



Mr Damien Pfeiffer
Director, Western Region
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
damien.pfeiffer@planning.nsw.gov.au

CC: Mr Peter Vlatko
General Manager
Cobar Shire Council
mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au

Draft Cobar Local Strategic Planning Statement

Dear Mr Pfeiffer

We write to provide comment on Cobar Shire Council's draft Local Strategic Planning Statement.

Heritage, culture, history and tradition are fundamental aspects of the identity of a place, and can include Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, natural, archaeological, movable, maritime and intangible cultural heritage. These aspects define the local character of a place and help create and maintain a sense of meaning for communities.

Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS) provide an important opportunity for communities to describe the local character of their places, and what makes them distinctive and different from other places. Through the LSPS, Heritage NSW encourages both Council and the Department to consider how known and potential heritage places and values contribute to the local character and sense of place for their community.

We have prepared some general guidance for councils to consider in the preparation of their LSPS, this is provided at **Attachment 1**.

Heritage NSW supports the following initiatives in Cobar Shire Council's LSPS:

- respect, protect and manage Aboriginal cultural heritage assets, objects and places in accordance with legislative requirements
- prepare, review and update heritage studies in consultation with the community to recognise and conserve heritage assets and items and include appropriate local planning controls, and
- investigate opportunities to redevelop and enhance streetscapes and entrances to all towns.

While these initiatives are positive, there is an opportunity to provide a greater level of information on Council's heritage and how it is considered during planning, particularly around consideration and inclusion of Aboriginal cultural heritage in the LSPS and Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

Areas we suggest that Council and the Department consider when finalising the LSPS are:

- consultation with the Aboriginal community regarding cultural heritage and connection to Country
- preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study as a priority to inform amendments to Council's LEP
- considering how Aboriginal cultural heritage and cultural landscapes can be protected in LEPs
- considering the linkages between culture, heritage and tourism, and the opportunities culture and heritage bring for economic growth
- further articulating heritage as it relates to the character of an area, including potentially identifying clusters of places and items which contribute to the significant character of the place, and
- considering the linkages between actions and priorities, for example the ways in which heritage and culture contribute to attractive and liveable places, as well as local employment and community wellbeing.

This would better align Council's local strategic planning with the *Far West Regional Plan*, specifically:

- Direction 18 – Respect and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage assets, and
- Direction 19 – Conserve and adaptively re-use European heritage assets.

Our records show that in addition to items of local heritage significance listed under *Cobar Local Environmental Plan 2012*, the local government area contains:

- One State Heritage Register item - 'Cobar Railway Station and yard' (SHR 01114)
- One Aboriginal Place - 'Mt Drysdale', , and
- 790 Recorded Aboriginal Sites.

Care must be taken to avoid impacts on this item, place and sites, and consideration needs to be given as to how to mitigate any impacts where they are unavoidable. We can provide specific information and more detailed advice on the State heritage item, Aboriginal Place and sites if required.

Heritage NSW has several publications which may be of assistance when addressing the heritage objectives of the LSPS. These objectives should be incorporated with environmental, social and economic considerations to achieve high quality strategic planning outcomes. These publications are available online at environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/publications/index.htm.

Additionally, Government Architect NSW's (GANSW) recent publication *Design Guide for Heritage* may be of use, this can be found at governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/guidance/heritage. GANSW is also undertaking a project to explore opportunities and approaches for *Designing with Country*, more information on this can be found at governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/projects/designing-with-country.

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact James Sellwood, Senior Heritage Programs Officer, Statewide Programs at Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet by phone on 02 9274 6354 or via email at james.sellwood@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Attachment 1

Heritage in Local Strategic Planning Statements

Heritage NSW encourages councils to take a strategic approach to developing and implementing the priorities, policy positions and actions in its Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). To ensure that the LSPS provides strong strategic guidance with regards to both Aboriginal and Historic heritage, we recommend that it should consider the following:

Character Statements

Character Statements which recognise heritage and culture as a fundamental aspect of the identity of the place.

Planning Priorities

Planning Priorities which:

- identify Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage values and opportunities to protect and celebrate those values
- recognise the contribution which Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage make to the sense of place and belonging of a local area
- support the protection and celebration of heritage sites and values
- identify and celebrate the diversity and heritage of the many cultural groups in the community, and
- recognise that Aboriginal and Historic heritage and diversity are a cultural asset and potential driver of tourism and economic growth and the opportunities that this can provide.

Actions

Actions which:

- capture the identification, appropriate protection, interpretation and promotion of Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage
- require meaningful and ongoing consultation with the Aboriginal community to identify important values and potential issues regarding cultural heritage and connection to land
- require meaningful, ongoing and representative community engagement which captures the diversity of the local community
- require consultation with State Government agencies in relation to both Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage
- support the ongoing identification and documentation of heritage places and context early, to assist more detailed planning actions to avoid or mitigate impact on heritage items and places
- where possible, strategically identify key heritage places and clusters
- support heritage asset revitalisation and adaptive reuse
- provide guidance for sensitive heritage areas subject to major infrastructure or development
- identify funding and resourcing for Aboriginal and Historic heritage priorities
- allow for the development of plans and strategies which interpret, celebrate and promote Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal identity, culture and heritage, and
- develop strategies and programs to tell the story of a local area, and the diversity of its history and culture.

Naming of Public Authorities

Following the 2019 Machinery of Government changes, the names of many public authorities have changed. The Office of Environment and Heritage (Heritage Division) is now Heritage NSW. Council's should update their LSPS to reflect these new public authority names.

Tim Smith OAM
Director, Heritage Operations
Per Pauline McKenzie
Executive Director
Heritage NSW
As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
27 March 2020

31 MAR 2020

Sharon Moore

From: mail CSC
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 3:23 PM
To: Garry Ryman
Subject: FW: TfNSW comments on the Cobar Shire LSPS
Attachments: Cobar-Draft-LSPS_ - RP&LU Comments.pdf



Sharon Moore

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From: Alexandra Power <Alexandra.Power@transport.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 31 March 2020 1:59 PM
To: mail CSC <mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Joshua Parkin <Joshua.PARKIN@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Chantelle Elsley <Chantelle.ELSLEY@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Development Western <development.western@rms.nsw.gov.au>; James Nguyen <James.Nguyen@transport.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: TfNSW comments on the Cobar Shire LSPS

Dear Cobar Shire Council,

Thank you for providing Transport for NSW the opportunity to provide comments on the Cobar Shire Council LSPS. TfNSW comments have been combined and provided within the Cobar LSPS PDF above.

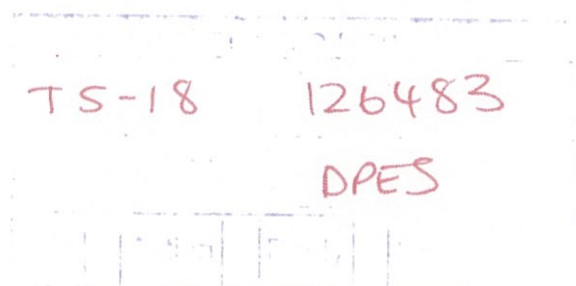
Kind regards

Alexandra Power
Development Assessment Officer
Land Use Developments
Western Region
Regional and Outer Metropolitan Division | Roads and Maritime Services
T 02 6861 1428



Transport
for NSW

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Cobar Shire

DRAFT LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

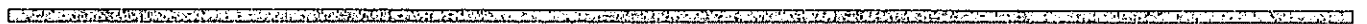
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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge and respect the traditional lands for all Aboriginal people, we respect all Elders past, present and future. We ask all people that walk, work and live on traditional Aboriginal lands, to be respectful of culture and traditions, we stand together side by side, united with respect for land for oneself and for one another.

WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this document may contain images of people who have died.



1 FORWARD

Cobar Shire is situated in the centre of New South Wales at the crossroads of the Barrier Highway and the Kidman Way and has excellent road, rail and air links to most of Australia's capital cities. With an area of 45,609 square kilometres, the Shire is approximately two-thirds the size of Tasmania. It is home to approximately 4,647 people. The Shire's prosperity is built around the thriving mining - copper, lead, silver, zinc, gold - and pastoral industries, which are strongly supported by a wide range of attractions and activities, that make it a major tourist destination.

One of the most important jobs of Council is to set the strategic direction that guides our work to improve life in Cobar Shire. To assist with this, Council has prepared a Local Strategic Planning Statement.

This Statement is owned by the community of Cobar Shire. It is not a Council plan; however, Council has taken responsibility for bringing the plan together, overseeing its implementation and reporting back to the community on progress made.

- As Councillors for Cobar Shire, we support this Statement and will ensure that Council projects and programs reflect the priorities of our community. We will bring this plan to life and we will report back to the community each year on progress with its implementation.

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2 WHAT DOES THIS STRATEGY DO?

This Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) sets the framework for the economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years. The LSPS has also taken account of land use planning in adjacent Councils. It also works with council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Local Environmental Plan (LEP). The LSPS gives effect to the Far West Regional Plan, implementing the directions and actions at a local level. The LSPS planning priorities, directions and actions provide the rationale for decisions about how we will use our land to achieve the community's broader goals.

This LSPS has been prepared in accordance with clause 3.9 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act). The LSPS brings together and builds on the planning work found in Council's other plans, studies and strategies, such as the Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Community Strategic Plan (CSP). The LSPS also gives effect to the Far West Regional Plan 2036, implementing the directions and actions at a local level. The LSPS planning priorities and actions provide the rationale for decisions about how we will use our land to achieve the community's broader land use vision.



Figure 1: Alignment of the LSPS to other strategic planning documents

3 MONITORING

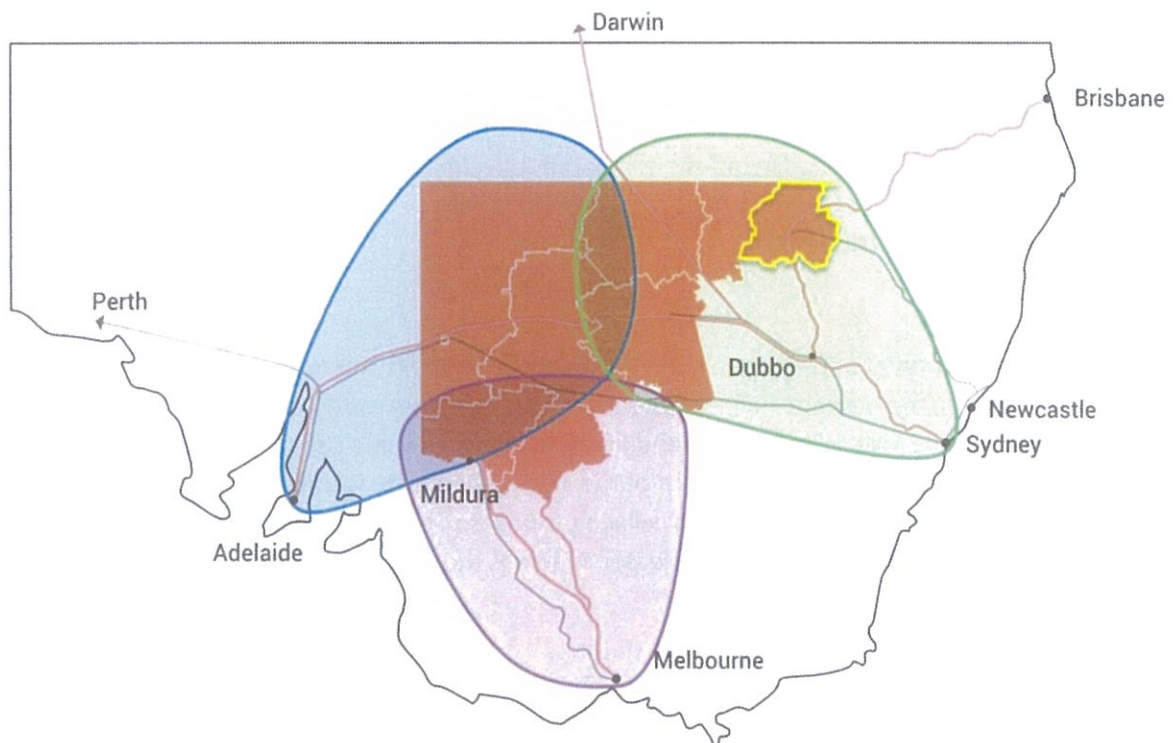
Council will monitor, review and report on its LSPS annually to ensure that its planning priorities are being achieved. Council will use the existing Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework under the Local Government Act 1993 for the purpose of monitoring implementation of the LSPS.

4 THE FAR WEST REGION

The focus for the future of the Far West is to leverage its competitive advantages and unlock the potential for unique economic opportunities. With vast distances, small populations and challenges across government and regional boundaries, all tiers of government and the region's service providers face significant challenges.

Cobar has a strong connection to the northern area of the Far West, as well as the vast outback of Queensland. The eastern area comprises Bourke, Brewarrina, Cobar and Walgett Local Government Areas and is known as the Gateway to outback NSW. It is recognised for its productive and diverse agriculture and mining sectors. The eastern area is home to approximately 34 percent of the Far West population. The local centres of Cobar, Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett and Lightning Ridge provide business, office, retail, health, education, arts, culture, recreation and entertainment uses and support smaller settlements across the area. Euabalong and Euabalong West are serviced by the Riverina Region including Griffith and Wagga for health and other services.

This region also has a strong cross-regional relationship with the Orana region, and residents' access higher-order health, education, retail, commercial and transport services in Dubbo.



5 OUR UNIQUE SHIRE

Cobar Shire is situated in the centre of New South Wales encompassing an area of around 45,600 square kilometres, about 700kms north-west of Sydney and 650kms north of Canberra. Cobar is located on the crossroads of **three major highways** – the **Kidman Way linking Melbourne to Brisbane**, the Barrier Highway linking Sydney to Adelaide via Broken Hill and the Wool Track linking the Sunraysia area to South East Queensland.

Established as a town for more than 100 years, Cobar is one of the strongest outback areas in NSW, with a population that hovers around 5,000 people and a strong mining and agribusiness industry that has supported its development as a service centre for the people of the Far West. Other villages in the Shire are Euabalong and Euabalong West, Mount Hope and Nymagee.

5.1 EUABALONG

Euabalong has a population of approximately 350 people and was founded in the 1870s. It was originally a police station and the town was built because of its close proximity to the Lachlan River. The main industry is cropping, cattle and sheep. The Cobar Shire Council maintains a depot in the village. There is potential demand for further supply within the village, however the current land available is adequate. The village is not serviced with key infrastructure. Council will continue to assess development on a merit basis.

5.2 EUABALONG WEST

Euabalong West is a small town on the Broken Hill Railway Line that was founded to serve the residents of nearby Euabalong, which was a crossing point for the Lachlan River founded in the 1870s. The town has approximately 70 people, and its main industries are cropping, grazing, and railway-related employment. The current land available is adequate. The village is not serviced with key infrastructure. Council will continue to assess development on a merit basis.

5.3 NYMAGEE

Nymagee has a population of approximately 100 people, the village is situated 98km south-east of Cobar. There is a hotel, police station, community hall, community school building, CWA hall, fire shed, park, airstrip and sporting facilities. Aurelia Metals employ around 50 people at their mine sites, many of the employees are fly in/fly out and stay in base camp facilities south of the village. Nymagee is unserviced and undeveloped, with a large proportion of the land already zoned for village purposes. The longevity of the village relies on current and future mining activity. Access to a secure water source is the primary issue for Nymagee, with water being trucked from Cobar during dry periods.

5.4 MOUNT HOPE

Mt Hope is situated 160km south of Cobar on the Kidman Way and has a population of approximately 15. The main hub of the small village is the local hotel which services the local farming community as well as the travelling public. There is a well-maintained community hall and council maintain an unsealed airstrip. There is no reason to expand the village boundary with a number of vacant undeveloped and unserviced lots currently available.

6 COBAR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA

Cobar's population has been reasonably steady for the past ten years at around 5,200. At the 2006 census, there were more males (53.8%) than females, with 62% of the population being aged 18-64 years (working age population). The median age of the population was 35 years, 10.5% were of Aboriginal descent, and 84% were born in Australia.

Over a third of the workforce is employed in the mining and manufacturing industries, 9.5% are employed in agriculture and retail is the next largest employer in the Shire. Due to mining, the median weekly income is higher than the national average.

There are around 2,300 dwellings in the Shire with over 36% of residents renting, and only 30% of residents owned their home at census time. The employers in town are large holders of real estate, to ensure there is adequate housing available for their workforce.

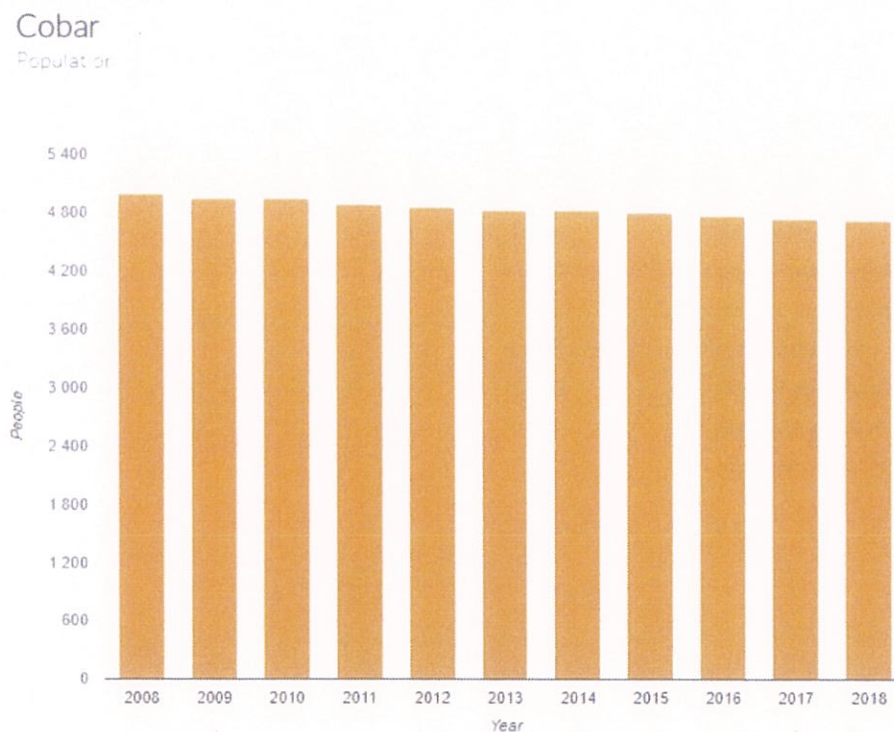
6.1 POPULATION

The 2016 census shows Cobar having a resident population of 4,969 which was reduced from 2006.

Some quick statistics on the population:

- 62% are aged between 18 and 64 years
- 36% of residents are currently renting
- There were 2313 dwellings in the Shire
- 46% of the population was earning an average weekly household income of \$1000 per week or more.

Cobar's population has a diverse mix of long and short-term residents, nationalities and skills. You won't find Iron Ringers anywhere else.



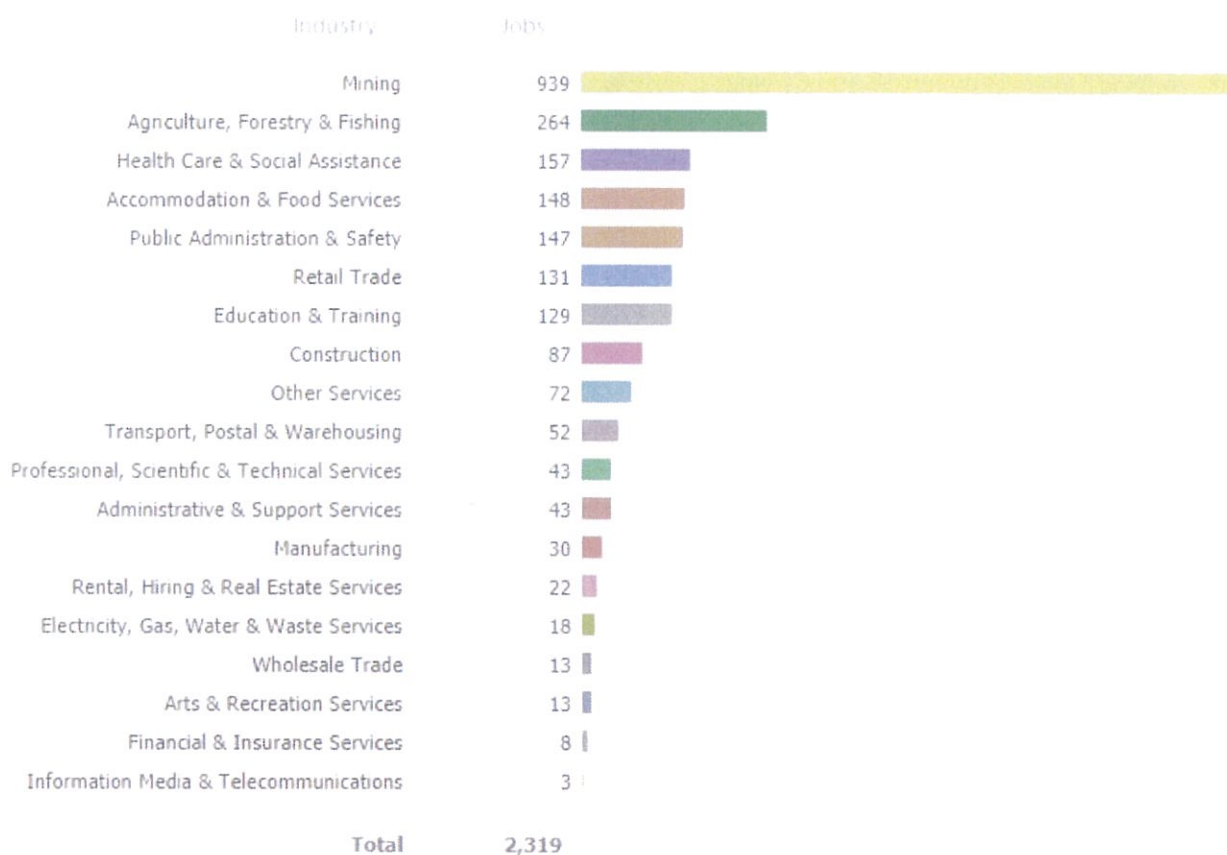
6.2 EMPLOYMENT

The main industries in Cobar are mining, agriculture, retail and tourism. With the recent strength of both the mining and local tourism industry, Cobar has enjoyed a relatively low unemployment rate. Around 29% of the population is not in the labour force. Of those who are, 67% are employed full time.

30% of the population is employed in the mining industry, 10% in agriculture and 8% in retail trade. An analysis of the occupations held by the resident population in Cobar Shire in 2006 shows the three most popular occupations were:

- Machinery Operators and Drivers (470 persons or 19.9%)
- Technicians and Trades Workers (457 persons or 19.4%)
- Managers (336 persons or 14.2%)

As the workforce is a key input or factor of production, it is important to ensure that the workforce is able to meet the skill and knowledge requirements of current and future industry needs. Initiatives need to consider quality education and training systems that are capable of educating, training and re-training people through their working lives.



7 VISION

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

We will capitalise on our natural resource and infrastructure investment to be the mining hub for the Far West, with many specialist contracting companies setting up prominent bases in town. As the mining hub we will be an established mining community that encourages community cohesion through provision of accommodation within the town centre and agitation towards a local workforce.

The exploration of mining and how it is approved in the future will be a key focus for Council. We will focus on industry and infrastructure development that will utilise or establish local workforces. Our approach to development will be agile and quick to respond to opportunities for development. We will capitalise on the investment in airfreight and inland rail for potential development opportunities. Our strategic position from Parkes and the capacity of our road network will allow us to link into the freight hub, improving out the movement of grain and livestock from the Southern part of the Shire through to Condobolin and into Parkes.

Our connection to key freight corridors, particularly the Wool Track, Kidman Way and Barrier Highway will support the growth and diversification into resilient agriculture practices. Our current agriculture sector is based on sheep and grazing operations with positive opportunities emerging in the goat industry. There are opportunities to look at harvesting natural grasses and weeds for stock feed during wet periods to build resilience during drier periods. There is a growing opportunity to support the goat industry through depots development as well as ancillary transport services.

We are integrating the tourism attributes of Cobar into a unique experience that show cases the strengths of the place, creates a strong destination profile, complements rather than competes with the wider region, diversifies the local economy and has high appeal for the community and domestic and international visitors.

We are working towards implementing strategies and promoting outcomes that see Cobar positioned as a leader in outback medicine for remote/outback locations. The opportunity lies in supporting this sector to develop and innovate, being at the forefront of "outback/remote" medicine in Australia.

8 INDUSTRY SUSTAINABILITY

There are currently three major mines operating in the Shire, with several others looking to start production in the near future. All mines employ a range of contractors across a variety of trades. Consequently, Cobar supports a strong industrial sector made up of many small to medium sized businesses. Other key industries include agribusiness, tourism and retail businesses. Cobar is proud of the strength of the industrial businesses which service both Cobar and towns across Australia.

8.1 MINING

Mining has been the core industry in Cobar since the discovery of copper in 1870. At the time of its peak in 1912, the Great Cobar boasted 14 smelters, a 64-metre chimney stack and it employed over 2000 workers.

At the turn of the 19th century the population of Cobar was approximately 10,000. Mining had become the most important industry in the region and many small towns grew on the wealth generated by the Great Cobar Mine. These included Wrightville, Mount Drysdale, Canbelego, Shuttleton and Nymagee which all supported significant populations during the period 1870 - 1920.

Endeavor mine, is situated 47 kilometres north of Cobar. The Endeavor orebody is similar to others in the Cobar Basin in that it has the form of massive vertical pillars. It is the largest zinc, lead and silver producer in the Region. An entirely underground operation accessed by traditional shaft haulage with concentrator, drying, storage and rail facilities on the mine lease, the mine currently produces at a rate of 720,00 tonnes of ore per annum.

The Shire will continue to be the centre of natural resources in the Far West. Cobar has an abundance of privately owned industrial and commercial land available to support the service industry that underpins the mining activity. Being agile and quick to respond to opportunities for development in this sector will allow us to take advantage of opportunities that arise in the future. In the long-term, Council recognises that there is a need to differentiate Cobar's economic structure to promote economic viability.

8.2 AGRIBUSINESS

Cobar Shire covers a large area and incorporates many land and soil types from flat to open plains and much more. There are many agricultural businesses in the Shire, mostly supporting sheep and goat production. Industry is diversifying into rangeland goats to capitalise on international demand and to adapt to drier climatic periods. The recent development of a small stock abattoir at North Bourke has recognised this growth industry and provides local producers with an accessible processing plant, optimising time and resources required to get stock to market. Grazing for wool production has contributed significantly to the Cobar Shire for many years. There is also cropping in the southern portion of the Shire. There have been several innovative agriculture industries set up in the Shire such as emu production, native brush and biofuel industries.

Recent changes in biodiversity legislation have opened a new market in carbon farming. Several primary producers are diversifying into this sector, committing to long term leases as part of carbon offset schemes. Sustainable land management is a key feature of agriculture in the Shire. Members of the Buckwaroon Landcare Group have enterprises covering a large section of the Shire around the township of Cobar and have taken out many awards for their sustainable land use practices. Key projects include Grazing for profit courses, Alan Savory Holistic Management training, developed a weed seeker a computerised spray unit that selectively

sprays regrowth, coordinated wild dog baiting, school education days taking students from local primary schools on farm and giving them an insight into agriculture practices.

There are a number of services in Cobar supporting the agriculture industry including rural traders, livestock carriers and buyers, farm good suppliers, Livestock Health and Plant Authority and the Local Land Services.

The Council and community value the rural economy and is keen to develop this part of the economy in areas that will lead to strong local growth and employment. This is not only important from an industry development point of view but from a view of creating and maintaining an industry capable of enhancing the economy.

8.3 TOURISM

Tourism is an important industry in Cobar that continues to grow. The tourism market is largely underdeveloped, and considerable opportunities exist in the industry.

Cobar continues to experience significant increases in tourists traveling through the Shire every year. There are business opportunities available to tap into and service this market. Cobar has been given RV friendly status by the caravan and campervan industry and good facilities for this market are provided in Cobar, including parking areas and dump sites. Cobar is ideally located on two major highways and is a convenient stop-over point. Cobar is serviced by a caravan park, there are several farm stays in the Shire, motels and hotels.

Cobar has excellent attractions that are well known as a stopover for people travelling east/west and north/south. Key attractions include the Great Cobar Heritage Centre, two national parks including a destination at Mount Grenfell, the Great Cobar Open Cut mine, the Golden Walk at Peak Mine, Mt Drysdale, Fort Bourke lookout and much more.

Cobar has exceptional conference facilities at the Cobar Bowling and Golf Club, the Cobar Memorial Services Club, the Library and government offices. Other unique facilities can be arranged such as shearing sheds, the showground and various outdoor venues. Council and the venue managers offer support when arranging conferences. There are several major annual events held in Cobar. These include the Festival of the Miners Ghost, agricultural show, Cobar Miners Races, Cobar Rodeo, market days, Australia Day celebrations, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services and activities and the town street Christmas Gala Night.

The ultimate aim of tourism development is to develop a unique recreational and tourism profile for Cobar that supports and enhances the existing quality of lifestyle image and integrates the environment into everyday thinking. It needs to leverage community assets to provide a playground for the broader regional population whilst having strong appeal for emerging experiential markets such as eco-tourists and grey nomads which are prevalent in the wider area. The key challenge is to create reasons for people to visit and stay in the region by developing new experiences (events and product development) that provide broader appeal and attract markets from the wider region.

8.4 RETAIL

Cobar continues to experience strong growth in new retail businesses, across a broad range of goods and services. The category of New Business is the most fiercely contended at the annual business awards. Council supports both shop front and home-based businesses.

New drainage, telecommunications and electrical infrastructure has been installed, along with the beautification of the streets – new paving, street furniture and landscaping. Outside of the CBD there are numerous retail shops offering a wide array of services, facilities and products.

All retail businesses in Cobar are small to medium sized operations. Shopping, office, community and civic uses will continue to be consolidated within the main street.

8.5 HEALTH

The health and community services sector in Cobar is considered reasonably strong with the community having good access to front line medical and community services, including General Practitioner's, Dentist's and community services. Health care and social services provides 6% of all jobs in the community; and with an expectation that underlying demand for services may increase as the community ages, opportunities for industry development in the sector are considerable. Whilst the sector is quite broad, key opportunities include aged care management and healthy community outcomes with a focus on families and general wellbeing.

8.6 INFRASTRUCTURE

The provision of both hard and **soft infrastructure** is becoming increasingly more important in the 'liveability' of a location, which aids its ability to attract the investment and population that is required for sustainable growth.

Major transport corridors and infrastructure, including the airport, the railway, highways and major roads, will be protected from encroachment by development which would detract from their safety or operational efficiency.

Cobar has a good airport with a sealed strip located 5km from town along the Lerida Road. The strip is suitable for large aircraft, aviation gas and jet fuel are available on-site, as is a serviced passenger terminal. Over 6kms of kangaroo proof fencing has been installed, the runway has recently been extended to allow large sized planes (or those with heavy loads) to land and take off, the runway is lit, and 24-hour access is available to the runway for aircraft. Council welcomes a wide range of users to the airport, including charter flights, sightseeing aircraft and small aircraft refuelling.

Investing in energy transmission infrastructure is required to address a critical bottleneck in the economy. Currently energy transmission lines are not adequate to meet current demand for power during peak residential demand. Some Mining operations cease during these periods, lowering the overall viability of future expansion in this sector. This action has been identified as a priority for Cobar and Bogan Shires, which represent the major Mining areas of the Region.

The proposed Wool Track provides an alternate freight and tourist road connection between Balranald and Cobar, passing through Ivanhoe and onto Queensland. This connection provides the Far West with more direct access to and from **South Australia**. A feasibility study was jointly commissioned by **Boar** Shire Council, Central Darling Shire Council and Balranald Shire Council. The study includes a cost benefit analysis which demonstrates a viable investment in the route. The disruption to the existing north, south and local transport routes through NSW during flood events in the Lachlan River catchment **highly the Wool Track** as an important alternate transport route through NSW.

9 HEALTHY AND COHESIVE COMMUNITY

9.1 HOUSING

Cobar has a range of housing opportunities, from rural to rural residential, large sized town blocks and unit developments. In late 2006 Council released 64 lots which sold out in three days. A further Council subdivision of 47 lots is planned. There are a number of private subdivisions being undertaken around the Shire.

Two new off-road bike paths have recently been developed, servicing the Lerida Road rural residential estates and town areas, allowing safe bike access for school students and those wishing to explore bushland near Cobar. Most estates have access to town water and electricity infrastructure. Blocks of various sizes are available with excellent road access to Cobar.

Cobar will be community-based mining town. With services that support people living in town. Utilising current housing stock before any future application for temporary accommodation outside of town will be favoured. Future industry development applications that accommodate employees in town to the best of their ability to support longevity will be favoured by Council. Setting this direction for future development will provide certainty to local residents and the economy.

9.2 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

In some cases, the local workforce is insufficient to meet the needs of industry, such as the specialised skills required by the Mining sector. In order to attract skilled labour, a 'family-centric' approach to recruitment must be taken. When advertising jobs, businesses must be able to advertise the lifestyle available to workers' families. This strategy has been identified as a priority for Cobar Shire, which is heavily reliant on accessing the external labour market for Mining. Improving council delivery and synergies for state service deliveries in isolated communities will make it easier for people to live and work in the Region, contributing to positive economic and demographic outcomes.

Council are in the process of exploring potential for a 'Mining School' in Cobar. Following success of the initial Cobar Skills Mining Hub there is interest in securing an ongoing program that would include certificates such as "Working at Heights" or "Working in Confined Spaces". Service providers are battling to recruit trained employees into the human services industries. This model could assist address this issue in the future.

9.3 PROTECT OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Cobar Shire encompasses a wide range of land forms with the topography ranging from the alluvial flood plain of the Darling River, level alluvial and aeolian country to the west and south west area, undulating and hilly country to the north, east, south eastern and centre area around Cobar and to level alluvial flood plain of the southern areas adjacent to the Lachlan River. The large area of Cobar Shire and the major distances between the extreme boundaries provides for a diverse range in flora types, fauna species, soil types and climate.

9.3.1 Increase resilience to climate change and natural hazard risks

Supporting projects that will increase our preparedness for seasonal fluctuations will be a core adaption strategy. Severe heat throughout the summer periods, averaging over 35°C, is continuing to rise and extend for long periods of the year. Sustainable adaptation strategies for existing and proposed infrastructure and residential development, particularly renewable energy supply and water security, will improve our

communities living standards and boost our resilience to harsh climate variations.

Cobar has suffered from lack of a reliable water supply from the time of its establishment in the 1870's. The area is arid and more than 140 kilometres from any permanent watercourse. The principal source of water is the Bogan River at Nyngan, where water is stored in a series of pools known as the Bogan Storages. Security is better assured by a connection to the Macquarie River at Warren through the Albert Priest Channel. Future proofing the availability of water during dry period is essential to support investment in Cobar and the surrounding area.

9.3.2 Protect and manage environmental assets

Cobar is located within the Cobar Peneplain bioregion. The landscape of the Cobar Peneplain bioregion includes undulating low rounded ridges, rolling downs and plains. A large area of the bioregion is rangeland, and vegetation consists of poplar box woodlands, mulga communities and white cypress pine.

The north western boundary of Cobar Shire adjoins the Darling River for approximately 80km, however the Shire is not greatly affected in this area. The environment of the Darling River is severely degraded during periods of deficient rainfall in the catchments and from over utilisation of the water for agricultural and urban uses. The majority of the water that flows through this region originates far from this Shire and as a result is impacted upon by pollution sources and land uses beyond the control of Cobar Shire Council. The combination of all of these impacts results in decreased water quality, increasing riverine salinity, increased frequency of algal blooms and greater demands on the water resources. Water quality in the Darling River has remained unchanged with seasons of good rain, meaning good water quality, but in seasons of below average rainfall nearing poor water quality.

Mining is the most important land use in Cobar Shire in terms of value of production. In common with most other land uses, mining has the potential to affect the physical environment through the removal of vegetation and topsoil, displacement of fauna, release of contaminants into the air and water, production of mine overburden and wastes, and disruption caused by noise and visual pollution.

Many of the environmental issues related to mining are the legacy of past operations. While current mining practice, underpinned by stringent conditions placed on mine operators and requirements for rehabilitation of mine sites, has improved the environmental performance of modern mining, continued research is necessary to address the industry's remaining environmental management and rehabilitation problems.

9.4 CELEBRATE HERITAGE ASSETS

There is evidence of aboriginal occupation over the entire area of Cobar Shire. Whilst many of these sites have been documented and noted it is emphasised that there are significant gaps in the data and that there has not been a complete and detailed archaeology study of aboriginal sites carried out. The National Park & Wildlife Service has carried out a significant amount of survey work to identify and document the aboriginal sites in Cobar Shire and the following information has been collected from the National Parks and Wildlife Service records.

Mount Grenfell Historic Site, is 71km from Cobar, in Cubba, and protects Ngiyampaa rock art. For thousands of years before Europeans settled in this part of NSW, Ngiyampaa people regularly gathered around the semi-permanent waterhole and took shelter in the overhangs of what is now Mount Grenfell Historic Site. In the

surrounding rocky ridge, you can see richly coloured paintings of human and animal figures, representations of the natural environment, and hand stencils which are of ceremonial significance to traditional owners.

Other protected sites include Buckambool Mountain, Pine Ridge, Elura Mine Area, Meadow Glen, Mount Daris, Neckarboo, Bulla, Kaleno, Iona and Marma.

Fort Bourke Hill is the historic site of the New Cobar Gold Mine, Cobar's first gold mine, which is still a working mine operated by Peak Gold Mines. The Cobar Heritage Walk provides visitors with a guided tour of the town's historic buildings, including several from the Victorian and Edwardian eras, as well as early miners' cottages. Then stop by the heritage-listed Great Western Hotel, a traditional rural Australian corner pub. Another known highlight in Cobar is the Great Cobar Heritage Centre, set inside the former administration offices of the Great Cobar Copper Mine built in 1912, visitors can take a journey through Cobar's history from the time of the local Aboriginal Ngiyampaa people to the mining era.

Ensuring identified aboriginal and non-aboriginal sites across the Shire are included in schedule 5 of the Cobar LEP 2012 is essential to certify the protection of these sites.

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10 ACTIONS FOR ACHIEVING OUR VISION

| Focus | Alignment with Policy | Strategic Outcome | Description |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Tourism | Far West Regional Plan – Direction 5 | Promote and diversify local tourism market | 1. Develop a unique recreational and tourism profile for Cobar |
| Infrastructure | Far West Regional Plan – Direction 4 | Diversify energy supply through renewable energy generation | 2. Facilitate small-scale renewable energy projects using bioenergy, solar, wind, small-scale hydro, geothermal or other innovative storage technologies through local environment plans. |
| | Far West Regional Plan – Direction 8 | Enhance access to telecommunications | 3. Identify options to improve access to shared telecommunication and internet services, including public access to services at community centres and schools. |
| Housing | Far West Regional Plan – Direction 27 | Sustainably manage residential development | 4. Ensure any future residential development is located on land that is currently zoned and serviced. |
| Protect our Natural Environment | Far West Regional Plan – Direction 26 | Deliver long-term water security | 5. Invest in alternative water sources to ensure availability during dry periods |
| Celebrate Heritage Assets | Far West Regional Plan – Direction 16+17 | Increase resilience to climate change | 6. Incorporate the findings of the Far West Enabling Regional Adaptation project to inform land use and planning decisions. |
| | Far West Regional Plan – Direction 18 | Respect and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage assets | 7. Protect, manage and respect Aboriginal objects and places in accordance with legislative requirements. |
| | Far West Regional Plan – Direction 19 | Conserve and adaptively re-use European heritage assets | 8. Prepare, review and update heritage studies in consultation with the community to recognise and conserve heritage assets and items and include appropriate local planning controls. 9. Investigate opportunities to redevelop and enhance streetscapes and entrances to all towns |

- 7 APR 2020

Sharon Moore

From: mail CSC
Sent: Tuesday, 7 April 2020 1:22 PM
To: Garry Ryman
Cc: Karen Warren; Planning Environment
Subject: FW: Cancer Council NSW Local Strategic Planning Statement Feedback
Attachments: Cancer Council NSW LSPS submission.docx



Sharon Moore

Records Officer, Corporate and Community Services

Cobar Shire Council | 36 Linsley Street (PO Box 223) | Cobar NSW 2835

P (02) 6836 5888 | F (02) 6836 3964 |

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From: Fiona Markwick <fionam@nswcc.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 7 April 2020 12:54 PM
To: mail CSC <mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Cancer Council NSW Local Strategic Planning Statement Feedback

Attention: Mr Peter Vlatko
General Manager, Cobar Shire Council

Good afternoon Peter,

I would like to put forward a submission to Cobar Shire Council with regards to the Local Strategic Planning Statement.

Please refer to the attached letter which outlines Cancer Council NSW recommendations. I realise I maybe a little late with this submission however I was hoping you may still be taking submissions.

Cheers,

Fiona Markwick
Community Programs Coordinator | Orange & Far West Communities
Cancer Council Western NSW
E: fionam@nswcc.org.au
P: (02) 6392 0800
A: Suite 4a, 122-124 Kite Street (PO Box 1977), Orange NSW 2800
[WEB](#) | [FAN](#) | [TWEET](#) | [TUBE](#)

TS-18

126528

APES

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land. I pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Cancer Council is committed to a positive future for the Aboriginal community.

**We can stay home.
Katie can't.**

Help cancer patients in NSW
get to lifesaving treatment.

Donate Now



06th April 2020

Mr Peter Vlatko
General Manager
Cobar Shire Council
36 Linsley Street
Cobar NSW 2835

Dear Peter,

Re: Feedback on the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

I realise I maybe too late to have the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft LSPS. However, I have provided some details below in the hope that Cobar Shire Council are indeed still taking community feedback.

Cancer Council NSW is committed to reducing the impact of cancer on individuals and the community, and to lessening the burden for people affected by cancer. We are community funded and community focused. We believe health is central to urban planning in order to create environments that promote cancer-smart behaviours and reduce exposure to known cancer risks such as solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

As a Community Programs Coordinator at Cancer Council NSW, I am committed to driving positive and lasting change towards a cancer free future for our local communities. One of the priority cancer prevention areas our organisation is committed to is skin cancer prevention.

Skin cancer in Australia

Australia has the highest levels of UV radiation and the highest incidence rates of skin cancer worldwide, where two out of every three people are likely to be diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of 70. UV radiation causes 95% of melanomas and 99% of non-melanoma skin cancers in Australia. This means skin cancer is highly preventable.

In comparison to another important preventable social issue, nearly twice as many people die from melanoma than they do on our roads in NSW. 354 people died on our roads in 2018; while 624 people died of skin cancer in 2016¹. We wear a seatbelt every time we get in the car, and we should think about UV radiation in the same way.

Council can play an important role in reducing the risk of skin cancer of its residents through planning and designing shade. Good quality shade can reduce UV exposure by up to 75 per cent. Further information including the co-benefits, the *Cancer Council NSW Guidelines to Shade* and example case studies of well-designed shade can be accessed via Cancer Council NSW's website cancerCouncil.com.au/shade

¹ Cancer incidence and mortality projections 2011 to 2021. Cancer Institute NSW, Sydney, May 2011. Centre for Road Safety, Transport for NSW <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/road-toll-progress-2018.pdf>

Response to the Draft LSPS

We strongly encourage council to ensure the value of shade for UV radiation protection and other co-benefits are fully recognised in the vision for the LGA.

You can access example text developed by Cancer Council NSW to include in the LSPS which supports shade as a planning priority on their website cancercouncil.com.au/shade

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment on your Draft LSPS.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Markwick
Western NSW Communities Cancer Council NSW
PO Box 1977
Orange NSW 2800

- / 7 2020

Sharon Moore

From: mail CSC
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 5:52 PM
To: Garry Ryman
Cc: Karen Warren; Planning Environment
Subject: FW: Submission regarding Cobar Shire Council's Draft LSPS
Attachments: Shade-a-planning-and-design-priority.pdf; Shade-provision-suggested-text-for-inclusion-in-Local-Strategic-Planning-Statements-1.pdf; Cobar Shire Council.docx



Christine Baker

Records & Information Supervisor, Corporate and Community Services
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From: Ally Hamer <ally.brown@nswcc.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 10:37 AM
To: mail CSC <mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Submission regarding Cobar Shire Council's Draft LSPS

Dear Cobar Shire Council,

Re: Feedback on Cobar Shire Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Cobar Shire Council Draft LSPS. Please find attached a submission from Cancer Council NSW.

Kind regards,

Ally Hamer
 Senior Skin Cancer Prevention Project Coordinator
 Cancer Council NSW
 T: (02) 9334 1422
 153 Dowling Street, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011
[WEB](#) | [FAN](#) | [TWEET](#) | [TUBE](#) | [HELPLINE](#)

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Cobar Shire Council | |
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| | |

Please note my work days are Monday – Thursday



THE MARCH CHARGE

Walk, run or move and raise funds to end cancer

REGISTER NOW

Cancer Council

The advertisement features a blue background with a photograph of three people (two women and one man) walking outdoors. They are wearing blue and white t-shirts with 'THE MARCH CHARGE' printed on them. The Cancer Council logo, a yellow flower, is in the top right corner. The text 'THE MARCH CHARGE' is in large, bold, yellow and orange letters at the top left. Below it, the text 'Walk, run or move and raise funds to end cancer' is in white. At the bottom left, there is a yellow button with the text 'REGISTER NOW' in black.

Shade. A planning and design priority that helps prevent skin cancer.

Shade protects us from harmful ultraviolet radiation (UV)

- UV from the sun causes at least 95% of all skin cancers in Australia.
- Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia - 2 in 3 people will be diagnosed.
- Skin cancer is highly preventable and the planning and design of quality shade plays a key role.

Quality shade can reduce UV exposure by up to 75%

What is quality shade?

Natural shade: trees with a canopy that is dense and close to the ground.

Built shade: stand-alone, portable or add-on structures positioned to provide shade during the middle of the day when UV is highest, or positioned to provide shade when the area is in highest use.



A combination of natural and built shade provides the best UV protection.

Benefits of quality shade and green spaces.

Health benefits

- Reduces UV exposure and helps prevent skin cancer
- Improves thermal comfort in times of heat
- Increases recreation and physical activity
- Reduces obesity and risk of chronic disease
- Improves mental health and wellbeing

Environmental benefits

- Reduces build-up of heat in urban areas
- Reduces air pollution
- Reduces water evaporation, soil erosion and storm water run-off
- Reduces atmospheric carbon
- Maintains animal habitat and biodiversity

Social and economic benefits

- Improves social and community connection
- Reduces neighbourhood crime
- Better placemaking
- Reduces socioeconomic and health inequities
- Increases land and property value
- Reduces energy usage and costs



How to plan and design quality shade.

Professional resources are available to support you in planning good shade.

- [Cancer Council NSW Guidelines to Shade](#) including a shade audit tool.
- [Cancer Institute NSW Shade Case Studies](#); and
- Support for local governments to prioritise shade in their planning policies.

For more information and access to the online resources:

- Contact the NSW Shade Working Group via email: CINSW-SkinCancerPrevention@health.nsw.gov.au
- Visit cancerCouncil.com.au/shade and cancer.nsw.gov.au/shade-and-uv



Shade provision: Suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements*

INTRODUCTION

The text below is example text that could be used by NSW councils in the preparation of their Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPSs), required to be produced by each council under the Environmental Planning & Assessment Act.¹

The text specifically relates to the provision of well-designed shade, from the perspective of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Shade Working Group, under the [NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy](#).²

The text will need to be considered in context with the remainder of the LSPS, particularly its structure, and its inclusion of other items relating to healthy built environments.

The text is designed to be placed under the following headings within the LSPS – headings as provided by the NSW Department of Planning's [Example LSPS, February 2019](#):³

- Theme
- Planning Priority
- Rationale
- Council will
- Actions

Example text is provided in *italics* below.

EXAMPLE TEXT

Theme

Note that the NSW Department of Planning's [Example LSPS, February 2019](#) does not contain an explicit theme relating directly to the design of healthy built environments. The themes provided in the Example LSPS are only suggestions for councils, and the themes most relevant to healthy built environments in that document are 'Thriving Places to Live and Grow' and 'A Sustainable Environment'.

It is suggested that an alternate theme could be:
'Providing Healthy Places to Live, Work and Visit'.

Planning priority

A suggested planning priority that could be placed under one of the above themes is:
'Design and provide places and spaces that are healthy to live in, to work in and to visit'.

This generic planning priority should then incorporate other aspects of the healthy built environment, as explained in the following 'rationale' section.

Rationale

There may be many items included in this section that relate generally to healthy built environments. The following 'rationale' text relates specifically to the provision of shade, written from the perspective of providing well-designed shade for protection from ultraviolet radiation (UV).

* **Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**
Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.

Why is shade important?

Australia has the highest rate of melanoma in the world.⁴ Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia, with 2 in 3 people diagnosed in their lifetime.⁵ UV causes 95% of melanomas and 99% of non-melanoma skin cancers,⁶ making it a highly preventable cancer.

The incidence rate of melanoma in the [insert name] LGA is [insert age-standardised incidence rate] per 100,000. The NSW average melanoma incidence rate is 51.0 per 100,000.⁷ Go to [Cancer Institute NSW Statistics Portal](#) to find melanoma age-standardised incidence rates by LGA.

Well-designed and correctly positioned shade, both natural and built, can reduce UV exposure by up to 75%.⁸

Shade offers a number of benefits for people and the environment and has an increasingly important role to play in mitigating the effects of climate change and reducing heat in urban areas.

The co-benefits of well-designed shade and green spaces include:

Health benefits:^{9, 10}

- Reduced UV exposure and the prevention of skin cancer.
- Improved thermal comfort in times of heat. Evidence shows that trees can reduce temperatures by 8°C.
- Enhanced childhood development.
- Increased recreation and physical activity, and a reduction in obesity and risk of chronic disease.
- Faster healing times and pain tolerance for hospital patients in a room with a view of trees.
- Improvements in mental health and wellbeing, including stress reduction and relaxation, greater happiness, lower rates of anger and depression and improved mental function and concentration.
- Noise reduction.

Environmental benefits:^{9, 10}

- Reduced build-up of heat in urban areas and consequent 'heat island' effects.
- Reduced air pollution.
- Reduced water evaporation, soil erosion, and storm water run-off.
- Reduced atmospheric carbon.
- Increased animal habitat and maintenance of biodiversity.

Social and economic benefits:^{9, 10}

- Increased social connectivity and sense of community by providing pleasant and aesthetically pleasing places for people to meet, socialise, exercise and rest.
- Reduced neighbourhood aggression, violence and crime.
- Street trees can help define or preserve the culture and history of a place.
- Improved thermal efficiency of buildings through shading and energy savings of up to 12-15%.
- Increased land and property values. Just one tree can increase the value of a property by approximately \$5,000.
- Opportunity to reduce socioeconomic and health inequities, which have been shown to be smaller in green areas.

*** Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**

Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.

It is likely that [insert name] LGA will experience more frequent, longer and more extreme periods of uncomfortable summertime heat and heat wave events in the future. The provision of quality shade throughout the LGA will be one of the most cost-effective ways to address this situation in the long term, and has the co-benefit of protecting us from UV exposure.

Natural and built shade can be easily included in planning processes for developments, particularly in urban areas. Well-designed shade, effectively planned and correctly positioned, can also alleviate concerns about needing to remove or modify trees to address engineering, wiring or maintenance issues.

What is well-designed shade?

Well-designed shade uses a combination of natural and built shade to provide protection from UV radiation where it is needed, at the right time of day and at the right time of year.

The latest [Guidelines to Shade](#) from Cancer Council NSW¹¹ is a practical tool to aid LGA's in the design of quality shade.

In a playground setting, the [Everyone Can Play Guideline](#) from the NSW Department of Planning and Environment¹² provides a set of design principals and best practice recommendations to develop inclusive playspaces which provide well-designed shade for the comfort and protection of children and carers.

Good design is NSW Government policy, as described in [Better Placed](#) from the Government Architect NSW¹³, which outlines an integrated design policy for the built environment in NSW.

Council will

Suggested text for this section is:

- 1. Consider the provision of well-designed shade, both natural and built, in the provision of all public infrastructure, from large developments such as major recreation facilities, public buildings and town centre upgrades, to the smallest public domain improvements such as bus shelters.*
- 2. Encourage the provision of well-designed shade in all private developments, particularly recreation facilities and those that adjoin public places, such as commercial developments.*
- 3. Consider the co-benefits of shade in all decisions about infrastructure provision and maintenance.*

Actions

Suggested text for this section is:

- 1. Council's [insert relevant name] Development Control Plan will be reviewed to:*
 - a) incorporate design considerations regarding the provision of well-designed shade, with reference to the latest shade guidelines.⁹;*
 - b) require well-designed shade in any private buildings or developments that adjoin public places that are likely to have significant visitation (e.g. high pedestrian traffic or people visiting or pausing in public spaces);*
 - c) require the provision of well-designed shade in recreation facilities;*
 - d) require the provision of well-designed shade in the design of any public infrastructure;*
 - e) require the consideration of the benefits of shade in any application to remove trees or vegetation currently providing significant shade and communicate to residents the benefits of shade; and*

*** Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**

Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.

- f) encourage the provision of well-chosen and well-placed street trees in residential or public domain developments.
2. Council's Engineering Design specifications [insert relevant document name] will be updated to include specifications for the provision of well-designed shade.
 3. Council will prioritise well-designed shade in its provision of new and upgraded public infrastructure and spaces.
 4. Council will consider retrofitting current public infrastructure and spaces to include well-designed shade.

REFERENCES

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<https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/1979/203>
2. NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy, Cancer Institute NSW. Sydney, 2017.
Available from: <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/nsw-skin-cancer-strategy>
3. NSW Planning Portal, Guide to the updated Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Part 3 Strategic Planning, Key documents and FAQs
<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Environmental-Planning-and-Assessment-Act-updated/Guide-to-the-updated-Environmental-Planning-and-Assessment-Act-1979/Part-3-Strategic-planning/Key-documents-and-FAQs>
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6. Armstrong BK, Kricger A. 1993. How much melanoma is caused by sun exposure? *Melanoma Research* 3(6):395-401.
7. Cancer Institute NSW Statistics Portal [https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/cancer-statistics-nsw#//](https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/cancer-statistics-nsw#/)
8. Parsons, P., Neale, R., Wolski, P. & Green, A. 1998, 'The shady side of solar protection', *Medical Journal of Australia*, 168: 327-330.
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*** Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**

Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.

11. *Guidelines to Shade*, Cancer Council NSW. Sydney, 2013. Available from: https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/04/Guidelines_to_shade_WEB2.pdf
12. *Everyone can play guideline*, Office of Open Space and Parklands, Department of Planning, NSW Government. Sydney, 2019. Available from: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Guidelines/everyone-can-play-guideline-2019-02-20.pdf>
13. *Better Placed: an integrated design policy for the built environment of New South Wales*. Government Architects NSW. Sydney 2017. Available from: <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/resources/ga/media/files/ga/strategy-documents/better-placed-a-strategic-design-policy-for-the-built-environment-of-new-south-wales-2017.pdf>

OTHER RESOURCES

- <https://www.sunsmart.com.au/communities/local-government> - a range of resources to assist councils in providing well-designed shade. Based on Victorian examples, but can be easily adapted to NSW.
- <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/shade-and-uv> - Shade case study examples by Cancer Institute NSW
- http://www.lowcarbonlivingcrc.com.au/sites/all/files/publications_file_attachments/rp2024_guide_to_urban_cooling_strategies_2017_web.pdf Osmond, P., and Sharifi, E., 2017: *Guide to Urban Cooling Strategies*. Low Carbon Living CRC.

CONTACT DETAILS / MORE INFORMATION

- NSW Shade Working Group email: CINSW-SkinCancerPrevention@health.nsw.gov.au
- Cancer Council NSW website: www.cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/
- Cancer Institute NSW website: www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/shade-and-uv

This information is based on available evidence at the time of review.
It can be copied for distribution.
Latest update: July 2019

For further information contact the NSW Shade Working Group via email CINSW-SkinCancerPrevention@health.nsw.gov.au or go to <https://www.cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/shade-and-sun-protection/>

* **Shade provision: suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements**
Prepared by Jan Fallding, Registered Planner, June 2019, on behalf of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, operating within the auspices of the NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy,² led by Cancer Institute NSW.

1 April 2020

The General Manager
Cobar Shire Council
PO Box 223
Cobar NSW 2835

Dear Cobar Shire Council,

Re: Feedback on the Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft LSPS.

Cancer Council NSW is committed to reducing the impact of cancer on individuals and the community, and to lessening the burden for people affected by cancer. We are community funded and community focused. We believe health is central to urban planning in order to create environments that promote cancer-smart behaviours and reduce exposure to known cancer risks such as solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

Cancer Council NSW is a key partner in the implementation of the *NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy (2017)* which defines a comprehensive approach to reducing overexposure to (UV) and ultimately the incidence of skin cancer in NSW. The Strategy is a multidisciplinary initiative lead by Cancer Institute NSW which is an agency of NSW Health.

As part of the delivery of the Strategy, the Shade Working Group is committed to increasing shade across NSW for skin cancer prevention by influencing the planning system and advocating for shade in the local community. Member organisations of the Shade Working Group include: Cancer Institute NSW, Cancer Council NSW, University of New South Wales City Future Research Centre, and a strategic and social impact planner consultant. This submission is being provided by Cancer Council NSW, which also is Chair of the *NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group*.

Skin cancer in Australia

Australia has the highest levels of UV radiation and the highest incidence rates of skin cancer worldwide, where two out of every three people are likely to be diagnosed with skin cancer by the age of 70. UV radiation causes 95% of melanomas and 99% of non-melanoma skin cancers in Australia. This means skin cancer is highly preventable.

In comparison to another important preventable social issue, nearly twice as many people die from melanoma than they do on our roads in NSW. 354 people died on our roads in 2018; while 624 people died of skin cancer in 2016¹. We wear a seatbelt every time we get in the car, and we should think about UV radiation in the same way.

Council can play an important role in reducing the risk of skin cancer of its residents through planning and designing shade. Good quality shade can reduce UV exposure by up to 75 per cent. Further information including the co-benefits of shade, are attached. They are also accessible via Cancer Council NSW's [website](#), along with the *Cancer Council NSW Guidelines to Shade* and example case studies of well-designed shade.

Response to the Draft LSPS

Cancer Council NSW strongly encourages Council to ensure the value of shade for UV radiation protection and other co-benefits are fully recognised in the vision for the LGA.

We have suggestions to support you with this, and attached to this letter is example text developed to include in your LSPS which supports shade as a planning priority for the LGA. We recommend that council look to include all or part of this text in relevant Themes or Planning Priorities from the Draft LSPS. This text can also be accessed via Cancer Council NSW's [website](#).

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide comment on your Draft LSPS. If you would like any further support, please feel free to contact me via Elizabeth.king@nswcc.org.au or ph: (02) 9334 1760.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth King
Chair, NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group
Skin Cancer Prevention Manager
Cancer Council NSW

¹ Cancer incidence and mortality projections 2011 to 2021. Cancer Institute NSW, Sydney, May 2011. Centre for Road Safety, Transport for NSW <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/downloads/road-toll-progress-2018.pdf>

- 7 APR 2020

Sharon Moore

From: mail CSC
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 4:43 PM
To: Garry Ryman
Cc: Karen Warren; Planning Environment
Subject: FW: Draft Cobar Shire Council LSPS - TfNSW Comments

This will be registered for NFA as time permits on file T5-18.

Kind regards,



Christine Baker

Records & Information Supervisor, Corporate and Community Services
Cobar Shire Council | 36 Linsley Street (PO Box 223) | Cobar NSW 2835
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From: Regional Strategy <regionalstrategy@transport.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 4:23 PM
To: mail CSC <mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Chantelle Elsley <Chantelle.ELSLEY@transport.nsw.gov.au>; James Nguyen <James.Nguyen@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Mark Keulen <Mark.Keulen@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Mark Hannan <mark.hannan@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Anthony Donohoe <Anthony.DONOHOE@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Nicholas Angelos <Nicholas.Angelos@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Vincent Tang <Vincent.Tang@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Joseph Le <Joseph.Le@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Alexandra Power <Alexandra.Power@transport.nsw.gov.au>; Sara Roach <Sara.Roach2@transport.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Draft Cobar Shire Council LSPS - TfNSW Comments

Exhibition of Draft Cobar Shire Council Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) – TfNSW Comments

Dear Cobar Shire Council,

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) would like to provide comments on the Draft Cobar Shire Council LSPS. These comments are in addition to the comments provided on 31 March 2020.

In order to help you achieve your vision, we've provided some considerations from an integrated transport perspective:

- TfNSW is guided by our long-term transport strategy [Future Transport 2056](#). The [Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan](#) is a supporting plan to Future Transport sets a 40 year vision for transport in regional NSW to support liveable communities and productive economies. There are also other supporting plans such as the [Freight and Ports Plan 2018-2023](#), [Heavy Vehicle Access Policy Framework](#) and [NSW Road Safety Plan 2021](#). There is an opportunity to show alignment and refer to these plans in the LSPS.

re: 126483

TS-18

126534

DPES.

- The Regional Services and Infrastructure Plan identifies initiatives that support the needs of regional industries, populations, commuters and tourists and aims to improve safety, capacity, reliability and freight access along highways through Cobar Shire Council. These initiatives include Kidman Way improvements, Barrier Highway Improvements (Dubbo-Broken Hill).
- A Future Regional Transport Plan will be developed by TfNSW for the Far West Region in which Cobar Shire Council is placed. This plan will be developed in partnership with Department of Planning and Industry (DPIE) and Councils. This plan will include a 'Hubs and Spokes' model for this region. A 'Hub and Spoke' model provides connections (spokes) to and from key centres (hubs). The spokes link to different hubs across an area, rather than focussing on one key hub. More information on 'Hub and Spoke' can be found on Page 34 and 35 of the [Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan](#). To strengthen this LSPS consideration could be given to note the important connection between Cobar, Wilcannia, Broken Hill, Nyngan, Narromine and Dubbo.
- Cobar Shire Council can obtain funding to deliver active transport infrastructure through the TfNSW funded Walking and Cycling Program. Active transport infrastructure supports local connections and short trips within towns.
- There is an opportunity to apply the 'Movement and Place' framework within Cobar Shire Council. There is a practitioner's guide and toolkit being developed. More information can be found on <https://www.governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au/guidance/movement-and-place>
- Council should consider how Transport owned land in the Cobar Shire could be utilised to support Council's planning priorities identified in the LSPS including through the LEP review process.

Freight Comments

The LSPS needs to give effect to the following freight related strategic priorities in the Far West Regional Plan:

- Direction 1: Grow the agribusiness sector, value-added manufacturing opportunities and supply chains.
 - Action 1.2 Facilitate investment in the agricultural supply chain by protecting freight and logistics facilities from conflicting land use and the encroachment of incompatible land uses.
- Direction 3: Sustainably manage mineral resources
 - Action 3.4 Protect infrastructure that facilitates mining industries, such as road and rail freight routes, and energy transmission networks, including gas pipelines, from development that could affect current or future extraction.
- Direction 6: Unlock economic potential through improved freight transport infrastructure
 - 6.1 Identify the regional freight network (including key national, State, regional and local roads and the rail network).
 - 6.2 Investigate and prioritise Council-identified projects to address impediments to the regional freight network and improve capacity and opportunities in the network.
 - 6.3 Identify, coordinate and prioritise the delivery of local and regional projects forming part of the regional freight network.
- The LSPS needs a map of the LGA identifying key freight routes as well as freight nodes. For instance on page 8, the LSPS identifies Wool Track, Kidman Way and Barrier Highway as key freight corridors and page 9 identifies mines and agribusiness in the LGA. Suggest visually showing these on a map as well as in the text
- There is an opportunity to refer to freight related grant programs from the [Regional NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan](#) such as *Fixing Country Roads* to enable replacement of infrastructure deficiencies, pinch points or productivity improvements.

- The NSW Safer Roads Program can also be accessed to address road safety infrastructure deficiencies on high speed rural roads and within townships (see road safety comments below for details).
- Page 8 from the LSPS states that "We will capitalise on the investment in airfreight and inland rail for potential development opportunities". However there are no actions in the LSPS on how this will be achieved.
- Page 11, Section 8.6 Infrastructure should identify existing freight corridors in the LGA in addition to those already identified. Are there any freight corridors (particularly at a local and regional) in the LGA other than Wool Track, Kidman Way and Barrier Highway? The LSPS should reference the rail lines that run through the LGA (Cobar line and part of the Broken Hill line). For instance, output from the mines in Cobar are transported by rail for export using the Cobar line. The LSPS should also identify freight generators such as mines and grain receivable sites.
- Page 11, Section 8.6 Infrastructure states that "Major transport corridors and infrastructure, including the airport, the railway, highways and major roads, will be protected from encroachment by development which would detract from their safety or operational efficiency". The LSPS should contain a specific action on protecting freight corridors from encroachment.

Road Safety Comments

- Ensure that areas with identified high risk of run-off-road and fatigue related crashes on the high speed local road and regional road network consider key treatments such as centre and road side flexible safety barrier, audio-tactile line marking (rumble strips), wide centre line and curve improvements as per the Saving Lives on Country Roads initiative of NSW Road Safety Plan 2021. Kidman Way has been identified as a fatigue risk corridor, however being a state highway council should collaborate with TfNSW to address this with the above treatments.
- Ensure that active transport connections prioritised within a local Movement and Place strategy are supported by safe facilities aligned with Safe System principles as per the Liveable and Safe Urban Communities initiative of NSW Road Safety Plan 2021. These can include lower operating speeds through towns supported by gateway treatments at the entry points and traffic calming measures throughout, narrower crossing distances across major roads in places for people and two stage crossing opportunities using pedestrian refuges.
- Austroads Research Report (AP-R611-20) 'Integrating Safe System with Movement and Place for Vulnerable Road Users' can assist council practitioners with applying Safe System thinking to a Movement and Place context: <https://austroads.com.au/publications/road-safety/ap-r611-20>. There is also a webinar to support this report: <https://austroads.com.au/webinars-and-events/webinar-integrating-safe-system-with-movement-and-place-for-vulnerable-road-users>.
- Austroads has published a research report to guide local government on developing and implementing road safety management frameworks according to Safe System principles. The report (and recording of associated webinar) can be downloaded on the Austroads website here, noting that membership and access to all materials is now free: <https://austroads.com.au/latest-news/targeted-road-safety-guidance-for-local-government>

Thank you for taking the time to read our comments.

Please contact James Nguyen at James.Nguyen@transport.nsw.gov.au if you have any further questions or comments.

Kind regards,

James Nguyen
Transport Planner

Regional Road Planning
Customer Strategy and Technology
Transport for NSW

M 0451 991 391
E james.nguyen@transport.nsw.gov.au
477 Pitt Street, Haymarket, NSW 2000



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- 7 APR 2020

Sharon Moore

From: mail CSC
Sent: Tuesday, 7 April 2020 3:22 PM
To: Garry Ryman
Cc: Karen Warren; Planning Environment
Subject: FW: Cancer Institute NSW submission on Draft LSPS



Sharon Moore

Records Officer, Corporate and Community Services

Cobar Shire Council | 36 Linsley Street (PO Box 223) | Cobar NSW 2835

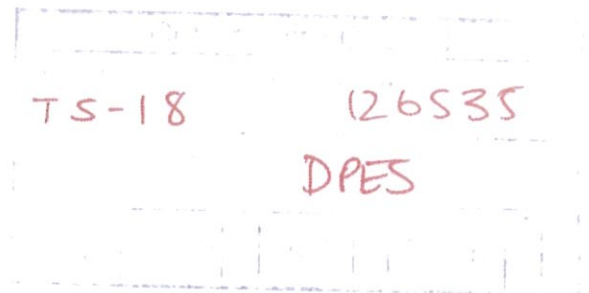
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From: Nicola Groskops (Cancer Institute NSW) <Nicola.Groskops@health.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2020 5:05 PM
To: mail CSC <mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Cancer Institute NSW submission on Draft LSPS

Peter Vlatko
General Manager
Cobar Shire Council
PO Box 223
Cobar NSW 2835



Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Submission to Cobar Shire Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Council's *Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement* (LSPS).

The Cancer Institute NSW (the Institute) is a state government agency responsible for the delivery of the [NSW Cancer Plan](#) to reduce the incidence of cancer in NSW and the [NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy](#). The Institute works closely with key stakeholders with health and built environment expertise to

reduce the incidence of skin cancer by improving access to adequate shade in NSW. The Institute also promotes healthy lifestyle behaviours, including physical activity, which reduce the risk of certain cancers.

The Institute is committed to supporting your Council to reduce skin cancer in your LGA and has prepared the following submission that will:

1. Outline the importance of well-designed shade for the prevention of skin cancer
2. Explain the role of local policy in shade provision and skin cancer protection
3. Offer specific suggestions regarding your draft LSPS
4. Provide further information and contacts to assist your LGA in planning for good quality shade.

1. Skin cancer and shade

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in Australia. At least 95 per cent of melanoma skin cancer and 99 per cent of non-melanoma skin cancers are caused by overexposure to ultra-violet radiation (UVR) from the sun.¹ UVR is a carcinogen, and two in three Australians are expected to develop skin cancer before the age of 70.² In Cobar Shire Council LGA, the age-standardised incidence rate of melanoma between 2012 and 2016 was 52.6 per 100,000 population. The NSW average rate was 51.7 per 100,000 population.³

Across NSW, UVR levels are high enough to damage unprotected skin for at least 10 months of the year.¹ Unlike temperature, UVR can't be seen or felt and damage to unprotected skin can still occur on cool or overcast days.

The good news is that skin cancer is highly preventable. In addition to personal protective behaviours (Slip Slap Slap Seek Slide), there is evidence that well-designed and correctly positioned shade, from both natural vegetation and built structures, can reduce exposure to UVR by up to 75 per cent.⁴

The provision of good quality shade is integral to assisting the community in reducing its exposure to UVR. However, quality shade needs to be planned and provided with careful thought if it is to be effective. This is where your Council can play an important role through the planning and design of good quality shade.

2. The role of local policy in shade provision and skin cancer prevention

Local planning provisions have a key place in ensuring the practical planning and delivery of shade, as does other policy that encourages the retention and addition of shade in a range of settings. As such, the Institute urges Council to 'step up' its priority for natural and built shade by:

1. **recognising shade** as a key planning, design and health issue for your LGA
2. **recognising the range of co-benefits** of shade in addition to protection from UVR ie comfort, shelter, aesthetics, biodiversity, reduction of the urban heat island effect, less evaporation, climate resilience, cooling of surrounding areas, improvements in health and wellbeing etc.
3. **preparing policy** to specify high quality design principles for shade in new private developments (for example by updating Development Control Plans for residential and commercial development)
4. **preparing policy** (eg Engineering Guidelines) to ensure the provision of adequately budgeted and well-designed shade in public spaces and as part of public infrastructure eg in playgrounds, recreation areas, commercial and activity centres, bus stops, along footpaths and streets etc.

Shade: A planning and design priority that prevents skin cancer, 2019 provides a summary of the benefits of shade, and its importance in the planning process.

Guidelines to Shade - A practical guide for shade development in New South Wales, 2013 provides practical design details and guidance for Council and can be referenced in Council policies and engineering guidelines etc. It is also a useful reference for engineering and facilities staff involved in the design and installation of shade structures.

3. Specific suggestions regarding Council's draft LSPS

The Institute recognises the LSPS as the key strategic land use planning document for your LGA for the following 20 years, and hence considers it vital to include within it specific references to shade provision.

The attached [example LSPS text relating to shade provision](#) provides detailed suggestions to assist you in finalising your LSPS. The example text outlines:

- Why shade (both natural and built) is important
- The co-benefits of well-designed shade and green spaces
- What is well-designed shade?
- Detailed LSPS actions relating to review of DCPs, consideration of shade in specific types of DAs and public infrastructure assessment, and commitment to shade provision in Council projects and infrastructure provision.

4. Summary

The Institute's key message is that the provision of well-designed, appropriately located and properly budgeted built and natural shade is integral to assisting the community in reducing its over-exposure to UVR, and hence in reducing the risk of skin cancer in the community.

Local planning strategies/guidelines and DCP provisions have a key place in ensuring the practical planning and delivery of shade, as does policy that encourages the retention and addition of shade in a range of settings. Council's draft LSPS is critical to setting the agenda for the development of such policy in the future, and the Institute has been pleased to provide practical suggestions on how this can be done.

5. Further information and assistance

Resources regarding how to design good quality shade for UVR protection, tools for performing shade audits, and shade case studies are provided in the *Additional Information* section below.

We can provide assistance in developing local government policy and strategy relating to shade, and can refer you to technical documents for the planning and construction of shade. A consultant Registered Planner, Jan Fallding RPIA, has been engaged by the Institute to offer further support to regional Councils.

Further information and assistance can be obtained from the Institute:

Nikki Woolley or Nicola Groskops, Skin Cancer Prevention & Healthy Lifestyles
Email: CINSW-SkinCancerPrevention@health.nsw.gov.au or Phone: 8374 3661

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Council's draft LSPS. Please keep the Institute informed as to the progress of the LSPS and any further relevant planning policy related to shade.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Sarah McGill
Director of Cancer Screening & Prevention, Cancer Institute NSW

1 April 2020
Copy: Western NSW Local Health District

References

1. Armstrong BK, Kricger A. 1993. *How much melanoma is caused by sun exposure?* Melanoma Research 3(6):395-401.
2. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2016. *Skin cancer in Australia. Cat. no. CAN 96. Canberra: AIHW*
3. Cancer Institute NSW Statistics Portal [https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/data-research/access-our-data/cancer-statistics-nsw#//](https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/data-research/access-our-data/cancer-statistics-nsw#/)
4. Parsons, P., Neale, R., Wolski, P. & Green, A. 1998, *The shady side of solar protection*, Medical Journal of Australia, 168: 327-330.

Additional information

- i. Cancer Council NSW, 2013: [Guidelines to Shade - A practical guide for shade development in New South Wales](#)
- ii. Cancer Institute NSW, 2017: [NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy](#)
- iii. Cancer Institute NSW, 2019: [Shade: A planning and design priority that prevents skin cancer](#) (also attached to this submission)
- iv. Cancer Institute NSW, 2019: [Sun protection behaviours in NSW, 2017](#)
- v. Cancer Institute NSW, undated: [How schools, councils, community groups and sporting organisations created shade: 10 Case Studies](#)
- vi. Fallding, J for NSW Skin Cancer Prevention Strategy Shade Working Group, 2019: [Shade Provision: Suggested text for inclusion in Local Strategic Planning Statements](#) (also attached to this submission)
- vii. cancer.nsw.gov.au/shade-and-uv
- viii. cancercouncil.com.au/cancer-prevention/sun-protection/shade-and-sun-protection
- ix. healthstats.nsw.gov.au

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TS-18

Christine Baker

From: mail CSC
Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2020 3:47 PM
To: Garry Ryman
Cc: Karen Warren; Planning Environment
Subject: FW: Shelter NSW Submission - Cobar Shire Draft LSPS
Attachments: Cobar Shire Draft LSPS submission.docx



Christine Baker

Records & Information Supervisor, Corporate and Community Services
Cobar Shire Council | 36 Linsley Street (PO Box 223) | Cobar NSW 2835
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From: Shelter Admin <admin@shelternsw.org.au>
Sent: Thursday, 9 April 2020 3:35 PM
To: mail CSC <mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Stacey Miers <stacey@shelternsw.org.au>
Subject: Shelter NSW Submission - Cobar Shire Draft LSPS

Hi there,

Shelter NSW would like to submit this letter of support for Cobar Shire’s Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement, and acknowledge the report’s strong commitment to sustainable and secure housing outcomes for all moving forward. We are aware that the deadline for submissions has passed, however, we apologise and hope you will still take our comments into consideration in the development of the final LSPS.

We have attached a letter which includes our formal support for the Draft LSPS, as well as some comments on how we believe Cobar Shire Council can best deliver secure and affordable housing within the LGA. Please let us know if you have any questions or wish to discuss this further. We would be happy to offer our advice on the development of effective housing policy.

Feel free to give our CEO John Engeler a call on 0410 402 212, or our Principal Policy Officer Stacey Miers, who helped prepare this submission, on 0410 633 272.

Thank you, and kind regards,

James Sherriff
Project Officer | Shelter NSW
Level 1, 241 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Tel: (02) 9267 5733 ext.11 | Mob: 0451 998 602
www.shelternsw.org.au | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

| | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-------|--------|
| Cobar Shire Council | | | |
| TS-18 | FOLIO No. 126713 | | |
| OPES | | | |
| Info | Process | Reply | Report |

Shelter



Shelter NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge the deep and lasting connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians as the custodians of our Country.

We pay our respects to the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation, past and present, on whose traditional land we work. Always was, always will be, Aboriginal land.

Submission

Cobar Shire Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement



Introduction

Shelter NSW appreciates the opportunity to comment on Cobar Shire Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (February 2020). We congratulate Council on its draft plan and support many of Actions listed for Council to meet the Far West Regional Plan direction and to achieve its vision.

As the peak body for housing policy in NSW, Shelter NSW is making submissions on all draft statements in regional councils expecting significant residential growth. The LSPS will build a bridge between state and local government plans for land use which makes it a key opportunity to promote dialogue about creating a better housing system. The purpose of this submission is to ensure that the LSPS process helps to create a secure home for all.

We have identified a number of practical policy and planning mechanisms that could be used to either support or strengthen the final LSPS in its aim to deliver both affordable and more diverse housing options.

Our submission is structured in four parts. We have provided an overview of Shelter NSW's role as the state's peak body for housing policy advocacy; a summary of the key messages we heard throughout our recent consultation sessions across NSW to develop a new vision for the future of our housing system; an overview of the critical housing Actions in the draft LSPS with comments; and finally, we make several recommendations seeking endorsement from the council to be included as Actions for the final LSPS.

About Shelter NSW

Shelter NSW is the state peak body for housing policy advocacy. Established in 1975, we represent broad interests across the housing system instead of a specific industry or sector view. Our diverse network of partners includes organisations and individuals that share our vision of a secure home for all. We pursue this vision through critical engagement with policy and by providing thought leadership.

As an independent non-profit organisation, we advocate for systemic housing policy reform and provide advice on policy and legislation. In doing so, we research the causes of inequity within the NSW housing system and promote solutions that ensure better housing outcomes for households on lower incomes. We then leverage this expertise to engage and collaborate with the sector to work towards an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable housing system.

Key messages from Shelter NSW's visioning sessions

In 2019, Shelter NSW held seven workshops across regional NSW and Greater Sydney to develop a shared vision for a better housing system. Close to 200 community members spoke at these sessions about the problems they see as facing the housing system and the actions they want to see to address them. Here is a summary of their insights that are relevant to all levels of Government.

1. Make plans that emphasise housing as a home, not just an investment

The concept of 'home' should be at the core of the housing policy. It underpins health, social connections and participation in work and society. However, speculative investment in housing and the standard model of development is not delivering housing people need or can afford. The Government needs to talk with communities about these problems and discuss solutions. Once they do, they should make a plan for specific regions that addresses the issues they can control and work with other levels of Government on ones they cannot.

2. Build places and communities, not just houses and towers

New housing should be located close to jobs and services and improve the quality of existing neighbourhoods. Well-connected and well-designed homes make it easy for people to get around and transition between various stages of life. However, developers seem to be delivering either car-dependent sprawl or low-quality density. Both result in different kinds of congestion and unpleasant environments. They need to find a middle ground to win community support. Government authorities can help them do so through its planning, support for innovative designs and investment in infrastructure.

3. Provide diverse housing that everyone can afford, not just high-income earners

The housing system should be as diverse as the community to give people the options they need. Ageing households can then downsize, and young people can become independent. Women can then leave abusive relationships, and First Nations people can live on Country. Students can then focus on their education, and key workers can live in their communities. Most important, people experiencing homelessness can find a secure home. To provide these options, governments need to invest in social and affordable housing as well as create more diversity in the housing market.

4. Make renting a genuine alternative to ownership, not just a transition phase

Tenants should be able to expect security and a high level of service when they rent their home. This protection is especially true now that homeownership is in decline. However, the possibility of no-grounds evictions makes it hard for tenants to put down roots or request repairs. Equally, social housing has become seen as a temporary safety net which is increasingly rationed and run-down. Governments need to ensure rental housing is both secure and high quality. It can do so by amending laws and policies that support long-term renters and providers of suitable housing options.

5. Use housing policy to address climate change, not exacerbate it

Our built environment should help us transition to a zero-carbon economy. Housing design and construction techniques can reduce our energy consumption and extraction of new resources. So too can planning and subdivision protect our homes from natural hazards and limit our reliance on cars and lifts. Trees can cool our streets and infrastructure can make them walkable. All of this improves our health and saves us money. Governments need to use all of these tools to prevent and avoid the worst effects of climate change which we are just starting to see and feel.

Comments on housing-related Actions

Shelter NSW appreciates that the council’s Draft LSPS aims to take into consideration long-term trends in the local housing system and identify what is essential in terms of future community needs. We also note the efforts made to identify and mitigate any negative trends concerning recreation, employment, housing, and goods and services provision.

It is clear that although Cobar Shire has a small population, it has many housing-related needs that are unmet: the LGA has a high percentage of renters despite higher than average rental costs for a rural area; people are living in overcrowded housing conditions; there is limited public housing stock for low-income residents; a lack of suitable affordable housing for young people; and a small percentage of the population identify as being homeless or needing housing assistance.¹

The following table outlines the proposed actions in the LSPS related to improving both the affordability and diversity of dwelling types in the LGA, and housing choice for local residents. It highlights any proposed housing-related Actions and provides additional feedback on ways to support or strengthen them. In the case that our suggestions go beyond the direct control of the council, we are happy to collaborate on any future work in our capacity as the state’s peak body for housing advocacy.

| Table – Council Proposed Strategic Actions & Shelter NSW Comments |
|--|
| Proposed Strategic Outcome - Sustainably manage residential development |
| Shelter NSW Comments for Consideration by the Council |
| <p>We believe the council should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. consider ways to deliver more housing diversity by replacing all R2 Low-Density Residential Zone with R1 General Residential zone across the whole LGA, as this would support opportunities for different housing options to be delivered more broadly. 2. consider measures to support older residents to age in place through the delivery of the SEPP - Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability (2004). Any such housing should be linked to town centres and essential services. 3. work with public, community, and Aboriginal housing providers to facilitate the delivery of new affordable housing options. 4. also work with public, community and Aboriginal housing providers to ensure dwellings are adequately maintained to improve the survivability of structures vulnerable to bushfires or drought. This work should seek to actively integrate the knowledge and experience of local Indigenous communities, in recognition of the need for sustainability and self-determination in any land management undertaken within the LGA. |

¹ Note: Medium rent in Cobar is \$300 per week while the median sale price is only 220,000 (2020)

Sources:

Cobar Weekly. There’s more to homelessness than sleeping rough. 16th of August 2017.

<https://cobarweekly.com.au/theres-more-to-homelessness-than-sleeping-rough/>

Parliament of NSW Legislative Council Parliamentary Inquiry into Social, Public and Affordable Housing Submission by the Housing Alliance of NSW community housing providers Armidale, Deniliquin, Lismore and Orange. 28 February 2014

<http://static1.squarespace.com/static/56a56b4a05f8e21e9555eb4e/t/577e3a309f74568b965d866d/1467890240157/Alliance+2014.pdf>

5. consider a requirement in the council's DCP that every new residential dwelling includes a non-plastic water tank.
6. consider developing a local housing strategy that takes into consideration ways to address the current unmet housing needs outlined above.

Proposed Strategic Outcome - Deliver long-term water security

Shelter NSW Comments for Consideration by Council

Shelter NSW supports this Action and would encourage the council to consider the following initiatives:

1. undertaking a consultation with public, community, and Aboriginal housing providers to look at water efficiency initiatives aimed at mitigating intense weather events,
2. encouraging any new residential development to be 'clustered housing' with an open corridor design between houses, as opposed to a scattered model (as the clustering of dwellings provides better protection through consolidated vegetation management practices).
3. working with public, community and Aboriginal housing providers to ensure dwellings are adequately maintained to improve the survivability of structures in time in terms of bush fires or drought.
4. working to ensure that Indigenous communities have appropriate access to water, water systems, and other natural assets in respect of the community's traditional sovereignty and land-rights.

Proposed Strategic Outcome- Respect and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage assets

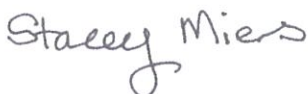
Shelter NSW Comments for Consideration by Council

- Shelter NSW would like to see a commitment by Council to work with the Local Aboriginal Land Council on the development of a strategic plan aimed at supporting the sustainable and self-determined delivery of additional housing opportunities for their landholders. We note that the development of LALC land should always be driven by the needs and priorities of the LALC and the community.

Thank you

Shelter NSW appreciates the opportunity to comment on Cobar Shire's Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (2020). We hope that the comments and insights we have provided bring some value to the council's strategic planning work in the housing policy space. We are also happy to engage with the council on the issues raised in our submission. If you wish to discuss our submission in more detail, please contact Stacey Miers on 0410 633 272 or by email at stacey@shelternsw.org.au.

Sincerely Yours,



Principal Policy Officer Shelter NSW
Stacey Miers

Sincerely Yours,



Chief Executive Officer Shelter NSW
John Engeler