delays in the NSW Government's decision on the rail loop at Wumbulgal have prevented transport company LINX Cargo Care Group from relocating to the site. This has created uncertainty for working up business cases for linkage roads.	Once the rail loop has been announced, the development of a road linkages action plan and funding strategy will be given priority. This will require collaboration with neighbouring Councils.
<b>Theme 5: 16b.03</b> Investigate the feasibility of a decoupling bay and showering facilities for truck drivers in Leeton		Preliminary discussions with stakeholders indicated that Vance Estate is not a suitable location for a decoupling bay.	Other location options along the current heavy vehicle bypass are being investigated and local transport operators are being surveyed regarding possible locations. Once a suitable location is identified, further investigation into costings and likely usage will be undertaken.
<b>Theme 5: 17a.01c</b> Establishing a dog-off leash park/area on the vacant Crown Land adjacent to McCaughey Park, Yanco		It was necessary to carry this project over to the 2022/23 financial year because the management of the land in question must first be transferred from Crown Lands to Council. A broader master plan for the land then needs to be developed for public consultation, including the off-leash area.	The site of the dog off-leash area will be determined and completed as part of a broader masterplan for McCaughey Park once management of the land is transferred to Council. Application for transfer of the land to Council will be made in 2022/23 but it is uncertain when transfer will be completed.
<b>Theme 5: 17b.03</b> Commence public artwork mural projects for Leeton: • Leeton Water Tower		It is necessary for this project to be undertaken in tandem with the Leeton CBD Enhancement – Chelmsford Place Town Square project. It is lagging because of delays in the commencement of that project (see 14a.02).	The Cultural Services team is working with Illuminart to prepare for community engagement regarding the project in the first quarter of 2022/23.



Theme/Operational Plan Activity	Status	Reason for Status	Corrective Actions
<b>Theme 5: 17c.01</b> Provide a network of public toilets to service busy public places through ongoing maintenance and by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>renewing/upgrading the Sycamore Street Carpark public toilet</li> <li>renewing/upgrading the Whitton public toilet</li> <li>constructing a new public toilet in Wamoon</li> <li>constructing a new public toilet in Gossamer Park, Wattle Hill</li> </ul>		The Whitton toilet upgrade is complete except for exterior painting, which has been arranged and will take place as soon as render is sufficiently cured. However the Gossamer Park, Sycamore Street and Wamoon toilets have not yet been constructed. The timing of the construction of the toilet in Wamoon is dependent on the timing of the Wamoon Sewer Project, which has been delayed (see 15b.02). Because the shell of the existing Sycamore Street carpark public toilet is being used for the Wamoon toilet block, the Sycamore Street upgrade has also been delayed.	Work on the Wamoon public toilet will be undertaken in tandem with the Wamoon Sewer Project. The Sycamore Street car park toilet will also commence at that time. The new toilets in Gossamer Park and work will commence in January 2023.
<b>Theme 5: 17d.14</b> Complete review of the Leeton Local Environmental Plan (LEP)		In the interests of strategic alignment, it was decided to delay the development of the LEP until after the adoption of a Leeton Development Control Plan (DCP).	The review of the LEP will commence after the adoption of the Leeton DCP. It is anticipated that the DCP will be tabled for adoption at the September 2022 Council meeting.
<b>Theme 6: 20b.03</b> Identify and implement improvements in project management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>implement the Pulse Project Management and Control Module</li> </ul>		While the Pulse Project Management Control Module has been implemented and there has been a definite improvement in Council's management of projects, there is room for further improvement.	Improvements identified during the recent internal audit of Council's management of contracts and projects will be implemented on a priority basis.
<b>Theme 6: 20b.06</b> Complete a rates review to ensure rates are collected as fairly as possible across the various rating categories		The rates review has not yet been conducted.	Council has determined to review the fairness of its rating structure prior to introducing any Special Rate Variation (SRV). Consultation regarding an SRV is scheduled to commence in the second quarter of 2022/23.
<b>Theme 6: 20b.07</b> Maintain Council's financial sustainability – as measured by the value of investment earnings Amber icon		Council's investments strategy is sound but low interest rates have had a significant impact on investment income.	Council will continue to invest in line with its investment strategy with some improvement in income expected as a result of recent increases in interest rates.

Theme/Operational Plan Activity	Status	Reason for Status	Corrective Actions
<b>Theme 6: 20b.08</b> Continue effective Asset Management Planning (AMP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>revise Water and Waste Water Asset Management Plans to include revaluation and condition assessment</li> <li>carry out an audit of existing rural stormwater drainage asset data and capture additional data</li> </ul>		The focus this financial year has been on developing a Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) to inform the updated Long Term Financial Plan. The SAMP has been completed but Asset Management Plans (AMPs) individual asset class are under still under development.	An Asset Management Policy to guide decision making and better clarify roles and responsibilities will be developed prior to Christmas. Once the policy has been completed, work on updating the individual AMPs will commence. Asset registers will be maintained within Council's Asset Management System.
<b>Theme 6: 20d.02</b> Implement Council's Work Health and Safety program		Great gains have been made in the implementation of Council's Work Health and Safety Program. In the last quarter of 2021/22 there were no major non-conformances and the rate of completion of corrective actions increased to 95%. No regulatory notices were issued. Unfortunately, 2,948 hours were lost to injury for eight Lost Time Injury (LTI) claims. Of the total hours lost, 2,720 hours were lost to just three claims.	Council will continue to implement its Work Health and Safety program. A Health and Wellbeing program will be developed with health checks to commence in August 2022 and Resilience and Self-Care Awareness training to be conducted in September 2022.
<b>Theme 6: 20d.06</b> Implement an integrated Customer Relationship Management (CRM)		Compliance and Ranger Services were identified as being the areas that would benefit most from the efficiencies and improvements to customer service that could be delivered by implementation of the CRM system. For this reason, the focus in 2021/22 has been on developing workflows and digitisation of processes and forms for these areas. Available CRM data to the extent available in the current system is being captured and reported monthly to the Senior Management Team.	Streamlining of more organisation-wide customer service access and processes will commence towards the end of the 2022/23 financial year.



The NSW Local Government Act and Regulation, and other legislation applying to Local Government, requires councils to report on particular matters in their annual report.

This information is considered by the State Government to be important for local communities to know about, and to help community members understand how their council has been performing, both as a business entity and a community leader.

The information that follows provides transparency and accountability for Council's activities throughout the 2021/22 financial year.

## Payment of Councillor Fees and Expenses, and Provision of Facilities to Councillors

### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a1) (i), (ii), (iiia), (iv), (vi), (vii), (viii)

Leeton Shire Council has a Councillors' Expenses and Facilities Policy that governs the expenses paid and facilities provided to the Mayor and other Councillors in their civic duties.

Annual fees were paid to all Councillors as required by the *Local Government Act 1993* and in line with the determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal. The total fees paid to all Councillors for 2021/22 was \$111,750.

The total amount expended during 2021/22 on Mayoral and Councillor fees, the provision of facilities, and the payment of expenses was \$181,997.

Councillor Fees, Expenses and Facilities	Amount
Councillor fees	\$111,750
Mayoral allowance, excluding Councillor fee	\$29,195
Motor vehicle – Mayor (business use) – July 2021 to December 2021 only.	
Current Mayor does not utilise a Mayoral vehicle	\$1,525
Councillor travel and accommodation	\$8,957
Council meeting and sundry expenses (includes external meetings/receptions)	\$10,378
Councillor training and skills development	\$7,086
Telecommunications	\$4,038
Seminars and conferences	\$5,891
Memberships	\$190
Material and consumable purchases	\$130
Printing and stationery	\$812
Florist expenses	\$568
Catering	\$621
Carer expenses	Nil
Interstate visits	Nil
Overseas visits	Nil
Office equipment	Nil
Spouse/partner expenses	\$856
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$181,997</b>

## Overseas visits

### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a)

No overseas visits were undertaken by Leeton Shire Councillors or staff as representatives of Council during 2021/22.

## Councillor Induction and Professional Development

### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 186

An induction program took place in 2021/22 for all Councillors, both experienced Councillors and those new to the role. The induction program included an Introduction to Council on 9 February 2022, a formal Councillor Induction Training session on 16 February 2022 and a 1.5 day Strategic Planning Workshop on 25 and 26 March 2022. In addition, a number of Councillors participated in the OLG's Hit the Ground Running series of webinars and the Mayor completed an LGNSW Mayoral Induction Session on 8 and 9 February. Three Councillors also undertook LGNSW finance training and one Councillor attended a training session on planning.

Councillors receive all circulars provided by the Office of Local Government, Australian Local Government Association and Local Government NSW. Leeton Shire Council also held 19 briefing sessions for the Councillors as a group in 2021/22.

## Environmental Upgrade Agreements

### Local Government Act 1993 – s 54P(1)

No environmental upgrade agreements have been entered into by Leeton Shire Council during this reporting period.

## Special Rate Variations

### Special Rate Variation Guidelines – 7.1

Leeton Shire Council did not have any special rate variations to general income in place during 2021/22.

## Rates and Charges Written Off

### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 132

Eligible pensioners are entitled to receive up to:

- \$250.00 on ordinary rates and charges for domestic waste management services
- \$87.50 off their annual water rates and charges (where service is provided by Council)
- \$87.50 off their annual sewerage rates and charges (where service is provided by council).

In 2021/22 a total of 862 households were eligible for one or more of the above concessions. Rates and charges (interest not included) written off in the 2021/22 period included:

Item	Amount
Total Pensioner Concession	\$316,700
<b>Less:</b> Subsidy Reimbursement	(\$174,185)
Amount Written off by Council	Nil
Postponed Rates and Charges	\$2,565
Sale of land for rates	Nil
Rates debts abandoned	Nil
Special Rate Rebates	\$16,093
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$161,173</b>

## Planning Agreements in Force

### Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 – s 7.5(5)

Leeton Shire Council entered into one voluntary planning agreement with ib vogt for the Yanco Solar Farm during 2021/22.

## Recovery and Threat Abatement Plans

### Fisheries Management Act 1994 – s 220ZT

Leeton Shire Council is not identified as having responsibility under any Recovery and Threat Abatement Plan.



**Contracts Awarded****Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a2)(i).**

Details of contracts awarded by Leeton Shire Council in 2021/22 for amounts greater than \$150,000 are provided in the following table.

Contractor Name	Contract Description	Value	Date	Tender Type
Matt Sheldrick Prolop Boots Construction HB Constructions MIA Bobcat Riverina Hydrovac Stablix Smallmon Orange Hire Coates Robbo's Sand & Truck Riverina Stabilisers Jay Barby R & M Watt Earthmoving Liftek McMahons	Pricing commitment by potential suppliers for the provision of wet and dry earthmoving and plant hire options.	\$1,500,000	July 2021	Open Market
Lloyd Group Pty Ltd	Construction Contract Roxy Theatre Redevelopment Stage 1	\$5,004,833	January 2022	EOI followed by Selective Tender
Liberty Oil Australia Pty Ltd	Pricing commitment by supplier for the provision of diesel and unleaded fuel.	\$350,000	December 2021	Supplier registered with Local Government Procurement
Milbrae Quarries Pty Ltd E.B. Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd	Pricing commitment by supplier for the provision of diesel and unleaded fuel.	\$1,626,594	Extension to July 2024 under new owners (EB Mawson & Sons Pty Ltd)	Open Market Request for pricing commitment
Downer EDI Works Pty Ltd	Pricing commitment by potential supplier for the provision of bitumen, emulsions asphaltic materials and services.	\$1,200,000	July 2021	Supplier registered with Local Government Procurement
Jason Mimmo	Provision of Professional Golf Service	\$182,256	Sept 2021	Tender not applicable as under \$250,000

Contractor Name	Contract Description	Value	Date	Tender Type
TWO SUPPLIERS selected as below:	Solar Panel installation – supply and installation of solar panels to 8 sites	TOTAL \$172,470.56 split as below:		Tender not applicable as under \$250,000
The Trustee for the Walsh Family Trust		\$92,160		Open Market Quote
Andreazza Electrical Pty Ltd		\$80,310.56		

**Legal Proceedings****Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a3)**

In 2021/22, there were no legal proceedings for debt recovery of rates and water charges. Council was involved in legal proceedings as follows:

Type of Proceedings	Cost	Amount/Activity	Status	Result
Debt Recovery	\$1,419	Recovering a debt of \$9,026 for the cost of damage to a sewer line	Completed	Successful
Defence of a public liability claim made against Council	\$8,116	Defending Council from potentially having to pay an excess of \$15,000	Ongoing	In the hands of solicitors

**Works Carried out on Private Land****Local Government Act 1993 – 67, 67(2)(b), 67(3)****Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a4)**

During the 2021/22 year, Leeton Shire Council made no resolutions under Section 67 of the *Local Government Act 1993* to carry out or subsidise work on private land.

**External Bodies that exercise functions delegated by Council****Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a6)**

Jeremy Crocker and Robert Ferguson of Robert Ferguson Management are authorised under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* to control weeds in Leeton Shire.

Shannon McKiernan of Assure Consulting is delegated by Council under the *Public Health Act 2010* and the *Food Act 2003* to conduct health inspections in Leeton Shire.

Council has not delegated functions to any other external bodies but notes that, under legislation, delegations fall to the following:

Name of External Body	Delegated Function
Rural Fire Service	Oversee the delivery of a Rural Fire Service within the local government area and discharge Council's obligations under the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i> and <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
State Emergency Services	Oversee the delivery of the State Emergency Service within Leeton Shire and discharge Council's obligations under the <i>State Emergency Service Act 1989</i>



### Companies controlled by Council

#### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a7)

Leeton Shire Council did not hold a controlling interest in any corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies during 2021/22.

### Council participation in corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates and other bodies

#### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a8)

The table below describes Leeton Shire Council's participation in corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates and other bodies during 2021/22.

Name of Organisation	Function
Country Mayors Association	The Association represents rural and regional member councils in NSW. It is a forum to discuss shared issues and make representations to other levels of government.
Leeton Local Emergency Management Committee	This Committee is responsible for an all-agencies comprehensive approach to emergency planning in the Leeton Shire local government area. The membership of this Committee is made up of Emergency Services and other agencies with functional responsibilities.
Leeton–Narrandera Aerodrome Management Committee	This Committee is responsible for policy formulation and setting of guidelines for management matters at the Leeton–Narrandera Airport.
Leeton Local Traffic Committee	This Committee exists primarily as a technical review committee which advises Council on some traffic-related matters. The Committee is made up of representatives from Council, NSW Police and Roads and Maritime Services.
Local Government New South Wales	Local Government NSW is the peak industry association that represents the interests of NSW general and special purpose councils. In being a member, Council is also represented at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).
MIA Zone Liaison Committee (Rural Fire Service)	This Committee advises the State Bushfire Coordination Committee on bushfire prevention in the Leeton Shire LGA; promotes the coordination of policies, practices and strategies relating to bushfire management; and prepares a Bushfire Management Area Plan and oversees its implementation.
Murray Darling Association Region 9	This group represents local government and community views on the major natural resource management issues of the Murray Darling Basin. It seeks to influence the policies of governments as they relate to conservation and sustainable development within the Basin.
Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation	The Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) is a voluntary regional organisation of 11 councils in the Riverina and Murray Region established under the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> , which takes a regional approach to addressing issues shared by local councils.
Western Riverina Arts	Western Riverina Arts (WRA) is a not-for-profit organisation that works in partnership with our member councils: Narrandera Shire Council, Leeton Shire Council, Griffith City Council and Murrumbidgee Shire Council to support, develop and promote the Arts in the Western Riverina.

### Coastal Protection Services

#### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(e1)

The requirement to report on coastal protection services does not apply to Leeton Shire.

### Equal Employment Opportunities Management Plan

#### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(a9)

Leeton Shire Council, through its policies and programs, aims to provide an environment where employees and others in the workplace are treated fairly and with respect, and are free from unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and bullying.

Council has Flexible Working Arrangements in place which help staff balance work and family responsibilities.

Council utilises its Consultative Committee as a mechanism to consult with employees during the development and review of People and Organisation Development policies, programs and practices.

### Remuneration – General Manager

#### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(b)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v)

As at 30 June 2022, Leeton Shire Council's General Manager's remuneration package consisted of:

Component	Value
Salary	\$252,715
Bonus or performance payments	Nil
Employer's contribution to superannuation	\$25,272
Non-cash benefits – Private use of motor vehicle	\$10,000
FBT on non-cash benefits	Nil
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$287,987</b>

### Remuneration – Senior Staff

#### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(c)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v)

As at 30 June 2022, no Leeton Shire Council staff fit the *Local Government Act 1993* definition of 'senior staff'.

### Statement of total number of persons who performed paid work on Wednesday 25 May 2022

#### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(d)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv)

Categories of Staff	Number of staff
Persons employed by the council on a permanent full-time, permanent part-time or casual basis or under a fixed-term contract	184
Persons employed by the council as senior staff members	0
Persons engaged by the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, wholly or principally for the labour of the person	0
Persons supplied to the council, under a contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee	0

### Stormwater Management Services

#### Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(e)

During 2021/22, Leeton Shire Council levied a Stormwater Management Service Charge (SMSC) on eligible residential properties and eligible properties in the business rating category. A total of \$90,813 was raised through these charges.

These funds were used to fund Council's Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan. This Study and Plan included the hydrological analysis of mitigation options for higher risk flood within the Leeton and Yanco areas.

The revenue raised from this charge will also fund any future projects identified in the Strategic Stormwater Management Plan.



Companion Animals Activities

Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 – cl 217(1)(f)  
Companion Animals Act 1998, Companion Animal Regulation 2018

Monies received from the Companion Animals Fund were expended on the provision of Companion Animal Management and Control services (details below). A total of \$278,821 was spent on Companion Animal Management and related activities. Council's pound data collection returns and dog attack data for the 2021/22 financial year were lodged with the Office of Local Government (OLG) on 1 September 2022.

Registering, De-sexing and Microchipping

Council's programs and strategies to promote and assist the registration, microchipping and desexing of dogs and cats included:

- Conducting community education programs by way of media releases, social media posts, interviews with the media, reports to Council, Councillor briefing sessions, educational material and extension services provided by Council's Rangers during daily operations
- Offering an ongoing subsidised microchipping program which allows members of the public to have their companion animals microchipped at a substantially reduced rate (\$30 for one animal or \$22 for more than one animal). This year, 192 animals were microchipped, up from 105 animals in the previous financial year
- Hosting free microchipping days. In 2021/22 a free microchipping day was held on 4 August 2021 at which 40 animals were microchipped. COVID-19 restrictions prevented a second free microchipping day being held but Rangers compensated by attending residents' homes
- Deferring the registration of cats and dogs for owners planning to de-sex their pets until after the animals are de-sexed so the owners can benefit from the lower de-sexed animal registration rate.

Pound Data

In order to seek alternatives to euthanasia for unclaimed impounded animals, Council:

- has entered into rehoming agreements with 'Hounds on the Rebound' and 'Pets Haven'
- microchips any animal going to a rescue organisation at no cost
- does not charge for animals adopted from the Pound by members of the public (apart from registration fees) and provides free microchipping
- includes on its website pictures of impounded dogs and cats, regularly updated, in order that the owners may claim the dogs or that they may be rehomed.

In 2021/22, Council returned 146 of the 260 dogs impounded to their owners and transferred 103 to rehoming organisations. This represents a 95% return to owner/rehoming rate of impounded dogs, up from 88% in 2020/21.

Dog Attack Data

There were 27 reported dog attacks in the Leeton Shire in 2021/22. Twenty-one humans and 35 animals were attacked. Fifteen of the attacked humans suffered no injuries but three victims required hospitalisation, two required medical attention and one victim suffered minor injuries. Sixteen animals were killed in the attacks.

In relation to these attacks, no action was taken in four cases because the owner(s) of the offending dogs were not identified. Infringement notices were issued in six cases, a menacing dog order was issued in one case, dangerous dog declarations were made in four cases and warnings were issued in two cases. Eighteen dogs were seized and taken to the pound. Multiple actions were taken in some cases. Investigations are continuing in eight cases.

Off-Leash Areas

Council provides an off-leash area at the former caravan park site on Brobenah Road. Leeton Council is considering this site for a future housing development, so alternative locations for an off-leash area are being investigated.

Capital Works Projects

Office of Local Government Capital Expenditure Guidelines

Council undertook major capital works with a value of \$9,783,007. These projects included:

Project	Amount
Land and Buildings	\$1,161,214
Parks and Recreation Assets	\$731,863
Plant and Equipment Purchases	\$2,267,665
Roads Bridges and Footpaths	\$3,859,058
Sewer Infrastructure	\$547,639
Stormwater Drainage	\$240,747
Water Supply System	\$727,422
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,783,007</b>

Compliance with the Carers (Recognition) Act

Carers Recognition Act 2010 – s 8(2)

Leeton Shire benefits from Home and Community Care Services delivered through Temora Shire Council's Pinnacle program. Leeton Shire also benefits from Community Transport Services delivered through Narrandera Shire Council. Leeton Shire Council does not, itself, provide services directed at carers and/or people being cared for by carers.

Council is committed to supporting staff with carer responsibilities. Our goal is to respond to the diverse and changing needs of employees who are carers by providing a flexible and inclusive workplace that support individual life situations. In 2021/22 the Council met its obligations under the Carers (Recognition) Act through a range of initiatives and programs. This included supporting workplace flexibility for employees with carer responsibilities and supporting managers and staff during COVID-19 through flexible and remote working, collaborative technology tools, online training and regular communication.

Implementation of Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Disability Inclusion Act 2014 – s 13(1)

Leeton Shire Council continued to progress the scheduled actions of its *Disability Inclusion Action Plan*. Actions undertaken in 2021/22 included:

- Lodging the required information relating to implementation of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) with the Minister for Disability Services
- Consulting people with disabilities and their carers, disability service providers and members of the community in the development of a new DIAP
- Partnering with My Plan Connect to launch the Lands Office Café as a social enterprise café focused on delivering employment readiness for disadvantaged youth. Young people with disabilities and an interest in working in hospitality were trained in cafe operation
- Constructing a new section of shared pathway along Acacia Avenue from Irrigation Way to the end of the existing shared pathway. This completes a full circuit of accessible shared pathway around Leeton (the town ring)
- Completing the Brobenah Road pedestrian bridge to link the shared pathways along Palm Avenue and Brobenah Road. This completes the accessible pathway access into the town ring shared pathway from the north
- Incorporating an adult change facility into the design for the new fully accessible toilet facilities to be built in the Sycamore Street car park
- Upgrading the toilet facilities at Whitton, making the facilities fully accessible for the aged and people with disabilities
- Collaborating with the University of Western Sydney, HOST International and Multicultural NSW, to source \$15,000 in funding from Multicultural NSW to put towards training (\$3,000) and to employ a Peace Project Coordinator (\$12,000) whose role will be to deliver employment readiness for disadvantaged youth through projects such as the Lands Office Café
- Partnering with My Plan Connect to host an event to mark International Day of People with Disability at the Lands Office Café on 2 December 2021. My Plan Connect clients staffed the café to serve morning tea to their families and friends.

Inspections of Private Swimming Pools

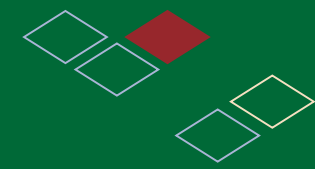
Swimming Pools Act 1992 – s 22F (2)

Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 – cl 23

Leeton Shire Council implemented its swimming pools inspection program as per the following table.

Project	No. of inspections
Tourist and visitor accommodation	0
Premises with more than two dwellings	0
Inspections at single dwelling premises that resulted in a Certificate of Compliance being issued under s 22D of the <i>Swimming Pools Act 1992</i>	17
Number of swimming pools inspected	43
Number of re-inspections conducted	16
<b>Total number of private pool inspections conducted</b>	<b>59</b>





## Section 7.12 Fixed Levies and Section 64 Contributions

### *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

#### *Environment Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 cl 218A(1)*

Leeton Shire Council commenced the 2021/22 year with a balance of \$596,000 in its Section 7.12 Fixed Levy Plan account. During 2021/22, a further \$132,000 in Section 7.12 levies was collected. The amount of \$48,000 was spent on renewing playgrounds in Ramponi and Waring Parks and \$22,000 was spent on renewable energy projects, bringing the balance in the account to \$700,000.

Under Section 64 of the *Local Government Act 1993*, Council may also levy some developments for the construction of works related to water supply, sewerage and stormwater drainage works and facilities. In 2021/22, \$101,000 was collected and \$100,000 spent, bringing the balance to \$31,000.

## On-site Sewage Management

### *Local Government Act 1993 – s 68;*

#### *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*

During 2021/22, Leeton Shire Council levied an on-site sewage management fee for 1,633 properties. A total of \$16,330 was raised through the charges and is used by Council to offset the cost of an education and inspection program. No on-site sewerage management inspections were conducted in 2021/22. Instead, efforts were directed towards developing an updated septic register and an electronic inspection system. Council also revised the Onsite Sewage Management Policy, which includes a new risk matrix for the risk classification of septic systems. The new policy, once adopted by Council, will be used to assign new risk ratings to each system, which will inform the future inspection regime. Council intends to commence inspections in 2023

## Government Information Public Access Activity

### *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 – s 125(1)*

#### *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018 – cl 8, Schedule 2*

Leeton Shire Council is required to prepare an annual report on activities undertaken during the financial year related to the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* (GIPA). The report is provided to the Minister for Local Government and the Office of the Information Commissioner and is available for download from Council's website.

The key points contained in the 2021/22 GIPA Annual Report were that:

- Leeton Shire Council's Contracts Register is available for viewing on Council's website – updated bimonthly
- Leeton Shire Council's GIPA Disclosure Log is available for viewing on Council's website – updated quarterly
- Five formal GIPA applications were received and Council provided the information in accordance with legislative requirements
- Twenty-two informal requests for information were received to which Council provided the requested information.

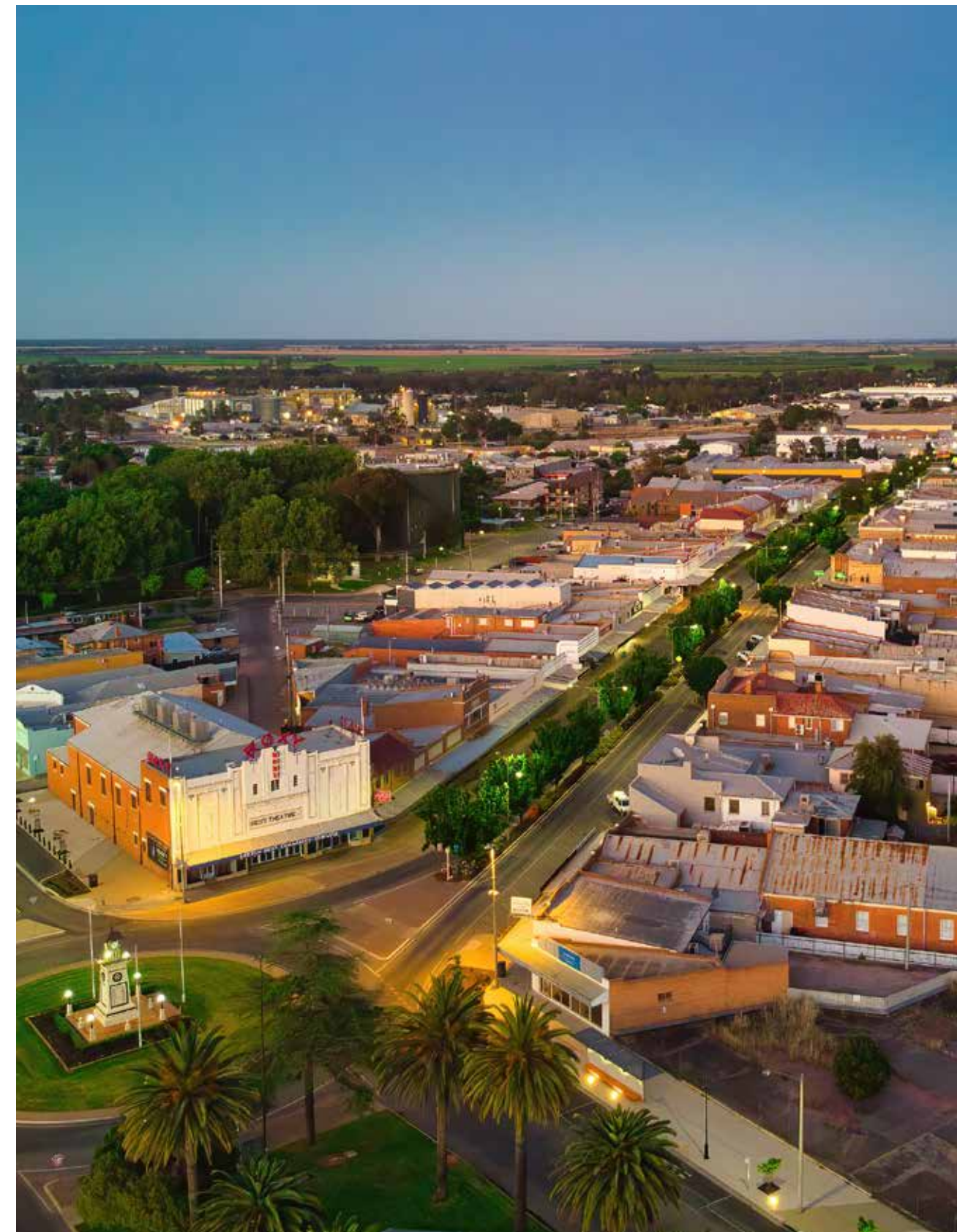
## Public Interest Disclosures

### *Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 – s 31*

#### *Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011 – cl 4*

Under Clause 4(1) of the Public Disclosures Regulation, Council must include the following information in its Annual Report:

Public Interest Disclosures (PIDs) in 2021/22	Number
Number of public officials who made PIDs	Nil
Number of PIDs received	Nil
Number of PIDs finalised	Nil







## LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL

**Leeton Shire Council**

ABN 59 217 957 665

23–25 Chelmsford Place, Leeton NSW 2705

**[www.leeton.nsw.gov.au](http://www.leeton.nsw.gov.au)**

**E:** [council@leeton.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@leeton.nsw.gov.au) **P:** (02) 6953 0911 **F:** (02) 6953 0977