

Progress in delivering
the goals of Liveable Leeton 2035 –
Community Strategic Plan

State of the Shire Report





Leeton Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Wiradjuri Country and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to all Aboriginal people and their cultures, and Elders, past, present and emerging of our Shire.

Wiradjuri People's connection to the land, sky and water is continual and unbroken.



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State of the Home Report



About this Report

The State of the Shire Report is a report on progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan (CSP): Liveable Leeton 2035 over the last three years. The aim of the report is to provide the community with a status update on how Council and other stakeholders are progressing toward achieving the goals set out in the CSP.

As stewards of this report on behalf of the community, Council thanks everyone who has contributed. All stakeholders and contributors are listed on page 78.

Liveable Leeton 2035 is a long-term plan that describes where the Leeton Shire community was in 2021 when the document was developed, where it wanted to be in the future (goals) and how it wanted to get there (strategies). *Liveable Leeton 2035* identifies the aspirations of our community for making Leeton Shire a better place to live, work and play.

As well as community goals and strategies, *Liveable Leeton 2035* identifies a series of data 'indicators' that can be used to measure whether there have been improvements for the community over time. The indicators don't measure everything. They just give a general sense of whether or not the community goals are being achieved.

The principle behind the CSP is that the community's plan and achieving the goals set out in the CSP is a whole-of-community responsibility. Everyone has a part to play: Council, other levels of government, businesses, organisations, groups and individuals.

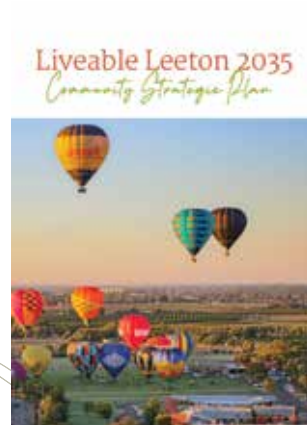
For Council, the CSP is a key guiding document in Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting

Framework. All Council's strategic documents have regard to and are linked to the CSP and feed into Council's Delivery Program (usually a 4-year plan but in this case a 3-year plan). Together with the Operational Plan (1-year plan) detail the activities Council will undertake in order to help the community achieve its aspirations.

The State of the Shire Report 2021–2024 provides an overview of Council's and the community's progress toward achieving the vision and outcomes of *Liveable Leeton 2035* during the term of Council.

The main section of the report, the section called Achieving our Community's Aspirations, is divided into the focus areas used in the CSP. Details of the strategies and key activities undertaken to achieve the CSP goals are listed under each theme. Council activities are listed, as are the activities of the stakeholders and state agencies who provided information. If the activity is not a Council activity, the name of the responsible stakeholder/agency is provided in brackets at the end of the activity.

The effectiveness of these actions and progress in achieving the community's goals is measured by changes in the trend data 'indicators' identified in the CSP. The data is presented graphically in each focus area. Data for some, but not many, of the indicators was found not to be available. Where this is the case, it has been noted.



Summary

Council is pleased to steward this 'State of the Shire' report on behalf of the Leeton Shire community. This report outlines the key achievements of the Council and the community from 2021/22 to 2023/24 in achieving the goals expressed in the Community Strategic Plan: Liveable Leeton 2035.

Leeton Shire continues to be one of the best places to live, work, play, and raise a family. This outstanding result is due to the fabulous contributions of many Leeton-based agencies, industries, businesses, non-profits, and individuals. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has made a positive impact.

Council reached out to as many of our partners as possible, inviting them to contribute information about their activities over the term to be included in this report. We are pleased with the response we received, but we recognise that there are still many whose significant contributions remain unshared. We hope this report will encourage them to showcase their successes in the future. As a community—encompassing the Council, local businesses, organisations, and individuals—our collective efforts have fostered significant progress in several key areas, as reflected in our trend data and indicator graphs used to 'Measure Our Success Over Time.'

As a community—encompassing the Council, local businesses, organisations, and individuals—our collective efforts have fostered significant progress in several key areas over the past three years, as reflected in our trend data and indicator graphs used to 'Measure Our Success Over Time.'

The majority of residents surveyed in 2024 rated their quality of life in Leeton Shire as "good" to "excellent." We have observed increases in the Shire's gross regional product, the amount of waste diverted from landfill, and the percentage of residents who appreciate the diverse artistic and cultural opportunities available in Leeton Shire.

Additionally, there has been a rise in the use of the indoor stadium, an increase in the total number of dwellings, a decrease in unemployment, a growth in available job opportunities, and a higher number of students completing secondary education. Numerous community initiatives have been implemented to provide services for all ages and enhance local employment.

Encouragingly, volunteering rates have increased, and there have been improvements in several health outcomes, including the establishment of a new emergency department at Leeton Hospital and reductions in hospitalisations related to alcohol and diabetes.

Some areas that the community feels need attention include welcoming new residents, reducing the long wait times for social housing—ranging from 2 to 10 years—improving access to health services and schools, and addressing domestic violence.

The State of Shire report provides us with a good opportunity to pause and reflect on all of the achievements and highlights of the past three years. It is a great point in time for us to look at how far we have come, what is ahead for us and what we will need to make the progress our community desires.

Difficulties we are having to face as a community include the cost of living and the increasing cost of having to do business. There is a misalignment between service levels and the ability to pay. Community and Council have yet to resolve what are needs and what are wants and how best to afford services and manage spend going forwards.

Over the past three years, the Council has implemented a targeted capital works and infrastructure refurbishment program to enhance the essential services and facilities we provide to the community.

Stage 1 of the Roxy Community Theatre redevelopment is nearly complete, with 95% of the work finished, successfully preserving the building's heritage while creating a multifunctional, fully accessible space.

Council also added a new waterslide at the Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre, which has been well-received by both locals and visitors. The CBD Enhancement Stage 3 Project successfully delivered a bold and beautifully designed Chelmsford Place Town Square, providing an attractive new gathering space that reflects our heritage.

Additionally, Council expanded its network of fully accessible public toilets, upgrading facilities in Sycamore Street, Leeton, Wattle Hill, Gogeldrie Weir and Wamoon.

The Wamoon Sewer Scheme has been finalised and the Leeton Early Learning Centre has been extended to accommodate more children. Ongoing major projects include the advancement of the WRConnect Freight Intermodal Project and the expansion of the Vance Industrial Estate, both of which have commenced.

The State of Shire report provides us with a good opportunity to pause and reflect on all of the achievements and highlights of the past three years. It is a great point in time for us to look at how far we have come, what is ahead for us and what we will need to make the progress our community desires.

We extend our gratitude to the community, clubs, not-for-profits, state agencies, Council staff and Councillors for their unwavering support and dedication over the past three years. Your hard work has been crucial in ensuring that Leeton Shire continues to thrive and prosper.

As the new Council steps into the role of stewarding the next Community Strategic Plan, we wish them every success. May they build upon the strong foundation laid and continue to serve the residents of Leeton Shire well.

The majority of those surveyed rated their quality of life in Leeton Shire as 'good' to 'excellent.'

Note: All photo captions and credits can be found on pages 76-77.

Your Councillors and The General Manager for the 2021-2024 Term



How Council has Helped Achieve Community Strategic Plan Aspirations – Highlights

A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community

- Established the new Youth Council
- Community Art Project-Survival Day Mural
- NAIDOC week events
- New 'Leeton Living' website
- Welcoming Cities Program
- Roxy Theatre redevelopment

A Safe, Active and Healthy Community

- Leeton Sporting Walk of Fame
- Shared pathway along Acacia Avenue, Palm Avenue and Corbie Hill loop
- Brobenah Road pedestrian bridge
- New Gamechanger Program
- Foodbank event collaboration in Leeton

A Thriving Regional Economy

- Ambition 2030 – An Economic, Tourism and Events Strategy for Leeton Shire
- Updated Housing Strategy for the Shire
- Vance Industrial Estate expansion
- Annual Australian Art Deco Festival and SunRice Festival (2022 and 2024)
- Art Deco Way touring route
- 15m tall soldier by artist Carla Gottgens on Whitton water tower and Whitton mural

A Quality Environment

- Leeton CBD Enhancement Project Phase 3 – Chelmsford Place Town Square
- New Wamoon Sewer Scheme
- CBD Facade Painting Project
- New twin slide – Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre
- Western Riverina Intermodal Freight Terminal (WRIFT) master plan and business case
- FOGO and solar installation projects
- Road rehabilitation and resealing works
- Upgraded park equipment and amenities

Strong Leadership and Civic Participation

- Advocacy on water security, housing and health services
- Councillor catchups
- Two community satisfaction surveys
- After hours call centre
- New CRM system



Snapshot of Council Achievements – 3 Years



19,009T
Waste recovered at
the Leeton Landfill and
Recovery Centre

More than
30
Events coordinated



561
DA's Approved




Average of
12.4km
Roads
resealed
per year*



*Not including MR80 or MR539

Average of
9.6km
Gravel roads
resheeted
per year



Average of
5km
Roads
rehabilitated
per year*




*Not including MR80 or MR539

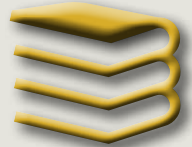
97
New Australian Citizens




420
Trees planted



More than
67,000
items
loaned at
the library




35,679
users of the
Leeton Indoor Stadium



Gross
Regional
Product
3.2%




More than
57,000
entries into the
swimming pools



Provided
\$154,332
community grants
and donations



More than
\$9M
in grants received



Total value of
capital works
\$43.65M







Community Satisfaction Survey – Highlights

Independent contractor Micromex Research and Consulting conducted a Community Satisfaction Survey on behalf of Leeton Shire Council in May 2024.

A total of 400 residents participated in the survey, which measured residents' satisfaction with various aspects of Council and their perceptions of their quality of life.

A similar survey was conducted in May 2019 and June 2021, which meant that Council could compare the data from both surveys and track changes in the community's quality of life and satisfaction ratings over time.

Some of the key results of the survey were:

- **Quality of life in the LGA:** Ninety-four percent (94%), of those surveyed rated their quality of life in Leeton Shire as 'good' to 'excellent', Good (21%), Very Good (42%) or Excellent (30%) which is on par with 2021 and 2019. Encouragingly, this result is higher than the Regional Benchmark

Ninety-four percent (94%), of those surveyed rated their quality of life in Leeton Shire as 'good' to 'excellent'

- **Highest satisfaction ratings:** As demonstrated by a higher rating out of 5, residents were most satisfied with Council's provision of: library services (4.33); ovals, sportsgrounds and sporting facilities (4.24); cemeteries (4.21); parks (4.14); golf course (3.99); festivals and events programs (3.95); and support for the multicultural community (3.94)

- **Lowest satisfaction ratings:** As demonstrated by a lower rating out of 5, residents were least satisfied with: local unsealed roads (2.87); Roxy Theatre (2.52); Council's efforts to advocate for water security, health services and housing (2.83); Council's ability to make good decisions (2.64); and Council's ability to demonstrate sound financial management (2.35)
- **Levels of importance:** When asked to rate levels of importance, respondents rated local sealed town roads (4.74) as being of most importance, followed by water supply services (4.72), parks (4.58), waste management including recycling and landfill (4.57) and cemeteries (4.56)
- **High levels of agreement:** When asked whether they agreed with a number of statements, the majority of respondents agreed that they feel safe during the day (90%), that Leeton Shire gives you a sense of living in community (85%), traffic systems provide for safe and efficient traffic flow (78%); people in Leeton Shire have fair opportunity to participate in community life (77%); and there is urban vitality and a good lifestyle quality in Leeton Shire communities (76%)
- **Low levels of agreement:** There were much lower levels of agreement with the statements: we have access to a good range of health services (21%), police services in Leeton Shire are responsive and effective (23%); public transport is adequate for needs (35%); weed incursions are adequately managed in the LGA (38%) and shops and services in shopping areas meet residents' needs (46%).

Most valued aspects: Consistent with 2021, the sense of community, rural lifestyle and peacefulness/quiet atmosphere are the most valued aspects living in Leeton Shire 2024. Noticeably, significantly more residents mentioned that there are more good employment and business opportunities



- **Most valued aspects:** Consistent with 2021, the sense of community, rural lifestyle and peacefulness/quiet atmosphere are the most valued aspects living in Leeton Shire. Noticeably, significantly more residents mentioned that there are more good employment and business opportunities compared to 2021.

For more information, please see the *Leeton Shire Council Community Satisfaction Results* available on Council's website.



Staff of the Leeton Sport



Achieving our Community Aspirations

Details of the key actions taken to progress the outcomes set by the Leeton Shire community are outlined in the following pages.

The information is organised according to the focus areas and outcomes set out in the *Liveable Leeton 2030*.

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1

FOCUS AREA 1:

A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community

What You Said:

We love living in Leeton because it is friendly, inclusive, and provides an exceptional quality of life at every stage, from childhood to senior years.

Our rich history, shaped by diverse cultures and events, is something we celebrate regularly and cherish as a community. Learning is a constant here, with quality education opportunities available for all ages.

There were four goals selected to move us towards our 10-year aspiration. Let's see how we are tracking.



State of the Shire Report

Focus Area 1. A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We are friendly, inclusive and connected



- Implemented a new Ageing Well Strategy 2021–2025
- Launched the 'Leeton Living' website – a partnership between Leeton Business Chamber, Leeton Connect and Council
- Established the refreshed Youth Council to provide an avenue for young people to engage with Council
- Supported Leeton-Narrandera Community Transport in delivering community transport services
- Provided venues of hire to the community such as the Leeton Multipurpose Centre and community halls in Murrumbidgee, Whitton and Yanco
- Updated Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) 2022–2025
- Replaced the Transport for the NSW railbus shelter on Benerambah Street in Whitton. This included replacing the concrete slab and platform, providing DIAP access to the existing footpath
- Improved disabled access to Council building entry and Council chambers
- Facilitated engagement opportunities for clients of all ages, including participation in community activities such as the Leeton SunRice Festival, Leeton Show, sports at Leeton Indoor Stadium, fishing at the river, and visits to the Fivebough Wetlands and Yanco Duck Park (Kurrajong Leeton)
- Facilitated a social group 'Kurrajong Thursday Troopers' to provide members with opportunities to connect with local organisations (Kurrajong Leeton)
- Conducted workshops on older driver licensing, mobility scooters and pedestrian safety
- Assisted people living with a disability to achieve their hopes and dreams and lead an inclusive lifestyle (My Plan Connect)
- Hosted 11 citizenship ceremonies with 97 people naturalised
- Curated 'Still Here' exhibition at the Leeton Museum and Art Gallery with the message that behind every person living with dementia is a unique individual with dignity and grace (Joanne Edwards, RFBI Masonic Village Leeton)
- Collaborated with community groups to celebrate the Seniors Festival, featuring a range of speaker talks and craft activities at the library

FOCUS AREA 1: A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We are friendly, inclusive and connected cont.



- Coordinated annual Youth Week events, including a mental health awareness presentation by Headspace Griffith, youth iPads, games, treasure hunts, a writing seminar and craft activities. Additionally, organised four events: Yoga, a Basketball Shootout, Zumba and Paint & Pizza at the Leeton Indoor Stadium
- Raised public awareness and promoted inclusion for the LGBTQIA+ community through various initiatives, including Wear It Purple Day, community Bazaar, a monthly support group called Coffee and a Chat, and the launch of an inaugural three-day Festival, which featured a street parade and exhibition (Leeton Rainbow Pride Collective Inc.)
- Supported Harmony Week celebrations, which included the unveiling of TAFE NSW's new multilingual welcome sign and a lunch at the Leeton Uniting Church with presentations from the Solomander Islander, Fijian, Afghani and Zimbabwean communities. Additionally, staff hosted a morning tea
- Participated in the Welcoming Cities Program—an initiative that supports local councils to build and sustain a welcoming community. Additionally made progress towards achieving advanced membership accreditation under the Leeton Shire Welcoming Cities Action Plan
- Featured in an episode of the ABC television program Back Roads, which focused on the Leeton Shire community's warm welcome of immigrants including refugees
- Operated Leeton Multicultural Support Group (LMSG) – a charity that works with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community members in Leeton Shire, ensuring integration and participation in vocation and life (LMSG)
- Led Aboriginal Interagency meetings to discuss support services for the local Aboriginal community (Leeton and District Local Aboriginal Land Council LDLALC)
- Provided an informal hub space for agencies, including Interrelate, Interreach, Murrumbidgee Pathways, Salvation Army Homeless Service and Service NSW to connect with community regarding programs and services (LDLALC)
- Provided a space for Narcotics Anonymous to meet (LDLALC)
- Hosted networking events between students, alumni and local professionals to enhance a sense of community and belonging (Country Universities Centre Western Riverina)
- Implemented the Plant the Seed Program comprising various activities such as cultural dancing and fitness. This program aims to enrich the life of youth to become leaders and thrive, promotes resilience, creates positive energy and encourages youth to be active (Nuranurra Support Service)

FOCUS AREA 1: A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community cont.

Outcomes	Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders
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We are friendly, inclusive and connected cont.



- Coordinated Year 10 boarder visits to local nursing homes weekly for two terms each school year. Students engaged with residents through activities, creating handmade gifts and providing afternoon tea. Additionally, students contributed to the Leeton Christmas Community Lunch by preparing gifts and supporting the event (St Francis High School)
- Provided a Community Strengthening Grants Program to support groups and organisations in community projects
- Assisted with the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan for Leeton Shire (LDLALC)
- Promoted diversity and inclusivity through events and programs that cater to students from varied backgrounds, recognising and celebrating their unique contributions to the community. 7.31% are Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander heritage and 10% indicated English as a second language (Country Universities Centre)
- Provided essential, nutritious food services to vulnerable populations, particularly seniors, individuals with disabilities, and those experiencing food insecurity. Volunteers play a crucial role in building personal connections, while partnerships with organisations such as CWA, Inner Wheel, and church groups strengthen service delivery (Valmar Support Services Ltd)
- Hosted a Family Fun Day and annual twilight market in Yanco (Yanco Town Improvement Committee)



We value and celebrate our local history and our diversity



- Delivered the Council Heritage Grants Program to help owners, custodians and communities recognise, value and care for heritage buildings
- Provided expert heritage advice to assist with the conservation of heritage places
- Supported and coordinated efforts to enhance the appearance of CBD building facades through the Facade Painting Project
- Maintained and operated the Henry Lawson Cottage
- Collaborated with local schools and the LDLALC to organise a series of events to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through NAIDOC week
- Collaborated with community organisations to deliver Australia Day events to recognise the contributions and efforts of everyone in our community, and worked towards a more inclusive and accessible event
- Coordinated Aboriginal elders to undertake Welcome to Country and smoking ceremonies including at Australia Day events (LDLALC)



FOCUS AREA 1: A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We value and celebrate our local history and our diversity cont.



- Coordinated Gossamer Park NAIDOC Family Fun Day (LDLALC)
- Worked with community groups to deliver Survival Day celebrations at Gossamer Park
- Unveiled Community Art Project Survival Day Mural created by Parkview Public and Leeton High Schools auspiced by Elijah Ingram
- Promoted participation in the Survival Day Mural event at Gossamer Park working in collaboration with community members, schools and Council (LDLALC)
- Projected a collection of photos of Aboriginal artworks and activities completed by schools in the district onto the Chelmsford Place water tower
- Led the delivery of a Wiradjuri film and book showcase by Leeton’s Miil Miil Productions at Gossamer Park and the Leeton Museum and Art Gallery in partnership with Council (LDLALC)
- Acquired additional historical objects including a restored bakers cart and expanded photo display area at the Museum (Yanco Powerhouse Museum)



We are rich in arts and culture



- Progressed the Roxy Community Theatre Redevelopment Stage 1. Completion will achieve a multifunctional and fully accessible Theatre and civic space that honours the building’s special heritage values
- Launched the Roxy Institute of Performing Arts (RiPA) and its collaboration with NIDA (National Institute of Performing Arts)
- Operated the Leeton Museum and Art Gallery (LMAG) – home to a permanent exhibition: Water by design, the Leeton water story, and hosted multiple exhibitions
- Launched ‘Miniature Marvels: Memories of Architects & Builders’ at LMAG (Leeton Family and Local History Society)
- Coordinated the annual Penny Paniz Arts Acquisitive Prize (Leeton Art Society Inc.)
- Coordinated the annual Leeton Eisteddfod (Leeton Eisteddfod Committee)
- Conducted regular art classes and workshops (Leeton Art Society Inc.)
- Completed the art-deco themed Whitton town mural project and installed a 15m soldier on the Whitton Water Tower
- Worked with Illuminart to develop plans and conduct community engagement in preparation for the Leeton water tower large scale public art projects



FOCUS AREA 1: A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We are rich in arts and culture cont.



- Delivered a range of professional development opportunities, workshops and grant programs in collaboration with several agencies across Leeton (Western Riverina Arts)
- Continued to provide library services through the Leeton Shire Major Dooley Library offering a diverse program of activities including story time, brain games, baby rhyme time, school holiday activities and special events
- Completed major upgrades at the Leeton Library, including the replacement of all carpeted areas, the installation of new shelving and a reception counter, the addition of new chairs and furniture and the installation of new computers
- Collaborated with the Leeton Multicultural Support Group on various activities, including the launch of the inaugural Fiesta La Leeton event, and provided auspicing for a staff member funded by FRRR
- Participated in quarterly Multicultural Interagency Network Meetings – a network of services, agencies and organisations which provide support and action for local CALD communities
- Provided creative, skill-building programs such as Hands on Learning, Boys to the Bush and cultural programs such as Yindymarra Girls Group (Leeton High School)
- Involved students in a variety of arts activities, including dance in local events such as the Leeton Eisteddfod and state-wide events like the Schools Spectacular (Gralee School)
- Delivered the Annual Creative Arts Showcase Event, highlighting student talent in visual arts, music, and drama, with active participation from the broader Leeton community (St Francis High School)
- Established the Riverina Writing House and the Leeton Young Writers Collective, creating a welcoming space for community members to engage in book-making and attend workshops, including film writing. Also mentored writers and facilitated networking opportunities to foster creative collaboration (Riverina Writing House and the Leeton Young Writers Collective)
- Hosted community information nights and openings with the SunRice Festival and the Art Deco Festival (Yanco Powerhouse Museum)

FOCUS AREA 1: A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We have access to a range of local educational opportunities for students of all ages and abilities



- Operated the Leeton Early Learning Centre (LELC) and after school/vacation care service and expanded the LELC to provide an additional 20 childcare places
- Improved access to academic, administrative and wellbeing support to students pursuing a higher education in Leeton (Country Universities Centre CUC)
- Provided a safe, well-equipped and well supported space for local students to achieve their higher education dreams (Country Universities Centre)
- Provided academic skills support through the Learning Skills Advice Program, catering to students at different stages of their educational journey (Country Universities Centre)
- Expanded outreach efforts to increase awareness of the educational opportunities and support provided by the CUC, ensuring accessibility for students of all abilities (Country Universities Centre)
- Conducted the widening participation program federally funded through EARUCP, Parents and Pathways Program (Country Universities Centre)
- Collaborated with local high schools to support students' transition from school to further education, including the UOW Future Me Program (Country Universities Centre)
- Implemented specialised learning support for students with diverse needs, ensuring all students have access to tailored educational opportunities (St Francis High School)
- Hosted the Western Riverina Careers Expo which attracts an average over 1,000 students and 80 exhibitors to the Shire (Leeton High School/TAFE)
- Collaborated with local early childhood centres and local feeder primary schools to create pathways for young learners, enhancing school readiness through joint programs and workshops (St Francis High School)
- Worked in partnership with the Murrumbidgee Academy of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Excellence to provide students with access to cutting edge STEM connections and resources (Leeton High School)
- Provided a fully operational farm on site at school, focusing on a wide range of agricultural practices, including livestock and pasture (Yanco Ag High School)
- Opened a new state of the art female boarding facility to cater for approximately 95 female boarders in addition to the existing female dormitory (Yanco Ag High School)

Please note: If an activity isn't attributed to an organisation in brackets, it is a Council undertaking.

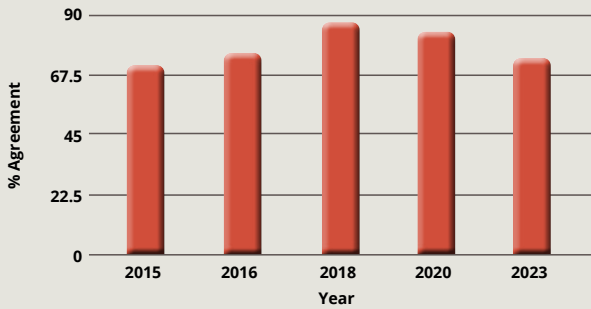




FOCUS AREA 1: A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community cont.

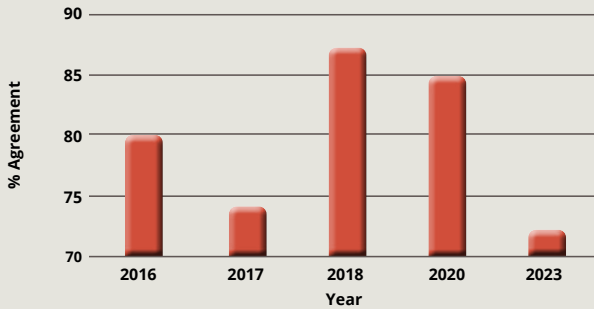
Outcome Cc1: We are friendly, inclusive and connected – indicators of success

Community Perception – Percentage of Residents Who Feel Part of the Community



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey
 The aim was to increase the percentage of people who feel part of the community. There was a decline seen in 2023. There is no data available for 2019, 2021 and 2022.

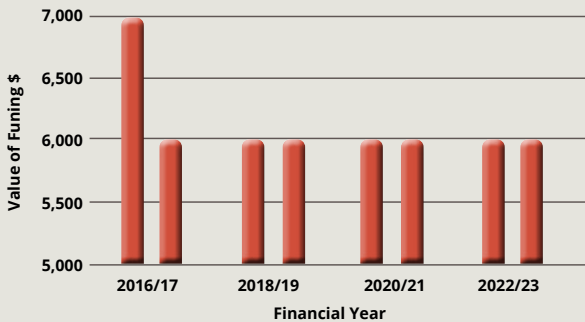
Community Perception – I Feel Welcome in My Community



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey
 The aim was to increase the percentage of people who feel welcome in the community. There was a decline seen in 2023, from 2020. There is no data available for 2019, 2021 and 2022.

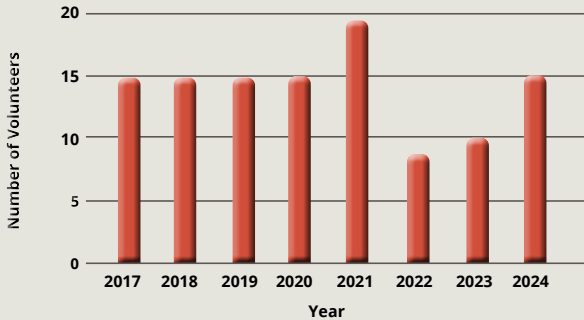
Outcome Cc1: We value and celebrate our local history, culture and diversity – indicators of success

Leeton Shire Council Heritage Advisor Funding



Source: Leeton Shire Council
 The aim was to maintain levels of Heritage Advisor Funding. While the figure dropped by \$1,000 in 2016/17, it has remained constant at \$6,000 in the years since.

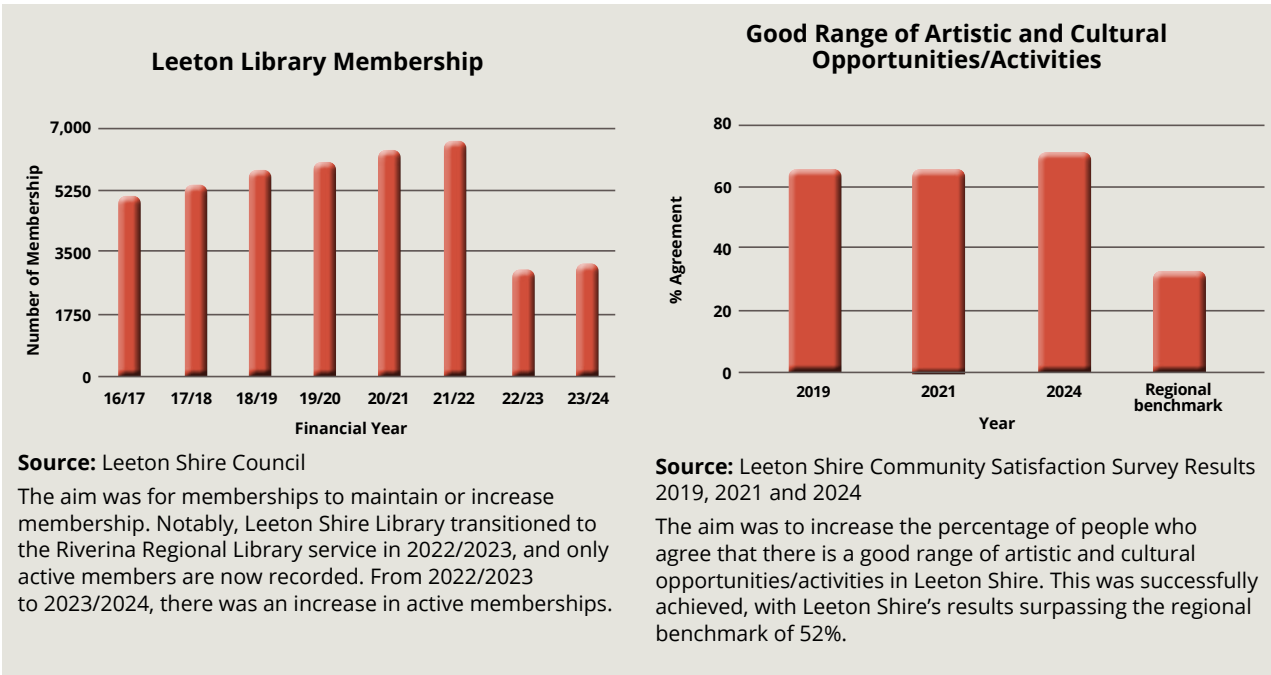
Number of Volunteers – Leeton Family and Local History Society



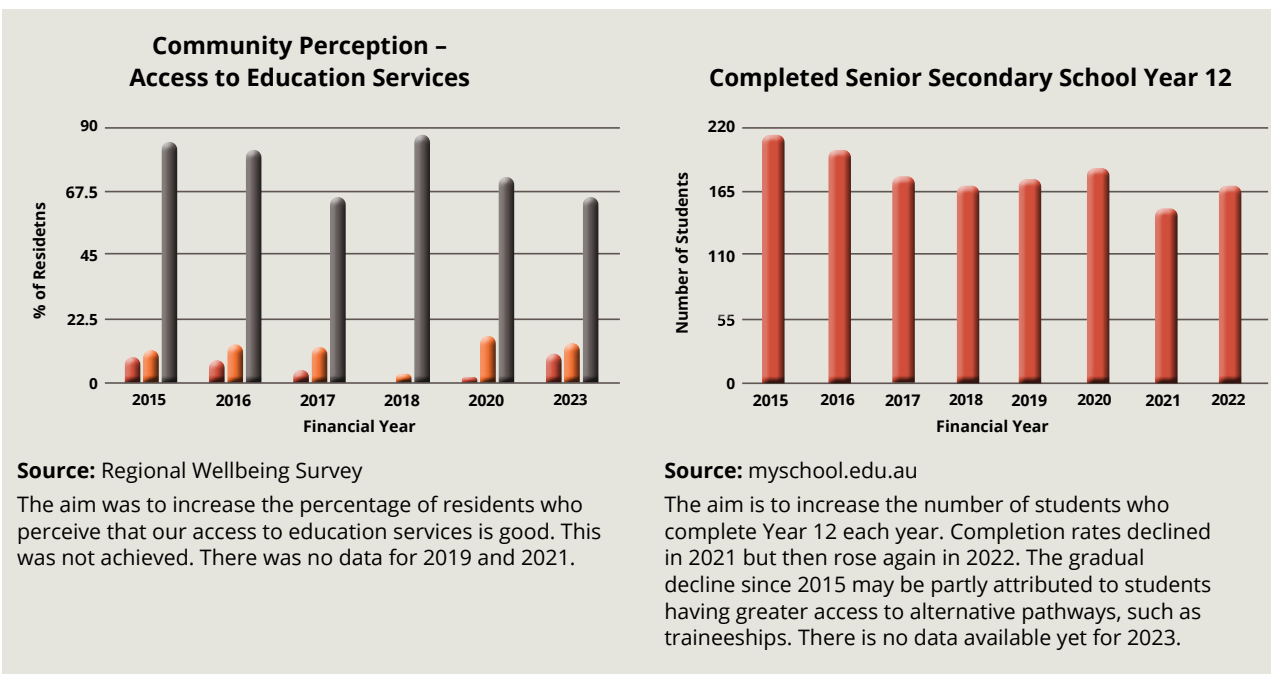
Source: Leeton Family and Local History Society
 The aim was for volunteer numbers to remain stable at 15 or increase. Numbers remained steady for the period 2017 to 2020 and increased in 2021. From 2017 to 2020, volunteer numbers remained steady and rose in 2021. Although there was a dip in 2022 compared to 2021, the numbers have been steadily increasing since then, with the target of 15 volunteers being achieved and maintained in 2024.

FOCUS AREA 1: A Connected, Inclusive and Enriched Community cont.

Outcome Cc3: We are rich in arts and culture – Indicators of success



Outcome Cc4: We have access to a range of local educational opportunities for students of all ages and abilities – Indicators of success







2



FOCUS AREA 2: A Safe, Active and Healthy Community

What You Said:

We enjoy healthy lifestyles within a safe environment, and there a variety of sports and leisure activities for all ages, which helps us stay physically and emotionally healthy while fostering a strong sense of community.

There were four goals selected to move us towards our 10-year aspiration. Let's see how we are tracking.



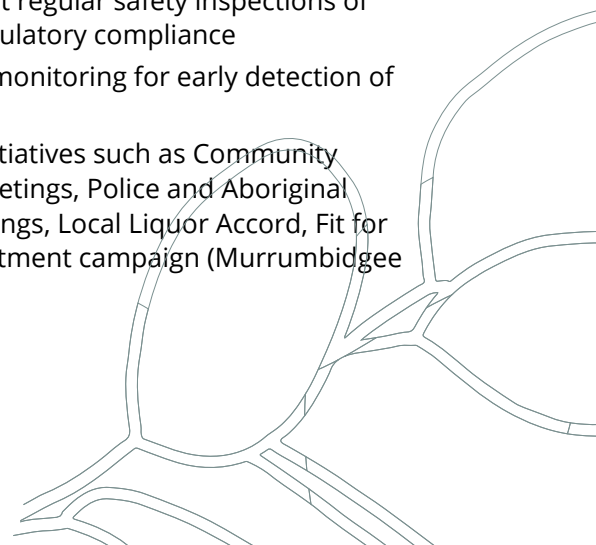
Focus Area 2. A Safe, Active and Healthy Community

Outcomes	Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders
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Our community is safe to live in and move about



- Developed a new Active Transport Plan to support active transport the needs of pedestrians and cyclists
- Completed a new pedestrian bridge, linking the shared pathways along Palm Ave and Brobenah Rd
- Completed the construction of the loops for the shared pathway and footpath along Acacia Ave and Palm Ave. Additionally, completed the network connection link on Corbie Hill Rd ensuring connectivity throughout the area
- Undertook footpath renewal works in front of Madonna Pl
- Planned and managed the addition of 16 streetlights in conjunction with Essential Energy
- Completed the renewal and replacement of seven bus shelters
- Coordinated a range of road safety initiatives including speed campaigns, drink driving campaigns, Mobility Scooter and 65 plus Driving Workshops, a Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program and Child Restraint Workshops
- Maintained or replaced over 600 signs including road, street name blades, bridge markers, hazard, give way, stop and speed signs
- Undertook vegetation/weed management to improve visibility
- Coordinated Leeton Local Traffic Committee meetings
- Commenced plans to build an adult changing facility at Sycamore St car park
- Enforced disability car parking restrictions to ensure equitable car parking access for people with disabilities
- Extended CCTV camera network in the Shire
- Conducted annual food safety inspections of all food premises in collaboration with the NSW Food Authority. Additionally, performed annual inspections at skin penetration establishments and carried out regular safety inspections of swimming pools to ensure regulatory compliance
- Carried out annual mosquito monitoring for early detection of Arbovirus
- Coordinated programs and initiatives such as Community Safety Precinct Committee meetings, Police and Aboriginal Consultative Committee meetings, Local Liquor Accord, Fit for Life and 'Become a Cop' recruitment campaign (Murrumbidgee Police District)



FOCUS AREA 2: A Safe, Active and Healthy Community cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

Our community is safe to live in and move about cont.

- Provided emergency responses to call outs for dog attacks
- Provided subsidised microchipping services for companion animals and offered a free pet microchipping day each year
- Conducted a domestic and family violence awareness campaign to coincide with Domestic and Family Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

We eat well, drink moderately and participate in active sports and leisure

- Launched the Leeton Sporting Walk of Fame celebrating the achievements of local sporting legends
- Continued to operate the Leeton Golf Course and work with the Golf Club Committee to advance plans to develop a new club house
- Installed a twin slide at Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre
- Operated Leeton Sport and Recreation Precinct Parkrun – a free, fun, and friendly weekly 5km community event (Leeton Parkrun Committee)
- In partnership with the Office of Sport, Be You and local schools, launched ‘Gamechanger’ – an innovative new program aimed at fostering sports participation and enhancing wellbeing among students across seven schools in the Shire
- Hosted the Annual Riggz Cup Riverina Skate Championships in partnership with Boys to the Bush, Totem Skateboarding and the Rapid Relief Team
- Installed new scoreboards at the Leeton Indoor Stadium and introduced new sports – croquet and pickleball
- Constructed a new dog park in Yanco
- Introduced a fine dining experience for aged care residents at facility monthly with house chef (RFBI Leeton Masonic Village)
- Provided athletics opportunities through participation in small schools carnivals, special schools carnivals and an annual Sensory Run that brought together students with and without disabilities in the Shire (Gralee School)
- Hosted and participated in various sports events and interschool sports competitions, including athletics, netball and football, promoting physical activity and community engagement among students (St Francis High School)
- Facilitated Leeton Running and Walking Group every Sunday (Nuranurra Support Service)



Outcomes **Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders**

We have access to health and support services that cater for all our needs



- Completed the \$3.7M Emergency Department upgrade at Leeton Hospital to provide an enhanced experience for patients, staff and visitors. The upgrade includes an expanded and modernised emergency department, as well as new medical equipment, upgrades to clinical spaces, improvements to the inpatient units and realignments to public and staff access (Murrumbidgee Local Health District MLHD)
- Completed the Leeton Health Service Plan outlining the service needs for the Leeton and surrounding communities for the next 10 years (MLHD)
- Provided support through the Leeton-Narrandera cluster nurse practitioner role to emergency departments, follow up of complex patients and a range of clinics to help bridge the gap in health care for chronic and complex patients (MLHD)
- Participated in a networked Drug and Alcohol Treatment (IDAT) Program – a structured drug and alcohol treatment program that provides medically supervised withdrawal, rehabilitation and supportive interventions for patients with severe substance dependence (MLHD)
- Provided through the diabetes service, a comprehensive and person-centred diabetes service to individuals living with or at risk of developing diabetes in a coordinated and integrated framework (MLHD)
- Promoted MLHD Health Services Survey to help shape the future of Health Services in the Shire
- Convened ‘Community Inspired Innovation’ forum for community members to join together to discuss health issues and ideas and share their initiatives with health services (Leeton Health Advisory Committee)
- Collaborated with Foodbank and community groups to host a Leeton Pop Up to provide 6,000kgs fresh fruit and veggies and 900kgs of pantry staples to the Leeton community, which equates to over 12,400 meals for people in need (FoodBank, Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network, Leeton Multicultural Support Group, Lions Club, River of Life Church, Boots Civil and Council)
- Operated Doorways community support and assistance through gift cards. Additionally, ran a Positive Lifestyle Program focusing on enhancing overall well-being and Women’s Group Camo offering social activities for women. Also managed a community garden to further support these initiatives and a food hall for those in need (Salvation Army Leeton)

FOCUS AREA 2: A Safe, Active and Healthy Community cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We have access to health and support services that cater for all our needs cont.



- Through the Meals on Wheel service ensured that homebound, elderly and vulnerable individuals have access to a wide array of health and social services that cater to their physical, emotional, and social needs (Valmar Support Services Ltd)
- Sought to understand the health needs of the Leeton community through our Yarns on the Couch in May 2024 and Conversations on the Couch in July 2024 (Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network MPHN)
- Worked with the community and health care providers to establish a GP telehealth after hours service for Leeton delivered by Health Access, providing over 200 occasions of service to date (MPHN)
- Delivered a Foodbank and popup clinic on 18 July 2024, providing free fresh produce to the community; Impact as reported by Foodbank: 6,900kgs of fresh fruit, vegetables and pantry staples; 12,400 meals (MPHN)
- Piloted the Pulmonary and Chronic Cardiac Rehabilitation Program (PCCR); a community-based chronic respiratory and heart failure rehabilitation 8-week program (MPHN)
- Worked with a general practice in Leeton to improve pediatric screening and assessment through the Enhancing Pediatrics in Primary Care program and providing access to allied health screening through the WARATAH for Kids program (MPHN)
- Delivered the WARATAH program which includes dietitian services available on a fortnightly basis for people living with chronic conditions (MPHN)
- Worked with general practices to improve management of people living with chronic conditions over the winter period through our Winter Strategy program (MPHN)
- Piloted a pharmacy screening program to help with screening and referral for people with COPD and chronic heart failure symptoms (MPHN)
- Supported general practices and pharmacies to continue to offer COVID vaccinations. Worked with vulnerable population groups to ensure access to vaccinations e.g. providing vaccinations at the Foodbank Activity. Also regularly engaged with Residential Aged Care Homes to facilitate residents maintaining their COVID vaccination (MPHN)
- Implemented the Care Finder program supporting older people in the community to navigate the aged care system (MPHN)

FOCUS AREA 2: A Safe, Active and Healthy Community cont.

Outcomes	Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders
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We have access to health and support services that cater for all our needs cont.

- Delivered the MyStep Western mental health program, offering a range of mental health services from low, medium and high intensity, to severe and complex, along with in-reach to residential aged care (MPHN)
- Provided care coordination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with chronic and complex disease, including supporting access to allied health and specialist services through the Integrated Team Care program (MPHN)
- Supported people with complex health care needs (and their carers and families) through the Integrated Care Coordination program delivered by Marathon Health, to improve management of chronic disease and complex healthcare needs, along with reduce unplanned hospital admissions (MPHN)

We have supported accommodation that meets the needs of all community members



- Provided an accessible respite house in Leeton that offers accommodation for NDIS participants and serves as emergency housing for vulnerable individuals through Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) (My Plan Connect). My Plan Connect is registered with the Office of Children’s guardian, this allows the organisation to provide safe accommodation for children under 18 years with the support of trained professionals. Respite house is also available to individuals and families who are linked with external support services (My Plan Connect)
- Supported participants to apply for housing, provided documentation for their applications and helped individuals link to services that can support them in a crisis (My Plan Connect)
- Provided housing support for those in need from 10am to 12pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays (Salvation Army)
- Provided an ongoing affordable housing service in Yanco of 14 units (Argyle Homes)
- Provided aged care accommodation for 46 residents and engaged residents in wellbeing activities tailored to their needs for examples bus trips, regular entertainment and intergenerational activities with local schools (RFBI Leeton Masonic Village)

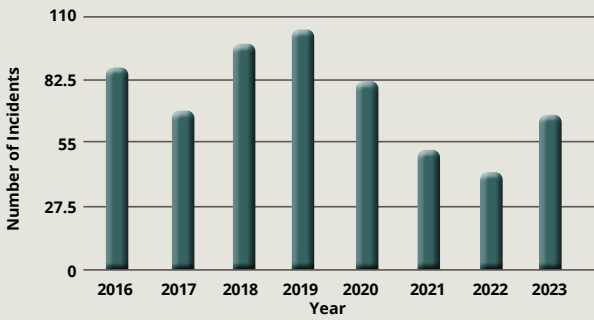
Please note: If an activity isn’t attributed to an organisation in brackets, it is a Council undertaking.



FOCUS AREA 2: A Safe, Active and Healthy Community cont.

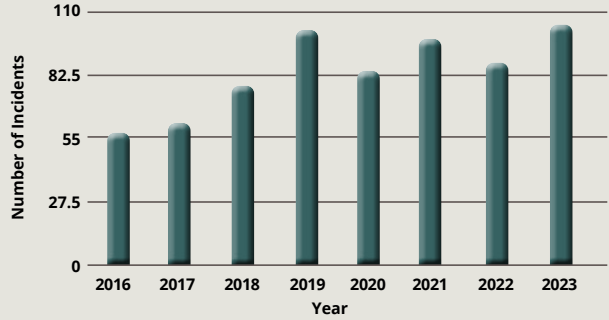
Outcome Cc1: Our community is safe to live in and move about

Residential Break and Enters



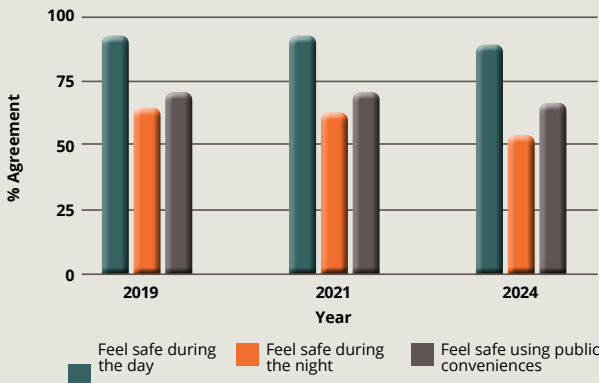
Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
 The aim was to reduce residential breaks and enters. Significant progress was made in 2021 and 2022, with a notable reduction in incidents. However there was an increase in 2023 compared to 2022.

Domestic Violence Incidences



Source: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research
 The aim was to decrease rates of domestic violence. There has been a rise in domestic violence incidences reported since 2016.

Community Perception - Safety

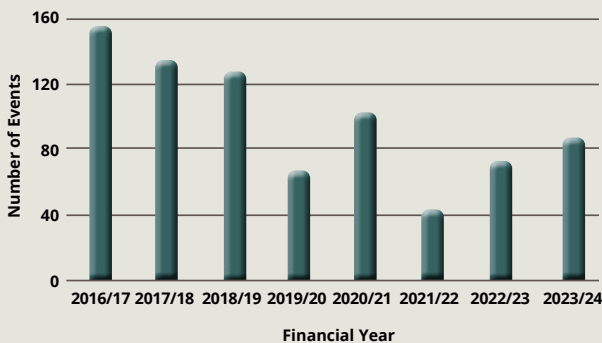


Source: Leeton Shire Community Satisfaction Survey 2019, 2021 and 2024
 The aim was to increase the percentage of residents who feel safe in our community. Although there was a slight dip in 2024, the trend has remained fairly consistent since 2019 with 90% of residents feeling safe during the day. Additional advocacy and consultation with the Murrumbidgee Local Area Command regarding community perceptions of safety should be undertaken to help address this issue.

FOCUS AREA 2: A Safe, Active and Healthy Community cont.

Outcome Cc2: We eat well, drink moderately and participate in active sports and leisure

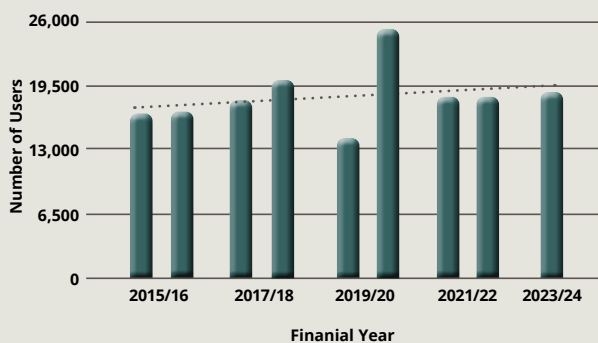
Sporting Events on Shire Ovals



Source: Leeton Shire Council

The goal was to boost the number of sporting events held on Leeton Shire ovals. While the number of events fell during the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been steadily rising once again.

Usage Numbers for Leeton Indoor Stadium

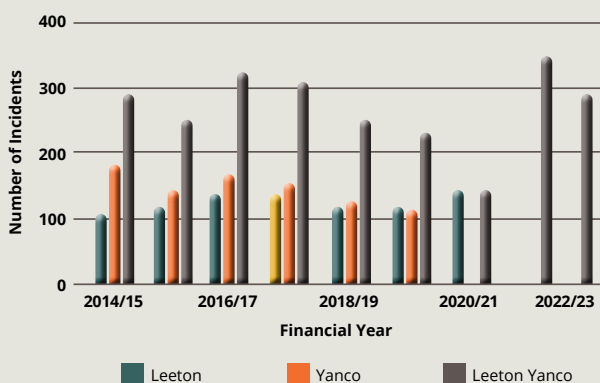


Source: Leeton Shire Council Open Space and Recreation

The aim is to increase the number of users at Leeton Indoor Stadium. The facility experienced a downturn in 2019/20 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but attendance has been gradually rising since. Council has expanded its programming to include croquet, pickleball, badminton, Youth Week events, the Game Changer Program, and various training sessions.



Swimming Club Memberships



Source: Leeton Yanco Swim Club, Leeton Shire Council via Leeton Yanco Swim Club

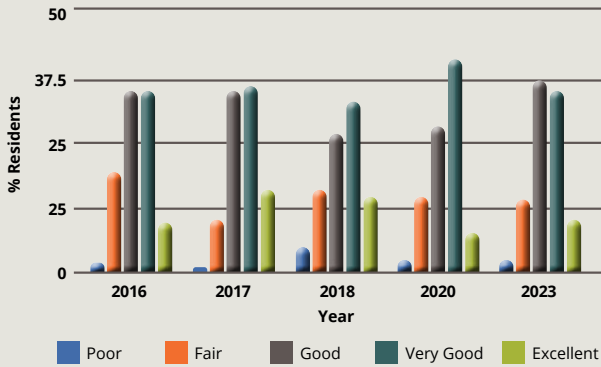
Note: The Leeton and Yanco Swim Clubs merged in 2021/22 to form the Leeton Yanco Swim Club and data is unavailable. Membership numbers rose to 351 in 2022/23, reflecting a good outcome. Although there was a slight decline in 2023/24 from 2022/23, the numbers have remained consistent with previous years since 2014/15.



FOCUS AREA 2: A Safe, Active and Healthy Community cont.

Outcome Cc3: We have access to health and support services that cater for all our needs

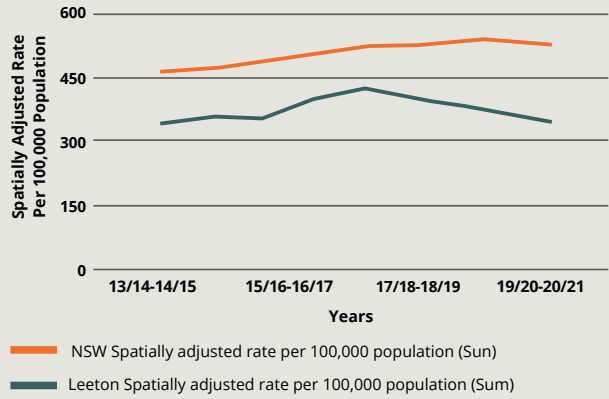
Community Perception – General Health of Residents



Source: Regional Wellbeing Survey

The goal was to enhance residents' general health ratings. In 2023, there was an increase in residents who rated their health as 'excellent'. There is no data available for 2019, 2021 and 2022.

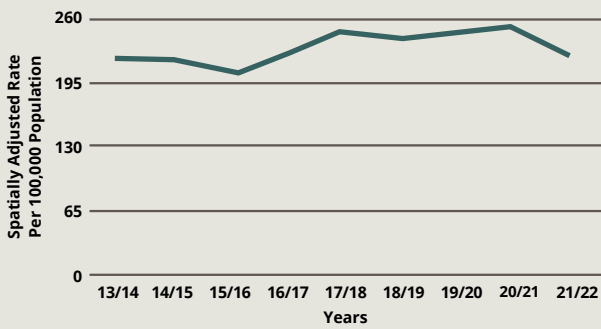
Alcohol Attributable Hospitalisations Leeton LGA



Source: HealthStats NSW

Since the 2017/18 to 2019/20 financial years, the rates of alcohol-attributable hospitalisations in the Leeton LGA have decreased. Although the Leeton LGA's rates have remained below the NSW average, further advocacy for alcohol rehabilitation is needed to continue this downward trend.

Diabetes Attributable Hospitalisation Murrumbidgee LHD

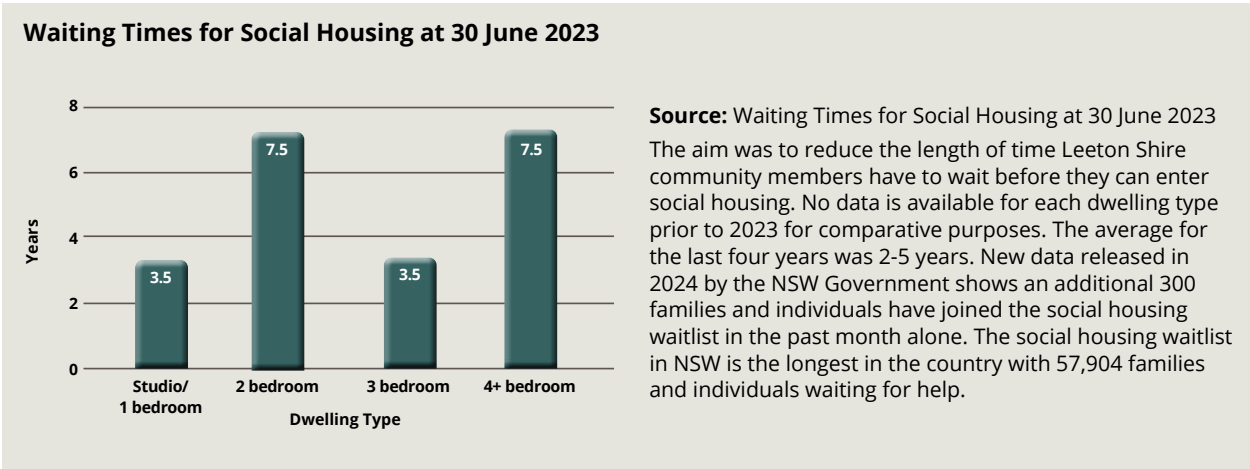


Source: HealthStats NSW

Since the 2020/21 financial year, rates of diabetes-attributable hospitalisations have decreased. However, further efforts are needed to enhance prevention strategies and continue reducing these numbers.

FOCUS AREA 2: A Safe, Active and Healthy Community cont.

Outcome Cc4: We have supported accommodation that meets the needs of all community members





may be revived here,
where the environment
and the temperament of the people
are so well suited.
- Walter Burley Griffin

San Fing (188 -) of China
2.2 m
2.0 m

How tall
are you?

Directing the flow

NEW YORK
76
SOUTH DIV







3

FOCUS AREA 3: A Thriving Regional Economy

What You Said:

We love living in Leeton because we have a wide range of employment choices available to us. We encourage school leavers to consider Leeton Shire businesses as exciting options to develop their careers. Shortage of workforce and a shortage of housing is a challenge. The community loves to celebrate together at festivals and events with fun and excitement with visitors to our town.

There were seven goals selected to move us towards our 10-year aspiration. Let's see how we are tracking.



Focus Area 3. A Thriving Regional Economy

Outcomes	Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders
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Our local businesses are prospering



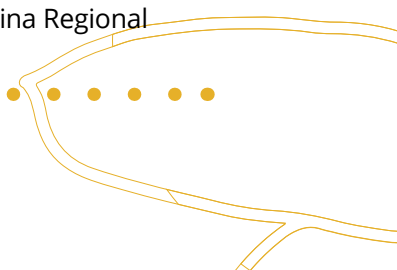
- Adopted Ambition 2030 – An Economic, Tourism and Events Strategy for Leeton Shire that aims to identify opportunities and potential projects that will support continued economic growth, foster local employment opportunities, and position Leeton as a leader in innovation
- Coordinated workshops and events as part of NSW Small Business Month (Leeton Business Chamber)
- Partnered with Leeton Business Chamber to host the Leeton NSW Small Business Month Networking event in Whitton
- Provided sponsorship towards the Leeton Business Chamber Awards and ‘shop local business’ campaign
- Participated in industry tours to local businesses and manufacturers
- Supported local businesses by promoting via a weekly Business Spotlight through social media
- Progressed plans and commenced expansion of Vance Industrial Estate to the north (Vance Estate Stage 3)



We attract and retain new businesses and residents, and our population is growing



- Met with businesses looking to expand to discuss options, council support and development requirements
- Supported Multicultural NSW in implementing its Regional Resettlement Program, NSW Growing Regions of Welcome (NSW GROW)
- Supported various labour hire companies and local industry to settle and recruit labourers and other staff to the Shire
- Hosted Leeton’s Inaugural Recruitment Summit to support local businesses in their recruitment efforts and to enhance workforce development in the region (Leeton Business Chamber, NSW GROW Riverina, Workforce Australia and Council)
- Provided accommodation and support to University of Wollongong Student doctors undertaking placements in Leeton
- Sponsored medical students as part of the NSW Rural Doctors Network’s Bush Bursary Country Women’s Association (NSW Scholarship Program)
- Facilitated an International Qualified Nurses Scheme to support international nurses and carers to work and settle in Leeton
- Contributed to the update of the Western Riverina Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS)



FOCUS AREA 3: A Thriving Regional Economy cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We have the infrastructure we need to support our economy



- In partnership with Narrandera Shire Council, operated the Leeton-Narrandera airport and undertook capital works such as remarking of the runway and security fencing
- Completed the WR Connect Masterplan and Business Case in consultation Griffith City Council staff, Department of Regional NSW, Ag Connex (owners), Linx Logistics (MEDLOG), Department of Planning and the Department of Transport
- Carried out shoulder widening works on Wattle Road, Wilkinson Road, and Darlington Point – Whitton Road
- Completed Canal Street Road rehabilitation /heavy vehicle upgrade
- Completed automation and plant upgrades at the Whitton and Murrami Water Treatment Plants, boosting operational efficiency
- Implemented advanced telemetry upgrades for the Leeton, Whitton and Yanco sewerage systems, improving monitoring and control capabilities
- Provided free Wifi services in the CBD

We have the skills and knowledge required to undertake the work available



- Sponsored and attended the Western Riverina Careers Expo at Leeton High School
- Participated in academic challenges and competitions such as the Da Vinci Decathlon across the Riverina. This event featured ten disciplines: engineering, mathematics and chess, code breaking, art and poetry, science, English, ideation, creative production, cartography and legacy (Leeton High School)
- Offered school-based apprenticeships/traineeships, for example in nursing (Leeton High School)
- Provided extensive transition support programs for students entering Year 7 and 11 and into the workforce (Leeton High School)
- Engaged students in a work experience program, emphasising the development of work skills, effective communication, budgeting, shopping and cooking (Galee School)
- Partnered with Leeton Shire businesses to provide work experience opportunities for senior students, ensuring practical skills development aligned with real-world expectations (St Francis High School)
- Offered a range of courses to support Shire residents and businesses with their short course training needs (Western Riverina Community College)
- Provided student support officers to assist students with disabilities or learning disabilities engage in training (Western Riverina Community College)



FOCUS AREA 3: A Thriving Regional Economy cont.

Outcomes **Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders**

We have the skills and knowledge required to undertake the work available cont.



- Hosted 19 work experience students from schools across the Shire, providing them with experience in fields such as engineering, horticulture, early childhood education, administration/customer service, visitor services and library services
- Provided 15 traineeships in library, horticulture, early childhood education, customer service and events
- Provided three apprenticeships in light vehicle mechanical technology and gardener/greenkeeper
- Facilitated childcare work placements for 16 students from Charles Sturt University, TAFE NSW and ECTARC

We have access to a range of housing options that suit the needs of short and long-term residents



- Implemented a number of short- and medium-term actions from the Leeton Local Strategic Planning Statement
- Updated the Leeton Housing Strategy to guide the development of Leeton Shire's residential future over the next twenty years. This included engagement with the community including developers and real estate agents who were invited to provide feedback into the strategy
- Developed and implemented the new Development Control Plan (DCP) which aims to facilitate quality development, protect neighbourhood amenity and maintain environmental quality
- Made an amendment to the Leeton Local Environment Plan to allow or more housing options in the RU5 village zone
- Commenced a business case for the Brobenah Road housing development for affordable housing



FOCUS AREA 3: A Thriving Regional Economy cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We have diverse employment opportunities



- Actively participated in the Western Riverina 'Grow Our Own' initiative – an industry led alliance to encourage people to build a career locally
- Continued to partner with ROA, SSI and PALM. These organisations work with local businesses to assist in filling the large number of vacancies within the region
- Conducted WIN workplace-based learning program and Youth + Enterprise = Success Program for students in Year 10 to connect with community businesses to explore different career options (Leeton High School)
- Engaged with local schools on career opportunities in aged care (RFBI Leeton Masonic Village)
- Assisted residents of a low socio-economic background access training opportunities (Western Riverina Community College)

We are a popular tourist destination



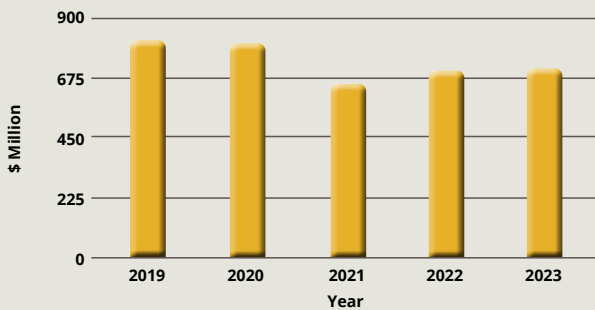
- Hosted the Australian Art Deco Festival Leeton, Leeton Chill and Grill, SunRice Festival, Fiesta La Leeton, Light Up Leeton and Australia Day celebrations
- Operated the Leeton Visitors Centre
- Supported the annual Leeton Town Band Spectacular, Early Ford V8 Car Club Rally, Armstrong-Siddeley National Car Club Rally, Australian Bittern Summit and Leeton Eisteddfod
- Completed the installation of temporary signage for Art Deco Way touring route with six strategically placed billboards on the Newell and Sturt Highways and on Kidman Way near Griffith and active social media promotion of Art Deco Way
- Promoted Leeton and the Riverina region at consumer shows such as Caravan and Camping Lifestyle Show in Canberra which included distribution of Visit Riverina marketing guides
- Promoted the Murrumbidgee Trails marketing collective of Leeton Shire, Lockhart Shire, Narrandera Shire and Murrumbidgee Council
- Participated in the RDA Country Change Program to promote the region as an attractive destination for new residents
- Coordinated annual Christmas promotion events (Leeton Business Chamber)

Please note: If an activity isn't attributed to an organisation in brackets, it is a Council undertaking.

FOCUS AREA 3: A Thriving Regional Economy cont.

Outcome Ec1: Local businesses are prospering

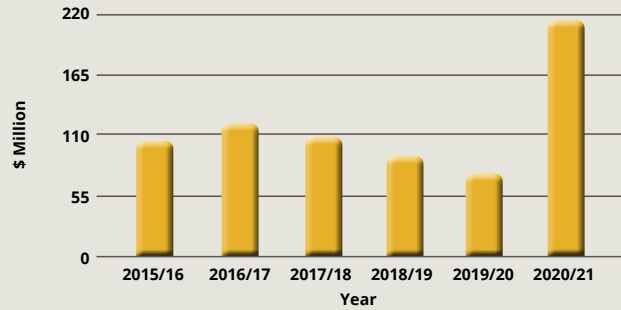
Gross Regional Product of Leeton Shire



Source: Economy.id

Leeton Shire's Gross Regional Product was \$0.72 billion in the year ending June 2023, growing 3.2% since the previous year.

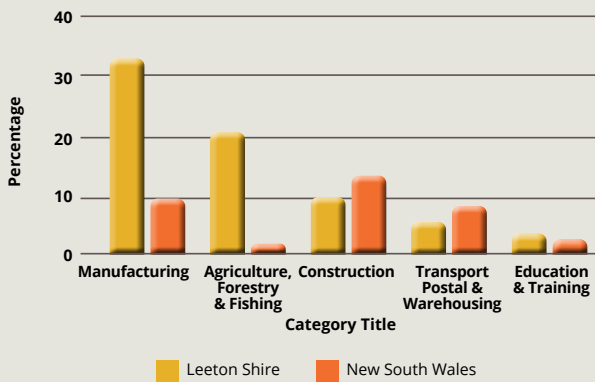
Gross Value of Agriculture in Leeton Shire



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

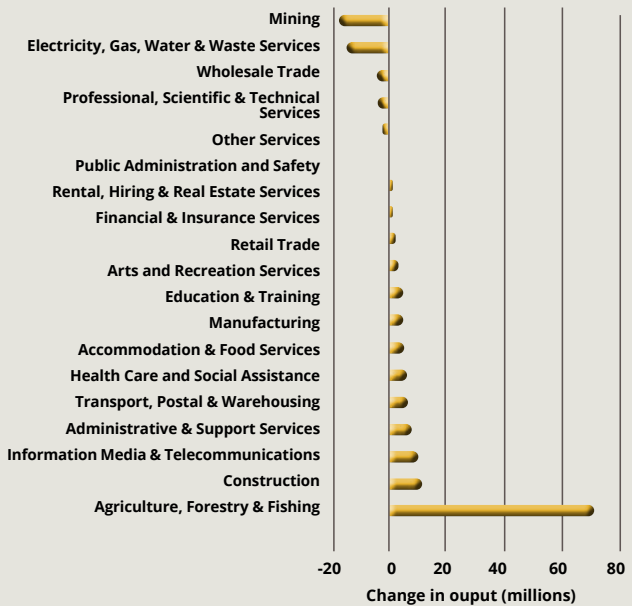
* Note: The 2020–21 Agricultural Census was the last Agricultural Census to be conducted by the ABS. No information at LGA level. Data not available 2021/22.

Top 5 Industry Sectors by Output Leeton LGA



Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2024. ©2023 Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions)

Change in Output by Industry Sector Leeton LGA 2019/20 to 2022/23

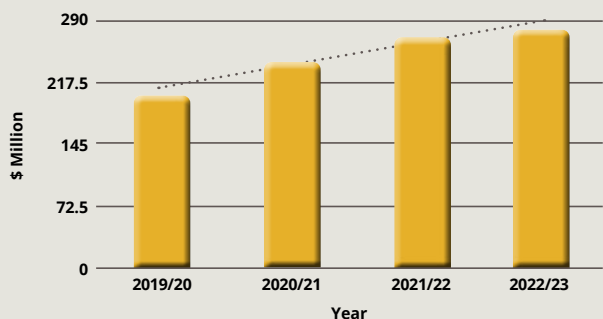


Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2024. ©2023 Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions)

The total industry output in Leeton Shire increased by \$92 million between 2019/20 and 2022/23. The largest changes in the output by industries between 2019/20 and 2022/23 in Leeton Shire were for:

- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (+\$73 million)
- Construction (+\$13 million)
- Information Media and Telecommunications (+\$11 million)
- Administrative and Support Services (+\$8 million)

Output by Industry Sector Leeton LGA – Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

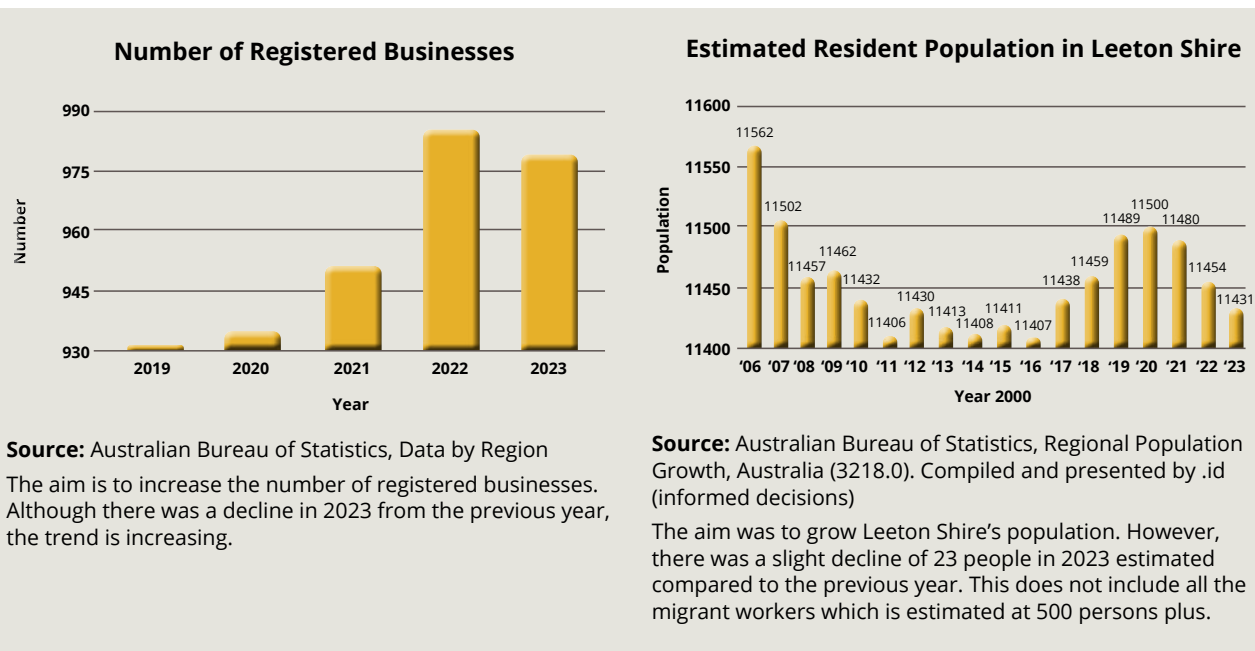


Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) ©2024. ©2023. Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions).

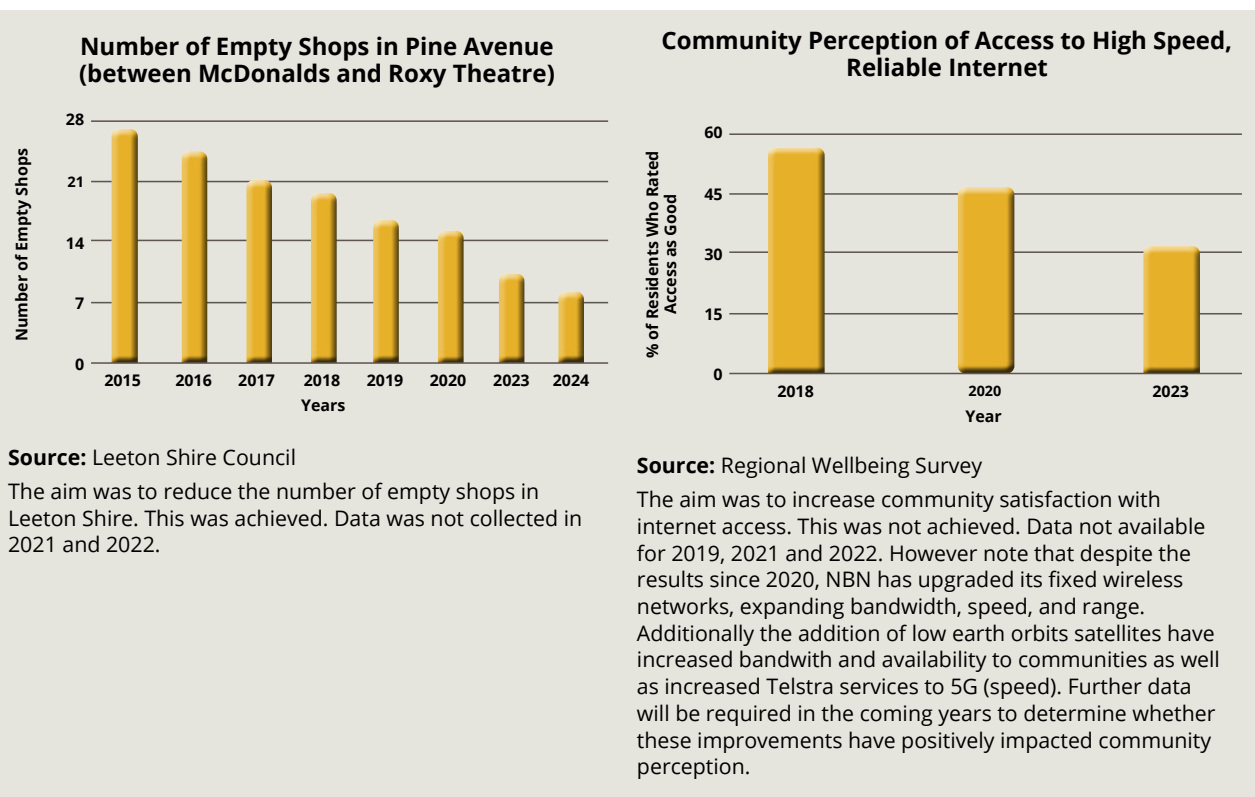
Output by industry is a gross measure of the total sales of each industry sector in Leeton Shire. Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing has shown growth since 2019/20.

FOCUS AREA 3: A Thriving Regional Economy cont.

Outcome Ec2: We attract and retain new businesses and residents and our population is growing



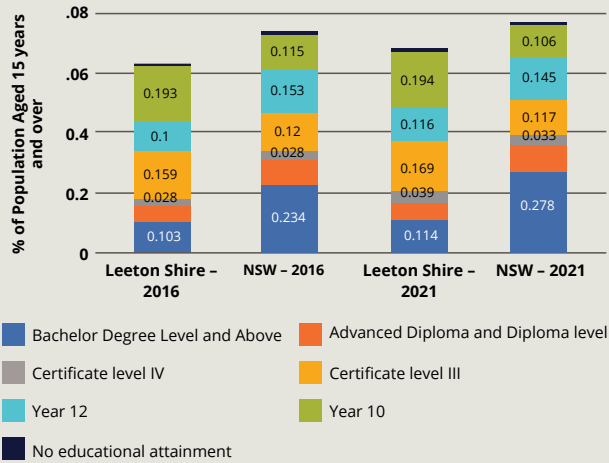
Outcome Ec3: We have the infrastructure we need to support our economy



FOCUS AREA 3: A Thriving Regional Economy cont.

Outcome Ec4: We have the skills and knowledge required to undertake the work available

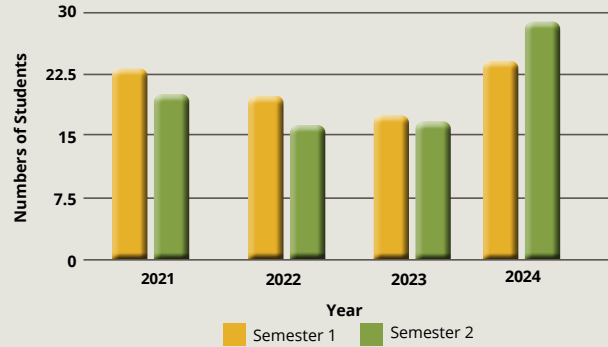
Levels of Education in Leeton Shire vs NSW
(% of Population Aged 15 years and over)



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2016 and 2021. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions).

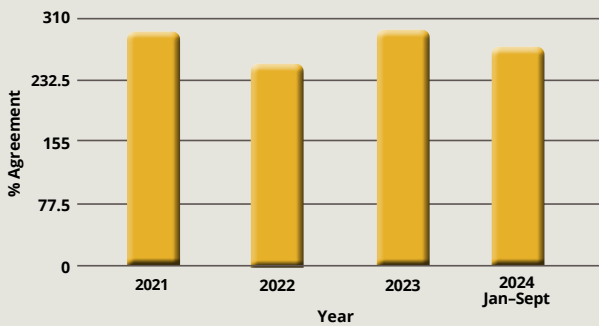
The aim was to increase the percentage of the population of Leeton Shire with higher level qualifications. There was a modest improvement across all categories in 2021 compared to 2016.

Number of Students Registered Country Universities Centre Leeton (CUC)



Source: Country Universities Centre Western Riverina

Student Access to CUC Leeton

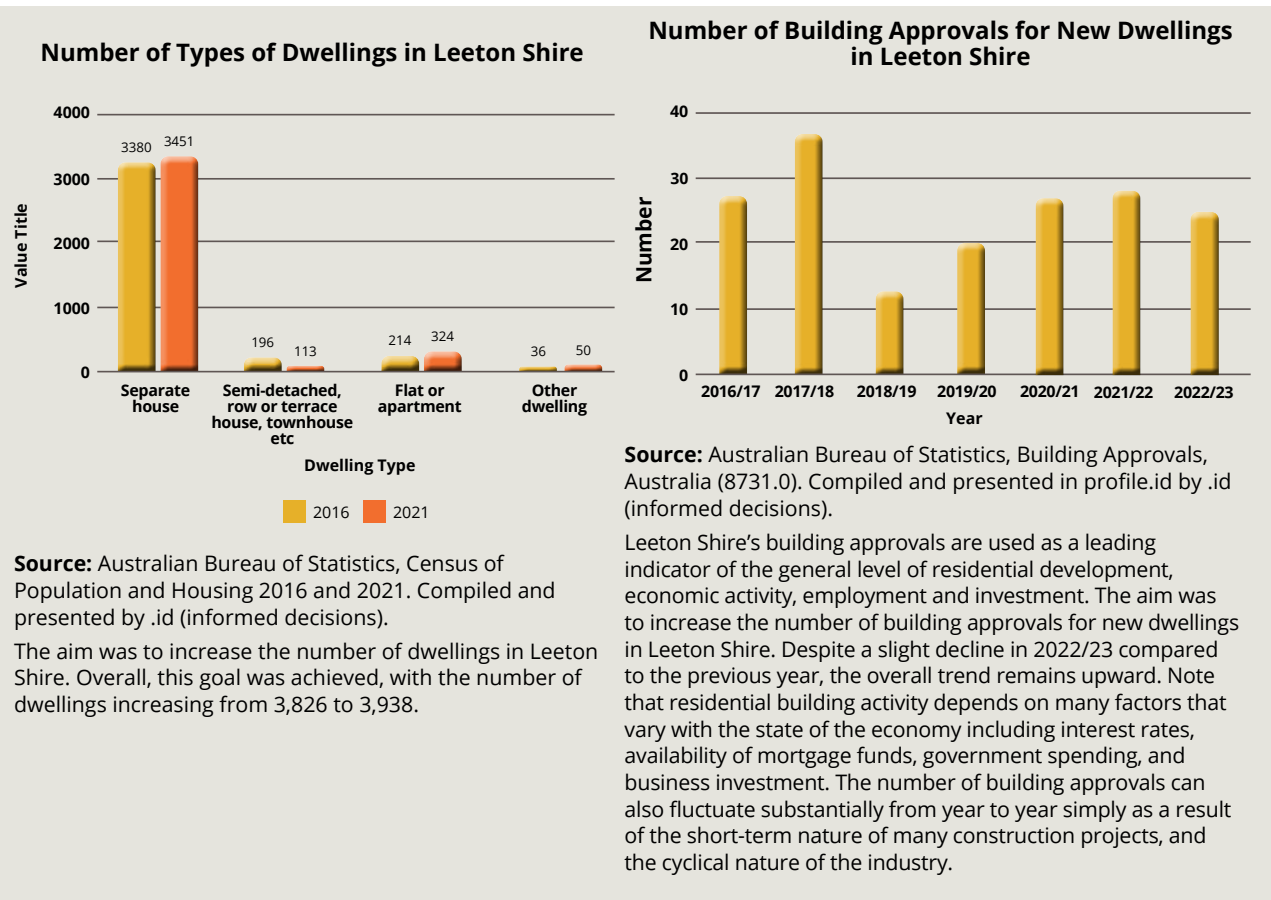


Source: Country Universities Centre Western Riverina

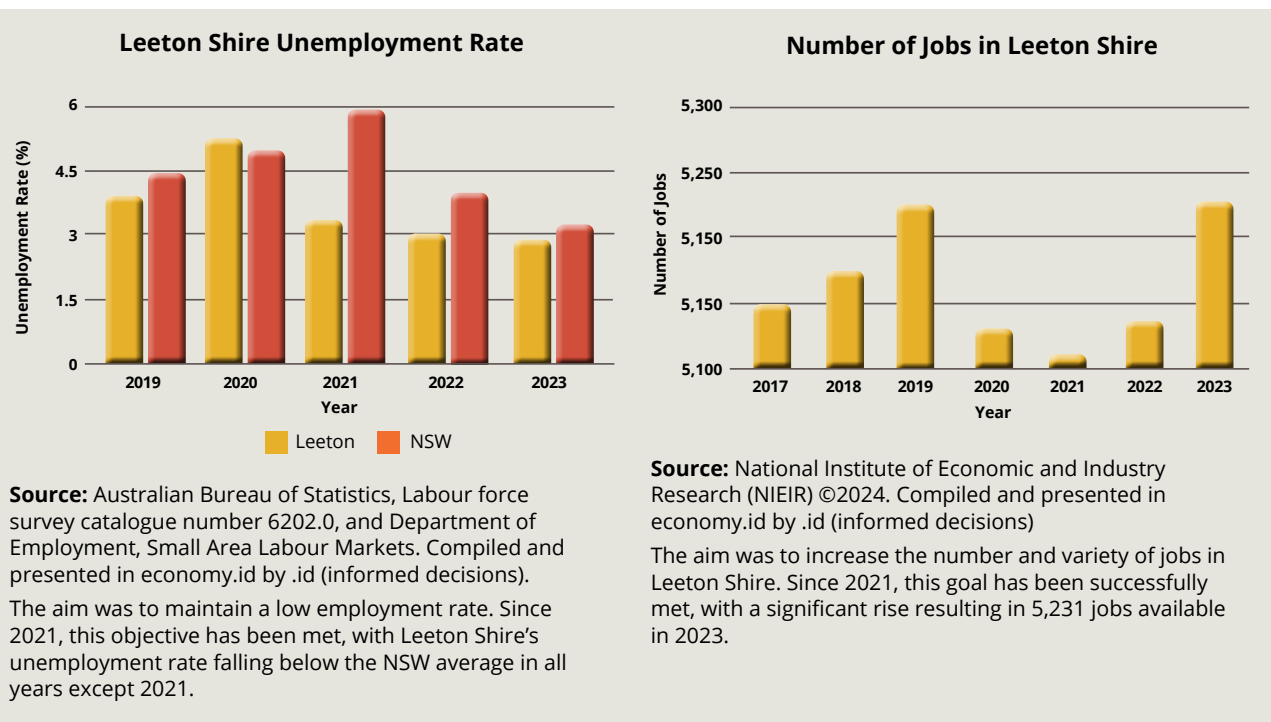


FOCUS AREA 3: A Thriving Regional Economy cont.

Outcome Ec5: We have access to a range of housing options that suit the needs of short- and long-term residents



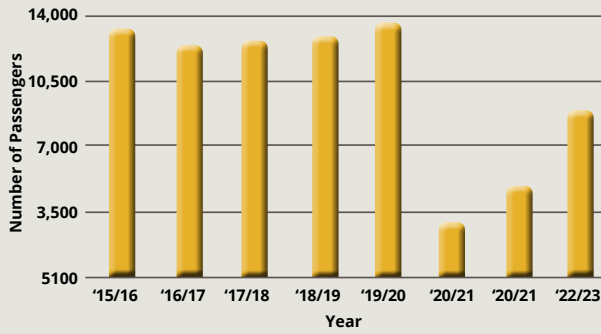
Outcome Ec6: We have diverse employment opportunities



FOCUS AREA 3: A Thriving Regional Economy cont.

Outcome Ec4: We are a popular tourist destination

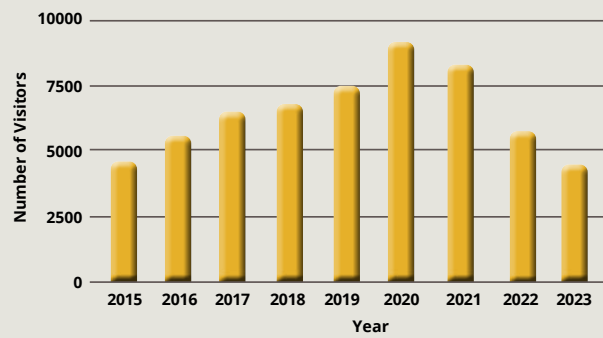
Airport Passengers To and From Sydney



Source: Rex Airlines

The goal was to boost airport passenger traffic to and from Sydney. Despite a decline in 2020/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, passenger numbers have been steadily rising since then. However, challenges such as pilot shortages and viability of regional airlines continue to affect passenger traffic.

Visitor Numbers – Fivebough Wetlands



Source: NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment – Crown Lands

The aim was to increase the number of visitors to the wetlands. Since 2021, this was not achieved. In 2022, flooding closed tracks during Summer and Autumn. In 2023, there was track closures for three months to enable channel works.





*State of the
University
Report*



4

FOCUS AREA 4: A Quality Environment

What You Said:

We love living in Leeton because we have reliable infrastructure such as water, sewer and roads. We take great pride in our lovely towns and villages and enjoy the abundance of open space and park areas around our Shire. As a community we stay constantly vigilant about the impacts of water reform such as the Murray-Darling Basin Plan. We want to be sure that environmental results are not being achieved at the expense of economic and social wellbeing.

There were four goals selected to move us towards our 10-year aspiration. Let's see how we are tracking.



Focus Area 4. A Quality Environment

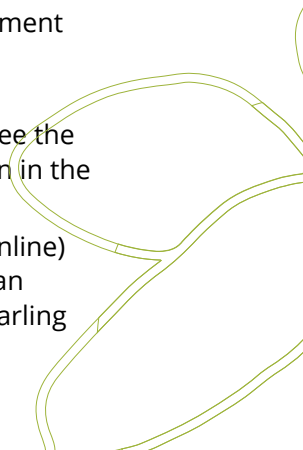
Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We enjoy a protected natural environment and quality agricultural land



- Continued to work with Crown Lands and the Fivebough Committee on the management of the RAMSAR listed Fivebough Wetlands. This included the installation of new interpretive signage, channel repairs and northern track/fence repairs
- Supported landholders to improve agriculture productivity, control pest plants and animals and meet their legal obligations (Riverina LLS)
- Undertook works at Turkeys Flat Lagoon to ensure water is retained on the site for longer and at a higher depth (Riverina LLS)
- Supported Bringing Back the Bunyip Bird: Australasian Bittern Conservation Summit 2023 conference to learn about latest research and see Australasian Bitterns in the rice crops of the Riverina (Riverina LLS/Council)
- Encouraged local farmers to participate in the Growing Bittern Friendly Rice Program (Riverina LLS)
- Conducted a cultural burn at Tuckerbil Basin to refresh the wetland and improve habitat for Australian Bitterns (Riverina LLS and LDLALC)
- Graded MIA 2 Middle Beach entrance (Forest Drive) and installed a barrier gate; graded Cuba Drive and River Drive within the Cuba North precinct (National Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Maintained MIA 2 Ski Beach Entrance for Leeton Ski Club (Forest Drive) and the Turkey Flat and McCaughey's Lagoon day use areas (National Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Updated visitor information on National Parks and Wildlife Service website (National Parks and Wildlife Service)
- Kept updated on the Murrumbidgee Environmental Water Advisory Group which provides advice on the management of water for the environment within the catchment Commonwealth and State governments
- Worked with local communities and agencies to oversee the management of environmental water within the region in the most efficient way (Murray-Darling Basin Authority)
- Convened the Riverina Regional Community Forum (online) to discuss the work being undertaken for the Basin Plan Evaluation as well as the Basin Plan Review (Murray-Darling Basin Authority)



FOCUS AREA 4: A Quality Environment cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

We enjoy a protected natural environment and quality agricultural land cont.

- Supported water rallies in Leeton, Griffith, and Deniliquin to advocate for a balanced Murray-Darling Basin Plan and to protest water buybacks. Additionally, delivered a speech in Leeton emphasising the critical role of water and agriculture in our community and its significance to the nation
- Actively participated in the Murray-Darling Association (MDA) Region 9 to provide effective local government representation in the management of Basin resources

We live sustainably, use our resources responsibly and have adapted to climate change



- Completed solar installation projects at the Leeton Shire Library, Council administration building, Whitton Sewer Pump Station No. 1, Whitton Water Treatment Plant, Murrami Water Treatment Plant, Depot, Yanco Sewer Treatment Plant and Leeton Landfill, resulting in significant energy savings
- Successfully completed an electrical upgrade at the Leeton Sewer Treatment Plant which included the installation of a Power Factor Correction Unit and Active Harmonic Filtering
- Redirected waste towards recycling and sustainable disposal methods, achieving increased waste diversion from landfill and completing a new landfill cell
- Maintained 100% compliance with EPA regulations for landfill operations, ensuring environmental and operational standards were met
- Promoted public awareness of responsible waste management practices, contributing to a more informed community
- Introduced green-lidded Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) bin, helping Leeton residents to keep all food and garden waste out of landfill
- Actively promoted chemical 'Drum Muster' initiatives, providing a reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable recycling option for empty chemical containers, benefiting users, the environment, industry, and the wider community
- Supported clients to actively engage in community recycling activities such as can collection (Kurrajong Leeton)
- Actively participated in a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the supply of 100% renewable energy for Council's large market and street lighting contracts
- Engaged in environmental sustainability projects, such as tree planting and recycling campaigns, in collaboration with community organisations, promoting ecological awareness among students and residents (St Francis High School)
- Promoted sustainability by operating a store that specialises in high-quality second-hand goods sourced from diverted waste (Resource Recovery Australia (RRA) and Reviva Leeton Reuse Shop)

FOCUS AREA 4: A Quality Environment cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

Our built environment is attractive and serviceable



- Advanced completion of the Chelmsford Square CBD Enhancement Project to achieve a more attractive, integrated, and vibrant setting that celebrates Leeton’s history while providing increased social and economic benefits to the community
- Carried out beautification works to the entrance of Golf Club Estate including the planting of shrubs and trees and installing irrigation
- Completed improvement and landscaping works in Yanco. This includes planting of trees along Irrigation Way near Yanco Public School and along the new fence line at the Yanco Sports Ground and landscaping works next to the Yanco shop
- Completed and maintained landscaping works at the traffic lights (Vance Road, Wamoon Avenue and Canal Road intersection)
- Installed new playground equipment in Waring, McCaughey and Raponi Parks and new shade sails at Whitton Park
- Completed extensive improvement works at Whitton Cemetery, including sealing the entrance, upgrading road access and a new post and rail fence at the frontage of the cemetery
- Operated and maintained sewage treatment and effluent discharge plants along with reticulation services at Leeton, Yanco and Whitton
- Constructed a sewage treatment plant low pressure sewerage scheme for the village of Wamoon which discharges into the existing Leeton Sewerage Scheme
- Completed an overhaul/service of aerator number 1 at Leeton Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Number One
- Upgraded multiple pump stations across the Shire to enhance performance and reliability
- Rehabilitated sewer mains in Cedar St and Railway St and begun an ongoing Shire wide sewer manhole inspection regime and renewal schedule
- Implemented advanced telemetry upgrades for the Leeton, Whitton and Yanco sewerage systems, improving monitoring and control capabilities
- Completed water main replacements and extensions including Park Avenue South, Willow St, Coonong Ave Yanco, Darling Rd Wamoon and Gogeldrie St Whitton
- Reduced the number of dead-end water mains to improve water quality throughout the Shire
- Completed small sewer main extensions at Grevillia St, Curtin Rd, Almond Rd and Letona PI
- Demolished the old clarifier at the Water Treatment Plant and constructed a new chemical storage and workshop shed

FOCUS AREA 4: A Quality Environment cont.

Outcomes

Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders

Our built environment is attractive and serviceable cont.



- Continued the replacement of sedimentation tank launders at the Water Treatment Plant
- Completed automation and plant upgrades at the Whitton and Murrami Water Treatment Plants, boosting operational efficiency
- Undertook sealed road rehabilitation works including Almond Rd, Oak St roundabout, Palm Ave, Vance Rd, Boundary Rd, Cedar St, Stony Pt Rd, Murrami Rd, Dooley Ln, Progress St, Sycamore St, Yarran St, Kirkup Rd/Houghton Rd intersection and many urban roads in Wamoon
- Carried out the annual road resealing program on several roads in the Shire including Brobenah Rd, Contour Rd and Calorafield Rd
- Resheeted parts of the gravel road network including George Rd, Kiln Rd, Millane Rd, Apostle Yrd, Harwood Rd, Brown Rd, Marston Rd, Bridge Rd and more
- Completed significant kerb and gutter works including Teatree Ave, Myall St, Muntenpen St, Melaleuca Ave, Palm Ave, Myrtle St, Wilga St
- Completed drainage works in/along Tecoma St, Ashton Ln, McKay Ave, Corbie Hill Rd, Daalbata Rd and Almond Rd
- Upgraded toilet facilities at Whitton, Wamoon, Yanco and Gossamer Park, making the facilities fully accessible
- Installed a new toilet block at Gogeldrie Riverside Park



We balance the needs of our natural and built environments

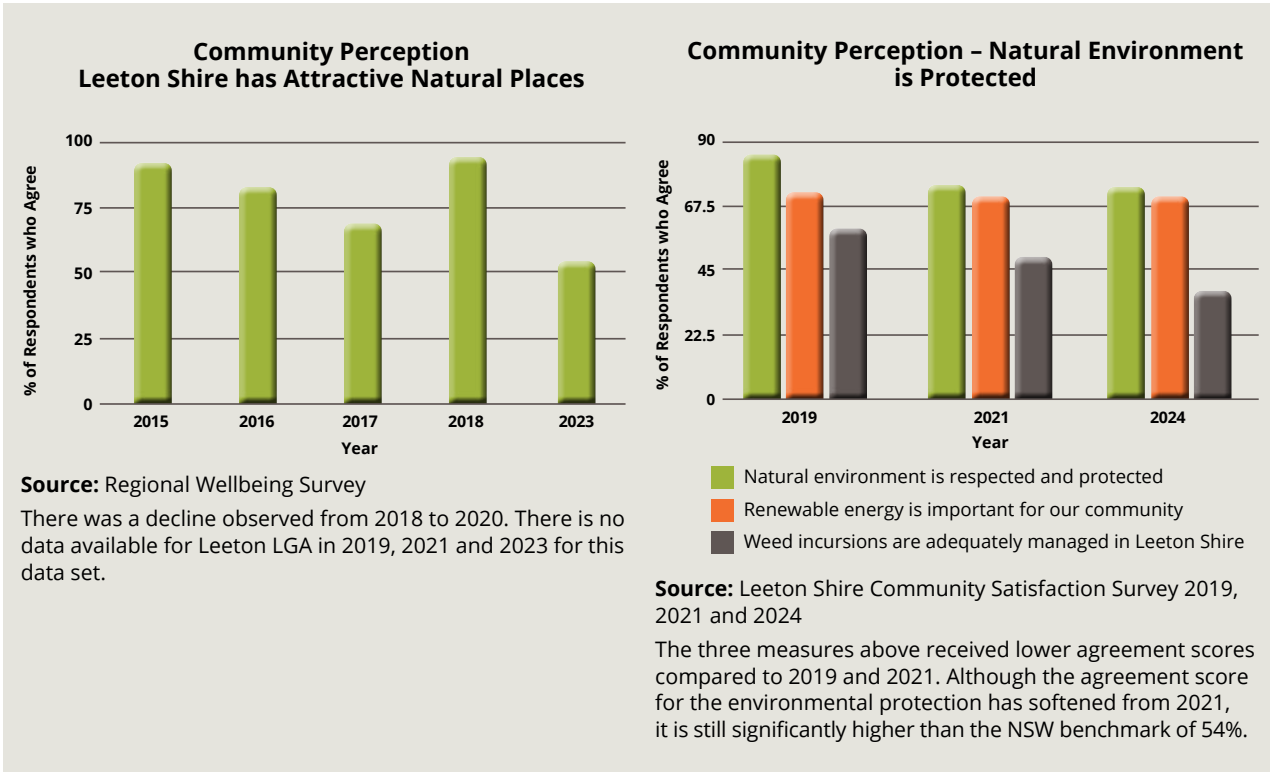
- Commenced an infrastructure masterplan to identify infrastructure needs such as sewer, water supply, roads and stormwater drainage for future growth areas from the housing strategy
- Continued the implementation of the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) which provides the strategy for the community's economic, social and environmental land use needs over the next 20 years
- Progressed the development of an Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan with the assistance of Public Works to meet future growth needs

Please note: If an activity isn't attributed to an organisation in brackets, it is a Council undertaking.

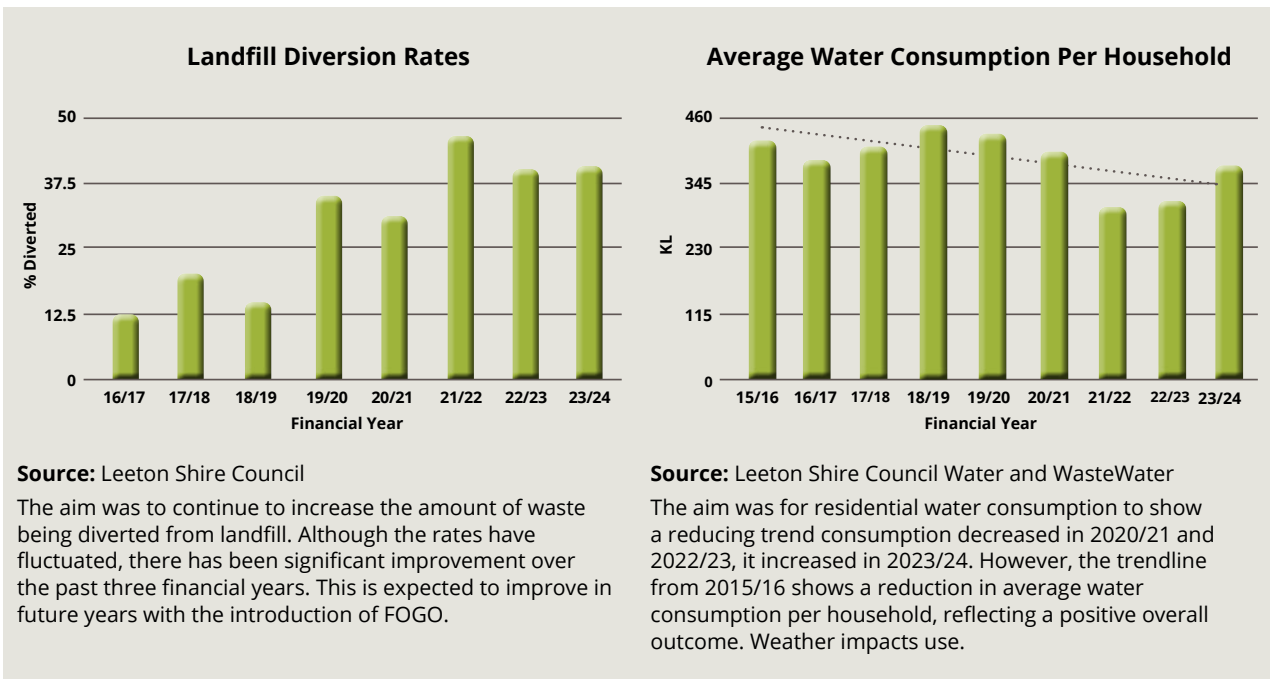


FOCUS AREA 4: A Quality Environment cont.

Outcome En1: We enjoy a protected natural environment and quality agricultural land

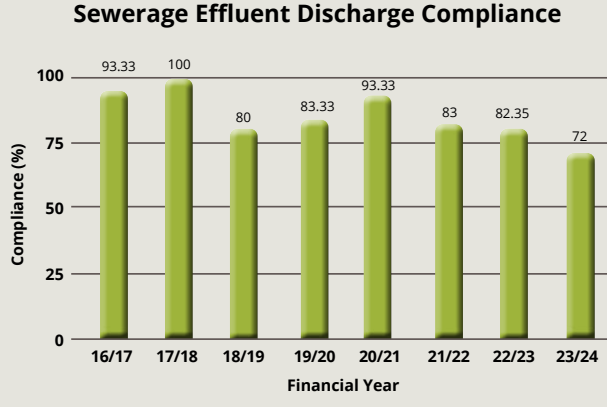
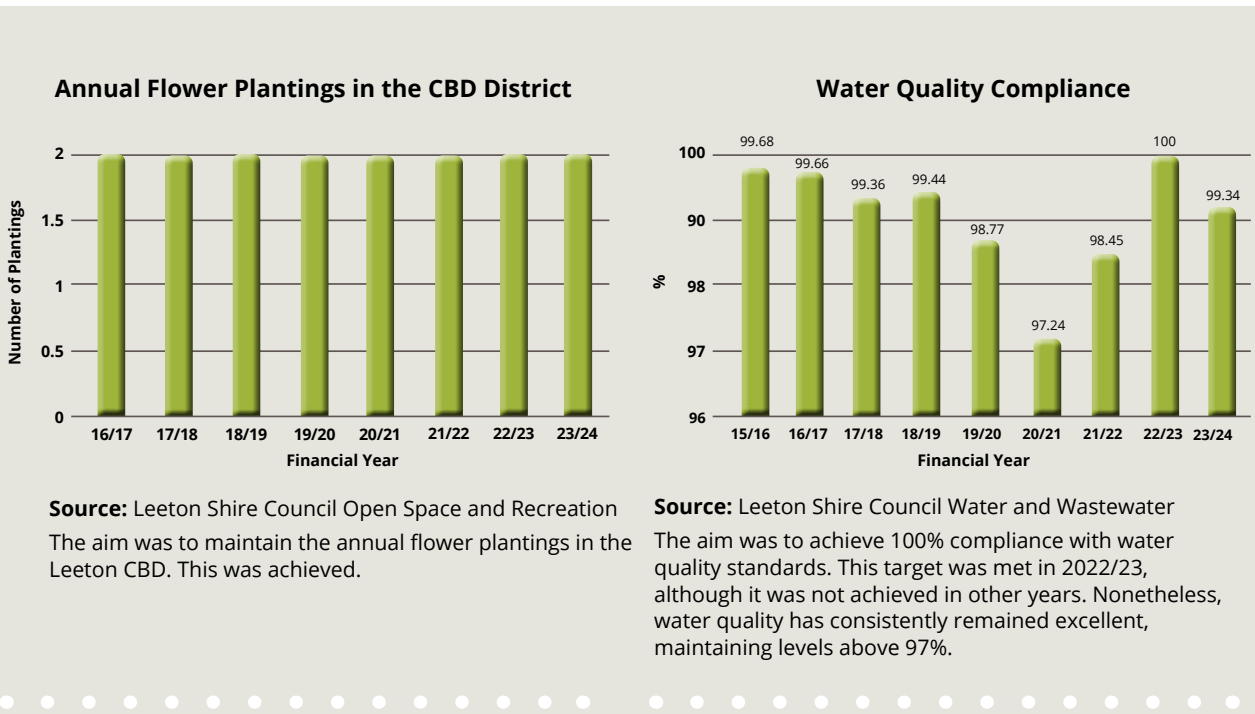


Outcome En2: We live sustainably, use our resources responsibly and have adapted to climate change



FOCUS AREA 4: A Quality Environment cont.

Outcome En3: Our built environment is attractive and serviceable



FOCUS AREA 4: A Quality Environment cont.

Outcome En4: We balance the needs of our natural and built environments







5

FOCUS AREA 4: Strong Leadership and Civic Participation

What You Said:

We love living in Leeton because we are confident that our leaders will listen to what we have to say, make decisions that are good and will advocate with peak bodies for the betterment of our entire community. There are many opportunities available for our residents and visitors to speak and engage with each other and our leaders to make a difference towards our future. We are resilient as a community and we actively anticipate change, plan for it and deal with it well.

There were six goals selected to move us towards our 10-year aspiration. Let's see how we are tracking.



Focus Area 5. Strong Leadership and Civic Participation

Outcomes	Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders
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We are well informed and engaged in decision-making



- Provided a range of options for community to provide input on projects and documents including via the Council's website, Have Your Say engagement platform, Facebook and public meetings
- Conducted two Community Satisfaction Surveys (2021 and 2024) to assess community priorities and levels of satisfaction with Council administration and services
- Developed a new website that will provide customers with better access to information and services
- Undertook community consultation on a range of key projects, including Rebalancing of the Rates and Proposed Special Variation
- Commenced a series of Councillor Catchups (Yanco and Whitton). This gave residents the opportunity to engage with their elected representatives and Council's senior management team in an informal setting to discuss important local matters, receive Council updates, provide input into the updated community strategic plan and share their thoughts and ideas

Our leaders speak out for the good of the community



- Advocated on a range of issues of importance to the Leeton Shire community including water security, health services and housing
- Collaborated with the other Councils and NSW Irrigators' Council Against Water Buybacks
- Submitted motions on issues of high importance to the Leeton Shire community at the ALGA National General Assembly and LGNSW Conferences
- Directed operations and resources towards furthering the goals expressed in the Community Strategic Plan
- Regularly reported to Council and the community on activities undertaken to further the goals of the Community Strategic Plan
- Engaged with various politicians and dignitaries to provide leadership and advocate for the Shire, for example, the NSW Governor The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, The Honourable Michael McCormack MP, The Honourable Sussan Ley MP and Helen Dalton MP

FOCUS AREA 5: Strong Leadership and Civic Participation cont.

Outcomes	Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders
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We work together to achieve goals



- Engaged with the Leeton Health Services Action Committee, Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD), Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network (MPHN), NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN) and NSW Ambulance to commence collaborative efforts to develop an integrated health services plan for Leeton Shire
- Participated in the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) which brings together Councils from across the region to seek funding for major projects and to address regional challenges
- Actively participated in the Murray-Darling Association (MDA) Region 9 and Riverina Environmental Water Advisory Group to advocate for sensible water policy
- Supported and collaborated with Leeton Connect Inc., including by auspicing staff. Leeton Connect is a not-for-profit organisation set up to act as a central hub for not-for-profit groups in Leeton Shire
- Liaised with Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) including MI's winter works program, supply channel decommissioning, town drainage arrangements and the Vance Industrial Estate Expansion Project drainage into MI channels

We are active community members who recognise we have a role to play



- Coordinated 196 registered volunteers at Council
- Updated Council Volunteer Handbook, Manual and Onboarding Procedure, and Volunteer Policy to clarify roles, rights, and responsibilities for both volunteers and supervisors. Additionally, updated the volunteer contract register
- Coordinated volunteer recognition activities including the promotion of National Volunteer Week
- Encouraged students to participate in local volunteer initiatives, including environmental clean-ups, aged care visits, and charity drives, fostering a strong sense of civic responsibility (St Francis High School)
- Collaboratively engaged with a majority of the 210 local non-profit organisations, as well as numerous external partners, to enhance organisational capacity across the Leeton not-for-profit sector (Leeton Connect)
- Hosted free networking workshops for community groups and organisations (Leeton Connect)
- Hosted the "Stories of Resilience" breakfast series featuring a panel of representatives from four pillars of the community. They shared their stories and experiences of overcoming adversity and achieving success in their respective fields while highlighting the importance of well-being (Leeton Connect, Rotary Club of Leeton and Leeton Business Chamber)

FOCUS AREA 5: Strong Leadership and Civic Participation cont.

Outcomes	Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders
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We are active community members who recognise we have a role to play cont.



- Provided support to local residents in need including accommodation, medical, food, travel and utilities (Leeton JumpStart)
- Participated in the Homelessness Appeal and received a NSW Parliament Community Recognition Award for the Student Representative Council's work addressing homelessness at Leeton High School (Leeton High School)
- Provided a catering team for emergency services when required (Salvation Army)
- Served as a tour guide for a busload of visitors, showcasing Leeton's Art Deco shop buildings and residences (Leeton Family and Historical Society)
- Volunteered for Art Deco events and SunRice Festival events such as open days at Henry Lawson Cottage (Leeton Family and Historical Society)
- The Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation (VFFF) funded a pilot program in Leeton - Investing in Rural Community Futures (IRCF) (circa \$1M over 5 years) - using a place based approach to strengthen local community groups and not for profits to build their capacity and capability. This included collaborative fundraising and education and training opportunities (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal FRRR)

Our Council operates efficiently and effectively within a framework of good governance



- Implemented a new customer relationship management (CRM) platform that will help Council improve the service it provides to customers
- Contracted the services of an Australian Call Centre to provide residents with a single number after hours emergency contact point
- Conducted monthly council meetings
- Coordinated and supported six Section 355 Committees, 15 Advisory Committees/Working Groups, two action groups and ARIC. Council also participated in two shared Service Committees and seven external Committees

FOCUS AREA 5: Strong Leadership and Civic Participation cont.

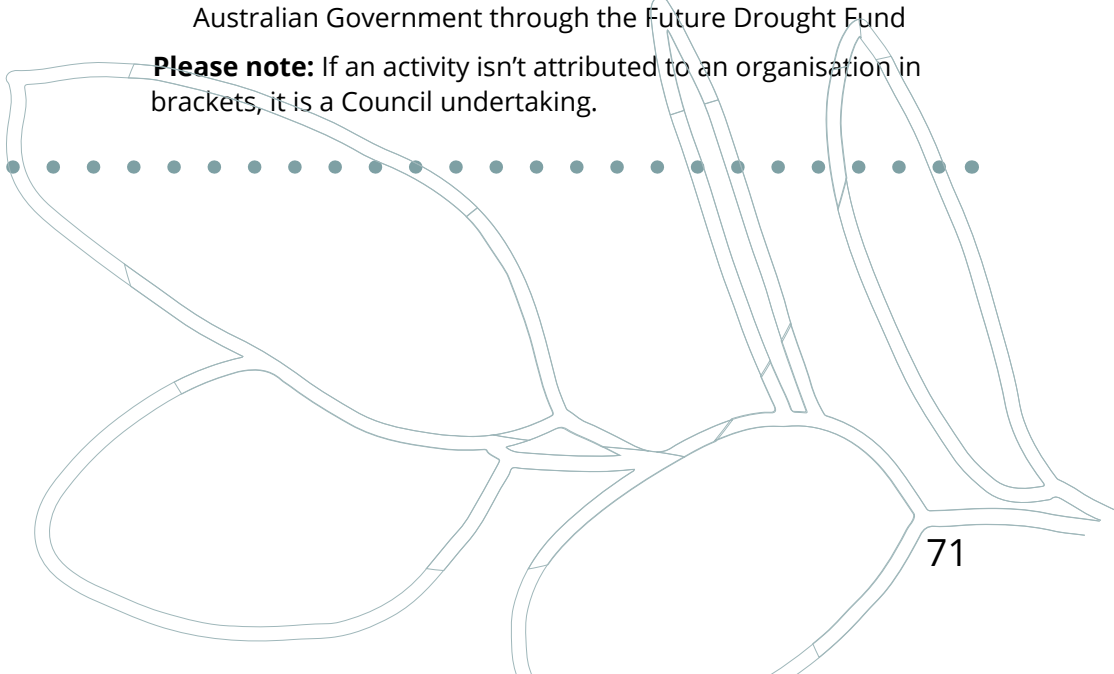
Outcomes	Key activities undertaken by Council and other stakeholders
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We demonstrate leadership in the face of disaster



- Engaged in strategic discussions and decision-making processes to enhance local emergency management protocols through active participation in the Local Emergency Management Committee
- Completed a full and detailed review of the Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN). This included a detailed review of Council designated evacuation centres, potential transport blockage during flood or fire and contact information for the various locations identified within the plan
- Held safety storytime at Leeton Library to educate children and carers about fire safety (Leeton Library and Fire and Rescue NSW Station 360 Leeton)
- Approved the Flood Emergency SubPlan, which outlines multi-agency arrangements for managing flooding in the Leeton Shire, as part of the EMPLAN (Local Emergency Management Committee)
- Joined 'One Road' (also known as Live Traffic NSW), enabling Leeton Council to upload real-time traffic information, such as road closures, flooding, and roadwork updates, to a live platform. This advancement has enhanced Council's ability to provide accurate, timely information to both the community and emergency services about travel-related matters
- Entered into a trial LEMC merger with Narrandera Shire Council to increase efficiencies and cross LGA collaboration with emergency services and disaster management
- Convened a workshop with the NSW Reconstruction Authority to help our community with information on the four important apps (Bureau of Meteorology, Live Traffic NSW, Hazards Near Me and Emergency Plus) in case of an emergency (Leeton Connect)
- Participated in drought resilience planning workshops together with other local councils to develop a comprehensive Regional Drought Resilience Plan, following funding from the Australian Government through the Future Drought Fund

Please note: If an activity isn't attributed to an organisation in brackets, it is a Council undertaking.

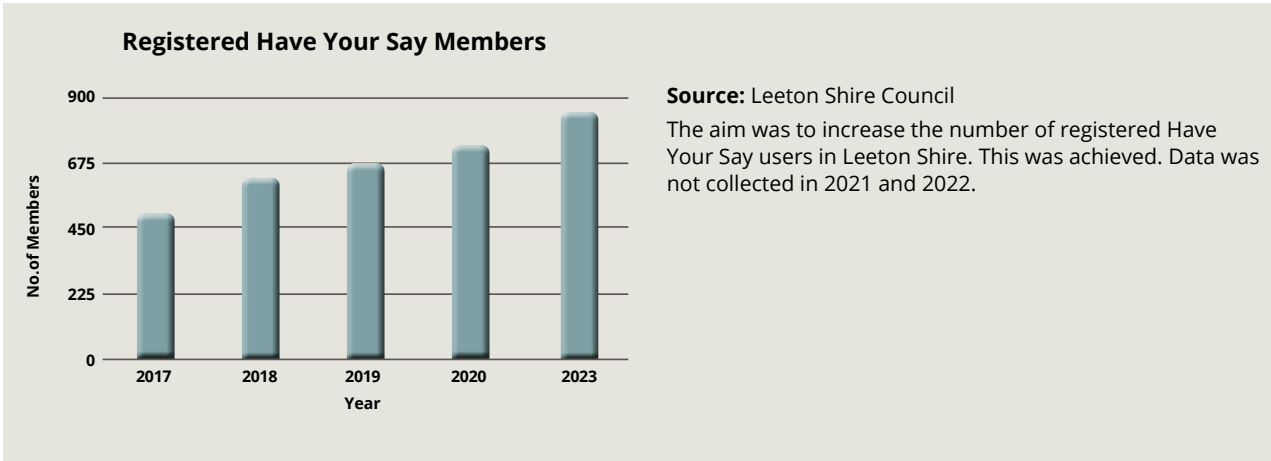




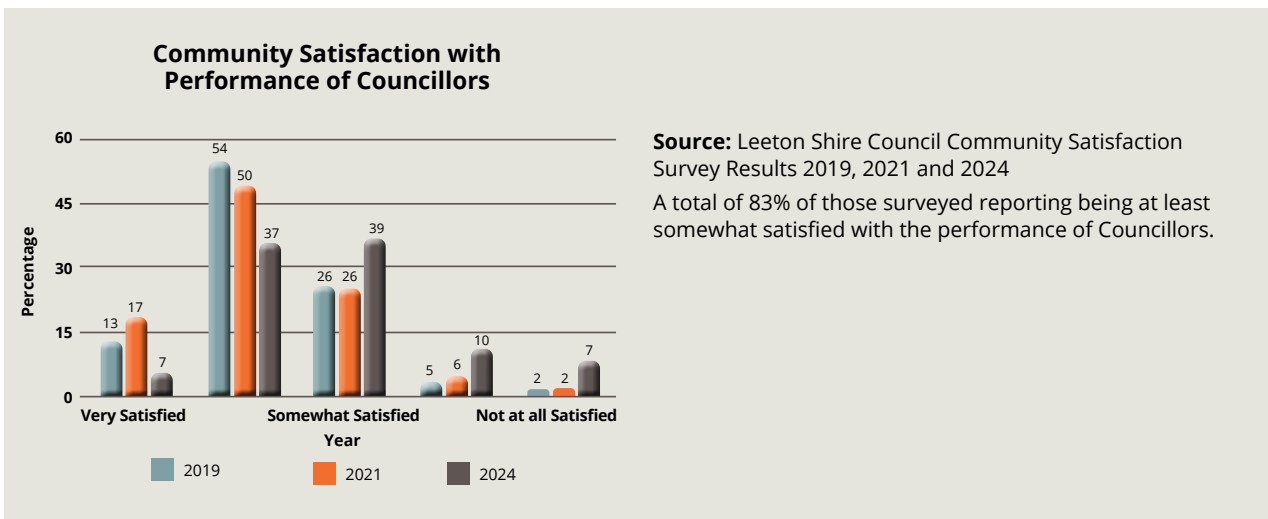


FOCUS AREA 5: Strong Leadership and Civic Participation cont.

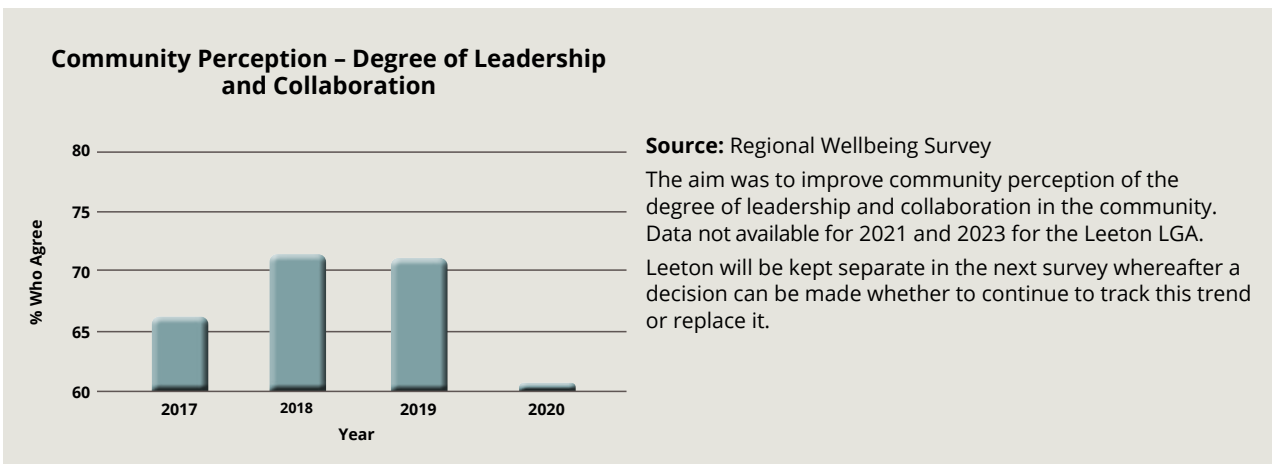
Outcome L1: We are well informed and engaged in decision-making



Outcome L2: Our leaders speak out for the good of our community

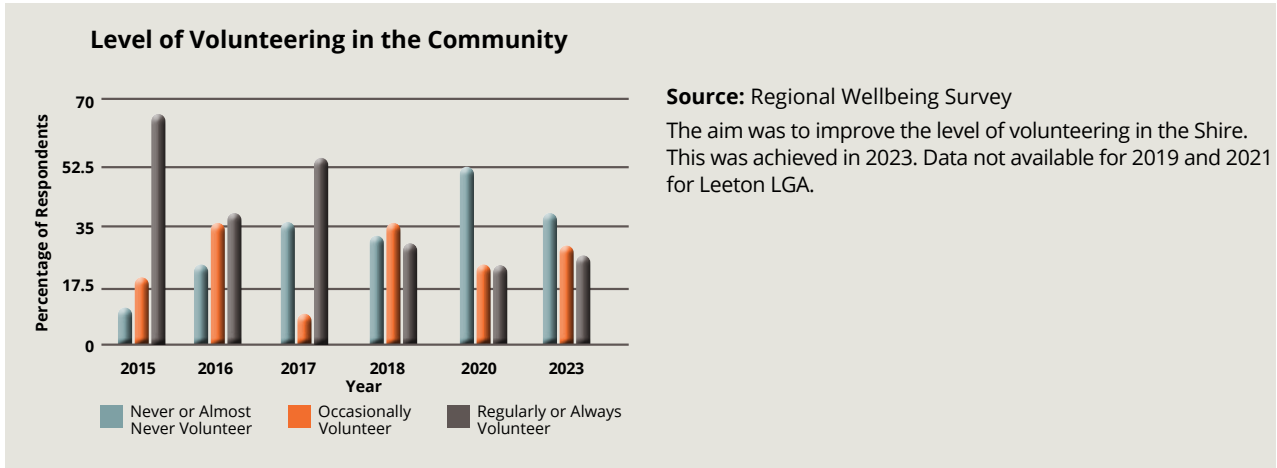


Outcome L3: We work together to achieve our goals



FOCUS AREA 5: Strong Leadership and Civic Participation cont.

Outcome L4: We are active community members who recognise we all have a role to play



Outcome L5: Our Council operates efficiently and effectively within a framework of good governance

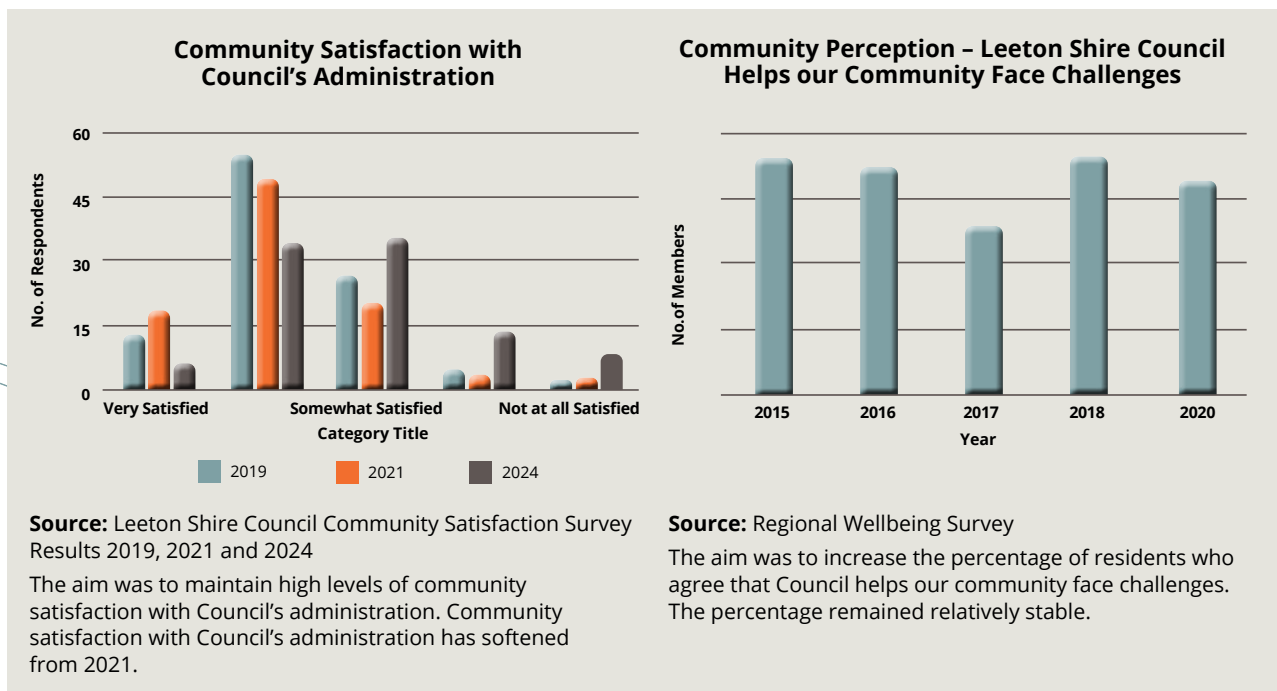


Photo Captions and Credits

Front cover: Chelmsford Place upgrade

Inside cover: Acknowledgement of Country

Page 4

Top: Ken Dachi receives Welcoming Australia Award

Bottom: Morris Chambers repainted external facade as part of CBD Enhancement Project

Page 8

Your Councillors and the General Manager for the 2021-2024 Council term. L-R Cr Paul Smith, Cr George Weston, Cr Tracey Morris (seated), GM Jackie Kruger, Deputy Mayor Cr Michael Kidd, Mayor Cr Tony Reneker (seated), Cr Krystal Maytom, Cr Sandra Nardi, Cr Tony Ciccia
Absent: Cr Matt Holt

Page 10

Whitton mural painting

Page 12

Top: Leeton Sporting Walk of Fame recipient Matthew Dunn and family
Bottom: Chelmsford Place upgrade

Page 13

Top left: Outback Band Spectacular
Top right: Roxy Redevelopment Committee

Middle: Roxy redevelopment project works

Circle: Council rangers Glenn McVittie and Grant Smith perform free microchipping

Bottom: Leeton Regional Aquatic Centre opening of twin slides

Page 15

Leeton sunrise over corn crop in Whitton. Photo credit: Neil McAliece

Page 16

Top: Leeton Multicultural Support Group President Susie Rowe and Leeton resident Bhanuka Viduranga
Circle: Kurrajong Thursday 'chinwags' with Police. Photo credit: Kurrajong
Bottom: Members of Leeton Parkrun Committee. Photo credit: Leeton Parkrun Committee

Page 18

Top: Leeton Farmers' Markets held at Mountford Park
Bottom: Performers at Fiesta La Leeton

Page 19

Trish and My Plan Connect staff. Photo credit: My Plan Connect

Page 20

Top circle: Members of Leeton Youth Council at a meeting
Middle circle: Mayor Tony Reneker welcomes new citizens at a citizenship ceremony
Bottom circle: Curator of 'Still Here' exhibition at the Leeton Museum and

Art Gallery, Joanne Edwards. Photo credit: RFBI Masonic Village Leeton

Page 21

Top circle: Leeton Pride Collective Inc. parading at Leeton SunRice Festival. Photo credit: Leeton Rainbow Pride Collective Inc.

Second circle: Dachi family with Heather from ABC Backroads Program

Bottom circle: Gregory Longford with members of youth community. Photo credit: Nuranurra Support Service

Page 22

Top circle: Multicultural flag
Bottom circle: Performers at Gossamer Park Family Fun Day

Page 23

Top circle: Audience at the Miil Miil Productions Wiradjuri film and book showcase at Gossamer Park
Bottom circle: Roxy Theatre and Art Deco lanterns

Page 24

Top circle: Members of Leeton Library Book Club

Middle circle: Vita Vitelli Leeton Art Society. Photo credit: Leeton Art Society

Bottom circle: Storytime at Leeton Library

Page 25

Top circle: Country Universities Centre Western Riverina. Photo credit: Country Universities Centre Western Riverina

Middle circle: Children at Leeton Early Learning Centre

Bottom circle: Yanco Ag High School students at ram sale. Photo credit: Yanco Ag High School

Page 26

Fiesta La Leeton

Page 29

Top right: Anne Morshead and Jan Thompson at Two Points of View Exhibit opening

Middle left: Elijah Ingram and Will Ingram painting Survival Day Mural at Gossamer Park

Middle right: Making of the mosaic table at the Leeton library as part of Seniors Week

Bottom: Gralee School student at Leeton Museum and Art Gallery
Circle: Yanco Ag High School Students. Photo credit: Yanco Ag High School

Page 30

Top left: New pedestrian bridge Brobenah Rd Leeton

Top right: Leeton Galloping Greens in action. Photo credit: Leeton Galloping Greens

Middle: Participants in Boys to the Bush Program volunteering to help maintain No.1 ovals

Bottom: Skater participating in the Leeton Totem Skate Competition. Photo credit: Neil McAliece

Page 31

Aerial of Leeton twin slide and pool

Page 32

Top circle: Footpath renewal works
Middle circle: Student participants in RYDA Program

Bottom circle: Inspector OIC Leeton, Narrandera & Barellan Murrumbidgee PD Jason Clarke and Mayor Tony Reneker promoting 'Become a Cop Campaign' to local community

Page 33

Top circle: Joggers enjoying Leeton Parkrun. Photo credit: Leeton Parkrun Committee

Bottom circle: Leeton Running and Walking Group. L-R Gregory Longford, Nuranurra Support Service and Cheryl Whymark. Photo credit: Gregory Longford/IMF Raw Team

Page 34

Top circle: New Hospital emergency department at the Leeton Hospital. Photo credit: MLHD

Middle circle: LHAC Forum held at Leeton Museum and Art Gallery. Photo credit: LHAC

Bottom circle: Salvation Army Leeton

Page 35

Top circle: Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network's Clinical Programs and Emergency Response Manager Peta Anderson and COVID Support Officer Charlotte Johnson preparing for the Foodbank pop-up event in Leeton on 18 July 2024. Photo credit: MPHN

Bottom circle: Narelle Mills and Corowa LHAC member Dave Harrison. Photo credit: MPHN

Page 36

Top: Councillors visit residents at Eventide Homes Yanco



Photo Captions and Credits cont.

Page 37

Top: Foodbank event volunteers and attendees

Middle: LHAC Forum held at Leeton Museum and Art Gallery. Photo credit: LHAC

Bottom: Students participants in Leeton Gamechanger Program

Page 39

Circle: Swimmers enjoying Leeton Pool

Page 41

Aerial photo Leeton houses and streets

Page 42

Top: Kurrajong participants Thursday 'chinwags' with rural fire brigade services. Photo credit: Kurrajong

Bottom: Kurrajong participants Leeton Museum and Art Gallery. Photo credit: Kurrajong

Circle: Kurrajong participant plays pickleball. Photo credit: Kurrajong

Page 43

Top: Foodbank event in Leeton

Middle circle: Student participants in Leeton Gamechanger Program

Bottom: Gamechanger students at the Leeton Indoor Stadium

Page 44

Top: Leeton Business Chamber Award Recipients 2023. Photo credit: Leeton Business Chamber

Middle: Launch of Leeton Living website. L-R Michelle Evans, Bobbie Pannowitz, Cr Krystal Maytom, Emily Goodall
Bottom: Art Deco Festival guests enjoying High Rollers event at the Historic Hydro Leeton

Page 45

Leeton Sunrice Festival attendees enjoying hot air balloon ride

Page 46

Top circle: Business Connect workshop
Bottom circle: University of Wollongong student doctors, Anna and Allannah

Page 47

Top circle: Canal St road rehabilitation works

Bottom circle: Students at Western Riverina Careers Expo Leeton

Page 48

Top circle: Council customer service trainee Shante Smith

Bottom circle: House in Leeton

Page 49

Top circle: Kate O'Callaghan Southern Cotton and Tom Mannes Cotton Australia at Southern Cotton Gin

Middle circle: Art Deco Way signage

Bottom circle: Art Deco Festival event

Page 54

Fivebough Wetlands

Circle: Visitors enjoying Murrumbidgee River

Page 55

Chill & Grill event in Leeton

Page 56

Top: Fivebough Wetlands works

Middle: Playground upgrades

McCaughy Park

Bottom: Irrigation channel near Wamoon. Photo credit: Neil McAliece

Page 57

Council staff member Ben Curley pictured with water meter

Page 58

Top circle: Australasian Bittern Conservation Summit

Middle circle: Cultural burn at Tuckerbil

2023. Photo credit: Elijah Ingram

Bottom circle: MDA Board with The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP and Council GM Jackie Kruger

Page 59

Top circle: St Francis High School senior students in the Wiradjuri Garden. Photo credit: St Francis High School

Bottom: Reviva Recycling Shop opening

Page 60

Top circle: Landscaping works near traffic lights Leeton

Middle circle: New shade sails Whitton Park

Bottom circle: Wamoon Sewerage Scheme Official Opening Ceremony

Page 61

Top circle: Sycamore St roadworks

Bottom circle: Stormwater drainage replacement

Page 63

Circle: Jacaranda trees outside Library

Page 64

Circle: Brobenah Rd resealing works

Bottom: Flower beds in Mountford Park

Page 65

Top: Aerial photo Leeton Water Filtration Plant

Middle: Council staff member Luke Tedesco with new solar installation panels

Bottom: New FOGO bin introduction

Page 66

Top: Community rally against water buybacks Leeton

Circle: Members of RAMJO meet with the NSW Water Minister, The Hon. Rose Jackson MLC

Bottom: Visit by The Hon. Ryan Park and Helen Dalton with councillors and Leeton Health Services Action Committee members

Page 67

Governor General Her Excellency, The Hon. Margaret Beazley AC KC visits Council. L-R Cr Tracey Morris, GM Jackie Kruger, Mayor Tony Reneker, Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC and Governor

of NSW and husband Mr Wilson and Deputy Mayor Michael Kidd

Page 68

Top circle: Councillor Catchup session Yanco

Bottom circle: Advertisement with other Councils and NSW Irrigators' Council Against Water Buybacks

Page 69

Top circle: Leeton Hospital visit.

L-R Susan Andrusiow, Karen Davy, Maryann Iannelli, Cr Krystal Maytom, Karen Absolom, Emeritus Mayor Paul Maytom, Jackie Kruger, Sekai Dachi, Tegan Reid

Bottom circle: Members of Rotary Club cooking a BBQ at an event

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Top circle: Leeton Connect breakfast

Bottom circle: Council staff members Melissa Seymour and Mervin Mathew viewing new CRM system

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Top circle: Members of NSW Rural Fire Service Leeton

Bottom circle: NSW Reconstruction Authority Workshop on emergency apps. Photo credit: Leeton Connect

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Top: Members of Leeton Youth Council with Cr Sandra Nardi (far right) and Council staff member Emma Di Muzio (far right)

Circle: Council staff member Ken Dachi with his Excellency General, The Hon. David John Hurley ACDSC (Ret'd)

Bottom: Leeton Health Services Action Committee Member Maryann Iannelli talks with The Hon. Ryan Park at forum

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Top: Luke Tedesco presents speech at community rally against water buybacks in Leeton

Middle: Royal Bhutanese Embassy delegates, including His Excellency Ambassador Sonam Tobgay (centre right), First Secretary Mrs. Metho Dama (front centre), and Minister Counsellor Mr. Jigme Tenzin (far left), pictured with Leeton Shire Mayor, Councillors, and General Manager, during discussions on employment opportunities and future collaboration

Bottom: Leeton Connect staff and volunteer Mary Errey and Sue Pearce at Leeton Show

Circle: Yanco Town Improvement Committee volunteers

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Memorial structures Chelmsford Place

Inside back cover

Yanco Public School artwork at Leeton Museum and Art Gallery

Back cover

Flower beds in Leeton main street

Stakeholders and Contributors

The following organisations were contacted for input towards the State of the Shire report. An asterisk indicates those that provided feedback. Council expresses gratitude to the organisations that contribute significantly to our wellbeing as a community and is especially thankful to those that made the time to give their insights and photos to this report. We welcome input from all community groups and we acknowledge that, given the many groups in our community, there may be more to add. If you would like to be included in our contact list for future reports and the development of future community strategic plans, please reach out to Council by emailing council@leeton.nsw.gov.au. Your input is valuable to us.

- Adapt Community Services
- Aboriginal Consultative Group
- Argyle Homes*
- Assumption Villa
- Boys to the Bush Leeton*
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
- Country Universities Centre Western Riverina*
- CWA*
- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Crown Lands*
- Fivebough Wetlands Committee*
- FRRR*
- Get Set Inc.
- Gralee School*
- Griffith Post School Options Leeton
- Jumpstart*
- Kurrajong*
- Leeton & District Local Aboriginal Land Council*
- Leeton Art Society Inc.*
- Leeton Business Chamber*
- Leeton Community Care Development Inc.
- Leeton Connect*
- Leeton Early Learning Centre*
- Leeton Eisteddfod Society*
- Leeton Golf Club*
- Leeton Health Advisory Committee*
- Leeton High School*
- Leeton Historical Society*
- Leeton Local Aboriginal Education Consultative
- Leeton Men's Shed Inc.
- Leeton Multicultural Support Group*
- Leeton preschools*
- Leeton Public School
- Leeton Rainbow Pride Collective Inc.*
- Leeton Sport and Recreation Precinct Parkrun (Leeton Parkrun)*
- Leeton VRA Rescue Squad
- Leeton/Yanco Swimming Club*
- LEMC*
- Lions Club*
- Local developers
- Multicultural NSW
- Murray-Darling Association*
- Murray-Darling Basin Authority*
- Murrumbidgee Field Naturalists
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation
- Murrumbidgee Local Health District*
- Murrumbidgee Police District*
- Murrumbidgee Primary Health Network*
- My Plan Connect*
- National Institute of Dramatic Arts*
- Nuranurra Support Service*
- NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service*
- OCTEC Leeton (TTW)
- OneSchool Global Leeton
- Parkview Public School
- RAMJO*
- Rapid Relief Team Leeton*
- Regional Development Association Riverina
- Reviva Recycling Shop Leeton*
- RFBI Leeton Masonic Village*
- Riverina Local Land Services*
- Riverina Writing House*
- Rotary Clubs*
- Roxy Institute of Performing Arts*
- Rural Fire Services*
- Safe Work NSW
- Salvation Army Leeton*
- Sporting organisations*
- St Francis High School*
- St Joseph's Primary School
- St Vincent's De Paul Leeton
- TAFE NSW*
- The Personnel Group
- U3A
- Valmar Support Services Ltd*
- Wamoon Public School
- Western Riverina Arts*
- Western Riverina Community College*
- Whitton-Murrumbidgee Primary School
- Whitton Museum
- Workforce Australia*
- WR Connect*
- Yanco Agricultural Institute
- Yanco Ag High School*
- Yanco and Whitton Town Improvement Committees*
- Yanco Powerhouse Museum*
- Yanco Public School



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