



Koorawatha

Village Plan 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

The Hilltops Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the Hilltops LGA, the people of the Wiradjuri and Ngunnawal nations, and show our respect to elders past, present and emerging.

More information

This document has been prepared by Hilltops Council in collaboration with Koorawatha Progress Association, and wider Koorawatha community.

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Information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing in 2025 and is subject to change.

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Cover Photo: Koorawatha Showground, Michelle Gilmore (2024)

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Foreword

At the Ordinary Council meeting in March 2024 Hilltops Councilors resolved to endorse a village planning program. It is the purpose of this program to identify the needs and issues faced by Hilltops rural Villages, and to create an enduring program of village plans to inform and contribute to the future growth of the Hilltops region.

Hilltops is home to fifteen rural villages- Bendick Murrell, Bribbaree, Frogmore, Galong, Jugiong, Kingsvale, Koorawatha, Maimuru, Milvale, Monteagle, Murringo, Reids Flat, Rugby, Rye Park, and Wombat. Each village has a rich history, with diverse communities and economies, facilities, and services.

Within each village plan key areas of strategic focus will be discussed, as they are identified in the *Hilltops Local Strategic Planning Statement 2040*, *Hilltops Community Strategic Plan*, *Hilltops Operational Plan* and the *Hilltops Rural and Residential Lands Study 2019*. As well as consideration to the goals and actions of the *Southeast and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036* in relation to rural villages. The village plans will analyse the current community facilities, economies, heritage items, service concerns, infrastructure, presence of schools and land use zoning as at the time the plan is developed. Through consultation with the plans will explore the community's goals and aspirations for their village's future, identify tangible objectives and actions for implementation, as well as future aspirations.

The Village Planning Program is intended to be an enduring initiative of Council whereby each of the fifteen villages are afforded the opportunity to benefit from the ongoing development and maintenance of individual Village Plans. The plans will be designed as a functional document to provide insight and guidance for the local communities to utilise in progressing and developing their villages, while encouraging and supporting their potential and viability.

Through this process, Council aims to support our village communities, encourage economic viability, explore opportunities to improve local infrastructure and enhance the local environment.

Where are we now

Village overview

Koorawatha is located 30 minutes north of Young and 20 minutes south of Cowra, on the northern fringe of the Hilltops Region.

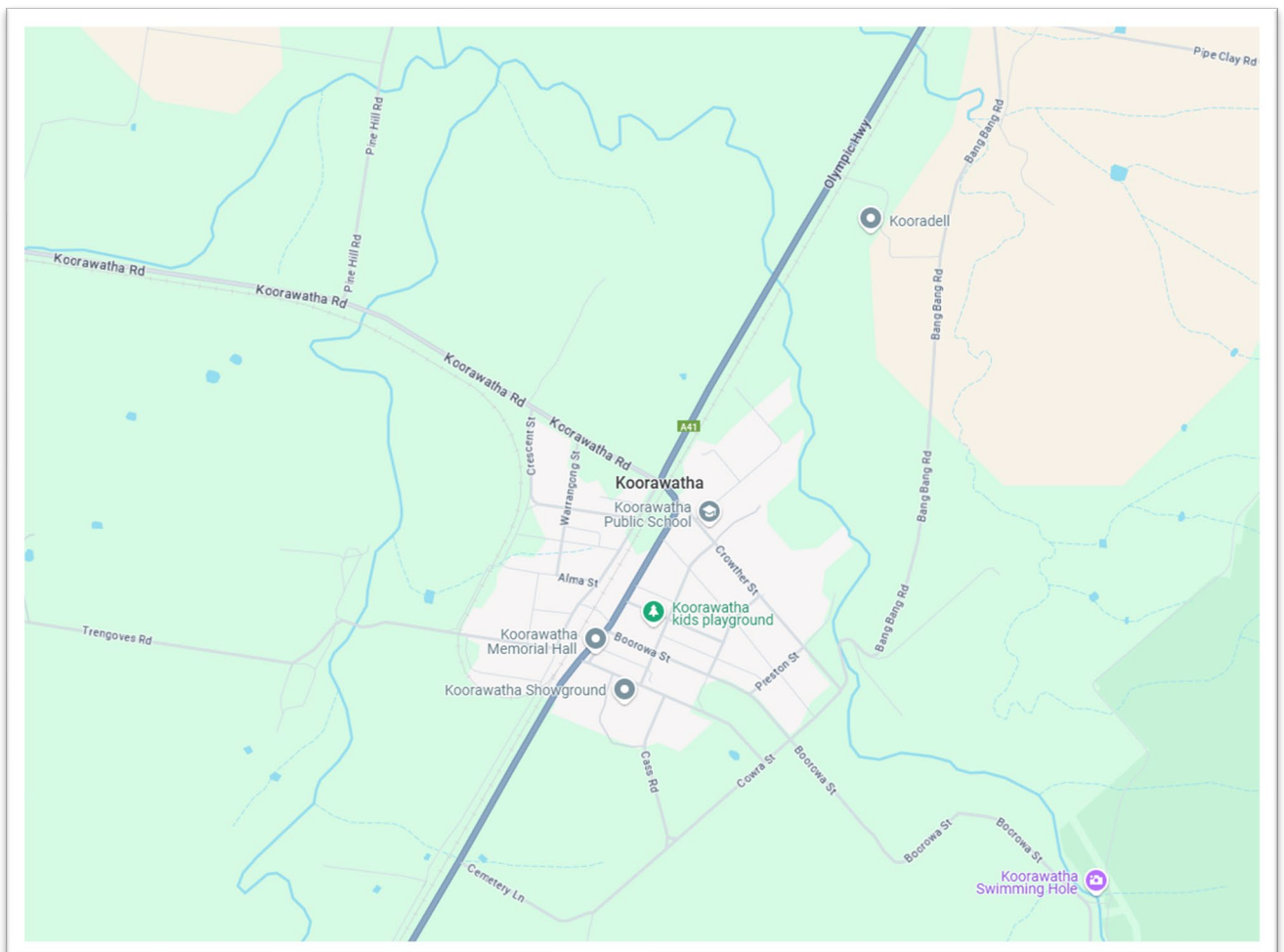
The picturesque 20-minute drive from Murringo to Koorawatha brings you through the Murringo gap, in the hills south of the Dananbilla Nature Reserve.

Koorawatha’s history includes a notable gun battle that took place in 1864 between bushrangers and the police at the Bang Bang Hotel. Demolished in the 1940’s, the Historic Site of the Bang Bang Hotel is marked at the corner of Cowra St and Crowther St.

Built around the former railway, the village boasts the Hotel Koorawatha, RV and camping facilities at the Showground, new playground facilities, and regular community events such as markets, the annual Koorawatha Show and the ‘Old Skool Cool Car Show’.

The Koorawatha Nature Reserve is a favourite of bird watchers and bush walkers and features the stunning Koorawatha Falls.

Koorawatha has 17 items of heritage including churches, the Post Office, Police Station, the Koorawatha Hotel, and the Public School.



History and Heritage

Koorawatha has seventeen items of heritage, as recorded in Schedule 5, Hilltops Local Environmental Plan 2022, as represented by the brown shading in the map below. It is important to note that the Koorawatha Falls have also been recognised as an Aboriginal Place of Significance under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.

They are;

ITEM	ITEM
Koorawatha Post Office	Koorawatha Convent School (former)
Koorawatha Regional Rooms	The Presbytery (former)
Koorawatha War Memorial Park	Koorawatha Falls
St Paul's Anglican Church (former)	Koorawatha Railway Weir
Koorawatha Police Station	Koorawatha Hotel
Koorawatha Cemetery	Koorawatha Memorial Hall
Koorawatha Public School	Koorawatha Railway Water Tank
St Columba's Catholic Church (former)	Bank of NSW (former)



Statement of Significance: Koorawatha Falls



Image: Guuruwulha (Koorawatha Falls), Koorawatha. (stock image- Hilltops Council)

Guuruwulha is significant to local Wiradjuri people as it allows them to maintain their connection with country and practice cultural traditions and allows the transmission of Wiradjuri cultural knowledge and Lore which has been passed down through successive generations.

The details of the cultural significance of the area have deliberately been kept confidential however Wiradjuri people often associate natural deep-water features such as permanent springs and deep waterholes in rivers, creeks or lagoons with powerful spirits, most notably the Wawi (Rainbow Serpent). Guuruwulha, through traditional oral storytelling and its characteristic hydrological and geological features, tells the story of the Wawi - a local example of a nationally significant story that is repeated throughout New South Wales and more broadly across the Australian continent.

Community Facilities



Image: Koorawatha playground, Memorial Park, Koorawatha.

Halls

Public restrooms

Koorawatha Memorial Hall &
Koorawatha Regional Rooms

At Memorial Park

Playgrounds

Places of Worship

Koorawatha Memorial Park

None active

Rec/sport facilities

RV/Camping Facilities

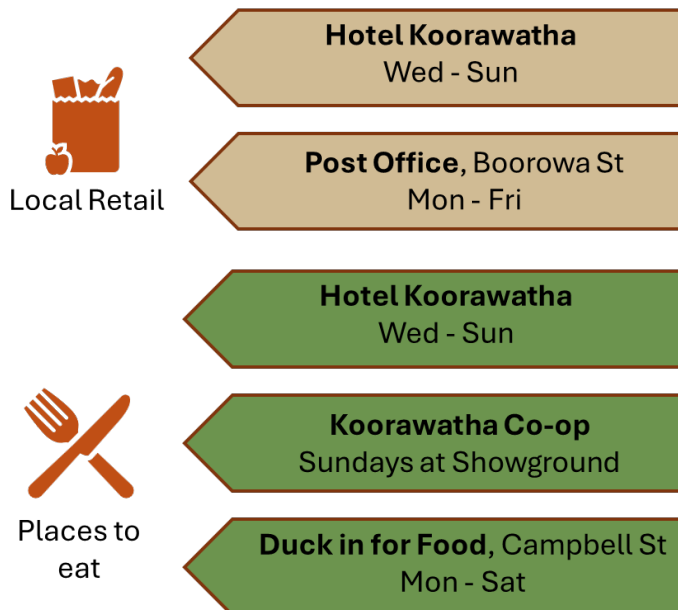
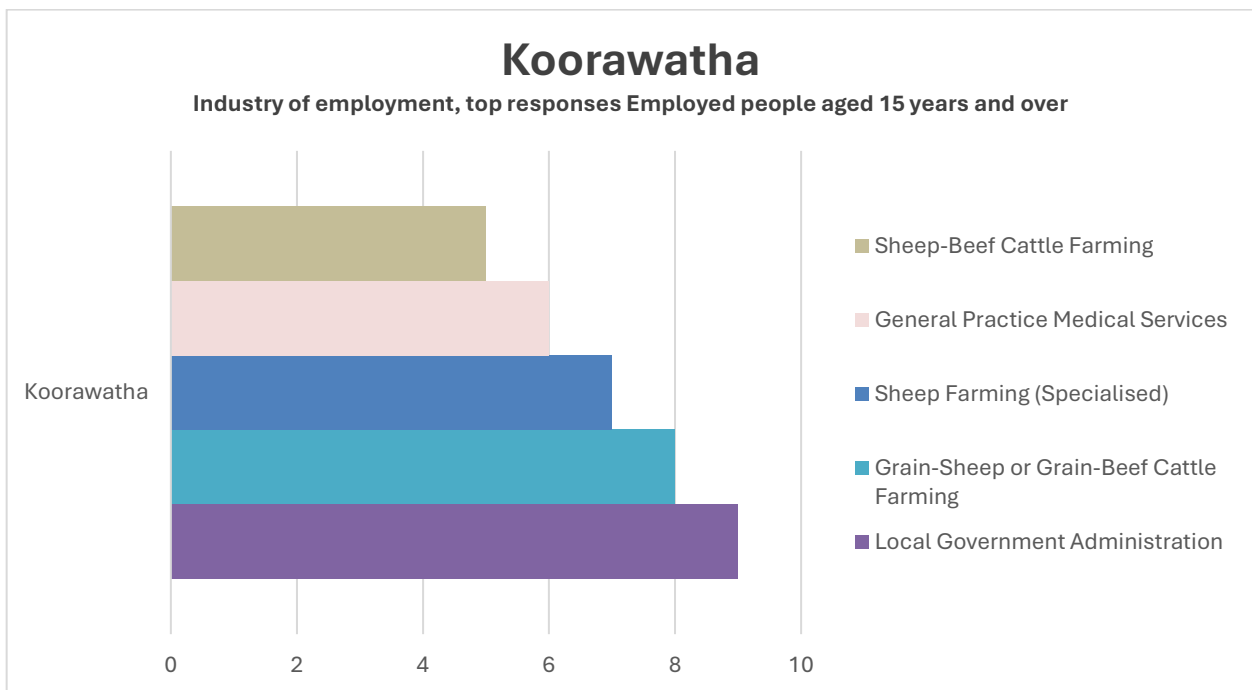
Koorawatha Showground & Memorial Park

Koorawatha Showground

Australia Post facility

Boorowa St

Economy and Demographics (2021 Census)



Community Engagement

- Koorawatha Progress Association
- Showground Trust Land Managers
- Koorawatha Post Office
- RFS
- Koora Possums
- Facebook
- Koora Kooee Newsletter



Image: Koorawatha Post Office (Google Maps)

Local Events

- Koorawatha Show
- Old Skool Cool Car Show
- Koorawatha Markets



Hotel Koorawatha

4340 Olympic Highway, Koorawatha New South

Hotel Koorawatha was originally established in 1886 on the banks of the Bang Bang Creek, and was later relocated to its current site.

The hotel offers accommodation and a large beer garden where you can enjoy local wines or a cold beers after a day exploring the region.

Infrastructure

Mains Water Access	Mains Sewer Access
Yes- Cowra Water	Not present. On-site services required
Waste Facility	Highway/Arterial Road Access
Koorawatha Waste Transfer Station- 99 Bang Bang Rd, Koorawatha Recycling Station- Campbell St, Koorawatha	Koorawatha is located on the Olympic Highway, 30 min to Young and 20 min to Cowra.

Education

Koorawatha Public School is located at 13 Crowther St, Koorawatha, and is currently in 'recess', with the potential to reopen with new enrolments.

School aged children attend schools in Young or Cowra.

Koorawatha Community Playgroup operates for children aged 0-6 years.

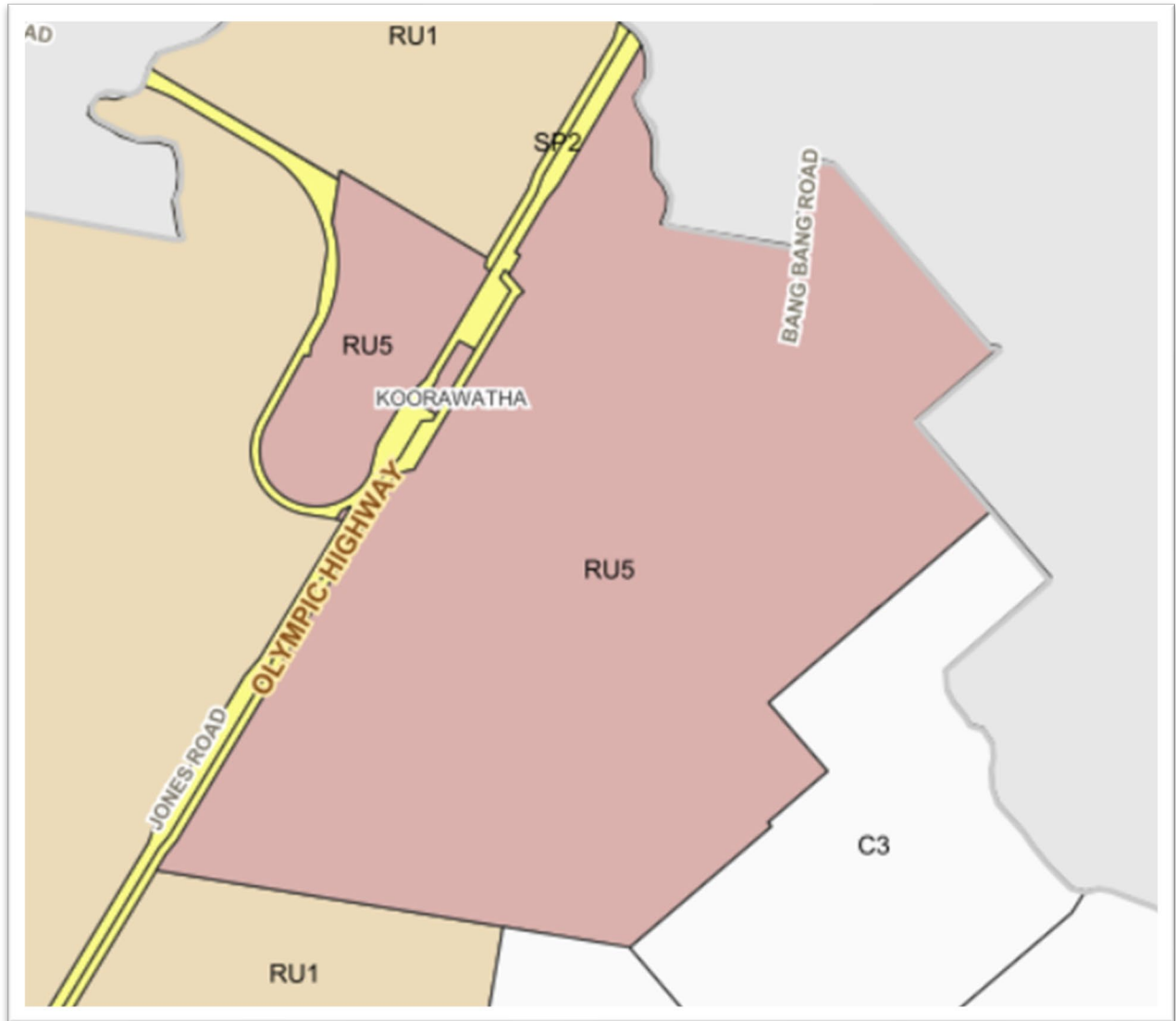
Cowra Early Childhood Services operate a mobile long day care service fortnightly at the hall.



Image: Koorawatha Public School (Google Maps)

Land Use zoning

Koorawatha is zoned RU5 Large Lot Residential with RU1 Primary Production zoning to the west of the village, and C3 Environmental Management to the East.



Map: Land Use Zoning Map of Koorawatha – Hilltops Local Environmental Plan 2022

What the community love about Koorawatha

In October of 2024 Hilltops Council, in conjunction with the Koorawatha Progress Association, conducted a survey in the Koorawatha community asking two questions:

1. What do you love about your village and the wider Koorawatha community? And,
2. What improvements would you like to see to social or physical infrastructure to help overcome any challenges faced by the community?

A total of 163 responses were received, with 67 responses to what people love about their village.

Summary of responses:

Loves	# responses/suggestions
Sense of place	28
Amenity	39
Thank you for Survey	1
Total	67

Detailed responses:

LOVES

SENSE OF PLACE	28
- Privacy	1
- Low crime	1
- Security	1
- Caring people	7
- Small village atmosphere	9
- Sense of community	6
- Future potential	1
- History/heritage	2
AMENITY	39
- Pub	7
- Playgroup	2
- Truck school	3
- Showground	3
○ Visitors to showground	1
- Wildlife and farm animals	3
- Lack of local traffic	1
- Post office	1



- Open spaces	1
- Easy access to larger towns	2
- Co-op café	4
- Koorawatha show	2
- Hall facility hire	1
- Koorawatha falls	6
- New park/facilities	2
- Thank you for the survey	1
	Total 67 responses

Where we want to be

What the community would like to see improved

In October of 2024 Hilltops Council, in conjunction with the Koorawatha Progress Association, conducted a survey in the Koorawatha community asking two questions:

1. What do you love about your village and the wider Koorawatha community? And,
2. What improvements would you like to see to social or physical infrastructure to help overcome any challenges faced by the community?

A total of 163 responses were received, with 96 responses to improvements they would like to see.

Improvements	# responses/suggestions
Road and street infrastructure	29
Signage	10
General Council	9
Koorawatha Falls	10
Hall	8
Rubbish	7
Amenities	18
Cultural	5
Total	96

IMPROVE	# RESPONSES
ROAD AND STREET INFRASTRUCTURE	29
- Speed change on causeway	1
- Review safety of s bend over railway	1
- Mirror on causeway to tip (to see oncoming traffic)	2
- Road widths (wider)	1
- Potholes on the gravel roads	3
- Sealing of roads and road maintenance (dust issues)	16
○ Sealing of Campbell St to Winslow St.	1
○ Sealing of Cemetery Rd.	1
○ Sealing of Cowra St, from corner of Boorowa St to the tip	2
- Footpaths	1
SIGNAGE	10
- Village entrances	3

- Village entry signage	5
- New street signage	1
- Signs- dogs on leash	1
GENERAL COUNCIL	9
- Upkeep of council lands (mowing, tree trimming, etc)	6
- Weed control	1
- Review of land use zoning	2
KOORAWATHA FALLS	10
- Improve Koorawatha Falls and amenities (car park, etc)	4
- Car park area at falls	1
- Directional signage for falls	1
- 'No caravans' sign for falls	1
- Road to the falls	3
HALL	8
- Hall maintenance	4
- Shade sail in hall	2
- Hall- ramp onto side door area	1
- Hall- barrier to hot water	1
RUBBISH	7
- Hard rubbish collection	1
- Curb side bin service (weekly, no charge)	6
AMENITY	18
- Skate Park, bike/pump track	1
- Postal service to homes	1
- Tennis court improved	4
- Service station	2
- Lighting of public toilets in park (currently none)	1
- BBQ maintenance in park	1
- Oval maintained	1
- Re-opening of railway	2
- Café	1
- Goal posts up	1
- Lack of community notice boards	2
- 5g phone connection	1
CULTURAL	5
- Silo mural	1
- Mural on old tavern- Ben Hall shoot out	1



- Memorial for Harry Houghton	1
- More community events	1
- More council recognition	1
	Total 96 suggestions

Objectives and Outcomes



Support and build resilience within Village communities,



Enhance the built environment and improve liveability in and around the villages,



Encourage economic viability through enabling greater self-determination, and



Enhance and maintain the natural environment in and around the villages.

The village planning program identifies the above four objectives for the rural villages of the Hilltops LGA. The objectives of the program relate to Council's Strategic Objectives for the villages, as outlined in the Hilltops Local Strategic Planning Statement, Hilltops Community Strategic Plan, Hilltops Delivery Program, and the Hilltops Operational plan, in delivering outcomes for our village communities.

The village plan aims to support communities in realising the objectives and outcomes of the program through identification of projects and initiatives important to the village community, and the assigning of a lead group, or individual, to champion that item.

Objective 1. Support and build resilience within Village communities.

- Provide guidance and insights to the community, via village plans, to be utilised in the realisation of future growth opportunities.
- Stabilising, or increase in village populations through retention of existing residents and encouragement of new residents.

Objective 2. Enhance the built environment and improve livability in and around the villages.

- Retention of current facilities and services
- Increase in facilities and services
- Improved infrastructure within villages.
- Improved linkages to larger towns and centres.
- Facilitate the retention and regeneration of historical buildings and places.

Objective 3. Encourage economic viability through enabling greater self-determination.

- Protect and nurture the role of villages in supporting local agricultural industries and communities.
- Provision of support documents, through village plans, for communities to leverage on when seeking funding for community facilities.
- Increased village tourism.
- Increased responsiveness to growth opportunities.

Objective 4. Enhance and maintain the natural environment in and around the villages.

- Outline/Highlight areas of environmental significance.
- Explore/Consider the value add of areas of environmental significance for tourism opportunities.

How we will get there

5-year plan

Projects and lead organisation or person

In early 2025 Hilltops Council worked with the Koorawatha community to refine the results of the 2024 survey into two groups:

- Projects/initiatives with an identified lead person or organisation to be included in the Village plan, and
- Projects/initiatives with no identified lead person or organisation that the community would still like to see realised but are more aspirational at this time.

The projects below are community goals based on the 2024 survey results and further community consultation. They have had a person or organisation indicate they would like to explore progressing the project over the next five years. They are projects that the lead feels they could reasonably endeavour to initiate within the next five years.

Completion of projects and initiatives are subject to local conditions, funding opportunities, and community support.

Project/Initiative	Description	Lead	Indicative timeline
Signage Koorawatha Falls:	Directional signage to falls (Hilltops side), warning signs “4WD only”, and warning signs to Caravans (‘No Caravans’)	Hilltops Council	5 year
Review safety of S-bend over railway		Hilltops Council & Transport for NSW	5 year
Pot holes- gravel roads	Maintenance and repair of potholes on gravel roads within the village	Hilltops Council	Ongoing- included in Works Program
Dedication for Harry and Fay Houghton	Installation of a dedication for residents Harry and Fay Houghton	Showground Trust Land Managers	5 year
Hall maintenance/ramp to hall/shade sail over play area at hall	Installation of a rear ramp to the Hall and a shade sail to enhance the outdoor	Koorawatha Progress Association & Hilltops Council	5 year

	play area for the playgroup		
Village beautification and entry signage	Bespoke village entry signage/entryways	Koorawatha Progress Association	5 year
Oval maintenance-including goal posts up		Showground Trust Land Managers	5 year
Lighting in public toilets	Addition of lighting to the public toilets in park	Hilltops Council	2025
Mirror on causeway to tip	Mirror to be installed at the bend in road to tip to improve view of oncoming traffic	Hilltops Council	5 year
Tennis Court improved/progress improvements to Park	Explore improving tennis court surface, and ongoing improvements to Memorial Park	Koorawatha Progress Association	5 year
Speed warning signs on causeway	Installation of speed warning signs on causeway	Hilltops Council & Transport for NSW	5 year

Future aspirations and opportunities

Other opportunities

List of initiatives that could be pursued should a lead/willing sponsor be identified

Initiative	Potential lead/sponsor
Koorawatha Falls- road repairs and improvements to amenities and car park	As Koorawatha Falls (Guuruwulha) sits within the Cowra Shire boundary, and is identified as a place of significance, any works would be an initiative between the Cowra Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Cowra Council.
Skate Park and/or Bike/pump track	Community group or individual
Community Noticeboards- more of	Hilltops Council
Upkeep of Council Lands	Hilltops Council
Dogs on leash signs	Hilltops Council
Road sealing -Apply for funding -Also, list what does get done	Hilltops Council During community consultation the following roads were raised as a priority for sealing: Campbell St to Winslow St, Cemetery Rd, and Cowra St (from Boorowa St to the tip).
Weed Control (box thorn)	Cowra Council and Hilltops Council in consultation with Local Land Services.
Footpaths- improved walkability and accessibility- may identify linkages	Hilltops Council
More community events	Hilltops Council
Mural art on side of old tavern	Community group or individual
Front gates to cemetery- memorial area	Community group or individual

The Koorawatha Village Plan 2025 has been developed through consultation with the community, which included community meetings, a village survey, and Council representatives attending Koorawatha Progress Association meetings. The final village plan was adopted by Council at the October 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting with resolution 15/2025.

Hilltops Council would like to thank the Koorawatha community for their contributions and commitment to the Koorawatha Village Plan 2025. Council look forward to continued work with the community in the ongoing implementation, and iterations, of this and future Koorawatha Village Plans.

To contact Council regarding village planning please call 1300 445 586, or email mail@hilltops.nsw.gov.au.

Information on the Village Planning Program can be found at [Village Planning Program - Hilltops Council](#)