

State of the Area

WELCOME
Gawaymbadha
"tell-corr."

Murrumbidgee
Local Government Area

2021–2024



Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL

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We welcome feedback on this report.

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Coleambally NSW 2707

Darlington Point Office

21 Carrington Street

Darlington Point NSW 2706

Jerilderie Office

35 Jerilderie Street

Jerilderie NSW 2716

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: 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.

Right: Dancer from Warangesda Festival, 2023. The festival showcases some of the best First Nations art, music, storytelling, dance and culture.



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Joint Message from the Mayor & General Manager

“
... we look ahead to a bright future for our area.
”

As we conclude this term we reflect on the significant journey we have undertaken. A term defined by considerable challenges, including the widespread impacts of COVID-19 and severe flood events. Despite these obstacles, our community has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability.

We are proud to highlight that, even amid these difficulties, we have completed an outstanding number of major projects, including constructing the Jerilderie Early Learning Centre, (\$1.3 million) and Coleambally Sports Precinct Buildings (\$2.45 million) and refurbishing the iconic Murrumbidgee Shire Hall in Darlington Point (\$420,836).

Other key projects have included the refurbishment of Coleambally Community Hall (\$625,699), a new skate park and pump track at Jerilderie (\$363,745), additions to Darlington Point Skate Park (\$177,935), new splash park at Darlington Point (\$360,008), public amenities at Darlington Point (\$516,459), and upgrades to Coleambally Pool (\$358,556).

These achievements would not have been possible without the substantial support and funding provided by the NSW and Australian Governments with contributions from council. We will continue to pursue grant opportunities in the coming term.

Looking forward, we will see more major projects completed including the \$4 million Young Street Residential Subdivision in Darlington Point and the \$2.4 million upgrade to Coleambally’s Brolga Place. In Jerilderie, the \$2 million upgrade to Luke Park and Powell Street Precinct in Jerilderie and the upgrade to Monash Park netball facilities will be finalised (\$900,000).

A key to the vibrancy of our council area is the incredible support and involvement of our community. The warmth with which newcomers are welcomed, the high level of volunteering with community groups, and the passion residents show in participating in local activities all play a vital role in the fabric of our society. Your engagement and enthusiasm are what make our region truly special.

In regards to council operations, our efforts to enhance efficiency have been a focal point throughout the term. We continuously sought ways to save costs while maintaining the high level of service that our community expects. These measures were critical in managing our resources wisely and avoiding the need for a special rate variation.

Looking ahead, we will continue in our efforts to secure grant funding to support future initiatives and overcome the limitations of our small rate base. With a clear strategy and ongoing dedication, we are confident in our ability to continue improving services, enhancing community engagement, and advancing generational projects that will benefit our region for years to come.

As we move forward, we are grateful for the support we have received and remain committed to building on the successes of this term. Thank you for your continued involvement and partnership as we look ahead to a bright future for our area.



R. E. McRae
Ruth McRae OAM
Mayor



J. Scarce
John Scarce
General Manager

How to read this report

This report provides a comprehensive overview of our progress in meeting the key themes outlined in the Community Strategic Plan – which is our key strategic document that guides the council’s activities and sets the framework for our goals. The report aims to inform the incoming council of both our achievements and the work that remains to be done.

Sections of the report:

1. Introduction (pages 7–13)

This section introduces the council’s activities over the current term, outlining the key themes from the Community Strategic Plan. It includes an overview of what has been achieved and sets the context for understanding our performance.

2. The Report Card (pages 14–27)

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.

3. Financial performance overview (page 28)

This section provides insights into the financial health of our projects and initiatives, offering a snapshot of our financial status.

4. Looking ahead (pages 29–30)

We outline our goals and strategic direction for the 2024-2028 term. This includes anticipated future challenges and areas for further development.





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 the council term was Cr Ruth McRae. 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
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:

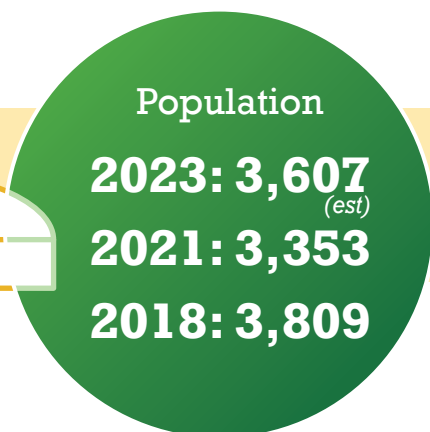
- **Half-yearly Operational Plan review:**
We track each action within the Delivery Program with specific measures and report on our progress every six months.
- **Annual Report:**
At the end of each financial year, we prepare an Annual Report that outlines results and achievements for the year, comparing them to the Operational Plan and Delivery Program.
- **State of the Area Report (this 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

Source: ABS Census

Median age
2021: 45
2018: 41.5

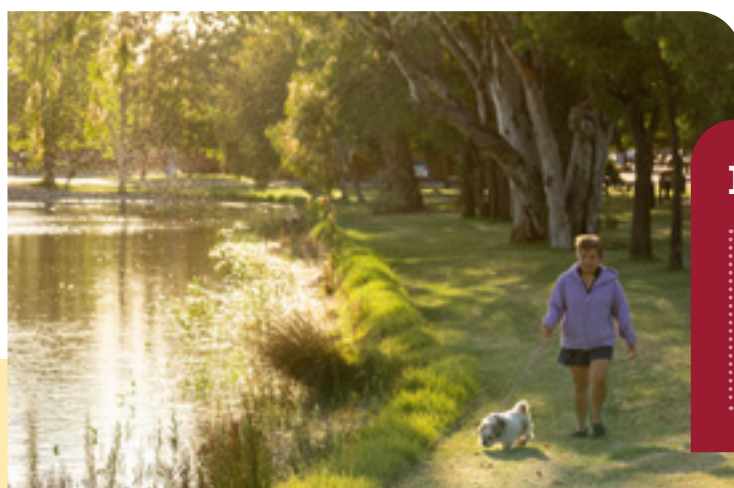
Life expectancy at **BIRTH**

2020	2001
83.8	79.9
NSW: 84.5	NSW: 80.6

Life expectancy at **65 YEARS**

2020	2001
87	84
NSW: 87.7	NSW: 84.7

Source: healthstats.nsw.gov.au



Location to cities

Sydney 615 km
Melbourne 324 km
Canberra 400 km

HIGHLIGHTS

Our identity – people and place

- Citizenship ceremonies for 16 conferees.
- Events for seniors, youth, women's week, holiday breaks, businesses, flood support, Local Government Week, Australia Day, Monash Dinner and Waste to Art.
- Supported numerous community events.
- \$20,000 annually in community grants.
- Australia Day awards in each town.
- \$7,000 annually in education scholarships.
- Addressing the childcare shortage: opening Jerilderie Early Learning Centre, advocating for centres at Coleambally and Darlington Point.

Our natural environment – sustainable living

Planning initiatives

- Adoption of new Land Use and Control Plans.
- Amendment of Contributions Levy Plan to include renewable projects - then secured \$5m commitment from Yanco Delta Windfarm towards new Medical Centre at Jerilderie.
- Integration of planning portal with Council systems.

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.
- 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 was very popular. The exhibition was funded by the NSW Government. The strategy won the NSW Tidy Towns Communication and Engagement Award.
- Investigated rural waste collection – not feasible at this stage.

“
The strategy won the NSW Tidy Towns Communication and Engagement Award.
”

HIGHLIGHTS

Our built environment – liveable places

Major projects

- Coleambally Brolga Place upgrade (in progress) (total project \$2.4m) - funded by NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund and Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 5.
- Coleambally Community Hall upgrade (\$625,699) - funded by NSW Stronger Communities Fund.
- Coleambally Sports Precinct Buildings (\$2.45 million) Construction of the Community Gym, and stadium and amenities upgrade – funded by the NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund and Stronger Country Communities Funds Rounds 2, 3 and 4.
- Darlington Point Lift and Change Toilets (\$371,143) - funded by Australian Government Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Funds – Phase 2.
- Darlington Point Shire Hall upgrade – opened 1 July 2023 (\$417,566) - funded by NSW Stronger Communities Fund.
- Darlington Point Young Street Subdivision Construction commenced (\$4.5 million) - funded by the NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund and Loan Funds.
- Jerilderie Early Learning Centre – opened 29 June 2022 (\$1.3 million) - funded by the NSW Government Stronger Communities Fund and Stronger Country Communities Fund Road 2.
- Jerilderie Luke Park Precinct Redevelopment – (in progress) – (\$2 million) - funded by the NSW Government Public Space Program.
- Jerilderie Monash Park – netball precinct – new change rooms (\$800k) – funded by the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund Round 4.

Major roads 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.

Emergency management

- Flooding event in 2022 resulted in inundation from the Murrumbidgee River in Darlington Point, the Billabong Creek in Jerilderie and surrounds and overland flooding throughout. During the event council provided on-the-ground assistance, customer service and communication support.

HIGHLIGHTS

Our economy – creating our own opportunities

“
46 grant applications submitted, securing \$6.3m in funding.
”

- New resident attraction - new Welcome Guide and hosted welcome events in all 3 towns, showcasing community and sporting groups in each town.
- Economic Development Strategy – completed 29 of 67 actions, 28 are ongoing.
- 46 grant applications submitted, securing \$6.3m in funding.
- Post-flood support sessions for the community and businesses.
- Business events as part of Small Business Week.
- New “Explore Murrumbidgee” guide – a tourism and business guide for our LGA.

Leading by example – civic leadership

- Engagement - utilised various communication tools to effectively reach the community and other stakeholders - new website will be launched in July 2024.
- Comprehensive revaluation of assets.
- Implementation of an online requisitioning system.
- Implementation of Pulse Software for Integrated Planning and Reporting.
- 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).

“

Looking ahead, we will continue in our efforts to secure grant funding to support future initiatives and overcome the limitations of our small rate base.

... we are confident in our ability to continue improving services, enhancing community engagement, and advancing generational projects that will benefit our region for years to come.

”

*Ruth McRae OAM, Mayor
and John Scarce, General Manager*



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.

Our report card

Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
Community and public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together to achieve enhanced community and public transport accessibility 	
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support a housing mix that gives choice and meets the needs of the community 	
Utility costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for cheaper utility costs, particularly electricity costs 	
Health and medical services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate and work for greater access to health and medical services 	
Equity and inclusivity – embrace and empower all groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities for our community to showcase their heritage and diversity 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement and encourage projects that achieve social cohesion, and celebrate diversity and inclusiveness 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with each town to retain and celebrate their unique identities, while working towards a shared vision for our area 	



Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
<p>Social cohesion and connection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote and support sporting, social, recreational and cultural opportunities and activities to increase participation and inclusion 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the community to provide a diverse mix of community entertainment and wellbeing activities 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empower our community to embrace technology and innovation 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for improved telecommunications and utilities 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage and expand volunteering opportunities 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance education opportunities in the area 	
<p>Healthy, active and safe communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for and provide excellent parks, gardens and neighbourhoods 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage an active lifestyle with outstanding recreational facilities and spaces 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together to enhance community safety 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work together to enhance a safe road network 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build community understanding to meet public health standards 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with providers of emergency services to ensure appropriate response levels to community emergencies 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.

TRENDS

HOUSING



% of people experiencing housing stress

2021: 23%
(NSW: 52.8%)

Median monthly **MORTGAGE** payment

2021	2016	2011
\$869	\$900	\$1,025

Median weekly **RENT**

2021	2016	2011
\$190	\$155	\$140

Homelessness
(rate per 10,000)

2021: 15
(NSW: 40)

2016: 45
(NSW: 50)

Unoccupied dwellings %

2021: 12.8% (NSW: 9.4%)

Number of **HOUSEHOLDS**

• 2021: 1,291 • 2016: 1,359 • 2011: 1,383

Average **PEOPLE** per household

• 2021: 2.3 • 2016: 2.5 • 2011: 2.5

Source: ABS Census

DIVERSITY

% of the population who are **ATSI**

2021	2016	2011
8.6	7.4	7.2
NSW: 3.4%	NSW: 2.9%	NSW: 2.5%

% of population **65 years +**

2022 (est): 21.6 (NSW: 17.5%)

2021: 21.7 (NSW: 17.7%)

2018: 18.1 (NSW: 16.6%)

% of population **BORN OVERSEAS**

• 2021: 6.4 (NSW 29.3%) • 2016: 6.0 (NSW 27.6%)

% of population with **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

• 2021: 4.1 (NSW 26.6%) • 2016: 3.3 (NSW 25.2%) • 2011: 2.6 (NSW 22.5%)

Source: dbr.abs.gov.au

HEALTH

Mental Health condition

Source: ABS Census

Top 3 self-reported health conditions
(2021, by % of people who reported condition)

• Asthma 13.3% / Arthritis 10.6% / MH cond# 8.9%

□ EDUCATION



Number of children enrolled in a preschool program

2021: 56
2017: 60

% of adults who have **COMPLETED YEAR 12** or equivalent

- **2021: 34.8** (NSW 58.9%)
- **2016: 31.1** (NSW 53.9%) • **2011: 29.8** (NSW 49.2%)

% of 15-19 year-olds **FULLY ENGAGED IN EDUCATION/EMPLOYMENT**

- **2021: 73.2** (NSW 81.5%) • **2016: 76.8** (NSW 82.5%) • **2011: 72.9** (NSW 81.8%)

(Source: dbr.abs.gov.au)

% with non-school qualifications

2021: 52 (NSW: 64.1%)

2016: 50.8 (NSW: 60.9%)

2011: 43.3 (NSW: 57.2%)

Deal/traffic
Amphetamines
(rate per 100,000)

2023-24: 0
(NSW: 19.7)

2021-22: 140.2
(NSW: 37.9)

2019-20: 27.6
(NSW: 25.9)

□ CRIME

THEFTS from dwellings (rate per 100,000)

- **2023-24: 168.3** (NSW 197.1)
- **2021-22: 112.2** (NSW 196.6)
- **2019-20: 331.5** (NSW 233.1)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-related assaults (rate per 100,000)

2023-24	2021-22	2019-20
448.7	364.6	635.4
NSW: 447.1	NSW: 396.1	NSW: 390.8

Source: www.bocsar.nsw.gov.au



□ VOLUNTEERING

% of residents who **VOLUNTEER** with an organisation or group

- **2021: 23.3** (NSW 13%) • **2016: 28.7** (NSW 18.1%) • **2011: 29.0** (NSW 16.9%)

Source: ABS Census

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.

Our report card

Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
Protected environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

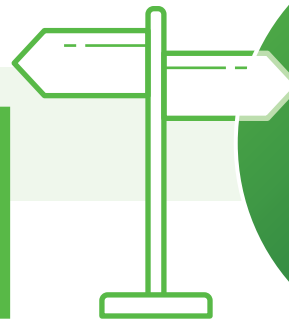
These actions met the following quadruple bottom line principles: economic, social, environmental and civic leadership.



TRENDS

Volume of water applied to irrigated agricultural land

267,417 ML



Total land area of LGA
688,079 ha

Agricultural land area
616,635 ha

BUILDING APPROVALS

Value of **TOTAL BUILDING APPROVALS** (\$ million)

- 2023: \$22m • 2021: \$11m

EMISSIONS

For LGA:

GREENHOUSE GAS (CO₂) emission/annum

- 2021-22: 242,000
- 2018-19: 231,000

HIGHEST CO₂ emissions contributor

- 2021-22: Agriculture (64%)
- 2018-19: Agriculture (64%)

Greenhouse gas emissions per capita (tonnes/annum)

2021-22: 72.17t
(NSW 15.37t)

2018-19: 60.65t
(NSW 15.37t)

Source: <https://snapshotclimate.com.au>

WASTE

Recycling rate

2021-22: 35.1%

2017-18: 31%



WASTE GENERATED per capita (kgs per week)

- 2021-22: 6.47kg • 2017-18: 6.16kg

Source: <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/waste/local-council-operations/local-council-waste-and-resource-recovery>

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.

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.



TRENDS

ROADS & ROAD ACCIDENTS



Total length of roads (km)

2021-22: 1,715.8

(NSW: 168,254.3)

METRES OF ROADS per capita

• 2021-22: 481.4 (NSW 138.37) • 2016-17: 435.9 (NSW 141.05)

Source: www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/about-councils/comparative-council-information/your-council-report/

Number of vehicle **CRASHES** in LGA

• 2022: 7 • 2020: 6 • 2018: 7

No of vehicle crash **FATALITIES** in LGA

• 2022: 0 • 2020: 0 • 2018: 1

Source: <https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au>

No of vehicle crash **INJURED**

• 2022: 9 • 2020: 8 • 2018: 9

PUBLIC SPACES & FACILITIES

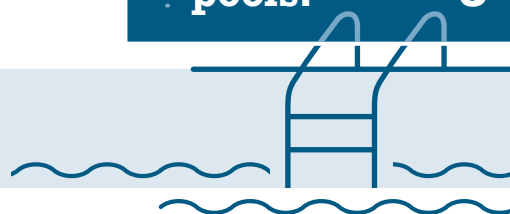
186 ha • Amount of **OPEN PUBLIC SPACE** managed by Council

Public halls: 9

Public libraries: 1

Swimming pools: 3

WATER & SEWER



Total length of water trunk and reticulation mains

2022-23: 75.18km

Total **SEWERAGE** mains length (km)

• 2022-23: 38km • 2016-17: 35km

Number of water **CONNECTIONS**

2022-23	2016-17
1,405	1,283

Typical annual **WATER BILL** (residential)

2022-23	2016-17
\$629	\$818

No. of sewerage **BREAKS AND CHOKES** per 100 km

• 2022-23: 38 • 2016-17: 35

Source: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/local-water-utilities/local-water-utility-performance>

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.

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.



TRENDS

EMPLOYMENT



% Working age population

2022: 61%
(NSW: 64.2%)

2018: 62.2%
(NSW: 65.3%)

TOP 3 INDUSTRIES by number of employees

- 2021: agriculture/forestry/fish, health/social assist, manufacturing + ed/training
- 2016: agriculture/forestry/fish, manufacturing, health/social assist

Unemployment rate (15 years +)

2021: 2.9% (NSW: 4.9%)

2016: 4.3% (NSW: 6.3%)

2011: 3.4% (NSW: 5.9%)

TOP 3 BUSINESSES by industry

- 2023: agriculture/forestry/fish, real estate/hire, construction
- 2020: agriculture/forestry/fish, real estate/hire, construction

Source: <https://dbr.abs.gov.au/index.html>



INCOME

Median personal income (weekly)

2021: \$813

Socio-economic average index rating (1 = poorest)

2021-22: 54

2016-17: 54

Source: <https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/public/about-councils/comparative-council-information/your-council-report/>

% people with income of **LESS THAN \$500 / WEEK**

2021	2016
24.4%	27%
NSW: 27.7%	NSW: 27.7%

% people with income of **MORE THAN \$3,000 / WEEK**

2021	2016
2.8%	1.6%
NSW: 5.7%	NSW: 3.5%

Source: <https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area>

TRENDS

PRODUCTIVITY

Gross value of agricultural production (\$million)

2021: \$469.1m



Gross regional product (\$million)

2020-21: \$309m



BUSINESS

Total number of **BUSINESSES**

2023	2019
670	644

No. of businesses with **ONE OR MORE EMPLOYEES**

2023	2019
231	245

Number of **EMPLOYEE JOBS**

- 2020: 2,667 • 2018: 2,844
- 2016: 2,115

Nett business growth (entries less exits)

2023: +3 / 2020: -1

Number of Accommodation/ Food service businesses

2023: 21

2019: 20

Source: <https://dbr.abs.gov.au/index.html>



☐ TOURISM

No. of tourism businesses
2016-19 (annual average): **44**

Average tourist night stay
2016-19 (annual average): **3**

Source: <https://www.tra.gov.au/en/regional/local-government-area-profiles>



Annual average tourist night spend

2016-19:
\$130

☐ REAL ESTATE

Number of **RESIDENTIAL SALES**
 • **2023: 59** • **2021: 87** • **2018: 64**

Source: <https://dbr.abs.gov.au/index.html>

Median sale price (houses)

2023: \$299,750
2021: \$200,000
2018: \$180,000

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.

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	🟡

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



Focus area	How we shall achieve this	Overall progress
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	●

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

TRENDS

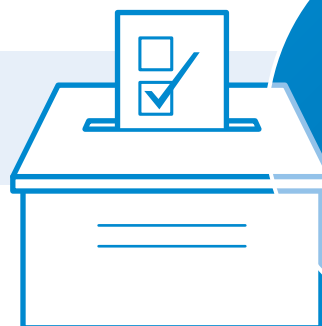
Total number of **candidates** for local government election

2024: 10

2021: 15

2016: 12

Source: pastvtr.elections.nsw.gov.au



% of female candidates in local government election*

2024: 50%

*% of candidates that are **FEMALE**

2024	2021	2016
50%	44.4%	44.4%

Financial Snapshot

Income Statement

	2022	2023	2024*
Total income from continuing operations	24,716	28,247	33,258
Total expenses from continuing operations	18,679	24,311	25,575
Operating result from continuing operations	6,037	3,936	7,683
Net operating result for the year	6,037	3,936	7,683
Net result before grants & contributions provided for capital purposes	530	59	-3,119

Statement of Financial Position

Total current assets	35,865	41,627	41,657
Total current liabilities	11,995	11,896	7,084
Total non-current assets	304,551	349,407	375,451
Total non-current liabilities	65	292	274
Total equity	328,356	378,846	409,750

Other Financial Information

Unrestricted current ratio (times)	3.32	5.80	6.50
Operating performance ratio (%)	0.60%	4.65%	-13.39%
Debt service ratio (times)	0	0	567.67 x
Rates and annual charges outstanding ratio (%)	8.87%	8.61%	9.39%
Infrastructure renewals ratio (%)	21.42%	34.08%	58.87%
Own source operating revenue ratio (%)	37.14%	38.23%	36.12%
Cash expense cover ratio (months)	26.64	27.54	19.32

* Notes: The 2024 financial statements are un-audited.

The infrastructure renewal ratio does not include capital works in progress that are classified as renewals.

Looking forward

As we conclude this term, the council is well-positioned for a positive future. Our operations remain robust and we are looking forward to the path ahead for the 2024-2028 council term.

Our current operations are running smoothly, and we are well-positioned for a positive trajectory.

A significant focus for the upcoming term will be a proposed staff restructure, designed to boost both efficiency and effectiveness within our team. This strategic realignment aims to streamline operations, ensuring that we can better meet the needs of our community.

We are also committed to exploring various methods to reduce costs while still upholding the high level of services our residents expect. Our goal is to manage our financial resources wisely to avoid applying for a special rate variation. By doing so, we aim to continue delivering quality services without placing additional financial burdens on our community.

Maintaining operational efficiency is a cornerstone of our strategy. We will persist in our efforts to optimise our processes and maximise value for the community. Keeping our residents informed and engaged remains a top priority, and we will actively communicate about council activities, decisions, and updates.

In terms of infrastructure, we are pleased that several major projects will be finalised shortly, including the \$4 million Young Street Residential Subdivision in Darlington Point and the \$2.4 million upgrade to Coleambally's Brolga Place. In Jerilderie, the \$2 million upgrade to Luke Park and Powell Street Precinct in Jerilderie and the upgrade to Monash Park netball facilities will be finalised (\$900,000).

These initiatives are pivotal for the growth and development of our region. To support these and other significant projects, we will continue to seek out grant funding. This approach is vital for overcoming the limitations of our small rate base and achieving our ambitious project goals.

Overall, the council is poised for continued success. With a clear strategy and dedicated efforts, we are set to improve services, enhance community engagement, and drive forward key projects that will benefit our region for years to come.

“

... we aim to continue delivering quality services without placing additional financial burdens on our community.

”



Future challenges and opportunities

Challenges

- Housing affordability and availability
- Availability of medical, health and aged care services
- Retaining and engaging our youth
- Labour shortages
- Procurement delays (hindering major project completions)
- Access to digital connectivity
- Climate change and environmental issues
- Local government financial sustainability
- Sustainable waste management practices
- Water security
- Maintaining the extensive road network

Opportunities

- The community's strength and character
- Diversify and value-add manufacturing to our agricultural sector
- Capitalise on investments in large-scale renewable energy project benefits
- The natural environment
- Our strong agricultural sector
- Our well-developed links with regional networks





Murrumbidgee
COUNCIL