

DRAFT INVERELL SHIRE LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT 2036



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Acknowledgement

Inverell Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, the Gamilaray and Anaiwan people, and pays respect to Elders past, present and future. This Statement acknowledges a strong belief amongst Aboriginal people that if we care for country, it will care for us. This is supported by the knowledge that the health of a people and their community is reliant on a strong physical and emotional connection to place.

Foreword

The Inverell Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement 2036 is an important and significant step in planning for the future economic, social and environmentally sustainable needs of our communities.

The Statement recognises that Inverell and its surrounding villages and settlements are great places to live and work. It outlines our vision and our potential to be a thriving and prosperous region and identifies the framework to maximise opportunities for jobs and development. The document supports our region being a great area to live and raise a family and highlights the significance of our authentic character.

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Abbreviations

CSP	Community Strategic Plan
DCP	Development Control Plan
DPIE	Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
EP&A Act	Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
LALC	Local Aboriginal Land Council
LEP	Local Environmental Plan
LGA	Local Government Area
LSPS	Local Strategic Planning Statement

Version Number	Adopted Date	Review Date
V01 - Draft		

Introduction

The Inverell Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) 2036 aims to meet our community's future social, economic and environmental needs through addressing important strategic land use planning and development issues.

The LSPS will shape our land use over time, and the development standards that we use in the *Inverell Local Environmental Plan 2012* (LEP) and *Development Control Plan 2013* (DCP). It identifies priorities for the Inverell Local Government Area (LGA) that will support and develop our local identity, values and opportunities. Short, medium and long-term actions have been developed to help deliver on these priorities and our vision for the future.

The LSPS has been informed by state and regional policies and plans, including the *New England North West Regional Plan 2036* (Regional Plan) and the *Inverell Shire Community Strategic Plan 2009-2029* (CSP). Aligning with these plans will allow us to deliver purposeful outcomes, including delivering a variety of housing options, expanding tourism and growing our agricultural and emerging industries.

The LSPS has been prepared in accordance with clause 3.9 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LSPS

The LSPS gives effect to the Regional Plan, implementing the directions and actions at a local level. The Inverell LSPS will:

- provide a land use vision for the Inverell Shire;
- identify our shared values to be enhanced or maintained;
- outline the characteristics that make the Inverell Shire special;
- outline our advantages and opportunities;
- direct how future growth and change will be managed;
- identify any required changes to planning provisions in the LEP and DCP;
- identify where further strategic land use planning may be needed; and
- explain how the strategies and key actions will be implemented.

Regional Context

The Inverell Shire is located within the New England North West region which is one of the State’s largest agricultural and food producers. Strategically located between Sydney and Brisbane, the high quality transport networks to Newcastle, Sydney and South East Queensland provide ready access to domestic and international markets and services.

The town of Inverell is nestled alongside the Macintyre River on the western slopes of the New England. It is located on the Gwydir Highway, 90 minutes north west of Armidale and 7 hours north west of Sydney. The Shire stretches north to the Queensland border and is surrounded by Moree Plains, Gwydir, Glen Innes Severn and Armidale Regional LGAs.

The regional cities of Tamworth and Armidale are located approximately 200km south and 125km south east of Inverell respectively. These regional cities and the strategic centres of Gunnedah, Narrabri, Moree, Glen Innes and **Inverell** will provide new jobs, housing,

education and critical health services. The interconnectedness of these centres is demonstrated in **Figure 1**. These links will assist in creating healthy and thriving regional communities.

The next 20 years will be an exciting period of change and growth for the Inverell Shire as new industries emerge, communities grow and connect, and the regional economy continues to flourish. New residents will come to call the Shire home and existing residents will enjoy the benefits of living in a prosperous area.

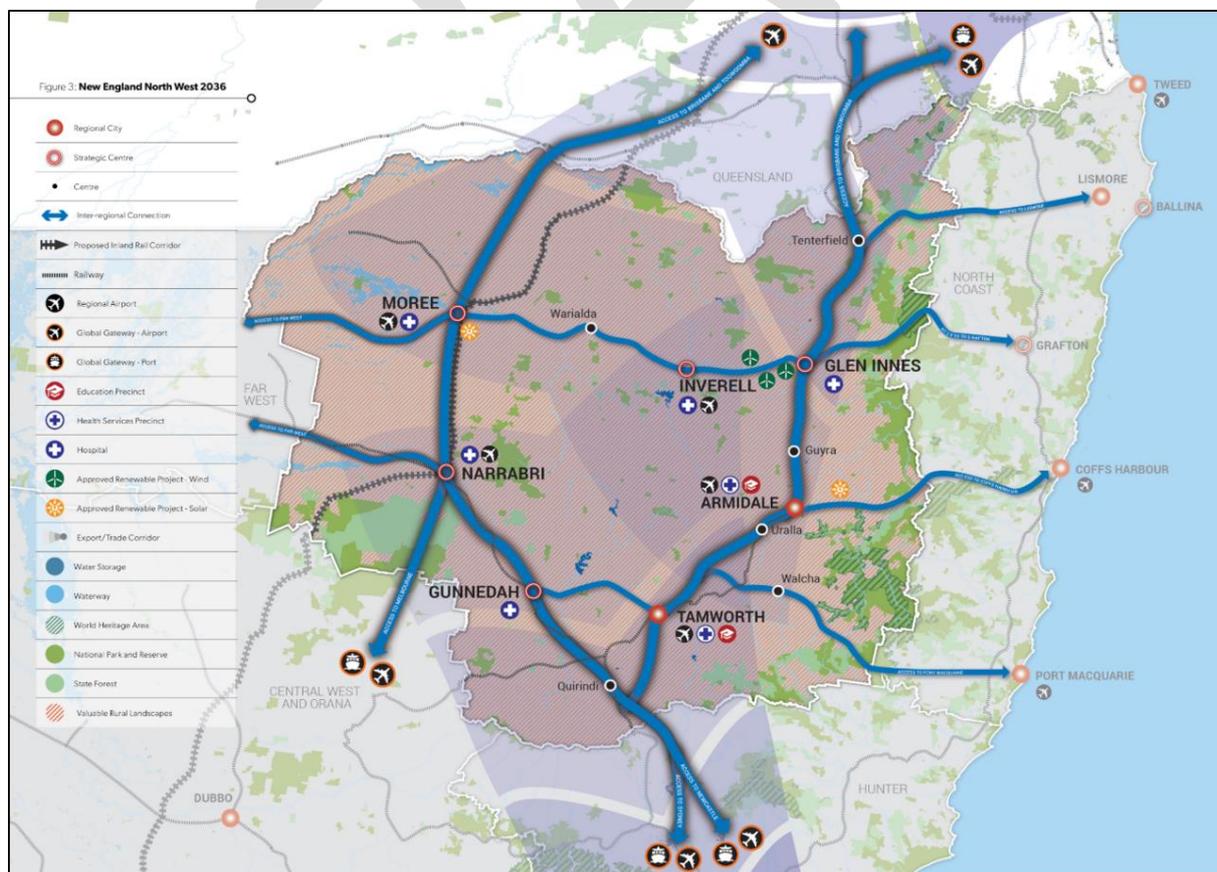


Figure 1: Inverell’s regional interconnectedness (New England North West Regional Plan 2036)

In August 2017 the NSW Government released the *New England North West Regional Plan 2036* (Regional Plan). The Regional Plan sets goals for the NSW Government’s regional land use planning priorities and decisions to 2036 and provides an overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions at the local level. This LSPS takes its direction from the Regional Plan and aligns with the timeframes to ensure consistency particularly in relation to population projections.

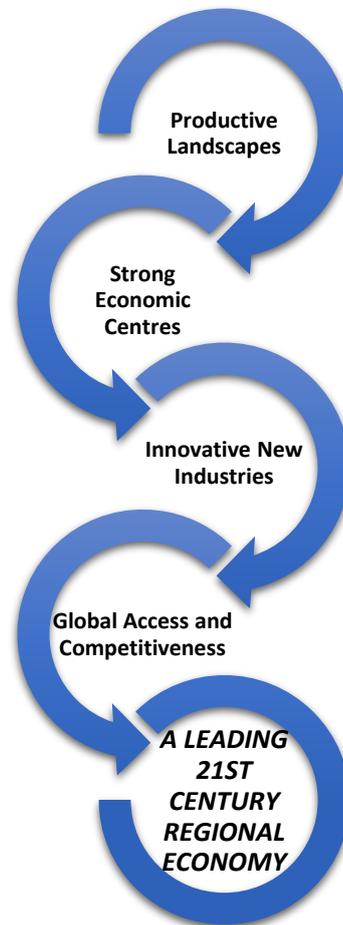
The Regional Plan provides the following vision for the New England North West:

“Nationally valued landscapes and strong, successful communities from the Great Dividing Range to the rich black soil plains.”

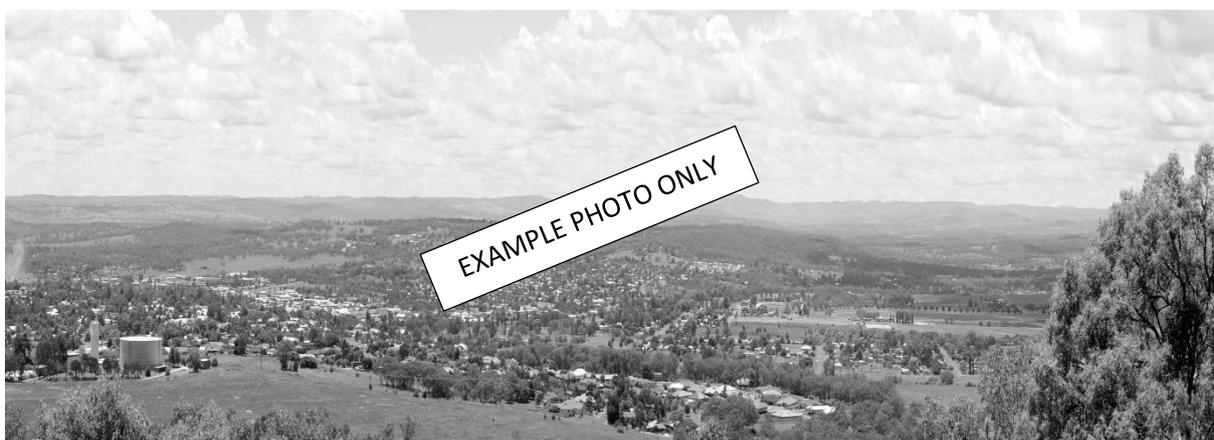
To achieve this vision the NSW Government has acknowledged the opportunities provided by natural resources and strong communities and set the following regionally focused goals:

- ❖ A strong and dynamic regional economy;
- ❖ A healthy environment with pristine waterways;
- ❖ Strong infrastructure and transport networks for a connected future; and
- ❖ Attractive and thriving communities.

The Regional Plan reinforces that *Leveraging Existing Strengths to be a leading 21st Century regional economy* includes:



The Inverell Shire LSPS is consistent with these regional goals and reflective of these strengths.



The town of Inverell is the focal centre of the Shire with strong east-west road connections to the New England Tablelands, the Far North Coast and Moree, providing essential retail, commercial and community services to a range of local communities. The villages of Ashford, Gilgai, Yetman, Tingha, Bonshaw and Delungra fulfil local service needs and contribute to the authentic character of the Shire. With a population over 16,000, the Inverell Shire continues to produce a growth rate above **2.5 per cent**, making it one of the fastest growing regional centres in the state.

Inverell functions as a sub-regional centre, with its catchment area extending into South East Queensland, Glen Innes Severn, Gwydir and Moree Plains Shires. **Figure 2** indicates the location of the Inverell Shire, Armidale City being the closest regional service centre.

The Inverell Shire has a strong and growing economy based on agriculture, with high productivity soils that support cropping, fine wool and beef cattle grazing. Inverell is the operating centre for a large beef processing company which is the largest employer in the

Shire. The emerging industrial and manufacturing sectors are complemented by diversifying commercial opportunities and expanding education, health and services sectors for employment. The Shire is also a major contributor to Australia's sapphire production and offers a popular tourist attraction in gem fossicking.

Parts of the east of the Shire are suitable for wind farming. Wind and solar energy production are growing industries providing job opportunities and reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources. A challenge will be to balance the benefits of these new industries while limiting potential impacts on the built and natural environment.

Copeton Dam is located south-west of Inverell, 20 kilometres drive to the Northern Foreshores side, and is the largest water storage in the New England North West. The Dam provides a reliable domestic and industrial water supply for Inverell, water-based recreation areas and a small hydro-electricity station. It is a significant tourism resource for the Shire and the State.

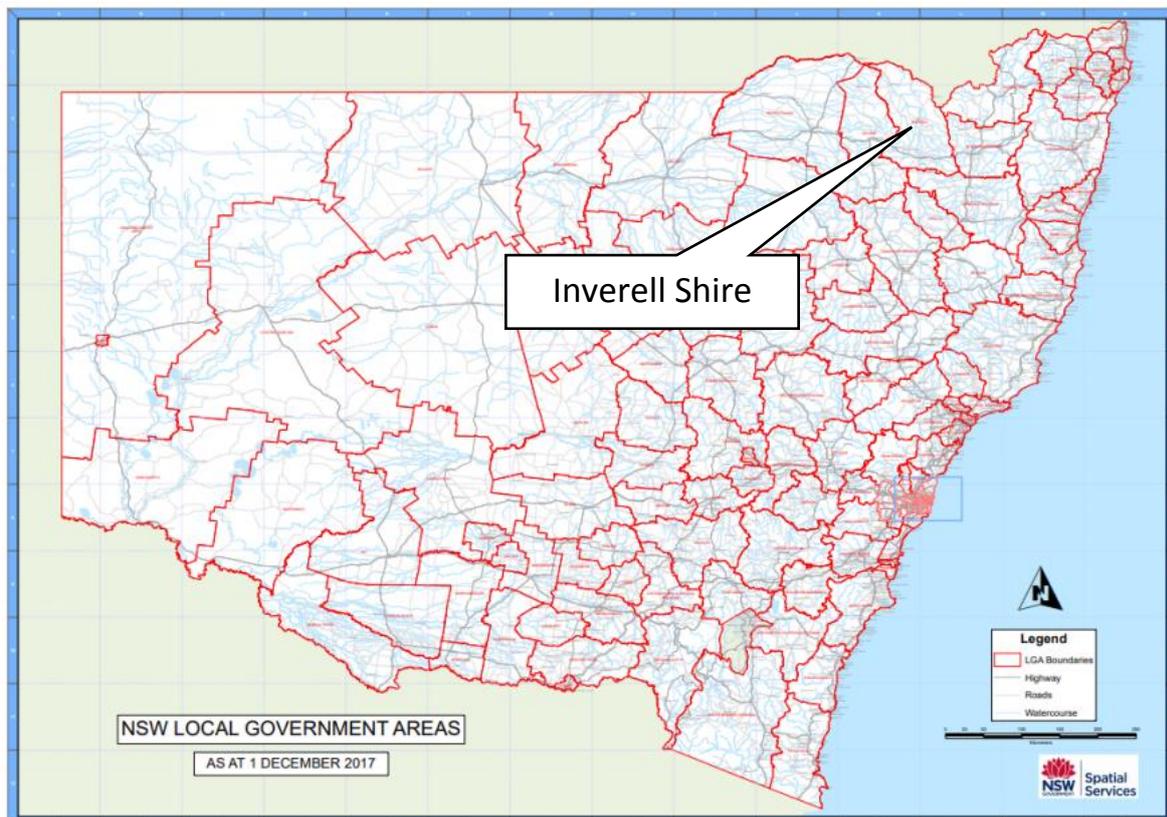


Figure 2: Inverell Shire location

The Regional Plan identifies a number of priorities for the Inverell Shire as follows:

- *Deliver a variety of housing options in Inverell and promote development that contributes to the unique character of Ashford, Gilgai, Yetman and Delungra;*
- *Encourage diversification in agriculture, horticulture and agribusiness to grow these sectors and harness domestic and international opportunities;*
- *Continue to develop access and logistics infrastructure on appropriate sites to encourage new industry opportunities;*
- *Support the development of employment lands;*
- *Expand nature-based, adventure and cultural tourism places and enhance the area's environmental and iconic assets including Copeton Dam;*
- *Promote a vibrant, youthful and mobile workforce and provide services for the ageing population; and*
- *Identify and promote wind, solar and other renewable energy production opportunities.*

In July 2019 the Township of Tingha and the surrounding localities of Bassendean, Howell, Stanborough, Bundarra, Georges Creek, New Valley and the Basin (collectively known as Tingha) were transferred to the Inverell Shire from Armidale Regional Council via a LGA boundary adjustment. This area comprises 823 square kilometres and is shown in **Figure 3**. Inverell provides a wide variety of essential, retail and professional services to the Tingha area but the historical links of the Tingha community with Inverell can be traced back to pre-European settlement.

As a result of the boundary adjustment, two Local Environmental Plans (LEP's) now operate within the Inverell Shire. These are the *Inverell Local Environmental Plan 2012* and the *Guyra Local Environmental Plan 2012*. The Guyra LEP only relates to the Tingha area. The Inverell LEP 2012 will be reviewed to take into consideration the Tingha area, including the identification of any opportunities in terms of land use planning. This review will be a priority following the adoption of the LSPS.

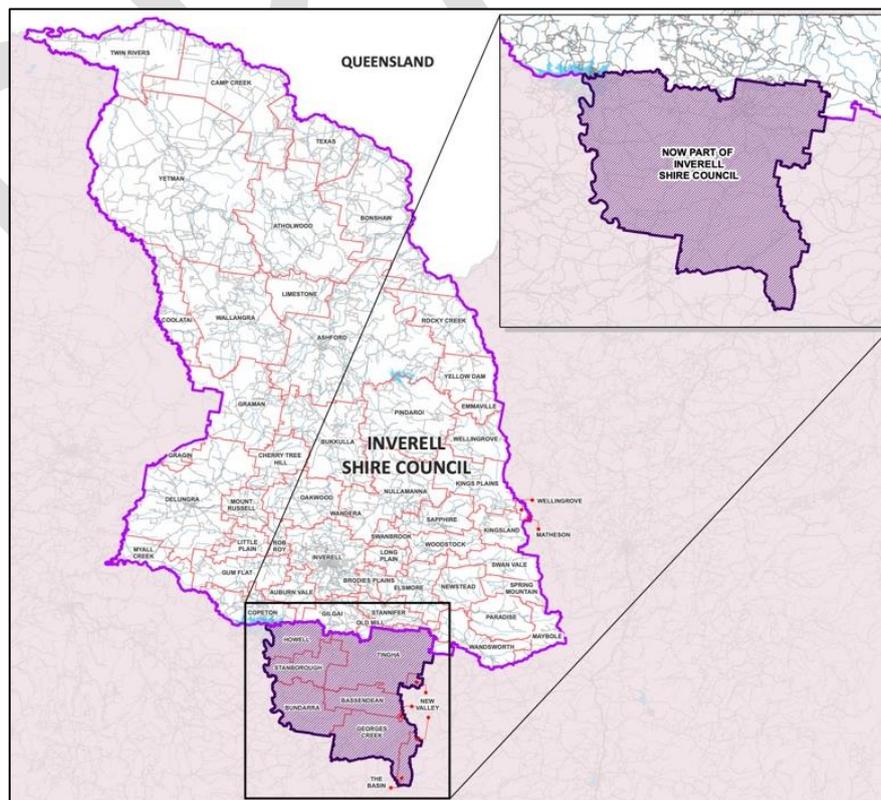


Figure 3: Boundary adjustment to include Tingha and surrounding area

Community Profile

Our community profile is diverse and boasts a positive population growth unmatched by other rural and regional areas.

Population

Over the 10 years between 2006 and 2016 the Inverell Shire has recorded population growth by almost 6.3% (2016 ABS Census). This is quite a promising statistic given that this growth has been largely sustained over 20 years as demonstrated in **Figure 4**.

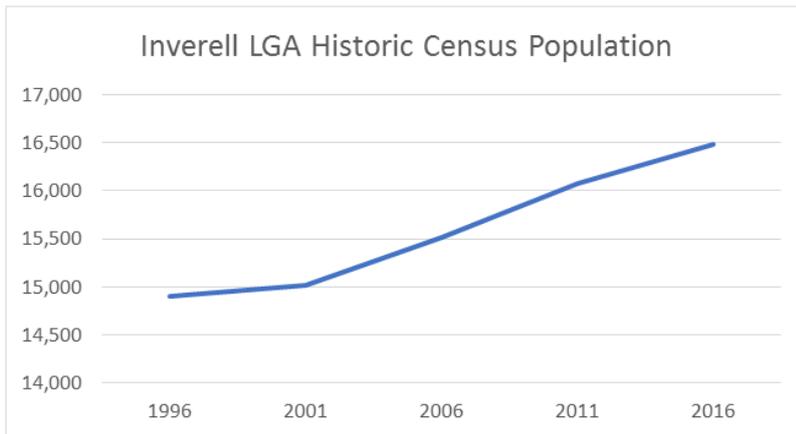


Figure 4: Inverell LGA Historic Census Population

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) have projected that our Shire will have a population of **17,000** by 2036. This growth is against the trend for many rural and regional towns across NSW. The Departments 2019 population projections indicate that the population of Inverell will remain stable beyond 2036.

Employment

Historically our major employment sector has been agriculture; however, more recently health care and social assistance has taken over as the primary employment industry. Alongside the Education and Training sectors, Health Care and Social Assistance and Manufacturing have been consistently growing as shown in **Figure 5**. The working age population (aged 15-64) is estimated to remain stable at around 9,500 from 2016 to 2041.

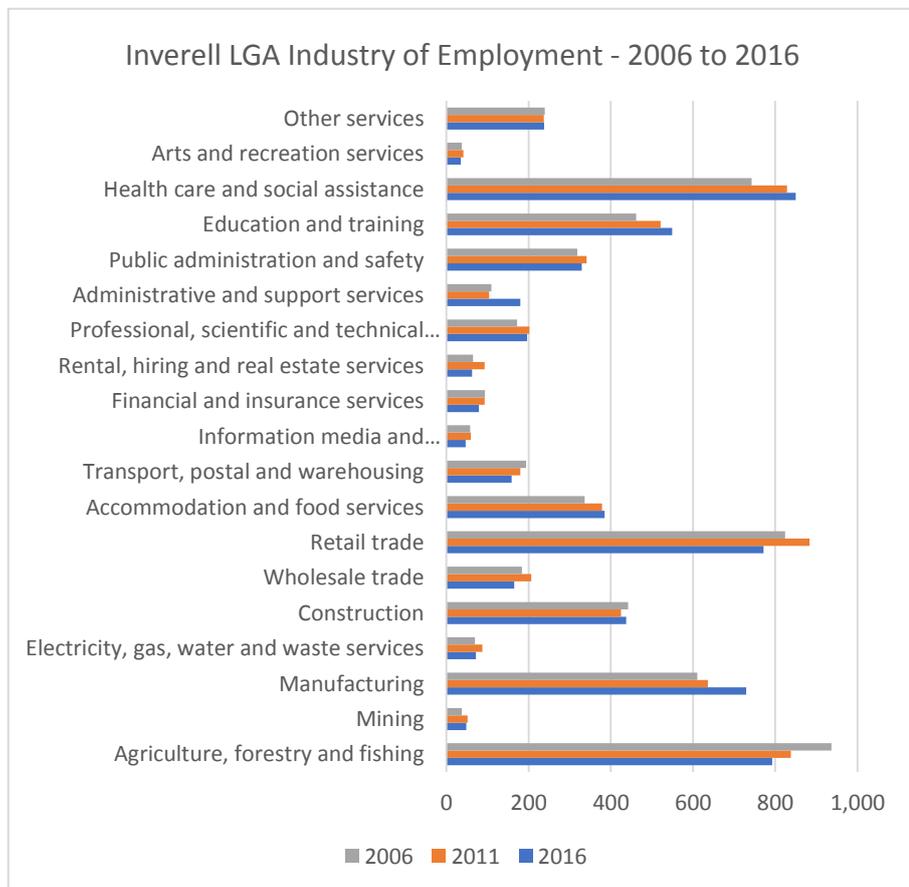


Figure 5: Inverell LGA Industry of Employment 2006-2016

Changing Demographics

Consistent with global trends, we are shifting towards an aged demographic. DPE project that between 2016 and 2041 the Inverell Shire demographics will become more evenly spread across age groups and the number of people aged 65 and over is estimated to increase by 900 people.

Considering these changing demographics it is expected that there will be a growing demand for a range of health and other services, which we are already seeing in the Shire. Other factors such as safe and accessible dwellings, different transport needs and increasing demand on public services and facilities will all become increasingly important to meet the needs of our residents and support active ageing.

Inverell, like many other regional centres, also continue to face the challenge of retaining young people and families. Strategic Land Use planning which supports Community Strategic planning will provide the basis to encourage population retention across all demographics and seize employment, education and service opportunities as they arise.

Due to changing household composition, the Shire's average household size is likely to decrease from around 2.44 to 2.28 people per house. This will be reflected in the changing housing types and styles typically found around the Shire and needs to be provided for in development controls and land use zoning.

The cultural diversity of the Inverell Shire provides a cohesive multicultural community. **Figure 6** illustrates the cultural backgrounds of our residents at the 2016 census. The Inverell Shire has a proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island community and their cultural contribution and connection to country further nurtures our diversity. Services like Armajun Aboriginal Health Services provide the services and support required to meet the different challenges faced by our indigenous residents compared to the non-indigenous population. Future land use planning will use proactive engagement and regular consultation with the Anaiwan, Ashford and Toomelah Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs).

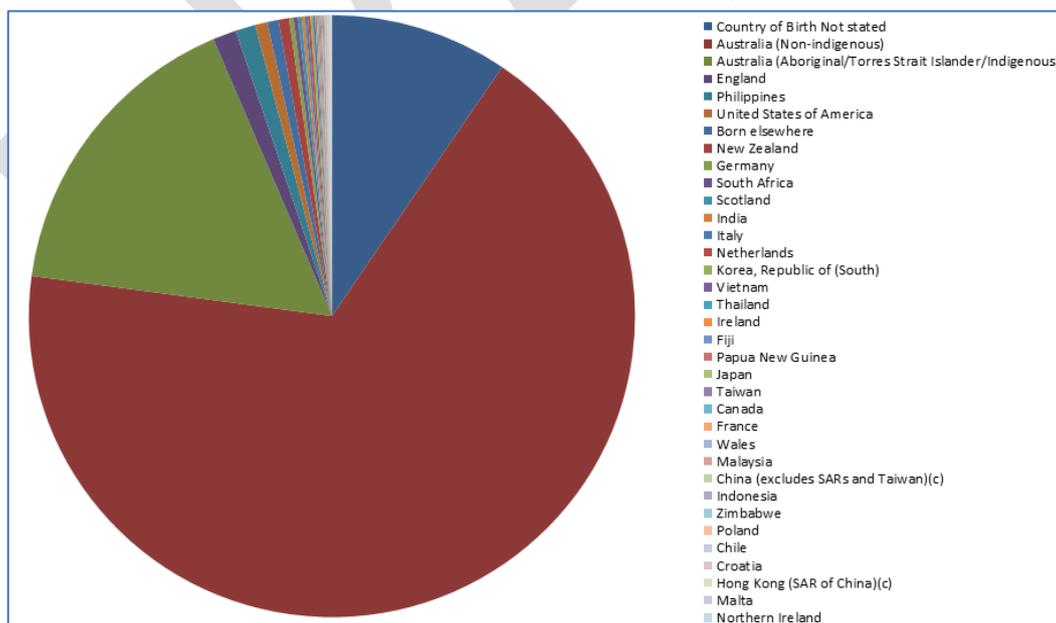


Figure 6: Illustration of Inverell Shires cultural diversity by country of birth, 2016 ABS Census.

On 1 July 2019 the boundary adjustment between Armidale Regional Council and Inverell Shire Council saw the locality of Tingha transferred to the Inverell Shire. The area of 823 square kilometres has an approximate population of 833 people (2016 ABS Census). It is important to note that the boundary adjustment was not reflected in the population projections undertaken by DPE who will consider the adjustment in future projections.



Our Local Advantages

Agriculture, tourism, manufacturing & industry, business and lifestyle, environment and renewable energy.

AGRICULTURE

Highly productive agricultural land and agricultural know-how

The economy of the Inverell Shire is reflective of the rural and agricultural land use patterns, with a significant proportion of employment related to these activities both directly or indirectly.

Inverell is a significant service centre for agriculture in the area. It features the Bindaree Beef abattoir, livestock selling facility, rural merchandise outlets as well as government advisory and regulatory services.

Growing broad acre and grazing sectors and expanding intensive agriculture and food processing will drive economic prosperity and jobs growth. We are renowned for producing high quality livestock, including international award winning beef.

Food product manufacturing and manufacturing (other than food-product) are two specialisations within the Shire. Significant agricultural producers, manufacturers and operators in the Inverell Shire, include:

- Bindaree Beef – which has the capacity to process of 300,000 head of cattle per annum. The company is expanding the plant and has recently entered into a strategic joint-venture to leverage forecast increases in demand for beef in South East Asia and China;
- Inverell Regional Livestock Exchange - is a privately owned facility which was taken over in May 2012. The IRLX facility holds a weekly Prime market and fortnightly Sheep market with major site upgrades completed in 2019/2020;
- Boss Engineering – employs 110 people and manufactures agricultural machinery and transport equipment as well as having a general engineering and fabrication arm;
- Real Pet Food Company – produces a range of pet food products for domestic and international markets;
- Woods Organic Flour Mill – produces organic flour, bran and pollard for human consumption and stock feed; and
- Olives of Beaulieu – olive grove and tourist attraction, with cellar door sales of olive products and exotic spices.

These major producers are centred around Inverell as shown in **Figure 7**. Other agricultural related developments in the Shire include small and large scale feedlots, quarries and sapphire mines.

Although the changing environment is seen as a challenge, the outlook for the agricultural sector is extremely positive. Globally there is an increasing demand for agricultural products driven by strong economic growth in Asian and Indian markets, free trade agreements, world population growth, and global concerns over food security.

The Shire contains a number of strengths and advantages such as its location between Brisbane and Sydney, high level services, quality and affordable housing, mature supply chains, extensive livestock production, meat abattoirs and meat product manufacturing, which offer opportunities for further investment in agriculture related businesses relocate and grow in our Shire.



Figure 7: Major agriculture locations

TOURISM

The visitor economy is important

There is an opportunity to expand tourist visitation and expenditure given the diversity of landscapes, vibrant and friendly towns, an authentic country community and the opportunity to immerse in the heritage and culture of the area. Food and cultural festivals, bike races, Copeton Dam, quality sporting facilities and the opportunity to fossick for gemstones are just some of the unique opportunities on offer for the Shire to expand the visitor economy.

Whilst tourism is not the primary economic driver for the Shire it is still highly valued. The income from tourism is independent of the agricultural and mining sectors, generating cash flow year-round and reducing the negative impacts of seasonal and cyclic activities. Tourism generates employment and business growth with positive outcomes for the whole community.

Among the Inverell Shire's many tourist attractions are:

- Copeton and Pindari Dams;
- Lake Inverell;
- Inverell's park lands, most notably Campbell Park and Victoria Park in the CBD;
- Sporting events and infrastructure – the Grafton to Inverell Cycle Classic, Varley Oval Sports Ground, Rugby Park, Mountain Bike Park, the Inverell Sporting Complex and Athletics Precinct, and newly completed Lake Inverell Off-Road Circuit;
- European Heritage – Largely intact Main Street Heritage Streetscape in Byron and Otho Streets;
- Aboriginal Heritage – Goonoowigall sound trails;
- Wing Hing Long & Co Store Museum;
- National Transport Museum;
- Festivals – Sapphire City Festival, NAIDOC Week, Multicultural Festival, Tom Roberts (Golden Fleece), National Heritage Week, Food and Drink, Christmas;
- Sapphire fossicking; and
- Inverell's annual CBD Christmas lights display.

There are significant opportunities to continue to grow visitation to the region by promoting the Shires abundant natural, cultural, commercial and recreation assets. Investment in product and infrastructure development, as well as marketing and promotion, will be needed to support visitor growth. The \$5 million dollar grant secured to upgrade Copeton Northern Foreshores is an example of how tourism infrastructure investment can benefit tourists and locals alike.



MANUFACTURING & INDUSTRY

An emerging sector

The non-food manufacturing sector is a small but growing industry within the Inverell. Whilst the Shire is highly dependent on agriculture, emerging industries such as manufacturing and processing can leverage on the Shires assets and provide opportunities to diversify the economy.

The primary function of manufacturing in the Shire is to support the mining and agricultural industries with a concentration of engineering and fabrication business. The largest manufacturing business is Boss Engineering in Inverell, which employs 110 people and manufactures agricultural machinery and transport equipment. It also provides general engineering and fabrication services.

The industrial land use zones and existing services to these areas support existing industry while providing the necessary availability of land and services to facilitate industry and business growth and development. Inverell Shire is well placed to diversify the manufacturing and industrial sectors.

Having access to a quality transport network connecting our Shire with the region and beyond facilitates the location and growth of new and emerging industries to support employment and commercial diversity. The benefit of having the Inverell Airport to support, access and service local industry and manufacturing opportunities is a great advantage to the Shire and the region.



Inverell Airport Aerial Image (2017)

BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE

The place to work, live and play

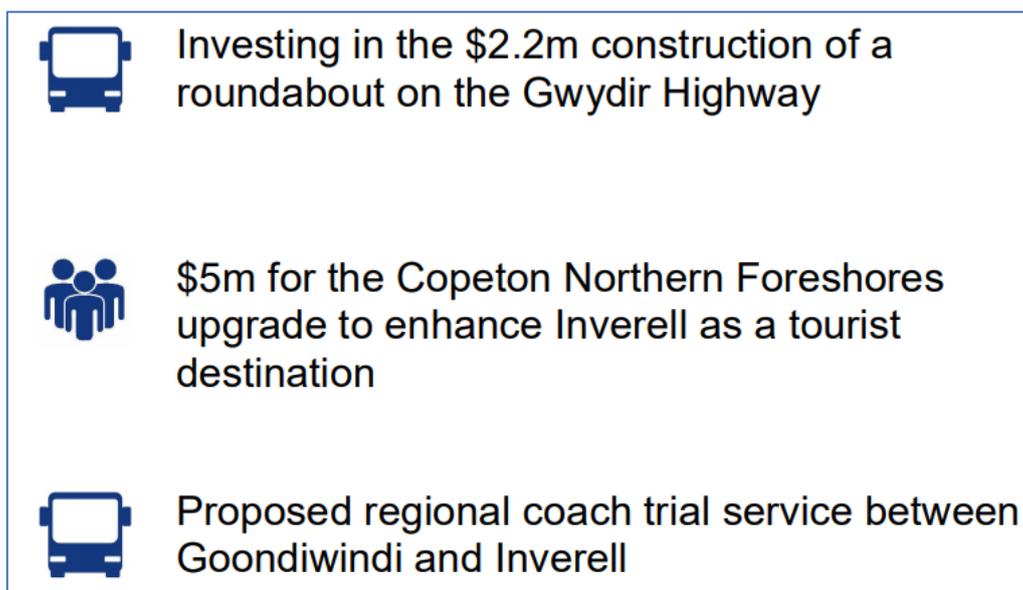
Inverell Shire boasts a stunning and temperate climate where locals and visitors enjoy our abundant natural, cultural and service assets. Ongoing investment and support for existing and new enterprises encourage Inverell and the Shire to be viewed as a regional business and activity location with our regionally recognised vibrant main streets and inviting villages.

The authentic business and lifestyle features of the shire attract and retain residents as well as a variety of services, industries, agriculture, businesses, shops, cafes and restaurants. Quality parks, sports and recreation facilities encourage active living. In addition, our festivals celebrate our diversity, our history and our future, which reinforces our strong sense of community.

Inverell Shire residents have a strong connection to place, incorporating the natural and built environment and cultural space. This connection provides the basis for the rural lifestyle that our residents and visitors come to value.

In addition to the benefit the Inverell Airport offers for the manufacturing and industry sectors the ease of access and availability of flights to Sydney and Brisbane provides lifestyle, tourism and other commercial opportunities.

Ongoing investment in the Shire enhances the opportunities on offer for business, lifestyle and services. Three (3) ways that the NSW, Federal and local Governments are investing in the Shire is highlighted in **Figure 8**. The Inverell Hospital upgrades, new police station and other local investment into health and support services reinforce Inverell Shire's rise as a sub-regional centre providing the community with modern services and lifestyle benefits.



-  Investing in the \$2.2m construction of a roundabout on the Gwydir Highway
-  \$5m for the Copeton Northern Foreshores upgrade to enhance Inverell as a tourist destination
-  Proposed regional coach trial service between Goondiwindi and Inverell

Figure 8: DPIE 2019 NSW Population Projections, Inverell Shire Council, Government Investment



ENVIRONMENT

Natural beauty and diversity at our door



The Inverell Shire contains a range of natural features which promote tourism, active lifestyles and appreciation of a diverse environment. Our National Parks are rich in biodiversity and beauty. The enjoyment of the limestone caves at Ashford, the landscapes of Goonowiggall and the general diversity in our rural vistas all contribute to the enjoyment of everyone's experience in the Inverell Shire.

The biodiversity, ecological value and peaceful setting of the local bushlands reinforce the sense of connection to place.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Abundant, high-quality natural resources

Inverell has abundant, high-quality natural resources for wind, solar and other renewable energies located within suitable proximity to high voltage transmission lines and highway access. Large scale wind and solar developments have, and will generate employment and investment from construction, operations and connection to the State's electricity grid.

The area to the east of Inverell is highly suitable for wind and solar energy development. Electricity generation is a growth sector with major transmission companies identifying the northern part of our Shire as being an optimal location for the establishment of large scale solar and wind renewable energy projects. The Sapphire and White Rock Wind Farms on the eastern boarder of Inverell is a testament to this. The Sapphire Solar development has been approved for construction and other solar projects are being designed and refined, ready for construction in the Shire.

Copeton Dam has a hydro-electric power station generating up to 22.5 megawatts of electricity.



Copeton Dam (Source: WaterNSW)



Sapphire Wind Farm Turbines

INVERELL SHIRE ADVANTAGES

The following **Figure 9** maps a broader scale view of the advantages that the Inverell Shire enjoys and can further explore to continue to strengthen and grow the Shire.

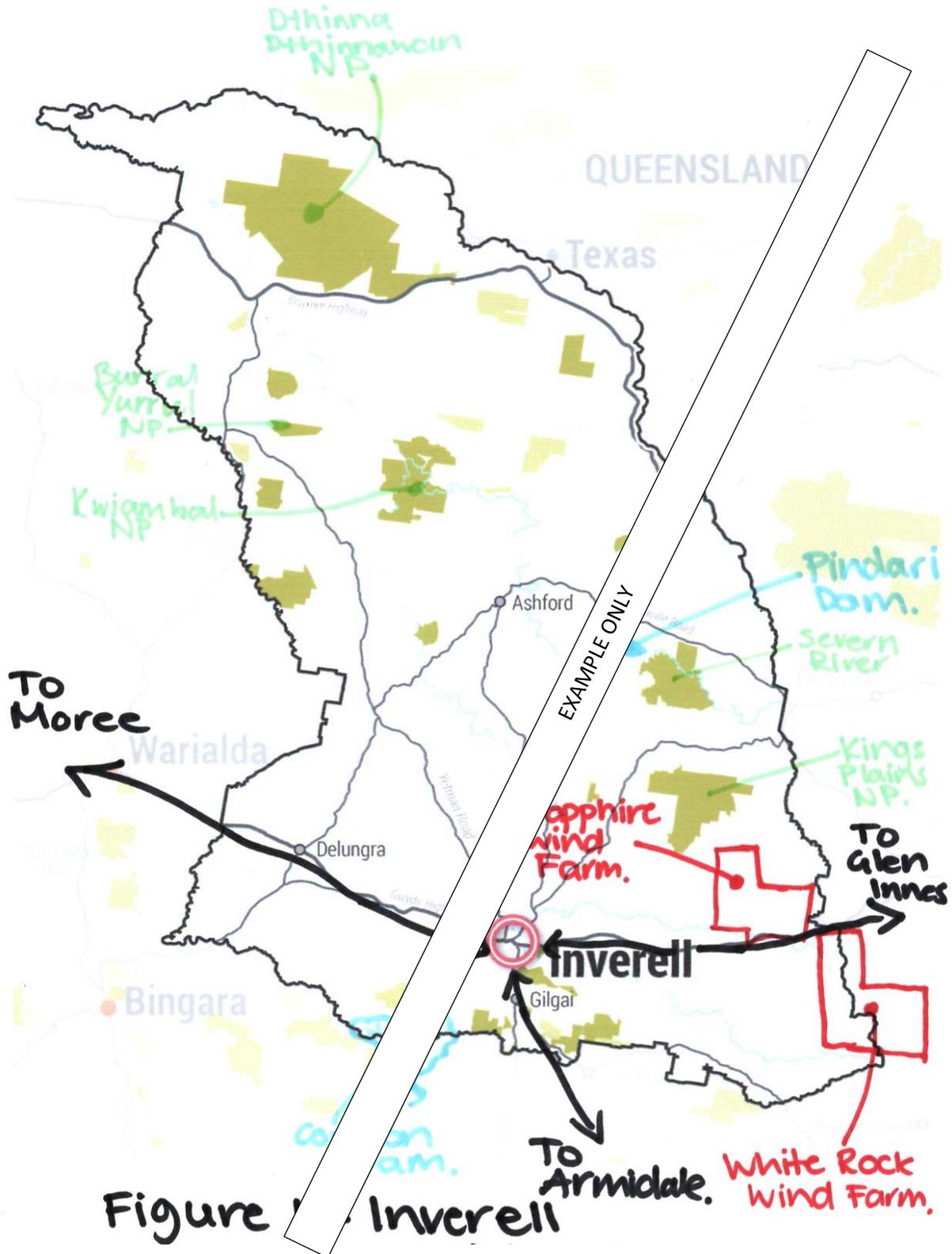


Figure 9: Inverell Shire

Our Local Opportunities

The Inverell Shire offers a laid-back rural lifestyle and is appealing for farmers, business owners, residents, new agribusinesses, manufactures and tree-changers.

This LSPS has identified strategic land use planning priorities that will capitalise on our local opportunities and strengthen the Shires position within the region. These in turn support the community’s aspirations to be vibrant, welcoming, resilient and authentic which manifest in the *Inverell Shire Community Strategic Plan 2009-2029 Destinations* shown in **Figure 10**.



Figure 10: Inverell Shire Community Strategic Plan 2009-2029 Destinations

Our attractive rural lifestyle, access to education and health services makes Inverell an attractive place to live, work and visit. These are further enhanced by the proximity to larger regional centres such as Armidale and Tamworth in NSW and Goondiwindi and Toowoomba in QLD. Continued investment in key road infrastructure to improve productivity and facilitate further growth in tourism, renewable energy, agriculture and manufacturing is anticipated.

Agriculture remains the primary driver of the Shire’s economy, and the expansion of this sector is supported in numerous ways.

Intensive agriculture and agribusiness is growing in our Shire, capitalising on the increasing demand from Asia. Council’s *Employment Lands Strategy 2011* and the *Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022* outlines key areas for building the regions and Shire’s economy. These initiatives will be supported through appropriate land use planning and development, and relevant actions are referred to in the LSPS.

Nature-based adventure and cultural tourism provides opportunities for more innovative economic development and growth.



Our Vision

A community for everyone.

In 2036, the Inverell Shire has maintained its strong economy and population growth and is a desirable place to live. We are recognised as a major regional service centre within the New England North West. We have pursued opportunities to strengthen Inverell Shires dynamic, vibrant, resilient and diverse advantages.

The Shire continues to support innovative and productive agricultural activities, agribusinesses and manufacturing. Wind and solar developments have provided alternative employment opportunities to our community.

Inverell has strengthened as the main business and activity centre with our regionally recognised vibrant main street attracting and retaining a variety of services, businesses, shops, cafes and restaurants.

Inverell has continued to maintain and provide a high standard of parks, gardens and sporting facilities residents and visitors value and enjoy.

The Shire boasts unique natural, cultural and sporting assets which have drawn visitors to the area and have been a major benefit to local tourism industries. Copeton Dam has provided a secure water supply for domestic, industry and agricultural uses.

Our community is safe, harmonious and attractive with an authentic character. Our residents have access to health services, education, opportunities for employment and a range of affordable housing in convenient locations.

The Inverell Shire is truly a community for everyone where we are well serviced and supported in a beautiful and temperate climate.



Key Themes & Planning Priorities

The LSPS contains four (4) key themes for our area, each with planning priorities which align with our vision.

These planning priorities have been developed having regard to the provisions of the *New England North West Regional Plan 2036* (Regional Plan) and the *Inverell Shire Community Strategic Plan 2009-2029* (CSP). **Figure 11** demonstrates the integrative relationship of the Regional Plan, CSP and LSPS. The Regional Plan provides the overarching framework to guide subsequent and more detailed land use plans, development proposals and infrastructure funding decisions for the New England North West region. The CSP is the guide for the future of the Inverell Shire, and represents the broader vision, aspirations, goals, priorities and challenges for the community and its leaders.

As an integrative local plan, the LSPS is also informed by state-wide and regional policies.



Figure 11: Planning context of the LSPS

Inverell Shire LSPS Key Themes and Planning Priorities

In developing this LSPS four (4) key themes were identified:

- ❖ *Economy*
- ❖ *Place*
- ❖ *Infrastructure*
- ❖ *Environment*

Ten (10) planning priorities were then defined. These priorities took into consideration our vision, existing strategies, policies and the direction of the Shire and community.



Theme 1 – Strong Local Economy
1. Grow our agriculture, agribusiness and manufacturing sectors
2. Manage and support renewable energy
3. Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism
Theme 2 – Thriving, Liveable and Authentic Places
4. Deliver diverse housing choice that reinforces our unique character
5. Promote business and lifestyle opportunities
6. Protect and celebrate our unique sense of place
Theme 3 – Strong and Connected Infrastructure
7. Support infrastructure that encourages new industries
8. Plan for integrated land use and transport
Theme 4 – Sustainable and Protected Environment
9. Protect and enhance our natural environment
10. Plan for climate change and risks such as bushfire and flooding



THEME 1 – STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY

PLANNING PRIORITY 1

GROW OUR AGRICULTURE, AGRIBUSINESS AND MANUFACTURING SECTORS

Inverell Shire's economy is reflective of the dominant rural and agricultural land use patterns, with a significant proportion of employment related to these activities both directly and indirectly. The provision of opportunities for the development and evolution of the manufacturing and transport sectors is important for the long term sustainability of the Shire's economy. The performance of the agriculture sector has flow on effects for many other businesses in the region. Crucial to the continued vitality of the agricultural sector is ensuring that productive agricultural land is protected from conflicting or competing land uses. This is particularly relevant in areas where renewable energies might also be suitable.

The strong economic agricultural base is expected to underpin new and emerging industries to create a dynamic regional economy. Agricultural enterprises are adopting a range of technologies to grow production including biotechnology, water efficient crop species and cultivators, remote farm monitoring and automation. New technology will be leveraged to create a positive change in the agricultural industry via the promotion of intensive agriculture, horticulture, green industries, manufacturing and renewable energy generation. Appropriate co-location of related industries will also maximise infrastructure, decrease supply chain costs, increase economies of scale and attract investment. Co-locating industries has the potential to use existing by-products and waste materials to create new products and services.

Inverell has the opportunity to grow its existing businesses, attract new ones and foster an efficient and business-friendly environment. This will retain existing and attract new businesses and residents which is essential, both for increasing the size and capacity of the region's workforce and for driving growth. We are also well positioned to enhance and develop new supply chains to export produce to Asian markets via existing and emerging opportunities through companies like Bindaree Beef and Boss Engineering.

Council will:

- ✓ Support and participate in the development of a *Work Force Strategy* identified as a key initiative in the *Upper-North-West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022*. This is to be undertaken by Regional Development Australia, Government agencies and key stakeholders to identify the labour force, skills gaps and training requirements in the Upper North West Region.



Planning Priority 1: Grow our agriculture, agribusiness and manufacturing sectors

Action - Protect productive agricultural lands from land use conflict and fragmentation

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | <p>Implement rural land use provisions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect biophysical strategic agricultural land identified by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Agriculture); • restrict the encroachment of incompatible land uses; • ensure that land use standards for minimum subdivision sizes in the LEP reflect trends and enable a productive agricultural sector |
| 1.2 | Implement NSW DPI <i>Right to Farm policy</i> . |
| 1.3 | Review and implement the <i>Inverell Shire Rural Land Strategy (August 2011)</i> . |
| 1.4 | <p>Review the Inverell LEP 2012 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Tingha and the surrounding area currently under the Guyra LEP 2012; • Consider opening up the RU1 zone to allow suitable, compatible land uses that encourage and facilitate agribusiness expansion, farm based tourism, commercial and recreational land uses. |

Action - Foster resilience and diversification

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1.5 | Proactively identify ways that planning provisions can accommodate the changing needs of agriculture, including the development of intensive agriculture, agri-businesses and associated value-adding activities. These innovative planning provisions should encourage businesses to locate within Inverell Shire. |
|-----|---|

Action - Encourage diversification of agriculture, horticulture, manufacturing and agri-business

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1.6 | Support and promote the growth of manufacturing and processing through the review of planning provisions in the LEP. This may include such things as having 'open' zones allowing for a wider variety of land uses to be considered. |
|-----|--|

Action - Increase opportunities to move produce to domestic and international markets

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1.7 | Identify and protect key infrastructure corridors that assist current and future development and capitalise on inter-regional connections and external markets. |
| 1.8 | Protect network opportunities and distribution from incompatible land uses or land fragmentation. |
| 1.9 | Prioritise and protect road infrastructure that caters for large transport vehicles. |



PLANNING PRIORITY 2

MANAGE, GROW AND SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY

NSW is undergoing an energy sector transformation not seen in several decades, which will change how we generate and use energy. The *Australian Government Renewable Energy Target* and the *NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan* reflect the transition to a more sustainable and resource efficient economy. These targets aim to achieve a 'closed-loop' economy, whereby all outputs become either inputs for other activities or are returned to natural systems as benign emissions rather than pollutants.

The *NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy* released by the NSW Government in 2018 identifies and prioritises three 'Energy Zones', including the New England and parts of Inverell Shire. Support for renewables and strategic infrastructure upgrades will leverage massive private sector investment opportunities, boosting regional economies.

Figure 12 shows the two large scale wind farms located on the eastern boarder of the Shire, Sapphire Wind Farm located in the Kings Plains area approximately 28km east of Inverell and White Rock Wind Farm located 47kms east of Inverell. Electricity generation is a growth sector in the region with major transmission companies identifying the northern part of our Shire as being an optimal location for the establishment of large scale solar renewable energy projects.

Council will:

- ✓ Encourage and support the growth of the renewable energy sector by supporting enterprises to help manage community concerns and advocate for the upgrading of transmission capacity.
- ✓ Support the augmentation of the electricity transmission infrastructure to enable renewable energy generators to connect to the grid.

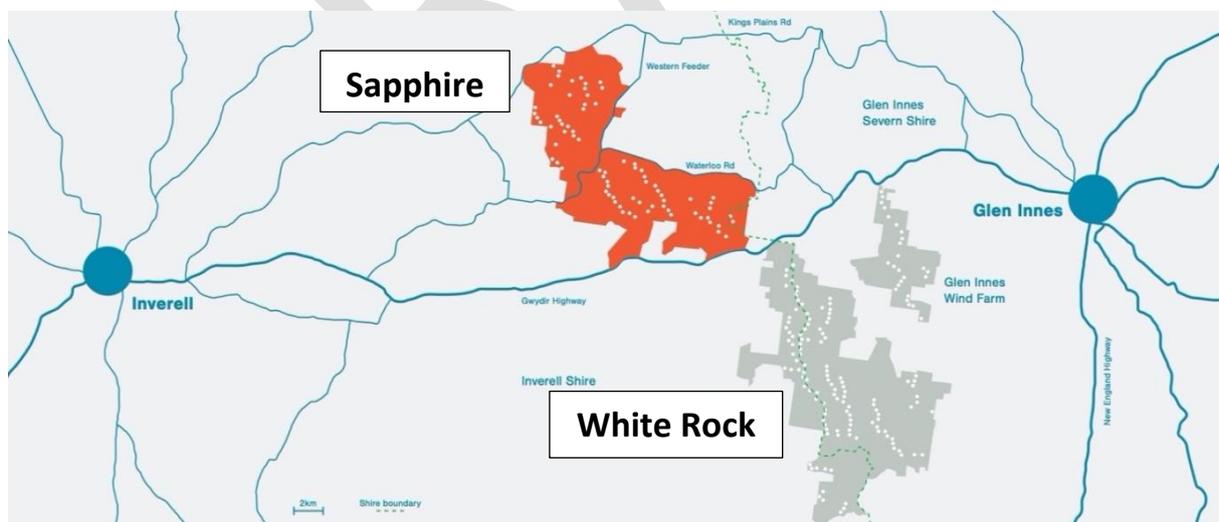


Figure 12: Wind farm locations in Inverell Shire

Planning Priority 2: Manage, grow and support renewable energy

Action - Manage and support the transition to renewable energy

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2.1 | Ensure that wind and solar developments are appropriately sited and: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• avoids / manages impacts on the scenic rural landscapes;• has access to essential infrastructure, such as substations; and• considers the cumulative impacts on valuable farming land. |
| 2.2 | Ensure planning provisions can facilitate appropriate smaller-scale renewable energy projects using biowaste, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal or other innovative technologies |



PLANNING PRIORITY 3

EXPAND NATURE-BASED ADVENTURE AND CULTURAL TOURISM

The New England North West region is renowned for its proud pioneering history, its beautiful restored buildings and the production of many fine gemstones from which Inverell has earned the epithet of 'Sapphire City'.

The *Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022* identified that in 2016, the Region attracted over 382,000 overnight domestic and international visitors. Of these visitors, Inverell Shire enjoyed the benefit of 108,000 domestic and 3,000 international visitors and a total expenditure of \$58,000,000.00.

Inverell's key natural environment, cultural features and visitor experiences are expected to continue to attract tourists and offer diversity to the local economy. The Shire offers a range of tourism opportunities, highlighted under Our Advantages, including access to cultural experiences, nature reserves, geological features and agri-tourism. Nature-based activities such as fossicking, fishing, camping, horse riding and bushwalking contribute to the local economy.

Our rural lifestyle offers opportunities for farm stays, farm gate and eco-tourism encouraging additional income that does not compromise productive agricultural land. Appropriate accommodation options need also to be available for both visitors and itinerant workers in the Shire.

The Inverell Shire also has a rich Aboriginal heritage which is valued and respected. Council will support opportunities to increase economic self-determination of our Aboriginal communities through tourism, employment and training. Appropriate and regular consultation needs to be held with the Anaiwan, Ashford and Toomelah Local Aboriginal Land Councils to ensure that Aboriginal culture and heritage is appropriately protected, promoted and managed.

These lifestyle, nature-based and cultural tourism experiences will also place the Shire in a good position to capture the emerging 'new tourism' market associated with millennials and active families seeking to travel, experience and explore areas rather than accumulate goods. Together with existing markets such as baby boomers (including the caravan and RV markets) and touring motorcyclists, the LGA is well placed to optimise tourism.

Council will:

- ✓ Promote visitation to regionally and locally significant nature-based and other tourism places, including Copeton Dam, many fossicking areas and the National Transport Museum.
- ✓ Contribute to the development of a Tourism Strategy for the Inverell Shire.
- ✓ Support the expansion of tourism and visitor opportunities.

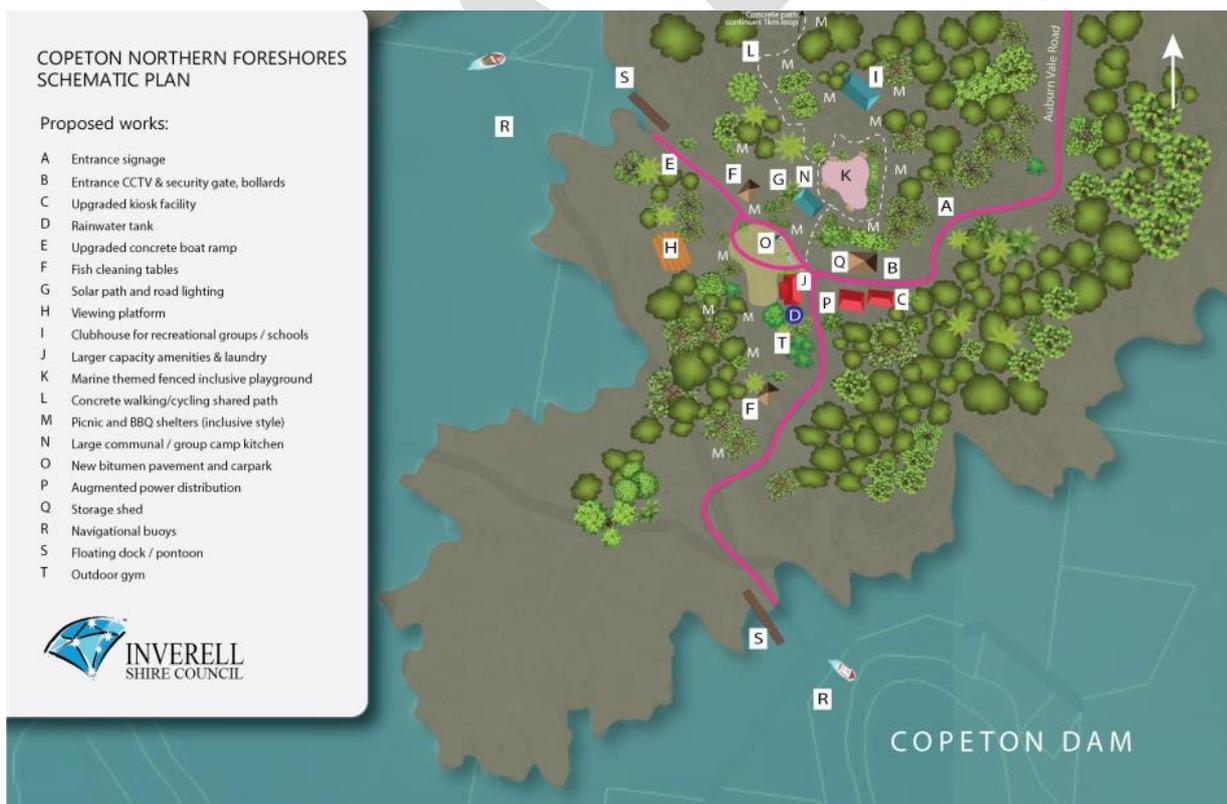
Planning Priority 3: Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism

Action - Protect our natural and cultural resources

- 3.1 Protect areas of high environmental and historic significance by focusing development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity, and use the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy for biodiversity and areas of high environmental value. This may include undertaking investigations for a Shire wide Biodiversity Strategy and reviewing existing provisions within the LEP.

Action - Expand tourism and visitor opportunities

- 3.2 Facilitate the use of Council owned land for community / public events and festivals. This could be achieved by the inclusion of a clause in the LEP to permit temporary events without development consent.
- 3.3 Encourage opportunities to identify culturally appropriate Aboriginal tourism opportunities through:
 - consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Councils;
 - encouraging tourism development in natural areas that support conservation outcomes; and
 - strategically planning for a growing international tourism market.
- 3.4 Ensure that planning provisions allow for diversification of compatible land uses (such as farm stay accommodation and eco-tourist resorts).



Copeton Northern Foreshores Upgrade



THEME 2 – THRIVING, LIVEABLE AND AUTHENTIC PLACES

PLANNING PRIORITY 4

DELIVER DIVERSE HOUSING CHOICES THAT REINFORCES OUR UNIQUE CHARACTER

Around 9,700 additional homes will be required in the New England North West Region to support future population growth and provide for changing household types over the next 20 years. Whilst the majority of this housing growth will be in the regional cities of Tamworth and Armidale, Inverell's population is expected to grow from 16,483 (2016) to 19,300 by 2036.

Globally demographics are shifting towards an aged population. It is expected that there will be growing demand for a range of health and other services along with safe and accessible dwellings. Movement networks and public facilities will also become increasingly important to meet the needs of all age groups and support active ageing. Our ageing population will increase demand for services to facilitate 'ageing in place' as well as supported accommodation and aged care homes. To encourage new residents while also accommodating the existing community, it will be important to deliver a mix of housing types and lot sizes.

The Shire features a range of residential environments in both urban and rural areas. Inverell is dominated by single detached dwellings on conventional sized urban lots with large rural residential lots on the fringe. There is an adequate supply of existing zoned residential, rural residential and village land to facilitate changing housing requirements. The future development of new residential areas will be supported by structure plans secured by Council to guide infrastructure, road and utility layouts providing practical and efficient land development.

The varied land zoning can accommodate a range of housing types and aims to preserve the central business district, residential neighbourhoods, environmental areas and rural landscapes. The flexibility of the LEP contributes to the delivery of housing diversity and choice, assists in affordability, helps meet the needs of an ageing population and creates more walkable, vibrant and accessible places.

Ashford, Tingha, Delungra, Bonshaw and Yetman provide a rural village lifestyle with sufficient land zoned for expansion. The settlements of Nullamanna, Elsmore, Gum Flat, Wandera, Little Plain, Oakwood, Mount Russell, Graman, Wallangara, Cherry Tree Hill, Stannifer, Old Mill and Bukkulla also support the outlying agricultural areas of the Shire providing facilities such as general stores, service stations, hotels, sporting fields and caravan parks. **Figure 13** shows the locations of these places.

Currently there is little demand for any development or expansion in these existing villages and settlements, except Gilgai. The demand in Gilgai is due to its close proximity to Inverell (approximately 10km to the south) and the existing infrastructure available in the village. Any development that may occur will contribute to the unique character of these villages and settlements and should be considered and addressed through the review of the *Inverell Strategic Land Use Plan 2012*.

Council's *Community Strategic Plan 2009 – 2029* identifies as one of its actions to provide affordable housing and accommodation to meet the requirements of the Shire's residents. To ensure the delivery of diverse housing choice and affordable housing while achieving best practice it is recommended that the *Inverell Strategic Land Use Plan 2012* be reviewed.

Council will:

- ✓ Support the delivery of diverse housing to meet the changing needs of the community;
- ✓ Support the NSW Government Architect's *Better Placed* initiative for good, efficient and accessible development in the design of future housing.

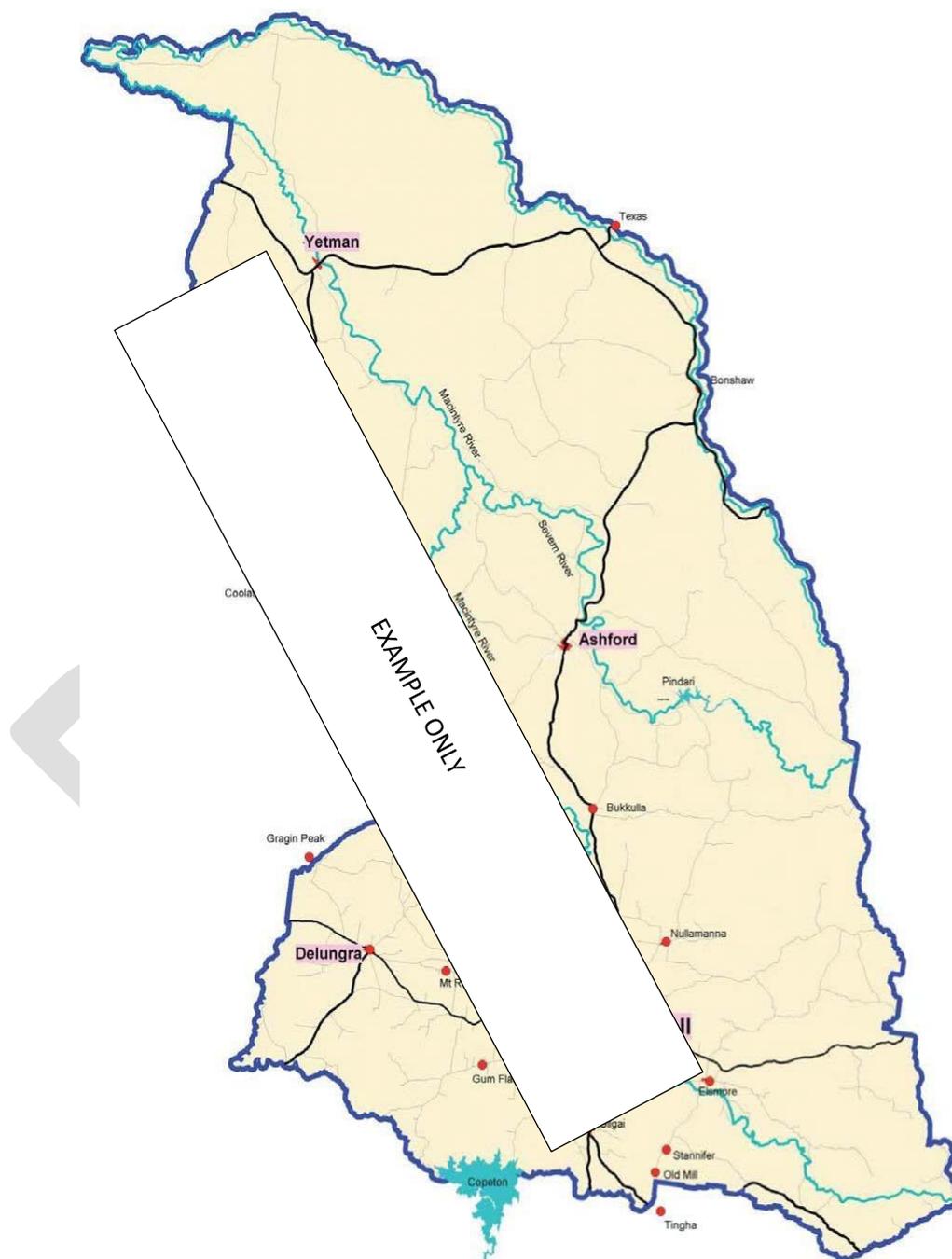


Figure 13: Inverell Shire towns, villages and smaller settlements

Planning Priority 4: Deliver diverse housing choice that reinforces our unique character

Action - Deliver diverse housing choice that reinforces our unique character

4.1	<p>Promote the delivery of appropriate housing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directing future residential and large lot housing to existing R1, R5 and RU5 zoned land; • protecting and enhancing the unique aspects of Inverell and each village and settlement; • supporting the availability of an appropriate housing supply by responding to changing housing needs, as well as household and demographic changes (e.g. increased demand for residential aged care facilities); • investigating options to include development controls to make new homes easier to use to a broader cross-section of the community including 'adaptable housing', 'affordable housing' and 'liveable housing'; • updating development controls to include high quality design principles for shade in new residential developments; and • assessing any required infrastructure feasibility and its subsequent delivery.
4.2	<p>Implement and review the <i>Inverell Strategic Land Use Plan 2012</i>.</p>
4.3	<p>Prepare structure plans for the new residential areas as identified in Inverell DCP 2013.</p>

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PLANNING PRIORITY 5

PROMOTE BUSINESS AND LIFESTYLE OPPORTUNITIES

It is vital that Inverell aims to reverse the current out-migration of young people and families, to facilitate population growth and the retention of local businesses and essential services. The *Western Enabling Regional Adaptation – New England North West Region* report identifies the following drivers as contributing to the loss of regional youth: declining regional services and support mechanisms, an ageing workforce, education, a lack of employment opportunities and of affordable housing for young people, the school leaving age is increasing and students are not taking up apprenticeships.

The attraction of new industry, workers, residents and visitors through collaborative marketing campaigns and promotions incentives is to be emphasised. This will foster generational change, with younger people bringing new ideas, skills and business practices.

To raise the area's profile, continue sustainable population growth and regenerate local communities, it is important that we maximise existing zoned employment land, promote our strengths, local businesses and opportunities to attract new residents and economic ventures. It is also essential to ensure that the infrastructure and services needed to support economic development and the existing ageing population is sustained.

The delivery of actions under Council's *Employment Lands Strategy 2011* and the *Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022* will assist this priority.

Social infrastructure is the glue that holds the community together. It includes a broad range of facilities including schools and other education centres, child care centres, parks and recreation areas, community facilities, libraries, cultural centres, health facilities and other services.

As the population of the Shire grows, and the demographic mix changes, it will be important to ensure that social infrastructure is appropriately located, and that the right kinds of services are available to meet the population's needs. These needs are determined in a variety of ways including community consultation when planning capital works projects and ongoing communication with local organisations such as sporting clubs, not for profit organisations and community based organisations.

Social infrastructure is currently spread across the Shire, though many services and major facilities are concentrated in Inverell. It will be necessary to upgrade existing infrastructure as the population grows to maintain the high service standards.

Collaboration between health, education, transport and service providers will continue to play a vital role when these organisations and service providers are planning their capital works programs.

Council will:

- ✓ Promote infrastructure and services that support healthy, active lifestyles for the younger and older population, including activation of the river precinct for passive recreation.
- ✓ Ensure that social infrastructure caters to the population's changing needs and improve public domain to foster healthy and connected communities.
- ✓ Encourage participation in business from all demographics to stimulate local economic opportunity and population retention.

Planning Priority 5: Promote business and lifestyle opportunities

Action - Stimulate economic opportunities

5.1	Implement and review the <i>Employment Lands Strategy 2011</i> .
5.2	Investigate and implement the <i>Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022</i> . This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partnering with State and Federal government and adjoining LGAs to raise the profile of the area and awareness of opportunities for employment, business development and quality of life; • targeting opportunities for younger demographics; and • fostering collaboration with business sectors to develop employment opportunities that can attract and retain younger people and professional and skilled workers.
5.3	Investigate the preparation of a Shire wide Economic Development Strategy.
5.4	Promote opportunities in the LEP and DCP for new and imaginative industry, ideas, skills and business practices to establish in the CBD and Shire.

Action - Enrich quality of life and wellbeing of residents

5.5	Where opportunities are available allow for greater land use and access to the facilities outside of the traditional 9am-5pm operating hours.
5.6	Review the local contributions plan every five years to ensure that it reflects the changing needs of the community.



PLANNING PRIORITY 6

PROTECT AND CELEBRATE OUR UNIQUE SENSE OF PLACE

Inverell Shire residents have a strong connection to place, incorporating the natural and built environment and cultural space. Inverell Shire Council recognises Aboriginal people as custodians of the land and recognises the significance of their spiritual and cultural connection to the land. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation in the North West Slopes and Plains dates back thousands of years and despite physical modification of the land, many places of significance remain.

The connection of Aboriginal communities to their ancestral country is a result of passing down histories and 'place awareness' through generations. Aboriginal heritage includes places and objects of significance to Aboriginal people because of their traditions, observances, lore, customs, beliefs and history, such as pre-contact, habitation and usage sites, burial sites, battle sites and camping, hunting or fishing sites. Aboriginal cultural heritage also relates to the connection and sense of belonging that people have with the landscape and with each other.

The *New England North West Regional Plan 2036* recognises the importance of Aboriginal cultural heritage. Protecting, enhancing and conserving Aboriginal places and relics are important to preserve the unique nature of the Shire, as well as provide cultural tourism opportunities. This reinforces the need for thoughtful cultural heritage assessments to be undertaken, as resources allow, for the protection of our Aboriginal heritage and adequate provision in Council's planning instruments. It also recognises the importance of proactive engagement and regular consultation with the Anaiwan, Ashford and Toomelah Local Aboriginal Land Councils.

Locally significant European heritage buildings and places of interest also make a contribution to the area's distinct character. Local sites such as the largely intact and historic main streets, villages, cemeteries, memorials, Scottish Cairn, Pioneer Village, Transport Museum, walks, and the Wing Hing Long Museum in Tingha are critical to attract new residents and visitors to the area, and a review of Council's planning provisions will ensure adequate protection is afforded for these places.

Nurturing social capital is an important aspect of protecting our connection to the region. This Statement's actions aim to facilitate community cohesion, respect the past, accommodate shared beliefs of the community and improve the connection to country via preservation of our culture.

Council will:

- ✓ Continue to develop and support community events that celebrate the culture and heritage of the Shire such as NAIDOC week, multicultural festival and the Australian Heritage Festival.
- ✓ Engage with our Local Aboriginal Land Councils.
- ✓ Promote the preservation, adaptive reuse and cultural benefits of our diverse natural and built heritage.



Planning Priority 6: Protect and celebrate our unique sense of place

Action - Maintain the character of the Inverell Shire through orderly development of the natural and built environment

6.1	Apply appropriate provisions to protect and conserve environmental assets, while permitting a range of land uses to assist in the preservation of the region's important assets.
6.2	Develop an Aboriginal heritage study in consultation with the local Aboriginal community to map Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values across the LGA.
6.3	Support local heritage studies in consultation with the community and adopt appropriate development controls in planning strategies and local plans to protect European heritage
6.4	Review the LEP to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensure land zoning affords protection for local heritage items;• list any additional heritage items identified for protection in Schedule 5; and• de-list heritage items due to demolition or their negligible contribution to Inverell Shire's history.

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THEME 3 – STONG AND CONNECTED INFRASTRUCTURE

PLANNING PRIORITY 7

SUPPORT INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ENCOURAGES NEW INDUSTRIES

Located between Sydney and Brisbane, with strong transport links to Newcastle and South East Queensland, Inverell Shire is well positioned to access domestic and international markets, as shown in **Figure 14**.

The Bruxner and Gwydir Highways traverse the Inverell Shire and provide freight access to Queensland, the east coast and the west of NSW. Protecting these transport assets from sensitive land uses and expanding export-related and value-adding industries will encourage investment, attract industry and provide certainty to industries.

The proposed Melbourne to Brisbane Inland Rail to the west of Inverell in Gwydir Shire has the potential to reshape freight movements. Further investigations are required for opportunities to provide greater access for higher productivity vehicles which may access the Intermodal Facilities located on the Inland Rail route and support new industries locating in the Inverell Shire.

Technology provides opportunities – new ways to travel and plan journeys, and new ways to deliver cutting edge services to communities. Council also recognises that enhanced communication is a key part of the facilitation of business and economic growth.

Proactive involvement and facilitation of telecommunications and critical communications networks ensures the Shire enjoys access to improving mobile, radio and internet coverage. Council will, in consultation with State and Federal agencies and the business community investigate options for enhancing smart technologies, including public WiFi in Inverell CBD.

Inverell Shire is an attractive area for investment in renewable energy generation due to access to key infrastructure such as transmission lines. The Shire is mindful that future investment of this industry may present infrastructure challenges as well as opportunities requiring further consideration and collaboration.

To encourage new industries and enterprises it is vital to review the suitability of existing and future road, water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure. This will support growth and smooth the transition for new ventures while better servicing existing industries and supporting services such as the Inverell Airport. The Inverell Airport is serviced by Fly Corporate which flies weekdays between Inverell and Brisbane, as well as Inverell and Sydney. This service supports the various agriculture, commercial, services, industrial and renewable energy sectors in Inverell Shire.

Council will:

- ✓ Support infrastructure and technologies that encourage new industries and enhance the opportunities for existing industry and business to grow.
- ✓ Investigate opportunities for public WiFi and smart technologies in the Inverell CBD along with encouraging partnerships with the business community to pursue high speed, high performance fibre optic data network to service our employment lands

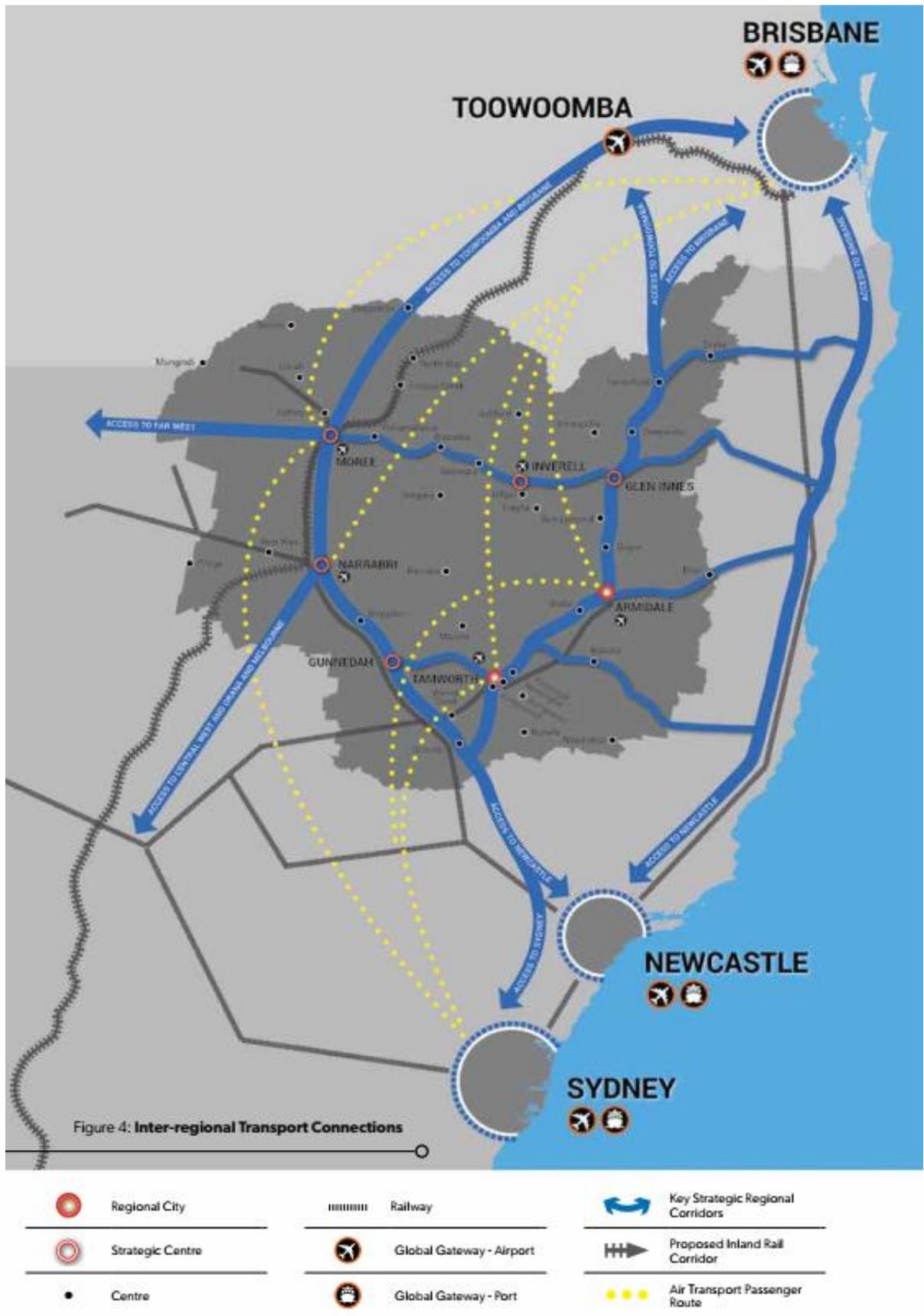


Figure 14: Inter-regional Transport Connections, New England North West Regional Plan 2036

Planning Priority 7: Support infrastructure that encourages new industries

Action - Generate new industry opportunities

- 7.1 Determine the suitability of infrastructure to support growth by reviewing:
- Council’s existing water, sewer and stormwater management plans with a focus on land use provisions and policy options;
 - the condition and capability of the road network to support the freight sector, increase connectivity, and accommodate new industry opportunities – which can be developed in an *Integrated Transport Strategy* for the Shire;
 - the capacity of the region to support renewable electricity infrastructure;
 - existing telecommunication infrastructure with the view to increasing mobile phone coverage and the reliability, speed and affordability of the internet; and
 - Investigate opportunities for public WiFi and smart technologies in the Inverell CBD along with encouraging partnerships with the business community to pursue high speed, high performance fibre optic data network to service our employment lands.
- 7.2 Promote opportunities for investigations into the land around the Inverell Airport to be used for emerging and innovative industry and technologies that require direct access to air freight networks for distribution and access to national and international markets

Action - Provide well-located and serviced supplies of industrial and employment lands

- 7.3 Implement and review the *Employment Lands Strategy 2011* including investigations into:
- physical or infrastructure servicing constraints that prevent future land uses;
 - work with Transport for NSW to understand catchment areas for key centres and attractors to develop a hub and spoke transport network;
 - ensure that access to industrial and employment lands takes into consideration high productivity vehicles;
 - avoiding the encroachment of incompatible land uses on major transport corridors within the Shire; and
 - any land suitable for future development.



PLANNING PRIORITY 8

PLAN FOR INTEGRATED LAND USE AND TRANSPORT

Transport is in a period of immense growth, change and disruption. People are more mobile than ever and our lives more interconnected. Passive and active transport is seamlessly and discreetly integrated into our everyday lifestyle. It is designed to respect and harmonise with our local character and rural lifestyle.

Effectively integrating land use and transport are vital to ensure that adequate services are provided for and accessed by the community.

Outside of Inverell, the population is dispersed across a number of smaller villages and settlements where transport needs are supported by private car due to it being impossible to efficiently service these areas through traditional public transport means. Supporting the mobility of people who are experiencing transport disadvantage through sustainable community transport initiatives will require adequate funding, refinement and innovation.

Improving walking and cycling connections within Inverell provides residents and visitors with enhanced transport choice. It is important that the connectivity function of our major roads, such as the Gwydir Highway and Bruxner Way, are balanced with the focus of the towns and centres as meeting places for the local community.

The *New England North West Regional Transport Plan* prepared by the NSW Government in 2013 recognises the most effective way of providing better transport to more customers in regional NSW is through the development of the 'hub and spoke' network model radiating out from regional centres. This will capitalise on the role that regional centres, including Inverell, play as hubs for employment and services such as retail, health, education and cultural activities for their surrounding areas.

Inverell Shire undertook a *Traffic Study* in 2008 which identified many areas for improved transport efficiencies, including a preferred northern by-pass truck route around Inverell which would considerably improve traffic conditions removing B-doubles and articulated vehicles travelling through the CBD and along residential streets.

Continued investment in local transport infrastructure is important to support the development of our Shire. It is recommended that the development of an *Integrated Transport Strategy* for the Inverell Shire be undertaken as a priority to:

- consider and investigate such things as the northern by-pass route;
- identify opportunities to provide greater access for higher productivity vehicles be translated into actions; and
- ensure that road and air transport and movement networks remain a focus and offer opportunities for our community and businesses.

It is critical to ensure that the Inverell CBD is strengthened and that retail development is focused on Otho and Byron Streets. The *Inverell Town Centre Renewal Plan 2014* has seen the facilitation of Byron and Otho Street as the heart of Inverell creating a vibrant and attractive place for investment, growing social and cultural interaction both day and night that is accessible and safe for our community. Evans Street is recognised as the cultural precinct and will continue to be enhanced allowing for civic events to grow and prosper.

Council will:

- ✓ Continue to review the way that people and goods move through the Shire and encourage effective transport networks to support residents, visitors, commerce and industry.

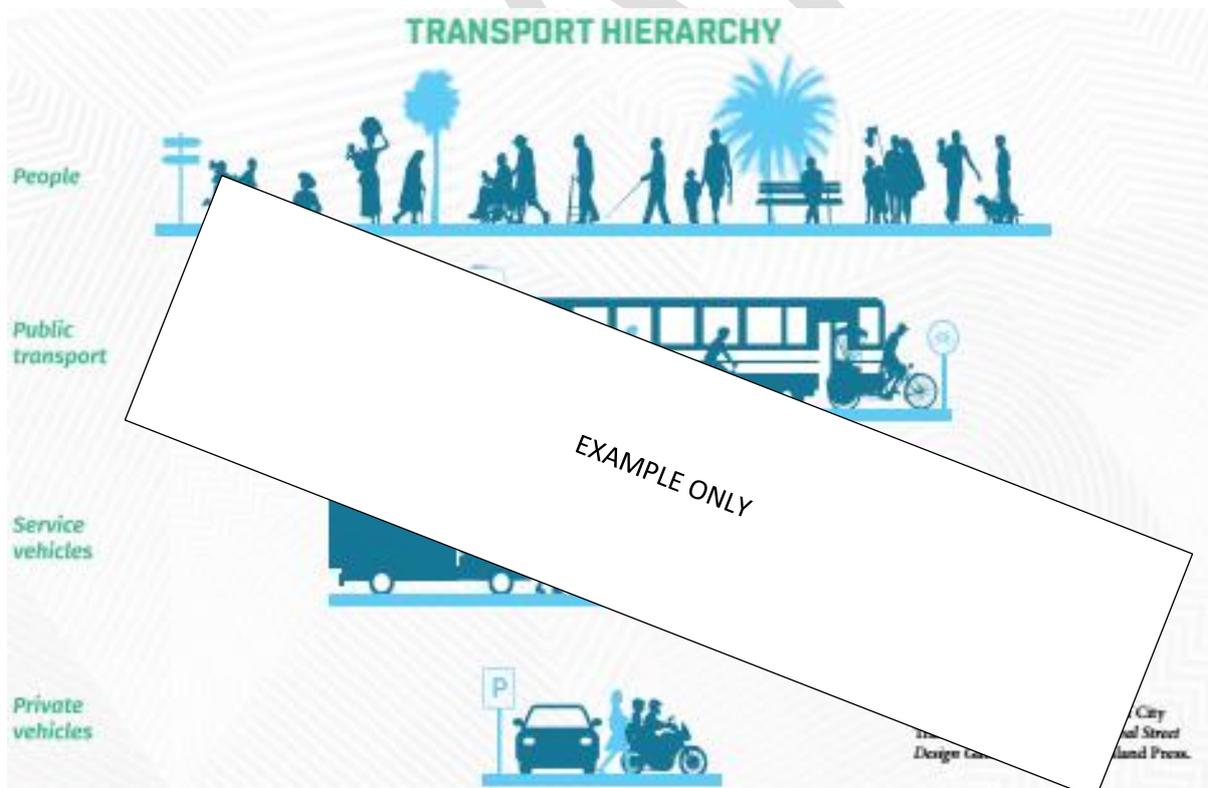
Planning Priority 8: Plan for integrated land use and transport

Action - Integrated Land Use and Transport

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| 8.1 | Develop an <i>Integrated Transport Strategy</i> for the LGA. |
| 8.2 | <p>Collaborate with State and Federal government to ensure that the <i>New England North West Regional Transport Plan</i> actions for Inverell are implemented which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport services – the transport service improvement program for Inverell will consider transport initiatives to improve the attractiveness of public transport. These improvements may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunities for improved service frequencies to key destinations; ○ Opportunities for extending trading hours of operation to include earlier and later services on weekdays; ○ The potential for introduction of weekend services; ○ Opportunities to improve the infrastructure that supports public transport services, such as bus stops and shelters, terminal facilities and customer information; ○ Opportunities for coverage of gaps to be provided by flexible/demand response services. • Improve opportunities for active transport, e.g. walking and cycling. |

Action - Support the Inverell CBD

- | | |
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| 8.3 | Continue to implement the <i>Inverell Town Centre Renewal Plan 2014</i> . |
| 8.4 | Limit inappropriate retail development outside of the Inverell CBD. |





THEME 4 – SUSTAINABLE AND PROTECTED ENVIRONMENT

PLANNING PRIORITY 9

PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Healthy ecosystems clean our water, purify our air, maintain our soil, regulate the climate, recycle nutrients and provide us with food. Diversity in plants and animals enable ecosystems to function, are a key indicator of the health of an ecosystem and biodiversity is the very fabric of the Earth.

Inverell Council is committed to the protection and enhancement of the environment that sustains our community. The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science Group has mapped potential high environmental value areas including ground-water dependent ecosystems. With assistance, the mapping and validation of these areas in the Shire will ensure protection and enhancements can be afforded to them in the future. Improved data will allow early consideration of the potential impacts of new development on these areas during strategic planning. Updating planning provisions and using an evidence-based approach to identify and protect high environmental value areas will help maintain diversity and habitat.

The Shire contains parts of the Nandewar and New England Tablelands Bioregions. Bioregions are relatively large land areas, characterised by broad, landscape-scale natural features and environmental processes that influence the functions of entire ecosystems. They capture the large-scale geophysical patterns across Australia. Our region provides a range of important ecological values and acts as a reservoir of genetic diversity. Bushland also serves a variety of roles for the community, providing places for recreation and exercise.

Groundwater is an important and vital natural resource in NSW, particularly in times of drought. Groundwater systems in NSW are coming under increasing pressure to meet human uses for agriculture, industry, and drinking water. The advantage of access to Copeton Dam assists in managing these local demands on groundwater.

Biosecurity is vital in natural resource management. Proactively reviewing strategies, such as pest and weed management, helps protect our unique biodiversity environment and valuable agricultural industries. These in turn influence economic viability and the health and safety of our communities.

Council will:

- ✓ Promote the protection and enhancement of the Shire's natural environment.
- ✓ Promote the protection of waterways and biodiversity.

Planning Priority 9: Protect and enhance our natural environment

Action - Protect areas of high environmental value and significance

9.1	Review and update our LEP and DCP to protect high value ecosystems on private land.
9.2	Review and update our LEP to include provisions for the protection and enhancement of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • riparian land and watercourses; • terrestrial biodiversity; and • aquatic biodiversity.
9.3	Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity and areas of high environment value.
9.4	Ensure local plans consider water catchment areas and groundwater sources to avoid potential development impacts, contamination and over use.
9.5	Identify and promote the restoration of degraded vegetation within biodiversity corridors.
9.6	Review and implement Shire wide biosecurity strategies, such as a pest and weed management strategy in consultation with the relevant Departments and organisations.
9.7	Map areas of High Environmental Value in the Inverell Shire. Seek support, guidance and funding from State Government to undertake this work.

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PLANNING PRIORITY 10

PLAN FOR A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT AND RISKS SUCH AS BUSHFIRE AND FLOODING

The changing global climate and natural environment is expected to impact a range of factors.

It is important that Council plan for greater resilience to a variable climate. The *Western Enabling Regional Adaptation New England North West Region Report* prepared by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Environment, Energy and Science Group provides a snapshot of the near future (2030) and far future (2070) climate change scenarios. In summary:

- The region is expected to experience an increase in all temperature variables (average, maximum and minimum), more hot days and fewer cold nights for the near and far futures. Heatwaves are also projected to increase, be hotter and last longer;
- Seasonality of rainfall will change. Autumn rainfall will increase in the near and far futures. The majority of models agree that winter rainfall will decrease in the near future. Summer rainfall is projected to decrease in the near future; however, summer rainfall is projected to increase in the far future; and
- Fire risk will increase, with projected increases in average and severe Forest Fire Danger Index in the near future and the far future.

These changes have the potential to affect not only our environment (through drought, changing rainfall patterns, heatwaves and storm events) but our community's economy, health and wellbeing, infrastructure and overall water security.

WATER

The Inverell Shire is drained by three major river systems, the Macintyre, the Gwydir and the Dumaresq (Border) rivers. These systems form part of the NSW inland river system, eventually flowing into the Darling River to the west.

Water security in the region is a major contributor to the establishment of new industry opportunities, as it is a critical input that creates surety for investment not only for agriculture and manufacturing but also for people and the businesses that compliment these industries. Ensuring that Inverell Shire maintains and enhances its water security is critical for ongoing prosperity.

Copeton Dam regulates the water supply of the Gwydir River and supplied irrigation water to the Mehi River and Moomin and Carole Creeks. At full capacity, Copeton Dam holds approximately three times the volume of Sydney Harbour. The Shire also hosts Pindari Dam, located on the Severn River approximately 23km upstream of Ashford.

Inverell Shire has three (3) very secure town water supplies. In summary:

- Copeton Scheme which sources raw water from Copeton Dam with treated water supplied to Inverell, Gilgai, Tingha, Mt Russell and Delungra;
- Ashford town water supply sourced from released from Pindari Dam; and
- Yetman water supply sourced from Macintyre Valley groundwater alluvium.

The security of the Copeton and Ashford town water supply schemes is dependant on the management of Copeton Dam and Pindari Dam to ensure sufficient water is stored in the dams for extended severe drought sequences associated with increasing climate variability.

Council will also need to be proactive in identifying opportunities for increasing water efficiency and water security in the area to assist the transition to a more sustainable and resource-efficient

economy. The key area for consideration will be reviewing water infrastructure and services in proximity to the villages and settlements.

BUSHFIRE

Fire is a natural phenomenon, however the frequency of fire, its intensity and the season in which it occurs are some of the major factors influencing the distribution of vegetation communities and animal species. Inappropriate fire management practices have the potential to cause catastrophic effects not only on the plants and animals in the area but threaten human life.

In general, the bushfire hazard in the Shire is moderate to high, with the highest hazard being during periods of drought. Managing the bushfire risk is noted as a key factor in dealing with the bushfire hazard. One of the management options is risk avoidance, which could include not rezoning or allowing for subdivision of land that is prone to bushfire where an adequate fire protection zone cannot be established.

FLOOD

Council has identified flood prone land for Inverell, Ashford and Yetman. The Inverell Development Control Plan (DCP) provides guidance and development controls for these areas. The Guyra LEP and DCP also identifies land in Tingha as flood prone. To ensure the protection of our communities and to minimise the risks and costs associated with flood we need to review and update our flood studies, LEP and DCP.

Council will:

- ✓ Continue to ensure that our section 10.7 certificates contain notations that incorporate best available bushfire and flood information and accurately reflect relevant development controls.
- ✓ Promote water conservation practices.
- ✓ Incorporate emerging knowledge on regional climate projections into strategic planning to plan for a changing environment and risks.

Planning Priority 10: Plan for climate change and risks such as bushfire and flooding

Action - Plan for increased water security

10.1	Continue to develop, review and implement Council's <i>Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan, Drought Management Plan</i> and <i>Water Strategic Business Management (Asset) Plan</i> and identify options to further enhance Inverell Shire's water security into the future.
10.2	Continue engagement with the NSW Government and WaterNSW to ensure that within the regulated river water sharing plans for the Gwydir and Border Rivers provision is made to ensure that adequate water is stored in Copeton and Pindari Dams to cater for extended drought sequences associated with increasing climate variability.
10.3	Consider the development and implementation of water sensitive design outcomes for inclusion in our DCP.

Action - Respond to anticipated impacts of climate change

10.4	Integrate resilience across Council to ensure climate change risks and impacts are considered in strategic planning.
10.5	Continue to ensure that new residential development does not have unacceptable risk from natural hazards such as bushfire and flooding.
10.6	Develop and review appropriate planning policies (such as a Development Control Plan) which manage natural hazard risks and avoid vulnerable areas.

Action - Plan for flood risk

10.7	Update the Inverell LEP and DCP to include Tingha and update and implement the <i>Inverell Floodplain Management Plan 1996</i> and the <i>Yetman and Ashford Flood Scoping Study 2004</i> .
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Action Plan

This LSPS is a long-term land use strategy for the Inverell Shire to 2036. It should be revised on an ongoing, as-needs-basis so that it remains responsive and relevant and delivers on our community aspirations.

To realise the vision set out in this LSPS there may need to be:

- Amendment to Council plans and policies that provide the delivery framework for Council's strategic planning;
- Ongoing advocacy; and
- Decisions of Council.

The community will be consulted and it is anticipated that this consultation will identify additional opportunities that will ensure that the LSPS continues to reflect the community's social and economic needs as well as their vision for the future of the area.

Council is committed to the vision for Inverell Shire, yet recognises this is a shared venture.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration with other councils in the region is strategically important when making decisions regarding critical infrastructure, environmental issues, housing, investment and a range of other topics covered in the LSPS that may impact on the plans of neighbouring communities. This collaboration is also important for achieving the objectives of the *New England North West Regional Plan 2036*.

Inverell Shire Council will continue to collaborate with neighbouring councils and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to achieve the vision outlined in the LSPS and the *New England North West Regional Plan 2036*.

The LSPS provides a framework for the coordinated action of many other partners in delivery. Council will continue to work hard to establish effective partnerships with State government agencies and other organisations to support the realisation of the LSPS.

FUNDING & INVESTMENT

Strategies and studies required by this statement will primarily be funded in the future 4-year delivery program and annual operational plans of Council, although availability of funding via the Regional Growth fund and other state agency opportunities will also be explored. It is important to note the funding, or the lack there-of, can limit the timing and effectiveness of studies.

MONITORING & REPORTING

Council will monitor, review and report on this LSPS to ensure that the planning priorities, actions and outcomes are being achieved. The existing Integrated Planning & Reporting framework (IP&R) will be used, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Revisions to the LSPS may be required in response to significant changes within the Shire, such as new infrastructure investment and employment opportunities or significant changes in projected

population growth. A comprehensive review will be undertaken in 2026, if not earlier, and the LSPS may be incorporated into Council's next *Community Strategic Plan*.

HOW TO READ OUR ACTIONS AND TIMING

The actions in the LSPS will be mainly delivered through updating or developing one or more of the following policy documents:

- **LEP – Local Environmental Plan** - LEP's are the principle statutory document which establishes the planning controls for an LGA. Through zoning, development standards and other local provisions the LEP provides the legal framework to ensure development is appropriate and reflects the communities' vision for land use in the LGA.
- **DCP – Development Control Plan** – DCP's are non-statutory plans that provide detailed planning and design guidelines, and development controls to support the LEP.
- **CP – Contributions Plan** – Contributions plans are enabled under Division 6, part 4 of the EP&A Act 1979 which gives Council the power to collect contributions from proponents toward public infrastructure required as a consequence of their development.
- **Strategy** – Stand-alone strategies relating to a broad or specific matter.
- **Master Plan and/or Precinct Plans** – Broad strategic and/or precinct specific plans for a particular project or area.
- **Other** – any other action not captured by any of the above policy documents.

Timing references in the LSPS are:

- Ongoing – Currently implementing and to continue;
- Short – 0-2 years;
- Medium – 3-5 years; and
- Long – 6-10 years.



THEME 1 – STRONG LOCAL ECONOMY: ACTIONS

Planning Priority 1:

Grow our agriculture, agribusiness and manufacturing sectors

Enablers	Strategies and Actions	
Community Strategic Plan	E.01	Promote sustainable agricultural activities
	E.02	Council's strategies to achieve sustainable, productive use of rural lands and preservation of the rural qualities are implemented.
Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy	Strategy A	Improve freight efficiency in the engine industries of Agriculture and Mining
	Strategy B	Encourage investment, increased productivity and value adding
	Strategy D	Diversify the economy through emerging industry sectors
Regional Plan	Direction 1	Expand agribusiness and food processing sectors
	Direction 2	Build agricultural productivity
	Direction 3	Protect and enhance productive agricultural lands
	Direction 6	Deliver new industries of the future
	Direction 7	Build strong economic centres
	Direction 13	Expand emerging industries through freight and logistics connectivity
	Direction 14	Enhance transport and infrastructure networks

LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	1.1	Implement rural land use provisions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> protect biophysical strategic agricultural land identified by NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Agriculture); restrict the encroachment of incompatible land uses; ensure that land use standards for minimum subdivision sizes in the LEP reflect trends and enable a productive agricultural sector 	Ongoing
	1.2	Implement NSW DPI <i>Right to Farm policy</i> .	Ongoing
	1.3	Review and implement the <i>Inverell Shire Rural Land Strategy (August 2011)</i> .	Medium
	1.4	Review the Inverell LEP 2012 to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include Tingha and the surrounding area currently under the Guyra LEP 2012; Consider opening up the RU1 zone to allow suitable, compatible land uses that encourage and facilitate agribusiness expansion, farm based tourism, commercial and recreational land uses. 	Short
	1.5	Proactively identify ways that planning provisions can accommodate the changing needs of agriculture, including the development of intensive agriculture, agri-businesses and associated value-adding activities. These innovative planning provisions should encourage businesses to locate within Inverell Shire.	Ongoing
	1.6	Support and promote the growth of manufacturing and processing through the review of planning provisions in the LEP. This may include such things as having 'open' zones allowing for a wider variety of land uses to be considered.	Short

Infrastructure	1.7	Identify and protect key infrastructure corridors that assist current and future development and capitalise on inter-regional connections and external markets.	Ongoing
	1.8	Protect network opportunities and distribution from incompatible land uses or land fragmentation.	Ongoing
	1.9	Prioritise and protect road infrastructure that caters for large transport vehicles.	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years

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Planning Priority 2: Manage and support renewable energy



Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	B.02	Plan for and promote the clustering of specific business and industry sectors in commercially appropriate locations	
	B.04	Develop and promote the Shire as the place for business establishment	
	B.05	Assist business to integrate with the community and natural environment	
	C.06	Reduce the consumption of non-renewable resources	
Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy	Strategy D	Diversify the economy through emerging industry sectors	
Regional Plan	Direction 5	Grow New England North West as the renewable energy hub of NSW	
	Direction 16	Coordinate infrastructure delivery	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	2.1	Ensure that wind and solar developments are appropriately sited and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoids / manages impacts on the scenic rural landscapes; • has access to essential infrastructure, such as substations; and • considers the cumulative impacts on valuable farming land. 	Ongoing
	2.2	Ensure planning provisions can facilitate appropriate smaller-scale renewable energy projects using biowaste, solar, wind, hydro, geothermal or other innovative storage technologies.	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years

Planning Priority 3: Expand nature-based adventure and cultural tourism



Enablers		Strategies and Actions	
Community Strategic Plan	B.08	Promote the Shire as a destination for visitors	
	B0.9	Generate economic benefits to the Shire by increasing visitation from domestic, regional, national and international market sectors	
	E.06	Protect and manage significant natural features and landscapes	
Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy	Strategy D	Diversify the economy through emerging sectors	
Regional Plan	Direction 8	Expand tourism and visitor opportunities	
	Direction 11	Protect areas of potential high environmental value	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	3.1	Protect areas of high environmental and historic significance by focusing development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity, and use the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy for biodiversity and areas of high environmental value. This may include undertaking investigations for a Shire wide Biodiversity Strategy and reviewing existing provisions within the LEP.	Ongoing and Medium
	3.2	Facilitate the use of Council owned land for community / public events and festivals. This could be achieved by the inclusion of a clause in the LEP to permit temporary events without development consent.	Short
	3.3	Encourage opportunities to identify culturally appropriate Aboriginal tourism opportunities through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consultation with the Local Aboriginal Land Councils; encouraging tourism development in natural areas that support conservation outcomes; and strategically planning for a growing international tourism market. 	Ongoing
	3.4	Ensure that planning provisions allow for diversification of compatible land uses (such as farm stay accommodation and eco-tourist resorts).	Short

Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years



THEME 2 – THRIVING AND LIVEABLE PLACES: ACTIONS

Planning Priority 4:

Deliver diverse housing choice that reinforces our unique character

Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	C.09	Create a strong sense of community identity	
	C.12	Provide affordable housing and accommodation to meet the requirements of the Shire's residents	
Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy	Strategy C	Invest in people, skills. Community and lifestyle to address the Region's skills gap	
Regional Plan	Direction 18	Provide great places to live	
	Direction 19	Support healthy, safe, socially engaged and well connected communities	
	Direction 20	Deliver greater housing diversity to suit changing needs	
	Direction 21	Deliver well planned rural residential housing	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	4.1	Promote the delivery of appropriate housing by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> directing future residential and large lot housing to existing R1, R5 and RU5 zoned land; protecting and enhancing the unique aspects of Inverell and each village and settlement; supporting the availability of an appropriate housing supply by responding to changing housing needs, as well as household and demographic changes (e.g. increased demand for residential aged care facilities); investigating options to include development controls to make new homes easier to use to a broader cross-section of the community including 'adaptable housing', 'affordable housing' and 'liveable housing'; updating development controls to include high quality design principles for shade in new residential developments; and assessing any required infrastructure feasibility and its subsequent delivery. 	Ongoing
	4.2	Implement and review the <i>Inverell Strategic Land Use Plan 2012</i> .	Medium
	4.3	Prepare structure plans for the new residential areas as identified in Inverell DCP 2013.	Short

Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years

Planning Priority 5: Promote business and lifestyle opportunities



Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	C.01	Provision of broad range of services and opportunities aid the long term sustainability of the community	
	C.05	Create clean and attractive streets and public places	
	C.07	Provide local opportunities for recreation, culture and social activities	
	C.09	Promoting healthy lifestyles and practices	
	C.13	Facilitate activities that improve the quality of life for people who require support	
	C.15	Maintain and improve the social and physical wellbeing of individuals and communities	
	B.04	Develop and promote the Shire as the place for business establishment	
	B.06	Plan for and promote private and commercial businesses and residential, industrial and commercial development	
	S.08	Civil infrastructure is secured, maintained and used to optimum benefit	
Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy	Strategy B	Encourage investment, increased productivity and value adding	
	Strategy C	Invest in people, skills, community and lifestyle to address the Region's skill gap	
	Strategy D	Diversify the economy through emerging industry sectors	
Regional Plan	Direction 7	Build strong economic centres	
	Direction 17	Strengthen community resilience	
	Direction 18	Provide great places to live	
	Direction 17	Support healthy, safe, socially engaged and well connected communities	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	5.1	Implement and review the <i>Employment Lands Strategy 2011</i> .	Medium
	5.2	Investigate and implement the <i>Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy 2018-2022</i> . This could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> partnering with State and Federal government and adjoining LGAs to raise the profile of the area and awareness of opportunities for employment, business development and quality of life; targeting opportunities for younger demographics; and fostering collaboration with business sectors to develop employment opportunities that can attract and retain younger people and professional and skilled workers. 	Long
	5.3	Investigate the preparation of a Shire wide Economic Development Strategy.	Medium
	5.4	Promote opportunities in the LEP and DCP for new and imaginative industry, ideas, skills and business practices to establish in the CBD and Shire.	Short
Facilities and Institutions	5.5	Where opportunities are available allow for greater land use and access to the facilities outside of the traditional 9am-5pm operating hours.	Ongoing
	5.6	Review the local contributions plan every five years to ensure that it reflects the changing needs of the community.	Medium

Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years

Planning Priority 6: Protect and celebrate our unique sense of place



Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	C.07	Provide local opportunities for recreation, cultural and social activities	
	C.09	Create a strong sense of community identity	
	C.17	Promote the Shire's role in the cultural fabric of the New England North West	
	E.03	Protect, rehabilitate and manage all impacts on the built and natural environment	
Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy	Strategy C	Encourage investment, increased productivity and value adding	
Regional Plan	Direction 7	Build strong economic centres	
	Direction 11	Protect areas of potential high environmental value	
	Direction 17	Strengthen community resilience	
	Direction 23	Collaborate with Aboriginal communities to respect and protect Aboriginal culture and heritage	
	Direction 24	Protect the region's historic heritage assets	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	6.1	Apply appropriate provisions to protect and conserve environmental assets, while permitting a range of land uses to assist in the preservation of the region's important assets.	Ongoing
	6.2	Develop an Aboriginal heritage study in consultation with the local Aboriginal community to map Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Values across the LGA.	Long
	6.3	Support local heritage studies in consultation with the community and adopt appropriate development controls in planning strategies and local plans to protect European heritage.	Medium
	6.4	Review the LEP to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure land zoning affords protection for local heritage items; list any additional heritage items identified for protection in Schedule 5; and de-list heritage items due to demolition or their negligible contribution to Inverell Shire's history. 	Short

Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years



THEME 3 - LASTING INFRASTRUCTURE: ACTIONS

Planning Priority 7:

Support infrastructure that encourages new industries

Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	S.08	Civil infrastructure is secured, maintained and used to optimum benefit	
	S.10	Maintain and enhance a safe, efficient and effective local road network	
	S.12	Provision of safe and efficient networks to ensure connectivity between population centres	
	S.13	Provide communities with quality potable water supply, effective drainage and sewerage systems	
Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy	Strategy B	Encourage investment, increase productivity and value adding	
	Strategy D	Diversify the economy through emerging industry sector	
Regional Plan	Direction 7	Build strong economic centres	
	Direction 10	Sustainably manage and conserve water resources	
	Direction 16	Coordinate infrastructure delivery	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Infrastructure	7.1	Determine the suitability of infrastructure to support growth by reviewing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council's existing water, sewer and stormwater management plans with a focus on land use provisions and policy options; the condition and capability of the road network to support the freight sector, increase connectivity, and accommodate new industry opportunities – which can be developed in an <i>Integrated Transport Strategy</i> for the Shire; the capacity of the region to support renewable electricity infrastructure; existing telecommunication infrastructure with the view to increasing mobile phone coverage and the reliability, speed and affordability of the internet; and Investigate opportunities for public WiFi and smart technologies in the Inverell CBD along with encouraging partnerships with the business community to pursue high speed, high performance fibre optic data network to service our employment lands. 	Medium
Regulation and Policy	7.2	Promote opportunities for investigations into the land around the Inverell Airport to be used for emerging and innovative industry and technologies that require direct access to air freight networks for distribution and access to national and international markets.	Medium
	7.3	Implement and review the <i>Employment Lands Strategy 2011</i> including investigations into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> physical or infrastructure servicing constraints that prevent future land uses; work with Transport for NSW to understand catchment areas for key centres and attractors to develop a hub and spoke transport network; ensure that access to industrial and employment lands takes into consideration high productivity vehicles; 	Medium

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• avoiding the encroachment of incompatible land uses on major transport corridors within the Shire; and• any land suitable for future development.	
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Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years

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Planning Priority 8: Plan for integrated land use and transport



Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	2.1.1	Plan for and develop the right assets and infrastructure	
Upper North West Regional Economic Development Strategy	Strategy A	Improve freight efficiency for the engine industries of Agriculture and Mining	
	Strategy D	Diversify the economy through emerging industry sector	
Regional Plan	Direction 7	Build strong economic centres	
	Direction 14	Enhance transport and infrastructure networks	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	8.1	Develop an <i>Integrated Transport Strategy</i> for the LGA.	Medium
	8.2	Collaborate with State and Federal government to ensure that the <i>New England North West Regional Transport Plan</i> actions for Inverell are implemented which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport services – the transport service improvement program for Inverell will consider transport initiatives to improve the attractiveness of public transport. These improvements may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Opportunities for improved service frequencies to key destinations; ○ Opportunities for extending trading hours of operation to include earlier and later services on weekdays; ○ The potential for introduction of weekend services; ○ Opportunities to improve the infrastructure that supports public transport services, such as bus stops and shelters, terminal facilities and customer information; and ○ Opportunities for coverage of gaps to be provided by flexible/demand response services. • Improve opportunities for active transport, e.g. walking and cycling. 	Long
	8.3	Continue to implement the <i>Inverell Town Centre Renewal Plan 2014</i> .	Ongoing
	8.4	Limit inappropriate retail development outside of the Inverell CBD.	Ongoing

Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years



THEME 4 - SUSTAINABLE RESILIENT LIVING: ACTIONS

Planning Priority 9:

Protect and enhance our natural environment

Enablers	Strategies and Actions		
Community Strategic Plan	E.03	Protect, rehabilitate and manage all impacts on the built and natural environment	
	E.04	Conserve and rehabilitate core vegetation areas and manage major impacts on corridors and remnant bushland	
	E.05	Manage human impacts on the Shire's unique diversity of plants and animals	
	E.06	Protect and manage significant natural features and landscapes	
Regional Plan	Direction 10	Sustainably manage and conserve water resources	
	Direction 11	Protect areas of potential high environmental value	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	9.1	Review and update our LEP and DCP to protect high value ecosystems on private land.	Medium
	9.2	Review and update our LEP to include provisions for the protection and enhancement of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • riparian land and watercourses; • terrestrial biodiversity; and • aquatic biodiversity. 	Short
	9.3	Focus development to areas of least biodiversity sensitivity and implement the 'avoid, minimise, offset' hierarchy to biodiversity and areas of high environment value.	Ongoing
	9.4	Ensure local plans consider water catchment areas and groundwater sources to avoid potential development impacts, contamination and over use.	Ongoing
	9.5	Identify and promote the restoration of degraded vegetation within biodiversity corridors.	Ongoing
	9.6	Review and implement Shire wide biosecurity strategies, such as a pest and weed management strategy in consultation with the relevant Departments and organisations.	Long
	9.7	Map areas of High Environmental Value in the Inverell Shire. Seek support, guidance and funding from State Government to undertake this work.	Long

Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years

Planning Priority 10: Plan for climate change and risks such as bushfire and flooding



Enablers		Strategies and Actions	
Community Strategic Plan	C.08	Reduce the risk of the community arising from emergency events	
	S.08	Civil infrastructure is secured, maintained and used to optimum benefit	
Regional Plan	Direction 12	Adapt to natural hazards and climate change	
LSPS Actions			Timing
Regulation and Policy	10.1	Continue to develop, review and implement Council's <i>Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan</i> , <i>Drought Management Plan</i> and <i>Water Strategic Business Management (Asset) Plan</i> and identify options to further enhance Inverell Shire's water security into the future.	Long
	10.2	Continue engagement with the NSW Government and WaterNSW to ensure that within the regulated river water sharing plans for the Gwydir and Border Rivers provision is made to ensure that adequate water is stored in Copeton and Pindari Dams to cater for extended drought sequences associated with increasing climate variability.	Medium
	10.3	Consider the development and implementation of water sensitive design outcomes for inclusion in our DCP.	Ongoing
	10.4	Integrate resilience across Council to ensure climate change risks and impacts are considered in strategic planning.	Ongoing
	10.5	Continue to ensure that new residential development does not have unacceptable risk from natural hazards such as bushfire and flooding.	Medium
	10.6	Develop and review appropriate planning policies (such as a Development Control Plan) which manage natural hazard risks and avoid vulnerable areas.	Medium
	10.7	Update the Inverell LEP and DCP to include Tingha and update and implement the <i>Inverell Floodplain Management Plan 1996</i> and the <i>Yetman and Ashford Flood Scoping Study 2004</i> .	

Timing: Short = 0-2 years, Medium = 3-5 years, Long = 6-10 years

Resources

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