



DRAFT

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**GILGANDRA REGION
ARMATREE VILLAGE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.

Gilgandra is known as a “meeting place” between three Aboriginal nations - **Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi and Wailwan** - and we proudly continue to be a meeting place for family, friends, locals and visitors alike.

Gilgandra Shire Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live, work and play. We pay our respects to our Elders past, present and emerging, and thank them for the contribution they have made, and continue to make, in the cultural identity of our nation.





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Welcome

TO THE FIRST ARMATREE VILLAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

This plan serves as a roadmap for community-led change. It presents a shared vision, created for Armatree by its community.

We have many assets. Agriculture provides a strong foundation for our local economy, and we've become a well-loved destination for long-term travellers and day trippers alike. But we also have challenges, like securing funding as a small community and ensuring the upkeep of community assets.

This plan considers all these factors, and presents a vision for the community we would like to maintain and grow into the future.

We recognise the many people who have contributed to the vibrant social and economic life of Armatree. This plan builds on our strong history, and the contribution of groups such as the Armatree Progress Association, CWA and others.

The consultation process for our Village Management Plan has shown that our community is engaged in deciding its own future.

In 2023, Gilgandra Shire Council established an internal working committee made up of cross-collaborative teams – including infrastructure, planning and development, activation, communications and finance – to coordinate planning in Tooraweenah and Armatree. Local people had the opportunity to be involved in a dedicated consultation session held at the Armatree Hotel. People also had their say through email, the Council website and social media. All of this feedback was combined with information gathered in other forums – such as Real Country and Regional Drought Resilience consultations – to create this plan.

While the plan has been created under the stewardship of the Council, it is up to all of us to bring it to life. Together, we have an opportunity to drive positive change in and around Armatree while staying true to our community values. Throughout the plan, you'll find different ways you can get involved. This might be through small day-to-day actions, or collective projects and advocacy.

The plan will be reviewed in line with the Gilgandra Region Community Strategic Plan and integrated planning and reporting requirements.

To the Armatree community, thank you for your participation in creating this plan and your dedication to its success.

Acknowledgements

THANK YOU TO THE ARMATREE COMMUNITY,
OUR VOLUNTEERS, CONSULTATION
SESSION ATTENDEES, LOCAL BUSINESSES,
COMMUNITY GROUPS AND OTHER
RESIDENTS WHO HAD THEIR SAY!



Vision

The Armatree community is united by shared goals and aspirations. These ideas were echoed through the consultation process, and have been adopted as the vision of this plan.



Protect and maintain our community assets, fostering a sense of pride and ownership among residents.



Preserve and share our rich history by celebrating and promoting our cultural heritage.



Advocate for and actively participate in the improvement of local infrastructure.



Showcase the unique village life of Armatree as an attractive lifestyle choice.



Strengthen connections with the wider region to enhance tourism and other economic opportunities.



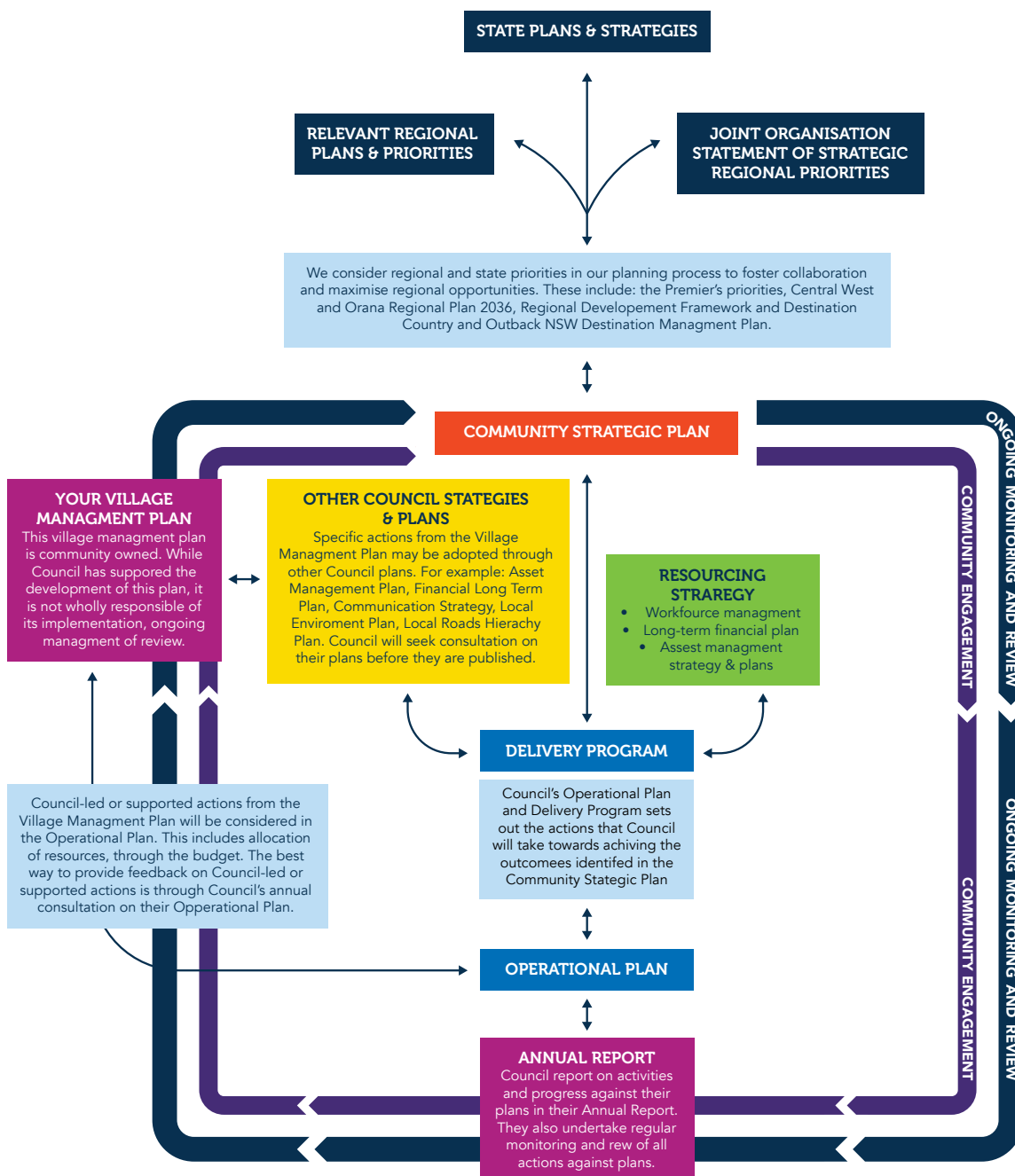
Ensure alignment with existing plans, such as the Community Strategic Plan, to leverage resources and expertise across the wider Gilgandra Region.



INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK

While Council has a custodial role in initiating and preparing this Village Management Plan on behalf of the community, it is considered a community-owned plan. The plan will inform aspects of Council's plans and programs through its relationship with

the Community Strategic Plan, within the wider integrated planning and reporting framework. This framework demonstrates how the many Council plans, programs and reporting work together, to achieve positive outcomes for our community.







Our village

OUR STORY

Officially declared a village in 1912, Armatree's story stretches back much further. European settlers arrived in the 1830s, following the footsteps of John Jude who established the first "Armatree Run" along the Castlereagh River. By the mid-1880s, a school and post office had been built, catering to a growing community.

The true catalyst for Armatree's development arrived in 1903: the railway. The construction of the Dubbo-Coonamble branch line brought a surge of activity. Large crews camped in the area, laying the still-operational railway track with horse drawn scoops and plough.

As part of the Gilgandra Region, we're known for our welcoming community and incredible natural landscape. As we look to the future, our community is focused on encouraging community spirit and pride we've long been known for. This includes maintaining and improving local assets and promoting Armatree as a tourist destination.

Our history boards share our rich past with visitors and major local events are helping us transform from a hidden gem to a well-travelled location. As a community, we're eager to improve our village and assets to enhance village life, and promote our home for its 'Real Country' lifestyle.

OUR VALUES



EMBRACE AUTHENTICITY

Be realistic and promote our 'Real Country' village life.



LOOK BACK TO LEAP FORWARD

Share and preserve our history, to build community pride and tourism interest.



CARE FOR COMMUNITY

Improve and maintain our homes and community assets.

ASSETS

We already have a vibrant village with many assets. This plan builds off existing assets, including community groups and connections, to ensure we make the most of our strong foundations.

PEOPLE, COMMUNITY AND RECREATION

Armatree Progress Association

CWA

Good educational foundations: majority of the population have year 12 or equivalent education (REMPPLAN)

CULTURAL AND HERITAGE

Armatree War Memorial

Aramatree History Boards

Big ArmaTree

A Haunting - Tracey Moffat art installation

Corduroy Road heritage listed site

TOURISM

Regular events

Armatree Hotel including camping facilities

ArmaTree

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Access to Warrumbungles and the wider Gilgandra Region

Connection to the Great Western Plains and other destinations

ECONOMIC

Proximity to Gilgandra (<30min drive)

Strong regional industries: Agriculture and health care

CHALLENGES

The intent of this plan is to be realistic and achievable. We have many assets, but we also have challenges to overcome.

- **Awareness:** Armatree is a hidden gem, competing for tourism against better-known destinations.
- **Community care and maintenance:** Shared and privately-owned assets in the community require upkeep.
- **Infrastructure:** Road quality impacts the economic flow of goods and services and tourism experience.
- **Funding:** As a small village, Armatree needs to strategically allocate limited resources or seek advocacy for alternative funding.
- **Employment and engagement:** 34% of residents are not engaged in the labour force (REMPPLAN)
- **Advocacy:** Gathering evidence and support for funding initiatives is challenging.
- **Infrastructure:** Road quality impacts the economic flow of goods and services and tourism experience.
- **Tourism services and employment:** While tourism presents a major opportunity for economic growth, tourism only supports 75 jobs across the entire Gilgandra Region (REMPPLAN).

Our Themes...

**live,
enjoy,
grow &
lead.**

Live

- > A community with improved roads and transport network
- > A community with inter-generational infrastructure and facilities
- > A community where services enhance liveability

Enjoy

- > An active and thriving community
- > A community that celebrates its culture and heritage
- > A region that offers a vibrant tourist destination experience

Grow

- > A region with resilient and innovative businesses
- > A region growing towards 5000
- > A region that capitalises on opportunities for economic growth

Lead

- > An innovative council that is an employer of choice within the community
- > A progressive council engaged with the community
- > A council valued by our community



**ARMATREE
VILLAGE
ACTION PLAN**

THEME 1 *Live*

ACTION PLAN

CSP OUTCOME		MEASURES		
1.1	A community with improved roads and transport network	Funding and timelines agreed for road improvements.		
1.2	A community with inter-generational infrastructure and facilities	Visible improvements to the maintenance of community infrastructure.		

ACTIONS	DETAILS	STAKEHOLDERS	BUDGET	TIMEFRAME
*Widen Armatree Road from Castlereagh Highway to Armatree Village (3km)		Lead by: Gilgandra Shire Council Funding body	TBC	Medium
*Investigate options to make the CWA a more usable space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turf Facades Regular maintenance of back area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Establish drought garden » Softfall Childcare strategy connection for increased use of facility as childcare location Mobile toy library 	Lead by: CWA Funding body Gilgandra Shire Council	N/A	Medium
*Implement the Gilgandra Region Green Space Strategy to maintain Armatree's open and green spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Space Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More regular maintenance » Lemon-scented gums as avenue of trees down Western side of railway line, between railway and Armatree Street » Maintenance prior to events eg ANZAC day 	Lead by: Residents Gilgandra Shire Council	TBC	Medium

*Transformational projects

How you can be involved

- Use this plan to advocate for improved infrastructure when community consultation is sought
- Let Council know when something needs attention: Make a Customer Service Request online
- Have your say in community consultations
- Volunteer to run or be involved in community clean-ups
- Support neighbours who need a hand with home and yard maintenance
- Participate in conservation activities (for example, join Landcare)
- Create or join a gardening club or group



THEME 2

Enjoy



ACTION PLAN

CSP OUTCOME

- 2.2 A community that celebrates its culture and heritage
- 2.3 A region that offers a vibrant tourist destination experience

MEASURES

- Visible improvements to history boards and other historical community infrastructure.
- Increased visitation.

ACTIONS	DETAILS	STAKEHOLDERS	BUDGET	TIMEFRAME
*Enhance and invest in the War Memorial Precinct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the culverts • Finish the pathway including rails over the culvert. • Seating – 2 x reflective seats on the grass facing the war memorial. Aluminium benches. • History Board upgrades – include QR code. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Feature #LocalLegends • Investigate lighting of the ArmaTree 	Lead by: Gilgandra Shire Council Armatree Progress Association Community Funding body	TBC	Short
*Enhance and invest in the promotion of Armatree through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the BIG ArmaTree in line with other BIG attractions • Signage of BIG ArmaTree • Merchandise • Corduroy Road • Haunted house • Real Country • Targeted marketing 	Lead by: Gilgandra Shire Council Armatree Progress Association Community Funding body	TBC	Medium
*Enhance and invest in the beautification of Armatree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History walk • Additional trees • Lighting • Highway signage 	Lead by: Gilgandra Shire Council Community	TBC	Medium

*Transformational projects

ACTIONS	DETAILS	STAKEHOLDERS	BUDGET	TIMEFRAME
Investigate lighting and projections on the tree, silos in correlation with local events		Lead by: Gilgandra Shire Council Community	N/A	Medium
Investigate History walk around the Village	• Signage	Lead by: Community	N/A	Long

*Transformational projects

How you can be involved

- Create and run a community event
- Create or join a sporting or recreational club or community group
- Get involved in local events and promote them to your networks
- Learn about the history of Armatree and our region
- Invite visitors to experience our village and region
- Expand our knowledge of local history: Share stories you think need telling with the Coo-ee Heritage and Visitor Information Centre
- Encourage and participate in volunteering



THEME 3

Grow



ACTION PLAN

CSP OUTCOME

3.2 A Region growing toward 5000

MEASURES

Population growth in the next 5 years.

ACTIONS	DETAILS	STAKEHOLDERS	BUDGET	TIMEFRAME
Support shop local campaigns and tourism		Lead by: Gilgandra Shire Council Armatree Progress Association Community	N/A	Short

*Transformational projects

How you can be involved

- Support local businesses
- Seek opportunities to grow your local business or collaborate with other local or regional businesses
- Have your say in community consultations
- Create and host a business even to forge collaboration in the region
- Apply for grants using the information in this plan
- Join existing business groups related to your industry (for example, Central West Young Aggies)



THEME 4

Lead



ACTION PLAN

CSP OUTCOME

4.2 A progressive Council engaged with the community

MEASURES

Input and feedback to Council from Armatree is proportionate with its population within the region

ACTIONS	DETAILS	STAKEHOLDERS	BUDGET	TIMEFRAME
Actively participate in consultations, by providing feedback on plans, strategies and budgets		Community	N/A	Short
Advocate for improved tele-communications		Gilgandra Shire Council	N/A	Medium
Advocate for improved rail crossings		Gilgandra Shire Council	N/A	Medium
Implement and support key actions from the Gilgandra Region Community Health Vision		Community	N/A	Medium
Seek funding opportunities to deliver key priorities from the Village Management Plan		Gilgandra Shire Council	N/A	Medium

*Transformational projects

How you can be involved

- Attend a council meeting
- Create community, collaboration, business and tourism opportunities
- Engage with others in the community to understand the potential to create groups and clubs



What's next

This plan has been developed by and for the community with the support of Gilgandra Shire Council. Anyone in the community can have a role in its success.

TAKE ACTION

This plan mentions a number of community groups and stakeholders who may play a role in bringing it to life. If you're involved with these groups, use your influence to make change. If you're not, look for ways to get involved or use the information in this plan to find new ways to get involved.

USE THIS PLAN

This plan can be used to show community support in:

- applications for grant funding
- responses to government consultations and submissions, such as white papers
- pursuing opportunities for collaboration and investment.

If you are pursuing any of these avenues, Gilgandra Shire Council may have other ways to help.

ADVOCATE FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Gilgandra Shire Council wants to hear from your community. Parts of this plan will inform their operational plan (including budgets) and resourcing strategies. Council provide regular opportunities to give feedback. To stay up to date you can follow the Council's social media accounts, or register for updates on their website. You can also use the website to have your say, ask council a question and make online service requests.



GILGANDRA
SHIRE COUNCIL
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