

CULGOA & DISTRICT

LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN Town on the Tyrrell Creek





OUR VISION

A healthy, safe and prosperous community.

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The Culgoa community led by the Culgoa Community Development Group updated their community plan in 2017. Funding in 2018 from the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund supported the re-engagement of community to explore longer term issues and aspirations looking towards 2030.

The existing 2017 plan is the backbone for this renewed plan which has also captured recent consultation to shape the Buloke 2030 'whole of shire' integrated plan focusing on livability and economic development in the current rural environment.

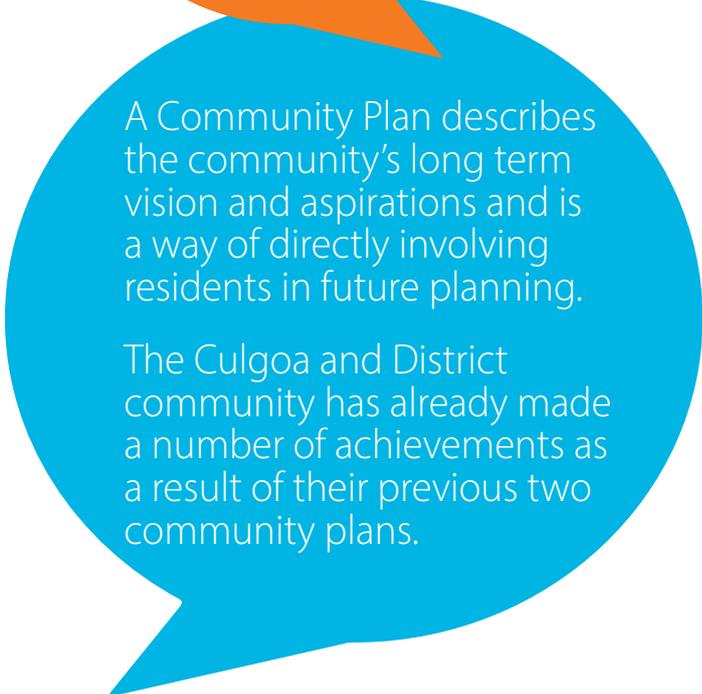
Residents in and around Culgoa were invited to share their thoughts through:

- l an online survey
- l community postcards
- l a drop in session
- l a focus group
- l a community workshop; and
- l draft plan feedback processes.

The Culgoa & District Local Community Plan is a community owned plan that captures community aspirations across a broad range of areas (not just local government). The plan gives voice to local aims and aspirations and provides an opportunity for involvement by people who are interested in shaping the future of Culgoa and District.



BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

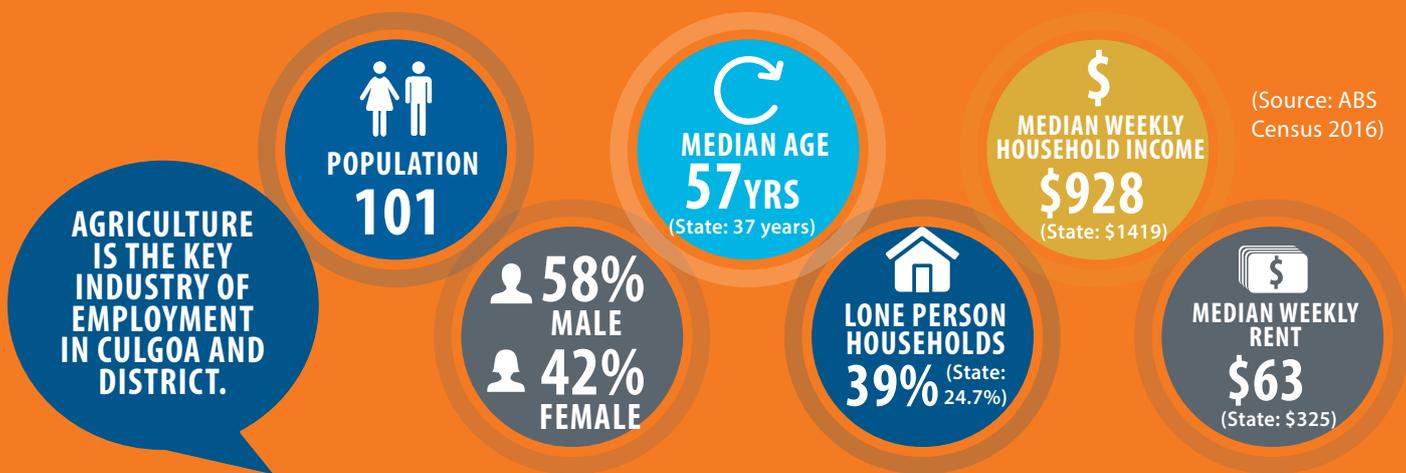


A Community Plan describes the community's long term vision and aspirations and is a way of directly involving residents in future planning.

The Culgoa and District community has already made a number of achievements as a result of their previous two community plans.

OUR COMMUNITY

Culgoa is the only town on the Tyrrell Creek; it was named from an Aboriginal word meaning river runs through. First called Kaneira (place where snake seen) the name later changed for railway purposes to avoid confusion with the nearby town of Kaniva.



OUR STRENGTHS

- ▮ Friendly and caring people
- ▮ New people are welcomed
- ▮ Diversity is accepted
- ▮ Strong community spirit
- ▮ Togetherness
- ▮ Everyone knows everyone

"It's like a big family in Culgoa".

"I like everything about Culgoa".

OUR ASSETS

- ▮ Community Store
- ▮ Tennis Courts
- ▮ CFA Shed
- ▮ Post Office
- ▮ Local Garage
- ▮ Kaneira Hotel
- ▮ Bowling Club
- ▮ Pipeline water
- ▮ Community Hall
- ▮ Tyrrell Creek
- ▮ Park
- ▮ Police Station
- ▮ Free Camping

"The store and the pub are important to town".

"The pipeline is magic".

OUR CURRENT CHALLENGES

- ▮ Keeping community store going
- ▮ Streetscape is looking tired
- ▮ Lack of town lighting
- ▮ Footpaths/culverts/drainage
- ▮ Lack of hard rubbish collection
- ▮ Attracting volunteers/volunteer burnout
- ▮ Getting people to stop in Culgoa
- ▮ Run-down houses in town
- ▮ Council response times
- ▮ Dealing with red-tape
- ▮ Road safety
- ▮ Access to health and wellbeing services
- ▮ Ageing toilet block
- ▮ Fruit fly
- ▮ Poor Internet/Mobile service

"You lose your footy, if you let the store go what does that mean?".

"Schools, Gov't, Banks have disappeared or gotten smaller".

OUR FUTURE CHALLENGES

Looking Towards 2030

Community members highlighted a range of challenges/trends that they felt were important to plan for.

- Ageing Community
- Population decline
- Bigger farms = less families
- Increased reliance on technology
- Access to health and wellbeing services
- Bigger trucks on roads that are already in disrepair
- Less Volunteers

"We are all peddling as hard as we can".

I have tried to use auctions online to buy stock and the internet here won't support it".

OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for the future have been captured under four key themes which are supported by longer term strategic directions and key actions to achieve these.

Importantly, these key directions were formed through reviewing the existing 2017 Community Plan and combining new ideas from recent community discussions.

OUR BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS: SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE.

1. Participate in the annual Clean –Up Australia Day.
2. Seek funding for the upgrade of public toilet facilities into a new shower and toilet block.
3. Explore options for beautifying the Water Tower.
4. Develop a plan for the rejuvenation of the town park.
5. Develop a footpath and drainage plan for Culgoa that will address areas of need including kerbing.
6. Secure water to ensure green spaces, parks and gardens can be maintained.
7. Regularly trim roadside trees to enable trucks and machinery to safely pass through.

ENHANCE AND DEVELOP TYRRELL CREEK.

1. Develop an arts/sculpture and walking trail along the Tyrrell Creek.
2. Revegetate the Tyrrell Creek using Indigenous plants along walking/bike tracks.

BEAUTIFICATION OF STREETScape AND TOWN ENTRANCES.

1. Enhance the Culgoa Streetscape for both residents and visitors alike.
2. Develop a wayfinding sign showing a map of Culgoa and key facilities/points of interest.
3. Beautify town entrances and improve signage.

PROTECT, MANAGE AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY.

1. Maintain trees and control weeds on council, crown and private land.
2. Retain water in the Tyrrell Creek.
3. Access water to fill the Billabong.
4. Apply for a town Fruit Fly Trap and educate community on the management of fruit fly.



OUR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS

ENHANCED COMMUNITY AND SERVICE SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS WHO ARE VULNERABLE AND OR ISOLATED.

1. Explore creative community transportation models e.g. use of school bus, community car that could support vulnerable residents to access medical services.
2. Advocate for improved public transport.
3. Advocate for the use of tele-health options in Buloke Shire.

OFFER AND PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AMONG RESIDENTS.

1. Develop a calendar of events for Culgoa.
2. Promote the Planned Activity Group (PAG).
3. Establish a Carers Support Group in Culgoa.
4. Work in partnership with Council as it provides library services in Culgoa.
5. Explore funding opportunities for the development of a Men's Shed.

A HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY.

1. Provide exercise classes in the Culgoa Hall/Supper Room.
2. Develop walking/bike tracks with information boards along the route.
3. Invite health services to provide local health checks.
4. Install outdoor exercise equipment along the walking track.
5. Relocate rubbish collection bins to the old tip entrance and offer hard rubbish Collection annually.
6. Develop a Drum Muster drop off point for the Shire.
7. Improve town lighting and add a light to the war memorial monument.
8. Advocate for the continued provision of local policing.

OUR ECONOMY

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS: INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY IN CULGOA & DISTRICT.

1. Provide local representation for the Buloke Tourism Board.
2. Develop a truck parking bay for overnight parking.
3. Develop the "Festival of Lights" on the Creek.
4. Create an Op-Shop Trail Map for Buloke Shire and promote the Culgoa Op-Shop.
5. Investigate the installation of a caravan dump point.
6. Promote Free Camping.

PROMOTION OF THE LIVEABILITY OF CULGOA & DISTRICT.

1. Promote Culgoa & District through radio, printed and social media.

STRENGTHEN THE CULGOA COMMUNITY STORE MODEL TO ENSURE FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY.

1. Source funding to conduct a business review of the Community Store so that ongoing sustainability can be achieved.
2. Develop a 'big event' for Culgoa and District with proceeds to support the Community Store.

ACCESS TO RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS.

1. Advocate for improved internet services.
2. Advocate for improved mobile phone coverage.

OUR COUNCIL & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

ENHANCED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, INVOLVEMENT AND SPIRIT.

1. Continue to plan and conduct regular Culgoa & District Forum meetings.
2. Encourage the involvement of new volunteers through a range of mediums e.g. community notices inviting involvement.

COUNCIL ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT ON COMMUNITY MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE.

1. Actively connect with the Council representative for Culgoa to ensure leadership and support from Council with identified community projects.

APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY LOCAL LAWS ENFORCEMENT.

1. Timely enforcement of local laws in relation to feral animals and unsafe or dilapidated houses.
2. Explore the opportunity for police to become delegated by-laws officer.

QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE AND IMPROVED RESPONSE TIMES FROM BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL.

1. Review emergency after-hours number protocols to ensure coverage for after-hours emergencies.
2. Improve Buloke Shire customer service quality and response times.



GETTING INVOLVED

If you would like to get involved in implementing the Culgoa & District Local Community Plan contact:

P. 1300 520 520

E. buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au

A. PO Box 1, Wycheproof VIC 3527
367 Broadway, Wycheproof VIC 3527



Buloke Shire Council

HOW DOES THIS PLAN FIT?

The ten Local Community Plans have informed the development of a 'whole of Buloke Shire' integrated Community Plan. The Buloke Shire Integrated Community Plan will inform Council's planning processes over the next three Council Planning phases up to 2030.



This Plan will also strongly inform the direction of a range of key stakeholder organisations that are connected to Buloke Shire communities.

PUTTING THIS PLAN INTO ACTION

Implementation of the Culgoa and District Local Community Plan will be driven by the Culgoa Community Development Group.

A key Council representative will be a member of the Forum to enable leadership and support from Council wherever appropriate. An action plan template has been developed to assist with local project planning and review.