



**COBAR SHIRE
COUNCIL**
outback nsw

Publication Guide

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Mr Peter Vlatko | Public Officer
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Preface

The *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)* (GIPA Act) replaced the *Freedom of Information Act 1989 (NSW)*, and introduced a new right to information system. The new system is focused on making government information more readily available.

Section 6 of the *GIPA Act* makes it mandatory for agencies to disclose some information proactively and free of charge, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure. Section 20 of the *GIPA Act* requires agencies to develop and adopt a publication guide as part of their mandatory open access information.

Council's publication guide is a summary of what we do, how we do it and the type of information we hold and generate through the exercise of our functions, with a particular focus on how those functions affect members of the public. Council will review its publication guide at least once every 12 months.

Version Control Table

Date Reviewed	Responsible Officer	Date Adopted	Version
July 2010	Mr Gary Woodman	Draft version	1.0
December 2010	Mr Gary Woodman	16 December 2010	1.1
June 2011	Mr Gary Woodman	23 June 2011	2.0
June 2012	Mr Gary Woodman	28 June 2012	3.0
June 2013	Mr Gary Woodman	27 June 2013	4.0
June 2014	Mr Gary Woodman	26 June 2014	5.0
May 2015	Mr Gary Woodman	28 May 2015	6.0
June 2016	Mr Peter Vlatko	23 June 2016	7.0
June 2017	Mr Peter Vlatko	22 June 2017	8.0
June 2018	Mr Peter Vlatko	June 2018	9.0
June 2019	Mr Peter Vlatko	June 2019	10.0
June 2020	Mr Peter Vlatko	June 2020	11.0

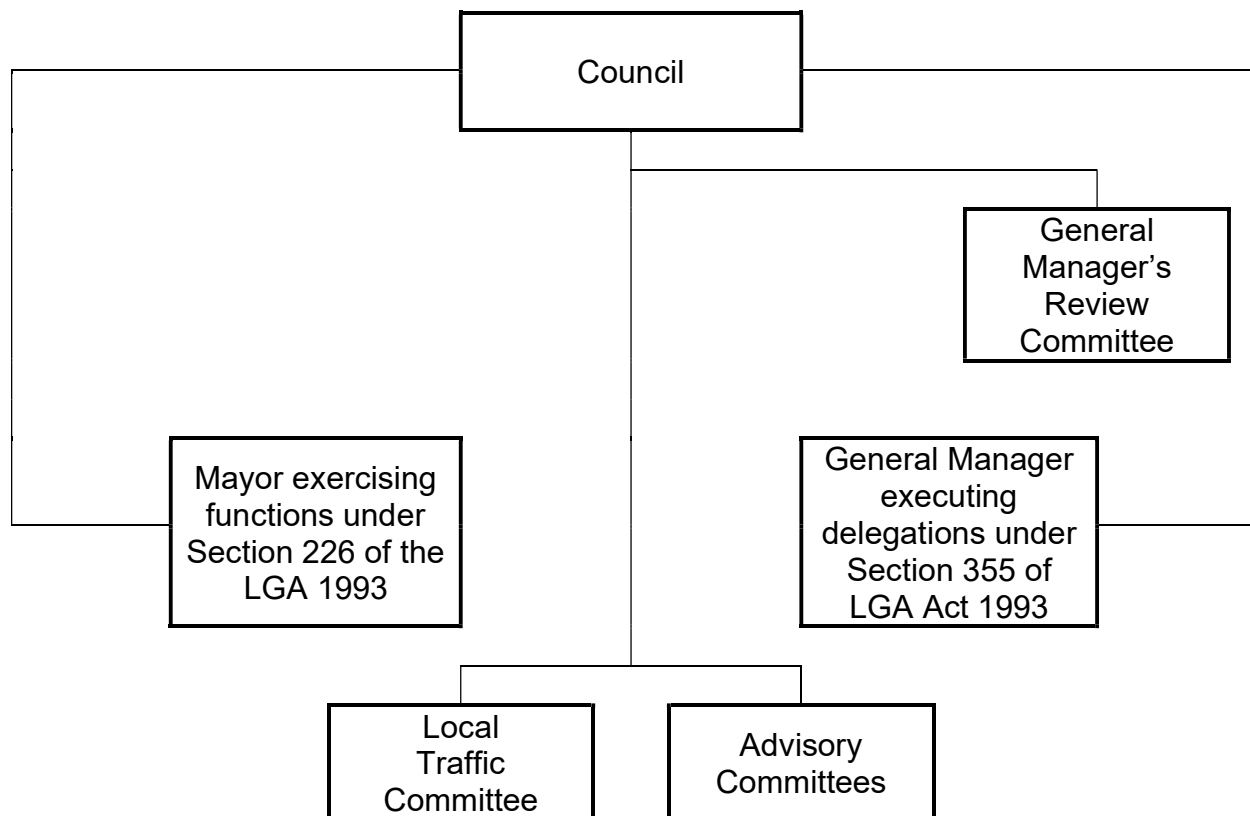
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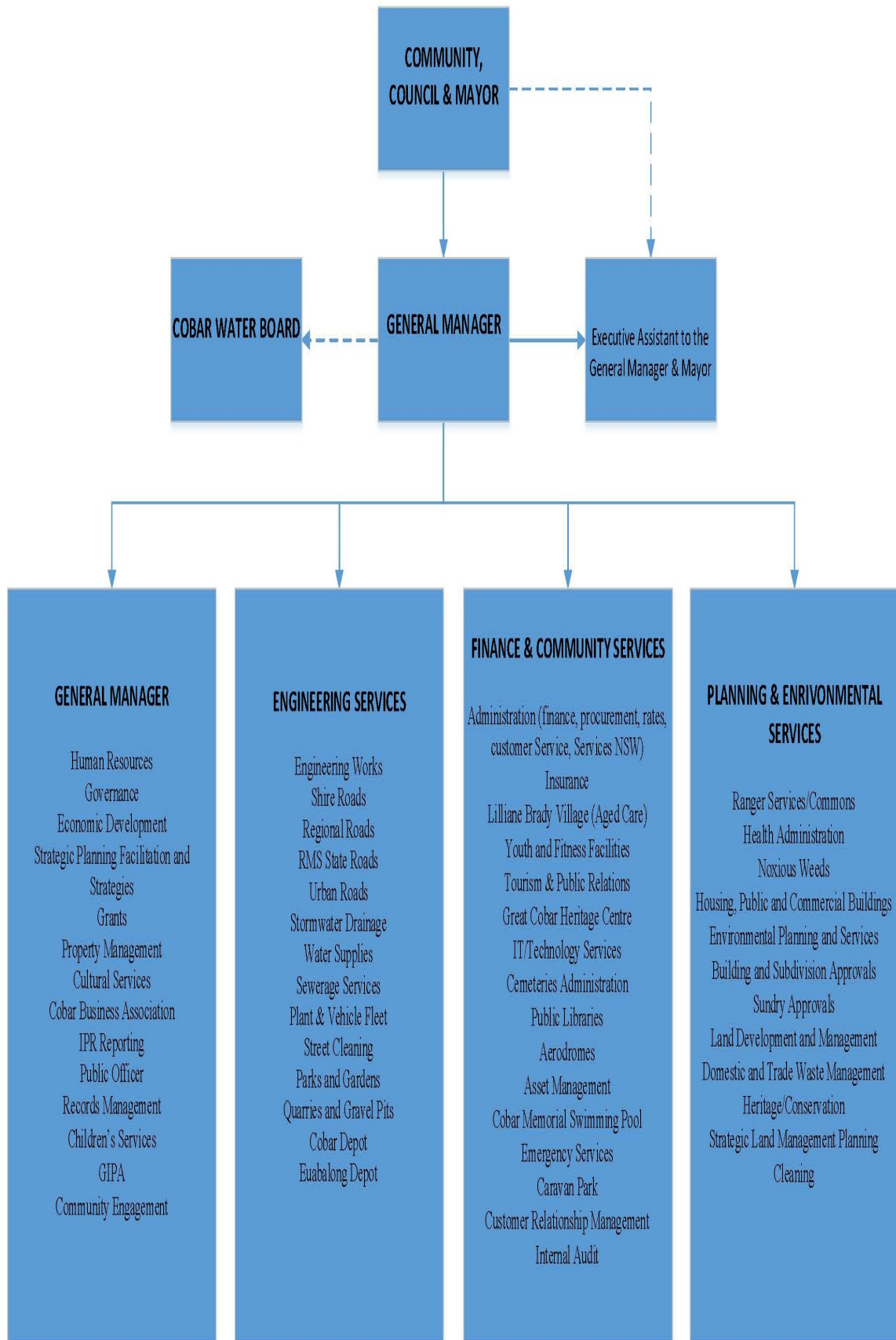
Structure and Functions

Structure

Cobar Shire Council is a Council constituted under Section 219 of the *Local Government Act 1993*. Section 222 provides that the elected representatives called 'Councillors', comprise the governing body of the council.



Organisational (Departmental) Structure



Functions

Chapter 5 of the *Local Government Act 1993* specifies the functions of the Council as follows:

CHAPTER 5 – WHAT ARE A COUNCIL’S FUNCTIONS

This Chapter specifies a council’s functions. In doing so, it recognises that all functions of a council come from statute, either from this Act or another Act.

(s21) Functions under this Act

A council has the functions conferred or imposed on it by or under this Act.

Note: This Act classifies certain of a council’s functions as service, that is, non-regulatory (Chapter 6), regulatory (Chapter 7) or ancillary (Chapter 8). Ancillary functions are those functions that assist the carrying out of a council’s service and regulatory functions.

A council also has revenue functions (Chapter 15), administrative functions (Chapters 11, 12 and 13) and functions relating to the enforcement of this Act (Chapters 16 and 17).

(s22) Other functions

A council has the functions conferred or imposed on it by or under any other Act or law.

Note: While the main functions of councils are provided for under this Act, councils also have functions under other Acts. An important general provision is contained in section 50 of the *Interpretation Act 1987* which provides, in part:

- (1) A statutory corporation:
 - (a) has perpetual succession;
 - (b) shall have a seal;
 - (c) may take proceedings and be proceeded against in its corporate name;
 - (d) may, for the purpose of enabling it to exercise its functions, purchase, exchange, take on lease, hold dispose of and otherwise deal with property; and
 - (e) may do and suffer all other things that bodies corporate may, by law, do and suffer and that are necessary for, or incidental to, the exercise of its functions.

- (4) This section applies to a statutory corporation in addition to, and without limiting the effect of, any provision of the Act by or under which the corporation is constituted.

Some other Acts and some of the functions they confer include:

Community Land Development Act 1989 – planning functions as consent authority

Companion Animals Act 1998 – companion animal registration and control

Conveyancing Act 1919 – placing covenants on council land

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 – environmental planning

Fire Brigades Act 1989 – payment of contributions to fire brigade costs and furnishing of returns

Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies Act 1966 – fluoridation of water supply by council

Food Act 2003 – inspection of food and food premises

Impounding Act 1993 – impounding of animals and articles

Library Act 1939 – library services

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 – pollution control
Public Health Act 2010 – inspection of systems for purposes of microbial control
Recreation Vehicles Act 1983 – restricting use of recreation vehicles
Roads Act 1993 – roads
Rural Fires Act 1997 – issue of permits to light fires during bush fire danger periods requiring the furnishing of information to the Rural Fire Service Advisory Council and its Co-ordinating Committee
State Emergency Service Act 1989 – recommending appointment of local controller
Strata Schemes (Freehold Development) Act 1973 – approval of strata plans
Strata Schemes (Leasehold Development) Act 1986 – approval of leasehold strata plans
Swimming Pools Act 1992 – ensuring restriction of access to swimming pools

The exercise by a council of its functions under this Act may also be modified by the provisions of another Act. Some of those Acts and some of the modifications they affect include:

Coastal Protection Act 1979 – limitation on coastal development by councils
Environmental Offences and Penalties Act 1989 – forfeiture of council functions to person appointed by Governor
Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 – council required to publish certain information and to grant access to certain documents
Heritage Act 1977 – rating based on heritage valuation
Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998 – council required to amend certain records that are shown to be incomplete, incorrect, out of date or misleading
State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 – council required to prepare for emergencies
Unclaimed Money Act 1995 – unclaimed money to be paid to the Chief Commissioner of Unclaimed Money

(s23) Supplementary, incidental and consequential functions

A council may do all such things as are supplemental or incidental to, or consequential on, the exercise of its functions.

In order to undertake its functions, Council has identified the following Principal Activities and Functions.

Principal Activities	Functions
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Support • Human Resources • Computer Support • Engineering Support • Plant/Workshop Operations
Economic Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Development • Caravan Parks • Tourism Promotion & Museum • Special Projects
Public Order & Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Protection (Rural)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranger Services • Emergency Services
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Health/Environment Administration • Noxious Weeds
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lilliane Brady Village • Family Day Care, In Home Care & After School Care (COOSH) • Youth Services • Fitness Centre • Television and Radio Services
Housing & Community Amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Development Approval & Control • Domestic & Trade Waste Management Services • Street Cleaning • Urban Stormwater Drainage • Cemeteries
Water Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cobar & Village's Water Supply
Sewerage Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewerage Services
Recreation & Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library Services • Public Halls • Other Cultural Services
Public Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cobar Memorial Swimming Pool
Recreational Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks, Gardens & Reserves • Skate Park
Mining, Manufacturing & Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday Approvals • Quarries & Gravel Pits
Transport & Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban Roads • Rural Roads • Aerodromes

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

In accordance with Section 406 of the Local Government Act 1993 Council has developed a Community Strategy Plan, Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan. These documents were developed using Council's Community Engagement Strategy and are available to the public.

The objectives of the Principal Activities of the Council are as follows:

ADMINISTRATION

Corporate Support

- Provision of timely Internal Management Reporting to allow the monitoring of financial performance.
- Provide advice to council of the financial implications of actions.
- Completion of Statutory Accounts for Council.
- Effective management of the rating function including a reduction in the level of outstanding rates.
- Investment of Surplus Funds to provide a maximum benefit to Council.
- Provide a high standard of administrative support to the organisation.

Human Resources

- Provide a human resources service for the organisation, in order to progressively improve the knowledge, skills, qualifications, performance and job satisfaction of all Council employees.

Computer Support

- Provide an effective computer system to support Council's operations.
- Ensure that staff are able to fully utilise software and hardware products.

Engineering Works

- Efficient management and operation of the Engineering Office, Depots and the Workshop.

Plant/Workshop Operations

- Ensure that the purchase or replacement of plant is justified by their economic and/or social return.
- To effectively and efficiently utilise all plant to its maximum utilisation.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Land Development

- To plan and maintain sufficient residential and industrial land stock so as to provide for the future growth and development within the Shire.

Caravan Parks

- To provide a Caravan Park of a high standard and attractive for tourists, camping and permanent residents with a cash positive result for Council.

Tourism Promotion & Museum

- Develop and market Cobar Shire as an attractive tourist destination/stop-over and as a viable location for tourism development for ongoing social, employment and economic benefits to the whole community.
- Provide a facility for the collection, conservation, exhibition and interpretation of objects, documents and photographs relating to the culture and history of Cobar and the region.

Special Projects

- Work with Council and business groups to foster and promote economic development within the Shire of Cobar.
- Improve the soft and hard infrastructure of the Shire through special projects.
- Leverage Council funding for projects and Council functions by attracting grant funding where possible.
- Improve the operation of Council through effective strategic planning and reporting.
- Increased opportunities for Cobar through partnerships with other organisations.

PUBLIC ORDER & SAFETY

Fire Protection (Rural)

- To provide an effective and economically viable organisation to assist in the protection of individuals and minimise property damage under threats by rural fires.

Ranger Services

- To provide ranger services for the control of animals found on a public place and to enforce the requirements of the various acts, regulations, and codes.
- To provide ranger services for the management and control of commons.
- Carry regular inspection of Council's properties.
- Carry regular surveillance of Waste Depot and surrounding areas.

Emergency Services

- To assist the community to prepare for and minimise the damage to individuals and property from threats from natural hazards.
- To have contingency plans to address the community to recover after a natural disaster.

HEALTH

Public Health/Environment Administration

- To provide service to monitor the operation of food shops, licensed premises, hair dressers, beauty salons, swimming pools, water supplies, and public health.

Noxious Weeds

- Monitor the quantity of Noxious Weeds within Cobar Shire at an acceptable level, incorporating the *Noxious Weeds Act 1993*, *Local Government Act 1993* and Weed Control Plans.
- To provide a vision for the future eradication and maintenance of Noxious Weeds.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Lilliane Brady Village

- To be recognised as a regional centre of excellence for the provision of flexible, quality care for the aged and disabled whose needs cannot be met in the wider community.
- Aim to provide a place of security, safety and ongoing care in a welcoming home like atmosphere, at the same time considering the staff's needs and safety.

Family Day Care, In Home Care & After School Care (COOSH)

- To provide a safe and affordable home based child care service that delivers quality care.

Youth Services and Fitness Centre

- To provide youth services and a facility that will create interaction between all ages, interests and social standing by providing recreational, sporting and cultural activities, and support services for the youth and community of Cobar.

Television and Radio Services

- To support the provision of a broader range of television and radio services to the township of Cobar.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY AMENITIES

Housing

- To provide a range of quality housing for rental as an employment incentive for professional staff.
- To provide a range of quality housing and surgeries as an incentive to recruit medical doctors to work in Cobar.

Development Approval & Control

- Provide development services to the community for the processing of Development Applications.
- Encourage forms of development, which are compatible with and enhance the environment of the area.
- Provide services for the preparation and review of Local Environmental Plans and Development Control Plans and Developer Contribution Plan in accordance with the provisions of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*, and *Local Government Act 1993*.

Domestic & Trade Waste Management Services

- To provide modern environmentally acceptable waste disposal services which encourage waste minimisation, are cost effective and meets the needs of residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors of Cobar Shire.

Street Cleaning

- To provide the community with an aesthetically pleasing and clean, healthy environment within the urban areas.

Urban Stormwater Drainage

- Provide a stormwater drainage system that copes with storms with pollution and inconvenience to residents and motorists minimised.
- Preserve and enhance a suitable environment that meets the sustainable needs of the population and to protect the environment against degradation.

Cemeteries

- Maintain the Cobar Cemetery at an acceptable level.
- To provide a vision for the future development and maintenance of the Cobar Cemetery.
- Establish a financial arrangement so that the Cobar Cemetery is partially self-funding for maintenance and capital improvements so far as it is practicable.
- To work towards an area in the Cobar Cemetery where all denominations are in the same section.
- Provide maintenance of all Village Cemeteries.

WATER SUPPLIES

Cobar & Villages Water Supply

- Provision of potable water supply that meets the National Health and Medical Research Centre's Australian Drinking Water Guidelines within Cobar.
- Education of public on importance of water and the water cycle.
- Provision of future water reticulation services in new residential/industrial subdivisions in Cobar.
- Provision of basic non-potable water supply to Village areas.

SEWERAGE SERVICES

Sewerage Services

- Collection and treatment of effluent.
- Education of public on importance of water and the water cycle.
- Compliance with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.
- Maximise effluent reuse.

RECREATION & CULTURE

Library Services

- To provide a quality and readily accessible library service to support the educational, informational, recreational and cultural needs of the community.

Public Halls

- Provide facilities for use as public halls in Nymagee, Euabalong and Mount Hope.

Other Cultural Services

- To provide support services for the Regional Arts Development Officer.

PUBLIC FACILITIES

Cobar Memorial Swimming Pool

- To ensure the standard of Cobar Memorial Swimming Pool meets community expectations.
- To provide an aquatic facility for the social, recreational and sporting requirements of residents and visitors to Cobar in a cost-effective basis.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Parks, Gardens & Reserves

- Maintain street trees.
- Enhance the streetscape within budget allocated annually.
- Assess community needs for upgrading/ increases to the current level of parks, gardens and sporting grounds.
- Maintain parks and open spaces to a standard that encourages recreation, relaxation and enjoyment by the community.
- Create a clean and tidy image through creative landscaping.
- Maintain public amenities.
- Safeguard recreational facilities for the community.

Skate Park

- Maintain Peak Skate Park.

MINING, MANUFACTURING & CONSTRUCTION

Sundry Approvals

- To provide advice, approval and inspection services for functions that do not require approval under the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979*.

Quarries & Gravel Pits

- Oversees the control of quarrying activities in Cobar Shire.

TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION

Urban Roads

- To provide, maintain and improve facilities which enhance the roads and streets infrastructure to meet relevant standards and community expectations.

Rural Roads

- To maintain/reconstruct classified roads to current standards within constraints of funding allocations from Block Grant Agreements.
- To construct/maintain rural sealed and unsealed rural roads to current standards with financial assistance and Council funds.
- To continue a program of improvement works to enable all weather access throughout the Cobar Shire to allow for the safe movement of people and goods between local centres of population.

Aerodromes

- To provide a facility for regional aircraft to use for both RPT and general aviation to serve the needs of the community at Cobar.
- To maintain landing strips at Nymagee, Euabalong and Mount Hope.

The Community Strategic Plan, Four (4) Year Delivery Program and Annual Operational Plan contain details of the way in which the Council will measure its performance in achieving the above objectives.

Resources

At 30 June 2020, Cobar Shire Council employed 129.15 full time equivalent staff in all Departments.

Effect of Council’s Functions on Members of the Public

The table below sets out a general description of the powers exercised by Council in the performance of its functions.

A COUNCIL EXERCISES FUNCTIONS UNDER:						
THIS ACT						OTHER ACTS
Service Functions	Regulatory Functions	Ancillary Functions	Revenue Functions	Administrative Functions	Enforcement Functions	Various Functions
<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing community health, recreation, education & information services • Environmental protection • Waste removal & disposal • Land & property, industry & tourism development & assistance <p>For other functions, see Introduction to Chapter 6 LGA 1993</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approvals • Orders • Building certificates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resumption of land • Powers of entry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates • Charges • Fees • Borrowings • Investments 	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment of staff • Integrated Planning/Reporting Framework Documents • Financial reporting • Annual reports 	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proceedings for breaches of the Act • Prosecution of offences • Recovery of rates and charges 	<p>See the Note to section 22 on page 6 of this document</p>

Public Participation in Policy Formulation

Members of the community have an opportunity to participate in the formulation of Council's policies and the exercising of its functions as follows:

- Attending meetings of Council.
 - Ordinary Meetings of Council are held on the fourth Thursday of the month, except January (when no meeting is held), and are open to the public and includes a public forum.
 - General Manager's Review Committee meetings are held when required, however does not allow for public participation.
 - Traffic Committee Meetings are held quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month and the recommendations are submitted to the Ordinary Meetings of Council for consideration and adoption.
- Making submissions for Council's consideration in relation to the development of its Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework Documents, Strategic Plans and Supporting Plans in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Strategy.
- Making submissions, comments or objections to proposals relating to development, subdivision and building approvals in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
- Voting at Local Government Elections and in Constitutional Referendums conducted by Council.

A Council may not do any of the following unless approval to do so has been given at a Constitutional Referendum:

- Divide its area into Wards or abolish any Wards in its area.
- Change the basis on which the Mayor obtains office.
- Increase or decrease the number of Councillors in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- Change the method of Ordinary Election of Councillors for an area divided into Wards or the voting system used in Council Elections.

Information held by Council

Information Categories

Council holds information (hard copy and/or electronic form) that relate to a number of different issues concerning the Cobar Shire Council area. This information is grouped into three categories.

1. Electronic Documents;
2. "Physical Files";
3. Policy and General Documents.

Electronic Documents and Physical Files

Council has a form of 'Electronic Document Management System' that is a mirror image of its 'Physical Files' for information that has been created electronically by Council.

Council's 'Physical Files' capture information against the following indices:

- Aboriginal matters;
- Administration;
- Advertising Signs;
- Agriculture;
- Airports;
- Ambulance Services;
- Animals;
- Arts;
- Asset Management;
- Assets;
- Associations;
- Auditors;
- Bands;
- Banking;
- Beautification;
- Bluett Memorial Trust;
- Boundaries;
- Bridges;
- Building and Building Control;
- Bureau of Meteorology;
- Bushfires/NSW Rural Fire Service;
- Bus Services;
- Caravan Parks;
- Celebrations and Ceremonies;
- Cemeteries;
- Centrelink;
- Certificates;
- Clubs;
- Codes;
- Committees;
- Commons;
- Community Services;
- Complaints;
- Computers;
- Conferences;
- Conservation and Land Management;
- Consultants;
- Councillors;
- Council Meetings;
- Creditors;
- The Cancer Council of NSW;
- Dental Services;
- Development Strategies;
- Disability Services;
- Donations;
- Drainage;
- Drought Issues;
- Development;
- Education;
- Electricians;
- Electricity;
- Emergencies;
- Employment;
- Environmental Issues;
- Estimates;
- Engineering;
- Factories & Shop Act;
- Finance;
- Financial Statements;
- Fire Matters;
- Forests;
- Fuels;
- Gas;
- General Manager;
- Government Gazette Notices;
- Graffiti;
- Grants;
- Health Matters;
- Heritage Matters;
- Historical Society;
- Holidays;
- Housing;
- Independent Commission Against Corruption;
- Insurances;

- Leases;
- Legal Services;
- Library Matters;
- Licences;
- Litter;
- Loans;
- Local Government;
- Mapping;
- Maritime Services;
- Mayoral;
- Media;
- Medical Services;
- Mining;
- Museum;
- Noxious Weeds;
- National Competition Policy;
- National Disaster Relief;
- Ombudsman;
- Parks, Gardens and Public Reserves;
- Parliamentary Issues;
- Plant and Equipment;
- Police Matters;
- Policies and Codes;
- Postal Matters;
- Printing and Stationery;
- Private Works;
- Property (Rates);
- Public Works;
- Quarries and Gravel Pits;
- Railways;
- Rates;
- Records Management;
- Risk Management;
- Roads (Local Roads, Regional Roads);
- Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA);
- Rural Lands Protection Board;
- Security;
- Seminars, Conferences and Training;
- Septic Tanks;
- Sewerage;
- Single Invitation Maintenance Contract/ Roads Maintenance Council Contract;
- Sister City Relationships;
- Sport and Recreation;
- Staff;
- Standards;
- Statistics;
- Streets
- Subdivisions;
- Swimming Pools;
- Taxation;
- Telephones;
- Tenders;
- Tourism;
- Town Planning;
- Trees;
- Waste Management Services;
- Water Supply.

These Electronic Documents and Physical Files are not available on Council's website however this information may be available either by informal release or via an access application in accordance with Sections 7-9 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information as outlined in Section 14 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. Members of the public who require an informal release or an access application can do so by contacting Council's Public Officer on 02 6836 5888 or at mail@coabar.nsw.gov.au.

Policy and General Documents

The *Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2009 (NSW)* requires that the following list of Policy and General Documents held by Council are to be made publicly available for inspection, free of charge. The public is entitled to inspect these documents on Council's website or from Council's Administration Office during ordinary office hours or at any other place as determined by the Council. Any current and previous documents of this type may be inspected by the public free of charge. Copies can be supplied for a reasonable copying charge.

Codes, Plans, Policies and Reports

- [Code of Conduct and Administration Procedure](#)

- [Code of Meeting Practice](#)
- Any Codes Referred to in the *Local Government Act 1993*
- [Other Council Policies](#)
- [Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework Documents](#) (Community Engagement Strategy, Community Strategic Plan, Resources Strategy (Including Long Term Financial Plan, Workforce Plan and Asset Management Plans), Four (4) Year Delivery Program, Annual Operational Plan)
- EEO Management Plan
- Crime Prevention Plan 2017 - 2022
- Plans of Management for Community Land
- Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to the Mayor and Councillor Policy
- Annual Report
- Annual Financial Reports
- Auditor's Reports
- GIPA Annual Reports
- Annual Reports of Bodies Exercising Delegated Council Functions (available by contacting the Public Officer)
- Departmental Representatives' Reports presented at a meeting of the council in accordance with section 433 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (available by contacting the Public Officer)

Registers and Returns

- [Contracts Register](#)
- [Land Register](#)
- Roads Register (available by contacting the Public Officer)
- Register of Investments (available by contacting the Public Officer)
- [Register of Delegations](#)
- Gifts Registers (available by contacting the Public Officer)
- Returns of the Interests of Councillors, Designated Persons and Delegates (this document is available for inspection at Council's Administration Office only, and not on the website, in accordance with the Information Commissioner's guidelines)

- [Returns as to Candidates' Campaign Donations](#)
- Council Use of Common Seal Register (available by contacting the Public Officer)
- Register of graffiti removal work kept in accordance with Section 67C (available by contacting the Public Officer)

Agendas, Business Papers and Minutes

- [Agendas and business papers for Council Meetings](#), not including business papers for matters considered when part of a meeting is closed to the public
- [Minutes of Council Meetings](#) - if any part of a meeting is closed to the public then only the resolution and recommendations that were made are included in the minutes

Planning and Development Documents

- Building and Development Applications under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and associated documents (available by contacting the Public Officer)
- Records of Approvals Granted, any variation from local policies with reasons for the variation and decisions made on appeals concerning approvals (available by contacting the Public Officer)
- [Local Policies adopted by Council concerning approvals and orders](#)
- Records of Building Certificates under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (available by contacting the Public Officer)
- Plans and Land Proposed to be Compulsorily Acquired by Council (available by contacting the Public Officer)
- [Leases and Licences for the use of Public Land Classified as Community Land](#)
- [Planning Decisions Register](#)
- Environmental Planning Instruments, Development Control Plans and plans made under sections 94A and B of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* that apply to land within Council's area (available by contacting the Public Officer)

How is Council Information Made Available

There are four ways Council Information will be made available;

1. Mandatory Release

This generally includes information found on Council's website such as policy and general documents, the current Publication Guide and Disclosures Log.

2. Proactive Release

These are additional documents that are made available to the public on Council's website and at the Administration Centre.

3. Informal Request

This is for specific information. Under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* Council can choose to release this information without the need for a formal access application. Access via this path may be subject to reasonable conditions such as photocopying charges. Requests for information should be emailed to Council at mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au or contacting Council's Public Officer at the Administration Centre on 02 6836 5888.

4. Formal Access Application

If you have not been able to obtain the information you need through any other form of access you can lodge a Formal Access Application. Unlike the Informal Request you have a legally enforceable right to be provided with access unless there is an overriding public interest against disclosure of the information. An application fee and processing charge may apply. A formal *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* Application Form (downloadable from Council's website) will need to be completed and submitted to Council with the application fee.

How Members of the Public May Access and Amend Council Information

Access to Council information may be obtained Council's website at www.cobar.nsw.gov.au or by contacting Council's Public Officer at the Administration Office between 8am and 4:30pm Monday to Friday.

If the information you require is not available on the website please email Council at mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au or contact Council's Public Officer at the Administration Office on (02) 6836 5888.

If you ask for information and you are not able to obtain it, you may apply for them under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)* by:

- Completing a GIPA Application Form downloadable from Council's website. If you cannot download this form you may obtain a copy from Council's Administration Office.
- Present the form and the appropriate fee to Council's Administration Office, 36 Linsley Street, Cobar.

Details of procedures and fees are detailed in the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (NSW)* or may be obtained from Council's Public Officer at the Administration Office.

Arrangement can be made for amendments to information concerning personal information of members of the public by contacting Council's Public Officer. Enquiries should be addressed as follows:

General Manager
Cobar Shire Council
PO Box 223
COBAR NSW 2835
Email: mail@cobar.nsw.gov.au

Further Information

If you require further information regarding the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, members of the public can review the website of the Information and Privacy Commission (IPC) at:

www.ipc.nsw.gov.au

The Information Commissioner can also be contacted as follows:

Free Call Telephone: 1800 472 679

Email: ipcinfo@ipc.nsw.gov.au

Address: GPO Box 7011
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Office Address: Level 17
201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000