

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19



Murrumbidgee  
COUNCIL





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

*Murrumbidgee Council 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 the incredible mural which graces the walls of the Council Chambers at Jerilderie. The mural is titled 'Coming Together', and was created for the 2000 Olympic Games, where it was hung in Parliament House to provide a visual welcome to visitors and wish them peace and safe travel.*

*The painting depicts various Aboriginal design elements, including the Eaglehawk, which is the Barundji/Barkindji totem. It also depicts a white feather to symbolise safe travel.*

*The mural was created by four Barundji/Barkindji artists: Elise Black, Gertrude Gittins, Eileen Ballangarry and Sos Hawkins. These women can trace their family back at least 700 years as direct matriarchal descendants of the tribe.*

*It measures 8 metres by 4 metres and is available for viewing.*



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# WELCOME

Welcome to Murrumbidgee Council's Annual Report 2018-19. This report provides a summary of our performance over the 2018-19 financial year against the actions in the Delivery Program and the Community Strategic Plan.

The Annual Report is prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005, and includes a copy of the Council's audited financial reports.

## How to read this document

This annual report comprises six main sections:

1. An overview of our area and Council. It includes messages from the Mayor and General Manager, a snapshot of our community, details on our Councillors and Council's organisational structure (pages 1-9).
2. The highlights and work of our Council teams throughout the year (pages 10-24).
3. A glossary of acronyms used in this document (page 26).
4. Attachment A: Audited Financial Statements for 2018-19.
5. Attachment B: Additional Local Government Requirements.
6. Attachment C: Information on how Council has performed in regard to the meeting goals within the Operational Plan.

## How to obtain a copy of this document

- ❖ Council's website:  
[www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](http://www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)
- ❖ Any Murrumbidgee Council branch office (see address details on the inside front cover).
- ❖ Telephone Murrumbidgee Council at 1300 676 243 and request a copy to be mailed to you.





# MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



It's a pleasure to present the 2018-19 Annual Report for Murrumbidgee Council.

As you will see from this report, councils have an extremely varied and complex role in the local community.

The 2018-19 year was the third year in Murrumbidgee Council's evolution as a merged council. It is no exaggeration to say that our initial years have been challenging for us all. However, I'm proud to say our staff, our councillors, and our entire community, have approached the transition with positivity and determination.

There is still some way to go as we build a local government body that not only provides the many essential services that fall within the realms of today's local government bodies. It must also guide our strategic planning processes to ensure we continue to grow and prosper as a community with an enviable rural lifestyle.

Whilst speaking of challenges, the drought cannot go unmentioned. Another year of drought has severely impacted our economy and our well-being. The Federal and State Governments have recognised the severity of the crisis and have responded with financial initiatives and other support. I urge you to take advantage of this support and never be afraid to seek help if things are too tough.

I can assure you, that as a Council we recognise the hardship our community is facing, and we will continue to impress on our Federal and State politicians the need to implement programs for regional Australia that will assist and support us in this changing and difficult environment.

The year ahead is positive and will see the completion of many capital works projects. These have been made possible with government funding, as well as careful fiscal management. We will continue to plan and manage a diverse rural area and we will also provide as many opportunities as we can for community comment and engagement.

Finally, I would like to thank our dedicated staff, under the leadership of John Scarce, as well as our community volunteers, for their commitment and dedication. I would also like to thank my fellow Murrumbidgee councillors who so willingly give their time and knowledge to Council.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "R. McRae".

Ruth McRae  
Mayor

# MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



In my first year with Murrumbidgee Council I have found the community and Council to be incredibly positive and welcoming.

We undoubtedly live in a great part of the world with an enviable lifestyle and are fortunate that our people have such a great tenacity, resilience and spirit. This year was just the beginning of an exciting phase in our area's development.

Several capital works projects were completed, with many more on the horizon in the coming years that will see an unprecedented level of construction activity and improvements. Much of this has been made possible through government grants and we will continue to proactively pursue these funding opportunities.

Existing assets have been well-maintained throughout the year, with asset management and planning instruments in place to ensure our assets are kept in excellent condition and renewed and upgraded when necessary. We have worked hard this year to ensure our budget is sustainable and can support these plans.

Fiscal responsibility is of the utmost importance to our Council. We have focussed on continuing to provide a high standard of core local government services to our community, as well as the broad range of other services and activities that the modern local council is involved in.

Key milestones throughout the year have been the planning and design phases for a number of significant capital works; the staging of or support for a number of community events, including three citizenship ceremonies and the highly successful Monash Dinner; the establishment of the Murrumbidgee Economic and Tourism Group; and the completion of the Darlington Point Flood Study. I look forward to reporting on many more projects in the 2019/20 Annual Report.

The coming year will see an extensive amount of consultation with our community as we review the goals within our strategic planning documents to ensure they are meeting expectations.

On a personal note, I would like to thank my team of staff for their commitment and dedication to providing excellent services and support for our community. I would also like to thank our Councillors who play such an integral role in determining Council's focus and priorities.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read 'John Scarce'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a plain white background.

John Scarce  
General Manager



A scenic view of a river with trees reflected in the water. The image is used as a background for the entire page. The text is overlaid on semi-transparent boxes.

# OUR COMMUNITY

## 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.



# OUR COMMUNITY

The following graphics provide a snapshot of our community, taken from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2016 Census and the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research 2018 data.

## POPULATION



## OUR FIRST PEOPLE

PEOPLE IDENTIFYING AS ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS



7.4% of our population

## MEDIAN AGE



41 years

## BORN IN AUSTRALIA



94% of our population

## MEDIAN WEEKLY INCOME



\$1,180

ENGLISH WAS STATED AS THE ONLY LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME BY



97% of our population





# OUR COMMUNITY

## SCHOOLING

THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED YEAR 12



30% of our population

## HOUSING

THOSE WHO ARE RENTING - 31%



with a mortgage 64%

## INTERNET ACCESS



65.1% of households

## MEDIAN WEEKLY LOAN REPAYMENTS



\$199 (NSW: \$456)

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



3.5% (NSW: 4.8%)

## MEDIAN WEEKLY RENT



\$153 (NSW: \$384)



THE THREE LARGEST INDUSTRIES BY EMPLOYMENT IN 2017-18 WERE:

AGRICULTURE: 48% OF THE WORKFORCE

MANUFACTURING: 8.1% OF THE WORKFORCE

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: 6.2% OF THE WORKFORCE



# OUR COUNCILLORS



The Murrumbidgee Local Government area (LGA) is divided into three wards, with three councillors elected to represent each ward. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Councillors. Our Mayor throughout 2018-19 was Cr Ruth McRae, and Deputy Mayor was Cr Robert Black.

The Councillors make decisions about what happens across our LGA and ensure decisions adopted are implemented.

During 2018-19, there were eleven Ordinary Council meetings and three Extraordinary Council meetings.

Ordinary Council meetings are generally held the fourth Tuesday of each month, alternately in Darlington Point and Jerilderie. The community are welcome to attend.

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

## JERILDERIE WARD



**RUTH McRAE, Mayor**

0428 861 767

[ruthm@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ruthm@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

As Mayor, Cr McRae represents the entire Murrumbidgee LGA.



**GAILA SMITH**

0428 861 513

[gailas@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gailas@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)



**FAITH BRYCE**

0438 108 803

[faithb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:faithb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

## MURRUMBIDGEE EAST WARD



**ROBERT BLACK, Deputy Mayor**

0428 696 102

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**PAT BROWN**

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**CHRISTINE CHIRGWIN**

0467 544 724

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## MURRUMBIDGEE WARD



**ROBERT CURPHEY**

0448 629 502

[robertc@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robertc@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)



**PHILLIP WELLS**

0408 445 339

[phillipw@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:phillipw@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)

In September 2018, Cr Wells received an Emeritus Mayor award from Local Government NSW. The award recognised his enormous contribution to the community, including 10 years as Mayor.

Cr Wells also received a Certificate of Appreciation for his service to the Council and the community.



**GAVIN GILBERT**

0439 255 448

[gaving@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gaving@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au)



# OUR FOOTPRINT



## Our community includes:

- ❖ A population of 3,836 people
- ❖ 3 townships of Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie, and surrounding rural localities (or part) of Argoon, Bundure, Carrathool, Coree, Four Corners, Gala Vale, Logie Brae, Mabins Well, Mairjimmy, Nyora, Oaklands, Steam Plains, Waddi and Yamma, encompassing an area of 6,880 km<sup>2</sup>.
- ❖ 3 branch offices, 3 depots
- ❖ 122 machines and vehicles
- ❖ 1,721 kms of roads
- ❖ 1 library, 1 mobile library
- ❖ 3 waste depots and 950 bins per week
- ❖ 10 halls and facilities
- ❖ 9 public toilets
- ❖ 2 skate parks
- ❖ 3 sporting ovals
- ❖ 2 sporting complexes
- ❖ 3 swimming pools
- ❖ 1 river, 1 lake, 1 billabong
- ❖ Nature trails and walks
- ❖ 3 cemeteries





# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Murrumbidgee Council has offices in Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie. The Council is a major employer in the area, with a total of 92 staff.

Mr John Scarce commenced as General Manager with Council in October 2018. He replaced Mr Craig Moffitt, who retired after a 48 year career in local government.

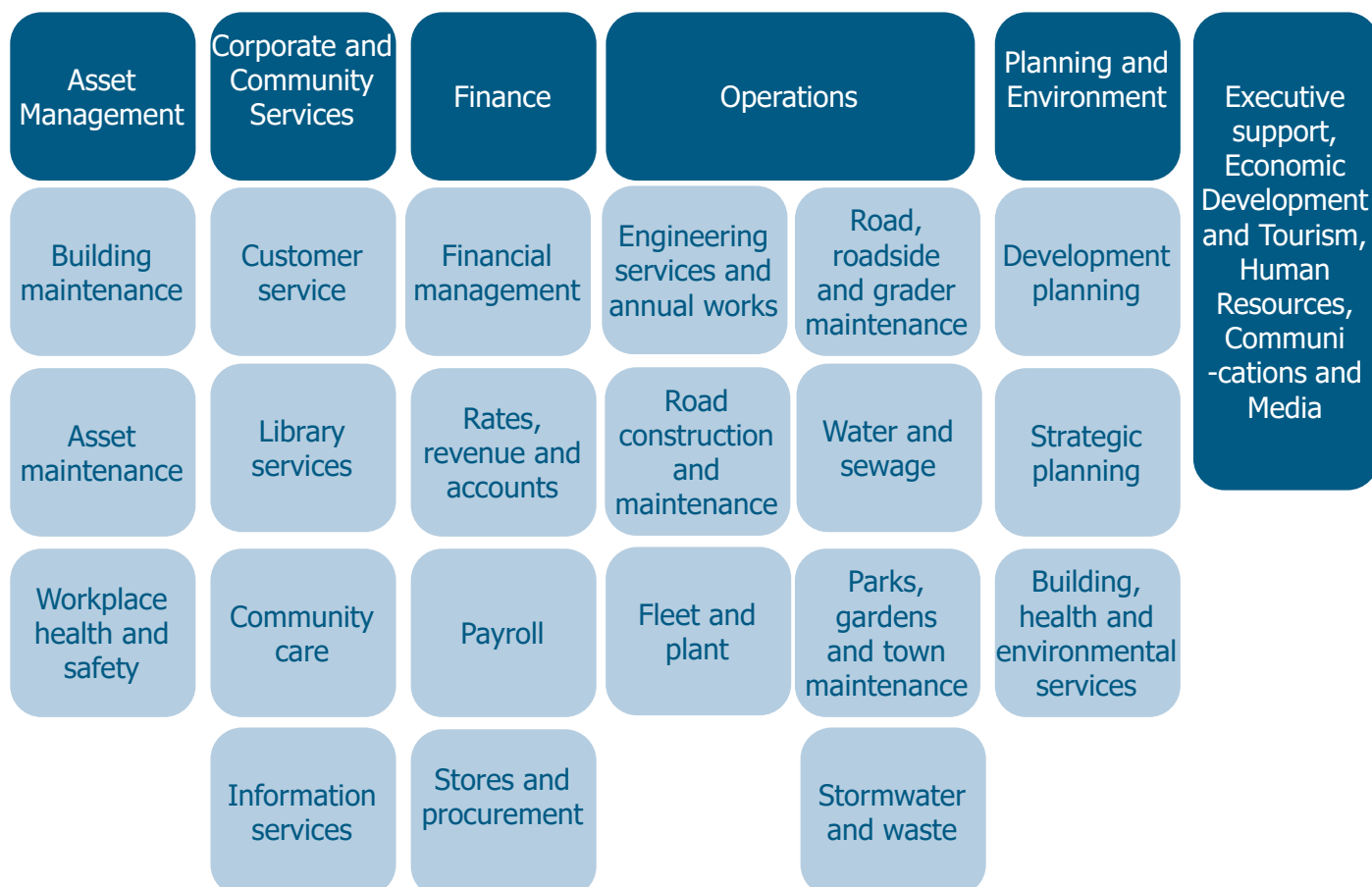
A Senior Manager oversees each Council department, with the exception of Operations, which has two senior managers. The team of senior managers meet on a fortnightly basis to oversee

strategy, policy development and the overall management of Council.

The senior management team also attends all Council meetings and provides information and advice to the Councillors to enable them to make informed decisions on strategic and policy issues.

During the year, Council recognised the service of two long serving staff members. Office Manager, Lisa Bryce and former Director of Technical Services, David Tamlyn, were honoured at the May Council meeting and wished every happiness for the future.

## General Manager



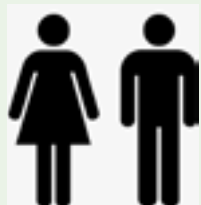
# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

*Our workforce is comprised of a total of 92 employees.*



36% 64%

Total employees:  
33 females and 59 males



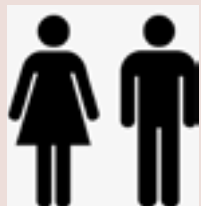
28% 72%

Full time employees:  
22 females and 56 males



79% 21%

Part time and casual employees:  
11 females and 3 males



50% 50%

Senior management:  
4 females and 4 males





# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## ASSET MANAGEMENT

### Road Maintenance Council Contract

The Asset Management team is responsible for the Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC). This contract was in place from 2008-2012, and has been extended until a new contract is prepared, which should be made available to Council in 2020. The contract continues to be an important part of Council's workforce budget and works program.

### Bush Fire Services

Council is currently part of two Bushfire Zones and Management Committees, the Mid Murray and the MIA. A decision is yet to be made by the Rural Fire Service which zone the council will be a part of.

While Council is waiting for a decision to be made it will support to two zones and carry out its obligations in regards to hazard reduction, maintenance and other support which may be necessary.

### Asset Management Policy, Plans and Strategy

As part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting requirements, Council prepares an Asset Management Policy, Strategy and Plans to support its Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Programme and Operational Plan.

Council has these policies, strategies and plans in place for the major asset groups of Buildings, Land Improvements, Water Supply, Sewer Services, Stormwater & Drainage and Transport Infrastructure. These plans are updated annually.

The Asset Management Strategy identifies assets that are critical to the operations of Council and

provides risk management strategies for each. It also contains specific actions to be undertaken to improve the asset management capability and probable resource requirements within certain time frames.

### Condition of Council infrastructure

The building maintenance program for the 2018-19 period was valued at over \$220,000.

Gradual and progressive implementation of budget recommendations has continued within Council's Delivery Plan and Budget. This has ensured the maintenance of existing Council infrastructure. Routine maintenance, storm water repairs, painting, pest control and fire equipment servicing at various locations was undertaken as necessary.

Significant work and improvements have been undertaken in public buildings throughout the Local Government area. Council staff have continued to work closely with the Committees on areas of visual improvement, security, disabled accessibility, safety and convenience.

### Geographical Information System (GIS)

IntraMaps has been implemented, which integrates all data across the Council footprint.







# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Corporate and Community Services covers a broad range of functions, including:

- ❖ Integrated Planning and Reporting
- ❖ Customer service
- ❖ Records management
- ❖ Information technology
- ❖ Library services
- ❖ Community services
- ❖ Bendigo Bank agencies, located at the Darlington Point and Jerilderie offices

During 2018-19 Council merged to an integrated financial system and electronic document management system.

### Community Services

Community Services within the Murrumbidgee LGA are provided by:

- ❖ Direct CHSP-funded service provision on the northern side of the LGA, and
- ❖ Berrigan and District Home and Community Support Services (BDH&CSS) on the southern side of the LGA.

Services offered include:

- ❖ Community transport
- ❖ Meals on wheels
- ❖ Home modifications and maintenance
- ❖ Social support

The home modifications service provides minor to major home modifications, and has assisted many of our ageing residents to stay living in their homes for longer.

Community Transport is a critical service for our community. The service provides transport for various appointments and outings.

### Seniors Week Activities

Seniors Week Luncheons were held in Darlington Point and Jerilderie.



▲ Residents enjoying the Seniors Week Luncheon in Darlington Point.

About 100 guests at the Darlington Point event were treated to an informative presentation by Andrea Kurta, the Riverina Murray Regional

Development Officer for Ageing. Entertainment was provided by Peter Smith, with catering by the Darlington Point Catholic Ladies Guild.

◀ Thank you to the captains and vice captains from Darlington Point Public School for helping on the day.







## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The theme for this year's celebration at Jerilderie was "Class of 2019". Entertainment was provided by Ray McCartney and catering by St Joseph's Parents and Friends Association.



▲ *Jerilderie Seniors' Lunch 2019*

### 2018 Sir John Monash Dinner

The 11th annual Sir John Monash Dinner and Lecture was held on Monday 8 October 2018, in celebration of Monash, the man and the military commander.

Council was privileged to welcome the Hon David Elliott MP, Minister for Counter Terrorism, Minister for Corrections, and Minister for Veterans Affairs to deliver the oration.

Minister Elliott is a passionate advocate of Sir John, and a supporter of the proposition to have promote Monash to the rank of Australian Field Marshal.

He joins a very impressive list of past guest speakers, including Hon Tim Fischer, AC, former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia, Hon Marie Bashir, AD, CVO, former Governor of NSW, and Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston, AC, AFC (Ret'd), past Chief of Defence.

The 2018 Monash Education Bursary valued at \$2,000 was presented to Zac Barlow.

### Community Assistance

During 2018/19, Council also delivered and supported a number of key community activities and projects, including:

- ❖ Australia Day events across our three communities
- ❖ Darlington Point Riverina Classic Catch & Release Competition
- ❖ Portsea Camp
- ❖ Jerilderie Show N Shine
- ❖ League of Silent Flight
- ❖ Jerilderie Gold Cup Race Meeting

### Education Support

Council provided support for students residing within the Murrumbidgee LGA through the following Scholarships:

- ❖ Monash Bursary
- ❖ CSU Foundation Scholarship
- ❖ Community Scholarships







# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

### Jerilderie Library

Regular programs held at the library are:

- ❖ Storytime – Wednesday
- ❖ Knitting – Thursday
- ❖ Monthly movie – third Wednesday
- ❖ School holiday movies
- ❖ Simultaneous storytime

### Highlights for the year at the Library

- ❖ Implementation of a very popular **school holiday and after school program**, where children have access to board games, Xbox and colouring pages.
- ❖ Increased use of the public computers as people require more access to the internet.
- ❖ Completion of the installation of the **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)**. This system for borrowing will give long-term benefits to our library service, allowing staff to focus on client services. Stock losses will also improve with the security gates. Clients are happily using the self-loan kiosk.
- ❖ Four spinners have been purchased to add to our DVD display.
- ❖ The **children's area** has been revamped with the purchase of three multi-coloured book displays.
- ❖ Good use of the **Monash and Banksi Rooms** by the community for meetings and the monthly movie screening.
- ❖ **Peter Allen**, National Co-ordinator Centenary of Anzac Jewish Program, visited the library and donated Jewish Anzacs by Mark Dapin on the

occasion of the centenary of General Sir John Monash's knighthood on 12 August 1918. He also donated a DVD and children's book *Digger's Code* by Marion and Steve Isham.

- ❖ Author **Lisa Shanahan** visited Jerilderie and Coleambally and gave an entertaining talk to students from our three towns.
- ❖ The annual Biggest Morning Tea event was a resounding success, with \$2242.10 raised through morning tea deliveries to 26 business houses (120 serves) and 45 people attending the afternoon tea. Over 100 continuous raffle prizes were handed out, along with a lucky door prize, blanket prize and painting that a local artist kindly donated. *See photo below.*



- ❖ Jerilderie MPS continues to bring residents to the library so they borrow items.
- ❖ Members of the community continue to meet at the library to knit and crochet rugs for distribution throughout the community.
- ❖ A local historian has continued to research using the microfilm reader for the Jerilderie Public School 150 years of education.

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

Key achievements throughout 2018/19 in the Economic Development area were:

- ❖ Establishing and co-ordinating the Murrumbidgee Economic and Tourism Advisory Group (METAG). The group Economic Development Consultative Group that assists Council to deliver strategies and actions for economic and tourism development. It's role includes:
  - ◆ Informing the development and review of Council's strategic priorities for sustainable economic and tourism growth.
  - ◆ Representing the small to medium enterprise sector and the local tourism industry in industry engagement and consultation processes as convened or approved by Council.
  - ◆ Making recommendations to Council on matters relating to business and tourism development that assist the growth of a stronger, more diverse local economy.
  - ◆ Promoting the direct and in-direct value and benefits of economic and tourism development within the local area.
  - ◆ Being a positive advocate for business development within the Murrumbidgee Council area, Western Riverina sub-region; and on a regional, state and national basis.
- ❖ Implementing the NSW Government 'Easy to do Business' initiative.
- ❖ Providing public access to economic and community data via Profile.id on the Murrumbidgee Council website.
- ❖ One-on-one consultations to inform and refer the investment decisions of micro, small

and medium enterprises.

- ❖ Consultations and community engagement for the Economic Development Strategy.

Key achievements in the Tourism area were:

- ❖ Continued membership in Thrive Riverina, Newell Highway Promotions Committee, Kidman Way Committee and the New Kelly Touring Route.
- ❖ Participating in Destination Riverina Murray's 'Go with the Flow' marketing campaign to increase awareness of the Riverina.
- ❖ Achieving Jerilderie's status as a RV Friendly town.
- ❖ Promoting the Murrumbidgee area through the travel show Postcards in March and The Wanderer magazine in May.



▲ Located at Darlington Point, the Altina Wildlife Park is a major tourist attraction in the region.









## OPERATIONS

### Roads

#### Main Roads and State and National Highway

Council maintains 86.94 km of Main Road 321 (Kidman Way) and 4.71 km of State Highway 17 (Newell Highway) under the Road Maintenance Council Contract (RMCC) for Roads & Maritime Services (RMS).

#### Regional Roads (RR)

Council's Regional Roads network comprises 119.25 km and is made up of the following roads:

- ❖ Oaklands Road – Regional Road 323 – 31.90 km
- ❖ Conargo Road – Regional Road 552 – 19.30 km
- ❖ Morundah Road/Main Canal Road/Yamma Road – Regional Road 596 – 28.80 km
- ❖ Berrigan/Oaklands Road – Regional Road 356 – 6.35km
- ❖ Berrigan Road – Regional Road 564 – 15.05 km
- ❖ Urana Road – Regional Road 59 – 16.05 km
- ❖ Whitton Road 183 – 1.80 km

Maintenance works (resealing, shoulder widening and traffic facilities) have been carried out on all of the above regional roads located within Murrumbidgee Council area. This year the Regional Road Repair Program funding was spent on rehabilitation on RR356 (Berrigan - Oaklands Road) and RR596 (Morundah Road).

#### Council Roads

Maintenance works have been performed on all Council roads. This includes heavy patching, sign maintenance, guidepost maintenance, shoulder grading, maintaining fire breaks, maintenance grading and resealing of various roads.

Minor heavy patching works were completed on various roads during the year. Road base and road gravel material was carted to various locations to restore the road network, as per normal maintenance. Council's graders, construction crews and road maintenance crews continued to patrol the road network. Maintenance grading was undertaken as required, with particular notice taken of school bus routes.

Under the Fixing Country Roads Program, reconstruction works were carried out on Eulo Road (\$1,267,075) and McDonald Road (\$882,274).



▲ *Maintaining the unsealed road network is an important responsibility of Council.*

#### Roads to Recovery Program (R2R)

The Roads to Recovery Program has assisted Council to provide a better foundation for Council's road network. This enables Council to add a higher standard of road making material to our existing prior stream gravels and provides the opportunity to upgrade the road network and town infrastructure.

Road base materials help to strengthen and reduce the maintenance of our network, and also provide







## OPERATIONS

better safety in all weather conditions for school buses, residents and visitors to our Council area.

R2R funding was utilised as follows:

- ❖ O'Neill Street, Jerilderie - 116 m
- ❖ Mahonga Street, Jerilderie - 420 m
- ❖ Donald Ross Drive, Coleambally - 2.3 km
- ❖ Coreen Street, Jerilderie - 2 x 210 m
- ❖ Bolton Street, Jerilderie - 116 m
- ❖ Innes Bridge Road, Jerilderie - 5.4 km
- ❖ Harvey Wells Road, Coleambally - 3.6 km
- ❖ Bonnars Lane, Coleambally - 2.7 km
- ❖ Citrus Drive, Coleambally - 1.2 km
- ❖ Bull Road, Coleambally - 3.6 km
- ❖ Fernbank Road, Jerilderie - 3.5 km
- ❖ Channel 9 Road, Coleambally - 2.15 km
- ❖ Main Canal Road, Coleambally - 2.2 km
- ❖ Nyora Road, Jerilderie - 4.28 km
- ❖ Green Swamp Road, Jerilderie - 3.8 km
- ❖ Four Corners Road, Coleambally - 4.3 km
- ❖ Greens Lane, Jerilderie - 1.85 km
- ❖ McDonald Road, Coleambally - 8 km
- ❖ Eulo Road, Coleambally - 5.25 km
- ❖ Wilson Road, Jerilderie - 3 km

### Council's Unsealed Road Program

Council's gravel re-sheeting program has covered various roads including Main Canal Road, Fraser Road, Ercildoune Road, Culley Road, Harvey Wells Road, Green Swamp Road, Wilson Road, Kelmscott Lane, Leary Lane and Moonbria Lane.

Grader maintenance of local roads over the Council road network this year has been consistent with previous years. Currently, the infrastructure within our Council is in good condition, however an increase in funding is required to help maintain Council's resealing program of the sealed road network.

At present, Council's resealing cycle has slightly increased, with 46.70% of the network now on a 12 years resealing cycle, 26.00% on a 15 year resealing cycle and 27.30% slightly above 15 years.

### Town maintenance

The town maintenance programs include maintenance of town streets and amenities, such as tree lopping and new tree plantings, bitumen road maintenance, kerb and gutter maintenance and cleaning, replacement of kerb and gutter, cleaning of storm water drainage lines, signs maintenance, and also slashing within the town areas and entrances, all to maintain and beautify our towns. The toilet block at Coleambally Lions Park was completed. The facility contains five cubicles and has disabled access (*see below*).





## OPERATIONS

### Water supplies

Coleambally's town water is supplied from two bores, the water is filtered and chlorinated. Minor repairs have been carried out to the water mains over the past 12 months. One of the bores has been refurbished.

Darlington Point's town water is supplied from two bores. The water system has recently been upgraded, including the installation of a gas chlorinator. Minor repairs have been carried out, including the flushing of the water mains, refurbishment of the water supply bore and cleaning the bores.

Jerilderie's town water comes from the Billabong Creek. Council's water supply system provides residents with treated water for internal use and raw water for external use.

Minor raw and filtered water repairs to mains and services were undertaken. Jerilderie's older raw water mains will continue to be upgraded with PVC pipe.

The filtered water mains were flushed approximately every three weeks, with regular water quality testing carried out. Raw water mains are flushed approximately four times per year.

### Sewerage systems

The sewerage systems in each town have been maintained to a high standard. Existing settling ponds and sludge ponds have been maintained. Council is licensed to provide waste water from the Jerilderie sewerage treatment plant to the adjacent Racecourse to help maintain its turf track.

No major repairs were undertaken during the past year.

The North Jerilderie sewerage extension works were completed during this year, connecting properties in McDougall Street and Showground Road to Council's sewerage system.

### Parks and gardens

Our parks and gardens staff continue to maintain the extensive network of parks and gardens to a high standard.

The parks, gardens and sports ground areas are a major asset to our communities and our visitors.

A program is in place to upgrade and maintain watering systems in parks and gardens as a means of reducing water consumption, and to assist with grounds maintenance.



### Companion animals

Staff members in each Council office continue to complete the registrations of dogs and cats under the Companion Animals Act. A dog pound is operated in each of our towns and ensures that any animals impounded can be dealt with and returned to their owners quickly.







## OPERATIONS

### Stock control

Various incidents of straying stock were dealt with during the year, on Council roads, Main Roads and State Highways.

### Fleet Management

The Works Depots continued to maintain Council's plant, equipment and infrastructure in excellent condition.

Plant and vehicle replacement purchased during the 2018-19 financial year included the following equipment:

#### Vehicles

- ❖ 2019 Isuzu Dmax 4x2 Crew Cab Chassis Utility
- ❖ 2019 Ford Ranger Space Cab XL 3.2D 4x4
- ❖ 2019 Isuzu Dmax 4x2 Space Cab Utility SX
- ❖ 2019 ZB Holden Calais V Hatch 3.6 V6 AWD
- ❖ 2019 Ford Ranger Crew Cab XL 3.2L 4x4
- ❖ 2019 Ford Ranger Crew Cab XL 3.2L 4x4
- ❖ 2019 Ford Ranger Crew Cab XL 3.2L 4x4
- ❖ 2019 Ford Ranger Crew Cab XL 3.2L 4x4
- ❖ 2019 Holden Colorado LS Space Cab 4x4 2.8TD

#### Plant

- ❖ New Holland B110B Backhoe
- ❖ Ammann AS150DT3 Smooth Drum Roller
- ❖ John Deere 6155M Tractor
- ❖ Mack Trident 6x4 Rigid 535 MP8 Tipping Truck

The stores and amenities are kept in excellent order, providing facilities for Council's stock items, training area and staff facilities.

### Waste minimisation and management

Waste initiatives include:

- ❖ A weekly garbage collection service to the three towns.
- ❖ A fortnightly recycling collection service in Darlington Point and Coleambally.
- ❖ Participation in the RAMJO Waste Management Group to develop regional waste strategies.
- ❖ Mobile phone muster and toner cartridge recycling program at each Council office, with Jerilderie also accepting fluorescent globes, smoke detectors and household batteries.
- ❖ Waste depots in each of the three towns.

### Private Works

Private works carried out with Council's plant and equipment, including road maintenance, has remained steady during the past year and Council will continue to source these works in the future.







# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

The responsibilities of the Environmental Services team include:

- ❖ Environmental Planning
- ❖ Development
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Heritage
- ❖ Environmental protection
- ❖ Sports Centre
- ❖ Swimming Pools
- ❖ Public halls and Council venues

### Highlights for the year

- ❖ The Planning and Environment Department undertook various operational duties throughout the year such as inspection of food premises,

swimming pools, on-site sewage management, and development and building projects.

- ❖ The Liquid Trade Waste process was continued and expanded into the Coleambally and Darlington Point area.
- ❖ Several projects within the Stronger Community Fund Grants, Community Infrastructure Grants and Stronger Country Community Grants were managed by Council's Development Officer.
- ❖ An amendment to the Murrumbidgee LEP was successfully finalised with Toganmain Woolshed Precinct being listed as a heritage item in Schedule 5 of the LEP.
- ❖ Work commenced on preparing comprehensive strategic planning documents for the Council.
- ❖ Following extensive consultation, the Murrumbidgee River at Darlington Point and Environs Flood Study was also completed and adopted by Council. The second phase of this project also commenced.

### Biosecurity

Destruction and eradication of noxious weeds within our Council area is extremely important. Changes to funding for weed control remains a concern and Council has continued to pursue funding opportunities. The annual eradication program is an important part of Council's budget.

Changes have taken place with the new Biosecurity Act covering environmental weeds. The Biosecurity Officers have been attending workshops and training to ensure they remain current with the requirements of the Act.

Council's Biosecurity Officers have promoted environmental weed control and provided support



▲ Council staff Ben Nash and Susie Leeds conducting a sewage inspection.



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

at field days and by distributing leaflets to property and land owners. The eradication of Spiny Burr Grass, Boxthorn and St John's Wort is vigorously supported by Council and the community.

Council continues to slash and spray road shoulders to help with weeds, as well as fire hazard reduction.

### Jerilderie Saleyards

During the year two sales were held at the Jerilderie Saleyard, with 20,083 sheep sold. Regular maintenance at the yards has been performed during the year.

The truck wash at Jerilderie continues to benefit Council, with the Avdata system providing an income stream to help cover maintenance costs and equipment replacement. The truck wash is available to the travelling transport industry.

### Jerilderie Sports Stadium

The Sports Centre is open to the public for unsupervised use, provided users signed a waiver. Usage has increased during the year due to upgraded equipment provided by the Stronger Community Fund and input from the Jerilderie Community Gym Committee.

### Public Swimming Pools

The Coleambally and Darlington Point Swimming Pools were both managed by operators for the 2018-19 season, with reasonable patronage. The Jerilderie Swim Centre was once again operated using a waiver system (unsupervised). The year saw patronage remain steady.





# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

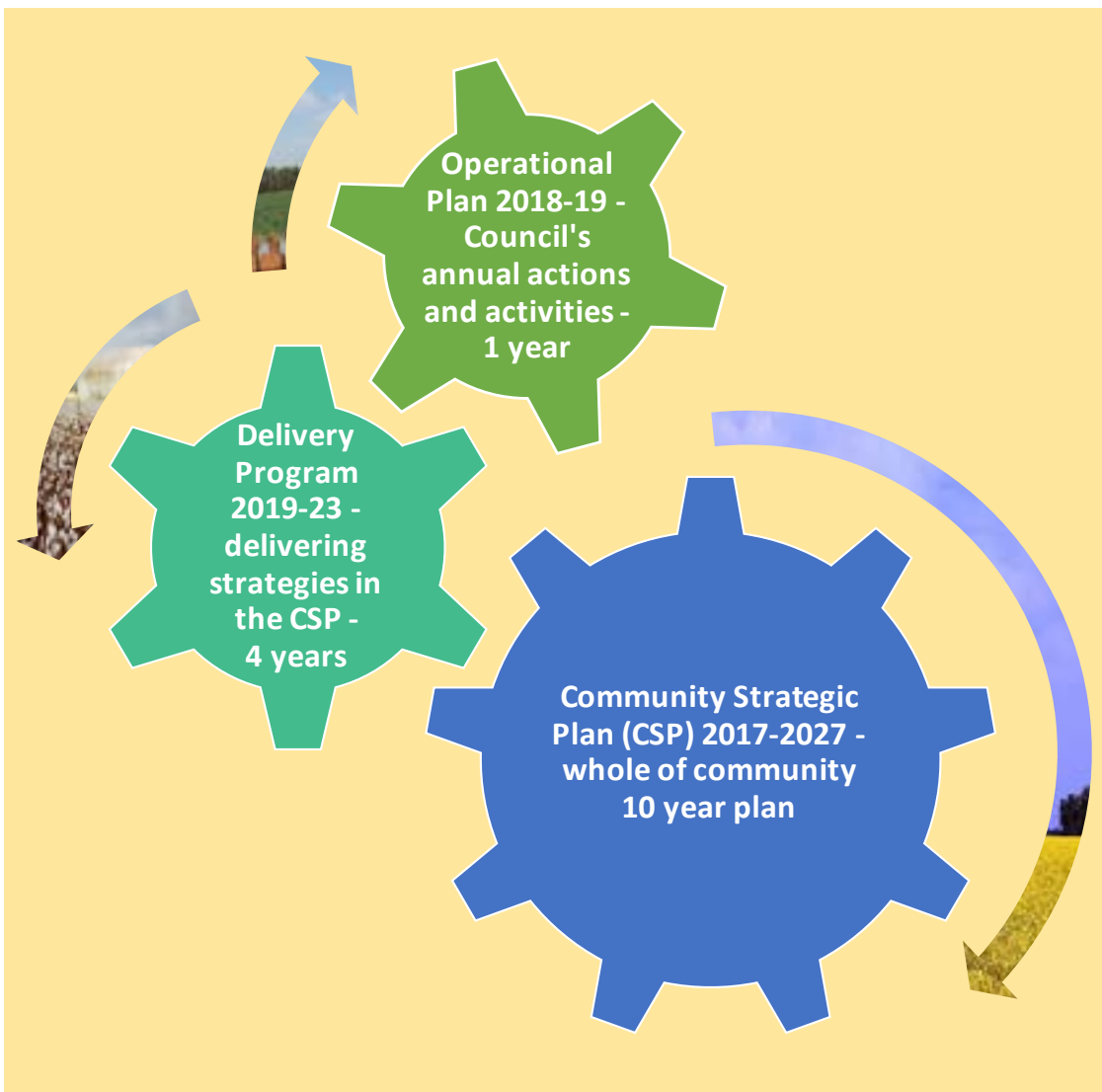
## PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT

### Development and Building Control

Applications received by Murrumbidgee Council from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 inclusive are shown in the table below. Development increased slightly compared to 2017-18, with six more developments.

Type of Construction	Number of Applications	Total Value
<b>Commercial</b>		
Shops/offices	0	
Additions/Alterations	3	\$45,000
Other (including accommodation)	2	\$700,100
<b>Dwellings</b>	12	\$4,009,130
Dwelling Additions/Alterations (includes attached carports and garages, verandahs and pergolas)	12	\$362,600
Detached shed/garage/carports	9	\$214,407
Flats/Units	1	\$1,600,00
Dwellings Demolished	4	\$40,250
<b>Factories/workshops/warehouses</b>	1	\$120,000
Additions/alterations	0	\$120,000
<b>Other</b>		
Includes fences, rural buildings, farm dams and irrigation works, signs, swimming pools, etc.	12	\$9,369,970
On site sewage management systems	14	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>73</b>	
<b>Subdivisions</b>	<b>Number of lots created</b>	<b>Number of lots formally registered</b>
Subdivision applications: 5 applications	11	0

# INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK



The Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework legislation is embedded in the Local Government Act 1993. It requires all NSW Councils to prepare and implement a Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

The CSP sets out the long term aspirations of the community of the Murrumbidgee Council area for the next 10 years. It is the key reference to guide Council's decision-making during this period. It is developed through community consultation and includes the community's vision, goals, objectives and strategies for the future.

The Community Strategic Plan must be reported upon by the outgoing Council and the incoming Council must undertake a review of the Plan.

Council's Delivery Program is a three year program that outlines how these strategies will be translated into actions. It has detailed operational deliverables for each year. The Councillors review the progress of the Delivery Program every three months.

The Council also has an annual Operational Plan that sets out the annual actions and activities.

As part of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) requirements, Council is also required to

prepare an Annual Report, as well as an Asset Management Policy, Asset Management Strategy and Asset Management Plan to support its Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

Council is also required to report regularly on our progress towards implementing the objectives and actions with our Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

More information can be found at Attachment C.





A photograph of two rhinoceroses in a grassy field, with a wooden fence in the background. The image is used as a header for the glossary section.

# GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

ADWG - Australian Drinking Water Guidelines

EPA - Environmental Protection Authority

ICT - Information and Communication Technologies

LEP - Local Environmental Plan

LGA - Local Government Area

LTFP - Long Term Financial Plan

LTSP - Long Term Strategic Plan

RAMJO - Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation

SCCF - Stronger Country Communities Fund

TAFE - Technical and Further Education

WHS - Work Health and Safety

WRL - Western Riverina Libraries