



**Inverell Shire Council**

**DRAFT CULTURAL PLAN**

## Document Control Page

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## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Inverell Shire Cultural Plan is intended to express the community's objectives and needs for cultural services and facilities. Inverell Shire's community is actively involved in a wide array of cultural and artistic activities. This Plan is intended to provide a framework for decision making in relation to the scope and quality of cultural opportunities designed to meet the needs of the Shire's residents and its visitors.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

This Cultural Plan aims to provide a set of guiding principles and actions to assist in the development of and support for cultural opportunities within the Shire. The scope of the plan is therefore broader than the 'arts' sector and recognises that culture is an expression of the community.

Council has become increasingly aware of a drive for Local Government to become more involved in the area of cultural planning.

The significant role that Local Government plays in the cultural life of the community is already well recognised. Simultaneously, arts, culture and cultural development are generally recognised as key indicators of general community development and lifestyle status.

There are many factors that contribute to the development of the Local Government cultural role including, the pace of cultural, social and economic change; the development of integrated planning concepts and practices; and demands from the community for increased access to decision-making processes.

In confirming its decision to develop a Cultural Plan, Council gave close consideration to the driving reasons behind the development of such a plan, cognisant of available State Government Guidelines and a clear position on how cultural planning is defined and precisely what is involved in undertaking this process.

Inverell Shire Council's Management Plan and Charter highlights the need for Council to actively assume a role of community leadership. This charter necessarily entails the provision of cultural services and facilities which are commensurate with the needs and expectations of the community. Council must manage these expectations within ever increasing budgetary constraints. The Plan recognises that Council is however not the only player in the cultural development of the Shire and importantly that Council plays a significant role as a facilitator. It is therefore important to recognise that this Plan does not only focus on the actions that Council can take, but where appropriate enlisting the cooperation and enthusiasm of the 'cultural community' to ensure the best result for Inverell Shire.

Inverell Shire Council's support for cultural development, whether this be measured by its involvement in the provision of infrastructure or in the support for services or events, has to date been approached directly through the mechanism of Council's overall Strategic planning processes and in particular through the management planning process. The development of this Cultural Plan recognises the desirability that in future the provision of cultural services/infrastructure be undertaken in response to a specifically formulated strategic plan.

For the purposes of this Plan, the term 'culture' is used to describe all of the customs and activities which constitute lifestyle. It includes:

- ✓ Design and ownership of public buildings/spaces;
- ✓ Community events;
- ✓ Heritage and history;
- ✓ Visual and performing arts;
- ✓ Popular entertainment; and
- ✓ All other forms of creative activity.

The Cultural Plan does not specifically include sporting and recreational activities as these aspects of culture are more appropriately identified and addressed in a separate 'Recreation Plan'.

The Inverell Shire community is actively involved in a range of cultural and artistic pursuits. These pursuits have become increasingly significant contributors to the Shire's economic base. The most recent national figures suggest that the Arts and Cultural Sector is the second fastest growth sector for employment. This includes both cultural occupations and cultural industries (employees who are engaged in the production, promotion and sale of cultural products or services such as music and entertainment, art and craft etc). Support for cultural services and facilities in Inverell will further enhance Inverell's Tourism opportunities. A fundamental principle of tourism is that a place is attractive to visit if it is attractive to live in. The pursuit of Tourism opportunities should therefore closely complement actions designed to enhance the quality of life in Inverell Shire.

### 3.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THIS PLAN

The development of Inverell Shire's Cultural Plan is underpinned by the definition of Culture adopted from the NSW Local Government and Shires Association.

It defines culture as *“the aspirations and activities practiced and utilised by Local Government in the community to reflect and celebrate the past, current and future identity, character, spirit and sense of place. For Local Government, cultural development is the purposeful pursuit of Council functions that enrich local identity, a sense of place and quality of life.*

It is in this context that the development and implementation of the Cultural Plan is formed by the following key principles.

- Identity:** Inverell Shire has a proud history and unique identity. Regarded as a *“world of its own”*, Inverell is rich in heritage and history, its character typified by a pioneering and enduring spirit. Renowned as the Sapphire City it is truly the jewel of the North West, the scene of Australian artistic folklore and the ‘home’ of Tom Roberts’ it is also an area rich in commercial, cultural, educational and recreational opportunity. Its identity should be fostered and promoted.
- Diversity:** Inverell Shire is comprised of a diversity of cultures of origin, leisure pursuits, social affiliations and many forms of creative expression. Inverell Shire's diversity is a unique asset and should be recognised, supported and celebrated.
- Economy:** Involvement and participation in the cultural life of the community offers numerous economic benefits. There is therefore a practical imperative and need to foster an environment in which artistic development and expression may flourish.
- Activity:** Inverell Shire's cultural ‘tapestry’ is comprised of a multitude of activities, events and assets. The coordination of these activities in a meaningful and beneficial manner is not only an economic imperative but one that underpins the quality of life enjoyed by the Shire's residents.
- Heritage:** Inverell Shire enjoys a rich heritage, reflected in both its built and natural environments. A history that warrants protection, preservation and greater accessibility.

#### 4.0 A CULTURAL VISION FOR INVERELL

One of the first steps in developing a Cultural Plan is to identify a cultural vision, which represents a central statement of value and direction, underpinning the process that will ultimately guide the development and implementation of a cultural plan.

A mission or a vision should draw on Council's existing strategic approach in the provision of its services.

Council's Mission Statement invites

*“Council to work with the community in providing and facilitating the provision of services that enhance the quality of life of all Shire residents.”*

The breadth of this statement as a service delivery principal connects strongly with the concepts of strengthening local identity in building a sense of place in enhancing a quality of life. This mission statement should be borne in mind in the development of a cultural plan so as to ensure its congruence with Council's Management Plan and other key planning documents of Council.

It is proposed that the Vision Statement for Inverell Shire Council's Cultural Plan be framed as follows:

*“To encourage active and equitable community participation in all aspects of cultural and artistic pursuit through the coordinated provision of cultural facilities and services in accord with community expectations, needs and available resources”.*

This Cultural Plan will seek to implement the above Vision Statement, by informing Council's annual Budget/Management Plan process and by facilitating and encouraging community cooperation in meeting proposed actionable outcomes.

## 5.0 USE OF TERMS

Arts	refers to the full range of creative expressions, such as the visual arts, performance, puppetry, drama, dance, circus, film, music, photography, video, crafts, literature and cross art form collaborations. Art expresses culture.
Culture	is defined principally as 'a way of life' – this may include customs, rituals, traditions, religious/spiritual beliefs, community events, recreation/leisure and entertainment activities, the arts, language, architecture, lifestyle (food, dress) and sport. Culture encompasses the everyday interactions of people within their environment and each other.
Cultural Diversity	refers to the community's composition in terms of ethnicity, gender, aboriginality, religious or spiritual beliefs, age, income, employment, politics and lifestyle preferences.
Cultural Heritage	incorporates a community's evolving history, both oral and material. It includes the significance of aboriginal and early settler stories, artifacts, architecture, rituals, documents and land use. It refers not only to the past but also to aspects of modern life.
Cultural Industries	are defined in this plan as those industries/businesses, which provide a service to, or support, cultural activities. These include those engaged in the production/sale/promotion of cultural products/services.
Cultural Planning	is a strategic process for deciding how best to use a community's cultural resources to promote social and economic development and consequently enhance quality of life.
Cultural tourism	refers to the movement of people who are motivated by an opportunity for new knowledge/experience gained through the cultural offerings of a place.

## 6.0 METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this project has involved a number of key tasks and will require the further implementation of a number of additional stages.

The Plans origins are founded in Inverell Shire Council's decision to pursue the implementation of a Cultural Plan in order to facilitate the achievement of two particular outcomes.

The first is highly practical in nature and is predicated by an insistence on the part of State and Federal Government for the existence of such a plan as a prerequisite for eligibility under various State and Federal Government funding schemes.

The second, relies on the need to recognise the complex weave of interrelated government planning issues that draw together the physical, environmental, social, cultural and economic streams of a community.

As commented in the Cultural Planning Handbook (Alan & Unwin 1995) *“cultural policy can be viewed as a mediator between the profit and efficiency objectives of economic policy and human development as well as the access and participation objectives of a social policy.”*

The Plan's development has been informed by a consultative approach reflecting the community's views in relation to a number of key areas relevantly including the community's definition of Culture; the Community's cultural vision; the identification of the community's cultural assets and activities and the documentation of desired cultural outcomes and associated action plans.

The methodology to be employed in the refinement of this plan over time focuses on the community's ongoing response to the cultural plan framework and the implementation of the identified action plans. The further review of those responses and the implementation of the specific Action Plans will fall to Council's Finance /Budget Committee.

## **7.0 INVERELL SHIRE – WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?**

### **7.1 OVERVIEW**

For Cultural Planning in Inverell Shire to be an effective management tool, it is critical that the process be informed by a clear understanding of Inverell Shire's identity. The definition of identity is a detailed process, requiring an understanding of its fluid nature and the competing perspectives offered by an equally diverse audience and assessed against social, geographic, environmental and economic frameworks. No single definition can be said to offer a true reflection. This said, Inverell may be identified as a dynamic and diverse rural and regional community, which, when viewed both in an historic and contemporary setting, reveals something of its character.

As characterised in her book "A World of its Own", Elizabeth Wiedemann notes that:

*'instead of being discovered by intrepid explorers conscious of their significant role in history, the Inverell district was opened up by its first settlers.....Byron the convict, Wiseman the convict's son and Campbell the free emigrant are representatives of the largely forgotten majority of Australians who were the country's real pioneers'.*

So it is that Inverell's agricultural and commercial background quickly attracted a great diversity of early settlers, be they "doctors, surveyors, journalists, lawyers, innkeepers, army captains, the children of convicts, the sons of gentlemen and graziers".

Known as the Sapphire City, the Inverell district boasts a proud mining tradition, with fossicking still an active cultural as well as obvious economic pursuit.

Rich in colour and artistic heritage, Inverell celebrates its identity through the Sapphire City Floral Festival and the Tom Roberts Festival.

### **7.2 DEMOGRAPHICS**

For the 2001 census period, Inverell Shire recorded a population of 15,040.

In 2001, single parent families accounted for one in every four families with children and of all the families recorded in the Shire just under 4 in 10 families were couple only families.

The age characteristics of the population reveal that in 2001 youth under the age of 20 comprised 29.5% of the population. Children under the age of 15 constitute 22.9% of the population. Adults aged 21-40 and 41-60 each respectively comprise 22.9% and 26% of the population. A potential workforce aged between 20 and 65 accounted for 54.5% of the population in 2001. With the population aged over 65, representing 16% of the total population.

Labour force statistics confirm a total employment figure of 5,757 in 2001, representing an employment sector growth of 5%.

In 1996 some 725 people were categorised as unemployed. By 2001 this figure had fallen by 15% to 622 unemployed people. The total unemployment rate for the Inverell Shire recorded at 9.7%.

The major workforce groups dominated by men in ratio to women included, Tradespersons (1996 – Total 12.7% at 6.3:1; 2001 – Total 12.6% at 8.2:1); Labourers (1996 – Total 12.7% at 1.7:1; 2001 – Total 14.7% at 2.55:1) and Transport workers (1996 – total 7.1% at 6:1; 2001 – Total 6.5% at 8.1:1). The remaining workforce groups dominated by women were represented by sales and service workers as well as clerical employees. In 2001 there were 8 female clerical staff to every male clerical employee.

The biggest employer by industry within the Shire continues to be the agricultural industry, employing 1040 persons in 2001. Other major industries included the retail industry accounting for 985 employees in 2001; Education 403 employees in 2001; Manufacturing 507 employees in 2001 and the Wholesale trade recording 418 employees in 2001.

The median age recorded for Inverell Shire was 38, with the median average weekly household income in the range of \$500-\$599, whilst 31% of all households in the Shire recorded a average weekly income of below \$399.

The Aboriginal people of the Inverell Shire Area constitute approximately 3.6% of the Shire's total population.

With respect to the population of Inverell only 9.6% of the population was born outside of Australia. Of this figure 25% were born in English speaking countries. When measuring cultural diversity by the language spoken at home it is worth noting that in almost 94% of households only the English language is spoken. The four other major languages spoken at home are Italian (.3%), German (.1%), Chinese (.2%) and French (.05%).

Religion within the Shire is dominated by Christian groups, accounting for 83.8% of the Shire's population. Total Non-Christian groups amount to 0.3% with a further 7% declaring no religious affiliation and 7.7% of the Shires residents religious affiliations unstated. Of the Christian Religions 23.6% practice Catholicism whilst the majority 37% are Anglican. The two other main Christian denominations are represented by the Presbyterian Church (9%) and the Uniting Church (6.5%).

## **8.0 CULTURAL AUDIT**

### **8.1 RESOURCES**

Opportunities for community and individual cultural and artistic development are heavily influenced by the availability and accessibility of cultural resources in an area. Cultural resources include cultural classes/programs, performing and arts centres, public and private galleries, libraries and open spaces etc. A list of these resources has been compiled using a variety of sources, including Council's own Community Directory, the Arts North West Cultural Map and individual submissions.

The audit listing is not intended to be exhaustive – it does not attempt to provide a detailed account of individual artists nor does it list all private businesses which support/service the cultural sector. Instead the audit represents an initial attempt to capture the 'cultural landscape' of the Shire in terms of its artists; facilities/venues; organisations; festival/events and associated cultural industries.

Ideally a more comprehensive directory of Inverell Shire's Cultural resources should be progressively developed and made available for the benefit of residents, organisations and visitors.

### **8.2 ARTISTS**

Numerous professional artists, entertainers and cultural workers reside in Inverell Shire and serve to create a distinctive cultural community. They comprise:

- Visual Artists, including local painters;
- Street/circus performers;
- Musicians;
- Librarians;
- Contemporary Bands;
- Concert bands;
- Choirs;
- Photographers and Cinematographers;
- Dance groups;
- Singers (Opera, classical, contemporary, jazz, country)
- Writers, including novelists and poets.

### 8.3 ORGANISATIONS

Inverell Shire hosts a significant number of organisations, actively involved in providing and promoting opportunities for cultural development. They include:

#### Music, Dance and Performing Arts

- Inverell Opera in the Paddock;
- Inverell Theatre Company;
- Inverell Dance Academy;
- Sapphire City Concert Bands Inverell Inc.;
- Inverell Pipe Band;
- Sapphire City Linedancing;
- Inverell Music Appreciation Group;
- Inverell Eisteddfod Society;
- Faye School of Physical Culture;
- Old Time Dances;

#### Craft

- Inverell Art Gallery;
- Inverell Lapidary Club;
- Inverell Floral Art Society;
- Inverell Model Aircraft Club;

#### Visual Arts, Literary Organisations

- Inverell Art Gallery;
- Inverell Cinema;
- Inverell Camera Club;

#### General

- Arts North West Inc.;
- Inverell Cultural & Arts Council;
- Tom Roberts Festival Committee;
- Inverell Sapphire City Festival Committee;
- Inverell Show Society;
- Inverell Toastmasters Club;
- Inverell View Club;
- Toastmasters Breakfast Club;
- Inverell Branch CWA;
- Inverell Bushwalking Club;
- Inverell Delvyn Bridge Club Inc;
- Inverell Hobby Markets;
- Inverell Scottish Association;

#### History and Heritage

- Inverell Transport Museum;
- Inverell Family History Group;
- Inverell Mining Museum;
- Inverell Heritage Support Group;
- National Trust Inverell;

### Educational Organisations

- New England Institute of TAFE, Inverell Campus;
- Local Primary and Secondary Schools;
- Churches;
- Inverell Library;
- Inverell Friends of the Library;
- ACE;
- Ballet Studios;
- Peta Blyth's Clarion Singers;
- Private Tuition.

## 8.4 FACILITIES AND VENUES

Numerous facilities and venues, some purpose built, are available for cultural activities within the Shire. They include:

- The Inverell Tourist Centre
- The Inverell Art Gallery
- The Inverell Pioneer Village
- The Inverell Transport Museum
- The Inverell Dance Academy
- The Austral Band Hall
- The Inverell Town Hall
- The Beaulieu Memorial Hall
- The Inverell Draft Horse Centre
- The Inverell Club
- Village Halls
- School Halls

## 8.5 EVENTS

There are a range of events and several Festivals conducted in Inverell Shire, ranging from the local markets to the Sapphire City Festival, the Tom Roberts Festival and the acclaimed Opera in the Paddock. These events celebrate the visual arts and craft, music, dance and community activities, recognising the talents within the community and its ties with heritage and history.

The following list of annual and monthly events have been identified for inclusion in the Cultural Plan.

- Opera in the Paddock;
- Sapphire City Festival;
- Tom Roberts Festival;
- Fishing Festival;
- Venetian Carnival;
- Inverell Show;
- Eisteddfods;
- Concerts
- Antiques and Collectable Fair;
- Contemporary Music Artists/Bands (live entertainment);
- Monthly Markets;
- Australia Day/Anzac Day events;
- Theatre Productions;
- Bush Poetry Readings;
- Open garden.

## 8.6 CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Inverell Shire's businesses, retailers and educational institutions provide a diverse range of services and employment associated with cultural activities:

- Printing;
- Publishing;
- Film and Video Services;
- Radio and television services;
- Photographic Studios;
- Supplies for music production;
- Sound recording studios (MacIntyre High School);
- Supplies for products for use in art and craft;
- Retail outlets for art, craft, recorded music, photographic equipment, books, film;
- Venue operators (licensed clubs and pubs);
- Accommodation;
- Cafés;
- Restaurants;
- Agents, Promoters, Consultants;
- Media Organisations;
- Photographic film processing;
- Computer Services;
- Legal and Financial Services;
- Distributors;
- Equipment sales, hire and repairs;
- Schools; and
- Churches.

## 9.0 ISSUES, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The cultural audit, together with Council's community consultative processes have to-date identified a number of issues of concern for the community which can be readily broken down to a number of categories. This section of the Cultural Plan serves to identify a number of category outcome areas in response to which a number of specific action plans are recorded.

### 9.1 Facilities and Services

A large range of venues, both public and private are used (potentially available) for community and cultural activities. These venues range from the Inverell Town Hall through to local Club facilities, school auditoriums and recreation areas such as Campbell Park and Varley Oval.

Community consultation has revealed two primary concerns relating to:

- The inadequate design of some venues in respect of catering for cultural activities, predominantly in the area of acoustics, lighting and capacity.
- Costs associated with accessing venues.

**Aim:** *To enhance the availability and scope of facilities in accordance with community priorities and requirements.*

**Objective:** *To facilitate the use of appropriate facilities, advocating where necessary for improved infrastructure development*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
➤ Development of the Evans/Campbell Streets area as a cultural precinct.	06/07-07/08	ISC
➤ Redevelopment of Inverell Motor Transport Museum Facilities	06/07-07/08	Museum Committee and ISC
➤ Employment of a Art Gallery Supervisor	06	ISC
➤ Library Redevelopment	06/07	ISC
➤ Campbell Park Redevelopment (Music in the Rotunda)	06	ISC
➤ Establishment of the Inverell Campus of Conservatorium of Music.	07/8	Inverell Conservatorium of Music Steering Committee
➤ Public Art (development of policy and deployment of Art works)	07/08	ISC
➤ Public PA System	Operating	ISC

## 9.2 Community Awareness/Involvement

The involvement of the community in all facets of cultural activity is seen as an important aspect of social cohesion. Critical to enhanced community participation is the need to effectively communicate such participatory opportunities and the need for appropriate funding to support communication and promotional initiatives.

**Aim:** *To raise community awareness of and promote engagement with cultural opportunities.*

**Objective:** *Encourage the promotion of local events and activities;  
Promote the value of participation;  
Promote local sponsorship of activities and events;  
Explore opportunities for improved networking.*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
➤ A more visible and accessible events register/calendar – a 'claim the date' feature on inverell-online.	06/07 ongoing	ISC
Holding Community Services EXPO (encourage volunteering)	07/08 bi-annually	ISC Growing Inverell Program
➤ Developing cultural organisations' awareness of grant opportunities and assistance in preparing and lodging grant applications.	Monthly - ongoing	Arts North West

### 9.3 Education and Training

There are limited opportunities for Council involvement in the delivery of culturally relevant educational and training outcomes. These opportunities are provided primarily by local schools, TAFE, and allied service and public and private providers.

Little if any response was received in respect of the overall availability of resources.

**Aim:** *To facilitate the provision and use of cultural and artistic educational opportunities.*

**Objective:** *To collaborate with and support the efforts of local service providers to enhance the scope of opportunities and to encourage community participation.*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
➤ Improving the small business management skills of community organisations.	06/07 - Ongoing	Arts North West
➤ Run Arts and Cultural Workshops	Ongoing	ICAC Arts North West

#### 9.4 Promotions, Networking, Resource Sharing

Despite the existence of an overarching arts and cultural organisation (ICAC) respondents to Council’s calls for expressions of interest in the development of a Cultural Plan cited an overwhelming need for greater leadership in the promotion and development of culture. In particular organisations noted a lack of resource sharing between organisations and groups, leading to a call for greater collaboration and coordination in cultural endeavours.

**Aim:** *To better facilitate the cross fertilisation of ideas and opportunities in the Cultural sector through a more coordinated and collaborative organisational approach.*

**Objective:** *To more efficient utilisation of existing resources and opportunities.*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
➤ A recognised ‘Cultural zone’ in the CBD which can cater for multi purpose use with synergies bringing efficient communications and resource sharing.	> 8 years	Inverell Shire Council; Arts North West; other cultural groups
➤ Maintaining Council’s present affiliation with Arts North West.	Ongoing	Inverell Shire Council and Arts North West
➤ Developing the “Companion District” relationship established with the Historic Houses Trust and encouraging cultural organisations to take advantage of that arrangement.	Ongoing	Historic Houses Trust and Cultural Groups.

## 9.5 Partnerships with Government and other Service Providers

A key feature of the Cultural Plan as with many strategic planning instruments is the reliance placed on partnership arrangements between key stakeholders in order to better facilitate outcome objectives.

**Aim:** *To collaborate with State and Federal Government Agencies as well as private service providers in order to secure the maximum benefits for cultural activities.*

**Objective:** *To ensure community needs and expectations are met.*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
➤ Developing Key partnerships with the Ministry for the Arts, Museums and galleries Foundation and National Trust.	Ongoing	ISC
➤ Creating programmes for conservation and heritage trades training workshops and courses through various organisations, such as National Trust, TOCAL Agricultural College and TAFE.	Ongoing	ISC TAFE; Transport Museum

## 9.6 Activities/Events/Festivals

Local Events and Festivals are an integral part of Inverell's social dynamic and provide an opportunity for a whole of community approach to cultural involvement and participation. The success of such activities is underpinned by the ability to properly plan and manage the respective events.

**Aim:** *To encourage whole of community participation in feature events and festivals by facilitating and assisting in the promotion of such activities.*

**Objective:** *To maximise community involvement and participation.*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
➤ Evaluate success of ongoing annual events.	Ongoing	ISC
➤ Funding support for coordination of Festivals, such as the Tom Roberts Festival, and other cultural events including the Sapphire City Floral Festival; Opera in the Paddock etc.	Ongoing	ISC; State Government
➤ Assisting cultural organisations with the holding of workshops and bringing events, such as plays, music concerts, music tutors, performers, etc.	Ongoing	Arts North West; Inverell Cultural & Arts Council
➤ Event Management & Planning – Assisting with the planning of local events	Ongoing	ISC

## 9.7 Cultural Industry Development/Tourism

Cultural – industries, tourism and development, continue to play an increasingly important role in promoting the Shire's economic growth and well being. The opportunities to attract industries servicing the cultural sector expand as this sector grows. From a tourism perspective the identified opportunities to sell local artistic and cultural events is gaining increased favour and prominence and represents a further opportunity for Inverell to expand its existing tourism potential and appeal.

**Aim:** *To facilitate cultural industry development/tourism.*

**Objective:** *To enhance the economic potential of the Inverell's cultural appeal.*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
➤ Develop and assist events such as "Tom Roberts Festival.	Ongoing	ISC Inverell Cultural & Arts Council
➤ Advise/assist in rebuilding/refurbishing heritage building and gardens e.g. "Newstead".	Ongoing	Council Heritage Advisor
➤ Beautification of Campbell Park Precinct.	Ongoing	ISC

## 9.8 History and Heritage

Inverell boasts a proud assembly of local heritage and its history is equally colourful and a source of considerable pride and value. The value of this history and heritage remains largely untapped with significant economic opportunities awaiting further development.

**Aim:** *To recognise, value, protect and encourage Inverell Shire's history and heritage as a key to its future potential.*

**Objective:** *To maximise the return on Inverell's rich cultural history and heritage, whilst preserving its value.*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop historic walks with CD commentary.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One day drive</li> <li>- Two day drive</li> <li>- Pamphlets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Ongoing	ISC's Tourism division
Heritage Support Fund (Provision of Heritage Advice and Support)	Ongoing	ISC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitate improved archival storage of Council's archival records.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	ISC

## 9.9 Lifestyle and Identity

Inverell's greatest asset is its community and sense of community. The lifestyle enjoyed by the Shire's residents reflects the rural character of its geographic location whilst affording a cosmopolitan yet relaxed and friendly social, built and natural environment.

**Aim:** *To support and facilitate cultural development as an enhancement to quality of life.*

**Objective:** *To build on Inverell Shire's reputation as a 'desirable destination'.*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
➤ Maintain close communication channels with service organisations e.g. Rotary, Apex, Lions etc to foster community spirit and goodwill.	Ongoing	Inverell Shire Council and Volunteer Groups
➤ Access to Fossicking	Ongoing	Inverell Shire Council and private businesses.

### 9.10 Diversity and Special Needs

The economic constraints felt by many of the Shire's resident in terms of transportation, income, disabilities, age and other difficulties imposes strict limitations on the ability of all shire residents to participate equally in the cultural opportunities available. It is essential that these limitations are not only identified but where possible removed so that all members of our community are able to participate fully in the many cultural pursuits and activities offered.

**Aim:** *To maximise access to and participation in quality cultural activities and opportunities for groups and individuals with special needs.*

**Objective:** *To promote equality of access and cultural experience for the whole community.*

Proposed Action	Timeframe	Organisation Responsible
➤ Improved availability of information about cultural events (Inverell On-line).	Ongoing	Inverell Shire Council

## 10.0 IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

Inverell Shire Council has historically played a narrowly defined role in cultural development within the Shire. Whilst maintaining a facilitative role, the advent of this cultural plan, represents a significant turning point in the level of consideration given to culturally significant matters in the management planning processes of Council.

The ongoing evaluation of the Cultural Plan and its recommended actions will be a matter for Council's Finance/Budget Committee and will entail an assessment of the action plans against identified performance outcomes.

The Cultural Plan serves as a platform from which to base future decisions in relation to cultural development and relies in the short term on minor system and organisational changes as well as enhanced levels of communication with local cultural groups and a greater facilitation of partnership arrangements. In the longer term the stated Aims and Objectives rely on increased levels of financial commitment to be sourced at both State and Federal levels in supporting a significant level of expenditure by Inverell Shire Council

## 11.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Inverell Shire Council currently contributes in excess of \$164K per annum in funding towards the Arts and Cultural Sector. In addition Council has also undertaken an expansive infrastructure program with in excess of \$4million in capital expenditure committed.

### RECURRENT ANNUAL FUNDING:

Youth Indent	\$ 3K
Youth Week	\$ 1K
Eisteddfod Awards	\$ 1K
Other Public Events	\$ 4K
Christmas Tree Lighting	\$ 4K
Donation to Local Bands	\$ 4K
Inverell Art Gallery	\$ 40K
Arts Northwest	\$ 6K
Tom Roberts Festival ( \$15K per festival)	\$ 5K
Sapphire Clty Floral Festival	\$ 10K
Opera in the Paddock	\$ 1K
Town Hall	\$ 57K
Community Halls	\$ 15K
Pioneer Village	<u>\$ 13K</u>
	\$ 164K

### CAPITAL: Works in Progress Council Funded

Inverell Library Redevelopment	\$ 2.0M
Inverell Regional Transport Museum	\$ 0.5M
Campbell Park Redevelopment	\$ 0.5M
Cultural Precinct/Evans Street	\$ 1.1M

### OTHER:

New England Conservatorium of Music total \$ 43K Commitment over next 3 years

Purchase Drums for Pipe Band (05/06) \$ 20K (one off )

## **12.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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