



ANNEXURES

**Ordinary Council Meeting
Under Separate Cover
Wednesday, 10 August 2022**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH - PROGRESS REPORT

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Annexures: 1. Coonamble's Real Country Proposed Experiences

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on recent activities and the progress of projects which contribute to the economic development and growth of the Local Government Area (LGA).

BACKGROUND

The Economic Development and Growth function is tasked with providing effective and efficient delivery of a broader economic base for the LGA, enhancing business prospects, growth, and development. The function facilitates the development of programs and activities that will stimulate economic development by assisting growth and retention of businesses, as well as aiming to reduce barriers and attract diverse, sustainable, and responsible new industry development and improve the profile of the Coonamble LGA to attract investment, industry, new residents, and tourism.

(a) Relevance to Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

ED1.2 Develop our economy, including the visitor economy.

(b) Financial Considerations

Activities undertaken as described by this report are within approved operational budget allocations for tourism and economic development activities and capital projects or are funded through grant monies.

COMMENTARY**Regional NSW – Business Development and Strategy Development Fund**

The NSW Government has launched the Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund to support local councils in developing a pipeline of investment-ready projects.

It provides funding to Councils and other organisations to develop business cases or strategies for projects that will deliver economic and social benefits to regional NSW, so that they will be better placed to take up future grant opportunities as they arise.

A constraint on the potential submissions that can be made by Coonamble Shire Council is that the proposed strategy or infrastructure must benefit at least two Local Government Areas.

Examples of eligible submissions include master planning of transport and logistics infrastructure to support industry growth and a business case for shared infrastructure supporting the visitor economy in a region.

Council staff developed a short list of projects from the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program, arriving at the following projects of significance not only to the

Coonamble Local Government Area but with one or more of its neighbouring Council areas:

- Upgrade of the Coonamble Saleyards to a size that fosters sales that are attractive to a regional rather than just local market.
- Development of tourism infrastructure that promotes the visitor economy.
- Development of a waste transformation facility that converts all inert, non-biodegradable waste into road base.
- Development of a bioplastic manufacturing plant to transform wheat stubble and other organic matter into biodegradable plates, cutlery and straws for the takeaway food industry.
- Development of an electronic/digital system to coordinate farms, harvest teams, truck deliveries, grain receival points, diesel mechanics and emergency services, so that grain growers have a central point to find and book a harvest team and whereby fully loaded trucks are allocated a queue position without their having to queue physically. This would reduce stress on the grain grower, reduce the incidence of trucks speeding on local roads to reach the end of the queue at the silo, and reduce truck driver fatigue by giving them the opportunity to sleep while awaiting their position in the queue to unload.
- Development of a series of road counters on major roads into and out of our own and other Local Government Areas to determine the type, size and number of vehicles using our roads, in order to capture data to substantiate future road grants.
- Development of a grid of weather stations across Coonamble and neighbouring Local Government Areas to provide more localised weather information, such as rainfall, that can impact grain production and harvest and inform more specific road closures when necessary.

Following on from the preparation of this short list, Coonamble Shire Council has joined with Gilgandra Shire and Warrumbungle Shire Councils to enhance the shared 'Real Country' tourism strategy, with a view to attracting funding to develop the business case for significant infrastructure that strengthens the visitor economy in each of the three Local Government Areas, such that their local economies are less susceptible to the 'ups' and 'downs', 'boom' and 'bust' that is associated with climate-related cycles in the agricultural industry. See the attachments to this report for a more comprehensive description of the suggested infrastructure for Coonamble Local Government Area. It should be noted that Council is only seeking funds to prepare feasibility and business cases for the proposed infrastructure at this point.

In addition, Council staff met with representatives of the Department of Regional NSW in late July to gauge their perspective on the proposals short-listed above. They showed particular interest in the waste transformation facility, bioplastic manufacturing plant and harvest coordination system—commenting on the potential economic and employment boost these could give to Coonamble, if they prove feasible.

Submissions must be made by 24 August 2022.

Grants

Overview

Status	This Month	Last Month	Year to Date
Grant-funded projects completed	2	1	16
Grants to be acquitted	6	6	
Grants in progress	13	15	
Grant submissions awaiting decision	8	5	
Successful grant applications	2	1	13

Detailed Status

Grants completed and awaiting acquittal	Responsibility	Comment
Coonamble Community Recycling Centre	ESM&C	
School Holiday Break Program	ESM&C	
Eat Street	ED&G	
Public Art at town entrances	ED&G	
Toooloon Street Pedestrian Crossing	INF	
Solar Power installation at Warrena Weir	C&S	

Grants in progress	Responsibility	Comment
Coonamble Sports Ground Upgrades	C&S	Extension granted.
Quambone Park Toilet (LRCI Phase 2)	C&S	Extension requested.
Gulargambone Youth Centre external upgrades	ESM&C	Final stages underway.
Restore Trooper Stables at Museum	ESM&C	Awaiting DA submission.
Riverside Caravan Park Development	ED&G	Ongoing
Koori Knockout Participation	ESM&C	Taking expressions of interest from teams.
Volunteer Bus Driver Training	ESM&C	Taking expressions of interest.
Coonamble Transport Initiative	ESM&C	Allocated as required.
Coonamble Kids Transport Initiative	ESM&C	Allocated as required.
Youth Council re-establishment	ESM&C	Variation being drafted.
Women's Change Rooms at Sportsground	ED&G	Deed signed
Walking Loop around Sportsground	ED&G	Deed signed
Coonamble Family and Youth Fest	ED&G	Awaiting deed

Recent grant submissions:

1. Community Heritage Grant Program: Council has applied for the full allocation of \$5,500 to engage a curator to provide a significance assessment of the collections of the Museum Under the Bridge, in order to prioritise our preservation and exhibition work. This project will allow us to identify different themes of significance within our collections and to develop and enhance our exhibitions and displays. It is the first in a set of three stages of the Community Heritage Grant Program to improve local museums.

2. Crown Reserve Infrastructure Fund: Council and the Quambone Resources Committee collaborated to submit an application to install disabled public amenities

at Quambone Racecourse/Sportsground, to fence the perimeter of the reserve and to repair the entrance road. An amount of \$ 168,830 (including GST) was requested to complete these works.

3. Active Australia Innovation Challenge: Council made a submission totalling \$10,000 in response to the Active Australia Innovation Challenge, to purchase Fit Bits for seniors in the community and to organise a series of fun, active events in order to stimulate their health awareness and to generate data for their health practitioner teams.

4. NSW Seniors Festival: Council has made a submission for \$1,000 as a contribution towards its Seniors Festival in March 2023. Three tiers of funding are available to Local Government: \$1,000, up to \$5,000 and up to \$10,000. Coonamble Shire Council has endeavoured to attract funding during the past two years for amounts up to \$5,000 but was unsuccessful in each instance. This year the submission was for \$1,000, which has been successful in earlier years.

5. Youth Opportunities Program: Council has applied for \$48,200 under the Youth Opportunities Program (competitive grant funding) that closed on 8 August. Submissions were limited to funding of between \$10,000 and \$50,000. The submission outlined a series of three youth-led activities that develops within the participants confidence to participate in their community and to learn a range of skills that strengthen their ability to support their future economic participation in it. The submission was developed from conversations with youth at Coonamble High School, with input from young people in Gulargambone and Quambone. If successful, the project would be delivered between April and December 2023.

Future grant opportunities

Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5: This has been announced but, at the time of writing, news of the specific amount allocated to Coonamble Local Government Area has not been received. A number of potential projects are being considered and will be recommended to Council for its prioritisation of these at its September meeting. Submissions must be submitted by 23 September 2022.

Large Grants Program for Regional NSW – Children and Young People Well-Being Recovery: for grants of up to \$50,000, with a deadline of 31 December 2022 or earlier if all funds are allocated before this date. A submission could be made by Council to enhance or sustain the Coonamble Family and Youth Fest activities, or those applied for under the Youth Opportunities Program, so that such activities continue into the future.

Regional Tourism Activation Fund: A second round of this fund has been announced, and Council has been encouraged by representatives of the Department of Regional NSW to re-submit the application to develop the Coonamble Artesian Bathing Experience in Coonamble. Applications close on 27 September 2022.

Communications

The most frequently visited web pages of the past month have been Contact Council (458 visits), Road Conditions (454 visits), Employment (447 visits), Tenders and Requests for Quotations (390 visits) and Council meetings (388 visits).

Council continues to maintain its communication with the community through:

- 1 x weekly half-page advertisement, *Weekly Connect* in *The Coonamble Times*, with unique content – advertising Requests for Quotations, Tenders and Expressions of Interest, policies and other reports currently on public exhibition and upcoming events for the community.
- Paid classified advertising for current tenders, requests for quotations, expressions of interest and positions vacant.
- Posts in the News column on the homepage of Council’s website, on various topics as required.
- Posts in the Events Calendar hosted on Council’s website.
- Posts on Council’s Facebook page, on various topics as required.
- Council’s website – sharing all policies, plans and procedures, fees and charges, and documents for public exhibition, in the spirit of open and transparent governance.
- Media releases as required – on road conditions, water supply interruptions, etc.

The Facebook posts that achieved the greatest reach during July related to the opportunity for local contractors to quote for about eight projects (with a reach to 2,424 people for one post promoting the opportunities and a reach of 1,632 for a post highlighting the inspection schedule for these jobs), positions vacant posts (a reach to 1,684 people for one post and 1,216 people for another post) and notice of the closure of local roads and the highway for the NAIDOC Week March (reaching 1,349 people). A further 8 posts attracted more than 500 hits.

Although an informal medium of communication from Council to the Community, Facebook continues to be an efficient and timely medium by which to share information quickly and widely with the community.

With a current following of just over 2,400 people on Facebook and a lessening in the rate of new followers each month, this would suggest we have potentially saturated our reach within our social media audience of people 14+ years of age. In the past 13 months (since July 2021), the number of followers has grown by about 25%.

Social Media (Facebook) Summary

Measure	This Month	Last Month	Year to Date
Number of posts	19	17	328
Increase in number of followers	24	16	+553
Total number of followers	2,487	2,463	
Reach	15,700	12,553	

Tourism Promotion

@visitcoonamble social media pages continue to increase reach. Posts on the Visit Coonamble Facebook page reached over 7,700 people during the past month. Page likes and followers increased by 19 people.

The most popular post on Facebook were images of Joe's Quality Meats. This post reached 5,700 people and had 302 engagements which means 302 people either liked, shared, commented, clicked to read the entire caption or stayed on the post for longer than 10 seconds.

The audience on the Visit Coonamble Instagram page increased by 30 followers this month, with 326 content interactions (likes, comments, shares, and saves). A total number of 4,400 accounts were reached, with less than a quarter of that amount being followers – meaning that a much broader audience see our posts regardless of follower size. The number of people following the Visit Coonamble Instagram is 984 people.

The most popular post on Instagram was a post about upcoming events in Coonamble and linking them to our events section on the council's website. This post reached 552 people.

During July, @visitcoonamble social channels continued publishing stories which have experienced a steady increase in the number of engagements. An average of 150 people was reached per post over the last month (including content engagement such as polls). Along with stories there were several Reels posted on Instagram, which had a reach of over 1,000 people per post.

Three Regions – Real Country Campaign

The Tourism and Events Officer has been working closely with the Gilgandra Shire and Warrumbungle Shire on a collaborative marketing project – 'Real Country'. Communications consultant, Enigma, was appointed to undertake a photography and content-creation project to provide the three regions with creative and attractive marketing materials.

Weekly zoom meetings are being held with the three councils in the lead up to the launch of the mini campaign on 15 August 2022.

Tourism Statistics

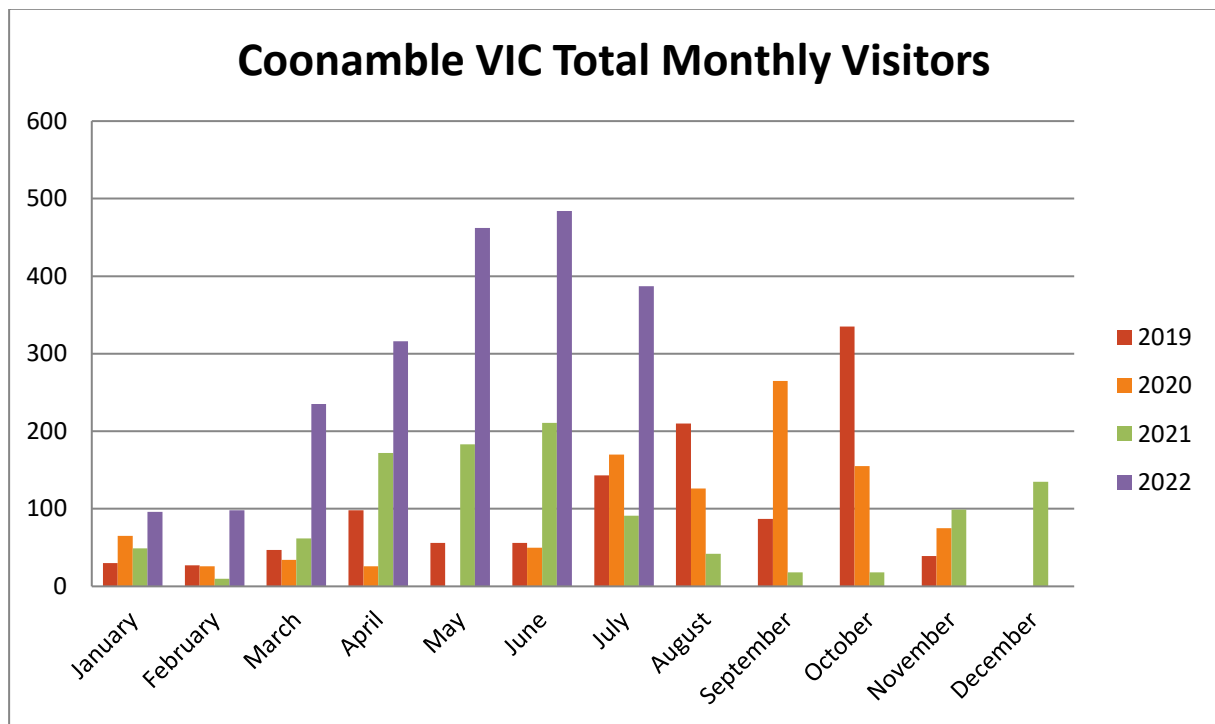
During July 2022, visitor numbers to the Information and Exhibition Centre were fewer than in the previous month. A total of 387 people visited during July, however, this is still well above previous years' numbers.

The District Store continues to sell products by local artists, with visitors being directed to the individual suppliers for a wider range of goods to purchase as souvenirs. Several local suppliers have approached the Information and Exhibition Centre over the past couple of months to inquire about showcasing their products at this location.

New merchandise has also been developed for sale at the centre, with the following products now for sale.



The 'School Bus' sculpture, by Brian Campbell, continues to prove a significant attraction, with many visitors coming into the centre and commenting on the craftsmanship involved.



Museum Under the Bridge

During July, the Museum welcomed 27 visitors.

A grant application for \$3,000 for new Museum signage was successful. Another small grant is being used to enhance storage practices at the museum.

Events

- **PAVE THE WAY TO GULAR**
 - The Tourism & Events Officer has met with the organisers of Pave the Way to Gular Festival to offer assistance for the event which will be held in Gulargambone on 10 and 11 September 2022. This year's event is set to be another successful event for the community with several artists already confirmed to attend.

(a) Governance/Policy Implications

Policies relevant to activities reported here include the Community Consultation Policy.

(b) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications directly associated to this report.

(c) Social Implications

Projects and initiatives described in this report are undertaken with the objective of delivering social benefits to the Coonamble LGA.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications directly associated to this report.

(e) Economic/Asset Management Implications

Development of an Artesian Bathing Experience and of proposed tourism infrastructure are initiatives to meet objectives of the Community Strategic Plan 2022-32, Delivery Program 2022-2026, Coonamble Shire Masterplan 2020, the Economic Development Strategy 2021 and the Coonamble Destination Management Plan 2020.

(f) Risk Implications

Regular reporting to Council provides an opportunity to communicate and manage any ongoing or unexpected related risks that may emerge.

CONCLUSION

Economic Development and Growth activities and projects continue to progress according to the Economic Development Strategy 2021. Tourism activities and projects continue to progress according to the Economic Development Strategy 2021, and work towards achieving the goals of the Coonamble Destination Management Plan 2020. The opportunity to develop business cases for future visitor economy infrastructure and manufacturing infrastructure build a foundation to extend these strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council note the contents of this report.
2. That Council endorse the submissions to be made under the Regional NSW – Business Case and Strategy Development Fund, as proposed in this report, and authorise the Acting General Manager to seek letters of support from neighbouring Councils for those proposals being led by Coonamble Shire Council.
3. That Council authorise the Acting General Manager to write a letter of support for the combined submission with Warrumbungle Shire and Gilgandra Shire Councils for the Business Case and Strategy Development Fund.
4. That Council endorse a submission under the Regional Tourism Activation Fund to develop the Coonamble Artesian Bathing Experience and authorise the Acting General Manager to seek letters of support, as required.

Coonamble's Proposed Destination Tourism 'Products' for the Regional 'Real Country' Experience

The issue: The economy of Coonamble Shire Council is heavily reliant on the agricultural industry which is subject to the vagaries of an unpredictable climate—especially prolonged drought and seasons of flooding rains—which causes flow-on stresses to all sectors of the community, both financially and psychologically.

The boom-and-bust cycles of agricultural input and its strong influence on the outlook of local business, industry and community is not conducive to considered, deliberate and sustained growth.

A solution: Coonamble Shire Council and its community identified the tourism industry as a more reliable and sustainable contributor to the local economy; one that is more resilient and not subject to the vagaries of climate.

While there are many 'raw' elements of interest to tourists within the Coonamble Local Government Area, these have yet to be developed as destination products to encourage and increase overnight tourist visitation.

To guide the appreciation of these 'raw' elements of tourism potential, Coonamble Shire Council has adopted the Destination Country and Outback NSW themes of:

- Celebrating Culture on Country
- Unlimited Horizons
- Exploring our Nature
- Revealing our Heritage
- Little Places, Big Stories
- Events

Coonamble Shire Council has learnt that its current tourism offering is not sufficient nor complete enough to be offered as a destination in its own right and has recently teamed with Warrumbungle Shire and Gilgandra Shire Councils to develop a regional tourism offer – Real Country – centred on our shared natural environment, particularly the Castlereagh River that flows through each of our Local Government Areas. The offerings of our combined regions do represent a substantial tourism offering, attractive to the significant domestic, metropolitan tourism market.

The economic effect: The current visitor profile from the (draft) Destination Management Plan 2022-30 of Destination Country and Outback NSW quantifies the average spend per trip as \$180/domestic day trip, and \$492/domestic trip (average 2.4 nights).

The detail: The projects proposed in the Coonamble LGA component of this application represent opportunities to capitalise on the majority of the themes of the Destination Country and Outback promotional strategy, being: Celebrating Culture on Country, Unlimited Horizons, Exploring our Nature, Revealing our Heritage and Little Places, Big Stories. They emphasise Connection to Water, Connection to Land and Connection to People.

Our projects can be visualised and contextualised as illustrated in Figure 1.

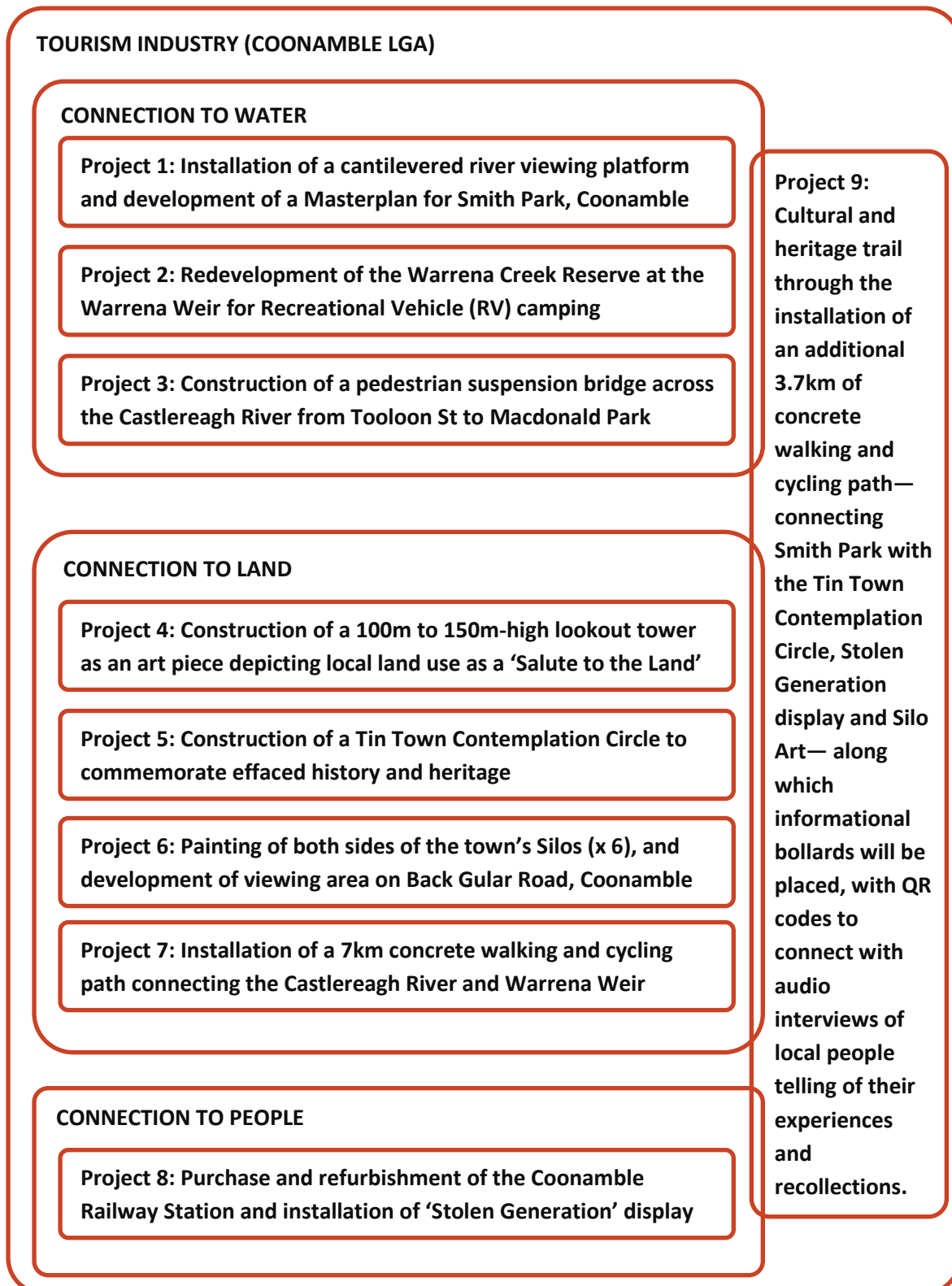


Figure 1: A visual representation of the suite of projects proposed as Coonamble's offering for a Real Country tourism experience in the region.

WORK PACKAGE 1

Project 1: Cantilevered River Viewing Platform and Smith Park Masterplan

Proposed Location: Smith Park, Coonamble, incorporating the Coonamble Information and Exhibition Centre, with the cantilevered River Viewing Platform situated midway along the park.



Figure 2: Smith Park outlined in yellow, with the proposed cantilevered river viewing platform shown in orange.

Parameters: A two-part feasibility and business case (including detailed costings of $\pm 30\%$ accuracy and listing authorising agencies from whom permission must be sort, along with a proposed project plan, where relevant, with key milestones, from design, through detailed authorisation by agency, to construction and opening), for:

- the most cost-effective construction of a cantilevered viewing platform (no pylons to be used within the riverbed itself) that extends to the centre of the riverbed, incorporating a Wailwan-inspired design for its flooring and/or safety railing, with interpretive signage regarding the river and local bird and tree species; and show-casing a vertical structure that showcases the designs utilised in the 'Salute to the Land' Lookout of Project 4; please also include likely annual visitor numbers utilising the structure.
- a masterplan for Smith Park as the premier tourist stop within Coonamble, to demonstrate more effective use of the space, proposing a list of inclusions and their more effective layout.

Considerations: There is a 50cm concrete levee wall between the Smith Park carpark and the river that must not be compromised.

WORK PACKAGE 2

Projects 2, 4 and 7: Development of a Masterplan for the Warrena Creek Reserve at the Warrena Weir for Recreational Vehicle (RV) camping and construction of a 150m-high ‘Salute to the Land’ lookout tower as a distinctive, unique yet functional art installation.

Proposed Location: Warrena Creek Reserve at Warrena Weir, Coonamble.



Figure 3: Detail of part of the Warrena Creek Reserve, with the proposed site of the ‘Salute to the Land’ lookout marked in Orange.

Parameters: A three-part feasibility and business case (including detailed costings of $\pm 30\%$ accuracy and listing authorising agencies from whom permission must be sort, along with a proposed project plan, where relevant, with key milestones, from design, through detailed authorisation by agency, to construction and opening), for:

- Development of a Masterplan for the Warrena Creek Reserve for its development as the premier RV and primitive camping site for Coonamble, along with public amenities, boat ramp, etc, as a place of recreation for visitors and local people, and incorporating the proposed ‘Salute to the Land’ of Project 4 and the proposed walking and cycling path of Project 7. This masterplan is to incorporate costings for the (Project 2) development of RV camping and other primitive camping at the site; refurbishment or extension of the public amenities and septic system; refurbishment or replacement of the barbecue and picnic table facilities.
- Construction of a ‘Salute to the Land’ lookout (Project 4) – a 150m (greater or lesser, depending on proximity to airport restrictions), four-sided, tower-type look-out structure, with internal public stairwell access to three levels of viewing platforms; walls to be clad with silhouettes of four designs, allowing internal coloured night lighting to shine through; silhouettes to be of a Wailwan design on one side (facing east), Kamilaroi design on the opposite site, facing west), wheat, grains and pulses (facing north) and cattle, sheep and horses (facing south); internal stairwell to be of sufficient width for emergency services to comfortably

evacuate an incapacitated visitor on a stretcher; the intention is to have a lookout that allows appreciation of the Warrumbungle Mountains to the east, sunsets to the west, and northerly and southerly views along Warrena Creek, and to make a unique, visual statement that ‘this is Coonamble’; to appreciate its lit appearance at night will encourage overnight visitor stays in Coonamble.

- Installation of a 7km concrete walking and cycling path (Project 7), connecting the Castlereagh River and Warrena Creek Reserve, of about 6km of new pathway at 2.5m wide, that would require a low-level culvert-type crossing downstream from the Warrena Weir and a pedestrian bridge, about 85m long x 2.5m wide, across the Warrena Creek at the easterly end of the reserve. This would also be incorporated into Project 9, the



Figure 4: Location of the 7km concrete walking and cycling path (shown in red), connecting the Castlereagh River, from Smith Park, through town to the Warrena Creek Reserve.

Considerations: This is Crown Land, with Council as its manager. The weir itself is used for water skiing by a local ski club, with restricted access to boating due to insurance issues. The area is subject to inundation during periods of flooding; very sandy soil so foundations for any tower structure will need significant investigation; the local airport is 3km and may limit height of any tower structure; the reserve abuts Coonamble Common and privately held lands; pigeons may be an issue; heat and ventilation may be an issue in summer.

WORK PACKAGE 3

Projects 5, 6 and 8: Construction of a Tin Town Contemplation Circle to commemorate effaced history and heritage (Project 5); Painting of both sides of the town's Silos (x 6), and development of viewing area on Back Gular Road, Coonamble (Project 6); and Purchase and refurbishment of the Coonamble Railway Station and installation of 'Stolen Generation' display (Project 8).

Proposed Location(s):



Figure 5: Locations of Project 5, the Tin Town Contemplation Circle north of Macdonald Park, Coonamble; Project 6, Silo Art and viewing area between Railway Street and Back Gular Road; and Project 8, the purchase and refurbishment of the Coonamble Railway Station and installation of a 'Stolen Generation' display in Railway Street, Coonamble.

Parameters: A three-part feasibility and business case (including detailed costings of $\pm 30\%$ accuracy and listing authorising agencies from whom permission must be sort, along with a proposed project plan, where relevant, with key milestones, from design, through detailed authorisation by agency, to construction and opening), for:

- Construction of a Tin Town Contemplation Circle to commemorate effaced history and heritage (Project 5), made up of a display utilising stencilled, rusted steel and corrugated iron, with interpretive signage and QR codes linking to recorded audio recordings from people who lived in Tin Town, where people can sit and contemplate these stories. This project will be located in the north-east corner of the Council-controlled Lot 1 DP 1160457, measuring about 10m x 10m. This

project maintains the memory of a now effaced, temporary locality where Wailwan and Kamilaroi peoples and itinerant workers lived (see a short history here: <https://eprints.usq.edu.au/39726/3/Will%27s%20Thesis%20final.1..pdf>).

- Painting of both sides of the GrainCorp-owned six silos and construction of a viewing area off Back Gular Road on Crown Land at Lot 1037 DP 1173130 (Project 6); services of one or two renowned silo artists to be utilised; viewing area to maximise photographic opportunities and to include picnic tables and sealed, off-street parking for a minimum of six cars or two cars towing vans; both sides of silos to be illuminated from sunset to 10pm.
- Purchase and refurbishment of the Coonamble Railway Station, installation of 'Stolen Generation' display, and reforming and sealing of the large carpark.

Considerations: Two of the three sites are corporately owned; grain trucks currently utilise the railway station car park, especially during harvest season. The Tin Town Contemplation Circle is the most emotionally charged of these sites, an aspect that needs to be treated and shared and respectfully. Tin Town was located further downriver from this site, but this is a more accessible location for such a commemorative installation. These sites will all be eventually linked with the Cultural and Heritage Walking and Cycling Trail (Project 9).

WORK PACKAGE 4

Projects 3 and 9: Construction of a pedestrian suspension bridge across the Castlereagh River from Tooloon St to Macdonald Park (Project 3) and installation of a Cultural and Heritage Walking and Cycling Trail (Project 9)

Proposed Location(s):



Figure 6: Location of the proposed pedestrian suspension bridge over the Castlereagh River from the end of Tooloon Street to Macdonald Park (Project 3), and part of the Cultural and Heritage Walking and Cycling Path (Project 9), linking to the Tin Town Contemplation Circle (Project 5).

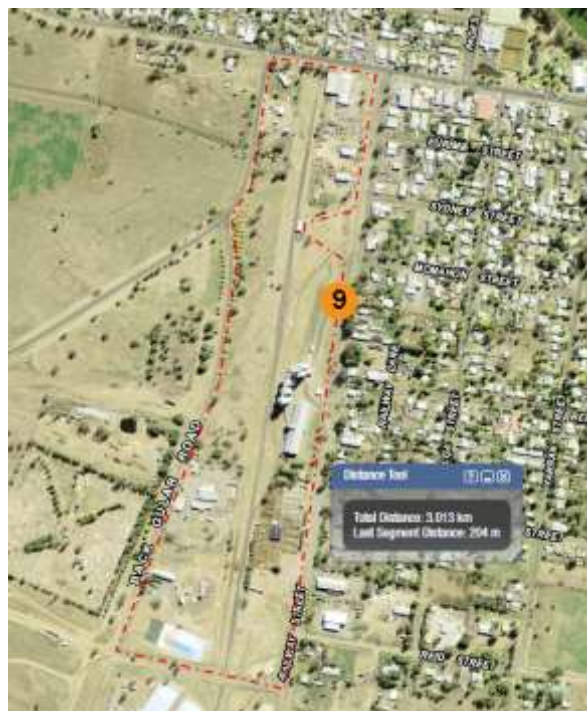


Figure 7: Part of the Cultural and Heritage Walking and Cycling Path (Project 9).

Parameters: A two-part feasibility and business case (including detailed costings of $\pm 30\%$ accuracy and listing authorising agencies from whom permission must be sort, along with a proposed project plan, where relevant, with key milestones, from design, through detailed authorisation by agency, to construction and opening), for:

- Construction of a pedestrian (and cycling) suspension bridge across the Castlereagh River from the end of Tooloon Street, on the eastern side of Coonamble, to Macdonald Park on the western side of Coonamble (Project 3).
- Development of a cultural and heritage trail (Project 9) through the construction of an additional 3.7km of concrete walking and cycling path—connecting Smith Park with the Tin Town Contemplation Circle (Project 5) (via the pedestrian suspension bridge across the Castlereagh River), and on to the Stolen Generation display at the Coonamble Railway Station (Project 8) and Silo Art (Project 6)— along which informational bollards are to be placed, with QR codes to connect with audio interviews of local people telling of their experiences and recollections. The cultural and heritage trail is to connect with the 7km walking and cycling path (Project 7) through Warrena Creek Reserve.

Considerations: The riverbank is sandy and subject to erosion and shift during flooding; hence the requirement for a suspension bridge over the river; a local primary school is located near the end of Tooloon Street; the pedestrian suspension bridge would give safer access from the school to sporting facilities at Macdonald Park, including the Coonamble Swimming Pool; it would also provide safer access for school children walking or cycling from the western side of the river to Coonamble High School on the eastern side.