



## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT TO COMMUNITY ON IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

The General Manager is required to report to the community on the implementation of the Community Strategic Plan and this report reflects both the key values and issues identified in the Community Strategic Plan and what action the Council is undertaking or has undertaken to address those issues.

The report identifies the significant issues and funding successes that have influenced Council's achievement of the Community Strategic Plan objectives to the end of December 2018.

The report is in two parts, the first is a report on the activities of the Council, which is followed by a report on specific achievements, challenges and progress in detail against each of the Community Strategic Plan Objectives.

### **Policy updates to council and mandatory governance reporting for period July 2018 to end of December 2018.**

- Pecuniary Interest Returns; Completed for all required Councillors and designated staff.
- Council's annual accounts and audit for 2017/18 were completed and submitted to the community and again indicated a strong favourable financial position and included a clear audit report.
- Brewarrina Shire Council Annual Report 2017/2018 was completed and adopted.

### **Highlights over the past six months:**

- Ongoing clean-up of the Brewarrina Aboriginal Fish Traps and initiating an action plan to have this area world heritage listed.
- Finished tiling at the pool and almost completed the rebuilding of the Brewarrina Pool amenities.
- New accommodation units and work camp at Goodooga.
- New entrance signs welcoming people to Brewarrina, as well as the planting of claret ash trees.
- Completed an upgrade and shoulder widening of state highway at Gongolgon, as well as sections both East and North of Brewarrina.
- Completed seal of additional 2km of the Goodooga Road.
- After lengthy lobbying campaign involving many meetings, emails and letters, Council was finally successful with both State and Commonwealth grant funding for the

replacement of Birrie, Dumbel and Muckerawa Bridges. As well as funding for stage one of Goodooga road sealing.

- Maintenance shoulder grading and gravel re-sheeting across rural roads.
- Successful grant application for construction of Geoff New Oval Club house and grandstand, tenders invited.
- Heritage restoration to protect windows of the Anglican Church
- Construction of a new Goodooga tip cell and cleaned the surrounding area.
- Sealed the carpark at the Visitor Information Centre
- Completed new tea rooms at the Brewarrina racecourse and we were successful with grants to undertake completion of the new jockey's room, amenities and grandstand reconstruction.
- Assisted with the new Memorial at the Reserve in Goodooga, which included an impromptu John Paul Young concert.
- Constructed a floating jetty at the Brewarrina Boat Ramp.
- Replaced and or removed approximately 20 unsafe Cattle Grids.
- Currawah School plumbing and electrical upgrades.
- Undertaking works to extend the Brewarrina Library.
- Purchased new trucks, bobcat and constructed new storage shed at the depot.
- Installed a new electronic records management system.
- Our youth team won the state awards for youth week, Circus Oz came to town, visitor numbers have increased and advertising the Museum and local events on national television.
- Council made significant contributions both in kind and at cost to Cod Cup Races, NAIDOC week and Emu Runner Filming. Council was also involved as sponsor for a number of local sports people as well as sporting and community events.
- Council also published a monthly newspaper sharing your stories and photos through- out the year.

### **Joint Organisation Legislation:**

The State Government introduced legislation for the formation of voluntary Joint Organisations, (JO's) and there was a lot of discussion about whether Council should or should not join such a group. This Council considered the options, reports and representations and decided that signing up to a third level of Government was not in the best interests of our community.

Brewarrina Shire does not need another regional Local Government authority to direct the work and advocacy for this community. This decision may have ruffled a few feathers but it was always a voluntary process and the elected members have to represent what they see as being in the best interests of this community. Brewarrina was not the only Council that decided not to join a JO.

### **Major Grant projects:**

#### **Stronger Country Communities Fund:**

Council submitted 6 proposals for funding under the NSW State Government Stronger Regions Fund and was successful with a grant of \$999k to undertake construction of Geoff New Oval clubrooms and \$280k to upgrade Racecourse Reserve grandstand, amenities and jockey rooms.

**Bridge Renewal Program:**

Council was successful with funding of \$7.2m from Commonwealth and State for replacement of Dumble and Muckrewa bridges on the Goodooga Road and the Birrie Bridge on the Brenda Road.

**Brewarrina Sewerage Plant ;**

Council was successful with funding of \$3.5m for the replacement of the Brewarrina Sewerage Treatment Plant and this work is progressing through design stage.

**Drought Communities Program:**

Council received approval for the undertaking of an additional \$1,000,000 in works which will include;

- Upgrade Sports Amenities Goodooga \$142k
- Culgoa Sports Club Toilets \$54k
- Brewarrina Hall A/C & Audio Visual \$95k
- Walgett Rest Stop \$98k
- Youth Centre Roof & Toilets \$172k
- Grid Replacement Program \$440k

The report on Councils progress on the achievement of the Community Strategic Plan is attached and comprises an overview report covering broad objectives and then a more detailed report addressing specific strategies identified in the Community Plan 2026.

Council adopted the report at its meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2019 and resolved that following the Council meeting a copy of the report will be posted to Councils Website [www.breshire.com](http://www.breshire.com) under the integrated planning and reporting links.

Jeff Sowiak  
General Manager

## Brewarrina Community Strategic Plan 2026- Report Feb 2019

Objective 1.1: Improve social well-being to offer a competitive lifestyle to attract and retain working families					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
1.1.1	Local access to essential services	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council completed submissions to various river inquires including, Productivity Commission, SA. Royal Commission, Water NSW Flood Plan Harvesting and various committees of inquiry relating to securing water for river communities. Council lobbied for medical services, roads, drought assistance, Rural Financial Counselling, law and order, tourism and agency services.
1.1.2	Maintain high levels of community cohesion and community spirit	Community	Council	Ongoing	Councillors and staff actively involved in promoting community events, activities, attendance at meetings, regular press communications, active newsletter, emails and facebook. Ongoing sponsorship of local and regional events; Harold West Goodooga Memorial Unveiling, Bre Big Fish, Circus Oz , Film Emu Runner, Baiame's Ngunnhu Festival, NAIDOC Week.
1.1.3	Provide leadership and coordination of service providers in the Brewarrina Shire	Council, Interagency	Community	Ongoing	Attendance and involvement with various service providers, Interagency meetings (1) meetings with community policing (2), alcohol accord, Brewarrina Aboriginal Lands Council, Brewarrina Museum Committee and Brewarrina Working Party. In addition to other local organisations and committees. Also Council attended two Ministerial and three Parliamentary visits.
1.1.4	Ensure a high standard of education for Shire residents	Schools, TAFE, Department of Education and Training	Council	Ongoing	Council actively engaged with schools on work experience, traineeships, supported Clontarf student programs, Elsie Dickson traineeships and entered into arrangement with Goodooga School for part time Youth Officer.
1.1.5	Retain and develop housing for skilled people	Government and local businesses	Community	Ongoing	Continued maintenance and upgrade to council housing, aged care units. Ongoing promotion of Brewarrina to potential investors

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1.1.6	Co-ordinate and support community groups to promote events and activities within the local community	Council	Community	Ongoing	NAIDOC Week, Moogahlin Performing Arts, Fishing Club, Race Club, annual racing carnival, Christmas fair, welcome to Brewarrina function.
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### Objective 1.2: Support young people and encourage their development

Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
1.2.1	Provide leadership and coordination of the Brewarrina Youth Centre to coordinate actions to assist all youth	Council, other community service providers for youth	Family and Community Services	Ongoing	Regular programs for Youth Centre during the year increased staffing in Brewarrina by 0.5, recruited part time youth worker for Goodooga.
1.2.2	Provide Childcare Services to the community  Development of traineeship programs to retain youth and provide with new skills	Council and community	Family and Community Services	Ongoing	Child Care enrolments declined to unsustainable levels so Council provided additional funding to ensure continuity of service. Employed one trainee.  Council employed two trainees and engaged with Elsie Dickson foundation for additional school based trainees. Council also provided work experience for long term unemployed through partnership with MPREC.

### Objective 1.3: Improved health outcomes for the community

Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
1.3.1	Provide appropriate levels of health care and aged care within the Shire	Government	Council, Government	Ongoing	Council provides and manages aged care units and actively promotes the retention and increase in health service. Council provides assistance for retention of a local doctor and dental service.
1.3.2	Advocate for Dentist and Doctors available in Brewarrina to meet community's needs	Private enterprise	Council, Government	Ongoing	Council continues to offer subsidies and facilities for local medical services and sponsors a clinic for visiting dental students. Council also offered \$3,000 sponsorship for Bush Bursary to encourage student doctors to rural areas.

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Objective 1.4: A safe and clean community					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
1.4.1	Provide animal control services to meet the demands of the community	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council offered free microchipping services, engaged with RSPCA on an animal rescue project and dog re-homing. Investigated dog complaints and attacks. Engaged a contract ranger from Walgett Shire to assist with enforcement activities. Council has improved facilities at pound and served notices for barking and unregistered dogs.
1.4.2	More visible police presence	NSW Government	Community, Council	Ongoing	Council meets with Area Command on regular quarterly basis and has addressed concerns with respect to policing in the district. Lobbied with respect to weekend roster for police.
1.4.3	Provide adequate protection from fires, other natural disasters and other risks to public health and safety	Council & Emergency Management Services	Community, NSW Government	Ongoing	Council actively supports both town and country fire services and SES unit. Attendance and involvement with regional emergency services coordination meetings and local emergency planning and preparation. Reviewed and updated local emergency management plan. Council approved of new fire shed at Weilmoringle and upgrade to power at Gongolgon.
1.4.4	Help ensure safe and sustainable development	Council	Community, NSW Government	Ongoing	Council completed improvements to waste disposal area and undertaken inspection and approval for building and construction activities.
1.4.5	Maintain high standards of street cleanliness, vacant block management	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council served notices to vacant overgrown allotment owners and is continuing to negotiate with non-resident owners and Government agencies. Council supported waste aide clean-up and street pickup to reduce presence of discarded rubbish.
1.4.6	Maintain town streets and footpaths	Council	Council	Ongoing	Undertook regular high pressure cleaning of footpaths, responded to vandal & graffiti damage and improved visual amenity of parks and street scape. Capital upgrades including playgrounds and upgrade to street furniture.

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Objective 2.1: Strengthening agriculture and existing local industries and exploring other options					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
2.1.3	Elevate the need for bitumen access from Brewarrina / Goodooga / Hebel	Council	Local business & Government	Ongoing	Council has continued with lobbying funding for sealing and bridge works on Goodooga Road and undertakes routine management under contract with RMS.
2.1.4	Assist and encourage the development of new business	Council, NSW Government, Chamber of Commerce, local businesses	Regional Development Australia, local businesses	Ongoing	Council held very successful community forum in 2017 and identified a number of key opportunities to grow the local economy of Brewarrina and Goodooga. Council continues to progress on major infrastructure works, plans for Goodooga Bore Baths and active support for Goodooga store reopening.

Objective 2.2: Enhance the experience of visitors to Brewarrina Shire					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
2.2.1	Implementation of Streetscape Masterplan– upgrade streetscape including landscaping, gardens and street furniture, empty shop fronts displays	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council reviewed streetscape masterplan and decided not to pursue that plan further. However, actively engaged with local business owners to ensure that any derelict buildings and structures are removed and is active in attracting new business opportunities for Shire.
2.2.2	Revise Brewarrina Tourism and Economic Strategy – including marketing of the region and events	Council		Ongoing	Council participated in regional meetings to review current marketing strategies for Darling River Run and Kamilaroi Highway promotions. Council was involved with regional review of tourism and economic development strategies as precursor to future funding for stronger communities fund. Local events actively supported by Council and staff of Visitor Information Centre. VIC now open 7 days a week in compliance with AVIC accreditation.

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Objective 3.1: Good quality transport infrastructure					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
3.1.1	Ensure local roads and bridges are maintained/constructed to acceptable community standards in a cost effective, efficient and safe manner	Council, Government	Government , Community	Ongoing	Council receives regular monthly reports on progress and work program and has reviewed and implemented work programs for regional , state and local roads within the budget and grant funding provided.
3.1.2	Ensure regional main roads and highways are maintained to acceptable community standards	Roads and Maritime Services	Government , Council	Ongoing	Council receives regular monthly reports on progress and work program and has reviewed and implemented work programs for regional, state and local roads within the budget and grant funding provided.
3.1.3	Maintain and enhance the local aerodrome and promote its use	Council	Government	Ongoing	Council completed upgrades to airport fencing to improve safety.



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Objective 3.2: Good quality community infrastructure and facilities					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
3.2.1	Maintain parks, gardens and reserves in a safe and attractive condition	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council continues to maintain and upgrade community parks and facilities. Carpark at Visitor Information Centre sealed, skate park repaired and pool amenities upgraded. Ongoing reserves, community cemeteries and parks within budget allowances. Capital upgrades include playgrounds and street furniture. Funding secured for Geoff new Oval Grandstand construction.
3.2.2	Monitor pool management and implement maintenance and upgrades	Council	NSW Government , Community	Ongoing	Contractor completed replacement of tiling around pool, pump house and electrical systems upgraded. Council has completed refurbishment of pool amenities and kiosk.
3.2.3	Provide a high quality library service that meets the needs of the community	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council continues partnership with Big Sky Libraries to provide co-operative library services to community. Membership increased and book stock regularly reviewed and increased to meet demand. Extensions to library completed.
3.2.4	Maintain community facilities, parks and gardens to an appropriate standard (e.g. Sporting Complex)	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council continues to maintain and upgrade community parks and facilities. Showground facilities upgraded, new cricket pitch and restoration works on Brewarrina Oval. Funding successful for upgrades to playing field at Goodooga and received for new bore baths.
3.2.5	Maintain and service the villages of Weilmoringle, Goodooga, Angeldool and Gongolgon	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council increased staffing at Goodooga and completed construction of work camp for future accommodations needs. Weilmoringle fire shed completed and new work camp under construction. Ongoing contract services with Weilmoringle Aboriginal Land Council.

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Objective 4.1: Management of the local environment					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
4.1.1	Monitor Brewarrina Shire Council LEP	Council	NSW Government	Ongoing	Council monitors changes to State Environment laws and regulations and reviewed local environment plan and approval practices to ensure compliance.
4.1.2	Maintain high levels of maintenance and services in the area of public Cemeteries	Council		Ongoing	Council continues to improve the appearance and management of cemeteries that are under Council control. Road sealed to Goodooga cemetery and local committee monitors progress and activities of Brewarrina Cemetery.
4.1.3	Management of noxious plants	Council	NSW Government , Landowners	Ongoing	Council has engaged a full time inspector undertaking weed spraying and control works as required. Implantation of new Biosecurity Act changes and training undertaken.
4.1.4	Maintain involvement and support of Catchment Management Authority	Council	Central West CMA	Ongoing	Council continues active membership of Castlereagh Macquarie County Council and undertaken joint project to address Parkinsonian outbreak at Angledool.

Objective 4.2: Resource use, waste disposal and management					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
4.2.1	Reduce rate of landfill through waste management, minimisation and collection methods	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council upgraded landfill, addressed fire outbreak and continues to seek opportunities to reduce waste going to landfill. Regional recycling of metal and oil waste was successful, however, container deposit facilities are neither practical nor cost effective and no facilities are available in remote areas.
4.2.2	Ensure the efficient and cost effective operation of Council's road making materials	Council		Ongoing	Council has implemented more effective strategies to blast and crush rock in old gravel quarries to reduce environmental footprint and improve cost effectiveness.

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Objective 4.3: Management of water/wastewater					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
4.3.1	Manage environmentally responsible drainage works in accordance with Council program	Council	NSW Government	Ongoing	Council is continuing to maintain street drains and undertakes regular street cleaning to reduce waste flowing to river. Minor Levee drainage work undertaken.
4.3.2	Provide Brewarrina and villages of Goodooga and Angledool with an adequate and safe water supply that is appropriately priced for all consumers	Council	NSW Government	Ongoing	Council completed improved works and monitors river quality and undertakes regular testing of water supplies to ensure compliance with drinking water quality standards.
4.3.3	Provide Brewarrina and village of Goodooga with an adequate and environmentally acceptable sewerage scheme that is appropriately priced for all consumers	Council	NSW Government	Ongoing	Designs for new sewerage treatment plant at Brewarrina completed and funding has been secured, currently negotiating land acquisition. Anticipated construction December 2019.

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Objective 5.1: A community that partners with Council in decision making					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
5.1.1	Implementation of Council's Community Engagement Strategy	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council undertakes regular communications through Brewarrina News, web page, facebook and twitter. Council representatives attended community groups, committee meetings and conducted a Council meeting in Goodooga.
5.1.2	A willingness for community leaders to engage with Council to achieve community goals	Council	Community Groups	Ongoing	Council representatives were involved with community groups and have attended meetings to engage with local community leaders and invited representatives to attend both formal and informal Council and parliamentary briefing sessions.

Objective 5.2: A Council that provides quality service to ratepayers and residents and delivers cost-effective services to these customers					
Strategies		Responsible	Support	Timing	
5.2.1	Quality customer service focus by Council staff	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council staff performance is regularly reviewed and training provided to ensure comprehensive understanding of service functions. Minimal complaints received and customer responsiveness has improved.
5.2.2	Timely and accurate reporting for efficient management and accountability	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council implemented a new customer response/records management system and completed annual accounts in approved time lines. Clear audit report following conversion of accounting systems.
5.2.3	Effective staff training and development processes in place	Council	Community	Ongoing	Council staff performance regularly reviewed and training provided to ensure comprehensive understanding of service functions.