



*Nangiloc /
Colignan &
District
Community Plan
2008*



'Our
community
our future!'



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1.0 Introduction

The development of the Nangiloc / Colignan & District Community Plan was a community effort. Many members of the community contributed their time, knowledge and insight into providing input into the plan. They had the vision to consider aspects that will endeavour to help the Nangiloc, Colignan & Iraak communities into the future.

Being a community based plan, it allows the community as a whole to face its challenges and develop opportunities for the future. The current issues resulting from the drought has increased various stresses within the community. Yet the community has a clear vision that the future will be secure, and it will enable the community to continue to develop and grow.

Despite the current difficulties, the Nangiloc, Colignan & Iraak residents are not going to wait for someone else to fix their problems, or rely on fate. They prefer to develop programs and initiatives that will lead their community to a better future.

The support of the Mildura Rural City Council and other government agencies will ensure that in the future a wide range of ideas and suggestions about the collective views towards a desired future can be comprehensively included in a Community Plan that will:

- Enable the Nangiloc / Colignan district community to maintain its identity
- Improve its quality of life
- Develop its economy
- Improve on the community assets and lifestyle of the district.

1.1 Vision for the future

The goal of the Nangiloc / Colignan & District Community Plan is for the community to ensure the future of the district is secure, and the best quality of life opportunities are available to the residents of the district.

The essence of the vision for the future of Nangiloc / Colignan & district is as follows:

“To secure the future of the community through the development of a resilient local economy and quality of life that supports the wellbeing of all its residents”

This vision strongly supports the need for the development of a strong local economy. It also encourages growth within farming and local business to provide local employment in the future. This will enable succession planning for family farms, with the secure knowledge that the economic structure of the community is well placed to ensure a bright future.

In addition, the community wishes to ensure the quality of life for the Nangiloc / Colignan / Iraak residents is maintained. By ensuring that services, facilities and networks are adequate and appropriate, will guarantee the future wellbeing of all the Nangiloc / Colignan / Iraak residents.

1.2 History of District

Colignan, Nangiloc and Iraak were established as soldier settlement farming areas after World War I, road access to the area was from the west via Boonoonar on what is now the Calder Highway. A Post Office opened in Colignan on August 22, 1922 marking the beginning of postal services to the area, which later closed in 1988. Both Nangiloc and Iraak's Post Offices opened one month later on September 22, 1922 and although the Iraak Post Office closed on the same day in 1960, the Nangiloc Post Office remains today as the only Post Office servicing these areas.

After World War I, the various State governments saw the opportunity of attracting both Australians and specific groups of allied service personnel to some of the otherwise little inhabited, remote areas of Australia, which saw the rise of the soldier settlement scheme in this district with mostly dry land farming operations.

In common with many other soldier settlement areas, most original settlers had left by the mid 1930s, with a Royal Commission identifying the four main reasons for the failure of soldier settlers being; the selection of inexperienced settlers, lack of capital, the size of blocks allocated and prices received for agricultural products. These small unviable blocks were replaced by a later generation using irrigation.

Today the economy of the town is based on primary industry, mostly citrus and grape growing. Avocados and almonds are also well represented. The rich soil and the proximity to the Murray River have allowed farming of a diverse range of crops, while the remaining dry land farming in the area consists of mainly wheat and barley. The farms are managed by families and owner operators, and in more recent years Managed Investment Schemes.

The changes in land use and operation have an immediate effect on how the community functions.

1.3 Demographics

Nangiloc

The size of Nangiloc is approximately 59 km². The population of Nangiloc in 2001 was 460 people. By 2006 the population was 400 showing a population decline of 13% in the area during that time. The predominant age group in Nangiloc is 50 - 59 years.

Around 80% of the population were born in Australia, with English being the primary language in nearly 90% of homes. Approximately 56% of households in Nangiloc state their marital status as married, and 30% of the population have never been married.

In general, most people employed in Nangiloc work the fruit and nut growing industry sector (52.5%). In 2001, 52% of the homes in Nangiloc were owner-occupied compared with 53% in 2006. The total workforce was 228 people (2006 Census). This includes 67.5% employed full-time, and 4.8% unemployment.

Colignan

The size of Colignan is approximately 89 km². The population in Colignan from the 2006 Census is 204 people. The predominant age group is 25-54 years (47.5%).

Approximately 67% of the population were born in Australia, and English is spoken in 75.5% of households. The total workforce was 110 people (2006 Census). This includes 67.3% employed full-time, and 3.6% unemployment.

In the 2006 Census, 47.3% of persons aged over 15 years and over who were usually a resident of Colignan were married, 37.6% were never married, 12.1% divorced or separated.

A majority of the employed worked in the fruit and nut growing industry sector (47.2%). Around 40% stated their occupation as a labourer. The average household income is \$780 per week, which is below the Australian average of \$1027. Nearly 37% of Colignan own their own (or in the process of owning it), and 44.3% lived in rented accommodation.

Iraak

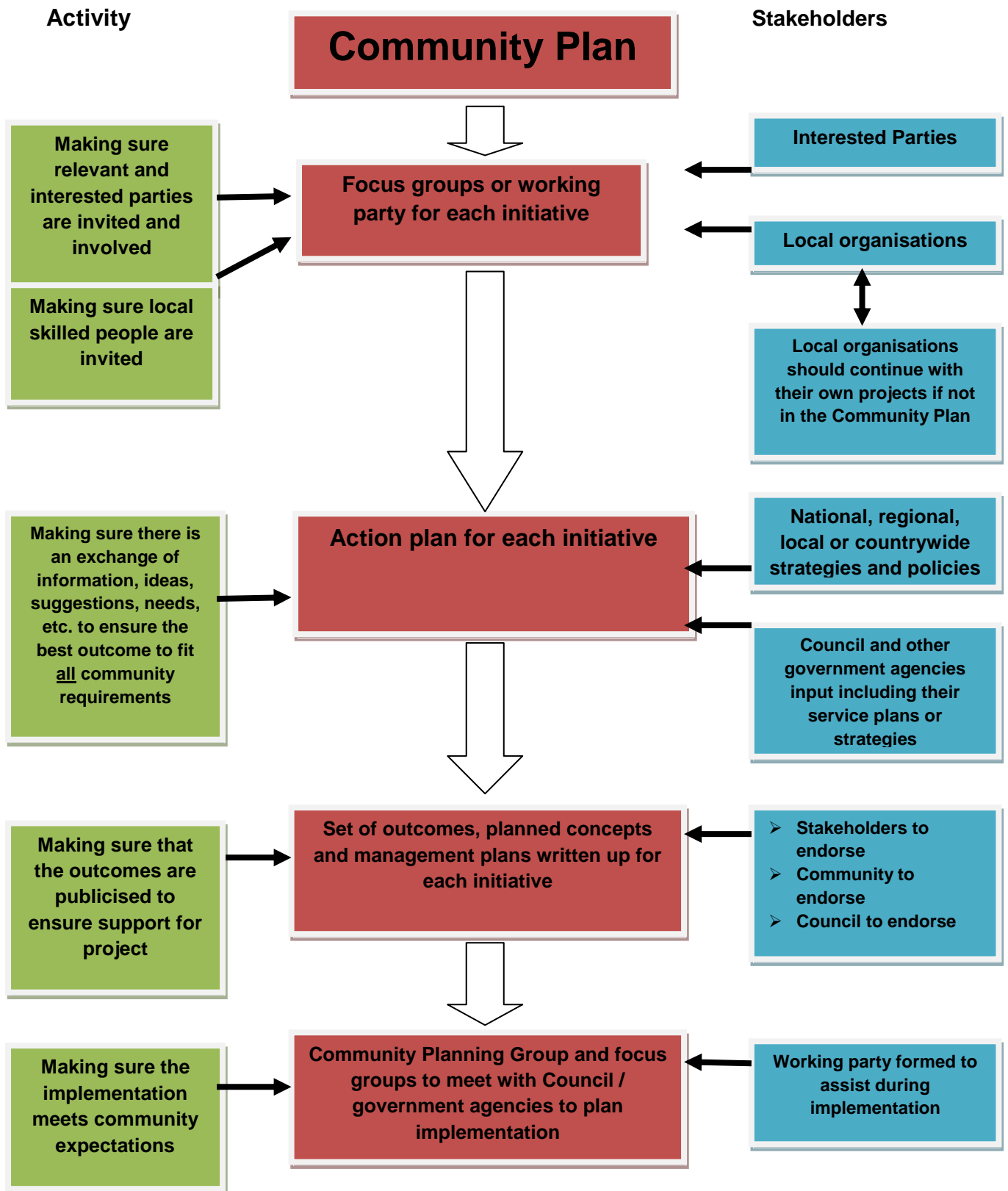
Demographic data is unavailable since the Iraak community numbers are less than 200 residents.

1.4 How does the Nangiloc / Colignan & District Community Plan work?

The process for managing and implementing the Community Plan is set out in the following table with the aim of Community Planning in this process to ensure as many people as possible are involved and support the outcomes identified in the Community Plan.

In essence, the steps are:

- i. For a working party to be formed (if necessary) for each activity that the community identifies as requiring attention.
- ii. The working party ensures that they investigate, research and develop a suggested set of actions that best suit the residents of Nangiloc / Colignan.
- iii. The working party discusses the suggested actions with Council or their agencies seeking their support for implementation (which includes funds).



1.5 Council's support for Community Planning

The Mildura Rural City Council has commenced a Community Planning program to increase resident input through their local Community Plans in order to better shape the individual needs of each community.

The benefits for the Mildura Rural City Council of a community preparing and supporting their local Community Plan are:

- To develop a better understanding of the needs of communities.
- To identify more appropriate strategies in response to the needs of communities.
- To identify services, facilities and activities needed in each community.
- To identify those services in which Council has a role.
- To advocate on behalf of the community to other government agencies for appropriate funding for initiatives needed and identified by communities.
- To closely assist with and monitor community needs and its changes.
- To be able to provide improved facilities, services and initiatives that better reflect the community, and are more sensitive to the various stakeholders.
- To contribute to the quality of life issues that benefits each community.

1.6 What are the key principles of Nangiloc/Colignan Community Planning?

At the centre of Community Planning is the opportunity to build partnerships between local groups and residents for each initiative that increase community participation and continuously improve community opportunity and services. Delivering a Community Plan will only be effective if there is cooperation and partnerships.

The principles behind the Nangiloc / Colignan & District Community Plan are as follows:

- **Sustainability** – the community is seeking to improve its quality of life. All its actions must be able to be maintained in the future.
- **Consultation** – the community must ensure that its plans and ideas for each initiative is firmly rooted in what local people want, and that it fits into the future requirements of the Nangiloc / Colignan / Iraak district.
- **Commitment** – the Nangiloc / Colignan & District community is to work towards achieving these goals and ensuring that the outcomes are supported by direct community contributions, through either resources or volunteer time.

1.7 Community Planning Group

Community Planning Group is to ensure focus groups are coordinated, and that the initiatives of the Community Plan are undertaken is as follows:

- ✓ Maaike Johnston
- ✓ Janette Mason
- ✓ Marion Peters
- ✓ Jillian Sleep
- ✓ Eric Wright

Also invited to join the group has been:

- ✓ Christiane Jaeger
- ✓ Robert Groves

2.0 Suggestions for the Nangiloc / Colignan & District Community Plan

The development of the Community Plan has evolved through a series of meetings, public discussions, surveys and groups within the community. The process commenced in May 2008. At all stages, residents have been able to participate.

The following suggestions represent the initial views for each topic. The final outcomes or directions will require further research and development. This will ensure the final concept that is proposed for implementation, represents broad community approval.

By completing this Community Plan, it enables the Nangiloc / Colignan & District community to access program funding. It also enables potential resource providers to acknowledge that the Community Plan represents a combined direction.

The Community Plan often overlaps the activities of groups in the community which include:

- Lawn Bowls Club
- Playgroup
- CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)
- Nangiloc Fire Brigade
- Colignan Reserve Committee
- Land Care

As a result, any action identified in the Community Plan should first discuss whether the group wishes additional support to achieve their actions or participate in new projects.

1. Suggestions for events and activities

Community Suggestions:

- Community BBQs / Functions
- Volunteers celebration
- Activities for the seniors
- Movie night in the hall
- Programs for young people
- Family fun nights at the hall
- Promote events e.g. Anzac Day or the Australia Day breakfast
- Christmas party (& carols)
- Scouts or Guides

Objectives:

- Improve community connectedness
- Increase social activities
- Provide support for local events

Key Actions proposed:

- Community BBQs / functions
- Family fun nights at hall
- Promote events such as Anzac Day or Australia Day Breakfast

2. Suggestions for Recreation, Sport and Leisure

Community Suggestions:

- Maintain existing bike track and develop walking/cycling path along the river.
- Motorcycle practice area
- Promotion of mountain biking
- Non competitive sport
- A small gymnasium
- Table tennis facilities
- Exercise activities
- Passive recreation groups like cards
- Upgrade of sporting facility
- Finish hall upgrade
- Fix basketball courts
- Sporting activities for young kids
- Update playground facilities

Objectives:

- To provide high quality infrastructure for the community.
- To ensure the community has access to a broad range of local recreation and leisure activities.

Key actions proposed:

- Support the Nangiloc Public Hall Committee to achieve the next stage of the hall redevelopment.
- Maintain existing bike/walking tracks and develop additional bike/walking tracks adjacent to the river.
- Provide access to gymnasium.

3. Suggestions for community wellbeing

Community Suggestions:

- School holiday program
- Afterschool care/childcare
- Theatre for oppressed
- Study circles
- Lifespan learning / activities
- Coordinator for activities area
- More funding for kinder
- MCH health nurse back in the community
- Retain young people in the community
- Attract funding for a research project on area
- Support for young mums
- Asset of skills register
- Increased public transport
- Social identity
- HACC (seniors) services

Objectives:

- Support those sections of the Nangiloc/Colignan community with the greatest need.
- Identify activities that will integrate services to increase community spirit and community health.
- Establish partnerships that will contribute to improving circumstances for the community.

Key actions proposed:

- Support the kindergarten (especially through funding assistance)
- Increase access to public transport
- Increase community health services such as the Maternal and Child Health nurse.
- Instigate a “look out for your neighbours” program.

4. Suggestions for environment

Community Suggestions:

- Enhance river area
- GMO shire free
- Rubbish bins for campers during peak times
- Land Care group assistance
- Chemical free living
- More tables and chairs at sandbars
- BBQ near kids playground
- Water rebates for drinking water
- Protection work for river beds
- Designated camping areas
- Define the broad landscape of the area to make it liveable into the next decade

Objectives:

- Retain the distinctive environmental character of the natural environment
- Manage the impacts of development on recreation on the natural environment
- Continue to enhance environmental sustainability

Key actions proposed:

- Address the issue of providing facilities for campers to dispose of rubbish at peak times
- Develop recreation and leisure use of the river by adding more picnic facilities (such as tables and chairs) at the sandbars.
- Support and assist the local Land Care group.

5. Suggestions for community infrastructure

Community Suggestions:

- Tip to be open on weekends
- Fixing Castle Crossing Road to the tip
- Increase role of community association
- Attract funding for a research project on area
- Better mobile coverage
- Increased broadband options
- A website for the local area
- Rubbish/recycling collection for the area
- Police
- Public bus
- Recognise Iraak as part of Nangiloc/Colignan
- Project Officer for long term change process, planning and facilitation

Objectives:

- Improve community infrastructure
- Maintain existing infrastructure
- Ensure multi use of facilities and infrastructure

Key actions proposed:

- Improve mobile coverage
- Provide rubbish/recycling collection for district
- Improve Castle Crossing road to tip

6. Suggestions for farming

Community Suggestions:

- Focus on local produce in Sunraysia
- Develop a marketing program of area
- Support/education about options other than farming
- Assistance for farmers for projects that are required because of the drought i.e. tree removal
- Examples of coping with drought
- Communication between families and farmers
- Accommodation for workers on farms
- Farm subdivisions
- Farmers markets

Objectives:

- Support the sustainability of farming in district
- Investigate and implement initiatives that support future farming
- Identify the issues required to address land use planning to contribute to future community viability

Key actions proposed:

- Consider the strategic opportunities and land use planning that will contribute to future farming and community viability or restructure
- Identify projects that can assist farmers during the period of drought
- Provide information or education on other business options other than farming

7. Suggestions for youth activities

Young people's suggestions:

- Family fun nights
- "Come and try" nights
- Movie nights
- Gymnasium
- Visits to Mildura
- Local activities (sports and recreation)
- Hang out space

Objectives:

- To encourage regular and varied young people's activities
- To include young people in community events and activities
- To encourage young people participate in brand community activities.

Key actions required:

- Identify and develop an activities program for young people

3.0 Function of Community Planning

3.1 *Role of Community Planning Group*

The role of the Community Planning Group is to support the actions only within the Community Plan.

This involves:

- Ensuring and bringing together all interested and the broader community together to plan action for any initiative in the Community Plan.
- Support and assist the development project plans for each for each initiative to achieve implementation.
- Assist the project groups for each project to negotiate partners, funds and expertise to complete the project.

3.2 *Alterations to the Community Plan*

The Community Plan has been established through a public process and consequently this process must be respected. Any alteration to the Community Plan requires a public process. This allows the community to have an opportunity to consider any changes at the time and authorise any alterations to priorities as a result of that community meeting. The Community Plan is a vibrant, flexible and dynamic document. It can change, but change should occur through due process.

3.3 *Dispute Resolution*

In the event of a dispute all parties must meet, discuss and resolve the matter as soon as possible. If parties are unable to resolve the dispute, they must agree to hold a meeting in the presence of a person nominated through the Mildura Rural City Council. The role of this mediation is to guide the parties towards settling the dispute, not make the decision to resolve the dispute. In any dispute, all parties must be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard, to ensure natural justice is applied to the whole process.

3.4 *Emergency Circumstances*

It may be necessary from time to time for the Community Planning Group to suspend actions on the Community Plan because of an emergency that has occurred within the district or region. The emergency must be of a significant community nature that requires broad community action as a priority above all other actions.