

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

## ATTACHMENT B: ADDITIONAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS



Murrumbidgee  
COUNCIL



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# STATUTORY REPORTING

*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 at Appendix C.

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

Regulation: Act s 54P(1)

Council did not enter into any environmental upgrades 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 \$103,909 was written off as rates during the year.

## **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.

# STATUTORY REPORTING



## 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 June 2018 Council meeting, Council determined the annual fee levels for the 2018/19 financial year would be \$11,860 for Councillors, with an additional fee of \$25,880 for the Mayor.

The total cost of expenses and provision of facilities for the Mayor and Councillors for the 2018-19 financial year was \$20,660.

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

❖ Provision of facilities	\$683
❖ Telephone calls	Nil
❖ Conferences and seminars	\$3,001
❖ Training and skills development	\$2,643
❖ Interstate travel	Nil
❖ Overseas travel	Nil
❖ Partner, spouse or accompanying person	\$210
❖ Care of child or immediate family member	Nil

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

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

Name of contractor	Nature of goods or services supplied	Total amount payable
Kennedy Builders	Alterations and additions to existing amenities block at Darlington Point Oval	\$620,013.48
Inland Truck Centre	Supply of 2 Kenworth T410 tipping trucks with CBB trailers	\$568,898
Conplant Pty Ltd	Supply of 2 Wacker Nueson multi-tyred rollers	\$360,140
Wagga Trucks	Supply of 2 Mack Metroliner 340 water trucks	605,596
Total Creations & Services	Design and construct Jerilderie 25 metre pool replacement	\$1,963,940
Adaptive Interiors	Construct display and amenities building at Darlington Point	\$580,712
Kennedy Builders Pty Ltd	Coleambally Sports Precinct redevelopment projects	\$1,889,646



# STATUTORY REPORTING



## 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, \$12,069 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 grants to the following people local community groups and organisations.

Recipient	Value (\$)
Portsea Camp Committee	350
Local schools	700
Student scholarships	7,400
Darlington Point 2RG Sunshine Club	500
CSU Foundation Scholarship	4,000
Grants to community groups	58,000
Grants under Stronger Communities Fund	321,572
Total	541,240



# STATUTORY REPORTING



## 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 (formerly DP Levee 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

Tiddalik Wetlands Committee

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

### 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

Western Riverina Arts

Thrive Riverina

Roads and Maritime Services Consultative Committee

Riverina & Murray Joint Organisation

Western Region Joint Planning Panel



# STATUTORY REPORTING



## 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 any controlling interest in any companies during 2019-20.

## 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 township of Coleambally on Wednesday and Darlington Point on Thursday each week.

Council expenditure on Library Services amounted to a total of \$260,344.

Council also has an interest or membership of the following organisations, facilities and arrangements in accordance with the under-listed 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.
- ❖ Joint Regional Planning Panel - which provides merit-based decision making on regional development within the framework of the NSW planning system.
- ❖ Thrive Riverina (formerly known as Riverina Regional Tourism) - is the local tourism organisation for the Riverina. Working in collaboration with Destination Riverina Murray, Thrive Riverina's purpose is to be a marketing collective for the visitor economy in the Riverina aimed at 'experience enthusiasts'.
- ❖ Kidman Way Promotional Committee – Member Councils are Murrumbidgee, Griffith City, Carrathool, Cobar and Bourke.



# STATUTORY REPORTING



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

Regulation: cl 217(1)(a3)

Council's 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 was \$316,159, including salary, fringe benefits, on costs and untaken employee leave entitlements.

Fringe benefits include private use of a Council vehicle by way of a lease. On cost includes employer's superannuation contribution.

General Manager's remuneration package

- i. Total value of the salary component of the package was \$250,148.
- ii. Total amount of any bonus was nil.

- iii. 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 was \$23,764.
- iv. Total value of any non-cash benefits for which the General Manager may elect under the package was \$21,120.
- v. Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits \$21,127.





# STATUTORY REPORTING



## Total remuneration packages of all senior staff members

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

Council employed one Assistant General Manager at a total remuneration cost of \$83,195, including salary, fringe benefits and on costs.

Fringe benefits include private use of a Council vehicle by way of a lease. On cost includes employer's superannuation contribution.

### Assistant General Manager Infrastructure & Environment

- ❖ Total value of the salary component of the package was \$77,202.
- ❖ Total amount of any bonus was Nil.
- ❖ Total amount payable by way of the employer's contribution or salary sacrifice to any superannuation scheme to which the Assistant General Manager Infrastructure & Environment may be a contributor was \$2,509.
- ❖ Total value of any non-cash benefits for which the Assistant General Manager Infrastructure & Environment may elect under the package was \$1,440.
- ❖ Total amount payable by way of fringe benefits tax for any such non-cash benefits \$2,044.

## Stormwater management services provided to the community

Regulation: cl 217(1)(e)

Council levied a storm water management charge on all applicable assessments within the former Jerilderie Shire Council area. The aim of the levy was to raise additional funds to complete future storm water upgrades of the CBD and surrounding areas of the Jerilderie township.

A total of \$11,075 was levied, with a brought forward balance of \$3,196, allowing for a total of \$11,075 to be spent on Kennedy Street, Jerilderie kerb and gutter maintenance works.

## Coastal protection services provided to the community

Regulation: cl 217(1)(e1)

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



# STATUTORY REPORTING



## Enforcing and ensuring compliance with the Companion Animals Act

Regulation: cl 217(1)(f)

Council spent \$39,239 on managing and controlling companion animals within the Council area. 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 2019-20 was lodged with the Office of Local Government.

Two Dog attacks were recorded on the Companion Animals Register.

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

Council complies with the requirement under s 64 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.

Off leash areas are 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 Jerilderie Lake from Bundoora Avenue to the Playground area - as signposted.





## 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)

Murrumbidgee Council and the Berrigan and District Home and Community Support Services are funded by the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP).

The programme provides support for people aged 65 years and over, or 50 years and over for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who need support to remain living independently at home. Carers of these clients also benefit from services provided through the CHSP.

Services provided include:

- ❖ Community Transport
- ❖ Meals on Wheels
- ❖ Home modifications and maintenance
- ❖ Respite Day Care
- ❖ Social Support

## 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 was developed following community consultation across the entire Local Government Area.

The 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.

During 2018/19 a number of new actions were implemented to support the needs of people with a disability including:

- ❖ Additional footpaths and shared pathways
- ❖ PAMP crossings
- ❖ Upgrading of toilet facilities to include disabled access



# STATUTORY REPORTING



## Compliance with and effect of planning agreements

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

Council does not have 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*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| i. Number of inspections of tourist and visitor accommodation: 3    | iii. Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of compliance under s22D of the SP Act: 2 (tourist) and 2 (private)     |
| ii. Number of inspections of premises with more than 2 dwellings: 0 | iv. Number of inspections that resulted in issuance of a certificate of non-compliance under cl 21 of the SP Reg: 1 (tourist) and 5 (private) |

## 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*

Public authorities are required to report annually to Parliament on their obligations under the Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (Section 31). The Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (PID Act) sets in place a system to encourage public officials to report serious wrongdoing.

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: 3
- ❖ The applications were all from members of the public (by 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 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 Council's website.