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# UPPER LACHLAN SHIRE COUNCIL

EARLY STAGE ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE

## SOUTHERN TABLELANDS

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### STRATEGY 2018-2022

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#### **Vision for the Upper Lachlan**

*To grow the region's core strengths in agriculture, energy, aged care and transport and deliver a highly liveable community which attracts and rewards residents and visitors.*



21 June 2018

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# INTRODUCTION

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This document is an extract from the Southern Tablelands Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) developed with the support of the NSW Government as part of the REDS program. The extract addresses early stage actions relevant to the Upper Lachlan Shire Council. The document was prepared for the Upper Lachlan Shire Council in June 2018 following incorporation of final comments on the Southern Tablelands REDS.

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# STRATEGY

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Five strategies were developed as part of the Southern Tablelands REDS. Modifications have been made to ensure relevance to the Upper Lachlan. The revised strategies are:

Sustain the region's **agriculture** and agricultural processing advantage, especially in livestock

Build on the region's core strength in **energy** generation

Realise the economic opportunity presented by **aged-care**

Ensure efficient **transport** linkages

Enhance the liveability of the region and grow its **visitor** economy

Strategies are summarised in the following section. The action plan has been tailored for the Upper Lachlan.

# 1. Sustain the region’s agriculture and agricultural processing advantage, especially in livestock

The Southern Tablelands has a specialisation in agriculture, especially sheep and beef cattle farming. Economic growth in the Sydney Basin provides the Upper Lachlan with the opportunity to expand its ‘footprint’ in intensive livestock production, especially chicken meat and its processing. The goal of this strategy is to expand the regional economy by growing the region’s agriculture and agricultural processing advantage, especially in livestock production and processing.

## Infrastructure Priorities

- **Road transport infrastructure:** cost effective freight is important to agricultural businesses in the region. Successful advocacy (potentially in coordination with other FERs) for upgrade to the highway and secondary roads would reduce the long-term cost profile of agricultural enterprises in the region.
- **Digital connectivity infrastructure:** fast and reliable internet access (NBN rollout) as well as mobile reception in additional parts of the Southern Tablelands would facilitate on-farm uptake of spatial technology to enhance productivity.
- **Agricultural infrastructure:** additional training and agricultural education infrastructure would communicate the importance of the sector to visitors and help sustain a supply of agricultural labour.

## Early Stage Action Priorities

- Register of skilled service providers.
- Poultry industry development strategy.
- Land use planning for seed potatoes.
- Investigate feasibility of the Australian Agricultural Centre, Crookwell.
- Work with agricultural producers to ensure transfer of skills to make the most of spatial technology.
- Train staff for intensive agriculture.
- Attract migrant labour to the region.
- Attract agricultural education to the region.

## 2. Build on the region’s core strength in energy generation

The Southern Tablelands has become a powerhouse for renewable energy generation in the 21st century. The region houses large scale and commercial energy from waste projects, solar farms and wind turbines. In addition, the region is a crossroads for electricity transmission lines and is on the route of the Moomba to Melbourne natural gas pipeline. This strategy aims to build on both the region’s natural and constructed energy endowments to grow economic activity and employment.

<p><b>Infrastructure Priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Utilities infrastructure:</b> give further consideration of the economic feasibility of connecting Crookwell and Gunning to the natural gas pipeline.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Early Stage Action Priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a renewable energy plan for specific parts of the region.</li> <li>• Further explore the economic feasibility and seek funding support for Crookwell and Gunning’s connection to natural gas.</li> </ul>
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## 3. Realise the economic opportunity presented by aged care

All three LGAs making up the Southern Tablelands region have a specialisation in aged-care and the sector is forecast to grow over the medium term. With the ageing of the population, Aged-care is a major employer and offers jobs to young people who might otherwise find it necessary to leave their community to secure employment. This strategy will support growth in the aged-care sector including provision of auxiliary infrastructure.

<p><b>Infrastructure Priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Aged-care infrastructure:</b> provision of complementary infrastructure such as a hydrotherapy pool in Crookwell that would also be used by the Southern Tablelands community.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Early Stage Action Priorities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publicise the region’s comparative advantage in aged-care to appropriate providers and developers.</li> <li>• Liaise with NSW Health to ensure retention and investment in the Crookwell Hospital.</li> <li>• Advance the proposal for an indoor pool/hydrotherapy pool for Crookwell District Hospital.</li> </ul>
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## 4. Ensure efficient transport linkages

The Southern Tablelands is strategically located between Sydney and Canberra. The Southern Tablelands geographic position provides it with core advantages in road transport and freight logistics. The region has an opportunity to capitalise on these endowments and become a nexus for people and freight movements between Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne. The Upper Lachlan needs to ensure that it is 'linked in' to these developments.

Infrastructure Priorities	Early Stage Action Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Road infrastructure to improve agriculture and other industry competitiveness:</b> upgrade of a number of key regional roads will improve the competitiveness of a number of regional industries including agriculture and tourism.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lobby for the upgrade of the Dalton/Rye Park Road (MR241).</li><li>• Advocate for widening and straightening of key routes to market for livestock.</li><li>• Advocate for the upgrade of Main Road 92 from Nerriga to the Hume Highway via Collector.</li><li>• Advocate for the continued funding of upgrades to MR 54 Goulburn to Bathurst Road</li><li>• Ensure appropriately zoned employment lands are available to accommodate business.</li><li>• Invest to retain the heavy vehicle inspection station in Crookwell.</li></ul>

## 5. Enhance the liveability of the region and grow its visitor economy

A buoyant and sustainable region is one that attracts both residents and visitors. To achieve a buoyant and sustainable region the community must invest in infrastructure that enriches the lives of its residents and attracts visitors from outside the region. This strategy focusses on community priorities to enrich the liveability of the region and grow the visitor economy. This requires attention to long term land use planning, water and sewerage infrastructure, education and training for residents, connectivity, arts and culture and sport and recreation.

Infrastructure Priorities	Early Stage Action Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Digital connectivity:</b> reliable internet access, improved mobile reception and electronic noticeboards to foster connections within the community.</li> <li>• <b>Sport and recreation infrastructure:</b> including upgrade of local grounds and ovals, making hydrotherapy and swimming pools into year round venues.</li> <li>• <b>Tourism infrastructure:</b> including upgrade of access to established destinations and new destinations based on walking and cycling tracks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a long term vision and land use plan for the Upper Lachlan.</li> <li>• Implement recommendations from the village streetscape study and the pedestrian and mobility plan.</li> <li>• Investigate water and sewer infrastructure in Collector</li> <li>• Advocate for better 4G coverage.</li> <li>• Seek funding for a new community civic centre.</li> <li>• Improve self-guided heritage walks.</li> <li>• Advocate for a new hockey complex.</li> <li>• Cycleway rail trail Crookwell to Goulburn.</li> <li>• Upgrade Wombeyan Caves Road MR258 (State Park) to improve access to this major tourist asset.</li> <li>• Upgrade Wyangala Dam (State Park) access via Grabine Road to improve access to this major tourist asset.</li> <li>• Upgrade Tablelands Way MR256 (Goulburn to Oberon Road).</li> <li>• Build on interest in motorcycle tourism.</li> <li>• Increase the supply of trained staff to the tourism sector.</li> <li>• Build on the People, Place, Produce theme of the Destination Southern NSW Destination Management Plan.</li> </ul>



# UPPER LACHLAN ACTION PLAN

## 1. Sustain the region's agriculture and agricultural processing advantage especially in livestock

Early Stage Priority Action	Issue	Responsibility
Develop a register of locally available, appropriately skilled agricultural service providers for use by lifestyle landholders moving to the region.	Lifestyle landholders engaged in agricultural production create local employment opportunities and generate economic activity within the region.	Appropriate State Government Departments
Prepare a poultry industry development strategy to realise opportunities associated with industry relocation out of the Sydney Basin.	Rising land values in the Sydney Basin are forcing the relocation of intensive industries (e.g. poultry, mushrooms, vegetables). The Southern Tablelands is well placed to attract these industries and benefit from additional employment and economic activity.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council NSW Poultry Industry NSW Department of Primary Industries
Ensure appropriate land use planning policies are in place to sustain seed potato production.	Limited land is available in NSW for seed potato production and the Upper Lachlan Shire has a core competency in this industry.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Crookwell Potato Association NSW Department of Primary Industries
Advocate to government and provide suitable land, planning and infrastructure support for a possible relocation of the Yennora Wool Selling Centre to the Region.	Land currently occupied by the Wool Selling Centre is needed for housing growth in Western Sydney. The Wool Selling Centre would be well served by a lower cost land base and return to an area in the Region with a comparative advantage in wool production and marketing.	Goulburn-Mulwaree Council Yass Valley Council Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Investigate the feasibility of the Australian Agricultural Centre, Crookwell.	Proposal to showcase agricultural industries and skills and draw additional visitors to the Upper Lachlan Shire.	Australian Agricultural Centre Inc.

Work with agricultural producers to ensure transfer of skills to make the most of spatial technology.

Upgrade of internet and mobile phone services has been identified as a high priority. Appropriate agricultural producer skills are required to make the most of the upgrade.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council  
TAFE  
Australian Agricultural Centre Inc.

Early Stage Priority Action	Issue	Responsibility
Build on current programs designed to increase the supply of trained staff to intensive agricultural production (e.g. poultry, mushrooms, vegetables).	Southern Tablelands agricultural industries report difficulty in securing willing and well trained staff.	TAFE Australian Agricultural Centre Inc.
Investigate opportunities to attract migrant labour and their families to the region.	Southern Tablelands agricultural industries report difficulty in securing willing and well trained staff.	Goulburn-Mulwaree Council Upper Lachlan Shire Council Regional Development Aust Southern Inland (RDASI)
Explore opportunities to attract agricultural education and scientific research facilities to the region.	Builds on region's core competency in agriculture and is consistent with Australian Government decentralisation policies.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Yass Valley Council TAFE Australian Agricultural Centre Inc.

## 2. Build on the region's core strength in energy generation

Early Stage Priority Action	Issue	Responsibility
Develop a renewable energy plan for specific parts of the Southern Tablelands region.	A clear plan will assist the Upper Lachlan LGA realise its potential in the generation of wind, solar and other forms of renewable energy.	Department of Planning South East Region of Renewable Energy Excellence (SERREE) Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Report to determine economic feasibility and funding support for natural gas connection to the towns of Crookwell and Gunning via the Moomba to Melbourne Gas pipeline.	Natural gas pipeline passes through the Upper Lachlan LGA but has not been tapped for local residential and business use (e.g. poultry production).	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Appropriate State and Federal Government Departments

### 3. Realise the economic opportunity presented by age care

Early Stage Priority Action	Issue	Responsibility
Publicise the region's competitive advantage in aged care to appropriate providers and developers.	The Southern Tablelands has a core competency in aged care drawing residents from outlying rural areas, Sydney and Canberra. Aged care is a major employer of both skilled and unskilled labour. Medium term demand for places is forecast to exceed supply.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Appropriate State and Federal Government Departments Aged Care Providers
Liaise with NSW Health to ensure retention and investment in the Crookwell Hospital.	Crookwell Hospital provides important ancillary support for aged care and a means of attracting doctors to the area.	Appropriate State Government Departments Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Investigate the feasibility for an indoor pool/hydrotherapy pool for Crookwell.	There is a need to provide support infrastructure if the region is to realise employment and economic opportunities presented in aged care.	Appropriate State Government Departments Upper Lachlan Shire Council

#### 4. Ensure efficient transport linkages

Early Stage Priority Action	Issue	Responsibility
Advocate for the upgrade of the Dalton / Rye Park Road (MR241).	Poor road condition adds to the cost of marketing sheep and cattle at the new regional livestock saleyards in Yass.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Advocate for heavy vehicle upgrade of key routes to market for livestock in the Goulburn- Mulwaree and Upper Lachlan Shire LGA.	Heavy vehicle upgrade to roads including State Road MR 54, Regional Road MR 256 and Regional Road MR 52, Range Road, Gurrundah Road, Windellema Road and Bungonia Road will result in agricultural freight efficiencies.	Goulburn-Mulwaree Council Upper Lachlan Shire Council NSW Farmers Federation Agricultural Industry Associations Trucking Associations
Advocate for the upgrade of Main Road 92 from Nerriga to the Hume Highway via Collector.	An upgraded Main Road 92 would improve road freight efficiencies between Nowra and the Hume Highway, safe transport costs (R&M and fuel) and allow the establishment of a service freight hub in the Goulburn district.	Goulburn-Mulwaree Council Upper Lachlan Shire Council SEATS
Advocate for the continued funding of upgrades to MR 54 Goulburn to Bathurst Road	Goulburn to Bathurst road is a major economic route connecting the Southern Tablelands to the Central West and this road requires further investment to grow freight and tourism	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn Mulwaree Council RMS
Ensure appropriate employment lands are available to respond to and accommodate business seeking to either relocate or establish their business in the Southern Tablelands.	Rising land prices and urban encroachment on Sydney based business can encourage/force them into regional NSW. The Southern Tablelands is well placed to attract these businesses provided adequate and sufficient infrastructure is available usually though industrial parks or hubs.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn-Mulwaree Council

Advocate for the upgrade and retention of the heavy vehicle inspection station in Crookwell.

Retention of station to support agriculture and the transport sector.

Upper Lachlan Shire Council  
NSW Farmers Federation  
Agricultural Industry Associations  
Trucking Associations

## 5. Enhance the liveability of the region and grow its visitor economy

Early Stage Priority Action	Issue	Responsibility
Develop a long term vision and land use plan for specific parts of the Southern Tablelands region.	An agreed long term vision would inform land use planning and a rewrite of local LEPs.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Department of Planning
Implement recommendations from the village streetscape study and the pedestrian and mobility plan completed for the Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Improved townscapes and pedestrian access will improve the liveability of the area and encourage additional visitors to the region.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council RMS
Investigate the provision of reticulated sewer and water to the village of Collector.	Serviced housing blocks will encourage the relocation of young Canberra families to the Upper Lachlan Shire LGA.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Appropriate State Government Departments
Advocate for the provision of 4G towers and the NBN to ensure business and population connectivity.	The Southern Tablelands has significant blackspot problems with mobile phone and internet connections	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Investigate and seek funding to enhance the liveability of the Upper Lachlan Shire Council LGA with a new community civic centre including council chambers and an arts / culture centre.	Current facility is at the end of its economic life, new centre could be used to promote Crookwell and surrounds as an arts/cultural district.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council

Advocate for the improvement of self-guided heritage walks in Goulburn and other Southern Tablelands towns and villages.	Capitalise on diverse built heritage in Goulburn and surrounds.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Historical Societies Progress Associations
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Early Stage Priority Action	Issue	Responsibility
Advocate for new hockey complex to capitalise on the region's rich hockey heritage, attract state carnivals and events.	Regional hockey fields no longer meet requirements for competitive events and the region risks a loss in local recreation and sport tourism opportunity.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn-Mulwaree Council Sporting Associations
Develop a Goulburn to Crookwell cycleway and walking trail using the disused rail branch line.	Capitalise on the growth in demand for bike trail and walking track tourism.	Goulburn-Mulwaree Council Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn Crookwell Rail Trail Inc.
Upgrade Wombeyan Caves Road (MR258) (State Park) to improve access to this major tourist asset.	Improved access may lift current modest annual visitation of 30,000 people with resultant gains for the regional visitor economy.	Goulburn-Mulwaree Council Upper Lachlan Shire Council NSW Government
Upgrade Wyangala Dam (State Park) access via Grabine Road.	Improved access is required for major tourist asset.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council NSW Government
Upgrade Tablelands Way MR256 (Goulburn to Oberon Road).	Improved access is required for this tourist route	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn-Mulwaree Council NSW Government
Build on current interest in motorcycle tourism – develop and promote local road.	Motorcycle tourists attracted by the region's scenic and heritage values and unique village structure.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council

Build on current endeavours to promote the region as a weekend destination for self-drive short stays	Region is well suited to short breaks to enjoy scenic and heritage values, unique village structure and wine tourism opportunities.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council
Build on current programs designed to increase the supply of trained staff to the tourism sector.	Southern Tablelands based tourism businesses report difficulty in securing willing and well trained staff.	TAFE Destination NSW
Building on the People, Place, Produce theme of the Destination Southern NSW Destination Management Plan.	Develop Action plans to implement the theme to increase tourism and visitation opportunities with day visitation increased through remarkable journey experience and agri-tourism experience.	Upper Lachlan Shire Council Goulburn Mulwaree Council Yass Valley Council Destination NSW Destination Southern NSW