



Wiradjuri Walk is a vibrant addition to Darlington Point

Darlington Point's Fig Tree Park has come alive with an explosion of colour thanks to the Wiradjuri Walk project.

The name 'Wiradjuri Walk' symbolises the journey we've all made through history, starting with the First Nations people more than 60,000 years ago and continuing today in 2021.

The project features public art created by Kerri Weymouth, Bohie Palacek and the Waddi Art Group; historical photos; storyboards capturing the area's history and new entrance statements. It has also resulted in more clearly defined walking and cycling trails in the precinct. These now join up with the 1.8 km Goanna Walking Track, which is a meandering path beside the river through red gum and black box forests, and finishing at the mystical 'Bunyip Hole'.

This project has been supported by many, many people in our community. We thank each and every one of you for your assistance.

We have thoroughly researched this project and the historical information that is presented is correct as taken directly from original published material. It is acknowledged that there may be minor discrepancies between sources given the limitations of reporting at the time.

This project was proudly funded by the NSW Government through the Streets as Shared Spaces Program and Murrumbidgee Council.



This striking artwork, produced by Kerri Weymouth and Bohie Palacek, celebrates the Murrumbidgee River (called 'Big Water' by the Wiradjuri people) and their totem which is the goanna.

2021 Murrumbidgee Council Scholarship recipients

This year we awarded \$1,000 scholarships to four people as part of our annual Scholarship Program.

Congratulations to:

- Dharian Causon
- Jonathan Foster
- Olivia Mauger
- Millie Rossato

Our best wishes to each of these students with their tertiary studies.

IN THIS ISSUE

Rates Aligned	2
Our Roads and the Budget	2
Council Projects on the go	3
Digital Connectivity	3
Services Available	4
Census	4
General Manager Statement	5
Local Government Elections	5
Dog Free Zones	5
Community Grants.....	6
Development Applications	6
Recycling Tricky Things	7
Drought Funding	7
What's On	7
Our Councillors	8
Contacts.....	8



Murrumbidgee Council ratepayers will see rates aligned across the Council area

As a merged Council, this is a natural transition that will see a uniform rating structure across the whole Council area.

What is Rates Harmonisation?

It is the process of redistributing rates across the Council area so that rates are the same for the individual sub-categories (based on the unimproved land value of a property).

It will replace the existing system that used different formulas devised by the former Murrumbidgee Shire and Jerilderie Shire Councils.

This will result in the rating and fee structures being aligned across the Council area.

We have worked hard to ensure the new rating structure achieves the following:

- The rates burden is distributed uniformly across our Council area
- The financial impacts on ratepayers are minimised
- The way we apply rates is simplified and made more efficient

Every sub-category of ratepayers will now have a base rate and the minimum rate has been abolished.

When does Rates Harmonisation begin?

It has commenced this financial year and is reflected in the 2021-22 Operational Plan (budget) and in the first rates instalment.

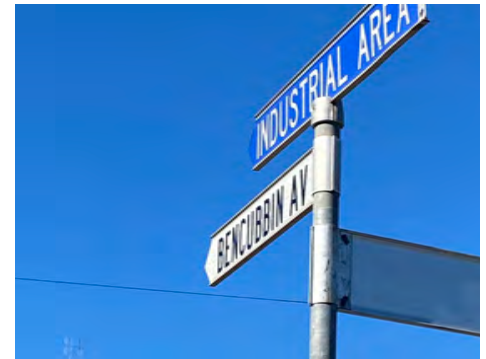
Does Council receive additional revenue by harmonising rates?

The process of harmonising rates across Murrumbidgee Council area will not increase the total rates revenue collected by Council. It simply redistributes the rates more uniformly across our Council area.

The total rates revenue remains the same, other than the standard annual increase permitted by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). The harmonisation process takes the current total general rate and apportions it differently across revised subcategories.

Will services change in our Council area?

The services that Council provides will not change. We will continue to provide the same high quality services traditionally provided. Your rates provide an important source of revenue to allow Council to provide these services.



The reconstruction of Bencubbin Avenue in Coleambally is included in this year's budget.

Roads and capital projects at the forefront of budget

Council spending for the 2021-22 financial year will continue to focus on roads and capital projects.

The combined draft Operational Plan for 2021-22, containing proposed rates, fees and charges, and the Delivery Program for 2021-25 were adopted at the June Council meeting.

The budget outlines Council's spending in the 2021-22 financial year, which will include capital expenditure of \$15 million.

Big ticket capital items include \$3.2 million for water supply upgrades and renewals (subject to grant funding), \$3 million for the Darlington Point subdivision development, \$2 million for roads reconstruction and a further \$2.4 million for renewal works, including resealing roads, gravel resheeting, footpaths, culverts and kerbs and gutter renewals.

To fund these significant projects, Council will utilise anticipated revenue of \$17 million, including rates, annual charges, user charges and fees. A further \$7 million of capital grants will also be an important source of income for Council.

More information

You can contact the Rates team for more information on 1300 676 243 or mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au



Under construction – Council projects

There's some exciting capital projects happening across our area and here's some of the major ones:

Bencubbin Avenue reconstruction, Coleambally

This project is funded by the Australian and NSW Governments, as well by Council. Work is now underway.

Darlington Point Amenities Block

A new amenities block with off-road parking will be built along Carrington Street (Kidman Way), in front of the cemetery. It will include a lift and change facility to cater for people with severe disabilities who are unable to use current standard accessible toilets. The project will be funded with a \$349,980 grant from the Australian Government.



Architect drawing image of the new amenities block.

Coleambally Sporting Precinct redevelopment

Stage two of the redevelopment is now underway. This includes new player and umpire change



Pictured at the ceremonial sod turning for the new Early Learning Centre (ELC), (L-R) ELC Committee Heidi Bryce, Bek Salter, Carina Rorato, Stephanie Girdwood, Deziign General Manager (Contractor) Rick Pridham, Architect Steven Murray, Murrumbidgee Council Director Infrastructure Tom Dimec, Mayor Ruth McRae and Member for Albury Justin Clancy.

rooms and amenities, upgrades to the existing Clubhouse including the amenities and scorer's box, additions to the netball change rooms, including upgraded amenities, a gymnasium, upgrades to the youth hall and new cricket nets.

The work is being undertaken by Kennedy Builders Pty Ltd at a cost of \$1,889,646 (GST inclusive). The project is funded by the NSW Government.

Council has also applied for funding to carry out alterations and additions to the existing squash courts.

Stage one included a new \$434,400 amenities building and junior change rooms at Number 2 oval, funded by NSW Government. It was officially opened by Mayor Ruth McRae and Coleambally Junior Football

and Netball Club President Danny Graham on 24 April 2021.

Jerilderie Early Learning Centre

The new centre will provide a 48 place purpose-built early education facility.

This project has been funded by the NSW Government, as well as grants sourced by the ELC Committee. Construction firm, Deziign, has been engaged by Murrumbidgee Council to undertake the project.

The first sod was officially turned on the project on 28 May 2021. A highlight of the event was the beautiful spades decorated by the preschool children. The new centre will be finished by January 2022.

Find out more on Council's website: <https://bit.ly/3cxXmxz>

Super-fast digital connectivity for our region

\$1.2 million will be injected into telecommunications in our area through the Federal Government's Regional Connectivity Program (RCP). The project will add new 'true broadband' technology on three existing towers and build two new 45m telco towers along the Newell Highway and Kidman Way.

It will deliver better coverage across up to 80% of our Council area, boosting Internet and mobile data to over 3,000 residents and 430 businesses. Also funding the project are Field Solutions Group, Murrumbidgee Council, Nokia (technology partner), Altina Wildlife Park, Cavaso Farming, Cotton Australia and Coleambally Irrigation.



Services available for seniors and those with disabilities

Service	Details / Contacts Coleambally	Details / Contacts Darlington Point	Details / Contacts Jerilderie
Home Modifications and Maintenance*	Cindy Eldridge, Coordinator, Murrumbidgee Council, T: 02 6960 5500.	Cindy Eldridge, Coordinator, Murrumbidgee Council, T: 02 6960 5500.	Berrigan & District Home & Community Support Services, T: 03 5883 2044.
Meals on Wheels*	Available Monday to Friday Kerri Weymouth/Cherie Chirgwin, Murrumbidgee Council, T: 0427 600 971.	Available Monday to Friday Cindy Eldridge, Murrumbidgee Council, T: 02 6960 5500	Available every Wednesday Berrigan & District Home & Community Support Services, T: 03 5883 2044 .
Group Get-togethers (Respite)*	Held every Wednesday 10.30am-2.30pm at the Coleambally Community Hub Kerri Weymouth/Cherie Chirgwin Murrumbidgee Council, T: 0427 600 971.	Availability TBA Cindy Eldridge, Murrumbidgee Council, T: 02 6960 5500.	N/A
Social Support (Visiting, Shopping and other Activities)* Domestic Assistance*	N/A	N/A	Berrigan & District Home & Community Support Services T: 03 5883 2044.
Community Transport (Bus) – available to anyone in the community	Cost as at 1 July 2021: Coleambally \$15 return. Bus pick up points: 9.00am: Departs Coleambally from the Post Office, Kingfisher Avenue. Bus drop off points: Griffith Court House Griffith Visitors Centre. Bus pick up points return: 1.50pm: Side of Woolworths 2.00pm: Griffith Visitors Centre 2.10pm: Bus stop side of Central Plaza. Further information: Community Transport Coordinator, T: 0427 600 971. Funded through the NSW Government Transport for NSW Community Transport Program. Continuation of this service is dependent on funding.	Cost as at 1 July 2021: Darlington Point \$12 return. Bus pick up points: 9.30am: Departs Darlington Point Council Chambers, Carrington Street. Bus drop off points: Griffith Court House Griffith Visitors Centre. Bus pick up points return: 1.50pm: Side of Woolworths 2.00pm Griffith Visitors Centre 2.10pm: Bus stop side of Central Plaza. Further information: Community Transport Coordinator, T: 0427 600 971. Funded through the NSW Government Transport for NSW Community Transport Program. Continuation of this service is dependent on funding.	Weekly bus service departing from the back of Jerilderie Bakery every Thursday (travelling to various nearby towns). Cost as at 1 July 2021: Jerilderie \$10 per return. Further information: Valmar Support Services, T: 02 6920 4162 (please book a week in advance).
Assistance with non-emergency transport for specialist and medical appointments and other activities*	Council vehicle available. Please book early to ensure availability. Cost as at 1 July 2021: To Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera return: Single: \$30, Group: \$20 To Wagga, Albury-Wodonga return: Single: \$90, Group: \$70 Further information: Community Transport Coordinator, T: 0427 600 971.	Council vehicle available. Please book early to ensure availability. Cost as at 1 July 2021: To Griffith, Leeton, Narrandera return: Single: \$20, Group: \$15 To Wagga, Albury-Wodonga return: Single: \$90, Group: \$70 Further information: Community Transport Coordinator, T: 0427 600 971.	Community Transport can be used for shopping, daycare, business appointments, visiting family and friends, medical appointments in Shepparton, Albury, Wagga Wagga and Melbourne. Further information: Berrigan & District Home & Community Support Services, T: 03 5883 2044.

* For CHSP Clients

WANTED:

Volunteer Community Transport drivers in Coleambally and Darlington Point. You will be driving a Council vehicle.

Contact the Community Transport Team on **0427 600 971**.

This year is Census Year

For the first time in Australia's Census history, there will be a window of time to complete the Census, rather than a single night. This means you can fill the form in at a time that best suits you. The Census can be completed online or by using the paper form.

Reminder letters will be delivered to households from mid-August 2021 for households that have not responded. The results of the Census will be released from June 2022 onwards.

Statement from John Scarce, General Manager

Commonwealth Home Support Programme

It has been brought to my attention that misinformation is circulating in the community about how the service has been run, specifically comments about corruption and illegal practices. These comments have been aimed at Council employees and volunteer drivers.

I have in my capacity as General Manager and with my professional qualifications as a Fellow of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants (CPA), carried out an extensive audit of the service. Specific focus was on community transport.

I can assure you if I had found any evidence of corruption or illegal practice, I am duty bound by my position as General Manager and as a member of CPA Australia, to report any such activity, even if only a suspicion.

You can take from the fact that there have been and will not be any referrals to the Police, Office of Local Government or ICAC, over my audit finding, that there was nothing to indicate any corruption or illegal practices.

Did you know we have dog free zones in our Council area?

Your loveable pooch is just not welcome at the following places:

- Coleambally sports precinct oval 1 and 2
- Monash Park
- Darlington Point Recreation Oval

The only exception is people with a disability who are entitled to be accompanied by a certified assistance animal.



On 5 May 2021 when speaking to CHSP Clients, it was explained that things can be delivered differently and not cost the ratepayer large sums of money to deliver the service.

The CHSP staff go over and above everyday wearing their heart on their sleeve to assist our CHSP clients. At no time was it ever suspected, nor did I find anything illegal or corrupt in how they carried out their duties. To hear the malicious gossip and innuendo about these dedicated and highly valued employees is deeply disturbing to them and myself as their employer.

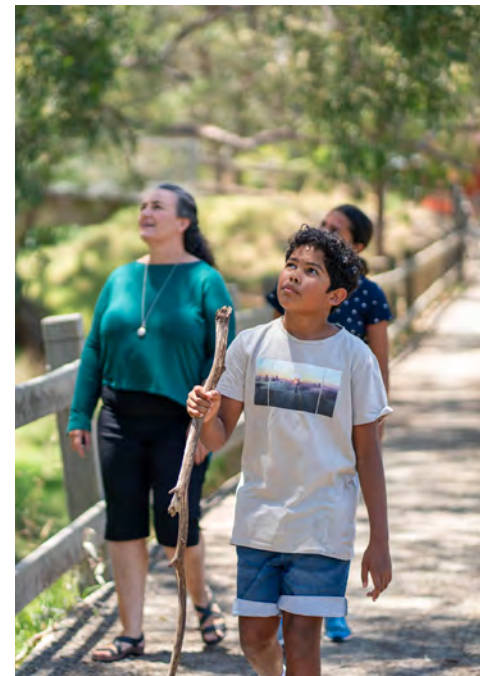
The volunteer drivers are the unsung heroes, using their own vehicles and donating their time to ensure those who needed a lift got a lift. At no time did I suspect or find any illegal or corrupt activity on their part.

The CHSP staff and volunteer drivers should be applauded, not ridiculed. They were focused on providing the best outcome for the clients, nothing else, and definitely not engaged in anything illegal or corrupt.

Yes, the community transport service will change slightly, Council will use their own cars, which run at a lower cost and the volunteer

drivers will be the drivers of the council cars. We will only have one car available in Coleambally and one in Darlington Point, so booking early will be paramount, so staff can manage the service and attempt to accommodate every request.

John Scarce FCPA



Local Government elections coming up

Voting for local Councillors will be held right across NSW on Saturday 4 September.

Some key dates are:

- Lodgement of postal votes: from 27 July - 30 August 2021
- Nominations close of candidates and groups: 4 August 2021
- Conduct of ballot paper drawer for candidates: 5 August 2021
- Pre-poll voting period opens: Monday 23 August 2021
- Election day: Saturday 4 September 2021 8am - 6pm

Murrumbidgee Local Government Area is divided into three wards: Jerilderie, Murrumbidgee (around Darlington Point) and Murrumbidgee East (around Coleambally).

To check which ward you are in, visit:

www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Elections/Where-do-I-vote



Grants inject vital funds into the community

Congratulations to the recipients of the Coleambally Solar Farm Community Fund:

- 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.

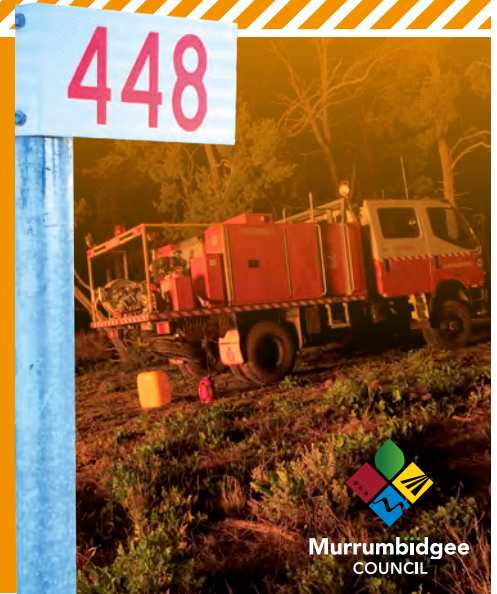
Congratulations to the recipients of the Murrumbidgee Council Community Grants Program:

- 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 Thickenner - spiral head cutter
- Darlington Point Primary School: \$1,701 - Breakfast Club
- Jerilderie Fishing Club: \$2,000 - Learn to Fish Day
- Jerilderie Sports Club: \$2,000 - Five sets of bowls.

Could your property be found in an emergency?

Is your rural property number clearly visible so that emergency services can find you? Check yours today.

If your rural property numbers need replacing contact Murrumbidgee Council on 1300 676 243 or email mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au



Will you be making an application for development soon?

With hard copy applications for development a thing of the past, we're making it easier for residents and developers to use the online NSW Government Planning Portal.

The Planning Portal has been developed as the central electronic platform for all councils across NSW to receive applications. While it became mandatory for all Councils to use this system from 1 July, we moved to this system in December last year.

It means that all individuals, organisations or industry professionals, from home builders, to certifiers, project developers and government agencies must use the portal to make an application.

To make it easier for people to use the online system, we offer a pre-lodgement advisory service. Anyone thinking of lodging an application can meet with staff, either in person or over the phone, and we can clearly outline the steps involved and all the documentation that is required.

This speeds up the whole application process and avoids the

need for additional information to support the application.

We are also assisting locals to lodge an application by providing computers (funded by the NSW Government) at each of our offices, with staff available to assist with the application process. Please make an appointment to do this.

A big advantage of the online portal is that developers and residents can access planning services and information from anywhere at any time, rather than just during business hours, as has happened in the past.

For information on how to register for a Planning Portal account, Quick Reference Guides, fact sheets, and links to other resources, visit planningportal.nsw.gov.au/support/applicant-resource

People are also able to seek assistance in account creation, lodgement and other enquiries relating to the portal, by emailing planning.apps@planning.nsw.gov.au or contacting Service NSW on 1300 305 695.

Recycling the tricky things

Our Council has recently been participating in a campaign with the NSW Government and RAMJO to promote the Community Recycling Centres that are available in our Council area.

We have a free service for the safe disposal of problem household waste at our Jerilderie and Coleambally Waste Depots.

Items you can drop off for disposal are:

- Gas bottles
- Fire extinguishers
- Paint
- Fluoro globes and tubes
- Car batteries (you can also drop these off at the Coleambally Men's Shed)

- Household batteries
- Motor oils
- Other oils
- Smoke detectors



Many of these materials can be reused and recycled if processed correctly. Recycling helps our environment because it saves water, energy and natural resources.

In addition to this, we have recycling stations at each of our Council offices where you can drop off the following:

- household batteries
- printer cartridges
- mobile phones and accessories
- fluoro bulbs
- smoke detectors

Drought funding making a difference

Enhancing the amenity of each of our towns has been a key focus on how the money from the Australian Government Drought Communities Programme was spent.

The new heritage clock in Jerilderie is just one of the many improvements around the Council area.

Over the last two years Council has received two instalments of \$1 million to use on initiatives that stimulate our local economy after the prolonged drought.

Wherever possible, we have used local contractors to undertake the work which has resulted in a valuable injection of funding into the local economy.



What's on ...

Bringing Back the Plains - Wanderer From the Brink Art Exhibition

26 July - 8 August
Jerilderie Civic Hall

Community Outreach Event

Thursday 5 August 2021
8.30am - 12.30pm
Coleambally Community Hall

All levels of government, charities, not-for-profit and agricultural organisations.

\$500 vouchers will be given to eligible farmers, farm workers and farm employees.

More information Claire Butler

T: 0427 563 876

E: Claire.Butler@recovery.gov.au

Census

Tuesday 10 August

Local Government Elections

Saturday 4 September 2021
8am - 6pm

Darlington Point Spring Festival

Saturday 11 September
10am - 4pm
CWA Park - Cnr Carrington and McAlister Streets and Hay Road

Jerilderie Gold Cup

Saturday 25 September 2021

Riverina Classic Junior Fishing Comp

Saturday 2 October 2021
Darlington Point
To register: www.riverinaclassic.com

Learn to Fish Day

Hosted by Jerilderie Fishing Club
Sunday 17 October, Luke Park
9.00am start T: Ian on 0409 339 941



Would you like to have a stall at the Spring Festival?

Size of site: 3.5 x 3.5 m
Cost: 1 for \$25, 2 for \$50, 3 for \$75 (cash only)
Please pay on arrival on day.

More information: jsaxvik@gmail.com
To make a booking head to our website and download a form: <https://bit.ly/3xzBhGR>
Bookings due 31 August 2021.



Health and Well-being Contacts

COVID-19 assistance and support	Mental health, safety and support
Murrumbidgee COVID-19 Hotline (7 days from 7am – 9pm): 1800 831 099	Australian Government Head to Health: headtohealth.gov.au
National Coronavirus Health Information Line 24/7: 1800 020 080	Black Dog Institute: blackdoginstitute.org.au
COVID Vaccine eligibility checker: www.covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/ eligibility	Beyond Blue Support Service (24/7): 1300 224 636 or beyondblue.org.au/get- support for online chat (3 pm-12 am)
Border restrictions for each State: www.nsw.gov.au (type 'border restrictions' in search bar).	Lifeline (24/7): 131 114 or text 0477 131 114 between 6 pm and midnight
Health Direct (24/7): 1800 022 222 - for health advice from a registered nurse.	Headspace and eHeadspace - for young people aged 12-25: 1800 650 890
Beyond Blue Coronavirus Hotline (24/7): 1800 512 348	Black Dog Institute: blackdoginstitute.org.au
Disability Information Helpline: 1800 643 787	Suicide Call Back Service (24/7): 1300 659 467
Support for individual and households: The Salvation Army (T: 13 72 58 www. salvationarmy.org.au) and St Vincent de Paul (T: 13 18 12 vinnies.org.au).	Murrumbidgee Accessline (24/7): support, advice and referral to mental health and drug and alcohol services on 1800 800 944 (freecall)
Aged care support: 1800 200 422 or myagedcare.gov.au	Aboriginal DFV Hotline (24/7): 1800 019 123
Translating and Interpreting Service: 13 14 50	Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services: 1800 938 227

If anyone is in immediate danger call 000.

Dine and Discover vouchers

You have until 31 August to spend your Dine & Discover vouchers. It's not too late to apply if you haven't done so already. You will receive 2 x \$25 Dine NSW Vouchers and 2 x \$25 Discover NSW Vouchers to spend at participating NSW businesses. To apply drop into a Service NSW office, use the Service NSW app or call 13 77 88.

Our Councillors

Jerilderie Ward

Councillor Ruth McRae (Mayor)

T: 0428 861 767

E: ruthm@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Faith Bryce

T: 0438 108 803

E: faithb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Gaila Smith

T: 0428 861 513

E: gailas@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Murrumbidgee East Ward

Councillor Robert Black (Deputy Mayor)

T: 0428 696 102

E: robertb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Christine Chirgwin

T: 0467 544 724

E: christinec@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Pat Brown

T: 0427 546 151

E: patb@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Murrumbidgee Ward

Councillor Robert Curphey

T: 0448 629 502

E: robertc@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Gavin Gilbert

T: 0439 255 448

E: gaving@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

Councillor Phillip Wells

T: 0408 445 339

E: phillipw@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

CONTACTING MURRUMBIDGEE COUNCIL

T: 1300 MRMBGE (676 243) The above number will direct you to your closest office.

E: mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au **Postal Address:** PO Box 96 Jerilderie NSW 2716 **www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au**

Coleambally Office

39 Brolga Place

Coleambally NSW 2707

Office hours: 9.00am - 12.30pm –
1.30pm - 5.00pm

After hours emergencies only

T: 0427 684 166

Darlington Point Office

21 Carrington Street

Darlington Point NSW 2706

Office hours: 8.30am - 5.00pm
After hours emergencies only

T: 0427 684 166

Jerilderie Office

35 Jerilderie Street

Jerilderie NSW 2716

Office hours: 8.30am - 12.00pm –
1.00pm - 5.00pm

After hours emergencies only

T: 0428 579 095

