



**COMMUNITY PLAN
2022-2032**



Acknowledgement of Country

We live and work on the lands of the First Australians. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Gamilaraay

Dhayn ngiyani winangaylanha
Australia-ga ganunga-waanda
yanaylanha, dhaymaarr ganugu-
waanda nhama ngarrangarranmaldanhi

English

We respect Aboriginal peoples as the First Peoples and custodians of Australia.



Community Plan - prepared by the Healthy Communities Foundation in collaboration with the Collarenebri-Galariinbaaray community and Murdi Paaki Coordinating Committee.



How to provide input to this Plan

This Community Plan has been prepared by the Collarenebri Working Group of the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly which is comprised of representatives of the community and Elders.

The Plan is meant to be a 'living document' which means it can be changed at any time if there is agreement within the community.

This document is the start of an ongoing discussion about our shared futures.

In preparing this Community Plan, we have talked to lots of people in the community, local business, government and other groups. We wanted to make sure it was a good plan, and that the things in it would get support.

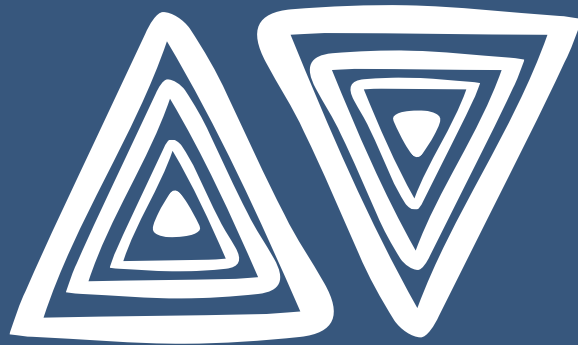
This is a 10 year plan, so we do not expect that everything will be funded straight away. Some things, like a Museum, will take time because we will first need to make sure our kids get training in hospitality and tourism so there will be people to staff the Museum. We also need to talk to more of the Elders about the carve trees to get a better understanding of what they think should happen.

This Plan is open to the community to provide comments, input, make additional suggestions or to let us know where we might have got things wrong and how to fix it.

Please go to www.galariinbaraay.org.au to read the Plan, get updates, make suggestions, see how we are progressing, and to let us know your ideas. We will hold a few forums throughout 2024 as well to make sure everyone can have their say.

Carl Mason

Many hands working together



GALARIINBARAAY

MURDI PAAKI COMMUNITY WORKING PARTY

———— **COLLARENEBRI** ————

PARTNERS



**ADD YOUR ORGANISATION OR NAME HERE AND SHARE THE
JOURNEY TOGETHER**

ABOUT THIS PLAN

The Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly is a congress of 16 Aboriginal communities across western NSW, and is recognised by the NSW and Federal Government as the voice of western Aboriginal communities. The Collarenebri Community Working Party represents the Collarenebri Aboriginal community. One of its jobs is to prepare a Community Plan that sets out to the government the priorities of the community.

Collarenebri is a disadvantaged community. Over the years, we have welcomed many people and organisations to try to help us to address the systemic challenges that we face.

However, too often this has resulted in programs that are not well-designed to meet our unique needs.

There is a growing frustration in the town, and across Aboriginal Australia, about the lack of progress in closing the gap in health, education, employment, crime and other outcomes in our communities.

Part of the problem, we believe, is the lack of engagement with our community in deciding priorities and designing programs that fit our needs. Too often governments and NGOs come along with their own ideas about how to fix our problems, rather than to talk with us about our priorities and what will work.

Even when good ideas are put forward by outsiders, it is difficult for community members to feel a strong sense of ownership because they do not see themselves in the plan.

Programs are often poorly coordinated and agencies sometimes compete to deliver overlapping programs, contributing to a loss of focus on our community needs.

Good intent is abundant, and for this we are truly thankful. But we cannot avoid the reality that the circumstances of our community have not improved, and that there has been an historic failure of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organisations to close the gap.

Our small town lies hundreds of kilometres away from decision-making centres. Aboriginal and rural people are often blamed for our circumstances. But our circumstances are not the result of what we have done, or failed to do. We live with disadvantage because our land and waters were taken away from us under the lie of terra nullius. Then again in 2010, we lost our jobs and economic opportunities when it was decided that our waters should be given away to farmers in the lower catchments of the Murray Darling Basin.

For 50,000 years Aboriginal people have written our story on these lands, and handed these stories down across the generations. Non-Aboriginal people in our town also have their stories to tell.

All we want as a community is to be the author of our own story as we look to the future.

The people of Collarenebri, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, are proud, determined and knowledgeable about our needs and the solutions that will help to address decades of systemic discrimination, disregard and disadvantage.

We know that living and working away from the cities means we often don't know how things are done, but that does not mean we do not know what needs to be done for our community.

As a working party made up of representatives of the Aboriginal community in Collarenebri, we challenged ourselves to design a plan that spoke to our needs and the aspirations we have for all the members of our community.

The first thing the Working Party agreed was that Collarenebri is too small to have dozens of different plans developed by numerous organisations for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. Everyone in our community experiences disadvantage in different ways, and the idea that we can write a Plan that does not address our shared experience of disadvantage meant we would end up with competing solutions that benefited no one.

The motto of the Working Party is "Burra Murras" - many hands working together. If we want jobs for our kids we need to work with non-Aboriginal business owners to plan how this will be done. If non-Aboriginal people want local health care then we need to support a single sustainable health service for everyone - our town is simply too small to have more than one service.

The second thing we agreed is that we need to focus on what is causing disadvantage, rather than trying to treat the effects of disadvantage in our community. We all know that disadvantage is the result of many things, including a lack of jobs, low educational attainment, poor health, and inadequate housing. This leads to high rates of chronic disease, teenage pregnancies, engagement with the criminal justice system etc.

Yet agencies too often look at these problems in isolation from each other, and routinely fail to cooperate with each other in coordinating strategies for our benefit. We are tired of patching people up at the bottom of the cliff - we want to stop people from falling in the first place.

In our view, we need to tackle these problems as a community development issue, rather than as isolated issues amenable to discrete solutions.

The third thing we agreed is that we - the community - are responsible for our future. We have waited for other people to "solve our problems" for a long time. It doesn't work.

We believe that there is not a program, strategy or funding program that is going to change the course of our history unless it is designed by, and driven by, our community. If we want change, we need to pull up our sleeves and tell government what it needs to do, rather than wait for governments to tell us what they are going to do.

As a Working Party and community, we want the space and support to come together to identify the issues that are a priority for our community, and for governments to support us to solve them.

While we are truly respectful of all the help we have been offered by so many people, we also know that as soon as our problems are put into someone else's hands we lose a sense of ownership and control. People in our community become disengaged and start to see the issues as someone else's problem to solve.

We ask in the same spirit of generosity that has led so many to try to help our community to embrace our decision to take back community-control over our future.

We want this to be seen as the beginning of a journey that we invite you to share with us. We are not asking you to go away, far from it. We need your help, knowledge, skills and resources.

We just need these to be deployed to meet our priorities, and on programs that reflect our unique needs.

The exceptional work of so many people has informed this plan, so you can feel a sense of ownership of this process because we could not have begun without your help and guidance.

Like our community, this plan is alive. Our vision will always remain the same, but we expect this Plan to change and evolve as we sit down and yarn with others about what is possible, how the plan could be changed to make it better and what roles people want to play in supporting our community.

While this is a Murdi Paaki Collarenebri Community Working Party plan, we have deliberately written it to be an all-embracing roadmap for the future of all people in Collarenebri and its surrounding communities. What is good for Aboriginal people is good for non-Aboriginal people, and vice versa.

We invite everyone in Collarenebri, and all those that wish us well, to become part of our story in a spirit of reconciliation and renewal.



Carl Mason
Chair, Murdi Paaki
Collarenebri
Community Working
Party



“We know that living and working away from the cities means we often don’t know how things are done, but that does not mean we do not know what needs to be done for our community.”



OUR STORY - RECONCILIATION & RENEWAL

Collarenebri is the English translation of the Gamilaroi placename 'Galariinbaraay' meaning 'place of flowers' or 'eucalyptus blossoms'.

Gamilaraay is the language spoken on Gamilaroi country, which is also known as Yuwaalaraay country.

The Gamilaroi people have inhabited the lands of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay for more than 50,000 years. They are one of the Aboriginal nations of the Australian continent, which are the oldest continuous civilisations on Earth.

The British colonisation of the Australian continent in 1788 marked the beginning of a new and painful era in the history of the people of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay.

Under the authority of the British Empire, William Earl took possession of our land and waters near what is called Collarenebri Crossing.

This marked the beginning of a period of British agricultural expansion which generated enormous wealth for the British, and subsequently Australian, people over the next two centuries.

But in this process, the Gamilaroi people were driven from their lands and waters. We were exposed to hitherto unknown western diseases against which we had no natural immunity. New foods, alcohol and tobacco, which were not known in our culture, led to high rates of chronic disease. Western religions displaced our stories and lore, and our ancient culture and language were suppressed.

Two centuries of discrimination defined the lives of the Gamilaroi people of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay. As a people we were pushed to the fringes of our own lands and denied access to the lifeblood of our society and economy - water.

On the nearby Collymungle Station, ancient, ceremonial carve trees were stolen from our people.

This was akin to removing the tomb stones of Australian soldiers killed in action at the Somme. Lack of understanding, and regard, for Gamilaroi history, culture and way-of-life has caused great physical and mental harm to our people.

As much as Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay is part of the long and ancient story of this continent, it holds another unique place in the modern history of Australia.

Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay is one of the birthplaces of Aboriginal land rights, and of the reconciliation movement, that continues to this day.

Isabel Flick was a Gamilaroi and Bigambul woman born in 1928. Like many other Aboriginal kids, Isabel Flick was refused an education at the local school because she was "too black".

In defiance of her exclusion, she taught herself to read and write "determined she would not be defeated by segregation ..". She would later become a cleaner in the same school that refused her the human right of a basic education.

After experiencing decades of discrimination on her own land, Isabel decided to take a stand against racial segregation at the Liberty Picture Theatre in town in 1961.

Isabel and her sister-in-law, Isobelle Walford, had watched their "kids being herded down to the front seats [of the Liberty Picture Theatre], where they were roped off and had to crane their necks to see the screen ... They marched up to the ticket box and demanded seats that had been reserved for whites only".

Her local activism later drew the attention of the university campaigners in north west NSW. Moving to Sydney Isabel became involved in the organisation of the Freedom Rides with Charles Perkins, which travelled to Collarenebri on 16 February 1965.

Isabel returned to Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay in 1978 having 'become a skilled and careful negotiator'. After campaigning for Land Rights, she helped to establish the Mangankali Aboriginal Housing in Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay.

"She was trying to achieve concrete outcomes - better housing, more equitable distribution of resources - but always had a recognition of the importance of the broader, symbolic issues".

Isabel took a keen interest in the Aboriginal cemetery in Collarenebri, in which many of the community had buried their loved ones.



“The town cemetery was segregated - but the Aboriginal community had turned this into a strength, recording their family stories and carefully decorating, washing and caring for the graves in their cemetery over the years”.

“Many people, like Isabel, saw this tiny pocket of land as symbolic not only of community but of all the land they had lost. But the road to this cemetery was unreliable in wet weather, deepening the pain of loss when burials had to be delayed”.

“... Isabel developed a consensus among all the Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay families that they would refuse government funding for any other project until it was available to upgrade this road ...”.

The refusal of the community to accept government funding resulted in the government relenting, [just as the Liberty Theatre had done many years before] recognising the importance of the demand for reliable access - not only to this burial site but to this tiny corner of their land. The new and upgraded road was opened in 1983”.

The respect she earned for her advocacy for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people was proven when she was chosen by the whole community to be the spokesperson for their town in negotiations with the government for resources to address the health, education and other needs of the town.

Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay has prospered for more than 50,000 years. While its people have endured decades of neglect and discrimination, the spirit of its ancient custodians has inspired a new generation of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to join together in the important work of reconciliation and progress.



Source: <https://www.sbs.com.au/mitv/article/hidden-women-of-history-isabel-flick-the-tenacious-campaigner-who-fought-segregation-in-australia/r1c4bdfbt>
Reference:
Goodal, Heather, *Isabel Flick - The many lives of an extraordinary Aboriginal woman* (Allen & Unwin, 2004) at <https://readingaustralia.com.au/books/isabel-flick/>

COLLARENEBRI COMMUNITY VISION

A united, thriving community in which everyone has the opportunity to learn, prosper and be healthy.

What does this mean?



Our children have the best possible start in life.



Our young people get the knowledge and skills they need to realise their potential and live a healthy life with a full understanding of the ancient culture and language of our land.



Our community is a safe and inclusive place to live and work, is free from discrimination and provides the social and economic opportunities all people need to live well and raise the next generation.



Residents can easily access essential help and care from local culturally safe services when they need it including safe and affordable housing, transport, education and employment support and comprehensive primary health care.



Residents with special needs get the support they need to participate in the social and economic life of the community.

COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

This Plan is built on the principle of reconciliation and renewal. This recognises the need for everyone, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to take responsibility to preserve, protect and promote the unique culture, history, language and arts of all the people of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay for the benefit of all people in Australia, while also addressing the underlying barriers to the full enjoyment of equal rights for Aboriginal people.

EMPOWERMENT

Establish the Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay Reconciliation and Renewal Corporation to advance community and economic development in Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

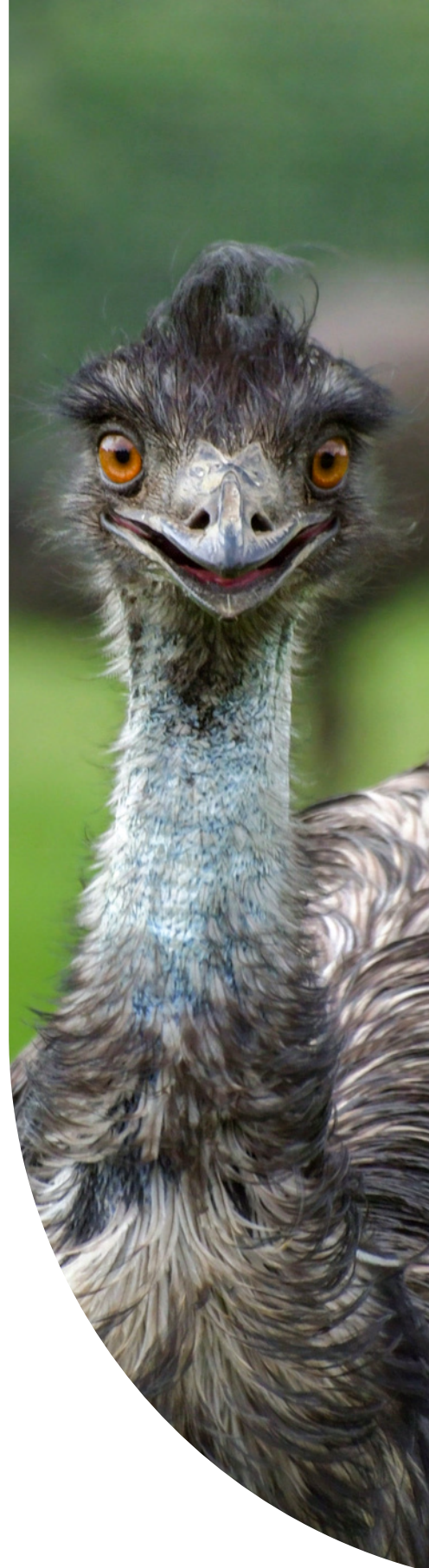
Promote education and its value to parents and kids, support our early childhood providers and schools, and promote positive messages about lifelong education and skills to residents of the community.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Build on the natural strengths and assets of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay to create local training, jobs and business opportunities for current and future generations.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Put community and health decision making back in the hands of local people, expand access to health and social care for the whole community, and address the social determinants that contribute to poor health, crime, educational disadvantage and other poor outcomes.



.....
OUR STORY

STARTS

HERE

.....
WHAT WILL YOUR STORY BE?



Become part of our story. Have your say at:
www.galariinbaraay.org.au

A STRENGTHS APPROACH

The community conducted a SWOT Analysis to better understand its genuine strengths and the barriers that can be addressed to help it to achieve its goals.

STRENGTHS

- Unique and important history in Australia of reconciliation & community cooperation
- Unique ancient culture and relics.
- Cheap land
- Established Integrated Primary Health Care Centre
- Early Childhood Centre
- Strong School community
- Active community with passion for progress and true reconciliation for the future

OPPORTUNITIES

- Land available for farming and production of cheap food to improve health and offer training
- Historic Aboriginal culture and unique art forms (e.g. scar trees and rocks) as a basis for tourism
- Main Street Shop vacancies available for new business and training startups
- TVET offerings in schools provide a foundation for expanding career opportunities for kids.

WEAKNESSES

- Lack of local small businesses to provide people with the training needed for work and to build educational aspiration
- Food insecurity due to lack of local food production
- Lack of expertise in economic and social development, business management and governance
- Hospital service that is not responsive to community needs
- Power blackouts due to poor energy infrastructure
- Very poor broadband quality and low household Internet access limiting employment and education
- Lack of land for development

THREATS

- Low AGPAR scores and low birth weight in babies due to lack of opportunity and poor access to sexual health/family planning services
- Very high rate of developmental vulnerability on 2 or more domains
- Sub-optimal school attendance and attainment limiting career pathways
- Excess level of preventable hospitalisations and avoidable deaths
- Crime.
- Racial discrimination by some government services.
- High rates of Aboriginal incarceration.
- No economic plan for the town.
- Lack of Government funding for community-led initiatives.

CLOSE THE GAP

Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay is in the bottom quintile of socioeconomic disadvantage in Australia.

If Closing the Gap in health, education, incarceration etc is ever to succeed the focus must shift from intervening when things go wrong, to proactively addressing the social determinants that lead to entrenched disadvantage.

This Community Plan acknowledges the critical role of addressing social determinants such as employment, economic opportunity, housing, crime, food security, access to services and education as a pathway to closing the gap. It recognises that as a community we cannot plan for health, education, employment or justice separately because all these things are connected.

It also recognises that the population of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay is too small and that fragmenting our efforts will result in services that are not sustainable for anyone. The nature and consequences of social determinants differ in their impact on Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. But as a small town we cannot hope to address them sustainably by having competing strategies and services for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. We must work as one community in the spirit of strength and reconciliation shown to us by Isabel Flick.

We believe that the whole community of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay benefits when we work together for mutual progress in a spirit of mutual advancement and reconciliation.



ENABLING INVESTMENTS



Enabling investments describe the infrastructure and activities that are required to remove road-blocks in the way of the community to create a society and economy designed around its needs.



ENERGY SECURITY

Power in Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay is unreliable due to infrastructure that is highly susceptible to climatic conditions.

IMPACT

The lack of reliable energy undermines the capacity of the town to attract new business investment, creates risks for local business revenue, impacts health care and education, and inhibits future tourism growth.

ACTION

Examine opportunities to secure funding for a Community Battery and Solar/Wind Farm to ensure reliable power for business, industry, health, education and the community to underpin growth.



BROADBAND ACCESS

Broadband access and reception is very poor in Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay and household internet access is very low.

IMPACT

Poor reliability and cost are a major contributor to low rates of household internet access and has a major impact on business investment, education and health care limiting growth.

ACTION

Explore options securing funding to implement a reliable satellite or other technology to ensure high speed reliable access to broadband services and provide free wifi access in town for school children, job seekers and other community members unable to afford internet at home.



ENTRYWAY & STREET BEAUTIFICATION

The main street is tired and unattractive, and mixes heavy freight and pedestrian usage which is unsafe.

IMPACT

The town lacks an attractive street presence to underpin increased visitation and tourism investment, and poor management of interaction between heavy vehicles and pedestrians.

ACTION

Explore grants to invest in the beautification of the mainstreet and improve community safety.



INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE & REPAIR

There is limited regular maintenance of public assets (street cleaning), and poor storm water drainage in the main CBD results in flooding of shops during heavy rains.

IMPACT

The Main Street and associated businesses flood during heavy rain due to inadequate drainage impacting business continuity, resulting in additional business costs and in some cases can impede access to health care. A lack of green cover during hotter months discourages CBD utilisation during the daytime including retail and hospitality. The absence of regular street cleaning and maintenance allows dust and dirt accumulation contributing to low visitor stickiness.

ACTION

Work with the Walgett Shire Council to secure an agreed plan for street maintenance, drainage upgrades and new street planting to increase shade cover.



TOWN PLANNING & INDUSTRIAL LAND

There is no current plan for industrial, manufacturing and tourism development in Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay.

IMPACT

The lack of a clear plan for Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay to attract freight and other businesses to the town which limits business investment, employment growth, training capacity and population growth.

ACTION

Work with the Walgett Shire Council to develop a new urban, tourism and industrial master plan for Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay.



VISITOR ACCOMMODATION

Low volume of inappropriate quality accommodation for visitor attraction and overnight stays.

IMPACT

Reduced visitation and overnight stays.

ACTION

Work with local businesses on investment strategy to improve quality and volume of accommodation offerings. Work with Walgett Shire Council to explore grants to upgrade existing Primitive Camp Ground into a full service campground with power, water and bathroom facilities with boardwalk to the CBD to increase the length of stay of visitors to the town.



RIDGE-COLLY ROAD

The Ridge-Colly Road is not suitable to safely enable visitors and residents in either community to easily access the other.

IMPACT

Walgett Shire is largely reliant on Lightning Ridge as a tourist destination limiting the capacity of the region to attract increased overnight stays and potential economic and employment flow-on benefits. A second tourism focused town, offering a range of complementary services and activities, with a direct link to the Ridge would add to the destination assets and increase overnight stays and economic activity.

ACTION

Work with Walgett Shire Council to prioritise upgrading of the Ridge-Colly Road in parallel with development of a Tourism Plan (see below).



COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES 2022-2032





EMPOWERMENT

Establish the Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay Reconciliation and Renewal Corporation as a community-led corporation to oversee and drive the achievement of the Community Plan.

The Corporation will be a not-for-profit charitable entity established as a community voice for Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay's Aboriginal people and the community to advance the implementation of this Plan, govern general funds allocated to the Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay community under this Plan (not funds that are granted to specific organisations such as the LALC) and monitor performance in achieving the objectives in this Plan.

Members of the corporation will be residents of Collarenebri, or representatives of organisations with a substantial presence in Collarenebri.

The Members will elect the Directors. At least half the directors must be Aboriginal people. The Chair of the Board of Directors will be elected for a term of 2 years and will rotate between an Aboriginal and a non-Aboriginal member.

It is expected that the corporation will transition to Aboriginal community control over an agreed period to allow for the development of the needed governance and management skills to operate the entity sustainably.

To the extent possible, the Board will be comprised of an equal number of women and men and at least one Elder. The Board will actively encourage participation as directors by people with a disability, from the LGBTQIA+ community and youth.

The directors will be elected by the Members for a 4 year term. Half of the directors will be elected every two years in order to ensure a balance of experience and new ideas.

There will be 9 directors. Directors will be elected from among local stakeholders and community members including:

- Aboriginal community organisations
- Educational organisations
- Health organisations
- Police and Justice organisations
- Human and community services organisations
- Government organisations

There must be directors with the following skills, qualifications and experience:

1. financial qualifications and experience;
2. business development experience;
3. experience working with government and communities.

To the extent possible appointed directors should reside in Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay or have a significant role in the Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay community.

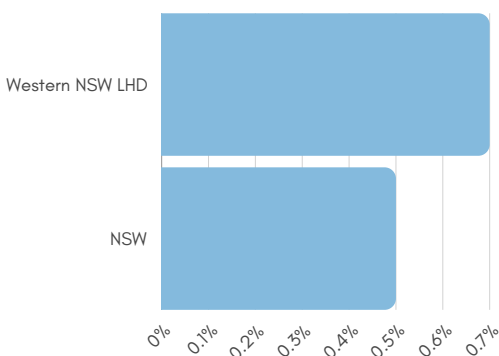


EDUCATION & SKILLS CONTEXT

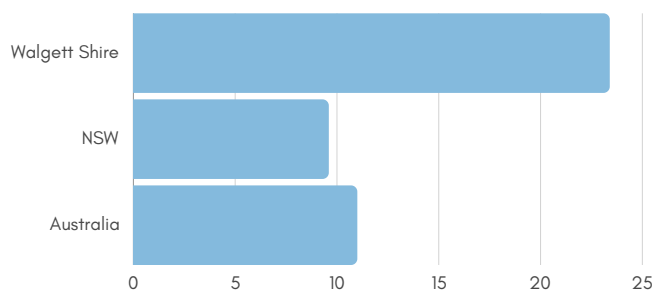
LOW APGAR SCORE

Why is this important to know?

The APGAR score is a quick way for doctors to work out a baby's healthy after they are born. A score of 7 to 10 after five minutes is considered to be good. Infants with low APGAR scores at birth have increased risk of poor functioning and lower intelligence in later life.



23.4% of kids in Walgett Shire (Social Health Atlas) were assessed under the AECD has being developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains compared to 9.6% of kids in NSW.



DEVELOPMENTALLY VULNERABLE KIDS

Why is this important to know?

The Australian Early Development Census (AECDC) is a survey conducted at the time children commence their first year of full-time school. The survey collects data relating to five key areas referred to as 'domains', these include:

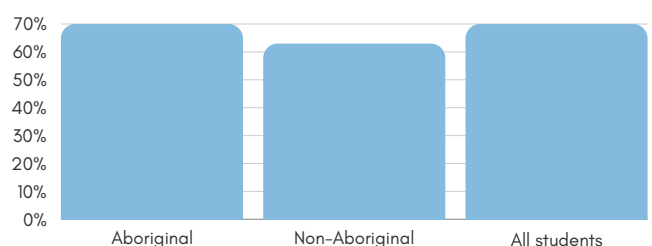
- Physical health and well being
- Social competence
- Emotional maturity
- Language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- Communication skills and general knowledge

Children are assessed in terms of their vulnerability and risk under each of these domains with the aim of working out how to intervene to reduce potential disadvantage over time.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Why is this important to know?

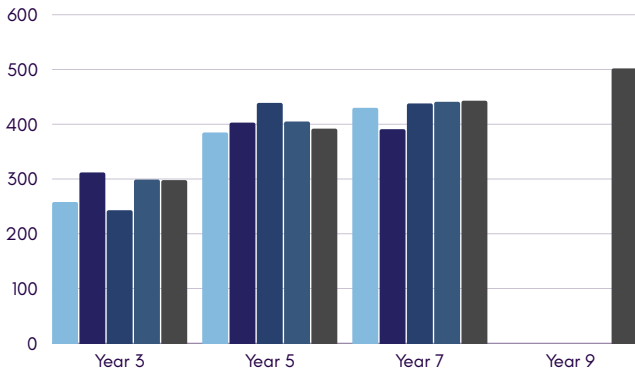
Attending school is really important for children to learn the skills and knowledge they will need to have a good life, get a job and manage their health. Low levels of school attendance are associated with poorer life outcomes, poor health outcomes and lower levels of economic capacity in a community. Data from MySchools shows that 70% of kids attended school in Collarenebri in Term 3 of 2019. Aboriginal kids were more likely to attend school (71%) compared to non-Aboriginal kids (63%). The proportion of kids who attended school 90% of the time, however, is very low at 19% overall.



NAPLAN

Why is this important to know?

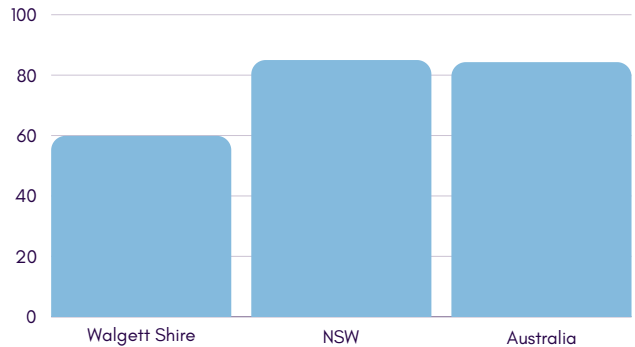
NAPLAN is a test that kids take at school to see how they are progressing with things like spelling, reading and math. Doing well in these areas is really important for kids to have the best opportunities in life and to get a good job that pays well. According to the NAPLAN results for 2018, kids in Collarenebri scored well-above kids in similar schools across all domains but well-below kids in Australia generally. This suggests that the local school is doing a good job for the community. The community needs to talk to the school about how we can help to continue to support the good work they are doing.



LEARNING OR EARNING

Why is this important to know?

If young people are not earning (have a job) or learning (at TAFE or University) they will struggle to get well-paying jobs to build a comfortable life and support the local economy. The proportion of people aged 15 years to 24 years who were enrolled in an educational program or in paid employment in Walgett Shire in 2016 was 59.9% compared to 85% of young people in NSW and 84.3% of young people in Australia. The community has identified the lack of local jobs and training opportunities as a major barrier for kids that may aspire to pursue further education.



LEFT SCHOOL BY YEAR 10

Why is this important to know?

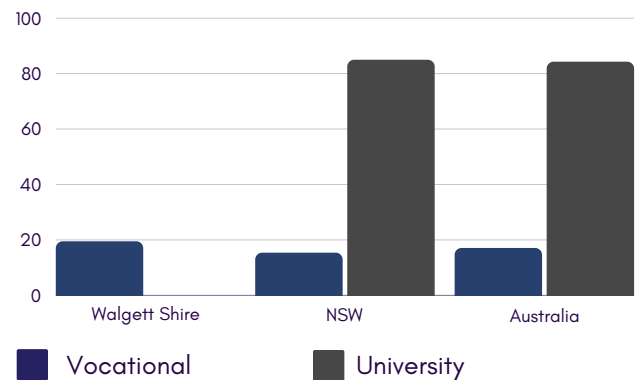
Research shows that the more years of education a kid gets, the better jobs they have. This is because the more knowledgeable and skilled a person, the more businesses want to employ them. The longer kids in rural towns stay in school the more they will benefit in their life (e.g. the income they can earn) and the more the community and local economy benefits. More than 44% of residents in Walgett Shire left school at or before Year 10 (Social Health Atlas). That is more than 10% higher than the NSW average. As a community we need to think about how we can improve engagement by young people in education and increase the number of kids completing Year 12 to pursue skills in areas of need in the town.



TERTIARY EDUCATION

Why is this important to know?

Vocational education (TAFE) and university education is a really important way that members of the community can grow their skills to support local businesses and build economic capacity. 19.5% of people aged 15 years to 24 years were enrolled in a vocational education program in 2019 compared to 15.4% of people in NSW and 17.1% of people in Australia (Social Health Atlas). In the same year, no young people were recorded as being enrolled in higher education program from Walgett Shire, compared to 85% of people in NSW and 84.3% of people in Australia. There is a big opportunity for the community to look at ways of building local aspiration for tertiary education by focussing on the careers where there are shortages in town like nursing, medicine, dentistry, aged care, personal assistance, agronomy, agriculture and hospitality.



EDUCATION & SKILLS PLAN

Promote education and its value to parents and kids, support our early childhood providers and schools, and promote positive messages about lifelong education and skills to residents of the community.



LEARNING COMMUNITY PLAN

The town experiences low AGPAR scores, low school attendance rates, low educational attainment, high rates of developmental vulnerability and poor employment outcomes which limits economic capacity for growth in the community.

IMPACT

Low educational attainment contributes to high rates of residents neither earning or learning between the age of 15 to 24 years and poorer health outcomes.

ACTION

Develop a Learning Community Plan to coordinate programs to engage everyone in the community in understanding the value of education and promoting early years learning, health literacy, educational participation and attainment and progress to vocational and higher education for employment.

LOCAL TRAINING

Limited local training opportunities beyond TVET in schools is a major barrier to educational participation, aspiration and attainment, and impacts on the retention of skills in the community and the capacity for jobs growth.

IMPACT

A thin skills market reduces business investment, and job creation, and increases the risk of the loss of essential services.

ACTION

Work with the school, local businesses, TAFE and other stakeholders to explore how the community can help to increase the number of apprenticeships and traineeships in the community.





DHIIRRA-LI EDUCATION FOR WORK CENTRE

There is a lack of local training opportunities for entry-level roles in health, business, hospitality and retail services.

IMPACT

Young people are reticent to leave home to study for careers that they have limited experience of, and where they often lack confidence to achieve.

ACTION

Establish a local work integrated learning centre for school children enrolled in TVET programs in health, education, youth work and business to acquire skills and confidence to support increased educational attainment, career development and reduce engagement with the criminal justice system.

ECONOMIC CONTEXT



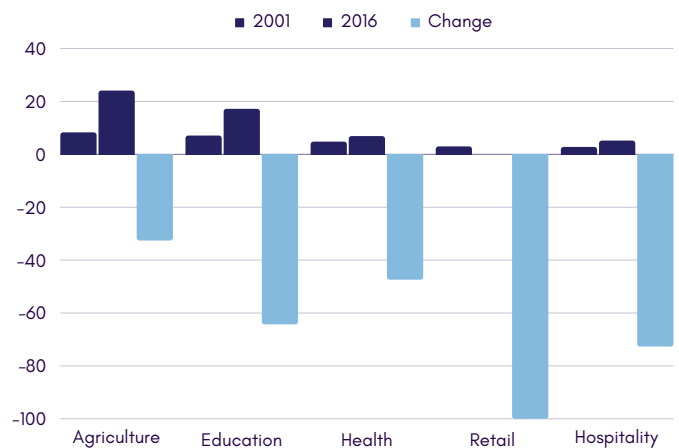
INDUSTRY OF EMPLOYMENT

Why is this important to know?

The number of people employed in an industry tells us about the types of industries that do well in a location. Declines in employment may reflect changes in technology (e.g. increased mechanisation), changes in policy or funding (particularly government services), or changes in the environment that may reduce the sustainability of the industry in the location.

The industry composition of Collarenebri (ABS Census 2016, UCL) has changed between the years 2001 and 2016. For example, in 2001 agriculture employed 8.3% of the population, but by 2016 it employs 24.3% of the population. This does not reflect growth in the number of people employed in Agriculture, but rather a decline in the number of people employed in the services sectors. This largely reflects the withdrawal of government services (e.g. centralisation of health services in regional cities, outsourcing of government functions to non-local providers).

Despite the decline in government support, Education remains responsible for 17.2% of employment, health (6.9%) and hospitality (5.2%) even though each of these industries has had a decline in job numbers. The data does help us understand which industries are the most important for Collarenebri's future growth. For example, if health services were closed or reduced this would affect 6.9% of the towns employment. But it also helps us to understand where opportunities exist. It is easy to grow an existing industry than create a new one, so investing in agriculture, health, education and hospitality should be a key focus.

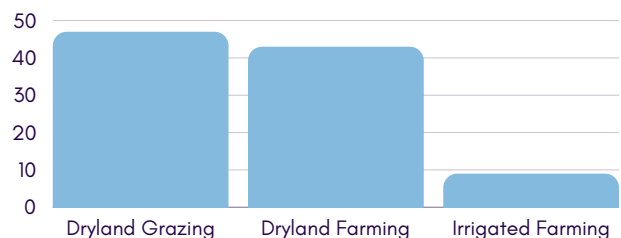


LAND USE

Why is this important to know?

AbLand use in the Collarenebri community is predominantly dryland grazing (47% of the land area), with 43% of the land area used for dryland farming. The maximum area of land developed for irrigation is 9%, with cotton the main crop grown when water is available. Other irrigated crops grown include sorghum, sunflowers, wheat, mungbeans, chickpeas, turf, pecans and citrus.

The irrigated area has varied between 0 and 17,100 hectares. The maximum area developed equates to 20 hectares of irrigated area per person.



LOCATION

Why is this important to know?

Locational advantages are advantages that arise from being located at a particular site or in a particular region. These can include access to raw materials, low wages or access to investment funding or taxation concessions. It is important for towns to identify and understand any genuine locational advantages that give it a competitive edge in attracting business investment and employment.

Collarenebri is located at a key geographic position between the New England and North Coast regions, Southern Queensland and Western and Far Western NSW. Collarenebri is located within 3.5 hours of agricultural export regions such as Bourke, Brewarrina and Walgett and within 1-1.5 hours of access to the inland rail freight terminals in Narrabri and Moree. While less prominent than towns like Walgett, Collarenebri has a lower residential housing cost and commercial land price, a good quality school, reliable health services and greater social cohesion than surrounding towns. There is an opportunity for Collarenebri to expand the availability of commercial, industrial and residential land, and promote the educational, health and safety aspects of the town as key locational advantages compared to other towns.



HOUSE AND LAND PRICES

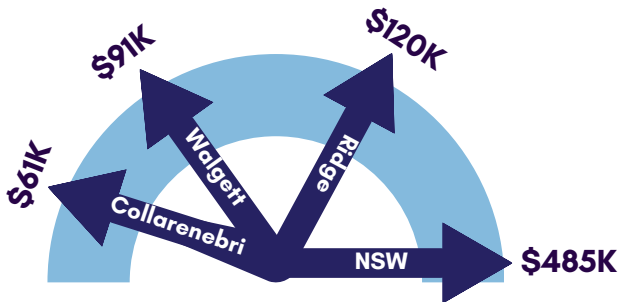
Why is this important to know?

There is an opportunity for Collarenebri to expand the availability of commercial, industrial and residential land to provide services into these key locations to support freight movement, storage, engineering and professional services and to become a domestic destination for visitors from these areas.

RESIDENTIAL HOUSE PRICES

Why is this important to know?

Housing affordability is important to attracting residents to live and work in Collarenebri. Median residential house prices in Collarenebri (2021) are well below the median price in Walgett and Lightning Ridge, and 12.5% the median price in NSW. The low housing price may be a competitive advantage in attracting people to live in Collarenebri. The number of houses sold in Collarenebri has increased from 4 in July 2020 to 14 in July 2021. The community may need to consider how the standard and quality of housing and street presentation may contribute to increase in residential house purchases in the town (CoreLogic, Suburb Statistics Report, 2021).



COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Why is this important to know?

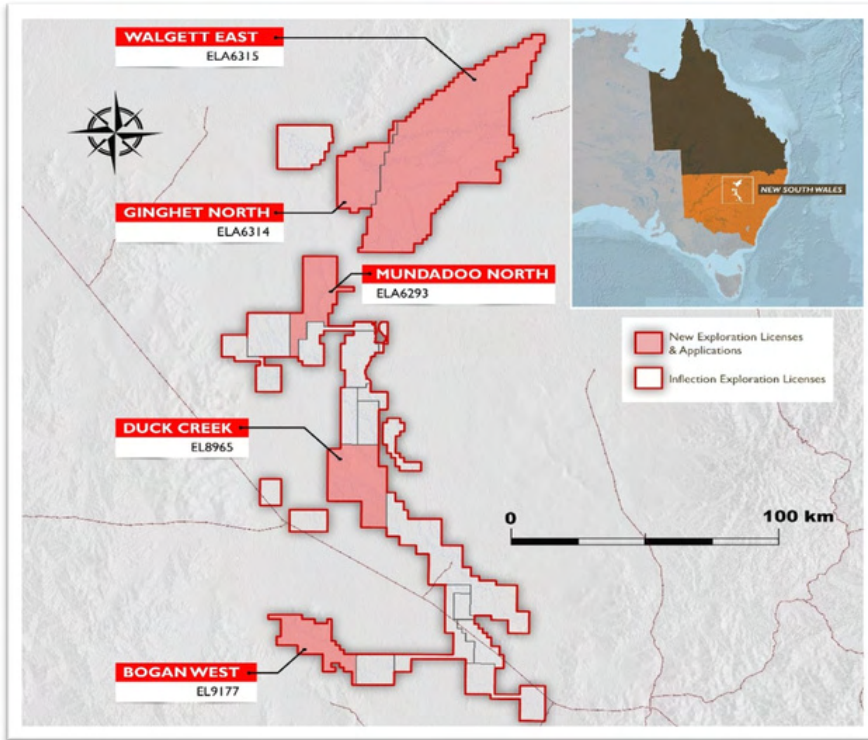
Commercial property is closely held in Collarenebri and values reflect the nature of the property. It is therefore difficult to obtain a reliable indicator of trends in commercial land values. The value of commercial property will be closely tied to its build quality and the level of town demand for goods and services, as well as the visitor economy.



MINING

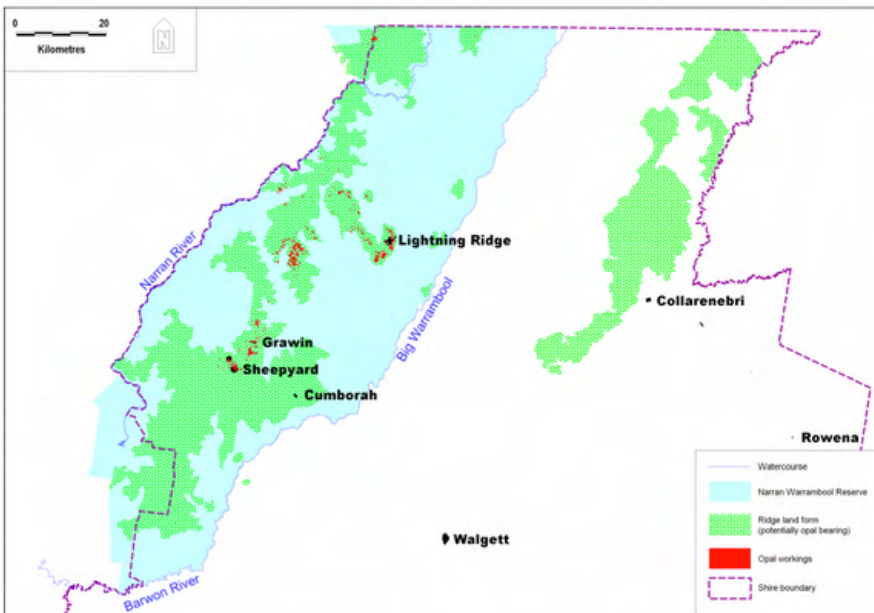
Why is it important to know?

Global and domestic demand for minerals is a major driver of economic growth in rural and regional Australia. Understanding the mineral exploration potential of land surrounding Collarenebri is important because it builds an understanding of future opportunities for investment and business growth. The presence of mining prospects and businesses in close proximity to Collarenebri (e.g. Lightning Ridge, Grawin and Walgett) create potential opportunities to explore mining support industry opportunities.



Inflection Resources is undertaking gold and copper explorations to the east of Walgett as part of a prospecting venture covering the Macquarie Arc. Targets have been generated using regional aeromagnetic and gravity data and are primarily considered prospective for alkalic porphyry-related copper-gold mineralisation.

Inflection Resources plans to systematically drill test these new targets as part of its ongoing Northern New South Wales drill program with the goal of discovering large, concealed copper-gold deposit.



According to the NSW Department of Primary Industries "the entire area of Cretaceous rocks exposed between Collarenebri, White Cliffs and Tibooburra has potential to host precious opal".

The value of opal produced in New South Wales for 2002-03 was estimated to be A\$35 million, based on Australian Customs figures for worked black opal exports. The total of all opals exported from Australia in 2000 was over A\$79 million (Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The major markets for opal exports are Japan, Hong Kong, the USA and Germany, with lesser but significant exports to New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

The Finch Co. Collarenebri Opal fields have widely dispersed opal deposits of generally poor quality.

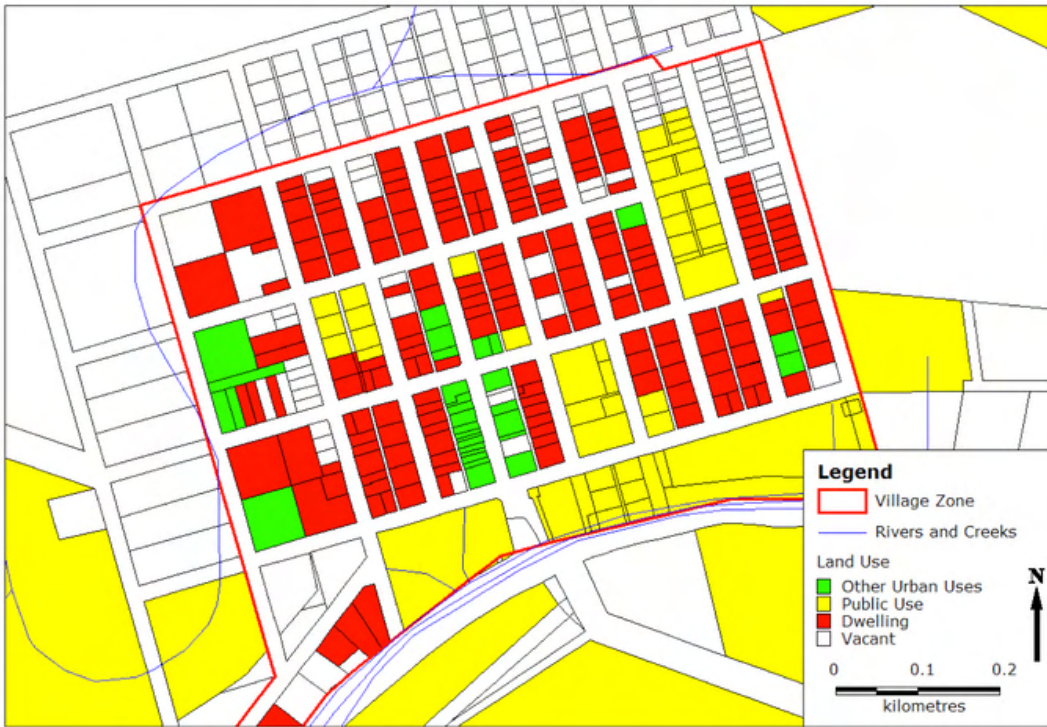
There may be value for Collarenebri to facilitate the exploration of potential opal fields to its east for the opportunity to expand its industry base into mining and associated industries.

https://www.regional.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/238179/Opal.pdf

MANUFACTURING

Why is it important to know?

The growth of manufacturing in Collarenebri is dependent on access to well-serviced, high quality industrial land.



The extent, serviability and availability of industrial land in Collarenebri needs to be evaluated by the community to determine the potential for manufacturing to be supported at scale.

BROADBAND



Why is this important to know?

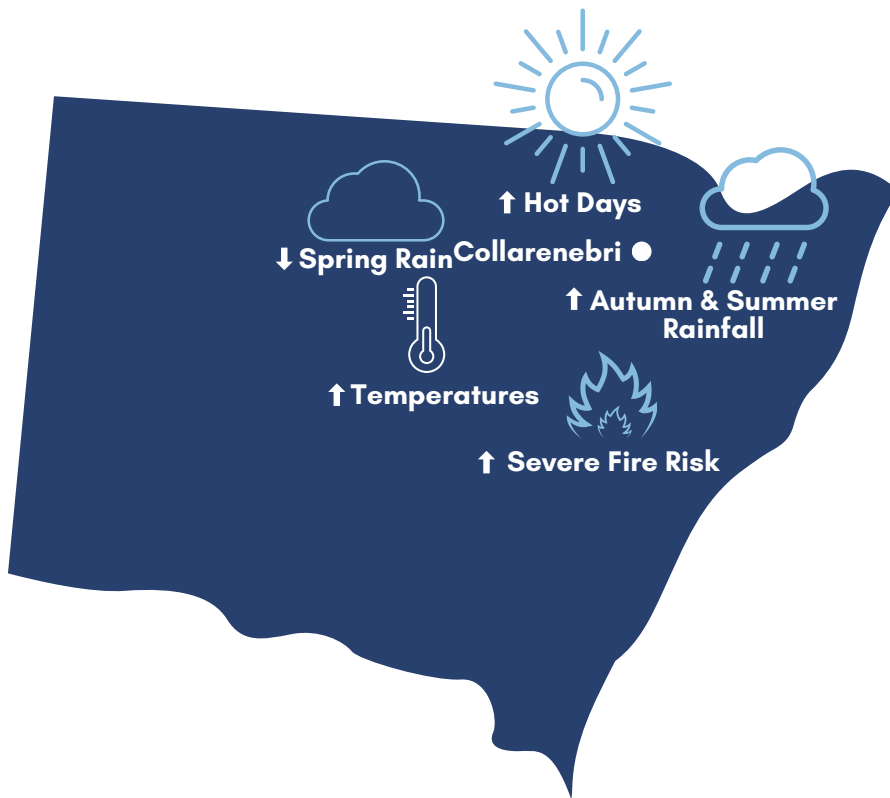
Broadband fibre provides business with high bandwidth, fast and reliable internet connections for global and national market access. Access to NBN fibre is critical to the ability to attract businesses to towns.

The nbnCo map shows that Collarenebri is able to access the SkyMuster Satellite service which delivers Committed Information Rate (CIR) bandwidth of up to 50Mbps forward and 13Mbps return. This is well below Business ultrafast fibre ethernet speeds available in cities of 700Mbps upload and 40Mbps download. SkyLink is a new low-orbit satellite service that reportedly supplies 150 Mbps download and 25 Mbps upload capacity, with plans to increase this to 300 Mbps download. For businesses to grow in Collarenebri access to faster broadband will be important.

CLIMATE STRENGTHS

Why is this important to know?

Climate change will have a potentially significant impact on Collarenebri. The Barwon River starts at an elevation of about 200 metres, at the confluence of the Macintyre and Weir rivers. The Barwon River has highly variable flows and capacity only increases downstream of Collarenebri, after the Little Weir, Boomi, Moonie, Gwydir and Mehi rivers have joined the Barwon. The southward progress of the tropics is expected to bring an increase in summer and autumn rain to Collarenebri which could improve river flows in summer and autumn in the town, but reduced spring rainfall is likely to impact on grazing and cropping. An increase in temperature and the number of hot days in the summer months is expected to place greater pressure on farm water storage through evaporation loss and increase the risk of severe bush fires.



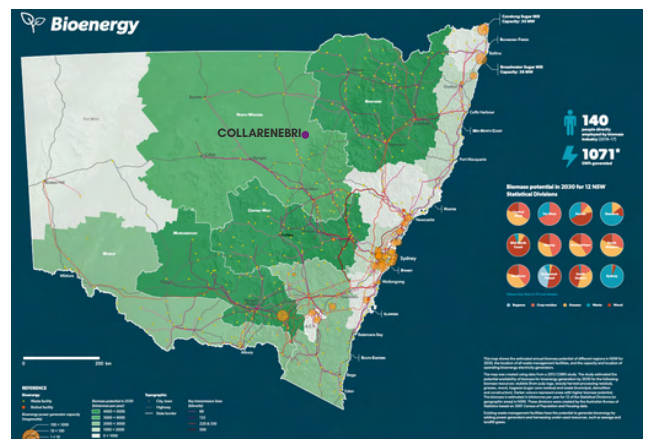
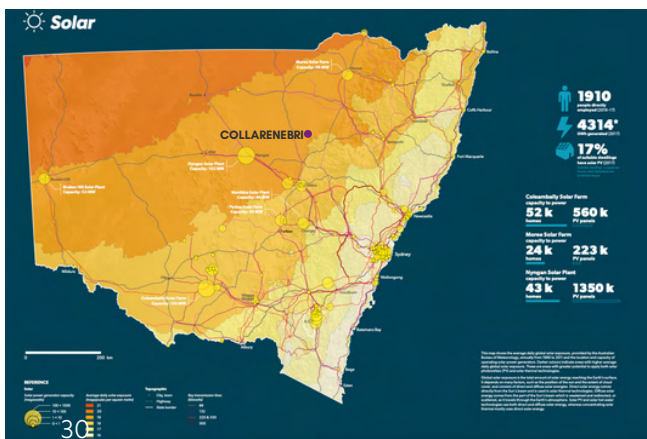
The map left illustrates the projected impact of climate change on Collarenebri and surrounding regions.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Why is this important to know?

Access to reliable and sustainable energy is critical for business investment, community amenity and population growth. Collarenebri routinely experiences power outages due to unreliable supply.

Collarenebri has been identified by the NSW Government as potential locations with good solar energy and bioenergy capacity. The potential to leverage these natural assets to secure a reliable power supply for the town, and provide access to businesses with cheap energy, should be explored as part of the Collarenebri activation plan.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Build on the natural strengths and assets of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay to create local training, jobs and business opportunities for current and future generations.

LEVERAGING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES



FREIGHT & RELATED BUSINESSES

Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay is on the major freight route between Far Western NSW and the Brisbane and Newcastle Ports, and is the closest town in Walgett Shire to the Inland Rail ports at Narrabri and Moree.

The availability of cheap land and housing, the proximity of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay to major export hubs, the low relative rate of crime, and the large volume of freight movements through the town are competitive advantages that could be leveraged to expand freight and agriculture related services.

Further investigation of transport, freight and agricultural industry opportunities will be explored through this planning process.



MINING

Inflection Resources has acquired five copper-gold exploration targets in Northern New South Wales, including the East Walgett license.

The East Walgett exploration area comprises a large segment of possible Macquarie Arc volcanics and intrusions. Inflection Resources considers East Walgett highly prospective for copper and gold.

Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay is a known location for Topaz, Agate and Opal fossicking that could provide opportunities for tourism operators.

Under the Plan, the community will meet with the departments, mining companies and others to explore the status of mineral exploration and opportunities, including timelines for Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay to work with mining companies to support infrastructure and workforce needs.



ABBATOIR

The Collarenebri Abbatoir is located on the Mungindi Road.

Previously an emu and ostrich abattoir the company discontinued operations in 2008. Subsequently purchased by Dellmain it planned to develop a goat abattoir with a capacity to process 750 goats a day for 250 days of the year creating 40 direct jobs and up to 100 indirect jobs.

The Abbatoir has recently been sold to a new investor who plans to re-open operations. Further investigation of the plans for the Abbatoir and future opportunities for employment and training will be undertaken as part of this planning process.



COTTON

Irrigated cotton continues to be a major industry around the town. GM cropping and new technology have had a significant impact on low skill labour requirements on cotton farms. Further discussions will be held with the cotton industry about future developments, training and employment opportunities and the outlook for irrigated cotton farming in the area in the context of climate change.



BROADACRE & DRYLAND

Broadacre and dryland grazing remain the primary agricultural uses in and around Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay.

Climate change is expected to impact these farming operations. Further discussions will be held with major industry stakeholders to explore the future direction of the industry and opportunities for related industries, training and diversification.

BUILDING ABORIGINAL AND COMMUNITY CAPACITY



WARRAYMBAA BUSINESS HUB

The decline of small businesses in Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay is largely due to a heavy reliance on a thin skills base and poor access to capital by local people. For example, the local Butcher was a profitable business but when the owner moved on there was no-one with the resources and skills to take over the business resulting in the loss of jobs and economic activity.

IMPACT

Capacity to create jobs and improve community amenity, while addressing high unemployment rates among Aboriginal people, which has a flow-on impact to low educational aspiration and attainment create a vicious cycle of disadvantage.

ACTION

Explore options with government to establish the Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay Aboriginal Business Incubator. The Incubator would offer a fixed-term management and backend support to local people who have formal training to take over, or start up, small businesses. This may include a 'rent-to-buy' program in which a local business or a premises is purchased by the Incubator and the operator pays rent to the Incubator which is applied to a mortgage over the business over a 5 or 10 year period. The model could include requirements for the new business to take on a minimum number of trainees, once established, to ensure succession planning for essential services and functions in the community. The community has identified a butcher, baker, hairdresser, tyre repair and supply, truck cleaning and other small business gaps that could be supported to maturity.



GALARIINBARAAY MODEL FARM

The Murray Elders secured a large parcel of agricultural land called 'Eurool' on the river for the community that is presently undeveloped.

IMPACT

The cost of fruit and vegetables, and fresh meats, results in increased intakes of high calorie processed foods contributing to obesity and increased heart risks. Lack of utilisation of land restricts the potential economic and employment opportunities for the Aboriginal community.

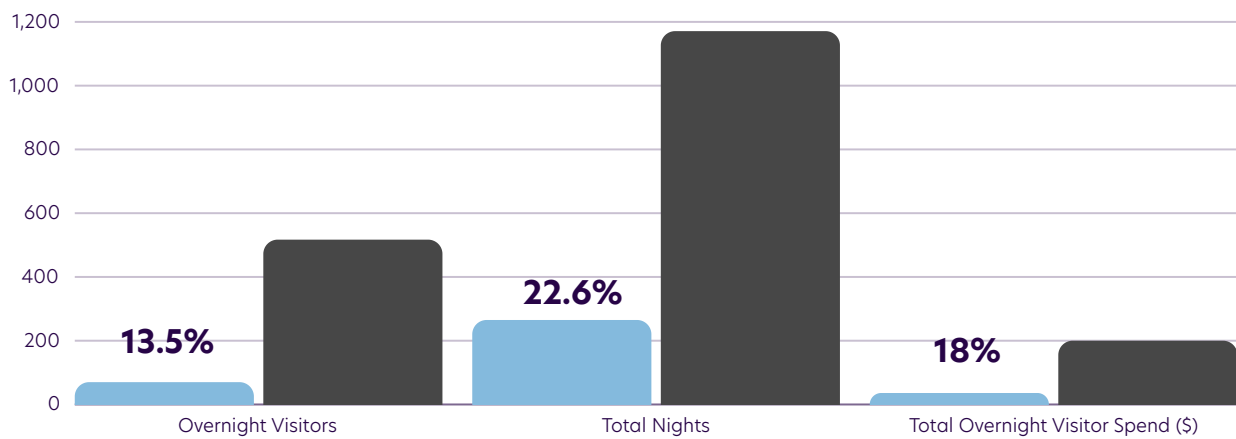
ACTION

Work with the Murray Elders, Charles Sturt University Faculty of Agriculture, TAFE, the Foundation, Collarenebri Central School and private businesses to explore funding options to establish a Model Farm as a training facility for Aboriginal people in agricultural trades and management to create employment and training for local people and reduce the cost of fresh produce across the region.

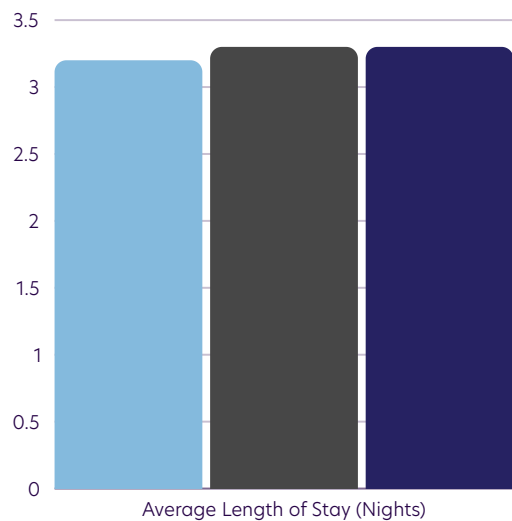
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

TOURISM

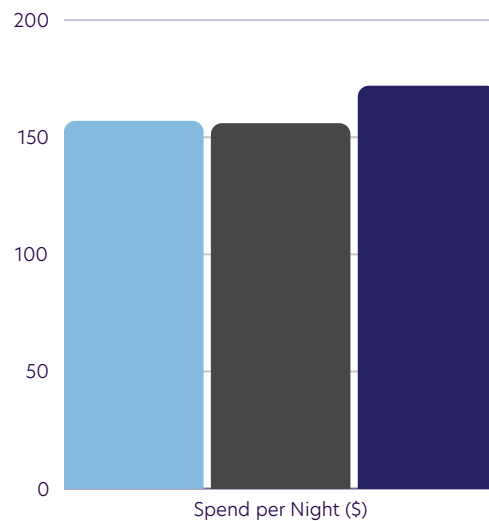
Domestic & Overnight Travel as a proportion of Outback NSW



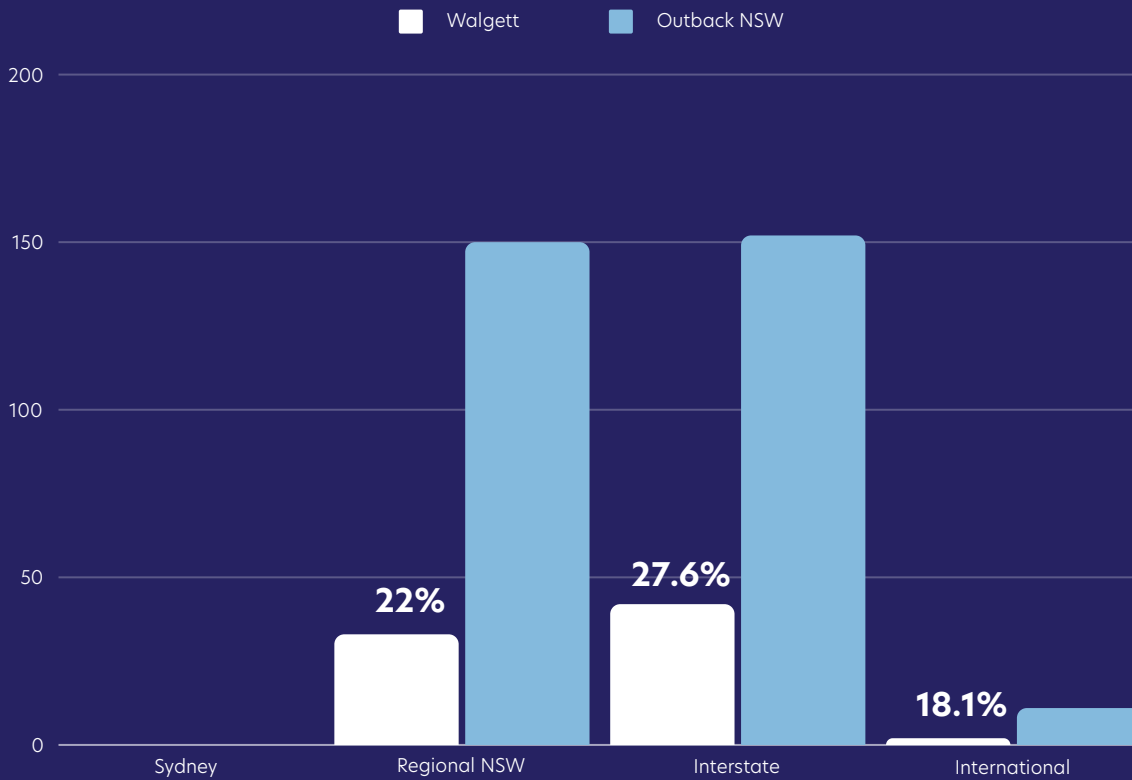
Walgett Shire (light blue), Outback NSW (dark grey), NSW (dark blue)



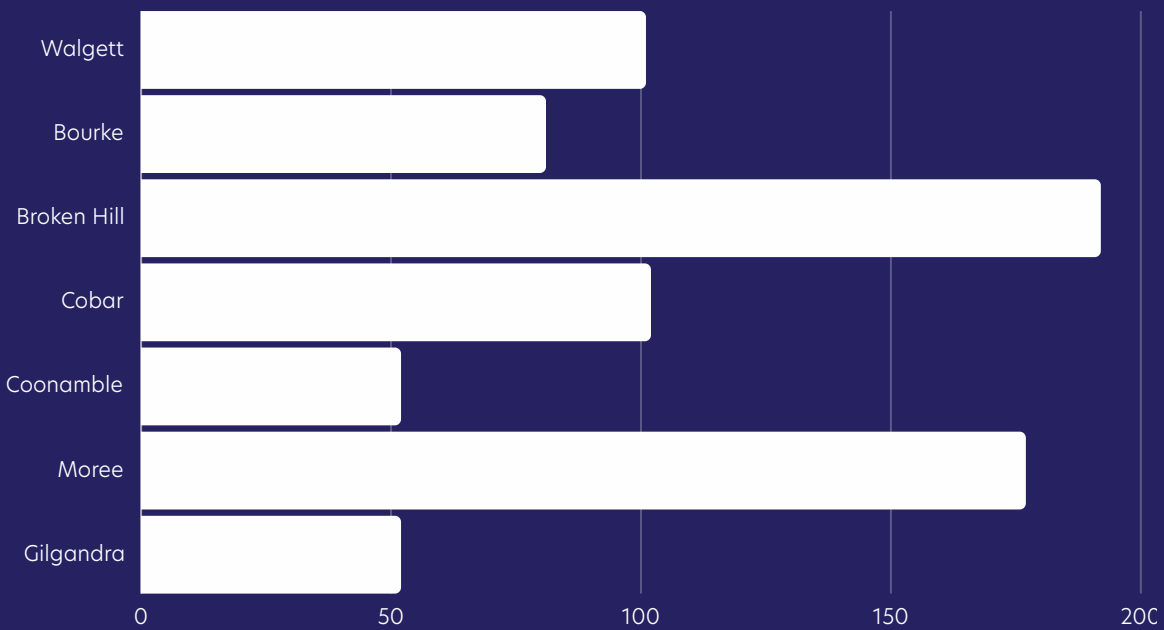
Walgett Shire (light blue), Outback NSW (dark grey), NSW (dark blue)



Domestic & Overnight Spend per Capita as a proportion of Outback NSW



Domestic & Overnight Stays Town Comparison



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

TOURISM

TOURISM

Tourism in Walgett Shire is largely centred on Lightning Ridge which attracts both domestic and international visitors. While this is positive, there is capacity to lift overnight stays and spend per capita by expanding the range of destinations across the Shire and through investment in the cultural assets of the town. Tourism in Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay has largely been driven by one-off activities such as fishing, the mud trials and sporting carnivals. Fishing is a year-round activity that attracts grey nomads and enthusiasts typically staying at the primitive camp ground, but adds very little value to retail sales or hospitality. The Mud Trials and sporting events typically attract day or short-stay visitors. The key to success in destination management is to increase the overnight stays and expenditure per capita in the local economy. This requires work to build multiple destinations and attractions leveraging existing events by adding new activities that appeal to a similar audience, while also building new attractions and events based on unique destination advantages for a different visitors base.



MUD TRIALS

The Mud Trials are an important tourism event occurring over one weekend.

IMPACT

There are no estimates available of the total economic contribution of the Mud Trials to the local community (e.g. spending in town, accommodation, food) but it is expected to be of low value.

ACTION

Explore the feasibility of staging complementary events and attractions to extend the number of overnight stays for visitors (B&S Ball, Car Show, Concert [like the Mundi Mundi Bash]) as part of a Destination Management Plan.



MURRAY COD

The reputation of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay for fishing is well established and may be strengthened.

IMPACT

There are no estimates available of the total economic contribution of recreational fishing to the local community (e.g. spending in town, accommodation, food) but it is expected to be of low value.

ACTION

Explore the feasibility of river related events and attractions such as boating, canoeing, fishing supplies etc as part of a Destination Management Plan.

A Destination Management Plan and funding applications will be pursued under this Plan to leverage the key strength of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay - its Aboriginal history, culture, language and art - to increase overnight stays and higher value visitors and provide economic opportunities and training for Aboriginal people.



MAALAA YURRUN MUSEUM OF GAMILAROI ART, LANGUAGE & CULTURE

A key strength of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay is the strong connection to country and an ancient history that goes back more than 50,000 years including an important tradition of carvings.

IMPACT

The Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay scar trees were stolen from the local Aboriginal community and are held away from country in various university and academic collections. The return of these artefacts will require a purpose built museum to safely store and display the trees, as well as other traditional artefacts creating jobs and training opportunity for local Aboriginal people, and supporting the restoration of language and culture.

ACTION

Work with the government to secure funding to build a museum to house the stolen artefacts, provide a repository for recovery of the Gamilaroi language and stories, create new jobs and training opportunities as the foundation for a cultural tourism destination plan for the town.



WAYGAL ART COOPERATIVE

The carve trees and stones represent a unique cultural and artist heritage that has the potential to engage adults and young people who are unemployed, living with mental or physical illness and other vulnerable people in recovering history and building social interactions supporting improved health literacy while creating an income source from the sale of goods and potential opportunities for entrepreneurship.

IMPACT

Income opportunity for lower skilled people and improvement in mental and physical health through increased social engagement linked to health services and literacy.

ACTION

Seek funding to establish a Waylag Art Cooperative to teach artistic technique and support local micro-business development.



COLLARENEBRI COMMUNITY & TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

Following the purchase of water rights from local farms, Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay has experienced a serious decline in local services with the majority of Main Street stores closing including bakery, butchery, hairdressing and cafe.

IMPACT

The lack of basic services results in significant out-flows of money from the local economy, and limits the capacity to expand tourism.

ACTION

Work with local businesses to explore options for expanding local retail services.



BAAYANGALI NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA PARK

Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay has a diversity of native wildlife. There is an opportunity to establish a riverbank petting park for visitors, including cottages, to allow visitors to get close to nature in an idyllic riverside setting attracting family visits.

IMPACT

A petting park is targeted at providing entertainment for families with children to diversify the visitor economy and provide training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal people in animal care, cultural story telling, native food collection and cooking and associated activities.

ACTION

Work with Walgett Shire Council and government to secure support and funding for a Native Wildlife and Bush Tucker Visitor Park.



BILYAN NATURAL SPRINGS

The community received funding to establish a bore bath in town to enhance visitor attraction.

IMPACT

Increased visitation and employment.

ACTION

There are bore baths in Walgett, Lightning Ridge, Goodooga and other locations that are proximate to the town. It will be important to the success of these baths that they are developed as part of an integrated destination management plan to ensure that they enhance local attractions and do not replicate what is available elsewhere.

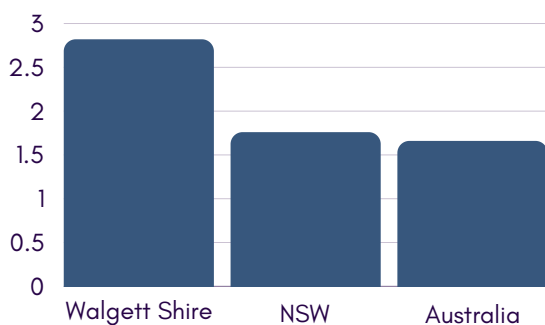
SOCIAL CONTEXT



BIRTH RATE

Why is this important to know?

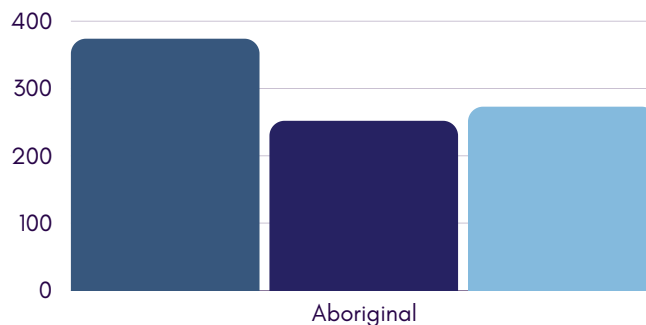
The fertility rate is the number of babies born in the community. It tells us the level of early years support that is needed in the community, the number of school places and in the long-term how many people will need jobs in the town. A fertility rate above 2 means the community is replacing mums and dads and adding more people, while a rate below 2 means the population will decline as there are not enough babies to replace the mums and dads when they die. The fertility rate in Walgett Shire (Usual Residence, SSC) was 2.82 in 2016, compared to 1.66 nationally (Social Health Atlas, 2020). This means that Collarenebri can expect the population to grow over time as more babies are born assuming that people do not leave town for other reasons.



ABORIGINAL RESIDENTS

Why is this important to know?

Aboriginal people often experience greater challenges due to historic discrimination, inter-generational trauma and social exclusion. Understanding changes in the Aboriginal population help to understand the composition of our town in the future and consider how this may impact on our local economy, opportunities and challenges. The Aboriginal population of Collarenebri (Usual Residence, SSC) declined at a slightly slower pace compared to the non-Aboriginal population. The Aboriginal population declined 27.0% between 2006 and 2016 compared to 33.2% for the population as a whole (ABS Census 2016, 2011, 2016). As a result, Aboriginal people now make up a larger proportion of the community. Combined with higher birth rates among Aboriginal resident, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander will comprise the majority of the population within the next 10 years. Engaging Aboriginal people in community planning and as economic leaders will be critical to the future of the town.



SMOKING GENERALLY

Why is this important to know?

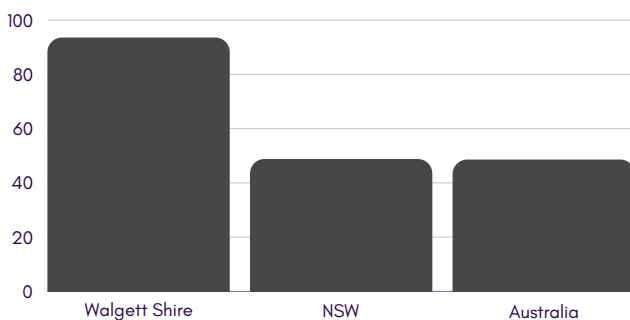
Smoking is a known cause of lung and other cancers and heart disease that significantly reduce quality of life and life expectancy. It is important to know the rate of smoking in a community to understand the things that may be contributing to poorer health, lower levels of participation in the workforce and limit the ability of a town to economically and socially thrive. There is no data on smoking rates in Collarenebri. The information above is the smoking rates of people who live in rural and regional NSW (that is, not in Newcastle, Sydney or Wollongong). There was agreement in the local community that the rate of smoking in Collarenebri is very high. Reducing the rate of smoking in the community is critical to enabling Collarenebri to grow



LUNG CANCER

Why is this important to know?

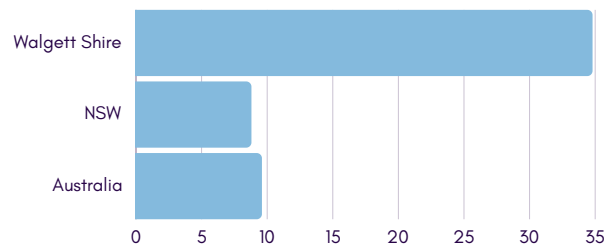
The major contributor to lung cancer is smoking. Lung cancer leads to suffering for local families, reduced capacity for work and avoidable population decline and economic capacity. Lung cancer rates in Walgett Shire are twice the rate of NSW and Australia (Social Health Atlas, 2010-2014) reflecting higher rates of smoking. Smoking is not just a problem for adults. Children learn behaviour from their mum, dad, aunts and uncles increasing the chance of young people taking up smoking and having a poor quality of life and dying early. One option that Collarenebri could consider is a community 'Quit Smoking' commitment to give everyone support and help to think about the impact of smoking on themselves and our kids and support improvement in outcomes for everyone.



SMOKING IN PREGNANCY

Why is this important to know?

We know that smoking during pregnancy increases the risk of a wide range of problems for our kids, including miscarriage, premature labour, low birth weight babies, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), weaker lungs, an increased risk of getting infections, breathing difficulties and long-term health problems in adulthood. More than 34% of women smoke while they are pregnant in Walgett Shire (Social Health Atlas, 2016-18) compared to just 8.8% in NSW and 9.6% in Australia. Collarenebri needs a community strategy to reduce the very high rates of smoking during pregnancy to lessen the impacts on our kids and to give them the best chance for a long and happy life. Reducing smoking during pregnancy is also important to strengthening our community and supporting long-term growth.



LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BABIES

Why is this important to know?

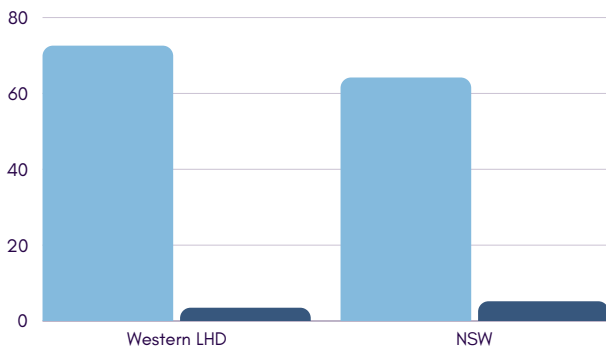
Low birth weight babies have a higher risk of lifelong problems including respiratory, brain, digestive, liver and eye diseases. Babies with very low birth weight are at risk for long-term complications and disability including cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness and learning problems. An increase in the number of children with disabilities impacts on the costs of raising a child by the family and can sometimes lead to the mum or dad having to stop work full-time or part-time to look after the child. This has broader impacts on the community from reduced labour force participation which impacts on the attractiveness of a town for investment by business. The rate of low birth weight babies in Walgett Shire is higher than the average for NSW and Australia (Social Health Atlas, 2010-2014). That means that more babies in Walgett Shire are born with low birth weight and a higher risk of development delay, learning problems and other issues throughout their lives. The best way to reduce low birth weight babies, and give our kids the best chance in life, is to reduce smoking in pregnancy, improve diet and exercise and to have regular appointments with your doctor to monitor the progress of pregnancy.



FRUIT & VEGETABLE INTAKE - KIDS

Why is this important to know?

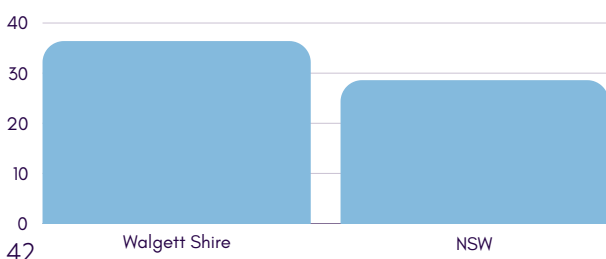
The amount of fruit and vegetables you eat has a significant impact on how healthy you are. Low fruit and vegetable intake can increase your risk of infection and other problems. Only 3.5% of residents of Western NSW eat the recommended daily amount of vegetables (compared to 5.2% in NSW) while 72.6% ate the recommended number of fruits (compared to only 64.2% in NSW). Nonetheless, fruit and vegetable intake across NSW is very low and contributes to increase disease risk and lower economic capacity. The community believes that one of the reasons for low fruit and vegetable intake in the town is because of the very high price of fresh foods compared to processed foods in the community. The community believes that a local fresh food production capacity would not only address this problem, but also create local jobs and traineeships for kids and help other surrounding communities to improve their health.



DIABETES RELATED DEATHS

Why is this important to know?

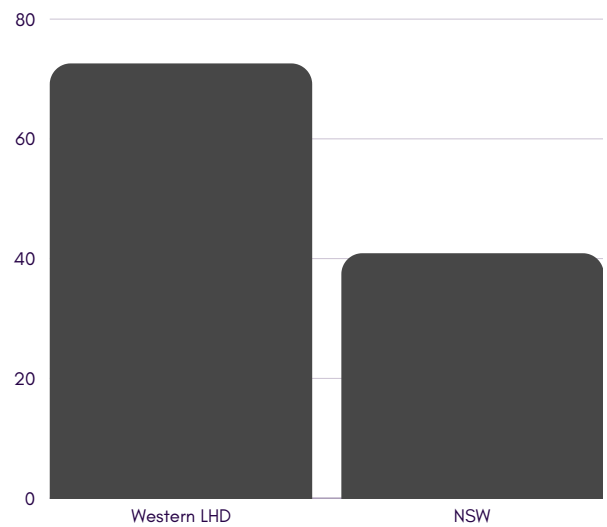
Diabetes is a major cause of poor health and avoidable death in rural and remote communities, particularly among Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. Type 2 diabetes is caused by a diet high in sugars and processed foods (pies, soft drink, burgers), and low in fruit, vegetables and moderate exercise. Diabetes contributes to poor physical and mental health, higher health costs and lower levels of economic contribution through employment and social activity. Diabetes related deaths in Walgett Shire were 36.4 per 100,000 people compared to an average across NSW of 28.6 per 100,000 people and a rate in Sydney of 20.9 (NSW HealthStats, 2017-18). Reducing diabetes is critical for the future social and economic development of the town.



OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE

Why is this important to know?

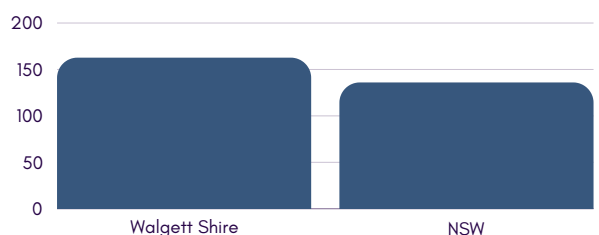
Being overweight or obese increases a range of health risks including the risk of stroke, heart attack, diabetes and some forms of cancer which impact on community and economic capacity. 71.2% of residents of Western NSW (HealthStats) are overweight or obese compared to just 40.9% of residents in Sydney. Being overweight or obese reduces the capacity for adults to raise kids to enjoy healthy lifestyles, increases the risk of early death, reduces capacity for strenuous work and increases the chance of disability. This impacts the whole family and community by reducing economic productive capacity and placing increased demand on health care.



HEART DISEASE DEATHS

Why is this important to know?

Heart disease leads to heart attacks, stroke and other circulatory problems. It can really reduce your quality of life and could result in missing really important milestones like the birth of a grandchild or a child getting married. Being around to support the next generation, and maintain culture and traditions, is so important to a healthy and thriving community. Deaths from circulatory diseases account for 162.7 deaths per 100,000 people in Walgett Shire compared to 136.0 in NSW as a whole (NSW HealthStats, 2017-18). Reducing heart disease would make a really big difference to the population of Collarenebri and its economic prosperity for our kids.

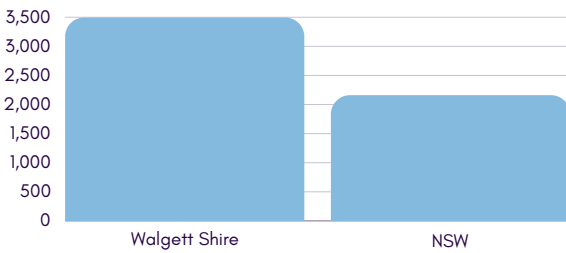


PREVENTABLE HOSPITALISATIONS

Why is this important to know?

Potentially preventable hospitalisations are hospital admissions that could have been prevented if a person sought help from their local GP, changed aspects of their lifestyle, took medications to manage a condition etc. Going to hospital is not just distressing for family members, it also reduces the capacity for a person to contribute socially and economically to their community.

in 2017-19 35 people per 1000 residents of Walgett Shire were admitted to hospital for conditions that could have been prevented by visiting a GP compared to just 21 people in NSW (NSW HealthStats, 2017-19). If more people saw their local GP regularly for health checks Collarenebri could reduce the need of people to be admitted to hospital and primary health services run by a local GP would be more likely to remain in the town.



AVOIDABLE DEATHS

Why is this important to know?

Avoidable deaths are deaths that may not have happened if the person got regular health checks from their GP, went on a Chronic Disease Management Plan and made some lifestyle changes. For every 1000 people in Walgett, 13 people died from a condition that could have been treated through regular health checks with the local GP and lifestyle changes (NSW HealthStats, 2017-19). That is 13 people died when they didn't have to! Working together to reduce unnecessary deaths, and to encourage each other to look after their health, could build a stronger community that is attractive for new residents and visitors.



CRIME

Why is this important to know?

Levels of crime are often a reflection of other challenges in a community such as unemployment, economic exclusion, developmental challenges, poor educational attainment, lack of parenting skills and lack of recreational infrastructure. Crime is largely a product of the environment in which it occurs, and understanding what is driving crime can often help to address a range of inter-related issues.

	Aboriginal Alleged Offender	Aboriginal Alleged Victim
Domestic violence related assaults	80%	73.3%
Non-domestic violence related assaults	75%	73.3%
Sexual Assault	27.3%	52.9%
Intimidation, stalking and harassment	86.4%	57.2%

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Put community and health decision making back in the hands of local people, expand access to health and social care for the whole community, and address the social determinants that contribute to poor health, crime, educational and other outcomes.



GALARIINBARAAY COMMUNITY HEALTH HUB

The population of Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay experience high rates of chronic disease, preventable hospitalisations and avoidable deaths. The community has concerns about the long-term future of the local hospital, and many members of the community feel the service is not welcoming or supportive of the long term goals of the community. A lack of well coordinated health care services, needed to support the complex needs of members of the community, create further concerns.

IMPACT

Reduce the high rates of chronic disease, preventable hospitalisations and avoidable deaths within the Aboriginal community and improve the sustainability of existing PHC services.

ACTION

Establish the Galariinbaraay Community Health Hub as a one-stop-shop for health, education, training and employment programs built on an integrated people-centred primary health care model.

WINANGA-LI HUB

The town experiences higher rates of domestic violence, non-domestic violence, children in care and engagement with the criminal justice system compared to the national average.

IMPACT

Poor childhood experiences create a pattern of replicating intergenerational trauma that contributes to growing incarceration rates.

ACTION

Redevelop the old Tennis Courts into a Youth and Community Hub to coordinate social services and programs to address alcohol and drug dependency, parenting skills, nutrition, child assessment and development integrated with the health and education focus of the Galariinbaraay Hub.





GALARIINBARAAY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Poor community transport services limit the capacity of young people to attend education and training in Walgett and Moree; limit access to specialised health services and employment mobility.

IMPACT

Reduced employment and educational opportunity and poorer health.

ACTION

Work with relevant authorities to identify ways to improve community transport services or seek funding to establish and operate a Collarenebri service.



DISABILITY AND AGED CARE SERVICES

Disability and aged care services are delivered to Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay from organisations that are not located in town.

IMPACT

Reduced flow-on benefits of economic activity from funding for NDIS and Aged Care services, and the loss of job opportunities and training for locals. Standardised service models designed for regional or metropolitan cities do not reflect unique community needs particularly Aboriginal residents.

ACTION

Explore with local community, NDIS and Department of Health and Ageing the establishment of a community based NDIS/Aged Care services provider to increase local employment, economic activity, education and training and ensure services reflect local needs.



MANGANKALI HOUSING CORPORATION

Construction of new social housing, and maintenance of existing housing stock, has not kept pace with the needs of the community. A dedicated housing organisation is needed to take responsibility for ensuring that there is adequate housing stock to meet local needs, and a regular cycle of repairs and maintenance is carried out to ensure the health and wellbeing of residents.

IMPACT

Inadequate or unfit shelter leads to overcrowding, poor health and insufficient space for study and poor mental health.

ACTION

Work with relevant authorities to explore the establishment of the Mangankali Housing Corporation as a local provider of environmentally sustainable social and public housing, and a provider of local skills and apprenticeships.



WORKFORCE ACCOMMODATION

Health and social care are the fastest growing sectors in the Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay economy. The lack of adequate housing, however, remains a critical challenge in attracting and retaining high quality staff to the community.

IMPACT

Constrained attraction and retention of workforce negatively impacts school, health and other public services, and economic development.

ACTION

Identify funding grant to purchase land and construct eight two bedroom houses for health and other public sector workers.



WOMEN'S SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

On average, women living in rural and remote areas of NSW experience poorer general health, reproductive and sexual health outcomes than people living elsewhere in the state. These poorer outcomes include higher rates of teenage pregnancy, higher rates of maternal death, and higher rates of some sexually transmissible infections (STIs). In the Walgett Local Government Area the teenage pregnancy rate is 4-fold higher than the State level. Adolescent pregnancies have major health and social consequences.

IMPACT

Unplanned pregnancy, sexually transmitted disease and lack of access to information about reproductive and sexual health limit educational and economic opportunities for women and contribute to a cycle of disadvantage and exclusion.

ACTION

The Women's Mobile Reproductive and Sexual Health Clinic will provide women with access to high quality, safe and accessible general, sexual, reproductive, mental health care and domestic violence support services in their own communities.



FAMILY VIOLENCE REFUGE

Walgett Shire has the highest rate of domestic violence in western NSW.

IMPACT

Domestic violence harms the health of women and families, and leads to intergenerational trauma and is linked to engagement with crime.

ACTION









Secure funding for a Domestic Violence Refuse in Collarenebri.



INTEGRATED MULTIDISCIPLINARY EVIDENCE BASED LOCALLY LED











Over the years there have been many plans developed by many different organisations for Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay. While many are good plans in their own right, there has been poor recognition of how to maximise the benefits of investments across multiple domains. Community consultation has too often involved people coming to our town with their ideas about how to fix our problems, rather than relying on our knowledge, expertise and skills. The diagram below aims to demonstrate how the projects set out in this Plan work together to address multiple domains of disadvantage and multiply impacts on outcomes for the whole community.



PROGRESS TO DATE

Item	Status	Comment	who
Examine opportunities to secure funding for a Community Battery and Solar/Wind Farm.		Foundation has had preliminary discussions with government energy authorities and private companies to explore options for a micro-grid in Collarenebri	Walgett Shire
Explore options securing funding to implement a reliable satellite or other technology.		To commence in 2025.	Walgett Shire
Explore grants to invest in the beautification of the mainstreet and improve community safety.		To commence in 2025.	Walgett Shire
Plan for street maintenance, drainage upgrades and new street planting to increase shade cover.		Discussions to occur with Council during 2024.	Walgett Shire
Urban, tourism and industrial master plan		Discussions to occur with Council during 2024.	Walgett Shire
Improve quality and volume of accommodation offerings.		Local businessman is investing in upgrades to the existing Tattersalls Hotel and an expansion to add 20 more rooms.	Business
Upgrade Primitive Camp Ground		The Council has approved a project to upgrade the campground.	Walgett Shire
48 Seal Colly-Ridge Road to expand tourism traffic.		The Council has approved sealing of Colly-Ridge Road.	Walgett Shire

Item	Status	Comment	Who
Develop a Learning Community Plan.		Council, Foundation and Murdi Paaki plan to meet with the NSW Minister for Education and Secretary for Education to discuss how to move this Plan forward.	Murdi Paaki/School
Increase the number of apprenticeships and traineeships in the community.		It has been agreed that the Council, Foundation and Murdi Paaki to meet with the NSW Minister for Education and Secretary for Education to discuss this Plan.	Murdi Paaki
Establish Dhirri-Li Education for Work Centre		The Centre commenced operation in 2023 with 4 Aboriginal Health Worker and Aboriginal Wellness Worker trainees. Plans to commence a TVET Pathway program for school kids will hopefully start in 2024. Negotiations are continuing to create new trainee roles for Youth Workers and Allied Health Assistants.	Foundation
Explore options with government to establish the Collarenebri-Galariinbaraay Aboriginal Business Incubator.		Searching for an appropriate grant program or philanthropy to seed fund this venture.	Foundation
Establish Galariinbaraay Model Farm.		Significant work has been undertaken including Charles Sturt University, Murdi Paaki, the Foundation and private businesses. A meeting is planned with the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation to discuss a business plan.	Murdi Paaki/ Foundation
Destination Management Plan.			Walgett Shire
Museum		Discussions need to commence in 204/5 with LALC about its interest in leading this project, including how the Elders will be consulted on the appropriate management of the artefacts.	LALC

Item	Status	Comment	Who
Work with local businesses to explore options for expanding local retail services.		Local business man has developed a plan to establish a range of new services businesses in town.	Business
Establish Waylag Art Cooperative to teach artistic technique and support local micro-business development.		Various grant programs have been identified for future funding. The Foundation is actively monitoring opportunities.	Foundation
Explore Native Wildlife and Bush Tucker Visitor Park.		Discussions need to be held with Council in 2025.	Walgett Shire
Establish Bilyan Natural Springs.		The Walgett Shire Council has secured funding for the baths and construction will commence in 2024.	Walgett Shire
Establish the Galariinbaraay Community Health Hub		Hub funded and operational.	Foundation
Improve Community Transport services.		Meetings have been held with NSW Regions to discuss the lack of services with further discussions planned with Community Transport..	Foundation
Explore establishment of a community based NDIS/Aged Care services provider.		Some preliminary work has been done, however, this is not schedule to begin until 2025/6.	Foundation / Business
Explore the establishment of the Mangankali Housing Corporation.		This needs further explanation, analysis and discussion with relevant authorities which is planned for late 24/25.	Murdi Paaki
Construct houses for health and other public sector workers.		Discussions opened with Council. Exploring grant options.	Walgett Shire/ Council
50 Establish Women's Health Service		Funding secured and work has commenced to start service in early 2024.	Foundation



Co-designed with the Murdi Paaki Community Working Party by the Healthy Communities Foundation Australia (2022)