

## 11.2 Mid-Western Regional Cultural Plan 2023-2033

REPORT BY THE MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL SERVICES  
TO 19 JULY 2023 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400103, COR400533, REC800008

### RECOMMENDATION

#### That Council:

1. **receive the report by the Manager, Community & Cultural Services on the Mid-Western Regional Cultural Plan 2023-2033;**
2. **place the Mid-Western Regional Cultural Plan 2023-2033 on public exhibition for 28 days to seek feedback from the community; and**
3. **adopt the Mid-Western Regional Cultural Plan 2023-2033 if no submissions are received during the exhibition period.**

---

### Executive summary

The last Mid-Western Regional Cultural Plan ('Cultural Plan' or 'Plan') adopted by Council dates back to 2005. Since then, there have been a number of significant regional developments in the arts and cultural environment across the region necessitating a review of this document, including the opening of the Mudgee Arts Precinct.

### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

### Detailed report

In late 2022, Council engaged the consultancy firm, *Projectura* to develop a new Cultural Plan for the region. The Plan assesses the general health of the region's cultural sector and specifically identifies Council's future roles within the sector. The Plan also identifies service gaps and leverage opportunities.

Engagement for the Plan in the first half of 2023 was extensive and included an online survey, pop-up stalls region-wide, and a series of interviews and workshops. Overall, 250 individuals were consulted in respect of their opinions and hopes for arts and culture in the Mid-Western Region going forward.

The Plan identifies our region's social fabric and local skills and enterprise as strengths but notes challenges in financial sustainability in the arts and also the lack of creative venues and spaces. People are involved in arts and culture through festivals and community events and programs and through visits to the Mudgee Arts Precinct, Council libraries and local history museums. Participation is for entertainment, to support local artisans and, more generally, for happiness and wellbeing. Barriers to participation, however, include a lack of information about planned activities (or their scarcity), as well as distance and cost to attend same.

The Plan documents the goals and actions prioritised by the community during engagement activities and delegates Council's role for each action broken down into four main themes:

- Celebrating and reflecting on our region’s heritage, history, memory and stories;
- Revitalising and expanding our cultural services;
- Supporting our creative community; and
- Providing activities for everyone, everywhere.

A copy of the final Cultural Plan intended for exhibition and subsequent adoption is attached to this report.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Looking After Our Community</b>
Goal	Meet the diverse needs of the community and create a sense of belonging
Strategy	Support arts and cultural development across the region

## Strategic implications

### Council Strategies

The Cultural Plan is required in order to address the strategy of supporting arts and cultural development across the region in Council’s Community Plan.

### Council Policies

The Cultural Plan may be read in conjunction with the Mudgee Arts Precinct Strategic Plan.

### Legislation

Not Applicable

## Financial implications

There is a possibility that some actions proposed in the Plan will require additional budget allocations, which may be sourced from Council’s general cashflow or through external funding opportunities made available from time to time.

## Associated Risks

Not Applicable

FIONA SHEARMAN  
MANAGER, COMMUNITY & CULTURAL  
SERVICES

21 June 2023

SIMON JONES  
DIRECTOR COMMUNITY

*Attachments:* 1. Draft Mid-Western Regional Cultural Plan 2023-2033. (separately attached

Book 1)

### APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER