

END OF TERM REPORT



COBAR SHIRE
COUNCIL
outback nsw

2012-2016

OUR VISION

Our Vision is for Cobar Shire to be an attractive, healthy and caring environment in which to live, work and play, achieved in partnership with the community through initiative, foresight and leadership.

OUR MISSION

Our Mission is to provide sound and sensible government and ensure that works and services are delivered effectively and equitably to the community of Cobar Shire.

Council will also develop and constantly review its policy on the maintenance of its road network with current priorities to include the sealing of the following strategic roads within the Shire; Ivanhoe Road, Louth Road and Tilpa Road.

OUR VALUES

Council has adopted the following Values that should be reflected in how the whole organisation operates and interacts with others:

- Continually strive for improvement in every aspect of Council's activities and recognise initiative.
- All activities are to be customer focused and provide equity for all.
- Involve the community in decision making through open government and consultative processes.
- Foster and promote sustainable ecological and economic development, rural pursuits and industries that contribute to the wealth of the region and in keeping with the environment and residents lifestyle.
- Conserve and protect the natural beauty of the area.
- Promote a spirit of regional cooperation particularly in regard to planning, infrastructure, economic development, tourism and employment.

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Executive Summary

Cobar Shire Council's End of Term Report has been prepared under Section 428 and Essential Element 1.10 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Council is required to produce a report every four (4) years at the end of each Council Term. This report covers the period September 2012 to August 2016.

This report from the outgoing Council should measure the implementation and effectiveness of the Community Strategic Plan, Community Enhancement Strategy, Delivery Program, Resource Strategy and Annual Operational Plan in achieving its community, economic, governance, infrastructure and environmental strategies over the past four years.

Council's Delivery Program and the Annual Operational Plan have been prepared to reflect the Themes, Outcomes and Objectives of the Cobar Shire Council's Community Strategic Plan. Cobar Shire 2025 outlines future aspirations for the Shire. It does this by defining five strategic themes for the period. Each theme outlines the long term goals and community outcomes and then the strategies that Council, partner organisations and individuals can undertake to work towards them.

1. Community

- 1.1 Strong coordination between government agencies, Council and NGOs to ensure efficient service delivery, avoid duplication of services and build the capacity of the community.
- 1.2 Young people are able to reach their full potential, are encouraged to stay in the region and have a wide range of opportunities available to them locally.
- 1.3 Families are supported, social inclusion is valued and families who relocate to Cobar stay in Cobar.
- 1.4 A generous, engaged and participative community with a strong community spirit.
- 1.5 A healthy and active community.
- 1.6 A safe and clean community

4. Infrastructure

- 4.1 A clean and reliable water supply.
- 4.2 Good communications networks with services equal to the metropolitan areas.
- 4.3 Good transport networks that increase the accessibility of Cobar and markets.
- 4.4 Good quality and affordable community facilities and infrastructure

2. Economy

- 2.1 A vibrant shire that promotes and supports business growth and retention, development and investment.
- 2.2 A strong and diverse tourist industry with a focus on customer service.
- 2.3 A strong business hub operating out of the Cobar Airport.

3. Governance

- 3.1 A well-funded Council that is well managed and well governed.
- 3.2 An engaged community that participates in decision making.
- 3.3 A well-functioning Council that focuses on strategic planning, provides good customer service and secures value-for-money goods and services

5. Environment

- 5.1 Ability to adapt to climate change and benefit from climate change initiatives
- 5.2 Well managed public and private land.
- 5.3 Clean air in the community

COMMUNITY

1.1 Strong coordination between government agencies, Council and NGOs to ensure efficient service delivery, avoid duplication of services and build the capacity of the community.

Strong and participative Interagencies

The Cobar Interagency did not meet for the second half of Council's term as there were several sub groups that effectively operated. These included the Cobar Mental Health network, the Cobar Domestic Violence Action Group (which Council sits on) and the Cobar Community Services Forum (as part of the Integrated Care Project) which Council actively participated in. During the Council term Council also participated in the Cobar Public School's SPERG interagency which has since wound up due to a lack of involvement of participants.

Council was an active member of the Murrin Bridge and Lake Cargelligo Interagency. A watching brief was maintained for this interagency. Council

was successful in working with the RMS to get grant funding for two much needed road projects in Murrin Bridge village. These works will be undertaken in 2016/2017.

1.2 Young people are able to reach their full potential, are encouraged to stay in the region and have a wide range of opportunities available to them locally.

Implement the actions outlined in the Youth Development Plan

A major project of the Plan was to find funding for a Youth Development Officer who would undertake many of the actions. However, no funding were available. The major priority issues were implemented, such as supporting the Cobar Youth Council to undertake capacity building and event management and the construction of the skate park.

Late 2013 funding for the Peak Skate Park was obtained through partnerships

with the Australian Government, Peak and Council. The community was engaged to develop the design and the project was completed in time for the Christmas holidays in 2014. It has proved to be a most valuable asset with the community continuing to use it extensively.

A greater range of youth activities are organised and coordinated

The Cobar Youth Council undertook a range of activities over the four years, with new members being recruited annually to ensure the continuation of the Youth Council and passing on the skills such as event management.

For the first part of the Council term, the Youth Council had the use of the Cinema building to host Club 282 discos and events.

Other major events organised for young people included the March 2016 Family Fun Day in Drummond Park which was hugely successful, the Little Big Day Out for three years in a row at the Cobar Memorial Swimming Pool (thanks to grant

funding) where young musicians were able to entertain the community.

In 2015 the Youth Council hosted their first Peaks of Colour Fun Run in conjunction with the Miners Ghost Festival. This is likely to become an annual event, with around 450 runners registered to take part. The Youth and Fitness Centre has played host to Friday night Games Night with up to 80 participants a night. There have been youth discos at the Centre as well and with increasing use of the Centre by community groups, the number of events offered to young people has been increasing.

The Centre has also hosted craft activities and drawing workshops; games nights; cooking classes; sporting activities and school holiday activities which are free of charge.

The Cobar Youth and Fitness Centre has been utilised by a large number of community groups including, PCYC BlueLight, Yarrabin Outreach Inc, COOSH, Storm Co, local schools, playgroups and community groups.

Youth Week each year has been organised in conjunction with the Cobar Youth Council and has been well attended with activities Trivia Night, Scavenger Hunt, Movies in the Park and Club 812.

Increased educational opportunities provided locally

Cobar Shire Council has worked with organisations to increase the quality and diversity of educational opportunities available locally.

Library staff provide basic instruction in the use of computers and the internet to small groups of adults and provide storytime and other literacy based activities to children and their carers, as well as resources to community groups to promote educational opportunities.



1.3 Families are supported, social inclusion is valued and families who relocate to Cobar stay in Cobar.

Parents are supported in their role to raise their children and services are available to assist them build their parenting skills

The Cobar Shire & TAFE Library continues to provide a valued service, including the school holiday activities which are fully subscribed. There has also been good participation in reading programs and the e-books service is now available.

Information is provided to families as it becomes available, including passing on information made available through the Cobar Interagency (the email list is used even when meetings are not run, to share information). Information was included in the Community Services Directory, on the What's On slide show and forwarded to the Cobar and District Mothers Association, Far West Family Day Care, Kubby House, schools and preschools.

Library staff have held story time sessions and activities for children aged 6 months to 5 years and model early literacy for parents.

Increase the supply of childcare and preschool places and options

Cobar Shire Council's Children's Services has continued to provide a valuable community service with COOSH operating with strong participation rates.

Family Day Care actively tries to recruit new Educators to maintain supply of childcare places to demand, however it is acknowledged that there is often a lack of supply of places (particularly for the under 2 year olds) mostly due to the lack of appropriately qualified staff in Cobar.

In 2014, Family Day Care successfully introduced a vacation care program for school holidays which is well subscribed.

The In Home Care service continues to grow in both numbers and geographic area covered.

Increase the knowledge of the community on a range of services available in Cobar Shire and how to access them

Our website is regularly updated and reviewed and is easy to navigate. It receives high traffic flow. The Community Services and Business Directory are updated with a mail out every 6 months with information updated as available.

Cobar Shire Council started a Facebook Page in late 2015 and we currently have 676 likes. The page is updated regularly and has been very positively received.

Have a family orientated activities to encourage families to socialise in the community

A range of activities and opportunities are provided for families to meet and socialise. The transient nature of the town is well recognised and improving infrastructure such as the skate park and youth and fitness centre are undertaken to make the community inclusive.

Regular activities held over the four year term include the annual Festival of the Miners Ghost, Seniors Week Activities, Australia Day Celebrations and Reclaim the Night community events. Council supports other groups with activities such as the annual Christmas parade, business awards and sporting weekends.

1.4 A generous, engaged and participative community with a strong community spirit.

Support volunteer organisations by encouraging volunteerism across all age groups and supporting organisations with professional assistance, advice and services

We have held several workshops to increase the skills and knowledge of committees especially treasurers. This has included bringing private accounting organisations in, Sport and Rec NSW and Volunteers NSW to Cobar to host workshops and provide resources to community groups. We have also held grant writing workshops and regularly assist groups in putting their grants together.

Business supports local events, organisations and activities

Cobar Shire Council has assisted sporting, community and business groups to promote their major events. This has been achieved through email distribution, using Council's What's On slide show and calendar, Council's Website and Council's Facebook page.

Develop initiatives to maximise the benefits and minimise the negative impact of shift work and FIFO/DIDO on the community

Council continues to monitor the effects of changing rosters, employment in the mining industry and residential living within the Cobar mining community. The main impact for the term was a shift from 4 and 4 rosters to 7 and 7, which has

resulted in more people basing themselves out of the Shire and driving in and out for rosters. Mining activity also fell at the end of the Council term, with capital works and production levels dropping, impacting on employment in the Shire and a loss of confidence in the mining industry during 2015-2016.

Support Aboriginal people and organisations to increase the broader community's awareness and recognition of local Aboriginal cultural identity in Cobar and to assist in meeting the targets set out under the current government policy of 'Closing the Gap'.

Council continues to work with government agencies and other groups to build and promote the Indigenous Nursery Project at Fort Bourke and projects with Muurdi Parki.

Support arts and cultural organisations, activities and facilities

Council has supported Outback Arts and cultural activities over the past four years, including through membership of Outback Arts and being a member on the Board.

The Museum Curator has undertaken cataloguing and conservation of the collection at the Great Cobar Heritage

Centre and are compliant with the Collections Policy.

1.5 A healthy and active community.

Provide appropriate health care options and services both within the Shire and region

Council has been working with the local Health District and NSW Government to develop a MPS for Cobar. Designs are underway and the Centre will be built in the next Council term.

Support for the Cobar Primary Health Care Centre model to ensure that it remains viable

Council has worked with mining companies to ensure that the Cobar Primary Health Care Centre received adequate funding and remains viable. The Centre has managed to vastly expand the health services offered over the term.

Increase the use of Council owned and other sporting and recreational facilities across the community

Major infrastructure projects undertaken during Council's term includes the installation of a mobile ablutions block at

Ward Oval, capital works undertaken at Morelli Park as a project with MPREC, and the completion of Stage 1 of the redevelopment of the Drummond Park playground.

Improvement were undertaken at the Dalton Park race course including to the race track and fencing was extended and replaced.

The access lane to the Newey was sealed and Council participated in a community forum that looked at what improvements could be undertaken at the reserve.

Whilst attempts to access major grant funding to undertake a revamp of the Cobar Youth and Fitness Centre were unsuccessful, Council has resealed and lined the stadium and squash courts. We also worked with organisations to expand the services and groups that use the youth centre.

Council has worked with the Nymagee Progress Association to improve facilities in the village (through the use of VPA and grant funding, as well as Council resources) such as to the hall and tennis courts.

Provide adequate infrastructure to care for older residents locally

A project to extend the lounge area at the Lilliane Brady Village was completed along with the creation of a dementia garden.

Re-accreditation of the facility was also achieved with outcomes being met against all 44 Standards with 100% compliance over the term.

More recently, an MOU with NSW Government has been signed to make the LBV part of the new MPS proposal to be undertaken in the next term of Council.

1.6 A safe and clean community.

A more visible and engaged police presence

Attendance and commitment to the Cobar Police Community Precinct Committee was maintained for the Council term.

The General Manager has provided secretariat duties to the Cobar Liquor Accord. Meetings have been held quarterly with attendance numbers being the main issue.

Implementation of the Cobar Crime Prevention Plan and Strategy

Council drove and supported the Cobar Youth Council to provide activities for young people to keep them engaged in the community. Council held regular Friday night games nights, renewed the Alcohol Free Zones, dealt quickly with public graffiti, supported community awareness campaigns regarding White Ribbon Day, International Women's Day and Reclaim The Night. We have installed security cameras in a number of key locations.

Encourage safe and sustainable development

DA Values have fluctuated, mostly in line with mining activity –
2012-2013: \$13,919,280,
2013-2014: \$9,918,638;
2014-2015: \$7,168,936;
2015-2016: \$1,870,178.

We determine on average 50-60 development proposals each year ranging from carports, dwellings and swimming pools to factories, supermarkets and mines.

Development activity has slowed over the past four years, however the number of development enquiries has increased

We have two accredited building surveyors on staff who travel to all parts of the Shire to undertake inspections, provide development advice and certify structures.

The upgrade and maintenance of Council building assets has occurred during the last four years in association with the development of a new inspection program of each building asset. Projects include the refurbishment of the Youthie basketball stadium and squash court floors, restoration works to the Cobar Museum Balcony, refurbishment of some staff houses, construction of new access ramp at the Euabalong Library and renovation of the Cobar Library.

Provide and maintain safe and serviceable public facilities and infrastructure

Council has sought funding to increase disability access to Council Buildings. E installed an access ramp at Euabalong Library, secured funding for accessibility work at the Youth and Fitness Centre and the ablutions block at Ward Oval meets disability standards.

Provide protection from fire, natural disasters, public health and other threats to the community

Council continued to participate in groups such as the LEMC and ran a mock exercise at Cobar airport in 2016.

Council assisted with the funding and project managed the construction of a new Rural Fire Shed for the RFS Headquarters for the Western Region.



ECONOMY

2.1 A vibrant shire that promotes and supports business growth and retention, development and investment.

Provision of business services locally

Council formed the Economic Taskforce in 2014, which consists of staff members, Councillors and community members. The Taskforce was established to discuss the economic issues facing Cobar Shire, generate business development ideas and proposals identify potential funding sources to undertake further projects.

Skills attraction initiatives

Work with relevant government organisations, including Regional Development Australia – Orana, NSW Primary Industries and local businesses to attract skilled people to Cobar to work. Work with Regional Development Australia – Orana Inc and DPI on economic development issues within Cobar Shire.

Develop and implement an Economic Development Strategy

Meetings of the Economic Taskforce were undertaken quarterly (once it was established) with a wide range of topics discussed. In particular, the Taskforce grappled with how to grow the business base of the Shire and ideas for new industries to attract and how to do it. This culminated in sourcing funding to undertake an Economic Study of the Shire in 2016.

Encourage people to shop locally

Cobar Shire Council has been responsible for administering the Cobar Quids Program since its introduction.

Council, as Secretariat the Cobar Business Association works with the Association to undertake regular shop local campaigns.



Diversify the business base of the Shire and strengthen local businesses

Council worked with the Cobar Enterprise Facilitation (CEF) group to progress the CEF project by sitting on the Board of Management and assisting with fundraising activities, particularly by working with government agencies and attracting government funding until CEF was wound up in December 2015.

Support mining and agricultural industries to keep them strong

Council officers have met and assisted with mining company staff on a number of occasions during this reporting year to discuss future development proposals, and where relevant, assist in the lodgement process of applications.

Council has put significant effort into seeking changes to the funding model for Regional Road funding so that Cobar receives funding at levels comparable to neighbouring shires. Council has sought additional road grant funding through the Fixing Country Roads program and other sources and received additional federal government funding as well.

2.2 A strong and diverse tourist industry with a focus on customer service.

Develop and implement a Tourism Attraction and Development Strategy

Council has a draft Tourism Strategy that will be finalised with the next Council.

Develop a diverse range of interesting annual events and promote the activities that are on and the cultural experiences that are available in Cobar to locals and tourists

Over the Council term we have worked hard with community groups to celebrate the ANZAC Centenary, promote Cobar at the caravan and camping shows, provided the secretariat for the Kidman Way Committee for 2 years, and assisted with community events, held Australia Day and Seniors Week celebrations every year.

Diversify tourism activities and increase the utilisation of current attractions

Council aimed to encourage the development and utilisation of the Cobar Caravan Park over the last four years with new managers recruited at the start of the term.

The displays at the Great Cobar Heritage Centre have been progressively updated and Council's Curator launched two historical book- We Are Here: Stories of Cobar's Inspiring Women and From The Far West to the Western Front: Cobar and the Great War.



Increase the range of accommodation in the Shire

At the start of this Council term, there was a significant shortage of housing due to the robust mining industry. However, as the industry as cooled down, so has housing demand.

2.3 A strong business hub operating out of the Cobar airport.

Develop a business case to attract businesses to Cobar Airport

In order to actively seek out business opportunities to enhance the operations at Cobar Airport, an upgrade to the runway and fuel provision has been undertaken. Discussion have also commenced with interested parties to establish businesses using the airport facilities.



GOVERNANCE

3.1 A well-funded Council that is well managed and well governed.

Increase Council's income stream

Council, started the term with significant financial pressures. During 2012/2013 Council instigated its Financial Sustainability Action Plan that was designed to reign in expenditure and increase the management controls on the budget – with the aim of budget bottom line and increasing cash reserves. The result was the adoption of tighter budgets at the expense of spends on infrastructure.

In 2012 Council was successful with an application for a Special Rate Variation amounting to an increase of 25% of general rates. This generates an additional \$776,000, of which \$376,000 is spent on road capital works annually.

RMS funding has not been consistent, which has impacted Councils workforce operations when there has been large variations. This is something Council will continue to manage.

Council has been actively seeking grant funds for major capital replacement and upgrades in a bid to reduce our infrastructure back log.

Council undertook a sale of land under Section 713. for recovery of outstanding rates in 2013 which successfully reduced outstanding debtors.

Council signed a new agreement with the NSW Government to provide the Services NSW Contract which replaced the administrative services for RMS provided by Council.

Implement a modern Section 94 Plan and Section 64 Plan to fund future infrastructure through developer contributions

Council reviewed the Section 64 plan in 2013/2014 and developed a new Section 94 Plan, allowing Council to increase S94 funds for major projects, through Development Applications.

Investigate how to reduce the cost of Council's community facilities through partnerships with other organisations

During the term, Council explored options to privatise, at least partially, the LBV and Youth and Fitness Centre. No suitable options were discovered. Council is now progressing changes to the LBV through the new MPS proposal.

Minimise risk for Council and the community

Council's Business Continuity (CBC) and Disaster Recovery Plan's (DRP) were commenced.

Internal audits were carried out early in the Council term, however the loss of Committee members saw the internal audit program fold. This will be resurrected in the next Council term.

Strong governance measures in place

Code of Meeting Practice advice was provided as required. Administrative assistance was provided to ensure meetings were undertaken appropriately.

Fit for the Future

During the Council term, the NSW Government introduced their Reform of

Local Government agenda. As part of this, Council participated in the Fit for the Future activities, including the Far West Initiative Advisory Committee and Far West Initiative Eight Council Sub Committee Meetings.

A potential model for the Far West has been developed and will be made available to all Councillors and the Public in the next Council term.

3.2 An engaged community that participates in decision making.

Implementation of Council's Community Engagement Strategy

Communication to the community was undertaken as required, including the development of Council's Facebook page and regular updating of Council's website.

Encourage more direct participation and interaction between Council and the community

Council provided a community newsletter at regular intervals. Council supported committees to feed information into Council's decision making processes, such as the Traffic Committee and Rural Roads Advisory

Committee, LEMC and skate park committee.

Increase participation of youth in community leadership

Council provided administration and support to the Cobar Youth Council and maintained contact with similar organisations in other local government areas so as to provide interaction.

3.3 A well-functioning Council that focuses on strategic planning provides good customer service and secures value-for-money goods and services.

Good customer service provided by all Council Officers

There has been a focus on good customer service for both internal and external customers and in 2016 Council is developing a new Customer Request System to better track requests.

Staff are valued, well trained and able to undertake their roles and functions

A Staff Attitude Survey is undertaken every two years, with an action plan developed based on the results.

Over the last four years Council has budgeted to improve our IT systems to improve staff efficiency, increase security and the reliability of the systems.



Council's new General Manager, Mr Peter Vlatko and wife Anna – 2016

Council undertakes adequate strategic planning activities and meets all legislative reporting requirements

Strategic plans have been updated and implemented as necessary. All Annual Financial Statements have been completed, on time and with a positive review on Council's position, which has been advised by Council's Auditors.

INFRASTRUCTURE

4.1 A clean and reliable water supply.

Pipe the Albert Priest Channel

Council has continued to lobby for funding to pipe the APC in a bid to reduce water losses in the network that brings water to Cobar to be processed. The NSW Government has funded a project to deepen the weir pool at Nyngan to assist to reduce evaporation losses.

Increase Cobar's water allocation

Council has continued to lobby the NSW Government to have Cobar's town water supply increased.

Improved water treatment systems for the provision of potable water to villages

There is insufficient funding in the budget to provide a potable water supply to the village communities.

Provide Contract services to Cobar Water Board

Technical advice was provided to Cobar Water Board as required and all required maintenance on Cobar Water Board assets was completed.

Council also provided contract services to the Cobar Water Board to undertake the twin pipeline replacement project, funded through Resources for Regions and the Cobar Water Board, to the value of around \$17m.

4.2 Good communications networks with services equal to the metropolitan areas.

Improved access to telecommunications, radio, TV and broadband services

Council has started working with NBN Co to bring the NBN network to Cobar. Council has lobbied to expand the telecommunications network across the Shire, in particular mobile phone network and to increase the capacity of the ASDL network. These things are crucial to economic development and improving the liveability of the Shire.

4.3 Good transport networks that increase the accessibility of Cobar and markets.

Seek ways to expand the sealed road network and improve and maintain the unsealed road network

Major capital works undertaken include:

- SR9 (Neckarbo Road) Drainage and Causeway Work (\$102,000);
- Sr12 (Yathong Road) Gravel Resheeting (\$201,000);
- SR7 (Mt Gap Road) Causeway Stabilisation (\$102,000);
- SR26 (Wilga Downs Road) Seal Construction Preparation (\$233,000);
- Cobar Urban Roads AC/Intersection Program (\$157,000);
- Cobar Urban Special Rate Variation Bitumen Reseals (\$141,500);
- SR17 (Merri Road) Gravel Resheeting (\$75,000);

- SR23 (Booberoi Road) Gravel Resheeting (\$57,500);
- SR18 (Bruce Cullenward Drive) Gravel Resheeting (\$76,000);
- Tilpa Road (Tiltagoona Road) Repair Program Seal Construction (4.6km)(\$865,000);
-
- MR407 – Mulya (Louth) Gravel Resheeting (\$100,000);
- SR23 – Booberoi Road R2R Gravel Resheeting (\$110,000);
- SR20 – The Grain Road R2R Gravel Resheeting (\$180,000);
- SR6 – Pulpulla Road R2R Gravel Resheeting (\$81,742);
- SR12 – Yathong Road R2R Gravel Resheeting (\$50,000);
- SR24 – Mount Grace Road R2R Gravel Resheeting (\$160,000);
- SR26 – Wilga Downs Road R2R Bitumen Seal Construction (\$77,000);
- Cobar Town Streets SRV Bitumen Reseals (\$125,000);
- Shire Roads SRV Bitumen Reseals (\$75,000);
- SR36 – Palesthan Road SRV Gravel Resheeting (\$80,000);
- SR46 – Rosevale Road SRV Gravel Resheeting (\$80,000);
- SR44 – Old Reservoir Road SRV Gravel Resheeting/ Culvert (\$16,000);
- Shire Roads Bitumen Reseal Program (\$100,000);
- Shire Roads Gravel Resheeting Program (\$100,000);
- MR7518 – Barnato – Tilpa Road Bitumen Reseals (\$200,000);
- MR423 – Lachlan Valley Way Bitumen Reseal (\$100,000);
- Killala Road Widening Works (\$1,100,000);
- Roadworks Bores Program (\$65,000);
- SR 13 (Lerida Road) Seal Construction – 5km
- SR 12 (Yathong Road) Gravel Resheeting – 6km;
- SR7 (Mt Gap Road) Causeway Stabilisation
 - Instigated better management and control mechanisms for the RMCC works with the RMS;
 - Regional Roads Gravel Resheeting Program;
 - Regional Roads Bitumen Resealing Program;
 - Shire Road 38 (CSA Mine Access Road)– Bitumen Resealing Program;
 - Shire Roads – Gravel Resheeting Program;

- Shire Road 21 (Tallebung Road) – Gravel Re-sheeting;
- Shire Road 20 (Grain Road)- Gravel Re-sheeting.

Provide and maintain safe and serviceable transport infrastructure including roads, footpaths, bike paths and airport

Cobar lost its Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) Air Services Cobar to Sydney from Cobar Regional Airport in December 2013 when Brindabella Airlines went into receivership, however after a period where there was no RPT service, Airlink started up a regular service to Sydney, via Dubbo, with the support of the mining industry.

Implement Resources for Regions Cobar Regional Airport Upgrade Project.

Council applied for and received funding to upgrade the pavement at the Cobar airport. This was a \$2.2m project and has meant that larger aircraft can now land at the airport.

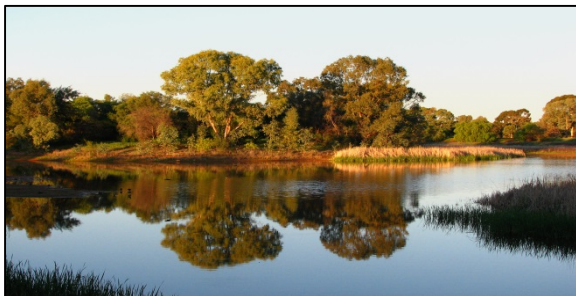
4.4 Develop well designed and expanded playgrounds catering for all age groups.

Develop well designed and expanded playgrounds catering for all age groups

A new 0-5 year old playground was installed in Drummond Park, based on community input.

Increase the range of community facilities and maintain those that we have to an appropriate standard

A number of projects were undertaken over the Council term, including new carpet and repainting the library, introduction of ebooks at the library, refurbishment and preventative maintenance of the Cobar Youth and Fitness Centre and the Great Cobar Heritage Centre and improvements to the Newey water reserve.



**Maintain and expand where necessary,
the stormwater and sewer networks**

Council undertook an audit and report of the Cobar water supply reticulation network in relation to faulty valves, low pressure areas, dead-end mains and water main flushing. As program of works has been instigated as a result.

ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Ability to adapt to climate change and benefit from climate change initiatives.

Develop an alternate energy industry in Cobar

Council worked with OROC councils over several years to seek federal government funding for a solar initiative, which was unsuccessful. Council has been engaging with private companies in a bid to develop a solar energy plant in the Shire.

Develop community leadership on becoming leaders in resource use, reuse and recycling

A comprehensive waste management strategy was commenced however this project was halted due to State Government advice of the impending introduction of a container deposit scheme in 2017. The draft strategy will now be reviewed before being put to the new Council.

Council have collected close to 6,000 tonnes of domestic waste just from

Cobar, including the provision of trade waste services and waste services for community events. Council manage six waste facilities around the Shire and lift on average 500 rubbish bins each week, that's 26,000 each year.

Council have recently completed infrastructure improvements at the Cobar waste depot including installation of 3.25 kilometres of security fencing, a new waste oil drop off area, new signage, CCTV and automatic security gates.

We have recently purchased a replacement garbage truck and are looking at other ways we can improve our waste management services.

Officers from our department are regular contributors to NetWaste Forums/Projects, which assists both our community and the wider Western region with the provision of waste related services and we have undertaken campaigns relating to illegal dumping, covering your load, littering, household chemical cleanouts and asbestos management.

5.2 Well managed public and private land.

Council worked with a local dog rehoming organisation and other rehoming organisations across Australia to give lost dogs an appropriate new home.

Complaints relating to barking dogs, dangerous or menacing dogs have been regularly attended to during the last four years often requiring out of hour investigations.

Long term management of noxious weeds

Over the past term, Council has:

- Inspected over 25,000km of roads;
- Inspected 770km of rivers and creeks;
- Inspected 372 railways;
- Inspected 528 private properties, as well as government owned land;
- Treated 857 hectares;
- Treated 1273km of roadside;

- Secured funding for weed control for the Old Reservoir, The Newey, Canbelego Common and other sites;
- Located and controlled 4 sites of Parthenium weed, a Class One weed.

There has been an increase in the number of weed awareness programs run (eg weed warriors), including a program with the local schools which was highly praised by the students involved.



5.3 Clean air in the community.

Manage the externalities of mining and other industries operating close to towns and villages to minimise air pollution

All complaints received over the term were communicated to the relevant mining company.

