



Statement of Strategic Priorities



Photo: Amy Curran

Vision and Values

- Vision

Strong Region, Progressive Local Government, Vibrant Communities

- Values

Integrity, Honesty, Respect, Accountability, Regionally-focused, Collaborative

Regional Priorities and Focus Areas



Transport and Connectivity

FOCUS AREAS

1. Freight Transport
2. Passenger Transport
3. Mobile & Broadband Connectivity



Energy, Water and Environment

FOCUS AREAS

1. Water & Wastewater
2. Waste & Resource Recovery
3. Energy Management
4. Environment & Climate Change



Workforce Development

FOCUS AREAS

1. Skilled Regional Workforce
2. Employer of Choice



Leadership & Collaboration

FOCUS AREAS

1. Regional Leadership & Advocacy
2. Collaboration & Partnerships



Economic & Community Development

FOCUS AREAS

1. Regional Economy
2. Tourism & visitation



Healthy & Vibrant Communities

FOCUS AREAS

1. Community well-being and liveability
2. Health & Allied Services

Transport and Connectivity

- *Focus Area 1: Freight Transport*

- Road and rail freight moves efficiently within and through our Region providing effective support for the national freight task
 - Identify and remove impediments to connectivity in our Region's transport corridors
 - *Actions:* Update and implement Regional Freight Transport Plan, Advocate for road funding and facilitate delivery of agreed projects

- *Focus Area 2: The Road Network*

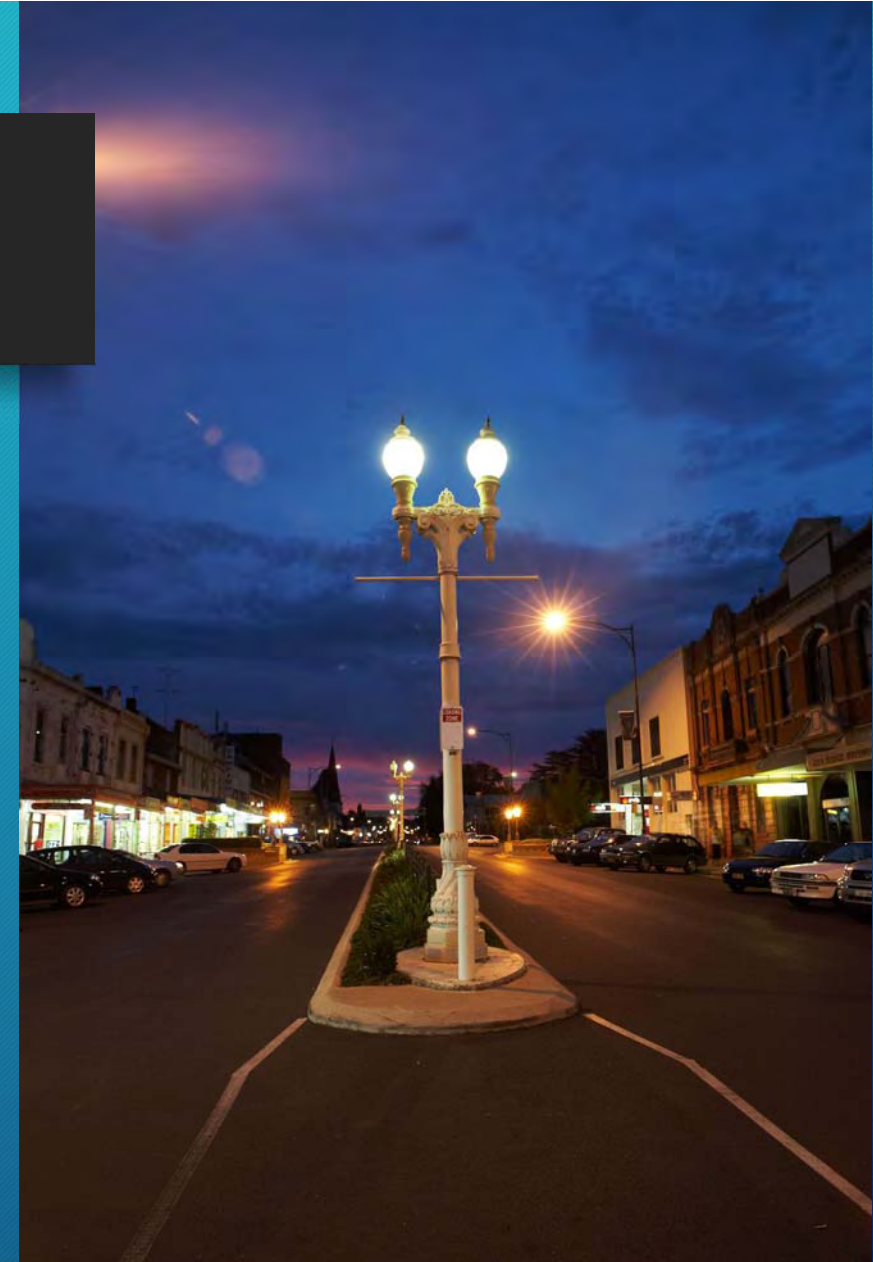
- Our road network meet the needs and aspirations of our communities
 - Advocate to improve the funding models that support a better road network
 - *Actions:* Lobby for increased funding, audit road network to identify where needs are not being met



Photo: Marg Killalea

Transport and Connectivity

- *Focus Area 4: Mobile & Broadband Connectivity*
 - Our Region is connected to the world through excellent mobile and broadband telecommunication services
 - Identify connectivity blackspots and lobby for funding to address the problems
 - Promote the connectivity benefits of Southern Lights
 - *Actions:* Identify blackspot, advocate for funding, advocate to remove impediments, lobby for Southern Lights funding



Energy, Water and the Environment

- *Focus Area 1: Water and Wastewater*

- Planning reflects, supports and sustains the needs of future communities for safe and secure water and wastewater services
 - Support planning for upgrades to water and sewer infrastructure to meet identified future demand
- Local Government retains the ownership of regional and rural local Water Utilities
 - Advocate for the retention of ownership of regional and rural LWUs with Local Government
 - *Actions:* Facilitate completion of IWCs, regional consolidation of asset management plans, advocate for funding, lobby for the retention of ownership, respond to inquiries and reports

- *Focus Area 2: Waste Management and Resource Recovery*

- Planning reflects, supports and sustains the needs of future communities for the most effective waste management and resource recovery solutions
 - Support the delivery of regional solutions for waste management and resource recovery
 - *Actions:* Support the implementation of REROC's Regional Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, advocate for the development of regional solutions



Photo: Jackie Cooper

Energy, Water and the Environment

• *Focus Area 3: Energy Management*

- Planning reflects, supports and sustains the needs of future communities for equitable access to energy and energy services
 - Monitor changes in the energy sector and likely impacts on Member Councils and their communities and respond
 - Identify initiatives that improve energy management and efficiency for Member Councils and their communities
 - *Actions:* Lobby for improved access to energy sources, advocate for retention of standard of services, advocate and lobby for funding for Southern Lights

• *Focus Area 4: Environment and Climate Change*

- Our actions enhance the environment for future generations
 - Identify opportunities to implement initiatives that improve environmental outcomes
 - *Actions:* Work with Member Councils to develop initiatives that will result in positive environmental outcome



Workforce Development

- *Focus Area 1: Skilled Regional Workforce*

- The Region has a skilled workforce that drives entrepreneurship and growth
 - Develop a range of employment pathways that underpins a “grow your own” workforce
 - *Actions:* Develop and promote career opportunity entry points, lobby TAFE for provision of courses, encourage initiatives that develop a skilled workforce, partner with other regional organisations to deliver initiatives

- *Focus Area 2: Employer of Choice*

- The Region is perceived as a preferred area to work and live
 - Promote the benefits of working and living in the Region
 - *Actions:* Continuation and development of regional promotions such as Country Change, use existing networks and new opportunities to promote the Region
- Local Government is seen as an Employer of Choice
 - Promote the diversity of work in Local Government and the benefits of employment in the sector
 - *Actions:* Develop promotional activities, attend expos and events, review activities that others are undertaking and share results



Leadership & Collaboration

- *Focus Area 1: Regional Leadership and Advocacy*
 - We are a strong advocate and provide leadership on issues that affect Local Government and the communities in our Region
 - Advocate for identified regional priorities
 - *Actions:* Advocate for priorities identified in Strategic Plan and other key issues as determined by the Board
 - Provide a representatives voice on regional, state and national networks and platforms
 - *Actions:* Establish and maintain RivJO representation, seek opportunities to enhance representation
- *Focus Area 2: Collaboration and Partnerships*
 - We have effective relationships and partnerships in place with State and Federal ministers and agencies based on mutual respect and trust
 - Hold regular meetings with State and Federal ministers, agencies and local parliamentarians
 - *Actions:* Identify opportunities to meet, invite politicians to attend JO meetings, hold meetings in Sydney and Canberra, advocate for improved access to senior bureaucrats, actively participate in regional meetings with agencies
 - Partner with State agencies where the benefits that accrue to the Members and their communities outweigh the costs
 - *Actions:* Invite State agencies to JO meetings, partners with State and Federal agencies to co-design programs and services, partner with agencies to deliver programs and services into our Region

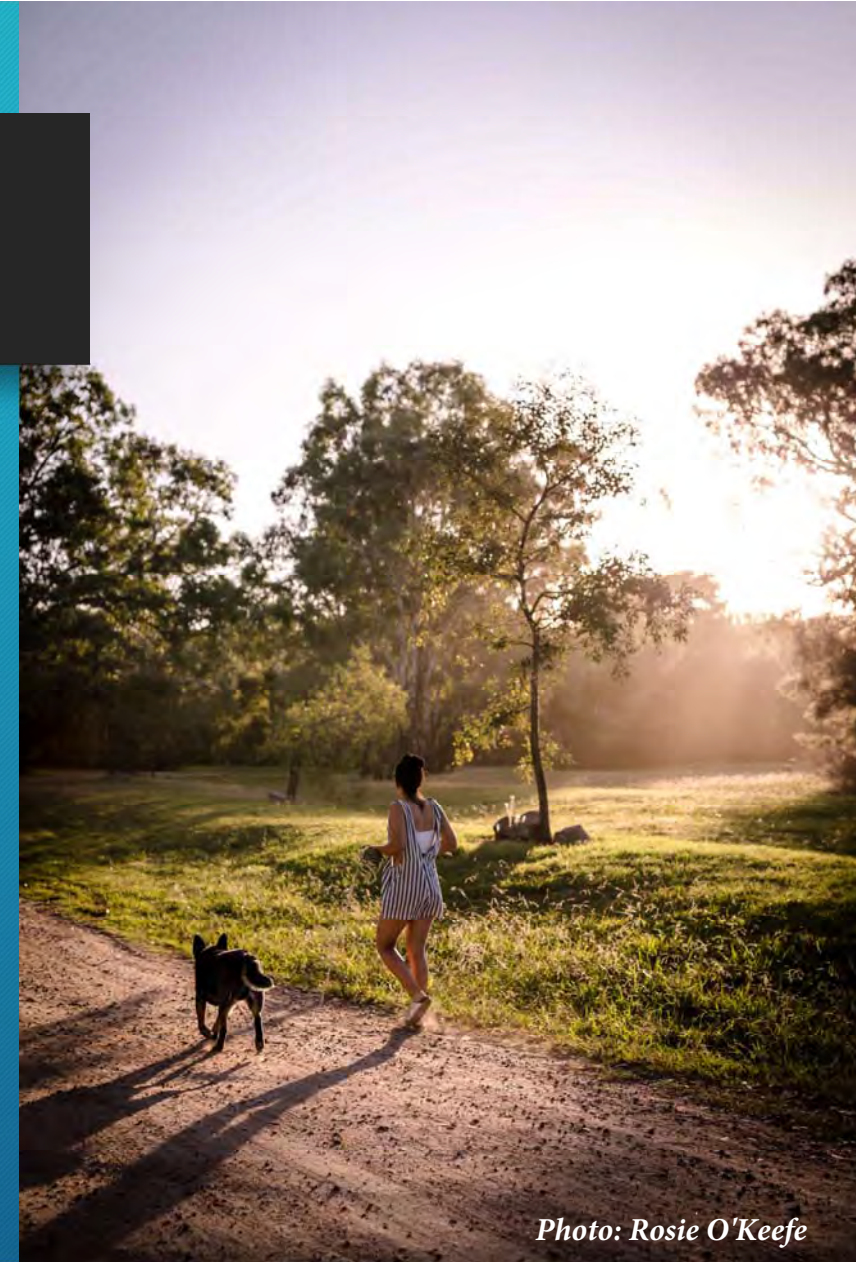


Photo: Rosie O'Keefe

Leadership & Collaboration

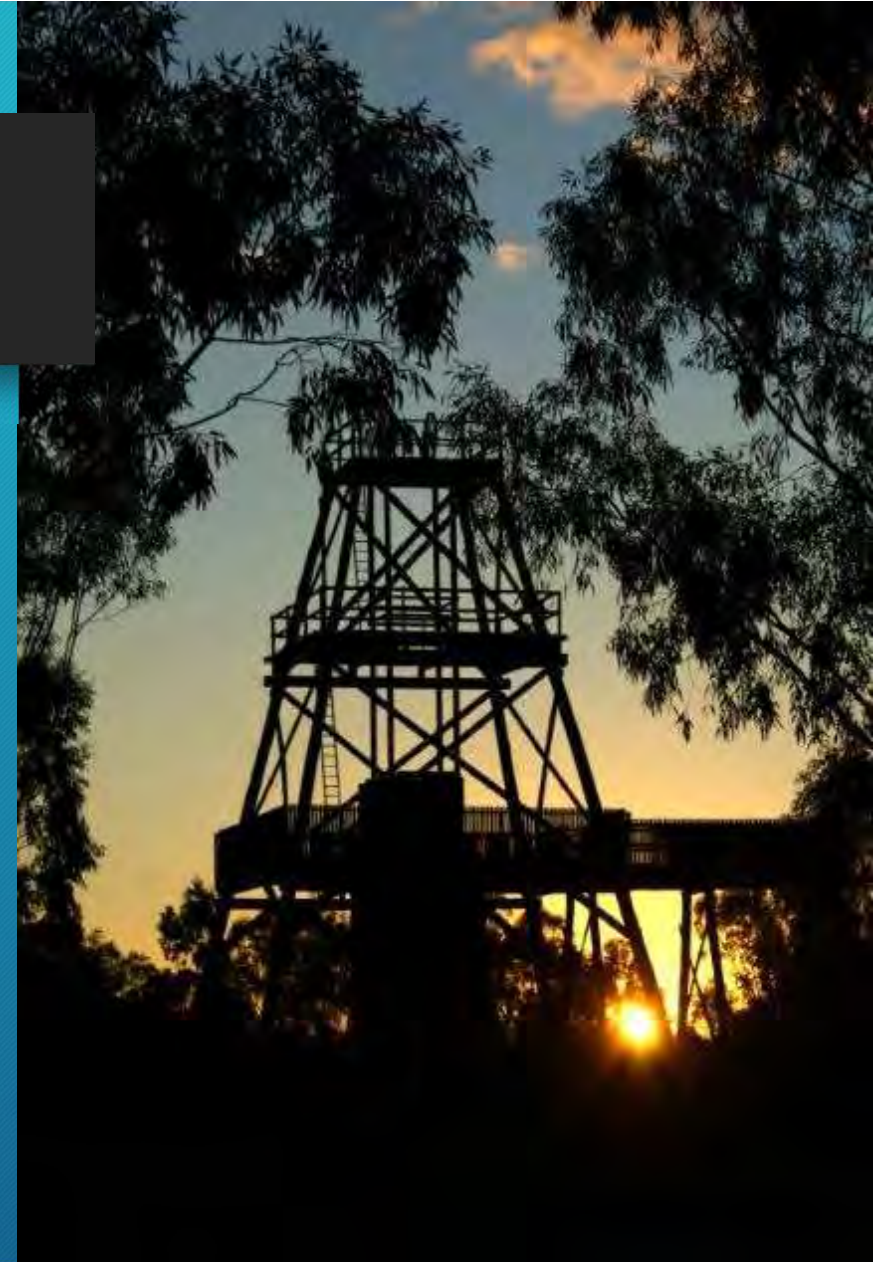
- We have effective partnerships with other regional organisations and businesses operating within our Region and across the State.
 - Partner with other regional organisations and businesses where benefits will accrue to our members and their communities
 - *Actions:* Continue with membership and participation in JO Chairs' and JO EOs' meetings, identify opportunities for partnership, open JO meetings to guest speakers from other regional organisations and businesses, partner with regional organisations and businesses to deliver programs and services into our Region
- Local Government is recognised by State and Federal governments and funded appropriately for the services it provides to the community
 - Identify, monitor and respond to any impacts that have a potential detrimental effect on the operations of Local Government
 - *Actions:* Monitor, identify and respond as agreed by Board
 - Lobby for Constitutional Recognition of Local Government
 - *Actions:* Advocate for Recognition as opportunities arise



Photo: Jackie Cooper

Economic & Community Development

- *Focus Area 1: Regional Economy*
 - The regional economy is thriving, robust and self-sustaining
 - Support the implementation of the Region's REDS
 - *Actions:* Support and advocate for the actions identified by Member Councils in their relevant REDS



Healthy & Vibrant Communities

- *Focus Area 1: Community Well-being and Liveability*
 - Our Region provides lifestyle and service choices that reflect the diversity of residents' needs and aspirations
 - Support the delivery of programs and services into the Region to build and enhance community well-being
 - *Actions:* Advocate for equitable access to programs and services. Identify, advocate and promote relevant programs and services
- *Focus Area 2: Health and Allied Services*
 - The Region's health and allied services meet the needs and aspirations of the Region's communities
 - Engage with health provider to provide robust input into decisions that determine health service delivery
 - Advocate for health and allied services that meet the needs of a diverse community
 - Advocate to retain and where appropriate enhance existing services
 - *Actions:* Establish relationships with providers, ensure JO representation on bodies that determine service delivery, lobby for equitable services



Photo: Jamie Blair