

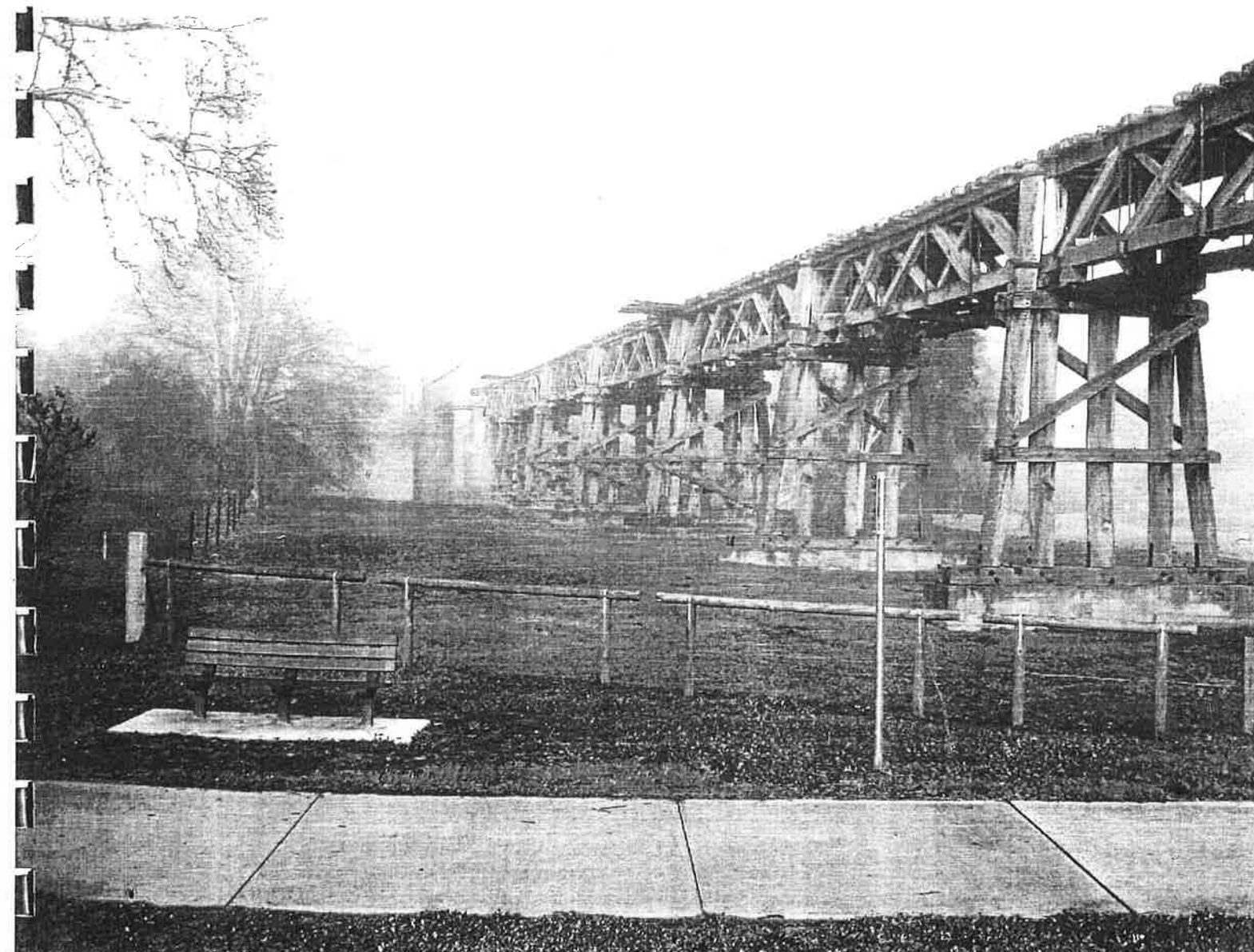


Shire of Gundagai
New South Wales

LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE AND PLANNING STRATEGY 2008

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the local Division of General Practitioners. A visiting psychiatrist services the Tumut Community Health Centre but is not normally available to Gundagai Hospital. The 2003 staff totalled 26 which included medical professionals, nursing staff, and community health workers.

The Shire Council leases the Gundagai Medical Centre in Sheridan Street to the local medical practice which in turn provides general practitioner services as well as facilities to attract specialists. In conjunction with the Greater Murray Clinical School it also provides a teaching facility for GPs.

According to hospital management, a new hospital is a priority during the next decade. It will be constructed on the existing site: planning is based on the MPS (multi-purpose service) model, involving a hostel, nursing home, acute care, accident and emergency services, and community health.

Outside the hospital, other health care facilities and services in Gundagai include the new pharmacy in Sheridan Street, the Gundagai Medical Centre completed in 2000, Gundagai Dental Surgery, and Gundagai Community Health Services (as described above). Adjacent to the hospital is the Uralba Hostel with 19 beds for aged community members.

In July 2005 the Gundagai Health Service Plan Steering Committee met for the first time. The Committee will work to bring together community representatives, health workers and practitioners within Gundagai, the aim being to plan for the health needs of the community for the next ten years and beyond.

4.9 Coolac - Pettit - Mingay roadworks

Work commenced in May 2007 on the Coolac Bypass, a major federally-funded project which will upgrade the last single carriageway section of the Hume Highway north of Gundagai to dual carriageway. The project includes reconstruction of the northbound Hume Highway carriageway between Muttama Creek and the 5-Mile. The works include

- new 11.8km dual carriageway on the Hume Highway
- reconstruction of 4.1km of the existing northbound carriageway (new alignment)
- four-way intersection at the Cootamundra Road, Coolac
- associated bridgeworks and underpasses.

Whilst the traffic benefits of the Coolac Bypass are significant, completion of the project will see the creation of an "island" of rural land between Coolac and Pettit, bounded on the north by the Cootamundra Road interchange and on the south by the Daisy Bed Creek bridge. This "island" will be flanked on the west by the existing highway and on the east by the bypass, and faces an uncertain future. The salient characteristics include;

- an area of approximately 130 ha
- length - approximately 2.7km
- frontage to Old Hume Highway approximately 2km
- width variable - plus or minus 500 metres
- terrain varying from level to gently sloping down from east to west
- no access from new bypass
- existing rural use - cleared land

- contains a 2km length of disused railway corridor in government ownership (area 11.30 ha).

Possible future uses for part of this land would include highway oriented activities accessed from the old Hume Highway. Farming could continue as at present. The historic Coolac Hotel may survive, but other current uses (general store, churches, cemetery, and tennis club) are at risk. Council may prepare a development control plan for this island site following a decision as to the most appropriate zoning under the new LEP.

4.10 Sheahan Bridge duplication

Preliminary construction of this major project commenced in 2007 and completion is expected in late 2009. The works consist of a new 1.15km 2-lane southbound bridge over the Murrumbidgee River and flood plain at Gundagai, west of the urban area and immediately upstream of the existing 2 lane bridge which will revert to exclusive northbound use on completion. This project will bring great benefits to Hume Highway traffic. For Gundagai town, impacts are uncertain. Until the new bridge becomes operational it will not be possible to ascertain with accuracy the noise levels associated with freeway traffic; but if existing noise levels are equalled or increased there are likely to be significant adverse consequences for many residences in the western sector of Gundagai town. The hospital and high school are also likely to be affected.

busy landmark business close to the freeway and the important road junction to Adelong and the Visy forestry enterprises to the south. The link to the wine country to the south-east via the Mundarlo Road is also becoming more important, given the tourism potential and the possible scope for rural residential or hobby farm development.

Nangus In 1831 the first station was established by the Macarthur family, the Nangus homestead being one of the earliest buildings in this part of the state. The small extant village is located about 35 minutes' drive from Wagga Wagga, and had a population (2006) of about 250, including 17 pupil primary school children. The Church of St Paul is active, opposite which is the historic cemetery. The village supports a general store, the rural fire service depot, a garage and fuel outlet, and a community hall. There is no mains water. Nangus is close to the growing centre of the wine industry and is on the direct road between Gundagai, Junee and Wagga Wagga.

Coolac (and other nearby hamlets of Pettitts and Mingay) These localities were early stopping point on the Port Phillip Road south from Jugiong. They enjoy bushranger associations, and links with early mining and pastoral enterprises. Coolac was linked to the railway in the 1880s. A hotel was established early; and chromite mining was carried out at Gobarralong between 1892-95. The public school opened in 1872 but has long since closed. The hotel and general store continue to trade, but the settlement is facing an uncertain future on completion of the current Hume Highway Coolac by-pass program. This project brings the prospect of a highway service centre or other highway-oriented enterprises. The abandoned railway line between Cootamundra and Coolac extending south to Gundagai and Tumut follows a scenic route and may have long term potential as a tourist link.

Muttama The pastoral station was established in 1828 and the area was proclaimed a goldfield in 1859. The Reefer's Arms and the old Muttama Hotel were built during the 1860s. A primary school came later (long-since closed). The Shire Council has provided a village hall for use by the current Muttama community which although small continues to demonstrate pride and a determination to survive. It is focussed more on Cootamundra than on Gundagai. The historic cemetery accommodates a rare native vegetation community of White Box. Crown leases on much of the land in the village remain a constraint to growth.

The Five Mile This well-known locality gets its name from the nearby Five-Mile Creek, and has become noteworthy through its associations with the fabled country family of Dad, Dave, Mum and Mabel - of Snake Gully fame. The Council owns the site which currently accommodates the famous *Dog on the Tuckerbox* sculpture. A new highway service centre is located alongside earlier tourist establishments. The Shire Council considers that the Five Mile area has now been developed to capacity and a Development Control Plan has been adopted to help implement this policy. Any further major development will necessarily involve replacement or redevelopment of existing facilities, together with substantial roadworks to comply with RTA access requirements. Overall, current Council policy for the future of the Five Mile is to ensure that the area develops with adequate attention being given to heritage, commerce and the environment: this policy will influence the choice of a suitable zone in the new LEP.

Adjungbilly This isolated hamlet to the east of Gundagai gave its name to the first Shire Council (1906). It is the focus of a small mountain community whose future is tied to agriculture and (more recently) to forestry. Since the 1980s, State Forests has purchased two large agricultural properties in this area: 'Red Hill' and 'Nanangrove'. The local community supports a church, primary school and village hall. A historic cemetery is a valued local heritage item.

Reno Today it is no more than a locality name; yet a little over a century ago, this name identified a rich goldfield in the hills about 10km west of Gundagai town, off the Burra Road. At its peak the settlement accommodated in excess of 1000 miners and other opportunists.