

Annual Report



**Murrumbidgee
Local Government Area**

2023–2024



**Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL**



Contacts

PO Box 5 Darlington Point NSW 2706
 Call 1300 676 243
 mail@murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au
 www.murrumbidgee.nsw.gov.au

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

We welcome feedback on this report.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and show respect to the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of the Murrumbidgee Local Government Area and to all Aboriginal Elders, past, present and emerging.

We are committed to honouring the continuing connection with First Australians to Murrumbidgee's lands, waters and community, whose culture is among the oldest living in human history.



Cover: Billabong Creek, Jerilderie.

Right: The striking exterior of the Waddi Cultural Centre in Darlington Point. The centre features a display on the Warangesda Aboriginal Mission and an outstanding range of local cultural artworks and stories.

CONTENTS

Part 1 – Overview

Joint Foreword from the Mayor and General Manager	04
How to read this report	05
Our Councillors	06
Our guiding framework:	
The Community Strategic Plan	07
How we measure progress	08
Spotlight on Council	10
Key Highlights	11
Financial Highlights	12

Part 2 – Reporting on our strategic pillars

Report cards

1. Our identity – people and place	14
2. Our natural environment – sustainable living	20
3. Our built environment – liveable places	24
4. Our economy – creating our own opportunities	30
5. Leading by example	34
Our Council team	37
Organisational Chart	38
VALE	39
Congratulations	39

Appendix A – Financial Report
 (under separate cover)

Appendix B – State of the Area Report
 (under separate cover)

Appendix C – Governance Report



Joint Foreword from the Mayor & General Manager

“
... we continue to work together towards a brighter future.
”

As we reflect on the achievements of the 2023-2024 year, we are proud to highlight the progress in fostering a vibrant, sustainable and resilient community. This year has been marked by significant investments and innovative initiatives that not only improve our infrastructure but also foster community engagement and support.

We committed to spending a substantial amount on capital works, including key projects that will shape the future of our community. Noteworthy projects include the \$2.45 million upgrade to Brolga Place, the \$4.5 million residential subdivision at Young Street in Darlington Point and the \$2 million upgrade to the Luke Park precinct at Jerilderie, all of which are due for completion in 2024-2025.

In our ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance our extensive road network, \$4.1 million was spent on the upkeep of 1,721 kilometres of roads across our council area. This includes flood restoration works with further funding to be allocated to this in the 2024-2025 financial year.

This year also marked a transformative change in our waste management approach. We successfully launched a council-wide food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection program, alongside enhanced recycling initiatives. Our commitment to sustainability was recognised with the Keep Australia Beautiful NSW State Award for Communication and Engagement, highlighting our approach to promoting better waste management practices through the Waste to Art competition and exhibition.

Throughout the year, we amended our Contributions Levy Plan to include renewable projects, paving the way for stronger community benefits from future developments. Following this, we were thrilled with the commitment of \$5 million by Origin Energy (through the Yanco Delta Windfarm project) towards the new Jerilderie Medical Centre.

Our financial health remains strong, with rates and annual charges revenue increasing by 4.8% to \$6.6 million, due primarily to a rate peg increase.

Additionally, grants and contributions revenue saw an increase of 21.8% to \$21.2 million, largely driven by additional state funding. Our operating result has improved, reflecting our focus on securing grants while navigating increased costs associated with employee benefits and services.

In closing, we would like to extend our gratitude to our dedicated councillors and staff, whose hard work and commitment have been instrumental in driving our initiatives forward. Your unwavering support and collaboration have made a significant impact on our community's progress.

We also want to thank the volunteers who serve on our council committees; your passion and insights are invaluable to our mission.

As we move forward, we remain committed to enhancing the quality of life in our community. We thank the Murrumbidgee community for ongoing support and engagement as we continue to work together towards a brighter future.



R. E. McRae
Ruth McRae OAM
Mayor



John Scarce
John Scarce
General Manager

How to read this report

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 government legislation requires.

Sections of the report:

1. Overview (pages 4–12)

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

2. The Report Card (pages 13–36)

This section expands on the key themes from the Community Strategic Plan and assesses our success using a traffic light system:

- **Green** Indicates projects that are 85 – 100% complete.
- **Amber** Indicates projects that are 40 – 84% complete and in progress.
- **Red** Indicates projects that are 0 – 39% complete and still in the early stages.

The traffic light system visually represents our progress in achieving strategic aims.

We have included information that shows how each strategic action addresses the quadruple bottom line:

- Social (Community)
- Economic
- Environment
- Leadership

This assessment highlights how our actions align with broader community and environmental goals, economic considerations and leadership principles.

We have also indicated on these pages if service reviews were undertaken throughout the year to assess performance and promote continuous improvement.

3. Appendix A – Financial Report

Provided under separate cover.

4. Appendix B – State of the Area Report

A comprehensive review of our progress in meeting the achievements of the 2021 to 2024 council in meeting the organisation's key themes and actions. Provided under separate cover.

5. Appendix C – Governance Report

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).



Our Councillors

Congratulations

Emeritus Mayor Phillip Wells, who retired from local government in 2021, was awarded an Outstanding Service Award for 20 years of service in Local Government. Mayor Ruth McRae OAM presented this on 25 August 2023.



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 the year was Cr Ruth McRae OAM. The Deputy Mayor was Cr Robert Black.

The Councillors make decisions about what happens across our LGA and ensure decisions adopted are implemented. Thank you to these councillors for their commitment and dedication.

Jerilderie Ward



Ruth McRae OAM
Elected 2017
Mayor 2017-2024



Faith Bryce
Elected 2017



Troy Mauger
Elected 2021

Murrumbidgee East Ward



Robert Black
Elected 2017
Deputy Mayor 2017-2024



Christine Chirgwin
Elected 2017



Tim Strachan
Elected 2021

Murrumbidgee Ward



Robert Curphey
Elected 2017



Gavin Gilbert
Elected 2017



Judith Saxvik
Elected 2021

Our guiding framework: The Community Strategic Plan

Our guiding document for all strategic activities and initiatives is the **Community Strategic Plan (CSP)**. This 10-year rolling plan is essential for steering our community towards its long-term vision and is reviewed at the start of each new council term.

It is developed based on extensive input from community members and stakeholders, reflecting their aspirations and visions.

The CSP is structured around five key strategic areas:

- 1. Our identity – people and place**
Focuses on enhancing our community's unique character and fostering a sense of belonging and pride.
- 2. Our natural environment – sustainable living**
Aims to promote environmental sustainability and the responsible use of natural resources to ensure a healthy and resilient ecosystem.
- 3. Our built environment – liveable places**
Concentrates on creating and maintaining vibrant, functional, and aesthetically pleasing spaces where people can live, work, and play comfortably.
- 4. Our economy – creating our own opportunities**
Supports economic development by encouraging innovation, investment and job creation to boost local prosperity.
- 5. Leading by example – civic leadership**
Emphasises the importance of effective governance and community leadership in guiding and inspiring progress.

Each strategic area is detailed with specific actions and performance indicators outlined in the four-year Delivery Program and the one-year Operational Plan. These components are reviewed regularly to ensure we stay on track with our goals and adjust our strategies as necessary.

This report provides an overview of our progress in these strategic areas. It highlights where we have successfully met our targets, areas where we are making steady progress, and those that require additional attention.

Our vision

Smart growth. Empowered communities. Creating opportunities.

How we measure progress

We keep you informed about our progress in achieving the objectives of the **Community Strategic Plan** through the following methods:

- Half-yearly Operational Plan review:**
 We track each action within the Delivery Program with specific measures and report on our progress every six months.
- Annual Report (this report):**
 At the end of each financial year, we prepare an Annual Report that outlines results and achievements for the year, comparing them to the Operational Plan and Delivery Program.
- State of the Area Report:**
 At the end of each Council term, we compile the State of the Area Report that summarises projects and achievements throughout the term, with a particular focus on the Community Strategic Plan.
- Community Strategic Plan review:**
 Every four years, the incoming Council reviews the plan. This is supported by extensive community engagement to ensure the community's aspirations are considered in all strategic activities. During this review, the plan is updated and rolled forward for another four years to maintain a long-term strategic focus of at least 10 years.

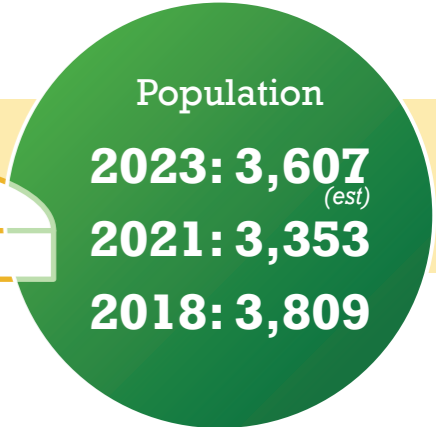
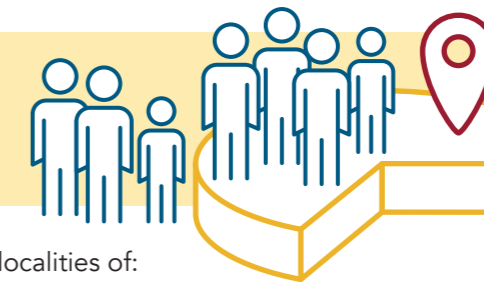


A snapshot of the Murrumbidgee

Murrumbidgee Local Government Area is located in the Riverina region of south-western New South Wales.

The area comprises the three townships of:

- Coleambally
- Darlington Point
- 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, Yamma.

Together, these all form one vibrant rural community.

Land area: **6,885** square km

Population density/km²
2021: 0.5 persons
2018: 0.6 persons

Median age
2021: 45
2018: 41.5

Source: ABS Census

Life expectancy at **BIRTH**

Year	Life expectancy
2020	83.8
2001	79.9
NSW: 2020	84.5
NSW: 2001	80.6

Life expectancy at **65 YEARS**

Year	Life expectancy
2020	87
2001	84
NSW: 2020	87.7
NSW: 2001	84.7

Source: healthstats.nsw.gov.au



Location to cities

- Sydney 615 km**
- Melbourne 324 km**
- Canberra 400 km**

Council engineer, Shamsul Haque, inspecting the work at the Young Street Housing Subdivision at Darlington Point.



COUNCIL SPOTLIGHT

We manage infrastructure worth more than **\$293 million**.

This includes:

- 3 offices (Coleambally, Darlington Point and Jerilderie)
- 3 works depots
- 1 library
- 1 mobile library
- 10 halls
- 3 waste depots
- 800 km of unsealed roads
- 653 km of sealed roads
- 1 early learning centre
- Waste collection for around 2,700 households and businesses
- More than 25 ha of parks and gardens
- 3 swimming complexes
- 3 skate parks
- 3 sporting complexes
- 1 splash park
- 10 amenities blocks
- 2 boat ramps and a floating pontoon
- 3 cemeteries
- 1 saleyard

“
We manage infrastructure worth more than **\$293 million**.
”

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Spending over \$15 million on capital works. Significant projects underway are the \$2.45 m upgrade to Coleambally Brolga Place, the \$4.5 m subdivision at Young Street, Darlington Point and the \$2 m upgrade to the Luke Park precinct.
- Spending \$4.1 million on roads to maintain and upgrade the 1,721 kms of roads in our council area.
- Overhauling the waste management program with the council-wide introduction of FOGO collection and recycling collection for Jerilderie.
- Winning the 2023 Keep Australia Beautiful NSW State Award for Communication and Engagement for using the Waste to Art competition and exhibition as a way of highlighting the opportunities to manage waste better.
- Supporting community development by offering a total of \$7,000 in funding to assist tertiary study and \$20,000 in community grants.
- Amending the Contributions Levy Plan to include renewable projects so we can gain stronger benefits from these projects – a \$5 million commitment from Origin Energy (Yanco Delta Windfarm) towards the new Jerilderie Medical Centre is just the start.
- Improving facilities for electric vehicle owners with a new EV charging station installed at Coleambally (\$26,530 funded by the NSW Government).

Brad Casey with the new garbage truck, 2023.



Financial Snapshot

Income Statement

	2024	2023
Total income from continuing operations	33,258	28,247
Total expenses from continuing operations	25,575	24,311
Operating result from continuing operations	7,683	3,936
Net operating result for the year	7,683	3,936
Net result before grants & contributions provided for capital purposes	-3,119	59

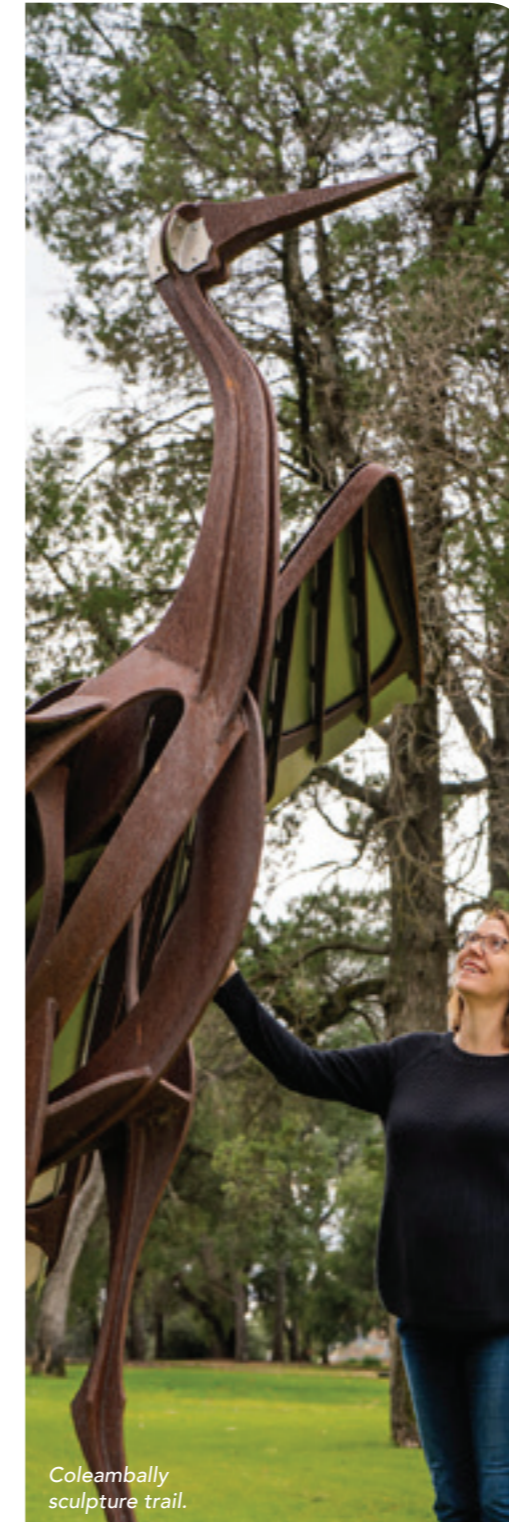
Statement of Financial Position

Total current assets	41,657	41,627
Total current liabilities	7,084	11,896
Total non-current assets	375,451	349,407
Total non-current liabilities	274	292
Total equity	409,750	378,846

Other Financial Information

Unrestricted current ratio (times)	6.50	5.80
Operating performance ratio (%)	-13.39%	4.65%
Debt service ratio (times)	567.67 x	0
Rates and annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	9.39%	8.61%
Infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	58.87%	34.08%
Own source operating revenue ratio (%)	36.12%	38.23%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	19.32	27.54

Reporting on our strategic pillars



This section highlights our progress in fulfilling the commitments outlined in the **Community Strategic Plan** for the 2023-2024 financial year.

It is structured around the five key themes of the plan, which serve as strategic pillars guiding our work in partnership with the community to turn local visions and aspirations into reality.

Central to our efforts is the fulfilment of our legislative obligations and responsibilities as a local government body.

As outlined in previous sections, those themes are:

1. Our identity – people and place
2. Our natural environment – sustainable living
3. Our built environment – liveable places
4. Our economy – creating our own opportunities
5. Leading by example

Turning
local visions
and aspirations
into reality

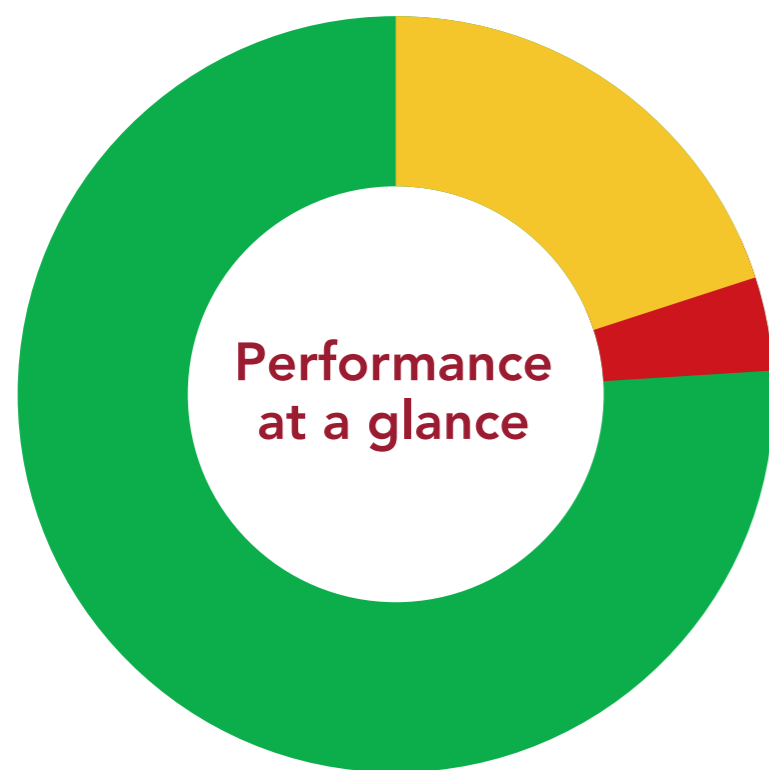
Our identity – people and place

Community vision

We all live happily in a thriving, safe and vibrant community.
 We feel safe and connected with equal access to community infrastructure and services.
 We celebrate the diversity of our three towns and value our rural lifestyle.

Total actions

96% actions completed or on track



KEY:

- Green** (85-100% complete)
Completed or on track 35 | 76%
- Amber** (40-84% complete)
Working towards 10 | 20%
- Red** (0-30% complete)
Off track 2 | 4%

Our report card

Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
Community and public transport	• Work together to achieve enhanced community and public transport accessibility	🟢
Housing	• Support a housing mix that gives choice and meets the needs of the community	🟡
Utility costs	• Advocate for cheaper utility costs, particularly electricity costs	🟢
Health and medical services	• Advocate and work for greater access to health and medical services	🟢
Equity and inclusivity – embrace and empower all groups	• Embrace and empower all groups within the community, particularly First Nations people, youth, seniors, people with mixed abilities, socially and economically disadvantaged, and people from multicultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds	🟢
Cultural identities – heritage and diversity	• Provide opportunities for our community to showcase their heritage and diversity	🟢
	• Implement and encourage projects that achieve social cohesion, and celebrate diversity and inclusiveness	🟢
	• Work with each town to retain and celebrate their unique identities, while working towards a shared vision for our area	🟡

(continued overleaf)



Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
Social cohesion and connection	• Promote and support sporting, social, recreational and cultural opportunities and activities to increase participation and inclusion	●
	• Work with the community to provide a diverse mix of community entertainment and wellbeing activities	●
	• Empower our community to embrace technology and innovation	●
	• Advocate for improved telecommunications and utilities	●
	• Encourage and expand volunteering opportunities	●
	• Enhance education opportunities in the area	●
	Healthy, active and safe communities	• Plan for and provide excellent parks, gardens and neighbourhoods
• Encourage an active lifestyle with outstanding recreational facilities and spaces		●
• Work together to enhance community safety		●
• Work together to enhance a safe road network		●
• Build community understanding to meet public health standards		●
• Partner with providers of emergency services to ensure appropriate response levels to community emergencies		●
• Work with the community to ensure responsible animal management and compliance with relevant legislation		●

KEY: ● Green 85-100% complete; ● Amber 40-84% complete; ● Red 0-30% complete

These actions met the following quadruple bottom line principles: economic, social, environmental and civic leadership.

Highlights

- Joined the Darlington Point/Coleambally RSL Sub-Branch and the community to mark 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War with a Service of Remembrance to honour LCPL P McDuff who was killed in action in Vietnam.
- Held citizenship ceremonies for 6 conferees: Kevin Moran, Jackie-Ann Molloy, Liza Hore, Rosanna Tempest, Melissa Nioko and Lucia Gurciullo.
- Funded and provided free events for seniors.
- Hosted free events for youth and juniors (funded by the NSW Government) for school holidays and Youth Week.
- Visited Coleambally Central School (with heavy machinery) to talk about careers in local government.
- Proudly participated in the official opening of the new Waddi Cultural Centre at Darlington Point on 23 August 2023. The exterior of the building features artwork by renowned artist Allan McKenzie.
- Ran the *Waste to Art* competition and hosted exhibitions in each town. Thank you to Western Riverina Arts for their support of this project, along with mentor Bill Tink from NetWaste and judges, Anya Whitehead, Cr Christine Chirgwin and Isis Rae Ronan. Congratulations to Preschool/Primary section Winner: Ryder Billing; and Highly Commended: Milla Rorato and Coleambally Preschool and Early Learning Centre. High School/Community section Winners: Travis Lawton and Heather Goudie; and Highly Commended: Gail Hibbert and Bridgett McNeilly.
- Provided \$20,000 in community grants to Coleambally Squash Club, Country Education Foundation of Coleambally/Darlington Point, Cypress View Lodge, Darlington Point Men’s Shed Inc, Darlington Point Riverina Classic Catch & Release Fishing Competition, Jerilderie Apex Club, Jerilderie Bowls Club via Jerilderie Sports Club, Jerilderie Football Netball Club, Toganmain Woolshed Precinct and Waddi Cultural Information Centre.
- Coordinated the Neoen Coleambally Solar Farm \$20,000 distribution of community funding to Coleambally Central School P&C Association, Coleambally Squash Club, Darlington Point Public School P&C, Yamma Management Committee and the annual allocation to Murrumbidgee Community Experimental/Demonstration Farm.

Highlights *(continued)*

- Coordinated the Darlington Point Lions Club Grant Program with grants to Kayne Ballintine and Rebecca Norris, Darlington Point Swimming Pool, \$1,000 each.
- Celebrated Australia Day awards in each town.
Our thanks to community groups involved in these events.
Congratulations to:

Coleambally

Citizen of the Year:	Chris Gardiner
Young Citizen of the Year:	Eloise Jay
Lifetime Achievement Award:	Samantha Harris
Event of the Year:	<i>Can do the Challenge</i>
Sportsperson of the Year:	Michelle Brain
Junior Sportsperson of the Year:	Tara Bedard
Sub-junior Sportsperson of the Year:	Harvey Pound
Sporting team of the Year:	St Peter's Swimming Relay Team: Logan Pound, Fergus Steers, Giselle Gill and Breanna Witham

Darlington Point

Citizen of the Year:	Troy Heath
Young Citizen of the Year:	Jharal Coe
Junior Sportsperson of the Year:	Zavian Miles
Event/Group Achievement of the Year:	Darlington Point Rural Fire Brigade

Jerilderie

Citizen of the Year:	Joan Ferris
Sportsperson of the Year:	Trevor Eldridge
Little Aussie Awards:	William Maynard and Jacinta Eldridge

- Assisted with Australia Day events in each town.
Thank you to the Australia Day ambassador, John Harper from *Mate Helping Mate*.
Australia Day Council provided funding.

Highlights *(continued)*

- Funded \$9,000 annually in education scholarships:
 - Murrumbidgee Council Education Scholarships (\$1,000 each) awarded to: Tiarna Burke, Zavier Cadorin and Olivia Whelan.
 - Murrumbidgee Council Charles Sturt University Foundation Scholarship (\$4,000) to: Tiarna Burke
 - Monash Bursary (\$2,000): no recipient
- Advocated for Early Learning Centres at Coleambally and Darlington Point
- Preserved heritage items in the area (jointly funded by the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and Murrumbidgee Council). Congratulations to St Joseph's Catholic Church, Jerilderie (\$5,000); Punt Hotel, Darlington Point (\$4,000); The Homestead, the Barracks, Darlington Point (\$5,000); the former Presbyterian Church, Darlington Point (\$4,000); Toganmain Woolshed, Darlington Point (\$4,750); Darlington Point Post Office (\$1,000).

“

The heritage funding was vital in preserving our area's rich heritage and ensuring the longevity and integrity of these cherished buildings and sites for generations to come.

The restoration works, enabled by this funding, will encompass a spectrum of essential activities aimed at breathing new life into the various sites and conserving their structural integrity and visual appeal.

– Cr Ruth McRae OAM

”

Key areas we fell short in this year

- Addressing the housing shortage – ongoing – the Darlington Point subdivision will be completed in the 2024-2025 year.
- Lobbying for new communication networks – ongoing.
- Improving childcare services in Coleambally and Darlington Point – ongoing.

Service reviews undertaken

- Library services.

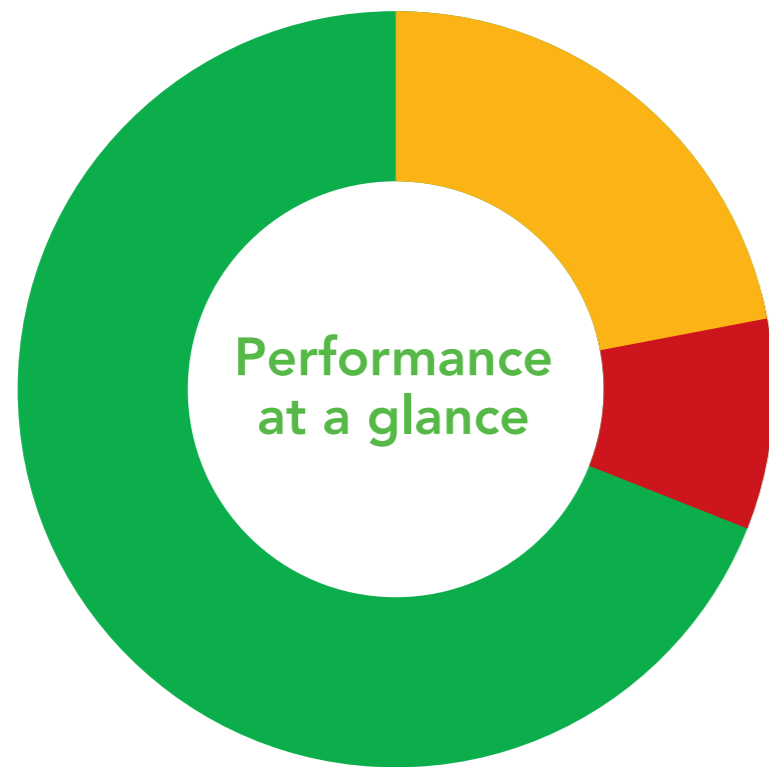
Our natural environment – sustainable living

Community vision

We live in a wonderful natural environment that we value highly. We undertake a stewardship role to protect and enhance sustainable living through appropriate practices and management.

Total actions

91% actions completed or on track



KEY:

- **Green** (85-100% complete)
Completed or on track 16 | 69%
- **Amber** (40-84% complete)
Working towards 5 | 22%
- **Red** (0-30% complete)
Off track 2 | 9%

Our report card

Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
Protected environment	• Work together to protect, manage and promote the health of our natural environment, including our landscapes, waterways	🟢
	• Promote awareness of environmental issues and climate challenges	🟢
	• Work together to manage pest plants and animals	🟢
Carefully managed resources	• Support sustainable energy initiatives and manage Council's energy consumption wisely	🟡
	• Support waste minimisation by encouraging reusing, renewing and recycling, with sustainable waste disposal and management	🟡
	• Encourage the conservation of water resources and sustainable water reuse	🟡
Balanced growth, development and environmental protection	• Preserve local character and stimulate the conservation of important heritage assets	🟡
	• Facilitate sustainable land use planning and ensure developments are well planned, sustainable, meet legislative requirements and have minimal environmental impacts	🟢
	• Encourage local development, while protecting public interest	🟢
	• Promote best practice public and environmental health activities	🟢

KEY: ● **Green** 85-100% complete; ● **Amber** 40-84% complete; ● **Red** 0-30% complete

These actions met the following quadruple bottom line principles: economic, social, environmental and civic leadership.

Highlights

Waste Management

- July 2023 implementation of Food Organics and Garden Organics Collection across the entire council footprint – bins and kitchen caddies funded with a \$130,650 grant from the NSW EPA.
- July 2023 introduction of recycling collection in Jerilderie.
- Purchase of a new garbage truck allowing one truck to service the whole council area for all 3 streams of waste with a 30% improvement on collection rates compared to the old truck.
- New red lids fitted to all garbage bins in line with state practices.
- Intensive engagement was carried out to support the overhaul of waste collection. Included in the engagement strategy was a *Waste to Art* competition and exhibition which focused on reused and recycled materials. The NSW Government funded the exhibition. The strategy won the *NSW Tidy Towns Communication and Engagement Award*. Another important component in spreading the message about sorting properly was visits to schools and preschools in partnership with Wormtech.
- Investigated rural waste collection – not feasible at this stage.



Engaging with local children was essential in promoting awareness of the new 3-bin waste system. Pictured are teachers and students from Coleambally Public School, learning about proper waste sorting with the new system from Gary Dal Broi of Wormtech and Lana Gordon from Murrumbidgee Council, May 2023.

Highlights *(continued)*

Planning

- Amendment of Contributions Levy Plan to include renewable projects – then secured \$5M commitment from Origin Energy (Yanco Delta Windfarm) towards new Medical Centre at Jerilderie.

“

The council is delighted to partner with Origin to bring this transformative project to Jerilderie and the surrounding area.

– Cr Ruth McRae OAM

”

Key areas we fell short in this year

- Implementing energy initiatives identified in the Murrumbidgee Council Energy Audit – ongoing pending funding.
- Developing and adopting the Murrumbidgee Council Development Control Plan – to be completed in 2024-2025.
- Diverting waste from landfill – ongoing.
- Upgrading the water facilities in each town – ongoing.

Service reviews undertaken

- Biosecurity.

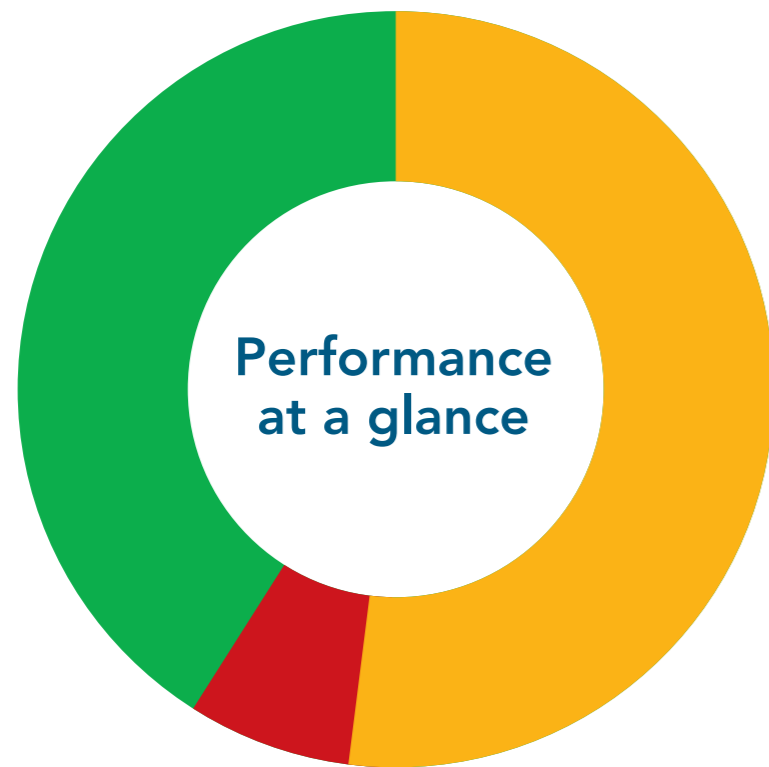
Our built environment – liveable places

Community vision

We all enjoy access to well-planned social and community infrastructure and spaces, which are developed and maintained to a high standard.

Total actions

93% actions completed or on track



KEY:

- **Green** (85-100% complete)
Completed or on track 11 | 41%
- **Amber** (40-84% complete)
Working towards 14 | 52%
- **Red** (0-30% complete)
Off track 2 | 7%

Our report card

Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
Council assets	• Efficiently manage, maintain and enhance Council's assets	○
	• Efficiently manage Crown Land resources	○
	• Improve street and building accessibility for those with mixed abilities	○
Open spaces	• Activate spaces and places to complement activity around waterways, urban areas and green spaces for families, the community and visitors	○
	• Enhance sporting, recreation and leisure facilities and opportunities	○
Road network	• Work together to maintain and develop a highly functioning road network (reserve), including roads, footpaths, bridges, cycleways, kerb and guttering, and drainage systems	○
Council utilities	• Manage Council's utility assets in line with best practice standards and priorities	○

KEY: ● **Green** 85-100% complete; ● **Amber** 40-84% complete; ● **Red** 0-30% complete

These actions met the following quadruple bottom line principles: economic, social, environmental and civic leadership.

Major projects completed

- Coleambally Community Hall upgrade, \$625,699 – funded by NSW Stronger Communities Fund.
- Darlington Point Lift and Change Toilets, \$371,143 – funded by Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 2.
- Darlington Point Young Street Subdivision Construction commenced, \$4.5 million – funded by the NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund and internal loan funds.
- Jerilderie Luke Park and Powell Street Precinct Redevelopment (in progress), \$2 million – funded by the NSW Government Public Space Program.
- Jerilderie Monash Park – Netball precinct – new change rooms (in progress), \$900k – funded partly by the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 4.
- New electric vehicle charging station in Brolga Place, Coleambally, \$26,530, funded by the NSW Government.
- Monash Park Electrical Upgrade, \$150,000, funded by Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 4.



Electric vehicle charging station, Brolga Place, Coleambally.

- Darlington Point Swimming Pool dosing plant and solar heating, \$75,000, funded by Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 4.
- Jerilderie Swimming Pool solar blankets, \$80,000, funded by Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 4.
- Coleambally Swimming Pool shade shelter and amenities upgrade, \$250,000; shade shelters completed, \$81,085; tiling of the pool to be completed, funded through Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 3.

Major road projects

- Bencubbin Avenue rehabilitation, total project \$3.2m, funded from the Australian Government's Heavy Vehicle Safety Program, Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program and Roads to Recovery grant, together with NSW Stronger Communities Fund and Murrumbidgee Council.
- Four Corners Road – stabilising and sealing, \$2.7m – funded through Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 3, NSW Government Fixing Country Roads Program, and Australian Government Roads to Recovery Program.
- Pothole Repair Program – repair potholes on regional and local roads, \$545,835, funded by Transport for NSW under Fixing Local Roads program.
- Channel Nine Road – reconstruction, \$1.2m, funded by Transport for NSW Fixing Country Roads program.
- Secured \$7.9 million in road repair funding from the 2022 floods.
- Coleambally Calrose Avenue reconstruction, \$584,700, funded by the NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund and Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 5.
- Off-road carparking Carrington Street, Darlington Point, \$750,000, funded through Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 3.

Projects underway

- Coleambally Brolga Place upgrade, total project \$2.45m – funded by NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund and Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 5.
- Monash Park Jerilderie – Netball precinct – new change rooms, \$750k, funding provided from the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund – Round 4.
- Levee Rehabilitation Ross Street Pump – Darlington Point, \$649,500, jointly funded by Office of Environment and Heritage and Murrumbidgee Council.
- Darlington Point Young Street Subdivision Construction commenced, \$4.5 million – funded by the NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund and internal loan funds.
- Luke Park Precinct Redevelopment – Upgrade Civic Hall and Luke Park surrounds, \$2m, funded by the NSW Government Public Spaces Program.
- Regional and Local Roads Repair Program RLRRP – Road maintenance and repairs on regional and local roads, \$2.895m, funded by NSW Government Transport for NSW.
- Regional Emergency Road Repair Fund RERRF – Road maintenance and repairs, \$4.061m, funded by NSW Government Transport for NSW.

To be undertaken

- Riverside Caravan Park, Darlington Point – Cabin replacement, \$1m, funded by NSW Local Government Recovery Grant.
- Lift and change facility, Jerilderie, \$437,721, funded by Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 4.
- Coleambally No. 1 Oval – Turf wicket and practice nets, \$175,000, funded by Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 4.
- Coleambally Cemetery – Fencing and irrigation, \$80,000, funded by Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 4.

- Kerb and Gutter Rehabilitation – Nowranie, Southey and Jerilderie Streets, Jerilderie; Campbell and Carrington Streets, Darlington Point, \$581,449, funded by Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 4.
- Integrated Water Cycle Management (IWCM) Plan, \$312,847 – work is continuing on the IWCM, this is a collaborative plan with other organisations involved in the water cycle and it will outline how we plan for and manage all elements of the water cycle, including the delivery of water, wastewater and stormwater services.
- Darlington Point Water Treatment Plant – Additional water reservoir to improve water quality and pressure, up to \$600,000 – funded by NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund.

Key areas we fell short in this year

- Reviewing Council's asset management framework and plan – external contractors engaged to develop this with work ongoing.
- Developing 10-year maintenance and renewal budget and program – ongoing.
- Improving accessibility of public amenities across the council area – this program is ongoing and pending funding; Jerilderie's Lift and Change fully accessible toilet will be completed in 2024-2025.
- Increasing the number of walking tracks in urban areas – new strategy has been adopted. Projects are pending funding.
- Adopting masterplans for public recreation areas and precincts – in progress.
- Completing the annual stormwater asset capital works program – in progress.
- Upgrading stormwater facilities and systems in line with priorities – in progress (pending Asset Management Plan for stormwater assets).

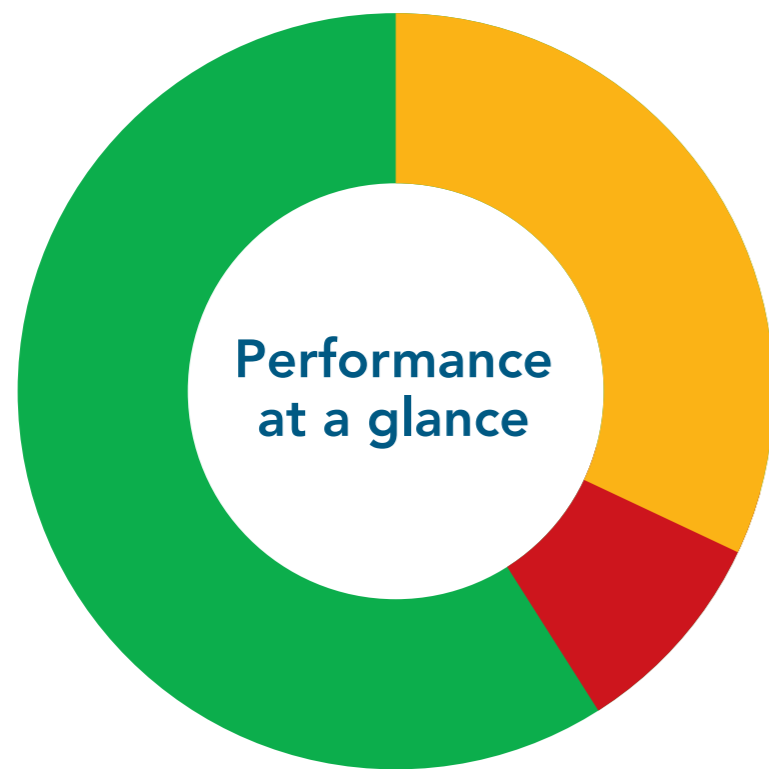
Our economy – creating our own opportunities

Community vision

Our thriving economy enjoys business and investment growth, with new and existing businesses and industries proactively achieving development and business success.

Total actions

91% actions completed or on track



KEY:

- **Green** (85-100% complete)
Completed or on track 13 | 59%
- **Amber** (40-84% complete)
Working towards 7 | 32%
- **Red** (0-30% complete)
Off track 2 | 9%

Our report card

Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
Resident and business attraction and satisfaction	• Provide an environment for business growth and attraction	●
	• Promote our area for business and investment	●
	• Increased workforce participation	●
	• Overcome barriers to business and industry expansion	●
	• Develop economic plans and strategies to drive sustainable economic growth	●
Social, recreational and cultural vibrancy	• Tourism promotion	●
	• Event promotion	●
	• Waterway recreation promotion	●
Vibrant agricultural sector	• Address impediments and identify initiatives to ensure the sustainability of the agricultural sector	●

KEY: ● **Green** 85-100% complete; ● **Amber** 40-84% complete; ● **Red** 0-30% complete

These actions met the following quadruple bottom line principles: economic, social, environmental and civic leadership.

Highlights

- New resident attraction: new Welcome Guide and hosted welcome events in all 3 towns, showcasing community and sporting groups in each town.
- 21 grant applications submitted, securing \$645,842 in funding.
- Business events as part of NSW Small Business Month: Cyber Security on 11 October 2023 and Stress Management on 18 October 2023.
- New 'Explore Murrumbidgee' guide – a tourism and business guide for our LGA.
- *Women in Rice* networking session in Coleambally on 5 March 2024. Over 30 women attended the event which was hosted by Murrumbidgee Council and Ricegrowers' Association of Australia as part of NSW Women's Week with funding for NSW Women's Week.
- Launch of a new 'Venue Guide' on our website showcasing around 30 diverse venues available for hire, suitable for groups and organisations of various sizes.

- Formation of the consortium of Griffith City, Leeton Shire, Murrumbidgee and Narrandera Shire Councils to deliver and implement a Regional Drought Resilience Plan through the Future Drought Fund. The Australian Government and NSW Government funded the project with a \$560,000 grant.
- Red Cross RediPlan workshops in each town to build preparedness in times of disaster as part of the Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (DRRF) project. Provided jointly by Riverina and Murray Joint Organisation (RAMJO) and Murrumbidgee Council. The projects were jointly funded by the Commonwealth and New South Wales governments.
- Economy ID updates for business: 16 August 2023 for both Darlington Point and Jerilderie.
- Business Support Sessions held in January and February providing the opportunity for face-to-face meetings with Government support agencies.
- Supported the Coleambally Careers Day on 25 June 2024. The event was hosted by Coleambally Central School P&C and CICL, with 14 businesses from Coleambally participating and approximately 50 students from years 9-12.



Citizenship Ceremony, with Melissa Nioko, Lucia Gurciullo and Mayor Ruth McRae, May 2024.

Key areas we fell short in this year

- Working with stakeholders to identify supply chain opportunities and weaknesses the council can advocate for – ongoing.
- Making improvements to council assets to activate the area (based on the Management Plans for council assets) – ongoing.
- Developing the Darlington Point Caravan Park – ongoing – pending funding.

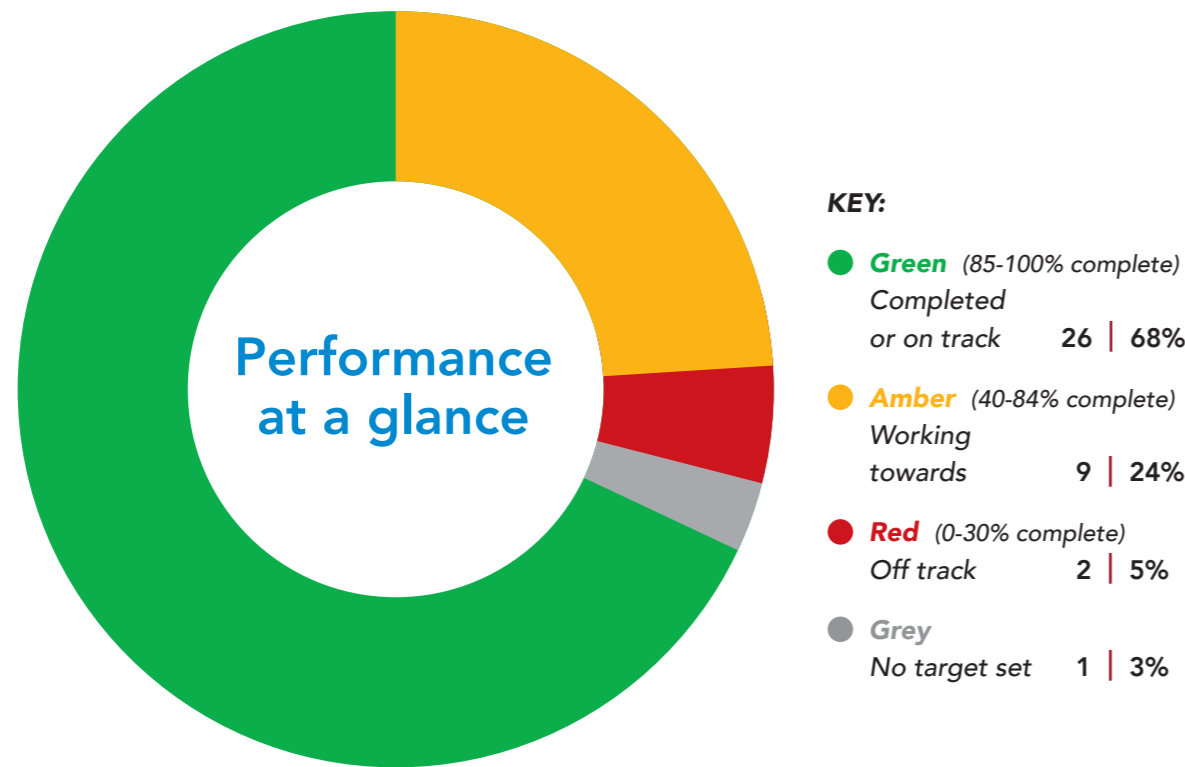
Leading by example

Community vision

We are a highly respected local council who is recognised as a proactive civic leader that embraces opportunities for the area and community.

Total actions

92% actions completed or on track



Our report card

Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
Strong partnerships with community, government and stakeholders	• Strong, effective alliances	🟢
	• Excellent customer experience	🟢
	• Sound legislative decision making	🟢
	• Best practice financial, corporate and operational management and reporting	🟢
	• Best practice procurement activities, as well as risk and project management	🟡
	• Innovative methods to source income as a local government body	🟢
Effective and meaningful engagement	• Providing genuine, simple and accurate information that is accessible and inclusive	🟢
	• Transparency and accountability	🟢
	• Meet Integrated Planning & reporting (IP&R) requirements	🟢
Empower the community	• Identify labour shortages and improve workforce participation	🟡
Employer of choice	• Develop a skilled, motivated, engaged workforce	🟡
	• Maintain a positive safety and risk culture	🟢
	• Celebrate achievements, accountability, transparency and exceptional work standards	🟢
	• Leverage new technology	🟡
Civic leadership	• Promote leadership development for the community	🟢
	• Promote funding, services and initiatives to strengthen communities	🟢

KEY: 🟢 Green 85-100% complete; 🟡 Amber 40-84% complete; 🔴 Red 0-30% complete

These actions met the following quadruple bottom line principles: economic, social, environmental and civic leadership.

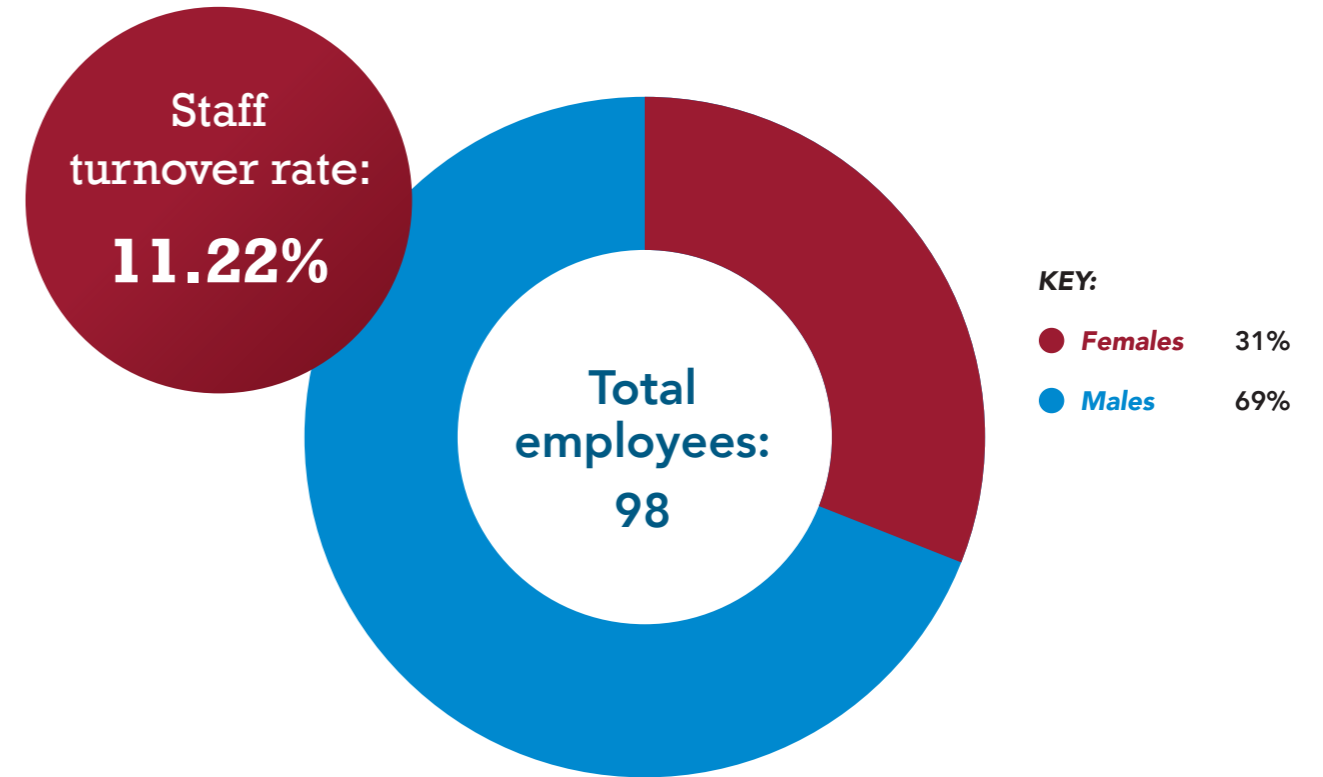
Our Council team

Highlights

- Convened the establishment of the Sturt Highway Taskforce with the aim of pushing for greater resources for the Sturt Highway. The Taskforce comprises representatives from Wagga Wagga, Narrandera, Murrumbidgee, Hay, Balranald, Leeton, Murray River and Wentworth Local Government Areas.
- Engagement with communication tools to effectively reach the community and other stakeholders – new website will be launched in July 2024.
- Comprehensive revaluation of assets.
- Implemented online timesheets for indoor staff using \$25,000 grant – funded by Local Government Procurement – Procurement Capability Grant Program.
- Adopted online timesheets for indoor staff.
- Improved internal processes for fees and charges implementation.
- Implemented EFT Sure (independent, real-time, continuous controls monitoring system, designed to validate the integrity of online transactions).

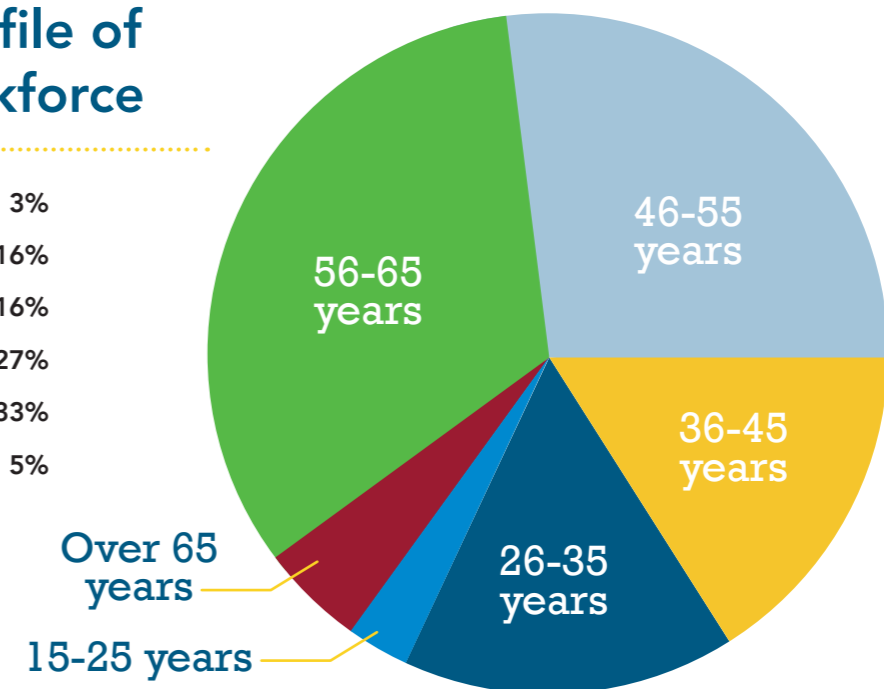
Key areas we fell short in this year

- Developing a project management framework to apply to council projects – ongoing.
- Completing the Business Continuity Plan – ongoing.
- Undertaking Employee Engagement Survey.
- Using smart technology and innovation to deliver services to the community – ongoing – pending funding.



Age profile of our workforce

15-25 years	3%
26-35 years	16%
36-45 years	16%
46-55 years	27%
56-65 years	33%
Over 65 years	5%





Organisational chart



VALE

We acknowledge the passing of these valued staff members who are sadly missed.

John O'Hara **Colin Hines**

Congratulations

The following staff were recognised for their contribution:

50 years with Murrumbidgee Council	Robert Adamson
30 years with Murrumbidgee Council	Dale Wilkinson
	Darrell McNeilly
20 years with Murrumbidgee Council	David Saunders
10 years with Murrumbidgee Council	Kesaya Caqusau
	Rick Moore
Retiring staff	Darrell McNeilly



Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL