



DRAFT

Live > Enjoy > Grow

**GILGANDRA REGION
TOORAWEE NAH 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 TOORAWEEENAH VILLAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

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

We have many assets. Our unique natural environment means that we're primed to make the most of tourism opportunities. We've got great community recreational assets and clubs, which connect our community socially. However, our people need more local services and tourism promotion, which are challenging for a small village.

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 Tooraweenah. This plan builds on our strong history, and contribution of groups such as the Tooraweenah Management Committee, Show Society, Lions and others.

The consultation process for our Village Management Plan shows that our community is ready to make the most of future opportunities.

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 Mountain View. They 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 Tooraweenah 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.

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

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

Acknowledgements

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



Vision

The Tooraweenah 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.



Build capacity and resilience of local services.



Encourage enjoyment of our natural environment through initiatives that promote outdoor activities, conservation and environmental education.



Improve local infrastructure, prioritising investments that facilitate connectivity, accessibility and quality of life.



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



Foster collaboration in the wider Orana region to strengthen economic and tourism connections.



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



Why?



Community orgs rep,
history promotion

Future - work together

Improvements

Facing challenges



Improving and maintaining

Invested in Toora -
business operations in the future

Stay local



Stay

Aviation museum/
aerodrome promotion

Development and
delivery of community wants

Brighter and better

Be involved

Keep what we have

Can progress Toora and
growing business expectations

Continue. Developing
and positioning

Stay on the map

Information

Events Maintain

Growth - value for money



Roads. Planning LEP

Happy and proud



Stay in touch

Support

Community projects.
Activation. Move forward. Zoning



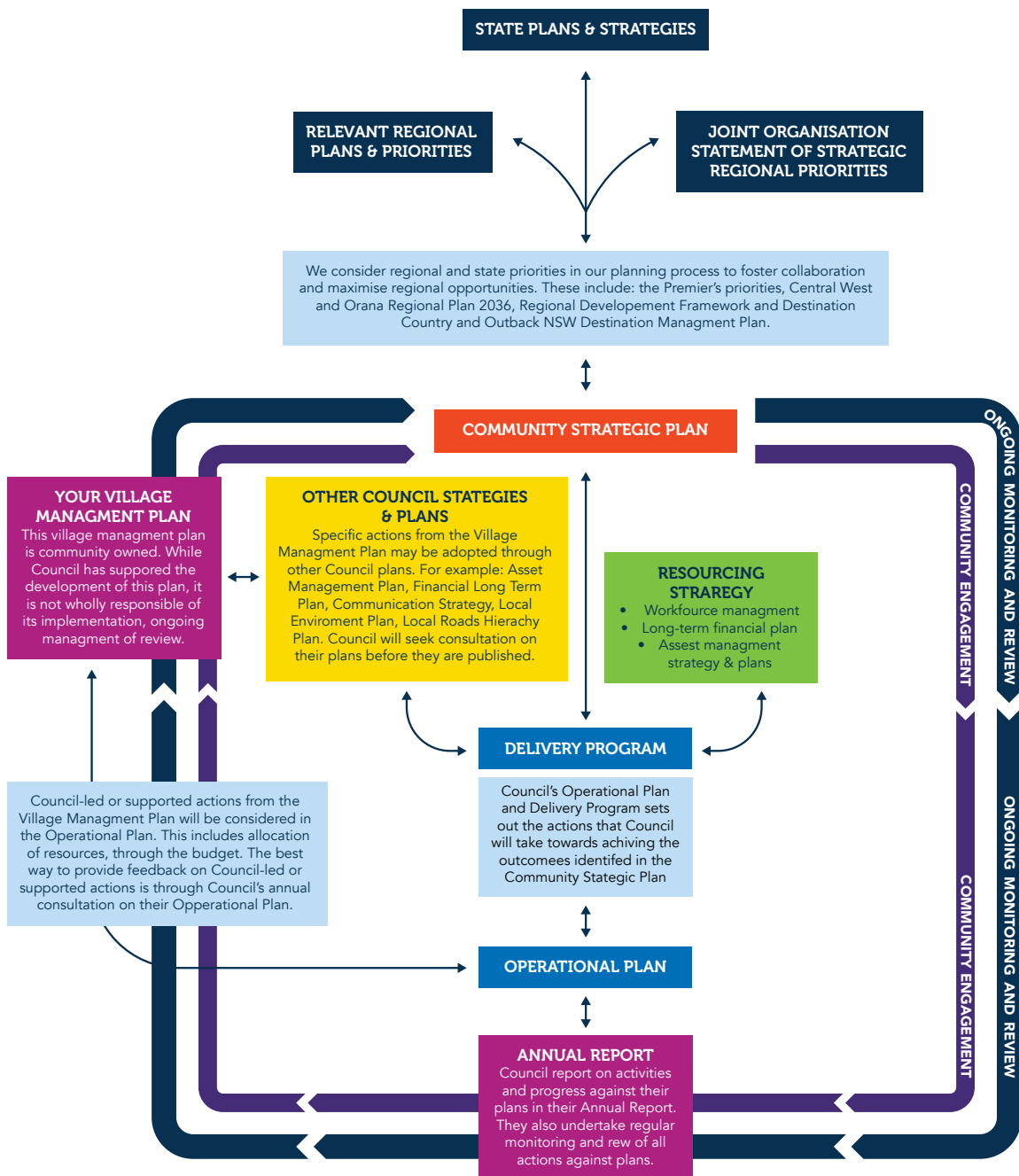
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SHELL

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

Tooraweenah – meaning the home of the brown snake – has long been a significant meeting place for the Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi, and Wailwan Nations.

Now, we're known as the gateway to the Warrumbungles, offering a warm welcome to travellers from near and far.

As a village, our history stretches back to 1837. Tooraweenah began as one of Andrew Brown's vast 16,000-acre runs. The first store, built north of Tooraweenah Creek, served as a vital pitstop for shepherds and drovers pushing livestock northward.

Like the wider Gilgandra Region, we're known for our community spirit and call to volunteering. In the face of World War I, 25 men from Tooraweenah left behind their farms and everyday lives and embarked on a march to Bathurst to help with recruitment efforts. This act of selflessness became known as the Kookaburra March.

This community spirit continues in Tooraweenah today. We're part of a resilient agricultural region, which forms the foundation of the local economy. Tourism also plays a growing role in our economy, as we make the most of our regional connections and natural environment.

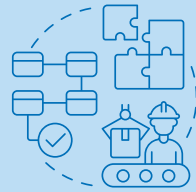
We've got strong foundations for local community infrastructure, such as the Arthur Butler Memorial Aerodrome and Tooraweenah Showground. As a community, we are eager to build on what we have and expand local opportunities for recreation, tourism and services.

OUR VALUES



EMBRACE AUTHENTICITY

Embody and promote 'Real Country' lifestyle and experiences.



PROMOTE COLLABORATION

Look for ways to build connections across our community, region and beyond.



PRESERVE AND SHARE HISTORY

Look back to our roots to build community pride and tourism interest.



PROMOTE OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Fostering appreciation and stewardship of our unique location.



PERSISTENCE AND INNOVATION

Strive for growth and improvement to ensure long-term well-being.

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

Tennis club

Lions Club

Show Society

Hall Committee

ANZAC Day Committee

P&C

Preschool Committee

Biddon-Tooraweenah Cricket Club

Tooraweenah Golf Club

Tooraweenah Sporting Ground

Tooraweenah Public School

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

CULTURAL AND HERITAGE

Self-guided historical tour

TOURISM

Mountain View Hotel

Emu Logic

The Little Gecko Coffee Shop

Tooraweenah Caravan Park

Crossroads Cabins

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Warrumbungle National Park

GK Rohr Warrumbungle Viewing Platform

Returned Soldier Structure

Tooraweenah Park

Access to Warrumbungle National Park and the wider Gilgandra Region

Connection to the Great Western Plains and other destinations

SERVICES

Arthur Butler Memorial Aerodrome

Post office

Hardware and agricultural supply store

Community technology centre

Automotive repair and fuelling

ECONOMIC

Proximity to Gil (<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.

Engaging with tourism providers: Tooraweenah is not a common destination for tour groups.

- **Essential services:** Our community feel limited in terms of healthcare, education and recreational facilities to support a high quality of life.
- **Council servicing:** Access to essential infrastructure relies on share of Council services.
- **Signage and promotions:** Visitors do not always associate Tooraweenah with the Warrumbungle National Park or think of it as a prominent location.
- **Land use:** Zoning should support both residential and economic growth in the village.
- **Tourism services and employment:** While tourism presents a major opportunity for economic growth, tourism only supports 75 jobs across the entire Gilgandra Region.

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



TOORAWEEH VILLAGE ACTION PLAN

THEME 1 *Live*

ACTION PLAN

CSP OUTCOME

- 1.1 A community with intergenerational infrastructure and facilities
- 1.2 A community where services enhance liveability

MEASURES

- Improves community infrastructure, including accessible public toilets
- Active conversations with health and other services about opportunities in Tooraweenah

ACTIONS	DETAILS	STAKEHOLDERS	BUDGET	TIMEFRAME
*Enhance and invest in the Tooraweenah Recreational Precinct, ensuring accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unisex and Accessible public toilets located on the North/Western side of the Tooraweenah Tennis Courts on the frontage of Murray Street • Landscaping – gardens/ murals for aesthetics • Footy posts CWA research – transportable share + showground – SHARE	Gilgandra Shire Council Funding Body	TBC	Medium
Accessible pathway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5m wide pathway from the corner of Murray and Denman Streets (park side) to new accessible toilets • 1.2m wide pathway connecting new toilets to the old toilets. 	Gilgandra Shire Council Funding Body	TBC	Medium
*Implement actions from the Gilgandra Region Youth Strategy within Tooraweenah	Align with Child Care + Youth Strategies	Gilgandra Shire Council Funding Body Community		
*Enhance and invest in roads network linking visitors, industry and locals in Tooraweenah and Gilgandra Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealing National Park Road (funded) • Sealing of Tooraweenah-Mendooran Road (funding dependent) 	Gilgandra Shire Council Funding Body		

*Transformational projects

How you can be involved

- Let Council know when something needs attention: Make a Customer Service Request online
- Have your say in community consultations
- Participate in conservation activities (for example, join Landcare)
- Create or join a gardening club or group



THEME 2

Enjoy



ACTION PLAN

CSP OUTCOME	MEASURES
2.2 A community that celebrates its culture and heritage	Improved signage and history boards
2.3 A region that offers a vibrant tourist destination experience	Active collaboration with tour groups and the Warrumbungle National Park

ACTIONS	DETAILS	STAKEHOLDERS	BUDGET	TIMEFRAME
Improve and introduce signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undercover history boards near church, centralised in the park. Update the signs on the existing historical walk. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Aboriginal » Heritage » Kookaburra March Highway signage pointing to Tooraweenah that follows TfNSW guidelines Private signage updates Signage for Southern Gateway to the Warrumbungles Directional signage at the GK Rohr Warrumbungle Viewing Platform 	Gilgandra Shire Council Community TfNSW Funding Body	TBC	Short
*Enhance and invest in promotion of Tooraweenah as a Southern Gateway to the Warrumbungles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase promotion of Tooraweenah as the Southern gateway Promotion of Tooraweenah and it's events at the Cooe Heritage and Visitor Information Centre Real Country promotion Create itineraries Invest in infrastructure to support tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Signage » Promotional videography » History boards Propeller pathway from the GK Rohr Warrumbungle Viewing Platform to the aerodrome 	Funding body Government Council – Gilgandra Region Community Businesses	TBC	Short to Medium

*Transformational projects

ACTIONS	DETAILS	STAKEHOLDERS	BUDGET	TIMEFRAME
*Enhance and invest in Arthur Butler Memorial Aerodrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide water to the aerodrome Amenities Museum Power Maintenance Investigate possibility of fuel supply 	Funding body ABAM Government Community Council	TBC	Short
*Implement the Gilgandra Region Green Space strategy to maintain Tooraweenah open and green spaces	See detail in the Green Space Strategy	Council Community	TBC	Medium
*Enhance and invest in events in the Tooraweenah area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Events in the Tooraweenah area Enhance and capitalise on existing events in the Region Bus tours Creation of events schedule + regular promotion including; Arthur Butler, Endurance Ride, Tooraweenah Show, Races etc Council's event's program - It's GREAT! 	Community groups Businesses	TBC	
* Enhance and invest in the Tooraweenah Memorial Hall as part of the Plan of Management.	As part of Plan of Management consider the below and impact on hireability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air conditioning Screen/sound system Lighting Heritage façade Chairs Showers/amenities 	Hall Committee Funding body Council	TBC	

*Transformational projects

How you can be involved

- Create and run a community event
- Support local events in the community
- Participate in local recreational and sporting clubs
- Learn about the history of Tooraweenah 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 Gilgandra Visitor's Centre
- Actively pursue grant opportunities for events, using this plan to support your application



THEME 3

Grow



ACTION PLAN

CSP OUTCOME

- 3.1 A Region with resilient and innovative businesses
- 3.3 A Region that capitalises on opportunities for economic growth

MEASURES

- Active conversations with outside businesses that may be established in Tooraweenah
- Planning zones reviewed with a focus on enabling business operations in Tooraweenah

ACTIONS	DETAILS	STAKEHOLDERS	BUDGET	TIMEFRAME
*Encourage investment from industry to improve local services	Key industries are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel • Freight depot • General store/co-op 	Business Community	N/A	Medium
*Encourage collaboration, promotion and investment in Tooraweenah to service the tourism industry	This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • business promotion/s and events • enhancing uptake of digital tools and social media 	Business Community groups Gilgandra Shire Council	N/A	Medium
*Consider zoning within Tooraweenah Village	As part of the Gilgandra Region LEP review	Gilgandra Shire Council Community	N/A	Medium
*Support shop local campaigns / tourism		Lead by: Gilgandra Shire Council Community	TBC	Short

*Transformational projects

How you can be involved

- Use this plan to advocate for improved infrastructure when community consultation is sought
- 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
- 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 Tooraweenah 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 telecommunications		Gilgandra Shire Council	N/A	Medium
Implement technology 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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REGION

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