

# Annual Report 2021-22



Murrumbidgee  
COUNCIL





# Acknowledgement of COUNTRY



We would like to show respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Pictured is local Bangerang man, Alan Dowling, at the official opening of the Jerilderie Early Learning Centre.

Alan and his brother Rod have supported official openings in Jerilderie by providing an Acknowledgement of Country.

Wiradjuri woman, Megan Wood, has provided events in Darlington Point. We sincerely thank each of these people for adding a special touch to the events.

**We welcome feedback about this report. Please send it to:**

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Coleambally Office: 39 Brolga Place Coleambally NSW 2707

Darlington Point Office: 21 Carrington Street Darlington Point NSW 2706

Jerilderie Office: 35 Jerilderie Street Jerilderie NSW 2716

# Contents and INTRODUCTION

The Annual Report is a comprehensive report that describes how we have met our organisational objectives and priorities. It highlights key achievements over the past twelve months. It also contains audited financial statements and other information, as required by Government legislation.

## PART 1 - OVERVIEW

page 1

Beginning with a Joint welcome from the Mayor and General Manager, this section provides an overview on the organisation and the Council area we are responsible for (referred to as 'Murrumbidgee Local Government Area').

## PART 2 - PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

page 13

See the key highlights and achievements throughout the Council area, divided into the five key themes relating to the Community Strategic Plan: community, economy, natural environment, infrastructure and leadership.

## PART 3 - GOVERNANCE REPORT

page 35

Read about our actions throughout the year (included as part of the Office of Local Government and Section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005).

## APPENDIX A - FINANCIAL REPORT

Read the audited financial statements providing our financial performance over the 2021-22 financial year.

## APPENDIX B - OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

View our progress in meeting the objectives and actions of the Delivery Program. These are aligned to the Community Strategic Plan, which sets out the community's expectations and aspirations in the long term.







## Part 1 - Overview

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# WELCOME



It is a pleasure to present the 2021-22 Annual Report providing a snapshot of our achievements, financial position and other information required under the Local Government Act.

Our community and Council have faced multiple challenges throughout the year. As testament to the grit and character of our people, we have continued to face these head-on. The La Nina weather pattern impacted every facet of lives, promising a bumper harvest one minute, and threatening to destroy it, the next. Fortunately, we did not face the flood devastation like other parts of the State.

COVID continued to demand unwelcome changes and restrictions on our lives and not one of us was left untouched. We have faced great change, which has placed an enormous strain on us all. We know from our drought experience, how important it is to look out for each other, and it's no less important today.

A number of major infrastructure projects were completed this year, including the \$1.3 million Jerilderie Early Learning Centre building, the \$204,209 Darlington Point Skate Park upgrade and the \$363,900 Jerilderie Skate Park and Pump Track. Once again, a significant portion of Council's revenue was received in the form of grants, with nearly \$9m received to fund operating expenses and over \$6m to fund capital projects like these.

Following the Local Government elections in December 2021, we welcomed three new Councillors, as well as six familiar faces from the past term (and beyond!). Each new term of Council allows us to carefully scrutinise our achievements, challenges and future directions to ensure we're on the right track.

Of course, community feedback and input is integral to this as we strive to progress into the future with a shared vision of the best way forward. In a clear indication of the strength and engagement of people in the future for our area, we received a tremendous response to the community survey and other mechanisms we used to seek input.

We thank each and every one of you for your contribution and involvement in our vibrant and cohesive Council area. Undoubtedly, we still have many challenges to face in the future, particularly health, Local Government funding and the impacts of climate change. However, as we have seen clearly in the past, we share a keen desire of a better future for ourselves and generations to come.

In closing, our warmest thanks to the Councillors who finished their term at the December elections. We particularly thank Cr Phillip Wells who dedicated 22 years as a Councillor with both Murrumbidgee Shire and Murrumbidgee Council.

And finally, thank you to our staff who work behind the scenes to provide the multitude of services we offer. The extreme weather events and other crises we face create many of issues on the ground. On behalf of our entire community, we thank them for this commitment and dedication.

Kind regards

Ruth McRae  
Mayor

John Scarce  
General Manager





## **Our Purpose**

We aim to deliver quality services to create a friendly and welcoming community.

## **Our Community Vision**

We strive for a community built by innovative and reliable services.

## **Our Values**

Creativity, quality, tradition and energy.



# The MURRUMBIDGEE

Murrumbidgee Local Government Area is located in the Riverina region of south-western New South Wales. We are home to a number of different First Nations peoples.

The area comprises the three townships of Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie. It also includes surrounding rural localities of Argoon, Bundure, Carrathool (part), Coree (part), Four Corners (part), Gala Vale, Logie Brae (part), Mabins Well (part), Mairjimmy, Nyora, Oaklands (part), Steam Plains (part), Waddi and Yamma.

Together, these all form one vibrant rural community offering a world of opportunity, welcoming and friendly people, wonderful lifestyle activities and enviable country living.

## Population

**3,564**

(Estimate 2021)

## Land area

6,885 square kms

## Population density

0.52 persons per square km

## Location to cities

Sydney: 615 km

Melbourne: 324 km

Canberra: 400 km





# Our COMMUNITY

“My family and I have loved getting to know the Murrumbidgee LGA these last five months and have been warmly welcomed into the community. We enjoy sharing the spoils of our neighbours’ vege gardens and the abundance of birdlife our daughter enthusiastically points out to us on our regular walks around town!”



The following graphics provide a snapshot of our community, taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census and the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research 2021 data.



## Employment

**2.9%**  
unemployment rate

## Industry

**\$309 million**

Gross Regional Product  
(as at 30 June 2021)

## Top 3 industries

**45.4%** Agriculture

**6.9%** Education and  
Training

**6.5%** Manufacturing



## Population

Age Structure

0-14 - 16.9%

15-24 - 10.1%

25-54 - 34.9%

55-64 - 16.5%

65+ - 21.7%

**82.6%**

born in Australia

**7.8%**

identify as Aboriginal or  
Torres Strait Islander

**\$1,401**

Median weekly income



## Housing

**2.3**  
Average people  
per household

**\$869**  
median weekly  
mortgage repayments

**\$190**  
median weekly rent

**2.1**  
average number of  
motor vehicles per  
dwelling

**40%**  
own their dwelling  
outright



# Our COUNCILLORS

Murrumbidgee Council area is divided into three wards, with three Councillors elected at a Local Government election to represent each ward. Broadly speaking, Jerilderie covers the Jerilderie area, Murrumbidgee East covers Coleambally and Murrumbidgee covers Darlington Point.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Councillors.

In their role Councillors make decisions about what happens across our Council area.

During the year, there were 11 ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting.

Ordinary meetings are generally held the fourth Tuesday of each month. The public is welcome to attend. The meetings are also livestreamed on Council's Facebook page.

The meeting schedule, agendas, business papers and minutes are available on Council's website or at any Council office.

Across NSW, Local Government Elections were held on Saturday 4 December. The table below shows Councillors we have held during the 2021-22 financial year, reflecting, three new Councillors that were elected at the election.

Throughout the entire year, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor were Cr Ruth McRae and Cr Robert Black, respectively.



<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Period during 2021-22</b>
Cr Ruth McRae (Mayor)	Jerilderie	July 2021 - June 2022
Cr Robert Black (Deputy Mayor)	Murrumbidgee East	July 2021 - June 2022
Cr Faith Bryce	Jerilderie	July 2021 - June 2022
Cr Christine Chirgwin	Murrumbidgee East	July 2021 - June 2022
Cr Robert Curphey	Murrumbidgee	July 2021 - June 2022
Cr Gavin Gilbert	Murrumbidgee	July 2021 - June 2022
Cr Troy Mauger	Jerilderie	December 2021 - June 2022
Cr Judy Saxvik	Murrumbidgee	December 2021 - June 2022
Cr Timothy Strachan	Murrumbidgee East	December 2021 - June 2022
Cr Pat Brown	Murrumbidgee East	July - December 2021
Cr Gaila Smith	Jerilderie	July - December 2021
Cr Phillip Wells	Murrumbidgee	July - December 2021



Cr Ruth McRae



Cr Robert Black



Cr Faith Bryce



Cr Christine Chirgwin



Cr Robert Curphey



Cr Gavin Gilbert



Cr Troy Mauger



Cr Judy Saxvik



Cr Tim Strachan



Cr Pat Brown



Cr Gaila Smith



Cr Phillip Wells



An aerial photograph of Elliott Park in Jerilderie. The image shows a large, modern building with a white corrugated metal roof, identified as the new Early Learning Centre. Adjacent to the building is a paved area with white markings, likely for a skate park or pump track. There are several green lawn areas, some with young trees planted. A road with orange traffic cones and construction equipment is visible on the left side of the image. The background features more trees and a residential area.

# About COUNCIL

One of the many capital projects undertaken this year was transforming Jerilderie's Elliott Park into a vibrant community precinct with the new Early Learning Centre, as well as the Skate Park and Pump Track.





Managing infrastructure worth more than:

**\$293M**

- > 3 offices
- > 3 depots
- > 1 library, 1 mobile library
- > 10 halls
- > 3 waste depots
- > 1,721 kms of roads
- > 1 early learning centre
- > collecting and managing waste from more than 2,613 households and businesses
- > managing more than 25 ha of parks and gardens
- > providing and maintaining 3 swimming complexes, 3 skate parks and 3 sporting complexes
- > maintaining 9 amenities blocks
- > 2 boat ramps and a floating pontoon, 1 river, 1 lake, 1 creek and walkways
- > managing 3 cemeteries
- > managing 1 saleyard



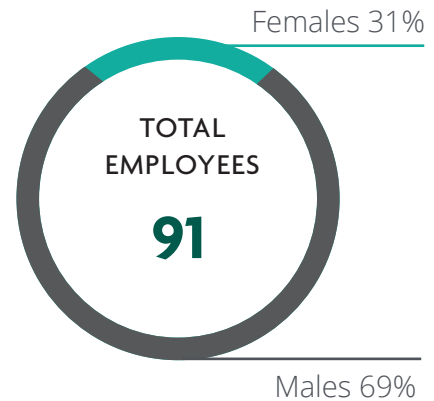
# Our TEAM

**Employees living  
in the Council  
area:**

**93%**

**Staff  
turnover  
rate:**

**5%**



**General Manager**  
John Scarce

- Executive Support
- Media & Communications
- People & Culture
- Workplace Health & Safety

**Planning  
Community &  
Development**  
Garry Stoll

- Customer Service
- Economic Development & Tourism
- Libraries
- Development Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Community Services
- Biosecurity
- Environmental Health

**Infrastructure**  
Tom Dimec

- Assets
- Roads Maintenance Contract (RMCC)
- Maintenance
- Construction
- Building Maintenance

**Finance**  
Kaitlin Salzke

- Revenue
- Banking
- Creditors
- Rates
- Procurement & Stores
- Financial Management
- Payroll

# Financial SNAPSHOT

## INCOME STATEMENT

	2022	2021
Total income from continuing operations	\$25,371	\$22,941
Total expenses from continuing operations	\$ 18,540	\$20,319
Operating result from continuing operations	\$6,831	\$2,622
Net operating result for the year	\$6,831	\$2,622
Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	\$725	\$2,092)

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Total current assets	\$35,865	\$31,182
Total current liabilities	\$(14,613)	\$(13,935)
Total non-current assets	\$296,973	\$267,174
Total non-current liabilities	(65)	(73)
Total equity	318,160	284,348

## OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Unrestricted current ratio (times)	6.70	6.04
Operating performance ratio (%)	1.63%	(10.86)%
Debt service cover ratio (times)	-	92.93
Rates and annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	8.87%	7.31%
Infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	100.95%	89.40%
Own source operating revenue ratio (%)	36.20%	39.10%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	26.64%	20.94%











## Part 2 - Performance Highlights

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# Performance HIGHLIGHTS

## COMMUNITY

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Together, with our community, we work to ensure we are:

- Building and supporting a diverse community
- Protecting and embracing cultural identity and heritage
- Creating community opportunities and equitable access to Council and community services and programs
- Enhancing health and well-being
- Creating a safe community

### Highlights of the year

#### Artistic pursuits

We are an active member of Western Riverina Arts and were proud to support these events held in Jerilderie:

- Rescue of Riverina Native Birds Exhibition – 8 May to 3 June 2022 – The Willows
- Roslyn Lockhart's 'Her Story' Exhibition – 29 June to 23 July 2022 – The Willows
- Plains Wanderer Exhibition – 24 July to 8 August 2021– Jerilderie Civic Hall

We also provided artistic and cultural events specifically targeting youth (see section on Youth Events).

#### Australia Day events and awards

Australia Day 2022 events in the Murrumbidgee Council area were reformatted following continuing concerns about holding large events during the omicron phase of the COVID pandemic.

Coleambally's celebrations were moved to an online presentation, Jerilderie's were announced online on the day and recognised in person in March, and Darlington Point's were announced online only.

The 2022 Ambassador was Ms Viv Kartsounis, founder of charitable organisation, Shoes for Planet Earth. Ms Kartsounis provided an online address which was shared on our digital channels.

Congratulations to the recipients and all nominees of Australia Day Awards:

#### Coleambally

- Citizen of the Year: Alison Hayes
- Young Citizen of the Year: Laura Mannes
- Event of the Year: Frocktober Cocktail Party

- Cultural Award: CCS Primary Industries Class 2021
- Sporting Team of the Year: St Peter's PP5 swimming relay team
- Sportsperson of the Year: Luke Hillier
- Junior Sportsperson of the Year: Hannah Pound
- Sub-Junior Sportsperson of the Year: Alex Pound
- Environmental Citizen of the Year: Coleambally Men's Shed

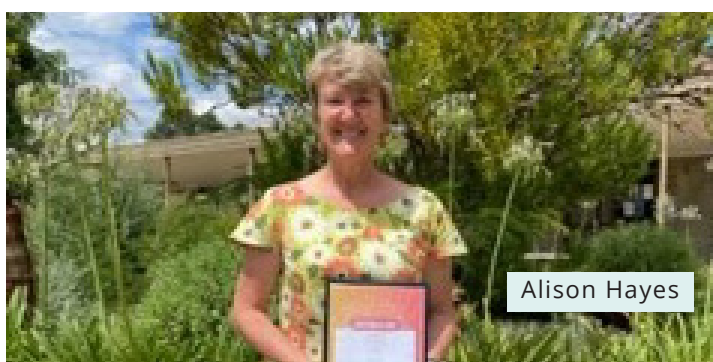
#### Darlington Point

- Citizen of the Year: Gavin Gilbert
- Young Citizen of the Year: Armani Coe

- Young Sportsperson of the Year: Tamsin Hughes
- Acknowledgement of Dedication and Services to the Community: Phillip Wells

#### Jerilderie

- Citizen of the Year for 2022: Carmen Lawton
- Young Citizen for 2022: Rory Knight
- Sports Team of the Year: Jerilderie Bowls Pennant Team of the 2020-21 season
- Little Aussie Awards (nominated by the schools): Ruby Neessen (St Joseph's Primary School) and Zara Williams



Alison Hayes



Gavin Gilbert



Carmen Lawton and Cr Ruth McRae



## Citizenship Ceremonies

Citizenship ceremonies were officiated by the Mayor on behalf of the Australian Government. On behalf of Council and the community, the Mayor warmly congratulated each of these people and wished them all the best for the future:

31 January 2022: Hussai Rasooly, Marcelo Bandohan and Marc Bandohan.

16 June 2022: Charmé Van der Walt, Johan Van der Walt, Michaela Walsh and Jane McMillan.

## Education Scholarships and Bursaries

Congratulations to the following people who were provided with assistance to support their tertiary education costs:

- Murrumbidgee Council Education Scholarships (\$1,000 each): Carissa Bellato, Riley Belling, Austin Mauger, Alex A'Vard, Thomas Gill, Danielle Mannes and Phoebe White
- Murrumbidgee Council Foundation Scholarship, Charles Sturt University (\$4,000): Aisha Tomkinson
- Monash Education bursary (\$2,000): Austin Mauger

## Murrumbidgee Council and Neoen Coleambally Solar Farm Community Grants

Congratulations to the Murrumbidgee Council Community Grants program recipients:

- Coleambally Bowling Teams - \$2,000 – Shade covers
- Coleambally Darlington Point Apex Club - \$2,000 – Annual dinner – mental health focus
- Coleambally Golf Club - \$2,000 – Chairs
- Coleambally Quilters - \$1,299 – Stick vacuum
- Coleambally Volunteer Rescue Association - \$2,000 – Upgrade rescue truck lights
- Cypress View Lodge - \$2,000 - Water pressure system to supply internal fire sprinklers
- Darlington Point Men's Shed Inc - \$2,000 - Purchase of Thicknesser - spiral head cutter
- Darlington Point Primary School - \$1,701 – Breakfast Club
- Jerilderie Fishing Club - \$2,000 – Learn to Fish Day



Conferees: Marcelo Bandohan and Marc Bandohan



Conferee: Michaela Walsh (centre)



- Jerilderie Sports Club - \$2,000 – Five sets of bowls

The Coleambally Solar Farm

Community Fund recipients were:

- Coleambally Preschool Association Inc - \$2,000 – Nature based play space
- Country Education Foundation of Coleambally-Darlington Point Inc - \$2,000 Education grants
- Darlington Point Public School P&C Association - \$2,000 – Intensive swimming program
- St Joseph's Primary School Jerilderie Parents & Friends Association - \$2,000 - Echuca Day Trip – Twisted Science and Paddlesteamer Experience
- Tirkandi Inaburra Cultural & Development Centre - \$2,000 - Sporting equipment and promotional brochure

### Supporting Community Campaigns and Initiatives

We supported and promoted many community awareness campaigns throughout the year. We also promoted mobile service visits to our area, such as Service

NSW, Service Australia and the blood bank.

### Community and Commemorative Events

Our Mayor, Cr Ruth McRae, Councillors and staff regularly attended community events and activities on behalf of Council. The Mayor and Councillors also provided many welcome addresses, presentations and official duties at these events.

We also supported many community events throughout the year with promotion and on-site assistance, when required.

### Library Services

Despite the ongoing restrictions of the COVID Public Health Order, the staff at Jerilderie Library continued to make resources available through home delivery and 'reserve and collect' service. A permanent shelf was installed outside the front door for book collection. Staff also assisted community members by printing vaccination certificates and technological support.

Regular programs, such as knitting and storytime, ran when the library



Conferee: Jane McMillan (right)



Conferees: Johann and Charmé Van der Walt



Conferee: Hussai Rasooly



was open. The first holiday movies (since 2019) were shown in April with great attendance. The Lego table returned to the great joy of junior members. We also

created a Lego display titled 'Summertime in the Murrumbidgee' which was popular with the young and young at heart.

The library had many visitors that come looking for ancestors that have lived or worked in and around Jerilderie and the area.

New staff member, Janine A'Vard, commenced in the position of casual relief.

As a member of the Western Riverina Library Service, our community has access to resources from all of the libraries throughout the Western



## The Library

*One visitor last week had a special connection with Jerilderie. He is a relative of Steve Hart. Steve Hart (1859-1880) was born in Wangaratta and had 7 siblings. He was a jockey, bushranger and also a member of the notorious Kelly gang.*

Riverina region. This includes digital facilities where you can listen, read, watch and learn at home or on the go.

Coleambally and Darlington Point residents can borrow with the Mobile Library, which visits weekly. Unfortunately the service was unavailable at some stages during the year due to COVID regulations.

## Seniors Services

Local seniors in Darlington Point and Coleambally had access to services offered by Murrumbidgee Council through the Commonwealth Home





Support Program (CHSP) until 30 June 2022. This included community transport for medical appointments, social reasons and shopping trips, meals on wheels, flexible respite and home modifications. Valmar took over the contract from 1 July 2022.

This followed a decision at the December 2021 Council Meeting to decline a one year extension to the CHSP, due to the fundamental changes that were going to apply to the new contract which would have placed a financial burden on Council and led to increased costs to clients. The extension was only going to be for one year to allow the Federal Government time to transition to the Support at Home Program.

### Youth events

Youth events were held as follows (COVID public health regulations affected some events):

- 1 January 2022 - Summer Break Pool Party – Darlington Point – Funded by the NSW Government, Office for Regional Youth Holiday Break Program (approximately 120 participants)
- 19-21 January 2022 – Free transport to Borambola Holiday Break Camp 12-15 year olds - Funded by the NSW Government, Office for Regional Youth Holiday Break Program (4 participants)
- 26 February 2022 – Summer Break Pool Party – Jerilderie – Funded by the NSW Government, Office for Regional Youth Holiday Break Program (approximately 80 participants)
- 27 February 2022 – Summer Break Pool Party – Coleambally – Funded by the NSW Government, Office for Regional Youth Holiday Break Program (approximately 80 participants)
- 4 April 2022 – Paint Workshop with the team from Tambourine Art Studio – Coleambally – funded by NSW Youth Week and Murrumbidgee Council (20 participants)
- 8 April 2022 – Sketch It! With Ros Lockhart Art - Jerilderie - funded by NSW Youth Week and Murrumbidgee Council (70 participants)





- 11 April 2022 – Earring Workshop with Lazy Daisy Creations – Jerilderie - funded by NSW Youth Week and Murrumbidgee Council (18 participants)
- 12, 13 and 14 April 2022 - Learn to Skate Workshops – Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie – around 100 youth came along to the these free workshops with the team from Totem Skate. The event was funded by the NSW Government Office for Regional Youth Holiday Break Program. These workshops coincided with the official openings of the upgraded Darlington Point Skate

Park and the new Jerilderie Skate Park and Pump Track.

We also supported Kids learn to Fish day on 5 December 2021 through the Community Funding program.

### **Women's Day Celebration**

Around 40 Murrumbidgee locals were treated to a fascinating insight into Stina Constantine's life experiences and achievements at the Women's Day luncheon in Coleambally on Thursday 17 March. This free event was funded by Murrumbidgee Council.

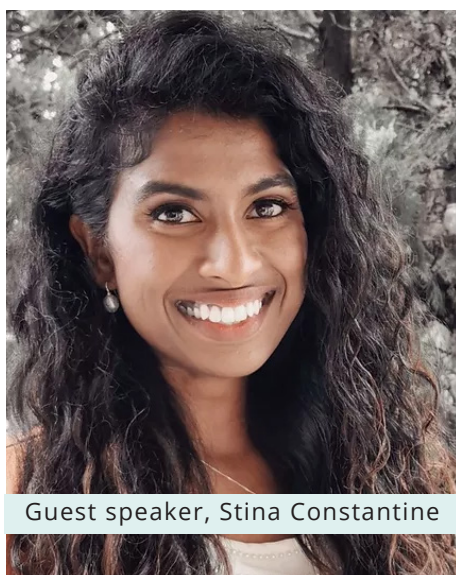
(see photos below)



L-R Cr Ruth McRae, Kate Warren and Stina Constantine



L-R Liz James and Kim Witham



Guest speaker, Stina Constantine



L-R Pauline Witham, Denise Naylor, Julie Bellato and Kylie Rossato



# ECONOMY

We work closely with new and existing business and industries to proactively provide regional economic opportunity, development, tourism creating stability and future growth. We achieve this by:

- Welcoming and supporting the growth, diversity and productivity of businesses and industries
- Promoting and supporting a regional economy and growth
- Promoting and developing tourism strategies and opportunities
- Supporting community access to education, training and future opportunities
- Fostering and developing a resilient, vibrant agricultural sector

## Highlights of the year

- Hosted Business BBQs after each Council meeting – March, April and May
- Provided input into Destination Riverina Murray Plan for tourism - Hosted drop in session – Darlington Point, 22 March 2022
- Assisted the business chambers in Coleambally (Coleambally Chamber of Commerce), Darlington Point (Darlington Point Business Connect) and Jerilderie (Jerilderie

United Chamber of Commerce).

- Continued membership and support for regional marketing activities including Murrumbidgee Trails, Ned Kelly Touring Route, Kidman Way Promotions Committee, Newell Highway Promotions Committee and Visit Riverina

## Future directions

- Develop a New Resident Guide for people who have moved to our three towns or are looking to move
- Host 'Welcome to new residents' events in each town to showcase community and sporting groups
- Develop a tourism video for each of the three towns
- Promote and sell residential land in the Young Street, Darlington Point sub-division
- Develop an Investment Attraction Prospectus
- Develop an Investment Attraction video for our region
- Conduct a bi-annual business survey to all businesses operating in the Murrumbidgee Local Government Area to ascertain economic development gaps and opportunities for our region
- Develop and distribute a Murrumbidgee Council venue guide as a one stop shop for event organisers to assist with planning an event







# OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

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We undertake a guardianship role to ensure and enhance the environment's long term sustainability through appropriate practices and management, by:

- Protecting existing regional natural environment for future generations
- Exploring and promoting alternate, sustainable energy sources and practices
- Maintaining a balance between growth, development and environmental protection
- Protecting and managing waterways and catchments
- Valuing and conserving our native flora and fauna

## Highlights of the year

### Biosecurity

We continued to play an important part in managing weeds in the Council area. Activities included:

- Inspecting high risk properties and sites
- Working with surrounding local councils to survey high risk pathways (such as channel systems and main roads)
- Spraying weeds, such as spiny burr, prickly pear and boxthorn

### Community Recycling Centres – promotion and education

As part of our membership with Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) Waste Management Group, we carried out a campaign to promote the Community Recycling Centres (CRC) we have at Coleambally and Jerilderie Waste Depots. A key part of this was to make the community more aware of the types of unwanted household problem waste that can be taken to the CRC for free. This includes paint, gas bottles, motor oils, batteries, smoke detectors, fluoro globes and tubes and fire extinguishers. Residents can also drop fluoro globes and tubes into the CRC stations at each of our offices.

### Murrumbidgee Land Use Plan

Extensive community engagement was carried out to prepare the draft Land Use Plan, which is the blueprint for land use in the Murrumbidgee Local Government Area for the next 20 years.

The plan was developed after investigating the issues, constraints and opportunities affecting the Council area. It aims to provide a clear direction for growth and ultimately lead to better and more sustainable planning decisions.



Engagement included direct contact with landholders affected by the proposed rezonings and utilising Council's various other communication channels.

### **New Three Bin Kerbside Waste Collection**

Work got underway planning for the adoption of the new three bin service for kerbside waste collection from July 2023. The three bin system will comprise general waste, mixed recyclables and Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO). This initiative is part of an overall strategy by the NSW Government based around the concept of a circular economy, where we use resources more efficiently, which in turn reduces the amount of waste going to landfill or ending up as litter. It is important we adopt this strategy so that our waste does not end up a problem for future generations.

A critical part of the new service is community education and engagement and this was commenced through Council's various digital and non-digital communication channels.



### **Planning and Development Services**

Throughout the year we received 51 applications for development, including:

Shops/Offices: 1 (value: \$145,000)

#### **Additions/Alterations**

Other (including accommodation): 5 (value: \$6,323,360)

Dwellings: 7 (value: \$3,066,836)

Dwelling Additions/Alterations (includes attached carports and garages, verandahs and pergolas): 3 (value: \$26,590)

Detached shed/garage/carports: 13 (value: \$387,901)

Dwellings Demolished: 1

Factories/workshops/warehouses: 1 (value: \$250,000)

Fences, rural buildings, farm dams and irrigation works, signs, swimming pools, etc: 16 (value: \$28,277,804)

On site sewage management systems: 3

### **Plastics Ban**

In support of the NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy, we engaged in extensive promotion and community education of the single use plastics ban. The two phases to this were the banning of lightweight plastic shopping bags from 1 June 2022 and then other one-off plastic items from 1 November 2022.

### **Public Health and Safety**

We worked throughout the year to ensure a high level of compliance with public health regulations. The



following inspections were carried out during the year:

Food Inspections: 61

Septic Inspections: 10

Trade Waste Inspections: 25

UPSS Inspections: 7

Council Swimming Pool Inspections/ tests: 15

Key areas where we managed and promoted public health and safety included:

- COVID-19
- Mosquito borne illnesses such as Japanese Encephalitis
- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Food handling for individuals and businesses

#### **“Your dog. Your responsibility.” Campaign**

Following an increase in complaints about nuisance dogs in the neighbourhood, we conducted a campaign to remind residents to

make sure their pets are safe and secure through the “Your dog. Your responsibility” campaign. This included information about safely securing a dog at home, microchipping, registration, and dog behaviour while out in public. We will continue to raise community awareness about responsible dog ownership into the future.





# INFRASTRUCTURE

We strive for a well serviced and connected community, with well-planned built, social and community infrastructure that's developed and maintained according to community and public safety needs, priorities and partnerships, by:

- Managing assets responsibly and sustainably
- Ensuring Council buildings and facilities meet community safety needs
- Providing our community with open spaces to be active
- Maintaining and improving transport infrastructure
- Ensuring local utilities and communications infrastructure and connectivity meets future needs

## Highlights of the year

### Bulky Waste and Green Waste Annual Collections

We conducted the annual kerbside waste collections to assist residents to clean out their yards and prepare for the coming fire season. The dates for the collections were:

- Darlington Point: Monday 22 November 2021
- Jerilderie: Monday 29 November 2021
- Coleambally: Monday 6 December 2021

### Planning for the future - Darlington Point Riverside Caravan Park Masterplan

A \$9 million staged upgrade to Darlington Point Riverside Caravan Park is proposed as part of Masterplan for the park's future development.

#### OFFICIAL OPENINGS



Darlington Point Skate Bowl



Jerilderie Early Learning Centre



The proposed upgrade will be undertaken in two stages. Stage 1 includes eight new elevated cabins/eco structures on short term sites, a new camp kitchen building, upgrading the main amenities building to include an accessible bathroom, new reception, new splash pad, new playground, improvements to the Town Beach Reserve Precinct, which include widening the roads, new car parking areas, clearing and levelling the area, new park furniture and landscaping, new public toilet and a serviced pad for food vans.

Stage 2 of the ambitious project will see seven more elevated cabins, new concrete slab/synthetic grass pads on 29 caravan sites, upgrading the internal road network, upgrading the southern amenity buildings and installing en-suites in 4 short-term sites. Some of the other inclusions include a new BBQ shelter for camping area and a new river viewing deck.

Council plans to fund the project with a mixture of capital grants and loan borrowings. Based on the projections

in the Masterplan, the construction phases will provide 30 new local jobs and inject \$15.66 million into the Murrumbidgee Council economy.

## Major Projects

Council spent an amount of \$10,394 million on new and replacement infrastructure, property, plant and equipment during the 2021-22 financial year, including the following projects:

### 1. Jerilderie Early Learning Centre

Young children in the Jerilderie district now enjoy the ultimate learning environment at the new Jerilderie Early Learning Centre. The opening of the new \$1.3 million Early Learning Centre building was held on Wednesday 29 June 2022.

The building, funded by the NSW Government, was officially opened by State Member for Albury Justin Clancy MP, Murrumbidgee Council Mayor Ruth McRae and President of the Jerilderie Early Learning Centre Stephanie Girdwood. Mr Clancy and Cr McRae both paid tribute to the tremendous contribution made by



Jerilderie Skate Park and Pump Track



members the Early Learning Centre committee.

Located in Elliott Park, the facility accommodates both a preschool program and long day care. It offers 48 places for babies up to five year olds and will be instrumental in filling the void in childcare services in the area.

## **2. Darlington Point Skate Park upgrade (new mini bowl)**

The new Skate Bowl at Darlington Point Skate Park was officially opened by Federal Member for Farrer Sussan Ley MP and Murrumbidgee Council Mayor Ruth McRae on Tuesday 12 April 2022. The facility was designed by Haley Constructions and features flatbanks, roll-ins, high rails, quarter pockets and a mogul blend. The project costing \$188,875 was funded through the Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program. The opening coincided with the free Learn to Skate Workshop for youth.

## **3. Jerilderie Skate Park and Pump Track**

The new Skate Park and Pump Track at Jerilderie was officially opened on Wednesday 13 April 2022 Federal Member for Farrer Sussan Ley MP, State Member for Albury Justin Clancy MP and Murrumbidgee Council Mayor Ruth McRae. Located in Elliott Park, it caters for skateboards, scooters and BMX bikes. Costing \$363,900, the project was funded through the NSW Stronger Country Communities Fund, Round 3 (\$263,900) and Australian Government Local Roads & Community Infrastructure funds

(\$100,000). It was designed and constructed by Haley Constructions. The opening followed the free Learn to Skate Workshop.

## **4. Coleambally Sports Precinct Buildings**

Construction of the Coleambally Community Gym and Amenities upgrade, together with the Coleambally Stadium upgrade, were finalised during the year with official openings for these projects still to be undertaken. The Coleambally Youth Hall Upgrade was commenced with finalisation of this project expected by December 2022. Total cost of the upgrade works for the Coleambally Sports precinct during 2021-22 amounted to \$1,098 million with funding provided by the NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund and Stronger Country Communities Funds rounds 2, 3 and 4.

## **5. Darlington Point Splash Park**

Construction commenced on the splash park with funding of \$316,528 provided from the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 3. Finalisation of this project is expected before the start of the 2022-23 swimming season.

## **Roads and Transport Infrastructure**

We manage a road network of 1,721 kilometres of roads and related assets. Programs undertaken throughout the financial year included gravel resheeting of sections of Elliott Lane, Ercildoune, Harveys Well, Colombo, Old Corowa, North Coree and Martin Bell Roads, together with maintenance grading of some 477 km of the unsealed rural road network.



Reconstruction works continued on Channel Nine Road and Bencubbin Avenue, with drainage and kerb and gutter installed along the Bencubbin Road project. These projects were funded from the Australian Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety Program, Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program and Roads to Recovery grant, together with NSW Stronger Communities Fund.

Installation of new cattle grids was undertaken on Oolambeyan and Gum Creek Roads.

New kerb and guttering was installed along Stock Street in Darlington Point. The kerb and guttering was replaced along sections of Kennedy and Mahonga Streets in Jerilderie, complementing the new Early Learning Centre establishment.

### **Plant and Equipment**

Council took possession of a new street sweeper at a cost of \$365,725 in December 2021.

Additional replacement of fleet, plant and equipment was undertaken at a cost of \$1.495 million during the financial year.

### **Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCN) Plan**

Work has continued this year on the IWCN. This is a collaborative plan with other organisations involved in the water cycle. It will outline how we plan for and manage all elements of the water cycle, including the delivery of water, wastewater and stormwater services.





# LEADERSHIP

We lead the community in achieving sound, future-focused outcomes for the whole of the Council area through ethical practices and good governance. We achieve this by:

- Demonstrating transparent leadership through accountability and community representation
- Engaging with future community leaders
- Investigating funding, services and programs that strengthen communities in the region
- Promoting Council as an 'Employer of Choice' through relationships
- Cooperating and collaborating with other Councils to achieve a strong voice

## Highlights of the year

### Collaborating with others

We have continued to play an important part in local, regional and other special interest joint organisations. This includes Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) and more than 30 other organisations. Membership on these organisations derives many benefits for our Council area and organisation.

### Health Advocacy

Throughout the year we continued to play a strong part in advocating

for a better health outcome for our community by involvement in various regional organisations such as the Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD).

### Local Government Elections

The NSW Government Local Government elections were held on 2 December 2021. The new Council comprised of:

- Jerilderie Ward: Cr Faith Bryce, Cr Troy Mauger and Cr Ruth McRae
- Murrumbidgee: Cr Robert Curphey, Cr Gavin Gilbert and Cr Judith Saxvik
- Murrumbidgee East: Cr Robert Black, Cr Christine Chirgwin and Cr Timothy Strachan

New Councillors Mauger, Saxvik and Strachan were warmly welcomed. Thank you to former councillors Wells, Smith and Brown for your service.

At the Council Meeting held on Thursday 23 December, Cr Ruth McRae was elected Mayor and Cr Robert Black elected Deputy Mayor. This is effective until the September 2023 Council meeting.

### Community Engagement

Throughout the year we actively engaged with the community and the various sectors within it. Here's some ways we reached the community:

- Facebook: This is the main social media channel we used to engage with our audiences. We reached 82,144 people throughout the year.

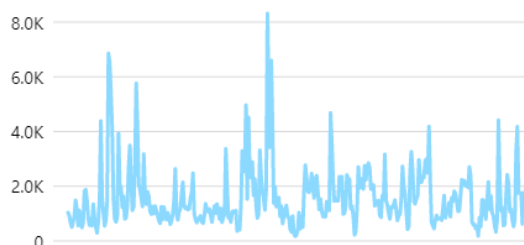


## Social media reach over the 2021-22 Financial Year

### Reach

#### Facebook Page reach ⓘ

82,144 ↑ 86.9%



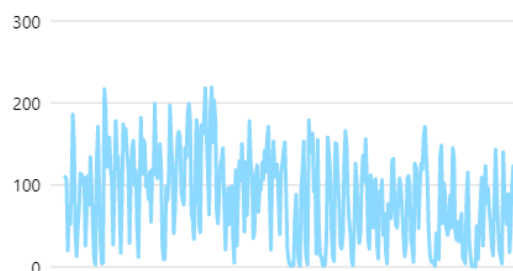
Of this amount, 26,661 people visited our Council page. We have 2,412 people who follow our Facebook page. We also have 568 Instagram followers and achieved a reach of 1,704 people in the financial year. There is potential to grow this audience.

- Community Newsletter: We published three community newsletters throughout the year that were sent to every household and business in the Council area.
- Community E-newsletter: We published 12 e-newsletters, sent to an audience of over 600 contacts. We have an average of 35% opening rate, which is extremely good.
- Website: Throughout the year, our website attracted 42,922 users with 108,250 page views. The most popular page was the home page (22/21% of views), followed by the page on COVID-19 (13.24% of views) and Positions Vacant (3.32% of views).

Other ways we engaged were advertisements, posters, meetings, media releases and surveys.

#### Instagram reach ⓘ

1,704 ↑ 69.9%



### New Executive Team members

Two new appointments were made to the Executive team at Murrumbidgee Council:

- Garry Stoll joined the organisation as the new Director of Planning, Community & Development
- Kaitlin Salzke commenced as the new Chief Financial Officer

These appointments were the final cog in the leadership team that will play an instrumental role in shaping our Council as we position ourselves as a proactive and sustainable organisation for the future.

### Positioning Council as an Employer of Choice

We are one of the biggest employers in the Murrumbidgee Council area. Ways we position the organisation as an employer of choice are:

- Rostered Day Off scheme - 9 day fortnight (permanent, full-time employees)
- Generous professional development, training and career growth opportunities. This includes an Annual Training Plan for all staff, annual performance appraisals and study leave.



- Attractive employment conditions in line with the Local Government (State) Award 2020
- 4 weeks annual leave (permanent, full-time employees)
- 3 weeks sick leave each year (permanent, full-time employees)
- 6.5 weeks Long Service Leave after 5 years (permanent, full-time employees)
- Employee Assistance Program
- Strong commitment to workplace health and safety and risk management.

We also recognise key milestone anniversaries of staff. We celebrated the following:

**10 Years:** Wayne Church, Steve Krause, Catie Purtell, Ben Nash,

Wayne Neilson, Bernadette Dowdle, Michael McCann, John O'Hara, Peter Keating and Aaron Purcell

**20 Years:** Brad Casey, Zenda Purcell, Chris Baldwin, Martin Barratt and Janelle Dickson

**30 Years:** Shane Curphey, Paul Talent and Ken Saunders

**40 Years:** Vince Strano

**Retiring Staff:** Zenda Purcell (20 years), Greg Purcell (48 years), Terry McGee (24 years)

A restructure was formally adopted in the 2021-2022 financial year.

### Rates Harmonisation

Making sure the rating system was fairly distributed across the Council area was an important part of being a merged Council. It would result in



L-R Peter Keating, Zenda Purcell, Janelle Dickson, Vince Strano, Martin Barrett, Chris Baldwin and Brad Casey



a uniform rating structure across the whole Council area with rates the same for individual sub-categories.

Our Councillors and staff worked hard to ensure the new rating structure meant financial impacts on ratepayers were minimised, the rates burden was uniformly distributed across the Council area and the new system was simpler and more efficient.

The new system was promoted extensively through various engagement activities, including drop-in sessions and letters to ratepayers. It commenced on 1 July 2021.

### **Revision of all policies**

In keeping with the Local Government Act, all Council policies must be revised following each Council election. This allows Councillors to familiarise themselves with operations and governance of Council and also ensures policies are kept up to date. As part of this process, more than 25 policies were reviewed, updated and adopted by Council, with the remainder to be undertaken in the 2022-23 financial year.

### **Strategic Planning and Reporting – Community Strategic Plan**

Following the Local Government elections, we were required under the Local Government Act to review the organisation's major strategic planning documents for adoption by Council by 30 June 2022. The overarching document guiding all others is the Community Strategic Plan. It is a ten year picture of the community's collective visions for the Murrumbidgee Council area and how they will be achieved.

Community engagement was an integral part in reviewing the existing plan which was adopted in 2018. A key part of this was the community survey which received an excellent response rate of 14.6%. A separate youth survey achieved a response rate of 5%. Community feedback was also obtained through ideas boards in Council offices and at community events, social media commentary, word of mouth and by making contact with specific groups in our community.

The new Community Strategic Plan can be found on our website at [www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

We adopted or endorsed other key documents that underpin the Community Strategic Plan by 30 June 2022 (as required by the Local Government Act). These documents were:

- Delivery Program
- Operational Plan
- Annual Report
- Community Engagement Strategy
- Workforce Management Strategy

### **Water Advocacy**

Our Councillors and staff were involved in a range of committees, organisations and forums advocating for more effective water management for our region. This included the Murray Darling Association, Yanco Creek and Tributaries Advisory Council Inc (YACTAC) and the Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO).







## Part 3 - Governance Report

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The following information provides details on Council's activities and is a specific requirement of the Office of Local Government. Murrumbidgee Council's general reporting requirements are set out in section 428 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Local Government Act) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005. Copies of the Act and Regulation can be accessed from [www.legislation.nsw.gov.au](http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au).

### **Council's audited financial reports**

Regulation: Act s 428(4)(a)

The audited financial reports can be found at Appendix A.

### **Council's achievements in implementing the Delivery Program**

Regulation: Act s 428(1)

Council's achievements in implementing the delivery program can be found in Appendix B of this document.

### **Environmental upgrades agreements entered into by Council**

Regulation: Act s 54P(1)

Council did not enter into any environmental upgrade agreements.

### **Special rate variations of general income**

Regulation: Special Rate Variation Guidelines 7.1

No special rate variations were applied.

### **Amount of rates and charges written off during the year**

Regulation: Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (Reg), cl 132

An amount of \$99,841 was written off as rates during the year.

### **Information about induction training and ongoing professional development**

Regulation: cl 186

- Risk Appetite Development Workshop (22 February 2022): Crs Robert Black, Faith Bryce, Christine Chirgwin, Robert Curphey, Gavin Gilbert, Troy Mauger, Judy Saxvik and Tim Strachan
- Election Life Induction Workshop (23-24 March 2022): Crs Robert Black, Faith Bryce, Christine Chirgwin, Robert Curphey, Gavin Gilbert, Troy Mauger, Judy Saxvik and Tim Strachan
- Phishing Awareness Training (22 June 2022): Cr Faith Bryce
- OLG – Hit the ground running – March 2022: Cr Ruth McRae

### **Purpose of overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a)

There were no overseas visits by Councillors, Council staff or other persons representing Council.

### **Total cost during the year of the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Councillors in relation to their civic functions**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a1) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) (v), (vi), (vii), (viii)

The Mayor and Councillors are paid an annual fee that is within the limit set by Section 248(2) of the Local Government Act 1993.



At the May 2021 Council meeting, Council determined the annual fee levels for the 2021-2022 financial year would be \$12,400 for Councillors, with an additional fee of \$27,060 for the Mayor.

The total cost of expenses and provision of facilities for the Mayor and Councillors for the 2020-2021 financial year was \$148,190.

Specific costs as required by Clause 217 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 are as follows:

- Provision of facilities: \$3,780
- Telephone calls: Nil
- Conferences and seminars: \$4,289
- Training and skills development: \$5,755
- Interstate travel: Nil
- Overseas travel: Nil
- Partner, spouse or accompanying person: Nil
- Care of child or immediate family member: Nil

### **Contracts awarded for amounts greater than \$250,000**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a2) (i) and (ii)

Contracts were awarded to:

- Haley Constructions P/L for construction of Darlington Point Mini Skate Bowl & Jerilderie Skate Park/Pump Track: \$507,327
- Bucher Municipal P/L for purchase of Street Sweeper: \$401,197

### **Summary of amounts incurred by Council for legal proceedings**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a3)

Council did not incur any expenses in relation to legal proceedings taken by or against Murrumbidgee Council. However, \$610,168 was incurred for legal costs relating to various contracts, agreements and orders.

### **Resolutions made concerning work carried out on private land**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a4) and Act s 67, 67(2)(b)

No resolutions were made concerning work carried out on private land.

### **Grants to financially assist others**

Regulation: cl 217(1)a5 and Act s 356

Council made a total of \$93,796 in grants to the following people local community groups and organisations:

- Local schools: \$700
- Student scholarships: \$7,400
- CSU Foundation Scholarship: \$4,000
- Grants to community groups: \$35,598
- Grants under Stronger Communities Fund: \$46,098

### **External bodies who exercised functions delegated by Council**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a6)

### **Standing and Special Committees of Council**

- Internal Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee
- General Manager's Review Committee
- Darlington Point Caravan Park Committee
- Darlington Point Floodplain Risk Management Committee



- Traffic Committee
- Local Emergency Management Committee

#### **Section 355 Committees of Council**

- Coleambally Australia Day Committee
- Jerilderie Australia Day Committee
- Coleambally Townlife Committee
- Darlington Point Townlife/Australia Day Committee
- Heritage Darlington Point
- Balmeringa Management Committee
- Central Coree Sports Complex Management Committee
- Yamma Recreation Reserve Management Committee
- Jerilderie Tidy Towns Committee

#### **Advisory Committees**

- Monash Park Users
- Coleambally Sports Precinct Advisory Committee
- Boat Ramp Darlington Point- Advisory Committee
- Darlington Point Master Landuse Plan Advisory Committee
- Murrumbidgee Business Chamber
- Murrumbidgee Economic & Tourism Advisory Group (METAG)

#### **External Committees with Council Representation**

- CICL/Coleambally Environmental and Reference Committee (CERC)
- Kidman Way Promotional Committee
- Newell Highway Promotional Committee

- Mid Murray Zone Bushfire Management Committee
- Berrigan Jerilderie Community Network
- MIA Zone Bushfire Management Committee
- MIA Zone Rural Fire Service Liaison Committee
- Murray Darling Association
- Western Riverina Libraries Committee
- South West Zone Library Committee
- Western Riverina Arts
- Thrive Riverina
- Roads and Maritime Services Consultative Committee
- Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation
- Western Region Joint Planning Panel

#### **Corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which Council held a controlling interest**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a7)

Council did not hold a controlling interest in any companies during the financial year.

#### **Corporations, partnerships, trusts, joint ventures, syndicates or other bodies in which Council participated**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a3)

Council is involved in a joint venture for the provision of library services. Western Riverina Libraries is a co-operative of five Councils. These are



Murrumbidgee Council, Griffith City Council, Narrandera Shire Council, Carrathool Shire Council and Hay Shire Council. The joint venture provides up-to-date library services to all areas, and particularly to people in remote locations.

The mobile library service, jointly owned by Murrumbidgee and Griffith City Council, visits the townships of Coleambally on Wednesday and Darlington Point on Thursday each week.

Council expenditure on Library Services amounted to a total of \$294,929.

Council also has an interest or membership of the following organisations, facilities and arrangements:

- Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) – to explore local government resource sharing, strategic alliances, lobbying and promotion opportunities.
- Statewide Mutual – a mutual pool scheme providing liability and general insurance cover to NSW Councils.
- StateCover Mutual – a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to NSW Councils.
- Kidman Way Promotional Committee – Member Councils are Murrumbidgee, Griffith City, Carrathool, Cobar and Bourke.

### **Activities to implement the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) management plan**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a3)

Our EEO plan identifies key actions to be undertaken to address the organisation's EEO responsibilities.

The plan aims to eliminate and ensure the absence of discrimination in employment, promotion, training and transfers on the grounds of race, sex, age, pregnancy, sexual preference, disability, marital status, political opinion, social origin or religion, past convictions and carers' responsibility.

Council has continued to work towards ensuring its human resources and training policies and procedures conform to EEO principles and demonstrate fair practice.

### **Total remuneration package of the General Manager**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(b)(i), (ii), (iii) (iv), (v)

The General Manager's total remuneration cost included:

- Total value of the salary component of the package: \$232,390 and \$25,711 in superannuation
- Total amount of any bonus, performance and other payments that do not form part of the salary component: nil
- Total amount payable by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the general manager may be a contributor: nil
- Total value of any non-cash benefits for which the general manager may elect under the package: \$24,720



- Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits: \$11,406

**Statement of the total remuneration packages of all senior staff members (other than GM), expressed as the total (not of the individual members) including:**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(c)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v)

- Total value of salary components of their packages: \$390,438.63
- Total amount of any bonus, performance or other payments that do not form part of salary components of their packages: nil
- Total amount payable by the council by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which any of them may be a contributor: \$10,400
- Total value of any non-cash benefits for which any of them may elect under the package: \$25,485
- Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such cash benefits: \$4,530

**Statement of total number of persons who performed paid work on Wednesday 25 May 2022, including, in separate statements**

Reg cl 217 (1)(d)(i),(ii),(iii),(iv)

- Persons employed by the council on a permanent full-time, permanent part-time or casual basis under a fixed-term contract: 91
- Persons employed by the council as senior staff members: 2

- Persons engaged by the council, under contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, wholly or principally for the labour of the person: 0
- Persons supplied to the council, under contract or other arrangement with the person's employer, as an apprentice or trainee: 2

**Stormwater management services provided to the community**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(e)

Following the undertaking of rates harmonization, Council determined not to levy stormwater management levies for 2021-22.

**Coastal protection services provided to the community**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(e1)

Council does not levy an annual charge for coastal protection services.

**Enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act**

Regulation: cl 217(1)(f)

Local staff were utilised to follow up complaints and to ensure compliance with the Companion Animals Act.

The Survey of Council seizures of cats and dogs 2021-22 was lodged with the Office of Local Government.

No dog attacks were recorded on the Companion Animals Register.

Council communicated the importance of desexing of dogs and cats through continuous community education campaigns, including promotional material.

Council complied with the requirement under s64 of the CA Act to seek other options to euthanasia for unclaimed animals by working with rehoming organisations and also training staff to pursue alternatives to euthanasia. No animals were euthanased during the year. A total of 18 cats and 10 dogs were released to homing organisations.

Off-leash areas were provided at:

- Coleambally - reserve at the end of Kookaburra Avenue - forest area.
- Darlington Point - the second oval at the Recreation Reserve, King Street.
- Jerilderie - around the Lake Jerilderie from Bundoora Avenue to the Playground area - as signposted.

Council spent \$34,220 on managing and controlling companion animals within the Council area.

### **Proposed capital works projects where a capital expenditure review has been submitted**

Regulation: OLG Capital Expenditure Guidelines

No capital works projects were undertaken that required a capital expenditure review.

Compliance with the Carers Recognition Act

Regulation: Carers Recognition Act 2010 (CR Act), S 8(2)

Council does not provide services that fall under the Carers Recognition Act.

### **Implementation of Council's Disability Inclusion Plan**

Regulation: Disability Inclusion Act 2014, s 13(1) Disability Inclusion Act 2014, s13(1)

Murrumbidgee Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan outlines Council's commitment to improving accessibility and inclusion activities for people of all ages who live with a disability. This ensures access to the full range of services and activities available in the community.

Actions implemented to support the needs of people with a disability included:

- Pedestrian Access & Mobility Plan PAMP crossings
- Developed a Masterplan for lift and change accessible amenities in each town
- Received NSW Government funding for new amenities that include Lift and Change facilities in Darlington Point. Amenities will be provided Coleambally and Jerilderie when funding becomes available.
- Received a NSW Government Grant of \$750,000 through the Stronger Country Communities Fund to upgrade the Monash Park netball precinct. This will include new amenities with disabled/accessible access.
- Upgraded the amenities and change rooms at the Coleambally Sports Precinct with sports ambulant and disabled facilities
- Applied for funding through the NSW Government Active Grant for Interconnections to ensure



high Work Health and Safety and environmental considerations

- Began review of Disability Inclusion Action Plan

### **Compliance with and effect of planning agreements**

Regulation: Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, s 7.5(5)

Council does not have any planning agreements in place.

### **Recovery and threat abatement plans**

Regulation: Fisheries Management Act 1994, s220ZT (2)

Council does not have recovery and threat abatement plans in place.

### **Inspections of private swimming pools**

Regulation: Swimming Pools Act (SP Act) 1992, s 22F(2)

Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 (SP Reg) cl 23

- Number of inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation: 2
- Number of inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings: 0
- Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of compliance under s22D of the SP Act: 5
- Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of non-compliance under cl 21 of the SP Reg: 5

### **Government information public access activity**

Regulation: Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, s 125(1),

Government Information (Public Access) Regulation 2018, cl 8, Schedule 2

Council did not receive any requests for Public Interest Disclosures.

### **Information included on public interest disclosure activity**

Regulation: Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994, s 31 and Public Interest Disclosures Regulation 2011, cl 4

The following information specifies the number of formal access applications lodged under the

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 received. Statutory processing times were complied with in all cases.

### **Reviews**

- Reviews carried out by Murrumbidgee Council: Yes
- Information made publicly available by Murrumbidgee Council: Yes

### **Applications**

- Total number of access applications received: 11
- The applications were all from members of the public (by a legal representative).
- Total number of access applications received during the reporting year that were refused: 0
- No requests for information were received from the media, Members of Parliament, private sector business, not for profit organisations or community groups, and members of the public (other).

- The applications were all access applications (other than personal information applications). There were no requests for personal information or for information that was partly personal and partly other.
- There were no applications received that were invalid.
- There were no applications received where consideration of conclusive presumption of overriding public interest against disclosure (matters listed in Schedule 1 of the Act) was exercised.
- All applications were decided within the statutory timeframe (20 days plus extensions).
- No applications were reviewed under Part 5 of the Act.
- No applications were transferred to other agencies.

Any person who wishes to obtain access to information held by Council is encouraged to contact our public officer for assistance.

There are a number of documents available which are easily accessed via our [website](#).

